

1 **Model-based species delimitation: are coalescent species reproductively isolated?**

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9
10 **ABSTRACT**

11 A large and growing fraction of systematists define species as independently evolving lineages
12 that may be recognized by analyzing the population genetic history of alleles sampled from
13 individuals belonging to those species. This has motivated the development of increasingly
14 sophisticated statistical models rooted in the multispecies coalescent process. Specifically, these
15 models allow for simultaneous estimation of the number of species present in a sample of
16 individuals and the phylogenetic history of those species using only DNA sequence data from
17 independent loci. These methods hold extraordinary promise for increasing the efficiency of
18 species discovery, but require extensive validation to ensure that they are accurate and precise.
19 Whether the species identified by these methods correspond to the species that would be
20 recognized by alternative species recognition criteria (such as measurements of reproductive
21 isolation) is currently an open question, and a subject of vigorous debate. Here we perform an
22 empirical test of these methods by making use of a classic model system in the history of
23 speciation research, flies of the genus *Drosophila*. Specifically, we use the uniquely
24 comprehensive data on reproductive isolation that is available for this system, along with DNA
25 sequence data, to ask whether *Drosophila* species inferred under the multispecies coalescent
26 model correspond to those recognized by many decades of speciation research. We found that
27 coalescent based and reproductive isolation based methods of inferring species boundaries are
28 concordant for 77% of the species pairs. We explore and discuss potential explanations for these
29 discrepancies. We also found that the amount of prezygotic isolation between two species is a
30 strong predictor of the posterior probability of species boundaries based on DNA sequence data,
31 regardless of whether the species pairs are sympatrically or allopatrically distributed.

32 INTRODUCTION

33 Due to the complex nature of the processes that drive speciation, the development of an
34 operational species concept is difficult. For many years the Biological Species Concept (Mayr
35 1963), or some variation of it requiring high (but potentially incomplete) levels of reproductive
36 isolation between populations, was the standard (Coyne and Orr 2004). Starting in the late 1990s,
37 work echoing earlier evolutionary species concepts (Simpson 1951; Wiley 1978) led many
38 evolutionary biologists to recognize that species might best be recognized as “metapopulation
39 lineages” using any number of data types (de Queiroz 1998, 2007). Under this metapopulation
40 conceptualization of species, the boundary between independent lineages (i.e., species) is
41 demarcated by any number of criteria, which may or may not include reproductive isolation.
42 Despite these conceptual changes, systematists remain in need of an operational framework for
43 species delimitation. One option for placing the practice of species delimitation in a more
44 explicit framework is to use statistical models of evolutionary relationships among genetic loci.
45 One of the most widely used methods for doing so, BPP (Yang and Rannala 2014; Rannala and
46 Yang 2017), is a Bayesian method based on the multispecies coalescent model (MSC). BPP can
47 be employed to analyze variation in genealogies among many loci to identify independent
48 coalescent lineages as species (Leaché and Fujita, 2010; Rannala and Yang, 2003).

49 These methods hold promise for greatly increasing the pace and accuracy of species
50 description, although their utility depends on whether the lineages identified correspond to
51 biologically defensible (or meaningful) species *and* the precision of these estimates. A number of
52 studies have looked at the efficacy of the MSC for species tree inference (e.g., Fujita et al. 2012;
53 Reid et al. 2014; Barley et al. 2018), but the concordance between independent coalescent
54 lineages and species boundaries has been less well characterized in the literature. Relevant
55 studies generally take one of two forms: 1) species boundaries identified under the MSC are

56 compared to those identified by alternative approaches, with concordance viewed as an
57 indication of accuracy (e.g., Camargo et al. 2012; Willis 2017); or 2) Data simulated under
58 known demographic scenarios are analyzed under the MSC and the results are used to identify
59 the relative over- or under-splitting of lineages by the model (Sukumaran and Knowles 2017;
60 Barley et al. 2018; Luo et al. 2018). Both types of studies frequently find that the MSC identifies
61 more lineages as species than some consider appropriate (Leaché et al. 2019). This discrepancy,
62 compounded by the lack of a fully objective species criterion, has led to an increasing wariness
63 that MSC delimitation may inflate the number of species, often beyond what many systematists
64 find realistic.

65 These studies have been useful for characterizing the statistical performance of the MSC,
66 but can be difficult to interpret in the context of real species radiations. On one hand, there is the
67 possibility that the MSC identified genuine species that were missed by earlier studies because
68 they are morphologically cryptic or otherwise difficult to differentiate. On the other hand, in
69 simulation studies, the accuracy of results relies on the generating model (i.e., the simulation)
70 being an accurate representation of biological reality. If important aspects of species biology are
71 missing from the generating model we may draw inaccurate conclusions merely because our
72 simulation study is overly simple relative to nature. The challenges associated with both of these
73 approaches might be averted by turning to an empirical system where extensive data on the
74 nature of species boundaries themselves are available. In such a system, we can examine the
75 correspondence between lineages identified as being independent under the MSC and other
76 criteria placed on species boundaries, such as reproductive isolation.

77 Here we make use of an empirical study system in which an extraordinarily rich
78 understanding of reproductive isolation has been established for many species pairs, the genus
79 *Drosophila*. We use this to compare species identification based on reproductive isolation with

80 species delimitation under the MSC. *Drosophila* is an intensively studied model organism in
81 many disciplines, and arguably the most influential clade for understanding the consequences of
82 reproductive isolation as a mechanism of species formation and perpetuation. Much of this focus
83 stems from the fact that experimental lab crosses are possible between species, which provides
84 information on which species pairs show intrinsic reproductive isolation (lab crosses do not take
85 extrinsic factors into account) and to what degree that isolation is complete. Two classic papers
86 by Coyne and Orr (1989, 1997) synthesized data on reproductive isolation derived from
87 experimental crosses and allozyme electrophoretic distance, which they used as a proxy for time
88 since divergence by assuming a constant molecular clock. These data were used to produce
89 estimates for the amount of total reproductive isolation (the combined accumulation of pre- and
90 postzygotic isolation) and time (using genetic distance as a proxy) required for complete
91 speciation. Here, complete speciation refers to a relaxed version of Mayr's Biological Species
92 Concept (Mayr 1963) that allows for low levels of gene flow between closely related species (see
93 also Coyne and Orr 2004).

94 These studies provide insight into the nature of how species boundaries themselves
95 become established. A central finding from Coyne and Orr (1989, 1997), and the one we focus
96 on here, is that the amount of reproductive isolation increases with time since divergence.
97 Building off this idea, we examined several aspects of how species identified under the MSC
98 model matched those identified based on experimental quantification of reproductive isolation
99 and genetic distance. Specifically, we were interested in measuring the correlation between the
100 amount of reproductive isolation and genetic distance between two species, and the posterior
101 probability that those two species were identified as independent coalescent lineages. By
102 quantifying the relationship between reproductive isolation and coalescent lineages we stand to
103 gain a better understanding of the relationship between the biological processes that drive

104 speciation and promising statistical approaches to species delimitation. It should also be noted
105 that most studies of reproductive isolation look at comparisons between species, whereas most
106 practitioners of MSC species delimitation think about comparisons within species (i.e., at the
107 population level). This study is explicitly concerned with delimitation of nominal species.

108 Assessing the accuracy of species delimitation remains difficult because speciation is a
109 continuous process and species boundaries are not always discrete. However, utilizing
110 information on reproductive isolation allows us to assess the performance of these methods in a
111 more empirically grounded framework than is otherwise possible. With this in mind, the research
112 goals for this study were to: 1) examine the relationship between coalescent and reproductive
113 isolation based species delimitation; 2) quantify how varying levels of pre- and postzygotic
114 isolation in allopatric and sympatric species pairs affect our ability to identify species under the
115 MSC; 3) better understand the utility of MSC methods to increase the accuracy and precision of
116 species recognition in the presence of partial, or complete, reproductive isolation.

117

118 **MATERIALS & METHODS**

119 **Dataset Assembly**

120 The lists of species pairs studied by Coyne and Orr (1989, 1997) were combined to assemble a
121 set to be used in the present study ($n = 108$ pairwise comparisons). Values for pre- and
122 postzygotic isolation were compiled from Coyne and Orr's two studies (1989, 1997), and
123 updated based on isolation measures from a more recent study (Yukilevich 2012). Total
124 reproductive isolation (T ; Coyne and Orr 1989) was calculated using the equation: $T = Pre +$
125 $(1 - Pre) \times Post$. In keeping with previous work, if a species pair only had data on prezygotic
126 or postzygotic isolation, and that value was greater than 0.95 or 1.0, respectively, we considered
127 T to equal the measure for which there was data (Coyne and Orr 1997). Conversely, if a species

128 pair only had data for prezygotic or postzygotic isolation, and that value was less than 0.95 or
129 1.0, respectively, those species pairs were excluded from downstream analysis. Data on allozyme
130 genetic distance (D) comes originally from Coyne and Orr (1989, 1997), but more recently
131 updated by Yukilevich (2012).

132 For the purpose of this study, we follow the species recognition thresholds proposed by
133 Coyne and Orr (1997). Specifically, they proposed minimum values on total reproductive
134 isolation ($T \geq 0.903$) and genetic distance (sympatric pairs: $D \geq 0.04$; allopatric pairs: $D \geq 0.54$)
135 required for maintenance of species boundaries. While we recognize that the use of any
136 particular threshold may raise concerns, we opted to use these for two reasons. First, by using the
137 same metrics employed by previous studies, we are able to make a direct comparison between
138 species delimitation based on reproductive isolation and delimitation based on MSC models.
139 Second, because MSC species delimitation has many practical implications, we wanted to focus
140 on values that would likely be the most relevant and widely used in empirical studies

141 We assembled a set of genes ($n=8$) that have been sequenced across a wide taxonomic
142 breadth within *Drosophila* (van der Linde and Houle 2008; Yang et al. 2012). We then
143 downloaded whatever sequence data was available from GenBank for this set of genes for all
144 species ($n = 59$) on the compiled list. Custom Python and R scripts (R Core Team 2013) were
145 used for data cleanup. Species pairs were then sorted into eleven species groups for analysis
146 (Coyne and Orr 1997). Here, “species group” refers to a term used in *Drosophila* literature to
147 reference a monophyletic set of closely-related species (see O’Grady and DeSalle 2018). While a
148 large amount of mitochondrial data is available for *Drosophila*, we chose to include only one
149 mitochondrial gene (Cytochrome c oxidase subunit II: COII) for each species group because we
150 expect the entire mitochondrial genome to share a single coalescent history. We limited the final
151 data matrix for each group to include only those genes that were missing sequence data for no

152 more than two species. Because some intensively studied species have an abundance of sequence
153 data relative to the other species in their group (e.g., *Drosophila subobscura* has 137 COII
154 sequences available, while the other six species in the Obscura group combine for 30 available
155 sequences), we pruned sequences from overrepresented taxa to make the amount of data more
156 even across species. Specifically, for species that had >10 sequences at a given locus, we
157 randomly pruned sequences until the number that remained was equal to the next most densely
158 sampled species. Sequence data was aligned for each group using MUSCLE (Edgar 2004) and
159 converted to PHYLIP format using DendroPy 4.2.0 (Sukumaran and Holder 2010). These eleven
160 matrices, one for each species group, were analyzed independently in all downstream analyses.
161 To check for any difference in electrophoretic distance and genetic distances calculated from
162 DNA sequence data, we calculated Jukes-Cantor genetic distances across all species pairs for
163 COII in Geneious v 7.1.9 (Kearse et al. 2012) and then compared those to Nei's D (Fig. S1;
164 Table S1).

165

166 **MSC Analysis**

167 After assembling the dataset, we performed MSC species delimitation using BPP v 3.2 (Yang
168 and Rannala 2014) on each of the 11 species groups separately. BPP uses reversible-jump
169 Markov Chain Monte Carlo (rjMCMC) to estimate a Bayesian posterior distribution for different
170 species delimitation models. We jointly estimated the species tree topology and assignment of
171 individuals into species (referred to as “analysis A11” in BPP). Under this model we define a
172 starting tree, where each named species in the group is a “population”, and then use the rjMCMC
173 to target the posterior distribution of possible models that may merge combinations of these
174 populations into a smaller number of species. This approach does not allow single populations to
175 be split more finely, and so the existing taxonomy within each species group (i.e., named species

176 from Coyne and Orr 1997) forms the upper limit on the total number of possible species in each
177 analysis. We specified a prior distribution that assigns equal probability for the number of
178 species (i.e., all populations merged into one species or a different species for each population)
179 and then divides that probability by the proportion of compatible labeled histories
180 (*speciesmodelprior* = 2; Yang 2015). We also set a prior that allows θ (population size
181 parameter) to vary among loci according to specified heredity multipliers (Hey and Nielsen
182 2004) to account for the differences in effective population size between nuclear and
183 mitochondrial loci (*heredity* = 2; Yang and Rannala 2014).

184 Two central parameters of the MSC model are for population sizes (θ) and species
185 divergence times (τ). These are specified as gamma distributed random variables in BPP. Our
186 goal was to set up a diffuse, but credible, prior distribution for both of these parameters. Here,
187 we constructed an empirical prior for θ in *Drosophila* by using published estimates of this value,
188 if available, or published estimates of effective population size (N_e) and mutation rate (μ) to
189 solve for the equation: $\theta = 4N_e\mu$ (Eyre-Walker et al. 2002; Wall et al. 2002; Tamura 2003; Yi et
190 al. 2003; Hey and Nielsen 2004; Haag-Liautard et al. 2007; Pascual et al. 2007; Cutter 2008;
191 Charlesworth 2009; Keightley et al. 2009, 2014; Legrand et al. 2009; Obbard et al. 2012; Smith
192 et al. 2012; Schrider et al. 2013). Similarly, to obtain an empirical prior for the τ parameter, we
193 used the online database TimeTree (www.timetree.org) to obtain an estimated root age for each
194 species group. Because each species group had different estimated root ages, there was a unique
195 combination of θ and τ prior gamma distributions for each group. For both prior distributions,
196 we centered the mean of the gamma distribution on the empirical values, and set the variance of
197 the distribution to be wider than the distribution of all empirical values. We ran 204,000 MCMC
198 generations, discarding the first 4000 generations as burnin and then sampling every 20
199 generations until we reached 10,000 samples (BPP output files will be available on Dryad Digital

200 Repository upon publication). We repeated each analysis two times, checking that the results
201 remained consistent across runs (Yang 2015).

202 The BPP manual (Yang 2015) explicitly states that there are no default priors for θ and τ ,
203 yet many studies employ a set of three prior gamma distributions originally used by Leaché and
204 Fujita (2010) as if they were. Here we explored prior sensitivity by performing additional BPP
205 runs on each dataset under this suite of priors (Leaché and Fujita 2010). For the sake of clarity,
206 we will refer to the set of priors from Leaché and Fujita (2010) as empirically “uninformed” and
207 our empirically derived priors as “informed”. In total, we ran a BPP delimitation analysis on
208 each of the eleven species groups under four unique prior settings (one informed, three
209 uninformed) resulting in 44 independent BPP runs. Within the uninformed set of priors, we focus
210 on those that most closely matched our prior expectations about the coalescent history for
211 *Drosophila* (large ancestral population and shallow divergence among populations in this case).
212 This should minimize differences between informed and uninformed priors, thereby supplying a
213 realistic (and somewhat conservative) test of prior sensitivity. Full details for all prior settings
214 can be found in supplementary material (Table S2), including θ and τ priors for all groups and
215 BPP runs. We extracted posterior θ values from each MCMC output file using a custom Python
216 script. To summarize the posterior distribution for τ , we used the R package Phytools v 0.6-60
217 (Revell 2012) to read the sampled trees in the MCMC output into R and calculate the tree height
218 of each (Python and R codes will be available on Dryad Digital Repository upon publication).
219 We visually inspected concordance between prior and posterior distributions of θ and τ for the
220 informed and uninformed priors. Additionally, we investigated whether the number of species
221 delimited was sensitive to the alternative priors.

222 The A11 analysis in BPP estimates posterior probabilities for different delimitation
223 models that may differ in number of species and the topology of the species phylogeny. Here, we

224 are specifically interested in the marginal posterior probability for the splitting, or lumping, of
225 each particular species pair, rather than the marginal posterior probability of any one delimitation
226 model. Because species pairs can be split or lumped in different configurations, we calculated the
227 marginal posterior probability of independence between each species in a given pair. We refer to
228 this value as the Posterior Probability of Independent Lineages (PPIL). PPIL values are
229 practically, and philosophically, the same measure as the “speciation probability” described in
230 Leaché and Fujita (2010). The difference is that we calculate these values from analyses that
231 marginalize across both species delimitations and species tree topologies, whereas Leaché and
232 Fujita (2010) only marginalized across species delimitations due to limitations of the software at
233 that time which required the species tree be held constant (i.e., we do not employ a guide tree in
234 our analysis, as was done previously).

235 We calculated PPILs for all species pairs from Coyne and Orr (1989, 1997) where
236 sufficient sequence data was available to conduct the analysis, and for which information on
237 reproductive isolation was available ($n = 108$ pairwise comparisons). Using PPIL values, we
238 compared the number of independent lineages identified by the MSC to those based on
239 reproductive isolation and genetic distance documented by Coyne and Orr (1989, 1997). The two
240 species in each pair were considered independent lineages if they had a high PPIL (≥ 0.95) or
241 met the criteria for total isolation ($T \geq 0.903$) and genetic distance ($D_{\text{allo}} \geq 0.54$; $D_{\text{symp}} \geq 0.04$)
242 from Coyne and Orr (1997).

243

244 **Reproductive Isolation and Genetic Distance**

245 Besides a cursory comparison in numbers of species delimited by either method, we were also
246 interested in how the components of speciation considered by Coyne and Orr (1989, 1997)
247 related to PPIL values in our present study. To accomplish this, we selected among a series of

248 generalized additive models (GAMs) to assess the impact of different predictor variables
249 (prezygotic isolation, postzygotic isolation, and genetic distance) on the PPIL for allopatric
250 and sympatrically distributed species pairs. We chose not to include total reproductive isolation
251 in these models because it is a function of prezygotic and postzygotic isolation, which we already
252 account for independently. We elected to use a GAM because the model can flexibly capture the
253 impact of a predictor variable through a smoother function, allowing for both linear and non-
254 linear relationships. Because the dependent variable (i.e., PPIL) included 0 and 1, we performed
255 a logit transformation to normalize the data using the R package *car* (Fox and Weisberg 2011).
256 We then used the R package *mgvc* to construct and fit GAMs to the data (Wood 2011). We
257 calculated Akaike Information Criterion (Akaike 1974) values for each model and considered the
258 model with the smallest AIC to be the best fitting model. We further considered models with
259 $\Delta AIC \leq 2$ from the best model to be similarly plausible (Burnham et al. 2002).

260 We analyzed two independent sets of GAMs to: 1) explore the differences between
261 allopatric and sympatric species pairs and 2) investigate the impact of predictor variables within
262 allopatric and sympatric species pairs separately. The first series of GAMs compared models
263 with one smoother function for all species pairs to models specifying separate smoothers for
264 allopatric and sympatric species pairs. Improved fit for the latter model would indicate that range
265 overlap between taxa differentially predicts PPIL values, and therefore these two types of species
266 pairs (allopatric and sympatric) should be modelled separately in downstream analyses.

267 After confirming two smoothers based on geography was a better model, we fit the
268 second series of GAMs on allopatric, sympatric, and closely related ($D \leq 0.50$) allopatric and
269 sympatric species pairs. For each set of species pairs, we fit a total of five GAMs, modelling the
270 three predictor variables listed previously (prezygotic isolation, postzygotic isolation, and genetic
271 distance) and two additive models (prezygotic isolation + genetic distance and postzygotic

272 isolation + genetic distance). We fit the GAMs on taxa with low genetic distance ($D \leq 0.5$) to
273 maintain consistency with Coyne and Orr (1989), and because they suggested closely related
274 sympatric species pairs should show the strongest signature of reinforcement. In this context,
275 evidence for reinforcement's effect would be that the model for prezygotic isolation is the
276 strongest predictor of PPIL among closely related sympatric species, followed closely by a
277 model of postzygotic isolation. Specifically, because reinforcement acts to increase prezygotic
278 isolation in order to counteract disadvantageous hybridization, there must be some level of
279 postzygotic isolation.

280 Because data from species pairs are phylogenetically non-independent, we also explored
281 how this might impact our results. To do so, we extracted the maximum *a posteriori* tree from
282 each of the BPP analyses using phytools v 0.6-60 (Revell 2012), setting branch lengths to their
283 marginal posterior mean. We then assembled a reduced set of phylogenetically independent
284 species pairs (i.e., only including pairs that are connected by paths on the tree that do not
285 intersect with other pairs; see Felsenstein 2004, pg. 444). We then reran all the GAM analyses on
286 this reduced but phylogenetically independent dataset.

287 Lastly, we investigated how PPIL values may vary with respect to levels of pre- and
288 postzygotic isolation. To do this, we first constructed a reduced dataset that included all species
289 pairs with prezygotic ($n = 100$) or postzygotic ($n = 74$) isolation data. As outlined by Coyne and
290 Orr (1989, 1997), both of these values range from 0-1.0, with complete reproductive isolation
291 (pre- or postzygotic) equal to 1.0. We then performed an ANOVA to determine if PPIL differed
292 according to the levels of pre- and postzygotic isolation. Because the measures of postzygotic
293 isolation increased from 0 to 1.0 in 0.25 increments, we treated each level as a separate category
294 for the ANOVA. For prezygotic isolation, we binned the values based on the same levels (e.g., 0-
295 0.25, 0.25-0.50, etc.). Coyne and Orr (1989, 1997) investigate what role Haldane's Rule

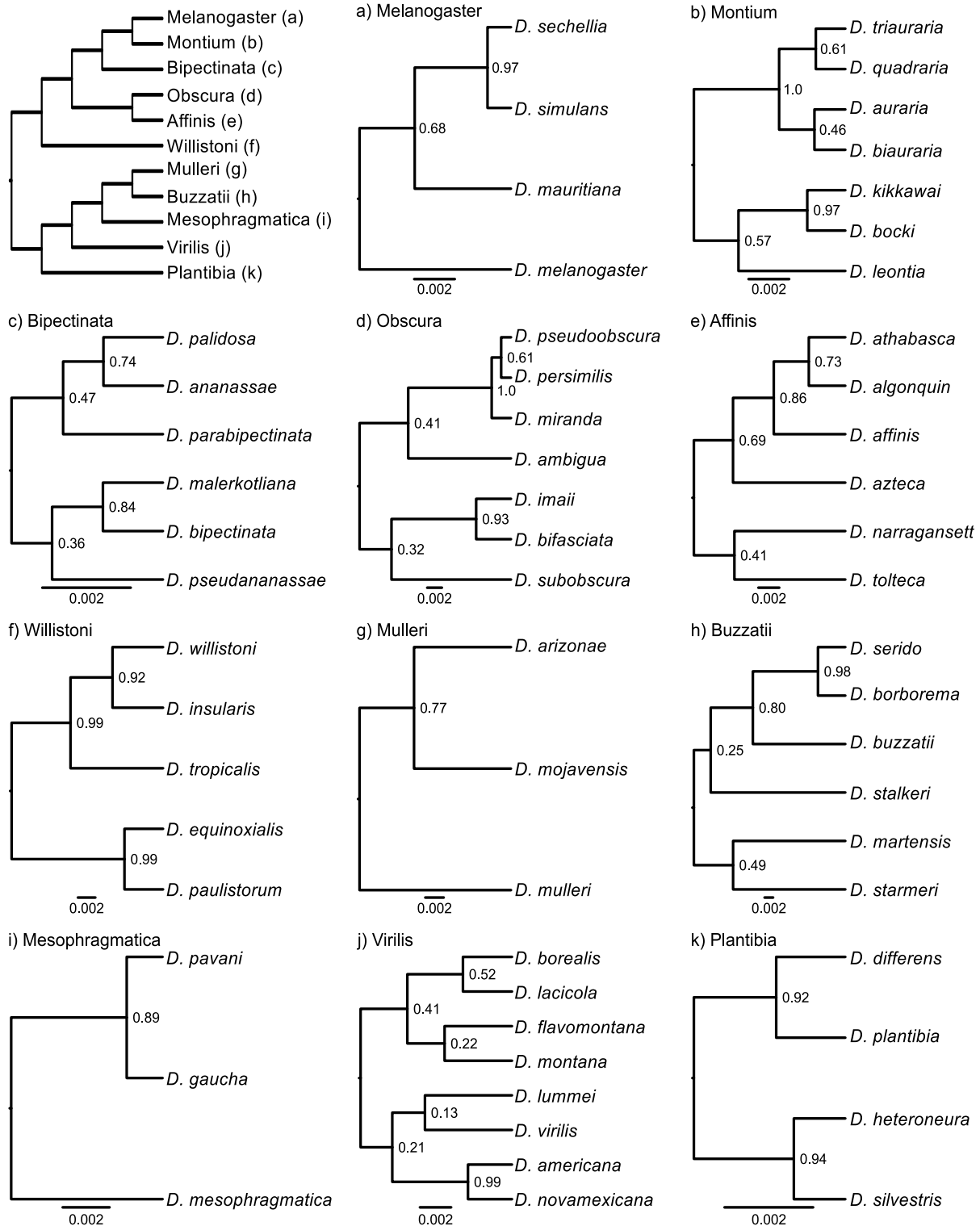
296 (Haldane 1922) may play in the speciation process and find it to be an important early step. We
297 checked whether it might also influence PPIL by assembling a reduced dataset containing only
298 those species pairs with 0.25-0.75 postzygotic isolation ($n = 32$), because at these levels of
299 postzygotic isolation the pair could either be in line with Haldane's Rule (i.e., the heterogametic
300 sex, males in this case, are either sterile or infertile for both crosses) or not (i.e., a male and
301 female, or both females are sterile/inviable). Information on sterility/infertility was taken from
302 Yukilevich (2012). We manually categorized species pairs as either conforming to Haldane's
303 Rule or not and performed a one-way t-test to look for differences between both categories of
304 species pairs.

305

306 **RESULTS**

307 **Genetic dataset assembly and analysis**

308 The final dataset included a total of 543 sequences from 8 genes. We were able to obtain
309 sequence data for all species from one gene, COII, totaling 160 sequences for that gene. The
310 median number of genes per species group was three. The Bipectinata group had the greatest
311 gene diversity ($n = 6$), while the Buzzatii group was represented by only two genes. The mean
312 number of sequences compared between each species pair in each species group was 7.25,
313 ranging from an average of three sequences per pair in the Affinis group, up to 13.7 sequences
314 per pair in the Melanogaster group. Complete information on number of genes per group and loci
315 per species pair can be found in Supplementary Material (Table S3). The average genetic
316 distance across all species pairs was 0.82, ranging from 0.026 (*D. heteroneura* – *D. silvestris*) to
317 1.95 (recorded for multiple species pairs in the Obscura group).



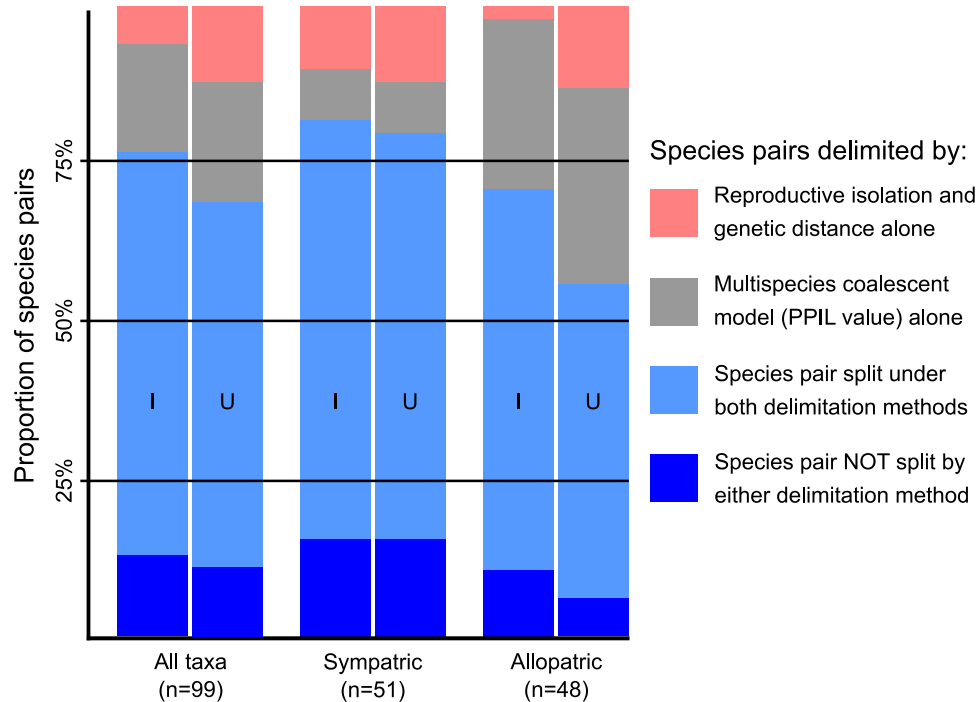
318
 319 Figure 1) Consensus species trees for each species group in this study. Branch lengths (in coalescent units) are based
 320 on the average branch length from every MCMC tree that was topologically concordant with the highest probability
 321 species tree (taken from BPP output). Note that the scale bar is a different length for each tree because it represents
 322 the same value (0.002 coalescent units) for all trees. Backbone tree (top left) modified from Castillo (2017).

323 We ran the BPP analyses two times for each species group, and obtained similar results
324 across runs. Consistency across runs indicates that mixing is likely adequate and the MCMC
325 chain did not get stuck on any one model (Yang 2015). Species trees for each species group
326 revealed varying levels of posterior probability support across nodes, but overall the species trees
327 correspond with results from other phylogenetic studies (Fig. 1; van der Linde and Houle 2008;
328 Yang et al. 2012).

329

330 **Concordance of reproductively isolated species and coalescent species delimitation**

331 The two approaches (i.e., threshold of genetic distance and reproductive isolation vs. PPIL
332 threshold) recognized 63 out of the 99 species pairs as comprising two independent lineages. An
333 additional 13 species pairs were not recognized as independent lineages by either approach. The
334 two approaches were therefore in agreement on the species status for 76 of 99 species pairs in
335 total (~77%; Fig. 2). Of the remaining 23 species pairs, 17 met the threshold for independent
336 lineages based on PPIL only, whereas the other six species pairs were considered to be distinct
337 species based on total reproductive isolation (T) and genetic distance (D) only. Qualitatively
338 similar, but somewhat more discordant, results were recovered when using the uninformed priors
339 (68% agreement between methods). There was greater concordance between methods when
340 delimiting sympatric taxa than allopatric taxa (Fig. 2) and this pattern held true across the
341 informed and uninformed priors. When lowering the admittedly arbitrary, but common, PPIL
342 threshold from 0.95 to 0.85 we recovered roughly the same amount of concordance (75 out of 99
343 species pairs in agreement; ~76% concordance). However, there were more lineages recognized
344 based on PPIL alone (Fig. S2). We also found greater discordance between methods for closely
345 related species pairs ($D \leq 0.5$) than those more distantly related ($D > 0.5$; Fig. S3).



346
347 Figure 2) Plots comparing concordance between species delimitation models. Species delimitation models were in
348 agreement for the majority of species pairs (Both; blue). However, there was discrepancy between certain species
349 pairs. Some were split solely on reproductive isolation and genetic distance (RI + D; red) while others only on the
350 basis of PPIL value ≥ 0.95 (MSC; gray). Results are shown for both informed (I) and uninformed (U) prior settings.
351

352 Reproductive Isolation and Genetic Distance

353 We recovered better predictive models of PPIL when considering sympatric and allopatric taxa
354 separately for prezygotic isolation and genetic distance, and similarly plausible models for
355 postzygotic isolation (Table 1). When fitting the second set of GAMs to the different types of
356 species pairs we found that the models of prezygotic isolation and genetic distance generally
357 explained more null deviance than those for postzygotic isolation, which essentially reduced to a
358 linear model (Fig. 3; plots for other GAM models are provided in Fig. S4 and Fig. S5). For
359 allopatric taxa, the combined effect of prezygotic isolation + genetic distance was the best
360 predictor of PPIL, but the effect of prezygotic isolation alone was similarly plausible ($\Delta AIC =$
361 1.11; Table 2). In sympatric taxa, prezygotic isolation was the best predictor of PPIL, followed
362 closely by the similarly plausible combination model of prezygotic isolation + genetic distance
363 ($\Delta AIC = 0.21$; Table 2). In the sympatric species pairs with low genetic distance ($D < 0.5$), we

364 found that the best predictor of PPIL was again prezygotic isolation, with models of genetic
 365 distance and postzygotic isolation + genetic distance similarly plausible ($\Delta AIC = 0.66$ & ΔAIC
 366 $= 0.58$, respectively). We consistently found that the null deviance explained was low for the
 367 postzygotic isolation models (Table 2). These results remained qualitatively unchanged for the
 368 reduced phylogenetically independent datasets, with prezygotic isolation being the best predictor
 369 of PPIL in allopatry and sympatry. We present the results from the full dataset here, while
 370 complete results from the phylogenetically independent dataset can be found in the
 371 Supplementary Material (Table S4).

372 When looking at species pairs with prezygotic isolation data ($n=100$), we recovered a
 373 significant difference between the level of prezygotic isolation and PPIL value, particularly
 374 between species pairs with lower levels of prezygotic isolation (ANOVA; F-stat = 15.79; p-value
 375 $= 2.01 \times 10^{-8}$; Fig. 4a). However, when considering all species pairs with postzygotic isolation
 376 data ($n=74$), we found that there was no statistical difference in PPIL among the five levels of
 377 isolation (ANOVA; F-stat = 1.144; p-value = 0.343; Fig. 4b). Additionally, although the mean
 378 PPIL for species pairs that follow Haldane’s Rule was lower (0.927, $n = 21$) than those that do
 379 not (0.97; $n = 11$), there was no statistically significant difference in PPIL between the groups (t-
 380 test; p-value = 0.179; Fig. S6).

381 **Table 1)**

| Number of Smoothers | Prez. Isolation (n = 100) | | Post. Isolation (n = 74) | | Gen. Distance (n = 108) | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|
| | ΔAIC | Dev. Exp. | ΔAIC | Dev. Exp. | ΔAIC | Dev. Exp. |
| One (Allo/Symp Together) | 8.15 | 0.29 | *** | 0.07 | 1.85 [†] | 0.22 |
| Two (Allo/Symp Separate) | *** | 0.40 | 1.94 [†] | 0.07 | *** | 0.27 |

382
 383 Table 1) Results from a series of GAMs to test if relationships are different between allopatric and sympatric species
 384 pairs, where *** means that model had the lowest AIC value and is therefore the most plausible model. The dagger
 385 (†) indicates a similarly plausible model ($\Delta AIC \leq 2$; Burnham et al. 2002). The proportion of null deviance
 386 explained by the model (“Dev. Exp.”) is also provided.

387 Effect of the Priors

388 We did not see an effect of the informed versus uninformed priors on the mean number of
 389 lineages delimited in a given group (i.e., BPP delimited a consistent number of species in each
 390 group across different prior settings). However, we did see a difference in the variance (i.e., the
 391 prior influenced how much uncertainty there was in the number of species in each group; Fig.
 392 5b). Specifically, under the informed priors the MCMC samples were spread more evenly across
 393 possible delimitation models. We also observed a relatively large difference between the prior
 394 and posterior distributions of θ and τ for analysis under uniformed priors, which was not
 395 observed in analyses under the informed prior (Fig. 5a). This indicates that the uninformed priors
 396 are a relatively poor match for *Drosophila*, which has the effect of biasing the results to be
 397 excessively certain. Moreover, this finding highlights that appropriate priors are important for
 398 accurately estimating the variance of a random variable, in addition to accurately estimating its
 399 mean.

400 **Table 2)**

| Explanatory Variable | Allopatric (n = 28) | | Allopatric (D≤0.50; n = 15) | | Sympatric (n = 42) | | Sympatric (D≤0.50; n = 23) | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|
| | ΔAIC | Dev. Exp. | ΔAIC | Dev. Exp. | ΔAIC | Dev. Exp. | ΔAIC | Dev. Exp. |
| Prezygotic Isolation | 1.11 [†] | 0.51 | *** | 0.61 | *** | 0.21 | *** | 0.39 |
| Postzygotic Isolation | 14.80 | 0.08 | 8.22 | 0.07 | 1.25 [†] | 0.07 | 4.86 | 0.07 |
| Genetic Distance | 11.19 | 0.29 | 5.34 | 0.34 | 2.44 | 0.05 | 0.66 [†] | 0.33 |
| Pre. Isol. + Gen. Dist. | *** | 0.57 | 4.52 | 0.40 | 0.21 [†] | 0.23 | 2.23 | 0.33 |
| Post. Isol. + Gen. Dist. | 13.08 | 0.29 | 6.18 | 0.40 | 2.88 | 0.08 | 0.58 [†] | 0.39 |

401
 402 Table 2) Table of ΔAIC values, where *** indicates the most plausible model (i.e., which explanatory variable best
 403 explains PPIL value). The dagger (†) indicates a similarly plausible model (ΔAIC ≤ 2; Burnham et al. 2002). The
 404 plus sign (+) between variables indicates a model of the additive effect of two predictors. The proportion of null
 405 deviance explained by the model (“Dev. Exp.”) is also provided.

406 DISCUSSION

408 Concordance of Species Boundaries Under the MSC

409 We assessed concordance between species that are delimited under population genetic models of
 410 lineage divergence with a biologically important and widely used measure of species

411 distinctiveness, reproductive isolation. Specifically, we looked at species delimitations inferred
412 under the BPP implementation of the MSC (which we consider an operational framework for a
413 lineage-based species concept; Simpson 1951; Wiley 1978; De Queiroz 2007), and those
414 considered distinct species determined by the amount of reproductive isolation and genetic
415 distance between two lineages (i.e., a modified Biological Species Concept; Mayr 1963; Coyne
416 and Orr 2004).

417 We find that the methods do not return identical results, and the multispecies coalescent
418 tends to more readily split species than measures of reproductive isolation and genetic distance
419 alone. This could result from the MSC recognizing genuine species that might be missed by
420 other approaches. Specifically, our results confirm that (if we take MSC delimitation as truth)
421 reproductive isolation does not need to be complete in order for lineages to be identifiable as
422 independent. Alternatively, recent studies have found the MSC may be prone to oversplitting and
423 might result in delimiting “population structure, not species” (Sukumaran and Knowles 2017;
424 Chambers and Hillis 2019). However, because we are attempting to delimit nominal species any
425 population structure within species should not mislead our interpretations of the species
426 delimitation models. That being said, this also means that our results may provide a somewhat
427 optimistic view of MSC performance.

428 When using the $PPIL \geq 0.95$ cutoff, both criteria agreed with one another in the majority,
429 but far from all, cases (76% agreement; PPIL values for all species pairs found in Table S5). Of
430 these species pairs, 63 were delimited by both methods and 13 were delimited by neither. The
431 cases where neither delimitation model recognizes these nominal taxa as independent lineages
432 represent scenarios in which the taxonomy may require reexamination. For example, none of the
433 species pairs in the *Auraria* species complex were recognized as independent by either method,
434 suggesting current taxonomy in this species complex may be recognizing too many species.

435 Watada et al. (2011) recently took one step in this direction, revising the taxonomy of *D.*
436 *quadraria* and suggesting it is better categorized as a junior synonym of *D. triauraria*.

437 Of the remaining species pairs ($n = 23$) for which there is disagreement between methods,
438 the majority ($n=17$) were pairs split under the MSC (i.e., high PPIL) but not under the Coyne and
439 Orr criteria. Most of these high PPIL pairs did not have enough total reproductive isolation ($n =$
440 14) to meet the Coyne and Orr threshold, while the remaining three species pairs did not have
441 great enough genetic distance. These three species pairs are all allopatrically distributed. Due to
442 their high levels of reproductive isolation (between 0.94-1.0), we expect that they would remain
443 distinct upon secondary contact.

444 Of the 14 species pairs failing to meet the minimum total reproductive isolation
445 threshold, 10 were allopatrically distributed. Because laboratory tests on reproductive isolation
446 do not take geographic or environmental reproductive isolation into account, it is possible that
447 allopatric pairs have not evolved a high degree of pre- or postzygotic isolation simply because
448 they are genetically isolated by virtue of their distribution (i.e., geographic isolation is a strong
449 barrier to gene flow, in itself). For example, the allopatric species pair of *D. americana* and *D.*
450 *virilis* had relatively low genetic distance ($D = 0.54$) and total isolation ($T = 0.644$), but were
451 never lumped under the MSC model ($PPIL = 1.0$). Furthermore, detailed crossing experiments
452 and QTL mapping have shown high levels of postmating, prezygotic isolation between these two
453 species (Sweigart 2010), suggesting that genetic distance and total reproductive isolation may
454 take more time to evolve relative to isolation identified under a coalescent framework. The other
455 four species pairs with high PPIL but low reproductive isolation were all sympatric. These may
456 represent cases where BPP is identifying incipient species with (potentially) low levels of
457 ongoing or recent gene flow (Leaché et al. 2019), or cases where the amount of reproductive
458 isolation may have been underestimated. For example, the sympatric species pair *D. lummei* – *D.*

459 *virilis* would be considered independent lineages under the MSC (PPIL = 1.0) despite having the
460 lowest total isolation value in the entire dataset ($T = 0.263$). However, at least one source
461 (Heikkinen and Lumme 1991) reported high postzygotic isolation between the pair that was not
462 reflected in either Coyne & Orr (1989, 1997) or Yukilevich (2012), and therefore was not
463 included our calculation of total isolation for this species pair.

464 The remaining six species pairs in disagreement would be considered species based on
465 reproductive isolation and genetic distance, but were not identified as independent lineages under
466 the MSC. At face value, this would indicate these are reproductively isolated species pairs that
467 cannot be identified as independently coalescing lineages. Of these, five are sympatric, and only
468 one is allopatric. For the only allopatric pair (*D. mesophragmatic* – *D. pavani*), the PPIL value
469 was barely below the 0.95 posterior probability cutoff (PPIL = 0.942), and probably represents a
470 valid split under both methods. We recovered a range of PPIL values for the five sympatric
471 species pairs (PPIL between 0.794-0.930). Additionally, we observed that for all the sympatric
472 species pairs with high reproductive isolation but $PPIL \leq 0.95$ one or both species in that pair
473 have documented chromosomal inversions (Jha and Rahman 1973; Johnson 1985; Noor et al.
474 2001).

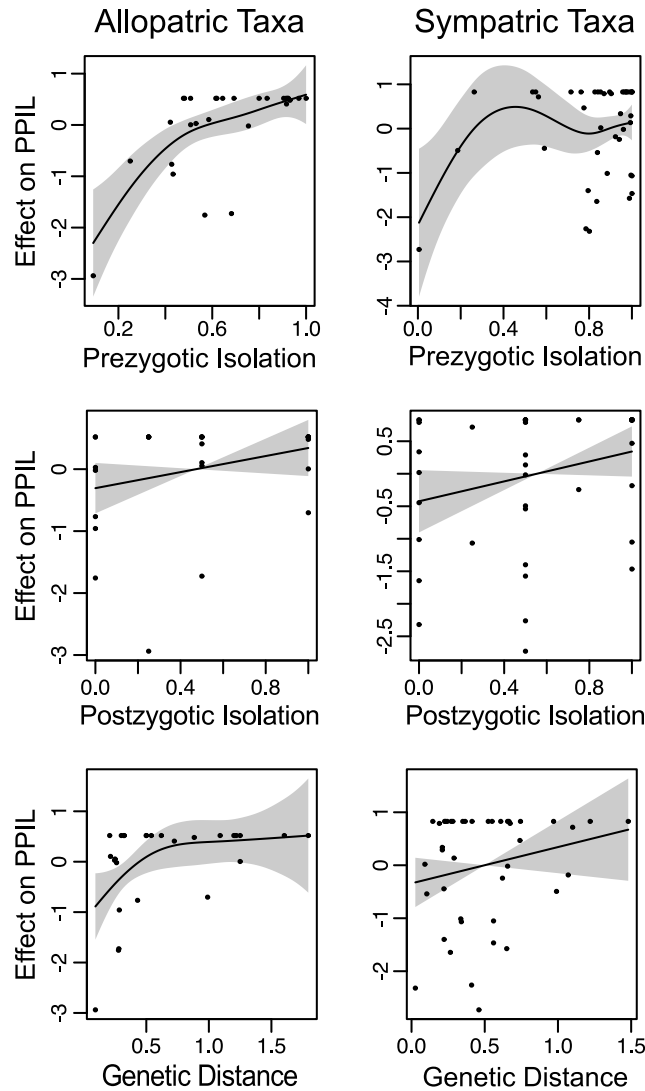
475 In principle, any of these discrepancies could be attributed to error in measures of
476 reproductive isolation, genetic distance, or PPIL (e.g., poor fit of the MSC to the data).
477 Widespread error in reproductive isolation measurements seems unlikely due to the controlled
478 laboratory conditions under which these data were collected. However, extrinsic isolating
479 mechanisms (e.g., ecological selection against hybrids) are not considered in a laboratory
480 environment, and may represent a greater source of discordance between laboratory and nature
481 than anything else. The amount of genetic distance could also have been overestimated or
482 underestimated, but this seems unlikely to be a systematic issue given that we found a strong

483 correlation between Nei's electrophoretic distance and Jukes-Cantor genetic distance based on
484 COII (Fig. S1). While it could be true that species pairs are not as distinct as the amount of
485 genetic distance and reproductive isolation between them might suggest, it is also possible that
486 we failed to delimit them due to a lack of statistical power, driven by a paucity of loci used to fit
487 the MSC model. The lowest PPIL among reproductively isolated species (*D. algonquin* – *D.*
488 *athabasca*; PPIL = 0.79) was based on sequence data from only one individual per species for
489 two genes, which is among the lowest amount of data for any species pair in the entire dataset
490 (Table S3). Discordance between methods in these cases may simply be driven by the amount of
491 data available for analysis, rather than a true disagreement between methods. However,
492 performance in BPP is good even with a small number of loci (Rannala and Yang 2017), and we
493 found no relationship between the number of loci compared between species pairs and the PPIL
494 value for that species pair (linear regression: $R^2 = 0.002$; p-value = 0.61; Fig. S7).

495

496 **Reproductive Isolation and GAMs**

497 We observed significant model improvement when specifying separate smoothers for sympatric
498 and allopatric taxa, rather than considering all taxa jointly, for most explanatory variables (Table
499 1). Based on these results, we subsequently explored the predictive power of three variables, and
500 two combinations of reproductive isolation and genetic distance (see Materials & Methods), to
501 predict PPIL values for sympatric and allopatric taxa separately. In allopatric taxa, we found that
502 the combination model of prezygotic isolation + genetic distance best predicted PPIL value, with



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Figure 3) Fitted GAMs for allopatric (left) and sympatric (right) taxa. Note that the smooths are centered on zero to ensure model identifiability, meaning the y-axis is scaled relative to PPIL values but is not on the same scale (i.e., not from 0 – 1.0).

509 prezygotic isolation alone being found to be similarly plausible ($\Delta AIC = 1.11$). This indicates
510 that knowledge about prezygotic isolation, particularly in conjunction with genetic distance, is a
511 strong predictor of PPIL values for allopatric species pairs. Although this makes sense at face
512 value, it is interesting that prezygotic isolation represents a good predictor of speciation for taxa
513 whose ranges do not overlap and therefore do not have the potential to mate in nature (i.e.,
514 prezygotic isolation does not matter if taxa are allopatrically distributed). Furthermore, the fact

515 that the model of postzygotic isolation was the worst predictor of PPIL for allopatric species
516 pairs ($\Delta AIC = 14.8$) suggests the fate of hybrids between allopatric taxa, either through lab trials
517 or secondary contact, says little about the independence of those lineages under the MSC.
518 Models of genetic distance and postzygotic isolation + genetic distance were also poor predictors
519 of PPIL in allopatric taxa. Taken together, this seems to imply that neither the time since two
520 species became geographically isolated (inferred from genetic distance) nor levels of hybrid
521 sterility/inviability are particularly indicative of lineage independence in allopatric taxa.

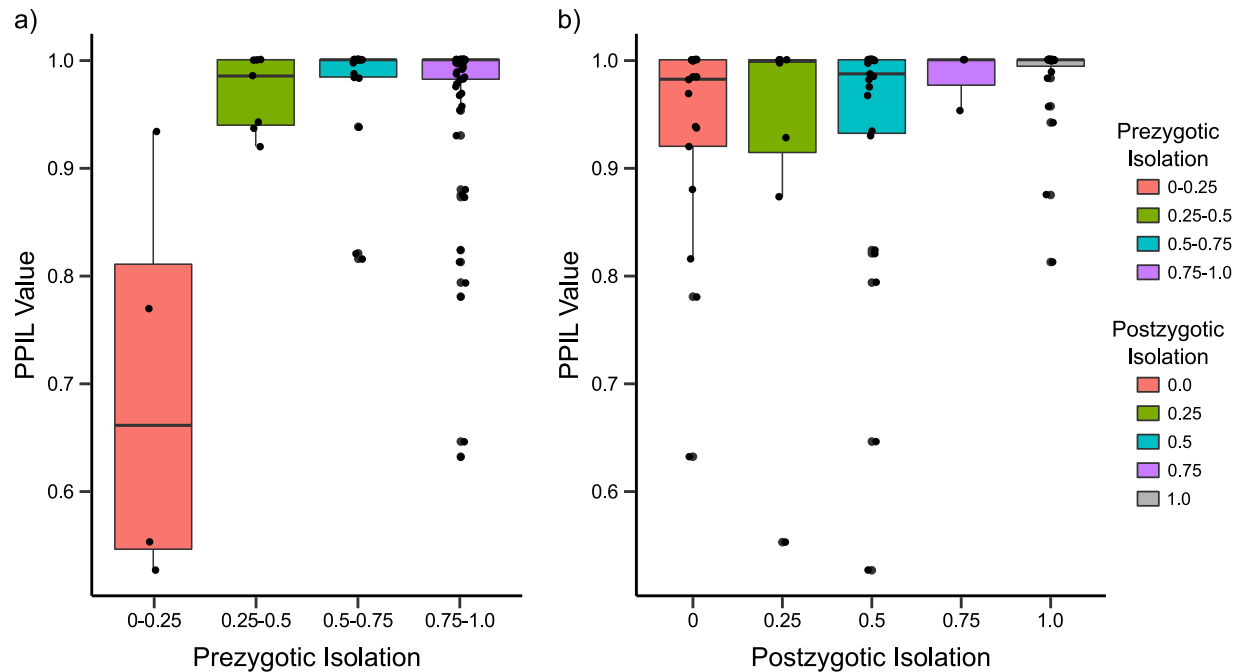
522 In sympatric taxa, we found that the model of prezygotic isolation alone was a better fit
523 than all other explanatory variables, although the combination model of prezygotic isolation +
524 genetic distance represented a similarly plausible alternative model ($\Delta AIC = 0.206$). This agrees
525 with the expectation that prezygotic isolation should be important in maintaining species
526 boundaries in sympatry. When looking at sympatric taxa at low genetic distance ($D < 0.5$), we
527 found the combined model of prezygotic isolation + genetic distance model best predicted PPIL.
528 This suggests that time since divergence (inferred from genetic distance), and not just the amount
529 of prezygotic isolation, is an important indicator of lineage independence among closely related
530 and recently diverged sympatric taxa. The model for postzygotic isolation was the worst
531 predictor of PPIL for closely related sympatric taxa ($\Delta AIC = 4.56$). Furthermore, in contrast to
532 the finding from Coyne and Orr (1989, 1997) we find that prezygotic isolation is the best
533 predictor of PPIL in closely related ($D \leq 0.50$) allopatric *and* sympatric species pairs. Given that
534 reinforcement, by definition, does not occur in allopatry (i.e., there are no unfit hybrids), this
535 reaffirms the relative importance of prezygotic isolation throughout the speciation process, even
536 in the absence of any postzygotic isolation.

537 ANOVA tests revealed a significant difference between the level of prezygotic isolation
538 and PPIL, but not between level of postzygotic isolation and PPIL, which recapitulates the

539 results of the GAM analysis. Furthermore, this shows that once a low level of prezygotic
540 isolation has been obtained (≥ 0.25) there is no statistical difference in PPIL values at higher
541 levels of prezygotic isolation. Lastly, here was no statistically significant difference in PPIL for
542 partially reproductively isolated species pairs (postzygotic isolation between 0.25-0.75) that do
543 or do not show signature of Haldane's Rule. Although there is abundant support for the
544 occurrence of Haldane's Rule in nature (Delph and Demuth 2016), sterility/infertility of the
545 heterogametic sex does not seem to serve as a strong predictor of whether two lineages are
546 identified as independent coalescent lineages.

547 548 **Effect of the Prior**

549 Overall, we observed relatively consistent PPIL values across all prior settings (Table S4),
550 indicating results from BPP analyses are not especially sensitive to the prior for either θ or τ . As
551 we would expect, we observed larger differences between the prior and posterior distribution of
552 θ and τ for the uninformed priors than the informed priors (Fig. 4a). The informed priors
553 allowed the MCMC to more widely explore topological space, both in terms of the number of
554 species in a given topology and the frequency of proposing a unique topology. Uniformed priors
555 are likely to depart strongly from empirically reasonable values for any particular dataset, which
556 can constrain how well the MCMC explores areas of parameters space that may have high
557 likelihoods (but very low prior probability). While we did not observe strong impacts on the
558 mean number of species that were inferred for these data, the misspecified priors did lead to
559 inflated estimates of certainty (Fig. 4b). Given the existing concerns regarding whether the MSC
560 tends to oversplit lineages, an exaggerated increase in precision, and presumably accuracy in
561 certain situations, would almost certainly exacerbate any innate complications of MSC species
562 delimitation (see also Leaché et al. 2019 for an alternative approach to better characterizing
563 uncertainty in MSC species delimitation).



564

565 Figure 4) Boxplots depicting the results of ANOVA test across different levels of pre- or postzygotic isolation.
566 There was a significant difference for prezygotic isolation (p -value = 2.01×10^{-8}), but not for postzygotic isolation
567 (p -value = 0.343).
568

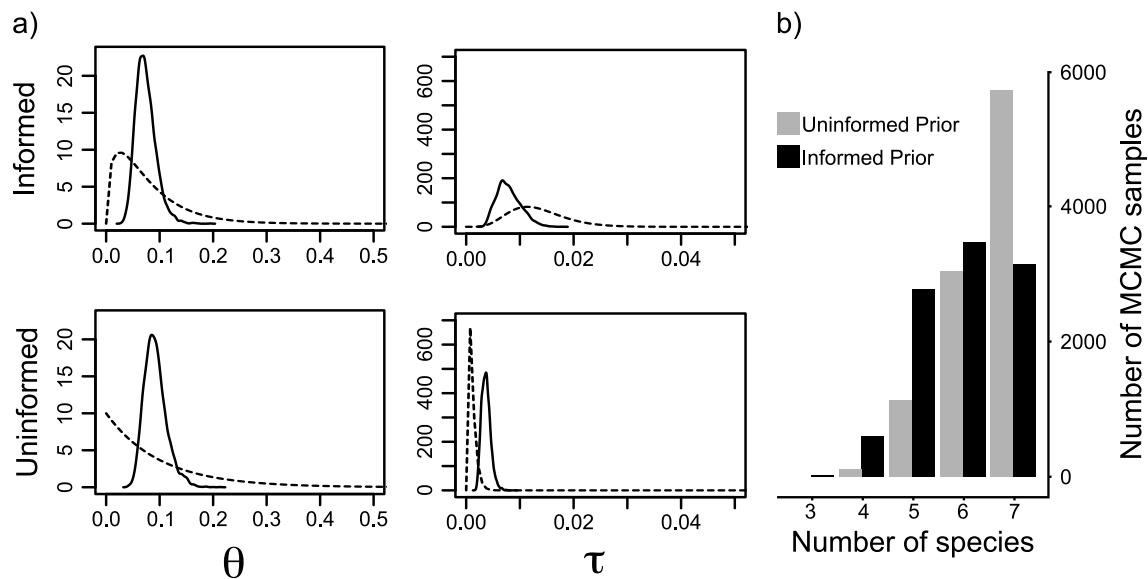
569 Implications for the practice of species delimitation

570 Here we present a detailed look at the difference between two species delimitation approaches in
571 a well-studied model organism, but our findings have implications beyond *Drosophila*
572 speciation. First, the overall amount of discordance between the two delimitation methods we
573 used here was much higher than we naïvely expected. If nominal taxa represent valid species,
574 then any model of species delimitation should recover them. Moreover, while the frequency of
575 speciation-collapse in nature is not yet well known, recent work has led to an increased
576 recognition that the evolutionary history of many species is reticulate in nature (i.e., periods of
577 gene flow during and/or after speciation; Burbrink and Gehara 2018; Marques et al. 2019) or
578 otherwise non-bifurcating (e.g., budding or anagenic speciation; Silvestro et al. 2018). Taken
579 together, our results confirm that (if we take MSC delimitation as truth) reproductive isolation
580 does not need to be complete in order for lineages to be identifiable as independent.

581 Alternatively, the MSC model may not be able to pick up on reproductive isolating
582 mechanisms that are specific to particular regions of the genome (i.e., genomic islands of
583 divergence; Wolf and Ellegren 2016). In this study, we found that for sympatric species with
584 high reproductive isolation, but low PPIL value, chromosomal rearrangement could be
585 implicated in the maintenance of species boundaries. Moreover, while chromosomal
586 rearrangements have long been associated with reproductive isolation and speciation (Rieseberg
587 2001; Campbell et al. 2018), to our knowledge have not been formally investigated under a MSC
588 model. Supposing chromosomal inversions drive a rapid increase in reproductive isolation, the
589 effects of localized genomic islands of divergence may not extend throughout the genome or be
590 reflected in the few loci being used for delimitation. Although selecting a number of genes from
591 a heterogeneous gene pool will often provide a useful approximation of species limits, if the only
592 difference between species are relatively small genomic islands of divergence (e.g.,
593 chromosomal inversions) the results from MSC delimitation may be inconsistent with the levels
594 of reproductive isolated observed in nature.

595 This study also allowed us to reveal novel insight into the speciation process. Most
596 notably, we found that levels of prezygotic isolation were consistently related to PPIL, and found
597 no indication that postzygotic isolation was similarly informative. Although quantification of
598 pre- and postzygotic isolation are not readily available outside of model organisms, the
599 implications of this finding potentially extends beyond the lab. Specifically, they may indicate
600 that prezygotic isolation evolves earlier in the speciation process and rapidly leads to identifiable
601 independent lineages, even under a relatively small amount of assortative mating (prezygotic
602 isolation ≥ 0.25). This may provide some insight into why hybridization appears to be more
603 common in nature than was previously appreciated (Taylor and Larson 2019). As long as most of
604 the gene flow is within species, the boundaries are maintained and the speciation process in not

605 disrupted. However, further work is needed to move beyond such speculation. Overall, our
606 results highlight the value of considering the processes that underlie speciation, in conjunction
607 with the assumptions of each species delimitation method employed, as a fruitful means for
608 understanding conflicts (see also Barley et al. 2018; Smith and Carstens 2018).



609 Figure 5a) This figure compares relationships between prior (dashed) and posterior (solid) gamma distributions of θ
610 and τ using informed (top) and uninformed (bottom) prior distributions for the Montium group. Plots for all other
611 species groups can be found in the Supplementary Material (Fig. S8). b) Shows the difference between the number
612 of species delimited under uninformed (gray) and informed (black) prior setting out of the total 10,000 MCMC
613 samples per run.
614
615

616 CONCLUSION

617 While reproductive isolation has long been a cornerstone of speciation research, it can rarely be
618 used as an operational delimitation method because collecting such data is not tractable for most
619 systems. Likewise, many practitioners of model-based species delimitation do not take
620 reproductive isolation into account because the data are unavailable. In this study, we focus on a
621 *Drosophila* dataset that is uniquely suited to address this divide in how species are understood.
622 Here, we formally investigated how species boundaries based on reproductive isolation compare
623 to model based species delimitation. We found that model based and reproductive isolation based
624 methods agreed on ~77% of species delimitations. MSC consistently delimited more species

625 pairs (~17%), while 6% of the species pairs were delimited based on reproductive isolation and
626 genetic distance alone. However, because our study design does not allow for within species
627 population structure to be misinterpreted as species boundaries, our results may provide a
628 somewhat optimistic view of MSC performance. Additionally, by using a set of informed and
629 uninformed prior settings we were able to qualitatively assess the accuracy and precision of MSC
630 species delimitation, as implemented by BPP. In accordance with earlier studies, BPP appears to
631 be relatively robust to prior misspecification, although we do find evidence that prior
632 misspecification can lead to overconfidence in estimates of species boundaries. Lastly, based on
633 predictive GAM models, we found that the amount of postzygotic isolation between species pairs
634 was relatively uninformative as to whether or not those lineages can be recognized as
635 independent under the coalescent. We are not questioning that postzygotic isolation acts as a
636 strong reproductive barrier, certainly it does. However, it seems that prezygotic isolation
637 evolving early in the speciation process is closely tied to recognizably independent lineages. As
638 such, prezygotic isolation may be relatively more important in the incipient stages of speciation,
639 and possibly to the process as a whole.

640

641 **SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL**

642 Data available from the Dryad Digital Repository: XXXXXX

643

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