Population genomics data supports introgression between Western Iberian

***Squalius* freshwater fish species from different drainages**

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Abstract

In freshwater fish, processes of population divergence and speciation are often linked

to the geomorphology of rivers and lakes that create barriers isolating populations.

However, current geographical isolation does not necessarily imply total absence of

gene flow during the divergence process. Here, we focused on four species of the

genus *Squalius* in Portuguese rivers: *S. carolitertii*, *S. pyrenaicus*, *S. aradensis* and *S.*

torgalensis. Previous studies based on eight nuclear and mitochondrial markers

revealed incongruent patterns, with nuclear loci suggesting that *S. pyrenaicus* was a

paraphyletic group, since its northern populations were genetically closer to *S.*

carolitertii than to other southern populations. Here, for the first time, we successfully

applied a genomic approach to the study of the relationship between these species,

using a Genotyping by Sequencing approach to obtain single nucleotide

polymorphisms (SNPs). Our results revealed a species tree with two main lineages: (i)

S. carolitertii and *S. pyrenaicus*; (ii) *S. torgalensis* and *S. aradensis*. Moreover,

regarding *S. carolitertii* and *S. pyrenaicus*, we found evidence for past introgression

between these two species in the northern part of *S. pyrenaicus* distribution. This

introgression reconciles previous mitochondrial and nuclear incongruent results and

explains the apparent paraphyly of *S. pyrenaicus*. Although we cannot distinguish a

scenario of hybrid speciation from secondary contact, our estimates are consistent

across models, suggesting that the northern populations of *S. pyrenaicus* received

approximately 80% from *S. carolitertii* and 20% from southern *S. pyrenaicus*. This

illustrates that even in freshwater species currently found in isolated river drainages,

we are able to detect past gene flow events in present-day genomes, suggesting that

speciation is more complex than simply allopatric.

Introduction

Answering questions regarding how populations diverge and ultimately originate new species is a major goal of evolutionary biology. Speciation is assumed to occur due to a systematically reduction in gene flow through time until reproductive isolation is achieved and populations maintain phenotypic and genetic distinctiveness (Seehausen et al. 2014). The most acceptable hypothesis is that divergence happens in a strictly allopatric scenario in the absence of gene flow, due to barriers (geological, hydrological, etc.). Without gene flow, genetic incompatibilities are expected to accumulate through time which can lead to reproductive isolation (Sousa and Hey 2013). However, there are now several studies based on phenotypic and genomic data suggesting that past gene flow is common in several species, including in humans (e.g. Green et al. 2010; Dasmahapatra et al. 2012; Lamichhaney et al. 2015; de Manuel et al. 2016). Nevertheless, despite the growing number of examples of gene flow between species, it is still unclear whether gene flow accompanies the divergence process or if populations first get isolated and then come into contact after a period of time, i.e. a secondary contact (Sousa and Hey 2013). Thus, to understand the process of speciation it is important to characterize the timing and mode of gene flow. The study of these processes has been revolutionized by the possibility of generating genome-wide data from multiple individuals of closely related species to obtain large numbers of polymorphic genetic markers scattered across the genome, either by reduced representation (e.g. genotyping by sequencing) or whole genome sequencing (Davey et al. 2011; Andrews et al. 2016). These types of data have been used in the study of speciation and the relationship between species in several taxa, from insects (e.g. Dasmahapatra et al. 2012; Bagley et al. 2017) to mammals (e.g. McManus et al. 2015; Figueiró et al. 2017), including freshwater fish (e.g. Hohenlohe et al. 2010; Meier et al. 2017).

Due to their outstanding diversity and remarkable adaptive radiations, freshwater fish species have been widely used as model systems to study speciation (Seehausen and Wagner 2014). A variety of scenarios have been described to explain the differentiation of different freshwater fish populations, including: transitions from marine to freshwater habitats (e.g. Jones et al. 2012; Terekhanova et al. 2014), adaptation to extreme environments (e.g. Pfenninger et al. 2015), and differentiation along water depth clines (e.g. Barluenga et al. 2006; Gagnaire et al. 2013). Another important factor for freshwater fish speciation is the geomorphology of the rivers and lakes, since the formation of geological barriers isolates populations (Seehausen and Wagner 2014). However, this does not mean that currently geographically separated populations have always been isolated, since the configuration of river and lake systems can change over geological time. In fact, several studies document both past and ongoing introgression in freshwater fish, both in species that have evolved with and without geographical isolation (Redenbach and Taylor 2002; Hohenlohe et al. 2013; Jones et al. 2013; Gante et al. 2016). Nonetheless, geographical barriers imposed by the geomorphology of lakes and rivers remains the most accepted explanation for the abundance of freshwater fish species (Seehausen and Wagner 2014). One geographical area where isolation and the configuration of the drainage systems is assumed to have fuelled the origin of a multitude of endemic fish species is the Iberian Peninsula (Sousa-Santos et al. 2019).

The freshwater fish fauna of the Iberian Peninsula includes several endemic species (Mesquita et al. 2007). Among these, a diverse group are the "chubs" from the genus *Squalius* Bonaparte, 1837, in which there are currently eight species and an hybrid complex described in the peninsula (Perea et al. 2016). In Portuguese rivers, apart from the hybrid complex, four species can be found: *Squalius carolitertii*, *Squalius pyrenaicus*, *Squalius torgalensis* and *Squalius aradensis* (Figure 1), distributed along a temperature cline, with increasing temperatures from north to south (Jesus et al. 2017).

Two of the species have rather wide distribution ranges: *Squalius carolitertii* (Doadrio,

1988) is endemic to the northern region of the peninsula and can be found in the

northern rivers up to the Mondego basin, while *Squalius pyrenaicus* (Gunther, 1868)

has a more southern distribution range and is considered to be present in the Tagus,

Sado and Guadiana basins (Coelho et al. 1995; Coelho et al. 1998). On the other

hand, the two other species are confined to much smaller river systems in the

southwestern area of the country: *Squalius torgalensis* (Coelho et al. 1998) is endemic

to the Mira river basin and *Squalius aradensis* (Coelho et al. 1998) is restricted to small

drainages (e.g. Arade) in the extreme southwestern area (Coelho et al. 1998).

The relationship between these species has been investigated (e.g. Brito et al.

1997; Sanjur et al. 2003; Mesquita et al. 2007; Waap et al. 2011; Sousa-Santos et al.

2019) and estimates based on fossil calibrations, nuclear and mitochondrial markers

date their most recent common ancestor to ≈14 Mya (Perea et al. 2010; Sousa-Santos

et al. 2019). *S. torgalensis* and *S. aradensis* were found to be sister species, forming

one clade distinct from the clade of sister species *S. carolitertii* and *S. pyrenaicus*,

based on both mitochondrial (mtDNA) and nuclear markers (Brito et al. 1997; Mesquita

et al. 2007; Almada and Sousa-Santos 2010; Waap et al. 2011; Sousa-Santos et al.

2019). However, while the mtDNA trees cluster different populations of *S. pyrenaicus*

from different river basins together (Brito et al. 1997; Mesquita et al. 2007), the trees

produced using nuclear genes (concatenating 7 nuclear genes) suggest that *S.*

pyrenaicus individuals from the Tagus river basin cluster with *S. carolitertii*, instead of

clustering with *S. pyrenaicus* from other river basins further south (e.g. Guadiana,

Sado), which form a separate clade (Waap et al. 2011; Sousa-Santos et al. 2019).

While the previous work provided valuable information to understand the

diversity and taxonomy of these species (Coelho et al. 1995; Brito et al. 1997; Mesquita

et al. 2005; Henriques et al. 2010), their evolutionary history was mostly investigated

based on single mtDNA gene trees and recently complemented with seven nuclear

markers (Waap et al. 2011; Sousa-Santos et al. 2019). Investigating the history of

species based on single genes can be problematic due to highly stochastic events of

genetic drift and mutational processes (Hey and Machado 2003). Moreover, when

species diverged relatively recently, gene tree might not reflect the underlaying species

tree due to incomplete lineage sorting and/or gene flow (Hey and Machado 2003).

Thus, although seven nuclear genes constitute an improvement over phylogenies

based only on mitochondrial DNA, it still provides a limited picture of the genome.

Therefore, this work had two major goals: (i) first, to characterize the genome-wide

patterns of genetic differentiation and reconstruct the species tree for these four

Squalius species in Portuguese river basins; (ii) second, to investigate the possibility of

introgression between *S. carolitertii* and *S. pyrenaicus*, given the previously reported

incongruent results between mtDNA and nuclear markers. To achieve these goals, we

successfully obtained genome-wide single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) through a

Genotyping by Sequencing (GBS) protocol.

Methods

Sampling and sequencing

A total of 65 individuals were sampled from 8 different locations, as displayed

on Figure 1. For each species, at least one sampling location from a representative

drainage system was sampled. For *S. carolitertii*, individuals were collected from the

Mondego basin (n=10). For *S. pyrenaicus*, in the northern part of its distribution

individuals were collected from the Ocreza river (n=10) and Canha stream (n=10), both

tributaries of the Tagus basin. Specimens were also collected in the Lizandro basin

(n=10). From here on, we use "northern *S. pyrenaicus*" to refer to *S. pyrenaicus* from

Ocreza, Canha and Lizandro. In the southern part of the distribution, *S. pyrenaicus* was

sampled in the Guadiana (n=2) and Almargem (n=8) basins, which we refer to as

"southern *S. pyrenaicus*". For *S. aradensis*, individuals were collected from the Arade

(n=5) basin. For *S. torgalensis* individuals were collected in the Mira basin (n=10).

Detailed locations with GPS coordinates and fishing licenses from the Portuguese

authority for conservation of endangered species [ICNF (Instituto de Conservação da

Natureza e das Florestas)] can be found on Table S1.

All fish were collected by electrofishing (300V, 4A), and total genomic DNA was

extracted from fin clips using an adapted phenol-chloroform protocol (Sambrook et al.

1989). DNA was quantified using Qubit® 2.0 Fluorometer (Live Technologies). The

samples were subjected to a paired-end Genotyping by Sequencing (GBS) protocol

(adapted from Elshire et al. 2011), performed in outsourcing at Beijing Genomics

Institute (BGI, www.bgi.com). The DNA samples were sent to the facility mixed with

DNAstable Plus (Biomatrica) to preserve DNA at room temperature during shipment.

Briefly, upon arrival, DNA was fragmented using the restriction enzyme ApeKI and the

fragments were amplified after adaptor ligation (Elshire et al. 2011). The resulting

library was sequenced using Illumina Hiseq2000.

Obtention of a high-quality SNP dataset

First, the quality of the sequences of each individual was assessed using

FastQC (https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/). To compile the

information from all individual reports, we used MultiQC (Ewels et al. 2016) to merge

and summarize the individual FastQC reports. Second, we used the program

process_radtags from Stacks version 2.2 (Catchen et al. 2013) to trim all reads to 82

base pairs and discard reads with low quality scores, using the default settings for the

window size (0.15x the length of the read) and the base quality threshold (10 in phred

score). Given the absence of a reference genome for any of the species in study, we

built a reference catalog of all loci using a *denovo* assembly approach on Stacks

version 2.2 (Catchen et al. 2013). To determine the best parameters for the

construction of the catalog, we followed the approach recommended by Paris et al.

2017 (Figures S1 and S2). We decided to allow a maximum of 2 differences between

sequences within the same individual (M=2) and a maximum of 4 differences between

sequences from different individuals (n=4) for them to be considered the same locus on

the catalog. We also required a minimum depth of coverage of 4x for every locus on

the catalog (m=4). After building the catalog, given the possibility that forward and

reverse sequences of the same fragment were treated as different loci, similar reads

within the catalog were clustered using CD-HIT version 4.7 (Li and Godzik 2006; Fu et

al. 2012). We used CD-HIT-EST from the CD-HIT package with a word length of 6 and

a sequence identity threshold of 0.85.

Once we clustered similar reads within the catalog, this was treated as a

reference and the reads from each individual were aligned against it using BWA-MEM

from BWA version 0.7.17-r1188 (Li 2013) with default parameters. The output

alignments of BWA were sorted and unmapped reads were removed using Samtools

version 1.8 (Li and Durbin 2009). To call genotypes for each individual at each site and

identify SNPs we used the method implemented on Freebayes v1.2.0 (Garrison and

Marth 2012). We applied further filters to keep only SNPs present in all sampling sites

in at least 50% of the individuals using VCFtools version 0.1.15 (Danecek et al. 2011).

To discard sites and genotypes that are more likely to be the result of

sequencing or mapping errors, we applied filters on the minor allele frequency (MAF ≥

0.01) and on the depth of coverage, keeping only genotypes with a depth of coverage

(DP) between ¼ to 4 times the individual median DP, after assessing the effect of

different filtering options (Tables S2 and S3). The different filters were applied using a

combination of options from VCFtools version 0.1.15 (Danecek et al. 2011) and

BCFtools version 1.6 (Li et al. 2009). Finally, individuals with more than 50% missing

data were removed from the dataset.

Characterization of the global patterns of genetic differentiation

To quantify the levels of differentiation between sampling locations, we

calculated the pairwise F_{ST} using the Hudson estimator (Hudson et al. 1992). Given

that the sampling locations may not correspond to populations, we investigated fine

population structure with individual-based methods. To understand how individuals

cluster, we conducted a principal component analysis (PCA). The number of significant

principal components was determined with the Tracy-Widom test (Patterson et al.

2006) on all eigenvalues. Furthermore, individual ancestry proportions were estimated

with the sparse Non-negative Matrix Factorization method (sNMF) (Frichot et al. 2014).

We tested values of K between 1 and 8, performing 100 repetitions for each K value.

209 All calculations were performed in RStudio version 1.1.383 and R version 3.4.4 and the

210 PCA and sNMF were performed using the package LEA (Frichot and François 2015).

212 **Inference of a population and species tree**

213  Given that our sampling included different species and populations within

214 species, we used the SNP data to reconstruct a species and population tree describing

215 the relationships between the populations using TreeMix (Pickrell and Pritchard 2012).

216 We explored a scenario with no migration, as well as models allowing for up to two

217 migration events. Since we do not have an outgroup, the position of the root was not

218 specified, and thus the resulting trees are unrooted.

220 **Effect of linked SNPs**

221  It is noteworthy that PCA, sNMF and TreeMix methods assume that SNPs are

222 independent, and thus results can be affected by linked SNPs in our dataset. Given the

223 absence of a reference genome, we lack information on the location of the SNP

224 markers. To verify if the results were influenced by potential linkage of SNP markers,

225 we produced a dataset by dividing each scaffold of the catalog into blocks of 200 base

226 pairs, which is larger than the mean size of GBS loci. We then selected the SNP with

227 less missing data per block to generate a dataset with a single SNP per block. Using

228 this "single SNP" dataset, we repeated the three aforementioned analysis.

230 **Detection of introgression between *S. carolitertii* and *S. pyrenaicus***

231  To test for possible past introgression between *S. carolitertii* and *S. pyrenaicus*

232 in the northern area of *S. pyrenaicus* distribution, we used the D-statistic (Durand et al.

233 2011), which was used to distinguish between ancestral polymorphism and

introgression by looking at four different populations related through a fixed species

tree: two sister populations (P1 and P2), a third population that could be the source of

introgressed genes (P3) and has a common ancestor to P1 and P2, and one outgroup

(Pout). We explored four different possible species trees to perform different tests. In

scenario A, we tested for introgression between *S. carolitertii* (P3) and two sister

populations (P1 and P2) from *S. pyrenaicus*, one from the northern and another from

the southern part of its distribution. In B, we tested if *S. pyrenaicus* populations from

the south (P3) are more closely related to *S. carolitertii* (P1) or populations from the

northern part of *S. pyrenaicus* distribution (P2). Considering the possibility of a

geographical cline in admixture proportions between *S. carolitertii* and *S. pyrenaicus* in

the northern part of *S. pyrenaicus* distribution, we also tested if the northern most

sampling site of *S. pyrenaicus* (Ocreza – see Figure 1) showed more signs of

introgression with *S. carolitertii* than the other northern *S. pyrenaicus*, which

corresponds to scenario C. The opposite (all northern *S. pyrenaicus* as sister

populations and *S. carolitertii* as the potential source of introgressed genes)

corresponds to scenario D. In all cases, the outgroup (Pout) was either *S. torgalensis*

or *S. aradensis*. All possible combinations of the populations shown in the figure were

tested. We used *S. pyrenaicus* Almargem as the southern *S. pyrenaicus* population as

S. pyrenaicus Guadiana was represented by only one individual after removing

individuals with more than 50% missing data (see results). Significance of D-statistic

values was assessed using a jackknife approach, dividing the dataset into 25 blocks

and converting z-scores into p-values assuming a standard normal distribution

($p < 0.01$). These computations were done in RStudio version 1.1.383 and R version

3.4.4 using custom scripts, available at Dryad.

If introgression between populations occurred in the relatively recent past, we

would expect individuals within the same population to show different degrees of

introgression. To test this hypothesis, we calculated the D-statistic for each individual of

P2 for the same scenarios as above.

Demographic modelling of the divergence of *S. carolitertii* and *S. pyrenaicus*

We compared alternative divergence scenarios of the northern *S. pyrenaicus*

from *S. carolitertii* and the southern *S. pyrenaicus* to test and quantify past

introgression events. We used the composite likelihood method based on the joint site

frequency spectrum (SFS) implemented in *fastsimcoal2* (Excoffier et al. 2013). First,

we compared the fit of three models to the observed SFS: "Admixture", "No Admixture

C-PN" and "No Admixture PN-PS". The Admixture model assumes that the northern *S.*

pyrenaicus received a contribution alpha (α) from the southern *S. pyrenaicus* and 1-

alpha (1-α) from *S. carolitertii* at the time of the split. Note that the estimates of alpha

not only indicate the most likely species tree but also quantify the level of introgression.

If alpha=0 then the northern *S. pyrenaicus* is more closely related to *S. carolitertii*,

whereas if alpha=1 then the northern and southern *S. pyrenaicus* are closer to each

other. Values of alpha in between 0 and 1 indicate that the northern *S. pyrenaicus*

received a contribution from both species, and hence indicate introgression. We

compared the likelihood of this admixture model to two models without admixture, i.e.

with alpha=0 or alpha=1. In the "No Admixture C-PN" model, *S. carolitertii* and the

northern *S. pyrenaicus* share a more recent common ancestor (i.e. alpha=0). On the

other hand, in the "No Admixture PN-PS", the northern and southern *S. pyrenaicus*

have a more recent common ancestor (i.e. alpha=1). To be able to compare the

likelihood values directly, models need to have the same number of parameters. Thus,

to ensure the same number of parameters, in the models without admixture we allowed

for a bottleneck associated with the split of the northern *S. pyrenaicus* from *S.*

carolitertii and the southern *S. pyrenaicus*, respectively, mimicking a founder effect. All

parameters were scaled in relation to a reference effective size, which was arbitrarily

set to be the effective size (*Ne*) of *S. carolitertii*. Considering the results of this first

three models (see results), we then compared the fit of three more complex models to

distinguish between a hybrid origin of the northern *S. pyrenaicus* and a secondary

contact: "Hybrid Origin", "C-PN + Sec Contact PN-PS" and "PN-PS + Sec Contact PN-

C". The "Hybrid Origin" model is identical to the previous "Admixture" model. However,

to ensure the same number of parameters as the two other models, we allowed for a

bottleneck after the split and hybridization, mimicking a founder event. The "C-PN +

Sec Contact PN-PS" model assumes that *S. carolitertii* (C) and the northern *S.*

pyrenaicus (PN) share a more recent common ancestor followed by a secondary

contact between the northern and the southern *S. pyrenaicus* (PN-PS). Finally, the

"PN-PS + Sec Contact PN-C" model assumes that the northern (PN) and the southern

(PS) *S. pyrenaicus* share a more recent common ancestor followed by a secondary

contact between the northern *S. pyrenaicus* and *S. carolitertii* (PN-C).

To obtain an observed SFS without missing data, we built the joint 3D-SFS by

sampling 2 individuals from *S. carolitertii* and the southern *S. pyrenaicus*, and 3

individuals from the northern *S. pyrenaicus*. Given the lack of an outgroup, we could

not identify the ancestral state of alleles, and hence used the minor allele frequency

spectrum. To sample individuals without missing data, we used the initial dataset but

without the MAF filter, and each scaffold was divided into blocks of 200bp (which is

larger than the average length of the GBS loci), and for each block we sampled the

individuals from each population with less missing data keeping only the sites with data

across all individuals. Given that the SFS is affected by the depth of coverage, only

genotypes with a depth of coverage >10x were used (Nielsen et al. 2011). This

resulted in an observed SFS with 6,753 SNPs. For each model we performed 50

independent runs with 50 cycles, approximating the SFS with 100,000 coalescent

simulations. To convert the relative divergence times estimated into absolute time in

million years (Mya), we assumed a generation time of 3 years for these species

(Magalhães et al. 2003; Almada and Sousa-Santos 2010).

Results

Obtention of a high-quality SNP dataset

319   After the initial processing removing low quality reads and trimming all reads to

82 base pairs, we obtained a mean of 5,891,239 high quality reads per individual. After

mapping all the reads from each individual to the catalog, the median depth of

coverage per sample was 47x. Filtering based on MAF ≥ 0.01 and depth of coverage

between ¼ to 4x of the individual median resulted in 19 individuals with more than 50%

of missing data, which were removed. The final dataset had a total of 25,353 SNPs,

with 40.32% missing data, and was comprised of 46 individuals, as follows: *S.*

carolitertii (n=10), *S. pyrenaicus* Ocreza (n=6), *S. pyrenaicus* Lizandro (n=4), *S.*

pyrenaicus Canha (n=6), *S. pyrenaicus* Almargem (n=5), *S. pyrenaicus* Guadiana

(n=1), *S. torgalensis* (n=9), *S. aradensis* (n=5).

Characterization of the global patterns of genetic differentiation

331   The pairwise F_{ST} estimates of genetic differentiation between sampling

locations are shown in Table 1. Overall, the higher levels of genetic differentiation are

between the two southwestern species (*S. torgalensis* and *S. aradensis*) and the two

more widely distributed species (*S. carolitertii* and *S. pyrenaicus*) (F_{ST}>0.352). On the

other hand, we find the lower levels of genetic differentiation within northern *S.*

pyrenaicus and between them and *S. carolitertii* (F_{ST}<0.165). Indeed, we find lower

levels of genetic differentiation between the northern *S. pyrenaicus* and *S. carolitertii*

(F_{ST}<0.165) than between the northern and the southern *S. pyrenaicus* (F_{ST}>0.201).

Interestingly, the levels of differentiation found between both *S. carolitertii* and the

northern *S. pyrenaicus* and the southern *S. pyrenaicus* are comparable to those found

between *S. torgalensis* and *S. aradensis*.

The PCA results show that the first three principal components explain

approximately 26% of the variation (Figure S3), although the Tracy-Widom tests

(Patterson et al. 2006) indicate that the first five components have a significant effect

(p<0.01) (Figure S4). We only show the first three PCs because these have a clear

biological interpretation. The first principal component (Figure 2A and 2B) explains the

higher percentage of the variance (≈16%) and clearly separates two groups: one

formed by *S. carolitertii* and *S. pyrenaicus* and another formed by *S. aradensis* and *S.

torgalensis*. This is consistent with the higher pairwise F_{ST} values obtained between

these two groups. The second principal component (PC2) explains a much lower

percentage of the variance (≈6%) and separates *S. aradensis* from *S. torgalensis*

(Figure 2A and 2C)*. Finally, PC3 affects *S. carolitertii* and *S. pyrenaicus* and separates

the southern *S. pyrenaicus* from a cluster formed by *S. carolitertii* and the northern *S.

pyrenaicus* (Figure 2B and 2C). It is not possible to distinguish between individuals

from *S. carolitertii* and the different sampling locations of northern *S. pyrenaicus*.

The estimation of ancestry proportions and the mostly likely number of clusters

with sNMF (Frichot et al. 2014) suggests that the data are consistent with four

populations (Figure 3), with K=4 having the smallest cross-entropy value (≈0.364)

(Figure S5). Interestingly, while individuals from the two southwestern species (*S.

aradensis* and *S. torgalensis*) are clustered according to their species, individuals from

S. carolitertii and the northern *S. pyrenaicus* are clustered together, leaving the

southern *S. pyrenaicus* in a fourth cluster (Figure 3). Three individuals from *S.

pyrenaicus* Almargem appear to share a high ancestry proportion with *S. carolitertii* and

the northern *S. pyrenaicus*. However, these particular individuals have the higher

percentages of missing data in that location. Moreover, virtually all individuals in the

dataset exhibit some small proportion from groups other than the one they are

assigned to, which can be due to statistical noise or shared ancestral polymorphism.

Inference of a population and species tree

We inferred a species tree based on the covariance of allele frequencies across

all SNPs, modelling changes in allele frequencies through time due to genetic drift

using TreeMix (Pickrell and Pritchard 2012). This unrooted tree (Figure 4) shows a

clear separation between two groups: one comprising *S. aradensis* and *S. torgalensis*

and the other comprising *S. carolitertii* and *S. pyrenaicus*. *S. aradensis* and *S.*

torgalensis appear as sister species, in accordance with the F_{ST}, PCA and sNMF

results. Within the group of *S. carolitertii* and *S. pyrenaicus*, we found two main

lineages: the southern *S. pyrenaicus* (here represented by *S. pyrenaicus* Almargem)

and the one of *S. carolitertii* and the northern *S. pyrenaicus*. This is in agreement with

the PCA and sNMF, where these two clusters were also detected, as well as with the

F_{ST} results that indicated a lower level of differentiation between northern *S. pyrenaicus*

populations and *S. carolitertii* than between northern and southern *S. pyrenaicus*

populations. Attempts to produce a species tree with one or two migration events were

unsuccessful as different runs of the TreeMix program did not produce consistent

results.

Effect of linked SNPs

To verify if the results were influenced by the fact that some SNPs could be

linked, we produced a dataset with only one SNP per block of 200 base pairs. This

dataset comprised 3,901 SNPs and the overall percentage of missing data was

≈42.48%. The results of PCA, sNMF and TreeMix analysis were consistent with those

from the initial dataset of 25,353 SNPs (Figures S6- S11). This indicates that our

results are not influenced by the possibility that some SNPs are linked. Hence, further

analyses were done using the initial dataset.

Detection of introgression between *S. carolitertii* and *S. pyrenaicus*

The results for the D-statistic (ABBA/BABA test) calculated per population are displayed on Figure 5. The exact number of SNPs that showed the ABBA or BABA pattern and p-values can be found on Table S4.

To test for introgression between *S. carolitertii* and *S. pyrenaicus*, we used the first topology, where the two *S. pyrenaicus* groups are sister species, with *S. carolitertii* as the source of potential introgression (Figure 5A). We obtained significantly positive values of D for all population combinations, independently of the outgroup used, reflecting an excess of sites where the northern *S. pyrenaicus* populations (P2) shares the same allele with *S. carolitertii* (P3), which can be interpreted as a sign of introgression or a more recent shared ancestry. On the other hand, when we tested the hypothesis that *S. carolitertii* and the northern *S. pyrenaicus* share a more recent ancestry, most of combinations of sampling locations resulted in positive D-statistic values, however these were not significantly different from zero for most values (Figure 5 B). The exception were the significant positive values of D when the northern *S. pyrenaicus* population is Ocreza. The overall pattern is in agreement with those from the PCA and sNMF and with the species tree inferred, suggesting that *S. carolitertii* and northern *S. pyrenaicus* share a more recent common ancestor, even though the trend for positive (non-significant) D values is consistent with some gene flow between northern and southern *S. pyrenaicus* and/or between *S. carolitertii* and northern *S. pyrenaicus*.

If *S. carolitertii* diverged at different times from the northern *S. pyrenaicus* populations, or if introgression occurred after divergence, we would expect differences in D-statistics among the northern *S. pyrenaicus*. To investigate the possibility of such a geographical cline, we tested whether the northern most sampling location of *S. pyrenaicus* (Ocreza) is closer to *S. carolitertii* than the other northern *S. pyrenaicus* locations, by computing D-statistics according to a topology where *S. carolitertii* and *S.*

pyrenaicus Ocreza are sister populations. The estimated D-values were always

significantly positive (Figure 5C), indicating that *S. pyrenaicus* Ocreza shares more

alleles with the other northern *S. pyrenaicus* than with *S. carolitertii*. Contrarily, when

the sister populations are both from the northern area of *S. pyrenaicus* distribution and

P3 is *S. carolitertii*, D is never significantly different from zero (Figure 5D). This

indicates that *S. pyrenaicus* Ocreza is not closer to *S. carolitertii*, suggesting that all

northern *S. pyrenaicus* populations share similar numbers of derived alleles with *S.*

carolitertii. This is consistent with the species tree inferred with TreeMix, showing that

all northern *S. pyrenaicus* have a common ancestor that diverged from *S. carolitertii*

after the divergence of the southern *S. pyrenaicus* (Figure 4). However, a scenario of

introgression between *S. carolitertii* and the ancestor of the northern *S. pyrenaicus* (i.e.

prior to the divergence of the different northern *S. pyrenaicus* populations) could also

lead to the same results.

In the case of recent introgression events, we would expect to find differences

in the D-statistic values among individuals from a given population. To detect evidence

of such relatively recent introgression between species, we computed the D-statistic by

individual (Figure S12 and Table S5). Overall, we found no significant variation among

different individuals from the same population, suggesting that introgression events are

likely pre-dating the divergence of populations.

Demographic modelling of divergence of *S. carolitertii* and *S. pyrenaicus*

For the first three models tested (Figure 6 A-C), which were intended at investigating

whether an introgression scenario was a better fit for the data than a simply bifurcating

tree, the "Admixture" models achieved a higher likelihood than the models without

admixture ("No admixture C-PN" and "No admixture PN-PS") (Figure 6 and Table S6),

suggesting that the northern *S. pyrenaicus* received a contribution from both *S.*

carolitertii and the southern *S. pyrenaicus*. Estimates under this model indicate that, at

the time of split, the northern *S. pyrenaicus* received a contribution of 14.3% from the

southern *S. pyrenaicus* and the remaining 85.7% from *S. carolitertii* (Figure 6A). This

model suggests that the three populations have similar population sizes, although

slightly higher for the northern *S. pyrenaicus*, large ancestral sizes for both species and

a relative recent split of the northern *S. pyrenaicus* in comparison with the split of *S.*

carolitertii and southern *S. pyrenaicus*. (Table S7-A).

Based on this result, we compared three models to distinguish between a

scenario of hybrid origin of the northern *S. pyrenaicus* and secondary contact (Figure 6

D-F). We obtained very similar likelihoods between models, with the model of a

common origin for *S. pyrenaicus* followed by secondary contact ("PN-PS + Sec Contact

PN-C") achieving a slightly higher likelihood (Figure 6 and Table S6). Under this model

we estimated that, at the time of the secondary contact, the northern *S. pyrenaicus*

received a contribution of 80.29% from *S. carolitertii* and that the effective sizes of the

three populations are similar (Figure 6F). Despite the fact that this model has a slightly

higher likelihood, we note that the difference in likelihood between these three models

is small, and hence with current data we have no power to distinguish this from the

hybrid origin model. All three models indicate similar relative times, with a recent

divergence of the northern *S. pyrenaicus* (Table S7B). For the best model ("PN-PS +

Sec Contact PN-C"), the relative time of the secondary contact is approximately half of

the divergence time of the northern *S. pyrenaicus*. Finally, all six models suggest that

the ancestral population of the three lineages had a small effective size (Table S7A and

B).

Discussion

In this work, our goal was to investigate the evolutionary relationship between

populations of *S. carolitertii*, *S. pyrenaicus*, *S. aradensis* and *S. torgalensis* using

genome-wide data (SNPs) obtained through Genotyping by Sequencing, as well as test

for the possibility of past introgression between *S. carolitertii* and *S. pyrenaicus* in the

northern part of *S. pyrenaicus* distribution. We successfully obtained a high-quality set

of SNP markers for these four species from GBS data without a reference genome.

Inferring a species tree from population genomic data

Taken together, our results indicate a species tree composed of two main

lineages: (i) *S. torgalensis* and *S. aradensis* and (ii) *S. carolitertii* and *S. pyrenaicus*.

This is evidenced by the pairwise F_{ST} results indicating lower levels of differentiation

within each lineage than between the two lineages, as well as by the PCA results

(Figure 2) and the species tree inferred with TreeMix (Figure 4). This is in agreement

with phylogenies previously obtained for cytochrome b (Brito et al. 1997; Sanjur et al.

2003; Mesquita et al. 2007; Perea et al. 2010; Sousa-Santos et al. 2019) and nuclear

genes (Almada and Sousa-Santos 2010; Waap et al. 2011; Sousa-Santos et al. 2019).

The divergence between the two main lineages has recently been estimated, based on

one mitochondrial and seven nuclear genes, to be approximately 14 Million years ago

(Mya) (Sousa-Santos et al. 2019). At that point, the configuration of the river systems in

the Iberian Peninsula was very different from today, characterized by many endorheic

basins (basins that did not flow to the ocean). The Tagus was composed of several

endorheic lakes and it has been suggested that the isolation of one of them, the Lower

Tagus (approximately in the current location of the Tagus and Sado river mouths) was

related to the isolation of the ancestor of *S. torgalensis* and *S. aradensis*. This

ancestral could have become isolated in this paleobasin when connections to other

freshwater masses ceased and then migrated south once connections were re-

established, reaching the current distributions of *S. torgalensis* and *S. aradensis*

(Sousa-Santos et al. 2007; Sousa-Santos et al. 2019). The uplift of a mountain range in

this area of the south of Portugal (the Caldeirão mountains) has been proposed to have

facilitated the isolation and divergence of the ancestral of *S. torgalensis* and *S.*

aradensis in the Mira and Arade river basins respectively (Mesquita et al. 2005), with

the most recent estimates of their divergence pointing to 4 Mya (Sousa-Santos et al.

2019).

Introgression between *S. carolitertii* and *S. pyrenaicus*

For the second lineage, comprising *S. carolitertii* and *S. pyrenaicus*, we find

overall relatively lower genetic differentiation between the northern *S. pyrenaicus* and

S. carolitertii than between northern and southern *S. pyrenaicus* (Table 1 and Figures 2

and 3) and the species tree inferred with TreeMix shows a more recent common

ancestor between *S. carolitertii* and the northern *S. pyrenaicus*. These results could, in

principle, be explained by two different scenarios: (i) *S. carolitertii* and the northern *S.*

pyrenaicus share a more recent common ancestor but evolved independently in the

absence of gene flow; (ii) the northern *S. pyrenaicus* appear closer to *S. carolitertii* due

to extensive introgression between them.

Previous studies suggested the possibility of introgression to explain

incongruent topologies obtained with nuclear and mitochondrial markers (Waap et al.

2011; Sousa-Santos et al. 2019) and described *S. pyrenaicus* as paraphyletic in

relation to *S. carolitertii* (Sousa-Santos et al. 2019). Our results indicate that

introgression very likely occurred between *S. carolitertii* and *S. pyrenaicus*, which

reconciliates previous incongruencies between mitochondrial and nuclear marker

results.

524    Our estimates from the demographic modelling based on the joint population

525 site frequency spectrum showed that a scenario of introgression ("Admixture" model) is

526 more likely than one without any gene flow (Figure 6 A-C), indicating that the

527 divergence of *S. pyrenaicus* and *S. carolitertii* involved events of gene flow, and thus

528 the species tree cannot be simply explained by a bifurcating tree. These are simple

529 models but, nonetheless, indicate that northern *S. pyrenaicus* seems to be a mixture of

530 *S. carolitertii* and the southern *S. pyrenaicus* lineage, with a higher proportion from *S.*

531 *carolitertii* (Figure 6A-C). This could explain why *S. pyrenaicus* from the Tagus and

532 Guadiana cluster together in previously inferred mtDNA phylogenies but seem to group

533 in different clusters on nuclear and genome-wide data. The fact that we infer a

534 relatively small admixture contribution from the southern *S. pyrenaicus* ($\approx$14%) is

535 probably the reason why this introgression was not detected with the D-statistics for all

536 the northern *S. pyrenaicus* populations used (Figure 5B). However, D-values tend to be

537 positive and are in fact significant when the northern *S. pyrenaicus* populations is

538 Ocreza, suggesting some shared alleles between northern and southern *S. pyrenaicus*,

539 which would not be expected in the case of a simple bifurcating tree where *S.*

540 *carolitertii* and the northern *S. pyrenaicus* share a more recent common ancestor.

541 Moreover, the consistency of the results obtained for the D-statistic independently of

542 the northern *S. pyrenaicus* used indicate that the introgression had to be older than the

543 isolation of different populations in tributaries of the Tagus basin (Ocreza and Canha,

544 on opposite margins of the main river). In fact, the introgression had to be older than

545 the isolation of *S. pyrenaicus* in Lizandro, which is not connected to the Tagus basin,

546 although it might have been colonized from there, at a time when connections were still

547 present, as it has been hypothesised for other small basin nearby (Colares) (Sousa-

548 Santos et al. 2007).

549    The "Admixture" model assumes that the time of the admixture with the

550 southern *S. pyrenaicus* is the same as with *S. carolitertii*, which corresponds to a

scenario of hybrid speciation. Indeed, this result raises the possibility that *S. pyrenaicus* from Tagus drainage is a different species resulting from hybridization between the southern Guadiana drainage lineages and *S. carolitertii* lineages, which could have happened during the changes of endorheic paleo-drainage systems. In fact, hybrid speciation has been invoked to explain incongruences between nuclear and mtDNA markers and has been proposed in several instances in freshwater fish (DeMarais et al. 1992; Nolte et al. 2005; Meier, Marques, et al. 2017).

However, our estimates suggest that a secondary contact scenario could not be discarded. Interestingly, despite the very high contribution from *S. carolitertii* to northern *S. pyrenaicus,* the best model supports that both *S. pyrenaicus* populations share a common ancestor followed by secondary contact with significant introgression of approximately 80% from *S. carolitertii* ("PN-PS + Sec Contact PN-C" model – Figure 6F). However, we note that there is a small difference between the likelihood of the models of hybrid speciation and secondary contact (Figure 6 D-F). Therefore, we are not able to distinguish between the two scenarios with certainty. The history of the hydrological basins seems to suggest that connections between the Lower Tagus paleobasin and the Guadiana paleobasin ceased before those between the Upper Tagus and the Douro paleobasins (the last two located in present day Spain, near present day Tagus and Douro river springs, respectively) (Sousa-Santos et al. 2019). Thus, a secondary contact between the northern *S. pyrenaicus* and *S. carolitertii* would have been possible due to the maintenance of that connection between the Upper Tagus and Douro paleobasins for a longer period. A secondary contact between the northern and southern *S. pyrenaicus* would also be possible through re-establishment of connections between the Tagus and Guadiana basins. The possibility that the Tagus and Guadiana basins were connected more recently has been proposed to explain the presence of a common lineage in these two basins for another Iberian endemic cyprinid (*Iberochondrostoma lemmingii*) (Lopes-Cunha et al. 2012). Another possibility

578 is that the introgression of southern *S. pyrenaicus* lineages into the northern *S.*

579 *pyrenaicus* was not caused by the re-establishment of connections between the Tagus

580 and the Guadiana, but between the Tagus and the Sado (see Figure 1). This would

581 have been possible if the Lower Tagus and the paleobasin that originated the Sado

582 (Alvalade paleobasin) were connected at a time where *S. pyrenaicus* was already

583 present in the Alvalade paleobasin (Sousa-Santos et al. 2019).

585 **Final remarks**

586  In face of the incongruent results between mitochondrial and nuclear markers,

587 previous studies have suggested that populations from the Tagus river basin could

588 correspond to a new taxa (Waap et al. 2011; Sousa-Santos et al. 2019). Overall, our

589 results indicate that the patterns observed in the Tagus are most likely the result of

590 introgression, even though we are not able to reject the hypothesis that the northern *S.*

591 *pyrenaicus* is a new taxon resulting from hybrid speciation. Indeed, estimates suggest

592 that a secondary contact is as good to explain our data. We note that the models we

593 considered are still a major simplification and that our models do not fit exactly the

594 observed SFS (Figure S13). This suggests that the mode of speciation can be even

595 more complex, e.g. involving further changes in the past effective sizes. Future studies

596 should focus on whole-genome data, which would be required to obtain more SNPs to

597 distinguish between a hybrid origin for the northern *S. pyrenaicus* and secondary

598 contact. Furthermore, such studies should include sampling of two key locations that

599 are missing from our dataset: the Zêzere river (a tributary of the Tagus) and the Sado

600 basin. The Zêzere river has consistently been a source of incongruences in mtDNA

601 phylogenies, with authors suggesting both *S. pyrenaicus* and *S. carolitertii* can be

602 found in this river (Brito et al. 1997; Almada and Sousa-Santos 2010; Sousa-Santos et

603 al. 2016). On the other hand, *S. pyrenaicus* from the Sado, although clustering with the

604 Guadiana individuals in both mitochondrial and nuclear markers on phylogenetic

605   analysis (Brito et al. 1997; Waap et al. 2011), have been described as very

606   differentiated from other southern *S. pyrenaicus* (Sousa-Santos et al. 2007; Sousa-

607   Santos et al. 2019) and could also be important to understand the origin of the northern

608   *S. pyrenaicus*.

609   Our work shows evidence for past gene flow between currently allopatric

freshwater fish species, estimating that the northern populations of *S. pyrenaicus*

received approximately 80% from *S. carolitertii*. Furthermore, our results illustrate that

even in freshwater species currently found in isolated river drainages, divergence can

be more complex than a simply allopatric model, involving periods of past gene flow.

This work adds to the growing list of examples where hybridization has been reported

and opens the door to future studies to elucidate how such "hybrid"/introgressed

genomes cope with incompatibilities, but also can have a higher potential to adapt to

new environments due to their increased genetic diversity.

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Figure 1 – Distribution range of the four *Squalius* species in Portuguese rivers and sampling locations: (1) Mondego; (2) Ocreza; (3) Lizandro; (4) Canha; (5) Guadiana; (6) Almargem; (7) Mira; (8) Arade.

Figure 2 - Results for the first three components of the Principal Components Analysis: (A) PC1 and PC2; (B) PC1 and PC3; (C) PC2 and PC3. Each point corresponds to one individual. The PCA was calculated based on the dataset with 25,353 SNPs, filtered with MAF ≥0.01 and keeping only SNPs with a depth of coverage between ¼ and 4 times the individual median depth of coverage.

Figure 3 - Ancestry proportions inferred with sNMF for four ancestral populations (K=4). Each vertical bar corresponds to one individual and the proportion of each colour corresponds to the estimated ancestry proportion from a given cluster. The individuals are grouped per sampling locations separated by black lines. Ancestry proportions were inferred based on the dataset with 25,353 SNPs, filtered with MAF ≥0.01 and keeping only SNPs with a depth of coverage between ¼ and 4 times the individual median depth of coverage.

Figure 4 - Species tree graph obtained with TreeMix. This is an unrooted tree and branch lengths are
represented in units of genetic drift, i.e. the longer a given branch the stronger the genetic drift
experienced during that branch, which could be due to longer divergence times and/or smaller effective
sizes. The species tree was inferred based on the dataset with 25,353 SNPs, filtered with MAF ≥0.01 and
keeping only SNPs with a depth of coverage between ¼ and 4 times the individual median depth of
coverage.

Figure 5 - Results of the D-statistic calculated for different topologies. For each topology (A to D), the results are presented according to the northern *S. pyrenaicus* sampling location (S. pyrX) used. "S.carol" stands for *S. carolitertii*, "S.pyr Almargem" stands for *S. pyrenaicus* Almargem, "*S.pyr* Ocreza" stands for *S. pyrenaicus* Ocreza and "Outg" for outgroup. Results obtained with each outgroup are represented by a different symbol (circles for *S. aradensis* and triangles for *S. torgalensis*). Full symbols represent significant D values (p<0.01). The D-statistic was calculated based on the dataset with 25,353 SNPs, filtered with MAF ≥0.01 and keeping only SNPs with a depth of coverage between ¼ and 4 times the individual median depth of coverage.

Figure 6 – Schematic representation of the likelihood of the models tested with *fastsimcoal2* and percentages of admixture inferred. The name given to each model is indicated below the schematic representation, as well the difference to maximum likelihood (Dif. To Max. Likelihood) which is the difference in log10 units between the estimated likelihood and the maximum likelihood if there was a perfect fit to the observed site frequency spectrum. The closer to zero (less negative values), the better the fit. α indicates the percentage of admixture estimated. Models (A) to (C) have 8 parameters and therefore are directly comparable. Models (D) to (F) have 9 parameters and are also directly comparable.

845 **Table 1 – Pairwise FST calculated between the different sampling locations.** *S. pyrenaicus* Guadiana
846 was deliberately left out as there is only one individual from this sampling location.

	S. carolitertii	*S. pyrenaicus* Ocreza	*S. pyrenaicus* Lizandro	*S. pyrenaicus* Canha	*S. pyrenaicus* Almargem	*S. torgalensis*	*S. aradensis*
S. carolitertii	-	0.126	0.165	0.081	0.217	0.377	0.368
S. pyrenaicus Ocreza	-	-	0.161	0.070	0.234	0.401	0.391
S. pyrenaicus Lizandro	-	-	-	0.092	0.271	0.427	0.414
S. pyrenaicus Canha	-	-	-	-	0.201	0.364	0.352
S. pyrenaicus Almargem	-	-	-	-	-	0.400	0.390
S. torgalensis	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.225
S. aradensis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-