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# Adaptive divergence in fission yeast

*From experimental evolution to evolutionary  
genomics*

SERGIO IVAN TUSSO GOMEZ



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### Abstract

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How adaptation and population differentiation occur is fundamental to understand the origin of biodiversity. Work in speciation alongside the increased ease of generating genomic data have allowed the exploration of genomic changes relevant to adaptation. However, it remains challenging to infer the underlying mechanisms from genomic patterns of divergence governed by both genomic properties and external selective pressures. The chronological order of genomic changes, evolutionary history and selective forces can rarely be inferred from natural populations.

Currently, I see two promising ways to tackle the problem of the genomic underpinnings of divergence: (1) evolution experiments simulating adaptation and population divergence and measuring genomic changes as they occur through time; (2) empirical studies of closely related populations in which the extent of divergence varies, allowing us to infer the chronology of the genomic changes. In my Ph.D. research I applied these two approaches, using the fungus *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*. First, I experimentally tested the potential for ecological divergence with gene flow, and investigated genomic and phenotypic changes associated with this process. Next, I studied genomic data obtained from natural populations sampled worldwide. In both cases, the genetic inference relied on different sequencing technologies including the Illumina, Pacific Biosciences and Oxford Nanopore platforms.

The experiment explored the effect of gene flow on phenotype and fitness, and uncovered potential molecular mechanisms underlying adaptive divergence. In **paper I** we demonstrate the emergence of specialisation under low gene flow, but generalist strategies when gene flow was high. Evolved phenotypes were largely influenced by standing genetic variation subject to opposite antagonistic pleiotropy complemented by new mutations enriched in a subset of genes. In **paper II**, we show that the experimental selective regime also had an effect on mating strategies, result of temporal ecological heterogeneity and selection for mating efficiency. We found that the evolution of mating strategies was explained by a trade-off between mating efficiency and asexual growth rate dependent on environmental stability. **Papers III** and **IV** consider the role of gene flow in natural populations. In **paper III**, we provide evidence that gene flow also played a predominant role in adaptive divergence in nature. All strains resulted from recent hybridization between two ancestral groups manifested in large phenotypic variation and reproductive isolation. This demographic history of hybridization was confirmed in **paper IV** focusing on patterns of mitochondrial diversity, adding evidence for the geographic distribution of the ancestral populations and potential for horizontal gene transfer from a distant yeast clade.

*Keywords:* adaptation, divergence, selection, experimental evolution, genomics, genome evolution, population genetics, fission yeast, phenotypic variation

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*To my parents*



# List of Papers

This thesis is based on the following papers, which are referred to in the text by their Roman numerals.

- I **Tusso, S.**, Nieuwenhuis, BPS., Immler, S., Wolf, JBW. (-) Parallelism in adaptive divergence and the modulating effect of gene flow. *Manuscript*.
- II Nieuwenhuis, BPS.\*, **Tusso, S.\***, Bjerling, P., Stångberg, J., Wolf, JBW.\*\*, Immler, S.\*\* (2018) Repeated evolution of self-compatibility for reproductive assurance. *Nature Communications*, 9(1):1639
- III **Tusso, S.**, Nieuwenhuis, BPS., Sedlaczeck, FJ., Jeffares, D., Wolf, JBW. (2019) Ancestral admixture is the main determinant of global biodiversity in fission yeast. *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, 36(9):1975-1989
- IV Tao, YT., Suo, F., **Tusso, S.**, Wang, YK., Huang, S., Wolf, JBW., Du, Li-Lin. (2019) Intraspecific diversity of fission yeast mitochondrial genome. *Genome Biology and Evolution*, 11(8): 2312-2329

\* These authors contributed equally to the study.

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The following papers were published or submitted during the course of my doctoral studies, but are not part of this thesis.

Peart, CR.\* , **Tusso, S.\***, Pophaly, SD.\* , Botero-Castro, F., Wu, C., Auriolles-Gamboa, D., Baird, A., Bickham, J., Forcada, J., Galimberti, F., Gelatt, TS., Gemmell, NJ., Hoffman, JL., Kovacs, KM., Kunnasranta, M., Lydersen, C., Nyman, T., Oliviera, LR., Orr, AJ., Sanvito, S., Trillmich, F., Valtonen, M., Shafer, ABA., Wolf, JBW. (-) Determinants of genetic variation across eco-evolutionary scales and their implications for the Anthropocene. *Submitted*.

Ekkers, DM., **Tusso, S.**, Moreno-Gomez, S., Rillo, MC., Kuipers, OP., Sander van Doorn, G. (-) Metabolic architecture gives rise to defines trade-offs that drive force specialization and adaptive diversification in *Lactococcus lactis*. *Submitted*.

Amaya-Márquez M., **Tusso, S.**, Hernández, J., Jiménez, JD., Wells, H., Abramson, C. (-) Olfactory learning in the stingless bee *Melipona eburnea* Friese (Apidae: Meliponini). *Submitted*.

Shafer, ABA.\* , Peart, CR.\* , **Tusso, S.**, Maayan, I., Brelsford, A., Wheat, CW., Wolf, JBW. (2017) Bioinformatic processing of RAD-seq data dramatically impacts downstream population genetic inference. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*, 8:907–917

Hoyos, M., **Tusso, S.**, Bedoya, TR., Gaviria, ASM., Bloor, P. (2017) A simple and cost-effective method for obtaining DNA from a wide range of animal wildlife samples. *Conservation Genetics Resources*, 9:513–521

Loire, E.\* , **Tusso, S.\***, Caminade, P., Severac, D., Boursot, P., Ganem, G., Smadja, CM. (2017) Do changes in gene expression contribute to sexual isolation and reinforcement in the house mouse? *Molecular Ecology*, 26:5189–5202

Promerová, M., Alavioon, G., **Tusso, S.**, Burri, R., Immler, S. (2017) No evidence for MHC class II-based non-random mating at the gametic haplotype in Atlantic salmon. *Heredity*, 118:563–567

**Tusso, S.**, Morcinek, K., Vogler, C., Schupp, PJ., Caballes, CF., Vargas, S., Wörheide, G. (2016) Genetic structure of the crown-of-thorns seastar in the Pacific Ocean, with focus on Guam. *PeerJ*, 4:e1970.

\* These authors contributed equally to the study.

# Abbreviations

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>DNA</b>                   | Deoxyribonucleic acid                  |
| <b>SNP</b>                   | Single nucleotide polymorphism         |
| <b>bp, kb, Mb</b>            | Base pair, Kilo base, Mega base        |
| <b>SV</b>                    | Structural variation                   |
| <b>Indel</b>                 | Insertion / Deletion                   |
| <b>TE</b>                    | Transposable element                   |
| <b>LTR</b>                   | Long terminal region                   |
| <b>R<sup>2</sup></b>         | Coefficient of determination           |
| <b>PCA</b>                   | Principal component analyses           |
| <b><math>\pi</math></b>      | Nucleotide diversity                   |
| <b><math>\theta_w</math></b> | Watterson theta                        |
| <b>Taj's D</b>               | Tajima's D                             |
| <b><math>\mu</math></b>      | Mutation rate                          |
| <b>N<sub>e</sub></b>         | Effective population size              |
| <b>D<sub>xy</sub></b>        | Average number of pairwise differences |
| <b>LD</b>                    | Linkage disequilibrium                 |
| <b>DSB</b>                   | DNA double-strand breaks               |
| <b>PCR</b>                   | Polymerase chain reaction              |
| <b>SW</b>                    | Switcher                               |
| <b>NS</b>                    | Non-Switcher                           |



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# Introduction

There are millions of species in nature constituting the biodiversity on the planet. But, how did this biodiversity arise? And how does it continue to do so? What are the inherent features and characteristics of a population that can lead to differentiation and subsequently the origin of new species? Which environmental factors, if any, are driving this differentiation? Several decades after the merger of Charles Darwin's seminal work 'On the Origin of Species' with Mendel's insight into heritable principles into the Evolutionary Synthesis, the study of adaptation and speciation remain a central priority in evolutionary biology. While recent empirical work has begun to describe the genomics of early species diversification, the nature of underlying evolutionary processes remains a subject of debate.

Influenced by the rapid development in sequencing technology, genome-scale studies have become common place in evolutionary biology research. Genome-wide population surveys of natural populations have provided significant insight into the evolutionary processes and the genetic basis underlying adaptation and speciation (Savolainen, Lascoux, and Merilä 2013; Seehausen et al. 2014). By studying patterns of segregating genetic variation across the entire genomes of multiple individuals and populations sampled in their natural environment, evolutionary processes governing the accumulation of genetic differences between incipient evolutionary lineages can be inferred (Ravinet et al. 2017; Wolf and Ellegren 2017). However, this inference remains challenging, as several factors from both intrinsic genomic properties and external selective pressures can interact producing similar genomic signatures. In general, selective forces directing the evolutionary process and the chronological order of genomic changes can rarely be inferred in natural populations. In this thesis, I used two strategies to disentangle intrinsic and extrinsic evolutionary drivers: 1) evolutionary experiments to simulate the diversification process and documenting phenotypic and genomic changes as they occur through time and 2) empirical case studies of closely related taxa or populations with varying divergence levels, to infer the evolutionary history, the temporal order of the genomic changes and the influence of different selective pressures and genomic features in diversification.

In my research, I took both of these approaches using the fungus *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* (commonly known as fission yeast) as a model system. Through experimental evolution, I aimed to gather evidence for the possibility of ecological adaptation and divergence with gene flow and uncovered the potential molecular mechanisms underlying the process (Paper I). I found that the applied experimental selective regime had strong effects on the evolution of mating strategies resulting from temporal ecological heterogeneity and selection for mating efficiency (Paper II). I found that historic gene flow has also played a predominant role for adaptation and differentiation in natural populations. I demonstrated that all known strains within the species resulted from recent hybridization between two ancestral groups which manifested in large effects on phenotypic variation and reproductive isolation (Paper III). The resulting demographic history observed in the nuclear genome was corroborated by patterns of mitochondrial genetic diversity, adding evidence for the geographic distribution of the ancestral populations and potential for horizontal gene transfer from a distant yeast clade (Paper IV).

## Local adaptation

Understanding the origin of genetic variation and how it is translated into phenotypic variation are central topics in speciation genomics. New mutations transmitted between generations are subjected to genetic drift and/or selection, resulting in changes in the frequency of genetic variants within populations. New mutations that confer an environmental advantage or generally an increase in fitness (beneficial mutations) will have higher chance of overcoming drift, being positively selected and increasing in frequency in the population. Conversely, deleterious mutations will tend to be reduced in frequency and eventually be lost in the population. Over time and in a stable environment, the genetic composition of the population (*genetic pool*) will tend to accumulate neutral variants, but also shift towards high frequency of genotypes that confer an adaptive advantage to the specific environmental conditions relative to the ancestral state.

Variation to fuel adaptation can thus not only arise from new emerging mutations (e.g. Linnen et al. 2013; Laurent et al. 2016), but also from standing genetic variants already present in the population from the past (*standing genetic variation*) (e.g. Feder et al. 2003; Jones et al. 2012; Monnahan, Colicchio, and Kelly 2015) or acquired by introgression from other populations (e.g. Hedrick 2013; Clarkson et al. 2014; Norris et al. 2015; Leducq et al. 2016). Selection on standing genetic variation presents several features relative to adaptation from new mutations, which have led to the hypothesis that standing variation may be the main source of variation during the initial steps of adaptation. For instance, 1) as alleles are already present, evolution

can occur faster; 2) under new environments, the higher allele frequencies of existing standing variation reduce the probability for variants to be lost by genetic drift; and 3) the adaptive value of these variants could have been tested previously in alternative temporal space contexts or other populations (Barrett and Schluter 2008; Tigano and Friesen 2016).

Genetic variants additionally differ in the effect size they exert on fitness. Variants with large effect are predicted to contribute more to adaptation and to be more resistant to loss by genetic drift (Yeaman and Otto 2011). However, simulation studies have shown that small effect variants could also substantially contribute to adaptation if there is high standing genetic variation (Yeaman 2015). In addition to effect size, the fixation or loss of genetic variants will depend of genetic architecture of the trait to which they contribute. For instance, quantitative traits can be defined by multiple loci, but each locus can additionally have multiple contributing alleles in the population. High genetic variation would thus result in a larger pool of allelic combinations from which selection could act.

Progress in understanding multilocus adaptation has paved the way for a thorough conceptual description of its role in evolution. Simulations by Franssen et al., (2017) addressing the role of genetic architecture in multilocus adaptation suggest three main phases during adaptation of quantitative traits: during the first phase, all adaptive alleles increase in frequency, but only until the mean population phenotype reaches a fitness optimum. As a phenotype can be reached by different combinations of multiple alleles and locus, individual genetic variants do not necessarily reach fixation. In the second phase, phenotypic variation is maximised, and no changes in allele frequency are observed. During the last phase, there is variation in allele frequency, but changes are stochastic since adaptive loci will go to fixation or extinction by drift, without changes in mean population fitness. Other models have shown additionally that: 1) the number of contributing variants decreases with an increase in recombination rate, while their effect tend to decrease; 2) small effect variants tend to cluster in linked groups with larger effect variants; 3) an increase in selection allows for larger physical dispersion of contributing linked clusters (Yeaman and Whitlock 2011); and 4) when the number of adaptive alleles is large, the expected allele frequency changes are small (Franssen, Kofler, and Schlötterer 2017).

Understanding multilocus adaptation also faces methodological challenges. Observed allele changes in natural populations are small for the most part, suggesting dominance of small effect variants, which limits the power to detect those adaptive variants from stochastic changes with existing tools (Yeaman 2015; Tigano and Friesen 2016). The most promising strategy to study quantitative adaptive traits is probably to combine multiple approach-

es. A synthetic view of quantitative traits is possible by combining evidence from gene enrichment analyses using annotation of biological pathways (Daub et al. 2013), information from changes in allele frequency under differential selection (Latta 1998; Le Corre and Kremer 2012; Bourret, Dionne, and Bernatchez 2014), genotype-phenotype association tests (Stephan, Stegle, and Beyer 2015), and genotype – environment and geography associations (Hancock et al. 2011; Günther and Coop 2013; Berg and Coop 2014). Regardless of the technical limitations, several empirical studies have provided insights into the genomics of adaptation. For example, the role of standing genetic variation in population differentiation has been tested in several systems (e.g. sticklebacks Feulner et al. 2013; cichlids Fan and Meyer 2014; pea aphids Duvaux et al. 2015; and monkey flowers Flagel, Willis, and Vision 2014). One important contribution of these studies is that in addition to single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), other type of genetic variants were found to contribute to local adaptation, including structural variants (insertions, deletions, inversions and translocations) and copy number variation (described in more detail below).

## Gene flow

The maintenance of genetic and phenotypic variation within a population largely depends on environmental heterogeneity, the effect size distribution of mutations and gene flow (Yeaman and Jarvis 2006). *Gene flow* refers to the movement of alleles and their establishment into a different gene pool (Endler 1977). The importance of gene flow in evolutionary biology has been studied since early 1930s, primarily with theoretical work (e.g. Haldane and Haldane 1930; Wright 1931; Slatkin 1987). With the emergence of high-throughput sequencing technologies, tools and methods for quantification, empirical studies of gene flow have lately gained momentum (Wolf, Lindell, and Backström 2010; Feder, Egan, and Nosil 2012).

Progress in characterizing gene flow on adaptation and speciation has brought unprecedented challenges. For instance, understanding the effect of gene flow in the context of adaptation requires knowledge on the genetic basis of adaptive traits, and the correlation between them and their fitness effects, which frequently are not clear (Barrett and Hoekstra 2011; Tigano and Friesen 2016). However, the progress in understanding the effect of gene flow on adaptation and speciation has brought unprecedented challenges. For instance, understanding the effect of gene flow in the context of adaptation requires characterization of the genetic basis of adaptive traits, and the correlation between them and their fitness effects, which frequently are not clear (Barrett and Hoekstra 2011; Tigano and Friesen 2016).

Gene flow can impact adaptation in three ways: first, interbreeding between individuals from a single panmictic population, differentiating by a polymorphic trait or genomic region reducing competition (adaptive divergence); second, when there is gene flow between separate, but interconnected, populations which are adapting locally (ecological divergence); or thirdly, when gene flow occurs after populations have substantially diverged (secondary contact or hybridization). In general, as described above, spatially heterogeneous selection regimes will tend to increase overall genetic divergence, but it is counteracted by the homogenising effect of gene flow. To complicate matters, temporal environmental variation also has shown to play a key role. Simulations suggest that intermediate levels of gene flow result in maximum local adaptation if there is temporal environmental variation (Blanquart and Gandon 2011).

Ecological divergence in the presence of gene flow is theoretically conditional to the nature of underlying fitness costs to local adaptation (Felsenstein 1981; Maclean 2005; Martin, Otto, and Lenormand 2006; Agrawal 2009; Smadja and Butlin 2011). For instance, under strong divergent selection and low migration rate, hybrids between ecologically differentiated populations are rapidly removed. The production of un-adapted hybrids incurs an evolutionary cost which will ultimately favour the selection for recombination suppressors and reproductive barriers. Inversely, an increase in gene-flow will homogenise populations, erode local adaptation and reduce the efficiency of local adaptation by exchanging locally adapted alleles, and impede the coupling of variants needed for local adaptation (Balkau and Feldman 1973; Lenormand 2002; Blanquart and Gandon 2011). Ecological divergence in the presence of gene flow is theoretically conditional to the nature of underlying fitness costs to local adaptation (Felsenstein 1981; Maclean 2005; Martin, Otto, and Lenormand 2006; Agrawal 2009; Smadja and Butlin 2011). For instance, under strong divergent selection and low migration rate, hybrids between ecologically differentiated populations are rapidly removed. The production of un-adapted hybrids incurs an evolutionary cost which will ultimately favour the selection for recombination suppressors and reproductive barriers. Inversely, an increase in gene-flow will homogenise populations, eroding local adaptation and reducing the efficiency of local adaptation by exchanging locally adapted alleles, and impeding the coupling of variants needed for local adaptation (Balkau and Feldman 1973; Lenormand 2002; Blanquart and Gandon 2011).

Different models have been studied as to how genetic variation of adapting populations is shaped as a function to gene flow and the underlying genetic background (e.g. Bürger and Akerman 2011; Yeaman and Otto 2011; Feder et al. 2012). For example, simulations show that the probability for a beneficial mutation to establish in a population depends primarily on the strength

of selection ( $s$ ) and the rate of gene flow ( $m$ ). Without gene flow the probability of establishment depends solely on selection coefficient of the new mutation ( $s/2$ ; Feder et al. 2012). With gene flow, a new beneficial mutation has a higher probability of fixation when  $s$  is higher than  $m$ . If this is not the case, the new variant will be swamped from the local genetic pool (Haldane and Haldane 1930; Wright 1931; Lenormand 2002; Yeaman and Otto 2011; Feder et al. 2012). In the presence of linkage, if selection on a new mutation is lower than gene flow, but linked to a differentiated locus under strong selection ( $s > 2m$ ; Feder et al. 2012), the fixation probability of the first mutation is increased. Thus, in the presence of gene flow, adaptation from standing genetic variation is governed by the complex interaction of selection, migration and recombination.

## Hybridization

Hybrids are organisms carrying genetic material from two differentiated, parental genomes, displaying a range of mixed traits present in the original parent lineages, as well as emerging new properties, including novel phenotypes. Events of natural hybridization between diverging lineages have been extensively recognised as an important evolutionary process and key element for diversification (Mallet 2005; Abbott et al. 2013; Gladieux et al. 2014; Mixão and Gabaldón 2018). Hybridization has been observed in a broad range of taxonomic systems including plants, animals and fungi with diverse geographical distributions (Mallet 2005; Abbott et al. 2013; Abbott 1992; Arnold 1992; Seehausen 2004; Grant, Grant, and Petren 2005; Schumer, Rosenthal, and Andolfatto 2014). A few intensively studied examples of hybridization have shown its role for adaptive radiation, transfer of adaptive loci within and between species, and the formation of new species (Rieseberg 2003; Fonseca et al. 2004; Seehausen 2004; Masuelli et al. 2009; Lee et al. 2013; Lunt et al. 2014). In fungi, hybridization has not been as extensively studied as in other groups, but recent genomic technologies have enabled the identification of several fungal hybrids, belonging to diverse clades (Morales and Dujon 2012; Prysycz et al. 2014; 2015; Leducq et al. 2016).

*Transgressive traits* are a common feature of hybridization, corresponding to those traits with range variation beyond the observed range in either of the parental clades. A well-known example of this is the sunflower *Helianthus paradoxus*, a hybrid species between *H. annuus* and *H. petiolaris* (Welch and Rieseberg 2002a; 2002b). In this case, the hybrid species can survive under soil conditions with higher salt concentration relative to both parental species. This enables hybrids to thrive under high salinity environments unsuitable for either parental species. Transgressive phenotypes are common in

hybrids, feature that has been exploited during the domestication of several hybrid species, including several crops, and yeast strains for beer and wine (Pretorius and Bauer 2002; Warschefskey et al. 2014; Gibson and Liti 2015; Bevan et al. 2017; Mixão and Gabaldón 2018).

Even though an increasing number of examples for adaptive hybridization are emerging, it is also expected that early stages of hybridization are physiologically unfit, primarily due to the interaction between differentiated genomic components that have been evolving independently (known as *genomic shock*) (McClintock 1984). Even if new combinations could result in an adaptive advantage for hybrids, the persistence of hybrid forms will depend on purging existing deleterious interactions. As suggested by the Bateson–Dobzhansky–Muller model (Dobzhansky 1934; Muller 1942; Bateson 1909), the admixture between divergent genetic backgrounds can result in incompatibilities which can then influence the survival or fertility of the hybrid individual (*BDM-incompatibilities*). Incompatible allelic combinations that result in negative fitness effects, will be removed by selection, which prevent further mixing of those specific genomic regions. These regions are of particular interest, because theoretical and empirical studies suggest that the reduction in gene flow in those genomic regions could allow for the accumulation of additional mutations over time, causing further divergence and potentially eventual speciation (Wu 2001; Presgraves 2010). The identification of these incompatibilities could provide insights into the mechanisms driving isolation and adaptive divergence (Orr 1995; Wolf and Ellegren 2017). Selection acting against recombination between incompatible variants will change haplotype frequencies in the population such that patterns of linkage disequilibrium (LD) are distorted in a specific manner. Systematic analysis of LD distortion along the genome can therefore be used to identify candidate BDM-incompatibilities during hybridization (Colomé-Tatché and Johannes 2016).

Considering both adaptive and detrimental genomic variation being combined in hybrid genomes, we expect hybrids to show differential contribution of genes from parental lineages in the long run (Grant, Grant, and Petren 2005; Bacilieri et al. 1996; McDonald et al. 2001; Thulin and Tegelström 2002). This process is known as *genome stabilisation* and can either be facilitated or impeded by mechanisms such as genetic recombination, gene conversion, or structural variation (Payseur and Rieseberg 2016). Note, however, that imbalance in the parental contribution is not only determined by selection, but also defined by asymmetry in introgression from the most common to the most rare lineage (Dowling, Smith, and Brown 1989; Taylor and Hebert 1993). Differential gene flow produces variation among hybrids and across the genome; variation upon which selection can act (Sankararaman et al. 2014; Schumer et al. 2016). This will have important consequences on

long-term hybrid persistence, adaptation and consequently speciation (Rieseberg 2003; Chiba 1993; Ortíz-Barrientos et al. 2002; Servedio and Saetre 2003; Gee 2004; Saetre et al. 2008).

## Trade-Offs

Thus far, my focus has been on a single trait or a set of independent traits under selection. The interaction between traits in the context of selection is another important component for several evolutionary models for diversification, particularly those attempting to understand the evolution of life history traits. Trade-off refer to the increase in fitness given by the change in one trait, while decreasing fitness in a second trait (Roff and Fairbairn 2007). It is of general belief within evolutionary biology that trait evolution is commonly restricted by fitness trade-offs (Lynch and Gabriel 1987; Charnov 1989; Stearns 1992; Roff 1993; Whitlock 1996; Reznick, Nunney, and Tessier 2000; Roff 2002; Spichtig and Kawecki 2004; Roff and Fairbairn 2007; Bono et al. 2017). Fitness trade-offs between life history traits have been described in several studies, both in the laboratory and natural populations, commonly measured as the statistical correlation between traits (e.g. Bartlett, Wilfert, and Boots 2018; Lasne, Leblanc, and Gillet 2018; Mariette et al. 2018; Pinheiro-Costa et al. 2018; Støstad et al. 2019; Zhu et al. 2019). However, little is known on how trade-offs evolve (Roff and Fairbairn 2007; Bono et al. 2017).

At the genetic level, trade-offs can either be driven by selection on genetic variants that are neutral in alternative environments (conditional neutrality) (Reboud and Bell 1997; MacLean and Bell 2002; Ostrowski, Ofria, and Lenski 2007; Behe 2010; Anderson et al. 2013; Kvitek and Sherlock 2013; Samani and Bell 2016), or are detrimental in alternative environments (antagonistic pleiotropy) (Cooper and Lenski 2000; Lunzer et al. 2002; Nosil and Crespi 2004; Craig Maclean 2005; Gray and Goddard 2012; Hietpas et al. 2013; Samani and Bell 2016). Given the lack of fitness effects of variants under conditional neutrality in alternative environments, it is not expected these variants will contribute to adaptive polymorphism within populations, but rather to transient variation between populations in the presence of gene flow (Fry 1996; Kawecki 1997; Bono et al. 2017). Therefore, conditionally neutral variants are expected to be homogenised over time (Hall, Lowry, and Willis 2010; Fournier-Level et al. 2011). Under antagonistic pleiotropy, variants positively selected in one environment are selected against in alternative ecological conditions (Cooper and Lenski 2000; Lunzer et al. 2002; Nosil and Crespi 2004; Cooper and Lenski 2010; Hietpas et al. 2013; Samani and Bell 2016).

Although empirical data are still limited to be able to make general conclusions, contrary to expectations, experiments and natural populations more frequently show more evidence for conditional neutrality than antagonistic pleiotropy (e.g. Reboud and Bell 1997; MacLean and Bell 2002; Weinig et al. 2003; Gardner and Latta 2006; Verhoeven et al. 2008; Lowry et al. 2009; Latta, Gardner, and Staples 2010; Anderson et al. 2013; Leinonen et al. 2013; Remington et al. 2013; Soudi, Reinhold, and Engqvist 2015; Samani and Bell 2016; Bono et al. 2017). Two potential sources of bias have been suggested: 1) detection bias by statistical significance, since antagonistic pleiotropy is more difficult to detect than conditional neutrality, as the former requires significance in two environments, while the latter only requires change in one environment (Anderson et al. 2013) and 2) sampling bias because most empirical evidence are from studies performed in predominantly selfing organisms (Bono et al. 2017).

On the other hand, both theoretical and empirical results provide a potential scenario where the difference of prevalence is biologically plausible which is the presence of both antagonistic pleiotropy and conditionally neutral variants during the adaptation process (Fisher 1930; Ostrowski, Rozen, and Lenski 2005; Duffy, Turner, and Burch 2006; Schick, Bailey, and Kassen 2015; Dillon et al. 2016). If this is the case, the fixation of each type of variants are expected to depend on both ecological and evolutionary history (Bono et al. 2017). First, local adaptation in a homogeneous and stable environment is expected to involve antagonistic pleiotropic variants more frequently than in heterogeneous environments (Kassen 2002). The reason being adaptation in homogeneous environments does not need to incur associated fitness costs from alternative environments that are not experienced locally. Conversely, heterogeneous environments impose a higher number of environments locally, which results in selection against the cost of adaptation given by antagonistic pleiotropic variants. This is presumably strong in temporally heterogeneous environments as individuals experience the full range of environmental variation, as opposed to strict spatial heterogeneity where the population could be geographically structured (Kassen 2002; Bono et al. 2017).

There are other biological reasons to observe conditional neutrality more frequently than antagonistic pleiotropy. Variants involved in local adaptation can derive from standing genetic variation or from new mutations (evolutionary history). However, during colonization to new environments, antagonistic pleiotropic variants are expected to be in lower frequency, and therefore a higher contribution of conditionally neutral variants is predicted (Barrett and Schluter 2008; Matuszewski, Hermisson, and Kopp 2015; Dittmar et al. 2016). Additionally, antagonistic pleiotropic variants could have different contributions to adaptation depending on the degree of divergence between

populations from alternative environments. For instance, the pleiotropic cost of the alternative environment can be more pronounced with increasing divergence, making the adaptation process less constrained in early steps when antagonistic pleiotropy has not evolved. Early fixed antagonistic pleiotropic variants could also be compensated later by a new interacting loci (Lenski 1988; Kassen 2002; Jasmin and Zeyl 2013; Bono et al. 2015; Schick, Bailey, and Kassen 2015).

Methodologically, one way to measure the response to selection, and the presence of trade-offs is using genetic and phenotypic variance co-variance matrices, which define if some evolutionary trajectories might be constrained. Variance co-variance matrices between variables are symmetric, allowing the reduction of variance observed in traits to orthogonal axes (as many traits or genetic variants as applicable) into a principal component analysis (PCA). Each principal component explains a fraction of the total variance, given by the eigenvalue. In the PCA, restricted evolutionary trajectories can be identified when the eigenvalue is close to zero (Kirkpatrick and Lofsvold 1992; Blows and Hoffmann 2005; Roff and Fairbairn 2007).

In this framework, if a functional trade-off between fitness traits is present, the ability to detect it will depend on the variance and co-variance of the traits. This means that in the absence of phenotypic variation, the trade-off, even if present, may not be visible. This can be the case for populations evolving under strong selection in which phenotypic variation for specific traits is reduced or fixed. On the contrary, the presence of variation may allow observing a trade-off when present, but it also begs the question of whether this variation is given by genetic variation or phenotypic plasticity. Even under laboratory conditions, variation between individuals is expected as a result, in part, of environmental variation, and thus, this variation can be from phenotypic plasticity rather than heritable genetic variation. In the presence of genetic variation, it has been suggested this variation can be maintained by: mutation-selection equilibrium; antagonistic pleiotropy; correlated selection; and spatio-temporal heterogeneity balance (Lynch and Gabriel 1987; Houle 1991; 1998; Roff and Fairbairn 2007).

## Structural variation

Adaptation at the population level has been studied extensively theoretically and empirically. Owing to technical limitations associated with the inference of several types of genetic variants, most studies in large populations explored genetic variation at the level of single nucleotides (SNPs) (Wolf and Ellegren 2017). However, increasing evidence highlights the importance of other types of genetic variation such as structural genomic variation (SV).

Structural variants (SVs) comprising chromosomal rearrangements, insertions, deletions and duplications, also significantly contribute to the overall genetic differentiation of populations with important evolutionary and functional consequences (Redon et al. 2006; Weischenfeldt et al. 2013). SVs impact complex phenotypic traits (Purcell et al. 2014; Schwander, Libbrecht, and Keller 2014; Küpper et al. 2016; Lamichhaney et al. 2016), can alter regional recombination rates and affect gene regulation (Rieseberg 2001), contribute to rapid evolution by gene duplications (Redon et al. 2006), allow the coupling of barrier loci for reproductive isolation (Rieseberg 2001; Hoffmann and Rieseberg 2008), and can confer fitness advantage (Avelar et al. 2013; Fisher et al. 2018). However, despite increasing attention on SVs, there is a gap in our knowledge regarding the extent of variation at the population level and the evolutionary dynamics of this variation within and between populations in the context of adaptation and speciation.

## Study system

Within the kingdom fungi, the two best studied groups of fungi are the ascomycetes or the basidiomycetes group, which each contain many different yeasts. Yeast taxa are distinguished by their unicellular lifestyle (contrary to multicellular mycelia) and their ability for sugar fermentation. Ascomycetes are characterised by their sexual spores being packed in a specialised structures called the ascus. The fission yeast *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*, the model I used in these studies, belongs to the ascomycete yeast clade. Other well-known examples of ascomycetes are the common yeast (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* – also known as brewer's yeast or baking yeast) and filamentous fungi used in the laboratory and industry such as *Aspergillus* and *Neurospora* (Hoffman, Wood, and Fantes 2015). The basidiomycetes contain a large variety of species, including smuts, rusts and the macroscopic mushroom fungi.

The genus *Schizosaccharomyces* has four species: *S. pombe*, *S. japonicas*, *S. octosporus* and *S. cryophilus* (Rhind et al. 2011). The divergence between *S. pombe* and its closest relative species has been estimated to around 120 million years (Rhind et al. 2011). The genus *Schizosaccharomyces* is part of the Taphrinomycetes, group that diverged early within the ascomycetes around 600 million years (Lutzoni et al. 2018). This early divergence places the fission yeast and common yeast phylogenetically distant, with a divergence time comparable to the divergence within all animal clades, or the emergence of embryophytes in plants (Sipiczki 2000; 2004; Dunn et al. 2014; Lutzoni et al. 2018).

## *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* as a model species

Yeasts as model systems present several advantages over other systems, particularly for experimental work. *S. pombe* has traditionally been used as a model to study molecular and cell biology in fundamental processes defining the eukaryotic cell. Currently, *S. pombe* is used in more than 300 laboratories around the world producing more than 300 publications per year. The importance of *S. pombe* in cell biology is owing to cellular similarities with more complex multicellular eukaryotes; similarities which are not present or too highly diverged in other yeast species such as the common yeast *S. cerevisiae* (Hoffman, Wood, and Fantes 2015; Fantes and Hoffman 2016). These similarities include fundamental cell cycle control (Nurse 1990), cytokinesis (Goyal et al. 2011), mitosis and meiosis regulation (Harigaya and Yamamoto 2007), DNA repair and recombination mechanisms (Phadnis, Hyppa, and Smith 2011), centromere structure (Allshire and Karpen, 2008), epigenetic control (Goto and Nakayama 2012), and cell morphogenesis (Fawcett et al. 2014). Laboratory strains can be maintained either as haploid or diploid, allowing us to assess allele dominance. Yeasts also have the ability to retain plasmids, providing the potential to introduce genetic material to the nuclear genome. The use of these plasmids facilitate gene editing and gene cloning (Hoffman, Wood, and Fantes 2015). Compared with other model systems, yeasts have a high homologous recombination rate. For example, 1 cM in humans correspond to an average 1 Mbp (Kong et al. 2004), while it is only around 2500 bp in common yeast (Olson et al. 1986) and 6250 bp in fission yeast (Fowler et al. 2014; Hoffman, Wood, and Fantes 2015). In the context of this study, yeast has the major advantage that it can be maintained in large population sizes. This translates to a high efficiency of selection relative to genetic drift and allows for the identification of rare mutants in the gene(s) involved in traits of interest.

## Genomic and wet lab resources

The haploid *S. pombe* reference strain was the sixth eukaryote to have its entire genome sequenced (Wood et al. 2002). The genome is 13.8 Mb in size, similar to the baker's yeast genome of 12.5 Mb. It is contained in only 3 chromosomes (5.7, 4.6, and 3.5 Mb each) compared to the 16 chromosomes found in baker's yeast. Similar to animal chromosomes, *S. pombe* has large and complex repeated centromeres of around 40, 69 and 110 kb for chromosomes I, II and III, composed of a central core flanked by repeats. Similar to baker's yeast, subtelomeric regions are transcriptionally silent (Aparicio, Billington, and Gottschling 1991; Nimmo et al. 1998), containing several genes mostly related to membrane transporters and response to stress and surface glycoproteins (Goffeau et al. 1996; Wood et al. 2002; Hansen et al. 2005; Rhind et al. 2011).

Despite its importance as a model organism and the existence of collections with samples from all over the world, most of the research has been based on a single isogenic strain (not containing genetic variants) isolated in 1921 by A. Osterwalder. This strain was isolated from grape juice in Montpellier, France and deposited at the Dutch culture collection. Genetic studies in *S. pombe* started during the 1940s when Urs Leupold used this strain from which three strains were isolated that differed only in the mating type system. These strains were 968 h<sup>90</sup>, 972 h<sup>-</sup>, and 975 h<sup>+</sup>, which are now the ancestors for almost all genetic studies on *S. pombe* (Brown et al. 2011; Hoffman, Wood, and Fantes 2015; Fantes and Hoffman 2016). From these strains, a broad range of mutants has been isolated for multiple purposes. As most of the research in *S. pombe* has been performed in these unique strains, genetic diversity in natural populations is largely unexplored (Jeffares et al. 2015; Jeffares 2018).

## Population structure

Until recently, genetic diversity in natural populations remained largely unexplored (Jeffares et al. 2015; Jeffares 2018). Over the last decade, there have been several attempts to infer parts of the evolutionary history and ecology of *S. pombe*. One recent study used a large, comprehensive sampling of mostly human-associated, globally-distributed samples, finding remarkably reduced genetic structure with moderate genetic diversity ( $\pi = 3 \times 10^{-3}$  substitutions per site; Jeffares et al. 2015). They estimated that the divergence of all samples started only around 2300 years ago, reaching the Americas around 400 years ago, consistent with the beginning of European colonialism (Jeffares et al. 2015). This estimate of genetic diversity is similar to previous works (Brown et al. 2011; Rhind et al. 2011; Fawcett et al. 2014), albeit slightly higher than observed in the budding yeast *S. cerevisiae* ( $\pi = 1 \times 10^{-3}$ ; Liti et al. 2009). Nonetheless, budding yeast shows clear differentiation between populations and more defined genetic structure. A detailed genetic interrogation suggests that the *S. pombe* genome is under selective constraints, with signatures of worldwide purifying selection or balancing selection (Fawcett et al. 2014; Jeffares et al. 2015).

## Ecology and phenotypic variation

Although very little is known about the ecology, origin, and evolutionary history of *S. pombe* (Jeffares 2018), the remarkable lack of genetic structure despite a cosmopolitan distribution contrasts with observations of phenotypic and reproductive variation. Trait variation is usually not structured by geographical regions (Jeffares et al. 2015), yet *S. pombe* has abundant heritable phenotypic diversity in growth, stress responses, cell morphology, and cellular biochemistry (Brown et al. 2011; Clément-Ziza et al. 2014; Jeffares

et al. 2015; Jeffares 2018). *S. pombe* is generally found in traditional non-industrialized fermentations in substrates with high concentrations of sugars, including tea, kombucha, sugar cane, sorghum, palm sap, harvested coffee and cocoa beans, honey, and other fruits (Jeffares 2018). It is also used to produce distilled spirits such as rum, tequila or cachaça (Gomes et al. 2002), as well as to reduce acidity in wine given its ability to use malic acid (Volschenk, van Vuuren, and Viljoen–Bloom 2003).

Several studies have reported low spore viability in crosses between strains (Kondrat'eva and Naumov 2001; Avelar et al. 2013; Zanders et al. 2014; Jeffares et al. 2015; Naumov, Kondratieva, and Naumova 2015; Hu et al. 2017). This viability ranges from less than 1% to 90%, and even crosses within the same strain can present reduced mating efficiency (Kondrat'eva and Naumov 2001; Marsellach 2017). The incompatibility in general is considered to be post-zygotic as mating bodies and haploid spores are still produced (Kondrat'eva and Naumov 2001; Jeffares et al. 2015).

Combining these two sources of evidence, genetic and phenotypic results, is perplexing. On the one hand, there is a global pattern of reduced genetic structure and strong selection. On the other hand, there is large phenotypic diversity and strong reproductive isolation between strains. Functional work has been done in few strains, and at least three potential non-exclusive genetic causes for reproductive isolation have been identified in *S. pombe*. (1) Structural genomic variants (SV) including large chromosomal rearrangements have been implicated. Large SVs, mostly inversions and translocations, can result in aneuploidy during chromosome segregation after mating reducing spore viability. Around 12 of such large SVs have been observed in some strains including the reference strain (Rhind et al. 2011; Avelar et al. 2013; Zanders et al. 2014). (2) Presence of species-specific selfish elements or meiotic drives, inducing segregation distortion by spore killing in crosses between strains (Zanders et al. 2014; Hu et al. 2017; Nuckolls et al. 2017). (3) Bateson–Dobzhansky–Muller incompatibilities or related genetic mechanisms resulting in negative epistasis (Nei and Nozawa 2011). Understanding the relative importance of these variables in reproductive isolation and phenotypic differentiation requires comparative genomics and functional work in a more extensive sampling, which has previously been limited to around a dozen samples.

## Life cycle and mating

The life cycle of *S. pombe* transitions between (1) growth by mitotic asexual divisions when there are adequate nutritional conditions, or (2) sexual propagation triggered by starvation (Leupold 1949; Beach and Klar 1984; Leupold 1993), a process that is regulated by internal and external cues

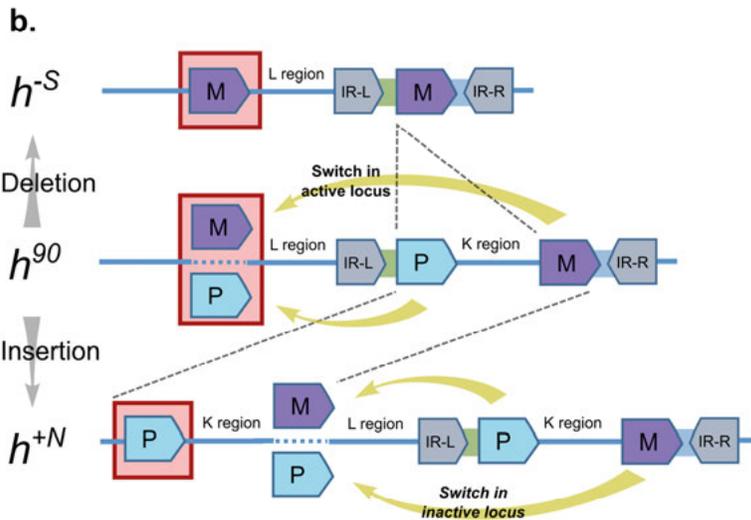
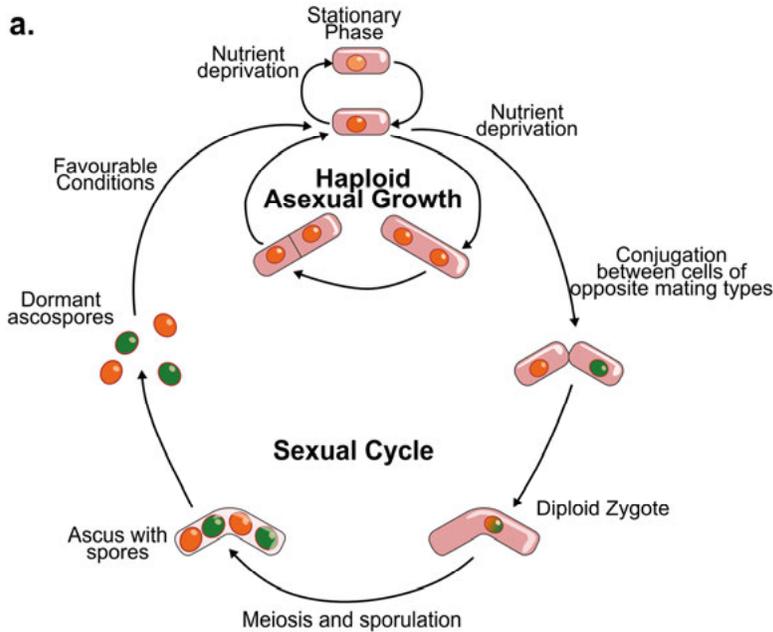
**(Figure 1a).** During asexual growth in nutrient-rich medium, the cells are cylindrical with hemispherical ends and are about 3.5  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter. After cell division, cells are around 8  $\mu\text{m}$  long and growth occurs mostly longitudinally, where length constitutes an adequate measurement for cell age (Hoffman, Wood, and Fantes 2015). During cell division, a transverse septum appears in the middle of the cell, producing two nearly identical daughter cells (Hoffman, Wood, and Fantes 2015). This type of cell division differentiates *S. pombe* from other yeasts, including the common yeast, which produces asymmetrical cell during division. Right after mitosis, the G1 phase in *S. pombe* is very short, leading to a rapid replication of DNA (S phase). Consequently, at the end of the S phase, there are two nuclei in one cell, each of them containing two copies of chromosomes (sister chromatids). The G2 phase starts after cytokinesis, and cells remain in this phase for about three-quarters of the cell cycle, containing fully replicated chromosomes. This means haploid cells in a growing population contain two copies of identical sister chromatids (Hoffman, Wood, and Fantes 2015; Hagan et al. 2016). Alternatively, cells change from asexual growth to sexual reproduction when there is a mating partner and nutrient starvation. First, cells with alternative mating types (described below) conjugate. The conjugation consists of an initial cell wall degradation to produce a single cell. Then, the nuclei fuse producing a diploid zygote. The nucleus starts meiosis, thus producing four haploid nuclei. A wall is then formed around each nucleus, producing four individual spores, albeit encased in the original zygote (ascus). When nutrients are no longer limiting, the ascus wall will be lysed, exposing the four spores to the environment. Spores remain dormant until they are exposed to favourable growth conditions, where they can germinate and grow again asexually (Egel 1973; Schmidt and Gutz 1994). A fraction of the diploid cells can also propagate asexually rather than continuing with the sexual cycle.

Different strains of *S. pombe* have different mating systems, divided into homothallic and heterothallic, first studied by Urs Leupold (Leupold 1949; Fantes and Hoffman 2016) **(Figure 1b)**. In general, homothallism (in paper II, this is referred to as the *switcher*) refers to possession within a single individual of the mating components to reproduce sexually. For example, an individual with both “male” and “female” reproductive structures, allowing it to potentially self-reproduce, is classified as homothallic. In many unicellular organisms like fission yeast, homothallism describes the phenomenon of switching of mating type (a change of the genes at the mating type locus from plus to minus or vice versa), within the offspring of a single cell during asexual growth (Hanson and Wolfe 2017). Conversely, heterothallic strains (in paper II, this is referred as the *non-switcher*) only express one of the two mating types (either plus or minus). Thus, during starvation, a single homothallic cell has the potential for mating-type switching after cell division

followed by sexual reproduction, while a heterothallic strains cannot undergo mating-type switching and therefore can only undergo the sexual cycle in the presence of cells of the opposite mating type.

The mating type in fission yeast is defined by the mating locus *mat1*, which can have the alleles Plus (h+) or Minus (h-). However, in the wild homothallic strain  $h^{90}$ , the active *mat1* locus is adjacent to two silent copies *mat2-P* (with allele Plus) and *mat3-M* (with allele Minus). During asexual growth, one of the two silent copies can be copied into the active locus *mat1* by non-homologous recombination, changing the allele between mating types in the active locus. As a result, the daughter cell will have the opposite active mating type compared to the mother cell, and the two cells are now able to sexually conjugate (Hanson and Wolfe 2017).

Spontaneous mutations in the wild  $h^{90}$  configuration can result in heterothallic strains (non-switchers) (Beach and Klar 1984). Although the mutation occurs in low frequency (between 1 in 10,000 and 1 in 1 million cell divisions), an extensive sampling of natural strains around the world found that around 10% were heterothallic (Jeffares et al. 2015). Some known heterothallic genotypes are  $h^{-S}$ ,  $h^{+S}$  or  $h^{+N}$  (Beach and Klar 1984; Heim 1990). In the  $h^{-S}$  and  $h^{+S}$  genotypes, there is a deletion including one of the silent copies, leaving only the active locus and one silent copy (in this case called *mat1* and *mat2:3* respectively). The new variant can still undergo non-homologous recombination between the two copies. However, after one switch, the daughter cell will have both copies (*mat1* and *mat2:3*) with the same mating type allele, as subsequently, there are not father allele switching. In the  $h^{+N}$  genotype, there is an insertion of the fragment from *mat2-P* to *mat3-M*, replacing *mat1* (inserted *mat* copies now called *mat1:2* and *mat3:1*). The first copy (*mat1:2*) is now the active copy, and the second one (*mat3:1*) is silent. The switching occurs between the silent *mat3:1* and the original two silent copies (*mat2* and *mat3*). As a result, the active locus *mat1:2* does not switch, maintaining the same mating type allele (Nielsen and Egel 2007; Hanson and Wolfe 2017).



**Figure 1. a.** The life cycle of *S. pombe* (Figure edited from Nielsen and Egel 2007). **b.** Genetic organization of the mating region. Schematic of the genetic arrangement for homothallics ( $h^{90}$ ; middle) and the two most common heterothallics ( $h^{-S}$  and  $h^{+N}$ ; top and bottom, respectively). Regions are not to scale. In homothallic strain, the active mating-type locus *mat1* (red box) switches between *Plus* (P) and *Minus* (M), using the silent cassettes as templates during cell division. The heterothallic strain  $h^{-S}$  contains only the minus cassette, due to deletion of part of the silent region. The heterothallic strain  $h^{+N}$  is the result of a duplication of almost the entire silent mating type and only expresses the P cassette at *mat1* (Figure edited from Nieuwenhuis et al. 2018).

# Methods

This section briefly describes some of the most relevant methods used in the four papers of this thesis.

## Genome sequencing data

Information derived from whole genome sequencing is becoming one of the most prevalently used data type in evolutionary biology. The general workflow is as follows: DNA is extracted from whole organisms or parts of organisms, the identity and order of nucleotides in a small section of the genome is determined by sequencing, and the larger scale order along the genome of these pieces can be inferred by algorithmic processing. The traditional method begins with the polymerase chain reaction (PCR; Saiki et al. 1985), to amplify a locus of interest. The order of the nucleotides along this locus is then determined by chain-termination DNA sequencing (known as *Sanger sequencing*; Sanger, Nicklen, and Coulson 1977). Sanger sequencing can only produce one fragment with roughly 700 bp of high quality sequence before the quality decreases. The sequencing of larger fragments, therefore, requires the amplification of multiple fragments, which are then analytically ‘stitched’ together. The limitation in sequencing output of Sanger sequencing, was alleviated by high-throughput sequencing data, implemented with next generation sequencing technologies. The high throughput and significantly lower price per sequenced nucleotide allowed the production of whole genomic data from multiple individuals or even populations. Early high-throughput sequencing methods were still limited by the length of any given fragment but this was changed with the introduction of third-generation, long read sequencing technology (Eid et al. 2009). Using a combination of these high-throughput data types provide a more complete view of the genome. In this thesis, three main types of sequencing technologies were used: *Illumina sequencing-by-synthesis* (Bentley et al. 2008), single-molecule real-time sequencing (Pacific BioSciences technology, or *PacBio*; Eid et al. 2009) and nanopore sequencing (Oxford Nanopore technology, or *MinIon*). Different sequencing technologies have different advantages and disadvantages, including data-specific biases, error rate, sequencing cost, and general data handling.

Existing sequencing technologies are still unable to produce a single contiguous sequence corresponding to a whole chromosome. Whole genome sequencing consists of data from millions of shorter, individually sequenced reads from a single sample. Those reads are derived from a sample in which DNA has been fragmented, and fragments are used as a template for sequencing. For *Illumina* sequencing, a single template DNA can be sequenced from both ends (from the 5' or 3' strand), producing pair-reads. Each read is most commonly either 100 or 150 bp long. Using a template DNA normally of around 700 bp, would result in a pair of reads with an expected distance around 350 - 400 bp left un-sequenced between them. The main limitation of collecting small reads, rather than whole chromosome sequences, is that those reads need to be compared to an already existing whole-genome assembly (*reference genome*). Attempting to assemble short reads into larger contigs, although possible, would still result in a highly fragmented chromosome. Reads are usually compared to the reference genome by comparing the sequence and finding regions in the reference genome that correspond to the sequence found in individual reads (*mapping*). The mapping process then compiles individual reads into corresponding genomic regions, which subsequently will allow comparison between multiple reads falling in the same region. If the sequenced sample has genetic variation relative to the reference genome, those differences will be observed on multiple reads mapping to those genomic regions. In all papers of this thesis, the primary focus are individual base variation, known as single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), but structural variation (insertions, deletions, inversions and translocations) are likewise explored in paper II, III and IV.

## Genotyping

The accurate identification of genetic variants requires that those variants are supported by multiple reads. In principle, for a given variant, reads mapping to a genomic region should show the alternative base for all reads (in homozygous or haploid individuals) or in half of the reads (in heterozygous individuals). However, in practice this is not necessarily the case. Frequently reads mapping to the same region can consist of more than two alleles or the ratio of reads consisting alternative alleles deviate from the 50:50 expectation in heterozygous diploids. This can occur as a result of DNA contamination, sequencing errors, incorrect mapping of reads or mapping of the same read in multiple genomic regions. Therefore, the correct identification of genetic variants (*genotyping*) improves with increasing *sequence coverage* (the number of reads mapping to the same genome region – or *read depth*), thus the number of reads with the “correct” genotype is higher relative to those with false alternative alleles or the result of sequencing error.

The need for increased sequencing depth to improve genotyping means that whole-genome sequencing for multiple individuals and populations can easily become very expensive. A given sequencing run produces a maximum specific sequence output. The resulting coverage per individual is therefore a function of the size of the genomic target and the number of individuals. In *S. pombe* this is not a major obstacle as the genome size is small (~13 Mb) and high coverage can be achieved from a single sequencing run (e.g. a single *lane* for Illumina sequencing or *SMRT cell* for long read PacBio sequencing). In order to have a more efficient sequencing strategy, in this thesis individual samples were first labelled with unique sequence tag identifiers (i.e. barcodes). This allows multiple samples to be sequenced in a single lane and then later be assigned to the correct individual. Additionally, for paper I, each sample constitutes a whole population with potentially multiple genotypes, rather than an individual genotype. In this case, the strategy was to sequence the whole population without barcodes (*pool sequencing*). Pooled sequencing cannot provide individual whole genome genotypes. Instead, each read pair is derived from a single DNA molecule, which itself comes from an individual cell. The total sequencing coverage is used as an approximation for sampling individual chromosomes from the original population given enough starting individuals. Sequencing depth/coverage for each genetic variant is then used to estimate allele frequency in the original population (Schlötterer et al. 2014). The estimate of allele frequency derives from counting the number of reads supporting each allele out of the total number of reads mapping to the same genomic location. This approach is widely used and the robustness has been supported empirically (Zhu et al. 2012), but there is concern regarding the accuracy to identify low frequency variants as the signal is mixed with sequencing errors (Cutler and Jensen 2010).

## Genome *de novo* assembly

The use of reference genomes has several methodological implications. A main one being that the power to identify genetic variation is limited to genomic regions present in the reference genome. If a sample has a genomic region that is not present in the reference genome, reads corresponding to those regions will not map, and will be omitted. As an alternative approach one can assemble the genome from the reads of each individual separately instead of mapping them onto a reference. Individual reads can be compared with each other, merging reads when they have overlapping sequence, and extending the sequences into larger fragments (*contigs*). Contigs associated with one another can then be linked into even larger fragments (*scaffolds*). This genome-wide extension of fragments will result in an assembly of a new genome without the use of reference genome (*de-novo assembly*; Ekblom and Wolf 2014; Nimmy and Kamal 2015). The quality of the as-

sembly, based on the completeness of chromosome sequences, will depend on a combination of methodological and intrinsic biological variables. Examples of methodological factors include the quantity and quality of the original sampled DNA, degree of fragmentation, fragment size selection before sequencing, read length, and total number and quality of obtained reads. Similarly, biological factors that affect the quality of genome assembly include: genome size, ploidy level, GC content, population genetic diversity, and repeat content or in general sequence similarity.

In order to improve the *de novo* assemblies that we generated in this thesis we used more recent long-read sequencing technologies (*PacBio* and *Min-Ion*). In this case, template DNA is sequenced in a single direction, but the resulting reads are substantially longer (~ 5 to 100 kb). Long reads improve the quality of assembled genomes and can result in chromosome level *de novo* assemblies for several species, especially those with small genome size (Chin et al. 2013). As a disadvantage, long read sequencing technologies are substantially more expensive and error rate during sequencing is higher. Therefore, the use of long read data has been primarily directed to improve *de novo* genomes and the identification of large structural variation, not possible using short *Illumina* reads (Weissensteiner et al. 2017; Peona, Weissensteiner, and Suh 2018). On the other hand, a combination of short and long reads can complement the disadvantages from either technology. For instance, *de novo* assemblies from long read data can leverage the higher quality of short read data through polishing (error correction) (Walker et al. 2014). The resulting genome assembly can be used then similar to mapping methods. Assembled genomes can be used either to map reads from other samples on these new genomes, or assembled genomes can be directly compared to identify genetic variation.

## Population genetic diversity

Once there is a set of genetic variants genotyped from multiple individuals and populations, these data can be used to summarise variation within population and differentiation between populations. There are several summary statistics to describe genetic variation, but in this thesis the primary focus is the use of estimators of the theoretical parameter  $\theta$ , representing the genetic diversity expected in a hypothetical population, in which all variants are neutral and at mutation-drift equilibrium (populations in which the rate of new neutral mutations is balanced by loss or fixation by genetic drift). The main benefit of using estimators of  $\theta$  is that theoretical expectations can be compared to empirical observations, and the deviation from expectation allows us to make inferences about demographic and selective processes. In general, at mutation-drift equilibrium the amount of genetic diversity that a

population can sustain ( $\theta$ ) is proportional to the effective population size ( $N_e$ ) and the mutation rate ( $\mu$ ):

$$\theta = 4N_e\mu$$

Considering a single biallelic nucleotide polymorphism, each allele will be in the population in a frequency of  $p_i$ , such that the sum of both alleles is 1. One way to measure the variation in a single site is the *heterozygosity* ( $H$ ), defined as:

$$H = \frac{n}{n-1} \left(1 - \sum p_i^2\right)$$

Where  $n$  is the number of sequences sampled. The heterozygosity represents the expected probability of sampling the two alternative alleles when two sequences are sample randomly. The heterozygosity from each variant ( $H_j$ ) can be summed to estimate genetic diversity in the whole sequence or genome ( $\pi$ ) as such:

$$\pi = \sum_{j=1}^S H_j$$

Where  $S$  is the number of polymorphic sites and  $H_j$  is the heterozygosity in the  $j$ th polymorphic site (M Nei and Li 1979; Masatoshi Nei and Tajima 1981; Fumio Tajima 1983). This value is normally reported as a normalised value according to the total sequence length. Alternatively,  $\pi$  can be calculated as the mean number of pairwise nucleotide differences between any two sequences: where  $S$  is the number of polymorphic sites and  $H_j$  is the heterozygosity in the  $j$ th segregating site (Nei and Li 1979; Nei and Tajima 1981; Tajima 1983). This value is normally reported as a normalised value according to the total sequence length. Alternatively,  $\pi$  can be calculated as the mean number of pairwise nucleotide differences between any two sequences:

$$\pi = \frac{\sum_{i<j} k_{ij}}{n(n-1)/2}$$

Where  $k_{ij}$  is the total number of nucleotide difference between the  $i$ th and  $j$ th sequences, from a sample of  $n$  sequences.

An alternative measurement of genetic diversity is *Watterson's theta* ( $\theta_W$ ) (Ewens 1974; Watterson 1975), defined as:

$$\theta_W = \frac{S}{\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{i}}$$

Both  $\theta_W$  and  $\pi$  are expected to be equal in a neutrally evolving population of constant size. However, when assumptions to this neutral expectation are violated, the two estimators behave differently. These violations can happen if the population has had a demographic change (expansion or contraction) or is under selection. Thus, these demographic or selective processes can be quantified by looking at the normalised difference between  $\theta_W$  and  $\pi$  (Tajima's  $D$ ; Tajima 1989):

$$D = \frac{\pi - \theta_W}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(\pi - \theta_W)}}$$

If a population is behaving as expected under a neutral model,  $D$  has a value around 0. In contrast, negative  $D$  will be generally interpreted as either evidence for selective sweeps removing genetic variation or population expansion, and positive  $D$  is interpreted as evidence of either balancing selection or population contraction.

## Population structure

Inferring consistent differences between individuals allows us to identify *population structure* and the amount of time for the divergence between populations to occur. Similar to genetic diversity, several statistics have been proposed. One commonly used statistic to measure differentiation between two populations is  $F_{st}$  (Wright 1931; 1943; 1951; Weir 1996), defined as:

$$F_{st} = \frac{\sum_i \frac{(p_i - \bar{p})^2 n_i}{K-1} \bar{n}}{\bar{p}\bar{q}}$$

Where  $K$  is the number of populations,  $\bar{p}$  and  $\bar{q}$  is the average frequency of alleles  $A$  and  $a$  respectively among populations. Each population  $i$  has  $n_i$  samples and a sample allele frequency  $p_i$ .  $\bar{n}$  is the average sample size. However, although  $F_{st}$  is commonly used, it is strongly influenced by levels of variation within a population (Charlesworth 1998; Jakobsson, Edge, and Rosenberg 2013). For this reason  $F_{st}$  is considered a *relative* measurement of differentiation ranging from 0 to 1 (Cruickshank and Hahn 2014). As an alternative, other statistics of differentiation are used as *absolute* measurements. One example is  $D_{xy}$  (Nei 1973; Nei and Li 1979; Nei 1987), which is the average number of pair-wise differences between sequences from two populations.  $D_{xy}$  is an absolute measurement of differentiation, which is not

influenced by levels of variation within populations (although it depends on mutation rate). It is calculated as:

$$D_{xy} = \sum_{ij} x_i y_j k_{ij}$$

Where  $x_i$  and  $y_j$  are the frequencies of the  $i$ th haplotype from population  $X$  and the  $j$ th haplotype from population  $Y$  respectively.  $k_{ij}$  is the average total number of nucleotide differences between the pair of haplotypes from each population.

## Experimental evolution

Here *experimental evolution* will be defined as the study of genetic and phenotypic changes in populations under controlled and reproducible environmental conditions over multiple generations (Garland and Rose 2009). Environmental conditions can be in the laboratory (artificial environments) or in nature (i.e. droughts, fires, invasions, or epidemics). Environmental conditions can involve various aspects of abiotic, biotic or demographic variables. Experimental populations are then compared with an un-manipulated control population or, in some cases they are compared to the ancestral population prior to experimental manipulation. Thus, the primary advantage of experimental evolution is the ability to have multiple replicates and controls for studying the evolutionary process. Exposing multiple populations to the same novel environment increases our ability to distinguish predictable responses to the novel environment from stochastic differences.

In experimental evolution, as opposed to “*artificial selection*” or “*selective breeding*”, selection on individuals within a population across generations is not based on a single phenotypic trait in particular or a combination of traits. Instead, selection is imposed by the environment (local conditions). The population can respond to those novel conditions and increase their fitness through subsequent generations relative to the ancestral population. Thus, differential phenotypic adaptive responses can be observed between different replicate populations (Garland and Rose 2009). Experiments of artificial selection primarily focus on understanding the organismal properties (i.e. the physiological or genetic bases of a specific trait). On the contrary, evolutionary experiments tend to focus more on testing general evolutionary theories, and the organism itself is used as the conduit for such tests (Garland and Rose 2009; Kawecki et al. 2012).

In contrast to comparative studies in natural systems, evolutionary experiments present several other advantages. For instance, in evolutionary exper-

iments there is no uncertainty about ancestral conditions, which is determined *a priori* in the experimental design. Additionally, environmental conditions can be adjusted, such as restricting variation in single variables or a combination of variables, allowing us to identify the response of a population to those specific conditions (Garland and Rose 2009). Using experimental evolution, populations can respond to selection by enhancing changes in phenotypic traits, which can subsequently be used for functional studies (i.e. identifying the genetic bases of phenotypic traits) (Bennett 2003). Despite these advantages, evolutionary experiments have several drawbacks. Although evolutionary experiments have been conducted in natural ecosystems (Reznick, Bryga, and Endler 1990), most studies tend to be restricted to laboratory conditions. Consequently, the imposed environmental conditions are simplified versions of the multidimensionality encountered in natural environments. Additionally, as the experimental design generally requires multiple populations of large size and short generation times, experiments are restricted to organisms easily maintained in the laboratory. However, the range of available systems is phylogenetically broad, including bacteria, algae, protists, fungi, animal and plants. It is important to note that experimental evolution does not aim to rigorously reproduce nature. Instead, its utility is the ability to test general evolutionary theories under simplified conditions (Bennett and Lenski 1999; Garland and Rose 2009).

In addition to tracking the change in phenotype or certain traits through generations, experimental evolution can also screen for potential causal effects of genetic variants and their relationships with fitness (Kawecki et al. 2012). In this way, genetic variants can come from a focal set of previously identified loci of interest and the ancestral population of the experiment will be polymorphic for those variants. Throughout the experiment, conditions will be manipulated and the response of the population will be measured via changes in allele frequencies (e.g. Murray and Cutter 2011). Experiments can also be done without previous knowledge of the genetic variants involved. For instance, the ancestral population can come from a pool of individuals from one or several natural populations, resulting in a genetic pool upon which selection can directly act during the experiment. The ancestral population for the experiment can also contain no genetic variation (ie. isogenic), in which case evolutionary changes rely on *de novo* mutations occurring randomly over generations. Populations are then subject to selection, and resulting populations can be sequenced to identify genetic variants with divergence in allele frequency (e.g. Kosheleva and Desai 2018). These changes can be the result of adaptation to the experimental conditions, but they can also be due to drift, physical linkage to the causal variant or statistical false-positives. These type of experiments have been used to explore a broad range of topics including testing new technologies, identifying new genes, testing potential genetic interactions (epigenetics), identifying emer-

gence of new functions, estimating mutation rate, identifying size effect distribution, and understanding convergent evolution and patterns of molecular evolution (Kawecki et al. 2012).

# Research aims

The main aim of this thesis was to integrate multiple approaches to identify potential evolutionary processes and factors governing adaptation in the fission yeast *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*. I primarily tested the role of gene flow and genetic admixture on the resulting distribution of phenotypic variation and adaptive divergence between populations. Specific aims for each of the presented papers as part of this thesis are listed below:

**Paper I** – assess the role of gene flow in adaptive divergence by means of experimental evolution, and to identify genetic changes underlying the process and potential intrinsic genetic and phenotypic properties constraining evolutionary trajectories.

**Paper II** – explore the molecular, ecological and evolutionary drivers of the emergence and persistence of switching and non-switching mating strategies in *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*.

**Paper III** – elucidate the evolutionary history of *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*, and identify the importance of genome-wide admixture, structural mutations and negative epistatic selection in explaining phenotypic variation and reproductive isolation.

**Paper IV** – provide new genetic resources and give insights into the evolutionary history in *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* based on diversity patterns of the mitochondrial genome.

# Summary of papers

## Paper I

### **Parallelism in adaptive divergence and the modulating effect of gene flow**

It has been a central topic in evolutionary research how adaptation to different environments may contribute to the origin of genetic and phenotypic divergence. In isolated populations, directional, habitat-specific selection is predicted to foster local specialisation with the potential to promote reproductive isolation, and ultimately speciation (Shafer and Wolf 2013). In connected populations this process is counteracted by gene flow. Here, the interplay between the strength of selection, the degree of gene flow and the genetic architecture of adaptive traits will determine the evolutionary outcome ranging from full admixture, reduced population structure and the emergence of generalist phenotypes (Ronce and Kirkpatrick 2001) to local specialisation followed by the emergence of reproductive isolation (Smadja and Butlin 2011);

Although the adaptation process has been studied in isolated populations, experimental insights into the role of gene flow between populations adapting to contrasting environments are essentially lacking (Gray and Goddard 2012). Here, we performed an evolutionary experiment aiming to identify the role of gene flow on local adaptation, the quality and strength of fitness trade-offs, the importance of standing genetic variation, and the potential genetic architecture driving adaptation with gene flow. 132 populations of the fission yeast *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* were subjected to disruptive selection on settling speed as an environmental factor (named top and bottom selection). Different migration rates were allowed between contrasting environmental conditions, dividing populations along a gradient of gene flow (allopatry, parapatry, local mating and sympatry).

After 53 sexual cycles, fitness components for asexual growth, reproductive efficiency and performance after top and bottom selection were quantified. The degree of adaptation and the strength and direction of the underlying fitness trade-offs showed strong dependency on gene flow. Isolated popula-

tions adapting to either of the two habitats (allopatry) showed consistent convergent adaptation, resulting in population specialisation for local conditions. In the presence of gene flow divergence between top and bottom populations was lost. However, populations with the highest level of gene flow (sympatry) evolved two phenotypically differentiated subpopulations similar to the allopatric populations. Yet, one of the subpopulations was characterized by a generalist strategy with improved performance after both top and bottom selection. Populations experienced a consistent intrinsic trade-off between asexual growth and reproductive efficiency across all levels of gene flow. Other correlations between ecological fitness components, however, depended on gene flow and genetic background. For instance, under high levels of gene flow (local mating, sympatry) growth and performance under both ecological selection were negatively correlated, while there was no relationship in allopatry and parapatry.

Whole-genome re-sequencing of all 132 populations revealed that in contrast to the variation and high complexity of traits under selection, variance in fitness components was mostly attributed to few standing genetic variants in the absence of gene flow. Under conditions of high gene flow, however, adaptation was mostly driven by novel, population specific mutations which were enriched in a subset of genes. We found that this difference may be attributed to the presence of multiple standing genetic variants, each under antagonistic pleiotropy, favoured in one environment but deleterious under alternative ecological conditions. As the pleiotropic cost was only present under conditions of gene flow, adaptation with gene flow relied on the emergence of new mutations subject to conditional neutrality or beneficial in both ecological conditions. Additionally, in the experiment we identified pairs of loci in close proximity showing opposite antagonistic pleiotropy, i.e. the derived mutations were beneficial in opposite environments. Coupling of loci subject to divergent selection is expected promote reproductive isolation.

We presented empirical evidence for convergence shaping life history trait evolution and the genetic composition of populations. Gene flow modulated life history correlations and introduced a shift in strategy from specialisation to one environment to generalist genotypes. Depending on the level of gene flow, fitness variation was strongly driven by both standing and new genetic variation under opposite antagonistic pleiotropy.

## Paper II

### Repeated evolution of self-compatibility for reproductive assurance

Sexual reproduction is a wide spread characteristic for the majority of eukaryotic organisms. Yet, while sexual reproduction presents potential evolutionary advantages such as increased adaptive rates (Muller 1932; Maynard Smith 1971) it requires the costly fusion of two compatible gametes of opposite sexes or mating types. In fungi, mate compatibility is regulated by a mating-types locus, such that only individuals with different alleles in this locus (e.g. *Plus* and *Minus* alleles) can mate. This presents a potential challenge, as the probability of encountering a suitable partner can be reduced by up to 50% when two sexes or mating types exist (Fisher 1930). This could have significant effects on individual and population fitness, especially in structured, lowly dense populations with an obligatory sexual phase in their lifecycle (Nieuwenhuis and James 2016).

The evolutionary responses to the selective pressures for mating can be self-compatibility, hermaphroditism, or in fungi, homothallism. In the later, an individual is compatible with all others, including itself and thus can perform intra-clonal mating, while maintaining the potential to outcross. One common form of homothallism is mating-type switching, also present in *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*, in which individuals have genetic information for the two mating types, but only one is active. During asexual growth, daughter cells render the active locus, switching between mating type alleles.

While the molecular mechanisms of mating-type switching are known in much detail, little is known about its evolutionary origin and the forces that drive the selection for self-compatibility at the population level. Different species of yeast have the switching or the non-switching phenotype, and even populations within species can be polymorphic for the trait. In this study, we explored potential molecular, ecological and evolutionary drivers for the emergence and persistence of switching and non-switching reproductive strategies.

Using phylogenetic analyses we inferred the evolutionary history of mating-type region in 57 differentiated worldwide clades. We found substantial phenotypic variation in switching ability accompanied by structural genetic diversity suggesting multiple inferred transitions from the ancestral state of switching to a non-switching strategy. Next, we tested the emergence of the switching strategy in the laboratory, conducting an evolutionary experiment, in which selection for mating was applied under low population densities of non-switching parental strains. We found that after 25 cycles of selection,

nine of the 20 evolved replicate populations contained the switching phenotype in frequencies from 0.15 to 1.0. The presence of both mating alleles in individual strains and the switching mechanism was confirmed by PCR and whole genome long-read SMRT sequencing.

The remarkable ease with which the novel mating-type switching genotypes arose and could be selected for under experimental conditions suggests that this trait can, in principle, readily emerge and persist in nature. Using fitness measurements and individual based simulations we explored the benefits and costs of switching during sexual and asexual reproduction. As predicted, we found that the switching phenotype had a strong selective advantage during sexual reproduction, intensified under low population densities. However, we also demonstrated a fitness cost for switching during asexual growth with switching strains incurring the cost of lower growth rates.

Our findings illuminate a trade-off between the benefits of reproductive assurance and its fitness costs during prolonged asexual growth. This trade-off may explain the polymorphic condition of mating strategies in natural populations. Our data predict that non-switcher strains would be more prevalent in stable and rich environmental conditions, or in locations where resources are regularly replenished. Conversely, switcher strains would have an adaptive advantage under temporally unstable environments where cycles of sexual reproduction are selectively favoured. These results emphasize the importance of ecological factors driving the evolution of mating strategies.

## Paper III

### **Ancestral admixture is the main determinant of global biodiversity in fission yeast**

Events of natural hybridization between diverging lineages have been extensively recognised as an important evolutionary process and key element for diversification (Abbott et al. 2013). A few extensively studied examples of hybridization have shown its role in adaptive radiation, transfer of adaptive loci within and between species, and the formation of novel, ecologically differentiated species. Upon hybridization, new combinations of genetic variants from divergent parental lineages emerge, consequently expanding phenotypic variation. When combined along the genome, adaptive variants from the parental lineages can be compatible, enhance adaptation and by the interaction of recombination and selection are expected to be brought into linkage. Novel combinations may however also be incompatible and reduce fitness in hybrids. Selection and heterogeneous recombination thus will lead

to differential admixture of the two parental backgrounds along the genome of hybrids.

In this study, we integrated whole-genome sequencing data from a global sample collection of the fission yeast *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* to explore the role of hybridization during adaptation. We found that the evolutionary history of the species involves recent hybridization between two divergent ancestral populations. Hybridization occurred within the last 20-60 sexual outcrossing generations, a timeframe consistent with recent human-induced migration at the onset of intensified transcontinental trade. Comparing the distribution of ancestral blocks along the genome between all samples identified 8 discrete clusters sharing similarly in admixture histories. These clusters did not group geographically suggesting recent global dispersion after hybridization followed by local differentiation.

Next, we assessed the consequences of hybridization on phenotypic variation making use of a large data set of quantitative traits. Phenotypic variation in over 200 measured phenotypes was strongly influenced by hybridization between ancestral populations. Generally, phenotypes in hybrids resembled the parental distribution (dominant phenotypes), or were intermediate between parental values. In several cases, hybrid phenotypes exceeded the distribution of both parental populations (transgressive phenotypes), a feature considered important for the colonization of new environments. Heritable phenotypic variation was explained near-exclusively by haplotype blocks distribution and shared ancestry. Likewise, the degree of postzygotic reproductive isolation quantified as spore viability was very well predicted by the degree of shared ancestry.

Haplotype block distribution along the genome showed large variation in heterogeneity in ancestry exceeding neutral expectations. We tested if this heterogeneity could be explained by incompatibilities of large effect structural mutants, including insertions, deletions, inversion and translocations. We predicted SVs from *de novo* genomes and found little effect on haplotype distribution. SVs were found to be in low frequency with little divergence between ancestral populations. This suggests that the observed SVs with phenotypic and fitness effect were recent, and more generally, that SV were under strong purifying selection. Conversely, we found strongly increased statistical linkage between ancestral populations along the genome, even over large genomic regions. This is consistent with negative epistatic interactions of incompatible genetic backgrounds contributing to the heterogeneity in the distribution and frequency of ancestry along the genome.

This study provides detailed insight into the evolutionary forces and phenotypic consequences of admixture in natural populations. It highlights the

importance of hybridization in generating biodiversity and promoting novel evolutionary trajectories.

## Paper IV

### **Intraspecific diversity of fission yeast mitochondrial genome**

The mitochondrion is a vital organelle within eukaryotic cells that catalyses an exothermal process providing chemical energy accessible to the cell. Mitochondria contain their own genetic material separated from the nuclear genome. This property can be exploited to obtain an independent assessment of an organism's evolutionary history. Surprisingly in *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*, despite its importance as a model system in cell biology, little is known about its ecology, origin, and evolutionary history (Jeffares 2018).

In this study, we provide new insights into mitochondrial diversity and evolutionary history of natural *S. pombe* population samples. We performed *de-novo* mitochondrial genome assembly and annotation from 192 globally distributed samples. All strains contained a total of 69 non-clonal haplotypes substantially varying in length from 17 to 26 kb. Differences in mitochondrial size were due to variation in presence–absence polymorphisms of intronic sequence. Additional to the 7 known introns in *S. pombe* (*cox1-IIa*, *cox1-IIb*, *cox1-I2a*, *cox1-I2b*, *cox1-I3*, *cob-II*, and *cox2-II*), 3 of which are present in the reference strain (*cox1-IIb*, *cox1-I2b*, and *cob-II*), we identified 2 additional introns (*cox1-IIb0* and *cox1-I4*). *Cox1-IIb0* showed orthology to *cox1-IIb* when present, but sequence similarity between them was below 71% for most of the sequence. *Cox1-I4* did not share close relationship with any known intron, and instead showed higher sequence similarity with the highly divergent *cox1-ai1* and *cox1-ai2* introns in *S. cerevisiae*. This observation suggests that *Cox1-I4* may have been inserted by horizontal gene transfer from a species in the Saccharomycetaceae clade.

Based on patterns of mitochondrial diversity, we infer that all haplotypes originated from two ancestral populations which recently hybridized; a result consistent with previous work focussing on the nuclear genome (Tusso et al. 2019). Despite high levels of inter-lineage admixture, for the large majority of strains we found no evidence of mitochondrial recombination. We calculated that the divergence time between the two ancestral populations was around 31 million generations ago. Assuming the generation time in the wild for *S. pombe* is similar to the common yeast (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*), the estimated number of generations corresponds to around 78000 years. Although we emphasize the high uncertainty of this estimate in years, diver-

gence time between ancestral populations would fall within the most recent glacial period between 110000 and 12000 years ago. We speculate that the expansions of ice sheets resulted in fragmentation of the ancestral population into two allopatric subpopulations, one of them restricted to southern Europe, and the second one predominating in Asia. These subpopulations may have recently hybridized upon secondary contact, a process believed to be associated with human migration (see paper III).

These results contribute to our understanding of the evolutionary history of *S. pombe* and contribute genomic resources for future studies.

# Conclusions and future prospects

What is the origin of biodiversity? Insights on evolutionary processes resulting in population differentiation and speciation rely on clear understanding on the origin of genetic variation, its translation into phenotypic variation, and how phenotypes within the population are environmentally selected. Advances in theoretical work with a constant increase in our ability to generate genomic data, has allowed interpreting the evolutionary history of natural populations in a suite of organisms. However, theoretical predictions remain challenging since interactions between intrinsic genomic properties, external environmental pressures and demographic processes can result in similar genomic patterns.

In this thesis, I present a series of studies in which multiple approaches were integrated to unravel the evolutionary processes governing adaptive divergence. These include comparative genomics, population genetic simulations and analyses, as well as experimental evolution. This work is centred on the fission yeast *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*, a cell biological model species that has so far gained little attention in evolutionary research. This thesis is a clear example of its potential to tackle fundamental questions in evolutionary biology.

All four chapters of the thesis provide strong evidence of the pervasive impact of gene flow and genetic admixture on the resulting distribution of phenotypic variation and adaptive divergence between populations. The effect of gene flow was tested in two scenarios: first, under experimental evolution phenotypic variation and local adaptation emerging under differentiated environments was modulated by different levels of gene flow; second, variation in phenotypic traits and reproductive isolation resulted after secondary contact of natural already divergent populations (hybridization). We demonstrated that the evolutionary trajectory is affected by gene flow, shifting from local specialisation in the absence of gene flow, to reduced adaptive divergence and emergence of a generalist strategist under high levels of gene flow. This work not only adds to the evidence that hybridization is an important evolutionary process. It dissects the effect of gene flow relative to other variables and their interaction like population evolutionary history, environmental stability and selection regime it experiences, available stand-

ing genetic variation, genetic architecture of the traits under selection and intrinsic organismal and ecologically induced phenotypic trade-offs.

In addition to selection acting on independent genetic variants, an important result from this thesis is the apparent persistence of genic “adaptation hotspots”, gene interaction and linkage between genetic variants. These interactions showed to have a profound effect in the resulting genetic and phenotypic variation observed in both experimental and natural populations. For instance, genetic variants in experimental populations rarely reached fixation. Instead, evolutionary convergence was observed at the gene level, with multiple alternative variants in the same set of genes. Several of these variants responded to disruptive selection with antagonistic pleiotropy effect, acting in both synergistic and opposite directions. Similarly, genetic composition after hybridisation in natural populations showed to be non-random showing large variation in the heterogeneity of introgression from both ancestral populations suggesting selective constraints for admixture between genetic backgrounds.

Furthermore, this thesis presents insights into the effect of structural variation on phenotypic divergence. Structural variation in *S. pombe* has previously been shown to have large effect on phenotypic variation and reproductive isolation. Consistent with this notion, SVs induced by non-homologous recombination in the mating type locus played an important role in the reestablishment of self-compatibility during experimental evolution and for naturally occurring polymorphism in mating system. However, genome-wide genetic variation of SV showed a different picture. Here, the evolution of structural variants was heavily restricted by selective constraints, with little divergence driven by selective sweeps from structural mutations nor by neutral processes like genetic drift. Although we identified a large set of structural variants, they showed to be under strong purifying selection, resulting in little long term divergence between populations. Observed structural variants were rather recent, in low frequency and population specific.

The high complexity of different factors interacting during evolution with gene flow makes it difficult to make general conclusions for other systems. To date only a limited number of studies have directly tested the role of gene flow on adaptive divergence experimentally. This thesis thus contributes valuable results, but at the same time, it exposes the potential for significantly different results under alternative experimental conditions or systems. Experimental evolution is a promising approach, which combined with comparative genomics can shed light on the evolutionary history of species and factors driving it. Additional empirical work both in *S. pombe* and beyond is needed, testing alternative conditions and phylogenetic groups in order to identify consistent general patterns.

# Svensks Sammanfattning

Kunskapen om hur differentiering och adaptation sker i naturen är fundamental för att förstå biodiversitetens ursprung. Nya teoretiska resultat inom artbildning, tillsammans med den ökande kapaciteten att på ett enkelt sätt generera sekvensdata från hela genom, har främjat en utforskning av de genomiska förändringar som är relevanta för adaptationsprocesser. Dock är det fortsatt utmanande att uttyda evolutionära processer från genomiska divergensmönster, som styrs både av intrinsiska genomegenskaper och extrinsiska selektionsstryck. Den kronologiska ordningen av genomförändringar samt de evolutionära krafter som driver divergensprocesser kan sällan uttydas direkt från naturliga populationer av sexuellt reproducerande organismer.

För tillfället ser jag två lovande vägar att hantera frågan om divergensens genomiska ursprung: (1) evolutionära experiment med syfte att simulera divergensprocesser och mäta genomiska förändringar medan de sker; (2) empiriska fallstudier av närbesläktade arter och populationer i vilka divergensens omfattning varierar, vilket tillåter oss att inferera den kronologiska ordningen av genomförändringar och inflytandet av andra faktorer. I min doktorandforskning applicerade jag dessa två tillvägagångssätt genom att använda svampen *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* som modellsystem. Först testade jag experimentellt potentialen för ekologisk divergens med genflöde (d.v.s. utan geografiska barriärer mellan populationer), och undersökte genomiska och fenotypiska förändringar associerade med denna process. Sedan kompletterade jag de experimentella resultaten genom att studera genomdata tillförskansade från naturliga populationer världen över. I både de experimentella och empiriska tillvägagångssätten baserades den genetiska inferensen på en varietet av sekvenseringsteknologier såsom Illumina-, Pacbio- och MinIonsekvensering.

De evolutionära experimenten utforskade effekten av genflöde på fenotyp- och fitnessfördelning samt påvisade potentiella molekyllära mekanismer underliggandes den adaptiva divergensen (Artikel I). Vi påvisade uppkomsten av lokal specialisering under en låg nivå av genflöde och generalism, när genflödesnivån tilläts vara högre. Utvecklade fenotyper var främst influerade av den redan tillgängliga genetiska variationen under motsatt antagonistisk pleiotropi. Även nya mutationer berikade vissa gener. Det experimentella selektionsskicket visade sig också ha en stark effekt på parningsstrategi som

ett resultat av temporär ekologisk heterogenitet och selektion för parningseffektivitet (Artikel II). Evolutionen av parningsstrategier kan förklaras av en “trade-off” mellan parningseffektivitet och asexuell tillväxt, beroende av stabilitet i miljön. I naturliga populationer påvisade vi att genflöde har en essentiell roll i adaptiv divergens. Vi visade att alla kända *S. pombe* släktlinjer var och en har uppstått ur nyligen skedda hybridiseringar mellan två ursprungliga grupper med stora effekter på fenotypisk variation och reproduktiv isolering (Artikel III). Den demografiska historien som uttyds ur kärngenet bekräftades med mitokondrisk genetisk diversitet, vilket är ytterligare bevis för de ursprungliga populationernas geografiska hemvist och potential för horisontell genöverföring från en avlägsen grupp av jäst (Artikel IV).

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