Complete mitochondrial genome of *Parnassius glacialis* (Lepidoptera: Papilionidae)

Yaping Hu, Site Luo, Xu Zhou, Le Wang, Shuifei Chen, Hui Ding, Bin Chen, Wenbo Fu, Li Zhang, Zhentian Yan and Xiaomin Ge

*Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences, Ministry of Ecology and Environment/State Environmental Protection Scientific Observation and Research Station for Ecological Environment of Wuyi Mountains, Nanjing, China; School of Life Sciences, Xiamen University, Xiamen, China; Chongqing Key Laboratory of Vector Insects, Institute of Entomology and Molecular Biology, Chongqing Normal University, Chongqing, China*

**ABSTRACT**

*Parnassius glacialis* is a butterfly species distributed in China, Korea, Japan. The complete *P. glacialis* mitochondrial genome was assembled using Illumina sequencing data. The mitogenome is 15,353 bp long and contains 13 protein-coding genes, 22 transfer RNA genes, and 2 ribosomal RNA genes. A phylogenetic analysis of *P. glacialis* and 14 related Papilionidae species indicated that *P. glacialis* is clustered with other *Parnassius* species. This study generated useful genetic information for future studies on the taxonomy, phylogeny, and evolution of Papilionidae species.

*Parnassius* is a genus of Papilionidae (Insecta: Lepidoptera). In contrast to most *Parnassius* species, which live in high altitude plateau regions, *Parnassius glacialis* is widely distributed at relatively low altitudes in China (Wang et al. 2019). The body of this butterfly species is black and covered with long yellow hair, and its wings are translucent with brown veins (Wu 1998a; 1998b; Hao et al. 2017). Molecular systematics, molecular evolution, population genetics, and phylogenetic studies of butterflies have commonly used COI, COII, 16S rDNA, and other molecular markers (Wang et al. 2013; He et al. 2016; Qin 2017; Wang 2017). Additionally, earlier investigations on *P. glacialis* involved ecological surveys as well as analyses of larvae and phylogeography (Ding et al. 2007; Akiyama and Nishida 2013; Wang 2017). Wang (2017) elucidated the genetic diversity of *P. glacialis* by analyzing mitogenomic AT-rich sequences. However, the *P. glacialis* whole-mitogenome characteristics remain relatively uncharacterized. To date, in the genus *Parnassius*, the complete mitogenome has been sequenced for only nine species, including *Parnassius apollonius*, *Parnassius mercurius*, and *Parnassius apollo* (Dechaine and Martin 2004; Chen et al. 2014; Zhang et al. 2017). In this study, we sequenced and annotated the complete *P. glacialis* mitogenome to further clarify the mitochondrial characteristics and evolutionary history of Papilionidae species.

In this study, the voucher specimen of *P. glacialis* was collected from Chengkou, Chongqing, China (31.816 N, 109.038 E; specimen voucher number CQ1151m-2). The voucher specimen was preserved at −20 °C and deposited at Chongqing Normal University, China (https://www.cqnu.edu.cn/, Yaping Hu: 1182156109@qq.com). The genomic DNA was extracted from three legs of a single individual using TIANamp Genomic DNA Kit (TIANGEN, Beijing, China). The sequencing library was produced using the Illumina Truseq™ DNA Sample Preparation Kit (Illumina, San Diego, USA) according to the manufacturer’s recommendations. The prepared library was loaded on the Illumina Novaseq 6000 platform for PE 2 × 150 bp sequencing at Novogene (Beijing, China). The raw data were used to assemble the complete cp genome using the GetOrganelle pipeline (Jin et al. 2020). Genome annotation was performed with Mitoz annotation module (Meng et al. 2019). The annotated genome sequence was deposited in GenBank under Accession Number MZ353680.

The circular mitogenome of *P. citrinaria* was 15,353 bp in length, with 40.75% A, 40.36% T, 11.32% G, and 7.57% C, the higher value of A + T content (80.17%) compare to G + C content (19.83%), indicating there was high A + T bias in *P. glacialis*. 37 genes were predicted, including 13 protein-coding genes, 22 transfer RNAs, and two ribosomal RNAs genes.

A phylogenetic analysis was performed using complete mitogenomes from 14 Papilionidae species with *Calinaga davidis* serving as the outgroup taxa. The genomes were aligned with the MAFFT v7.388 using default settings (Katoh and Standley 2013). The phylogenetic analysis was conducted based on maximum likelihood (ML) analyses implemented in IQ-TREE v2.1.2 with the GTR + F + R2 nucleotide substitution.
model, which was selected by ModelFinder (Kalyaanamoorthy et al. 2017; Minh et al. 2020). The support for the inferred ML tree was inferred by bootstrapping with 1000 replicates. The analysis shows that _P. citrinariu_ in a clade with other _Parnassius_ species (Figure 1). This study provides important sequence information for species identification, and its phylogenetic relationship in Papilionidae species.

**Disclosure statement**

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author(s).

**Funding**

This work was supported by the Biodiversity Investigation, Observation and Assessment Programme (2019–2023) of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China [2110404]; Central Public-Interest Scientific Institution Basal Research Fund [GYZX200203].

**Data availability statement**

The genome sequence data that support the findings of this study are openly available in GenBank of NCBI (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/) under the accession number MZ353680. The associated BioProject, SRA, and Bio-Sample numbers are PRJNA762526, SAMN21397441 and SRR15858608, respectively.

**References**

Akiyama K, Nishida T. 2013. Highly-enhanced larval growth during the cold season mediated by the basking behavior of the butterfly _Parnassius citrinarius_ (Lepidoptera: Papilionidae). Entomol Sci. 16(3):284–290.

Chen YH, Huang DY, Wang YL, Zhu CD, Hao JS. 2014. The complete mitochondrial genome of the endangered Apollo butterfly, _Parnassius apollo_ (Lepidoptera: Papilionidae) and its comparison to other Papilionidae species. J Asia-Pac Entomol. 17(4):663–671.

Dechaine EG, Martin AP. 2004. Historic cycles of fragmentation and expansion in _Parnassius smintheus_ (papilionidae) inferred using mitochondrial DNA. Evolution. 58(1):113–127.

Ding L, Zhang YZ, Zhu CD. 2007. Preliminary study on taxonomy and phylogeny of Zerynthiini and _Parnassini_ (Lepidoptera, Papilionidae). Acta Zootaxonomica Sinica. 32(2):355–362.

Hao XY, Mao ZH, Ren H, Tao RS. 2017. Analysis of geometric morphology of vein of _Parnassius gutcmhs_ in different geographic populations. J Anhui Agnic Sci. 45(34):84–88.

He HY, Yu WD, Jiang WB. 2016. Research progress in mitochondrial genomics of butterflies. Chin Bull (Life Sci). 28(9):978–985.

Jin JJ, Yu WB, Yang JB, Song Y, Dapemphilus CW, Yi TS, Li DZ. 2020. GetOrganelle: a fast and versatile toolkit for accurate de novo assembly of organelle genomes. Genome Biol. 21(1):1–31.

Kalyaanamoorthy S, Minh BQ, Wong TK, Von Haeseler A, Jermiin LS. 2017. ModelFinder: fast model selection for accurate phylogenetic estimates. Nat Methods. 14(6):587–589.

Kato K, Standley DM. 2013. MAFFT multiple sequence alignment software version 7: improvements in performance and usability. Mol Biol Evol. 30(4):772–780.

Meng GL, Li YY, Yang CT, Liu SL. 2019. MitoZ: a toolkit for animal mitochondrial genome assembly, annotation and visualization. Nucleic Acids Res. 47(11):63.

Minh BQ, Schmidt HA, Chernomor O, Schrempf D, Woodhams MD, Von Haeseler A, Lanfear R. 2020. IQ-TREE 2: new models and efficient methods for phylogenetic inference in the genomic era. Mol Biol Evol. 37(5):1530–1534.

Qin JM. 2017. The study on mitochondrial genomes and molecular phylogenetics of butterflies [M]. Vol. 18. Beijing: Science Press.

Wang W, Meng ZQ, Shi FX, Li FB. 2013. Advances in comparative mitogennomic studies of _Lepidoptera_ (Arthropoda: Insecta). Chin Sci Bull. 58(30):3017–3029.

Wang YL, Pan ZQ, Chen KK, Tao RS, Su CYg, Hao JS, Yang Q. 2019. Genetic differentiation and phylogeography of the alpine butterfly _Parnassius glacialis_ (Papilionidae: Parnassinae) in China: evidence from mitogennomic AT-rich region. Acta Ent Sin. 62(4):475–488.

Wang YL. 2017. Mitogenomic phylogeny of the main lineages of butterflies (Lepidoptera: Papilionidae): evidence from the mitochondrial D-loop regions. PhD dissertation, Anhui Normal University, Wuhu, Anhui.

Wu Q. 1998a. _Parnassius glacialis_ (lower part). China Nat. 4:19–23.

Wu Q. 1998b. _Parnassius glacialis_ (upper part). China Nat. 3:17–20.

Zhang M, Zhao P, Yin J, Li T, Zhang TT, Cao TW, Ma EB. 2017. Characterization of the complete mitochondrial genome of _Parnassius nomion_ (Lepidoptera: Papinidae) and analysis of the higher-level phylogenetic relationships of butterflies based on mitochondrial genome. Acta Ent Sin. 60(11):1324–1338.

Figure 1. Maximum-likelihood (ML) tree based on 14 mitogenome sequences of representative butterflies that are in Papilioninae as ingroup and _Calinaga davidis_ was designated as outgroup. Numbers on the nodes are bootstrap values based on 1000 replicates. The _P. glacialis_ genome was marked in bold and red font.