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Terrestrial species adapted to sea dispersal: differences in propagule dispersal of two Caribbean mangroves

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29

30 **Abstract**

31 A central goal of comparative phylogeography is to understand how species-specific
32 traits interact with geomorphological history to govern the geographic distribution of genetic
33 variation within species. One key biotic trait with an immense impact on the spatial patterns of
34 intraspecific genetic differentiation is dispersal. Here we quantify how species-specific traits
35 directly related to dispersal affect genetic variation in terrestrial organisms with adaptations for
36 dispersal by sea, not land—the mangroves of the Caribbean. We investigate the phylogeography
37 of white mangroves (*Laguncularia racemosa*, Combretaceae) and red mangroves (*Rhizophora*
38 *mangle*, Rhizophoraceae) using chloroplast genomes and nuclear markers (thousands of RAD-
39 Seq loci) from individuals throughout the Caribbean. Both coastal tree species have viviparous
40 propagules that can float in salt water for months, meaning they are capable of dispersing long
41 distances. Spatially explicit tests of the role of ocean currents on patterning genetic diversity
42 revealed that ocean currents act as a mechanism for facilitating dispersal, but other means of
43 moving genetic material are also important. We measured pollen- versus propagule-mediated
44 gene flow and discovered that in white mangroves, seeds were more important for promoting
45 genetic connectivity between populations, but in red mangroves, the opposite was true: pollen
46 contributed more. This result challenges our concept of the importance of both proximity to
47 ocean currents for moving mangrove seeds and the extent of long-distance pollen dispersal. This
48 study also highlights the importance of spatially explicit quantification of both abiotic (ocean
49 currents) and biotic (dispersal) factors contributing to gene flow to understand fully the
50 phylogeographic histories of species.

51 **Keywords:** Caribbean, comparative phylogeography, long-distance dispersal,
52 mangroves, RAD-Seq

53 **Introduction**

54 In many terrestrial taxa with populations separated by water (e.g., island systems),
55 dispersal is typically constrained by the lack of an intrinsic mechanism of over-water dispersal.
56 In contrast, in some species adapted to coastal habitats, dispersal by sea, not land, predominates
57 (Kinlan & Gaines, 2003), as in many marine animal species where ocean currents facilitate larval
58 dispersal (Galindo et al., 2006; Nathan et al., 2008). For example, unlike most tree species, sea

59 dispersal via propagules characterizes different mangrove taxa, which live exclusively at the
60 interface of the marine environment and coastlines. While ocean currents clearly are an
61 important abiotic factor influencing genetic patterns in some mangrove species (Gillespie et al.,
62 2011), biotic properties of the propagules of species also differ, raising the prospect that species-
63 specific traits, like those studied in their terrestrial plant counterparts (e.g., Massatti & Knowles,
64 2016), could also be important in shaping the degree to which coastal communities exhibit
65 similar genetic patterns. Here we explore the relative roles of abiotic and biotic factors with a
66 comparative analysis of two Caribbean coastal angiosperms, red mangroves (*Rhizophora mangle*,
67 Rhizophoraceae) and white mangroves (*Laguncularia racemosa*, Combretaceae).

68 Research in several subdisciplines of biology has shown that dispersal is a powerful force
69 that can shape both the distributions of species and patterns of genetic structure within species.
70 Early empirical tests of island biogeography, such as Simberloff and Wilson's (1969) classic
71 fumigation experiments, showed that islands closer to continents were colonized more quickly
72 than distant islands, highlighting the need to understand island colonization mechanisms.
73 Historically, dispersal was not considered interesting and/or relevant to biogeographic studies—
74 interpreted as little more than stochastic noise—and vicariance was the mechanism that drove
75 biogeographic patterns (reviewed in Humphries & Parenti, 1999). More recently, the
76 biogeographic research community has better acknowledged the importance of dispersal in
77 determining species distributions (de Queiroz, 2004). Subsequent research found that abiotic
78 factors (e.g., environmental barriers or environmental facilitation of colonization) and biotic
79 factors (i.e., dispersal) are both important aspects of colonization (Losos & Schuller, 2009;
80 Gillespie et al., 2011). Early phylogeographic studies accounted for the role of dispersal to a
81 much greater extent than biogeographic studies (e.g., Avise et al. 1992, Burban & Petit 2003).
82 Nevertheless, a polarized view of vicariance and dispersal has continued into comparative
83 phylogeographic studies (Papadopoulou & Knowles, 2016), in which a lack of phylogeographic
84 concordance was considered to result from species-specific differences in dispersal, and
85 therefore uninteresting and unimportant. As the body of comparative phylogeography literature
86 has grown to include a wide range of organisms and greater amounts of genomic data, a more
87 nuanced view of the vicariance-dispersal continuum has emerged—one that explicitly addresses

88 species-specific biotic factors as well as abiotic ones, and that recognizes the importance of
89 dispersal in shaping genetic structure within species.

90 Red and white mangroves are largely co-distributed in neotropical coastal estuarine
91 habitats, and both disperse via viviparous (i.e., germinated) seedlings that abscise from the parent
92 plant and float for months in the ocean before potentially finding suitable substrate (Rabinowitz,
93 1978; Allen & Krauss, 2006; Tomlinson, 2016). Both species produce a large number of seeds,
94 at a substantial cost to the parent plant (Tomlinson, 2016), but red mangroves have larger and
95 longer-living seedlings, and live closer to the water, than do white mangroves. Thus, we predict
96 that red mangroves will exhibit greater connectivity between populations through seeds than
97 white mangroves, with relatively little difference between the two species in pollen-based
98 estimates of gene flow, because even though the two species have different pollination
99 syndromes (i.e., wind versus insect), this difference is relatively small compared to the
100 differences in propagule traits between the species. Furthermore, we predict that the patterns of
101 genetic differentiation will reflect differences in the degree of isolation among populations as a
102 function of the geographic distance separating populations, augmented by oceanic currents (i.e.,
103 the seascape; Galindo et al., 2006). We characterize the phylogeographic structure of red and
104 white mangroves using both nuclear (RAD-Seq loci) and chloroplast (chloroplast genome
105 sequences) loci from sampling locations across the Caribbean to tease apart how differences in
106 dispersal in these two species affect the observed phylogeographic patterns.

107 Moreover, we apply analyses, which in addition to quantifying the association between
108 genes and geography, also provide a framework for assessing departures from Isolation-By-
109 Distance (IBD) patterns. This includes both quantifications of statistical deviations, which when
110 considered in light of the geographic distribution of populations in a spatially explicit framework,
111 can identify general trends that might correspond with impediments from currents, as well as
112 identification of how abiotic factors influence genetic variation. We investigate the effect of two
113 abiotic factors, land type (island or continent) and island size, on the degree to which the genetics
114 of a population deviated from the null expectation (i.e., IBD). The impact of land type (island
115 versus continental) and island size on factors important for biogeographic patterns (e.g.,
116 speciation rate) has been investigated in biogeographic studies (e.g., Losos, 2009), but spatially
117 explicit phylogeographic investigation is needed in systems with both island and continental

118 distributions, where abiotic and/or biotic factors may influence movement of genetic material
119 between the two.

120 Not only does this study add to a growing body of work on species-specific versus
121 assemblage-wide patterns of genetic variation (e.g., Carnaval et al., 2009; Papadopoulou &
122 Knowles, 2016; Oliveira et al., 2018; Resende-Moreira et al., 2018), but it also expands such
123 research to terrestrial taxa whose dispersal mode differs from most studies to date—terrestrial
124 coastal taxa adapted to oceanic dispersal. For many taxa, the only way that genetic material will
125 exchange between islands is through rare events. These events include slow, long-distance
126 successful rafting that occurs with low probability, infrequent bird-mediated transport, and rare
127 storms or hurricanes that can quickly transport genetic material long distances (Gillespie et al.,
128 2011). We explore the rarity of long-distance dispersal (LDD) in species with continental and
129 island distributions and how the relative frequency of LDD events affects genetic patterns.
130 Many methodologies used in this study, particularly the spatially explicit quantification of
131 abiotic factors that influence dispersal between populations, will be widely applicable to future
132 research in other diverse taxa, including additional plants, as well as mammals, reptiles, and
133 insects in oceanic island systems (e.g., Juan et al., 2000; Heaney et al., 2005), as well as in
134 terrestrial taxa (e.g., some terrestrial systems—sky islands—have many similarities to oceanic
135 island systems; Moore et al., 2013; Salerno et al., 2015). Finally, populations in many other
136 terrestrial systems in diverse taxa can be viewed as islands when an environmental feature limits
137 genetic interchange between populations. Quantifying the abiotic factor(s) that isolate
138 populations in a spatially explicit context will allow for more powerful analyses of how these
139 factors interact with biotic factors to shape phylogeographic patterns (Riginos et al., 2016).

140

141 **Materials and Methods**

142 **Sample collection and DNA isolation**

143 We collected leaf tissue from mature plants of each species from sampling locations in
144 North America, Central America, South America, and Caribbean Islands (Supplemental Table 1).
145 Vouchers were deposited in the University of Florida herbarium (FLAS) at the Florida Museum
146 of Natural History (accession numbers: FLAS 267604, 267605, 267607, 267608, 267610-267612,
147 267614, 267615, 267617-267619). These two species are co-distributed throughout coastlines in

148 the neotropics; in total, we sampled 28 populations of red mangroves and 20 populations of
149 white mangroves. At each location, we collected one leaf from 1-16 individuals that were
150 spaced at least 15 m apart to minimize collecting closely related individuals. Herbarium
151 specimens from the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) were used in cases for sampling
152 locations that were difficult or prohibitively expensive to reach. GPS coordinates for each
153 sampling location were recorded. For each sampling location, we used between one and eight
154 individuals in genetic analyses; in locations where herbarium specimens were used, we were
155 often limited to one individual per location. In locations where more than eight individuals were
156 sampled, we randomly selected eight individuals for use in genetic analyses. Each sampled leaf
157 was placed in a labeled bag with silica gel and stored for 1-12 months at 4° C; we then extracted
158 DNA from the dried leaf tissue using a standard CTAB protocol (Doyle & Doyle, 1987).

159

160 **RAD-Seq library preparation and data processing**

161 We followed the double-digest RAD-Seq protocol of Peterson et al. (2012). We
162 constructed DNA libraries for each sample by digesting approximately 200 ng genomic DNA
163 with *EcoRI* and *MseI* and then ligating Illumina adapters and unique 8-, 9-, 10-, and 14-
164 nucleotide barcodes to the DNA fragments. The DNA libraries were PCR-amplified in 22
165 separate reactions and pooled to minimize early PCR bias. We size-selected 250-450-bp
166 fragments using a PIPPIN ELF gel and sequenced the DNA fragments using the 1X100-bp
167 setting on the Illumina HiSeq 4000 platform at the University of Florida Interdisciplinary Center
168 for Biotechnology Research (ICBR). Raw sequence data were deposited in the NCBI Sequence
169 Read Archive (SRA; accession numbers SRR7501584-SRR7501638; SRR7504176-
170 SRR7504186). We processed the raw Illumina reads using the iPyrad pipeline (Eaton, 2014;
171 <http://ipyrad.readthedocs.io/>). We used iPyrad to perform all necessary steps for processing
172 RAD-Seq data (sorting, filtering, clustering, consensus, clustering, formatting). As all barcodes
173 differed by at least two nucleotides, we demultiplexed the loci, allowing one mismatch in the
174 barcode and using the most stringent filtering of Illumina adapters.

175 The loci were assembled using a *de novo* approach with the following cut sites: CAATTC,
176 ATT. We added a C before the *EcoRI* cut site (AATTC became CAATTC) because our double-
177 digest RAD-Seq protocol adds a ‘protector base’ to prevent any undigested restriction enzymes

178 from cleaving off recently incorporated adapters after the ligation step. For all other assembly
179 parameters, we used the iPyRAD defaults. We then filtered the loci for human, fungal, and
180 microbial contamination and filtered loci by representation across individuals using an R script
181 (Data_Filtering.R; this script and all other scripts are available at
182 https://github.com/richiehodel/Caribbean_mangroves). We used minimal filtering of loci to
183 avoid excluding informative loci, as both *in silico* and empirical studies indicate that high
184 amounts of missing data do not negatively impact RAD-Seq datasets (Huang & Knowles, 2016;
185 Hodel et al., 2017).

186 We obtained an average of 3,991,640 reads (minimum: 70,631, maximum: 18,253,041)
187 for red mangrove individuals in the RAD-Seq analysis. The final red mangrove nuclear dataset
188 consisted of an average of 28,929 RAD-Seq loci across 122 individuals (average 19,219;
189 minimum 426; maximum 27,978). The white mangrove reads consisted of an average of
190 1,446,498, minimum of 119,681, and maximum of 7,267,782. The white mangrove nuclear
191 dataset had 29,767 loci (average 14,253; minimum 360; maximum 28,799) RAD-Seq loci for 54
192 individuals.

193

194 **Chloroplast genome sequencing and assembly**

195 We selected 50 individuals of each species for complete chloroplast genome sequencing
196 using a random-shearing genome skimming approach (Straub et al., 2011; Steele et al., 2012).
197 The individuals were selected to provide wide coverage of the sampling locations; 1-3
198 individuals per species per sampling location were used in chloroplast genome sequencing.
199 DNA libraries were constructed by RAPiD Genomics (Gainesville, FL, USA) and sequenced at
200 the UF ICBR using a HiSeq 4000 with 2X100bp reads. Raw reads were *de novo* assembled into
201 contigs using Velvet (Zerbino & Birney, 2008) with Kmer lengths ranging from 31 to 81. The
202 contigs were then mapped to a reference chloroplast genome of *Oenothera villaricae* (NCBI
203 accession number NC_030532.1) for white mangroves and *Populus alba* (NCBI accession
204 number AP008956.1) for red mangroves, using Bowtie2 (Langmead & Salzberg, 2012), as
205 implemented in Geneious (Kearse et al., 2012). These taxa were selected as references because
206 they were the most closely related species that had publicly available chloroplast genome
207 sequences. Raw reads and assembled chloroplast genomes were deposited in the NCBI

208 Sequence Read Archive database (accession numbers SRR7779779-SRR7779767;
209 SRR7781534-SRR7781581). The red mangrove chloroplast genome alignment (50 individuals)
210 was 130,120 bp, and the overall pairwise sequence identity was 99.6%. The average GC content
211 was 36.2%, and on average there were 15,707 bp of ambiguous sites per individual. The white
212 mangrove chloroplast alignment also consisted of 50 individuals and was 135,357 bp in length.
213 There was 99.4% pairwise sequence identity overall, and on average there were 48,930
214 ambiguous sites per individual.

215

216 **Phylogeographic analyses**

217 Phylogeographic analyses were performed on both the nuclear (RAD-Seq) and
218 chloroplast genome data separately for each species. To assess phylogeographic patterns within
219 each species, we calculated pairwise average F_{ST} using an R script (Pairwise_Fst.R) and the R
220 packages ‘hierfstat’ (Goudet, 2005) and ‘PopGenome’ (Pfeifer et al., 2014). Pairwise F_{ST} is a
221 valuable metric for assessing how historical factors and ongoing gene flow influence structure
222 between populations. In these two species, historical factors (e.g., isolation between distant
223 populations) and/or ongoing gene flow (e.g., via dispersal, pollen flow, and colonization) could
224 impact pairwise F_{ST} .

225

226 **Phylogenetic analyses with SVDQuartets and RAxML**

227 To determine genealogical relationships among individuals within species, we used
228 coalescent analyses in SVDQuartets (Chifman & Kubatko, 2014). This program selects the
229 optimal topology for a quartet of taxa, and, after sampling millions of quartets, infers a
230 phylogeny for all individuals based on choosing the quartets with the best scores and assembling
231 them into a phylogenetic tree. For each RAD dataset, we evaluated all possible quartets and
232 selected trees under the multispecies coalescent using QFM (Quartet Fiduccia Mattheyses)
233 quartet assembly (Reaz et al., 2014). We used non-parametric bootstrapping (100 replicates for
234 each dataset) to assess confidence in inferred genealogical relationships between individuals.
235 The R script Tree_Formatting.R was used to visualize and annotate the 50% majority-rule trees
236 from SVDQuartets using the R packages ‘ape’ (Paradis et al., 2004) and ‘ggtree’ (Yu et al.,
237 2017). For comparative purposes, we also used RAxML (Stamatakis, 2014) to infer the

238 phylogenetic relationships between individuals of both species using the RAD-Seq data.
239 RAxML was used to infer phylogenetic relationships between chloroplast genomes for each
240 individual in each species. In all RAxML analyses, we employed the GTRGAMMA model of
241 evolution and ran 100 bootstrap replicates.

242

243 **Isolation-By-Distance tests and Procrustes analysis**

244 As geographic distance is often a key component in spatial patterns of genetic diversity,
245 we conducted Mantel tests to test for IBD by comparing matrices of geographic and genetic
246 distances with the R package ‘vegan’ (Oksanen et al., 2017) and a custom script
247 (Mantel_Procrustes.R). A principal component analysis (PCA) implemented in the R package
248 ‘SNPRelate’ (Zheng et al., 2012) identified clusters of individuals, using RAD data and
249 chloroplast data separately in each species (see R script VCF_PCA.R). To further investigate the
250 relationship between genes and geography, we implemented a Procrustes analysis, which finds
251 an optimal transformation that maximizes the similarity between genetic variation in PCA space
252 and sample locations in geographic space (Wang, 2010). For each species, the Procrustes
253 analysis compared two matrices: one with the latitude and longitude of each sampling location,
254 and one with principal components one and two, as calculated using the R packages ‘gdsfmt’ and
255 ‘SNPRelate’ using the script VCF_PCA.R. The Procrustes analysis not only quantifies the
256 strength of the association between genetic and geographic variation, but it also shows the
257 amount of genetic deviance of individuals from their expected genetic position based on where
258 they were sampled geographically. As the Procrustes analysis identifies the optimal
259 transformation (i.e., rotation of matrices) that maximizes the similarity between genetic principal
260 components and geographical coordinates of sampling locations, the arrows represent the degree
261 of deviation from a signature of IBD. The direction of the arrows shows in two dimensions the
262 strength of the deviation (e.g., how a population may genetically look much more like a
263 neighboring population to the north than would be expected given its geographic position). For
264 each species and each data type, we calculated t_0 , the association statistic between the two
265 matrices, and assessed its significance by running 10,000 permutations. For both species, we
266 also measured whether the magnitude of the Procrustes deformations was correlated with certain
267 variables, namely: latitude, longitude, direction of Procrustes errors, whether the population was

268 continental or insular, and the size of the land mass containing the population. The size of the
269 land mass was calculated by measuring the perimeter of an island or terrestrial shoreline. All
270 correlations were tested using the R package ‘vegan’ in the script Correlations.R.

271

272 **Ocean current analysis**

273 We tested the relative importance of geographic distance and environmental distance (i.e.,
274 geographic distance scaled using the effects of ocean currents) using partial Mantel tests
275 implemented in the R package ‘vegan’. For each population pair, we considered the geographic
276 distance to be the Euclidean distance between the sampling locations, and we considered
277 environmental distance to be the Euclidean distance plus the distance added due to ocean
278 currents preventing propagules from moving in a straight-line distance between two populations
279 (Fig. 1). We downloaded gridded ocean current data from NOAA
280 (<https://ferret.pmel.noaa.gov/>); each file contained either the northward or eastward water
281 velocity for each marine pixel (resolution: $1/12^\circ$) in the study area over a 24-hour period. We
282 downloaded data for 12 time points spaced over two years (February 2014-January 2016),
283 ensuring that each month of the year was represented once to account for seasonal variation in
284 current velocity. We averaged the northward velocities and eastward velocities for all time
285 periods and then created a single grid layer by determining the ocean current bearing of each cell
286 using the averaged northward and eastward velocities and the ‘earthbear’ function in the R
287 package ‘fossil’ (see R script Ocean.R).

288 The straight-line distance between each pair of populations was measured, and we then
289 identified every grid cell in the averaged layer that intersected the line. If the bearing in a pixel
290 were identical to the bearing of the line, the pixel would be given a score of zero. If the bearing
291 of the pixel were different from the bearing of the line, it would be given a score between zero
292 and 180, where 180 implies that the ocean current bearing of the pixel is perpendicular to the line
293 connecting the populations. We calculated the bearing of the line for both directions, but only
294 retained the direction that minimized the sum of the absolute deviations from the bearings in the
295 pixels. We then averaged the deviations across all pixels intersected by the line to obtain the
296 scaled environmental distance, which would be greater than the Euclidean distance. In this way,
297 we used the averaged ocean current layer as an environmental resistance layer and measured its

298 importance for explaining geographic patterns of genetic variation. Due to the coarse resolution
299 of the gridded layers, some sampling locations appeared to be in marine (as opposed to
300 terrestrial) pixels. Therefore, for this analysis, some GPS coordinates were shifted slightly to
301 ensure that each sampling location was located on a terrestrial pixel. The data acquisition and
302 processing were completed using the script Ocean.R. We followed Massatti et al. (2017) and
303 used partial Mantel tests to measure the correlation between distances penalized by ocean current
304 and genetic distances (i.e., pairwise F_{ST}), controlling for Euclidean geographic distance
305 separating populations.

306

307 **Pollen versus seed analysis**

308 The maternally inherited chloroplast genome and the biparentally inherited nuclear
309 genome have different evolutionary histories and as such will exhibit different amounts of
310 genetic differentiation among sampling locations. In both red and white mangroves the
311 chloroplast is presumably maternally inherited, given well-documented evidence of maternal
312 transmission in multiple closely related taxa (i.e., several representatives from families in the
313 same order as each mangrove species; Zhang, 2003). When the rate of seed migration is smaller
314 than that of pollen migration, population genetic theory predicts that greater subpopulation
315 structure will be detected in (maternally inherited) chloroplast markers than in (biparentally
316 inherited) nuclear markers (Petit et al., 2004). The maternal contribution to gene flow can be
317 measured using chloroplast markers, and the paternal contribution to gene flow can be calculated
318 by subtracting the maternal contribution to gene flow from the biparental contribution to gene
319 flow. Thus, the ratio of seed migration to pollen migration (r) can be calculated using the
320 following equation: $r = (A-2C)/C$, where $A = (1/F_{STnuclear}) - 1$, and $C = (1/F_{STchloroplast}) - 1$
321 (Hamilton & Miller, 2002). We used F_{ST} to calculate the ratio of seed migration to pollen
322 migration for each species in a pairwise fashion for all pairs of sampling locations.

323

324 **Results**

325 **Geographic structuring of genetic variation**

326 In both mangrove species we found greater differentiation among sampling locations in
327 chloroplast DNA versus nuclear DNA (Supplemental Tables 2 and 3). Pairwise F_{ST} estimated

328 for red mangroves using RAD loci was usually low, ranging from 0 to 0.679 (average F_{ST} =
329 0.209; Supplemental Table 2), and pairwise F_{ST} using chloroplast DNA ranged from 0.138 to 1.0
330 (average F_{ST} = 0.561; Supplemental Table 3). Sampling locations on the margins of the study
331 region (e.g., Anguilla, Senegal, New Port Richey) usually had higher values of pairwise F_{ST}
332 (Supplemental Table 2). There is a large range in the pairwise genetic differentiation estimated
333 by chloroplast DNA for white mangroves (F_{ST} ranges from 0.075 to 1.0 with average F_{ST} =
334 0.506; Supplemental Table 3), and the pairwise F_{ST} values for RAD loci vary from low
335 differentiation (F_{ST} = 0.0 between several Florida and Grand Bahamas populations;
336 Supplemental Table 2) to high differentiation (F_{ST} = 0.595 between a Florida population
337 (Melbourne) and Antigua; Supplemental Table 2). The average pairwise F_{ST} using RAD loci in
338 white mangroves was 0.285. The ratio of seed migration to pollen migration (r), calculated using
339 the F_{ST} values for both species for both genomes, showed greater pollen gene flow than seed
340 gene flow in red mangroves (ratio of pollen:seed = 7.87). In white mangroves, the ratio of
341 pollen:seed gene flow is 0.16, indicating that the lower genetic differentiation among populations
342 most likely is attributable to propagule, rather than pollen, dispersal.

343 The SVDQuartets trees showed that individuals and sampling locations were often
344 clustered by geography when using nuclear loci (i.e., RAD-Seq data; Fig. 2). Notably, several
345 major clades in each species clustered geographically. In red mangroves, the following clades
346 containing more than one sampling location had 100% bootstrap support: Florida,
347 Florida+Cuba+Grand Bahama, Florida+Cuba+Grand Bahama+Belize+Costa Rica
348 (Caribbean)+Colombia+Nicaragua+Mexico+Honduras, and the previous clade+Costa Rica
349 (Pacific)+Panama+Aruba+Venezuela+Cayman Islands+Long Island+Jamaica+Hispaniola (Fig.
350 2). These relationships were also observed with high support when using RAxML
351 (Supplemental Fig. 1). Similarly, in white mangroves, multiple clades with 100% bootstrap
352 support were congruent with geography: Florida+Grand Bahama,
353 Antigua+Aruba+Grenada+Puerto Rico, and the previous two clades+Costa
354 Rica+Belize+Jamaica+Cayman Islands (Fig. 2). As in red mangroves, the SVDQuartets and
355 RAxML trees for white mangroves based on RAD-Seq data were largely congruent. The
356 RAxML trees inferred using chloroplast genomes in both species had fewer highly supported
357 clades than trees generated from RAD-Seq data, although there were fewer tips in the chloroplast

358 trees (Supplemental Fig. 2). Additionally, the phylogenetic relationships were less congruent
359 with the geographic relationships of sampling locations than in the nuclear trees. In red
360 mangroves, all Florida samples formed a highly supported clade, as did some individuals from
361 Aruba, Antigua, Grenada, and Jamaica—although not all Jamaica or Grenada individuals were
362 represented in the clade. In white mangroves, one notable highly supported clade included
363 samples from Belize, Colombia, Honduras, Hispaniola, Mexico, and Puerto Rico—although not
364 all samples from Colombia and Puerto Rico were in the clade. In general, the phylogenetic
365 relationships in the chloroplast trees of white mangroves are less congruent with geography than
366 those of red mangroves.

367

368 **Dispersal limitations as a function of geographic distance**

369 Mantel tests were significant for both species when comparing geographic distance
370 matrices with genetic matrices (Table 1); IBD explained at least a portion of genetic variance.
371 Mantel tests are discussed in more detail in the subsequent section, where the results of the
372 partial Mantel tests are summarized. For red mangroves, the Procrustes analysis based on RAD
373 loci indicated that nuclear genetic data were significantly correlated with the geography of the
374 sampling locations ($t_o = 0.561$; $P < 0.01$; with Pacific samples included, $t_o = 0.602$; Fig. 3;
375 Supplemental Fig. 3). Similarly, in white mangroves, the Procrustes analysis based on RAD loci
376 revealed that nuclear genetic data were significantly correlated with geography ($t_o = 0.684$;
377 $P < 0.01$; Table 2; Fig. 4). For red mangroves, the Procrustes analysis also showed that there was
378 not a significant relationship between geographic and genetic distance when using chloroplast
379 data, although the relationship was barely non-significant ($t_o = 0.284$; $P = 0.0575$). For white
380 mangroves, the Procrustes analysis using chloroplast DNA also found that genes were not
381 significantly correlated with geography ($t_o = 0.0808$; $P = 0.845$). In white mangroves, the
382 magnitude of deformations from the Procrustes analysis was significantly correlated with both
383 latitude and longitude, but not with three other factors associated with sampling locations (island
384 vs. continental location, island size, direction of Procrustes deformations; Table 3). In contrast,
385 all five factors associated with sampling locations were significantly correlated with the
386 magnitude of Procrustes errors in red mangroves (Table 3).

387

388 **Dispersal mediated by ocean current**

389 In both red and white mangroves, Mantel tests were significant when comparing
390 geographic distance and genetic distance (F_{ST}), and when comparing ocean current penalized
391 distance and genetic distance (Table 1). In white mangroves, the r -value was higher in the
392 Mantel test for geography ($r = 0.694$) than in ocean current penalized distance ($r = 0.275$; Table
393 1). There was a similar trend in red mangroves ($r = 0.426$ for geographic distance; $r = 0.126$ for
394 ocean current penalized distance), and both r -values in red mangroves were lower than the
395 corresponding value in white mangroves. Additionally, partial Mantel tests were significant ($r =$
396 0.249 for white mangroves and $r = 0.242$ for red mangroves; Table 1) and revealed that the
397 ocean current penalty matrices explained some of the variation in spatial genetic patterns when
398 controlling for covariance associated with geographic distance.

399

400 **Discussion**

401 This study highlights how we can quantify key biotic traits of species to evaluate their
402 interaction with abiotic factors, and how this interaction shapes the spatial distribution of genetic
403 variation within species. Specifically, we investigated how differences in dispersal ability are
404 affected by ocean currents, and how this interaction affects phylogeographic patterns. We
405 predicted that red mangroves would exhibit greater connectivity between populations through
406 seeds than white mangroves, and that the patterns of genetic differentiation would reflect
407 differences in the degree of isolation among populations as a function of the geographic distance
408 separating populations, augmented by oceanic currents. Here we showed that comparative
409 phylogeographic patterns observed in the two mangrove species, combined with spatially explicit
410 analyses to assess abiotic drivers of phylogeographic patterns (i.e., ocean currents), revealed that
411 species-specific dispersal traits such as propagule movement were important for patterning
412 spatial genetic diversity—sometimes in unexpected ways—and that they were not the only
413 important factor. Several key results supported the importance of ocean currents transporting
414 propagules, but there was also evidence that other means of moving genetic material were
415 important. Phylogenetic, population genetic differentiation, and IBD analyses indicated both
416 concordant and discordant phylogeographic patterns when we compared these two mangrove
417 species adapted for ocean dispersal. Here we showed that ocean currents act as a mechanism for

418 facilitating dispersal using spatially explicit tests of the role of ocean currents on patterning
419 genetic diversity. Additionally, we measured relative amounts of pollen versus propagule gene
420 flow, which indicated critical differences between the two species regarding the importance of
421 propagule movement. Contrary to expectations, white mangroves exhibited greater connectivity
422 between populations through seeds than red mangroves. Importantly, methods in this study can
423 be applied to many other species with spatial patterns of genetic variation impacted by both
424 biotic and abiotic factors; below we discuss the implications of our results, focusing on how our
425 findings impact understanding of how species-specific biotic traits and abiotic factors interact to
426 shape phylogeographic patterns.

427

428 **Concordance and discord between species adapted for ocean dispersal**

429 Several types of evidence supported similar phylogeographic patterns in the two
430 mangrove species investigated. Measures of population differentiation revealed a wide range of
431 interpopulation genetic differentiation in both species; typically, more proximate populations had
432 lower differentiation (Supplemental Tables 2 and 3). Additionally, Mantel tests for IBD showed
433 that Euclidean distance between populations was a significant predictor of genetic distance (F_{ST})
434 between populations in the nuclear genome for each species (Table 1). Phylogenetic analyses of
435 each species corroborated this interpretation, as individuals from the same population or region
436 often grouped together (Fig. 2, Supplemental Fig. 1, Supplemental Fig. 2). However, there were
437 key differences between the species: we detected greater differentiation between sampling
438 locations in both nuclear and chloroplast data in white mangroves than in red mangroves
439 (Supplemental Tables 2 and 3), suggesting that some mechanism makes genetic exchange easier
440 between populations of red mangroves than white mangroves. Several results indicated that
441 LDD via water might not be as important as has been assumed. Specifically, IBD and Procrustes
442 analyses revealed important insights about the patterns of genetic diversity in each of the species
443 (Figs. 3 and 4, Tables 1 and 2). Genetic differentiation in the nuclear genome of both species
444 was partially determined by geography—indicating that successful LDD events in these species
445 were not the only process shaping spatial patterns of genetic diversity for the species.

446

447 **Ocean currents as a mechanism for dispersal**

448 LDD via ocean currents is often considered the only important mechanism that moves
449 genetic material between distant populations of mangroves (Tomlinson, 2016). Our results show
450 that ocean currents may not be as important as assumed, but they do have a role in transporting
451 propagules frequently enough to impact genetic diversity between populations (Table 3). Ocean
452 currents had an effect on spatial genetic patterns in both species, as shown in the ocean current
453 analysis (Fig. 1, Table 1). However, ocean currents were not the only significant predictor of
454 genetic patterns: Mantel and partial Mantel tests revealed that geographic distance was also
455 important (Table 1). This implies that LDD via ocean currents is an important driver of genetic
456 patterns in red and white mangroves, but that other processes, such as genetic drift, which led to
457 IBD patterns, need to be considered. Historical factors, such as past environmental or physical
458 barriers between populations, or changes in ocean currents and/or wind patterns, could have also
459 affected estimates of pairwise F_{ST} , and accordingly could impact IBD and other downstream
460 analyses.

461 Key distinctions between island and continental populations exist in these two species
462 that can disperse between the two land types. The magnitude of Procrustes deformations in each
463 species was correlated with environmental factors, such as island size, longitude, latitude, and
464 direction of deformation (Table 3). Many mangrove populations, especially small populations,
465 could have been recently founded, or could be readily extirpated in a major storm event—
466 making it important to consider a variety of historical processes that could have led to the current
467 patterns of genetic variation among populations. In the Procrustes analysis of red mangroves, the
468 deviations from expected patterns of variation under IBD are in the direction of the Cayman
469 Islands, indicating that individuals from geographically distant populations are nonetheless very
470 similar genetically to individuals sampled in the Cayman Islands; one potential hypothesis
471 explaining this pattern is recent migration (Fig. 3). In addition to ocean currents, other abiotic
472 factors influenced observed genetic patterns—in red mangroves, island size was correlated with
473 the Procrustes deformations that assessed discordance between genes and geography; islands
474 with less coastline are less likely to be a landing spot for drifting propagules (Table 3). This
475 pattern was not detected in white mangroves, meaning that propagule movement in white
476 mangroves may be sufficient to counteract the effect of island size (Table 3). In general, smaller
477 islands had larger deformations, meaning that in small islands, genetic differentiation was more

478 different than expected based on geography, as compared to large islands. Propagule dispersal
479 was less important than expected in red mangroves, so successful colonization or immigration
480 via propagules may be very rare and subject to stochastic effects regarding propagule origin. As
481 island size alone was not able to explain the Procrustes deformations in both species, this result
482 highlights the importance of considering both species-specific biotic traits and abiotic factors in
483 comparative phylogeography studies.

484

485 **The importance of propagule dispersal relative to pollen**

486 Biotic factors other than propagule dispersal are important for determining genetic
487 patterns. We collected genetic data from both the nuclear and chloroplast genomes so we could
488 assess the relative importance of gene flow via propagules and gene flow via other processes (i.e.,
489 pollen movement). In white mangroves, propagule movement is important—seeds are almost six
490 times as important for moving genes as pollen is. However, in red mangroves, propagule
491 movement is not nearly as important; the contribution of pollen to the movement of genes is over
492 eight times greater than that of propagules. Contrary to our predictions, propagule movement in
493 red mangroves was less than in white mangroves. The result for red mangroves strongly
494 contradicts our expectation—the large, long-lived red mangrove propagules were predicted to
495 contribute heavily to spatial patterns of genetic diversity. In white mangroves, we expected that
496 propagules would contribute more to the genetics of the species than pollen, although the relative
497 importance of propagules to pollen in white mangroves as compared to red mangroves is
498 surprising.

499 Our results indicate that ocean currents may not be the major driving force of dispersal in
500 red mangroves, as currently assumed (Nettle & Dodd, 2007; Takayama et al., 2014; Wee et al.,
501 2015; Hodel et al., 2016; reviewed in Tomlinson, 2016). For a typical wind-pollinated plant
502 species, red mangrove pollen movement was perhaps not unexpected. In empirical studies, the
503 rate of pollen movement is often at least one order of magnitude larger than the rate of seed
504 movement (Petit et al., 2004). However, one would expect viviparous mangrove species, that
505 purportedly have the ability to disperse long distances using ocean currents, to have a lower
506 pollen:seed ratio. White mangroves seem more in line with expectations for a mangrove species:
507 a low pollen:seed ratio for a ‘typical’ plant, but expected because of its dispersal mechanism. As

508 noted previously, pairwise F_{ST} can account for both historical factors and ongoing gene flow, so
509 the inferred amounts of pollen- and seed-mediated gene flow may not be solely due to
510 contemporary gene flow.

511 In summary, the pollen:seed ratio in red mangroves is surprisingly high for a mangrove
512 species, whereas that of white mangroves more closely matches expectations. A previous study
513 of black mangroves (*Avicennia germinans*; Acanthaceae), another mangrove species distributed
514 throughout the Caribbean, found a pollen:seed ratio of 5.1 (Nettle & Dodd, 2007). Black
515 mangrove propagules are intermediate in size and longevity between those of white and red
516 mangroves, and black mangrove parent plants occur at an intermediate distance from the water
517 compared to the two focal species of this study. The results for black mangroves imply that
518 smaller propagules may be more valuable for LDD in mangrove systems, as the pollen:seed ratio
519 for black mangroves is smaller than that of red mangroves. The Nettle and Dodd (2007) study
520 used few markers—only two polymorphic chloroplast SSRs—so their chloroplast F_{ST} estimates
521 would be expected to have large variance.

522 Many studies of mangrove genetic diversity (e.g., studies that used microsatellites) use
523 ocean currents to explain the geographic distribution of genetic variation (Nettle & Dodd, 2007;
524 Takayama et al., 2014; Wee et al., 2015; Hodel et al., 2016). This approach is logical, as
525 mangrove species have various types of vivipary, and propagules can float in salt water for
526 months, often establishing in suitable substrate many kilometers away (Rabinowitz, 1979).
527 However, propagules are not the only means of transmitting genetic material—pollen can be
528 critically important in patterning genetic diversity as well. Wind pollination, which typically
529 moves pollen greater distances than transport via insects, characterizes red mangroves, in
530 contrast to white mangroves, which are insect-pollinated (Tomlinson, 2016). Both species are
531 self-compatible, and red mangroves have been documented to produce fruit from self-pollination
532 at approximately one tenth of the frequency of wind pollination (Nadia & Machado, 2014).
533 White mangrove flowers have been observed to self-pollinate when not visited by insects
534 (Landry, 2012). Although both of these pollination syndromes can move genetic material via
535 pollen, the majority of gene flow in mangrove species is assumed to occur via propagules, but
536 until now, this had not been tested with genetic data in a spatially explicit context. Although
537 differences in pollination syndrome could have impacted the results, our analyses demonstrated

538 that propagule movement is more important than pollen in determining spatial patterns of genetic
539 variation in white mangroves, but that the opposite was true in red mangroves.

540

541 **Applications to other species**

542 Differences in dispersal ability between taxa can leave subtly different genetic signatures
543 that require high-resolution data to tease apart. Historically, comparative phylogeography
544 studies typically used single-locus DNA sequences (i.e., mitochondrial or chloroplast DNA) or
545 nuclear microsatellite loci (Avice, 2000; Soltis et al., 2006). The number of markers used
546 frequently numbered fewer than 20 microsatellites or fewer than 10 linked regions on the
547 chloroplast or mitochondrial genomes. Adequately testing dispersal requires sufficient
548 resolution in different genomes (i.e., both nuclear and organellar). Recent studies have embraced
549 using many more (i.e., thousands) loci, such as phylogeographic studies using RAD-Seq data
550 (reviewed in Andrews et al., 2016). However, many comparative phylogeographic studies do
551 not sample loci from both the nuclear and organellar genomes (Riddle, 2016). Even though
552 organellar genomes are effectively single loci, the differences in their inheritance compared to
553 the nuclear genome make including organellar data valuable for phylogeographic inference (Petit
554 et al., 2004). For instance, in an animal species with biased sex ratios and/or differences in
555 mobility between the sexes, mitochondrial and nuclear data would provide different inferences of
556 dispersal. Similarly, in a plant species with vast differences in the amount of dispersal possible
557 via seeds and pollen, the chloroplast and nuclear genomes would show different genomic
558 signatures regarding dispersal.

559 This study highlighted the importance of ocean currents and species-specific dispersal
560 traits and should inform how future studies consider the interplay of biotic and abiotic traits.
561 Specifically, our study has implications beyond these two mangroves—the results directly apply
562 to species that disperse over oceans and indirectly apply to other species that disperse across
563 some type of barrier. Our results show that for coastal species that use water to facilitate
564 dispersal, it is important to consider all of the mechanisms that spatially pattern genetic diversity.
565 Studies of other water-dispersed plants, such as *Hibiscus tiliaceus* (Takayama, 2006), used
566 chloroplast DNA and detected moderate genetic structure ($F_{ST} \sim 0.25$) between populations not
567 immediately connected by water. However, the choice of markers (i.e., maternally inherited

568 chloroplast DNA) made it impossible to tease apart the effect of pollen on the patterning of
569 genetic diversity across geographic space. As in red mangroves, just because a species expends
570 a lot of energy producing propagules that can disperse long distances, there is no guarantee that
571 the propagules will successfully travel via ocean currents to establish new populations or migrate
572 to other distant existing populations. Future studies of water-dispersed plants should use both
573 nuclear and uniparentally inherited organellar markers to assess the relative impacts of seeds and
574 pollen on genetic patterns in the species of interest. Collecting both adequate nuclear and
575 organellar genetic data is a prudent strategy in almost all systems.

576

577 **Conclusions**

578 We investigated how differences in a biotic factor between two species, dispersal—which
579 differed between the species due to propagule size, longevity, and the proximity of the parent
580 plant to water—affected geographic patterns of genetic variation. Additionally, this study used
581 explicit modeling of ocean currents, which assessed how much an abiotic factor impacted genetic
582 differentiation between populations by moving propagules. However, propagule movement in
583 the ocean is important in both species, and it is actually more important for moving genetic
584 material in white mangroves. Pollen movement, facilitated by wind, may be the driving force
585 behind transporting genetic material between populations of red mangroves. The results of this
586 study will impact how shared phylogeographic patterns are investigated in taxa other than
587 mangroves and coastal species. This study illustrates how it is important to fully investigate
588 subtle differences between species using multiple types of data in a spatially explicit context.
589 Without either the chloroplast or nuclear data, we still could have detected differences in genetic
590 differentiation between species, but we would have been unable to determine the relative
591 importance of propagule versus pollen gene flow, which was critical to interpreting the results of
592 this study. Furthermore, without explicitly investigating how ocean currents related to genetic
593 differentiation, we would have been unable to explain the geographic patterns of genetic
594 variation beyond an IBD scenario, and perhaps may have discounted the importance of LDD in
595 these species. Identifying subtle genetic differences between species requires a carefully
596 designed study and understanding the species-specific biotic factors and abiotic environmental
597 factors that are important for the study system and that led to observed patterns. Future studies

598 comparing species with similar phylogeographic patterns should use data from both nuclear and
599 organellar genomes and incorporate relevant biotic and abiotic drivers of intraspecific genetic
600 variation, such as life-history traits (e.g., dispersal, as in this study) or environmental data (e.g.,
601 spatially explicit ocean current data). Increasingly, it will be possible to investigate thoroughly
602 the biotic and abiotic influences on genetic diversity, as more resources such as genomic data,
603 digitized specimen records, and environmental data layers become available and can be
604 integrated (Soltis & Soltis, 2017).

605 Finally, investigating the phylogeography of these two mangrove species also has
606 practical applications. Coastal species are often more vulnerable to the effects of climate change
607 than plants occupying inland habitats (Christensen, 2000; Barbier et al., 2011; Tomlinson, 2016).
608 Mangroves provide crucial ecosystem services: mitigating damage due to storm surges,
609 providing habitat for animal species, and filtering water (Ewel et al., 1998; Rönnbäck, 1999;
610 Walters et al., 2008; Barbier et al., 2011). Anthropogenic climate change, overdevelopment of
611 coastal areas, and increased shipping are negatively impacting mangroves (Kristensen et al.,
612 2008). Conservation genetics theory has shown the importance of characterizing genotypes
613 present in natural populations to combat deleterious forces such as inbreeding depression,
614 outbreeding depression, decline in genetic diversity, and loss of genetic adaptive potential
615 (Moritz 1994; Crandall et al., 2000; Frankham, 2005). Our improved understanding of the
616 phylogeographic structure of mangroves will enable the efficient protection of these crucial
617 coastal tree species throughout the Caribbean. Based on the results of this study, if it is not
618 possible to use local propagules in restoration/reintroduction, locations that were identified as
619 source populations should be used as propagule sources because there is a history of successful
620 migration and colonization from those locations.

621

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801

802 **Data Accessibility**

- 803 • DNA Sequences: Raw reads from the RAD-Seq libraries (accession numbers
804 SRR7501584-SRR7501638; SRR7504176-SRR7504186) and chloroplast genomes
805 (accession numbers SRR7779779-SRR7779767; SRR7781534-SRR7781581) are
806 deposited in the NCBI SRA.
- 807 • Supplemental files, including DNA matrices, sampling locations, and ocean current files
808 are deposited in the Dryad Digital Repository: <https://doi.org/10.5061/dryad.53mp5ng>
- 809 • Scripts are publicly available on Github; repository location:
810 https://github.com/richiehodel/Caribbean_mangroves

811

812 **Author Contributions**

813 R.G.J.H., P.S.S., and D.E.S. designed the research, R.G.J.H., A.C.P., and J.F.D. performed the
814 research, R.G.J.H., L.K.K., S.F.M., P.S.S., and D.E.S. contributed reagents and analytical tools,
815 R.G.J.H., A.C.P., and J.F.D. analyzed data, and R.G.J.H., L.K.K., S.F.M., P.S.S., and D.E.S.
816 wrote the paper.

Table 1. Mantel tests test for significance between genetic and geographic distance, genetic and ocean current penalized distance, and a partial Mantel test that tests the impact of ocean current penalized distance while controlling for covariance from geographic distance (* = significant when $\alpha = 0.05$, ** = significant when $\alpha = 0.01$, *** = significant when $\alpha = 0.001$).

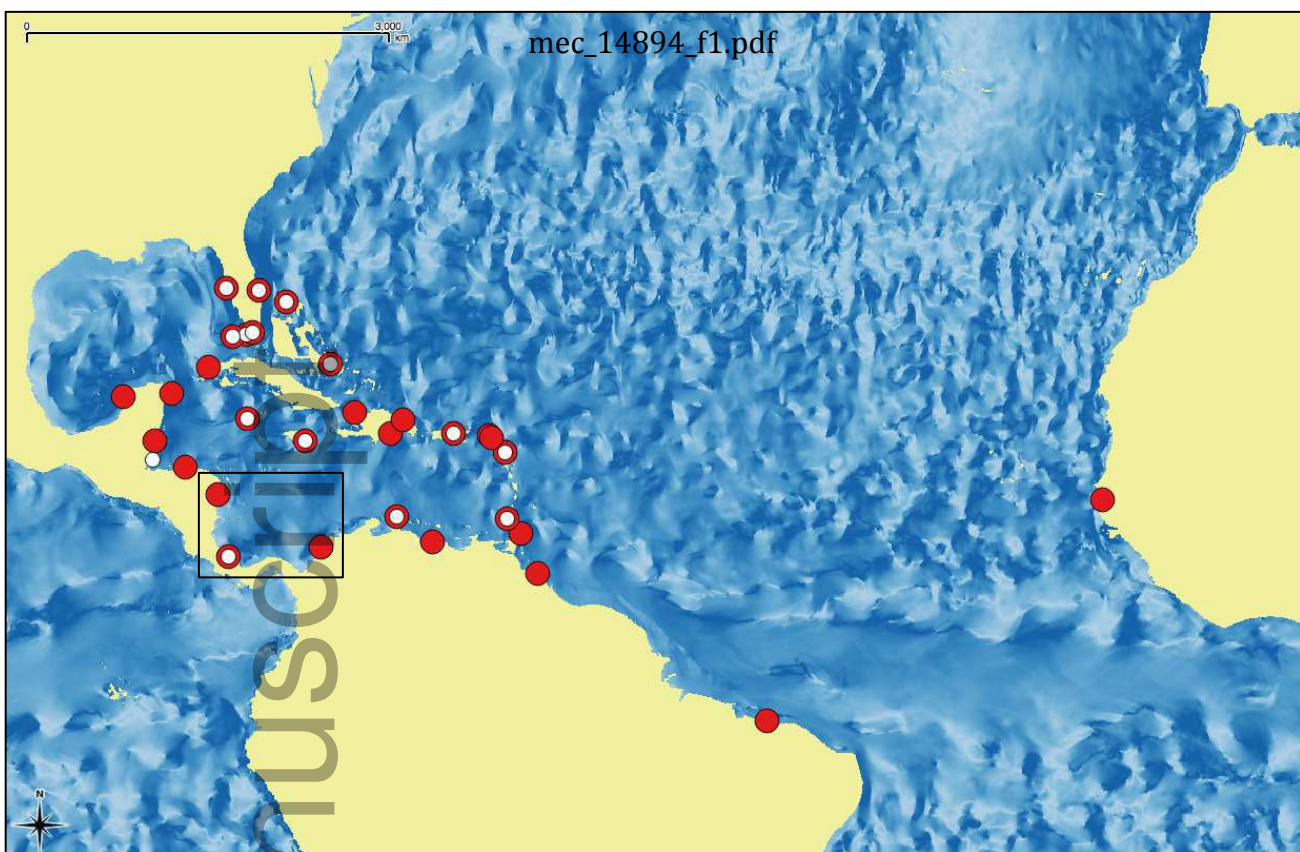
	Laguncularia racemosa		Rhizophora mangle	
	r	P	r	P
Mantel (Geography)	0.694	0.001**	0.426	0.01*
Mantel (Ocean)	0.275	0.011*	0.126	0.046*
Partial Mantel	0.249	0.021*	0.242	0.001**

Table 2. The results of the Procrustes analyses in each species for nuclear and chloroplast data. For each species and each marker type, the t_0 value and P value are shown (***) = significant when $\alpha = 0.001$).

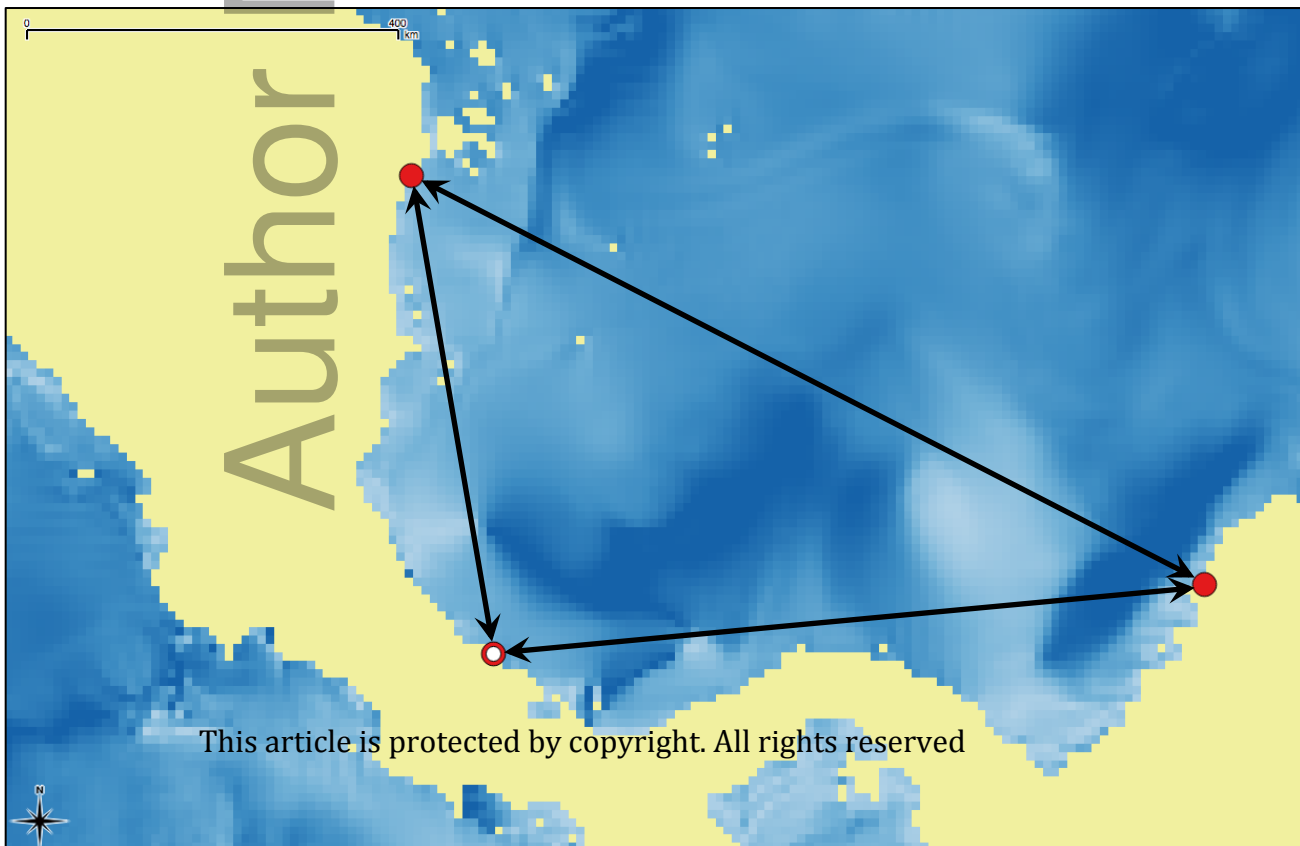
	Laguncularia racemosa		Rhizophora mangle	
	nuclear	chloroplast	nuclear	chloroplast
t_0	0.684	0.808	0.561	0.284
P	<0.001***	0.845	<0.001***	0.058

Table 3. The results of correlation tests between the magnitude of Procrustes deformations and factors associated with sampling locations. For each species, five factors were tested for correlation against the Procrustes deformations from the RAD-Seq data (* = significant when $\alpha = 0.05$, ** = significant when $\alpha = 0.01$, *** = significant when $\alpha = 0.001$).

	Laguncularia racemosa		Rhizophora mangle	
	F-value	P	F-value	P
Island vs. continental	0.18	0.68	4.23	0.042*
Island size	0.23	0.8	3.75	0.026*
Direction	0.44	0.51	18.68	<0.0001***
Latitude	10.92	0.001**	6.77	0.010*
Longitude	14.94	<0.0001***	73.2	<0.0001***



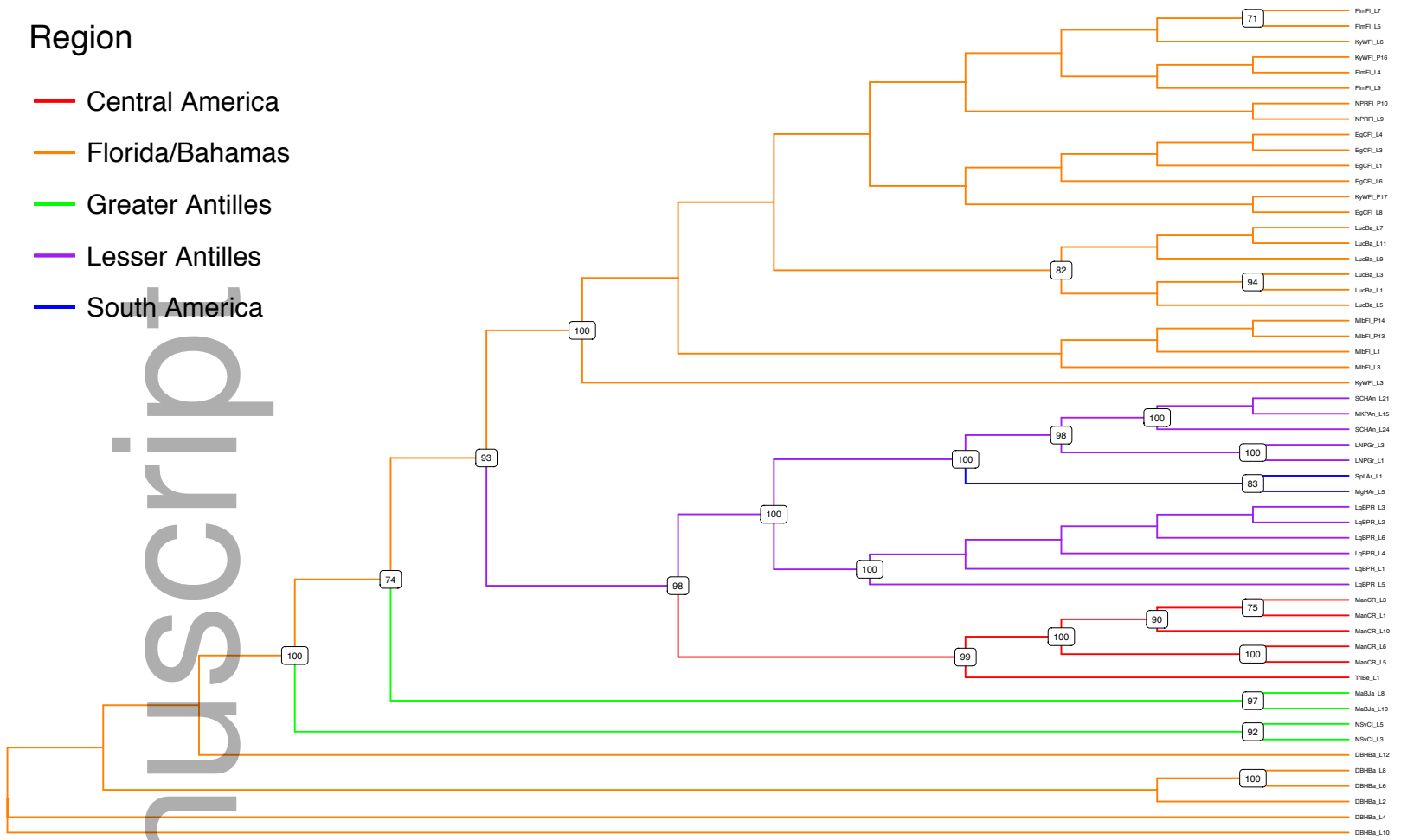
Ocean current bearing (degrees)



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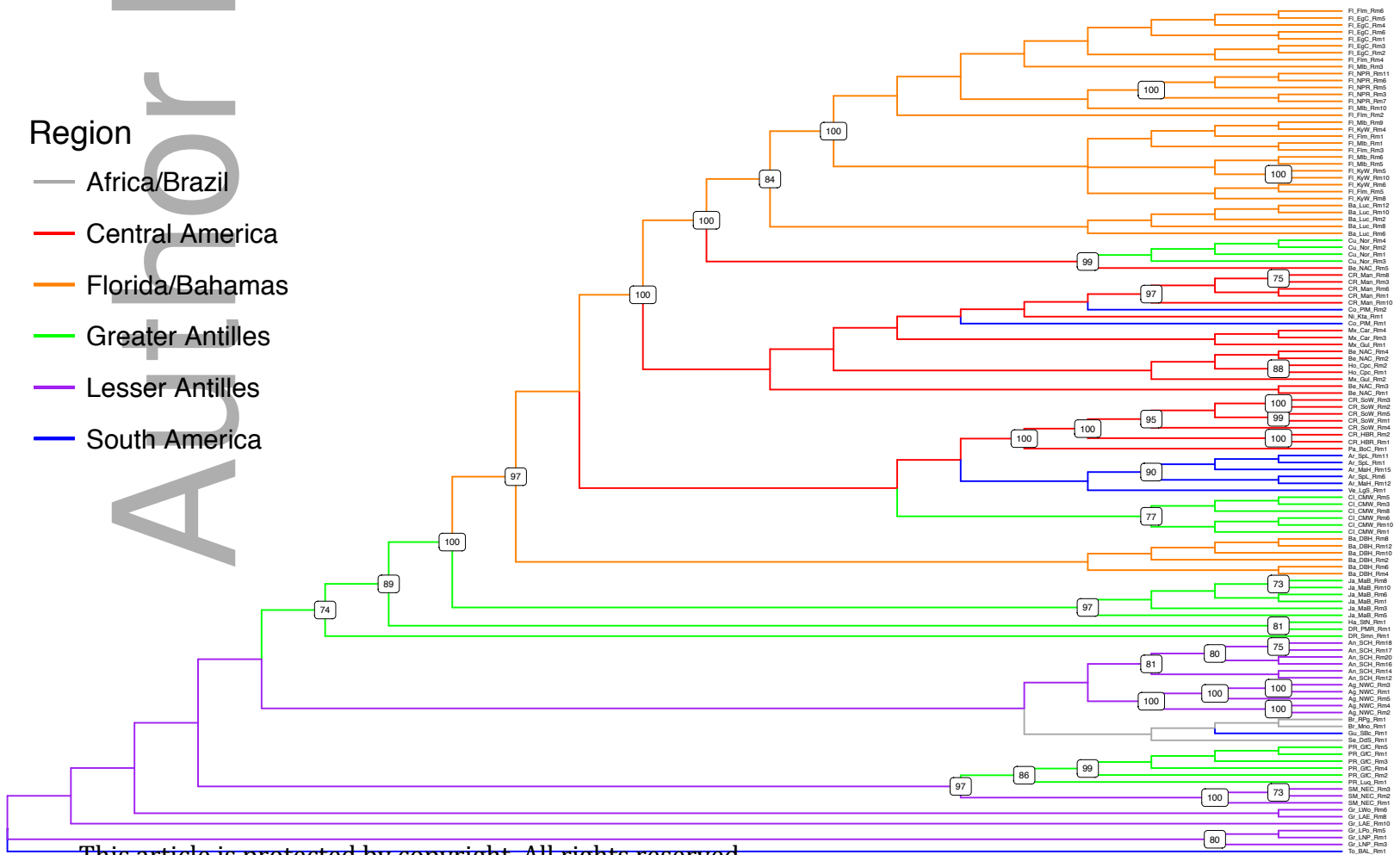
Region

- Central America
- Florida/Bahamas
- Greater Antilles
- Lesser Antilles
- South America

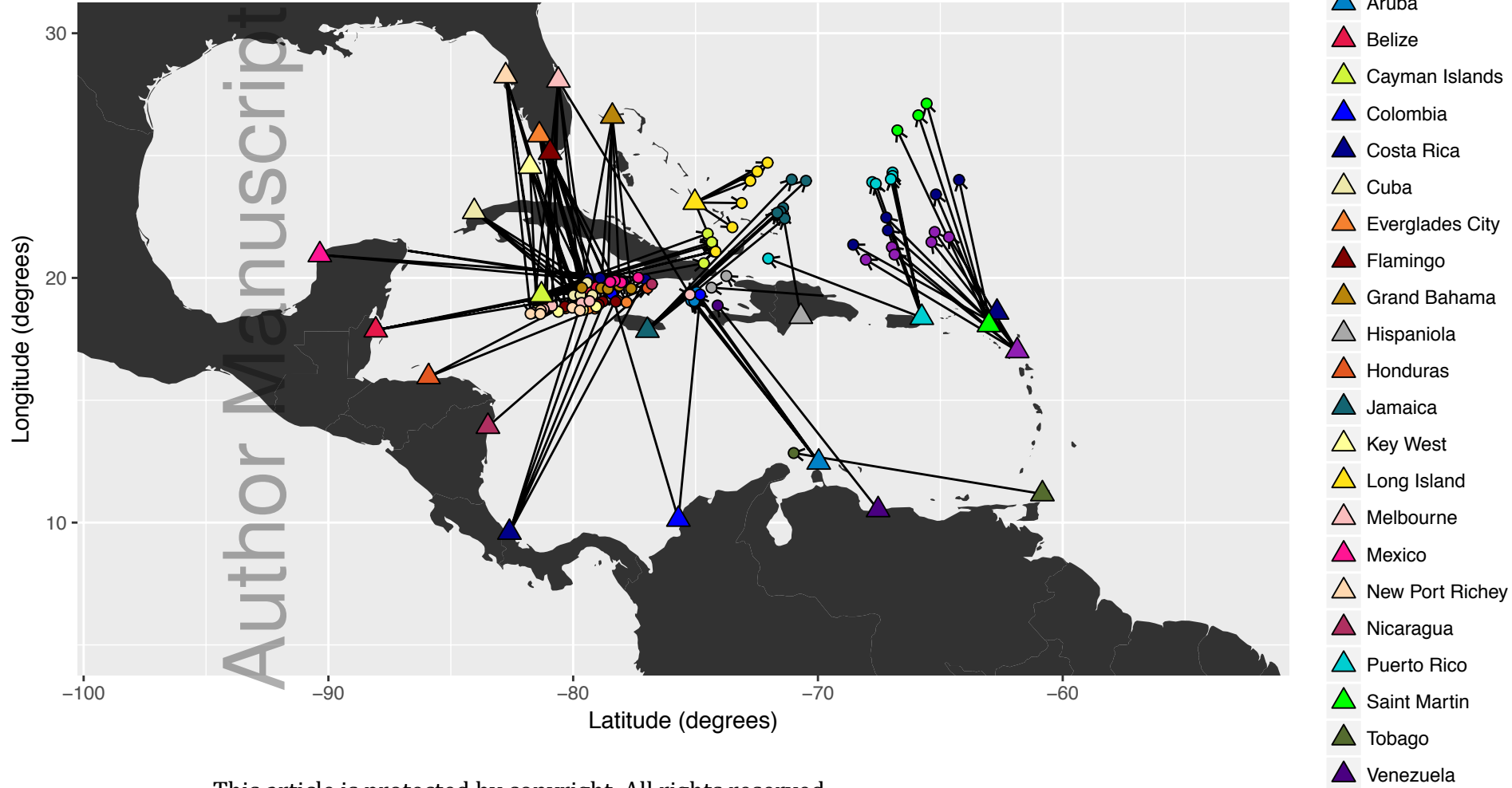


Region

- Africa/Brazil
- Central America
- Florida/Bahamas
- Greater Antilles
- Lesser Antilles
- South America



Red mangrove Procrustes errors



White mangrove Procrustes errors

