

Weak evidence for fine-scale genetic spatial structure in three sedentary Amazonian understory birds

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Abstract The ecological characteristics of a species, along with small-scale landscape features are known to affect the patterns of genetic structure within populations. Due to dispersal limitation, closely-related individuals tend to be closer spatially, leading to spatial genetic structure. Physical barriers also may prevent individuals from dispersing further, and lead individuals on one side of a barrier to be more related than individuals from different sides. We tested these hypotheses by examining patterns of fine-scale spatial genetic structure within populations of three relatively sedentary Amazonian-forest understory birds that differ in their ecological requirements. We sampled birds in a 10,000 ha reserve, covered by largely undisturbed old-growth forests and traversed by a central ridge. We found positive spatial genetic structure at short distances only for *Percnostola rufifrons*, a treefall-gap specialist. Positive genetic structure occurred at 6 km for *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*, a solitary bark-forager; no spatial genetic structure was found for *Gymnopithys rufigula*, an army-ant follower.

Individuals of none of the three species were more related on a given side of the ridgeline than between different sides but, at greater distances, there was a tendency of individuals located on opposite sides of the ridgeline to be less related than individuals located on the same side, for all species analysed. Our study indicates that local topographic features do not prevent, but likely reduce, gene flow within populations in continuous forests, and that the development of fine-scale spatial genetic structure may depend on the dispersal propensity of a species. Thus, studies of species assemblages need to account for the different ecological characteristics of the constituent species.

Keywords *Gymnopithys rufigula* · *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* · Microsatellites · Neotropical birds · *Percnostola rufifrons* · Spatial genetic structure

Zusammenfassung

Schwache Hinweise auf eine räumlich-genetische Feinstruktur bei drei sesshaften Vögeln aus dem Unterholz des Amazonas Waldes

Die ökologischen Eigenschaften einer Art beeinflussen zusammen mit kleinmaßstäbigen Landschaftsmerkmalen die Form der genetischen Struktur innerhalb von Populationen. Aufgrund einer begrenzten Ausbreitung befinden sich nahverwandte Individuen in räumlicher Nähe zueinander, was zu einer räumlich-genetischen Struktur führt. Physikalische Barrieren können ebenfalls die Individuen an einer weiteren Ausbreitung hindern. Das führt dazu, dass Individuen auf der einen Seite der Barriere näher miteinander verwandt sind als Individuen von unterschiedlichen Seiten. Wir haben diese Hypothesen durch die Untersuchung der räumlich-

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genetischen Feinstruktur innerhalb der Populationen von drei relativ sesshaften Vogelarten, die im Unterholz des Amazonas Regenwaldes leben und sich in ihren ökologischen Anforderungen unterscheiden, getestet. Die Proben wurden in einem 10.000 ha großen Reservat gesammelt, welches größtenteils mit unberührtem Primärwald bedeckt und von einer zentral liegenden Kammlinie durchzogen ist. Nur für *Percnostola rufifrons* haben wir eine positive räumlich-genetische Struktur auf kurzen Distanzen gefunden. Dieser ist ein Spezialist für kleine Lichtungen, sogenannte „treefall-gaps“. Eine positive räumlich-genetische Struktur wurde für den solitär lebenden *Glyphorynchus spirurus* bei einer Distanz von 6 km festgestellt, welcher nach Insekten in der Rinde von Bäumen sucht. Für den Wanderameisen folgenden *Gymnopathys rufigula* wurde keine räumlich-genetische Struktur gefunden. Hinzu kommt, dass bei allen Arten die Individuen auf einer Seite der Kammlinie nicht näher verwandt waren als Individuen von unterschiedlichen Seiten. Auf größere Distanzen gesehen, konnte für alle drei Vogelarten eine Tendenz festgestellt werden, dass Individuen von unterschiedlichen Seiten der Kammlinie weniger miteinander verwandt waren als Individuen einer Seite. Unsere Studie zeigt, dass lokale topografische Gegebenheiten nicht den Genfluss in Populationen in zusammenhängenden Wäldern verhindern, aber möglicherweise reduzieren und dass die Entstehung einer räumlich-genetischen Feinstruktur vermutlich von der Ausbreitungsneigung der Art abhängt. Folglich müssen bei Untersuchungen zu Artensammensetzungen die verschiedenen ökologischen Besonderheiten der einzelnen Spezies berücksichtigt werden.

Introduction

Genetic structuring is inversely related to gene flow, which in turn depends highly on the dispersal ability of the organisms. As birds are considered to be good dispersers, genetic structuring is expected to be low in most populations (Crochet 2000). However, many species of birds do display dispersal restrictions, particularly Neotropical rainforest birds (Moore et al. 2008), leading to genetic differentiation even at local scales (Bates 2002; Brown et al. 2004; Woltmann et al. 2012). Moreover, levels of genetic differentiation among populations of many Neotropical rainforest birds have been shown to be explained by their ecological traits (Burney and Brumfield 2009; Khimoun et al. 2016).

Neotropical lowland *terra firme* forests hold a taxonomically and ecologically diverse group of understorey-dwelling birds (Powell et al. 2015a) that vary in their dispersal capabilities. For instance, insectivorous birds are considered to be more sedentary than frugivorous species (Karr 1976); birds that frequent edges or treefall gaps are more prone

to crossing habitat gaps than birds restricted to the forest interior (Şekercioğlu et al. 2002); and flocking birds that rely on nomad army-ant raids to obtain their food typically range over larger areas than do solitary ones (Van Houtan et al. 2006). As such, diet, habitat specialization and foraging behaviour are all ecological traits that could affect the extent to which Neotropical understorey birds disperse, so that the development of fine genetic structure is expected to be species-specific. However, it may be difficult to predict which species will show the most structure because the majority of information on movement relates to adults, but vagrant juveniles may be responsible for most gene flow.

Not only ecological characteristics influence the dispersal of Neotropical understorey birds; physical and environmental barriers are also known to reduce gene flow, increase spatial genetic divergence among populations and, ultimately, may lead to speciation (Smith et al. 2014). Although the effects of human-induced barriers (Barnett et al. 2008; Bates 2002; Brown et al. 2004; Hermes et al. 2016; Woltmann et al. 2012) and large-scale landscape features (Fernandes et al. 2013; Gutiérrez-Pinto et al. 2012; Sandoval et al. 2016; Weir 2009) on the genetic differentiation among populations have been well assessed, the spatial genetic structuring within populations of Neotropical birds and possible effects of small-scale barriers have barely been studied (see a review in Fernandes 2013). Patterns of fine-scale spatial genetic structure within populations can provide important evidence about dispersal and other aspects of a species' biology (Peakall et al. 2003). For instance, small-scale dispersal barriers may affect the distribution of relatives, so that individuals on either side of a barrier are expected to be genetically more related than individuals from opposite sides. Additionally, populations under restricted dispersal are predicted to show spatial genetic structure, with relatedness between individuals decreasing with increasing geographic distance (Smouse and Peakall 1999). Local genetic structure may also be generated from sex-bias in dispersal, with stronger structuring displayed by the most philopatric sex (Banks and Peakall 2012). As male birds tend to remain in their natal territory and females to disperse further (Greenwood 1980), males will presumably display stronger genetic structuring than females.

In this study, we examined patterns of fine-scale spatial genetic structure within populations of three sedentary Amazonian forest-understorey birds that differ in their ecological requirements, and thus possibly, in their dispersal propensity: *Gymnopathys rufigula* (Thamnophilidae), *Percnostola rufifrons* (Thamnophilidae) and *Glyphorynchus spirurus* (Dendrocolaptidae). As an army-ant follower, *Gymnopathys rufigula* relies on the nomadic movements of army-ant swarms to obtain its food, thus it tends to move longer distances than the other species (Willis and Oniki 1978). *Percnostola rufifrons* is a treefall-gap specialist, whose adults defend small territories

(Johnson et al. 2011). *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* is a solitary bark-forager that maintains small and stable territories over time (Blake and Loiselle 2012; Johnson et al. 2011). Therefore, we tested whether these species (1) display an overall positive spatial genetic structure, (2) males and females differ in their fine-scale structure, and (3) a small topographic ridge separating two watersheds acts as a barrier to gene flow.

Methods

Study area

This study was conducted in the Ducke Forest Reserve (DFR), a 10,000 ha old-growth *terra firme* forest located on the outskirts of Manaus city, in the Brazilian Amazon (Fig. 1a). The city of Manaus has been rapidly growing towards the western borders of DFR, but the reserve's eastern limits are still connected to large portions of forest. The DFR has complex topography, with a central ridge dividing the reserve into two watersheds; the eastern streams flow to tributaries of the Amazon River (white water), whereas the western streams flow to tributaries of the Negro River (black water) (Fig. 1b). Thus, the spatial configuration of

DFR provides an excellent opportunity to test the questions presented in the introduction.

Study species

Gymnopithys rufigula is an obligate army-ant follower found exclusively in the Guiana Shield, northern Amazon (Zimmer and Isler 2003). Medium-sized (mean mass = 28.6 g; Menger et al. (2017b)), *Gymnopithys rufigula* maintains roosting and nesting territories, but lacks feeding territories because they rely on the nomadic and widely-spaced colonies of army ants to obtain their food (Brumfield et al. 2007; Chaves-Campos and DeWoody 2008; O'Donnell et al. 2012; Willson 2004). The species exhibits little sexual dimorphism, but males and females can be distinguished by their interscapular patch, which is white in males and tawny-orange in females. Menger et al. (2017b) assessed the overall local genetic structure, but did not investigate the effects of the ridgeline on the spatial genetic structure and relatedness of *Gymnopithys rufigula* within DFR.

Percnostola rufifrons is a non-migratory bird confined to northern Amazonian forests (Zimmer and Isler 2003). Similar to *Gymnopithys rufigula* in size (mean mass based on 85 individuals = 28.5 g; JM *personal observation*), P.

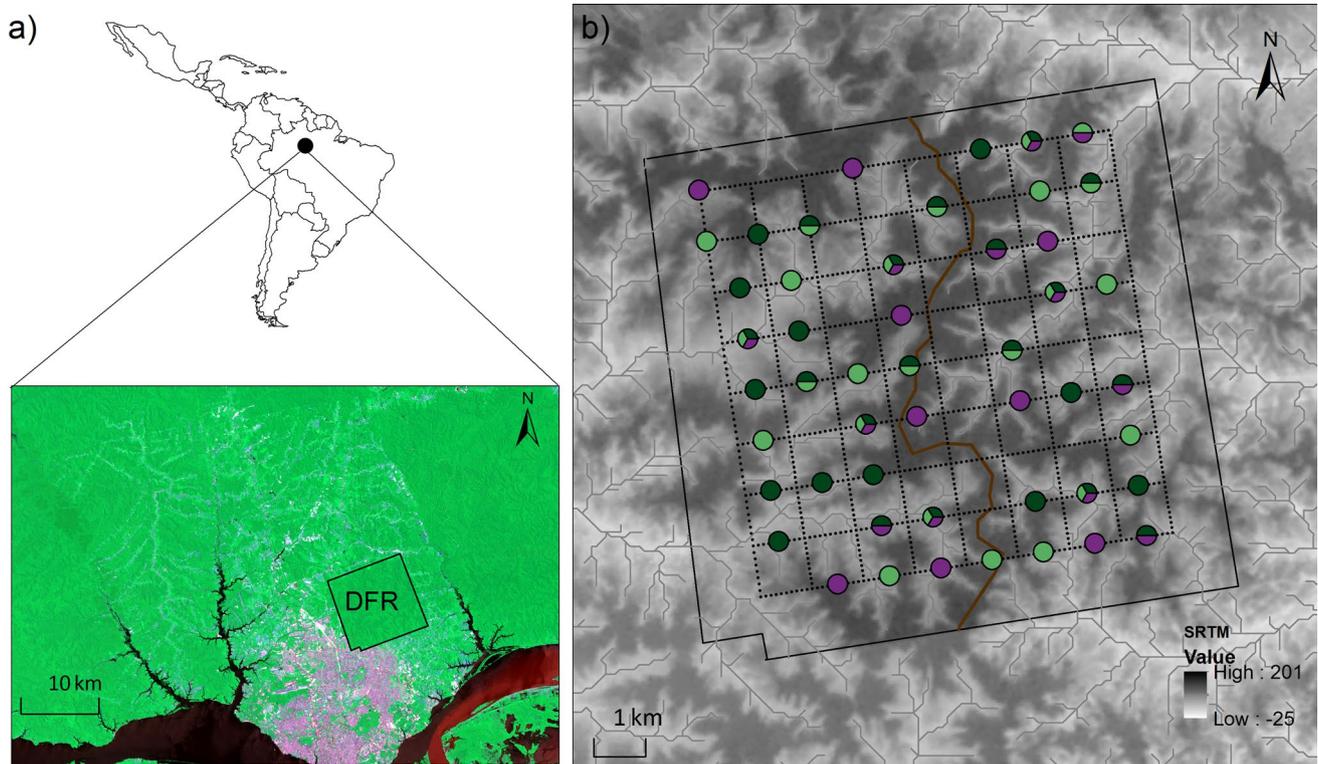


Fig. 1 Location of Ducke Forest Reserve (DFR), Manaus, Amazonas State, Brazil (a). Topography and streams in the study area, showing the 47 sampling plots (circles) where blood samples were taken (b). A brown line divides the reserve into eastern ($n = 21$) and western

($n = 26$) watersheds; colours indicate where each species was sampled (dark green: *Gymnopithys rufigula*; pale green: *Percnostola rufifrons*; purple: *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*) (colour figure online)

rufifrons is a solitary sallier, specialized on treefall-gaps (Antongiovanni and Metzger 2005). Its territory size has been estimated to be relatively small (5.6 ha; Johnson et al. (2011)). Males of the species are greyish, with black crown and throat, while females are largely pale orange-rufous.

Glyphorynchus spirurus is the smallest woodcreeper species in DFR (mean mass based on 279 individuals = 13.2 g; JM personal observation). Common over most of its range from southern Mexico to eastern Brazil, this insectivorous bird occurs in the understorey of old-growth forests, but also in forest edges and secondary forests (Marantz et al. 2003). As a bark forager, it usually feeds alone or in pairs, and may join understorey mixed-species flocks passing through its territories (Powell et al. 2015b). *Glyphorynchus spirurus* maintains small (5.2 ha, Johnson et al. 2011) and stable territories over time (Blake and Loiselle 2012). Although males may be slightly larger than females, *Glyphorynchus spirurus* does not show sexual dimorphism in plumage (Marantz et al. 2003).

Sampling and DNA extraction

Blood samples of *Gymnopithys rufigula* ($n = 80$), *P. rufifrons* ($n = 39$) and *Glyphorynchus spirurus* ($n = 40$) were collected in the DFR during the dry season (July to October) of three consecutive years (2012–2014). Birds were captured with mist nets at 49 sampling points distributed throughout both watersheds (Fig. 1b). Resampling was avoided by tagging each individual with a single metal leg band issued by the Brazilian Centre for Bird Conservation—CEMAVE. Blood samples of approximately 50 μ l were collected via venipuncture and stored in absolute ethanol or in Queen's lysis buffer (Seutin et al. 1991). Birds were then released unharmed. Blood samples were deposited in the Genetic Resource Collection of the Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia—GRC-INPA. DNA was extracted and purified from the whole blood using the Promega Wizard Genomic DNA Purification Kit, following the manufacturer's protocols.

Sex determination

As *Gymnopithys rufigula* and *P. rufifrons* exhibit sexual dimorphism in plumage, males ($n = 40$, $n = 20$; respectively) and females ($n = 40$, $n = 19$; respectively) were identified in the field. The sex of *Glyphorynchus spirurus* was identified by PCR amplification of NIPBL genes using primers NIPBL-i16F and NIPBL-i16R (Suh et al. 2011). PCR was carried out in a total volume of 12.5 μ l containing 8.4 μ l double-distilled water, 0.5 μ l DNA (10–20 ng/ μ l), 0.1 μ l Thermo Fisher DreamTaq Green DNA Polymerase (5 U/ μ l), 1.25 μ l dNTPs (2 mM), 1.25 μ l DreamTaq Green buffer (10 \times), 0.5 μ l forward primer (10 Mm) and 0.5 μ l reverse primer

(10 Mm). Thermal cycling proceeded as follows: 95 $^{\circ}$ C for 3 min, followed by 35 cycles of 94 $^{\circ}$ C for 60 s, 52 $^{\circ}$ C for 60 s and 72 $^{\circ}$ C for 80 s, finishing with 72 $^{\circ}$ C for 5 min. Results were analysed by electrophoresis in 1% agarose gel. Our analyses of *Glyphorynchus spirurus* were based on 20 males and 20 females.

Microsatellite genotyping

Gymnopithys rufigula was genotyped at 13 microsatellite loci (Table 1) described in Menger et al. (2017a). All 13 loci met Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium (HWE), showed no evidence of linkage disequilibrium with other loci and exhibited no evidence for null alleles, as demonstrated in Menger et al. (2017b). *Percnostola rufifrons* was genotyped at nine cross-amplified loci developed for other avian species (Table 1), using protocols and PCR conditions as in Menger et al. (2017a). *Glyphorynchus spirurus* was genotyped at eight microsatellite loci described in Unrein et al. (2017). Additionally, three extra loci developed for other avian species (Table 1) were cross-amplified, using protocols and PCR conditions as in Unrein et al. (2017).

All loci of *P. rufifrons* and *Glyphorynchus spirurus* were checked for null alleles using the Micro-Checker v.2.2.3 (Van Oosterhout et al. 2004). Deviations from HWE and exact tests of linkage disequilibrium between pairs of loci were calculated in the Genepop web v.4.2 (Rousset 2008).

Genetic diversity

We assessed within-species genetic diversity by the observed (H_o) and expected (H_e) heterozygosity calculated in Cervus v.3.0.7 (Kalinowski et al. 2007) and by standardized allelic richness (AR) estimated using a rarefaction method implemented in SPAGeDi v.1.5 (Hardy and Vekemans 2002). To test whether those variables differ among species, we used analysis of variance for unbalanced sample size in R software (R Core Team 2016).

Population inference

We used Structure v.2.3.4 (Pritchard et al. 2000) assuming an admixture model with correlated allele frequencies to infer the number of genetically distinct clusters (K) within each species. We set a burn-in period of 100,000 followed by additional 1,000,000 iterations and 20 replicates were run at each K to identify the best estimate of K from 1 to 6. We determined K based on the log posterior probability of the data for a given K (Pritchard et al. 2000) and on the rate of change in the log probability of the data between successive clusters—the ΔK statistic (Evanno et al. 2005). We used the Structure Harvester v.0.6.94 to calculate K and ΔK (Earl and

Table 1 Allelic richness (AR), observed (H_o) and expected (H_e) heterozygosity of 23 microsatellite loci within populations of three forest-understorey birds in the Ducke Forest Reserve

Locus	<i>Gymnophithys rufigula</i>			<i>Percnostola rufifrons</i>			<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>		
	AR	H_o	H_e	AR	H_o	H_e	AR	H_o	H_e
Glysp02 ^a							8.9	0.500	0.543
Glysp03 ^a				15.0	0.821	0.858	15.9	0.750	0.844
Glysp05 ^a							9.0	0.650	0.754
Glysp06 ^a							18.9	0.850	0.862
Glysp09 ^a				4.0	0.385	0.441	18.8	0.850	0.911
Glysp14 ^a							14.9	0.800	0.839
Glysp15 ^a							5.0	0.475	0.470
Glysp16 ^a							22.8	0.875	0.878
Gyru02 ^b	19.8	0.875	0.921						
Gyru03 ^b	20.1	0.925	0.913						
Gyru06 ^b	13.0	0.763	0.774				5.9	0.400	0.487
Gyru07 ^b	18.8	0.863	0.913	2.0	0.256	0.226			
Gyru10 ^b	13.1	0.900	0.899	12.0	0.744	0.789			
Gyru11 ^b	17.7	0.900	0.917	8.0	0.769	0.834			
Gyru12 ^b	9.2	0.663	0.777						
MyEx26 ^c	4.9	0.413	0.414						
CAM-06 ^d				4.0	0.410	0.534			
CAM-17 ^d	6.5	0.725	0.711	3.0	0.410	0.541			
CAM-18 ^d	4.7	0.425	0.479	4.0	0.615	0.523	5.0	0.700	0.691
CAM-24 ^d				3.0	0.154	0.169			
TG01-040 ^e	2.9	0.138	0.153						
TG02-088 ^e	15.3	0.975	0.919				8.0	0.600	0.667
TG12-015 ^e	2.5	0.225	0.284						
All loci (mean)	11.4	0.676	0.698	6.1	0.480	0.517	12.1	0.567	0.615

^aPrimer sets developed by Unrein et al. (2017) and ^bMenger et al. (2017a)

^cPrimer developed by Barnett et al. (2007), but modified by Menger et al. (2017a)

^dPrimer sets described in Dawson et al. (2013) and ^eDawson et al. (2010)

vonHoldt 2011) and Clump v.1.1.2 to calculate the average probability of individual membership to a specific cluster over the 20 replicates (Jakobsson and Rosenberg 2007).

Spatial genetic structure

To investigate fine-scale patterns of genetic structure within DFR, we used spatial autocorrelation analysis in the GenAlEx v.6.502 (Peakall et al. 2003; Peakall and Smouse 2012; Smouse and Peakall 1999). By correlating genotypes of mapped individuals, spatial autocorrelation analysis is able to identify the scale of genetic structure without prior knowledge of that scale (Heywood 1991). We used a pairwise geographic and a pairwise squared genetic distance matrix to calculate a spatial autocorrelation coefficient r , and obtained statistical significance by 9999 random permutations (Peakall et al. 2003; Smouse and Peakall 1999). We calculated r for distance classes of 1 km, i.e., the minimum distance between sampling points.

To test whether individuals located on a given watershed were more related than individuals from different

watersheds, we calculated the autocorrelation coefficients separately for western–western (WW), eastern–eastern (EE), and opposite-watersheds (WE) pairs across distance classes of 1 km. We assessed the significance of the genetic patterns by determining the 95% bootstrap confidence interval about the autocorrelation r values for each group.

To test for differences in spatial genetic structure between sexes, we also performed spatial autocorrelation analysis separately for males and females, and compared the patterns of genetic structure between sexes by determining the 95% bootstrap confidence intervals (CI) for the autocorrelation r values for each sex (Banks and Peakall 2012). If female-biased dispersal is present, we expect CI's between sexes not to overlap, with r values significantly greater in males.

Patterns of genetic relatedness between watersheds

To visualize differences in patterns of genetic relatedness between watersheds, we performed a Principal Coordinate Analysis (PCoA) using the Lynch–Ritland pairwise genetic relatedness matrix (Lynch and Ritland 1999) in the GenAlEx

v.6.502 (Peakall and Smouse 2006, 2012). If individuals within a given watershed are more related than between watersheds, points separate into distinguishable clouds. Additionally, we tested for differences in mean pairwise relatedness between watersheds by using 9999 random permutations, as implemented in the GenAlEx v.6.502 (Peakall and Smouse 2006, 2012).

Gene flow

We used the BayesAss v.3.0 (Wilson and Rannala 2003) to estimate rates and direction of recent gene flow between eastern and western watersheds within DFR. The BayesAss relies on a Bayesian approach and MCMC sampling to estimate migration over the last few generations (Wilson and Rannala 2003). The BayesAss was run with 10 million iterations, a sampling frequency of 1000, a burn-in of 10% and otherwise default settings. We tested several mixing-parameter values to achieve acceptance rates of 20–60% for migration rates (m), allele frequency (a) and inbreeding coefficients (f). The final model parameter values for all species were set at $m = 0.4$, $a = 0.4$ and $f = 0.7$. We used the Tracer v.1.6 to assess convergence (Rambaut et al. 2014).

Results

Genetic diversity

All *P. rufifrons* and *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* loci conformed to HWE expectations and no pair of loci was found to be in linkage disequilibrium. Allelic richness, observed (H_o) and expected heterozygosity (H_e) were similar among the three species (all P values > 0.09, Table 1).

Population inference

The highest log posterior probability of the data obtained via Structure analyses was $K = 1$ for all species (Fig. 2a–c). The highest value for ΔK suggested a $K = 2$ for *Gymnopathys rufigula* and *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*, and a $K = 5$ was suggested for *P. rufifrons* (Fig. 2d–f). We, hence, assigned membership of each individual to the clusters with K set to 2 for all species. However, all individuals within species were assigned to each of the clusters with a probability of ~ 0.5 . We additionally assigned membership of each *P. rufifrons* individual to the clusters with K set to 5, but the probability of individual membership in each cluster was 0.2. These

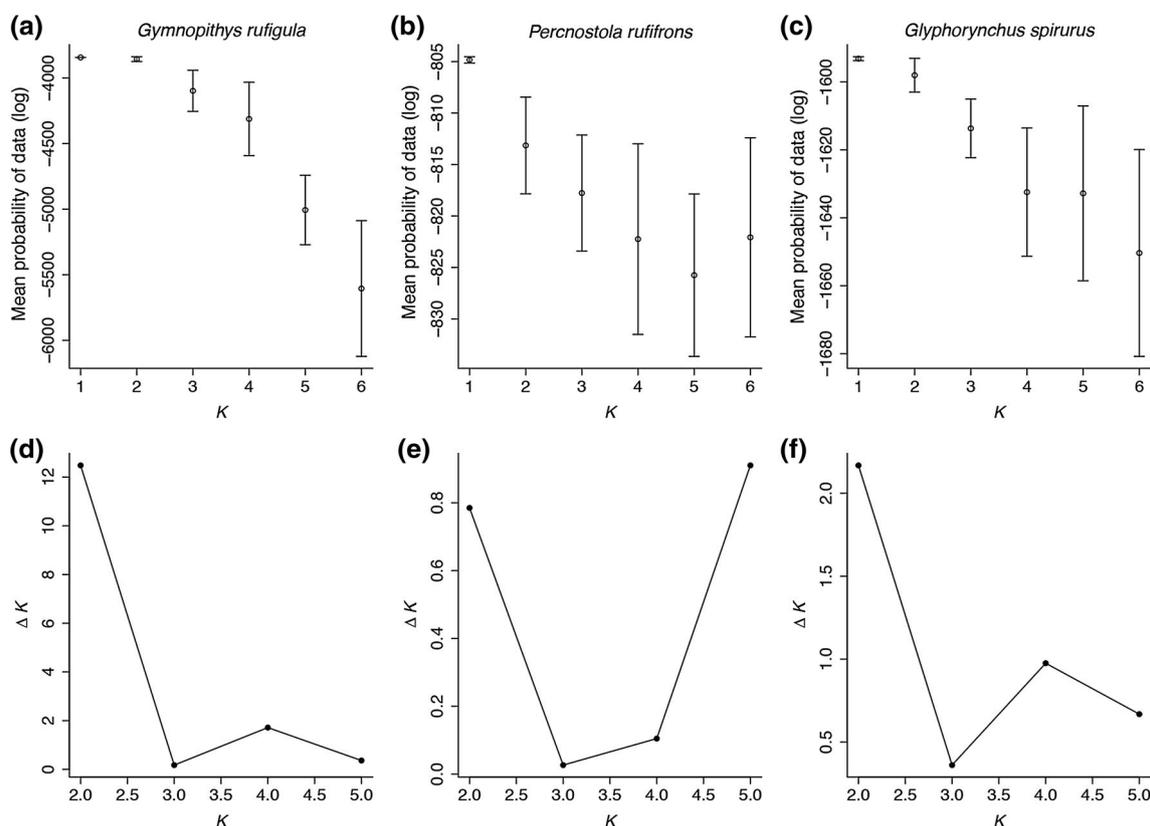


Fig. 2 Number of populations inferred by structure for *Gymnopathys rufigula*, *Percnostola rufifrons* and *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*. Mean log likelihoods for each K (\pm SD; a–c) and the rate of change in the log probability of the data between successive clusters (ΔK ; d–f)

results indicate that most likely all individuals within each species belong to the same population.

Spatial genetic structure

Gymnophithys rufigula did not display spatial genetic structure, indicating that genotypes were randomly distributed at the scale of the DFR, as already shown in Menger et al. (2017b) (Fig. 3a). *Percnostola rufifrons* was the only species to show positive genetic structure at short distances, with the *r* value crossing zero at 1 km, suggesting stronger dispersal limitation for this species (Fig. 3b). *Glyphorynchus spirurus* displayed positive genetic structure at a distance class of 6 km, with the *r* value crossing zero at 7 km, indicating that individuals separated by more than this distance are less genetically similar than expected for random mating independent of distance (Fig. 3c).

There was a tendency of WE-pairs to be less related than WW- and EE-pairs at greater distance classes, but 95% error bars overlapped at all distance classes and for all three species (Fig. 3d–f), indicating that the central ridgeline has little

effect on gene flow within DFR. Males and females of all species showed similar patterns of genetic structure; there was thus no evidence for sex-biased dispersal (Fig. 3g–i).

Patterns of genetic relatedness between watersheds

The PCoA did not show any apparent structuring into eastern and western watersheds for any of the species (Fig. 4). That is, the individuals sampled within a given species had similar genetic relatedness in both watersheds. Mean pairwise relatedness was low for all species and similar in both watersheds (all *P* > 0.1).

Gene flow

Estimates of contemporary gene flow obtained from the BayesAss suggested high self-recruitment rates for all species in both watersheds (Fig. 5). Gene flow between watersheds was similar for the *Gymnophithys rufigula* (Fig. 5), while asymmetrical gene flow between eastern and western watersheds was detected for the other two species. Higher

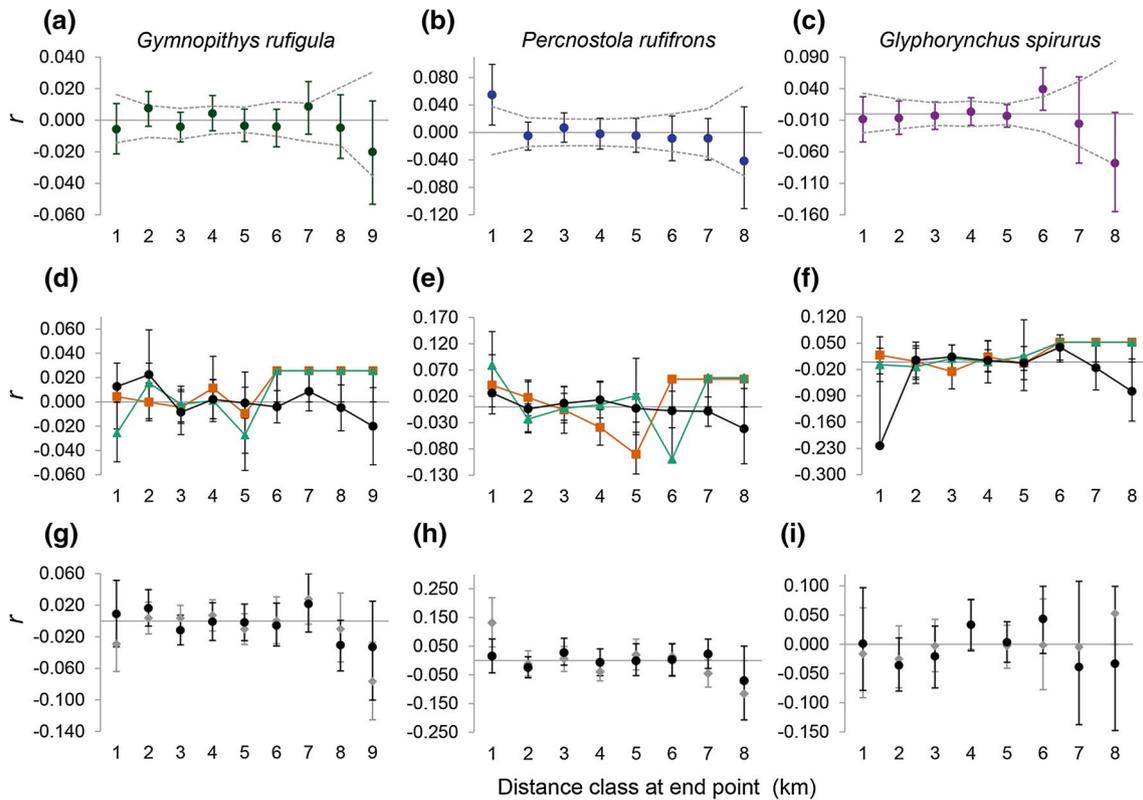


Fig. 3 Correlograms of the genetic autocorrelation coefficient *r* as a function of distance generated from 80 *Gymnophithys rufigula* individuals (a*), 39 *Percnostola rufifrons* individuals (b) and 40 *Glyphorynchus spirurus* individuals (c) within DFR. Comparisons between western–western (green triangles), eastern–eastern (orange squares) and opposite-watershed (black circles) pairs are shown for the three

species (d, e and f, respectively); as well as comparisons between males (black circles) and females (grey diamonds) of each species (g*, h and i, respectively). The 95% bootstrapped (error bars) and permuted (dashed lines) confidence intervals are shown for distance classes of 1 km. Asterisk adapted from Menger et al. (2017b) (colour figure online)

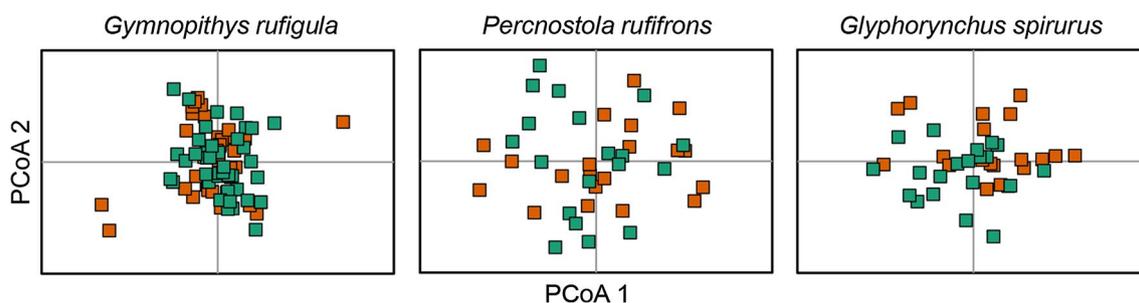


Fig. 4 Principal coordinate analysis (PCoA) based on Lynch–Ritland pairwise genetic relatedness for each study species. Orange squares represent individuals sampled in the eastern watershed and green

squares represent individuals sampled in the western watershed of the DFR (colour figure online)

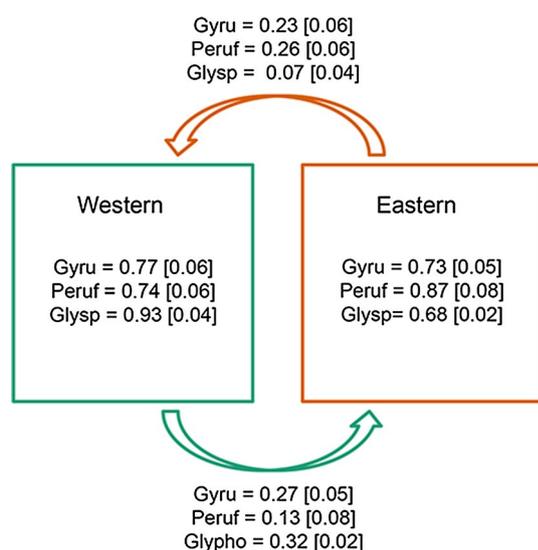


Fig. 5 Contemporary gene flow in DFR. Numbers within boxes denote the proportion of individuals expected to remain within a given watershed (\pm SD); arrows indicate direction of gene flow, while numbers above/below arrows indicate the proportion of immigrants (\pm SD). Gyru *Gymnopathys rufigula*, Peruf *Percnostola rufifrons*, Glysp *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*

gene flow from the eastern to the western watershed was found for *P. rufifrons*, while *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* displayed the opposite pattern (Fig. 5).

Discussion

In this study, we present new and additional information on the local, within-population genetic structure of three relatively sedentary Amazonian understory birds: *Gymnopathys rufigula*, *P. rufifrons* and *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*. None of the three species showed strong evidence for genetic structuring at the scale of this study, an indication that individuals are able to disperse occasionally distances as great as 10 km. We did not find differences in spatial genetic

structure between sexes, suggesting that males and females of all three species disperse similarly. Individuals were not more related within a given watershed than between watersheds for any species, thus refuting the hypothesis of the ridgeline as a dispersal barrier within DFR. However, our analyses of contemporary gene flow showed individuals of all species tending to stay within their original watershed, rather than emigrating, with no consistency in the direction of gene flow among species. The number of species examined at this scale is still small, but our results agree with the general idea that ecological characteristics influence levels of genetic structuring in sedentary Neotropical birds (Burney and Brumfield 2009).

Spatial genetic structure and foraging behaviour

Foraging behaviour and sociability in insectivorous forest-understorey Neotropical birds are tightly linked. Species that mandatorily join interspecific flocks to forage tend to range more widely than do solitary species (Stouffer and Bierregaard 1995; Van Houtan et al. 2006). Obligate army-ant followers can move distances greater than 5 km (Van Houtan et al. 2007), while most solitary species do not move farther than 300 m from their territories (Laurance et al. 2004). Although obligate army-ant-following birds, such as the *Gymnopathys rufigula*, lack feeding territories and may range widely when tracking army-ant colonies, they maintain small roosting/nesting territories (Willis and Oniki 1978). In species with small well-defended territories, juveniles may have to disperse greater distances to find a breeding space. On the other hand, large foraging ranges give more chances for extra-pair copulations, and this would favour genetic dispersal. Although extra-pair copulations are likely to be much less important than dispersal of juveniles for genetic structuring, both mediate gene dispersal and, therefore, should reduce genetic structure at finer scales (Double et al. 2005).

Nevertheless, we might expect *Gymnopathys rufigula* to display some degree of genetic structuring in their roosting/nesting territories. Because we sampled birds systematically

throughout DFR, and caught individuals randomly, we cannot tell which activity they were engaged in—feeding, roosting or nesting—at the time of capture. As such, relatedness between nearest roosting/nesting neighbours might have been overlooked in our study. Chaves-Campos and DeWoody (2008) have found similar overall results for another army-ant-following bird, and demonstrated that even nearest roosting/nesting neighbours lack fine scale genetic structure. Therefore, we are confident that the absence of genetic structure within the *Gymnopathys rufigula* population is not an artifact created by our sampling design. As we did not detect any genetic structure at the scale of DFR, studies encompassing larger areas will be necessary to detect the scale at which genetic structuring occurs within populations of *Gymnopathys rufigula*.

Percnostola rufifrons was the only species to show a positive spatial genetic structure at short distances, indicating stronger dispersal limitation for this species. It is not surprising, considering that this is a solitary insectivorous bird that has very small territories (Zimmer and Isler 2003). Four subspecies of *P. rufifrons* are currently recognized, with their distributions assumed to be delimited by wide Amazonian rivers (Isler et al. 2001). At local scales, however, little is known about dispersal barriers for this species, as forest gaps and narrow roads through a forest do not prevent its movements, as they do for other solitary species (Laurance and Gomez 2005; Laurance et al. 2004). Our results also suggest that local-scale topographic features, such as the central ridgeline of the DFR, are not enough to impede, but possibly reduce, dispersal of *P. rufifrons*. In any case, our spatial autocorrelation analyses showed that individuals located within 1 km tend to be more related than at random, confirming that this solitary species is more dispersal-limited than the flocking species. While physical features do not seem to act as dispersal barriers for *P. rufifrons* at fine scales, other intrinsic dispersal limitations, such as habitat preferences, mate choice (Fletcher et al. 2015; Vasudev and Fletcher 2016) and juvenile dispersal behaviour are likely to explain patterns of dispersal and gene flow within its populations.

The smallest of the three species, *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*, is a taxonomically polytypic species, with at least 13 subspecies recognized (Marantz et al. 2003). Similarly to *P. rufifrons*, major Amazonian rivers delimit the distribution of *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* subspecies (Fernandes et al. 2013), as does the Andean cordillera (Milá et al. 2009). At local scales, previous field observations and recapture studies have indicated high site fidelity for adult *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* (Blake and Loiselle 2012). Although we expected the development of fine-scale genetic structure in this species, it is not always safe to infer genetic dispersal from behavioural observations of adult individuals, as genetic dispersal generally occurs through juveniles, i.e., natal dispersal (Greenwood and Harvey 1982; Koenig et al. 1996). However, we

did find *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* at a distance class of 6 km to be more related than expected by chance. Thus, its genetic patch size, i.e., the distance over which individuals were not genetically independent (Sokal and Wartenberg 1983), appears to be about 7 km (when the autocorrelation coefficient r decreases to zero). This result is also in accordance with Van Houtan et al. (2007), who estimated, based on long-term capture-recapture data, a maximum dispersal distance of 8 km for *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*, when moving within continuous forests.

Males and females disperse similarly

Although female-biased dispersal is prevalent in birds (Greenwood 1980), we found no evidence of this; spatial genetic structure was similar between sexes, and males of all three species did not display greater r values than females. We consider these results suggestive, but not fully conclusive, as detecting differences in spatial genetic autocorrelation between sexes requires large sample sizes and extreme divergence between male and female dispersal (Banks and Peakall 2012).

Patterns of genetic relatedness between watersheds

We failed to detect differences in relatedness between watersheds; we found rather a random distribution of genotypes within DFR for all species. This indicates that the central ridge is not a strong barrier to gene flow for any of the study species. Neotropical understory insectivorous birds are highly sensitive to forest disturbance and their movements are often reduced in human-modified landscapes (Powell et al. 2015a), but in continuous old-growth forests, birds tend to move further (Powell et al. 2015b, 2016; Van Houtan et al. 2007). Our results are in agreement with these studies, suggesting, furthermore, that small topographic barriers are not enough to restrict gene flow in largely undisturbed old-growth forests, such as that encountered at DFR. Moreover, the overall low relatedness within DFR suggests that kin do not remain spatially clustered and that costs of longer distance dispersal may be less than the costs of mating with a spatially closer relative. Low relatedness could also indicate high rates of extra-pair fertilizations; all three species are socially monogamous, but the extent to which they are genetically monogamous is unknown. Nonetheless, refined biological and ecological data that could help us to comprehend how the genetic relatedness of birds is affected by dispersal and mating behaviour are still scarce. A better understanding of the evolutionary significance of dispersal for these and other Amazonian understory birds will only be achieved when both ecological and genetic data are available and combined (Double et al. 2005).

Gene flow

Due to the connection of DFR to larger stretches of forest on its eastern and northern borders, and thus a larger source population, we expected higher gene flow from the eastern to the western watershed. We found higher gene flow from the eastern to the western watershed only for *P. rufifrons*. Estimates of gene flow were similar in both directions in *Gymnopithys rufigula*, the species in our sample that had the least genetic structuring. *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* even showed the opposite pattern: a higher proportion of individuals migrated from the western to the eastern watershed. Asymmetrical dispersal towards the east could be explained by this bird's high territoriality and site-fidelity, associated with the proximity of Manaus on the western borders of DFR. We recaptured most *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* in the same plot in which they were originally captured, with one individual being recaptured in the same plot 5 years after its first capture (JM, unpublished data). This indicates that territories are largely occupied and dispersing juveniles have to move far east, as outside the western limits of DFR the environment is unsuitable, and areas through which birds could safely disperse no longer exist.

Conclusions

Our study shows that local topographic features do not prevent gene flow within populations of sedentary Amazonian understorey birds in continuous forests. To understand if restricted movements translate into reduced effective dispersal (i.e., gene flow), more studies that combine capture–recapture data and molecular approaches are needed (Alcaide et al. 2009). The development of fine-scale spatial genetic structure may depend on the ecological traits of the species, such as foraging behaviour and territoriality, longevity and behaviour of dispersing juveniles, though there are insufficient data to make firm conclusions. This possibility should be taken into account in the design of experimental studies encompassing several species. This study also emphasizes the need for further investigations of sex-biased dispersal, as patterns of dispersal between sexes of socially monogamous Neotropical birds remain poorly understood. Finally, temporal genetic sampling (Husemann et al. 2015) is warranted to follow the state of these populations in years to come, as the isolation of DFR from other areas of continuous forest seems inevitable.

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Compliance with ethical standards

Ethical approval All applicable international, national, and/or institutional guidelines for the care and use of animals were followed. All activities involving birds were conducted under approval of the Brazilian Centre for Bird Conservation-CEMAVE (Permit 3576) and the Brazilian Biodiversity Authorization and Information System-SISBIO (Permit 34850). All necessary steps to minimize animal suffering during handling were taken and birds were never kept in captivity or injured by any means. None of the three studied species is globally threatened (BirdLifeInternational 2016).

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