2	Timing and causes of the distribution pattern of Oncomelania
3	hupensis estimated by molecular and geologic data
4	
5	Wen-bin Ji² , Shu-xin Xu², Jun Bai², Ying-yi Cui², Xian-min Zhou³ , Jie-xin Zou¹、² $\ast$
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8	<sup>1</sup> Department of Parasitology, School of Basic Medical Sciences, Nanchang University,
9	Nanchang, Jiangxi, PR China
10	<sup>2</sup> Research lab of Freshwater Crustacean Decapoda & Paragonimus, School of Basic Medical
11	Sciences, Nanchang University, Nanchang, Jiangxi, PR China
12	<sup>3</sup> Key Laboratory of Poyang Lake Environment and Resource Utilization, Ministry of
13	Education, Nanchang University, Nanchang, Jiangxi, PR China
14	
15	* Corresponding author
16	E-mail: jxzou@ncu.edu.cn (JXZ)
17	

# 18 Abstract:

19	As the only intermediate host of Schistosoma japonicum, Oncomelania hupensis
20	plays an irreplaceable role in the prevalence of schistosomiasis japonica. Several living
21	subspecies of Oncomelania hupensis are found in Asia, especially in China, Japan, the
22	Philippines, and Sulawesi of Indonesia. The existing geographical distribution pattern of O.
23	hupensis has been influenced by geological events. This study used existing mitochondrial
24	gene data for O. hupensis in the GenBank database and the molecular clock method to
25	estimate the divergence time of each subspecies of O. hupensis. For the first time, the timing
26	and causes of the distribution pattern of the different O. hupensis subspecies were studied by
27	combining molecular data with data on geologic events. The results showed that the uplift and
28	isolation of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau caused Oncomelania hupensis robertsoni to
29	differentiate 4.76 Ma(Million anniversary), while Oncomelania hupensis guangxiensis was
30	affected by the third Himalayan orogenic movement, differentiating 1.10 Ma. Oncomelania
31	hupensis nosophora was influenced by the formation of the Yonaguni Strait and diverged
32	1.43 Ma. Influenced by ice ages and interglacial periods, Oncomelania hupensis tangi and
33	Oncomelania hupensis formosana diverged 0.57 Ma. The link of the ancient Yangtze River
34	promoted the spread of O. hupensis to the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River,
35	and the developed water network facilitated gene exchange among Oncomelania hupensis
36	hupensis in the area. Eventually, 0.62 Ma, O. h. hupensis differentiated.
37	

# 38 Author summary

39

Phylogenetic analysis of Pomatiopsidae species showed that Oncomelania was

40	isolated from other genera and clustered independently in phylogenetic trees. Further analysis
41	of the species Oncomelania hupensis and its subspecies was performed. The snail species O.
42	hupensis has multiple subspecies that exhibit certain differences. These subspecies are
43	distributed across Asia, from China's Yunnan Province in the west to Japan in the east and
44	south to the Philippines and Indonesia. In addition, the subspecies are widespread in the middle
45	and lower reaches of the Yangtze River in China, and the distribution ranges of the different
46	subspecies do not overlap. The formation of this distribution pattern of each subspecies of O.
47	hupensis has a profound impact on the prevalence of Schistosoma japonicum. Therefore, the
48	authors analyzed molecular data and geological historical events to investigate the timing and
49	causes of the distribution pattern of each subspecies of O. hupensis.
50	
51	Introduction
52	Oncomelania hupensis (Gredler, 1881) are dioecious, amphibious freshwater snails
53	belonging to the phylum Mollusca, the class Gastropoda, the order Mesogastropoda, and the
54	family Pomatiopsidae (Stimpson, 1865). Oncomelania (Gredler, 1881), as the only

55 intermediate host of Schistosoma japonicum (Katsurada, 1904), plays an important role in the

56 spread of *S. japonicum* [1, 2] and is now located in China, Japan, the Philippines and

57 Indonesia [3].

58 As the only intermediate host of *Schistosoma japonicum*, the control and killing of

- 59 Oncomelania hupensis will be the key link to block the transmission of schistosomiasis
- 60 japonica. At present, the control and prevention of schistosomiasis japonica have made great
- 61 progress [2, 4, 5], but researchers are still searching for more effective methods and tools [6,

62	7] to eliminate the prevalence of schistosomiasis japonica in the end [8]. The distribution of
63	Oncomelania hupensis is overlapping with the endemic area of schistosomiasis japonica, and
64	the transmission of Oncomelania hupensis will affect the prevalence of schistosomiasis
65	japonica to some extent [9], so this paper thinks that the study of the distribution of
66	Oncomelania hupensis and the cause and time of distribution pattern formation will be of
67	significance to control the prevalence of schistosomiasis japonica.
68	Based on morphological data, G.M. Davis et al. [10] performed the first systematic
69	classification of Oncomelania species. Oncomelania includes two species,
70	Oncomelania.minima (Bartsch, 1936) and O. hupensis. O. hupensis comprises a total of six
71	subspecies, including Oncomelania hupensis chiui (Habe & Miyazaki, 1962), Oncomelania
72	hupensis formosana (Pilsbry & Hirase, 1905), Oncomelania hupensis lindoensis (Davis &
73	Carney, 1973), Oncomelania hupensis nosophora (Robson, 1915), Oncomelania hupensis
74	quadrasi (Möellendorff, 1895) and Oncomelania hupensis hupensis. Based on morphological
75	classification, Yueying Liu et al. [11] suggested that the O. hupensis distributed on the
76	Chinese mainland can be divided into five subspecies. Through molecular genetic analysis
77	combined with morphological analysis, Yibiao Zhou et al. [12] proposed the classification of
78	four subspecies of O. hupensis: Oncomelania hupensis robertsoni (Bartsch, 1936),
79	Oncomelania hupensis tangi (Bartsch, 1936), Oncomelania hupensis hupensis, and
80	Oncomelania hupensis guangxiensis (Liu et al., 1981). In the process of exploring novel
81	microsatellite markers of O. hupensis, Xiaonong Zhou et al. [13] found that O. hupensis on
82	mainland China exist in four different ecological environments: swamps and lakes in the
83	Yangtze River basin, mountains and hills in the Sichuan and Yunnan provinces, coastal areas

84 in Fujian Province, and karst landforms in the Guangxi autonomous region, which is

85 consistent with the classification of Zhou Yibiao et al.

86	The existing O. hupensis subspecies are distributed in Asia with a geographically
87	isolated distribution pattern. There is no overlap of distribution [14], and there are different
88	hypotheses that suggest that this distribution pattern is due to the spread and differentiation of
89	O. hupensis and the influence of geological plate movement.
90	Hypothesis one: Based on morphological data, G.M. Davis et al. [10, 15]
91	constructed the Pomatiopsidae phylogenetic atlas and an evolutionary tree, examined the
92	distribution of the snails in river basins in Asia, and proposed that the snail ancestors lived on
93	the Indian continental plate during the Mesozoic period. Davis further proposed that during
94	the Himalaya orogeny, the snails entered new Yangtze River waters in the north of Mengmi
95	and Yunnan and spread over the Pacific coast of China and to Japan; Taiwan Province; the
96	Philippines; and Sulawesi in Indonesia. In 1995, Xiaonong Zhou et al. [16] proposed that the
97	snails entered China's Yunnan Province earlier from Himalaya, then moved into the Sichuan
98	plain and spread to the eastern coast of mainland China.
99	Hypothesis two: S.W. Attwood [17] thinks that proto-Pomatiopsidae came from
100	northwest Australia (during the Jurassic period) on small continental fragments of
101	Gondwanan origin. The continental fragments were involved in the formation of present-day
102	Borneo and eastern Indonesia. During the Oligocene, the proto-Pomatiopsidae began to
103	diverge from Borneo and eastern Indonesia, spreading north to Japan before the opening of
104	the Sea of Japan and colonizing China and the mountains of western China.
105	The hypotheses above are based on speculated tectonic plate movement, and there

106	are some limitations. This study used GenBank data and bioinformatics methods, fossil ages,
107	and the molecular clock method [18] to estimate the divergence times of existing O. hupensis
108	subspecies. The divergence of the existing O. hupensis subspecies is discussed in the context
109	of historical geological events. Thus, molecular data and information on geological events
110	were used to verify the above hypotheses and to elucidate the migration and subspeciation of
111	these snails.
112	
113	Data and methods
114	
115	Data
116	In the GenBank database, there were 26 mitochondrial genome sequences for O.
117	hupensis in Asia (S1 Table), including those for the subspecies O. h. nosophora, O. h.
118	quadrasi, O. h. hupensis and O. h. robertsoni. In addition, O. h. chiui had 11 COI gene
119	sequences, and O. h. formosana had 3 COI gene sequences and 1 16S gene sequence,
120	although these subspecies did not have mitochondrial gene sequences. No molecular data for
121	O. h. lindoensis had been uploaded.
122	
123	Methods
124	
125	Phylogenetic analysis based on 13 protein-coding genes (PCGs). Tricula hortensis
126	(EU440735) was chosen as the outgroup. Mafft [19] software was used to compare the
127	sequences, and the Gblocks Server

128	(http://molevol.cmima.csic.es/castresana/Gblocks_server.html) was used to select the
129	conserved sequence area. The best-fitting evolutionary model in maximum likelihood (ML)
130	analyses of the 13 PCGs was GTR+G+I, and it was selected using ModelGenerator [20]. This
131	model was used in Mega 6.0 [21], and 1,000 bootstrap replicates were performed. For the
132	Bayesian inference (BI) analyses, the best-fitting evolutionary model (GTR+G+I) was
133	determined using MrModeltest 2.3 [22].
134	The BI analyses were performed with MrBayes 3.2.6 [23], which used the Markov
135	chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) method with four chains to run 2 million generations. Sampling
136	was performed every 1,000 generations, and the initial 500,000 steps were discarded as burn-
137	in. The consensus BI trees were visualized using FigTree 1.4.0 software.
138	
139	Divergence time estimation based on molecular clock. Upon searching for fossil ages in
139 140	<b>Divergence time estimation based on molecular clock.</b> Upon searching for fossil ages in Gastropoda, we obtained the fossil age of the family Assimineidae (23 Ma-16 Ma) [24, 25].
140	Gastropoda, we obtained the fossil age of the family Assimineidae (23 Ma-16 Ma) [24, 25].
140 141	Gastropoda, we obtained the fossil age of the family Assimineidae (23 Ma-16 Ma) [24, 25]. In the GenBank database, there are sequences for COI genes and 16S mitochondrial genes for
140 141 142	Gastropoda, we obtained the fossil age of the family Assimineidae (23 Ma-16 Ma) [24, 25]. In the GenBank database, there are sequences for COI genes and 16S mitochondrial genes for four species in Assimineidae: <i>Angustassiminea satumana</i> (AB611803/AB611802), <i>Assiminea</i>
140 141 142 143	Gastropoda, we obtained the fossil age of the family Assimineidae (23 Ma-16 Ma) [24, 25]. In the GenBank database, there are sequences for COI genes and 16S mitochondrial genes for four species in Assimineidae: <i>Angustassiminea satumana</i> (AB611803/AB611802), <i>Assiminea</i> <i>hiradoensis</i> (AB611807/AB611806), <i>Paludinellassiminea japonica</i> (AB611811/AB611810),
140 141 142 143 144	Gastropoda, we obtained the fossil age of the family Assimineidae (23 Ma-16 Ma) [24, 25]. In the GenBank database, there are sequences for COI genes and 16S mitochondrial genes for four species in Assimineidae: <i>Angustassiminea satumana</i> (AB611803/AB611802), <i>Assiminea</i> <i>hiradoensis</i> (AB611807/AB611806), <i>Paludinellassiminea japonica</i> (AB611811/AB611810), and <i>Pseudomphala miyazakii</i> (AB611815/ AB61181). The fossil ages and gene sequences
140 141 142 143 144 145	Gastropoda, we obtained the fossil age of the family Assimineidae (23 Ma-16 Ma) [24, 25]. In the GenBank database, there are sequences for COI genes and 16S mitochondrial genes for four species in Assimineidae: <i>Angustassiminea satumana</i> (AB611803/AB611802), <i>Assiminea</i> <i>hiradoensis</i> (AB611807/AB611806), <i>Paludinellassiminea japonica</i> (AB611811/AB611810), and <i>Pseudomphala miyazakii</i> (AB611815/ AB61181). The fossil ages and gene sequences were used to estimate the subsequent fossil ages. <i>O. minim</i> also belongs to the genus
140 141 142 143 144 145 146	Gastropoda, we obtained the fossil age of the family Assimineidae (23 Ma-16 Ma) [24, 25]. In the GenBank database, there are sequences for COI genes and 16S mitochondrial genes for four species in Assimineidae: <i>Angustassiminea satumana</i> (AB611803/AB611802), <i>Assiminea</i> <i>hiradoensis</i> (AB611807/AB611806), <i>Paludinellassiminea japonica</i> (AB611811/AB611810), and <i>Pseudomphala miyazakii</i> (AB611815/ AB61181). The fossil ages and gene sequences were used to estimate the subsequent fossil ages. <i>O. minim</i> also belongs to the genus <i>Oncomelania</i> , and <i>O. minima</i> had COI and 16S single gene data in the GenBank database

150	lindoensis were not included in the divergence time estimate. To further improve the
151	reliability of the divergence time estimation, GenBank COI and 16S gene sequences (S2
152	Table) from the same individual source in the 14 genera and 31 species of Pomatiopsidae
153	were also included.
154	We used the strict clock in BEAST v1.8.2 [26] software to estimate the divergence
155	time of each subspecies based on the COI and 16S sequences and selected a normal prior
156	distribution. The best-fitting evolutionary model in ModelGenerator [20] software was
157	GTR+G+I, and the Yule process was used for the tree prior with a random starting tree. In
158	total, 20,000,000 generations were run, and the parameters were logged every 20,000
159	generations, with the first 10% discarded as burn-in. TreeAnnotator v1.8.2 software was used
160	to generate the tree, and the divergence time was visualized using FigTree 1.4.0 software.
161	
162	Results and discussion
163	
164	Phylogenetic relationships and classification
165	The occurrence tree showed that 26 of the O. hupensis sequences were grouped into
166	6 branches according to subspecies(Fig1). The 6 subspecies were O. h. hupensis, O. h. tangi,
167	O. h. guangxiensis, O. h. nosophora, O. h. quadrasi and O. h. robertsoni, which conform to
168	the subspecies classification system proposed by G.M.Davis [10,27] and Yibiao Zhou [12].
169	
170	Fig 1: Maximum likelihood (ML) phylogenetic tree of Oncomelania hupensis and related
171	brachyurans based on 13 PCG sequences from the mitochondrial genome. Tricula

172	hortensis serves as the outgroup. The numbers at the internodes are ML bootstrap
173	probabilities and Bayesian inference (BI) posterior probabilities. The differences between the
174	ML and BI trees are indicated by '*'. The scale bars represent the genetic distance.
175	
176	Divergence time estimation
177	The existing research results show that the subfamily Triculinae of Pomatiopsidae is
178	mainly distributed in Southeast Asia, and the differentiation of the species is closely related to
179	the temporal variation of the geologic events in the distribution area [28], which are closely
180	related to the results of this paper. Although Oncomelania is now classified as part of
181	Pomatiopsidae, the molecular clock (Fig 2) estimates show that Oncomelania species
182	diverged at 12.41Ma, earlier than the rest of the included species in the family, suggesting the
183	independence of Oncomelania. This paper will focus on the differences in the divergence
184	times of Oncomelania species and on the divergence events.
185	
186	Fig 2: Divergence time of Pomatiopsidae based on the COI and 16S sequences of the
187	mitochondrial genome. The scale bars represent millions of years from the present.
188	
189	Combining the molecular clock calculation results based on the COI and 16S gene
190	sequences and corresponding periods of geological events, this article on the timing and cause
191	of Oncomelania species (subspecies) migration and differentiation makes the following
192	speculation (Fig 3):

#### 194 Fig 3: Distribution and differentiation of Oncomelania in Asia. The regional map of Asia

- 195 comes from https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Atlas of the world and
- 196 <u>http://landsatlook.usgs.gov/</u>; the map edited with Adobe Photoshop CS6.
- 197 Ma (Million anniversary).

198

- 200 period from 23 Ma to 15 Ma [29], the Sea of Japan opened, and the Japanese islands
- 201 gradually separated from the Asian continent, resulting in geographical isolation and a new
- ecological environment. Thus, 10.58 Ma (95% confidence interval = 7.34-14.07 Ma), O.
- 203 *minima* diverged. This may be a major cause of the current distribution of O. *minima* in
- 204 Honshu, Japan, while the snails on the Asian continent are differentiated into different
- subspecies of *O. hupensis*.

206 On the Asian continent, approximately 60-50 Ma [30], the Indian Ocean Plate and

the Eurasian Plate began to collide and cause the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau to uplift. The uplift of

- 208 the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau was not a rapid process but rather proceeded through different
- stages. After the plate collision, the strong uplift began 3.4 Ma [31]. The results show that the
- divergence time of *O. h. robertsoni* was 4.76 Ma (95% confidence interval = 2.44-4.98 Ma),
- which is close to the stage of strong uplift. With the elevation of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau,
- the change in climate [32], the change in ecological environment, and the development of
- 213 geographical isolation, the snail species gradually differentiated in this location, producing O.
- 214 *h. robertsoni*. In addition, we found that the divergence time of *S. japonicum* was
- approximately 3.8 Ma [33, 34], close to the divergence time of *O. h. robertsoni*, which may

216 represent the beginning of the parasitic relationship between *S. japonicum* and *O. hupensis* 

- [35]. When S. *japonicum* began to live in the snail body and whether there was a symbiotic
- 218 relationship between the species remains to be elucidated. 219 The Quaternary glaciation (2.58 Ma) has included four ice ages (1.50-1.10 Ma, 220 0.90-0.40 Ma, 0.20-0.11 Ma, and 0.01-0.00 Ma) [36, 37] and interglacial periods. The results 221 of this study show that the divergence time of O. h. formosana in Taiwan Province and O. h. 222 *tangi* in Fujian Province was 0.62 Ma (95% confidence interval = 0.40-0.85 Ma), which 223 coincides with the separation of the island of Taiwan from the continent due to the transition 224 of an ice age into an interglacial period. There is reason to believe that the formation of O. h. 225 formosana and O. h. tangi was affected by such a transition. The island of Taiwan and the 226 mainland were connected during the ice age, and the O. hupensis in the two places were able 227 to carry out gene exchange. During the interglacial periods, the island of Taiwan was again 228 separated from the mainland, reestablishing geographical isolation, and O. h. formosana and 229 O. h. tangi eventually diverged. 230 The formation of the Yonaguni Strait 1.55 Ma led to the separation of the island of 231 Taiwan from the Japanese islands [38]. The results suggest that the divergence time of O. h. 232 *nosophora* in Japan was 1.43 Ma (95% confidence interval = 0.90-2.00 Ma), which coincides 233 with the separation of the island of Taiwan from the islands of Japan. It is reasonable to assume that the geographical isolation caused by the strait facilitated the formation of O. h. 234 235 nosophora. 236 In this study, the divergence time of O. h. guangxiensis was found to be 1.10 Ma
- 237 (95% confidence interval = 0.70-1.55 Ma). Guangxi is located on the southeast edge of the

238	Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and was affected by the third Himalayan orogenic movement (starting
239	2.4 Ma) [39, 40]; geological activity and further geologic changes produced geographic
240	isolation and eventually resulted in the differentiation of O. h. guangxiensis.
241	The uplift of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau caused the ancient Yangtze River to
242	penetrate from west to east during the period from 2.6 to 2.0 Ma [41]. The developed water
243	network of the ancient Yangtze River basin strongly aided the spread of the snails to the
244	middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River, which had their own network and provided a
245	broad living space for the multiplication and differentiation of O. hupensis, thus forming the
246	named subspecies O. h. hupensis as the largest group. The changes in the Yangtze River
247	coincide with the divergence time of this subspecies, $0.62 \text{ Ma}$ (95% confidence interval =
248	0.40-0.85 Ma).
249	The divergence time of <i>O. h. quadrasi</i> was 3.70 Ma (95% confidence interval =
250	2.44-4.98 Ma), and there are no corresponding geological events to explain the cause of the
251	differentiation. However, according to the two factors of O. h. robertsoni and the carrying of
252	S. japonicum, it is reasonable to infer that O. h. quadrasi originated from O. h. robertsoni.
253	
254	Conclusion
255	Through analysis of the molecular clock results and of molecular data and geologic
256	events, the timing and causes of the distribution pattern of the different O. hupensis

- subspecies were studied for the first time. We speculate that the isolation of the Japanese
- islands from the mainland caused *O. minima* to differentiate 10.58 Ma and that the isolation
- caused by the uplift of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau 4.76 Ma caused O. h. robertsoni to

260	differentiate. Upon the west-to-east formation of the river, geological changes and changes in
261	the river influenced the beginning of the differentiation of the various existing subspecies of
262	O. hupensis. Among them, O. h. guangxiensis was affected by the third Himalayan orogenic
263	movement and differentiated 1.10 Ma. Influenced by the formation of the Yonaguni Strait, O.
264	h. nosophora differentiated 1.43 Ma, while 0.57 Ma, O. h. tangi and O. h. formosana
265	diverged under the influence of four ice ages and interglacial periods. The link of the ancient
266	Yangtze River promoted the spread of O. hupensis to the middle and lower reaches of the
267	Yangtze River, and the developed water network facilitated the gene exchange of O. hupensis
268	in the area; the most numerous and most widely distributed subspecies, O. h. hupensis,
269	diverged 0.62 Ma.
270	

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275

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396 Supporting information

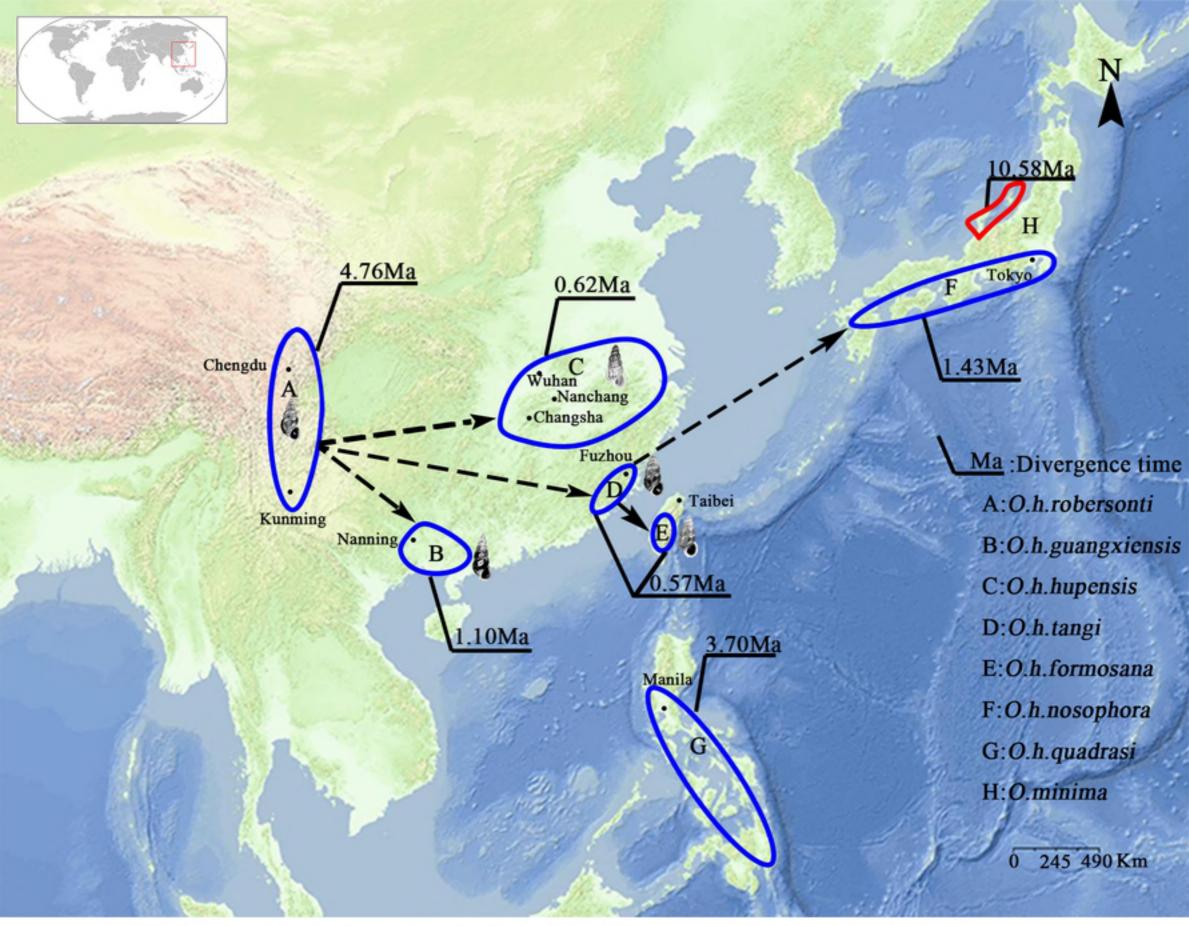
### 397 S1 Table. Mitochondrial genome data for Oncomelania hupensis in GenBank

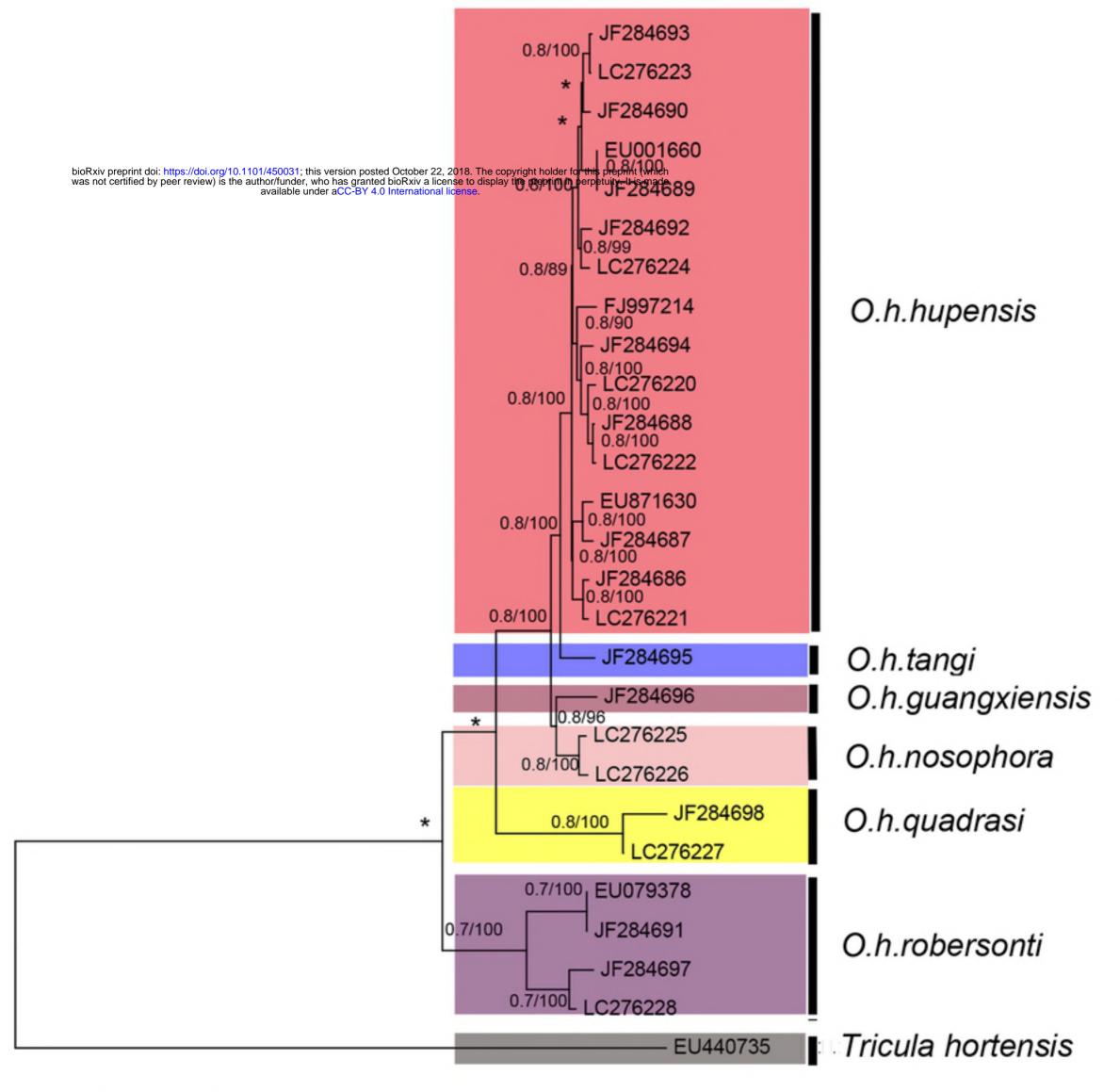
398 (as of August 7, 2018). \*indicates that the sequence upload did not add the sample source to

### 400 S2 Table. Partial COI and 16S genes of 14 genera and 31 species in Pomatiopsidae from

- 401 GenBank (as of August 7, 2018). \*indicates that the sequences are from the same
- 402 mitochondrial genome.

GenBank.





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Fig1

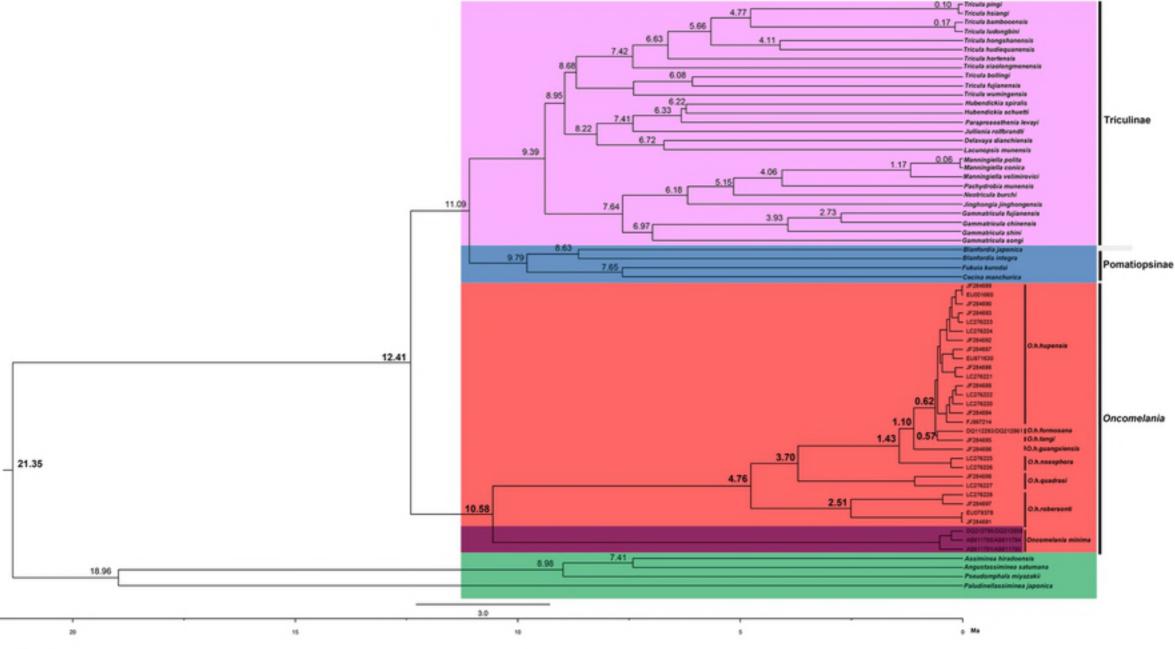


Fig2