

Phylogenomic and comparative genomic analyses support a single evolutionary origin of flatfish asymmetry

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ARISING FROM Lü et al. *Nature Genetics* <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41588-021-00836-9> (2020)

The eye migration that characterizes flatfish cranial development provides a unique opportunity to study the molecular mechanisms underlying anatomical asymmetry. In a paper in *Nature Genetics*, Lü et al.¹ (LEA) reported a comparative genomic assessment of flatfish asymmetry and claimed that the two major lineages (Pleuronectoidei and Psettodoidei) are polyphyletic, each evolving asymmetric bodies convergently from different symmetric ancestors (flatfish polyphyly (FP); Fig. 1b). Here we revisit this finding by analyzing three independent genome-scale datasets, including LEA's, showing that support for FP results from a failure to accommodate lineage-specific variation in base composition. We also re-analyzed LEA's genomic dataset to identify positively selected genes (PSGs) but using instead an inferred tree that groups flatfishes as monophyletic (FM), implying a single evolutionary origin of the asymmetric body plan (Fig. 1a). These results suggest a key evolutionary role of thyroid hormones (THs) and bone morphogenetic proteins (BMPs), bridging evidence from the fossil record² and single-species molecular assays³.

Evolutionary nonhomogeneous processes leading to base compositional nonstationarity (BCNS) are a major source of phylogenetic error^{4,5}. Unaccounted BCNS among carangarian lineages, a large clade that comprises flatfishes and their closest symmetrical relatives, has

been shown to mislead phylogenetic inference, challenging the FM hypothesis⁴. We assessed the effects of BCNS in flatfishes by analyzing the following three genome-scale datasets: the LEA dataset (18 species and 1,693 exon markers), a noncoding ultraconserved elements (UCE) dataset⁶ (45 species and 596 markers) and a newly generated exonic dataset⁷ (up to 389 species and 990 markers; Supplementary Note 1). We used the following two models of nucleotide substitution: a standard homogeneous model (HM) and a nonhomogeneous model (NHM⁸) that permits rate variation among lineages (Supplementary Information). Contrary to LEA, our results support the single-origin FM hypothesis (Fig. 1c and Extended Data Fig. 1). While both HM and NHM analyses using noncoding UCE data consistently resolve the FM tree (see also ref. 6), many HM analyses based on protein-coding sequences favor the FP topology. These results align with recent findings⁵, suggesting that the effects of BCNS are more severe when using protein-coding markers than with introns or UCes. Together, our analyses indicate that appropriate modeling of lineage-specific variations in protein-coding data is sufficient to favor the FM topology, reconciling the results obtained with coding and noncoding datasets.

LEA discussed additional morphological and molecular evidence to support their assertion that the flatfish cranial asymmetry has two

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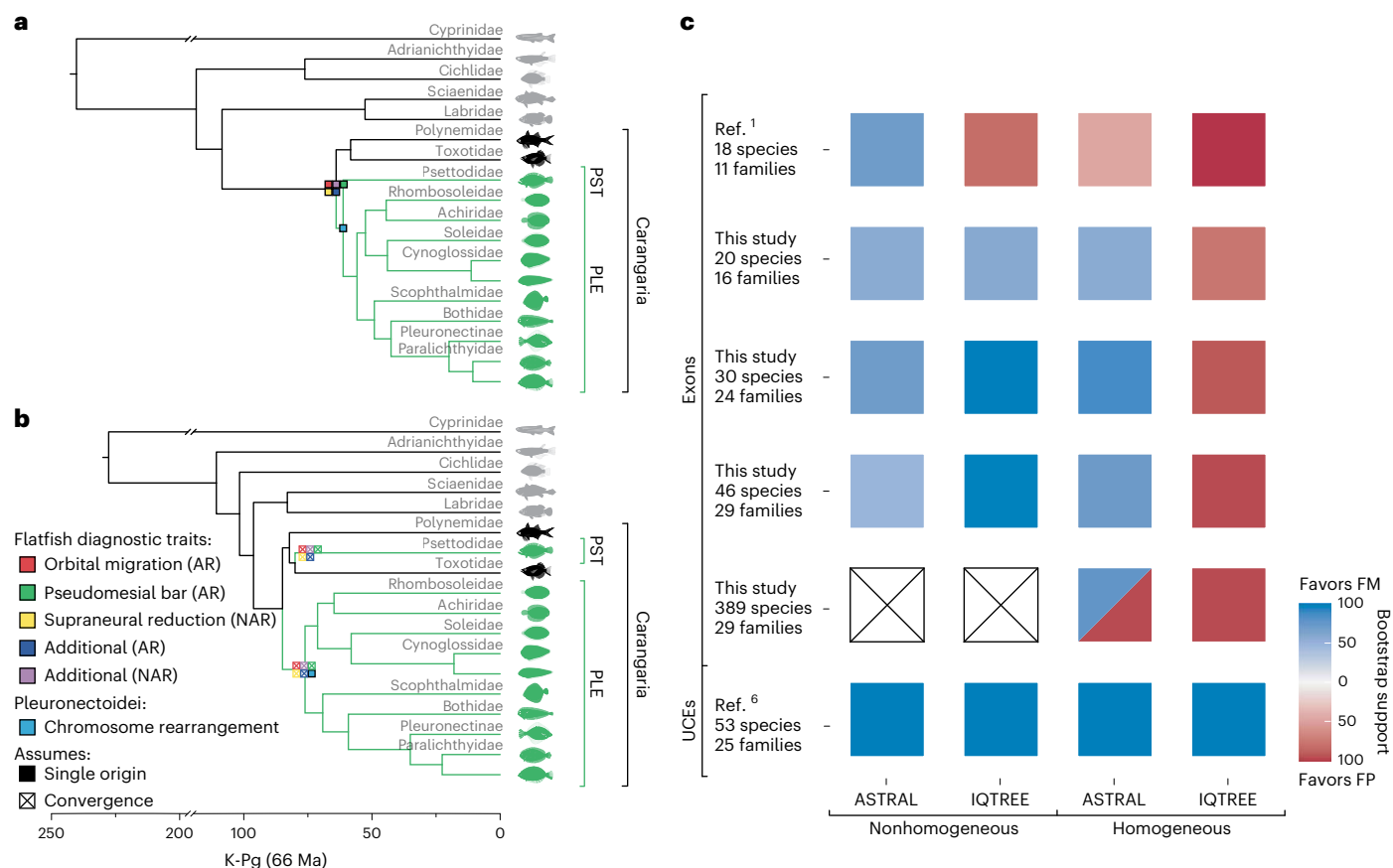


Fig. 1 | Phylogenetic relationships, divergence times and support values for the two competing hypotheses. **a**, FM tree estimated using LEA's dataset with ASTRAL under an NHM (GHOST) of nucleotide substitution (see Supplementary Note 2 for details on time calibration). **b**, FP tree illustrates the phylogenetic hypothesis and divergence times proposed by LEA.

a, b, Branch and fish silhouette colors denote major flatfish (PLE and PST, green) and nonflatfish carangarian (black) clades. Color-coded squares at branches denote diagnostic characters defining flatfishes. Some diagnostic characters represent morphological features already identifiable in the earliest flatfish fossils, including AR (orbital migration) and NAR (supraneural reduction)² traits. Further diagnostic characters shared between extant PLE and PST also include ARs (recessus orbitalis, pseudomesial bar and asymmetrical pigmentation) and NARs (for example, absence of supraneurals, dorsal-fin insertion above skull and depression on the inner face of saccular otolith)⁶. Full squares represent traits evolving under the single-origin assumption, and crossed squares represent traits evolving under the assumption of convergent evolution. **c**, Meta-table

shows bootstrap support for the FM and FP hypotheses using different genomic data types, datasets, phylogenetic reconstruction methods and nucleotide substitution models (HM and NHM). Each row represents a different dataset or subset, and each column represents a different phylogenetic method and substitution model. Blue squares denote support for FM, and shades show bootstrap values (0–100%); red squares indicate support for FP; white squares denote lacking analyses (statistically intractable; Supplementary Information). Coalescent analyses were run in ASTRAL using ML gene trees estimated with IQ-TREE (both HM and NHM) based on either the complete gene-tree topology or a less resolved topology after collapsing clades with low bootstrap support (<20%). Note that ASTRAL analyses based on our full exonic dataset produced contrasting results (analyses using collapsed gene trees support FM). Concatenation ML analyses were conducted in IQ-TREE (both HM and NHM). PST, Psettodoidei; PLE, Pleuronectoidei; AR, asymmetry-related; NAR, nonasymmetry-related, ML, maximum-likelihood.

independent origins. We argue that this is subject to interpretation and is inconsistent with other evidence from paleontology and comparative anatomy (Fig. 1b). The earliest definitive flatfish fossils are from the early Eocene of Bolca, Italy (ca. 48.5 Ma) and include the crown pleuronectoid *Eobothus minimus* plus taxa interpreted as stem pleuronectiforms—*Amphistium paradoxum*, *Heteronectes chaneti* and, less certainly, *Anorevus lorenzoni*^{2,9}. In particular, *Amphistium* and *Heteronectes* show strong but incomplete orbital migration and are thus considered the link between flatfishes and their symmetrical relatives. Slightly older fossils (ca. 56 Ma) showing incomplete cranial asymmetry are reported in the literature but remain undescribed⁹. Morphologically, multiple anatomical synapomorphies support the FM hypothesis (for example, pseudomesial bar, orbital migration, recessus orbitalis and asymmetrical pigmentation)⁶, including traits that are unrelated to asymmetry (for example, axial and fin skeletons and otoliths; Fig. 1a)⁶ and therefore are less likely to have evolved via convergent evolution (see also ref. 10).

LEA identified a shared chromosome re-arrangement between Psettodoidei and two carangarian species that are also absent in Pleuronectoidei. They interpreted this as supporting the polyphyletic origin of flatfishes. However, without comparisons involving noncarangarian outgroups, we contend that their interpretation is susceptible to polarization issues. An equally plausible explanation is that this re-arrangement evolved within Pleuronectoidei after their split with Psettodoidei. Finally, LEA reported analyses based on relative evolutionary rates and lineage-specific substitutions to support FP and explain the lesser degree of asymmetry found in *Psettodes*. We assert that pleuronectoid species exhibit rates overlapping with *Psettodes*, carangarians and outgroup species. Moreover, the inclusion of key species into the alignments reveals that many substitutions claimed to be pleuronectoid-specific are shared with at least one carangarian species. Consequently, these arguments should not be construed as evidence against FM (see details in Supplementary Note 4 and Extended Data Fig. 3).

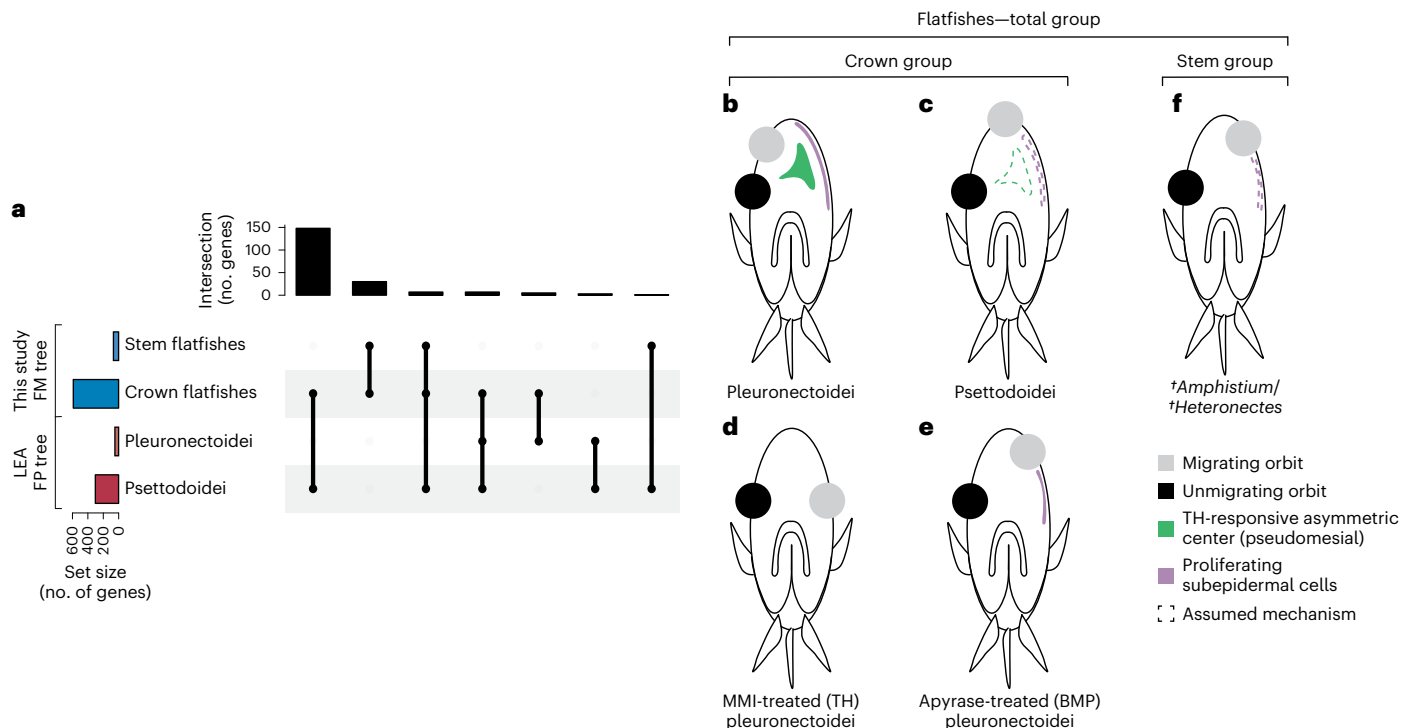


Fig. 2 | Hypothesized molecular mechanisms underlying flatfish asymmetric development. **a**, Upset plot comparing positively selected genes (PSGs) identified with aBSREL for the stem and crown (foreground) flatfishes using the FM tree (horizontal blue bars) and the PSGs reported by LEA for Pleuronectoidei and Psettudoidei using the FP tree (horizontal red bars). Black dots connected by black lines represent all existing dataset intersection combinations; vertical bars indicate the number of PSGs within a particular intersection. The substantial overlap (intersection size) of PSGs identified in the two major flatfish lineages and across different analyses suggests that Pleuronectoidei and Psettudoidei share the same molecular mechanisms of asymmetric development, ultimately corroborating the single-origin hypothesis. **b–f**, The suggested developmental model summarizes the hypothesized evolutionary mechanisms underlying flatfish asymmetric development^{2,3}. **b**, Simplified representation of a Pleuronectoidei postmetamorphic juvenile highlighting the two major developmental events responsible for the eye migration—subocular dermal cell proliferation (purple) and the TH-responsive asymmetric center (green) that

later develops into the pseudomesial bar³ (flatfish autapomorphy that frames the migrated orbit²). **c**, In postmetamorphic Psettudoidei, the position of the subocular dermal cell proliferation (dashed purple line) and the TH-responsive asymmetric center (dashed green line) are inferred based on the presence of the pseudomesial bar and the complete eye migration in the adult, where migrating orbit eclipses the body mid-line². **d**, Eye migration is entirely inhibited in the MMI-treated larvae due to the disruption of the thyroid axis³. **e, f**, Apyrase-treated larvae (**e**) have incomplete orbit migration caused by inhibition of the TH-responsive asymmetric center ossification³, closely resembling the primitive condition found in the earliest flatfish fossils that lack the pseudomesial bar (**f**). Note that TFF-1 (a transcription factor that regulates the TH signaling pathway) and *bmp4* (involved in the heterotypic ossification of the TH-responsive asymmetric center and the origin of the pseudomesial bar) were identified as PSGs in our analyses using the FM topology, but not in LEA's study using the FP topology. Fish illustrations are adapted from refs. 2,3.

To investigate the presence of lineage-specific adaptations under the FM topology (Fig. 1a), we tested for positive selection among the 1,693 orthologs identified by LEA using the aBSREL model of codon evolution¹¹. We used the following two different foreground schemes (Supplementary Note 3 and Extended Data Fig. 2): (1) stem flatfishes, which aimed to detect genes responsible for the initial break of symmetry in the single branch leading to all extant flatfish species, and (2) crown flatfishes, which aimed to detect genes responsible for further adaptations experienced later in the flatfish radiation. We identified 67 PSGs in the stem flatfish lineage, and 588 PSGs shared between Psettudoidei and at least one pleuronectoid lineage (Fig. 2a). Remarkably, 15 (31%) and 162 (53%) of the lineage-specific PSGs that LEA reported using their FP topology for Pleuronectoidei and Psettudoidei, respectively, are under positive selection in the crown flatfish lineage when analyzed using the FM tree (Fig. 2a). Although a scenario involving parallelism cannot be disregarded, such substantial overlap in PSGs provides additional corroboration for the single-origin hypothesis.

Gene Ontology characterization of PSGs revealed genes involved in the determination of left/right symmetry during embryonic development (*bmp4*, *mkks* and *flr*) and components of several essential signaling pathways responsible for tissue development and cell proliferation in stem flatfishes—BMP (*bmp4*), WNT (*cxxc4*, *dc2c2b*, *carf*, *mkks* and

tinagl1), RA (*asxl1*), FGF (*mil*), NOTCH (*dlk1*, *dlk2*) and HOX (*shox*). Several of these are regulated by THs, which comprise a key signaling pathway that orchestrates vertebrate metamorphosis¹². In flatfishes, the disruption of the thyroid axis with methimazole (MMI) inhibits asymmetric skull development by (1) reducing dermal cell proliferation in the subocular region and (2) ablating a TH-responsive asymmetric center, localized just ventral to the migrating eye and determined by deiodinase 2 (*dio2*) expression (Fig. 2b–f)³. While the mechanisms by which THs regulate *dio2* asymmetric expression in teleosts remain elusive, in humans it is well known that *dio2* expression is stimulated by the thyroid transcription factor-1 (TTF-1)¹³. TTF-1 is required for the preoptic region development in zebrafish¹⁴ and is differentially expressed in the metamorphosing head of the Atlantic halibut¹⁵. Notably, TTF-1 was also identified as a PSG in stem flatfishes when using the FM topology, a result not reported by LEA using their FP tree.

Another important developmental aspect involving the TH-responsive asymmetric center is that its ossification correlates with the origin of the pseudomesial bar. This bone structure has a central role in driving the complete eye migration, which is unique to crown flatfishes³. Apyrase treatment hinders eye migration in the metamorphosing Senegalese sole by inhibiting the heterotypic dermal ossification regulated by BMP³. Remarkably, apyrase-treated larvae

develop other indexes of metamorphic progressions, such as subocular dermal cell proliferation, closely resembling the primitive condition found in the earliest flatfish fossils that lack the pseudomesial bar (Fig. 2f)^{2,3}. The accumulation of amino acid substitutions at the *bmp4* prodomain affects its regulation and has been identified as the major driver of craniofacial adaptations in African cichlids and Galapagos finches¹⁶. Contrary to the LEA findings, *bmp4* is positively selected in stem flatfishes, suggesting that its regulation has a major role in the origin of the flatfish asymmetry.

Our findings reveal that improperly modeled genome-scale datasets are prone to phylogenetic biases, artificially supporting the dual-origin asymmetry hypothesis. Using the FM topology as the evolutionary framework, our results bridge evidence from the fossil record² and single-species molecular assays³, suggesting that the molecular basis of the complex phenotypic modifications in flatfishes may involve an intricate interaction between THs and many important developmental pathways. These results ultimately underscore the importance of accounting for topological uncertainty and model violations in phylogenetically informed comparative genomic analyses.

Online content

Any methods, additional references, Nature Portfolio reporting summaries, source data, extended data, supplementary information, acknowledgements, peer review information; details of author contributions and competing interests; and statements of data and code availability are available at <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41588-024-01784-w>.

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Reporting summary

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Data availability

All newly sequenced data are available from NCBI under the BioProject accession number [PRJNA862198](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bioproject/PRJNA862198). Detailed taxonomic sampling information and phylogenetic datasets are available in the Figshare digital repository⁷ (see also Supplementary Information). Source data are provided with this paper.

Code availability

We conducted analyses using single commands from publicly available software. All settings are fully reported in the Supplementary Information.

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Author contributions

E.D.R. and R.B.-R. conceived and supervised the project. E.D.R., R.B.-R., K.E.C., W.T.W., J.J.P., M.W., J.M.D.A., J.T.W., M.D.S., O.D.D., G.O. and D.A. collected samples. E.D.R., R.B.-R., U.R.P., M.F., L.C.H., G.C.W., G.O. and D.A. designed and performed bioinformatic analyses. E.D.R., R.B.-R. and M.F. wrote the manuscript. All authors have read, revised and approved the final manuscript.

Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

Additional information

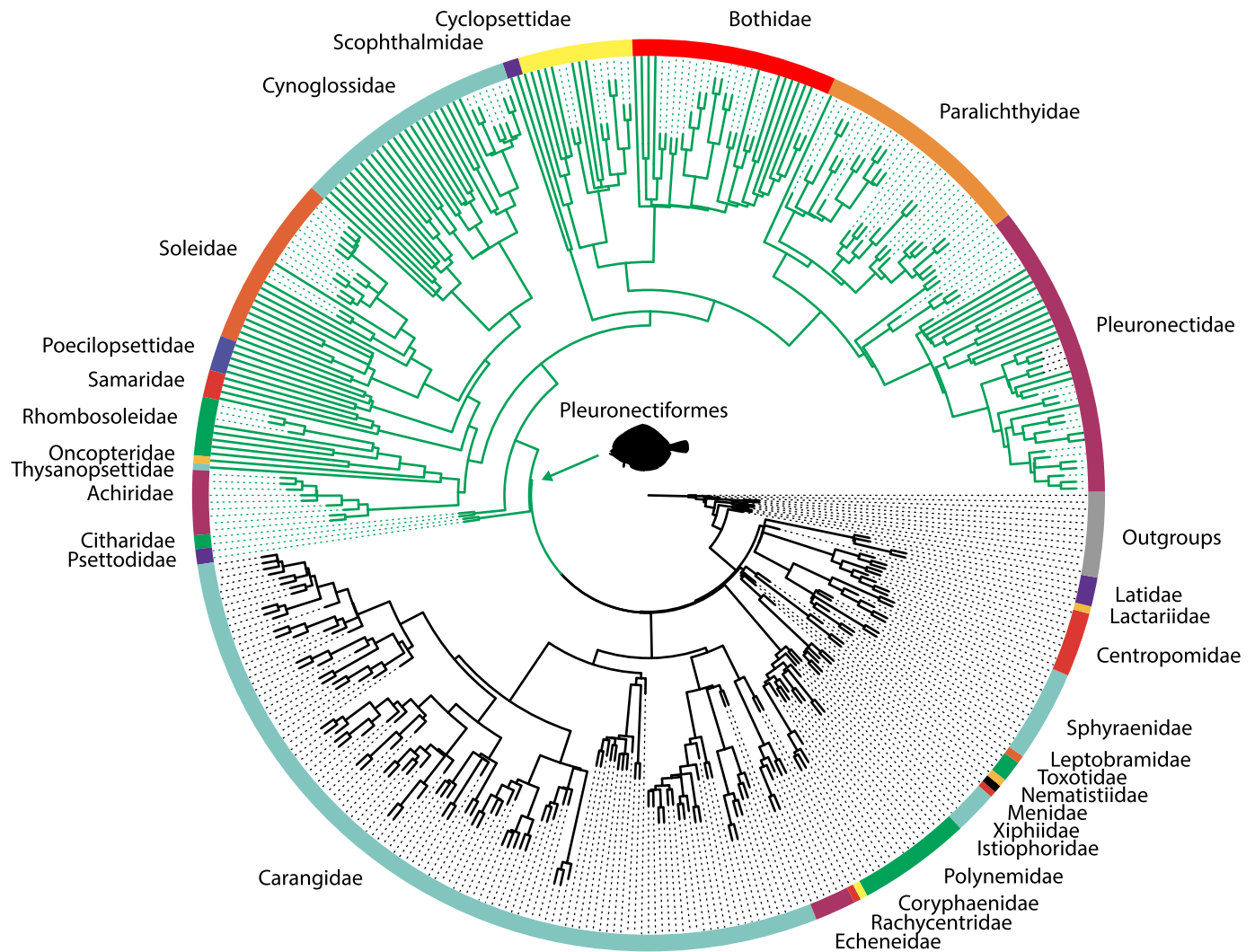
Extended data is available for this paper at <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41588-024-01784-w>.

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Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to Emanuell Duarte-Ribeiro or Ricardo Betancur-R.

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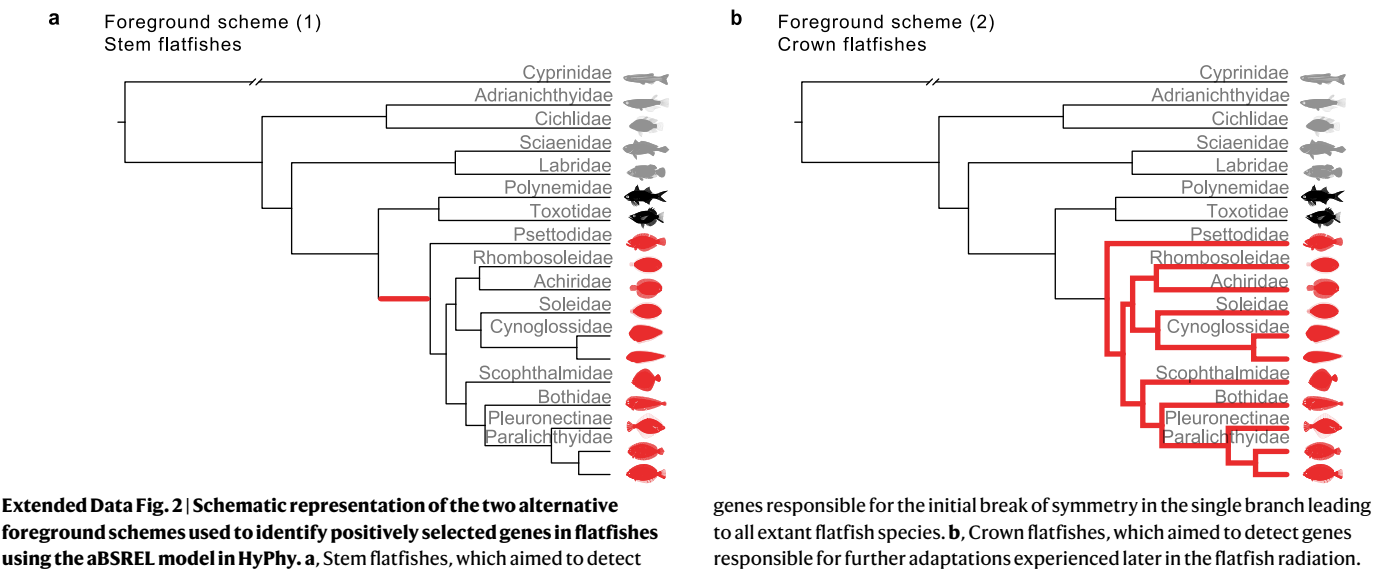
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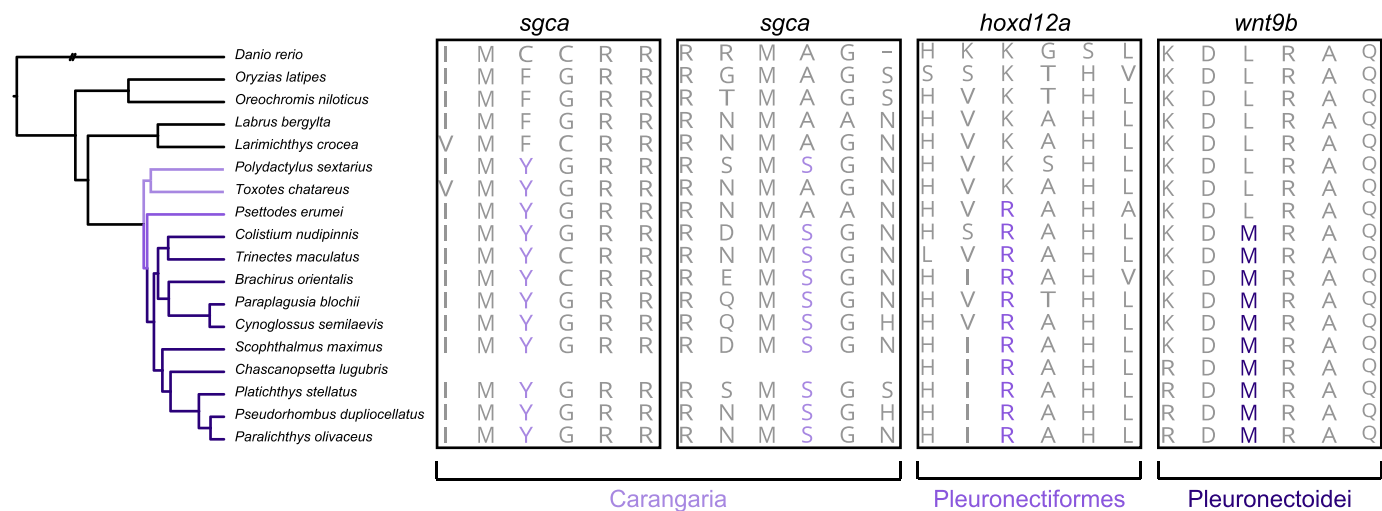


Extended Data Fig. 1 | Species tree for Carangaria estimated with ASTRAL-III.

Species tree for Carangaria estimated with ASTRAL-III using gene trees with weakly supported nodes (bootstrap values [BS] <20%) collapsed into polytomies to reduce the effects of gene-tree error. Gene trees were estimated using IQ-TREE (HM; GTR + G) based on newly sequenced data that covers 990 loci and 389

species. Collapsing gene-tree branches with low support helped reduce the negative effects of gene-tree estimation error, successfully resolving flatfish monophyly (FM [BS 76%]; green arrow) using the complete dataset. Tree files with tip labels and support values are available from the Figshare digital repository.





Extended Data Fig. 3 | Amino acid alignments highlighting substitutions (in purple) claimed to be Pleuronectoidei-specific by LEA¹. By adding sequences from *Psettodes* and other non-flatfish carangarians into the alignments, we show that three out of the four Pleuronectoidei-specific substitutions discussed by the authors are in fact shared with Psettodoidei or other non-flatfish carangarian species. These include two missense substitutions in the musculature development-related gene *sgca*, which the authors suggest is related to the

formation of the flat phenotype. Both substitutions are shared with *Polydactylus sextarius*, a symmetrical carangarian species, and, therefore, may not necessarily explain the evolution of the flatfish thin musculature. The *hoxd12a* substitution is shared between Pleuronectoidei and Psettodoidei. This gene is involved in the development of the flatfish dorsal fin, an important locomotion adaptation that improves their maneuverability in the benthic environment, and that may provide additional evidence for the single origin of the asymmetric body plan.

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Data analysis Trimmomatic (v0.36); Samtools (v1.9); Velvet (v1.2.10); aTRAM (v2.0); TranslatorX; Mafft (v7.421); IQ-TREE (v2.0); ASTRAL-III; PartitionFinder2; treePL; HyPhy; aBSREL

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We archived the sequence data generated for this manuscript as raw reads in the NCBI Sequence Repository (PRJNA862198). Details of the taxa and sequences removed are available in the Figshare digital repository (<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.24799245.v1>). Phylogenetic reconstruction results for all datasets and

subsets are presented in the Figshare digital repository (<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.20372565.v2>). Results for the stem and crown foreground schemes are presented in Tables S2-3 (see Figshare digital repository - <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.20505675.v2>).

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Replication	n/a
Randomization	n/a
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Sampling strategy	n/a
Data collection	n/a
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Data exclusions	n/a
Non-participation	n/a
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Study description	In a recent paper in Nature Genetics, Lü et al. (LEA) conducted the first comparative genomic assessment of flatfish asymmetry, and claimed that the two major lineages (Pleuronectoidei and Psettoidei) are polyphyletic, each evolving asymmetric bodies convergently from different symmetric ancestors. We revisit this finding by analyzing three independent genome-scale datasets, including LEA's, showing that support for flatfish polyphyly results from a failure to accommodate lineage-specific variation in base composition. We also reanalyzed LEA's genomic dataset to identify positively selected genes but using instead an inferred tree that groups flatfishes as monophyletic, implying a single evolutionary origin of the asymmetric body plan.
Research sample	We assessed flatfish phylogenetic relationships by analyzing three genome-scale datasets: the LEA dataset (18 species and 1693 exon markers), a non-coding ultraconserved elements (UCE) dataset (45 species and 596 markers), and a newly generated exonic dataset (up to 389 species and 990 markers).
Sampling strategy	The newly generated exonic dataset that included 990 exonic markers and covered 389 carangarian species. Flatfish diversity in the new dataset is represented by a sample of 207 out of ca. 600 species, including representatives from all 15 valid families.
Data collection	Sequencing library preparation was performed by Arbor Biosciences using the dual round ('touchdown') capture protocol. Exon capture probes were designed based on alignments of 1,104 single-copy exons for seven species strategically selected to cover Carangaria diversity (i.e., <i>Trinectes inscriptus</i> , <i>Carangoides armatus</i> , <i>Cynoglossus maculipinnis</i> , <i>Remora remora</i> , <i>Microstomus kitt</i> , <i>Rachycentron canadum</i> , <i>Samariscus triocellatus</i>). Legacy markers widely used in fish phylogenetics were also added to the initial probe set: TBR1, MYH6, KIAA1239, PLAGL2, PTCHD1, RIPK4, SH3PX3, SIDKEY, SREB2, ZIC1, SVEP1, GPR61, SLC10A3, UBE3A, and UBE3A-like. A total of 412 samples were sequenced at the University of Chicago (https://fgf.uchicago.edu) using one-lane Illumina HiSeq 4000 with paired-end 100 bp reads.
Timing and spatial scale	As an strategy to increase taxonomic sampling, we assembled the most comprehensive phylogenetic dataset for flatfishes to date (207 species).
Data exclusions	Given the pervasiveness of contamination in phylogenomic datasets, in addition to the raw data quality assessments, we implemented a multistep quality control (QC) pipeline to remove cross-contaminated sequences or misidentified species using an array of sequence- and tree-based approaches. After this final QC step, the final exonic dataset included 990 exonic markers for 389 carangarians, including 207 flatfish species. Details of the taxa and sequences removed are available in the Figshare digital repository.
Reproducibility	We used different datasets and subsets as an way to assess the reproducibility of our results.
Randomization	DNA extraction and Library pooling for Illumina sequencing were specifically randomised to avoid crosscontamination issues. We also used different datasets and subsets as an way to assess the effects of taxonomic sampling.
Blinding	No blinding was applied for data analyses.
Did the study involve field work?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Field work, collection and transport

Field conditions	n/a
Location	n/a
Access & import/export	n/a
Disturbance	n/a

Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

We require information from authors about some types of materials, experimental systems and methods used in many studies. Here, indicate whether each material, system or method listed is relevant to your study. If you are not sure if a list item applies to your research, read the appropriate section before selecting a response.

Materials & experimental systems

n/a	Involved in the study
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Antibodies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Eukaryotic cell lines
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Palaeontology and archaeology
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Animals and other organisms
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical data
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Dual use research of concern
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Plants

Methods

n/a	Involved in the study
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ChIP-seq
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Flow cytometry
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> MRI-based neuroimaging

Antibodies

Antibodies used	n/a
Validation	n/a

Eukaryotic cell lines

Policy information about [cell lines and Sex and Gender in Research](#)

Cell line source(s)	n/a
Authentication	n/a
Mycoplasma contamination	n/a
Commonly misidentified lines (See ICLAC register)	n/a

Palaeontology and Archaeology

Specimen provenance	n/a
Specimen deposition	n/a
Dating methods	n/a
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tick this box to confirm that the raw and calibrated dates are available in the paper or in Supplementary Information.	
Ethics oversight	n/a

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

Animals and other research organisms

Policy information about [studies involving animals; ARRIVE guidelines](#) recommended for reporting animal research, and [Sex and Gender in Research](#)

Laboratory animals	n/a
Wild animals	n/a
Reporting on sex	n/a
Field-collected samples	n/a
Ethics oversight	n/a

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

Clinical data

Policy information about [clinical studies](#)

All manuscripts should comply with the ICMJE [guidelines for publication of clinical research](#) and a completed [CONSORT checklist](#) must be included with all submissions.

Clinical trial registration	n/a
Study protocol	n/a
Data collection	n/a
Outcomes	n/a

Dual use research of concern

Policy information about [dual use research of concern](#)

Hazards

Could the accidental, deliberate or reckless misuse of agents or technologies generated in the work, or the application of information presented in the manuscript, pose a threat to:

No	Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Public health
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> National security
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Crops and/or livestock
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ecosystems
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Any other significant area

Experiments of concern

Does the work involve any of these experiments of concern:

No	Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrate how to render a vaccine ineffective
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Confer resistance to therapeutically useful antibiotics or antiviral agents
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Enhance the virulence of a pathogen or render a nonpathogen virulent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase transmissibility of a pathogen
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Alter the host range of a pathogen
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Enable evasion of diagnostic/detection modalities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Enable the weaponization of a biological agent or toxin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Any other potentially harmful combination of experiments and agents

Plants

Seed stocks	n/a
Novel plant genotypes	n/a
Authentication	n/a

ChIP-seq

Data deposition

- ☐ Confirm that both raw and final processed data have been deposited in a public database such as [GEO](#).
- ☐ Confirm that you have deposited or provided access to graph files (e.g. BED files) for the called peaks.

Data access links
May remain private before publication.

n/a

Files in database submission

n/a

Genome browser session
(e.g. [UCSC](#))

n/a

Methodology

Replicates

n/a

Sequencing depth

n/a

Antibodies

n/a

Peak calling parameters

n/a

Data quality

n/a

Software

n/a

Flow Cytometry

Plots

Confirm that:

- ☐ The axis labels state the marker and fluorochrome used (e.g. CD4-FITC).
- ☐ The axis scales are clearly visible. Include numbers along axes only for bottom left plot of group (a 'group' is an analysis of identical markers).
- ☐ All plots are contour plots with outliers or pseudocolor plots.
- ☐ A numerical value for number of cells or percentage (with statistics) is provided.

Methodology

Sample preparation

n/a

Instrument

n/a

Software

n/a

Cell population abundance

n/a

Gating strategy

n/a

- ☐ Tick this box to confirm that a figure exemplifying the gating strategy is provided in the Supplementary Information.

Magnetic resonance imaging

Experimental design

Design type

n/a

Design specifications

n/a

Behavioral performance measures

n/a

Acquisition

Imaging type(s)	n/a
Field strength	n/a
Sequence & imaging parameters	n/a
Area of acquisition	n/a
Diffusion MRI	<input type="checkbox"/> Used <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not used

Preprocessing

Preprocessing software	n/a
Normalization	n/a
Normalization template	n/a
Noise and artifact removal	n/a
Volume censoring	n/a

Statistical modeling & inference

Model type and settings	n/a
Effect(s) tested	n/a
Specify type of analysis:	<input type="checkbox"/> Whole brain <input type="checkbox"/> ROI-based <input type="checkbox"/> Both
Statistic type for inference	n/a
(See Eklund et al. 2016)	
Correction	n/a

Models & analysis

n/a	Involvement in the study
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Functional and/or effective connectivity
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Graph analysis
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Multivariate modeling or predictive analysis
Functional and/or effective connectivity	n/a
Graph analysis	n/a
Multivariate modeling and predictive analysis	n/a