Phylogeny and Biogeography of the Core Babblers (Aves: Timaliidae)

Robert G. Moyle^{1,*}, Michael J. Andersen¹, Carl H. Oliveros¹, Frank D. Steinheimer², and Sushma Reddy³

¹Biodiversity Institute and Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-7561, USA;

²Natural History Collections, Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, Domplatz 4, D-06108 Halle (Saale), Germany; and

³Department of Biology, Loyola University, Chicago, IL 60660, USA;

*Correspondence to be sent to: Biodiversity Institute, Dyche Hall, University of Kansas, 1345 Jayhawk Blvd., Lawrence, KS 66045-7561, USA;

E-mail: moyle@ku.edu.

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Abstract.—The avian family Timaliidae is a species rich and morphologically diverse component of African and Asian tropical forests. The morphological diversity within the family has attracted interest from ecologists and evolutionary biologists, but systematists have long suspected that this diversity might also mislead taxonomy, and recent molecular phylogenetic work has supported this hypothesis. We produced and analyzed a data set of 6 genes and almost 300 individuals to assess the evolutionary history of the family. Although phylogenetic analysis required extensive adjustment of program settings, we ultimately produced a well-resolved phylogeny for the family. The resulting phylogeny provided strong support for major subclades within the family but extensive paraphyly of genera. Only 3 genera represented by more than 3 species were monophyletic. Biogeographic reconstruction indicated a mainland Asian origin for the family and most major clades. Colonization of Africa, Sundaland, and the Philippines occurred relatively late in the family's history and was mostly unidirectional. Several putative babbler genera, such as *Robsonius*, *Malia*, *Leonardina*, and *Micromacronus* are only distantly related to the Timaliidae. [Babbler; biogeography; convergence; parameter interaction; Timaliidae.]

The Timaliidae, generally known as the babblers, is a diverse family of oscine passerine birds that traditionally includes about 275 species in 50 genera (Dickinson 2003). These Old World insectivores are strikingly diverse, both in species richness and breadth of morphological and behavioral adaptations. Babblers are highly social forest birds that often are found in mixed-species flocks. Their diversity of forms and behaviors, which has led to comparisons with Neotropical antbirds (Thamnophilidae) and antthrushes (Formicariidae) in their ecological diversity (Collar 2003), is reflected in the English names of some babbler genera: wrenbabblers, jungle-babblers, tit-babblers, thrush-babblers, parrotbills, scimitar-babblers, etc.

Babblers are a major component of the tropical Asian avifauna and a model system to study the biogeography of SE Asia. This species-rich family reaches its highest diversity in SE Asia and is almost entirely restricted to the Old World (one species occurs in North America). Babblers are a significant part of the forest community in Asia, with a dozen or more species co-occurring in most areas. This high level of sympatry suggests that they are ideal for assessing general diversification patterns and testing biogeographic congruence among multiple codistributed groups. Most species of babblers are restricted to the interior of tropical forests, have relatively limited distributions, and are not migratory. These attributes minimize the introduction of noise into biogeographic analyses. However, biogeographic inference has not been possible because relationships among babblers have mostly been unknown and even family membership is uncertain for many genera. The extent of taxonomic disarray was well characterized by Mayr and Amadon (1951), who stated that the Timaliidae had long been a "scrap basket" for genera that did not fit well into other families.

Recent molecular phylogenetic work has begun to shed light on the degree of disconnect between taxonomy and relationships in babblers (Cibois 2003; Gelang et al. 2009). Cibois (2003) sequenced mitochondrial DNA from 62 species of babblers and discovered that some putative ingroup taxa were not babblers (Kakamega and Pteruthius), whereas some outgroup genera (Sylvia [traditionally Sylviidae] and Zosterops [traditionally Zosteropidae]) were reconstructed within babblers. Furthermore, several genera were not recovered as monophyletic. Basal nodes in the phylogeny were not strongly supported, possibly because of the reliance on mitochondrial DNA alone. Gelang et al. (2009) shifted sampling strategies and included 4 nuclear markers in addition to one mitochondrial gene. This character sampling resulted in much better resolution of basal nodes in the family, allowing unambiguous subfamily delineation. However, the Gelang et al. (2009) study included only 41 species and so was unable to address the issue of paraphyletic genera identified by Cibois (2003).

Additional studies have focused on subsets of the Timaliidae, which made possible reinterpretations of some babbler relationships. For example, Philippine members of the genus *Stachyris* are closely related to the family Zosteropidae (Cibois et al. 2002; Zhang et al. 2007; Moyle et al. 2009), the genus *Pteruthius* (Reddy and Cracraft 2007), and *Erpornis zantholeuca* (Cibois et al. 2002; Barker et al. 2004) are closely related to New World vireos (Vireonidae), and the genus *Alcippe*, in fact, comprises 4 clades that are interspersed throughout the babbler phylogenetic tree (Pasquet et al. 2006). In general, modern systematic studies of babblers recover

paraphyly of genera, species, and even subspecies (e.g., Cibois et al. 2002; Cibois 2003; Reddy 2005; Pasquet et al. 2006; Zhang et al. 2007; Zou et al. 2007; Gelang et al. 2009; Luo et al. 2009; Dong et al. 2010; Reddy and Moyle 2011; Yeung et al. 2011). These molecular studies illustrate clearly what had been suspected by avian systematists (e.g., Newton et al. 1893; Mayr and Amadon 1951): extreme ecomorphological variation obscures every level of timaliid classification. Yet this same attribute that makes the taxonomy so vexing also makes the family intriguing for evolutionary study.

Our main objective was to produce a robust phylogenetic hypothesis for the babblers to evaluate current taxonomy and assess the evolution of the family. We assembled a large data set of nuclear and mitochondrial DNA sequences from almost 300 individuals, which included all but one genus and roughly 55% of babbler species, to reconstruct phylogenetic relationships and estimate divergence times within the Timaliidae. We used these to evaluate the geographic origin of major clades and assess the potential influence of major isolating features—such as the Isthmus of Kra, the oceanic islands of the Philippines, and the dry Middle East—on the structure and diversity of this family of tropical forest birds across these regions. The highest diversity of babblers is found in mainland Asia and we evaluated the biogeographic patterns to determine if this is the result of babblers originating in Asia or multiple colonization events from other regions. We also assessed whether there is support for multiple invasions of the same region being of the same time period, thereby providing support for a common mechanism or event leading to this expansion.

As we began preliminary analyses it became apparent that our data matrix exhibited many symptoms that might lead to unreliable phylogenetic results. The problems we encountered appear to be typical of large heterogeneous data sets (e.g., Miya et al. 2005; Soltis et al. 2007; Hackett et al. 2008; Parfrey et al. 2010; Thomson and Shaffer 2010). We used several methods to explore the behavior of the analysis and adjusted program settings in an attempt to ensure that we identified a reliable estimate of relationships among babblers. These methods included experimenting with many combinations of the number of heated chains and the amount of heating of those chains in Bayesian analysis, identification and removal of unstable taxa, and changing priors on branch lengths. Ultimately, we concluded that existing methods were amenable to analysis of our data, but careful consideration of the analytical process and the behavior of programs was required.

MATERIALS AND METHODS *Taxon and Character Sampling*

Taxon sampling included 296 individuals from approximately 50 genera and 151 species of babblers and an additional 10 sylvioid genera as outgroups (Appendix Table A1). The entire matrix was rooted with *E. zantholeuca*. This species had been included in the

babblers until molecular data (Cibois et al. 2002; Barker et al. 2004) revealed that it was in fact a corvoid and only distantly related to babblers. The rest of the outgroup taxa were unconstrained in the analysis. We included 2 samples per species whenever possible for 2 reasons. First, we used the redundancy to guard against errors of misidentification, mislabeling, or sample contamination. Second, we used geographically disjunct sampling localities to obtain a preliminary idea of intraspecific genetic divergences. The source of this material breaks down as follows: 265 samples derived from vouchered fresh tissue samples, 28 samples of historical DNA derived from museum study skins, 2 samples derived from unvouchered blood samples, and sequences for one individual were downloaded from GenBank.

To provide phylogenetic signal at multiple levels in the phylogeny, we sequenced 3 mitochondrial genes and 3 nuclear introns. Sequences of the mitochondrial genes cytochrome b (Cytb), nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide dehydrogenase subunit 2 (ND2), and subunit 3 (ND3), the fifth intron of the transforming growth factor (TGF) β2, the fifth intron of the nuclear gene Beta-Fibrinogen (Fib5), and the third intron of the Z-linked muscle-specific kinase gene (MUSK) were amplified using the primers L14851 (Groth 1998), L428 and H494 (Reddy 2008), Hb745 (Reddy and Moyle 2011), L5215— H6313 (Sorenson et al. 1999), L10755—H11151 (Chesser 1999), TGF5 and TGF6 (Primmer et al. 2002), Fib5 and Fib6 (Marini and Hackett 2002), MUSK-I3F and MUSK-I3R (Kimball et al. 2009), respectively. Laboratory methods generally followed those described in Oliveros and Moyle (2010). For DNA samples extracted from museum study skins, conditions followed those described in Reddy (2008). Contigs were reconciled in Sequencher 4.9 (Genecodes) and fine-tuned manually following an initial alignment with MUSCLE v3.8 (Edgar 2004).

Data Exploration and Program Settings

As is the case with most systematic studies, our primary concern in phylogenetic analysis was obtaining robust estimates of relationships among the ingroup taxa. Preliminary Bayesian and maximum likelihood (ML) analysis on our data indicated that several analytical hurdles would impede straight-forward phylogenetic analysis: failure to converge, parameter interaction, and unrealistic branch lengths in Bayesian runs, and taxon instability due to missing data in ML and Bayesian analyses. These issues were above and beyond the standard fine-tuning of program settings. Below we describe a general work flow of analytical approaches. In the Results section, we report additional fine-tuning to the analytical approach that we adopted in response to certain outcomes.

Rogue taxa.—Our data matrix contained several taxa represented by a small proportion of the total number of characters. DNA sequences for these taxa were derived from old museum study skins rather than fresh tissues, and some individuals had fewer than 700 bp

of sequence (~15% of the matrix). In the context of supermatrices, it has been shown that missing data can cause unstable placement of taxa in a phylogeny, so-called "rogue taxa," lowering support indices for clades that otherwise would receive strong support (Sanderson and Shaffer 2002; Thomson and Shaffer 2010). To test the stability of taxon placement, and its influence on phylogenetic reconstruction, we imported the trees from 1000 RAxML (Stamatakis 2006; Stamatakis et al. 2008) bootstrap replicates into Mesquite (Maddison and Maddison 2010) and measured taxon instability among trees. Taxa that had few data and highly variable phylogenetic placement among bootstrap replicates, which might obscure high support for clades, were removed from some analyses.

Data partitions and evolutionary models.—Preliminary runs of MrBayes using default settings did not converge after 20-million generations, as judged by the average standard deviation of split frequencies (AS-DSF) reported by the program. Furthermore, plots of log-likelihoods from the posterior distribution shifted to new plateaus after several million generations of seeming stationarity. The lack of convergence precluded the use of Bayes Factors (Huelsenbeck and Imennov 2002; Nylander et al. 2004; Brandley et al. 2005) to determine optimal partitioning of the data. Because of this we used ML searches in GARLI-PART version 0.97 (Zwickl 2006) with the Akaike Information Criterion (AIC) (Akaike 1974) and Bayesian Information Criterion (Schwarz 1978) to test various partitioning strategies. Because of the large number of possible partitions in the data, we limited testing to a set of partitions that are biologically intuitive (i.e., genes and codon positions) and found to induce large increases in likelihood scores in other studies (e.g., Nylander et al. 2004; Brandley et al. 2005; McGuire et al. 2007). Appropriate evolutionary models for each partition were evaluated by the AIC in MrModeltest 2.3 (Nylander 2004) based on likelihood scores derived from PAUP* ver. 4b10 (Swofford 2003). Subsequent ML and Bayesian analysis utilized the chosen partitioning strategy and evolutionary models.

Phylogenetic Analysis

We conducted tree searches under the ML criterion using Garli 0.97 (Zwickl 2006) and RAxML 7.2.6 (Stamatakis 2006; Stamatakis et al. 2008). RAxML searches consisted of 20 repetitions from random starting trees. Settings for Garli searches included 200 attachments per taxon, generation threshold for *topoterm* 10,000 and score threshold for termination 0.05. Likelihood scores from each program, and topologies from both programs, were compared with assess convergence on a common topology and likelihood. Support for nodes in the phylogeny was estimated with 1000 fast bootstrap repetitions in RAxML.

Bayesian analysis used the parallel version of MrBayes 3.1.2 (Huelsenbeck and Ronquist 2001; Ronquist and Huelsenbeck 2003; Altekar et al. 2004).

All analysis used multiple concurrent runs and at least 3 heated chains for each cold chain. The substitution matrix, base frequencies, and gamma shape parameter were unlinked between data partitions, and the rate prior was set to variable (prset applyto = (all) ratepr=variable), allowing partitions to evolve at different rates. The number of attempted chain swaps was increased to 2 (nswaps = 2). Bayesian analysis was conducted on the entire matrix as well as each locus individually. The 3 mitochondrial genes were considered a single locus and analyzed together.

Examination of parameter estimates from preliminary Bayesian analysis revealed that default program settings would not be optimal for this data set and that extensive fine-tuning would be necessary to achieve reliable results. MCMC runs using default parameters resulted in a low proportion of accepted swaps between adjacent Markov chains, typically less than 5%, and independent runs had not converged after 40-million generations. To increase the efficiency of sampling, we incrementally lowered the *temp* value in MrBayes until the proportion of accepted swaps was in a range of ~0.2–0.7. Because of the incremental heating used in MrBayes, we also added more heated chains to some runs with lower *temp* values.

We used several methods to assess the results of our Bayesian analysis. We used the program splitsmb (Lakner and Ronquist 2008) to examine the ASDSF using a range of burn-in proportions. Tracer 1.5 (Rambaut and Drummond 2007) and Are We There Yet? (AWTY; Wilgenbusch et al. 2004) were used to visualize the convergence of parameter estimates and posterior probability of clades, respectively. Tree topologies and support values were compared with TreeGraph 2 (Stover and Muller 2010).

Timing of Diversification

When estimating dates for nodes in a molecular phylogeny, the choice of calibration points and the way they are represented can have a large influence on node ages and confidence intervals (e.g., Inoue et al. 2010). The fossil record of passerine birds is sparse and does not provide useful calibration points for babblers. Instead, we used 2 secondary calibrations derived from other timecalibrated phylogenies. This is admittedly not an ideal strategy, and all age estimates must be evaluated with caution. One secondary calibration is derived from a study of Zosterops relationships (Moyle et al. 2009) that assessed the timing of diversification using island ages in the Solomon Islands as calibration points and estimated the crown Yuhina + Zosteropidae to be a maximum of 8.8 Ma. The second calibration is derived from the rifting of New Zealand from Australia, a putative vicariant event used to calibrate a higher level phylogeny of passerine birds (Barker et al. 2004). This calibration yielded a range of 27.1–37.3 Ma for the node separating megalurine warblers from all other sylvioids. Our taxon sampling incorporated these nodes and allowed us to use these age estimates to calibrate the timing of

diversification in babblers. The estimated ages of marine transgressions that inundated the Isthmus of Kra, which separates mainland Asia from Sundaland, have been used as calibration points in other studies (e.g., Fuchs et al. 2006, 2008), but we were interested in evaluating the influence of the Isthmus in generating or partitioning diversity so we avoided using it as a calibration in this study.

To place an approximate time scale on the babbler phylogeny, we used the 2 calibration points and the ML phylogram to produce an ultrametric tree with branch lengths proportional to time in Phylobayes (Lartillot and Philippe 2004, 2006). Phylobayes uses MCMC to sample a posterior distribution of node ages from a fixed topology under a variety of relaxed clock models. We used the lognormal model (Thorne et al. 1998) to describe the change of rates over time and applied a broad gamma-distributed prior to the root of the tree (mean 40, standard deviation 20). Soft bounds were used on the calibration points, which allowed 5% of the probability to be allocated outside of the calibration limits. A birth-death prior on divergence times was specified with p1 and p2 considered free parameters.

Biogeographic Analysis

The broad geography inhabited by babblers and our incomplete species-level sampling induced us to perform biogeographic analysis at the broadest levels. We coded 6 geographic regions that are separated by substantial barriers: Africa, Eurasia, Sundaland, oceanic Philippines, east of Wallace's Line, and New World. The first 4 regions cover the vast majority of the species diversity in babblers. Our main goal was to infer the geographic origin of major clades of babblers. Our sampling of the Zosteropidae was especially sparse (20 of ca. 120 species) but we captured all the basal nodes in the family (Moyle et al. 2009), which are needed for biogeographic reconstruction of basal babbler nodes. We acknowledge that the regional coding lumps some biogeographical subregions, such as the Himalayas and Indochina. Future analysis with more complete specieslevel sampling will be required to assess the influence of these regions.

We used parsimony and Bayesian methods to reconstruct ancestral areas at nodes in the phylogeny. Both methods were implemented in the software program Reconstruct Ancestral States in Phylogenies v1.1 (RASP; Yu et al. 2011) and included summation of the results over trees from 50-million generations of the posterior distribution (10,000 trees) to account for topological uncertainty. First, we used the event-based method Statistical Dispersal-Vicariance Analysis (Yu et al. 2010), which allows multiple topology summation within DIVA (Ronquist 1997), thus accounting for phylogenetic uncertainty. DIVA is a parsimony-based method in which vicariance is assumed and inferred dispersal events are assigned a cost. Long-distance dispersal likely contributed to the current distribution of babblers; therefore, an a priori assumption of vicariance

may not be appropriate. To account for this, DIVA contains a useful feature in which the maximum number of areas in the ancestral distribution can be limited. This option eliminates ancestral distributions that contain multiple far-removed regions and forces dispersal. No extant species of babbler spans more than 2 regions, and the few that span 2 regions only occur in Asia and Sundaland. Because of these geographic restrictions, we limited the maximum number of regions in ancestral areas to 2. Because DIVA only allows a maximum of 127 terminals, we excluded the second individual of all species, included only babblers and Erpornis and winnowed clades that included only a single geographic character state. For this reduced data set, we coded Erpornis as occurring in all regions to not bias reconstructions at the base of the tree.

Dispersal-Vicariance Analysis has been criticized because the assumption of vicariance might bias reconstructions and is unrealistic in oceanic island settings (e.g., Lamm and Redelings 2009; Kodandaramaiah 2010). Because the geographic regions we used contain oceanic islands, we also used a model-based Bayesian reconstruction of ancestral states. The Bayesian method in RASP (Yu et al. 2011) used the MrBayes 3.1.2 source code and implemented relatively simple models of character state evolution that assumed equal rates of change and fixed (JC) or estimated (F81) state frequencies. Character states (biogeographic regions) were analyzed as binary characters and gamma-distributed rate variation between sites (regions) could be enabled. Because some geographic regions contain few babbler species, and exchange between regions is expected to vary, we used the F81+gamma model. Two independent runs of 10 chains with a temperature of 0.1 were run for 1-million generations and sampled every 100 generations. A distance between runs (analogous to the ASDSF) of less than 0.01 was used as an indicator of convergence. We discarded 2500 samples (250,000 generations) before calculating the state frequencies. As in the DIVA analysis above, we limited to 2 the maximum number of areas included within ancestral distributions. The full taxon sampling was used in Bayesian reconstructions.

RESULTS

The final DNA sequence matrix comprised 292 individuals and 4688 characters, of which 1760 were constant, 362 were variable but parsimony uninformative, and 2566 were parsimony informative. Informative sites were distributed across loci as follows: ND2 (669), ND3 (208), Cytb (546), TGF (390), Fib5 (363), and MUSK (395). Base composition varied among loci but was consistent with patterns recovered for the same markers in other bird groups. All mtDNA sequences appeared to be genuine mitochondrial sequence, rather than nuclear copies. Sequences contained no stop codons, overlapping fragments contained no conflicts, base composition was homogeneous across taxa, codon positions contained expected relative divergences (3 > 1 > 2), and there were no highly suspect relationships among taxa.

The data matrix and final trees are available at TreeBASE (http://www.treebase.org; S11986).

Based on nonmonophyly of conspecific samples, we determined several individuals that we suspected of being identified incorrectly. We checked with the loaning institution for each of the problematic samples and, because we used >99% vouchered material, we were able to obtain clarifications of all identifications. Some samples had already been reidentified by the host institution, whereas others were reidentified after our information requests. A few species (e.g., *Alcippe morrisonia*, *Pomatorhinus ruficollis*, and *Pomatorhinus erythrogenys*) remained paraphyletic, but corroborate results from other studies (e.g., Zou et al. 2007; Reddy and Moyle 2011).

Program Settings and Behavior of Analysis

Preliminary Bayesian analysis that included only 6 data partitions revealed that simultaneously accounting for invariant sites and gamma-distributed rate variation among sites appeared to induce parameter interaction. In 2 subsets of the data, independent runs stabilized on different parameter estimate ranges. One run stabilized on a high proportion of invariant sites and a high value for α (describing the gamma distribution), whereas the other run stabilized on a lower proportion of invariant sites and a correspondingly lower α (Fig. 1). Apparently, using 2 methods to accommodate rate variation across sites allowed combinations of parameter estimates that produced multiple regions of high posterior probability. The effects of the interaction between rate heterogeneity parameters on our parameters of interest (topology and branch lengths) are unclear. Although one pair of runs stabilized on similar likelihood scores, both pairs of runs did not achieve topological convergence; the ASDSF after 20-million generations was \sim 0.05 for both pairs. MrModeltest 2.3 (Nylander 2004) indicated either GTR + G or GTR + I + G evolutionary models for all data partitions. Because of the potential for parameter interaction, we chose to omit the invariant sites parameter and used only gamma-distributed rate variation.

The AIC indicated that the most partitioned model best fit the data (Table 1). This model contained 12 partitions, dividing the data by each gene and codon position. The BIC indicated a more conservative scheme with 10 partitions, which included all 3 introns in a single partition. The 2 partitioning strategies produced almost identical results. Consensus-tree topologies were identical and posterior probabilities varied only slightly, especially for well-supported nodes.

Early Bayesian runs stabilized on tree lengths that were \sim 3 times larger than values obtained from ML analyses. This phenomenon has been noted in Bayesian analysis of partitioned data sets (Brown et al. 2010; Marshall 2010), and we used the workaround described by Marshall (2010) to overcome the unrealistic tree lengths by adjusting the branch-length prior in MrBayes to an exponential distribution with a smaller

mean (0.01) via the command: prset applyto = (all) brlenspr = unconstrained:exponential(100). After this adjustment, all Bayesian runs converged on tree lengths similar to those recovered from ML analysis.

Taxon instability tests in Mesquite (Maddison and Maddison 2010) revealed that 2 species for which we had limited data varied in phylogenetic placement far more than all other taxa in the matrix. These 2 species, Parophasma galinieri and Graminicola bengalensis, were represented by 2 individuals each but all 4 samples contained less than a quarter, and as little as 7.5%, of the characters in the data matrix (351–958 bp). Removing these taxa from the analysis resulted in a marked increase in bootstrap support for many basal nodes in the tree. For example, when P. galinieri was included in the analysis, it was inferred to be the sister taxon of the Timaliinae (Fig. 2, clade C), albeit with only 55% bootstrap support but support for other basal nodes in the Timaliinae dropped dramatically. Support for the Timaliinae (exclusive of P. galinieri) fell from 100% to 66% and the 2 main subclades from 98% and 97% to 83% and 85%, respectively. Inclusion of the other unstable taxon, G. bengalensis, reduced support values across basal nodes within the Leiothrichinae (Fig. 2, clade A). All subsequent analysis omitted these taxa.

The temp setting in Bayesian analysis was lowered by increments until, at a setting of 0.06, the proportion of successful swaps for adjacent chains was between 0.2 and 0.5. This lower temperature did not, however, induce convergence between the posterior distribution of topologies of independent runs. Two runs of 4 chains with temp = 0.06 had failed to converge when the run was terminated after 50-million generations (Supplementary Fig. 1, http://datadryad.org, doi:10.5061/dryad.100jc764). Likewise, including additional heated chains to runs at higher temp settings did not seem to influence the rate of convergence either. However, the combination of a low temp value and extra heated chains changed the behavior of runs entirely. Two independent runs of 8 chains each (7 heated) and a temp = 0.06 converged rather quickly. The ASDSF using the default burn-in of 0.25 crossed below 0.01 by 10.5-million generations.

Phylogenetic Results

Bayesian and ML analysis produced congruent phylogenetic trees, with differences not supported strongly by bootstrap resampling or posterior probability. Basal nodes subtending major clades of babblers all received strong support from both analysis methods (Fig. 2). Similar to recent molecular studies (e.g., Alström et al. 2006; Johansson et al. 2008; Gelang et al. 2009), several babbler genera (e.g., *Chamaea, Paradoxornis, Fulvetta, Conostoma*, and *Chrysomma*) were members of a clade (Fig. 3, clade E) separate from all other babblers and should more correctly be assigned to the Sylviidae. We also corroborated earlier results indicating that the white-eye family Zosteropidae is embedded within the babbler genus *Yuhina* (Fig. 3, clade D; Moyle et al. 2009). Within

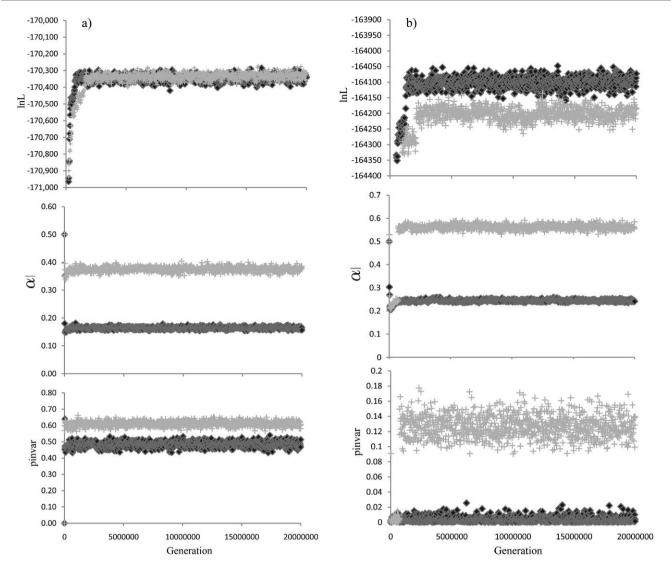


FIGURE 1. Likelihoods and parameter estimates for second codon positions (a) and the MUSK intron (b) from 2 different 20-million generation preliminary Bayesian runs. From top to bottom, log likelihood, α parameter for gamma-distributed rates among sites, and proportion of invariant sites are plotted against generation. Likelihood scores are not comparable because taxon sampling differed slightly between runs. The ASDSF at the end of each run was 0.049 (a) and 0.055 (b).

the core babblers, all analyses identified 3 subclades corresponding to the Leiothrichinae, Pellorneinae, and Timaliinae of Gelang et al. (2009). All 3 clades received high node support.

The first major subclade (Fig. 3, clade A), Leiothrichinae, included the species-rich genus *Garrulax* and several other smaller genera and was well supported, with bootstrap support/posterior probability of 97/1.0.

TABLE 1. Results of ML-based partition testing of the combined matrix

N^a	Description	lnL	Free parameters	AIC ^b	BICc
1	All together	-169226.0831	9	338470.1662	338528.2162
2	mt, nuc	-166517.8794	19	333073.7588	333196.3088
4	mt, 3 nuc	-166472.0646	39	333022.1292	333273.6792
4	3 mtgenes, nuc	-166299.429	39	332676.858	332928.408
4	3 codon positions, nuc	-163539.1057	39	327156.2114	327407.7614
6	3 codon positions, 3 nuc	-163494.4529	59	327106.9058	327487.4558
10	3 codon positions × 3 mtgenes, nuc	-163160.3325	99	326518.665	327157.215
12	3 codon positions \times 3 mtgenes, 3 nuc	-163107.7703	119	326453.5406	327221.0906

^aNumber of partitions, each using GTR + G.

^bCalculated as 2*(parameters - lnL).

 $^{^{}c}$ Calculated as $(-2lnL) + (parameters \times ln base pairs).$

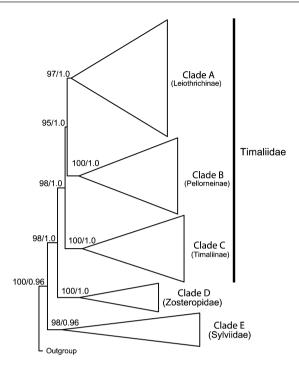


FIGURE 2. Summary of higher level relationships for babblers based on ML analysis of the combined data set with 12 partitions. Numbers by nodes refer to ML bootstrap support/Bayesian posterior probability.

The basal node in the clade divided the genus Alcippe (sensu Pasquet et al. 2006) from the rest of the taxa and was also well supported (96/1.0). Uncertainty exists about relationships just above this basal node. Bayesian results (not shown) placed Garrulax striatus sister to Cutia nipalensis, whereas ML results placed each species branching sequentially from the base of their clade. Neither relationship was well supported, with a posterior probability of 0.88 separating the 2 taxa and bootstrap support of 43% uniting them as sisters. Moving up from the base of the tree, the next clade (77/0.99) subdivided into 2 large subclades. One of the subclades included a clade with a large number of *Garrulax* species sister to a clade including Phyllanthus and Kupeornis imbedded inside of Turdoides. The second subclade included the remainder of the Garrulax species sister to a clade including Heterophasia, Actinodura, Minla, Crocias, Liocichla, and Leiothrix. Well-supported nodes in clade A rendered Garrulax, Turdoides, Actinodura, and Minla, nonmonophyletic.

The second major subclade of babblers (Fig. 3, clade B), Pellorneinae, was sister to clade A with strong support (95/1.0). Support for the clade was unequivocal (100/1.0) but some basal relationships within the clade were not well resolved. The clade was divided into 2 large subclades. One subclade (97/0.95) included a monophyletic *Malacopteron* (100/1.0) sister to a clade that united *Gampsorhynchus* sister to *Schoeniparus*. The other major subclade within clade B comprised 4 well-supported clades, but relationships among the 4 were

equivocal. The first clade (100/1.0) included *Ptyrticus* embedded inside of *Illadopsis*. The second clade (100/1.0) included *Trichastoma*, a nonmonophyletic *Pellorneum*, and 2 of the 4 *Malacocincla* species included in the study. The third clade included the remaining 2 *Malacocincla* species, *Napothera*, *Ptilocichla*, *Jabouillea*, and *Rimator*. The final clade comprised only a single species, *Kenopia striata*. Well-supported nodes in clade B rendered *Illadopsis*, *Pellorneum*, *Malacocincla*, and *Napothera* nonmonophyletic.

The third major subclade of babblers (Fig. 3, clade C), Timaliinae, was sister to the clade formed by clades A and B. This group included the large genera Stachyris and Pomatorhinus as well as several smaller genera. Pomatorhinus, Xiphirhynchus, Sphenocichla, Spelaeornis, and the larger-bodied Stachyris species formed a clade with strong support (97/1.0). Within that clade Spelaeornis was sister to all other species. Sphenocichla was reconstructed among the larger bodied Stachyris, which formed a clade with low support and, in turn, was embedded within Pomatorhinus, as was *Xiphirhynchus*. The other half of clade C included *Dume*tia, Rhopocichla, Timalia, Macronus, and the smaller bodied Stachyris species. Macronus was not monophyletic, with Macronus gularis reconstructed in a weakly supported clade (61/0.98) with Dumetia, Timalia, and Rhopocichla, whereas Macronus striaticeps and Macronus ptilosus formed a clade (95/1.0) sister to the smallbodied Stachyris clade (100/1.0). Of genera represented by more than one species in clade C, only Spelaeornis was monophyletic.

All analyses placed 4 traditional genera of babblers outside of the clades described above. Because of the sparse outgroup sampling in families more distantly related to the babblers, these genera could not be placed with any certainty. Three of the aberrant babbler genera—*Leonardina*, *Robsonius*, and *Micromacronus*—are endemic to the Philippines, whereas *Malia* is endemic to Sulawesi.

Individual gene trees (Supplementary material) were largely congruent with the combined results, but with lower support for most relationships. Two notable, wellsupported differences occurred in single gene trees. First, analysis of TGF alone produced strong support for a sister relationship between the Zosteropidae (Fig. 2, clade D) and Leiothrichinae (Fig. 2, clade A). This relationship is not supported by any of the other markers, which placed the Zosteropidae sister to the babblers with significant support (mtDNA and MUSK) or unresolved (Fib). The second discrepancy concerned the placement of Alcippe with respect to the Leiothrichinae (Fig. 3, clade A). Analysis of 2 introns alone placed the genus sister to the Pellorneinae with posterior probabilities of 0.99 (MUSK) and 0.31 (Fib5), whereas the other 2 markers placed it as the basal lineage in the Leiothrichinae with posterior probability of 0.66 (mtDNA) and 1.0 (TGF). The lack of topological convergence in independent Bayesian runs under default program settings did not appear to be caused by this conflict in phylogenetic signal. Analysis of the combined matrix without *Alcippe*

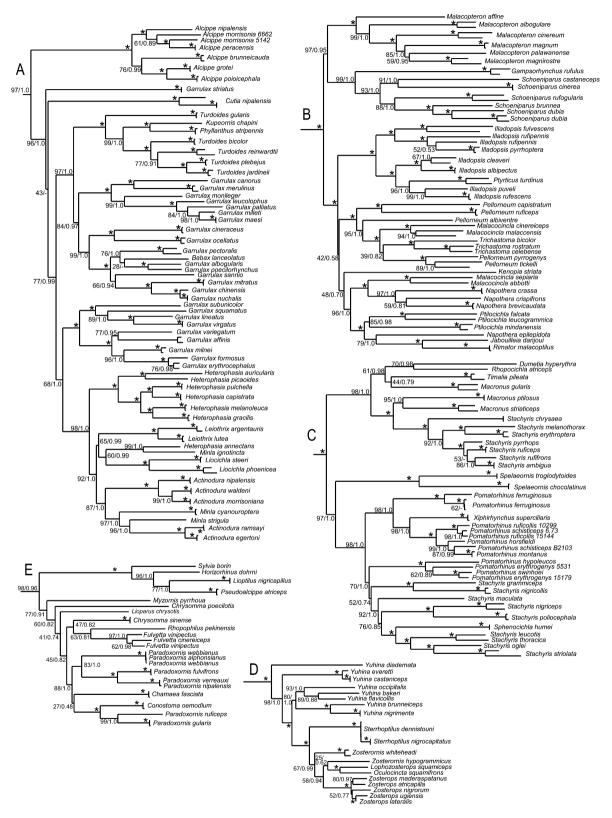


FIGURE 3. Detailed phylogeny of clades based on ML analysis of the combined data set with 12 partitions. Numbers by nodes refer to ML bootstrap support/Bayesian posterior probability. Clade letters correspond to Figure 2. Asterisks indicate 1.0 posterior probability and 100% bootstrap support.

did not converge after 40-million generations under default program settings.

Biogeographic Results

Bayesian and parsimony reconstruction of ancestral areas produced congruent results for most basal nodes (Fig. 4). Two of the 3 core babbler clades (Leiothrichinae and Timaliinae), as well as the Zosteropidae, were reconstructed unambiguously as originating in mainland Asia. The 2 methods differed regarding the ancestral area of the Pellorneinae, with the Bayesian results strongly supporting a mainland Asia origin possibly shared with Sundaland, whereas DIVA was more equivocal, indicating plausible support for 4 ancestral areas: Asia, Sundaland, Asia + Sundaland, and Africa + Asia.

As expected from the preponderance of Asian taxa in the Leiothrichinae, the subfamily appears to have evolved mostly within mainland Asia, with a single colonization of Africa (Turdoides, Phyllanthus, and Kupeornis) and a few colonizations of Sundaland (e.g., Garrulax mitratus, Garrulax palliatus, and Alcippe brunneicauda). Although the origin of the Timaliinae was unambiguous, both biogeographic methods produced many equivocal reconstructions within the subfamily, indicating multiple colonizations of Sundaland and one of the Philippines, as well as the possibility of infrequent back colonizations to Asia. This pattern of ambiguity was expanded in the Pellorneinae, with multiple disjunctions between Asian and Sundaland along with a single colonization event of the Philippines (Ptilocichla mindanensis, from Sundaland), and a single colonization of Africa (*Illadopsis*, from an uncertain ancestral distribution).

DIVA and Bayesian methods reconstructed some biogeographic events in different ways. For example, the colonization of Africa by *Turdoides* appears to be an uncomplicated pattern but is reconstructed differently by the 2 methods. The genus is embedded within an unambiguously Asian clade, and a single colonization of Africa is evident. However, Bayesian analysis produces an unequivocal Asian distribution for the ancestor of the African clade and its Asian sister taxon (*Turdoides gularis*), whereas DIVA (not shown) reconstructs a larger ancestral distribution of Asian + Africa.

Time Scale of Evolution

Relaxed clock analysis using the 2 secondary calibrations produced a time scale for babbler evolution (Fig. 4) that placed early diversification events in the Miocene. The node uniting the Zosteropidae with the core babblers was estimated at 16.1–21.0 Ma, and the 3 babbler clades (A, B, C) began diversifying from 11.2 to 17.8 Ma. Inferred continental dispersal/vicariance events were not contemporaneous in most cases. For example, 2 large African radiations split from Asian sister clades at 10.0–14.1 Ma (origin of *Illadopsis/Ptyrticus*) and 6.4–9.9 Ma. (within *Turdoides*). We lacked samples for several Asian species of *Turdoides*. Including those samples might have altered this age estimate but would probably

have induced a more recent estimate, further from the estimate for *Illadopsis*. We included all species of *Illadopsis* and dense sampling of related genera.

Some of the molecular dating results indicated that the 2 calibration points may have been providing age information at odds with one another. Although the age ranges applied to the 2 calibration nodes were broad, the analysis produced narrow confidence intervals around each of the calibration nodes, and the confidence intervals extended beyond the calibration range, which was permitted by using soft bounds on the calibration ranges. For example, age estimates for the crown Zosteropidae (8.4–11.4 Ma) were mostly older than the calibration range, which was a maximum of 8.8 Ma. Likewise, the estimated split between Megalurus and other sylvioids (25.7-28.8 Ma) is narrow but extends beyond the broad calibration interval (27–37 Ma). With our data, model, and program settings, the analysis seemed to favor a smaller time interval between the calibration nodes than was allowed by the calibration intervals; in essence the calibration nodes were pulled toward each other. We interpret this to mean that one or both of the calibration intervals may be invalid, the model or program settings biased the analysis or that substantial shifts in the rate of molecular evolution occurred across portions of the tree.

DISCUSSION

Considering their ecological, morphological, and taxonomic diversity, babblers are a promising group for exploring many facets of evolution. However, evolutionary inference requires a robust hypothesis of relationships among taxa, and our results show clearly that current taxonomy is rife with unnatural groups. Producing a reliable estimate of phylogeny was not a straightforward task because the data matrix was not amenable to stock analysis and instead required extensive data exploration and testing of program settings. A combination of low temperature and an increased number of heated chains markedly increased the rate of convergence of independent Bayesian runs. This strategy has been identified previously (Beiko et al. 2006), and studies of large data sets that struggle to obtain convergence (e.g., Miya et al. 2005; Soltis et al. 2007; Hackett et al. 2008; Parfrey et al. 2010; Thomson and Shaffer 2010) may benefit from similar strategies.

Two partitions in our data—second codon positions of the mtDNA and the nuclear intron MUSK—exhibited signs of parameter interaction between invariant sites and gamma-distributed rates (Fig. 1). A set of invariant (or slowly evolving) sites can be accounted for in 2 ways: a low proportion of invariant sites and a low α (indicating a high proportion of slowly evolving sites) or a high proportion of invariant sites and a corresponding high α . For the second codon-position partition, the 2 runs appeared to converge because likelihoods stabilized in the same range, but the runs did not sample similar posterior distributions of topologies. Issues of parameter identifiability when simultaneously

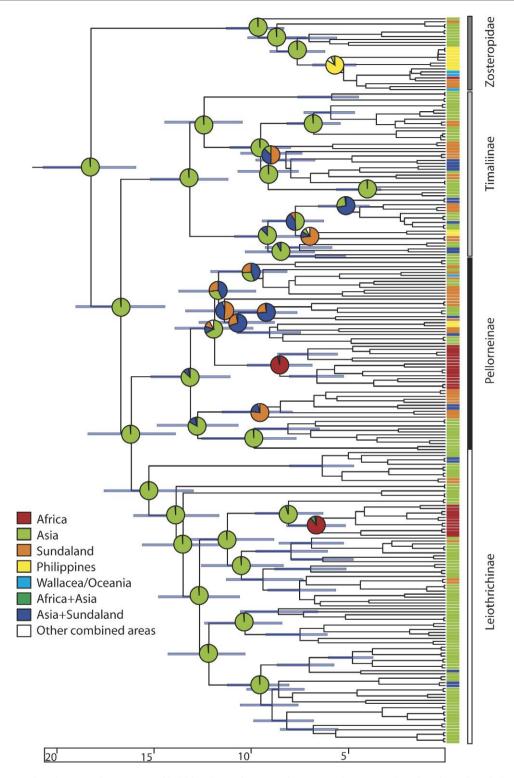


FIGURE 4. Temporal and geographic aspects of babbler diversification. The time scale was produced with a relaxed clock method and 2 calibrations (see text for details). Bars on nodes indicate 95% confidence interval for age estimates. The bar at the bottom gives the absolute time scale in millions of years before present. Pie diagrams at nodes indicate probability of various ancestral area combinations from the Bayesian analysis. Only ancestral areas for basal nodes are shown.

accounting for invariant sites and gamma-distributed rates have been demonstrated with simulated data (Sullivan et al. 1999) and discussed in informal settings (e.g., http://treethinkers.blogspot.com/2009/04/

when-we-fail-mrbayes.html), but to our knowledge have not been demonstrated in published empirical studies. Our results suggest that omitting the invariant sites model may be preferable in some situations. Ultimately, we were able to produce a robust phylogenetic hypothesis, as judged by congruence of results between ML and Bayesian analysis and across multiple independent trials for each method starting from random topologies. These results allowed us to assess timaliid relationships and biogeographic history, discuss analytical issues, and make taxonomic recommendations for the family.

Phylogenetic Relationships

Allowing for substantial differences in taxon sampling, our phylogenetic results broadly corroborate the higher level relationships and taxonomy outlined by Gelang et al. (2009). After removal of the 2 rogue taxa, each of the 3 clades of core babblers received strong support but with one notable difference compared with Gelang et al. (2009). In our phylogeny, the 6 species of Alcippe formed a clade strongly supported as a basal lineage in clade A (Fig. 3). Gelang et al. (2009) included a single species of Alcippe (A. poioicephala) that was strongly supported as a basal lineage of the Pellorneinae (Fig. 3, clade B). Our denser taxon sampling may have influenced this difference, but gene tree-species tree discordance may have played a role as well. Individual gene trees from each study reveal a variety of relationships for *Alcippe*, most with weak support. The support in our phylogeny derives largely from the TGF data, whereas RAG-1 and ODC provide significant support for the relationship in Gelang et al. (2009). Additional markers and species-tree methods (e.g., Maddison and Knowles 2006; Liu 2008) may be required to assess this relationship further.

Babbler family limits are a matter of conjecture. Alström et al. (2006) and Johansson et al. 2008 subsumed all 5 of our clades (A–E) into an expanded Timaliidae, but this recommendation was based on sampling only 10 and 8 species in the family, respectively. Because of the focus on higher level relationships, subfamilies were not identified. Gelang et al. (2009) recommended that the Sylviidae (clade E) be retained as a family and that the Timaliidae be split into 4 subfamilies (our clades A–D). We mostly agree with this decision but would retain the family Zosteropidae for clade D, rather than subsume it as a subfamily of the Timaliidae. Species of the traditional Zosteropidae still constitute the vast majority of the species diversity in the clade. Furthermore, although Yuhina is distributed mostly in the Asian mainland, zosteropids are quite unlike the core babblers; most of their diversity lies outside of Asia and is instead centered on oceanic islands of Wallacea and the tropical Pacific.

Of 19 core babbler genera represented in this study by more than one species, 12 were not monophyletic and some, such as *Garrulax* and *Stachyris*, comprised multiple clades. Only 3 genera represented by more than 3 species (*Malacopteron*, *Alcippe*, and *Schoeniparus*) were monophyletic. If not for the recent taxonomic revision of *Alcippe* by Pasquet et al. (2006), *Malacopteron* would have been the only well-sampled, monophyletic genus.

These results underscore both the dire state of systematics in even the most well known of groups but also the tremendous ecomorphological diversity and convergence within the babblers.

Four genera previously included in the Timaliidae were strongly supported as belonging to other passerine families. Three of the genera—*Robsonius*, *Micromacronus*, and *Leonardina*—are endemic to the oceanic islands of the Philippines, whereas *Malia* is endemic to Sulawesi. Another Philippine endemic, *Hypocryptadius cinnamomeus*, which had been included in the Zosteropidae, and thus within or close to the babblers, was recently shown to be distantly related to any of these taxa (Moyle et al. 2009; Fjeldsa et al. 2010). Denser outgroup sampling will be required to identify more specifically their relationships.

Several recent taxonomic revisions of babblers have been proposed in the absence of phylogenetic evidence. These revisions can now be compared with a phylogenetic hypothesis for the family, and it is apparent that they do not remedy the poor state of babbler taxonomy. Attempts to break up the large heterogeneous genera often result in multiple paraphyletic groups. For example, the monophyly of Malacopteron is sundered by Collar and Robson's (2007) resurrection of a monotypic genus for Malacopteron [Ophrydornis] albogulare. Malacopteron is among the few examples in our phylogeny of monophyletic genera, and we recommend that it retains its traditional membership. Collar and Robson (2007) were correct to split the nonmonophyletic Stachyris and Garrulax, yet their proposed taxonomy yields multiple genera that are still paraphyletic (e.g., Garrulax, Dryonnastes, Trochalopteron, Stachyris, and Stachyridopsis). Likewise, Napothera is not monophyletic but revision based on body size (Collar 2006) produces additional paraphyly.

Biogeographic History and Timing of Diversification

The time estimates and biogeographic reconstruction imply an origin and early diversification of the core babblers in mainland Asia in the mid-Miocene. Because they are derived from 2 secondary calibrations, our date estimates must be considered with caution. Nguembock et al. (2009) estimated the timing of diversification within the babbler genus Illadopsis and produced dates broadly younger than our estimates, with confidence intervals that barely overlapped ours. We did not use the date estimates from Nguembock et al. (2009) as secondary calibrations in our study because their estimates are based on secondary calibrations from Barker et al. (2004), one of the sources we also used. It is worrisome, but not surprising, that 2 studies based on the same secondary calibrations would produce disparate divergence times. Nonetheless, most divergence dates within passerine birds have been calibrated with the vicariance date used by Barker et al. (2004) or secondary calibrations therein.

The overall biogeographic pattern is of an origin in mainland Asia with repeated colonization of other regions. Unambiguous recolonization of mainland Asia from other regions was rare, although the direction of colonization is ambiguous at some nodes. Asia and Sundaland, the 2 regions that currently (or at the Last Glacial Maximum for the islands) have land connections, had the most frequent interchange of lineages. This supports the hypothesis that babblers are most diverse in mainland Asia because the family, and most subclades, originated in Asia.

In birds, much biogeographic analysis in SE Asia has focused at the level of genera or species complexes (e.g., Moyle et al. 2005; Outlaw and Voelker 2008; Reddy 2008; Reddy and Moyle 2011). Other studies included higher level taxa that were not very species rich (Hosner et al. 2010) or focused on subsets of the region, such as the Philippines (Oliveros and Moyle 2010) or the Himalayas (Johansson et al. 2007). Thus, hypotheses about diversification have necessarily been limited to regional aspects and have been unable to address broader patterns of diversification in the Asian tropics, let alone interaction with other regions. Interestingly, a vicariant hypothesis for the generation of diversity and geographic structure that has received increased attention involves the Isthmus of Kra, which separates Sundaland from Southern Asia, the regions of highest babbler diversity, and 2 of the regions in our biogeographic analysis. Marine transgressions are hypothesized to have separated mainland Asia from Sundaland in the Miocene and Pliocene, providing a potential vicariance event and isolation of taxa in the 2 regions (Hughes et al. 2003; Woodruff 2003).

The hypothesis that marine transgressions across the Isthmus of Kra during the Miocene and Pliocene were the vicariance event that differentiated much of the Sunda and Indochinese biotas is not supported by our data. Ambiguous area reconstructions at some internal nodes preclude identification of all Asia/Sunda splits, but we can identify several unambiguous relationships and compare them with ages of marine transgressions. Several Sunda species are clearly derived from mainland Asian relatives (e.g., G. mitratus, G. palliatus, A. brunneicauda, Pomatorhinus montanus, and Stachyris rufifrons), yet their estimated divergence times span 1.2–7.0 Ma, and several are nonoverlapping. The origin of the genus Malacopteron (10.8–15.0 Ma) and the split between the clades containing *Stachyris nigriceps* and *Po*matorhinus hypoleucos (7.6-10.8 Ma) also represent fairly clear disjunctions between Asia and Sundaland. Thus, biogeographic patterns potentially caused by vicariance at the Isthmus of Kra span 1.2–15.0 Ma, and we can conclude that little, if any, of the geographic structure was caused by a single vicariant event at the Isthmus of Kra.

The isthmus is now a narrow corridor of land approximately 70 km across in places, but at the last glacial maximum the connection between Indochina and Sundaland was greater than 1000 km across. Furthermore, climate and forest cover changes in the Pleistocene altered the distribution of suitable habitat for forest dwelling species. Refined interpretation of sea level change in the Neogene indicates that the isthmus was never breached in the past 10 million years, and faunal turnover in the region is best explained by

the cycle of habitat expansion and contraction in the Plio-Pleistocene (Woodruff and Turner 2009). Marine transgressions at the isthmus have been used to calibrate the timing of diversification (Fuchs et al. 2006, 2008) and the rate of molecular evolution (Weir and Schluter 2008) in birds, but the accuracy and precisions of such calibrations seems questionable.

Babblers colonized Africa twice, leading to moderately diverse radiations. Both colonization events are inferred to have originated from mainland Asia but at different times. The wet-forest adapted Illadopsis are inferred to have colonized Africa from 10.0 to 14.1 Ma, whereas the more dry-adapted and open country genus Turdoides is inferred to have colonized Africa from 6.4 to 9.9 Ma. Although the specific dates are open to interpretation, it is notable that the confidence intervals do not overlap and thus it is unlikely that the 2 events were linked to the same climate/earth history events. The sequence of colonization events makes intuitive sense considering that southern Asia, the putative colonization route, experienced increased seasonal aridity in the Late Miocene (Molnar 2005; Lu et al. 2010; Molnar et al. 2010) accompanied by expansion of more open habitats (Barry et al. 1985). Indeed, Turdoides species currently inhabit drier parts of southern Asia and the Middle East, whereas most of the closest relatives of *Illadopsis* are currently restricted to the wet forests of Southeast Asia and Sundaland.

A surprising finding of this study is that most Philippine babblers are not babblers at all. These results add to previous findings (Cibois et al. 2002; Moyle et al. 2009) that removed Philippine members of *Stachyris* from the family. The result is that the oceanic islands of the Philippines only host 2 species of babblers (*P. mindanensis* and *M. striaticeps*) and can be considered a peripheral region in terms of biogeographic history of the family. Further work is required to identify the affinities of several of these Philippine taxa (in preparation).

Taxonomic Recommendations

We recommend the following taxonomic arrangement for the Timaliidae based on the results from this study, Gelang et al. (2009), Cibois (2003), and Pasquet et al. (2006). Species level taxonomy follows Clements (2007). Species following a genus name in square brackets have been moved from that genus.

FAMILY Timaliidae

SUBFAMILY Timaliinae

Timalia (pileata)

Mixornis ([Macronus] gularis, flavicollis, kelleyi)

Dumetia (hyperythra)

Rhopocichla (atriceps)

Macronus (*striaticeps*, *ptilosus*)

Cyanoderma ([Stachyris] chrysaeum, erythropterum, melanothorax, pyrrhops, ruficeps, ambiguum, rufifrons)

Spelaeornis (caudatus, badeigularis, troglodytoides, formosus, chocolatinus, longicaudatus)

Pomatorhinus (ferruginosus, ochraceiceps, ruficollis, horsfieldii, schisticeps, montanus, [Xiphirhynchus] superciliaris)

Megapomatorhinus ([Pomatorhinus] hypoleucos, erythrocnemis, erythrogenys, swinhoei)

Stachyris (grammiceps, nigricollis, maculata, nigriceps, poliocephala, leucotis, thoracica, oglei, striolata, rodolphei, herberti, nonggangensis, [Sphenocichla] humei)

SUBFAMILY Pellorneinae

Malacopteron (palawanense, magnirostre, affine, cinereum, magnum, albogulare)

Gampsorhynchus (rufulus)

Schoeniparus ([Alcippe] cinereus, castaneceps, rufogularis, brunneus, dubius)

Illadopsis (fulvescens, rufipennis, pyrrhoptera, cleaveri, albipectus, rufescens, puveli, [Ptyrticus] turdina)

Pellorneum (ruficeps, capistratum, fuscocapillus, palustre, albiventre, tickelli, pyrrogenys, [Malacocincla] malaccense, cinereiceps, [Trichastoma] rostratum, celebense, bicolor)

Kenopia (striata)

Napothera (epilepidota, [Jabouilleia] danjoui, naung-mungensis, [Rimator] malacoptila)

Ptilocichla (leucogrammica, mindanensis, falcata)

Turdinus ([Malacocincla] abbotti, sepiarius, perspicillatus, [Napothera] macrodactylus, rufipectus, atrigularis, marmoratus, crispifrons, brevicaudatus, crassus)

Graminicola (bengalensis)

SUBFAMILY Leiothrichinae

Alcippe (variegaticeps, ludlowi, brunneicauda, poioicephala, morrisonia, pyrrhoptera, peracensis, nipalensis, grotei)

Grammatoptila ([*Garrulax*] *striata*)

Cutia (nipalensis)

Turdoides (nipalensis, altirostris, caudata, earlei, gularis, longirostris, malcolmi, squamiceps, fulva, aylmeri, rubiginosa, subrufa, striata, rufescens, affinis, reinwardtii, tenebrosa, sharpie, hartlaubii, melanops, squamulata, leucopygia, bicolor, hypoleuca, hindei, leucocephala, plebejus, jardineii, gymnogenys, [Kupeornis] gilberti, rufocincta, chapini, [Phyllanthus] atripennis)

Garrulax (cinereifrons, palliatus, rufifrons, perspicillatus, leucolophus, monileger, lugubris, strepitans, milleti, maesi, merulinus, canorus)

Ianthocincla ([Garrulax] sukatschewi, cineracea, rufogularis, konkakinhensis, ocellata, lunulata, bieti, maxima, pectoralis, albogularis, ruficollis, nuchalis, chinensis, vassali, galbana, delesserti, gularis, davidi, caerulata, poecilorhyncha, mitrata, sannio, [Babax] lanceolata, waddelli, koslowi)

Trochalopteron ([Garrulax] cachinnans, jerdoni, lineatum, virgatum, subunicolor, austeni, squamatum, elliotii, variegatum, henrici, affine, morrisonianum, erythrocephalum, ngoclinhensis, yersini, formosum, milnei)

Heterophasia (capistrata, gracilis, melanoleuca, desgodinsi, auricularis, pulchella, picaoides)

Leiothrix (argentauris, lutea)

Minla (ignotincta, [Heterophasia] annectans)

Crocias (langbianis, albonotatus)

Liocichla (omeiensis, bugunorum, steerii, phoenicea)

Actinodura (sodangorum, nipalensis, waldeni, souliei, morrisoniana, egertoni, ramsayi, [Minla] cyanouroptera, strigula)

Megapomatorhinus.—Among the genus names used in the past for the group/members of the group now newly separated from *Pomatorhinus* based on moleculargenetic markers, none is available according to the Code (ICZN 1999): Orthorhinus Blyth 1844: 124 is preoccupied by Orthorhinus Schönherr 1825, Coleoptera; Erythrogenys E. C. S. Baker 1930, is preoccupied by Erythrogenys Brandt 1841, itself a nomen emendatum of Gould's Erythrogonys. Hodgson's (1836, Asiatic Researches vol. 20: p. 180) use of the name Erythrogenys is without a proper genus description and the original description in the paper refers to a new species only; thus also this name is not available. We therefore formally establish here *Megapomatorhinus* gen. nov., diagnosed by its general appearance and proportions like Pomatorhinus babblers but generally larger, and in adult birds a curved bill roughly as long as the head, upperparts olive brown to brown, white underparts gradually becoming rusty or brown toward the vent, on breast and/or on flanks striped/dotted light to dark brown/umber, white supercilium lacking or, if present, thin and not reaching distally in front of the eyes, sexes alike; the type species is Orthorhinus hypoleucos Blyth 1844; molecular-genetically studied material: AMNH DOT5531, AMNH DOT5179, BMNH 2000.5.22, KUNHM 6715. The name acknowledges the similarity to species of *Pomatorhinus*, but also the large, heavybodied, and large-billed nature of species in the named

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Supplementary material, including data files and/or online-only appendices, can be found in the Dryad data repository (doi:10.5061/dryad.100jc764).

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TABLE A1. List of samples used in the study

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Table A1. (continued)

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ij	LID	JN826053		IN826054	JN826056	JN826057	JN826058	JN826059	JN826060	JN826061	JN826062	JN826063	JN826064	JN826065	JN826067	JN826068	JN826069	JN826070	JN826071	JN826072	JN826073	JN826074	JN826075	JN826076	JN826077	JN826078	JN826079	JN826080	JN826081	JN826082	JN826083	JN826084	JN826085	7802C9INI	JINOZ0000		IN826089	IN826090	IN826091	JN826092	JN826095	JN826094	JN826096	JN826097	 1N826098	
TOE	IGF	FJ460911		IN826306	JN826308	JN826309	JN826310	JN826311	JN826312	JN826313	JN826314	JN826315	JN826316	JN826317	JN826318	JN826319	JN826320	FJ460910	JN826321	JN826322	JN826323	JN826324	JN826325	JN826326	JN826327	JN826328	JN826329	JN826330	JN826331	JN826332	JN826333	FJ460914	JN826334	JIV626333	J1N020330	1N826339	IN826340	IN826341	IN826342	JN826343	JN826345	JN826344	JN826346	FJ460909	 IN826347	
4#5	Cytp	JN827082		IN827083	JN827085	JN827086	JN827087	JN827088	1	JN827089	JN827090	JN827091	JN827092	JN827093	JN827095	JN827096	JN827097	JN827098	JN827099	HQ529140	JN827100	JN827101	JN827102	JN827103	JN827104	JN827105	JN827106	JN827107	JN827108	JN827109	JN82/110	JN82/111	JN82/112	JIN62/113	JIN02/ 114		IN827117	IN827118	IN827119	N827120	HQ529141	JN827122	JN827123	JN827124	 IN827125	
SCIN 5	CONI	FJ460843	JN626619 JN826821	IN826820	JN826822	JN826823	JN826824	JN826825	JN826826	JN826827	JN826828	JN826829	JN826830	JN826831	JN826832	JN826833	JN826834	FJ460842	JN826835	JN826836	JN826837	JN826838	JN826839	JN826840	JN826841	JN826842	JN826843	JN826844	JN826845	JN826846	JN826847	FJ460846	JN826848	JN020049	JIN626630	IN826851	IN826855	IN826856	IN826857	JN826858	JN826861	JN826860	JN826862	FJ460841	JN826863 JN826864	
כוא	INDZ	FJ460775	JN826559	JN826560	JN826562	JN826563	JN826564	1	JN826565	JN826566	JN826567	JN826568	JN826569	JN826570	JN826571	JN826572	JN826573	FJ460774	JN826574	HQ529041	JN826575	JN826576	JN826577	JN826578	JN826579	JN826580	JN826581	JN826582	JN826583	JN826584	JN826585	F)460778	JN826586	JN020307	00000001 101006500	IN826592	IN826593	IN826594	IN826595	JN826596	HQ529042	JN826598	JN826599	FJ460773	JN826600 JN826601	
THE	LOCALITY	Borneo	Vietnam	Myanmar	Vietnam	China	Philippines	China	Myanmar	Taiwan	Taiwan	China	South Africa	South Africa	Borneo	Vietnam	Borneo	Borneo	Philippines	Philippines	Myanmar	Palawan	Borneo	Borneo	Borneo	Borneo	Borneo	Borneo	Borneo	Vietnam	Borneo	borneo	borneo	Delegen	Culawall	Philippines	China	China	China	Myanmar	Vietnam	China	Borneo	Borneo	v iemam Borneo	
Comple #	эаптые #	B36395	346302 DOT2623	15203	DOT6507	6724	19115	10078	15195	DOI:5178	DOT5198	11078	53158	71300	17726	DOI:10805	12325	B36391	14130	357464	2131	12693	12341	17776	B47108	12383	B47244	B50348	12320	DOT10778	12358	b36421	1///0	12600	200462*	579793*	11087	11281	11346	15184	DOT2639	10351	17805	B36469	75755 B52626	
Tochitica	IIISIIIIIIIIIIII	LSUMNS	AMMH	KINHM	AMNH	KUNHIM	KUNHIM	KUNHM	KUNHM	AMNH	AMINH	KUNHIM	UWBM	UWBM	KUNHM	AMNH	KUNHM	LSUMINS	KUNHIM	FMNH	NSNM	KUNHIM	KUNHIM	KUNHIM	LSUMINS	KUNHIM	LSUMINS	LSUMNS	KUNHIM	AMINH	KUNHM	LSUMINS	KUNHIM	L'SOIMINS	ANAME	MNSII	KINHM	KUNHM	KUNHM	KUNHIM	AMINH	KUNHIM	KUNHM	LSUMINS	FINING	
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Table A1. (continued)

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Genus	Sheries	попилан	Janupic #	госашту	INDA	CONI	Cyt D	51	DI I	INIUSN
Stachyris	ambigua	USNM	6152	Myanmar	JN826661	JN826931	JN827183	JN826406	JN826157	JN825911
Stachyris	ambigua	USNM	6183	Myanmar	JN826662	JN826932	JN827184	JN826407	ı	JN825912
Stachyris	chrysaea	KUNHM	15096	Myanmar	JN826664	JN826934	JN827186	JN826408	JN826159	JN825914
Stachyris	chrysaea	KUNHM	15240	Myanmar	JN826665	JN826935	JN827187	JN826409	JN826160	JN825915
Stachyris	erythroptera	KUNHM	12327	Borneo	JN826668	JN826938	JN827190	JN826412	JN826163	JN825918
Stachyris	erythroptera	FSUMINS	B36417	Borneo	FJ460771	FJ460839	JN827191	FJ460907	JN826164	JN825919
Stachyris	grammiceps	LSUMINS	B45463#	Java	JN826669	JN826939	JN827192	JN826413	JN826165	JN825920
Stachyris	leucotis	LSUMINS	B36340	Borneo	JN826671	JN826941	JN827194	JN826415	JN826167	JN825921
Stachyris	maculata	LSUMINS	B36423	Borneo	JN826672	JN826942	JN827195	JN826416	JN826168	JN825922
Stachyris	melanothorax	AMNH	448000*	Java	HQ529129	JN826943	HQ529228	I	I	
Stachyris	nigriceps	KUNHM	10167	China	JN826673	JN826944	JN827196	JN826417	JN826169	JN825923
Stachyris	nigriceps	LSUMINS	B36288	Borneo	JN826674	JN826945	JN827197	JN826418	JN826170	JN825924
Stachyris	nigricollis	KUNHM	12330	Borneo	JN826675	JN826946	JN827198	JN826419	JN826171	JN825925
Stachyris	nigricollis	LSUMINS	B38564	Borneo	JN826676	JN826947	JN827199	JN826420	JN826172	JN825926
Stachyris	oglei	KUNHM	15189	Myanmar	JN826679	JN826950	JN827202	JN826423	JN826175	JN825929
Stachyris	poliocephala	LSUMINS	B36426	Borneo	JN826680	JN826951	JN827203	JN826424	JN826176	JN825930
Stachyris	poliocephala	LSUMINS	B47008	Borneo	JN826681	JN826952	IN827204	JN826425	JN826177	
Stachwris	saourna	AMNH	778719*	India	HO529130	N826953	HO529229			I
Stachwris	ruficeps	KUNHM	6645	China	IN826683	JN826955	IN827206	IN826427	IN826179	IN825932
Stachuris	ruficens	KLINHM	11083	China	IN826682	IN826954	IN827205	IN826426	IN826178	IN825931
Stachuris	rufifrons	SNMIST	B36462	Borneo	IN826684	1N826956	IN827207	IN826428	IN826180	IN825933
Stachuris	striolata	KTINIHM	10003	China	183668KI	1N826958	INI827209	INI826430	IN826182	TNI825935
Stachuris	striolata etriolata	KTINIHM	10136	China	1N1826685	TNI826057	INI827208	005020VI	INS26181	IN825933
Stuchylis	21.101414	ANGMINI	10130	Limia	1105005	10202010	11057200	J1020427	10707011	J1050207
Stachyris	thoracica	AMINE	305044	Java	СС1676ДП	10020939	TQ329232	I	I	
Timalia	pileata	FININE	710011*	Nepal	l	JN826964	JN82/214	I	I	
Tittalia	pineatu	FINITAL	710774	Nepai	——————————————————————————————————————	202020VI	JIVOZ/ZIO	——————————————————————————————————————	701700141	——————————————————————————————————————
тенавтота	bicolor	LSCIMINS	B36396	borneo .	JN826690	C96978NI	JN82/215	JN826434	JN826186	JN825939
Trichastoma	cerepense	AIMINE	17712	Demosi	160020NI	006070NI	JIN62/210	JU020453	JN020107	JIN623940
Trichastoma	rostratum	NCINTIN	1//13	porneo	JN826692	1020201 1020201	JN82/21/	JN820430	JN826188	JN825941
Turdoides	bicolor	UWBINI	20074	South Africa	JN826693	JN826968	JN82/218	JN826437	JN826189	JN823942
Times	פונטוטד	LICAN	70450	South Airica	1020014	906020NI	00000001	JN020450	JN020190	JN023945
Turdoides	gularis	MINIST	57.03	Myanmar	569929NI	1702697U	JN02/220	JN020439	JN020191	JN623944
Times	Suluris	LAZINIM	27.72	Myanınar Carel A Griss	060020NI	1/6020VI	122/20VI	JN020440	JN020192	04620VI
Iuraoides	jaramen	UW BIM	32803	South Africa	JN826698	JN826973	JN82/223	JN826442	JN826194	JN825947
Turalia	jaramen	FIMINE	45555	Malawi	1027501VI	276976M	11057/222	JN826441	JIN826193	JIN823946
Temdoides	pievejus	TOTAME	20023	Sierra Leone	0025C91VI	JIN020974	1102/224 110770171	JN020443	JN020193	JIV625946
Turdoides	pievejus roinznardtii	KHINITA	20055	Sierra I eone	IN826700	779978IVI	1N827226	INS26445	M826190	IN825950
Turdoides	roinmardtii	FMNH	396646	Ghana	10.2501(10.826707	676928VI	TCC7227	IN826446),10201/j	IN825951
Xiphirhunchus	superciliaris	KUNHM	15092	Mvanmar	IN826703	1N826977	IN827228	IN826447	IN826198	IN825952
Xiphirhynchus	superciliaris	CAS	95887	China	JN826704	JN826978	JN827229	JN826448	JN826199	JN825953
7.000000	-					•		•	•	•
Losteropiαae Lonhozosterons	sanamicons	AMNIH	DOT12549	Sulawei	F1460793	F1460861	1N827094	FI460930	1N826066	TN825824
Oculocincta	sauamifrons	TSUMINS	B51197	Borneo	F1460795	F1460863	IN827126	F1460932	1N826099	IN825854
Sterrhoptilus	dennistouni	USNM	3621	Philippines	JN826663	JN826933	JN827185	,	JN826158	JN825913
Sterrhoptilus	dennistouni	KUNHM	20186	Philippines	JN826666	JN826936	JN827188	JN826410	JN826161	JN825916
Sterrhoptilus	dennistouni	KUNHM	20225	Philippines	JN826667	JN826937	JN827189	JN826411	JN826162	JN825917
Sterrhoptilus	nigrocapitatus	KUNHM	18040 449755	Philippines Philippines	JN826677	JN826948 IN826949	JN827200	JN826421 IN826422	JN826173 JN826174	JN825927
Sund Sun Sin	ing i ocupitutus	TIATIATI	CONTE	countdianity	0.002011)1405011	J1402/201	77107011	F /107011	114020720
									0)	(Continued)

TABLE A1. (continued)

JN825954 JN825955 JN825955 JN825956 JN825959 JN825960 JN825963 JN825964 JN825966 JN825966 JN825966 JN825966 JN825966	JN825740 JN825757 JN825759 JN825760 JN825762 JN825763 JN825844 JN825855 JN825856 JN825856 JN825856 JN825856 JN825857 JN825857 JN825857 JN825860 JN825860 JN825860 JN825861 JN825861 JN825863 JN825887
N826200 N826201 N826202 N826203 N826204 N826205 N826206 N826206 N826209 N826210 N826211 N826211 N826212 N826212 N826213 N826	N825967 N825988 N825988 N8259891 N826038 N826038 N826038 N826003 N826100 N82
JN826449 JN826450 —— JN826451 FJ460917 JN826455 JN826455 JN826455 JN826454 JN826454 JN826456 FJ460939 FJ460950 FJ460945 FJ460972 JN826431 JN826431 JN826431	JN826214 GU112589 JN826236 JN826245 JN826245 JN826245 JN826245 JN826245 JN826337 JN826337 JN826338 JN826349 JN826351 JN826351 JN826352 JN826353 JN826353 JN826356 JN826356 JN826356 JN826356 JN826356 JN826356 JN826356 JN826366
JN 827230 JN 827231 JN 827233 JN 827234 JN 827235 JN 827235 JN 827236 JN 827236 JN 827239 JN 827240 JN 827241 JN 827241	JN826989 JN827010 DQ109822 DQ109822 DQ109846
JN826979 JN826981 JN826981 JN826982 FJ460849 JN826984 JN826986 JN826986 JN826985 JN8269870 FJ4608870 FJ460881 FJ460876 FJ4608081 FJ460903 JN826961 JN826961 JN826961 JN826961 JN826961	JN826714 GU112727 JN826738 JN826739 JN826734 JN826731 JN826873 JN826865 JN826865 JN826865 JN826866 JN826866 JN826866 JN826867 JN826869 JN826869 JN826873 JN8268973 JN8269912 JN8269912
N826705 JN826706 JN826708 JN826708 JN826709 JN826710 JN826711 JN826711 JN826711 JN826711 JN826711 JN826711 JN826711 JN826711 JN826711 JN826814 FJ460814 FJ460814 FJ460816 JN826688 JN826688 JN826688	JN826458 GU1112681 JN826480 JN826480 JN826491 JN826492 JN82690 JN826690 JN826603 JN826603 JN826604 JN826604 JN826604 JN826604 JN826604 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN826609 JN82609 JN82609 JN82609 JN82609 JN82609 JN82609 JN82609 JN82609 JN
Myanmar Taiwan China China China Borneo Myanmar China Myanmar Borneo Australia Madagascar Philippines Solomon Is. Philippines	Solomon Islands Borneo USA
631884* DOT5153 10367 13784 11118 17756 15170 9997 11150 15177 B36444 6094 342997 12803 429219 18001	19430 17701 2188 2220 297082* 297082* 297083* 10015 13848 19117 16461 15406 15109 17792 11096 95884 6706 11037 DOT5190 11041 6740 11794 20262 11041 6740 13794 20262 15196 15260 15260 15260 15267 15267 15471
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Notes: Ancient DNA samples denoted by "*" and unvouchered blood samples denoted by "#." Institutional abbreviations: AMNH, American Museum of Natural History; BMNH, Natural History Museum (Tring, UK); CAS, California Academy of Sciences; FMNH, Field Museum of Natural History Museum; LSUMNS, Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science; MNHN, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle; SDSU, San Diego State University; USNM, United States National Museum; UWBM, University of Washington Burke Museum.