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# Founder effects drive the genetic structure of passively dispersed aquatic invertebrates

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## 1 Founder effects drive the genetic structure of passively dispersed

## 2 aquatic invertebrates

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- 17 Founder effects and local adaptation

#### Abstract

Populations of passively dispersed organisms in continental aquatic habitats often show high levels of neutral genetic differentiation, despite their high dispersal capabilities. Several evolutionary factors, including founder events and local adaptation, and life cycle features such as high population growth rates and the presence of propagule banks, have been proposed to be responsible for this paradox. Here, we have modeled the colonization process in these organisms to assess the impact of migration rate, growth rate, population size, local adaptation and life-cycle features on their population genetic structure. Our simulation results show that the strongest effect on population structure is persistent founder effects, resulting from the interaction of few population founders, high population growth rates, large population sizes and the presence of diapausing egg banks. In contrast, the role of local adaptation, genetic hitchhiking and migration is limited to small populations in these organisms, which could result in a different impact of local adaptation on genetic structure of different groups of zooplankters.

- Keywords: migration, local adaptation, genetic differentiation, zooplankton, Monopolization
- 35 Hypothesis, Rotifera, Cladocera.

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#### Introduction

Successful dispersal and colonization are essential for the establishment and persistence of species, and an understanding of these processes is crucial on the face of changing climate and habitat destruction, which is rapidly affecting the abundance and distribution patterns of many species (Parmesan & Yohe, 2003; Chen et al., 2011). The evolutionary outcome of dispersal and colonization results from a complex interplay of neutral and selective factors, including local adaptation, founder effects or bottlenecks causing genetic drift during the first stages of colonization, inbreeding depression, or high gene flow that could erode local adaptation, etc (Lenormand 2002; Kliber & Eckert, 2005; Rosenblum et al., 2007; Keller & Taylor, 2008; Verhoeven et al., 2011). These factors shape the genetic structure of populations and the evolutionary history of species. In addition, life-cycle features and demographic characteristics are also needed to understand dispersion and colonization (Burton et al., 2010). For example, species with high population growth rates after a bottleneck are more likely to increase their genetic variability ("founder-flush" model) (Carson, 1968; Templeton, 2008), and populations of organisms with resistant life stages are more likely to be connected by migration even at long distances (Frisch et al., 2007). Predicting the outcome of all these factors is a major question in evolutionary and conservation ecology, which requires an understanding of the effect of each factor and their interactions.

Populations of passively dispersing aquatic invertebrates (e.g., freshwater bryozoans, rotifers, cladocerans, copepods, anostracans, notostracans) and macrophytes inhabiting lentic habitats often present a high level of neutral genetic differentiation (e.g., Freeland *et al.*, 2000; Zierold *et al.*, 2007; Muñoz *et al.*, 2008; Xu *et al.*, 2009; Makino & Tanabe, 2009; Escudero *et al.*, 2010; Xiang *et al.*, 2011), despite their high dispersal capabilities through

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diapausing propagules (Frisch et al., 2007; Allen, 2007; Vanschoenwinkel et al., 2011). This has been termed the "migration-gene flow paradox". Regardless of their taxonomic disparity, these organisms share biological features promoting a rapid monopolization of resources in the new environment: high population growth rates, large population sizes and the production of resistant stages in their life cycle, which can accumulate in sediments forming diapausing propagule banks (Hairston, 1996; Brendonck & De Meester, 2003) and constitute the dispersal stage. As a result, once a habitat becomes available and is colonized, the population can grow very quickly creating a numerical advantage that dilutes the genetic impact of further immigrants ("high-density blocking") (Hewitt, 1993), resulting in a persistent founder effect (Boileau et al., 1992). This explanation was expanded by De Meester et al. (2002) into the so called "Monopolization Hypothesis" (MH hereafter) to include local adaptation as an important force contributing to reduce effective gene flow and therefore to maintain the genetic structure of passively dispersed aquatic organisms. The MH postulates that the migration-gene flow paradox could be explained by a combination of three factors: (1) persistent founder effects, (2) selection against immigrants due to local adaptation and (3) associations arising randomly between neutral markers and genes under selection.

Local adaptation is an important and rapid process in many zooplanktonic organisms (e.g., Cousyn *et al.*, 2001; Decaestecker *et al.*, 2007; Costanzo & Taylor, 2010). The impact of local adaptation on population genetic structure is diverse as it is dependent on the impact of other evolutionary forces, not only selection (Kawecki & Ebert, 2004). For instance, it can promote genetic differentiation ("isolation-by-adaptation") (Nosil *et al.*, 2007) or reinforce the existing genetic differentiation (De Meester *et al.*, 2002) by reducing gene flow. Irrespective of being locally adapted, populations recently founded by a small number of

propagules can be highly inbred and show inbreeding depression (De Meester, 1993; Tortajada *et al.*, 2009). This could give migrants a fitness advantage and favor gene flow into the population (Ebert *et al.*, 2002; Haag *et al.*, 2006). The accumulation of large numbers of resistant stages as seed or diapausing egg banks (i.e. propagule banks) in sediments is also a characteristic of many aquatic species inhabiting temporary habitats. These propagule banks have an important role in ecological (Chesson, 1983; Cáceres, 1997) and evolutionary processes (Brendonck & De Meester, 2003). They increase the effective population size due to postponed reproduction in the bank, and thus reduce genetic drift (Kaj *et al.*, 2001). However, this effect could not be direct, as gene flow is also postponed in the bank (Kaj *et al.*, 2001; Berg, 2005).

The relative importance and interactions between the demographic, neutral and selective processes acting during colonization has remained poorly understood. Therefore, an explicit theoretical analysis of the effects of local adaptation, persistent founder effects, and their interplay on the differentiation of populations of aquatic organisms is timely, specially, during the first stages of colonization when populations are still small and, thus, more sensitive to the outcome of this interplay.

Here we have modeled the colonization process of zooplanktonic organisms with the aim of clarifying how migration rate, growth rate, population size, local adaptation, and lifecycle features like the existence of propagule banks shape the population genetic structure during the first stages of colonization, and how these factors interplay with genetic and selective processes. Of primary interest in our analysis is gaining insights into the relative importance of (1) persistent founder effects, (2) selection against immigrants as a consequence of local adaptation, and (3) random associations between neutral genes and genes under selection.

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#### **Materials and Methods**

We developed a genetic and demographic model to analyze the effects of population growth rate, population size, presence of a diapausing egg bank and local adaptation on the population genetic structure and genetic flow of aquatic organisms. We assumed a geographic scenario with two habitats connected through migration, which are founded simultaneously after a single event of migration from a source population.

The model was based on the life cycle of rotifers and cladocerans (i.e. cyclical parthenogenesis), which are major taxonomic groups in the zooplankton. Cyclical parthenogenesis combines parthenogenesis with episodic sexual reproduction and typically consists in several asexual generations followed by a sexual generation, generally associated with habitat degradation. The sexual generation produces diapausing eggs that hatch into asexual individuals once the habitat becomes suitable again. As not all eggs hatch from one planktonic growing period to the next, they may accumulate in the sediment forming extensive diapausing egg banks (Brendonck & De Meester, 2003).

The demographic submodel is outlined in Fig. 1. Briefly, it consists in six steps:

- step 1. Hatching of diapausing eggs (resident and inmigrant)
- step 2. Asexual proliferation
- step 3. Sexual reproduction and production of diapausing eggs
- step 4. Diapausing eggs survival in the sediment
- step 5. Migration of diapausing eggs
- step 6. Back to step 1

Note that this demographic dynamics implies two different time scales: (1) a within-planktonic growing period (often within-year; index, t), and (2) an among-sexual generations scale (often among-years; index, y).

Migration, either from the source population or between habitats, is assumed to occur via diapausing eggs, which are passively transferred between habitats, and their hatching time is assumed to be the same as for locally produced diapausing eggs.

#### Genetic submodel

All individuals are considered to have n neutral loci and s loci under selection. All loci are biallelic and no mutation is assumed. The model accounts for physical linkage between selected and neutral loci with a variable recombination level. Loci under selection act additively on growth rate. Consequently, no dominance and no epistatic effects are assumed. For simplicity, every allele is considered to contribute with an equal value,  $\delta$ , to the growth rate. Local adaptation requires a genotype-environment interaction on fitness. This is modeled through  $\delta_{i,j,l}$ , which is the effect on the intrinsic growth rate (see below) of allele i (i: 1, 2) at locus j (i: 1,..., s) in locality l (l: 1, 2). The assumptions are (1)  $\delta_{1,j,1} = \delta_{2,j,2}$ , and (2)  $\delta_{i,j,l} = -\delta_{j\neq i,j,l}$ ; so, homozygotes will experience an increase or decrease of their growth rate depending on the locality, whereas heterozygotes do not. Hence, the growth rate for each genotype g in each locality l ( $r_{g,l}$ ) can be decomposed in r (basal growth rate) and  $\theta$  (deviation of each genotype), so that

$$r_{q,l} = r + \theta_{q,l}$$

where g is the genotype, I is the locality, and  $\theta_{g,I}$  is the summation of the fitness components  $(\delta)$  in locality I of the alleles carried by a genotype g in the s loci. Thus, in any given locality, the growth rate during the asexual reproduction will vary between the limits  $r \pm 2s\delta$ .

Sexual reproduction is assumed to be panmictic and, for simplicity, is considered to be synchronic and at the end of the growing season ( $t = \tau$ ). As linkage disequilibrium can occur due to selection and genetic drift, gametic frequencies are computed. Gametes are then drawn to produce the diapausing eggs.

Genetic distance between populations was estimated based on neutral loci as:

$$Fst = \frac{\overline{Ht} - \overline{Hs}}{\overline{Ht}}$$

where  $\overline{Ht}$  is the average expected heterozygosity for the two populations considered as a single one for the neutral loci, and  $\overline{Hs}$  the average of the mean expected heterozygosity within each populations for the neutral loci. Allelic frequencies for each locus were computed using the total number of alleles. For the loci under selection, Qst values were computed analogously to Fst values. Fst and Qst values were obtained just after hatching of diapausing eggs.

Population growth

The asexual phase spans from time t=0 to  $\tau$ , which is the moment when sexual reproduction takes place. During the asexual phase the population grows according to a logistic growth model:

$$\frac{dN_{l,g}}{dt} = N_{l,g}r_{l,g} \left[ 1 - \frac{\sum_{g} N_{l,g}}{K} \right]$$

where  $N_{l,g}$  is the population density,  $r_{l,g}$  the intrinsic population growth rate during the asexual phase, and K the carrying capacity (I and g as above). Note that K is the same regardless of genotype. At the onset of each asexual growth season (t = 0),  $N_{l,g}$  is the sum of the hatched diapausing eggs, a fraction of them having been locally produced  $H_{l,g}$ , and the rest being immigrants  $M_{l,g}$ .

At  $t = \tau$  of the sexual generation y, the number of diapausing eggs produced  $P_{l,g}(y)$  is calculated from  $N_{l,g}(\tau, y)$  assuming a sexual proportion m (fraction of the females that becomes sexual), a sex ratio sr and an effective fecundity e (number of diapausing eggs produced per sexual female).

Mortality of diapausing eggs in the sediment is assumed to be age-independent (annual survival rate  $\gamma$ ). When a new planktonic growing season starts (t=0) a fraction  $\lambda$  of the diapausing eggs in the sediment hatches.

Source population and local population founding

The two populations are founded at time y = t = 0 by F diapausing eggs randomly drawn from a single source population. The source population is assumed to be in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium and of infinite size, so that extraction of migrants does not change genotype frequencies. All loci are considered neutral in the source population, so no preadaptation to any of the populations exists.

#### Model implementation

The impact of carrying capacity (K), growth rate (r), migration (M), selection pressure ( $\delta$ ) and recombination rate on Fst's were analyzed by exploring a range of realistic values for zooplanktonic organisms. K was tested from  $2 \cdot 10^2$  to  $2 \cdot 10^7$  individuals, which would be the equivalent to densities from 0.001 to 100 individuals/L in a small pond of 200 m² and 1 m depth, equivalent to reported average densities of cladocerans and rotifers (Carmona et~al., 1995; Ortells et~al., 2003; Tavernini, 2008). r was explored from 0.05 to 1 days¹¹. Cladocerans show maximum r of 0.2-0.6 days¹¹ and rotifers 0.2-1.5 days¹¹ (Allan, 1976). The number of population founders (F) was set to 1 diapausing egg across most simulations, that is, foundation is considered a rare event. Note that as the model assumes cyclical parthenogenesis, a single diapausing egg is enough for population foundations. The effect of

numbers of founders (*F*) was also explored (1, 2, 5, 50 diapausing eggs). Other parameter values used in the simulations are shown in Table 1.

Simulations considered two scenarios regarding diapausing egg banks: (1) an annual, age independent, diapausing egg survival rate on the sediment ( $\gamma$  = 0.763) (i.e., existence of a diapausing egg bank); and (2)  $\gamma$  = 0.763 for eggs of age = 1 and a  $\gamma$  = 0 for older eggs (i.e., absence of diapausing egg bank). Parameters for the diapausing egg bank ( $\gamma$  and  $\lambda$ , the annual hatching rate) were estimated from rotifer diapausing egg banks (García-Roger *et al.*, 2006b) by adjusting them to the model described by García-Roger *et al.* (2006a).

The simulation model was implemented in C++ and based on Monte-Carlo procedures. The Mersenne twister algorithm (Matsumoto & Nishimura, 1998) was used as random number generator. 50 replicates for each parameter combination (but 100 for values of  $\delta$  and recombination rate) were performed. For each replicate, a source population was randomly created by drawing from a uniform distribution the allelic frequencies of the n and s loci. After foundation of the two populations, 1000 sexual generations (4000 generations for some scenarios) were simulated.

Sampling effects were taken into account for hatching and survival of diapausing eggs if the total number of eggs in the population was lower than 1000. Selection of immigrants and gametes for mating were performed randomly regardless of the number of eggs/individuals involved.

The assessment of statistical differences between Fst's values under a neutral scenario and scenarios with selective pressure and different recombination rates was performed with an ANOVA and *a priori* contrasts. Correlations between Fst and Qst at different conditions of population size, recombination rates and selective pressure were also

tested using Kendall's Tau and Sperman's Rho. All statistical analyses were performed using SPSS Inc.

#### Results

226 Overview

The population dynamics of a newly founded population, using the parameters shown in Table 1, with  $\tau$  = 60 days and r = 0.3 days<sup>-1</sup>-which are realistic values for both the growing season length (Tavernini, 2008) and the intrinsic growing rate of many aquatic invertebrates (Allan, 1976)- show that carrying capacity (K) is reached in less than two sexual generations, even for the case of the highest K (i.e. K =  $2\cdot10^7$  individuals). Thus, K is a good proxy of population size and we will use both terms interchangeably hereafter.

233 Effect of migration

Our model results show that the effect of migration on the genetic differentiation is strongly dependent on K (i.e. population size) (Fig. 2). In both the small and the large populations Fst decreases with increasing migration rates, as expected under a neutral scenario. In the lowest carrying capacity tested ( $K=2\cdot10^2$  individuals; Fig. 2.A), Fst decreased rapidly down to very low levels with increasing migration. By contrast, at the highest K tested ( $K=2\cdot10^7$  individuals; Fig. 2.B), Fst was rather insensitive to the effect of migration, and populations remained highly differentiated (Fst > 0.2) even at high levels of migration. The number of migrants needed to cause a striking decrease of genetic differentiation is in the order of 100 and 1000 individuals/sexual generation for the situation without and with diapausing eggs respectively.

Effect of population size

Carrying capacity (i.e population size) had strong effects on Fst (Fig. 3). At low population sizes (i.e. low K) populations did not differ genetically, while at high population sizes, Fst remained as high as the values observed just after population foundation. This pattern suggests importance of migration and persistent founder effects respectively. At intermediate values, genetic differentiation peaked, probably as a result of higher drift effects. As a result the highest Fst values are found at intermediate population sizes. The pattern is qualitatively similar regardless the existence or not of a diapausing egg bank, but the maximum genetic differentiation occurred at higher population sizes if no egg bank was assumed. These results are robust regarding the maximum number of sexual generations explored (results for maximum y = 100, 500, 2000 and 4000 generations, data not shown). However, at 100 and to a lesser extent 500 sexual generations the peak of Fst at intermediate population sizes was less pronounced than at later sexual generations.

The dynamics and net increment of Fst was explored from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4000<sup>th</sup> sexual generation (Figure 4). In the absence of a diapausing egg bank (Fig. 4 A), Fst decreases with time at low population size, and this situation is reversed when K increases, to finally become virtually constant at the largest population size explored ( $K = 2 \cdot 10^7$ ). A similar qualitative pattern is found when a diapausing egg bank is present (Fig. 4 B), although the shift to an increasing Fst time course occurs at lower population sizes, and also Fst constancy is achieved at lower K. Note that the small negative change found at  $K = 2 \cdot 10^2$  with and without bank is associated to the very low initial Fst values (Fig. 4 C, D). Also note that Fst values are calculated after hatching of residents and inmigrants; for instance, at y = 1, Fst value is not the value after foundation but after migration. In summary, population size and presence or absence of a diapausing egg bank are key to predict the main force shaping the genetic structure. Decreasing Fst indicates that migration is the dominant factor, while

increasing values show that drift becomes dominant. The time-constant Fst indicates the importance of persistent founder effects on the shaping of the genetic structure of populations.

Population growth rate interacts with population size in determining the level of genetic differentiation (Fig. 5). Low growth rates result in low genetic differentiation, regardless of population size, indicating a high impact of migration. However, for population growth rates above 0.1 d<sup>-1</sup>, which are common for zooplanktonic organisms, genetic differentiation becomes sensitive to variations in population size.

Effects of the number of founders

Increasing the number of population founders F results in a dramatic decrease of Fst values just after foundation (Fig. 6); for instance, if compared to F = 1, Fst is reduced by half for F = 2, and approaches 0 for F = 50. After 4000 sexual generations, the level of population differentiation still shows a negative relationship with the number of founders. Given this strong effect, we explored in further simulations how F affects the relationships between population differentiation and other factors. Our results suggest that the patterns outlined above are qualitatively maintained for F > 1 (data not shown).

Effect of local adaptation

The effect of local adaptation was explored at two levels of K ( $2\cdot10^4$  and  $2\cdot10^7$  individuals), which are realistic values for cladocerans and rotifers respectively. Two different selection scenarios ( $\delta = 10^{-4} \text{ days}^{-1}$ , weak selection, and  $10^{-2} \text{ days}^{-1}$ , strong selection) in the presence/absence of diapausing egg bank, and six recombination rates -from complete linkage to unlinked genes- were also tested (Fig. 7 summarizes the results for the scenario with diapausing egg bank; see Fig. S1, for the equivalent scenario without diapausing egg bank).

With strong selection, Qst reaches almost maximum values – i.e., populations are almost fixed for the locally adapted alleles – regardless of K (Fig. 7). In the case of populations with  $K=2\cdot10^4$ , all Fst values are statistically different from those obtained without selection (p-values < 0.05 except at 0.5 recombination rate; p-value = 0.057). However, Fst values are similar regardless the recombination rate. In contrast, at high K only those values of Fst with complete linkage (recombination rate = 0) are statistically different of those found without selection. This indicates that genetic hitchhiking in large populations acts on loci tightly linked to those under selection. Otherwise, the drag of the genes under selection does not seem to be able to break the persistence of founder effects.

As expected, Qst indicates that local adaptation becomes less important with weak selection. With large population size ( $K = 2 \cdot 10^7$ ), Fst values do not statistically differ from the neutral scenario, showing the higher importance of founder effects. Moreover, Qst values also appear to be affected by persistent founder effects. Contrastingly to the situation with strong selection, genetic linkage does not alter differentiation at neutral loci. However, at low population sizes ( $K = 2 \cdot 10^4$ ), local adaptation does play a role. Mean Fst values statistically differ from the neutral scenario at all recombination rates (from 0.0 to 0.5), and the variance of the distribution of Fst values is decreased (see Fig. 3 for comparison). Note that drift is the dominant factor in relatively small ( $K = 2 \cdot 10^4$ ) populations with diapausing egg bank.

The scenario without diapausing egg bank (see Supplementary Fig. S1) is similar to that with diapausing egg bank in the case of strong selection. However, some differences can be highlighted. If compared to the strong selection scenario, in weak selection conditions: (1) at  $K = 2 \cdot 10^7$  genes under selection are less affected by persistent founder effects and populations show a trend to be locally adapted; (2) at  $K = 2 \cdot 10^4$ , Fst values at recombination

rates 0.0 and 0.1 are statistically different from the neutral scenario –unlike at higher recombination rates--, which indicates that genetic hitchhiking could be of some importance; (3) at  $K = 2 \cdot 10^4$  Fst and Qst had higher variance at all recombination rates.

In the absence of a diapausing egg bank, populations reach maximum Qst values in about 40-50 sexual generations regardless of population size (data not shown). However, when a diapausing egg bank exists, advantageous alleles need a longer time to reach fixation (about 150 sexual generations for  $K = 2 \cdot 10^4$ , and about 300 generations for  $K = 2 \cdot 10^7$ ).

We computed Qst vs. Fst correlations within each tested parameter combination. Significant correlations were found only in the case of the low K ( $2\cdot10^4$ ) without diapausing egg bank. Correlation coefficient is always positive, and the ranges are: Kendall's tau = 0.66-0.53 and Spearman's rho = 0.73-0.56 for strong selection; Kendall's tau = 0.68-0.32 and Spearman's rho = 0.80-0.38 for weak selection.

#### Discussion

The understanding of the evolutionary factors responsible for the strong population structure of passively dispersed aquatic organisms in the face of potentially high gene flow has attracted considerable attention in the last decade (De Meester *et al.*, 2002; Mills *et al.*, 2007; Campillo *et al.*, 2009). The model presented here explores formally, in a powerful and extended way, the effects of different evolutionary forces on population structure. Our simulation results show that the strongest effect was caused by persistent founder effects, resulting largely from the distinctive life history traits of these organisms, including the interaction of the following factors: few population founders, high rates of population growth, large population sizes and the presence of diapausing egg banks. These results are in agreement with those of Boileau *et al.* (1992), who proposed that persistent founder effects

are an important force shaping the genetic structure of passively dispersed aquatic organisms, although he did not explore the importance of selection or genetic linkage. The most remarkable and novel result of our simulations is that the role of local adaptation and genetic hitchhiking on shaping genetic structure of these organisms is not significant in large populations, although it plays a significant role in small populations.

Our simulations also show that, in agreement with Boileau *et al.* (1992), migration has a very limited effect on the population structure of passively dispersed aquatic organisms. For instance, a migration rate of 1000 individuals per sexual generation is needed to cause a noticeable effect on Fst in a large population. Although direct estimates of the number of dispersing stages are unavailable, this seems an extremely large value unlikely to occur between non-connected ponds (Cáceres & Soluk, 2002; Frisch *et al.*, 2007; Allen, 2007), and inconsistent with estimates of the number of founders in populations, which are expected to be correlated with regular immigration rates (Louette *et al.*, 2007, Badosa *personal communication*). However, in small populations, our model recovers the expected pattern for the combined effect of migration and drift under neutral genetic differentiation.

Among the factors studied in our model, population size has been shown to be largely responsible for establishing the levels of genetic differentiation observed in natural populations of aquatic organisms. In addition, this effect is strongly reinforced when a diapausing egg bank is established. Although egg banks could increase gene flow by postponing migration in the bank (Kaj *et al.*, 2001; Berg, 2005), they act mainly buffering the effects of migration and reducing genetic drift, which favors the establishment of persistent founder effects. In our model, we assumed a parameter range in agreement with values reported for many aquatic organisms. Nevertheless, due to computational limitations the values used for population sizes and egg bank densities had to be limited, and could

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underestimate those attained in many natural populations. Some estimated population sizes and diapausing egg bank densities in rotifers are 1 or 2 orders of magnitude higher than the maximum values considered here (Carmona *et al.*, 1995; Ortells *et al.*, 2003). Diapausing egg bank densities for zooplanktonic organisms are in the order of  $10^3$ - $10^7$  eggs/m² (review in Hairston, 1996 for different zooplanktonic taxa), although densities in the sediment layers that could provide recruits are uncertain. However, modeling larger population sizes is unlikely to change our results qualitatively; if anything, they would make the relative impact of persistent founder effects stronger.

Local adaptation seems to be common and has been well documented in cladocerans (e.g., De Meester, 1996; Cousyn et al., 2001; Decaestecker et al., 2007) but seems to be rarer in rotifers -though study effort in rotifers is much lower and restricted to rather generalist species- (Campillo et al., 2011). However, the effect of local adaptation on the genetic structure does not seem to be general, as its effect is weakened by neutral and demographic factors. A limited role for local adaptation in continental aquatic invertebrates has been recently suggested (Campillo et al., 2009; Allen et al., 2010). Our results indicate that local adaptation does occur, but it only has a noticeable effect on population structure when population sizes and diapausing egg banks are relatively small. Given that rotifers tend to have larger population sizes than cladocerans, this would mean that the effects of local adaptation on population structure could differ between these organisms. According to our results, the role of genetic hitchhiking of neutral genes linked to genes under selection appears to be of limited importance on genetic differentiation. We have only detected signs of its effect at (1) completely linked genes with high population size and strong selection, and at (2) intermediate population size without egg bank and weak selection. The lack of observed impact does not mean that genetic hitchhiking has no importance, but that other

processes are dominating the outcome. We must stress that our main question is not whether local adaptation occurs or not, but if this adaptation affects genetic differentiation in neutral markers. We acknowledge that, due to computational limitations, our model simplifies the selective scenarios acting on continental aquatic invertebrates. As selection in natural populations of aquatic invertebrates is likely to be multifactorial, and fluctuating, this scenarios should be further explored.

Genetic analyses in recently established populations indicate that the number of founders is small (Haag *et al.*, 2005; Louette *et al.*, 2007; Ortells *et al.*, 2011; Badosa *personal communication*), and consistently a single founder was assumed in most simulations. By assuming a single founder in most simulations, the studied scenario corresponds, for instance, to a situation where a new region consisting of several lakes is open to colonization –e.g. after glaciation-, with few founders of any single lake, but with varying migration rates among lakes. When we relaxed the assumption of a single founder, the only remarkable observed effect was a negative one on the final value of Fst.

Globally, our results show that population genetic structure in these organisms is driven by persistent founder effects, genetic drift or local adaptation, with population size and the egg bank having a strong control on the dominance of each of these factors. In turn, these demographic variables can be linked to ecological features. If so, a habitat classification linking ecological factors, demographic features, and mechanisms acting on genetic structure could be possible. Therefore, in populations inhabiting permanent ponds and lakes where a low investment in diapause is generally found —as reflected in small diapausing egg banks in comparison to temporary or ephemeral ponds (Hebert, 1974a; Hebert, 1974b; García-Roger *et al.*, 2006b; Campillo *et al.*, 2011)-, an increased effect of local adaptation and genetic drift is expected. In contrast, in environmental conditions limiting

population sizes, such as small rock pools or nutrient-poor lakes, migration can attain higher importance. If even so, high genetic differentiation is detected, an effect of selective forces can be hypothesized. For instance, genetic hitchhiking has been suggested for a *Daphnia* metapopulation inhabiting temporal rock pools (Haag *et al.*, 2006). Besides ecological features, our results suggest that differences can be expected between taxa differing in body size and so in their typical population sizes, and therefore differences between the smaller rotifers and the larger cladocerans are expected. As far as our results identify a restricted number of factors driving the genetic structure, they provide insights beyond the life cycle assumed (i.e., cyclical parthenogenesis), and could be extended to organisms with similar demographic features (i.e. high growth rates, high population densities or presence of seed or egg banks). For example, populations of sexual species with high growth rates (i.e. *r* strategists) like crustaceans such *Artemia* or copepods, which produce egg banks, are also likely to benefit from a numerical advantage that will reduce the impact of migration on the genetic structure of their populations (Boileau *et al.*, 1992).

As we have shown, the rapid growth rate of colonists acts as a barrier against new migrants, and this is reinforced by the formation of diapausing stage banks and in some cases, by local adaptation. This process leads to a persistent founder effect, and consequently, to a deviation from the migration-drift equilibrium. This has repercussions when interpreting phylogeographic signals (Gómez *et al.*, 2002; Waters, 2011). For instance patterns of "isolation-by-distance" found in several aquatic organisms, regardless of their reproductive mode, have been suggested to be due to a process of sequential colonizations (Gómez *et al.* 2007; Gouws & Stewart, 2007; Mills *et al.*, 2007; Muñoz *et al.*, 2008). Our results are consistent with these proposals and suggest that caution should be applied when inferring a migration-drift mechanism of 'isolation by distance' from such patterns (i.e.,

correlation between genetic and geographical distances). Also, the establishment of persistent founder effects and competitive exclusion of closely related species can explain the phylogenetic overdispersion in communities, given a phylogenetic limiting similarity between species (Violle *et al.*, 2011).

During the time window from the arrival of first colonizers to the establishment of the founder effects, the genetic structure of the population is still sensitive to migration or drift. Our results point out that this period is short, as a result of the high population growth rates of most aquatic organisms. Nevertheless, we found that with relatively low population growth rates, the numerical advantage is delayed and genetic differentiation is relatively low. In a similar way, inbreeding depression could act favoring gene flow (Tortajada *et al.*, 2009; Tortajada *et al.*, 2010). Although this factor has not been explicitly modeled here, it will act in a similar way of reducing the growth rate, which will favor gene flow. However, severe inbreeding could also reduce the effective population size, and increase genetic drift, which will increase genetic differentiation. A more detailed exploration of this scenario will be needed and it will depend on the magnitude of the purging and migration.

Other factors not implemented in our model but likely to occur in the wild could also counteract the high genetic differentiation. For example, processes able to reduce population size during asexual growth phase (e.g., perturbations or environmental fluctuations) could increase the impact of gene flow. In addition, it will be of interest to test the strength of persistent founder effects buffering migrants with a higher fitness than locally adapted residents. These factors -inbreeding depression, environmental fluctuations, and preadapted immigrants- were not invoked in the initial formulation of the Monopolization Hypothesis and should be investigated in future analyses. An additional prospective is to include the effect of metapopulation structure. Recently, Walser & Haag

(2012) have shown that population turnover, which is expected to have high rate in small populations, could also explain the high genetic population differentiation.

#### Concluding remarks

Molecular screening of natural population has uncovered an unexpectedly high genetic diversity in taxa with high dispersal potential. These findings challenged classical views of the evolutionary processes in small multicellular organisms, and when focused on aquatic invertebrates, brought to postulate a combination of processes as causal factors for that genetic differentiation, the Monopolization Hypothesis (De Meester, 2002). Our analysis shows that a quantitative elaboration of this multifactorial hypothesis is able to dissect the relative weights of the different factors, and their interactions. Specifically, we found that founder effects drive the genetic structure of passively dispersed aquatic organisms. We conclude that although selective factors and migration have a role in explaining genetic structure of continental aquatic invertebrates, demographic processes are dominant. By studying which factors are important in what circumstances, our analysis can help understanding relevant differences among the genetic structure of different species.

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Figure 1. Demographic submodel.

Figure 2.- Population differentiation (Fst) after 1000 sexual generations plotted against migration (M) with and without a diapausing egg bank for (A)  $K = 2 \cdot 10^2$ , and (B)  $K = 2 \cdot 10^7$  individuals. The rest of parameters were r = 0.3 d<sup>-1</sup>, n = 5, s = 0 and F = 1. Box plots are based on 50 replicate simulations. Boxes represent 25<sup>th</sup> /75<sup>th</sup> percentile and black dots the 5<sup>th</sup>/95<sup>th</sup> percentile. Thin black lines and thick gray lines in each bar represent the median and the mean respectively. Dashed, horizontal lines show the initial value of Fst after foundation.

Figure 3.- Population differentiation (Fst) after 1000 sexual generations plotted against carrying capacity (K) with and without a diapausing egg bank. Simulation values for other parameters were r = 0.3 d<sup>-1</sup>, n = 5, s = 0, F = 1 and M = 2. Data is based on 50 replicate simulations. Boxes represent  $25^{th}$  / $75^{th}$  percentile and black dots the  $5^{th}$ / $95^{th}$  percentile. Thin black lines and thick gray lines in each bar represent the median and the mean respectively. Dashed line shows the initial value of Fst after foundation.

Figure 4.- Effect of different carrying capacities (K) on Fst along 4000 sexual generations. (A, B) Box plot of the increment of Fst ( $\Delta$ Fst) after 4000 sexual generations (A) without and (B) with diapausing egg bank is shown. (C, D) Time course of the average Fst values along 4000 generations (C) without and (D) with diapausing egg bank. Simulation conditions were r = 0.3 d<sup>-1</sup>, n = 5, s = 0, F = 1 individual and M = 2 individuals. Data is based on 50 replicates. Boxes represent  $25^{th}/75^{th}$  percentile and black dots the  $5^{th}/95^{th}$  percentile. Thin black lines and

thick gray lines in each bar represent the median and the mean respectively. Doted lines show initial value of Fst after foundation.

Figure 5.- Contour plot showing Fst values after 1000 sexual generations at different combinations to population growth rates and carrying capacity (A) without and (B) with diapausing egg bank. Simulation conditions were n = 5, s = 0, F = 1 and M = 2. Data is based on 50 replicates.

Figure 6.- Time course of the average Fst value along 4000 generations for different number of founders (F = 1, 2, 5 and 50), for  $K = 2 \cdot 10^4$  (A) and  $K = 2 \cdot 10^7$  (B). Solid lines: without diapausing egg bank, dotted lines: with diapausing egg bank. Average Fst values obtained from 50 replicates.

Figure 7.- Box plot graph of Fst and Qst values after 1000 sexual generations with different recombination rates for two different values of fitness components ( $\delta = 10^{-4}$  and  $10^{-2}$  d<sup>-1</sup>) and with presence of a diapausing egg bank. For each of the fitness scenario, the left panel refers to  $K = 2 \cdot 10^4$  and the right panel, to  $K = 2 \cdot 10^7$ . The rest of parameters were r = 0.3 d<sup>-1</sup>, n = 5, s = 5, F = 1 and M = 2. Data is based on 100 replicates. Boxes represent  $25^{th}$  /75<sup>th</sup> percentile and black dots the  $5^{th}$ /95<sup>th</sup> percentile. Thin black lines and thick gray lines in each bar represent the median and the mean respectively. Dashed lines show the initial value of Fst after foundation. Asterisks indicate Fst statistically different from those without selection ( $\delta = 0$ ) (\*\*,  $\alpha = 0.05$ ; \*,  $\alpha = 0.1$ ).

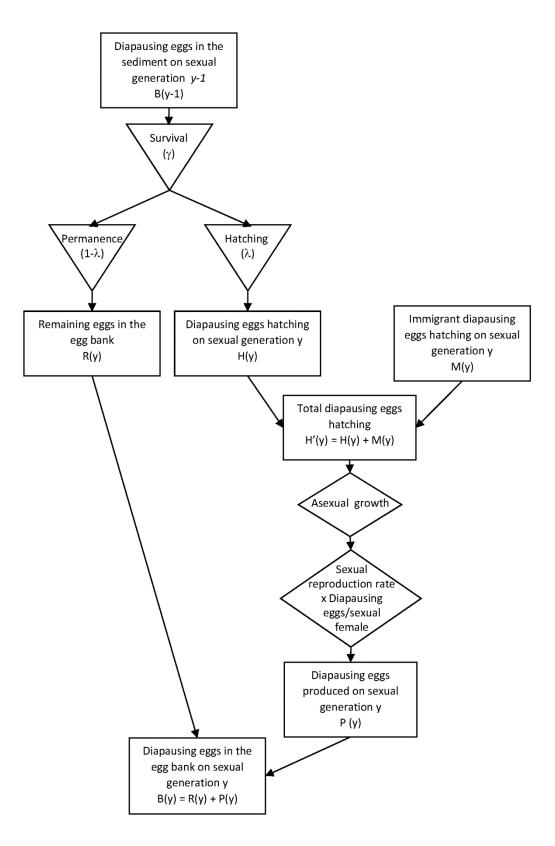
Table 1. Summary of model parameters and assumed values.

Parameter	Definition	Value
F	Number of founders (individuals)	1 - 50
М	Number of immigrants per sexual generation	0 - 10 <sup>5</sup>
	(individuals)	
γ	Egg annual survival proportion in the bank egg	0.763 *
λ	Annual hatching proportion of diapausing eggs	0.046 *
у	Sexual generations	1000/4000
τ	Duration of the asexual growth period (days)	60
r	Clonal growth rate of each genotype (days <sup>-1</sup> )	0.05 - 1.00
К	Carrying capacity (individuals)	$2 \cdot 10^2 - 2 \cdot 10^7$
m	Sexual proportion	0.7 †
sr	Sex ratio	0.5 ‡
е	Diapausing egg production per sexual female	3
n	Number of neutral loci	5
S	Number of loci under selection	5
δ	Additive value on $r$ (days $^{-1}$ )	10 <sup>-5</sup> - 10 <sup>-1</sup>

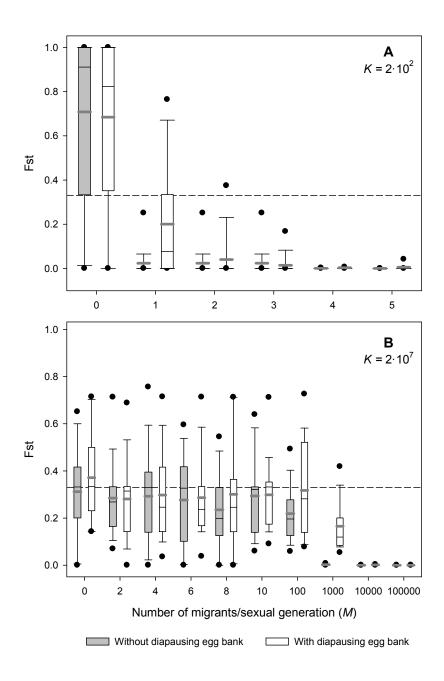
\* Calculated from García-Roger et al. (2006b) † (Alver & Hagiwara, 2007) ‡ (Aparici et al.,

694 1998)

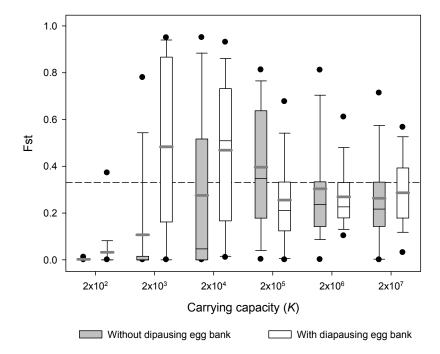
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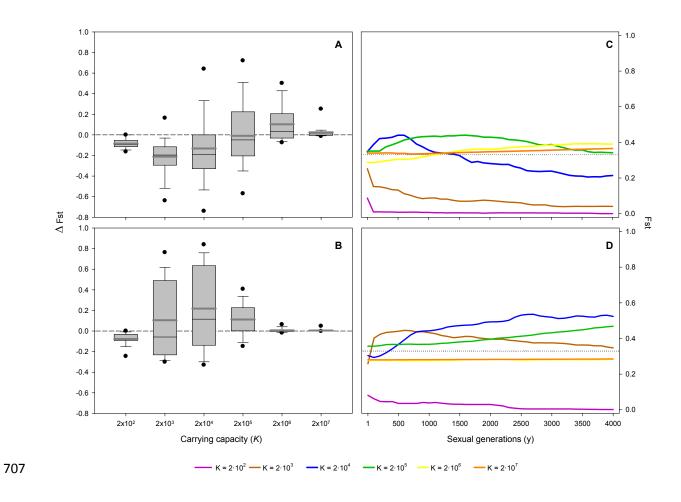
697 Figure 1.



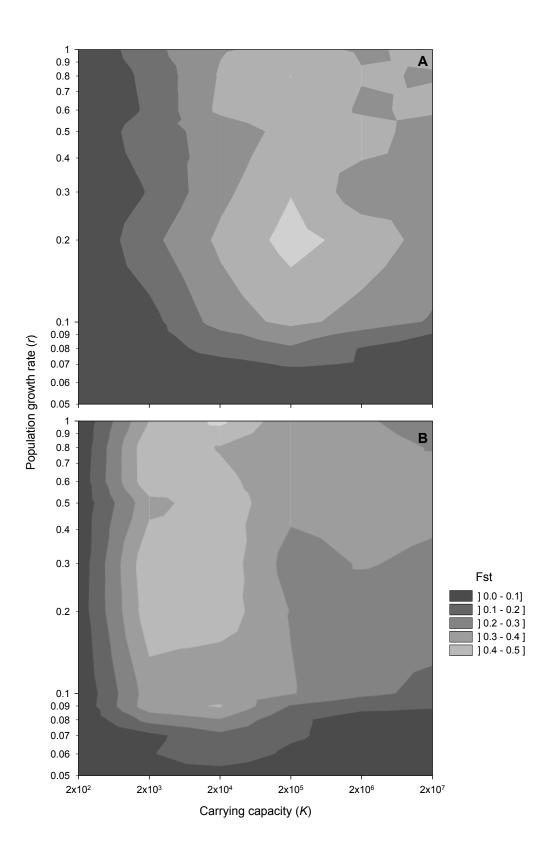
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702 Figure 3.

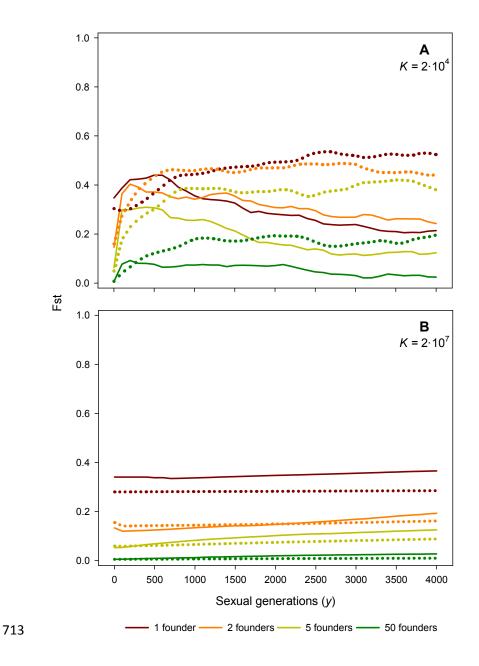


708 Figure 4.

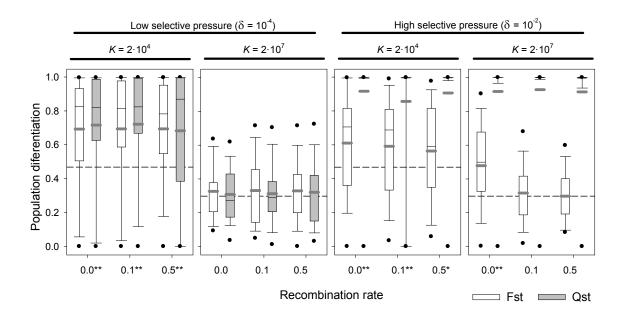


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712 Figure 5.



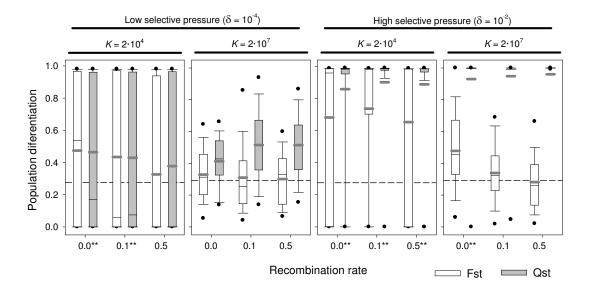
714 Figure 6.



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#### Figure legends

Figure S1.- Box plot graph of Fst and Qst values after 1000 sexual generations with different recombination rates for two different values of fitness components ( $\delta = 10^{-4}$  and  $10^{-2}$  d<sup>-1</sup>) and without presence of a diapausing egg bank. For each of the fitness scenario, the left panel refers to  $K = 2 \cdot 10^4$  and the right panel, to  $K = 2 \cdot 10^7$ . The rest of parameters were r = 0.3 d<sup>-1</sup>, n = 5, s = 5, F = 1 and M = 2. Data is based on 100 replicates. Boxes represent  $25^{th}$  /75<sup>th</sup> percentile and black dots the  $5^{th}$ /95<sup>th</sup> percentile. Thin black lines and thick gray lines in each bar represent the median and the mean respectively. Dashed lines show the initial value of Fst after foundation. Asterisks indicate Fst statistically different from those without selection ( $\delta = 0$ ) (\*\*,  $\alpha = 0.05$ ).



#### 13 Figure S1.