

Human Migration and the Spread of the Nematode Parasite *Wuchereria bancrofti*

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Associate editor: Rebekah Rogers

Abstract

The human disease lymphatic filariasis causes the debilitating effects of elephantiasis and hydrocele. Lymphatic filariasis currently affects the lives of 90 million people in 52 countries. There are three nematodes that cause lymphatic filariasis, *Brugia malayi*, *Brugia timori*, and *Wuchereria bancrofti*, but 90% of all cases of lymphatic filariasis are caused solely by *W. bancrofti* (Wb). Here we use population genomics to reconstruct the probable route and timing of migration of Wb strains that currently infect Africa, Haiti, and Papua New Guinea (PNG). We used selective whole genome amplification to sequence 42 whole genomes of single Wb worms from populations in Haiti, Mali, Kenya, and PNG. Our results are consistent with a hypothesis of an Island Southeast Asia or East Asian origin of Wb. Our demographic models support divergence times that correlate with the migration of human populations. We hypothesize that PNG was infected at two separate times, first by the Melanesians and later by the migrating Austronesians. The migrating Austronesians also likely introduced Wb to Madagascar where later migrations spread it to continental Africa. From Africa, Wb spread to the New World during the transatlantic slave trade. Genome scans identified 17 genes that were highly differentiated among Wb populations. Among these are genes associated with human immune suppression, insecticide sensitivity, and proposed drug targets. Identifying the distribution of genetic diversity in Wb populations and selection forces acting on the genome will build a foundation to test future hypotheses and help predict response to current eradication efforts.

Key words: parasite, genomics, population genetics.

Introduction

Infectious diseases have shaped the history of the human populations and are today one of the main burdens on human health. Human health is disproportionately affected in developing regions where access to medical care or sanitation are lacking. In addition to clinical studies and laboratory investigations, knowledge of the evolutionary history of a pathogen can improve our understanding of the current threat of infection and possible treatment or containment strategies.

Lymphatic filariasis (LF) is a human disease currently infecting over 90 million people across 52 countries and is the second leading cause of permanent and long-term disability worldwide (Ottesen et al. 2008; World Health Organization 2010, 2012). Disability is associated with recurrent adenolymphangitis, hydrocele, and elephantiasis that result in a loss of 5.9 million disability-adjusted-life-years (Gyapong et al. 2005; World Health Organization 2015, 2016). A majority of cases of

LF, >90%, are caused by the nematode *Wuchereria bancrofti* (Wb) with remaining cases caused by *Brugia malayi* and *Brugia timori* (World Health Organization 2015). Wb is distributed throughout the tropics, whereas *B. malayi* and *B. timori* are endemic to South East Asia and Indonesia (World Health Organization 2015). Current treatments involve the drug Diethylcarbamazine (DEC), although DEC can cause serious complications (including encephalopathy and death) in patients who may also have onchocerciasis (caused by infection with *Onchocerca volvulus*) or loiasis (caused by *Loa loa*) as these species have overlapping distributions. Alternative use drugs such as ivermectin may kill only the larval blood stage (microfilariae, MF) and not the adult worms, thus having limited long-term effects on the worm populations (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2018).

Wb is highly specialized for human hosts and efforts to culture it in vivo (silver-leaf monkeys, *Trachypithecus cristatus*; Palmieri et al. 1983) or in vitro have failed to produce viable

adult worms (Zaraspe and Cross 1986; Franke et al. 1987, 1990). Thus, much of what we know about Wb functional biology is derived from studies of *B. malayi* in nonprimates. However, the vast difference in distribution, host preference, and disease incidence between filarial nematodes means we must make a renewed effort to understand Wb biology.

Due to experimental limitations, genomics (and other omics) could offer an alternative approach to understanding Wb biology. However, here there are two main issues: (1) obtaining sufficient DNA quantity for genomics and (2) a need for single worms. Adult worm life-stages have sufficient DNA quantity but are inaccessible without invasive surgical methods. Obtaining the blood stage of Wb, MF, is less invasive but since multiple adult worms reproduce within a human host the sample will contain DNA from multiple genomes. Whole genome amplification (WGA) has been utilized to generate sufficient template for sequencing in other parasites but the presence of extraneous host DNA in a blood sample limits the use of commercially available techniques for Wb MF. In a previous study of Wb, Small et al. (2016) used WGA on individual Wb worms dissected from experimentally infected mosquitoes (Erickson et al. 2013). However, this process is not scalable to a field setting due to the low infectivity rate of Wb in mosquitoes (~2%; Paily et al. 2009).

Here we utilize selective whole genome amplification (sWGA) to specifically enrich Wb DNA from single MF while avoiding amplification of Human DNA present in a host blood sample (Leichty and Brisson 2014; Clarke et al. 2017). This allows us to effectively utilize readily available field sample as well as sequence single worms. We used sWGA to generate 42 new genome sequences from Wb worms collected prior to mass drug administration from Haiti, Africa, and Papua New Guinea (PNG). We also use long-read sequencing to improve upon the current Wb reference genome (Small et al. 2016).

Our specific goals were to (1) identify the geographic origins of Wb infections, (2) test hypotheses of Wb migration by estimating the timing and migration, and (3) identify a list of candidate genes presented as highly differentiated between populations. We place our results into a context of LF elimination and detail how our methods can be applied to other parasitic nematodes.

Results

Improved *W. bancrofti* Genome Sequence and Gene Prediction

We used long-reads generated with PacBio sequencing to scaffold the current Wb genome assembly (PRJNA275548). PacBio sequencing produced 1.2 million subreads with an average of 5.0 kb in length. Scaffolding resulted in 856 scaffolds, with an N50 of 537 kb and with 198,000 introduced Ns. Scaffolds were assigned to chromosomes using ragout v1.7 (Kolmogorov et al. 2014) which resulted in 17 scaffolds longer than 100 kb, an N50 of 12.37 and 1.4 Mb of introduced Ns. The final assembly size was 88.46 Mb with the longest scaffold of 24.2 Mb corresponding to the X chromosome (supplementary table S1, Supplementary Material online). Benchmarking

analysis using BUSCO (Simão et al. 2015) identified 97.5% of tested orthologs as complete. Visualization of the scaffolding and comparisons to *B. malayi* for the 17 largest scaffolds (length >100 kb) are presented in supplementary figure S1 (Supplementary Material online). We sequenced an RNA library to aid in gene predictions. Sequencing generated 600 million reads of which 1.7% mapped to the Wb genome and 98.3% mapped to human genome (Hg19). Analysis with Maker3 (Cantarel et al. 2008) resulted in 9,651 predicted genes, including 9,517 assigned to the 17 longest scaffolds.

Genome Sequencing for 42 Individual Worms

We used the program sWGA (Clarke et al. 2017) to design 9 primers that amplify Wb DNA while minimizing human DNA (supplementary table S5, Supplementary Material online). We used sWGA to amplify 10 MF from each of 26 infected human blood samples collected from Mali ($N=5$), PNG ($N=11$), Kenya ($N=5$), and Haiti ($N=5$) (Supplementary Material online). After amplification, we assessed the ratio of Wb to human DNA using qPCR and selected 42 individual worms with the highest ratio of Wb: Human DNA for sequencing. After quality control and adapter trimming, we retained, on average, 40 million reads per individual worm with ~90% of reads mapping to Wb.

We compared these 42 newly sequenced genomes with 13 previously sequenced genomes from PNG (Small et al. 2016) and a single genome from Mali (Desjardins et al. 2013). We removed highly consanguineous worms, defined as first and second order relationships, identified using KING (Manichaikul et al. 2010). We also removed individual worms with high heterozygosity across the mitochondrial genome since this suggested that the sequences derive from multiple individuals. After further quality filtering, we were left with a total of 47 individual worms (supplementary table S2, Supplementary Material online). Final samples sizes of diploid individuals were: Haiti = 7, Mali = 11, Kenya = 9, PNG = 20.

We identified 403,487 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) among the 47 Wb individuals, with an average T_s/T_v ratio of 3.58 and average coverage per called genotype of $141\times$. More SNPs were discovered in intergenic regions than expected, observed: expected ratio 1.16, with fewer SNPs than expected in introns (0.53) and protein-coding regions (0.60) (supplementary table S3, Supplementary Material online).

Distribution of Genetic Diversity among *W. bancrofti* Populations

The median value of genetic diversity was not statistically different among populations (Haiti = 0.00084, Mali = 0.00072, Kenya = 0.00076, and PNG = 0.00074, supplementary fig. S2A, Supplementary Material online) with highest genetic variance in Haiti population. The median value of Tajima's D statistic (Tajima 1989) was greater than 0 among African and Haitian populations (Mali = 0.4202, Kenya = 0.2446, Haiti = 0.3159). By contrast, the median value of Tajima's D statistic in PNG was -0.2151 ; supplementary fig. S2B, Supplementary Material online). The scaled site-frequency spectrum is consistent with that expected given

the median Tajima's D statistic values, with an excess of intermediate variants in the Haiti and Africa populations but not in the PNG population (supplementary fig. S2C, Supplementary Material online). The correlation among genotypes followed the same expectation, with higher correlations in the African and Haitian populations compared with the PNG population (supplementary fig. S2D, Supplementary Material online). These trends indicate that African and Haitian populations have likely undergone recent population contractions, whereas the PNG population size has likely remained constant.

Population Structure and Differentiation among Populations

Principal component analysis (PCA) separated individuals according to their geographical origins (fig. 1A; PCA for each chromosome in supplementary fig. S4, Supplementary Material online). Principal component (PC)1, explained 7.5% of the variance, and separated PNG from all other populations. PC2, explained 3.1% of the variance and divided African and Haiti populations. F_{ST} values also support higher drift among PNG and African populations (supplementary table S6, Supplementary Material online). Phylogenetic reconstruction, using genome-wide SNPs, supports the PCA where worms are reciprocally monophyletic in regards to geographic location (fig. 1C). FineSTRUCTURE (Lawson et al. 2012) analysis identifies multiple individual worms with a high coancestry (fig. 1B). There is a clear distinction between worms sampled from PNG versus those of Africa and Haiti, with some additional within population coancestry. Worms with high coancestry also sampled from the same host infection are shown as merged blocks in figure 2B (dendrogram with sample labels are presented in supplementary fig. S3, Supplementary Material online).

Cross-validation of ADMIXTURE (Alexander et al. 2009) runs was lowest for two ancestral clusters (supplementary fig. S9, Supplementary Material online). Two ancestral clusters separate the individual worms into a population containing all PNG worms and a second population with worms from Africa and Haiti (supplementary fig. S5, Supplementary Material online). Additional K values, $K = \{2, 5\}$, further subdivides populations by geography. At $K = 3$, Mali individuals are assigned into a new ancestral population. At $K = 4$, the PNG individuals are partially assigned to two ancestral populations. At $K = 5$, each geographic population has a distinct ancestral source population.

Genetic Relatedness and Inbreeding in *W. bancrofti* Populations

For each population, we compared the mean lengths of identity by descent (IBD) tracts among worms residing within the same host infection (IBD_{WITHIN}) and in different host infections ($IBD_{BETWEEN}$) (supplementary fig. S8A and table S9, Supplementary Material online). In Kenya and PNG populations, IBD_{WITHIN} was significantly greater than $IBD_{BETWEEN}$ (P -value < 0.01). In Haiti and Mali populations IBD_{WITHIN} and $IBD_{BETWEEN}$ values were not significantly different, although Haiti follows a similar trend to PNG and Kenya

(supplementary table S9, Supplementary Material online). Inbreeding coefficients were highest in Mali ($F_{ROH} = 0.192$) and lowest in PNG ($F_{ROH} = 0.102$). Values from Kenya and Haiti were similar and intermediate: Kenya $F_{ROH} = 0.136$, Haiti $F_{ROH} = 0.139$ (supplementary fig. S8B, Supplementary Material online).

Demographic History of *W. bancrofti* Populations

We tested the fit of alternative models of divergence with and without postdivergence migration. We used $\partial a \partial i$ (Gutenkunst et al. 2009) to model the shared demographic history between each pair of Wb populations. The best fit model to the data was a strict isolation model (no migration) between populations after divergence (Likelihood Ratio Test of rejecting the null model of no migration, P -value = 0.30). Demographic scenarios evaluated in ABLE (Beeravolu et al. 2018) also supported a model with no postdivergence gene flow (supplementary table S4, Supplementary Material online).

Estimates of contemporary effective population size and divergence times from the best fit model are presented in table 1 (panel C in supplementary fig. S7 and Model2-1 in supplementary table S4, Supplementary Material online). The four Wb populations last shared a common ancestor ~ 50 kya (kya = thousand years ago; assuming one generation per year) with an ancestral effective population size of $\sim 98,000$ – $125,000$. The most recent common ancestor between African Wb populations is 1.4–2.0 kya with an ancestral size of ~ 697 – 987 . The divergence time between the Mali and Haitian populations of Wb is 0.3–0.5 kya with an ancestral size of $\sim 8,000$ – $32,000$ (table 1).

The historical population trajectories of each Wb populations, estimated using both an HMM coalescent approach (Malaspinas et al. 2016) and the genome-wide site-frequency spectrum (Boitard et al. 2016) support a continued decline in Wb population sizes since ~ 0.5 kya to present (fig. 2B). The trajectories of Mali, Kenya, and Haiti diverge between 1.5 and 3.0 kya, with the Mali population declining from an effective population size of $\sim 2,000$ down to ~ 300 . Kenya and Haiti populations follow similar but not identical trajectories with an initial increase in size to 10,000 followed by a decrease to an effective-size of 700 and 300, respectively (fig. 2B and table 1). The PNG population trajectory diverged ~ 10 kya with an initial ancestral size of $\sim 30,000$ and then declining to 3,000.

Local Adaptation in Populations of *W. bancrofti*

We used the haplotype-based approach in hapFLK (Fariello et al. 2013) with a goal to provide a candidate list of genes that are possible targets of local adaptation. We identified 9 regions, containing 18 genes, as outliers following an False Discovery Rate (FDR) correction (fig. 3). Among the outlier regions we determined the focal population using eigen analysis as described in Fariello et al. (2013). We determined that five genes in Haiti, five genes in Mali, two genes in Kenya, and six genes shared between Mali and Kenya were candidates of local adaptation (table 2). Functional annotations are listed in table 2 (full database ID in supplementary table S7,

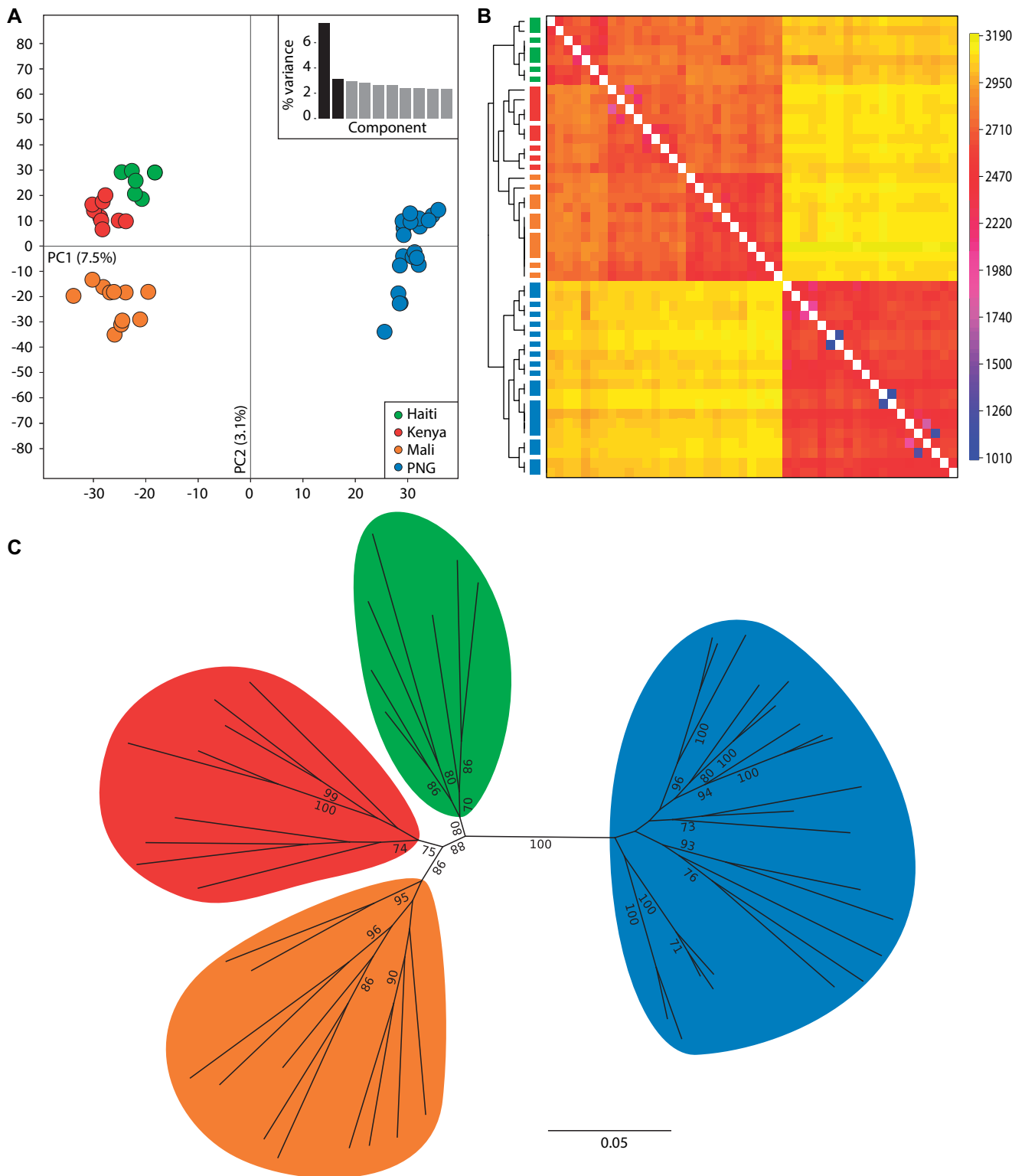


Fig. 1. Genetic structure and ancestry among *Wuchereria bancrofti* populations. (A) PCA of 10,000 SNPs across the genome after removing sites in high LD. Principal component (PC) 1 separates Haiti (green), Mali (orange), Kenya (red) from the population of Papua New Guinea (blue). PC 2 separates Kenya, Mali, and Haiti. Percent variation explained by each component is summarized in the bar plot (inset). (B) Coancestry matrix (a summary of nearest neighbor haplotype relationships in the data set) of *Wb* populations using fineSTRUCTURE. Dendrograms relating individuals to the coancestry matrix are along the vertical axis with populations denoted by colors corresponding to PCA. Cooler colors represent higher coancestry. Fused boxes of similar color denote worms sampled from the same host infection. A plot with individual sample labels on the vertical axis is available in [supplementary figure S3 \(Supplementary Material online\)](#). (C) Whole genome SNP phylogeny using SNPhylo highlights that individuals from the same population are monophyletic. Support is shown for bootstrap values greater than 70.

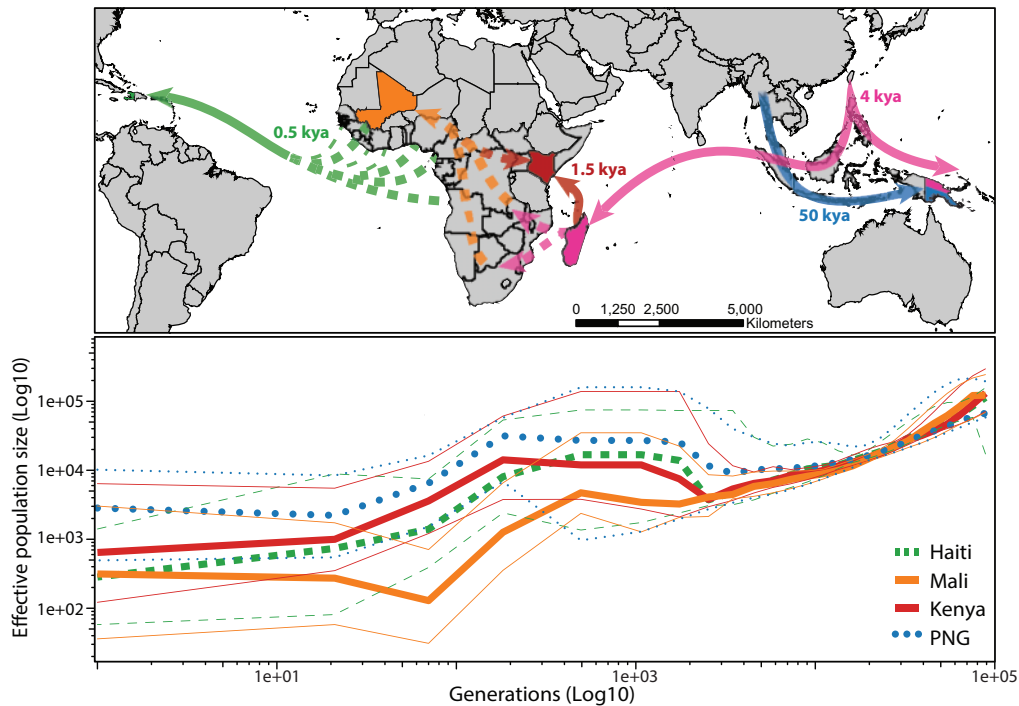


FIG. 2. Demographic history of *Wuchereria bancrofti*. (A) Map representing potential routes of *Wb* dispersal highlighting sampled populations and shared ancestry: Haiti (green), Mali (orange), Kenya (red), Papua New Guinea (blue). Pink colors represent unsampled and thus inferred population ancestry connecting *Wb* populations (color figure available online). (B) Reconstruction of change in effective population size for each *Wb* population using MSMC2 and PopSizeABC. Thinner shaped lines of same shape represent 95% confidence intervals for the effective population sizes.

Table 1. Demographic Parameter Estimates.

Population	Effective-Size	Divergence (years)
Haiti	50–1,100	—
Mali	30–1,200	—
Haiti–Mali	8,318–32,000	394–502
Kenya	100–6,000	—
Haiti–Mali–Kenya	697–2,500	1,450–1,898
Papua New Guinea	500–10,000	—
Haiti–Mali–Kenya–PNG	98,000–125,000	37,000–57,000

Supplementary Material online). A test for functional enrichment on candidate genes was not significant after a correction for multiple comparisons (supplementary table S8, Supplementary Material online).

Discussion

The goals of our study were to (1) identify the geographic origins of *Wb* infections, (2) determine how *Wb* spread around the tropics, and (3) identify any region-specific factors that have affected the distribution of genetic diversity among the *Wb* populations. Our results correlate *Wb* spread to patterns of human migration and build a foundation of resources for further study of LF.

Geographic Origins of *W. bancrofti* Infections and Human Migrations

In examining the origins of *Wb* populations, we need to compare with studies on historical human migration. We recognize that this literature is vast and thus do not attempt to

reference all possible source materials. We instead direct the reader to recent reviews which contain the proper depth of citations.

Africa: Mali and Kenya

The Austronesians (Austronesian-speaking peoples) migrated from Southern Borneo across the Indian Ocean to Madagascar ~1.5–1.8 kya (Bellwood et al. 2006; Gray et al. 2009; Brucato et al. 2016, 2019). We hypothesize that *Wb* was spread from Island Southeast Asia (ISEA) to Madagascar during the Austronesian migration with later migrations spreading *Wb* to continental Africa. Although recent research proposes that the Austronesians may have also colonized the Comoros and parts of Eastern Africa (Brucato et al. 2019). If not directly by the Austronesians, then *Wb* may have spread to continental Africa during admixture among the Malagasy and Bantu speaking people of Africa (~1.8 kya) (Pierron et al. 2014, 2017). Other have proposed that the Austronesian migration spread *Wb* based solely on historical medical records and art depicting elephantiasis (Laurence 1968, 1989; Hoeppli 1969; Fagg 1977). Although other diseases may produce similar symptoms (e.g., leprosy).

We estimated the ancestral effective population size of the African populations of *Wb* at ~697–987. We would expect a *Wb* population infecting a small migrating host population to have a lower effective population size. However, the size of the ancestral *Wb* population in Southern Borneo is unclear. If

we compare to the ancestral effective population size of Wb populations, ~98,000–125,000, then the migration resulted in a 100-fold reduction. Though, it is unclear if this is representation of the ancestral Wb population in Southern Borneo. This can easily be resolved by future studies adding Wb populations Madagascar, where bancroftian LF is still prevalent (Garchitorena et al. 2018), and ISEA.

New World: Haiti

Wb would have multiple routes into the New World with migrating human populations (reviewed by Nielsen et al. 2017). We do not possess samples from other countries in South America, so can only address the origins of Wb infections in Haiti. The transatlantic slave trades transported large

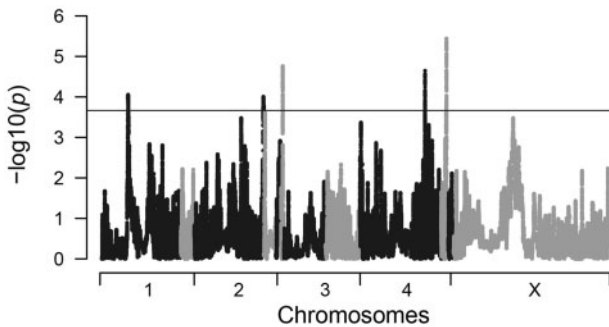


Fig. 3. Manhattan plot of local adaptation in *Wuchereria bancrofti*. Results of selection scan using hapFLK. Scaffolds are listed along the horizontal axis alternating between black and gray for contrast. The horizontal line represents an FDR of 10%. Outlier regions above the line were annotated and examined for gene function and presented in table 2.

Table 2. Genes Present in Locally Adapted Haplotypes.

Population	Chr	Location	Candidate Gene	Description	WBGene ID	
Haiti	Chr1_0	7,448,651–7,451,875	Madf-4	Alcohol dehydrogenase transcription factor Myb/SANT-like	WBGene00011575	
		7,454,768–7,459,018	CELE_F35G12.12	26S proteasome non-ATPase regulatory subunit 5	WBGene00009445	
	Chr4_0	10,151,016–10,153,158	SMIM-1	Small integral membrane protein 12	WBGene00102523	
	Chr4_1	827,644–828,549	Sre-1	Serpentine receptor class epsilon-21	WBGene00008126	
Mali	Chr4_2	358,437–361,758	Tag-196	Cathepsin F; cysteine protease	WBGene00007055	
	Chr2_1	127,622–129,024	Nurf-1	Nucleosome-remodeling factor	WBGene00009180	
		130,750–132,216	Hypothetical	NA	NA	
		133,580–134,715	Rsr-2	Serine/arginine repetitive matrix 2	WBGene00013260	
	Mali–Kenya	Chr4_0	140,713–142,929	Nurf-1	Nucleosome-remodeling factor	WBGene00009180
			149,606–154,128	Nurf-1	Nucleosome-remodeling factor	WBGene00009180
			171,145–173,380	Snf-3 ^a	Na/Cl betaine and GABA transporter	WBGene00004902
147,980–150,998			Ctps-1	CTP synthase	WBGene00012316	
Kenya	ChrX_0	8,583,783–8,585,683	Dif-1	Congested-like trachea protein-related	WBGene00000996	
		8,589,182–8,592,937	Cdgs-1 ^a	Phosphatidate cytidyltransferase	WBGene00016384	
		8,595,957–8,597,834	Ric-3 ^a	Resistance to inhibitors of cholinesterase protein 3	WBGene00004363	
	Chr2_0	8,599,957–8,602,020	Dmd-7	DM (doublesex/MAB-3) domain family	WBGene00019521	
		8,603,640–8,606,644	Cav-1	Caveolin-1	WBGene00000301	
		8,618,382–8,623,441	PAN-3 ^a	NA	NA	
ChrX_0	9,145,086–9,145,648	Slo-1 ^a	Large-conductance calcium-activated potassium channel	WBGene00004830		

NOTE.— WBGene ID is WormBase gene ID (www.wormbase.org). Chr Scaffolds. NA, not applicable.

^aPotential targets for antiparasite drugs.

numbers of Western and Central Africans to the New World (estimates of 4,000 to Jamaica in 1518 CE, Wynter 1984). Since the divergence time between the Mali and Haiti populations of Wb was ~0.3–0.5 kya (fig. 2 and table 1), it is likely that Wb was also transported to Haiti during the slave trade.

There are many examples of parasites spread by the transatlantic slave trade (Scott 1943; Tatem et al. 2006; Crellen et al. 2016). The estimated ancestral effective population size between Haiti and Mali is 8,000–32,000. One hypothesis is that Haiti may represent a mixture of multiple Wb populations from Africa consistent with slaves captured from multiple African countries. However, when we tested models including multiple introductions into Haiti, they were not more likely than a single introduction event (Supplementary Material online). Another possible explanation is that Wb populations increased in diversity as it spread across Africa. Additional samples from Central and Northern African countries would be required to determine how Wb diversity is linked to geographic expansion in Africa.

Papua New Guinea

The first humans reached Oceania around 40–50 kya (Nielsen et al. 2017). We estimate an Most Recent Common Ancestor between PNG and Haiti/African populations of ~50 kya, with a more recent admixture event ~5 kya (table 1). We hypothesize that the Melanesians spread Wb to PNG ~50 kya and then ~5 kya the Austronesian migration transported another Wb populations to PNG. The pattern of admixture in the PNG population is evident from the ADMIXTURE analysis ($K = 4$, supplementary fig. S5, Supplementary Material online) and recreated in the admixture simulations based on our

model (supplementary fig. S6, Supplementary Material online). Human admixture between the Austronesians and Papuans is supported by language and genetic data, although estimates of proportion and timing vary (Bellwood et al. 2006; Gray et al. 2009; Xu et al. 2012; Skoglund et al. 2016).

Given the common ancestry it is likely that the Wb population that spread to Africa was founded from the same ancestral population that later admixed into PNG. A potential future test to elucidate Wb admixture would be to utilize Wb populations present on the islands of the South Pacific. The islands of the South Pacific were colonized by the expansion of the Austronesians into Oceania ~3 kya and then later by Papuans (Skoglund et al. 2016).

Locally Adapted Haplotypes

As Wb spread to different regions it would have come into contact with novel environments, including new mosquito vectors, cotransmitted pathogens, and variations in human immune responses. Uncovering locally adapted genes may provide clues as to why Wb has been successful at colonizing and infecting human populations (e.g., in contrast to other filarial nematodes, *B. malayi* and *B. timori*). Functional annotation revealed that the genes in these regions are associated with a variety of functions including human host interaction, reproduction, and response to chemical toxicity (table 2).

Acetylcholinesterase inhibitors are a primary action of carbamates and organophosphates pesticides against arthropods (Casida and Durkin 2013; Verma et al. 2017). Ric-3, identified as conferring resistant to Acetylcholinesterase inhibitors, was first identified in *Caenorhabditis elegans* (Nguyen et al. 1995). Resistance to Acetylcholinesterase inhibitors may protect Wb from pesticides used to kill mosquito vectors. Future use of Acetylcholinesterase inhibitors as an antihelminthic, while promising in *Trichuris muris* (Sundaraneedi et al. 2018), may have limited efficacy on Wb populations in Mali and Kenya. Tracking changes in allele frequency at Ric-3 during pesticide application may provide further insights as to the role of these genes in Wb and would present a novel mechanism for insecticide as a nematicide.

Four other outlier genes have been identified as potential targets for new antiparasite drugs: Na/Cl Betaine and GABA transporter (Snf-3) (Jiang et al. 2005; Mullen et al. 2006; Casida and Durkin 2013; O'Neill et al. 2016), PAN domain protein (Kumar et al. 2007; O'Neill et al. 2016), Calcium-activated potassium channel (Slo-1) (Welz et al. 2011), and Phosphatidate Cytidylyltransferase (Cdgs-1) (Narayan et al. 1989; Crowther et al. 2010) (labeled with superscript [a] in table 2). All of our samples were collected prior to mass drug administration; thus, the signal of local adaptation may be in response to other environmental factors rather than drug resistance. However, studies creating lists of candidate drug targets should examine diversity in Wb populations prior to development as drug resistance could exist in a Wb population before drug treatment has even begun.

Only one of the genes in our candidate list had a non-synonymous: synonymous substitution ratio >1, but its function was unknown (Kenya: Chr2_0). It is possible that the

high differentiation in haplotype frequencies detected among populations is caused by demographic factors, including founder effects and small effective population sizes. In a study of *O. volvulus* the authors concluded that although sensitivity to Ivermectin does vary among test populations that the distribution of genetic diversity is most strongly influenced by population history (Doyle et al. 2017). Thus, we cannot determine without further testing whether these haplotypes are responding to selective forces or demography.

Applications to Ongoing Elimination

The World Health Organization classifies LF as a vulnerable infectious disease meaning that it could potentially be completely eradicated. Wb is the main causative agent of LF (>90% of cases); so, to be successful in eliminating LF we must drive Wb extinct. Our study provides novel tools and data that could help with the agenda. First, our estimates of diversity and relatedness in four endemic Wb populations prior to mass drug administration provide a baseline to evaluate the effectiveness of treatment in each region as well as to identify regions that might need specific renewed efforts. Second, our characterization of genetic polymorphisms provides a list of informative genetic markers that can now be used to efficiently monitor changes in genetic diversity by sequencing amplicons or genotyping (see similar approaches in *Plasmodium* [Friedrich et al. 2016; Redmond et al. 2018]). Finally, although our data emphasize the limited gene flow between continental populations, they also showed the ability of Wb to successfully migrate between continents and adapt to new environments and vectors which serves as a cautionary note until all populations are successfully eliminated.

Materials and Methods

Sample Collection

Samples used in this study from PNG were collected under IRB approved by Case Western Reserve University and PNG—Institute for Medical Research. Haitian samples were collected under IRB protocols reviewed and approved by the CDC IRB and the ethics committee of Hopital Ste. Croix in Leogane, Haiti. The samples from Mali were obtained as part of an NIAID and the University of Bamko-approved protocol (#02 -I-N200). The samples from Kenya were obtained from the South Kenyan Coast (Msambweni District) as part of a protocol approved by the Kenya Medical Research Institute National Ethical Review Committee and the Institutional Review Board for Human Studies at Case Western Reserve University. Information pertaining to samples and worms are available in supplementary table S2 (Supplementary Material online).

Improvement of *W. bancrofti* Genome Assembly and Annotations

The continuity of the current Wb genome assembly was improved through the addition of PacBio reads. PacBio sequences were error corrected using proovread v2.06 (Hackl et al. 2014) before being used to scaffold the current Wb genome

using SSPACE-LongRead (Boetzer and Pirovano 2014). The final assembly was gap-closed using PBJelly (English et al. 2012). The improved Wb genome was further scaffolded using Ragout v1.2 (Kolmogorov et al. 2014) with alignments to *B. malayi* (PRJNA10729) and *L. loa* (PRJNA60051). Sequenced RNA was assembled into transcripts and Maker3 was used to finish annotations. VCFs were annotated using SnpEff v3.4 (Cingolani et al. 2012). See [Supplementary Material](#) online for additional details on template preparation, sequencing, and assembly.

sWGA and Population Sequencing

The program sWGA v0.3.0 (Clarke et al. 2017) was used to design primers for WGA of Wb while avoiding amplification of both Human sequences (Hg19) and Wb mitochondrial DNA (Ramesh et al. 2012). Ten MF were isolated from each individual blood sample for a total of 200 MF and DNA was isolated following methods in Small et al. (2016). After amplification, 42 samples were selected for library preparation and sequencing to include a minimum of 10 samples per geographic location. Primers are available in [supplementary table S5](#) ([Supplementary Material](#) online), further details are available in [Supplementary Material](#) online.

Variant Calling

Reads passing quality controls were mapped to the improved Wb genome sequence (SAMN10411877) using BWA v0.7.13 (Li and Durbin 2009). Variants were called for each individual sample separately using GATK v3.1 HaplotypeCaller v3.5 (McKenna et al. 2010). The final set of SNPs containing all individuals was filtered to remove putatively repetitive and paralogous sequences (further details are available in [Supplementary Material](#) online).

Population Structure

Population structure was analyzed using parametric and non-parametric methods: PCA (as implemented in scikit-allel), ADMIXTURE v1.3.0 (Alexander et al. 2009), and phylogeny of genome-wide SNPs (Lee et al. 2014). The VCF file for structure analysis was pruned to remove SNPs in linkage disequilibrium using modules in the scikit-allel package and an r^2 threshold of 0.05. Further filters were used to remove singletons, multiallelic sites, and sites with greater than 20% missing data resulting in 10340 positions distributed throughout all the autosomal scaffolds.

ADMIXTURE was run for K (number of ancestral populations) from 2 to 5 with 5-fold cross-validation. Each ADMIXTURE analysis was repeated 30 times with different seeds. In order to better understand the different solutions reported by ADMIXTURE, each value of K was input to the online version of CLUMPAK (Kopelman et al. 2015). ADMIXTURE was run a second time on the PNG population alone as well as the African and Haitian populations to examine population structure within each cluster. Simulations for ADMIXTURE were done using msmove (github.com/geneva/msmove) and the best fit demographic model. Results were analyzed in the same method as noted above.

The program fineSTRUCTURE v2.1.1 (Lawson et al. 2012) was used to explore genetic relatedness among Wb worms for all populations. A VCF file was prepared by phasing SNPs using read-informative phasing available in SHAPEIT2 v2.r837 (Delaneau et al. 2013). SHAPEIT2 was run in “assemble” mode with the following options: “–states 200 –window 0.5 –rho 0.000075 –effective-size 14000.” Results were plotted using programs available in the fineSTRUCTURE software package.

Diversity

Nucleotide diversity and Tajima’s D statistic (Tajima 1989) were calculated in 10,000 bp nonoverlapping windows and plotted for each population using the Python package scikit-allel v1.1.0 and Matplotlib v2.0.2. The scaled site-frequency spectrum (multiplied by the scaling factor $k*(n-k)/n$, where k is the minor allele count and n is the number of chromosomes) was calculated for each population on the Linkage Disequilibrium thinned and folded variant set in scikit-allel. The decay of the correlation between genotypes was plotted as the average correlation between genotypes in bins of 100 bp windows using scikit-allel and custom python scripts.

IBD tracts were calculated using fastIBD (Browning and Browning 2011) on phased data. A VCF file was prepared by phasing SNPs using read-informative phasing available in SHAPEIT2 v2.r837 (Delaneau et al. 2013). SHAPEIT2 was run in “assemble” mode with the following options: “–states 200 –window 0.5 –rho 0.000075 –effective-size 14000.” Inbreeding coefficient was calculated using Plink v1.9 (Purcell et al. 2007) on runs of homozygosity.

Demography

Estimates of effective population size were calculated using the MSMC2 algorithm (Malaspina et al. 2016) on individual genomes with ten bootstrap replicates. MSMC2 input files were constructed using scripts available at msmc-tools (<https://github.com/stschiff/msmc-tools>), a positive mappability mask (<http://lh3lh3.users.sourceforge.net/snpable.shtml>) and a negative mask removing sites covered by less than ten reads in each individual genome. A summary for each population was plotted using the R package ggplot2 after linear extrapolation to synchronize time epochs (stsmall/Wb_sWGA/msmc2_interpolate.py).

A modified version of PopSizeABC (Boitard et al. 2016) (github.com/stsmall/popsizeabc) was used to estimate the piece-wise changes in effective population size for each Wb population. Five lakhs simulation data sets were generated using msprime v0.4.0 (Kelleher et al. 2016) with accompanied summary statistics calculated using scripts in github.com/stsmall/popsizeabc. Residuals and data informativeness were evaluated using the “plot” function in the R package “abc” package v2.1 (Csilléry et al. 2012); neural-net option and tolerance of 0.001. Results from PopSizeABC and MSMC2 were combined into a single plot by overlapping coestimated times.

We used $\partial a \partial i$ v1.6.3 (Gutenkunst et al. 2009) to model the shared demographic history between pairs of populations. The folded-site-frequency spectrum was used to compute

the likelihood of the data under three different models: (1) an isolation-with-migration model with symmetrical migration, (2) an isolation-migration model with asymmetrical migration, and (3) a pure isolation model (migration rates set to 0). Each model allowed for the estimate of the ancestral population size as well as the daughter population sizes (modeled as exponential population size change after divergence). Our optimization procedure utilized methods and scripts available from <https://github.com/kern-lab/miscDadiScripts>.

The block-site-frequency-spectrum was used to compute the likelihoods of multiple-population models using the program ABLE v0.1.2 (Beeravolu et al. 2018). Models assumed stepwise changes in population size under the following scenarios: (1) populations diverge without migration, (2) populations diverge followed by asymmetrical migration, (3) populations diverge followed by admixture in the PNG population (supplementary fig. S7, Supplementary Material online). Each model was run for using the global search Controlled Random Search with 50,000 local trees searches. Confidence intervals of parameter estimates were inferred using the methods outlined in Beeravolu et al. (2018). Estimates were transformed into year using a mutation rate of 2.9E-9 per generation (Denver et al. 2009) and assuming one generation per year (estimated 8–14 months in Paily et al. [2009] and Farrar et al. [2013]).

Natural Selection and Local Adaptation

HapFLK was run on each chromosome in the African and Haitian populations of *Wb* using PNG as outgroup. HapFLK allows for the detection of positive selection from multiple-population samples using haplotype information. The number of clusters was calculated using fastPHASE cross-validation on each scaffold. *P*-values for hapFLK results were calculated using scripts available at <https://forge-dgajouy.inra.fr/projects/hapflk> and following methods in Fariello et al. (2013). Candidate regions were identified using an FDR of 10% in the R package *q-value* v2.12.0. Population with the fixed or near fixed allele were identified using local population trees and eigenvalue analysis as described in Fariello et al. (2013).

Outlier regions were queried against the nr_db database downloaded from NCBI (date of download January 31, 2018). Protein sequences were obtained from improved annotations (see above section Reference Genome Improvement). The top five hits, sorted by *e*-value, were retained and gene ontology inferred by comparison to *B. malayi* (Ghedini et al. 2007) and *C. elegans* genomes (*C. elegans* Sequencing Consortium 1998). Genome enrichment tests were performed using the Fisher's exact-test option in Panther (Tang et al. 2017) with comparison to annotations of *C. elegans*.

Data Availability

Wuchereria bancrofti improved genome assembly: SSBO00000000. All BAM files associated with the sWGA experiments aligned to SAMN10411877: SAMN10423675-SAMN10423716.

Supplementary Material

Supplementary data are available at *Molecular Biology and Evolution* online.

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to acknowledge Patrick J. Lammie for contributing samples from Haiti as well as providing comments on the manuscript. This work was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health (AI103263 to P.A.Z.) and the Clinical and Translational Science Collaborative of Cleveland (UL1TR000439 to P.A.Z.).

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