

# On multiple infections by parasites with complex life cycles

Host manipulation is a common strategy of parasites of different complexity. Host manipulation directly affects predator-prey dynamics in trophically transmitted parasites, where parasite transmission requires predation. Theoretical studies suggest that manipulation that enhances predation often results in a heavy burden on the prey population. Consequently, the system is often destabilised, making parasites prone to extinction. Host manipulation, however, can also suppress predation. Such suppression is possible if multiple parasites coinfect a host with conflicting interests in manipulation. The interests could be misaligned for various reasons, such as limited carrying capacity or parasitoid developmental stage. Multiple infections are a norm in parasite ecology but are often neglected in the theoretical assessment of host-parasite dynamics. We tease apart the effect of host manipulation of coinfecting parasites and manipulation interests via a mathematical model of a trophically transmitted parasite with a complex life cycle. The life cycle comprises a free-living state, an intermediate and a definitive host. With coinfection, we show that host manipulation that enhances predation need not permanently destabilise the predator-prey system. However, cooperation between coinfecting parasites leading to increased predation and can lead to bistability such that a slight disturbance in the system drives the parasite population to extinction. On the other hand, when coinfecting parasites sabotage the manipulative ability of one another, the stability of the predator-prey system is always guaranteed. Our study highlights the necessity and means of incorporating the reality of multiple parasites and their multi-trophic life cycles in a single system in studying parasite ecology.

24 **Introduction**

25 Parasites infect life on earth ubiquitously, and many of these parasites have complex life  
26 cycles (Zimmer, 2001). While a complex lifecycle can be defined as abrupt ontogenetic changes  
27 in morphology and ecology (Benesh, 2016), a complex parasitic lifecycle typically involves  
28 numerous hosts that a parasite needs to traverse to complete its life cycle. This complex  
29 lifecycle results in the evolution of various strategies that enable the success of parasite  
30 transmission from one host to another. One famous strategy that inspires many science  
31 fiction movies and novels is host manipulation, where a parasite can alter the morphology  
32 and/or behaviour of its host to enhance its transmission to the next host (Hughes et al.,  
33 2012). Host manipulation has been shown in many host-parasite systems, from parasites with  
34 simple life-cycle to those with complex life-cycle that involves more than one host (Hughes  
35 et al., 2012; Molyneux and Jefferies, 1986). For instance, sand flies infected by *Leishmania*  
36 parasites bite more and take more time for a blood meal from mammals (the definitive host of  
37 *Leishmania*) compared to their uninfected counterparts (Rogers and Bates, 2007). Copepods  
38 infected by cestode parasites are more active and accessible to sticklebacks (the definitive  
39 hosts of the cestodes) compared to uninfected copepods (Wedekind and Milinski, 1996).

40 Theoretical studies have long attempted to understand the ecological and evolutionary  
41 consequences of host manipulation. Roosien et al. (2013) and Hosack et al. (2008) showed  
42 that manipulative parasites could increase the disease prevalence in an epidemic. Gandon  
43 (2018) studied the evolution of the manipulative ability of infectious disease parasites, show-  
44 ing different evolutionary outcomes depending on whether the pathogen can control its vector  
45 or host. Hadeler and Freedman (1989); Fenton and Rands (2006) and Rogawa et al. (2018)  
46 showed that host manipulation could stabilise or destabilise the predator-prey dynamics de-  
47 pending on how manipulation affects the predation response function and the assumption  
48 on the fertility of the definitive infected host. Seppälä and Jokela (2008) showed that host  
49 manipulation could evolve even when it increases the risk of the intermediate host being  
50 eaten by a non-host predator, given that the initial predation risk is sufficiently low. These  
51 models, however, lack a crucial aspect of parasite dynamics, multiple infections (Kalbe et al.,  
52 2002)

53 Typical studies do not consider multiple infections, a phenomenon that is the norm rather  
54 than an exception in parasitism. Multiple infections result in the coinfection of more than one  
55 parasite inside a host, which may alter the manipulative outcomes (figure 1). An alignment of  
56 interest between coinfecting parasites may enhance manipulation, while a conflict of interest  
57 may reduce the manipulative effect. Indeed, Hafer and Milinski (2015) showed that copepods  
58 infected by two cestode parasites reduce the activity of copepods when both parasites are

59 at the same noninfectious stage, i.e. both parasites are not ready to transmit. Thus the  
60 reduction in mobility is suggested to reduce the predation rate by the definitive hosts. When  
61 two infectious parasites infect the copepods, the copepods' activity increases, and so does the  
62 predation risk for the copepod. However, when the copepods are infected by one infectious  
63 and one noninfectious parasite, their interests clash, and one parasite wins over the other.



Figure 1: **Who is in control?**. Schistocephalus eggs, which overwinter at the bottom of bodies of water, hatch into microscopically small swimming larvae. These larvae are eaten by copepods (also known as Cyclops due to its single eye), where they develop to the second larval stage. However, the copepod is only the first intermediate host. The larvae are then eaten by sticklebacks, where they reach the third larval stage and grow significantly in size and weight. For the parasite to successfully reach its final host, a warm-blooded animal like a bird, it manipulates its intermediate hosts. The timing is crucial as the chances of success are greatest if the larvae develop in the copepod for 13 to 15 days before entering the stickleback. The presence of multiple parasites in the same host can lead to competition and strategic decision pertaining to investment in manipulation and growth. And indeed a stickleback can be infected by numerous tapeworms as shown above by Martin Kalbe.

64 Theoretical work that considers multiple infections often focuses on the evolution of vir-  
65 ulence (van Baalen and Sabelis, 1995; Alizon et al., 2013; Alizon and van Baalen, 2008;  
66 Choisy and de Roode, 2010; Alizon, 2012). They show that multiple infections can increase  
67 virulence (van Baalen and Sabelis, 1995; Choisy and de Roode, 2010). Evolutionary branch-  
68 ing of a less virulent and a hypervirulent parasite can occur when within-host dynamics are

69 considered (Alizon and van Baalen, 2008), and a reduction in virulence is possible if parasites  
70 are co-transmitted (Alizon, 2012). In epidemiological models, higher virulence often assumes  
71 a link with a higher transmission rate; virulence is therefore associated with host manipula-  
72 tion in such cases. Host manipulation influences the predation rate in trophically transmitted  
73 parasites, predominantly affecting predator-prey dynamics. Theoretical studies on host ma-  
74 nipulation in trophically transmitted parasites with multiple infections are rare (Parker et al.,  
75 2003; Vickery and Poulin, 2009). Moreover, they do not consider the prey-predator dynam-  
76 ics, which will likely have important feedback on the evolution of host manipulation. A few  
77 studies considering the prey-predator dynamics do not incorporate multiple infections (Ro-  
78 gawa et al., 2018; Iritani and Sato, 2018; Hadeler and Freedman, 1989; Fenton and Rands,  
79 2006). More importantly, they assume that transmission from definitive hosts to interme-  
80 diate hosts is due to direct contact between the two types of hosts. This is often not the  
81 case, as parasites are released from the definitive hosts into the environment. Transmission  
82 happens only when intermediate hosts have contact with this free-living parasite pool.

83 Our study addresses the gap in the theoretical work on host manipulation in trophically  
84 transmitted parasites. We include multiple infections and consider the dynamics of the free-  
85 living parasite pool. Our compartment model helps illustrate a parasite's complex lifecycle  
86 with two hosts: an intermediate host preyed upon by a definitive host. Transmission from the  
87 intermediate host to the definitive host occurs when predation on infected intermediate hosts  
88 happens. Reproduction only happens in the definitive hosts. New parasites are then released  
89 into the environment, where they again have contact with the intermediate hosts to complete  
90 their lifecycle. We focus on the manipulation of the intermediate hosts, such that the parasite  
91 increases the predation rate on the intermediate host by the definitive host to increase  
92 its transmission rate. We then analyse the effect of host manipulation on the ecological  
93 dynamics in the prey-predator-parasite system. In contrast to the examples mentioned above  
94 our model consists of a single intermediate host as it already provides enough complexity  
95 to discuss between transmission and manipulation. We found that cooperation in host  
96 manipulation leads to bistability in the predator-prey system, given that reproduction from  
97 multiple infections is sufficiently high. This finding suggests that the predator-prey parasite  
98 system is finely balanced and susceptible to extinction via ecological disturbances. Initially  
99 surprising, we show how sabotage in host manipulation guarantees a unique stable equilibrium  
100 in the system.

101 **Model and Results**

102 Our model concerns the complex lifecycle of a trophically transmitted parasite that requires  
103 two hosts: an intermediate host and a definitive host. Reproduction only happens inside the  
104 definitive hosts, releasing new parasitic progeny in the environment. An intermediate host  
105 can be infected if it encounters this free-living parasite pool. Finally, when a definitive host  
106 consumes an infected intermediate host, the definitive host gets infected, and the parasite  
107 completes its lifecycle.

For simplicity, we assume that hosts can be infected by one (single infection) or, at most, two parasites (double infections). Our model is, therefore, more relevant to the macroparasitic system. Given that infection occurs, the probability that two parasites from the parasite pool co-transmit to an intermediate host is denoted by  $p$ . Thus  $1 - p$  is the probability that a single parasite enters an intermediate host. When a definitive host consumes an intermediate host infected by two parasites, there is a probability  $q$  that the parasites co-transmit to the definitive host. With probability  $1 - q$ , only one parasite successfully transmits. This formulation assumes that infection always happens when hosts encounter parasites. The dynamics of a complex lifecycle parasite that requires two hosts is described by the following system of equations, firstly for the intermediate host as,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dI_s}{dt} &= R(I_s, I_w, I_{ww}) - dI_s - P_s(D_s, D_w, D_{ww})I_s - \eta I_s \\ \frac{dI_w}{dt} &= (1 - p)\eta I_s - (d + \alpha_w)I_w - P_w(D_s, D_w, D_{ww}, \beta_w)I_w \\ \frac{dI_{ww}}{dt} &= p\eta I_s - (d + \alpha_{ww})I_{ww} - P_{ww}(D_s, D_w, D_{ww}, \beta_{ww})I_{ww}\end{aligned}\tag{1}$$

108 where  $R(I_s, I_w, I_{ww})$  represents the birth rate of the intermediate hosts, a function of both  
109 infected and uninfected individuals.  $P_s$ ,  $P_w$ ,  $P_{ww}$  are the predation functions of definitive  
110 hosts on susceptible, singly infected and doubly infected intermediate hosts. The predation  
111 function depends on the density of the definitive hosts and the manipulative strategies of  
112 parasites in the intermediate hosts. In particular, if a single parasite infects an intermediate  
113 host, the manipulation strategy is  $\beta_w$ . However, if the intermediate host is co-infected, the  
114 manipulation strategy is  $\beta_{ww}$ . In the scope of this model, we assume no specific relationship  
115 between  $\beta_w$  and  $\beta_{ww}$  to explore all possible ecological outcomes of the system. The force  
116 of infection by parasites in the environment is denoted by  $\eta = \gamma W$ . Since parasites can ma-  
117 nipulate intermediate and definitive hosts, here, whenever we mention host manipulation, it  
118 specifically refers to the manipulation in intermediate hosts, which correlates to the predation  
119 rate.

For the definitive hosts we have,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dD_s}{dt} &= B(D_s, D_w, D_{ww}, I_s, I_w, I_{ww}) - \mu D_s - (2\lambda_{ww} + \lambda_w)D_s \\ \frac{dD_w}{dt} &= (\lambda_w + 2(1-q)\lambda_{ww})D_s - (\mu + \sigma_w)D_w - (2(1-q)\lambda_{ww} + \lambda_w)D_w \\ \frac{dD_{ww}}{dt} &= 2q\lambda_{ww}D_s + (2(1-q)\lambda_{ww} + \lambda_w)D_w - (\mu + \sigma_{ww})D_{ww}\end{aligned}\quad (2)$$

where  $B(D_s, D_w, D_{ww}, I_s, I_w, I_{ww})$  represents the birth rate of definitive hosts. The birth rates depend on the density of both intermediate and definitive hosts, infected or uninfected. The force of infection that corresponds respectively to singly infected intermediate host ( $I_w$ ) and doubly infected intermediate hosts ( $I_{ww}$ ) is denoted respectively by  $\lambda_w = h_1(\rho + \beta_w)I_w$  and  $\lambda_{ww} = h_2(\rho + \beta_{ww})I_{ww}$ , where  $\rho$  is the base line predation rate and  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  are the probability that the parasite successfully established inside the host. If there is no manipulation, that is,  $\beta_w = \beta_{ww} = 0$ , the parasite is still transmitted via the base line predation. The dynamics of the free-living parasites in the environment are then given by,

$$\frac{dW}{dt} = f_w D_w + f_{ww} D_{ww} - \delta W - \eta I_s. \quad (3)$$

120 Definitions of different parameters can be found in Table 1.

121 Here, we focus on manipulation that enhances transmission from intermediate hosts to  
122 definitive hosts; we thus simplify the transmission from the parasite pool to intermediate  
123 hosts such that no sequential infection occurs at this transmission state. Sequential infection  
124 can happen when parasites transmit from intermediate hosts to definitive hosts. Therefore,  
125 a singly infected definitive host can be further infected by another parasite if it consumes  
126 infected intermediate hosts. The system's dynamics are illustrated in figure (2).

127 **Basic reproduction ratio  $R_0$  of the parasites**

The basic reproduction ratio  $R_0$  (or basic reproduction number as often used in epidemiology) indicates parasite fitness. It can be understood as the expected number of offspring a parasite produces during its lifetime when introduced to a susceptible host population. We calculate the basic reproduction ratio  $R_0$  using the next-generation method (Diekmann et al., 1990,

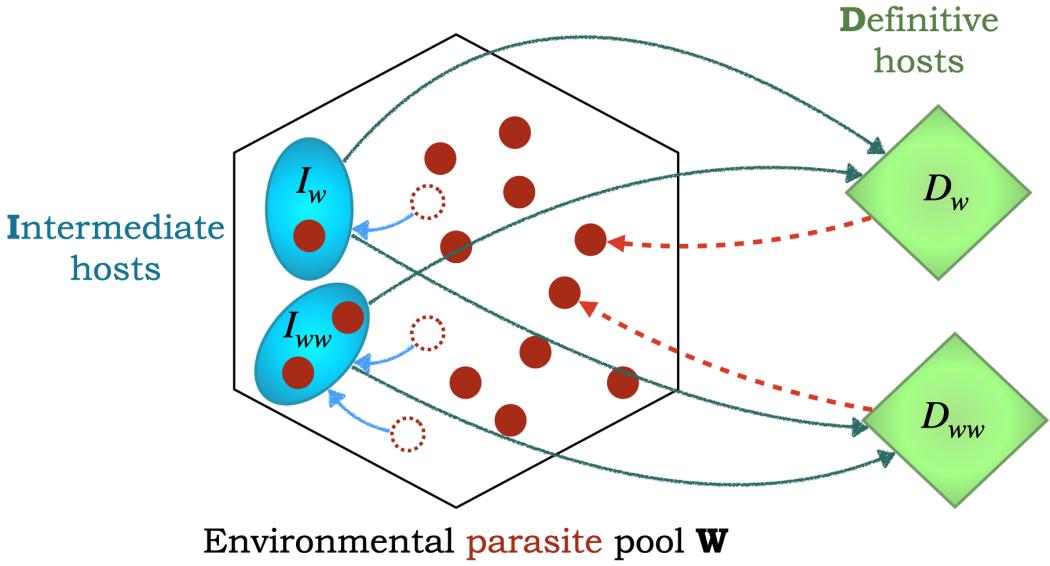


Figure 2: Schematic of the model. Blue ovals represent intermediate host compartment, green diamonds represent definitive host compartment, and the transparent hexagon represents the parasite pool compartment with red circles illustrating individual parasites.

2009; Hurford et al., 2010) (See SI1 for details).

$$R_0 = \overbrace{\gamma I_s^* \frac{2pqh(\rho + \beta_{ww})}{\alpha_{ww} + d + P_{ww}} \frac{D_s^*}{\mu + \sigma_{ww}} \frac{f_{ww}}{\delta + \gamma I_s^*} + \gamma I_s^* \left( \frac{(1-p)h(\rho + \beta_w)}{\alpha_w + d + P_w} + \frac{2p(1-q)h(\rho + \beta_{ww})}{\alpha_{ww} + d + P_{ww}} \right) \frac{D_s^*}{\mu + \sigma_w} \frac{f_w}{\delta + \gamma I_s^*}}^{\text{Double infections}} + \underbrace{\gamma I_s^* \left( \frac{(1-p)h(\rho + \beta_w)}{\alpha_w + d + P_w} + \frac{2p(1-q)h(\rho + \beta_{ww})}{\alpha_{ww} + d + P_{ww}} \right) \frac{D_s^*}{\mu + \sigma_w} \frac{f_w}{\delta + \gamma I_s^*}}_{\text{Single infection}} \quad (4)$$

where  $I_s^*$  and  $D_s^*$  are the densities of susceptible intermediate and definitive hosts at the disease-free equilibrium. Here, the expression of  $R_0$  contains the possible reproduction routes of a parasite, which can be via double or single infections. The first component corresponds to the double infections route, in which the focal parasite co-transmits with another parasite into a susceptible intermediate host, then co-transmits into a susceptible definitive host and reproduces. Here, parasites are so rare that only co-transmission matters and the compartments with sequential infections are therefore neglected. The second component corresponds to the single infection route, wherein the focal parasite infects a susceptible intermediate host via single or double infections. The parasite then transmits alone into the

<sup>137</sup> susceptible definitive host and eventually reproduces.

If  $R_0 > 1$ , a parasite spreads when introduced into the disease-free equilibrium of prey and predator. Intuitively, the higher the density of susceptible intermediate and definitive hosts, the larger the value of  $R_0$  as the infection reservoir is more extensive. In contrast, regardless of the explicit form of the predation function, the higher the predation rate  $P_w$  and  $P_{ww}$ , the lower the value of  $R_0$  given the smaller reservoir of intermediate hosts. The effect of host manipulation on the value of  $R_0$  is not so straightforward; as host manipulation becomes efficient, the transmission rate from the intermediate host to the definitive host increases, but so does the predation rate. A higher predation rate results in a smaller intermediate host reservoir available for the parasites to infect. To understand the effect of manipulation on parasites' fitness and the system's ecological dynamics, we next specify the predation functions. We consider linear functions for predation to begin with,

$$\begin{aligned} P_s(D_s, D_w, D_{ww}) &= \rho D_{total} \\ P_w(D_s, D_w, D_{ww}, \beta_w) &= (\rho + \beta_w) D_{total} \\ P_{ww}(D_s, D_w, D_{ww}, \beta_{ww}) &= (\rho + \beta_{ww}) D_{total} \end{aligned}$$

<sup>138</sup> where  $D_{total} = D_s + D_w + D_{ww}$  is the total density of the definitive hosts, and  $\rho$  is the  
<sup>139</sup> baseline capture rate of the predator on the prey. If an intermediate host is infected, it is  
<sup>140</sup> captured by the definitive hosts with rate  $\rho + \beta_w$  if it is singly infected and with rate  $\rho + \beta_{ww}$   
<sup>141</sup> if it is doubly infected. Zero values for  $\beta_w$  and  $\beta_{ww}$  suggest no manipulation.

For simplicity, we also consider a linear function of the birth of definitive hosts

$$B(D_s, D_w, D_{ww}, I_s, I_w, I_{ww}) = \rho c D_{total} I_{total}$$

<sup>142</sup> where  $c$  is the efficiency of converting prey into predator's offspring, and  $I_{total} = I_s + I_w + I_{ww}$   
<sup>143</sup> is the total density of the intermediate hosts. The birth rate of the predators depends on the  
<sup>144</sup> capture rate, but it is not affected by host manipulation, as to our best knowledge, there is  
<sup>145</sup> no supporting evidence to necessarily consider otherwise.

<sup>146</sup> The explicit form of  $I_s^*$  and  $D_s^*$ , capturing the predator-prey dynamics, depends on the  
<sup>147</sup> precise form of all birth and predation functions  $B, R, P_s, P_w$  and  $P_{ww}$ . But, it does not  
<sup>148</sup> depend on the manipulation ability or any other parameter of the parasite. Given that the  
<sup>149</sup> birth rate of the predator and the predation rate are linear functions in prey and predator  
<sup>150</sup> density, the form of the birth rate  $R$  of the prey has a significant effect on the susceptible  
<sup>151</sup> intermediate and definitive host dynamics.

152 **Birth function of intermediate hosts**

153 The simplest form of the prey's birth rate is linear, in which case the disease free equilibrium  
154 is always unstable. In particular, it has a cyclic behaviour because, at this equilibrium, the  
155 jacobian matrix of the system (1, 2, 3) always has two pure imaginary eigenvalues (see SI  
156 2). This follows from the Lotka-Volterra system using linear functions for prey birth and  
157 predation ([Lotka, 1920](#)). Since the disease-free dynamics is cyclic, it is difficult to analyse  
158 the spread of a parasite using the basic reproduction ratio, which is evaluated when the  
159 disease-free state is stable. Here,  $R_0 > 1$  happens when  $\gamma$ , the transmission rate from  
160 the environment to intermediate hosts, and the reproduction rates  $f_w, f_{ww}$  are significantly  
161 large (the specific mathematical conditions can be found in SI2). However, even when this  
162 condition is satisfied, the parasite may not be able to spread and persist in cyclic susceptible  
163 host dynamics (Figure 3). This result agrees with the conclusion in ([Ripa and Dieckmann,  
164 2013](#)), which suggests that it is difficult for a mutant to invade a cyclic resident population.  
165 In our case, it is not the invasion of a mutant in a resident population but the invasion of  
166 a parasite in a cyclic disease-free host population; the argument, however, remains valid in  
167 both cases. This issue deserves a more thorough investigation, which is out of the scope of  
168 this article. Here, we choose a non-linear birth function of the intermediate hosts to obtain a  
169 stable disease circulation state and focus on the effect of host manipulation on the ecological  
170 dynamics.

The logistic growth for the non-linear birth function follows by

$$R(I_w, I_s, I_{ww}) = rI_{total}(1 - kI_{total})$$

where  $k$  is the intraspecific competition coefficient. The disease-free equilibrium is as follows

$$I_s^* = \frac{\mu}{c\rho} ; D_s^* = \frac{c\rho(r - d) - k\mu r}{c\rho^2}$$

This equilibrium is stable if the following three conditions are met,

- (i)  $r > d$
- (ii)  $\frac{2c\rho \left( \sqrt{\frac{-d+\mu+r}{\mu}} - 1 \right)}{r} \leq k < \frac{c\rho(r - d)}{\mu r}$
- (iii)  $\mu > \frac{4c^2\rho^2r - 4c^2d\rho^2}{4ck\rho r + k^2r^2}.$

171 The above conditions suggest that (i) the intrinsic reproduction of intermediate hosts  $r$  needs

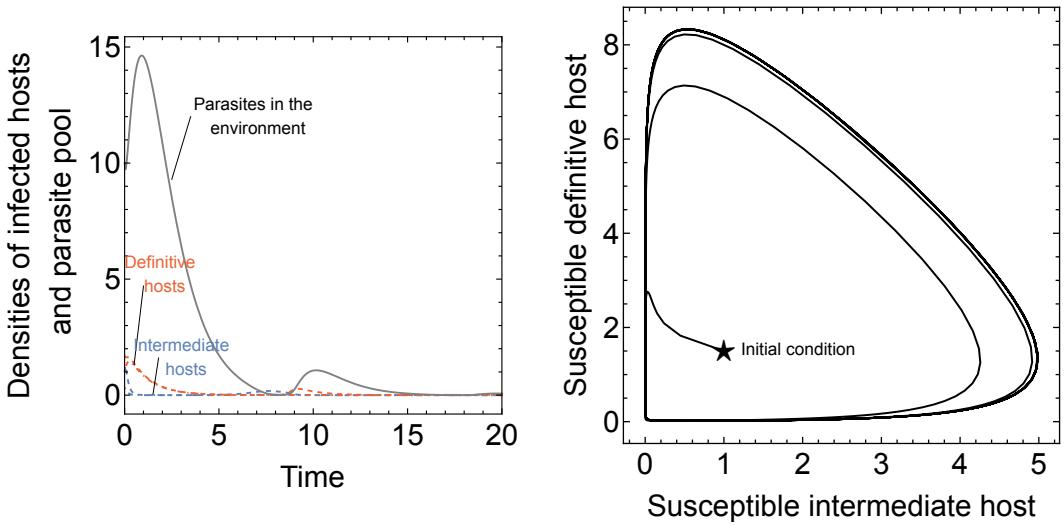


Figure 3: Disease-free equilibrium using linear birth function, where parasite goes extinct (left panel), and susceptible hosts demonstrate cyclic dynamics (right panel). Solid gray line indicate the density of free-living parasites, blue lines indicate infected intermediate hosts while red lines indicate infected definitive hosts. Dashed lines indicate singly infected hosts while dot-dashed lines indicate doubly infected hosts. Parameter values  $\rho = 1.2$ ,  $d = 0.9$ ,  $r = 2.5$ ,  $\gamma = 2.9$ ,  $\alpha_w = \alpha_{ww} = 0$ ,  $\beta_w = 1.5$ ,  $\beta_{ww} = 1.5$ ,  $p = 0.1$ ,  $c = 1.4$ ,  $\mu = 0.9$ ,  $\sigma_w = \sigma_{ww} = 0$ ,  $q = 0.01$ ,  $f_w = 6.5$ ,  $f_{ww} = 7.5$ ,  $\delta = 0.9$ ,  $R_0 = 2.233$

to be greater than their natural mortality rate  $d$ . More importantly, (ii) the intraspecific competition coefficient has to be within a range allowing the population to survive. Finally, (iii) the definitive host's natural mortality rate must be sufficiently large. Satisfying such conditions, we obtain a stable disease-free equilibrium (Figure 4B).

When a parasite appears in the disease-free equilibrium, it spreads if its reproduction ratio  $R_0 > 1$ . Since the expression is complicated, we could not obtain analytical solutions for this inequality without assumptions. We assume the same parasite virulence,  $\alpha_w = \alpha_{ww}$ ,  $\sigma_w = \sigma_{ww}$ , and reproduction in double infection as a linear function concerning reproduction in single infections,  $f_{ww} = \epsilon f_w$ . When  $\epsilon > 1$ , reproduction in double infections is greater than reproduction in a single infection, whereas  $\epsilon \leq 1$ , reproduction in double infections is lower or equal to reproduction in a single infection. We found that the parasite can establish if its reproduction value in a single infection  $f_w$  is more significant than a threshold (Figure 5, see SI3).

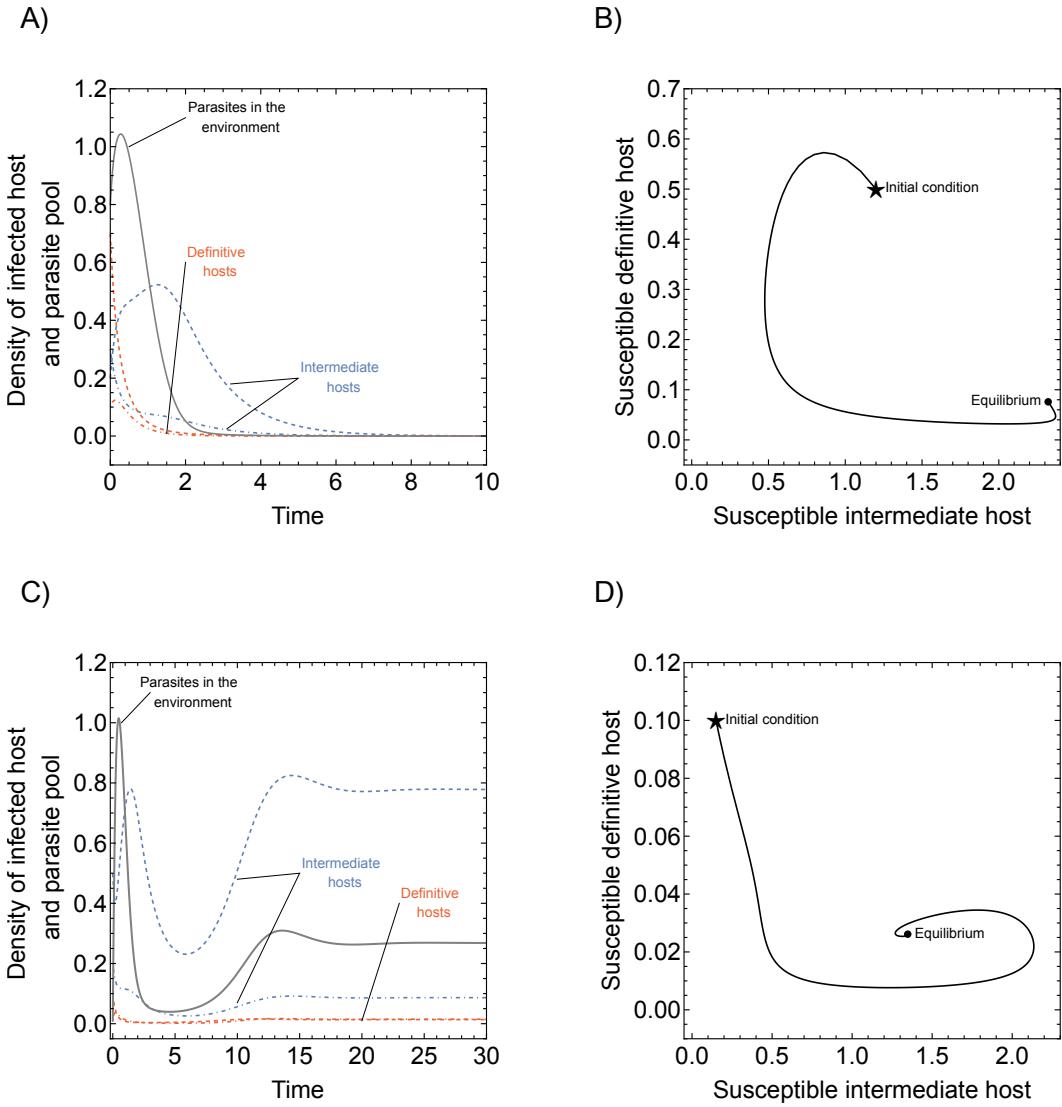


Figure 4: A, B) Disease free equilibrium where parasite cannot persist. C, D) Disease stable equilibrium. Annotations are the same in figure 3. Parameters for disease free equilibrium  $\rho = 1.2$ ,  $d = 0.9$ ,  $r = 2.5$ ,  $\gamma = 2.9$ ,  $\alpha_w = \alpha_{ww} = 0$ ,  $\beta_w = \beta_{ww} = 1.5$ ,  $p = 0.1$ ,  $c = 1.4$ ,  $\mu = 3.9$ ,  $\sigma_w = \sigma_{ww} = 0$ ,  $q = 0.01$ ,  $f_w = f_{ww} = 7.5$ ,  $\delta = 0.9$ ,  $k = 0.26$ . Disease stable equilibrium have the same parameter values except for higher host manipulation  $\beta_w = \beta_{ww} = 4.5$  and parasite reproduction  $f_w = f_{ww} = 45$

185 Our numerical results show that the parasite reproduction is substantial compared to other  
 186 parameters (its value is nearly 40 times greater than other parameters). This observation  
 187 suggests that trophically transmitted parasites must release many offspring into the environ-

188 ment to persist. Interestingly, bistability occurs if the reproduction rate of the parasite in  
189 double infections is greater than in the single infection state (Figure 5A, B).

190 **The effect of host manipulation on ecological dynamics**

191 Host manipulation can be cooperative; two parasites increase the predation rate on interme-  
192 diate hosts, or  $\beta_{ww} > \beta_w$ . However, it can also be uncooperative; that is, the predation rate  
193 on doubly-infected intermediate hosts lower than that on singly-infected ones, or  $\beta_{ww} < \beta_w$ .  
194 Cooperation in parasite manipulation does increases the parasite's basic reproduction ratio  
195  $R_0$  but the manipulation in single infection has a stronger effect on the value of  $R_0$  (Figure  
196 6). Intuitively, if the manipulation in single infection is small, there is not enough transmis-  
197 sion and the parasite goes extinct. However, suppose the ability to manipulate the host in a  
198 single infection is just enough for the parasite population to escape extinction but not strong.  
199 In that case, cooperation in host manipulation leads to a bistable state of the system. Within  
200 the bistable region, the basic reproduction ratio can be less than one, suggesting that the  
201 parasite cannot spread when its manipulative values are within this area of weak manipulation  
202 when coinfecte.

203 Cooperation between parasites need not be limited to host manipulation. Parasites can co-  
204 operate to have a higher reproduction rate in co-infections, i.e.  $f_{ww} > f_w$ . Likewise, they can  
205 compete for resources, so reproduction in double infection is smaller than in single infection.  
206 Without any assumption on the relationship between manipulative ability and reproduction,  
207 we explore all possible combinations of cooperation and sabotage in both manipulation and  
208 reproduction. Cooperation indicates that the value in double infections is larger than that in  
209 single infection, whereas the reverse suggests uncooperation. If parasites are uncooperative  
210 in both reproduction and manipulation, they can not persist. In contrast, if they are highly  
211 cooperative in both aspects, there is one guaranteed single equilibrium for parasite existence.  
212 For intermediate cooperation of both reproduction and manipulation, there could exist the  
213 area of bistability. However, the size of the bistability area is highly sensitive to the value  
214 of reproduction and manipulation in single infection. In particular, higher values of these  
215 two parameters reduce the bistability area, whereas larger values increase the bistability area.  
216 If the parasites only sabotage host manipulation, the system is highly prone to bistability,  
217 and only has a single equilibrium when cooperation in reproduction is extremely high. In-  
218 terestingly, noncooperative in reproduction always lead to single equilibrium of the system  
219 given sufficiently large values of reproduction and manipulation in single infection (Figure 7).  
220 While a single equilibrium guarantees existence of parasite population, bistability indicates  
221 that a disturbance of the system may likely lead to extinction of parasite. This suggests that  
222 whether or not cooperation benefits the population is very context dependent. Cooperation

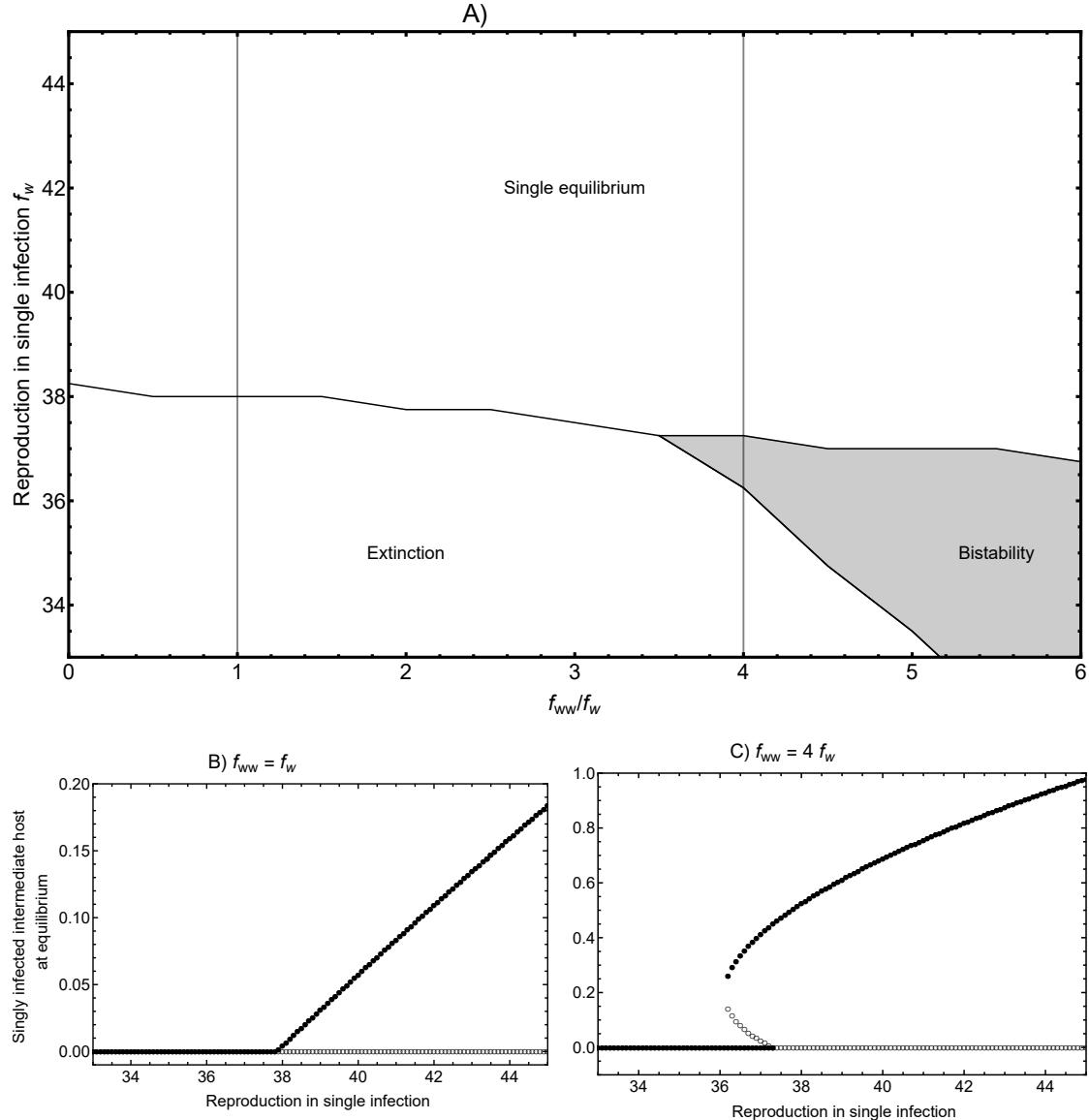


Figure 5: Effect of parasite reproduction on the ecological dynamics. A) Increasing reproduction in doubly infection leads to bistability, B, C) Density of singly infected host at equilibrium when reproduction of parasites are the same in singly and doubly infected hosts  $f_{ww} = f_w$ , and when reproduction of parasites in doubly infected hosts is four times greater than those in singly infected hosts  $f_{ww} = 4 f_w$ . Filled circles indicate stable equilibrium and open circles indicate unstable equilibrium. Parameter  $\rho = 1.2$ ,  $d = 0.9$ ,  $r = 2.5$ ,  $\gamma = 2.9$ ,  $\alpha_w = 0$ ,  $\alpha_{ww} = 0$ ,  $\beta_w = 1.5$ ,  $\beta_{ww} = 1.5$ ,  $p = 0.1$ ,  $c = 1.4$ ,  $\mu = 3.9$ ,  $\sigma_w = 0$ ,  $\sigma_{ww} = 0$ ,  $q = 0.01$ ,  $\delta = 0.9$ ,  $k = 0.26$

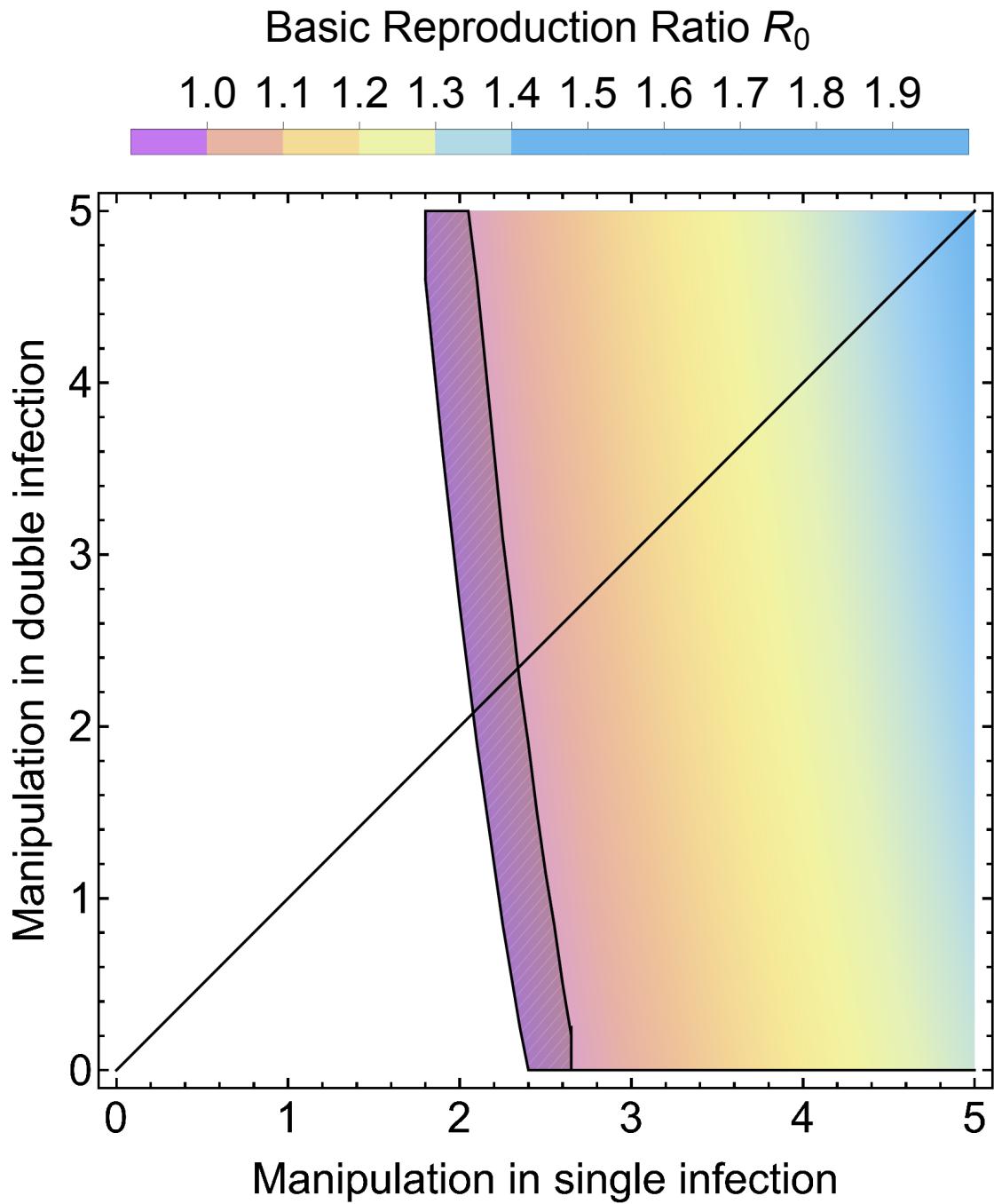


Figure 6:  $R_0$  values increase with more efficient manipulation in both single and double infection. The parasite goes extinct if its manipulative ability is insufficient (white area). Bistability region occurs when cooperation in manipulation is intermediate (hatched area). As manipulation in single infection increases, the system only has one stable equilibrium. On the black line, manipulation is indifference between single infection and double infection ( $\beta_w = \beta_{ww}$ ).

223 in one aspect or insufficient cooperation in both aspects may make the parasite population  
 224 more vulnerable to extinction than systems with less cooperative parasites.

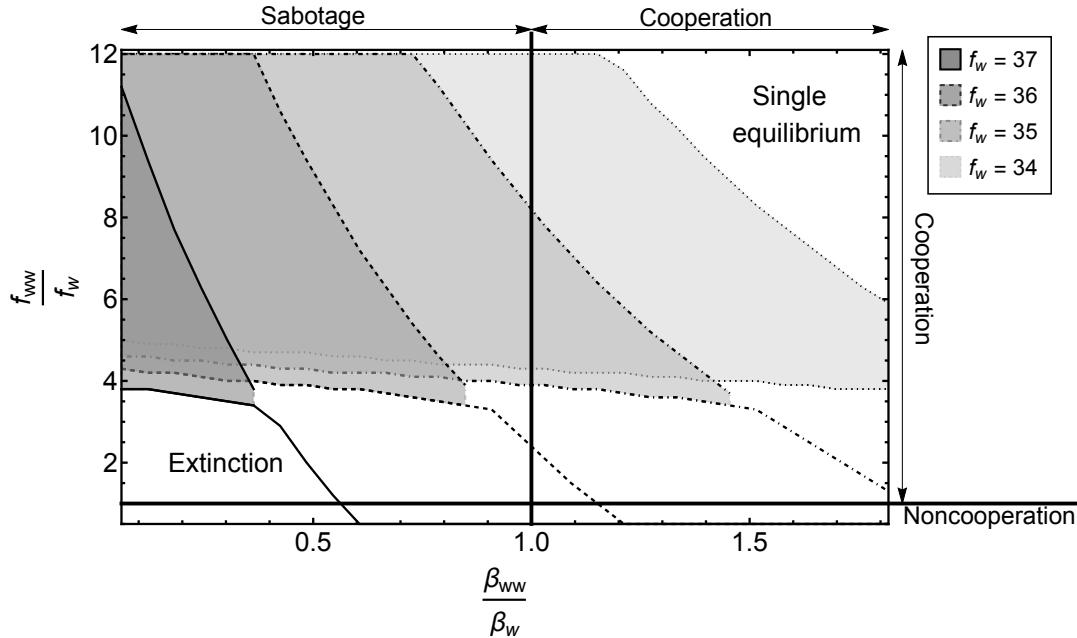


Figure 7: Changes of the bistability area (shaded areas) with respect to different reproduction rates in single infection (different boundary styles). Manipulation and reproduction is indifference between single infection and double infection on the vertical and horizontal lines respectively. Common parameter:  $\rho = 1.2$ ,  $d = 0.9$ ,  $r = 2.5$ ,  $\gamma = 2.9$ ,  $\alpha_w = 0$ ,  $\alpha_{ww} = 0$ ,  $p = 0.05$ ,  $c = 1.4$ ,  $\mu = 3.9$ ,  $\sigma_w = 0$ ,  $\sigma_{ww} = 0$ ,  $q = 0.05$ ,  $\delta = 0.9$ ,  $k = 0.26$ ,  $\epsilon = 0.5$ ,  $\beta_w = 1.5$ .

225 Co-transmission probability from the parasite pool to intermediate hosts  $p$  has opposite  
 226 effect on the bistable area compared to co-transmission probability  $q$  from intermediate hosts  
 227 to intermediate hosts. In particular, when parasite sabotage the manipulation, increasing  
 228  $p$  enlarge the bistable area whereas increasing  $q$  reduce it. In contrast, when parasites  
 229 cooperate in manipulation, reducing  $p$  decreases the bistable area while reducing  $q$  widen it.  
 230 Considering bistability indicates vulnerability to disturbance, this suggests that cooperation  
 231 in manipulation may be beneficial when the co-transmission from the pool to intermediate  
 232 host increases. However, cooperation in manipulation may be harmful to the population.  
 233 Evidently, if cooperation is extremely high, the population will always exist.

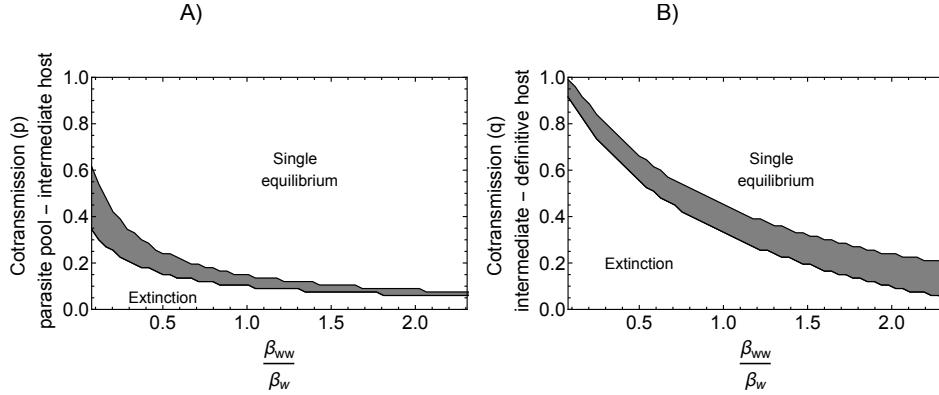


Figure 8: Common parameter:  $\rho = 1.2$ ,  $d = 0.9$ ,  $r = 2.5$ ,  $\gamma = 2.9$ ,  $\alpha_w = 0$ ,  $\alpha_{ww} = 0$ ,  $p = 0.05$ ,  $c = 1.4$ ,  $\mu = 3.9$ ,  $\sigma_w = 0$ ,  $\sigma_{ww} = 0$ ,  $q = 0.05$ ,  $\delta = 0.9$ ,  $k = 0.26$ ,  $\epsilon = 0.5$ ,  $\beta_w = 1.5$ .

## Discussion & Conclusion

Host manipulation is a ubiquitous phenomenon suggested to affect the prey-predator dynamics in trophically transmitted parasites. In particular, manipulation of infected intermediate hosts to increase the predation rate of definitive hosts may result in a heavy burden of predators on the intermediate host population. This pressure can make parasites more vulnerable to extinction (Hadeler and Freedman, 1989; Fenton and Rands, 2006).

Our model shows that parasites cannot spread quickly in a cyclic predator-prey system. This delay is an expected result since even though the parasite's basic reproduction ratio  $R_0$  is larger than one, it is estimated at the predator and prey's unstable equilibrium (or cyclic equilibrium). Thus when the density of the prey and predator is at the minimum value of the cycle, the "effective"  $R_0$  of the parasite can be smaller than one. Another interesting result is that the reproduction value is much larger than other parameter values. This result is likely due to the introduction of a free-living parasitic pool. Our model shows that in making the system more realistic, we also obtain a more realistic quantitative value for parasitic reproduction.

In the study by Rogawa et al. (2018), a non-manipulative parasite can invade a susceptible prey-predator population and causes the system to cycle. The system is stabilised when the parasite becomes manipulative, and the stability increases with the manipulative ability. In our model, non-manipulative parasites cannot persist in the system. The parasite does not necessarily destabilise the predator-prey system, which may contradict the result of Rogawa et al. (2018). We suggest that the different results may be due to our introduction of a parasite pool and multiple infections, unlike the model of Rogawa et al. (2018). In their system,

256 transmission from the definitive host to the intermediate host was assumed to result from  
257 direct contact between the two hosts. Such immediate transmission could directly accelerate  
258 the feedback loop between prey and predator. Hence, faster predator-prey dynamics occur,  
259 which may lead to cyclic dynamics when parasites are introduced.

260 However, in our study, host manipulation can destabilise the predator-prey system under  
261 particular circumstances and in a different way than the models of [Rogawa et al. \(2018\)](#). In  
262 particular, the destabilisation of the system is possible due to the occurrence of bistability  
263 when parasite reproduction in coinfection is boosted. In this bistability region, if the system is  
264 disturbed (e.g. migration of the intermediate or definitive hosts or predation of intermediate  
265 hosts by other predators), then the density of the infected hosts may crash, leading to parasite  
266 extinction. The bistability region widens as the manipulation in double infection increases,  
267 and manipulation in a single infection is insufficient. This extension is because the density of  
268 the doubly infected hosts is always much smaller than the singly infected host density, limited  
269 by sequential transmission and a small probability of co-transmission. Suppose manipulation  
270 in a single infection is not sufficient. In that case, the transmission of the parasites depends  
271 mainly on the double infection hosts, which is rare. So extinction is possible if manipulation  
272 in double infection is not sufficiently high.

273 [Iritani and Sato \(2018\)](#) show that manipulative parasites can persist if they can alternate  
274 manipulation between enhancing and suppressing predation rate. In our model, the parasite  
275 cannot switch its manipulative strategy. However, we show that sabotage in manipulation  
276 when parasites are coinfecting almost always leads to a single stable equilibrium scenario. This  
277 result suggests that manipulation suppression, either by alternating manipulative strategy or  
278 sabotaging, can be crucial in maintaining the parasite population.

279 Finally, our study focuses on the ecological dynamics of the trophically transmitted para-  
280 site. However, investigating the evolution of host manipulation is a natural extension beyond  
281 the scope of a single manuscript, given the complexities that arise in the ecological dynamics  
282 itself (we tried). The occurrence of bistability in our model suggests that the evolution of host  
283 manipulation may drive the parasite population to extinction simply because of the scarcity  
284 of the mutant and the Allee effect in the population dynamics. Moreover, the parasite can  
285 enhance both values if there is no tradeoff between manipulation and reproduction. Never-  
286 theless, our model shows that this strategy, which seems to make the best of both worlds,  
287 can make the system even more unstable. Evolutionary dynamics here depend mainly on  
288 the tradeoff between host manipulation and other traits of the parasites, such as reproduc-  
289 tion, virulence, and survivorship in the parasite pool, to list a few. This extension deserves  
290 thorough analysis, and we will treat it as a separate matter.

291 **Acknowledgements**

292 Removed for review

293 **Statement of Authorship**

294 Removed for review

295 **Data and Code Availability**

296 All data and simulation codes for generating figures are available on <https://anonymous.4open.science/r/multipleinfections>

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377 **Tables**

Table 1: Description of variables and parameters

Parameters and Variables	Description
$I_i$	Density of intermediate hosts that are susceptible $i = s$ , singly infected $i = w$ , or doubly infected $i = ww$
$D_i$	Density of definitive hosts that are susceptible $i = s$ , singly infected $i = w$ , or doubly infected $i = ww$
$W$	Density of parasites released from definitive hosts into the environment
$d$	Natural death rate of intermediate hosts
$\alpha_i$	Additional death rate of intermediate hosts due to infection by a single parasite ( $i = w$ ) or two parasites ( $i = ww$ )
$p$	Probability that two parasites cotransmit from the environment to an intermediate host
$\gamma$	Transmission rate of parasites in the environment to intermediate hosts
$\mu$	Natural death rate of definitive hosts
$\sigma_i$	Additional death rate of definitive hosts due to infection by a single parasite ( $i = w$ ) or two parasites ( $i = ww$ )
$\sigma_i$	Additional death rate of the hosts due to being infected by a singly parasite ( $i = w$ ) or two parasites ( $i = ww$ )
$q$	Probability that two parasites cotransmit from intermediate hosts to definitive hosts
$\beta_i$	Transmission rate of parasites from intermediate hosts to definitive hosts
$f_i$	Reproduction rate of parasites in singly infected definitive hosts ( $i = w$ ) or doubly infected hosts ( $i = ww$ )
$\delta$	Natural death rate of parasites in the environment
$h$	Probability that the parasites successfully established inside the definitive host