

Does Sex hinder speciation? Perspective from a computational model of RNA folding

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The genetics of speciation has been generally ascribed to the negative epistasis between, otherwise benign, alleles at different loci in the hybrids ¹. In this view, neutral or adaptive mutations arise and fix in different lineages independently, and such accumulation makes it more likely for mutations from different lineages to be incompatible with each other ². Assuming that populations are monomorphic during their evolution, as in strong selection weak mutation (SSWM) regime, is a valid approach to simulate evolution as a series of beneficial mutations going to fixation ³, but it can be problematic in understanding speciation between lineages, since it neglects the possible effect of population dynamic on the emergence of incompatibilities.

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ing to fixation ³, but it can be problematic in understanding speciation between lineages, since it neglects the possible effect of population dynamic on the emergence of incompatibilities. Recent studies have presented us with an inconvenient and yet intriguing reality: incompatibilities are segregating within species ⁴⁻⁷.

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Sections can only be used in Articles. Contributions should be organized in the sequence: title, text, methods, references, Supplementary Information line (if any), acknowledgements, interest declaration, corresponding author line, tables, figure legends.

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Method subsection. Here is a description of a specific method used. Note that the subsection heading ends with a full stop (period) and that the command is `\subsection{ }` not `\subsection*{ }`.

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Competing Interests The authors declare that they have no competing financial interests.

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Figure 1 Each figure legend should begin with a brief title for the whole figure and continue with a short description of each panel and the symbols used. For contributions with methods sections, legends should not contain any details of methods, or exceed 100 words (fewer than 500 words in total for the whole paper). In contributions without methods sections, legends should be fewer than 300 words (800 words or fewer in total for the whole paper).