Supplementary Materials from: *Microchromosome* fusions underpin convergent evolution of chameleon karyotypes; journal

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1 Supplementary Figures

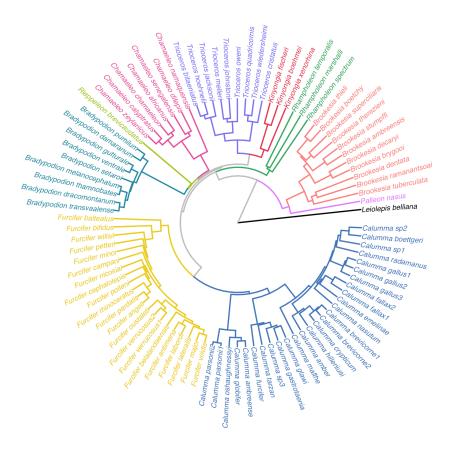


Figure A1: Time calibrated chameleon phylogeny used in the analyses. Branches for each genus have been coloured back to their most recent common ancestor.

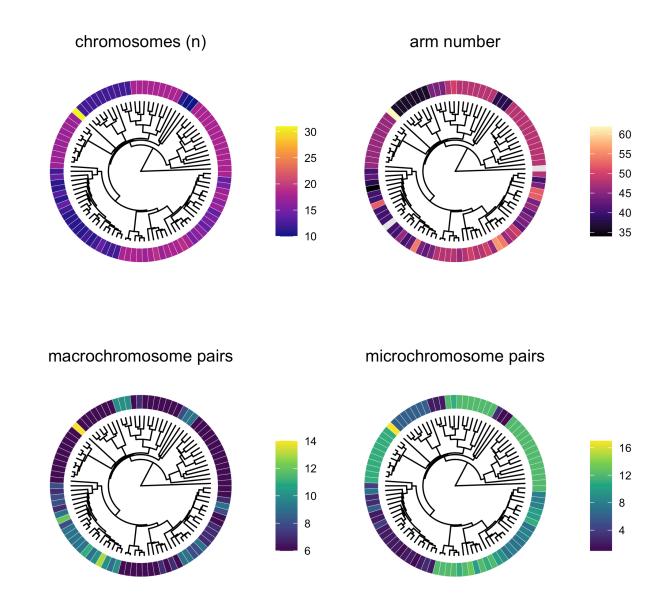


Figure A2: Distribution of chromosome properties (haploid number of chromosomes, arm number, number of macrochromosome pairs and number of microchromosome pairs) across the chameleon phylogeny. Note that the scales are different on each plot. The outlier in each case is *Rieppeleon kerstenii* (n = 31). See Figure A1 for species identities.

2 Chromosome evolutionary models with duplication events

2.1 Methods

We used six additional models to the Constant Rates and Linear Rates models described in the main text that optimise two or more of the following parameters: (i) rate of gain of a single chromosome; (ii) rate of loss of a single chromosome; (iii) polyploidization rate; (iv) demi-polyploidization rate; (v) linear dependency between the current haploid number and the rate of gain chromosomes; and (vi) linear dependency between the current haploid number and the rate of loss chromosomes. Details of which parameters are fitted in each model are shown in Table A1. All other analysis details are identical to those presented in the text.

Table A1: Details of the eight models fitted in the chromosome evolution analyses.

Model name	Rate parameters	Interpretation			
	estimated				
CONST_RATE	(i) gain, (ii) loss,	Chromosome numbers change either through			
	(iii) polyploidy	gain or loss of single chromosomes, or via			
		whole genome duplication.			
CONST_RATE_DEMI	(i) gain, (ii) loss,	Chromosome numbers change either through			
	(iii) polyploidy	gain or loss of single chromosomes, or via			
	= (iv) demipoly-	whole genome duplication and half genome			
	ploidy	duplication. However, the rates of whole			
		genome and half genome duplication are			
		equal.			
CONST_RATE_DEMI_EST	(i) gain, (ii) loss,	Chromosome numbers change either through			
	(iii) polyploidy,	gain or loss of single chromosomes, or via			
	(iv) demipoly-	whole genome duplication and half genome			
	ploidy	duplication.			
LINEAR_RATE	(i) gain, (ii) loss,	Chromosome numbers change either through			
	(iii) polyploidy,	gain or loss of single chromosomes, or via			
	(v) gain linear,	whole genome duplication. Rates for single			
	(vi) loss linear	chromosome gain or loss are dependent on			
		the current chromosome number.			

LINEAR_RATE_DEMI	(i) gain, (ii) loss,	Chromosome numbers change either through				
	(iii) polyploidy	gain or loss of single chromosomes, or via				
	= (iv) demipoly-	whole genome duplication and half genome				
	ploidy, (v) gain	duplication. However, the rates of whole				
	linear, (vi) loss	genome and half genome duplication are				
	linear	equal. Rates for single chromosome gain or				
		loss are dependent on the current chromo-				
		some number.				
LINEAR_RATE_DEMI_EST	(i) gain, (ii) loss,	some number. Chromosome numbers change either through				
LINEAR_RATE_DEMI_EST	., 0					
LINEAR_RATE_DEMI_EST	(iii) polyploidy,	Chromosome numbers change either through				
LINEAR_RATE_DEMI_EST	(iii) polyploidy,	Chromosome numbers change either through gain or loss of single chromosomes, or via whole genome duplication and half genome				
LINEAR_RATE_DEMI_EST	(iii) polyploidy,(iv) demipoly- ploidy, (v) gain	Chromosome numbers change either through gain or loss of single chromosomes, or via whole genome duplication and half genome				

2.2 Results

For models where duplications and demi-duplications were allowed, if *Rieppeleon kerstenii* was included, the Constant Rates with duplications (and demi-duplications for estimated root frequencies) fitted best (Table A2). If *Rieppeleon kerstenii* was excluded, the best fitting model was a Constant Rates model for the fixed root frequencies, and a Constant Rates model with duplications and demi-duplications when we estimated the root frequencies (Table A2). Overall, the best fitting model was the Constant Rates model with duplications and demi-duplications where *Rieppeleon kerstenii* was excluded, and the root was estimated (AIC = 307.1; Table A2; Figure A3).

Table A2: Results from the full set of chromosome evolution models. AIC = Akaike Information Criterion. AICw = AIC weights. AIC and AICw values for the best fitting model in each model set are in bold.

root	Rieppeleon?	model	AIC	AICw
Iguania	Yes	CONST_RATE	337.5	0.511
Iguania	Yes	CONST_RATE_DEMI	338.8	0.267
Iguania	Yes	CONST_RATE_DEMI_EST	339.5	0.188
Iguania	Yes	CONST_RATE_NO_DUPL	361.5	O
Iguania	Yes	LINEAR_RATE	344.3	0.017
Iguania	Yes	LINEAR_RATE_DEMI	344.3	0.017

Iguania	Yes	LINEAR_RATE_DEMI_EST	353.7	О
Iguania	Yes	LINEAR_RATE_NO_DUPL	356.9	О
Iguania	No	CONST_RATE	323.7	0.184
Iguania	No	CONST_RATE_DEMI	323.7	0.184
Iguania	No	CONST_RATE_DEMI_EST	325.7	0.068
Iguania	No	CONST_RATE_NO_DUPL	321.7	0.5
Iguania	No	LINEAR_RATE	328.9	0.014
Iguania	No	LINEAR_RATE_DEMI	328.9	0.014
Iguania	No	LINEAR_RATE_DEMI_EST	338.2	О
Iguania	No	LINEAR_RATE_NO_DUPL	326.9	0.037
n = 18	Yes	CONST_RATE	336.4	0.504
n = 18	Yes	CONST_RATE_DEMI	337.7	0.263
n = 18	Yes	CONST_RATE_DEMI_EST	338.5	0.176
n = 18	Yes	CONST_RATE_NO_DUPL	362.2	О
n = 18	Yes	LINEAR_RATE	342.5	0.024
n = 18	Yes	LINEAR_RATE_DEMI	342.5	0.024
n = 18	Yes	LINEAR_RATE_DEMI_EST	344.5	0.009
n = 18	Yes	LINEAR_RATE_NO_DUPL	359.2	0
n = 18	No	CONST_RATE	322.6	0.138
n = 18	No	CONST_RATE_DEMI	322.6	0.138
n = 18	No	CONST_RATE_DEMI_EST	335.4	О
n = 18	No	CONST_RATE_NO_DUPL	320.5	0.395
n = 18	No	LINEAR_RATE	327	0.015
n = 18	No	LINEAR_RATE_DEMI	327	0.015
n = 18	No	LINEAR_RATE_DEMI_EST	329	0.006
n = 18	No	LINEAR_RATE_NO_DUPL	321.1	0.292
estimated	Yes	CONST_RATE	337.1	0.001
estimated	Yes	CONST_RATE_DEMI	338.4	О
estimated	Yes	CONST_RATE_DEMI_EST	323.2	0.936
estimated	Yes	CONST_RATE_NO_DUPL	360	O
estimated	Yes	LINEAR_RATE	341.3	О
estimated	Yes	LINEAR_RATE_DEMI	342.6	O
estimated	Yes	LINEAR_RATE_DEMI_EST	328.6	0.063
estimated	Yes	LINEAR_RATE_NO_DUPL	355.1	0
estimated	No	CONST_RATE	323.2	О
estimated	No	CONST_RATE_DEMI	323.2	О
estimated	No	CONST_RATE_DEMI_EST	307.1	0.955
estimated	No	CONST_RATE_NO_DUPL	321.2	0.001

estimated	No	LINEAR_RATE	327.6	O
estimated	No	LINEAR_RATE_DEMI	324.1	О
estimated	No	LINEAR_RATE_DEMI_EST	313.3	0.043
estimated	No	LINEAR_RATE_NO_DUPL	325.6	O

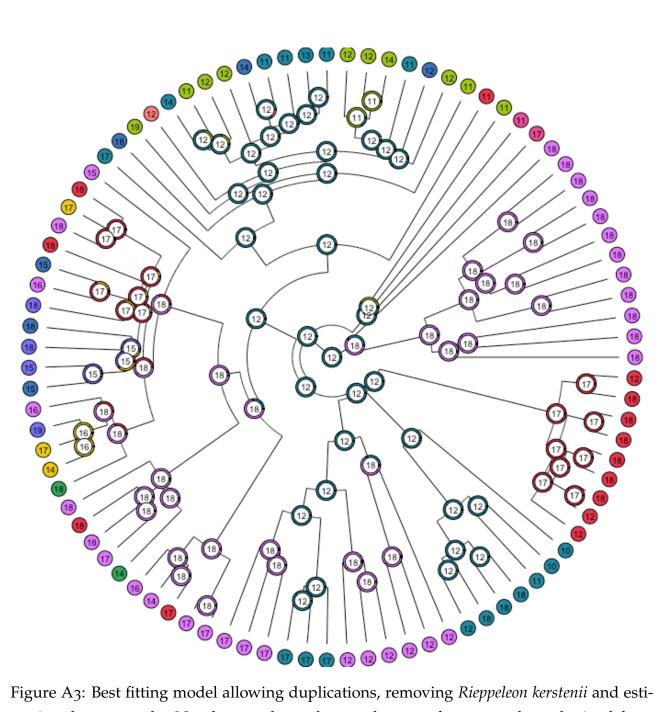


Figure A3: Best fitting model allowing duplications, removing *Rieppeleon kerstenii* and estimating the root node. Numbers at the nodes are the most frequent values obtained from 1,000 simulations. Colours represent the number of chromosomes at the tip, or the proportion of simulations with each number of chromosomes as pie charts at the nodes.

3 Relationships among chromosome numbers, ecology and life history

3.1 Methods

We tested for correlations between haploid numbers of chromosomes (n) and the following variables; (1) maximum snout vent length (mm; n = 86); (2) substrate (arboreal, terrestrial or multiple; n = 77); (3) reproductive mode (oviparous or viviparous; n = 71); (4) minimum clutch size (eggs; n = 58); (5) maximum clutch size (eggs; n = 58); (6) minimum breeding age (months; n = 43); (7) maximum breeding age (months; n = 43); (8) biogeographic realm (Afrotropical, Madagascar, Oriental or Palearctic; n = 86); (9) absolute latitude (decimal degrees; DD; n = 86). All ecological and life history data were taken from Meiri. Continuous variables were mean-centred and scaled to unit variance prior to analyses.

We used Bayesian phylogenetic generalised mixed models (GLMMs) with Poisson errors in the R package MCMCglmm² to test for correlations, including the phylogeny (as the inverse of the phylogenetic variance-covariance matrix) as a random effect to account for phylogenetic autocorrelation. We ran each MCMCglmm model for 1 x 106 iterations sampling at every 1,000 iterations and discarding the first 1 x 105 iterations as burn-in. We used the default priors for MCMCglmm (= 0 and V = I1010 for fixed effects and parameter expanded priors, and V = 1, v = 1, $\alpha \mu = 0$, and $\alpha V = 252$ for the phylogenetic random effects). All model parameters had a mean effective sample size (ESS; estimated using the R package coda³) of over 800, and traceplots indicated that models had converged.

3.2 Results

We found no significant correlations among chromosome numbers and any of our ecology or life history variables (Table A₃; Figures A₄ - A₅).

Table A3: Results from Bayesian phylogenetic generalised linear mixed models with Poisson errors, for the relationship between haploid chromosome number in chameleons and several explanatory variables. CI = confidence interval; ESS = effective sample size; n = number of taxa; SVL = snout vent length.

variable	Posterior mean	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	ESS	n
max SVL	-0.037	-0.115	0.041	900	86
Substrate terrestrial	0.020	-0.190	0.246	900	83
Substrate multiple	-0.001	-0.146	0.146	900	83

reproductive mode	-0.082	-0.343	0.209	900	77
min clutch size	0.009	-0.074	0.080	900	61
max clutch size	-0.047	-0.136	0.046	900	61
min breeding age	0.025	-0.069	0.111	631	46
max breeding age	0.003	-0.089	0.088	900	46
Realm Madagascar	0.030	-0.171	0.268	1120	86
latitude	-0.002	-0.078	0.081	900	86

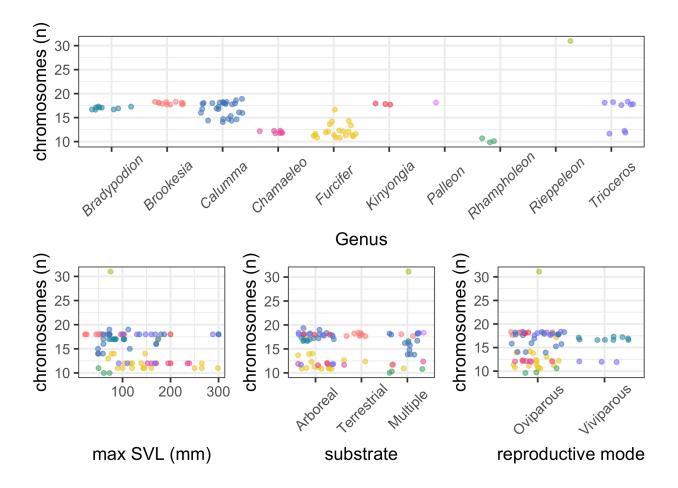


Figure A4: Relationships between genus (n = 92), maximum snout vent length (SVL; n = 86), substrate (n = 83), reproductive mode (n = 77) and haploid chromosome number in chameleons. Points are coloured by genus as shown in the upper panel. The outlier at n = 31 is *Rieppeleon kerstenii*.

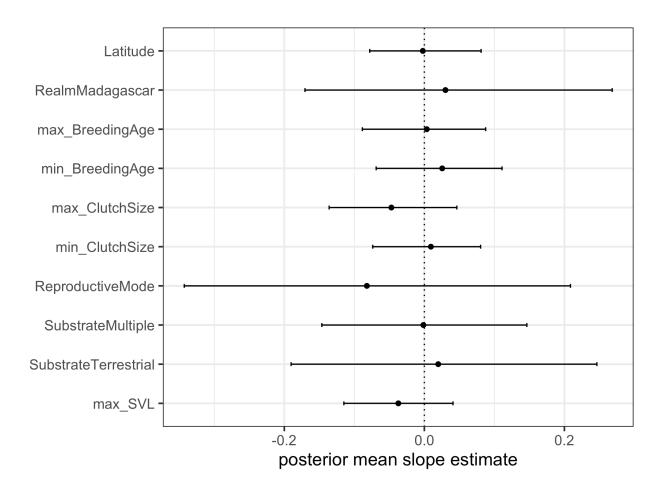


Figure A5: Results from Bayesian phylogenetic generalised linear mixed models with Poisson errors, showing posterior means of each slope estimate for the relationship between haploid chromosome number in chameleons and several explanatory variables. max_SVL.

4 Results from analyses using all OTUs in the models

We have molecular and karyotypic data for 137 samples. Most species within the sample have a consistent karyotype, therefore our main analyses use only one representative for each species to avoid pseudoreplication, except for the five taxa which have intraspecific variation in their karyotypes. For completeness we repeated the analyses using all 137 samples.

4.1 Chromosome evolutionary models

When *Rieppeleon kerstenii* was included the Linear Rates model fitted better than the Constant Rates model (Table A4). Although rates of chromosome loss were also consistently higher than rates of chromosome gain in these models, rates of linear dependency between the current haploid number and the rate of loss of chromosomes were lower for loss than gain of chromosomes. This was regardless of root frequencies. The Constant Rates model fitted better than the Linear Rates model when *Rieppeleon kerstenii* was excluded from the analyses, and rates of chromosome loss were consistently higher than rates of chromosome gain in these models (Table A4). Again, this was regardless of root frequencies. Overall, the best fitting model is the Constant Rates model where *Rieppeleon kerstenii* was excluded, and the root is set to 18 (Figure A6).

For models where duplications and demi-duplications were allowed, if the root is estimated then the best fitting model is a Constant Rates model with both duplications and demi-duplications, regardless of whether *Rieppeleon kerstenii* was excluded or not. For the other root states, the best fitting model is a Constant Rates model with duplications if *Rieppeleon kerstenii* was included, and a Constant Rates model if *Rieppeleon kerstenii* was excluded (Table A4).

Table A4: Results from Constant Rates and Linear Rates chromosome evolution models. AIC = Akaike Information Criterion. AIC values for the best fitting model in each model set are in bold. loss = rate of chromosome loss; gain = rate of chromosome gain; lossL = linear dependency between the current haploid number and the rate of loss chromosomes; gainL = linear dependency between the current haploid number and the rate of gain chromosomes.

	Constant Rates				L	inear R	ates		
root	Rieppeleon?	AIC	loss	gain	AIC	loss	gain	lossL	gainL
Iguania	Yes	370.9	0.0373	0.0380	365.5	0.0363	0	-0.0003	0.00242
n = 18	Yes	371.6	0.0408	0.0308	367.1	0.0419	О	-0.0003	0.0020

estimated	Yes	370.6	0.0232	0.0518	364.3	0.0072	O	-0.0001	0.0049
Iguania	No	328.3	0.0346	0.0154	333.7	0.0250	О	0.0004	0.0012
n = 18	No	327.1	0.0371	0.0140	333.0	0.0244	0.0033	0.0006	0.0007
estimated	No	327.8	0.0345	0.0141	331.2	0.0381	O	-0.0004	0.0011

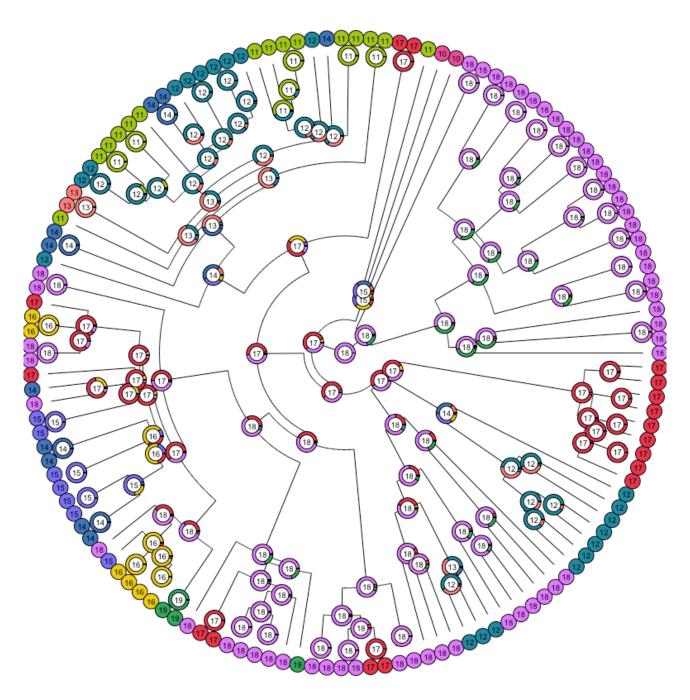


Figure A6: Best fitting chromosome evolution model using taxa as tips, removing Rieppeleon kerstenii and using n=18 as the root node. Numbers at the nodes are the most frequent values obtained from 1,000 simulations. Colours represent the number of chromosomes at the tip, or the proportion of simulations with each number of chromosomes as pie charts at the nodes.

4.2 Fissions and fusions and ITS

There was a significant negative correlation between the haploid number of chromosomes and the number of macrochromosome pairs (GLM: χ^2 = 12.49, df = 1,134, p < 0.001; Figure A7A), and a significant positive correlation between the haploid number of chromosomes and the number of microchromosome pairs (GLM: χ^2 = 72.89, df = 1,134, p < 0.001; Figure A7B). Additionally, there was a significant relationship between the number of micro- and macro- chromosome pairs (GLM: χ^2 = 169.57, df = 1,134, p < 0.001; Figure A7C). There was a significant negative correlation between ITS and the haploid number of chromosomes (GLM: F = 59.91, df = 1,72, p < 0.001; Figure A8A), a significant positive correlation between ITS and the number of macrochromosome pairs (GLM: F = 16.30, df = 1,72, p < 0.001; Figure A8B), and a significant relationship between ITS and the number of microchromosome pairs (GLM: F = 61.87, df = 1,72, p < 0.001; Figure A8C).

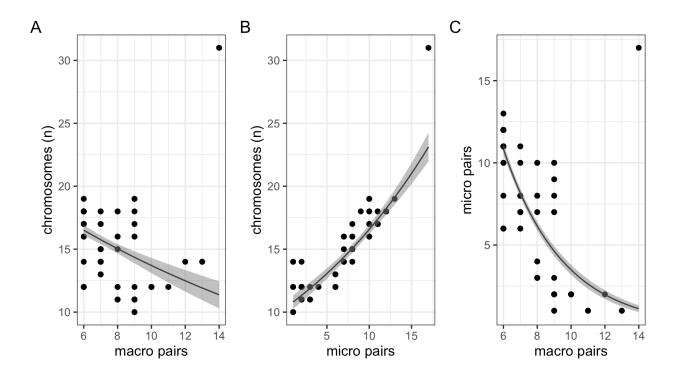


Figure A7: Correlations among the haploid number of chromosomes (n), numbers of macrochromosome pairs and numbers of microchromosome pairs in chameleons. Fitted lines and standard errors are the outputs from generalised linear models with Poisson errors. The outlier at n = 31 is *Rieppeleon kerstenii*.

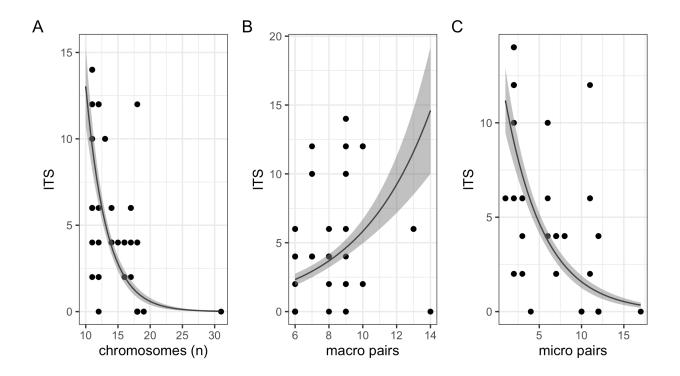


Figure A8: Correlations among ITS and the haploid number of chromosomes (n), numbers of macrochromosome pairs and numbers of microchromosome pairs in chameleons. Fitted lines and standard errors are the outputs from generalised linear models with quasipoisson errors.

4.3 Phylogenetic patterns

Differences in chromosome number did not increase with phylogenetic distance (Figure A9); even some of the most distantly related taxa in our phylogeny shared the same chromosome numbers. Large differences in chromosome numbers, however, only occur at moderate to large phylogenetic distances. Simulations give a reasonable approximation of observed chromosome numbers at the tips of the phylogeny, however, model predictions do not account well for the large numbers of species with n = 11, n = 12 and n = 18 chromosomes (Figure A10).

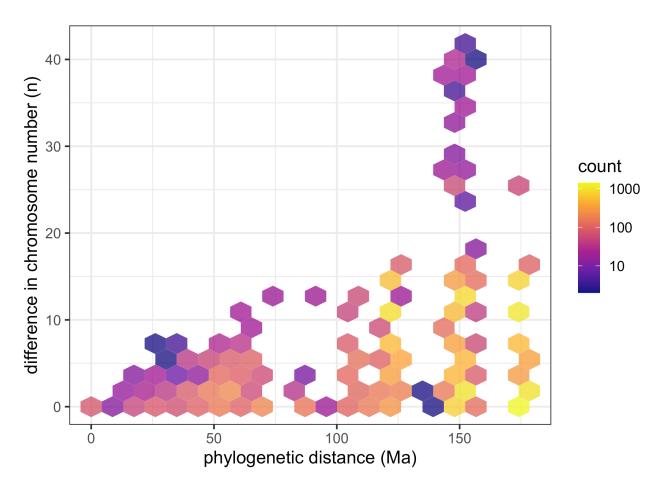


Figure A9: Phylogenetic distance (in millions of years) in relation to differences in chromosome numbers (2n) for each pair of taxa in the chameleon tree. Note that the cluster of values with chromosome differences greater than 10 are comparisons of various taxa with $Rieppeleon\ kerstenii\ (2n = 62)$.

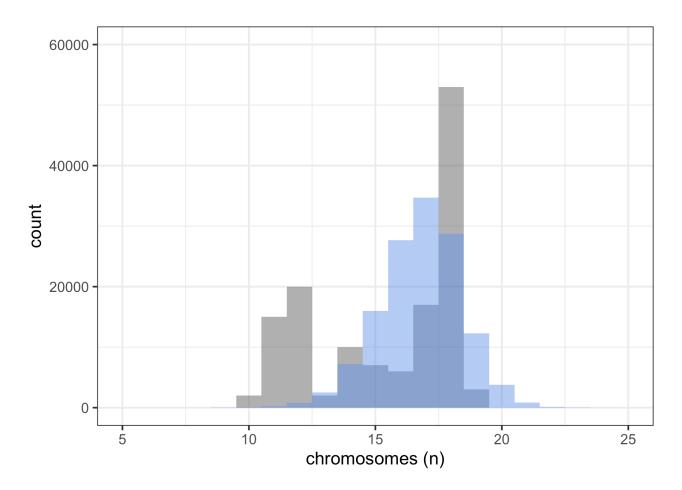


Figure A10: Distribution of observed (grey) and predicted (blue) haploid numbers of chromosomes in chameleons, excluding *Rieppeleon kerstenii*. Predicted values are based on 1,000 simulations using the optimised parameters taken from the best fitting model identified in the chromosome evolution analyses above (Constant Rates, removing *Rieppeleon kerstenii*, and using n = 18 as the root node). Observed values were multiplied by 1,000 to aid comparisons.

5 Calibration points for phylogeny

Please note that our constraints differ from those used by Tolley *et al.*⁴ Given that (accurately identified) fossils (with apomorphies) provide hard minima for the emergence of clades we consider conservative constraints to be constraints with shallower dates.

5.1 External points

Node 1. (Lepidosauria) 250 Ma

For Lepidosauria we used a point fix of 250 Ma. Note that this node by definition also equates to both total group Squamata and total group Rhynchocephalia.⁵ The oldest known fossil material representing total-group Squamata is currently considered to be Megachirella wachtleri from the Anisian of Italy.^{6,7} If this taxon is indeed a stem squamate it provides a hard minimum of 242 Ma for total group Squamata and thus also Lepidosauria. The oldest known fossil material representing total group Rhynchocephalia is not much younger and is represented by partial skull and jaw bones from the Ladinian of Germany.^{8,9} This material has not been fully described but probably includes at least three different genera which illustrated that Rhynchocephalia must have diversified by the Middle Triassic. Fossils representing stem lepidosaurs are known from both the Early and Middle Triassic.^{9,10} Previous molecular divergence estimates for Lepidosauria have differed greatly with median estimates as deep as the Early Permian (e.g. 281 Ma) and as shallow as the Late Triassic (e.g. 227 Ma⁸) and associated confidence intervals can exceed 20 million years. Estimates shallower than the Middle Triassic can be rejected with empirical evidence from the fossil record.^{7,8} Much older origin times deep within the Permian are possible (e.g.⁷) but there are currently no convincing crown-group lepidosaurs known from this time period.

Node S (Squamata) not constrained

We did not constrain the node for crown group Squamata. For the origin and divergence of crown group Squamata, molecular analyses have suggested a wide range of possible dates spanning the Permian, Triassic, and Jurassic (see⁸). However, most studies suggest a median date within 15 Ma of the Triassic-Jurassic boundary.^{7,8,11} The early history of crown-group lizards is poorly known but fossil material is known from the Middle Jurassic (e.g.^{5,12,13}).

Node U. (Unidentata) not constrained

We did not constrain the node for crown group Unidentata.

Node 2. (Xantusia-Cordylus) 62.5 Ma (min) 100 Ma (max)

We constrain the divergence between cordylids and xantusiids to 61 Ma based on *Palaeox-antusia fera* from the Palaeocene rocks of the Gidley and Silberling quarries of USA.¹⁴ The material exhibits several traits suggestive of a close affinity to xantusiids.^{14,15} The Gidley and Silberling rocks are suspected to be correlated with magnetic polarity chron C27r¹⁶ now inferred to be 63.5 and 62.5 Mya.¹⁷ Therefore, we infer a hard minimum of 62.5 Ma.

Node 3. (Laterata) 138.7 Ma (min) 140.1 (max)

The node defining Laterata (Teiioidea, Amphisbaenia, and Lacertidae) was constrained to 138.7 Ma. The oldest known fossil material that can be referred to Lacertidae or Teiiodea is *Purbicella ragei* from the Cherty Freshwater Beds of the Lulworth Formation of the Purbeck Group, England UK.¹⁸ Key morphological characters present in the material include the presence of a pterygoid lappet on the quadrate, a narrow pyriform recess, a jugal located dorsal to the maxilla, and a parietal with anterior tabs that slot into the underside of the frontal.^{5,19} The Cherty Freshwater Beds are part of the Purbeck Group and considered to be Berriasian in age, Lower Cretaceous.²⁰ The upper boundary of the Berriasian is considered to be 139.4 \pm 0.7 Ma¹⁷therefore, providing a hard minimum of 138.7. This constraint is older than the date of 122 \pm 1.0 Ma based on *Ptilodon*^{21,22} used in Tolley *et al.*⁴

Node 4. (Lacertibaenia) 61 Ma (min) 100 (max)

We constrain the node representing the divergence of Lacertibaenia (Amphisbaenia and Lacertidae) to 61 Ma based on *Plesiorhineura tsentasi* from the Palaeocene of USA.²³ Older fossil material named *Hodzhakulia* (112 \pm 1.0 Ma) used in Tolley *et al.*⁴ is less certainly amphisbaenian and may therefore be a problematic calibration point.²⁴

Node 5. (Anguimorpha) 148 Ma (min) 155 Ma (max)

Anguimorpha 148 Ma, minimum hard bound based on *Dorsetisaurus* sp. from the Late Jurassic Morrison Formation of North America.^{8,19,25,26} Combined evidence analysis places

Dorsetisaurus purbeckensis as a non-anguiform anguimorph and therefore the oldest known representative of Anguimorpha.²⁷

Node 6. (crown Serpentes) 93.9 Ma (min) 100.5 Ma (max)

The divergence between *Liotyphlops* and *Dinodon* (crown Serpentes) was constrained to a hard minimum of 93.9 Ma and maximum of 100.5 Ma based on *Haasiophis terrasanctus* from the Late Cretaceous of the Middle East.^{28,29} This date is the same as used elsewhere (e.g. 93.9 Ma used by^{30,31})

Node I. (Iguania) not constrained

The oldest stem iguanians are uncertain.³² Fossils from the Early Jurassic previously referred to iguanians may belong to another clade (e.g.⁸).

Node 7. (Anguioidea) 74.5 Ma (min) 76.6 (max)

The node representing the most recent common ancestor (MRCA) of Xenosauridae and Anguidae was constrained to a minimum of 74.5 Ma. The oldest known fossil material representing Anguidae is *Odaxosaurus*³³ from the Kaiparowits Formation, locality OMNH V5, of Garfield County, Utah, USA. An integrated analysis using morphological and molecular data recovers *Odaxosaurus piger* as the sister taxon to Glyptosaurinae.²⁷ Extensive stratigraphic and isotope analyses of the Kaiparowits Formation indicate an age range of 74.576.6 Myr.^{34,35} Therefore providing a hard minimum estimate of 74.5.

Node 8. (Pleurodonta) 70 Ma (min) 71.2 (max)

Crown-group pleurodont Iguania is constrained to a minimum date of 70 Ma. The earliest certain representative of crown-group pleurodont iguanians is *Saichangurvel*³⁶ from the Late Campanian (72.5 \pm 2.5 Ma) of Mongolia. This constraint was also used by Tolley *et al.*⁴ with a date of 70.6 \pm 0.6 Mya.

5.2 Internal points

Node C. (stem Chamaeleonidae) not constrained

We do not constrain this node. Although a fossil skeleton (specimen JZC Bu154) from the Cretaceous of Myanmar (99 Ma) has been referred to the stem of Chamaeleonidae,³⁷ and previously used to constrain analyses (e.g.³⁸), this material is currently in the process of a more detailed study and is almost certainly not even a lepidosaur (Susan Evans *pers comm.* 2022).

Node 9. (Calumma) 16 Ma (min) 20 Ma (max)

The genus *Calumma* is constrained to a hard minimum date of 16 Ma. The earliest known representative of this genus is a nearly complete articulated skull, *Calumma benovskyi*, from the Early Miocene Hiwegi Formation of Rusinga Island Kenya.³⁹ Detailed morphological comparisons and phylogenetic analyses confidently place this specimen within *Calumma*.³⁹

Node 10. (Chamaeleo) 16.6 Ma (min) 20 Ma (max)

The genus *Chamaeleo* is constrained to a minimum date of 16.6 Ma. The earliest known representatives of this genus come from units referred to the 3 to 6 mammal Neogene zones (MN).^{32,40} Zone 3 corresponds to approximately 16.6 to 20 Ma and therefore provides a hard minimum date of 16.6.⁴¹ The origin maybe older but we prefer to use the shallower data so that the error is more certainly unidirectional.

6 Supplementary References

References

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