

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Fine-scale genetic structure due to adaptive divergence among microhabitats

DN Wagner, TZ Baris, DI Dayan, X Du, MF Oleksiak and DL Crawford

It has been suggested that adaptive evolution on ecological timescales shapes communities. However, adaptation among environments relies on isolation or large selection coefficients that exceed migration effects. This reliance is tempered if adaptation is polygenic—does not depend on one allele completely replacing another but instead requires small allele frequency changes at many loci. Thus, whether individuals can evolve adaptation to fine-scale habitat variation (for example, microhabitats) is not resolved. Here we analyze the genetic divergence of the teleost fish, *Fundulus heteroclitus*, among microhabitats that are <200 m apart in three separate saltmarshes using 4741 single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs). Among these SNPs, 1.3–2.3% have large and highly significant differences among microhabitats (mean F_{ST} = 0.15; false discovery rate $\leq 1\%$). The divergence among microhabitats for these outlier SNPs is larger than that among populations, exceeds neutral expectation and indicates surprising population structure among microhabitats. Thus, we suggest that polygenic selection is surprisingly effective in altering allele frequencies among many different SNPs that share similar biological functions in response to environmental and ecological differences over very small geographic distances. We acknowledge the evolutionary difficulty of large genetic divergence among well-connected habitats. Therefore, these studies are only the first step to discern whether natural selection is responsible and capable of effecting genetic divergence on such a fine scale.

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INTRODUCTION

Individuals should be adapted to their local environment to maximize their fitness (Williams, 1966). However, adaptation among environments relies on isolation or large selection coefficients that exceed migration effects (Slatkin, 1987; Nielsen *et al.*, 2009). This reliance is tempered if adaptation does not depend on one allele completely replacing another (Otto and Whitlock, 1997) but instead requires small allele frequency changes at many loci (Turelli and Barton, 2004; Przeworski *et al.*, 2005; Pritchard *et al.*, 2010). Adaptive changes involving many loci likely require significant standing genetic variation (Bergland *et al.*, 2014). Yet, this creates a paradox: more genetic variation is being detected in natural populations than would be expected given our theoretical understanding of population genetics (Mackay *et al.*, 2012; Corander *et al.*, 2013; Hess *et al.*, 2013; Messer and Petrov, 2013; Bergland *et al.*, 2014; Huang *et al.*, 2014; Charlesworth, 2015). Several recent studies suggest that this copious standing genetic variation could be a significant resource for adaptation (Przeworski *et al.*, 2005; Messer and Petrov, 2013). The paradox of ‘too much’ polymorphism was initially noted in the landmark paper of Lewontin and Hubby (1966) on the frequency of protein polymorphisms. With ~30% of proteins having polymorphisms, the authors concluded that a large amount of standing genetic variation existed, but they lacked a biological mechanism that could maintain the observed level of variation.

One explanation is that genetic polymorphisms exist as transient changes due to neutral drift (Kimura, 1968). This theory, in many ways, solved the problem of genetic load: the cost of too many

selective deaths if many genetic polymorphisms were being affected by adaptive evolution (Haldane, 1957; Crow, 1958). The neutral theory undoubtedly correctly explains many, if not most, nucleotide variation patterns. Yet, this elegant and parsimonious theory often fails to explain observed nucleotide variation patterns (Ohta, 1992; Kreitman, 1996). A recent example is the apparent adaptive variation of hundreds of single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in response to seasonal environmental oscillations within a *Drosophila melanogaster* population (Bergland *et al.*, 2014). These data and other genome-wide studies have revealed genetic variation within and among populations of *Drosophila*, humans and other organisms that is greater than is predicted by the neutral theory (Mackay *et al.*, 2012; Corander *et al.*, 2013; Hess *et al.*, 2013; Messer and Petrov, 2013; Bergland *et al.*, 2014; Huang *et al.*, 2014; Charlesworth, 2015; Henn *et al.*, 2015; Yeaman, 2015).

Until recently, few opportunities existed to determine the number or frequency of adaptive versus neutral variation patterns. The biological importance of genome-wide variation (versus focusing on one or a few genes, for example, microsatellites) is supported by the *D. melanogaster* Genetic Reference Panel (DGRP) where the significant genotypic variation within a population is associated with fitness-related traits such as oxidative stress response, chill coma recovery and starvation resistance (Mackay *et al.*, 2012; Huang *et al.*, 2014; Charlesworth, 2015). Adaptive divergence was also demonstrated in the Baltic Sea herring, *Clupea harengus* (Corander *et al.*, 2013), and Pacific lamprey, *Entosphenus tridentatus* (Hess *et al.*, 2013), based on significant population structure with a few hundred SNPs that were

not evident based on thousands of neutral markers. These data in *Drosophila*, herring and other species indicate that hundreds, and sometimes thousands, of SNPs across the genome are affected by natural selection (Bergland *et al.*, 2014; Yeaman, 2015). Yet, these observations raise the old problem concerning the number of SNPs affected by selection—excessive genetic load (Haldane, 1957; Crow, 1958; Henn *et al.*, 2015). The theoretical understanding of how large amounts of standing genetic variation can contribute to adaptation while not conferring a lethal level of genetic load has not been resolved. To provide insight into this problem requires large populations that are likely to be affected by differential selective pressure related to environmental variation.

The teleost fish *Fundulus heteroclitus* has been a model of evolved changes within and among populations because of its well-studied natural history, ecology, biochemistry and molecular genetics (Newman, 1907; Kneib, 1986; Powers *et al.*, 1991; Hunter *et al.*, 2007; Duvernell *et al.*, 2008). *F. heteroclitus* have large populations exceeding 10 000 individuals (Duvernell *et al.*, 2008) within a single *Spartina* saltmarsh. Within these saltmarshes, daily tides flush individuals in and out of the estuary (Able *et al.*, 2012); in addition, individuals breed and lay eggs in a the upper intertidal zone (Newman, 1907), suggesting well-mixed populations (Newman, 1907; Kneib, 1986; Able *et al.*, 2012). Yet, within a single saltmarsh are three microhabitats: (1) tidal basins (B), (2) creeks (C) and (3) ponds (P), with meaningful environmental differences in daily maximum temperatures, oxygen concentrations and productivity (Hunter *et al.*, 2007). Mark-recapture studies suggest individuals are often associated with a single microhabitat and small home range (<200 m; Skinner *et al.*, 2012). To explore the effect of microhabitat (Basin, Creek and Pond) on genetic structure within and among estuaries, we examined three separate *F. heteroclitus* populations along the North American New Jersey coast: Mantoloking (Mk), Rutgers University Marine Field Station (RM) and Stone Harbor (SH; Figure 1). We used genotyping by sequencing (GBS, (Elshire *et al.*, 2011)) to generate 4741 SNPs (with 5% minor allele frequency (MAF) and not in linkage disequilibrium) and analyzed the genetic variation within and among microhabitats.

We present analyses that demonstrate that 1.3–2.3% of 4741 SNPs in three separate saltmarshes have large and highly significant differences among microhabitats that are <200 m apart. These

divergent outlier SNPs indicate surprising population structure among microhabitats most likely due to fine-scale adaptive divergence.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study species and study sites

F. heteroclitus ($n=215$) were collected from three estuarine habitats along the New Jersey coast, USA (Figure 1) between 1 and 15 July 2013. Collection sites included Mantoloking, NJ (Mk; 40°02'59.07' N, 74°04'08.64' W; $n=61$), Rutgers University Marine Field Station, NJ (RM; 39°30'31.34' N, 74°19'27.12' W; $n=92$) and Stone Harbor, NJ (SH; 39°03'46.46' N, 74°46'42.90' W; $n=62$). Individuals were captured in three distinct microhabitat types: tidal basins, intertidal creeks and permanent ponds. Within each estuary, the distance from one microhabitat to another was typically <50 m.

Sample collection

Fish were captured in baited minnow traps during incoming tides. Fish were kept in a shaded bucket with aerated sea water until processing (<1 h). Tissue from each individual was nonlethally collected via caudal fin clip; then the fish was released at the capture location. Fin clips were immediately immersed in Chaos buffer (4.5 M guanidinium thiocyanate, 2% N-lauroylsarcosine, 50 mM EDTA, 25 mM Tris-HCL, pH 7.5, 0.2% antifoam and 0.1 M β -mercaptoethanol) and then put on ice within 1 h of collection. Tissue samples were then stored at -20°C before processing.

Genomic DNA isolation

Genomic DNAs from fin clips were isolated using silica columns (Ivanova *et al.*, 2006). Genomic DNA quality was assessed via gel electrophoresis, and concentrations were quantified using Biotium AccuBlue Broad Range dsDNA Quantitative Solution kit (Fremont, CA, USA) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Then, 100 ng of genomic DNA from each sample was dried down in a 96-well plate. Samples were hydrated overnight with 5 μl of water before further processing.

Genotyping by sequencing

The GBS protocol described in Elshire *et al.* (2011) was used to generate an Illumina sequencing library using the restriction enzyme *AseI*, adaptors (0.4 pmol per sample) and 50 ng of genomic DNA. This library was sequenced on Illumina HiSeq 2500 (San Diego, CA, USA) with a 75 bp single-end read (Elim Biopharmaceuticals, Inc., Hayward, CA, USA).

Sequence alignment and SNP filtering

The reference genome-based GBS pipeline TASSEL ver. 4.0 (Bradbury *et al.*, 2007) was used to identify SNPs using the *F. heteroclitus* genome assembly (Reid *et al.*, 2015). Bowtie2 was used to align reads to the *F. heteroclitus* genome. The resulting alignment and respective SNP identifications yielded 338 325 SNPs. SNPs were filtered so that each individual had calls for 30% of all SNPs and each SNP was called in 80% of individuals, leaving 15 259 SNPs in 202 individuals. That is, 13 individuals were excluded because these individuals had too few SNPs shared with other individuals.

Linkage disequilibrium and distance among SNPs

To determine the linkage groups and distances among the 15 259 SNPs, we used a 50-SNP moving window to calculate r^2 and relative disequilibrium, D' (Lewontin, 1964), using TASSEL (Bradbury *et al.*, 2007). Distances among all SNPs (with or without significant linkage disequilibrium (LD)) within a scaffold were calculated, resulting in the maximum distance among 50 SNPs equal to $>10^6$ bp. Significant LDs were defined as $r^2 < 0.05$ and D' P -values of < 0.01 , without multiple correction to avoid type II errors (mistakenly accepting the null hypothesis of no LD).

Filtering to identify independent orthologous SNPs

We filtered the SNP to only those with a 5% minimum allele frequency and not in significant LD with other SNPs ($r^2 < 0.05$ and $P < 0.01$). We excluded SNPs that had observed heterozygosity (H_o) significantly larger than expected heterozygosity (H_e , that is, $H_o > H_e$, $P < 0.01$) using Arlequin ver. 3.5.1.2

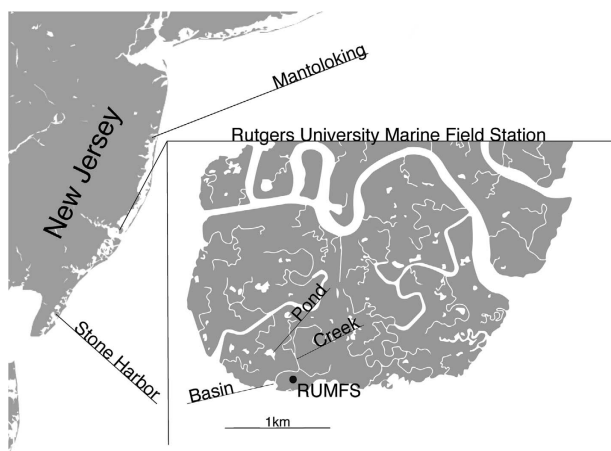


Figure 1 Sampling locations along the New Jersey coast (Mantoloking (Mk), Rutgers University Marine Field Station (RM) and Stone Harbor (SH)). An expanded image of Rutgers University Marine Field Station site with basin (B), creek (C) and pond (P) microhabitats identified. The distance between microhabitats was never >200 m and usually <50 m.

(Excoffier and Lischer, 2010). Using these criteria left 4741 SNPs in 202 individuals. A 5% minimum allele frequency insures that at least 10 individuals had the minor allele. Exclusion of SNPs with large significant H_0 excludes nucleotide variation created by alignment between paralogs (versus true allelic variation among orthologs; Nunez *et al.*, 2015; Crawford and Oleksiak, 2016). Selection of unlinked SNPs reduced bias due to background selection or selective sweeps. Further statistical comparisons considered only these 4741 SNPs.

Statistic analyses and experimental design

There are two types of analyses: (1) analyses considering all 4741 SNPs together to estimate overall population differentiation, and (2) analyses of each SNP separately to define neutral and informative SNPs. We analyzed all SNPs together to determine the overall population structure. Analyses using all 4741 SNPs together used pairwise comparisons between microhabitats within and among populations and avoided the potential effects of a minority of SNPs with nonneutral divergence effecting measures of population structure.

We also examined each SNP separately to define SNPs with large genetic differences among microhabitat where none should exist if the population is panmictic. These analyses define which SNPs are associated with population structure among microhabitats. Analyses of individual SNPs did not use pairwise comparisons; instead individual SNP analyses define genetic distance among all three microhabitats (versus three separate pair comparisons). This approach was taken to avoid multiple comparisons. To examine the SNP-specific differences among microhabitats, we employed three tests: SNP-specific F_{ST} and two common outlier tests (LOSITAN and Arlequin, see below). We use these three tests because each test has different statistical and evolutionary strengths and weaknesses.

Overall population F_{ST} . Pairwise differences within and among populations were calculated using 'ape' (R-package (Paradis *et al.*, 2004), ver. 4.0). Hierarchical, locus-by-locus, analyses of molecular variance (AMOVA; Excoffier *et al.*, 1992) were performed with Arlequin using 50 000 permutations ($P < 0.01$); comparisons were made among populations and nested microhabitats (basin, creek and pond) within their respective estuary population (Mk, RM and SH). The locus-by-locus model was used to weight the SNPs appropriately to account for variation in the degrees of freedom per individual (Mace *et al.*, 2006; Excoffier and Lischer, 2010; Lind and Grahn, 2011).

Significant SNP-specific F_{ST} permutation test. We calculated SNP-specific F_{ST} values, and for each SNP we compared this original F_{ST} value with a distribution of values for that SNP when individuals were randomly shuffled among microhabitats. This compares F_{ST} values for each SNP only to randomized values of the same SNP and ignores the global distribution of the F_{ST} values of other SNPs. The F_{ST} values for each SNP among the three microhabitats within each population were calculated using the Weir–Cockerham F_{ST} estimator (Weir and Cockerham, 1984). In order to estimate a random F_{ST} value distribution for each SNP separately within each estuary population, individuals were randomly assigned to basin, creek and pond, and F_{ST} values were calculated $1000 \times$ using the Weir–Cockerham F_{ST} estimator in 'vcftools' (Danecek *et al.*, 2011). These random values were used in a cumulative distribution function in R to estimate the probability of achieving the original F_{ST} values. For each original SNP, the F_{ST} values were deemed significantly different ($P < 0.01$) if they occurred in $\leq 1\%$ of the randomly permuted values for that SNP.

SNP-specific neutrality tests. LOSITAN ver. 1.0 (Beaumont and Nichols, 1996; Antao *et al.*, 2008) was used to estimate genetic diversity among the individuals and populations collected by calculating the percentage of polymorphic SNPs observed (H_0) and expected (H_e), as well as the fixation index (F_{ST}). LOSITAN was then used to define SNPs with outlier F_{ST} values (larger than expected F_{ST} values relative to a permutation of SNPs with similar H_e , $P < 0.01$; (Beaumont and Balding, 2004)). The random expected F_{ST} values were calculated by generating 50 000 simulations that were used to estimate P -values for each SNP relative to all other SNPs with similar H_e (see Supplementary Figure 2). That is, LOSITAN performs 50 000 permutations of the data to provide the probability of achieving the original F_{ST} value relative

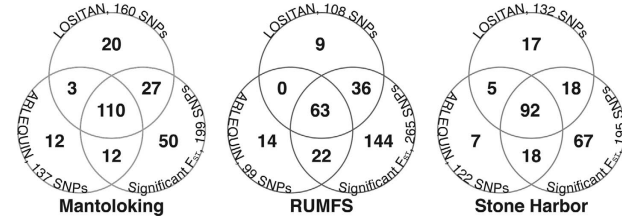


Figure 2 Evolutionary analyses among microhabitats for three populations, where each population has three analyses: (1) SNPs with significantly different F_{ST} values, (2) LOSITAN-identified significant outlier SNPs and (3) Arlequin-identified significant outlier SNPs. Significant SNPs detected in all three analyses with joint FDR $< 1\%$ were considered in subsequent analyses.

to other SNPs with similar H_e . All comparisons with identical parameters to those used in the LOSITAN analysis were repeated using Arlequin. To determine significance in Arlequin, a coalescent simulation was used to estimate a null distribution and confidence intervals around the observed values and then tested to determine whether observed locus-specific F_{ST} values can be considered as outliers conditioned on the global observed F_{ST} value (Excoffier and Lischer, 2010). Like LOSITAN, Arlequin estimates the likelihood of a SNP-specific F_{ST} value relative to the values of other SNPs. In both analyses, the significance of the original F_{ST} value is relative to the F_{ST} value among all SNPs.

Outlier SNPs. 'Outlier SNPs' used in subsequent analyses and presented in figures are SNPs that were significant in all three analyses (LOSITAN, Arlequin and the permutation test; $P < 0.01$) and where the joint probability of the three analyses had a false discovery rate (FDR) of $\leq 1\%$ (Figure 2). FDR was computed via the Benjamini–Hochberg (Benjamini and Hochberg, 1995) procedure using 'p.adjust' in R (ver. 3.2.3).

Neutral SNP F_{ST} distribution. To plot and compare the neutral F_{ST} value distribution relative to outlier SNP F_{ST} values, we selected neutral SNPs as those with LOSITAN P -values of > 0.1 for any single population comparison (1636 SNPs). In addition, a random, neutral, F_{ST} value distribution was approximated by randomizing the microhabitat assignments within each estuary population $100 \times$ and analyzing these permutations in LOSITAN with identical parameters as above. For each estuary population, this generated 100 estimates of neutral F_{ST} value distributions. Notice that the permutation used LOSITAN to determine significance relative to SNPs with similar H_e .

Discriminant analysis of principal components (DAPC)

DAPC (Jombart *et al.*, 2010) in the R-package 'adegenet' (ver. 2.0.1; Jombart, 2008; Jombart and Ahmed, 2011) was used to visualize demographic relationships among microhabitats and populations. The number of microhabitats being compared defined group number prescribed to DAPC. The number of principle components prescribed to DAPC was one-third the number of individuals being compared.

Gene ontology

To annotate SNPs and provide variant type (coding, 3' untranslated region, intronic, intergenic and so on) 'snpeff' (ver. 4.3i) was used with the *F. heteroclitus* genome (Reid *et al.*, 2015). Because the *Fundulus* genome has been update recently (National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI): GCA_000826765.1 *Fundulus_heteroclitus*-3.0.2), we realigned SNP tag sequences to confirm scaffold and position using BWA (ver. 7.15; Li and Durbin, 2009). Further confirmation was achieved by BLAST alignment of tag sequences against the *F. heteroclitus* reference genome. Gene symbol, protein and mRNA accession were used to identify human homologs with NCBI HomoloGene. To enhance the discovery of finding human homologs, BLAST alignments were used. Human gene symbols were used with PANTHER (Mi *et al.*, 2016) to assign Gene Ontology (GO) terms and identify statistically significant ($P < 0.05$) overrepresentation. Only GO-SLIM terms were used.

Ethical statement

Fieldwork was completed within publically available lands, and no permission was required for access. *F. heteroclitus* does not have endangered or protected status, and small marine minnows do not require collecting permits for noncommercial purposes. All fish were captured in minnow traps with little stress and returned in <1 h. The procedures approved by the institutional animal care and use committee were used for sampling.

RESULTS

SNP allele frequencies were measured in three New Jersey *F. heteroclitus* populations (Figure 1). Each population was stratified into the three microhabitats (B, basins; C, intertidal creeks; and P, permanent ponds; Table 1) for a total of nine unique sampling locations.

Sequences

Sequencing resulted in 144 389 606 independent, barcoded, sequences (Tags) from 215 individuals. This yielded an average coverage of 11.1 reads per individual per Tag, and a range from 7 to 464 reads per individual per Tag for the SNPs used for analysis. The following sequence alignment to the *F. heteroclitus* genome (Reid *et al.*, 2015) yielded 146 431 unique 64 bp Tags; of these, 105 443 contained polymorphic sites (72.01%) and 27 264 were invariant. From these Tags, a total of 338 325 SNPs was identified with an average of 2.29 SNPs per 64 bp Tag, 3.37 SNPs per 100 bp and 1276.2 reads per Tag.

LD and distance among SNPs

We calculated the distance and LD among 15 259 SNPs using a 50-SNP window (Supplementary Figure 1a). Of the 66 853 distances among SNPs within a scaffold, 49 082 (73%) are >1000 bp apart, and 94% (16 705) of the remaining distances among SNPs are <100 bp apart. This bimodal distribution reflects GBS methods where SNPs are identified among 100 bp tag sequences that share a restriction site (two tags with a shared site = 200 bp), and the distance among restriction sites is typically >1000 bp. Thus, SNPs are either within 100–200 bp or >1000 bp (Supplementary Figure 1b). Of the 8180 SNPs with significant LD ($r^2 < 0.05$ and D' with $P < 0.01$), 7623 (93%) are <100 bp apart (Supplementary Figure 1c). Only 401 (4.9%) SNPs in significant LD with another SNP are >1000 bp distant (Supplementary Figures 1b and c). The short LD distances are consistent with other published results of LD in *F. heteroclitus* (Baris *et al.*, 2016). SNPs with significant LD ($r^2 < 0.05$ and $P < 0.01$) were not included in any subsequent analysis.

To avoid making determination with nonindependent SNPs (that is, those in LD), SNPs that occurred in too few individuals and SNPs with a bias in one microhabitat or among paralogs, SNPs were conservatively filtered. We required that each individual had calls for 30% of all SNPs, and each SNP was called in 80% of individuals, SNPs had a 5% minimum allele frequency, SNPs did not have large observed heterozygosity (H_o) that significantly deviated from Hardy–

Weinberg equilibrium expected heterozygosity (H_e ; $H_o > H_e$, $P < 0.01$) and LD was not significant ($r^2 < 0.05$ and $P > 0.01$). This produced 4741 SNPs in 202 individuals. These 4741 SNPs were used in all subsequent analyses. Thirteen individuals (primarily from RM; Table 1) were excluded because they had few called SNPs; this most likely reflects the DNA quality from these individuals. Reduction in sample size in an arbitrary set of individuals would only reduce our power to distinguish among groups and not bias the data. A potential greater concern is the reduction from >300 000 SNPs to 4741 SNPs. Most of this reduction (>300 000 SNPs to 15 259) is the requirement that SNPs are shared among 80% of all individuals. This does not eliminate rare SNPs or SNPs within any one group; it only eliminates the loci that occur in too few individuals. The lack of shared SNPs among individuals is likely due to restriction enzyme site polymorphisms that only occur in a few individuals that represent a different type of genetic variation (restriction fragment length polymorphism) not examined here. However, the minimum 5% allele frequency (5% MAF) does remove all SNPs with low MAFs. Not examining these SNPs means we are missing subtle differences at rare alleles, but it does not affect or bias the locus-by-locus (SNP-specific) analyses. Requiring each SNP to have H_o that is not significantly larger than H_e reduces the likelihood of comparing paralogs (Nunez *et al.*, 2015; Crawford and Oleksiak, 2016). Requiring SNPs that are not in LD prevents the inflation of the number of significant genes. These filtering steps should not create a bias in defining differences among microhabitats or populations because they represent SNPs with good coverage that are most likely orthologs. Thus, these filters may reduce the power of analyses, but they should not create an ascertainment bias.

Analysis of molecular variance

The genetic variation among all 4741 SNPs was examined with a nested AMOVA (Excoffier *et al.*, 1992) that compares the genetic variation across all SNPs among microhabitats relative to the variation among individuals and the variation among populations relative to the variation among microhabitats (Table 2). Across all SNPs, most variation, >98%, occurs among individuals within a microhabitat. One percent of the variation occurs between microhabitats, and a small (~0.1%), but significant, portion of the variation occurs between estuary populations (Mk, RM and SH; Table 2). These data suggest that there are small but significant genetic differences between the three NJ estuary populations and, surprisingly, an order of magnitude more variance between microhabitats within a single estuary population than among populations.

F_{ST} values using all 4741 SNPs

To determine the genome-wide genetic divergence we calculated F_{ST} values using all 4741 SNPs (Table 3). F_{ST} values contrast the genetic variance among groups relative to the total variance (total = within plus between), and the significance is determined by random

Table 1 Number of individual *Fundulus heteroclitus* used in sequence analysis (before filtering/after filtering)

	Basin	Creek	Pond	Sum
Mantoloking	20/20	20/20	21/20	61/60
RUMFS	50/40	20/20	22/21	92/81
Stone Harbor	21/21	21/20	20/20	62/61

Abbreviation: RUMFS, Rutgers University Marine Field Station. Total number of individuals before filtering single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) was 215. After filtering SNPs, 202 individuals remained.

Table 2 Analysis of molecular variance (AMOVA)

Source of variation	Sum of squares	Variance components	Percentage variation	P-values
Among populations	1820	0.56	0.09	$< 10^{-5}$
Among microhabitats	4985	6.26	1.02	0.0007
Within populations				
Within microhabitats	201 755	604.48	98.89	$< 10^{-5}$
Total	208 559	611.29		

permutation of individuals into groups with equal sample sizes. The F_{ST} values across all populations (Mk vs RM vs SH) are small but significant ($F_{ST}=0.00444$, $P<10^{-5}$). Pairwise comparisons between each population pair (ignoring microhabitat stratification) yielded F_{ST} values of 0.0026 for Mk vs RM ($P=0.009$), 0.0036 for Mk vs SH ($P=0.001$) and 0.0022 for RM vs SH ($P=0.069$). F_{ST} values for microhabitats within each population are approximately fivefold larger: 0.0103 for Mk ($P=0.883$), 0.0102 for RM ($P=0.0001$) and 0.0103 for SH ($P=0.773$). Yet, these F_{ST} values for microhabitats are not significant, except for RM, suggesting that there is large variation among SNPs such that the random permutation of individuals' group assignments used to calculate P -values often capture similar large F_{ST} values.

SNP-specific F_{ST} values

Analyses using all SNPs together ignore evolutionary forces affecting one or a limited number of loci. To examine the SNP-specific differences among microhabitats, we employed three tests: SNP-specific F_{ST} and two common outlier tests (Figure 2). These tests are not independent because they rely on the same data (SNP-specific allele frequencies). Yet, they assess different aspects of the data with different assumptions. Significant F_{ST} values are based on a comparison of the F_{ST} value each SNP to the random distribution of F_{ST} values for that SNP generated by 1000 random permutations of individuals assigned to different microhabitats. This is a locus-specific test that does not consider the distribution of other SNPs (that could have a wide distribution with long tails; Storz, 2005). The two outlier tests, LOSITAN and Arlequin, are based on FDIST (Antao *et al.*, 2008; Excoffier and Lischer, 2010) that defines significance relative to other similar SNPs. LOSITAN evaluates the relationship between F_{ST} and H_e (expected heterozygosity) in an island model, describing the expected distribution of F_{ST} values vs H_e under an island model of migration based on 50 000 simulations. This distribution is used to identify SNPs that have excessively high F_{ST} values compared with neutral

expectations (Antao *et al.*, 2008; Supplementary Figure 2). Such outlier SNPs are potentially evolving by natural selection. The distribution of P -value vs F_{ST} value for SNPs among microhabitats within a population using LOSITAN is provided in Supplementary Figure 3. Arlequin uses a hierarchical model, and coalescent simulations are used to get a null distribution and confidence intervals around the observed values and then tested to determine whether observed SNP-specific F_{ST} values can be considered as outliers conditioned on the globally observed F_{ST} value (Excoffier *et al.*, 2009).

Outlier identification

We focused on SNPs that were significant in all three analyses ($P<0.01$ in each test (significant F_{ST} , LOSITAN and Arlequin); Figure 2), and where the joint probability of the three analyses had a FDR of $\leq 1\%$, these were deemed outlier SNPs. The numbers of outlier SNPs among microhabitats for the three populations range from 63 to 110 (1.3 to 2.3% of SNPs; Table 4) with F_{ST} values that ranged from 0.08 to 0.31 ('Outlier', Figure 3a and Table 4). The means of outlier F_{ST} values among microhabitats are larger than the F_{ST} values among microhabitats determined using all 4741 SNPs (0.0102–0.0103), the average F_{ST} value when individuals are randomly assigned to one microhabitat (mean = $-0.01 \pm 95\%$ confidence interval (CI) 0.001) or for 4352 nonsignificant (mean = $0.01 \pm 95\%$ CI 0.001). These data demonstrate that significant, large F_{ST} values specific for a few hundred SNPs are unlikely to occur when individuals are randomly assigned to the three microhabitats ('Randomized', Figure 3a) and exceed the F_{ST} values for the 4352 SNPs that were not significant for any within-population comparison ('Non-outlier', Figure 3a). Thus, 1.3–2.3% of outlier SNPs have large microhabitat-specific F_{ST} values.

There are 261 unique, significant, outlier SNPs among microhabitats. Four of these SNPs are significant outliers in two of the populations, but none are outliers among microhabitats in all three populations (Supplementary Table 1, 'Population Significant' column).

We calculated the LD for the 261 outlier SNPs to other SNPs within a 50-SNP window using the 15 259-SNP data set (Supplementary Figure 1c). There are 13 050 LD pairs, but only 1192 are significant. Of these 1192 significant LD pairs, most (1125, 94%) are only 100 bp apart. Thus, most outlier SNPs have few significant linkages to any other SNP > 100 bp away (Supplementary Figure 1c).

Discriminant analysis of principle components

To provide insight into the differences among microhabitats, we employed DAPC (Jombart *et al.*, 2010), a multivariate analysis that attempts to maximize the differences between groups while simultaneously minimizing the differences within groups. DAPC with the neutral SNPs (1636 SNPs) reveal large overlap among all nine microhabitats (Supplementary Figure 4a) and among microhabitats within a population (Supplementary Figures 4ai–iii). Using the 261 outlier SNPs found among microhabitats in each population, differences among microhabitats are seen among the 9 sampling locations

Table 3 F_{ST} values among all SNPs between populations are above diagonal and associated P -values are below the diagonal

	Mk-B	Mk-C	Mk-P	RM-B	RM-C	RM-P	SH-B	SH-C	SH-P
Mk-B	—	0.002	0.004	0.005	0.006	0.003	0.005	0.007	0.005
Mk-C	0.947	—	0.007	0.006	0.001	0.007	0.010*	0.004	0.006
Mk-P	0.874	0.382	—	0.006	0.002	0.008	0.012*	0.006	0.007
RM-B	0.406	0.026	0.026	—	0.002	0.004	0.005	0.005	0.004
RM-C	0.606	0.924	0.898	0.860	—	0.002	0.005	0.007	0.004
RM-P	0.854	0.221	0.072	0.591	0.884	—	0.007	0.004	0.006
SH-B	0.718	0.008	0.001	0.213	0.721	0.134	—	0.004	0.007
SH-C	0.548	0.890	0.770	0.411	0.549	0.815	0.840	—	0.004
SH-P	0.746	0.573	0.352	0.633	0.747	0.569	0.267	0.858	—

Abbreviations: B, basin; C, creek; Mk, Mantoloking; P, pond; RM, Rutgers University Marine Field Station; SH, Stone Harbor; SNP, single-nucleotide polymorphism. Significantly different populations are marked by * ($P<0.01$). Bold values are significant.

Table 4 SNP-specific F_{ST} values for the three populations for each of the outlier, non-outlier and randomized samples

F_{ST} s	Mk outliers	Mk non-sig	Mk random	RM outlier	RM non-sig	RM random	SH outlier	SH non-sig	SH random
Avg F_{ST}	0.149	0.010	−0.010	0.149	0.010	−0.008	0.148	0.009	−0.010
No. of SNPs	110	4352	1000 Perm each	63	4352	1000 Perm each	92	4352	1000 Perm each
+95%	0.155	0.008	−0.010	0.158	0.009	−0.008	0.155	0.008	−0.011
−95%	0.142	0.011	−0.009	0.140	0.011	−0.007	0.141	0.010	−0.009

Abbreviations: Avg, average; Mk, Mantoloking; non-sig, nonsignificant; Perm, permutation; RM, Rutgers University Marine Field Station; SH, Stone Harbor; SNP, single-nucleotide polymorphism.

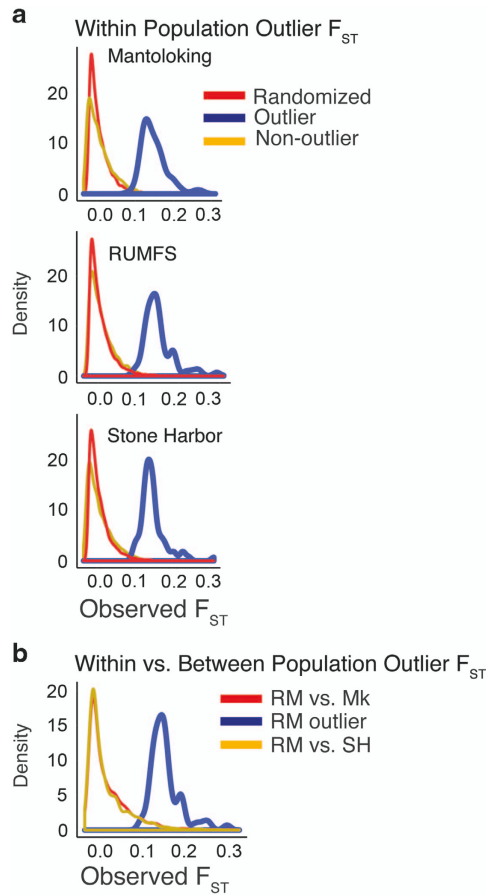


Figure 3 Distribution of F_{ST} values. (a) Density of F_{ST} values within each of the three replicate populations. Plotted are large significant outlier SNPs (blue), 4352 non-outlier SNPs (gold) and SNPs when population assignment is randomly permuted among microhabitats (red). (b) Density of outlier-SNP F_{ST} values within and among populations. Significant outlier SNP-specific F_{ST} values for within Rutgers University Marine Field Station (RUMFS, blue) and between RM and Stone Harbor (SH, gold) or Mantoloking (Mk, red).

(Supplementary Figure 4bi). This is most readily seen when plotting each population separately (Supplementary Figures 4bi–iii). Yet, among all 9 locations, microhabitats are not partitioned together: the first axis separates RM microhabitats, the second axis separates SH microhabitats and both axes separate Mk microhabitats. This most likely reflects the absence of shared outliers among the same microhabitats. It should not be surprising that SNPs with significant F_{ST} values provide strong DAPC (Figure 4b). Yet, these data show that a minority of SNPs suggests genetic divergence among microhabitats relative to a majority of SNPs.

Annotations and GO enrichment

The sequence tags for 265 outlier SNPs (Figure 2) that occur in any of the three populations all aligned to the *Fundulus* genome. Four of 265 outlier genes are shared between pairs of populations, yielding 261 unique outlier SNPs. For the 261 unique outlier SNPs among the three replicate populations (Figure 2), we determined the type (coding, 3' noncoding, intergenic and so on), location and annotation (Supplementary Table 1). In all, 194 of the 261 unique outlier SNPs are in, or near, genic regions (Supplementary Table 1) with identified gene products (NCBI). Four outlier SNPs alter codons, and two of these are nonsynonymous (*Rho GTPase* and splicing factor *U2AF*

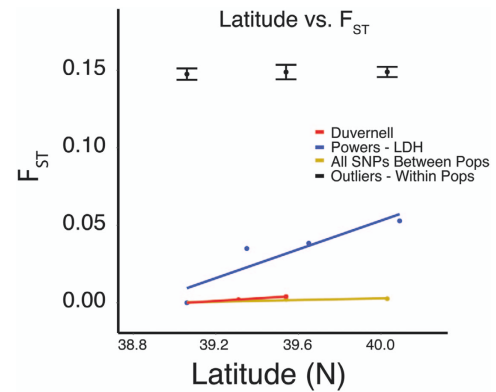


Figure 4 Latitude vs F_{ST} values. Red points are F_{ST} values from using 11 microsatellites from Duvernell *et al.* (2008). Blue points are F_{ST} values from LDH-B allozyme data from Powers and Place (1978). Yellow points are F_{ST} values calculated among all 4741 SNPs. Black points are the F_{ST} values of outlier SNPs identified within each population among microhabitats.

65 kD). However, most (134, 52%) of the unique outlier SNPs are intronic, and 67 (26%) are intergenic (between annotated genes and > 5 kb away). Fifty-six (22%) outlier SNPs are upstream (41, 16%), downstream (14, 5%) or in untranslated regions (1), where upstream or downstream is within 5 kb of an annotated gene (Supplementary Table 1).

Whereas no outlier SNPs are shared among all three populations and only four of the same SNPs are shared among two populations (Supplementary Table 1, 'Population Significant' column), 11 outlier SNPs are shared among populations but are found (1) in the same gene at a different position, (2) in a duplicate gene or paralog or (3) among genes with similar annotations. One example is outlier SNPs in RM and SH populations that are 33 bp apart in the same intron of *vav* guanine nucleotide exchange factor 2 (signal transduction). Three sets of paralogs have outlier SNPs that affect all three replicate populations: (1) glutamate receptor (*GRM4*, *GRM4'* and *GRM5*, where *GRM4* and *GRM4'* are two duplicate genes on different scaffolds), (2) serine/threonine kinases (*STK10*, *STK32A*, *STK32c*) and (3) zinc-finger proteins (*ZNF19*, *ZNF19'* and *ZNF507*, where *ZNF19* and *ZNF19'* are two duplicate genes on different scaffolds). We note that there is no association between the scaffold number and shared chromosomes, but instead scaffolds are ranked by the size of the scaffold.

Of the outlier SNPs, 157 have human homologs recognized by PANTHER (Mi *et al.*, 2016) and were used to define GO. These 157 human genes have nearly identical gene descriptions as those in the *Fundulus* genome (NCBI: GCA_000826765.1 *Fundulus heteroclitus*-3.0.2). Gene ontologies for biological processes using 157 human homologs versus ~21 000 human proteins reveal enrichment for 23 protein classes. The most significant ($P < 10^{-5}$) was for 22 outlier SNPs associated with 'intracellular signal transduction' (IST). This GO category captures the glutamate receptor and serine/threonine kinase described above. With 22 outlier SNPs associated with IST, it is not surprising that there are shared outliers among all three replicate populations. Yet, examining subterms or GO 'children' of IST reveals more specific shared responses. The subterm within IST, 'calcium-mediated signaling' (enrichment $P < 0.03$), has only three genes (*VAV2*, *CAMK1D* and *KCNIP4*) that have four SNPs shared across all three replicate populations. Similarly, within 'cell communication' is the subterm 'neuron-neuron synaptic transmission' with three genes (NNST, $P < 0.015$). These three NNST genes have three outlier SNPs

shared across all three populations. The NNST genes are the glutamate receptors (GRM4, GRM4' and GRM5) that occur on three separate scaffolds (the two GRM4 are duplicate genes) and are outliers in RM, SK and Mk, respectively. The glutamate receptors are post synaptic, and we find it interesting that in presynaptic genes are four SNPs in 'synaptic vesicle exocytosis gene' ($P < 0.005$) that occur predominately only in Mk (one SNP is shared with RM and Mk). Examining specific GO terms (< 5 genes per term) for molecular function revealed two GO terms that were shared among all three replicate populations: 'exoribonuclease activity' (CNOT6l, CNOT8 XRN1) and 'voltage-gated potassium channel activity' (KCNIP4, KCNMA1 HCN1). Overall, based on restricted GO terms (< 5 genes per term), 12 outlier SNPs are shared among all three replicate populations.

DISCUSSION

Among microhabitats within a marsh estuary, *F. heteroclitus* share a common reproductive area in the high upper tidal zone, have few physical barriers to movement among microhabitats and are often transported by incoming and outgoing tides, creating what appears to most ecologists as a well-mixed population (Lotrich, 1975a; Kneib, 1978; Teo and Able, 2003b; Able *et al.*, 2006, 2012). Thus, with large effective population size (Adams *et al.*, 2006; Duvernell *et al.*, 2008) and mobility among microhabitats (Able *et al.*, 2012), there should be little neutral divergence among microhabitats. This view of *Fundulus* saltmarsh community is support by F_{ST} values using all 4741 SNPs where there are few significant differences among all nine collection sites (three populations each with three microhabitats, Table 3). In addition, a vast majority of SNPs have small F_{ST} values (average of ~ 0.01 , Table 4 and Figure 3a). In general, non-outlier SNPs (SNPs that lack significant F_{ST} values among any microhabitat) are similar to microsatellites showing small changes among populations (Figure 4) and little difference among microhabitats (Figure 3a). Thus, there does not seem to be extensive isolation among microhabitats based on most of the SNPs.

Although there is little genetic divergence among microhabitats based on all SNPs ($F_{ST} = 0.01$) or the average non-outlier SNPs ($F_{ST} = -0.01$, 95% CI -0.011 to -0.007 , Table 4), there are 63 to 110 significant outlier SNPs (Figure 2) with large F_{ST} values among microhabitats within each of the 3 populations studied (Table 4, average $F_{ST} = 0.15$, 95% CI 0.14 – 0.16). The F_{ST} values for outlier SNPs greatly exceed the F_{ST} values among populations for the same SNPs (Figure 3b) and for most non-outlier SNPs (Figure 3a). That is, F_{ST} values for outlier SNPs have a distribution that is unlike that of non-outlier SNPs or F_{ST} values among populations. The difference between the few hundred outlier SNPs versus the vast majority, we suggest, is related to ecological differences among microhabitats.

Saltmarsh estuaries have distinct microhabitats, including permanent ponds, tidal basins and intertidal creeks. These microhabitats are environmentally different and affect growth and survival. For example, ponds, which receive intermittent, nondaily, flushes of tidal water and experience high daily temperature maximum and low nightly dissolved oxygen, are more productive than basins or creeks (Teo and Able, 2003b; Able *et al.*, 2006, 2012). In contrast, tidal basins have lower daily environmental fluxes in water temperature, salinity and dissolved oxygen (Halpin, 2000; Teo and Able, 2003a, b; Hunter *et al.*, 2007). Intertidal creeks are dry at low tide and are then flooded by incoming tides. For ponds, although there is large annual influx, there is little immigration or emigration after April, suggesting many individuals spend a significant portion of their active season only in ponds (Able *et al.*, 2012).

Although adult *F. heteroclitus* seem to flow in and out with the tidal cycles and reproduce in a common area, they have small home ranges and high site fidelity (Lotrich, 1975a; Skinner *et al.*, 2005, 2012; Able *et al.*, 2012). In a study of 1499 marked fish over 60 days, *F. heteroclitus* exhibited a 36 m home range, with the greatest distance moved being 375 m by just three fish; also, individuals had site fidelity (returning to the same side of a creek after release; Lotrich, 1975b). Similarly, in a separate study, 97% of tagged individuals were found within 200 m of their initial marking site over two seasons (Skinner *et al.*, 2005), and stable isotopes indicate very few *F. heteroclitus* (3.4%) move > 200 m in their lifetime (Skinner *et al.*, 2012). For young of the year, 54% were recaptured within 5 m of the initial tagging site (Able *et al.*, 2006). These data are supported by a remarkable mark–recapture study of $> 14\,000$ individuals over 17 months, where the authors concluded that despite physical connectivity of saltmarsh estuaries, there was almost complete fidelity to a single creek (Able *et al.*, 2012). In addition, this research (Hunter *et al.*, 2007; Able *et al.*, 2012) demonstrated that ponds have resident fish with small emigration and immigration after April, many (75–95%) fish are recaptured in the same microhabitat and most movement (as measured by recapture) is from the basin into other microhabitats.

These data of microhabitat fidelity are supported by our SNP data. When considering all 4741 SNPs, the AMOVA analysis revealed that 10 times as much variation is explained by microhabitats than between populations along the NJ coast (Table 2). Among microhabitats within a population, F_{ST} values (0.007) based on all 4741 SNPs are much larger than the F_{ST} values among populations along the NJ coast (0.0026–0.0036). Thus, microhabitats within a saltmarsh estuary have population structure that exceeds that among distant populations (Mk, RM and SH). More important are the large F_{ST} values among microhabitats for the outlier SNPs. The large F_{ST} values among microhabitats within a population for outlier SNPs and the observation that these F_{ST} values exceed those among geographically distant populations are indicative of fine-scale genetic structure. The evolutionary importance of this observation depends on two points: (1) whether outlier F_{ST} values are statistical errors (type I errors) or (2) whether neutral evolutionary processes are likely to explain the large outlier F_{ST} values.

Significance of outlier SNPs

We defined significant outlier SNPs as those significant in all three analyses ($P < 0.01$ in each test (significant F_{ST} , LOSITAN and Arlequin); Figure 2) and where the joint probability of the three analyses had a FDR of $\leq 1\%$. The F_{ST} values for these 63–110 outlier SNPs (1.3–2.3% of SNPs; Table 4) range from 0.08 to 0.31 and exceed the distribution of the vast majority of nonsignificant SNPs (Figure 3a and Table 4). These data demonstrate that the outlier SNPs have significant, large F_{ST} values that are not seen for most SNPs; nor are they seen when individuals are randomly assigned to one of three microhabitats ('random', Figure 3a). That is, when individuals are randomly assigned to a microhabitat in 1000 permutations, the average F_{ST} value is less than zero (Table 4), and only 0.4% of > 13 million random F_{ST} values exceed the lower 95% CI of the outlier SNPs (Table 4). Yet, the true neutral F_{ST} value distribution could have a wide distribution with long tails that includes large F_{ST} values (Lotterhos and Whitlock, 2015; Whitlock and Lotterhos, 2015).

Although outlier SNPs tests are designed to identify adaptive divergence (Beaumont and Balding, 2004; Antao *et al.*, 2008; Excoffier *et al.*, 2009), they are likely to have false positives (Lotterhos and Whitlock, 2014), and the significant outliers instead reflect neutral processes because demography and migration can affect F_{ST} value variance

among SNPs (Lotterhos and Whitlock, 2014). The false positive rate is related to the population's demography and the specific demographic model of the outlier tests (Lotterhos and Whitlock, 2014). If comparisons are among populations that are isolated by distance or match an island model used in FDIST2 as implemented by LOSITAN (Antao *et al.*, 2008), false positive rates are low ($<5\%$) (Lotterhos and Whitlock, 2014). However, if the population reflects expansion from one or two refugia, then false discovery rates become unacceptably high (Lotterhos and Whitlock, 2014). For saltmarsh microhabitats, there is little reason to believe there is any population structure, and this is supported by 4352 (91%) SNPs that have very small and nonsignificant F_{ST} values within a population (mean = 0.009–0.010; Table 4 and Figure 3a). With no expected demographic structure and little support for population structure for most SNPs, the magnitude of errors for these outlier tests is unclear. However, the observations that >190 SNPs in each population (Figure 2) have significant F_{ST} values and both outlier tests are significant suggest that there are hundreds of SNPs with exceptionally high F_{ST} values (Figure 3a). Thus, we are suggesting that many of the outlier SNPs have unlikely large F_{ST} values that are true positives.

The statistical approach presented here differs from similar studies demonstrating unexpected genetic divergences (Hess *et al.*, 2013; Bergland *et al.*, 2014) in that we rely on three separate analyses. Whereas a single test is likely to suffer from false positives, three separate tests are unlikely to simultaneously be falsely positive (Lotterhos and Whitlock, 2014, 2015). Instead, our conservative approach is more likely to suffer from false negatives or large type II errors (falsely accepting the null hypothesis of no differences among groups (de Villemereuil *et al.*, 2014; Lotterhos and Whitlock, 2014)). We likely are missing many outlier SNPs because of our approach.

We conclude that some of our outlier F_{ST} values may be false positives, and an equal or greater number of SNPs may be false negatives (de Villemereuil *et al.*, 2014; Lotterhos and Whitlock, 2014). Yet, the identification of hundreds of SNPs with large significant F_{ST} values found in three separate analyses suggested evolutionary forces effecting a significant allele frequency change.

Genomic differentiation among microhabitats

We suggested that the outlier SNPs are related to ecologically relevant differences in temperature, salinity, frequency of hypoxic events and productivity among microhabitats (Teo and Able, 2003b; Able *et al.*, 2006, 2012). What are the evolutionary forces that would create these large significant F_{ST} values among microhabitats? Neutral mutation–drift process could affect F_{ST} values, where a rare allele rises to appreciable frequency. Yet, the outlier SNPs do not have rare or low frequency alleles: for outlier SNPs, the MAFs within a single microhabitat are on average 0.376, and range from 0.072 to 0.912 (where MAF is defined across all samples). The significantly large F_{ST} values arise because these MAFs may have much higher frequencies within a specific microhabitat. This, plus the large effective population size of *F. heteroclitus* (Duvernell *et al.*, 2008), makes it unlikely that neutral mutation–drift processes are responsible for the large F_{ST} values among outlier SNPs. We also suggest that mutation drift is unlikely to be responsible for the outlier-SNP F_{ST} values among microhabitats because it would take many generations with little connectivity for a mutation to rise to the MAF observed here, and the natural history of *F. heteroclitus* suggests large generational connectivity among microhabitats. That is, because *F. heteroclitus* breed in a common area and live for 3 years in the field (Valiela *et al.*, 1977), each generation should be dispersed among microhabitats unless individuals select microhabitat based on their genotype.

It is possible that migrants from populations with significant allele frequency differences at some SNPs could inflate F_{ST} values within a population if these migrants ended up in one microhabitat. Similar to allele surfing (Excoffier and Ray, 2008), a few invaders could cause large F_{ST} values for some loci by chance. To examine this, we compared the F_{ST} values for the 63 outlier SNPs within RM with the F_{ST} values for the same 63 SNPs in populations north (Mk) or south (SH) of RM. The F_{ST} values for outlier SNPs within a population among microhabitats exceed the F_{ST} values between populations (Figure 3b). The average F_{ST} values (0.15) for the outliers within RM are much greater than the F_{ST} values for the same outlier-SNP F_{ST} values between populations north (0.01) or south (0.009) of RM (Figure 3b). Because outlier-SNP F_{ST} values between microhabitats are much larger than between populations, it seems unlikely that random migration from a different population to a specific microhabitat would be responsible for the difference among microhabitats. The outlier-SNP F_{ST} values among microhabitats are also greater than values reported previously: the F_{ST} values based on microsatellites (Duvernell *et al.*, 2008) or the LDH-B locus that is most likely evolving by natural selection (Powers *et al.*, 1991; Figure 4). Among populations, the microsatellites (Duvernell *et al.*, 2008) and the non-outlier-SNP F_{ST} values are similar and low, suggesting small neutral divergence among populations. Not only are outlier-SNP F_{ST} values calculated among microhabitats larger than the differences calculated among populations, but they also exceed previously published data for neutral (Duvernell *et al.*, 2008) and adaptive (Powers *et al.*, 1991) divergences among populations. Thus, the data do not support migration from distant populations into specific microhabitats.

We suggest that neutral processes including nonrandom migration are an unlikely cause of outlier-SNP F_{ST} values, yet we need to point out that nearly all outlier SNPs were unique to their population. Only four outlier SNPs are significant between any two populations, and no outlier SNP was an outlier in all three populations. To examine whether our conservative filtering to 4761 SNPs affects how many significant outlier SNPs are shared among the three replicate populations, we applied LOSITAN outlier analyses to the 15 259 SNPs (this includes SNPs in LD and with no minimum allele frequency cutoff). None of the significant outlier SNPs using 15 259 is an outlier in all 3 replicate populations, and only 24 of 1022 (2%) outlier SNPs were shared between any 2 replicate populations. Thus, few of the same SNPs have a shared response among the three replicate populations (Mk, RM and SH) even when considering the larger 15K-SNP set.

A greater percentage of outlier SNPs shared among populations and among microhabitats would have strengthened our analyses (Figure 2). The lack of shared outlier SNPs among the three replicate populations has three potential explanations. (1) The absence of shared outlier SNPs suggests that the test for outlier-SNP F_{ST} values underestimates the length and complexity of the neutral F_{ST} value distribution. Thus, our significant outlier SNPs represent random neutral divergences that we would not expect to be shared. (2) The total length of the 4741 tag sequences used to identify SNPs is only 0.04% of the genome (Reid *et al.*, 2015). With so little genome coverage, it is possible that we missed many more outlier SNPs shared among the three replicate populations. (3) There may be many different loci where a relatively small allele frequency change can affect an evolutionarily important phenotypic change (Przeworski *et al.*, 2005; Pritchard *et al.*, 2010). This hypothesis of polygenic selection from large standing genetic variation would provide many potential solutions involving a subset of many different genes, and thus it is unlikely that selection would favor the same SNPs in all populations.

The first potential explanation suggests the possibility that neutral F_{ST} values have a very wide distribution. Yet, given the data on the genetic divergence within and among populations it unlikely that neutral processes are responsible for these large F_{ST} values. The distributions of F_{ST} values found among populations or among the random permutations do not include the large F_{ST} values found with the significant outlier SNPs, and thus it seems unlikely that these outlier-SNP F_{ST} values occur by random or other neutral demographic processes.

The second potential explanation proposes that many common outlier SNPs were missed. This could happen because so little of the genome was examined, but our results can be compared with 384 *Fundulus* whole-genome sequences defined in four pairs of populations subject to recent anthropogenic pollution (Reid *et al.*, 2016). The whole-genome adaptive changes identified among polluted populations rarely involve the same exact change; instead, adaptive changes often involve a variety of changes in the same genes, or genes in the same pathway (Reid *et al.*, 2016). The annotation and gene ontologies for the outlier SNPs presented here can be similarly interpreted—all three populations share outlier SNPs in three glutamate receptors, four calcium signaling proteins, three serine/threonine kinases or three zinc-finger proteins. Thus, data on a small percentage of the genome are not fundamentally different than whole-genome sequence analyses.

The third explanation, polygenic selection from standing genetic variation, has support from our data: among 15 259 SNPs there are 8180 (12% of all possible) significant LDs and 93% of these are <100 bp apart. For the 261 outlier SNPs, there are 1192 significant LDs with 15 259 other SNPs, and all but 67 or 94% of these are <100 bp apart. In the classic model of evolution, where new mutations quickly go to fixation when affected by nature selection, outlier SNPs should be associated with large linkage blocks. Clearly, this is not what we find, nor would we expect to if the microhabitats within a population are inundated with young of year every spring. Instead, the short distances among all SNPs and among 94% of outlier SNPs with significant LD is indicative of long-term standing genetic variation.

This explanation, that the lack of long LD blocks reflects outlier SNPs affecting polygenic traits and where many different genes provide similar solutions to resolve natural selection for a phenotypic trait, is supported by annotations (Supplementary Table 1). Different outlier SNPs among the three replicate populations occur in the same gene, but at different positions in the same gene or in paralogs: metabotropic glutamate receptor 4 and 5, three serine/threonine kinases (STK10, STK32A and STK32c) and three zinc-finger proteins (ZNF19, ZNF19' and ZNF507). Similarly, all three populations share specific GO terms with '5 genes: (1) three 'calcium-mediated signaling' genes (enrichment $P < 0.03$, *VAV2*, *CAMK1D* and *KCNIP4*), (2) three 'neuron-neuron synaptic transmission' genes ($P < 0.015$, *GRM4*, *GRM4'* and *GRM5*), (3) three 'RNA exoribonuclease' ($P < 0.005$, *CNOT6*, *CNOT8* and *XNR1*) and (4) 'three voltage-gated potassium channel activity' (*KCNIP4*, *KCNMA1* *HCN1*). The observation that all three populations share two sets of paralog genes (STK, ZNF) or four finite GO functions suggests that evolutionary forces are acting on similar biological processes among microhabitats across all three populations.

We suggest that the unlikely, large F_{ST} values with little long-distance LD among genes of similar functions are a hallmark of natural selection (Beaumont and Balding, 2004; Excoffier *et al.*, 2009) and that natural selection is acting on each generation effecting small but significant allele frequency changes in some of many potential genes that respond to natural selection. That is, there is polygenic

selection, and only a subset of possible adaptive genes respond to natural selection in each population (Przeworski *et al.*, 2005; Pritchard *et al.*, 2010)

We conclude that although microhabitats are well connected within a saltmarsh estuary, natural selection is effecting allele frequency changes and is responsible for the fine-scale geographic structure. This conclusion must be tentative because of its repercussions for previous fieldwork on *Fundulus* and, to be frank, the highly unlikely nature of adaptive divergence affecting demes inhabiting microhabitats. What is required are temporal studies of pond- and basin-resident fishes to determine whether microhabitat residents with specific genotypes are more likely to survive the summer. These studies would reveal whether a common set of genes are selected in different microhabitats and whether the genes being selected are adaptively significant in one, several or all microhabitats.

Evolution among microhabitats

In 1966, Lewontin and Hubby (1966) provided data on 18 proteins and concluded that much genetic variation exists within a species, but they could not resolve the evolutionary forces effecting this variation. After 50 years, it is not clear that we have resolved this dilemma (Ohta, 1992; Kreitman, 1996; Charlesworth, 2015; Henn *et al.*, 2015). We demonstrate here that there are 63–110 SNPs with large and unlikely F_{ST} values (~ 0.15 , $\leq 1\%$ FDR) among microhabitats in the three NJ populations. We argue above that migration, demography or other neutral processes are not responsible, and thus suggest that natural selection is changing allele frequencies. The observation that there is greater variation among microhabitats than among populations (Table 2) is similar to the classic indication of selection: greater variation within a species than between species (Slatkin, 1987; Kreitman, 1996). If natural selection were responsible, given the natural history of *F. heteroclitus*, it would require annual selection of specific genotypes in ponds, creeks and basins. Because ponds are environmentally different, adaptation to this environment seems possible. Our reluctance to invoke selection is that this selection would have to occur in the presence of large annual immigrations of new individuals (Able *et al.*, 2006, 2012). This would seem to create a substantial genetic load (Haldane, 1957). However, recent investigations of genetic load in human populations suggests that contemporary rates of human migration do not seem to substantially increase the number or occurrence of deleterious alleles (Henn *et al.*, 2015). Charlesworth (2013) addresses this point directly, suggesting that large perceived genetic load can be mitigated by weak stabilizing selection and soft selection and reiterates that there is rarely an 'optimum' phenotype in each environment against which other organisms are competing. Rather, most individuals' fitness is relative to the fitness of other individuals with whom they compete. Given the relatively small home ranges of *F. heteroclitus* (<200 m), this could contribute to the structure and genotypic diversity detected between the saltmarsh microhabitats.

CONCLUSION

All the evidence suggests that saltmarsh estuary populations of *F. heteroclitus* are not panmictic; rather, they exhibit a complex genetic landscape that creates microhabitat-specific demes with significant allele frequency differences at hundreds of loci, many of which share common biological functions. These data are similar to the large seasonal variation in thousands of SNPs in a single *D. melanogaster* population (Bergland *et al.*, 2014). Despite the absence of physical or physiological barriers to migration, our evidence suggests that the individuals in different microhabitats within the same saltmarsh estuary belong to genetically divergent groups. The fine-scale (<200 m) population structure that this

study reveals has yet to be documented in another vertebrate species, likely because it is so unexpected. This leads us to conclude: directional selection affects many SNPs, and these SNPs are different from population to population.

DATA ARCHIVING

Three tab-delimited files are archived at Dryad (<http://dx.doi.org/10.5061/dryad.mc04d>). The first is the raw hapmap file with all called SNPs (338 325) and all individuals ($n = 215$). The second is the 15 259 SNP file with 202 individuals used for to calculate distances among SNPs and significant LD. The third is the filtered hapmap with 4741 SNPs from 202 individuals that was used in all the analyses presented here.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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