Adapterama III: Quadruple-indexed, triple-enzyme RADseq libraries for about $1USD per Sample (3RAD)

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ABSTRACT

Molecular ecologists have used genome reduction strategies that rely upon restriction enzyme

digestion of genomic DNA to sample consistent portions of the genome from individuals being

studied (e.g., RADseq, GBS). However, researchers often find the existing methods expensive

to initiate and/or difficult to implement consistently. Here, we present a low-cost and highly

robust approach for the construction of dual-digest RADseq libraries. Major features of our

method include: 1) minimizing the number of processing steps; 2) focusing on a single strand of

sample DNA for library construction, allowing the use of a non-phosphorylated adapter on one

end; 3) ligating adapters in the presence of active restriction enzymes, thereby reducing

chimeras; 4) including an optional third restriction enzyme to cut apart adapter-dimers formed by

the phosphorylated adapter thus increasing the efficiency of adapter ligation to sample DNA; 5)

integrating adapter designs that can be used interchangeably; 6) incorporating variable-length

internal tags within the adapters to increase the scope of sample tagging and facilitate pooling

while also increasing sequence diversity; 7) maintaining compatibility with universal dual-

indexed primers, which facilitate construction of combinatorial quadruple-indexed libraries that

are compatible with standard Illumina sequencing reagents and libraries; and, 8) easy tuning for

molecular tagging and PCR duplicate identification. We present eight adapter designs that work

with 72 restriction enzyme combinations, and we demonstrate our approach by the use of one set

of adapters and one set of restriction enzymes across a variety of non-model organisms to

discover thousands of variable loci in each species.

Introduction

Although next-generation DNA sequencing (NGS) facilitates data collection at low cost, it is not

yet economically or computationally feasible for most ecological projects to sequence whole

genomes from large populations of organisms with genome sizes greater than about 0.5 Gbp (i.e.,

most plants and animals). However, many questions can be addressed with a small fraction of

the genome (Andrews, Good, Miller, Luikart, & Hohenlohe, 2016; Cariou, Duret, & Charlat,

2013; DeWoody & DeWoody 2005; Pante *et al.* 2015). Thus, researchers have created a variety

of strategies to sample a consistent portion of the genome from large numbers of individuals at

low cost (Glenn & Faircloth 2016; Harvey, Smith, Glenn, Faircloth, & Brumfield, 2016; Heyduk,

Stephens, Faircloth, & Glenn, 2016). One of the most popular genome sampling strategies uses

restriction enzymes (REs) to reduce genome complexity and sequence a set of orthologous loci

across individuals (Restriction site Associated DNA sequencing, RADseq; Baird *et al.* 2008;

Miller, Dunham, Amores, Cresko, & Johnson, 2007). Key advantages of the RADseq approach

include: 1) the lack of a need for a reference genome (although it is better to have one [e.g.

Shafer *et al.* 2016]); 2) the relative low-cost of library preparations; 3) the applicability of

techniques with minimal modification across a broad spectrum of organisms; and, 4) the

availability of suitable software for data analyses (e.g. Stacks; Catchen, Amores, Hohenlohe,

Cresko, & Postlethwait, 2011; Catchen, Hohenlohe, Bassham, Amores, & Cresko, 2013;

pyRAD; Eaton 2014).

Many variants of the general RADseq approach have been developed (Andrews *et al.*

2016), including but not limited to: the original method (RAD; Baird *et al.* 2008; Miller *et al.*

2007), genotype-by-sequencing (GBS; Elshire *et al.* 2011), 2-enzyme GBS (Poland & Rife 2012),

dual-digest RADseq (ddRAD; Peterson, Weber, Kay, Fisher, & Hoekstra, 2012), 2bRAD (Wang,

Meyer, McKay, & Matz, 2012), ezRAD (Toonen *et al.* 2013), and high multiplexing with PCR

duplicate removal (quaddRAD; Franchini, Monné Parera, Kautt, & Meyer, 2017). Although

each of these RADseq approaches is in widespread use, they have well-known limitations

(Davey *et al*. 2011, Andrews *et al*. 2014) which have been thoroughly examined in recent

reviews (Andrews *et al*. 2016, Harvey *et al*. 2016, Heyduk *et al*. 2016). Limitations of the

methods that pool DNA samples from multiple individuals within putative populations are

particularly acute (Andrews *et al*. 2016); thus, we focus on methods where individual samples

are tagged such that individual organisms can be genotyped. Limitations of current individual-

based RADseq methods include: 1) high up-front costs for adapters, which limits experimental

flexibility; 2) the need for moderate to high amounts of high-molecular-weight DNA; 3) variable

consistency in loci obtained; 4) limited ability to multiplex RADseq libraries with other types of

libraries; and, 5) workflows of varying complexity. Thus, developing RADseq methods that

reduce the cost of adapters, reduce the amount of input DNA, improve flexibility, increase

consistency, and simplify the workflow would be helpful to many researchers.

Dual-digest RADseq (ddRAD, Peterson *et al.* 2012) is a popular form of RADseq,

because: 1) it allows preparation of DNA using only REs (no random shearing, thus reducing the

time and cost per sample for sample prep); 2) sequencing can be completed from each end with

consistent starting positions (therefore focusing sequencing efforts and increasing depth per

dollar invested); 3) the number of loci can be tuned based on the choice of enzymes and the size-

range of DNA that is selected for sequencing; and, 4) a combinatorial dual-indexing strategy is

used, allowing pooling within sets of 48 samples (half of a 96-well plate) and indexing of up to

12 pools. These strengths have led to many researchers adopting ddRAD. However, limitations

of ddRAD include: 1) the cost of synthesizing the adapters (~$4,550 USD, for 12 pools of 48

samples; Peterson *et al.* 2012); 2) that adapters to both ends are phosphorylated, thus each can

form adapter dimers and yield incorrect constructs; 3) the use of an optional step to incorporate a

biotin-containing primer and streptavidin beads to separate correct library constructs from

incorrect constructs (often skipped by resource-limited researchers); 4) the inability to reduce

chimera formation; and, 5) the fact that no sequence diversity is present across the restriction

recognition sequence of the resulting libraries, which constrains sequencing options.

111   Here, we present a new approach (3RAD) for preparing RADseq libraries, which is

similar in spirit and retains and builds upon the strengths of ddRAD, while also addressing each

of the limitations listed above. Our method: 1) reduces costs of adapters and sample preparation;

2) uses only a single phosphorylated adapter; 3) does not need an optional step to separate

correct constructs; 4) digests chimeras; 5) achieves sequence diversity across the restriction

recognition sequence; and, 6) is compatible with other Illumina libraries. Overall, our 3RAD

method uses DNA that is digested with multiple REs and ligates on adapters in the presence of

functional REs, followed by PCR with primers developed in Adapterama I (Glenn *et al.* 2016) to

make fully active quadruple-indexed Illumina libraries (Figs 1 and S1). Although some adapter

designs and the working procedures have been published (e.g., Graham *et al.* 2015; Hoffberg *et*

al. 2016), additional designs, design details, flexibility, advantages and disadvantages of the

system have yet to be described. Below, we explain the design goals and rationale for our

approach, detail how we have implemented the method, demonstrate that large numbers of

polymorphic loci can be discovered from a broad array of organisms using just one of the

possible variations of our method, and then discuss these results and additional work to extend

this approach.

Methods

<u>Methodological Objectives</u>

Our overall goal was to develop a ddRADseq-type method with the following characteristics: 1)

enabling a simplified workflow with few consecutive buffer exchanges; 2) allowing sequential or

simultaneous digestion of DNA and ligation of adapters; 3) reducing chimera formation; 4)

suppressing adapter dimer formation to increase library efficiency; 5) enabling hierarchical

combinatorial tagging to facilitate efficient multiplexing of many samples; 6) reducing costs,

both for initial buy-in (i.e., cost of all reagents to start using the method) and per sample

prepared; and, 7) facilitating pooling of the resulting libraries with any other Illumina library

type. We built upon the adapter design and methods of Glenn and Schable (2005) to achieve the

first four goals, whereas we extended the work of Faircloth and Glenn (2012) and Glenn *et al.*

(2016) to achieve the last three goals (Appendix S1 and Appendix S2).

<u>Methodological Approach</u>

Design goals 1-3 can be achieved by using reagents that allow simultaneous digestion of

the sample DNA and ligation of the adapters onto the sample DNA (Glenn & Schable, 2005). A

major distinction between methods of Glenn and Schable (2005) and those needed here, is that a

single blunt-ended 5' phosphorylated adapter (Super SNX) was used in the prior work, resulting

in identical adapters on each end of the resulting libraries, whereas Illumina libraries require

unique adapter sequences on each end of the library molecules (Fig.1). By focusing on a single

strand of the template, rather than both strands, it is possible to use only one adapter that is

phosphorylated (i.e., Read 1 adapter, bottom strand; Fig 1; Supporting Information Figure S1,

and S2) in 3RAD, whereas the other adapter can use plain oligonucleotides for both strands

(Appendix S3), forming fewer adapter chimeras.

Simultaneous processing of DNA with multiple enzymes requires that the enzymes are

active in the same buffer and at the same temperature. New England Biolabs (NEB; Beverly,

MA, USA) has developed many enzymes that retain high activity in one buffer (CutSmart®) and

NEB has long described activity of their enzymes in their other standard buffer formulations.

We sought sets of low-cost type II REs that could be used in groups of three (Table 1): two REs

that form unique cohesive-ends (i.e., incompatible sticky-ends) and a third RE that produced a

compatible cohesive end with one of the other REs (Fig. 2). We then paired the two REs with

compatible cohesive ends into sets with Illumina Read 1 adapter stub sequences (Glenn *et al.*

2016), and assigned unpaired REs to Read 2 adapter stubs. Next, we designed the Read 1 stubs

such that if they self-ligated to form Read 1 adapter dimers, they create the recognition sequence

for the third RE, thus achieving design goal 4 (Appendix S3) (Glenn and Schable, 2005).

Similarly, Read 1 adapters ligated to genomic DNA with third RE cut sites will recreate the

recognition sequence for the third RE. Because T4 DNA ligase can be used in the same buffers

as most REs if the buffers are supplemented with ATP, researchers can start by digesting the

DNA, then add ligase and ATP to the digestion reaction and change the temperature to promote

ligation. By cycling between temperatures that promote ligation, then digestion, multiple times,

reactions can be driven to highly efficient outcomes (i.e., high proportions of the input DNA will

be cut and adapters ligated onto the ends; Supporting Information, Figure S1, and S2).

170   In addition to the digestion of adapter dimers, we constructed the 3RAD adapters so that

each double-stranded adapter has one active strand (the bottom strand as shown in all figures

herein) and one "dummy" strand (the top strand in all figures herein). The dummy strand is

simply used for structural support and correct 3D structure of the adapters and constructs through

the ligation process. Both strands fit together on each side of the input DNA during ligation, but

the 'nick' between the sample DNA and Read 2 adapter top dummy strand is not ligated (Fig.

S1). Thus, the dummy strand construct breaks apart during PCR steps, and only those constructs

with bottom strands that successfully ligate both kinds of adapters are amplified. This ensures

that valid constructs with the correct restriction sites at opposite ends dominate the amplified

library pools. Additionally, the oligonucleotides for the top strand (as depicted in Figs 1, S1, and

S2) are not full length, so they cannot be used as templates for the iTru5 or iTru7 primers.

Finally, the top strand of the Read 2 adapter ends in five non-complementary bases so that it

cannot serve as an unwanted primer during library amplification.

Design goals 5-7 were achieved by including variable-length internal indexing tags—also

known as "in-line barcodes" (Andrews *et al.* 2016)—within the Read 1 and Read 2 adapter stubs,

then making the adapter stubs compatible with the primers of Glenn *et al.* (2016; Figs 1 and S1).

For each adapter stub design, we have made eight versions of the Read 1 adapter stub and 12

versions of the Read 2 adapter stub (Appendix S3). Each adapter stub version includes an

internal indexing tag of 5, 6, 7, or 8 nucleotides (nt). The purpose of these internal tags is

twofold: (1) combinations of the Read 1 and Read 2 adapters creates 96 (8 x 12) combinations,

which facilitates pooling of samples from 96-well plates (Appendix S3), and (2) the variable

length of each tag increases base diversity within pools of libraries (Krueger, Andrews, &

Osborne, 2011) which is important when sequencing libraries derived from RE digestion (Glenn

et al. 2016; Mitra, Skrzypczak, Ginalski, & Rowicka, 2015). Finally, the complete 3RAD

libraries are compatible with (i.e., can be pooled with) iTru and Illumina®[TM] TruSeq libraries

prior to sequencing on Illumina sequencing instruments because they are constructed using the

iTru primers from Adapterama I (Glenn *et al.* 2016).

Methodological Overview

As an example of the 3RAD method (see Figs 2 and S1), consider sample DNA cut with

two different REs that leave different sticky ends – e.g., XbaI on the left-hand, Read 1 side and

EcoRI-HF on the right-hand, Read 2 side. Double-stranded adapters that are modified versions

of the TruSeq Read 1 and Read 2 sequences (Table 2) are ligated onto each fragment of DNA.

The iTru Read 2 adapter (compatible with EcoRI-HF) is unphosphorylated on the 5' end and will

not self-ligate to form dimers. The iTru Read 1 adapter is a perfect match to the sticky end of the

insert DNA, but the adapter does not have the correct bases to recreate the XbaI restriction site

used to cut the sample DNA (Fig. 2). Because the iTru Read 1 adapter is phosphorylated on the

5' end, it can and will form dimers. Read 1 adapter dimers form NheI restriction sites. By

adding a third enzyme (i.e., NheI) that digests such dimers, the concentration of adapter dimers is

reduced. This digestion of adapter dimers increases the consistency and efficiency of 3RAD

library preparation, even with limited amounts of sample DNA. However, while genomic DNA

cut by NheI and ligated to Read 1 adapters should be recut by the same RE, any remaining

molecules of this form are suitable for PCR amplification and may be present in final libraries.

After ligating the adapters, full-length libraries are created through reduced cycle PCR

using the iTru5 and iTru7 primers of Glenn *et al.* (2016; Figs 1, 3, S1, and S2). Because the

3RAD adapters already include internal tags that can identify all samples in a 96-well plate,

samples can be pooled prior to PCR and externally tagged with the iTru5 and iTru7 primers (to

identify multiple plates of samples), or users can PCR amplify individual wells with unique

external tags, and pool the resulting amplifications, allowing redundant tagging (Fig. 3). The

resulting libraries are then size-selected and sequenced using the four standard Illumina TruSeq

primers, each of which returns a different indexing read (Fig. 4).

3RAD Applied Case Studies

Study systems

We tested the 3RAD protocol on eight example projects: Kinosternidae (turtles), Ixodidae

(ticks), *Eurycea bislineata* species complex (salamanders), *Wisteria floribunda* x *Wisteria*

sinensis hybrid population (plants), *Rhodnius pallescens* (insects), *Gambusia affinis* (freshwater

fishes), *Sphyrna tiburo* (sharks)*,* and *Sphyrna lewini* (sharks). Each dataset comprised 12 to 24

samples. These projects span a broad diversity of organisms (e.g., in taxonomic classification,

population size, heterozygosity level, and genome size), motivating evolutionary questions, and

associated methods (i.e., from population genetics to phylogenetics; Table 3). After preliminary

examination of several enzyme combinations, we tested RE combinations for each of these

species corresponding to adapter sets R1.A and R2.1 (Table 1 and Design 1 in Appendix S3). We

used the enzymes XbaI, EcoRI-HF, and NheI for all example projects.

Adapter preparation

Oligonucleotide sequences for all versions of all adapter designs are given in Supplementary File

3. Oligonucleotides were ordered in plates from Integrated DNA Technologies (Coralville, IA).

Adapters were solubilized in a solution of 10 mM Tris pH 8, 0.1 mM EDTA, and 100 mM NaCl,

mixed in equal-molar amounts, annealed, diluted and aliquoted (Appendix S4).

Library preparation

Similar methods were employed for all samples, but some details varied among species,

as the protocols were developed and implemented over the course of multiple years. In general,

we focus on the version of our protocol that does not include molecular ID tags (Appendix S1

and Appendix S2), except for *Wisteria* samples where molecular ID tags were used (see

Hoffberg *et al.* 2016, Appendix S5, and Appendix S6 for protocols that employ molecular ID

tags).

All enzymes and reagents were obtained from NEB. We digested sample DNA for 1 hr

at 37 °C in a reaction mix that consisted of: 1.5 µL 10x CutSmart® Buffer, 5.0 µL dH$_2$O, 0.5 µL

of XbaI at 20 U/µL, 0.5 µL of EcoRI-HF at 20 U/µL, 0.5 µL of NheI at 20 U/µL, 1 µL 5 µM

double-stranded iTru R1.A adapter, 1 µL 5 µM double-stranded iTru R2.1 adapter, and 5 µL

sample DNA. After digestion, we added 2.0 µL dH$_2$O, 1.5 µL ATP (10 µM), 0.5 µL 10x Ligase

Buffer, 1.0 µL T4 DNA Ligase (100 units/µL, NEB M0202L buffer diluted 1:3 in NEB B8001S

enzyme dilution buffer) to each reaction, and we incubated the digestion/adapter-ligation

mixtures in a thermal cycler with the following conditions: 22 °C for 20 min. and 37 °C for 10

min. for two cycles followed by a single cycle of 80 °C for 20 min. After adapter ligation, we

pooled all *Wisteria*, *Gambusia*, and Kinosternidae individuals by project; we maintained *Eurycea,*

Rhodnius, *Sphyrna*, and Ixodidae samples individually. We proceeded immediately to a pre-

PCR clean-up (Appendix S1) to remove remaining reagents and unincorporated adapters, using

Sera-Mag Speed-Beads (Thermo-Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA; see Glenn *et al.* 2016 for

preparation methods) at a ratio of 1.2:1 Speed-Beads to DNA, washing and re-suspending DNA

in 20 µL of TLE.

To generate full-length library constructs, we combined 5.0 µL of ligated-cleaned up

DNA with 5.0 µL Kapa HiFi Buffer (Kapa Biosystems, Wilmington, MA), 0.75 µL dNTPs (10

µM), 8.75 µL dH$_2$O, 0.5 µL Kapa HiFi DNA Polymerase (1 unit/µL), 2.5 µL iTru5 primer (5

µM), and 2.5 µL iTru7 primer (5 µM), and we amplified the adapter-ligated DNA in a thermal

cycler with the following thermal profile: 95 °C for 2 min.; then, 14 cycles of 98 °C for 20 sec.,

60 °C for 15 sec., 72 °C for 30 sec.; 72 °C for 5 min.; hold at 15 °C. To validate that the library

preparation process was successful, we ran 5 µL of PCR product with 2 µL loading dye on a

1.5% agarose gel for 45 minutes at 90 volts along with Hi-Lo DNA Marker (Minnesota

Molecular, Minneapolis, MN). A smear of evenly distributed and bright DNA around ~300-800

bp, without noticeable bands in this target size zone, indicated successful library preparation.

After validation, we cleaned the remaining PCR reaction volume with Speed-Beads in at least

1:1 (Speed-Beads:DNA) ratio, and we eluted cleaned DNA in 20 µL of TLE.

We quantified cleaned libraries using either a Qubit Fluorimeter (Life Technologies, Inc.)

or SYBR Green assay with a plate reader, and for those projects with samples not already pooled

after ligation, we pooled equal amounts prior to size-selection. Pools contained up to 96 samples

and totaled 1-1.8 µg. We size-selected pooled libraries using a Pippin Prep (Sage Science,

Beverly, MA) with a 1.5% dye-free Marker K agarose gel cassette (CDF1510) set to capture

fragments at 550 bp +/-10%. If < 1 ng/µL of DNA was recovered following size-selection, the

libraries were amplified with P5 and P7 primers (Glenn *et al.* 2016) with 6-12 cycles of 98 °C for

20 sec., 60 °C for 15 sec., 72 °C for 30 sec.; followed by 72 °C for 5 min. and holding at 15 °C.

We cleaned the PCR reaction with Speed-Beads in at least 1:1 (Speed-Beads:DNA) ratio, and we

eluted cleaned DNA in 25µL of TLE.

Sequencing and data analyses

We combined each sample pool with individually tagged samples from other projects.

Most pools presented here were sequenced using independent runs making use of multiple

Illumina sequencers in multiple core labs. We used the Illumina NextSeq 500 platform to

generate PE75 data for the *Rhodnius*, *Gambusia*, Kinosternidae, and *Wisteria* projects and

Illumina HiSeq 2500 or NextSeq 500 platforms to generate PE150 data for the Ixodidae, *Sphyrna,*

and *Eurycea* projects. All projects presented here received approximately 1 million reads per

sample, which facilitates comparison of the 3RAD method among species with varying genome

sizes, except in the Ixodidae project, where the average number of reads per sample is 4 million

reads. More detailed analyses using additional samples from individuals of the same species,

with varying numbers of reads, will be presented in other manuscripts for each species.

Each set of samples from each species or group was run independently in the software

Stacks v1.42 or v.1.44 (Catchen *et al.* 2013; Catchen *et al.* 2011; see Appendix S6). For the

Wisteria project, molecular ID tags were used to facilitate PCR duplicate removal using the

module *clone_filter* from Stacks (Catchen *et al.* 2013; Hoffberg *et al*. 2016). We used the

process_radtags program to demultiplex and/or clean and trim the sequence data. We removed

any read with an uncalled base (-c) and discarded reads with low quality scores (-q) with a

default sliding window of 15% of the length of the read and raw Phred score of 10, which means

if the score drops below 90% probability of being correct, the read is discarded. XbaI and EcoRI

were set as REs, and we rescued sequence tags (internal tags) and RAD-tags (enzyme over-hang)

within 2bp of their expected sequence (-r); otherwise, reads were discarded. We truncated (-t)

PE150 reads to 140 nt and PE75 reads to 64 nt to have equal length among all reads with

different barcodes.

We parallel-merged the mates of paired-end reads (using the 'paste –d' Unix command).

We ran the Stacks *denovo_map* pipeline on each species or group with the following settings: the

minimum number of identical raw reads required to create a stack (-m) to 3, the maximum

distance between stacks (-M) to 3, the number of mismatches allowed between sample tags when

generating the catalog (-n) to 4. The coverage, number of loci, and number of SNPs recovered

were scored for each species and compared to genome size and sequencing read length (PE75 or

PE150). Next, we ran the Stacks *populations* program with the minimum number of populations

to consider a locus (-p) set to between 60 and 75% of the total of the localities considered for

each species and the minimum percentage of individuals within a population required to process

a locus (-r) set to 75% for all species.

Because the Kinosternidae project comprises samples of multiple genera and species, we

conducted a *de novo* locus assembly using pyRAD1.0.4 (Eaton, 2014; details in Appendix S6).

Gambusia affinis was the only species with a reference genome available

(http://gambusia.genetics.uga.edu/). Thus, we also analyzed the *Gambusia* sequences using the

ref_map program from Stacks v. 1.44 (Catchen *et al*. 2013). We used the Burrow-Wheeler

aligner (bwa) 0.7.10 to index the genome and align independent paired-end reads from each

sample against the reference (bwa-mem, unpublished). The resulting paired-reads files for each

sample were merged (using the 'cat' Unix command). Then, we used these files as input in the

ref_map pipeline from Stacks using a minimum number of identical reads to create a stack (-m)

of three, similar to our *de novo* approach (more details in Appendix S6).

For population level datasets, we calculated F-statistics, and performed preliminary

Structure v. 2.3.4 (Pritchard, Stephens, & Donelly, 2000) analyses using burn-in and sampling

lengths of 10,000 and 100,000 MCMC repeats, respectively. We did this with an admixture

model with correlated allele frequencies and with three iterations for each value of *K* to obtain

the posterior probability of the number of clusters for each data set (Appendix S6). In Stacks or

pyRAD, we generated VCF files for each data set (http://dx.doi.org/10.5061/dryad.285j2).

Finally, we estimated the prevalence and impact of loci with third RE cut sites in our data.

We estimated the proportion of this third RE cut site relative to the first RE cut site (i.e., intended

cut site) for five of the projects presented here. To evaluate the effect of these loci in

downstream analyses, we reanalyzed two of our projects (i.e., both *Sphyrna* projects) after

removing third RE loci from the datasets. To do this, we reran Stacks v.1.44 (Catchen *et al.*

2013; Catchen *et al.* 2011) using *process_radtags* two independent times: 1) rescuing barcodes,

cleaning and trimming the raw sequence data as before, but disabling rad check (--

disable_rad_check) to leave the cut sites intact; and, 2) using the previous step's output as input,

checking only for exact, intended RE cut sites (i.e., XbaI and EcoRI). From this output, we

parallel-merged the mates of paired-end reads, and ran the *denovo_map*, *populations*, and

Structure v. 2.3.4 (Pritchard *et al.* 2000) programs as described above.

Results

We developed four sets of adapters each with eight variants for the Read 1 adapters and

12 variants for the Read 2 adapters (Appendix S3). The iTru_R2_5 tag sequence was modified

for BamHI because this tag creates a BamHI recognition site in the adapter; otherwise, all

adapters use a universal set of tag sequences. The cost of synthesizing oligonucleotides for the

adapters varies with synthesis scale, but starts as low as ~$350 (US) per design set

(IDTDNA.com), with a recommended scale (100 nmol) costing ~$500 (US) per design set when

synthesized into 96-well plates, useful for up to ~4800 sample libraries.

3RAD libraries can be constructed routinely with approximately 12 hours of hands-on

time over the course of 2-3 days, with some variation depending mostly upon the step at which

samples are pooled. The initial cost of restriction digestion and ligation is ~$0.85 per sample

(Appendix S3, "Library_prep_costs" Sheet). If samples are amplified individually, this adds >

$1 per sample, but if the ligations are pooled, then this cost averages to $0.06 per sample. Size-

selection using the Pippin prep adds $0.12 per sample, assuming user access to the equipment. A

total of $0.25 per sample is required for tips, plates and tubes. Thus, the total cost for library

preparation is about $1.35 per sample, when samples are amplified in pools of 96.

In the Ixodidae example project, we obtained between 1.8-7.3 (mean =4.2) million reads

per sample, and for all other projects, we obtained between 0.6-3.6 (mean = 1.3) million reads

per sample. Except for one sample in the Ixodidae project, we always recovered a high

percentage of retained reads (78.9- 99.7%) after cleaning and filtering steps (Supporting

Information, Table S1). Average coverage per locus varied from 6x for *Eurycea* to 70x for

Gambusia (Fig. 5, Table 3, Supporting Information Table S1).

The number of loci obtained for each dataset varied from 18,629 in *Gambusia* to 425,729

in *Eurycea*. After filtering to retain only polymorphic loci found in at least 75% of individuals

within each population in each dataset, we recovered between 30 (*Eurycea*) to 19,843 (Ixodidae)

loci containing between 360 and 69,518 SNPs, respectively (Table 3). As expected for RADseq

protocols, the number of loci obtained in the initial steps is proportional to the genome size, with

more loci generally in organisms with larger genomes. The final number of loci recovered is

dependent upon the intrinsic genetic variability of the organism (e.g., evolutionary distance

between samples in dataset) and sequencing coverage (Supporting Information, Figure S3).

Detailed results for each project can be found in Appendix S6.

Third RE loci were present in all datasets, comprising an average of 20.5% (sd = 14.1%)

of all reads. The percentage of reads from third RE loci varied both among and within datasets,

showing a nonrandom pattern with respect to R1 adapter index used (Figure S4). Removing

third RE loci from our raw reads increased mean coverage of remaining loci (Tables S2 and S3)

and reduced the size of our final datasets from 7183 to 6738 loci in *Sphyrna tiburo* and 5263 to

4807 loci in *Sphyrna lewini*. Estimates of F_{ST} and results from Structure were qualitatively

similar in analyses including and excluding third RE loci (Table S4).

Discussion

We have developed a flexible low-cost system for preparing dual-digest RADseq

libraries that is efficient and easy to implement. Our method is built on the foundational

approach of Adapterama I (Glenn *et al.* 2016) that utilizes universal stubs (adapters) and primers,

both with indexed tags, to allow a single Illumina run to be shared among quadruple-indexed

libraries from many individuals. To illustrate the utility of our method, we presented summary

statistics from analyses of eight small example projects, representing diversity in taxonomy and

scientific objectives. For each project, we obtained tens to thousands of loci containing SNPs for

downstream population genetic and phylogenetic analyses, and among projects, we highlighted

the role of genome size, genetic variation, and sequencing coverage in determining the quality

and quantity of data recovered. For example, when processed differently, we recovered large

numbers of homologous loci both among species in the family Kinosternidae and within a single

representative species, *Sternotherus depressus,* from the same libraries and sequencing reads.

These data are informative both in studying variation among populations of *S. depressus* and

across relatively deep evolutionary time (~55 Myr; Appendix S6). We note that when datasets

span deeper evolutionary time (e.g., *Eurycea* and Kinosternidae), we recover more loci in initial

steps, but fewer of these loci are shared among individuals. However, increasing evidence

supports the utility of these large and sparse data matrices for systematic-level questions (e.g.

Hosner, Faircloth, Glenn, Braun, & Kimball, 2016; Streicher, Schulte, & Wiens 2015). For

detailed discussion of the analyses for each dataset, see Appendix S6.

By using the same set of enzymes on DNA from a diverse set of organisms, we have

demonstrated that our 3RAD method produces reasonable numbers of loci and SNPs from

organisms with varying genome characteristics. As expected, when we use the same set of

enzymes (and thus similar expected frequency of cutting within the different genomes) and the

same size selection criteria for organisms with varying genome size, the average sequencing

coverage per locus decreases as genome size increases (Fig. 5). For example, our dataset

generated here from *Eurycea* (genome size = ~24 Gbp) produced few loci meeting our coverage

criteria, but higher sequencing coverage can remedy this (data not shown). The number of loci

in the resulting libraries can, however, be tuned by varying which enzymes are used as well as

varying the size-selection criteria (Peterson *et al.* 2012). Initial testing of all four design sets

from the 3RAD method on chicken DNA showed that the number of loci varied as expected (i.e.,

using REs with shorter recognition sequences yielded more loci; data not shown). Additionally,

using broad size-distributions allows larger numbers of loci to be selected and gives more size

tolerance among alleles, whereas narrow distributions yields more limited numbers of loci. We

suspect that use of narrow size-distributions excludes alleles at loci with significant size variation,

and may lead to increased levels of incorrect genotype calls due to the missing alleles outside of

the selected size-range. However, most researchers are targeting loci without size variation, so

this bias should be small.

A key advance of the 3RAD workflow (Appendix S1 and S2) is the combination of

enzymes and adapters used during digestion, ligation, and amplification steps to create the

desired construct while minimizing the presence of dimers, chimeras, and improperly formed

library molecules (those lacking restriction sites at both ends). Sequential and simultaneous

digestion and ligation without buffer exchange increases the efficiency of the lab workflow and

decreases the amount of input DNA required. The 3RAD adapters we designed are useable with

multiple enzymes that leave compatible, cohesive ends (Table 2). Thus, there are at least 72

different enzyme combinations possible with the current adapter sets. Although this flexibility is

desirable, having adapters compatible with multiple enzymes means that it was necessary to

name the adapters based on the third enzyme, which can be confusing because the third enzyme

is *not* the desired restriction site in the sample libraries (and their resulting reads). The design

spreadsheet (Appendix S3, Sheets: Design_1-4) can be easily modified to accommodate other

restriction enzymes to create additional designs. These sheets also incorporate cost calculations

so that researchers may easily change the costs to reflect updated pricing from their supplier(s).

It should be noted that certain enzyme combinations work well with some species, but

not others; one cause of this may be the occurrence of selected restriction sites within repetitive

elements. Thus, our standard strategy is to empirically determine what enzyme combination is

best for any particular organism in a few representative samples (Table 1). We start by looking

at the distribution of post-PCR library DNA run through an agarose gel, and exclude enzyme

combinations that don't produce good smears in the desired size range or have dense bands in the

target size-range. We then size-select and sequence libraries from one or two enzyme

combinations from this small batch of samples (along with other samples) on an Illumina®™

instrument (HiSeq or NextSeq). Data are then demultiplexed and analyzed to verify that (or

determine which of) the enzyme combination(s) works well by determining how many variable

loci are obtained.

Our results show that XbaI, EcoRI-HF and NheI provide a suitable combination of REs

for a wide range of organisms, including plants, vertebrates, and invertebrates. We have used all

of the adapter designs and many other enzyme combinations from the 3RAD enzyme list (Table

1) to survey SNPs in a variety of organisms. We have obtained correct sequencing results from

all designs, but we reiterate that not all combinations work well in all organisms (data not

shown). Most of the organisms we have studied to date work well with these three REs, and

most that do not work with the design 1 adapters and primary enzymes, perform better with the

design 2 adapters and primary enzymes (MspI, ClaI, and BamHI; data not shown). Although

viable, we only rarely use the adapters pairs from designs 3 and 4 (R1.C, R1.D, R2.3 and R2.4).

In our standard protocols (Appendix S1 and S5), we cut DNA with three different REs—

two enzymes to create sticky ends for adapter ligation (similar to ddRAD and 2-enzyme GBS)

and the third enzyme to digest a recognition site formed by self-ligation of the phosphorylated

adapters (Fig. 2). Although the third enzyme facilitates creation of libraries with very little input

DNA (≤0.1 ng; data not shown), it does come with a cost. The third RE also cuts genomic DNA

that can be ligated to the R1 adapter, but the adapter:DNA ligation product is susceptible to re-

cleavage by the RE. To encourage this, our digestion/ligation cycling ends with a digestion step

to cleave as many of these products as possible. These loci are, in principle, suitable for

downstream analyses, but because the protocol is designed to minimize their retention, they

should have lower coverage than the intended RE cut site. A high prevalence of these off-target

loci can require additional sequencing (and thus, increase costs), but these reads can easily be

filtered and removed for all downstream analyses if desired. The third enzyme is not required

for this procedure and further investigation into to trade-offs of including this enzyme and its

optimal concentration are warranted. Alternatively, it is possible to engineer adapters that can

ligate to genomic DNA, but not self-ligate (e.g., using 3' dideoxycytidine), which we have done,

using a method known as 2RAD. Unfortunately, the 2RAD adapters are significantly more

expensive and were not stable when stored for ≥ ~6 months, both of which make the method

impractical. Further research into other modifications or storage solutions for 2RAD adapters is

warranted.

The 3RAD approach is similar to other dual-digest RADseq approaches (e.g., ddRAD

and 2-enzyme GBS), and most of the advantages of the general approach have been described

previously. The major advantages of the specific adapters described here include: 1) the buy-in

cost of the adapters is much lower than other approaches, 2) with the additional third enzyme, the

phosphorylated adapters that ligate together get cut apart, thus much lower amounts of input

DNA are necessary and the protocol is tolerant of varying amounts of input DNA, especially

small amounts of input DNA; 3) multiple enzymes are compatible with many of the adapters

(Table 1); 4) the TruSeq-compatible stubs facilitate combination of these libraries with dual-

indexed Illumina TruSeqHT adapters in widespread use, as well as the much larger number of

indexed primers given by Glenn *et al.* (2016); 5) because there are four different indexing

positions, the total number of oligos needed to uniquely tag large numbers of samples is

minimized; 6) all tags used herein conform a minimum edit distance of 3 (Faircloth & Glenn

2012); 7) limited PCR-cycles reduces PCR bias, increasing the efficiency of the library; and 8) as

mentioned below, easy incorporation of molecular ID tags that facilitates the detection of PCR

duplicates in downstream analyses.

As detailed in Hoffberg *et al.* 2016, our 3RAD approach it is easy to modify to include

that allow the removal of PCR duplicates (Appendix S5), through a process comparable to

quaddRAD (Franchini *et al*. 2017). Our molecular ID tag protocol, that uses an iTru5-8N primer,

can be used to make libraries for different types of downstream processes and/or modified for

other types of libraries. For example, Hoffberg *et al.* (2016) used the iTru5-8N primer and

sequence capture to focus sequencing on informative loci, and reduce missing data, and remove

PCR duplicates.

In summary, our 3RAD method produces results similar to others reported in the

literature but it is easier to perform, costs less to initiate in a lab, yields consistent results among

samples, can produce usable libraries from much less input DNA, and leads to libraries that can

either be run alone or pooled with other Illumina libraries.

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520

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Data Accessibility

617   Sequence reads generated for study are deposited in the NCBI SRA (SUB2631727). All

618   scripts used to analyze data and VCF files produced are available from Dryad

619   (http://dx.doi.org/10.5061/dryad.285j2). A video presentation giving an overview of the 3RAD

620   system is available on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOmwOtfP3N4).

Author Contributions

623   TCG and BCF conceived Adapterama and 3RAD; TCG designed the 3RAD adapters;

624   NB, TJK, TWP, SLH, PAS, PRW, and BCF conducted lab work and analyzed data; TCG, NB

625   and BCF drafted most text; NB, TJK, TWP, PAS, JWF Jr., KEB, SL, NT, and SLH made

626   figures, tables, and supporting materials; PD-J and RM provided samples, funding and

627   additional data analysis; all authors edited and commented on the manuscript.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare competing interests. The EHS DNA lab provides oligonucleotide

aliquots and services at cost, including the adapters presented herein. The information

presented herein allows all researchers to synthesize the oligonucleotides at any vendor of their

choice and freely publish results with proper attribution to this paper and Illumina®™.

Table 1. Enzyme combinations and characteristics. Four design sets each for Read1 (R1) and Read2 (R2) are given. The required enzyme
blocks adapter-dimer formation and is not actually required, but is used for naming each adapter set (supplementary file 3). Digestion efficiency
is given for three NEB buffers (2.1, 3.1, and CutSmart®), with the best conditions highlighted in green, and poor or important non-standard
conditions in red. Sensitivity to methylation in the template sequence is given, as is the optimal temperature for digestion and the number of bases
in the recognition sequence.
639

Read 1 Adapter Sets								Read 2 Adapter Sets							
		NEB Buffer			CpG	Cut	Base			NEB Buffer			CpG	Cut	Base
Set	Enzyme	2.1	3.1	CutSmart®	meth	Temp	Cutter	Set	Enzyme	2.1	3.1	CutSmart®	meth	Temp	Cutter
R1.A	NheI	100	10	100	+/-	37	6	R2.1	EcoRI-HF	100	10	100	+/-	37	6
	XbaI	100	75	100	-	37	6		MfeI-HF	25	10	100	-	37	6
	SpeI	100	25	100	-	37	6		ApoI	75	100	75	-	50*	6
R1.B	ClaI	50	50	100	+	37	6	R2.2	BamHI-HF	50	10	100	-	37	6
	MspI	100	50	100	-	37	4		BclI	100	100	75	-	50*	6
	TaqαI	75	100	100	-	65	4		BstYI	100	75	100	-	60**	6
R1.C	PstI-HF	75	50	100	-	37	6								
	PstI	75	100	50	-	37	6	R2.3	DdeI	100	100	100	-	37	4
	NsiI	75	100	25	-	37	6								
R1.D	CviQI	100	100	75	-	37	6	R2.4	HindII-HF	100	10	100	-	37	6
	NdeI	100	100	100	-	37	6		HindIII	100	50	50	-	37	6
	MseI	100	75	100	-	37	4								
	AseI	50	100	10	-	37	6								
	BfaI	10	10	100	-	37	4								

640 * 50% activity at 37°C, ** 30% activity at 37°C

641 **Table 2. Example 3RAD adapter stub sequences**. All sequences are given in 5' to 3' orientation. Tag sequences are in italics. Groups of 4
642 adapters form a balanced set, all eight complete sets are available in Appendix S3. Non-complementary sequences are given in lower case.
643 Adapter stub oligonucleotides must be hydrated and annealed prior to use (Appendix S4).

Adapter	Oligo Name	Sequence (5' to 3')
iTru_NheI_R1_A	iTru_NheI_R1_stub_A	ACGACGCTCTTCCGATCT*CCGAAT*G
	iTru_NheI_R1_RCp_A	/5phos/CTAGC*ATTCGG*AGATCGGAAGAGCGTCGTGTAGGGAAAGAGTGT
iTru_EcoRI_R2_1	iTru_EcoRI_R2_RC_stub_1	AATTA*CGTTAG*AGATCGGAAGAGCACACGTaatcc
	iTru_EcoRI_R2_1	GTGACTGGAGTTCAGACGTGTGCTCTTCCGATCT*CTAACG*T
iTru_ClaI_R1_B	iTru_ClaI_R1_stub_B	ACGACGCTCTTCCGATCT*TTAGGCA*AT
	iTru_ClaI_R1_RCp_B	/5phos/CGAT*TGCCTAA*AGATCGGAAGAGCGTCGTGTAGGGAAAGAGTGT
iTru_BamHI_R2_2	iTru_BamHI_R2_RC_stub_2	GATCG*GTACCGA*AGATCGGAAGAGCACACGTaatcc
	iTru_BamHI_R2_2	GTGACTGGAGTTCAGACGTGTGCTCTTCCGATCT*TCGGTAC*C
iTru_PstI_R1_C	iTru_PstI_R1_stub_C	ACGACGCTCTTCCGATCT*AACTCGTC*CTGCA
	iTru_PstI_R1_RCp_C	/5phos/*GGACGAGTT*AGATCGGAAGAGCGTCGTGTAGGGAAAGAGTGT
iTru_DdeI_R2_3	iTru_DdeI_R2_RC_stub_3	TNAC*CAACGATC*AGATCGGAAGAGCACACGTaatcc
	iTru_DdeI_R2_3	GTGACTGGAGTTCAGACGTGTGCTCTTCCGATCT*GATCGTTG*G
iTru_CviQI_R1_D	iTru_CviQI_R1_stub_D	ACGACGCTCTTCCGATCT*GGTCTACGT*G
	iTru_CviQI_R1_RCp_D	/5phos/TAC*ACGTAGACC*AGATCGGAAGAGCGTCGTGTAGGGAAAGAGTGT
iTru_HindIII_R2_4	iTru_HindIII_R2_RC_stub_4	AGCTA*AGTGTAGCT*AGATCGGAAGAGCACACGTaatcc
	iTru_HindIII_R2_4	GTGACTGGAGTTCAGACGTGTGCTCTTCCGATCT*AGCTACACT*T

645 **Table 3.** The classification and genome size of taxa included in this study, number of samples tested for each. The Illumina read length (nt),
646 number of loci obtained after the assembly method, number loci and SNPs obtained after filtering by only polymorphic loci shared in at least 75%
647 of samples, and the average coverage among loci and individuals. The number of loci can be quite large and certainty of homology variable with
648 distantly related samples, particularly if they have big genomes.
649

	Class	Genome size (Gb)[*]	# Species / Populations	# Indiv.	PE Read Length (nt)	# Loci	# Final Loci	# SNPs	Mean Coverage (x)
Kinosternidae	Reptilia	2.6	7	24	75	233,072	4,034[ψ]	27,881	12
Ixodidae	Arachnida	3.3	4	16	150	332,057	4,484	13,136	36
Eurycea	Amphibia	24.5	1	21	150	425,729	30	360	7
Wisteria	Magnoliopsida	?	1	24	75	30,029	1,669	5,820	44
Sternotherus depressus	Reptilia	2.6	3	12	75	103,240	16,695	25,578	11
Amblyomma americanum	Arachnida	3.3	2	7	150	128,899	19,843	69,518	36
Rhodnius pallescens	Insecta	0.68	5	16	75	92,687	7,779	12,099	23
Gambusia affinis	Actinopterygii	0.8	5	24	75	18,629	2,140	5,429	54
Sphyrna tiburo	Chondrichthyes	3.8	6	24	150	42,705	7,183	17,555	18
Sphyrna lewini	Chondrichthyes	3.6	7	15	150	44,125	5,263	12,272	27

[*]Genome sizes are approximations from Gregory T.R. (2016, December 16). Animal Genome Size Database. Retrieved from

http://www.genomesize.com

[ψ]From pyRAD assembly of homologous loci across all Kinosternidae.

Figure 1. Overview 3RAD library construction. Genomic DNA from the study organism is
digested with two enzymes (A and B), which is shown at the top. Adapters are ligated to the
digested DNA, but only the bottom strand has functional adapters. The top strand has shorter,
non-functional versions of the adapters. The ligation products are then subjected to limited cycle
PCR with iTru5 and iTru7 primers (Glenn et al. 2016) to form the fully active double-stranded
DNA molecules. The color-scheme follows those of Glenn *et al.* (2016) and Hoffberg *et al*
(2016).

Figure 2. Specific adapter sequences and products created during the ligation of 3RAD
libraries. The full adapter sequences for NheI and EcoRI-HF (Table 1) are given in the top center
boxes. The relevant recognition sequences for the three restriction endonucleases are given in the
top outer boxes. The products that are formed from ligation of the triple-enzyme digests and
adapters are shown at the bottom.
667

Figure 3. 3RAD workflow for samples with unique or repeated adapter tags. DNA is
normalized, digested with REs, and adapters are ligated onto library molecules. If tags within
adapters uniquely identify all samples (right), samples can be pooled before clean-up and PCR.
If tags do not uniquely identify individuals, PCR must be done separately on each sample, and
samples must be normalized and cleaned before pooling. After cleaning, samples must be size-
selected and quantified to determine if a recovery P5/P7 PCR should be performed before
sequencing.

Figure 4. Sequencing reads that can be obtained from full length 3RAD library molecules.
The top double stranded molecule shows a 3RAD library molecule prepared as described in the
text (Appendix S1). The horizontal arrows beneath the library molecule indicate Illumina
sequencing primers (binding to the complementary strand of the library molecules). The tip of
the arrowhead indicates the 3' end of the primer and the direction of elongation for sequencing.
Four sequencing reads are shown for each library prepared molecule, with one read for each
index and each strand of the genomic DNA, including internal indexes. Reads are arranged 1 to 4
(numbered in magenta) from top to bottom, respectively. The arrow immediately 3' of the
primers, indicates the data that are obtained from that primer, with coloring that is consistent with
3RAD library molecule.

Figure 5. Scatterplot of the average coverage of all loci (polymorphic and fixed) for each
sample relative to sequencing depth of each sample. Salamanders have the largest genome
size, and therefore the lowest average coverage per locus when approximately 1,000,000 reads
are obtained. The average coverage for all loci increases as the genome size decreases.
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696 **Appendix S1. High-Throughput 3RAD Protocol.** Step by step library construction for 3RAD
697 libraries considering both, samples pooled after ligation because all adapter combinations are
698 used and, samples that are pooled after PCR.
699
700 **Appendix S2. 3RAD video presentation, what is happening inside the tube?** This
701 presentation demonstrates the key features of 3RAD, including how the adapters perform during
702 ligation and PCR, how the adapters and primers can be used combinatorically, and both the
703 desired and undesired ligation products that can be formed during 3RAD. This presentation is
704 also available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOmwOtfP3N4
705
Appendix S3. 3RAD iTru adapter designs, indexed iTru primers, and detailed library prep
costs per sample. Excel workbook containing sheets for each of the four pairs of adapter designs.
The designs are paired within the workbook to save space, but each design is independent, thus
design 1 Read 1 adapters can be used with design 2 Read 2 adapters. Each adapter requires two
oligonucleotides to form a partially complementary pair. Also, we present an example of the iTru
primers with incorporated indexes to use in 3RAD libraries. And finally, tab with costs per
sample for library prep, considering each step in the process.
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714 **Appendix S4. How to handle plates with 3RAD adapter aliquots.** Document with instructions
715 of how to reconstitute and anneal 3RAD dried adapters to further use in 3RAD libraries.
716
717 **Appendix S5. 3RAD Libraries with Molecular ID Tags Protocol.** Step by step protocol with
718 instructions to build 3RAD libraries with molecular ID tags to detect PCR duplicates, using iTru5
719 8N primer (See Hoffberg *et al*. 2016).
720
721 **Appendix S6. Supplementary methods and results for 3RAD example datasets.** A detailed
722 guide through the methods, results, and discussion of sequence analyses from 3RAD data
723 generated for each example dataset presented in this manuscript.