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1	dDocent: a RADseq, variant-calling pipeline designed for population genomics of non-
2	model organisms
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ABSTRACT

15 Restriction-site associated DNA sequencing (RADseq) has become a powerful and useful 16 approach for population genomics. Currently, no software exists that utilizes both paired-end 17 reads from RADseq data to efficiently produce population-informative variant calls, 18 especially for organisms with large effective population sizes and high levels of genetic 19 polymorphism but for which no genomic resources exist. *dDocent* is an analysis pipeline with 20 a user-friendly, command-line interface designed to process individually barcoded RADseq 21 data (with double cut sites) into informative SNPs/INDELs for population-level analyses. The 22 pipeline, written in BASH, uses data reduction techniques and other stand-alone software 23 packages to perform quality trimming and adapter removal, *de novo* assembly of RAD loci, 24 read mapping, SNP and INDEL calling, and baseline data filtering. Double-digest RAD data 25 from population pairings of three different marine fishes were used to compare *dDocent* with 26 Stacks, the first generally available, widely used pipeline for analysis of RADseq data. 27 *dDocent* consistently identified more SNPs shared across greater numbers of individuals and 28 with higher levels of coverage. This is most likely due to the fact that *dDocent* quality trims 29 instead of filtering and incorporates both forward and reverse reads in assembly, mapping, 30 and SNP calling, thus enabling use of reads with INDEL polymorphisms. The pipeline and a 31 comprehensive user guide can be found at (http://dDocent.wordpress.com).

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INTRODUCTION

34 Next-generation sequencing (NGS) has transformed the field of genetics into genomics 35 by providing DNA sequence data at an ever increasing rate and reduced cost (Mardis, 2008). 36 The nascent field of population genomics relies on NGS coupled with laboratory methods to 37 reproducibly reduce genome complexity to a few thousand loci. The most common approach, 38 restriction-site associated DNA sequencing (RADseq), uses restriction endonucleases to 39 randomly sample the genome at locations adjacent to restriction-enzyme recognition sites that, 40 when coupled with Illumina sequencing, produces high coverage of homologous SNP (Single 41 Nucleotide Polymorphism) loci. As such, RADseq provides a powerful approach for 42 population level genomic studies (Ellegren, 2014; Narum et al., 2013; Rowe et al., 2011). 43 The original RADseq approach (Baird et al., 2008), and initial population genomic 44 studies employing it (Hohenlohe et al., 2010), focused on SNP discovery and genotyping on 45 the first (forward) read only. This is because the original RADseq method (Baird et al., 2008) 46 utilized random shearing to produce RAD loci; paired-end reads were not of uniform length 47 or coverage, making it problematic to find SNPs at high and uniform levels of coverage 48 across a large proportion of individuals. As a result, the most comprehensive and widely used 49 software package for analysis of RADseq data, *Stacks* (Catchen et al., 2013, 2011), provides 50 SNP genotypes based only on first-read data. In contrast, RADseq approaches such as 51 ddRAD (Peterson et al., 2012), 2bRAD (Wang et al., 2012), and ezRAD (Toonen et al., 2013) 52 rely on restriction enzymes to define both ends of a RAD locus, largely producing RAD loci 53 of fixed length (flRAD). Paired-end Illumina sequencing of flRAD fragments provides an 54 opportunity to significantly expand the number of SNPs that can be genotyped from a single 55 RADseq library.

56 Here, the variant-calling pipeline *dDocent* is introduced as a tool for generating 57 population genomic data; a brief methodological outline of the analysis pipeline also is 58 presented. *dDocent* is a wrapper script designed to take raw RADseq data and produce 59 population informative SNP calls, taking full advantage of both paired-end reads. *dDocent* is 60 configured for organisms with high levels of nucleotide and INDEL polymorphisms, such as 61 found in many marine organisms (Guo et al., 2012;Keever et al., 2009;Sodergren et al., 62 2006; Waples, 1998; Ward et al., 1994). As input, *dDocent* takes paired FASTQ files for 63 individuals and outputs raw SNP and INDEL calls as well as filtered SNP calls in VCF format. 64 The pipeline and a comprehensive online manual can be found at 65 (http://dDocent.wordpress.com). Finally, results of pipeline analyses, using both *dDocent* and Stacks, of populations of three species of marine fishes are provided to demonstrate the utility 66 67 of *dDocent* compared to *Stacks*, the first and most comprehensive existing software package

68 for RAD population genomics.

69

METHODS

70 *Implementation and basic usage*

71 The *dDocent* pipeline is written in BASH and will run using most Unix-like operating 72 systems. *dDocent* is largely dependent on other bioinformatics software packages, taking 73 advantage of programs designed specifically for each task of the analysis and ensuring that 74 each modular component can be updated separately. Proper implementation depends on the 75 correct installation of each third-party packages/tools. A full list of dependencies can be 76 found in the user manual at (http://ddocent.wordpress.com/ddocent-pipeline-user-guide/) and 77 a sample script to automatically download and install the packages in a Linux environment 78 can be found at the *dDocent* repository (https://github.com/jpuritz/dDocent).

79 *dDocent* is run by simply switching to a directory containing the input data and starting 80 the program. There is no configuration file; *dDocent* will proceed through a short series of 81 command-line prompts, allowing the user to set up analysis parameters. After all required 82 variables are configured, including an e-mail address for a completion notification, *dDocent* 83 provides instructions on how to move the program to the background and run, undisturbed, 84 until completion. The pipeline is designed to take advantage of multiple processing core 85 machines and, whenever possible, processes should be invoked with multiple threads or 86 occurrences. For most Linux distributions, the number of processing cores should be 87 automatically detected. If *dDocent* cannot determine the number of processors, it will ask the 88 user to input the value.

89 There are two distinct modules of *dDocent*: dDocent.FB and dDocent.GATK. 90 dDocent.FB uses minimal, BAM-file preparation steps before calling SNPs and INDELS, 91 simultaneously using FreeBayes (Garrison & Marth, 2012). dDocent.GATK uses GATK 92 (McKenna et al., 2010) for INDEL realignment, SNP and INDEL genotyping (using 93 HaplotypeCaller), and variant quality-score recalibration, largely following GATK Best 94 Practices recommendations (Auwera & Carneiro, 2013; DePristo et al., 2011). The modules 95 represent two different strategies for SNP/INDEL calling that are completely independent of 96 one another. The remainder of this paper focuses on dDocent.FB; additional information on 97 dDocent.GATK may be found in the user guide and results from dDocent.GATK can be 98 found in Appendix S1.

99 Data input requirements

100 *dDocent* requires demultiplexed forward and paired-end FASTQ files for every

101 individual in the analysis. A simple naming convention (a single-word locality code/name

and a single-word sample identifier separated by an underscore) must be followed for every
sample; examples are *LOCA_IND01.F.fq* and *LOCA_IND01.R.fq*. A sample script for using a
text file with barcodes and sample names and *process_radtags* from *Stacks* (Catchen et al.,
2013) to properly demultiplex samples and put them in the proper *dDocent* naming
convention can be found at the *dDocent* repository (https://github.com/jpuritz/dDocent). *Quality trimming*

108 After *dDocent* checks that it is recognizing the proper number of samples in the current 109 directory, it asks the user if s/he wishes to proceed with quality trimming of sequence data. If 110 directed, *dDocent can* use the program *Trim Galore*!

(http://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/trim_galore/) to simultaneously remove
Illumina adapter sequences and trim ends of reads of low quality. By default, *Trim Galore!*looks for double-digest RAD adapters (Peterson et al., 2012) and trims bases with quality
scores less than Phred 10. Typically, quality trimming only needs to be performed once on
data, so the option exists to skip this step in subsequent *dDocent* analyses.

116 *De novo assembly*

117 Without reference material, population genomic analyses from RADseq depend on de 118 *novo* assembly of a set of reference contigs. Inherently, not all RAD loci appear in all 119 individuals due to stochastic processes inherent in library preparation and sequencing and to 120 polymorphism in restriction-enzyme restriction sites (Catchen et al., 2011). Moreover, 121 populations can contain large levels of within locus polymorphism, making generation of a 122 reference sequence computationally difficult. *dDocent* minimizes the amount of data used for 123 assembly by taking advantage of the fact that flRAD loci present in multiple individuals 124 should have higher levels of exactly matching reads (forward and reverse) than loci that are

only present in a few individuals. Caution is advised for unique reads with low levels of
coverage throughout the data set as they likely represent sequencing errors or polymorphisms
that are shared only by a few individuals.

128 During assembly, paired-end reads are reverse complemented and concatenated to 129 forward reads. Unique paired reads are identified and their occurrences are counted in the 130 entire data set. These data are tabulated into the number of unique reads per levels of 1X to 131 50X coverage; a graph is then generated and printed to the terminal. The distribution usually 132 follows an asymptotic relationship (Figure 1), with a large proportion of reads only having 133 one or two occurrences, meaning they likely will not be informative on a population scale. 134 Highly polymorphic RAD loci still should have at least one allele present at the level of 135 expected sequence coverage, so this can be used as a guide for informative data. The user 136 chooses a cut-off level of coverage for reads to be used for assembly – note all reads are still 137 used for subsequence steps of the pipeline.

138 After a cut-off level is chosen, remaining reads are returned in forward- and reverse-read 139 files and then input directly into the RADseq assembly program *Rainbow* (Chong et al., 2012). 140 The default parameters of *Rainbow* are used except that the maximum number of mismatches 141 used in initial clustering should be changed from four to six. In short, *Rainbow* clusters 142 forward reads based on similarity; clusters are then recursively divided, based on reverse 143 reads, into groups representing single alleles. Reads in merged clusters are then assembled 144 using a greedy algorithm (Pop & Salzberg, 2008). *dDocent* then selects the longest contig for 145 each cluster as the representative reference sequence for that RAD locus. If the forward read 146 does not overlap with the reverse read (almost always the case with flRAD), the forward read 147 is concatenated to the reverse read with ten 'N' characters as padding. Finally, reference

sequences are clustered based on overall sequence similarity (chosen by user, 90% by default),
using the program *CD-HIT* (Fu et al., 2012;Li & Godzik, 2006). This final cluster step
reduces the data set further, based on overall sequence identity after assembly. Alternatively, *de novo* assembly can be skipped and the user can provide a FASTA file with reference

152 sequences.

153 *Read mapping*

dDocent uses the MEM algorithm (Li, 2013) of *BWA* (Li & Durbin, 2009, 2010) to map quality-trimmed reads to the reference contigs. Users can deploy the default values of BWA or set an alternative value for each mapping parameter (match score, mismatch score, and gap-opening penalty). The default settings are meant for mapping reads to the human genome, so users are encouraged to experiment with mapping parameters. BWA output is ported to SAMtools (Li et al., 2009), saving disk space, and alignments are saved to the disk as binary alignment/Map (BAM). BAM files are then sorted and indexed.

161 *SNP and INDEL discovery and genotyping*

162 *dDocent* uses a two-step process to optimize the computationally intensive task of 163 SNP/INDEL calling. First, quality-trimmed forward and reverse reads are reduced to unique 164 reads. This data set is then mapped to all reference sequences using the previously entered 165 mapping settings (see *Read Mapping* above). From this alignment, a set of intervals is created 166 using BEDtools (Quinlan & Hall, 2010). The interval set saves computational time by 167 directing the SNP-/INDEL-calling software to examine only reference sequences along contigs 168 that have high quality mappings. Second, the interval list is then split into a single file for 169 each processing core, allowing SNP/INDEL calling to be optimized with a scatter-gather 170 technique. The program *FreeBayes* (Garrison & Marth, 2012) is then executed multiple times

171 simultaneously (one execution per processor and genomic interval). FreeBaves is a Bayesian-172 based, variant-detection software that uses assembled haplotype sequences to simultaneously 173 call SNPs, INDELS, multi-nucleotide polymorphisms (MNPs), and complex events (e.g., 174 composite insertion and substitution events) from alignment files; FreeBayes has the added 175 benefit for population genomics of using reads across multiple individuals to improve 176 genotyping (Garrison & Marth, 2012). FreeBayes is run with minimal changes to the default 177 parameters; minimum mapping quality score and base quality score are set to PHRED 10. 178 After all executions of FreeBayes are completed, raw SNP/INDEL calls are concatenated into a 179 single variant call file (VCF), using VCFtools (Danecek et al., 2011).

180 Variant Filtering

Final SNP data-set requirements are likely to be highly dependent on specific goals and aims of individual projects. To that end, *dDocent* uses *VCFtools* (Danecek et al., 2011) to provide only basic level filtering, mostly for run diagnostic purposes. *dDocent* produces a final VCF file that contains all SNPs, INDELS, MNPs, and complex events that are called in 90% of all individuals, with a minimum quality score of 30. Users are encouraged to use VCFtools and vcflib (part of the *FreeBayes* package; https://github.com/ekg/vcflib) to fully explore and filter data appropriately.

188 *Comparison between dDocent and Stacks*

189 Two sample localities, each comprised of 20 individuals, were chosen randomly from

190 unpublished RADseq data sets of three different, marine fish species: red snapper (Lutjanus

191 campechanus), red drum (Sciaenops ocellatus), and silk snapper (Lutjanus vivanus). These

three species are part of ongoing RADseq projects in our laboratory, and preliminary analyses

indicated high levels of nucleotide polymorphisms across all populations. Double-digest

194 RAD libraries were prepared, generally following Peterson et al. (2012). Individual DNA 195 extractions were digested with EcoRI and MspI. A barcoded adapter was ligated to the EcoRI 196 site of each fragment and a generic adapter was ligated to the *MspI* site. Samples were then 197 equimollarly pooled and size-selected between 350 and 400 bp, using a Qiagen Gel Extraction 198 Kit. Final library enhancement was completed using 12 cycles of PCR, simultaneously 199 enhancing properly ligated fragments and adding an Illumina Index for additional barcoding. 200 Libraries were sequenced on three separate lanes of an Illumina HiSeq 2000 at the University 201 of Texas Genomic Sequencing and Analysis Facility.

202 Demultiplexed individual reads were analyzed with *dDocent*, using three different levels 203 of final reference contig clustering (90%, 96%, and 99% similarity) in an attempt to alter the 204 most comparable analysis variable in *dDocent* to match analysis variables of *Stacks*. The 205 coverage cut-off for assembly was 12 for red snapper, 13 for red drum, and nine for silk 206 snapper. All *dDocent* runs used mapping variables of one, three, and five for match-score 207 value, mismatch score, and gap-opening penalty, respectively. For comparisons, complex 208 variants were decomposed into canonical SNP and INDEL representation from the raw VCF 209 files, using *vcfallelicprimitives* from *vcflib* (https://github.com/ekg/vcflib).

For *Stacks*, reads were demultiplexed and cleaned using *process_radtags*, removing reads with 'N' calls and low-quality base scores. Because *dDocent* inherently uses both reads for SNP/INDEL genotyping, forward reads and reverse reads were processed separately with *denovo_map.pl* (*Stacks* version 1.08), using three different sets of parameters. The first set had a minimum depth of coverage of two to create a stack, a maximum distance of two between stacks, and a maximum distance of four between stacks from different individuals, with both the deleveraging algorithm and removal algorithms enabled. The second set had a

minimum depth of coverage of three to create a stack, a maximum distance of four between
stacks, and a maximum distance of eight between stacks from different individuals, with both
the deleveraging algorithm and removal algorithms enabled. The third set had a minimum
depth of coverage of three to create a stack, a maximum distance of four between stacks, and
a maximum distance of 10 between stacks from different individuals, with both the
deleveraging algorithm and removal algorithms enabled. SNP calls were output in VCF
format.

224 For both *dDocent* and *Stacks* runs, VCFtools was used to filter out INDELs and SNPs that 225 had a minor allele count of less than five. SNP calls were then evaluated at different 226 individual-coverage levels: the total number of SNPs; the number of SNPS called in 75%, 227 90%, and 99% of individuals at 3X coverage; the number of SNPS called in 75% and 90% of 228 individuals at 5X coverage; the number of SNPS called in 75% and 90% of individuals at 10X 229 coverage; and the number of SNPS called in 75% and 90% of individuals at 20X coverage. 230 Overall coverage levels for red snapper were lower and likely impacted by a few low-quality 231 individuals; consequently, the number of 5X and 10X SNPs shared among 90% of individuals 232 (after removing the bottom 10% of individuals in terms of coverage) were compared instead 233 of SNP loci shared at 20X coverage. Results from two runs of *Stacks* (one using forward and 234 one using reverse reads) were combined for comparison with *dDocent*, which inherently calls 235 SNPs on both reads. All analyses and computations were performed on a 32-core Linux 236 workstation with 128 GB of RAM.

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results of SNP calling, including run times (in minutes) for each analysis (not including
quality trimming), are presented in Table 1. Data from high coverage SNP calls, averaged

over all runs for each pipeline, are presented in Figure 1. While *Stacks* called a larger number
of low coverage SNPs, limiting results to higher individual coverage and to higher individual
call rates revealed that *dDocent* consistently called more high-quality SNPs. Run times were
equivalent for both pipelines.

244 At almost all levels of coverage in three different data sets, *dDocent* called more SNPs 245 across more individuals than *Stacks*. Two key differences between *dDocent* and *Stacks* likely 246 contribute these discrepancies: (i) quality trimming instead of quality filtering, and (ii) 247 simultaneous use of forward and reverse reads by *dDocent* in assembly, mapping, and 248 genotyping, instead of clustering as employed by *Stacks*. As with any data analysis, quality of 249 data output is directly linked to the quality of data input. Both *dDocent* and *Stacks* use 250 procedures to ensure that only high-quality sequence data are retained; however, *Stacks* 251 removes an entire read when a sliding window of bases drops below a preset quality score 252 (PHRED 10, by default), while *dDocent* via *Trim Galore*! trims off low-quality bases, 253 preserving high-quality bases of each read. Filtering instead of trimming results in fewer 254 reads entering the Stacks analysis (between 65%-95% of the data compared to dDocent; data 255 not shown), generating lower levels of coverage and fewer SNP calls than *dDocent*. 256 *dDocent* offers two advantages over *Stacks*: (i) it is specifically designed for paired-end 257 data and utilizes both forward and reverse reads for de novo RAD loci assembly, read 258 mapping, variant discovery, and genotyping; and (ii) it aligns reads to reference sequence 259 instead of clustering by identity. Using both reads to cluster and assemble RAD loci helps to 260 ensure that portions of the genome with complex mutational events, including INDELS or small 261 repetitive regions, are properly assembled and clustered as homologous loci. Additionally, 262 using *BWA* to map reads to reference loci enables *dDocent* to properly align reads with INDEL

263 polymorphisms, increasing coverage and subsequent variant discovery and genotyping. 264 Clustering methods employed by Stacks, whether clustering alleles within an individual or 265 clustering loci between individuals, effectively remove reads, alleles, and loci with INDEL 266 polymorphisms because the associated frame shift effectively inflates the observed number of 267 base-pair differences. For organisms with large effective population sizes and high levels of 268 genetic diversity, such as many marine organisms (Waples, 1998; Ward et al., 1994), 269 removing reads and loci with INDEL polymorphisms will result in a loss of shared loci and 270 coverage.

CONCLUSION

dDocent is an open-source, freely available population genomics pipeline configured for
species with high levels of nucleotide and INDEL polymorphisms, such as many marine
organisms. The *dDocent* pipeline reports more SNPs shared across greater numbers of
individuals and with higher levels of coverage than current alternatives. The pipeline and a
comprehensive online manual can be found at (http://dDocent.wordpress.com) and
(https://github.com/jpuritz/dDocent).

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365 Table 1. Results from individual runs of *dDocent* and *Stacks*. *dDocent* runs varied in the 366 level of similarity used to cluster reference sequences: A (90%), B (96%), and C (99%). For 367 *Stacks*, forward reads and reverse reads were separately processed with *denovo map.pl* 368 (Stacks version 1.08), using three different sets of parameters: A, minimum depth of coverage 369 of two to create a stack, a maximum distance of two between stacks, and a maximum distance 370 of four between stacks from different individuals; B, minimum depth of coverage of three to 371 create a stack, a maximum distance of four between stacks, and a maximum distance of eight 372 between stacks from different individuals; and C, minimum depth of coverage of three to 373 create a stack, a maximum distance of four between stacks, and a maximum distance of 10 374 between stacks from different individuals. SNP calls were evaluated at different individual 375 coverage levels: (i) total number of SNPs; (ii) number of SNPS called in 75%, 90%, and 99% 376 at 3X coverage; (iii) number of SNPS called in 75% and 90% of individuals at 5X coverage; 377 (iv) number of SNPS called in 75% and 90% of individuals at 10X coverage; and, (v) number 378 of SNPS called in 75% and 90% of individuals at 20X coverage. Results from forward and 379 reverse reads of *Stacks* were combined for comparison with *dDocent*, which inherently calls 380 SNPs on both reads.

	dDocent A	dDocent B	dDocent C	Stacks A	Stacks B	Stacks C	
	Red snapper						
Total 3X SNPS	30,130	30,043	29,907	28,817	33,479	34,459	
75% 3X SNPs	12,507	12,249	12,012	4,150	5,735	5,728	
90% 3X SNPs	5,368	5,187	5,039	675	987	983	
99% 3X SNPs	52	25	5	0	0	0	
75% 5X SNPs	8,144	7,946	7,793	2,632	4,351	4,324	
90% 5X SNPs	2,775	2,696	2,606	179	579	574	

75% 10X SNPs	4,151	4,017	3,914	783	1,618	1,579		
90% 10X SNPS	785	729	682	7	48	47		
90% IND 90% 5X	5,625	5,499	5,332	806	1,807	1,079		
90% IND 90% 10x	2,403	2,298	2,196	129	441	434		
Run time	59	58	57	70	47	53		
	Red drum							
Total 3X SNPS	27,263	27,329	27,295	45,792	50,821	52,366		
75% 3X SNPs	23,339	23,328	23,226	24,134	28,991	28,981		
90% 3X SNPs	20,764	20,704	20,586	13,439	17,946	17,874		
99% 3X SNPs	7,121	7,022	6,937	828	1,264	1,259		
75% 5X SNPs	20,015	20,009	19,946	21,021	26,526	26,464		
90% 5X SNPs	16,739	16,680	16,588	10,494	15,282	15,207		
75% 10X SNPs	16,078	16,042	15,970	12,928	17,018	16,983		
90% 10X SNPS	10,988	10,942	10,842	4,159	6,734	6,705		
75% 20X SNPs	7,975	7,933	7,824	2,276	3,538	3,516		
90% 20X SNPs	3,534	3,512	3,455	243	1,974	1,961		
Run time	55	55	53	58	55	65		
	Silk snapper							
Total 3X SNPS	35,763	35,645	35,509	48,742	55,505	58,352		
75% 3X SNPs	17,518	17,244	16,992	7,596	9,705	9,696		
90% 3X SNPs	8,586	8,353	8,157	2,007	3,439	3,433		
99% 3X SNPs	2,552	2,380	2,276	132	527	523		
75% 5X SNPs	10,775	10,547	10,385	4,789	7,290	7,274		
90% 5X SNPs	4,936	4,725	4,606	1,225	2,573	2,570		
75% 10X SNPs	5,252	5,018	4,876	2,094	3,547	3,546		
90% 10X SNPS	2,191	2,058	1,938	489	1,224	1,223		
75% 20X SNPs	2,220	2,098	1,984	703	1,415	1,411		
90% 20X SNPs	801	721	675	136	417	418		
Run time	98	100	60	93	89	204		

Figure 1. Levels of coverage for each unique read in the red snapper data set. The horizontal axis represents the minimal level of coverage and the vertical axis represents the number of unique paired reads in thousands.



Figure 2. SNP results averaged across the three different run parameters for *dDocent* and *Stacks.* (A) Red snapper, (B) Red drum, (C) Silk snapper (see Methods or Table 1 for SNP
categories description). Error bars represent standard error.



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