1 Gene flow between two thick-billed grasswren subspecies with low dispersal creates a
2 genomic pattern of isolation-by-distance

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12 *Introgression between grasswren subspecies*

13 Characterising gene flow facilitates conservation management. This study used genomic
 14 markers to measure gene flow between thick-billed grasswren subspecies and found results
 15 that support taxonomic identification of the two subspecies and suggests grasswrens have low
 16 dispersal and may benefit from increased genetic diversity. Recognition of models of
 17 divergence with gene flow will be necessary for future conservation management.

18 **Abstract**

19 *Context*

20 In the era of the Anthropocene, habitat loss and environmental change threaten the
21 persistence of many species. Genotyping-By-Sequencing (GBS) is a useful molecular tool for
22 understanding how patterns of gene flow are associated with contemporary habitat
23 distributions that may be affected by environmental change. Two parapatric subspecies of the
24 threatened thick-billed grasswren (TBGW; *Amytornis modestus*) more frequently occur in
25 different plant communities. As such, a preference for plant community type could reduce
26 subspecific introgression and increase genetic diversity at the parapatric boundary.

27 *Aims*

28 We aimed to measure gene flow within and among two TBGW subspecies and tested
29 whether divergent genomic markers were associated with plant community type.

30 *Methods*

31 We sequenced 118 individuals from either of the two TBGW subspecies or in the region of
32 parapatry and identified 7583 SNPs through ddRADseq.

33 *Key results*

34 We found evidence of asymmetric gene flow and a genomic pattern of isolation-by-distance.
35 There were sixteen genomic outliers correlated with plant community type (regardless of
36 location).

37 *Conclusions*

38 These findings show that plant community type does not prevent introgression in one
39 subspecies (*A. m. raglessi*), but low dispersal and habitat heterogeneity could contribute to
40 the maintenance of distinct subspecific morphotypes. Local adaptation in different plant
41 community types could also provide a mechanism for future divergence.

42 *Implications*

43 We suggest subspecific introgression could increase genetic variation and the adaptive
44 potential of the species, facilitating species persistence under conditions of climate change.

45

46 **Keywords:** genotype by sequencing, dispersal, Maluridae, *Amytornis*, isolation-by-distance,
47 introgression

48 Introduction

49 Habitat loss is the leading cause of reduced species persistence and species extinction
50 (Bradshaw 2012; Newbold *et al.* 2015; Allan *et al.* 2019; Thompson *et al.* 2019).

51 Within Australia, habitat loss has been anthropogenically driven by a multitude of
52 processes that has changed the landscape notably since the late 18th century. These
53 processes include the introduction of invasive species, anthropogenic dispersal of
54 non-local species, redirection/removal of natural water courses, and changes in soil
55 properties due to agricultural practices (Kingsford 2000; Woinarski *et al.* 2015;
56 Jellinek *et al.* 2020; Mallen-Cooper and Zampatti 2020). An alarming proportion of
57 extant species are threatened by habitat loss, and, consequently, have reduced
58 population sizes and limited genetic variation on which selection can act (Saccheri *et*
59 *al.* 1998; Amos *et al.* 2012). Molecular tools are important for conservation
60 management practices and species interventions, as they mediate threats to wildlife
61 and ensure long-term success of intervention programs (Elshire *et al.* 2011; Steiner *et*
62 *al.* 2013; Flockhart *et al.* 2015; Deiner *et al.* 2017; Forseth *et al.* 2017). Population
63 genetics can identify populations that may be in greater need of intervention or better
64 suited for conservation management (Dudgeon *et al.* 2012; Paparella *et al.* 2015;
65 Whiteley *et al.* 2015; Willoughby *et al.* 2015; Rosauer *et al.* 2018; Mynhardt *et al.*
66 2020; Rossetto *et al.* 2021). Understanding how species respond to habitat changes is
67 relevant for mitigating future threats, especially where further habitat change is
68 predicted to occur.

69 Populations may be more likely to cope with climate change if they are able to expand
70 their range and move into novel habitats (Hoffman and Blows 1994). There are
71 several evolutionary dynamics that determine whether a species can expand their
72 range or not. These include how much genetic variation there is at the population
73 margin, the strength of genetic swamping of genotypes from central to marginal
74 individuals, and the heritability of adaptive traits at the population margin (Jenkins
75 and Hoffman 1999; Davis *et al.* 2013; Moerman *et al.* 2020). Local adaptation into
76 novel environments at the species boundary is one factor that promotes range-
77 expansions, as observed in the European damselfly (*Ischnura elegans*) (Dudaniec *et*
78 *al.* 2018). Gene flow can erode local adaption that may favour range expansion, but –
79 if the population is large enough – gene flow could also facilitate local adaptation by

80 enhancing genetic variation (Kirkpatrick and Barton 1997; Case and Taper 2000). At
81 the leading margin of the European lizard (*Zootoca vivipara lousilantzi*), low gene
82 flow has facilitated a range expansion but low genetic diversity throughout the
83 population could also mean this lizard is susceptible to decline in the face of future
84 climate change (Dupoué *et al.* 2020). When range-shifts involve secondary contact
85 between divergent taxa, species persistence could also be affected due to loss of
86 locally adaptive traits, hybrid swarms or interspecific competition (Case and Taper
87 2000; Sanchez-Guillen *et al.* 2016). Conservation of threatened species under future
88 ecological scenarios will depend on the ability to predict range shifts, and an
89 understanding of the genomics of hybridisation and introgression.

90 Associations between populations and their habitat develop through ecological
91 opportunity (Wellborn and Langerhans 2015). For example, morphotypes that give a
92 population an advantage in their particular habitat type are likely to be retained
93 (Aiello *et al.* 2021; Grismer 2021). The strength of an ecological association will be
94 influenced by the amount of gene flow occurring between populations with different
95 ecological associations, which in turn is dependent on ease of dispersal across the
96 landscape. Individuals are more likely to disperse to habitats that are similar to their
97 habitat of origin. This is because individuals that are locally adapted will have lower
98 fitness outside their original habitat type (Fedorka *et al.* 2012; Berner and Thibert-
99 Plante 2015). Therefore, populations occurring in linear, unfragmented landscape
100 arrangements, such as habitat gradients, could have reduced gene flow and in turn
101 stronger ecological associations (e.g. Cicero 2004). Populations that occur in
102 landscapes with more diverse patterns of habitat distribution, such as patchy and
103 heterogeneous landscapes, could have greater gene flow because individuals need to
104 disperse greater distances to reach particular habitat types and could therefore choose
105 to remain in an alternate habitat type (Lenormand 2002; Harrisson *et al.* 2012;
106 Forester *et al.* 2016). It may be less likely for associations between populations and
107 their habitat to occur in a heterogeneous landscape because gene flow will reduce the
108 frequency of locally selected alleles. More case studies are needed to complement a
109 growing body of theoretical modelling, to inform our understanding of the occurrence
110 of ecological associations and the magnitude of gene flow across different landscape
111 scenarios, ultimately with a view to better manage extant populations.

112 The endangered thick-billed grasswren (*Amytornis modestus*, TBGW) is an arid-zone
 113 species of the Maluridae family. We adopt the nomenclature of (Black 2011; 2016)
 114 which describes seven subspecies of TBGW. There are two extinct and five extant
 115 subspecies occurring in parts of the Northern Territory, South Australia and New
 116 South Wales (Black *et al.* 2011; Black and Gower 2017). This taxonomy is a widely
 117 accepted (Skroblin and Murphy 2013; Gill and Donsker 2017) however competing
 118 taxonomic assignments have been proposed (Christidis *et al.* 2013; Norman and
 119 Christidis 2016). Studies show that *A. m. indulkanna* and *A. m. raglessi* are distinct
 120 based on morphology and mitochondrial sequences (Austin *et al.* 2013). These
 121 subspecies share a region of parapatry between the salt lakes, Lake Eyre and Lake
 122 Torrens that likely formed due to secondary contact and a possible range expansion
 123 (Slender *et al.* 2017). Outside the region of parapatry, the habitat that each subspecies
 124 occupies is characterized by a different and distinct plant community (Slender *et al.*
 125 2018a). Within the region of parapatry, there is a third ‘sandy’ habitat type where
 126 grasswrens were rarely present (Slender *et al.* 2018a). The Central Australian arid
 127 zone is known for its heterogeneous distribution of different plant types (Slatyer 1961;
 128 Williams 1982; Brandle 1998). This feature, along with the habitat changes associated
 129 with grazing in the arid zone (Jessop 1995; Navarro *et al.* 2006; Facelli and Springbett
 130 2009), is likely to impact gene flow between populations associated with particular
 131 plant communities. In general, the arid zone is predicted to experience greater
 132 temperature extremes, less precipitation, and more extreme weather events in the
 133 future (Pickup 1998; Lioubimtseva 2004; Lindenmayer and Burgman 2005; Vaghefi
 134 *et al.* 2019). Adaptability through greater genetic diversity will be critical for the
 135 persistence of the two parapatric TBGW subspecies.

136 In this study, we aimed to measure gene flow within and among two TBGW
 137 subspecies that have been observed in different plant communities (*A. m. indulkanna*
 138 in plant community A, dominated by *Maireana aphylla* [cotton saltbush], and *A. m.*
 139 *raglessi* in plant community B, dominated by *M. astrotricha* [low bluebush] and *M.*
 140 *pyramidata* [blackbush]) (Slender *et al.* 2018a). The two subspecies may overlap in an
 141 area where a third plant community (plant community AB, dominated by *Zygochloa*
 142 *paradoxa* [sandhill canegrass]) occurs but which is not considered suitable foraging
 143 habitat for TBGW (Black *et al.* 2011; Slender *et al.* 2018a). This area, the parapatric
 144 margin, has been proposed as an area of secondary contact. We examine whether

145 strength of gene flow changes across the three regions that historically were likely to
146 have been demographically different and today contain different plant community
147 types. We test the idea that gene flow is contemporarily higher in the parapatric
148 margin.

149 **Materials and Methods**

150 *Samples*

151 We used DNA from all available TBGW samples which included a combination of
152 104 contemporary samples and 14 museum samples (Table S1; supplemental
153 material). Contemporary samples were collected in the field by mist-netting birds
154 during the breeding seasons from 2012 to 2015. For further details on the study
155 species and contemporary sample collection methods see Slender *et al.* (2017).
156 Museum samples were collected from two time periods; four museum samples were
157 from 1985 (*A. m. raglessi*) and the remainder were from 2007 to 2009 (*A. m. raglessi*
158 [$n = 2$] and *A. m. indulkanna* [$n = 8$]) (Austin *et al.* 2013). Samples were organized
159 into three geographically associated zones described in Slender *et al.* (2017) in order
160 to compare genetic diversity and gene flow between the subspecies centre's and their
161 parapatric margin (Figure 1). Zone AB describes the subspecies parapatric margin;
162 zone A describes the geographic centre of *A. m. indulkanna* and occurs to the west of
163 zone AB and zone B describes the geographic centre of *A. m. raglessi* and occurs to
164 the east of zone AB. TBGWs in zone A were predominantly found in habitat
165 containing *Maireana aphylla* (cotton bush) and *Atriplex nummularia omissa*
166 (Oodnadatta saltbush) (Black *et al.* 2011; Slender *et al.* 2018a). While TBGWs in zone
167 B were predominantly found in habitat with *M. astrotricha* (low bluebush) and *M.*
168 *pyramidata* (blackbush) (Black *et al.* 2011; Slender *et al.* 2018a). Zone AB contains
169 shrubs typical of TBGW habitat such as *M. astrotricha* (low bluebush) and *A.*
170 *vesicaria* (bladder saltbush), but this was heterogeneously distributed among stands of
171 *Zygochloa paradoxa* (sandhill canegrass). The boundary between zone A and zone
172 AB has been extended compared to Slender *et al.* (2017) so that two museum samples
173 (SAMA B55668 and SAMA B55667) that were formerly included in zone A, now fall
174 within zone AB. This is because the landscape in this area was more like the habitat
175 of zone AB (Slender *et al.* 2018a).

176 *DNA extraction*

177 Genomic DNA was extracted from tissue and blood in salt solution using a DNeasy
178 Blood and Tissue kit (QIAGEN Pty Ltd, VIC, Australia) or a Gentra Puregene Blood
179 Kit (QIAGEN Pty Ltd, VIC, Australia). Genomic DNA was extracted from FTA
180 samples following Smith and Burgoyne (2004). DNA extractions were carried out in a
181 separate PCR free laboratory in order to minimise DNA contamination. DNA quantity
182 was measured using the Qubit fluorometer (ThermoFisher Scientific Australia Pty
183 Ltd, VIC, Australia). DNA extractions were quality tested using UV-
184 spectrophotometry and agarose gel electrophoresis. Samples were assessed as good
185 quality when they showed 1) a large un-degraded band on an agarose gel and 2) a
186 260/280 ratio between 1.8 and 2.0 indicating minimal protein and chemical
187 contamination.

188 *Library construction and sequencing*

189 Genotyping-by-sequencing libraries were generated following the protocol in Poland
190 *et al.* (2012). DNA samples (200 ng) were digested with 8 U of PstI and MspI at 37°C
191 for 2 hrs. Each sample was prepared for multiplexing by ligating a pair of adapters
192 containing a unique barcode to the DNA fragments. We used 96 unique barcodes
193 where the barcodes ranged from 4 to 9 bp (Elshire *et al.* 2011) to create two pooled
194 libraries. One barcode in each library was assigned as a negative control and seven
195 barcodes in each library were used to duplicate samples within (6 samples) and across
196 (1 sample) libraries. Barcodes were randomly allocated to samples from different
197 geographic locations so that we would detect errors caused by mismatched barcodes
198 that can be made during library preparation or subsequent demultiplexing. We used an
199 adapter mix to DNA ratio of 1:50 ng as this concentration produced libraries with
200 reduced adapter dimer (Elshire *et al.* 2011). Libraries were then amplified using PCR
201 with the following standard Illumina primers: P5 (5'-
202 AATGATACGCGACCGAGATCTACAC-3') and P7 (5'-
203 CAAGCAGAAGACGGCATACGAGAT-3'). Sequencing was performed on an
204 Illumina next-seq sequencer that produced single end-reads of 62 bp after adapter
205 trimming. Sequencing data was quality checked using FastQC v10.1
206 (<http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/>).

207 *SNP calling and filtering*

208 Read filtering and SNP calling was performed using STACKS v1.44 (Catchen *et al.*
209 2013). Samples were demultiplexed using the *process_radtags* program and reads
210 from sample replicates were merged into one sample (after preliminary SNP calling
211 with separated duplicates was used to determine error rates). Reads were identified if
212 the adapter barcode (with a maximum of 2 mismatches) and the unique barcode (with
213 a maximum of 1 mismatch) were present. Putative alleles were identified from a stack
214 assembly created with the *ustacks* program that was instructed to include loci with a
215 minimum depth of coverage of 5 reads, maximum distance of 2 nucleotides, and
216 maximum number of 50 stacks per locus. The *cstacks* program was used to create a
217 catalog for identifying loci with a maximum of 2 mismatches between putative
218 alleles. SNPs were determined by comparing the output of *ustacks* with the output of
219 *cstacks* using the *sstacks* program. Relaxing the error tolerance rate improves the
220 likelihood of detecting heterozygous calls (Hohenlohe *et al.* 2010; Lu *et al.* 2013). We
221 used a bounded model for detecting SNPs with the lower error limit of 0.0001 and an
222 upper error limit of 0.05. Minor alleles with low frequency cause problems in
223 population genetic analyses because they can represent sequencing error and they are
224 not informative population markers (Gonçalves da Silva *et al.* 2015). We removed
225 loci (1) that were missing calls in more than 80% of all individuals, or (2) if the minor
226 allele frequency was < 0.05 . An individual was considered heterozygous at a locus if
227 there was a proportion of < 0.75 reads per allele. We checked that the dyadic
228 likelihood of relatedness did not exceed 0.4 between any individual within zone A and
229 zone AB or zone B and zone AB using the program COANCESTRY v1.0.1.2 (Wang
230 2011). A related individual of a pair or group of related individuals was excluded if
231 they were related to more individuals and if they had more missing data.

232 The output from STACKS consisted of 16,569 loci that we applied additional filtering
233 steps to with a custom script implemented in R STUDIO v1.0.136 (R Core
234 Development Team 2008). Loci were removed if they appeared in the negative
235 control and were observed in less than 85% of samples. We used a Principal
236 Component Analysis (PCA) in the R package *adeigenet* v2.0.1 (Jombart 2008) to
237 explore preliminary population structure. The putative clusters without admixed
238 individuals were each analysed for loci out of Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium (HWE) in

the R package *pegas* v0.9 (Paradis 2010). We removed loci from further analysis that did not conform to HWE in (1) both putative clusters or (2) one putative cluster when a SNP was only present in one cluster. We identified linked loci in each putative cluster excluding potentially admixed individuals, using PLINK v1.07 (Purcell *et al.* 2007). We removed loci from further analysis that were highly correlated ($r^2 > 0.1$) and had a p-value < 0.01 in (1) both putative clusters or (2) one putative cluster when a SNP was only present in one cluster. Within a linkage pair, we removed the locus with the most linkage pairs. When both loci had even numbers of linkage pairs, we removed the locus with the most missing data.

248 *Differences between putative genetic clusters*

F_{ST} outlier loci between putatively non-admixed individuals in zone A and zone B were identified using two programs. We ran BAYESCAN v2.1 (Foll and Gaggiotti 2008) with default settings after data format conversion with PGDSPIDER v2.1.1.0 (Lischer and Excoffier 2012) and the R package *OutFLANK* v0.1 (Whitlock and Lotterhos 2015). F_{ST} outlier loci were defined as having a q -value and corresponding false discovery rate of < 0.1 . Using a consensus list of F_{ST} outlier loci from both analyses, the dataset was separated into three versions, one with neutral loci (n-SNP), one with only outliers putatively under selection (o-SNP), and a third with both neutral and outlier loci (n+o-SNP). The closest known species relative with an available whole genome sequence is the zebra finch (*Taeniopygia guttata*) (Warren *et al.* 2010). We performed a discontinuous megablast search that looked for sequence similarities between TBGW o-SNPs and the zebra finch GenBank and refseq assemblies using the blastn and blastx functions respectively with an evaluate threshold of $1e-6$.

To further understand the distribution of shared and distinct genetic variation, we performed an Analysis of Molecular Variance (AMOVA) and calculated the significance of pairwise F_{ST} between zones using GENODIVE v2.0b27 (Meirmans and Van Tienderen 2004) with 10,000 permutations. We tested differences between genetic clusters in three separate analyses; one where the region of parapatry was merged with zone A, one where the region of parapatry was merged with zone B and the last where zone AB was excluded. We repeated these analyses with the n-SNP dataset and n+o-SNP dataset. Expected heterozygosity (H_e) is a measure of genomic

271 diversity when the dataset consists of SNPs (Fischer *et al.* 2017). H_e was calculated
272 for each zone separately using the n+o-SNP dataset.

273 *Isolation-By-Distance*

274 We tested for Isolation-By-Distance (IBD) among eleven sampling localities by
275 calculating geographic and genetic distance matrices that excluded the locality MTB
276 (zone A) as it contained only one individual (Figure 1). The Euclidean distance
277 between localities (km) was first calculated in GENALEX v6.5 (Peakall and Smouse
278 2006; Peakall and Smouse 2012). Any paths between localities that passed through
279 Lake Eyre or Lake Torrens (e.g., MUL and WIT) were corrected so that it did not
280 pass through the salt lake. This was done by calculating the Euclidean distance from
281 the first sampling location to a point in the middle of the space between Lake Eyre
282 and Lake Torrens and then calculating the Euclidean distance between that point and
283 the second sampling location and adding the distances together. All geographic
284 distances between sampling localities were then log transformed to account for
285 individuals moving in two dimensions. We calculated a pairwise F_{ST} genetic distance
286 matrix with n-SNPs using GENODIVE (Meirmans 2020) and also transformed the
287 genetic data ($F_{ST}/1 - F_{ST}$) (Nei 1977). Tests for IBD are easily biased by hierarchical
288 population structure where allele frequencies are sharply divided geographically
289 (Meirmans 2012) as well as uneven sample sizes and the spatial patterns between
290 sampling localities (Balkenhol *et al.* 2009; Guillot and Rousset 2013; Kierepka and
291 Latch 2015). We therefore performed a series of tests for IBD using three different
292 methods; (1) Mantel and partial Mantel tests, (2) Decomposed Pairwise Regression
293 (DPR), and (3) spatial autocorrelation. To test for limitations in gene flow that might
294 prevent genetic swamping at marginal locations we performed two Mantel tests: (1)
295 across locations within zone A (*A. m. indulkanna*) and zone AB, and (2) across
296 locations within zone B (*A. m. raglessi*) and zone AB. We included zone AB in an
297 analysis with either zone because this area appears to be the population margin for
298 both subspecies (the region of parapatry) (Slender *et al.* 2017). We then performed a
299 partial Mantel test across all zones to test for gene flow among subspecies while
300 accounting for potential population structure across these regions. We used a binary
301 matrix that compared zone B versus zone AB and A combined or zone A versus zone
302 AB and B combined. We used GENODIVE (Meirmans 2020) to perform mantel and

partial mantel tests with 1000 permutations. DPR is useful for detecting outlier populations that may be associated with weak geographic barriers such as heterogeneous landscapes (Koizumi *et al.* 2006). We performed a DPR using the R package *DPR* v1.0 (Reynolds 2011).

Finally, we used spatial autocorrelation (Smouse and Peakall 1999) in GenAlEx v6.5 to further evaluate spatial structure in the genetic data at an individual level. A pairwise matrix with Roussets's *a* genetic distance (Rousset 1997; Rousset 2000) between all individuals with the n-SNP dataset was calculated using SPAGeDi v1.4b (Hardy and Vekemans 2002). Geographic distances between individuals were calculated in GenAlEx using the same method to create the geographic distance matrix for the mantel tests. Distance classes were sufficiently small enough to evaluate any non-linear correlations with the autocorrelation coefficient (r) where the sample size within each distance class was relatively even. We looked for the presence of IBD within each distance class as well as the detectability of IBD across multiple distance classes (Diniz-Filho and Pires de Campos Telles 2002). Significance was assessed for both tests using 95% confidence intervals for the null hypothesis of no spatial structure using 999 random permutations, and for estimates of r by bootstrapping 999 pairwise comparisons for each distance class.

Gene flow

We investigated population structure and admixture using the n-SNP dataset with two methods: (1) Discriminant Analysis of Principal Components (DAPC) (Jombart *et al.* 2010) implemented in the R package *adegenet* v2.0.1 (Jombart 2008), which assigns individuals to genetic clusters following a PCA while accounting for within-population variation; and (2) Bayesian clustering with the program STRUCTURE v2.3.4 (Pritchard *et al.* 2000; Falush *et al.* 2003) that determines genetic clustering based on HWE. All methods are useful for detecting admixed individuals. For the DAPC, we retained one principal component, as this returned the optimum *a*-score, which is the difference between the proportion of successfully reassigned individuals compared to the number of principal components retained. The optimum number for K was inferred from the retained principal component by identifying K where the Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC) produced an elbow in the curve of BIC values as a function of K . Admixture was inferred if the proportion of population assignment

was <0.9 or >0.1 in any individual. For the STRUCTURE analysis, three replicate runs for each K were analysed (as Standard Deviation of $\text{LnP}(K)$ was small) using default settings, unless stated. We used the admixture model with correlated allele frequencies and an MCMC chain of 1,000,000 iterations with a burnin of 10,000 iterations to test K between 1 and 5. To estimate the probability of mixed ancestry for each individual, the option ANCESTDIST was used. Admixture was inferred if the confidence intervals of the individual population assignment did not include 1 or 0 in all three replicate runs. STRUCTURE HARVESTER (Earl and vonHoldt 2011) was used to estimate the best fitting value for K . When the highest $\text{LnP}(K)$ was not $K = 1$, then the most likely K was determined using Delta K (Evanno *et al.* 2005). Cluster assignments were merged in CLUMPP v1.1.2 (Jakobsson and Rosenberg 2007) and results were visualized with DISTRUCT v1.1 (Rosenberg 2004). Population assignments of individuals were compared to their mtDNA haplotype (Slender *et al.* 2017). Further hierarchical population structure was investigated by repeating the analysis on individual populations detected in the initial run (Evanno *et al.* 2005).

Selection

Previous comparisons of habitat within the three zones identified three predominant plant communities represented by three principal components (Slender *et al.* 2018a). We used Latent Factor Mixed Models (LFMMs) (Frichot *et al.* 2013) to test for associations between genotype (n+o-SNPs) and the environmental variables defined by the principal components. The LFMM test was performed in the R package *lfmm* v0.0.

Migration

We tested the proportion of migrants between the three zones with a reduced dataset of 200 loci in BAYESASS v3.0.4 (Wilson and Rannala 2003). We performed a PCA with all individuals in the n-SNP dataset with the R package *adeigenet* v2.0.1 (Jombart 2008) and selected loci for use that had the highest loading in the PCA. Three independent MCMC runs were performed with 1,000,000 iterations and a burn-in of 10,000 iterations. The alpha (allele frequency) and delta (inbreeding coefficient) values were adjusted to 0.6 and 0.4 respectively so that the acceptance rates were between 20% and 60%. Iterations were sampled every 100 intervals to determine the

posterior distribution of the parameters. Convergence of the MCMC run was assessed by inspecting the trace file in the program TRACER v1.6.0 (Rambaut *et al.* 2015).

Results

DNA extraction and sequencing statistics

We used samples from across three zones: zone A ($n = 44$), zone B ($n = 61$), and zone AB ($n = 13$) to assess gene flow between the two parapatric TBGW subspecies. Following DNA extractions, samples stored on FTA® cards produced considerably lower quantities of DNA (<500 ng) compared to blood stored in salt solution ($>1,000$ ng). Following illumina sequencing, the average number of reads per sample (before filtering) was 2,539,005 with a coefficient of variation of 24.6%. The average between run reproducibility, calculated by determining when the genotype was the same in duplicates on different plates, was 95.7% ($n = 12,192$ loci, excluding missing genotypes). The average within run reproducibility, calculated by determining when the genotype was the same in duplicates on the same plate, was 90.5% ($n = 146,304$ loci, excluding missing genotypes). The average genotyping error rate, calculated from the number of allelic mismatches across duplicates, was 0.31% ($n = 316,992$ loci). There were no individuals that exceeded $> 30\%$ missing data; overall the dataset contained 5.56% missing data. Following SNP calling in STACKS, we removed 5 loci that appeared in the negative control and 2929 loci that had low coverage across samples. An initial PCA showed two putative genetic clusters with individuals from zone A forming one cluster, individuals from zone B forming the second cluster and 19 potentially admixed individuals from zone AB and zone B (Figure S1). We observed similar amounts of missing data between the clusters, excluding potentially admixed individuals (cluster 1 [zone A]: 6.41%, cluster 2 [zone B]: 6.58%). We removed a further 625 loci from further analysis that did not conform to HWE and 5428 loci that could potentially introduce linkage disequilibrium.

Subspecies variation

The proportion of heterozygous SNPs per sample varied from 0.234 in a sample from zone A to 0.301 in samples from both zone A and zone B. Mean $\pm$ SE estimates of heterozygosity (H_e) were slightly higher for zone A and zone B compared to zone AB (zone A = 0.303 ± 0.002 , zone B = 0.304 ± 0.001 ; zone AB = 0.288 ± 0.002). The

number of private alleles within zone B was greater ($n = 16$) than for either zone A ($n = 1$) or zone AB ($n = 0$). We identified 39 loci as potential F_{ST} outliers under selection which left 7543 loci that were treated as neutral loci not under selection. Therefore, the dataset o-SNP contained 39 loci and the dataset n-SNP contained 7543 loci. Of the 39 outlier loci, nine loci were monomorphic in zone A; three loci were monomorphic in zone B and four were monomorphic in zone AB. Of the four monomorphic loci in zone AB, three were shared with the monomorphic outliers of zone A and one was shared with the monomorphic outliers of zone B. Four outliers had hits to nucleotide sequences from the zebra finch GenBank assembly (Table S2) but there were no matches to protein sequences from the refseq assembly. These blast hits did not reveal why there could be associations between outlier loci and plant community type.

Zone B had slightly more polymorphic loci in the n-SNP dataset (99.9%) compared to zone A (99.2%). Using the n-SNP dataset, the proportion of total genetic variance was shared among individuals and populations similarly when the region of parapatry (zone AB) was combined with either zone A or zone B, or even when it was excluded (Table 1). The proportion of variance in the case of n-SNP was greater among individuals (mean 0.080%, $p < 0.001$) than among populations (mean 0.008%, $p < 0.001$; (Table 1). Using the n+o-SNP dataset, the proportion of total genetic variance explained by population was greater than that explained among individuals for all three tests (A+AB v B, B+AB v A, A v B). This difference was greatest when zone AB was excluded. When zone AB was not excluded the difference was greater when combined with zone B (among individuals = 0.185%, $p < 0.001$; among individuals = 0.094%, $p < 0.001$). Using the n-SNP dataset, there was no difference in pairwise estimates of F_{ST} when the region of parapatry was combined with either zone A or zone B (Table 2). The pairwise estimates of F_{ST} using n+o-SNP was higher when zone AB was combined with zone B (0.202, $p < 0.001$) compared to when zone AB was combined with zone A (0.165, $p < 0.001$; Table 2).

Isolation-By-Distance

IBD was detected in only one Mantel test that included localities from zone A and zone AB ($R^2 = 0.112$, $R_{xy} = 0.335$, $p = 0.029$) (Figure S2). There was no correlation between genetic and geographic distance across localities from zone B and zone AB ($R^2 = 0.012$, $R_{xy} = 0.110$, $p = 0.435$). However, this result may have been affected by

the small number of localities used in this test (Figure S2). Partial Mantel tests across all zones where zone AB was in the same cluster as A or B were significant (zone A+AB vs B; $R^2 = 0.317$, R_{xy} (spearman's r) = 0.514, $p = 0.001$ and zone B+AB vs A; $R_{xy} = 0.385$, $p = 0.015$) (Figure 2). The sample sizes for the spatial autocorrelation were skewed for the lowest distance class (0-20 kms) but for all other distance classes the sample size was on average ($\pm$ SD) 293 ± 132 . This analysis showed that at an individual level there was positive spatial autocorrelation for the first two distance classes (0-20 and 20-40 kms) (Figure 3). When plotting r as a function of increasing distance classes, the curve intercepted the x -axis at 123.6 kms (Figure 3). IBD was detectable from 0 - 60 km and between 80-100 and 140-160 km ($p < 0.01$). This suggests that spatial autocorrelation is linear up to 60 kms and non-linear at other intervals, which may indicate a pattern of low habitat connectivity. Initial results of the DPR analysis suggested that there were no populations that had greater divergence than what was expected based on distance alone. The model with the smallest AIC_C where R^2 was also the highest and where $\Delta AIC_C < 2$ was for 3 sub-populations (OOW, MTL, and MUR) to be potential outliers however this was not significant (Table 3). Regression of all sub-populations with all other sub-populations also suggested genetic drift and gene flow were in equilibrium and no population structure was present.

Gene flow

A PCA showed limited population structure between zone A and B along the first component (1.7% of variation) as there was no separation of individuals into clusters (Figure 4). Despite this, STRUCTURE identified two major genetic clusters (Table S3) corresponding to eastern and western populations. Two genetic clusters were also identified by the DAPC analysis albeit with weaker support (Figure S3). Using $K = 2$, results from both STRUCTURE and the DAPC were concordant in that both analyses showed that 1) zone AB contained the highest proportion of admixed individuals 2) there were greater proportions of admixture in individuals in zone AB than either zone A or zone B, and 3) there were greater proportions of admixture in individuals in zone B than in zone A (Figure 5). Comparison of the two methods showed there were discrepancies in the identity of admixed individuals as well as in the proportions of admixture. The DAPC method compromises the power for detecting admixture with

the assignment of individuals to populations, therefore we have limited the discussion of admixture below to the STRUCTURE results. In zone A, 2.3% of individuals were admixed and these individuals had a relatively low proportion of assignment probability from the eastern genetic cluster ($< 18\%$). In zone B, 18% of individuals were admixed and these individuals had low to high proportions of assignment probability from the western genetic cluster (18.7 – 52.0%). Two of the admixed individuals in zone B came from museum samples that were either collected in 1985 or 2007 and were from localities furthest from the region of parapatry (MUR and MTL). In zone AB, all individuals were admixed and had low to high levels of assignment probability from both the eastern (17.5 – 71.4%) and western genetic clusters (28.6 – 82.5%). To look at hierarchical substructure within the identified populations, individuals in zone B and then zone A were excluded from two separate STRUCTURE analyses. For zone A and zone AB, $K = 1$ was the most likely using mean $\text{LnP}(K)$ and for zone B and zone AB, $K = 3$ was most likely using Delta K (Figure S4). Two of smaller clusters from the zone B and zone AB analysis comprised of groups of individuals that were from the same or neighbouring territories and had slightly higher levels of relatedness. An earlier analysis with COANCESTRY showed that the Dyadic likelihood and the 95% confidence intervals for those groups were: $r = 0.28$ (0.26,0.30) – 0.30 (0.28,0.32) for three individuals in the first cluster and $r = 0.14$ (0.12,0.16) – 0.28 (0.25,0.30) for seven individuals in the second cluster. The three individuals in first cluster were also separated along component two (PC2; 1.4% variance) of the PCA (Figure 4).

Ecological associations and migration

A unique plant community was previously identified in each of the three zones using a PCA reported in Slender *et al.* (2018a). PC1 was associated with low abundance of *Atriplex vesicaria* and high abundance of *Zygochloa paradoxa* and was predominant in Zone AB. PC2 was associated with high abundance of *Maireana aphylla* and low abundance of *M. astrotricha* and *M. pyramidata* and was predominant in Zone A. PC3 was associated with low abundance of *A. nummularia omissa* and high abundance of *Acacia* spp and *Rhagodia spinescens* and was predominant in Zone B (Table S4). Using $K = 2$ output from structure, the LFMM analysis identified 328, 333 and 419 loci associated with PC1, PC2 and PC3 respectively. Of the 39 F_{ST} outliers, there

were 12 loci that correlated with PC2 (two of these also correlated with PC3) and six loci that correlated with PC3. No loci were found to correlate to PC1. The results from BAYESASS suggested that zone AB received more migrants per generation than zone A or zone B (Figure 6). Zone AB received more migrants per generation from zone A than zone B; the mean $\pm$ SD migration from zone A = $21.0 \pm 4.7\%$ and from zone B = $10.3 \pm 4.6\%$. Zone B received some migration per generation from zone A ($4.5 \pm 1.6\%$), but zone A received $< 1\%$ migration per generation from either zone B or zone AB.

Discussion

This study aimed to measure patterns of genetic diversity between the parapatric margin (zone AB) of two TBGW subspecies, and their population centre's (*A. m. raglessi* = zone B and *A. m. indulkanna* = zone A). Greater genetic variation at the margin could increase the potential for local adaptation to occur in different vegetation types at the margin. We detected gene flow occurring between the subspecies that was not restricted to zone AB as was previously thought and observed no evidence for greater diversity in zone AB compared to other zones. We discovered a pattern of IBD across the subspecies, low genotypic evenness and low genetic differentiation at neutral SNPs based on F_{ST} values indicating the subspecies have introgressed considerably. Spatial autocorrelation at short distances suggests that IBD is likely caused by short-range dispersal. We detected more migration between the parapatric margin and the population centre of *A. m. raglessi* suggesting introgression was asymmetric towards *A. m. raglessi*. There was evidence of local adaptation in both subspecies to different plant communities, which suggests selection could lead to future differentiation of the subspecies.

IBD increases genetic variation because it occurs when there is low gene flow between distant locations. The presence of IBD indicates that individuals within a population only disperse short distances (Aguillon *et al.* 2017). Grasswrens are thought to have poor dispersal ability due to their small size and short wings and have highly localized taxonomies (Christidis *et al.* 2010; Austin *et al.* 2013). This study found evidence for IBD across the TBGW subspecies, *A. m. raglessi* and *A. m. indulkanna*, which have been geographically isolated in the past and have subsequently made secondary contact (Austin *et al.* 2013; Slender *et al.* 2017). The

525 population structure demonstrated in this study is likely biased by the presence of
526 IBD, as limited sampling across large areas replicates patterns of population structure
527 (Perez *et al.* 2018). Poor dispersal is likely to be one mechanism that has created IBD
528 between these subspecies; however, we also detected patterns suggesting landscape
529 heterogeneity could influence gene flow strength. Further work could assess
530 landscape effects on gene flow strength (van Strien *et al.* 2015).

531 IBD in this study indicates considerable nuclear introgression between the subspecies
532 and a low risk of outbreeding depression (Frankham 2010). Introgression may have
533 ensued over a long period of time if secondary contact between *A. m. indulkanna* and
534 *A. m. raglessi* occurred a long time ago. Alternatively, there may be a preference for
535 heterospecific mates which could also have led to increased introgression. We
536 previously found that *A. m. indulkanna* more often and more intensely responded to
537 hetero-subspecific song than con-subspecific song (Slender *et al.* 2018b). While we
538 know little about the function of grasswren song, it is plausible that greater response
539 to song could indicate mating preferences (Nowicki and Searcy 2005). Introgression
540 of taxonomically young lineages such as subspecies could increase their genetic
541 diversity and the adaptive potential (Grant and Grant 2019). Acknowledging
542 populations that interbreed for conservation planning is a useful component of
543 biodiversity management strategy that is gaining traction in conservation programs
544 (Chan *et al.* 2019). This stands in contrast to previous concerns that introgression is a
545 threat to biodiversity such as when anthropogenic interference creates conditions that
546 promote species collapse via hybridisation (Allendorf *et al.* 2001). Conservation
547 approaches need to evaluate the role of hybridisation between populations and species
548 as increased genetic variation may be supported by introgression (Bohling 2016).

549 Subspecies classifications have a major impact on the allocation of conservation
550 resources (Zink 2004). Both *A. m. raglessi* and *A. m. indulkanna* are currently
551 classified as subspecies based on plumage and morphological differences, and a
552 mitochondrial divergence of 1.7% at ND2 (Black 2011; Austin *et al.* 2013). However,
553 these subspecies are also known to have a continuous distribution and mitochondrial
554 paraphyly (Slender *et al.* 2017). The lack of genetic differentiation and high level of
555 gene flow between *A. m. raglessi* and *A. m. indulkanna* suggests these subspecies
556 could be lumped into one Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) for conservation

557 purposes (Moritz 1994; Zink 2004). However, clinal genetic variation caused by IBD
 558 indicates subspecies classifications that require separate management approaches
 559 tailored specifically to *A. m. raglessi* or *A. m. indulkanna*. Other studies show that
 560 phenotypic variation moderately correlates with genotypic variation in natural
 561 populations (Wood *et al.* 2021). This supports the argument that morphologically
 562 divergent populations make a significant contribution to biodiversity. Managing the
 563 genetic variation captured by each of these subspecies will enable greater adaptive
 564 potential in the future (Fraser and Bernatchez 2001; Coates *et al.* 2018). Gene flow
 565 and genetic variation have an integral role in conservation management of subspecies,
 566 and sometimes units defined by morphotype is appropriate.

567 Speciation was traditionally thought to be more commonly associated with population
 568 divergence in allopatry, which has affected how we define species and subspecies
 569 (particularly those not in allopatry) (De Queiroz 2007; Marie Curie Speciation
 570 Network 2012). Examples where populations have undergone divergence with gene
 571 flow are now becoming more common since genomic techniques to assess gene flow
 572 are more accessible (Sousa and Hey 2013; Seehausen *et al.* 2014; Toews *et al.* 2016).
 573 This study shows that *A. m. raglessi* and *A. m. indulkanna* display patterns of
 574 morphological divergence that are in congruence with outlier loci associated with the
 575 subspecies occurrence in different vegetation types. This pattern is similar to other
 576 models of divergence with gene flow such as the little greenbul (*Andropadus virens*)
 577 where morphological divergence is more likely explained by the birds occurrence in
 578 different habitat types (savanna versus forest or mountain versus forest) than their
 579 allopatric history (Smith *et al.* 2005). In another model of divergence with gene flow
 580 (*Littorina saxatilis*), outlier loci have been genomically linked with loci that control
 581 phenotype, which are selected for according to ecotype (Hollander *et al.* 2015).
 582 Lastly, Haenel *et al.* (2021) show how populations of the threespine stickleback fish
 583 (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*) that possess phenotypes associated with either stream or lake
 584 environments have developed reproductive isolation without any form of geographic
 585 barrier. This research outlines a mechanism for divergence with gene flow and
 586 suggests that the two parapatric TBGW subspecies in this study could be a model of
 587 divergence with gene flow that may continue to diverge in the future.

588 This study detected two interesting genomic patterns, the cause of which remain
 589 unresolved. Mitochondrial paraphyly at ND2 detected by Slender *et al.* (2017)
 590 predicted a low rate of genomic introgression as only 10% of *A. m. raglessi*
 591 individuals had an *A. m. indulkanna* haplotype. The contradictory results of this study
 592 based on nuclear markers could be explained by a number of processes, for example,
 593 selection for particular mtDNA haplotypes (Toews and Brelsford 2012; Morales *et al.*
 594 2015; Morales *et al.* 2018), or greater dispersal of males compared to females. Other
 595 malurid species are known to display female sex-biased dispersal (Cockburn *et al.*
 596 2003). However, the adult sample size per sex in this study was too small to
 597 investigate sex-biased dispersal. Intriguingly, this study also detected a third cluster of
 598 individuals in the middle of the *A. m. raglessi* range that displayed unique genomic
 599 variation. We can only hypothesize why these individuals were identified as distinct,
 600 but one possible scenario may be that limited gene flow between *A. m. raglessi* and
 601 another TBGW subspecies, such as *A. m. curnamona*, could be occurring or has more
 602 likely occurred in the past. The location of the nearest *A. m. curnamona* sighting is
 603 less than 100 km southeast from an *A. m. raglessi* sighting (Black *et al.* 2010). Further
 604 sampling of adult grasswrens and the inclusion of samples from other grasswren
 605 subspecies may reveal patterns of sex-biased dispersal and explain the source of
 606 distinct genomic variation detected within the *A. m. raglessi* population.

607 TBGW subspecies show asymmetric gene flow from *A. m. indulkanna* to *A. m.*
 608 *raglessi*. The dune field that runs between Lake Eyre and Lake Torrens demarcates
 609 the boundary of the asymmetry (Slender *et al.* 2017). Asymmetric gene flow could
 610 occur as the result of several processes, such as greater niche breadth in *A. m.*
 611 *indulkanna*, demographic or ecological differences on either side of the dune field that
 612 promote greater geneflow from *A. m. indulkanna* to *A. m. raglessi* (e.g. Oswald *et al.*
 613 2017), or a mating advantage for *A. m. indulkanna* (e.g. Baldassarre and Webster
 614 2013; Baldassarre *et al.* 2014; Slender *et al.* 2018b). The more frequent and intense
 615 response of *A. m. indulkanna* towards hetero-subspecific song compared to con-
 616 subspecific song could suggest *A. m. indulkanna* is more competitive than *A. m.*
 617 *raglessi*. *A. m. raglessi* did not show the same strength of response to hetero-
 618 subspecific song compared to con-subspecific song (Slender *et al.* 2018b). Further
 619 work is needed to test hypotheses regarding subspecies behaviour and habitat

620 preference, landscape ecological productivity and stability, and mito-nuclear
621 incompatibilities.

622 This study shows that two parapatric TBGW subspecies introgressed and that gene
623 flow is asymmetric towards *A. m. raglessi*. Gene flow between the subspecies is
624 limited by distance probably due to the low dispersing ability of the species as well as
625 landscape heterogeneity. We suggest that these subspecies should be taxonomically
626 (and administratively) managed as distinct units despite considerable introgression.
627 Plant community type does not appear to limit gene flow nor does it provide a
628 mechanism for increased genetic diversity at the parapatric margin as was predicted.
629 However, adaptation to different plant community types suggests divergence with
630 gene flow could be a pathway towards increased genomic variation in the future. This
631 study provides an Australian arid zone example to show that gene flow between
632 subspecies can increase genetic variation within a species. Increased gene flow is
633 expected to facilitate persistence of the species through enhanced adaptive capacity.
634 Populations that contain distinct genomic variation should be managed separately
635 particularly in environments that are likely to be affected by future climate change.

636 *Data availability statement*

637 The data that support this study will be shared upon reasonable request to the
638 corresponding author.

639 **Conflicts of Interest**

640 The authors declare no conflicts of interest

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Figure 1. South Australian collection localities for samples of two thick-billed grasswren (TBGW) subspecies used for nuclear genomic sequencing. Localities are grouped into three zones. Sand dunes (grey shade) that run between Lake Eyre and Lake Torrens demarcate a novel habitat type where TBGWs are rarely observed; localities in zone A (solid circle) occur to the west of the sand dunes, localities in zone AB (grey square) occur immediately east of the sand dunes in a region of parapatry (referred to as the contact zone), and localities in zone B occur to the east of zone AB. Locality abbreviations are listed in Table S1. Numbers indicate sample size at that locality.

Figure 2. The pairwise genetic ($F_{ST}/(1 - F_{ST})$) and geographic ($\log(1 + \text{km})$) relationship between localities by zone (zone A: $n = 6$, zone B: $n = 3$, and zone AB: $n = 2$) using a Mantel test ($R^2 = 0.317$). There was only one sample collected at the locality MTB, therefore this locality was excluded. The solid line is the line of best fit and the broken lines are the 95% confidence intervals.

Figure 3. Correlogram showing the spatial autocorrelation coefficient r as a function of distance (km) indicated by distance class (end point). Dotted lines are the 95% CI about the null hypothesis of a random distribution of genotypes and error bars are 95% CI of r .

Figure 4. PCA of 7543 loci where individuals from different zones are indicated with different shapes; zone AB (region of parapatry) are white triangles, zone A (*A. m. indulkanna*) are black diamonds, and zone B (*A. m. raglessi*) are grey circles.

Figure 5. Population assignment tests using 7543 n-SNP loci where $K = 2$ for (a) DAPC and (b) STRUCTURE or using (c) mitochondrial haplotype for ND2 across three zones (Figure 1). Individuals are ordered by latitude in the order listed in Table S1. The proportion of each colour shows the posterior mean proportion of ancestry from the subspecies *A. m. indulkanna* or western haplotype (dark grey) and *A. m. raglessi* or eastern haplotype (light grey). Individuals marked with an asterisk were identified as admixed.

Figure 6. The proportion of migrants (average and standard deviation) assessed between each zone (zone A, zone B, and zone AB) with BAYESASS. Migration from zone A is in black, migration from zone B is in light gray, and migration from zone AB is in dark gray. The analysis was performed following a PCA to identify 200 loci with the highest loading that were used in the BAYESASS analysis.

Table 1. Partitioning of the molecular variance among (1) individuals within zone A and zone B and (2) between zone A and zone B using AMOVA. Zone AB was merged with zone A or zone B in two separate analyses, excluded in a third, or analysed as a separate population. Variance was compared for both n-SNP and o-SNP datasets. Significant *p*-values (< 0.05) are shown in bold.

Zones included	Dataset	Source of variation	Nested in	% variance	SS	F-stat	F-value	<i>P</i> -value
A+AB v B	n-SNP	Among individuals	Population	0.081	145109.166	Fis	0.082	<0.001
		Among populations	--	0.007	2197.339	Fst	0.007	<0.001
A+AB v B	n+o-SNP	Among individuals	Population	0.105	806.051	Fis	0.124	<0.001
		Among populations	--	0.150	135.610	Fst	0.150	<0.001
B+AB v A	n-SNP	Among individuals	Population	0.082	145111.592	Fis	0.082	<0.001
		Among populations	--	0.007	2194.607	Fst	0.007	<0.001
B+AB v A	n+o-SNP	Among individuals	Population	0.094	788.943	Fis	0.115	<0.001
		Among populations	--	0.185	159.104	Fst	0.185	<0.001
A v B	n-SNP	Among individuals	Population	0.078	128405.213	Fis	0.079	<0.001
		Among populations	--	0.011	2591.425	Fst	0.011	<0.001
	n+o-SNP	Among individuals	Population	0.075	668.666	Fis	0.097	<0.001
		Among populations	--	0.227	184.020	Fst	0.227	<0.001
A v B v AB	n-SNP	Among individuals	Population	0.080	143301.521	Fis	0.081	<0.001

A v B v AB	n+o- SNP	Among populations	--	0.011	4209.131	Fst	0.011	<0.001
		Among individuals	Population	0.087	136065.534	Fis	0.088	<0.001
		Among populations	--	0.010	4008.841	Fst	0.010	<0.001

Table 2. Pairwise differentiation when zone AB is merged with zone A, zone AB is merged with zone B or zone AB is excluded for both the n-SNP and n+o-SNP datasets. Cells show F_{ST} and p -values in parentheses. P -values were calculated after 10,000 permutations. Significant p -values (< 0.05) are shown in bold.

Zone	n-SNP	n-SNP	n+o-SNP	n+o-SNP
	A	B	A	B
B+AB	0.008 (<0.001)	--	0.202 (<0.001)	--
A+AB	--	0.008 (<0.001)	--	0.165 (<0.001)
A	--	0.010 (<0.001)	--	0.227 (<0.001)

Table 3. Fit of alternative isolation by distance models with and without putative outlier populations (see Figure 1 for population codes) n shows the number of populations in the model, AIC_C shows the corrected Akaike's information criteria, ΔAIC_C shows the difference in AIC_C between alternative models. These values are used to assess the most likely model. Models are ranked from highest to lowest.

Population excluded	n	R^2	P	AIC_C	ΔAIC_C
MUL, COP, OOE, WIC, WIT, COS, STC, PEK	3	0.92	0.182	-26.635	0
MUL, COP, OOE, WIC, WIT, COS, STC	4	0.883	0.005	-39.507	-12.872
MUL, COP, OOE, WIC, WIT, COS	5	0.825	<0.001	-48.503	-21.868
MUL, COP, OOE, WIC, WIT	6	0.821	<0.001	-59.135	-32.500
MUL, COP, OOE, WIC	7	0.795	<0.001	-67.610	-40.975
MUL, COP OOE	8	0.742	<0.001	-76.613	-49.978
MUL, COP	9	0.575	<0.001	-82.782	-56.148
MUL	10	0.434	<0.001	-89.224	-62.589
None	11	0.317	<0.001	-94.404	-67.770