Running Head: Predator-prey body mass from DNA metabarcoding

Title: Predator-prey body mass scaling is mediated by species identity revealed by individual predator-prey interactions from diet DNA metabarcoding

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Lab: anyone with 199?

Needs to be 20 MS pages from start to finish, all double spaced

**Abstract (200 words)**

**Keywords (6-12 words)**

**Introduction**

Baby: The field of food web ecology has spent nearly a century observing and predicting patterns in complex communities of multiple species and their interactions (reviewed in Layman et al. 2015). Through multiple evolutions in the thinking in the field, especially on the understanding of how ecologically complex ecosystems maintain stability (e.g. May 1971 to Polis 1991), it has been clear that while there are patterns specific to food webs in different contexts (e.g. environmental; Brose et al. 2006), there seem to be general relationships between the role of consumers in a food web and basic species traits, in particular, body size (Woodward 2002). Body size is a fundamental trait that predicts feeding behaviors, including how much an individual eats, and for predators, which prey are available to those predator species based on relative body size differences and optimal foraging theory (e.g. Stouffer 2015). In this way, body size has been used to define the niches of consumers, in particular predators, in many of the food web models that best predict observed patterns in nature (e.g. Gravel et al. 2015, Pomeranz et al. 2019, Rudolf and Lafferty 2011).

Werewolf: One of the food web models best able to predict observed patterns of species interactions (measured as a binary presence-absence of interactions) is the niche model (Williams and Martinez 2000), which has been extended to incorporate predator and prey sizes to build species niches (Gravel et al. 2015, Pomeranz et al. 2019). The niche model with body sizes defines a predator’s diet based on its body size, the allometric relationship between its size and the size of its prey (Cohen et al. 2003; Brose et al, 2006; Riede et al. 2010), and the range of prey items around that central relationship, with larger predators having a wider range of potential prey sizes but with a lower bound based on optimal foraging (e.g. Nakazawa, SI Figure 1). While this model based on predator-prey body size scaling is promising for many datasets in which interactions can be well observed (e.g. via gut dissections), datasets for small-bodied species have historically been based on inference rather than observation due to small body sizes and particular feeding habits of some invertebrate predators (e.g. spider feeding habits; CITE HERE). Therefore, whether body size scaling allometries apply for these species or whether these allometries represent relics of the body size constraints used to infer interactions in the first place (e.g. body size constraints in Hines et al. 2019) is imperative for the development of food webs in these systems and the generalization of food web patterns across systems (e.g. Brose citations). Furthermore, food web models across body size ranges often approach food webs as species-based, and so intraspecific variation and whether predator species identity (as a proxy for functional traits) mediates the predator-prey body size scaling relationship are not incorporated into these models, even though there is growing evidence that species identity or traits may regulate size-based feeding interactions (Brose et al. 2019, Rudolf et al. 2014).

Silver Bullet: In this study, we employ novel diet DNA metabarcoding data from 182 individuals of nine invertebrate predator species to document predator-prey interactions between these predators and their prey in natural field conditions. Combined with an extensive dataset of body sizes for both predator individuals and the prey species identified in their diets, we examine the predator-prey body size relationships for these predators across and within species. Specifically, we ask: do larger individuals eat 1) larger prey and 2) a wider range of prey sizes, and is this mediated by predator species identity? Understanding these two components of predator diets will be key to building predictive food web models built on these parameters (Gravel et al. 2015, Pompanez et al. 2018). In addition, this diet DNA metabarcoding dataset provides an opportunity to strengthen our understanding of predator-prey interactions for small-bodied organisms while providing a unique opportunity to examine these patterns at the level (individuals) at which predator-prey interactions occur, thus bridging the gap between species-level food webs and individual-level interactions (e.g. Nakazawa 2017, Stouffer 2010).

**Methods:**

*Field site and collections*

We conducted this work on Palmyra Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, Northern Line Islands (5º53’ N, 162º05’W). Palmyra Atoll has a well-characterized species list, and like many atolls, is relatively species poor, allowing for characterization of potential diet items (Handler et al., 2007). Predator individuals were collected across habitat types on the atoll, including different forest types and microhabitats, including understory vegetation, canopy vegetation, and soil habitats. For each of these habitats, we used a combination of methods, including individual collection during visual surveys for understory and soil collections and canopy fogging with insecticide (cite) onto collection sheets for canopy individuals. All individuals were collected individually with sterilized implements (ethanol-burned forceps) in sterilized collection containers containing 95% EtOH to avoid contamination (Greenstone et al., 2011). We identified all predators to morphospecies in a laboratory environment and the predator species used in this study represent the most common predator species found in each habitat type and a representative distribution of body size distributions for each predator in each habitat (SI Table 2)

. All individuals were stored in 95% EtOH a -20ºC before DNA extraction.

*DNA extraction, PCR amplification, library preparation, sequencing, and denoising*

We individually measured the length of each predator (mm) and separated the thorax, opisthosoma, or trunk (depending on predator species, Krehenwinkel, Macias Herndandez) for DNA extraction following a modified CTAB extraction protocol (Fulton et al., 1995). Following methods in Krehenwinkel et al. (2017), we standardized concentrations of 40uL of each sample to 20ng/ul and used Ampure XP (Agencourt, Beverly, MA, USA) beads to remove higher molecular weight predator DNA prior to PCR steps. We then amplified the CO1 gene, which is well-represented in online databases (Porter and Hajibabaei 2018) with general metazoan primers (mlCOIintF/Fol-degen-rev; Krehenwinkel et al. 2017, Leray et al. 2013, Yu et al. 2012). We ran total reaction volumes per sample of 25μL, with 9μL nuclease free water, 12.5μL GoTaq Green Master Mix (Promega Corp., Madison, WI, USA), 1.25μL of each primer (at 10mM), and 1μL of DNA template (at 10ng/μL) and ran a duplicate for each sample. We followed a PCR protocol as followed: 3 minutes at 95ºC, 35 cycles of: 95ºC for 30 seconds, 46ºC for 30 seconds, 72ºC for one minute; ending with 72ºC for five minutes. We removed reaction dimer with Ampure XP beads at 0.8x bead-to-DNA ratio. We then attached Illumina index primers (Nextera XT Index Kit v2) with 5μL of PCR product per reaction and the recommended PCR protocol for these primers (Illumina). We combined and cleaned successfully amplified duplicate samples using Ampure XP beads (0.7x beads-to-DNA) and diluted each sample to 5nM in 10mM TRIS, using 1uL of each sample for sequencing.

Because of the sample size and the need for a large number of sequences per predator in order to detect rarer prey DNA (Krehenwinkel, miller-ter Kuile, SI Figure 2), we ran samples for this study across four separate sequencing runs (SI Table 1). All individuals within a predator species were sequenced on the same run and each run contained one to five predator species. We ran 19 samples of one predator species (*H. venatoria*) across all runs to quantify run-to-run variation in sequencing (SI Figure 3). For each run, we multiplexed all samples along with one negative control and two PCR4-TOPO TA vectors (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA) containing the internal transcribed spacer 1 region from two fungal species as positive controls (GenBank accession numbers: MG840195 and MG840196; Apigo & Oono, 2018; Clark et al., 2016; Toju et al., 2012). We submitted multiplexed samples for sequencing at the University of California, Santa Barbara Biological Nanostructures Laboratory Genetics Core. Samples were run on an Illumina MiSeq platform (v2 chemistry, 500 cycles, paired-end reads) with a 15% spike-in of PhiX. Following sequencing, samples were demultiplexed using Illumina’s bcl2fastq conversion software (v2.20) at the Core facility. Our full protocol from DNA extraction through submission for Illumina sequencing can be found in Miller-ter Kuile et al..

We merged, filtered (max ee = 1.0), and denoised (clustered) our sequences around amplicon sequence variants (ASVs) using the DADA2 algorithm in R (dada2 package version 1.1.14.0; Callahan et al., 2016). Prior to denoising with DADA2, we used cutadapt (version 1.18, Martin, 2011) to remove primers from each sequence. We compared results to a similar protocol using the UNOISE3 algorithm (unoise3 function in unoise CITE EDGAR), but found that DADA2 gave more high-read abundance ASVs (SI Figure 4). We ran DADA2 on sequences from all sequencing runs combined but verified that this was appropriate by first ensuring that error rates per run were similar, following recommendations from the algorithm developers (SI Figure 5). We removed samples from analysis that had not been sequenced to sufficient depth using iNEXT (CITE) and a lower quantile cutoff (SI Figures 6 & 7). We rarefied remaining samples (McKnight et al., 2019) based on the sample with the lowest sequencing depth which had been sequenced with 95%+ sampling completeness based on iNEXT (version 2.0.20) interpolation and extrapolation methods (Hsieh & Chao, 2017). We rarefied using the rrarefy() function in the vegan (version 2.5.6) package in R to 15,954 reads per sample.

*ASV taxonomic assignment with BLAST and BOLD*

From the output of the DADA2 algorithm, we created a list of unique ASVs which we matched to taxonomies both in the GenBank and BOLD databases. For GenBank, we used BLAST (version 2.7.1) with the blastn command for taxonomic assignment of each ASV using the computing cluster at UC Santa Barbara, comparing against the GenBank nucleotide database with an evalue of 0.01 (downloaded on November 20, 2019). We visualized and exported taxonomic alignment using MEGAN Community Edition (version 6.18.0, Huson et al., 2016), using default settings and selecting the subtree with all possible diet items for this species (Kingdom: Animalia, Clade: Bilateria). For BOLD taxonomic assignment, we used the BOLD IDEngine of the CO1 gene with Species Level Barcode Records (accessed May 21, 2020; 4,070,029 Sequences, 225,114 Species, and 104,607 Interim Species in database) to match each ASV list to taxonomies. We combined taxonomic assignments from both programs and discarded taxonomic assignments that were mismatched at the family level or higher (Elbrecht et al., 2017). Most (\_\_%) ASVs received a family-level taxonomic assignment, so we chose to combine prey taxonomies at the family level, similar to diet resolution in both metabarcoding and histological methods in this field (e.g. Brose et al. 2019, Kartzinel – find other metabarcoding ones) by summing the cumulative read abundances across the ASVs that corresponded to each diet family in each sample. All DNA matching any predator family present on an individual sequencing run was also removed as a conservative method to account for potential sequence jumping within sequencing runs which could alter prey identity or diversity in favor of predator species on a shared run (CITE SEQUENCE JUMPING).

*Predator and prey size determination*

We converted predator lengths to mass using mass-length scaling relationships for each predator species using existing datasets from the literature and the field site (Soehlstrom et al, Su et al. Yaninek et al. 1993, Miller-ter Kuile *unpublished data*, McLaughlin et al. *unpublished data*). We determined a by-species scaling relationship by fitting a mixed effect model predicting the log10 transformed predator mass from log10 transformed predator length with a random slope term for log10 predator length and a random intercept by predator species (e.g. letting the mass-length relationship vary by species; SI Figure 8). We then used these scaling relationships to predict each predator individual mass based on length measurements. Prey masses were taken as the average mass for individuals across species within each family. We determined prey mass range in each predator individual by determining the range of largest to smallest prey items for predator individuals for which we documented more than one prey item n= 81 of 182).

*Predator-prey body size scaling*

To determine whether individual predator size, species, or both predicted 1) prey size and 2) prey size range, we used model selection based on AICc to compare a set of nested linear models with each response variable (prey mass and prey mass range). The full model for prey size included the interaction between log10 predator mass (in mg) and species identity, with a random effect of predator individual. The full model for prey size range included the interaction between log10 predator mass (in mg) and species identity. We log10 transformed each response variable for each model (log10 prey mass and log10 prey mass range, both in mg). To perform model selection, we used the dredge() function in the MuMIn package in R (Versions, citations) to compare all nested models and chose the model with the lowest AICc value. We verified model assumptions for best-fitting models using the DHARMa package in R (versions).

**Results**

*DNA extraction, PCR amplification, library preparation, sequencing, and denoising*

Of a total of 280 samples, we successfully extracted DNA from 99% of samples (n = 278 of 280, SI Table 1). Amplification success across all samples was 80%, with 222 of 278 initially extracted samples successfully amplified and sequenced. The Illumina MiSeq runs yielded 3.9, 3.8, 3.8, and 3.3 x 107 unpaired reads that passed filtering and had Q30 quality scores of 87.82, 85.46, 79.34, and 78.02%, respectively. After quality filtering and denoising with DADA2, 3.02 x 107 paired-end reads corresponded to 1,738 ASVs. Following filtering and clustering, we determined that 40 samples had too-low sequencing depths (less than 11,211 reads total) and so they were removed from further analyses.Of the total individual predator samples, 182 remained after removal of poorly-sequenced samples.

*ASV taxonomic assignment with BLAST and BOLD*

Sixty-seven percent (1,167 of 1,738) of ASVs matched to a taxonomic assignment at Class level or lower. Thirty percent (n = 524) of these taxonomic assignments corresponded to prey items at the family level or lower and so were used in analyses. There were two conflicting taxonomic assignments at the family level or higher between the BOLD and BLAST assignments which were removed from the final total above.

*Predator and prey size determination*

To build predator mass-length relationships, we compiled data from 2,362 individual predators (13 – 1652 per predator species). These data had strong species-specific mass-length scaling relationships (R2m = 0.62, R2c = 0.95) which were used to predict individual predator masses from lengths. We compiled data from 3,458 individual prey (1 – 1721 individuals per family), with 59% (2,028 out of 3,458) coming from individuals from Palmyra Atoll.

*Predator-prey body size scaling*

The best model predicting both prey size and prey size range included the terms of predator mass and predator species identity, but not the interaction between these two terms. (prey size model: y = x0.41, R2m = 0.30, R2c = 0.35, with significant variation in by-species intercepts, prey size range model: y = x0.36, adjusted R2 = 0.33, with significant variation in by-species intercepts, Figures 1 & 2, SI Tables 3 & 4)

**Discussion**

We found that individual predator size predicts both prey size and the range of prey sizes a predator consumes. However, predator species identity influences both prey size and prey size range, suggesting that predator traits specific to individual predator species are important mediators of general predator-prey size scaling relationships. In this set of predator species, this species effect may be evidence of species-specific traits related to foraging modes or life history (Laigle et al., Brose et al. 2019). These results highlight that while food web models predicting the structure of biological communities built on body size alone (both within and across species) explain much of the patterns in predator-prey interactions, these models can be refined based on predator species taxonomy, or, more generally, predator species traits (Brose et al. 2019, Laigle et al. 2018).

There is continued recognition in the field that food web patterns are likely the result of a combination of body size and species- or taxon-specific traits (Raffaieli 2007, Rudolf et al. 2014, Rall et al. 2011). Our results strengthen the need for a multi-trait (including body size) approach for explaining and predicting food web patterns. For example, in our results, predators that may be more gape-limited (e.g. *Pantala flavescens* and *Geophilomorpha* sp.) have smaller prey items on average compared to predators of similar, or even, smaller size of other species that may not be as gape limited due to “tools” such as webs (e.g. Oonopidae sp). Conversely, the use of tools or evidence of scavenging meant that some predators fed on proportionally larger body size prey (*Euborellia annulipes*; CITE for DERMAPTERA; Wilson and Wolkovich 2011, Berg et al. 2012). Further, when the range of prey sizes in an individual are considered, again, the prey of *Pantala flavescens* is fairly size-restricted across a range of individual predator sizes. Even more interestingly, despite ranging in size over one order of magnitude (4.1 – 62 mg), individuals of *Phisis holdhausi* have a fairly restricted prey size range across individuals (give range). While these data represent a subset (albeit of the most abundant predator species in this food web) of predator species, they suggest that approaching predator-prey size scaling with species functional traits beyond body size in mind may help to generalize while also describing more realistic patterns of species interactions (cite functional traits lit). Furthermore, these, and other datasets that describe feeding interactions at the individual level (e.g. Woodward and Hildrew 2002) for small-bodied invertebrates will link patterns that emerge at the food web level with the mechanisms that drive predator-prey interactions at the individual level (Stouffer 2005, Ings et al. 2009).

[think about allometry that spans across many species as opposed to the variable patterns that occur within species. Can we generalize and not worry about it?]

These data also revealed patterns of body size used to describe food webs in other ways, including predator-prey size ratios and interaction frequency, which can help infer interaction strengths (CITE). In particular, roughly 25% of the interactions in this dataset represent prey items that are the same size or larger than the predator (mostly in the spider species), going against common assumptions that most interactions occur between larger predators and smaller prey. These interactions suggest that this group of species (mostly spiders) may be able to target larger prey due to web-building (Laigle et al., Nakazawa et al. 2013) and suggest that thinking about restrictive rules for predators who are, themselves, on the small end of ecosystem size spectrums, may be a poor assumption. Furthermore, while we used these data to explore patterns in the niche model, which is based on binary interaction occurrence (presence-absence), because diet DNA metabarcoding data can be collected at the individual level, they provide an opportunity to quantify interaction strength (based on interaction frequency and the abundance of prey in the environment CITE) or stage structure (e.g. Rudolf and Lafferty 2011). As methods for diet DNA metabarcoding for these small predators becomes more established (e.g. advances in Krehenwinkel et al. 2017, 2019) and technology is becoming more affordable, these datasets may provide an effective way to quantify diet for all predators within an environment, either at the individual, stage, or population level.

P: Concluding: not body size only, not species only, individuals acting on interactions at the individual level. As plant ecology has learned from thinking about functions and beyond species to more about ecological roles, so does this too provide evidence that there may be simple (body size) rules that are mediated by another set of simple (trait) rules to explain patterns across systems.

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**Literature Cited**

**Figures**



Figure 1:

Larger predators eat larger prey based on a log10-log10 transformed relationship (panel (a), log10prey size = log10predator size0.41), though the effect is mediated by species identity (b). Continuous axis labels represent absolute values but the scale between them has been log10 transformed. In panel (b), “+” and “-“ icons indicate species that either have higher (“+”) or lower (“-“) prey sizes based on predator body size.



Figure 2:

Larger predators also feed on a wider range of prey sizes based on a log10-log10 transformed relationship (panel (a), log10prey size range = log10predator size0.35), though, again, the relationship is mediated by species identity (b). Continuous axis labels represent absolute values but the scale between them has been log10 transformed. In panel (b), “-“ icons indicate species that either have lower (“-“) prey size ranges based on predator body size.