What can whole genome sequencing reveal about animal sociality?

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Evolution of sociality



- Difficult to understand evolution of sociality
- Kin selection theory predicts that individuals tend to bias their affiliative behaviours towards close relatives
- Challenging to accurately estimate dyadic relatedness

Kinship estimation

- Pedigree estimates probabilities of sharing alleles from common ancestors
- Pedigrees provide limited information
- Realized relatedness may strongly differ within categories
- Variation resulting from recombination events during meiosis



Realized relatedness

• Calculate length and number of DNA segments that are identical-by-descent (IBD) to assess realized relatedness



Macaca mulatta

- Multifemale, multimale groups consisting of kin and nonkin
- Female philopatry, male dispersal
- Extensive female family groups that hang out together continuously
- Females mate with different males in consecutive years
- Many maternal or paternal halfsiblings, but full siblings rare



Study population

- Cayo Santiago, Puerto Rico
- 409 animals from India introduced in 1938
- Demographic data since 1956, genetic data since 1992
- Pedigree data limited to three generations



Whole genome sequencing



Whole genome sequencing



Whole genome sequencing





Quantify variation in IBD within and between kin classes using whole genome sequencing data (WGS)

- ongoing work -

IBD vs. pedigree



• High variability within kin classes

 Overlap between kin classes

 \rightarrow relatedness is continuous!

n = 2854

1. IBD segments



r = 0.25

1. IBD segments



1. IBD segments





Determine whether social preferences are predicted by gradient of IBD

- future work -

as

2. Kin recognition and kin bias

- Kin recognition basis for kin bias to evolve
- Maternal kin use familiarity
- Paternal kin may use phenotype matching: similar behavioural and/or physical traits
- Previous studies: rates of social interactions between kin increases with increasing pedigree relatedness
- What does realized genetic variation contribute to kin recognition and kin bias?



- Available data: social preference and perception of kin cues
- Amount of IBD shared will predict kin bias within and between kin classes



- Paternal kin will mainly follow gradient in IBD (a/d)
- Maternal kin are primarily influenced by social constrains (c)

Conclusion

- IBD based on WGS data reveals variation in relatedness within and between kin classes
- Novel way to understand role of relatedness in evolution of sociality in animals

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