

Cold Fusion: Massive Karyotype Evolution in the Antarctic Bullhead Notothen *Notothenia coriiceps*

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ABSTRACT Half of all vertebrate species share a series of chromosome fusions that preceded the teleost genome duplication (TGD), but we do not understand the causative evolutionary mechanisms. The “Robertsonian-translocation hypothesis” suggests a regular fusion of each ancestral acro- or telocentric chromosome to just one other by centromere fusions, thus halving the karyotype. An alternative “genome-stirring hypothesis” posits haphazard and repeated fusions, inversions, and reciprocal and nonreciprocal translocations. To study large-scale karyotype reduction, we investigated the decrease of chromosome numbers in Antarctic notothenioid fish. Most notothenioids have 24 haploid chromosomes, but bullhead notothen (*Notothenia coriiceps*) has 11. To understand mechanisms, we made a RAD-tag meiotic map with ~10,000 polymorphic markers. Comparative genomics aligned about a thousand orthologs of platyfish and stickleback genes along bullhead chromosomes. Results revealed that 9 of 11 bullhead chromosomes arose by fusion of just two ancestral chromosomes and two others by fusion of three ancestral chromosomes. All markers from each ancestral chromosome remained contiguous, implying no inversions across fusion borders. Karyotype comparisons support a history of: (1) Robertsonian fusions of 22 ancestral chromosomes in pairs to yield 11 fused plus two small unfused chromosomes, like *N. angustata*; (2) fusion of one of the remaining two ancestral chromosomes to a preexisting fused pair, giving 12 chromosomes like *N. rossii*; and (3) fusion of the remaining ancestral chromosome to another fused pair, giving 11 chromosomes in *N. coriiceps*. These results raise the question of what selective forces promoted the systematic fusion of chromosomes in pairs and the suppression of pericentric inversions in this lineage, and provide a model for chromosome fusions in stem teleosts.

KEYWORDS

Notothenioid
Antarctica
Robertsonian
translocation
teleost genome
duplication
karyotype
reduction

Compared to placental mammals, teleost fish have remarkably similar chromosome numbers: 58% of 580 teleost species studied have 24 or 25 haploid chromosomes (Naruse *et al.* 2004). The distribution shows a

small secondary peak at ~50 chromosomes (25 of 580 species, 0.4%) (Naruse *et al.* 2004), which mostly involves species like salmonids and carps, whose lineages experienced a relatively recent genome duplication event (Ohno *et al.* 1967; Allendorf and Thorgaard 1984). Placental mammals, on the other hand, have wildly variable karyotypes with four small peaks at 19 (4.7% of mammals), 21 (8.5%), 22 (8.1%), and 24 (8.8%) haploid chromosomes, with the remaining 70% distributed between 3 and > 50 chromosomes (Naruse *et al.* 2004). Even within a single order, different placental mammals can have dramatically different karyotypes; for example, Cervidae (deer) vary between 3 and 40 chromosomes in the haploid set and Rodentia (rodents) range between 5 and 51 (Scherthan 2012). Teleosts with a sequenced genome generally preserve chromosome numbers similar to the ancestral karyotype: zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) with 25 chromosomes (Amores and Postlethwait 1999), medaka (*Oryzias latipes*) and platyfish (*Xiphophorus maculatus*) both with 24 (Ocalewicz 2004; Kasahara *et al.* 2007), cod

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(*Gadus morhua*) with 23 (Ghigliotti *et al.* 2012), fugu pufferfish (*Takifugu rubripes*) having 22 (Miyaki *et al.* 1995), and both stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*) and green pufferfish (*Tetraodon nigroviridis*) with 21 haploid chromosomes (Grutzner *et al.* 1999; Urton *et al.* 2011). Karyotypic stability in teleosts vs. variability in mammals is even more notable given that teleosts have been diverging for more than twice as long as placental mammals, ~230 vs. ~65 MY (Hurley *et al.* 2007; Wible *et al.* 2007; Santini *et al.* 2009). These observations pose questions concerning evolutionary mechanisms that appear to have constrained karyotypic evolution in teleosts or to have permitted variable karyotypes in mammals.

Karyotypic stability among teleosts is even more surprising given the TGD, which occurred ~226–316 MYA (Amores *et al.* 1998; Taylor *et al.* 2003; Jaillon *et al.* 2004; Hurley *et al.* 2007; Santini *et al.* 2009). The TGD initially doubled the chromosome number, and the return to functional diploidy involved a substantial number of chromosomal rearrangements after the TGD (Nakatani *et al.* 2007). The TGD occurred after the divergence of the teleost lineage from the Holostean lineage, which includes spotted gar (*Lepisosteus oculatus*) and bowfin (*Amia calva*), ~350 MYA (Hoegg *et al.* 2004; Amores *et al.* 2011). Surviving holosteans have slowly evolving genomes (Braasch *et al.* 2016) and, remarkably, many entire gar and chicken chromosomes have orthologous gene content and even chromosome size (Braasch *et al.* 2016), suggesting that few interchromosomal exchanges occurred in these lineages since gar and chicken last shared a common ancestor ~450 MYA. Because the nonteleost fish spotted gar has 29 chromosomes in its haploid set (Braasch *et al.* 2016), extensive chromosome fusion events must have occurred in the teleost lineage to achieve the 25 haploid chromosomes found in most of today's teleosts despite the TGD. Comparative genomic analyses showed that pairwise chromosome fusions occurred in the teleost lineage before the TGD (Braasch *et al.* 2016). Understanding the mechanisms of such massive fusion events would help us to understand genome evolution for half of all vertebrates.

Although teleost genomes retained extraordinarily stable chromosome numbers with few interchromosomal exchanges (translocations) after the chromosomal fusion events that preceded the TGD, comparative genomic analyses have shown that teleosts experienced frequent intrachromosomal rearrangements (inversions and transpositions) (Postlethwait *et al.* 1998; Naruse *et al.* 2004). For example, platyfish and medaka karyotypes remained remarkably similar with few translocations between chromosomes but with numerous transpositions and inversions since their lineages diverged ~120 MYA (Amores *et al.* 2011, 2014). An example is linkage group (LG) 9 of the platyfish, which, although sharing reciprocally exclusive conserved synteny with LG4 of medaka, experienced > 30 inversions and transpositions with respect to the latter (Amores *et al.* 2014). These observations pose a problem: what forces permitted intrachromosomal rearrangements but restricted interchromosomal exchanges in teleosts? Solutions could come from exploring situations that counter these rules, situations in which translocations are many but perhaps inversions might be few. To probe these issues, we investigated a case of extensive chromosome number reduction in Antarctic notothenioid fishes.

Within teleosts, a single suborder of percomorph fish, the notothenioids, currently dominates the subzero (–1.9°) water of the Southern Ocean (Eastman 2005). After the separation of Antarctica, South America, and Australia ~35 MYA (Near *et al.* 2015), the Drake Passage opened and the Circumpolar Currents formed, thereby isolating the Southern Ocean and allowing it to gradually chill to its current frigid condition ~10–14 MYA (Kennett 1977). During this prolonged cooling period, many taxa became locally extinct, liberating numerous

ecological niches into which notothenioids could radiate (Eastman 1993; Eastman and McCune 2000). As notothenioids conquered Antarctic waters, they evolved key innovations, including the origin of antifreeze glycoproteins (AFGPs) (DeVries 1988; Chen *et al.* 1997; Cheng and Chen 1999; Cheng and Detrich 2007) and a greatly altered inducible heat shock response (Hofmann *et al.* 2000; Place and Hofmann 2005; Huth and Place 2013; Buckley *et al.* 2004; Buckley and Somero 2009; Detrich *et al.* 2012).

Like most teleosts, Antarctic notothenioids generally have 24 chromosome pairs (see Figure 1). Even icefish (Channichthyidae, Figure 1) retain this ancestral karyotype despite their highly derived features: delayed and reduced bone and scale mineralization, substantial deposition of lipids, the loss of myoglobin and/or hemoglobin genes, the diffusion of oxygen directly through scaleless skin, decreased oxygen demand associated with changes in the density and morphology of mitochondria, and increased relative heart size and pumping volume (Koch 2005; Albertson *et al.* 2010; Friedrich and Hagen 1994; Hagen *et al.* 2000; Hemmingsen 1991; Egginton *et al.* 2002; Sidell *et al.* 1997; O'Brien *et al.* 2000).

However, several notothenioid lineages retained ancestral morphologies but evolved karyotypes with a dramatically reduced chromosome number (Figure 1), including *Lepidonotothen nudifrons* ($1n = 14$), *Trematomus loennbergii* ($1n = 14$), and the *Bathyraco marri* and *Rakovitzia glacialis* lineages ($1n = 19$ and 18, respectively) (Tomaszkiewicz *et al.* 2011; Morescalchi *et al.* 1992b; Near and Cheng 2008; Ozouf-Costaz *et al.* 1991). However, the most dramatic karyotype evolution among notothenioid fish involves the lineage of the genus *Notothenia*. Fish in the monophyletic group *Notothenia angustata*, *N. microlepidota*, and *N. magellanica* (Dettai *et al.* 2012) have 13 chromosomes as a haploid set, *N. rossii* has 12, and *N. coriiceps* has the further reduced set of 11 haploid chromosomes (Prirodina and Neyelov 1984; Doussau de Bazignan and Ozouf-Costaz 1985; Van *et al.* 1987; Ozouf-Costaz and Doussau de Bazignan 1987; Ozouf-Costaz *et al.* 1991; Pisano *et al.* 2003b) (Figure 1). These observations raise the question: what evolutionary processes resulted in the *N. coriiceps* genome possessing fewer than half the number of chromosomes that is found in most other notothenioids and indeed, most other teleost fish?

N. coriiceps could have evolved a greatly reduced karyotype by any of several mechanisms. Under a simple “Robertsonian-translocation hypothesis,” each of the 24 ancestral haploid acro- or telocentric chromosomes fused with just one other chromosome at their centromeres (Robertsonian translocations) (Robertson 1916) to produce 12 chromosomes (as is now found in *N. rossii*), followed by the fusion of the last two single chromosomes to two previously-fused chromosomes to give the 11 haploid chromosomes of today's bullhead *N. coriiceps*. In contrast to this hypothesized regular, one-to-one, mostly centromere-to-centromere (Robertsonian translocation) mechanism, one could imagine an alternative “genome stirring hypothesis” that involves many seemingly haphazard events involving multiple and repeated chromosome fusions, fissions, transpositions, inversions, and reciprocal or nonreciprocal translocations, as in some grasses (The International Brachypodium Initiative 2010). Hypotheses intermediate between these two extremes are also possible. These two hypotheses make different predictions regarding the historical origin of parts of each bullhead chromosome. The Robertsonian-translocation hypothesis predicts that nearly all bullhead chromosomes would correspond to all of just two ancestral chromosomes fused at their centromeres. In contrast, the genome-stirring hypothesis predicts that each bullhead chromosome would be a haphazard mingling of parts of several ancestral chromosomes, with different segments of each ancestral chromosome appearing on several bullhead chromosomes, and each

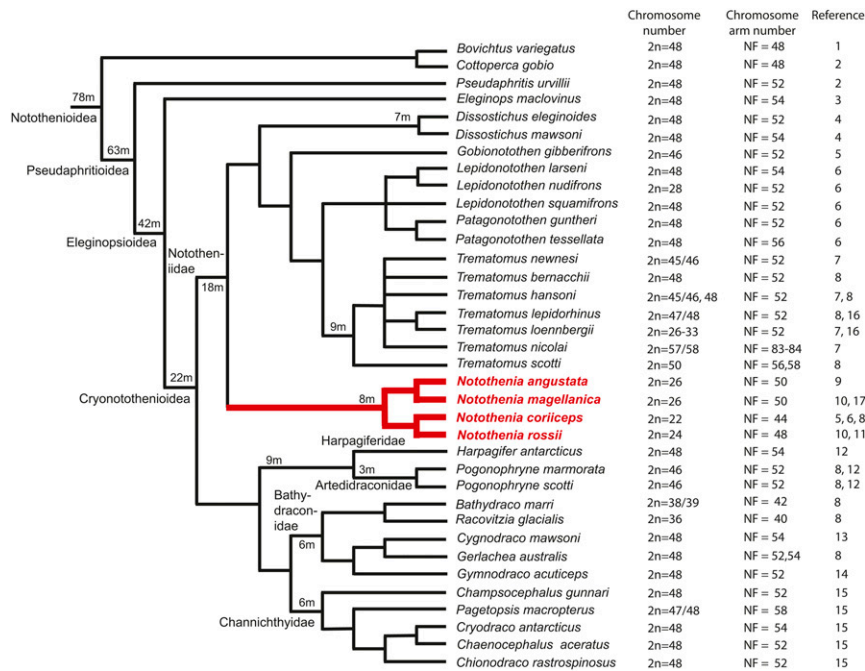


Figure 1 Cladogram and chromosome numbers for Antarctic fish. The phylogeny is modified from (Near 2008; Near 2015; Near 2004; Papetti 2016). Abbreviations: 2N, diploid chromosome number; NF, the number of chromosome arms (nombre fundamental). References: 1: (Mazzei et al. 2006). 2: (Pisano et al. 1995). 3: (Mazzei et al. 2008). 4: (Ghigliotti et al. 2007). 5: (Phan et al. 1987). 6: (Tomaszkiewicz et al. 2011). 7: (Morescalchi et al. 1992a). 8: (Ozouf-Costaz et al. 1991). 9: (Pisano et al. 2003b). 10: (Doussau de Bazignan and ozouf-Costaz 1985). 11: (Prirodina and Neyelov 1984). 12: (Prirodina 1997). 13: (Morescalchi et al. 1996). 14: (Pisano et al. 2001). 15: (Morescalchi et al. 1992a,b). 16: (Ghigliotti et al. 2015).

bullhead chromosome consisting of segments from several ancestral chromosomes.

To distinguish these two hypotheses, we made sex-specific meiotic maps for *N. coriiceps* using sequence-based markers produced by RAD-seq (Baird et al. 2008; Miller et al. 2007a,b; Amores et al. 2011) and identified ancestral chromosomes by comparative genomics with outgroups. For comparative genomics, we identified coding sequences on RAD-tag markers mapped on the *N. coriiceps* map to stickleback and platyfish genome sequences (Schartl et al. 2013; Amores et al. 2014; Jones et al. 2012). Because notothenioids and sticklebacks both occupy Near's clade XIII of spiny-ray fishes, DNA sequences of notothenioids and stickleback should be more similar than DNA sequences of notothenioids and platyfish, which occupies clade VII (Near et al. 2012b). Nevertheless, the karyotype of stickleback with 21 chromosomes is more derived than platyfish with 24. The Robertsonian fusion hypothesis predicts that ancestral chromosomes would mostly be fused one-to-one. In contrast, the genome stirring hypothesis predicts a disorganized, rather haphazard arrangement of parts of ancestral chromosomes. Results showed that 22 of the 24 chromosomes present in the ancestral Notothenioid (as inferred from comparative genomics with stickleback and platyfish) fused in pairs, and then the remaining two unfused chromosomes joined two previously merged chromosomes to form today's *N. coriiceps* karyotype of 11 haploid chromosomes. In contrast to the dramatic, extensive, and concerted evolution of Robertsonian translocations experienced in the *N. coriiceps* lineage, the current karyotype shows no inversions across centromeres since the flurry of fusions. Coupling the *N. coriiceps* genome sequence (Shin 2014) to the extensive meiotic map presented here should illuminate the molecular genetic mechanisms responsible for the trend of karyotype evolution experienced in the lineage of genus *Notothenia*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Animals

Adult *N. coriiceps* were collected by bottom trawls or baited traps deployed from the ARSV *Laurence M. Gould* southwest of Low Island [Antarctic Specially Protected Area (ASPA) 152, Western

Bransfield Strait; latitudes 63°15'S–63°30'S, longitudes 62°00'W–62°45'W, bounded on northeast by Low Island] or west of Brabant Island (ASPA 153, Eastern Dallmann Bay; latitudes 63°53'S–64°20'S and longitudes 62°16'W–62°45'W, bounded on the east by the shoreline of Brabant Island) in the Palmer Archipelago in May 2008. Fish were transported alive to Palmer Station, Antarctica, where they were maintained in seawater aquaria at -1° to 0° . Eggs from a single female and sperm from a single male were stripped, gametes were mixed, and progeny from this single *in vitro* fertilization event were maintained at $\sim -1^{\circ}\text{C}$ until they were about a month old, in midembryo stages [see Postlethwait et al. (2016)], and then were stored in 100% EtOH at -20° . The male and female parents were killed by MS-222 overdose and samples of muscle, liver, fin, and spleen were stored in 100% EtOH at -20° until further use. Genomic DNA was isolated using the DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit (QIAGEN). The University of Oregon IACUC approved all protocols (13-27RR).

Creation of RAD-tag libraries

Genomic DNA was purified from the male and female parents and 244 of their progeny. RAD-tag libraries were created as described (Amores et al. 2011). DNA from each fish was digested with high-fidelity *Sbf*I (New England Biolabs) restriction enzyme overnight and each sample was separately barcoded with P1 and P2 adaptor ligations overnight, using 96 different five-nucleotide barcodes. Fifty nanograms of pooled, size-selected DNA was amplified by PCR for 12 cycles and the PCR product was gel purified by excising a 200–500 bp fraction. Libraries were sequenced on an Illumina GAI or HiSeq2000 to obtain 100-nucleotide single-end reads.

Marker genotyping

Sequenced reads from the Illumina runs were sorted by barcode, allowing up to one mismatched nucleotide in the barcode sequence. Reads containing uncalled bases and those that had an average *phred* quality score that fell below 10 over 15% of the read length were discarded. Retained reads were genotyped using the software Stacks (Catchen et al. 2011). Progeny with $< 800,000$ reads were excluded

■ **Table 1 Total genetic length in centimorgans (cM) and total number of markers for each linkage group**

LG	Female Map cM	Male Map cM	Female Map Markers	Male Map Markers	Total Markers	ab × cd	ef × eg	hk × hk	lm × ll	nn × np	Synteny to Gac	Synteny to Xma
1	104.3	106.4	457	468	896	34	112	114	310	326	176	136
2	100	103.3	487	503	976	18	100	106	367	385	167	122
3	92.5	107.6	454	443	862	27	106	100	319	310	197	128
4	111.5	96.2	441	487	894	35	118	110	296	335	184	120
5	101.3	91.1	408	439	841	23	91	107	294	326	199	138
6	105	102.2	415	456	853	28	99	108	288	330	178	124
7	101.7	104.5	421	438	831	23	95	89	303	321	165	125
8	105.5	86.9	446	406	801	21	116	84	309	271	149	102
9	113.5	96.2	384	396	764	17	95	97	272	283	197	131
10	105.1	108.5	367	405	740	15	95	81	253	296	147	101
11	95.6	98	346	359	680	15	78	68	253	266	126	93
Total	1136	1100.9	4626	4800	9138	256	1105	1064	3264	3449	1885	1320

Markers of type *ab × cd* (segregating 1:1:1:1) were heterozygous in both parents with two male-specific alleles and two female-specific alleles; markers of type *ef × eg* (segregating 1:1:1:1) were heterozygous in both parents with one male-specific allele, one female-specific allele, and one shared allele; markers of type *hk × hk* (segregating 1:2:1) were heterozygous in both parents with two shared alleles; markers of type *lm × ll* (segregating 1:1) were heterozygous in the female parent and homozygous in the male parent; and markers of type *nn × np* (segregating 1:1) were homozygous in the female parent and heterozygous in the male parent. LG, linkage group; Gac, conserved markers for stickleback; Xma, conserved markers for platyfish.

from Stacks analysis. The parameters for Stacks provided to `denovo_map.pl` were: a minimum of five reads for a stack (-m 5), up to four differences when merging stacks into loci (-M 4), and up to two fixed differences when merging loci from the parents into the catalog (-n 2). Stacks exported data into JoinMap 4.1 (Van Ooijen 2006) for linkage analysis.

Map construction

Of the 244 F1 individual progeny sequenced, 52 fish did not have enough coverage or had too many missing genotypes (> 20%) to use for mapping. Linkage analysis was performed with JoinMap 4.1 (Van Ooijen 2006) with markers present in at least 150 of the 192 remaining individuals. Because JoinMap 4.1 could not work with our large number of markers, we partitioned the original dataset into two sets of markers. Markers were initially grouped in JoinMap 4.1 using the “independence LOD” parameter under “population grouping” with a minimum LOD value of 23.0. After one dataset was analyzed, some markers from each LG were added as anchors to the second dataset, and LGs were established. All markers from the same LG in both data subsets were combined and analysis of individual LGs was performed at LOD of 25.0. Markers that remained unlinked at LOD < 25 were excluded. Markers segregated according to one of five different patterns: (1) type *ab × cd* markers (segregating 1:1:1:1) were heterozygous in both parents with two male specific alleles and two female specific alleles; (2) type *ef × eg* markers (segregating 1:1:1:1) were heterozygous in both parents with one male specific allele, one female specific allele, and one shared allele; (3) type *hk × hk* markers (segregating 1:2:1) were heterozygous in both parents with shared alleles; (4) type *lm × ll* markers (segregating 1:1) were heterozygous in the female parent and homozygous in the male parent; and (5) type *nn × np* markers (segregating 1:1) were homozygous in the female parent and heterozygous in the male parent. After obtaining a consensus map, marker sets were partitioned into paternal and maternal markers to enable the construction of sex-specific linkage maps using the “Create Maternal and Paternal Population Nodes” feature in JoinMap. Marker ordering was performed using the Maximum Likelihood algorithm in JoinMap 4.1 with default parameters. Putative double recombinants were identified using the “genotype probabilities” feature in JoinMap 4.1 and by visual inspection of the colorized graphical genotypes. After visual inspection of the individual sequences in Stacks, markers were

corrected as needed. For example, if a double recombinant was a homozygote with a small number of reads, the genotype was eliminated because it might represent a heterozygote that lacked sufficient depth, by chance, to obtain a sequence for the second allele; likewise, if a double recombinant was a heterozygote with only one sequence for the second allele, the genotype was eliminated because the second sequence could be a sequencing error. The new dataset with corrected genotypes was loaded again into JoinMap 4.1 and linkage analysis was repeated until Joinmap identified no suspicious genotypes. The “expected recombination count” feature in JoinMap 4.1 was used to identify individuals with more recombination events than expected. Visual inspection of marker order was performed and, when necessary, marker order was manually optimized by moving a marker or group of markers to a new position that reduced the total number of recombination events. Segregation distortion was determined by calculating the χ^2 values for each marker using JoinMap 4.1. Relative segregation distortion along each LG was determined by plotting the χ^2 values against position along each LG using only markers with no more than five missing genotypes. Significance thresholds of $P = 0.01$ and 0.001 were plotted as horizontal lines on the graphs.

Analysis of conserved syntenies

The sequence from each RAD marker was used as a search query against the platyfish (Amores *et al.* 2014) and stickleback (Jones *et al.* 2012) genome databases using an e-value cutoff of $1e^{-12}$ and a minimum sequence alignment overlap of 75% of the RAD-tag length. Markers with sequence conservation to multiple locations were eliminated from the analysis.

Genome size and coverage

Genome length was estimated using Method-4 of Chakravarti *et al.* (1991) in which each LG length is adjusted by the factor $m+1/m-1$, where m is the number of markers on the LG, and by the method described in (Fishman *et al.* 2001 #70), in which twice the value of marker spacing, s , is added to the length of each LG. Total map coverage was calculated as the ratio between observed and estimated genome length.

Data availability

RAD-tag sequences of all mapped individuals are available online at the NCBI Sequence Read Archive (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra>; accession number SRP047484).

RESULTS

Making the map

Sequencing produced 15.3 million sequences for both the male and female parents of the map cross and an average of 2.2 million sequences for individual progeny. Stacks software yielded a total of 74,508 RAD-tags, of which 60,349 were present in at least 10 progeny individuals. We identified SNPs segregating in 14,396 RAD-tags, and of those, 11,808 were present in at least 150 progeny fish. (Supplemental Material Table S1.)

Of the 11,808 mapped RAD-tag markers present in at least 150 of 192 progeny, 9138 markers mapped to the male map, or to the female map, or to both (Table 1), at the minimum required LOD of 25. The dataset included 1,654,303 total genotypes, 96,038 (5.5%) missing genotypes, and 1853 (0.1%) manually corrected genotypes. JoinMap 4.1 assigned markers to 11 LGs, which equals the number of cytogenetically described chromosomes (Phan *et al.* 1987; Ozouf-Costaz *et al.* 1991; Tomaszkiwicz *et al.* 2011). The total number of markers belonging to each LG ranged from a high of 976 in *N. coriiceps* LG2 (Nco2) to a low of 680 markers in Nco11. (Figure S1.)

Map lengths were similar for both sexes: 1136 cM for the female map and 1100.9 cM for the male map; the combined consensus map was 1300 cM long. LG sizes ranged between 92.5 and 113.5 cM for the female map and between 86.9 and 108.5 cM for the male map. The estimated genome length based on genetic map data showed that the RAD-tag map covers from 99.1 to 99.4% of the total genome length (Chakravarti *et al.* 1991; Fishman *et al.* 2001). Because the bullhead notothen genome is ~637 Mb (Shin 2014), the genome has a density of ~14.3 mapped markers per Mb.

Sex-specific recombination rates

Although the sex-specific linkage maps were similar in total length, the two maps differed substantially in the distribution of recombination events along the chromosomes. In the female map, recombination was more frequent near the centromeres, but in the male map, the recombination rate was higher near the telomeres; Figure 2 shows an example for LG1 (Nco1, *N. coriiceps* LG 1). Centromere position was estimated from cytogenetic data (Ozouf-Costaz *et al.* 1991; Phan *et al.* 1987; Tomaszkiwicz *et al.* 2011) as the block of markers with greatly reduced recombination near the middle of LGs for these metacentric chromosomes.

Segregation distortion

Most markers showed expected Mendelian segregation ratios. However, the segregation of some markers, fell outside expected Mendelian segregation ratios, a phenomenon that can occur if gametes or embryos have viability defects due to linked loci. For example, Nco11 showed little segregation distortion across most of the chromosome (Figure 3, A and B). In contrast, 464 markers (4.7%) showed significant segregation distortion ($P < 0.01$), nearly all (426/464) of which localized in two large sex-specific blocks. One block of segregation distortion included 244 markers distributed between 39.1 and 60.7 cM in the Nco1 male map (Figure 3, C and D), and the other large block of segregation distortion included 182 markers located between 39.8 and 65.7 cM in the Nco4 female map (Figure 3, E and F). For example, lm × ll markers in the female LG4 map showed 72 homozygous individuals and 120 heterozygous individuals, a ratio of 0.75: 1.25 [or, for markers with the opposite polarity, 120 homozygotes to 72 heterozygotes (a ratio of 1.25: 0.75)] rather than the expected 1: 1 (96: 96) segregation ratio. Some ab × cd markers in the same region of LG4 showed a segregation ratio of 1.33: 1.17: 0.73: 0.77 (64 ac genotypes: 56 ad: 35 bc: 37 bd) rather than

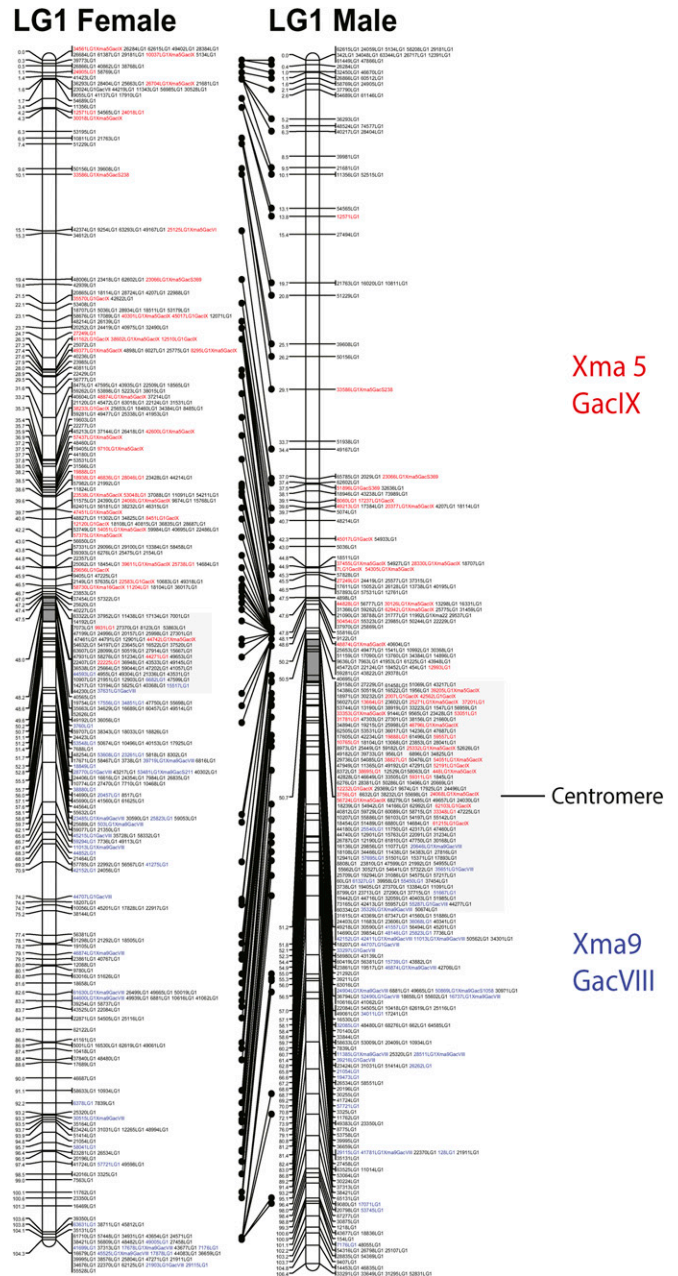


Figure 2 Male and female linkage maps for *N. coriiceps* chromosome Nco1. The position of the centromere (Cen, gray box) is estimated based on published karyotype information and greatly reduced recombination rates. Connecting lines indicate the position of markers present in both the male and female chromosomes. Markers with sequence conservation to stickleback (Gac) or platyfish (Xma) sequences are color coded based on chromosome origin within these two species. For clarity, some loci do not list all polymorphic RAD-tags that mapped to the indicated position. Note sex-specific recombination rates across the chromosome. RAD, restriction site-associated DNA.

the expected 1: 1: 1: 1 ratio (48: 48: 48: 48 individual genotypes). When scoring female and male alleles for such markers, the segregation of the female a:b alleles was distorted (120:72) and that of the male b:c alleles was normal (99:93), in agreement with the pattern of the surrounding male and female markers in the region. Three additional small blocks of significant segregation distortion were also identified: (1) one block

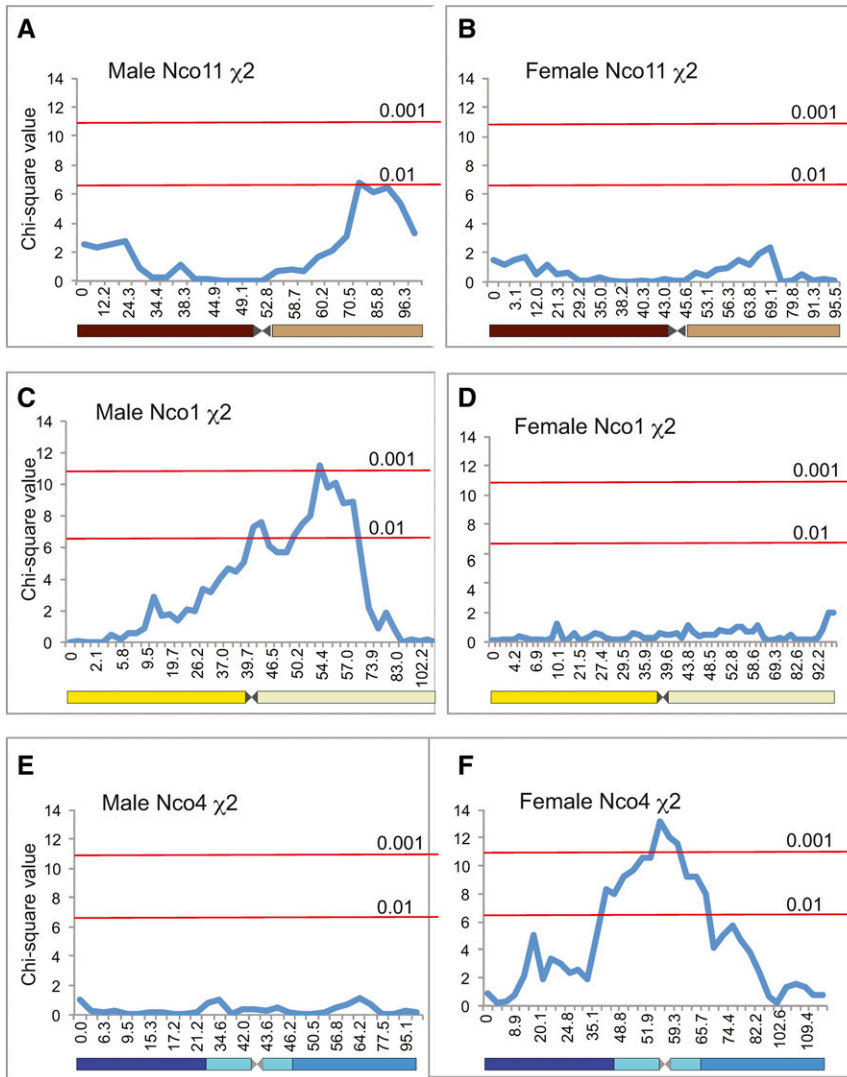


Figure 3 Patterns of sex-specific segregation distortion in bullhead chromosomes. (A and B), Nco11; (C and D), Nco1; and (E and F), Nco4. (A, C, and E) male map; (B, D, and F), female map. Distortion is plotted as a function of χ^2 -squared values for the hypothesis of Mendelian segregation vs. marker position along the linkage group. Horizontal lines represent levels of significance of $P = 0.01$ and $P = 0.001$. Fused chromosomes are displayed across the horizontal axis, color key in Figure 6. Nco11 has a small region that barely reaches significance; Nco1 has a large region of segregation distortion for meiosis in the male parent and Nco4 has a large region of segregation distortion for meiosis in the female parent.

involved two widely separated markers and was barely statistically significant at position 70.5 in the male Nco11 map (Figure 3A); (2) another block involved four markers, two in each of two widely separated regions on Nco3; (3) and the final block involved 32 markers at position 52.2–56.9 cM in the female Nco5 map (Figure S2).

Analysis of conserved syntenes

Comparative genomic analyses are necessary to test whether the Robertsonian translocation hypothesis or the genome stirring hypothesis better predict the mechanism giving rise to the greatly reduced bullhead notothen karyotype. To obtain comparative data, we identified conserved sequences in our mapped RAD-tag sequences by BLAST comparisons of the *N. coriiceps* RAD-tag sequences to the stickleback and platyfish reference genome sequences. Fortunately, the restriction enzyme we used for making RAD-tags cuts preferentially at exon–intron borders, which makes protein-coding sequences appear more frequently than by chance (McCluskey and Postlethwait 2015). Among the 9138 mapped markers, 1320 (14.4%) had significant sequence similarity to sequences in the platyfish genome (Schartl *et al.* 2013) and 1885 (20.6%) had significant similarity to sequences in the genome of stickleback (Jones *et al.* 2012), to which bullhead notothen is more

closely related than it is to platyfish (Near *et al.* 2012a,b). A total of 81 RAD-tags with conserved sequence were located on unmapped platyfish scaffolds, and 197 RAD-tags with conserved sequence were located on unmapped stickleback scaffolds. A display of markers with sequence homology along the genetic map allowed us to conduct comparative genomic analyses.

Although platyfish is an outgroup to the stickleback + nototheniid clade (Near *et al.* 2012), the platyfish haploid karyotype of 24 chromosome pairs containing 48 chromosome arms [NF (nombre fundamental, the number of chromosome arms) = 48] reflects more closely the ancestral condition than the stickleback karyotype with 21 chromosome pairs (NF = 58) (see summary Figure 6) due to chromosome rearrangements in the stickleback lineage (Urton *et al.* 2011). Bullhead vs. platyfish and stickleback comparisons showed that 9 of the 11 bullhead chromosomes each have homology to two platyfish or stickleback chromosomes. Figure 2, for example, shows male and female maps for Nco1 with conserved markers for platyfish LG5 (Xma5) and stickleback LG IX (GacIX) on the top arm and platyfish Xma9 and stickleback GacVIII on the lower arm [for nomenclature, consider that the example marker called 44742Nco1Xma5GacIX means marker number 44742 on bullhead Nco1, which has sequence similarity to a locus on platyfish

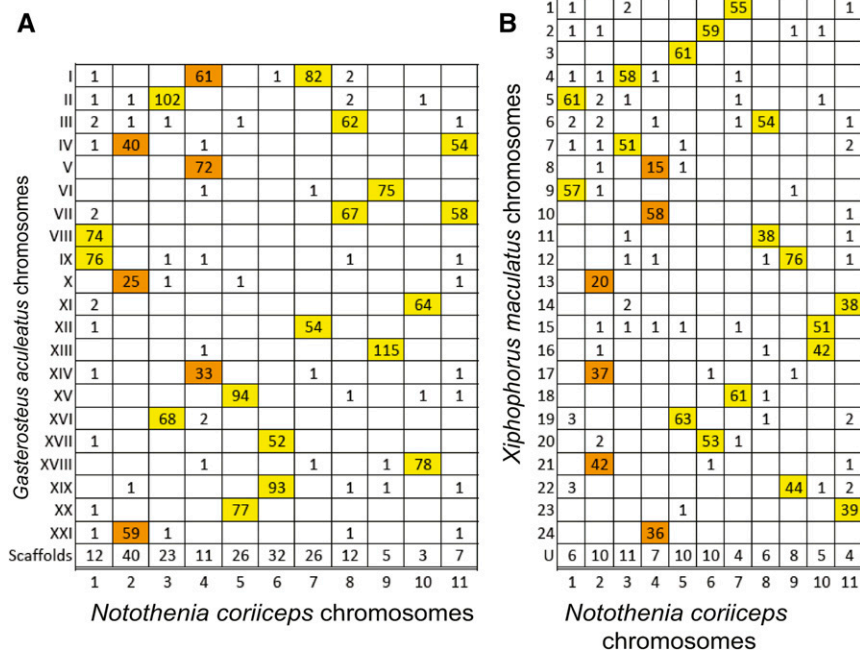


Figure 4 Oxford grids showing conservation of synteny between (A) bullhead and stickleback (*G. aculeatus*) and (B) between bullhead and platyfish (*X. maculatus*). Numbers in boxes indicate the number of mapped bullhead RAD-tag markers with sequence conservation to the genomes of stickleback and platyfish. Bullhead chromosomes Nco2 and Nco4 each have conserved synteny to three stickleback and three platyfish chromosomes (red boxes). Each of the remaining bullhead linkage groups conserve synteny to two stickleback and two platyfish chromosomes (yellow boxes). “Scaffolds” and “U” represent contigs not assembled into the official genome assemblies of stickleback and platyfish, respectively. RAD, restriction site-associated DNA.

X. maculatus LG5 (Xma5) and stickleback *G. aculeatus* LGIX (GacIX)]. In all bullhead chromosomes except Nco2 and Nco4, markers homologous to one platyfish chromosome occupied one arm of the bullhead chromosome and markers homologous to another platyfish chromosome occupied the other arm (Figure S1). Figure 4 shows the conserved synteny data in Oxford Grid format. We conclude that 9 of the 11 bullhead chromosomes formed by the fusion of two and only two ancestral chromosomes. Figure 6 summarizes the comparative genomic analyses at the whole-chromosome level.

While markers on most of the bullhead chromosomes were conserved on two platyfish or two stickleback chromosomes, two bullhead chromosomes, Nco2 and Nco4, had sequences homologous to three platyfish or stickleback chromosomes (see Figure 5 for Nco4 and Figure S1 for Nco2). For example, bullhead Nco4 was orthologous to the platyfish chromosomes Xma10, Xma8, and Xma24 (Figure 5). In both Nco2 and Nco4, homologous markers belonging to the three platyfish chromosomes were located in three consecutive segments with no mixing of markers homologous to different platyfish chromosomes (Figure 5). We conclude that bullhead chromosomes Nco2 and Nco4 originated from the fusion of three ancestral chromosomes (Figure 6).

For all 11 bullhead chromosomes, markers homologous to a given platyfish chromosome were contiguous along the LG, with no mixing of markers homologous to one platyfish chromosome intermingled with markers homologous to the other platyfish chromosome across the region of contact (Figure 2, Figure 5, and Figure S1). This result indicates that the bullhead lineage experienced few, or maybe no, inversions or transpositions across the centromere following the chromosome fusion events.

DISCUSSION

Here, we report the first dense genetic linkage map for any species of Antarctic fish. The 11 bullhead LGs correspond to the number of chromosomes detected cytogenetically (Phan *et al.* 1987; Ozouf-Costaz *et al.* 1991; Tomaszewicz *et al.* 2011). We conclude that the linkage map spans the entire bullhead genome.

Analysis of chromosome numbers and arm numbers, coupled with the bullhead genetic map, shows the pattern of karyotype evolution in notothenioids and their relatives. Basally diverging notothenioids, like *Cottoperca gobio* and *Bovichtus variegatus*, have a diploid number of 48 and a chromosome arm number of 48 (Figure 1 and references therein), indicating that all ancestral chromosomes were likely acro- or telocentric. The next most recently branching lineage, represented by *Pseudaphritis urvillii*, still has $2n = 48$, but has $NF = 52$ rather than $NF = 48$, indicating that two pericentric inversions brought the centromere toward the middle of the chromosome for two ancestral chromosomes, a condition shared by all of the Cryonotothenioida (Figure 1 and references therein). Within the Harpagiferidae–Arteidraconidae–Bathydraconidae–Channichthyidae clade, chromosome counts and arm numbers are mostly rather stable, although some lineages experienced a few chromosome fusions and pericentric inversions (Figure 1). Within the Nototheniidae, some lineages show chromosome fusions, fissions, and pericentric inversions, especially in the *Trematomus* genus, for example *T. loennbergii* with a diploid set of 28 or 30 chromosomes having 52 chromosome arms and *T. nicolai* with a diploid set of 57 or 58 chromosomes and 83–84 chromosome arms (Figure 1). However, the most dramatic karyotype evolution is in the *Notothenia*–*Paranotothenia* clade, the mechanisms of which our comparative genetic map elucidates.

A model for karyotype reduction in the *Notothenia*–*Paranotothenia* clade

Comparative genomic analyses showed that 9 of the 11 bullhead notothen chromosomes originated by fusion of two ancestral chromosomes, two bullhead chromosomes arose from the fusion of three ancestral chromosomes, and that no chromosome inversions or transpositions were detected across the centromeres (Figure 6). These comparative genomic data rule out the genome-stirring hypothesis for the reduction of the bullhead karyotype compared to outgroups (Figure 1) and are what would be expected from the hypothesis of an organized series of mostly one-to-one Robertsonian translocations.

LG4 Female

LG4 Male

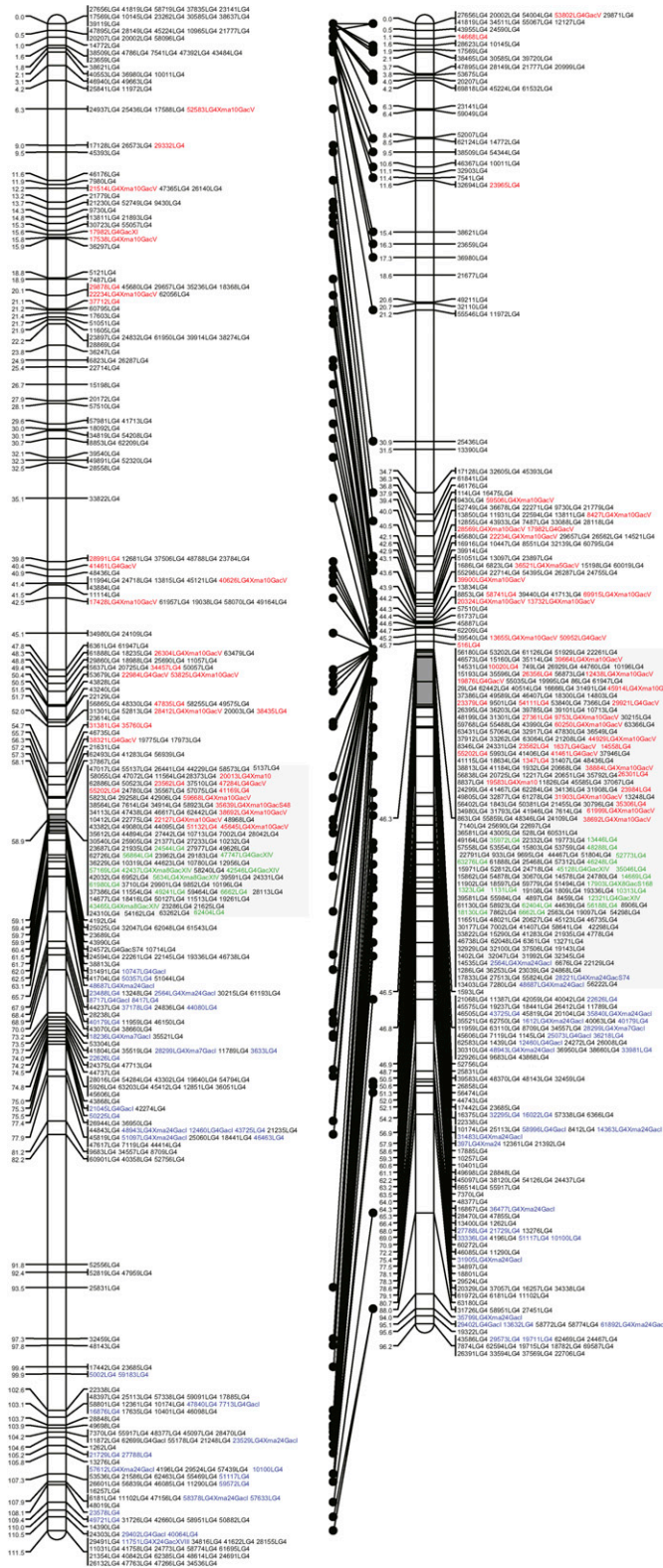


Figure 5 Comparison of male and female linkage maps for bullhead chromosome Nco4. Markers with sequence conservation to the genome of stickleback and platyfish are color coded according to chromosomes with conserved synteny. The position of the centromere (Cen) is estimated based on published chromosome morphology (Ozouf-Costaz *et al.* 1991; Tomaszewicz *et al.* 2011). RAD markers with sequence conservation to chromosomes GacV or Xma10 are in red; RAD markers with sequence conservation to GacIV or Xma8 are colored in green; and RAD markers with sequence conservation to GacI or Xma24 are colored in blue. Lines between the female and male linkage groups represent shared markers present in meiosis of both sexes. RAD, restriction site-associated DNA.

Coupling our bullhead map data with published chromosome numbers for notothenioids and their nearest outgroups (Figure 1) provides a model to explain the massive reduction of chromosome number

in the *Notothenia* species group (Figure 7). First, the data suggest that the last common ancestor of the *Notothenia* species group had 24 chromosomes in its haploid set (Figure 7, step 1) because the nearest

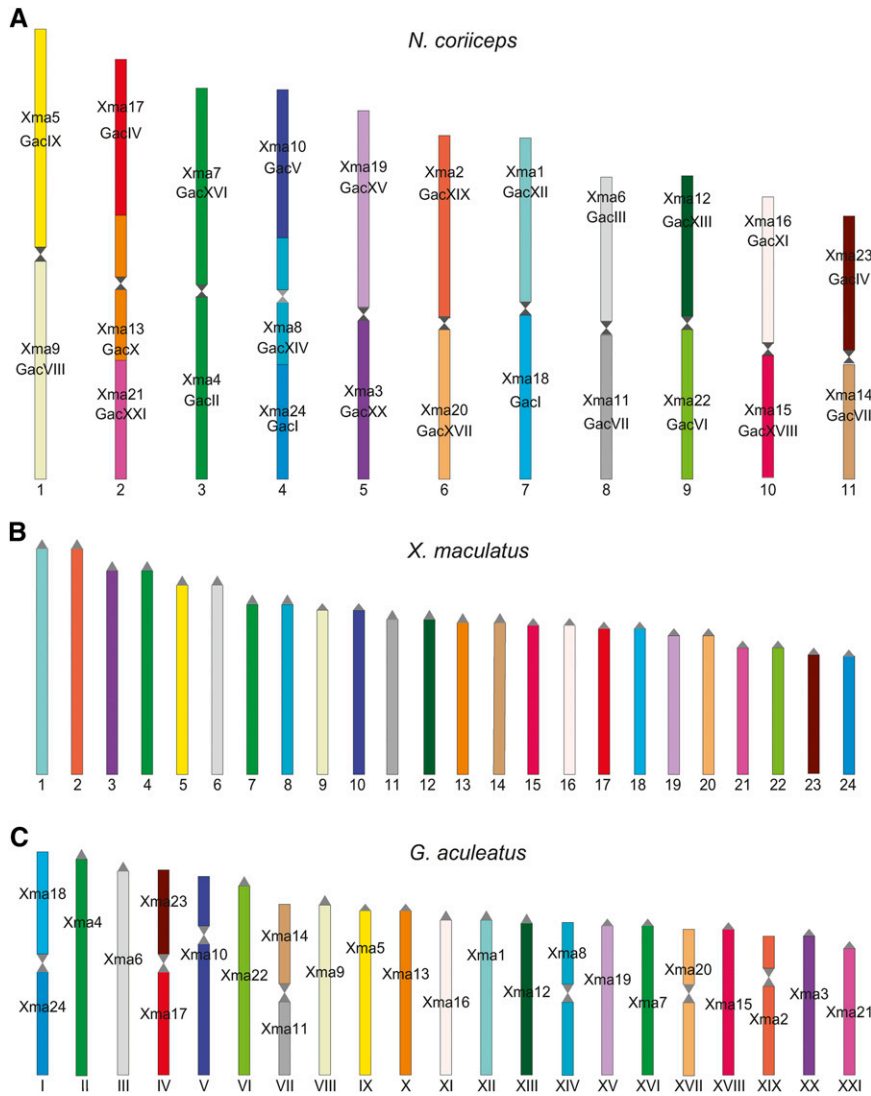


Figure 6 Conserved synteny relationship among chromosomes of (A) bullhead (Nco), (B) platyfish (Xma), and (C) stickleback (Gac). Note that stickleback LGs I, IV, and VII consist of fusions of two platyfish chromosomes.

outgroup, the Nototheniidae including *Dissostichus mawsoni*, *L. squamifrons*, and *T. lepidorhinus*, has mainly 24 haploid chromosomes, as do most fish in the sister lineage, which includes *Harpagifer antarcticus* and icefish (Channichthyidae) like *Chionodraco rastrospinosus* and *C. aceratus* (Figure 1). Second, a pericentric inversion in one of the smallest chromosomes created a small metacentric chromosome (the smallest, blue chromosome in Figure 7B). This small metacentric chromosome is still present in *N. angustata*, *N. magellanica*, and *N. rossii* (Doussau de Bazignan and Ozouf-Costaz 1985; Pisano *et al.* 2003b). Third, 22 ancestral chromosomes in the haploid karyotype fused together one-to-one, reducing the chromosome number from 24 pairs of acrocentric chromosomes to 11 large metacentric chromosomes and two small unfused chromosomes, giving a haploid karyotype with 13 chromosomes. *N. angustata* and *N. magellanica* possess such a karyotype today (Figure 1 and Figure 7 step 3). Because the lineage of *N. coriiceps* + *N. rossii* diverged from *N. angustata* + *P. magellanica* ~8 MYA (Near *et al.* 2012), this massive one-to-one chromosome fusion event is either older than 8 MY or, less parsimoniously, happened more recently but twice, and independently in the *N. angustata* + *N. magellanica* lineage. Fourth, after the divergence of the *N. coriiceps* + *N. rossii* clade from the *N. angustata* + *N. magellanica* clade, one of the

small, previously unfused chromosomes became fused to one of the existing, already-fused metacentric chromosomes, creating the current Nco2 or Nco4 chromosomes. *N. rossii* shows a karyotype today that would fit this model (Figure 7, step 4). In a final step, the last small, previously unfused metacentric chromosome joined another existing metacentric chromosome to create the current Nco2 or Nco4 in *N. coriiceps* (Figure 7, Step 5). An alternative, less parsimonious possibility not ruled out by our data on bullhead notothen is that some of the predicted chromosome fusions in the model originated independently in some of the four species in the *Notothenia* clade. Experiments similar to the ones we report here for bullhead notothen are required to test the hypothesis of evolution to similar chromosome numbers but independent chromosome fusion events.

Inversions

Because all conserved synteny markers were contiguous with no intermixing of markers belonging to one of the individual ancestral chromosomes with markers from the other ancestral chromosome across their position of contact in each fused bullhead chromosome, we conclude that no pericentric inversions occurred in the bullhead lineage after the chromosomal fusion events that led to the reduction in

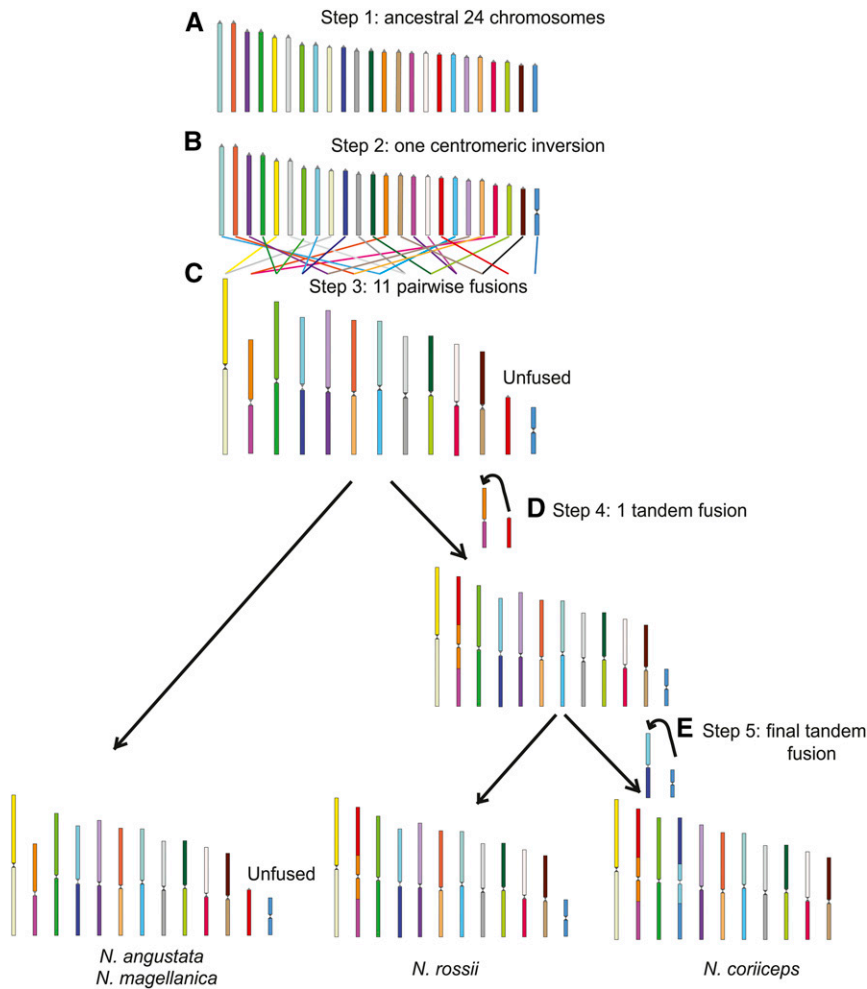


Figure 7 A model for the history of chromosome fusions in bullhead notothen *N. coriiceps*. (A) Presumed ancestral state. (B) In step 2, a pericentromeric inversion of a small acrocentric chromosome created a small metacentric. (C) After step 2, the fusion of 22 chromosomes one-to-one gave 11 large metacentrics, one unfused acrocentric, and one small unfused metacentric, as in today's *N. angustata* and *N. magellanica*. (D) Fusion of first one (step 4, as in *N. rossii*) and then the other (step 5, as in *N. coriiceps*) of the unfused chromosomes from (C) to form Nco2 and Nco4.

chromosome number. This is notable because the chromosome fusions do not appear to be recent; they are shared by other members of the *Notothenia* clade, including *N. magellanica* ($n = 13$), *N. angustata*, ($n = 13$), and *N. rossii* ($n = 12$). It is still possible that pericentric inversions occurred but that they are small and masked by reduced recombination rates near centromeres. We know that other groups of Antarctic fish did experience recent pericentric inversions because, for example, *Pagetopsis macropterus* has a diploid number of 47 or 48, similar to the ancestral state, but an arm number of 58, rather than the ancestral values of $2n = 48$ and $NF = 52$ as in several other icefish, including *Chaenocephalus aceratus*. Although putative paracentric inversions appear in some chromosome arms, without a closer outgroup, it is not possible to determine if the rearrangements happened before or after the chromosome fusions.

Recombination rates

Uneven recombination rates along chromosomes, like the situation discovered here for bullhead chromosomes, occur in other species too. In zebrafish and spotted gar for example, recombination rates are higher at the telomeres in the male map and higher near the centromeres in the female map (Howe *et al.* 2013; Amores *et al.* 2011). In contrast to bullhead notothen, where most chromosomes are similar in size, in zebrafish the female map is more than twice the length of the male map (2.74: 1.0) (Singer *et al.* 2002).

Segregation distortion

Segregation distortion in the male map on Nco1 and in the female map on Nco4 is unlikely to be due to genotyping errors because many adjacent markers show the same distortion; thus, this situation is likely to be biological in origin. Segregation distortion could be explained by interactions between male and female alleles: if one of the two alleles at a locus in the male parent was a partial stage-specific dominant embryonic lethal in the context of the female allele (this would be the $\ll 1: 1: 1$ case). In other cases, segregation distortion could result from epistatic interactions: if in the male, both alleles at locus “a” functioned well in the genomic context of male alleles at locus “b” but the male allele at locus “a” was deleterious in the context of heterozygosity for the female allele at locus “b.” Or if the male were a heterozygote for a paracentric inversion, then after homologous pairing in meiosis, a recombination event within the deletion would result in monocentric and dicentric chromosomes, which would lead to aneuploid gametes, embryo lethality, and segregation distortion. Segregation distortion might also be expected for sex chromosomes in the female and male, making the sex chromosome explanation less likely. In addition, cytogenetic analyses of bullhead failed to detect any sex chromosomes (Phan *et al.* 1987; Ozouf-Costaz *et al.* 1991; Tomaszewicz *et al.* 2011).

Conclusions

The systemic and massive chromosome fusion events that occurred a few million years after the divergence of the *Notothenia* clade from the *Dissostichus* + *Lepidonotothen* + *Trematomus* clade provide a model to explain how teleosts could have evolved fewer chromosomes than their last common ancestor with their Holostean sister group (amia + gars), despite chromosome doubling associated with the TGD. Analyses of conserved synteny of spotted gar (*L. oculatus*, Loc), chicken (*G. gallus*, Gga), and medaka fish (*O. latipes*, Ola) indicate that chromosome fusions occurred in the teleost lineage before the TGD (Braasch *et al.* 2016). For example, the two orthologous chromosome pairs Loc13/Gga14 and Loc15/Gga27 together show conserved synteny to both Ola19 and Ola8, which are duplicate (paralogous) chromosomes derived from the TGD (Braasch *et al.* 2016). This pattern would appear if, after the divergence of gar and teleost lineages, the teleost orthologs of Loc13 and Loc15 fused together, followed by the duplication of the fused chromosome in the TGD event to produce the homeologous (paralogous) medaka chromosomes Ola19 and Ola8. The organization of the gar genome shows that the fusions envisaged to have preceded the TGD (Nakatani *et al.* 2007) occurred in the few million years after the divergence of gar and teleost lineages but before the TGD. While our comparative genomic analysis of the bullhead map shows that rapid concerted, regular chromosome fusions can and do occur, they leave open several questions, including: what forces would methodically cause chromosomes to fuse regularly one-to-one in a lineage; did the one-to-one fusion of 22 chromosomes to 11 happen all at once or over a protracted period of several million years since the divergence of the *Notothenia* lineage from its sister group; and what caused the remaining two unfused chromosomes in the last common ancestor of *N. rossii* and *N. coriiceps* to fail to fuse to each other but instead join already fused chromosomes? A possible answer might be that some molecular feature of chromosome structure makes it more difficult to fuse a meta-centric chromosome with another chromosome than to fuse two acrocentric or telocentric chromosomes.

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