

1 **Phylogenetic Signal in Shell Morphology of the Chemosymbiotic Lucinidae (Bivalvia)**

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Abstract

24
25 Lucinidae are the most specious family of extant chemosymbiotic bivalves and occupy a wide
26 range of habitats worldwide. All extant lucinids examined to date house chemosynthetic
27 endosymbionts within their gill tissues. Fossil evidence suggests a Silurian origin for the family,
28 with chemosymbiotic associations dating back to at least the Late Jurassic. Previous systematics
29 work indicates that shell characters contain limited phylogenetic signal, and when they do carry
30 phylogenetic signal, it is typically at more derived, genus-level positions. Instead of using
31 categorical states for shell characters, which are ubiquitous in morphological phylogenetics, this
32 study uses landmark-based geometric morphometrics as a quantitative approach to capture
33 morphological variation in shell shape. To test for phylogenetic signal in morphology using the
34 multivariate version of the K statistic (K_{mult}), we analyzed 627 specimens from eight lucinid
35 species. Bayesian phylogenetic analyses were performed on a subset of 62 specimens using four
36 sequenced genes: the nuclear ribosomal genes 18S rRNA and 28S rRNA, and the mitochondrial
37 genes cytochrome *b* (*cyt b*) and cytochrome oxidase I (COI). This study presents the first COI
38 phylogenetic tree for lucinids. Shell shape exhibited a strong phylogenetic signal ($K_{\text{mult}} = 0.98$),
39 that was visualized through phylomorphospace analysis (PA), phylogenetically aligned
40 component analysis (PACA), and phylogenetic principal component analysis (Phy-PCA).
41 Although phylogenetic signal was present throughout the entire landmark configuration, thin-
42 Plate Spines (TPS) of mean shell shape illustrated that the inhalant channel shape had the
43 greatest variation among species. Therefore, the phylogenetic signal could not be contributed to
44 any single shell feature or shape.

Introduction

Lucinidae are a chemosymbiotic marine bivalve family found in habitats ranging from shallow water to bathyal depths (Glover and Taylor 2007; Mikkelsen and Bieler 2008; Taylor et al. 2014). Lucinids occupy a range of latitudes (60°N to 55°S) and habitats, including coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangrove forests, areas of high organic input (such as sewage outflows), oxygen minimum zones, hydrocarbon seeps, mud volcanoes, and hydrothermal vents (Taylor and Glover 2010; Taylor et al. 2014). Lucinid associations with chemosymbiotic bacteria are presumed to be ancient, dating to at least the Late Jurassic based on fossils associations of *Beauvoisina* with ancient hydrocarbon seep deposits (Gaillard et al. 1992; Kiel et al. 2010; Stanley 2014; Taylor et al. 2014). However, some fossil evidence suggests that chemosymbiosis in lucinids may extend to the Silurian. The Silurian lucinid *Ilionia prisca* had a life position similar to modern lucinids (i.e., anterior-posterior axis parallel to the sediment-water interface), lived at a depth around 20 cm below the sediment-water interface, and exhibited a morphology convergent with the extant *Eomiltha voorhoevei* (Liljedahl 1992; Taylor and Glover 2000).

In the shallow marine realm, infaunal lucinid bivalves most commonly inhabit the interface of oxic-anoxic sediment where there is access to high levels of both molecular oxygen (O₂) and hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) (Stanley 1970; Distel and Felbeck 1988; Taylor and Glover 2010). Lucinids use their foot to create a mucus-lined anterior inhalant tube to access oxygenated seawater, as well as to tunnel into anoxic sediment to ‘mine’ sulfide from porewater for oxidation of reduced sulfur compounds, the primary bioenergetic pathway used by the chemosynthetic bacteria associated with lucinids. Lucinids possess anatomical features indicative of symbiont dependence (Fiala-Médioni and Felbeck 1990; Taylor and Glover 2000, 2006), such as an inhalant channel, which is thought to provide additional feeding and respiratory surfaces

68 (Allen 1958; Taylor and Glover 2000). In life, some lucinid species possess an inhalant channel,
69 an area thickened by blood spaces or can consist of complex folds that form the mantle gills
70 (Taylor and Glover 2006). Evidence of the inhalant channel is preserved on the shell interior as
71 the detachment of the pallial line from the elongated anterior adductor muscle scar (Taylor and
72 Glover 2000, 2006).

73 Morphology has played a major role in shaping the classification and evolutionary
74 relationships not only among lucinids but also in other organisms. Phylogenetic relationships
75 among lucinids are complex, as morphology-based taxonomic placement in phylogenies (Chavan
76 1969; Bretsky 1970, 1976) are incongruent with molecular gene-based phylogenies, which has
77 been attributed to homoplasy (Williams et al. 2004; Taylor and Glover 2006; Taylor et al. 2011,
78 2016). Nonetheless, taxonomic classifications based on shell morphology corroborate molecular
79 data and molecular-based phylogenies demonstrate that shell and other anatomical features in
80 closely related taxa are similar (Taylor and Glover 2006; Taylor et al. 2011, 2016). For example,
81 a study of lucinids from the Western Atlantic combined morphological data derived from
82 Bretsky (1970, 1976) with published 18S rRNA data to produce a tree topology like published
83 phylogenies from molecular data only (Christie et al. 2016; Christie 2017). As such, shell
84 features, such as ornamentation or hinge characters, have a potential phylogenetic signal and
85 could be applicable to reconstructing the fossil record (Taylor and Glover 2006; Taylor et al.
86 2011, 2016). This potential was tested in Long-Fox (2022), as morphological shell characters
87 were revealed to produce congruent, albeit poorly resolved, trees compared to those produced
88 using molecular data, indicating that shell characters can be informative in reconstructing lucinid
89 phylogenies. Unfortunately, these congruent clades did not have one or a suite of shell character
90 states that were diagnostic. This limitation was probably due to a restricted number of taxa with

114 Environment, Science and Technology Commission (BEST) Permit with export under the
115 Bahamas Department of Agriculture permit numbers 39/2015, 28/2016, and 09/2017. Specimens
116 were collected from a variety of habitats over multiple years including from mangrove-adjacent
117 sediments from Wildcat Cove, FL in 2014, seagrass (*Halodule wrightii*, *Thalassia testudinum*,
118 and *Syringodium filiforme*) from Bokeelia, FL in 2014, algae and seagrass (*H. wrightii*, *T.*
119 *testudinum*, and *S. filiforme*) from Sugarloaf Key, FL in 2016, seagrass (*T. testudinum* and *S.*
120 *filiforme*) from Grahams Harbor, the Bahamas in 2016, mangrove-adjacent and seagrass (*H.*
121 *wrightii*, *T. testudinum*, and *S. filiforme*) from Pigeon Creek, the Bahamas in 2016 and 2017,
122 macroalgae and seagrass (*Ruppia maritima*) from Crescent Pond, the Bahamas in 2016 and 2017,
123 macroalgae from Moon Rock Pond, the Bahamas in 2016 and 2017, and no vegetative cover
124 from Pain Pond, the Bahamas in 2018. Sampling methods in Florida were described in Lim et al.
125 (2019, 2021). Sampling in the Bahamas was done using similar approaches, with the following
126 modifications: sediment was hand-dug and -sieved to 30–50 cm depth from within randomly
127 distributed quadrats measuring 0.5 m², rather than equally spaced quadrats oriented in transects
128 that were perpendicular to shore because sampling locations were not shoreline environments,
129 but instead a creek and inland lakes. Live-collected specimens were temporarily maintained in
130 Nasco Whirl-Pak bags with water from the habitat and maintained at ambient temperature before
131 dissection within six hours of collection. One gill and a portion of the foot tissue were separated
132 from the rest of the soft body parts and the shells. The gill and foot tissues were separately
133 placed in RNAlater solution (rather than 100% molecular grade ethanol) and kept at 4 °C for 24
134 hours before storage at -20 °C for transport and until analysis at the University of Tennessee–
135 Knoxville. Dry shells and soft tissues stored in either ethanol or RNAlater were catalogued at the
136 Museum of Geology, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSM).

137 All specimens were grouped by species assignment, and localities were pooled for
138 statistical analyses described in this work because of small and uneven sample sizes among
139 species. For example, some species had small sample sizes, such as *Anodontia alba* ($n = 6$),
140 *Lucina aurantia* ($n = 26$), and *Lucinisca nassula* ($n = 11$). While *Ctena orbiculata* was abundant
141 at one locality, it was represented by only one individual at two other localities. More common
142 taxa included *Codakia orbicularis*, *Ctena* sp., *Phacoides pectinatus*, and *Stewartia floridana*.

143 **Table 1:** List of specimens used in this study with associated locality, count (n), and South Dakota
 144 School of Mines (SDSM) and Technology, Museum of Geology, accession numbers. All
 145 specimens were used for geometric morphometric analysis unless otherwise noted. Specimens
 146 used for phylogenetic data are also listed in Table 3.

Locality	n	SDSM Numbers
<i>Anodontia alba</i>		
★ Sugarloaf Key, Florida	6	134122*, 134126, 134127, 134129*, 134107, 134108
<i>Codakia orbicularis</i>		
▲ Pigeon Creek, Bahamas	29	103116 – 103120, 115522, 115523, 115629, 115630, 115633 – 115635, 115639, 115644, 115648, 115655, 115656, 140433, 140448, 140449, 140818 – 140821, 140834, 140835, 140838, 140847, 140853
▲ Sugarloaf Key, Florida	16	134069, 134078, 134079, 134081, 134082, 134083*, 134086, 134089, 134090, 134093, 134094, 134109, 134114 – 134116, 134138
<i>Ctena orbiculata</i>		
● Bokeelia, Florida	1	111511
● Pigeon Creek, Bahamas	1	140826
● Sugarloaf Key, Florida	73	116881, 116883 – 116886, 116888 – 116890, 116892 – 116899, 116902 – 116905, 116907 – 116912, 116914 – 116916, 116920, 116921, 116923, 116924, 116927 – 116929, 116931 – 116937, 133849 – 133855, 133857, 133858, 134071 – 134075, 134091, 134092, 134099, 134100, 134110 – 134113, 134119, 134132 – 134136, 134139, 134140
<i>Ctena sp.</i>		
■ Crescent Pond, Bahamas	44	115660 – 115683, 140322 – 140339, 140350, 140351
■ Moon Rock Pond, Bahamas	86	115725 – 115744, 140359 – 140380, 140384 – 140389, 140391 – 140405, 140409 – 140430
■ Pain Pond, Bahamas	85	140455 – 140476, 140478 – 140499, 140501 – 140541
■ Pigeon Creek, Bahamas	10	115526, 115631*, 115632, 115647, 140432, 140434, 140442, 140810, 140846, 140852
<i>Lucina aurantia</i>		
● Pigeon Creek, Bahamas	16	103122 – 103128, 115615, 115621, 115622, 115645, 140807 – 140809, 140827, 140829
● Grahams Harbor, Bahamas	10	102773, 102774, 102782 – 102788, 115713
<i>Lucinisca nassula</i>		
◆ Bokeelia, Florida	1	111515
◆ Sugarloaf Key, Florida	10	134070, 134076, 134077, 134101, 134120, 134123 – 134125, 134130, 134131

*Shell broken, specimen not used in morphometric analysis

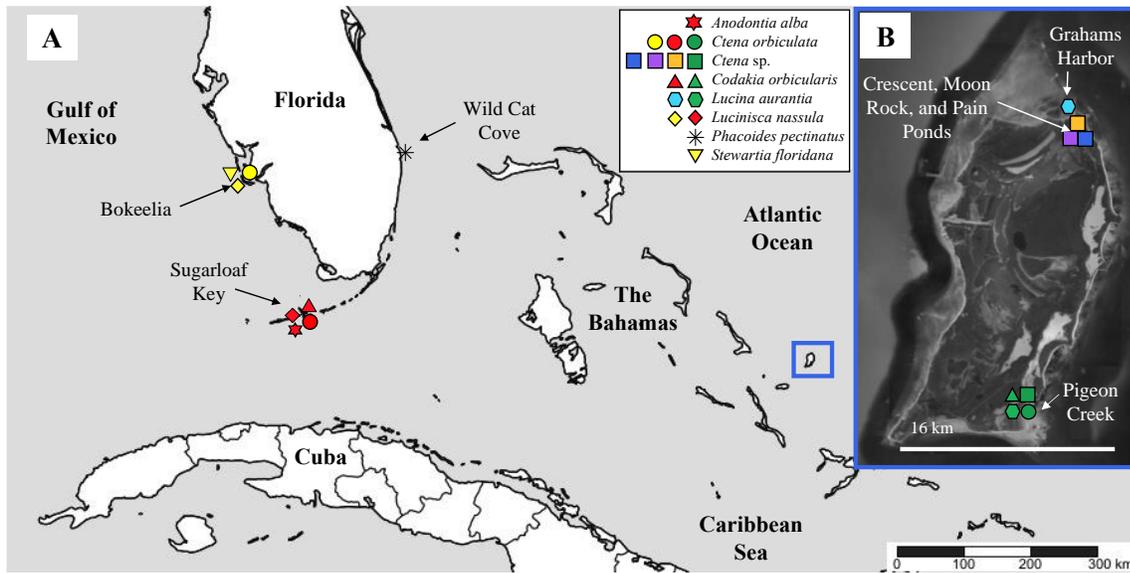
147
 148
 149
 150

151 **Table 1:** (Continued)

Locality	n	SDSM Numbers
<i>Phacoides pectinatus</i>		
* Wild Cat Cove, Florida	99	111051 – 111077, 111083 – 111098, 111100 – 111110, 111420 – 111458, 111459*, 111471, 111480, 111494, 111498, 111506
<i>Stewartia floridana</i>		
▼ Bokeelia, Florida	140	110398 – 110415, 110417 – 110443, 110444*, 110445 – 110448, 110450 – 110477, 145704 – 145718, 145721 – 145768

152 *Shell broken, specimen not used in morphometric analysis

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158 **Figure 1:** Map of the eight localities where the eight lucinid taxa were collected for this study.
159 *Anodontia alba* (stars) were collected at Sugarloaf Key, Florida (Red), USA. Refer to Table 1 for
160 the legend. Map A is from SimpleMappr (Shorthouse 2010) and map B is from Google Earth
161 (2015).

162 DNA extraction, gene amplification, sequencing, and assembly

163 DNA was extracted at the University of Tennessee–Knoxville from approximately 25 mg
164 of gill and foot tissues, separately, from 62 specimens using the Qiagen DNeasy Blood & Tissue
165 Kits, following manufacturer instructions. DNA was diluted to 10–25 ng prior to PCR
166 amplification. Four genes were selected to be amplified and sequenced: the nuclear ribosomal
167 genes 18S rRNA and 28S rRNA, and the mitochondrial genes cytochrome *b* (*cyt b*) and
168 cytochrome oxidase I (COI). Previous lucinid molecular phylogenies indicated that 18S rRNA,
169 28S rRNA, and *cyt b* are phylogenetically informative genes (Williams et al. 2004; Taylor et al.
170 2011, 2013, 2014, 2016; Kuhara et al. 2014; Glover et al. 2016) so they are used here for
171 comparative purposes. While COI has not been used in lucinid phylogenies, it was selected for
172 this study due to its utility in population studies of other bivalves (Zanatta and Murphy 2008;
173 Tarnowska et al. 2010; Feng et al. 2011; Sanna et al. 2017). The 18S rRNA, 28S rRNA, *cyt b*,
174 and COI genes were amplified at Clemson University using specific primers for each gene
175 (Table 2). PCR was performed using similar conditions for all primers, except for MgCl₂
176 concentrations and primer annealing temperatures (see Table 2), in 20 μL volumes. Each
177 reaction mixture contained 10 μL of Bioline BIO-X-ACT™ Short Mix, 8.2 μL of H₂O (8.6 μL
178 of H₂O for 28S rRNA), 0.4 μL of 25 mM MgCl₂ (no additional MgCl₂ for 28S rRNA; see Table
179 2 for concentrations), 0.2 μL of 10 μM concentrations of forward and reverse primers, and 1 μL
180 of DNA. Thermal cycling was performed with an initial denaturation step for 2 minutes at 94 °C,
181 followed by 40 cycles of: 30 seconds at 94 °C, 30 seconds at the gene-specific annealing
182 temperature (Table 2), and 90 seconds at 72 °C; a final extension step was for 5 minutes at 72
183 °C. Gel electrophoresis was used to verify the PCR reactions, and successful PCR products were
184 purified using a QIAquick PCR Purification Kit (QIAGEN) to remove unwanted components.

185 Sanger Sequencing (Eton Biosciences, NC) was able to fully sequence the amplified products
 186 with the two end primers.

187 Forward and reverse sequences were compared and overlapping sequences (to generate
 188 contiguous sequences) were constructed in Sequencher 5.4.6 (Gene Codes Corporation, Ann
 189 Arbor, MI, USA). Consensus sequence parameters were set to the following defaults: assembly
 190 algorithm – dirty data, optimize gap replacement – use reAligner and prefer 3’gap placement,
 191 minimum match percentage – 85, and minimum overlap – 20. Consensus sequences for the four
 192 genes were deposited in GenBank (Benson et al. 2013; Sayers et al. 2020, 2021) and are listed in
 193 Table 3. For Sanger sequencing of the 18S rRNA gene, only two of the four primers previously
 194 used in studies (Taylor et al. 2011, 2016) were employed. As a result, the 18S rRNA genes did
 195 not overlap and fragments with gaps were deposited. Similarly, amplification for some genes
 196 was unsuccessful for some specimens (Table 3).

197 **Table 2:** PCR primers for the 18S rRNA, 28S rRNA, *cyt b*, and COI genes, with primer sequence,
 198 annealing temperature, final magnesium chloride (MgCl₂) concentrations, and primer reference.

Gene/Primer	Sequence 5' → 3'	Annealing	[MgCl ₂]	Reference
18S rRNA				
18S-5' (Forward)	CTGGTTGATYCTGCC AGT	50 °C	3.0 mM	Winnepeenninckx et al. 1998
18S1100R (Reverse)	CTTCGAACCTCTGAC TTTCG	50 °C	3.0 mM	Williams et al. 2003
28S rRNA				
LSU5 (Forward)	TAGGTCGACCCGCTG AAYTTAAGCA	55 °C	2.0 mM	Littlewood et al. 2000
LSU1600R (Reverse)	AGCGCCATCCATTTT CAGG	55 °C	2.0 mM	Williams et al. 2003
Cytb				
cytB-F (Forward)	GRGGKGCTACKGTA ATTACTAA	50 °C	3.0 mM	Taylor et al. 2008
cytB-R (Reverse)	AAATAYCAYTCNGG CTGRATATG	50 °C	3.0 mM	Taylor et al. 2008
COI				

CO1490 (Forward)	GGTCAACAAATCATA AAGATATTGG	52 °C	3.0 mM	Folmer et al. 1994
HC02198 (Reverse)	TAAACTTCAGGGTGA CCAAAAAATCA	52 °C	3.0 mM	Folmer et al. 1994

199

200 **Table 3:** Taxa included in the analysis with associated localities, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Museum of Geology
 201 (SDSM) catalog numbers, and GenBank accession numbers.

Taxa	Locality	SDSM	18S rRNA	28S rRNA	Cyt <i>b</i>	COI
<i>Anodontia alba</i>	Sugarloaf Key, Florida	134122	MK204749	MK190964	MK461261	—
	Sugarloaf Key, Florida	134126	MK204750	MK190965	MK461262	—
	Sugarloaf Key, Florida	134127	MK204751	MK190966	MK461263	—
	Sugarloaf Key, Florida	134129	MK204752	MK190967	MK461264	—
	Sugarloaf Key, Florida	134108	MK204753	MK190968	MK461265	—
<i>Codakia orbicularis</i>	Pigeon Creek Mouth, Bahamas	115522	MK204754	MK190969	MK461266	MK461210
	Pigeon Creek Mouth, Bahamas	115629	MK204755	MK190970	MK461267	MK461211
	Pigeon Creek Mouth, Bahamas	115630	MK204756	MK190971	MK461268	MK461212
	Pigeon Creek Mouth, Bahamas	115655	MK204757	MK190972	MK461269	MK461213
	Pigeon Creek Mouth, Bahamas	115656	MK204758	MK190973	MK461270	MK461214
	Sugarloaf Key, Florida	134069	MK204759	MK190974	MK461271	MK461215
	Sugarloaf Key, Florida	134083	MK204760	MK190975	—	—
	Sugarloaf Key, Florida	134093	MK204761	MK190976	MK461272	MK461216
	Sugarloaf Key, Florida	143800	MK204762	MK190977	MK461273	MK461217
	Sugarloaf Key, Florida	134114	MK204763	MK190978	MK461274	MK461218
<i>Ctena orbiculata</i>	Bokeelia, Florida	111511	MK204764	MK190979	MK461275	MK461219
	Pigeon Creek Mouth, Bahamas	140826	MK204784	MK190999	MK461295	—
	Sugarloaf Key, Florida	116885	MK204776	MK190991	MK461287	MK461231
	Sugarloaf Key, Florida	133857	MK204777	MK190992	MK461288	—
	Sugarloaf Key, Florida	133852	MK204778	MK190993	MK461289	MK461232
	Sugarloaf Key, Florida	116912	MK204779	MK190994	MK461290	MK461233
	Sugarloaf Key, Florida	116929	MK204780	MK190995	MK461291	—
	<i>Ctena</i> sp.	Crescent Pond, Bahamas	115660	MK204766	MK190981	MK461277
Crescent Pond, Bahamas	115661	MK204767	MK190982	MK461278	MK461222	
Crescent Pond, Bahamas	115662	MK204768	MK190983	MK461279	MK461223	
Crescent Pond, Bahamas	115673	MK204769	MK190984	MK461280	MK461224	
Crescent Pond, Bahamas	115677	MK204770	MK190985	MK461281	MK461225	

Table 3: (Continued)

Taxa	Locality	SDSM	18S rRNA	28S rRNA	cyt b	COI	
<i>Ctena</i> sp.	Moon Rock Pond, Bahamas	115725	MK204771	MK190986	MK461282	MK461226	
	Moon Rock Pond, Bahamas	115726	MK204772	MK190987	MK461283	MK461227	
	Moon Rock Pond, Bahamas	115727	MK204773	MK190988	MK461284	MK461228	
	Moon Rock Pond, Bahamas	115728	MK204774	MK190989	MK461285	MK461229	
	Moon Rock Pond, Bahamas	115733	MK204775	MK190990	MK461286	MK461230	
	Pain Pond, Bahamas	140460	MK204785	MK191000	MK461296	MK461237	
	Pain Pond, Bahamas	140461	MK204786	MK191001	MK461297	MK461238	
	Pain Pond, Bahamas	140462	MK204787	MK191002	MK461298	MK461239	
	Pain Pond, Bahamas	140463	MK204788	MK191003	MK461299	MK461240	
	Pain Pond, Bahamas	140464	MK204789	MK191004	MK461300	MK461241	
	Pigeon Creek Mouth, Bahamas	115631	MK204765	MK190980	MK461276	MK461220	
	Pigeon Creek Mouth, Bahamas	140434	MK204781	MK190996	MK461292	MK461234	
	Pigeon Creek Mouth, Bahamas	140810	MK204782	MK190997	MK461293	MK461235	
	<i>Lucina aurantia</i>	Grahams Harbor, Bahamas	115713	MK204794	MK191009	MK461307	MK461248
		Pigeon Creek Mouth, Bahamas	115621	MK204790	MK191005	MK461303	MK461244
Pigeon Creek Mouth, Bahamas		115622	MK204791	MK191006	MK461304	MK461245	
Pigeon Creek Mouth, Bahamas		115615	MK204792	MK191007	MK461305	MK461246	
Pigeon Creek Mouth, Bahamas		115645	MK204793	MK191008	MK461306	MK461247	
Pigeon Creek Mouth, Bahamas		140827	MK204795	—	MK461308	MK461249	
<i>Lucinisca nassula</i>		Sugarloaf Key, Florida	134123	MK204796	MK191010	MK461301	MK461242
	Sugarloaf Key, Florida	134101	MK204797	MK191011	MK461302	MK461243	
<i>Phacoides pectinatus</i>	Wildcat Cove, Florida	111076	MK204798	MK191012	MK461309	MK461250	
	Wildcat Cove, Florida	111427	MK204799	MK191013	MK461310	MK461251	
	Wildcat Cove, Florida	111420	MK204800	MK191014	MK461311	MK461252	
	Wildcat Cove, Florida	111448	MK204801	MK191015	MK461312	MK461253	
	Wildcat Cove, Florida	111457	MK204802	MK191016	MK461313	MK461254	
<i>Stewartia floridana</i>	Bokeelia, Florida	110451	—	MK191017	—	—	
	Bokeelia, Florida	110452	MK204803	—	MK461314	—	
	Bokeelia, Florida	110453	MK204804	—	MK461315	—	

Table 3: (Continued)

Taxa	Locality	SDSM	18S rRNA	28S rRNA	Cytb	COI
<i>Stewartia floridana</i>	Bokeelia, Florida	110455	MK204805	MK191018	MK461316	MK461255
	Bokeelia, Florida	110432	MK204806	—	MK461317	MK461256
	Bokeelia, Florida	143801	MK204807	—	MK461318	MK461257
	Bokeelia, Florida	143803	MK204808	—	MK461319	MK461258
	Bokeelia, Florida	143808	MK204809	—	MK461320	MK461259
	Bokeelia, Florida	143805	MK204810	—	MK461321	MK461260
<i>Parathyasira equalis</i>		—	AM774482	AM779656	FR686685	AM706524

202

203 Molecular Phylogenetics

204 The ClustalW algorithm in MEGA7 (Kumar et al. 2016) was used to align sequences
205 with the following settings: gap opening penalty = 15, gap extension penalty = 7, and delay
206 divergent cutoff = 95%. Sequences were aligned to a reference sequence downloaded from
207 GenBank (AM774498 for *A. alba*, AM774500 for *C. orbicularis*, LT614692 for *C. orbiculata*
208 and *C. imbricatula*, FR686738 for *L. pensylvanica*, FR686736 for *L. nassula*, AM774503 for *P.*
209 *pectinatus*, and FR686749 for *S. floridana*). Gaps and poorly aligned regions were removed
210 using Gblocks server, version 0.91b (Castresana 2000; Talavera and Castresana 2007) with the
211 settings ‘allow gaps within final blocks’ and ‘allow less strict flanking positions,’ resulting in the
212 18S rRNA gene length being reduced from 2,351 bp to 929 base pairs (bp) (39% of the original
213 data), the 28S rRNA gene being reduced from 1,751 bp to 1,221 bp (69% of the original data),
214 the *cyt b* gene being reduced from 554 bp to 384 bp (69% of the original data), and the COI gene
215 being reduced from 827 bp to 669 bp (80% of the original data). Trimming significantly removed
216 gaps, particularly in the 18S rRNA sequences. *Parathyasira equalis* was selected as an outgroup
217 because all four genes had sequences available on GenBank and *P. equalis* belongs to
218 Thyasiridae, the closest sister family to Lucinidae.

219 Phylogenetic analyses were performed using Bayesian inference with MrBayes version
220 3.2.6 (Huelsenbeck and Ronquist 2001; Ronquist and Huelsenbeck 2003). Each gene was
221 analyzed individually, then all four genes were combined into a single dataset and analyzed.
222 Each dataset was run with using a Metropolis-coupled Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMCMC)
223 with 4 chains (1 cold chain and 3 heated chains). The analyses were run for 10,000,000
224 generations, sampling at a frequency of 1,000 with the first 25% of trees discarded as burn-in.
225 Evolutionary models for each gene were selected using jModelTest (Guindon and Gascuel 2003;

226 Posada 2008; Darriba et al. 2012). The GTR + I + Γ substitution model (a General Time
227 Reversible substitution model with a proportion of invariable sites and a gamma shaped
228 distribution of rates across sites) was selected for all four genes. Consensus trees were produced
229 with associated branch lengths and posterior probabilities support values. Trees were visualized
230 and edited in FigTree v1.4.4 (Rambaut 2018).

231 Geometric Morphometrics

232 Two-dimensional geometric morphometrics (Bookstein 1992) were used to quantify the
233 shape of the anterior and posterior adductor muscle scars, inhalant channel, and valve outline.
234 The landmark configuration consisted of six Type 1 and 2 landmarks, as well as 52
235 semilandmarks (Figure 2). Type 1 landmarks represent specific local homologous features (e.g.,
236 the intersection of anterior muscle scar and pallial line) and Type 2 landmarks are local extremes
237 along curvatures (e.g., maximum curvature of dorsal margin of anterior adductor muscle scar). In
238 addition, semilandmarks were used to outline curves, which were resampled at equal distance.

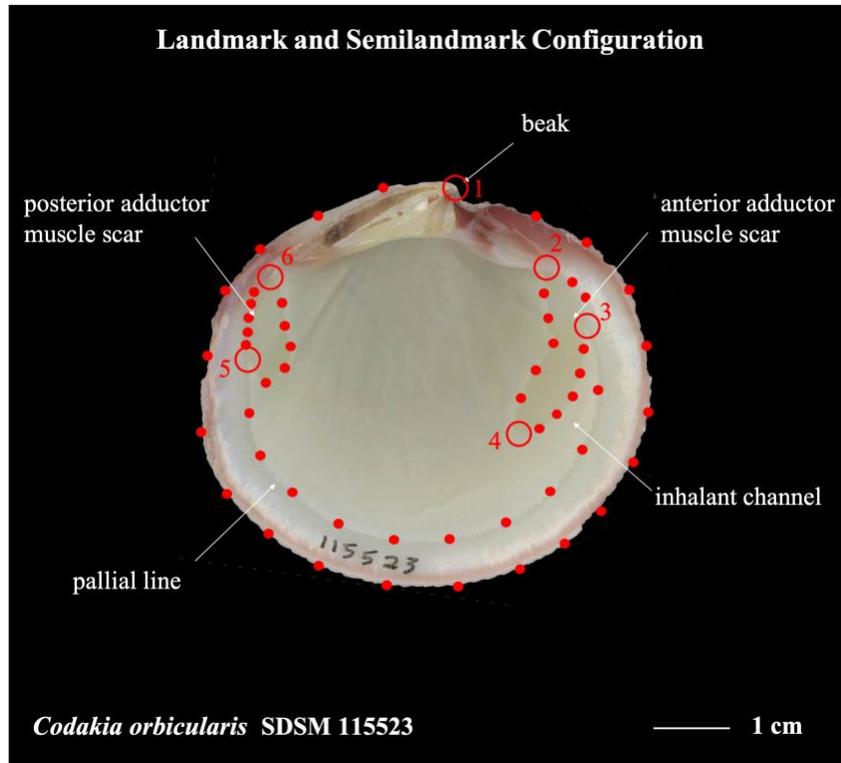
239 Lucinid landmarks selected were as follows, clockwise from the beak (Figure 2): (1)
240 beak, (2) maximum curvature of dorsal margin of anterior adductor muscle scar, (3) intersection
241 of anterior muscle scar and pallial line, (4) maximum curvature of ventral margin of anterior
242 adductor muscle scar, (5) intersection of posterior adductor muscle scar and pallial line, and (6)
243 maximum curvature of dorsal margin of posterior adductor muscle scar. Semilandmarks include
244 twenty equidistance semilandmarks around the edge of the shell, two equidistance
245 semilandmarks between landmarks 2 and 3, five equidistance semilandmarks between landmarks
246 3 to 4, five equidistance semilandmarks between landmarks 2 and 4, ten equidistance
247 semilandmarks between landmarks 3 to 5, five equidistance semilandmarks between landmarks 5
248 and 6 along the exterior of the posterior adductor scar, and five equidistance semilandmarks

249 between landmarks 5 and 6 along the interior of the posterior adductor scar. Although hinge
250 features are often used for taxonomic identification, particularly at the genus level, the number
251 and orientation of interlocking cardinal and lateral teeth vary among taxa, preventing placement
252 of homologous landmarks across taxa.

253 Specimens were imaged at 600 or 1,200 dpi (for specimens smaller than 2 cm) using an
254 HP Scanjet 8300 laser scanner and digitized using tpsDig2 version 2.31 (Rohlf 2017). Cartesian
255 coordinates were superimposed using a Generalized Procrustes Analysis (GPA) in the gpagen
256 function of the ‘geomorph’ package (Adams and Otárola-Castillo 2013; Adams et al. 2021;
257 Baken et al. 2021) in R (R Core Team 2020). The GPA removes non-shape variation by
258 centering the landmark configurations to the origin of the reference configuration, scaling the
259 configurations to centroid size (CS), and rotating the configuration to a common reference form
260 (Gower 1975; Rohlf and Slice 1990; Zelditch et al. 2012). Semilandmarks were allowed to slide
261 along tangent planes between two adjacent landmarks to minimize Procrustes distances. The
262 resulting per-specimen landmark coordinates were used for subsequent morphometric analysis.

263 Ordination methods were used to visualize morphospace differences among species,
264 while also allowing any locality differences to be visualized using color-filled shapes. The
265 ordination methods include a Principal Components Analysis (PCA) using gm.prcomp in the
266 ‘geomorph’ package and an Canonical Variates Analysis (CVA) using CVA in the ‘Morpho’
267 package (Schlager 2017). Finally, to test for statistically significant differences in Procrustes
268 shape among species, a multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA) using residual
269 randomization in permutation procedures (RRPP) (Collyer and Adams 2018, 2020) was
270 implemented using the procD.lm function in the ‘geomorph’ package. For any statistically

271 significant results, a post-hoc test was performed using the permudist function in the ‘Morpho’
272 package.



273
274 **Figure 2:** *Codakia orbicularis* specimen (SDSM 115523), with labelled landmarks (large open
275 circles, numbered 1 through 6) and semilandmark curves (small filled circles) that were used in
276 the analysis.

277
278 Phylogenetic Signal

279 For phylogenetic signal analyses, the phylogenetic and morphometric data were directly
280 combined after the following two steps: (1) the combined 18S rRNA, 28S rRNA, *cyt b*, and COI
281 gene phylogenetic tree was imported into R using the `read.nexus` function in the ‘ape’ package
282 (Paradis et al. 2004; Paradis and Schliep 2019) and branches were collapsed to show one
283 representative sequence from each species using the `drop.tip` function in the ‘ape’ package; (2)
284 the mean shell shape for each species was calculated from the geometric morphometric data
285 using the `mshape` function in the ‘geomorph’ package.

286 Phylogenetic signal of the shell shape and size were tested using K_{mult} , the multivariate
287 version of the K-statistic (Blomberg et al. 2003; Adams 2014). Tests for phylogenetic signal in
288 shell shape and size were performed using the `physignal` function in the ‘`geomorph`’ package.
289 The observed K value was compared to the null and assessed for significance, where $K < 1$
290 indicates no phylogenetic signal, $K = 1$ indicates a phylogenetic signal, and $K > 1$ indicates a
291 phylogenetic signal greater than expected under Brownian motion (Blomberg et al. 2003; Adams
292 2014).

293 To visualize patterns of morphological variation in the shell shape data, three ordinations
294 were performed using variations of the `gm.prcomp` function in the ‘`geomorph`’ package. The first
295 ordination is a phylomorphospace analysis (PA), which is a standard PCA with the addition of
296 phylogenetic branches and estimated ancestral states projected into ordination space (Rohlf
297 2002; Sidlauskas 2008). If phylogenetic signal, as determined by K_{mult} is strong, then the first PC
298 axis of the PA should show the largest variation among the estimated ancestral trait values
299 (Collyer and Adams 2020). The second ordination method is a phylogenetic principal component
300 analysis (Phy-PCA), which produces a projection that is independent of phylogeny (Revell 2009;
301 Polly et al. 2013; Uyeda et al. 2015; Collyer and Adams 2020). The third ordination is a
302 phylogenetically aligned component analysis (PACA), which shows trends most associated with
303 phylogenetic signal (Collyer and Adams 2020). For PA, ordinary least squares (OLS) is used in a
304 standard principal components analysis (PCA), whereas for Phy-PCA, generalized least-squares
305 (GLS) is used to calculate a rates matrix and mean-centered residuals to account for phylogenetic
306 non-independence among taxa (Collyer and Adams 2020). PACA can use either OLS or GLS to
307 align residuals to the phylogenetic covariance matrix, here, GLS was used as it does not assume
308 phylogenetic independence (Collyer and Adams 2020; Collyer et al. 2021).

309 The first axis of all three ordination (PA, Phy-PCA, and PACA) were compared to one
310 another by calculating angles between the first components (Collyer and Adams 2018). To
311 determine if the first component of PA was a similar orientation to PACA, angles between
312 respective axes were calculated using the arccosine of vector cross-products using the
313 `vec.cor.matrix` function in the ‘RRPP’ package (Collyer and Adams 2018). The orientation of the
314 first axis of PA represents the axis with the greatest morphological variation, and if it is similar
315 to that of PACA, that would indicate that the axis of major morphologic variation is also the axis
316 with the strongest phylogenetic signal (Collyer and Adams 2020). For instances where
317 phylogenetic signal is not solely displayed in the axis of greatest morphological variation, or can
318 be attributed to multiple axes, shape interpretations need to encompass morphologic variation
319 across multiple axes. In this study, shape variation was examined using Thin-Plate Spline (TPS)
320 deformations of the mean shape of each species using the `plotRefToTarget` function in the
321 ‘geomorph’ package.

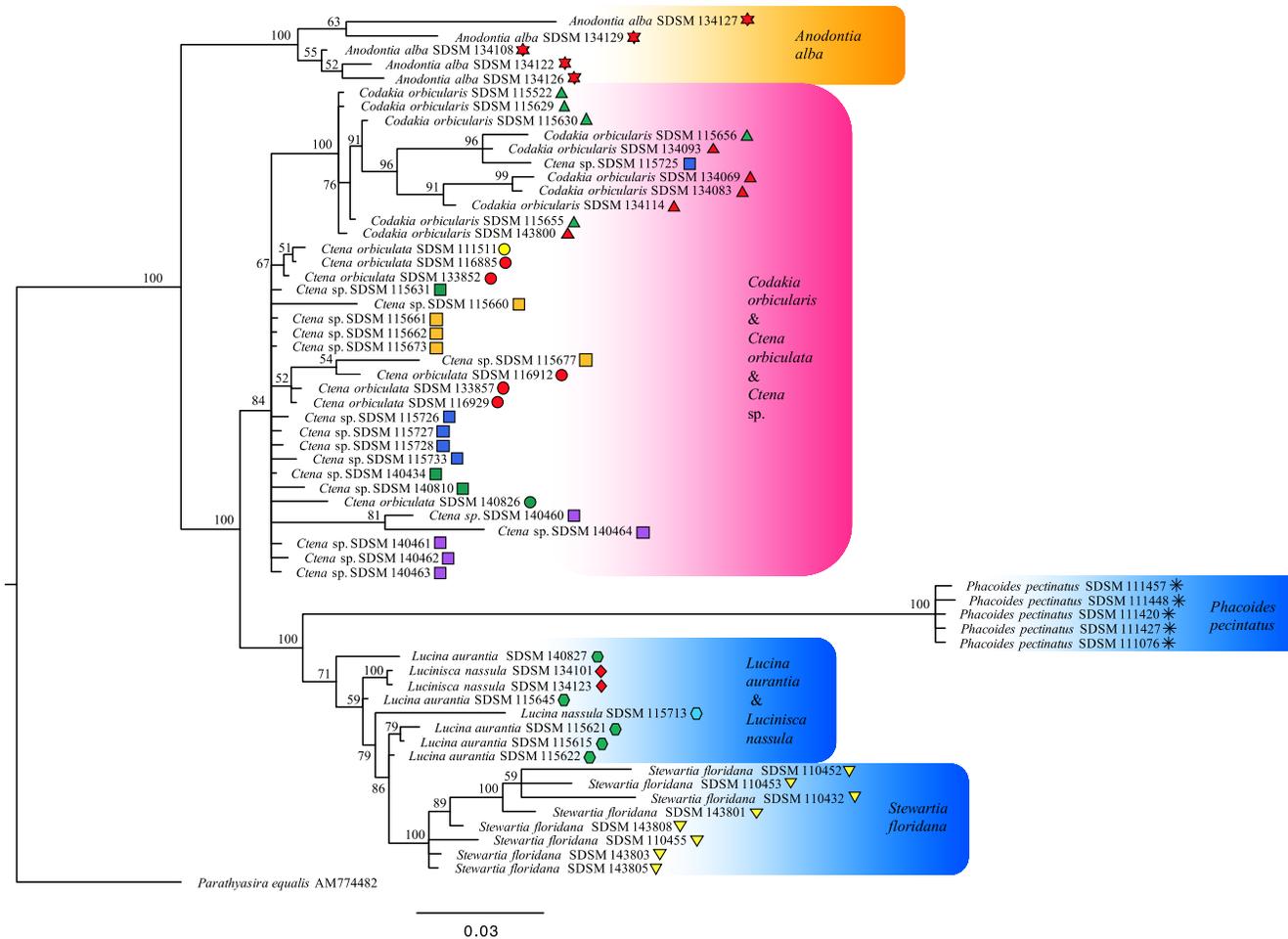
322 **Results**

323 Molecular Phylogenetics

324 Single-gene phylogenetic trees inferred from 18S rRNA (Figure 3), 28S rRNA (Figure 4),
325 *cyt b* (Figure 5), and COI (Figure 6), along with the tree inferred with the combined datasets of
326 all four genes (18S rRNA, 28S rRNA, *cyt b*, and COI), resulted in congruent topologies (Figure
327 7) relative to previous work (Taylor et al. 2011, 2016). Overall, clade positions had strong
328 support (>98%) at the species-level for 28S rRNA (Figure 4), *cyt b* (Figure 5), COI (Figure 6),
329 and the combined gene tree (Figure 7).

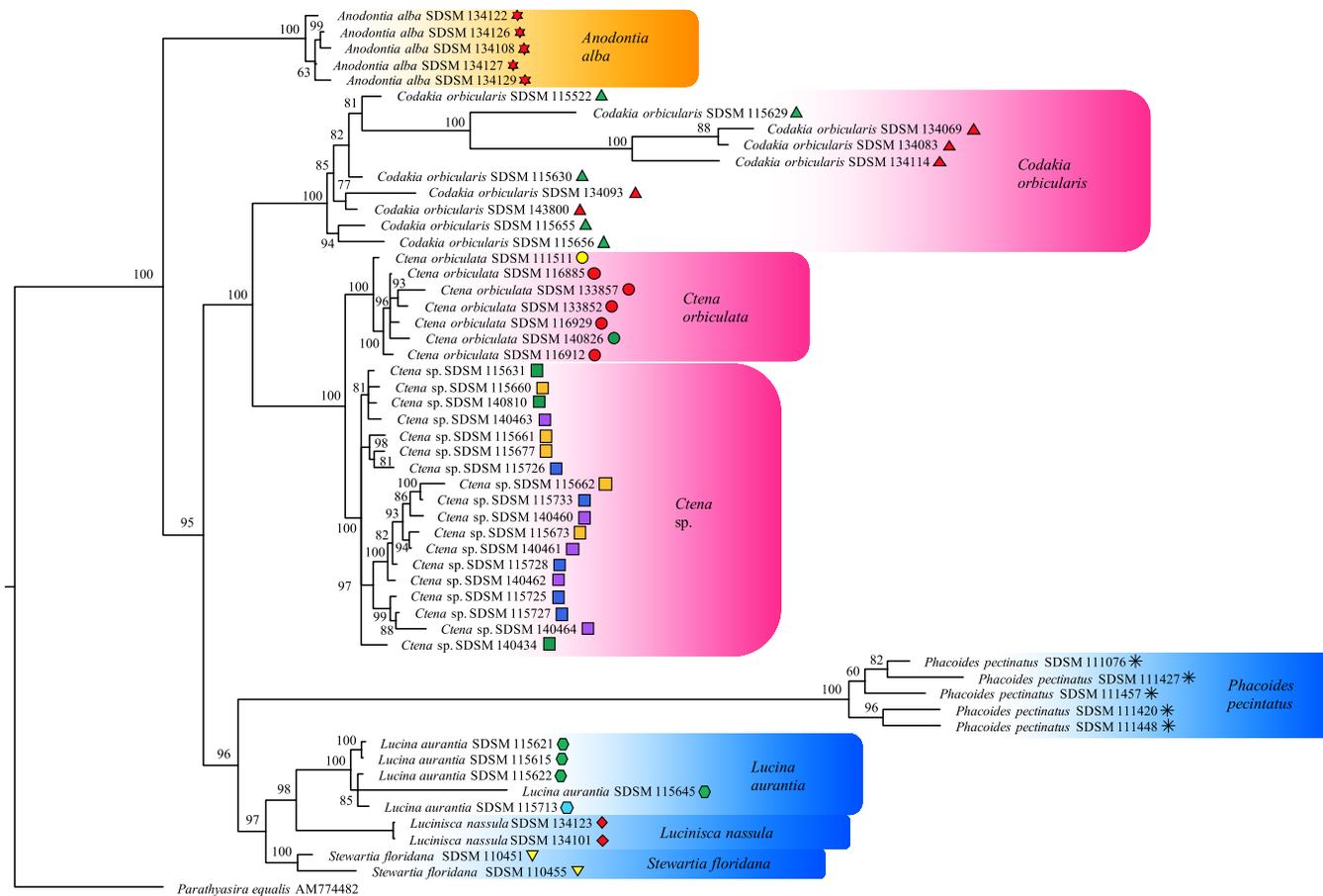
330 As expected from the large gaps in 18S rRNA gene sequence data generated in this study,
331 as well as missing sequence data for some taxa, the resolution for some taxa was low and

332 exhibited numerous unresolved clades and polytomies, depending on the gene. Even with larger
333 datasets, taxonomic relationships among some subfamilies, like the Lucininae, are not well
334 resolved (Taylor et al. 2011; Taylor et al. 2016). From the gene trees, members of the Lucininae
335 were consistently placed within a single clade, but relationships among species varied,
336 particularly the placement of *S. floridana* and *P. pectinatus*. Moreover, the taxonomic positions
337 for *C. orbicularis*, *C. orbiculata* and *Ctena* sp. on the 18S rRNA gene tree were unresolved, as
338 were the *L. aurantia* and *L. nassula* clades. From the COI tree, other than the placement of *C.*
339 *orbicularis* as basal to both the Codakiinae and Lucininae subfamilies, all members of the
340 Codakiinae formed a clade that was fully resolved. The basal placement of *C. orbicularis* in the
341 COI tree may be an artifact because *A. alba* gene sequences were not successfully amplified
342 (Table 3).



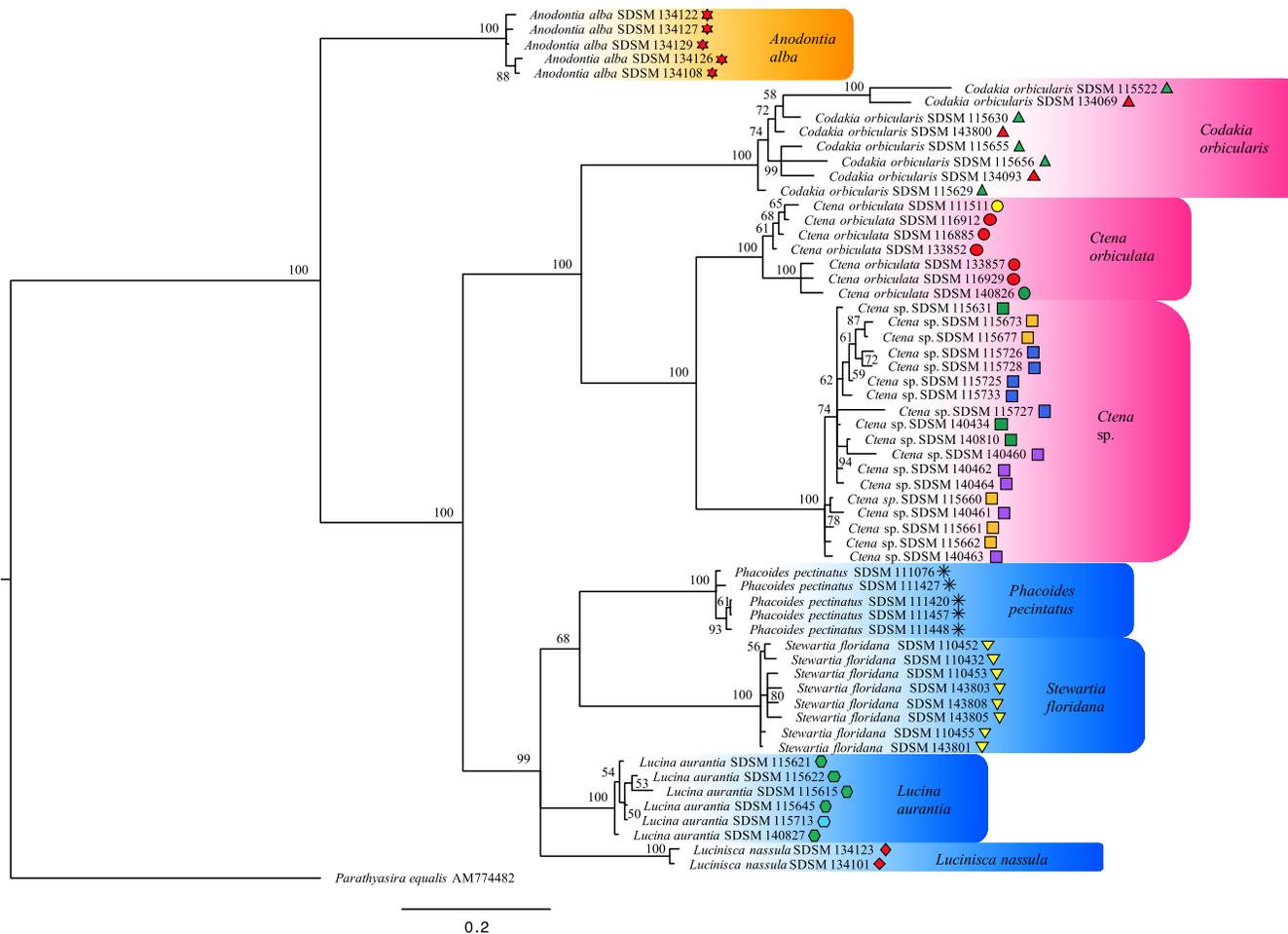
343

344 **Figure 3:** Bayesian inferred single gene tree for 18S rRNA sequences. Support values are posterior probabilities with branches less than
 345 50% collapsed. Scale bar represents genetic distance for the number of substitutions per site. Symbols and colors next to taxa name
 346 explained in Figure 2.2. Colors indicate subfamilies designated in Taylor et al. (2011; 2016) as orange for Leucosphaerinae, pink for
 347 Codakiinae, and blue for Lucininae.



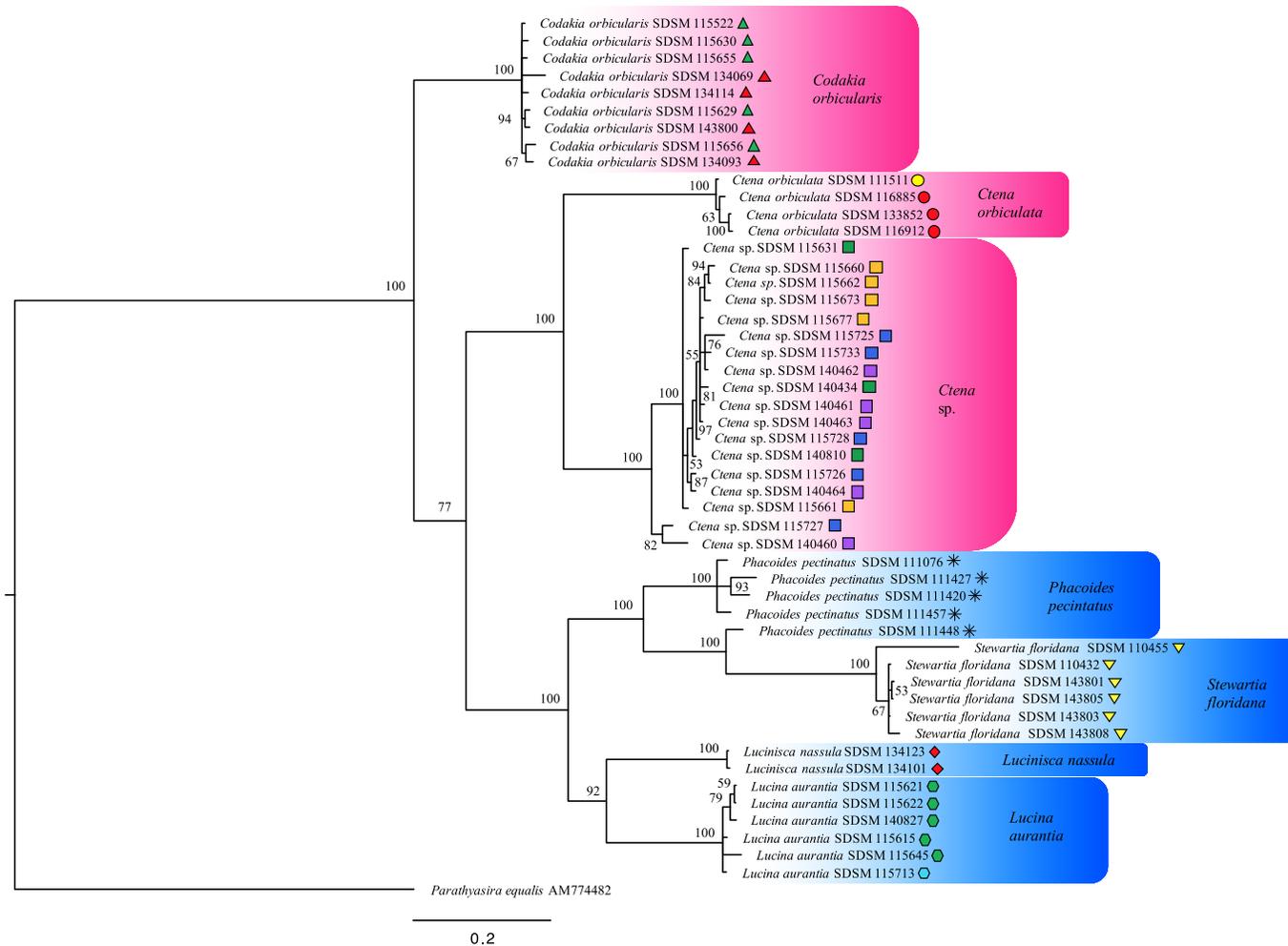
348

349 **Figure 4:** Bayesian inferred single gene tree for 28S rRNA sequences. Support values are posterior probabilities with branches less than
 350 50% collapsed. Scale bar represents genetic distance for the number of substitutions per site. Symbols and colors next to taxa name
 351 explained in Figure 2.2. Colors indicate subfamilies designated in Taylor et al. (2011; 2016) as orange for Leucosphaerinae, pink for
 352 Codakiinae, and blue for Lucininae.

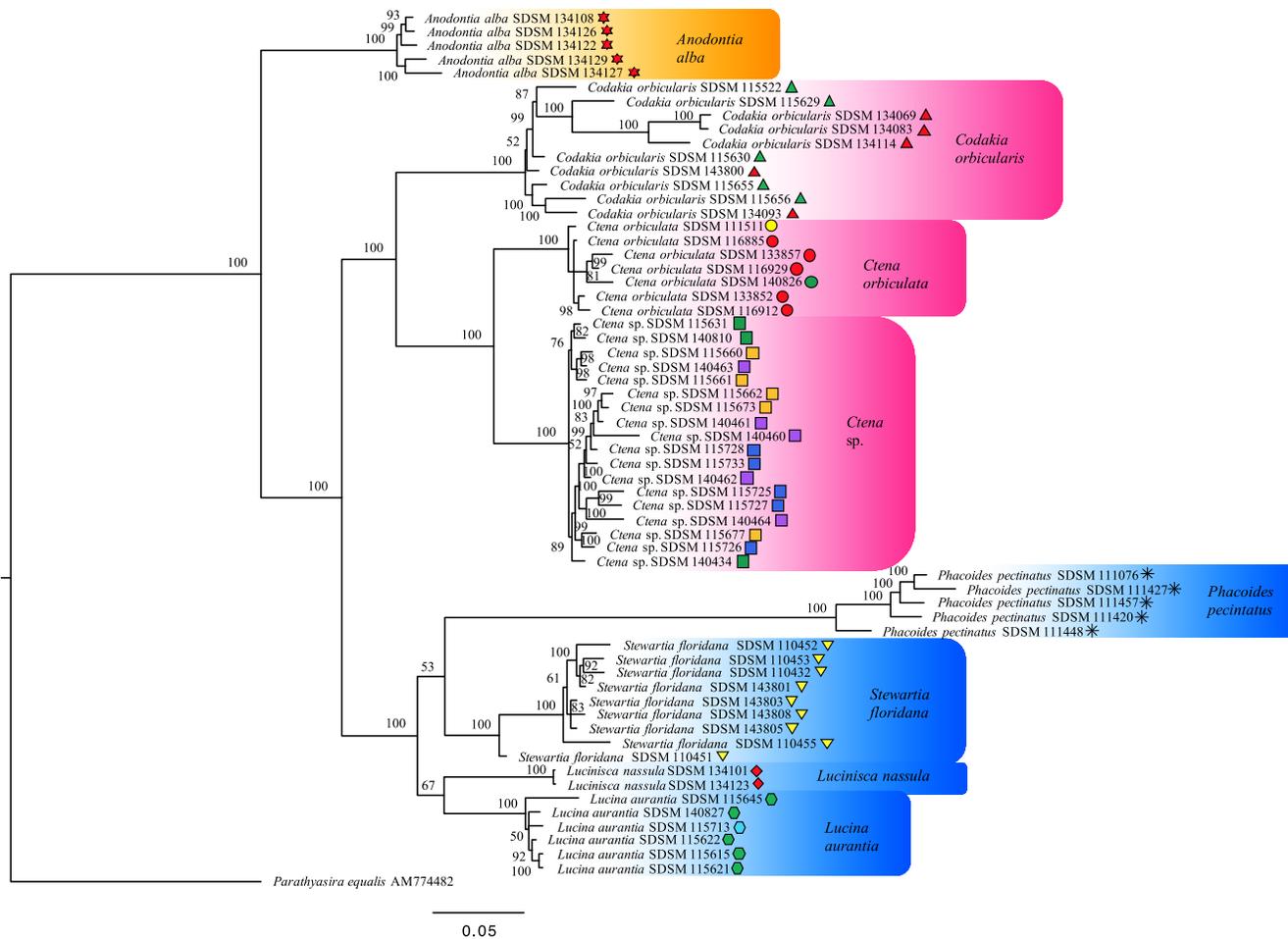


353

354 **Figure 5:** Bayesian inferred single gene tree for *cyt b* sequences. Support values are posterior probabilities with branches less than 50%
 355 collapsed. Scale bar represents genetic distance for the number of substitutions per site. Symbols and colors next to taxa name explained
 356 in Figure 2.2. Colors indicate subfamilies designated in Taylor et al. (2011; 2016) as orange for Leucosphaerinae, pink for Codakiinae,
 357 and blue for Lucininae.



358
 359 **Figure 6:** Bayesian inferred single gene tree for COI sequences. Support values are posterior probabilities with branches less than
 360 50% collapsed. Scale bar represents genetic distance for the number of substitutions per site. Symbols and colors next to taxa name
 361 explained in Figure 2.2. Colors indicate subfamilies designated in Taylor et al. (2011; 2016) as pink for Codakinae, and blue for
 362 Lucininae.



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Figure 7: Combined gene tree produced by Bayesian analysis of concatenated 18S rRNA, 28S rRNA, *cyt b*, and COI sequences. Support values are posterior probabilities with branches less than 50% collapsed. Scale bar represents genetic distance for the number of substitutions per site. Symbols and colors next to taxa name explained in Figure 2.2. Colors indicate subfamilies designated in Taylor et al. (2011; 2016) as orange for Leucosphaerinae, pink for Codakiinae, and blue for Lucininae.

369 Geometric Morphometrics

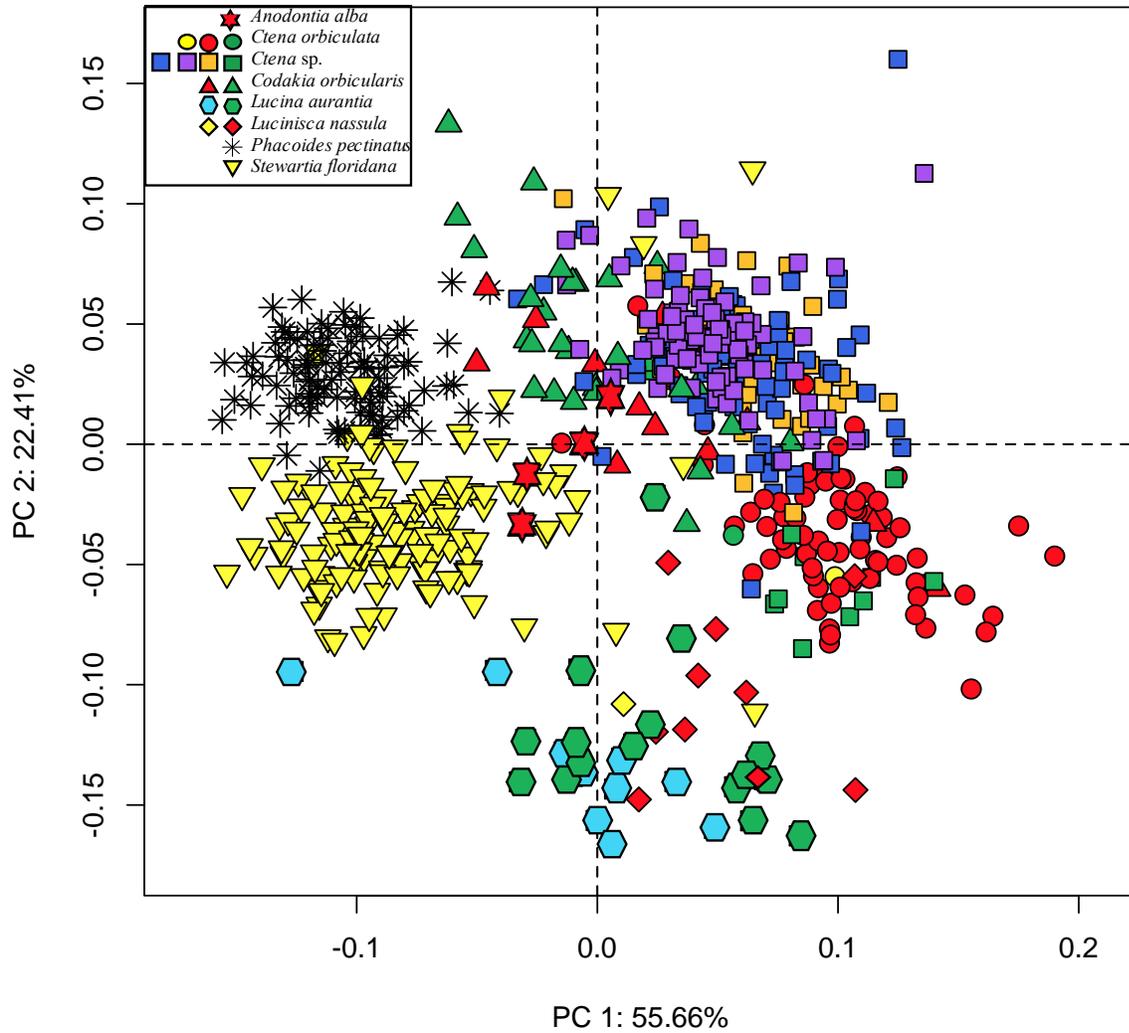
370 A PCA of the Procrustes shape coordinates resulted in the first two axes accounting for
371 over 78% of the variance (Figure 8). Though there was some scatter among the data, especially
372 for some individuals, PC1 vs. PC2 generally showed separation between species, but some
373 individuals of differing species overlapped each other. These patterns, including the distinct
374 scores of *P. pectinatus*, were similar to those of Anderson (2014) who used a simpler landmark
375 configuration (without semilandmarks).

376 The CVA (i.e., ordination with *a priori* species assignments) had more between-species
377 separation than the PCA for most taxa (Figure 9). CV1 and CV2 accounted for 74.15% of the
378 variation in the data. Classification accuracy based on *a priori* species assignment was overall
379 99% correct, with 621 out of 627 specimens being correctly assigned. The incorrectly assigned
380 specimens were three *Ctena* sp. assigned to *C. orbiculata* (1.34%) and three *C. orbiculata*
381 assigned to *Ctena* sp. ($n = 1$, 1.33%) and *C. orbicularis* ($n = 2$, 2.67%). There was overlap
382 among both morphologically similar taxa (e.g. *Ctena* sp. and *C. orbiculata*), and those that are
383 not morphologically similar (e.g. *A. alba* and *S. floridana*) (Figure 9). Note that there was some
384 misclassification ($n = 6$) for *Ctena* sp. and *C. orbiculata*, but not *A. alba* and *S. floridana*, as the
385 former pair of species are phylogenetically related, but the later pair are not.

386 MANOVA results indicated that there were significant differences in Procrustes shell
387 shape among species ($p = 0.001$), and post-hoc tests using a Holm (1979) adjusted p-value
388 indicated that all species were significantly different from one another in shape variation ($p =$
389 0.028), with the exception of *L. aurantia* and *L. nassula* (post-hoc $p = 0.124$), as well as *A. alba*
390 and *C. orbicularis* (post-hoc $p = 0.124$). The small sample size likely reduced the statistical
391 power of the post-hoc pairwise comparisons. Three of these taxa had small sample sizes (*A. alba*,

392 *n* = 4; *L. aurantia*, *n* = 26; *L. nassula*, *n* = 11) and shared similar shape spaces in both the PCA
393 (Figure 8) and CVA (Figure 9).

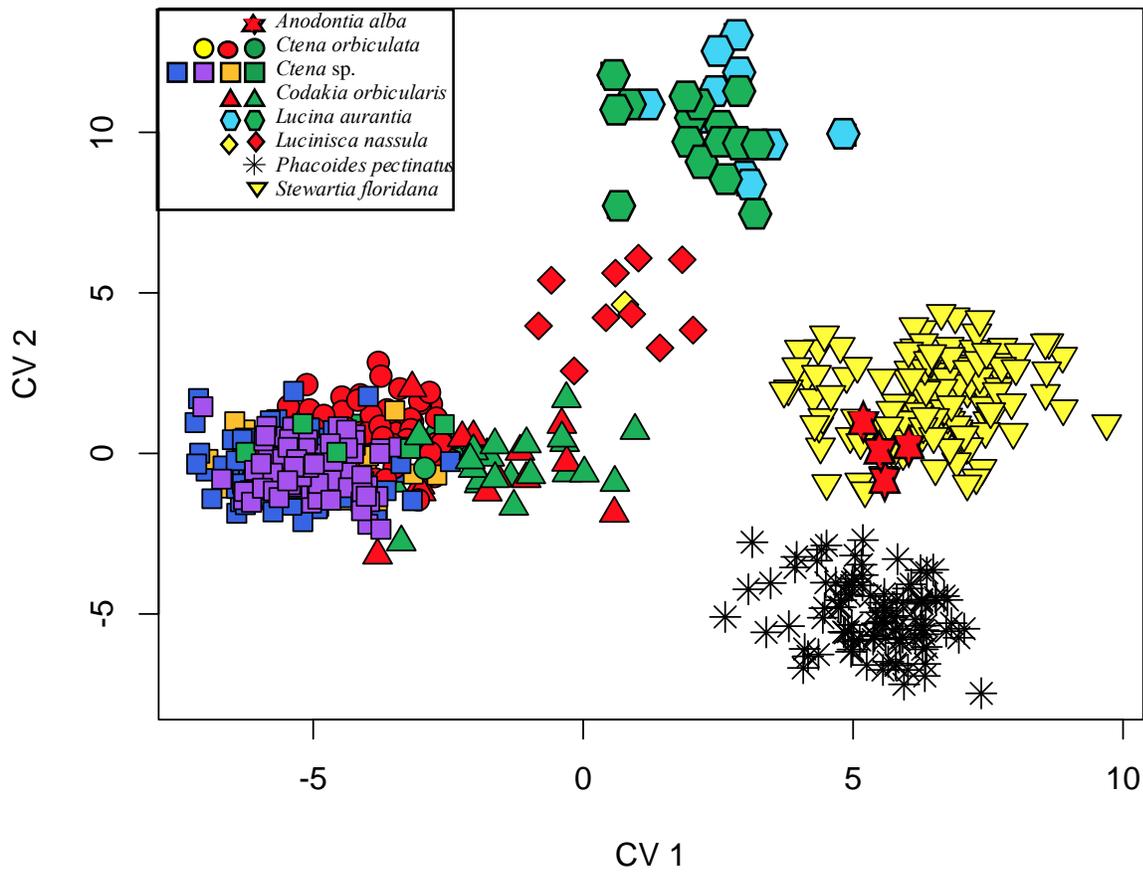
394 For *L. aurantia* and *L. nassula*, PCA and CVA results for the two taxa overlapped on
395 PC1 versus PC2 (explaining 78.07% of variance) and were adjacent to each other on CV1 versus
396 CV2 (explaining 74.15% of variance). This morphologic similarity likely reflects their relatively
397 close evolutionary relationship (Figure 7). In contrast, for *A. alba* versus *C. orbicularis*, *A. alba*
398 plotted between *C. orbicularis* and *S. floridana* on PC1 versus PC 2, whereas for CV1 vs. CV2,
399 *A. alba* specimens clustered within *S. floridana* on both axes and had comparable values with *C.*
400 *orbicularis* on CV2. In the Anderson (2014) study, *A. alba* plotted in a distinct space on CV1
401 versus CV2, adjacent to *C. orbicularis*, but that analysis did not include *S. floridana*.



402

403 **Figure 8:** Principal Components Analysis (PCA) of shape variation for geometric morphometric
 404 data. Species are illustrated as symbols and localities are shown in the following colors: Bokeelia
 405 = yellow; Crescent Pond = orange; Grahams = light blue; Moon Rock Pond = blue; Pain Pond =
 406 purple; Pigeon Creek = green; Sugarloaf = red; Wild Cat Cove = black.

407



408

409 **Figure 9:** Canonical Variates Analysis (CVA) of shape variation for geometric morphometric data.
410 Species are illustrated as symbols and localities are shown in the following colors: Bokeelia =
411 yellow; Crescent Pond = orange; Grahams = light blue; Moon Rock Pond = blue; Pain Pond =
412 purple; Pigeon Creek = green; Sugarloaf = red; Wild Cat Cove = black.

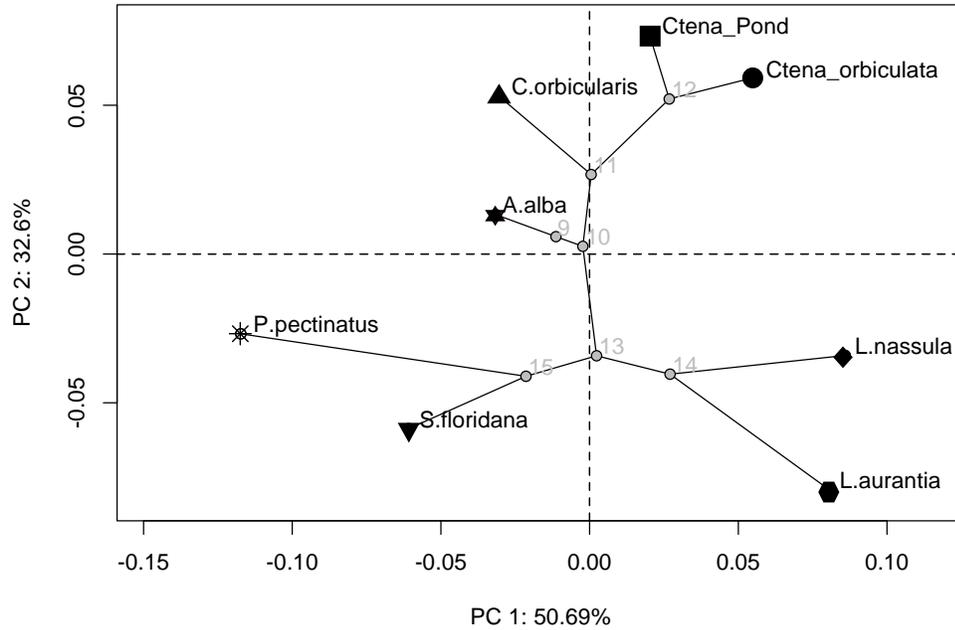
413

414 Phylogenetic Signal

415 Tests for phylogenetic signal indicated significance in shell shape ($K_{\text{mult}} = 0.987$, $Z =$
416 2.522 , and $p = 0.011$) but not size ($K_{\text{mult}} = 0.636$, $Z = -0.42$, and $p = 0.636$). Phylogenetic signal
417 in shape was weaker than expected with a Brownian motion model of evolutionary divergence.
418 Morphospace ordination plots of the first two components of PA, Phy-PCA, and PACA (Figures
419 10, 11, and 12, respectively), in combination with the calculated arccosine of vector cross
420 products between axes, illustrated alignment with phylogenetic signal. There were no obvious
421 instances of morphologic convergence in the trees, as demonstrated by no overlapping branches
422 or nodes. The calculated angle between the first components of the PA and PACA was 55.839° ,
423 indicating that the axis of PA with the most morphologic variation (PC1) did not align with the
424 axis aligned to the most phylogenetic signal (PAC1) (Figures 10 and 12).

425 Examination of univariate K_{mult} values for each component of PA, revealed that all eight
426 axes have univariate K_{mult} value near 1, indicating that each axis uniformly contributed to overall
427 phylogenetic signal. The calculated angle between the first components of the Phy-PCA and
428 PACA was 49.172° , meaning that the axis most independent of phylogenetic signal (Phy-PC1)
429 did not align with the axis aligned to the most phylogenetic signal (PAC1) (Figures 11 and 12).
430 PA and Phy-PCA were similarly oriented, with the calculated angle of 9.041° between the PC1
431 and Phy-PC1 (Figures 10 and 11). The axis with an orientation most aligned with phylogeny,
432 PAC1, compared to the axis with the next most phylogenetic signal, PAC2, illustrated how taxa
433 overlap in morphospace more on PAC1 than PAC2 (Figure 12). These results indicated that
434 PACA provided a more meaningful ordination compared to either PA or Phy-PCA due to the
435 distribution of phylogenetic signal across axes in the data being analyzed.

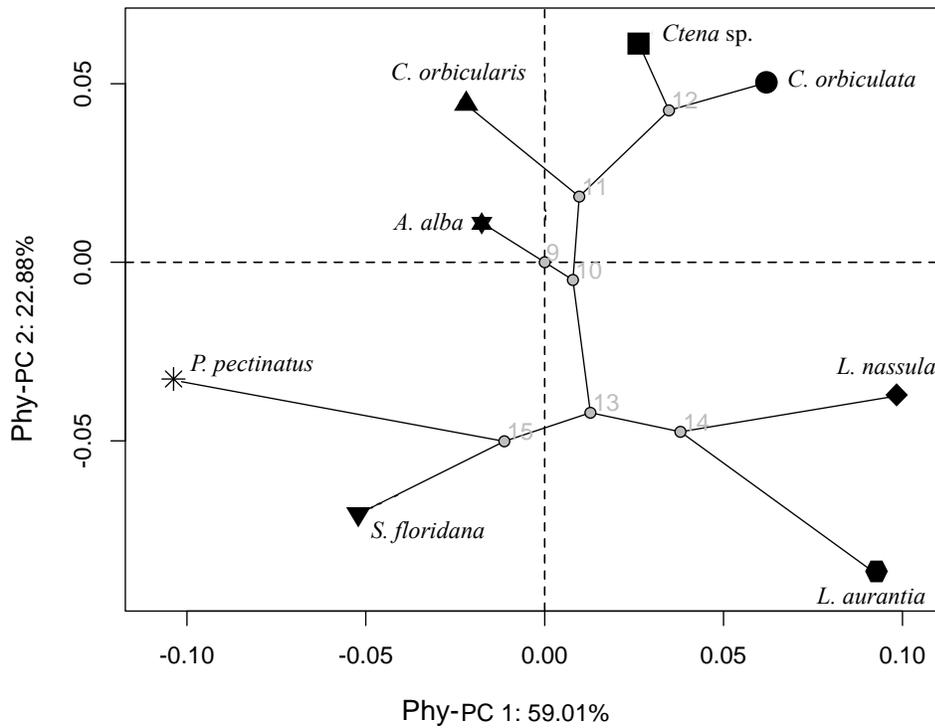
436 Comparison of PAC1 axis orientation with TPS representing mean shell shape explained
437 morphospace ordinations (Figure 13), and why shell shape differed significantly among taxa
438 (MANOVA, $p = 0.001$), with the exception of *L. aurantia* and *L. nassula* (post-hoc $p = 0.124$),
439 as well as *A. alba* and *C. orbicularis* (post-hoc $p = 0.124$). On PAC1, *A. alba* was the furthest on
440 that axis, and TPS revealed differences compared to the mean shell shape of other taxa, such as a
441 narrow, long inhalant channel, and a narrow shell margin indicative of shell inflation. On PAC1,
442 *C. orbicularis* and *P. pectinatus* shared similar morphospace; however, TPS indicated *S.*
443 *floridana* was more like *P. pectinatus* than *C. orbicularis* because of their overall outline shapes
444 and narrow, long inhalant channels. *S. floridana* exhibited slightly wider muscle scars. On PAC1,
445 *S. floridana*, *Ctena* sp., and *C. orbiculata* were close together in morphospace, although *C.*
446 *orbicularis* was more closely related to *Ctena* sp. and *C. orbiculata* compared to *S. floridana*.
447 TPS for *C. orbicularis*, *Ctena* sp., and *C. orbiculata* showed similar overall outline shapes, and a
448 very wide inhalant channel, although *Ctena* sp. and *C. orbiculata* had short inhalant channels
449 compared to *C. orbicularis* with a long inhalant channel. Lastly, *L. aurantia* and *L. nassula* had
450 similar TPS of overall outline shape and wide, short inhalant channels. Of note, the valves of
451 *Lucina* species in particular were more inflated than the other taxa used. As such, in the 2D
452 landmark configurations, there could have been some distortion when projecting size from 3D to
453 2D, and the calculated Procrustes variables could have skewed TPS reconstructions for these
454 species.



455

456 **Figure 10:** Phylomorphospace analysis (PA) illustrating the mean shell shape of species on
 457 components aligned to principal axes with ancestral states projected for phylogenetic nodes (Rohlf
 458 2002; Sidlauskas 2008).

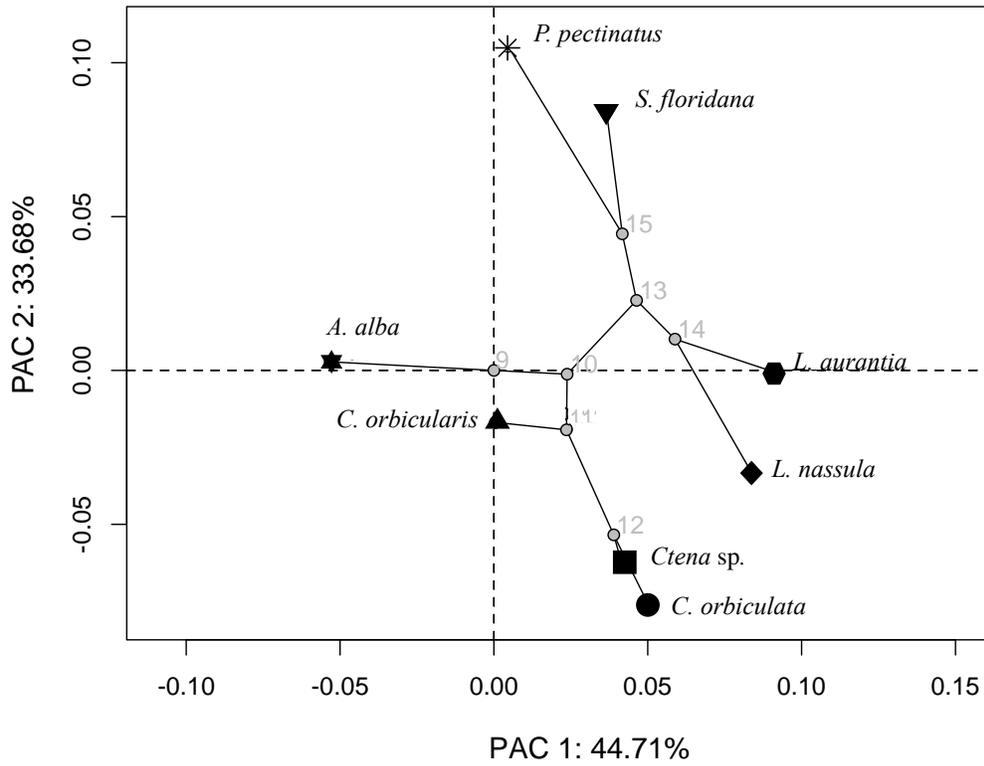
459



460

461 **Figure 11:** Phylogenetic principal component analysis (Phy-PCA) illustrating the mean shell
 462 shape of species on Phy-PC1, the first axis most independent of phylogeny, with ancestral states
 463 projected for phylogenetic nodes (Revell 2009).

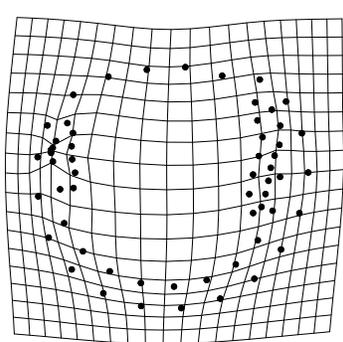
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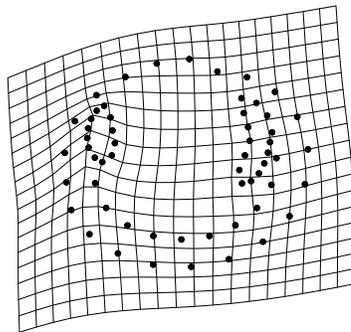
465

466 **Figure 12:** Phylogenetically aligned component analysis (PACA) illustrating the mean shell shape
467 of species on PAC1, the axis most aligned to phylogenetic signal, with ancestral states projected
468 for phylogenetic nodes (Collyer and Adams 2020).

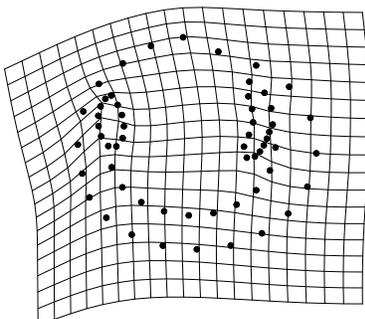
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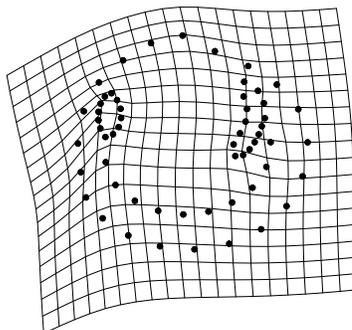
A. alba



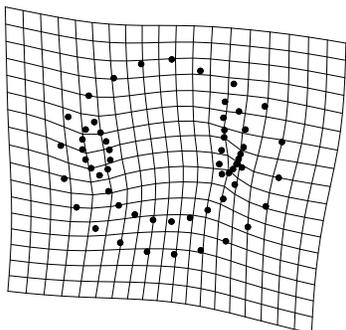
C. orbicularis



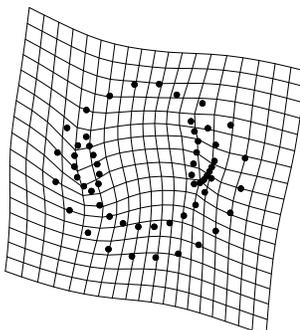
C. orbiculata



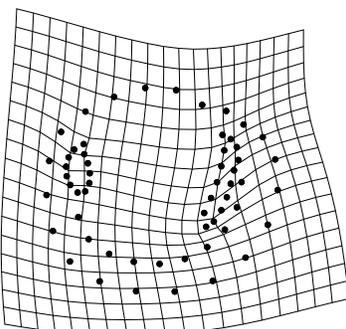
Ctena sp.



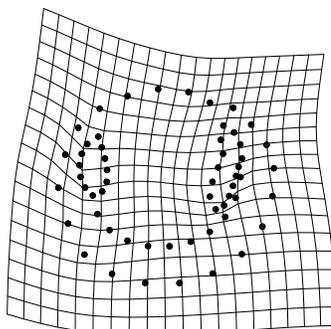
L. nassula



L. aurantia



P. pectinatus



S. floridana

470

471 **Figure 13:** Thin-plate spline (TPS) analyses illustrate the deformation for the mean configuration
 472 of each species from the mean of the dataset.

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Discussion

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This study provides valuable insights into the ecological and evolutionary processes influencing chemosymbiotic and infaunal bivalves. As the most species-rich family of chemosymbiotic bivalves, Lucinidae have been extensively studied through molecular approaches; however, their morphology has often been overlooked in recent phylogenetic analyses (e.g., Williams et al. 2004; Taylor and Glover 2006; Taylor et al. 2011, 2016). Morphology, however, remains a critical aspect of phylogenetics, as phenotypes are shaped by both genotype and environmental interactions. The importance of this work lies in its contribution to understanding the evolutionary relationships and morphological diversity within Lucinidae, a family vital to nutrient cycling in coastal ecosystems.

Historically, morphological characters formed the foundation of most lucinid phylogenetic studies (e.g., Bretsky, 1970, 1976; Chavan, 1969), despite the subjective nature of such analyses. Recent studies have shifted toward molecular data, while largely ignoring morphology (e.g. Williams et al. 2004; Taylor and Glover 2006; Taylor et al. 2011, 2016). This work highlights the utility of geometric morphometrics, which considers shell shape as a whole and enables statistical comparisons. Using a landmark-based approach, this study demonstrates that shell morphology conveys significant phylogenetic signal within the Lucinidae. However, the relationship between shape and phylogeny is complex, with no single feature definitively characterizing specific clades.

Phylogenetic Analysis and Molecular Congruence

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The phylogenetic trees generated in this study align closely with prior molecular analyses (Taylor et al. 2016), confirming the robustness of the chosen genetic markers. However, some incongruencies were noted within the subfamily Lucininae, notably involving *P. pectinatus* in

496 the 18S rRNA, 28S rRNA, and *cyt b* trees, *S. floridana* in the *cyt b* and combined tree, and *L.*
497 *nassula* in the *cyt b* tree. In molecular phylogenetic studies, *P. pectinatus* often exhibits a long
498 branch and unstable placement within the Lucininae (Taylor et al. 2011, 2013, 2016), a pattern
499 also reflected in this study. Similarly, the position of *Stewartia floridana* within the Lucininae
500 remains poorly resolved (Taylor et al. 2016), perhaps influenced by ecological or geographic
501 isolation.

502 In prior analyses that combined 18S rRNA, 28S rRNA and *cyt b* (Taylor et al. 2016), *P.*
503 *pectinatus* was placed more basally within the Lucininae. However, in this study, it appears as
504 the sister taxon to *S. floridana*. Additionally, *L. nassula* occupies a more basal position in the *cyt*
505 *b* tree of Taylor et al. (2016), which contrasts with its more derived placement alongside *Lucina*
506 *aurantia* in other analyses by Taylor et al (2016), and in the trees reconstructed in this study.
507 While combining multiple markers generally enhances resolution, discrepancies between
508 individual and combined trees suggest that other genetic markers or genome-wide approaches
509 may provide greater clarity. Moreover, environmental and morphological factors could play a
510 role; for example, *P. pectinatus* is often associated with specific sedimentary habitats that may
511 exert selective pressures influencing its molecular signals. These findings highlight the need for
512 integrative approaches combining genomic, ecological, and morphological data to refine the
513 phylogenetic placement of these taxa. Future studies might also explore the role of functional
514 traits in shaping the evolutionary history of Lucinidae, contributing to a broader understanding of
515 diversification in chemosymbiotic bivalves.

516 Detection of Phylogenetic Signal

517 This study identifies significant phylogenetic signal in shell shape ($K_{mult} = 0.987$),
518 demonstrating that morphology is phylogenetically informative. However, the signal is

519 distributed across the entire landmark configuration rather than attributable to a single feature, as
520 evidenced by thin-plate spline analyses.

521 The application of three ordination analyses (PA, Phy-PCA, and PACA) reveal that
522 different subfamilies of Lucinidae occupy distinct regions in shape space, reinforcing the notion
523 that shell morphology can effectively differentiate between higher taxonomic levels within this
524 group. For instance, TPS analysis indicated that species within the Codakiimae (*C. orbicularis*,
525 *C. orbiculata*, and *Ctena* sp.) share a similar overall outline shape and feature the widest inhalant
526 channel of the taxa analyzed here, suggesting a conserved morphotype that may be linked to
527 ecological factors such as feeding or habitat preferences.. Similarly, within the Lucininae,
528 species pairs such as *L. aurantia* and *L. nassula*, and to a lesser extent, *S. floridana* and *P.*
529 *pectinatus*, are similar in shell outline and inhalant channel shape. These findings emphasize that
530 both external shell outline and internal morphological structures, such as the inhalant channel,
531 contribute to the phylogenetic signal.

532 Insights into Morphological Evolution

533 This study documents significant phylogenetic signal in lucinid shell shape based on a
534 landmark configuration that emphasizes muscle scars, the inhalant channel, and valve outline.
535 Notably, univariate K values near 1 for each PA component indicate that each axis uniformly
536 contributes to overall phylogenetic signal. However, the axis with the most morphologic
537 variation (PC1) does not align with the axis aligned to the most phylogenetic signal (PAC1) ,
538 underscoring the complexity of shape evolution in lucinids. Furthermore, the absence of
539 overlapping branches or nodes in the resulting morphospace analyses suggest there are no
540 obvious instances of morphologic convergence in the taxa studied. These findings highlight that
541 phylogenetic signal arises from the entire landmark configuration rather than being confined to a

542 single morphological feature. For instance, in other taxa such as amphibians (Adams, 2014) and
543 fishes (Friedman et al., 2021), landmark-based studies have demonstrated that phylogenetic
544 signal is often a product of multiple integrated traits rather than isolated features. This integrative
545 perspective supports the notion that evolutionary pressures act on organisms as functional and
546 developmental units, where traits evolve together as part of a coordinated response to selection
547 pressures (Klingenberg, 2010). In lucinids, the lack of a single dominant feature driving
548 phylogenetic signal further underscores the importance of studying morphology at the whole-
549 organism level. Features such as shell outline, muscle scars, and the inhalant channel likely
550 represent a mosaic of traits shaped by a combination of lineage history and ecological
551 adaptations. This comprehensive approach is essential for resolving complex evolutionary
552 relationships in morphologically diverse taxa like the Lucinidae.

553 Comparisons with other taxa provide a broader context for interpreting the evolutionary
554 drivers of lucinid morphology. For example, the calculated angle between the first PA and
555 PACA axes ranged from $\sim 4.5^\circ$ for salamanders (Baken and Adams 2019), 19.4° for marine
556 fishes (Friedman et al. 2021), $\sim 34.5^\circ$ for surgeonfish (Friedman et al. 2016), and 58.7°
557 freshwater fishes (Friedman et al. 2021). These angles reflect the alignment between
558 morphological diversification and phylogenetic signal. A lower angle, as seen in marine fishes,
559 suggests that shape diversification proceeded along a trajectory aligned with phylogenetic signal
560 (Friedman et al. 2021). Conversely, a higher angle, such as in freshwater fishes, was interpreted
561 to mean that ecological signal was a strong driver of diversification, particularly because
562 freshwater lineages occupied a densely packed morphospace (Friedman et al. 2021).

563 In lucinids, the relatively high angle observed in this study, coupled with the lack of
564 densely packed morphospace clustering, suggests that both ecology and phylogenetic factors

565 play significant roles in shaping the morphology of these taxa. The distribution of phylogenetic
566 signal across the landmark configuration indicates that evolutionary lineage constraints
567 contribute broadly to the overall shape, while ecological factors likely drive the finer-scale
568 variation observed among taxa. This is consistent with patterns seen in other morphologically
569 and ecologically diverse clades, where both phylogenetic heritage and ecological niche
570 specialization shape morphological traits (Friedman et al., 2021; Klingenberg, 2010; Adams,
571 2014).

572 For lucinids, ecological factors such as sediment grain size, burrowing depth, and the
573 nature of symbiotic relationships with sulfur-oxidizing bacteria may exert strong selective
574 pressures on valve morphology, particularly features like shell outline and the inhalant channel.
575 Adaptations to specific sediment types or oxygen levels, for instance, might influence shell
576 thickness and shape (Seilacher, 1985; Stanley and Trueman, 1988; Oschmann, 1993;
577 Tomašových, 2018), while symbiotic interactions could drive internal morphological changes to
578 optimize nutrient exchange. These ecological pressures work with with phylogenetic constraints,
579 resulting in a morphospace that reflects a balance between lineage-specific traits and adaptive
580 responses to environmental challenges. By emphasizing the interplay of phylogeny and ecology,
581 this study highlights the importance of integrating these perspectives to fully understand the
582 morphological evolution of chemosymbiotic bivalves. Such integrative approaches not only
583 provide insights into the evolutionary history of lucinids but also inform broader questions about
584 how environmental and genetic factors interact to shape biodiversity in marine ecosystems.

585 This study bridges molecular and morphological perspectives, demonstrating that lucinid
586 shell shape captures phylogenetic signal despite complex ecological and evolutionary influences.
587 The integration of quantitative morphological methods with molecular phylogenetics paves the

588 way for more comprehensive studies of other chemosymbiotic or infaunal bivalves. This
589 approach provides valuable insights into the broader ecological and evolutionary processes that
590 could apply to other chemosymbiotic or infaunal bivalve systems.

591 **Data Availability**

592 All the original data and scripts necessary to reproduce the analyses reported in this study
593 can be accessed through Dryad Digital Repository: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5061/dryad.70rxwdc7t>
594 and Zenodo: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14649182>. Sequence data are available from
595 GenBank under accession numbers found in Table 3.

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