A new gene order in the mitochondrial genome of the deep-sea diaphanous hatchet fish Sternoptyx diaphana Hermann, 1781 (Stomiiformes: Sternoptychidae)

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ABSTRACT

Species of the Sternoptychidae teleost family display an impressive morphology, including their extreme reduced size. Here, we report the first mitochondrial genome of the diaphanous hatchet fish Sternoptyx diaphana. By using short-read sequencing Illumina HiSeq, we generated two mitochondrial contigs which were later physically assembled by PCR. The mitochondrial genome of S. diaphana was 17,224 bp in length (excluding the control region) and is composed of 13 PCGs and 2 ribosomal RNA genes. Strikingly, we could not identify the tRNA-Phe and two copies of tRNA-Met were differently positioned. Additionally, the mitogenome displays a completely new gene rearrangement among vertebrates. We expect that the study presented here will pave the way for further molecular studies with this underrepresented group of illusive teleost fish.

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comparison with annotations from other Stomiiformes available at GenBank.

For phylogenetic analysis, all Stomiiformes mitogenomes ($n=7$) and five outgroup taxa, were retrieved from GenBank (accessed in May 2020). BI and ML phylogenetic analysis were performed using all 13 protein-coding genes (PCG), individually aligned using GUIDANCE2 (Sela et al. 2015) with MAFFT (Katoh and Standley 2013) and concatenated in SequenceMatrix (Vaidya et al. 2011). The final alignment was 11,349 nt long. PartitionFinder2 on XSEDE (Lanfear et al. 2016) was applied to determine the partition schemes and best molecular evolutionary models for those partitions and the retrieved information used for phylogenetic analyses. These analyses were conducted using MrBayes on XSEDE (Ronquist et al. 2012) (GTR + I + G, GTR + I + G, HKY + I + G, and HKY + G) with two independent runs ($10^7$ generations, sampling frequency one tree for 1000 generations) and RAxML-HPC BlackBox (Stamatakis, 2014) (GTR + I + G). Both phylogenetic analyses and PartitionFinder2 were implemented through CIPRES (Miller et al. 2010).

The mitogenome of $S$. diaphana here obtained represents the first mitogenome of a deep-sea fish from the family Sternoptychidae and has been deposited in GenBank (MT588184).

The mitogenome length (control region excluded) is 17,224 bp, within the observed size of other Stomiiformes mitogenomes (Miya et al. 2001; Miya and Nishida 1999, 2000; Aguilar et al. 2018; Ijichi et al. 2018). Regarding gene content, as expected 13 PCGs and 2 ribosomal RNA genes are present. Although 22 transfer RNAs were also annotated, we could not detect tRNA-Phe and two copies of tRNA-Met were differently positioned in the mitogenome. Furthermore, the $S$. diaphana mitogenome shows a completely new gene rearrangement among vertebrates (Satoh et al. 2016): -trnC -trnQ nad2 -trnY trnW cox1 trnD -trnS2 cox2 trnK atp8 atp6 cox3 trnG nad3 trnR nad4I nad4 trnH trnS1 trnL1 nad5 -trnE cob trnT nad1 trnI trnM trnL2 trnN trnA -nad6 -trnP -trnM rrs5 trnV rml. Notwithstanding, despite several attempts, we could not circularize the mitogenome and the control region could not be detected. The inability to detect both the control region and the tRNA-Phe (generally adjacent to the control region) may result from the limitation of using Illumina short-read sequencing (Goodwin et al. 2016) and therefore requires future validation.

Both BI and ML phylogenetic trees, rooted with Coregonus lavaretus (Linnaeus, 1758), Salmonidae (following Ijichi et al. 2018), show the same topology (Figure 1). The phylogenetic analysis separates with high support, the group Stomiiformes from a cluster formed by families Synodontidae, Ateleopodidae, Myctophidae, and Trachipteridae.

The Order Stomiiformes is divided into two well-supported groups, one comprising two families, i.e. Gonostomatidae and Stomiidae, and the other including Phosichthyidae, Diplophidae, and Sternoptychidae, represented by the here newly sequenced species $S$. diaphana. Although we have included all Stomiiformes available mitogenomes, this number is still reduced reinforcing the need to increase data sampling.

Disclosure statement

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

Funding

This work was financed by the Project The Sea and the Shore, Architecture and Marine Biology: The Impact of Sea Life on the Built Environment (PTDC/ART-DAQ/29537/2017) from FCT/MCTES through national funds (PIDDAC) and co-financing from the European Regional Development Fund (FEDER) POCI-01-0145-FEDER-029537, in the aim of the new partnership agreement PT2020 through COMPETE 2020 – Competitiveness and Internationalization Operational Program (POCI), and by FCT - Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia UIDB/04423/2020, UIDP/04423/2020 which also supported A.G.S. (SFRH/BD/137935/2018). EU-Spain NAFO Groundfish survey has been co-funded by the European Union through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) within the National Program of collection, management and use of data in the
fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the Common Fisheries Policy and IEO-BIOPESLE project.

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**Data availability statement**

The data that supports the findings of this study are available in GenBank of NCBI at [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov), reference number MT588184 or from the corresponding authors, Elsa Froufe and L. Filipe C. Castro.

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