Title: Parasite dispersal influences introgression rate

Authors: Jorge Doña[1]*, Andrew D. Sweet[1, 2], and Kevin P. Johnson[1]*

Affiliations:

[1]Illinois Natural History Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1816 S. Oak St., Champaign, Illinois 61820, USA.

[2]Department of Entomology, Purdue University, 901 W. State St., West Lafayette, Indiana 47907, USA.

*Correspondence to: jorged@illinois.edu, kpjohnso@illinois.edu.

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.

One Sentence Summary: Parasite species with higher dispersal abilities show increased levels of introgression.

Keywords: feather lice, host-symbiont, hybridization, lice, parasites, phoresis, symbionts

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; Matthysen, 2012; Nathan, 2001), including the reproduction of individuals, the composition of populations and communities, and the geographical distribution of species (Clobert et al., 2012, 2001).

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 (Arnold, 2015; Randler, 2006; 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 comparing the impact of dispersal differences on other aspects of biology, such as population structure and codivergence (Clayton et al., 2015; Clayton and Johnson, 2003; DiBlasi et al., 2018; Johnson and Clayton, 2004; Sweet and Johnson, 2018). Specifically, this is an excellent system in which to assess the effect of differences in dispersal capabilities on levels of introgression because both of these two lineages of feather lice: 1) co-occur across the diversity of pigeons and doves, 2) present highly comparable temporal patterns of diversification, 3) have the same basic life history and diet (Clayton et al., 2015; Sweet and Johnson, 2018, 2015), but 4) they significantly differ in their dispersal ability (Bartlow et al., 2016; Harbison et al., 2009, 2008). Both wing and body lice disperse vertically between parents and offspring in the nest. However, wing lice can also attach to and hitchhike on hippoboscid flies to disperse "phoretically" between host individuals or host species (Bartlow et al., 2016; Harbison et al., 2009, 2008). Indeed, this hitch-hiking dispersal mechanism profoundly influences their degree of population structure and cophylogenetic history (Clayton and Johnson, 2003; DiBlasi et al., 2018; Sweet et al., 2017b; Sweet and Johnson, 2018). In addition, wing lice have a higher rate of host-switching (Clayton et al., 2015; Clayton and Johnson, 2003; Sweet et al., 2017b) (i.e., successful colonization of new host species) and of straggling (Whiteman et al., 2004) (i.e., dispersal to new host species without reproduction on that new host).

To compare differences in the extent of introgression between wing and body lice, we used whole-genome data from 71 louse individuals belonging to five taxa of wing lice (*Columbicola*) and seven taxa of body lice (*Physconelloides*) occurring across the same host species and have highly comparable patterns of diversification (Sweet and Johnson, 2018, 2015). 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).

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, et al. 2017; Sweet, Boyd, et al. 2017; 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 included several steps (Sweet and Johnson, 2018). First, we discarded duplicate read pairs using the fastqSplitDups script (https://github.com/McIntyre-Lab/mcscriptand https://github.com/McIntyre-Lab/mclib). We then eliminated the Illumina sequencing adapters with Fastx_clipper v0.014 from the FASTX-Toolkit (http://hannonlab.cshl.edu/fastx_toolkit). Also, we removed the first 5 nt from the 5' ends of reads using Fastx_trimmer v0.014 and trimmed bases from the 3' ends of reads until reaching a base with a phred score ≥28 using Fastq_quality_trimmer v0.014. Finally, we removed any reads less than 75 nt and analyzed the cleaned libraries with Fastqc v0.11.5 to check for additional errors. We assembled nuclear loci in aTRAM following previous studies (Allen et al., 2015; Boyd BM, et al., 2017; Sweet and Johnson, 2018). In particular, we mapped modest coverage (25-60X), multiplexed genomic data to reference loci from a closely related taxon. For our reference set of nuclear loci for wing lice, we used 1,039 exons of *Columbicola drowni* generated in a previous study (Boyd BM, et al., 2017) (raw data: SRR3161922). This data set was assembled de novo (Allen et al., 2015) using orthologous protein-coding genes from the human body louse genome (*Pediculus humanus humanus* (Kirkness et al., 2010)) as a set of target sequences. We mapped our newly generated *Columbicola* reads and the reads obtained from GenBank to the *C. drowni* references using Bowtie2 (Langmead and Salzberg, 2012). For body lice, we obtained nuclear data using the same pipeline and software parameters, except that we used 1,095 loci from *P. emersoni* as the reference for mapping. To generate the input ultrametric gene trees for Phylonet v3.6.8 (Than et al., 2008; Wen et al., 2018; Yu and Nakhleh, 2015), we first aligned each nuclear locus in MAFFT (Katoh, 2002)(--auto) and removed columns with only ambiguous sequences ("N"). Then, we estimated gene trees in RAxML v8.1.3 (Stamatakis, 2006) with a GTR + Γ substitution model for each gene alignment. Finally, we made trees ultrametric using the nnls method in the force.ultrametric function within the "phytools" R package (Revell, 2011).

Quantifying introgression

We used two different approaches to quantify differences in the extent of introgression between the two louse genera. We employed methods suitable to both detect introgression between species and individuals from the same species (i.e., we did not employ methods aimed to detect differences at the population level, e.g., TreeMix; Pickrell and Pritchard 2012). First, we used sppIDer (Langdon et al., 2018) to quantify the genomic contributions of different louse species in an individual louse genome. We built our reference for each genus using all the nuclear loci from a single individual per species. For the reference, we selected those individuals for which we assembled the highest number of genes for each genus. Finally, we estimated the extent of introgression as the sum of the mean coverages of reads mapped from all the species excluding

the focal louse species, divided by the mean coverage of the focal louse species. Second, we quantified introgression at the species level, while accounting for ILS (i.e., reticulations in this method can be attributed to hybridization events), using a maximum pseudo-likelihood framework with PhyloNet 3.6.1 (Than et al., 2008; Wen et al., 2018; Yu and Nakhleh, 2015). We trimmed the unrooted gene trees to the same individuals used as reference taxa in sppIDer, and performed eleven independent analyses with a differing maximum number of reticulation nodes (i.e., from zero to ten). We conducted ten runs per analysis. We then selected the optimal network for each genus based on AIC values.

Analyses

We compared the sppIDer results using generalized linear models (GLMs). We used a Gaussian distribution of errors and an identity link function. We performed one GLM for each simulation iteration using the glm function of the "stats" R package (R Core Team, 2013). The extent of introgression for each louse genus was the dependent variable, the genus identity was the independent variable, and we accounted for the introgression differences between louse species including louse identity as a fixed factor. We confirmed assumptions underlying GLMs by testing the normality of regression residuals for normality against a Q-Q plot. We also considered the possibility that some of the reads mapping to other species were technical contaminations, i.e., due to index-swapping (Carlsen et al., 2012; Esling et al., 2015; Schnell et al., 2015; Sinha et al., 2017). Previous studies have found that the misassignment of reads generally ranges from 1 to 9% (Carlsen et al., 2012; Esling et al., 2015; Schnell et al., 2015; Sinha et al., 2017). Thus, to account for possible contaminants, we wrote a simulation in R that randomly subtracted 9% (Carlsen et al. 2012; Esling et al. 2015; Schnell et al. 2015; Sinha et al. 2017) from the mean coverage value of a particular sample (i.e., we subtracted a random proportion of the mean coverage value for each sample until reaching 9 %). We ran 100 iterations of the simulation and ran a GLM for each iteration (Table S1). Finally, we used the χ^2 test to compare the number of species in pairwise comparisons of each genus with the number of reticulations found in each optimal phylogenetic network.

Results

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

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

Secondly, in a phylogenetic network framework, the optimal networks of wing lice were more reticulated than those of body lice even though the number of taxa included in the networks

was lower (seven reticulations in *Columbicola* vs. four in *Physconelloides*, Fig. 3). Accordingly, the number of reticulations given the number of potential combinations was significantly higher (χ^2= 3.8132; df=1; *P*= 0.03). Also, the specific lineages involved in the reticulations were generally congruent with signatures of introgression from the read-mapping based approach (Fig. S1-S12).

Discussion

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

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).

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Fig. 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 species on the same host. Thus, wing lice are predicted to show higher levels of introgression compared to body lice.

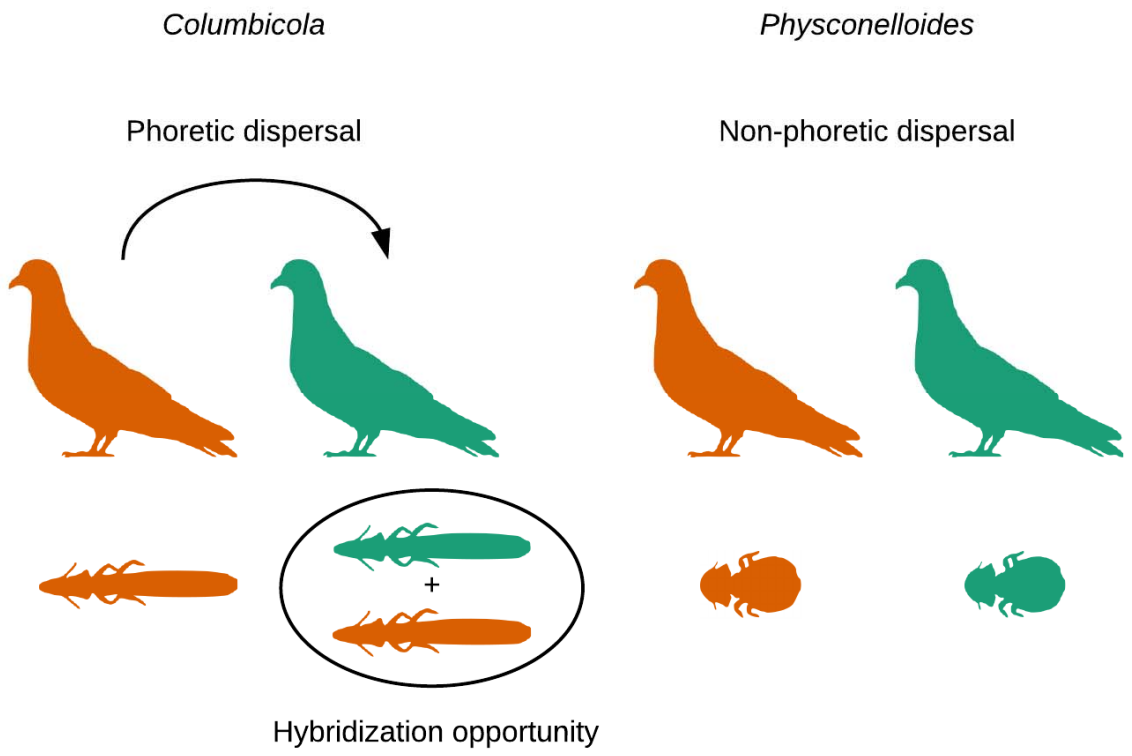

Fig. 2. Boxplot showing the differences in levels of introgression between wing (green) and body (orange) lice. Level of introgression represents the sum of the mean coverage of reads mapped from all the species excluding the focal louse species, divided by the mean coverage of the focal louse species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

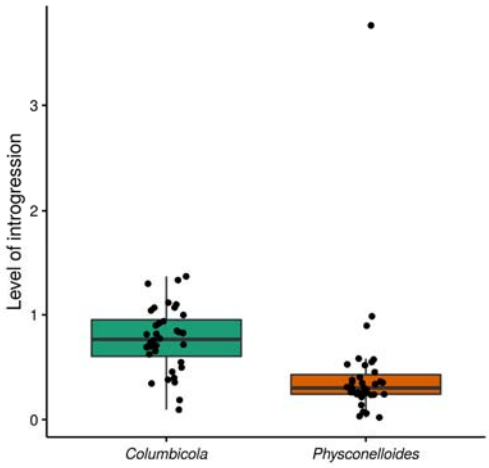
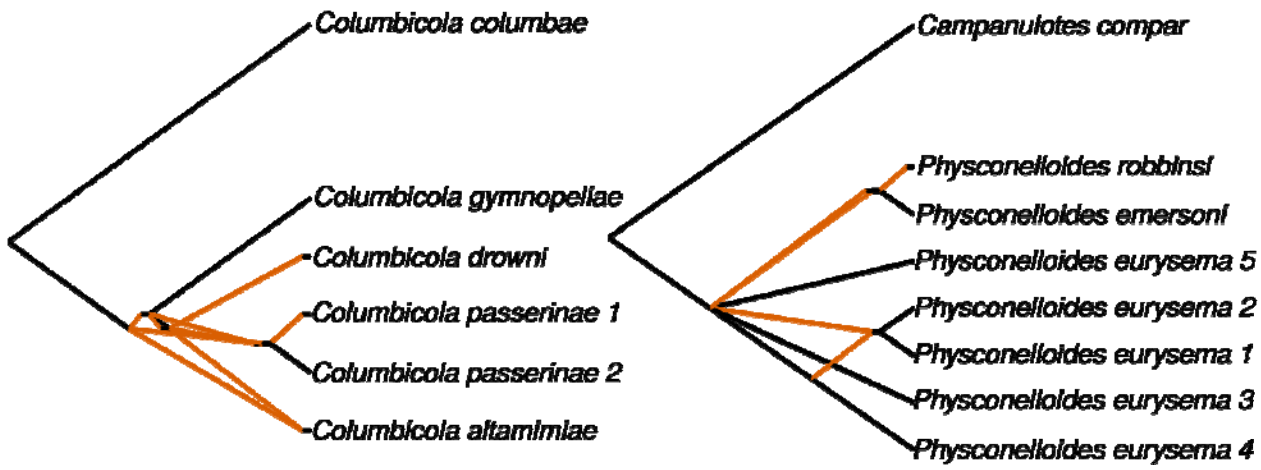
Fig. 3. Optimal phylogenetic networks of feather lice genera. Orange branches depict reticulations. From left to right, *Columbicola* (seven reticulations) and *Physconelloides* (four reticulations) networks (See Methods).