

1 **Genomic signatures of spatially divergent selection at clownfish range margins**

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27 **Abstract**

28 Understanding how evolutionary forces interact to drive patterns of selection and distribute genetic  
29 variation across a species' range is of great interest in ecology and evolution, especially in an era  
30 of global change. While theory predicts how and when populations at range margins are likely to  
31 undergo local adaptation, empirical evidence testing these models remains sparse. Here, we  
32 address this knowledge gap by investigating the relationship between selection, gene flow, and  
33 genetic drift in the yellowtail clownfish, *Amphiprion clarkii*, from the core to the northern  
34 periphery of the species range. Analyses reveal low genetic diversity at the range edge, gene flow  
35 from the core to the edge, and genomic signatures of local adaptation at 56 Single Nucleotide  
36 Polymorphisms (SNPs) in 25 candidate genes, most of which are significantly correlated with  
37 minimum annual sea surface temperature. Several of these candidate genes play a role in functions  
38 that are up-regulated during cold stress, including protein turnover, metabolism, and translation.  
39 Our results illustrate how spatially divergent selection spanning the range core to the periphery  
40 can occur despite the potential for strong genetic drift at the range edge and moderate gene flow  
41 from the core populations.

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43 **Keywords:** spatially divergent selection; range margin; clownfish; local adaptation

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51 **1. Introduction**

52           Understanding how environmental heterogeneity drives patterns of selection and partitions  
53 adaptive variation into discrete populations is increasingly important in today's changing world.  
54 Species with large geographic ranges often span a similarly wide array of environmental  
55 conditions, which may result in natural selection favoring distinct sets of alleles across the species  
56 range [1]. Such a process is commonly referred to as spatially divergent selection and can shape  
57 the evolutionary trajectory of a population by causing allele frequencies at select loci to move  
58 away from a global mean and towards local optima [2]. While there exists a large body of work  
59 investigating spatially divergent selection, the scale at which such patterns can manifest, and the  
60 extent to which populations may become locally adapted, remains an area of intense debate [3,4].

61           Selection, however, is only one of several evolutionary processes operating in a natural  
62 system and rarely acts in isolation. Gene flow and drift also shape the distribution of genetic  
63 variation, and the interplay of these forces can influence population dynamics, patterns of range  
64 expansion, and evolutionary trajectories [5,6]. Gene flow is commonly thought to decrease the  
65 fitness of edge populations through gene swamping, as immigrants from the range core may be  
66 sub-optimally adapted to edge environments [7,8]. Alternatively, gene flow can increase adaptive  
67 potential at the edge by transporting in novel genetic variation and replenishing genetic diversity  
68 that is otherwise depleted due to drift and serial founder events [9,10].

69           Empirical evidence detailing how migration-selection balance affects adaptation in  
70 peripheral populations is rare, especially in marine taxa [11; although see 12]. Many marine  
71 species are historically thought to have large, well-mixed populations due to a lack of geographic  
72 barriers and high dispersal capabilities [13,14]. Such conditions would tip migration-selection  
73 balance away from local adaptation and towards range-wide adaptation to a global trait mean.

74 However, recent studies have found that adaptive and neutral genetic variation can be differentially  
75 distributed within marine populations, suggesting that selection may be strong enough to cause  
76 differentiation even in the face of heavy gene flow [15,16] and across pronounced environmental  
77 gradients [17,18].

78 Despite such evidence, it is still unclear how selection and gene flow interact to shape  
79 adaptation at range peripheries. Populations near the range center are thought to maintain high  
80 enough densities to withstand an influx of maladaptive alleles from elsewhere in the range [7].  
81 Less dense populations at the range edge may not benefit from the same demographic processes,  
82 however, [6]. Nevertheless, directional selection at the edge may be strong enough to overcome  
83 asymmetrical migration rates, especially as peripheral populations tend to inhabit novel  
84 environments [6,8]. Thus, our understanding of how evolutionary forces interact to either suppress  
85 or replenish genetic diversity at marine range peripheries remains lacking.

86 At the same time, it is these edge populations that play a critical role in enabling species to  
87 adapt to changing environments [19]. Species shift their ranges to track environmental conditions,  
88 and it is often individuals at the edge that first colonize novel habitats [20]. The oceans are  
89 predicted to warm by 1-3°C over the coming century, presenting serious challenges for marine  
90 taxa [21]. Many biological pathways are sensitive to temperature change [22], and water  
91 temperature has been shown to influence development, reproduction, and survival in many  
92 ectotherms [23]. Thus, adaptation to thermal regimes often provides a large fitness advantage [24]  
93 and shifting thermal environments may impose strong selective pressures on populations as they  
94 respond *in situ*. Such responses may vary across a species range, as adaptive potential is unlikely  
95 to be uniform from the core to the periphery. Thus, understanding the roles that evolutionary forces

96 play in partitioning genetic variation among populations is important when trying to predict how  
97 species will fare in the coming years.

98         The yellowtail clownfish, *Amphiprion clarkii*, provides an ideal system for investigating  
99 how different evolutionary processes interact to shape genetic diversity and adaptive potential  
100 across a species range. *A. clarkii* occupies one of the broadest latitudinal ranges of all anemonefish  
101 species, with populations from the Indo-Pacific tropics to the subtropics (Figure 1) [25].  
102 Anemonefish are philopatric, remaining on the same anemone for the duration of their adult lives  
103 [25]; as such, populations are only connected by pelagic larval dispersal (PLD). However, with a  
104 PLD of ~2 weeks [26], the larval duration of *A. clarkii* is relatively limited, and few larvae  
105 regularly disperse farther than 27 km, although rare long-distance migration is possible [27].

106         Here, we explore the relationship between gene flow, selection, and drift across the  
107 northern half of the species range of *Amphiprion clarkii* to determine if edge populations have  
108 responded to spatially divergent selection despite (or perhaps because of) gene flow from the core  
109 and the potential for stronger genetic drift at the edge. Specifically, we address three questions: (i)  
110 how is genetic diversity, both adaptive and neutral, partitioned across the northern extent of *A.*  
111 *clarkii*'s range, (ii) are there signatures of selection in edge and core populations, and (iii) what  
112 are the underlying biological or molecular processes targeted by such selection?

113

## 114 **2. Materials & Methods**

### 115 **(a) Study species and sample collection**

116         We sampled a total of 25 *Amphiprion clarkii* individuals (4-11 cm fork length) from three  
117 locations. These locations represent the core of the species distribution (near the equator), part-

118 way to the northern edge, and near the northern edge of the species range. We collected seven  
119 individuals from Sulawesi Tengeh, Indonesia (six from 0.652217 °S, 119.739 °E and one from  
120 0.65695 °S, 119.741 °E), ten from Leyte, Philippines (10.87304 °N, 124.7122 °E), and eight from  
121 Shikoku Island, Japan (33.005133 °N, 132.5047 °E) (Figure 1). All sampling took place in 2012  
122 (May-August). Upon capture, a sample of heart tissue was taken and immediately preserved in  
123 RNAlater. The heart was chosen as it plays an important role in determining thermal sensitivity  
124 through oxygen transport and aerobic capacity [28]. As taking heart tissue is lethal, we designed  
125 our sampling scheme to capture the largest sample possible while minimizing cost and population  
126 impact.

127 We extracted total RNA using a Qiagen RNeasy spin column (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany)  
128 following manufacturer recommendations and made cDNA libraries with Illumina TruSeq v2 kit  
129 (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA) at half reaction volumes. We assessed concentrations with a  
130 Qubit dsDNA HS assay (ThermoFisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA), quality with a NanoDrop  
131 spectrophotometer (ThermoFisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA), and fragment length with an  
132 Agilent 2100 BioAnalyzer and a DNA 1000 kit (Agilent, Santa Clara, CA, USA). We sequenced  
133 the libraries on an Illumina HiSeq 2500 (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA) with 140 bp and 187 bp  
134 single-end reads at Princeton University's Lewis-Sigler Institute Genomics Core Facility.

### 135 **(b) Read mapping and variant calling**

136 We demultiplexed the sequenced reads by Illumina index using a Python script adapted  
137 from FASTX Barcode Splitter [29], trimmed to bases with a quality score >20 with the  
138 TQSfastq.py from the SSAKE assembly pipeline [30], and removed reads <30 bases long after  
139 trimming. Reads from individual N3 were assembled into a *de novo* reference transcriptome using  
140 Trinity v.2.2.0 [31] (details in Supplement). The final reference transcript contained 103,518

141 transcripts, varying in length from 201-7,323 nucleotides. We mapped reads to the reference  
142 transcriptome using Stampy v.1.0.28 [32], filtered for mapping quality  $\geq 20$  using SAMtools v.1.3.0  
143 [33], marked read duplicates using the MarkDuplicates function in Picard Tools v.1.119  
144 (<https://broadinstitute.github.io/picard/>), and realigned indels using IndelRealigner in GATK  
145 v.3.8.1 [34]. Variants were called with HaplotypeCaller in GATK. We removed all variants except  
146 biallelic SNPs genotyped in at least 24 samples. Additional filtering with VCFtools v.1.16 [35]  
147 removed SNPs with a minor allele count  $< 2$ . After filtering, we had 4,212 SNPs, distributed across  
148 1,002 transcripts.

### 149 **(c) Genetic diversity**

150 We assessed two measures of genetic diversity and one measure of relatedness. We  
151 calculated per-site nucleotide diversity ( $\pi$ ) for each sampling site using VCFtools. The mean  
152 inbreeding coefficient ( $F_{IS}$ ) was estimated from observed heterozygosity and expected gene  
153 diversity with the *hierfstat* package in R v.3.4.4 [36,37]. We assessed the mean within-population  
154 pairwise relatedness using the *relatedness* R package [38] and the Wang relatedness estimator [39]  
155 that has reduced bias with small sample sizes [40]. We calculated 95% confidence intervals for all  
156 metrics by bootstrapping with replacement across individuals 1000x in R. Tajima's  $D$  was  
157 calculated across each transcript using VCFtools. To include rare variants and avoid potential  
158 biases from purifying selection, Tajima's  $D$  was calculated using only synonymous sites from a  
159 SNP dataset unfiltered for minor allele count (1,453 SNPs). Synonymous sites were identified  
160 using SnpEff [41] (see annotation section for details).

### 161 **(d) Outlier test and environmental association analyses**

162 To identify candidate SNPs under selection, we used an outlier test and two environmental  
163 association analyses (EAA). For the outlier analysis, we ran the core model implemented in the

164 program BAYPASS v.2.1.1 [42] using default parameters and all 4,212 SNPs. This model  
165 generates an XtX statistic [43], which is an  $F_{ST}$ -type measurement that considers population  
166 structure. We determined a threshold XtX value for outliers by creating pseudo-observed data sets  
167 under a null model and analyzed them with the core model [42]. We used the 99% quantile of this  
168 empirical XtX distribution under no selection as the selection/neutrality threshold.

169 For the EAAs, we utilized two methods. First, we ran the standard covariate model  
170 implemented in BAYPASS which tests for associations between allele frequencies and  
171 environmental covariables while accounting for the neutral covariance among localities. We used  
172 annual mean sea surface temperature (SST mean), minimum SST (SST min), maximum SST (SST  
173 max), latitude, and mean sea surface salinity (SSS mean) (Table S2) from the MARSPEC database  
174 [44]. For every variable, we ran a burn-in of 5,000 iterations and then 25,000 MCMC steps thinned  
175 to every 25. We used the full dataset of 4,212 SNPs. Bayes Factors (BFs) in deciban (dB) units  
176 were used to determine whether a SNP was associated with an environmental variable. As  
177 recommended in [42], we considered SNPs with a BF greater than 20 dB to be strongly associated.  
178 To assess these associations, we randomly reassigned individuals among locations to create  
179 permuted datasets that we then analyzed in BAYPASS (details in Supplement).

180 Our second EAA was a redundancy analysis (RDA). We used the *vegan* v.2.4.1 R package  
181 [45] to perform RDA with the same environmental variables as in BAYPASS and a centered allele  
182 frequency dataset with all 4,212 SNPs. We used two methods to identified potential outlier SNPs:  
183 (1) those with a q-value  $>0.1$  [46] and (2) those with scores  $\pm 3$  SDs from the mean axis score for  
184 each of the first two constrained axes that also had a  $p \leq 0.0001$  when regressed against an  
185 environmental variable [47]. Both methods identified similar sets of outlier SNPs. However, the  
186 second method was more stringent, so we used only those SNPs for downstream analyses. Mean



187 outlier allele frequencies were calculated for each sampling site, polarized so that the Japanese  
188 allele frequency was highest. Since one pair of individuals appeared highly related, we also  
189 conducted all outlier analyses without one of the highly-related individuals (N4).

#### 190 **(e) Population structure**

191 We analyzed population structure with principal component analysis (PCA) and  
192 STRUCTURE [48]. PCA was performed with all 4,212 SNPs using Plink v.1.9 [49]. In addition,  
193 SNPs out of Hardy-Weinberg Proportions (HWP) were identified using VCFtools and PCA was  
194 redone without these SNPs. We also performed PCAs with only outlier SNPs and with all outlier  
195 SNPs removed. STRUCTURE v.2.3.4 was run assuming admixture and correlated allele  
196 frequencies. We ran five replicates of each K (number of populations) from 1 to 5 with a burn-in  
197 of 100,000 followed by an additional 10,000 MCMC steps. STRUCTURE was run on the same  
198 four datasets as PCA. The optimal value of K was identified using the Evanno method [50]. Results  
199 were visualized with CLUMPP [51] and the *pophelper* v.2.3.0 package in R [52]. Finally, pairwise  
200  $F_{ST}$  estimates calculated with all 4,212 SNPs and 95% confidence intervals were evaluated using  
201 the *hierfstat* package in R [36]. We also conducted all analyses without one of the highly-related  
202 individuals (N4), though we note that removing related individuals can bias inference [53].

#### 203 **(f) Demographic analyses**

204 We estimated dispersal rates and long-term effective population sizes ( $N_e$ ) with  
205 *fastsimcoal2* [54] by fitting a model of population splits and ongoing migration against the  
206 multidimensional site frequency spectrum (details in Supplement). We also ran Stairway Plot v.2  
207 [55] to estimate changes in abundance in each location from the folded site frequency spectrum  
208 (see Supplement), though we acknowledge challenges with inference based on  $<10^6$  SNPs [56].

#### 209 **(g) Functional and structural annotation**

210 The *de novo* transcriptome assembly was mapped to *Amphiprion frenatus* with BLASTn  
211 searches against *A. frenatus* with an E-value cutoff of  $10^{-6}$  [57,58]. Structural annotation was  
212 performed on these mapped SNPs with SnpEff [41]. *A. frenatus* is one of the most closely related  
213 and completely annotated transcriptomes available [59]. Gene ontology (GO) terms were  
214 annotated to predicted proteins from the best BLASTn match against the SwissProt database.

215

### 216 **3. Results**

#### 217 **(a) Genetic diversity & relatedness**

218 Per-site nucleotide diversity and the inbreeding coefficient ( $F_{IS}$ ) were both lowest in Japan  
219 and highest in the Philippines (Table 1). Mean within-site Tajima's  $D$  ranged from  $-0.29 \pm 0.046$   
220 in the Philippines to  $-0.166 \pm 0.05$  in Indonesia and was  $-0.355 \pm 0.041$  with all individuals pooled  
221 together (Table 1, Figure S1). Mean pairwise relatedness ( $r$ ) varied as well, from  $r = 0.222$  in Japan  
222 to  $r = -0.011$  and  $r = 0.018$  in the Philippines and Indonesia, respectively (Table 1).

#### 223 **(b) Spatially divergent selection**

224 BAYPASS identified 93 highly diverged SNPs with an  $XtX$  value  $\geq 6.03$ , the 99%  
225 significance threshold. BAYPASS also revealed 192 SNPs with a strong association with at least  
226 one environmental variable (BF >20 dB). Most SNPs were associated with SST mean. Of those  
227 108 SNPs, 81% were also associated with SST min and latitude. Most of these latter SNPs were  
228 more strongly associated with either SST variable than with latitude (Figure S2). The empirical  
229 cumulative distribution of BFs for each environmental covariate was significantly different from  
230 the permuted distribution (Mann-Whitney U-test;  $p < 0.001$ ; Figure S3). RDA identified 67 SNPs  
231 with a significant association with at least one environmental variable ( $p \leq 0.0001$ ) (Figure S4).  
232 Of these, most were associated with SST min (Table S3).

233 Across all analyses, 56 SNPs had an XtX greater than the 99% threshold and a significant  
234 association with at least one environmental variable according to both EAAs (Figure 2). Of these,  
235 most were associated with SST mean (54 SNPs), SST min (52 SNPs), or latitude (49 SNPs) (Table  
236 S3). Again, most of these SNPs (80%) were more strongly associated with either temperature  
237 variable than with latitude (Table S3). The mean polarized outlier allele frequency was 0.847 in  
238 Japan, 0.179 in the Philippines, and 0.162 in Indonesia (Figure S5). When within-site Tajima's *D*  
239 was calculated for only the outlier sequences (transcripts that contained at least one outlier SNP),  
240 the mean estimate trended slightly positive (Table 1, Figure S1). However, the difference between  
241 the outlier-only and overall Tajima's *D* distributions was not significant for any combination of  
242 individuals (Figure S6). The outlier analyses after removing related individual N4 did not differ  
243 substantially from the findings with all individuals included (Table S4).

#### 244 **(c) Population structure**

245 PCA revealed that individuals from Japan clustered more tightly relative to the Philippines  
246 or Indonesia (Figures 3A, S7A). PC 1 explained 11% of the total variance, while PC 2 explained  
247 7%. However, the PCA with only outlier SNPs revealed that Japanese individuals were much more  
248 diverged from an Indonesian and Philippines cluster (Figure 3B). PC 1 explained 73% of the  
249 variance in this latter case, while PC 2 explained 7%. STRUCTURE analyses also revealed  
250 population clustering. The Evanno method suggested three clusters ( $K = 3$ ), regardless of whether  
251 the full dataset was used, only SNPs in HWP, or only non-outlier SNPs (Figures 3C, S7C, S7D).  
252 However, with only outlier SNPs, only two clusters were suggested ( $K = 2$ ), one for Japan and one  
253 for the Philippines and Indonesia combined (Figure 3D). Pairwise  $F_{ST}$  ranged from 0.0247 to  
254 0.0767 and was highest for the Japan-Indonesia comparison, congruent with patterns of isolation-

255 by-distance (Table S5). Population structure analyses without one of the highly-related individuals  
256 (N4) did not differ substantially (Figure S8).

#### 257 **(d) Demographic analyses**

258 Analyses with *fastsimcoal2* revealed moderate Japan-Philippines migration rates of 0.0038  
259 [95% CI: 0.0025, 0.0047] and 0.0056 [95% CI: 0.0038, 0.0072] for Philippines-Indonesia, or the  
260 equivalent of ~10 individuals per generation. Long-term  $N_e$  estimates did not differ substantially  
261 between the three localities (Table 1). Stairway Plot analyses suggested slow declines in the  
262 Philippines but did not reveal recent bottlenecks or expansions (Figure S9).

#### 263 **(e) Functional and structural annotation**

264 Of the 4,770 SNPs that could be mapped to the *A. frenatus* assembly, most mapped to either  
265 coding regions (2,418 SNPs) or UTRs (1,406 SNPs) (Table S6). Of the 56 outlier SNPs, 48 could  
266 be fully annotated, four could only be annotated functionally, and two could only be annotated  
267 structurally. These 56 outlier SNPs represented 25 distinct candidate genes. We grouped these  
268 candidate genes into general biological categories based on their GO annotations (Table 2, Table  
269 S3). Broadly, most of the candidate genes were involved in protein turnover and translation. The  
270 structural annotation suggested that 29 of the SNPs were in coding regions (1 nonsense, 11  
271 missense, 17 synonymous) and 19 were in the UTRs (17 in 3' and 2 in 5'). One SNP was mapped  
272 to the upstream region of a gene and one was mapped to an intergenic region, which may represent  
273 either a currently unannotated protein coding gene or RNA gene.

274

## 275 **4. Discussion**

276 Despite theoretical work predicting how and under what conditions populations at range  
277 peripheries may undergo local adaptation [5,8,11], empirical support for these models remains

278 scarce, particularly in the marine realm. Here, we investigated how evolutionary forces interact to  
279 shape patterns of adaptive potential and enable local adaptation across the northern half of the  
280 range of a common coral reef fish. Comparison of 4,212 SNPs from three *Amphiprion clarkii*  
281 populations revealed clear evidence of spatially divergent selection and reduced levels of genetic  
282 variation at the northern periphery of this species' range. In addition, there was substantial  
283 population structure despite moderate gene flow between the edge and core populations.

284         Studies of marine species using putatively neutral genetic markers frequently report genetic  
285 structure in the Indo-West Pacific [60-62]. However, this study is unique in that multiple SNPs  
286 had strong associations with environmental variables. Moreover, when only examining outlier  
287 SNPs, the edge vs. core population distinction could explain fully 73% of the genetic variation.  
288 These results suggest that selection, in addition to neutral processes, shapes patterns of genetic  
289 structure in our study system. Combined, our findings further suggest that neutral and adaptive  
290 variation are differently partitioned among the three sampling locations, a pattern that is  
291 increasingly reported in marine taxa [16].

### 292 ***Life on the edge***

293         Climate change is driving range expansions in marine ecosystems [20], renewing interest  
294 in the balance between gene flow and adaptation at range margins. Here, population structure  
295 analyses provide evidence for at least two genetic clusters, with Japanese individuals at the edge  
296 appearing genetically distinct from individuals closer to the core. Clownfish have a relatively short  
297 pelagic larval duration (~2 weeks) [26] and exhibit self-recruitment [63]. These characteristics  
298 should limit dispersal, leading to genetic structure as observed in other clownfish species in the  
299 region [60]. Given the large physical distance between our sites, a stepping-stone model of gene  
300 flow likely explains the observed genetic patterns.

301           However, a lack of apparent population structure is not unusual in marine populations that  
302 span large geographic ranges [14]. Theory also suggests that neutral genetic variation can become  
303 homogenized with even minimal gene flow, including rates lower than what we estimated [64].  
304 The Kuroshio Current runs northward to Japan from the bifurcation of the Northern Equatorial  
305 Current off the eastern coast of the Philippines [65] and may provide an avenue for migration,  
306 particularly from the core to the edge. Indeed, other damselfish show limited genetic differentiation  
307 between Japanese populations and those in the Coral Triangle [66]. However, the strong genetic  
308 differentiation seen between *A. clarkii* populations in Japan and the Philippines/Indonesia suggests  
309 these distinct genetic lineages may be maintained by local adaptation in addition to gene flow.

310           Evidence for the role of neutral processes comes from lower genetic diversity at the range  
311 edge of *A. clarkii* as well. Nucleotide diversity and  $F_{IS}$  were lowest, and relatedness highest, in the  
312 peripheral Japanese site. These findings are congruent with the idea that edge populations are  
313 subject to higher rates of genetic drift due to reduced  $N_e$  [6,10] and match previous studies that  
314 found declining genetic diversity along the Kuroshio Current towards species' northern range  
315 margins [67]. However, our analyses also estimated similar long-term  $N_e$  in all three sites and no  
316 signatures of recent bottlenecks at the range edge. These results suggest the greater levels of  
317 diversity observed in the core may be maintained by higher connectivity to other populations in  
318 the region, including those we did not sample. Continued gene flow could provide a steady influx  
319 of alleles to offset the effects of drift [68]. Populations at the range edge, with fewer connections,  
320 may only see reduced benefits of dispersal.

321           Despite the action of neutral processes, our results also provide strong evidence of spatially  
322 divergent selection across the northern half of the range of *A. clarkii*. Fifty-six SNPs were  
323 adaptively divergent and significantly associated with environmental variables. Surprisingly,

324 within-population Tajima's  $D$  for transcripts containing these SNPs was slightly positive, counter  
325 to the negative values expected following recent, hard selective sweeps. Positive Tajima's  $D$  values  
326 indicate an over-abundance of intermediate frequency alleles, which are often a signature of  
327 balancing selection [69]. While it is unlikely that balancing selection acted separately within each  
328 population examined here, balanced polymorphisms may nonetheless be maintained by the push  
329 of locally directional selection and the pull of gene flow continuously re-introducing maladaptive  
330 alleles and their linked genetic background.

331         Most of the outlier SNPs were significantly associated with either mean or minimum SST  
332 and latitude. As temperature and latitude are correlated, these findings are not unexpected.  
333 However, almost every SNP was more strongly associated with temperature than with latitude,  
334 which suggests that temperature, in particular, may be driving the observed differences in allele  
335 frequencies. In fact, the pattern of outlier allele frequencies among the three sites closely mirrored  
336 those of average SST temperatures. Similarly, most SNPs associated with mean SST were also  
337 associated with minimum SST, suggesting that differences in mean SST are likely reflective of  
338 differences in the degree of seasonality (namely, whether a population experiences a winter  
339 season). As many biological pathways are temperature-sensitive [22], and winter water  
340 temperatures at the Japanese site can regularly drop below 15°C [70], changing seasonality across  
341 *A. clarkii*'s range is likely a strong force driving local adaptation.

342         The correlative nature of our evidence for thermal adaptation cannot rule out alternative  
343 selective pressures, however. We did not examine other factors like primary productivity,  
344 dissolved oxygen, carbonate chemistry, population densities, or resource availability that are also  
345 likely to differ between these locations and may drive local adaptation. Similarly, demographic  
346 processes like allele surfing during expansion waves and isolation-by-distance may also contribute

347 to the genetic differentiation across *A. clarkii*'s range [71]. However, the outlier detection methods  
348 we used are reasonably effective at accounting for these latter sources of evolutionary non-  
349 independence [72]; thus, we do not expect drift to be the primary force creating these outlier SNPs.

350 Further evidence that the allele frequency variation in outlier SNPs is linked to differences  
351 in thermal regimes comes from the fact that the genetic pathways represented by these SNPs are  
352 similar to those invoked during gene expression changes that accompany acclimation to cold  
353 shock. Genes and proteins that are important for temperature acclimation likely also play a large  
354 role in temperature adaptation [73], and differences in gene expression among populations may  
355 have a genetic basis in addition to being a plastic response. The candidate genes we identified are  
356 largely involved in energy metabolism, protein turnover, cell structure, cell death, and oxidative  
357 stress response, functional categories that are often up-regulated in heart tissue during short-term  
358 acclimation to cold stress [74,75]. Cytoskeleton reorganization has been shown to occur during  
359 thermal acclimation as well, although this has been at least partially attributed to cold-induced  
360 hypertrophy of heart tissue [75]. Interestingly, many candidate SNPs mapped to the 3' or 5' UTR  
361 (including near CpG islands), regions that help regulate gene expression [76]. Shifting gene  
362 expression levels are one of the ways organisms can plastically acclimate to environmental  
363 stressors; thus, SNPs in regulatory regions may provide a link between plastic and evolutionary  
364 responses involved in thermal adaptation [77]. In addition, most of the candidate SNPs that  
365 mapped to coding regions appear to be synonymous substitutions. Recent theory has proposed that  
366 silent mutations may not be truly neutral and can undergo weak selection, via codon bias, linkage,  
367 and translation efficiency [78]. Altered gene expression and enhanced translation accuracy may  
368 also be a more feasible route for adaptation, as opposed to modifications of gene structure or the  
369 development of novel proteins. Theory suggests that changes in regulatory regions play a major



370 role in adaptation [76,77], and several studies have linked regulatory region mutations with  
371 adaptive traits, including temperature response in *Drosophila melanogaster* [79]. While further  
372 work is needed to link genetic variation to phenotypes, our results suggest a similar pattern of  
373 adaptation within *A. clarkii* populations in response to differences in thermal environments.

374

## 375 **5. Conclusion**

376 As the oceans continue to change, marine taxa will face substantial shifts in climatological  
377 and ecological parameters. The effects of climate change will differ by population depending on  
378 their climatic tolerance and local environment [80]. Here, we show how selection, gene flow, and  
379 drift combined to shape adaptive variation within an edge population, including variation  
380 associated with thermal environments. Edge populations are particularly important in predicting  
381 species responses, as they are often the first to start shifting as climates change [19,20]. Continued  
382 connectivity to warmer core populations may provide an avenue for these typically cooler-climate  
383 demes to access novel genetic variation that will enable adaptation to warming temperatures [12].  
384 However, the outcome of adaptation is highly dependent on the extent to which these evolutionary  
385 forces interact in a synergistic or antagonistic manner. Species with both the genetic variation to  
386 allow local adaptation and the gene flow to transport such variation to novel environments are  
387 likely to have particularly strong abilities to adapt to future climatic conditions.

388

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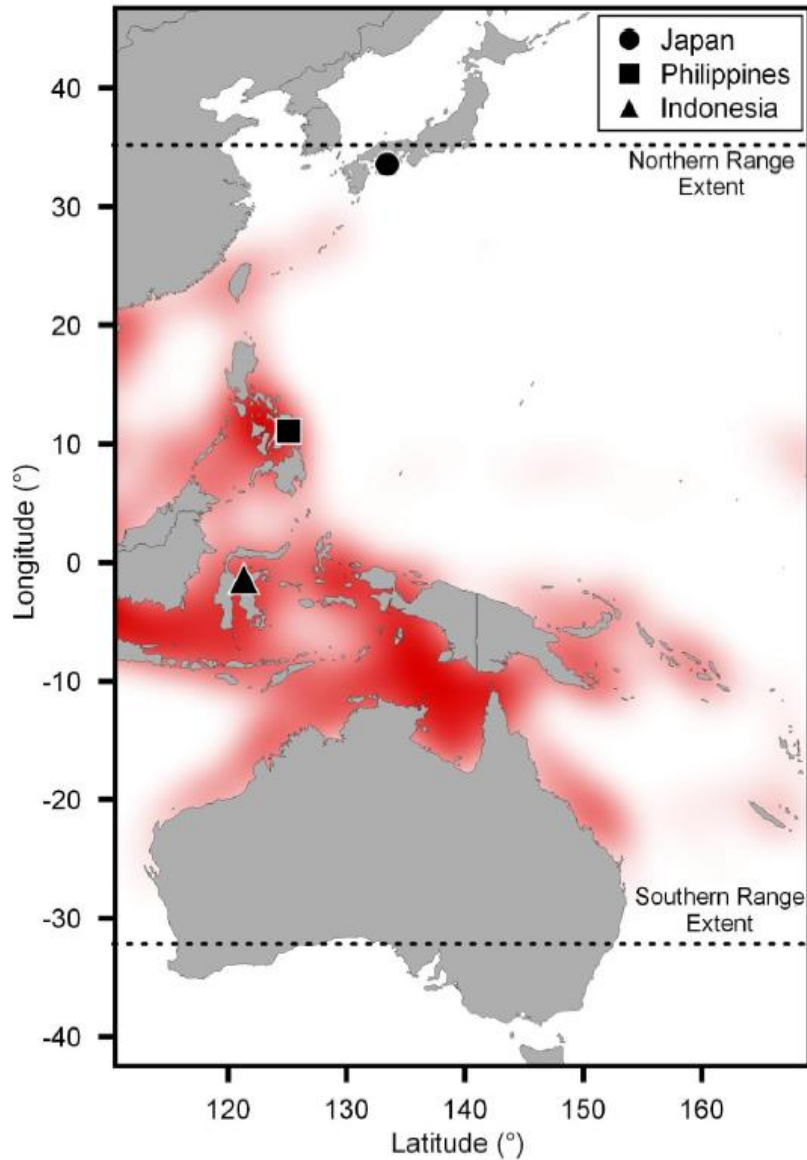
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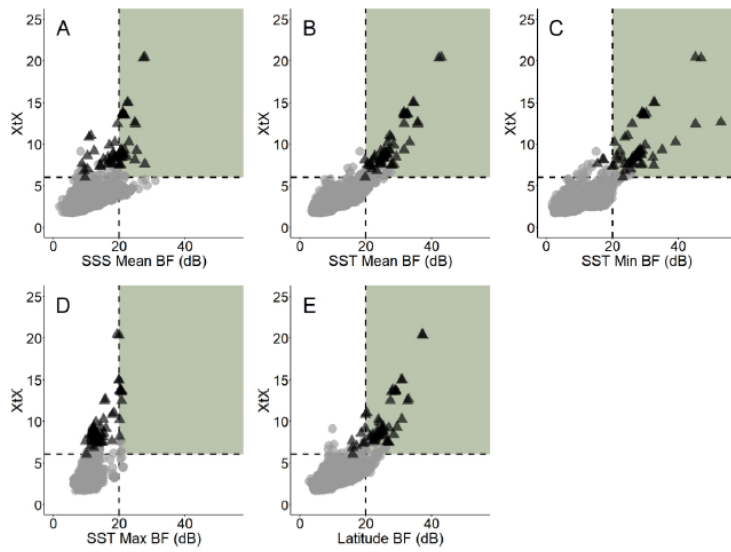
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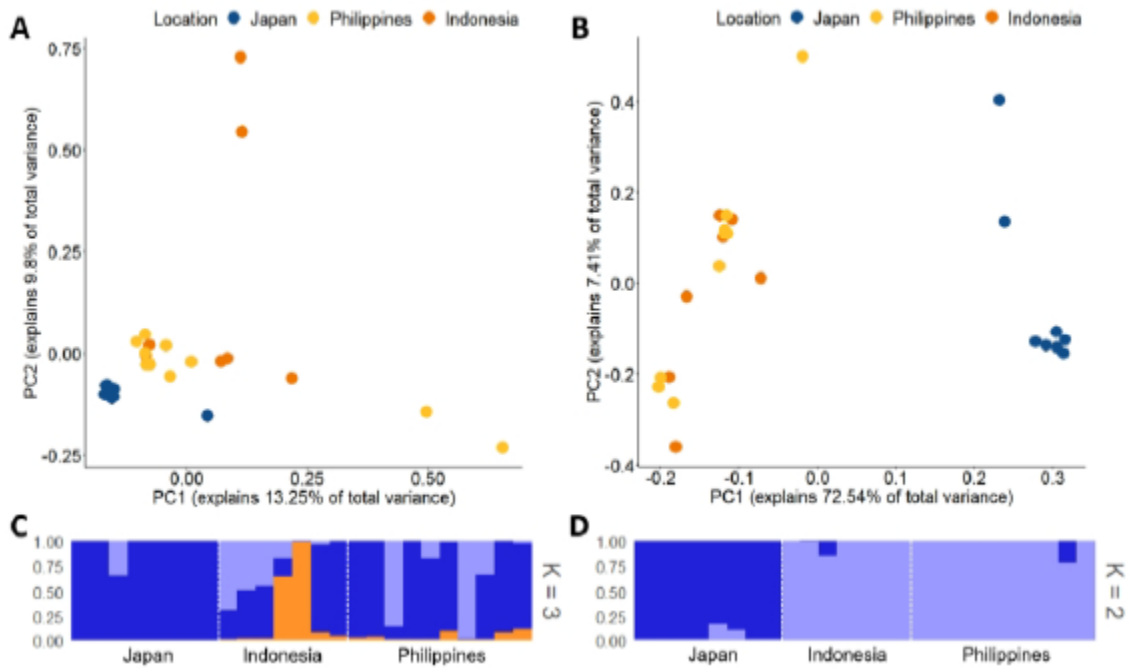
621 **Figure 1.** Map of the three sampling locations: Japan (n = 8), Philippines (n = 10), Indonesia (n = 7).  
 622 Northern and southern range extents are marked with horizontal dashed lines. Red shading indicates the  
 623 relative probability of occurrence of *A. clarkii* (data from AquaMaps).



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625 **Figure 2.** Relationships between BF and corresponding XtX values for each SNP-covariate combination  
 626 (A: SSS Mean, B: SST Mean, C: SST Min, D: SST Max, E: Latitude). Lines drawn at BF of 20 dB represent  
 627 the significance threshold for association with the given covariate. Lines drawn at XtX of 6.03 represent  
 628 the significance threshold for adaptive divergence among populations. Black triangles represent the 56  
 629 candidate SNPs, while grey circles represent the remaining SNPs.





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632 **Figure 3.** A) Results of PCA with all 4,212 SNPs. B) Results of PCA with only the 56 outlier SNPs. C)  
633 STRUCTURE analysis with all 4,212 SNPs (K = 3). D) STRUCTURE analysis with only the 56 outlier  
634 SNPs (K = 2). For both C & D, each putative population is represented by a unique color, and individuals  
635 are grouped by sampling sites (divided by the dashed vertical lines). The proportion of assignment is  
636 represented by the vertical axis on the left.

637 **Table 1.** Mean per-site nucleotide diversity ( $\pi$ ), the inbreeding coefficient ( $F_{IS}$ ), mean within-population  
638 pairwise relatedness ( $r$ ), mean Tajima's  $D$  (with either all transcripts included or only transcripts with  
639 outlier SNPs), and effective population sizes ( $N_e$ ) from *fastsimcoal2* for each sampling location. 95%  
640 confidence intervals provided in brackets. SE provided after  $\pm$  for Tajima's  $D$ .

Sampling location	$\pi$ ( $\times 10^{-4}$ )	$F_{IS}$	$r$	Tajima's $D$ (all)	Tajima's $D$ (outliers)	$N_e$
Japan	8.44 [8.22, 8.67]	-0.189 [-0.201, -0.178]	0.222 [0.202, 0.243]	-0.28 $\pm$ 0.052	0.031 $\pm$ 0.255	2,176 [1,773, 3117]
Philippines	9.64 [9.45, 9.84]	-0.057 [-0.069, -0.046]	-0.011 [-0.063, 0.04]	-0.29 $\pm$ 0.046	0.066 $\pm$ 0.244	2,090 [1,931, 3,527]
Indonesia	9.53 [9.30, 9.73]	-0.101 [-0.113, -0.087]	0.018 [-0.061, 0.097]	-0.166 $\pm$ 0.05	0.006 $\pm$ 0.244	1,988 [1,552, 3,272]

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**Table 2.** List of the contigs containing the 56 candidate SNPs and their functional and structural annotations. Number of candidate SNPs in each contig is listed.

Contig	# SNPs	Gene name	GO annotation	SNP effects
DN14997_c0_g1_i1	3	MCL1	apoptotic process	5' UTR (1); missense (2); 3' UTR (1)
DN2025_c0_g1_i1	2	KRT8	cell structure	3' UTR (1); unannotated (1)
DN20310_c1_g1_i1	1	cstb	proteolysis	unannotated (1)
DN20701_c0-g1_i1	1	smdt1	calcium ion transport	synonymous (1)
DN22229_c0_g1_i1	1	ATP5H	ATP biosynthetic process	synonymous (1)
DN24358_c0_g1_i1	1	Arl6ip1	protein targeting; cell death	synonymous (1)
DN27846_c0_g1_i1	3	KRT8	cell structure	3' UTR (2); unannotated (1)
DN28343_c0_g1_i1	2	CRIP1	signal transduction; protein binding	synonymous (2)
DN30912_c0_g1_i1	1	KRT13	cell structure	unannotated (1)
DN33929_c0_g3_i1	2	PSMD12	proteolysis	3' UTR (2)
DN34728_c1_g1_i1	1	KRT8	cell structure	3' UTR (1)
DN35673_c1_g2_i2	2	rpl9	translation	missense (1); synonymous (1)
DN35709_c0_g2_i1	2	KRT8	cell structure	missense (1); synonymous (1)
DN35710_c0_g1_i1	1	SPCS3	proteolysis; protein targeting	missense (1)
DN36584_c0_g1_i1	2	ANXA5	calcium ion transport	missense (1); synonymous (1)
DN36805_c1_g1_i1	3	PRDX1	antioxidant activity; response to stress	missense (2); 3' UTR (1)
DN37204_c0_g1_i1	3	Tomm20	protein targeting	synonymous (1); 3' UTR (2)
DN37469_c0_g3_i1	1	rps3a	translation	synonymous (1)
DN37870_c0_g1_i1	1	CHCHD10	metabolic process; mitochondrial organization	synonymous (1)
DN38348_c0_g1_i1	1	CCT5	protein folding	missense (1)
DN38348_c0_g2_i1	3	CCT5	protein folding	missense (1); synonymous (1); 3' UTR (1)
DN38750_c0_g1_i1	1	GOT2	metabolic process	synonymous (1)
DN39050_c0_g3_i1	5	CCT4	protein folding	5' UTR (1); start lost (1); missense (1); synonymous (2)
DN39195_c1_g1_i2	1	YWHAB	signal transduction; protein binding	3' UTR (1)
DN39216_c0_g1_i1	3	Rab1A	autophagy; protein targeting	3' UTR (3)
DN39927_c1_g1_i1	1	HMGB2	transcription; immune response	3' UTR (1)
DN40382_c0_g2_i1	1	P4hb	isomerase activity; protein folding	3' UTR (1)
DN40393_c0_g2_i1	1	---	unannotated	upstream (1)

DN40479_c0_g2_i1	2	EIF3B	translation	3' UTR (2)
DN40807_c0_g1_i1	3	---	unannotated	intergenic region (1); unannotated (2)
DN4487_c0_g2_i1	1	HMGB2	transcription; immune response	synonymous (1)
DN58176_c0_g1_i1	1	RPL14	translation	synonymous (1)

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