

## Phylogeography of *Neopurcellia salmoni*, a widespread mite harvestman from the South Island of New Zealand, with the first report of male polymorphism in the suborder Cyphophthalmi (Arachnida: Opiliones)

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**Abstract.** *Neopurcellia salmoni* Forster, 1948 is a mite harvestman found throughout the forests of the west coast of New Zealand's South Island. This species range is unusually large for the notoriously dispersal-limited Cyphophthalmi, raising the possibility of multiple cryptic species within the lineage. In order to test this hypothesis, we used scanning electron microscopy to examine a large number of individuals from throughout its range, and discovered two distinct male morphotypes distinguished by the presence or absence of dorsal glandular pores. We performed phylogeographic and population genetic analyses using DNA sequence data from the fast-evolving mitochondrial locus cytochrome *c* oxidase I (COI). Tree topologies revealed two well-supported clades within *Neopurcellia* Forster, 1948 occupying non-overlapping geographical regions of the west coast. Molecular dating indicates that these lineages diverged from each other following the Oligocene “drowning” of New Zealand and diversified during the uplift of the Southern Alps. The strong correlation between the evolutionary relationships of lineages within *Neopurcellia* and the geographic distribution of its populations indicates isolation by distance, as expected with dispersal-limited organisms; population genetic analyses confirm strong isolation of populations. However, we discovered that the distribution of male morphotypes does not follow any geographic or phylogenetic pattern. While the presence of two different morphotypes initially suggested multiple *Neopurcellia* species, phylogeographic analysis allowed us to reject this hypothesis. We therefore report here the first known case of male polymorphism in the suborder Cyphophthalmi.

**Keywords:** Intrasexual polymorphism, alternative reproductive tactic, population genetics, species delimitation, Pettalidae

<https://doi.org/10.1636/JoA-S-20-003>

*Neopurcellia salmoni* Forster, 1948 is the most widespread mite harvestman species on the South Island of New Zealand, inhabiting leaf litter habitats in the *Nothofagus* and podocarp forests west of the Southern Alps from Lake Kaniere to Fiordland (Fig. 1) (Boyer & Giribet 2009). The species' broad distribution is particularly unusual given the notoriously limited dispersal capabilities of mite harvestmen, as most species ranges in this group fail to exceed 50 km in any dimension. Therefore, it has been suggested that *N. salmoni* may encompass more than one cryptic species (Boyer & Giribet 2007, 2009). *Metasiro americanus* Davis, 1933, a widespread North American mite harvestman, was recently split into three species following phylogeographic analysis and detailed examination of genitalia (Clouse & Wheeler 2014). Similarly, *Aoraki denticulata* Forster, 1948, the other widespread species of mite harvestmen in New Zealand's South Island, and *Karripurcellia peckorum* Giribet, 2003, a species of pettalid from southwestern Australia, both show highly structured populations and deep genetic divergences suggestive of cryptic species (Boyer et al. 2007; Fernandez & Giribet 2014; Schwentner & Giribet 2018).

In addition to addressing the taxonomic question of whether *Neopurcellia* Forster, 1948 should be split, our analysis allowed us to explore geographic and temporal patterns of diversification within this widespread taxon in

light of the turbulent geological history of the South Island. New Zealand is an excellent system for historical biogeographic study, given its isolation from other major land masses and the variety of processes that have shaped its highly endemic biota (Waters & Craw 2006). Once part of the supercontinent Gondwana, New Zealand started drifting away from Antarctica, Australia and South America approximately 80 Ma (McLoughlin 2001; Sanmartin 2002; Giribet & Boyer 2010). *Neopurcellia* is a member of the mite harvestman family Pettalidae, which has a classic Gondwanan distribution with lineages in New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, Madagascar, Chile, and Sri Lanka (Boyer & Giribet 2007). Many textbook examples of Gondwanan vicariant lineages have been the subject of molecular clock dating analyses in recent years, with the result that iconic groups such as the ratite birds and *Nothofagus*, the southern beech, are now understood to have achieved their present-day distribution through trans-oceanic dispersal rather than vicariance (Sanmartín & Ronquist 2004; Cook & Crisp 2005; Goldberg et al. 2008; Mitchell et al. 2014). In contrast, vicariance is still considered the best explanation for many soil invertebrates' presence in New Zealand (Baker et al. 2020; Giribet et al. 2018; Chousou-Polydouri et al. 2019), and Pettalidae has become a well-studied example of a Gondwanan vicariant taxon (Boyer & Giribet 2007; Giribet et al. 2016; Baker et al. 2020).

Throughout the Paleogene, New Zealand's continental crust stretched and thinned, resulting in a gradual marine transgression that peaked in the Oligocene (Cooper & Cooper 1995; Landis et al. 2008). During this period, variously termed the

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“Oligocene marine transgression,” “Oligocene drowning,” or “Oligocene bottleneck”, New Zealand’s emergent land area was reduced to an archipelago of low-lying islands corresponding to less than 15% of its current size during maximum inundation, *ca.* 25–22 Ma (Wallis & Jorge 2018). This period ended when increased tectonism along the boundary between the Australian and Pacific plates activated the Alpine Fault in New Zealand, resulting in rapid crustal uplift and the creation of the Southern Alps around 10–5 Ma (Cooper & Cooper 1995). The formation of this mountain chain deeply impacted climate in the South Island, creating a strong precipitation gradient across the island: areas to the west of the Southern Alps experience high precipitation, whereas forests to the east are significantly drier (Gellatly et al. 1988). During the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM), 34–18 ka, vast areas throughout the archipelago became tundra-like, and the Southern Alps experienced extensive glaciation (Marske et al. 2012; Buckley et al. 2015). Vegetation was mostly limited to grass and shrub-dominant communities, with small patches of trees present but uncommon (McGlone et al. 1993). Extant fauna managed to survive the LGM in forest refugia with suitable microclimates (Buckley et al. 2009b); a recent review by Buckley et al. (2015) identified the LGM as one of the most important events in shaping the diversity and distribution of arthropod taxa in New Zealand (e.g., Marra 2008; Buckley et al. 2009a; Marske et al. 2009, 2012; Pons et al. 2011). To date, the effect of these post-Oligocene events on the diversity and biogeography of mite harvestman has not been explored.

We undertook a phylogeographic analysis of *Neopurcellia* with two goals in mind: First, we aimed to test the hypothesis that this currently monotypic genus should be split into multiple species. Integration of molecular and morphological data has revealed near-cryptic species of mite harvestman in other genera (Clouse & Wheeler 2014; Boyer et al. 2015); therefore, we performed careful morphological examination of ninety individuals from across the range of *Neopurcellia* using both light and scanning electron microscopy. Secondly, we undertook an exploration of the biogeographic history of *Neopurcellia*, incorporating a molecular dating approach.

## METHODS

**Specimen collection.**—We collected 89 specimens via leaf-litter sifting and sorting *in situ* from seven localities in the South Island of New Zealand in January of 2019, with permission from the Department of Conservation (National Authorisation Number 38002-RES). Specimens were immediately preserved in 95% ethanol. GPS points and altitude information were taken at each collecting locality. All specimens are accessioned in the Invertebrate Zoology Department of the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology and can be searched using the portal MCZBase (online at <https://mczbase.mcz.harvard.edu/>). Additional specimens collected between 1959 and 2016 were loaned from the Field Museum (FMHD) ( $n = 10$ ), Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ) ( $n = 218$ ), Otago Museum ( $n = 4$ ), and University of Copenhagen Zoological Museum (ZMUC) ( $n = 39$ ) (Table 1). Using only mature individuals, in total, our sample contains 198 specimens from 21 collections. Populations, which we define as all specimens collected at a single locality, range in size from 1 to 32 individuals.

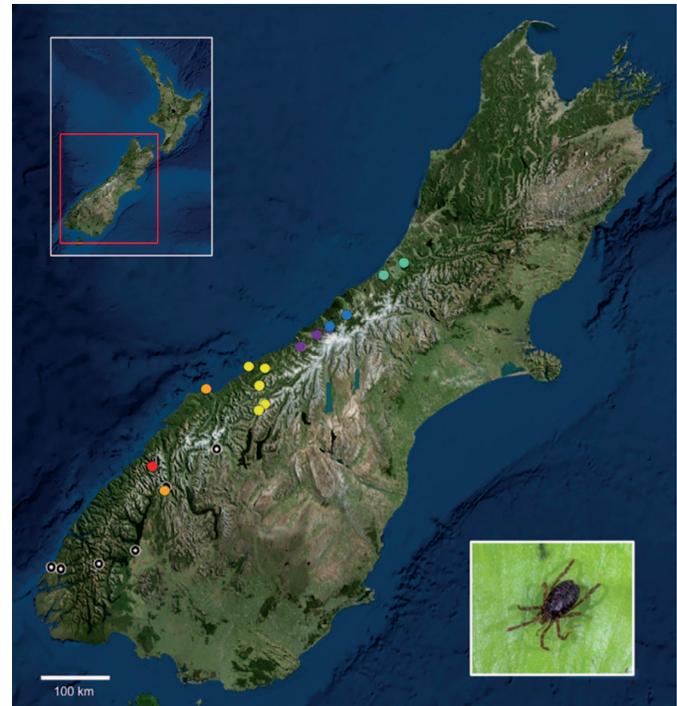


Figure 1.—Distribution of *Neopurcellia salmoni* populations used in this study. Colored points represent localities with DNA sequence data included in this study; black and white points denote populations without molecular data. Inset figures show a map of New Zealand indicating location of the South Island, and the live habitus of *N. salmoni* (MCZ-IZ-152129).

**DNA extraction, amplification and sequencing.**—We performed DNA extractions using a single leg per specimen with the Qiagen DNeasy Blood and Tissue kit following the manufacturer’s protocol. PCR reactions targeted the fast-evolving mitochondrial locus cytochrome *c* oxidase I (COI) using the LCO forward primer and either HCO or HCOout-out reverse primers (Folmer et al. 1994; Schwendinger & Giribet 2005). Each reaction mixture contained 13  $\mu$ L of sterile water, 2  $\mu$ L of 2.5  $\mu$ M primers, one Illustra PuReTaq Ready-To-Go PCR bead tube and 10  $\mu$ L of genomic DNA. Reactions ran on an Applied Biosciences ABI 2720 Thermal Cycler with the following thermal profile: 5 min at 95°C; 35 cycles of: 30 s at 95°C, 30 s at 45°C and 1.5 min at 72°C; with a final extension of 6 min at 72°C. PCR products were cleaned using Qiagen’s QIAquick kit. Samples were sent to Functional Biosciences (Madison, Wisconsin) for Sanger sequencing.

**Alignment and phylogenetic analyses.**—We quality checked and assembled sequences in Geneious Prime v.2019.0.4, yielding 58 sequences from 17 different localities (GenBank accession numbers MK990740–MK990797). We aligned our new sequences and published COI sequence data for *N. salmoni* (GenBank accession numbers DQ518109, DQ825638, DQ992323–992324, KU207398–207399) using the MAFFT Alignment tool implemented in Geneious with default parameters. COI sequences for 78 Pettalidae (including representatives for the two other endemic genera of New Zealand mite harvestmen), 40 non-pettalid Cyphophthalmi, 1 Dyspnoi, and 1 Eupnoi were used as outgroups for phylogenetic analyses.

Maximum likelihood phylogenetic analysis was performed with W-IQ-TREE v 1.6 (Trifinopoulos et al. 2016) using ModelFinder (Kalyaanamoorthy et al. 2017) to assess the best substitution model. SH-like approximate likelihood ratio tests (SH-aLRT) and ultrafast bootstrapping (UFBoot) were used to assess nodal support (Hoang et al. 2018). We ran two separate analyses under default parameters, one using DNA substitution models and partitioned to separate positions 1 and 2 from position 3, and one using codon substitution models with the invertebrate mitochondrial genetic code specified. We visualized the results in Fig Tree v1.4.4.

Haplotype diversity ( $h$ ), nucleotide diversity ( $\pi$ ), Tajima's  $D$  and Fu's  $F$  were calculated in DnaSP v6.12 (Rozas et al. 2017) using default parameters. Analyses were run three times: once for all individuals, once for the northern lineage and once for the southern lineage. We calculated AMOVA and pairwise  $F_{ST}$  in Arlequin 3.5.2.2 (Excoffier & Lischer 2010). AMOVA was run under three geographic binning schemes: (1) populations were grouped as "northern" or "southern" lineages, (2) populations were grouped according to their phylogeographic lineages (closely related, geographically proximate populations) (Table 1), and (3) populations were not grouped. Populations represented by two or fewer individuals were excluded from AMOVA and pairwise  $F_{ST}$  analyses.

Following analysis of COI data, we downloaded and aligned published data for slower-evolving loci sequenced for *Neopurcellia salmoni*, the nuclear 18S and 28S, to assess the possibility of substitutions diagnostic of major lineages within the species (Cook et al. 2010).

**Molecular dating.**—As there are no known fossil members of *Neopurcellia*, or indeed of any pettalid, we employed a divergence dating strategy based on COI substitution rates. We used DAMBE7 (Xia 2018) to assess substitution saturation levels in each codon position of COI in our full 196-terminal dataset, as well as in a smaller dataset containing only those taxa in the genera *Neopurcellia*, *Aoraki* Boyer & Giribet, 2007, and *Karripurcellia* Giribet, 2003 (76 terminals). These genera were chosen because *Aoraki* (from New Zealand) and *Karripurcellia* (from Western Australia) together constitute the sister group of *Neopurcellia* (Baker et al. 2020). We used this smaller dataset to estimate lineage ages and ran ModelFinder to determine substitution models for each partition, again separating positions 1 and 2 into one partition, and position 3 into its own partition.

To determine the optimal clock model and tree prior, we used an iterative strategy using the stepping-stone Path sampling application of BEAST 2 (Xie et al. 2011). First, we ran three path sampling analyses of 100 steps and 1 million generations using a strict clock, an exponential relaxed clock, and a lognormal relaxed clock, all under a Yule tree prior. We compared their marginal likelihood estimates using Bayes factors. We then fixed the optimal clock model and ran path sampling analyses for the dataset under a Yule, a birth-death, a coalescent constant population, and a coalescent Bayesian skyline tree prior. Again, we compared the marginal likelihood estimates using Bayes factors, and selected the optimal clock model and tree prior to infer branch lengths for a chronogram.

We estimated divergence dates using BEAST v2.5.2 (Bouckaert et al. 2019), specifying separate nucleotide substitution models for each partition based on the results of

ModelFinder. Two published COI substitution rates were used to infer branch lengths: one derived from spiders (family Dysderidae; ucl.d.mean = 0.0199; Bidegaray-Batista & Arnedo 2011), and one from beetles (family Tenebrionidae; ucl.d.mean = 0.0178; Papadopoulou et al. 2010). These rates constitute the taxonomically closest comparisons available to *Neopurcellia*, and while mitochondrial substitution rates are known to be elevated in Cyphophthalmi (Clouse & Wheeler 2014), we believed that given the shallower nature of this phylogenetic study and low levels of saturation (see Results), this approach would give reasonable date approximations. We ran each clock rate for 200 million generations four separate times. The four runs for each clock rate were combined in LogCombiner, sampling every 5,000 generations with a 10% burn-in for each run. The quality of the BEAST run was assessed using Tracer v1.7.1 to ensure all parameters had an ESS value of 200 or higher (Rambaut et al. 2018). The four BEAST runs for each clock rate were summarized in TreeAnnotator to generate a maximum clade credibility tree with common ancestor node heights, and imported into FigTree v1.4.4 for visualization.

**Morphological analysis.**—All 198 individuals were observed using an Olympus SXZ10 dissecting microscope. We identified individuals to sex through observation of the fourth tarsus, which bears an adenostyle claw in males but not in females, and tergite VIII, which forms two lobes lacking ornamentation on the dorsal surface of males but not females. Specimens chosen for imaging presented distinct dorsal morphological features under light microscopy, such as the presence of pores and variation in granule size. A few specimens without distinct dorsal morphological features were also imaged for comparison. Each specimen had all of the appendages dissected off and the body was mounted in dorsal view on a stub prior to coating with Au-Pd alloy on a Denton Vacuum Desk III sputter coater. We imaged the dorsal side of specimens using a JEOL JSM-6610LV scanning electron microscope. In total, we imaged 10 male and 2 female specimens from 8 localities.

## RESULTS

**Molecular phylogenetics.**—IQ-TREE's ModelFinder selected GTR+F+I+G4 as the best nucleotide substitution model for partition 1 (positions 1 and 2), and HKY+F+G4 as the best substitution model for partition 2 (position 3) using the BIC. Analysis using codon substitution models identified GY+F+G4 as the best model, also using the BIC. Monophyly of *Neopurcellia* was supported by bootstrap values of 99–100 in all analyses (Fig. 2, and Fig. S3 available in Supplementary File 1, online at <https://doi.org/10.1636/JoA-S-20-003.s1>). Within the genus, two lineages were retrieved, corresponding to the northern and southern regions of the west coast (Figs. 1, 2, S3). The northern lineage (represented by cool colors: turquoise, blue, purple) ranges from Lake Kaniere to Westland Tai Poutini National Park and accounts for eight of the sequenced populations (Figs. 1, 2, S3). This lineage can be further broken down into two well-supported clades corresponding to different geographic areas: Lake Kaniere and Totoara Saddle (turquoise) + Franz Josef Glacier (blue), and Fox Glacier (purple) (Figs. 1, 2, S3). Both IQ-TREE analyses retrieved the same relationships within the northern lineage (Figs. 2, S3) with high support values. The southern lineage (represented by warm colors: red, orange, yellow) ranges from





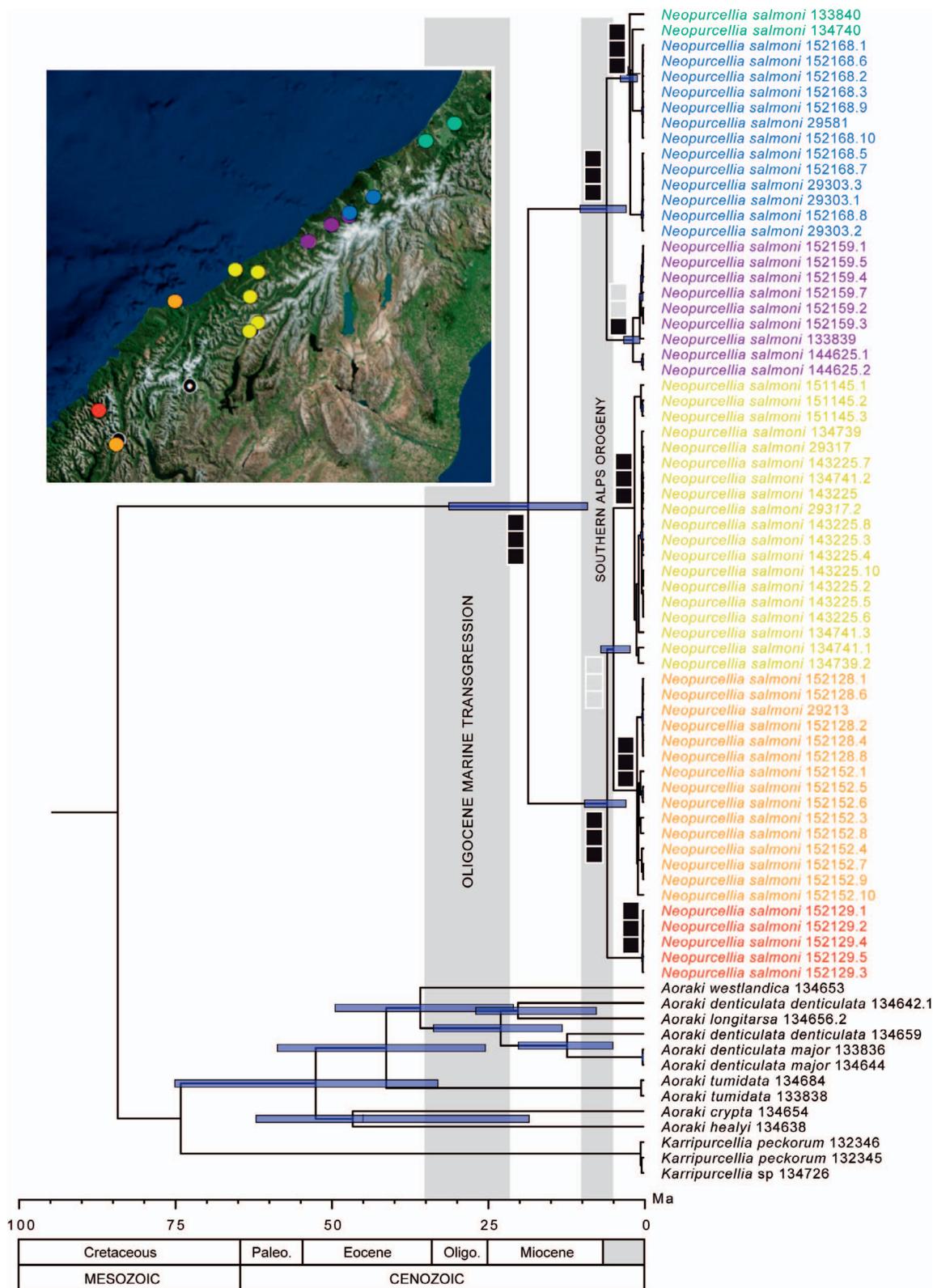


Figure 2.—Ultrametric tree based on analysis of COI sequences in BEAST, using a substitution rate derived from spiders. Inset map shows *Neopurcellia salmoni* localities represented in the tree (see also Figure 1). Terminal colors correspond to locality colors in inset map and Figure 1. Numbers following species names are Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology Invertebrate Zoology accession numbers. Boxes at nodes indicate support values; from top to bottom: IQ-TREE result: SH-aLRT (grey = below 80%; black = above 80%), IQ-TREE result: UFBoot support (grey = below 95%, black = above 95%), and BEAST result: Bayesian posterior probability (grey = below 95%, black = above 95%). Shaded box in geologic timescale represents Pliocene, Pleistocene, and Holocene.

Table 3.—Genetic indices for *Neopurcellia* populations in this study.

|          | Number individuals | Number haplotypes | Haplotype diversity (h) | Nucleotide diversity ( $\pi$ ) | Tajima's D          | Fu's F            |
|----------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| All      | 63                 | 34                | 0.962 $\pm$ 0.010       | 0.07562 $\pm$ 0.00240          | 1.05975<br>(p>0.10) | 3.485<br>(p>0.10) |
| Northern | 24                 | 14                | 0.880 $\pm$ 0.048       | 0.03602 $\pm$ 0.00206          | 0.87272<br>(p>0.10) | 4.607<br>(p>0.10) |
| Southern | 39                 | 24                | 0.943 $\pm$ 0.020       | 0.03960 $\pm$ 0.00221          | 0.23827<br>(p>0.10) | 1.521<br>(p>0.10) |

coalescent skyline tree as the optimal priors, with decisive support from Bayes factors (BF = 34.01 compared to the next-best model's marginal  $L$  estimate, Table S7 in Supplementary File 1, online at <https://doi.org/10.1636/JoA-S-20-003.s1>). BEAST analyses from both clock rates recovered virtually identical topologies, as well as similar dating estimates for the divergence and diversification events of *Neopurcellia* (Fig. 2 and Figs. S1, S2 available in Supplementary File 1, online at <https://doi.org/10.1636/JoA-S-20-003.s1>). According to the spider-derived rate, the genus is estimated to have diverged from its sister group *ca.* 84 Ma (95% HPD: 127–49 Ma), while the beetle-derived rate finds that *Neopurcellia* diverged from its sister group *ca.* 94 Ma (95% HPD: 142–56 Ma). The split of *Neopurcellia* into the northern and southern lineages is estimated to have occurred *ca.* 18 Ma (95% HPD: 31–9 Ma) for the spider rate and *ca.* 21 Ma (95% HPD: 35–10 Ma) for the beetle rate, with diversification of the two main lineages both taking place *ca.* 6 Ma according to both clock rates (95% HPD across both analyses: 11.3–2.7 Ma) (Fig. 2). These ages, for *Neopurcellia* as well as its divergence from its sister group, are somewhat different than those found in previous studies—Baker et al. (2020) recovered a younger age for *Neopurcellia* at 10.4 Ma (95% HPD: 17.9–3.9 Ma), and an older divergence from *Aoraki* + *Karripurcellia* at 146 Ma (95% HPD: 174.5–117.8 Ma). This discrepancy is likely caused by our use of phylogenetically distant substitution rates, which do not reflect the accelerated mitochondrial rates of Cyphophthalmi.

**Morphology.**—We found a surprising level of within-species variation in the dorsal morphology of *Neopurcellia salmoni*. Female specimens have uniformly finely granular bodies, no modification to posterior tergites, and tergal segmentation distinguished by linear transverse sulci lacking any ornamentation. Male specimens present a clear case of polymorphism (Fig. 3). The non-glandular morphotype (Fig. 3A) has been

previously described by Forster (1948) and revisited by Boyer & Giribet (2007). It presents a non-uniform ornamentation of the dorsal opisthosoma with finer granules on tergites I–V and larger granules on tergites VI and VII (Fig. 4A). Tergal segmentation is distinguished by transverse linear sulci lacking any ornamentation. The glandular morphotype (Fig. 4B–D) has not been described previously. Tergites I and II have finer granules uniformly distributed; however, tergites III–VII bear larger granules and pores in their respective sulci. Tergites III–V bear large granules on the anterior half of the tergite and finer granules on the posterior half of the tergite. Larger granules are accompanied by pores distributed in a seemingly random manner and appear to be formed by the fusion of smaller granules (Fig. 4D). The presence of pores is unusual as it has not been described in the dorsal morphology of any of the members of Cyphophthalmi. There is some degree of variation within the glandular morphotype in one of the populations (ZMUC 11-15b) where some specimens exhibit less prominent larger granules and a reduced number of pores (Figs. 3B, C, 4B, C). However, this slight variation seems to be in regard to size rather than presence, as all observed glandular morphotypes present larger granules and pores on tergites III–VII, indicating a dimorphism rather than continuous variation.

There was no geographic or phylogenetic pattern in the distribution of male morphotypes. None of the tree topologies supported a monophyletic distribution of glandular males within populations. Pores and large granules were present in both northern and southern lineages and across its widespread range independent of the locality's elevation and date of collection. While most populations presented only one of the male morphotypes, this trend was not true for all. Out of 19 sampled populations with male specimens in them, four presented males of both morphotypes, eight had glandular males only and seven had non-glandular males only (Table 1).

Table 4.—Pairwise  $F_{ST}$  values (top half) and geographic distances in km (bottom half) between populations. Localities with two or fewer sequenced individuals were excluded. See Table 1 for key to the numbered localities.

|                    | IZ-29303 | IZ-29581<br>IZ-152168 | IZ-152159 | IZ-152145 | IZ-134741 | IZ-143225 | IZ-152152 | IZ-29213<br>IZ-152128 | IZ-152129 |
|--------------------|----------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| IZ-29303           | -        | 0.650                 | 0.953     | 0.970     | 0.917     | 0.989     | 0.954     | 0.994                 | 0.996     |
| IZ-29581/IZ-152168 | 21.2     | -                     | 0.850     | 0.920     | 0.865     | 0.937     | 0.903     | 0.942                 | 0.941     |
| IZ-152159          | 57.4     | 36.2                  | -         | 0.953     | 0.896     | 0.976     | 0.939     | 0.982                 | 0.982     |
| IZ-152145          | 113.9    | 92.8                  | 57.3      | -         | 0.467     | 0.826     | 0.863     | 0.951                 | 0.947     |
| IZ-134741          | 100.4    | 79.2                  | 43.0      | 16.9      | -         | 0.188     | 0.737     | 0.851                 | 0.838     |
| IZ-143225          | 133.2    | 112.8                 | 78.4      | 46.0      | 43.4      | -         | 0.896     | 0.984                 | 0.986     |
| IZ-152152          | 162.5    | 142.1                 | 106.2     | 49.1      | 63.7      | 57.4      | -         | 0.749                 | 0.918     |
| IZ-29213/IZ-152128 | 257.5    | 236.6                 | 201.2     | 151.6     | 160.0     | 124.4     | 110.7     | -                     | 0.996     |
| IZ-152129          | 251.0    | 230.1                 | 194.7     | 140.8     | 151.6     | 121.3     | 95.4      | 27.2                  | -         |

Table 5.—AMOVA results. Localities with two or fewer sequenced individuals were excluded from the analysis.

|                       |  | Sum of squares | Percentage of variation | Fixation indices |
|-----------------------|--|----------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Northern and Southern | variance among groups                    | 645.12         | 57.53                   | FCT: 0.57530*    |
|                       | variance among populations within groups | 571.39         | 37.08                   | FSC: 0.87315*    |
|                       | variance within population               | 92.23          | 5.39                    | FST: 0.94613*    |
| Sub-lineages          | variance among groups                    | 1123.73        | 79.55                   | FCT: 0.79551*    |
|                       | variance among populations within groups | 92.77          | 13.73                   | FSC: 0.67118*    |
|                       | variance within population               | 92.23          | 6.72                    | FST: 0.93276*    |
| No grouping           | variance among populations               | 1216.51        | 92.59                   | -                |
|                       | variance within populations              | 92.23          | 7.41                    | FST: 0.92591*    |

\* = significant with  $p < 0.05$

Glandular morphotypes were also observed at a higher frequency than the non-glandular morphotype, accounting for 67.6% ( $n = 73$ ) and 32.4% ( $n = 35$ ) of all male specimens respectively.

## DISCUSSION

**Phylogeography and population genetics.**—*Neopurcellia salmoni* is an unusual mite harvestman species, presenting male polymorphism unique within the suborder as well as one of the largest species ranges known for these animals. Most Cyphophthalmi species are known from fewer than five localities and their ranges tend not exceed more than fifty kilometers across, yet *N. salmoni* spans a linear transect of over 400 km (Boyer & Giribet 2007). Within this large range, we found a strong correlation between evolutionary relatedness of *Neopurcellia* and the geographic distribution of populations. That is, our analyses indicate that monophyletic

groups tend to correspond to adjacent geographic regions, as is expected in dispersal-limited organisms (Figs. 1, 2) (e.g., Boyer et al. 2015; Harms 2018; Schwentner & Giribet 2018). A paucity of shared haplotypes between populations and high  $F_{ST}$  values (Tables 2–5) confirm that gene flow is minimal.

The iconic *Nothofagus* southern beech forests of New Zealand's South Island have a patchy distribution, consisting of two very large disjunct forested areas in the western half of the landmass, in addition to many small isolated patches. One of the large expanses of forest extends south of the Haast area all the way to the southwest tip of the island; the other has its southern limit around Greymouth and extends up to the northern coast (Fig. 1). These two forested areas are separated by a 150 km stretch known as the “Westland beech-gap,” which lacks beech trees and a number of insect taxa (Haase et al. 2007; Trewick & Wallis 2007; Buckley et al. 2015). We found that *Neopurcellia* is comprised of two lineages, one of which is found throughout the contiguous forests to the south

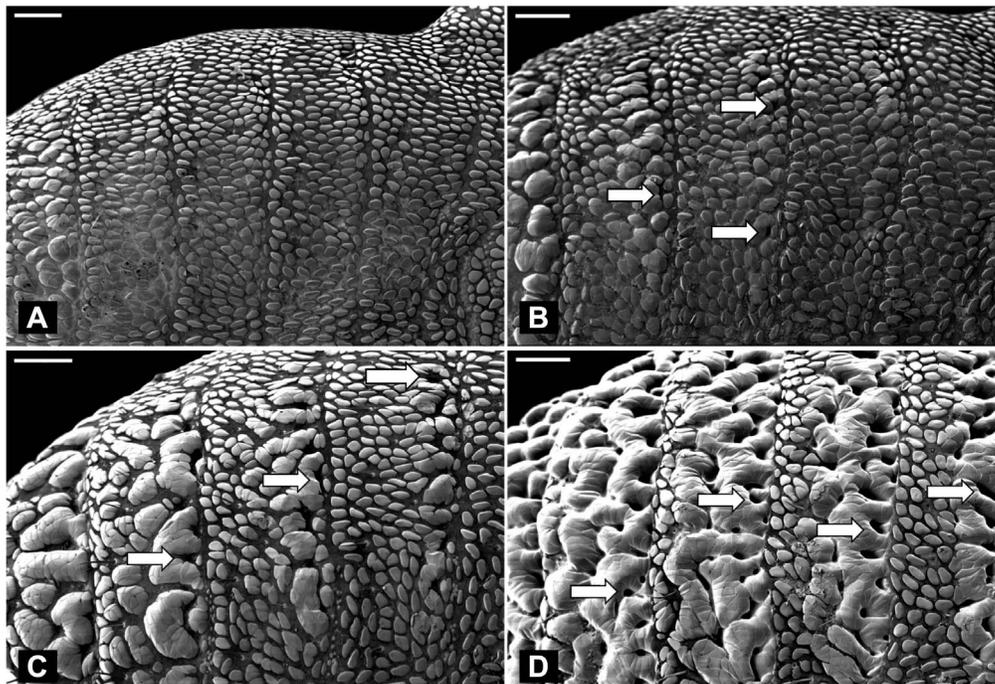


Figure 3.—Scanning electron micrograph illustrating details of granulation and presence of glandular pores on the dorsal opisthosoma of *Neopurcellia salmoni* males: A. Non-glandular (MCZ IZ-134741). B-D. Glandular. Nearly every glandular male examined resembled the individual represented in D (MCZ IZ-133839); only one population contained males of the types represented in B and C (ZMUC 11-15b). Arrows in B-D highlight the presence of pores. Scale bar: 100µm.

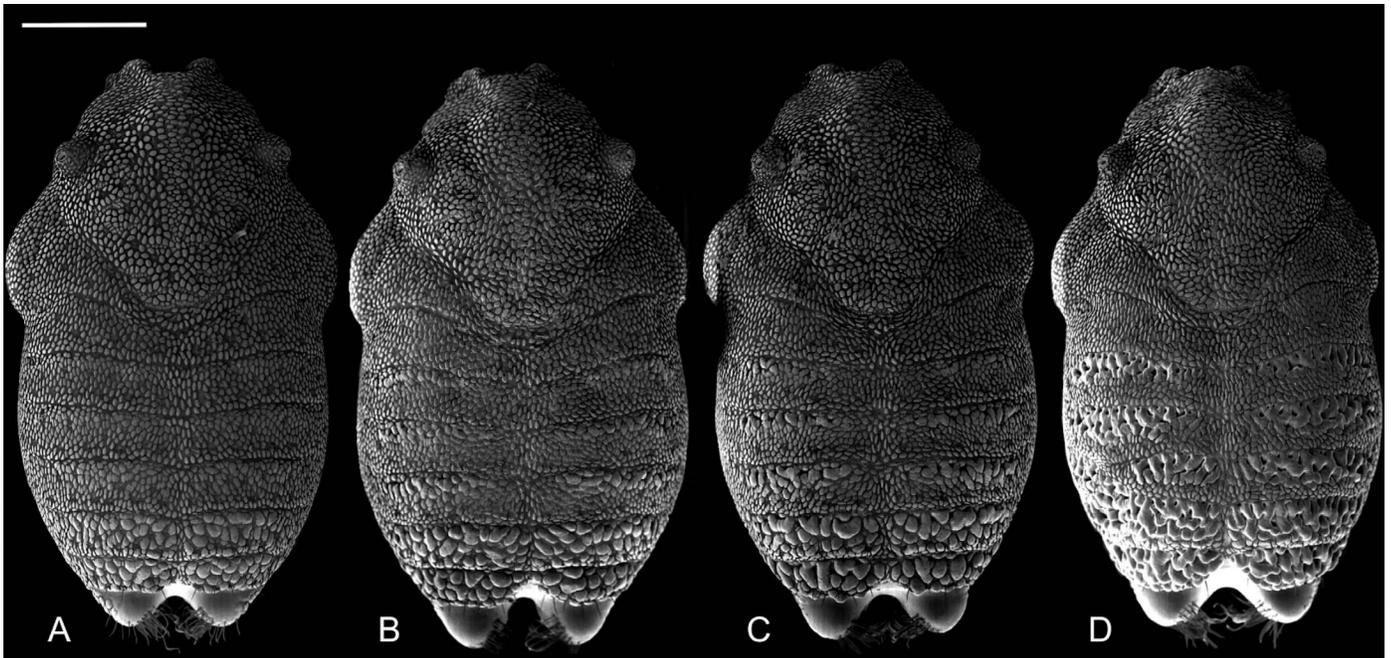


Figure 4.—Scanning electron micrographs illustrating *Neopurcellia salmoni* males from Fig. 3 in dorsal view: A. Non-glandular (MCZ IZ-134741). B–D. Glandular. Nearly every glandular male examined resembled the individual represented in D (MCZ IZ-133839); only one population contained males of the types represented in B and C (ZMUC 11-15b). Scale bar: 500 $\mu$ m.

of the beech-gap (red, orange, and yellow in Figs. 1, 2) and one that is found in small patches of forest within the beech gap (turquoise, blue, and purple in Figs. 1, 2). In order to understand which historical geological processes might have shaped this phylogeographic pattern, we estimated the ages of these two lineages.

**Molecular clock estimates.**—Relaxed molecular clock estimates indicate that *Neopurcellia* diverged from its sister group in the Late Cretaceous. It diversified into a northern and southern lineage during the Miocene, *ca.* 18–21 Ma, following the Oligocene marine transgression (*ca.* 35–22 Ma) (Fig. 2); it is plausible that the expansion of land area during this time contributed to the initial diversification of *Neopurcellia*. Diversification of populations within each of the northern and southern phylogeographic lineages began around 6.6–5.8 Ma, coinciding with the uplift of the Southern Alps (10–5 Ma) (Fig. 2). This orogenic event shifted the precipitation gradient of the South Island, creating areas of high rainfall along the west coast, where *Neopurcellia* is found, and drier areas to the East. Ecological niche modeling has indicated that moisture is a primary determinant of habitat suitability for mite harvestmen (Boyer et al. 2016). Given that *Neopurcellia* diversified during the uplift of the Southern Alps, it seems likely that the expansion of high-moisture forests due to the uplift of axial mountain ranges allowed *Neopurcellia* to expand its range to its current impressive extent.

While scientists agree that New Zealand's vegetation cover shifted dramatically during the LGM, the past two decades have seen debate concerning the extent to which woody vegetation persisted during this period (Newnham et al. 2013). Some researchers argue that evidence from the fossil record of beetles suggests there was much more extensive woody vegetation than has been inferred from the pollen record

(Marra et al. 2006; Burge & Shulmeister 2007). In response, McGlone, Newnham, and colleagues re-evaluated New Zealand's LGM pollen record and provided a new reconstruction of vegetation cover (McGlone et al. 2010; Newnham et al. 2013). According to the results of their work, much of the current range of *Neopurcellia* was covered by glacial ice or permanent snow, but some unglaciated areas would have persisted. Two small patches of vegetation are reconstructed at the western margin of the ice and snow that covered the Southern Alps and much of Fiordland, one at the far southwest tip of the South Island and another just north of Milford Sound. In addition, a very large vegetated area, extending up the west coast of the South Island and into to the North Island, would have had its southern limit around Paringa. All of these unglaciated areas were covered by a mosaic of shrubland, grassland, and patches of beech and rare conifers (McGlone et al. 2010; Newnham et al. 2013).

Many animals endemic to New Zealand's South Island, including both invertebrates such as stoneflies and vertebrates such as rock wrens, show a north-south phylogeographic split that has been dated to *ca.* 2 Ma, consistent with a model in which allopatric isolation in glacial refugia drove diversification (reviewed by Buckley et al. [2015] and Wallis et al. [2016]). While the north-south split within *Neopurcellia salmoni* coincides geographically with the divergences in these other animal taxa, it predates them by *ca.* 20 Ma. Therefore, it is likely that for *N. salmoni*, LGM refugial areas preserved relictual populations of a lineage that was already highly structured as opposed to driving diversification. In the Australian Wet Tropics, a model system for studying the effect of paleoclimatic fluctuations on the evolution of rainforest biota, both molecular dating and paleoclimatic modeling approaches indicate that in the case of mite

harvestmen, LGM refugia acted as museums rather than cradles of biodiversity (Boyer et al. 2016; Oberski et al. 2018). The role of LGM refugia is expected to differ across taxa with respect to organism size and dispersal ability (Graham et al. 2006); Cyphophthalmi represent an extreme case of dispersal limitation, and we are therefore not surprised that our results differ from patterns seen in other co-distributed groups.

**Male polymorphism.**—Like all Cyphophthalmi, *Neopurcellia salmoni* is sexually dimorphic; males bear an adenostyle claw on their fourth tarsus, while females do not, and males bear prominent scopular hairs on the posterior of the body (visible in Figure 4) while females do not. Females of the species present uniform morphology, but males were readily categorizable to one of two discrete morphotypes: glandular (Figs. 3B–D, 4B–D) and non-glandular (Figs. 3A, 4A). The vast majority of glandular males resembled the individual in Figs. 3D and 4D. Only one population exhibited noticeable variation within the glandular type (ZMUC 11-15b, Figs. 3B–C, 4B–C). Although we initially suspected that the two morphotypes might represent two species, our phylogeographic analysis indicated that geography, rather than morphology, predicted relatedness, allowing us to reject this hypothesis.

Male polymorphism was not previously known within Cyphophthalmi, but it is well documented in the harvestman suborders Eupnoi and Laniatores (Buzatto & Machado 2014). In three families of Eupnoi, males exhibit discrete morphs with respect to the thickness of their pedipalps or size of chelicerae. In Laniatores, some species present discrete variation in the size and robustness of male chelicerae while other species' males may vary with respect to protuberances or spines on their dorsal scuta. Buzatto et al. (2014) carried out a comparative study of 48 Laniatores species from the family Gonyleptidae and showed that male polymorphism never occurred in sexually monomorphic species, indicating a correlation between sexual dimorphism and male polymorphism in harvestmen. Furthermore, the study demonstrated that male polymorphism has been gained independently multiple times in gonyleptids, suggesting significant evolutionary flexibility in this trait.

Intrasexual polymorphism can be an outcome of strong sexual selection. Males with reduced fitness may develop alternative reproductive tactics (ARTs) often associated with morphological divergences in ornaments and weaponry, especially in arthropods (Painting et al. 2015). Given the correlation between male polymorphisms and ARTs (Buzatto & Machado 2014), it is possible that the intraspecific morphological variation observed in *Neopurcellia salmoni* arose as an alternative mating tactic for less fit males. Cyphophthalmi likely engage in scramble competition polygyny, where mating opportunities are equally available to all and mating occurs several times during an adult's life (Machado & Macías-Ordóñez 2007). The eyes of Cyphophthalmi are typically small, laterally positioned, and simple; it is thought that these animals rely heavily on chemical communication (Willemart & Giribet 2010). Male mite harvestmen commonly bear pores associated with the anal plate or the adenostyle claw of the fourth tarsus, while females typically do not, suggesting a sexual function of the pores and associated glands. Therefore, we speculate that the dorsal glandular

openings of *Neopurcellia salmoni* may improve mating success by enhancing chemical signaling by glandular males to potential mates.

It is possible that the absence of male polymorphism in some of the *Neopurcellia* populations is due to a small sample size or the absence of adult males in many of the collections; we do not discard the possibility that the trait is more geographically widespread than reported in this study. The wide distribution of the different morphotypes across both southern and northern lineages suggests this is a morphological adaptation that has proven to be successful or neutral. Unfortunately, none of the specimens examined in this study was preserved in such a way that histological work could be performed; further investigation should include such examination of the structure of these unique features, as well as behavioral studies to determine their function.

**Conclusions and future directions.**—While the presence of two different male morphs initially suggested multiple *Neopurcellia* species, the seemingly random geographic and phylogenetic distribution of the male morphotypes allows us to reject this hypothesis. Furthermore, any impulse to split *N. salmoni* into multiple species based on genetic data alone is checked by the lack of diagnostic morphological differences among lineages in combination with a lack of fixed variation in slower-evolving nuclear loci. This study presents the first known description of male polymorphism amongst Cyphophthalmi and calls for an extensive survey of other members of Pettalidae for variations in their dorsal morphology in order to determine the prevalence of this intriguing trait.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors thank Gonzalo Giribet (Harvard University) and Kristi Curry Rogers (Macalester College) for their valuable feedback on this project. We also thank Kata Hahn and Rainah Ward, students in the lab of SLB enrolled in the Spring 2019 course Biology 476: Research in Biodiversity and Evolution, for their input and support. Rodrigo Willemart (University of São Paulo) provided helpful discussion on the morphology and function of the dorsal pores and glands. Adam Baldinger and Laura Leibensperger arranged loans of previously-collected specimens and accessioned our newly-collected specimens into the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology. Jeff Thole assisted with scanning electron microscopy in Macalester's Keck Laboratory. Jeremy Wilson and an anonymous reviewer provided feedback that greatly improved this manuscript. Funding for this project was provided by the National Science Foundation under grant DEB-1732643 to SLB, an NSF GRFP to CMB, and the Macalester College Provost Office.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Tables S1–S7, Figures S1–S3, available in Supplementary File 1, online at <https://doi.org/10.1636/JoA-S-20-003.s1>

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*Manuscript received 10 January 2020, revised 5 September 2020.*