

1 **Title**

2 The role of sexual isolation during rapid ecological divergence: evidence for a new dimension of isolation
3 in *Rhagoletis pomonella*

4
5 **Running title**

6 Sexual isolation in early divergence

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15

16 **Author contributions**

17 ACRL and THQP conceived of the study and experimental design. ACRL, ACM, and NAM conducted the
18 experiment. ACRL and ACM analyzed the data. ACRL wrote the manuscript with contributions from
19 THQP, ACM, and NAM.

20

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26

27 **Data accessibility statement**

28 Upon acceptance, data will be archived in Dryad.

29 **The role of sexual isolation during rapid ecological divergence: evidence for a new dimension of**
30 **isolation in *Rhagoletis pomonella***

31

32 **Abstract**

33 The pace of divergence and likelihood of complete speciation may depend how and when different
34 types of reproductive barriers evolve. After initial reproductive barriers evolve, questions remain about
35 how subsequently evolving barriers may facilitate additional divergence and potential speciation. We
36 tested for the presence of sexual isolation (reduced mating between populations due to divergent
37 mating preferences and traits) in *Rhagoletis pomonella* flies, a model system for incipient ecological
38 speciation. We measured the strength of sexual isolation between two very recently diverged (~170
39 years) sympatric populations, adapted to different host fruits. We found that sexual isolation was
40 significantly stronger than expectations of random mating. Thus, sexual isolation may play an important
41 role in reducing gene flow allowed by earlier-acting ecological barriers. We also found that sexual
42 isolation was markedly asymmetric between the sexes of each population. Lastly, we tested how
43 warmer temperatures predicted under climate change could alter sexual isolation and found that
44 mating interactions were sensitive to temperature experienced during development. Our findings
45 provide a window into the early divergence process and the role of sexual isolation after initial
46 ecological divergence, in addition to examining multiple factors that could shape the likelihood of
47 further divergence.

48

49 **Keywords** reproductive isolation, sexual isolation, speciation, mating, asymmetry

50 **Introduction**

51 During the process of ecological speciation, adaptation to different environments can rapidly drive
52 divergence (Schluter 2000, Nosil 2012). Yet, while ecological divergence can quickly differentiate
53 populations, the speciation process frequently remains incomplete (Nosil et al. 2009, Marques et al.
54 2019), or reversible (Seehausen et al. 1997, Lackey and Boughman 2017, Zhang et al. 2019). How rapidly
55 or completely divergence proceeds depends on the strengths and types of reproductive barriers that
56 evolve and when these barriers evolve during divergence (Coyne and Orr 2004, Lowry et al. 2008,
57 Dopman et al. 2010, Schemske 2010, Lackey and Boughman 2017). Thus, understanding how
58 multifaceted reproductive isolation develops along the speciation continuum following initial ecological
59 divergence has important implications for the tempo of diversification.

60

61 In ecological speciation, barriers under direct divergent selection evolve first, and subsequent barriers
62 can evolve independently or as a by-product of divergent adaptation (Schluter 2001, Dieckmann and
63 Doebeli 2004, Rundle and Nosil 2005). Determining how subsequent barriers evolve is important for
64 predicting how rapidly divergence can occur (Smadja and Butlin 2011). Divergence proceeds most
65 rapidly when reproductive isolation occurs as a direct consequence of divergent selection (Servedio et
66 al. 2011). Such divergent selection might result in the evolution of a single strong barrier to gene flow, or
67 multiple barriers might evolve. For instance, local adaptation to different habitats can cause a
68 performance trade-off that limits fitness in alternative environments, which should strengthen divergent
69 habitat use (i.e., habitat isolation; Rice and Hostert 1993, Berlocher and Feder 2002). Divergent
70 adaptation can also result in other barriers, including immigrant inviability, temporal isolation, sexual
71 isolation, or ecological selection against hybrids (Coyne and Orr 2004, Nosil 2012, Servedio and
72 Boughman 2017). Additional reproductive barriers may evolve as a by-product of divergent selection via

73 pleiotropy or hitchhiking, or evolve independently of divergent adaptation (Rice and Hostert 1993,
74 Smadja and Butlin 2011).

75

76 Theoretical and empirical work predicts that speciation is most likely to occur when divergent selection
77 acts on both mating and non-mating traits (van Doorn et al. 2009, Maan and Seehausen 2011, Weissing
78 et al. 2011, Wagner et al. 2012). Indeed, sexual isolation, reduced mating between populations due to
79 divergent mating traits and preferences, can play an essential role during the speciation process. Sexual
80 isolation often evolves early in divergence and can strongly facilitate speciation (Coyne and Orr 2004,
81 Mendelson et al. 2007, Lackey and Boughman 2017). Sexual isolation is more likely to facilitate
82 divergence when it coincides with other barriers (Butlin and Smadja 2018). Sexual isolation often occurs
83 in conjunction with ecological isolation, and this combination characterizes many cases of rapid
84 speciation (Boughman 2002, Ritchie 2007, Seehausen et al. 2008, Maan and Seehausen 2011). Ecological
85 and sexual isolation may evolve rapidly in concert when direct selection acts on ecological and sexual
86 traits (e.g., habitat choice and environmentally-dependent signal production or fitness; McNett and
87 Coccoft 2008, Boughman and Svanback 2017, Maan and Seehausen 2011, Nosil 2012, Safran et al. 2013,
88 Scordato et al. 2014, Servedio and Boughman 2017). Additionally, the same trait(s) may shape both
89 ecological and sexual barriers (Jiggins et al. 2001, Servedio et al. 2011). When sexual isolation occurs
90 along with ecological isolation, it provides an opportunity to understand the relative roles and
91 interdependence of these barriers, reveal the mechanisms currently shaping population differentiation,
92 and potentially understand the origin and evolution of reproductive isolation. This is particularly true
93 when studying populations in early stages of divergence and comparing them to populations at later
94 stages along the speciation continuum.

95

96 Predicting how quickly or completely isolation can evolve also involves evaluating how potential
97 asymmetries in the strength of isolation between populations shape gene flow. Asymmetric
98 reproductive isolation can result from differences between populations in the strength of selection on
99 parental phenotypes or differences in fitness costs for hybrids that are stronger in one direction
100 (Kaneshiro 1980, Arnold et al. 1996, Tiffin et al. 2001, Turelli and Moyle 2007, Kuwajima et al. 2010,
101 Ribardiere et al. 2019). Strong asymmetries may limit or reverse divergence (Arnold et al. 1996, Servedio
102 and Kirkpatrick 1997, Chunco et al. 2007). While asymmetries may be common early in divergence, the
103 extent of asymmetries may diminish as divergence proceeds and selection acts more symmetrically on
104 each population or as incompatibilities arise (Turelli and Moyle 2007, Lackey and Boughman 2017). Even
105 if asymmetries persist at later stages of divergence, their effects can be offset by complementary
106 asymmetries in another barrier (Wade et al. 1995, Kitano et al. 2007, Takami et al. 2007).

107

108 While divergent ecological selection can rapidly generate reproductive isolation, environmental
109 sensitivity of reproductive barriers has important consequences for gene flow and the potential for
110 distinct species to evolve and persist. Reproductive isolation that evolves due to divergent ecological
111 selection may weaken if environmental differences decrease (Seehausen et al. 1997, Grant and Grant
112 2008, Heath et al. 2010, Vonlanthen et al. 2012, Lackey and Boughman 2017). Sexual isolation may be
113 particularly sensitive to environmental changes when differences in mating preferences and traits
114 evolved due to environmental differences (Seehausen et al. 1997, Fisher et al. 2006, Ward and Blum
115 2012, Lackey and Boughman 2013).

116

117 Here, we leveraged a well-established study system in ecological speciation, *Rhagoletis* flies, to evaluate
118 how multifaceted reproductive isolation may evolve, particularly early in divergence. Populations of
119 *Rhagoletis* flies have diverged to adapt to a wide variety of fruiting host plants (Berlocher 2000). One

120 pair of very recently diverged (~170 generations) populations of *Rhagoletis pomonella* have differentially
121 adapted to apple and hawthorn host plants (Walsh 1861, Bush 1966, Linn et al. 2003, Feder et al. 2010,
122 Powell et al. 2020). While habitat and temporal isolation strongly limit gene flow and maintain
123 consistent allele frequency differences between sympatric populations (Feder et al. 1988, Michel et al.
124 2010, Powell et al. 2013), reproductive isolation remains incomplete. Flies from different host-
125 associated populations can still encounter each other, and mark recapture estimates for apple and
126 hawthorn flies indicate gross migration of ~6% in sympatry (Feder et al. 1994). In this system, much less
127 is known about the strength and evolutionary underpinnings of reproductive barriers that may not be
128 under direct divergent ecological selection. Questions remain as to the presence and strength of sexual
129 isolation in *R. pomonella* as well as the potential forces that might underlie this barrier. Across the genus
130 of *Rhagoletis*, previous work suggests that sexual isolation is strong between highly divergent species
131 pairs but absent or weak between closely related taxa (Hood et al. 2012).

132

133 Given how commonly sexual isolation plays an important role both early in divergence and in the
134 likelihood of speciation, we made a novel extension of this study system to assess the contribution
135 sexual isolation to limiting gene flow. First, we measured sexual isolation between recently diverged,
136 sympatric populations of apple and hawthorn *R. pomonella* flies. Second, we examined potential
137 asymmetries in sexual isolation by measuring the contribution of each sex from each population to
138 overall sexual isolation. Third, we tested whether rearing fly pupae under control and warmed
139 temperature regimes that mimic climate change predictions in the next 50-100 years affected mating
140 interactions with consequences for the strength of sexual isolation or patterns of mating success (i.e.,
141 frequency or duration of mating interactions).

142

143 **Methods**

144 *Insect collection and rearing*

145 We collected fruit infested with *Rhagoletis pomonella* flies from apple (*Malus pumila*) and hawthorn
146 (*Crataegus mollis*) trees at a sympatric site in Urbana, Illinois in 2017. We collected apples in mid-August
147 and hawthorns in mid-September. We transported fruit to Binghamton University and maintained fruit
148 at approximately 26°C with 14:10 L:D. We collected larvae that emerged from fruit daily for three weeks,
149 following the natural emergence cycle. Each day, we randomly assigned larvae to two temperature
150 regimes, Control and Warming, described below. We placed larvae into petri dishes with moist
151 vermiculite in environmental chambers (Percival I41VLC9) with their assigned temperature regime for 10
152 days during the transition into the pupal phase. We then transferred viable pupae into individual 0.2 µl
153 tubes and returned them to their assigned temperature regime until adult flies eclosed in the spring and
154 summer of 2018.

155

156 We created temperature regime programs using weekly average minimum, midpoint, and maximum
157 temperatures calculated from soil temperature data from NOAA's National Climatic Data Center (NCDC)
158 from 2007 to 2016 (Watseka, Illinois station: 40.79, -87.76). We used soil temperatures at a depth of
159 10cm, which is the approximate depth of pupal *R. pomonella* during diapause (Feder 1995).

160 Temperature programs and light:dark cycles replicated natural daily oscillations and weekly changes
161 throughout the year (see Supplemental methods text for detail). We based the Control temperature
162 regime on the 10-year weekly averages. Warming temperature regime set points were all 3°C higher
163 than Control, which falls within the range of expected temperature increases for the Midwest in the
164 next 50-100 years for multiple emission scenarios (Pryor et al. 2013). We monitored pupae daily for
165 eclosion after winter programs.

166

167 We housed newly eclosed flies individually in 50 mL Falcon tubes with food (3:1 sugar to yeast
168 hydrolysate mixture, Neilson and McAllan 1964) and water for one day to allow for sclerotization of
169 adult cuticles and wings. Then, flies were assigned to mating trials and painted with randomly assigned
170 marking codes unique to each of 20 individuals within a trial. We used Testors™ (Vernon Hills, Illinois,
171 USA) enamel paint for marking, and we briefly anesthetized flies on carbon dioxide blocks to apply paint.
172 Flies were then housed in clear plastic containers with mesh tops (approximately 1L) in same-sex groups
173 of up to five with food and water *ad libitum* and kept at approximately 26°C and 14:10 L:D cycle.

174

175 *Mating trials*

176 We used multiple choice mating trails with 5 males and 5 females of each population to test whether
177 copulation is more likely to occur within versus between populations. This design mimics natural
178 conditions where flies aggregate on host plants to mate (Prokopy 1976, Aluja et al. 2001). Trials with
179 multiple males and females allow both sexes to engage in mate choice. Thus, we used this design to
180 measure overall sexual isolation and the contributions of each sex from each population.

181

182 We conducted a mating trial once all flies assigned to a trial had reached reproductive maturity (at least
183 10 days old; Neilson and McAllan 1965). For each trial we assigned 5 males and 5 females of each
184 population (Apple and Hawthorn) reared under the same temperature regime (Control or Warming).
185 While we initially assigned 5 flies of each sex from each population to trials, some trials had 4-6 flies of
186 each sex and population due to early mortality and one case of misassignment. In our analysis, we
187 accounted for sample size variation in expectations of random mating. We conducted 3-hour mating
188 trials in tent-shaped enclosures with clear plastic and white mesh sides (BugDorm2™, MegaView
189 Science Education Services LTD, Taiwan; 61 x 61 x 61cm). Each tent contained two water and two food
190 stations as well as an apple as a mating stimulus. Both Apple and Hawthorn flies mate readily on and

191 oviposit into apples in lab trials (Linn et al. 2004, Lyons-Sobaski and Berlocher 2009). We introduced flies
192 to the mating arena by allowing them to fly out of their opened housing enclosures. We introduced
193 females first and allowed them to acclimate for 10 minutes before introducing males. We observed up
194 to 4 mating trials concurrently during each 3-hour observation using scan sampling. For every attempted
195 copulation (one fly mounts the other), we recorded copulation duration and identity of the interacting
196 flies using paint marks. Males typically initiate mating by jumping on the female's back (Smith and
197 Prokopy 1982). Females can resist and dislodge males or accept a mating attempt by extending her
198 ovipositor. Because of the time it takes for sufficient insemination to occur, copulations longer than 5
199 minutes were categorized as successful (Hood et al. 2012). Copulations typically last at least 20 minutes
200 (Smith and Prokopy 1982, Schwarz and McPherson 2007).

201

202 *Statistical analysis*

203 Sexual isolation

204 We calculated sexual isolation using the following equation (Sobel and Chen 2014):

205
$$SI = 1 - 2 \left(\frac{H}{C+H} \right) \quad (1)$$

206 where H is the frequency of heterospecific, or between-population, events and C is the frequency of
207 conspecific, or within-population events. SI ranges linearly from -1 (mating only between populations) to
208 0 (random mating) to 1 (mating only within populations). To account for variation in the number of
209 males and females of each population in each trial, we calculated expected copulations for each pair
210 type (Apple female x Apple male, Apple female x Hawthorn male, Hawthorn female x Apple male,
211 Hawthorn female x Hawthorn male; abbreviated AA, AH, HA, HH) based on random mating null
212 expectations. For each sex of each population, we divided the total number of copulations that group
213 had with flies of the opposite sex from either population with 50:50 mating expectations given the
214 number of Apple males and Hawthorn males in a trial. For example, if Apple females in a trial had 4

215 copulations, and there were equal numbers of Apple (5) and Hawthorn (5) males, then the expected
216 number of copulations given random mating would be 2 Apple female x Apple male and 2 Apple female
217 x Hawthorn male. If there were unequal numbers of males (5 Apple, 4 Hawthorn), then the expected
218 number of copulations would be 2.22 Apple female x Apple male and 1.78 Apple female x Hawthorn
219 male. We used these expected copulations in the following equation (Sobel and Chen 2014):

$$220 \quad SI = 1 - 2 \left(\frac{\frac{H_{obs}}{H_{exp}}}{\frac{C_{obs}}{C_{exp}} + \frac{H_{obs}}{H_{exp}}} \right), \quad (2)$$

221 where observed events (*obs*) were divided by expected events (*exp*). We calculated 95% confidence
222 intervals for total sexual isolation using 127 total copulations as the sample size. To calculate 95%
223 confidence intervals for the contributions of each sex to sexual isolation, we used the following sample
224 sizes: 53 copulations with Apple females, 70 copulations with Apple males, 74 copulations with
225 Hawthorn females, and 57 copulations with Hawthorn males.

226
227 We used a linear mixed model to complement the sexual isolation calculations. This model tested the
228 fixed effect of pair type (AA, AH, HA, HH) and the random effect of trial on the proportion of observed
229 out of expected copulations. We performed this analysis and the following analyses in R 4.0.5 (R Core
230 Team 2020). We used packages lme4 (Bates et al. 2015) and emmeans (Lenth 2021) to test the model
231 and calculate the least-squared means and contrasts. When main effects or interactions were
232 significant, we ran post-hoc tests of pairwise differences using least squares means and a false discovery
233 rate (FDR) p-value adjustment (Benjamini and Hochberg 1995, Verhoeven et al. 2005).

234

235 Comparing prezygotic isolating barriers

236 To place the strength of sexual isolation in context to other prezygotic barriers linked to divergent
237 adaptation to different host plants, we measured the strength of temporal and habitat isolation from

238 existing data. Data for temporal isolation were calculated for Apple and Hawthorn flies reared under
239 control temperatures (Lackey et al. *in prep*). For habitat isolation, we used data from fruit volatile
240 preferences in flight tunnels (Linn et al. 2003). After emergence, flies may travel several kilometers to
241 locate host plants, and fruit volatiles are the major long-range stimulus attracting flies (Maxwell and
242 Parsons 1968, Linn et al. 2003). We calculated 95% confidence intervals for each barrier. Next, we
243 calculated the sequential strength of each barrier ordered by their occurrence in the life cycle (i.e.,
244 temporal, habitat, sexual). The sequential strength of each barrier (SS_n) is calculated from its individual
245 strength (RI_n) and the amount of gene flow allowed by earlier-acting barriers (Ramsey et al. 2003,
246 Dopman et al. 2010, Sobel and Chen 2014):

$$247 \quad SS_n = RI_n (1 - \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} SS_i). \quad (3)$$

248

249 Copulation frequencies

250 We next tested whether a different metric of mating success, copulation frequencies, differed within
251 and between populations. For sexual isolation, we used ratios of observed copulation frequencies out of
252 expected frequencies based on random mating. Here, we analyzed observed copulation frequencies to
253 test for (a) an overall effect of the occurrence of ‘conspecific’ versus ‘heterospecific’ matings not
254 controlled by expected frequencies, (b) an effect rearing temperature on both copulation frequency
255 overall as well as (c) the interactive effect of rearing temperature on ‘conspecific’ versus ‘heterospecific’
256 matings. We used a generalized linear model with the number of copulations as the response variable,
257 which fit a Poisson distribution. We tested the fixed effects of within- or between-population mating
258 and rearing temperature, and we tested the random effect of trial.

259

260 Copulation duration

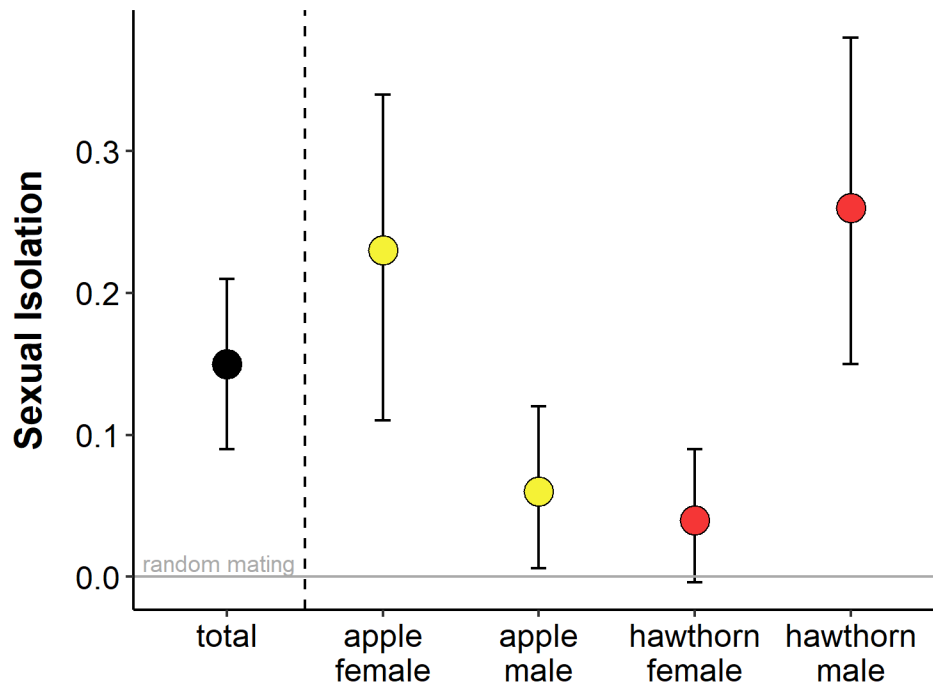
261 We next tested effects of within- versus between-population pair types (AA, AH, HA, HH) and rearing
262 temperature on successful copulation duration, which affects both sperm transfer and availability for
263 subsequent matings. We square root transformed duration to improve normality for linear modeling.
264 We tested the fixed effects of within- versus between-population pair type and rearing temperature
265 with a random effect of trial.

266

267 **Results**

268 *Sexual isolation*

269 Sexual isolation between Apple and Hawthorn flies was significantly greater than expectations of
270 random mating, where isolation is zero (SI = 0.15 [95%CI: 0.21 - 0.09], Figure 1). From the perspective of
271 each sex of each population, Apple females and Hawthorn males had stronger sexual isolation (SI = 0.23
272 [0.34, 0.11] and 0.26 [0.38, 0.15], respectively) than Apple males and Hawthorn females (SI = 0.06 [0.12,
273 0.006] and 0.04 [0.09, -0.004], respectively, Figure 1).



274

275 *Figure 1. Total sexual isolation and contributions of each sex from each population. The dashed vertical*
 276 *line separates total sexual isolation from contributions of each sex from each population. Circles are*
 277 *point values with 95% CIs. The horizontal grey line at 0 indicates random mating, and positive values*
 278 *indicate greater mating within populations than between.*

279

280

281 The results from our linear mixed model support our calculations of sexual isolation. The proportion of
 282 observed out of expected copulations was greater for within-population pairs than between-population
 283 pairs for Apple females and Hawthorn males (Af-Am > Af-Hm: estimate = 0.45, s.e. = 0.20, t = 2.23, p =
 284 0.0276; Hm-Hf > Hm-Af: estimate = 0.53, s.e. = 0.23, t = 2.35, p = 0.0200; though both effects were
 285 marginal after correction with false discovery rate, both $p_{FDR} = 0.0552$). In contrast, the proportion of
 286 observed out of expected copulations did not differ between within- and between-population pairs for
 287 Apple males and Hawthorn females (Am-Af = Am-Hf: estimate = 0.13, s.e. = 0.21, t = 0.61, p = 0.54, $p_{FDR} =$

288 0.69; Hf-Hm = Hf-Am: estimate = 0.08, s.e. = 0.21, $t = 0.40$, $p = 0.69$, $p_{FDR} = 0.69$). The random effect of
289 trial was negligible with both a variance and standard deviation of approximately 0.

290

291 *Copulation frequencies*

292 Copulation frequencies did not differ between within- and between-population pairs. For populations
293 with strong and symmetric sexual isolation, we would expect greater frequencies of within-population
294 than between-population matings. However, given the asymmetric strength of isolation between the
295 sexes, it makes sense that we did not a difference in the frequency of within- versus between-
296 population matings.

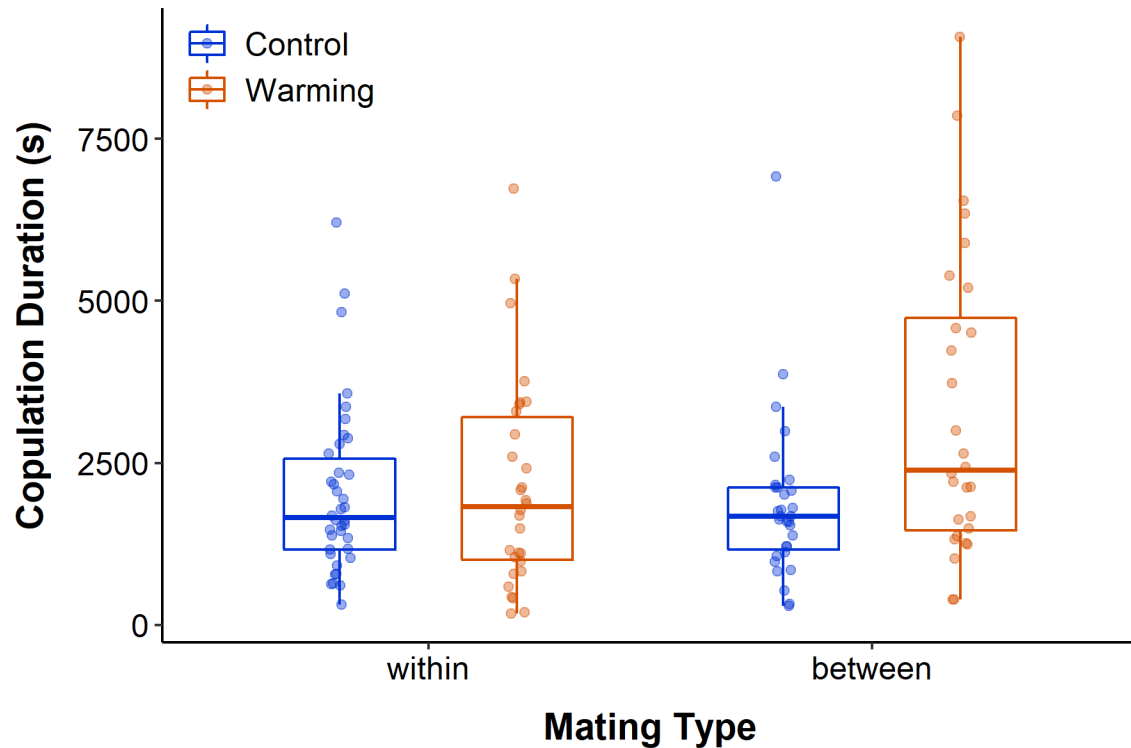
297

298 Rearing temperature significantly affected copulation frequencies (model estimate = 0.76, s.e. = 0.26, $z =$
299 2.93 , $p = 0.0034$). Flies reared under Control temperature regimes copulated more frequently (mean =
300 3.43 , 95% CI: $2.72 - 4.35$) than flies reared under Warming temperature regimes (mean = 1.64 , 95% CI:
301 $1.23 - 2.19$). Again, the random effect of trial was negligible.

302

303 *Copulation duration*

304 Copulation duration was affected by an interaction between rearing temperature and pair type (model
305 effect = 13.40 , s.e. = 5.49 , $df = 115$, $t = 2.44$, $p = 0.0162$; Figure 2). Between-population copulations in
306 Warming (lsmean = 3047 s, 95% CI: $2313 - 3881$) were longer than both within-population copulations
307 in Warming (lsmean = 1953 s, 95% CI: $1414 - 2591$; contrast: $t = 2.66$, $p = 0.0089$, $p_{FDR} = 0.0178$) and
308 between-population copulations in Control (lsmean = 1672 s, 95% CI: $1149 - 2304$; contrast: $t = 4.94$, $p =$
309 0.0062 , $p_{FDR} = 0.0178$).



310

311 *Figure 2. Copulation duration (in seconds) for within- and between-population matings for flies reared in*
 312 *Control or Warming temperature regimes. Dots show durations of each copulation layered over boxplots.*

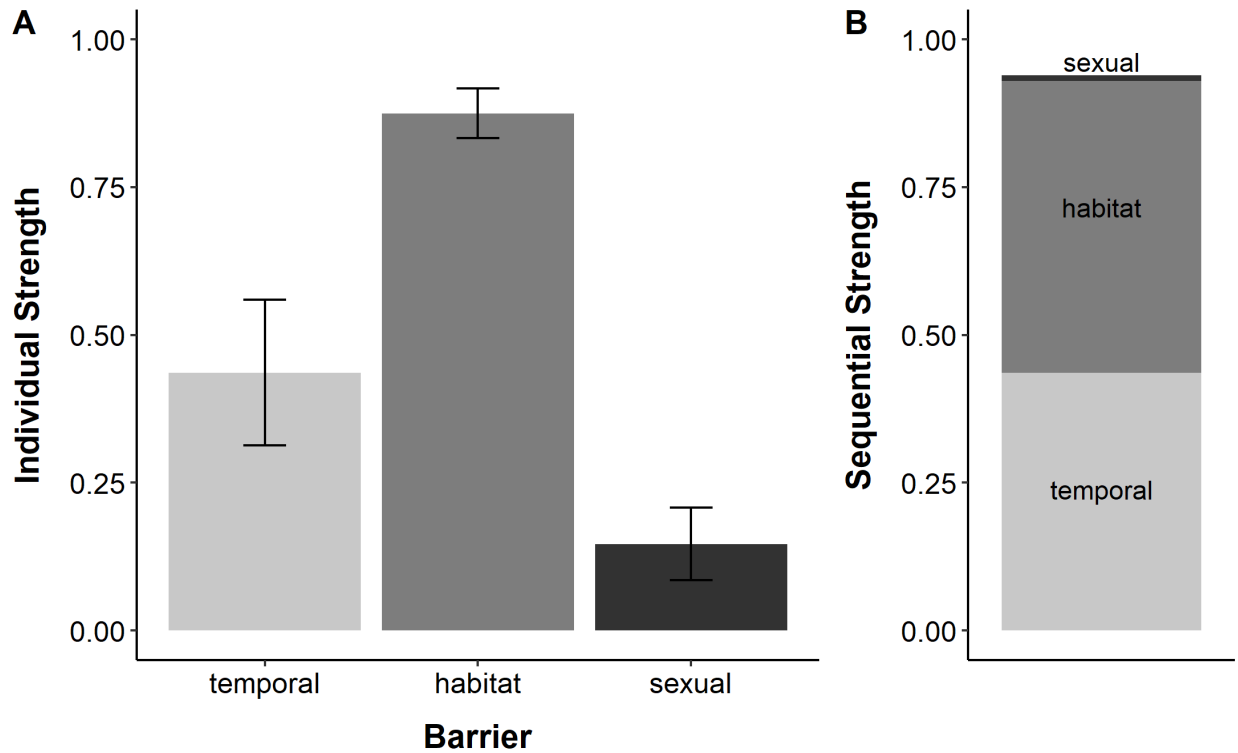
313

314

315 *Comparing prezygotic isolating barriers*

316 Individual strengths of isolating barriers estimate the proportion of gene flow limited by each barrier if
 317 acting alone. Temporal isolation was moderate in strength (RI = 0.44, 95% CI: 0.31 – 0.56). Habitat
 318 isolation, as measured by attraction preference to host fruit volatiles, was the strongest of the three
 319 barriers we estimated (RI = 0.87, 95% CI: 0.83 – 0.92). Sexual isolation was relatively weaker than the
 320 other barriers (RI = 0.15, 95% CI: 0.08 – 0.21), though significantly stronger than expectations of random
 321 mating (RI = 0). The sequential strengths of isolating barriers ordered as each barrier occurs in the life
 322 cycle and estimate the proportion of gene flow limited by that barrier given the gene flow allowed by

323 earlier-acting barriers. Together, temporal and habitat isolation were estimated to limit 93% of potential
324 gene flow. Of the remaining 7% of gene flow, sexual isolation would further reduce gene flow by 1%.
325



326
327 *Figure 3. (A) Individual and (B) sequential strengths of three prezygotic barriers. Error bars in A are 95%*
328 *confidence intervals. Values for barrier strengths and 95% CIs are provided in Supplemental Table 1.*

329

330

331 Discussion

332 A single source of divergent selection can drive rapid and extensive levels of divergence between
333 populations, but this alone is often insufficient to complete speciation (Nosil et al. 2009, Thibert-Plante
334 and Hendry 2011, Kautt et al. 2020). Studying populations early in the process of divergence provides
335 opportunities to measure reproductive barriers as they accumulate and detect the evolutionary forces
336 producing isolation (Nosil et al. 2005, Merrill et al. 2011, Powell et al. 2014, Hood et al. 2020). In

337 addition to measuring the overall strength of reproductive barriers, determining the strength of
338 asymmetries provides insights into the underlying evolutionary processes and understand the nature of
339 how reproductive isolation evolves (Arnold et al. 1996, Servedio and Kirkpatrick 1997, Lackey and
340 Boughman 2017). Even in later stages of divergence, population differences can degrade and allow
341 extensive gene flow, commonly due to environmental change (Seehausen et al. 1997, Vonlanthen et al.
342 2012, Lackey and Boughman 2013). Thus, estimating environmental sensitivity of reproductive barriers
343 enables predictions of the stability of divergence in the face of environmental change, which is
344 especially important when divergence is primarily driven by environmental differences.

345

346 Here, we tested for the presence of sexual isolation, a barrier often important in early stages of
347 divergence, using a well-established case study of rapid divergence with gene flow. Between two very
348 recently diverged populations of apple and hawthorn flies, we have identified the presence of a new
349 dimension of reproductive isolation that has evolved within ~170 generations. We found (1) that the
350 strength of sexual isolation was significantly greater than expectations of random mating, (2) sexual
351 isolation was asymmetric between the sexes of each population, and (3) that mating interactions were
352 sensitive to temperature experienced during development.

353

354 Between apple and hawthorn flies, we provide evidence that sexual isolation could limit approximately
355 15% of gene flow. While sexual isolation is relatively weaker than habitat and temporal isolation, it may
356 play an important role in restricting the homogenizing effects of gene flow and, thus, facilitate
357 divergence. Considering the sequential and combined effects of multiple barriers, temporal and habitat
358 isolation allow 7% gene flow. Adding sexual isolation reduces potential gene flow to 6%, which is
359 consistent with estimated gross migration in the field, based on mark-recapture studies (6%, Feder et al.
360 1994). From the perspective of remaining potential gene flow, the 1% increase in total reproductive

361 isolation may represent a biologically meaningful reduction. Our observed effect of sexual isolation cuts
362 the potential remaining gross migration rate by 14% ($m = 0.07$ to 0.06). Such incremental reductions in
363 migration rates may have considerable consequences for migration-selection equilibria (Yeaman and
364 Whitlock 2011) and may nudge systems closer to “tipping points” after which the pace of divergence
365 increases rapidly to form reproductively isolated species (Flaxman et al. 2014, Nosil et al. 2017, Schilling
366 et al. 2018). Moreover, selection on traits that yield sexual isolation may also increase the extent of
367 genome-wide differentiation, strengthening the likelihood of complete and stable speciation (Nosil and
368 Feder 2012, Kautt et al. 2020).

369

370 The current strength of sexual isolation between apple and hawthorn flies suggests an increase in
371 isolation compared to an estimate from 30 years ago that found no sexual isolation between different
372 host-associated populations of *Rhagoletis pomonella* (Smith 1988). Moreover, across *Rhagoletis* species,
373 sexual isolation increases in strength from weak to strong as divergence between species increases
374 (Smith 1988, Schwarz and McPherson 2007, Hood et al. 2012). It is currently unknown whether sexual
375 isolation evolves in association with host adaptation or independently.

376

377 In the *R. pomonella* species complex, divergent specialization to different host plants has primarily
378 driven divergence and resulted in ecological reproductive isolation between populations through
379 divergent life history timing and olfactory behavioral responses to fruit volatiles (Berlocher 2000, Linn et
380 al. 2005, Dambroski and Feder 2007, Linn et al. 2012, Mattsson et al. 2021). Moreover, geographic
381 isolation alone may be insufficient for the evolution of sexual isolation; sexual isolation was absent
382 between a pair of populations using the same host plant despite 1.5 million years of geographic isolation
383 (Rull et al. 2010). More generally, adaptation to different environments can result in rapid mating trait

384 divergence via direct selection or as a by-product (Lande and Kirkpatrick 1988, Maan and Seehausen
385 2011, Nosil 2012, Safran et al. 2013, Boughman and Svanback 2017, Servedio and Boughman 2017).
386
387 Of particular importance for understanding how distinct species evolve and persist is to determine how
388 reproductive isolation evolves when it is not the result of direct divergent selection. Which evolutionary
389 processes (i.e., indirect selection, hitchhiking, reinforcement, mutation-order) most commonly underlie
390 the accumulation of these additional reproductive barriers? Sexual isolation can evolve via
391 reinforcement when selection against costly matings between populations favors the evolution of
392 prezygotic isolation (Servedio and Noor 2003). In *R. pomonella*, F₁ hybrids may suffer an ecological
393 fitness disadvantage due to reduced responses to host fruit volatiles critical for locating host fruit for
394 reproduction (Linn et al. 2004). Such fitness costs could favor selection for strong mating discrimination
395 via reinforcement. Sexual isolation could also evolve due to population differences in selection along
396 axes independent of primary ecological differences (e.g., non-ecologically mediated sexual selection or
397 sexual conflict, Turbek et al. 2021, Rundle and Rowe 2018) or via non-selective evolutionary processes
398 (e.g., mutation order, Mendelson et al. 2014). Indeed, species maintenance is more likely when at least
399 some reproductive barriers evolve independently of environmental differences (Coyne and Orr 2004,
400 Lackey and Boughman 2017). In *Rhagoletis*, future work is needed to determine the extent to which
401 sexual isolation may result from ecological or non-ecological factors.

402
403 In our study, sexual isolation was asymmetric between the sexes of each population, with one sex
404 mating randomly and the other sex mating more frequently within-population. Between-population
405 matings were most likely between apple males and hawthorn females, which could facilitate asymmetric
406 gene flow. Asymmetric sexual isolation was also found between two more deeply divergent sibling
407 species in the *R. pomonella* species complex (Yee and Goughnour 2012); thus, asymmetric sexual

408 isolation may persist beyond early stages of divergence. Early in the divergence process, reproductive
409 barriers are often asymmetric, potentially because divergent selection can act unevenly on each
410 population (Lackey and Boughman 2017, Tadeo et al. 2018, Ribardiere et al. 2019, Davis et al. 2021).
411 Gene flow allowed by asymmetric isolation can limit further divergence and halt or reverse the
412 speciation process, especially if asymmetric isolation persists in later stages of divergence (Arnold et al.
413 1996, Servedio and Kirkpatrick 1997, Chunco et al. 2007). However, between more distantly related
414 species in the *Rhagoletis* genus, sexual isolation is complete and symmetric (Hood et al. 2012),
415 suggesting that asymmetries in sexual isolation may diminish as divergence proceeds.

416

417 While environmental differences in rearing conditions did not change the strength of sexual isolation
418 between populations, the frequency and duration of mating interactions were sensitive to rearing
419 temperature. Flies reared under our simulated warming temperature regimes copulated less frequently
420 than flies reared under control conditions. Fewer opportunities for reproductive success in warming-
421 reared flies could limit population growth rates given that multiple matings increase fertilization success
422 in this system (Opp and Prokopy 1986). Additionally, warming-reared flies copulated longer in between-
423 population pairs than control-reared flies, which may increase reproductive success of between-
424 population matings. Thus, while warmer temperatures may not weaken sexual isolation, altered mating
425 interactions under warming conditions may affect population maintenance and gene flow.

426

427 In this study, we provide evidence of a new dimension of reproductive isolation between recently
428 diverged populations of *R. pomonella*. Members of the *R. pomonella* species complex have undergone a
429 rapid adaptive radiation primarily due to divergent ecological adaptation (Bush 1966, Berlocher 2000,
430 Powell et al. 2013). However, reproductive isolation is incomplete between recently diverged
431 populations in this complex (Powell et al. 2013, Arcella et al. 2015, Inskeep et al. 2021). Thus, ecological

432 divergence alone may be insufficient to complete speciation (e.g., Nosil et al. 2009). Sexual isolation may
433 play an important role in reducing gene flow to an extent that facilitates further divergence and
434 potential speciation. This study emphasizes the importance of understanding the strength and evolution
435 of reproductive barriers that evolve after initial divergence and the role of these barriers in population
436 divergence.

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684

685 **Supporting Information**

686

687 Supplemental methods text:

688 In each weekly program, temperatures ramped linearly through four set points: midpoint temperature
689 at sunrise, maximum temperature at the time halfway between sunrise and sunset, midpoint
690 temperature at sunset, and minimum temperature at the time halfway between sunset and sunrise. The
691 timing and length of light:dark cycles were set by sunrise and sunset times for the last day in each week
692 of 2016 at the Watseka station. When median weekly temperatures would have dropped below 6°C in
693 each temperature regime, we switched environmental chambers to a winter program with lights off and
694 2.5°C minimum, 3.0°C midpoint, and 3.5°C maximum set points. When median weekly temperatures
695 would have risen above 6°C, we switched environmental chambers to resume Control and Warming
696 regimes based on 10-year weekly temperature averages and light:dark cycles. Given differences in when

697 Control and Warming median temperatures would drop below and rise above 6°C, winter length
698 differed between temperature regimes: 20 weeks, November 12 to April 1, for Control; 16 weeks,
699 November 19 to March 11 for Warming.

700

701 Supplemental Table 1: For each of three prezygotic reproductive barriers, we provide values for the
702 individual barrier strength, 95% confidence interval width, upper and lower bounds of the individual
703 strength given the confidence interval, and the sequential strength. The sequential strength is calculated
704 from its individual strength and the amount of gene flow allowed by earlier-acting barriers.

barrier	individual strength	95% CI	upper	lower	sequential strength
temporal	0.4363	0.1234	0.5597	0.3128	0.4363
habitat	0.8746	0.0421	0.9167	0.8325	0.4931
sexual	0.1461	0.0614	0.2075	0.0847	0.0103

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