

# Life histories predict genetic diversity and population structure within three species of Octopus targeted by small-scale fisheries in Northwest Mexico (#17922)

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Robert Toonen / 24 Jun 2017

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# Life histories predict genetic diversity and population structure within three species of *Octopus* targeted by small-scale fisheries in Northwest Mexico

José F Domínguez-Contreras<sup>Corresp., 1, 2</sup>, Adrian Munguia-Vega<sup>Corresp., 3, 4</sup>, Bertha P Ceballos-Vázquez<sup>2</sup>, Marcial Arellano-Martínez<sup>2</sup>, Francisco J García-Rodríguez<sup>2</sup>, Melanie Culver<sup>3, 5</sup>, Héctor Reyes-Bonilla<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Departamento Académico de Ciencias Marinas y Costeras, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur, La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico

<sup>2</sup> Instituto Politécnico Nacional, La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico

<sup>3</sup> Conservation Genetics Laboratory, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, United States

<sup>4</sup> PANGAS Science Coordination, Comunidad y Biodiversidad, Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Geological Survey, Arizona Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Conservation Genetics Laboratory, School of Natural Resources & Environment, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, United States

Corresponding Authors: José F Domínguez-Contreras, Adrian Munguia-Vega

Email address: fradoco@gmail.com, airdrian@email.arizona.edu

The fishery for octopus in Northwest Mexico has increased to over 2,000 tons annually, but to date the specific composition of the catch has been ignored. With at least three main species with varying life histories targeted by artisanal fisheries in the region, lack of information about the distribution of each species and metapopulation size and structure could impede effective fisheries management to avoid overexploitation. Here we tested if different life histories in three species of octopus help to predict observed patterns of genetic diversity, population dynamics, structure and connectivity that could be relevant to the sustainable management of the fishery. We sequenced two mitochondrial genes and genotyped seven nuclear microsatellite loci to identify the distribution of each species in 20 locations from the Gulf of California and the Pacific coast of the Baja California peninsula. We tested four a priori hypothesis derived from population genetic theory based on differences in the fecundity and dispersal potential for each species. We found that the species with low fecundity and without a planktonic larval stage (*Octopus bimaculoides*) had lower average effective population size and genetic diversity, but higher levels of kinship, population structure, and richness of private alleles, suggesting limited dispersal and high local recruitment. In contrast, two species with higher fecundity and planktonic larvae (*O. bimaculatus*, *O. hubbsorum*) showed higher effective population size and genetic diversity, and overall lower kinship and population structure, supporting higher levels of gene flow over a larger geographical scale. Even among the latter, there were differences in the calculated parameters possibly associated with increased connectivity in the species with the longest planktonic larval duration (*O. bimaculatus*). We consider that *O. bimaculatus* could be more susceptible to over exploitation of small, isolated

populations that could have longer recovery times, and suggest that management should take place within each local population. For the two species with pelagic larvae, management should consider metapopulation structure over larger geographic scales and the directionality and magnitude of larval dispersal between localities driven by ocean currents. The distribution of each species and variations in their reproductive timing should also be considered when establishing marine reserves or seasonal fishing closures.

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2 **Octopus targeted by small-scale fisheries in Northwest Mexico**

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5 **Marcial Arellano-Martínez<sup>2</sup>, Francisco J. García-Rodríguez<sup>2</sup>, Melanie Culver<sup>3,5</sup>, and**  
6 **Héctor Reyes-Bonilla<sup>1</sup>.**

7 <sup>1</sup> Departamento Académico de Ciencias Marinas y Costeras, Universidad Autónoma de Baja

8 California Sur, La Paz, Baja California Sur, México, 23080,

9 <sup>2</sup> Instituto Politécnico Nacional-CICIMAR, Av. Instituto Politécnico Nacional s/n., Col. Playa  
10 Palo de Santa Rita, La Paz, B.C.S. México, 23096,

11 <sup>3</sup> Conservation Genetics Laboratory, School of Natural Resources and Environment, BSE-317,  
12 University of Arizona, 1311 E 4th Street, Tucson, AZ, USA, 85721,

13 <sup>4</sup> PANGAS Science Coordination, Comunidad y Biodiversidad A.C., Isla del Peruano 215,  
14 Lomas de Miramar, Guaymas, Sonora, México, 85448,

15 <sup>5</sup> U.S. Geological Survey, Arizona Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Conservation  
16 Genetics Laboratory, School of Natural Resources & Environment, BSE-317, University of  
17 Arizona, Tucson, AZ, USA, 85721.

18 Corresponding Author:

19 José F. Domínguez-Contreras<sup>1,2</sup>

20 Email address: [fradoco@gmail.com](mailto:fradoco@gmail.com)

21 **ABSTRACT**

22 The fishery for octopus in Northwest Mexico has increased to over 2,000 tons annually, but to  
23 date the specific composition of the catch has been ignored. With at least three main species with  
24 varying life histories targeted by artisanal fisheries in the region, lack of information about the  
25 distribution of each species and metapopulation size and structure could impede effective  
26 fisheries management to avoid overexploitation. Here we tested if different life histories in three  
27 species of octopus help to predict observed patterns of genetic diversity, population dynamics,  
28 structure and connectivity that could be relevant to the sustainable management of the fishery.  
29 We sequenced two mitochondrial genes and genotyped seven nuclear microsatellite loci to  
30 identify the distribution of each species in 20 locations from the Gulf of California and the  
31 Pacific coast of the Baja California peninsula. We tested four a priori hypothesis derived from  
32 population genetic theory based on differences in the fecundity and dispersal potential for each  
33 species. We found that the species with low fecundity and without a planktonic larval stage  
34 (*Octopus bimaculoides*) had lower average effective population size and genetic diversity, but  
35 higher levels of kinship, population structure, and richness of private alleles, suggesting limited  
36 dispersal and high local recruitment. In contrast, two species with higher fecundity and  
37 planktonic larvae (*O. bimaculatus*, *O. hubbsorum*) showed higher effective population size and  
38 genetic diversity, and overall lower kinship and population structure, supporting higher levels of  
39 gene flow over a larger geographical scale. Even among the latter, there were differences in the  
40 calculated parameters possibly associated with increased connectivity in the species with the  
41 longest planktonic larval duration (*O. bimaculatus*). We consider that *O. bimaculatus* could be  
42 more susceptible to over exploitation of small, isolated populations that could have longer  
43 recovery times, and suggest that management should take place within each local population. For

44 the two species with pelagic larvae, management should consider metapopulation structure over  
45 larger geographic scales and the directionality and magnitude of larval dispersal between  
46 localities driven by ocean currents. The distribution of each species and variations in their  
47 reproductive timing should also be considered when establishing marine reserves or seasonal  
48 fishing closures.

49

50 **KEYWORDS:** octopus, fecundity, planktonic larval duration, larval dispersal, marine  
51 connectivity, Gulf of California

52 **INTRODUCTION**

53 As fish catches are collapsing around the world, the focus of commercial fisheries has  
54 shifted to resources within lower trophic levels, but with similar or upper economic impact  
55 (Watson & Pauly 2001; Pauly et al. 2002; Sala et al. 2004). Some of the marine resources among  
56 lower trophic levels capable to support the substantial expansion of fisheries landings include  
57 cephalopods (Arkhipkin et al. 2015; Doubleday et al. 2016), for which fishing pressure is  
58 expected to increment as a response to growing demands of marine resources (Hunsicker et al.  
59 2010). Cephalopods represent about 20% of the fisheries landing of the world, mainly  
60 represented by squids (FAO 2015). The octopus fisheries targeted by small-scale fisheries have  
61 incremented considerably since 1970 to date (from ~3,000 ton/year up to ~60,000 ton/year) and  
62 its value in the market is sometimes higher than squids (FAO 2015). From 2003 to 2013 most of  
63 the production has originated in Mexico (36%), Spain (17%), Portugal (15%), Italia (12%) and  
64 others (20%) (FAO 2015). In contrast to most countries where *Octopus vulgaris* is the main  
65 species targeted, in Mexico *O. maya* Voss and Solís-Ramírez, 1966 is the most important species  
66 along the Atlantic coast (NOM-008-PESC-1993; Jurado-Molina 2010).

67 In the Mexican pacific, there have been described at least 10 different *Octopus* species,  
68 including *Octopus bimaculatus* Verrill 1883, *Octopus chierchiae* Jatta 1889, *Octopus digueti*  
69 Perrier and Rocheburne 1894, *Octopus bimaculoides* Pickford and McConaughey 1949, and  
70 Berry's (1953) octopuses: *Octopus alecto*, *Octopus fitchi*, *Octopus hubbsorum*, *Octopus veligero*,  
71 *Octopus rubescens* ~~Y~~ *Octopus penicillifer* (Brusca 1980; Hochberg & Fields 1980; Roper et al.  
72 1995; Gotshall 1998; Norman & Hochberg 2005). Recent studies indicate that probably three  
73 species contribute to the majority of the catch in the Pacific coast of Mexico, namely *O.*  
74 *hubbsorum* (López-Uriarte et al. 2005, Alejo-Plata et al. 2009, Domínguez-Contreras et al.

75 2013), *O. bimaculatus* (López-Rocha et al. 2012, Villegas et al. 2014) and *O. bimaculoides*  
76 (González-Meléndez 2012). In Northwest (NW) Mexico, the octopus fishery represents an  
77 important resource for small-scale fishers both in terms of local consumption and markets  
78 (Moreno-Báez et al. 2012; Finkbeiner 2015; Finkbeiner & Basurto 2015). However, it is unclear  
79 which species contribute to the catch in different localities, and even official fisheries statistics  
80 do not attempt to distinguish different species. During 2014, official reports indicate NW Mexico  
81 produced at least ~2,000 ton of octopus worth ~6 million Mexican pesos (~350,000 USD)  
82 (CONAPESCA 2014). Most of the capture for octopus in NW Mexico takes place in the Gulf of  
83 California year-round via hooka diving with an air compressor or using traps, and it has been  
84 suggested that the fishery might be targeting at least two different species (*O. bimaculatus* and  
85 *O. hubbsorum*) (Moreno-Báez et al. 2012). The lack of identification of octopus species in  
86 fisheries reports is due to their dynamic behavior and ability to change color, pattern, texture and  
87 shape (Boyle & vonBoletzky 1996). Besides, their anatomy includes few hard structures that  
88 difficult their identification to the species level, especially in octopods (Hanlon 1988).

89 Ignoring which species are being fished and their geographic distribution could have  
90 serious detrimental consequences in the long term not only for local fisheries management but  
91 for the conservation of species (Garcia-Vazquez et al. 2012), including over or sub exploiting  
92 particular species in certain areas (Marko et al. 2004). The problem of not identifying different  
93 species could be particularly serious if they show contrasting life histories and population  
94 dynamics that may translate into distinct levels of maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and  
95 recovery times, requiring distinct management tools during different seasons and geographic  
96 scales. In NW Mexico, *Octopus bimaculatus* could potentially be sympatric with *O.*  
97 *bimaculoides* in the NW of the Baja California Peninsula (BCP), while *O. bimaculatus* could

98 potentially overlap with *O. hubbsorum* within the Gulf of California (Table 1). The reproductive  
99 season is different for each species, and the three species differ in their fecundity, egg size and  
100 planktonic larval duration (PLD) (Table 1). *Octopus bimaculoides* lays hundreds of large eggs  
101 and lacks a paralarval stage and planktonic larval dispersal. *Octopus hubbsorum* lays thousands  
102 of smaller-sized eggs and a PLD probably similar to *Octopus vulgaris* based on the size of its  
103 eggs (~60 days, Iglesias et al. 2007). *Octopus bimaculatus* lays thousands of medium-sized eggs  
104 and shows a longer PLD (up to 90 days) (Table 1). All three species have similar short life spans  
105 between 1.5 and 2 years and size at sexual maturity is smaller for males than females (Table 1).

106 Our main hypothesis is that differences in the life history among three species of octopus  
107 from Northwestern Mexico could translate into distinct patterns of genetic diversity, population  
108 dynamics, structure and connectivity that could be relevant for sustainable fisheries management.  
109 To infer differences in population parameters and evolutionary processes that are important  
110 within species, we used two mitochondrial markers and seven nuclear microsatellite loci  
111 informative for the three species. We first established the geographic distribution of each species  
112 through genetic identification of tissue samples collected over the study region. We then tested  
113 four a priori hypotheses within each species derived from theoretical and empirical population  
114 genetic studies regarding expected effective population size, genetic diversity, genetic  
115 relatedness within populations (kinship) and population structure, based on the fecundity and  
116 potential for larval dispersal of each species reported in the scientific literature (Table 1). We  
117 discuss the implications of our results for the fisheries management of the three species.

## 118 MATERIALS & METHODS

### 119 *Sample collection and DNA extraction*

120 We obtained 316 samples of octopus (arm tissue) from 20 localities in both coasts of  
121 BCP, including the Gulf of California (Fig.1) and collected between 2008 and 2013. The  
122 sampling took place at fishing communities with help of small-scale fishers. Samples were  
123 collected at seven ~~localities~~ along the Eastern coast of BCP, (Ejido Erendira close to Ensenada B.  
124 C. down to El Conejo in Baja California Sur) and 13 sites from the central (Santa Rosalía) and  
125 northern Gulf of California (from the northern tip of Bahía de Los Angeles and Isla Tiburón up  
126 to Puerto Peñasco), including the Midriff islands. The Midriff islands include many islands and  
127 islets in the northern Gulf of California (Fig. 1). Some of these are very remote and access is  
128 difficult, which is reflected in smaller samples sizes, while others localities with low number of  
129 samples reflect the difficult of catch octopuses outside their reproductive season. **We identified**  
130 **only three organisms based on morphology (one of each species).** We distinguished between *O.*  
131 *bimaculatus* and *O. bimaculoides* using mature females from which distinctive characteristics of  
132 the gonads of each species have been described (Pickford & MacConaughey 1949). For *O.*  
133 *hubbsorum* we followed morphological traits described previously by Domínguez-Contreras et  
134 al. (2013) and original descriptions of Berry (1953). Tissue samples were stored in 96% ethanol  
135 and in the lab they were preserved at -20 °C. We extracted DNA using the DNeasy blood and  
136 tissue kit (QIAGEN, Valencia, CA, U. S. A) following the manufacturer specifications.

137

### 138 ***Mitochondrial DNA sequencing***

139 For a **subset of the samples** (97 individuals from 13 localities, including 8 samples from  
140 each locality except from Puerto Refugio where only one sample was analyzed), we amplified  
141 two fragments of the mitochondrial genome: the large ribosomal subunit rDNA (16S) employing

142 primers L1987 5'-GCCTCGCCTGTTACCAAAAAC-3' and H2609 5'-  
143 CGGTCTGAACTCAGATCACGT-3' (Palumbi et al. 1991) and the Cytochrome Oxidase  
144 subunit 1 (COI) with primers LCO 1490 5'-GGTCAAACAAATCATAAAGATATTGG-3' and  
145 HCO2198 5'-TAAAATTCAAGGTGACCAAAAAATCA-3' (Folmer et al. 1994), For both  
146 markers, we used 25µL volume PCRs with 15 - 40 ng genomic DNA, 1× PCR buffer, 0.2 mM  
147 each dNTP, 2 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.2% BSA, 1 U Taq DNA polymerase (Invitrogen) and 0.5 µM of  
148 each primer. PCR protocol consisted of denaturation at 94 °C for 2 min, 30 cycles of 94 °C for  
149 1min, annealing at 51 °C (COI) or 45.5 °C (16s rDNA) for 1 min, and extension at 72 °C for 2  
150 min, followed by a final extension of 72 °C for 7 min. PCR products were purified using  
151 ExoSAP (Affimetrix, INC). PCR products were sequenced from both strands on an Applied  
152 Biosystems 3730XL DNA Analyzer at the University of Arizona Genetics Core (UAGC).

153 ***Genotyping of microsatellites markers***

154 We employed seven unlinked microsatellites (*Ocbi25*, *Ocbi35*, *Ocbi39*, *Ocbi41*, *Ocbi47*,  
155 *Ocbi48*, and *Ocbi50*) that were shared and proved informative among the three octopus species  
156 (Domínguez-Contreras et al. 2014). We genotyped the 316 samples following PCR methods  
157 previously described (Domínguez-Contreras et al. 2014). PCR products were sized on an  
158 Applied Biosystems 3730XL DNA Analyzer at the UAGC. Microsatellite electropherograms  
159 were scored using GeneMarker Version 2.6.0 (SoftGenetics LLC). Allele sizes were assigned  
160 bins using FLEXIBIN (Amos et al. 2007). Deviations from Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HWE)  
161 were estimated using GENEPOP 4.2 (Raymond & Rousset 1995). We used MICROCHECKER  
162 2.2.3 to test for genotyping errors and presence of null alleles (Van Oosterhout et al. 2004).

163 ***Species assignment***

164 We used the mitochondrial sequences and microsatellite genotypes to assign individuals  
165 to species using phylogenetic analyses of sequence data and Bayesian assignment analyses of  
166 microsatellite genotypes, respectively. The 16S rDNA and COI sequences were corrected by eye  
167 using Chromas Pro Version 1.6 and aligned using MUSCLE multiple alignment tools  
168 implemented in Mega6 (Tamura et al. 2013). We used JmodelTest 2 (Guindon & Gascuel 2003;  
169 Darriba et al. 2012) to select the best fit model of nucleotide substitution for phylogenetic  
170 analysis, according to Akaike and Bayesian information criteria. We applied the Jukes-Cantor  
171 (JC) model with 1,000 bootstraps to estimate genetic distances and constructed a Neighbor-  
172 joining (NJ) tree using 10,000 bootstraps replications in MEGA (Tamura et al. 2013).

173 We ran STRUCTURE version 2.3.4 (Pritchard et al. 2000) with the microsatellite  
174 genotypes using admixture and without prior location information, with allele frequencies  
175 correlated among populations. We used a length of the burning period of  $1 \times 10^6$ , a number of  
176 MCMC repeats after burning of  $2 \times 10^6$ , with 10 iterations for each number of genetic clusters  
177 (K), and K assumed to vary between 1 and 20. To determine the optimal number of K, we  
178 selected the number of cluster by looking at the highest likelihood values (mean of 10 iterations)  
179 as well as the highest  $\Delta K$  value implemented in the online software CLUMPAK (Kopelman et al.  
180 2015). We used both values because some evidence has suggested the likelihood method is not  
181 always accurate (Evanno et al. 2005). The value of  $\Delta K$  is based on the rate of change in the log  
182 probability of data between successive K values, which provides a better estimate of the number  
183 of genetic clusters (Evanno et al. 2005).

184

185 ***Genetic diversity and effective population size within species***

186 According to the neutral theory of molecular evolution (Kimura 1983), in a population of  
187 constant size genetic diversity should be proportional to the effective size of the population ( $N_e$ ,  
188 or the size of an idealized population that would show the same amount of genetic diversity as a  
189 population of interest). This is because in an idealized, panmictic population the strength on the  
190 loss of neutral alleles via genetic drift is inversely proportional to the population size  
191 (Charlesworth 2009). Based on recent comparative studies, we expect that highly fecund species  
192 that release high numbers of small eggs into the environment (*O. bimaculatus* and *O.*  
193 *hubbsorum*) will show higher diversity and effective population size than low-fecundity species  
194 that produce a small number of relatively large offspring (*O. bimaculoides*) (Table 1) (Romiguier  
195 et al. 2014; Ellegren & Galtier 2016). To evaluate genetic diversity from the microsatellite data,  
196 we calculated the number of alleles ( $N_A$ ), effective number of alleles ( $N_E$ , which takes into  
197 account different sample sizes among localities), expected heterozygosity ( $H_E$ ) and observed  
198 heterozygosity ( $H_O$ ) with GENALEX 6.501 (Peakall & Smouse 2012). Allelic richness ( $R_A$ ) was  
199 estimated using HP-Rare to correct for differences in sample size among localities (Kalinowski  
200 2005).

201 Private alleles, or alleles that are unique to one population, are expected to be more frequent in  
202 genetically isolated populations, while their frequency should be reduced in well connected sites  
203 (Beger et al. 2014; Munguía-Vega et al. 2015). If we extend this process to populations within  
204 each species, then populations of species with narrow opportunities for dispersal (direct  
205 developer, *O. bimaculoides*) should show higher frequency of private alleles than species with a  
206 pelagic larval stage (Table 1). Private allelic richness ( $R_{PA}$ ) was estimated using HP-Rare to  
207 correct for different sample sizes. We estimated a global contemporary effective size ( $N_e$ ) for  
208 each species via the linkage disequilibrium method with a bias correction and a lower allele

209 frequency of 0.05 and 0.02, and with the molecular coancestry method as implemented in the  
210 software NE-ESTIMATOR V2 (Do et al. 2014).

211

212 ***Genetic structure within species***

213 Species with a long PLD are expected to disperse further than species with short or absent  
214 PLD (e.g. direct developers) (Shanks 2009). Consequently, the species with direct development  
215 (PLD = 0, *O. bimaculoides*) should show higher genetic structure (e.g. global  $F_{ST}$ ) (Riginos &  
216 Liggins 2013), than species with short PLD (*O. hubbsorum*) and particularly compared to species  
217 with long PLD (*O. bimaculatus*) (Table 1) (Selkoe & Toonen 2011; Selkoe et al. 2014). To  
218 estimate genetic structure, we conducted a hierarchical analysis of molecular of variance  
219 (AMOVA) using 999 permutations in GENALEX 6.501(Peakall & Smouse 2012) to estimate the  
220 genetic differences observed within and between populations. Both pairwise  $F_{ST}$  and  $F^*_{ST}$  values  
221 were calculated using the software GENODIVE 2.0b24 (Meirmans & Van Tienderen 2004) as  
222 recommended to account for loci with high polymorphism such as microsatellites (Meirmans &  
223 Hedrick 2011). Additionally, we used FreeNA to measure the effect of null alleles on  $F_{ST}$   
224 estimates of population structure, taking into account the frequency of null alleles estimated with  
225 the expectation maximization method (EM) (Chapuis & Estoup 2007).

226

227 ***Genetic relatedness within populations of each species***

228 The magnitude of local larval retention, or the proportion of larvae produced within a site  
229 that remain in that site, is expected to increase the degree of genetic relatedness within  
230 populations (Christie et al. 2010; Burgess et al. 2014). We expect that species with direct

231 development (PLD = 0, *O. bimaculoides*) should have a higher probability for individuals to  
232 remain near their natal site, and thus to show higher levels of genetic relatedness or kinship  
233 within populations than the other two species with a dispersive pelagic larval stage (Table 1).  
234 Since local retention is expected to decrease with increasing PLD (Byers & Pringle 2006), we  
235 expect that genetic relatedness within populations will be lower in the species with the longest  
236 PLD (*O. bimaculatus*). We calculated pairwise relatedness to describe the number of alleles  
237 shared between pairs of individuals using Queller & Goodnight (1989) relatedness metric and  
238 then calculated the average within each population as implemented in GenAlex 6.2 (Peakall &  
239 Smouse 2012). Statistical significance was assessed by 9,999 permutations and 10,000 bootstraps  
240 to estimate 95% confidence intervals around the hypothesis of random mating.

241

## 242 RESULTS

### 243 *Species assignment*

244 A total of 1054 bp were sequenced for each individual sample, including 473 bp from the  
245 16S rDNA gene and 581 bp from the COI gene (GenBank Accession number KY985098 –  
246 KY985194 for 16S, and KY985005 – KY985097 for COI). The optimum model of substitution  
247 according to the Akaike and Bayesian criteria was JC for both 16S rDNA and COI. The resulting  
248 NJ trees showed the monophyletic status of the three species *O. bimaculatus*, *O. bimaculoides*  
249 and *O. hubbsorum* according to the topology of both 16S rDNA and COI trees (Fig 2 A). *O.*  
250 *bimaculoides* was present in locations from the Pacific coast of BCP (Ejido Erendira, San  
251 Quintin, and Bahía Magdalena), but absent in the Gulf of California. *O. bimaculatus* was present  
252 at only one locality from the Pacific coast of the BCP (Malarrimo) and in samples from the  
253 Northern Gulf of California including Puerto Peñasco, Puerto Refugio, Puerto Lobos, San Luis

254 Gonzaga, Bahía de los Ángeles and only one individual from Puerto Libertad for 16S rDNA, (no  
255 data was obtained for the COI sequence of this individual). *O. hubbsorum* was present in some  
256 localities from the Northern Gulf of California (Puerto Libertad, Isla San Lorenzo, and Bahía  
257 Kino) and also in the Central Gulf of California (Santa Rosalía) (Fig 2 A). Nucleotide divergence  
258 between the three species ranged from 3.3 – 7.1% for the 16S rDNA gene and from 6.3 – 10.4%  
259 for the COI gene (Table 2). *Octopus bimaculoides* showed less divergence with *O. bimaculatus*  
260 (3.3% and 6.3%, respectively) than with *O. hubbsorum* (6.3% and 10.0%, respectively), while  
261 the largest divergence was observed between *O. bimaculatus* and *O. hubbsorum* (7.1% and  
262 10.4%, respectively).

263 We genotyped seven microsatellite loci in 316 samples from 20 localities and observed  
264 an average frequency of missing data of 3.75% (range 1.26 – 7.27) by locus, and 3.84% (range 0  
265 – 28.5) by sample. Hardy-Weinberg tests suggested significant deviations at only 7 out of 140  
266 unique loci/locality combinations tested without any clear pattern observed within localities or  
267 species (after Bonferroni correction  $P = 0.00036$ ). Only *Ocbi39*, *Ocbi41* and *Ocbi50* were  
268 significant deviated in 1, 2 and 4 localities from the 20 tested, respectively ( $P = 0.00036$ ). Two  
269 loci were monomorphic (*Ocbi41* and *Ocbi50*) in 1 and 6 localities, respectively (Table S1).  
270 Except for two loci (*Ocbi35* and *Ocbi41*), all other loci showed null alleles in at least one  
271 locality, with *Ocbi39* showing null alleles in 8 localities. The average frequency of null alleles  
272 among loci varied from 0.000 – 0.108 for *O. bimaculatus* 0.025, for *O. bimaculoides* 0.026, and  
273 for *O. hubbsorum* 0.041, according to EM method (Table S2).

274 The STRUCTURE analysis showed a modal frequency that supported the presence of at  
275 least two clusters or species ( $\Delta K = 2$ , Fig. S1A) according to the  $\Delta K$  method (Evanno et al.  
276 2005). However the highest mean value of the ln probability of data for  $K = 2$  (average ln [K] = -

277 8362.29, Fig. S1B) was very close to  $K = 3$  (average  $\ln [K] = -8086.16$ , Fig. S1B) in 10/10  
278 repetitions, and in both cases the matrix of similarity scores produced by Clumpak between runs  
279 aligned were identical 0.999 (Fig. S1C). The STRUCTURE bar plots (Fig 2 B) showed that  $K =$   
280 3 clearly distinguished the three clusters or species previously identified in the phylogenetic  
281 analyses of the mitochondrial markers and corresponding to *O. bimaculoides*, *O. bimaculatus*  
282 and *O. hubbsorum* among the 20 localities from NW Mexico (Fig 2 B). All localities assigned to  
283 each species using 16S rDNA and COI sequences (Fig. 2 A) were correctly assigned using  
284 microsatellites (Fig. 2 B). Based on the STRUCTURE analysis, *O. bimaculoides* is only present  
285 in the Pacific coast of BCP, while *O. bimaculatus* and *O. hubbsorum* are present on both the  
286 Pacific coast of BCP and in the Gulf of California. On the Pacific coast of BCP, *O. bimaculoides*  
287 is present in Ejido Erendira, San Quintin and Bahía Magdalena; *O. bimaculatus* in La Bocana,  
288 Las Barrancas and Malarrimo, and *O. hubbsorum* in El Conejo. In the Gulf of California, *O.*  
289 *bimaculatus* is present in Puerto Peñasco, San Luis Gonzaga, Isla Smith, Bahía de Los Angeles  
290 and Puerto Lobos, while *O. hubbsorum* is present in Puerto Libertad, Isla San Lorenzo, Isla  
291 Tiburon, Bahía Kino and Santa Rosalía (Fig. 2 C). In some localities like Las Barrancas in the  
292 Pacific coast of BCP and Puerto Peñasco, Puerto Refugio and Isla Tiburón in the Northern Gulf  
293 of California STRUCTURE suggested the presence of individuals from both *O. bimaculatus* and  
294 *O. hubbsorum* (Fig. 2 B, C).

295

#### 296 ***Genetic diversity and effective population size within species***

297 The seven loci were polymorphic for the three species (Table 3). Results generally  
298 supported our prediction about higher allelic diversity and effective size in highly fecund species  
299 with small eggs (*O. bimaculatus* and *O. hubbsorum*) than in species that are less fecund and have

300 larger eggs (*O. bimaculoides*). We observed lower average levels of allelic diversity in *O.*  
301 *bimaculoides* ( $N_E = 3.67 \pm 0.47$ ,  $R_A = 4.56 \pm 0.45$ ) than in *O. bimaculatus* ( $N_E = 5.93 \pm 0.28$ ,  $R_A$   
302  $= 5.05 \pm 0.05$ ), while results for *O. hubbsorum* were mixed and showed intermediate values for  
303 one metric ( $N_E = 4.75 \pm 0.45$ ), and similar values to *O. bimaculoides* in the other ( $R_A = 4.47 \pm$   
304  $0.28$ ).

305 We observed that the species with direct development (*O. bimaculoides*) had the largest  
306 average frequency of private alleles ( $P_{AR} = 1.71 \pm 0.43$ ), compared to the species with a pelagic  
307 larval stage (Table 3). The lowest values were observed in *O. bimaculatus* ( $P_{AR} = 0.28 \pm 0.05$ ),  
308 while *O. hubbsorum* again showed intermediate values ( $P_{AR} = 0.49 \pm 0.20$ ).

309 The highest contemporary effective population size  $Ne$  was calculated for *Octopus*  
310 *bimaculatus* using both linkage disequilibrium and molecular ancestry methods (average LDNE  
311  $= 261 - 265$ ,  $M_C = 28$ ), followed by *O. hubbsorum* (LDNE  $= 88 - 125$ ,  $M_C = 23$ ). *Octopus*  
312 *bimaculoides* had the lowest effective size according to the two methods (LDNE  $= 5 - 10$ ,  $M_C =$   
313 11) (Table 4).

### 314 ***Genetic structure within species***

315 After pooling sampling locations according to the results of the species assignment (Fig  
316 1), we found that the AMOVA results for the microsatellite data supported the prediction that  
317 species with direct development (*O. bimaculoides*) show higher levels of genetic structure ( $F_{ST} =$   
318 0.19,  $P = 0.000$ ), compared to species with pelagic larvae (Table 5). Also, we observed that the  
319 species with the longest PLD had overall lower genetic structure (*O. bimaculatus*,  $F_{ST} = 0.09$ ,  $P$   
320  $= 0.000$ ) compared to the species with shorter PLD (*O. hubbsorum*,  $F_{ST} = 0.15$ ,  $P = 0.000$ ).

321 The frequency of null alleles can affect the estimates of genetic differentiation, reducing  
322 the genetic diversity and overestimating the  $F_{ST}$  values (Chapuis & Estoup 2007). In the present  
323 study, the values of genetic differentiation with (Null  $F_{ST}$ ) and without ( $F_{ST}$ ) null alleles  
324 estimated with FREENA were very similar within each species: *O. bimaculoides* (Null  $F_{ST}$  =  
325 0.020 and  $F_{ST}$  = 0.020), *O. bimaculatus* (Null  $F_{ST}$  = 0.091 and  $F_{ST}$  = 0.089) and *O. hubbsorum*  
326 (Null  $F_{ST}$  = 0.170 and  $F_{ST}$  = 0.163) (Table S3).

327 *O. bimaculoides* showed both higher and significant genetic differentiation between all  
328 population pairs (range of  $F_{ST}$  = 0.174 – 0.232;  $F'_{ST}$  = 0.481 – 0.653, Table S4), with respect to  
329 *O. hubbsorum* that showed only 60.7% of paired values that were moderated and significant ( $F_{ST}$   
330 = 0.086 – 0.258;  $F'_{ST}$  = 0.216 – 0.751, Table S5), and *O. bimaculatus* with 69.5% of paired  
331 values that were significant and showed the lowest genetic differentiation ( $F_{ST}$  = 0.007 – 0.144;  
332  $F'_{ST}$  = -0.165 – 0.668, Table S6). We observed both high and low values of genetic  
333 differentiation between localities from the Pacific coasts of BCP when compared to the Gulf of  
334 California for *O. hubbsorum* and *O. bimaculatus*, Tables S5, S6).

335 ***Genetic relatedness within populations of each species***

336 The three species showed average levels of relatedness that were significantly greater  
337 than expectations based on random mating (all values  $p = 0.000$ , Fig. 3). We found that the direct  
338 developer (*O. bimaculoides*) had the highest average level of relatedness within populations ( $R =$   
339 0.244), followed by the species with the intermediate PLD (*O. hubbsorum*,  $R = 0.104$ ), while the  
340 species with the longest PLD had the lowest levels (*O. bimaculatus*,  $R = 0.016$ ).

341

342 **DISCUSSION**

343 Our study employed both slow evolving haploid markers (mitochondrial DNA) and fast-  
344 evolving and hypervariable nuclear markers (microsatellites) to establish the geographic  
345 distribution of three species of octopus among fishing localities from NW Mexico and  
346 corroborated that differences in the fecundity and potential for larval dispersal (or lack thereof)  
347 affect the levels of genetic diversity and structure found within each species.

348 A minimum of 3% genetic divergence in the COI gene is considered a threshold to  
349 differentiate different octopus species (Hebert et al. 2003). Our results showed a higher  
350 divergence among the three species (6% – 10%), suggesting they are reproductively isolated  
351 taxa. We observed a smaller nucleotide divergence between *O. bimaculoides* and *O. bimaculatus*  
352 probably due to their more recent origin from a common ancestor (Hebert et al. 2003). The three  
353 taxa studied are the most relevant species for small-scale fisheries from NW Mexico and our  
354 results showed that, although their ranges sometimes overlap, most of the surveyed localities had  
355 evidence for the presence of a single species, which seem to occur in different habitats. *Octopus*  
356 *bimaculoides* prefers habitats with low wave energy as enclosed bays and coastal lagoons,  
357 although it can also inhabit at 20 m depth over rocks and kelps forests (Forsythe & Hanlon 1988;  
358 Sinn 2008). In the Pacific coast of the BCP exist at least 16 coastal lagoons located between  
359 Ensenada BC and Bahía Magdalena BCS (Lankford 1977), which probably have been colonized  
360 by stepping-stone events during rafting behavior (Gillespie et al. 2012). Rafting has been  
361 documented for *O. bimaculoides* and *O. bimaculatus* on floating objects including macroalgae  
362 (Thiel & Gutow 2005) and besides larval dispersal could help explain colonization events and  
363 range expansions. Our study expanded the distribution of the three species in the Pacific coast of  
364 BCP with regard to published records: ~800 km to the south for *O. bimaculoides*, ~400 km to the  
365 south for *O. bimaculatus* and ~150 km to the north for *O. hubbsorum*. In the Gulf of California,

366 *Octopus bimaculatus* was restricted to the northern Gulf of California where its distribution  
367 might be influenced by the geographic extent of a cyclonic (anti-clockwise) oceanographic gyre  
368 that transports larvae during its spawning period in summer (Castellanos-Martínez 2008;  
369 Marinone et al. 2008; Munguía-Vega et al. 2014). *O. bimaculatus* seems to show the pattern of  
370 disjunct distribution reported for several temperate species of fishes that are present in the Pacific  
371 coast of BCP, disappear in the Southern Gulf of California and reappear in the Northern Gulf of  
372 California (Bernadi et al. 2003). The distribution of *O. hubbsorum* was redefined to include the  
373 south of the Midriff Island region in the Gulf of California (López-Uriarte et al. 2005; Moreno-  
374 Báez et al. 2012).

375 The three species were sympatric in the Pacific coast of the BCP around the Bahia  
376 Magdalena region, while in the Gulf of California only *O. bimaculatus* and *O. hubbsorum* were  
377 sympatric around Midriff Island region. Both regions have been considered transition zones  
378 between template and tropical species (Briggs 1974; Brusca 2010; Briggs & Bowen 2012). In  
379 this sense, it is possible that *O. bimaculatus* and *O. hubbsorum* could be sharing the same  
380 shelters around the Midriff Islands region in different season along the year, with *O. bimaculatus*  
381 being more frequent during the cold-temperate seasons, while *O. hubbsorum* prefers warm-  
382 tropical water conditions. A pattern of alternate presence of the two species through the year  
383 could explain why the octopus fishery is carried out yearlong in the Northern Gulf of California  
384 (Moreno-Báez et al. 2012). Thus, at some localities in the Northern Gulf of California both  
385 species could be the main target of the fishery according to the time of the year, and at least in  
386 some localities where samples in our study were assigned to *O. bimaculatus* (e.g. Puerto Lobos)  
387 there have been recent field observations were only *O. hubbsorum* individuals were recorded  
388 (unpublish data J. F. D. C and A. M. V.), highlighting the need of a temporal sampling during

389 different seasons to complement our understanding of the species being captured and their  
390 seasons, particularly near geographic transition zones.

391 The life history parameters differing among species played an important role on levels of  
392 genetic diversity and structure within species, suggesting that significant differences in  
393 population dynamics and connectivity are present. The direct developer *O. bimaculoides* had the  
394 lower levels of effective population size and genetic diversity and showed higher levels of  
395 relatedness within populations, more structure among populations and a higher proportion of  
396 private alleles, compared to the two species with a planktonic larval stage. These observations  
397 suggest that populations of *O. bimaculoides* are comparatively smaller and structured at a local  
398 geographic scale, and are likely highly dependent upon local recruitment. In contrast, *O.*  
399 *hubbsorum* and *O. bimaculatus* have higher fecundity and a planktonic life phase that increase  
400 their dispersal potential and the opportunities for gene flow among populations (Villanueva et al.  
401 2016), which is consistent with our hypotheses regarding a larger effective population size  
402 associated to higher levels of genetic diversity and lower levels of genetic relatedness within  
403 populations, less genetic structure among populations and fewer private alleles. These results  
404 suggest that *O. hubbsorum* and *O. bimaculatus* might depend less on local larval retention and  
405 more on larval dispersal among populations. However, *O. bimaculatus* had lower levels of  
406 genetic differentiation between populations, and lower frequency of private alleles and genetic  
407 relatedness within populations compared to *O. hubbsorum*. In addition, genetic diversity and  
408 effective population size for *O. hubbsorum* were lower compared to *O. bimaculatus*. Although  
409 no studies exist about the PLD of *O. hubbsorum*, our results are consistent with a shorter PLD  
410 and less potential for dispersal compared to *O. bimaculatus*. This is also in line with a recent  
411 study suggesting that for species with a planktonic stage, the duration of the planktonic phase

412 increases with hatchling size (*O. hubbsorum* = 1.2 mm ML *O. bimaculatus* = 2.6 mm ML  
413 (Ambrose 1981; Alejo-Plata & Herrero-Alejo 2014; Villanueva et al. 2016).

414 An inability to properly identify biological species hampers any effort towards their  
415 management and conservation (Bickford et al. 2007). The distinct geographic and habitat  
416 distributions along with contrasting life history traits are expected to have strong direct effects  
417 over population parameters that are key for establishing the spatial scale, location and timing of  
418 management actions and rates of sustainable fishing for each species. Therefore, is not advisable  
419 to continue with the current management that does not differentiate among the three species. A  
420 species as *O. bimaculoides* with a lower effective population size, and with local populations that  
421 are mostly self-sustaining and partially isolated from other nearby populations could be  
422 susceptible to over exploitation, severe bottlenecks and long recovery times if fisheries  
423 management erroneously considers all populations as a single stock and ignores the importance  
424 of local population dynamics. We recommend that in *O. bimaculoides* management should take  
425 place at the level of local populations, for instance, to assign catch quotes per individual bay. For  
426 the species with higher fecundity and dispersal potential (*O. bimaculatus* and *O. hubbsorum*) the  
427 implementation of management tools should consider metapopulation dynamics on a larger  
428 geographic scale and the presence of larval dispersal among populations, identifying key larval  
429 sources and larval dispersal routes during the PLD, spawning and hatching seasons for each  
430 species.

431 An important consideration for management of the octopus fishery in the Northern Gulf  
432 of California is the differences in the spawning season between *O. hubbsorum* (spring and fall)  
433 and *O. bimaculatus* (summer) and its relationship to the direction of larval dispersal and its  
434 impact on source-sink metapopulation dynamics. Patterns of oceanographic currents in the

435 Northern Gulf of California are highly directional or asymmetric driven by a cyclonic (anti-  
436 clockwise) gyre during spring and summer (Marinone et al. 2008; Marinone 2012) when both *O.*  
437 *hubbsorum* and *O. bimaculatus* spawn. However, *O. hubbsorum* also spawns during Fall-winter  
438 (unpublish data J. F. D. C and A. M. V.), when the gyre reverses to an anti-cyclonic (clockwise)  
439 direction (Lavin & Marinone 2003; Marinone 2012), effectively transforming key larval sources  
440 during spring-summer into larval sinks during fall-winter. When implementing spatial  
441 management tools in systems with strong asymmetry in the direction of the currents, including  
442 marine reserves, it is advised that reserves are located upstream according to the main flow to  
443 protect the sources of larvae that support multiple downstream fishing sites (Beger et al. 2014;  
444 Munguía-Vega et al. 2014) These observations imply that the location of marine reserves for  
445 octopus in the northern Gulf of California will have to consider the cyclonic phase of the  
446 oceanographic gyre for both species in addition to the anti-cyclonic phase for *O. hubbsorum*.  
447 Also, temporal fishing closures based on the spawning period of a single species, like the one  
448 recently implemented in the northern Gulf of California based on *O. bimaculatus* (Opinión  
449 Técnica No. RJL/INAPESCA/DGAIPP/1065/2015; DOF. 2016, 01 junio), might be only  
450 partially effective for protecting the recruitment of the other species present in the same locations  
451 but with a different spawning season (e. g., *O. hubbsorum*, López-Uriarte et al. 2005; Moreno-  
452 Báez et al. 2012). Similarly, minimum sizes established based on size at sexual maturity for *O.*  
453 *bimaculatus* might overestimate the minimum size required for *O. hubbsorum* (Table 1). Our  
454 findings highlight that sustainable fisheries management will heavily depend upon establishing  
455 management tools that match the geographic and habitat distribution, life history and population  
456 dynamics of the biological entities targeted by multi-specific fisheries.

457

458 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

459 We thank several fishing cooperatives, civil society organizations and fisherman that helped  
460 collecting octopus samples: Sociedades Cooperativas de Producción Pesquera: de La Purísima,  
461 de Bahía Magdalena y de Puerto Chale, fisherman from San Quintin and Ejido Erendira, Dra.  
462 Ivonne Posada, and partners of the PANGAS project including Centro Intercultural de Estudio de  
463 Desiertos y Océanos A.C. (CEDO), Comunidad y Biodiversidad A.C, Pronatura Noroeste A.C.  
464 and fishing cooperatives from the Northern Gulf of California. Karla Vargas and Stacy L. Sotak  
465 helped us at various stages during microsatellite genotyping at the University of Arizona.

466 **Funding**

467 Fondo Institucional CONACYT-Fronteras de la Ciencia, proyecto 26/2016. "Estudio integrativo  
468 de la biodiversidad y la conservación del Golfo de California, bajo un enfoque de paisaje  
469 genético marino y conectividad"

470 This research was partially financed by SIP projects: 20120971, 20121594, 20130059,  
471 20130089, 20140781, 20140465, 20150998, 20150117 and CONACyT 108230.

472 JFDC benefited from CONACyT doctoral (328943) and postdoctoral (291053 estancias  
473 posdoctorales nacionales 2016-1) scholarships

474 This work was partially supported via the PANGAS Science Coordination by the David and  
475 Lucile Packard Foundation grants #2013-39400, #2015- 62798.

476 **Competing Interests**

477 The authors declare there are no competing interests.

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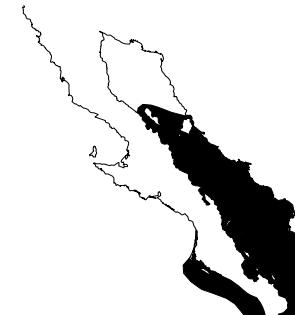
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**Table 1**(on next page)**Life history & Hypotheses**

Life history and hypotheses regarding levels of genetic diversity and structure in three species of octopus from Northwest Mexico. BCP = Baja California Peninsula, ML = Mantle Length.

Life history	<i>O. bimaculoides</i>	<i>O. hubbsorum</i>	<i>O. bimaculatus</i>	References
<b>Geographic distribution</b>				(2, 3, 4, and 11)
	From CA, USA to Bahia San Quintin in BC, Mexico.	From Bahia Magdalena, BCS to Oaxaca, including the Gulf of California.	From CA, USA to Bahia Vizcaino BCS, including the Gulf of California	
<b>Reproductive period</b>	Santa Barbara, CA, USA (Dec-May)  San Quintin, BCP, Mexico (Oct-Jan)	Pacific coast of BCP (May-Oct)  Gulf of California (Mar, Sep-Dec)	Pacific coast of BCP (Jan-Jun)  Gulf of California (Jun-Sep)	(1, 2, 3, 5, and 9)
<b>*Fecundity</b>	Eggs laid in festoons  137 – 780	Clutch eggs 105,000 – 144,000  Ripe ovarian eggs 240,050 (range 22,447 – 545,444)	Clutch eggs >20,000  Ripe ovarian eggs $91,407 \pm 75,361$ SD (range 11,618 – 372,269)	(1, 2, 6, 10, 13 and 19)
<b>*Egg size (length) and ripe ovarian eggs size</b>	10 – 12 mm (range 9.5 – 16 mm)	$1.66 \pm 0.74$ mm  Ripe ovarian eggs 2.07 mm (range 0.7 – 3.7 mm)	4 – 7 mm  Ripe ovarian eggs (range 1.8 – 4 mm)	(1, 2, 3, 10, 13, and 19)
<b>Planktonic larval duration</b>	absent, direct development to	Present but the time is uncertain (Probably ~ 60	2 – 3 months (60 to 90 days)	(1, 2, 3, and 13)

<b>(paralarvae)</b>	juvenile, benthic hatchlings	days)		
<b>Size at sexual maturity</b>	55 mm (ML) males 110 mm (ML) females	70 mm (ML) males 119.7 mm (ML) females	124.5 mm (ML) males 147.0 mm (ML) females	(2, 6, 9, and 19)
<b>Lifespan (years)</b>	Short (1.0 - 1.5)	Short (1.5)	Short (1.5 – 2.0)	(2, 3, and 6)
<b>Hypotheses</b>	<i>O. bimaculoides</i>	<i>O. hubbsorum</i>	<i>O. bimaculatus</i>	<b>References</b>
<b>Effective population size (<math>N_e</math>)</b>	Small	Medium	Large	(17 and 20)
<b>Genetic diversity (allelic richness)</b>	Low	Medium	High	(17 and 20)
<b>Diversity of private alleles</b>	High	Medium	Low	(14 and 18)
<b>Genetic Structure</b>	High	Medium	Low	(8, 12, and 15)
<b>Genetic relatedness</b>	High	Medium	Low	(7 and 16)

1 \* = considering average, min and max reported value. (1) Ambrose (1981), (2) Forsythe & Hanlon (1988), (3) Ambrose (1990), (4) López-Uriarte et al. (2005),  
 2 (5) Castellanos-Martínez (2008), (6) López-Uriarte & Rios-Jara (2009), (7) Christie et al. (2010), (8) Selkoe & Toonen (2011), (9) Domínguez-Contreras (2011),  
 3 (10) Cardenas-Robles (2013), (11) Domínguez-Contreras et al. (2013), (12) Riginos & Liggins (2013), (13) Alejo-Plata & Herrero-Alejo (2014), (14) Beger et al.  
 4 (2014), (15) Selkoe et al. (2014), (16) Burgess et al. (2014), (17) Romiguier et al. (2014), (18) Munguía-Vega et al. (2015) (19) Alejo-Plata & Gómez-Márquez  
 5 (2015) and (20) Ellegren & Galtier (2016).

**Table 2**(on next page)

Nucleotide divergence of both: 16s rDNA gene and COI gene

Nucleotide divergence between species of octopus identified through the analysis of both the 16s rDNA gene (below the diagonal) and COI gene (above the diagonal). Standard error estimates are shown in parentheses.

	<i>O. bimaculoides</i>	<i>O. bimaculatus</i>	<i>O. hubbsorum</i>
<i>O. bimaculoides</i>	-	0.0632 ( $\pm 0.0104$ )	0.1005 ( $\pm 0.0142$ )
<i>O. bimaculatus</i>	0.0328 ( $\pm 0.0079$ )	-	0.1042 ( $\pm 0.0139$ )
<i>O. hubbsorum</i>	0.0629 ( $\pm 0.0113$ )	0.0708 ( $\pm 0.123$ )	-

1

**Table 3**(on next page)

## Genetic variation within population

Genetic variation within populations of three species of octopus. Sample Size (N), Mean  $\pm$  Standard Error (SE) of the number of alleles ( $N_A$ ), effective alleles ( $N_E$ ), and observed ( $H_o$ ), expected ( $H_E$ ) heterozygosities, allelic richness ( $R_A$ ) and private allelic richness ( $P_{AR}$ ).

Species	Population	N	N <sub>A</sub>	N <sub>E</sub>	H <sub>O</sub>	H <sub>E</sub>	R <sub>A</sub>	P <sub>AR</sub>
<i>Octopus bimaculoides</i>	Ejido Erendira	14	5.00 ± 0.93	3.22 ± 0.58	0.77 ± 0.09	0.62 ± 0.07	4.15 ± 0.68	1.09 ± 0.33
	San Quintín	9	6.14 ± 1.49	4.44 ± 1.18	0.52 ± 0.12	0.62 ± 0.11	5.46 ± 1.23	2.53 ± 1.23
	Bahía Magdalena	9	4.29 ± 0.71	3.34 ± 0.62	0.91 ± 0.05	0.65 ± 0.05	4.08 ± 0.65	1.50 ± 0.58
	<b>Mean ± SE</b>		<b>5.14 ± 0.62</b>	<b>3.67 ± 0.47</b>	<b>0.74 ± 0.06</b>	<b>0.63 ± 0.04</b>	<b>4.56 ± 0.45</b>	<b>1.71 ± 0.43</b>
<i>Octopus hubbsorum</i>	Puerto Libertad	14	8.86 ± 1.18	5.85 ± 1.39	0.70 ± 0.10	0.72 ± 0.08	5.47 ± 0.71	1.84 ± 0.40
	Isla San Lorenzo	22	7.71 ± 2.11	5.17 ± 1.55	0.57 ± 0.15	0.61 ± 0.13	4.44 ± 0.96	0.30 ± 0.14
	Isla Tiburón	31	10.0 ± 2.35	5.89 ± 1.47	0.53 ± 0.12	0.69 ± 0.10	4.94 ± 0.85	0.39 ± 0.10
	Isla el Dátil	3	4.00 ± 0.31	3.23 ± 0.39	0.76 ± 0.06	0.66 ± 0.04	4.00 ± 0.31	0.33 ± 0.28
	Bahía Kino	32	10.0 ± 2.86	6.32 ± 1.77	0.70 ± 0.14	0.66 ± 0.13	4.79 ± 1.00	0.29 ± 0.19
	I. San Pedro Martir	3	2.86 ± 0.63	2.58 ± 0.56	0.41 ± 0.17	0.46 ± 0.13	2.86 ± 0.63	0.01 ± 0.01
	Santa Rosalía	8	6.57 ± 1.51	4.82 ± 1.14	0.75 ± 0.12	0.66 ± 0.11	5.00 ± 0.99	0.50 ± 0.20
	El Conejo	8	5.00 ± 1.31	4.09 ± 1.07	0.65 ± 0.12	0.60 ± 0.12	4.28 ± 0.98	0.27 ± 0.25
	<b>Mean ± SE</b>		<b>6.89 ± 0.67</b>	<b>4.75 ± 0.45</b>	<b>0.63 ± 0.05</b>	<b>0.63 ± 0.04</b>	<b>4.47 ± 0.28</b>	<b>0.49 ± 0.20</b>
<i>Octopus bimaculatus</i>	La Bocana	5	5.86 ± 0.51	4.73 ± 0.49	0.94 ± 0.06	0.77 ± 0.03	5.16 ± 0.42	0.06 ± 0.03
	Las Barrancas	5	5.43 ± 0.53	4.49 ± 0.61	0.72 ± 0.11	0.73 ± 0.07	5.09 ± 0.50	0.43 ± 0.24
	Malarrimo	32	11.71 ± 0.71	6.01 ± 0.79	0.79 ± 0.08	0.79 ± 0.06	4.90 ± 0.37	0.39 ± 0.16
	Puerto Peñasco	32	11.42 ± 0.87	7.29 ± 1.15	0.87 ± 0.06	0.81 ± 0.07	5.15 ± 0.48	0.34 ± 0.10
	San Luis Gonzaga	8	6.71 ± 1.02	5.21 ± 0.76	0.79 ± 0.14	0.71 ± 0.12	4.81 ± 0.66	0.10 ± 0.05
	Puerto Refugio	17	9.14 ± 1.20	6.11 ± 0.96	0.68 ± 0.11	0.77 ± 0.08	4.89 ± 0.52	0.25 ± 0.09
	Isla Smith	25	11.14 ± 1.24	6.76 ± 0.89	0.84 ± 0.06	0.81 ± 0.06	5.14 ± 0.41	0.39 ± 0.11
	B.de Los Ángeles	14	9.57 ± 0.75	6.20 ± 0.89	0.68 ± 0.10	0.78 ± 0.07	5.13 ± 0.44	0.19 ± 0.06
	Puerto Lobos	25	10.43 ± 0.75	6.66 ± 0.83	0.77 ± 0.08	0.82 ± 0.04	5.19 ± 0.34	0.39 ± 0.18
<b>Mean ± SE</b>			<b>9.08 ± 0.40</b>	<b>5.93 ± 0.28</b>	<b>0.79 ± 0.03</b>	<b>0.78 ± 0.02</b>	<b>5.05 ± 0.05</b>	<b>0.28 ± 0.05</b>

**Table 4**(on next page)

## Contemporary effective population size

Average and 95% confidence intervals for the contemporary effective population size ( $N_e$ ) for three species of octopus. Locations were pooled according to the results of the genetic assignment of species (Fig. 2).  $N_e$  was estimated with two methods, including linkage disequilibrium (LD; lowest allele frequency used 0.05 and 0.02 respectively) and Molecular coancestry ( $M_c$ ).

	<b>LDNE 0.05</b>	<b>LDNE 0.02</b>	<b>Molecular coancestry</b>
<i>O. bimaculoides</i>	5.4 (3.4 - 8.8)	10.2 (7.4 - 13.8)	11.2 (3.0 - 24.4)
<i>O. hubbsorum</i>	88.0 (63.8 - 129.9)	125.5 (94.7 - 177.4)	22.9 (1.7 - 71.5)
<i>O. bimaculatus</i>	261.4 (173.6 - 472.9)	264.9 (194.7 - 395.8)	27.7 (13.3 - 47.4)

1

**Table 5**(on next page)Analysis of molecular variance

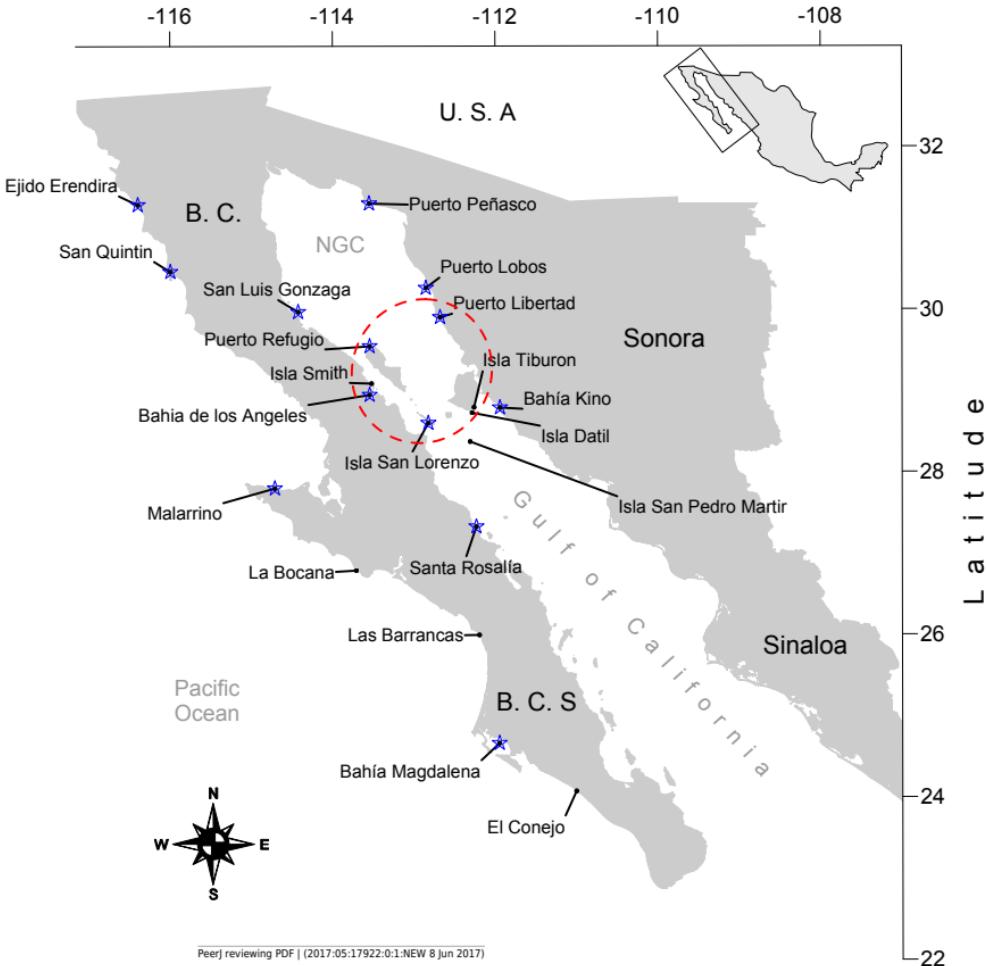
Analysis of molecular variance (AMOVA) from microsatellite data within three species of octopus from Northwest México.

Species	Source of Variation	Variance	df	Sum of squares	Means of squares	Estimated Variance	P Value
<i>Octopus bimaculoides</i>	Among Populations ( $F_{ST}$ )	19%	2	28.865	14.432	0.592	0.000
	Among Indiv ( $F_{IS}$ )	0%	29	61.401	2.117	0.000	0.995
	Within Indiv ( $F_{IT}$ )	81%	32	81.500	2.547	2.547	0.001
	<b>Total</b>	100%	63	171.766		3.139	
<i>Octopus hubbsorum</i>	Among Populations ( $F_{ST}$ )	15%	7	110.224	15.746	0.459	0.000
	Among Indiv ( $F_{IS}$ )	13%	113	330.838	2.928	0.400	0.000
	Within Indiv ( $F_{IT}$ )	71%	121	257.500	2.128	2.128	0.000
	<b>Total</b>	100%	241	698.562		2.987	
<i>Octopus bimaculatus</i>	Among Populations ( $F_{ST}$ )	9%	8	103.068	12.884	0.283	0.000
	Among Indiv ( $F_{IS}$ )	5%	154	467.367	3.035	0.162	0.000
	Within Indiv ( $F_{IT}$ )	86%	163	442.000	2.712	2.712	0.000
	<b>Total</b>	100%	325	1012.436		3.156	

**Figure 1**(on next page)

## Study area

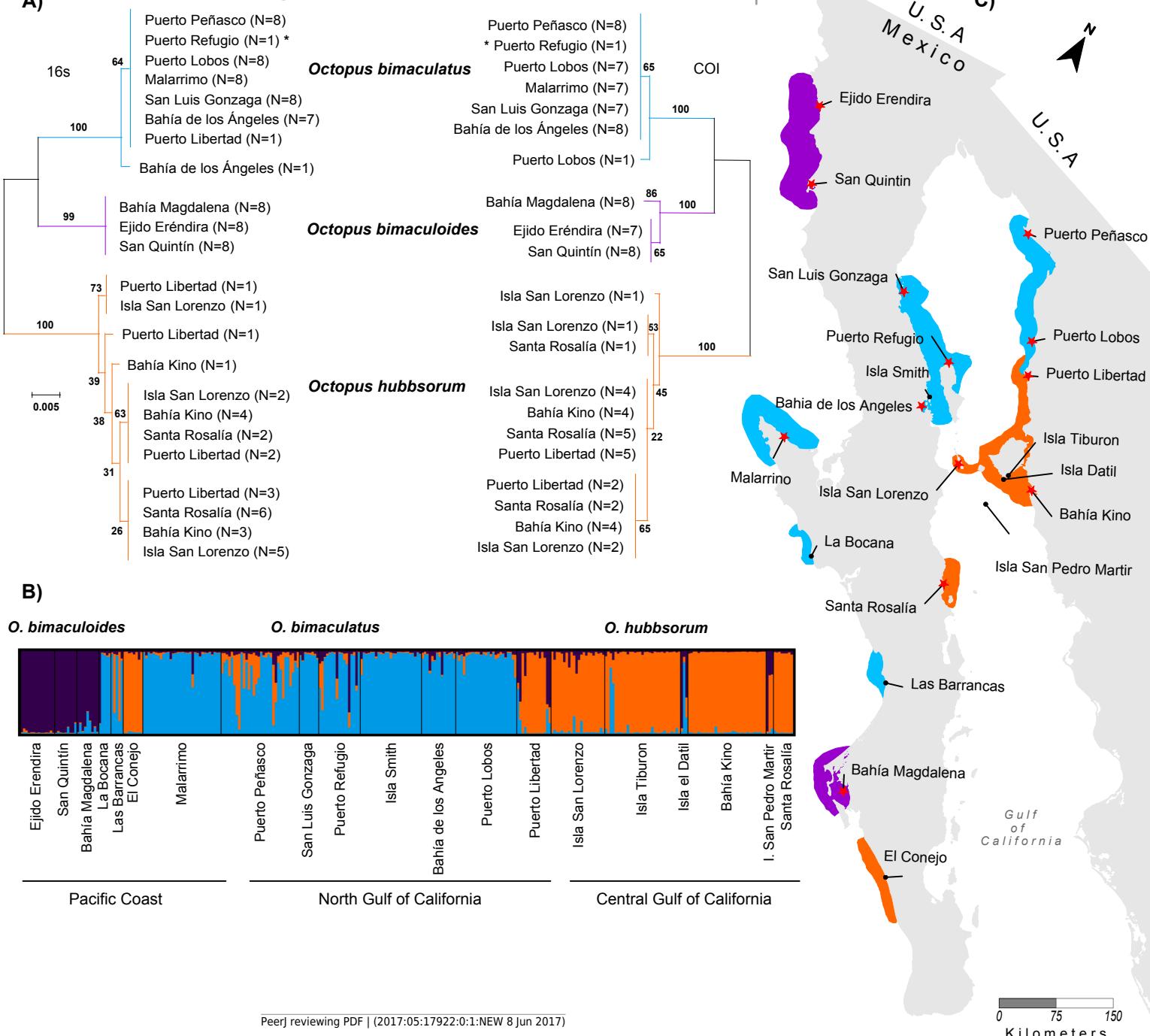
Locations of 20 octopus populations sampled from Northwest Mexico. B.C = Baja California. B. C. S = Baja California Sur. NGC = Northern Gulf of California. The blue stars represent main fishing locations, and the red circle represents the Midriff Island region.



**Figure 2**(on next page)

## Genetic assignment of octopus samples in Northwest Mexico

Genetic assignment of octopus samples from fishery locations in Northwest Mexico to three species. Locations used for both 16s rDNA and COI are indicated with stars. All locations were used for microsatellites analysis. A) Neighbor-joining trees constructed with 97 haplotypes for both 16s rDNA and COI for *O. bimaculatus* (blue), *O. bimaculoides* (purple) and *O. hubbsorum* (orange). Bootstrap support >99% in 1000 replicates are shown for branches separating the three species. B) Bayesian cluster from STRUCTURE shows the probability of individual membership to three genetic clusters (K = 3, 316 individuals). C) Distribution of octopus species in 20 localities from Northwest Mexico according to phylogenetic and Bayesian analyses.



**Table 6**(on next page)

Relatedness within three octopus species

Mean pairwise relatedness (R) values ( $\pm 95\%$  confidence intervals) within three octopus species, compared with bootstrapped upper (Blue) and lower (Red) 95% confidence intervals assuming random mating (10,000 bootstraps replicates).

Relatedness (R)

0.25

0.2

0.15

0.1

0.05

0

-0.05

*O. bimaculoides**O. hubbsorum**O. bimaculatus*