

1 The coral symbiont *Candidatus Aquarickettsia* is variably abundant in threatened Caribbean acroporids
2 and transmitted horizontally.

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21

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23

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25

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27 **Abstract**

28 The aquatic symbiont “*Candidatus Aquarickettsia rohweri*” infects a diversity of non-bilaterian metazoan
29 phyla. In the threatened coral *Acropora cervicornis*, *Aquarickettsia* proliferates in response to increased
30 nutrient exposure, resulting in suppressed growth and increased disease susceptibility and mortality. This
31 study evaluated the extent, as well as the ecology and evolution of *Aquarickettsia* infecting the Caribbean
32 corals: *Ac. cervicornis* and *Ac. palmata* and their hybrid (*Ac. prolifera*). The bacterial parasite
33 *Aquarickettsia* was found in all acroporids, with host and sampling location impacting infection
34 magnitude. Phylogenomic and genome-wide single nucleotide variant analysis found *Aquarickettsia*
35 clustering by region, not by coral taxon. Fixation analysis suggested within coral colonies, *Aquarickettsia*
36 are genetically isolated to the extent that reinfection is unlikely. Relative to other
37 Rickettsiales, *Aquarickettsia* is undergoing positive selection, with Florida populations experiencing
38 greater positive selection relative to the other Caribbean locations. This may be due to *Aquarickettsia*
39 response to increased nutrient stress in Florida, as indicated by greater *in situ* replication rates in these
40 corals. *Aquarickettsia* did not significantly codiversify with either coral animal nor algal symbiont, and
41 qPCR analysis of gametes and juveniles from susceptible coral genotypes indicated absence in early life
42 stages. Thus, despite being an obligate parasite, *Aquarickettsia* must be horizontally transmitted via coral
43 mucocytes, an unidentified secondary host, or a yet unexplored environmentally mediated mechanism.
44 Importantly, the prevalence of *Aquarickettsia* in *Ac. cervicornis* and high abundance in Florida
45 populations suggests that disease mitigation efforts in the US and Caribbean should focus on preventing
46 early infection via horizontal transmission.

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49

50 **Introduction**

51 The alpha-proteobacterium “*Ca. Aquarickettsia rohweri*” is a symbiont that infects a diversity of
52 aquatic non-bilaterian metazoan phyla from around the world [1]. This includes reef-building corals

53 (scleractinians) (51), as well as other cnidarians (11), sponges (76), kelp mucus, and ctenophores [1].
54 Although fairly ubiquitous, *A. rohweri* may have a more pervasive interaction with Caribbean acroporids,
55 as Rickettsiales-like organisms, likely to be *A. rohweri*, have been found in all histological examinations
56 of these coral species since 1975 [2–5]. The genome of *A. rohweri* associated with Caribbean acroporids
57 is significantly reduced (1.28 Mbp) and has limited metabolic capacities, including the inability to
58 produce multiple amino acids and ATP [1]. Thus, *A. rohweri* is likely an obligate symbiont dependent on
59 its host for nutrition and energy rather than free-living, but its transmission routes are not yet known.
60 Within Caribbean acroporids, *A. rohweri* have been found in high concentrations in *Acropora cervicornis*
61 exposed to rising nutrient concentrations [6] and in disease-susceptible genotypes [7] and *A. rohweri* has a
62 possible role in the progression of white band disease (WBD) [6, 8, 9]. WBD has contributed
63 significantly to the decline of the reef-building corals, *Ac. cervicornis*, and to a lesser extent, *Ac. palmata*
64 [10, 11]. These two corals are now so rare that they have been listed as threatened under the US
65 Endangered Species Act [12, 13]. Worldwide, coral diseases have contributed to regional losses of
66 between 5-80% of coral cover [10, 14]. Therefore, it is of broad interest to gain a better understanding of
67 how this parasitic symbiont is evolving and transmitted to inform disease management.

68 Transmission mode is a major determinant of symbiont population structure and evolution [15–
69 17]. Symbionts can be transmitted either vertically via direct transfer from one host generation to the next,
70 or horizontally from a secondary host or the environment. Vertically transmitted symbiont phylogenies
71 are congruent with their host phylogenies, as has been observed in insects [17, 18] and inferred in deep
72 sea clam symbionts [19, 20] and sponge symbionts [21]. Many Rickettsiales species closely related to *A.*
73 *rohweri* are known to be transmitted vertically, including *Wolbachia* [16, 22]. In the absence of
74 significant codiversification, symbionts are likely transmitted through an alternative host or through the
75 environment [23, 24]. Close-proximity environmental transmission has been posited for symbionts
76 associated with insect and nematode species [15] as well as flashlight fish [25, 26]. Because *A. rohweri*
77 associates with evolutionarily distant hosts [1], this parasite may be transmitted horizontally similar to
78 arthropod or plant mediated transmission of terrestrial Rickettsiales [27, 28]. Although secondary hosts

79 have not been identified yet, possible modes of transmission include the gastropod *Coralliophila*
80 *abbreviata* [29], zooplankton [30], or other coral associates. In fact, microscopy of infected coral polyps
81 cannot resolve whether *A. rohweri* is associated with the coral animal or the coral's obligate, intra-cellular
82 algal mutualist, Symbiodiniaceae. Rickettsiales-like organisms were observed in the actinopharynx,
83 cnidoglandular bands, gastrodermal mucocytes, oral disk, and tentacles of a healthy *Ac. cervicornis* [8],
84 spaces also shared by the algal mutualist. All Caribbean acroporid species take up their algal symbionts
85 anew from the environment upon larval settlement [31], and thus algal symbionts, and perhaps *A. rohweri*
86 with them, are horizontally transmitted.

87 Regardless of transmission mode, *A. rohweri* populations may also be structured by host species
88 and the environment, although the latter is difficult to disentangle, as one likely co-varies with the other
89 [32]. For example, the location where the first genome of *A. rohweri* was characterized, the Florida Keys,
90 has been exposed to increasing anthropogenic inputs [33, 34] and wide-spread bleaching events [35, 36].
91 Coral in this area have also experienced multi-year epizootics, including stony coral tissue loss, white-
92 band, and white pox disease [11, 37, 38]. Differential exposure to these stressors may result in dissimilar
93 disease resistance by location, with higher occurrences of disease resistance in Florida (27%) relative to
94 similar populations found in Panama (6%) and USVI (8%) [39]. This in turn may influence the
95 prevalence of infection of the nutrient-stress responsive *A. rohweri* [6, 40]. Although disentangling the
96 impact of host and environment will require further sampling and experimental efforts, our comparative
97 analysis of *A. rohweri* populations provides insight into how infection of this symbiont may be influenced
98 by environmental conditions.

99 Though *A. rohweri* is capable of infecting a variety of non-bilaterian metazoan phyla, the present
100 study focused on infection of *Acropora* coral species found in the Caribbean: *Ac. cervicornis*, *Ac.*
101 *palmata*, and their hybrid, commonly referred to as *Ac. prolifera*. Our objective was to provide an in-
102 depth analysis of *A. rohweri* population structure and acroporid infections in the Caribbean. We utilized
103 genomic characterization of the three host taxa and their dominant symbiont, *Symbiodinium 'fitti'*, [32,
104 41, 42] to investigate possible strain-specific interactions between *A. rohweri* and members of the

105 holobiont. Additionally, we studied the diversity of *A. rohweri* infecting acroporids across the Caribbean
106 to understand how quickly this parasite has evolved in this ecosystem [43–45]. Finally, we compared *A.*
107 *rohweri* genomes to determine the degree of connectivity between populations and the likelihood of
108 reinfection in the three host taxa.

109

110 **Methods**

111 *Sample acquisition and sequencing*

112 Coral samples were collected from across the geographic range of Caribbean acroporids by two
113 research groups. A sample from the Florida Keys was collected as was described in Shaver et al., 2017;
114 this sample was originally used to describe the *A. rohweri* reference genome (Acer44) (GCA 003953955).
115 This sample was extracted and sequenced as described in Klinges et al, 2019. In summary, DNA was
116 extracted using EZNA Tissue DNA Kit (Omega Bio-Tek) and the quality of the extraction was evaluated
117 using the dsDNA HS assay using a Qubit 3.0 Fluorometer. Libraries were prepared using Nextera XT
118 (Illumina) and sequenced using the v3 reagent kit on an Illumina Miseq at the OSU’s Center for Genome
119 Research and Biotechnology (CGRB).

120 All of the samples presented in Kitchen et al., 2019 and 2020 were evaluated for the presence of
121 *A. rohweri*. Coral tissue samples collected by the Baums’ laboratory originated from twelve reefs across
122 the Caribbean, for a total of 23 *Ac. cervicornis*, 30 *Ac. palmata*, and 23 *Ac. prolifera*. Samples included in
123 this study were collected between 2001 and 2017 (Table S1) and were extracted as described in Kitchen
124 et al., 2019 and Reich et al., 2020, and are briefly summarized here. Sample DNA was extracted using the
125 DNeasy kit (Qiagen, Valencia, CA) and assessed using gel electrophoresis and Qubit 2.0 fluorometry
126 (Thermo Fisher, Waltham, MA) prior to library construction and sequencing by the Pennsylvania State
127 University Genomics Core Facility. A single library from these samples (Acerv FL 14120) was prepared
128 using the TruSeq DNA PCR-Free kit (Illumina, San Diego, CA) and the remaining samples were
129 prepared using the TruSeq DNA Nano kit (Illumina). All Baums’ laboratory samples were sequenced

130 using the Illumina HiSeq 2500 Rapid Run (Illumina, San Diego, CA) and were deposited under
131 PRJNA473816.

132

133 *Identifying samples infected with A. rohweri*

134 Sequences were filtered using BBDMap version 36.20 to ensure sequences had a minimum length
135 of 30 and a minimum average quality of 10. Reads were aligned to the reference genome (Acer44), using
136 bowtie2 to quantify the proportion of reads that matched the reference sequence and identify candidates
137 for assembly. The possible impact of host and location on the proportion of reads identified as Acer44
138 were evaluated using two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) and post-hoc analysis using Tukey HDS
139 within R [46]. The impact of reef location was also evaluated as a nested factor using one-way ANOVA
140 and Tukey HDS. All samples with greater than 10,000 reads matching the Acer44 were *de novo*
141 assembled using Spades version 3.13.1 with the single-cell option to account for possible PCR bias in
142 assembly [47]. Contigs containing *A. rohweri* genes were identified using BLAST and binned as potential
143 genomes; any contigs ≤ 200 bp were excluded from analysis. Genomes greater than 1.2 Mbp were
144 evaluated using CheckM [48, 49].

145 Metagenome-assembled genomes (MAGs) were compared to the reference (Acer44) and to one
146 another to evaluate commonalities and differences between samples. All samples were compared to one
147 another to establish if there were additional species using pairwise average nucleotide identity (ANI)
148 analysis using OrthoANI [48]. All *A. rohweri* genomes were annotated using Prokka (version 1.14.6)
149 [50] and orthologs common to all samples were identified using orthofinder version 2.3.9 [51, 52]. 1528
150 orthologs were used to construct a pangenome and identify location-specific orthologs were plotted using
151 the R-program upsetR [46]. Genes identified as being location-specific were further evaluated using the
152 blastx search of the NCBI nr database limited to Rickettsiales [53].

153

154 *Evaluating population structure and evolution of A. rohweri*

155 Thirteen additional *A. rohweri* genomes plus the reference Acer44 taken from nine reefs across
156 the Caribbean were used to evaluate potential differences in gene evolution. Phylogenomic trees were
157 constructed with other well-characterized parasitic Rickettsiales species serving as outgroups.
158 Rickettsiales species were selected on the criterium as being closely related to *A. rohweri* and having
159 multiple completed strains with low percent contamination (Table S7); this analysis was performed both
160 to characterize *A. rohweri* evolution and to identify possible shared functions. Rickettsiales genomes were
161 annotated using Prokka (version 1.14.6) and orthologs were identified using orthofinder version 2.3.9 [51,
162 52]. A total of 143 single-copy orthologs were common to all samples. DNA sequences of orthologous
163 genes were used to generate a phylogenomic tree. This tree was used both as the input for
164 codiversification analysis as well as set the parameters for both evolutionary analysis and the root of the
165 simplified and SNPs phylogenies. The DNA of each individual orthologous gene was aligned using
166 MAFFT version v7.453 [54]. Genes were concatenated by sample and a tree was constructed using IQ-
167 TREE [55, 56] with 1000 bootstrap replicates. Within IQ-Tree, J-modelTest determined the most likely
168 model was the general time reversible model with empirical base and codon frequencies, allowing for a
169 proportion of invariable sites, and a discrete Gamma model with default four rate categories
170 (GTR+F+I+G4).

171 Whole-genome phylogenetic trends were also evaluated by identifying single-nucleotide
172 polymorphism (SNP) relative to the reference genome *A. rohweri* Acer44. SNPs common to two or more
173 samples that could be used to construct a SNPs phylogeny were found using the haploid SNP-caller,
174 snippy [57], which implements bwa mem and freebayes to identify high-quality SNPs and assemble a
175 core genome alignment. IQ-Tree was used to construct a tree from core-SNPs with 1000 bootstrap
176 replicates; the model selected was jukes canter and ascertainment bias correction (JC+ASC). SNPs
177 impacting annotated portions of the genome were annotated using SnpEFF version 4.3t to find the likely
178 effects of variants on gene function.

179 Population structure and strain evolution were identified using both inter- and intra-sample
180 diversity. SNPs were found by aligning sample reads to the prokka annotated reference genome (Acer44)

181 using bwa mem, with samclip processing allowing a maximum of a 10 clip length and the removal of
182 duplicate alignments using samtools markdup. To avoid biases that effect variant detection, data was
183 subsampled to the lowest number of reads (2×10^4) before realigning and then subsampled by the lowest
184 median coverage found in a sample (3), similar to the normalizing protocol outlined in Romero Picazo et
185 al., 2019 [24]. Variants were identified using lofreq with a minimum coverage of 10, a strand multiple
186 testing correlation of $p > 0.001$, and a minimum SNP quality of 70 were used to find the fixation index
187 (F_{st}) using the R packages seqinr [24, 58]. F_{st} estimates the degree of genetic variability between
188 populations, where F_{st} closer to zero implies populations are mixing freely and F_{st} closer to 1 implies
189 populations are genetically isolated. SNPs in functional regions were also used to find the intra-sample
190 nucleotide diversity (π), which proves an estimate of the differences in genome diversity between
191 samples. Scripts used to for F_{ST} and π analysis were are publicly available on github repositories
192 (<https://github.com/deropi/BathyBrooksiSymbionts>). Differences between pairwise F_{ST} values were found
193 within locations within host species was found using one-way with Tukey correction.

194 Trends in the evolution of functional genes in the *A. rohweri* genome as well as individual genes
195 were evaluated using codeml to estimate ratio of nonsynonymous and synonymous substitutions (dN/dS).
196 Lower values of dN/dS indicating stronger positive selection, that is selection against deleterious
197 mutations to maintain function [59]. Values of dN/dS approaching 1 indicate positive selection or the
198 selection of new mutations into the population. Individual orthologous proteins were aligned using
199 MAFFT, and codon alignments were generated using pal2nal. Codon alignments were evaluated by
200 codeml using a pairwise comparison, with all other parameters set to approximate the tree-building
201 protocol described above. The result of this analysis was compared to the default parameters for codeml.
202 Because the default parameters were less likely than our model parameters, only the results of our model
203 parameters are presented. Only genes with a dN > 0, dS between 0.1 and 2, and dN/dS > 10 were used to
204 find the average dN/dS. This is because pairwise comparisons where dS < 0.01 or dN = 0 are similar
205 enough to be considered identical and dS > 2 are indicative that synonymous substitutions are near
206 saturation. Similarly, values of dN/dS > 10 are considered largely artifactual [60]. From the single-copy

207 orthologs identified by orthofinder, 9% of the total pairwise comparisons are suitable for dN/dS analysis.
208 Within-species and location comparisons were evaluated using two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA)
209 and post-hoc analysis using Tukey HSD within R [46].

210

211 *Evaluating the impact of environment on A. rohweri replication rate*

212 Because *A. rohweri* has been found in increased prevalence in response to nutrients, the *in-situ*
213 replication rate is likely to be indicative of areas of sustained exposure to nutrients. Replication rate can
214 be estimated for draft-quality genomes using the index of replication, iRep. iRep estimates the raw rate of
215 replication of *A. rohweri* MAGs by realigning reads to the newly constructed genomes. Replication is
216 estimated using an algorithm that assumes bi-directional replication from a single origin and accounts
217 for the total change in coverage in genome fragments. A population where all cells are actively replicating
218 would have an iRep of 2, and a population where only a quarter of the cells were replicating would have
219 an iRep of 1.25 [61]. All genomes constructed had adequate coverage to perform iRep analysis, but lacked
220 the criterion to produce a filtered result (Table S8); the unfiltered result is presented as the genomes
221 constructed are nearly identical (>99% ANI) and do not necessitate the filtering step to account for strain
222 variation and/or integrated phage that can result in highly variable coverage [61]. Differences in the
223 unfiltered rate of replication as a result of host or location sampled were evaluated using two-way
224 ANOVA and the impact of location was evaluated as a nested factor using one-way ANOVA. All were
225 evaluated using Tukey HSD post-hoc analysis within R [46].

226

227 *Identifying likelihood of codiversification of A. rohweri with coral or algal symbiont*

228 To evaluate the various possible methods of transmission, multiple codiversification analyses
229 were performed to compare *A. rohweri* evolution with the two common eukaryotic members of the
230 holobiont, *Acropora* and the algal symbiont, the Symbiodiniaceae, *Symbiodinium fitti*. Both gene-based
231 and SNP-phylogenies were constructed. Coral phylogenies were constructed using mitochondrial control
232 region [62] and full mitochondrial genomes used to identify the parentage of the hybrid species *Acropora*

233 *prolifera*. The mitochondrial genomes for each individual were assembled using two approaches. In the
234 first approach, filtered and trimmed short-read sequences were mapped to the *A. digitifera* mitochondrial
235 genome sequence (NCBI: NC_022830.1, Shinzato et al. (2011)) using Bowtie 2 v2.3.4.1 (Langmead et
236 al., 2012) with the parameters for the --sensitive mode. Reads were extracted using bamtofastq in bedtools
237 v2.26.0 (Quinlan et al., 2010) and then assembled using SPAdes v3.10.1 (Bankevich et al., 2012) with
238 various kmer sizes (-k 21, 33, 55, 77 and 99). In the second approach, we used the *de novo* organelle
239 genome assembler NOVOplasty (Dierckxsens et al., 2016). The *A. digitifera* mitochondrial genome was
240 used as the seed sequence to extract similar sequences from the original, unfiltered reads for each
241 individual. Consensus sequences of the mitochondrial genomes for each individual were created after
242 manual alignment of the sequences from the two approaches using MEGAX (Kumar et al., 2018). The
243 consensus sequences were run through the web server MITOS (Bernt et al., 2013) to predict genes,
244 tRNAs and rRNAs and non-coding regions. The phylogenetic relationship of the mitochondrial genomes
245 was inferred with the Maximum Likelihood method using RAxML v8.2.12 (Stamatakis, 2014). We
246 included eight acroporid mitochondrial genomes from the Indo-Pacific as outgroups (Liu et al., 2015; van
247 Oppen et al., 2002). Because the mitochondrial genome can undergo different models of evolution among
248 sites, we ran the genome alignment through PartitionFinder v2.1.1 (Lanfear et al., 2016) to determine the
249 best partitioning scheme and substitution models using the greedy algorithm with estimated braches set as
250 linked. In the ML analyses, we used the GTRGAMMA substitution model for the nine partitions. The tree
251 topology with the highest-likelihood based on AIC criterion was reconstructed from 200 replicate trees
252 and nodal support was take from 1,000 bootstrap replicates.

253 *Symbiodinium* gene trees were constructed using genes described in Pochon et al., 2014 and
254 whole genome SNPs were found as described in Reich et al., 2020, excluding all samples identified as
255 having multiple symbiont infections. All genes were identified using a BLAST search of the
256 aforementioned *de novo* Spades assemblies. Gene trees were aligned using MAFFT and all phylogenies
257 were constructed using IQ-Tree with 1000 bootstrap replicates; genes and model parameters are described
258 in Table S8. Bacterial and eukaryotic phylogenies were evaluated for significant codiversification using

259 the Procrustes Approach to Cophylogeny (PACo), which uses ultrametric rooted trees to create
260 cophenetic matrices that are evaluated for codivergence 10^5 times in R [63]. This global fit method
261 evaluates phylogenies that are not fully resolved to evaluate if there is significant codiversification
262 between a host and symbiont species. To evaluate transmission by the coral host, bacterial phylogenomic
263 and SNPs trees were compared to coral phylogenies (whole genome SNPs trees and mitochondrial SNPs
264 and genes). To evaluate transmission with a *Symbiodinium* host, bacterial phylogenomic and SNPs
265 phylogenies were compared to *Symbiodinium* gene and SNPs trees. Only comparisons with $p < 0.05$ are
266 presented along with the residual sum of squares (m^2) to provide a context for how well the data fit the
267 codiversification model. Significant codiversification analysis were evaluated using a jackknife sum of
268 squares to find those members contributing to the significant association, as they will have values are
269 below the 95% residual sum of squares.

270

271 *Evaluating vertical transmission via qPCR of susceptible coral genotypes at early life stages*

272 A few days preceding the annual *Acropora cervicornis* spawning event in 2019 and 2020,
273 sexually mature, adult colonies of genotypes 13 and 50 were brought into Mote Marine Laboratory's
274 Elizabeth Moore International Center for Coral Reef Research & Restoration from their offshore coral
275 nursery in the lower Florida Keys. On land, corals were isolated to keep replicate colonies and genotypes
276 separated for conducting 2-parent controlled crosses. Spawning, fertilization, settlement, and grow-out
277 were conducted following published protocols and under standardized conditions [64–72]. *A. cervicornis*
278 is a simultaneous hermaphrodite and broadcast spawning activity was observed in August during the
279 predicted peak spawning window for this species [73]. Gamete bundles of eggs and sperm were collected
280 from each genotype, and after bundle dissolution, sperm was isolated from the eggs by filtration using a
281 sieve (100 μm mesh). Triplicate subsamples were concentrated via centrifugation and then snap-frozen
282 and stored at -80°C . Triplicate subsamples of 50-100 eggs per genotype were also snap-frozen and stored
283 at -80°C . The remaining egg stock from genotype 13 and sperm stock from genotype 50 were combined
284 and allowed to undergo fertilization for one hour (cross '13e x 50s'). Embryos were reared in replicate

285 cultures with filtered seawater at room temperature (27°C). Approximately one week later, triplicate
286 subsamples of 50 larvae were snap-frozen and stored at -80°C. The remaining larvae were settled in 5-
287 gallon glass tanks using unconditioned ceramic settlement substrates and live, crushed up crustose
288 coralline algae (CCA) as the settlement cue. After settlement, sexual recruits were reared under common
289 garden conditions in Mote's land-based coral nursery. Corals were maintained in flow-through
290 mesocosms ('raceways') with running seawater, from which algal endosymbionts were naturally
291 acquired. Fouling algae was mitigated using intertidal herbivorous snails (*Batillaria spp.*), and the daily
292 husbandry regime consisted of raceway siphoning and basting of the substrates to remove snail detritus.
293 Flow rates were maintained between 4 and 6 L/min depending on season and outdoor weather conditions.

294 Coral hybrid genotypes were produced from a cross of two disease-susceptible *A. cervicornis*
295 parents (genotypes 13 and 50, Muller et al., 2018) collected from the Mote Marine Laboratory *in*
296 *situ* coral nursery in 2019 and 2020. The hybrid genotype was sampled at gamete (egg and sperm), larval
297 (<1 week of age), recruit (~2 months), and juvenile (~1 year) stages. DNA was extracted from early life
298 stage coral samples using the Omega E.Z.N.A.® DNA/RNA Isolation Kit. Extracted nucleic acids were
299 stored at -80°C until further processing. Quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) was performed
300 on 7 early life stage samples (in triplicate) using primers designed to target the *Acropora cervicornis* actin
301 gene (as an endogenous control) and an *Aquarickettsia*-specific gene, *tlc1*, using iQ SYBR Green
302 Supermix (Bio-Rad). An 149bp section of the *tlc1* gene of *Aquarickettsia rohweri* was amplified using
303 sequence-specific primers (F: 5'-GGCACCTATTGTAGTTGCGG-3', R: 5'-
304 CATCAGCTGCTGCCTTACCT-3'), and the actin gene of *Acropora cervicornis* was amplified as in
305 Wright et al., 2018 [74] as an endogenous control. A sample of *Acropora hyacinthus* (collected from
306 Mo'orea, French Polynesia in 2017) was used as a calibrator, as this species expresses actin but lacks
307 *Aquarickettsia rohweri*. A positive control (a sample of adult genotype 50 with known quantity of *A.*
308 *rohweri*) and a no-template control (molecular grade water) were prepared using the same methods and
309 quantified simultaneously. A 35-cycle qPCR was performed on an Applied Biosystems 7500 Fast Real-
310 Time PCR System, using cycling parameters selected to minimize mispriming: An initial denaturation

311 step of 3 min at 95°C, followed by 35 cycles of 95°C for 15s, 56°C for 30s, and 72°C for 30s. Melt curve
312 analysis was performed to identify any off-target products. Results were confirmed through non-
313 quantitative PCR of the *tlc1* and 16S rRNA genes (515F-806R primer set, Apprill et al., 2015) using
314 AccuStart™ II PCR ToughMix (QuantaBio) and subsequent gel electrophoresis on a 1.5% agarose gel
315 with Invitrogen 100 bp DNA Ladder (ThermoFisher Scientific).

316

317 **Results**

318 *Metagenome Assembled Genomes (MAGs) generated from multiple locations and hosts suggest that A.*
319 *rohweri associates with many Caribbean Acropora*

320 *Ca. Aquarickettsia rohweri* sequences were found in all *Acropora* specimen collected from
321 across the Caribbean as part of the Kitchen et al. 2019, 2020 and Reich et al. 2020 studies (Table 1).
322 Samples had between 38 and 1,219,071 reads that aligned to the reference genome, *A. rohweri* Acer44
323 (GCA 003953955) (Table S1). The *A. rohweri* reads were normalized to the total coral host reads as an
324 intrinsic measure of microbial load [75–77]; using this method, reads varied according to coral host and
325 sampling location (Fig. S1), but not source of collection (Tukey adjusted $p=0.5$; data not shown). *A.*
326 *rohweri* made up a greater proportion of the total reads in *Ac. cervicornis* samples relative to *Ac. prolifera*
327 (on average, 4x more reads, Tukey adjusted $p=0.0002$) and *Ac. palmata* (86x more reads, $p<0.0001$)
328 samples. Additionally, *A. rohweri* made up a greater proportion of the total reads from all samples
329 collected in Belize relative to Curacao (46x more, $p=0.007$). Although limited to *Ac. cervicornis* samples,
330 a greater proportion of *A. rohweri* reads were found in Belize samples relative to those collected from
331 Florida (1.6x more, $p<0.00001$) and the USVI (1.8x more, $p=0.017$).

332 Only samples of *Ac. cervicornis* and *Ac. prolifera* from Florida, USVI, and Belize contained
333 sufficient reads to construct *A. rohweri* Metagenome Assembled Genomes (MAGs) (deposited under
334 PRJNA666461). These MAGs were used to compare *A. rohweri* from different locations (Belize: 7,
335 Florida: 4, USVI: 3) and different host-taxa (*Ac. cervicornis*: 11, *Ac. prolifera*: 3). Six of the MAGs
336 constructed were less complete than the original *A. rohweri* genome (<98.9% complete), but four from

337 Belize were 100% complete with no contamination and a larger N_{50} value than the reference assembly
338 (Table 1). All *A. rohweri* MAGs were at least 1.21 Mbp and had a >99% Average Nucleotide Identity
339 (ANI) in pairwise comparisons to the reference genome and one another (Table 1; Table S2).

340 From the assembled bacterial genomes, between 1184 and 1343 genes were annotated per sample
341 and 98.4% of sequences were identified as belonging to 1528 orthogroups. No orthologs were found to be
342 exclusive to either coral host. Greater than 30% of these sequences were identified as single-copy
343 orthologs shared by all samples. Location-specific orthologs were all single-copy; Florida had 8 unique
344 orthologs, Belize 40, and USVI 21 (Fig. 1). The majority of location-specific genes were annotated by
345 prokka as hypothetical proteins; however, searching for the function of these genes against the NCBI nr
346 database resulted in additional annotation. Functional genes specific to locales include: the protein
347 transfer gene *secA* in Florida, as well as multiple transport genes in Belize and USVI, as well as two
348 genes involved in the type II toxin-antitoxin system in Belize (Table S3).

349

350 *The coral parasite, A. rohweri, differentiates by location, not by host*

351 Phylogenomic analysis of the orthologous genes of the *de novo* assembled *A. rohweri* MAGs
352 showed variation among samples collected from different locations, irrespective of host. Comparison to
353 well-studied host-associated Rickettsiales species (*Ehrlichia chaffeensis*, *Rickettsia prowazekii*, *Rickettsia*
354 *rickettsii*, and *Wolbachia pipientis*) resulted in 71 orthologous genes. The phylogenetic tree constructed
355 from DNA of these orthologs resulted in all newly constructed *A. rohweri* genomes tightly clustered near
356 the reference genome Acer44 (Fig. S2). Limiting phylogenomic analysis to *A. rohweri* samples results in
357 clear differentiation between samples collected across the Caribbean and north-west Atlantic; Belize *A.*
358 *rohweri* are distinct from those isolated in the Virgin Islands and Florida, regardless of host identity (Fig.
359 2A). Further, the *A. rohweri* isolated from *Ac. prolifera* does not form a separate clade from those isolated
360 from *Ac. cervicornis* even when collected from the same location. This is especially evident in Belize
361 samples; *A. rohweri* genomes constructed from *Ac. prolifera* and *Ac. cervicornis* taken from the same reef
362 are more closely related than *A. rohweri* collected from *Ac. prolifera* from a neighboring reef. Clustering

363 by location was similar in the SNP analysis (Fig. 2B), despite there being a surprisingly small number of
364 SNPs per sample ($n=11$ to 2345), at a minimum read depth of 10, minimum fraction of 0.9, and a
365 minimum mapping quality of 100 (Table S4). Relative to the reference genome Acer44, samples had low
366 levels of genetic polymorphism (0.63 ± 0.69 SNPs/kilobase) (Table S4). This resulted in few SNPs that
367 are shared by multiple samples ($n=15$), i.e. those that are informative in phylogenetic analysis.

368 Analysis of inter- and intrasample SNPs within annotated portions of the genome indicates that
369 although samples have similar levels of genetic diversity, the bacteria found within individual coral
370 colonies are relatively genetically isolated from one another. This is even true of samples collected from
371 the same reef (Fig. 3). Intrasample nucleotide diversity (π) did not differ among sampling locations (reefs)
372 and was on average $1.85 \pm 0.8 \times 10^{-5}$. However, pairwise comparison of intrasample *Ac. rowheri* SNPs
373 between coral samples mostly resulted in a fixation index (F_{ST}) of 0.86 or greater, suggesting *A. rowheri*
374 infections are genetically isolated from one another by coral sample. This level of genetic isolation was
375 found in all pairwise comparisons in USVI and Belize, and was even observed in pairwise comparisons
376 of samples taken from the same reef. Samples from Florida had significantly lower fixation indices
377 relative to USVI and Belize ($F_{ST}=0.65-0.83$; Tukey adjusted $p<0.0001$) Although these values still imply
378 *A. rowheri* populations in Florida coral colonies are somewhat genetically isolated from each other, these
379 populations may be less fixed than those found in USVI or Belize. The aforementioned account for *A.*
380 *rowheri* found in both *Acropora* taxa; host identity did not affect the level of genetic isolation (Tukey
381 adjusted $p=0.9$).

382 All samples had high-quality, intersample SNPs identified using snippy [57] with annotated
383 functional genes relative to the reference genome *A. rowheri* Acer44. Of those SNPs that impacted
384 functional genes, a majority of the SNPs (on average 62%) were identified as missense mutations (Table
385 S4). Three samples from Belize (Apr01 BE 13843, Acer BE 13797, and Acer BE 13792) were found to
386 have a nonsense stop gain mutation in the IS66 family transposase ISDpr4. Four additional transposases
387 were identified as having missense mutations, including IS6 family transposase ISCca2, which was found

388 to have a missense mutation in all Belize and USVI samples. These SNPs were annotated by SnpEFF as
389 having a moderate impact on function (Table S5).

390

391 *A. rohweri* undergoing positive selection

392 Samples were compared to well-studied Rickettsiales relatives of *A. rohweri* to evaluate whether
393 populations of *A. rohweri* are undergoing neutral or positive selection relative to other closely related
394 parasites. *A. rohweri* had the highest mean dN/dS, with a much broader distribution of dN/dS values
395 relative to all other Rickettsiales species (36-89% greater dN/dS, $p < 0.0001$) (Fig. 4A; Table). This
396 indicates *A. rohweri* is undergoing greater positive selection than closely related Rickettsiales.

397 Comparison of dN/dS of *A. rohweri* from the two *Acropora* host taxa did not result in significantly
398 different dN/dS ($p = 0.06$; data not shown), but location did affect dN/dS. There was a higher median
399 dN/dS for *A. rohweri* from Florida relative to those from USVI (65% higher, $p = 0.048$) (Fig. 4B).

400 However, all populations had some genes undergoing positive selection (Table S5). Most of these genes
401 were identified by prokka as hypothetical. Of those that were not hypothetical, GTPase Era, DUF2312
402 domain-containing protein, and the Bifunctional protein Fold were consistently undergoing some level of
403 positive selection (0.5-0.9 dN/dS) in all samples taken from Belize. The strongest positive selection (≥ 1.0
404 dN/dS) were 50S ribosomal protein L13 and the type IV secretion system protein VirD4, although
405 selection was only observed in a subset of comparisons between *A. rohweri* samples (Table S7).

406

407 *A. rohweri* from Florida samples had higher replication rates

408 Samples collected from Florida had consistently higher estimated unfiltered rates of replication
409 (iRep), with the identity of the coral taxon having no impact (Tukey adjusted, $p = 0.3$) (Fig. 5). The
410 unfiltered iRep of samples from Florida was 19% higher than samples from Belize and 30% higher than
411 samples from USVI. A single sample from Belize had as high an iRep as Florida samples (Acer BE
412 13786); this sample was taken alongside five other Belize samples and also from the same reef as an
413 additional sample (April BE 13778 from South Carrie Bow Cay). Florida samples had a significantly

414 higher estimated rate of replication than those taken from the USVI ($p=0.04$); no difference in rate was
415 seen when comparing iRep among reefs ($p=0.44$).

416

417 *Codiversification analysis and qPCR of coral offspring suggests horizontal transmission*

418 All phylogenetic methods used to analyze the coral diversity of samples infected with *A. rohweri*
419 resulted in differentiation between *Ac. cervicornis* and *Ac. prolifera* (Fig. S3, S4). Codiversification
420 analysis among *A. rohweri* and coral phylogenies largely were not significant. Although coral phylogenies
421 constructed using the mitochondrial control region identified by Vollmer et al., 2002, were significantly
422 codiversifying with bacterial phylogenomic and SNPs trees ($p=0.02$), the m^2 values indicate the data does
423 not fit the codiversification model and are therefore highly unlikely (>800). Coral phylogenies constructed
424 using the whole coral mitochondrial genome also did not codiversify with either *A. rohweri*
425 phylogenomic or SNP phylogenies ($p<0.01$ and $m^2>330$). This was recapitulated in the jackknife sum of
426 squares of both Procrustes Approach to Cophylogeny (PACo) analysis, which did not identify any
427 samples as significantly contributing to codiversification (Table S8).

428 Analysis of the *S. 'fitti'* gene trees and *A. rohweri* SNP phylogenies were also incongruous. The
429 phylogeny constructed using the genes recommended in Pochon et al., 2014 resulted in placement of all
430 samples as *Symbiodinium 'fitti'* (ITS2 type A3, formerly “Clade A”; Fig. S5). The gene tree also showed
431 a clear differentiation between the samples collected from Florida relative to the USVI and Belize
432 samples. However, USVI and Belize samples formed a single clade, which is dissimilar from the
433 clustering that occurred in either *A. rohweri* phylogeny (Fig. S5). As was previously described in Reich et
434 al., 2020, the *S. 'fitti'* SNPs phylogeny clustered by host species and not location (Fig. S6). Similar to the
435 coral analysis, codiversification analysis of *S. 'fitti'* with *A. rohweri* phylogenies were mostly
436 insignificant. Only the *S. 'fitti'* gene tree had significant codivergence with *A. rohweri* phylogenomic and
437 SNPs phylogenies ($p=0.02$), however the m^2 values were also prohibitively high for this analysis
438 ($m^2>380$), and jackknife analysis identified 0-2 samples contributing to this trend (Table S7).

439 Quantitative PCR was utilized to detect *A. rohweri* in early life stages of *Acropora cervicornis*.
440 qPCR was performed on samples of gametes (egg and sperm), larvae (<1 week of age), recruits (~2
441 months), and juveniles (~1 year) of a hybrid genotype produced by crossing two disease-susceptible
442 *Acropora cervicornis* parents (genotypes 13 and 50, Muller et al., 2018). A calibrator sample (*Acropora*
443 *hyacinthus*, known to lack *A. rohweri*) and a positive control (adult genotype 50 *A. cervicornis*, with an
444 average relative abundance of *A. rohweri* greater than 70%) were also quantified. While adult *A.*
445 *cervicornis* collected from the Mote *in-situ* coral nursery had high fold change of *tlc1* relative to the
446 calibrator sample, amplification of *tlc1* across all early life stage samples was not significantly different
447 from the calibrator sample and led to the failure of the thresholding algorithm, indicating an absence or
448 undetectable level of *A. rohweri* infection in these early stages of *A. cervicornis* ontogeny.

449

450 Discussion

451 *Ca.* Aquarickettsia rohweri infection was found in every sample of acroporid corals taken from
452 across their Caribbean and north-west Atlantic geographic range, with *Ac. cervicornis* samples
453 consistently yielding more *A. rohweri* reads relative to *Ac. prolifera* and *Ac. palmata* (Fig S1A). This
454 coincides with relatively higher disease susceptibility of *Ac. cervicornis* [6, 8, 9]. Assuming the proportion
455 of *A. rohweri* to host reads are indeed reflective of infection status [75–77], relative resistance of *Ac.*
456 *palmata* may be attributed to environmental factors such as depth, innate host immunity, or defenses
457 mounted by the host microbiome [78–80]. Determining which factors may be leading to resistance in *Ac.*
458 *palmata* is a valuable area of further research.

459 The coral *Ac. cervicornis* yielded higher read numbers of *A. rohweri*, but both *Ac. cervicornis* and
460 *Ac. prolifera* hosted sufficient reads to construct *A. rohweri* genomes of similar length and quality as the
461 reference genome Acer44. Phylogenomic analysis using orthologous genes and SNPs indicate the bacteria
462 infecting Caribbean acroporids are specific to the collection location and not the host. This is in contrast
463 to the only other acroporid symbiont with population genetic information, the dinoflagellate *S. fitti*.
464 Strains of *S. fitti* preferentially associate with each host, regardless of reef location. These contrasting

465 patterns of population structure indicate that the forces shaping the two coral symbionts are different
466 despite their shared host. Differing population structures have also been reported in terrestrial symbionts,
467 including those populating aphids and whiteflies [27, 81, 82].

468 *A. rohweri* populations from the three sampling locations form separate clades in phylogenomic
469 and SNP phylogenies, with Florida and USVI samples likely sharing a closer ancestral lineage than
470 Florida and Belize. However, USVI is not basal to Florida populations, suggesting that *A. rohweri* from
471 Florida did not originate from the US Virgin Islands. A barrier to gene flow has been identified between
472 the eastern and western Caribbean for the coral host [83, 84], suggesting there is a barrier to planktonic
473 genflow between these environments. Similar genetic differentiation by location has been observed for
474 the *Ac. cervicornis* sequences of the same samples used in this analysis [41]. Even though seasonally
475 variable surface currents connect all sampling locations [84, 85], and all samples are genetically similar
476 (relative to the reference genome, all samples were >99% ANI), the differences found reveal clear
477 differentiation between Florida, the US Virgin Islands, and Belize *A. rohweri* populations.

478 *A. rohweri* collected across the Caribbean have low levels of genetic polymorphism with <2500
479 SNPs relative to reference genome of 1.28 Mbp. Thus, *A. rohweri* may be considered monomorphic
480 (*sensu*, 54-56). Although the rate of genetic polymorphisms in *A. rohweri* is similar to that of
481 bioluminescent mutualists *Ca. Photodemus katoptron* and *Ca. Photodemus blepharus*, it is also
482 comparable to that seen in pathogens *Yersinia pestis* and *Bacillus anthracis*, [86–88]. Lower levels of
483 genetic polymorphism are correlated with virulence in some bacteria [88]. The role of *A. rohweri* in coral
484 disease is an active area of research, and thus it is difficult to interpret the low levels of genetic
485 polymorphisms in *A. rohweri*, but it is notably low for a symbiont spanning such a large geographic
486 range.

487 Of the subset of SNPs that impact functional regions, most (62%) resulted in a change to the
488 amino acid identity and therefore likely affect protein function. Although the majority of genes impacted
489 by missense mutations were hypothetical proteins, some gene annotations were identified as transposases.
490 Moreover, the single gene found to have acquired a stop codon in all USVI and Belize samples was

491 within the transposase ISDpr4. The loss of transposases and the eventual loss of these gene regions is
492 characteristic of long-term obligate symbionts [16, 89]; therefore, the *A. rohweri* genome may still be
493 actively reducing through the loss of mobile genetic elements.

494 Although the bacteria were closely related to each other and are phylogenetically clustering by
495 sampling location, there is surprisingly little genetic mixing, even within a single reef. Pairwise
496 comparisons of the fixation indices between all samples had such high values that genetic mixing among
497 samples and thus reinfection is unlikely to occur between or even within a reef. The most extreme case
498 was observed in comparing samples collected from the same reef in Belize, as all pairwise comparisons
499 had an F_{ST} of 0.95 or greater. The lowest level of pairwise genetic differences were observed in Florida,
500 which implies a slightly higher probability of reinfection relative to the other populations sampled, but
501 laboratory studies would be needed to evaluate whether this is due to host or environmental factors. Thus,
502 despite low genetic diversity observed overall, genetic diversity was distributed such that locations and
503 samples were highly differentiated suggesting that *A. rohweri* infection may occur earlier in the coral
504 lifespan and propagate within the host with little to no genetic mixing occurring thereafter.

505 Our work also shows that *A. rohweri* is undergoing greater positive selection relative to closely
506 related parasitic Rickettsiales species, with genes involved in speciating and virulence being most
507 impacted. While the identity of the coral host did not matter, sampling location did impact did impact the
508 degree of positive selection. The average dN/dS of Florida samples is, on average, 2.7 times greater than
509 samples from USVI and 2.8 times greater than those in Belize. Although differences in dN/dS were not
510 observed for all samples at each location, these trends were observed in a subset of the comparisons
511 between all sampling locations. Genes that were associated with ribosomal assembly, L13 and GTPase
512 ERA, which assemble 50S and 30S ribosomal proteins respectively, were undergoing positive selection in
513 a subset of the samples. The consequence of ribosomal-associated genes undergoing positive selection is
514 unknown, but it may be indicative of speciation occurring between the different sampling locations.
515 Another gene undergoing positive selection in a subset of samples across locations was the Type IV
516 secretion system-coupling protein VirD4. VirD is essential to T4SS and is involved in substrate

517 recruitment, which plays a role in oncogenic DNA transfer and virulence in *Agrobacterium* [90–93].

518 Thus, positive selection in *VirD* may be affecting how *A. rohweri* in Florida populations interact with
519 their host species.

520 Though microscopy found *A. rohweri* living in close proximity to coral and *S. 'fitti'*, neither are
521 likely transmitting the parasite vertically. Coral larvae seemed the most likely method for transmission
522 across the Caribbean, as larvae can travel long distances as plankton (>500 km) [84]. Similarly, algal
523 symbionts could provide the necessary nutrients to *A. rohweri* and facilitate parasitic infection when *S.*
524 *'fitti'* is acquired by juvenile coral hosts [94–97]. It is also possible that the parasite could be carried
525 alongside either member of the coral holobiont as they reproduce asexually. However, either sexual or
526 asexual reproduction would have resulted in congruence between the parasite and host phylogeny. Yet,
527 codiversification analysis of both SNPs and gene-based phylogenies resulted in neither coral nor *S. 'fitti'*
528 having clear codivergence with *A. rohweri*. Additionally, qPCR evaluation of early life phases (<1 week
529 to 1 year) from disease-susceptible coral genotypes known to harbor *A. rohweri* as adults did not have
530 detectable *A. rohweri*. The reduced metabolic capabilities of *A. rohweri* [1] and the lack of evidence for a
531 dormancy pathway also suggests that the bacteria is unlikely to survive long periods in the environment
532 as free-living bacteria. It is therefore most likely that the bacteria are transmitted *via* an alternative
533 method that would provide the necessary nutrients, such as through the movement of coral mucocytes
534 coupled with some abrasion or inoculation event or through an as yet unidentified intermediate host.

535 Overall, the results of this study show that *A. rohweri* infection differs among coral hosts and
536 locations, is evolving at different rates across its host's range, and is horizontally transmitted. These
537 findings suggest new pathways to the study of *A. rohweri* and its potential contribution to coral diseases
538 in the Caribbean. For example, exploring possible host or microbiome-based deterrents of *A. rohweri*
539 infection of *Ac. palmata* [98] may be valuable to the preservation of Caribbean acroporids. Additionally,
540 Florida may be a unique focal point for the study of how *A. rohweri* infection impacts coral disease
541 progression. Several *Ac. cervicornis* and an *Ac. prolifera* from the Florida Keys host high concentrations
542 of *A. rohweri* that tend to be less isolated, undergo greater selection in speciation and virulence genes, and

543 are propagating faster in Florida than in other sampling locations. Thus, further research into
544 environmental stressors and host responses in this population will be invaluable to our understanding
545 pathogen evolution, its role in coral disease, and the restoration and recovery of this fragile ecosystem.

546

547 **Data accessibility**

548 All sequences used are available in the SRA in PRJNA473816, assembled *A. rohweri* genomes are
549 accessible under PRJNA66646, and coral mitochondrial genomes are MW246489-MW246565.

550

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555

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798 **Table and Figure Legends**

799 Table 1: Collection data and genome quality information for *A. rohweri* constructed from PRJNA473816,
800 including the reference genome from Klinges et al., 2019. Coral host taxa include *Ac. cervicornis*
801 (*Acer*) and *Ac. prolifera* (*Aprol*). *Symbiodinium 'fitti'* infection status, whether by a single strain or
802 multiple strains, were evaluated in Reich et al., 2020. Completeness, contamination, length,

803 percent GC, and N50 were found using checkm, genes are the total number of prokka annotations,
804 and the ANI to the reference sequence *A. rohweri* Acer44 was found using orthoANI.

805

806 Fig. 1: The number of orthologous genes in *A. rohweri* identified using orthofinder for each sample.

807 Location specific genes are highlighted in the bar plot by location color: Florida (yellow, 8

808 orthologs), USVI (pink, 21 orthologs), and Belize (blue, 40 orthologs). Host identity is noted in

809 blue text for *Ac. prolifera* (Aprol) and black text for *Ac. cervicornis* (Acer), although no orthologs

810 are exclusive to either host taxon.

811

812 Fig. 2: *A. rohweri* phylogenies for all MAG generated using (A) orthofinder to identify orthologs to

813 construct a phylogenomic tree, rooting based on comparison to other Rickettsiales (Fig. S1) (B)

814 Phylogenetic tree of core-SNPs (15) generated by snippy and rooted based on the outcome of

815 orthofinder tree. Bootstrap values greater than 70 are shown.

816

817 Fig. 3: Pairwise comparisons of the fixation indices (F_{ST}) and intrasample nucleotide diversity (π) for each

818 sample from each location, generated using methods outlined in Romero Picazo et al., 2019 [24].

819 Samples originating from Belize shown in blue, Florida in yellow, and the USVI in orange. All

820 comparisons between USVI and Belize samples resulted in an F_{ST} of > 0.86 whereas samples with

821 the Florida populations were between 0.64-0.83.

822

823 Fig. 4: Plots of average dN/dS values for whole genome comparisons of prokka annotated genes. (A)

824 Average dN/dS of closely related well studied Rickettsiales species were all lower relative to *A.*

825 *rohweri* ($p < 0.0001$). (B) Average dN/dS of *A. rohweri* is significantly greater in Florida than

826 USVI ($p = 0.048$).

827

828 Fig. 5: The average unfiltered estimates for the rate of replication for (A) sampling locations and (B) coral

829 host.

830

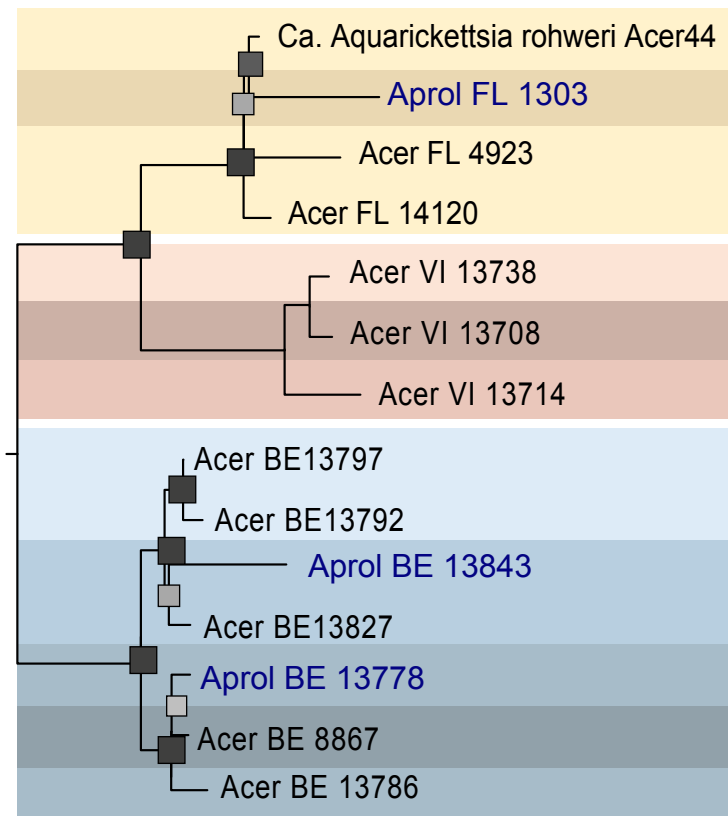
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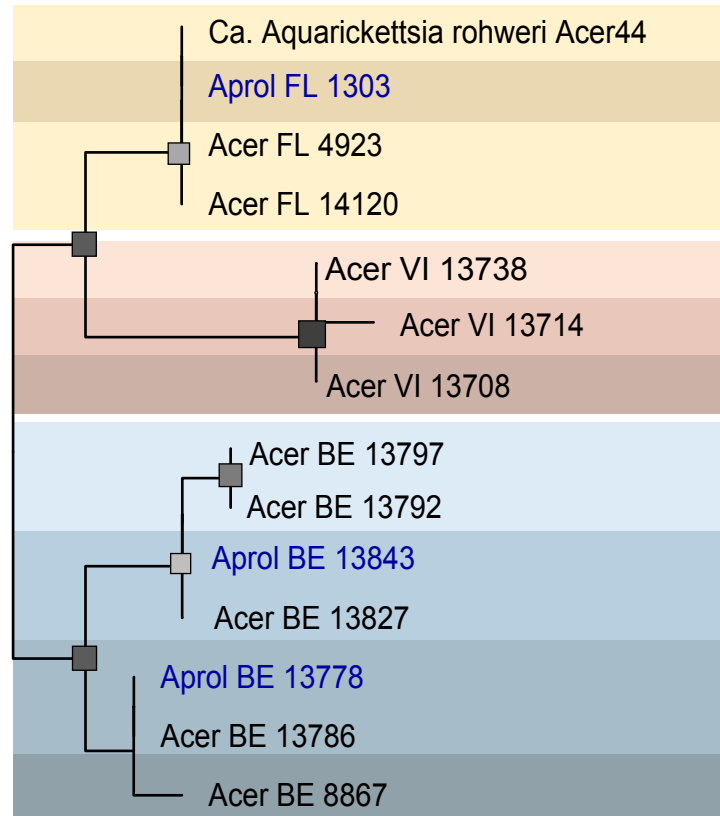
| Sample ID | Location | Reef | Coll date | Symb infect | Comp (%) | Contam (%) | Length (Mbp) | GC. (%) | N50 | Genes | ANI |
|--------------------------------|----------|------------------|-----------|-------------|----------|------------|--------------|---------|--------|-------|-------|
| Acer44 | Florida | Key Largo | 1-Jun-13 | unknown | 98.9 | 1.20 | 1.28 | 0.28 | 10,860 | 1,321 | NA |
| Acer FL 4923 | Florida | Key Largo | 22-Nov-11 | solo | 97.6 | 0.10 | 1.21 | 0.28 | 4,669 | 1,243 | 99.9 |
| Acer FL 14120 | Florida | Key Largo | 1-Mar-16 | solo | 100.0 | 0.00 | 1.25 | 0.28 | 12,616 | 1,255 | 99.93 |
| Aprol FI 1303 | Florida | DryTortugas | 29-Jul-03 | multi | 97.8 | 1.32 | 1.23 | 0.28 | 3,890 | 1,343 | 99.91 |
| Acer VI 13738 | USVI | Sapphire | 30-Oct-15 | multi | 98.9 | 0.00 | 1.27 | 0.28 | 24,610 | 1,303 | 99.74 |
| Acer VI 13714 | USVI | Hans Lollik 2 | 29-Oct-15 | solo | 96.1 | 1.53 | 1.26 | 0.28 | 3,725 | 1,299 | 99.66 |
| Acer VI 13708 | USVI | Botany 2 | 28-Oct-15 | multi | 98.9 | 0.00 | 1.29 | 0.28 | 45,966 | 1,302 | 99.75 |
| Acer BE 13797 | Belize | Sandbores 2 | 7-Nov-15 | solo | 100.0 | 0.00 | 1.28 | 0.28 | 22,023 | 1,305 | 99.59 |
| Acer BE 13792 | Belize | Sandbores 2 | 7-Nov-15 | solo | 96.7 | 0.28 | 1.26 | 0.28 | 8,464 | 1,295 | 99.61 |
| Aprol BE 13843 | Belize | Glovers Atoll | 8-Nov-15 | solo | 84.3 | 0.75 | 1.21 | 0.28 | 2,686 | 1,288 | 99.42 |
| Acer BE 13827 | Belize | Glovers Atoll | 8-Nov-15 | solo | 100.0 | 0.00 | 1.29 | 0.28 | 17,891 | 1,302 | 99.61 |
| Aprol BE 13778 | Belize | S.Carrie Bow Cay | 5-Nov-15 | solo | 100.0 | 0.00 | 1.29 | 0.28 | 27,657 | 1,208 | 99.65 |
| Acer BE 13786 | Belize | S.Carrie Bow Cay | 6-Nov-15 | multi | 91.2 | 1.95 | 1.25 | 0.28 | 3,035 | 1,215 | 99.58 |
| Acer BE 8867 | Belize | Curfew | 13-Sep-12 | solo | 100.0 | 0.00 | 1.28 | 0.28 | 27,658 | 1,184 | 99.6 |

A. Phylogenomic



0.00003

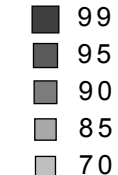
B. SNPs



0.001

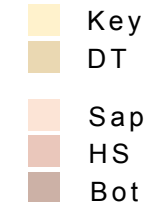
Florida

Bootstrap



USVI

Reef

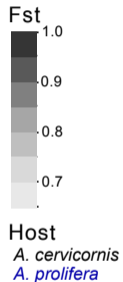
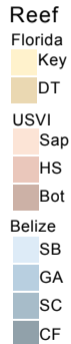
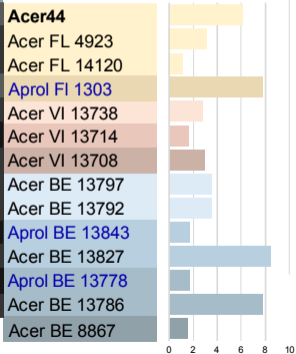
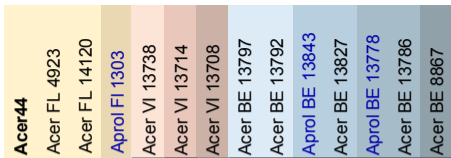


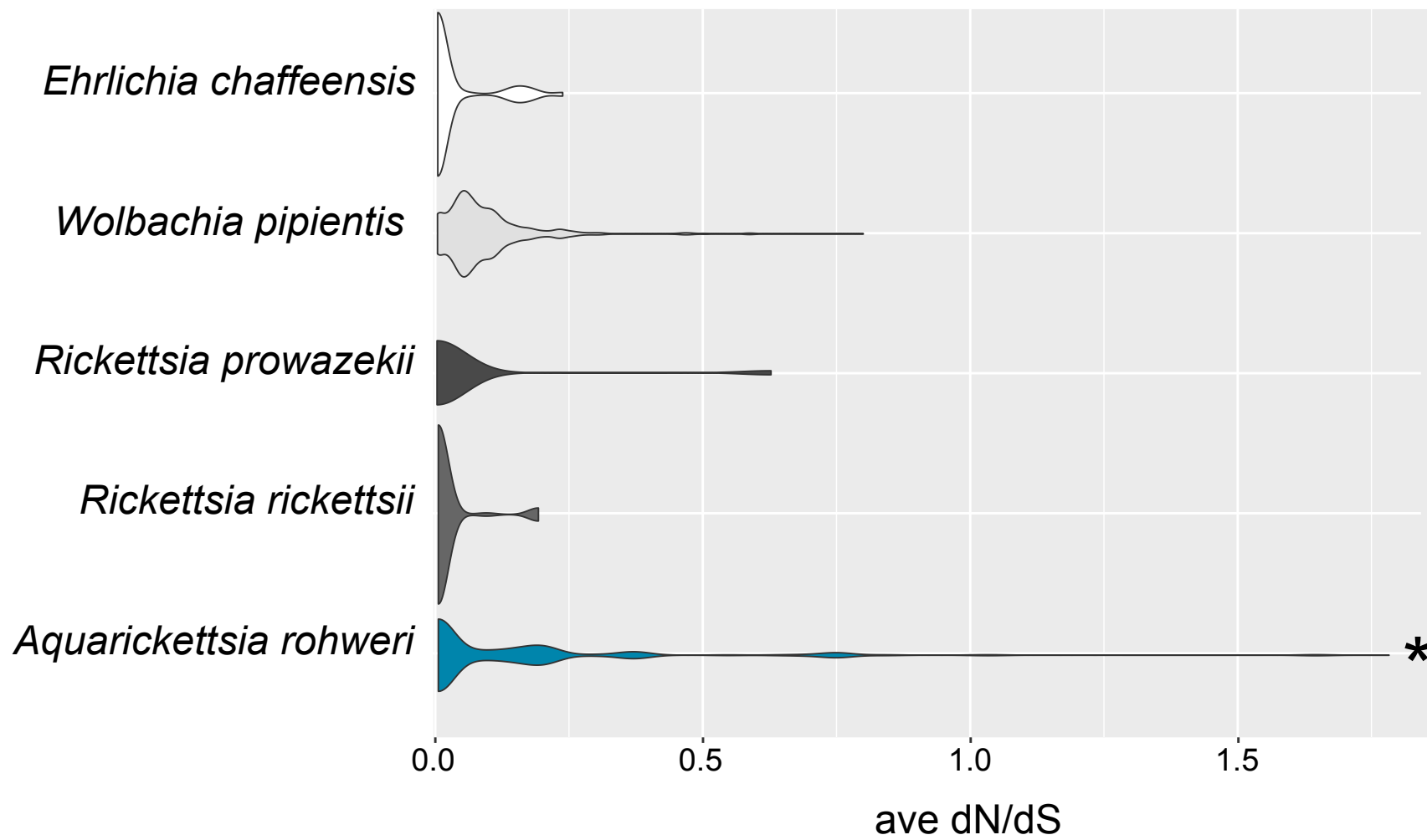
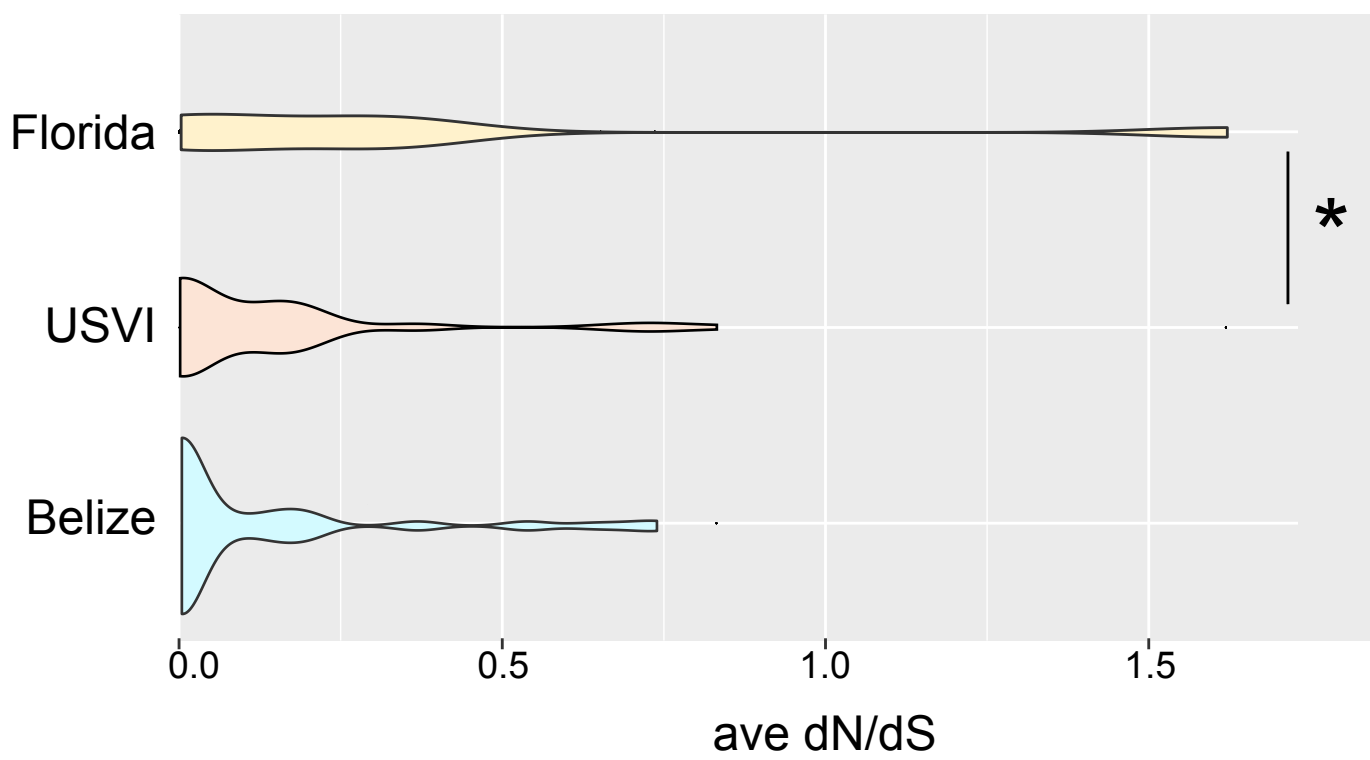
Belize

Host

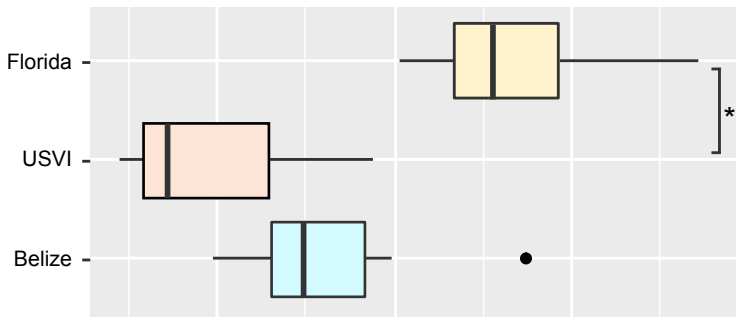
Ac. cervicornis

Ac. prolifera



A.**B.**

A.



B.

