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## **Convergent evolution of gene expression in two high-toothed stickleback populations**

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## 25 **Abstract**

26 Changes in developmental gene regulatory networks enable evolved changes in morphology.

27 These changes can be in *cis* regulatory elements that act in an allele-specific manner, or

28 changes to the overall *trans* regulatory environment that interacts with *cis* regulatory

29 sequences. Here we address several questions about the evolution of gene expression

30 accompanying a convergently evolved constructive morphological trait, increases in tooth

31 number in two independently derived freshwater populations of threespine stickleback fish

32 (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*). Are convergently evolved *cis* and/or *trans* changes in gene

33 expression associated with convergently evolved morphological evolution? Do *cis* or *trans*

34 regulatory changes contribute more to the evolutionary gain of a morphological trait?

35 Transcriptome data from dental tissue of ancestral low-toothed and two independently derived

36 high-toothed stickleback populations revealed significantly shared gene expression changes

37 that have convergently evolved in the two high-toothed populations. Comparing *cis* and *trans*

38 regulatory changes using phased gene expression data from F1 hybrids, we found that *trans*

39 regulatory changes were predominant and more likely to be shared among both high-toothed

40 populations. In contrast, while *cis* regulatory changes have evolved in both high-toothed

41 populations, overall these changes were distinct and not shared among high-toothed

42 populations. Together these data suggest that a convergently evolved trait can occur through

43 genetically distinct regulatory changes that converge on similar *trans* regulatory

44 environments.

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## 49 **Author Summary**

50 Convergent evolution, where a similar trait evolves in different lineages, provides an  
51 opportunity to study the repeatability of evolution. Convergent morphological evolution has  
52 been well studied at multiple evolutionary time scales ranging from ancient, to recent, such as  
53 the gain in tooth number in freshwater stickleback fish. However, much less is known about  
54 the accompanying evolved changes in gene regulation during convergent evolution. Here we  
55 compared evolved changes in gene expression in dental tissue of ancestral low-toothed  
56 marine fish to fish from two independently derived high-toothed freshwater populations. We  
57 also partitioned gene expression changes into those affecting a gene's regulatory elements  
58 (*cis*), and those affecting the overall regulatory environment (*trans*). Both freshwater  
59 populations have evolved similar gene expression changes, including a gain of expression of  
60 putative dental genes. These similar gene expression changes are due mainly to shared  
61 changes to the *trans* regulatory environment, while the *cis* changes are largely population  
62 specific. Thus, during convergent evolution, overall similar and perhaps predictable  
63 transcriptome changes can evolve despite largely different underlying genetic bases.

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## 73 **Introduction**

74 Development is controlled by a complex series of interlocking gene regulatory networks.  
75 Much of this regulation occurs at the level of transcription initiation, where *trans* acting factors  
76 bind to *cis* regulatory elements to control their target gene's expression [1,2]. Evolved  
77 changes in an organism's morphology are the result of changes in this developmental  
78 regulatory landscape. It has been proposed that the genetic bases of many of these evolved  
79 changes are mutations within the *cis*-regulatory elements of genes [3–5]. Indeed, recent work  
80 in evolutionary genetics suggests the molecular bases of a diverse array of traits from  
81 *Drosophila* wing spots [6] to mouse pigmentation [7] to stickleback armored plate number  
82 [8,9] and size [10] are changes in the activity of *cis*-regulatory elements.

83 Evolved changes in gene expression can be divided into two broad regulatory classes.  
84 *Cis* regulatory changes occur within the proximal promoter [11], distal enhancer [12], or the  
85 gene body itself [13]. *Trans* regulatory changes modify the overall regulatory environment  
86 [14,15], but are genetically unlinked to the expression change. The total evolved gene  
87 expression differences can be partitioned into changes in *cis* and *trans* by quantifying  
88 expression differences between two populations and also testing for expression differences  
89 between alleles in F1 hybrids between the two populations [16]. Several studies have  
90 attempted to characterize evolved *cis* and *trans*-regulatory changes at a transcriptome-wide  
91 level [17–21]. Though the relative contribution of *cis* and *trans* regulatory changes varies  
92 extensively among studies, *cis* changes have been found to dominate [17,18,21] or at least  
93 be approximately equivalent [19,20] to *trans* changes [22]. Additionally, compensatory  
94 changes (*cis* and *trans* changes in opposing directions) have been found to be enriched over  
95 neutral models [17,18], showing evidence for selection for stable gene expression levels.  
96 However, none of these studies examined contribution of *cis* and *trans* gene expression

97 changes during convergent morphological evolution.

98 Populations evolve new traits following a shift to a novel environment, due to a mixture  
99 of drift and selection. Truly adaptive traits can often be repeatedly observed in multiple  
100 populations following a similar ecological shift. Threespine sticklebacks are an excellent  
101 system for the study of evolved changes in phenotypes, including gene expression [23–27].  
102 Marine sticklebacks have repeatedly colonized freshwater lakes and streams along the coasts  
103 of the Northern hemisphere [28]. Each of these freshwater populations has independently  
104 adapted to its new environment; however, several morphological changes, including a loss in  
105 armored plates and a gain in tooth number, are shared among multiple newly derived  
106 populations [29,30]. The repeated evolution of lateral plate loss is due to repeated selection of  
107 a standing variant regulatory allele of the *Eda* gene within marine populations [8,9] and  
108 genome sequencing studies found over a hundred other shared standing variant alleles  
109 present in geographically diverse freshwater populations [31]. These studies suggest the  
110 genetic basis of freshwater adaptation might typically involve repeated reuse of the same  
111 standing variants to evolve the same adaptive freshwater phenotype.

112 However, more recent evidence has shown that similar traits have also evolved  
113 through different genetic means in freshwater stickleback populations. A recent study which  
114 mapped the genetic basis of a gain in pharyngeal tooth number in two independently derived  
115 freshwater populations showed a largely non-overlapping genetic architecture [30]. Another  
116 study using three different independently derived benthic (adapted to the bottom of a lake)  
117 populations showed that, even when adapting to geographically and ecologically similar  
118 environments, the genetic architecture of evolved traits is a mix of shared and unique  
119 changes [32]. Even in cases where the same gene is targeted by evolution in multiple  
120 populations (the loss of *Pitx1* expression resulting in a reduction in pelvic spines), the

121 individual mutations are often independently derived [33,34]. All of these genomic scale  
122 studies have looked at the genetic control of morphological changes, while the extent and  
123 nature of genome-wide gene expression changes has been less studied. It remains an open  
124 question as to whether similar gene expression patterns evolve during the convergent  
125 evolution of morphology, and if so, to what extent those potential shared gene expression  
126 changes are due to shared *cis* or *trans* changes.

127       Teeth belong to a class of vertebrate epithelial appendages (including mammalian hair)  
128 that develop from placodes, and have long served as a model system for studying  
129 organogenesis and epithelial-mesenchymal interactions in vertebrates [35]. Odontogenesis is  
130 initiated and controlled by complex interactions between epithelial and mesenchymal cell  
131 layers, and involves several deeply conserved signaling pathways [36–38]. Sticklebacks retain  
132 the ancestral jawed vertebrate condition of polyphyodonty, or continuous tooth replacement,  
133 and offer an emergent model system for studying tooth replacement. Previous work has  
134 supported the hypothesis that two independently derived freshwater stickleback populations  
135 have evolved an increase in tooth replacement rate, potentially mediated through differential  
136 odontogenic stem cell dynamics [30] (Cleves et al 2018 under review, see Supplementary  
137 Data File 2). Recent studies have found teeth and taste bud development to be linked, with  
138 one study supporting a model where teeth and taste buds are coperated from a shared oral  
139 epithelial source [39], and another study supporting a model where teeth and taste buds  
140 share a common progenitor stem cell pool [40].

141       We sought to examine the evolution of the regulatory landscape controlling stickleback  
142 tooth development and replacement. Using high-throughput RNA sequencing (RNA-seq), we  
143 found that two independently derived high-toothed freshwater populations display highly  
144 convergent gene expression changes, especially in orthologs of known tooth-expressed

145 genes in other vertebrates, likely reflecting the convergently evolved tooth gain phenotype  
146 and the deep homology of teeth across all jawed vertebrates. We also quantitatively  
147 partitioned these evolved gene expression changes into *cis* and *trans* regulatory changes  
148 [16,19] in both populations at a transcriptome-wide level using RNA-seq on F1 marine-  
149 freshwater hybrids. We found that *trans* regulatory changes predominate evolved changes in  
150 gene expression in dental tissue. Additionally, we found that the *trans* regulatory changes are  
151 more likely to be shared between the freshwater populations than the *cis* regulatory changes.  
152 Thus, similar downstream transcription networks controlling tooth development and  
153 replacement have convergently evolved largely through different upstream genetic regulatory  
154 changes.

155

## 156 **Results**

157

### 158 **Convergent evolution of tooth gain in two freshwater populations**

159 To further test whether multiple freshwater populations have evolved increases in tooth  
160 number compared to multiple ancestral marine populations [30,41], we quantified total ventral  
161 pharyngeal tooth number of lab reared sticklebacks from four distinct populations: (1) a  
162 marine population from the Little Campbell river (LITC) in British Columbia, Canada, (2) a  
163 second marine population from Rabbit Slough (RABS) in Alaska, (3) a benthic freshwater  
164 population from Paxton Lake (PAXB) in British Columbia, Canada, USA, and (4) a second  
165 freshwater population from Cerrito Creek (CERC) in California, USA (Fig 1A, 1B). Freshwater  
166 fish from both populations had more pharyngeal teeth than marine fish at this 35-50mm  
167 standard length (SL) stage, consistent with previous findings [30,41] of increases in tooth  
168 number in freshwater sticklebacks (Fig 1B, 1C, Table S1).

169 To estimate the genomic relatedness of these populations, we resequenced the  
170 genomes of three marine and six freshwater sticklebacks from the four different populations  
171 (Table S2). We aligned the resulting reads to the stickleback reference genome [31] using  
172 Bowtie2 [42], and called variants using the Genome Analysis Toolkit (GATK) [43–45]. As it  
173 has been previously shown that Pacific marine stickleback populations are an outgroup to  
174 freshwater populations from Canada and California [31], we hypothesized the two high-  
175 toothed populations would be more related to each other genomically than either marine  
176 population. A maximum-likelihood phylogeny constructed using genome-wide variant data  
177 cleanly separated freshwater populations from each other and from marine fish (Fig S1A).  
178 Principal component analysis of the genome-wide variants revealed that the first principle  
179 component explains nearly half (41.4%) of the overall variance, and separates benthic  
180 sticklebacks from both creek and marine fish (Fig S1B). The second principal component  
181 separated both freshwater populations from marine populations. These results further support  
182 the model that populations of freshwater sticklebacks used a combination of shared and  
183 independent genetic changes [31,32] when evolving a set of similar morphological changes in  
184 response to a new environment.

185

### 186 **Convergent evolution of gene expression**

187 As morphological changes are often the result of changes in gene expression patterns and  
188 levels, we sought to identify evolved changes in gene expression during tooth development at  
189 stages soon after the evolved differences emerge [41]. We quantified gene expression in  
190 ventral pharyngeal dental tissue in the two high-toothed freshwater and an Alaskan low-  
191 toothed marine population using RNA-seq (Fig 2A, Table S3-S4). Principal component (PC)  
192 analysis of the resulting gene expression matrix showed a clustering of gene expression by



193 population, with the first PC separating benthic samples, and the second PC separating both  
194 benthic and creek samples from marine, similar to the PC analysis of the genome-wide  
195 variants (Fig 2B) [46].

196         Given the convergently evolved morphological change of increases in tooth number,  
197 we hypothesized that convergent evolution has occurred at the gene expression level in  
198 freshwater dental tissue. To test this hypothesis, we compared the evolved change in gene  
199 expression in benthic dental tissue (benthic vs marine) to the evolved change in creek dental  
200 tissue (creek vs marine). At a genome-wide level, correlated changes in gene expression  
201 levels have evolved in the two high-toothed freshwater populations (Fig 2C, Spearman's  $r =$   
202 0.43). We next asked if orthologs of genes implicated in tooth development in other  
203 vertebrates showed an increase in correlated evolved expression changes. We compared the  
204 gene expression changes of stickleback orthologs of genes in the BiteIt ([http://bite-](http://bite-it.helsinki.fi/)  
205 [it.helsinki.fi/](http://bite-it.helsinki.fi/)) [47] or ToothCODE (<http://compbio.med.harvard.edu/ToothCODE/>) [36]  
206 databases (hereafter referred to as the “BiteCode” gene set, Table S5), two databases of  
207 genes implicated in mammalian tooth development. Consistent with the conserved roles of  
208 gene regulatory networks regulating mammalian and fish teeth [48–51] and the major evolved  
209 increases in tooth number in both freshwater populations (Fig 1C), these predicted dental  
210 genes showed an increase in their correlated evolved gene expression change (Fig 2C red  
211 points, Spearman's  $r = 0.68$ ), and tended to have an overall increase in gene expression (Fig  
212 S2,  $P = 7.36e-6$ , GSEA, see methods). We also examined the expression levels of genes  
213 whose orthologs are annotated as being expressed in zebrafish pharyngeal teeth  
214 ([www.zfin.org](http://www.zfin.org)). Within this gene set, 27 of 40 genes were significantly more highly expressed  
215 in at least one freshwater population, with no genes expressed significantly higher (as  
216 determined by cuffdiff2 [52–55], see Materials and Methods) in marine samples than either

217 freshwater population (Fig 2D).

218

### 219 **Increased freshwater expression of stem cell maintenance genes**

220 Tooth development is controlled by several deeply conserved developmental signaling  
221 pathways [49,51]. To test whether expression changes in the components of specific  
222 developmental signaling pathways have evolved in the two high-toothed freshwater  
223 populations, we next analyzed the expression levels of stickleback orthologs of genes  
224 implicated in mammalian tooth development and annotated as components of different  
225 signaling pathways [36]. When comparing gene expression levels in freshwater dental tissue  
226 to marine dental tissue, genes annotated as part of the TGF- $\beta$  signaling pathway displayed  
227 significantly increased expression in freshwater dental tissue (Fig S3A-F).

228         Since these two freshwater populations have a largely different developmental genetic  
229 basis for their evolved tooth gain [30], we next asked whether any pathways were upregulated  
230 or downregulated specifically in one freshwater population. When comparing the expression  
231 of genes in benthic dental tissue to expression in creek or marine dental tissue, genes not  
232 only in the TGF- $\beta$  pathway, but also in the WNT signaling pathway, displayed significantly  
233 increased expression, consistent with the differing genetic basis of tooth gain in these  
234 populations (Fig S3B). Genes upregulated in freshwater dental tissue were enriched for Gene  
235 Ontology (GO) terms involved in anatomical structure development, signaling, and regulation  
236 of cell proliferation (Fig S4A, Table S6). Genes upregulated in benthic dental tissue over  
237 marine were enriched for GO terms involved in cell proliferation, division and cell cycle  
238 regulation, as well as DNA replication (Fig S4B, Table S7), while genes upregulated in creek  
239 over marine were enriched for GO terms involved in cell locomotion, movement, and  
240 response to lipids (Fig S4C, Table S8).

241 As teeth are constantly being replaced in polyphyodont adult fish, potentially due to the  
242 action of dental stem cells [40], we hypothesized that genes involved in stem cell  
243 maintenance have evolved increased expression in freshwater tooth plates, given the higher  
244 rate of newly forming teeth previously found in adults [30], and the possibly greater number of  
245 stem cell niches in high-toothed fish (Cleves et al 2018 under review, see Supplemental Data  
246 File 2). We further hypothesized that since teeth are developmentally homologous to hair,  
247 perhaps an ancient genetic circuit regulating vertebrate placode replacement controls both  
248 fish tooth and mammalian hair replacement. For example, the *Bmp6* gene, previously  
249 described as expressed in all stickleback teeth [41] was significantly upregulated in creek fish,  
250 consistent with the evolved major increases in tooth number in this population (Table S4). In  
251 contrast, no such significant upregulation was observed in the expression of benthic *Bmp6*  
252 (Table S4), consistent with the observed evolved *cis*-regulatory decrease in benthic *Bmp6*  
253 expression [41]. Further supporting this hypothesis, the expression of the stickleback  
254 orthologs of a previously published set of mouse hair follicle stem cell (HFSC) signature  
255 genes [56] were significantly upregulated in freshwater dental tissue (Fig S3A). Creek dental  
256 tissue displayed a small but significant increase in expression of this set of HFSC orthologs  
257 relative to both benthic and marine samples (Fig S3C).

258 In cichlid fish, pharmacology experiments revealed that reductions in tooth density can  
259 be accompanied by concomitant increases or decreases in taste bud density [39]. To begin to  
260 test whether derived high-toothed stickleback populations have also evolved significantly  
261 altered levels of known taste bud marker gene expression, we examined the expression  
262 levels of known taste bud markers *Calbindin2* and *Phospholipase Beta 2* [57], as well as taste  
263 receptors such as *Taste 1 Receptor Member 1*, *Taste 1 Receptor Member 3*, and *Polycystin 2*  
264 *Like 1* [58]. Although four of these five genes had detectable significant expression changes

265 between different populations, no consistent freshwater upregulation or downregulation of  
266 taste bud marker genes was seen (Fig S5).

267

### 268 ***Cis* and *trans* regulatory changes in gene expression**

269 Evolved changes in gene expression are due to a combination of *cis* acting changes that are  
270 linked to the genes they act on, and *trans* acting changes which usually are genetically  
271 unlinked to the gene or genes they regulate. Since the genetic basis of freshwater tooth gain  
272 mapped to non-overlapping intervals in these two populations [30] (Cleves et al 2018 under  
273 review, see Supplemental Data File 2), we hypothesized that the observed shared freshwater  
274 gene expression changes were the result of a similar *trans* environment, but a largely different  
275 set of *cis* changes. To test this hypothesis, we measured evolved *cis* expression changes in  
276 marine-freshwater F1 hybrids, which have marine and freshwater alleles present in the same  
277 *trans* environment. We raised both creek-marine and benthic-marine F1 hybrids to the late  
278 juvenile stage, dissected their ventral pharyngeal tooth plates, then generated and sequenced  
279 five barcoded RNA-seq libraries per population (10 total). We then quantified the *cis*  
280 expression change as the ratio of the number of reads mapping uniquely to the freshwater  
281 allele of a gene to the number of uniquely mapping marine reads (Fig 3A, Table S9-11). *Trans*  
282 expression changes were calculated by factoring the *cis* change out from the overall parental  
283 expression change [19].

284 We found 11,832 and 8,990 genes in benthic and creek F1 hybrids, respectively, that  
285 had a fixed marine-freshwater sequence difference which had more than 20 total reads  
286 mapping to it. We observed no significant bias towards either the marine or freshwater allele  
287 in either set of F1 hybrids (Fig 3B). We next classified genes into one of four categories (*cis*  
288 change only, *trans* change only, concordant *cis* and *trans* changes, discordant *cis* and *trans*

289 changes). We found 1640 and 1116 benthic (Fig. 3C) and creek (Fig. 3D) genes, respectively,  
290 with only significant *cis* changes, and 1873 and 1048 genes, respectively, with only significant  
291 *trans* changes. We also found 478 and 359 genes with significant *cis* and *trans* changes in  
292 the same direction, which we term concordant changes in gene expression. Conversely, we  
293 found 772 and 607 genes with significant *cis* and *trans* changes in opposing directions, which  
294 we termed discordant changes. Thus, overall, *trans* regulatory changes are more common  
295 than *cis* changes in the evolution of dental tissue gene expression in both freshwater  
296 populations. Additionally, discordant *cis* and *trans* changes were more common in both  
297 populations, suggesting selection for stable levels of gene expression.

298

### 299 ***Trans* regulatory changes dominate**

300 We next wanted to determine the relative contribution of *cis* and *trans* gene expression  
301 changes to evolved changes in gene expression. We restricted our analysis to differentially  
302 expressed genes (as determined by cuffdiff2 [52]) to examine only genes with a significant  
303 evolved difference in gene expression and quantifiable (i.e. genes with transcripts containing  
304 a polymorphic variant covered by at least 20 reads) *cis* and *trans* expression changes. When  
305 evolving a change in gene expression, the *cis* and *trans* regulatory basis for this change can  
306 be concordant (*cis* and *trans* effects both increase or decrease expression) or discordant (*cis*  
307 effects increase and *trans* decrease or vice versa). We hypothesized that genes would tend to  
308 display more discordant expression changes, as stabilizing selection has been found to buffer  
309 gene expression levels [17,22,59]. To test this hypothesis, we binned genes into a 2x2  
310 contingency table, with genes classified as *cis* or *trans* based on which effect controlled the  
311 majority of the evolved expression change, and discordant or concordant based on the  
312 direction of the *cis* and *trans* changes (Fig 4A, B). In the creek population, significantly more

313 discordant changes than expected by a neutral model ( $P = 1.35e-7$ , binomial test) have  
314 evolved. In both populations, we found increased discordant changes when the *trans* effect is  
315 larger than the *cis* effect ( $P = 1.29e-7$ ,  $1.44e-13$ , benthic and creek respectively, binomial test).  
316 In both populations, we observe the opposite (an enrichment of concordant changes) when  
317 the *cis* effect is stronger, relative to the ratio when the *trans* effect is dominant ( $P = 1.34e-36$ ,  
318  $8.2e-11$  benthic and creek respectively, binomial test). When considering all (not just  
319 differentially expressed) genes with quantifiable *cis* and *trans* expression changes, discordant  
320 changes dominated regardless of the relative strength of the *cis* effect (Fig S6).

321 If all gene expression changes were due to changes only in *cis*, we would expect to  
322 see the measured *cis* ratios in the hybrids match the parental expression ratios. Instead, in  
323 both cases of evolved change, we saw parental expression ratios of a greater magnitude than  
324 F1 hybrid ratios, indicating a stronger contribution of *trans* changes to overall gene expression  
325 changes (Fig 3C-D). Indeed, when we examined the overall percentage of expression  
326 changes of differentially expressed genes that were due to changes in *cis*, we observed  
327 median per gene values of only 25.2% and 32.5% of benthic and creek gene expression  
328 changes, respectively (Fig 4C). Comparing the expression levels of orthologs of known  
329 dentally expressed genes from the Bitelt [47] and ToothCODE [36] databases revealed a  
330 similarly small number of gene expression changes explained by changes in *cis*, relative to  
331 the genome-wide average (Fig 4D). Evolved changes in creek gene expression were more  
332 due to changes in *cis* than benthic genes (Fig 4D,  $P = 1.25e-22$ , Mann-Whitney U test). Thus,  
333 *trans* effects on gene expression dominate the evolved freshwater gene expression changes.

334

335 ***Trans* regulatory changes are more likely to be shared between freshwater populations**

336 We next wanted to test the hypothesis that the shared freshwater gene expression changes

337 were primarily due to shared *trans* changes, rather than shared *cis* changes. We first  
338 compared the overall expression levels of genes called differentially expressed between  
339 benthic and marine as well as creek and marine. Similar to the genome-wide comparison, we  
340 found a highly significant non-parametric correlation coefficient (Spearman's  $r = 0.62$ ,  $P$   
341  $=1.2e-132$ ) for the expression change of these shared differentially expressed genes (Fig 5A).  
342 When comparing the benthic *cis* changes to the creek *cis* changes, however, we found a  
343 much lower (though still significant) correlation coefficient (Spearman's  $r = 0.13$ ,  $P = 5.1e-6$ )  
344 (Fig 5B). When comparing the calculated *trans* changes for these shared differentially  
345 expressed genes, we observed much higher correlation coefficient (Spearman's  $r = 0.51$ ,  $P$   
346  $=1.2e-80$ ) (Fig 5C). When comparing all, not just differentially expressed, genes, *trans*  
347 changes are still likely to be more shared than *cis* (Fig S7). Additionally, 35/38 of the shared  
348 differentially expressed putative dental genes have shared regulatory increases or decreases  
349 in both freshwater populations relative to marine in overall expression difference, with 32/38 in  
350 *trans*, but only 25/38 in *cis* (Fig 5D-I). Thus, the *trans* effects on evolved gene expression are  
351 more likely to be shared by both freshwater populations than the *cis* changes.

352

## 353 **Discussion**

354 We sought to test the relative contribution of *cis* and *trans* gene regulatory changes during  
355 convergent evolution of tooth gain, as well as to ask whether the same or different regulatory  
356 changes underlie evolved changes in gene expression during this case of convergent  
357 evolution. We quantified the overall regulatory divergence, as well as the specific contribution  
358 of *cis* and *trans* changes, between ancestral low-toothed marine and two different  
359 independently derived populations of high-toothed freshwater sticklebacks. Similar overall  
360 changes in gene expression have evolved in both freshwater populations, especially in

361 orthologs of known dental regulators in mammals. In this system, *trans*-regulatory changes  
362 play a larger role than *cis* changes in both populations. Furthermore, *trans* acting changes  
363 were much more likely to be shared between freshwater populations than *cis* changes,  
364 suggesting the two high-toothed populations evolved their similar gene expression patterns  
365 through independent genetic changes.

366

### 367 **Convergent evolution of dental gene expression**

368 Convergent evolution at the gene expression level occurs when similar gene expression  
369 levels evolve in different populations. Both the creek and benthic stickleback populations have  
370 adapted from an ancestral marine form to their current freshwater environments. The genomic  
371 nature of their derived changes appears largely divergent, with major axis of variation  
372 separating benthic genomes from the geographically proximal marine populations (LITC), as  
373 well as the more distant marine (RABS) and creek populations. However, when looking at the  
374 gene expression basis of their convergently evolved gain in tooth number, orthologs of genes  
375 implicated in mammalian dental development showed strong correlated freshwater gains in  
376 expression. This correlation suggests both that sticklebacks deploy conserved genetic circuits  
377 regulating tooth formation during tooth replacement, but also that both populations have  
378 convergently evolved changes to similar downstream transcriptional circuits resulting in a gain  
379 of tooth number.

380        Though both freshwater populations showed strongly correlated changes in evolved  
381 gene expression at the *trans* regulatory level, the *cis* changes were largely not shared across  
382 populations. This was especially true for putative dentally expressed genes with evolved  
383 expression changes – the vast majority of the *trans* but not *cis* expression changes were  
384 shared between both freshwater populations. This suggests that the similar freshwater gene



385 expression patterns evolved through independent genetic changes. It is possible that the  
386 small number of shared *cis* changes are sufficient to drive the observed changes to the  
387 overall *trans* regulatory environments. However previous work has shown that the genetic  
388 basis of tooth gain in these two populations is distinct [30] (Cleves et al 2018 under review,  
389 see Supplemental Data File 2), and it seems parsimonious that the genetic basis of a gain in  
390 dental gene expression is also mostly independent. Thus, convergent freshwater gene  
391 expression changes appear to be largely due to distinct, independent population-specific  
392 regulatory changes. This finding suggests that there are many regulatory alleles that are  
393 accessible during the evolution of an adaptive trait.

394

#### 395 ***Trans* effects dominate**

396 Other studies have used RNA-seq to compare the relative contribution of *cis* and *trans*-  
397 regulatory changes in the evolution of gene expression. In mice, evolved gene expression  
398 changes in the liver [18] and the retina [60] were driven primarily by *cis*-regulatory changes. In  
399 *Drosophila*, work on organismal-wide evolved gene expression changes on the genome-wide  
400 level has shown the opposite, with *trans*-regulatory effects playing a larger role in the  
401 evolution of gene expression [19,22]. Other studies have found *trans* effects contribute more  
402 to intraspecific comparisons, while *cis* effects contribute more to interspecific comparisons  
403 [61]. Consistent with this, we observe *trans* effects dominating in both of our intraspecific  
404 comparisons.

405 Another key distinction could be that *cis*-regulatory effects dominate when looking at  
406 more cellularly homogenous tissues, while *trans*-regulatory effects dominate when looking at  
407 more heterogeneous tissues. Stickleback tooth plates likely fall into an intermediate category,  
408 less heterogenous in cell type composition than a full adult fly or fly head, but more

409 heterogeneous than a specialized tissue such as the mouse retina. Overall, freshwater tooth  
410 plates are more morphologically similar to each other than marine, with freshwater tooth  
411 plates possessing a larger area, increased tooth number, and decreased intertooth spacing  
412 [30,41]. Freshwater tooth plates likely have more similar cell type abundances and  
413 compositions (e.g. more developing tooth germs with inner and outer dental epithelia, and  
414 odontogenic mesenchyme) compared to each other than to marine tooth plates. Similar cell  
415 types tend to have similar gene expression patterns, even when compared across different  
416 species [62]. Much of the shared freshwater increase in dental gene expression could be due  
417 to an increase in dental cell types in both freshwater populations. As other evolved changes  
418 to stickleback morphology have been shown to be due to *cis* regulatory changes to key  
419 developmental regulatory genes [8,33,41,63], this *trans* regulatory increase in cell type  
420 abundance could be due to a small number of *cis* regulatory changes. These initially evolved  
421 developmental regulatory changes could result in similar downstream changes in the  
422 developmental landscape, resulting in the shared increase in dental cell types. Consistent  
423 with this interpretation, stickleback orthologs of genes known to be expressed during  
424 mammalian tooth development were found here to have a much greater incidence of  
425 convergently evolved increase in *trans* regulatory gene expression.

426

#### 427 **Compensatory *cis* and *trans***

428 Previous studies [17,18] have shown compensatory *cis* and *trans* changes are essential for  
429 the evolution of gene expression. These findings are consistent with the idea that the main  
430 driving force in the evolution of gene expression is stabilizing selection [59] where  
431 compensatory changes to regulatory elements are selected for to maintain optimal gene  
432 expression levels. In both benthic and creek dental tissue, when considering all genes with a

433 quantifiable (i.e. polymorphic and covered by ~20 reads, see Methods) *cis* effects, discordant  
434 compensatory *cis* and *trans* changes were far more common than concordant ones. This  
435 trend could be driven by some initial selection on pleiotropic *trans* changes, followed by  
436 selection for compensatory *cis* changes to restore optimal gene expression levels [17,18,22].  
437 However, the *trans*, but not the *cis*, evolved changes in gene expression were highly shared  
438 among the two freshwater populations. Thus, collectively our data support a model where two  
439 independently derived populations have convergently evolved both similar genome-wide  
440 expression levels as well as ecologically relevant morphological changes through different  
441 genetic means.

442

#### 443 **Potential parallels between teeth and hair regeneration**

444 Creek and benthic sticklebacks have an increased rate of new tooth formation in adults  
445 relative to their marine ancestors [30]. In constantly replacing polyphyodonts, it has been  
446 proposed that teeth are replaced through a dental stem cell intermediate [37,38]. A strong  
447 candidate gene underlying a large effect benthic tooth quantitative trait locus (QTL) is the  
448 secreted ligand *Bone Morphogenetic Protein 6 (Bmp6)* [41] (Cleves et al 2018 under review,  
449 see Supplemental Data File 2), which is also a key regulator of stem cells in the mouse hair  
450 follicle [56]. Freshwater dental tissue displayed significantly increased expression of known  
451 signature genes of mouse hair follicle stem cells, perhaps reflecting more stem cell niches  
452 supporting the higher tooth numbers in freshwater fish. Genes upregulated in freshwater  
453 dental tissue also were significantly enriched for GO terms involved in the cell cycle and cell  
454 proliferation. Together these findings suggest that both freshwater populations have evolved  
455 an increased tooth replacement rate through an increased activity or abundance of their  
456 dental stem cells, and also suggest the genetic circuitry regulating mammalian hair and fish

457 tooth replacement might share an ancient, underlying core gene regulatory network.

458

## 459 **Materials and Methods**

460

### 461 **Stickleback husbandry**

462 Fish from all populations were raised in 110L aquaria in brackish water (3.5g/L Instant Ocean  
463 salt, 0.217mL/L 10% sodium bicarbonate) at 18°C in 8 hours of light per day. Young fry  
464 [standard length (SL) < 10 millimeters (mm)] were fed a diet of live *Artemia*, early juveniles  
465 (SL ~10 - 20 mm) a combination of live *Artemia* and frozen *Daphnia*, and older juveniles (SL >  
466 ~20 mm) and adults a combination of frozen bloodworms and *Mysis* shrimp. Experiments  
467 were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of the University of  
468 California-Berkeley (protocol # R330).

469

### 470 **Skeletal staining and imaging**

471 Sticklebacks were fixed in 10% neutral buffered formalin overnight at 4°C. Fish were washed  
472 once with water and then stained in 1% KOH, 0.008% Alizarin Red for 24 hours. Following a  
473 water rinse, fish were cleared in 0.25 % KOH, 50% glycerol for 2-3 weeks. Branchial  
474 skeletons were dissected as previously described [64]. Pharyngeal teeth were quantified with  
475 fluorescent illumination using a TX2 filter on a Leica DM2500 microscope. Representative  
476 tooth plates were created using montage z-stacks on a Leica M165 FC using the RhodB filter.  
477 Adult fish were imaged using a Canon Powershot S95. Some tooth count data from the  
478 CERC, RABS, and PAXB populations; n = 11, 13, 29, respectively, (see Table S1) have been  
479 previously published [30].

480

## 481 **DNA preparation and genome resequencing**

482 Caudal fin tissue was placed into 600µl tail digestion buffer [10mM Tris pH 8.0, 100mM NaCl,  
483 10mM EDTA, 0.05% SDS, 2.5µl ProK (Ambion AM2546)] for 12 hours at 55°C. Following  
484 addition of 600 µl of 1:1 phenol:chloroform solution and an aqueous extraction, DNA was  
485 precipitated with the addition of 1ml 100% ethanol, centrifuged, washed with 75% ethanol,  
486 and resuspended in water. 50ng of purified genomic DNA was used as input for the Nextera  
487 Library prep kit (Illumina FC-121-1031), and barcoded libraries were constructed following the  
488 manufacturer's instructions. Library quality was verified using an Agilent Bioanalyzer.  
489 Libraries were pooled and sequenced on an Illumina HiSeq 2000 (see Table S2 for details).

490

## 491 **RNA purification and creation of RNA-seq libraries**

492 Late juvenile stage female sticklebacks (SL ~40mm) were euthanized in 0.04% Tricaine.  
493 Dissected [64] bilateral ventral pharyngeal tooth plates were placed into 500µl TRI reagent,  
494 then incubated at room temperature for 5 minutes. Following addition of 100µl of chloroform,  
495 a further 10 minute incubation and centrifugation, the aqueous layer was extracted. Following  
496 addition of 250µl isopropyl alcohol and 10 minute incubation, RNA was precipitated by  
497 centrifugation, washed with 75% EtOH, and dissolved in 30ul of DEPC-treated water. RNA  
498 integrity was assayed by an Agilent Bioanalyzer. 500ng of RNA from each fish was used as  
499 input to the Illumina stranded TruSeq polyA RNA kit (Illumina RS-122-2001), and libraries  
500 were constructed following the manufacturer's instructions. Library quality was analyzed on  
501 an Agilent Bioanalyzer, and libraries were pooled and sequenced on an Illumina HiSeq2000  
502 (see Table S3).

503

## 504 **Gene expression quantification and analysis**

505 RNA-seq reads were mapped to the stickleback reference genome [31] using the STAR  
506 aligner [65] (version 2.3, parameters = --alignIntronMax 100000 --alignMatesGapMax 200000  
507 --outFilterMultimapNmax 20 --outFilterMismatchNmax 999 --outFilterMismatchNoverLmax  
508 0.04 --outFilterType BySJout), using ENSEMBL genes release 85 as a reference  
509 transcriptome. The resulting SAM files were sorted and indexed using Samtools version  
510 0.1.18 [66], PCR duplicates were removed, read groups added and mate pair information  
511 fixed using Picard tools (version 1.51) (<http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard/>) with default  
512 settings. Gene expression was quantified with the Cufflinks suite (v 2.2.1) [52–55] using  
513 ENSEMBL genes as a reference transcriptome, with gene expression quantified with  
514 cuffquant (-u --library-type fr-firststrand) and normalized with cuffnorm. Differentially  
515 expressed genes were found using cuffdiff2, with parameters (-u --FDR .1 --library-type fr-  
516 firststrand, using the reference genome for bias correction). Genes with a mean expression  
517 less than 0.1 FPKM were filtered from further analysis.

518

### 519 **Gene set and gene ontology enrichment**

520 The BiteCode gene set was generated by combining all genes in the Bitelt ([http://bite-  
521 it.helsinki.fi/](http://bite-it.helsinki.fi/)) or ToothCODE (<http://compbio.med.harvard.edu/ToothCODE/>) [36] databases.  
522 Stickleback orthologs or co-orthologs were found using the annotated names of ENSEMBL  
523 stickleback genes. Gene set expression change statistical enrichment was done as previously  
524 described [67]. Briefly, a t-test was performed for each gene to test for a difference in mean  
525 expression between the two treatments. The resulting t-values were subject to a 1-sample t-  
526 test, with the null model that the mean of the t-values was 0. Cutoffs were validated using  
527 10,000 bootstrapped replicate gene sets drawn from the same gene expression matrix.  
528 Stickleback orthologs of mouse or human genes were determined using annotated ENSEMBL

529 orthologs. Sorted lists of genes, ranked by  $\log_2$  expression change in benthic dental tissue  
530 relative to marine, creek relative to marine, or the mean of creek and benthic relative to  
531 marine, were generated using the measured gene expression data. Gene Ontology  
532 enrichment was done using Gorilla [68,69], and results were visualized using REVIGO [70].

533

### 534 **Detection of genomic and transcriptomic variants**

535 Genomic resequencing reads were aligned to the stickleback reference genome [31] using  
536 the bwa aln and bwa sampe modules of the Burrows-Wheeler Alignment tool (v 0.6.0-r85)  
537 [71]. Resulting SAM files were converted to BAM files, sorted and indexed by Samtools  
538 version 0.1.18 [66], with PCR duplicates removed by Picard tools. GATK's (v3.2-2)  
539 IndelRealigner (parameter: '-LOD 0.4'), BaseRecalibrator, and PrintReads were used on the  
540 resulting BAM files. BAM files from the above RNA-seq alignment were readied for genotype  
541 calling using GATK's SplitNCigarReads, BaseRecalibrator, and PrintReads. Finally, the  
542 UnifiedGenotyper was used to call variants from the RNA-seq and DNA-seq BAM files, with  
543 parameters (-stand\_call\_conf 30 -stand\_emit\_conf 30 -U ALLOW\_N\_CIGAR\_READS --  
544 genotype\_likelihoods\_model BOTH) [43,45].

545       Following final variant calling and detection, pseudo-transcriptomes were created for  
546 each F1 hybrid. The pseudo-transcriptomes consist of the predicted sequence for each allele  
547 within an F1 hybrid, with all predicted splicing variants of a gene collapsed to a single  
548 transcript. A variant was added to the pseudo-transcriptome if and only if it was homozygous  
549 in the sequenced parents (or parent's sibling in the case of the Alaskan marine parent of the  
550 Cerrito creek x Alaskan marine F1 hybrids) and called heterozygous in the F1 hybrid.

551

### 552 ***Cis* and *trans* regulatory divergence quantification**

553 RNA-seq reads from F1 hybrid sticklebacks were aligned to the individual's pseudo-  
554 transcriptome using STAR (v 2.3) with the parameters: --outFilterMultimapNmax 1 and --  
555 outFilterMultimapScoreRange 1. By only looking at uniquely aligning reads, we ensured we  
556 only considered reads which overlapped a heterozygous variant site. Counting these unique  
557 reads minimizes double counting a single read that supports two different variant positions.  
558 Total *cis* divergence in each F1 hybrid was quantified by comparing the number of reads  
559 mapping uniquely to each allele in the pseudo-transcriptome.

560       Following *cis* divergence quantification in all F1 hybrids, we considered the overall *cis*  
561 change in the different freshwater populations. Genes which only had 20 or fewer uniquely  
562 mapping reads across all replicates were filtered from further analysis. We excluded genes  
563 with more than a 32-fold change, as a manual inspection revealed these to be either  
564 genotyping errors or mitochondrial genes. Reported *cis* ratios were calculated by comparing  
565 the ratio of uniquely mapped freshwater reads to uniquely mapped marine reads. Evolved  
566 *trans* changes were quantified as the difference between the log of the overall gene  
567 expression change between the freshwater and marine parents and the log of measured *cis*  
568 freshwater expression change. Percent *cis* change was calculated as the absolute value of  
569 the log of the *cis* change divided by the sum of the absolute value of the log of the *cis* change  
570 and the absolute value of the log of the *trans* change. Statistical significance of *cis* changes  
571 was determined by a binomial test comparing overall reads mapping to the freshwater allele  
572 to a null model of no *cis* divergence, with a false discovery rate of 1% applied using the  
573 Benjamini-Hochberg method. Statistical significance of *trans* changes was determined by a  
574 G-test, comparing the expected (based on the measured *cis* change) and observed ratios of  
575 marine and freshwater, with a 1% false discovery rate.

576



577 **Data Availability**

578 All sequencing reads are available on the Sequence Read Archive (XXXXXX). All scripts  
579 used for analysis are available on GitHub (xxxxx).

580

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768  
769

770 **Fig 1. Evolved tooth gain in two freshwater populations.** (A) Stickleback population  
771 locations. (B) Representative Alizarin red stained adult lab-reared sticklebacks (top, scale  
772 bars = 1 cm) and dissected ventral pharyngeal tooth plates (scale bars = 100 $\mu$ m). (C) Total  
773 ventral pharyngeal tooth number of 35-50 millimeter standard length lab-reared adult fish from  
774 each population.

775

776 **Fig 2. Convergent evolution of gene expression in dental tissue.** (A) Ventral pharyngeal  
777 tooth plates from three different populations were dissected and gene expression quantified  
778 by RNA-seq. (B) Principal component analysis of dental tissue gene expression shows  
779 population specific expression profiles. (C) Freshwater dental tissue exhibited correlated gene  
780 expression changes for all genes (blue), with increased correlation observed for orthologs of  
781 genes known to be expressed during mammalian tooth development (red). (D) Expression of  
782 genes annotated as expressed in zebrafish teeth (zfin.org) which were significantly  
783 upregulated in one or both freshwater populations.

784

785 **Fig 3. Evolved changes in *cis*-regulation** (A) Ventral pharyngeal tooth plates from marine-  
786 creek and marine-benthic lake F1 hybrids were dissected and *cis* regulatory changes assayed  
787 using phased RNA-seq reads. (B) Density plot showing the measured *cis*-regulatory changes.  
788 Neither population displayed a significant allelic bias, as measured by a Wilcoxon signed-rank  
789 test. (C-D) Gene expression changes in both parental and hybrid dental tissue – genes are  
790 color-coded based on the role of *cis* and/or *trans* change in benthic (C) or creek (D) dental  
791 tissue. Dashed line indicates the first principal component axis.

792

793 **Fig 4. *Trans* changes predominate evolved dental gene expression changes.** (A-B)

794 Proportion of differentially expressed genes displaying opposing and concordant *cis* and *trans*  
795 changes in benthic (A) or creek (B) dental tissue. Genes whose expression differences were  
796 mostly explained by *cis* changes tended to be more concordant ( $P = 5.0e-17$ , 0.002 for benthic  
797 and creek, respectively) than those mostly explained by *trans* changes. (C) Density of the  
798 relative percentage of gene expression differences which are explained by *cis* changes in  
799 benthic and creek dental tissue. (D) Cumulative percentage of percentage of gene expression  
800 due to *cis* changes. Genes in creek samples display a higher percentage *cis* change than  
801 genes in benthic samples ( $P = 1.25e-22$ , Mann-Whitney U test).

802

803 **Fig 5. *Trans* changes are more likely to be shared across populations.** (A) Genes with  
804 significantly different evolved expression in both freshwater populations relative to marine  
805 fish, showing significantly correlated changes in gene expression in benthic and creek dental  
806 tissue. (B) Freshwater dental tissue had a significant but small number of shared *cis*-  
807 regulatory changes. (C) Freshwater dental tissue showed significantly correlated changes in  
808 *trans* expression changes. A-C show genes with significant expression changes between  
809 populations and quantifiable (i.e. genes with transcripts containing a polymorphic SNP  
810 covered by at least 20 reads) *cis*-regulatory changes in both populations. Density (color) was  
811 estimated with a Gaussian kernel density estimator. BiteCode genes (see Methods) are  
812 indicated with black stars. D-F Bar graphs show the number of genes with shared or divergent  
813 expression patterns from the above panels. G-I are similar to A-C, but show only genes in the  
814 BiteCode gene set.

815

816 **Fig S1. Independent freshwater evolutionary history.** (A) Genome-wide maximum-  
817 likelihood phylogeny created from genomic resequencing data. Wild-caught fish are non-



818 italicized. All nodes have 100% bootstrapping support. (B) Principal component analysis of  
819 genome-wide genotypes separates marine and creek populations from the benthic lake  
820 population, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> PC separating marine and freshwater populations.

821

822 **Fig S2. Freshwater upregulation of putative dental genes.** (A) Benthic upregulation of  
823 BiteCode genes ( $P = 9.8e-3$ , GSEA). (B) Creek upregulation of BiteCode genes ( $P = 2.1e-5$ ,  
824 GSEA). (C) Benthic and creek upregulation of BiteCode genes ( $P = 5.1e-6$ , GSEA).

825

826 **Fig S3. Concerted changes in stem cell markers and signaling pathways.** (A-F) Changes  
827 in gene expression changes of genes annotated as components of the indicated signaling  
828 pathways (BMP, FGF, SHH, WNT, ACT, TGFB, NOTCH, or EDA) [36] or orthologs of a  
829 described set of mouse hair follicle stem cell signature genes (HFSC) [56]. Violin plots show  
830 the mean expression change of genes in the pathway. (A) Change in freshwater (benthic +  
831 creek) relative to marine. (B) Benthic specific changes (benthic relative to creek + marine). (C)  
832 Creek specific changes (creek relative to benthic + marine). (D) Benthic evolved changes  
833 (benthic relative to marine) (E) Creek evolved changes (Creek relative to marine) (F) Benthic  
834 vs creek changes (benthic relative to creek).

835

836 **Fig S4. Gene ontology of freshwater upregulated genes.** (A-C) GO enrichment of genes  
837 upregulated in benthic (A), creek (B), or both (C). GO analysis was performed using Gorilla  
838 [68], with the results visualized with Revigo [70].

839

840 **Fig S5. Expression of taste bud marker genes.** Expression levels of known taste bud  
841 marker genes in marine, benthic and creek tooth plates as assayed by RNA-seq. \* indicates

842 differentially expressed genes. Error bars are standard error of the mean.

843

844 **Fig S6. Compensatory changes dominate genes with no significant evolved gene**

845 **expression difference.** (A-B) Proportion of genes with quantifiable (i.e. genes with

846 transcripts containing a polymorphic SNP covered by at least 20 reads) hybrid expression

847 displaying opposing and concordant *cis* and *trans* changes in benthic (A) or creek (B) dental

848 tissue. Similar to Fig. 5, but here showing all genes, not just genes with significantly different

849 expression levels compared to marine. *Trans* regulatory changes predominate, as do

850 opposing over concordant changes. (C) Density plot of the percentage of gene expression

851 changes explained by *cis*-regulatory changes.

852

853 **Fig S7. *Trans* changes are more likely to be shared across populations.** (A) Expression

854 changes of genes with quantifiable (i.e. genes with transcripts containing a polymorphic SNP

855 covered by at least 20 reads) hybrid expression in both freshwater populations relative to

856 marine fish, showing significantly correlated changes in gene expression in benthic and creek

857 tooth plates. (B) *cis* regulatory changes of genes with quantifiable hybrid expression

858 expression in freshwater dental tissue overall do not display correlated evolved changes. (C)

859 *trans* regulatory changes of genes with quantifiable hybrid expression in freshwater dental

860 tissue. Density (color) was estimated with a Gaussian kernel density estimator. (D-F) Bar

861 graphs show the number of genes with shared or divergent expression patterns from A-C. G-I

862 are similar to A-C, but show only genes in the BiteCode gene set, revealing that these

863 orthologs have evolved highly convergent changes in the two freshwater populations (G),

864 despite non-convergent *cis* regulatory changes (H).

865

866 **Table S1. Population ventral pharyngeal tooth counts**

867 For each fish, the population, ecotype (freshwater or marine), total ventral pharyngeal tooth  
868 number (TVTP), total length (TL), standard length (SL), and whether data has been published  
869 [30] is shown.

870

871 **Table S2. Genomic DNA sequencing reads**

872 For each fish, population and biological replicate number (Fish), the total number of barcoded  
873 reads from each fish (reads), and number of reads that mapped and passed all filters (final  
874 mapped) is listed.

875

876 **Table S3. RNA-seq reads**

877 For each fish, population of parents and biological replicate number (sample), standard length  
878 (SL), total reads (generated by HiSeq2000 over two different runs (run1 and run2)), mapped  
879 reads (reads that mapped to the genome), and final reads (excludes reads filtered due to low  
880 quality or PCR duplication) is listed.

881

882 **Table S4. Overall gene expression in tooth plate**

883 Estimated abundance in in fragments per kilobases per million reads (FPKM) of ENSEMBL  
884 genes (rows) in ventral pharyngeal dental tissue from three individual fish from three  
885 populations (in columns). Mean expression (in FPKM) is shown after the 3 replicates.  
886  $\log_2(\text{Pop1}/\text{Pop2})$  shows the fold-change in  $\log_2$  of the estimated mean expression between  
887 the two populations.  $\text{IsSig}(\text{Pop1}/\text{Pop2})$  indicates whether the difference was significant as  
888 reported by cuffdiff2.

889

890 **Table S5. BiteCode genes in sticklebacks**

891 A list of stickleback orthologs in the Bitelt [47] (<http://bite-it.helsinki.fi/>) or ToothCODE  
892 (<http://compbio.med.harvard.edu/ToothCODE/>) [36] databases.

893

894 **Table S6. GO process upregulated in freshwater**

895 Gene Ontology (GO) term category and name are given in GO term and description, with the  
896 p-value, q-value, and relative enrichment within genes upregulated in freshwater dental tissue  
897 reported by GOrilla [68].

898

899 **Table S7. GO process upregulated in benthic**

900 Gene Ontology (GO) term category and name are given in GO term and description, with the  
901 p-value, q-value, and relative enrichment within genes upregulated in benthic dental tissue  
902 reported by GOrilla [68].

903

904 **Table S8. GO process upregulated in creek**

905 Gene Ontology (GO) term category and name are given in GO term and description, with the  
906 p-value, q-value, and relative enrichment within genes upregulated in creek dental tissue  
907 reported by GOrilla [68].

908

909 **Table S9. F1 hybrid RNA-seq reads**

910 For each ventral pharyngeal tooth plate (VTP), population of parents and biological replicate  
911 number (sample), standard length (SL), total reads (generated by HiSeq2000), mapped reads  
912 (reads that mapped to the genome), final reads (excludes reads filtered due to low quality or  
913 PCR duplication), and unique reads (reads that mapped uniquely to one haplotype) is listed.

914

915 **Table S10. Benthic vs marine *cis* divergence**

916 Estimated gene expression change in *cis* in  $\log_2$ , benthic vs marine. Name is the reported

917 ENSEMBL gene name.  $\log_2(F/M)$  is the  $\log_2$  of the ratio of freshwater vs marine reads

918 mapping uniquely to the gene.

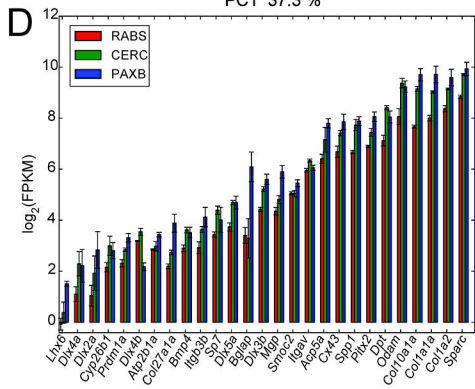
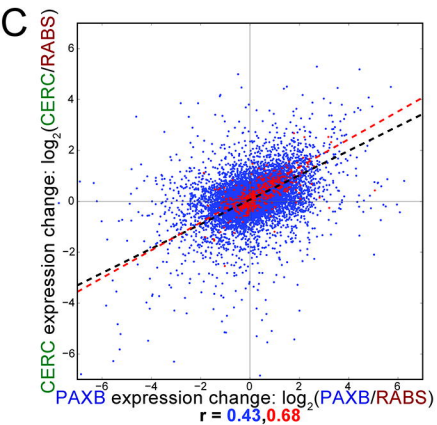
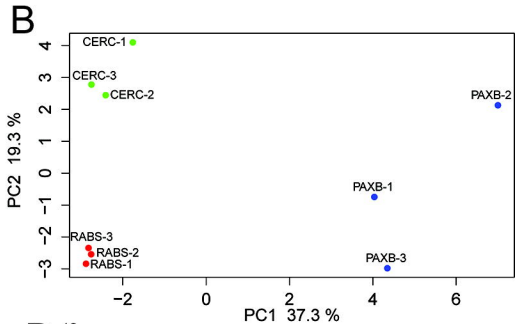
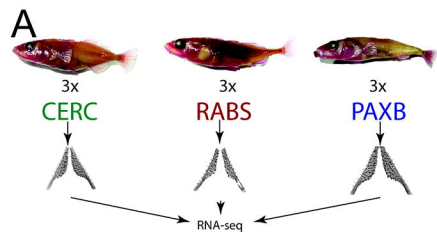
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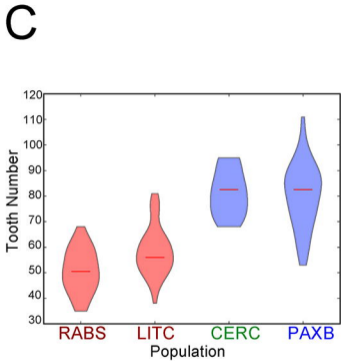
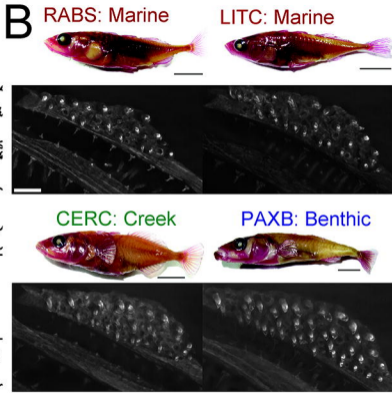
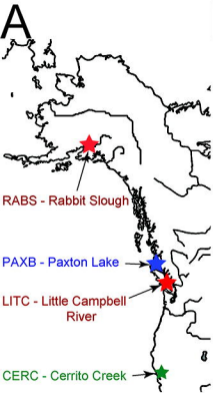
920 **Table S11. Creek vs marine *cis* divergence**

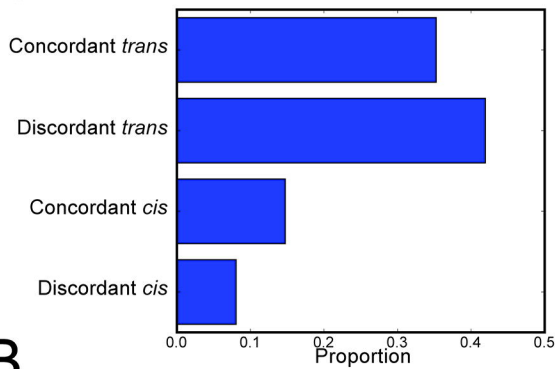
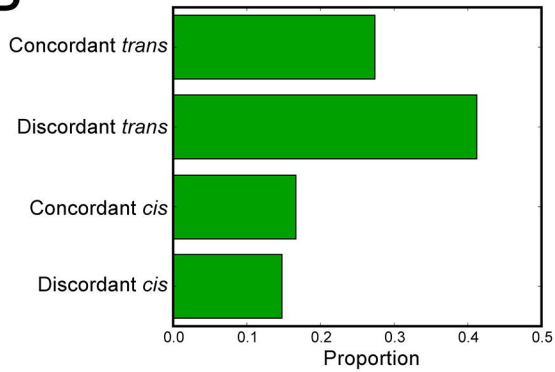
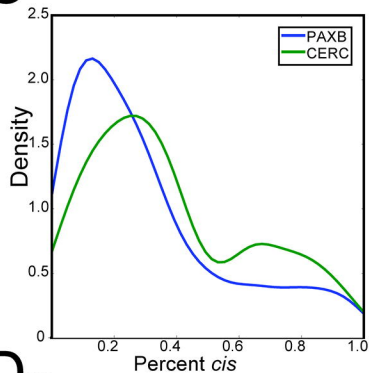
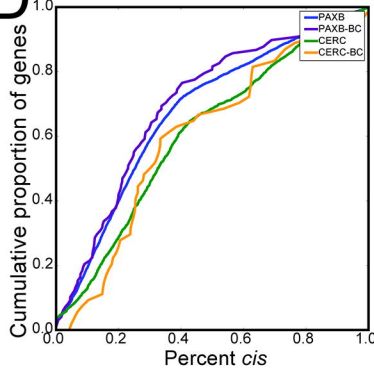
921 Estimated gene expression change in *cis* in  $\log_2$ , creek vs marine. Name is the reported

922 ENSEMBL gene name.  $\log_2(F/M)$  is the  $\log_2$  of the ratio of freshwater vs marine reads

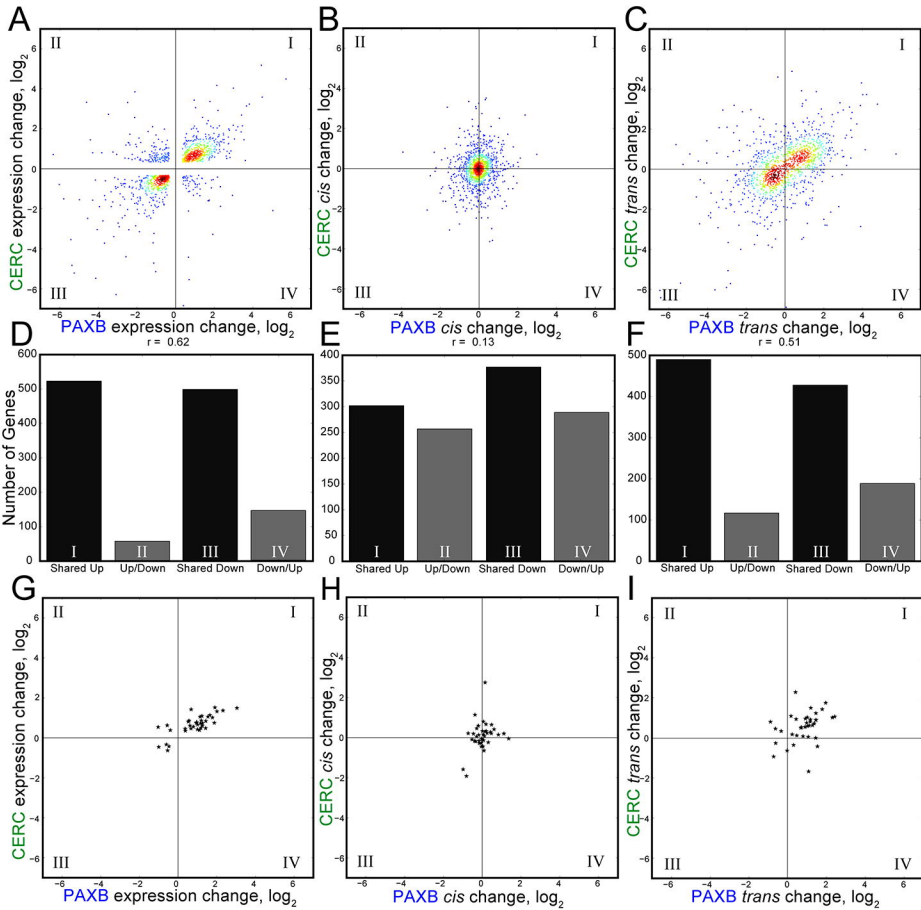
923 mapping uniquely to the gene.

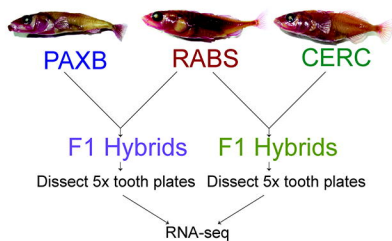
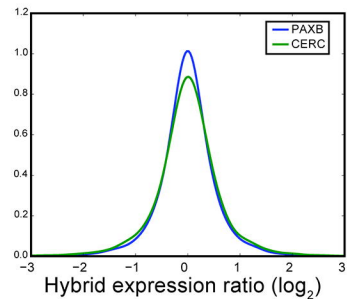




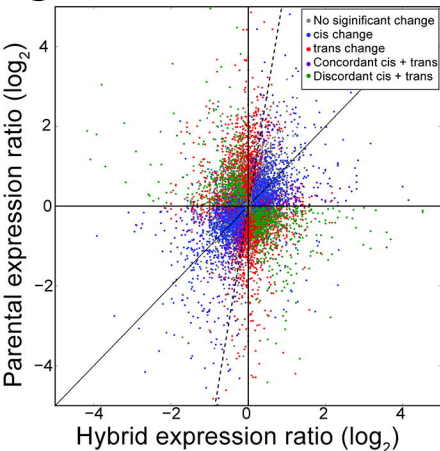
**A****B****C****D**





**A****B****C**

Evolved PAXB expression

**D**

Evolved CERC expression

