Ecological & evolutionary determinants of disease distribution in natural populations

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Infectious Disease



 Integral to natural evolutionary and ecological dynamics of populations

•Large impacts on human health, agriculture, wildlife management, and conservation

•Predicting emergence (presence and severity) is useful for anticipating and focusing control strategies

LIMITS to DISEASE DISTRIBUTION in NATURE



Example:

Sylvatic Plague in small mammals limited to west of the 100th Meridian

Antolin et al. 2002; Strapp et al. 2004







Predicting disease distribution is necessary for anticipating control strategies

Malaria in the Ethiopian highlands



Pascual & Bouma 2009 Ecology

Lafferty 2009 *Ecology*

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Abbate & Antonovics 2014 Oikos



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The pathogen Microbotryum spp. "Anther Smut"

- Obligate species-specific parasitic
- Bacidiomycete
- Pollinator-transmitted (mechanical)
- Sterilizes and alters host behavior
- Model for sexually-transmitted & sterilizing diseases

Disease Expression and Spore dispersal

Giraud et al. 2008 Eukaryotic Cell

Silene vulgaris "Bladder Campion"

- Perennial Caryophyllaceae
- Gynodioecious
- No (current) agricultural value

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- Generalist-pollinated

Kerri Coon (UGA)

- Host availability (S)
- Pathogen availability (I)
- Transmission (β)
 - Contact
 - Probability of Infection
- Recovery (γ)
- Virulence ?

Experiments

- Host population differences across elevation :
 - ecotypic adaptations
 - resistance to disease
- Environmental effects on infection success :
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• RECOVERY resistance

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Genetic Effects on Avoidance Resistance?

• High-elevation host populations have higher rates of avoidance (p<0.05)

• High-elevation hosts appear to carry more resistance

•Not surprising, given anther-smut is known to show patterns of maladaptation to its local host populations (Kaltz et al. 1999)

Local mal-adaptation of M. violaceum to S. latifolia

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Temperature Effects on Host Recovery?

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Temperature-Induced Suppression of Disease (Flowering at the beginning of Summer)

Temperature Effects on Host Recovery?

Temperature-Induced Suppression of Disease (Flowering at the end of Summer)

Genetic Effects on Temperature-induced Recovery?

Genetic Effects on Temperature-induced Recovery? recovery avoidance

Cost of Host Recovery?

Inducible Defense and Environmental Stress: Costs or Synergy?

Andrea Berardi (UVA; UC Boulder)

Flavonoids, Local Adaptation, and Inducible Defense

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Plant secondary metabolic products:

Pollinator attraction
UV sunscreen
Stress response
Herbivore and fungal defense

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Do high temperatures inhibit infection success?

Mean Daily Maximum Temperatures

Do high temperatures inhibit infection success?

Inoculation Success (D/Total)

Do high temperatures inhibit infection success?

Abbate 2015 Revised, Resubmitted

invade?

Fit it all together: Estimating Ro

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Which parameters play a major role? Elasticity Anlaysis

CONCLUSION & PERSPECTIVE

* Remember the disease triangle.

An epidemiological approach can help synthesize co-occurrence of important factors.

✤ Temperature seems to be a pretty important factor for anther-smut disease in S. vulgaris, but it is not independent of other important factors that change across the climatic gradient (e.g., host recovery).

Might the distribution of *S.vulgaris*-specific anther smut contract as global temperatures rise?

Do high temperatures inhibit infection success?

Can diurnal temperature variations "rescue" pathogen development?

Michael Hood Silene vulgaris

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Schafer et al. 2010, Botany

In-vitro development

Not yet published

Can diurnal temperature variations "rescue" pathogen development?

"tenacitas in adversitas ad punctum!"

Serge Aubert, Rolland Douzet, LECA Janis Antonovics, Michael Hood, Tatiana Giraud, Samuel Alizon Seb Lion, Sylvain Gandon, Simon Fellous, Nathalie Charbonnel Andrea Berardi, Peter Fields, Stephen Keller, Pierre Gladieux Kerri Coon, Christopher Winstead-Derlega

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