# Title: Parasite dispersal influences introgression rate: the case of dove wing and body lice

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**Running title:** Dispersal influences introgression rate.

**Author contributions:** J.D., and K.P.J. conceived the study. J.D., A.D.S., and K.P.J. designed the study. A.D.S. collected the data. J.D. and A.D.S. analysed the data. K.P.J. obtained financial support for the project. J.D. wrote the manuscript and all authors contributed to editing the manuscript.

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**Data availability:** All data needed to evaluate the conclusions in the paper are present in the paper and/or the Supplementary Materials. Additional data related to this paper may be requested from the authors.

**Supplementary Materials:** Supplementary data are available at Figshare (DOI: 10.6084/m9.figshare.9176204).

**Abstract:** Organisms vary in their dispersal abilities, and these differences can have important biological consequences, such as impacting the likelihood of hybridization events. However, the factors shaping the frequency of hybridization are still poorly understood, and therefore how dispersal ability affects the opportunities for hybridization is still unknown. Here, using the ecological replicate system of dove wing and body lice (Insecta: Phthiraptera), we show that species with higher dispersal abilities exhibited increased genomic signatures of introgression. Specifically, we found a higher proportion of introgressed genomic reads and more reticulated phylogenetic networks in wing lice, the louse group with higher dispersal abilities. Our results illustrate how differences in dispersal ability can drive differences in the extent of introgression through hybridization. The results from this study represent an important step for understanding the factors driving hybridization. We expect our approach will stimulate future studies on the ecological factors shaping hybridization to further understand this important process.

## Introduction

Dispersal is the permanent movement of organisms away from their place of origin. It is a fundamental process in biology with significant implications at multiple scales of organization (Barton 1992; Clobert et al. 2001; Nathan 2001; Matthysen 2012), including the reproduction of individuals, the composition of populations and communities, and the geographical distribution of species (Clobert et al. 2001, 2012).

Organisms differ in their dispersal abilities, and these differences have an impact on their biology, such as on the distributional range of a species or gene flow between populations (Bohonak 1999). For example, organisms with lower dispersal abilities tend to have smaller distributional ranges and populations that are genetically more structured (Bohonak 1999; Dawson et al. 2014; DiBlasi et al. 2018).

Dispersal ability might also affect the opportunities for hybridization between species because the rates at which individuals encounter different species are likely to be higher in organisms with higher dispersal capabilities. Indeed, recent evidence supports this prediction by demonstrating that range expansion is associated with the extent of introgression (Currat et al. 2008; Nussberger et al. 2018). Similarly, dispersal differences explain more than 30% of the variation in the width of hybrid zones across animals (McEntee et al. 2018). However, overall the factors influencing hybridization events are poorly known (Randler 2006; Arnold 2015; Taylor and Larson 2019), and, in particular, the influence of dispersal ability on the rate of hybridization remains understudied.

Comparisons of the effect of dispersal on hybridization should ideally hold constant most factors other than dispersal. The ecological replicate system of wing and body lice (Insecta: Phthiraptera) of pigeons and doves (Aves: Columbidae) has proven to be an ideal system for

59 comparing the impact of dispersal differences on other aspects of biology, such as population
60 structure and codivergence (Clayton and Johnson 2003; Johnson and Clayton 2004; Clayton et
61 al. 2015; DiBlasi et al. 2018; Sweet and Johnson 2018). Specifically, this is an excellent system
62 in which to assess the effect of differences in dispersal capabilities on levels of introgression
63 because both of these two lineages of feather lice: 1) co-occur across the diversity of pigeons and
64 doves, 2) present highly comparable temporal patterns of diversification; specifically,
65 cophylogenetic analyses and bird time-calibrated trees indicate that both lineages originated on
66 the common ancestor of *Metropelia* doves (11.3-14.9 mya) and also share a cospeciation event
67 which occurred within the *Metriopelia* genus (5.2-7.4 mya; Sweet and Johnson 2015, 2018), 3)
68 have the same basic life history and diet (Clayton et al. 2015; Sweet and Johnson 2015, 2018),
69 but 4) they significantly differ in their dispersal ability (Harbison et al. 2008, 2009; Bartlow et al.
70 2016). Both wing and body lice disperse vertically between parents and offspring in the nest.
71 However, wing lice can also attach to and hitchhike on hippoboscid flies to disperse
72 "phoretically" between host individuals or host species (Harbison et al. 2008, 2009; Bartlow et
73 al. 2016). Indeed, this hitch-hiking dispersal mechanism profoundly influences their degree of
74 population structure and cophylogenetic history (Clayton and Johnson 2003; Sweet et al. 2017b;
75 DiBlasi et al. 2018; Sweet and Johnson 2018). In addition, wing lice have a higher rate of host-
76 switching (Clayton and Johnson 2003; Clayton et al. 2015; Sweet et al. 2017b) (i.e., successful
77 colonization of new host species) and of straggling (Whiteman et al. 2004) (i.e., dispersal to new
78 host species without reproduction on that new host).
79 To compare differences in the extent of introgression between wing and body lice, we
80 used whole-genome data from 71 louse individuals belonging to five taxa of wing lice
81 (*Columbicola*) and seven taxa of body lice (*Physconelloides*) occurring across the same host

species and have highly comparable patterns of diversification (Sweet and Johnson 2015, 2018). We predicted that wing lice, which have higher dispersal abilities and thus higher odds of encountering individuals of a different louse species on the same host, should show more extensive evidence of introgression (Fig. 1).

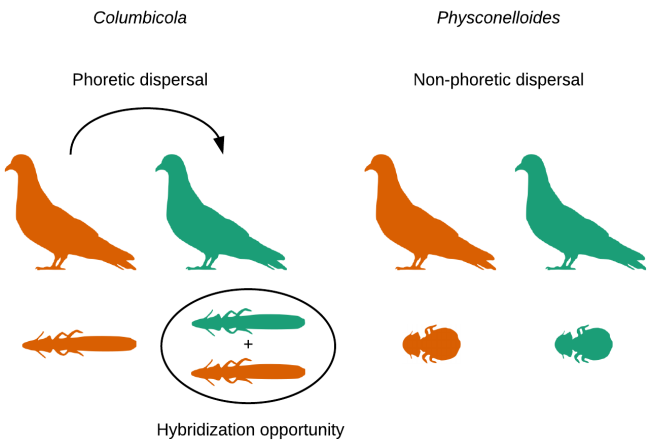


**Figure 1**. Diagram depicting the ecological replicate system and the hypothesis of this study. Wing lice (*Columbicola*) have higher dispersal abilities than body lice (*Physconelloides*), and thus higher odds of encountering individuals of a different louse sp.

## Materials and Methods

### Data

We studied whole genome data from 71 louse individuals belonging to five and seven taxa of *Columbicola* and *Physconelloides*, respectively (Supplementary Table S2). Data were available from previous studies (Boyd BM, et al. 2017; Sweet et al. 2017a; Sweet and Johnson 2018) and represent all described New World ground-dove wing and body louse species, most host species in this group, including samples across multiple biogeographic areas within species (Sweet and Johnson 2018; Supplementary Table S2). Illumina genome sequence data pre-processing

98 included several steps (Sweet and Johnson 2018). First, we discarded duplicate read pairs using
99 the fastqSplitDups script (https://github.com/McIntyre-Lab/mcscriptand
100 https://github.com/McIntyre-Lab/mclib). We then eliminated the Illumina sequencing adapters
101 with Fastx_clipper v0.014 from the FASTX-Toolkit (http://hannonlab.cshl.edu/fastx_toolkit).
102 Also, we removed the first 5 nt from the 5' ends of reads using Fastx_trimmer v0.014 and
103 trimmed bases from the 3' ends of reads until reaching a base with a phred score ≥28 using
104 Fastq_quality_trimmer v0.014. Finally, we removed any reads less than 75 nt and analyzed the
105 cleaned libraries with Fastqc v0.11.5 to check for additional errors. We assembled nuclear loci in
106 aTRAM following previous studies (Allen et al. 2015; Boyd BM, et al. 2017; Sweet and Johnson
107 2018). In particular, we mapped modest coverage (25-60X), multiplexed genomic data to
108 reference loci from a closely related taxon. For our reference set of nuclear loci for wing lice, we
109 used 1,039 exons of *Columbicola drowni* generated in a previous study (Boyd BM, et al. 2017)
110 (raw data: SRR3161922). This data set was assembled de novo (Allen et al. 2015) using
111 orthologous protein-coding genes from the human body louse genome (*Pediculus humanus*
112 *humanus* (Kirkness et al. 2010)) as a set of target sequences. We mapped our newly generated
113 *Columbicola* reads and the reads obtained from GenBank to the *C. drowni* references using
114 Bowtie2 (Langmead and Salzberg 2012). For body lice, we obtained nuclear data using the same
115 pipeline and software parameters, except that we used 1,095 loci from *P. emersoni* as the
116 reference for mapping. To generate the input ultrametric gene trees for Phylonet v3.6.8 (Than et
117 al. 2008; Yu and Nakhleh 2015; Wen et al. 2018), we first aligned each nuclear locus in MAFFT
118 (Katoh 2002)(--auto) and removed columns with only ambiguous sequences ("N"). Then, we
119 estimated gene trees in RAxML v8.1.3 (Stamatakis 2006) with a GTR + Γ substitution model for

120 each gene alignment. Finally, we made trees ultrametric using the nnls method in the
121 force.ultrametric function within the "phytools" R package (Revell 2011).

122 Quantifying introgression

123 We used two different approaches to quantify differences in the extent of introgression between
124 the two louse genera. We employed methods suitable to both detect introgression between
125 species and individuals from the same species (i.e., we did not employ methods aimed to detect
126 differences at the population level, e.g., TreeMix; Pickrell and Pritchard 2012). First, we used
127 sppIDer (Langdon et al. 2018) to quantify the genomic contributions of different louse species in
128 an individual louse genome. We built our reference for each genus using all the nuclear loci from
129 a single individual per species. For the reference, we selected those individuals for which we
130 assembled the highest number of genes for each genus. Finally, we estimated the extent of
131 introgression as the sum of the mean coverages of reads mapped from all the species excluding
132 the focal louse species, divided by the mean coverage of the focal louse species. Second, we
133 quantified introgression at the species level, while accounting for ILS (i.e., reticulations in this
134 method can be attributed to hybridization events), using a maximum pseudo-likelihood
135 framework with PhyloNet 3.6.1 (Than et al. 2008; Yu and Nakhleh 2015; Wen et al. 2018). We
136 trimmed the unrooted gene trees to the same individuals used as reference taxa in sppIDer, and
137 performed eleven independent analyses with a differing maximum number of reticulation nodes
138 (i.e., from zero to ten). We conducted ten runs per analysis. We then selected the optimal
139 network for each genus based on AIC values.

140 Analyses

141 We compared the sppIDer results using generalized linear models (GLMs). We used a Gaussian
142 distribution of errors and an identity link function. We performed one GLM for each simulation

143 iteration using the glm function of the "stats" R package (R Core Team 2013). The extent of
144 introgression for each louse genus was the dependent variable, the genus identity was the
145 independent variable, and we accounted for the introgression differences between louse species
146 including louse identity as a fixed factor. We confirmed assumptions underlying GLMs by
147 testing the normality of regression residuals for normality against a Q-Q plot. We also
148 considered the possibility that some of the reads mapping to other species were technical
149 contaminations, i.e., due to index-swapping (Carlsen et al. 2012; Esling et al. 2015; Schnell et al.
150 2015; Sinha et al. 2017). Previous studies have found that the misassignment of reads generally
151 ranges from 1 to 9% (Carlsen et al. 2012; Esling et al. 2015; Schnell et al. 2015; Sinha et al.
152 2017). Thus, to account for possible contaminants, we wrote a simulation in R that randomly
153 subtracted 9% (Carlsen et al. 2012; Esling et al. 2015; Schnell et al. 2015; Sinha et al. 2017)
154 from the mean coverage value of a particular sample (i.e., we subtracted a random proportion of
155 the mean coverage value for each sample until reaching 9 %). We ran 100 iterations of the
156 simulation and ran a GLM for each iteration (Table S1). Finally, we used the $\chi^2$ test to compare
157 the number of species in pairwise comparisons of each genus with the number of reticulations
158 found in each optimal phylogenetic network.

159 **Results**

160 We used two different approaches to quantify the overall (i.e., ancient plus recent) differences in
161 introgression between louse genera. First, in individual louse genomes, we quantified the
162 genomic contributions from different closely related louse species of the same genus (Langdon et
163 al. 2018). Second, we quantified introgression at the species level, while accounting for
164 incomplete lineage sorting (ILS), by inferring phylogenetic networks using a maximum pseudo-
165 likelihood framework (Than et al. 2008; Yu and Nakhleh 2015; Wen et al. 2018).

166 Both approaches revealed highly concordant results: higher levels of introgression among
167 species of wing lice compared to body lice. In particular, using a read-mapping based method,
168 the genomic signature of introgression was significantly higher in wing louse species than in
169 body louse species (GLM with the mean values of the simulations; F = 21.0705, df = 69, $P$ =
170 $2.367 \times 10^{-5}$; Fig. 2, Supplementary Table S1, Figs. S1-S12). Contrary to this effect, one body
171 louse individual (included in the GLMs) exhibited the highest level of introgression (Fig. 2,
172 Figs. S1-S12). However, the other individual from the same taxon, inhabiting the same host
173 species and collected in the same geographic region, did not show these elevated levels of
174 introgression (Supplementary Table S2, Figs. S1-S12).

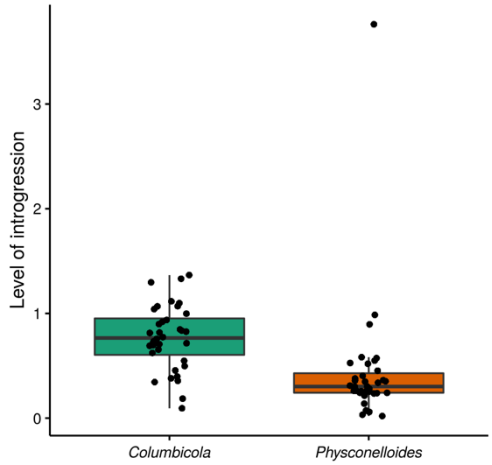


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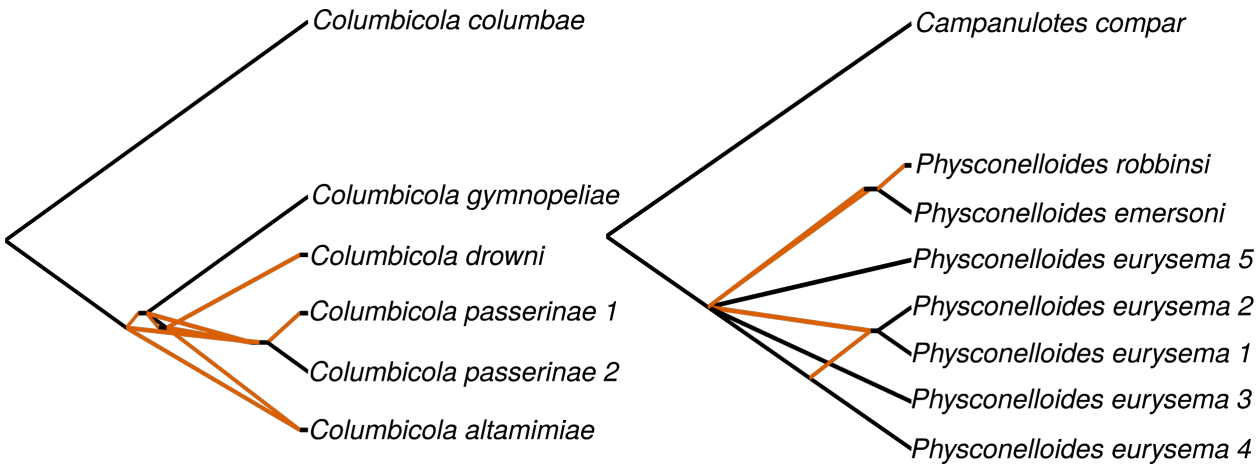
**Figure 2**. Boxplot showing the differences in levels of introgression between wing (green) and body (orange) lice. Level of introgression represents the sum of the mean coverage of reads mapped from all the species excluding the focal louse species, divided by the mean coverage of the focal louse species (see Methods). Black dots represent individual samples (horizontally jittered).

178

179

180 Secondly, in a phylogenetic network framework, the optimal networks of wing lice were more
181 reticulated than those of body lice even though the number of taxa included in the networks was
182 lower (seven reticulations in *Columbicola* vs. four in *Physconelloides*, Fig. 3). Accordingly, the
183 number of reticulations given the number of potential combinations was significantly higher ($\chi^2$=
184 3.8132; df=1; *P*= 0.03). Also, the specific lineages involved in the reticulations were generally
185 congruent with signatures of introgression from the read-mapping based approach (Fig. S1-S12).



186

187 Figure 3. Optimal phylogenetic networks of feather lice genera. Orange branches depict reticulations. From left to right,
188 *Columbicola* (seven reticulations) and *Physconelloides* (four reticulations) networks (See Methods).

189 **Discussion**

190 Taken together, evidence from wing and body louse genomes suggests that differences in
191 dispersal ability drive differences in the extent of introgression in this system of ecological
192 replicate parasites. This work is among the first studies of introgression in a host-symbiont
193 system (Detwiler and Criscione 2010). Notably, recent studies have found that straggling and
194 host-switching are relatively common processes in host-symbiont systems (De Vienne et al.
195 2013; Bourguignon et al. 2018; Nylin et al. 2018; Doña et al. 2019). Our study suggests that in a
196 straggling/host-switching scenario, hybridization can provide further variation with important

eco-evolutionary consequences (Barton 2018). Indeed, we may have found a potential recent hybridization event (i.e., the *Physconelloides* individual showing the highest level of introgression), though this requires further study to rule out methodological issues (e.g., wet-lab contamination). Overall, the results from this study represent a significant step towards understanding the factors driving hybridization, because most previous studies focus on the presence/absence of hybridization and the evolutionary consequences of hybridization events (Arnold 2015; Folk et al. 2018; Taylor and Larson 2019). Further research is needed to understand the factors shaping the frequency of hybridization and to ascertain their influence across different scales (e.g., from ancient to recent hybridization events).

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