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Novel gene rearrangement in the mitochondrial genome of *Anastatus fulloi* (Hymenoptera Chalcidoidea) and phylogenetic implications for Chalcidoidea

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The genus *Anastatus* comprises a large group of parasitoids, including several biological control agents in agricultural and forest systems. The taxonomy and phylogeny of these species remain controversial. In this study, the mitogenome of *A. fulloi* Sheng and Wang was sequenced and characterized. The nearly full-length mitogenome of *A. fulloi* was 15,692 bp, comprising 13 protein-coding genes (PCGs), 2 rRNA genes, 22 tRNA genes and a control region (CR). The total A+T contents were 83.83%, 82.18%, 87.58%, 87.27%, and 82.13% in the whole mitogenome, 13 PCGs, 22 tRNA genes, 2 rRNA genes, and CR, respectively. The mitogenome presented negative AT skews and positive GC skews, except for the CR. Most PCGs were encoded on the heavy strand, started with ATN codons, and ended with TAA codons. Among the 3736 amino acid-encoding codons, TTA (Leu1), CGA (Arg), TCA (Ser2), and TCT (Ser2) were predominant. Most tRNAs had cloverleaf secondary structures, except trnS1, with the absence of a dihydrouridine (DHU) arm. Compared with mitogenomes of the ancestral insect and another parasitoid within Eupelmidae, large-scale rearrangements were found in the mitogenome of *A. fulloi*, especially inversions and inverse transpositions of tRNA genes. The gene arrangements of parasitoid mitogenomes within Chalcidoidea were variable. A novel gene arrangement was presented in the mitogenome of *A. fulloi*. Phylogenetic analyses based on the 13 protein-coding genes of 20 parasitoids indicated that the phylogenetic relationship of 6 superfamilies could be presented as Mymaridae + (Eupelmidae + (Encyrtidae + (Trichogrammatidae + (Pteromalidae + Eulophidae))). This study presents the first mitogenome of the *Anastatus* genus and offers insights into the identification, taxonomy, and phylogeny of these parasitoids.

Mitochondria are double-membrane-bound organelles that are widely found in eukaryotic cells^{1,2}. Their genomes, i.e., mitogenomes, are small in size and have the characteristics of maternal inheritance, conserved gene components, absence of introns, rare recombination, and a relatively high evolution rate^{3–5}. Therefore, the mitogenome is a suitable molecular marker that has been widely applied in molecular identification, evolution, and phylogeny^{6–8}. In recent years, an increasing number of mitogenomes have been sequenced, analysed, and deposited in the NCBI database^{9–11}. These mitogenomes provide valuable information not only about nucleotide composition but also genome-level characteristics¹².

In general, a typical mitogenome of an insect is a circular molecule with double strands, ranging from 14 to 19 kb in size^{13,14}. It usually contains four components, including 13 protein-coding genes (PCGs), 2 ribosomal RNA genes (rRNAs), 22 transfer RNA genes (tRNAs), and a control region (CR)^{15,16}. Most insect mitogenomes share an identical gene order; however, rearrangements of genes have been found in the mitogenomes of some species, and these rearrangements include transposition, inversion, inverse transposition, and tandem duplication

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random loss (TDRL)^{5,17}. To date, the base composition and gene order of mitogenomes have been extensively applied to clarify evolutionary events in certain groups of insects^{18–20}.

Most *Anastatus* (Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea) species are parasitoids of numerous insect species, and several species of *Anastatus* have been evaluated as biological control agents for various pests in agricultural and forest systems^{21,22}. These insects represent a large family with approximately 150 recognized species but remain largely unstudied²³. The current morphology-based taxonomy of *Anastatus* is problematic due to early taxonomic confusion, low degrees of morphological differentiation, and morphological variation related to host and geographical origin^{23–25}. Parasitoids within Chalcidoidea are some of the most diverse hymenopterous insects, exhibiting the characteristics of frequent gene rearrangement, high substitution rates, and a strong base composition bias in mitogenomes^{26,27}. Although the mitogenomes of other hymenopterous insects have been applied for identification, evolution, and phylogeny, this is not the case for *Anastatus* parasitoids. To date, mitogenomes of *Anastatus* parasitoids are still not available in the NCBI database.

Next-generation sequencing (NGS) is an increasingly applied technology used to obtain large-scale genetic information. It provides the full-length sequences of insect mitogenomes practically and effectively. In the present study, we applied NGS to obtain the complete mitogenome of *A. fulloi* Sheng and Wang, which represented the first sequenced mitochondrial genome in the *Anastatus* genus. The mitogenome was characterized, including the structure of the mitogenome, gene organization, nucleotides, amino acid composition, codon usage, and tRNA secondary structure. Gene rearrangement was discussed between several mitogenomes of parasitoids and the ancestral insect. In addition, phylogenetic analyses were performed based on the 13 PCGs of 20 parasitoids within Chalcidoidea. This study provides information about the taxonomy and phylogeny of this special insect and unveils the phylogenetic position of *Anastatus* within Chalcidoidea.

Methods

Insect collection and DNA extraction. Adult specimens of *A. fulloi* were obtained from the Plant Protection Research Institute, Guangdong Academy of Agricultural Sciences, People's Republic of China. All specimens were preserved in 100% alcohol and stored at $-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. Total genomic DNA was extracted by using a DNeasy tissue kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) according to the manufacturer's protocols. Subsequently, total DNA was quantified and tested by a Qubit fluorometer with a dsDNA high-sensitivity kit (ThermoFisher, Foster City, CA, USA) and agarose gel (1%) electrophoresis.

Mitochondrial genome sequencing and assembly. At least 1 μg of DNA was used to construct the sequencing library using the TruSeq DNA Library Preparation kit according to standard protocols. The library was then sequenced by the Illumina HiSeq[™]4000 (Illumina, USA) platform with paired-end reads of 2×150 bases. A total of 4.79 Gb of clean data was obtained with a Q30 of 92.16%. SPAdes v3.10.1 (<http://bioinf.spbau.ru/spades>)²⁸ and A5-miseq v20150522²⁹ were used to assemble the clean data into contigs and scaffolding. The sequences with high sequencing coverage were extracted to identify the mitochondrial sequences by the NCBI NT library using BLASTN (BLAST v2.2.31+). MUMmer v3.1³⁰ was used to determine the contig positions and fill the gaps between contigs. Through Pilon v1.18³¹, the results were error-corrected to obtain the final mitochondrial sequence.

Genome annotation and analysis. The mitogenome of *A. fulloi* was annotated on MITOS (<http://mitos.bioinf.uni-leipzig.de/index.py>). The secondary structure of tRNAs was also predicted by MITOS. Annotation results were confirmed by comparison with homologous sequences in the NCBI database, and then submitted to NCBI. A mitogenome map of *A. fulloi* was generated by mtviz (<http://pacosy.informatik.uni-leipzig.de/mtviz/mtviz/>).

The base composition and relative synonymous codon usage (RSCU) values of PCGs were calculated by MEGA 6.0. The AT and GC skews were counted using the following formulas: AT skew = $(A - T)/(A + T)$ and GC skew = $(G - C)/(G + C)$. The gene orders of parasitoid mitogenomes within Chalcidoidea were compared by CREx (<http://pacosy.informatik.uni-leipzig.de/crex/form#INFO>)³².

All mitogenome information from 21 species was downloaded, including 19 parasitoids within Chalcidoidea and 2 outgroups. Together with the mitogenome of *A. fulloi*, they were used to extract the 13 PCGs through PhyloSuite v1.2.2³³. These PCGs were aligned by MAFFT 7.149³⁴ and MACSE v. 2.03³⁵. Conserved blocks were obtained using Gblocks v0.91b³⁶. MrBayes on XSEDE and RAXML on XSEDE (CIPRES portal) were employed to construct the bayesian inference (BI) and maximum likelihood (ML) phylogenetic trees, respectively. ModelFinder was used to evaluate the best evolutionary model³⁷. GTR + F + I + G4 was selected by the Bayesian information criterion (BIC). The MrBayes analyses ran as 4 independent Markov chains for 3 million generations, sampled every 1000 generations. A burn-in of 25% was used to generate the consensus tree. The RAXML analysis was performed with 1000 replicates of ultrafast likelihood bootstrap. FigTree v1.4.2 was employed to edit two phylogenetic trees.

Results and discussion

General features of the mitogenome. The mitochondrial sequence of *A. fulloi* has been submitted to GenBank with the accession number OK545741. The nearly complete mitogenome was 15,692 bp in length, within the range of other hymenopterous mitogenomes: from 15,137 (*Idris sp.*) to 20,370 bp (*Trachelus iudicus*)^{38,39}. We failed to obtain the complete CR using next-generation and Sanger sequencing, which may be attributed to the comparatively high A + T content and presence of repeat units in CR^{19,40,41}. Therefore, the *A. fulloi* mitogenome contained 37 genes (13 protein-coding genes, 2 rRNA genes, and 22 tRNA genes) and a partial CR (Table 1, Fig. 1). This is a common gene set for most hymenopterous mitogenomes^{17,42,43}.

Feature	Strand	Start sites	Stop sites	Size(bp)	Anticodon	Start codon	End codon	Intergenic nucleotides
trnV	+	1	66	66	UAC			-2
rrnS	+	65	834	770				5
trnA	+	840	904	65	UGC			-18
rrnL	+	887	2252	1366				1
trnL1	+	2254	2320	67	UAG			-3
nad1	+	2318	3265	948		ATA	TAA	9
trnS2	-	3275	3342	68	UGA			2
cytb	-	3345	4481	1137		ATG	TAA	10
nad6	-	4492	5061	570		AAC	TAA	-2
trnT	-	5060	5127	68	UGU			12
trnP	+	5140	5206	67	UGG			4
nad4l	+	5211	5498	288		ATT	TAA	-7
nad4	+	5492	6838	1347		ATG	TAA	0
trnH	+	6839	6906	68	GUG			-3
nad5	+	6904	8581	1678		ATA	T	-3
trnF	+	8579	8648	70	GAA			16
trnE	-	8665	8732	68	UUC			6
cox1	+	8739	10,280	1542		ATA	TAA	32
trnL2	+	10,313	10,379	67	UAA			0
cox2	+	10,380	11,102	723		ATT	TAA	9
trnK	-	11,112	11,182	71	UUU			13
trnD	+	11,196	11,266	71	GUC			30
atp8	+	11,297	11,458	162		ATT	TAA	-7
atp6	+	11,452	12,123	672		ATG	TAA	-1
cox3	+	12,123	12,914	792		ATT	TAA	43
trnG	+	12,958	13,022	65	UCC			18
nad3	+	13,041	13,409	369		ATA	TAG	6
trnS1	-	13,416	13,475	60	UCU			3
trnY	+	13,479	13,549	71	GUA			82
trnN	+	13,632	13,698	67	GUU			129
trnC	-	13,828	13,889	62	GCA			53
trnR	-	13,943	14,007	65	UCG			6
trnQ	-	14,014	14,082	69	UUG			-2
trnW	-	14,081	14,145	65	UCA			2
nad2	-	14,148	15,164	1017		ATA	TAA	29
trnI	+	15,194	15,263	70	GAU			11
trnM	-	15,275	15,345	71	CAU			0
CR		15,346	15,692	347				

Table 1. Characteristics of the mitochondrial genome of *A. fulloi*. + represents the heavy strand; - represents the light strand.

Overlapping and intergenic regions are usually detected in hymenopterous mitogenomes^{18,20,44}. Generally, the total length of overlapping regions is smaller in size than intergenic regions in most hymenopterous insects^{19,45,46}. In the mitogenome of *A. fulloi*, a total of 10 overlapping regions were found, ranging in size from 1 to 18 bp (Table 1). The longest overlapping region was found between trnA and rrnL. The *A. fulloi* mitogenome also contained 24 intergenic spacers with a total length of 531 bp. These intergenic spacers range from 1 to 129 bp (Table 1). The longest gene spacer was located between trnC and trnN. Notably, an overlap between atp6 and atp8 was a common feature of metazoan mitogenomes⁴⁷ and it was also found in *A. fulloi*. Moreover, an overlap between nad4 and nad4l widely occurred among mitogenomes of *A. fulloi* and other hymenopterous parasitoids^{17,18,20}, which may be translated as a bicstron⁴⁸.

Significant bias in nucleotide composition is typical in insect mitogenomes¹⁹ and the nucleotide compositional bias of mitogenomes is usually assessed by non-strand specific (A + T content, G + C content) and strand-specific, namely strand asymmetry (ATskew, GC-skew)⁴⁹. The nucleotides of the *A. fulloi* mitogenome comprise A (39.06%), T (44.77%), C (6.02%), and G (10.15%) (Table 2). The *A. fulloi* mitogenome was highly biased towards A and T nucleotides with an A + T content of 83.83%. In addition, the mitogenome of *A. fulloi* had a negative AT skew (-0.069) and a positive GC skew (0.255) (Table 2). This indicates that the mitogenome of *A. fulloi* contains more T than A and more G than C, as reported in other mitogenomes of hymenopterous species^{20,50}.

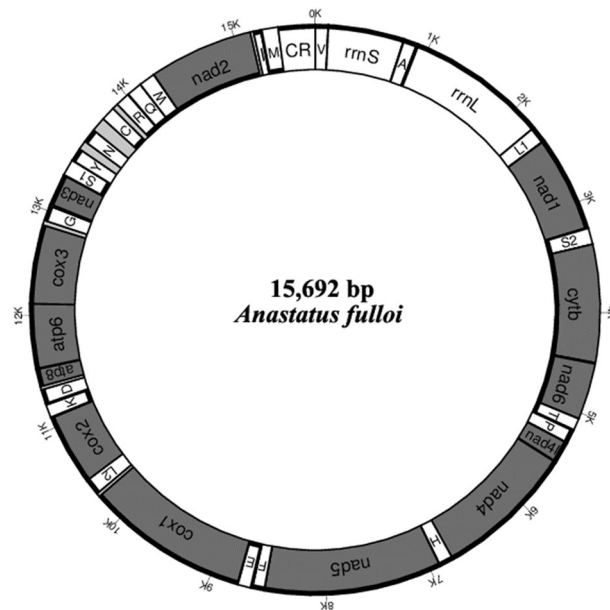


Figure 1. Mitochondrial map of *Anastatus fulloi*. PCGs are marked in grey. Genes marked with bold lines outside the circle map are encoded on the heavy strand.

Feature	A%	T%	C%	G%	AT%	GC%	AT Skew	GC Skew
Protein-coding genes	35.13	47.05	8.00	9.82	82.18	17.82	-0.145	0.102
1st codon position	38.92	38.92	7.92	14.24	77.84	22.16	0.000	0.285
2nd codon position	22.04	52.62	13.71	11.63	74.66	25.34	-0.410	-0.082
3rd codon position	44.42	49.63	2.37	3.58	94.05	5.95	-0.055	0.203
tRNAs	43.08	44.50	4.59	7.83	87.58	12.42	-0.016	0.261
rRNAs	43.59	43.68	4.03	8.71	87.27	12.74	-0.001	0.367
CR	41.21	40.92	6.63	11.24	82.13	17.87	0.004	0.258
Whole mitogenome	39.06	44.77	6.02	10.15	83.83	16.17	-0.069	0.255

Table 2. Nucleotide composition of *A. fulloi* mitochondrial genome.

This common pattern of base composition in mitogenome may be attributed to the highly asymmetric effects of transcription on mutagenesis, including unequal exposure of the strands to DNA damage and the differential chance for repair^{51,52}.

PCGs. The total length of 13 PCGs was 11,245 bp, accounting for 71.66% of the whole mitogenome. This set of PCGs is conserved in animal mitogenomes, with the exception of nematodes and a bivalve that lack atp8¹⁵. These PCGs range in size from 162 bp (atp8) to 1678 bp (nad5). The A + T content of all PCGs was 82.18% (Table 2). A remarkably high A + T content (94.05%) was found at the third codon sites of these PCGs, which may partly reflect the high bias towards A and T nucleotides in the mitogenome^{19,53,54}. Meanwhile, the AT skew and GC skew of the PCGs were -0.145 and 0.102, respectively. Of the 13 PCGs, 10 were encoded on the heavy strand, whereas cytb, nad2, and nad6 were encoded on the light strand. In insect mitogenomes, PCGs usually start with ATN codons (ATA, ATT, ATC, and ATG) and terminate with TAA or TAG⁵⁵⁻⁵⁷. However, unusual start- and termination codons were simultaneously and exclusively found, such as the start codons of TTG, CGA, GTG, and the incomplete stop codon of T⁵⁸⁻⁶⁰. In the *A. fulloi* mitogenome, most PCGs started with ATN, including ATA (nad1-3, nad5, and cox1), ATT (atp8, cox2, cox3, and nad4l) and ATG (atp6 and nad4). However, nad6 used an atypical starting codon of AAC, which has also been found in *Cheirotonus jansonii* and *Protopoecilus gracilis*^{61,62}. All PCGs terminated with TAA except nad3 (TAG) and nad5 (incomplete codon T). Previous studies have inferred that the incomplete termination codon could be completed by posttranscriptional polyadenylation^{15,63,64}. The codon usage of PCGs was assessed by the relative synonymous codon usage (RSCU)

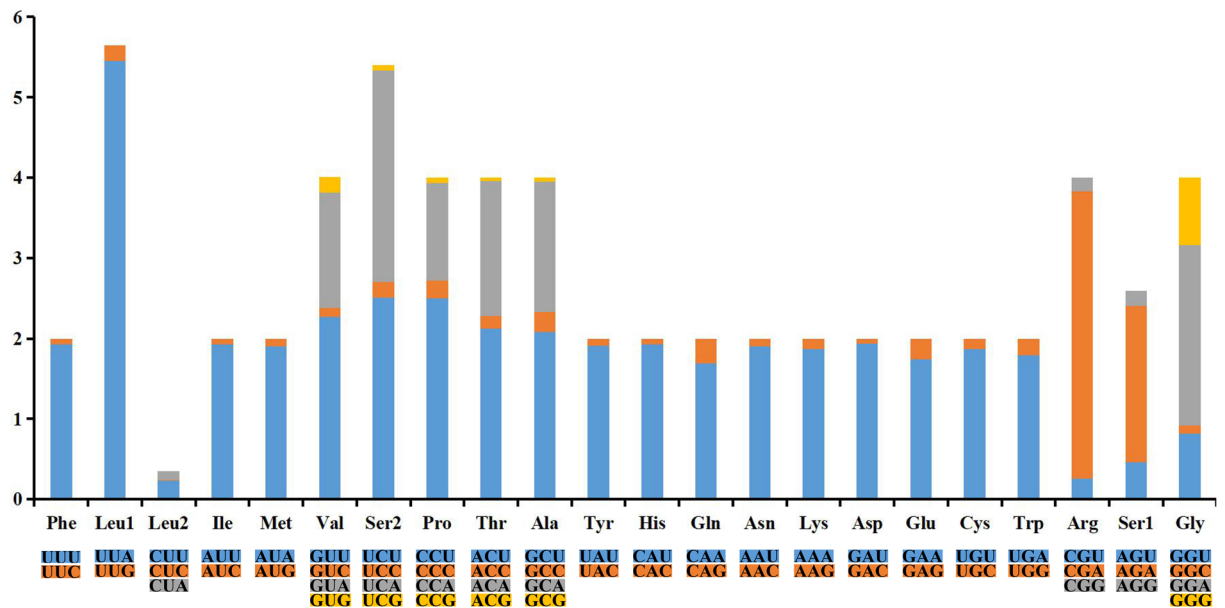


Figure 2. Relative synonymous codon usage of PCGs in the *Anastatus fulloi* mitogenome.

value (Fig. 2). There is a clear preference for A or T in the third codon. Of the 3736 amino acid-encoding codons, TTA (Leu1), CGA (Arg), TCA (Ser2), and TCT (Ser2) were predominant. Codons such as CGC, AGC, and CTG were not presented.

tRNAs, rRNAs and the control region. The total length of 22 tRNAs was 1481 bp, accounting for 9.44% of the whole *A. fulloi* mitogenome (Table 2). These tRNAs range from 60 to 71 bp, within the size range observed in hymenopteran parasitoids^{17,27,42} (Table 1). Among these tRNAs, 12 tRNAs were coded in the heavy strand, and the remaining 10 tRNAs were identified in the light strand. These tRNAs had a high A + T content of 87.58%, a slightly negative AT skew value (− 0.016), and a positive GC skew value (0.261). Except for the absence of a dihydrouridine (DHU) arm in trnS1, most tRNAs had a cloverleaf secondary structure (Fig. 3). The loss of the DHU arm in trnS1 is normal in insects^{5,65}.

Two rRNAs, i.e., the small ribosomal RNA (rrnS) and large ribosomal RNA (rrnL), were 770 bp and 1366 bp in length, respectively. These lengths are similar to those of most reported hymenopterous insects^{27,66}. These rRNAs were located on the heavy strand and were separated by trnA. They consisted of A (43.59%), T (43.68%), C (4.03%), and G (8.71%), with an A + T content of 87.27%. The AT skew and GC skew were − 0.001 and 0.367, respectively.

In insect mitogenomes, the control region, i.e., the A + T-rich region, is associated with replication and transcription^{67,68}. This region is variable not only in size but also in base composition⁶⁹. The CR was 3308 bp with an A + T content of 85.9% in *Pteromalus puparum*⁷⁰ but 578 bp with an A + T content of 93.6% in *Spathius agrili*¹⁸. In addition, repeat structures are usually detected in CR, which is also diverse in both type and size among insect mitogenomes⁶⁹. The high A + T content and presence of repeat regions may result in the failure of obtaining CR sequence due to the inhibition of DNA polymerase^{40,71}. Currently, the long and complex control region still presents challenges to obtaining complete mitogenomes in certain groups of parasitoids^{19,20,27,41,72,73}. In this study, we failed to obtain the complete segment of the CR by next-generation sequencing or Sanger sequencing. The partial control region obtained for the *A. fulloi* mitogenome was 347 bp with an A + T content of 82.13% and was located between trnM and trnV.

Gene rearrangement. Mitochondrial gene rearrangements occur frequently in hymenopterous insects⁷⁴, which are important clues to evolution and are regarded as valuable phylogenetic characters for these insects²⁶. In this study, a comparison of gene-order data was conducted to examine the gene rearrangements. The gene orders of parasitoid mitogenomes assigned to 6 families are shown in Fig. 4. Species from different genera possessed unique gene orders. Compared with the gene order in the ancestral insect mitogenome, parasitoid mitogenomes exhibit large-scale rearrangement events for tRNA genes and PCGs, as reported in other studies of parasitoid mitogenomes^{17,27,75}. In particular, all chalcidoid wasps exhibited an inversion gene block from nad5 to rrnL except *Gonatocerus* sp. Phylogenetically *Gonatocerus* sp. comes closer to the ancestor and agrees with

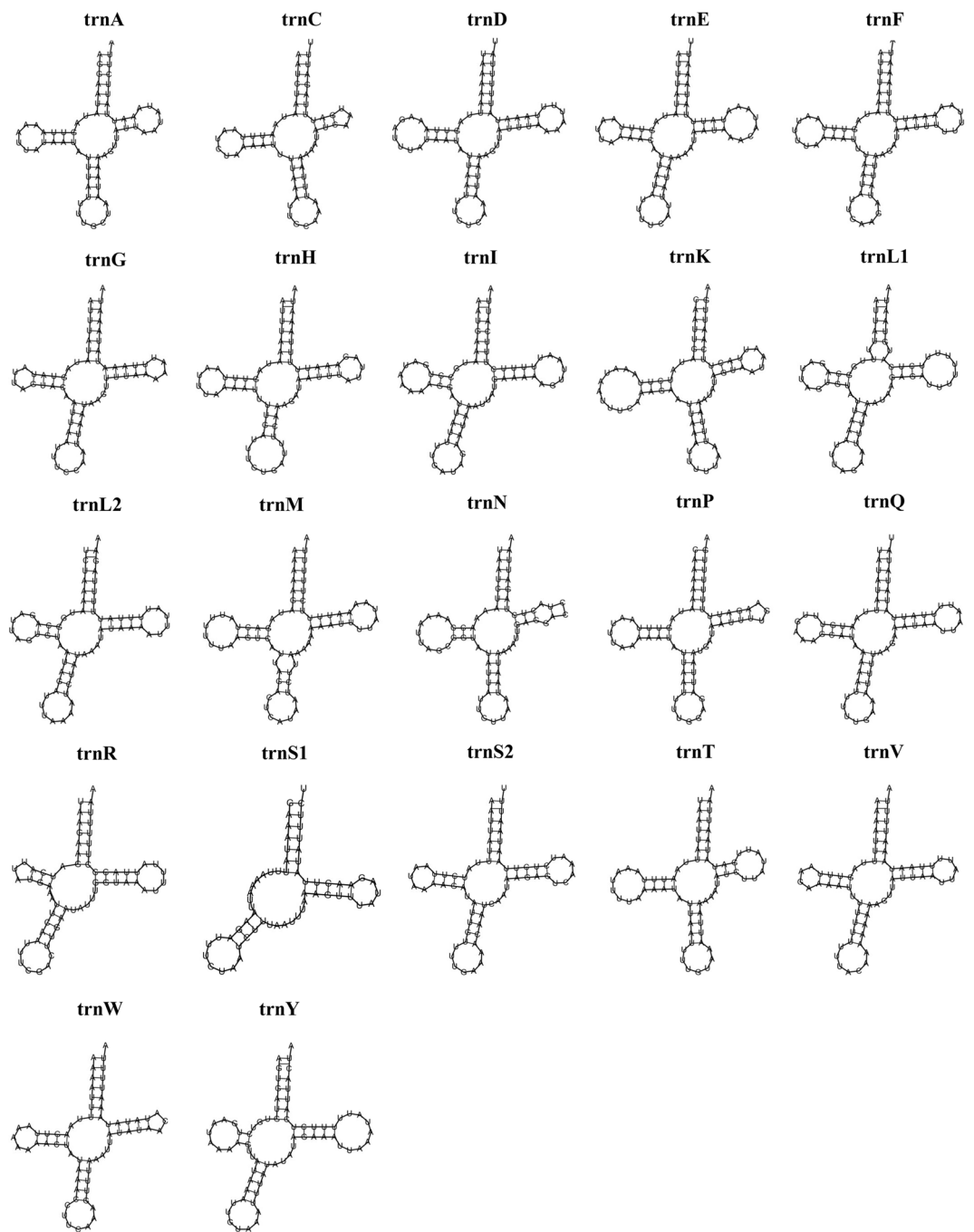


Figure 3. Predicted secondary structures of the 22 typical tRNA genes in the *Anastatus fulloi* mitogenome.

Ancestral insect	cox1	L2	cox2	K	D	ap8	ap8	ap6	cox3	G	nad3	A	R	N	SI	E	-F	nad5	H	nad4	I	-Q	M	nad2	W	-C	-Y		
	cox1	L2	cox2	-K	D	ap8	ap8	ap6	cox3	G	nad3	SI	Y	N	-C	-R	-Q	-W	nad2	I	M	W	-T	nad4	H	nad5	F	-E	
▲ <i>Anastatus falloi</i> <i>Eupelmus</i> sp.	cox1	L2	cox2	-K	D	ap8	ap8	ap6	cox3	G	nad3	SI	Y	N	-C	-R	-Q	-W	nad2	I	M	W	-T	nad4	H	nad5	F	-E	
	cox1	L2	cox2	-K	D	ap8	ap8	ap6	cox3	G	nad3	SI	Y	N	-C	-R	-Q	-W	nad2	I	M	W	-T	nad4	H	nad5	F	-E	
<i>Gonatocerus</i> sp.	cox1	L2	cox2	K	D	ap8	ap8	ap6	cox3	G	nad3	R	N	SI	F	E	nad5	H	nad4	I	-M	-Y	nad2	W	-C	-Y			
	cox1	L2	cox2	-K	D	ap8	ap8	ap6	cox3	G	nad3	R	N	SI	F	E	nad5	H	nad4	I	-M	-Y	nad2	W	-C	-Y			
<i>Megaphysalis amalphitanum</i> <i>Trichogramma</i>	cox1	L2	cox2	-K	D	ap8	ap8	ap6	cox3	G	nad3	I	W	-Y	-SI	M	G	-S2	cytb	V	nad6	trnS	nad4	H	nad5	F	-E		
	cox1	Y	Q	nad2	W	CR	ap8	W	R	V	trnS	nad2	G	A	trnL	L1	nad1	-S2	cytb	V	nad6	trnS	nad4	H	nad5	F	-E		
<i>Chouioia cunea</i>	cox1	L2	cox2	-K	D	ap8	ap8	ap6	cox3	G	nad3	M	W	Y	-C	-R	-I	-SI	N	CR	-Q	V	trnS	nad4	H	nad5	F	-E	
	cox1	L2	cox2	K	D	ap8	ap8	ap6	cox3	G	nad3	SI	I	M	-R	C	-Y	-W	nad2	N	-Q	V	trnS	nad4	H	nad5	F	-E	
<i>Tetrastichus howardi</i>	cox1	L2	cox2	-K	D	ap8	ap8	ap6	cox3	G	nad3	SI	I	M	-R	C	-Y	-W	nad2	N	-Q	V	trnS	nad4	H	nad5	F	-E	
	cox1	L2	cox2	-K	D	ap8	ap8	ap6	cox3	G	nad3	R	Q	C	-N	-Y	-SI	-I	nad2	W	M	V	trnS	nad4	H	nad5	F	-E	
<i>Necremnus tatae</i>	cox1	L2	cox2	-K	D	ap8	ap8	ap6	cox3	G	nad3	C	R	-N	SI	Y	-W	nad2	I	M	V	trnS	nad4	H	nad5	F	-E		
	cox1	L2	cox2	-K	D	ap8	ap8	ap6	cox3	G	nad3	C	R	-N	SI	Y	-W	nad2	I	M	V	trnS	nad4	H	nad5	F	-E		
<i>Anisopteromalus calandrae</i>	cox1	L2	cox2	-K	D	ap8	ap8	ap6	cox3	G	nad3	C	R	-N	SI	Y	-W	nad2	I	M	V	trnS	nad4	H	nad5	F	-E		
	cox1	L2	cox2	-K	D	ap8	ap8	ap6	cox3	G	nad3	C	R	-N	SI	Y	-W	nad2	I	M	V	trnS	nad4	H	nad5	F	-E		
<i>Pteromalus puparum</i>	cox1	L2	cox2	-K	D	ap8	ap8	ap6	cox3	G	nad3	C	R	-N	SI	Y	-W	nad2	I	M	V	trnS	nad4	H	nad5	F	-E		
	cox1	L2	cox2	-K	D	ap8	ap8	ap6	cox3	G	nad3	C	R	-N	SI	Y	-W	nad2	I	M	V	trnS	nad4	H	nad5	F	-E		
<i>Aenasius arizonensis</i>	cox1	L2	cox2	-K	D	ap8	ap8	ap6	cox3	G	nad3	R	C	SI	Y	-N	-W	nad2	I	M	V	trnS	nad4	H	nad5	F	-E		
	cox1	L2	cox2	-K	D	ap8	ap8	ap6	cox3	G	nad3	R	C	SI	Y	-N	-W	nad2	I	M	V	trnS	nad4	H	nad5	F	-E		
<i>Metaphysalis eritococci</i>	cox1	L2	cox2	-K	D	ap8	ap8	ap6	cox3	G	nad3	R	C	-N	SI	Y	-W	nad2	I	CR	-Q	V	trnS	nad4	H	nad5	F	-E	
	cox1	L2	cox2	R	N	cox2	cox2	-K	D	ap8	ap8	ap6	cox3	G	Q	C	Y	-SI	-W	nad2	I	M	V	trnS	nad4	H	nad5	F	-E
<i>Diaphorencyrtus allagarhensis</i>	cox1	L2	nad3	cox2	R	N	ap8	ap8	ap6	cox3	G	nad3	R	Q	C	Y	-SI	-W	nad2	I	CR	-Q	V	trnS	nad4	H	nad5	F	-E
	cox1	L2	nad3	cox2	R	N	ap8	ap8	ap6	cox3	G	nad3	R	Q	C	Y	-SI	-W	nad2	I	CR	-Q	V	trnS	nad4	H	nad5	F	-E
<i>Encyrtus</i>	cox1	L2	cox2	-K	D	ap8	ap8	ap6	cox3	G	nad3	R	I	W	C	-Y	-SI	-I	nad2	N	CR	M	V	trnS	nad4	H	nad5	F	-E
	cox1	L2	cox2	-K	D	ap8	ap8	ap6	cox3	G	nad3	R	I	W	C	-Y	-SI	-I	nad2	N	CR	M	V	trnS	nad4	H	nad5	F	-E

Figure 4. Gene arrangement in the mitogenome of Chalcidoidea.

Ancestral insect



Anastatus fulloi

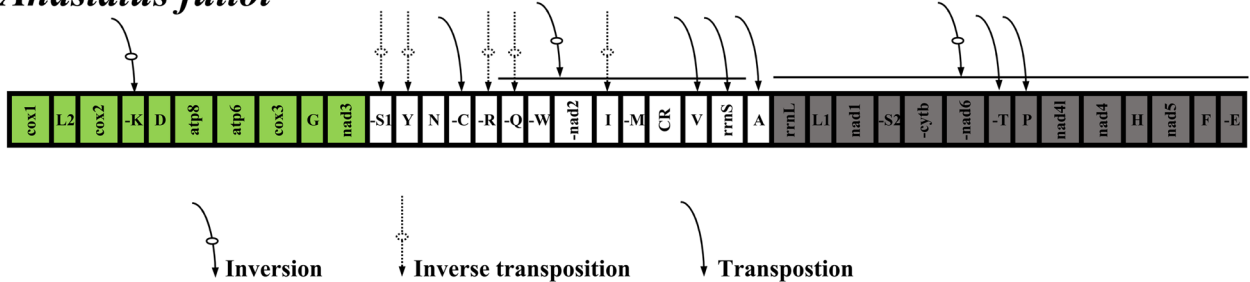


Figure 5. Comparison of gene arrangement between mitogenomes of *Anastatus fulloi* and ancestral insects through CREx analysis. The inverted gene block is shown in grey. Conserved gene block is marked in green.

the genetic order as well. Despite another relatively conserved gene block from *cox1* to *cox3*, the remaining genes are highly rearranged. Although the gene orders of these mitogenomes from different families are variable, infrequent rearrangements were found between closely related species. Within Eupelmidae, mitogenomes of *A. fulloi* and *Eupelmus* sp. also exhibit different gene orders that are attributed to the rearrangement of a few tRNAs. Species from the same genus, such as species of *Trichogramma* and or *Encyrtus*, showed the same gene order in mitogenomes. In this study, mitochondrial gene rearrangements are diverse in chalcidoid wasps but occur infrequently in closely related taxa, which might be useful for phylogenetic analysis.

CREx analysis demonstrated that the gene order of the mitogenome of *A. fulloi* is novel. Compared with the gene order in the ancestral insect mitogenome, the segment between *cox1* and *nad3* was relatively conserved except for the inversion of *trnK*, which is the same as *Metaphycus eriococci*, *Encyrtus sasakii*, and *Chouioia cunea*⁷⁶ (Fig. 5). It has been reported that the segment “*trnE* -*trnF* -*nad5* -*trnH* -*nad4* -*nad41* *trnT* -*trnP* -*nad6* *cytb*” is conserved between *Megraphragma* and *Philotrypesis*^{44,77}. However, in the mitogenome of *A. fulloi*, the segment “*trnE* -*trnF* -*nad5* -*trnH* -*nad4* -*nad41* *trnT* -*trnP* -*nad6* *cytb* *trnS2* -*nad1* -*trnL1* -*rrnL*” was inverted, and *trnT* -*trnP* have exchanged their positions. The segment “-*trnV* -*rrnS* *CR* *trnI* -*trnQ* *trnM* *nad2* *trnW*” was highly rearranged, including the inversions of *trnV*, *rrnS*, *trnM*, *nad2* and *trnW*, position exchanges of *trnV* and *rrnS*, *trnM* and *trnI*, and the transposition of *trnQ* (Fig. 5). In addition, *trnC* and *trnY* were transported to the segment “*trnR* *trnN* *trnS1*”. The gene order of these tRNA genes was changed to “-*trnS1* *trnY* *trnN* -*trnC* -*trnR*”.

Phylogenetic analyses. The phylogenetic relationships of 20 parasitoids within Chalcidoidea were analysed and are displayed in Fig. 6. Maximum likelihood (ML) and Bayesian inference (BI) phylogenetic trees were constructed based on nucleotide sequences of 13 PCGs of these mitogenomes in CIPRES⁷⁸. Although some clades exhibited low support values, the same topological structures were found in two phylogenetic trees. Two species within Eupelmidae, *A. fulloi* and *Eupelmus* sp., were clustered together. Other species within the same families were grouped and separated from other parasitoids in different families. In Chalcidoidea, Eupelmidae is considered to be closely related to Encyrtidae, and to share several of the same features, such as an expanded acropleuron^{79,80}. However, this family is not monophyletic, representing a grade rather than a clade^{24,81,82}. Some species may show a close relationship to Pteromalidae^{79,82}. In the present study, the phylogenetic relationship of parasitoids within Chalcidoidea can be presented as follows: Mymaridae + (Eupelmidae + (Encyrtidae + (Trichogrammatidae + (Pteromalidae + Eulophidae))). This result is consistent with other reports^{27,43}.

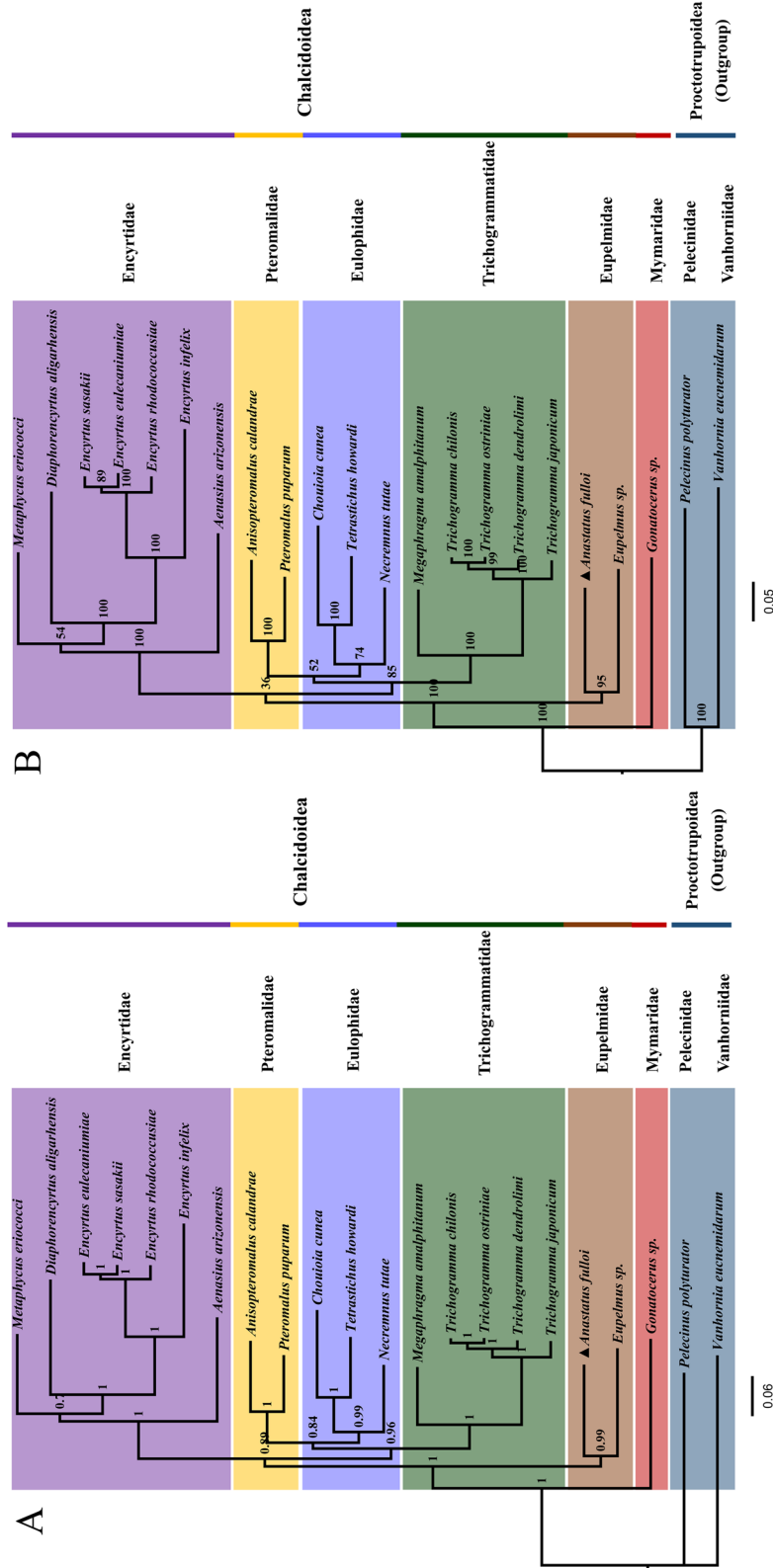


Figure 6. Phylogenetic trees of Chalcidoidea inferred using MrBayes ((A) BI) and maximum likelihood ((B) ML) analyses based on 13 PCGs.

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Author contributions

J.Q.Y. and H.W. conceived and designed research. J.Q.Y., J.B.L., Y.F.Z., Y.J.C., J.H.L., Y.G. and Y.L.L. conducted experiments and analysed data. All Authors critically reviewed and approved the manuscript.

Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

Additional information

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