

1 **Müllerian mimicry of a quantitative trait despite contrasting levels of genomic divergence and**  
2 **selection**

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19 **Abstract**

20 Hybrid zones, where distinct populations meet and interbreed, give insight into how differences between  
21 populations are maintained despite gene flow. Studying clines in genetic loci and adaptive traits across  
22 hybrid zones is a powerful method for understanding how selection drives differentiation within a single  
23 species, but can also be used to compare parallel divergence in different species responding to a common  
24 selective pressure. Here, we study parallel divergence of wing colouration in the butterflies *Heliconius*  
25 *erato* and *H. melpomene*, which are distantly related Müllerian mimics that show parallel geographic  
26 variation in both discrete variation in pigmentation, and quantitative variation in structural colour. Using  
27 geographic cline analysis, we show that clines in these traits are positioned in the roughly the same  
28 geographic region for both species, which is consistent with direct selection for mimicry. However, the  
29 width of the clines varies markedly between species. This difference is explained in part by variation in  
30 the strength of selection acting on colour traits within each species, but may also be influenced by  
31 differences in the dispersal rate and total strength of selection against hybrids between the species.  
32 Genotyping-by-sequencing also revealed weaker population structure in *H. melpomene*, suggesting the  
33 hybrid zones may have evolved differently in each species; which may also contribute to the patterns of  
34 phenotypic divergence in this system Overall, we conclude that multiple factors are needed to explain  
35 patterns of clinal variation within and between these species, although mimicry has probably played a  
36 central role.

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38 **Key words:** Hybrid zones, quantitative trait variation, cline analysis, Müllerian mimicry, parallel  
39 divergence

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## 43 **Introduction**

44           Hybrid zones, where genetically differentiated populations are in contact and interbreed, have  
45 long been a valuable resource in understanding the evolutionary processes shaping taxonomic boundaries  
46 (Barton & Gale, 1993; Endler, 1977). Hybrid zones can form in continuously distributed populations,  
47 where different alleles are favoured at either end of an ecological gradient, a process called primary  
48 intergradation (Endler, 1977). Alternatively, they can form when previously isolated populations, which  
49 have become genetically differentiated in allopatry, come into secondary contact (Endler, 1977). Both  
50 scenarios can lead to the formation of sharp geographic clines in quantitative traits and the loci that  
51 underlie them. These clines reflect the balance between gene flow and divergent selection (Barton &  
52 Hewitt, 1985), and their study can therefore provide deep insight into potential targets of natural selection.

53           Cline theory provides a powerful framework for studying patterns of variation across hybrid  
54 zones, enabling key biological parameters, including the strength and nature of selection shaping  
55 variation, to be estimated (Barton & Hewitt, 1985). By fitting geographic cline models to many loci or  
56 quantitative traits, it is possible to understand how the nature and the relative strength of selection varies  
57 among them. For example, assuming selection is acting across a sharp environmental gradient, the cline  
58 centre is indicative of the geographic location where the direction of divergent selection switches. In this  
59 case, if clines are centred at the same location (henceforth referred to as cline coincidence), this indicates  
60 that a suite of traits and loci are all affected by a common selective agent, or multiple agents that coincide  
61 geographically (Barton and Hewitt 1985). Variation in cline width can be used to make inferences about  
62 the strength of selection acting on a locus or trait, with narrower clines indicating stronger selection, all  
63 else being equal. The overall shape of clines is also informative about the nature of selection shaping the  
64 cline. For example, if variation at a trait or locus is shaped only by direct selection, the cline is predicted  
65 to have a sigmoidal shape (Barton and Hewitt 1985; Barton and Gale 1993). However, if the strength of  
66 direct selection on each locus is outweighed by indirect selection from many loci in linkage  
67 disequilibrium (LD), the total selection affecting each locus in LD will be approximately equal (Kruuk,  
68 Baird, Gale, & Barton, 1999; J M Szymura & Barton, 1991). This can result in many clines with similar

69 centres and widths, and with steeper centres than would be expected from direct selection alone, referred  
70 to as “stepped” clines (Barton & Hewitt, 1985; Vines et al., 2016)

71 Despite being primarily used to study patterns of trait and marker variation within a single species,  
72 cline analysis may also be used to understand how closely related species are shaped by the same extrinsic  
73 selection pressure (e.g. Mallet et al., 1990). For example, if multiple closely related and ecologically similar  
74 species are distributed across the same habitat transition, local adaptation may cause similar traits to diverge  
75 in concert. Although examples of parallel adaptation can demonstrate striking convergence, the extent of  
76 trait divergence within each species, and extent of parallelism between them, may vary depending on a host  
77 of factors. For example, at White Sands, New Mexico, three lizard species show strong divergence in their  
78 dorsal colour, an adaptation that improves crypsis on different soil types (Rosenblum & Harmon, 2011).  
79 However, the extent of colour divergence varies between the species for reasons that are not entirely clear  
80 (Rosenblum & Harmon 2011). Cline analysis can be used to precisely quantify differences in the  
81 geographical distribution and variation of putative adaptive traits between species. When combined with  
82 genome-wide data, this can provide insight into factors influencing the degree of parallelism. Differences  
83 between species in intrinsic factors, such as their dispersal rate, population density, variation in their past  
84 demographic histories, and the genetic architecture of traits, could alter patterns of clinal variation in  
85 adaptive traits between species that are otherwise subject to the same extrinsic selection pressures.

86 Here, we studied a case of parallel divergence in the Müllerian co-mimics *Heliconius erato* and  
87 *Heliconius melpomene*. We examined clinal variation in two colour pattern traits: the yellow hindwing  
88 bar and iridescence. Where the pair co-occur, they converge on almost identical patterns to share the cost  
89 of educating predators of their distastefulness (Brown, 1981). Both species comprise many parapatric  
90 colour pattern races, or subspecies, connected by hybrid zones (Mallet, 1993; Rosser, Dasmahapatra, &  
91 Mallet, 2014). When different subspecies hybridise, their offspring can display novel or heterozygous  
92 phenotypes (Arias et al., 2008; Mallet, 1989; Mallet, 1986). Predators are less likely to learn to avoid rare  
93 phenotypes, causing frequency-dependent selection on colour patterns (Langham, 2004; Mallet & Barton,  
94 1989). This maintains stable hybrid zones (Mallet, 1986; Rosser et al., 2014). The diverse colouration

95 seen in the *Heliconius* genus has been extensively studied, the vast majority of which is determined by a  
96 genetic ‘tool kit’ of five major-effect loci (S W Baxter, Johnston, & Jiggins, 2009; Kronforst et al., 2006;  
97 A. Martin et al., 2012; Nadeau, 2016; Nadeau et al., 2016; Reed et al., 2011; Westerman et al., 2018).  
98 Previous studies have found low levels of genetic differentiation between parapatric colour races, with a  
99 few diverged loci, mainly controlling colour pattern differences (Martin et al., 2013; Nadeau et al., 2014;  
100 Supple et al., 2013).

101 Near the Panamanian-Colombian border, there are co-occurring hybrid zones between subspecies of  
102 *H. erato* and *H. melpomene*, which differ in the presence of a yellow hindwing bar and in iridescent blue  
103 colouration (Mallet, 1986; Figure 1). Iridescence is produced by nano-structural ridges on the surface of  
104 wing scales, which are layered to produce constructive interference of blue light (Parnell et al., 2018). In  
105 a system so well-studied, little is known regarding selection on structural colour (Sweeney, Jiggins, &  
106 Johnsen, 2003). Divergence in this trait has not been previously studied. While the yellow bar is  
107 controlled by a single major-effect gene (Mallet, 1986; Nadeau, 2016), iridescence segregates as  
108 continuous variation, with conservative estimates suggesting it is controlled by around five additive  
109 genetic loci (Brien et al., 2018). While differences in pigment colouration across hybrid zones seem to be  
110 maintained by strong divergent selection, despite gene flow across the rest of the genome (Nadeau et al.,  
111 2014), it is unclear whether we would expect to see this in a more complex trait such as iridescence.  
112 Polygenic local adaptation may only require small allele frequency changes, but can also involve greater  
113 levels of covariance between loci (Le Corre & Kremer, 2012). The combined action of divergent selection  
114 and the build-up of statistical associations between loci can reduce effective migration rates across the  
115 genome (Flaxman, Wacholder, Feder, & Nosil, 2014; Kruuk et al., 1999). Therefore, an increased level of  
116 overall genome-wide differentiation, and population level genetic structure may be expected across  
117 hybrid zones over which quantitative variation is maintained, particularly if the trait is highly polygenic.

118 Here, we use geographic cline analysis to examine the selection regimes impacting variation and  
119 convergence of iridescence and other traits, both within and between the co-mimics *H. erato* and *H.*  
120 *melpomene*. Within species, we are primarily interested in understanding how the genetic basis of these

121 traits has influenced their divergence across the hybrid zone. Because iridescence is polygenic, it may be  
122 more difficult for direct selection to maintain strong trait divergence along the cline compared with the  
123 yellow bar trait, which has a simple genetic basis and is highly visible to selection. Between the species,  
124 our aim is to compare the extent of parallel divergence in the co-mimics. Due to the strong existing  
125 evidence that mimicry drives colour pattern convergence between *H. erato* and *H. melpomene*, our null  
126 expectation would be that clines in colour traits should be very similar in position and shape. Any  
127 deviations from this expectation would suggest that either selection is acting differently on iridescence in  
128 each species, or that some other factor has affected the extent of divergence within each species.

129

## 130 **Methods**

### 131 *Butterfly specimens*

132 *Heliconius melpomene* and *Heliconius erato* individuals were collected from several sites in the Chocó-  
133 Darien ecoregion between the Andes and the Pacific in Colombia, and part way across the isthmus of  
134 Panama (Figure 1, SI Table S1). Wings were removed and stored in envelopes. Bodies were preserved in  
135 NaCl saturated 20% dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) 0.25M EDTA.

136

### 137 *Sequencing data*

138 Restriction-associated DNA (RAD) sequence data were generated for 265 *H. erato* (SI Table S2), and  
139 whole genome re-sequencing was carried out on 36 *H. melpomene* individuals (SI Table S3). Genomic  
140 DNA was extracted from each individual using DNeasy Blood and Tissue Kits (Qiagen). Library  
141 preparation and sequencing was carried out by Edinburgh Genomics (University of Edinburgh).

142 Single-digest RAD libraries were prepared using the *PstI* restriction enzyme, with eight base-pair  
143 barcodes and sequenced on the Illumina HiSeq 2500 platform (v4 chemistry), generating an average of  
144 554,826 125 base paired-end reads per individual (see SI Table S2 for coverage and accession

145 information). We demultiplexed the pooled reads using the RADpools program in the RADtools package  
146 version 1.2.4 (Baxter et al., 2011).

147 For the whole-genome sequencing, TruSeq Nano, gel-free libraries were prepared from genomic  
148 DNA samples of 36 *H. melpomene* individuals and sequenced on Illumina HiSeq 2500 platform (v4  
149 chemistry), generating an average of 31,484,363 125 base paired-end reads per individual (see SI Table  
150 S3 for coverage and accession information).

151

### 152 *Data processing and variant calling*

153 We checked the quality of all the raw sequencing reads using FastQC (v 0.11.5) and removed any  
154 remaining adapters using Trim Galore (v 0.4.1). We aligned the sequence data of all individuals, both  
155 RAD sequenced and WGS, to their corresponding reference genomes, either *Heliconius melpomene*  
156 version 2 (Davey et al., 2016) or *Heliconius erato* (Van Belleghem et al., 2017), obtained from leabase  
157 (Challis, Kumar, Dasmahapatra, Jiggins, & Blaxter, 2016), using bowtie2 (v 2.3.2), with the local  
158 alignment option, and the very-sensitive pre-set parameter options to improve accuracy of the alignment.  
159 We used samtools (v 1.3.1) to sort and index the alignment files. We removed any duplicates that may  
160 have arisen during library preparation using the MarkDuplicates program in Picard tools (v 1.92).

161 Single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) datasets were generated using samtools mpileup (v 1.5) to  
162 compute genotype likelihoods and bcftools (v 1.5) for variant calling. For a site to be a variant, the  
163 probability that it was homozygous for the reference allele across all samples was required to be less than  
164 0.05. Multiallelic sites, insertions and deletions were ignored. For *H. melpomene* we identified  
165 30,027,707 SNPs and for *H. erato* we identified 5,088,449 SNPs. We removed SNPs with a phred quality  
166 score lower than 30, that lacked sequence data in 50% or more of the individuals, that had a minor allele  
167 frequency lower than 0.05 or that were private variants. We pruned based on linkage disequilibrium,  
168 discarding SNPs within a 20kb window with  $r^2 > 0.8$ , using the bcftools plugin '+prune'. This reduced the  
169 initial number of called SNPs down to 9,336,937 in *H. melpomene* and 159,405 in *H. erato*.

170

171 *Population structure*

172 To examine population structure, we estimated the ancestry of each individual using the software  
173 NGSadmix (Skotte, Korneliussen, & Albrechtsen, 2013), which estimates the proportion of each genome  
174 that can be attributed to predefined number of populations ( $k$ ) using genotype likelihoods. For each  
175 species, NGSadmix was run for a range of values of  $k$ , one to ten, each being replicated ten times with a  
176 random seed. The value of  $k$  best describing the population structure was determined using the  $\Delta k$   
177 criterion (Evanno, Regnaut, & Goudet, 2005), implemented in CLUMPAK (Kopelman, Mayzel,  
178 Jakobsson, Rosenberg, & Mayrose, 2015).

179 We carried out a principal components analysis (PCA) using PCAngsd (Meisner & Albrechtsen,  
180 2018), which estimates a covariance matrix based on genotype likelihoods. We used eigenvector  
181 decomposition to retrieve the principal components of genetic structure.

182

183 *Population differentiation*

184 To test the extent of genetic differentiation between the iridescent and non-iridescent subspecies, we  
185 measured  $F_{ST}$  between all individuals from iridescent populations south of the hybrid zone, and all non-  
186 iridescent individuals north of the hybrid zone, excluding the sampling site Jaqué, which was in the centre  
187 of the hybrid zone in both species. In each species, the two non-iridescent colour pattern races were  
188 collapsed into a single “non-iridescent” group, north of the hybrid zone, since our results show there is no  
189 genetic structure between them based on race. SNP datasets were generated for each species, using  
190 samtools mpileup and bcftools (v 1.5). In each species Hudson’s  $F_{ST}$  estimator was calculated among  
191 populations (Hudson, Slatkin, & Maddison, 1992):

192 
$$F_{ST}^{Hudson} = 1 - \frac{Hw}{Hb} = \frac{p_1(1 - p_1) + p_2(1 - p_2)}{p_1(1 - p_2) + p_2(1 - p_1)}$$

193



194           Where  $H_w$  is the within-population heterozygosity,  $H_b$  is the between-population heterozygosity,  
195 and  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  represent the allele frequencies in each population. This was calculated in *R* for every SNP  
196 with a custom script. Average genome-wide  $F_{ST}$  was calculated as a ratio of averages, by averaging the  
197 variance components,  $H_w$  and  $H_b$ , separately, as recommended by Bhatia et al. (2013) We also estimated  
198 average genome-wide  $F_{ST}$  between all pairs of populations, including those in the hybrid zone, for each  
199 species, and plotted pairwise  $F_{ST}$  against pairwise geographic distance.

200

### 201 *Phenotypic measurements*

202 Digital images of butterfly wings were taken with a Nikon D7000 DSLR camera fitted with an AF-S DX  
203 Micro NIKKOR 40 mm f/2.8G lens (Nikon UK Ltd., Surrey, UK), mounted on an adjustable platform.  
204 Standardised lighting conditions were achieved using two external natural daylight fluorescent lights,  
205 mounted to illuminate at 45 degrees from incident, to maximise brightness of observed iridescent colour.  
206 Photographs were taken with a shutter speed of 1/60 sec and an aperture of f/10. Each sample was  
207 photographed with an X-Rite colorchecker passport (X-Rite, Inc., MI, USA) in shot. The Nikon raw  
208 (.NEF) image files were converted to standard raw files (.DNG) using Adobe DNG converter (Adobe  
209 Systems Inc., USA). The RGB channels in the images were then linearized using the neutral grey scale on  
210 the colorchecker using GNU Image Manipulation Program, v2.8.

211           The mean RGB values from regions in the discal cell on the right forewing and the  $Cu_2$  cell on the  
212 right hindwing were measured (SI Figure S1A). If the wings on the right-hand side showed damage,  
213 wings on the left-hand side were used. Wing regions were selected using the polygon selection tool in  
214 ImageJ, version 1.50b (Abràmoff, Magalhães, & Ram, 2004), and mean RGB scores were measured using  
215 the Color Histogram plugin. To minimise variation in blue colour due to age and wing wear, we excluded  
216 individuals with extensive wing wear or damage.

217           We tested for repeatability (Whitlock & Schluter, 2009) of the RGB values on 26 individuals  
218 photographed a second time under the same conditions on a different day, with a second set of RGB

219 measurements taken. These individuals were selected from regions in which varying levels of iridescence  
220 is seen (20 individuals from Valle del Cauca, Colombia, and 6 individuals from Darién, Panama).  
221 Variance among individuals was calculated by taking the difference between the group mean square and  
222 the error mean square, and dividing it by the number of replicates. These components of variance were  
223 extracted from a general linear model in R v3.2.3 (R Core Team, 2015). The fraction of total variance that  
224 is due to true differences between individuals was then calculated by dividing the variance among  
225 individuals by the total variance.

226 A measure of relative blue reflectance (blue score) was determined for each individual by taking  
227 the mean blue channel value (B) and the mean red channel value (R) for both wing regions and  
228 calculating:

$$229 \quad BR = (B-R)/(B+R)$$

230 This gives a standardised score of how blue an individual is, with  $BR = 1$  being the ‘bluest’, and  
231  $BR = -1$  being the ‘reddest’ (Figure S1 B, C).

232

### 233 *Estimation of ‘yellow bar’ allele frequencies*

234 Allele frequencies for the yellow hindwing bar were estimated based on phenotype for both species. This  
235 was done for all sampling sites in Colombia and Panama with five or more individuals. The ‘yellow bar’  
236 phenotype was scored categorically according to Mallet (1986), who showed that this phenotype  
237 segregates in the same way for both *Heliconius erato* and *H. melpomene*. Variation in the yellow bar  
238 across this hybrid zone is controlled by three alleles: The North Colombian yellow bar allele (Y), the  
239 West Colombian yellow bar allele ( $y_{wc}$ ) and the Central American yellow bar allele ( $y_{ca}$ ). Individuals of  
240 both species with a yellow bar on both sides of the wing (Figure 1A) have genotype  $y_{ca}y_{ca}$ . Individuals  
241 lacking a yellow bar (Figure 1B) have genotype YY. Individuals with the “shadow bar” phenotype, where  
242 the outline of the bar can be seen on the underside of the hindwing without any yellow pigment, and  
243 without a bar on the upper side of the hindwing, have genotype  $Yy_{wc}$  or  $Yy_{ca}$ . Individuals with a yellow

244 bar on the underside of the hindwing (Figure 1C) have genotype  $y_{wc}y_{ca}$  or  $y_{wc}y_{wc}$ . As two of the four  
245 phenotypes can be produced by two different allele combinations we inferred the allele frequencies at  
246 each locality for each species assuming Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium for the three alleles. The frequency  
247 of Y could be directly observed from both its heterozygous and homozygous phenotypes. The frequency  
248 of  $y_{ca}$  could be inferred from the frequency of its homozygous phenotype, allowing us to infer the  
249 frequency of  $y_{wc}$ . We focus on the  $y_{wc}$  allele for the remainder of the paper, as this underlies the yellow  
250 bar phenotype seen in the iridescent forms of both species, and appears to be lost across the same hybrid  
251 zone over which iridescence is lost. This provides us with the opportunity to directly compare clines in  
252 Mendelian and polygenic traits.

253

#### 254 *Geographic cline analysis*

255 We used geographic cline analysis to model patterns of clinal variation in (i) the mean iridescence score,  
256 (ii) frequency of the yellow bar allele ( $y_{wc}$ ), and (iii) mean admixture, estimated using NGSadmix, across  
257 both hybrid zones. We assumed two parental populations here, as our analyses of population structure  
258 reveal two genetic clusters in each species, despite there being three overlapping colour pattern races.  
259 Specifically, we fitted three alternative geographic cline models (Szymura & Barton, 1991; Szymura &  
260 Barton, 1986) using ANALYSE v1.30 (Barton & Baird, 2002). Sampling sites with fewer than five  
261 individuals were excluded from the cline analyses, leaving 529 *H. erato* and 126 *H. melpomene*. Blue  
262 scores were normalised to a new range of 0 to 1 (Fig S1 B, C) as required by the software. Distances  
263 between sampling sites were estimated using the great circle distance, calculated using the  
264 ‘hzar.map.greatCircleDistance’ function in the R package HZAR (Derryberry, Derryberry, Maley, &  
265 Brumfield, 2014).

266 ANALYSE fits cline models to marker loci and/or quantitative trait data, and can be used to  
267 compare the fit of three alternative cline models to either population means (used for iridescence and  
268 admixture scores) or frequency data (used for the yellow bar allele). The simplest model is a sigmoid

269 cline described by a hyperbolic tangent (Szymura & Barton, 1986). The other two more complex models  
270 are ‘stepped’ clines. They consist of a central sigmoid step flanked by two exponential tails that describe  
271 the pattern of introgression from the centre into the foreign genepool;  $\theta$  is the rate of decay, and the  
272 strength of the barrier to gene flow,  $B$ , can be estimated as the ratio between the difference in the allele  
273 frequency and the initial gradient in allele frequency with distance  $x$  at the edges of the central segment.  
274 In the symmetrical ‘Sstep’ model,  $\theta$  and  $B$  are equal on both sides. In the asymmetrical ‘Astep’ model, the  
275 pattern of introgression is different on the left and right side.

276 ANALYSE uses the Metropolis algorithm to search the likelihood surface to find the ML solution  
277 to the model. To ensure that the likelihood surface was thoroughly explored, independent runs were  
278 conducted using a range of initial parameter estimates. After obtaining maximum likelihood (ML)  
279 solutions for the three cline models, the most likely model was identified using Likelihood Ratio Tests.  
280 As the minimum and maximum mean allele frequency or trait values ( $p(z)_{\min}$ ,  $p(z)_{\max}$ ) were allowed to  
281 vary in the tails of the cline, the sigmoid, Sstep and Astep models were described by 2 ( $c$ ,  $w$ ), 4 ( $c$ ,  $w$ ,  $\theta$ ,  
282  $B$ ) and 6 parameters ( $c$ ,  $w$ ,  $\theta_0$ ,  $\theta_1$ ,  $B_0$ ,  $B_1$ ), respectively.

283 After model selection, support limits were estimated for each parameter in the ML model. Starting  
284 with the optimum fit, and constraining the values of all other parameters, the likelihood surface for  
285 individual parameters were explored by making 10,000 random changes of their value. The range of  
286 estimates that was within 2 log-likelihood units of the maximum estimate was taken as the support limit  
287 for that parameter, and is approximately equivalent to a 95% confidence interval.

288 Coincidence of cline centres ( $c$ ) and concordance of cline widths ( $w$ ) were tested using the  
289 composite likelihood method (Kawakami, Butlin, Adams, Paull, & Cooper, 2009; Phillips, Baird, &  
290 Moritz, 2004). The method involves obtaining a composite ML score for a given parameter ( $ML_{\text{comp}}$ ) and  
291 comparing it with the sum of the ML estimates obtained for each profile ( $ML_{\text{sum}}$ ).  $ML_{\text{comp}}$  was obtained by  
292 constructing a log-likelihood profile (10 km intervals for  $c$  and  $w$ , between 0 km and 1000 km) with all  
293 other parameters allowed to vary, summing the profiles, and obtaining the ML estimate;  $ML_{\text{sum}}$  was  
294 obtained by summing the ML estimates from each profile. If clines are not coincident or concordant,

295  $ML_{\text{sum}}$  is significantly smaller than  $ML_{\text{comp}}$ , as determined by a chi-squared test ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ) with  $n-1$   
296 degrees of freedom, where  $n$  is the number of traits. One complication with this method for comparing  
297 cline parameters is that the profiles for each trait must be built using the same model. Although the more  
298 complex Sstep and Astep models are a significantly better fit than the sigmoid model, the parameters  
299 estimates for the cline centre and cline width were similar regardless of the model fit (see results).  
300 Therefore, all likelihood profiling was conducted with the sigmoid model.

301 To estimate the strength of selection acting on  $y_{wc}$ , the following equation was used from Barton  
302 and Gale (1993):

$$303 \quad s^* = (1.782\sigma/\omega)^2$$

304 Where  $s^*$  is the difference in mean fitness between populations at the edge of the cline, and  
305 populations at the centre. This demonstrates the mean strength of effective selection on loci underlying a  
306 trait required to maintain a cline of width ( $w$ ), given the dispersal distance per generation ( $\sigma$ ). Dispersal  
307 estimates were taken from Mallet et al. (1990) and Blum (2002).

### 308 *Tests for concordance of clines using regression analysis*

309 In addition to geographic cline analysis, we also used the regression procedure outlined in  
310 Nürnberger et al. (1995) as a method for testing for the concordance of clines within and between the  
311 species. Concordance of clines is predicted to result in a linear regression of population means or allele  
312 frequencies between characters  $i$  and  $j$ . Alternatively, non-concordant clines should show a deviation from  
313 linearity that can be described by a quadratic polynomial. We compared the fits of linear and quadratic  
314 models to each pair of characters, including the mean admixture score, frequency of the  $y_{wc}$  alleles and  
315 the mean iridescence score within a species using custom script in R. Because data were collected for  
316 each species in the same location, we could also use this analysis to compare clines in the same traits  
317 between *H. erato* and *H. melpomene*, with the exception of the admixture score because few sites  
318 included genetic data for both species. Significance of the deviation from linearity was determined by  
319 comparing the F-ratios of the quadratic and linear fits.

320

## 321 **Results**

### 322 *Population Structure*

323 We investigated population structure using genome-wide SNP data in the programs NGSadmix, to  
324 estimate ancestry proportions from a varying number of genetic clusters ( $K$ ), and PCAngsd to confirm  
325 population clustering by principal components (PCA). This revealed different patterns of population  
326 structure between the co-mimics. In *H. erato*, NGSadmix supported  $K=2$  (SI Figure S3B), representing a  
327 “Panama-like” and a “Colombia-like” genetic background (Figure 2B), with individuals of consistently  
328 mixed ancestry found in the site closest to the centre of the iridescence cline. Introgression from  
329 Panamanian populations could be detected in northern Colombian populations. The PCA supported this,  
330 with three clusters separated by geography along the first axis of variation, representing the Colombian  
331 populations, the Panamanian populations, and individuals with mixed ancestry and intermediate levels of  
332 iridescence clustered between them (Figure 2C). PC1 explained 5.84% of genetic variation in *H. erato*,  
333 with all subsequent eigenvectors explaining 0.7% or less of the genetic variation (SI Figure S4).

334 NGSadmix also supported  $K=2$  for *H. melpomene* (although  $K=1$  cannot be tested, SI Figure  
335 S3D), but revealed a less straightforward population structure. While a “Colombia-like” genetic  
336 background could be seen, Panamanian individuals showed mixed ancestry, with the exception of four  
337 individuals from the site closest to the centre of the iridescence cline (Figure 2D). This is supported by the  
338 PCA. PC1 explained 5.28% of genetic variation, separating Colombian and Panamanian individuals.  
339 Individuals with intermediate levels of iridescence do not form an intermediate cluster between  
340 Panamanian and Colombian individuals, as is seen in *H. erato* (Figure 2E). The percent of genetic  
341 variation explained by PC1 and subsequent principal components show a more uniform distribution than  
342 in *H. erato* (SI Figure S4) consistent with weaker population structure.

343 Given the support for two genetic clusters, we compared the levels of differentiation between  
344 these populations using SNPs from individuals either side of the hybrid zone in southern Panama.

345 Genome-wide average Hudson's  $F_{ST}$  was estimated for each species, using the ratio of averages approach.  
346 This revealed that genome-wide divergence across the hybrid zone is greater in *H. erato* ( $F_{ST}=0.188$ ),  
347 compared to *H. melpomene* ( $F_{ST}=0.0739$ ). The difference in genetic structure is also apparent in the plots  
348 of the pairwise genetic distance between sampling locations, plotted against their geographic distance. In  
349 *H. erato*, within-race comparisons that span distances of 195 – 325 km show a range of  $F_{ST}$  values  
350 between 0.063 – 0.129. However, between-race comparisons made over a similar range of distances (188  
351 – 345 km) have substantially higher  $F_{ST}$  (0.226 – 0.271), suggesting that the genetic structure is much  
352 stronger than would be expected based on geography alone (Figure 3). The pattern in *H. melpomene* is  
353 very different, as the between-race comparisons span a similar range of  $F_{ST}$  values to the within-race  
354 comparisons.

355

### 356 *Phenotypic Variation*

357 Strong phenotypic variation was observed across our range of sampling sites, with some difference  
358 apparent between *H. erato* and *H. melpomene* (SI Figure S2). The West Colombian yellow bar allele ( $y_{wc}$ )  
359 was fixed in all Colombian sampling sites, apart from at some of the northernmost Colombian sampling  
360 sites near Bahía Solano (BS; SI Figure S2 C, D.). In *H. melpomene*, the frequency of  $y_{wc}$  gradually  
361 decreased, and persisted at comparable frequencies to the North Colombian yellow bar allele (Y) for ~200  
362 km, before the Central American yellow bar allele ( $y_{ca}$ ) became predominant (SI Figure S2D). In contrast,  
363 in *H. erato* Y became the predominant allele, with  $y_{ca}$  approaching fixation towards the end of the transect  
364 (SI Figure S2C).

365 In both species the blue score, used as a proxy measure for iridescence, decreased across the  
366 transect (SI Figure S2 A,B). The colour measurements used to calculate the blue score were highly  
367 repeatable ( $p<0.001$  for both red and blue values in both wing patches measured, Table S5). The bluest *H.*  
368 *melpomene* individuals were less blue than the bluest *H. erato* (SI Figure S2), which is consistent with  
369 reflectance spectrometry data from *H. erato cyrba* and *H. melpomene cythera* (Parnell et al., 2018)

370

371 *Clinal variation within species*

372 Cline fitting revealed that an asymmetrical stepped cline best described the variation in iridescence in *H.*  
373 *erato*, with a steeper right tail, which continually declines away from the cline centre. Neither stepped  
374 model was a significantly better fit than sigmoidal clines for the yellow bar in *H. erato*, and both colour  
375 traits in *H. melpomene* (Table 1; SI Table S6). For the admixture proportion, an asymmetrical stepped  
376 cline model was the best fit in *H. erato* (Table 1, SI Table S6), with a steeper right tail, similar to the  
377 iridescence cline, whereas the sigmoid model was the best fit for *H. melpomene*.

378 Overall, our analysis indicates that the clines in iridescence, yellow bar and the admixture were  
379 highly similar within both of the species. Likelihood profiling revealed that we could not reject the null  
380 hypothesis that both iridescence and the yellow bar clines had coincident centres and concordant widths  
381 within both species. In *H. erato*, the parameters for the cline in the admixture score were different from  
382 the clines in iridescence (both centre and width) and yellow bar (centre only) (Table 2), though the  
383 differences were quite subtle. For *H. melpomene*, likelihood profiling indicated that neither the width nor  
384 centre of the admixture cline differed from the phenotypic clines; inspection of the likelihood surfaces  
385 indicates that power to reject the hypothesis of coincidence and concordance were low, as the profiles  
386 were flat across a broad range of the parameter space (Figures 3, S5). This could be due to weaker/non-  
387 clinal population structure, or the sparse sampling of genomic data within *H. melpomene*.

388 The similarity of clines within the two species was supported by pairwise regression analysis, as  
389 the linear model was always a better description of the data than the quadratic polynomial (Figure S6).  
390 For *H. erato*, the linear model explained between 98% and 99% percent of the variation relationship  
391 between for all pairs of characters, and had a higher F-ratio than the polynomial quadratic, which  
392 explained a similar amount of the variation in the data (Table S7). The results were the same for *H.*  
393 *melpomene*, except that the quadratic fit was often a much poorer fit than the linear fit (Table S7).

394



395 *Comparison of clines between H. melpomene and H. erato*

396 In contrast with the similar patterns of clinal variation within species, our profiling and regression  
397 analyses revealed striking differences in the cline shape between the species. For both iridescence, and  
398 yellow bar, the ML estimates of the cline width were roughly four times wider in *H. melpomene* than in  
399 *H. erato* (Table 1, Figure 4). For both traits, the peaks of the likelihood profiles did not overlap (Figure  
400 5), with the difference being significant for iridescence ( $p = 0.01$ ). Although the difference was not  
401 significant for yellow bar, because the change in likelihood was not as dramatic across the profile for that  
402 trait ( $p = 0.19$ ), the regression analysis indicated that clines were not concordant as the quadratic model  
403 was a far better fit to the regression of the frequency of  $y_{wc}$  between *H. melpomene* and *H. erato* (Figure  
404 S6, Table S7). Both likelihood profile analysis and regression analysis indicated that the admixture clines  
405 were concordant (Figures 3, S6), but again had low power to detect any difference due to the coarse  
406 geographic sampling in both species.

407 In contrast with the difference in cline widths, clines for each trait tended to have highly similar  
408 centres, indicating that they were positioned in roughly the same geographic area (Figure 4, Table 2). This  
409 is clearly observed in the likelihood profiles for each trait, as the  $-Lnl$  tended to peak over a relatively  
410 broad area, between 400 and 600 km along the transect (SI Figure S5). For all three traits the difference in  
411 the location of the peak likelihoods was not significantly difference ( $P$  ranging from 0.22 - 0.62)

412 Given the differences in cline width between the species, we estimated the effective selection ( $s^*$ )  
413 on  $y_{wc}$  across the hybrid zone in both species using the ML estimates and support limits of cline width  
414 (Table 1) and the dispersal estimates from Mallet et al. (1990) of 2.6 km for *H. erato* and 3.7 km for *H.*  
415 *melpomene*. Selection estimates were 0.00203 (0.00102–0.00427) for *H. erato*, and 0.000213 (0.000165–  
416 0.000303) for *H. melpomene*. Blum (2002) estimates higher dispersal for *H. erato*, 10 km, which increased  
417 the value of  $s^*$  to 0.0300 (0.0151–0.0632). Given that the widths of the yellow bar and iridescence clines  
418 were not different within each species, similar estimates were found for iridescence. For *H. melpomene*,  
419  $s^*=0.000200$  (0.000135–0.000300), for *H. erato*,  $s^*= 0.00208$  (0.00167–0.00267) if the dispersal distance

420 is 2.6 km, and 0.0307 (0.0247–0.0395) if the dispersal distance is 10 km. However, it should be noted that  
421 in the case of iridescence,  $s^*$  is the average strength of selection acting across loci controlling iridescence.

422

## 423 **Discussion**

424 Our analysis of parallel hybrid zones in the co-mimics *H. erato* and *H. melpomene* has revealed  
425 similarities, as well as striking differences in colour trait divergence between the species. Consistent with  
426 the predictions of the mimicry hypothesis, the clines in yellow bar and iridescence are highly coincident  
427 within and between species, suggesting that they are maintained by the same selective pressure. In contrast,  
428 the width of the clines in both colour traits vary substantially between the species, being far wider in *H.*  
429 *melpomene*. The difference in cline widths is probably due, at least in part, to differences in the strength of  
430 direct selection acting on colour variation between *H. melpomene*, and *H. erato*. However, differences in  
431 population structure and levels of genomic differentiation indicate that species-specific factors, such as  
432 different population histories, dispersal rates, and strength of reproductive isolation between the subspecies  
433 may also contribute to the different cline widths between the species.

434

### 435 *Comparing clines within species*

436 Our geographic cline analysis revealed that clines in mean iridescence and the  $y_{wc}$  allele frequency  
437 had highly similar centres and widths within both of the species. While this is predicted to result from  
438 direct selection on a warning colour pattern, similar clines could also arise as a correlated response to  
439 selection if traits have a shared genetic basis, or if the loci that underlie them are physically linked (Price  
440 & Langen, 1992). We are able to rule out these explanations for the similarity of the clines in *H. erato*, as  
441 these colour traits segregate independently in  $F_2$  crosses made between iridescent and non-iridescent races  
442 (Brien et al., 2018). As the colour pattern traits studied here very different genetic architectures, with the  
443 yellow bar being controlled by a single major-effect locus (Joron et al., 2006; Mallet, 1986; Nadeau et al.,

444 2016), and iridescence being controlled by multiple genes (Brien et al., 2018), it is highly unlikely that the  
445 clines in one of the colour traits could arise as a correlated response to selection acting on the other.

446 Another alternative explanation for the similar clines within the species, aside from direct selection  
447 acting on each trait, is that the clines are maintained by a permeable, but genome-wide barrier to gene  
448 flow between the subspecies. When reproductive isolation involves a large number of loci, or is very  
449 strong, selection against unfit hybrid offspring can generate a barrier to gene flow that can impact the  
450 spread of even neutral alleles across a hybrid zone (Barton & Gale, 1993). For a trait that is also under  
451 direct selection, the importance of the overall barrier in shaping a cline depends on the strength of direct  
452 selection acting on the trait relative to the strength of indirect selection resulting from selection at other  
453 barrier loci. For example, if the strength of indirect selection acting on a trait is much greater than direct  
454 selection, then the cline shape will be more informative about the overall barrier strength, and tell us  
455 nothing about the strength of direct selection. In situations where this is the case, clines in the trait should  
456 show a “stepped”, rather than sigmoid shape. In *H. erato*, the two colour pattern clines are coincident, and  
457 the best fitting cline model for variation in iridescence is stepped, which would indicate that indirect  
458 selection plays some role in shaping the cline (Kruuk et al., 1999). In contrast, the simple sigmoidal cline  
459 fits best for the yellow bar. Finally, while we do see stepped clines in *H. erato*, they are asymmetrical,  
460 with a left tail closely resembling that of the sigmoidal cline, and a much steeper right tail. It is possible  
461 that these tails reflect genuine asymmetry, due to hybrid zone movement, which has been predicted and  
462 documented in these species (Blum, 2002; Mallet, 1986; Thurman, Szejner-Sigal, & McMillan, 2019).  
463 Although it is difficult to determine the overall importance and indirect selection in shaping these clines,  
464 it is unlikely that all of our results can be explained purely in terms of indirect selection.

465 Given the abundant evidence for the role of direct selection in shaping colour pattern variation across  
466 the genus *Heliconius*, it is likely that it plays at least some role in shaping variation in these species.  
467 Under a scenario where the colour pattern clines are maintained by a balance between migration and  
468 divergent ecological selection, similar cline centres arise when both traits experience the same source of  
469 selection, or when different ecological gradients change in approximately the same location (Barton &

470 Hewitt, 1985). In *Heliconius*, local warning colour patterns are maintained by predator-mediated positive  
471 frequency-dependent selection, with rare colour morphs experiencing increased predation (Benson, 1972;  
472 Dell'aglio, Stevens, & Jiggins, 2016; Langham, 2004; Mallet & Barton, 1989). The centre of colour  
473 pattern clines could represent the location where the most effective warning pattern shifts to that of a  
474 neighbouring subspecies. The coincidence of cline centres for iridescence and  $y_{wc}$ , which is observed in  
475 both *H. melpomene* and *H. erato*, suggests that both traits contribute to the warning signal.

476  
477 In *H. melpomene*, the width and centre of the admixture proportion cline was not significantly  
478 different to the colour pattern clines. However, variation in admixture proportions had a poor fit to any of  
479 the cline models (Figures 2, 3, S5), illustrated by the large confidence intervals (Table 1). This is in part  
480 due to coarse sampling, but can also be explained by the less defined population structure in this species.  
481 Clear phenotypic intermediates in the hybrid zone are not of mixed ancestry (Figures 3, 4). This suggests  
482 that divergence in iridescence in this species is not tightly coupled with genome-wide differentiation. The  
483 broad phenotypic clines that we see are not characteristic of the steep, stepped clines which result from  
484 strong LD between selected loci and indirect selection (e.g. Szymura & Barton, 1991), and are more  
485 likely due to weak selection and/or isolation-by-distance.

486

487

#### 488 *Comparing clines between species*

489 Although patterns of clinal variation are very similar within species, we observed substantial  
490 differences between *H. melpomene* and *H. erato*. This is in contrast to what is expected, based on the  
491 strong existing evidence that colour pattern convergence in this pair of co-mimics is driven by Müllerian  
492 mimicry - a common positive frequency-dependent selection pressure based on predator learning. The  
493 coincidence of cline centres in colour pattern traits between the co-mimics is consistent with this  
494 hypothesis, as it suggests that variation in both species is structured by the same agent of selection. While  
495 the clines in yellow bar and iridescence are coincident between species, they are four times wider in *H.*

496 *melpomene*. This difference could result from (i) variation in the strength of direct or indirect selection  
497 between the species, (ii) species-specific differences in the dispersal rate, (iii) different demographic  
498 histories between the species, or a combination of these explanations.

499 First, the wider clines in *H. melpomene* could be a result of having a greater dispersal capability.  
500 Direct estimates of dispersal are difficult in *Heliconius* butterflies due to most dispersal occurring soon  
501 after adult eclosion (Mallet, 1986a). The most reliable estimates are thought to be those made using cline  
502 theory and patterns of linkage disequilibrium (Blum, 2002; Mallet et al., 1990), including the only direct  
503 comparison of *H. erato* and *H. melpomene* (Mallet et al., 1990). This study reports higher dispersal  
504 distances in *H. melpomene*. However, our estimates of the selection coefficient  $s^*$  (Barton & Gale, 1993)  
505 show that even if this higher dispersal rate is taken into account, colour pattern traits in *H. melpomene*  
506 appear to be under much weaker selection. Other studies on parallel hybrid zones between neighbouring  
507 races in this species pair show that *H. melpomene* tend to have wider clines than *H. erato*, but not to the  
508 degree seen in the present study ( Mallet et al., 1990; Salazar, 2012). *H. melpomene* displays less vivid  
509 iridescence than its co-mimic, and the colour difference between iridescent and non-iridescent *H.*  
510 *melpomene* is less pronounced than the colour difference between *H. erato* races (Parnell et al., 2018,  
511 Figure 1). Hybrid phenotypes are therefore less distinct from the parental populations in *H. melpomene*  
512 which could result in weaker selection against hybrid offspring.

513 The difference in divergence of one of the colour traits, namely iridescence, could also explain why  
514 clines differ in shape between the co-mimics. The main predators of *Heliconius* butterflies are thought to  
515 be birds of the tyrant flycatcher (Tyrannidae) and jacamar (Galbulidae) families (Jiggins, 2017), hence  
516 bird predation is expected to be the main driver of mimicry and phenotypic convergence between species.  
517 Previous work modelling bird visual systems has shown that birds can discriminate between the iridescent  
518 blue in *H. erato* and *H. melpomene* (Parnell et al., 2018). However, iridescence in *H. melpomene* is not as  
519 bright as in *H. erato*, which means that the visibility of the trait to selection may also vary between the  
520 species. This may weaken the overall mimetic signal in *H. melpomene*, which may also influence the  
521 strength of selection acting on the yellow bar.

522 Another possible factor that may explain the differences in cline widths between the species is  
523 that they may have experienced very different demographic histories. The inclusion of genomic data in  
524 our study revealed a striking difference in the level of population structure across these parallel hybrid  
525 zones. Specifically, we found strong divergence across the *H. erato* hybrid zone in contrast with the very  
526 weak structure across the *H. melpomene* hybrid zone. The defined population structure in *H. erato* is  
527 typically associated with populations that have diverged in allopatry, followed by secondary contact. This  
528 scenario can lead to genetic discontinuity and coincidence of clines in multiple traits (Barton, 1983),  
529 along with strong genome-wide reproductive isolation, meaning that indirect selection can play a greater  
530 role in the maintenance of geographic clines. It is also possible that strong selection acting on a  
531 quantitative trait in *H. erato* could be responsible for the formation of a genome-wide barrier to gene flow  
532 (Feder et al., 2012), although conservative estimates suggest iridescence is not polygenic enough to act as  
533 such a barrier (Brien et al., 2018). In contrast, the relatively low genetic structure in *H. melpomene* is  
534 usually associated with a primary intergradation scenario, where hybrid zones form due to divergent  
535 selection acting across a strong environmental gradient. Because primary hybrid zones form in the face of  
536 continuous gene flow, other barriers cannot evolve in isolation, meaning that direct selection on  
537 phenotypic traits must alone overcome migration. This makes it much harder for sharp clines to become  
538 established. Future studies of the historical demography of these species may shed more light on the role  
539 of history in shaping phenotypic traits associated with mimicry.

540

## 541 **Conclusions**

542 Examples of parallel evolution are celebrated as some of the best evidence for the power of  
543 natural selection in driving local adaptation. Most studies of parallel evolution tend to focus on  
544 understanding the similarities between populations and species subject to the same selective pressures.  
545 Despite the striking parallelism at the level of the phenotype, including simple and complex colour traits,  
546 the Müllerian co-mimics *H. erato* and *H. melpomene* show striking differences in how trait variation is  
547 structured across geography, which would not be apparent without detailed sampling and analysis across

548 their distribution. Although mimicry has almost certainly been the primary driver of parallel evolution in  
549 this system, other factors are needed to explain patterns of phenotypic variation, both within and between  
550 species. More focus on phenotypic differences may provide new insight into the processes underlying  
551 parallel evolution, and may help us to understand the factors that limit adaptation in general.

552

553

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564

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566

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### 731 **Data Accessibility Statement**

732 Sequence data have been deposited in the European Nucleotide Archive with the project number  
733 PREJEB32848. Code for implementing the regression-based tests for concordance can be found at  
734 [https://github.com/seanstankowski/Heliconius\\_MS](https://github.com/seanstankowski/Heliconius_MS). Phenotype measurements deposited at Dryad: XXX

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## 736 Author Contributions

737 EVC and NJN conceived and designed the study. EVC, NJN, CPD, CAS and ML carried out field work.

738 EVC generated and analysed the data with the help of SS. EVC wrote the manuscript, and all co-authors

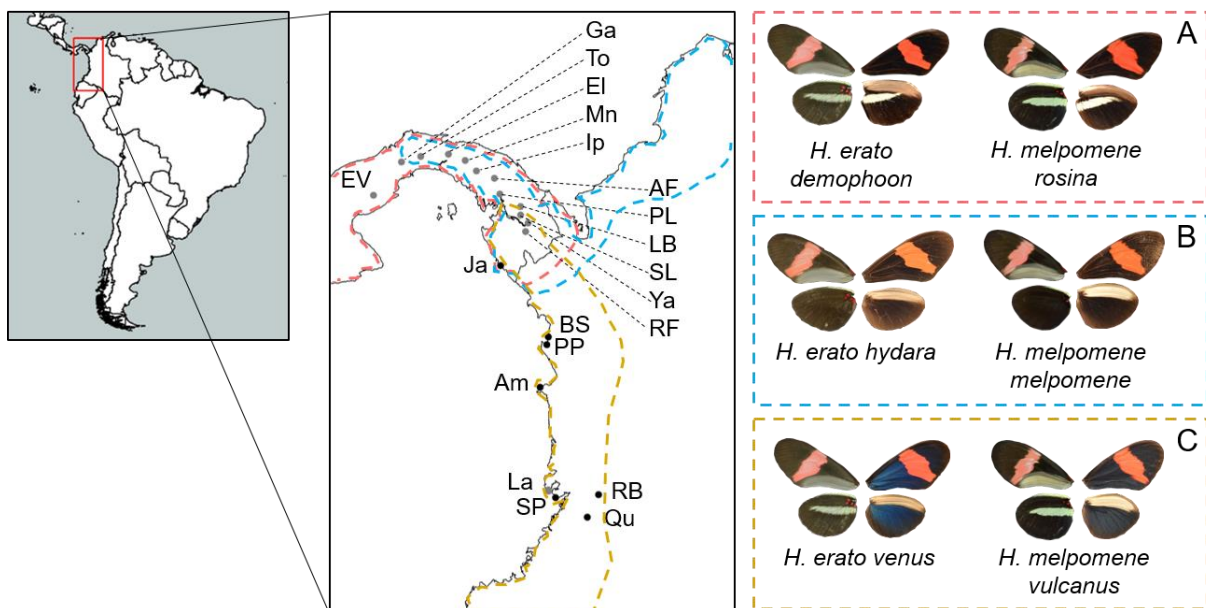
739 revised the manuscript.

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## 741 Figures and tables

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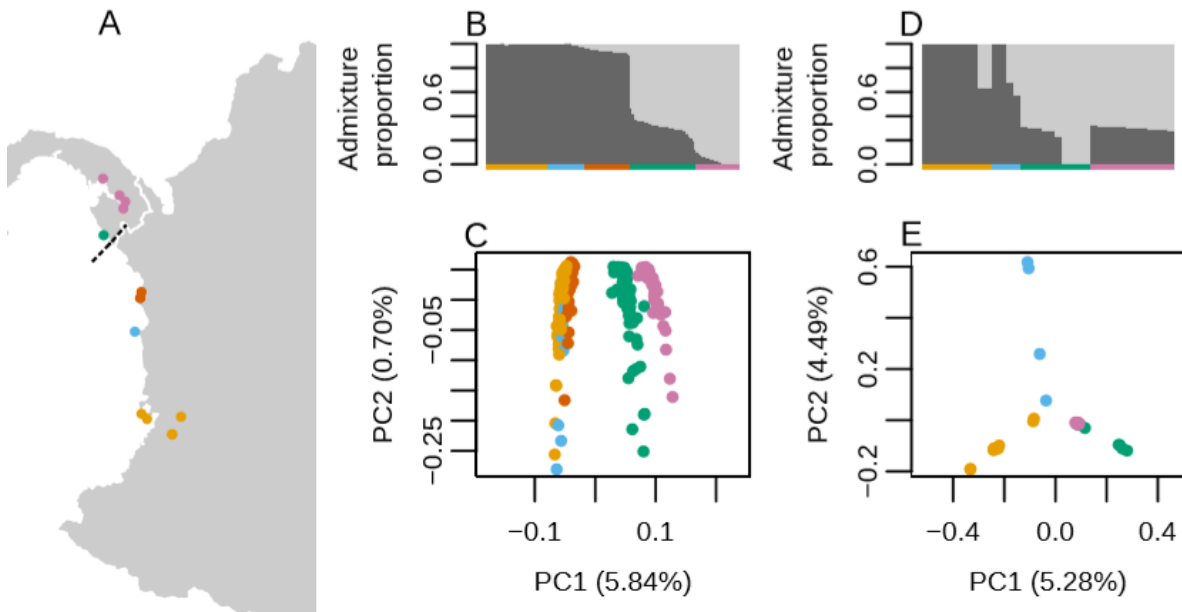


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745 **Figure 1** – Sampled populations in Colombia and Panama. Sites are labelled with abbreviations (further  
746 information about sites and collections are in Table S1). Photographs show the phenotypes of mimetic  
747 races of *H. erato* and *H. melpomene* from Central America (A), North Colombia (B), and Western  
748 Colombia (C). For each pictured phenotype, the wings on the left-hand side show the ventral wing  
749 pattern, and the wings on the right-hand side show the dorsal wing pattern. Approximate ranges for the  
750 mimetic race pairs are outlined with dashed lines (Rosser, Phillimore, Huertas, Willmott, & Mallet,  
751 2012). Populations that are included in the phenotypic analysis only are shown in grey, populations that  
752 are included in both the phenotypic and genetic analysis are shown in black.

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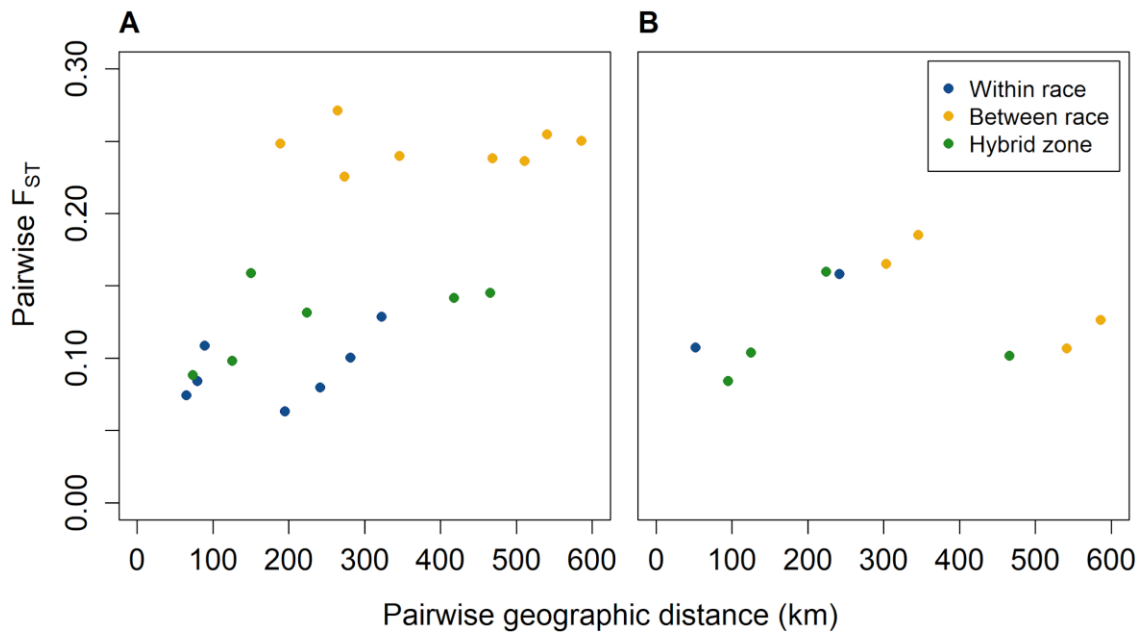
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756 **Figure 2** – Population structure across the hybrid zones in *H. erato* (**B,C**) and in *H. melpomene* (**D, E**).  
757 Sampling locations across the hybrid zone. Approximate centre of the iridescence cline in *H. erato*  
758 indicated by a dashed line. (**A**). Individual admixture proportions estimated using NGSadmix, with  $k = 2$   
759 (**B, D**). Each vertical bar represents an individual, bar colour represents the estimated proportion of  
760 ancestry derived from population 1 (dark grey) or population 2 (light grey). Horizontal bars indicate the  
761 population of origin, colours match those on the map. Principal components analysis (**C, E**). Colour of  
762 points indicate the population of origin, as shown on the map.

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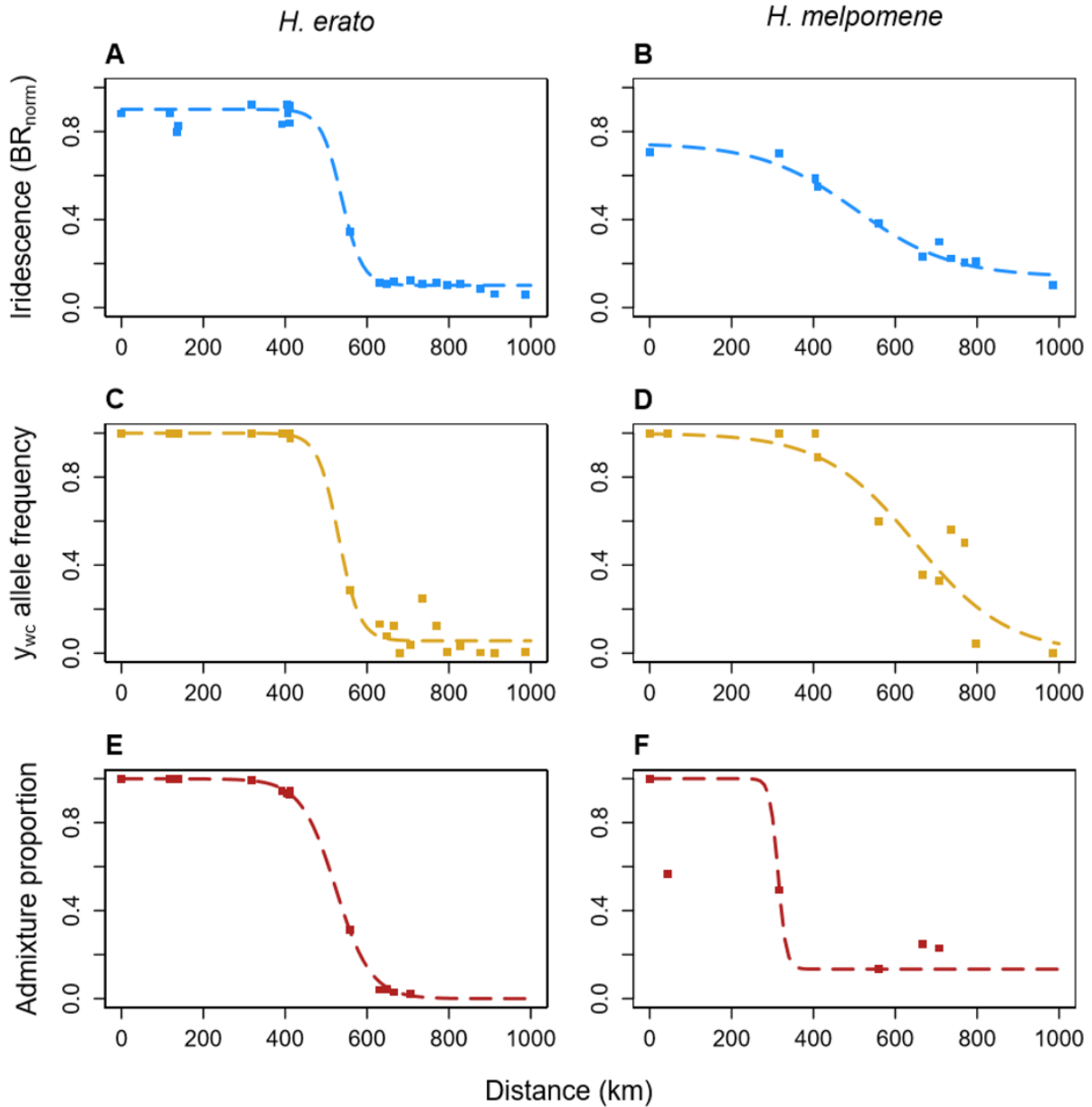
767 **Figure 3** – Relationship between geographic distance and genetic differentiation (genome-wide average  
768  $F_{ST}$ ) between sampling sites in *H. erato* (A) and *H. melpomene* (B). Pairwise comparisons are colour-  
769 coded to indicate comparisons between populations of the same colour pattern race (blue), between  
770 populations of different colour pattern races (yellow), and comparisons where one population is from the  
771 hybrid zone centre (green).

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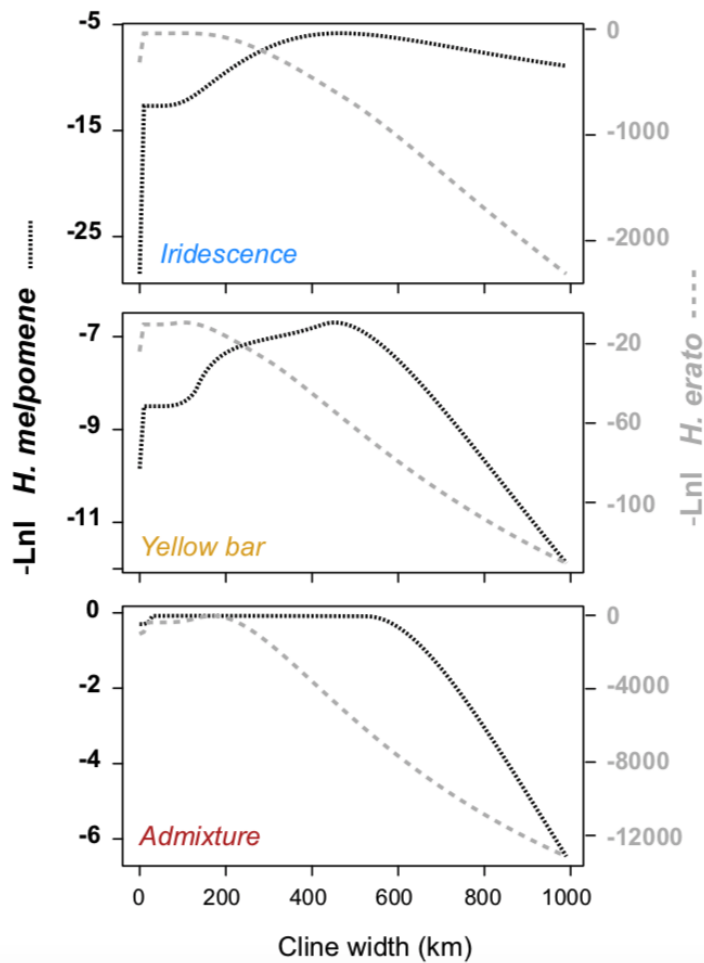
777 **Figure 4** – The best fitting geographic clines (dashed lines) of iridescence (**A, B**; blue), the West Colombian  
778 yellow bar allele frequency ( $y_{wc}$ ; **C, D**; yellow), and admixture proportions (**E, F**; red), across a transect of  
779 sampling sites (points) for *Heliconius melpomene* (**A, C, E**) and *Heliconius erato* (**B, D, F**). The transect  
780 begins (at 0 km) in the Queremal (Qu) locality, in the Cauca Valley region of Colombia.

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786 **Figure 5** – Likelihood profiles for the cline width for mean iridescence, frequency of yellow bar and  
787 mean admixture score for *H. melpomene* (narrow dashed line) and *H. erato* wide dashed line. Profiles  
788 were constructed using a step size of 10 km with all of the model parameters free to vary.

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**Table 1** – Cline parameter estimates for variation in iridescence,  $y_{wc}$  allele frequency, and admixture proportion across transects for *H. erato* and *H. melpomene*, which begin at the Queremal (Qu) locality. ML estimates for sigmoid models (Sig), symmetrical stepped models (Sstep), and asymmetrical stepped models (Astep) were estimated for each trait. If a model is a significantly better fit as determined by a likelihood ratio test (details in Table S6) it is denoted with \*. Parameters are log-likelihood (LnL) cline centre ( $c$ ), width ( $w$ ), barrier strength for either side of stepped models ( $B_0/w$ ,  $B_1/w$ ), the rate of exponential decay for either tail ( $\theta_0$ ,  $\theta_1$ ).

Species	Trait	Model	LnL	Centre (km)	Width (km)	pmin	pmax	$B_0/w$	$\theta_0$	$B_1/w$	$\theta_1$
<i>Heliconius erato</i>	Iridescence	Sig	-38.62	537.38 (534.97-539.92)	101.66 (89.66-113.50)	0.101 (0.096-0.106)	0.901 (0.889-0.914)	--	--	--	--
		Sstep	-34.12	549.48 (508.87-562.98)	46.11 (38.78-74.86)	0.084 (0.020-0.092)	0.917 (0.888-0.913)	63.63 (37.24-80.76)	0.012 (0.0003-0.9998)	--	--
		Astep*	-27.34	546.38 (547.28-550.91)	78.62 (69.46-90.07)	0.089 (0.021-0.0903)	0.90 (0.089-0.92)	40.63 (38.69-56.57)	0.005 (0.002-0.006)	9.56E+09 (2E+06 – 1E+10)	0.73 (0.001-0.999)
	$y_{wc}$	Sig	-9.29	530.53 (515.48-543.70)	102.87 (70.90-145.19)	0.056 (0.013-0.088)	1.000 (0.989-1.00)	--	--	--	--
		Sstep	-9.83	530.53 (510.32-543.20)	102.81 (66.99-167.62)	0.056 (0.011-0.087)	0.999 (0.989-1.000)	7.44E+09 (195247-1E+10)	0.35 (0.00-0.99)	--	--
		Astep	-6.59	536.09 (523.98-547.17)	98.19 (70.48-145.52)	1.00E-04 (0.000-0.087)	1.00 (0.989-1.000)	8.41 (4.17-13.34)	0.075 (0.052-0.144)	6.86E+09 (3886-1E+10)	0.51 (0.000-0.991)
	Admixture proportion	Sig	-25.83	523.60 (521.26-525.76)	171.36 (167.33-175.56)	0.000017 (0.000015-0.010190)	0.9995 (0.996-0.9998)	--	--	--	--
		Sstep	-20.53	524.28	165.84	0.000012	0.99	1.01	0.98	--	--

<i>Heliconius melpomene</i>	Iridescence	Astep*	-13.63	(520.34-527.59) 536.79 (522.65-537.43)	(163.23-169.74) 101.30 (97.54-110.43)	(0.00001-0.00078) 0.021 (0.018-0.023)	(0.996-1.000) 0.99 (0.9997-1.000)	(0.83-1.54) 4144656896 (6775875-778645878)	(0.932-0.999) 0.11 (0.003-0.999)	1.88  (0.994-37.975)	0.37  (0.00-0.873)	
		Sig	-5.82	504.27 (474.68-532.89)	466.31 (380.85-567.89)	0.14 (0.12-0.17)	0.75 (0.70-0.79)	--	--	--	--	
		Sstep	-3.62	553.87 (468.98-557.76)	145.565 (126.873-172.654)	0.0001 (0.00001-0.0118)	0.82 (0.79-0.83)	2.10 (0.17-12.34)	0.021 (0.001-0.046)	--	--	--
		Astep	-3.40	572.18 (542.77-584.88)	454.48 (398.87-528.72)	0.0001 (0.00001-0.0087)	0.72 (0.70-0.73)	1.72 (1.23-17.35)	0.17 (0.000-0.65)	136571824 (943923-232068365)	0.89 (0.67-0.999)	
		Sig	-6.70	649.14 (597.78-666.74)	451.92 (378.88-513.53)	0.0001 (0.0001-0.14)	1.000 (0.999-1.000)	--	--	--	--	
	Admixture proportion	Sstep	-6.70	649.17 (587.88-668.80)	451.78 (382.81-498.02)	0.0001 (0.0001-0.14)	1.000 (0.999-1.000)	7857362432 (4730095-9998937088)	0.78 (0.29-0.998)	--	--	--
		Astep	-6.05	511.27 (505.82-527.64)	156.12 (135.76-190.54)	0.0001 (0.0001-0.14)	1.00 (0.999-1.000)	0.70 (0.12-0.999)	0.078 (0.001-0.64)	2958797824 (4729519 - 8986493729)	0.999 (0.000-0.999)	
		Sig	-0.062	313.45 (126.86-363.68)	39.30 (0.43-123.81)	0.13 (0.0001-0.17)	1.000 (0.900-1.000)	--	--	--	--	
		Sstep	-0.062	306.36 (150.64-313.85)	122.47 (0.37-152.64)	0.13 (0.0001-0.16)	1.000 (0.900-1.000)	7427586048 (1567365-9867457635)	0.32 (0.28-0.999)	--	--	--
		Astep	-0.062	311.74 (147.74-343.76)	59.34 (0.52-76.78)	0.13 (0.0001-0.16)	1.000 (0.900-1.000)	1764016384 (863863-8223565965)	0.79 (0.67-0.999)	8084597760 (878456-9864222189)	0.51 (0.000-0.97)	

**Table 2** – Likelihood ratio tests for coincidence (*c*) and concordance (*w*) of iridescence, yellow bar, and admixture proportion clines.  $\Delta$ ML is the test statistic, d.f. is degrees of freedom. The combination of clines being compared is noted under Trait(s).

Trait(s)	<i>c</i>			<i>w</i>		
	$\Delta$ ML	d.f.	<i>P</i>	$\Delta$ ML	d.f.	<i>P</i>
<i>H. erato</i>						
<b>iridescence, yellow bar</b>	0.75	1	0.39	0	1	1.00
<b>iridescence, admixture proportion</b>	11.22	1	< 0.001	16.85	1	< 0.001
<b>iridescence, yellow bar, admixture proportion</b>	11.93	2	0.003	20.47	2	< 0.001
<i>H. melpomene</i>						
<b>iridescence, yellow bar</b>	0.80	1	0.37	0.004	1	0.95
<b>iridescence, admixture proportion</b>	0.22	1	0.64	0.008	1	0.93
<b>iridescence, yellow bar, admixture proportion</b>	1.02	2	0.60	0.01	2	0.99
Both species						
<b>iridescence</b>	0.62	1	0.43	6.42	1	0.01
<b>yellow bar</b>	0.59	1	0.44	1.70	1	0.19
<b>admixture proportion</b>	0.22	1	0.64	0	1	1.00