How cryptic is cryptic diversity? Machine learning approaches to plastral variation in *Emys marmorata*.

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Abstract

1 Introduction

Cryptic diversity is when taxa were only first deliminated via molecular means and were not or cannot deliminated via morphological identification CITATION. The discovery of this previously unknown diversity has

Here, we address the question of how much of cryptic diversity may be a product of sample size as well as methodology used for classifying taxa based solely on morphology. Specifically, we ask if fine scale variation in morphology

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can provide corroboration for subspecific assignment, and if it is possible to determine the best classification hypothesis amoungst a few.

In this study, we address the subspecific classification scheme of *Emys marmorata*, or western pond turtle. *E. marmorata* has a distribution from northern Washington State, USA to Baja California, Mexico. Traditionally, *E. marmorata* was classified into three subgroups: the northern *E. marmorata marmorata*, the southern *E. marmorata palida*, and a central Californian intergrade zone (Seeliger, 1945). More recently, *E. marmorata* was divided into four subgroups based on mitochrondial DNA: a northern clade, a southern clade, and two central Californian clades (Spinks and Shaffer, 2005, 2009).

In this study, we apply multiple machine learning approaches to estimate the best classification scheme of *E. marmorata* subspecies based on morphological variation in plastral shape.

2 Materials and Methods

2.1 Specimens

We collected morphometric data from 524 specimens. Geographic information was recorded from museum collection information. When precise latitude and longitude information was not known for a specimen, it was inferred from whatever locality information was presented.

Specimens were given a class assignment was based on geographic information. Because the exact geographic barriers between different class is unknown and fuzzy, two assignments for both morphological and molecular hypotheses of class were used.

2.2 Geometric morphometrics

Following Angielczyk et al. (2011), 19 landmarks were digitized using TpsDig 2.04 (Rohlf, 2005). 17 of these landmarks are at the endpoints or intersection of the keratinous plastral scutes that cover the platron. These landmarks were chosen to maximize the description of plastral variation. 12 of these landmarks are symmetrical across the axis of symmetry and in order to prevent degrees of freedom and other concerns (Klingenberg et al., 2007), these landmarks were reflected across the axis of symmetry and the average position of each symmetrical pair was used. In cases where damage or incompleteness prevented symetric landmarks from being determined, only the single member of the pair was used. Analysis was then conducted on the resulting “half” plastra.

“Half” plastra landmark configurations were superimposed using generalized Procrustes analysis (Dryden and Mardia, 1998) after which, the principal components of shape were calculated. This was done using the `shapes` package for R (Dryden, 2013; R Core Team, 2013).

2.3 Machine learning analyses

2.3.1 Unsupervised learning

Because shape space, or configurations after Procrustes superimposition, is a Riemannian manifold (Dryden and Mardia, 1998) the dissimilarity between each landmark configuration was measured as the Riemmanian shape distance (Dryden and Mardia, 1998) AND KENDALL CITATION.

The dissimilarity matrix of shape was divisivly clustering using partioning around mediods (PAM) which is analogous to k-means clustering except that instead of minimizing the sum of squared Euclidean distances between observations and centroids, the sum of squared dissimilarities between observations and mediods is minimized CITATION.

The optimal number of clusters of shape configurations is unknown being possibly three, four, or some other unknown. Clustering solutions were estimated for between 1 and 40 clusters. Clustering solutions were compared using the gap statistic, which is a measure of goodness of clustering CITATION.

PAM clustering and gap statistic calculation was conducted using the `cluster` package for R (Maechler et al., 2013).

2.3.2 Supervised learning

The dataset of 524 plastron landmarks was split into training and testing datasets. The former was used for model fitting (training) and was 75% of the total dataset, split proportionally per class, while the testing dataset was used to estimate the effectiveness of each classification scheme (i.e. performance in the wild).

Two types of supervised learning, or classification, models were fit to the PCs of plastral shape: multinomial logistic regression and random forest. These model types were chosen because of various properties of these models which allow for useful interpretations about the strength and structure of the classification. Multinomial logistic regression models were fit using the `nnet` package for R (Venables and Ripley, 2002) while random forest models were fit using the `randomForest` package for R (Liaw and Wiener, 2002).

Multinomial logistic regression is an extension of logistic regression, where instead of a binary response it is possible to have three or more response classes CITATION. Effectively, this type of model can be viewed as multiple, simultaneous logistic regression models for each class and the final classification of the observation being the most probable of all the sub-model classifications. From the final model the relative risk of a given classification, with reference to a given class, can be calculated from the coefficients of the features, or predictors. This is similar to the log-odds calculated from the coefficients of a logistic regression.

Random forest models are an extension of classification and regression trees (CART) CITATION. Basically, CARTs are built for random subsamples of both the features of the proposed model and observations. This process is repeated many times, 1000 times here, and the final model is chosen as the mode of the parameter estimates from the distribution of CARTs CITATION. In addition to fitting a classification model, this procedure allows for the features to be ranked in order of importance, means that the variables most important for determining a given classification scheme can be estimated. In the context of predicting class from geometric morphometric data, this identifies the PCs that describe the variation that best distinguishes the different classes.

In order to prevent over fitting each machine learning model, tuning parameters were estimated using 10-fold cross-validation (CV) across a grid search of all tuning parameter combinations. Optimal tuning parameter values were selected based on area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUC ROC). Multiclass AUC ROC was estimated using the all-against one strategy derived by Hand and Till (2001) in implemented in PROC PACKGE.

For the multinomial logistic regression models, PCs were added sequentially in order to increase the overall amount of variation in shape included in each model and the final model was that with the lowest AICc (Burnham and Anderson, 2002) AKAIKE AND OTHER CITATION. This procedure was used because the optimal number of PCs to include is unknown, and while including all of the PCs of shape would mean that all of the variability in plastron shape would be used to estimate class, this may cause the model to be over fit and not provide an accurate estimate of unsampled plastral variation. The maximum number of PCs allowed to be used as predictors was

10 because of both the number of parameters estimated per model and the necessary sample size needed to estimate that many parameters accurately.

Because random forest models are not fit using maximum likelihood, a recursive feature selection algorithm was used to choose the optimal number of PCs to include based on the AUC ROC of the model. PCs were sequentially added as features until the AUC ROC of the model did not increase. After each PC was added, 10-fold CV was used to estimate the optimal values of the tuning parameters as well as quantify the uncertainty of each model. Like the multinomial logistic regression models, 10 was the maximum number of PCs that could have been included in the model. The recursive feature selection algorithm used here is that implemented in the `caret` package for R (Kuhn, 2013).

The final selected models were then used to estimate the class assignments of the training dataset. Model performance was measured using AUC ROC. A distribution of AUC ROC values were estimated for each classification scheme using 1000 nonparametric bootstrap resamples of the training dataset.

3 Results

3.1 Geometric morphometrics

3.2 Machine learning analyses

3.2.1 Unsupervised learning

3.2.2 Supervised learning

4 Discussion

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