Title: Admixture mapping reveals evidence for multiple mitonuclear incompatibilities in swordtail fish hybrids

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Abstract

How barriers to gene flow arise between closely related species is one of the oldest questions in evolutionary biology. Classic models in evolutionary biology predict that negative epistatic interactions between variants in the genomes of diverged lineages, known as hybrid incompatibilities, will reduce viability or fertility in hybrids. The genetic architecture of these interactions and the evolutionary paths through which they arise have profound implications for the efficacy of hybrid incompatibilities as barriers to gene flow between species. While these questions have been studied using theoretical approaches for several decades, only recently has it become possible to map larger numbers of hybrid incompatibilities empirically. Here, we use admixture mapping in natural hybrid populations of swordtail fish (*Xiphophorus*) to identify genetic incompatibilities involving interactions between the mitochondrial and nuclear genomes. We find that at least nine regions of the genome are involved in mitonuclear incompatibilities that vary in their genetic architecture, the strength of selection they experience, and the degree to which they limit gene flow in natural hybrid populations. Our results build a deeper understanding of the complex architecture of selection against incompatibilities in naturally hybridizing species and highlight an important role of mitonuclear interactions in the evolution of reproductive barriers between closely related species.

Introduction

As lineages diverge, mutations that differentiate them will arise and ultimately fix due to the action of genetic drift or natural selection. One of the foundational theories in evolutionary biology is that combinations of these distinct variants in hybrids can lead to 'incompatible' genetic interactions that reduce hybrid viability or fertility. Since this idea was first proposed by Dobzhansky and Muller[1,2], scores of studies have now mapped negative epistatic interactions that lead to reduced viability or fertility in hybrids[3–11]. Decades of theoretical work have established the importance of hybrid incompatibilities as barriers to gene flow and mechanisms through which species can become and remain reproductively isolated[12–20]. More recently, advances in genomics have fueled the identification of dozens of individual genes involved in hybrid incompatibilities[21–24]. However, only a small subset of these studies have successfully mapped hybrid incompatibilities in naturally hybridizing species[6,22,25,26]. As a result, few studies have examined the importance of hybrid incompatibilities as barriers to gene flow in nature[21–24].

Thus, despite their predicted importance in the formation and maintenance of species, many open questions remain about the evolution of hybrid incompatibilities and their consequences in natural populations. In part due to the experimental challenges of precisely mapping the genes involved in hybrid incompatibilities[27], theoretical work has vastly outpaced empirical work in this area. Classic theoretical research in evolutionary biology predicts that hybrid incompatibilities may be more likely to arise between rapidly evolving genes, as these will be the first to accumulate functionally important substitutions that differ between species[12,17]. Some existing empirical results are consistent with this interpretation, with several known incompatibility genes showing elevated rates of amino acid substitutions or high rates of structural evolution[6,22,28].

Since these initial theoretical results in population genetics, advances in systems biology have led to new predictions about the nature of genetic interactions that might lead to genetic breakdown in hybrids and the mechanisms through which this could evolve. Experimental approaches have generated comprehensive maps of gene interactions in model species such as *Saccharomyces* and *C. elegans*, and have led to the realization that the majority of genes have few genetic interactions, while others act as "hubs," with many interacting partners[29–32]. At the same time, theoretical and empirical advances[33,34] have indicated that conserved traits and pathways can diverge in their developmental and genetic underpinnings over evolutionary timescales, a process known as developmental systems drift[33,34]. Several newly mapped hybrid incompatibilities have been implicated in conserved developmental processes whose molecular basis appears to have diverged over long evolutionary timescales (e.g. [35,36]) and thus cause dysfunction in hybrids. Notably, compensatory coevolution in interacting proteins, where substitutions that impact function in one protein are restored through changes in an interacting protein, has been thought to be an important mechanism underlying developmental systems drift (though empirical evidence is mixed[37]).

Among protein complexes, some researchers have suggested that interactions between
the mitochondrial and nuclear genome may be especially prone to evolving differences that
generate incompatibilities in hybrids[38]. Nearly 1,500 nuclear-encoded proteins localize to the
mitochondria in vertebrates, and more than one hundred form physical complexes with
mitochondria-encoded proteins. At the same time, different error-correction machinery used by
the mitochondrial genome often leads to higher substitution rates in mitochondrial-encoded
genes (up to ~20X in vertebrates[39]). This is often mirrored by elevated substitution rates in
nuclear-encoded genes that must interact intimately with their mitochondrial partners[40]. Other
features of mitochondrial biology, including the lack of meiotic recombination and potential for
sexual conflict may also impact dynamics of evolution and coevolution in mitochondrial and
nuclear genes. Thus, interactions between mitochondrial- and nuclear-encoded proteins may be
predisposed to the evolution of hybrid incompatibilities due to their molecular or evolutionary
properties.
While this hypothesis has been challenging to evaluate since only a few mitonuclear
hybrid incompatibilities have been precisely mapped[25,41–43], the broad predictions of this model
are well supported. Hybrids between many species often show viability or fertility effects that
depend on the maternal parent in the cross, consistent with a role for the mitochondrial genome
in hybrid fitness (as well as other mechanisms[44]). Physiological approaches have also highlighted
widespread mitochondrial dysfunction in hybrids that may point to suboptimal interactions
between the mitochondrial- and nuclear-derived proteins of the parent species[42,45–51]. With an
improved understanding of the genetic architecture of selection on mitonuclear interactions in
hybrids, and epistatic interactions in hybrids more generally, researchers can better understand
the consequences of hybridization between species from both a genetic and evolutionary
perspective.
Swordtail fish of the genus *Xiphophorus* have become a model system for the study of
speciation. Several pairs of species in this genus naturally hybridize[23,52–54], providing unique
datasets to study the impacts of hybridization. Among these, some of the best studied natural
hybrid populations are those that have formed between sister species *Xiphophorus birchmanni*
and *X. malinche* (Fig. 1A). *X. birchmanni* and *X. malinche* are native to the Sierra Madre
Oriental of Mexico and hybridize in multiple river systems where their ranges overlap (Fig. 1B).
Despite diverging only an estimated 250,000 generations before the present[55] (~0.4% pairwise
sequence divergence), these species have multiple known hybrid incompatibilities[6,25], with
evidence for perhaps dozens more from population genetic and cross data[23,27,56].
In previous work, we used a combination of admixture mapping and segregation
distortion in F_2 hybrids to fine-map two nuclear-encoded genes involved in a lethal mitonuclear
hybrid incompatibility between *X. birchmanni* and *X. malinche*: one on chromosome 6 involving
an interaction between *X. birchmanni ndufa13* and the *X. malinche* mitochondria and one on
chromosome 13 involving an interaction between either species' version of *ndufs5* and the
mitochondria of the other species[25]. Both of these genes encode proteins in Complex I of the
mitochondrial electron transport chain, and physiological and proteomic data indicated that

ancestry mismatch at these loci results in Complex I dysfunction. Ultimately this dysfunction
leads to embryonic lethality or mortality shortly after birth[25]. We also detected a mitonuclear
incompatibility involving chromosome 15 but were unable to localize the driver of this signal[25].
Here, we perform a higher-powered scan for genes involved in mitonuclear
incompatibilities between *X. birchmanni* and *X. malinche* by doubling the sample size of our
initial study[25]. We replicate previously detected incompatibilities and find strong evidence for
several additional mitonuclear incompatibilities including incompatibilities that are physically
linked to those we previously mapped (Table 1). In some cases, we are able to fine-map these
interactions to the genes likely to be involved, document evidence of physiological consequences
on mitochondrial function, and identify selection on these regions in natural hybrid populations.
Our results further underscore the importance of mitonuclear interactions in the evolution of
hybrid incompatibilities between closely related species.
136

Materials and Methods

Sample collection and curation

For the admixture mapping analyses described in this paper, we combined a previously published dataset of 359 natural hybrids from the Calnali Low hybrid population[25] with newly collected data from 372 additional hybrids from the same population (Fig. 1C). By approximately doubling our sample size, we expected to increase our power to detect incompatible interactions with more modest selection coefficients. Samples were collected using baited minnow traps. Individuals were anesthetized in 100 mg/mL MS-222 and a small fin clip was taken from the upper caudal fin of each individual (following Stanford APLAC protocol #33071). Fish were allowed to recover in a holding tank and then returned to the site where the trap was deployed. Fin clips were stored in 95% ethanol for later DNA extraction and sequencing.

For analysis of samples across a geographical cline along the Río Pochula, we collected samples from 12 locations ranging from elevations of 221 meters to 1400 meters (Fig. 1D). The number of samples per geographical location ranged from 16 to 45. Full details of sampling localities on the Río Pochula can be found in Table S1. Individuals were collected and fin clipped as described above. Finally, we collected fin clips from 805 F_2 hybrids generated in our fish facility at Stanford. We followed the same sample collection procedure to fin clip artificial hybrids generated in the laboratory, except that individuals were tagged with a unique elastomer fluorescent tag for later matching of individuals and their genotypes. In addition to these samples, we reanalyzed data generated from previous work. We summarize all the datasets analyzed in the manuscript in Table S2.

DNA extraction and library preparation

We prepared fin clips for low-coverage whole genome sequencing as described previously[23,25,57]. Briefly, we extracted DNA from each fin clip individually in a 96-well plate format using the Agencourt DNAdvance kit (Beckman Coulter, Brea, California), following the manufacturer's instructions (with half-reactions). Extracted DNA was quantified using a TECAN Infinite M1000 plate reader (Tecan Trading AG, Switzerland). Each sample was diluted to 10 ng/ul and libraries were prepared in a 96-well plate format. DNA was enzymatically sheared and initial adapter sets were added using the Illumina Tagment DNA TDE1 Enzyme and Buffer Kit. Following this reaction, each sample was amplified with dual-indexed primers for 12 cycles using the OneTaq HS Quick-load PCR mastermix. The samples from these resulting PCR reactions were pooled and purified using 18% SPRI magnetic beads. Libraries were sequenced on a HiSeq 4000 at Admera Health (South Plainfield, NJ, USA).

Local ancestry inference

We relied on methods established by our group for hidden Markov model-based local ancestry inference of *X. birchmanni* x *X. malinche* hybrids across the nuclear and mitochondrial

genome[58]. We followed the methods described in Moran et al.[25] for local ancestry inference using
the *ancestryinfer* pipeline[58], except that we used updated chromosome-scale versions of both the
X. birchmanni and *X. malinche* genomes generated using PacBio HiFi data[24]. Briefly, we defined
candidate ancestry informative sites using a set of high coverage *X. birchmanni* and *X. malinche*
individuals and then verified that these sites were ancestry informative with a large sample of
low-coverage population data from each species (N=126 *X. birchmanni*; N=38 *X. malinche*).
Note the *X. malinche* has ~4X lower genetic diversity than *X. birchmanni*[55]. We calculated allele
frequency in the parental populations at each candidate ancestry informative site and removed
ancestry informative markers with <98% frequency difference between the two species. This
resulted in a total of 729,167 ancestry informative sites across the 24 *Xiphophorus* chromosomes,
or ~1 informative site per kb. Performance was tested on individuals from the parental
populations that were not used in the filtering dataset (N=48 *X. birchmanni*; N=36 *X. malinche*),
as well as known F_1 hybrids between the two species from laboratory crosses (N=52). Based on
these analyses, we conclude that the ancestry inference error rate is extremely low (<0.1% per
ancestry informative site). This mirrors results from previous versions of our ancestry inference
pipeline[23–25] and simulation-based tests of pipeline performance[58].
For data from the Calnali Low hybrid population, we ran the *ancestryinfer* pipeline
setting the prior admixture proportion to 50% *X. malinche* and the estimated time since initial
admixture to 40 generations based on past analyses of this population[25]. We set the expected
error rate to 2% and the expected per basepair recombination rate to 2×10^{-6} cM/bp. Past work has
suggested that the HMM implemented in *ancestryinfer* is relatively insensitive to prior
misspecification[58].
ancestryinfer outputs posterior probabilities of ancestry (homozygous parent 1,
heterozygous, or homozygous parent 2) at each ancestry informative site along the chromosome.
To post-process this data, we used a threshold of 0.9 to convert these posterior probabilities of
ancestry into "hard-calls." For sites in an individual where a given ancestry state was supported
at ≥0.9 posterior probability, the site was converted to that ancestry state. If no ancestry state at a
given site was supported by a ≥0.9 posterior probability, that site was converted to NA. This
dataset was used an input into admixture mapping analyses.
206
Admixture mapping
We used an admixture mapping approach to identify regions across the nuclear genome
that show an unexpectedly strong association with mitochondrial ancestry (Fig. 2). The Calnali
Low population, hereafter the "admixture mapping population", is one of the few natural hybrid
populations between *X. birchmanni* and *X. malinche* that segregates for both mitochondrial
haplotypes[25] (Fig. 1C). To identify interactions with mitochondrial ancestry, we treated the
individual's mitochondrial haplotype (*X. birchmanni* or *X. malinche*) as the phenotype of interest
(Fig. 3). Natural selection that disproportionately removes particular ancestry combinations can
generate unexpectedly high correlations in ancestry between physically unlinked loci. We used a
partial correlation approach[27] to evaluate the correlation between nuclear and mitochondrial

ancestry while accounting for the covariance in ancestry expected given each individual's
admixture proportion. For each focal ancestry informative site, we recorded the p-value from the
correlation in mitochondrial and nuclear ancestry after accounting for genome-wide admixture
proportion (using the ppcor package in R). We excluded ancestry informative sites with high
levels of missing data from our analysis (more than 15% of individuals in the dataset missing).
We compared the observed data with null simulations, described in the next section.
223
Simulations to determine the genome-wide significance threshold for admixture mapping
To determine the appropriate genome-wide significance threshold for our admixture
mapping analysis, we investigated the distribution of p-values for associations between nuclear
and mitochondrial ancestry when there was no true relationship between the loci. While
permutations of the observed data are often used to generate these expectations, such an
approach is likely inappropriate here because individuals in our population vary widely in
genome wide ancestry (Fig. 1C), which will drive correlations in ancestry between any two loci
simply due to population structure[27]. In order to account for this issue, we instead used observed
genome-wide ancestry to simulate a mitochondrial haplotype for each individual. To do so, we
used the random binomial function in R and set the probability of drawing a zero or one to the
proportion of an individual's genome derived from the *X. malinche* parental species. If we drew a
zero, we set the mitochondrial haplotype to *X. birchmanni* for that individual in that simulation.
If we drew a one, we set the mitochondrial haplotype to *X. malinche* for that individual in that
simulation. We repeated this procedure until all individuals had a simulated mitochondrial
haplotype. Next, we performed admixture mapping as we had for the real data and recorded the
minimum p-value observed in that simulation. We repeated this for 500 replicate simulations,
yielding a distribution of 500 minimum p-values. For our significance threshold, we used the
lower 5% tail of the simulated p-values, roughly corresponding to an expected false positive rate
of 5%. Based on these simulations, we set the genome-wide significance threshold to $p< 1 \times 10^{-6}$.
In addition, we evaluated whether more regions were detected at a relaxed threshold
corresponding to a 10% false positive rate, corresponding to $p<3 \times 10^{-6}$.
We also used a simulation-based approach to infer the likely architecture of each
mitonuclear incompatibility. Specifically, we wanted to determine whether particular genotypes
were depleted in combination with the *X. malinche* mitochondria, *X. birchmanni* mitochondria,
or both. This approach is described in detail in Supporting Information 1 and the results are
summarized in Table 1.
250
Defining the association interval and identifying candidate genes
For regions that exceeded our genome-wide significance threshold, we needed to
determine how to delineate the associated region for further analysis. To be conservative, we
included the entire region that fell within ± 2 of the peak Log_{10} (p-value). For example, if the
peak association was 10 (i.e. $p<10^{-10}$), we identified the region on both sides of the peak site
where the significance of the association exceeded 8 (i.e. $p<10^{-8}$).

We used the program *bedtools* to identify annotated genes in the *X. birchmanni* PacBio[59]
assembly that overlapped with each region. These intervals and associated genes are reported in
Table S3. Next, we used the Human MitoCarta3.0 database
(https://www.broadinstitute.org/mitocarta/) to determine whether the focal gene is involved in
mitochondrial pathways or localizes to the mitochondria. We used blastp to identify genes in the
Human MitoCarta 3.0 database with a high match to *X. birchmanni* predicted protein sequences,
using an e-value threshold of 10^{-20} (Supporting Information 2). Note that due to the teleost whole
genome duplication, some MitoCarta genes matched 2 *X. birchmanni* protein sequences
(typically delineated as *a* and *b* in the *X. birchmanni* genome annotation). We treated any
identified MitoCarta genes as likely candidates for mitonuclear incompatibilities involving the
focal region, given that nuclear-encoded genes involved in mitochondrial function are most
likely to be involved in mitonuclear incompatibilities [60, 38].

To evaluate whether more MitoCarta genes overlapped with our admixture mapping
intervals than expected by chance, or whether a greater proportion of peaks contained more than
one MitoCarta gene than expected by chance, we calculated the size of each of the admixture
mapping intervals. We then performed permutations by randomly selecting a chromosome and
drawing a start position from a uniform distribution ranging from 1 to the chromosome end. We
defined the permuted admixture mapping interval for that peak by taking the random start
interval and adding the length of the interval being simulated to generate the stop position. Once
we had simulated locations for all the admixture mapping peaks in our dataset, we overlapped
these peaks with the locations of MitoCarta genes and counted the total number of overlapping
genes and the number of peaks with at least one MitoCarta gene. We repeated this procedure
1,000 times and compared the simulated and observed data.

Segregation distortion analysis in a large dataset of F$_2$ hybrids harboring the X. malinche
mitochondria
In previous work, some of the first evidence we detected for mitonuclear
incompatibilities was based on signals of segregation distortion in ~950 F$_2$ hybrids raised in
common garden conditions[25]. We have now collected data from 1748 F$_2$ hybrids, giving us
increased power to detect segregation distortion along the genome. However, it is important to
note that due to lower success of one cross direction[61], we are only able to generate F$_2$ hybrids
with the *X. malinche* mitochondria, and thus we do not expect to see segregation distortion
surrounding regions associated with the *X. birchmanni* mitochondria (e.g. interactions listed as
"*X. birchmanni* incompatible" in Table 1).
To set the significance threshold for segregation distortion analysis, we performed neutral
simulations of 1,450 F$_2$ hybrids using the program admix'em[62] (>99% of markers were covered
in ≥1450 individuals in our empirical dataset). We simulated 24,000 markers spread across 24
chromosomes, matched in size to the 24 *Xiphophorus* chromosomes. Admix'em can take
advantage of user-provided local recombination rates. We calculated average recombination rates
from the *X. birchmanni* population recombination map[55] in 5 kb intervals and used this to specify

recombination priors in admix'em, assuming that each chromosome experienced an average of
one crossover per meiosis. Following each simulation, we calculated average ancestry at each
ancestry informative site. We repeated this procedure 100 times and used the upper and lower
2.5% quantile from these simulations (46.2 and 53.4% parent 1 ancestry, respectively) as our
significance threshold.
For the real data, we identified stretches of markers that fell above or below this threshold
as potential segregation distorters (Fig. 4A). We excluded ancestry informative sites with fewer
than 1450 individuals covered (~0.1% of informative sites in our dataset). We also excluded
regions where distortion extended for less than 100 kb, as such regions are unexpected in a
dataset of early-generation hybrids where admixture linkage disequilibrium typically extends for
many megabases.
308
Analysis of size variation by genotype in laboratory-generated hybrids
Due to the potential for mitochondrial incompatibilities to impact growth, we raised F_2
fry in controlled conditions and measured their size after 3-6 months of age. Briefly, fry were
separated from parents less than one week after they were born and raised in common aquarium
conditions. We tracked a total of 181 individuals from seven families. Once individuals were
large enough to be individually tagged, they were marked with a unique elastomer fluorescent
tag, fin clipped for genotyping, and photographed on a standard background with a ruler. Images
were analyzed using the Fiji software[63], and standard length measurements (length of the fish
from the snout to the beginning of the caudal fin rays) were collected for each tagged fish.
Subsequently, we performed ancestry inference as described above and selected an ancestry
informative marker that tagged each region of interest on chromosome 6 (11.53-13.5 Mb and
20.25 Mb), chromosome 4 (6.84-7.14 Mb), chromosome 13 (2.1 Mb), and chromosome 15
(17.37-17.61 Mb). We then analyzed the data using a Linear Mixed Model in R, evaluating the
relationship between length and genotype, including family/tank as a random variable (Fig. 4B).
We implemented a Bonferroni correction to adjust p-values for multiple tests (Table S4). We also
re-analyzed a dataset of morphological and physiological data from 235 F_2 embryos as a function
of genotype at the newly identified incompatibilities (Supporting Information 3).
326
Analysis of mitochondrial function by genotype in laboratory-generated hybrids
Given that mapping results implicated multiple mitochondrial protein complexes in
incompatible interactions, we were interested in directly measuring the performance of different
components of the mitochondrial electron transport chain in hybrids and parent species.
However, since several of the incompatible interactions are lethal or nearly lethal in the
homozygous state, we decided to evaluate this question in F_1 hybrids. We compared
mitochondrial performance in F_1 hybrids with either the *X. birchmanni* or *X. malinche*
mitochondrial haplotype to both parental species (Fig. 4C-D). In previous studies, we were not
able to assay the *X. birchmanni* mitochondria in hybrids. *Xiphophorus* species are live-bearing
fish and *X. birchmanni* mothers carrying F_1 embryos have a high rate of spontaneous abortion

and maternal mortality[25]. However, some offspring are occasionally viable from this cross, and
by scaling up the number of crosses attempted, we were able to generate sufficient F_1 hybrids for
physiological assays of this cross direction.
Our protocol for mitochondrial respiration measurements was identical to that described
in a previous publication[25], including preparation and isolation of the mitochondria by
differential centrifugation, and titration of the mitochondria in Mir05 solution in the Oroboros
O2K with the same substrates and inhibitors in the same order. The only deviation from the prior
protocol was that, rather than standardizing all runs to the same quantity of mitochondrial
protein, we allowed runs to vary in this quantity because this allowed us to include more samples
for each genotype. Note that this does not impact the calculations of flux control factors, which
are internally controlled for mitochondrial protein content. Details on the calculation of flux
control factors can be found in Moran et al.[25].
349
Protein modeling
Based on our admixture mapping results, we were interested in determining the locations
of nonsynonymous substitutions between species in mitochondrial Complex V (also known as
the ATP synthase complex). To predict the structure of individual proteins and the overall
structure of Complex V surrounding mapped mitonuclear interactions (Table 1), we loaded the
protein sequences into ColabFold v1.5.5: AlphaFold2 using MMseqs2[64] and ran the software
with its default parameters. We then visualized the ColabFold protein data bank formatted
structures in PyMOL and used clustal omega[61] to identify the position of nonsynonymous
substitutions in the protein sequences. We visualized the predicted Complex V structure along
with nonsynonymous substitutions in *ATP8*, *ATP6*, and *ATP5MG* using PyMOL (Fig. 4E).
360
Analysis of substitutions and evolutionary rates in candidate nuclear genes involved in
mitonuclear incompatibilities
For all proteins of interest associated with mitonuclear incompatibilities (Table 1), we
calculated rates of protein evolution between *X. birchmanni* and *X. malinche*. We extracted
predicted cDNA sequences using the genome annotations of each species and aligned them to
ensure they were of equivalent length. We then used the codeml function in PAML[65] to estimate
the rate of nonsynonymous substitutions per nonsynonymous site (dN) versus the rate of
synonymous substitutions per synonymous site (dS) and their ratio. We also used predicted
amino acid sequences of *X. birchmanni, X. malinche*, and two outgroups (*X. variatus* and *X.*
cortezi), to predict which lineage each amino acid substitution arose in.
For each gene with nonsynonymous substitutions, we also extracted the predicted protein
sequence from all bony fishes on NCBI, aligned them with clustal omega[66], and visually
inspected alignments for errors. We removed *X. birchmanni* and *X. malinche* from this analysis
but included other *Xiphophorus* species with available sequences (*Xiphophorus helleri* and *X.*
couchianus). We then used SIFT[67] to evaluate whether the substitutions observed in *X.*
birchmanni or *X. malinche* were predicted to have functional effects (i.e. predicted not tolerated).

Approximate Bayesian Computation simulations with SELAM

To estimate the strength of selection consistent with mitonuclear incompatibilities identified in our admixture mapping data, we used an approximate Bayesian computation (ABC) approach, with the forward time simulator SELAM[68]. We performed SELAM simulations jointly modeling population history and selection on mitonuclear interactions, focusing on incompatibilities that have not been previously studied[25] and are not physically linked to other interactions. Detailed methods on ABC simulations in SELAM can be found in Supporting Information 4.

Local ancestry in natural populations

To evaluate whether mapped incompatibilities are experiencing selection in natural hybrid populations, we drew on previously published datasets for naturally occurring *X. birchmanni* x *X. malinche* hybrids. We focused on populations that occur in independent river systems from each other and from the admixture mapping population[23] (Fig. 1B; Table S2). One of these populations, the Tlatemaco population (n=96), has fixed the *X. malinche* mitochondrial haplotype, and the second, Acuapa (n=97), has fixed the *X. birchmanni* mitochondrial haplotype. We note that other majority-*X. birchmanni* and majority *X. malinche* populations exist but are not in independent river systems from those used in other analyses, so we do not analyze them here. We asked whether regions of low minor parent ancestry (i.e. non-mitochondrial parent ancestry) in these populations coincided with the mapped locations of mitonuclear incompatibilities. We calculated average ancestry in 10 kb windows and compared windows that overlapped with mapped mitonuclear incompatibilities to the genome-wide average (Fig. 5A). To determine if mitonuclear incompatibilities on average had lower minor parent ancestry than expected, we performed simulations randomly drawing 10 kb windows from the genome-wide distribution and calculating average minor parent ancestry to generate a null distribution which we compared to the observed data.

Time series analysis

For one *X. birchmanni* x *X. malinche* hybrid population, the Acuapa population, we had access to samples from 2006, 2008, 2013, 2015, and 2018[69]. This provides a means to evaluate whether ancestry at incompatible loci has changed in frequency over time in this population. We focus our analysis on incompatibilities involving the *X. birchmanni* mitochondria because our most recent samples from the Acuapa population are fixed for the *X. birchmanni* mitochondrial haplotype.

For each interaction involving the *X. birchmanni* mitochondria, we identified the peak ancestry informative site from our admixture mapping results (Table 1). We then intersected this peak site with our time series data from the Acuapa population, with average ancestry summarized in 10 kb windows. This resulted in an estimate for the change in *X. malinche*

416 ancestry over time at each locus (Fig. 5E). We note that this analysis is not independent of the
417 local ancestry analysis in the Acuapa population discussed above.
418
419 *Cline analysis*
420   As a complementary approach to investigate the role that mitonuclear incompatibilities
play as barriers to gene flow between *X. birchmanni* and *X. malinche* populations in nature, we
used a clinal dataset collected from the Río Pochula (Fig. 1D). This dataset spans 12 populations
and an elevation gradient from ~200 meters to 1,400 meters (Table S1). Ancestry inference was
performed on these datasets as described above (Fig. 5). We next identified and removed markers
that were not present in all populations across the river, leading to a total of 331,518 ancestry
informative sites. We selected the marker closest to the peak signal in our admixture mapping
analysis. For all regions, we were able to select a marker that fell within the focal admixture
mapping region. We also calculated the average genome-wide ancestry of individuals in each
population, allowing us to generate a genome-wide cline for comparison to clines at loci
involved in mitonuclear incompatibilities.
431   To evaluate the significance of observed patterns at each locus, we first generated null
datasets matching for local gene density and local recombination rate. We summarized the
number of coding basepairs in 100 kb windows along the genome, as well as at the
recombination rate, estimated from *X. birchmanni*, at this same spatial scale[24,55]. Next, for each
focal region, we selected windows that fell within ± 20% the number of coding basepairs and
inferred recombination rate. We identified all ancestry informative markers in those matched
windows and randomly selected 100 markers as control markers for the focal region of interest.
438   To fit cline models to the focal and matched control datasets, we used the HZAR[70]
439 software to identify the best-fit model from two alternatives, either with cline maxima and
440 minima as free parameters to be estimated or fixed at the observed maximum and minimum
441 allele frequencies in the data at that ancestry informative site. From the best fit HZAR model, we
442 extracted estimates of cline width, center, and minimum *X. malinche* ancestry, and compared
443 these values between the focal and matched control datasets and to the genome-wide average.
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446
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Results

Admixture mapping reveals new mitonuclear incompatibilities

Previous analyses using smaller datasets detected three mitonuclear incompatibilities (Table 1). We used a large admixture mapping population of natural hybrids (N=731) from the Calnali Low hybrid population (Fig. 1D), to map mitonuclear hybrid incompatibilities. In addition to confirming patterns at previously detected incompatible interactions involving *ndufa13* and *ndufs5* (Fig. S1), we identified several previously undetected interactions (Fig. 2A). The detection of new interactions is likely aided by our larger dataset, which more than doubles the sample size of our first study[25], increasing power to detect genotype combinations that are underrepresented in the hybrid population. As expected from models of selection against hybrid incompatibilities, most regions that exceed our genome-wide significance threshold show an increased rate of matched ancestry between the mitochondrial and nuclear genome (signals on chromosomes 4, 6, 13, 15 and 16). One exception is a signal on chromosome 11, which is enriched for ancestry mismatch between the mitochondrial and nuclear genome. Since this is not a signal predicted by models of hybrid incompatibilities, we omit chromosome 11 from our analyses in the main text but discuss these results in the supplement (Supporting Information 5; Fig. S2).

Chromosomes 6 and 15 exhibit multiple distinct peaks of association with mitochondrial ancestry (Fig. 2C-D). Examining alignments of the two species generated from long read assemblies indicated that there were no small or large structural rearrangements that might be generating unusual patterns of associations in these regions (Fig. S3). We find that between each pair of peaks on the same chromosome, admixture linkage disequilibrium decays to background levels, suggesting that they are indeed distinct signals (Fig. S4; Supporting Information 6). We also confirmed that patterns of missing data and local ancestry are not expected to generate multiple peaks from a single signal (e.g. due to reduced power from locally high rates of missing data; Supporting Information 6). Together, this supports the conclusion that there are multiple mitonuclear incompatibilities on both chromosome 6 and chromosome 15. Throughout the rest of the paper, we refer to these loci by their chromosome and nuclear position, which are summarized in Table 1.

Diverse incompatibility architecture revealed by admixture mapping

To investigate evidence for selection on particular ancestry combinations in the mitochondrial and nuclear genomes of hybrids, we compared observed genotype combinations to those expected by chance in our admixture mapping population. To appropriately account for variation in admixture proportion in the population, we used a simulation-based approach (see Supporting Information 1). We found that the majority of detected incompatibilities only involved one mitochondrial haplotype. For example, focusing on the interaction on chromosome 6 at 20.3 Mb, we see that individuals with homozygous *X. birchmanni* ancestry at the admixture mapping peak and an *X. malinche* mitochondrial haplotype are depleted from our dataset (Fig. 3B). The alternative genotype combination (homozygous *X. malinche* ancestry with an *X.*

birchmanni mitochondrial haplotype) is not underrepresented at this region on chromosome 6.
However, we do identify three cases where selection on mitonuclear ancestry mismatch appears
to be bidirectional, including one previously reported case on chromosome 13[25] (Fig. S1) and
previously undetected loci on chromosome 4 and chromosome 15 (Table 1; Fig. 3C-3D).
Notably, we infer that the distinct admixture mapping peaks on chromosome 15 have different
genotypes under selection (Fig. 3C-3D; Table 1). For simplicity, throughout the manuscript we
describe these various interactions as regions incompatible with the *X. malinche* mitochondria, *X.*
birchmanni mitochondria, or as bidirectional incompatibilities (Fig. 3A). For a summary of these
results, see Table 1. Overall, our results highlight that a subset of mitonuclear incompatibilities
between *X. malinche* and *X. birchmanni* experience more complex selection than predicted by
classic hybrid incompatibility models[10,15].
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Identification, evolution, and expression of mitonuclear genes shows varied patterns
For each of the identified regions, we determined whether any of the annotated genes in
these regions were present in the MitoCarta 3.0 database of known nuclear-encoded genes in
mammals that localize to the mitochondria. We identified at least one MitoCarta annotated gene
in all three chromosome 6 intervals, on chromosome 13 (as previously reported[25]), on two of the
three intervals on chromosome 15, and the chromosome 16 interval. Four of the intervals had
only a single MitoCarta annotation, which likely represents the causal gene of the mitonuclear
interaction in these regions (chromosome 6 at 13 Mb – *mterf4*, chromosome 6 at 20.3 Mb –
atp5mg, chromosome 16 – *uqcrc2*, and chromosome 15 at 17 Mb – *mmut*). A summary of these
results can be found in Table 1. Compared to null expectations generated by permuting the
admixture mapping intervals on the genome, there was no significant enrichment in the number
of MitoCarta genes falling within these peaks or the number of peaks with at least one MitoCarta
gene (p=0.83 and p=0.1 respectively, by simulation).
For each identified MitoCarta gene, we compared the predicted amino acid sequence
between *X. birchmanni* and *X. malinche* we estimated d_N/d_S between species (Table 1). We found
that a minority of the newly identified MitoCarta genes from admixture mapping were rapidly
evolving between species (Table 1). Only two out of eight genes had an estimated d_N/d_S >1, but
in neither case could a model of neutral evolution be rejected based on a likelihood ratio test
implemented in codeml. By contrast, previously mapped mitonuclear incompatibilities in this
system show strongly elevated rates of amino acid evolution[25]. We also queried previously
collected RNAseq data[71] to infer whether any of the genes of interest were differentially
expressed between the parent species, but found limited evidence for this (Table 1, Fig. S5).
Examining the pattern of substitution between *X. birchmanni* and *X. malinche* relative to
two outgroups at each newly identified gene, we found that substitutions distinguishing species
did not appear to be derived on a particular lineage (Fig. S6). This pattern is notably distinct from
previous results for the mitonuclear incompatibilities involving *ndufs5* and *ndufa13,* where
nonsynonymous substitutions had accumulated disproportionately on the *X. birchmanni* branch[25].
We also evaluated whether any of the observed substitutions between *X. birchmanni* and *X.*

malinche involved changes that are likely to impact protein function using SIFT (Table 1).
Notably, we detected several such substitutions (including those previously detected in *ndufs5*
and *ndufa13*), two of which fell in mitochondrial "leader" sequences, which are short signal
peptides that target the localization of the protein to the mitochondria (Table 1; Fig. S6). This
indicates the presence of substitutions that are likely to alter protein function or localization
within the admixture mapping regions.
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Structural modeling suggests direct physical interactions do not explain newly identified
mitonuclear incompatibilities
One mechanism through which hybrid incompatibilities can arise is through a breakdown
in protein-protein (or protein-DNA/RNA) interactions (see also[5,72,73]). Since protein complexes
involved in mitochondrial function have been intensively studied, we identified "chimeric"
protein complexes, where nuclear-encoded proteins formed larger complexes that include
mitochondrial-encoded proteins (or RNAs), as particularly likely sites of mitonuclear
interactions. We focused on protein complexes that had structures in the RCSB PDB database
(https://www.rcsb.org/). Based on these criteria, we investigated *mterf4* and *atp5mg* in more
detail. Note that the reference database structures used are not specific to *Xiphophorus* but
represent solved structures for other eukaryotic species that are highly conserved over deep
evolutionary distances (Fig. S7). See [25] for our previous analyses of *ndufs5* and *ndufa13*.
One identified gene, *mterf4,* encodes a protein that interacts with mitochondrial-encoded
rRNAs. We found that all nonsynonymous differences between *X. birchmanni* and *X. malinche* in
this gene fell in the protein "leader" sequence. This highly conserved sequence is subsequently
cleaved and thus is unlikely to impact physical interactions between *mterf4* and mitochondrial-
encoded rRNAs. As a result, we did not model this protein-RNA interaction further.
Another gene, *atp5mg*, encodes one of the nuclear accessory subunits of the chimeric
OXPHOS Complex V (ATP synthase) which catalyzes ATP synthesis across the mitochondrial
inner membrane. We found that two of the nonsynonymous differences between *X. malinche* and
X. birchmanni also fell in the leader sequence of this protein. After removing the leader
sequence, one nonsynonymous substitution between *X. birchmanni* and *X. malinche* remained in
atp5mg. Our modeling results indicate that *ATP5MG* is in physical contact with both
mitochondrial-encoded ATP synthase proteins (*ATP6* and *ATP8*; Fig. 4E), but the
nonsynonymous substitution itself is not. Due to the predicted distance [>25 Å] between variants
in *ATP5MG, ATP6,* and *ATP8*, we consider it unlikely that that there are direct physical
interactions between *X. malinche* and *X. birchmanni* substitutions in these proteins. This finding
contrasts with previous findings for *NDUFS5* and *NDUFA13* where multiple species-specific
substitutions were predicted to be in contact between mitochondrial and nuclear proteins in
Complex I[25]. However, indirect interactions could impact the function of Complex V as a whole.
This possibility is especially intriguing given the proximity of these proteins to the flow of
protons across the mitochondrial membrane and the c-ring rotor[74]. We compare the performance
of Complex V in hybrids and the parental species below.

Evidence for segregation distortion in lab hybrids harboring X. malinche mitochondria

All lab-generated F_2 hybrids have the *X. malinche* mitochondria; the alternative cross has a low success rate in lab due to a high abortion and maternal mortality rate[61]. Four of the newly identified interactions involve the *X. malinche* mitochondria or are inferred to be bidirectional (Fig. 3). This suggests that ancestry distortions at these loci should be detectable in lab raised hybrids, assuming that the incompatibilities are not driven solely by sources of selection that are environmentally dependent. Our previous work using a smaller number of F_2 hybrids showed evidence of colocalization of segregation distortion and the *ndufa13* and *ndufs5* incompatibilities[25]. Here, we use a dataset of 1748 F_2 hybrids to revisit these trends (Table S2).

We find evidence of significant segregation distortion overlapping all of the chromosome 6 admixture mapping peaks. Specifically, we see a strong depletion of *X. birchmanni* ancestry across the majority of this chromosome (Fig. 4A). We detect similar patterns on chromosome 13 with our larger dataset (Fig. S8) as we reported previously[25]. While we detect weak but significant signals of segregation distortion on chromosomes 4 and 15, these either do not localize with the admixture mapping peaks or show unexpected directionality (Fig. S9). This could indicate that individuals with these genotype combinations are not under strong selection in a lab environment. However, these results may also be explained by low power to detect segregation distortion. Simulations suggest that even with our large sample size we may lack power to identify segregation distortion in cases where selection coefficients fall below 0.3 (Supporting Information 7).

Incompatibilities are associated with size variation in lab-raised F_2s

For a subset of 181 F_2 individuals with the *X. malinche* mitochondria, we were able to raise individuals in the lab for several months and collected paired genotype and phenotype data. Given the expected importance of the mitochondria in growth[75], we analyzed the correlation between genotype at admixture mapping peaks and standard length within groups of siblings. Specifically, we analyzed ancestry at mapped incompatibilities involving the *X. malinche* mitochondria on chromosome 4 (6.84-7.14 Mb), chromosome 6 (11.53-13.6 Mb, and 20.25 Mb), chromosome 13 (2.10-2.14 Mb) and chromosome 15 (17.37-17.61 Mb).

We found strong correlations between genotype on chromosome 6 and standard length (measured as the length from snout to caudal peduncle) in families of lab-raised F_2 individuals. Individuals with incompatible genotypes were significantly smaller than their siblings with compatible genotypes (Fig 4B). The mean length of incompatible individuals was 2.83 mm, while individuals with heterozygous and homozygous *X. malinche* ancestry were on average larger by 0.603 mm and 0.623 mm, respectively (Table 2). Note that due to strong linkage among the three loci on chromosome 6 (Supporting Information 6), we cannot distinguish which of the three loci is driving the observed body size phenotype. We did not identify associations between standard length and genotype for loci on chromosomes 4, 13, or 15.

We previously collected respirometry and morphometric data from 235 lab-generated F_2 embryos, which we reanalyze here, again focusing on incompatibilities involving the *X.*

609 *malinche* mitochondria. In addition to effects of loci on chromosome 6 and 13 on rates of
610 embryonic respiration and morphological defects[25] (see Supporting Information 3; Fig. S10), we
611 found that homozygous *X. birchmanni* ancestry at the newly identified peak on chromosome 4
612 contributed to smaller head width in embryos (F=7.3, p=0.0075).
613
Physiological signatures of mitonuclear hybrid incompatibilities
While we do not have access to lab-generated F_2 adults with both mitochondrial types,
we were able to generate F_1 hybrids with either the *X. birchmanni* or *X. malinche* mitochondria
(see Methods). This allowed us to directly compare different features of mitochondrial function
in F_1 hybrids with either the *X. birchmanni* or *X. malinche* mitochondria to that of the parental
species. We note that while F_1 hybrids do not appear to experience reduced viability as a result of
mitonuclear incompatibilities, they may still show physiological signatures of subfunctional
mitochondria. In a prior study, we demonstrated that F_1 hybrids have reduced function in the
chimeric mitochondrial Complex I (NADH dehydrogenase)[25], but not in overall mitochondrial
function, demonstrating a negative effect of the incorporation of incompatible proteins that may
be compensated for by other mitochondrial processes. A caveat of that study was that we were
only able to assess function in F_1 hybrids with the *X. malinche* mitochondria.
Here, we used F_1 adult hybrids with both mitochondrial haplotypes to demonstrate that
hybrids of both types show evidence of bidirectional dysfunction in the three chimeric
mitochondrial complexes that we investigated (Complexes I, IV, and V), based on a substrate-
uncoupler-inhibitor-titration protocol using the Oroboros O2K high-resolution respirometry
system[25] (Fig. 4C-D; Fig. S11-S13). However, in the entirely nuclear-encoded Complex II, which
is often viewed as a control when investigating mitonuclear interactions, hybrids show little
evidence of reduced function (Fig. 4). We confirmed that hybrids of both types show reduced
Complex I activity relative to parentals, quantified both by the activation of Complex I with ADP
(ANOVA; *d.f.* = 3, *F* = 6.1122, *p* = 0.0015; Fig. S11) and its inhibition by rotenone (*d.f.* = 3, *F* =
8.2008, *p* < 0.0005; Fig. S11). This bidirectional dysfunction of Complex I is expected given that
both mitochondrial types have mapped incompatible interactions with Complex I proteins. Note
that the response to rotenone we detect here is stronger than detected in our previous study[25].
Both hybrid types also showed a reduced response to the inhibition of Complex V by oligomycin
(*d.f.* = 3, *F* = 6.5512, *p* = 0.0014; Fig. 4), and the activity of Complex IV (cytochrome-c oxidase)
as suggested by the response to ascorbic acid and TMPD (*d.f.* = 3, *F* = 5.4665, *p* = 0.0041; Fig.
S12).
By contrast, for Complex II—which is often viewed as a control when investigating
mitonuclear interactions since it is entirely encoded by the nuclear genome—hybrids show little
evidence of reduced function (Fig. 4). The activity of Complex II (succinate dehydrogenase)
when stimulated by succinate did not differ among hybrids and parentals (*d.f.* = 3, *F* = 1.2224, *p*
= 0.3128; Fig. 4D). We note, however, that the inactivation of the Complex II by malonate did
differ among groups (*d.f.* = 3, *F* = 5.1205, *p* = 0.0056; Fig. S13). We saw no significant

differences in responses between the two hybrid types, or between the two parental types, in any
comparison (Table S5).
Together, these results suggest a clear impact of mitonuclear incompatibilities on the
activation of chimeric complexes. Notably, the incompatibility at 20.3 Mb on chromosome 6,
which contains *ATP5MG*, could be causing Complex V dysfunction, although the bidirectional
dysfunction we observed could be attributable to incompatibilities in upstream complexes as
well. The drivers of dysfunction in Complex IV are not yet evident from our mapping results, but
may also result from upstream Complex I incompatibilities. Due to the design of our assay, we
were not able to investigate Complex III activity, but we may expect to see some impacts on
Complex III function given that the mapped mitonuclear interaction on chromosome 16 contains
uqcrc2 (Table 1), a nuclear subunit of this chimeric complex.
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Strong selection against mitonuclear incompatibilities
Previous mapping results for mitonuclear incompatibilities involving *ndufa13* and *ndufs5*
indicated that mismatched ancestry between the *X. malinche* mitochondria and *X. birchmanni*
ancestry at these genes was essentially lethal, with estimated selection coefficients for ancestry
mismatch at both loci exceeding 0.9[25]. Given that the additional mitonuclear incompatibilities we
map here were not detectable with our previous admixture mapping population (N=359), we
expect *a priori* that these newly identified mitonuclear incompatibilities should be under weaker
selection.
We tested this prediction using an approximate Bayesian computation approach
implemented in SELAM (see Methods[68]) to estimate the strength of selection acting on
incompatibilities involving loci on chromosome 4 and 16. We recovered well-resolved posterior
distributions for selection and dominance coefficients for all four of the modelled
incompatibilities (Fig. S14-S15). As expected, our results are consistent with weaker but still
severe selection on the mitonuclear interactions (maximum *a posteriori* estimates of $s = 0.59$ and
0.72 for chromosome 4 mismatched with the *malinche* or *birchmanni* mtDNA respectively, and s
$= 0.67$ and 0.75 for chromosome 16). The credible intervals for these incompatibilities were
between $s = 0.22–0.98$ and $s = 0.27-0.97$ for chromosome 4, and $s = 0.09 – 0.97$ and $s = 0.22 –$
0.99 for chromosome 16, in keeping with the results of our power analysis (Fig. S14 & S15;
Supporting Information 8). Three of the four interactions were inferred to be partially recessive
(Fig. S14 & S15).
680
Cline analysis indicates selection acting on some incompatibilities in natural populations
To evaluate evidence for selection on mitonuclear incompatibilities in nature, we
analyzed clinal ancestry patterns in the Río Pochula, where we had access to samples spanning
12 sites along the river. These sites ranged from *X. birchmanni*-typical elevations of ~200 meters
to *X. malinche*-typical elevations of up to 1400 meters. Compared to matched control loci, three
mapped regions were significant outliers based on either the minimum *X. malinche* allele
frequency or cline width (Table 1). Each of the incompatibilities that were identified as cline

outliers were under bidirectional selection or involve only the *X. birchmanni* mitochondria (Table
1; Fig. 3). Because of the structure of migration in *X. birchmanni* x *X. malinche* hybrid zones, we
expect migration to predominantly occur from upstream *X. malinche* populations to downstream
X. birchmanni populations (Fig. 1B). Thus, it is not surprising that incompatibilities involving
the *X. birchmanni* mitochondrial haplotype are the most detectable using cline approaches
(Supporting Information 9; Fig. S16). We note that three interactions involving the *X. birchmanni*
mitochondria were not significant outliers based on cline analysis, which could reflect a lack of
power to detect these interactions or that selection on them is context-dependent.
696
Patterns of local ancestry at incompatibility loci in hybrid populations
As a complementary approach to study selection in natural populations, we turned to
previously collected data from two natural hybrid populations that formed ~100 generations
before the time of sampling[23,57]. These populations occur in different river systems from Río
Pochula and from the admixture mapping population (Fig. 1B) and thus can be viewed as
independent datasets for studying selection on mitonuclear incompatibilities in nature.
For incompatibilities involving the *X. birchmanni* mitochondria, we re-analyzed
population genomic data collected from 97 hybrids from the Acuapa population[25,57], which has
fixed for the *X. birchmanni* mitochondria (Fig. 1B). For incompatibilities involving the *X.
malinche* mitochondria, we re-analyzed genomic data collected from 96 hybrids from the
Tlatemaco population, which has fixed the *X. malinche* mitochondria (Fig. 1B). Overall, we
found evidence that minor parent ancestry (i.e. non-mitochondrial parent ancestry) was less
common than expected in regions surrounding mapped mitonuclear incompatibilities (Fig. 5).
However, we find moderate levels of minor parent ancestry surrounding some incompatibilities
(Fig. S17). This could again indicate that selection on some of the mitonuclear incompatibilities
is context dependent or that selection is too weak or variable to drive effective purging of
incompatibilities in all natural populations.
We also took advantage of time series data previously collected from the Acuapa
population that spans approximately 25 generations of evolution in the hybrid population. Since
the Acuapa population is estimated to have formed approximately 100 generations before the
present[23,57], we may expect incompatibilities that are under strong selection to have already been
purged by the time sampling began (e.g. *ndufs5*). Here we focus on interactions involving the *X.
birchmanni* mitochondria, since this mitochondrial haplotype is fixed in present-day samples
from Acuapa.
Of the three regions for which we expect to see directional selection against *X. malinche*
ancestry in the nuclear genome in the Acuapa population (Table 1; chromosome 15 at 17.4 Mb,
chromosome 15 at 22.2 Mb and chromosome 16 at 12.8 Mb), we see evidence for a change in
ancestry over time in one region (Fig. 5; chromosome 15 at 22.2 Mb), though the relationship is
marginally significant (t= -3.2, p=0.048). However, all three regions have relatively low *X.
malinche* ancestry at the start of sampling and maintain this pattern over time (Fig. S18),

consistent with selection in prior generations impacting the starting *X. malinche* ancestry
frequency in our samples from 2006.
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Discussion

The genetic architecture of reproductive isolation between closely related species is a foundational question in evolutionary biology and is intrinsically linked to the question of how new species arise. While models of how hybrid incompatibilities may evolve were proposed nearly a century ago[1,2], empirically identifying hybrid incompatibilities, studying their genetic architecture, and their impacts on patterns of genetic exchange between species has been challenging. The technical difficulties of mapping incompatibilities, including low power of existing methods, requirements for large numbers of hybrids, and poor mapping resolution, have stymied empirical progress in this area. Here, we leverage natural hybrid populations between *X. birchmanni* and *X. malinche* to map six new mitonuclear incompatibilities, resulting in a total of nine mitonuclear incompatibilities identified in this system.

Our results reveal a complex landscape of selection on ancestry mismatch between the mitochondrial and nuclear genomes in *X. birchmanni* x *X. malinche* hybrids. Notably, simulations indicate that we only have power to detect mitonuclear incompatibilities under moderate to strong selection, hinting that the true number of mitonuclear incompatibilities that are physiologically relevant to hybrids may be even larger. Moreover, because we focus only on mapping interactions between the mitochondrial and nuclear genome, many more incompatibilities may exist between these species genome-wide (consistent with some previous work[27,56]). Since only ~1500 genes are known to localize to and interact with the mitochondria[76] we would predict *a priori* that nuclear-nuclear incompatibilities should be more common. However, it is also possible that the large number of mitonuclear incompatibilities is attributable to the unusual biology of the mitochondrial genome. In many vertebrates, the mitochondria experiences a ~20X higher nucleotide substitutions rate relative to the nuclear genome[39], and due to physical interactions between mitochondrial encoded and mitochondrially localizing proteins encoded in the nuclear genome, high rates of protein coevolution are common[60,38]. Disruption of these matched protein combinations in hybrids could drive mitonuclear incompatibility. Other mechanisms, such as sexual conflict driven by uniparental inheritance[17], could also be responsible for a "large-mitochondrial" effect in the evolution of hybrid incompatibilities. An exciting future direction is disentangling how the number of mitonuclear incompatibilities scales with genetic divergence between species and whether patterns inferred here generalize to nuclear-nuclear interactions.

The large number of newly mapped mitonuclear incompatibilities identified here allows us to investigate the architecture of selection on these interactions and begins to provide hints about the architecture of reproductive isolation more generally. First, we detect some incompatibilities that are "asymmetric," meaning that only one mitochondrial type is incompatible with mismatched ancestry in the nuclear genome. These types of incompatibilities are those envisioned by classic models in evolutionary biology[1,2,13,15]. However, we identify several incompatibilities that are "symmetric" or bidirectional, meaning that selection acts against mismatched mitochondrial-nuclear ancestry in both directions. Our findings suggest that

bidirectional incompatibilities may be common (though we note that they are also easier to map;
Supporting Information 8), and it may be useful to revisit classic models in light of these
empirical results. More recently proposed models for the evolution of hybrid incompatibilities,
such as coevolutionary models[77] and developmental systems drift models may more readily
explain the emergence of symmetrical incompatibilities[25,35].

Theory predicts that the architecture of selection on genes involved in hybrid
incompatibilities will impact their efficacy as barriers to genetic exchange between species[15,77].
Asymmetric incompatibilities can revert to a compatible ancestral genotype and thus can be
ineffective at preventing gene flow between species[18] and may even introgress between species[22].
However, bidirectional incompatibilities are blocked from reversion to an ancestral genotype by
low fitness intermediates, and thus should be more effective barriers to introgression[77].
Regardless of architecture, very few empirical studies to date have evaluated the efficacy of
known incompatibilities as barriers to gene flow in nature[21–24]. Thus, after mapping mitonuclear
incompatibilities in one river system, we explored evidence of selection on these regions in
independently formed hybrid populations in different rivers. On average, we find that loci
inferred to be involved in mitonuclear incompatibilities have depleted non-mitochondrial parent
ancestry in natural hybrid populations (Fig. 5), but this pattern is stronger around bidirectional
incompatibilities. Two out of three of the loci that we infer to be under bidirectional selection are
outliers in clinal analyses, and all three loci have low levels of minor parent ancestry in samples
from natural hybrid populations (Fig. 5, S16). These results are consistent with theoretical and
simulation studies which predict that bidirectional incompatibilities are more likely to resist gene
flow between species[15,77,78]. We note, however, that there are several possible interpretations of
variation in ancestry at other mitonuclear incompatibilities in natural populations (Table 1; Fig.
S17), including environmental dependence of selection given the large role of the mitochondria
in homeostasis and organismal physiology[79,80].

Our admixture mapping approach allowed us to detect several linked hybrid
incompatibilities co-occurring on the same chromosome. In early generation crosses, signals
from linked incompatibilities may be obscured by an insufficient number of crossovers. In
natural hybrid populations, many generations of recombination can unmask these interactions.
Indeed, in our previous work we detected the signal of segregation distortion on chromosome 6[25]
but did not consider the possibility that this signal was driven by multiple linked
incompatibilities until several distinct signals were detected in the higher powered analysis
included in this manuscript (Fig. 2). A series of analyses indicate that these results are unlikely to
be an artifact of admixture linkage disequilibrium or variation in power along the chromosomes
(Supporting Information 6). This increased resolution to map incompatibilities on the same
chromosome allowed us to detect a new incompatible interaction between the *X. malinche*
mitochondria and *X. birchmanni* ancestry near 20.3 Mb on chromosome 6. This peak contains a
single MitoCarta gene, *atp5mg*. *atp5mg* forms part of Complex V, which combines mitochondrial
and nuclear proteins in physical proximity and is essential for catalyzing ATP synthesis (Fig. 4E).
This protein has several nonsynonymous substitutions between species, including at a conserved

residue (Table 1; Fig. S19), and is differentially expressed between *X. birchmanni* and *X.*
malinche (Fig. S5).
In addition, we found evidence of reduced sensitivity to Complex V inhibition in hybrids
(Fig. 4), consistent with decreased Complex V function. Complex V is the final protein complex
in the mitochondrial electron transport chain and is responsible for the production of ATP.
Because of its position in the electron transport chain, reduced performance of Complex V could
be consistent with issues in the function of this specific protein complex, or domino effects
generated by reduced function of earlier components of the electron transport chain (e.g.
Complex I). Regardless of the precise cause, these results reinforce our prior work connecting
ancestry mismatch to dysfunctional mitochondrial function[25], and suggest that this relationship
may extend across multiple chimeric protein complexes in hybrids between *X. birchmanni* and *X.*
malinche (e.g. Fig. 4; Fig. S11-S12).
Beyond these clear physiological signals of altered mitochondrial function in hybrids, we
also document impacts on organism-level phenotypes driven by mitonuclear incompatibilities
(Fig. 4). Our previous work studying mitonuclear incompatibilities between *X. birchmanni* and
X. malinche identified several phenotypes associated with genetic incompatibilities, including
abnormal embryonic development, abnormal heart development, and reduced physiological
function of mitochondrial Complex I. Here, we raised a large number of F_2 individuals in the lab
and found a strong effect of genotypes across chromosome 6 on size. While individuals with the
chromosome 6 incompatibilities suffer dramatically higher mortality (Fig. 4 [25]), the individuals
that survive on average are much smaller than their compatible siblings. Future work will be
necessary to disentangle which of the chromosome 6 incompatibilities drives these growth
defects or if there are synergistic effects, but together our results underscore severe fitness
consequences of several of the mapped mitonuclear interactions.
Our previous work identified strong DMIs that resulted in nearly complete hybrid
lethality[25]. Our findings in the present study underscore an important role of mitonuclear
interactions in the evolution of incompatibilities and paints a more complex picture of the ways
in which they act in practice, including the identification of several linked incompatibilities and
detection of interactions that have a less severe impact on hybrid viability. A key question raised
by our work is whether the mitochondrion is unique in its web of interactions impacting hybrid
fitness, or whether nuclear-nuclear incompatibilities follow similar patterns. Since the majority
of studies only have power to detect hybrid incompatibilities with the strongest effects on
fitness[27], we consider this an open question in the field. Our results highlight the urgent need for
more sensitive approaches to map hybrid incompatibilities as well as studies that examine their
efficacy as barriers to gene flow in natural populations, allowing the field to move to a more
complete understanding of the architecture of reproductive isolation between species.
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Figures

 Fig. 1. A) Photograph of *X. birchmanni* male, *X. malinche* male and an F$_1$ hybrid male. **B)**
Sampling locations where *X. birchmanni* and *X. malinche* overlap and hybridize that were used
for admixture mapping (Calnali Low hybrid population) and local ancestry analyses (Tlatemaco
and Acuapa hybrid populations). Rivers from which data was included in this study are labeled in
blue on the map. **C)** Summary of mitochondrial and genome-wide ancestry for individuals used
in admixture mapping, which were sampled from the Calnali Low hybrid population on the Río
Calnali. Left – proportion of individuals in the admixture mapping population with *X.
birchmanni* or *X. malinche* mitochondrial haplotypes. Right – distribution of genome-wide
admixture proportion across individuals used in admixture mapping in this study. Admixture
proportion is summarized as the proportion of the genome derived from the *X. malinche* parent
species. **D)** Map of sampling locations of populations included in the cline analysis along the Río
Pochula.

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Fig. 2. A) Admixture mapping results for association between mitochondrial and nuclear
ancestry across the genome. Red line represents the 5% false positive rate threshold, blue line
represents the 10% false positive rate threshold. Triangles and gene names indicate MitoCarta
annotated genes associated with each admixture mapping interval. Separate intervals on the same
chromosome are collapsed for visualization purposes. Colored text highlights mitochondrially
interacting genes that localize to particular protein complexes (see **B**). See Fig. S20 for a version
of this figure plotted with a truncated y-axis for better visualization of signals close to the
genome-wide significance threshold. **B**) Illustration adapted from BioRender of the
mitochondrial electron transport chain. Each component of the electron transport chain is
indicated and labeled; ATP synthase is synonymous with Complex V. Purple, orange, and green
complexes indicate complexes that were implicated in mitonuclear incompatibilities based on
our admixture mapping results. **C)** Admixture mapping results for chromosome 6 highlight
multiple regions that surpass the genome-wide significance threshold (gray line indicates 10%
false positive rate threshold). Although these regions are linked in early generation hybrids (Fig.
S21), they are not in strong linkage disequilibrium in the admixture mapping population (Fig.
S4). **D)** Admixture mapping results for chromosome 15 highlight multiple regions that surpass
the genome-wide significance threshold (gray line indicates 10% false positive rate threshold).
These regions are also not in strong linkage disequilibrium in the admixture mapping population
(Fig. S4).

Fig. 3. A) Architecture of mitonuclear incompatibilities inferred from our data. The red
mitochondria illustration represents individuals with *X. birchmanni* mitochondrial haplotypes
and the blue mitochondria illustration represents individuals with *X. malinche* mitochondrial
haplotypes. *X. malinche* incompatible interactions are cases where the *X. malinche* mitochondria
is incompatible with *X. birchmanni* ancestry at the nuclear locus (top). *X. birchmanni*
incompatible interactions are cases where the *X. birchmanni* mitochondria is incompatible with
X. malinche ancestry at the nuclear locus (middle). Bidirectional incompatible interactions are
cases where both mitochondrial types are incompatible with heterospecific ancestry at the
nuclear locus (bottom). **B)** Empirical example of a *X. malinche* incompatible interaction. Each
gray point indicates one adult individual in our admixture mapping population at 20.3 Mb on
chromosome 6. Red mitochondria on the x-axis indicates individuals with *X. birchmanni*
mitochondrial haplotypes and blue mitochondria indicates individuals with *X. malinche*
mitochondrial haplotypes. Genotype combinations that are significantly depleted based on
comparisons to null simulations are highlighted with yellow shading (see Supporting Information
1). **C)** Empirical example of a *X. birchmanni* incompatible interaction at 22.2 Mb on
chromosome 15, with plot information following **B**. **D)** Empirical evidence of a bidirectionally
incompatible interaction at 17.4 Mb on chromosome 15, with plot information following **B**.
Illustrations in this figure were produced by BioRender.

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Fig. 4. A) Segregation distortion along chromosome 6 for the 1748 F_2 hybrids analyzed in this
manuscript. Most of chromosome 6 departs from expectations under a scenario with no selection.
Red triangles indicate the locations of admixture mapping peaks identified in the Calnali Low
hybrid population (see Fig. 2). **B)** Lab raised hybrids with homozygous *X. birchmanni* ancestry
on chromosome 6 and an *X. malinche* mitochondria are smaller (body size; residual standard
length) on average than heterozygous or homozygous *X. malinche* males. Large points and
whiskers indicate the mean ± 2 standard errors, small points correspond to the raw data. The
genotypes plotted here correspond to the admixture mapping peak at *ndufa13* (12.5 Mb), but a
strong relationship between genotype and body size is observed for F_2 hybrids across
chromosome 6 (see Table 2). **C)** Complex V function is reduced F_1 hybrids with the *X.*
birchmanni (F_1 - *X. bir*) or *X. malinche mitochondria* (F_1- *X. mal*) compared to pure *X.*
birchmanni (*X. bir*) and *X. malinche* (*X. mal*). The Oligomycin flux control factor (Oligomycin
FCF) represents the impact of inhibiting Complex V activity after stimulating Complexes I & II.
Lower impact of inhibiting Complex V in hybrids indicates lower baseline activity in this protein

complex, either caused directly by dysfunction in Complex V or by secondary effects of
dysfunction in earlier components of the electron transport chain. **D)** Complex II function in pure
X. birchmanni (*X. bir*), *X. malinche* (*X. mal*), and F$_1$ hybrids with the *X. birchmanni* (F1 – *X. bir*)
or *X. malinche* mitochondria (F1 – *X. mal)*. The Succinate flux control factor (Succinate FCF)
represents the impact of activating Complex II with its substrate, succinate, after Complex I has
been activated. Note that Complex II includes only nuclear-encoded proteins, so serves as a
control complex where we do not expect to observe mitonuclear incompatibilities. In **C & D**,
semi-transparent points show individual data, point and whiskers show mean ± two standard
errors. **E)** Predicted protein structure of Complex V which contains *ATP5MG* (cyan), *ATP6*
(yellow), and *ATP8* (magenta). Large spheres represent amino-acid substitutions that differ
between *X. birchmanni* and *X. malinche*.
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Fig. 5. Evidence of selection on newly mapped mitonuclear incompatibility loci from analyses of
natural hybrid populations. **A)** Red dashed line indicates the average *X. malinche* ancestry at all
newly mapped mitonuclear incompatibility loci compared to null simulations (blue distribution)
in the Acuapa (left) and Tlatemaco (right) populations. The *X. birchmanni* mitochondrial
haplotype is fixed in the Acuapa population and the *X. malinche* mitochondrial haplotype is fixed
in the Tlatemaco population. Loci mapped as mitonuclear incompatibilities had significantly less
non-mitochondrial parent ancestry than the genome-wide background in Acuapa (see Methods;
p=0.029 by simulation), but not in the Tlatemaco population (p=0.11 by simulation). **B)** Results
of cline analysis considering average genome-wide ancestry (gray) and mitochondrial ancestry
(blue) in populations from the Río Pochula. Triangles represent average ancestry in each
population, line represents model fit inferred using the HZAR software[70], and the envelop
represents the 95% confidence intervals of the HZAR fit. **C)** Clinal changes in allele frequency
across sampling sites in the Río Pochula at focal genomic regions (red) on chromosome 13 and

chromosome 15 (17.4 Mb) versus 100 matched null markers (gray; see Methods). Cline models
were fit using the HZAR software, line represents the model fit by HZAR to each locus. **D)**
Local ancestry in Acuapa (purple) and Tlatemaco populations (blue) near a subset of admixture
mapping peaks. Shown here are three cases where minor parent ancestry is especially low near
the mapped mitonuclear interactions. Gray envelop indicates the associated region from
admixture mapping. Results for all loci identified via admixture mapping can be found in Fig.
S17. **E)** Change in minor parent ancestry over time at the chromosome 15 admixture mapping
peak at 22.2 Mb in the Acuapa population. Points show mean ancestry at focal region in each
year and whiskers show ± 2 standard errors. Dashed blue line shows average minor parent
ancestry genome wide in Acuapa over the same time period.
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Tables

Table 1. Summary of results for each admixture mapping peak detected in our analyses. Genetic architecture refers to whether incompatibilities were inferred to involve interactions with the *X. birchmanni* mitochondria, the *X. malinche* mitochondria, or both (see Fig. 3; Supporting Information 1). Annotated MitoCarta genes detected in the admixture mapping interval are listed, as are the number of nonsynonymous substitutions in those protein sequences that differ between *X. birchmanni* and *X. malinche*, dN/dS between *X. birchmanni* and *X. malinche* for each MitoCarta gene, and the number of substitutions observed in either species that were predicted not tolerated based on SIFT analysis. We also list whether there was evidence of differential expression of MitoCarta genes between *X. birchmanni* and *X. malinche* in a previously analyzed RNAseq dataset[71]. For incompatibilities involving the *X. malinche* mitochondria, we tested for phenotypic effects on embryonic size, embryonic respiration, embryonic heart morphology and rate (Supporting Information 3), and on adult size (Methods). Associated phenotypic effects are listed in the "Phenotype" column. In the Ancestry evidence and Cline evidence columns, we note whether there is evidence of selection on the region in natural hybrid populations. Ancestry tests were performed in Acuapa and Tlatemaco, and cline analyses were performed in the Río Pochula. For the ancestry evidence, ancestry at focal regions was compared to the genome-wide background. For bidirectional incompatibilities where we expect depletion of mismatched ancestry in both the Acuapa and Tlatemaco populations, a subset of columns list "Mixed," indicating that ancestry was depleted in only one population. For cline evidence, ancestry at focal regions was compared to matched nulls, and we indicate whether the region was an outlier in minimum allele frequency (pMin) or in cline width.

Region[*]	Genetic architecture	MitoCarta genes (nonsynonymous substitutions; SIFT predicted not-tolerated)	Differential expression of MitoCarta genes	Phenotype[⊥]	Ancestry evidence	Cline evidence (pMin or cline width at p<0.05)
Chromosome 4: 6.84-7.14 Mb	bidirectional	None		Embryo head width	Mixed	Yes
Chromosome 6: 11.53-12.53[*]	*X. malinche* incompatible	*Ndufa13* (3; 2) dN/dS=1.2 UQCR11 (0)	*Ndufa13* - No UQCR11 - Yes	Embryo heart phenotypes Adult body size	Yes	No
Chromosome 6: 13.08-13.58	*X. malinche* incompatible	MTERF4 (1; 1) dN/dS= 0.07	No	Embryo heart phenotypes Adult body size	Mixed	No
Chromosome 6: 20.04-20.41	*X. malinche* incompatible	ATP5MG (3; 1) dN/dS = 99	Yes	Embryo heart phenotypes	Yes	No

				Adult body size		
Chromosome 13: 2.095-2.144[*]	bidirectional	*Ndufs5* (4; 2) dN/dS=99	No	Embryo size Embryo head width Embryo yolk size Embryo respiration rate	Yes	Yes
Chromosome 15: 17.37-17.61	bidirectional	MMUT (1; 0) dN/dS= 0.06	No	No associations	Yes	Yes
Chromosome 15: 19.38-19.92	*X. birchmanni* incompatible	None		Not tested	No	No
Chromosome 15: 22.15-23.96[*]	*X. birchmanni* incompatible	Smim8 (0) Lyrm2 (0) Rmdn3 (4; 0) dN/dS=99	Smim8 - No Lyrm2 - No Rmdn3 - No	Not tested	Yes	Yes
Chromosome 16: 12.73-13.0	*X. birchmanni* incompatible	Uqcrc2 (0)	No	Not tested	Yes	Yes

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988   *Previously detected in Moran et al. 2024
989   [1]Note that phenotypes at chromosome 6 incompatibilities cannot be attributed to a single region
990 because of high admixture linkage disequilibrium in early generation hybrids (Fig. S21). See
991 main text for more details.
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Data Accessibility and Benefit-Sharing

Data Accessibility

All raw data will be deposited on NCBI sequence read archive (SRA XXXX). All processed data and phenotypic data from hybrids will be deposited on Dryad (Dryad doi XXXX). Code is available at https://github.com/Schumerlab.

Benefit-Sharing

Data collection for this manuscript was performed in accordance with the Nagoya protocol on access and benefit sharing. Benefits from this research include sharing of data and results in public databases and partnerships with the Centro de Investigaciones Científicas de las Huastecas "Aguazarca", A.C. to support research and outreach near our collection sites in Hidalgo, Mexico.

Author contributions

Designed research: NVR, BMM, GIJ, PA, YB, JCH, GGR, MS. Performed research: NVR, BMM, MJRB, GIJ, TG, ENKI, DLP, SB, JJB, AS, YB. Analyzed data: NVR, BMM, MJRB, GIJ, AS, YB, MS. Wrote the paper: MS, NVR, MJRB, BMM.