

# Extensive X-linked adaptive evolution in central chimpanzees

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**Surveying genome-wide coding variation within and among species gives unprecedented power to study the genetics of adaptation, in particular the proportion of amino acid substitutions fixed by positive selection. Additionally, contrasting the autosomes and the X chromosome holds information on the dominance of beneficial (adaptive) and deleterious mutations. Here we capture and sequence the complete exomes of 12 chimpanzees and present the largest set of protein-coding polymorphism to date. We report extensive adaptive evolution specifically targeting the X chromosome of chimpanzees with as much as 30% of all amino acid replacements being adaptive. Adaptive evolution is barely detectable on the autosomes except for a few striking cases of recent selective sweeps associated with immunity gene clusters. We also find much stronger purifying selection than observed in humans, and in contrast to humans, we find that purifying selection is stronger on the X chromosome than on the autosomes in chimpanzees. We therefore conclude that most adaptive mutations are recessive. We also document dramatically reduced synonymous diversity in the chimpanzee X chromosome relative to autosomes and stronger purifying selection than for the human X chromosome. If similar processes were operating in the human–chimpanzee ancestor as in central chimpanzees today, our results therefore provide an explanation for the much-discussed reduction in the human–chimpanzee divergence at the X chromosome.**

*Pan troglodytes troglodytes* | SNP | site frequency spectrum | distribution of fitness effects | faster X

Quantifying the relative importance of purifying, neutral, and positive selection in shaping divergence between species remains a challenge in evolutionary biology. Beneficial mutations are central for understanding evolution by natural selection. However, the rarity of beneficial mutations has frustrated attempts to characterize their most basic genetic properties in higher organisms (1). One way forward is to combine genome-wide surveys of polymorphism within species and between species divergence to estimate the fraction,  $\alpha$ , of mutations that have been fixed by positive selection. Empirical studies, particularly in the *Drosophila* genus show that mutations fixed by positive selection can make up a sizable fraction (>50%) of the divergence between species in gene coding regions (2) but whether these results are general for mammals, for example, remains unclear. Furthermore we still know very little about the distribution of fitness effects (DFE) of these mutations and even less about their dominance in diploid organisms. Theory predicts and recent empirical studies emphasize that the demographic history as well as variation in mutation and recombination rates can blur footprints of molecular adaptation by Darwinian selection (3, 4). This in turn can complicate the inference of DFE and  $\alpha$  (5, 6).

In that context, contrasting the DFE and rates of adaptation in autosomes versus sex chromosomes is an elegant strategy to infer the genetic properties of the mutations underlying adaptation (7). In a panmictic population, autosomes and the X chromosome experience the same demographic history but selection and genetic

drift can be different. First, hemizygoty of the X chromosome in males makes natural selection on recessive adaptive mutations more efficient, and these mutations can therefore drive higher rates of adaptive evolution on X-linked relative to autosomal regions (1, 8). Second, depending on the reproductive variance in the two sexes, we expect X chromosome regions to have between 50 and 100% of the effective size of autosomes, undergo more genetic drift, and thus be more prone to accumulate more slightly deleterious mutations. Empirical evidence for increased levels of adaptation in X-linked regions remains elusive (7), except for a unique instance of a newly formed neo-X chromosome in *Drosophila miranda* (9) and a recent analysis of polymorphism and divergence between *Drosophila melanogaster* and *Drosophila simulans* for about 100 genes in X-linked regions (2). In human studies, X-linked variation is lower than autosomal variation close to genes suggesting that selection affects X chromosomes more than autosomes, but Europeans have a genome-wide relative decrease in X-linked variation when comparing with Africans, suggesting that genetic drift has specifically affected X chromosome in Europeans (3, 10–12). Likewise, it has been the subject of much discussion why there is a reduced variation of the X chromosome relative to autosomes in the human–chimpanzee ancestral species (13–16).

Exome capturing efficiently targets the protein coding part of the genome at high coverage and thus allows accurate individual genotyping of synonymous and nonsynonymous diversity. Exome sequencing studies in humans have revealed an abundance of low-frequency nonsynonymous variants and very limited evidence for adaptive evolution (17).

Here we use exon capture and sequencing to extensively characterize patterns of polymorphism segregating in chimpanzees from Central Africa (*Pan troglodytes troglodytes*). Central chimpanzees are genetically two to three times more variable than human populations, allowing more coding variation to be included in analysis, and previous genetic analysis suggests that chimpanzee demographic history is less complex than that of humans (18). We use these data of ~62,000 coding SNPs to estimate the DFE and amount of adaptive evolution in chimpanzees since their divergence with humans.

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## Results

**Patterns of Polymorphism in Central Chimpanzees.** We captured and sequenced the 12 central chimpanzee exomes to an average depth of 35× (Tables S1–S7). For analysis, we included only exons from nonduplicated areas with a unique mapping coverage against the human genome of at least 20× for each individual, leaving 49% of all exons (Table S8) and a total of 15.7 million exonic base pairs where genotypes for all SNPs could be called in all individuals (19). Fixed differences with the human reference genome were called in the same regions (Table 1). We also mapped reads against the chimpanzee reference genome and found that 96% of SNPs (97% of X-linked SNPs) were also called this way. The discrepancies (Table S4) can be attributed to the recent duplication history and the fragmented assembly of the chimpanzee reference genome (20, 21). The results reported below are based on mapping using the human reference, which contains less error and thus is better suited for interspecific comparison, but our conclusions remain unaltered when excluding ambiguous SNPs (Table S4).

The synonymous nucleotide diversity in central chimpanzees is high (Table 1 and Tables S6–S8) but markedly reduced on the X chromosome where we observe less than half the level of diversity found in autosomes (Table 1 and Fig. S1). In humans, X to autosome diversity ratios range from 0.57 (Europeans) to 0.7 (Africans) near genes and between 0.75 (Europeans) and 0.87 (Africans) far away from genes (3, 10–12). We used the human reference genome to orient SNPs (Methods) and obtain the unfolded site frequency spectrum (SFS) at both synonymous and nonsynonymous sites (Fig. 1). The synonymous SFS is shifted toward lower frequencies relative to what is expected under a constant population model but closely fits the neutral expectation from a population recently experiencing a four- to fivefold expansion (Methods and Fig. S2). This is also reflected in Watterson's estimator of the scaled mutation rate being higher than nucleotide diversity (Table 1 and Fig. S1). The nonsynonymous SFS is slightly shifted toward rare variants relative to the synonymous SFS on the autosomes (Fig. 1C) but not on the X chromosome (Fig. 1D).

**Comparison with Human Coding Diversity.** We then compared our data to a dataset of 200 human exomes of European origin (17) by calculating the expected SFS for human autosomes and X chromosome for a sample corresponding to the size of our dataset (Methods). A larger fraction of polymorphisms in humans is nonsynonymous (50%) relative to that of central chimpanzees (45%) (Fig. 1A and B and Fig. S3). The human synonymous SFS has

fewer rare variants, suggesting different demographics, but the nonsynonymous SFS has a stronger shift toward rare variants in humans (Fig. 1C). This is even more striking for the X chromosomes (Fig. 1D). Assuming selective neutrality of synonymous polymorphisms, an explanation for these differences is more efficient selection against nonsynonymous mutations in chimpanzees, particularly on the X chromosome. To understand further the processes underlying differences in relative frequencies of rare nonsynonymous polymorphisms between human and chimpanzee, we classified the functional consequences of nonsynonymous mutations into benign, possibly damaging, and probably damaging and contrasted the proportion of singletons among these categories (Fig. S4). In both chimpanzee and human autosomes the proportion of singletons increases in categories predicted to be more damaging (Fisher's exact test,  $P < 10^{-8}$  for both species). For the X chromosome, there is no enrichment for chimpanzees (Fisher's exact test,  $P = 0.73$ ) in contrast to humans (Fisher's exact test,  $P = 0.002$ ) (Fig. S4).

**Positive Selection Targets the Chimpanzee X Chromosome.** We then used the Sumatran orangutan (*Pongo abelii*) genome (22) to infer which of the human–chimpanzee fixed differences occurred on the chimpanzee branch (Table S8) and combined these with our chimpanzee polymorphism data. This allows measurement of the amount of adaptive evolution on the branch leading to chimpanzees, using the approach of ref. 6. All autosomes have an excess of nonsynonymous polymorphisms segregating compared with nonsynonymous fixed differences, leading to a neutrality index (NI) >1 and no evidence for adaptive evolution (Table S8). In contrast, the X chromosome shows evidence for adaptive evolution (NI = 0.76) and a proportion of amino acid differences fixed by adaptive evolution of  $\alpha = 29%$  [95% confidence interval (CI) 0.1–0.36]. Last, we examined the 37 most abundant gene ontology categories in our data (58% and 38% of the exome data on the autosome and the X, respectively). We found a significant heterogeneity in  $\alpha$  among categories on autosomes ( $\Lambda = 184$ ,  $P < 1e-6$ ) and on the X chromosome ( $\Lambda = 54$ ,  $P < 0.003$ ), suggesting that the differences above are genuine (6).

To further qualify the differences in the intensity of purifying and positive selection in chimpanzees, and to examine whether our inference above could be biased by changes in the recent demographic history, we used the SFS and divergence data to estimate jointly the DFE and  $\alpha$ , using the approach of ref. 5. This model assumes an expansion model that also yielded the best fit to our data (Fig S2). Note that when estimating DFE from SFS

**Table 1. Diversity and divergence for 12 central chimpanzees on autosomes and the X chromosome**

|                                      | Autosome          | X chromosome      | X/A           |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Number of synonymous SNPs            | 32,942            | 808               |               |
| Synonymous divergence with humans    | 32,548            | 1,223             |               |
| Number of synonymous sites called    | 3,287,414         | 172,476           |               |
| Number of nonsynonymous SNPs         | 26,462            | 617               |               |
| Nonsynonymous divergence with humans | 20,632            | 1,054             |               |
| Number of nonsynonymous sites called | 11,380,785        | 600,624           |               |
| Watterson's $\theta$ (nonsynonymous) | 0.00062 (4e-06)   | 0.00030 (0.00001) | 0.480 (0.019) |
| Watterson's $\theta$ (synonymous)    | 0.00268 (0.00001) | 0.00136 (0.00005) | 0.508 (0.017) |
| $\pi_N$                              | 0.00046 (4e-06)   | 0.00019 (0.00001) | 0.421 (0.024) |
| $\pi_S$                              | 0.00204 (0.00002) | 0.00093 (0.00004) | 0.453 (0.022) |
| $\pi_N/\pi_S$                        | 0.22417 (0.00250) | 0.20847 (0.0152)  | 0.930 (0.067) |
| $d_N$                                | 0.00072 (0.00001) | 0.00085 (0.00004) | 1.177 (0.054) |
| $d_S$                                | 0.00415 (0.00004) | 0.00293 (0.00013) | 0.706 (0.032) |
| $d_N/d_S$                            | 0.17317 (0.00242) | 0.28887 (0.0181)  | 1.668 (0.107) |

SEM for diversity and divergence estimates were computed assuming a binomial distribution (independence of sites) and are shown in parentheses. SEM for ratios were approximated using the delta method (32).  $\pi_N$ , nonsynonymous diversity;  $\pi_S$ , synonymous diversity;  $d_N$ , nonsynonymous divergence on the chimpanzee branch since split with humans;  $d_S$ , synonymous divergence on the chimpanzee branch since split with humans.





This represents a clear example of faster X evolution (1, 7) driven by adaptive evolution and is our main finding.

## Discussion

Using a much larger dataset, we confirm previous reports that central chimpanzees harbor two to three times more synonymous polymorphism than human populations and that the population has undergone expansion (18, 33, 34). We report here that purifying selection, as measured by the DFE (Fig. 2), is comparatively stronger than in humans (5, 23). Consistent with this finding, PolyPhen predicts that a smaller fraction of nonsynonymous mutations that segregate at low frequencies will have harmful effects (Fig. S4).

Our study suggests that both deleterious and beneficial mutations are at least partly recessive. Assuming that new mutations have the same underlying effects on fitness on the X chromosome and the autosomes, a larger number of slightly deleterious mutations are expected to segregate on the X due to increased genetic drift. If we use synonymous diversity as a proxy for the amount of genetic drift on the X chromosome and autosomes we would expect slightly deleterious mutations ( $|N_e s| < 10$ ) to be far more abundant on the X chromosome. This is clearly not the case (Fig. 2) and suggests that a sizable fraction of these mutations are partially recessive and thus removed more efficiently on the X chromosome (35).

Theory predicts that recessive beneficial mutations should result in faster X evolution. Increased fixation of slightly deleterious mutations on the X chromosome can also contribute to nonsynonymous divergence and drive a faster X evolution even with partial dominance (7). However, our data clearly rule out this latter possibility and leave the partial recessive beneficial mutations as a parsimonious explanation. The only alternative could be an extreme bias in the gene repertoire of the X relative to autosomes with the X chromosome harboring genes with biological functions that are most prone to adaptive evolution. However, when comparing rates of evolution within biological function (as defined by the 37 most abundant Gene Ontology (GO) categories) we find that X-linked genes have higher rates of evolution than their autosomal counterparts (paired Wilcoxon rank test,  $P$  value  $< 0.007$ , Fig. S7). Interestingly, the GO categories that exhibit the highest rates of evolution include “regulation of transcription, DNA-dependent,” “negative regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter,” and “multicellular organismal development.” This squares nicely with previous reports arguing that many of the extant differences between modern humans and chimpanzees involve changes in gene regulations and neoteny (36).

Recently, there has been much debate on the causes of the reduced divergence of the X chromosome between human and chimpanzee relative to autosomes (13–16). The reduced divergence can be accounted for by an effective size of the X chromosome of about 50% of that of the autosomes in the common ancestor of human and chimpanzees (13). Our study demonstrates that a substantial amount of adaptive evolution is targeting the X chromosome and that selection against deleterious mutations is more efficient on the X than on the autosomes in central chimpanzees. In the light of these results, a similar process of X-linked adaptation and stronger efficiency of purifying selection in the common ancestor of human and chimpanzee appears to be an attractive hypothesis that may account for reduced divergence on the X chromosome.

## Methods

**Sample Acquisition.** Blood samples were collected from 12 wild-born unrelated chimpanzees from Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, and zoos in Europe (Table S1). All necessary permits from the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species were obtained. Blood-derived DNA was used to minimize somatic and cell-line-derived false positives.

**Capture and Sequencing.** Each of the 12 qualified genomic DNA samples were randomly fragmented by Covaris and DNA fragments with a peak at 150–200 bp were selected for ligation, with adapters ligated to both ends. The adapter-ligated templates were purified using Agencourt AMPure SPRI beads and fragments with insert size about 250 bp were excised. Extracted DNA was amplified by ligation-mediated PCR (LM-PCR), purified, and hybridized to the SureSelect Biotinylated RNA Library (BAITS) for enrichment. Hybridized fragments were bound to the streptavidin-coated beads, whereas nonhybridized fragments were washed out after 24 h. Captured LM-PCR products were subjected to Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer to estimate the magnitude of enrichment. Each captured library was then loaded on the HiSeq2000 platform, and high-throughput sequencing was performed for each captured library independently to ensure that each sample met the desired average fold coverage. Raw image files were processed using Illumina base-calling software 1.7 for base calling with default parameters and the sequences of each individual were generated as 90-bp paired end reads.

**Mapping and Quality Filtering.** SOAPaligner (Soap 2.20) was used to align the clean reads to the human reference genome (National Center for Biotechnology Information build 36.3) as well as the chimpanzee reference genome (PanTro2) allowing a maximum of two mismatches per 90-bp fragment. Full SOAP options were: `-a -b -D -o -2 -r 1 -t -n 4 -v 2`.

On the basis of SOAP alignment results, the software SOAPsnp was used to assemble the consensus sequence and call genotypes in target regions. The following options were set: `-i -d -o -r 0.00005 -e 0.0001 -M -t -u -L -s -2 -T` (consult <http://soap.genomics.org.cn/> for details).

For SNP calling we chose to include only exons with an average coverage of  $>20$  for all 12 individuals. For chromosome X we required females to have mean coverage of  $>20$ . Using this strict criterion we maintain 49% of all exons where individual genotypes can be called in all individuals. In these regions we included SNPs if they had a quality score of  $>20$ . We called genotypes if coverage of the alternative allele (i.e., not in the reference chimpanzee genome or in the human genome) was  $>4$ .

We then excluded 1,886 SNPs from duplicated regions, yielding our final Dataset S1.

**SNP Orientation.** SNPs in chimpanzee were oriented using the reference human genome sequence. Adding the Sumatran orangutan genome sequence as an extra outgroup gave conflicting results for 5,712 SNPs, equivalent to 9.4% of all SNPs, but the SFS based on SNP's concordant was very similar to the one reported. The orangutan genome sequence was also used to place fixed differences between human and chimpanzee on the chimpanzee and human branch, respectively.

**Comparison with 200 Human Exomes.** We obtained the human SFS from Li et al. (17) who sequenced 200 human exomes with a mean coverage depth of 14.1. In their cleaned data, there are 11,273 synonymous and 12,586 nonsynonymous autosomal SNPs. We used the reported frequencies to obtain a SFS for 24 human chromosomal synonymous and nonsynonymous autosomal SNPs and for 21 human chromosomal synonymous and nonsynonymous X-linked SNPs. We obtained the SFS for the smaller sample size by calculating, for each SNP, the binomial probability distribution for calling a SNP at a certain frequency. If the reported autosomal frequency is  $p$  then the probability for not calling a SNP is  $p^{24} + (1 - p)^{24}$  and the probability for the SNP being at frequency  $x$  is  $b(24, x) p^x (1 - p)^{24-x}$ , where  $x = 1, \dots, 23$ .

**Fitting of SFS.** We fitted five alternative demographic models to the synonymous SFS data using DaDi (37). These include a constant population size model, as well as bottleneck, expansion, and growth models. We used Akaike's information criterion (AIC) to perform model selection.

**Estimation of Positive and Purifying Selection.** To infer the strength of purifying selection from patterns of polymorphism and divergence, we binned the data in a series of adjacent genomic windows. Each window comprised 10 kb of exon material. Starting on a new window, we added contiguous exons one at a time, counted the number of nucleotides called in each, and added it to the window count. When the window count exceeded 10,000 we switched to a new window. Because we did not split exons into two windows, all windows contained slightly more than 10,000 sites, and because the exon density varied along the genome, the genomic region each window spanned varied as well.

Within each window, we recorded the number of synonymous and nonsynonymous positions. The orangutan sequence was used to obtain the number of sites contributing to divergence from human, and specifically on the chimpanzee branch. For each polymorphic position in our sample of central chimpanzees, we recorded the number of chromosomes that carried each

alternative allele (derived versus ancestral; see SNP orientation for further details) and used that information to build the unfolded SFS for each window. Counts were then summed over the window to obtain genome-wide or chromosome-wide SFSs.

We relied on two complementary approaches to infer the strength of purifying selection and quantify the role of positive selection in driving divergence in coding regions of the chimpanzee genome. First, using the approach implemented by Welch (6), we inferred jointly the fraction  $1 - f$  of mutation under strong purifying selection and the proportion  $\alpha$  of nonsynonymous nucleotide divergence driven by positive selection from the counts of polymorphism and divergence. To make a more robust estimation, we first used a series of models of increasing complexity ranging from a simplistic pure neutrality ( $f = 1, \alpha = 0$ ) model to models incorporating a variable intensity of positive or purifying selection ( $f$  and  $\alpha$  were allowed to vary according to each chromosome or gene category). Estimation of parameters for each gene or category of gene was made using a likelihood framework as implemented in the MKtest software (6). To compare the various models, we used AIC as suggested by Welch (6). When models differed by less than 5 AIC units, we used a model averaging procedure to obtain robust estimates of  $\alpha$  and  $f$  parameters as the weighted average on the basis of differences in AIC of the individual estimates obtained under each model. Likelihood profiles were used to obtain an approximate 95% confidence interval for  $\alpha$ . Heterogeneity among  $k$  GO classes for  $\alpha$  was tested using a likelihood ratio test (LRT) comparing a model specifying a different  $\alpha$  and  $f$  value for each class versus a reduced model still fitting  $k$  parameters for  $f$  but a single  $\alpha$  value. The models are nested and, under the hypothesis of no heterogeneity in  $\alpha$ , the LRT statistic ( $\Lambda$ ) should be  $\chi^2$  distributed ( $k - 1$  df).

Second, for a more fine-grained picture of the intensity of purifying selection, we used data on divergence together with the SFS of synonymous and nonsynonymous sites to infer jointly the underlying distribution of scaled selection coefficient ( $N_e s$ ) against new deleterious mutations, the proportion  $\alpha$  of the nonsynonymous divergence driven by positive selection on non-

synonymous mutations, and the parameters of a simple expansion model (5). We estimated the fraction of mutations expected to fall within four classes of intensity of selection, effectively neutral ( $N_e s$  range 0–1): weakly deleterious ( $N_e s$  range 1–10), strongly deleterious ( $N_e s$  range 10–100), and very strongly deleterious ( $N_e s > 100$ ). Only effectively neutral and weakly deleterious are expected to contribute to nonsynonymous divergence as other classes of deleterious mutations have vanishingly small probabilities to go to fixation and thus contribute to nonsynonymous divergence. Confidence intervals and SEs around estimates of both  $\alpha$  and the proportion of mutations within each class were obtained by bootstrap. Bootstrap datasets for the X-linked data were obtained by resampling X-linked 10 kb windows with replacement, whereas bootstrap datasets were obtained by stratified resampling windows across autosomes.

**Scanning for Selective Sweeps.** To scan for signals of selective sweeps, we used the same 10 kb window approach and calculated the fraction of observed synonymous changes because the human/chimpanzee ancestor compared with the total number of possible synonymous changes and the Watterson's  $\theta$  restricted to synonymous sites.

For each chromosome, we plotted these two summary statistics for each window and queried regions where the synonymous polymorphism is unusually small, whereas the synonymous divergence is not similarly reduced. The rationale for this strategy was to search for regions exhibiting a reduced level of variation that was not trivially driven by a reduced level of mutation rate.

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