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Molecular systematics of peppermint and cleaner shrimps: phylogeny and taxonomy of the genera *Lysmata* and *Exhippolysmata* (Crustacea: Caridea: Hippolytidae)

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Shrimps from the ecologically diverse genera Lysmata and Exhippolysmata are rare among marine invertebrates because they are protandric simultaneous hermaphrodites: shrimps initially mature and reproduce solely as males, and later in life become functional simultaneous hermaphrodites. Considerable progress on the reproductive ecology of members from these two genera has been achieved during the last decade. However, several outstanding issues of systematic nature remain to be addressed. Here, a molecular phylogeny of these two genera was used to examine the overall evolutionary relationship within and between species and genera, and to answer various questions related to the systematic status of several species. The present phylogenetic analysis, including 53 sequences and 26 species of Lysmata and Exhippolysmata, indicates that semiterrestrial shrimps from the genus Merguia represent the sister group to a second natural clade composed by shrimps from the genera Lysmata and Exhippolysmata. Also, the phylogenetic analysis confirmed that the genus Lysmata is paraphyletic, and includes the genus Exhippolysmata, as noted in a preliminary study. The tree partially supports the separation of species with or without a developed accessory branch into two different genera or subgenera (i.e. Lysmata and Hippolysmata having a well-developed accessory branch, or not, respectively). The genetic distance between the cleaner shrimps Lysmata amboinensis and Lysmata grabhami was smaller than has been observed between other sister species. On the other hand, the topology of the tree indicates that these two entities are reciprocally monophyletic. Thus, this latter result, together with minor but constant differences in the colour pattern reported for these two entities, indicates that there is no reason to stop treating them as different valid species. This study enabled the long overdue resolution of standing taxonomic questions in shrimps from the genera Lysmata and Exhippolysmata. In the future, this phylogeny will help to reveal the conditions favouring the origins of several behavioural and morphological novelties in these unique shrimps.

ADDITIONAL KEYWORDS: Exhippolysmata - hermaphrodite - Hippolytidae - Lysmata - Merguia.

INTRODUCTION

Shrimps from the genera *Lysmata* Risso, 1816 and *Exhippolysmata* Stebbing, 1915 are unique among crustaceans because of their enigmatic sexual system.

All species studied so far are protandric simultaneous hermaphrodites, in which individuals consistently mature and reproduce initially as males, and then later in life become functional simultaneous hermaphrodites (Kagwade, 1982; Bauer, 2000, 2006; Braga *et al.*, 2009). Recent studies suggest that this unusual sex allocation pattern is a trait fixed within

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each genera (Baeza, 2009, and references therein). Other than in shrimps, protandric simultaneous hermaphroditism has independently evolved a few times, and has been experimentally demonstrated in the polychaete worm *Ophryotrocha diadema* (Lorenzi et al., 2005), the land snail *Achatina fulica* (Tomiyama, 1996), and the tunicate *Pyura chilensis* (Manríquez & Castilla, 2005). The adaptive value of this unusual sex allocation pattern is currently being studied in various species (Bauer, 2000, 2006; Lorenzi et al., 2005; Baeza, 2006, 2007a, b, c).

In addition to their sexual system, shrimps from the genus Lysmata are particularly peculiar among other caridean shrimp genera because of their wide diversity of lifestyles. For instance, many species are not conspicuous in terms of coloration, occur in dense aggregations, and dwell freely among rocks or seagrass blades, both at rocky intertidal and/or subtidal temperate and subtropical zones (e.g. Lysmata wurdemanni, Baldwin & Bauer, 2003; Lysmata seticaudata, d'Udekem d'Acoz, 2003; Lysmata californica, Bauer & Newman, 2004; Lysmata nayaritensis, Baeza, Reitz & Collin, 2008). Other species live in small groups and might develop symbiotic associations with sessile macroinvertebrates (i.e. Lysmata ankeri and Lysmata pederseni inhabiting sea anemones and sponges, respectively; Baeza, 2009). Finally, a few species have a striking coloration, live as socially monogamous pairs, and provide cleaning services to fishes (e.g. the red blood shrimps Lysmata splendida and Lysmata debelius, and the skunk and/or lady scarlet shrimps Lysmata amboinensis and Lysmata grabhami; Limbaugh, Pederson & Chace, 1961; Bruce, 1983; Fiedler, 1998; Baeza, 2009). Because of this lifestyle diversity, shrimps from the genus Lysmata and Exhippolysmata have captured the attention of behavioural ecologists, and are currently being used to explore the importance of the environment in favouring particular behavioural and morphological innovations (Baeza & Bauer, 2004; Baeza, 2006, 2007a, b, c, 2008, 2009).

The natural history of shrimp from the genus *Exhippolysmata* is much less well known. The only species in which the biology has been studied is conspicuously red (but not as striking as the red blood shrimp *L. debelius*), and is reported to form large aggregations in relatively deep (> 10 m) soft-bottom subtropical environments (*Exhippolysmata oplophoroides*; Braga, 2006; Braga *et al.*, 2009).

Most recently, a phylogenetic framework was used to understand the evolutionary origins of the unusual sex allocation pattern featured by members of the genera *Lysmata* and *Exhippolysmata* (Baeza, 2009; Baeza *et al.*, 2009). Early studies suggested that protandric simultaneous hermaphroditism in *Lysmata* evolved in the tropics, from an ancestral,

strictly protandric hermaphroditic species that adopted fish-cleaning behaviour (Bauer, 2000, 2006). The reduced probability of encountering mating partners resulting from their obligatory association with macroinvertebrates would have favoured this sexual system (Bauer, 2000, 2006). Recent studies have provided partial support for this 'historical contingency' hypothesis (Baeza, 2009; Baeza et al., 2009). Ancestral character state reconstruction indicated that the most common recent ancestor of Lysmata was most likely to have been socially monogamous. However, the ancestral lifestyle was equally likely to be freeliving or symbiotic (Baeza, 2009). Further studies are needed to define the conditions that might have given rise to this sex allocation pattern in Lysmata and Exhippolysmata.

The first molecular phylogeny published for the genera Lysmata and Exhippolysmata also helped to resolve one of several long-lasting and overdue systematic questions (Baeza et al., 2009). The phylogenetic analysis revealed that the genus Lysmata is paraphyletic, and includes the genus *Exhippolysmata*, the only other known caridean shrimps featuring protandric simultaneous hermaphroditism (Kagwade, 1982; Laubenheimer & Rhyne, 2008; Braga et al., 2009). This finding needs confirmation. A new phylogeny should help resolve other outstanding systematic controversies. First, a new phylogeny should help evaluate Christoffersen's (1987) proposal, which placed the species of Lysmata, Exhippolysmata, and Lysmatella in their own family (i.e. the Lysmatidae Dana, 1852), separate from the family Hippolytidae that contains, among others, the genera *Hippolyte*, Tozeuma, and Merhippolyte. Second, the status of a formerly used genus, Hippolysmata Stimpson, 1860, which would include species of Lysmata without a developed accessory branch of the outer (upper) antennular flagellum (Chace, 1972, 1997), needs to be clarified. Finally, a third unresolved question is whether the Indo-Pacific L. amboinensis (De Man, 1888) and the Atlantic L. grabhami (Gordon, 1935) are separate species or constitute a single pantropical species (see Hayashi, 1975 vs. Chace, 1997).

In the present study, a molecular phylogeny of the genus Lysmata and Exhippolysmata is generated, and its significance for answering the taxonomic questions posed above is discussed. Specifically, I formally tested for: (1) the natural segregation of the species within the group in Lysmata and Hippolysmata, according to the presence or absence of a well-developed accessory branch; (2) the natural separation of Lysmata s.l. (Lysmata + Hippolysmata) and Exhippolysmata, according to the presence or absence of a dorsal abdominal spine, rostral crest of teeth, and long rostrum; and (3) the monophyly of the Lysmatidae. It is predicted that a molecular phylogeny of

the species included within the three genera should segregate the species into well-supported genusspecific monophyletic clades. Similarly, if the Lysmatidae is a naturally valid clade, then a molecular phylogeny should segregate species of Lysmata and Exhippolysmata from species pertaining to other Hippolytidae genera. I formally examined the predictions above using Bayesian hypothesis testing. This study differs from that of Baeza et al. (2009) because a new molecular phylogeny of the genera Lysmata and Exhippolysmata is proposed here, and is used to address the overall evolutionary relationship within and between genera, and to answer various questions (1, 2, and 3 above) related to the systematic status of several species and clades. All these systematic issues were not addressed by Baeza et al. (2009).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

A total of 53 sequences, including 42 specimens from 24 species of shrimps from the genus Lysmata, and two species from the genus Exhippolysmata, were included in the present phylogenetic analysis (Table 1). One specimen each of the Hippolytidae species Merguia rhizophorae, Merguia oligodon, Heptacarpus palpator, Tozeuma carolinense, Hippolyte williamsi, and Hippolyte inermis, as well as specimens from five species of the family Palaemonidae, were included as out-groups during the phylogenetic analyses. Thirty-three of the sequences were generated and used previously to explore the conditions explaining the origins of protandric simultaneous hermaphroditism (Baeza et al., 2009). Most shrimp species were collected between 2006 and 2008 from different localities in Belize, Panama, Venezuela, and the USA (California, Florida, and Texas). Immediately after collection, specimens were preserved in 95-99% ethanol. The different species were identified using Bruce (1983), Rhyne & Lin (2006), Baeza & Anker (2008), Rhyne & Anker (2007), and the keys of Chace (1972, 1997) and Wicksten (2000).

Total genomic DNA was extracted from pleopods or abdominal muscle tissue using the QIAGEN® DNeasy® Blood and Tissue Kit, following the manufacturer's protocol. The polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was used to amplify an approximately 550-bp region (excluding primers) of the *16S* rRNA with the primers 16L2 (5′-TGCCTGTTTATCAAAAACAT-3′), and 1472 (5′-AGATAGAAACCAACCTGG-3′) (Schubart, Neigel & Felder, 2000; Baeza *et al.*, 2009). Standard PCR 25-µL reactions [2.5 µL of 10 x Taq buffer, 2 µL of 50 mM MgCl₂, 2.5 µL of 10 mM deoxynucleotide triphosphates (dNTPs), 2.5 µL each of the two primers (10 mM), 0.625 U Taq, 1.25 µL of 20 mM BSI, and 8.625 µL double-distilled water] were performed on a Peltier Thermal Cycler (DYAD®) under the fol-

lowing conditions: initial denaturation at 96 °C for 4 min, followed by 40 cycles of 94 °C for 45 s, 48–57 °C (depending on the species) for 1 min, and 72 °C for 1 min, followed by a chain extension at 72 °C for 10 min. PCR products were purified with ExoSapIT (a mixture of exonuclease and shrimp alkali phosphatase; Amersham Pharmacia), and were then sent for sequencing with the ABI Big Dye Terminator Mix (Applied Biosystems) to the Laboratory of Analytical Biology of the National Museum of Natural History (LAB - NMNH, Maryland, USA), which is equipped with an ABI Prism 3730xl Genetic Analyser (Applied Biosystems automated sequencer). All sequences were confirmed by sequencing both strands, and a consensus sequence for the two strands was obtained using the software Sequencher 4.5 (Gene Codes Corporation).

The final set of consensus sequences was aligned with the integrated ClustalW, corrected manually with MEGA 4.1 (Kumar et al., 2008), and then exported to PAUP* (Swofford, 2002) and MrBayes (Huelsenbeck, 2000). First, the dataset was analysed with Modeltest 3.7 (Posada & Crandall, 1998) in PAUP*, which compares different models of DNA substitution in a hierarchical hypothesis-testing framework to select a base substitution model that best fits the data. The optimal model found by Modeltest (selected by both the hierarchical likelihood ratio tests and Akaike's information criterion, AIC) was a TVM + I + G evolutionary model (-lnL =8965.8066). The calculated parameters were as follows: assumed nucleotide frequencies, A = 0.3451, C = 0.0969, G = 0.1616, and T = 0.3964; substitution matrix with $A \rightarrow C$ substitution = 0.6573, $A \to G = 4.5475$, $A \to T = 0.6640$, $C \to G = 0.6446$, $C \rightarrow T = 4.5475$, and $G \rightarrow T = 1.0$; rates for variable sites assumed to follow a gamma distribution (G) with shape parameter $\alpha = 0.4811$ and a proportion of invariable sites (I) = 0.1765.

The phylogenetic analyses conducted herein were the maximum parsimony (MP) and maximum likelihood (ML) in PAUP*, minimum evolution (ME) in MEGA 4.1, and Bayesian inference (BI) in MrBayes. The first two analyses were performed as a heuristic search with a starting tree obtained via stepwise addition, random addition of sequences, random replicates, and tree bisection and reconnection (TBR) branch swapping. All other parameters used were those of the default option in PAUP*. For BI, unique random starting trees were used in the Metropoliscoupled Markov Monte Carlo Chain (MCMC) (Huelsenbeck, 2000). The analysis was performed for 6 000 000 generations. Every 100th tree was sampled from the MCMC analysis, obtaining a total of 60 000 trees, and a consensus tree with the 50% majority rule was calculated for the last 59 900 sampled trees.

Table 1. Lysmata species and other caridean shrimps used for the phylogeny reconstruction

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The sites of collection (NA: not available from the literature), dates, museum catalogue number (CN: UMML, University of Miami Marine Laboratories, Rosenthiel School of Marine Science, University of Miami; SMF Senckenberg Museum Frankfurt, Germany; MLP, Monte L. Bean Life Science Museum, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah; CNCR, Colección de Crustáceos, Instituto de Biología, Departamento de Zoología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México; RMNH, National Museum of Natural History/Naturalis, Leiden, the Netherlands), and the GenBank accession numbers (GenBank) are shown for each species.

The robustness of the MP, ML, and ME tree topologies was assessed by bootstrap reiterations of the observed data 2000, 80, and 1000 times, respectively, and by reconstructing trees using each resampled data set. Support for nodes in the BI tree topology was obtained by posterior probability.

I tested if the different species of the genera Hippolysmata and Lysmata s.s., and Lysmata s.l. (Hippolysmata + Lysmata), and Exhippolysmata segregated and formed different genus-specific monophyletic clades. For this purpose, constrained trees (in which the monophyly of particular genera was enforced) were obtained in MrBayes with command constraint. MCMC searches were run and the harmonic mean of tree-likelihood values was obtained by sampling the post burn-in, posterior distribution as above. Next, Bayes factors were used to evaluate whether or not there was evidence against monophyly (unconstrained vs. constrained trees) according to the criteria of Kass & Raftery (1995). The validity of the Lysmatidae sensu Christoffersen (1987) as a valid natural clade was tested as above. considering species from the genera Lysmata s.l. (Hippolysmata + Lysmata) and Exhippolysmata, as pertaining to the Lysmatidae, and species from the genera Heptacarpus, Hippolyte, Merguia, Merhippolyte, and Tozeuma, as comprising the Hippolytidae s.s.

RESULTS

During the present phylogenetic analysis, a total of 328 positions were found to be parsimony informative out of 744 homologous alignment positions. Noticeably, the two specimens of Lysmata vittata as well as the single specimen of Lysmata bahia had an insertion of 99 bp in the middle of the 16S sequenced fragment. Sequencing of a second and third specimen of L. bahia and L. vittata, respectively, confirmed the presence of this insertion (sequences not included in the present analysis). All phylogenetic trees obtained with the different inference methods (MP, ML, ME, and BI) resulted in somewhat similar general topologies (Figs 1, 2). Considering the pool of species used herein, including seven different genera within the Hippolytidae, the phylogenetic analyses support the genus Merguia as the sister group of a second natural group composed by shrimps from the genera Lysmata and Exhippolysmata. The monophyly of these two later genera is also well supported by a high posterior probability obtained from the BI analysis, and by boostrap support from the ML and ME analyses. The bootstrap support from the MP was, in general, lower. Within the monophyletic clade comprised by species of Lysmata and Exhippolysmata, the position of Lysmata olavoi as the most basally placed species is

supported by the BI analysis, but not by the ML, MP, and ME analyses. Overall, the tree topology indicates that this clade can be divided into different main subclades, with three of them having been previously recognized.

The first monophyletic clade, called 'Tropical American', is composed of seven species of peppermint shrimps, six species from the Caribbean and/or the Gulf of Mexico, and one species from the Pacific (Figs 1, 2). This clade is well supported by all phylogenetic analyses (Figs 1, 2). Within this clade, the basal position of Lysmata gracilirostris from the Pacific is well supported by the BI and ML analyses, but not by the MP and ME analyses. The species L. pederseni and L. ankeri are well supported as sister taxa by all analyses excepting MP. Although the ML, MP, and ME analyses do not completely resolve the position of three species in the tree (L. bahia, L. nayaritensis and L. californica), the BI analysis suggest that these latter species are closely related to members of the 'Tropical American' clade.

The second monophyletic group, previously named the 'Cleaner' clade, is composed by colourful fish-cleaning species that associate with macroinverte-brates. Within this clade, the basal position of the red blood shrimp *L. debelius* is well supported by BI and MP analyses, but not by ML and ME analyses. Also, all phylogenetic analyses support the skunk shrimps *L. amboinensis* and *L. grabhami* as sister taxa within this group (Figs 1, 2).

The third group, called the 'Cosmopolitan' clade, is composed of eight species, two from the Mediterranean (L. seticaudata and Lysmata nilita), three from the western Atlantic (Lysmata moorei, Lysmata intermedia, and Lysmata sp. nov. cf. intermedia), and three from the tropical eastern Pacific (Lysmata galapagensis, Lysmata argentopunctata, and Lysmata holthuisi). Within this clade, one pair of species (L. intermedia and Lysmata sp. nov. cf. intermedia) are well supported as sister taxa by all phylogenetic analyses.

A fourth group, here named 'Morphovariable', was retrieved from all phylogenetic analyses (Figs 1, 2). However, support (moderate) for the monophyly of this group was obtained only from BI analysis. This putatively monophyletic group is composed of the Caribbean *Lysmata hochi*, the Indo-Pacific *L. vittata*, and two shrimps from the genus *Exhippolysmata* (*E. oplophoroides*, from the western Atlantic, and *Exhippolysmata ensirostris* from the Indo-Pacific) that are well supported as sister taxa by all phylogenetic analyses (Figs 1, 2).

The pairwise genetic distances based on the TVM + I + G model of nucleotide substitution indicate that the four pairs of non-cleaner sister shrimp species (well supported by the ML and BI analyses)

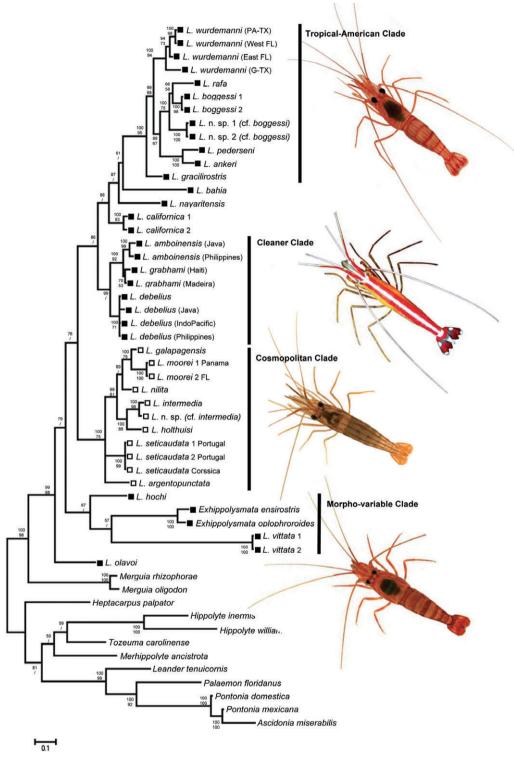


Figure 1. Phylogenetic tree obtained from Bayesian inference (BI) analysis of the partial 16S rRNA gene for shrimps from the genus Lysmata, and other selected taxa from the Caridea. Numbers above or below the branches represent the posterior probabilities from the BI analysis and bootstrap values obtained from maximum likelihood (ML) in PAUP* (BI/ML). The white and black squares represent the presence or absence, respectively, of a developed accessory branch in each species. The images of the shrimps (from top to bottom) represent Lysmata wurdemanni, Lysmata grabhami, Lysmata intermedia, and Lysmata hochi.

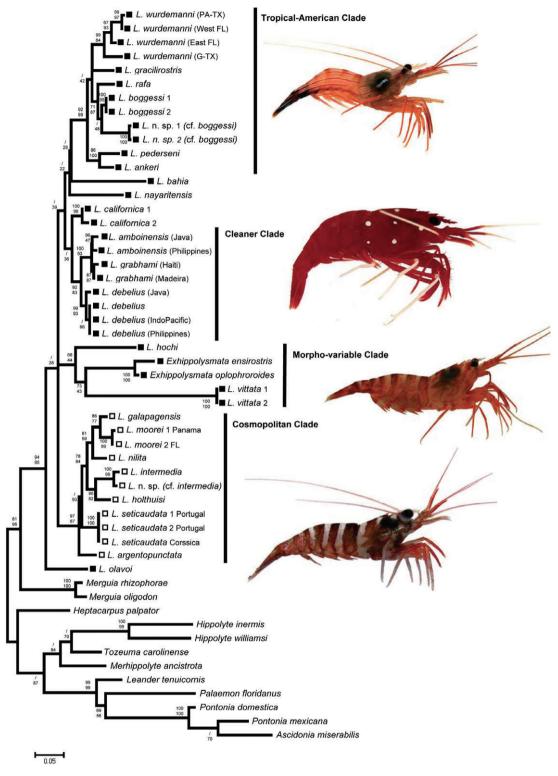


Figure 2. Phylogenetic tree obtained from minimum evolution (ME) analysis of the partial 16S rRNA gene for shrimps from the genus Lysmata, and other selected taxa from the Caridea. Numbers above or below the branches represent the bootstrap values obtained from maximum parsimony (MP) and ME analyses in PAUP* and MEGA 4.4 (MP/ME). The white and black squares represent the presence or absence, respectively, of a developed accessory branch in each species. The images of the shrimps (from top to bottom) represent Lysmata wurdemanni, Lysmata debelius, Lysmata hochi, and Lysmata galapagensis.

Table 2. Bayes-factor testing of phylogenetic hypotheses

Hypotheses	Harmonic mean	$2 \log_e(\mathrm{B}_{10})$	Evidence
Unconstrained tree Monophyletic <i>Lysmata s.s.</i> vs. <i>Hippolysmata</i> Monophyletic <i>Lysmata s.l.</i> vs. <i>Exhippolysmata</i> Monophyletic Lysmatidae vs. Hippolytidae	-10964.39 -10791.83 -10776.16 -10428.97	10.301 10.475 12.567	Very strong against constrained tree Very strong against constrained tree Very strong against constrained tree

The different hypotheses on the monophyly of particular groups of shrimp are ordered based on the degree of evidence against the constrained tree. The higher the value of $2 \log_e(B_{10})$ statistic implies stronger support against the monophyly of a particular group.

had values ranging from 0.07071 (*L. ankeri* vs. *L. pederseni*) to 0.0871 (*Lysmata* sp. nov. cf. *intermedia* vs. *L. intermedia*). The genetic distances between the species of cleaner shrimps *L. grabhami* and *L. amboinensis* (0.0318–0.0501) are smaller than the distances calculated for the different pairs of noncleaner sister shrimp species above, and are similar to the distances calculated for the different specimens of *L. wurdemanni* (0.00185–0.06657).

In the phylogenetic tree, species with a rudimentary accessory branch (i.e. composed by a single segment or no more than three segments) included the basally positioned *L. olavoi* and also clustered together into the "Tropical American", 'Cleaner' and 'Morphovariable' clades. The latter clade includes the type species of *Hippolysmata* (*L. vittata*). On the other hand, a developed accessory branch was consistently present in one of the three main natural groups of species (the 'Cosmopolitan' clade) that includes the type species of *Lysmata* (*L. seticaudata*) (Figs 1, 2).

Bayesian-factor analyses revealed strong support for the unconstrained tree, instead of alternative trees in which the monophyly of Lysmata s.l., Lysmata s.s., Hippolysmata, or Exhippolysmata was forced (Table 2). The absence of support for the separation of Lysmata s.l. into Lysmata and Hippolysmata (according to the presence or absence of a well-developed antennal accessory branch, respectively) occurred because the clade composed of species with a developed accessory branch have a derived position compared with the basally positioned L. olavoi, a species that does not have a welldeveloped accessory branch. Similarly, the absence of support for a monophyletic clade of Exhippolysmata was a result of the basal position of L. olavoi. Lastly, Bayes factors provided strong support against the Lysmatidae because all analyses revealed the genus Merguia as being sister to a clade comprised of Lysmata and Exhippolysmata, and because this genus did not group together with other members of the Hippolytidae.

DISCUSSION

The present study helped resolve several outstanding but long overdue questions of systematic nature with respect to the genera Lysmata s.l. and Exhippolysmata. Albeit the collection of genera from the diverse family Hippolytidae is incomplete, this analysis provides evidence for the existence of a natural clade that includes species from the genera Lysmata, Exhippolysmata, and Merguia. Indeed, bootstrap support values from ML, MP, and ME, and posterior probabilities from BI, strongly suggest that the genus Merguia is the sister group of a second natural clade composed by the genera Lysmata and Exhippolysmata. Interestingly, the ecology of shrimps from the genus Merguia differs widely from that of Lysmata. Both M. oligodon from Africa and M. rhizophorae from the Caribbean are nocturnal semiterrestrial shrimps that dwell among mangrove roots (Abele, 1970; Vannini & Oluoch, 1993; Gillikin, de Grave & Tack, 2001; J.A. Baeza, pers. observ.) In contrast, shrimps from the genera Lysmata and Exhippolysmata are invariably marine based (Baeza, 2009, and references therein). Research on the ecology of Merguia is warranted, as it might provide insights into the evolution of protandric simultaneous hermaphroditism in caridean shrimps.

The existence of a natural clade composed by members from the genera Lysmata and Exhippolysmata, as indicated by tree topologies and support/bootstrap values, speak in favour of the family Lysmatidae sensu Christoffersen (1987). Christoffersen proposed that the genera Mimocaris, Calliasmata, Lysmata, and Exhippolysmata represented a natural group because of two shared characters: dorsal flagellum of the first antenna birramous, with the shorter ramus consisting of at least one free article; infraorbital angle of carapace depressed and inconspicuous, lying below antennal tooth. On the other hand, the Bayesian factors analysis conducted herein did not support the Lysmatidae as a monophyletic clade. Nevertheless, this lack of support is

explained because of the newly resolved position of *Merguia*, which did not group together with other members of the Hippolytidae (e.g. *Tozeuma* and *Hippolyte*), but was instead closely related to the genera *Lysmata* and *Exhippolysmata*. Thus, the present results suggest that the genus *Merguia* needs to be considered as a monogeneric family, as proposed before by Christoffersen (1990), in order to make the system phylogenetically sound. In general, sequences from the related genera *Lysmatella* and *Calliasmata*, as well as other members from the family Hippolytidae are needed to confirm whether the Lysmatidae *sensu* Christoffersen (1987) represents a valid natural clade.

The present phylogenetic and Bayesian factor analyses also confirmed the notion that Lysmata is paraphyletic because of the position of E. oplophoroides and E. ensirostris that clustered together with L. hochi and L. vittata (Baeza et al., 2009). It must be noted that only the BI analysis moderately supported the relatedness and basal position of the above four species. On the other hand, dissections of L. hochi and E. oplophoroides have revealed that the sperm cells of these two species are packed inside small ovoid capsules, a character not shared by any other species of Lysmata in which the gonads and/or vas deference have been examined (Baeza & Anker, 2008; Braga et al., 2009; J.A. Baeza, unpubl. data) This finding argues in favour of the genus *Exhippolysmata* plus *L. hochi* and *L.* vittata as a natural clade. As noted earlier, the differences among the species of Lysmata and Exhippolysmata are considerable (rostrum much longer and legs much more slender in Exhippolysmata compared with Lysmata; Baeza et al., 2009). Overall, morphological differences as prominent as those observed between L. hochi and L. vittata vs. Exhippolysmata are also evident when comparing L. rafa, L. boggessi, and Lysmata sp. nov. cf. boggessi, a trio of closely related species pertaining to the 'Tropical American' clade. Among other characters, L. rafa features a curved and longer rostrum, and has much longer pereiopods than L. boggessi, and Lysmata sp. nov. cf. boggessi (Rhyne & Lin, 2006; Rhyne & Anker, 2007; J.A. Baeza, pers. observ.). This degree of morphological differentiation between closely related species is not unusual within clades (Rhyne & Lin, 2006), and the conditions favouring such dissimilarities deserve further attention.

The different phylogenetic trees partially support the separation of species with or without a developed accessory branch into two different genera or subgenera (i.e. *Lysmata* and *Hippolysmata* having a welldeveloped accessory branch, or not, respectively), as was initially proposed by Stimpson (1860). In the analysis, species with a rudimentary accessory branch (i.e. composed by a single segment, or by no more than three segments) included the basally positioned L. olavoi, and also clustered together into the 'Tropical American' and 'Cleaner' clades. On the other hand, a developed accessory branch was consistently present in only one of the four main natural groups of species (the 'Cosmopolitan' clade) that includes the type species of Lysmata (L. seticaudata). The distribution of this character in the tree suggests that the development of an accessory branch is a useful character with systematic and phylogenetic information; the character is a synapomorphy for Lysmata s.s. On the other hand, the absence of a well-developed accessory branch represents a plesiomorphic state, with no use in defining a second genus within the *Lysmata s.l.* containing all species with a rudimentary accessory branch. This explains why Bayesian factor analyses provided strong support against the grouping of Lysmata s.s. as a natural clade. Examination of several species at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), Washington D.C., indicates that the length of the accessory branch varies remarkably within the genus, from species having a single segmented rudimentary accessory branch (i.e. L. hochi: Baeza & Anker, 2008) to others with a highly developed accessory branch composed of many articles (i.e. L. galapagensis; Wicksten, 2000). A revision of the genus using not only molecular but also morphological and larval characters is necessary in order to make the system phylogenetically sound.

The comparisons of genetic distances of the species L. amboinensis and L. grabhami were smaller than those observed between other sister species from the genus. One possibile explanation for this genetic similarity between specimens from these two cleaner shrimp species is that they actually pertain to a single pantropical species, as proposed by Hayashi (1975), who found only minor morphological differences between the two entities. On the other hand, the results indicate that the two species are reciprocally monophyletic. Chace (1997) noticed minor but apparently constant differences in colour pattern between these two species (Fig. 3) (also, shown in Debelius, 2001). Until further evidence is obtained from more variable markers and additional specimens from a wider geographical range, there is no reason to stop treating L. grabhami and L. amboinensis as different valid species. In addition to more sampling, and the use of more variable molecular markers, studies examining interbreeding between L. grabhami and L. amboinensis should help resolve the systematic status of these species in the near future.

The major differences in tree topology among the different methods of phylogenetic inference used here were: (1) the basal position of *L. gracilirostris* within the 'Neotropical' clade, well supported by the BI and

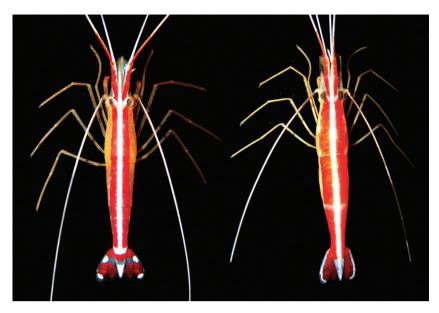


Figure 3. The habitus and colour pattern (dorsal view) of the shrimps *Lysmata amboinensis* (left) and *Lysmata grabhami* (right).

ML analyses, but not by the MP and ME analyses; (2) the position of L. californica, pertaining to the 'Neotropical' clade according to BI analysis, but related to the 'Cleaner' clade according to MP analysis; and (3) the basal position and relatedness of species comprising the 'Morphovariable' group within the *Lysmata* + *Exhippolysmata* clade, well supported by BI analysis, but not by the ML, MP, and ME analyses. The observed differences among methods (in particular, between MP and ML+BI) are expected, given that all these different methodologies employ dissimilar optimality criteria, and rest upon differing assumptions. For instance, MP does not use a likelihood function, and does not rely on an explicit model of character evolution, in contrast to ML and BI (Kolaczkowski & Thornton, 2004). In general, each of the different phylogenetic methods used here has its own set of advantages and disadvantages; they should be used to complement molecular phylogenetic reconstruction, as exemplified by Kolaczkowski & Thornton's (2004, and references therein) study.

Overall, shrimps from the genera Lysmata, Exhippolysmata, Merguia, and, most probably, Calliasmata and Lysmatella represent a unique natural clade, with a wide diversity of lifestyles (Abele, 1970; Vannini & Oluoch, 1993; Gillikin et al., 2001; Baeza & Anker, 2008; Baeza, 2009). Thus, this natural clade represents an opportunity to investigate the effect of the environment in determining behavioural, physiological, and morphological novelties, as well as the conditions favouring them in the marine environment. The present molecular phylogeny will help in the near future to test ideas about the evolution of

particular behavioral traits (e.g. sexual and social systems, sex allocation patterns, fish cleaning habits) in these shrimps.

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