Genetic Structure and Demographic History of New World Screwworm Across Its Current Geographic Range

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ABSTRACT   The phylogeographical history of the pest fly screwworm, *Cochliomyia hominivorax* (Coquerel), was studied using partial mitochondrial DNA sequences of the control region, *Cytochrome c oxidase* (CO) subunit I and CO subunit II from 361 individuals collected across its current geographic range. Analyses showed marked genetic differentiation on a macrogeographic scale. The genetic diversity in the species is structured into four main "regional groups," corresponding to Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and the North and South Amazon region. Results indicated that the distribution of screwworm genetic diversity was mainly shaped by historical events, i.e., colonization of Caribbean islands, vicariance in the Amazon region and population expansion. Demographic history analyses revealed that the population expansion started ≈20–25,000 yr ago and recently increased exponentially. We hypothesized that the initial period of expansion was probably associated with environmental amelioration in the late Pleistocene and the exponential increase with resource availability in recent times. The population expansion is probably responsible for the low divergence and the lack of genetic and geographic correlation in the South Amazon region but did not erase the genetic structure pattern on a continental scale. The screwworm is one of the most damaging livestock pests in South and Central America, and the pattern of genetic variability distribution reported here suggests that the Caribbean area and the North and South Amazon regions could be considered as independent units for future pest control programs.

KEY WORDS   *Cochliomyia hominivorax*, mitochondrial DNA, phylogeography, livestock pest, target management units

The increasing demand for protein by the growing human population makes animal production a high priority in world agriculture (Delgado et al. 1999, Vargas-Terán et al. 2005). To satisfy this demand, mechanisms that increase production efficiencies must be found, to prevent further deteriorate of the environment (FAO 2000). Part of the productivity efficiency increase can be carried out through improvements in animal health (Vargas-Terán et al. 2005), by controlling ectoparasites that cause severe losses to livestock systems and that are considered a major limiting factor in production.

The screwworm, *Cochliomyia hominivorax* (Coquerel), is one of the most damaging pests for livestock production, causing damage to leather and a decline in meat and milk production (Hall and Wall 1995, IAEA/FAO 2000, Vargas-Terán et al. 2005, Robinson et al. 2009). In its larval stages, this myasis-causing fly is an obligate ectoparasite of a wide range of warm-blooded hosts, ranging from wildlife to humans. Gravid female flies are attracted to wounds, where they lay their eggs. Emerging larvae invade and feed on the living tissues, possibly leading to host mortality unless adequate treatment is provided. When they reach maturity, larvae fall to the ground, where they burrow to pupate, and the adults emerge in few days (Guimarães et al. 1983, IAEA/FAO 2000).

Formerly, the geographic distribution of the screwworm was throughout the southern United States to central Argentina, including some Caribbean islands; however the species has been eradicated from North America and continental Central America by using an areawide integrated pest management approach (AW-IPM) based on the sterile insect technique (Klassen and Curtis 2005). Since 2001, sterile screwworm adults are being released in the Darien Gap, Panama, in an effort to protect the pest-free areas from reinfestation from South America (Robinson et al. 2009).

The screwworm is still a great problem for livestock production in South America and Caribbean, and the only current control strategy is strongly based on in-

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secticide use (except for Jamaica; Vargas-Terán et al. 2005). This type of control is independently applied by breeders, in accordance with individual and short-term necessity, without any coordinated program. The wide range of insecticides used to control pests can cause problems, such as environmental contamination (see Porretta et al. 2007) and the selection of insecticide resistant strains (Cassida and Gary 1998, Hemingway and Ranson 2000). In the screwworm, Carvalho et al. (2009) and Silva and Azeredo-Espin (2009) found mutations that are correlated with insecticide resistance. Thus, the necessity to reduce the use of chemicals and adopt control programs with enhanced specificity for the target species, on the appropriate geographic scale, has been highlighted as a more suitable alternative (Kongan 1998, Porretta et al. 2007).

Identification of regions with isolated populations, or groups of populations connected by current gene flow, is of utmost importance to the design of effective control programs for insect pests (Krafsur 2005, Porretta et al. 2007). These "target management units" identification requires a clear understanding of the species' spatial dynamics, specifically the migration patterns and dispersal abilities (i.e., population structure). However, this information is often difficult to obtain for species by using classical direct methods based on mark recapture trials (Roderick 1996). As such, the importance of the use of genetic markers and the study of the levels and patterns of genetic diversity in insect vectors and pests is growing (David et al. 2003, Conn and Mirabello 2007, Porretta et al. 2007).

Contemporary population structure is determined by both dispersal ability and demographic history, for this reason historical demography of a species should be taken into account when interpreting its breeding structure and gene flow among demes (Bossart and Prowell 1998). Phylogeography has been providing considerable information about the historical processes responsible for current geographic distribution of genetic diversity (Avise et al. 1987, reviewed in Avise 2009). The most widely used genetic marker for phylogeographic studies has so far been mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), because it allows the chance of recovering the pattern and tempo of historical events (Avise 2009).

Various studies have recently attempted to assess the structure of screwworm populations by using molecular markers (Roehrdanz 1989, Taylor et al. 1996, Lyra et al. 2005, Torres et al. 2007, Lyra et al. 2009, Torres and Azeredo-Espin 2009). These studies have provided valuable insights into the population genetics of screwworm, showing that the species has both structured and undifferentiated populations throughout its current range. Such studies, however, have led to few insights about the historical and current processes that influence the distribution of screwworm genetic diversity.

The present work was aimed at unraveling the phylogeographical history of screwworm by using mtDNA markers. The objectives were 1) to explore the genetic population structure of screwworm in its current geographic range and 2) to investigate historical demographic events that might have influenced the current spatial distribution of genetic variability.

Materials and Methods

Sampling and DNA Protocols. Larvae of screwworm were collected from 38 geographic sites from South America and the Caribbean (Table 1; Fig. 1), encompassing almost all of the species' current range. Four to 18 individuals were sampled per location, following procedures described in Lyra et al. (2009). Thirty-four sites included in this study were previously analyzed using a polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-restriction fragment length polymorphism-based approach by Lyra et al. (2009).

Total DNA was extracted by the phenol: chloroform method, adapted for microcentrifuge tubes (Lyra et al. 2009), and resuspended in 100 μl of TE buffer and stored at $-20°$C. Three mitochondrial DNA fragments, corresponding to the B domain of the control region (CR) (Lessinger and Azeredo-Espin 2000) and partial sequences of the genes *cytochrome c oxidase* subunit I (COI) and subunit II (COII) were amplified by PCR and sequenced from 361 individuals. The CR fragment was amplified using the primers CRc-N-BVII-R (Duarte et al. 2008) and SR-J-14875 (5′-AAGTCACACACAAAAATTTAC-3′; this work); the COI fragment was amplified with primers, TW-J1287 (Lyra et al. 2009) and C1-N2320 (5′AATCCTAATAATC-CAATAGC-3′; this work); and COII was amplified with primers TL2-J3034 and TK-N3785 (Simon et al. 1994). The PCRs were conducted separately and the PCR cocktails contained 1 μl of extracted DNA, 10× PCR buffer, 1.0 mM MgCl$_2$, 10 μg of bovine serum albumin, 0.2 μM of each dNTPs, 0.4 μM of each primer, and 0.5 U of *Taq*DNA polymerase (Fermentas International Inc., Burlington, ON, Canada) in a total volume of 25 μl. The cycling conditions for all reactions consisted of an initial denaturation at 94°C for 4 min, followed by 35 cycles of 94°C for 30 s, 50°C for 30 s, and 60°C for 1:30 s, plus a final extension at 60°C for 7 min. PCR products were purified using the QIAquick PCR purification kit, according to the supplier's protocol (QIAGEN GmbH, Hilden, Germany). Sequencing reactions were conducted with the ABI BigDye Terminator cycle sequencing kit version 3.1 and run on an ABI 3700 automatic sequencer (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA).

Sequence Analysis. The COI fragments were sequenced bidirectionally and sequences were assembled into a contig for each individual by using CAP3 software (Huang and Madan 1999), considering *Phred* values (Ewing and Green 1998, Ewing et al. 1998). CR and COII fragments had one strand sequenced. All sequences were aligned for each of the three fragments by using the automatic multiple sequences alignment algorithm implemented in ClustalX (Thompson et al. 1997). Protein coding sequences (COI and COII) were checked for open reading frames in MEGA software version 4.0 (Tamura et al. 2007). For the CR fragment, each insertion/deletion (indel) was considered as a single mutational step, and

Table 1. Screwworm sampled sites, haplotype distribution, and genetic variability indices

	ID	Geographic location	Latitude	Longitude	N	Nhp	Haplotype (no. individuals)	Ĥ	π	Group
CB	CPR	Pinar del Rio	22° 25′ N	83° 41′ W	6	3	95(1) 196(1) 204(4)	0.600	0.0040	CG
	CCA	Ciego de Ávila	21° 50′ N	78° 46′ W	15	7	195(1) 201(1) 202(2) 207(1) 210(1) 211(7) 214(2)	0.781	0.0024	CG
	CLT	Las Tunas	21° 04′ N	77° 05′ W	6	5	91(1) 92(1) 202(2) 209(1) 213(1)	0.933	0.0075	CG
	CSC	Santiago de Cuba	20° 01′ N	75° 49′ W	9	7	202(1) 203(1) 205(1) 206(2) 208(1) 212(1) 214(2)	0.944	0.0029	CG
	CCR	Ciro Redondo	21° 53′ N	82° 54′ W	10	4	197(1) 198(7) 199(1) 200(1)	0.533	0.0010	CG
DR	DRP	Santo Domingo	18° 28′ N	59° 53′ W	13	7	7(1) 18(1) 45(1) 46(1) 47(1) 48(6) 109(2)	0.795	0.0016	DRG
JM	JAM	Kingston	17° 59′ N	76° 47′ W	9	6	32(1) 33(1) 35(1) 38(2) 54(1) 61(3)	0.889	0.0022	NAG
TT	TPE	Puerto España	10° 40′ N	61° 28′ W	5	4	17(1) 40(1) 153(1) 173(2)	0.900	0.0035	NAG
	TSF	San Fernando	10° 16′ N	61° 27′ W	6	4	17(2) 89(1) 90(1) 153(2)	0.867	0.0045	NAG
VE	VBA	Barquisimeto	10° 03′ N	69° 19′ W	10	6	28(1) 36(1) 84(1) 89(3) 106(2) 174(2)	0.889	0.0046	NAG
	VEN	Encontrados	09° 03′ N	72° 14′ W	11	10	26(1) 38(2) 58(1) 87(1) 94(1) 102(1) 106(1) 156(1) 157(1) 158(1)	0.982	0.0048	NAG
CO	COT	Turbo	08° 05′ N	76° 43′ W	12	6	34(2) 37(2) 39(2) 54(5) 89(1) 93(1)	0.818	0.0038	NAG
EC	ERV	Rio Verde	02° 19′ S	80° 42′ W	4	3	44(1) 58(1) 60(2)	0.833	0.0012	NAG
BR	BTO	Touros	05° 17′ S	35° 33′ W	10	7	53(1) 64(2) 78(1) 140(3) 159(1) 166(1) 175(1)	0.933	0.0045	SAG
	BSM	Sta. Ma. das Barreiras	08° 52′ S	49° 42′ W	11	11	3(1) 4(1) 13(1) 50(1) 62(1) 121(1) 124(1) 132(1) 140(1) 163(1) 175(1)	1.000	0.0040	SAG
	BCO	Cocalinhos	14° 22′ S	51° 00′ W	6	6	10(1) 11(1) 29(1) 57(1) 69(1) 168(1)	1.000	0.0037	SAG
	BGN	Goianira	16° 32′ S	49° 22′ W	8	8	43(1) 59(1) 66(1) 80(1) 96(1) 131(1) 134(1) 165(1)	1.000	0.0051	SAG
	BGO	Goiânia	16° 43′ S	49° 15′ W	9	8	1(2) 73(1) 88(1) 107(1) 111(1) 164(1) 185(1) 191(1)	0.972	0.0039	SAG
	BCA	Caiapônia	16° 57′ S	51° 48′ W	18	11	1(1) 8(1) 19(2) 24(1) 51(2) 140(6) 145(1) 150(1) 155(1) 169(1) 183(1)	0.882	0.0031	SAG
	BCR	Costa Rica City	18° 32′ S	53° 07′ W	7	6	30(1) 120(1) 125(1) 140(1) 143(2) 146(1)	0.952	0.0022	SAG
	BAQ	Aquidauana	19° 35′ S	56° 05′ W	6	5	112(2) 140(1) 141(1) 142(1) 189(1)	0.933	0.0043	SAG
	BCG	Campo Grande	20° 27′ S	54° 36′ W	10	6	76(1) 129(1) 140(5) 160(1) 172(1) 184(1)	0.778	0.0036	SAG
	BSS	São Seb. Paraíso	20° 55′ S	46° 59′ W	7	5	41(2) 118(1) 140(2) 187(1) 190(1)	0.905	0.0040	SAG
	BES	Estiva	22° 27′ S	46° 01′ W	18	12	15(1) 50(3) 56(1) 77(1) 103(1) 110(1) 123(1) 133(1) 140(3) 184(1) 187(3) 192(1)	0.954	0.0039	SAG
	BCP	Campinas	22° 48′ S	47° 03′ W	11	11	20(1) 55(1) 70(1) 116(1) 117(1) 126(1) 127(1) 135(1) 149(1) 151(1) 181(1)	1.000	0.0043	SAG
	BCI	Carambeí	24° 55′ S	50° 05′ W	13	9	51(1) 123(1) 130(1) 140(4) 147(1) 154(1) 169(1) 187(2) 193(1)	0.949	0.0037	SAG
	BFV	Fagundes Varela	28° 52′ S	51° 41′ W	5	5	14(1) 23(1) 78(1) 82(1) 145(1)	1.000	0.0045	SAG
	BSA	Sto. Ant. Missões	29° 04′ S	56° 19′ W	10	10	21(1) 65(1) 67(1) 83(1) 115(1) 140(1) 170(1) 171(1) 178(1) 187(1)	1.000	0.0052	SAG
	BPM	Pinheiro Machado	31° 34′ S	53° 23′ W	9	9	2(1) 67(1) 78(1) 85(1) 100(1) 122(1) 139(1) 186(1) 188(1)	1.000	0.0052	SAG
PY	PYB	Ybytymi	25° 46′ S	56° 41′ W	17	14	9(1) 43(1) 49(1) 63(1) 78(2) 137(1) 140(3) 147(1) 148(1) 167(1) 169(1) 176(1) 188(1) 194(1)	0.971	0.0050	SAG
UY	UPM	Paso Muñoz	31° 27′ S	56° 23′ W	7	4	75(2) 78(1) 99(1) 140(3)	0.810	0.0033	SAG
	UST	San Antonio	31° 24′ S	57° 58′ W	8	6	42(2) 50(1) 67(1) 81(1) 114(1) 140(2)	0.929	0.0036	SAG
	UDA	Daymán	31° 33′ S	57° 57′ W	9	9	79(1) 101(1) 104(1) 105(1) 119(1) 140(1) 144(1) 152(1) 169(1)	1.000	0.0043	SAG
	UBM	Bañ. Medina	32° 23′ S	54° 21′ W	12	9	12(1) 25(1) 31(1) 74(1) 78(2) 86(1) 111(1) 140(3) 176(1)	0.939	0.0051	SAG
	UCC	Cer. Colorado	33° 52′ S	55° 33′ W	16	14	2(2) 27(2) 43(1) 97(1) 98(1) 108(1) 113(1) 136(1) 138(1) 140(1) 161(1) 162(1) 177(1) 180(1)	0.983	0.0057	SAG
	UCO	Colonia	34° 28′ S	57° 51′ W	7	7	1(1) 16(1) 22(1) 140(1) 159(1) 179(1) 182(1)	1.000	0.0053	SAG
	UJS	Juaquín Suarez	34° 44′ S	56° 02′ W	6	6	5(1) 6(1) 71(1) 72(1) 121(1) 128(1)	1.000	0.0051	SAG
AR	APL	Lezama	35° 52′ S	57° 53′ W	5	4	52(1) 68(2) 78(1) 140(1)	0.900	0.0038	SAG
Total					361		214 haplotypes	0.909	0.0039	

ID, site identification code; *N*, number of individuals analyzed; Nhp, number of haplotypes found in each locality; Ĥ, haplotype diversity; π, nucleotide diversity and geographic groups (CG, Cuban group; DRG, Dominican Republic group; NAG, North Amazon group; SAG, South Amazon Group). CB, Cuba; DR, Dominican Republic; JM, Jamaica; TT, Trinidad & Tobago; VE, Venezuela; CO, Colombia; EC, Ecuador; BR, Brazil; PY, Paraguay; UY, Uruguay; AY, Argentina.
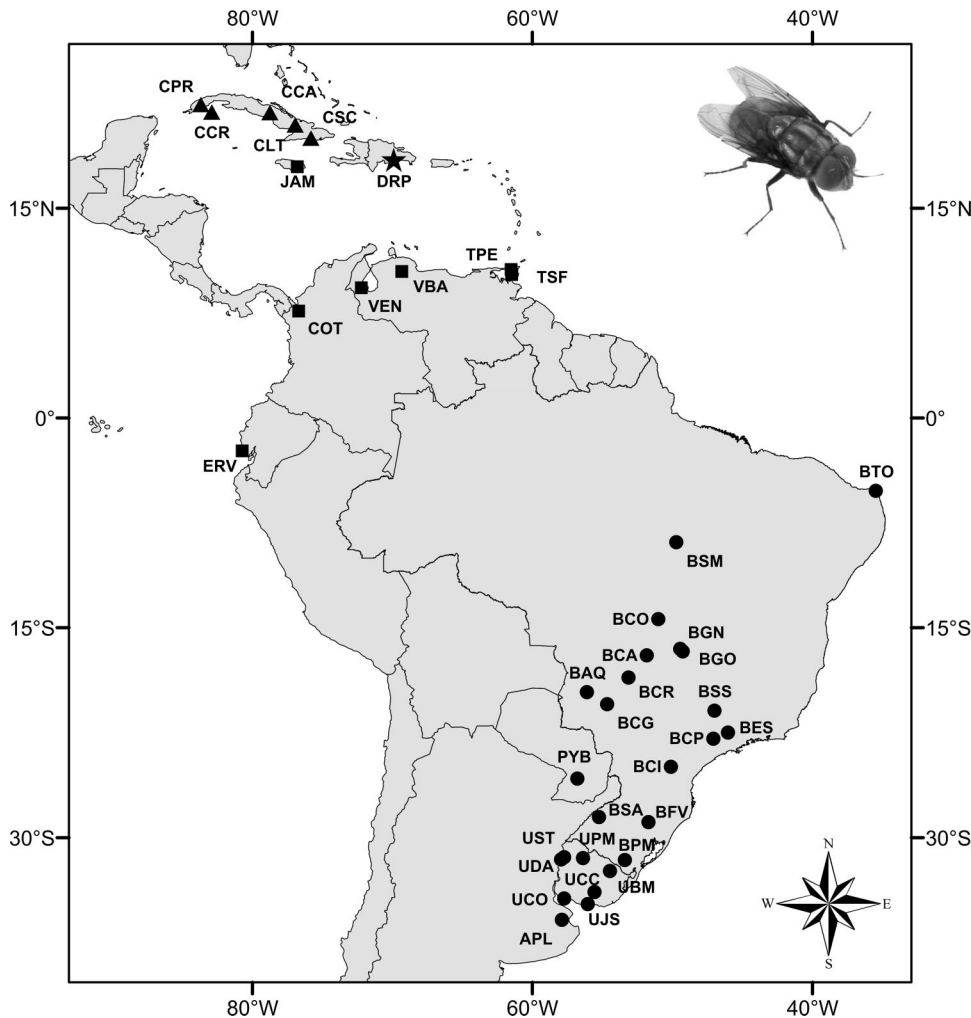
Fig. 1. Geographical distribution of screwworm fly sampled. Each site belongs to one of the four regional groups, according to results (see Table 1 for population ID). Triangles, CG; star, DRG; squares, NAG; and circles, SAG.

all indels were recoded as single positions in the final alignment.

The three different sequence data sets were first analyzed separately then combined. Individual sequences were collapsed in haplotypes for all data sets. Haplotype frequencies, nucleotide diversity (π) and haplotype diversity ($\hat{H}$), as defined by Nei (1987), were estimated using Arlequin version 3.1 (Excoffier et al. 2005).

Phylogeographic Analyses. Genetic differentiation among populations was determined using pairwise F_{ST} statistics (Reynolds et al. 1983, Slatkin 1995). Statistical significance was assessed by 10,000 permutations. Based on haplotype distribution and pairwise F_{ST} a priori population groupings were constructed and tested by hierarchical analysis of molecular variance (AMOVA; Excoffier et al. 1992). The partition that maximized the among-group variance component was considered the best-fit divergence scenario. Nonhierarchical AMOVA also was conducted within groups of

populations to explore group heterogeneity. The AMOVAs, as well as pairwise F_{ST}, were conducted using Arlequin version 3.1 (Excoffier et al. 2005).

Partial Mantel tests (Smouse et al. 1986, Sokal et al. 1997) were used to partition the contemporary (isolation by distance [IBD]) and historical effects of the divergence between groups of populations from South America. This procedure was carried out using a third matrix that included a categorical variable, in which the value one indicates that populations belong to the same group and 0 elsewhere, in addition to the genetic distance matrix (Slatkin's linearized F_{ST}s, Slatkin 1995) and geographic distance matrix (linear distance between two localities in kilometers). Partial Mantel tests were conducted in Arlequin version 3.1 (Excoffier et al. 2005).

A haplotype network was inferred for concatenated sequences by using TCS version 1.21 (Clement et al. 2000). Statistical parsimony analysis was used to establish the links among pairs of haplotypes by the

Table 2. Pairwise F_{ST} estimates among 38 populations of screwworm

	CPR	CCA	CLT	CSC	CCR	DRP	JAM	TPE	TSF	VBA	VEN	COT	ERV	BTO	BSM	BCO	BGN	BGO
CPR	0.00			CG														
CCA	0.19	0.00																
CLT	−0.05	0.14	0.00															
CSC	0.12	−0.02	0.09	0.00		DRG												
CCR	0.41	0.37	0.28	0.35	0.00													
DRP	0.75	0.82	0.65	0.81	0.89	0.00												
JAM	0.70	0.78	0.57	0.76	0.86	0.65	0.00				NAG							
TPE	0.63	0.76	0.47	0.73	0.84	0.62	0.06	0.00										
TSF	0.57	0.74	0.41	0.70	0.81	0.56	0.40	0.15	0.00									
VBA	0.54	0.69	0.41	0.66	0.76	0.44	0.20	0.08	0.00	0.00								
VEN	0.56	0.69	0.44	0.65	0.74	0.43	0.18	0.14	0.18	0.02	0.00							
COT	0.61	0.72	0.49	0.69	0.78	0.48	0.13	0.12	0.22	0.05	0.00	0.00						
ERV	0.67	0.77	0.47	0.75	0.89	0.66	0.54	0.50	0.42	0.22	0.08	0.20	0.00					
BTO	0.54	0.70	0.42	0.66	0.76	0.41	0.41	0.30	0.13	0.08	0.12	0.20	0.25	0.00				
BSM	0.58	0.70	0.44	0.67	0.76	0.46	0.38	0.31	0.26	0.14	0.10	0.20	0.24	0.02	0.00			
BCO	0.56	0.72	0.39	0.68	0.80	0.50	0.44	0.32	0.16	0.08	0.10	0.20	0.30	−0.05	−0.01	0.00		
BGN	0.52	0.69	0.39	0.65	0.75	0.44	0.38	0.26	0.11	0.07	0.10	0.19	0.22	−0.05	0.03	−0.04	0.00	
BGO	0.58	0.72	0.44	0.68	0.78	0.54	0.46	0.36	0.21	0.16	0.20	0.27	0.33	0.07	0.09	0.05	0.00	0.00
BCA	0.64	0.73	0.53	0.71	0.79	0.52	0.47	0.43	0.40	0.27	0.20	0.30	0.32	0.10	0.01	0.08	0.12	0.23
BCR	0.67	0.76	0.52	0.74	0.85	0.65	0.60	0.55	0.52	0.37	0.28	0.40	0.54	0.23	0.13	0.24	0.25	0.39
BAQ	0.58	0.72	0.42	0.68	0.80	0.55	0.45	0.37	0.30	0.20	0.16	0.26	0.30	0.05	−0.01	0.03	0.03	0.07
BCG	0.60	0.72	0.47	0.69	0.79	0.53	0.48	0.41	0.34	0.22	0.18	0.29	0.33	0.04	−0.01	0.02	0.07	0.18
BSS	0.60	0.73	0.46	0.69	0.80	0.61	0.53	0.44	0.36	0.29	0.28	0.37	0.42	0.15	0.13	0.09	0.09	0.05
BES	0.58	0.69	0.46	0.66	0.74	0.46	0.39	0.33	0.27	0.17	0.16	0.23	0.25	0.06	0.02	−0.02	0.01	0.00
BCP	0.57	0.69	0.45	0.66	0.75	0.49	0.43	0.36	0.32	0.21	0.15	0.25	0.27	0.07	0.01	0.03	0.06	0.17
BCI	0.60	0.71	0.49	0.68	0.77	0.52	0.44	0.40	0.37	0.26	0.19	0.29	0.31	0.10	0.02	0.06	0.08	0.15
BFV	0.53	0.71	0.37	0.67	0.80	0.53	0.45	0.32	0.12	0.09	0.13	0.23	0.30	−0.09	−0.01	−0.11	−0.07	0.00
BSA	0.53	0.68	0.41	0.63	0.73	0.43	0.31	0.24	0.20	0.11	0.08	0.16	0.15	0.05	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.09
BPM	0.54	0.69	0.41	0.65	0.75	0.48	0.41	0.31	0.20	0.17	0.20	0.27	0.28	0.07	0.11	0.04	−0.01	−0.05
PYB	0.52	0.65	0.41	0.61	0.70	0.38	0.31	0.24	0.18	0.09	0.08	0.16	0.16	−0.01	−0.01	−0.04	−0.04	0.03
UPM	0.60	0.73	0.43	0.70	0.82	0.55	0.47	0.36	0.17	0.09	0.11	0.22	0.32	−0.07	−0.02	−0.05	−0.05	0.04
UST	0.61	0.73	0.47	0.70	0.80	0.52	0.43	0.37	0.35	0.20	0.13	0.22	0.31	0.08	0.00	0.07	0.10	0.24
UDA	0.57	0.70	0.44	0.66	0.76	0.45	0.36	0.30	0.28	0.15	0.08	0.18	0.21	0.05	−0.02	0.02	0.05	0.18
UBM	0.51	0.67	0.39	0.63	0.72	0.39	0.34	0.25	0.11	0.06	0.09	0.16	0.18	−0.06	0.00	−0.07	−0.06	0.01
UCC	0.51	0.65	0.40	0.61	0.69	0.39	0.34	0.26	0.15	0.12	0.13	0.19	0.19	0.00	0.03	−0.01	−0.04	−0.03
UCO	0.54	0.69	0.40	0.64	0.76	0.48	0.38	0.29	0.23	0.16	0.12	0.22	0.22	0.03	−0.01	−0.02	−0.02	0.01
UJS	0.54	0.71	0.39	0.67	0.78	0.52	0.44	0.30	0.13	0.11	0.13	0.24	0.29	−0.03	0.00	0.02	−0.01	0.06
APL	0.56	0.74	0.38	0.70	0.83	0.53	0.47	0.32	0.04	0.02	0.12	0.21	0.37	−0.07	0.09	−0.01	−0.04	0.09

Identification codes (ID) correspond to geographic locations given on Table 1. Rectangles in black lines represent intragroup comparisons. Rectangles in dashed lines represent intergroup comparisons. CG, Cuban group; DRG, Dominican Republic group; NAG, North Amazon group; SAG, South Amazon group. Gray boxes indicate values that are significant $P < 0.05$; other values are nonsignificant.

smallest number of differences, defined by 95% CL. The ambiguities in the haplotype network were resolved following the guidelines proposed by Crandall and Templeton (1993). A second network was constructed based only on the first and second codon positions of concatenated COI and COII sequences, following the same procedure as described above. This approach was used to examine long-term historical processes by removing sequence polymorphism saturation of the third codon position.

To examine the dynamics of population size fluctuations over time, a Bayesian skyline plot (BSP) was generated using Beast software version 1.5.3 (Drummond et al. 2005, Drummond and Rambaut 2007). This Bayesian approach incorporates the uncertainty in the genealogy by using Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) integration under a coalescence model in which the timing of dates provides information about effective population sizes over time (Drummond et al. 2005). The MCMC chains were run three times for 50 million generations, parameters were sampled every 5,000 steps, and with the first 10% were discarded as the burn-in. The HKY+G+I evolutionary substitution model was used, as selected in Modeltest 3.7 (Posada and Crandall 1998) following both the likelihood ratio test and Akaike information criterion. Only COI sequences were used because there is a better understanding of the molecular evolution of this gene; because the substitution rate of screwworm COI is unknown, a rate of 2% per million years was applied based on that estimated for *Drosophila* COI (DeSalle et al. 1987).

Results

Genetic Diversity and Haplotype Distribution. The lengths of CR, COI, and COII fragments were 510 bp, 731 bp and 511 bp, defining 91, 72, and 66 haplotypes, respectively (GenBank accessions for CR are HM185642, HM185644–HM185678, HM185680–HM185691, HM185693–HM185706, HM185708–HM185736; for COI are HM185498, HM185500–HM185509, HM185512–HM185558, HM185560–HM185568, HM185570–HM185574; and for COII are HM185575-HM185590, HM185592–HM185641). The mean genetic distance (uncorrected p-distance) among haplotypes was 0.00909 (range, 0–0.024) for CR, 0.0053 (range, 0.001–0.011) for COI and 0.0078 (range, 0.001–0.019) for COII. The three fragments were concatenated and a total of 214 haplotypes were defined in a 1752-bp

Table 2. Continued

BCA	BCR	BAQ	BCG	BSS	BES	BCP	BCI	BFV	BSA	BPM	PYB	UPM	UST	UDA	UBM	UCC	UCO	UJS	APL
0.00																			
0.05	0.00																		
0.01	0.10	0.00																	
−0.04	0.03	−0.02	0.00																
0.17	0.29	0.02	0.11	0.00															
0.08	0.22	−0.01	0.06	0.01	0.00														
−0.01	0.04	0.01	−0.03	0.11	0.06	0.00													
−0.03	0.07	−0.03	−0.03	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.00												
0.07	0.25	−0.02	0.00	0.05	−0.01	0.02	0.05	0.00											
0.08	0.20	0.03	0.07	0.13	0.05	0.06	0.06	−0.01	0.00										
0.21	0.33	0.05	0.16	0.01	0.01	0.16	0.11	0.00	0.07	0.00									
0.05	0.17	0.00	0.04	0.08	−0.01	0.04	0.03	−0.04	−0.01	0.02	0.00								
0.07	0.25	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.04	0.07	−0.11	0.02	0.07	−0.03	0.00							
−0.02	0.04	0.03	−0.03	0.20	0.10	−0.02	0.02	0.09	0.04	0.20	0.04	0.06	0.00						
0.00	0.09	0.02	0.01	0.18	0.07	0.01	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.16	0.00	0.03	−0.03	0.00					
0.09	0.21	0.01	0.04	0.11	0.01	0.06	0.08	−0.08	0.02	0.03	−0.04	−0.08	0.07	0.03	0.00				
0.12	0.22	0.01	0.08	0.04	0.00	0.08	0.07	−0.05	0.05	−0.03	−0.01	−0.02	0.11	0.09	−0.02	0.00			
0.04	0.18	−0.05	0.02	−0.03	−0.05	0.02	−0.03	−0.05	0.00	−0.02	−0.04	0.02	0.06	0.03	0.00	−0.03	0.00		
0.13	0.26	0.05	0.06	0.17	0.09	0.08	0.13	−0.07	0.06	0.09	0.03	−0.06	0.11	0.07	−0.02	0.02	0.04	0.00	
0.24	0.40	0.15	0.16	0.26	0.12	0.16	0.23	−0.05	0.08	0.10	0.03	−0.05	0.19	0.12	−0.05	0.03	0.11	−0.03	0.00

SAG

mtDNA fragment from 361 screwworm individuals (Table 1). The mean genetic distance among concatenated haplotypes was 0.0057 (range, 0–0.0148).

Nucleotide diversity (π) and haplotype diversity ($\hat{H}$) estimated from the concatenated mtDNA fragments are shown in Table 1. In general, low nucleotide diversity (π-mean = 0.39%, range, 0.1–0.75%) and high haplotype diversity ($\hat{H}$-mean = 0.90; range, 0.53–1.0) was observed for the locations analyzed. Lowest diversity indices were found for the location of Ciro Redondo-CCR in Cuba (π_{CCR} = 0.001, $\hat{H}_{CCR}$ = 0.533).

Approximately 77% (165/214) of the haplotypes were rare (single individuals). Just 27 haplotypes (12.6%) occurred in more than one sampling location and the other 22 (10.4%) were site private (Table 1). Haplotype mapping (data not shown) illustrated four "regional groups," corresponding to samples from 1) Cuba (Cuban group [CG]), 2) the Dominican Republic (Dominican Republic group [DRG]), 3) Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela (North Amazon group [NAG]), and 5) south of the Amazon region (South Amazon group [SAG]) (Fig. 1). No haplotype was shared between groups. The haplotype composition of each sampling location and group allocation are given in Table 1.

Phylogeographic Analyses. The pairwise F_{ST} estimated for the 38 sampled locations of screwworm are shown in Table 2. Comparisons among the Cuban or the Dominican Republic sites, with all other sites showed significant and the highest F_{ST} values. Most comparisons among locations from the South and the North of the Amazon region were also significant (150/175 pairwise comparisons). In concordance with haplotype distribution, the same four "regional groups" (CG, DRG, NAG, and SAG; Table 2) were identified. In the CG group, most of the comparisons had significant values (6/10), largely due to the sample from Ciro Redondo, which was significantly different to all other sites (Table 2). Most comparisons at the intra-group level for NAG and SAG were nonsignificant (12/20 and 234/276, respectively), but some differentiations were observed.

Hierarchical AMOVA tests for the four group scenario were statistically significant and attributed 45.3% of the total variance to among group comparison, 4.3% of the variance to within group, and 50.4% to the within sampling locations comparison. Results revealed that screwworm has genetic structure (AMOVA: Φ_{ST} = 0.496, $P < 0.001$) over the current geographic distribution. Nonhierarchical AMOVA within groups revealed a different degree of intra-group variation, where 4.8% in SAG, 14.9% in NAG, and 18.7% in CG total variance was attributed to among sampling locations comparisons.
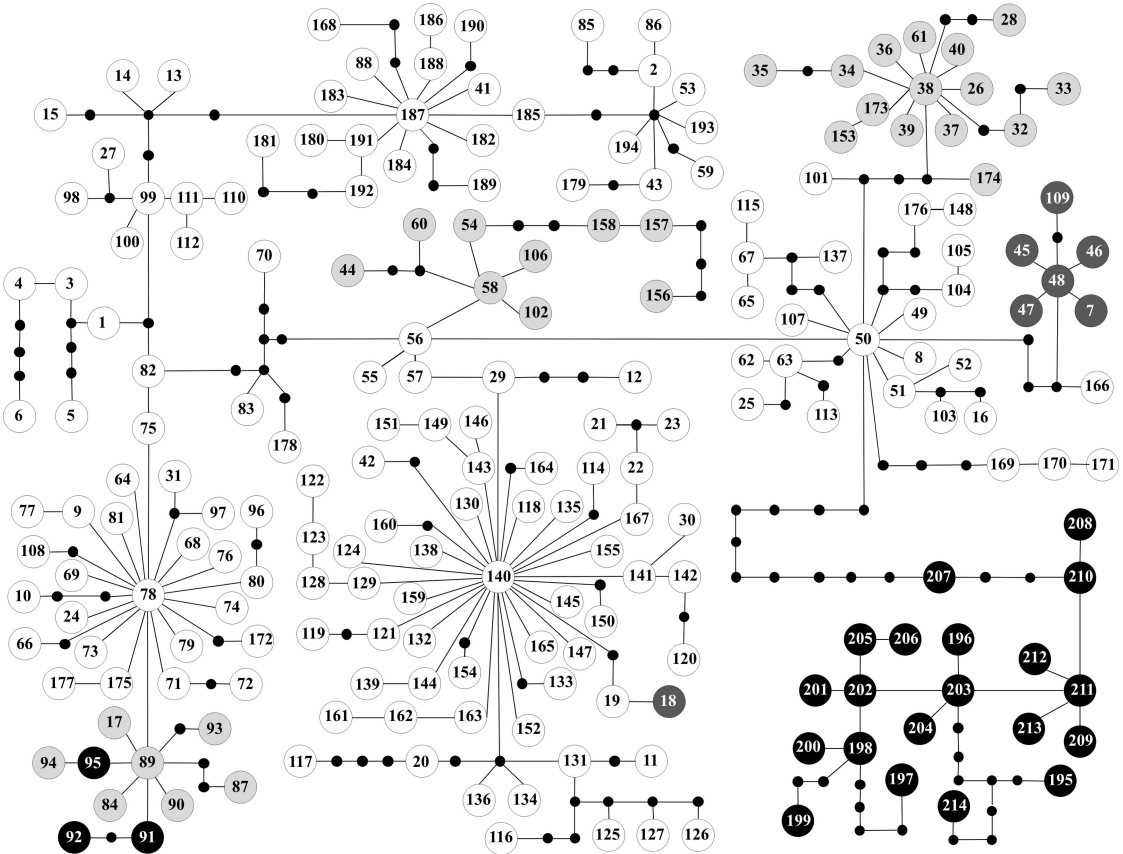
Fig. 2. Haplotype network of CR/COI/COII concatenated sequence data. In black, haplotypes from CG; in dark gray, haplotypes from DRG; in gray, haplotypes from NAG; and in white, haplotypes from SAG. Lines between haplotypes represent one mutational step. Dots along lines are presumptive intermediate haplotypes that were not observed.

The partial Mantel test for the South American locations (NAG plus SAG) showed that genetic variance was not correlated with geographic distance ($r = -0.07$, $P = 0.9$) but rather with the grouping of the sampling locations ($r = 0.46$, $P < 0.001$). Therefore, in total 38% of variance found in the genetic matrix was due to the presence of barriers rather than IBD.

The 214 concatenated mtDNA haplotypes were linked in a unique parsimony network (Fig. 2). The general topology of the network showed one clade containing almost all haplotypes from CG (20/23), separated by 11 steps from a group that contained haplotypes from NAG, SAG, and DRG and the three remaining haplotypes from CG (Fig. 2). Haplotypes from NAG and DRG are located in the outer arms of this group. The majority of haplotypes were tip alleles and geographically restricted (Fig. 2) and would be considered to be more recently derived (Crandall and Templeton 1993, Castelloe and Templeton 1994). Common haplotypes (haplotypes that appear in at least five individuals) were always interior haplotypes (Table 1; Fig. 2) and are most likely to be ancestral (Castelloe and Templeton 1994).

For the first and second codon positions of the COI and COII sequences, in total 22 haplotypes were found

that linked in a star-like network (Fig. 3). Haplotype h1, was the hub of this network, was the most frequent (286/361 individuals) and was present in all sampling locations, except in DRG. In this haplotype (h1), the
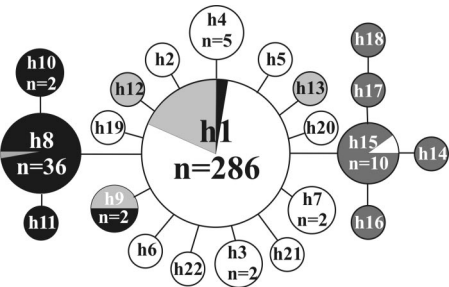

Fig. 3. Haplotype network for the first and second codon position of COI/COII concatenated sequences. The haplotypes are represented by circles, and n within circles indicates the number of individuals per haplotype. Circles without n represent haplotypes found in one individual. Lines between haplotypes represent one mutational step. The colored sectors represent the proportion of individuals with the haplotype in the respective regional groups (black, CG; dark gray, DRG; gray, NAG; and white, SAG).
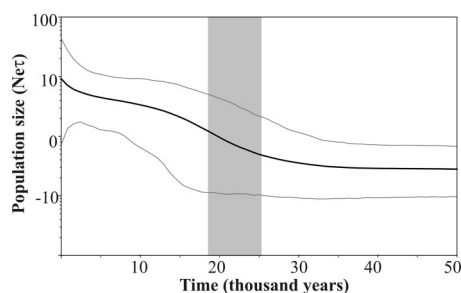
Fig. 4. Bayesian skyline plot by using COI sequences of the screwworm. The x-axis is in units of thousand years and the y-axis is equal to relative population size (Neτ; the product of the effective population size and the generation length in years). The dark solid line is the median estimate, and the gray lines show the 95% highest posterior density limits. Shaded bar corresponds to the Last Glacial Maximum ($\approx$18–23,000 yr ago).

most frequent haplotypes of DRG and CG are linked, the Jamaican private haplotypes (h12 and h13) and the low frequency mainland haplotypes. Haplotype h8 was present in 36 individuals, 35 from Cuban locations and one from Rio Verde (Ecuador). Haplotype h15 was present in 10 individuals, nine from Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic), and one from Cerro Colorado (Uruguay). The remaining haplotypes are found at low frequencies among the sampling locations.

The demographic history of screwworm samples was estimated using a BSP, and the results suggest a population expansion for this species that started $\approx$20–25,000 yr ago and exponentially increased recently (Fig. 4). The star-like topology of both haplotype networks also suggests population expansion for the screwworm. Bayesian Skyline Plots, obtained for the COII and CR sequences, were concordant with COI results and diagrams were very similar in shape, indicating the same two periods of population expansion (data not shown). When a 2% molecular clock rate was applied to COII sequences, the time of demographic expansion was also similar.

Discussion

The range-wide phylogeographical structure of the screwworm is characterized by island colonization, geographic isolation, and population expansion. Results of the pairwise F_{ST}, hierarchical AMOVA, and haplotype distribution showed that screwworm is structured over its current geographical distribution. The general distribution pattern of genetic variability was characterized by the presence of four "regional groups," a Cuban group (CG), a Dominican Republic group (DRG), a North of Amazon region group (NAG), and a South of Amazon region group (SAG). The divergence between screwworm locations from the North and South Amazon region (NAG and SAG) are reported here for the first time.

The Caribbean (CG and DRG) was the major area of divergence between populations of screwworm.

Our results are in accordance with previous studies of screwworm based on mtDNA PCR-restriction fragment length polymorphism markers and microsatellites (Lyra et al. 2009, Torres and Azeredo-Espin 2009), supporting the hypothesis that the Caribbean Sea is a geographic barrier that limits gene flow in this species. Although, from the data presented here, three haplotypes from Cuba and one from the Dominican Republic were genetically distant from the frequent haplotypes of the same sampling location, the presence of these haplotypes in these locations was interpreted as anthropogenic migration rather than natural migration. Molina-Cruz et al. (2004) suggested that Caribbean Sea also represents a partial barrier to gene flow in the mosquito *Anopheles albimanus* Wiedemann. Examples of large bodies of water (including seas) acting as geographic barriers to shape the population structure of a terrestrial species were also found for the bumblebee *Bombus terrestris* (L.) between the European continent and some Mediterranean islands (Estoup et al. 1996) and for the flies *Ceratitis rosa* Karsch and *Ceratitis fasciventris* (Bezzi) in Africa (Baliraine et al. 2004).

The site of Ciro Redondo (Isla de la Juventud), in CG, does not share haplotypes with Cuba Island and significant pairwise F_{ST} values were observed between it and other Cuban sites. These results further support the hypothesis that the Caribbean Sea is a geographic barrier to gene flow in the screwworm. As Ciro Redondo showed the lowest variability indices, we suppose that this could be a result of the effective suppression program in the Isla de la Juventud (Garcia et al. 2007) that occurred just before collecting the samples analyzed here. The suppression may have induced a population bottleneck that explains the low variability found.

The tip positions of most haplotypes from Caribbean locations in both networks, CR/COI/COII (Fig. 2) and COI/COII (Fig. 3), suggest colonization of islands from mainland. The deep divergence (11 mutational steps) observed between the Cuban haplotypes and all others in the CR/COI/COII network indicates different colonization histories for the Caribbean region. The haplotype distance and high pairwise F_{ST} values (Fig. 2; Table 2) among Cuban and the remaining Caribbean sites suggest a North American colonization, Central American colonization, or both of Cuba, in contrast to the other Caribbean populations that were colonized from South America. Unfortunately, the colonization of Cuba is now difficult to test because screwworm has been eradicated from North and Central America. Yet, analyzing strains from North, Central America and Jamaica, Roehrdanz (1989) found the highest pairwise genetic distance between the Jamaican strain and the others. In concordance, Taylor et al. (1996) found that the screwworm strains of South American, Jamaican, and Trinidad & Tobago were closely related, whereas Cuban samples were more similar to Costa Rican strains. This phylogeographic break between Central and South America is consistent with studies of other Neotropical taxa, such as a mosquito (Mirabello and Conn

2006), Neotropical butterflies (Brower 1994), toads (Slade and Moritz 1998), bats (Hoffmann and Baker 2003), and even a tropical rain forest tree (Dick et al. 2003).

In South America, the two "regional groups" of screwworm populations (NAG and SAG) do not share haplotypes. However, the low genetic divergence found among the haplotypes and non significant differentiation among some SAG and NAG populations suggest that these "regional groups" were recently separated. The partial Mantel test indicated that historical effects explain this genetic divergence, suggesting the presence of a barrier that limits current gene flow. The Amazon rain forest represents this putative geographic barrier. Because the screwworm inhabits the interface between savannah and forest borders (Thomas 1993, Phillips et al. 2004, Garcia et al. 2007), processes involved in this forest fragmentation and recover (Clapperton 1993, Haffer and Prance 2001) might be responsible for the observed geographic structure of screwworm populations.

The among populations variance found in NAG is mainly correlated with the inclusion of Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago in this group. Kingston (Jamaica) and San Fernando (Trinidad & Tobago) present the majority of the significant pairwise F_{ST} values, within the group, but share common haplotypes with the mainland. The location of Puerto España (Trinidad & Tobago) does not share haplotypes with mainland localities. The observed pattern seems to be the effect of the Caribbean Sea acting as a barrier and similarities are probably due to the maintenance of ancestral haplotypes (incomplete lineage sorting), anthropogenic migration, or both, instead of current gene flow.

Low population differentiation, with no geographic pattern, was detected at the intragroup level for SAG, despite the large area studied. Although this result could be interpreted as extent gene flow among demes, the demographic analysis presented here shows significant population expansion in screwworm. This historical demographic process (i.e., population expansion) is probably responsible for the low genetic divergence and the lack of geographical association of mitochondrial haplotypes at the intragroup level, instead of current gene flow. In fact, low but significant differentiation among Uruguayan populations was reported previously by using microsatellites markers (Torres et al. 2007).

The population expansion detected in the BSP started ≈20–25,000 yr ago. The first period of expansion seems to be related to the climatic oscillations that occurred in the late Pleistocene, which could have permitted the screwworm range and demographic expansion. The exponential period of demographic expansion detected using BSP may be closely associated with the availability of resources. Livestock introduction to the Americas, ≈500 yr ago, may have contributed to screwworm population expansion by increasing resource availability. This resource availability should be more evident in the central and southern areas of South America, because these regions are the most important areas of livestock breeding on the continent (GLiPHA 2010). Livestock introduction also could have influenced species migration by natural and anthropogenic host movement, confounding the current geographic structure of the screwworm. The identification of screwworm strains in Libya at the end of the 1980s (Vargas-Terán et al. 1994) is an example of anthropogenic migration.

The characterization of the spatial genetic structure and connectivity among populations, using molecular markers, can help in the design of a screwworm control program. Data presented here show that the Caribbean islands should be considered as isolated management units in control efforts. This finding is in accordance with previous population genetic studies (Lyra et al. 2009, Torres and Azeredo-Espin, 2009). The current study is the first report of isolation between the North and South Amazon region. Although results show that these regions could be managed independently in AW-IPM programs, target management units still need to be found within each of these large geographic groups.

The mitochondrial molecular markers properly characterize the population genetic structure and the historical demography of the screwworm on a continental scale. However, the population expansion detected here suggests that similarities among populations are probably due to this historical event, rather than current gene flow among demes preventing local differentiation.

This result points out the necessity of understanding population structure and demographic dynamics on a finer spatial scale. The genetic diversity distribution pattern of screwworm reported here represents a critical step toward the management unit identification of this pest and is necessary for a more effective and preventive pest management strategy for the Caribbean and South America.

Acknowledgments

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