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Introgressive hybridization in a Spiny-Tailed Iguana, *Ctenosaura pectinata*, and its implications for taxonomy and conservation

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Introgression, the transmission of genetic material of one taxon into another through hybridization, can have various evolutionary outcomes. Previous studies have detected signs of introgression between western populations of the Mexican endemic and threatened spiny-tailed iguana, *Ctenosaura pectinata*. However, the extent of this phenomenon along the geographic distribution of the species is unknown. Here we use multilocus data together with detailed geographic sampling to (1) define genotypic clusters within *C. pectinata*; (2) evaluate geographic concordance between maternally and biparentally inherited markers; (3) examine levels of introgression between genotypic clusters, and (4) suggest taxonomic modifications in light of this information. Applying clustering methods to genotypes of 341 individuals from 49 localities of *C. pectinata* and the closely related *C. acanthura*, we inferred the existence of five genotypic clusters. Contact zones between genotypic clusters with signatures of interbreeding were detected, showing different levels of geographic discordance with mtDNA lineages. In northern localities, mtDNA and microsatellites exhibit concordant distributions, supporting the resurrection of *C. brachylopha*. Similar concordance is observed along the distribution of *C. acanthura*, confirming its unique taxonomic identity. Genetic and geographic concordance is also observed for populations within southwestern Mexico, where the recognition of a new species awaits in depth taxonomic revision. Contrarily, in western localities a striking pattern of discordance was detected where up to six mtDNA lineages co-occur with only two genotypic clusters. Given that the type specimen originated from this area, we suggest that individuals from western Mexico keep the name *C. pectinata*. Our results have profound implications for conservation, management, and forensics of Mexican

iguanas.

Introgressive Hybridization in a Spiny-Tailed Iguana, *Ctenosaura pectinata*, and its Implications for Taxonomy and Conservation.

Short title: Introgression in *Ctenosaura pectinata*

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Abstract

Introgression, the transmission of genetic material of one taxon into another through hybridization, can have various evolutionary outcomes. Previous studies have detected signs of introgression between western populations of the Mexican endemic and threatened spiny-tailed iguana, *Ctenosaura pectinata*. However, the extent of this phenomenon along the geographic distribution of the species is unknown. Here we use multilocus data together with detailed geographic sampling to (1) define genotypic clusters within *C. pectinata*; (2) evaluate geographic concordance between maternally and biparentally inherited markers; (3) examine levels of introgression between genotypic clusters, and (4) suggest taxonomic modifications in light of this information. Applying clustering methods to genotypes of 341 individuals from 49 localities of *C. pectinata* and the closely related *C. acanthura*, we inferred the existence of five genotypic clusters. Contact zones between genotypic clusters with signatures of interbreeding were detected, showing different levels of geographic discordance with mtDNA lineages. In northern localities, mtDNA and microsatellites exhibit concordant distributions, supporting the resurrection of *C. brachylopha*. Similar concordance is observed along the distribution of *C. acanthura*, confirming its unique taxonomic identity. Genetic and geographic concordance is also observed for populations within southwestern Mexico, where the recognition of a new species awaits in depth taxonomic revision. Contrarily, in western localities a striking pattern of discordance was detected where up to six mtDNA lineages co-occur with only two genotypic clusters. Given that the type specimen originated from this area, we suggest that individuals from western Mexico keep the name *C. pectinata*. Our results have profound implications for conservation, management, and forensics of Mexican iguanas.

Introduction

The role of introgression, the transmission of genetic material from one taxon into another through hybridization, in shaping biodiversity is receiving increasing attention in different taxa and geographic areas (e.g. Abbott et al., 2013; Haus, Roos & Zinner, 2013; Mallet, Besansky & Hahn, 2016). There is evidence suggesting that introgression can increase the risk of extinction in endangered species through genetic swamping, have deleterious effects in hybrids, lead to adaptation by the emergence of novel genotypes or have no effect on the fate of a species (Seehausen, 2004; Mallet, 2005; Frankham, 2006; Kronforst, 2012; Pardo-Diaz et al., 2012). Given these various outcomes, it is particularly important to study the extent and impact of introgression in biologically rich areas like Mesoamerica, where general patterns of genetic diversity are just starting to be uncovered. This may have direct implications for species delimitation and, ultimately, conservation and wildlife management (Gompert, 2012). The term introgression has been primarily used to refer to gene flow between species, however more recent works have applied the term to gene flow occurring between young divergent lineages (Streicher et al., 2014). Here we used ‘introgression’ as in the latter instance.

The dry tropical forests of the western lowlands of Mexico are part of the Mesoamerica Hot Spot (Myers et al., 2000). Although many phylogeographic studies have focused on this area, only a few of them have employed a multilocus approach that can allow for the detection of introgression (e.g. Daza et al., 2009; Greenbaum, Smith & de Sá, 2011; Pringle et al., 2012; Arbeláez-Cortés, Milá & Navarro-Sigüenza, 2014; Arbeláez-Cortés, Roldán-Piña & Navarro-Sigüenza, 2014). In the spiny-tailed iguana *Ctenosaura pectinata*, distributed in the lowlands of the Pacific slope and the Balsas Depression in Mexico (Smith & Taylor, 1950; Köhler, Schroth

68 & Streit, 2000), initial phylogeographic studies ~~uncovered~~ eight mtDNA lineages: North A,
 69 North B, North C, Colima, Balsas, Guerrero, Oaxaca and South (Fig. 1, Fig. S1; Zarza, Reynoso
 70 & Emerson, 2008). *Ctenosaura acanthura*, found in the lowlands of the Gulf of Mexico,
 71 ~~appeared~~ nested within the South lineage, whereas *C. hemilopha* and *C. similis* ~~appeared~~ as
 72 ~~clearly~~ distinct lineages (Zarza, Reynoso & Emerson, 2008).

73 Genetic distances (Tamura & Nei, 1993) between *C. pectinata* mtDNA lineages range
 74 from 4.11 to 11.57%, ~~these distances are~~ similar to ~~those~~ estimated among species of Iguanas of
 75 the genus *Cyclura* (Malone et al., 2000). The largest distances measured among *C. pectinata*
 76 lineages occur between the North and Colima lineages (Zarza, Reynoso & Emerson, 2008). This
 77 phylogeographic break occurs in the vicinity of the Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt (TMVB; Fig.
 78 1), on the central western coast of Mexico and ~~probably~~ occurred between 1.1 and 3.1 million
 79 years ago (Zarza, Reynoso & Emerson, 2008). This geological feature has attracted many
 80 biogeographers because ~~several highland and lowland taxa find their distribution limits here~~ (e.g.
 81 (Mastretta-Yanes et al., 2015; Zaldivar-Riverón, Leon-Regagnon & de Oca, 2004; Devitt, 2006;
 82 Mulcahy, Morrill & Mendelson, 2006; Bryson, García-Vázquez & Riddle, 2012; Blair et al.,
 83 2015)). ~~Further~~ multilocus research and detailed geographic sampling of *C. pectinata* in this area
 84 revealed a ninth mtDNA lineage occurring between North C and Colima lineages: North D
 85 (Zarza, Reynoso & Emerson, 2011; Fig. 1). Interestingly, the North C, North D, Colima and
 86 Balsas mtDNA lineages show geographically discordant patterns with two clusters ~~defined~~ with
 87 microsatellite ~~nuclear~~ markers (Zarza, Reynoso & Emerson, 2011). The discordance ~~possibly~~
 88 resulted from contemporary and/or past introgression among lineages coupled with male sex
 89 biased dispersal (Zarza, Reynoso & Emerson, 2011). It is unknown if geographic discordance

90 between mtDNA and microsatellite markers, and introgression are restricted to this part of *C.*
 91 *pectinata* distribution or if it is prevalent ~~between other neighboring lineages.~~

92 It is clear that molecular studies in *C. pectinata* have uncovered diversity that had been
 93 overlooked or not detected by the ~~latest~~ morphological revisions of the species and closely
 94 related taxa (Köhler, Schroth & Streit, 2000; Köhler, 2002). This is in contrast to ~~the very early~~
 95 studies of the genus. Bailey (1928), ~~in a revision of the genus *Ctenosaura*~~ recognized five
 96 species (~~*C.*~~ *brachylopha*, *C. pectinata*, *C. acanthura*, *C. brevirostris*, *C. parkeri*) within the range
 97 of what ~~we currently know~~ as *C. pectinata*. He stated that *C. acanthura* was the most widely
 98 distributed in Mexico. *Ctenosaura pectinata* was restricted to Colima (Wiegmann, 1834) and
 99 Jalisco together with *C. brevirostris*. *Ctenosaura brachylopha* was described as inhabiting the
 100 northern states of Nayarit and Sinaloa. Without giving any justification, Smith and Taylor (~~Smith~~
 101 ~~& Taylor~~, 1950) lumped *C. brachylopha*, *C. brevirostris* and *C. parkeri* with *C. pectinata* and
 102 restricted the name *C. acanthura* for iguanas from the Gulf of Mexico area. More recent
 103 morphological revisions have not recovered *C. brachylopha*, *C. brevirostris* or *C. parkeri* as
 104 distinct entities (Köhler, Schroth & Streit, 2000; Köhler, 2002).

105 In light of recent molecular studies and previous morphological classifications, ~~a revisit~~
 106 ~~of *C. pectinata*~~ taxonomy is warranted. This species, threatened by hunting and habitat loss
 107 (Aguirre-Hidalgo & Reynoso, 1998; Faria et al., 2010), ~~may not~~ receive proper protection
 108 without a clear definition of its boundaries and genetic composition (Frankham, 2006).
 109 Taxonomic modifications should rely on a multilocus approach and comprehensive geographic
 110 sampling (Leaché & Fujita, 2010; Rittmeyer & Austin, 2012). This, in turn, can facilitate the
 111 identification of genotypic clusters: groups of individuals that have few or no intermediates when
 112 in contact (Mallet, 1995). Such groups may inter-grade freely at their boundaries, but be strongly

differentiated and relatively ~~constant~~ in morphology, genetics and ecology. This implies that species can be affected by gene flow, selection and history, but they are not necessarily defined by these processes (Mallet, 1995). Defining genotypic clusters is useful in cases where gene flow between otherwise differentiated clusters occurs, for example in contact zones, as might be the case of *C. pectinata*.

Here we use multilocus data from individuals sampled across the ranges of *C. pectinata* and the closely related *C. acanthura*. Our specific aims are to: (1) define genotypic clusters; (2) investigate the levels of geographic concordance between mtDNA lineages and genotypic clusters; (3) evaluate evidence for introgression between clusters, and; (4) re-define taxonomic entities based on maternally and biparentally inherited markers, and compare these to previous ~~proposals~~ (Bailey, 1928).

Materials and Methods

Sampling and Laboratory procedures

Spiny-tailed iguanas were collected between 2004 and 2006 using tomahawk traps, noosing or by hand within the distribution ~~range~~ of *C. pectinata* and *C. acanthura*. The narrow area of sympatry between *C. pectinata* and *C. hemilopha* in northern Mexico was excluded to avoid the inclusion of *C. hemilopha* alleles in the analyses (Zarza Franco, 2008; Fig. 1). All samples have been analyzed in previous studies (Zarza, Reynoso & Emerson, 2016, 2008, 2011; Faria, 2008; Zarza Franco, 2008; Faria et al., 2010) to obtain microsatellite and/or mtDNA data (see File S1 for details). Except for the mtDNA sequences and microsatellite genotypes produced by (Zarza Franco, 2008), data from previous studies ~~had~~ been deposited ~~in~~ GenBank (File S1) or

as supplementary material in (Zarza, Reynoso & Emerson, 2016). Here we make available two previously unpublished mtDNA sequences (GenBank accession numbers KT003209-KT003210) and microsatellite data (File S1) produced by (Zarza Franco, 2008) from three localities in northern Mexico (Fig. 1).

We gathered all the data available to us to create microsatellite and mtDNA datasets that are mostly overlapping regarding sample content. This study comprises samples from 53 of the localities sampled in the above-mentioned studies; individuals from 49 of these localities were included in the microsatellite dataset. In some instances, individuals failed to amplify for mtDNA in earlier studies, but were successfully genotyped (24 out 341 samples; File S1). All mtDNA lineages described in previous publications were represented in the mtDNA dataset analyzed herein (File S1; Fig. 1).

A thorough description of the methods can be found in (Zarza, Reynoso & Emerson, 2016, 2008, 2011; Faria et al., 2010); however a summarized version follows. From each individual, a 0.15 µl blood sample was taken from the caudal vein or a tail clip and preserved in ethanol. DNA samples were purified using a modified salt precipitation protocol (Aljanabi & Martinez, 1997). A 561 bp fragment of the mitochondrial ND4 gene was PCR amplified and sequenced using primers ND4, ND4Rev (Arévalo, Davis & Sites, 1994), ND4F1 (Zarza, Reynoso & Emerson, 2008) and ND4R623 (Hasbún et al., 2005) with conditions described in (Zarza, Reynoso & Emerson, 2008). Individuals were genotyped with nine microsatellite markers. Loci Cthe12, Cthe37 (Blázquez, Rodríguez Estrella & Munguía Vega, 2006), Pec01, Pec03, Pec16, Pec20, Pec25, Pec73, and Pec89 (Zarza et al., 2009), were PCR amplified using conditions described in (2011) and run in two multiplexes that allow for loci separation by color



158 and size in an automated ABI prism 3730. Fragment size was visualized with the GeneMapper
159 software version 4.0 (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, USA).

160 The School of Biological Sciences Ethical Review Committee at the University of East
161 Anglia approved this study as stated in an “Approval letter” to EZ. All efforts were made to
162 minimize stress when taking blood samples, which were obtained under the permits
163 SEMARNAT SGPA/DGVS/08239, SGPA/DGVS/ 02934/06, 03563/06 to VHR.

164

165 Data Analyses

166 Mitochondrial DNA data

167 A median joining haplotype network was calculated with Network (Bandelt, Forster & Rohl,
168 1999) to update previously proposed haplotype networks (Zarza, Reynoso & Emerson, 2008,
169 2011). SAMOVA 2.0 (Dupanloup, Schneider & Excoffier, 2002) was used to define groups of
170 populations that are geographically homogeneous and maximally differentiated from each other
171 and to estimate their hierarchical differentiation. One hundred initial independent processes were
172 tested followed by 10,000 steps of the simulated annealing process, which maximizes the
173 proportion of total genetic variance among groups. Analyses were run under scenarios of 2 to 15



174 groups (K) without geographic restrictions. The FCT index was used to select the best grouping,
175 i.e. the most suitable K. This index reflects the among-group component of the overall genetic
176 variance. We selected the number of groupings that maximizes such component, meaning that
~~177 under that scenario~~ the groups of populations are maximally differentiated from each other



178 (Dupanloup, Schneider & Excoffier, 2002). To accomplish this, the most suitable K value was
179 selected based on the observed changes of FCT among consecutive K values. We considered



180 arbitrarily that the most suitable value of K is observed when there is a FCT change <1%

between two consecutive K s. We refer to this as ΔFCT obtained as $FCT_{K+1} - FCT_K$, reflecting changes in the percentage of variation explained by FCT. Bar plots were created with R 2.15 (R Core Team, 2012) to show the mtDNA lineage of each individual as determined by the haplotype network (Fig. S1) and to illustrate the results of SAMOVA.

Microsatellite data

The software GENEPOP 4.1 (Rousset, 2008) was used to estimate allele and null allele frequencies, to perform tests for linkage disequilibrium between pairs of loci and, to detect deviations from Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium. F_{ST} values between localities were calculated with Arlequin 3.5 with the pairwise differences distance method (Excoffier & Lischer, 2010).

The possible number of genotypic clusters under a scenario of admixture was inferred with STRUCTURE 2.3.2 (Pritchard, Stephens & Donnelly, 2000). Simulations were run assigning a uniform prior for the parameter Alpha (degree of admixture) and estimating the allele frequency parameter (Lambda) assuming correlated allele frequencies. Ten iterations for each value of K (from $K=2$ up to $K=10$) were performed with ten million MCMC replicates after a burn-in period of 1,000,000. The most likely number of clusters was inferred with the method of Evanno et al. (2005) implemented in Structure Harvester (Earl & vonHoldt, 2012).

In addition to the STRUCTURE analyses, SAMOVA 2.0 (Dupanloup, Schneider & Excoffier, 2002) was used to define groups of populations and to estimate their hierarchical differentiation applying the same criteria and parameters used for the mtDNA data. Bar plots were created with R to show STRUCTURE and SAMOVA results for each individual. Expected and observed heterozygosity, number of alleles and F_{ST} values between the resulting groups were calculated with Arlequin 3.5. Effective population size was estimated with the coalescent

method implemented in NeEstimator v2 (Do et al., 2014). Allelic richness and private allelic richness were calculated applying the rarefaction method implemented in ADZE 1.0 (Szpiech, Jakobsson & Rosenberg, 2008). The standardized sample size for the calculation was set to be equal to the smallest sample size across populations. The largest allowed fraction of missing data at any given group for a locus was 50%.

The software NewHybrids (Anderson & Thompson, 2002; Anderson, 2008) was used to calculate hybrid indices between the SAMOVA defined genotypic clusters. This method employs a Bayesian model in which parental and various classes of hybrids form a mixture from which the sample is drawn. Throughout the manuscript we apply the terminology used by NewHybrids when referring to ‘hybrid’ categories and indices calculated with this software. However, the individuals involved are not necessarily ‘hybrids’ in strict sense (i.e offspring resulting from inter-species mating).

We estimated the posterior probability $P(z)$ that each individual in a pair of clusters (X and Y) falls into each of six hybrid classes: pure cluster X , pure cluster Y , F_1 , F_2 , cluster X backcross, cluster Y backcross. Five independent Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) analyses were run for each pair of neighboring clusters with at least 300,000 sweeps after 10,000 burnin sweeps. Convergence of the MCMC was assessed visually with the variable plots generated by NewHybrids. $P(z)$ values were averaged among the five independent runs. An individual was considered as belonging to a pure or hybrid class if it had been assigned with $P(z) > 0.8$ (Anderson & Thompson, 2002).

Results

227 Mitochondrial data

228 Out of the 368 individuals included in this study, 344 were sequenced for a fragment of the ND4
 229 mtDNA locus. An updated haplotype network is shown in Fig. S1, which includes the previously
 230 unpublished haplotypes KT003209- KT003210. In the SAMOVA analyses, a change of less than
 231 1% in FCT was observed at K=10 (Table A and Fig. A in File S2). Under this K, 79% of the
 232 variation can be explained by variation among groups (Table 1). These groups (mt1-mt10 from
 233 now onwards) coincide almost entirely with the haplotype groups previously recovered by the
 234 mtDNA locus, and that were defined based on a haplotype network and nested clade analysis
 235 (Zarza, Reynoso & Emerson, 2008; Fig. 1, Fig. 2, Fig. 4 A-B). SAMOVA detected a subdivision
 236 (mt4, mt5) within the Colima mtDNA lineage, whereas individuals forming the North B mtDNA
 237 lineage were assigned to two different groups (mt1 and mt2). The Oaxaca mtDNA lineage was
 238 not identified.

240 Microsatellite data

241 Genotypes of a total of 341 individuals from 49 localities were used. Number of samples per
 242 locality ranged from 1-15 (File S1; Fig. 2). Locus Pec25 suffered from null alleles at a frequency
 243 higher than 20% in twelve localities, thus it was not included in further analyses. Other loci are
 244 possibly affected by null alleles but in less than 10% of the localities, which may reflect local
 245 phenomena leading to homozygous excess, or null alleles. The remaining loci exhibited from 9
 246 to 27 alleles among the sampled localities. The null hypothesis of random union of gametes was
 247 rejected in twelve localities, but only in one location (La Fortuna, see File S1) was deviation
 248 from Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium detected in more than one locus (Pec01, Pec03). After Šidák
 249 correction ($p < 0.00007$), the null hypothesis of independence of genotypes at one locus from

genotypes at another locus could not be rejected. Pairwise F_{ST} values showed a wide range of genetic differentiation among localities, from non-differentiation ($F_{ST} = 0$) to great differentiation (Maximum significant $F_{ST} = 0.66$; Table S1).

SAMOVA analyses with microsatellite data showed a FCT change $< 1\%$ under $K=5$ (from now onwards *Nuc1-*Nuc5; Table A in File S2; Fig. B in File S2). Under this scenario, around 22% of the variation is explained by variation among groups, whereas 71% of the variation was explained by variation within individuals (Table 1). These clusters differ from the mtDNA grouping schemes obtained with SAMOVA, but coincide with the clustering resulting from the STRUCTURE analysis as explained below. Allele number, observed heterozygosity, expected heterozygosity, inbreeding coefficient, effective population size for *Nuc1-*Nuc5 are shown in Table 2. The standardized sample size for the allelic and private allelic richness was 14. Locus Cthe12 was removed from these calculations because it had at least one grouping (i.e. groupings 4 and 5) with more than 50% missing data. Allelic and private richness mean and variance values are shown in Table 2. Genetic differentiation (F_{ST} values) between the SAMOVA groups is shown in Table 3.

STRUCTURE analyses suggest that the most likely number of genotypic clusters is seven, based on the Delta-K (ΔK) value. However we suspect that ΔK under $K=7$ is an artifact resulting from the large variation in likelihood values obtained with the previous K , $K=6$ ($SD = 1231.92$; Fig. C in File S2). After removing two runs that seemed to be outliers due to lower likelihood values, the SD under $K=6$ was greatly reduced (90.45). We then recalculated K . This time $K=4$ showed the highest ΔK (Fig. D in File S2; Fig. 3 D). Individuals were consistently assigned among runs. However these results differ from the clustering obtained with SAMOVA where further substructure in the southern part of the distribution was detected resulting in $K=5$.

Thus to establish the most likely number of K in the southern part of the distribution, further analyses were performed on a subset of individuals that included only iguanas collected south of Manzanillo (M in Fig. 2) and along the Gulf of Mexico. We refer to these analyses as South-SS from now onwards. Simulations for 10 million generations were run with $K=2 - K=6$, with 10 replicates each. $K=4$ showed the highest ΔK with consistent results among runs (Fig. E in File S2). When analyzing the entire dataset, only one cluster was detected between Manzanillo and Las Negras (between M and N in Fig. 2; Nuc 3 in Fig. 3 D), whereas two clusters were recognized in the South-SS analyses (Nuc 3a and Nuc 3b in Fig. 3 E). However, several individuals of Nuc 3a and 3b showed admixed ancestry, indicating weak geographic structure (Fig. 3 E). The division between Nuc 3a and 3b was not detected with SAMOVA. Two other clusters were identified with the South-SS analyses, one equivalent to *Nuc4 and the other comprising individuals identified as *C. acanthura* and equivalent to *Nuc5 (Fig. 2 and Fig. 3 C-E). Individuals forming these two clusters were consistently assigned among runs and in accordance with the assignment observed when analyzing the entire dataset.

Given the weak geographic structure observed between Nuc 3a and Nuc 3b and the lack of support for such subdivision with SAMOVA, we take a conservative approach and consider these as forming only one genotypic cluster (equivalent to *Nuc3 and Nuc 3). Both SAMOVA and STRUCTURE support the distinction between *Nuc 4 (Nuc 4) and Nuc *5 (Nuc 5, in the South-SS analyses). Taking into account the results of SAMOVA and STRUCTURE we recognize a total of five microsatellite genotypic clusters within the entire distribution of *C. pectinata* + *C. acanthura* (Fig. 2).

The microsatellite genotypic clusters detected with STRUCTURE (Nuc 1-Nuc 5) and SAMOVA (*Nuc1-*Nuc5) are geographically localized (Fig. 2). The limits of the clusters

defined with SAMOVA appear sharp, as this algorithm does not take admixture into account. However, the presence of introgression is supported by the hybrid indices calculated with NewHybrids between SAMOVA genotype clusters (Table 4). Sharp limits of clusters are not observed in the genotypic clusters defined with STRUCTURE but admixed individuals and zones of overlap are clearly observed (Fig. 2 and Fig. 3).

There are different levels of geographic concordance between the distribution of mtDNA lineages North A, North B, North C, North D, Colima, Balsas, Guerrero, Oaxaca, and South as described by (Zarza, Reynoso & Emerson, 2008, 2011; Fig. 1) and genotypic clusters (Fig. 2 and Fig. 3). In northern Mexico, the distributions of genotypic cluster Nuc 1 (and *Nuc1) and the North A mtDNA lineage are almost entirely concordant. Further south, in Central Mexico, Nuc 1 overlaps with Nuc 2. Most of the samples in the SAMOVA equivalent genotypic clusters (*Nuc1 and *Nuc2) were assigned to a ‘pure’ category with NewHybrids (Table 4). Only one F2 was detected and 13 individuals could not be assigned to any category. However four of these individuals had a posterior probability <0.2 of being a ‘pure’ individual. Thus, given the data and the assumptions of the model, those four individuals have a posterior probability >0.8 of being hybrids of some sort. Indeed, STRUCTURE plots show signs of interbreeding in the contact zone (Fig. 3 D).

Individuals forming Nuc 2 have mtDNA haplotypes belonging to North A, North B, North C, North D and Colima mtDNA lineages. Genotypic cluster Nuc 2 forms a contact zone with Nuc 3. Individuals in this last cluster carry mtDNA haplotypes of Colima, Balsas and Guerrero lineages. The geographically discordant patterns between mtDNA (North C-D, Colima, Balsas) and microsatellite markers in this area (Nuc 2 and Nuc 3) have been previously detected and described (Zarza, Reynoso & Emerson, 2011). In the equivalent SAMOVA clusters, 83

individuals were assigned to *Nuc2 pure class. Pure individuals of *Nuc3 were not found, however 37 and 4 individuals were assigned to the F2 and *Nuc3 backcross hybrid classes respectively (Table 4). Almost 50% of the individuals forming these clusters could not be assigned to any category. Among these, 83 individuals showed a posterior probability <0.2 of belonging to any of the pure classes, thus they might be hybrids of some sort. F_{ST} values between these genotypic clusters are the lowest observed in the pairwise comparisons (Table 3).

Genotypic cluster Nuc 3 overlaps with Nuc 4, which is formed by individuals collected in southeast Mexico with mtDNA haplotypes belonging to the Guerrero, Oaxaca and South mtDNA lineages. Most of the individuals were assigned to one of the pure categories in the SAMOVA equivalents *Nuc3 and *Nuc4 (Table 4). Only one F2 individual was found and 27 were not assigned to any category. None of them had posterior probability <0.2 of belonging to any pure class.

Nuc 4 and Nuc 5 do not seem to overlap. All individuals in the SAMOVA equivalents *Nuc4 and *Nuc5 were assigned to a pure category with a posterior probability >0.8 . Nuc 5 includes individuals described as *C. acanthura*, collected in eastern Mexico. It is geographically concordant with the distribution of a mtDNA lineage closely related to the Southern mtDNA lineage (2008). Admixture between *C. acanthura* and *C. pectinata* is only evident in Zapotitlán de las Salinas (Fig. 2), with individuals carrying *C. acanthura* mtDNA haplotypes but with nuclear ancestry of Nuc 3 and Nuc 5. The NewHybrids analysis between *Nuc3 and *Nuc5 detected two F2 individuals. One was collected in Zapotitlán de las Salinas, and the other in Apatzingán (Fig. 2). The latter locality is not geographically close to the distribution limits of Nuc 5 (or *Nuc5). Thus the potential of long distance dispersal, perhaps human mediated, should

be investigated. The remaining of the individuals was assigned to one of the pure categories and only four were not assigned to any hybrid or pure category.

Discussion

Introgression and geographic discordance between mtDNA and nuclear markers

Different degrees of discordance are observed in the geographic distribution of mtDNA lineages and microsatellite genotypic clusters across the range of *C. pectinata*. At one end of the spectrum, mtDNA North A lineage is almost entirely concordant with Nuc 1 cluster. At the opposite end of the spectrum, mtDNA lineages distributed along the central western coast of Mexico exhibit a striking discordant pattern where up to six geographically distinct mtDNA lineages (North A, North B, North C, North D, Colima, Balsas) co-occur with only two nuclear clusters (Nuc 2 and Nuc 3). This discordance between maternally and biparentally inherited markers in *C. pectinata* might be the result of several processes acting alone, in concert or at different points in time. For example under a scenario of short term refugia where populations decline throughout the range, resulting in isolation, followed by recent range expansion and male biased dispersal (Dubey et al., 2008; Johansson, Surget-Groba & Thorpe, 2008; Ujvari, Dowton & Madsen, 2008; Zarza, Reynoso & Emerson, 2011; Toews & Brelsford, 2012). The discordant pattern can also be the result of coalescence stochasticity (Irwin, 2002; Hickerson et al., 2010), selection of mtDNA (Dowling, Friberg & Lindell, 2008), differences in effective population size between mtDNA and nuclear markers.



Introgression, along current and past contact zones, ~~probably~~ also contributed to the patterns of geographic discordance in conjunction with other demographic phenomena. For example, it has been suggested that, in contact zones, selection and genetic drift can lead to mtDNA introgressing further and faster than nDNA. This is because mitochondrial genomes are less likely to hitchhike with a region under selection that prevents introgression (Ballard & Whitlock, 2004; Petit & Excoffier, 2009; Milá et al., 2013). Additionally, in small populations, genetic drift can allow the fixation of slightly deleterious alleles in the mtDNA of one population resulting in lower fitness than a related species in the same area. Selection could then drive introgression of mtDNA from the more fit population into the less fit population (Ballard & Whitlock, 2004). Furthermore, it is possible that some contact zones have changed location (Barton & Hewitt, 1985; Buggs, 2007), or that others have disappeared entirely as a result of complex climate mediated cycles of range expansion and contraction, or due to other phenomena. It is difficult to disentangle the effect of these processes with the currently available data. Sampling more finely along contact zones, and sequencing additional nuclear markers may permit coalescence analyses (Singhal & Moritz, 2012). Behavioral studies may also be informative to evaluate the effects of ecological, demographic, historical, and stochastic factors shaping the discordant patterns.

Interestingly, pairs of inter-breeding nuclear clusters with different levels of divergence occur throughout the distribution of *C. pectinata*. For example, allele frequency divergence between *Nuc1 and *Nuc2 is 0.18952, whereas it is 0.14815 between *Nuc2 and *Nuc3 (Table 3). Assignment of individuals to pure and hybrid classes also shows that contact zones have different hybrid compositions. A higher proportion of individuals were assigned to a pure class when analyzing *Nuc1 and *Nuc2 (89%) than when analyzing *Nuc2 and *Nuc3 (36%). This is

also observed in the STRUCTURE plots which reveal Nuc 2 and Nuc 3 admixed individuals more frequently than admixed Nuc 1 and Nuc 2.

Thus *C. pectinata* constitutes an excellent system to better understand the process of speciation by studying the effects of introgression between genotypic clusters at different stages of divergence. Furthermore, this system potentially allows for the comparison of evolutionary patterns and processes with contact zones in temperate and other tropical regions of the world (Leaché & McGuire, 2006; McGuire et al., 2007; Singhal & Moritz, 2012; Miraldo et al., 2013; Milá et al., 2013).

Implications for *Ctenosaura pectinata* taxonomy and conservation

Our results suggest that there are five nuclear genotypic clusters forming what is currently considered *C. pectinata*. Individuals forming the Nuc 1 cluster belong to the North A mtDNA lineage. Thus Nuc 1 and North A mtDNA lineages are geographically concordant. The distribution of this genotypic cluster coincides with the distribution of *C. brachylopha* as revised by Bailey (1928) using morphological data (i.e. states of Sinaloa, Nayarit, North of Jalisco and Isla Isabel).

The observed concordance in the geographic distribution of nuclear and mtDNA might be the result of stochastic coalescent processes, which is particularly true in taxa with low dispersal rates, as is the case for iguanas (Irwin, 2002). Other phenomena such as natural selection could be shaping the observed pattern, however this cannot be evaluated with the currently available data. Another possibility is that the formation of a biogeographic barrier affected the distribution of Nuc 1 and North A. Their southern distribution limit coincides approximately with the TMVB. This geographic feature has been proposed as a geographic barrier for several lowland

taxa (Devitt, 2006; Mulcahy, Morrill & Mendelson, 2006; De-Nova et al., 2012; Arbeláez-Cortés, Milá & Navarro-Sigüenza, 2014; Arbeláez-Cortés, Roldán-Piña & Navarro-Sigüenza, 2014; Suárez-Atilano, Burbrink & Vázquez-Domínguez, 2014; Blair et al., 2015). However, given the complex geological history of the area, the TMVB barrier might not have affected all taxa equally (Mastretta-Yanes et al., 2015). Indeed, despite this barrier, gene flow has occurred in the recent past between Nuc 1 and the neighboring Nuc 2 at the limits of their distribution in the vicinity of the TMVB.

Gene flow has also been observed in a contact zone between Nuc 1 and *C. hemilopha* in the northern edge of Nuc 1 distribution (Zarza, Reynoso & Emerson, 2008). ~~In both~~ northern and southern edges, gene flow seems to be limited to a narrow area. According to hybrid zone theory, several factors affect the extent, maintenance and shifting of hybrid zones: dispersal, selection, recombination rates and time since secondary contact (Barton & Hewitt, 1985).

The paradigm that lack of gene flow is a prerequisite to maintain species integrity is shifting (Abbott et al., 2013). In recent years evidence has accumulated suggesting that gene flow is an integral part of the process of speciation and that divergence can occur in the presence of gene flow (Mallet, 1995; Pinho & Hey, 2010; Leaché et al., 2014; Zarza, et al 2016). Indeed, if reproductive barriers have emerged in secondary contact zones, it is uncertain whether barriers to gene flow will be strengthened or broken down due to recombination and admixture (Barton & Hewitt, 1985; Abbott et al., 2013).

Despite the levels of gene flow detected and given the geographic concordance in the distribution of mtDNA and nuclear markers, the geographic limits that coincide with the geographic limits of other species, and the morphological signal detected by Bailey (Bailey,

1928), we suggest the resurrection of the name *Ctenosaura brachylopha* for populations inhabiting northwestern Mexico.

The distribution of Nuc 2 and Nuc 3 genetic clusters are geographically discordant with the distribution of mtDNA lineages in central Mexico (North A-D, Colima, Balsas). Maternal lineages seem to be more deeply structured than the genotypic clusters. The distribution of the maternally and paternally inherited markers and the high number of sampled admixed individuals suggest that, although there is some substructure in the area, gene flow among populations has been on going. Given that the holotype locality is labeled as “Colima” (Wiegmann, 1834) we suggest that these genotypic clusters keep the historical name *Ctenosaura pectinata*.

Iguanas described as *C. acanthura* also form a coherent nuclear cluster (Nuc 5) that is concordant with a mtDNA lineage closely related to the South lineage (Zarza, Reynoso & Emerson, 2008). Thus the name *Ctenosaura acanthura* should continue to be applied to populations of spiny-tailed iguanas in the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. Introgression seemed to have occurred in the area of Zapotitlán de las Salinas (Fig. 2), where individuals carry mtDNA haplotypes typical of *C. acanthura* and some alleles of Nuc 3 and Nuc 5.

Nuc 4 is almost entirely geographically concordant with the South mtDNA lineage, with some signs of mitochondrial introgression with the Oaxaca and Guerrero lineages. Thus Nuc 4 probably deserves taxonomic recognition at the species level, and awaits full description until morphological data is gathered and analyzed. In the meantime, we propose that these populations are recognized as an independent Evolutionary Significant Unit (Moritz, 1994) within *C. pectinata*.

We are aware that the modifications in taxonomy proposed in this paper are based entirely on molecular and geographic evidence. Morphological data have not revealed the existence of divisions within *C. pectinata*, at least with the approaches applied so far (Köhler, Schroth & Streit, 2000), except for the work of Bailey (Bailey, 1928). He realized that *C. brachylopha* resembles *C. pectinata* but may be distinguished from it by having a median dorsal crest that does not extend over the sacral region and that it is formed by 65 to 75 scales. He also noticed that the first seven whorls of spinous caudal scales are separated from each other by three rows of small flat scales. In *C. pectinata* the first five whorls of spinous scales are separated from each other by three rows of small flat scales, but subsequent whorls of spinous scales are separated by two rows of flat scales up the middle of the length of the tail (Bailey, 1928). These and other morphological characters need to be studied in depth, with a large sample and with more modern statistical methods to validate their utility to distinguish *C. brachylopha* from *C. pectinata*, and between groups within *C. pectinata* based on morphology. Color may be an important character too. ~~We have noticed that individuals~~ from northern Mexico ~~have~~ yellow coloration (Fig. S2), those in central Mexico show blue and orange patterns ~~whereas~~ individuals from the south are black and white. Bailey studied stuffed or ~~alcoholic~~ specimens that most likely lost their original color, so he did not address this character.

Our molecular approach has uncovered several genotypic clusters. However this may present challenges for the field biologist working in areas with high levels of admixture (i.e. central western Mexico) and with only morphological data at hand. Further research is needed to determine if coloration patterns or morphological characters of individuals outside the contact zones provide information for their assignment to a specific genotypic cluster.

This work provides important knowledge with profound implications in conservation, wildlife management and forensics. *Ctenosaura pectinata sensu lato* is a threatened species under the Mexican law (SEMARNAT, 2002). Measurements have been taken to protect its populations, however there are still gaps regarding re-introduction of confiscated individuals and/or their offspring. Ideally, the genetic origin of iguanas should be recognized before re-introduction to avoid admixture in populations that may lead to loss of diversity through hybridization, reduced viability or fertility in the case of genetic incompatibilities, reduced population fitness due to selective disadvantage of intermediate genotypes or loss of advantageous parental traits (Lynch, 1991; Burke & Arnold, 2001). Furthermore, our results suggest that *C. pectinata*, a species already recognized as threatened, is actually composed of multiple genotypic clusters that might be at a higher risk than previously thought, given their reduced geographical distributions and effective population sizes (Bickford et al., 2007).

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Figures

Figure 1. Geographic distribution of mtDNA lineages within *Ctenosaura pectinata* and *C. acanthura*. Localities are color-coded according to the SAMOVA group they form (mt1-mt10). Haplotype groups defined by Zarza et al (Zarza, Reynoso & Emerson, 2008) are delimited with lines. H: Area of overlap between *C. pectinata* and *C. hemilopha*, which was not included in the analyses. Data produced by (Zarza Franco, 2008) from three localities (numbered consecutively north to south 1-3) is made publicly available in this study for the first time (see File S1). Map generated using ‘World Imagery’ base map from ESRI ArcMap 10.1. World Imagery source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community. Modified from (Zarza, Reynoso & Emerson, 2008, 2011).

Figure 2. Geographic distribution of genotypic clusters in Mexico as estimated with SAMOVA (*Nuc1-*Nuc5) and STRUCTURE (Nuc 1 – Nuc 5). A: Apatzingán, M: Manzanillo, N: Las Negras, Z: Zapotitlán de las Salinas. Map created as in Fig. 1.

Figure 3. Bar plots showing population assignment and ancestry for individuals according to different methods. (A) MtDNA lineage of each individual as inferred from haplotype networks (Zarza, Reynoso & Emerson, 2008, 2011); (B) SAMOVA mtDNA groups detected under K=10; (C) microsatellite genotypic cluster defined with SAMOVA under K=5 and (D) STRUCTURE under K=4; (E) substructure estimated with STRUCTURE in a reduced data set (South-SS analyses). In STRUCTURE plots, the Y-axis represents proportion of ancestry. As this cannot be calculated with SAMOVA, values are always shown as 1. Each bar represents an individual. White bars are missing data.

Tables

Table 1. Sources of variation for mtDNA and microsatellite data calculated with SAMOVA under K=10 and K=5 respectively. Bold font indicates statistically significant values ($p < 0.05$).

Table 2. Summary statistics per locus for genotypic clusters (*Nuc1-*Nuc5) defined with SAMOVA.

Table 3. Differentiation between SAMOVA clusters (F_{ST} values) as estimated with Arlequin 3.5. All values are statistically significant ($p < 0.05$).

Table 4. Number of individuals assigned to each hybrid class according to NewHybrids. In all cases, SAMOVA defined clusters were compared.

Supplemental information

Figure S1. MtDNA haplotype network. Modified from (Zarza, Reynoso & Emerson, 2008, 2011); Haplotypes produced by (Zarza Franco, 2008) were added to the North A lineage and are highlighted with a red circle.

File S1. Sampling localities, geographic coordinates, haplotype accession numbers and genotype data of individuals included in this study, and summary of previous research outcomes.

File S2. SAMOVA K associated FCT values, Δ FCT plots; STRUCTURE K likelihoods and Δ K plots.

Table S1. F_{ST} values between pairs of localities estimated with Arlequin 3.5.

778 **Figure S2. A male spiny-tailed iguana from Sinaloa, northern Mexico, with the**
 779 **characteristic yellow coloration. Here we propose that populations from northern Mexico**
 780 **are referred as *Ctenosaura brachylopha*. Photo Credit: Eugenia Zarza.**

781

Table 1(on next page)

Sources of variation for mtDNA and microsatellite data calculated with SAMOVA under K=10 and K=5 respectively.

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1 **Table 1. Sources of variation for mtDNA and microsatellite data calculated with SAMOVA**
 2 **under K=10 and K=5 respectively. Bold font indicates statistically significant values (p<0.05).**

Marker	Source of variation	d.f.	Sum of squares	Variance components	% variation	Fixation indices
mtDNA	Among groups	9	3061.309	9.779	79.28	FCT=0.793
	Among populations within groups	43	332.944	1.002	8.12	FSC=0.392
	Within populations	291	452.013	1.553	12.59	FST=0.874
	Total	343	3846.266	12.334		
microsatellites	Among groups	4	268.732	0.517	21.66	FCT=0.217
	Among populations within groups	44	164.372	0.145	6.08	FSC=0.078
	Among individuals within populations	292	513.913	0.034	1.42	FIS=0.02
	Within individuals	341	577	1.692	70.84	FIT=0.292
	Total	681	1524.018	2.389		

3

Table 2(on next page)

Summary statistics per locus for genotypic clusters (*Nuc1-*Nuc5) defined with SAMOVA.

Table 2. Summary statistics per locus for genotypic clusters (*Nuc1-*Nuc5) defined with SAMOVA.

	*Nuc1				*Nuc2				*Nuc3			
L	A	H_O	H_E	FIS	A	H_O	H_E	FIS	A	H_O	H_E	FIS
1	4	0.48	0.49	0.01	13	0.86	0.86	0.00	12	0.79	0.82	0.05
2	2	0.41	0.50	0.19	6	0.33	0.35	0.05	7	0.44	0.45	0.01
3	8	0.85	0.80	-0.06	15	0.78	0.85	0.08	25	0.83	0.91	0.09
4	2	0.52	0.50	-0.03	7	0.45	0.45	0.00	8	0.74	0.80	0.07
5	3	0.78	0.68	-0.15	7	0.51	0.55	0.06	6	0.25	0.28	0.10
6	3	0.15	0.14	-0.05	11	0.77	0.84	0.09	10	0.50	0.66	0.25
7	6	0.59	0.62	N.A.	10	0.63	0.74	N.A.	14	0.55	0.74	N.A.
8	8	0.67	0.82	0.19	13	0.77	0.80	0.04	13	0.83	0.86	0.03
M	4.5	0.56	0.57		10.3	0.64	0.68		11.9	0.62	0.69	
s.d.	2.5	0.22	0.22		3.3	0.19	0.20		6.0	0.21	0.22	
n	27				105				131			
AR	3.29(2.64)				5.14(3.98)				5.54(4.65)			
PA	0.29(0.07)				0.62(0.18)				0.96(0.60)			
Ne	35.1 (0-176)				8.5 (1.8-20.5)				15.8 (5.8-30.8)			

L= Locus; A = Allele number; H_O = Observed heterozygosity; H_E = Expected heterozygosity; FIS = inbreeding coefficient; N.A. = missing data; m = monomorphic locus; n = number of individuals; M = Mean; s.d. = standard deviation; AR = Allele richness; PA = Private alleles mean (variance); Ne = Effective population size (Jackknife CI)

Table 2 continued.

	*Nuc4				*Nuc5			
L	A	H_O	H_E	FIS	A	H_O	H_E	FIS
1	14.	0.68	0.84	0.19	3	0.14	0.52	0.73
2	6	0.36	0.49	0.27	4	0.14	0.51	0.72
3	13	0.54	0.79	0.32	5	0.64	0.75	0.15
4	5	0.14	0.16	0.14	3	0.64	0.63	-0.02
5	5	0.63	0.71	0.13	2	0.07	0.07	0.00
6	11	0.72	0.84	0.14	2	0.29	0.48	0.41
7	4	0.07	0.58	0.10	m	m	m	N.A.
8	8	0.67	0.74		m	m	m	N.A.
M	8.3	0.48	0.65		3.2	0.32	0.49	
s.d.	3.9	0.26	0.23		1.2	0.26	0.23	
n	64				14			
AR	4.7(3.19)				2.56(1.38)			
PA	0.76(0.40)				0.53(0.29)			
Ne	22.5 (0-112.8)				1.9 (1.3-2.7)			

L= Locus; A = Allele number; H_O = Observed heterozygosity; H_E = Expected heterozygosity; FIS = inbreeding coefficient; N.A. = missing data; m = monomorphic locus; n = number of individuals; M = Mean; s.d. = standard deviation; AR = Allele richness; PA = Private alleles mean (variance); Ne = Effective population size (Jackknife CI)

Table 3(on next page)

Differentiation between SAMOVA clusters (F_{ST} values) estimated with Arlequin 3.5. All values are statistically significant ($p < 0.05$).

Table 3. Differentiation between SAMOVA clusters (FST values) as estimated with Arlequin 3.5. All values are statistically significant ($p < 0.05$).

	*Nuc1	*Nuc2	*Nuc 3	*Nuc 4
*Nuc1	0			
*Nuc2	0.18952	0		
*Nuc3	0.26536	0.14815	0	
*Nuc4	0.28768	0.18468	0.15797	0
*Nuc5	0.44634	0.36999	0.32849	0.34052

Table 4(on next page)

Number of individuals assigned to each hybrid class according to NewHybrids. In all cases, SAMOVA defined clusters were compared.

1 **Table 4. Number of individuals assigned to each hybrid class according to NewHybrids.** In
2 all cases, SAMOVA defined clusters were compared.

X,Y	Pure *NucX	Pure *NucY	F1	F2	*NucX Bc.	*NucY Bc.	Un- assigned	n (X+Y)
*Nuc1,*Nuc2	26	92	0	1	0	0	13	132
*Nuc2,*Nuc3	83	0	0	37	0	4	112	236
*Nuc3,*Nuc4	110	56	0	0	2	0	27	195
*Nuc3,*Nuc5	125	14	0	2	0	0	4	145
*Nuc4,*Nuc5	14	64	0	0	0	0	0	78

3 X,Y = SAMOVA-defined Genotypic cluster compared. As in the main text, tables and figures,
4 the *Nuc prefix denotes SAMOVA defined genotypic cluster. Bc = backcross

5

Figure 1

Geographic distribution of mtDNA lineages within *Ctenosaura pectinata* and *C. acanthura*.

Localities are color-coded according to the SAMOVA group they form (mt1-mt10). Haplotype groups defined by Zarza et al (2008) are delimited with lines. H: Area of overlap between *C. pectinata* and *C. hemilopha*, which was not included in the analyses. Data produced by (Zarza Franco, 2008) from three localities (numbered consecutively north to south 1-3) is made publicly available in this study for the first time (see File S1). Map generated using 'World Imagery' base map from ESRI ArcMap 10.1. World Imagery source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community. Modified from (Zarza, Reynoso & Emerson, 2008, 2011)

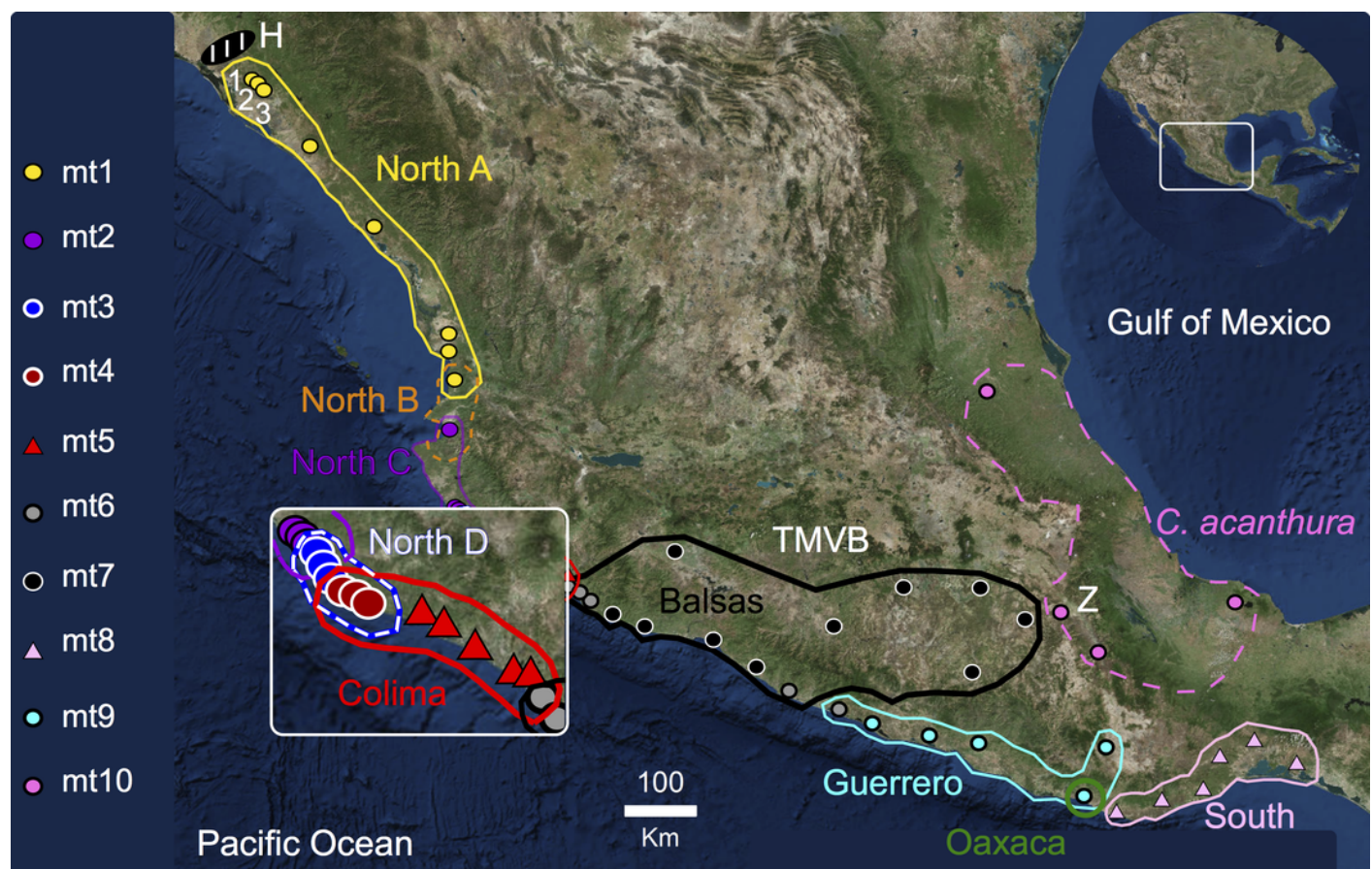


Figure 2

Geographic distribution of genotypic clusters in Mexico as estimated with SAMOVA (*Nuc1-*Nuc5) and STRUCTURE (Nuc 1 - Nuc 5)

A: Apatzingán, M: Manzanillo, N: Las Negras, Z: Zapotitlán de las Salinas. Map created as in Fig. 1.

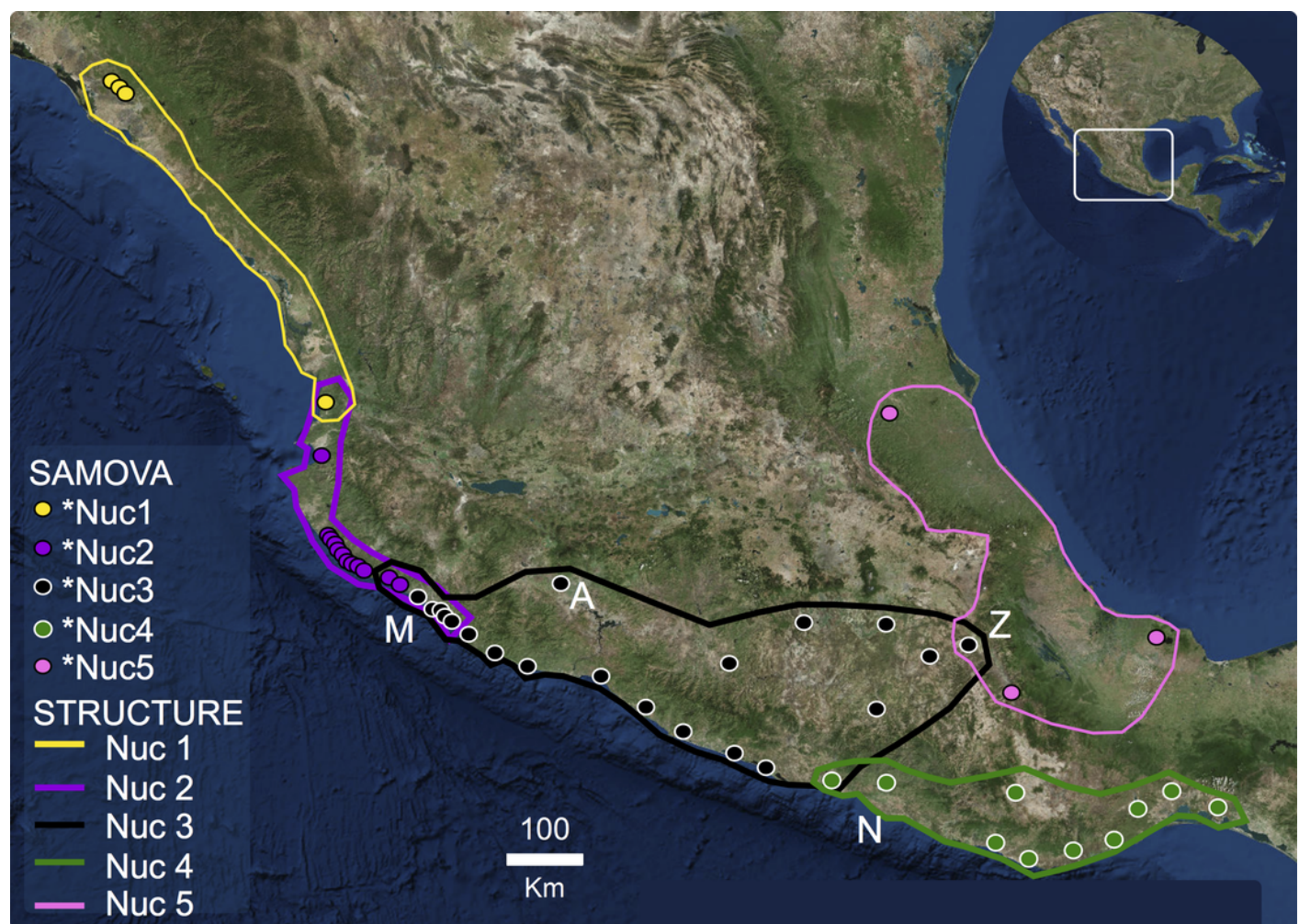


Figure 3

Bar plots showing population assignment and ancestry for individuals according to different methods.

(A) MtDNA lineage of each individual as inferred from haplotype networks (Zarza, Reynoso & Emerson, 2008, 2011); (B) SAMOVA mtDNA groups detected under K=10; (C) microsatellite genotypic cluster defined with SAMOVA under K=5 and (D) STRUCTURE under K=4; (E) substructure estimated with STRUCTURE in a reduced data set (South-SS analyses). In STRUCTURE plots, the Y-axis represents proportion of ancestry. As this cannot be calculated with SAMOVA, values are always shown as 1. Each bar represents an individual. White bars are missing data.

