Selection, linkage, and population structure interact to shape genetic variation among threespine stickleback genomes

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Abstract

The outcome of selection on genetic variation depends both on the geography of individuals and populations, and the 'geography' of loci within the genome. In the threespine stickleback, spatially variable selection between marine and freshwater habitats has had a significant and heterogeneous impact on patterns of genetic variation across the genome. When marine stickleback invade freshwater habitats, more than a quarter of the genome can respond to divergent selection, even in as little as 50 years. This process largely uses standing genetic variation that can be found ubiquitously at low frequency in marine populations, can be millions of years old, and is likely maintained by significant bidirectional gene flow. Here, we combine population genomic sampling of marine and freshwater stickleback from Cook Inlet, Alaska, with genetic maps of stickleback fish derived from those same populations to examine how linkage to loci under selection affects genetic variation across the stickleback genome. We find that divergent genomic regions co-localize with regions of reduced recombination, but that this pattern varies across different genetic maps. Linkage to loci under divergent selection had opposing effects on variation on chromosomes from marine and freshwater fish, and we attribute this effect to differences in population structure between the two habitats. These findings advance our understanding of how the recombination landscape facilitates and structures genomic divergence, and how the structuring of populations across geography can change the outcomes of selection.

Introduction

Natural populations harbor abundant genetic variation that is distributed heterogeneously across geography and across genomes. But what evolutionary genetic processes best explain these patterns? Classical population genetics theory was developed primarily by considering the effects of evolutionary processes on one or a small number of loci (HALDANE 1930; WRIGHT 1943; LEWONTIN 1974; GILLESPIE 2004). With the evolutionary genomics revolution the role of linked selection is being increasingly appreciated (CHARLESWORTH et al. 1993; HAHN 2008; LANGLEY et al. 2012; SCHRIDER AND KERN 2017). Linked positive or purifying selection can affect genetic variation far beyond the causal mutations to the surrounding genomic neighborhood (ELYASHIV et al. 2016; SCHRIDER AND KERN 2017). Indeed, persistent and pervasive linked selection can structure genetic variation during speciation (BURRI et al. 2015), leading to predictable genome-wide genetic divergence across multiple speciation events (STANKOWSKI et al. 2018). Consequently, any process that can influence linkage across the genome, such as variation in recombination, will affect the outcome of linked selection on patterns of genetic variation (BEGUN AND AQUADRO 1992; CHARLESWORTH et al. 1993; GILLESPIE 2000).

Interacting with the **genomic** context of physical linkage is the **geographic** context over which evolutionary processes play out (CHARLESWORTH et al. 1997; LENORMAND 2002; STANKOWSKI et al. 2017). While a single selective sweep in one population can eliminate genetic variation at a selected locus and linked variants (MAYNARD SMITH AND HAIGH 1974; FAY AND WU 2000; NIELSEN et al. 2005), in nature selective pressures tend to vary across time and space (CLAUSEN et al. 1941; ENDLER 1977; LENORMAND et al. 1999). Temporally fluctuating selection can maintain selected alleles at intermediate frequencies, as has been observed in *Drosophila melanogaster* (BERGLAND et al. 2014) and the yellow monkeyflower, *Mimulus guttatus* (TROTH et al. 2018). Local adaptation in a geographically structured species can lead to the partitioning of variation among populations and the maintenance of alternatively adaptive alleles (CHARLESWORTH et al. 2003; WALLBANK et al. 2016; NELSON AND CRESKO 2018) as has been observed in insects (METTLER et al. 1977; NOSIL AND CRESPI 2006), plants (CLAUSEN et al. 1941; ANGERT et al. 2018), and vertebrates (HOEKSTRA et al. 2004; JONES et al. 2018). Consequently, gene flow can strongly influence the geographic distribution of genetic variation among populations (WRIGHT 1931; SLATKIN 1985) and across species boundaries (PARDO-DIAZ et al. 2012; FONTAINE et al. 2015). Genetic introgression from one species to another can even fuel adaptive diversification (STANKOWSKI AND STREISFELD 2015; WALLBANK et al. 2016; JONES et al. 2018).

Despite this growing understanding of the general importance of genomic and geographic context
on structuring genetic variation, precise understanding of how they interact to produce
heterogeneous patterns of genetic variation is still lacking. Theoretical studies on how population
subdivision impacts overall levels of variation make useful but somewhat contradictory predictions.
Depending on model specifications and assumptions, population structure can either increase
(CHARLESWORTH *et al.* 2003) or decrease (WHITLOCK AND BARTON 1997) levels of standing variation
in a metapopulation. Therefore, empirical studies that examine the joint effects of variation in selection
regimes, geographic context, and recombination landscape on genomic patterns of genetic variation
in the wild can be helpful.

Here, we investigate how selection, linkage, and population structure shape the genomic
and geographic distribution of genetic variation in the threespine stickleback fish, *Gasterosteus*
aculeatus. The threespine stickleback is distributed holarctically in coastal marine, brackish and
freshwater habitats. The large marine population has repeatedly given rise to derived freshwater
populations, resulting in phenotypic divergence and parallel evolution throughout the species range
(BELL AND FOSTER 1994; CRESKO *et al.* 2004; JONES *et al.* 2012). When marine stickleback invade
freshwater habitats, more than a quarter of the genome can respond to the action of divergent
selection, even in as little as 50 years (BASSHAM *et al.* 2018). This process largely uses standing
genetic variation (COLOSIMO *et al.* 2005; SCHLUTER AND CONTE 2009; ROESTI *et al.* 2015; SAMUK *et*
al. 2017) that can be found ubiquitously at low frequency in marine populations (BASSHAM *et al.* 2018)
that is likely maintained by significant bidirectional gene flow.

Previously, we found that sequence variation in most genomic regions associated with local
habitats is much older than variation across the rest of the genome (NELSON AND CRESKO 2018, and
see Colosimo et al. 2005, Roesti et al. 2015). Here we extend our previous work by combining
population genomic sampling of wild-caught marine and freshwater stickleback with genetic maps
of fish derived from those same populations. We use these data to examine how linkage to loci under
selection affects genetic variation across the stickleback genome, and how that effect varies among
populations and ecotypes. We complement these empirical findings with forward-time simulations
using SLiM (HALLER AND MESSER 2017) that recapitulate the genomic patterns of stickleback genetic
variation in a parameter space that closely matches the geography and demography of stickleback
in the wild.
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Methods

Study populations and natural genetic variation

Wild threespine stickleback were collected from Rabbit Slough (N 61.5595, W 149.2583), Boot Lake (N 61.7167, W 149.1167), and Bear Paw Lake (N 61.6139, W 149.7539). Rabbit Slough is an offshoot of the Knik Arm of Cook Inlet and is known to be populated by anadromous populations of stickleback that are stereotypically marine in phenotype and genotype (CRESKO *et al.* 2004). Boot Lake and Bear Paw Lake are both shallow lakes formed during the end-Pleistocene glacial retreat approximately 12 thousand years ago. Fish were collected in the summers of 2009 (Rabbit Slough), 2010 (Bear Paw Lake), and 2014 (Boot Lake) using wire minnow traps and euthanized *in situ* with Tricaine solution. Euthanized fish were immediately fixed in 95% ethanol and shipped to the Cresko Laboratory at the University of Oregon (Eugene, OR, USA).

We generated restriction site-associated DNA (RAD) libraries of five fish each from Rabbit Slough and Boot Lake and four fish from Bear Paw Lake. Genomic DNA was isolated from ethanol-preserved fin clips by proteinase K digestion followed by DNA extraction with solid phase reversible immobilization (SPRI) beads. We created RAD libraries using the single digest and shearing method of Baird et al (BAIRD *et al.* 2008) with the modifications of Nelson and Cresko (NELSON AND CRESKO 2018). Genomic DNA from each fish was digested with PstI-HF (New England Biolabs) and ligated to Illumina P1 adaptors with 6 bp inline barcodes. All barcodes differed by at least two positions, allowing for recovery of sequence reads with single errors in the barcode sequence. Ligated samples were then multiplexed at approximately equimolar concentrations and mechanically sheared via sonication to a fragment range of ~200-800 bp. Sheared DNA was size selected by extraction from a 1.25% agarose gel to generate a narrow insert size range of 425 bp to 475 bp. This size range allowed consistent overlap of paired-end Illumina reads for the construction of local contigs surrounding restriction enzyme cut sites. We then ligated Illumina P2 adaptors to the size-selected libraries and and amplified P1/P2-adapted fragments with 12 cycles of PCR using Phusion-HF polymerase (New England Biolabs). RAD libraries were then sequenced in a single lane on an Illumina HiSeq 2500 to generate paired-end 250-bp sequence reads. All libraries generated for this study were sequenced at the University of Oregon's Genomics and Cell Characterization Core Facility (GC3F: http://gc3f.uoregon.edu).

We used the Stacks analysis pipeline to process RAD sequence read pairs and call SNPs (CATCHEN *et al.* 2011; CATCHEN *et al.* 2013b). Raw reads were first demultiplexed without quality filtering using process_radtags, and then quality filtered using process_shortreads. This allowed for

read trimming, rather than strict removal, if quality decreased toward the end of the first-end read.

Overlapping read pairs were then merged using fastq-join (ARONESTY 2011), allowing for up to 25%

of bases in the overlapping region to mismatch, and the resulting contigs were trimmed to 350 bp.

Any read pairs that failed to merge, or were shorter than 350 bp, were removed from further analysis.

This step was required for processing reads through the Stacks pipeline. Below, we use the naming

conventions of Baird *et al.* (2008): A "RAD tag" refers to sequence generated from a single end of a

restriction site and the pair of RAD tags sequenced at a restriction site comprises a "RAD locus".

All polymorphisms were called relative to the threespine stickleback reference genome v1.0

(JONES *et al.* 2012), using the updated scaffolding of Glazer, et al. (2015). Trimmed contigs were

aligned to the reference using bbmap with the most sensitive settings ('vslow=t';

http://jgi.doe.gov/data-and-tools/bbtools/). We then used the Stacks core pipeline to identify read

stacks, call SNPs, and identify alleles and haplotypes based on genomic alignment (pstacks and

cstacks); find homologous RAD tags across individuals (sstacks); and catalog biologically plausible

haplotypes based on within- and among-individual haplotype variation (populations). We required

that a RAD tag be present in all three populations and in at least four fish in each population.

We used the program PHASE (STEPHENS *et al.* 2001; SCHEET AND STEPHENS 2006) to

combine sequence information from both RAD tags at a *PstI* cut site and generate phased

haplotypes at each RAD locus. We wrote custom Python scripts to identify all unique haplotypes at

each of a pair RAD tags and code them as alleles at a single, multiallelic locus. We required that

each individual included in this analysis was genotyped at both RAD tags. Loci containing individuals

only genotyped at a single RAD tag were removed from further analysis. RAD haplotypes at each

locus represent 696 bp of contiguous genomic sequence, giving us high-quality estimates of

sequence diversity and divergence even with our relatively small population-level sample sizes (NEI

1987, chapter 13; CRUICKSHANK AND HAHN 2014; NELSON AND CRESKO 2018). Sequencing of wild

stickleback resulted in 57,992 RAD loci distributed across all 21 threespine stickleback

chromosomes.

Population genetic statistics

The scripting language R version 3.5 (R Core Team 2016) was used for all downstream data

analysis. We estimated differentiation among threespine stickleback populations (all pairwise

combinations) and among ecotypes (combined freshwater ponds versus Rabbit Slough) using a

haplotype-based F_{ST} (equation 3 in Hudson, Slatkin et al. 1992) (HUDSON *et al.* 1992) implemented

in the R package 'PopGenome' (PFEIFER *et al.* 2014). We calculated π per site within and among

populations and absolute sequence divergence (d_{XY}) at each RAD locus by calculating pairwise
distances between all RAD haplotypes with the R package 'ape' (PARADIS *et al.* 2004; POPESCU *et*
al. 2012).

Previously, we detected patterns of reciprocal monophyly between marine and freshwater
haplotypes using maximum clade credibility trees generated in BEAST v1.7 (DRUMMOND AND
RAMBAUT 2007; DRUMMOND *et al.* 2012; NELSON AND CRESKO 2018; SUCHARD *et al.* 2018). Tree
topologies for all RAD loci were inferred from MCMC runs of 10^6 states with 10% burnin periods. We
used blanket priors and parameters across all RAD loci, including a coalescent tree prior and the
GTR+Γ substitution model. Monophyly of haplotypes from each population (RS, BT, BP) and each
habitat (marine, freshwater) was assessed using the is.monophyletic() function of the R packages
'ape'. Here, we use topological classifications that we inferred previously and designate gene trees
with reciprocally monophyletic marine and freshwater haplogroups (1,129 of 57,992 RAD loci) as
'divergent' loci.

Laboratory crosses and genetic mapping

To compare how heterogenous genomic divergence on the physical map is distributed
across the genetic map, we generated mapping families from laboratory lines of fish derived from
the Boot Lake and Rabbit Slough populations, as well as an F_1 hybrid female produced from a cross
between a Boot Lake female and a Rabbit Slough male. These crosses allowed us to examine
variation in the recombinational landscape within and among chromosomes and across multiple
genetic backgrounds. All maps were constructed using a pseudo-testcross design, which takes
advantage of existing heterozygosity in outbred individuals without the need to generate inbred lines
or F_1 mapping parents. To generate mapping families from Boot Lake and Rabbit Slough lines, we
manually crossed unrelated individuals from each line. We mapped the F_1 hybrid female by
backcrossing it to a Boot Lake male. All progeny were raised to 14 days post-fertilization, euthanized
with MS-222 (Sigma Aldrich), and fixed in 95% ethanol. We extracted genomic DNA from whole
progeny and from pectoral and caudal fins from all parents using proteinase K digestion (Qiagen)
followed by DNA purification with SPRI beads.

RAD genotyping of progeny and parents was used to identify segregating haplotypes for use
as genetic markers. We used the original single-digest RAD-seq protocol (BAIRD *et al.* 2008) with the
restriction enzyme SbfI, which cuts genomic DNA at approximately 22,000 sites in the stickleback
genome. All RAD libraries were multiplexed by family at equimolar ratios except for

mapping parents, which were multiplexed at twice the concentration of the progeny to increase
sequencing depth. The Boot Lake mapping family was sequenced in two lanes on an Illumina
HiSeq2000. The Rabbit Slough family was sequenced on a single HiSeq2000 lane. The F_1 family
was sequenced in one lane on an Illumina HiSeq2500.

RAD-seq data from all mapping crosses were processed with the Stacks analysis pipeline
(CATCHEN *et al.* 2013b). We demultiplexed and quality filtered sequences with process_shortreads
and aligned them to the stickleback reference genome with GSNAP (WU AND NACU 2010). We used
ref_map.pl to identify RAD tags and call genotypes. The Stacks component program genotypes was
used identify segregating markers for export to genetic mapping software. We specified a minimum
coverage of 3x to call individual genotypes and required that a marker be genotyped in at least 50%
of progeny.

Below, we present data for a single parent from each mapping cross (Tables I and II). By
conducting pseudo-testcrosses, we identified polymorphic RAD markers segregating in all six
mapping parents. However, to investigate the genome-wide recombination landscape, as well as
relationships between recombination rate and natural levels of polymorphism and divergence, we
restricted our analysis to mapping parents for which we observed segregating markers on all 21
chromosomes with no gaps of more than 1 megabase (Mb) between adjacent markers. One parent
from each cross fit these criteria. Thus, we present data for female parents from the Boot Lake and
F_1 crosses and the male parent from the Rabbit Slough cross. In our results, we focus on the effects
of genotype on relative rates of recombination within and among mapped individuals, rather than
absolute rates, because population-of-origin was confounded with sex.

We estimated genome-wide recombination rates between RAD markers under the
assumption of collinearity between all genetic maps and the stickleback reference genome (GLAZER
et al. 2015) (with some exceptions, see below). We used the mapping software Lep-MAP2 (RASTAS

Table I. Sequencing statistics of libraries for each mapping family. Coverage is the mean coverage per RAD locus across all progeny.

Family	raw reads	filtered reads	aligned reads	mean coverage
Boot Lake	322871980	229263868	196451426	27.77
Rabbit Slough	188240315	110264451	95689374	25.21
F_1 hybrid	229219526	181462508	78349244	18.75
Total	740331821	520990827	370490044	24.72

et al. 2015) to estimate map positions of RAD markers with the marker order fixed to the aligned
positions on the reference genome. Known marker orders increased throughput of mapping
iterations and reduced the impact of genotyping errors on recombination rate estimation. While fixed
marker orders do not explicitly allow the detection of structural variation among genomes — such
as chromosomal inversions that are known to exist among stickleback populations — discrepancies
in the estimated map do provide indirect, and correctable, evidence of changes to map order (Figure
S1). For example, inversions in genetic map order relative to the reference order spuriously inflate
recombination rates between markers closely flanking inversion breakpoints when inverted segments
are forced into the wrong orientation. This is because genetic map distances are estimated
independently while the physical distance between markers is drastically underestimated. The
observed jumps in map distance on either side of the inversion are equal to each other and to the
total map length of the inversion. Reversing the marker order within the inversion removes these
artifacts and reduces the overall map length of the region.

Recombination-polymorphism correlations

We employed two methods to investigate the relationships between the recombinational
landscape and patterns of polymorphism within and among natural populations. To quantify
genome-wide correlations among recombination rate and population genetic statistics, we divided
the stickleback genome into non-overlapping windows and calculated average recombination rates
(in centiMorgans per megabase, cM/Mb), sequence diversity (π_{BT}, π_{RS}, and π), and genetic
divergence (F_{ST}, d_{XY}) in each window. Below, we show results from 1000-kb genomic windows. RAD
marker density made estimates of local recombination rates less reliable and more variable at smaller
window sizes (Figures S3 and S4). We used nonparametric correlations to test for correlations
between variables because the distributions of most variables lacked normality even using standard
data transformations. Below we present Spearman's rank order correlations. Kendall's tau and
parametric linear models gave qualitatively similar results.

Genomic heterogeneity exists not only in the proportion of the genome affected by divergent
selection but also in how genetic variation and divergence are clustered within the genome. Marine-
freshwater genomic divergence in stickleback is clustered into few, large regions that can
encompass most of the length of a chromosome. We sought to directly compare the genomic
distributions of population genetic statistics along the physical genome and on the three genetic
maps we constructed. We used a windowing approach that allowed direct comparisons across
maps despite differing numbers and distributions of markers among genetic maps. Using the R

package 'ksmooth', we binned each chromosome into equally sized intervals, the number of which
we set equal to the number of segregating RAD markers on the genetic map with fewest markers.
For each interval, we calculated genetic position from each laboratory cross and F_{ST} between Rabbit
Slough and Boot Lake populations (HOHENLOHE *et al.* 2010; NELSON AND CRESKO 2018) within a 250-
kb normally distributed kernel. Using this windowing approach, we were able to make direct
comparisons between recombination rates within and among genetic maps from different genetic
backgrounds and patterns of polymorphism in the populations from which the laboratory lines were
derived.

Forward simulations

We modeled the effects of selection, linkage, and population structure using forward
simulations implemented in SLiM (HALLER AND MESSER 2017). We simulated a metapopulation of
2000 diploid individuals and a genome consisting of a single chromosome with a genetic length of
one Morgan (physical length 10^5 bp; recombination rate 1×10^{-5} per bp). The metapopulation was
divided into two habitat types analogous to marine and freshwater stickleback habitats, which we
refer to as H_1 and H_2, respectively (Figure 1). Across all simulations, habitat H_1 remained a single
panmictic population of size $N_H = 1000$. Habitat H_2, in contrast, consisted of k subpopulations, each
of size N_H/k. We varied k between 1 (no substructure) and 5. Importantly, subpopulations of H_2
exchanged migrants only with H_1. We chose this constraint on our simulations because freshwater
stickleback populations are thought to most often be derived from marine ancestors, and because

Figure 1. The structure of simulations to test the effects of population structure on genetic variation in a model of local adaptation. **A:** each habitat (H_1: red, H_2: blue) consists of a single deme ($k = 1$). **B:** Habitat H_2 was also simulated consisting of $k_{H2} = 2$ and $k_{H2} = 5$ demes (not shown). Chromosomes of both allelic state were sampled from H_1 to simulate founding variation available to a new population. N = population size of each habitat. **C:** Expected genealogies at the divergently adaptive locus and at a distal locus on the chromosome. We used the pattern of reciprocal monophyly seen in C, top right, to classify RAD loci as 'divergent' in the threespine stickleback population genomic dataset. (See Methods and NELSON AND CRESKO [2018]).

gene flow among freshwater populations primarily occurs through the marine population, especially

across broader geographic scales. Migration rates were constant and symmetrical between all pairs

of populations exchanging migrants.

At the beginning of each simulation, we introduced a locally adaptive allele to a locus at the

center of the chromosome (position 50 kb, 50 cM). Fitness effects of the alternative alleles at the

locus were additive, and the strength of selection was symmetrical among habitat types. To ensure

establishment of both alleles at the locus across all simulations, we introduced the H_2-adaptive allele

at a frequency of 0.25 into all populations of habitat H_2. Because we introduced this allele at the

beginning of the simulation, all chromosomes carrying that allele were identical at the time of

introduction.

Genetic diversity among chromosomes carrying H_1- and H_2-adaptive alleles was assessed

after 10,000 generations. We designed our sampling after stickleback evolutionary history, where

genetic variation available to new freshwater populations is sampled from the marine population, by

sampling chromosomes exclusively from habitat H_1. We then calculated nucleotide diversity (π) within

and among chromosomes of the two allelic states in non-overlapping 1000 bp (1 cM) bins. Below,

we fold the calculations of nucleotide diversity about the locally adaptive locus to emphasize the

effects of evolutionary forces on π at a given distance from the locus. These summaries mirror our

estimates of genetic variation on stickleback chromosomes and theoretical work (CHARLESWORTH *et*

al. 1997).

Results

High density mapping crosses enable comparison of recombination landscapes

RAD sequencing of progeny used to create the three genetic maps generated 740,331,821

raw single-end sequence reads distributed among 385 individuals. Of these, 520,990,827 (70.4%)

passed quality filtering, and 370,490,044 (71.1%) of those were unambiguously aligned to the

reference genome. Sequencing results of the families analyzed for each of the three genetics maps

are summarized in Table I.

All mapping crosses resulted in over 6000 segregating RAD markers distributed across all

21 stickleback chromosomes (Table II, Figure 2, Suppl. Figure S2). The Boot Lake female, mapped

using the largest family of 189 progeny, had the longest overall map length of 1694 cM among 6041

segregating markers and a genome-wide average recombination rate of 3.93 cM/Mb. The

Rabbit Slough male was mapped using the fewest number of offspring (n = 94) but the largest

number of segregating markers (7049). It had the shortest estimated map length of 1047 cM,

resulting in an average recombination rate of 2.43 cM/Mb. The F_1 hybrid genetic map was

intermediate in length, and also had an intermediate number of progeny (102) and markers (6669)

used in mapping. The total length of the hybrid map was 1406 cM with a mean recombination rate

of 3.26 cM/Mb.

Patterns of recombination were generally consistent across the three genetic maps (Figure

2, Suppl. Figure S2). As has been described previously (ROESTI *et al.* 2013; GLAZER *et al.* 2015),

recombination across the larger metacentric chromosomes in the stickleback genome was biased

toward the ends of the chromosomes, with very little recombination occurring across much of their

centers (e.g chromosomes 4 and 7). Recombination rates across a number of the smaller

chromosomes, in contrast, was typically highest on one chromosome end but this likely also reflects

a trend against recombination near the centromere.

The recombination landscape varies among individuals

We observed important differences among genetic maps. As expected, recombination in the

hybrid map was completely suppressed within and immediately surrounding an inversion on

chromosome 21 (Figure 2). In contrast, in the genetic maps made from BT and RS fish separately

recombination occurred steadily across this region, as expected because each population was

homozygous for opposite orientations of the inversion. The resolution of our RAD-based genetic

maps was not sufficiently high to be able to observe any recombination within the smaller marine-

freshwater-diagnostic inversions on chromosomes 1 and 11 (400 kb and 500 kb in length,

respectively). We also found the expected suppression of recombination across the X chromosome

(chromosome 19) in the male RS map, with the exception of the pseudoautosomal region that

comprises the first ~2.5 Mb of chromosome 19 (Suppl. Figure S2).

Table II. Genetic map statistics for the three maps used in this study. *map length given in centiMorgans (cM). †Genomic coverage is a percentage of the reference genome assembled onto chromosomes (436.6 Mb).

Family	progeny	markers	map length*	genomic coverage†	cM/Mb
Boot Lake	189	6041	1694	0.986	3.93
Rabbit Slough	94	7049	1047	0.987	2.43
F_1 hybrid	102	6669	1406	0.988	3.26

Figure 2. The recombination landscape varies within and among genetic maps of marine (RS), freshwater (BT), and F_1 hybrid threespine stickleback. Each point represents a RADseq-based marker segregating within a mapping family. Red: RS, blue: BT, purple: F_1 hybrid. Genetic maps for all chromosomes are given in supplemental figure S2.

Patterns of recombination also varied in unexpected ways, most notably in the hybrid map.

As noted above, the hybrid map was intermediate in length compared to the BT and RS maps, but

this pattern rarely held at a finer genomic scale. Across chromosome 4, both the pattern and the

total amount of recombination on the hybrid map was nearly identical to the BT map. The pattern of

the hybrid and BT maps being similar to one another, and different from RS, was also clearly the

case for chromosomes 12 and 14. The opposite was also apparent on different chromosomes, with,

for example, recombination in the hybrid on chromosome 15 closely matching the RS map, and both

being different from BT.

On some chromosomes, the distribution of crossovers on the hybrid map was qualitatively

different from either the BT or RS map. On chromosome 1 in both the BT and RS maps,

recombination was biased toward the ends of the chromosomes as it is along the other large

chromosomes. However, recombination rates remained fairly constant across the entire

chromosome in the hybrid map, with the result that this linkage group in the hybrid map was nearly

equal in length to the BT linkage group. This is despite very high local recombination rates toward

both ends of the BT map. Similar patterns, though more subtle, were also evident on chromosomes

9 and 21 (Suppl. Figure S2).

Genomic regions of highest divergence represent a small fraction of the genetic map

Genomic regions of highest divergence were compressed into proportionally smaller regions

of the genetic maps (Figure 3). For instance, some of the largest regions of divergence we observed

— including those surrounding *eda*, the major effect locus for lateral plate number (COLOSIMO *et al.*

2005), and the chromosome 21 inversion — had average F_{ST} values in excess of 0.4 (Figure 4).

Regions above this threshold spanned 8.1% of the physical genome (35.3 Mb) but only 3.3% of the

Figure 3. Genetic divergence comprises a smaller proportion of the genetic map than the physical map. Each line represents the proportion of the overall map length (Mb or cM) taken up by windows of genetic divergence (F_{ST} or d_{XY}) greater than or equal to a given value. Black: physical map (reference genome), red: RS genetic map, blue: BT genetic map, purple: F_1 hybrid genetic map.

F_1 hybrid genetic map (10 cM). In contrast to F_{ST}, which is a measure of relative divergence, the

proportion of the genome in regions of high absolute divergence (as measured by d_{XY}) was less

affected by the map on which it was measured. While the genetic maps did have the smallest

proportion of their total length in regions of high d_{XY} (**Fig 3B, inset**), this effect was subtle compared

to that seen for F_{ST}.

The compression of divergence on the genetic maps did not occur equally on all three maps,

as the genome-wide pattern may suggest. Chromosomal inversions specifically suppress

recombination in hybrids and, on chromosome 21, genomic divergence was only compressed on

the hybrid map (Figure 4). The region of highest divergence on chromosome 21 recombines steadily

Table III. Genome-wide correlations between recombination rate and genetic diversity and divergence. Statistics were calculated as means of 1000-kb non-overlapping bins. Correlation coefficients are given as Spearman's ρ. *$p < 0.05$, **$p < 0.01$, ***$p < 0.001$.

genetic map	π_{RS}	π_{FW}	π	d_{XY}	F_{ST}	D_a
BT	0.450***	0.349***	0.261***	0.154*	-0.431***	-0.178**
RS	0.489***	0.223***	0.225***	0.146*	-0.365***	-0.128*
F_1	0.483***	0.243***	0.146*	0.053	-0.406***	-0.211**

Figure 4. The recombination landscape simplifies the genetic architecture of divergence. F_{ST} scans were performed on the physical map (top) and the three genetic maps (middle and bottom). Lines connect evenly-spaced windows on the physical map to the imputed positions on each genetic map and are colored by the kernel-averaged F_{ST} for that window.

in both the BT and RS maps but, as expected, it collapses to a single locus on the hybrid genetic map. A similar effect was seen across a large collinear region of divergence on chromosome 7. On the physical map, chromosome 7 contains three peaks of strong divergence between BT and RS spanning over 9 Mb. All three peaks are clearly separated on the BT map, though they comprise a relatively smaller region than on the physical map. On the RS map, we observed no recombination between two of these peaks and the combined span of the region was further reduced. The greatest compression of this divergence occurred on the hybrid map; despite an overall map length that was intermediate to the other two maps, an 8.5-Mb region across the center of the chromosome — containing nearly all genomic divergence between BT and RS — collapsed to a single locus (span: 0 cM, position 57.7 cM on the map).

Chromosomes from freshwater stickleback, but not marine, contain abundant linked variation

We partitioned RAD loci from the population genomics dataset into those with evidence of complete marine-freshwater lineage sorting ('divergent', with allelic states 'marine' and 'freshwater', see Figure 1), those on the same chromosome as a divergent locus ('linked'), and those on chromosomes without divergent loci ('unlinked'). At divergent loci, average sequence diversity was partitioned almost entirely among chromosomes carrying marine and freshwater alleles; overall π

Figure 5. Patterns of linked variation differ on marine and freshwater stickleback chromosomes.
A-C: Genome-wide sequence diversity (π) as a function of the distance from a RAD locus with reciprocally monophyly of marine and freshwater haplotypes. Diamonds show average sequence diversity among reciprocally monophyletic RAD loci. Density of RAD loci at x distance from the nearest reciprocally monophyletic locus with y level of diversity is shown in shades of gray. Bold lines are smoothed splines, dashed lines are genome-wide means. **A:** total sequence diversity. **B:** sequence diversity on chromosome carrying marine haplotypes. **C:** sequence diversity on chromosomes carrying freshwater haplotypes. Freshwater sequence diversity includes chromosomes sampled from BT as well as Bear Paw Lake, Alaska (BP). **D:** Smoothed splines as in A-C. **E:** Splines calculated from each freshwater population separately (BT: dark blue, BP: light blue). **F:** Sequence diversity of RAD loci within 1 Mb of a reciprocally monophyletic RAD locus and on chromosomes not carrying a reciprocally monophyletic locus ('unlinked'). Data are means ± 1 SD. *** $p < 0.001$.

averaged 0.0067 per site (Figure 5A, black-filled diamond, genome-wide mean = 0.0042). In

contrast, and as expected at locally adaptive loci, π was substantially reduced within allelic states; π

among marine alleles averaged 0.0012 per site (B, red-filled diamond) while average π among

freshwater alleles at divergent loci was 0.0015 per site.

Patterns of linked variation extending away from divergent loci were striking and varied

qualitatively between chromosomes sampled from marine and freshwater stickleback. Sequence

diversity at linked loci was highly correlated with proximity to a divergent locus across all population

partitions (Figure 5A-C, Spearman's rho: all p-values $\leq 10^{-10}$). When all populations were combined,

π at linked loci increased sharply within approximately 250 kb from a divergent locus (Figure 5A).

Linked loci in close proximity to divergent loci were nearly as polymorphic as those directly impacted

by divergent selection.

In contrast, and as expected under local adaptation, π among chromosomes sampled from

the marine Rabbit Slough stickleback was lowest in close proximity to divergent loci, and a

substantial fraction (12%) of RAD loci with 250 kb of a divergent locus showed no variation at all on

these chromosomes (π_{RS} = 0; 1651/13762 loci). Freshwater populations, however, showed a more

complex proximity effect that was distinct from either Rabbit Slough or the combined populations

(Figure 5C-E). In data collected from both Boot Lake and Bear Paw Lake populations, as well as

when data from these populations combined, π actually increased in proximity to a divergent locus

and peaked at loci approximately 200 kb away from divergent loci before reversing direction. This

pattern qualitatively persisted within both freshwater populations individually as well as when Boot

Lake and Bear Paw Lake chromosomes were combined. Among chromosomes from freshwater

fish, therefore, we observed the most diversity genome-wide in those regions in close proximity, but

not directly adjacent, to a divergent locus.

We therefore observed a proximity-by-population interaction in levels of sequence variation

at linked versus unlinked loci in marine or freshwater populations (Figure 5F). While estimates of

genetic diversity were similar between the Rabbit Slough population and the combined freshwater

populations on chromosomes without evidence of divergent natural selection, sequence diversity

was higher among freshwater populations than in Rabbit Slough within 1 Mb of a divergent locus

(Figure 5F; ANOVA: population*proximity interaction $p \leq 10^{-10}$). On chromosomes with no evidence

of divergent natural selection, we found no evidence for differences in levels of variation between

Rabbit Slough and the combined freshwater populations (mean π_{RS} = 0.0032, mean π_{FW} = 0.0032;

Tukey's HSD, *p* = 0.53). However, among linked loci within 1 Mb of a divergent locus, π in the

combined freshwater populations was greater than in Rabbit Slough (Tukey's HSD, *p* < 10^{-5}), and at

least as high as π in unlinked regions (Tukey's HSD [ANOVA on untransformed π], *p* < 10^{-5}; Tukey's

HSD [ANOVA on log-transformed π], *p* < 10^{-5}).

Figure 6. Asymmetric population structure generates asymmetric patterns of linked variation on simulated chromosomes. Simulations were performed as described in Methods and Figure 1. Bands are 95% confidence intervals of nucleotide diversity (π) at a given distance from a locally adaptive locus (gray: π_{total}, red: π_1, blue: π_2). Columns show the effect of increasing population structure (k) in habitat H_2. Rows show the effect of increasing migration rates (m, in number of migrants per generation) between habitat H_1 and populations of habitat H_2.

Population structure maintains linked variation on simulated chromosomes

To explore the possibility that population structure within the freshwater habitat influences

patterns of linked variation, we conducted forward simulations of chromosomes under a model of

migration-selection balance using SLiM (Figures 1 and 6). We first simulated two habitat types, each

composed of a single, panmictic population (Figure 6, column 1), analogous to the model presented

by Charlesworth, Nordberg, and Charlesworth (**1997**). As expected, overall nucleotide diversity was

highest within 10 cM of the locally adaptive locus, while diversity within allelic classes dropped

precipitously and symmetrically. When migration rates were on the order of a single migrant per

generation or less (Figure 6, rows 1 and 2), genetic variation was significantly partitioned among

habitats, even distal to the locally adaptive locus (95% confidence intervals: π_{total} vs $\pi_{H1,H2}$, $p \leq 0.05$).

When habitat 2 consisted of two or five demes (Figure1; Figure 6, columns 2 and 3) the

additional structure altered patterns of linked variation in two ways. First, nucleotide diversity was

higher overall, both within and among allelic classes, compared to simulations without substructure

(two-way ANOVA: substructure main effect $F_{2,4365} = 496.1$, $p \leq 1\times10^{-10}$). Notably, this effect occurred

without any increase in the census size of the metapopulation. Second, while nucleotide diversity

decreased adjacent to the locally adaptive locus among chromosomes carrying H_1-adaptive alleles,

diversity on chromosomes carrying H_2-adaptive alleles was highest adjacent to the locally adaptive

locus when migration rates were at least $m = 1$ (Figure 6, columns 2 and 3). When habitat H_2

consisted of two demes, diversity on chromosomes carrying H_2-adaptive alleles was intermediate to

the low levels of diversity on H_1 chromosomes and the higher levels of diversity observed among all

chromosomes. This pattern was consistent with our observations of diversity among threespine

stickleback chromosomes. Further subdivision of habitat 2 (Figure 6, column 3) resulted in

chromosomes carrying H_2-adaptive alleles also carrying nearly all the linked variation present in the

metapopulation. Except in the window that contained the adaptive locus (0 cM), we never saw

evidence that π on H_1 chromosomes was reduced compared to π across the entire system

(overlapping 95% confidence intervals, π_{total} vs π_{H2}).

Discussion

A variable recombination landscape simplifies the architecture of divergence

The recombination landscape has profound effects on genome-wide patterns of genetic

variation. Linkage to or among selected sites is now thought to affect many, if not most, variable

sites in the genome (SCHRIDER AND KERN 2017; KERN AND HAHN 2018), and suppression of

recombination among the genomes of diverging populations and species appears in large part to

determine patterns of genetic differentiation and divergence (BURRI *et al.* 2015; VIJAY *et al.* 2017;

STANKOWSKI *et al.* 2018). In the threespine stickleback, two related patterns point to the importance

of the recombination landscape in structuring the genetics of divergence. First, genetic differentiation

among phenotypically divergent populations is known to accumulate in regions of low recombination

(ROESTI *et al.* 2013). Second, quantitative trait locus (QTL) mapping studies consistently find highly

pleiotropic QTL associated with clusters of markers in the centers of relatively few linkage groups

(ALBERT *et al.* 2008; MILLER *et al.* 2014; MARQUES *et al.* 2016). This finding could be explained by the

presence of a one or a small number of pleiotropic loci of large effect in each region, or clusters of

linked loci.

By combining population genomics with multiple mapping crosses we are able to

corroborate and further our understanding in stickleback fish and other organisms in two distinct

ways. First, genomic divergence that occurs in the centers of the largest chromosomes occurs within

regions of consistently low recombination across all three genetic maps (freshwater, marine, and F_1

hybrid fish). The negative association between divergence and recombination rate is a common

finding across systems (BURRI et al. 2015; MARTIN et al. 2016) and our results further demonstrate

that stickleback are no exception to this rule both at the local (i.e. specific genomic regions, Figure

4) and genome-wide scales (Figure 3). In addition, by directly comparing the genetic maps of purely

marine and freshwater fish, our results do not indicate the presence of any large or complex structural

variation between marine and freshwater stickleback genomes associated with the largest regions

of genomic divergence.

Second, although there was general congruence among the genetic maps, we find that the

recombination landscape varied unexpectedly and in evolutionarily relevant ways. Within the large

regions of divergence at the centers of chromosomes, low recombination ranged from being

universal across the three cross types to genotype-specific (Figure 2, chromosomes 4 and 1,

respectively), suggesting different genetic bases to the low recombination rates across these large

genomic regions. Interestingly, recombination rates in regions of divergence were often lowest in the

F_1 hybrid map (Figure 4). While this was expected within chromosomal inversions, where the

alternative homozygotes demonstrated steady recombination throughout the inverted region, this

was also the case on chromosome 7 despite the apparent lack of any large scale, simple structural

variation (Figures 2 and 4) although clusters of smaller structural variants that could not be detected

in our maps could also reduce recombination. On the hybrid map, this entire region collapsed to a

region inherited essentially as a single Mendelian locus.

The specific reductions in recombination on the hybrid map are suggestive of adaptive

evolution of the recombination landscape itself and, if true, could have profound implications for

adaptation and genomic divergence in stickleback. For example, inversions are advantageous when

recombination between multiple linked alleles that contribute to fitness (either in an additive or

epistatic fashion) is maladaptive (KIRKPATRICK AND BARTON 2006). The three previously identified

inversions on chromosomes 1, 11 and 21 (JONES et al. 2012) are associated with divergence

between the freshwater and marine habitats and occur in regions of the genome that readily

recombine in the chromosomal homozygotes (BT and RS maps). Had inversions not evolved, gene
flow and recombination among marine and freshwater populations may have been strong enough
to limit adaptive divergence (LENORMAND 2002; YEAMAN AND WHITLOCK 2011; AESCHBACHER *et al.*
2017).

A noteworthy conclusion from our data is that such large, simple inversions have not evolved
across the largest regions of divergence in the genome. In these regions, low recombination rates
— which may themselves have evolved adaptively or been ancestral platforms for adaptive
divergence — combined with strong selection has been effective at maintaining allelic combinations
across megabases of genomic space. Discovering the molecular mechanisms of such
recombination rate reduction will be a productive avenue of research. Regardless of the molecular
mechanisms, the packaging of variation across the genome into tightly linked (even Mendelian) loci
simplifies the genetic architecture of adaptation and increases the impact of linked selection.

Our observations of coincidence of reduced recombination and genomic divergence may
help explain the well documented pattern repeatable and rapid adaptive divergence in stickleback
(BELL AND FOSTER 1994; LESCAK *et al.* 2015) that is largely the result of the reuse of standing genetic
variation (COLOSIMO *et al.* 2005; SCHLUTER AND CONTE 2009; TEREKHANOVA *et al.* 2014; ROESTI *et al.*
2015; BASSHAM *et al.* 2018). Because freshwater populations are typically founded by marine
stickleback, the sources of standing genetic variation are low frequency variants in the marine
population that nearly always exist in a heterozygous state with a marine genome. Our results
suggest that the recombination landscape may therefore facilitate the maintenance of freshwater
haplotypes during their transit through the marine environment by reducing recombination even in
collinear genomic regions. Multi-megabase haplotypes — potentially containing many alleles
contributing to local adaptation — then have a higher probability of being selected in concert when
a new freshwater population is established.

Asymmetric population structure maintains asymmetries in patterns of linked genetic
variation

The patterns of linked variation that we document here highlight not only the importance of
selection but also of the precise structure of the threespine stickleback metapopulation in maintaining
genetic variation. Throughout the species range, the marine population is remarkably uniform
phenotypically, which we now know is reflected genetically by minimal isolation-by-distance over
thousands of kilometers (BELL AND FOSTER 1994; CATCHEN *et al.* 2013a). This large population with
few barriers to migration is contiguous with thousands of freshwater lake and stream populations

that are more clearly isolated by geography. While the influence of freshwater populations on the

evolution of the species was once unclear (BELL AND FOSTER 1994), it is now evident that gene flow

between freshwater and marine stickleback populations is common and may facilitate adaptation

through the indirect sharing of alleles among freshwater populations (SCHLUTER AND CONTE 2009).

Our findings suggest that the more highly structured freshwater habitat is actually the primary

reservoir of genetic variation in the species, and this diversity is particularly concentrated in regions

of the genome experiencing divergent selection. In these regions of the genomes, chromosomes

carrying locally adapted marine and freshwater haplotypes had strikingly different patterns of

ancestry. We suggest that this is the consequence of asymmetric population structure among

stickleback populations in marine and freshwater habitats (Figure 6). Sequence diversity on marine

chromosomes increased steadily away from loci under divergent selection (Figure 5B). In stark

contrast, these same regions were the most diverse genomic regions we observed on freshwater

chromosomes (Figure 5C-F).

We hypothesize that these genomic patterns are the result of greater population structure

among freshwater populations in combination with the 'protection' against recombination with

marine chromosomes when in marine habitats. Theory shows that population structure itself can

increase inter-population coalescence times relative to panmixia (CHARLESWORTH *et al.* 2003). We

suggest that selection has naturally partitioned the genome into less- and more-structured regions

based on proximity to loci under divergent selection. The increased diversity on freshwater

chromosomes adjacent to divergently adapted loci is the result of the geographic structuring of

variation among semi-isolated freshwater populations (Figure 6). This signature is detected only in

those genomic regions also affected by divergent selection because selection itself has reduced the

effective migration and recombination rates between marine and freshwater populations in those

genomic regions. Because migration among freshwater populations occurs primarily through the

marine environment, divergent selection accentuates the effect of population structure in the

freshwater habitat.

The forward simulations we performed in SLiM support this hypothesis. We found that under

realistic migration rates, such asymmetric population subdivision *by itself* provides a simple

explanation for the counterintuitive observation that smaller, isolated populations contain abundant

linked variation. Additional asymmetric population structure increased levels of variation in the system

as a whole. Simulations including within-habitat population structure resulted in higher nucleotide

diversity across the entire chromosome both within and among allelic classes, and a strong peak in

diversity near the locally adaptive locus. These findings generally agree with expectations from the
structured coalescent (SLATKIN 1987; HUDSON 1990; CHARLESWORTH *et al.* 2003), where limited
migration increases the expected coalescence times of chromosomes sampled from different demes
because the chromosomes must be found in the same deme in order to coalesce. Nearby an
alternatively adaptive locus, selection accentuates this effect by reducing effective migration rates
among demes of alternative habitats.

Our empirical and simulated results, in combination with previous findings in threespine
stickleback (REIMCHEN 1994; KAEUFFER *et al.* 2012; ROESTI *et al.* 2014), have important implications
for the long-term evolution of the species. Freshwater populations are ecologically diverse (BELL AND
FOSTER 1994; KAEUFFER *et al.* 2012; LEAVER AND REIMCHEN 2012) and the relative impacts of parallel
versus non-parallel selection pressures among freshwater populations is actively debated (KAEUFFER
et al. 2012; STUART *et al.* 2017). While it is possible that multifarious selection pressures also
contribute to the maintenance of more genetic diversity on chromosomes from freshwater fish, our
model does not require additional selection to maintain linked variation. Furthermore, the freshwater
pond populations studied here are ecologically similar and geographically proximal (CRESKO *et al.*
2004), so it is likely that parallel selection on a common pool of variation has produced the patterns
of variation we observe. Also studying ecologically similar freshwater populations, Roesti et al (2014)
found that parallel adaptation led to increases in F_{ST} among freshwater populations near peaks of
marine-freshwater divergence, and inferred that sweeps of common SNPs on different genetic
backgrounds led to this pattern. We have shown these linked genomic regions to be not only the
most heavily partitioned but also the most diverse in the genome. We find it likely that selection and
gene flow happening over shorter evolutionary timescales (tens to thousands of years), like those
investigated by Roesti et al. (2014), have occurred throughout the evolutionary history of this species
and have long-lasting, collective effects on patterns of genomic variation over the course of millions
of years.

Conclusions

Divergent natural selection is a powerful force for the maintenance of genetic variation in nature. When local adaptation plays out on variable recombinational and geographic landscapes, we find that its effects on genetic variation are amplified and shape patterns of linked variation in unexpected ways. We hypothesize that the stickleback recombinational landscape is the product of adaptive evolution that transforms a large genomic architecture of marine-freshwater divergence into a much more simplified genetic architecture. If true, two consequences are the efficient maintenance of adaptive divergence in the face of gene flow, and widespread linked selection that eliminates genetic variation in the panmictic marine population while maintaining genetic diversity in the freshwater habitat. The interaction of selection, recombination, and population structure has turned small, isolated freshwater stickleback populations into the primary reservoirs of standing genetic variation that potentiate future evolutionary change. More broadly, our results underscore how integrated studies of evolutionary and genetic processes can yield exciting, unexpected patterns and deeper understanding when we jointly consider the processes and their interactions with one another.

Data availability

Raw sequence data will be made available on NCBI under BioProjects PRJNA429207 and PRJNAXXXXXX. Scripts and processed data will be available on FigShare and are immediately available on GitHub at https://github.com/thomnelson/linkedvariation.

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Figure S1. Reference-guided genetic map construction allows identification and correction of chromosomal inversions. A: Inversion polymorphisms create discrepancies between the reference physical genome and a genetic map. Colored bars indicate true map distances between genetic markers inside and on either side of the inversion. B: When the physical and genetic maps are collinear, everything's a-okay. Genetic map distances agree with the reference. C: An inverted genetic map forced into reference order results in a disjunct genetic map because crossover frequencies between markers inside and outside the inversion are inferred correctly. Note that the green and blue bars reflect the true distances between the markers involved but they are in the wrong order. D: Reversing the order of markers within the inversion preserved the relative map distances and reduced the overall map length. E-G: Genetic maps from the BT fish (E, collinear with reference) and the RS fish (F and G, inverted relative to reference) demonstrate this correction using empirical data.

Figure S2. Genetic maps
for all 21 threespine
stickleback chromosomes.
Genetic position for each
RAD marker is plotted
against aligned physical
position on the threespine
stickleback reference
genome. Blue: Boot Lake;
Red: Rabbit Slough;
Purple: F_1 hybrid.

Figure S3. Variation in recombination rate and covariation with population genetic
statistics at different genomic window sizes. All points are genome-wide summaries of
recombination rate variation (cM/Mb) and covariation (shown as Spearman's ρ) with population
genetic variation and differentiation at a given window size using non-overlapping genomic
windows. SD: standard deviation; pi: sequence diversity across the entire population genomic
dataset (Rabbit Slough, Boot Lake, Bear Paw Lake); pi, RS: sequence diversity among Rabbit
Slough chromosomes; F_{ST}: differentiation between Rabbit Slough and Boot Lake population
samples.

934   **Figure S4. Window-based estimates of recombination rate (cM/Mb) and sequence diversity**
935   **using (top) 100-kb non-overlapping windows and (bottom) 1000-kb non-overlapping**
936   **windows.** Note the difference in x- and y-axis scale with different window sizes.
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