

ABSENCE OF PREMATING ISOLATION BETWEEN GEOGRAPHIC ISOLATED *RHAGOLETIS CERASI* POPULATIONS

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Introduction



The geographical variation in dormancy termination of *Rhagoletis cerasi* pupae promotes allochronic isolation of adults from ecological divergent populations. However, the presence of premating isolation among populations with different adult phenology patterns has not been explored. In this sense, we compared the assortative mating patterns between population crosses with variable ecological and/or genetic characteristics.

Material and Methods

We run multiple mate choice experiments using five pairs of *R. cerasi* populations from Greece (Thessaloniki, Dafni, Pertouli, Agia, and Kala Nera) and Germany (Dossenheim) with different adult phenology patterns and gene flow rates (Fig. 1, Table 1).

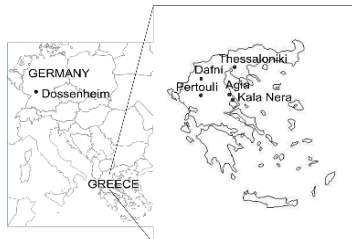


Table 1. Ecological and genetic characteristics of *R. cerasi* populations.

Cross combinations	Adult emergence patterns in field	Gene flow rates
Dossenheim vs Dafni	same	low
Dossenheim vs Kala Nera	different	low
Dafni vs Kala Nera	different	moderate
Dafni vs Pertouli	same	high
Thessaloniki vs Agia	same	moderate

Multiple mate choice experiments

Laboratory conditions: 25 ± 1°C, 65 ± 5% RH, photoperiod L14:D10

Experimental arena: Transparent Plexiglass cage (20x20x20cm) with a mesh window for ventilation.

Water, adult food and 3-5 freshly cut leaves of *Ficus benzamina* (Moraceae). A pair of adults (one male and one female) from each of the two cross populations

Observations: From 14:00 to 18:00hrs, every 10 minutes

Records: Homotypic and heterotypic mating pairs in each cage

Replications: 70-103 (cages with adults) for each pair of cross populations

Statistical Analysis: We used the software JMATING ver. 1.0.8 to estimate a) the global I_{PSI} estimator of sexual isolation, and b) sexual selection estimates (W) for each population, in males and females separately.

Results & Conclusions

Table 2. Estimates of a) coefficients for sexual isolation (I_{PSI}) for each cross combination and b) cross product estimator (W) (±SD) for each sex and population as well as the corresponding P-values obtained from bootstrapping analysis (10,000 resampling) with JMATING for mating pairs observed from 14:00 to 18:00hrs.

Population A	Population B	Replicates	N*	Sexual isolation		Mating propensities					
				I_{PSI}	P	Male			Female		
						sexual successful/less sexual successful	W	P	sexual successful/less sexual successful	W	P
Dossenheim	Dafni	94	126	-0.031 ± 0.089	0.722	PopA/PopB	0.924 ± 0.168	0.326	PopA/PopB	1.017 ± 0.187	0.533
Dossenheim	Kala Nera	70	100	0.003 ± 0.109	0.982	PopB/PopA	0.523 ± 0.111	0.001	PopB/PopA	0.801 ± 0.165	0.135
Dafni	Kala Nera	103	128	-0.115 ± 0.090	0.195	PopA/PopB	0.957 ± 0.173	0.403	PopB/PopA	0.815 ± 0.145	0.118
Dafni	Pertouli	103	90	-0.034 ± 0.119	0.757	PopA/PopB	0.588 ± 0.132	0.007	PopB/PopA	0.534 ± 0.122	0.002
Thessaloniki	Agia	73	89	0.042 ± 0.108	0.705	PopB/PopA	0.875 ± 0.198	0.233	PopA/PopB	0.870 ± 0.189	0.221

*N, number of successful mates (lasting more than 10 min).

▪Absence of sexual isolation among genetic or ecological different *R. cerasi* populations.

▪Sexual selection was detected in “Dossenheim vs Kala Nera” and “Dafni vs Pertouli” crosses.

▪Sexual selection is likely to eliminate other evolutionary forces favoring assortment, partially explaining the absence of sexual isolation among *R. cerasi* populations.