Hidden genetic history of the Japanese sand dollar Peronella (Echinoidea:
Laganidae) revealed by nuclear intron sequences
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21 Abstract

22The marine environment around Japan experienced significant changes during 23the Cenozoic Era. In this study, we report findings suggesting that this dynamic 24history left behind traces in the genome of the Japanese sand dollar species 25Peronella japonica and P. rubra. Although mitochondrial Cytochrome C Oxidase I 26sequences did not indicate fragmentation of the current local populations of P. 27*japonica* around Japan, two different types of intron sequence were found in the 28Alx1 locus. We inferred that past fragmentation of the populations account for the 29presence of two types of nuclear sequences as alleles in the *Alx1* intron of *P*. 30 *japonica*. It is likely that the split populations have intermixed in recent times; 31hence, we did not detect polymorphisms in the sequences reflecting the current 32localization of the species. In addition, we found two allelic sequences of the Alx1 33 intron in the sister species *P. rubra*. The divergence times of the two types of *Alx1* 34intron sequences were estimated at approximately 14.9 and 4.0 million years ago 35for *P. japonica* and *P. rubra*, respectively. Our study indicates that information 36 from the intron sequences of nuclear genes can enhance our understanding of 37past genetic events in organisms.

38

39 Key words: Alx1, intron sequence, biogeography, *Peronella*, sea urchin

41 Introduction

42Geographic history has a profound influence on the genetic structure of 43organisms, and the intensity of the influence is dependent on their life history 44(Avise 2000; Cowen and Sponaugle 2009). Populations of limited dispersal ability 45are more likely to be fragmented due to geographic changes and are thus more 46likely to record past geographic conditions in their genetic structure (Bohonak 471999; Cowen and Sponaugle 2009). In marine benthic metazoans, dispersal 48potential is largely associated with early life history, i.e., type of larval 49development (Cowen and Sponaugle 2009). It has been shown that the modes of 50early life history have a significant influence even on the genomic evolution of 51metazoans (Romiguier et al. 2014).

52Sea urchins belong to a group of marine animals whose genetic evolution 53as well as their life history has been extensively studied. Although most species of 54sea urchin spend the planktotrophic larval stage as pluteus, some species skip the 55planktotrophic stage and develop directly into juveniles (Strathmann 1978). This 56process of direct development leads to restrictions in the gene flow (Hart 2002). 57Heliocidaris erythrogramma is a sea urchin species that undergoes direct 58development. This species has been shown to have a relatively fragmented 59genetic population structure compared with the closely related species H. 60 tuberculata, which develops through planktotrophic pluteus larvae(McMillan et 61al. 1992).

62 The Japanese sand dollar *Peronella japonica* is widely distributed in
63 shallow water along the Japanese coastline. The fertilized eggs of this species

develop into pluteus larvae with clearly elongated larval arms supported by the
skeleton (Okazaki and Dan 1954). However, the digestive system does not
differentiate properly in the larval body; they are thus lecithotropic, and the
larval stage lasts only a few days before metamorphosis(Okazaki and Dan 1954).
Therefore, this species has relatively limited dispersal ability, and its genetic
structure is likely to be more prone to effects from changes in the marine
environment.

71The marine environment around Japan experienced dynamic changes 72during the Cenozoic Era. The main islands of Japan and the Ryukyu Archipelago were subjected to complex vertical and horizontal movement, as well as sea level 7374changes caused by climate transitions, and these diastrophisms led to temporary fluctuations in the area of exposed land (Kizaki and Oshiro 1977, 1980; Ujiie 75761990; Ota 1998). The East China and Japan Seas were established and 77subsequently collapsed in these geological movements, and subsequent 78bifurcations of warm ocean currents, such as the Kuroshio and Tsushima 79Currents, were established with the emergence of the two seas (e.g., Kizaki and 80 Oshiro 1977; Chinzei 1986). These environmental changes would be expected to 81 have affected the distributions of sea urchin populations.

In this study, we examined variations in mitochondrial and nuclear genes and elucidated phylogenetic relationships to determine whether geographic events along the Japanese coastline left behind traces in the sequence variations in *Peronella japonica* and its relatives. We also discuss the relationships of the paleogeographic and paleoenvironmental conditions during the Cenozoic Era

87 with the established phylogeny.

88

90 Materials and methods

91 DNA extraction, PCR amplification, and sequencing

92 Tissues were obtained from 26 and 14 individuals of *Peronella japonica*93 and *P. rubra*, respectively, taken from a total of five localities along the coastline
94 around Japan (Table 1). We also obtained DNA from two clypeasterid species,
95 *Astriclypeus manni* and *Clypeaster japonicus* belonging to other families of
96 Clypeasteroida.
97 Genomic DNA was extracted from the gonads or sperm of *P. japonica* and

from the mouth of *P. rubra, A. manni* and *C. japonicus* using a DNeasy tissue kit
(Qiagen) following the manufacturer's protocol.

100We initially analyzed COI haplotypes from 17 specimens of *P. japonica*. 101 Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) amplification of the partial cytochrome c 102oxidase I (COI) gene was performed using Ex Taq DNA polymerase (Takara Bio, 103 Inc., Tokyo, Japan) and echinoderm COI universal primers (Hoarearu and 104Boissin 2010) under the following conditions: 94°C for 1 min, followed by 35 cycles 105at 94°C for 30 s, 50°C for 30 s, and 72°C for 2 min, with a final extension at 72°C 106for 7 min. The PCR products were treated with ExoSAP-IT (Affymetrix) prior to 107 the sequencing reactions. Sequencing reactions using a BigDye(r) Terminator 108v3.1 cycle sequencing kit (Applied Biosystems) and sequencing were performed by 109Eurofins Genomics (Tokyo) using an ABI 3730XL DNA analyzer (Applied 110 Biosystems). The sequences were deposited in GenBank, the European Molecular 111 Biology Laboratory (EMBL), and the DNA Data Bank of Japan (DDBJ) under the Accession Numbers provided in Table 1. 112

113	Amplification of the fourth intron of <i>Alx1</i> was performed with a Prime
114	Star GXL (Takara Bio, Inc.) using primers designed in the fourth and fifth exons
115	of <i>P. japonica Alx1</i> (Forward: 5'-GTTTCAAAAACAGAAGGGCAAAAT-3', Reverse:
116	5'-AGTCAAACTCCCTCCTCAGGTT-3'). The intron position was inferred by
117	comparison with the genome sequence of Strongylocentrotus purpuratus
118	Alx1(Sea Urchin Genome Sequencing Consortium 2006). The same set of primers
119	were used for amplification of the fourth intron of <i>P. rubra Alx1</i> . The amplified
120	DNA was sequenced as described for COI. Several additional primers were
121	designed for sequencing the full length of the <i>Alx1</i> intron. In order to analyze
122	haplotype distribution, additional specimens were analyzed for <i>Alx1</i> intron.
123	
124	Phylogenetic analyses and estimation of divergence time
125	The alignments for two nuclear genes were determined based on the
126	maximum nucleotide similarity using a MEGA6 (Tamura et al. 2013) and MAFFT
127	v. 6.864 (Katoh and Toh 2008). Pairwise base differences were calculated using
128	PAUP* 4.0 beta 10 software (Swofford 2003).
129	To determine the phylogenetic relationships among COI haplotypes, we
130	performed phylogenetic analyses using the maximum likelihood (ML) and
131	Bayesian inference (BI) methods. Model selection for ML and BI analyses was
132	performed using the Akaike information criterion (AIC) in jModeltest v. 0.1.1
133	(Posada 2008). For ML and BI analyses, we also performed a partitioning scheme
134	following recent studies (e.g., (Brandley et al. 2005; Wiens et al. 2010). The
135	schemes used for the data were non-partition and three-partition strategies by

codon position. These strategies were assessed using ML implemented in
Treefinder, v. October 2008 (Jobb 2008). The three-partition strategy was selected
as optimal for the COI gene. In this strategy, SYM + I, F81 + G, and GTR + I + G
were selected as the best models for the first, second, and third positions,

140 respectively.

ML analysis was performed using Treefinder under the models selected
in the above process. The confidence of the branches in the ML was determined
using bootstrapping (Felsenstein 1985) with 1,000 replicates in Treefinder. Tree
topologies with bootstrap proportions of ≥70% were regarded as sufficiently
resolved nodes (Huelsenbeck and Hills 1993; Shaffer et al. 1997).

146BI using the Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) technique was also 147performed using MrBayes 3.2 software (Ronquist et al. 2012). We initiated four 148independent analyses with a random starting tree that ran for 10 million 149generations. We used the program Tracer 1.5 (Rambaut and Drummond 2007) to 150determine when the log likelihood of sampled trees reached stationary 151distribution. Because apparent stationarity of the MCMC runs was reached at no 152later than one million generations, we conservatively discarded the first 2.5 153million generations from each run as burn-in, and sampled one of every 100 generations from the remaining 8 million generations to calculate the posterior 154155probability for each branch in the Bayesian tree. Bayesian posterior probabilities 156 $(BPPs) \ge 0.95$ were considered significant support (Larget and Simon 1999) (Huelsenbeck et al. 2001). 157

158 BEAST 1.8.0 (Drummond et al. 2012) was used with a relaxed clock

159	model and with a lognormal distribution and Yule process to obtain Bayesian
160	estimates of the timing of diversification events. The Hasegawa, Kishino, and
161	Yano (HKY) model (Hasegawa et al. 1985) was selected as the best model for both
162	noncoding sequences using jModeltest. The program ran for 10 million
163	generations, with sampling occurring every 1,000 generations for each analysis,
164	assuming the calibration point between P . <i>japonica</i> and P . <i>rubra</i> as 45.6 Myr BP
165	(see above). A burn-in of 20% was applied to obtain the node age estimates using
166	TreeAnnotator 1.8.0 (Drummond et al. 2012).

- 167
- 168

- 169 Results and Discussion
- 170 <u>Mitochondrial DNA sequences did not resolve the genetic structure of *P. japonica*</u>

171We examined the partial COI sequences from a total of 17 individuals of 172*P. japonica* from five localities around Japan and obtained 10 haplotypes (Table 1, 173Fig. 1A, E). *P. japonica* distributes from the main island of Japan (Honshu) to 174Kyushu and Okinawa. We analyzed these sequences in three species of 175clypeasterid with that of *Strongylocentrotus purpuratus* as outgroups. In total, 176we analysed COI sequences from four species of Clypeasteroida (*P. japonica*, *P.* 177rubra, Clypeaster japonicas, Astriclypeus manni) and one Camarodonta (Strongylocentrotus purpuratus; Jacobs et al. 1988). The sequence differences 178179within species were relatively low (0-1.9%, 0-13 bp), whereas the sequence 180differences among the four echinoid species ranged from 12.4 to 20.9% (84–141 bp). 181

182Figure 2 shows the ML derived from 645 bp of mitochondrial COI gene. 183The BI tree (not shown) was almost identical to the ML tree. Monophyly was 184supported for the genus Peronella as well as P. japonica and P. rubra by high 185bootstrap values. However, the intraspecific variations within *P. japonica* were 186 low. The populations of this species on the Japanese coastline seem to be slightly 187fragmented either due to recent divergences or because they are panmixed 188assemblages. Therefore, we focused on another genetic marker with a higher 189substitution rate and examined the intron sequences of the nuclear encoding gene 190 *Alx1* in to investigate these two explanations for the divergence.

192Two types of intron sequences in the nuclear genes of *P. japonica*

193 We inferred the exon–intron structure by referring to the genomic 194sequence of another species of sea urchin, Strogyrocentrotus purpuratus (Sea 195Urchin Genome Sequencing Consortium 2006). Using the Alx1 sequence from 196 Notojima specimens, we designed primers to amplify the fourth intron of Alx1. 197 Unexpectedly, although a single PCR product was obtained from some specimens, 198PCR products of two different sizes were obtained from several specimens. 199 Because two paralogs of Alx genes (Alx1 and Alx4) were isolated from S. 200*purpuratus* (Koga et al. 2016), we examined the sequence of amplified products 201and confirmed that both came from *alx1* and not from *alx4* (Fig. 3). We sequenced 202the PCR products and found that the fourth intron of Alx1 from P. japonica can be classified into two types: L(ong)-type and S(hort)-type (Table 1; Acc No. LC374910 203204for L-type (about 1.9kb) and LC374909 for S-type (about 1.5kb)). The sequences of 205the two types were alignable, although several gap inserts were observed (Fig. 3, 206SFig. 1). Overall, L-type and S-type showed 93.9 % sequence identity, excluding 207indels.

208Heterozygous individuals were found in all sampling localities except 209 Okinawa, where only L-type was observed. The haplotype distribution is 210summarized in Table 1. Except for Okinawa individuals, there appeared to be a 211uniform distribution of two haplotypes along the coastline of Japan. 212

213Evolutionary origin of the two types of intron sequences

214Because *P. rubra*, a sister species of *P. japonica*, is distributed throughout

215the Japanese coastline, we reasoned that the occurrence of two intron haplotypes 216in *P. japonica* may be due to introgression between the two species. These two 217species can be distinguished by the morphology of periproct (Fig. 1A-D). To test 218this hypothesis, we investigated the intron sequences in *P. rubra*, and found that 219P. rubra also possess two types of sequence (Fig. 3; Acc. No. LC374913 for A-type 220(about 1.5 kb) and LC374912 for B-type (about 1.9 kb); minor variation was 221observed in B-type (Fig. S1; LC374911). However, the two types of sequence in P. 222*rubra* were quite different from those in *P. japonica*. In contrast, the intraspecies 223sequence similarity was higher, indicating that the two haplotypes were 224generated via distinct genetic events in the two species (Fig. 3, 4). These 225observations are clearly inconsistent with the idea that the two haplotypes in P. 226japonica are due to an introgression event in *P. rubra*. Our observations of two 227haplotypes in the intron sequences of *P. japonica* suggest that both species 228experienced genetic separation into two distinct populations, followed by 229interbreeding of the populations. In addition, P. rubra experience a similar, but 230independent genetic separation followed by interbreeding.

231

232 Dating the generation of two types of intron sequences

To elucidate the geographic events corresponding to the genetic
separation, we estimated a divergence time between the two genotypes observed
in *Alx1*.

First, we estimated the divergence time between *P. japonica* and *P. rubra*based on COI dataset. The divergence times between *Strongylocentrotus* and

238 Peronera were estimated at 200 Myr BP from fossil evidence (Smith et al. 2006).
239 This date was set as a calibration point for the separation of the two genera in the
240 analysis of the COI phylogeny. We obtained 45.6 Myr BP between *P. japonica* and
241 *P. rubra*. Therefore, we tentatively used this value as a calibration point between
242 the two species in the phylogeny of *Alx1*, as there were no reliable fossil data
243 directly applicable to the divergence between them.

244Using intron sequences of the gene, initial divergences were determined 245as 14.9 Myr BP and 4.0 Myr BP for *P. japonica* and *P. rubra*, respectively (Fig. 4). The deduced divergence time of the *P. japonica* populations (14.9 Myr BP) may 246247have been influenced by the emergence and expansion of the Japan Sea in the 248middle Miocene (ca. 15–14 Mya; Chinzei, 1986; but see Tamaki and Kobayashi 2491988). However, fossils of *Peronella* species have not been recorded in sediments 250of that age around the Japan Sea, whereas there are several descriptions from 251around the East China Sea (e.g., Hayasaka and Morishita 1947; Nisiyama 1968). 252Rather, the geographic history of the East China Sea appears more 253compatible with the diversification of *P. japonica*. The East China Sea emerged 254during the early Cenozoic (ca. 66 Mya: Kizaki and Oshiro 1977, 1980). After its 255emergence, the East China Sea's connections with the Pacific Ocean were 256interrupted by the Ryukyu Cordillera, although it is arguable whether the sea 257was completely separated from the Pacific or was connected through straits (Ota

1998). The differentiation of two genotypes in *P. japonica* (14.9 Myr BP) appears
to have been affected by the opening of one or more straits and corresponding

260 inflows of warm ocean currents during the Miocene (23.0–5.3 Mya). In the early

261Miocene (ca. 20 Myr BP), the East China Sea was connected with the Pacific 262Ocean through straits, whereas the earlier sea was closed by the Ryukyu Arc in 263the late Miocene (ca. 10 Myr BP) (Kizaki and Oshiro 1977, 1980). The ancestor of 264this species is assumed to have originated in a relatively low-latitude marine 265environment, somewhere on the subtropical coast of East Asia. It is probable that 266the species invaded the East China Sea from the Pacific Ocean in the early 267Miocene and then diversified genetically due to the isolation of the East China 268Sea in the late Miocene. Therefore, the present coexistence of two nuclear 269genotypes and the loss of variation in the mitochondrial haplotypes on the 270Japanese coastline appear to be attributable to recent dispersals and re-mixing 271by two strong ocean currents flowing from the southwest to northeast after the 272insularization of the Ryukyu Archipelago and establishment of the Tsushima 273Strait. This conclusion is based solely on the variation in a single gene of a single 274genus, and a genome-wide examination of the nuclear intron sequences is 275required to determine a more precise divergence time for the genotype splitting of 276Peronella,. In addition, to infer the possible relationship between the population 277splitting and paleogeography, the nuclear intron sequences should be analyzed in 278several other marine species.

Mitochondrial DNA sequences and microsatellite sequences have been used in most population genetic studies, and these markers have provided abundant information on the genetic structure and evolutionary history of organisms. Our study suggests that the nuclear intron sequence has the potential to reveal the genetic history that cannot be identified from mitochondrial or

microsatellite sequences. Because mitochondrial DNA behaves as a single locus and is inherited maternally, evidence of interbreeding can be easily erased. In addition, the rapid evolution of microsatellites may hide the genetic record of past genetic isolation followed by intermixing, similar to the events inferred in this study. In this sense, it is notable that two distinct types of intron were found in two species of *Peronella*. Additional cases of hidden genetic isolation might be found by examining other nuclear intron sequences.

291

292 Conclusions

293 Although mitochondrial DNA sequences did not resolve the genetic 294structures of *Peronella* japonica along the Japanese coastline, we unexpectedly 295found two different alleles in the intron sequences of nuclear genes. The presence 296 of the two alleles suggests that genetic isolation occurred in the past and that the 297 two present-day populations are intermixed. Similar genetic isolation was also 298indicated for *P. rubra*. We suggest that partial separation of the East China Sea 299from the Pacific Ocean led to the split of the Peronella populations and that the 300 subsequent rise in sea level caused intermixing of the split populations. Our 301 study indicates that information from the intron sequences of nuclear genes can 302 enhance our understanding of past genetic events in organisms.

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401

402 The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest, and no ethical issues on

403 human participant, and animals were cultured under the rule of University of

404 Tsukuba.

406 Legends for Figures

407 Figure 1. Morphology of *P. japonica* and *P. rubra*.

408 *P. japonica*; Apical view (A) and periproct necked (B). *P. rubura*; Apical view (C)

and pericroct covered with spines (arrows) (D). bars, A and C = 1 cm; B and C = 1
mm. (D) Sampling locations.

411

412 Figure 2. Phylogenetic tree constructed from mitochondrial COI sequences.

413 Bootstrap proportions larger than 70% are shown above nodes. The tree was

414 made by ML method, and SYM + I, F81 + G, and GTR + I + G were selected as the

415 best models for the first, second, and third positions, respectively.

416

417 I	Figure 3.	Partial	alignment	of Alx	<i>l</i> intron se	quences.	(A,	B) 5'	and 3	' end	of the
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418 fourth intron of *Alx1* is shown. Sequences identical to *P. japonica Alx1* mRNA are

419 shaded in black. Sequences identical to *P. japonica* intron S-type are shaded in

420 grey. (C) Diagram of exon-intron structure of Alx1 from S. purpuratus genome.

421

422	Figure 4.	Calibration of divergence	time of Alx1 intron	alleles. The divergence
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423 time of the intron alleles were calculated referring the divergence time of *P*.

424 *japonica* and *P. rubra* estimated based on COI sequences.

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Table 1. Samplimg localities and genotypes							
specimens	Speceis	locality	sex	mtCOI Acc. No	Alx1_genotype		
P_jponica_MjM1	Peronella japonica	Mukaijima	Male	LC374893	LL		
P_jponica_MjM2	Peronella japonica	Mukaijima	Male	LC374894	LL		
P_jponica_MjM3	Peronella japonica	Mukaijima	Male	LC374895	LS		
P_jponica_MjF1	Peronella japonica	Mukaijima	Female		LS		
P_jponica_NtF1	Peronella japonica	Notojima	Female	LC374887	LS*		
P_jponica_NtM1	Peronella japonica	Notojima	Male	LC374896	LS*		
P_jponica_NtM2	Peronella japonica	Notojima	Male	LC374897	LL		
P_jponica_OkF3	Peronella japonica	Okinawa (Bis	Female	LC374898	LL*		
P_jponica_OkF4	Peronella japonica	Okinawa (Bis	Female	LC374899	LL		
P_jponica_OkM1	Peronella japonica	Okinawa (Bis	Male	LC374888	LL*		
P_jponica_OkM2	Peronella japonica	Okinawa (Bis	Male	LC374900	LL		
P_jponica_OkM8	Peronella japonica	Okinawa (Bis	Male	LC374901	LL*		
P_jponica_OkF2	Peronella japonica	Okinawa (Bis	Female		LL		
P_jponica_OkF5	Peronella japonica	Okinawa (Bise	Female		LL		
P_jponica_OkF6	Peronella japonica	Okinawa (Bise	Female		LL		
P_jponica_OkF8	Peronella japonica	Okinawa (Bise	Female		LL*		
P_jponica_OkM3	Peronella japonica	Okinawa (Bis	Male		LL		
P_jponica_OkM4	Peronella japonica	Okinawa (Bis	Male		LL*		
P_jponica_SmF1	Peronella japonica	Shimoda	Female	LC374889	SS		
P_jponica_SmM1	Peronella japonica	Shimoda	Male	LC374902	LL		
P_jponica_SmM2	Peronella japonica	Shimoda	Male	LC374890	LL		
P_jponica_TyF1	Peronella japonica	Tateyama	Female	LC374903	LL*		
P_jponica_TyM2	Peronella japonica	Tateyama	Male	LC374891	LL		
P_jponica_TyM3	Peronella japonica	Tateyama	Male	LC374892	LS		
P_jponica_TyF3	Peronella japonica	Tateyama	Female		SS		
P_jponica_TyM1	Peronella japonica	Tateyama	Male		LS		
P_rubra_Ty223	Peronella rubra	Tateyama	-	LC374904	AB		
P_rubra_Ty229	Peronella rubra	Tateyama	-	LC374905	BB		
P_rubra_Ty232	Peronella rubra	Tateyama	-	LC374906			
P_rubra_Ty229	Peronella rubra	Tateyama	-		BB		
P_rubra_Ty230	Peronella rubra	Tateyama	-		AB		
P_rubra_Ty253	Peronella rubra	Tateyama	-		BB		
P_rubra_Ty254	Peronella rubra	Tateyama	-		AA		
P_rubra_Ty255	Peronella rubra	Tateyama	-		AA		
P_rubra_Ty256	Peronella rubra	Tateyama	-		BB		
P_rubra_Ty257	Peronella rubra	Tateyama	-		AA		
P_rubra_Ty258	Peronella rubra	Tateyama	-		BB		
P_rubra_Ty259	Peronella rubra	Tateyama	-		AB		
P_rubra_Ty260	Peronella rubra	Tateyama	-		AA		
P_rubra_Ty261	Peronella rubra	Tateyama	-		AA		
C_japonicus	Clypeaster japonicus	Tateyama	-	LC374908			
A_manni	Astriclypeus manni	Tateyama	-	LC374907			

: sex not determined

*: genotype examined by analysis amplicon size after performing gel electrophoresis on PCR products













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