Original Article

X-Linked Signature of Reproductive Isolation in Humans is Mirrored in a Howler Monkey Hybrid Zone

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Abstract

Reproductive isolation is a fundamental step in speciation. While sex chromosomes have been linked to reproductive isolation in many model systems, including hominids, genetic studies of the contribution of sex chromosome loci to speciation for natural populations are relatively sparse. Natural hybrid zones can help identify genomic regions contributing to reproductive isolation, like hybrid incompatibility loci, since these regions exhibit reduced introgression between parental species. Here, we use a primate hybrid zone (Alouatta palliata × Alouatta pigra) to test for reduced introgression of X-linked SNPs compared to autosomal SNPs. To identify X-linked sequence in A. palliata, we used a sex-biased mapping approach with whole-genome re-sequencing data. We then used genomic cline analysis with reduced-representation sequence data for parental A. palliata and A. pigra individuals and hybrids (n = 88) to identify regions with non-neutral introgression. We identified ~26 Mb of non-repetitive, putatively X-linked genomic sequence in A. palliata, most of which mapped collinearly to the marmoset and human X chromosomes. We found that X-linked SNPs had reduced introgression and an excess of ancestry from A. palliata as compared to autosomal SNPs. One outlier region with reduced introgression overlaps a previously described “desert” of archaic hominin ancestry on the human X chromosome. These results are consistent with a large role for the X chromosome in speciation across animal taxa and further, suggest shared features in the genomic basis of the evolution of reproductive isolation in primates.

Subject area: genotype to phenotype

Keywords: speciation, genomic clines, sex chromosomes, gene flow, primates

Recent advances in DNA sequencing have opened the opportunity to explore the genetics of speciation in non-model organisms, allowing for genome-wide identification of loci associated with reproductive isolation and their comparison among divergent lineages. Results from this research corroborate early observations (e.g., Coyne and Orr 1989) that sex chromosomes seem to be important drivers of reproductive isolation in many animal taxa (e.g., birds: Sætre et al. 2003; Carling and Brumfield 2008; Irwin 2018; Drosophila: Presgraves 2008; Mus: Good et al. 2008a, 2008b, 2010; Janoušek et al. 2012; fish: Kitano and Peichel 2012), including humans...
Some contemporary humans with ancestors from outside of Africa carry as much as ~5% archaic DNA as a result of ancient admixture with Neanderthals and Denisovans (Sankararaman et al. 2014, 2016). However, there are many regions of reduced ancestry from archaic hominins in modern human genomes (i.e., “deserts” of archaic ancestry), which are highly enriched on the X chromosome (Sankararaman et al. 2014, 2016). Further, Neanderthal Y chromosome sequence has not been discovered in contemporary human genomes (Mendez et al. 2016). These findings imply that X and Y chromosomal regions may have been involved in reproductive isolation during the time of hybridization, and thus, archaic ancestry was rapidly purged by selection acting on unfit hybrids, limiting introgression on sex chromosomes. In hybrid flies and mice, loci underlying hybrid male sterility disproportionately map to the X chromosome, consistent with a large role of the X chromosome in speciation (e.g., Presgraves 2008; Turner and Harr 2014).

Because the genomic signature of ancient genetic exchanges is all that is left of our archaic cousins, it is not possible to directly investigate the mechanisms that may have led to restricted gene flow in certain genomic regions while allowing exchange in others. We address this here by identifying genomic regions that are consistent with the signature of reproductive isolation (i.e., “barrier loci”) between 2 contemporary primate species that form a natural hybrid zone and ask whether deserts of archaic ancestry on the human X chromosome are unique to hominids or shared with other primates. Natural hybrid zones offer unique opportunities to identify barrier loci because reproductive isolation between the parental taxa is still incomplete. In hybrid zones, novel combinations of alleles in hybrids are tested by selection (Dobzhansky 1936; Muller 1942). Recombination shuffles composite genomes with many generations of backcrossing, and loci that underlie reproductive isolation are expected to have restricted introgression as a result of selection against unfit hybrids carrying incompatible alleles, while neutral and adaptive alleles are free to introgress between species (Barton and Hewitt 1985; Gompert and Buerkle 2011).

The howler monkey hybrid zone (Alouatta palliata × Alouatta pigra) in Mexico (Cortés-Ortiz et al. 2007) has recently developed into a model for comparison of natural populations to laboratory-derived and other traditional model systems (e.g., Mus, Homo) that have been the subject of intensive speciation genomics research. A genome assembly was recently developed for A. palliata, opening the possibility for detailed investigation of fine-scale variation contributing to reproductive isolation and other evolutionary processes. Further, the Alouatta system is the first contemporary primate system in which the genomic architecture of reproductive isolation has been investigated (Baiz et al. 2019; Cortés-Ortiz et al. 2019), thus due to its relatively close phylogenetic proximity, it serves as a model that may yield insight to processes responsible for generating similar patterns observed in human genomes.

Alouatta palliata and A. pigra diverged ~3 MA (Cortés-Ortiz et al. 2003), and the contact zone is likely the result of secondary contact after periods of isolation and expansion (Cortés-Ortiz et al. 2003; Ellsworth and Hoelzer 2006; Ford 2006). We previously analyzed introgression in this system with a limited number of loci and found differential introgression for autosomal markers (i.e., some had reduced introgression, others had neutral, or directional introgression), but markers on the X and Y chromosomes had restricted introgression (Cortés-Ortiz et al. 2019). This observation is consistent with a role for the sex chromosomes in reproductive isolation in this system.

Due to the limited number of markers analyzed in the previous study, we were unable to determine the extent of reduced introgression across the X chromosome. Here, we used comparative whole-genome re-sequencing to identify X chromosome sequence in the A. palliata genome assembly. We then used genomic cline analysis with population-level reduced-representation genome sequence data to explicitly test for reduced introgression of X-linked compared to autosomal SNPs and to quantify the pattern of introgression along the X chromosome. We compare our results to signatures of archaic introgression in the human genome to ask whether there is a shared component of the genomic architecture of speciation in primates.

Materials and Methods

Since the A. palliata genome assembly is a draft de novo assembly for which contigs have yet to be assigned to chromosomes, we first performed a mapping experiment using whole-genome re-sequencing data from 2 males and 2 females to identify X-linked contigs. To do this, we analyzed differences in contig-specific sequencing coverage between female and male A. palliata individuals with the assumption that X-linked contigs will show significantly greater coverage in females than males because, in XY species, females have 2 copies of the X chromosome and males have 1 copy (we refer to these as “female-biased” contigs). In comparison, autosomal contigs should have equal coverage in males and females (“unbiased” contigs). This method has been used in several study systems to confidently identify sex chromosome sequences (e.g., Chen et al. 2012; Carvalho and Clark 2013; Gamble et al. 2015; Vicoso and Bachtrog 2015; Bracewell et al. 2017; Mongue et al. 2017). Supplementary Figure S1 illustrates an overview of our strategy.

Whole-Genome Re-Sequencing

Between 2001 and 2012, we obtained blood samples from 4 wild A. palliata individuals (2 males and 2 females) sampled in Veracruz, Mexico (Supplementary Table S1) and stored them in lysis buffer at ~80 °C. We extracted genomic DNA using the QIAGEN DNeasy tissue kit (Qiagen Inc., Valencia, CA) as described in Baiz et al. (2019). Sex was determined in the field by visual assessment and verified using genetic data by amplifying known genes on the sex chromosomes (following Cortés-Ortiz et al. 2019). Specifically, we amplified the Y-linked SRY locus to verify the presence of a PCR product for males and absence of a PCR product for females and genotyped an X-linked microsatellite locus to verify the hemizygous genotype for males (Supplementary Table S1).

Our libraries for whole-genome sequencing were generated and sequenced by the Advanced Genomics Core at the University of Michigan. For each sample, libraries were constructed using the Swift Biosciences PCR-Free DNA Library Kit with a target insert size of 350bp following the manufacturer’s protocol. Libraries were multiplexed and sequenced in a single lane using Illumina HiSeq 4000 to obtain 150bp paired-end reads.

We obtained between ~54 M–123 M reads per individual from the sequencer (Supplementary Table S1). We used Trim Galore! v0.4.2 (http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/trim_galore/) to trim adapters and low-quality bases (Q < 20) from raw reads and retained only read-pairs where each read was ≥100bp in length after trimming.

Detection of X-Linked Contigs

To avoid false identification of X-linked contigs due to differences in sequencing coverage among males and females, we subsampled our post-trimmed fastq files to standardize the number of reads across
individuals using seqtk v1.2 (https://github.com/lh3/seqtk) before mapping by randomly sampling 50 million read pairs per individual. We used these subsampled files as input for sequence alignment.

Because short read data can potentially map to multiple genomic locations due to the expansion of repetitive sequence, we generated a repeat-masked version of the reference A. palliata genome assembly (PVKV00000000) in order to map reads to unique sequences. To do this, we used RepeatMasker v4.0.6 (Smit et al. 2013) on A. palliata contigs 1 kb and larger (N = 96,654, 87% of the assembly sequence) using the “primates” RepeatMasker repeat library (i.e., a library of known primate repeats) to perform a low-sensitivity search (option -qq).

We then used bwa-MEM (Li 2013, https://arxiv.org/abs/1303.3997, last accessed 21 May 2019) to align the subsampled reads of our 4 A. palliata individuals to the repeat-masked A. palliata genome assembly. For each individual, we used SAMtools idxsats (Li et al. 2010) to detect contigs for which there was a significant difference in read counts between the sexes, where X-linked contigs are expected to have an average male-to-female log2 fold-change (log2FC) of ~1 (due to the presence of 2 X chromosomes in females and only 1 in males) and autosomal contigs are expected to have a log2FC of 0. For this analysis, we excluded contigs with low counts across samples as they provide limited power to detect significant differences between groups. Thus, we only retained contigs where 2 or more individuals had a count per million (CPM) >0.2, corresponding to ~15 reads (N = 78,493 contigs).

Validation of X-Linkage
We aligned A. palliata repeat-masked contigs for which we detected sex-differences in read count to the marmoset (CalJac3) and human (hg38) genome assemblies to identify orthologous regions. We used these results as a second line of evidence for X-linkage of female-biased contigs since X chromosome sequence is highly conserved across mammals. To do this, we downloaded the masked version of each assembly from the University of California Santa Cruz Genome Browser and used a custom script (available at https://github.com/baizm/Xchr_introggression) to remove scaffolds that have not yet been assigned to any chromosome (i.e., sequences with a header containing “chrUn”). We then used lastz v1.04.00 (a program designed for efficient alignment of long genomic sequences, Harris 2007) to align the repeat-masked A. palliata contigs to each repeat-masked assembly, requiring at least 50% of the query to be included in the alignment block (--coverage = 50) and using a distance of 20bp between potential seeds (--step = 20). To assess the ability of our method to detect X-linked sequence, we also aligned a set of 2,288 unbiased, likely autosomal contigs for comparison (i.e., the same as the number of female-biased contigs), randomly chosen from the list of contigs that did not have a significant difference in read counts between the sexes.

For female-, male-, and unbiased A. palliata contigs, a larger proportion aligned to the marmoset genome (>55% for each contig type) than to the human genome (Supplementary Figure S2). For male-biased and unbiased A. palliata contigs, the proportion that aligned to autosomes (~94–99%) or sex chromosomes (~1–5%) was similar for the marmoset and human genome (Supplementary Figure S2). Further, the majority (74%) of the female-biased contigs that aligned to the human X chromosome also aligned to the marmoset X chromosome. This pattern is not surprising, given that the divergence time between Alouatta and Homo is greater than between Alouatta and Callithrix (Perelman et al. 2011). Thus, we considered female-biased contigs that aligned to the marmoset X chromosome to be X-linked for Alouatta in this study.

We used qPCR to test for the expected 2-fold higher amplification of putative X-linked regions in female individuals compared to male individuals. We randomly selected 5 putative X-linked contigs and 1 putative autosomal contig to serve as a normalizing sequence assuming 1:1 amplification between the sexes. The 5 putative X-linked contigs were selected from A. palliata female-biased contigs that mapped to the marmoset X chromosome. The putative autosomal contig was randomly selected from A. palliata unbiased contigs that mapped to a marmoset autosome. The putative X-linked contigs mapped to positions that spanned the length of the marmoset X chromosome (between X:6.6 and X:104 Mb) and the putative autosomal contig mapped to marmoset chromosome 1 (Supplementary Table S2). Details of our qPCR strategy are outlined in Supplementary Methods.

ddRADseq and SNP Calling
We performed reduced-representation sequencing on a geographically broad sample of wild individuals from the allopatric ranges of A. palliata and A. pigra and from the hybrid zone (see Baiz et al. 2019 for details) (Figure 1) and mapped sequence reads to the non-masked A. palliata assembly to generate genotype data for genomic cline analyses to test for reduced introgression of the X chromosome. Because the X chromosome is hemizygous in males and X-linked SNPs will appear to be homozygous, biasing genomic cline estimates, we only included sequence data from female individuals in genomic cline analyses to avoid bias in our X chromosome-autosome comparison of differential introgression. This included 88 female individuals, 48 of which were sampled from the hybrid zone in Tabasco, Mexico, 17 from the allopatric range of A. palliata and 23 from the allopatric range of A. pigra (Figure 1), which we

![Figure 1. Map of sampling sites used in this study. The distribution ranges of Alouatta palliata and Alouatta pigra are in light gray and dark gray, respectively (downloaded and modified from IUCN, http://www.iucnredlist.org). Circles represent sampled localities where only one species occurs (i.e., non-admixed populations) and triangles represent sampled localities from the hybrid zone, where admixed individuals occur.](https://example.com/figure1.png)
Comparing Introgression of the X Chromosome Versus Autosomes

To test if X-linked SNPs have a distinct pattern of introgression, we tested for significant differences in cline parameters between X-linked and autosomal SNPs using permutation tests in R. We constructed 10 000 permuted datasets from the autosomal data by sampling without replacement from the distribution of cline parameter point estimates for both \( \alpha \) and \( \beta \). For each permuted dataset, we sampled 97 of the 10 256 autosomal SNPs without replacement, so comparisons were made using a sample size equal to the set of X-linked SNPs (\( N = 97 \)). We compared the mean of the observed cline parameter for X-linked SNPs to the mean cline parameter of each permuted autosomal dataset and considered the pattern of introgression for X-linked SNPs to be distinct if the observed mean exceeded the mean in >95% of the permuted datasets.

Genomic Basis of Non-neutral Introgression of the X Chromosome

To identify genes on contigs containing non-neutral introgression, we queried the marmoset X chromosome for genes in homologous regions using bioMaRt v2.36.1 (Durnick et al. 2005, 2009). To do this, we input the marmoset alignment block coordinates for alignments of each X-linked bgc outlier contig expanded by 500kb on both ends to obtain marmoset genes within each region. We also report human gene homologs within each region, as the gene annotation of the human genome assembly is more complete than for the marmoset assembly.

To determine if the previously observed “deserts” of archaic hominin ancestry in the human genome are homologous to the regions of reduced introgression we observed here for Alouatta, we plotted cline parameter estimates along the human X chromosome for X-linked contigs in our bgc dataset that mapped to the human X chromosome using our alignment criteria (\( N = 52 \)) with karyoPloteR v1.6.2 (Gel and Serra 2017). All R-based analyses were conducted using R v3.5.1.

Results

X-Linked Contigs in the A. palliata Genome

Upon mapping our re-sequencing data to the masked version of the A. palliata assembly, we generated, that read counts for most contigs (97%) were not significantly different between males and females (i.e., “unbiased” contigs), suggesting they are autosomal (Table 1). Thus, we used this set of contigs to call autosomal SNPs for our genomic cline analyses. We detected 2,288 contigs with read counts significantly greater in females than in males (i.e., “female-biased” contigs). Read counts for these contigs were, on average, 2-fold greater in females than in males (mean log2FC of \( -1 \)), as

| Read count bias | N contigs (%) | Mean log2FC (M:F) ± SD | N contigs mapped to marmoset (%) |
|-----------------|--------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Unbiased        | 75 815 (97%) | -0.003 ± 0.30          | 1392 (60.1%)                  |
| Female          | 2288 (2.9%)  | -0.992 ± 0.38          | 1077 (47.1%)                  |
| Male            | 390 (0.5%)   | 2.129 ± 1.53           | 179 (45.9%)                   |

Table 1. Summary of mapping experiments to identify X-linked contigs in the Alouatta palliata assembly

N contigs = number of contigs detected to be biased or unbiased in edgeR, Mean log2FC = mean log2-fold-change of read counts for male data relative to female data.

\( ^{a}\)The number of contigs mapped to marmoset for unbiased contigs was 2288, randomly chosen to match the sample size of female-biased contigs.
expected for X-linked sequence. We also detected 390 contigs with higher read counts in males than in females (i.e., “male-biased” contigs). Log_{FC was much more variable for these male-biased contigs (Table 1, Supplementary Figure S3). Because the reference genome was generated by sequencing a female individual (Jeremy Johnson, personal communication), it should not contain sequence unique to the Y-chromosome, and since we were only interested in discerning putatively X-linked from putatively autosomal sequences, we dropped these ambiguous male-biased contigs from further analyses.

To corroborate X-linkage of *A. palliata* assembly contigs, we took advantage of the high degree of conservation of the mammalian X chromosome (Ohno 1967; Quilter et al. 2002; Raudsepp et al. 2004; Murphy et al. 2007; Rodríguez Delgado et al. 2009) and used sequence homology of our putative X-linked regions to the marmoset X chromosome. We also used quantitative PCR (qPCR), to validate X-linkage of *A. palliata* sequences. Of the set of 2,288 *A. palliata* female-biased contigs, 1,077 could be mapped to the marmoset genome using our mapping criteria (Table 1). Of these contigs, 811 (75.3%) mapped to the marmoset X chromosome, 277 (25.7%) mapped to marmoset autosomes, and 1 mapped to the marmoset Y chromosome. This enrichment of hits to the marmoset X chromosome is consistent with the results of our comparative read count analysis (see above), indicating that these regions are likely to be X-linked in *A. palliata*. Comparatively, a much smaller proportion of the unbiased contigs (3.4%) and male-biased contigs (1.1%) mapped to the marmoset X chromosome while the majority mapped to autosomes (Supplementary Figure S2). Further, log_{FC for the subset of the 811 female-biased contigs that mapped to the marmoset X chromosome was less variable and closer to the expected −1 for X-linked sequences compared to the larger pool of 2,288 female-biased contigs (Supplementary Figure S4). Thus, this set of 811 female-biased contigs that mapped to the marmoset X chromosome constitutes our set of validated X-linked regions used in further analyses.

As proof of concept, we randomly chose 5 of the 811 female-biased contigs that mapped to the marmoset X chromosome to confirm 2-fold amplification in females relative to males (as expected for X chromosome sequence) using qPCR. Consistent with this, mean fold-change was $2.19 \pm 0.49$ (Table 2). These observations are consistent with high conservation of the X chromosome in mammals (Ohno 1967; Quilter et al. 2002; Raudsepp et al. 2004; Murphy et al. 2007; Rodríguez Delgado et al. 2009) and further corroborate our method of identifying X-linked versus autosomal sequence.

Because a portion of our female-biased contigs mapped to autosomes, it is possible that we detected X chromosome sequence in *A. palliata* that is not shared with other primates (i.e., lineage-specific translocations to the X chromosome). To explore this, we looked at the mapping positions of the 277 female-biased contigs that mapped to marmoset autosomes and compared them to the mapping positions of male-biased and unbiased contigs for the autosomes with the most hits. After the X chromosome, chromosome 7 had the highest number of hits for female-biased contigs (Supplementary Figure S5A). However, chromosome 7 also had the highest number of hits for both male-biased and unbiased contigs (Supplementary Figure S5A), and for all contig types, the hits were clustered around positions 29.6 MB and 74.3 MB (Supplementary Figure S5B). Similarly, chromosome 21 had the third highest number of hits for female-biased contigs, high mapping numbers for male-biased and unbiased contigs, and a clustering of mapping positions around 17.7 MB (Supplementary Figure S5C). These mapping positions are not unique to sex-biased contigs, which may be due to multiple factors, including misassembly. This may also indicate that these sequences are not unique to the sex chromosomes. Thus, we dropped female-biased contigs that map to marmoset autosomes and male-biased contigs from further analyses to account for this uncertainty.

### Distinct Introgression of X-Linked SNPs

Genomic cline parameters for most SNPs were consistent with neutral introgression, but we detected 211 outliers with a non-neutral amount of introgression ($\beta$) and 746 outliers with a non-neutral direction ($\alpha$) of introgression (Table 3, Supplementary Figure S6). Among outlier autosomal SNPs, the majority had increased introgression ($\beta < 0$, $N = 194$) and excess ancestry from *A. pigra* ($\alpha > 0$, $N = 470$). On the other hand, outlier X-linked SNPs had reduced introgression ($\beta > 0$, $N = 2$) and excess ancestry from *A. palliata* ($\alpha < 0$, $N = 3$).

Our permutation tests using all SNPs indicate that cline parameters are more extreme for X-linked than for autosomal SNPs (Figure 2), suggesting a distinct pattern of introgression for the X chromosome.

### Table 2. qPCR validation of 5 *Alouatta palliata* X-linked contigs

| Contig | $\Delta\Delta Ct$ | Fold-change |
|--------|-----------------|-------------|
| 26402  | 0.92            | 1.89        |
| 35197  | 1.55            | 2.94        |
| 92787  | 1.14            | 2.20        |
| 118733 | 1.17            | 2.25        |
| 60023  | 0.73            | 1.65        |

$\Delta\Delta Ct$ is relative quantification of template DNA for each female-biased contig (i.e., “gene-of-interest”) compared to an unbiased (i.e., autosomal) marker (“normalizing gene”). The autosomal marker used is on *A. palliata* contig 84001.

### Table 3. Number of X-linked (type = X) and autosomal (type = A) SNPs with neutral (zero) and extreme introgression (outliers)

| Cline parameter | Type | Negative outlier | Zero (neutral) | Positive outlier |
|-----------------|------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| $\beta$         | X    | 0               | 95             | 2               |
|                 | A    | 194             | 10 047         | 15              |
|                 | Total| 194             | 10 142         | 17              |
| $\alpha$        | X    | 3               | 94             | 0               |
|                 | A    | 273             | 9513           | 470             |
|                 | Total| 276             | 9607           | 470             |

The cline parameter $\beta$ is a measure of the amount of introgression, where negative outliers have increased introgression ($\beta < 0$) and positive outliers have reduced introgression ($\beta > 0$). The cline parameter $\alpha$ measures the direction of introgression where negative outliers ($\alpha < 0$) have excess *Alouatta palliata* ancestry and positive outliers ($\alpha > 0$) have excess *Alouatta pigra* ancestry.
For X-linked SNPs, the amount of introgression was significantly reduced compared to autosomal SNPs (mean $\beta_X = 0.22$, mean $\beta_A = -0.02$, $P < 0.001$) and the direction of introgression was more negative (mean $\alpha_X = -0.17$, mean $\alpha_A = -0.003$, $P < 0.001$), indicating excess ancestry from *A. palliata*, consistent with the signal for outlier loci.

**Table 4.** Alignment positions to the marmoset genome and gene content of X-linked *Alouatta palliata* contigs containing SNPs with non-neutral introgression

| Contig | Length (kb) | CalJac3 | Region | N genes | Cline parameter estimate |
|--------|-------------|---------|--------|---------|-------------------------|
| 49400  | 23.4        | X:46475367:47494965 | 1 | 50 | $\alpha = -0.94$ |
| 151667 | 1.4         | X:47487523:48488951 | 2 | 4  | $\alpha = -0.69$ |
| 30014  | 54.1        | X:67467391:68496613 | 3 | 3  | $\beta = 0.84$ |
| 32694  | 48.1        | X:113940392:114968526 | 4 | 3  | $\beta = 0.88$ |
| 54333  | 18.8        | X:13558667:136602592 | 5 | 2  | $\beta = 0.88$ |

CalJac3 = the coordinates of the biomaRt query which includes an extension of 500kb on each end of the alignment block, Region = orthologous region as referred to in the text (e.g., “region 1”), N genes = the number of genes within each region, and Cline parameter estimate = log cline parameter estimate, where $\alpha$ is direction and $\beta$ is the amount of introgression.

Shared Genomic Signature of Reduced X Chromosome Introgression

To identify regions of the *Alouatta* X chromosome associated with SNPs exhibiting non-neutral introgression, we used homology of *Alouatta* contigs to the marmoset and human X chromosome. After adding 500kb to each end of the alignment block within the marmoset X chromosome for alignments of *Alouatta* contigs containing outlier SNPs, 2 regions with excess *A. palliata* ancestry overlapped in the marmoset assembly (X: 46475367: 47494965, X:47487523:48488951). Thus, we report this as a single region (region 1), which had the greatest gene content in comparison to the other 3 X-chromosomal regions containing outlier loci (Table 4). The other outlier contig with excess *A. palliata* ancestry mapped to the long arm of the marmoset X chromosome (region 2). The 2 contigs containing SNPs with reduced introgression mapped more distally (regions 3 and 4) (Table 4).

Of the 97 X-linked contigs represented in our SNP dataset, 52 mapped to the human X chromosome. The 45 remaining contigs did not map to the human genome using our mapping criteria. Of the 2 X-linked contigs containing SNPs with reduced introgression, 1 (region 3) mapped to a position within one of the previously described human “deserts” for ancestry from both Neanderthals and Denisovans (Sankararaman et al. 2016) (Figure 3). The other contig with reduced introgression (region 4) mapped just distally, but outside of the same desert. Finally, a region 1 contig with excess *A. palliata* ancestry mapped to the proximal end of the short arm of the human X chromosome. Consistent with our mapping analysis using the marmoset X chromosome (Table 4), and the expected high degree of conservation in X chromosome sequence among primates, only one of these regions did not map to the human X chromosome.

**Discussion**

Here, we identified extensive X-chromosomal sequence in the *A. palliata* genome assembly and used it to test for differential
introggression of the X chromosome in the *A. palliata* × *A. pigra* hybrid zone. Loci with reduced introgression were disproportionately represented on the X chromosome compared to autosomes, and one outlier locus overlaps a previously identified desert of archaic ancestry on the human X chromosome, suggesting a shared genomic architecture of reproductive isolation in primates. We also detected a conflicting signal of directional introgression, where autosomal loci had excess ancestry from *A. pigra* whereas X-linked loci had excess ancestry from *A. palliata*.

**Discovery of X Chromosome Sequence in A. palliata and Inherent Limitations**

This is the first study to identify extensive, contiguous sex chromosome sequence in *A. palliata*. Using whole-genome re-sequencing data, we identified 811 contigs in the *A. palliata* genome assembly to be X-linked based on greater mapped read counts in females compared to males and alignment to the marmoset X chromosome. Thus, it is very likely these sequences are indeed on the *Alouatta* X chromosome. This approach allowed us to test for differential introgression of X-linked versus autosomal SNPs using our reduced-representation dataset.

We were very conservative in our mapping approach to ensure a low likelihood of identifying false positive X-chromosomal regions by taking several precautions. First, because we re-sequenced only 2 male and 2 female individuals, we standardized the number of raw reads to ensure our results were not influenced by spurious differences in sequencing coverage among individuals. We also limited our X chromosome mapping analyses to non-repetitive sequence by repeat masking the genome. This step ensured that read count differences were likely caused by chromosomal differences between males and females rather than copy number variation between individuals. We discarded short contigs (<1 kb), contigs with low read counts across individuals, and male-biased contigs. Finally, we verified approximately 2-fold amplification of a subset of our X-linked regions in females as compared to males using qPCR.

Due in part to our conservative methods, we were limited in detecting the entire *Alouatta* X chromosome. Considering the combined length of the X-linked regions we detected is 26.2 Mb, it is likely they only partially represent the *A. palliata* X chromosome. This is not surprising given that our approach could not detect the pseudoautosomal region of the X chromosome (3 Mb in humans) since unlike the rest of the X chromosome, it is not hemizygous in males. We also expect that our dataset is an underrepresentation of the X chromosome given that much of the genome is repetitive, and we limited our analyses to non-repetitive sequences. Nonetheless, assuming the size of the *A. palliata* X chromosome is similar to the human and marmoset X chromosome and considering only the non-masked proportion of the human and marmoset X-chromosomal sequence (~59 Mb and ~57 Mb, respectively), the *A. palliata* sequences we identified to be X-linked here likely represent ~45% of the expected size of the non-masked *A. palliata* X chromosome. Thus, it is likely that our set of X-linked contigs will be built upon in future studies, and our results should be interpreted in this context.

**Conservation of the Mammalian X Chromosome in Alouatta**

Because a large proportion of our X-linked contigs mapped to both the marmoset and human X chromosomes in similar positions, our results are consistent with the expectation of a high degree of sequence and gene order conservation in primates following high conservation of the eutherian mammal X chromosome (Quilter et al. 2002; Raudsepp et al. 2004; Murphy et al. 2007; Rodríguez Delgado et al. 2009). This result is also consistent with cytomolecular studies that identified a high degree of similarity between the human and *A. palliata* X chromosome using X chromosome paint probes (Steinberg et al. 2014). This is in contrast, however, to the high frequency of chromosomal rearrangements that have occurred in neotropical primates (Wienberg and Stanyon 1998; Müller 2006; de Oliviera et al. 2012) and suggests that despite the propensity for chromosomal rearrangements within *Alouatta*, including an autosomal-Y translocation in *A. palliata* that forms a trivalent sex chromosome system (Solarri and Rahn 2005; Steinberg et al. 2014), selection for conservation of the X chromosome in *A. palliata* may remain strong. Cytomolecular studies suggest the autosomal-Y translocation is shared with *A. pigra* (Steinberg et al. 2014), but that *A. pigra* independently evolved an additional translocation (Steinberg et al. 2008), resulting in a quadrivalent sex chromosome system. The role these different sex chromosome systems play in reproductive isolation between these species has not been investigated, but we hypothesize that conservation of the X chromosome may provide the opportunity for meiotic recombination and ongoing gene flow between species. However, our finding...
of reduced introgression of some regions of the X chromosome suggests the sex chromosomes do play a role in reproductive isolation in this primate hybrid system.

Some of the female-biased contigs we identified in *A. palliata* mapped to marmoset autosomes (~26%). This pattern would be expected for autosomal regions that have been translocated from autosomes to the X chromosome in *Alouatta*. However, mapping positions for these contigs were shared and also common among male-biased and unbiased contigs. Thus, it is more likely that these regions are not unique to the X chromosome and represent false positives in our mapping experiment, or they represent marmoset X-chromosomal sequences that were erroneously mapped to autosomes. Investigation of what caused this putatively false-positive pattern and identification of any autosome-to-sex chromosome translocated regions are beyond the scope of this study and remain avenues for further research.

**X-Chromosomal Signature of Reproductive Isolation Shared With Humans**

We found that, compared to autosomal SNPs, X-linked SNPs had reduced introgression (Figure 2). Regions with reduced introgression mapped to the long arm of the marmoset and human X chromosome in areas with a relatively low-density of genes (Supplementary Table S3). These results are consistent with our previous analyses on differential introgression in this system (Cortés-Ortiz et al. 2019), but because our previous analysis used both males and females (likely overinflating cline parameters for X-linked markers since males are hemizygous for the X chromosome), and only included 3 X-linked markers, this study provides more rigorous evidence for reduced introgression of the X chromosome in this system. We were also able to identify candidate regions of the *Alouatta* X chromosome that may underlie reproductive isolation due to the higher density of markers included in this study.

Reduced introgression of the X chromosome could result from a relatively high density of loci involved in reproductive isolation on the X chromosome and various other factors. For example, the presence of locally adapted alleles, which can accumulate more rapidly on the X chromosome than on autosomes (Charlesworth et al. 1987), would be expected to slow introgression of the X chromosome. Further, because the majority of the X chromosome only recombines in females, it has a reduced rate of recombination relative to autosomes (Schafrer 2004, Bohmanova et al. 2010), amplifying the effects of linkage around any adaptive alleles or barrier locus. Also, because males lack a second copy, the X chromosome has a relatively low effective population size (3/4 that of autosomes), making genetic drift more efficient and leading to reduced diversity and increased differentiation (Schafer 2004). The effects of these factors are not expected to be mutually exclusive, and patterns of introgression do vary as a function of recombination rate and differentiation (Gompert et al. 2012; Janouské et al. 2015; Baiz et al. 2019). Because we do not have direct evidence linking specific loci to reproductive isolation mechanisms, we acknowledge that our finding of reduced introgression of sex chromosome markers in this system is indirect evidence for X-linked reproductive isolation (Presgraves 2018).

Reduced introgression of X-linked markers due to the presence of loci underlying reproductive isolation would be consistent with the large X-effect on postzygotic reproductive isolation (Coyne and Orr 1989). Anecdotal observations in this system indicate that hybrid males with intermediate admixture proportions (i.e., hybrid index ~0.5) may be sterile (L.C-O., personal observation). For example, we sampled a group in the hybrid zone multiple times containing a male with intermediate admixture proportions (Q = 0.46 based on SNP loci, Baiz et al. 2019), and even though he was the only reproductively mature male in the group for 7 years, no offspring were observed to be sired. Although this male is not an F1 individual (he carries the *A. pigra* haplotype for both mtDNA and SRY), he may carry combinations of incompatible alleles that hinder the production of sperm capable of fertilization.

It is interesting that one of our X-linked outliers with reduced introgression (region 3) falls within a known “desert” of both Neanderthal and Denisovan ancestry on the human X chromosome (Sankararaman et al. 2016), while the other (region 4) maps just distally (Figure 3). Sankararaman et al. (2016) hypothesized that hominin hybrid males suffered from reduced fertility because deserts of archaic ancestry on the human X chromosome are especially enriched near genes expressed in the testis. Because our region 3 outlier mapped to the central portion of one of these deserts, which spans a large section of the human X chromosome (34 Mb), we hypothesize that this window includes a region that underlies postzygotic reproductive isolation in both systems and thus may be important to the genetic architecture of speciation in primates. To further address this question, it will be highly informative to compare these observations to those from other primate systems. To our knowledge, the *Alouatta* system is the only natural non-human primate hybrid zone system that has been used specifically to identify genomic regions with candidate barrier loci. However, there are many known and genetically confirmed primate hybrid zone systems that could be used to similar ends (e.g., marmosets: Malukiewicz et al. 2015; chimpanzees: de Manuel et al. 2016; baboons: Wall et al. 2016; South American howlers: Mourthé et al. 2018). A recent study detected historical introgressive hybridization between bonobos and chimpanzees and found that gene exchange was restricted on the X chromosome (de Manuel et al. 2016). However, the authors did not report whether any X-linked regions were more or less resistant to introgression. Future studies on the genetics of hybridization and speciation in primates reporting such detail will allow for comparisons across studies and to address the hypothesis that a shared genetic architecture of reproductive isolation underlies speciation in primates.

**Directional Introgression of X Chromosome at Odds With Autosomes**

In addition to a signature of reduced introgression, we found that X-linked SNPs tended to have excess ancestry from *A. palliata* more so than from *A. pigra*. Asymmetry in the direction of X chromosome introgression could be explained by a bias in the direction of backcrossing due to an unequal abundance of parental types in the hybrid zone or to directionality in prezygotic reproductive barriers (i.e., if hybrids carrying the *A. palliata* X chromosome are more likely to backcross with *A. pigra*, or *A. pigra*-like hybrids). Extensive sampling in this system has shown that both parental types, as well as multigenerational backcrossed hybrids into both parental types are relatively equally abundant (Kelaita and Cortés-Ortiz 2013; Cortés-Ortiz et al. 2019), suggesting that asymmetry in the direction of introgression is not caused by differences in abundance. If *A. pigra* males have traits more preferable to F1 females, then prezygotic barriers could explain the bias in X chromosome introgression. However, this is not consistent with the relatively equal abundance of backcrossed hybrid types, which indicates backcrossing occurs in both directions. Further,
such bias due to the direction of backcrossing would be expected to carry over to autosomal loci. We found that autosomal loci do show asymmetry in the direction of introgression, but in the opposite direction—autosomal loci are enriched for *A. pigra* ancestry (Table 3, Supplementary Figure S6). Thus, these results may indicate that for the X chromosome, *A. palliata* alleles may be more favorable than *A. pigra* alleles in the hybrid zone when they do pass the species boundary, or that *A. pigra* alleles are less favorable in the habitat or genomic background of *A. palliata*. Outlier region 1 is particularly gene-rich (Table 4, Supplementary Table S3) and contains genes with varied functions, including functions related to the immune system (e.g., FOXP3, WAS, CPF), neuron function (e.g., ELK1, SYN1, SYP), and gene regulation (FOXP3, SXX1/SSX4B, UXT).

Because we used reduced-representation data in our genomic cline analysis, our ability to pinpoint regions that are driving the non-neutral patterns of introgression we observed is limited. Given that our genotype data represents a small portion of the genome, it is likely causal regions were not sequenced in our library and we are detecting effects of linkage to nearby genes that may be under selection in hybrid genomes. Future studies using whole-genome sequence data that represent the full scope of variation in these species will be needed to pinpoint candidate regions underlying non-neutral introgression.

### Conclusion

We identified extensive, contiguous X-chromosomal sequence in *A. palliata*, with regions exhibiting a high degree of conservation with the human and marmoset X chromosomes, consistent with conservation of the mammalian X chromosome. Our results revealed non-neutral introgression of the X chromosome in the *A. palliata* × *A. pigra* hybrid zone, consistent with a signature of reproductive isolation in some loci and with directional introgression in other loci.

Introgression of the X chromosome is reduced compared to autosomes, a genomic signature expected to occur as a result of postzygotic reproductive isolation. This is consistent with anecdotal evidence for hybrid male sterility in this system. Further, hybrid X chromosomes also exhibit an excess of *A. palliata* ancestry—a pattern that is opposite to autosomes, which exhibit an excess of *A. pigra* ancestry. Together, our results suggest that selection may be shaping introgression of the X chromosome and autosomes in different ways. Finally, one X-chromosomal region with significantly reduced levels of introgression overlaps a region of reduced archaic ancestry in the human genome, which suggests a shared genomic architecture of reproductive isolation in primates.

### Supplementary Material

Supplementary material is available at *Journal of Heredity* online.

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### Data Availability

Whole-genome and reduced-representation sequence data used in this study are available from the NCBI Sequence Read Archive under accession numbers PRJNA553235 and PRJNA504885, respectively.

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