

evolution of host resistance and tolerance

7 March 2022

Definitions/questions

- **resistance**: host's ability to resist or minimize infection
- **tolerance**: host's ability to support parasite infection without losing fitness
- **competence**: host's ability to support *and transmit* parasites (especially vector-borne)
- encounter and compatibility filters: avoiding parasites vs killing vs tolerating them

Mechanisms

- active defense (*plastic* or *facultative* defenses): **recognition systems** and **effectors**
 - recognition systems are the *qualitative* component of host defense: does the host recognize that the parasite (specifically, a parasite **antigen**) is present? These will typically evolve by Red Queen dynamics (i.e., via an inverse matching allele model). In vertebrates: **antibodies**
 - must be **specific** (self/non-self recognition), trigger proportionate response
 - coded by the **major histocompatibility complex** (self/non-self recognition), **somatic recombination**, deletion of host-specific antigens (Borghans, Beltman, and De Boer 2004; Acevedo-Whitehouse and Cunningham 2006; Rauch, Kalbe, and Reusch 2006; Spurgin and Richardson 2010)
 - *effectors*: what does the host do once the parasite is detected?
- passive/always-on defense (*constitutive* defenses)
 - changing cell surface receptors (e.g. CCR5-Δ32 (HIV, Hummel et al. (2005)); matching-allele model
- parasite countermeasures (immune evasion [trypanosomes], immune suppression [measles, anthrax, ...]) (Schmid-Hempel 2009)

Costs and tradeoffs

What are the **costs** of resistance and tolerance? (= Why aren't all hosts tolerant/resistant to all parasites?)

(Klemme, Hyvärinen, and Karvonen 2020)

- cost of maintaining recognition mechanisms

- cost of choosing different habitats
- tradeoffs (RQ-related or ?)

Population-level evolution (eco-evolution)

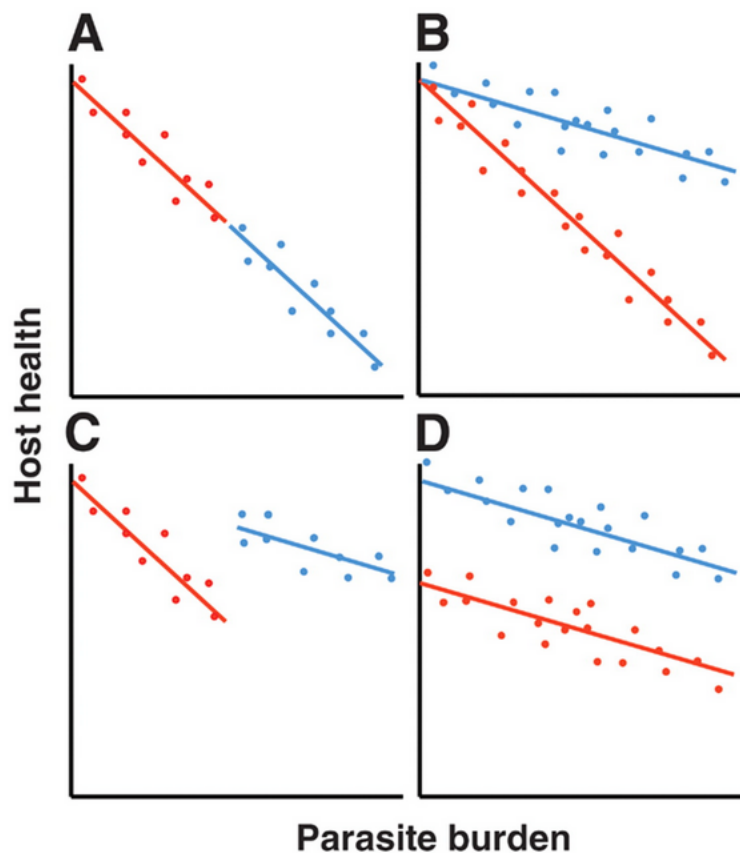
Stahl et al. (1999); Roy and Kirchner (2000)

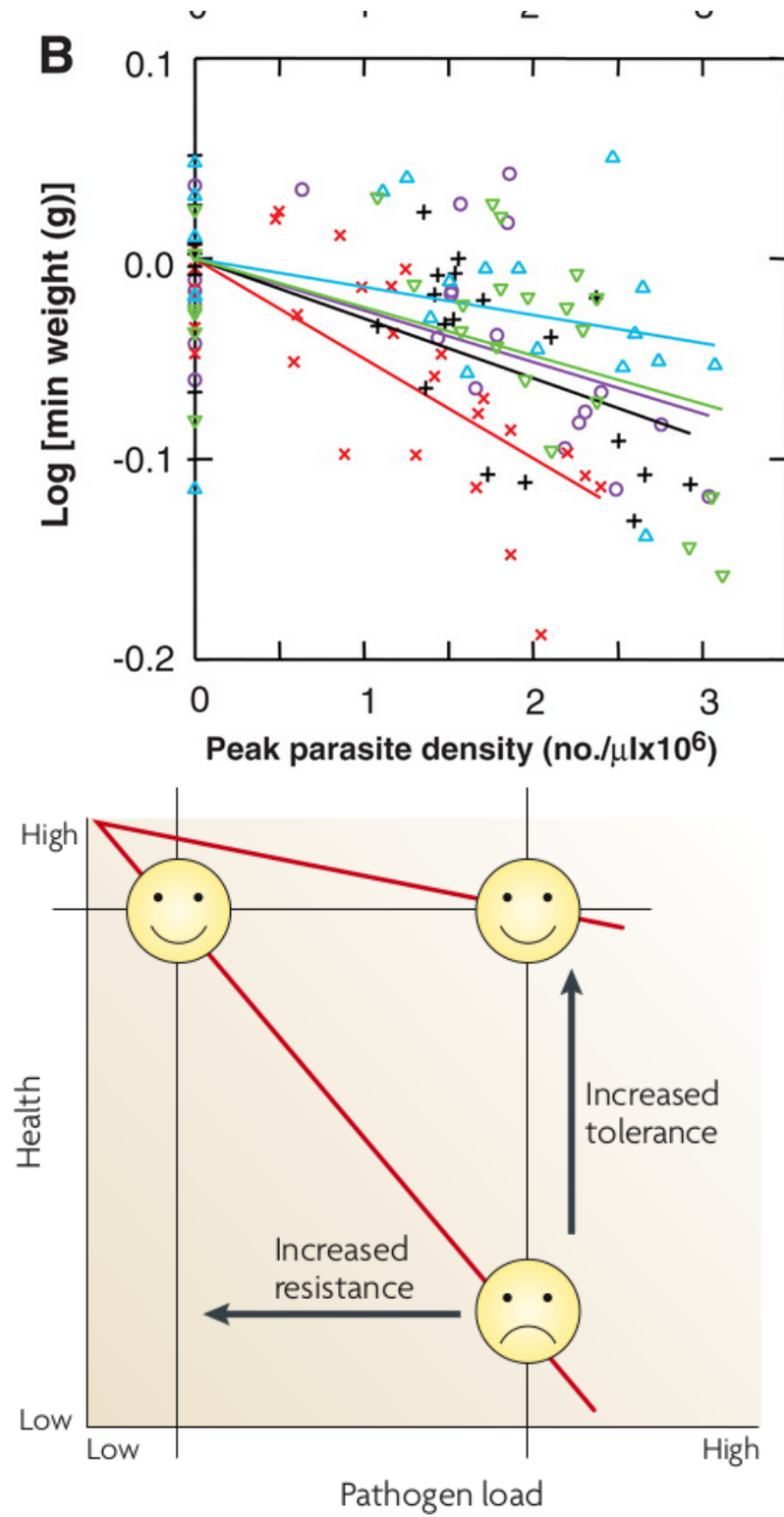
- resistance lowers prevalence - selects against itself; expect *polymorphism*
- tolerance increases prevalence - selects for itself (*apparent competition* with non-tolerant genotypes); expect *fixation*. (Is tolerance evolution-proof? (Schneider and Ayres 2008))

Measuring quantitative resistance/tolerance

- tolerance: loss of fitness **per unit parasite load**
- resistance: level of parasite load

(Raberg, Sim, and Read 2007; Råberg, Graham, and Read 2009)





Disentangling the history/origin of deleterious recessive Mendelian alleles

- Genetic *polymorphisms* are interesting; why haven't they been eliminated or fixed?

hypotheses

- genetic drift (null)
 - historic size of populations? (historical records, population genetics [*coalescents*])
 - strength of selection/maintenance in large populations?
- heterozygote advantage
- frequency-dependent selection (RQ vs. arms race)

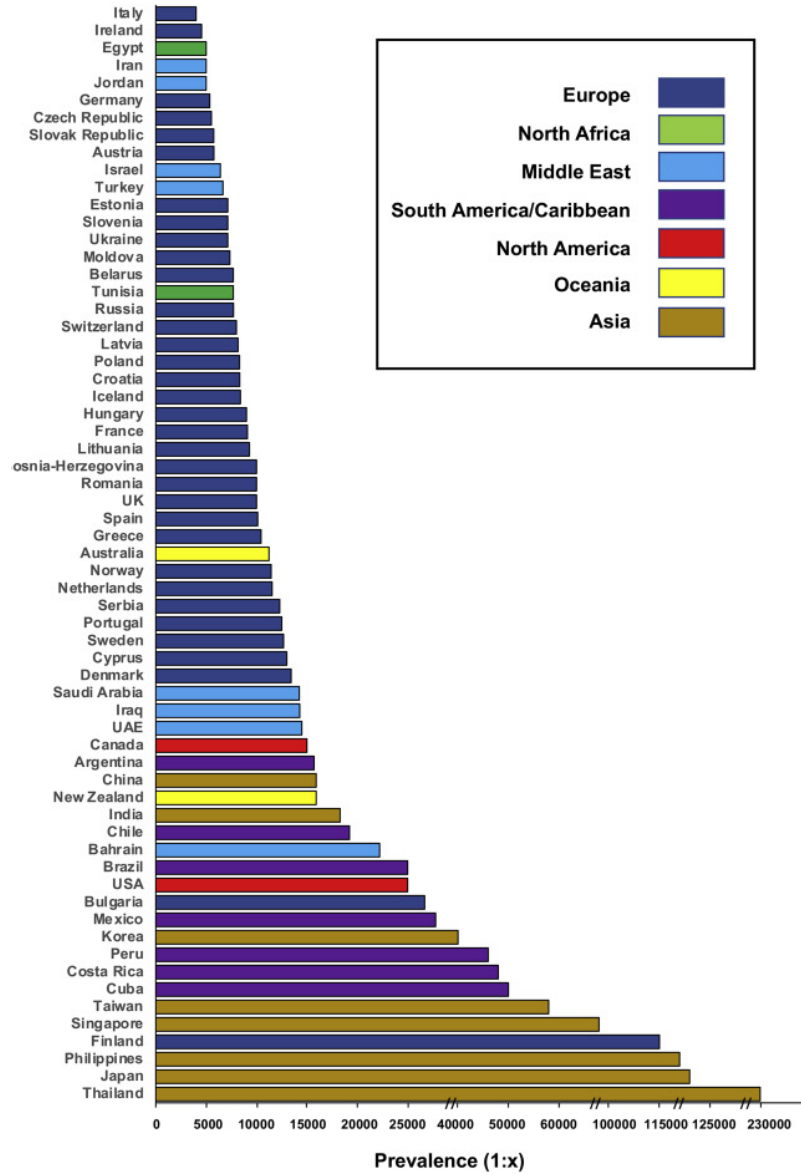
Tay-Sachs disease

- Lethal abnormality in hexosaminidase A (lipid metabolism); early (infant/toddler) death
- Mendelian, recessive lethal ($s = 1$)
- allele frequency $\approx 1/300$ in US population, $1/30$ in Ashkenazi (E. European) Jews: also high in French Canadians, Cajuns, Pennsylvania Dutch ...
- Population-genetic evidence suggests drift
- (Terrible!) speculation about **overdominance** or **heterozygote advantage**: Tb resistance, intelligence: ???
(Spyropoulos 1988; Frost 2012; Frisch et al. 2004)

phenylketonuria (PKU)

- metabolic disorder (phenylalanine)
- many different mutations
- homozygous PKU historically lethal (**selection coefficient** = 1)
- PKU alleles are old

PKU incidence (Hillert et al. 2020)



PKU genetics

why not drift? (Krawczak and Zschocke 2003)

- many different mutations
- present across many populations
- populations without history of being small
 - e.g. Irish gene pool from ≈ 2500 BC
 - population size was 100K-200K
 - current expected frequency 0.6% is twice as high as expected

PKU genetics: conclusion

- calculation from genetic models
- heterozygote advantage probably $\approx 1.5\%$
- hard to measure directly!
- probably due to higher phenylalanine levels in heterozygotes
- phenotypic effects?
 - higher birth weight
 - mycotoxin resistance?
 - starvation resistance?

Sickle-cell

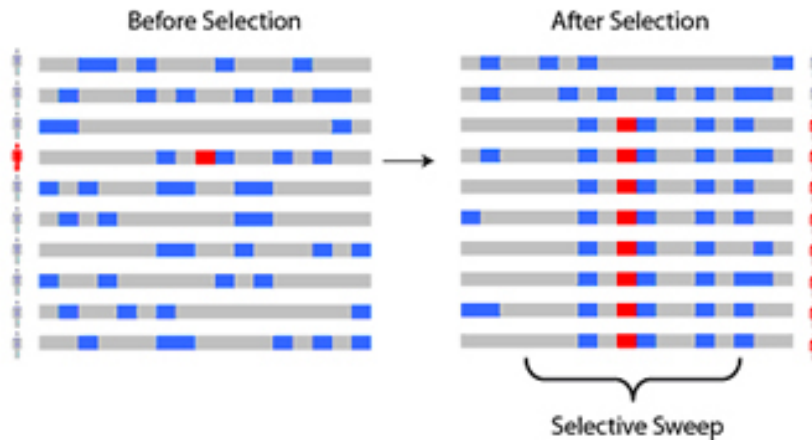
- overdominance
(heterozygote advantage)
- selection for *falciparum* malaria resistance
- geographic patterns;
consistency with malaria distribution
- mechanistic basis for protection
- evidence for positive selection (age??)

Balanced polymorphisms

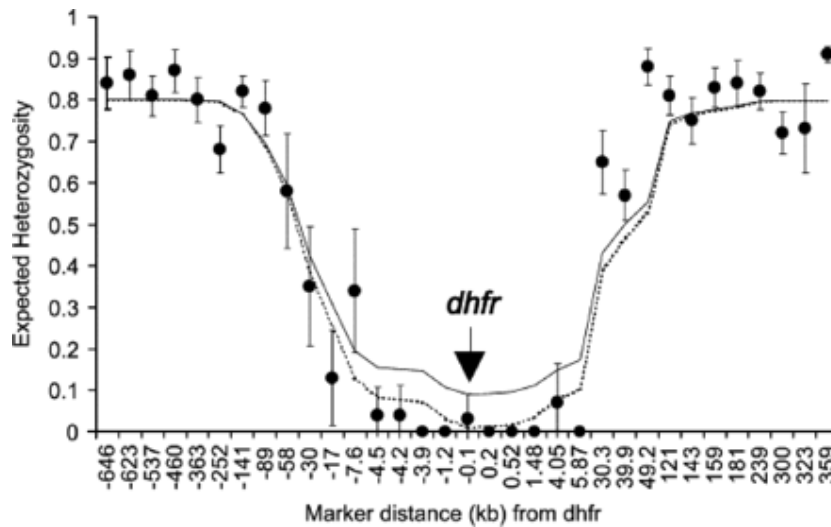
- Sickle-cell (and all cases of overdominance) depends on genetic makeup of the *population*
- chance of mating with a carrier is higher when allele is more common
- easier to do the math at the level of alleles

Selective sweeps

- strong selection on an allele
- individuals carrying that allele have high fitness
- lower (gene-specific) **effective population size**
- neighbouring loci carried along as **haplotypes: hitchhiking**
- haplotypes gradually erode (narrow) by recombination
- e.g. MHC class I variability in chimpanzees decreased $\sim 2-3$ mya (Groot et al. 2002)



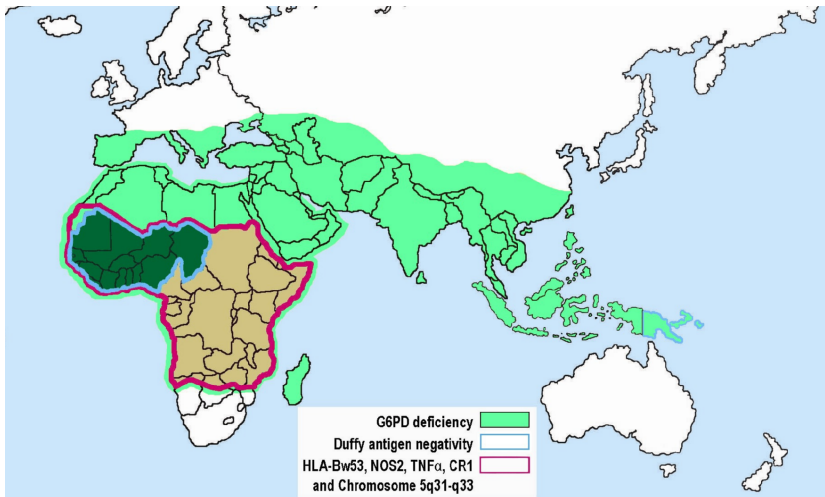
Selective sweep: chromosome pattern



(Nair et al. 2003)

Other malaria-protective variation

- hemoglobin variants:
 - blood groups, Rh-negativity (older than malaria)
 - thalassemia
- enzyme variants:
 - GP6D deficiency/favism
 - * Mediterranean populations
 - * X-linked
 - * arose 5-10K years ago: agriculture?
- Duffy antigens (protection against *vivax* malaria)



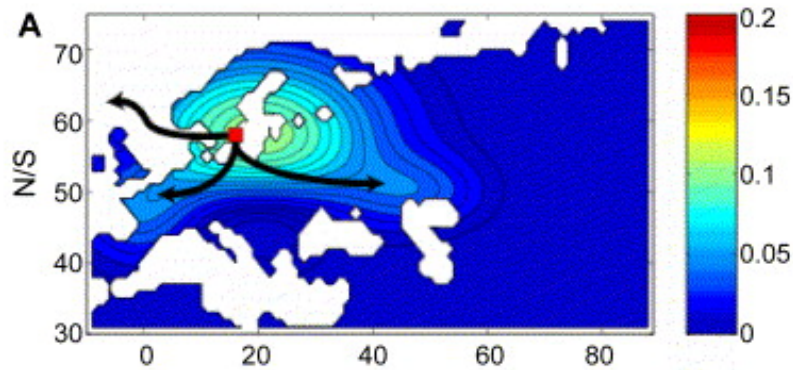
Wikipedia

Cystic fibrosis

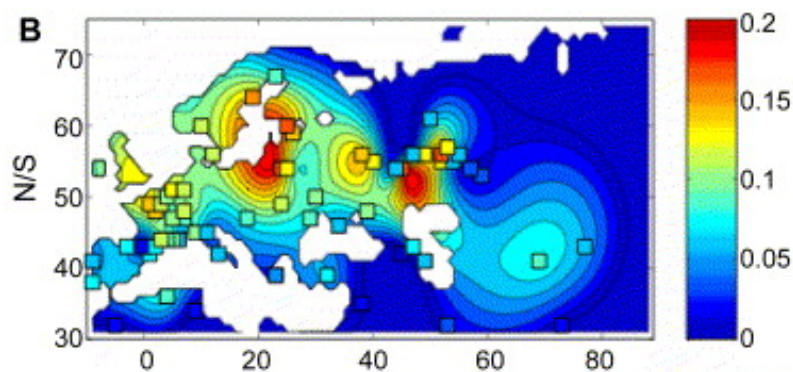
- Lethal lung disease: mucus build-up
(1/4 chance of death before 30, previously much higher)
- 4% carriers in European whites (1/2500 diseased: $2pq = 0.04 \rightarrow q^2 = 0.0004$)
- Mutated cftr gene, changes chloride metabolism;
age approx. 50 KYA
- Protection from cholera? (First European cholera epidemic 1817)
Dehydrating intestinal diseases? Typhoid?
- **Pleiotropy** (multiple effects from one gene)

HIV

From Galvani and Novembre (2005):



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- where does CCR5- Δ 32 come from?
- homozygous individuals are healthy ...
- at least 5000 years old; Hummel et al. (2005); Novembre, Galvani, and Slatkin (2005); Galvani and Novembre (2005); Lidén, Linderholm, and Götherström (2006)
 - “If Δ 32 were neutral, population genetics theory predicts it would have to be much older given its frequency.”
- high dispersal, sustained strong selection ($s > 0.1$); what selective agent? plague? smallpox?

Summary: variation in Mendelian traits

- (relatively) simple inheritance
 - recessive/dominant, autosomal/X/Y-linked
- mechanisms
 - drift
 - heterozygote advantage

- balancing selection/tradeoffs; gene \times environment interaction
- evidence
 - ancient DNA
 - phylogenetic patterns/*coalescent* methods to estimate origin times/places
 - biogeography/history of disease/environment
 - mechanism
 - population history

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Last updated: 2023-03-08 13:05:12