

University of Groningen

Molecular ecology and evolution of the porpoises

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DOI:
[10.33612/diss.181589330](https://doi.org/10.33612/diss.181589330)

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Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:
2021

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

Citation for published version (APA):
Ben Chehida, Y. (2021). *Molecular ecology and evolution of the porpoises*. [Thesis fully internal (DIV), University of Groningen]. University of Groningen. <https://doi.org/10.33612/diss.181589330>

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Stellingen/propositions

1. The current phylogeographic pattern among the different porpoise species is primarily the legacy of the last glacial maximum.
2. Direct approaches such as mark–release–recapture, telemetry, and field surveys are generally logistically hard to implement in cetaceans. Without replacing them, genetic (indirect) approaches are a powerful alternative that provide concrete information on the population structure, migration pattern, and demographic trends.
3. Speciation is probably biology’s biggest mystery. (Charles Darwin's "mystery of mysteries")
4. Advancing our understanding of the mechanisms driving speciation requires integrating both the intra- and interspecific evolutionary scales.
5. In molecular ecology, the study goal determines the optimal sampling strategy and the best genetic markers to employ.
6. The genomic revolution is providing unprecedented insight into how evolution works.
7. "Nothing in evolution makes sense except in the light of population genetics" (Michael Lynch)
8. The biological sciences are increasingly dependent on the ability to process large amounts of data. Therefore, modern biological curriculum should give a larger emphasis on statistical and computational skills.
9. "I deeply regretted that I did not proceed far enough at least to understand something of the great leading principles of mathematics, for men thus endowed seem to have an extra sense" (Charles Darwin)
10. "To every complex problem, there is a simple solution, and it is usually wrong" (Henry Louis Mencken)
11. "Genius is nothing but a greater aptitude for patience." (Georges-Louis Leclerc de Buffon)
12. Coffee should be an integral part of the acknowledgment section of any scientific manuscript.