

Adaptive processes through time in a global agricultural pest moth

Dr Ang McGaughran | Te Aka Mātuatua School of
Science | University of Waikato | New Zealand



ADALEP: Adaptation à l'environnement chez les Lépidoptères
October 24-25 2023 | Versailles, France



Talk outline

01

Introductions

Me & the system

02

Wet lab

Sample age effects on NGS

03

Dry lab I

Value of the bycatch

04

Dry lab II

Mechanistic insights

The background features a white surface with several 3D, grey, arrow-shaped objects pointing in various directions. A prominent red wavy line curves across the upper right portion of the image. A large, light grey triangle is positioned on the left side, containing the number '01'.

01

Introductions

Ang McGaughran

PhD

Massey University
2006-2009



Postdoc 2

CSIRO, Canberra
2014-2016



Senior Lecturer

Waikato University
2020-



Postdoc 1

Max Planck Institute, Germany
2010-2014



DECRA Fellow

ANU, Canberra
2016-2020

Invasomics Lab

How do populations **respond** to different environments?

Combining ecology with genomic approaches to examine evolutionary processes



Invasomics Lab

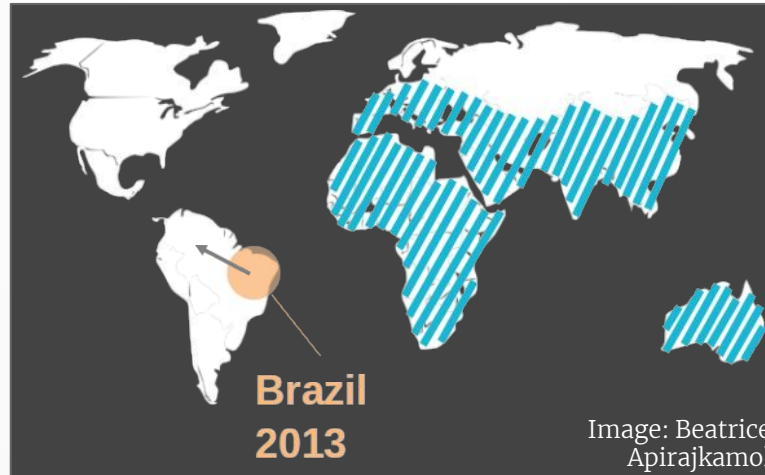
Helicoverpa armigera

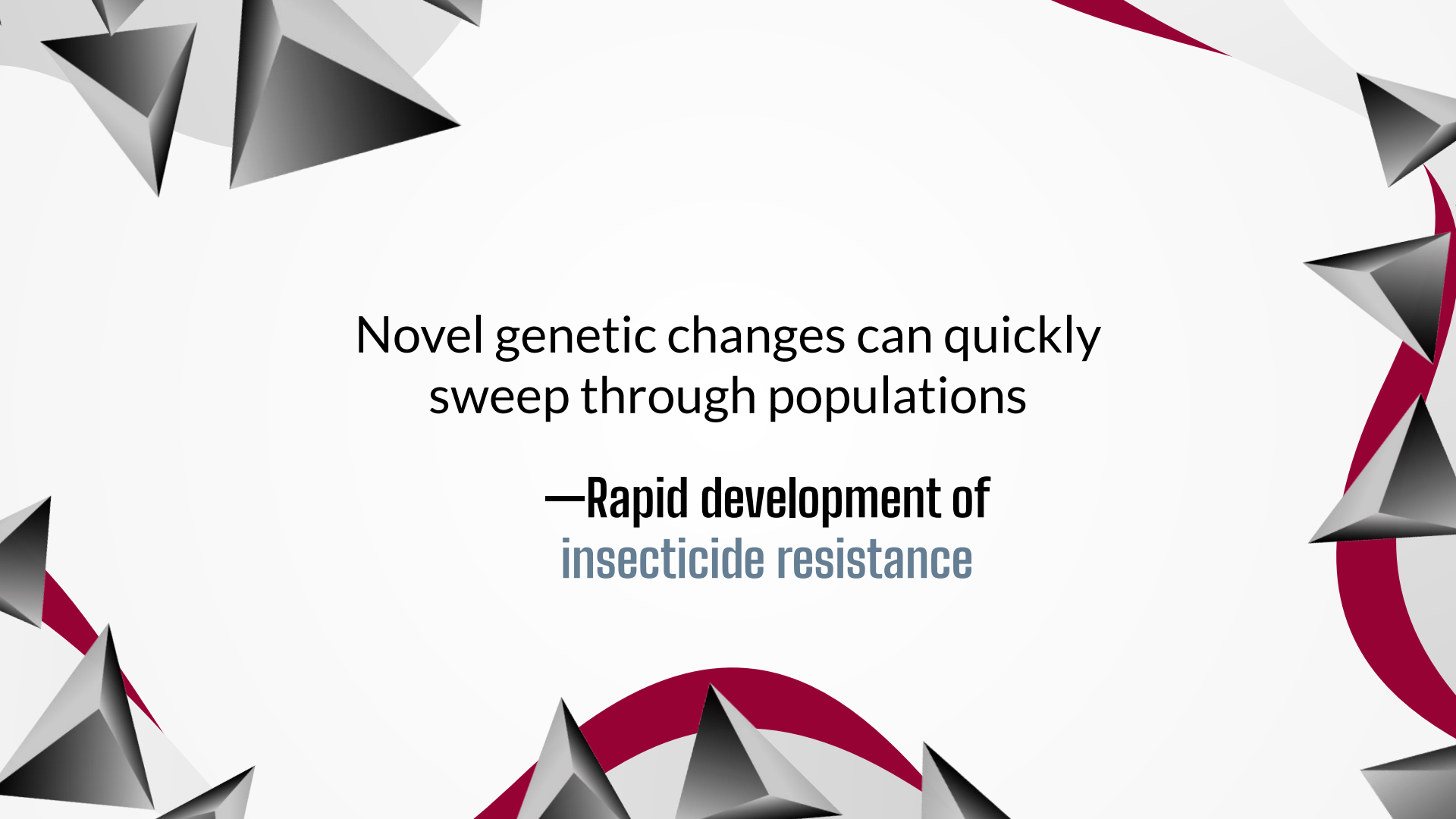
A major pest causing **billions** of dollars in crop losses and management



Helicoverpa armigera

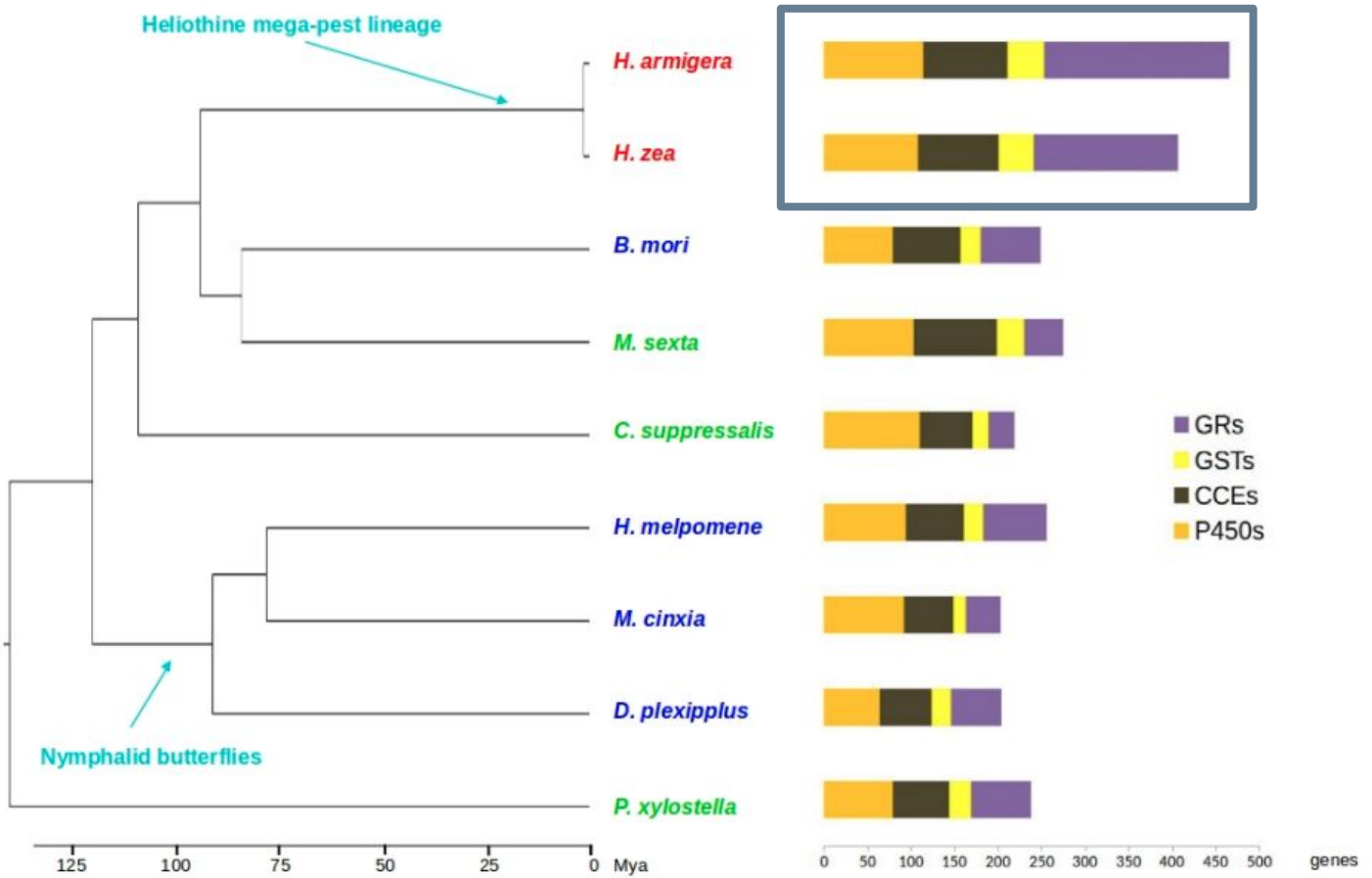
Highly polyphagous, diverse defences, highly motile



The background features several 3D, faceted geometric shapes in shades of gray and black, scattered across the white space. A thick, vibrant red ribbon-like shape curves through the composition, starting from the top right, looping around the right side, and extending towards the bottom center.

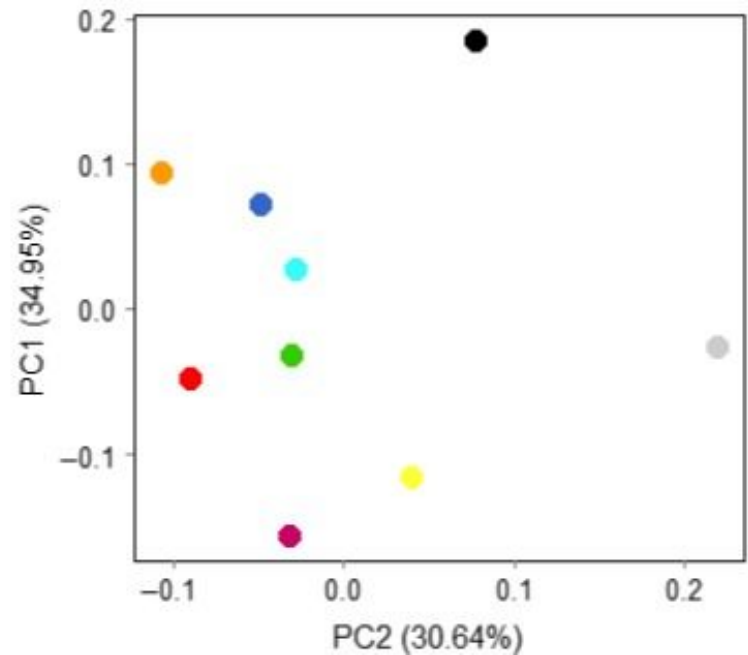
Novel genetic changes can quickly
sweep through populations

—**Rapid development of
insecticide resistance**

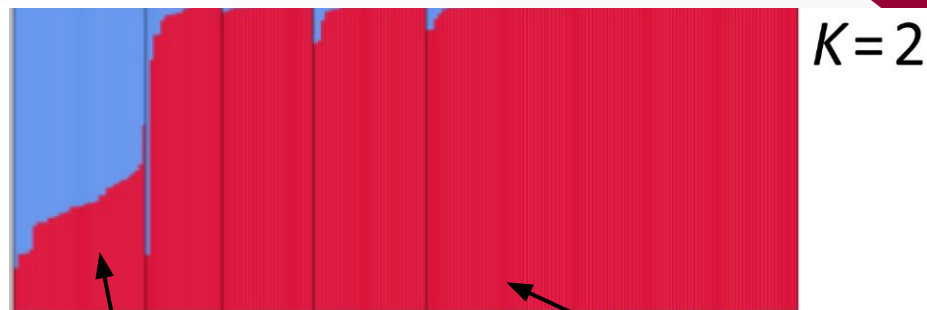
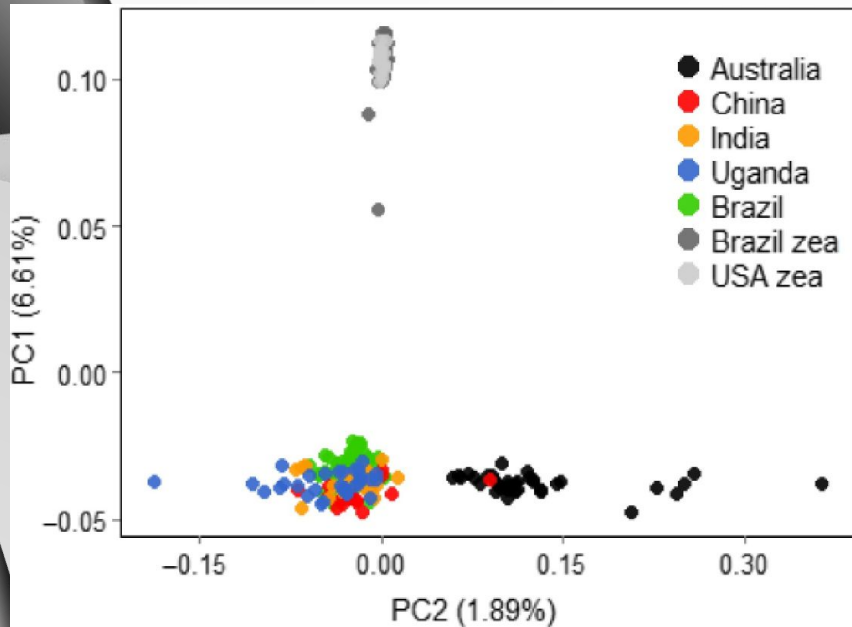


Hosts: one species or genus; one family; polyphagous

Population structure



Population structure



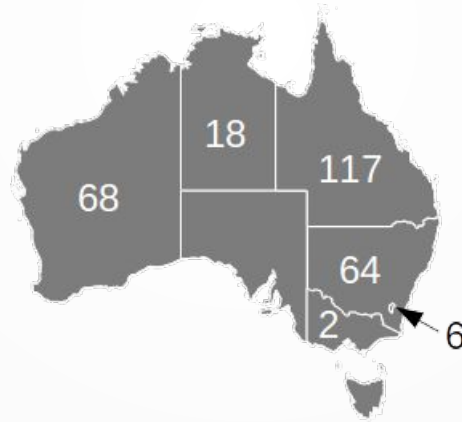
Australia: *H. armigera conferta*

ROW: *H. armigera armigera*

→ ???

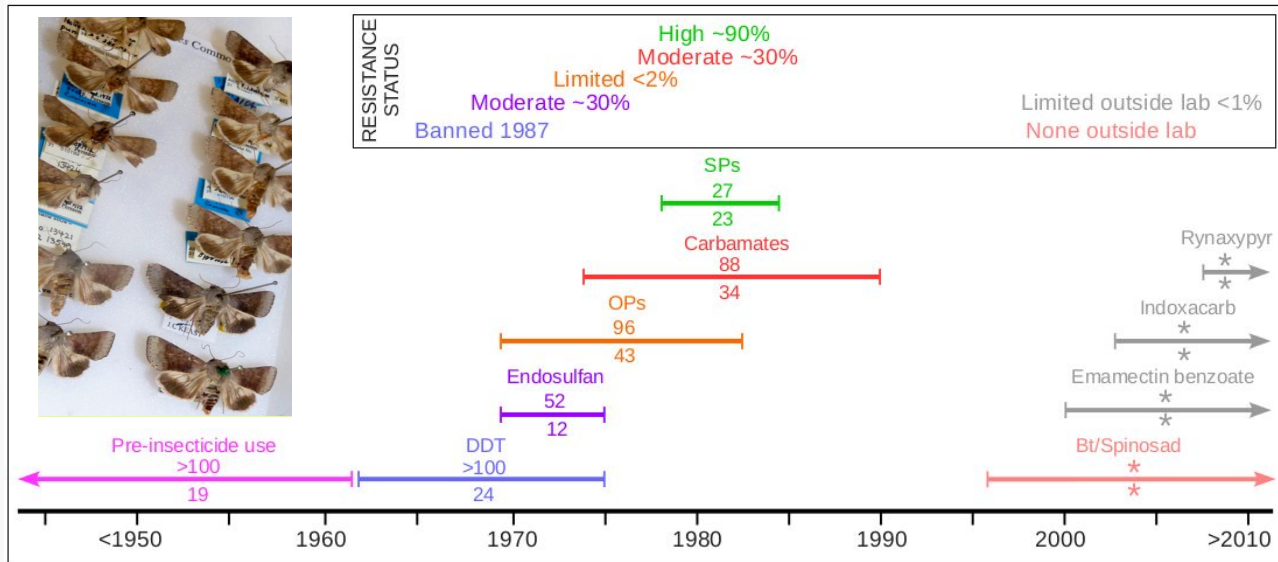
Project design

>260 samples from across Australia



Project design

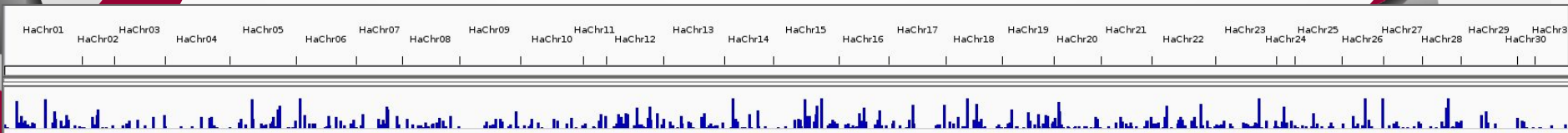
Museum specimens through time



Project design

Targeted capture

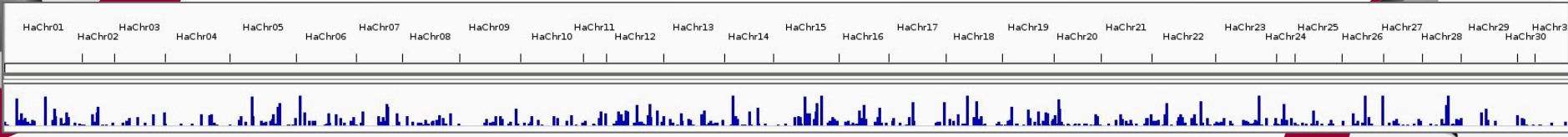
Genome 337 Mb



Project design

Gene families:

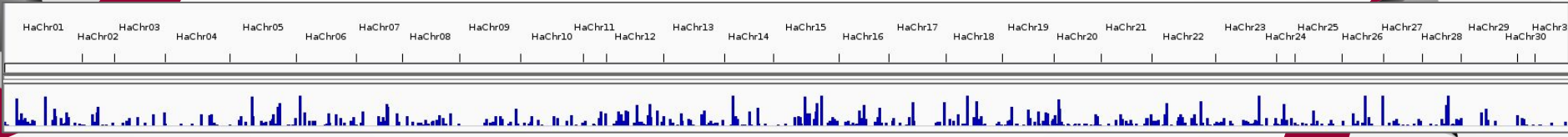
ABCs: ATP-binding cassette transporters; **CADs:** cadherin genes; **CCEs:** carboxyl/cholinesterases; **CRPs:** chemosensory receptor proteins; **GSTs:** glutathione S-transferases; **HSPs:** heat shock proteins; **ICHs:** ion channel-related genes; **LIPs:** lipases; **P450s:** cytochrome P450s; **SERs:** serine-proteases; **UGTs:** uridine diphosphate (UDP)-glucuronosyltransferases



Project design

Involved in:

LIPs/SERs (digestion, host use); CRPs/HRPs (environmental sensation/response); CADs/ABCs (Bt resistance); ICHs/CCEs/p450s/GSTs/UGTs (detoxification and insecticide resistance)



Problems to solve



Wet lab

How does sample age affect data quality?



Dry lab I

How connected are Australian populations?



Dry lab II

How does rapid evolution proceed mechanistically?

The background features a white surface with several 3D-style geometric shapes, including triangles and pyramids, in shades of gray and black. A prominent red wavy line curves across the upper right portion of the image. A large, light gray triangle is positioned on the left side, containing the number '02'.

02

Wet lab

Study motivation

How does **sample age** affect data quality?

Key methods

'Salting-out' **DNA extraction** protocol using soaked moth abdomens

Modified Meyer Kircher **library prep** protocol:

No shearing

Use of **USER** (Uracil-Specific Excision Reagent) enzyme in the blunt end-repair step

On-beads clean-up protocol throughout (no elution)

Key methods

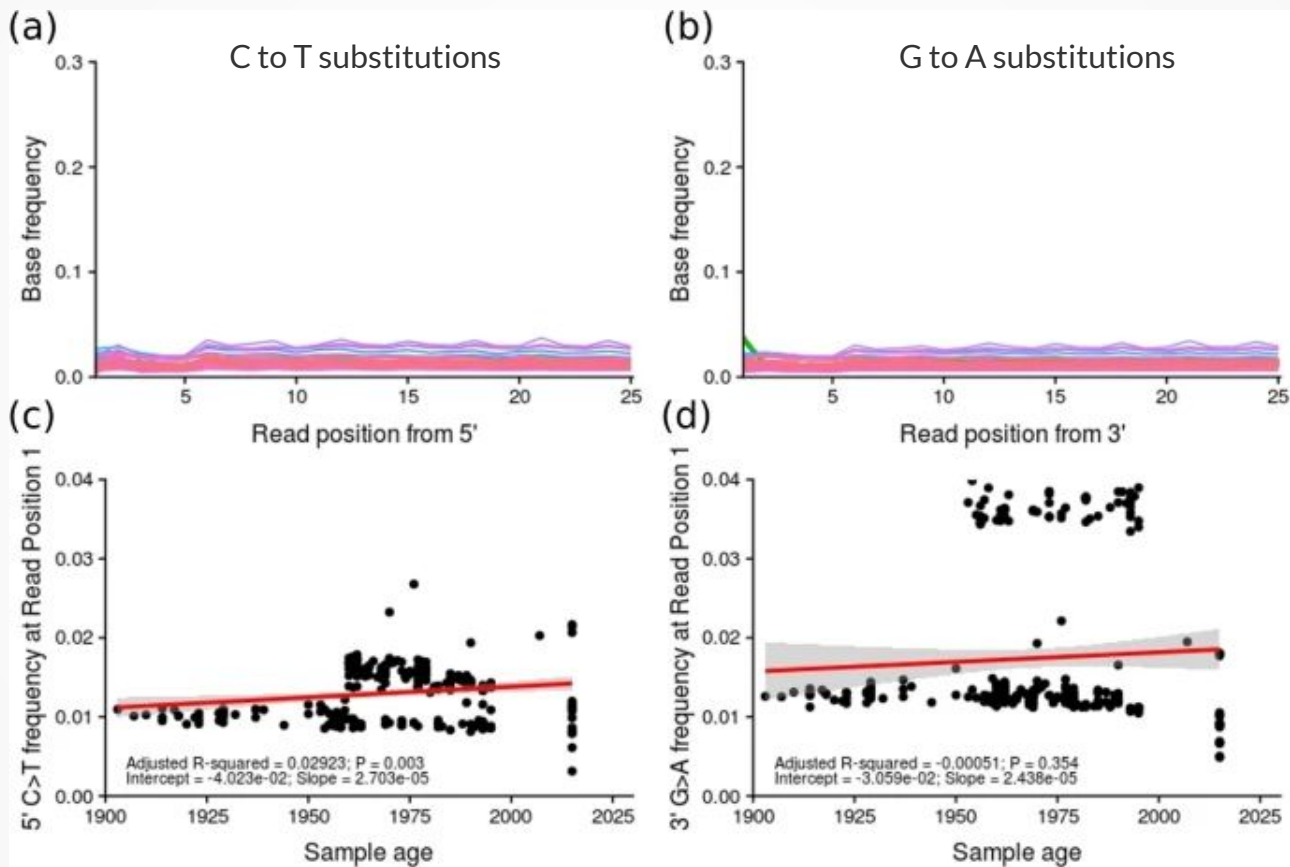
Mapdamage to examine frequency of C to T and G to A transitions at the 5' and 3' end of reads, respectively

Correlation analyses between sample age and various metrics of data quality:

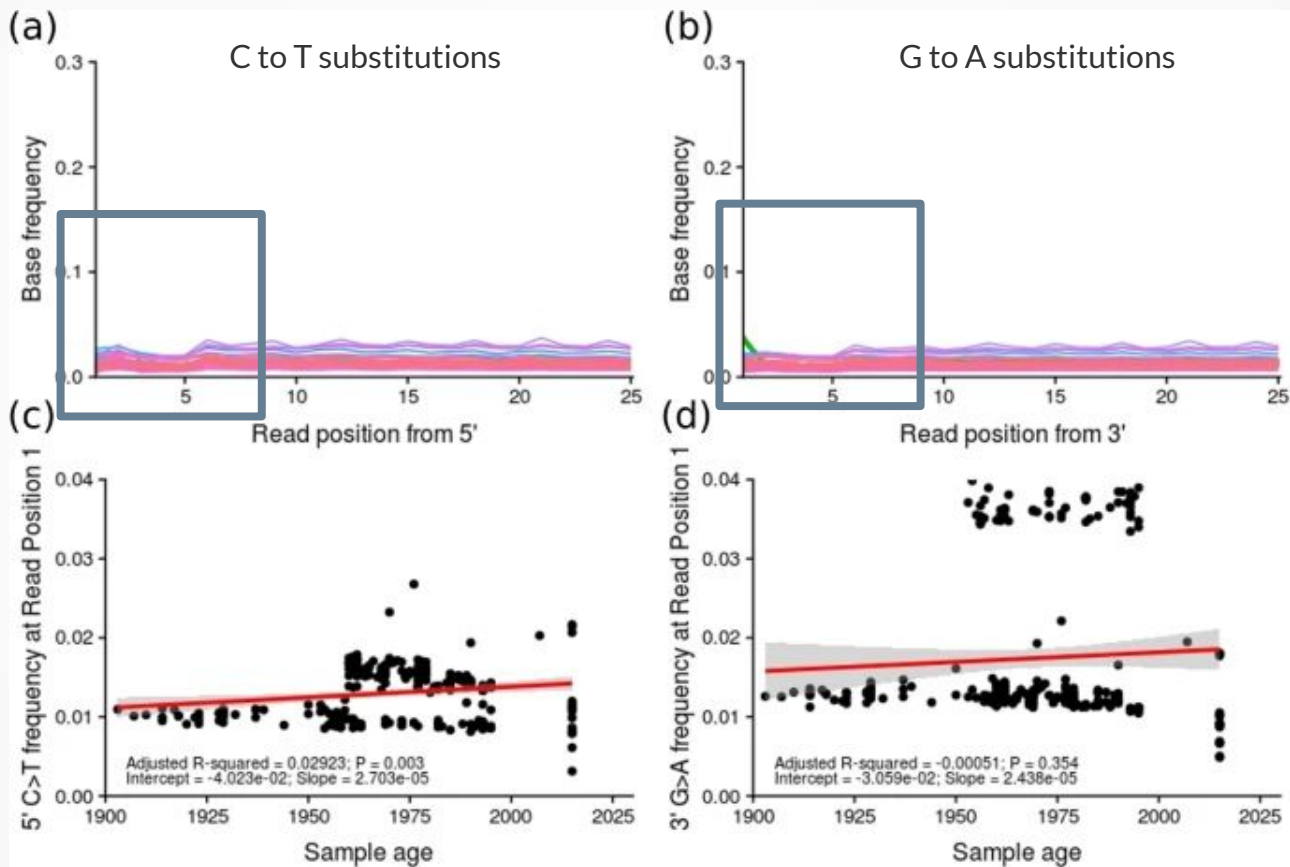
When reads aligned to *whole genome*

When reads aligned to '*baitome*'

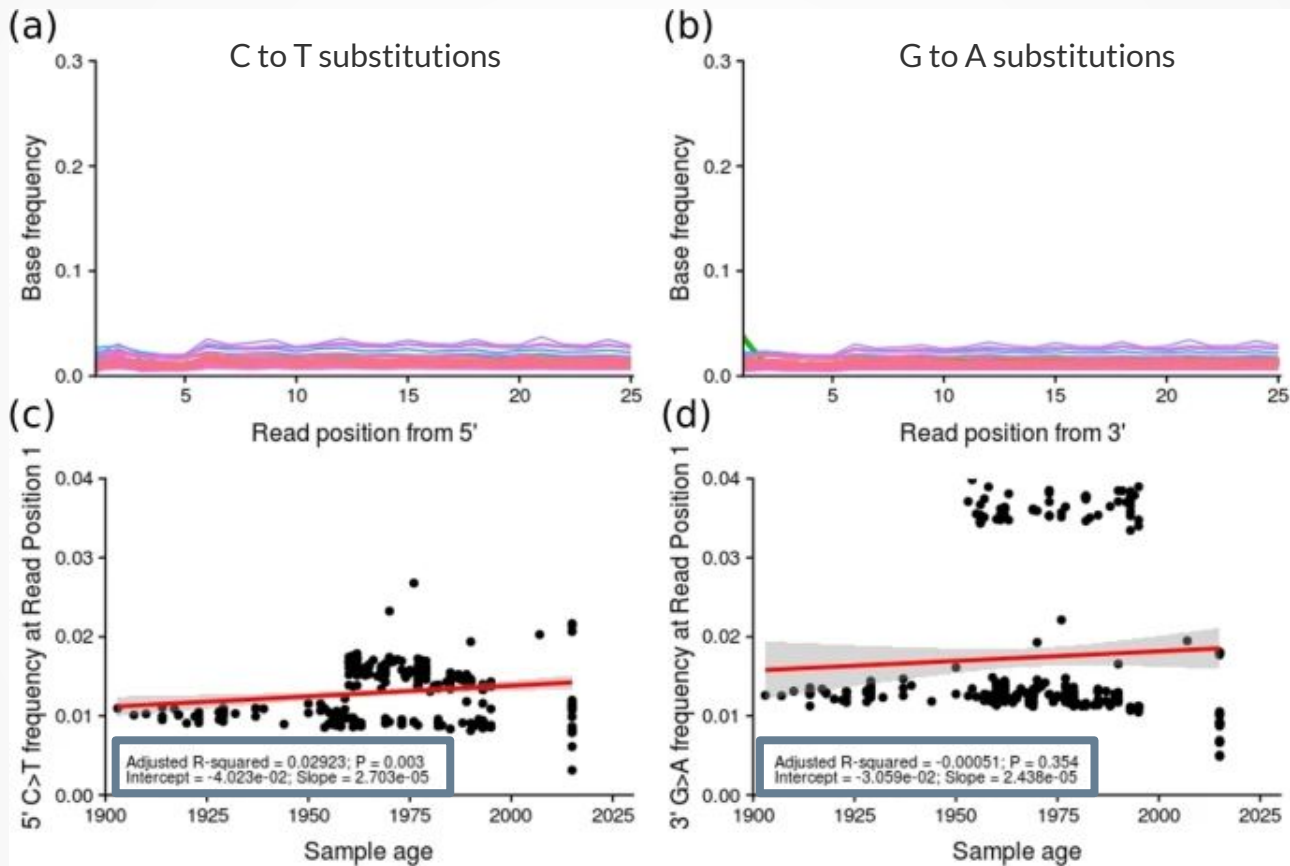
Effects of sample age



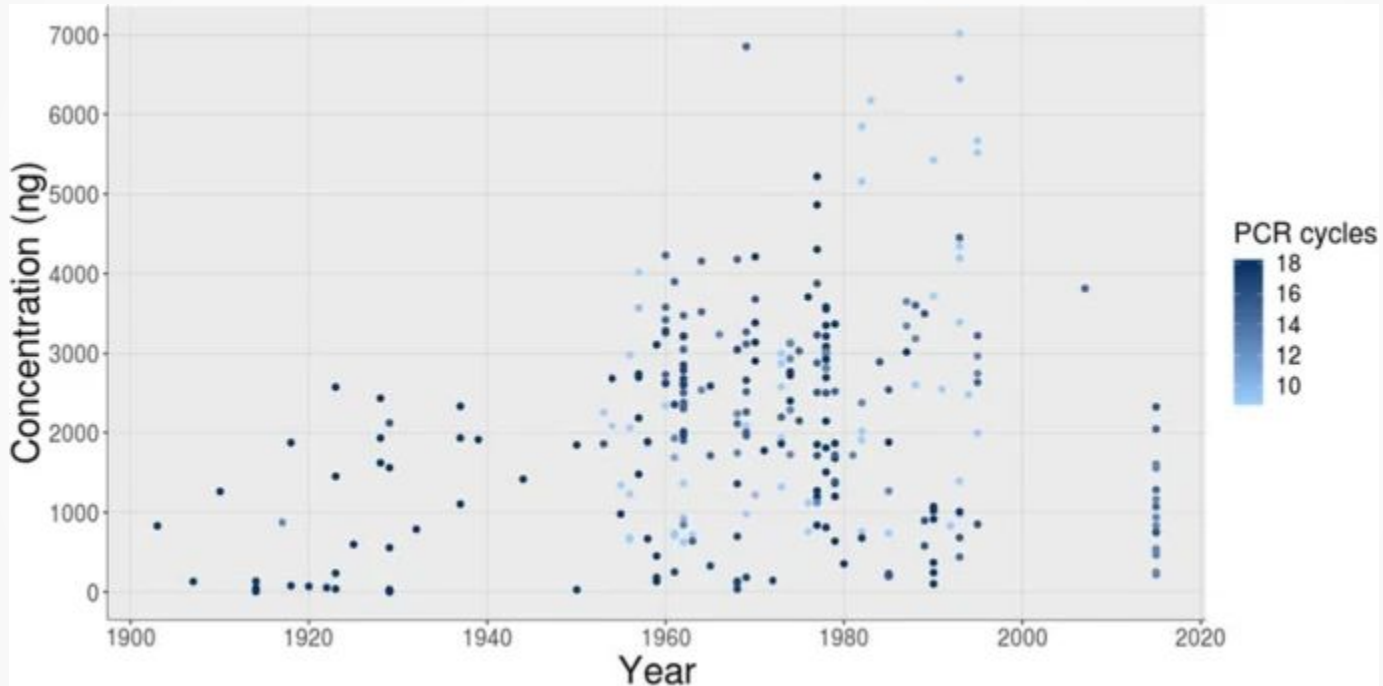
Effects of sample age



Effects of sample age



Effects of sample age

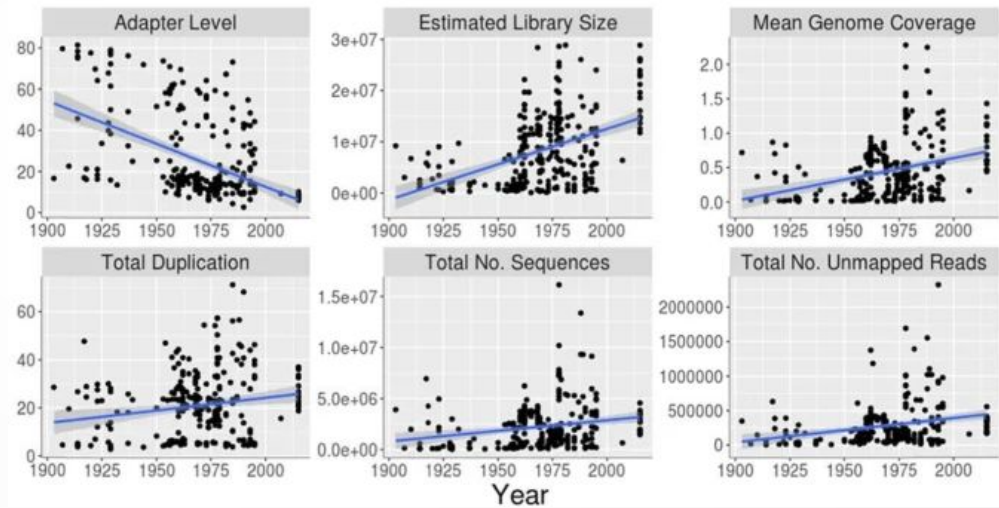
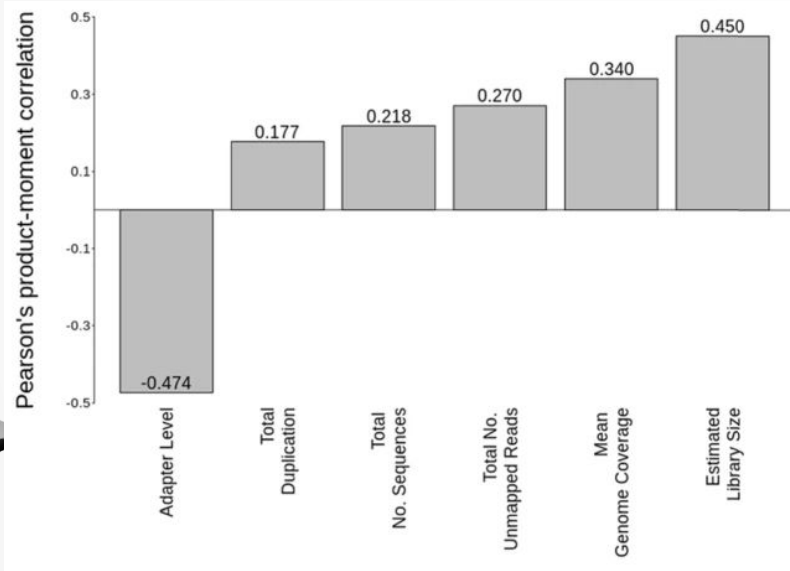


Older samples have **lower starting [C]**: $T_{269}=3.83$; $P<0.01$; $R=0.23$ (0.11:0.34)

Require **more PCR cycles**: $T_{269}=-5.56$; $P<0.01$; $R=-0.32$ (-0.42:-0.21)

Effects of sample age

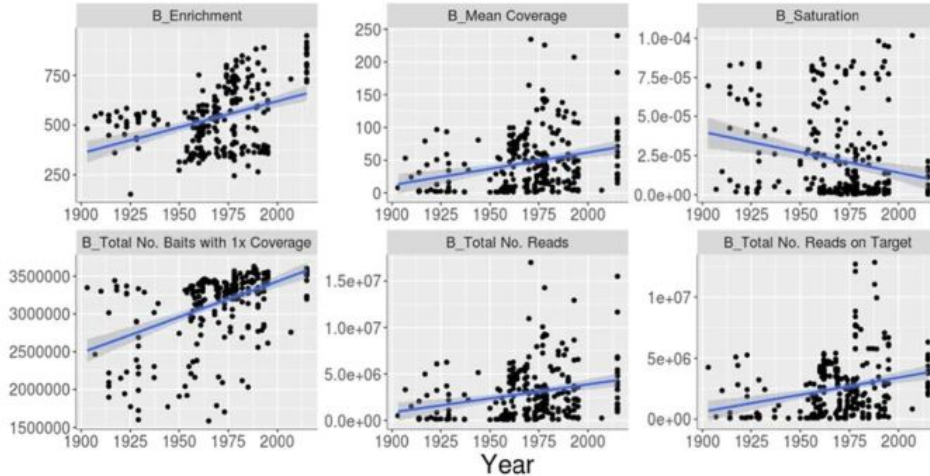
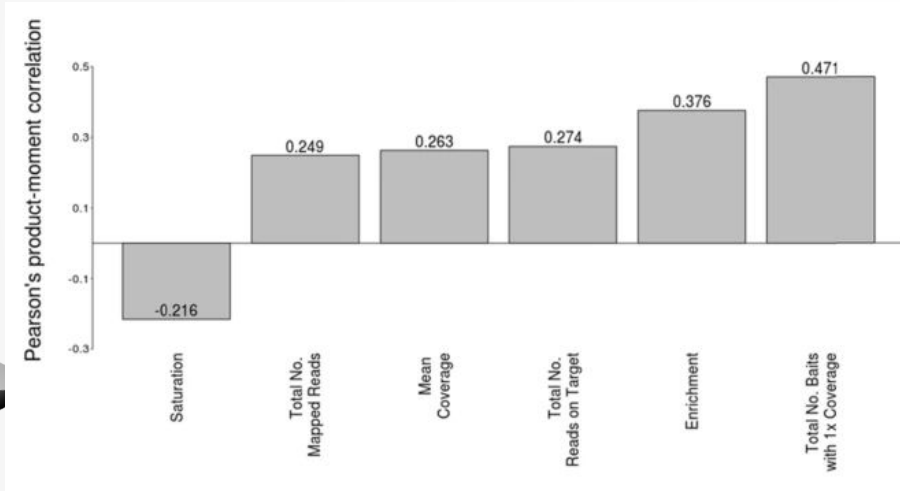
Correlation between sample age and various aspects of library quality for *full* genome



Younger samples = better quality
Older samples = more adapters (up to 82%)

Effects of sample age

Correlation between sample age and various aspects of library quality for *captured* reads



Younger samples = **better quality**

Saturation: indication of whether higher sequence depth = a higher percentage of covered positions

Key points

Age has a **big impact**, as expected: negative relationship between age and data quality

No signs of **deamination damage** (USER enzyme?)

High **adapter contamination** (adapter dimers similar in size to library, hard to remove) → dimer free methods

Percentage of unmapped reads not related to sample age

More information

Effects of sample age on data quality from targeted sequencing of museum specimens: what are we capturing in time?

[Angela McGaughran](#) 

[BMC Genomics](#) 21, Article number: 188 (2020) | [Cite this article](#)

2224 Accesses | 9 Citations | 16 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

The background features a white surface with several 3D, grey, triangular shapes scattered across it. A prominent red wavy line curves across the upper right portion of the image. A large, light grey triangle is positioned on the left side, containing the number '03'.

03

Dry lab I

Study motivation

How **connected** are Australian populations?

Is there any value in the **bycatch**?

Key methods

Used data from McGaughran (2020) – 262 samples, combined with 53 samples from Anderson et al. (2016)

Substantially increased **geographic coverage**:

All Australian states except TAS, plus Brazil, China, France, India, Madagascar, New Zealand, Senegal, Spain, Uganda

Aligned reads to *H. armigera* reference mitogenome using **BWA mem**

Key methods

Called variants with **GATK**

- (a) Subset data into at least 5% coverage of ref genome
(n=250), 10%, ..., 65% (n=56)

- (b) Gathered 817 location-tagged **mtCOI** sequences from GenBank and trimmed to retain at least 65% coverage of first 653 bp (n=648; 518 from GenBank)

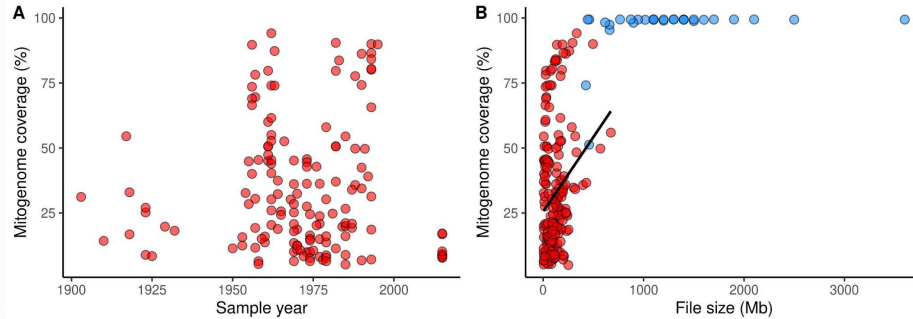
Key methods

Performed **DAPC** analysis in R (adegenet) to explicitly test for the presence of exclusive geographic distributions for distinct *H. a. armigera* and *H. a. conferta* clusters

Phylogenetic analysis (Bayesian Coalescent Skyline in BEAST), to infer demographic history

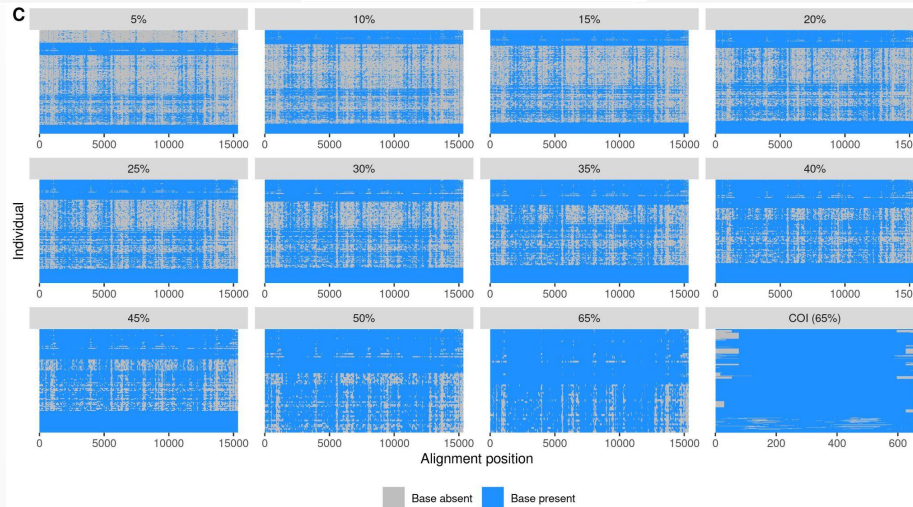
Bycatch coverage

(a) Proportion of mitogenome coverage versus sampling age; and (b) file size



(c) Coverage heatmaps for: 5%-65% mitogenome datasets; COI (n=648) dataset

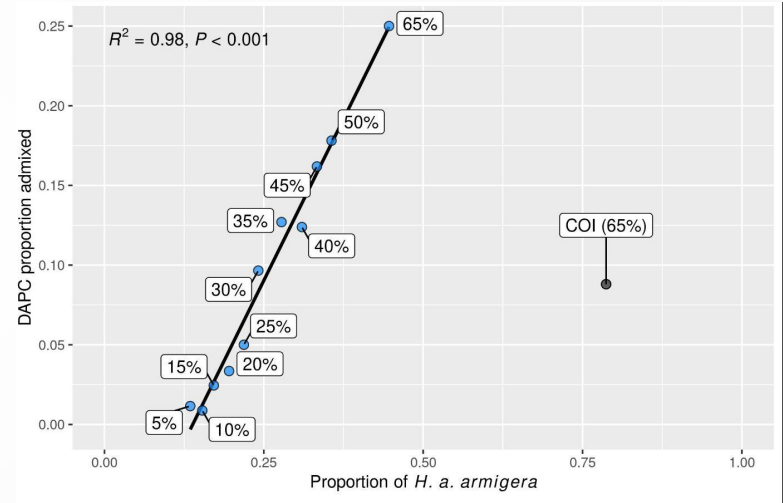
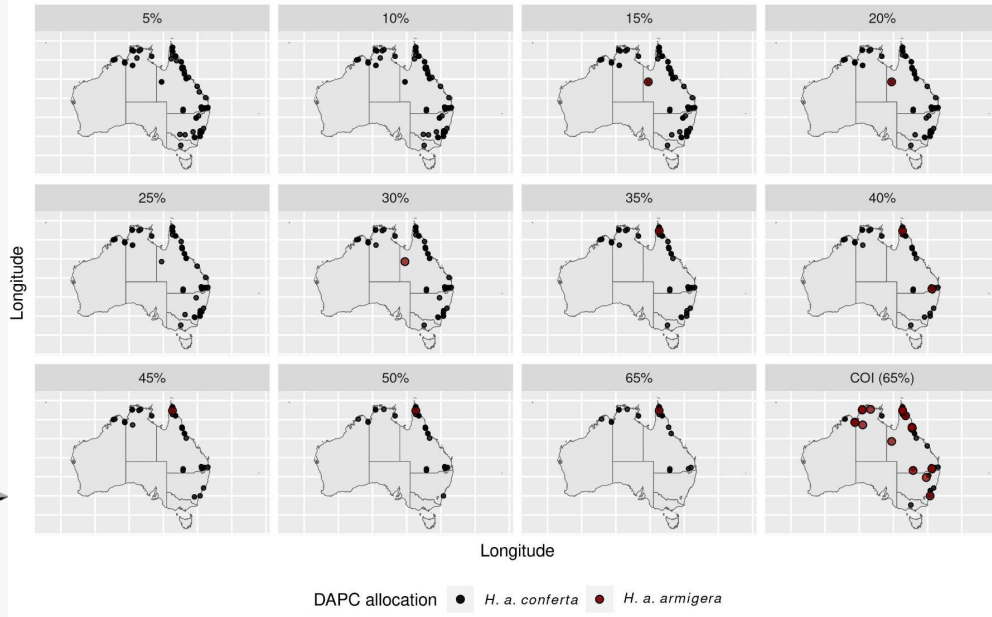
In panel (c), individuals are represented as rows and are plotted in a random order



Leo Featherstone;
University of Melbourne

Subspecies support

DAPC results for 5-65% mitogenome datasets

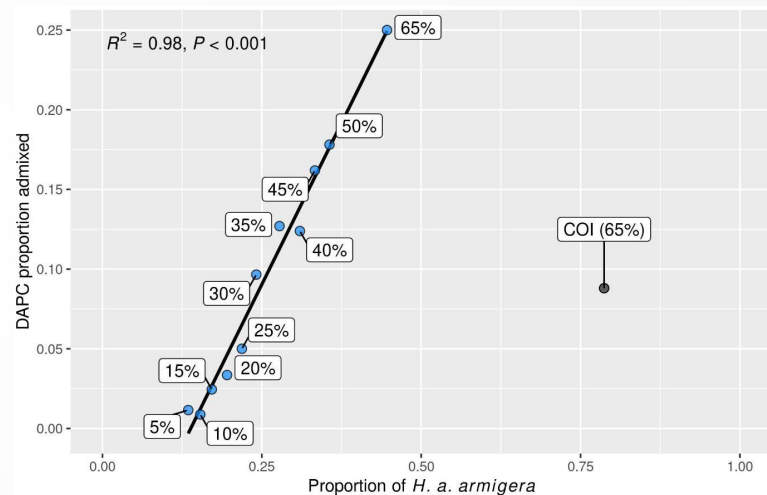
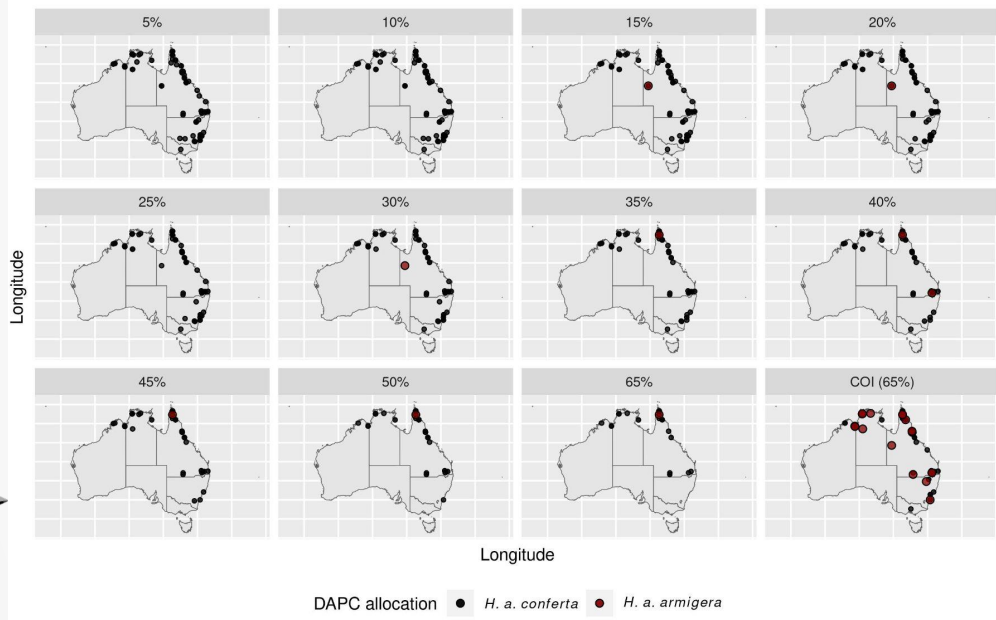


Supports distinct **Australasian subspecies** (left)

Significant effect of coverage and dataset composition (right) – admixture proportion increased with proportion of *H. a. armigera*

Subspecies support

DAPC results for 5-65% mitogenome datasets



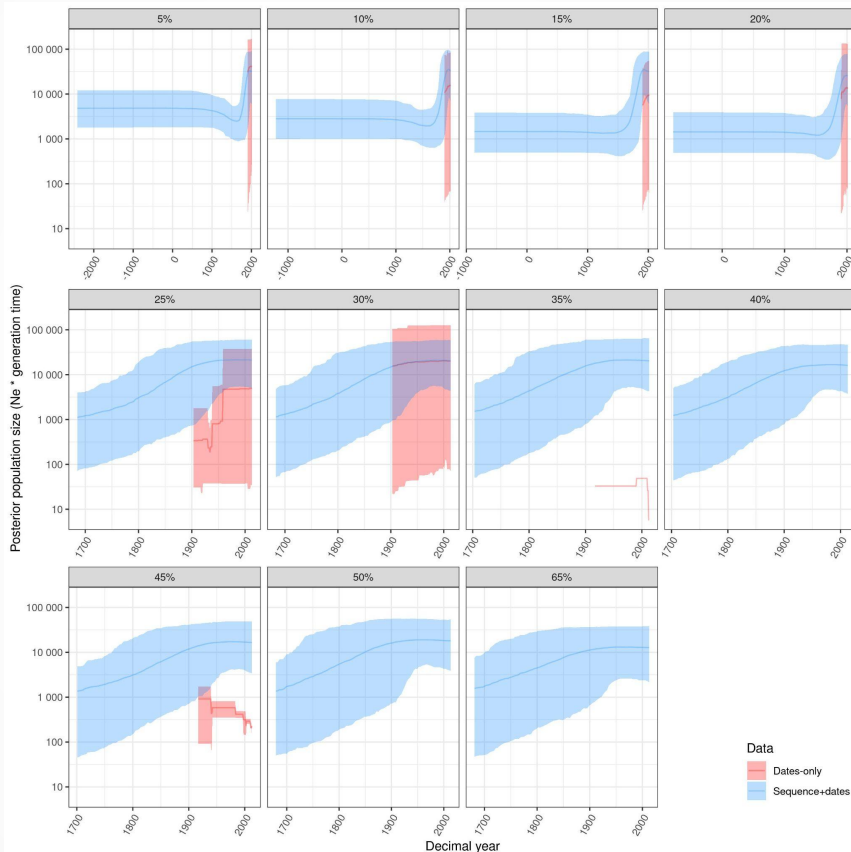
COI dataset had higher proportion of *H. a. armigera* but lower admixture (~10%)
Sampling bias alone **does not explain** the increased admixture in the mitogenome data
Higher coverage in COI data allowed **clearer separation** of *armigera* and *conferta*

Demographic analyses

Continual increase in **population size** for each dataset

Posterior population trajectory for 5-20% coverage datasets much **older**

Lower coverage → older population trajectory (> divergence among sequences)



Key points

Mitogenomes assembled from bycatch with up to **75% missing data** were able to return evolutionary inferences consistent with higher coverage datasets and the broader literature surrounding *H. armigera*

Key effects of dataset coverage and composition

Value of museum species as important records of historical change via the bycatch, but **caution** that missing data doesn't allow confounding factors to drive inference

The background features a series of 3D, grey, arrow-like shapes pointing downwards, arranged in a curved path. A thick, dark red wavy line runs horizontally across the upper portion of the image. The overall aesthetic is modern and geometric.

04

Dry lab II

Study motivation

How does rapid evolution proceed
mechanistically?



Dr Eli Parvizi;
University of Waikato



Andy Bachler;
CSIRO

Key methods

Data from McGaughran (2020) subset by decade to look at temporal patterns

Aligned to reference with **BWA mem**

Quality assessment with **ngsCAT**:

Mean coverage 18x (range: 1-234x; s.d.: 42x)

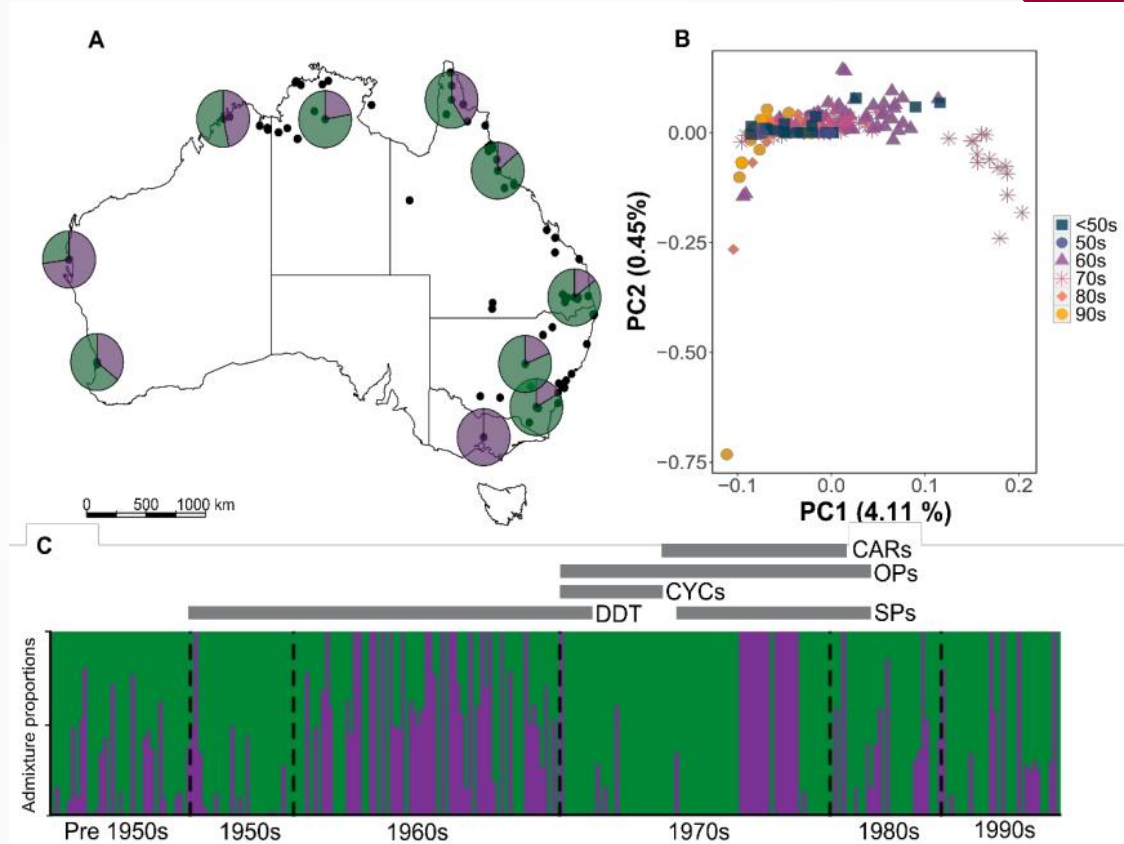
Mean reads on-target: 81% (range: 65-93%, s.d.: 4%)

Use of **ANGSD** to calculate genotype probabilities (59,798 variants)

Population structure

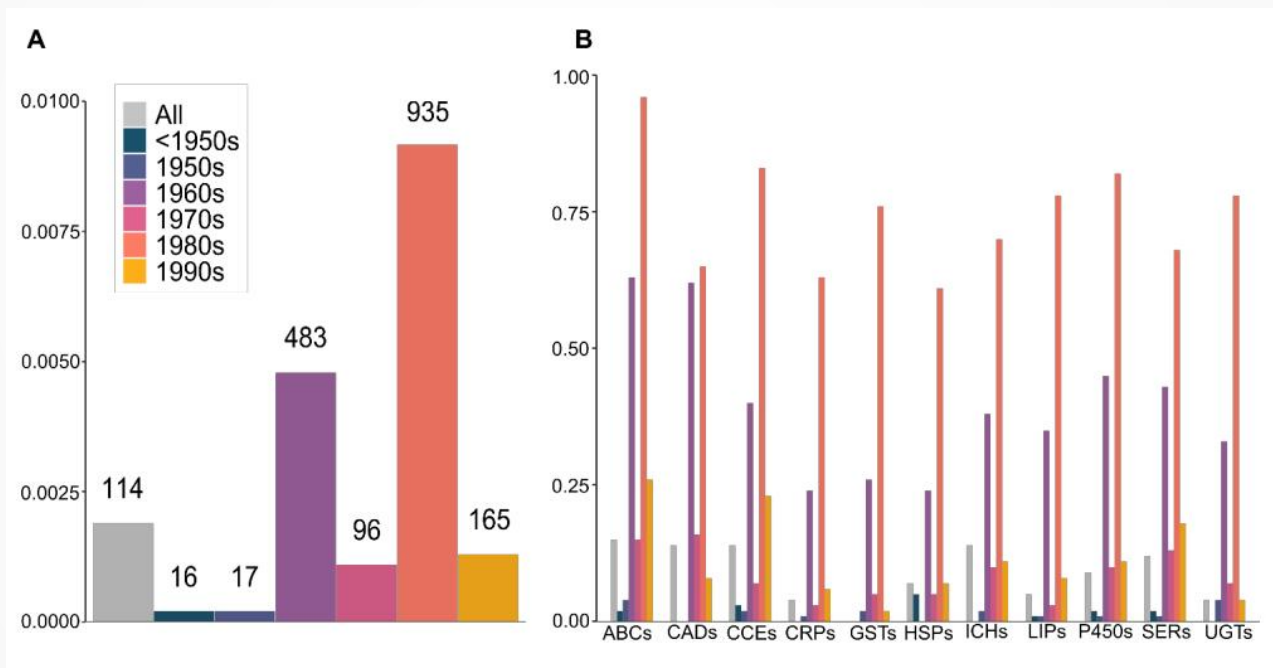
PCAngsd for PCA: no overall clustering related to decade or state, some local clustering for 70s/WA

NGSadmixmap for admixture plots: each cluster well represented through time and space, more mixing in 60s vs 70s?



Outliers

PCAdapt: Proportion of 1,247 exons containing SNP outliers, and their relationship to time and gene family

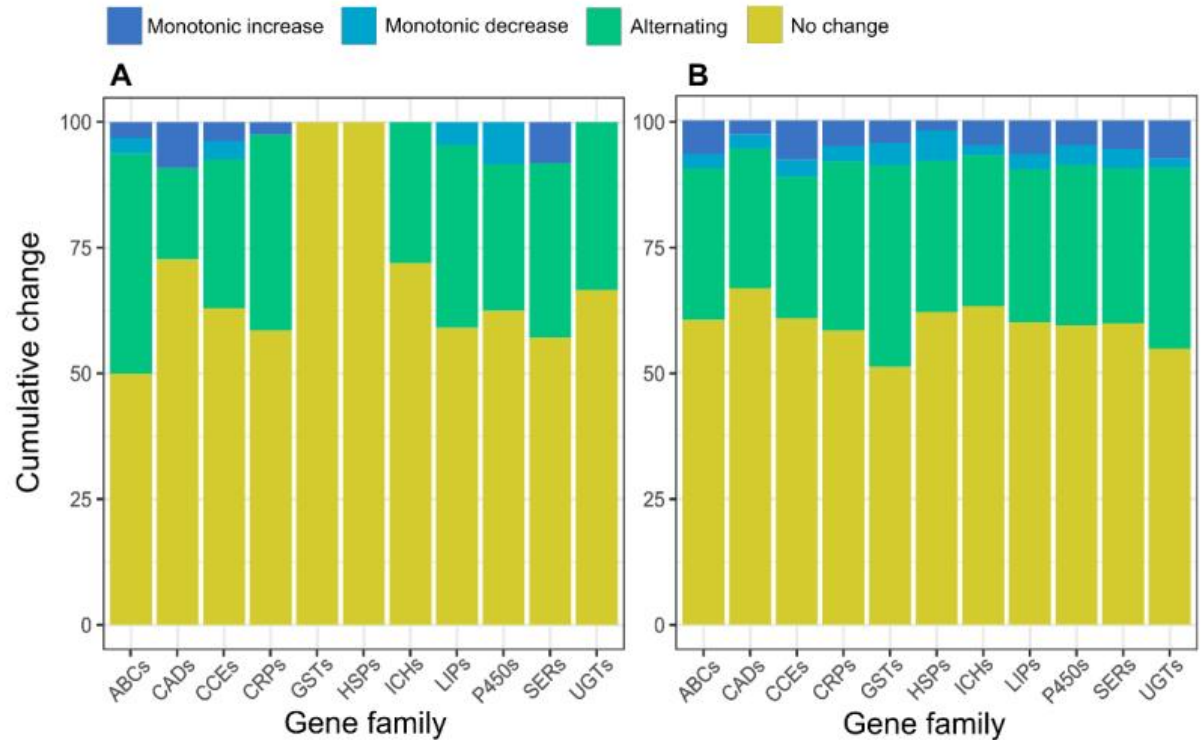


Increased outliers in 60s and 80s overall, and for all gene families → DDT/SPs?

Temporal changes in AF

Up to 50% outlier allele frequencies **changed** from one period to the next

Changes mostly **alternating**: antagonistic pleiotropy?

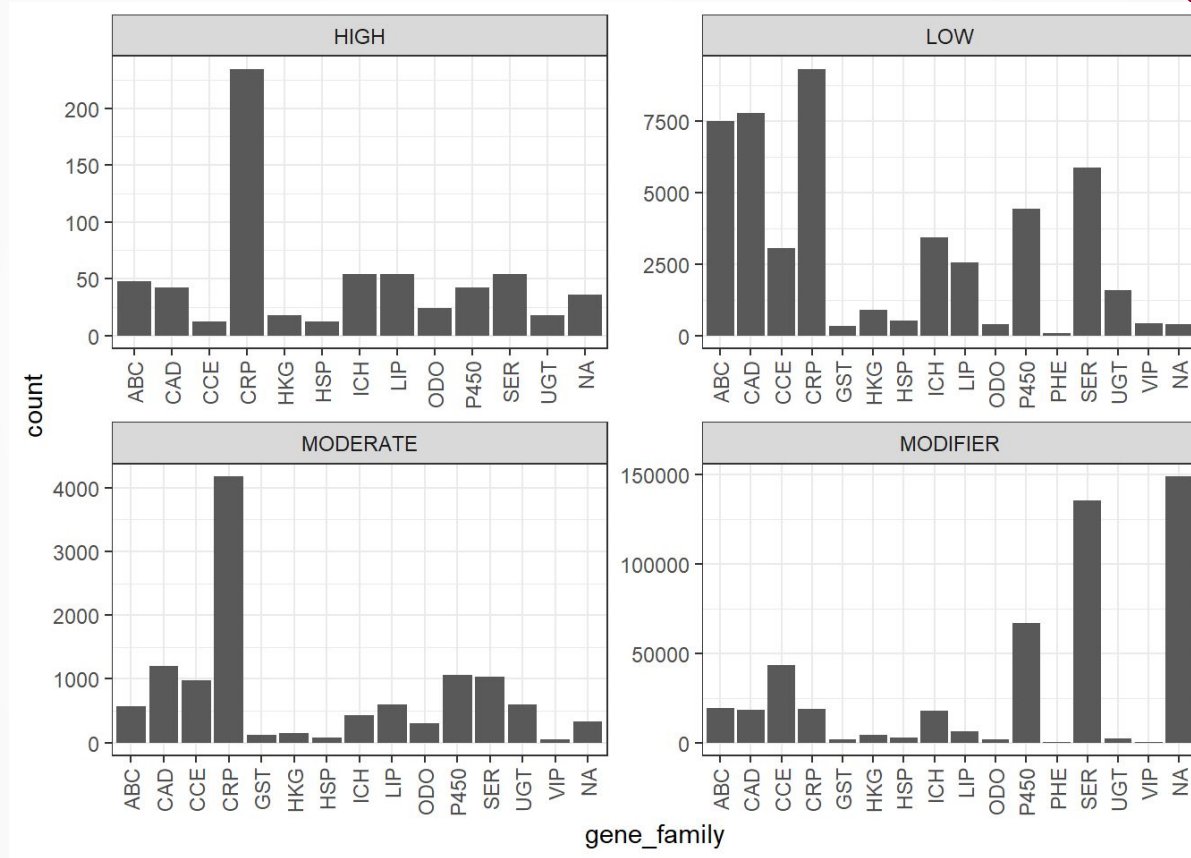


p1950s vs 1960s vs 1980s

p1950s vs 1980s vs 1990s

Variant impacts through time

SnEff showed most SNPs had **low** deleterious gene effects (median across gene families = 2,046)



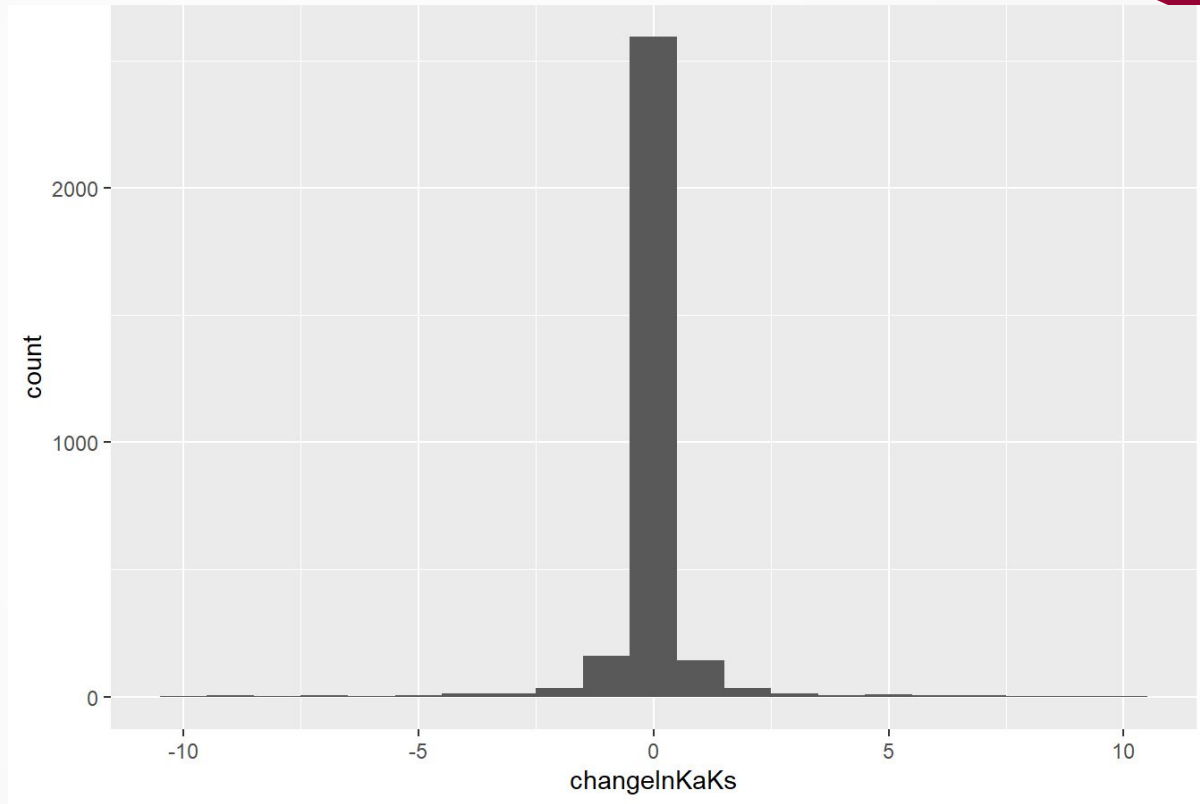
Variant impacts through time

Filtered out low-support variants

Calculated mean non-synonymous to synonymous variants per gene = base rate

Compared that to ratio of syn:non-syn variants over time

Most genes show **little change** in this ratio across decades

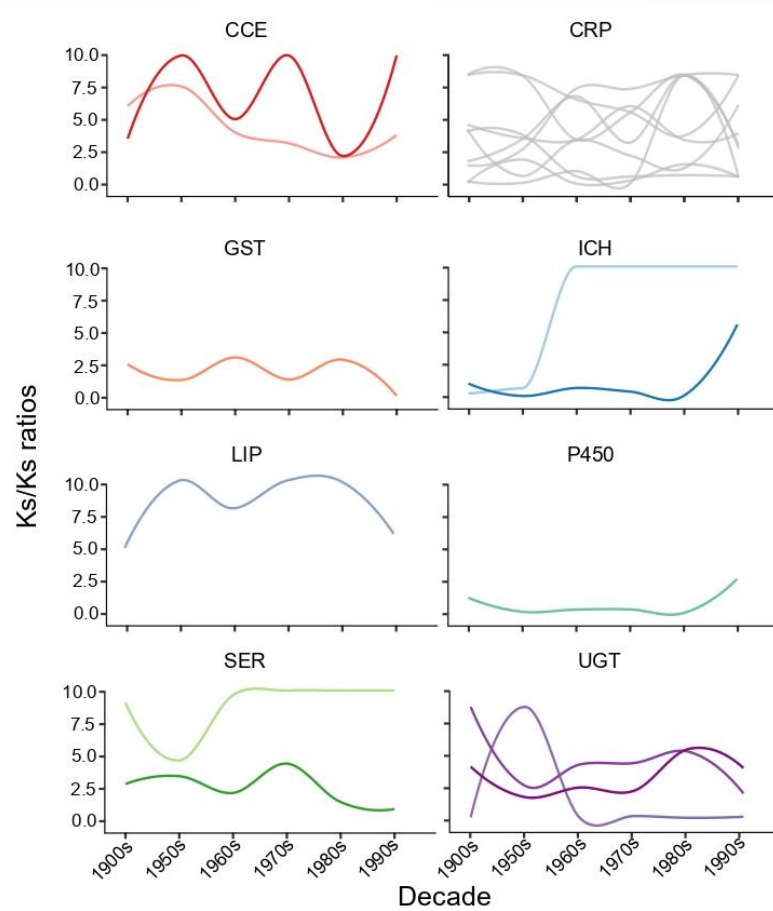


Temporal changes in AF: correlated

Variants with a **large amount** (± 2 -fold change) of change in this ratio for at least one sequential decade

21 genes, eight gene families

CRPs highest (n=9)



Key points

No clear population structure within Australia

Highest outliers in 60s and 80s (i.e., DDT/SPs)

Major outlier AF changes over time

Alternating selection – **antagonistic pleiotropy?**

21 interesting genes with major AF shifts (in missense:silent MAF ratio): function in resistance?

Acknowledgements



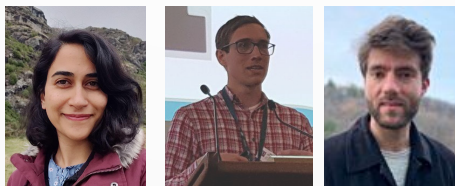
Museums

DAF (WA), QDPI,
ASCT (NSW), MV,
ANIC



Collaborators

Moritz lab @ ANU
Colleagues @ CSIRO
Leo Featherstone
Andy Bachler
Eli Parivzi



Funders

ARC (DECRA)

UoW



Australian Government
Australian Research Council





Thanks!

Do you have any questions?

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www.ang-mcgaughran.com

www.invasomics.com

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