The complete mitochondrial genome of the smudged eighty-eight butterfly

*Diaethria gabaza eupepla* (Salvin & Godman, 1868) (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae)

Living Prairie Mitogenomics Consortium*

Department of Biological Sciences, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, Canada

**ABSTRACT**

The smudged eighty-eight butterfly *Diaethria gabaza eupepla* (Salvin & Godman, 1868) (Nymphalidae) is a vividly colored aposematic butterfly from Central and South America. A complete circular mitochondrial genome (mitogenome) of 15,156 bp from *D. gabaza eupepla* was assembled from a genome skimming Illumina sequence library. The AT-rich (80.5% AT) mitogenome consists of 13 protein-coding genes, 22 tRNAs, 2 rRNAs, and a control region in the typical butterfly gene order. *Diaethria gabaza eupepla* COX1 begins with an atypical CGA start codon and ATP6, COX1, COX2, CYTB, ND1, ND4, ND4L, and ND6 mRNAs contain incomplete stop codons completed by the addition of 3’ A residues. Phylogenetic reconstruction places *Diaethria* as the sister clade to *Hamadryas* within monophyletic nypmphalid subfamily Biblidinae, consistent with previous phylogenetic hypotheses.

Here we report the complete mitochondrial genome (mitogenome) sequence of *D. gabaza eupepla* from specimen Diae2019.1, collected by John R. MacDonald on 6 October 2019 at Finca Hartmann, Panama (GPS 8.84943 N, 82.760747 W) that has been pinned, spread, and deposited in the Wallis Roughley Museum of Entomology, University of Manitoba (http://www.wallisroughley.ca/, Jason Gibbs, Jason.Gibbs@umanitoba.ca) under the voucher number WRME0507740. This study was conducted with the approval of the University of Manitoba Office of Research Ethics & Compliance under permit number BF0155-1. Research was carried out in accordance with applicable national and international guidelines.

A leg was removed from the specimen and DNA was prepared using a DNEasy Blood and Tissue kit (Qiagen, Düsseldorf, Germany) with slight protocol modifications as described in McCullagh and Marcus (2015). DNA was sheared by sonication and a fragment library was prepared as previously described (Peters and Marcus 2017) using a NEBNext Ultra II DNA Library Prep Kit before sequencing by Illumina NovaSeq6000 (San Diego, CA) (Marcus 2018). Mitogenome assembly and annotation of the *D. gabaza eupepla* (GenBank accession MZ981736) was performed by mapping the resulting sequence library of 57,341,531 paired 150 bp reads (GenBank SRA PRJNA759138) to a *Baetotus beotus* reference mitogenome (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae: Nymphalinae; Coeini, Diaethriini) obtained from the GenBank database (accession NC_028125, NC_028126, and NC_028127). This mitogenome was produced using Illumina MiSeq (Illumina, San Diego, CA) with the standard Illumina 2 x 250 bp paired-end protocol.

**CONTACT** Jeffrey M. Marcus, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2N2 Canada

*Jan-Glynnis C. Alex, Mackenzie R. Alexiuk, Katrina J. Audet, Somtochukwu D. Azubuike, Amber S. Bezte, Madison B. Boychuk, Natalie L. Cale, Lara A. Carroll, Gabriela Y. Castro, Joshua Cheng, Janam Chopra, Gregory A. Corkal, Carta Louise M. Dizon, Moeez Farooq, Cecilia C. Flores, Ruzzell C. Flores, Tadbeer Grewal, Jackly Wang, Tristan B. Wolfe, Shirly J. Xie, and Jeffrey M. Marcus.

© 2022 The Author(s). Published by Informa UK Limited, trading as Taylor & Francis Group.

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.
MW566598 (Lalonde 2021)) using 5 iterations of the medium sensitivity settings of Geneious Prime 2021.1.1. Nuclear rRNA repeat sequences are increasingly recognized as being very useful for phylogenetic comparisons (Dodsworth 2015; Coissac et al. 2016; Marcus 2018; Krehenwinkel et al. 2019), so we also assembled the complete D. gabaza eupepla nuclear rRNA repeat (GenBank MZ981737) using a B. beotus (MW571038) (Lalonde 2021) reference sequence. The D. gabaza eupepla circular 15,156 bp mitogenome assembly was composed of 22,600 paired reads with nucleotide composition: 39.8% A, 11.7% C, 7.8% G, and 40.7% T. The gene composition and order in D. gabaza eupepla is typical of the arrangement found in most butterfly mitogenomes (Park et al. 2016). The protein-coding genes start codons include: ATG (ATP6, COX2, COX3, CYTB, ND1, ND4), ATT (ND2, ND3, ND6), ATA (ND4L, ND5), and ATC (ATP8), while COX1 begins with an atypical CGA start codon as in many other insects (Liao et al. 2010). The mitogenome contains four protein-coding genes (COX1, COX2, ND4, ND5) with single-nucleotide (T) stop codons, and four protein-coding genes (ATP6, CYTB, ND1, ND4L) with two-nucleotide (TA) stop codons completed by post-transcriptional addition of 3’ A residues. The locations and structures of tRNAs were determined using ARWEN v.1.2 (Laslett and Canback 2008). All tRNAs exhibited cloverleaf secondary structure except that the dihydrouridine arm of trnS (AGN) was replaced by a loop. The size and structure of the mitochondrial rRNAs and control region are typical for Lepidoptera (McCullagh and Marcus 2015).

Phylogenetic reconstruction (Figure 1) was conducted using the complete mitogenome of D. gabaza eupepla and 31 other complete mitogenomes from the family Nymphalidae, including outgroup species Limenitis sydfi (Nymphalidae: Limenitidinae), produced by 10 million MCMC generations in MrBayes, with sampling every 1000 generations, and after discarding the first 250,000 generations as burn-in. The Bayesian posterior probability values determined by MrBayes are provided at each node. Each taxon in the analysis is labeled with species name, GenBank accession, the country of origin of the specimen with the sequenced mitogenome, and the nymphaeid Tribe or Subfamily of the species.

Figure 1. The Bayesian phylogeny (GTR + I + G model, best state likelihood = −147,240.16, average deviation of split frequencies = 0.001131) of the Diaethria gabaza eupepla mitogenome, 31 additional mitogenomes from within family Nymphalidae, including outgroup species Limenitis sydfi from nymphalid subfamily Limenitidinae and available from GenBank (Alexiuk et al. 2020; Hamilton et al. 2020; Lalonde and Marcus 2020; Payment et al. 2020; Alexiuk et al. 2021a, 2021b; Lalonde 2021). GenBank accession numbers are listed in Figure 1. Mitogenome sequences were aligned in CLUSTAL Omega (Sievers et al. 2011) and analyzed using Bayesian inference with the GTR + I + G model (model selected using jModeltest 2.1.1 (Darriba et al. 2012)) in MrBayes version 3.2.7 (Ronquist and Huelsenbeck 2003; Ronquist et al. 2012). As expected based on a previous phylogenetic hypothesis (Wahlberg et al. 2009), phylogenetic analysis placed D. gabaza eupepla as the sister taxon to Hamadryas epinome in a monophyletic clade with mitogenomes from nymphalid subfamily Biblidinae.

Acknowledgments
Thanks to Melanie Lalonde and Josephine Payment for assistance with DNA extraction and for bioinformatics pipeline development. The authors thank Genome Quebec for assistance with library preparation and sequencing.

Disclosure statement
No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

Funding
This work was supported by Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada under Grant RGPIN-2016-06012 and by the University of Manitoba under the University Research Grants Program.
Author contributions

Jeffrey Marcus was responsible for the conception and design of the study as well as the initial drafting of the paper. All of the authors were involved in the analysis and interpretation of the data, revising the manuscript critically for intellectual content, and gave the final approval of the version to be published. All authors agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

Data availability statement

The genome sequence data that support the findings of this study are openly available in GenBank of NCBI at [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/) under the accession no. MZ981736–MZ981737. The associated BioProject, SRA, and Bio-Sample numbers are PRJNA759138, SRX11982685, and SAMP21156917 respectively.

References

Alexiuk MR, Marcus JM, Lalonde M. 2020. The complete mitochondrial genome of the Jackson’s Leaf butterfly *Malilkia jacksoni* (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae). Mitochondrial DNA B Resour. 5:3316–3318.

Alexiuk MR, Lalonde MM, Marcus JM. 2021a. Phylogenetic analysis of the complete mitochondrial genome of the Japanese peacock butterfly *Aglais io geisha* (Stichel 1907) (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae). Mitochondrial DNA B Resour. 6(10):3082–3084.

Alexiuk MR, Lalonde MML, Marcus JM. 2021b. Phylogenetic analysis of the complete mitochondrial genome of the Blomfild’s Beauty butterfly *Smyrna blomfildia* (Fabricius 1781) (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae: Nymphalini). Mitochondrial DNA B Resour. 6(11):3199–3201.

Chai P. 1986. Field observations and feeding experiments on the responses of rufous-tailed jacamars (*Galibula ruficuado*) to free-flying butterflies in a tropical rainforest. Biol J Linn Soc Lond. 29(3):161–189.

Colissac E, Hollingsworth PM, Lavergne S, Taberlet P. 2016. From barcodes to genomes: extending the concept of DNA barcoding. Mol Ecol. 25(7):1423–1427.

Darriba D, Taboada GL, Doallo R, Posada D. 2012. jModelTest 2: more models, new heuristics and parallel computing. Nat Methods. 9(8):772.

DeVries PJ. 1987. The butterflies of Costa Rica and their natural history. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Dias FMS, Carneiro E, Casagrande MM, Mielke O. 2012. Biology and external morphology of immature stages of the butterfly, *Diaethria candrena candrena*. J Insect Sci. 12:9.

Dodsworth S. 2015. Genome skimming for next-generation biodiversity analysis. Trends Plant Sci. 20(9):525–527.

Hamilton RV, Marcus JM, Lalonde M. 2020. The complete mitochondrial genome of the black dead leaf butterfly *Doleschallia melana* (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae). Mitochondrial DNA B Resour. 5(3):3206–3208.

Krehenwinkel H, Pomerantz A, Henderson JB, Kennedy SR, Lim JY, Swamy V, Shoobridge JD, Tobi N, Patel NH, Gillespie RG, et al. 2019. Nanopore sequencing of long ribosomal DNA amplicons enables portable and simple biodiversity assessments with high phylogenetic resolution across broad taxonomic scale. GigaScience. 8(5):giz006.

Lalonde M. 2021. Phylogenetic analysis of the complete mitochondrial genome of the graphic beauty butterfly *Baetetus beatus* (Doubleday 1849) (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae: Nymphalinae: Coenini). Mitochondrial DNA B Resour. 6(4):1516–1518.

Lalonde MML, Marcus JM. 2020. The complete mitochondrial genome of the Malagasy clouded mother-of-pearl butterfly *Protogoniomorpha ancardii duprei* (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae). Mitochondrial DNA B Resour. 5:3261–3263.

Laslett D, Canback B. 2008. ARWEN: a program to detect tRNA genes in metazoan mitochondrial nucleotide sequences. Bioinformatics. 24(2):172–175.

Liao F, Wang L, Wu S, Li Y-P, Zhao L, Huang G-M, Niu C-J, Liu Y-Q, Li M-G. 2010. The complete mitochondrial genome of the fall webworm, *Hyphantria cunea* (Lepidoptera: Arctiidae). Int J Biol Sci. 6(2):172–186.

Living Prairie Mitogenomics Consortium. 2017. The complete mitochondrial genome of the lesser aspen webworm moth *Menoptera pravella* (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Pyralidae). Mitochondrial DNA B Resour. 2:344–346.

Living Prairie Mitogenomics Consortium. 2018. The complete mitochondrial genome of the giant casemaker caddisfly *Phryganea cinerea* (Insecta: Trichoptera: Phryganeidae). Mitochondrial DNA B Resour. 3:375–377.

Living Prairie Mitogenomics Consortium. 2019. The complete mitochondrial genome of the North American pale summer sedge caddisfly *Limnephilus hyalinus* (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae). Mitochondrial DNA B Resour. 4:413–415.

Living Prairie Mitogenomics Consortium. 2020. The complete mitochondrial genome of the brown pansy butterfly, *Junonia stygia* (Aurivillius, 1894), (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae). Mitochondrial DNA B Resour. 5:41–43.

Living Prairie Mitogenomics Consortium. 2021. The complete mitochondrial genome of the Indian leafwing butterfly *Kalima parallela* (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae). Mitochondrial DNA B Resour. 6:274–277.

Marcus JM. 2018. Our love-hate relationship with DNA barcodes, the Y2K problem, and the search for next generation barcodes. AIMS Genet. 5(1):1–23.

Marcus JM, Hughes TM, McElroy DM, Wyatt RE. 2010. Engaging First year undergraduates in hands-on research experiences: the upper green river barcode of life project. J Coll Sci Teach. 39:39–45.

McCullagh BS, Marcus JM. 2015. The complete mitochondrial genome of Lemon Pansy, *Junonia lemonias* (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae: Nymphalinae). J Asia-Pacific Ent. 18(4):749–755.

Park JS, Kim MJ, Jeong SY, Kim SS, Kim I. 2016. Complete mitochondrial genomes of two gelechioids, *Mesoleplis albiinella* and *Dichomeris ustalella* (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae), with a description of gene rearrangement in Lepidoptera. Curr Genet. 62(4):809–826.

Payment JE, Marcus JM, Lalonde M. 2020. The complete mitochondrial genome of the African leaf butterfly *Kallimoides rumia* (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae). Mitochondrial DNA B Resour. 5:3415–3417.

Peters MJ, Marcus JM. 2017. Taxonomy as a hypothesis: testing the status of the Bermuda buckeye butterfly *Junonia coenia bergi* (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae). Syst Entomol. 42(1):288–300.

Pinheiro C. 1996. Palatability and escaping ability in Neotropical butterflies: tests with wild kingbirds (*Tyrannus melancholicus*, Tyrannidae). Biol J Linn Soc Lond. 59(4):351–365.

Ronquist F, Huelsenbeck JP. 2003. MRBAYES 3: Bayesian phylogenetic inference under mixed models. Bioinformatics. 19(12):1572–1574.

Ronquist F, Teslenko M, van der Mark P, Ayres DL, Darling A, Höhna S, Larget B, Liu L, Suchard MA, Huelsenbeck JP. 2012. MrBayes 3.2: efficient Bayesian phylogenetic inference and model choice across a large model space. Syst Biol. 61(3):539–542.

Sievers F, Wilm A, Dineen D, Gibson TJ, Karplus K, Li W, Lopez R, McWilliam H, Remmert M, Soding J, et al. 2011. Fast, scalable generation of high-quality protein multiple sequence alignments using Clustal Omega. Mol Syst Biol. 7(539):539.

Walhberg N, Leneveu J, Kondaramaiah U, Peña C, Nylin S, Freitas AVL, Brower A. 2009. Nymphalid butterflies diversify following near demise at the Cretaceous/Tertiary boundary. Proc Biol Sci. 276(1677):4295–4302.