The global diversity of the major parasitic nematode *Haemonchus contortus* is shaped by human intervention and climate

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Abstract

The gastrointestinal parasite *Haemonchus contortus* is an haematophagous parasitic nematode of veterinary interest and a model for the study of drug resistance mechanisms or host-parasite interactions. To understand its evolutionary history, and its ability to adapt in the face of climatic and drug pressure, we have performed an extensive survey of genome-wide diversity using single-worm whole genome sequencing of 223 individuals sampled from 19 isolates spanning five continents. The pattern of global diversity is driven by an African origin for the species, together with contemporary dispersal that is consistent with modern human movement, with

evidence for parasites spreading during the transatlantic slave trade and

colonisation of Australia presented. Strong selective sweeps were identified in

independent populations each surrounding the β-tubulin locus, a target of

benzimidazole anthelmintic drug treatment used widely to control *H. contortus*

infections. These signatures of selection were further supported by signals of

diversifying selection enriched in genes involved in response to drugs, as well as

other anthelmintic-associated biological functions including pharyngeal pumping and

oviposition. From these analyses, we identify some known, and previously

undescribed, candidate genes that may play a role in ivermectin resistance. Finally,

we describe genetic signatures of climate-driven adaptation, revealing a gene acting

as an epigenetic regulator and components of the *dauer* pathway may play a role in

adaptation in the face of climatic fluctuations. These results begin to define genetic

adaptation to climate for the first time in a parasitic nematode, and provides insight

into the ongoing expansion in the range of *Haemonchus contortus*, which may have

consequences for the management of this parasite.

Keywords: *Haemonchus contortus*, helminth, parasitic nematode, global diversity,

genomics, drug resistance, climate change

Introduction

Nematodes have evolved to exploit a wide diversity of ecological niches. Although many sustain a free-living lifestyle, parasitic nematodes rely on one or more hosts to complete their life cycle. Many parasitic nematodes undergo a complex series of morphological changes, linked to migration through their hosts to establish a mature infection[1]. Their complex life cycles may involve both intermediate hosts, vectors or time spent in the environment, where they face harsh and variable conditions such as frost or drought that they must withstand between infection of their hosts[2]. Parasitic nematodes have adapted to a wide range of threats, including predation, climate and the immune responses of a great diversity of both plant and animal host species[3,4].

The evolutionary success of parasitic nematodes comes at a cost to humans, either directly as they significantly impact human health (amounting to a loss of 10 million disability-adjusted life-years)[3], or indirectly via major economic losses in plant[4] and livestock production[5], and parasite control. The control of animal parasitic nematodes relies almost exclusively on anthelmintic drugs, administered on a recurrent basis in livestock[6] and through mass-drug administration program in humans[7]. Although the success of such strategies was originally undeniable, the emergence of drug resistant veterinary parasites [5], or the reported lack of efficacy in human-infective species[8], threatens ongoing control efforts for many parasitic infections. Vaccines offer an attractive alternate control strategy against these parasites: the extensive genetic diversity and immune-regulatory properties of parasites has, however, greatly hampered vaccine development[9], and although two

licensed vaccines are currently available for veterinary purposes[10], transcriptomic

plasticity of the parasite following vaccine challenge may contribute to circumvent the

vaccinal response of their host[10]. It is therefore clear that novel, sustainable control

strategies are required. The potential of helminths to adapt to – and thus escape –

control measures lies in their underlying genetic diversity. A greater understanding of

the extent of this diversity and the processes that shape it throughout their range

should provide insight into the mechanisms by which they adapt, and may identify

new targets which may be exploited for control.

The trichostrongylid *Haemonchus contortus* is a gastrointestinal parasite of

ruminants in tropical and temperate regions throughout the world, and causes

significant economic and animal health burden particularly on sheep husbandry. It is

also emerging as a model parasitic nematode system for functional and comparative

genomics, largely due to its rapid ability to acquire drug resistance, the relative

tractability of its life-cycle under laboratory conditions[11], the development of

extensive genomic resources[12,13], and its relatively close relationship with other

clade V parasitic nematodes of both veterinary and medical importance (i.e, other

gastro-intestinal nematodes of livestock and human hookworms)[14]. We have used

whole genome sequencing of 223 individual *H. contortus* sampled from 19 isolates

spanning five continents to characterise genome- and population-wide genetic

diversity throughout its range. This survey of genome-wide diversity has revealed old

and new genetic connectivity influenced by human history, and signatures of

selection in response to anthelmintic exposure and local climatic variation.

Results

90 *Haemonchus contortus* **isolates are genetically diverse, with large effective**

91 **population sizes**

92 Whole genome sequencing of 223 individuals from 19 isolates (Fig. 1a;

93 Supplementary Table 1) revealed 23,868,644 SNPs with a genome-wide distribution

94 of 1 SNP per 9.94 bp on average.

95

97 **Figure 1a.** Global distribution of *Haemonchus contortus* isolates. Isolates sampled

98 are coloured by geographical region (sand: South-America, brown: Western-Africa,

99 dark green: Mediterranean area, black: Subtropical Africa, red: Australia). Shape

100 indicates the anthelmintic resistance status of each isolate to fenbendazole (resistant

101 =squares; susceptible =circles) or resistant to both ivermectin and fenbendazole

102 (triangles).

Only a proportion of the filtered SNPs were called in more than half the individuals (n

= 3,338,155 SNPs), with only 411,574 SNPs segregating with a MAF > 5% in those

individuals. Estimates of nucleotide diversity (π) in isolates with at least five

individuals ranged from 0.44% (STA.2) to 1.3% (NAM; Supplementary Table 2).

Variance in π across autosomes among isolates was partly explained by isolate

mean coverage ($F_{(1,84)}$ = 9.49, P = 0.003; Supplementary note). To account for this

bias, estimates were obtained from three subsets of isolates with the highest

coverage (greater than 8× on average) from France (FRA.1 and FRA.2),

Guadeloupe (GUA) and Namibia (NAM) that yielded slightly higher values that

ranged between 0.65 and 1.14%. Overall, these data show equivalent diversity

levels to *Drosophila melanogaster* (ranging between 0.53% and 1.71%)[16] but

represented approximately 1.6 to 45-fold greater diversity than two filarial nematode

species for which similar statistics are available (0.02% for *Wuchereria bancrofti*

larvae[17]; 0.01% and 0.4% for π_S and π_N in *Onchocerca volvulus*[18] Supplementary

Fig. 1).

To begin to explore the global diversity of *H. contortus*, we performed a principal

component analysis (PCA) of genetic variation, which revealed three broad genetic

clusters of isolates (Fig. 1b) that largely coincided with the geographic region from

which they were sampled, including: (i) Sub-tropical African isolates (NAM, STA and

ZAI), (ii) Atlantic isolates including Morocco (MOR), São Tomé (STO), Benin (BEN),

Brazil (BRA) and Guadeloupe (GUA), and (iii) the remainder from the Mediterranean

area (FRA, ACO) and Oceania (AUS.1, AUS.2 and IND). The greatest diversity

among samples was identified in the African and South American isolates, with East

African samples spread along PC1 and West African and South American samples

along PC2.

Figure 1b. Principal component analysis based on genotype likelihood inferred from

whole genome sequences of 223 individual males (243,012 variants considered).

Samples are coloured by geographic region described in panel 1a.

Using estimates of nucleotide diversity estimates, together with the the *C. elegans* [20]

mutation rate and assuming a balanced sex ratio[21], we inferred the current effective

population size (N_e) of *H. contortus* to be between 0.60 and 1.05 million . MSMC

analysis, which models past recombination events based on heterozygosity patterns

along the genome, revealed the historical N_e has remained within a slightly lower

range of values for most of the sampled time interval, i.e. from 2.5 to 500 thousand

years ago (kya), with extreme estimates falling between 1.5 x 10^5 and 6.1 x 10^5

individuals for GUA (633 years ago) and NAM (415 years ago) isolates, respectively

(Fig. 1c). *Ne* estimates remained relatively constant in most populations until 2.5

Kya; since this time, GUA and FRA.1 isolates suffered a more drastic reduction in

N_e, which ranged for each isolate between 0.859 x 10^5 and 1.2 x 10^5 individuals

approximately 633 and 452 years ago, respectively (Fig. 1c).   (Fig. 1c).

Figure 1c. MSMC effective population size across time for 6 isolates. Coloured shaded area

represents range of values estimated from a cross-validation procedure with five replicates,

computed by omitting one chromosome out at a time.

Global population connectivity of *Haemonchus contortus* is characterised by old and new migration

To explore the global connectivity between isolates, we used a number of complementary approaches. Phylogenetic relationships determined by nuclear (Supplementary Fig. 2) and mitochondrial (Fig. 2a; PCA of mtDNA genetic diversity is presented in Supplementary Fig. 3) diversity broadly supported the initial PCA analysis (Fig. 1b), each revealing three main groups of samples partitioned by broad geographic regions, *i.e.* Africa, Oceania and Mediterranean groups. However, the mitochondrial data revealed further subdivision of the Oceanian and Mediterranean clades than nuclear data alone.

Figure 2a. Unrooted maximum likelihood phylogenetic tree constructed constructed using 3,052 SNPs from 223 individual mitochondrial genomes. Circles indicate bootstrap support for each branch, blue if support was higher than 70%, red

elsewhere. Branches leading to a sample identifier are coloured by geographic

region described in Figure 1a. Mitogroups are annotated with constitutive sample

populations.

The presence of close genetic relationships between geographically distant isolates,

resulting in a weak phylogeographic signal (Mantel's test $r = 0.10$, $P = 0.001$), was

inconsistent with a simple isolation-by-distance scenario. This observation was

supported by, for example, little genetic differentiation (measured by F_{ST}) between

geographically distant French (FRA) and Oceanian (AUS.1, AUS.2, IND) isolates

(Fig. 2b).

Figure 2b. Matrix showing pairwise dissimilarity between individuals (upper right)

and pairwise F_{ST} between isolates (lower left).

The greatest genetic dissimilarity was found between subtropical African isolates and

the French and Australian isolates, with mean F_{ST} across comparisons of 0.21 (F_{ST}

range according to isolate pairs: 0.06 - 0.42) and 0.24 (F_{ST} range: 0.17 - 0.33)

respectively (Fig. 2b, Supplementary Fig. 4). The divergence of African isolates was

likely due to the higher within-isolate diversity (+14% higher mitochondrial nucleotide

diversity) relative to others ($P = 0.004$; mitochondrial nucleotide diversity of 0.63% ±

0.37%, 0.58% ± 0.31%, 0.66 ± 0.32%, 0.6% ± 0.35%, for Mediterranean, Oceanian,

American and south-African isolates respectively).

The higher genetic differentiation (8.9% difference, $F_{(1,134)} = 11.36$, $P = 0.0009$)

between STO and other isolates relative to other pairwise comparisons, almost

certainly reflects the isolation of an island population relative to continental

populations (Fig. 2b). STO samples also displayed higher genetic dissimilarity (5.7%

difference, $F_{(1,7567)} = 581$, $P < 10^{-4}$) to other other samples. Inference of the joint

history of STO and other African populations supported this view. The best-fitting

model (supplementary Table 3) was consistent with either ancient symmetrical gene

flow followed by isolation or an early split followed by secondary contact before

isolation with MOR population (supplementary Table 3). This latter demography

would underpin the pattern of admixture detected between STO and MOR (Fig. 2c).

Figure 2c. Admixture analysis of 223 individuals. A cluster size of K = 3 is

presented, determined from sites with minor allele frequency above 5% and call rate

higher than 50%. Admixture pattern for other values of K is provided in

supplementary Figure 5. Isolates are presented sorted along their longitudinal range,

and samples sorted by assignment to the 3 clusters.

A closer inspection of GUA samples revealed a mixed ancestry, likely derived from

West African and Mediterraneanheritage. A subset of GUA samples showed limited

genetic differentiation to FRA isolates (F_{ST} range = 0.07 - 0.10; Fig. 2b), whereas the

remaining GUA samples were genetically similar to isolates from the West African

coast, *i.e.* ACO, BEN, MOR, STO (Fig. 2b & c), as indicated by lower F_{ST} estimates

with these isolates (F_{ST} range = 0.07 - 0.13; Wilcoxon's test, P = 0.07; Fig. 2b) and

evidence of shared ancestry from the admixture analysis (Fig. 2c, Supplementary

Fig. 5 and 6). A particularly close relationship was identified between STO and GUA

(F_{ST} = 0.10; Fig. 2b). This conflicting genetic origin among GUA sub-isolates is

responsible for the higher nucleotide diversity observed in GUA as a whole

(Supplementary Table 2).

The patterns of genetic connectivity support at least three distinct migration events in

time and space that we investigated using forward genetic simulations

(supplementary Table 3). First, we detect an out-of-Africa scenario, whereby the

greatest diversity was sampled within Africa, and that isolates outside of Africa

represent a subset of this diversity. Consistent with this hypothesis, nuclear genome

variation of non-African isolates experienced a genetic bottleneck that occurred

between 2.5 and 10 kya that is not present in the African isolates sampled (Fig. 1c).

Bayesian coalescent estimate of this initial divergence from mitochondrial genome

data yielded an overlapping time range of between 3.6 kya and 4.1 kya

(Supplementary Fig. 7). Genetic simulations of the joint demography between FRA.1

and African populations also favoured complex scenarios involving early split

(maximum likelihood estimates ranging between 13 and 25 Kya) followed by ongoing

gene flow with STA populations or more recent isolation with Namibia

(supplementary Table 3). Secondly, the genetic connectivity of West African and

American isolates is consistent with parasites spreading during the trans-Atlantic

slave trade movement. The scenario linking GUA and STO was compatible with

initial population division occurring around 1640 Common Era (CE) ± 167 years

(supplementary table 3), consistent with migration associated with colonization and

slave trade that occurred in the West Indies under French influence during that

time[22]. The third pattern of connectivity likely reflects British colonisation of Australia

in late 1700's: the interweaving of Australian and South-African worms into the

Mediterranean phylogenetic haplogroup (Fig. 2b) may mirror the foundation of

Australian Merino sheep, which were first introduced into Australia from South Africa,

before additional contributions from Europe and America were made[23,24]. The

admixture pattern observed for worms from the two countries matched their shared

ancestry (Fig. 2c), as well as a genetic connection between America and Australia

(seen for the AUS.1 isolate; Fig. 2c). Although maximum likelihood estimates

supported these scenarios with the isolation of European and South-African isolates

occurring between 1794 and 1871 CE (supplementary Table 3), broad uncertainty

limited our ability to specifically define the timings of these events (Supplementary

Table 3). However, the split between Australian isolates occurred in 1895 CE ± 132

years, consistent with the initial foundation of the sheep industry in this

country.These complex patterns reiterate that human movement has played an

important role in shaping the diversity of this livestock parasite throughout the world.

Anthelmintic resistance has left distinct patterns of diversity in the

Haemonchus contortus genome

The extensive use of anthelmintics has been and remains the primary means of *H.*

contortus and other gastrointestinal control worldwide. This strategy has resulted in

the independent emergence of drug-resistant isolates throughout the world, which

now limits farming in some areas. Strong selection should impact the distribution of

genetic variation within isolates; signatures of selection may reveal genes associated

with drug resistance, knowledge of which may contribute to monitoring the

emergence and spread of drug resistant isolates, and the design of new control

strategies.

The genetic determinants of benzimidazole resistance is perhaps the best

characterised of all anthelmintics, with either one of three amino acid residue

changes - F167Y, E198A, and F200Y - in the beta tubulin isotype 1 (*Hco-tbb-iso-1*)

protein capable of mediating phenotypic resistance. We identified indications of a

selective sweep in the region surrounding the *Hco-tbb-iso-1* locus in the resistant

isolates analysed. Focusing on three isolates with the highest coverage, we found an

average 2.31-fold reduction of Tajima's *D* coefficient within 1 Mbp (Fig. 3a,

Supplementary Fig. 8) and an average 33% reduction in nucleotide diversity

(Supplementary Fig. 9) within this region relative to the rest of chromosome I.

Figure 3a. Analysis of Tajima's *D* surrounding the *Hco-tbb-iso-1* locus on

chromosome I. A total of 10-Mbp surrounding was considered (pink), of which 1 Mbp

nearest to *Hco-tbb-iso-1* is highlighted (blue). Isolates compared included

benzimidazole-resistant French (FRA.1), Guadeloupian (GUA), Namibian (NAM) or

benzimidazole susceptible Australian (AUS.2) and Zaire (ZAI) isolates. Mean

expected Tajima's *D* (solid grey line) and 99% confidence interval (dotted line) were

estimated from a 1,000 simulated 10-Kbp wide sequences following MSMC-inferred

demography.

This signature was most evident in the GUA and NAM isolates, but was weaker in

the French isolate (FRA.1) due to both phenotypically susceptible and resistant

individuals being present (Supplementary Table 4). Phased genotypic information

over the whole *Hco-tbb-iso-1* (Supplementary Fig. 10) revealed that French and

Guadeloupian individuals had little divergence in their haplotypes, suggesting that

gene flow of resistant haplotypes between mainland France and the West Indies had

occurred (Supplementary Fig. 10). A topology analysis of a 100 Kbp region spanning

the *Hco-tbb-iso-1* locus supported the shared phylogenetic origin between FRA.1

and FRG (topology 3), whereas the surrounding region was in favour of topologies

congruent with overall population structure (Fig. 3b). This finding is consistent when

either Moroccan (Fig. 3b) or São Tomé populations are used as a population with

close ancestry with FRG (Supplementary Fig. 11).

Figure 3b. Topology weighing analysis of a 100-Kbp window centred on *Hco-tbb-*

iso-1. At each position, the weight of each of the three possible topologies inferred

from 50 Kbp-windows are overlaid. Topology 2 (blue) corresponds to an isolation-by-

distance history, while topology 3 (brown) would agree with shared introgressed

material between worm populations from French mainland into Guadeloupe. The

Hco-tbb-iso-1 locus is indicated by vertical dashed lines.

We analysed the frequency of the three well-characterised resistance-associated

mutations affecting codon positions 167 (T to A), 198 (A to T) and 200 (T to A)

(Supplementary Table 4; Supplementary Table 5; Supplementary Fig. 12 & 13).

The F200Y homozygous genotype was the most common and widespread resistant

genotype (n = 39), and accounted for all samples from the Guadeloupe (n = 14) and

the White-River South-African (STA.3; n = 6) isolates. Variants at codons 167 and

198 were much less common, i.e. 13 mutant allelic carriers were observed at

position 198 and only one F167Y mutant was identified in a French isolate. No

double homozygous mutants were found, but three individuals from France, Australia

and South-Africa were heterozygous at both positions 198 and 200. In each case,

inspection of the sequencing reads revealed that the two mutations never appeared

together in the same sequencing read, suggesting they cannot co-occur in *cis* (on

the same chromosome copy). Genotype frequencies were consistent with isolate-

level benzimidazole efficacies as measured by the percentage of egg excretion after

treatment (Supplementary Table 5). Samples analysed from suspected susceptible

isolates always presented with the susceptible genotype for each of the three

positions considered (n = 20).

The genetic determinants of ivermectin resistance are largely unknown, but many

genes have been proposed to be associated with resistance; although one

interpretation of this observation is that ivermectin resistance is a multigenic trait, a

major locus associated with resistance in Australian and South African *H. contortus*

has recently been mapped to a region approximately 37-40 Mbp along

chromosome V [12]. To examine for the presence of ivermectin-mediated selection in

our data, a pairwise differentiation scan was performed between known ivermectin-

resistant isolates and other isolates sharing same genetic ancestry, *i.e.* STA.1 and

STA.3 versus NAM and ZAI in Africa, AUS.1 against AUS.2 in Australia (Fig. 3c).

Figure 3c. Genome-wide differentiation scan between pairs of ivermectin-resistant

(AUS.1, STA.1, STA.3) and populations with no evidence of ivermectin resistance.

Chromosomes are coloured and ordered by name, *i.e.* from I (pink) to V (forest

green). Horizontal line represents the 0.5% F_{ST} quantile cut-off. Vertical line on

chromosome I points at *Hco-tbb-iso-1* locus.

The previously described region on chromosome V[12] appeared differentiated,

particularly between pairwise comparisons involving the South-African resistant

isolate (Fig. 3c). A second major differentiation hotspot spanned a 3 Mbp region of

chromosome I and encompassed the *Hco-tbb-iso-1* locus (Fig. 3c). Although non-

synonymous mutations at codon positions 167, 198 and 200 of the β-tubulin isotype

1 are associated with resistance to benzimidazoles, it has been proposed that there

may also be an association between this gene and ivermectin resistance[25,26].

Although our data seem to support this association, an attempt to narrow-down the

differentiation signal in this region found significant differentiation in only two 10-kbp

windows in two comparisons (NAM vs STA.1 and NAM vs. STA.3, and these two

windows did not overlap the *Hco-tbb-iso-1* locus. Furthermore, the fact that all of our

ivermectin-resistant isolates were also benzimidazole-resistant suggests that this

signal is confounded; pairwise F_{ST} analyses between ivermectin-resistant and -

susceptible isolates from the field will always be biased toward strong differentiation

around the *Hco-tbb-iso-1* locus due to loss of diversity in benzimidazole-resistant

isolates. As such, it was not possible to confirm the putative association between the

Hco-tbb-iso-1 locus and ivermectin resistance. We note that the lack of QTL

evidence in this region from controlled genetic crosses using ivermectin selection[12]

supports the conclusion that standing genetic variation at the *Hco-tbb-iso-1*locus is

unlikely to be directly influenced by ivermectin.

To further investigate more subtle signatures of selection, we computed the XP-CLR

coefficient, which simultaneously exploits within-isolate departure from neutrality and

between-isolate allele-frequency differences [27]. This analysis relies on called

genotypes rather than genotype likelihoods, but is robust to SNP uncertainty[27].

Within continent pairwise comparisons of African (NAM, MOR, STA.1, STA.3, ZAI)

and Australian isolates (AUS.1, AUS.2) yielded 1,740 hotspots of diversification,

48% of which were contained within a gene locus (Supplementary Fig. 14,

Supplementary Table 6). Among these hotspots, two known candidate genes

associated with ivermectin resistance were identified, namely an ivermectin sensitive

glutamate-gated chloride channel[28] (*HCOI00617300, glc-4* ortholog) on chromosome

I, and a P-glycoprotein coding gene already involved in ivermectin susceptibility in

the equine ascarid *Parascaris sp* [29], (*HCOI00233200, pgp-11* ortholog) on

chromosome V. While the former showed indication of reduced genetic diversity in

its vicinity in resistant isolates relative to others (0.48% ± 0.09% difference in

nucleotide diversity between the two groups, $t = 5.25$, $P < 10^{-4}$; Fig. 3d), the genetic

diversity pattern in the 100 Kbp window surrounding the latter was similar across

isolates ($t = 0.004$, $P = 0.99$; Fig. 3d), suggesting its role may not be specifically

related to ivermectin resistance.

Figure 3d. Nucleotide diversity over 100 Kbp windows surrounding positional

candidate genes for ivermectin resistance. Candidate gene position is highlighted by

vertical dashed lines. Ivermectin-resistant isolates (IVM-R) appear as triangles and

squares indicate susceptible isolates (IVM-S).

GO term enrichment analysis of all XP-CLR significant regions identified 26

significant terms (Supplementary Table 7). The top ten most significant GO terms

encompassed enzymatic-related activity, neurotransmitter transporter activity

(GO:0005326, P = 5.8 x 10^{-4}) and response to drug (GO:0042493, P = 4.3 × 10^{-3}).

Additional significant biological process associated terms were related to phenotypes

tightly linked to anthelmintic effects. For example, pharyngeal pumping[30]

(GO:0043051, $P = 5.8 \times 10^{-3}$) and oviposition (GO:0046662, $P = 8.6 \times 10^{-3}$) genes

were enriched, both of which are phenotypes linked to ivermectin and its effect on

parasite fecundity[31]. Neurotransmission is the primary target of anthelmintics such as

macrocyclic lactones[32] and levamisole[33]; genes with GO terms related to

neurotransmission (GO:0001505, $P = 9.1 \times 10^{-3}$) were significantly enriched across

comparisons. Anthelmintic-associated GO terms including "response to drug",

"regulation of neurotransmitter" and "neurotransmitter transporter activity" were

significantly enriched in every comparison involving a South-African multi-resistant

field isolates (STA.1, Supplementary Table 8). Four candidate genes

(*HCOI00389600*, *HCOI00032800*, *HCOI00243900*, *HCOI00489500*) were found

overlapping XP-CLR signals of selection and thus seem candidates for drug

resistance loci in *H. contortus*, as supported by the functions of their *C. elegans*

orthologs (*snf-9*, *unc-24*, *B0361.4*, *aex-3* respectively). The *snf-9* gene encodes a

neurotransmitter:sodium symporter belonging to a family of proteins involved in

neurotransmitter reuptake, and the latter three genes are expressed in neurons.

Unc-24 and *B0361.4* are involved in response to lipophilic compounds and *aex-3* is

critical in synaptic vesicle release[34]. A reduction in nucleotide diversity surrounding

unc-24, *B0361.4*, *aex-3* in the STA.1 isolate in comparison to others (Fig. 3d) may

reflect evidence of drug selection.

Climatic adaptation has shaped genomic variation between isolates

In addition to putative anthelmintic-related GO terms, response to stress

(GO:0006950, $P = 5.9 \times 10^{-3}$) was among the top ten significant biological process

ontologies associated with genes under diversifying selection. Although anthelmintic

exposure would be associated with significant stress on susceptible (and perhaps

resistant or tolerant) parasites, all free-living stages of *H. contortus* will be exposed

to and must tolerate abiotic factors such as temperature or humidity prior to infection

of a new host. To evaluate the impact of such climatic stressors, a genome scan for

genetic differentiation between isolates categorised by by the climactic conditions

prevailing at their sampling locations, i.e. arid (Namibia), temperate (France

mainland) and tropical (Guadeloupe), was performed (Fig. 4a).

Figure 4a. Genomic signal of climate adaptation

Top three panels represent F_{ST} values plotted against genomic position (Mbp),

colored and ordered by chromosome name (from I to V). Horizontal dashed line

represents the 0.5% quantile. Bottom panel shows genomic positions of significant

associations between annual precipitation (circle) and temperature annual range

(triangle).

A major signal of differentiation formed of two windows (6.925 – 6.995 Mbp and

7.165 - 7.205 Mbp on chromosome I) was shared by all pairwise comparisons. Six

genes were found within these two regions (Supplementary Table 9), among which

orthologs of *C. elegans* genes *hprt-1*, *cpb-1*, *B0205.4* were identified. A highly

differentiated 260 Kbp region of chromosome III also repeatedly occurred across

comparisons. A window between 31.155 Mbp and 31.185 Mbp was common to

comparisons involving isolates from arid areas (NAM vs. FRA.1 and NAM vs. GUA),

and a second window (31.345 Mbp to 31.415 Mbp) was common to comparisons

between tropical isolates and others (GUA *vs*. FRA.1 and GUA *vs*. NAM). While the

two annotated genes in the latter region were not associated with any biological

description, the first window overlapped a chromo-domain containing protein

(*HCOI01540500*; Supplementary Table 89). This gene is an ortholog of *Pc*

(*FBgn0003042*) in *D. melanogaster*, a chromo-domain subunit of the Polycomb

PRC1-complex that specifically recognizes trimethylated lysine7 of histone 3

(H3K27me3)[35]. Nucleotide diversity over these genomic windows revealed reduced

genetic diversity in FRA.1 relative to isolates from hotter climates (Fig. 4b). The

contrasted diversity downstream from *HCOI01540500* (31.225 Kbp to 31.350 Kbp,

Fig. 4b) found between GUA and NAM certainly contributed to higher F_{ST} in these

windows. Additional differentiation analyses performed at the gene level with base-

pair resolution highlighted a few discrete locations of elevated F_{ST} common to every

comparison and overlapping intron 4 and exon 5 of this gene (Fig. 4b). Translated

consensus exon 5 sequences revealed the highest divergence in the GUA isolate

(92.1% identity with reference sequence; supplementary Fig. 15), characterized by

multiple amino acid changes whose putative functional consequences remain

unknown.

Figure 4b. A *Polycomb group protein coding* gene underpins major

differentiation signal between populations from arid, temperate and tropical

areas.

Top panel shows nucleotide diversity estimates for 10 Kbp genomic windows

spanning windows of chromosome III with high genetic differentiation for climate.

Dashed lines indicate the *Pc* ortholog boundaries. Within these boundaries, F_{ST}

estimates along every base-pair of the gene sequence are represented below (circle

size proportional to F_{ST} coefficient), with predicted exon model shown as grey

rectangles. The bottom panel shows translated consensus sequences of exon 5 for

populations of interest with asterisks marking mutations.

To further explore the impact of climatic conditions of genetic diversity, we used a

random forest based statistical approach to quantify the relationship between genetic

information along environmental gradients, and relative impact of specific bioclimatic

variables on genetic diversity. Bioclimatic variables were derived from monthly

temperature and precipitation records, with the aim to represent annual trends or

seasonality over the 1970 to 2000 time period (Supplementary Fig. 16;

Supplementary Table 10). This analysis randomly samples subsets of sites (encoded

as SNP frequencies) that can be partitioned into groups based on differences in

climactic variables to estimate the predictive ability of climatic variables. Annual

precipitation (BIO12), and temperature annual range (BIO7) were revealed to be the

most important bioclimatic variables impacting genetic variation (Fig. 4c).

b

Figure 4c. Proportion of genetic variance explained by precipitation- (blue) and

temperature-associated (orange) climatic variables. Variants from eight isolates with

no record of ivermectin resistance (AUS.2, FRA.1, GUA, IND, MOR, NAM, STO,

ZAI) were analysed against a set of nine variables (from a total of 19), selected to

minimize correlation between variables. Annual precipitation (BIO12) and

temperature annual range (BIO7) are main contributors of genetic variance.

To identify genes that might be impacted by these variables, we performed a

genome-wide test for association between SNP variants, and each of these two

environmental variables, accounting for genetic structure between isolates. In total,

17 and 25 significant associations (5% FDR; 49,370 SNPs tested) were found with

BIO7 and BIO12 respectively (Fig. 4a bottom panel; Supplementary Table 11).

Consistent with the initial differentiation scan, chromosomes I and III harboured most

of the associations (n = 13 and n = 11, respectively). On chromosome I, eight (of the

13) associations with BIO12 fell within a 6 Kbp window (7,177,538 bp and 7,183,617

bp), overlapping the region universally differentiated between climatic areas.

Chromosome III contained 11 significant associations for both BIO7 (n = 6) and

BIO12 (n = 5). The two most significant associations were also found on this

chromosome for BIO7 (positions 26,824,240 and 26,824,197 bp; $P = 6.34 \times 10^{-9}$ and

$P = 1.39 \times 10^{-7}$, respectively). These two SNPs fell within the *HCOI00198200* locus,

which codes for a metallopeptidase M1, an ortholog of the *C. elegans* gene *anp-1*.

Additional BIO7-associated SNPs were found within (16,544,889 bp) and in the

vicinity (15,905,141 & 15,905,191 bp) of a solute carrier coding gene

(*HCOI00312500*) on chromosome IV, whose orthologs in *C. elegans* are under the

control of *daf-12*, a key player in dauer formation. Of note, two *H. contortus* orthologs

of components of the dauer pathway in *C. elegans*, namely *tax-4* (*HCOI00661100*)

and *daf-36* (*HCOI00015800*), were among genes under diversifying selection

(Supplementary Fig. 14), but neither of these genes contained SNPs identified as

being associated with the two most significant bioclimatic variables.

Discussion

The ecology and epidemiology of gastrointestinal nematodes have been well characterized and exploited to build mathematical models to guide treatment decision in the field[36]. On the contrary, knowledge about their genetic diversity remains limited ; a better understanding of population structure and selective pressure applied by environmental factors would yield better predictive power of their range dispersion[37]. By exploiting a broad collection of samples from globally-distributed isolates, together with chromosome-scale assembly and extensive individual resequencing, we have performed an in-depth characterization of *H. contortus* genetic diversity, explored historical contributions to its current population structure and identified important drivers shaping the genome of this parasite.

H. contortus populations displayed high levels of nucleotide diversity, consistent with early estimates based on mitochondrial data[39,40], and recent re-sequencing experiments of inbred isolates[12]. These extreme levels of genetic diversity are thought to arise from both a large census population[42] and the high fecundity of *H. contortus* females[21].

An early attempt based on a set of genome-wide AFLP markers obtained for 150 individual worms from 14 countries supported the first exploration of *H. contortus* population structure at the continent level [40]. Analyses of these data identified three to four (Africa, South-East Asia, America and Europe) main phylogenetic clusters as well as evidence for the strong genetic connectivity between Australian, South-African and European isolates[40]. Our genome wide data corroborated these early

results. However, the use of a chromosome-scale assembly and individual

resequencing contributed to identify genome-wide patterns of genetic diversity in its

chromosomal context, and in turn, provided sufficient resolution to identify genes

likely associated with selective advantage against drug or climate selection

pressures. This had not been possible in previous attempts with AFLP markers [40].

Major past human migrations and associated sheep movements have contributed to

the mixing of parasite populations, which partly accounts for the limited genetic

structure and extensive admixture between some of our globally distributed isolates.

Our data supported an out of Africa expansion derived from ancestral populations

from Western Africa, with a bottleneck dated back between 2.5 to 10 kya. Sheep

domestication originally took place in the Middle East around 10 kya[43], before

introduction into Eastern Africa and subsequent spread, likely through cultural

diffusion, toward southern Africa approximately 2 to 2.5 kya [44]. The timing of the

bottleneck identified in our data and occurring between 2.5 and 10 kya is compatible

with major migrations of pastoralist populations that ultimately resulted in the import

of small ruminants into Southern Africa [44]. The simultaneous increase in rainfall in

central Africa around 10.5 kya[45] would have supported the population expansion and

dispersal of *H. contortus*. In addition, early radiation towards Asia observed in our

data was congruent with evidence obtained from the study of retroviral insertions

within the sheep genome that suggested direct migration between Africa and

southwest Asia[46], and with the timing of Asian sheep expansion between 1.8 and 14

kya[47].

The genetic congruence of parasites in Guadeloupe with those from both West

Africa and the Mediterranean region is consistent with co-transportation of

livestock, including sheep, during the discovery and subsequent colonization of

America.. Woolly Churra sheep were originally brought to the Caribbean by Spanish

conquistadors [49,50], before West African breeds more suited to tropical conditions

were transported , resulting in an admixed Carribean sheep population [49,50]. The

timing of genetic admixture here overlaps with centuries of human and presumably

livestock movement during the transport of slaves, most of whom originated in

West Africa and were transported to colonies that included the French West

Indies[22]. The Mediterranean ancestry of *H. contortus* isolates in Guadeloupe and the

close relationship with French worm populations suggest additional sheep transport

occurred between French mainland and its Guadeloupian overseas territory.

Although these movements are difficult to track precisely, live sheep were shipped

aboard slave trade vessels departing from French harbours[51], and may have

introduced European *H. contortus* to the island. Based on historical data[49,50], a

Spanish lineage of *H. contortus* on Guadeloupe would also be expected to exist,

though data are missing to confirm this. It can be speculated that the shared

ancestry between Guadeloupian and Moroccan worm isolates might result from the

introduction of Spanish Churra sheep, as this breed emerged in Spain while the

region was under Arab influence between the 8th and 13th century[49,52]. Introduction of

H. contortus-infected sheep from the Maghreb may have been associated with the

spreading of African worms in Spain, and ultimately, Guadeloupe.

The widespread use of anthelmintic drugs has been a major selective force shaping

standing genetic variation in the isolates analysed. Adaptation to drug exposure

was clearly illustrated in the genetic diversity surrounding the β-tubulin coding gene,

a target of benzimidazole drugs; strong loss of diversity was observed at this locus

in many distinct isolates phenotypically characterised to be resistant to this class of

drug. The co-occurrence of the same resistant haplotypes in geographically

disconnected isolates is almost certainly due to the independent evolution of

benzimidazole resistance as has been described previously[53]; however, some

evidence of shared ancestry between French and Guadeloupe resistant individuals

emphasises the risk of spreading resistance without careful monitoring of parasite

populations during livestock trade. Furthermore, this highlights the risk of evolution

of resistance in other parasitic nematodes, for example, parasites of medical

interest that are treated with benzimidazoles in mass-drug administration

programs[54].

Ivermectin is an important anthelmintic for parasite control in both veterinary and

medical settings[55]. Worldwide emergence of ivermectin-resistant veterinary parasitic

nematodes[5] and evidence of reduced efficacy in human filarial nematodes[56]

underline the urgency and importance of a better understanding of the mechanisms

involved[55]. Our data identified genes previously associated with ivermectin

resistance in parasitic nematodes of either veterinary (*pgp-11 in Parascaris sp.*[29]) or

medical (*aex-3* in *Onchocerca volvulus*[57]) interest and uncovered new candidates.

Additional validation study will determine whether these could serve as that may be

useful markers in the field to monitor drug efficacy.. Of note, support for a major QTL

for ivermectin resistance on chromosome V recently identified in an introgression

experiment in two resistant isolates[38] was also present in our genome-wide data and

warrants further investigation.

Our broad sampling throughout the global range of *H. contortus* has enabled the first

analyses into climate-driven adaptation in a parasitic nematode. Understanding how

climate shapes parasite genetic variation is of primary importance to foresee

consequences of climate change on parasite phenology and range dispersion.

Parasite dispersal is largely driven by their hosts but *H. contortus* free-living stages

experience climatic conditions that affect their development[2] and constrain their

spatio-temporal dispersal[58]. Observations in Northern Europe suggest that climate

change has already altered *H. contortus* winter phenology [59]. Our results suggest

that adaptation toward annual precipitation was mostly under the control of variation

on chromosome I, however, no obvious candidate genes could be identified. In

addition, the *Hco-tbb-iso-1* locus was close to the region of interest, and linked

variation in allelic frequency at this locus as a result of benzimidazole selection

cannot be ruled out. A second region of chromosome III was associated with both

temperature- and precipitation-related variables, within which biologically relevant

genes could be identified; first, the strongest genetic associations with annual

temperature range were found in a metallopeptidase with zinc ion binding function

(*anp-1* ortholog), an enzyme linked to drought stress tolerance in *Drosophila* [60], and

second, an ortholog of *Pc* displayed strong genetic differentiation between arid- and

wetter temperate or tropical environmental conditions. This gene has been linked to

putative epigenetic regulation of xeric adaptation in *Drosophila melanogaster*, where

Pc mutants display lower resistance to desiccation stress[61]. This finding is also

corroborated by observations in plants showing Polycomb-mediated regulation of

climate-induced phenotypes[62]. Further links to climatic adaptation include

identification members of the dauer pathway[63]; *tax-4* and *daf-36* orthologs were

under diversifying selection and a *daf-12*-respondent solute carrier was associated

with annual temperature range. Dauer is a developmentally arrested stage in *C.*

elegans that is triggered by environmental stress and mediates tolerance to

unfavourable conditions until better conditions are met[63], and can occur in parasitic

nematodes like *H. contortus* under semi-arid conditions[64]. Evidence for climatic

adaptation suggests that adaptation in the face of climate change will be

constrained by available genetic variability at temperature-selected loci, that may

both limit or enable range expansion depending on the region. By a better

understanding of the interaction between climatic conditions and phenotypes such

as hypobiosis (a temporary developmental arrest during unfavorable conditions),

optimisation of treatment timing may be possible to maximise control efficacy.

In summary, our data describes the extensive global and genome-wide diversity of

the blood-feeding parasitic nematode *H. contortus*, and how this diversity has been

shaped by adaptation to its environment and to drug exposure. Understanding the

mechanism(s) by which parasites adapt to fluctuating environmental conditions both

within and outside their hosts will have important implications for field management

of parasitic nematodes in both veterinary and medical settings. Further

characterisation of these putative strategies, together with genetic covariation of drug

resistance genes, should contribute to refining epidemiological models and guide

treatment decision-trees for a more sustainable management of worm populations in

the face of a changing climate.

Legends to Figures

Figure 1. Global diversity of *Haemonchus contortus*.

(a) Global distribution of *Haemonchus contortus* isolates. Isolates sampled are coloured by geographical region (sand: South-America, brown: Western-Africa, dark green: Mediterranean area, black: Subtropical Africa, red: Australia). Shape indicates the anthelmintic resistance status of each isolate to fenbendazole (resistant =squares; susceptible =circles) or resistant to both ivermectin and fenbendazole (triangles).

(b) Principal component analysis based on genotype likelihood inferred from whole genome sequences of 223 individual males (243,012 variants considered). Samples are coloured by geographic region described in panel 1a.

(c) MSMC effective population size across time for 6 isolates. Coloured shaded area represents range of values estimated from a cross-validation procedure with five replicates, computed by omitting one chromosome at a time.

Figure 2. Global connectivity of *Haemonchus contortus* isolates.

(a) Unrooted maximum likelihood phylogenetic tree constructed using 3,052 SNPs from 223 individual mitochondrial genomes. Circles indicate bootstrap support for each branch, blue if support was higher than 70%, red elsewhere. Branches leading to a sample identifier are coloured by geographic region described in Figure 1a. Mitogroups are annotated with constitutive sample populations.

(b) Matrix showing pairwise dissimilarity between individuals (upper right) and

pairwise F_{ST} between isolates (lower left).

(c) Admixture analysis of 223 individuals. A cluster size of K = 3 is presented,

determined from sites with minor allele frequency above 5% and call rate higher than

50%. Admixture pattern for other values of K is provided in supplementary Figure 5.

Isolates are presented sorted along their longitudinal range, and samples sorted by

assignment to the 3 clusters.

Figure 3. Anthelmintic-mediated selection is a major driver of genetic variation

(**a**) Analysis of Tajima's *D* surrounding the *Hco-tbb-iso-1* locus on chromosome I. A

total of 10-Mbp surrounding was considered (pink), of which 1 Mbp nearest to *Hco-*

tbb-iso-1 is highlighted (blue). Isolates compared included benzimidazole-resistant

French (FRA.1), Guadeloupian (GUA), Namibian (NAM) or benzimidazole

susceptible Australian (AUS.2) and Zaire (ZAI) isolates. Mean expected Tajima's D

(solid grey line) and 99% confidence interval (dotted line) were estimated from a

1,000 simulated 10-Kbp wide sequences following MSMC-inferred demography.

(**b**) Topology weighing analysis of a 100-Kbp window centred on *Hco-tbb-iso-1*. At

each position, the weight of each of the three possible topologies inferred from 50

Kbp-windows are overlaid. Topology 2 (blue) corresponds to an isolation-by-distance

history, while topology 3 (brown) would agree with shared introgressed material

between worm isolates from French mainland into Guadeloupe. The *Hco-tbb-iso-1*

locus is indicated by vertical dashed lines.

(**c**) Genome-wide differentiation scan between pairs of ivermectin-resistant (AUS.1,

STA.1, STA.3) and isolates with no evidence for ivermectin resistance.

Chromosomes are coloured and ordered by name, i.e. from I (pink) to V (forest

green). Horizontal line represents the 0.5% F_{ST} quantile cut-off. Vertical line on

chromosome I points at *Hco-tbb-iso-1* locus.

(**d**) Nucleotide diversity over 100 Kbp windows surrounding positional candidate

genes for ivermectin resistance. Candidate gene position is highlighted by vertical

dashed lines. Ivermectin-resistant isolates (IVM-R) appear as triangles and squares

indicate susceptible isolates (IVM-S).

Figure 4. Genomic signal of climate adaptation

(**a**) Top three panels represent F_{ST} values plotted against genomic position (Mbp),

colored and ordered by chromosome name (from I to V). Horizontal dashed line

represents the 0.5% quantile. Bottom panel shows genomic positions of significant

associations between annual precipitation (circle) and temperature annual range

(triangle).

(**b**) A *Polycomb group protein coding* gene underpins major differentiation signal

between populations from arid, temperate and tropical areas. Top panel shows

nucleotide diversity estimates for 10 Kbp genomic windows spanning windows of

chromosome III with high genetic differentiation for climate. Dashed lines indicate the

Pc ortholog boundaries. Within these boundaries, F_{ST} estimates along every base-

pair of the gene sequence are represented below (circle size proportional to F_{ST}

coefficient), with predicted exon model shown as grey rectangles. The bottom panel

shows translated consensus sequences of exon 5 for populations of interest with

asterisks marking mutations.

(**c**) Proportion of genetic variance explained by precipitation- (blue) and

temperature-associated (orange) climatic variables. Variants from eight isolates with

no record of ivermectin resistance (AUS.2, FRA.1, GUA, IND, MOR, NAM, STO,

ZAI) were analysed against a set of nine variables (from a total of 19), selected to

minimize correlation between variables. Annual precipitation (BIO12) and

temperature annual range (BIO7) are main contributors of genetic variance.

Materials and methods

Sample DNA extraction and sequencing

A total of 267 individual male *H. contortus* were obtained from a collection held at INRA[16] (metadata for all samples is presented in detail in Supplementary Table 1). The sampling regime was motivated to delineate the contribution of major evolutionary forces, *i.e.* migration and selection (drug and climate) but also constrained by the material available in the collection. Because migration was likely to match human history, isolates from western African countries and southern America were selected to address the contribution of slave trade history to the structuring of *H. contortus* populations; isolates from former colonies of the British Empire (South-Africa, Australia) were sampled to establish the connectivity between worm populations from Europe and these countries. Ivermectin-resistant isolates (AUS.1, STA.1, STA.3) were also retained to evaluate how anthelmintics had shaped *H. contortus* genomic variability (drug efficacy data have been provided in supplementary Table 4). Isolates were selected based on available material to ensure minimal sample size (n = 9) per isolate and proper allele frequency estimation. Following these criteria, 19 isolates from 12 countries were available (Supplementary Table 1). Note that the second Australian population (AUS.2) was obtained from an Italian laboratory (labelled ITA_NAP, supplementary Table 1). Samples were gathered between 1995 and 2011 (Supplementary Table 1), and stored in liquid nitrogen upon collection. Four isolates were fenbendazole susceptible (Fig. 1 and supplementary table 4; triangles; FRA.2, FRA.4, STO, ZAI).

DNA was extracted with the NucleoSpin Tissue XS kit (Macherey-Nagel GmbH&Co,

France) following the manufacturer's instruction. Sequencing libraries were prepared

as previously described[12]. DNA libraries were sequenced with 125 bp paired-end

reads on an Illumina Hiseq2500 platform using V4 chemistry (Supplementary Table

1). A second round of sequencing was performed with 75 bp paired-end reads to

increase the coverage of 43 samples (Supporting Fig. 15). After sequencing, two

samples were identified to be heavily contaminated by kraken-0.10.6-a2d113dc8f[65]

and were discarded. In total, 18 sequencing lanes consisting of 4,152,170,256 reads

were sequenced, the raw data of which are archived under the ENA study accession

PRJEB9837.

Sequencing data processing

Read mapping to both the mitochondrial and nuclear genomes (v3.0, available at

ftp://ngs.sanger.ac.uk/production/pathogens/Haemonchus_contortus) was performed

using SMALT (http://www.sanger.ac.uk/science/tools/smalt-0) with a median insert

size of 500 bp, k-mer length of 13 bp, and a stringency of 90%. For samples that had

two or more BAM files (when split across multiple sequencing lanes), the BAM files

were merged using samtools v.0.1.19-44428[66], and duplicated reads removed using

Picard v.2_14_0 (https://github.com/broadinstitute/picard) before performing

realignment around indels using Genome Analysis Toolkit (GATK v3.6)[67]

RealignerTargetCreator. Mean coverage of the mitochondrial and genomic genomes

were estimated using GATK DepthOfCoverage, revealing coverage lower than the

estimated target coverage (original 8x) for most samples. Individuals with more than

80% of their mitochondrial sequence with at least 15 reads and a mean

mitochondrial genome coverage of at least 20× were retained for population genetic

inferences (n = 223 individuals).

Nuclear genome SNP calling

To call SNPs, we used GATK HaplotypeCaller in GVCF mode, followed by joint

genotyping across samples (GenotypeGVCFs) and extraction of variants

(SelectVariants), resulting in a total of 30,040,159 unfiltered SNPs across the five

autosomes. Sex determination in *H. contortus* is based on an XX/XO system; as only

male worms were sequenced, their hemizygous X chromosome would have revealed

limited phylogenetic information relative to the autosomes, and was henceforth

excluded from further analysis.

Low coverage sequencing will inadvertently bias allele sampling at heterozygous

SNPs, resulting in excess homozygous genotypes particularly if stringent filtering is

applied during SNP calling. To circumvent this issue, we applied the GATK Variant

Quality Score Recalibration

(https://gatkforums.broadinstitute.org/gatk/discussion/39/variant-quality-score-

[recalibration-vqsr](https://gatkforums.broadinstitute.org/gatk/discussion/39/variant-quality-score-recalibration-vqsr)), which first uses a reference (truth) SNP set to estimate the

covariance between called SNP quality score annotations and SNP probabilities,

followed by application of these probabilities to the raw SNPs of interest.

The reference "truth" SNP database was generated from the intersection of variants

called from samples with at least a mean of 10× coverage (n = 13) using three

independent SNP callers: (i) samtools mpileup (-q20 –Q20 –C50 -uD), (ii)

Freebayes[68] v.9.9.2-13-gad718f9-dirty (--min-mapping-quality 20 --min-alternate-

count 5 --no-indels --min-alternate-qsum 40 --pvar 0.0001 --use-mapping-quality --

posterior-integration-limits 1,3 --genotype-variant-threshold 4 --use-mapping-quality -

-site-selection-max-iterations 3 --genotyping-max-iterations 25 --max-complex-gap

3), and (iii) GATK HaplotypeCaller followed by hard filtering (--QD<2, --DP>10000, --

FS>60, --MQ<40, --MQRS <-12.5, --RPRS<-8). The three variant call sets were

merged (GATK CombineVariants with --genotypeMergeOptions UNIQUIFY),

resulting in an intersecting set of 794,606 SNPs (extracted with GATK

SelectVariants). The GATK VariantRecalibrator model was trained with this

reference SNP database with a 90% prior likelihood, before being subsequently

applied to the raw set of SNPs (n = 30,040,159). The estimation was run for several

truth sensitivity threshold values ranging from 90 to 99.9%. After visual inspection of

the additional number of SNPs by using sensitivity tranche curves (Supplementary

Fig. 16a), a 97% sensitivity threshold was applied to the raw SNP set with GATK

ApplyRecalibration, resulting in a total set of 23,868,644 SNPs spanning the five

autosomes. Variant depth of coverage (DP) and strand bias (FS) were the main

drivers of SNP removal (Supplementary Fig. 16b).

Called SNPs were used for particular analyses (Ne trajectory through time, cross-

population composite likelihood-ratio) that could not be performed under the

probabilistic framework that relied on genotype likelihoods as implemented in

ANGSD[69] v. 0.919-20-gb988fab (Supplementary note). These data were also used

to estimate average differentiation between isolates. However, within isolate diversity

and admixture were analysed using ANGSD[69] (Supplementary note).

Mitochondrial DNA data processing

The mitochondrial genome exhibited an average coverage depth of 322× (ranging from 24x to 5,868x) per sample (Supplementary Table 1). Mitochondrial reads were extracted and filtered from poorly mapped reads using samtools view (-q 20 -f 0x0002 -F 0x0004 -F 0x0008) and from duplicated reads using Picard v.2_14_0 MarkDuplicates (https://github.com/broadinstitute/picard). Realignment around indels was applied with GATK[70] and SNP were subsequently called using samtools[71] mpileup using only reads that achieved a mapping quality of 30 and base quality of 30. The occurrence of heterozygous sites in mtDNA, known as heteroplasmy, has been described across vertebrate species[72] and in other nematode species, including *C. briggsae*[73] and *C. elegans*[74]. However, heterozygous sites may also occur as technical artefacts as a result of genetically similar sequences shared between the nuclear and mitochondrial genomes, *i.e.*, numts[75]. To exclude sites prone to heterozygous signals from further phylogenetic inference analysis, a SNP calling procedure was implemented with the HaplotypeCaller tool to apply hard filtering parameters on the raw SNP sets (QD>=10, FS<=35 MQ>=30 MQRankSum>=-12.5 and ReadPosRankSum >=-8) with a minimum depth of 20 reads. This procedure excluded 1,354 putative heterozygous sites, and retained 72% of the putative SNP sites (3,052 out of 4,234 SNPs). Nucleotide diversity and Tajima's *D* were computed by sliding-windows of 100 bp using vcftools v.0.1.15[76]. A principal component analysis (PCA) was performed on genotypes using the SNPrelate package[77] in R version 3.5[78]. A consensus fasta sequence was subsequently generated with GATK FastaAlternateReferenceMaker for each sample using the filtered variant set, which was used for the phylogenetic analyses.

Diversity and divergence analysis

Genome-wide nucleotide diversity (π) was computed for each isolate with at least

five individuals using ANGSD[69]. Using genotype likelihoods (GLs) from samtools[71]

(option GL=1) as an input, variants were included that had a minimal supporting

evidence of 5 reads, and base and mapping quality phred scores of at least 20. As π

values were biased by population mean coverage (Supplementary Fig. 17), π was

also calculated from a subset of isolates containing individuals with a minimum mean

coverage of 5×: this was limited to France (FRA.1, n = 5, mean coverage of 7.66×),

Guadeloupe (n = 5, mean coverage of 12.75×) and Namibia (n = 6, mean coverage

of 9.85×).

F_{ST} was estimated from the VQSR-called genotypes between isolates with at least

five individuals using the Weir-Cockerham estimator[79] in vcftools v0.1.15[76]. To

prevent artifactual signal linked to variation in coverage between isolates, F_{ST} was

calculated on subsets of SNPs, binned based on their minor allele frequency (MAF)

in 10% increments. The maximum F_{ST} value calculated was retained for comparison

(Supplementary Fig. 4) and the maximal value was considered as reported

elsewhere[80]. The resulting F_{ST} estimates were not biased by coverage, as measured

by negligible correlation between pairwise F_{ST} coefficients and associated population

cross-coverage (Pearson's $r_{(136)}$ = -0.05, P = 0.55; Supplementary Fig. 18).

The pairwise sequence divergence between individual samples was calculated using

the Hamming distance, i.e. 1-IBS, using PLINK[81], considering the only individuals

with a mean coverage above 2.5× as failure to do so yielded biased estimates

(Supplementary note, Supplementary Fig. 19). A neighbour-joining tree of Hamming

distances calculated from the nuclear DNA genotypes was built using the R package

ape[82].

PCA on genotypes inferred from genotype likelihoods of the 223 samples was

generated using ANGSD ngsCovar, filtering for sites with base and mapping quality

phred scores less than 30, minimum depth of 5 reads, and a SNP *p*-value (as

computed by ANGSD) below 10^{-3}. Clustering was robust to coverage variation and

closely matched the PCA from the VQSR-called SNP genotypes (Supplementary

Fig. 20).

Phylogenetic inference

To determine the phylogenetic structure of the cohort, the 223 consensus

mitochondrial fasta sequences were first aligned using Muscle v3.8.31[83], followed by

stringent trimming of sequence alignments using Gblocks[84]. The most likely

evolutionary model, GTR substitution model with rate heterogeneity modelled by a

gamma distribution with invariable sites, was determined using modelgenerator

v.0.851[85]. A maximum-likelihood tree was subsequently generated using PhyML[86]

v.20120412, with branch supports computed using 100 bootstraps.

Admixture analysis

Admixture was determined using NGSAdmix[87]. This tool relies on genotype

likelihoods to account for data uncertainty, and has been shown to produce robust

inferences about population ancestry from low coverage samples alone, or a mixture

of low and higher coverage samples[87]. This analysis was performed on 223

samples, for *K* ranging from 2 to 10 clusters (Supplementary Fig. 5 and 6), retaining

sites with less than 50% missing data across individuals and minor allele frequency

(MAF) above 5%. Five iterations were run omitting one autosome out at a time, and

the best K was chosen as the first value that would minimize the median absolute

deviation across runs (Supplementary Fig. 6). Sample coverage did not affect the

results (Supplementary Fig. 21).

Effective population size and population divergence dating

The effective population size (*Ne*) trajectory through time, and the cross-divergence

time between populations, were estimated using MSMC2[88,89]. This approach uses

patterns of heterozygosity along the genome to identify past recombination events

modelled as Markov processes[90]. Mutation density along the sequence mirrors either

recent (long tract of limited diversity) or older (enrichment in heterozygosity over

short distances) events. According to coalescent theory[91], at any given time, the

amount of recombination is proportional to *Ne*.

MSMC2 was applied to individuals with a mean coverage above 10×, limiting the

analysis to six isolates (FRA.1, GUA, IND, MOR, NAM, STA.1), and considering four

haplotypes per isolate. Beagle v4.1 was used to impute missing genotypes and to

establish phase in VQSR SNP calls. Imputation accuracy analysis revealed a 7.2%

and 9.0% discordance rates at the individual and site levels respectively

(Supplementary Fig. 22). Input files were created following MSMC recommendations

and available msmc-tools (https://github.com/stschiff/msmc-tools). Briefly, the

reference fasta sequence was masked with SNPable

(http://lh3lh3.users.sourceforge.net/snpable.shtml) to extract regions of unambiguous

read mapping in chromosome-specific bed files (using the available

msmc_create_map_mask.py python script). Negative bed files indicating regions

with sufficient coverage at the individual level were created from samples bam files

with the bamCaller.py script and filter out sites with coverage below genome-wide

average depth. Finally, MSMC2 input files were created for each chromosome with

the generate_multihetsep.py script and concatenated into a single input file. For

each isolate, estimates were averaged across five runs, leaving one chromosome

out at a time for cross-validation, using rho/mu parameter value of 6.22 (average

recombination rate of 1.68 cM/Mbp[12] and considering a mutation rate similar to that

of *C. elegans* mutation rate, 2.7 x 10^{-9} per site per generation[20]). MSMC2 times and

coalescent rates were scaled to real time and population sizes by assuming the

same mutation rate[20], a balanced sex-ratio[21] and an inferred generation interval of

40 days (the sum of 10 days to reach mature free-living infective larvae from the egg

stage, and a 30-day prepatent period for fully mature egg-laying females)[92].

Migratory scenarios between populations were determined using the forward

simulation framework implemented in δaδi[93]. Under a given evolutionary scenario,

this software models the expected joint site frequency spectrum between multiple

populations using a diffusion equation. These expected values are then used to

compute the most likely demographic parameters knowing the observed site

frequency spectrum. For each model, four rounds of forward simulations were run

with 10, 20, 30 and 40 replicates respectively using previously published python

scripts[94] (https://github.com/dportik/dadi_pipeline). Model Akaike Information

Criterion (AIC) were compared for ranking scenarios, from which the lower the

score, the more likely the outcome.

We first compared a divergence scenario without migration against models including

symmetrical and asymmetrical gene flow before isolation. In case migration was the

most likely, more complex models (involving split with ancestral (a)symmetrical gene

flow, with or without population size change, or models involving secondary contact

with/without gene flow and population size change) were tested. However, initial

exploration indicated a likely lack of power in our design to accurately estimate

parameters of more complex demographic models than the split and isolation model.

Nevertheless, these models still provide the most likely scenario and their output

have been listed in supplementary Table 3.

Parameters were scaled to real time using same parameters as for MSMC2

inference. Standard deviations of timing estimates for the simple split and isolation

models were obtained using the Godambe Information Matrix[95] applied to 100

simulated site frequency spectra produced with the *ms* software[96] under the most

likely demographic model.

Additional support to the estimates from the nuclear genome were obtained from a

phylogenetic analysis of coding sequences using BEASTv1.10[97]. Mitochondrial

coding sequences were extracted from the consensus sequence of every individual,

concatenated per individual, and aligned using Musclev3.8.31[83]. A Bayesian skyline

model[98] was used, with a HKY substitution model and a strict clock model, as other

modalities yielded weak effective sample size (ESS) and unstable parameter values.

Clock rate was set to *C. elegans* mitochondrial mutation rate, i.e. 1×10^{-7} per site per

generation[74], as variation in sampling date was not sufficient to estimate molecular

rate. Parameters showed sufficient sampling (effective size above 200) after

50,000,000 iterations and a burn-in of the first 20 million steps. Node ages were

scaled to years assuming a generation interval of 40 days. A maximum clade

credibility tree was generated with TreeAnnotator v1.10.1

(http://beast.community/treeannotator).

Diversifying selection scan

To further characterize the genetic diversity in *H. contortus* populations, we identified

genomic regions under diversifying selection using XP-CLR[27]. This approach takes

advantage of both within-population distortion of the allele frequency spectrum, and

between-population differences in allele frequencies in the vicinity of selective

sweeps[27]. Although XP-CLR is robust to SNP ascertainment bias[27], the analysis was

restricted to isolates with at least five individuals with a minimum mean coverage of

2× per individual. Unphased VQSR-derived genotypes were filtered to retain SNPs

with a within-isolate call rate >80% and MAF >5%. The analysis was run on every

one of the 22 possible within-continent pairwise comparisons of the retained isolates

(Australia and Africa) with the following options: -w1 0.0001 500 2000 –p0 0. This fit

a grid of putatively selected points every 2 Kbp along the genome, with a sliding

window size around grid points of 0.01 cM, interpolating SNP position in Morgans

from the average recombination rate for each chromosome[12]. Down-sampling was

applied to windows where more than 500 SNPs were found to keep SNP numbers

comparable between regions, and no LD-based down-weighing of the CLR scores

was applied. A selection score was subsequently computed at every position as the

root mean square of XP-CLR coefficients, and the highest 0.1% of selection scores

were deemed significant, as reported elsewhere[80].

999 ***Analysis of β-tubulin isotype 1 (Hco-btub-iso-1) and the genetic architecture of***

1000 ***benzimidazole- and ivermectin-resistance***

The genomic coordinates of *Hco-btub-iso-1* were determined by blasting the gene

coding sequence from WormBase Parasite[99] against current genome assembly

(BLASTN, e-value < 10^{-50}). The SNP positions associated with codons 167, 198 and

200 was determined to be at 7027535, 7027755, and 7027758 bp, respectively,

along chromosome I after aligning the *Hco-btub-iso-1* consensus sequence and

published sequence[100] (GenBank accession FJ981629.1) using muscle v3.8.31[83].

Genotype and GLs at these positions were determined with ANGSD[69]. Genotypes

were only considered for GL >60% (n = 74) as coverage bias occurred otherwise

(Supplementary Table 6 and Supplementary Fig. 12). For these samples, phased

and imputed genotypes from VQSR SNPs spanning the *Hco-btub-iso-1* locus were

used to compute pairwise number of allele differences. Selection in the vicinity of the

Hco-btub-iso-1 locus was assessed by computing Tajima's *D* with ANGSD[101]. For

benzimidazole-resistant isolates, neutral state was built with *ms*[102] by simulating 10-

Kbp wide isolate-specific sequences (n=1,000) following the same coalescent

scenario as predicted by MSMC2 for chromosome I (considering a recombination

rate of 1.83 cM/Mbp[12]). Suitable *ms* input parameters were derived from MSMC2

output files using the msmc2ms.py script from msmc-tools. This approach was

implemented for isolates with sufficient mean depth of coverage, i.e. three

benzimidazole-resistant isolates. In case of susceptible isolates, the lack of

significant departure in the *Hco-btub-iso-1* vicinity relative to the rest of chromosome

I was tested.

1022

The introgression of resistant haplotypes from France mainland into Guadeloupian

worm isolates was tested by a topology weighting analysis implemented with

TWISST[103]. This method computes phylogenetic trees between a set of isolates,

using genetic information from short sliding windows (50 Kbp) and by sampling with

replacement individuals from each isolate. At each window, a weight is subsequently

computed for each of the possible tree topology, ultimately providing inference of

introgression events in discrete locations where tree topology connects

phylogenetically distant isolates. Analyses were run using individuals with sufficient

mean depth of coverage (5× and more) from French (FRA.1; n = 5; mean depth =

7.62×) and Guadeloupian (GUA; n = 5; mean depth = 12.75×) isolates, adding

Namibian isolate (n = 2; mean depth = 10.9×) as an outgroup. A fourth isolate was

chosen for its common ancestry with Guadeloupian isolates: first, an analysis was

run with worms from São Tomé (n = 2; mean depth = 7.01×), followed by a second

analysis using Moroccan samples (n = 2; mean depth = 10.6×), to ensure that

evidence of introgression was consistent in both cases.

1038

To investigate the genetic architecture of ivermectin resistance, a differentiation scan

was run between ivermectin-resistant isolates and isolates of unknown status

sharing same ancestry, i.e. STA.1 and STA.3 versus NAM and ZAI in Africa, AUS.1

against AUS.2 in Australia. Windowed F_{ST} estimates[79] were calculated every 10 Kbp

with a 1 Kbp overlap along the genome with ANGSD[69], retaining sites with minimal

depth of 5 reads, mapping and base quality phred scores of at least 30, missing rate

below 50%, and windows with at least 1000 sites. Genomic coordinates of the top

0.5% most differentiated windows were extracted and analysed by BLASTN

(minimum e-value = 10^{-50}) against the published V1 *H. contortus* assembly[13], and

annotated gene identifiers were inferred from the corresponding GFF file from

WormBase Parasite[99].

Identification of SNPs under environmental selection

To identify SNPs putatively influenced by environmental selection, we first defined

the climatic conditions of each isolate using the Köppen-Geiger classification[104], and

inferred from isolate geographical coordinates[105]. Three isolates with the best

coverage, i.e. Namibia, France, and Guadeloupe, were used to contrast dry,

temperate and tropical conditions, respectively. We performed a genome-wide scan

using pairwise comparisons of F_{ST} using ANGSD[69], of which test values greater than

the 0.5% quantile in at least two comparisons were analysed further.

1058

To further explore the contribution of environmental climatic variables on standing

genetic variation, we applied a machine-learning gradient forest algorithm[106] to

quantify changes in genetic variation (fit as population SNP MAF) along

environmental gradients. The gradients consisted of 19 bioclimatic variables[107]

summarizing rainfall and temperature information recorded between 1970 and

2000(supplementary table 9). For each SNP, a random forest of 500 trees was

grown. For each tree, bootstrapped SNP MAFs were regressed against a random

subset of bioclimatic variables to determine the variable that best partitioned the

data, thereby building the first node that partitions the data into two sets of

homogeneous observations. Iterations follow to determine subsequent nodes by

resampling a random subset of bioclimatic variables until no observations are left.

The proportion of variance explained by each bioclimatic variable is then averaged

across SNPs, and the function of SNP frequency modification along bioclimatic

variable is built.

The analysis was performed on isolates with at least 5 individuals, a mean coverage

of 2×, and no record of ivermectin resistance (AUS.2, FRA.1, GUA, IND, MOR,

NAM, STO, ZAI). SNP MAFs were estimated from genotype likelihoods with

ANGSD, and subsequently filtered to ensure a within-isolate MAF >10%, at least

90% within-isolate call-rate, and shared across the eight considered isolates,

resulting in 3,758 SNPs retained for further analysis.

1079

Environmental variables were highly correlated (Supplementary Fig. 15a), resulting

in instability in the predictor's importance. To minimise this effect, the gradient forest

analysis was restricted to the 11 environmental variables showing least redundancy

as assessed by a PCA (Supplementary Fig. 15b). Pair-wise Euclidean distances

between variables was computed from their respective coordinates on the first two

PCA axes (supplementary Fig. 15a). We selected variables with higher distances

(mean distance > 0.85) with any others (BIO4, 7, 2, 15, 5, 10). Other variables

defined three clusters (Supplementary Fig. 15b). Within each cluster, we picked the

variable with closest distance from every other in the cluster, i.e. the variable

summarizing others' contributions (BIO9, BIO13, BIO19). For the BIO12, 13, 16, 18

cluster, we chose to pick BIO12 (annual precipitation) which is more relevant toward

parasite life-cycle across climatic areas. Under temperate areas, quarter-based

(BIO16, BIO18) or wettest month (BIO13) statistics would match seasons where

hosts are housed. SNP-environment associations were further investigated by

focusing on the top two environmental predictors of genomic variations and using a

Latent Factor Mixed Model analysis. This analysis was implemented with the lfmm R

package[108] on genotype calls from the VQSR pipeline, considering SNPs with call

rate of at least 70% across isolates and minor genotype frequency above 5%, using

K = 3 for the latent factor accounting for underlying population structure. Analyses

were run 5 times and P values were combined and adjusted as recommended[108].

Gene identification and Gene Ontology enrichment analysis

Annotation of the revised *H. contortus* genome is ongoing. Therefore, genes

underlying major differentiation signals were inferred by blasting the region of

interest (10 Kbp window for F_{ST} analyses, 2000 bp region around XP-CLR hits)

against the published V1 *H. contortus* genome assembly[13]. Any genes falling within

most probable blast hit coordinates were retrieved from the *H. contortus* published

assembly available from WormBase Parasite[99]. This database was also used to

retrieve *C. elegans* orthologs of positional candidate genes and *H. contortus* Gene

Ontology (GO) terms. GO term enrichment analysis was run with the R topGO[109]

package, considering nodes with at least 10 annotated genes. The "weight01"

algorithm was used to account for existing topology between GO terms. This

framework makes P-value of one GO term conditioned on its neighbours, thereby

correcting for multiple testing. Enrichment was tested by the Kolmogorov-Smirnov

statistic applied to gene selection or F_{ST} score accordingly. GO terms with P values

below 1% were deemed significant.

1115

Data availability

Raw sequencing data are archived under the ENA study accession PRJEB9837.

Sequencing data were analysed with publicly available script and software as

mentioned in main text. Outputs were analysed using an R script available at:

https://github.com/guiSalle/Haemonchus_diversity. Reference assembly used in this

project is available at:

ftp://ngs.sanger.ac.uk/production/pathogens/Haemonchus_contortus.

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Author contributions

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1389 GS, JAC designed the experiment. GS, JAC, SD drafted the manuscript. JCa and

1390 JCo sampled and prepared parasite materials. GS performed DNA extraction and

1391 data analyses. SD built the reference genome. MB and NH managed and supervised

1392 parasite sequencing and the project.

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Competing interests

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1395 Authors declare they have no competing interests.

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