Ploidy variation and its implications for reproduction and population dynamics in two sympatric Hawaiian coral species

Timothy G. Stephens[1,*], Emma L. Strand[2], Amin R. Mohamed[3], Amanda Williams[1,4], Eric N. Chiles[5,6], Xiaoyang Su[5,6], Debashish Bhattacharya[1,*], and Hollie M. Putnam[2,*]

[1]Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, Rutgers University; New Brunswick, NJ 08901, USA.

[2]Department of Biological Sciences, University of Rhode Island; Kingston, RI 02881, USA.

[3]Institute for Molecular Bioscience, The University of Queensland; Brisbane, QLD 4072, Australia.

[4]Microbial Biology Graduate Program, Rutgers University; New Brunswick, NJ 08901, USA.

[5]Metabolomics Shared Resource, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey; Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, USA.

[6]Department of Medicine, Division of Endocrinology, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Rutgers University; New Brunswick, NJ 08901, USA.

*Corresponding authors: Debashish Bhattacharya, Hollie M. Putnam, and Timothy G. Stephens

Email: dbhattac@rutgers.edu, hputnam@uri.edu, ts942@sebs.rutgers.edu

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Abstract

The response of coral reef ecosystems to anthropogenic climate change is driven by a complex

interaction between location, stress history, species composition, and genetic background of the

reef system. The latter two factors are particularly relevant when considering the different

reproductive strategies used by coral species. We studied the stress resistant coral *Montipora*

capitata and the more stress sensitive *Pocillopora acuta* from Kāneʻohe Bay, Oʻahu, Hawaiʻi.

High-quality genome assemblies were generated for both species with the *M. capitata* assembly

at chromosome-level resolution and the *P. acuta* assembly derived from a triploid colony,

representing the first non-diploid genome generated from a coral. We report significant

differences in the reproductive strategies of these coral species that not only affect the genetic

structure of their populations in Kāneʻohe Bay, but also impact algal symbiont composition.

Single-nucleotide polymorphism analysis shows that *P. acuta* comprises at least nine distinct

genotypes in the bay with ancestral diploid and derived triploid lineages. In contrast, *M. capitata*

colonies are diploids with nearly all being genotypically distinct. Genotype has a strong effect on

gene expression profiles in these species, largely outweighing the effects of environmental stress.

Our insights advance understanding of how reproductive strategy and ploidy can vary between

different coral species and among local populations, how these factors constrain coral holobiont

genetic diversity, and how genotype constrains genome-wide gene expression.

Introduction

As sea surface temperature continues to rise against a background of declining pH, it is critical to understand how heat waves may extend thermal anomalies given daily and seasonal fluctuations (Cant et al. 2021; Fischer et al. 2021). For coral reef ecosystems, which are built on the nutritional symbiosis between scleractinian coral hosts and their single celled dinoflagellate (algal) endosymbionts in the family Symbiodiniaceae (LaJeunesse et al. 2018), thermal stress may lead to dysbiosis and mortality. This phenomenon is known as coral "bleaching", whereby symbiotic cells and pigments are expelled or lost from the host tissue, leaving the bright white color of the underlying coral animal body and skeleton (van Oppen and Lough 2018). Bleaching is the primary cause of mass coral mortality (Hughes et al. 2017). Coral reefs are also threatened by the increased amount of CO_2 in the atmosphere that dissolves in the surface ocean, changing the carbonate chemistry and lowering the pH, which has been termed ocean acidification (Hoegh-Guldberg et al. 2007) (OA). Understanding coral response to long-term environmental stress is challenging, given the genetically diverse collection of organisms (cnidarian animal host, algal symbionts, prokaryotic microbiome, fungi and other eukaryotes, and viruses) that make up the holobiont and contribute to its health and resilience (Veron 2000). Furthermore, corals are impacted by continual abiotic changes (e.g., diurnal, and seasonal light and temperature variation) and a plethora of interacting taxa (e.g., algae, fish, viruses) that are of non-holobiont provenance.

In this study, high-quality genome assemblies were generated from the two analyzed coral species; for *Montipora capitata* a chromosome-level assembly was generated, with the 14 largest chromosomes in this assembly likely representing the 14 chromosomes predicted in other *Montipora* species (Kenyon 1997). The *Pocillopora acuta* genome assembly is from a triploid individual and represents the first non-diploid genome assembly generated from corals. We generated RNA-seq data from fragments of *M. capitata* (stress resistant) and *P. acuta* (stress sensitive) coral colonies (figs. 1A and B, respectively). The sequenced fragments were derived

from six reefs in Kāneʻohe Bay (fig. 1C), a 45 km² sheltered water body in Oʻahu, Hawaiʻi. Single-

nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) were identified in each sample and showed that genetic

diversity, ploidy, and reproductive strategy differ between the two species in the bay. The RNA-

seq data was also used to assess the affect that population structure has on the response of the

coral transcriptome to environmental stressors.

Results

Two new genome assemblies of Hawaiian corals

Genome assemblies of *M. capitata* and *P. acuta* were generated to assist with analysis of the RNA-

Seq data and to support further research on these key Hawaiian coral species. For *M. capitata*, an

initial assembly was generated using published PacBio long-read and Illumina short-read

sequencing data (Shumaker et al. 2019); 56.5 million read-pairs of Dovetail Genomics Omni-C

sequencing data was generated and used with the HiRise assembly workflow to scaffold the initial

assembly. The resulting scaffolded assembly (hereinafter the "new genome assembly") has fewer

assembled bases (781 Mbp vs. 886 Mbp, respectively) and scaffolds (1,701 vs. 3,043), and has a

vastly improved N50 (47.7 Mbp vs. 0.54 Mbp; supplementary table S1) compared to the Hawaiian

M. capitata assembly that was previously published by our group (Shumaker et al. 2019). The 14

largest scaffolds in this assembly, ranging in size from ~22 to ~69 Mbp, likely represent the 14

chromosomes predicted in other *Montipora* species (fig. 2A and B) (Kenyon 1997). These putative

chromosomes total 679.7 Mbp of assembled sequence, which is only slightly larger than the

estimated genome size of 643.3 Mbp (fig. 2C; estimated by GenomeScope2 (Ranallo-Benavidez

et al. 2020) using *k*-mers of size 21 bp). Compared to the published *M. capitata* genome, the new

assembly has slightly improved BUSCO completeness for both the Metazoa (from 95.2% to 95.7%,

respectively) and Eukaryota (from 97.7% to 99.2%, respectively) datasets (supplementary table

S1), and a reduced number of duplicated BUSCO genes for both the Metazoa (from 21.2% to 1.6%,

respectively) and Eukaryota (from 22.0% to 1.2%, respectively) datasets. The high duplication rate

in the published version could result from haplotigs (i.e., sequences derived from different

homologous chromosomes) that evaded removal during the assembly process; this problem

appears to have been resolved in the new assembly. Because the same PacBio and Illumina

libraires were used to assemble the new and previously published genomes, the significant

improvement observed in the new assembly is attributed to the use of a different hybrid assembly

approach, combined with the Dovetail Omni-C library prep and scaffolding with the HiRise software.

The *M. capitata* isolate that was sequenced appears to be a diploid, with a good fit between the

theoretical diploid model implemented in GenomeScope2 and the *k*-mer frequency histogram

(black line in fig. 2C and supplementary fig. S1A), and a clear "smudge" (bright yellow region in

supplementary fig. S1B and C) of *k*-mer pairs with a coverage of 2n and a normalized coverage of

1/2; all of which suggests that the sample is diploid.

For *P. acuta*, the genome assembly generated in this study (hereinafter the "new genome

assembly") was constructed using 17.5 Gbp (1,083,200 reads with an N50 of 17.18 Kbp) of PacBio

HiFi data. This new assembly is larger (403.8 Mbp and 550 scaffolds; supplementary table S1;

supplementary fig. S2) than the available *P. acuta* (Vidal-Dupiol et al. 2020) (352 Mbp; isolated

from Indonesia) and *P. damicornis* (Cunning et al. 2018) (234.3 Mbp; isolated from Panama)

assemblies, and is larger than its estimated genome size of 353.3 Mbp (estimated by

GenomeScope2 using *k*-mers of size 21 bp, generated from 23 Gbp of Illumina short read data

[generated in this study]; fig. 2D). The *P. acuta* isolate that was sequenced is a putative triploid; the

major peaks in the *k*-mer frequency histogram (at ~17x and ~51x) appear to fit a triploid model

(black line fig. 2D and supplementary fig. S3C) better than a diploid model (black line

supplementary fig. S3A and B) and there is a clear "smudge" (bright yellow region in supplementary

fig. S3D and E) of *k*-mer pairs with a coverage of ~3n and a normalized coverage of 1/3; all of which

suggests that the sample is likely a triploid. The BUSCO completeness of the new assembly is

improved for both the Metazoa (95.6%), and Eukaryota (98.8%) datasets (supplementary table S1)

compared to the published *P. acuta* and *P. damicornis* assemblies (both have ~90% and 91.4%

completeness of the Metazoa and Eukaryota datasets, respectively). However, the new assembly

has a high proportion of duplicated BUSCO genes (>15% in both datasets) compared with the

published datasets (both have <1% in both datasets), which suggests that the new *P. acuta*

assembly contains haplotigs that have not been removed. The genome assembly workflow

implemented by DNA Link Sequencing Lab does include a haplotig removal stage, which in this

case, appears to have been ineffective at removing all duplicate scaffolds. This could have been

caused by the *P. acuta* sample that was sequenced being a putative triploid, which possibly

confounded the haplotig identification process. The program used for haplotig removal, Purge

Haplotigs (Roach et al. 2018), was designed for use with diploid species and the added

complexities of a triploid genome have likely prevented it from fully resolving the assembly and

removing the remaining haplotigs.

Predicted genes in the new Hawaiian coral genome assemblies

Genes were predicted in the new *M. capitata* assembly using Liftoff (Shumate and Salzberg 2020),

which transferred over the gene models from the published genome assembly to the new assembly

(preserving the original gene names), and in the new *P. acuta* assembly using BRAKER (Bruna et

al. 2021), which was used to *ab initio* predict a new set of genes using evidence provided by the

alignment of the RNA-Seq data generated in this study. For *M. capitata*, 55,086 genes were

reconstructed in the new assembly compared with the 63,227 predicted in the published version

(supplementary table S2). The BUSCO completeness of the new predicted genes is reduced in the

new assembly (86.9% of the Metazoa and 85.9% for the Eukaryota BUSCO datasets) compared

with the published assembly (94.0% and 93.3%, respectively) however, the number of duplicated

BUSCO genes is reduced in the new assembly (0.8% for both BUSCO datasets) compared to the

published (18.2% and 18.8%, respectively). Of the 55,086 new gene models, 42,043 (76.32%) had

"valid" open reading frames (ORFs: i.e., they contained both start and stop codons with no in-frame

stop codons) and 13,043 had "invalid" ORFs (i.e., they are missing start or stop codons, or have

in-frame stop codons).

The reduction in the number of predicted genes in the new *M. capitata* assembly, compared with

the published version (supplementary table S2), is likely driven by its reduced assembly size, with

many of the missing genes arising from retained haplotigs that were removed in the new assembly.

There are also a significant number of genes with invalid ORFs in the new *M. capitata* genome that

are missing start or stop codons or have in-frame stop codons. Because the new *M. capitata*

genome was constructed using the same genome sequencing libraries as the published version

these invalid gene models may represent variation between the different haplotypes in *M. capitata*

(i.e., these genes could be from regions where the published and new assemblies have resolved

different haplotypes). They could also result from regions of the genome that have chimeric phasing

(i.e., a region is a mix of different haplotypes), or it could be that these genes are actually non-

coding RNA that contain valid ORFs in one haplotype and not the other. The differences between

the new and published predicted genes remains to be further investigated however, it does not

affect our downstream analysis because these genes are only used as a guide for selecting SNPs

that are from putative functional regions of the genome. The reduction in the BUSCO completeness

of the new *M. capitata* predicted genes is likely a reflection of these challenges, with the differences

between the assembled haplotypes, or chimeric haplotypes, the putative primary cause.

There are 36,794 genes in the new *P. acuta* genome assembly (supplementary table S2), which is

10,717 more than predicted in the *P. damicornis* genome (Cunning et al. 2018) but roughly

equivalent to the 36,140 genes (63,181 alternatively spliced transcripts) in the published *P. acuta*

"experimental" set (Vidal-Dupiol et al. 2020). Because the *P. acuta* experimental gene set was

predicted directly from aligned RNA-Seq data it does not have predicted ORFs, and thus likely

included a number of non-coding RNA. However, it represents a better approximation of the

structure of genes in *P. acuta* then the other "*ab initio*" set (with 64,558 genes) which was reported

by the authors of the study to be highly fragmented (Vidal-Dupiol et al. 2020) and has a very low

BUSCO completeness (39.7% for the Metazoa and 36.8 % for the Eukaryota datasets). The

BUSCO completeness of the predicted genes in the new *P. acuta* assembly is higher (95.9% for

the Metazoa and 97.2% for the Eukaryota BUSCO datasets) than in *P. damicornis* (87.9% and

86.3%, respectively) and in the *P. acuta* experimental set (84.7% and 83.5%, respectively)

however, it also has a higher proportion of duplicated BUSCO genes (26.4% and 22.7%,

respectively) than *P. damicornis* (0.2% and 0.4%, respectively) but a lower proportion than in the

P. acuta experimental set (37.5% and 37.6%, respectively), which has a high number of predicted

alternatively spliced transcripts that is likely driving this increase. Other statistics about the

predicted genes in the new *P. acuta* assembly are largely congruent between the *P. damicornis*

and *P. acuta* experimental datasets. For example, the mean number of introns per gene is similar,

albeit slightly higher, in new assemblies predicted genes (6.84) compared with the *P. damicornis*

(6.17) and *P. acuta* experimental (5.24) gene sets.

Genotyping of *P. acuta* RNA-Seq samples

For *P. acuta*, RNA-Seq libraries were generated from 119 coral colonies collected from six reefs

across Kāneʻohe Bay. These libraries were genotyped and filtered (samples assumed as diploid;

see Materials and Methods), resulting in the identification of 12,969 variant sites. These were

converted into an alignment with 13,948 parsimony-informative, 1,835 singleton, and 10,155

constant sites (25,938 total). An unrooted phylogenetic tree (fig. 3A) constructed using the

parsimony-informative and singleton sites (13,948 total) shows that many of the *P. acuta* samples

are grouped into well supported (100% bootstrap support [BS]) clades with short internal branches,

indicating they are derived from the same genotype. We estimate that there are at least six distinct

P. acuta genotypes (clades PA1-6), that were sequenced in multiple samples, that have spread

throughout the Bay *via* asexual reproduction. The three other clades highlighted in the tree (PA7-9

in fig. 3A) are separated from the other major clades by well-supported nodes (100% BS) and

longer branches. Genotype PA9 was sampled once in our analysis. Clades PA7 and PA8 include

a small number of samples and are more diverged than the six major clades (e.g., branch lengths

between the samples in clade PA5 are small [<0.01] when compared to, for example, the two

samples in PA8 [~0.28]); the more diverged samples in these clades may representing district

genotypes. A tree constructed using only SNPs that overlap with the exons of genes predicted in

the new *P. acuta* genome (3,730 parsimony-informative and 483 singleton sites; 4,213 total;

supplementary fig. S4A) and a tree constructed directly from the 12,969 variant sites

(supplementary fig. S4B) using the identity-by-state proportions calculated for each sample are

consistent with results of the larger analysis. The topology of an additional tree constructed using

SNPs identified in all *P. acuta* samples plus six *P. damicornis* individuals collected in Indonesia (fig.

3B; 1,856 parsimony-informative, 74 singleton, and 71 constant sites [2,640 total]) again, supports

the robust grouping of samples shown in figure 3A. The *P. damicornis* samples are positioned near

PA7, suggesting that PA6-9 include the initial colonizers of Kāneʻohe Bay (fig. 3B), with subsequent

expansion of *P. acuta* populations, resulting in the more derived (e.g., PA5, PA3, PA1) clades.

Analysis of genotype distribution provides some (weak) evidence for clustering based on sample

location (fig. 3B). An example is clade PA4 that is predominantly found in the south end of the bay,

which has longer water residence times (Lowe et al. 2009), with all samples in this clade collected

from Lilipuna, except for one collected from reefs 42&43 (most northern reefs sampled). The PA4

sample from the Lilipuna site may have spread locally *via* asexual reproduction (budding,

fragmentation, or self-fertilization brooding: e.g., as described for local *P. damicornis* (Jokiel 1985)),

with transport to more northern reefs in the Bay occurring through infrequent stochastic processes.

Another example is clades PA6 and PA8 that are predominantly found in the north end of the bay,

with the majority collected from reefs 42&43 and 35&36. One sample was collected from reef 18

and one from reefs 11&13 (both reefs are in the middle of the bay), and no samples were from the

southern Lilipuna and HIMB reefs.

Genotyping of *M. capitata* RNA-Seq samples

For *M. capitata*, RNA-Seq libraries were generated from 132 samples. These libraries were

genotyped and filtered (samples assumed as diploid; see Materials and Methods), resulting in the

identification of 14,191 variant sites. These sites were converted into an alignment with 25,541

parsimony-informative, 1,165 singleton and 1,676 constant sites (28,382 total). An unrooted

phylogenetic tree built using the parsimony-informative and singleton sites (26,706 total) (fig. 4A)

demonstrates the stark contrast between *P. acuta* and *M. capitata*. The *M. capitata* samples do not

group into diverged clades like those from *P. acuta* (fig. 3A), and the clades that were putatively

identified (fig. 4A) are not robust when the data are reduced to SNPs that overlap with the exons

from the predicted genes in the new *M. capitata* assembly (supplementary fig. S5). The between-

sample branch lengths in the *M. capitata* tree are also quite large (e.g., 0.295 between two closely

related samples; fig. 4A) and comparable to the distances between different clades in *P. acuta*

(e.g., 0.21 between PA3 and PA4, or 0.327 between PA5 and PA6; fig. 3A). This suggests that

each of the *M. capitata* samples represents a distinct genotype, with the only exceptions being

Mcapitata_HTAC_TP11_2380 and Mcapitata_ATAC_TP11_2302 (bottom red backet in fig. 4A),

and Mcapitata_ATAC_TP12_2403 and Mcapitata_ATAC_TP6_2402 (top red backet in fig. 4A)

which are likely to be isolates of single genotypes. The association between these pairs of samples

is robust even if the phylogenetic tree is constructed using SNPs that overlap with exons

(supplementary fig. S5). Furthermore, these genotypes were isolated from a single reef (Reef 18;

fig. 4B). The clades identified in *M. capitata* do not show a correlation with a particular sample site

or region of the Bay.

The evolution of triploidy and asexual reproduction in *P. acuta*

The proportion of reads which support each allele at a given site (as a fraction of all reads that align

to that site) was plotted separately for each sample. These SNP allele frequency distributions can

be used to assess the ploidy of each sample. SNP variant sites covered by ≥ 20 aligned reads were

extracted from the *P. acuta* RNA-Seq samples, the *P. acuta* reference genome, and the *P.*

damicornis RNA-Seq samples. All samples were run using the ploidy estimated after the first round

of genotype analysis to avoid biasing the distributions of triploid samples (see Materials and

Methods). The SNP allele frequency distributions (Dataset S1) for *P. acuta* show that some

samples have a distribution with a single peak at roughly 0.5, which is expected for diploids (i.e., a

site can have two alleles, each present in ~50% of the reads), whereas other samples have

distributions with two peaks at roughly 0.33 and 0.66 (fig. 3C and Dataset S1), which is expected

for triploids (Weiss et al. 2018) (i.e., a site can have three alleles which would each be present in

~33% of the reads at a site). The two peaks in the *P. acuta* triploid SNP allele frequency distributions

all have roughly similar abundances, suggesting that most variant sites are biallelic. There were 44

P. acuta RNA-Seq samples with a single (diploid) peak and 75 samples with two (triploid) peaks.

The *P. acuta* reference genome, which was shown via other approaches to be a triploid

(supplementary fig. S3), has two clear peaks at 0.33 and 0.66. The *P. damicornis* samples used as

a phylogenetic outgroup in figure 3B all have a single peak centered around 0.5, demonstrating

that they are likely diploids. The *P. acuta* diploids likely comprise the ancestral populations that

colonized Kāneʻohe Bay because they (i.e., PA5-9) are the deepest splits in the tree rooted with

diploid *P. damicornis* samples (fig. 3B). Triploid PA1-4, which are likely to be infertile, appear to

have evolved more recently and comprise the majority of collected samples (76/119 [63.9%]; fig.

3B)*.* The distributions of *P. damicornis* samples have a less smooth pattern compared to *P. acuta*,

this is likely attributed to the smaller number of variant sites that passed filtering in these samples

(the numbers shown at the bottom of each plot in Dataset S1), which is likely a result of them having

small library sizes (max 12.9 million trimmed read pairs in *P. damicornis* [supplementary table S3]

compared to an average of 18.3 million trimmed read pairs in *P. acuta* sample [supplementary table

S4]). The diploid *P. acuta* RNA-Seq samples are all in clades PA5-9 with the only exception,

Pacuta_HTHC_TP5_1415, being part of PA2. The triploid samples are all in clades PA1-4 and are

well resolved from each other (fig. 3A and B). In contrast, all *M. capitata* samples have a single

(diploid) peak (Dataset S2).

We also produced a set of variants from the *P. acuta* RNA-Seq samples and the *P. acuta* reference

genome that considered the estimated ploidy of each sample during haplotype calling (see

Materials and Methods). This produced a total of 12,888 variant sites, of which 12,584 were biallelic

(i.e., only two alleles were observed across all samples). These biallelic sites were converted into

an alignment with 13,859 parsimony-informative, 1,363 singleton, and 9,946 constant sites (25,168

total). An unrooted phylogenetic tree (supplementary fig. S4C) constructed using the parsimony-

informative and singleton sites (15,222 total) shows that the *P. acuta* reference genome groups

within clade PA2 and is most closely related to the triploid Pacuta_HTHC_TP11_2185 sample. This

result is consistent with the observation that all triploid samples are contained within clades PA1-

PA4. A tree was also constructed by clustering samples by their patterns of shared alleles across

all variant sites (supplementary fig. S4B). It shows that the genotypes and the separation of

samples by ploidy is robust, with the only major differences being the placement of the triploid

Pacuta_HTHC_TP11_2185 outside PA2; the diploid Pacuta_HTHC_TP5_1415 sample still groups

with the other samples of PA2. Constructing a tree in this way removes the need to represent the

variants as positions in an alignment (which is challenging when ploidy varies across samples or

across sites, and when alleles are not fully phased) and to select an appropriate evolutionary model

for the alignment.

Conformation of sample ploidy using nQuire

The nQuire program was used as an alternative approach to study the ploidy of each *P. acuta*

and *M. capitata* RNA-Seq sample, as well as the *P. acuta* reference genome, and the *P.*

damicornis samples used as an outgroup in figure 3B. For all *P. acuta* samples, the ploidy model

with the lowest nQuire delta Log-Likelihood value (supplementary fig. S6A; supplementary table

S5), which indicates that a particular model is the best fit for the sample (Weiss et al. 2018),

matches the ploidy estimated from the SNP allele frequency distributions (Dataset S1). nQuire

also confirmed that a triploid model is the best fit for the *P. acuta* reference genome, and a diploid

model is the best fit for the *P. damicornis* samples. The delta Log-Likelihood values of the

samples after denoising (supplementary fig. S6B; see Materials and Methods) also supports

these results, with the only anomalies being the triploid Pacuta_ATAC_TP11_2306 and

Pacuta_HTAC_TP1_2414 which have extremely high delta Log-Likelihood values compared with

the other samples. Regardless, a triploid model was still the best fit for these samples (in

agreement with our other analysis) and because these sample are not outliers in supplementary

figure S6A it is possible that this is an artifact introduced by the denoising process. For *M.*

capitata, all samples were identified as diploids except for Mcapitata_HTAC_TP12_1632 and

Mcapitata_ATAC_TP11_1644 which were identified as a tetraploid and a triploid, respectively

(supplementary table S5; supplementary fig. S6C samples highlighted in red). Whereas it is

possible that these samples are a tetraploid and a triploid, the SNP allele frequency distributions

(Dataset S2; supplementary fig. S6E) do not support this hypothesis. Tetraploid samples would

have three peaks in the distribution at approximately 0.25, 0.5, and 0.75 along the x-axis and

triploid samples would have two peaks in the distribution at approximately 0.33, and 0.66 along

the x-axis (Weiss et al. 2018), which is not observed for these samples (supplementary fig. S6E).

Instead, the distributions have a single peak at ~0.5 and an increase in the frequency of alleles at

the tails of the distribution (increasing as the distribution approaches 0.1 and 0.9 along the x-

axis); this is in contrast with the other *M. capitata* samples where there is a single peak at 0.5 and

the tails of the distribution do not show an increase in allele frequency. The increase in frequency

of alleles that occupy the tails of the distribution could result from the samples being a mix of (at

least two) different genotypes. If one of the genotypes in the sample was dominant (present at a

much higher frequency than the others) then we would see an increase in the frequency of SNP

alleles with support around 0.1 and 0.9. These SNPs, rather than originating from heterozygous

regions of the different haplotypes within a single genotype, represent heterozygous regions

between different genotypes, and thus the proportion of reads that support the alleles reflects the

relative abundances of the different genotypes and not the ploidy of the sample. Only

Mcapitata_HTAC_TP12_1632 was still identified as a tetraploid in the denoised data

(supplementary fig. S6D), Mcapitata_ATAC_TP11_1644 was identified as a diploid, but did have

a higher delta Log-Likelihood value than the other samples, showing that the diploid model did

not fit this sample as well as it did for the other samples with distributions that match the expected

pattern (i.e., the samples without an increase in the frequency of alleles with support around 0.1

and 0.9).

Physiological response of corals to stress conditions

To investigate the relationship between genotype and gene expression, we exposed *M. capitata*

and *P. acuta* coral fragments to abiotic stress that mirrored real-world conditions. We found that

both corals paled in color significantly in response to treatment through time (3-way interaction of

Temperature, pCO$_2$, and Time for *M. capitata* [$F_{1,14}$ = 60.45, p = 0.00000001] and *P. acuta* [$F_{1,10}$ =

71.95, p < 0.00000000002]; supplementary table S6). There was a much more substantial

reduction in color score under high temperature in *P. acuta* than *M. capitata* (fig. 1D). The high

temperature and low pH conditions, however, led to relatively little mortality with no differences in

survivorship by treatment in *M. capitata* for high temperature (p = 0.20), high pCO$_2$ (p = 0.77), or

their interaction (p = 0.97). In contrast, there was >80% mortality in *P. acuta* exposed to high

temperature by the end of the experiment (fig. 1E), with significant mortality in response to high

temperature (p = 0.029) and high pCO$_2$ (p = 0.030), and their interaction (p = 0.013, supplementary

table S7).

Effects of genotype on RNA-Seq expression profiles

The reads from the *P. acuta* RNA-Seq samples were aligned against the predicted genes of the

published *P. acuta* genome (Vidal-Dupiol et al. 2020) and the correlation between each sample

was calculated based on the resulting gene expression profiles. For the heatmaps shown in figure

5A and supplementary figure S7, each panel provides different information about the samples and

makes clear that sample expression profiles do not cluster based on treatment condition, timepoint,

or the collection location. Rather, they cluster (fig. 5A) based on the putative clades/genotypes that

were identified (fig. 3A). There is a preponderance of samples from PA1, PA3, and PA5 (the largest

clades) in the three major blocks (encapsulated by red squares in fig. 5A and supplementary fig.

S7) of correlated genes in the heatmap. The samples from clade PA2 are clustered with those from

PA1, which is expected because these two clades are more closely related to each other then they

are to others in the tree (fig. 3A). Samples from PA6, PA7, and PA8 also cluster based on their

positions in the tree.

The same approach, using the published *M. capitata* genome (Shumaker et al. 2019), was

undertaken to assess the correlation between the expression profiles of the *M. capitata* RNA-Seq

samples. From this analysis, it is clear that, similar to *P. acuta*, the expression profiles of *M. capitata*

do not cluster based on treatment, timepoint, or collection site (supplementary fig. S8). However,

they also do not cluster strongly based on the clades (fig. 5B) that were identified (fig. 4A), which

is unsurprising given that almost all *M. capitata* samples are distinct genotypes; in contrast many

of the *P. acuta* clades were composed of one, or only a few, distinct genotypes. The only clear case

of *M. capitata* sample clustering are two pairs of samples (Mcapitata_HTAC_TP11_2380 and

Mcapitata_ATAC_TP11_2302,   and   Mcapitata_ATAC_TP12_2403   and

Mcapitata_ATAC_TP6_2402; encapsulated by red squares in fig. 5B and supplementary fig. S8)

that are putatively derived from the same genotypes.

Coral symbiont composition

Algal composition differed greatly between these species with *P. acuta* dominated by clade C1

(*Cladocopium* spp.), whereas *M. capitata* housed clades C17/C31 or D1 (*Durusdinium* spp.), or a

mix of these algae (supplementary fig. S9). These results indicate that under the conditions used,

P. acuta is a relatively stress sensitive coral that displays substantial bleaching and high mortality

under extended heat stress alone, and in combination with low pH, which is supported by in situ

bleaching studies (Bahr et al. 2015; Jokiel and Brown 2004). *P. acuta* is, however, widely distributed

in Kāneʻohe Bay and can recruit under projected levels of ocean warming (Bahr et al. 2020).

Symbiont holotranscriptome

There is a diverse collection of Symbiodiniaceae symbionts in the coral colonies we studied

(supplementary fig. S9) for which we have no reference genomes available to discriminate between

genes and paralogs in different lineages. Therefore, we analyzed the photosymbionts as a holo-

transcriptome (see Materials and Methods) to identify samples that share the same expression

pattern of non-coral-derived transcripts. The *P. acuta* holotranscriptome consists of 1,066,584

transcripts (contig N50 of 971 bp; supplementary table S8) that were assembled from ca. 533

million read pairs (supplementary table S9) that did not align to the published *P. acuta* genome

assembly (Vidal-Dupiol et al. 2020). BLASTn analysis using custom databases of Symbiodiniaceae

and coral-derived sequences found that 261,082 (24.28%) of the *P. acuta* holotranscriptome

sequences have top hits to the coral database, 248,841 (23.33%) have top hits to the symbiont

database, and 556,661 (52.19%) do not have top hits to either database (i.e., are derived from an

unknown source). The *M. capitata* holotranscriptome consists of 1,293,200 transcripts (contig N50

of 1,143 bp; supplementary table S8) that were assembled from ca. 628 million read pairs

(supplementary table S9) that did not align to the published genome (Shumaker et al. 2019).

BLASTn analysis of the holotranscriptome identified 217,816 (16.84%) coral-derived and 238,663

(18.46) symbiont-derived transcripts, the remaining 836,721 (64.70%) transcripts are derived from

other unknown sources.

Clustering of the expression profiles of just the algal symbiont-derived transcripts from the

holotranscriptome of each species showed that for *P. acuta*, the samples grouped not based on

treatment, timepoint, or collection site but primarily by host genotype (fig. 5C). Whereas the effect

of genotype is not as pronounced in the symbiont data as it is for the host (fig. 5A), it is still present

with samples from PA5, PA3, and PA1 forming clusters. This loose grouping is also observed in

the expression profiles of the non-coral-derived transcripts (supplementary fig. S10A; which

includes unknown and symbiont-derived transcripts) but is weaker than in the analysis using only

symbiont-derived transcripts. The algal Internal Transcribed Spacer 2 (ITS2) profiles of the *P. acuta*

samples are almost always dominated by a single ITS2 profile, with *Cladocopium*

"C1d/C42.2−C1−C3cg" ITS2 being the most common type observed across the samples. Only

three samples have the *Durusdinium* ("D1/D4−D6−D1ab") ITS2 profiles (fig. 5C), and all

Cladocopium "C1d−noName−C42.2−C1−noName" ITS2 profiles were detected in samples from

clade PA5 (red boxes in fig. 5C and supplementary fig. S10A; supplementary table S10). The *M.*

capitata samples have more defined groups within the heatmap that do not correlate with treatment,

timepoint, collection site, or host clade, but with the ITS2 profiles (supplementary fig. S10B;

supplementary table S10). There are three major groups of samples in the heatmap of the non-

coral-derived transcripts (supplementary fig. S10B, highlighted with four red boxes) that represents

(*i*) samples with a mix of algal symbionts that always includes a significant fraction of *Durusdinium*

sequences (top and bottom red boxes), (*ii*) samples dominated by a single *Cladocopium* ITS2 type

sequence (second red box from the top; the only exception in this group is

Mcapitata_HTAC_TP10_1315 which contains a small fraction of *Durusdinium*), and (*iii*) samples

with all, or a majority, or their ITS2 sequences from *Durusdinium* (second red box from the bottom).

The strong separation of samples in the *M. capitata* heatmap is likely caused by orthologs in

different symbiont lineages being resolved as separate transcripts. This means that even if the

same suite of algal genes were being expressed across all samples, their reads would assemble

and map to different transcripts, causing the expression profiles of samples with differing symbiont

compositions to have very low similarity and low correlation in the heatmap, and would cause the

expression profiles of samples with the same symbiont composition to have relatively high similarity

and high correlation in the heatmap.

Discussion

In this study, we generated high quality genome assemblies and RNA-Seq data from colonies of

the stress sensitive *P. acuta* and stress tolerant *M. capitata* from six reefs in Kāneʻohe Bay. The *M.*

capitata assembly is a significant improvement over the existing version (Shumaker et al. 2019),

and in the case of *P. acuta*, represents the first Hawaiian isolate sequenced for this species and

the first genome assembly from a non-diploid coral colony. We used SNPs to interrogate the

population structure of the two species across the bay, identifying robust genotypes and variation

in ploidy in *P. acuta*, and using various stress treatments, demonstrated the strong linkage between

coral genotype and transcriptome response to abiotic stress.

Two high-quality genome assemblies from key Hawaiian corals

The chromosome-level assembly of *M. capitata* is an important resource for comparative and

resequencing efforts of corals from Hawaii and other reefs across the world. The 1,687 "orphan"

scaffolds (totaling ca. 101 Mbp of assembled sequence), that are not part of the 14 putative

chromosomes, are of unknown provenance and remain to be further explored. The *P. acuta*

genome assembly was generated from a triploid isolate and is larger than the estimated genome

size (403.8 Mbp vs. 353.3 Mbp, respectively), suggesting that some haplotigs still remain, which is

unsurprising given the complexities associated with processing a triploid vs. a diploid genome

(which most tools are benchmarked against). Regardless, the generation of an assembly from a

triploid coral in particular where closely related diploid and triploid individuals live in close proximity,

enables research into how polyploidization affects the adaptability of corals and raises larger

questions about the plasticity of coral genomes. The estimated sizes of the published *P. acuta*

(isolated from Indonesia), *P. damicornis* (from Panama) and new *P. acuta* genomes are similar

(Cunning et al. 2018; Vidal-Dupiol et al. 2020) suggesting that globally, *Pocillopora* species have a

genome size of ca. 350 Mbp.

***P. acuta* has limited genetic diversity and frequently undergoes asexual reproduction**

Our results suggest that after introduction, *P. acuta* genotypes have spread to most sites in

Kāneʻohe Bay with active transport between reefs. This "genotypes everywhere" result has

previously been found for Kāneʻohe Bay *P. damicornis* populations (Gorospe and Karl 2013). Using

microsatellite data, Gorospe and Karl (Gorospe and Karl 2013) studied a single reef and found that

>70% of the colonies comprised seven genotypes with high clonal propagation. Neighboring reefs

however conformed to a genetic panmixia model with no inter-reef genetic structure. Our results

support this model, showing the existence of at least nine distinct *P. acuta* genotypes with

widespread distribution of the major lineages in Kāneʻohe Bay. The absence of isolation by

distance, even when individual reefs show genetic structure is puzzling, and may be explained by

microhabitat variability that selects for particular genotypes that occupy these niches in different

reefs (Gorospe and Karl 2011): i.e., presuming no major barriers exist to larval dispersal in the bay.

This result might also be explained by a genetic bottleneck. A recent natural event, such as severe

bleaching that caused mass coral mortality (e.g., the 2014-2015 Kāneʻohe Bay bleaching event

(Bahr et al. 2015)), may have removed much of the *P. acuta* from this region. The subsequent

repopulation of Kāneʻohe Bay by surviving corals, or recolonization from different regions, coupled

with asexual reproduction, would result in the observed, low genetic diversity.

M. capitata is a highly diverse outbreeder

The genetically diverse *M. capitata* colonies (fig. 4A) stand in stark contrast to the distinct

genotypes observed in *P. acuta* (fig. 3A). Despite the *M. capitata* tree having been constructed

from a larger input alignment then the *P. acuta* tree, and many of the nodes having strong bootstrap

support, the *M. capitata* clades are not robust when the data are reduced to variants that overlap

with the exons from the predicted genes in the new assembly (supplementary fig. S5). This

instability is likely a result of the high genetic diversity and sexual reproduction among Kāneʻohe

Bay *M. capitata*. The "star radiation" apparent in the *M. capitata* analyses suggest that we are not

dealing with potential cryptic or closely related species of *Montipora* in our dataset because of the

lack of structure in these trees (fig. 4A; supplementary fig. S5) with each lineage equally diverged

from the others. These results are supported by previous studies (Caruso et al. 2021; Concepcion

et al. 2014), with a recent survey of almost 600 *M. capitata* colonies in Kāneʻohe Bay that found

very few clonal individuals and no evidence of isolation by distance (Caruso et al. 2021). The few

clonal colonies that were identified were almost exclusively found at the same collection site, which

is what we also observed in our analysis.

Genotype impacts RNA-seq expression profile

Genotype has a strong impact on the overall gene expression profile of coral samples, even though

they were subjected to highly contrasting treatments. This is highlighted by *P. acuta*, where the

grouping of samples by gene expression profile is explained predominantly by host clade (which

for *P. acuta* may represent individual genotypes), and obscures differences based on stress

treatment (fig. 5A). This pattern is apparent when considering samples from the control (ATAC)

and high temperature/high pCO_2 (HTHC) treatments (supplementary fig. S7). These coral

fragments cluster in the heatmap based on genotype even though the extended HTHC treatment

led to *P. acuta* mortality. The *M. capitata* expression profiles also reflect genotype and not the

experimental design. The *M. capitata* samples, most of which are distinct genotypes, do not form

clear clusters that associate with any of the analyzed metainformation (fig. 5B and supplementary

fig. S8). The only clear cases of clustering are the two pairs of samples that are putatively derived

from the same genotypes.

Ploidy varies between species and may affect *P. acuta* fitness

Our results suggest that the diploid *P. acuta* are both sexual outbreeders and generate asexual

brooded larvae, as previously described (Nakajima et al. 2018; Richmond and Jokiel 1984;

Schmidt-Roach et al. 2014). The evolution of triploid genotypes in this species may be an

adaptation to local conditions in Kāneʻohe Bay, possibly allowing them to outcompete the ancestral

diploid genotypes. Although triploids are rare in wild populations, they are frequent in plants and in

animals such as oysters, often confer beneficial commercial traits such as improved growth,

pathogen resistance, and through infertility, protection of superior, adapted genotypes (Kang et al.

2013). Triploids may also enhance the rate of autotetraploid formation (Husband 2004). Triploids

occur in the coral *Acropora palmata* and may be a path to generating different ploidy levels in

different members of this genus (Iliana et al. 2005; Kenyon 1997). A previous study of Hawaiian

Pocillopora species showed the presence of three haplotypes per colony for several genes,

suggesting the existence of triploidy in this genus (Flot et al. 2008). Interestingly, the presence of

a single sample (Pacuta_HTHC_TP5_1415) in clade PA2 that is diploid despite all other members

of this clade being triploid, suggests that this *P. acuta* lineage may have reverted to the ancestral

state of sexual reproduction.

Whereas it is possible that the difference in ploidy between *P. acuta* samples could be distorting

the structure of the tree and inflating the separation between clades PA1-4 and clades PA5-9, this

scenario seems unlikely given that we see structure within the two ploidy groups (i.e., clear

subclades) and one diploid sample groups within PA2 with strong node support (100% BS). These

data suggest that the separation of different ploidies in the tree is the outcome of evolutionary

history and not analysis artifacts. It is also interesting that the two-peaks in the triploid *P. acuta*

SNP allele frequency distributions are of similar abundance (Dataset 1). If all three alleles in these

samples were evolving independently then we would expect to see a larger peak at 0.33 (whereby

each of the chromosome copies have different alleles) than at 0.66 (where two of the chromosome

copies encode the same allele). This result suggests that triploid *P. acuta* may have arisen from

the self-fertilization of a *P. acuta* egg, followed by fertilization by a foreign sperm, or that one of the

two gametes was diploid and provided two closely related sets of alleles. Alternatively, failure of

the ovum to extrude the second polar body after fertilization could lead to triploidy. These are the

most common mechanisms for generating triploid plants and animals (Carson et al. 2018;

Rosenbusch 2008). It is also conceivable that the two-peaks in the SNP allele frequency

distributions are explained by chimeric *P. acuta* colonies. There is evidence of chimerism in corals

through fusion of two or more genetically distinct individuals (Oury et al. 2020; Rinkevich et al.

2016; Willis et al. 2006) as well as mosaicism *via* somatic cell mutations (Schweinsberg et al. 2015;

Willis et al. 2006). The two-peaked distributions of *P. acuta* are however difficult to explain under

chimerism because the fused colonies would have to comprise one haploid and one diploid

individual to generate this result. If both colonies were diploid, as expected, then there would be a

4-allele (tetraploid) profile with peaks at 0.25, 0.5, and 0.75 (Weiss et al. 2018). Given these

considerations, we suggest that the most likely scenario to explain our results is triploid *P. acuta*

individuals rather than fused/mixed diploids.

Host genotype constrains symbiont diversity

The tendency for *P. acuta* to contain the same dominant symbiont type highlights how the

reproductive strategy of the host (asexual brooding or fragmentation) may constrain holobiont

genetic diversity. The close association between *P. acuta* and *Cladocopium*

"C1d/C42.2−C1−C3cg" might provide a selective advantage as the two partners co-evolve,

producing a more adaptive partnership (e.g., in terms of photosynthate exchange and metabolic

synchronization). This idea is supported by the presence of *Cladocopium* "C1d/C42.2−C1−C3cg"

in both diploid and triploid samples, suggesting that this association predates the introduction of *P.*

acuta to Kāneʻohe Bay and that the few samples with different algal ITS2 profiles are (potentially

infrequent) examples of symbiont switching. Because we are unable to resolve the relationship

between samples within PA1-5, due to their high within-clade relatedness, it is not possible to

identify how often symbiont switching has occurred in Kāneʻohe Bay *P. acuta*. For example, PA5

is the only clade to contain "C1d−noName−C42.2−C1−noName" and it is possible that this alga

became the dominant symbiont in a single ancestral PA5 colony that gave rise to all other colonies

in the Bay with this ITS2 profile.

Conclusions

Our results demonstrate that two sympatric coral species collected from the same reefs in Kāneʻohe

Bay have very different population structures, genetic histories, and reproductive strategies. These

factors affect their transcriptomic response to stress and the diversity of their algal symbiont

populations. *P. acuta* comprises a limited number of distinct genotypes, which is consistent with a

previous analysis of population structure for *P. damicornis* (Gorospe and Karl 2013) from this bay.

The most frequent *P. acuta* genotypes in Kāneʻohe Bay have spread through asexual reproduction

and share high genetic similarity, symbiont composition, and transcriptomic profiles despite being

subjected to different stress conditions. The variation in ploidy within these samples, with triploid

samples likely propagating asexually, reveals the complex genetic history of this species. In

contrast, *M. capitata* has uniform (relatively) high genetic diversity between samples, is a sexual

outbreeder, and has limited identifiable genotypes (that is, each sample is a distinct genotype). Key

questions that remain to be explored include: how will the different reproductive strategies of the

two species affect their ability to recolonize an area after a major bleaching event and what selective

advantage (if any) has allowed triploid *P. acuta* to spread throughout the bay? Perhaps most

importantly, our results demonstrate a clear need to thoroughly characterize the genetic structure

and reproductive behavior of corals for informed interpretation of 'omics' data. The underpinnings

of coral resistance and resilience involve not only algal symbiont and prokaryotic microbiome

contributions, but also fundamentally reflect host genotype(s) and their provenance. This is

particularly pertinent with the acceleration of the search for transferrable mechanisms for use as

human interventions to assist coral resistance and resilience and maintain these invaluable coral

reef ecosystems under increasing global change.

Materials and Methods

Coral Collections

This study focused on two dominant coral species that vary in their environmental tolerance in

Kāneʻohe Bay: *Montipora capitata* and *Pocillopora acuta* (Bahr et al. 2016; Gibbin et al. 2015).

About 900 coral samples (one ~5x5cm fragment per colony from 75 colonies per species per site)

were collected from six reef areas ranging across the north to south span and fringing to patch

reefs of Kāneʻohe Bay (Lilipuna Fringe: 21°25'45.9"N 157°47'28.0"W; HIMB: 21°26'09.8"N

157°47'12.7"W; Reef 18: 21°27'02.9"N 157°48'40.1"W; Reef 11, 13: 21°27'02.9"N

157°47'41.8"W; Reef 35, 36: 21°28'26.0"N 157°50'01.2"W; Reef 42, 43: 21°28'37.9"N

157°49'36.8"W; supplementary fig. S11A and B) under Hawaiʻi Department of Aquatic Resources

Special Activity Permit 2019-60, between 4-10 September 2018. Corals were affixed in an upright

position to individually numbered plastic coral fragment mounting plugs by hot gluing the base of

the skeleton to the plug. Coral fragments were allowed to acclimate for ~14 days and then were

randomly allocated to mesocosm tanks. The 450 samples collected from each species were

randomly allocated to different projects, the results of which are not presented here; after

treatment 132 *M. capitata* and 119 *P. acuta* samples had RNA-Seq libraries generated (the

increased mortality of the *P. acuta* samples, and problems with the extraction of some samples,

resulted in the difference in the number of samples between the two species; a more detailed

description is presented in a following section).

Experimental Setup

Treatment conditions (n=3 tanks treatment^{-1}) were randomly assigned to twelve outdoor

mesocosm tanks (122 cm x 122 cm x 30 cm; 510 L). Flow rates, measured daily with a graduated

cylinder and timer, averaged 84.36 ± 1.20 mL second^{-1} (mean ± sem; n=826), resulting in the

mesocosm tank turnover every ~1.6 hours. Temperature treatment conditions were programmed

to mimic the natural daily fluctuations (0.75 °C ± 0.06) of the environment at the collection sites in

Kāneʻohe Bay, Hawaiʻi (NOAA Moku o Loe Buoy data from September 2018). A Neptune Apex

control system was set-up to generate a pH-stat feedback system. Seawater temperature and pH

were constantly monitored using an Apex Aquacontroller (Neptune System). A microprocessor-

controlled power strip (Apex Neptune Energy Bar 832) and wifi base unit (Apex Neptune

Controller Base Unit) controlled 12 individual control units (Apex Neptune PM1 pH/ORP Probe

Module). Each tank was measured using Neptune Systems Apex Extended Life Temperature

Probe (accuracy = ± 0.05 °C) and a Neptune Systems Apex pH Probe (accuracy = ± 0.01 pH)

that measured temperature and pH every second. Temperature was monitored with Apex, but

controlled separately by underwater heaters (ProHeat D-1500 Heater Controllers, precision ± 1

°C), whereas pH was both monitored and controlled with the Apex system.

Daily fluctuating pH levels were generated with an independent pH-stat feedback system in each

tank in order to simulate predicted future higher CO_2 concentration conditions (Pachauri et al.

2014). Two 99.99% food-grade CO_2 cylinders were connected to an automatic gas cylinder

changeover system (Assurance Valve Systems, Automatic Gas Changeover Eliminator Valves

#6091) to prevent an abrupt shortage of CO_2 supply. CO_2 was brought into the system on-

demand, based on the pH reading in the tank (Neptune Apex control system) using gas flow

solenoids (Milwaukee MA955) with airlines plumbed into a venturi injector (Forfuture-go G1/2

Garden Irrigation Device Venturi Fertilizer Injector), which was connected to a water circulating

pump (Pondmaster Pond-mag Magnetic Drive Water Pump Model 5). Gas injected into the

system was either CO_2 or ambient air and bubbling was constant due to the pressure driven

pump moving water and gas through the venturi injector.

OnSet HOBO loggers (HOBO Water Temp Pro v2, accuracy = ± 0.21 °C, resolution = 0.02 °C)

were placed in each tank at the same height as the coral fragments for the duration of the

experiment in order to log temperature in 10 minute intervals. Mesocosm tanks were 60% shaded

from full irradiance, and photosynthetically active radiation was measured continuously with the

Apex cosine corrected PAR Sensor (accuracy = ± 5%) that was cross calibrated to the Li-Cor

cosine corrected PAR sensor (LI-192). Measurements were also made in 6 positions in each tank

using the Li-Cor 193 spherical underwater quantum sensor (LI-193), which revealed there was no

significant difference in light between the tank positions (n=4, p=0.948). Light was then assessed

in the center of the tank ~daily throughout the experiment using the Li-Cor 193 spherical

underwater quantum sensor. To further reduce any potential position effects with respect to

incoming water, heater position, or bubble stream, the positions of the coral fragments in the tank

were changed weekly during buoyant weighing.

Experimental Timeline

Coral fragments were exposed to four experimental conditions: Ambient Temperature Ambient

pCO_2 (ATAC: 27.47 °C ± 0.13; 8.03 pH ± 0.01, 396 µatm ± 12), Ambient Temperature High pCO_2

(ATHC: 27.46 °C ± 0.12; 7.68 pH ± 0.014, 1045 µatm ± 35), High Temperature Ambient pCO_2

(HTAC: 29.37 °C ± 0.06; 8.01 ± 0.01, 418 µatm ± 13), and High Temperature High pCO_2 (HTHC:

29.51 °C ± 0.06; 7.64 ± 0.02, 1174 µatm ± 55) for two months (22 September - 17 November

2018), and then ramped down to ambient conditions over two months (18 November 2018 - 12

January 2019) (supplementary fig. S11C and D). During the two-month stress exposure period,

one fragment per species per tank (n=3 per treatment) was sampled at random for each

molecular time point (0h, 6h, 12h, 24h, and 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, and 16 weeks; supplementary table

S11). Sampled fragments were placed in sterile whirlpak bags and snap frozen in liquid nitrogen

at 13:00 each day (with the exception of 6 h, 12 and 24 hr time points) and stored at -80 °C.

Total Alkalinity and Carbonate Chemistry

To assess the efficacy of the treatments, tank parameters (temperature in °C, pH on the total

scale, and salinity in psu) were tracked up to several times daily using a handheld digital

thermometer (Fisherbrand Traceable Platinum Ultra-Accurate Digital Thermometer, accuracy = ±

0.05 °C, resolution = 0.001 °C) and a portable multiparameter meter (Thermo Scientific Orion

Star A series A325). A pH probe (Mettler Toledo InLab Expert Pro pH probe #51343101;

accuracy = ± 0.2 mV, resolution = 0.1 mV) and conductivity probe (Orion DuraProbe 4-Electrode

Conductivity Cell Model 013010MD; accuracy = 0.5% of psu reading, resolution = 0.01 psu) were

used with the Orion A Star meter. To ensure pH (total scale) measurement quality, a tris standard

(Dickson Laboratory Tris Batch T27 Bottle 269, 236 and Batch T26 Bottle 198) was measured

daily to assess mV as a function of temperature.

To determine carbonate chemistry of each tank, pH, temperature, and salinity measurements

were taken daily (as described above; supplementary table S12). Twice a week, water samples

were taken simultaneously to measure total alkalinity (TA). An automated titrator (Mettler Toledo

T50) was used to titrate water samples with 0.1M hydrochloric acid (Dickson Laboratory Titrant

A3, A14) and accuracy was determined using certified reference material (Dickson Laboratory

CO_2 CRM Batches 132, 137, 176). A non-linear, least-squares procedure of the Gran approach

(SOP 3b (Dickson et al. 2007)) was used to calculate TA (μmol kg^{-1} seawater). Carbonate values

were calculated with SEACARB(v3.0.11) (Gattuso et al. 2015) in R Studio.

Mortality and Color Score

Survivorship was recorded daily and analyzed using a Cox proportional hazards regression

model including Temperature and pCO_2, with individual fragment ID assayed through time with

the calls coxph and Surv in the package survival (Therneau 2020) (supplementary table S13). To

assess tissue color change over time, each fragment was photographed once a week for all 16

weeks with a red, blue, green color standard ruler. ImageJ (Schneider et al. 2012) was used to

extract the mean blue, green, and red color score for each coral fragment and these values were

normalized to the mean of the red, blue, and green color standards. The color score was

quantified as PC 1 from principal component analysis (Edmunds et al. 2003) (PCA) and analyzed

statistically using a repeated measures ANOVA with Type III Wald Chi Square test (lmer function

in the lme4 package (Bates et al. 2015) in R), for the fixed factors of Temperature, pCO_2, and

Time, with individual fragment ID as the repeated measure (supplementary table S6).

Coral samples used for RNA-Seq

During the stress experiment 450 samples per species, were subjected to one of four treatment

conditions. Half of the samples collected (225 per species) were used for a separate physiology

experiment, the other half underwent DNA and RNA extraction (described below). During the

course of the treatment the *P. acuta* corals severely bleached, resulting in the mortality of nubbins

from the final timepoint (TP12; 16 weeks). No samples were therefore available for processing

and this timepoint is absent from all *P. acuta* treatments. In addition, one *P. acuta* sample, from

the HTHC treatment at timepoint 11 (12 weeks) failed during RNA extraction and processing;

leaving two samples from this timepoint. For *M. capitata*, due to sample degradation, one sample

for HTAC timepoint 1 (0hr) could not be sequenced and a sample from timepoint 4 (12hr) was

sequenced in its place; there are now n=2 for *M.* capitata HTAC timepoint 1 and n=4 for timepoint

4. In total, 119 RNA-Seq samples from *P. acuta* and 132 from *M. capitata* were sequenced and

analyzed in this study (supplementary tables S4 and S11).

DNA and RNA Extractions

DNA and RNA were extracted simultaneously from the coral fragments that had been snap frozen

and stored at -80 °C. A small piece was clipped off using clippers sterilized in 10% bleach,

deionized water, isopropanol, and RNAse free water, and then placed in 2 mL microcentrifuge

tube containing 0.5mm glass beads (Fisher Scientific Catalog. No 15-340-152) with 1000 µL of

DNA/RNA shield. A two-step extraction protocol was used to extract RNA and DNA, with the first

step as a "soft" homogenization to reduce shearing of RNA or DNA. Tubes were vortexed at high

speed for 1 and 2 minutes for *Pocillopora acuta* and *Montipora capitata* fragments, respectively.

The supernatant was removed and designated as the "soft extraction". Second, 500 µL of

DNA/RNA shield was added to the bead tubes and placed in a Qiagen TissueLyser for 1 minute

at 20 Hz. The supernatant was removed and designated as the "hard extraction". Subsequently,

300 µL of sample from both soft and hard homogenate was extracted with the Zymo Quick-

DNA/RNA Miniprep Plus Kit Protocol with the following modifications. A first elution of 10 µL of

warmed 10 mM Tris HCl was added to DNA columns for a 15-minute room temperature

incubation and centrifuged at 16,000 rcf(g) for 30 seconds. A second elution of 100 µL of warmed

10 mM Tris HCl was added for a 5-minute incubation and centrifuged at 16,000 rcf(g) for 30

seconds. Only the second DNA elution, a higher quality portion of the sample, was kept for

downstream analysis. Broad-range DNA and high-sensitivity RNA quantity (ng_µL) were

measured with a ThermoFisher Qubit Fluorometer, DNA quality was assessed using gel

electrophoresis, and RNA quality was measured with an Agilent TapeStation System. RNA-Seq

samples were sequenced by GENEWIZ (https://www.genewiz.com) using the Illumina NovaSeq

6000 platform. DNA from the "soft" extract of a single *P. acuta* sample was send to DNA Link

Sequencing Lab (https://www.dnalinkseqlab.com) for sequencing on their PacBio Sequal 2 and

Illumina NovaSeq 6000 platforms. A whole *M. capitata* nubbin was frozen and shipped to Dovetail

Genomics (https://dovetailgenomics.com) for processing using their Omni-C assay and workflow.

Internal Transcribed Spacer 2 Sequencing

"Hard" DNA was diluted to 3.33 ng/uL and 3 uL (10 ng total) was added to a master mix solution

containing 50 uL 2X Phusion HiFi Mastermix (Thermo Scientific F531s), 46 µL of DNase/RNase

free water, and 2 µL each of 10 uM Forward (GAATTGCAGAACTCCGTG) and 10 uM Reverse

(GGGATCCATATGCTTAAGTTCAGCGGGT) ITS2 Primers (Lajeunesse and Trench 2000).

Samples were run in three 33 uL replicates (3.33 ng in each replicate) in a polymerase chain

reaction (PCR) under the following conditions: 3 minutes at 95 °C, then 35 cycles of 30 seconds

at 95 °C, 30 seconds at 52 °C, and 30 seconds at 72 °C, followed by 2 minutes at 72 °C and held

indefinitely at 4 °C. Triplicate PCR products were pooled, run on a 2% agarose gel to confirm

~300 bp fragment length, and stored at -20 °C. 45 µL of PCR product was sequenced at the

University of Rhode Island Sequencing center (URI GSC). URI GSC performed a second

amplification to attach Nextra indices and adapters (5-10 PCR cycles) and amplicons were

cleaned with Ampure XP beads. Products were visualized using gel electrophoresis and

quantified with qPCR before sequencing as paired-end with 300 cycles double check with HP for

each read pair on a Illumina MiSeq. Sequences were identified to "Type Profile" using SymPortal

(Hume et al. 2019).

Genome size estimation

The genome sizes and ploidies of the *M. capitata* and *P. acuta* samples used to generate the

reference genomes were estimated using the GenomeScope2 and Smudgeplot tools (Ranallo-

Benavidez et al. 2020). For *M. capitata*, Illumina genome sequencing data was retrieved from

NCBI SRA (Run SRR8497577 from BioProject PRJNA509219), trimmed using Trimmomatic

(Bolger et al. 2014) (v0.39; ILLUMINACLIP:adapters.fa:2:30:10 SLIDINGWINDOW:4:20

LEADING:20 TRAILING:20 MINLEN:36), and decomposed into *k*-mers using Jellyfish (Marcais

and Kingsford 2011) (v2.3.0; k=21). The *k*-mer frequency histogram produced by Jellyfish (using

the 'jellyfish histo' command) was imported into GenomeScope2 with a theoretical diploid model

fitted over the data (fig. 2C and supplementary fig. S1A). Smudgeplot was run (following the

workflow from https://github.com/KamilSJaron/smudgeplot/wiki/manual-of-smudgeplot-with-

jellyfish) using the *k*-mers extracted by Jellyfish with a lower *k*-mer coverage cutoff of 4 (just after

the minimum between the initial error peak and the first major peak) and an upper cutoff of 102

(8.5 times the coverage of the first major peak at around 12x coverage) chosen based of the

GenomeScope2 profile shown in figure 2C; smudgeplots were generated assuming a haploid

coverage of 12x ("smudgeplot.py plot -n 12"). For *P. acuta*, the raw Illumina genome sequencing

reads generated as part of this study were decomposed into *k*-mers using Jellyfish (k=21). The *k*-

mer frequency histogram was imported into GenomeScope2 twice, once using a theoretical

diploid model (supplementary fig. S3A and B), and a second time using a theoretical triploid

model (fig. 2D and supplementary fig. S3C). Smudgeplot was run using the *k*-mers extracted by

Jellyfish with a lower k-mer coverage cutoff of 7 (just after the minimum between the initial error

peak and the first major peak) and an upper cutoff of 153 (8.5 times the coverage of the first

major peak around at 18x coverage) chosen based of the GenomeScope2 profile shown in figure

2D; smudgeplots were generated assuming a haploid coverage of 18 ("smudgeplot.py plot -n

18").

Genome assembly and predict of protein-coding genes for SNP analysis

The *P. acuta* genome assembly used in this study was sequences using PacBio HiFi and

assembled using FALCON-Unzip and Purge Haplotigs (sequencing and assembly was done by

DNA Link Sequencing Lab). Genes were predicted in the genome using the BRAKER pipeline

(Altschul et al. 1990; Barnett et al. 2011; Bruna et al. 2021; Camacho et al. 2009; Hoff et al. 2016;

Hoff et al. 2019; Li et al. 2009; Lomsadze et al. 2014; Stanke et al. 2008; Stanke et al. 2006)

(v2.1.6; --softmasking --gff3) with aligned reads from all 119 *P. acuta* RNA-Seq samples (mapped

using STAR (Dobin et al. 2013) [v2.7.8a; --outSAMtype BAM SortedByCoordinate]) provided as

evidence for prediction.

An initial long-read *M. capitata* genome assembly was constructed using canu (Koren et al. 2017)

(2.2-development; default parameters) from the PacBio reads available from NCBI BioProject

PRJNA509219 (Shumaker et al. 2019). Short-read data (from NCBI BioProject PRJNA509219)

was aligned against the genome with bowtie2 (v2.4.2; default options) and was used for polishing

by Pilon (Walker et al. 2014) (v1.23; default options). The polished canu long-read assembly had

repeats softmasked using RepeatModeler (Flynn et al. 2020) (v2.0.1; default options) and

RepeatMasker (Smit et al. 2013-2015) (v4.1.1; default options) before putative haplotigs were

removed using HaploMerger2 (Huang et al. 2017) (v3.6; default options using the softmasked

genome). The haplotig purged long-read assembly was sent to Dovetail Genomics (plus an

associated coral nubbin for high molecular weight DNA extraction) for analysis using their Omni-C

and HiRise assembly workflows. This produced a final genome assembly that was of putative

chromosome level resolution. The genes from the published *M. capitata* genome (Shumaker et al.

2019) (same isolate) were transferred using Liftoff (Shumate and Salzberg 2020) (v1.6.1;

Minimap2 (Li 2018) v2.17-r941; -a 0.95 -s 0.95 -polish -cds) to the new chromosome resolution

assembly.

Completeness of the new reference genomes and the predicted genes was assessed using

BUSCO v5.0.0 (--mode protein, genome, or transcriptome depending on the dataset being

assessed) with the eukaryota_odb10 and metazoa_odb10 datasets (Manni et al. 2021).

RNA-Seq read processing

Adapters and low-quality regions were trimmed from the RNA-Seq data generated in this study

using Cutadapt v2.9 (Martin 2011) (--nextseq-trim 10 --minimum-length 25 -a

AGATCGGAAGAGCACACGTCTGAACTCCAGTCAC -A

AGATCGGAAGAGCGTCGTGTAGGGAAAGAGTGTA; supplementary table S4). A second round

of trimming with Cutadapt, using the output from the first round, was used to remove poly-G

regions from the 5′-ends of the second read in each pair (-G G(20) -e 0.0 -n 10 --minimum-length

25). Read quality was assessed at each stage using FastQC v0.11.7 (default parameters;

http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/) and MultiQC (Ewels et al. 2016)

(v1.9).

Identification of Open Reading Frames in published *P. acuta* reference genes

Open Reading Frames (ORFs) were predicted in the available *P. acuta* reference transcripts (the

RNA-Seq based "experimental" genes reported in (Vidal-Dupiol et al. 2020)) using TransDecoder

v5.5.0 (https://github.com/TransDecoder/TransDecoder); HMMER v3.1b2 was used to search the

candidate ORFs against the Pfam database (release 33.1; i-Evalue < 0.001) and BLASTp

(v2.10.1; -max_target_seqs 1 -evalue 1e-5) was used to search candidate ORFs against the

SwissProt database (release 2020_05), with the resulting homology information used by

TransDecoder to guide ORF prediction.

Quantification of gene expression

Expression of the published *M. capitata* genes (Shumaker et al. 2019) and the ORFs predicted in

the *P. acuta* "experimental" genes were quantified over the sequenced timepoints using Salmon

(Patro et al. 2017) v1.10 (--allowDovetail --validateMappings --seqBias --gcBias). The sample

correlation heatmaps shown in figure 5, and supplementary figures S7, S8 and S10 were

generated using the scripts available as part of the Trinity package (Haas et al. 2013) (see

section "Compare Replicates Across Samples" at

https://github.com/trinityrnaseq/trinityrnaseq/wiki/QC-Samples-and-Biological-Replicates).

Identification of variants in RNA-Seq data

A workflow diagram summarizing the variant identification and analysis pipeline used in this study

is presented in supplementary figure S12. Variants (single-nucleotide polymorphisms [SNPs] and

insertion and deletion variants [INDELs]) were identified using the GATK (McKenna et al. 2010)

(v4.2.0.0) framework, adhering to their best practices workflow

(https://gatk.broadinstitute.org/hc/en-us/articles/360035531192?id=4067) whenever possible. For

each sample, the trimmed RNA-Seq reads were aligned against the new genomes (generated by

this study) using STAR (v2.7.8a; --sjdbOverhang 149 --outSAMtype BAM SortedByCoordinate --

twopassMode Basic). Read-group information was extracted from the read names by rgsam

(v0.1; https://github.com/djhshih/rgsam; --qnformat illumina-1.8) and added to the aligned reads

using gatk MergeBamAlignment (--INCLUDE_SECONDARY_ALIGNMENTS false --

VALIDATION_STRINGENCY SILENT). Duplicate reads (that had originating from the same DNA

fragment) were removed using gatk MarkDuplicates (--CREATE_INDEX true --

VALIDATION_STRINGENCY SILENT) before reads that spanned intron-exon boundaries were

split using gatk SplitNCigarReads (default parameters). The base quality recalibration steps

suggested in the GATK best practices workflow could not be applied to our samples because a

set of expected high confidence variants (which is required for the recalibration process) is not

available for either of the species being studied. Finally, haplotypes were called using the aligned

reads (with read-group information added, duplicate reads marked, and reads spanning exon

boundaries split) using gatk HaplotypeCaller (-dont-use-soft-clipped-bases -ERC GVCF). For

each species, the VCF files produced by HaplotypeCaller were combined using gatk

CombineGVCFs before being jointly genotyped using gatk GenotypeGVCFs (-stand-call-conf 30 -

-annotation AS_MappingQualityRankSumTest --annotation AS_ReadPosRankSumTest).

The variants produced by GenotypeGVCFs were separated into SNPs and INDELs before two

rounds of filtering were applied. In the first round, variant sites were removed if, in the 'INFO'

annotation, the variant confidence normalized by depth (QD) was < 20, mapping quality (MQ)

was < 50 (<45 for INDELs), allele-specific strand bias estimated by the Fisher's exact test (FS)

was >5, and allele-specific strand bias estimated by the symmetric odds ratio test (SOR) was

<2.5 (gatk VariantFiltration --filter-name "VarScores_filter_QD" --filter-expression "QD < 20.000" -

-filter-name "VarScores_filter_MQ" --filter-expression "MQ < 50.000" --filter-name

"VarScores_filter_FS" --filter-expression "FS > 5.000" --filter-name "VarScores_filter_SOR" --

filter-expression "SOR > 2.500"). The density distribution of these metrics across the samples

from *M. capitata* and *P. acuta* was visualized and used to guild selection of the thresholds used

for filtering (supplementary fig. S13). In the second round, for each sample a variant was

converted to a no call (gatk SelectVariants --set-filtered-gt-to-nocall) if, in the 'FORMAT'

annotation, the read depth (DP) was <20 (gatk VariantFiltration --genotype-filter-name "DP_filter"

--genotype-filter-expression "DP < 20.000"). For each sample, the read depth of the variants that

passed the first round of filtering were visualized and used to guild selection of the threshold used

for the second round of filtering (Datasets S3 and S4). Variants were converted to VCF table

format using gatk VariantsToTable (-F CHROM -F POS -GF GT); variant sites where at least one

sample did not have a genotype called (i.e., there was insufficient read depth covering that site in

a sample for it to be considered for analysis) were removed, leaving just variant sites where a

genotype could be confidently called (having passed all quality filtering thresholds) in all samples

generated from that species.

For *P. acuta* a second round of haplotype calling was undertaken using information about the

putative ploidy of each sample; ploidy was estimated from the distribution of SNP alleles with a

given proportion of supporting reads (Dataset S1). For triploid *P. acuta* samples the gatk

HaplotypeCaller stage of the workflow was rerun using the same input reads as the first round but

with the "--sample-ploidy 3" parameter set; for diploid *P. acuta* samples the haplotypes called in

the first found were reused. The VCF files produced by HaplotypeCaller using the correct ploidy

were combined using gatk CombineGVCFs before being jointly genotyped using gatk

GenotypeGVCFs (-stand-call-conf 30 --annotation AS_MappingQualityRankSumTest --annotation

AS_ReadPosRankSumTest). Variants were filtered using the same thresholds.

SNP phylogeny

The filtered SNP VCF table (composed of just sites with variants called in all samples) was

converted to a fasta representation (where the genotype of each variant in a sample is

represented by a one-character code) using the "vcfTab_to_callsTab.py" and

"callsToFastaPhy_speed.py" scripts available from https://github.com/evodify/genotype-files-

manipulations. The one-character codes (which represent the genotype called at each site in a

sample) were converted into two unambiguous nucleotide characters (A becomes AA, T becomes

TT, G:GG, C:CC, R:AG, Y:CT, M:AC, K:GT, S:CG, W:AT, N:NN). This new fasta formatted

representation of the sample's genotypes was used as the input alignment for phylogenetic

analysis; IQTREE (Nguyen et al. 2015) (v1.6.12) was used to remove the invariant sites from the

alignment before being used to construct a maximum-likelihood phylogenetic tree (-m GTR+ASC

-bb 2000 -quiet; using the alignment without invariant sites) with node support tested via 2,000

ultrafast phylogenetic bootstraps (Hoang et al. 2018) (BS). A second maximum-likelihood

phylogenetic tree was constructed using the same workflow except, it only used filtered SNPs

that overlapped with the exons of the genes predicted in the new reference genomes. The filtered

SNPs were used with the SNPRelate R package (Zheng et al. 2012) (v1.24.0) to construct a

phylogenetic tree without the need to first build an alignment representation of the variants. First,

SNPs in VCF format were converted to GDS format (using the "snpgdsVCF2GDS" function), then

the identity-by-state (IBS) proportion was calculated for each pair of samples ("snpgdsIBS";

autosome.only=FALSE) and used to for clustering ("snpgdsHCluster").

Identification of variants in *P. damicornis* RNA-Seq data

Six RNA-Seq samples from *P. damicornis* (two from SRA Study SRP011059.1 (Vidal-Dupiol et al.

2013) and four from SRA Study SRP029998 (Vidal-Dupiol et al. 2014)) were retrieved from SRA

and trimmed using Cutadapt v2.9 (-q 10 --minimum-length 25 -a

GATCGGAAGAGCGGTTCAGCAGGAATGCCGAG -A

AGATCGGAAGAGCGTCGTGTAGGGAAAGAGTGTA). The *P. damicornis* samples had

haplotypes called using the same workflow as the *P. acuta* RNA-Seq samples, with the only

exception being that read-group information (shown in supplementary table S3) was added

manually to the reads (using gatk AddOrReplaceReadGroups) instead of using rgsam to extract

the information automatically from the read names.

The *P. damicornis* haplotypes were combined with the *P. acuta* haplotypes (run assuming all

samples were diploid) using gatk CombineGVCFs. All downstream genotyping and filtering

processes were conducted as described in the previous section. A SNP based phylogeny of the

P. damicornis and *P. acuta* RNA-Seq samples was constructed using the same approach as

described in the previous section expect that all sites (including invariant sites) were used for the

analysis and the GTR model, not the GTR+ASC model, was used for construction of the

phylogenetic tree. This difference in the workflow is because the inclusion of the *P. damicornis*

samples resulted in fewer sites (with variants called in all samples) from which an alignment could

be constructed, the removal of invariant sites resulted in identical sequences in the alignment that

were excluded from analysis by IQTREE.

Identification of variants in *P. acuta* PacBio HiFi genome sequencing data

The PacBio HiFi genome sequencing reads were aligned against the new genome using

Minimap2 (Li 2018) (v2.20; -ayYL --MD --eqx -x map-hifi; the -R option was used to set the read-

group information to be the same as in the unaligned BAM file). Samtools (Danecek et al. 2021)

(v1.11) was used to remove unmapped reads and secondary alignments from the Minimap2

output, it was also used to sort the output by alignment coordinates. Aligned reads with insertions

>10 Kbp were found to cause errors when analyzed by gatk HaplotypeCaller, so they were

removed using gatk FilterSamReads (--JAVASCRIPT_FILE script.js --FILTER includeJavascript -

-CREATE_INDEX --COMPRESSION_LEVEL 0; the script.js script was coded so FilterSamReads

would remove reads with inserts >10 Kbp). The filtered reads had haplotypes called using gatk

HaplotypeCaller (-dont-use-soft-clipped-bases -ERC GVCF --sample-ploidy 3); the reference

genome haplotype VCF file was combined with the haplotype VCF files from the *P. acuta* RNA-

Seq samples (created using the estimated ploidy assigned to each sample) using gatk

CombineGVCFs. The combined haplotype VCF file was jointly genotyped using gatk

GenotypeGVCFs (-stand-call-conf 30 --annotation AS_MappingQualityRankSumTest --annotation

AS_ReadPosRankSumTest). All downstream genotyping and filtering processes were conducted

as described in the previous section. A phylogeny of the samples was constructed using SNPs

from sites that passed the filtering criteria and that had variants called in all samples. As the

samples being analyzed had different ploidies, only variant sites with two alleles observed across

all samples (biallelic sites) were used, and the three haplotypes called in the triploid samples

were converted to two haplotypes so they could be converted into an alignment with the diploid

samples that was then used to construct a phylogeny. At each biallelic site, triploid homozygous

alleles (e.g., A/A/A) were converted to diploid homozygous allele (e.g., A/A), and triploid

heterozygous alleles (e.g., A/A/C) were converted to diploid heterozygous alleles (e.g., A/C) by

collapsing the redundant allele. The condensed biallelic variants were directly converted into a

fasta representation (A/A:AA; C/C:CC; G/G:GG; T:T/TT; A/C or C/A:AC; A/G or G/A:AG; A/T or

T/A:AT; C/G or G/C:CG; C/T or T/C:CT; G/T or T/G:GT) and used as the input alignment for

phylogenetic analysis; IQTREE (Nguyen et al. 2015) (v1.6.12) was used to remove the invariant

sites from the alignment before being used to construct a maximum-likelihood phylogenetic tree (-

m GTR+ASC -bb 2000 -quiet; using the alignment without invariant sites) with node support

tested via 2,000 ultrafast phylogenetic bootstraps (Hoang et al. 2018) (BS).

Analysis of sample ploidy

The ploidy of each RNA-Seq sample from *M. capitata* and *P. acuta*, as well as the *P. acuta*

reference genome and the *P. damicornis* RNA-Seq libraries (used as the outgroup in fig. 3B) was

initially estimated by visually inspecting the distribution of alleles with a given proportion of read

support (i.e., the allelic depth of the variants in each sample). The alleles used for ploidy

estimation were extracted from the variants produced by GenotypeGVCFs (supplementary fig.

S12); variants with a read depth (DP) < 20 were removed from each sample (gatk

VariantFiltration --genotype-filter-name "DP_filter" --genotype-filter-expression "DP < 20"). The

alleles we extracted at this stage of the workflow, and not after final filtered step, because we

wanted to capture as many sites as possible in each sample, and the filtering that was applied in

the main workflow, which also filtered out variants based on the overall quality of a site across all

of the sample from a species, was too stringent given that we are not interested in comparing

sites across samples.

The results of the initial ploidy estimates were confirmed by nQuire (Weiss et al. 2018) (retrieved

on 7/7/2021 from https://github.com/clwgg/nQuire), which was run using the aligned and

processed RNA-Seq reads that were used to call haplotypes (i.e., the processed reads given to

gatk HaplotypeCaller), and the *P. acuta* PacBio HiFi reads aligned against the new *P. acuta*

genome assembly using MiniMap2. Briefly, the aligned BAM files were converted into "BIN" files,

filtering for reads with a minimum mapping quality of 20 and sites with a minimum coverage of 20

("nQuire create -q 20 -c 20 -x"). Denoised BIN files were created using the "nQuire denoise"

command run on the initial BIN files. The delta Log-Likelihood values for each ploidy model was

calculated by the "nQuire lrdmodel" command for each of the initial and denoised BIN files.

Assembly of coral holotranscriptomes

A holotranscriptome was assembled for each coral species and was used to assess the

expression patterns of the symbiont community. Reads from *M. capitata* and *P. acuta* RNA-Seq

samples were aligned against the published *M. capitata* (Shumaker et al. 2019) and *P. acuta*

(Vidal-Dupiol et al. 2020) genome assemblies using HISAT2 (Kim et al. 2019) (v2.2.1; "-q --

phred33 --dta --rf --very-sensitive"). Samtools (Danecek et al. 2021) (v1.11; "view -f 12") was

used to extract reads that were unmapped and that had mates that were unmapped; the resulting

pairs of unaligned reads were separated based on orientation (i.e., as either 'up' or 'down' stream

reads). The unaligned reads from all samples from the same coral species were assembled using

Trinity (Grabherr et al. 2011) (v2.11.0; "--SS_lib_type RF") into a "holotranscriptome". Expression

of the assembled transcripts in each holotranscriptome was quantified by Salmon (Patro et al.

2017) (v1.10; --validateMappings --seqBias --gcBias --libType ISR) using the unaligned RNA-Seq

reads from each sample.

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The taxonomic provenance of the transcripts in the assembled holotranscriptomes was assessed

by comparison against two databases. The first is comprised of transcripts from a diverse

collection of Symbiodiniaceae datasets (supplementary table S13) (Aranda et al. 2016; Chen et

al. 2020; González-Pech et al. 2021; Johnson et al. 2019; Keeling et al. 2014; Liu et al. 2018;

Robbins et al. 2019; Shoguchi et al. 2018; Shoguchi et al. 2013), which includes sequences from

assembled transcriptomes as well as predicted genes from the published genome assemblies.

The second database was comprised of species-specific coral sequences. The *P. acuta* species-

specific database was comprised of CDS from the published *P. acuta* genome "experimental"

predicted gene set (Vidal-Dupiol et al. 2020), the predicted protein-coding genes from the *P.*

damicornis genome (Cunning et al. 2018), and transcripts assembled by StringTie2 (Kovaka et al.

2019) (v2.0.6; --rf) using the reads from the RNA-Seq samples generated in this study aligned by

HISAT2 (v2.2.1; -q --phred33 --no-unal --dta --rf --very-sensitive) against the new *P. acuta*

genome assembly. The *M. capitata* species-specific database was comprised of CDS from the

predicted protein-coding genes in the published *M. capitata* genome assembly (Shumaker et al.

2019) and transcripts assembled by StringTie2 and HISAT2 using the same approach as for *P.*

acuta. Transcripts were compared using BLASTn (v2.10.1; default parameters) separately

against the Symbiodiniaceae and the appropriate coral databases. The top hit for each transcript

from each database was extracted, these top hits were then combined and filtered so that only

best top hit (with the highest bitscore) was retained for each transcript. Finally, top hits were

removed if they had an *e*-value $<1\times10^{-5}$. Transcript that have a best top hit to a sequence from

the Symbiodiniaceae database are considered to be putatively symbiont derived, transcripts that

have best top hits to a sequence from the coral species-specific database are considered to be

putatively coral derived, and transcripts without hits to either database are considered to be of

unknown (non-coral) taxonomic provenance.

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Data and materials availability

All data, code, and materials used in the analysis are available at https://osf.io/gvhkx/,

https://github.com/hputnam/Coral_Stress_Phenome, and from NCBI's SRA repository (RNA-Seq

data are available from PRJNA731596; genome sequencing data from PRJNA761443; algal ITS2

sequencing data from PRJNA761780). Genome assemblies and predicted genes are available

from http://cyanophora.rutgers.edu/montipora/ and

http://cyanophora.rutgers.edu/Pocillopora_acuta/.

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 Figures and Tables

Figure 1. Study corals in Kāneʻohe Bay, Oʻahu, Hawaiʻi and physiological results.

Colonies of *Montipora capitata* (*A*), the rice coral, and *Pocillopora acuta* (*B*), the lace coral.

Images taken by D. Bhattacharya. (*C*) Aerial image of Kāneʻohe Bay with the six reefs where the

coral samples were collected highlighted using colored circles and labels. The color of the circles

surrounding the collection sites corresponds to the colors used in figures 3 and 4 and in the

supplementary figures. The legend for distance in meters is shown at the bottom of the image.

(*D*) Color change of the corals indicating visual bleaching that was quantified using color

standardized photographs. (*E*) Probability of survivorship under each treatment during the 16-

week study period. Treatment conditions are represented in (*D*) and (*E*) as light blue (Ambient

Temperature Ambient pCO_2; ATAC), dark blue (Ambient Temperature High pCO_2; ATHC), light

red (High Temperature Ambient pCO_2; HTAC), and dark red (High Temperature High pCO_2;

HTHC) lines. The dashed vertical lines in (*D*) and (*E*) indicate the transition from treatment to

recovery periods.

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Figure 2. High quality genome assemblies

Cumulative (*A*) and individual (*B*) length of scaffolds in the new *M. capitata* genome assembly.

Scaffolds were sorted by length in descending order; each point along the x-axis of (*A*) and (*B*)

represents a scaffold, with the longest scaffold being the first and the shortest being the last on

the axis of each plot. In (*A*) and (*B*) a zoomed-in section of the larger plot is shown on the right

highlights the 40 largest scaffolds; a horizontal red line in (*A*) shows the total assembled bases in

the new genome and a vertical dashed line in (*A*) and (*B*) is positioned after the 14th largest

scaffold. GenomeScape2 linear *k*-mer distributions of *M. capitata* (*C*) and *P. acuta* (*D*) with

theoretical diploid (*C*) and triploid (*D*) models shown by the black lines.

Figure 3. Phylogenetic analysis of *P. acuta* samples.

(*A*) An unrooted phylogenetic tree constructed from an alignment (13,948 parsimony-informative and 1,835 singleton sites; 13,948 total) built using the SNPs identified in the *P. acuta* RNA-Seq data. The samples have been colored and labeled according to the putative clades identified in the tree. Support values for the internal nodes are based on 2000 ultrafast bootstrap approximations. The distance (*d*) between major clades in the tree are shown along with colored arrows indicating which nodes were compared. The putative split between ancestral diploid lineages and derived, triploid lineages is shown in the tree. (*B*) *P. acuta* phylogenetic tree constructed from an alignment (1,856 parsimony-informative, 74 singleton sites, and 71 constant sites; 2,640 total) built using SNPs identified in all *P. acuta* and six *P. damicornis* samples (Vidal-Dupiol et al. 2014; Vidal-Dupiol et al. 2013). This tree is rooted using the six *P. damicornis* samples. The putative ploidy and sample collection site information for each sample is annotated using the colored inner and outer rings, respectively. A legend explaining each color used in the figure is presented in the middle left of the image with the number of samples in each category shown in brackets. The putative split between ancestral diploid lineages and derived, triploid lineages is shown in the tree. (*C*) Density plots for samples Pacuta_HTHC_TP11_2185 (putative triploid) and Pacuta_HTHC_TP5_1415 (putative diploid) showing the proportion of reads at a given site that support each SNP allele.

Figure 4. Phylogenetic analysis of *M. capitata* samples.

(*A*) An unrooted phylogenetic tree constructed from an alignment (25,541 parsimony-informative

and 1,165 singleton sites; 26,706 total) built using the SNPs identified in the *M. capitata* RNA-Seq

data. The samples have been colored and labeled according to the putative clades identified in

the tree. Support values for the internal nodes are based on 2000 ultrafast bootstrap

approximations. The distance (*d*) between some samples in the tree are highlighted to show the

level of divergence between the *M. capitata* samples. Samples that are putatively from the same

genotype are indicated by the red brackets. (*B*) Phylogenetic tree shown in (*A*) with sample

collection site information indicated by the colored ring. A legend explaining each color used in

the figure is presented in the bottom right of the image with the number of samples in each

category shown in brackets.

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Figure 5. Analysis of gene expression profiles from host and symbiont-derived transcripts.

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Heatmaps showing the (*A*) *P. acuta* gene expression correlation results annotated with the

putative clades identified in figure 3A, and (*B*) the *M. capitata* gene expression correlation results

annotated with the putative clades identified in figure 4A. Groups of samples in (*A*) that cluster by

genotype and the two pairs of samples in (*B*) that are putatively derived from the same genotypes

are encapsulated by red squares. (*C*) Symbiont-derived holotranscriptome expression profiles of

P. acuta with host clades (fig. 3A) and algal ITS2 (supplementary fig. S9) data shown along the

sides of the heatmap. A legend explaining each color used for the ITS2 data in the bar plot is

presented in the top right of the panel. Samples with ITS2 profiles that contain *Cladocopium*

"C1d−noName−C42.2−C1−noName" are encapsulated by red squares. The order of the samples

and the dendrograms plotted along each axis were determined by hierarchical clustering of the

distances calculated between the samples in each heatmap.