

1 The Limits to Parapatric Speciation II: Strengthening a
2 Preexisting Genetic Barrier to Gene Flow in Parapatry.

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9 **Abstract**

10 Parapatric speciation has recently received a lot of attention. By encompassing the
11 whole continuum between allopatric and sympatric scenarios, it includes many potential
12 scenarios for the evolution of new species. Building upon previous work, we investigate how
13 a genetic barrier to gene flow, that relies on a single postzygotic genetic incompatibility, may
14 further evolve. We consider a continent island model with three loci involved in pairwise
15 Dobzhansky-Muller incompatibilities (DMIs). Using a deterministic and analytic approach,
16 we derive the conditions for invasion of a new mutation and its consequences on an already
17 existing genetic barrier to gene flow. We focus on quantifying the impact of the epistasis
18 generated by the new mutation on the genetic barrier. We show that the accumulation
19 of genetic incompatibilities in the presence of gene flow is a complex process, where new
20 mutations can either strengthen or destroy a preexisting barrier. In particular, preexisting
21 polymorphism and incompatibilities do not always facilitate the growth of the genetic barrier
22 by accumulation of further barrier genes. Migration may disrupt the snowball effect (the
23 accelerating rate of DMI accumulation in allopatry) because incompatibilities are directly
24 tested by selection. Our results also show an ambiguous role of gene flow, which can either
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26 how the inclusion of gene flow renders the building of a genetic barrier difficult to analyze.

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44 Introduction

45

46 Under what conditions can geographically separated populations that are connected by mi-
47 gration build up a genetic barrier to gene flow? When and how can this barrier be strengthened
48 and eventually lead to speciation? Following the increasing awareness that gene flow and hy-
49 bridization between related (incipient) species is ubiquitous in both plants and animals (Mallet,
50 2005; Butlin et al., 2008), these long-standing questions of parapatric speciation research are
51 receiving renewed interest (Butlin et al., 2012; Bank et al., 2012; Flaxman et al., 2013, 2014;
52 Paixão et al., 2014; Seehausen et al., 2014; Barnard-Kubow et al., 2016; Kulmuni and Westram,
53 2017; Nosil et al., 2017; Yang et al., 2017). Answers to these questions strongly depend on the
54 speciation mechanism that is considered. On the one hand, there are scenarios of “adaptive
55 speciation” (Dieckmann, 2004; Weissing et al., 2011), where speciation (or the build-up of a ge-
56 netic barrier) is a direct target of selection. The genetic barrier in this case is usually prezygotic
57 and can result from the evolution of assortative mating. If speciation is driven by local com-
58 petition (as in the classical scenario of sympatric speciation, Dieckmann and Doebeli (1999)),
59 the probability or speed of speciation is unaffected by migration. Alternatively, if assortative
60 mating evolves as a response against mating with maladaptive immigrants, migration is driving
61 speciation in the first place (Servedio and Noor, 2003; Rettelbach et al., 2013). On the other
62 hand, other scenarios consider speciation as a non-selected by-product of neutral or adaptive
63 divergence. In particular, this is how reproductive isolation evolves in classical models of al-
64 lopatric speciation (Orr, 1995; Orr and Turelli, 2001; Coyne and Orr, 2004). In contrast to the
65 scenarios of adaptive speciation, in that case, migration is a potent force to prevent the build-up
66 of a genetic barrier. Given that models of adaptive speciation require specific assumptions about
67 the selection scheme and given the ubiquitous nature of gene flow, the question arises whether
68 and when speciation as a by-product can occur in a parapatric model.

69 Following previous work (Bank et al., 2012; Flaxman et al., 2013; Akerman and Bürger, 2014;
70 Aeschbacher and Bürger, 2014; Paixão et al., 2014; Fraïsse et al., 2014; Höllinger and Hermisson,
71 2017), we study the conditions for the emergence of a postzygotic barrier to gene flow between
72 parapatric populations. Two mechanisms can contribute to the build-up of such a barrier:
73 local adaptation and genetic incompatibilities (Schluter, 2009; Bank et al., 2012; Kulmuni and
74 Westram, 2017). Local adaptation and divergence driven by ecological differences among the
75 populations is arguably the easiest mechanism to create a barrier in the presence of gene flow

76 (Flaxman et al., 2013; Akerman and Bürger, 2014). Any new mutation with a local fitness
77 advantage larger than the migration rate can establish in the population. If this same mutation
78 is detrimental in the other environment, the adaptation remains local and contributes to a fitness
79 deficit of migrants. An increasing number of local adaptation genes along the chromosome can
80 strengthen the barrier and reduce the effective rates of gene flow among populations. Speciation
81 in the sense of full reproductive isolation corresponds to the limit where immigrants are “dead
82 on arrival”. However, hybridization remains possible whenever populations can overlap at all, in
83 any environment (or laboratory) where both are viable. This problem is avoided if the genetic
84 barrier is due to genetic incompatibilities and selection acts primarily on hybrids rather than
85 on (first generation) migrants. This is the insight of the Bateson-Dobzhansky-Muller model
86 (Bateson, 1909; Dobzhansky, 1936; Muller, 1942) that has since become the standard model to
87 explain speciation in an allopatric setting (Orr and Turelli, 2001; Coyne and Orr, 2004).

88 The two mechanisms, selection against migrants (i.e. local adaptation) and selection against
89 hybrids (Dobzhansky-Muller incompatibilities, DMIs) are non-exclusive (Kulmuni and Westram,
90 2017). In particular, whereas neutral DMIs cannot evolve in a parapatric setting (Gavrilets, 1997;
91 Bank et al., 2012), DMIs can still evolve and be maintained if at least one of the incompatible
92 alleles is also locally adaptive. Considering a continent-island scenario, Bank et al. (2012)
93 characterized the conditions under which a simple 2-locus DMI can originate and be maintained
94 in the face of gene flow – a very first step on the route to (potential) speciation. Here, we ask how
95 this process can continue. Under which conditions will further substitutions in either population
96 strengthen or weaken (or even destroy) an existing genetic barrier? It turns out that the answer
97 to this question is surprisingly complex, depending on patterns of epistasis and on the genetic
98 architecture and linkage pattern of the barrier genes involved. We discuss the potential of a new
99 mutation to strengthen a barrier and whether it is a step towards reproductive isolation. Lastly,
100 we characterize the genetic architecture that produced the strongest genetic barrier under gene
101 flow and relate these results to the recent discussion of so-called “islands of divergence” (Via
102 and West, 2008; Feder et al., 2012a).

103 Model

104 To study the accumulation of incompatibilities in the presence of gene flow, we use a
105 migration-selection model in continuous time with three loci. We consider two panmictic pop-
106 ulations, one on a continent and the other on an island, each of sufficient size such that we

107 can ignore the effects of genetic drift. There is unidirectional migration from the continental
 108 population to the island population at rate m . Selection acts on three loci, **A**, **B**, and **C**, with
 109 two alleles each (**A/a**, **B/b**, **C/c**). Lower case letters indicate the ancestral state, upper case
 110 letters are derived alleles. We study both haploid and diploid populations. We always assume
 111 that the continent is fixed for a unique genotype; substitutions on the continent can occur,
 112 but they are instantaneous and do not lead to a persistent polymorphism. We focus on the
 113 migration-selection dynamics on the island, where all three loci can be polymorphic.

114 Haploid model

115 There are $2^3 = 8$ different haplotypes with frequencies x_1, x_2, \dots, x_8 . In particular, x_1 is
 116 the frequency of the ancestral genotype **abc**, with Malthusian (or log-) fitness normalized to
 117 0. We have three parameters for single-locus fitness effects, α , β , and γ . Three parameters
 118 ϵ_{AB} , ϵ_{BC} , and ϵ_{AC} , parametrize potential pairwise epistasis between derived alleles, see table 1.
 119 Restrictions on epistasis values are detailed below.

Hap.	abc	Abc	aBc	abC	ABc	AbC	aBC	ABC
x_i	x_1	x_2	x_3	x_4	x_5	x_6	x_7	x_8
w_i	0	α	β	γ	$\alpha + \beta$ $+ \epsilon_{AB}$	$\alpha + \gamma$ $+ \epsilon_{AC}$	$\beta + \gamma$ $+ \epsilon_{BC}$	$\alpha + \beta + \gamma$ $+ \epsilon_{AB} + \epsilon_{BC} + \epsilon_{AC}$

Table 1: **Frequencies x_i and fitness values w_i of the different haplotypes for haploid populations. We always assume $\alpha > 0$ and $\epsilon_{AB} < 0$.**

120 In the following, we assume that each locus has a specific role. In particular, we assume
 121 that allele **A** is always an island adaptation (allele **A** appears on the island). As a consequence,
 122 α is always strictly positive. In contrast, allele **B** is always a continental adaptation (allele
 123 **B** appears on the continent). There is no constraint on its selective advantage, β , on the
 124 island: both negative and positive values are investigated. We always assume that **A** and **B** are
 125 incompatible, *i.e.* $\epsilon_{AB} < 0$. While loci **A** and **B** form the nucleus of a genetic barrier that exists
 126 initially, any further extension of this barrier occurs on the **C** locus. At this locus, the new allele
 127 **C** can appear either on the island or on the continent. There is no constraint on its selective
 128 advantage, γ . **C** can interact positively or negatively with the other derived alleles. To keep
 129 our model tractable, we only allow for epistasis between island and continental adaptations. In
 130 other words, if **C** appears on the island, it only interacts with the continental adaptation **B**
 131 ($\epsilon_{AC} = 0$). Similarly, if **C** appears on the continent, epistasis only occurs between **A** and **C**

132 ($\epsilon_{BC} = 0$). This excludes schemes of complex epistasis with interactions among all three locus
133 pairs, or higher-order interactions.

134 Note that our choice for the role of loci **A**, **B**, and **C** is made to reduce the parameter space.
135 Alternative scenarios can be easily deduced through reparametrization of the system, given in
136 table A3 in the SI. Since the model is defined in continuous time, all parameters for selection or
137 migration are rates. For the derivation of equilibria, only relative rates matter. In particular,
138 we can scale all parameters by the selection coefficient α of the **A** allele (which is always > 0).

139 The three loci **A**, **B** and **C** can be located in any order along the genome. The full system
140 with arbitrary linkage, given in equation (A2) is not tractable analytically. In our analysis, we
141 therefore focus on limiting cases with pairs of loci either in tight linkage (recombination rate
142 $r \rightarrow 0$) or in loose linkage. In our model, we implement loose linkage as the limit $r \rightarrow \infty$, which
143 implies that the corresponding loci are always in linkage equilibrium. We relax this assumption
144 in the SI, Fig. C24,C25, where we discuss numerical results for the dynamics with intermedi-
145 ate recombination. The linkage equilibrium approximation holds as soon as recombination is
146 stronger than the other evolutionary forces (selection and migration). This gives rise to five
147 different linkage architectures: **ABC**, **AB-C**, **A-BC**, **AC-B**, **A-B-C**, where “-” denotes loose linkage
148 and its absence tight linkage. We investigate these architectures both for **C** appearing on the
149 island or on the continent respectively, leading to 10 different cases.

150 The dynamical equations for the allele frequencies on the island (p_A, p_B, p_C for allele **A**, **B**,
151 **C**, resp.) for all cases are derived in the SI, equations (A6)-(A8). For example, we obtain for
152 loose linkage (**A-B-C**),

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{p}_A &= p_A \left((1 - p_A)(\alpha + p_B \epsilon_{AB} + p_C \epsilon_{AC}) - m \right) \\ \dot{p}_B &= p_B \left((1 - p_B)(\beta + p_A \epsilon_{AB} + p_C \epsilon_{BC}) - m \right) + m \\ \dot{p}_C &= p_C \left((1 - p_C)(\gamma + p_A \epsilon_{AC} + p_B \epsilon_{BC}) - m \right) + m_C \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

153 where $m_C = m$ or $m_C = 0$, depending on whether **C** appears on the continent or on the
154 island.

155 Diploid model

156 We define the fitness scheme for diploids as follows: single-locus effects (*i.e.* α, β, γ) are
157 purely additive. There is thus no dominance at this level. Dominance is, however, included for
158 epistasis. Following previous work (Turelli and Orr, 2000; Bank et al., 2012), we assume that

159 the strength of epistasis depends only on the number of incompatible pairs in a genotype, e.g.
 160 **AB/Ab** generates the same epistasis as **AB/aB**.

	A bc	a B c	A B c		A bc	a B c	A B c
A bc	2α	$\alpha + \beta + \frac{\epsilon_{AB}}{2}$	$2\alpha + \beta + \epsilon_{AB}$	A bc	2α	$\alpha + \beta$	$2\alpha + \beta + \epsilon_{AB}$
a B c		2β	$\alpha + 2\beta + \epsilon_{AB}$	a B c		2β	$\alpha + 2\beta + \epsilon_{AB}$
A B c			$2\alpha + 2\beta + 2\epsilon_{AB}$	A B c			$2\alpha + 2\beta + 2\epsilon_{AB}$

Table 2: Section of the fitness table specifying the interactions between the **A** and **B** alleles in the background of allele **c** for codominant (left) and recessive (right) epistasis. Interactions between **A** and **C** as well as **B** and **C** are analogous (the complete table is available in the SI, table A2).

161 We investigate two cases of dominance of the epistatic interaction: recessive and codominant
 162 epistasis (see table 2). Assuming Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium on the island, the dynamical
 163 system for diploids coincides with the haploid equation (given in equation (A2)) if we replace
 164 the fitness of all haplotypes by the corresponding marginal fitness ($\bar{w}_i = \sum_{j=1}^8 x_{ij}w_{ij}$). In the
 165 case of the codominant model, the diploid dynamics reduce to the dynamics of the haploid model
 166 if all interacting loci are in loose linkage, (~~**A-B-C**~~ as well as ~~**AC-B**~~ if **C** appears on the island,
 167 and ~~**A-BC**~~ if **C** appears on the continent). The different systems of equations are available in
 168 the SI, (see equations (A11)-(A15)).

169 Strength of the genetic barrier

170 There are multiple measures for the strength of a genetic barrier between two divergent
 171 populations that are connected by gene flow. For example, the gene-flow factor (or the effective
 172 migration rate) due to Barton and Bengtsson (1986) measures the reduced probability of neutral
 173 alleles that are linked to barrier genes to cross this barrier and establish in the recipient popu-
 174 lation. Here we consider the fate of barrier genes themselves. In particular, we are interested
 175 in the maximum rate of gene flow under which a barrier (with given selection parameters) can
 176 be built and also in the maximum rate of gene flow under which such a barrier can persist if it
 177 exists initially.

178 Specifically, we define the barrier strength m_{max}^X for a given set of barrier loci as the maximal
 179 migration rate under which a set **X** of alleles at these loci can still be maintained on the island.
 180 Here, **X** denotes the barrier alleles that are not present on the continent, but are maintained on
 181 the island as long as migration is below the threshold ($m < m_{max}^X$). For example, for a single-
 182 locus barrier with the **A** allele on the island, we have **X** = **A** and the strength of the genetic

183 barrier is given by m_{max}^A . For $m < m_{max}^A$, the **A** locus is polymorphic on the island, for $m >$
184 m_{max}^A , the **A** allele is swamped and the locus is fixed for the continental **a** allele. Analogously,
185 the strength of a genetic barrier with three polymorphic loci and island alleles **A**, **b**, and **C**
186 (say) is denoted as m_{max}^{AbC} . The two-locus barrier m_{max}^+ from Bank et al. (2012) corresponds to
187 m_{max}^{Ab} with this notation.

188 Below, we consider how the strength of an existing genetic barrier changes under further
189 evolution. We then denote the original barrier strength, which serves as the reference point,
190 as $m_{max,0}^X$ (e.g., $m_{max,0}^{Ab}$ is the initial strength of an **AB** barrier with the third locus **C** fixed for
191 its ancestral allele **c**). While $m < m_{max}^X$ guarantees that an existing DMI is not swamped, the
192 origin of the DMI may require a favorable evolutionary history (mutation order) or an initial
193 allopatric phase, (Bank et al., 2012).

194 Results

195 Adaptation at existing barrier loci

196 In the first part of the results section, we study the case where further adaptation happens
197 directly at an already existing barrier locus (i.e., at a locus **C** in tight linkage to such a locus).
198 In particular, we compare the simple case of further adaptation at a single barrier locus with
199 the more complex scenario where adaptation happens at a barrier locus that is involved in a
200 2-locus incompatibility.

201 **Further adaptation at a single-locus barrier** Assume that, initially, **A** is the only poly-
202 morphic locus. The initial barrier strength is α and results entirely from local adaptation
203 ($m_{max,0}^A = \alpha$). A new mutation occurs at a tightly linked locus, **C**. This scenario is equivalent
204 to adaptation at a single compound locus **AC** with alleles **Ac** and **ac** and mutation generating
205 new alleles **AC** with fitness $\alpha + \gamma$ and **aC** with fitness γ . At most two alleles can be maintained
206 on the island (Nagylaki and Lou, 2001): the continental allele and the allele with the highest
207 fitness on the island. Thus, any new adaptation on the island that produces a better allele than
208 **Ac** will replace this allele (eg., the **AC** allele for $\gamma > 0$). While any successful adaptation on the
209 island increases the barrier strength ($m_{max}^{AC} = \alpha + \gamma$), adaptation on the continent can lead to a
210 stronger or weaker barrier ($m_{max}^A = \alpha - \gamma$), depending on whether γ is positive or negative. In
211 particular, $m_{max}^A \leq 0$ means that no polymorphism can be maintained. However, if there is a
212 small but non-zero recombination probability among **A** and **C**, any adaptation on the continent

213 will eventually also enter the island background. We then have two new alleles **AC** and **aC**
 214 replacing the old ones (**Ac** and **ac**) and the barrier strength $m_{max}^A = \alpha$ remains unchanged as
 215 long as there is no epistasis among **A** and **C**.

216 We thus see that further adaptation at a single polymorphic locus will usually strengthen
 217 the genetic barrier, rather than weaken it. In particular, this holds for any further adaptation
 218 on the island. The only exception is adaptation on the continent that is also beneficial on the
 219 island and cannot be combined with an existing island adaptation (i.e. the combined allele **AC**
 220 is not possible or deleterious). A 3-locus architecture **ABC** with tight linkage among all three
 221 loci leads to an analogous single-locus problem (after appropriate relabeling of parameters).

222 Note that the genetic barrier formed by a single locus relies exclusively on local adaptation:
 223 any isolation observed is due to the impossibility of coexisting in a common environment and
 224 not due to a genetic mechanism. This is different for barriers with multiple interacting loci,
 225 which is our focus in the remainder of the manuscript.

226 **Further adaptation at a two-locus barrier** Assume now that we start with a 2-locus
 227 polymorphism at two incompatible loci **A** and **B** (a 2-locus DMI) in loose linkage. The continental
 228 haplotype is **aB**, and **Ab** is the fittest haplotype on the island. A new mutation appears on the
 229 island at a locus **C** in tight linkage with **A**. As discussed in the previous section, this generates
 230 a compound locus **AC**. The new mutation generates a third allele at this compound locus (e.g.
 231 **AC**), which we will call the **A'** allele in the following. We denote the fitness advantage of the
 232 new allele **A'** as α' and its epistatic interaction with the **B** allele at the **B** locus as $\epsilon_{A'B}$. This
 233 leads to the dynamics of a triallelic locus (with alleles **a**, **A** and **A'**) that interacts with a loosely
 234 linked biallelic locus in the genomic background (alleles **b** and **B**):

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{p}_A &= p_A ((1 - p_A)(\alpha + p_B \epsilon_{AB}) - p_{A'}(\alpha' + p_B \epsilon_{A'B}) - m) \\ \dot{p}_{A'} &= p_{A'} ((1 - p_{A'}) (\alpha' + p_B \epsilon_{A'B}) - p_A(\alpha + p_B \epsilon_{AB}) - m) \\ \dot{p}_B &= (1 - p_B) (p_B(\beta + p_A \epsilon_{AB} + p_{A'} \epsilon_{A'B}) + m) \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

235 (For tight linkage, we can assume that a fourth allele **A''** (e.g. **A''**= **aC**) will only originate
 236 by mutation or rare recombination after one of the alleles **a**, **A**, and **A'** is lost. This leads again
 237 to the three-allele dynamics described by Eq. (2). Results for the four-allele dynamics are given
 238 in the SI, section C 2.4)

239 The dynamical system, given in equation (2) allows up to 9 equilibria, up to 3 of which
 240 can be simultaneously stable. In the SI, section B 2, we show that alleles **A** and **A'** can never

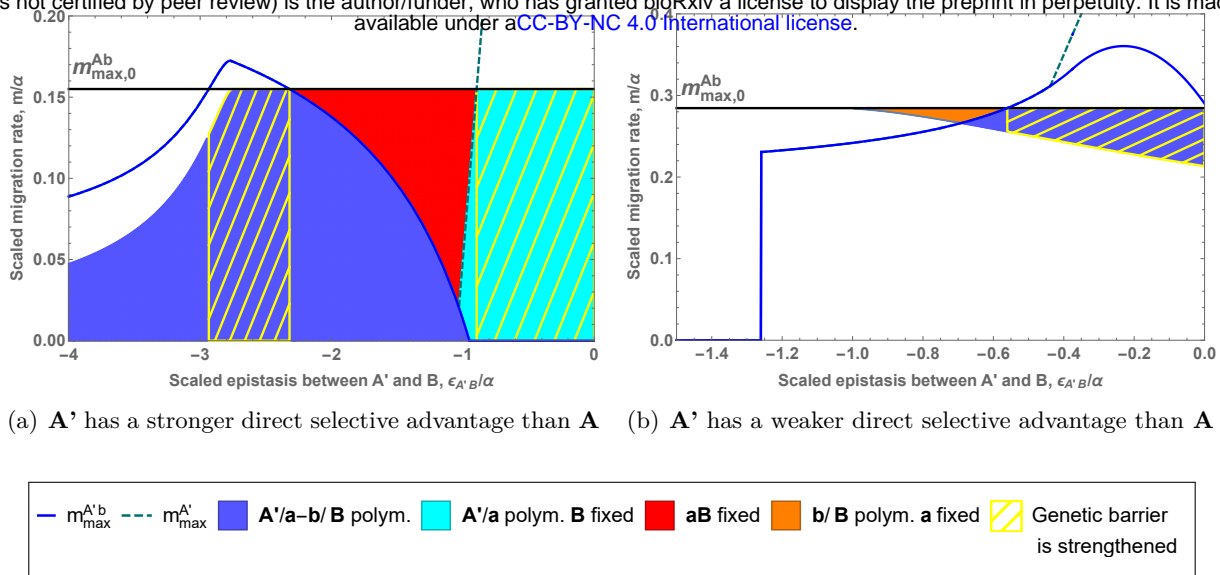


Figure 1: **The impact of the invasion of a new allele A' at locus A on an existing 2-locus barrier (loci A , B in loose linkage).**

We show the strength of a genetic barrier to swamping for a new allele A' as a function of its (scaled) epistatic coefficient. The strength of the original genetic barrier is indicated by the black line. In both examples, we have $m_{max,0}^{Ab} = m_{max,0}^A$. Invasion of allele A' can only happen in a finite interval for m , (equation (B7) for explicit expressions), corresponding to the colored area. There are four possible outcomes to the successful invasion of the A' allele, denoted by the background color: A' replaces A and b remains present (in blue), A' replaces A but allele B fixes (in cyan), the polymorphism at locus A is lost (orange) and the continental haplotype fixes (red). If A' successfully replaces A , the new 2-locus barrier strength, $m_{max}^{A'b}$, is given by the blue line. The dashed cyan line shows the strength of the new single-locus barrier, $m_{max}^{A'}$, whenever the B locus is swamped and $m_{max}^{A'} > m_{max}^{A'b}$. The yellow hatched area indicates that the genetic barrier at the A locus is strengthened by the invasion of allele A' . Panel a) is obtained for $\frac{\beta}{\alpha} = 0.95$, $\frac{\alpha'}{\alpha} = 1.05$ and $\frac{\epsilon_{AB}}{\alpha} = -2.5$ and panel b) for $\frac{\beta}{\alpha} = -0.28$, $\frac{\alpha'}{\alpha} = 0.75$ and $\frac{\epsilon_{AB}}{\alpha} = -2.1$.

241 coexist at a stable equilibrium (extending the single-locus result of Nagylaki and Lou (2001)).
 242 Nevertheless, interaction of A with an unlinked locus B considerably adds to the complexity and
 243 can lead to qualitatively different results.

244 Whereas A and A' can not coexist, allele A' can still invade the equilibrium formed by
 245 the DMI between loci A and B . In contrast to the single-locus case, the potential for A' to
 246 invade does no longer depend only on the fitness values, but also on the strength of migration
 247 (analytical expressions of the bounds are given in equation B7). In Fig. 1, invasion of A' is
 248 possible in all colored regions. Fig. 1(a) shows invasion of an allele A' with larger direct effect
 249 $\alpha' > \alpha$. If negative epistasis is less severe for A' than for A ($\epsilon_{AB} < \epsilon_{A'B} < 0$), A' will always
 250 invade (i.e. up to the maximal migration rate, $m_{max,0}^{Ab}$, of the original two-locus polymorphism).
 251 However, for strong negative epistasis of the new allele ($\epsilon_{A'B} < \epsilon_{AB} < 0$) invasion of A' is only
 252 possible for weak migration $m \ll m_{max,0}^{Ab}$ and a sufficiently low frequency of the competing B
 253 allele on the island. Fig. 1(b) shows that the A' allele can also invade if its direct effect is

254 weaker ($\alpha' < \alpha$), provided negative epistasis is also weaker ($\epsilon_{AB} < \epsilon_{A'B} < 0$). This requires
255 that migration is sufficiently strong, because the marginal fitness of **A'** becomes larger than the
256 marginal fitness of **A** only for a sufficiently large frequency of **B** alleles.

257 Successful invasion of **A'** can have qualitatively different outcomes, indicated by the different
258 colors in Fig. 1. In many cases, an invading **A'** allele displaces the old **A** allele and the system
259 settles at a new equilibrium with an **a/A'** polymorphism. The new equilibrium can either be a
260 two-locus polymorphism (blue areas in Fig. 1) or a single-locus polymorphism with the **B** locus
261 fixed for the **B** allele (cyan area). In both cases, the strength of the genetic barrier with respect
262 to swamping can either increase (blue or cyan line above the black line) or decrease (blue or
263 cyan line below the black line). Parameter ranges where invasion leads to a stronger genetic
264 barrier, $m_{max}^{A'b} > m_{max,0}^{Ab}$, or $m_{max}^{A'} > m_{max,0}^A$, are indicated by yellow hatches.

265 Strengthening of the 2-locus barrier (blue area with yellow hatches in Fig. 1) can be due
266 to two mechanisms. First, selection against migrants can be stronger due to additional local
267 adaptation ($\alpha' > \alpha$) and therefore leads to a larger fitness deficit ($\alpha' - \beta$) for the continental
268 haplotype on the island. This is the same mechanism as for the single-locus case. The genetic
269 barrier is strengthened as long as epistasis, $\epsilon_{A'B}$, does not deviate too much from the epistasis
270 generated by the previous allele, ϵ_{AB} (Fig. 1(a), blue line above the black line). Indeed, if
271 epistasis is too weak, the boost provided by the increased selection against migrants is negated
272 by the weakening of selection against hybrids (since $\beta > 0$). If epistasis is too strong, on the
273 other hand, the marginal fitness of allele **A'** is decreased due to the increased cost of hybrids.
274 Allele **A** can invade such an equilibrium as soon as migration increases and **A'** cannot strengthen
275 the genetic barrier (see also section B 6 in SI).

276 The alternative mechanism corresponds to the reduction of selection against hybrids, Fig. 1(b).
277 It works only if the continental **B** allele is deleterious on the island. Indeed, in this scenario,
278 selection against hybrids does not contribute to the genetic barrier, as **B** is already maladaptive
279 on the island. Nevertheless, epistasis still generates a cost for the island adaptation through the
280 production of hybrids. Therefore, releasing the selective pressure on locus **A** due to the hybrid
281 cost ($\epsilon_{AB} \ll \epsilon_{A'B}$) can strengthen the genetic barrier, even if this relief is associated with a
282 reduction of the direct selective advantage of the island adaptation ($\alpha' < \alpha$). The reduction of
283 the selection against migrants is here compensated by the much lower hybrid cost paid by allele
284 **A'** relative to allele **A**.

285 In contrast to the single-locus case, invasion of **A'** does not imply that this allele is maintained
286 in the population. Indeed, we find significant parameter regions, where the following scenario

287 happens. First, allele **A'** invades the island population (at its initial equilibrium with two-locus
288 polymorphism), leading to the loss of the **A** allele. In the absence of allele **A**, allele **B** is no longer
289 repressed and increases in frequency, making it impossible for allele **A'** to maintain itself in the
290 population. Consequently, the continental **a** allele swamps the island and the polymorphism at
291 the **A** locus is lost altogether (red and orange areas in Fig. 1). Again, the polymorphism at the **B**
292 locus can either be maintained (orange area, Figure 1(b)) or destroyed (red, Fig. 1(a)). Clearly,
293 a necessary condition for such behavior is that the original 2-locus polymorphism is not globally
294 stable in the original **a/A**, **b/B** state space, but bistable together with an equilibrium with
295 the **a** allele fixed. Numerical evidence strongly suggests that the fate of an invading **A'** allele
296 depends on the existence of a stable **a/A'** polymorphism in the state space spanned by **a/A'**,
297 **b/B**. If it does, the **A'** allele will eventually establish (as discussed above), if it does not, the **a**
298 allele will take over. (We did not find a case where the **A** allele would return and displace **A'**
299 once the latter has been able to invade; see also section B 3 in SI, for a more detailed discussion
300 and some proofs for specific cases).

301 A new allele **A'** can thus function as a temporary state that enables switching among different
302 equilibria of the original 2-locus 2-allele system. In the examples discussed above, temporary
303 invasion of **A'** will destroy a DMI polymorphism in this case. However, we also observe the
304 opposite phenomenon: invasion of **A'** may create an **a/A-b/B** polymorphism rather than de-
305 stroying it. This is illustrated in Fig. 2. Bank et al. (2012) described the origin of such a DMI as
306 a result of secondary contact (or a similar starting condition). Here, we provide an alternative
307 explanation that does not require an interruption of gene flow.

308 We can compare the consequences of further adaptation on the island at an existing genetic
309 barrier in the two cases discussed so far: a single polymorphic locus **A** and a polymorphic locus
310 **A** that interacts with a second polymorphic locus **B**. There are two notable differences:

- 311 • While further adaptation on the island always leads to a stronger barrier in the single-locus
312 case, this is not the case for a 2-locus barrier. Furthermore, invasion of a new allele no
313 longer even guarantees establishment of this allele. On the contrary, we see that such an
314 event can erase the existing barrier entirely.
- 315 • The potential to strengthen the genetic barrier does not only depend on the fitness land-
316 scape, but also on the migration rate. Suppose that an allele **A'** exists that leads to a
317 stronger barrier than **A** – if it invades. Fig. 1 shows that invasion may either require
318 sufficiently weak (Fig. 1(a)), or sufficiently strong migration (Fig. 1(b)). The latter sce-

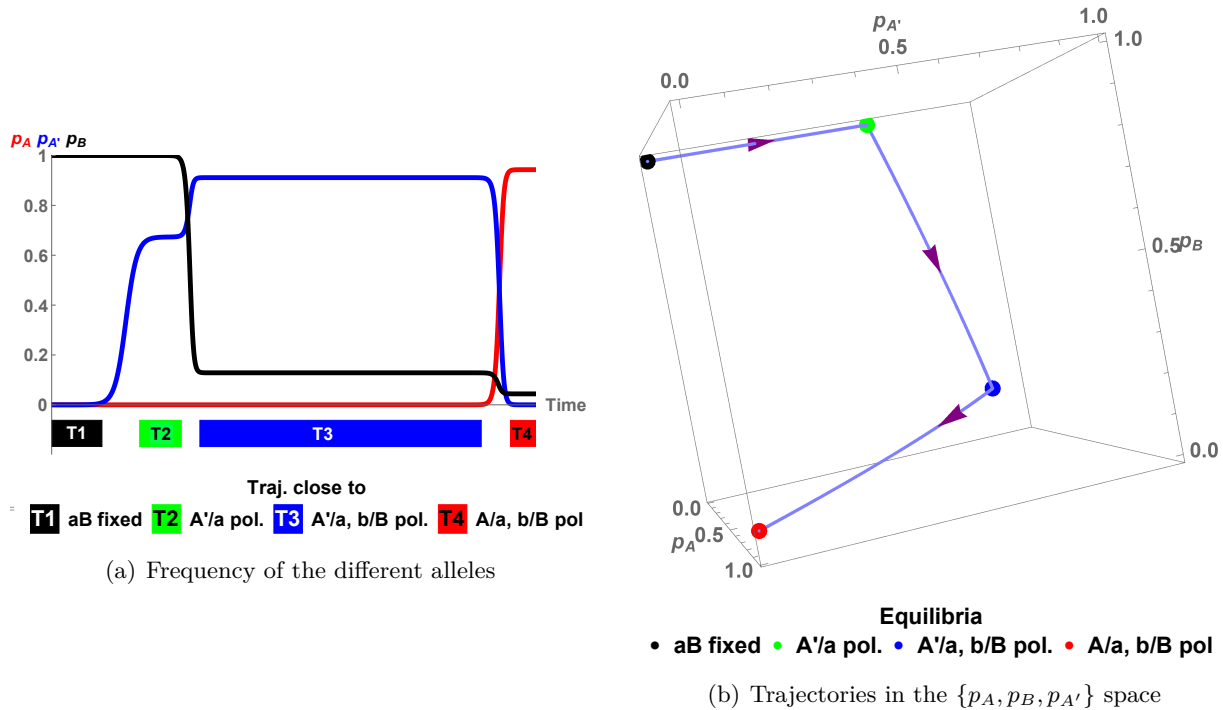


Figure 2: Evolutionary trajectory with A' as transient state.

a) Frequency of derived alleles B (black), A (red), and A' (blue) as a function of time. At $t=0$, the population is almost monomorphic, for the continental haplotype aB , with both the allele A and A' present at an extremely low frequency ($\approx 10^{-6}$). Colored blocks T1-T4 indicate when the population is close to an equilibrium, with the color matching the corresponding equilibrium. b) We represent the same trajectory in the $\{p_A, p_B, p_{A'}\}$ space. Dots indicate equilibria, as indicated. Arrows indicate the evolutionary trajectory. Parameters used are: $\frac{\beta}{\alpha} = \frac{13}{300}$, $\frac{\alpha'}{\alpha} = \frac{2}{3}$, $\frac{\epsilon_{AB}}{\alpha} = -\frac{4}{3}$, $\frac{\epsilon_{A'B}}{\alpha} = -\frac{151}{300}$, $\frac{m}{\alpha} = \frac{4}{75}$. One can observe a similar behavior with locus B starting polymorphic and allele B deleterious on the island, see Fig. B2.

319 nario leads to the interesting observation that stronger gene flow can sometimes trigger
320 the evolution of stronger barriers to gene flow (in Fig. 1(b), $m_{max}^{A'b} > m_{max,0}^{Ab}$, the blue line
321 is above the black line. Invasion of the new mutant is only possible with relatively strong
322 migration (colored area in the figure)).

323 We also observe a general trend to replace a polymorphism that is maintained by selection
324 against hybrids by one that is maintained due to selection against immigrants. Indeed, whereas
325 it is possible to strengthen the genetic barrier by weakening the strength of epistasis without
326 affecting the amount of local adaptation, the opposite is impossible. Any increase in the strength
327 of selection against hybrids needs to be associated to some increase in local adaptation.

328 Further adaptation at locus **A** on the continent or at locus **B** on the island are equivalent
329 to the one locus case, since the new alleles, **a'** or **b'** cannot generate epistasis with **B** or **A**
330 respectively (assumption of the model). Further adaptation at **B** on the continent is treated in
331 the SI, section B 7. If $\beta' < 0$, strengthening of the barrier is more likely with weaker epistasis,
332 whereas if $\beta' > 0$ most of strengthening happens if the incompatibility gets stronger. If **B'** is
333 much more deleterious than **B** on the island, the genetic barrier is strengthened regardless of
334 epistasis.

335 **Extension of the genetic barrier**

336 We now turn to the extension of a genetic barrier by adaptation at an interacting locus **C**
337 that is far away from the existing barrier loci and only loosely linked. We start with going from
338 one to two loci and then study the case when a third locus is added.

339 **Extension of a single-locus genetic barrier** Assume that **B** is the only polymorphic locus
340 on the island ($\beta < 0$, therefore $m_{max,0}^b = -\beta$) and a new mutation **C** occurs on the island at a
341 loosely linked locus **C**. In the absence of epistasis, this mutation can invade and establish if and
342 only if $\gamma > m$. **C** does not affect the barrier at all.

343 Fig. 3(b) shows the effect of epistasis between **C** and **B** on the barrier strength. As expected,
344 negative epistasis can strengthen the genetic barrier (blue area), while positive epistasis will
345 almost always weaken it (orange and red areas). The figure also shows, however, that negative
346 epistasis is not sufficient to strengthen the barrier. Indeed, a **C** allele may invade for sufficiently
347 weak migration, but will be the first polymorphism swamped once migration increases (grey
348 area). Obviously, in this case, the barrier strength m_{max}^b at the polymorphic **B** locus remains
349 unaffected.

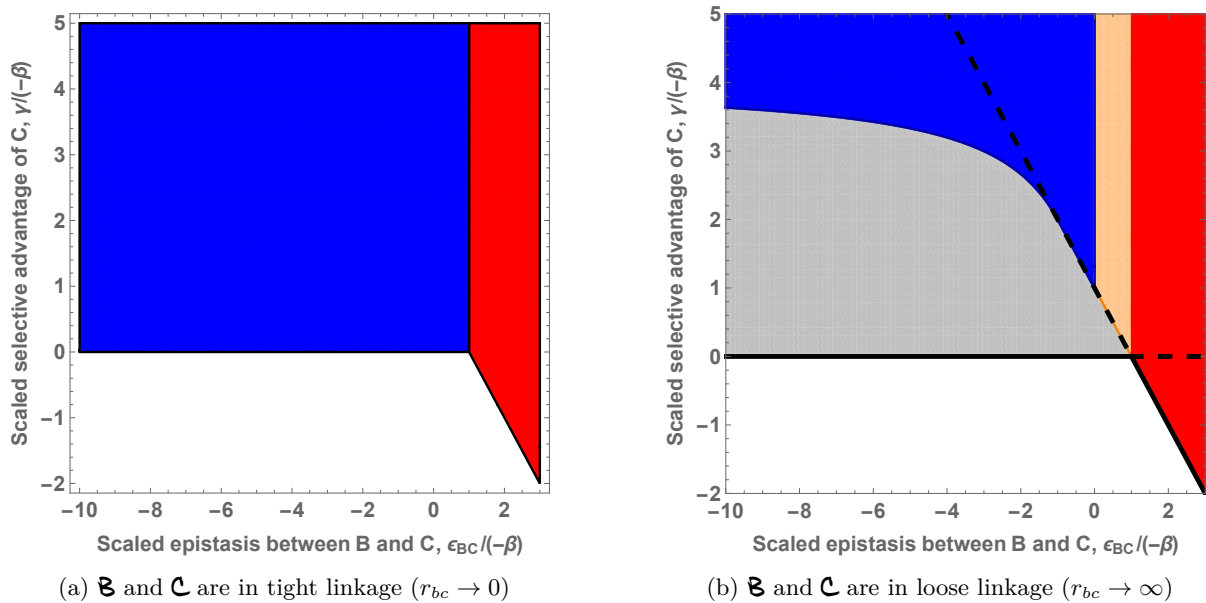


Figure 3: **C** strengthens the genetic barrier formed by a single polymorphic locus: comparison between a new mutation in tight linkage and one in loose linkage

The x-axis shows the strength of epistasis between **B** and **C**. The y-axis shows the selective advantage of new allele **C**. The background color indicates the consequence of the invasion of allele **C** on the genetic barrier at the **B** locus. Gray: the genetic barrier remains unchanged; blue: the genetic barrier is strengthened; orange: the genetic barrier is weakened; red: the polymorphism at locus **B** is lost. In addition, on panel b), the solid black line gives the necessary condition for invasion of allele **C** on the island. Below this bound invasion is always impossible. The black dashed line gives the sufficient condition for invasion. Above this bound, allele **C** can always invade, regardless of the migration rate (provided the polymorphism at the **B** locus still exists). Analytical expressions for the two lines are given in SI, equation (C2).

350 It is instructive to see how linkage affects the parameter range where further adaptation
 351 leads to a stronger barrier. For tight linkage (adaptation at the polymorphic locus itself), any
 352 allele with $\gamma > 0$ will invade the island and will strengthen the barrier, see Fig. 3(a), as long
 353 as epistasis does not cancel the selective disadvantage of allele **B** ($\epsilon_{BC} + \beta > 0$). In contrast,
 354 strengthening the barrier by adaptation at a loosely linked locus is much more difficult. To
 355 reinforce the barrier at the loosely linked **B** locus, the new **C** allele has to withstand both
 356 migration for $m > m_{max}^b$ and the hybrid cost generated by its interaction with allele **B**. The
 357 first condition alone implies $\gamma > -\beta$ as a necessary condition for a stronger barrier. Indeed, for
 358 a given $\gamma > -\beta$, the genetic barrier m_{max}^b is strengthened as long as negative epistasis is not
 359 too strong. Stronger epistasis results in larger hybrid cost for **C** and therefore a larger direct
 360 effect (larger γ) is needed to compensate for it. For $\gamma > -4\beta$, the barrier is strengthened for
 361 any negative epistasis, including a lethal incompatibility.

362 Finally even if a new **C** allele would strengthen the barrier (blue area), it is not always able
363 to invade. Invasion of allele **C** requires

$$\gamma > m\left(1 + \frac{\epsilon_{BC}}{\beta}\right) \quad (3)$$

364 From equation (3), one can deduce that a necessary condition for invasion of allele **C** is $\gamma > 0$
365 and a sufficient one is $\gamma > -(\beta + \epsilon_{BC})$. For any γ value between these two limits, invasion will
366 be possible only if migration is sufficiently small. Such a constraint does not exist for the tight
367 linkage case, as migration does not affect the fate of new allele (given **B** remains polymorphic).

368 So far, we have considered the interaction of a new island adaptation **C** with a continental
369 adaptation **B**. Alternatively, there are two others possibilities: we can also study interactions
370 between **B** and a new continental adaptation or interactions among two island adaptations. The
371 results are similar, see Fig. C2, C3 and our discussion in the SI.

372 **Extension of a two-locus genetic barrier** To complete the analysis of this section, we
373 now ask how an existing genetic barrier of two interacting loci in loose linkage is affected by
374 adaptation at a third locus that is also in loose linkage with the previous ones. We focus, in
375 particular, on the question how a continental allele (the **B** allele at the **B** locus) can be prevented
376 from swamping the island. Depending on the direct fitness effect β of this allele on the island,
377 we find similarities or differences to the extension from 1 to 2 loci discussed above.

378 If the continental adaptation **B** is deleterious on the island ($\beta < 0$), direct selection against
379 migrants (all carrying allele **B**) contributes to the genetic barrier, m_{max}^b , at that locus. As
380 Fig. 4(a) shows, transition from two to three loci is analogous to the step from 1 to 2 loci and
381 also the qualitative results agree (see SI section C 1.2 for details). Indeed, the presence of a first
382 island adaptation (the **A** allele) does not make it any easier for a second, loosely linked island
383 adaptation (the **C** allele) to strengthen the genetic barrier. In particular, the **C** allele still needs
384 to have a stronger direct effect (in magnitude) than **B**, $\gamma > -\beta$. Allele **C** also needs to interact
385 negatively with allele **B**, $\epsilon_{BC} < 0$. Finally, since this interaction generates some hybrid cost,
386 this cost must be compensated by some extra local adaptation (larger γ). For example, a new
387 mutation, interacting with allele **B**, with a direct selective advantage γ slightly larger than $-\beta$,
388 might not be able to strengthen the genetic barrier even if it fulfills the first criteria. These
389 conditions are analogous to the 1 to 2-locus barrier transition, see Fig. 3(b), gray area above
390 the $\frac{-\gamma}{\beta} = 1$ line. However, **C** can be weaker than the **A** adaptation ($\gamma < \alpha$) and still lead to a
391 stronger barrier, see Fig. 4(a).

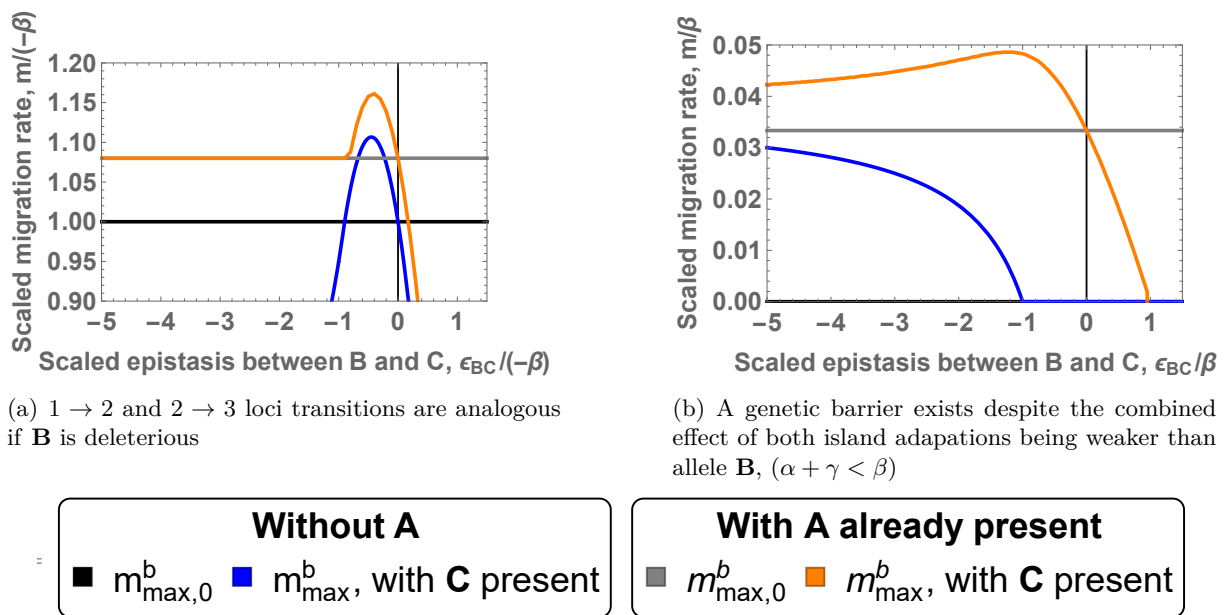


Figure 4: m_{max}^b for two and three loci in loose linkage

The x-axis corresponds to the epistasis between alleles **B** and **C**. The y-axis measures migration rate. The different lines correspond to m_{max}^b , the resistance to swamping at locus **B** under different scenarios. The initial single-locus and two-locus barriers, $m_{max,0}^b \leq m_{max,0}^{Ab}$, are given in black and gray. The impact of a new allele **C** on the single-locus and two-locus genetic barrier is represented by the blue and orange lines, respectively. Allele **B** is deleterious on the island for panel a) and advantageous on the island for panel b). The thin vertical black line indicates the absence of epistasis. Panel a) is obtained for ($\frac{\alpha}{-\beta} = 2$, $\frac{\gamma}{-\beta} = 1.9$ and $\frac{\epsilon_{AB}}{-\beta} = -0.2$) and panel b) for ($\frac{\alpha}{\beta} = 0.2$, $\frac{\gamma}{\beta} = 0.15$ and $\frac{\epsilon_{AB}}{\beta} = -3$).

392 We now consider a continental allele **B** that is beneficial also on the island, Fig. 4(b). In the
393 haploid model, a single-locus genetic barrier is impossible. A genetic barrier can be formed if a
394 second polymorphic locus, **C**, interacts with **B** through negative epistasis, generating selection
395 against hybrids. However, a stable genetic barrier only exists if the direct and the epistatic effect
396 of the **C** allele are both strong, $\epsilon_{BC} < -\beta - m$ and $\gamma > 4m$, (see section C 1.1.2 in the SI for
397 details), represented by the blue line in Fig. 4.

398 Consider now such a two-locus barrier between loci **A** and **B**. We want to investigate under
399 which conditions a polymorphism at a loosely linked locus **C** strengthens the barrier against
400 swamping at the **B** locus, m_{max}^b (orange line on Fig. 4). With an **A** allele already present,
401 there is no lower bound for the negative epistasis of the new **C** allele: any value ϵ_{BC} ($\epsilon_{BC} < 0$)
402 can increase the barrier strength. The new allele still has to fulfill a condition on the direct
403 effect: $\gamma > m_{max,0}^b$. Otherwise, allele **C** is the first allele that is lost when gene flow increases.
404 However, the condition is weaker than the one on the **A** allele; indeed $\gamma > \alpha/4$ is a sufficient
405 condition. Allele **C** can even have the weakest direct effect (Fig. 4(a)) and still contribute
406 to the strengthening of the barrier, in contrast to the case $\beta < 0$ discussed above. The two
407 island adaptations share the cost of forming hybrids, making it possible to prevent a strongly
408 advantageous continental allele to fix on the island, despite their own relatively weak selective
409 advantage ($\alpha + \gamma < \beta$) (Fig. 4(a)).

410 Not only the maintenance, but also the invasion of the new polymorphism in loose linkage is
411 strongly affected by the existence of a polymorphism at locus **A**. In its absence, the new mutation
412 has to overcome the migration cost and the full incompatibility due to **B** being already fixed
413 $\gamma > m - \epsilon_{BC}$. In addition, epistasis has an ambiguous effect: it hinders invasion of the new allele
414 while the formation of the 2-locus genetic barrier requires relatively strong negative epistasis
415 ($\epsilon_{BC} < -\beta - m$). This ambiguous effect makes invasion and establishment of a genetic barrier
416 in this setting extremely unlikely. Once a two-locus genetic barrier exists, invasion of a new
417 allele is however much easier and always possible if migration is sufficiently small (the invasion
418 criterion tends to γ as $m \rightarrow 0$). Invasion of a third mutation is therefore similar to the previous
419 case (allele **B** is deleterious on the island).

420 As we have seen, the constraints on the **C** allele are not so severe - but the flip side is that
421 also the effect on the barrier strength is quite weak: roughly 10% of the direct effect of the **C**
422 allele for Fig. 4(a) and 5% for Fig. 4(b). In comparison, when all loci are in tight linkage, 100%
423 of the direct effect of the new mutation contributes to strengthening the genetic barrier.

424 In the supplement, we explore a slightly different scenario, where the new mutation **C** does

425 not interact directly with allele **B** but with allele **a**. Our results show that indirect strengthening
426 of the genetic barrier, by increasing the marginal fitness of the **A** allele, can be the most efficient
427 scenario (Fig. C6).

428 **Barrier strength and linkage architecture** Assume now that **A**, **B**, and **C** are placed
429 without restrictions on recombination distance. For a given set of selection parameters, which
430 linkage architecture will form the strongest barrier?

431 For a two-locus genetic barrier (loci **A** and **B**), this question has been addressed by Bank
432 et al. (2012). The main finding there is that selection against migrants is strongest for tight
433 linkage while selection against hybrids is maximal in loose linkage, when most incompatible
434 hybrids are produced. With both factors acting, the strongest barrier still results from one of
435 these extreme architectures: m_{max}^{Ab} is maximized for tight linkage whenever selection against
436 migrants is the main driving force. This is the case, in particular, whenever **B** is deleterious
437 on the island (Fig. C20(a)). In contrast, selection against hybrids is the only viable factor if
438 the continental type, **aB**, has the highest fitness also on the island. In this case, we obtain the
439 maximal m_{max}^{Ab} in loose linkage (Fig. C20(b)). Assuming a genetic barrier can be formed both
440 in tight and loose linkage, the loose linkage architecture forms the strongest barrier if:

$$\frac{3}{4}\alpha < \beta < \alpha \text{ and } \epsilon_{AB} < \frac{\alpha\beta}{3\alpha - 4\beta} \quad (4)$$

441 In particular, there is never a maximum for intermediate recombination rates.

442 The case of three loci is more complicated because conflicting options can exist, e.g. the
443 strongest barrier for pairs **A B** and **A C** is obtained with the different loci in tight linkage, but
444 the strongest barrier for the pair **B C** is generated with the two loci in loose linkage. Still,
445 numerical analysis suggests that the strongest barrier is obtained at the extreme ends of the
446 recombination scale, either for $r \rightarrow 0$ or for $r \rightarrow \infty$ between pairs of loci. (We were not
447 able to prove this claim, but did not find any counterexamples in numerical checks, see in SI,
448 Fig. C24,C25.). In more detail, we find the following: First, assume that **C** appears on the
449 island. As long as tight linkage among **A** and **B** provides the strongest two-locus barrier, **C**
450 in tight linkage with **A** and **B** formed the strongest barrier (Fig. 5(a) and 5(b) red area, proof
451 in section C 3.2.1). Selection against migrants is the key mechanism. If the strongest 2-locus
452 barrier is shaped by loci **A** and **B** in loose linkage, we obtain the strongest 3-locus barrier for
453 an additional adaptation **C** that occurs in tight linkage with either **A** or **B**. The new mutation
454 contributes to a stronger barrier by either strengthening selection against hybrids (blue area, γ

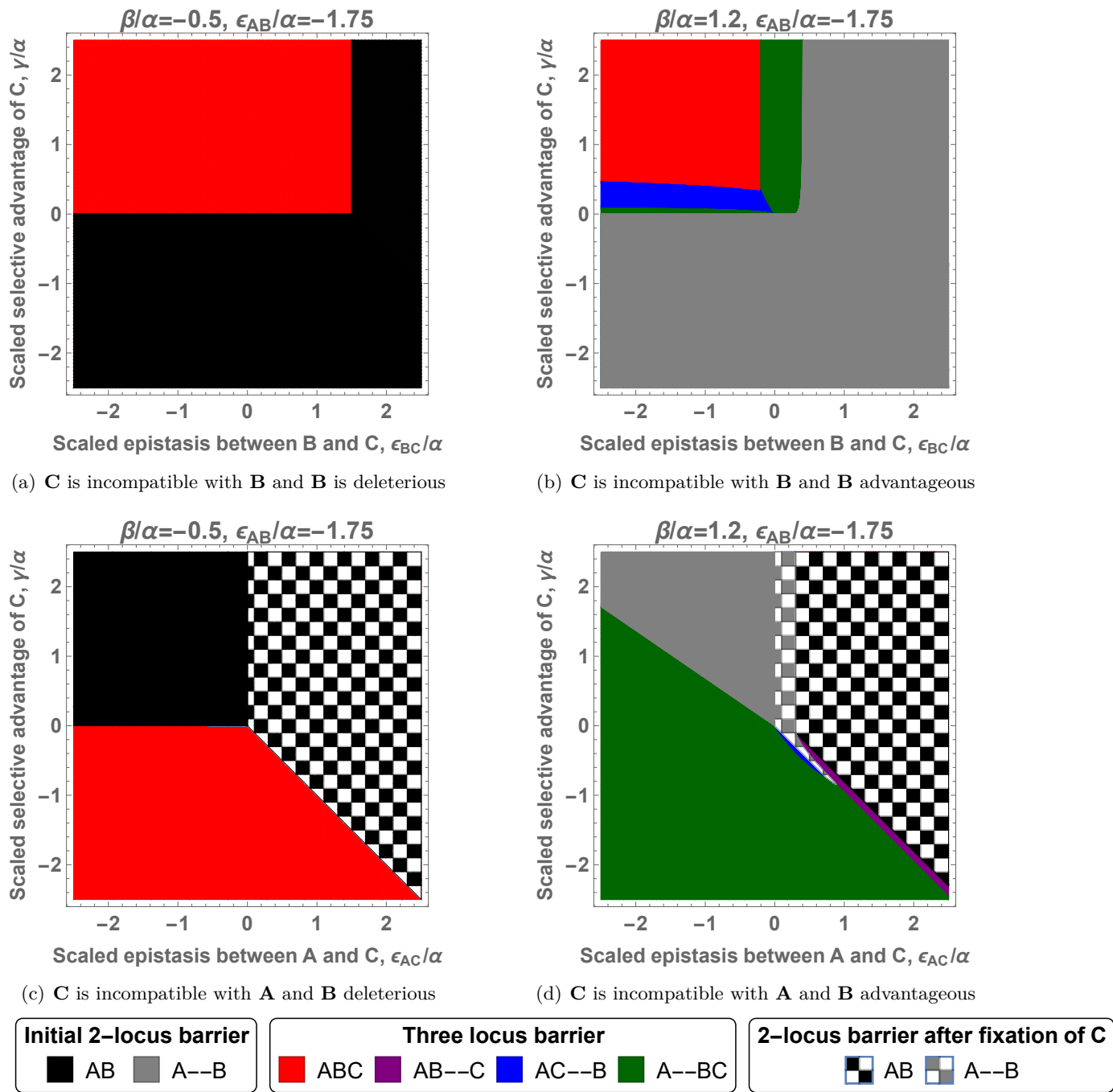


Figure 5: Linkage architecture forming the strongest genetic barrier for three mutations

In each panel, the x-axis corresponds to the epistasis between C and its interacting allele, B for the first row and A for the second row. The y-axis corresponds to the selective advantage of allele C on the island. The different colors indicate the linkage architecture and location a C mutation should appear to maximize m_{max}^{Ab} . Having all loci in tight linkage can be interpreted as the existence of a single island of divergence and 2 loci in tight linkage and a third one in loose linkage as two islands of divergence, see discussion. The case of three loci in loose linkage is not represented as it never provides the strongest barrier. Analytical expressions for the barrier strengths are given in the SI, equations C7-C14. If the initial barrier remains the strongest when C appears on the continent, it indicates that the new mutation will always weaken the barrier. If C appears on the island, the barrier is unaffected by the presence of the new mutation.

455 small, ϵ_{BC} strongly negative), or by strengthening selection against migrants by reducing the
456 direct effect of the **B** allele (green area, ϵ_{BC} close to 0). Fig. 5 shows that the parameter space
457 for having the strongest barrier in tight linkage is much larger than for loose linkage. However,
458 genomic regions around any locus that are effectively in tight linkage are small and randomly
459 placed loci will more likely behave as loosely linked. Therefore, optimal non-local barriers with
460 loose linkage between 2 loci may be easier to evolve than local (island type) barriers with tight
461 linkage among all loci.

462 If **C** appears on the continent, we observe similar results, cf. Fig 5(c) and 5(d). Having
463 all loci in tight linkage forms the strongest barrier as long as the continental adaptations are
464 deleterious on the island and do not generate positive epistasis (see section C 3.2.2 for proof).
465 If having all loci in tight linkage does not generate the strongest barrier, then having 2 loci in
466 tight linkage and the last one in loose linkage offers the strongest genetic barrier, with **C** in
467 tight linkage with **B**, increasing both selection against migrants and hybrids (green area), or **C**
468 in tight linkage with **A**, to only strengthen selection against migrants (rare, blue area). Fixing **C**
469 is another possible mechanism to strengthen the genetic barrier if **C** generates positive epistasis
470 with **A** (checkered areas). In this last case, the genomic location of locus **C** does not matter.

471 From these results we see that having all loci in loose linkage never seems to be the strongest
472 linkage architecture in our model. Indeed, we did not find such an architecture despite of
473 extensive numerical search (although we were not able to prove this). Results can be different
474 in more complex models. After extending our model to include general 3-locus epistasis, we
475 were able to construct a case where the strongest barrier has all three loci in loose linkage (cf.
476 Fig. C23). However, the scenario requires a very specific type of 3-locus interaction (epistasis
477 between **B** and **C** is only expressed in the absence of **A**) and careful fine-tuning of the selection
478 parameters.

479 **Extension of a two-locus genetic barrier, diploid populations** Here, we extend our
480 analysis to diploid populations. More precisely, we are interested in the similarities and dif-
481 ferences between the haploid and diploid models. The diploid model is quite complex due to
482 the number of equations and parameters. As mentioned in the model section, we focus on two
483 specific dominance schemes for the interactions: codominance and recessivity. Despite this sim-
484 plification, only few cases (mostly when the diploid case reduces to the haploid case) allow for
485 analytical results. In Fig. 6, we therefore compare numerical results for the strength of migration
486 barriers.

487 Comparing the migration barriers for the haploid case (Fig. 6(a) and 6(b)) with recessive
488 diploids (6(c) and 6(d)), we find broad qualitative agreement (if all loci are in tight linkage,
489 m_{max}^{Ab} for both cases are identical). In particular, adaptation at the **C** locus will weaken or
490 strengthen the genetic barrier m_{max}^{Ab} for the same linkage architectures among the three loci,
491 and in approximately the same parameter ranges. Also having all loci in loose linkage never
492 seems to generate the strongest barrier for a given set of parameters. Furthermore, for a given
493 set of parameters, numerical simulations suggest that we will observe qualitatively the same
494 optimal linkage architectures as in the haploid case when we increase ϵ_{BC} .

495 Also the comparison of the haploid case and codominant diploids (Fig. 6(a) and 6(b) vs
496 6(e) and 6(f)) shows many similarities. For several architectures the dynamics (and thus the
497 migration barriers) are identical. Indeed, as long as all interacting loci are in loose linkage,
498 the haploid and diploid codominant model share their dynamics. This result holds for three
499 different linkage architectures: all loci in loose linkage (orange lines) as well as **A** and **C** in tight
500 linkage and **B** in loose linkage if **C** appears on the island (blue solid line) or **B** and **C** in tight
501 linkage and **A** in loose linkage, if **C** appears on the continent (green dashed line). However,
502 there is one major difference: epistasis between loci in tight linkage can be expressed. This is
503 most noticeable when all loci are in tight linkage (red lines). Epistasis can be expressed directly
504 in the F1 generation without any recombination event and therefore the behaviour of DMIs in
505 tight linkage differs strongly from its haploid or recessive counterparts. Surprisingly, positive
506 epistasis between **B** and **C**, with **C** appearing on the island, can strengthen the genetic barrier.
507 One can relate this case to the two-locus 3-alleles model, where we have seen that reducing the
508 hybrid cost is a viable option to strengthen the genetic barrier. A similar mechanism applies
509 here as well.

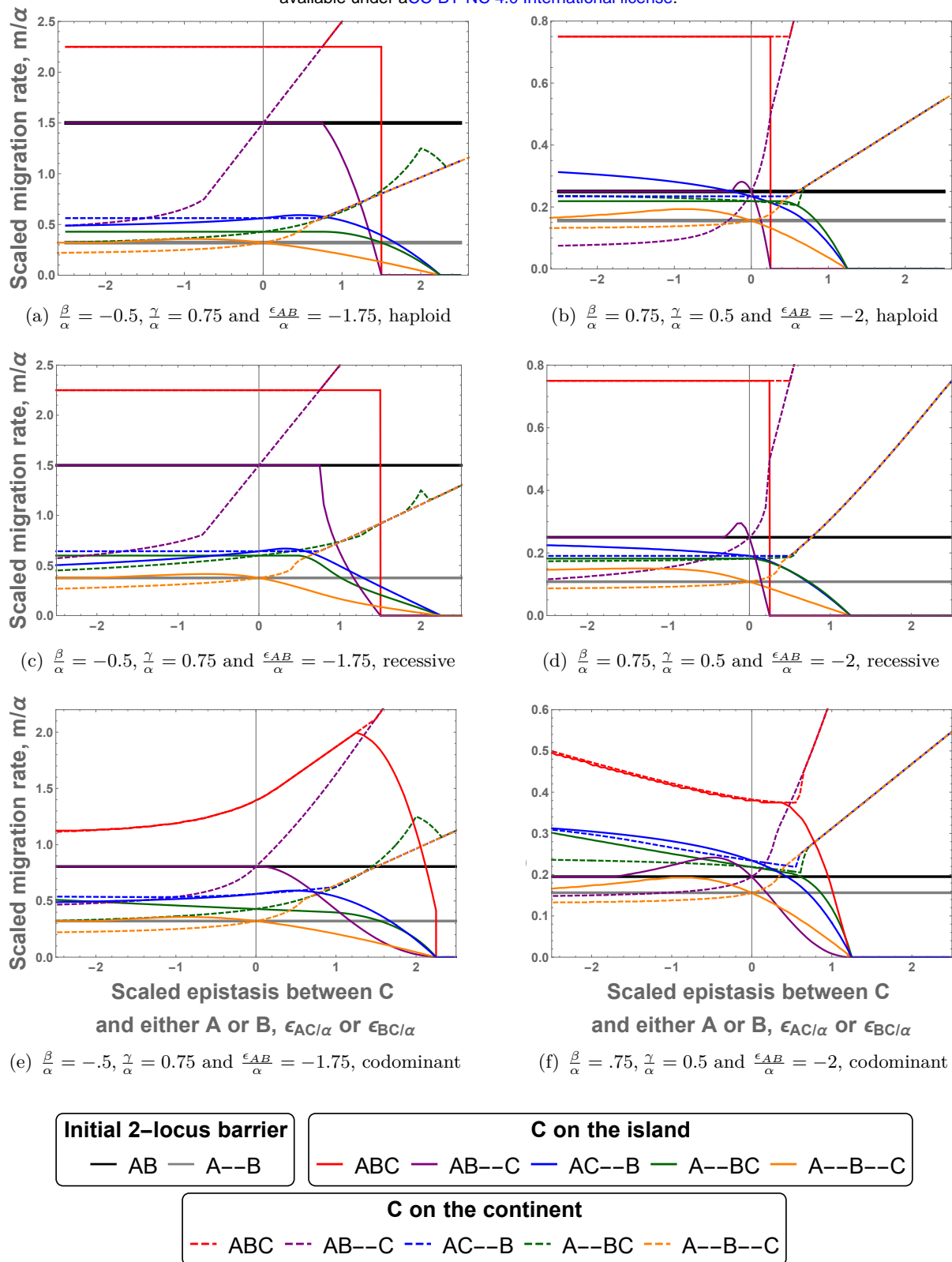


Figure 6: Maximal migration rate, m_{max}^{Ab} , in haploid and diploid models
 The X-axis corresponds to the epistatic interaction between allele **C** and its interacting allele (either **A** if **C** appears on the continent ($\frac{\epsilon_{AC}}{\alpha}$) or **B** if **C** appears on the island ($\frac{\epsilon_{BC}}{\alpha}$)). Both positive and negative epistasis are considered. The Y-axis represents the maximal migration rate for maintenance of the polymorphism at the **A** and **B** loci, $\frac{m_{max}^{Ab}}{\alpha}$. Each color corresponds to a different linkage architecture; plain lines indicate that **C** appears on the island, dashed lines on the continent. The black and grey lines serve as reference for a 2-locus genetic barrier between **A** and **B** for tight linkage and loose linkage, respectively. If **C** appears on the continent, we use $-\gamma$ as its selective advantage to make comparisons with **C** appearing on the island more easier (the fitness differences between the continental haplotype and the best island haplotype are then identical in the absence of epistasis). Qualitatively, the strength of the genetic barrier for given selection parameters is similar for haploid and diploid populations, with the exception of codominant epistasis between pairs of tightly²⁴ linked loci.

510 Discussion

511 How can a genetic barrier build up between two spatially separated populations that are
512 connected by gene flow? What is the relative role of local adaptation and selection against
513 hybrids (incompatibilities) in this process? Starting from a genetically homogeneous ancestral
514 population, the first step of this process requires some amount of local adaptation in order to
515 protect locally divergent alleles from swamping. For the case of (one or) two additive loci, this
516 was discussed in detail by Bürger and Akerman (2011) and Aeschbacher and Bürger (2014), and
517 for two loci with epistasis (allowing for incompatibilities) and unidirectional gene flow by Bank
518 et al. (2012). Here, we have studied in more detail how a genetic barrier can be extended from
519 such a first nucleus. As in Bank et al. (2012), we consider the case of unidirectional gene flow
520 from a continental population to an island population.

521 *A priori*, there is good reason to believe that extending a barrier, once it has been initiated,
522 should be easier than this first step (Navarro and Barton, 2003; Bank et al., 2012). Indeed, any
523 existing divergence will reduce the effective migration rate (Barton and Bengtsson, 1986). This
524 effect is strongest in close linkage to the first divergent locus, but also exists genome-wide;
525 corresponding to what has been called “divergence hitch-hiking” (Via and West, 2008) and
526 “genome hitch-hiking” (Feder et al., 2012b), respectively. It is primarily this argument that
527 triggered the idea of islands of divergence, which may act as nuclei of emergent speciation
528 (speciation islands, cf. Hawthorne and Via (2001); Via and West (2008); Feder and Nosil (2010);
529 Nadeau et al. (2012); for confounding effects due to the sorting of ancestral polymorphisms see
530 Guerrero and Hahn (2017)). If hybrid incompatibilities are involved in the build-up of such a
531 barrier, there is a second line of argument for a subsequently increased growth of the barrier.
532 This is the so-called “snowball effect” that predicts the accelerated growth of a genetic barrier
533 between two allopatric populations, (Orr, 1995; Orr and Turelli, 2001), simply because with
534 more divergent loci, there are more opportunities for incompatibilities between these loci.

535 Our results shed some light on the probability of observing a snowball effect in parapatry.
536 Generally, strengthening of a genetic barrier in the presence of gene flow, while possible, is
537 not an straightforward process, neither for haploid nor diploid populations. Indeed, although
538 the existence of previous polymorphism can support the establishment of further divergent
539 alleles in some cases, this process is far from being constraint-free. Furthermore, even if a
540 new polymorphism succeeds in establishing, this does not imply that the genetic barrier is
541 strengthened: it can as well be weakened or destroyed.

542 **Strengthening of an already existing genetic barrier** There are two sources from which
543 a genetic barrier can be built or extended (Bank et al., 2012). On the one hand, selection against
544 immigrants is effective as long as there is a fitness deficit for the immigrant haplotype relative
545 to the island haplotype. In this case, selection acts directly to prevent introgression of the
546 continental alleles on the island. On the other hand, selection against hybrids acts against both
547 incompatible alleles (continent and island). It still acts as a force against introgression as long
548 as the proportion of immigrants is small on the island. However, it is less efficient than selection
549 against immigrants as it only acts indirectly through the selection against hybrid descendants.
550 It also is associated with a cost for the island haplotype (production of unfit hybrids).

551 In the previous literature, diverse approaches have been used to study the accumulation of di-
552 vergent alleles in incipient species. Flaxman et al. (2013, 2014) studied speciation with gene flow
553 in a model without epistasis, purely through the accumulation of genes under local adaptation
554 (selection against immigrants). As the number of locally adapted mutations increases, effective
555 gene flow between both populations gradually declines until it reaches a so-called “congealing”
556 threshold (sensu Turner, 1967; Barton, 1983; Kruuk et al., 1999), where effective migration rates
557 are almost zero genome-wide and further divergence can occur at an elevated speed. The model
558 allows for an unlimited number of local adaptation genes and generally leads to very low fitness
559 of immigrants at (or near) speciation. There is no genetic mechanism to induce speciation in
560 this setting: given an environment (such as a laboratory) in which both populations can sur-
561 vive, nothing prevents the production of viable and fertile hybrid offspring. This is at odds with
562 theories of speciation due to the accumulation of genetic incompatibilities. Indeed, studies of
563 allopatric speciation typically focus entirely on incompatibilities (and selection against hybrids
564 after secondary contact) and do not include any local adaptation, e.g. Orr (1995), see also
565 Paixão et al. (2014). Both mechanisms, selection against immigrants and against hybrids, are
566 included in the 2-locus study by Bank et al. (2012), which we extend here.

567 Our results can be summarized as follows: first and foremost, we observe clear differences
568 compared to the allopatric case concerning the accumulation of divergent alleles. Speciation
569 in the presence of gene flow implies that each new barrier gene does not only compete against
570 a single wildtype, but is tested against all haplotypes that can be created by gene flow and
571 recombination. In particular, there is always selection for the reduction of hybrid cost. New
572 adaptations on the island thus need to be locally beneficial to counter two types of costs: the
573 direct “migration cost” to withstand swamping by the corresponding continental allele and (in
574 case of an incompatibility) the hybrid cost. Previous divergence polymorphisms can alleviate the

575 migration cost if a secondary adaptation occurs in close linkage, but not the cost of a stronger
576 incompatibility. As a consequence, the number of potential barrier genes is strongly reduced
577 relative to the allopatric case. Furthermore, there is a high probability for each new successful
578 adaptation, on either the continent or the island, that an existing barrier will be weakened (or
579 even destroyed) rather than strengthened. We have demonstrated this effect going from one to
580 three barrier genes. With an increasing number of divergent genes, the constraints due to hybrid
581 costs should only grow larger, acting against any “snowball effect”, possibly until some sort of
582 congealing threshold (sensu Flaxman et al. (2014) Nosil et al. (2017)) is reached. Indeed, both
583 the migration pressure and the cost of generating hybrids act as a sieve on potential new barrier
584 genes. Due to this sieve, loci involved in DMIs (under parapatric conditions) should have on
585 average larger direct fitness effects than loci involved in DMIs evolved in allopatry, as it has to
586 compensate for the different costs. Furthermore, the expression of the different incompatibilities
587 makes the process reversible as it is possible to lose some barrier genes if further adaptation
588 reduces the hybrid cost of invading (continental) alleles. Using a model of RNA folding, Kalirad
589 and Azevedo (2017) also found that DMIs may disappear even in an allopatric context, as further
590 adaptations may also affect the RNA structure and therefore make the previous interactions void.
591 Further numerical studies will be needed to quantify these predictions for general many-locus
592 barriers.

593 **Migration may help to build a stronger genetic barrier to swamping** As explained
594 above (and as expected), it is usually more difficult to extend a barrier when there is ongoing
595 gene flow. However, we have shown that sometimes migration is necessary for a new mutation to
596 invade. Sometimes migration can even promote adaptations (making invasion possible and/or
597 more likely) that strengthen the genetic barrier to swamping. This can happen if the initial
598 genetic barrier can be sustained by selection against migrants only, but the incompatibility is
599 also strong. In that case, a new mutation generating a much weaker incompatibility, but with
600 a weaker direct effect, can invade and strengthen the genetic barrier to gene flow if migration is
601 strong enough. This is analogous to a reinforcement process due to pre-zygotic incompatibilities
602 that is triggered by migration, (Kirkpatrick and Servedio, 1999). In the post-zygotic case, any
603 adaptation that strengthens the barrier to swamping by lowering the hybrid cost (i.e. weakening
604 the incompatibility) will make the resulting barrier more dependent on local adaptation and
605 therefore on differences in the environment. Thus it is questionable whether this is truly a step
606 towards reproductive isolation.

607 **The strongest genetic barrier for a specific set of loci** For a given set of fitness effects
608 (both direct and epistatic) at the barrier loci, we can ask which linkage architecture provides
609 the strongest protection against swamping. In particular: Do we get clusters of linked genes for
610 optimal architectures?

611 For a two-locus barrier, Bank et al. (2012) have shown that the most stable architecture is
612 always one with extreme linkage. If the barrier is primarily maintained due to selection against
613 immigrants, tight linkage ($r = 0$) results in the strongest barrier (this is always the case in
614 the absence of epistasis (Akerman and Bürger, 2014)). In contrast, the most stable barrier
615 is obtained with maximally loose linkage (corresponding to $r \rightarrow \infty$ in the model) if selection
616 mainly acts against hybrid recombinants.

617 When we extend the 2-locus model to three loci, we can distinguish three patterns with
618 extreme linkage among pairs of loci: all three loci in tight linkage, two tightly linked loci and one
619 loosely linked locus, or all three loci loosely linked. We find examples, for each of three patterns
620 mentioned above, where the considered linkage architecture formed the strongest genetic barrier..
621 However, the pattern of three loosely linked loci seems to be very rare. We only observe this
622 result in a custom-made model with 3-way epistasis among the three loci and restricted to a small
623 parameter range. Usually, we obtain either one or two islands of divergence: one if continental
624 adaptations are deleterious on the island and two otherwise. As in the 2-locus case, we do
625 not observe (based on a limited number of numerical studies) an optimal architecture involving
626 intermediate recombination, even if the genetic barrier is no longer a monotonic function of
627 recombination and local maxima of the barrier strength as function of the recombination rate
628 exist in some cases (Fig. C24(b), blue dashed line). Note however that such an optimum at
629 intermediate recombination distances can occur in stochastic models (Aeschbacher and Bürger,
630 2014).

631 Although stable architectures will be favored in the presence of gene flow, the most stable
632 barriers are not necessarily the ones that will evolve most easily in natural populations. For most
633 selection parameters, two or more loci in tight linkage provide the strongest barrier. However,
634 the area around each single locus that behaves as essentially tightly linked is usually very small
635 relative to the size of the genome. Thus, if interacting genes are scattered across random
636 positions in the genome, stable configurations will be rare. Chromosomal rearrangements such
637 as inversions can procure larger regions of no recombination, increasing the likelihood of barrier
638 loci in tight linkage. Navarro and Barton (2003) discussed the importance of such rearrangements
639 in the speciation process. However, gene conversion can also occur in inversions (Korunes and

640 Noor, 2017). In addition, a study between two *Senecio* species (Brennan et al., 2014) found no
641 associations between those rearrangements and incompatible genes.

642 New adaptations that appears at loosely linked loci could be transient. As demonstrated
643 by Yeaman (2013), adaptations that first occur in different genomic regions, can later move
644 into tight linkage due to genome rearrangement. Indeed, some studies, reviewed in Feder et al.
645 (2012a), report small regions of divergence hitch-hiking in several species, suggesting that there
646 may be at least a weak trend for an accumulation of divergent sites. Currently, however, neither
647 theory nor empirical evidence provide a strong basis for divergence islands as a reliable pattern
648 for parapatric speciation.

649 **Biological evidence and implications** Growth of a genetic barrier starting from an initial
650 pairwise DMI could be common in nature. Indeed, Corbett-Detig et al. (2013) reported that
651 two locus DMIs already exist within populations of the same species, with an average of 1.15
652 DMIs between different *Drosophila melanogaster* recombinant inbred lines that were derived
653 from a common parental pool. Segregating incompatibilities have also been found for yeast
654 (Marsit et al., 2017). This suggests that speciation through the accumulation of post-zygotic
655 incompatibilities may not start from scratch (a common hypothesis in many models), but can
656 rely on divergence that already exists between populations. This makes the process investigated
657 here (how new mutations can strengthen a genetic barrier) a crucial step of the speciation
658 process.

659 Dettman et al. (2008) evolved populations of *Neurospora* in two different environments. They
660 crossed individuals that had evolved independently (in allopatry) either in the same environment
661 (parallel evolution) or in a different environment (divergent evolution). Since crosses between
662 individuals under different selective pressure tended to generate more unfit individuals, they
663 concluded that genes involved in early divergence also generate genetic incompatibilities, see
664 also Kulmuni and Westram (2017). This corresponds to the assumptions of our model. In
665 addition, in our model we do not consider independent DMIs but partially saturated ones (one
666 locus involved in two DMIs). Guerrero et al. (2017) provided an example of such saturated
667 incompatibilities in the pollen of two species of *Solanum* genus.

668 Ono et al. (2017) measured the epistasis between first-step adaptations within a pathway
669 responsible for fungicide resistance in yeast, with each mutation in a different gene. They
670 found pervasive epistasis among these mutations, with a third of the interactions classified
671 as DMIs. Based on these findings, they suggested a scenario of parallel adaptation (without

672 local adaptation) for allopatric speciation with secondary contact: if populations that adapt
673 in parallel to the same environment (during an allopatric phase) fix different mutations in the
674 same pathway, incompatibilities can easily be generated. Our model predicts that this kind of
675 adaptation ($\alpha \approx \beta$, i.e. only selection against hybrids) can only be maintained in the face of
676 gene flow when the DMI loci are far away from each other. This is indeed the case for Ono
677 et al. (2017): the mutations involved in DMIs occur in genes located on different chromosomes.
678 In addition, our model (and Bank et al. (2012)) shows that an allopatric phase is not needed
679 for the evolution of such a DMI: it can also evolve with ongoing unidirectional gene flow given
680 that the first substitution happens on the island. For bidirectional gene flow, local adaptation
681 is required. Note that when extended to diploids, the constraint on the linkage architecture
682 vanishes if the incompatibility is expressed in F1 hybrids (codominant incompatibility).

683 **Model assumptions and possible extensions** Our model relies on a number of hypotheses,
684 most of them shared with Bank et al. (2012). First, we assume an infinite population size to
685 ignore the effects of genetic drift. This assumption is adequate as long as the population size is
686 large enough that drift can be ignored relative to the other evolutionary forces ($\frac{1}{N} \ll s, m$).
687 We only study whether the mutant can invade or not, but do not consider establishment proba-
688 bilities. When these are included (Aeschbacher and Bürger (2014) for two loci without epistasis),
689 the highest establishment probability is often not found for the most stable configuration (tight
690 linkage in this case), but for small, non-zero recombination rates.

691 We focus entirely on a continent-island model with unidirectional migration. This is realistic
692 if either physical mechanisms enforce unidirectional gene flow (wind, water current, flowering
693 time), or if the contribution of both populations to a common migrant pool is strongly biased
694 (because of unequal population size or because of reduced fertility, e.g. of a marginal population).
695 If there is weak back migration, the effects described here should still hold, as long as the
696 island adaptations are not advantageous on the continent. For strong bi-directional migration,
697 generalist genotypes can gain an advantage and different results are obtained (Akerman and
698 Bürger, 2014).

699 Due to the complexity of the system, we restrict our analytical analysis to the limiting cases
700 of recombination ($r = 0$ and $r = \infty$). Bank et al. (2012) have shown that the analysis of these
701 limiting cases provides a good understanding of the general case for the 2-locus model. Our
702 numerical study for intermediate recombination rates confirms this for three loci, Fig. C24, C25.
703 We assume that all loci are autosomal. Höllinger and Hermisson (2017) provide an analysis of

704 a two-locus DMI in parapatry for organelles and sex chromosomes.

705 Finally, we have restricted our detailed analysis in this paper to epistasis schemes with only
706 pairwise interactions. Complex epistasis networks with interactions linking three or more loci
707 offer further routes to strengthen a genetic barrier that will be explored in a forthcoming study.

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