

*Genetic differences between the east and west coasts of Okinawa have been noticed in other coral reef organisms, and these may be due to ecological and biological differences between the coasts.*

it's fairly well known that the east china sea becomes substantially more isolated during ice ages. This is the most likely explanation for the differentiation observed between the east and west coasts, combined with environmental/ecological factors.

207: differences in the level of genetic...

228-229: Despite the low diversity values and high levels of homozygosity, only 1 of the markers has a pattern consistent with a reduction in genetic diversity, H3, due to the missing haplotypes.

I think the bigger, more pressing, and more interesting question is why were there no heterozygotes? Asexual reproduction is not associated with homozygosity in H3. What are the genomic characteristics of this species? are they diploid? There was a massive effort to karyotype all forms of life between 1960 and 1980 and I'm sure there's a pub for this species. Another option is that there is cryptic evolutionary divergence in these cukes. H3 is typically a VERY slowly mutating locus. Additionally consider that mtDNA can introgress readily across species boundaries. I think you can reasonably discuss the oddity of these results and the possibility that there is cryptic species diversity here. Given the level of harvesting pressure, this hypothesis would be important to address directly in future efforts

259: change specially to especially

Table 1. Try to separate the H3 and 16s columns so they don't blend together

Table 2. Phi should not be italicized. In mathematical variables, English letters are italicized, greek and subscripts are not italicized. Please fix throughout

I'm assuming that the FDR was controlled at 5%, right? Please specify this along with the other FDR info

Table 3. Please provide enough information to evaluate the validity of the amova (there is plenty of room for more columns). Df, ss, etc... Also realize the FST is not "within populations". Technically, if FST is reported and tested, along with FCT and FSC, FDR should be applied. There aren't the df to test all 3, and while the reporting of FST along with FCT and FSC is ubiquitous, it is nonetheless incorrect. Beyond that, FDR needs to be applied for running the amova twice on each marker using different geographical groupings.

Figure 2: change “hatch” to “hash” or “tick”