

1 **Title:** Mitogenomic phylogeny and fossil-calibrated mutation rates for all F- and M-type
2 mtDNA genes of the largest freshwater mussel family (Bivalvia: Unionidae)

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4 **Short running title:** Unionidae Mitogenomic phylogeny and mutation rates

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59

60

61 **Abstract**

62 Unionidae represent an excellent model taxon for unravelling the drivers of freshwater
63 diversity, but phylogeographic studies on Southeast Asian taxa are hampered by a lack of a
64 comprehensive phylogeny and mutation rates for this fauna. We present complete female- (F)
65 and male-type (M) mitogenomes of four genera of the Southeast Asian clade Contradentini +
66 Rectidentini. We calculated substitution rates for the mitogenome, the 13 protein-coding genes,
67 the two ribosomal units and three commonly used fragments (*col*, *ndl* and *16S*) of both F- and
68 M-mtDNA, based on a fossil-calibrated, mitogenomic phylogeny of the Unionidae.
69 Phylogenetic analyses, including an M+F concatenated dataset, consistently recovered a
70 monophyletic Gonideinae. Subfamily-level topology was congruent with that of a previous
71 nuclear genomic study and with patterns in mitochondrial gene order, suggesting Unionidae F-
72 type 2 as a synapomorphy of the Gonideinae. Our phylogeny indicates that the clades
73 Contradentini + Rectidentini and Lamprotulini + Pseudodontini + Gonideini split in the early
74 Cretaceous (~125 Mya), and that the crown group of Contradentini + Rectidentini originated
75 in the late Cretaceous (~79 Mya). Most gonideine tribes originated during the early Palaeogene.
76 Substitution rates were comparable to those previously published for F-type *col* and *16S* for
77 certain Unionidae and Margaritiferidae species (pairs).

78

79 **Keywords:** evolutionary biogeography; freshwater mussels; palaeogeography; mitochondrial
80 DNA; substitution rate; selection; tropical biodiversity

81

82 **Introduction**

83 Southeast Asia (SE-Asia) is a region of exceptional biodiversity, being comprised by four of
84 the world's 35 biodiversity hotspots (Mittermeier et al., 2011). Understanding patterns and
85 drivers of this diversity is crucial for prioritising conservation efforts, particularly in freshwater
86 habitats, where species are being lost faster than in any other realm (Dudgeon et al., 2006; Reid
87 et al., 2019). Freshwater mussels of the order Unionida represent an excellent model taxon for
88 understanding causes of and threats to tropical freshwater diversity, owing to their restriction
89 to freshwater habitats throughout their lifecycle, exceptional diversity in the region, and high
90 sensitivity to habitat degradation and other anthropogenic factors (Wächtler et al., 2001;
91 Gallardo et al., 2018; Lopes-Lima et al., 2018; Zieritz et al., 2018a; Zieritz et al., 2018b).
92 Unfortunately, biogeographical studies on SE-Asian Unionida are currently hampered by a lack
93 of a comprehensive phylogeny of this fauna. SE-Asian Unionida have received little scientific
94 attention until recent intensification of sampling and sequencing efforts (Pfeiffer & Graf, 2015;
95 Zieritz et al., 2016; Bolotov et al., 2017a; Bolotov et al., 2017b; Zieritz et al., 2018a; Konopleva
96 et al., 2019; Zieritz et al., 2020).

97 The vast majority (99%) of the approximately 135 Unionida species from SE-Asia fall into the
98 family Unionidae, comprising 714 currently recognised species globally (Zieritz et al., 2018a;
99 Graf & Cummings, 2019). The evolutionary relationships among suprageneric clades of the
100 Unionidae has been the subject of a number of recent studies, but the number of these clades
101 and relationships between them remain contentious. Based on a two-locus dataset, Lopes-Lima
102 et al. (2017b; Fig. 1) divided the Unionidae into seven subfamilies, two of which exhibit a SE-
103 Asian centre of diversity: (1) the Rectidentinae (=Contradentini + Rectidentini; 36 species, 7
104 genera), which are exclusively distributed in SE-Asia, and (2) the Gonideinae
105 (=Chamberlainiini + Lamprotulini + Gonideini + Pseudodontini; 69 species, 15 genera), with
106 a disjunct distribution in Asia, Europe, Africa and North America. The Gonideinae *sensu*

107 Lopes-Lima et al. (2017b) were subsequently split by Bolotov et al. (2017a) into
108 Pseudodontinae (=Pseudodontini + Pilsbryoconchini) and Gonideinae (=Gonideini) based on
109 a three-locus dataset, which recovered a paraphyletic Gonideinae (Fig. 1). Paraphyly of the
110 Gonideinae *sensu* Lopes-Lima et al. (2017b) was also recovered in Huang et al.'s (2019) trees,
111 albeit with poor nodal support (Fig. 1). Finally, utilising for the first time, a genomic dataset of
112 596 nuclear loci, Pfeiffer et al. (2019) reintroduced the Pseudodontinae as Pseudodontini in the
113 Gonideinae and additionally included the Rectidentinae based on the consistent recovery and
114 strong nodal support of this large monophyletic clade (i.e. Gonideinae *sensu* Pfeiffer et al.
115 (2019)) (Fig. 1).

116 As an alternative to nuclear markers, mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) has long been popular in
117 population genetic and phylogenetic studies, owing to their generally high mutation rates and
118 fast lineage sorting (Brown et al., 1979; Birky et al., 1983). The unionidan mitogenome is
119 typical of Metazoa in that it encodes 13 proteins that belong to four enzyme complexes of the
120 respiratory chain, the small and large RNA subunits of the mitochondrial ribosomes, and 22
121 tRNAs (Bernt et al., 2013a). However, the Unionidae, as well as at least two other unionidan
122 families and a number of other bivalve groups, are very distinctive in their doubly-uniparental
123 mode of mitochondria inheritance (Breton et al., 2009; Gusman et al., 2016). Female (F)-type
124 mtDNA is transmitted through mothers to both male and female offspring, whilst male (M)-
125 type mtDNA is transmitted through fathers only to male offspring and established in the germ
126 line (Breton et al., 2007). M- and F-type mtDNA often exhibit nucleotide divergences of >20%
127 and thus provide two independent datasets for phylogenetic reconstructions (Breton et al.,
128 2007). In addition, mitochondrial gene order has been identified as a very valuable character
129 in itself for supporting deep nodes (Lopes-Lima et al., 2017a). This was recently confirmed by
130 Froufe et al. (2020), who, by combining, for the first time, M- and F-type mitogenomes,
131 revealed that the Gonideinae *sensu* Lopes-Lima et al. (2017b) exhibits unique gene orders (i.e.

132 UF2 and UF3) that are not found in any taxa outside this clade. To reflect more accurately the
133 presence of several levels of highly divergent clades within the Unionidae, Froufe et al. (2020)
134 additionally proposed a new systematic framework with three instead of two family-group
135 levels (i.e. subfamilies, tribes and subtribes). Here, we use two levels of these higher taxa, i.e.
136 subfamilies and tribes (see Table 1), because subtribes were erected within a few Unionidae
137 tribes only (Froufe et al., 2020). As the phylogeny of Froufe et al. (2020) did not include any
138 members of the Rectidentinae *sensu* Lopes-Lima et al. (2017b), hypotheses on the origin of
139 this important SE-Asian clade have never been tested using a mitogenome dataset.

140 In addition to a robust phylogenetic hypothesis, identifying the drivers of past diversification
141 events requires knowledge of the timing (as well as place) of these evolutionary events. This
142 information can be reconstructed through phylogenetic trees (or networks) that are time-
143 calibrated using palaeogeographical events, the fossil record or external molecular clocks
144 (themselves calibrated by either palaeogeographical events or fossils) (Wilke et al., 2009).
145 Fossil-calibrated phylogenies have been constructed for the unionidan families Hyriidae (Graf
146 et al., 2015), Unionidae (Bolotov et al., 2017a), and the Unionidae + Margaritiferidae (Froufe
147 et al., 2020). Substitution (=mutation) rates vary considerably among genes, taxa and with time
148 (Wilke et al., 2009). However, substitution rates have been calculated for only a small number
149 of unionidan taxa and genes so far, all of which revealed comparatively low evolutionary rates.
150 Froufe et al. (2016) and Araujo et al. (2016) determined almost identical mean rates for F-type
151 *co1*, i.e. 2.7 and 2.5×10^{-9} s/s/y [substitutions/site/year] for *Unio delphinus/foucauldianus*
152 (Unionidae, Unioninae) and *Potomida littoralis* (Unionidae, Gonideinae), respectively, using
153 the Messinian Salinity Crisis (5.96 to 5.33 Mya) as their calibration point. Bolotov et al. (2016)
154 obtained similar to slightly lower mean substitution rates for four pairs of margaritiferid sister
155 species, with an overall mean rate of 2.16×10^{-9} s/s/y using fossil calibration points. In the
156 same paper, substitution rates for the margaritiferid *I6S* are also provided, averaging $1.33 \times$

157 10^{-9} s/s/y, which exceed the rate for combined Unionidae and Margaritiferidae obtained by
158 Lydeard et al. (1996) of around 0.50×10^{-9} s/s/y. These evolutionary rates are about 2-10 times
159 slower than for other molluscs (Stepien et al., 1999; Marko, 2002; Wilke et al., 2009), which
160 has been attributed to the comparatively long generation times, longevity and low metabolic
161 rates of freshwater mussels (Araujo et al., 2016; Bolotov et al., 2016). Similarly low or even
162 lower evolutionary rates have, however, been recorded in coelacanth, anthozoan corals,
163 salmonids, Acipenseriformes and Testudines (see Bolotov et al. (2016) and references therein).

164 This study aims to (1) test the validity of the Gonideinae *sensu* Pfeiffer et al. (2019) on the
165 basis of two independent, complete mitogenomes (M-type, F-type and concatenated), for the
166 first time including four genera of the Rectidentini; (2) infer implications on the evolutionary
167 biogeography of this clade, including potential causes of divergence events, using a fossil-
168 calibrated mitogenomic approach; and (3) estimate molecular substitution rates for all coding
169 and two rRNA (*12S* and *16S*) genes, plus the three most commonly used mitochondrial gene
170 fragments (i.e. *col*, *16S* and *ndl*).

171 **Materials and methods**

172 **Sampling, DNA extraction, sequencing, assembly and annotation**

173 One male specimen from each of two species of the Contradentini, i.e. *Lens contradens* and
174 *Physunio superbus*, and Rectidentinae, i.e. *Rectidens sumatrensis* and *Hyriopsis bialata*,
175 respectively, was dissected for gonadal (to recover M-type mtDNA) and mantle (to recover F-
176 type mtDNA) tissue collections. Specimens are deposited in the Museum of Zoology,
177 University of Malaya (Freshwater mussel collection lots #12, 20, 46 and 59). DNA extractions
178 of both tissues for each species were obtained using a standard high-salt protocol (Sambrook
179 et al., 1989).

180 The genomic DNA was processed using Nextera-based library preparation (Illumina, USA)
181 following the manufacturer's instructions. Quantification and size estimation of the library was
182 then completed on a Bioanalyzer 2100 High Sensitivity DNA chip (Agilent, USA). The library
183 was then normalized to 2 nM and sequenced on a MiSeq Benchtop Sequencer (2 × 250 bp
184 paired-end reads) (Illumina, USA).

185 The mitochondrial genomes were reconstructed with MITObim (Hahn et al., 2013) using
186 previously available *co1* gene sequences for each species. Annotations were performed using
187 MITOS (Bernt et al., 2013b) adjusting the final tRNAs gene limits of tRNA genes with
188 ARWEN (Laslett & Canback, 2008). In-house scripts
189 (<https://figshare.com/s/a756ef19cec8f65d506a>) were also applied to adjust the mtDNA
190 protein-coding limits given that MITOS often underestimates gene length.

191 All F- and M-type mitogenomes were visualized using GenomeVx (Conant & Wolfe, 2008)
192 and have been deposited in GenBank under the accession numbers XX000000–XX000000
193 [will be provided after acceptance of the manuscript].

194 **Mitochondrial protein-coding genes nucleotide composition analysis**

195 Nucleotide compositional bias of the sequenced mitogenomes was summarized as GC and AT
196 skews according to the equations: $AT\ skew = (A - T) / (A + T)$, $GC\ skew = (G - C) / (G + C)$
197 (Perna & Kocher, 1995).

198 **Phylogenetic inference**

199 *Datasets and sequence alignments*

200 To infer the phylogenetic relationships within Unionida, we used the eight newly sequenced
201 haplotypes together with Unionida mitogenomes available at NCBI (Table 1). In all
202 phylogenetic analyses, we used the DNA sequences of all mtDNA protein-coding genes (PCG),
203 except *atp8* and the gender-specific open reading frames (*M-orf*, *H-orf* and *F-orf*; Breton et al.,
204 2009). The sequences of the two rRNA genes were also included in all analyses. Each gene
205 sequence was then aligned using the stand-alone version of GUIDANCE2 (Sela et al., 2015)
206 with the MAFFT multiple sequence alignment algorithm (version 7, Katoh & Standley, 2013).
207 GUIDANCE builds a high-quality alignment and assigns confidence scores for each sequence,
208 column or position in the alignment based on the guide-tree uncertainty. To build our single
209 gene alignments we used the following GUIDANCE2 parameters: score algorithm:
210 GUIDANCE2; bootstraps replicates: 100; Sequence cutoff score: 0.0 (no sequence removal);
211 Column cutoff score: below 0.8; Site masking score: below 0.6 (for codon and amino acids
212 alignments) and below 0.8 (for the rRNA alignments). The resulting single gene alignments
213 were finally concatenated into 12,779 nucleotides (nt) for the F- type and 13,370 nt for the M-
214 type (12 PCG plus 2 rRNA sequences). The resulting M+F concatenated alignment spanned
215 26,150 nt.

216 *Substitution model selection and partitioning schemes*

217 All concatenated dataset alignments were partitioned, and the best-fit substitution models
218 selected with PartitionFinder2 using a greedy search approach, MrBayes model set and BIC
219 selection criterion (Lanfear et al., 2017) (Table S1).

220 *Phylogenetic analyses*

221 Phylogenetic inference applying a Maximum Likelihood (ML) methodology was performed to
222 estimate the trees for all concatenated alignments using RAxML (version 8.2.10, Stamatakis,
223 2014) with 100 rapid bootstrap replicates and 20 ML searches.

224 To infer the phylogeny with Bayesian methodology we used MrBayes v3.2.7a (Ronquist et al.,
225 2012). The alignment was partitioned according to the best scheme suggested by
226 PartitionFinder. We applied a separate molecular substitution model for each partition.
227 However, the prior probabilities of topology and branch lengths were linked across the
228 partitions. Parameters were estimated as part of the analysis with four Markov chains
229 incrementally heated with the default heating values. Each chain started with a randomly
230 generated tree and ran for 1×10^7 generations with a sampling frequency of 1 tree for every 1000
231 generations. The resultant 10,000 trees, after discarding the first 25% as burn-in, were
232 combined in a 50% majority rule consensus tree. Two independent replicates were conducted
233 and inspected for consistency. The log files were checked visually with Tracer v. 1.7 for an
234 assessment of the convergence of the MCMC chains and the effective sample size of
235 parameters (Rambaut et al., 2018). The ESS values for all parameters from both BI phylogenies
236 were recorded as >750 . Tree topology differences were checked for significance with the KH-
237 (Kishino & Hasegawa, 1989), SH- (Shimodaira & Hasegawa, 1999), and approximately
238 unbiased (AU)-tests (Shimodaira & Hasegawa, 1999; Shimodaira, 2002) with 10,000 bootstrap
239 replicates all implemented in IQ-Tree 2 (Minh et al., 2020).

240 **Calibrated Time Phylogeny**

241 The time-calibrated mitogenomic phylogenies were reconstructed in BEAST v. 1.10.1 for F-
242 type and M-type mtDNA separately based on two reliable fossil calibrations with exponential
243 prior distributions (Table S2), a lognormal relaxed clock and Yule speciation process as the
244 tree prior (Suchard et al., 2018). Calculations were performed at the San Diego Supercomputer
245 Center (SDSC, University of California, San Diego, USA) through the CIPRES Science
246 Gateway (Miller et al., 2010). Three Margaritiferidae mitogenomes were used as outgroups for
247 the F-type alignment, and one for the M-type alignment. Similar settings to each gene partition
248 as in the MrBayes analyses were specified but using a simplified substitution model (HKY; see
249 Bolotov et al. (2017a) for details). Three replicate BEAST searches were conducted, each with
250 50,000,000 generations and a tree sampling every 1000th generation. The log files were
251 checked visually with Tracer v. 1.7 for an assessment of the convergence of the MCMC chains
252 and the effective sample size of parameters (Rambaut et al., 2018). The runs were compiled
253 with LogCombiner v. 1.10.1 (Suchard et al., 2018) using an appropriate burn-in depending on
254 the start of convergence of MCMC chains in each run and an additional re-sampling every
255 5000th generation. The ESS values for all parameters were recorded as >300. The maximum
256 clade credibility tree was obtained from the post-burn-in trees using TreeAnnotator v. 1.10.1
257 (Suchard et al., 2018).

258 **Molecular rate calculations and analyses**

259 After obtaining the age estimates in BEAST, for each node, and each gene, average sequence
260 divergence among each node's subgroups (always 2, as the tree was perfectly dichotomous)
261 was calculated in MEGA-X (Kumar et al., 2018), using the Maximum Composite Likelihood
262 substitution model, with 1000 bootstraps, Gamma distributed rates among sites (G=1), and
263 pairwise deletion of gaps. Divergence values were then divided by the respective node's
264 average age, and 95%CI minimum and maximum ages, in order to obtain the average and

265 95%CI divergence rate per year, respectively. Average substitution rates per lineage (μ) were
266 then obtained dividing those values by 2. Rates were calculated in this way for each gene,
267 fragment and the whole mitogenome.

268 To examine and quantify the effects of type (M- vs. F-type) and node age on divergence rates,
269 we ran General Linear Models in R version 3.5.2 for each gene, fragment and the whole
270 mitogenome, fitting “ln (divergence rate)” as a response variable, “type” as a factor with two
271 levels, “ln (node age)” as a covariate, and the interaction of both terms. Non-significant terms
272 ($P \geq 0.05$) were sequentially dropped from the model.

273 The obtained substitution rates account for both synonymous and non-synonymous
274 substitutions, and are therefore affected by the molecular mutation rate and the selective
275 process. Rate variation among genes could therefore be linked to the strength of selection they
276 are subject to. In order to better understand such constraints, we calculated the mean ratio of
277 the number of nonsynonymous substitutions per non-synonymous site (K_a) to the number of
278 synonymous substitutions per synonymous site (K_s) for each PCG and the whole coding
279 portions of the mitogenome using DnaSP (Rozas et al., 2017). K_a/K_s values >1 indicate positive
280 (directional) selection, <1 negative (stabilizing) selection, and 1 neutrality.

281 Finally, we examined the relationship between the differences in F-type and M-type μ and
282 K_a/K_s -ratios across the 13 PCGs through regression analysis.

283 **Results**

284 **Mitogenome characteristics and gene order**

285 All the eight sequenced haplotypes include the 13 protein-coding genes (PCGs) typically found
286 in metazoan mitochondrial genomes, the type-specific *orf* described for all Unionida
287 mitogenomes with the DUI system and 22 transfer RNA (tRNA) and two ribosomal RNA
288 (rRNA) genes (Fig. 2). The length of M-type mitogenomes is larger than the F-type as usual in
289 the Unionida, ranging from 16,761 nt in *H. bialata* to 17,282 nt in *P. superbus*, while the F-
290 type ranged from 15,956 nt in *L. contradens* to 16,057 nt in *P. superbus* (Table 2, Fig. 2). The
291 A+T content, and GC and AT skews are similar across all sequenced species and types,
292 averaging 62%, 0.38 (+ strand) and -0.20 (+ strand), respectively (Table 2). Gene order of the
293 mitogenomes for all four newly sequenced species was of Unionidae F-type 2 (UF2) for F- and
294 Unionidae M-type 1 (UM1) for M-type mitogenomes (Lopes-Lima et al., 2017a).

295 **Phylogenetic analyses**

296 All phylogenies inferred in this study support the monophyly of Gonideinae *sensu* Pfeiffer et
297 al. (2019), monophyly of the six gonideine tribes (Figs. 1, 3 and 4). The only inconsistent result
298 is that the (Gonideini + Pseudodontini) clade is not supported in M-type mtDNA phylogeny
299 (Figs. 1 and 3). However, topology tests of the concatenated (M + F) tree constrained with the
300 separate M-type phylogeny was not significantly different to that of the unconstrained tree
301 ($P > 0.05$ in KH-, SH- and AU-tests). The Chamberlainiini were consistently recovered as sister
302 to other Gonideinae tribes in all phylogenies.

303 **Fossil-calibrated phylogeny**

304 The fossil-calibrated phylogeny of the complete F-type mitogenome dataset placed the split
305 between Amblesinae (North American) and (Gonideinae + Unioninae) (W-North American +
306 European + Asian + African) in the middle Jurassic (mean age = 164 Mya, 95% HPD 155-185

307 Mya) as the most ancient divergence event within the family (Fig. 5, Fig. S1A). Gonideinae
308 (W-North American + European + Asian + African) and Unioninae (European + Asian +
309 African) split in the late Jurassic (mean age = 152 Mya, 95% HPD = 138-175 Mya), coinciding
310 with a change in gene order in the most recent common ancestor (MRCA) of the Gonideinae.
311 The Chamberlainiini (SE-Asian) split from the rest of the Gonidaeinae in the early Cretaceous
312 (mean age = 142 Mya, 95% HPD = 126-164 Mya), followed by evolution of a new gene order
313 in the MRCA of *Chamberlainia hainesiana*. The clades Contradentini + Rectidentini (SE-
314 Asian) and Lamprotulini + Pseudodontini + Gonideini (W-North America, Europe + Asia) split
315 from each other in the early Cretaceous (mean age = 125 Mya, 95% HPD = 106-147 Mya).
316 The tribes Contradentini and Rectidentini (both SE-Asia-Indo-Burma-Sundaland) split from
317 each other in the late Cretaceous (mean age = 79 Mya, 95% HPD = 58-101 Mya). The crown
318 groups of most recent tribes likely originated between 64 and 37 Mya, i.e. since the Cretaceous
319 (during the Palaeocene and Eocene). In contrast, the tribe Chamberlainiini had a more ancient
320 crown group originating near the Albian-Cenomanian boundary (mean age = 103 Mya, 95%
321 HPD = 72-132 Mya).

322 **Mutation rates and K_a/K_s**

323 Mean substitution rates (μ) per mitochondrial gene ranged from 1.14 (*rrnS*) to 6.77 (*atp8*), and
324 1.42 (*rrnS*) to 7.71 (*atp8*) s/s/y $\times 10^{-9}$ in F-type and M-type, respectively (Table 3, Fig. 6a).
325 *Atp8* thereby exhibited by far the highest μ in both F- and M- type mitogenomes, followed by
326 *nad 2-6*. The lowest μ were recorded for the two ribosomal genes and the cytochrome c oxidase
327 subunits with the exception of type M-*cox2*, which exhibits a particularly variable extension.

328 Substitution rates across the whole mitogenome were strongly and significantly affected by
329 ‘type’ and ‘node age’, which explained 25 and 35% of the variation, respectively (Table 3),
330 with rates being higher in M-type mtDNA and decreasing with node age (Fig. S1B). Similarly,
331 highly significant effects of ‘type’ and ‘node age’ on μ were found for 12 of the 15 mtDNA

332 genes. Exceptions were *atp8* (no effect of ‘type’ and ‘node age’), and *nad4l* and *nad6* (no effect
333 of ‘node age’). Across the whole mitogenome, M-type μ was 31% higher than F-type μ (Table
334 3). This difference was lowest in *atp8* (13%), *cob* (22%) and the two ribosomal genes (17 and
335 23%, respectively), and highest in *cox2* (61%), *nad6* (51%), *nad4l* (49%) and *nad3* (46%).
336 Absolute differences in M-type and F-type μ ranged from 0.3 (for ribosomal genes) and 0.5
337 (for *cox1*) to 2.1 (for *nad6*) s/s/y $\times 10^{-9}$ (Table 3, Fig. 6b).

338 Mean K_a/K_s per PCG ranged from 0.12 (*cob*, *cox1*) to 0.51 (*atp8*) in M-type and 0.02 (*cox1*) to
339 0.39 (*atp8*) in F-type mtDNA (Table 3). K_a/K_s was significantly positively correlated with μ ,
340 explaining 82% of the variation in μ ($F_{1,24}=110.2$, $P<0.0001$; Fig. 6a). In addition, M-type K_a/K_s
341 was consistently and significantly higher than F-type K_a/K_s across PCGs (ANOVAs: $P<0.001$).
342 This difference between M-type and F-type K_a/K_s was particularly pronounced in *nad3*, *nad4l*
343 and *nad2*, and particularly small in *cob* and *nad1* (Fig. 6b). In addition, there was a significant
344 relationship between the difference in μ and difference in K_a/K_s between M-type and F-type
345 PCGs ($F_{1,11}=5.728$, $P=0.0357$), with the difference in K_a/K_s explaining 34% of the variation in
346 the difference in μ (Fig. 6b).

347 **Discussion**

348 **Phylogeny**

349 Our mitogenomic phylogenetic hypotheses of the Gonideinae are congruent with those
350 recovered on the basis of a nuclear genomic dataset by Pfeiffer et al. (2019). This recovers the
351 Ambleminae as sister to the remaining, sampled unionid subfamilies and the Gonideinae as a
352 monophyletic group, and is in contrast to most previously published phylogenies based on 2-
353 or 3-locus datasets, which recovered a paraphyletic Gonideinae with respect to at least the
354 Ambleminae (Fig. 1). The consistency of results across nuclear markers and mitogenomic
355 datasets adds confidence to this phylogenetic hypothesis of the Gonideinae. In addition, the
356 hypothesis is congruent with patterns in F-type mtDNA gene order, with the ancestral
357 Unionidae order UF1 being retained in the Ambleminae and (at least) the Unioninae, and
358 evolution of UF2 in the common ancestor of the Gonideinae and subsequent evolution of the
359 UF2 variant UF3 in (at least) *Chamberlainia hainesiana*. If, for example, Lopes-Lima et al.'s
360 (2017b) or Huang et al.'s (2019; fig. 2) hypotheses were assumed, either UF1 or UF2 would
361 have had evolved independently twice (e.g. UF1 in the Unioninae and Ambleminae), which
362 would represent a less parsimonious situation.

363 **Evolutionary biogeography**

364 Our updated fossil-calibrated phylogeny revealed a Mesozoic origin of Unionidae, placing its
365 crown group in the early Jurassic. These results are in full agreement with earlier studies of
366 divergence patterns within this family based on multiple fossil calibrations (Bolotov et al.,
367 2017a; Bolotov et al., 2017b). Furthermore, the ages inferred from our fossil-calibrated
368 phylogeny align with those of Bolotov et al. (2020), which were reconstructed using an external
369 mutation rate, i.e. of Froufe et al. (2016).

370 Here, the Contradentini + Rectidentini was recovered as an ancient clade (mean age = 79 Mya),
371 supporting the hypothesis of a late Cretaceous origin of Southeast Asian freshwater mussel
372 fauna (Bolotov et al., 2017a; Bolotov et al., 2017b). We found that the crown groups of most
373 gonideine tribes likely originated during the Palaeocene and Eocene. These key divergence
374 events in the subfamily roughly coincide with a warm and humid climatic episode in the early
375 Palaeogene (Wing et al., 2005; Gingerich, 2006), when mid-latitude mean annual air
376 temperatures reached 23–29°C (Naafs et al., 2018). The origin of the majority of gonideine
377 tribes could be explained by long-distance dispersal triggered by favourable climatic and
378 hydrological conditions in the early Palaeogene (Carmichael et al., 2017) followed by
379 diversification processes caused by range fragmentation during subsequent cold and dry
380 periods (Feng et al., 2013). Evidence for rapid range expansion during the Palaeocene-Eocene
381 Thermal Maximum has been found in several other groups, including reptiles (Bourque et al.,
382 2015), mammals (Smith et al., 2006; Burger, 2012) and plants (Wing et al., 2005; Wing &
383 Currano, 2013). A similar but younger “evolutionary burst” roughly coinciding with the
384 Miocene Climatic Optimum, a warm and humid period, was discovered in genus-level clades
385 of the radicine pond snails (Lymnaeidae) (Aksenova et al., 2018). The authors suggested that
386 subsequent aridification periods led to fragmentation of continuous ranges and thus radiation
387 in multiple radicine lineages in suitable refugia.

388 **Variation in mutation rates**

389 *Comparison with previously published substitution rates and potential applications*

390 Substitution rates determined in this study are comparable to those already available for other
391 Unionida groups (Lydeard et al., 1996; Araujo et al., 2016; Bolotov et al., 2016; Froufe et al.,
392 2016). The mean substitution rate for the (most commonly used mtDNA fragment) F-type *col*
393 of 1.6×10^{-9} s/s/y reported here lies in between those reported for four margaritiferid species
394 pairs (Bolotov et al., 2016) and two unionid species (pairs) (Araujo et al., 2016; Froufe et al.,

395 2016). The rate for F-type *16S* of 0.83×10^{-9} s/s/y is slightly slower than those reported on
396 Margaritiferidae (Bolotov et al., 2016) but exceeds those inferred from combined Unionidae
397 and Margaritiferidae (Lydeard et al., 1996). It was expected that Margaritiferidae may share
398 slower substitution rates because of their generally longer generation times and slower
399 metabolic rates compared to Unionidae (Bolotov et al., 2016), but this supposition was not
400 supported by our novel results.

401 Molecular clocks can overcome some gaps in the fossil record by producing informative date
402 estimates for fossil-poor evolutionary events or those for which available fossil data have
403 limited power (e.g. due to the lack of reliable distinguishing features for morphological
404 identification) (Donoghue & Yang, 2016). Fields of application include (1) estimating clade
405 ages in phylogenetic and phylogeographic studies when fossil and palaeobiogeographic data
406 are not available; (2) studying complex geological histories; and (3) validating time-estimations
407 of geological and tectonic events, such as the separation of land masses or the formation and
408 evolution of river basins (Pennington et al., 2004; Ketmaier et al., 2006; Roxo et al., 2014;
409 Chen et al., 2016). However, careful selection of the substitution rate applied in a given context
410 is crucial as effectiveness and accuracy of a given rate varies depending on the time scale of
411 the event. For example, applying the power test by Wilke et al. (2009) and a type II error of
412 0.05, data variability in *coI* (~710 nt), *ndI* (~830 nt) and *16S* (~570 nt) is insufficient to reliably
413 date phylogenetic events that are younger than 2.6, 1.1 and 6.3 Mya, respectively; at least when
414 used independently. The matter is further complicated by time dependency and incomplete
415 coalescence in shallower phylogenetic depths. Possible rate heterogeneity across branches
416 should be considered (e.g. using an uncorrelated clock model in phylogenetic estimation),
417 which is why we performed rate calculations for every node in the tree, and provide a rate
418 confidence interval that should be used to guide future applications (Table 3, Fig. S2). Our
419 dataset allows aging of any node within the unionid phylogeny and therefore, application at

420 various taxonomic levels, as substitution rates can be calculated for any given node age and
421 gene (fragment) using the regression equations given in Fig. S2.

422 *Variation across genes*

423 In comparison to nuclear DNA, mutations in mtDNA are rapidly accumulated, which has been
424 attributed to an error-prone DNA repair system, the lack of protective histone-like protein,
425 exposure of single-strand intermediates during mitochondrial replication, and/or exposure to
426 oxidative damage (Castellana et al., 2011; Bernt et al., 2013a; and references therein). In
427 addition, recombination is usually absent, and the genetically effective population size of
428 animal (F-type) mtDNA is estimated to be only a quarter that of nuclear DNA (nDNA) due to
429 (doubly)-uniparental inheritance (DUI) and haploidy (Birky et al., 1983; Castellana et al.,
430 2011); effective population size of M-type DNA being even smaller due to fewer mtDNA
431 copies in the sperm compared to oocyte (Zouros, 2013). However, loss of functionality of
432 mtDNA, including genes encoding for protein complexes that play vital roles in aerobic
433 respiration, is prevented predominantly by strong negative selection, removing
434 nonsynonymous deleterious mutations (Castellana et al., 2011). In addition, evidence for
435 positive selection in mtDNA has been found for some genes and taxa (Bazin et al., 2006;
436 Oliveira et al., 2008; Śmietanka et al., 2010).

437 In accordance with previous studies on other taxa, our dataset showed that substitution rates
438 vary considerably among unionid mtDNA genes. As expected, rRNA fragments evolved much
439 more slowly, which has been shown in various taxa before and partly attributed to high AT
440 content (Brown, 1985; DeSalle et al., 1987). With respect to PCGs, substitution rates of *atp8*
441 exceeded those of *cox1* by a factor of about 20 in F-mtDNA and a factor of 5 in M-mtDNA,
442 values that are comparable to those of Śmietanka et al. (2010; fig. 5) on *Mytilus* spp. To a large
443 degree, this variation in substitution rates among PCGs appears to be associated with a variation
444 in negative selection pressure as indicated by the strong positive correlation between K_a/K_s and

445 μ of our dataset. Strongly relaxed negative selection in *atp8* has been observed in several other
446 taxa, including whitefish, vertebrates and *Mytilus* spp. (Śmietanka et al., 2010; Castellana et
447 al., 2011; Jacobsen et al., 2016). Sun et al. (2017) suggested that negative selection of *atp8* was
448 already strongly relaxed in the most recent common ancestor of all bivalves and that the gene
449 appears to have been lost in several marine bivalves. However, positive directional selection
450 or the Compensatory-Draft Feedback (CDF) process (i.e. positive selection of compensatory
451 mutations for mild-deleterious mutations fixed by e.g. genetic drift; Oliveira et al., 2008) may
452 also play a role as has been shown for *atp8* and other PCGs in, for example, mammals (da
453 Fonseca et al., 2008), parasitic wasps (Oliveira et al., 2008), billfish (Dalziel et al., 2006) and
454 *Mytilus* spp. (Śmietanka et al., 2010).

455 *Variation between mtDNA types*

456 As expected and observed in a number of previous studies (e.g. Liu et al., 1996; Hoeh et al.,
457 2002), our study confirmed that the unionid M-type mitogenome evolves faster than the F-type
458 mitogenome (overall by 31%). This has been attributed to relaxed negative selection in M-type
459 mtDNA and the CDF (Burzyński et al., 2017 and references therein), which is at least partly
460 supported by a significant association between the difference in M-type and F-type substitution
461 rates and difference in M-type and F-type K_a/K_s in our dataset. That said, again, positive
462 selection may play a considerable role, especially in the ~550 nt extension in M-type *cox2*
463 (Chapman et al., 2008).

464 **Conclusions**

465 Our mitogenomic phylogeny confirmed the validity of the Gonideinae *sensu* Pfeiffer et al.
466 (2019), which are characterised by a synapomorphic mitogenome gene order (UF2). Fossil-
467 calibration of this phylogeny, which was in line with one constructed using an external
468 mutation rate (Bolotov et al., 2020), further revealed novel insights into the evolutionary

469 history and biogeography of the Unionidae, including evidence for rapid range expansion of
470 several clades within the Unionidae during the Palaeocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum and
471 origin of the SE-Asian Rectidentini in the late Cretaceous. Most importantly, the set of
472 substitution rates of 30 mtDNA genes generated in our study will provide an important basis
473 for future studies aiming to unravel the evolutionary history and biogeography of the
474 Unionidae. Considering their exceptionally high levels of diversity, endemism and threat,
475 particular focus should thereby be put on tropical freshwater mussels, including the
476 Parreysiinae and Bornean endemic genera (Zieritz et al., 2018a; Zieritz et al., 2020).

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- 758

759 **Table 1.** List of species analysed, GenBank references, and country.

TAXON	CODE	F-TYPE GenBank	M-TYPE GenBank	COUNTRY
Unionida				
Unionidae				
Ambleminae				
<i>Lampsilis ornata</i>	LamOrn	NC_005335	-	USA
<i>Potamilus alatus</i>	PotAla	KU559011	KU559010	China (Introduced)
<i>Potamilus leptodon</i>	PotLep	NC_028522	-	USA
<i>Quadrula quadrula</i> *	QuaQua	NC_013658	FJ809751	USA
<i>Toxolasma parvum</i>	TaxPar	NC_015483	-	USA
<i>Venustaconcha ellipsiformis</i> *	VenEll	FJ809753	NC_013659	USA
Gonideinae				
Chamberlainiini				
<i>Chamberlainia hainesiana</i>	ChaHai	NC_044110	MK994771	Thailand
<i>Sinohyriopsis cumingii</i> *	SinCum	NC_011763	KC150028	China
<i>Sinohyriopsis schlegelii</i>	SinSch	NC_015110	-	China (Introduced)
Gonideini				
<i>Microcondylaea bonellii</i>	MicBon	NC_044111	MK994773	Italy
<i>Ptychorhynchus pfisteri</i>	PtyPfi	KY067440	-	China
<i>Solenia carinata</i>	SolCar	NC_023250	KC848655	China
<i>Solenia oleivora</i>	SolOle	NC_022701	-	China
Lamprotulini				
<i>Lamprotula leai</i>	LamLea	NC_023346	-	China
<i>Lamprotula caveata</i> ¹	LamCav	NC_030258	-	China
<i>Potomida littoralis</i>	PotLit	NC_030073	KT247375	Portugal
<i>Pronodularia japonensis</i>	ProJap	AB055625	AB055624	Japan
Pseudodontini				
<i>Monodontina vondembuschiana</i> *	MonVon	NC_044112	MK994775	Malaysia
<i>Pilsbryoconcha exilis</i>	PilExi	NC_044124	MK994777	Malaysia
Contradentini				
<i>Lens contradens</i>	LenCon	MW242812	MW242813	Muar River (2.766N,

				102.396E), Malaysia	
<i>Physunio superbus</i>	PhySup	MW242814	MW242815	Pahang (3.486N, 103.074E), Malaysia	River
Rectidentini					
<i>Hyriopsis bialata*</i>	HyrBia	MW242816	MW242817	Pahang (3.486N, 103.074E), Malaysia	River
<i>Rectidens sumatrensis</i>	RecSum	MW242818	MW242819	Perak (4.885N, 100.988E), Malaysia	River
Unioninae					
Unionini					
<i>Aculamprotula coreana</i>	AcuCor	NC_026035	-	South Korea	
<i>Aculamprotula tientsinensis</i>	AcuTie	NC_029210	-	China	
<i>Aculamprotula tortuosa</i>	AcuTor	NC_021404	-	China	
<i>Cuneopsis pisciculus</i>	CunPis	NC_026306	-	China	
<i>Nodularia douglasiae</i>	NodDou	NC_026111	-	China	
<i>Schistodesmus</i> sp. ²	Sch	NC_023806	-	China	
<i>Unio crassus*</i>	UniCra	KY290447	KY290450	Poland	
<i>Unio delphinus</i>	UniDel	KT326917	KT326918	Portugal	
<i>Unio pictorum</i>	UniPic	NC_015310	-	Poland	
<i>Unio tumidus*</i>	UniTum	KY021076	KY021073	Poland	
Anodontini					
<i>Anemina arcaeformis</i>	AneArc	NC_026674	-	China	
<i>Anemina euscaphys</i>	AneEus	NC_026792	-	China	
<i>Anodonta anatina*</i>	AnoAna	NC_022803	KF030962	Poland	
<i>Cristaria plicata</i>	CriPli	NC_012716	-	China	
<i>Lasmigona compressa</i>	LasCom	NC_015481	-	USA	
<i>Pyganodon grandis</i>	PygGra	NC_013661	FJ809755	USA	
<i>Sinanodonta lucida</i>	SinLuc	NC_026673	-	China	
<i>Sinanodonta woodiana*</i>	SinWoo	HQ283348	KM434235	China	

<i>Utterbackia imbecillis</i>	UttImb	NC_015479	-	USA
<i>Utterbackia peninsularis</i> *	UttPen	HM856636	NC_015477	USA
Lanceolariini				
<i>Lanceolaria grayana</i>	LanGra	NC_026686	-	China
<i>Lanceolaria lanceolata</i>	LanLan	NC_023955	-	China
Lepidodesmini				
<i>Lepidodesma languilati</i>	LepLan	NC_029491	-	China
Margaritiferidae				
<i>Margaritifera dahurica</i>	MarDah	NC_023942	-	China
<i>Margaritifera falcata</i>	MarFal	NC_015476	-	USA
<i>Pseudunio maroccanus</i>	PseMrc	KY131953	KY131954	Morocco

760 * F- and M-type sequences from distinct specimens

761 ¹ misidentified as *Aculamprotula scripta* in original Genbank submission (see Lopes-Lima et
762 al. (2020))

763 ² misidentified as *Lamprotula gottschei* in original Genbank submission (see Huang et al.
764 (2019))

765

766

767 **Table 2.** Main structural features of the female- and male-transmitted mitochondrial genomes of two species of the Contradentini and Rectidentini,
 768 respectively.

	♀ <i>F-Type</i>				♂ <i>M-Type</i>			
	<i>Lens contradens</i>	<i>Physunio superbus</i>	<i>Hyriopsis bialata</i>	<i>Rectidens sumatrensis</i>	<i>Lens contradens</i>	<i>Physunio superbus</i>	<i>Hyriopsis bialata</i>	<i>Rectidens sumatrensis</i>
Tot. size (pb)	15,956	16,057	15,919	15,983	17,057	17,282	16,761	16,934
A+T %	60.97	61.26	63.55	64.50	61.85	62.67	61.70	62.27
CG (+) skew	0.36	0.41	0.37	0.38	0.32	0.36	0.45	0.41
AT (+) skew	-0.20	-0.23	-0.20	-0.19	-0.17	-0.19	-0.23	-0.20
<i>rrnS</i>	837	842	842	834	887	885	861	862
<i>rrnL</i>	1304	1313	1323	1309	1279	1285	1302	1318
	Size (nt) (Start/Stop codons)				Size (nt) (Start/Stop codons)			
<i>cox1</i>	1539 (TTG/TAG)	1539 (TTG/TAA)	1539 (TTG/TAA)	1539 (TTG/TAA)	1611 (ATG/TAG)	1602 (ATG/TAG)	1596 (ATA/TAG)	1644 (ATT/TAG)
<i>cox2</i>	681 (ATG/TAG)	687 (ATG/TAG)	711 (ATT/TAG)	699 (GTG/TAG)	1272 (TTG/TAA)	1248 (ATG/TAA)	1329 (ATT/TAG)	1230 (ATA/TAG)
<i>nad2</i>	963 (ATG/TAG)	963 (ATG/TAA)	963 (ATG/TAA)	963 (ATG/TAA)	990 (ATA/TAA)	993(ATT/TA A)	984 (ATA/TAG)	984 (ATA/TAG)
<i>nad3</i>	357 (ATG/TAG)	393 (ATG/TAA)	357 (ATG/TAG)	357 (ATG/TAA)	378 (ATG/TAG)	360 (GTG/TAG)	369 (ATG/TAG)	438 (ATT/TAG)

<i>cob</i>	1152 (ATT/TAA)	1152 (ATT/TAA)	1143 (ATT/TAA)	1152 (ATC/TAA)	1162 (GTG/T**)	1140 (ATT/TAA)	1176 (ATG/TAG)	1182 (GTG/TAG)
<i>nad5</i>	1734 (ATG/TAA)	1734 (ATA/TAA)	1851 (ATG/TAA)	1731 (ATG/TAA)	1785 (TC/TAA)	1779 (ATG/TAG)	1794 (ATG/TAA)	1791 (ATG/TAA)
<i>nad1</i>	900 (ATT/TAA)	894 (ATT/TAA)	897 (ATT/TAA)	897 (ATT/TAA)	906 (ATT/TAG)	906 (ATT/TAA)	906 (ATC/TAA)	909 (ATC/TAA)
<i>nad6</i>	489 (ATA/TAA)	489 (ATC/TAG)	489 (ATA/TAG)	489 (ATT/TAG)	510 (ATG/TAA)	489 (TTG/TAG)	516 (ATG/TAA)	516 (ATG/TAA)
<i>nad4</i>	1350 (ATT/TAA)	1359 (GTG/TAG)	1350 (ATT/TAG)	1380 (GTG/TAG)	1455 (ATT/TAG)	1584 (ATT/TAA)	1419 (TTG/TAG)	1389 (ATT/TAA)
<i>nad4L</i>	348 (ATA/TAG)	297 (ATG/TAG)	396 (ATT/TAG)	309 (ATA/TAG)	393 (GTG/TAA)	294 (ATG/TAA)	315 (ATG/TAG)	297 (ATG/TAG)
<i>atp8</i>	198 (TTG/TAA)	198 (TTG/TAA)	192 (TTG/TAA)	195 (TTG/TAG)	168 (ATG/TAG)	183 (GTG/TAA)	183 (ATG/TAA)	171 (ATG/TAA)
<i>atp6</i>	708 (ATG/TAA)	711 (ATG/TAG)	720 (TTG/TAG)	708 (ATG/TAG)	693 (ATG/TAG)	696 (ATG/TAA)	690 (ATG/TAA)	690 (ATG/TAA)
<i>cox3</i>	810 (ATA/TAA)	795 (TTG/TAG)	780 (ATG/TAG)	780 (ATG/TAG)	774 (ATT/TAG)	825 (TTG/TAG)	774 (ATT/TAG)	774 (ATT/TAG)

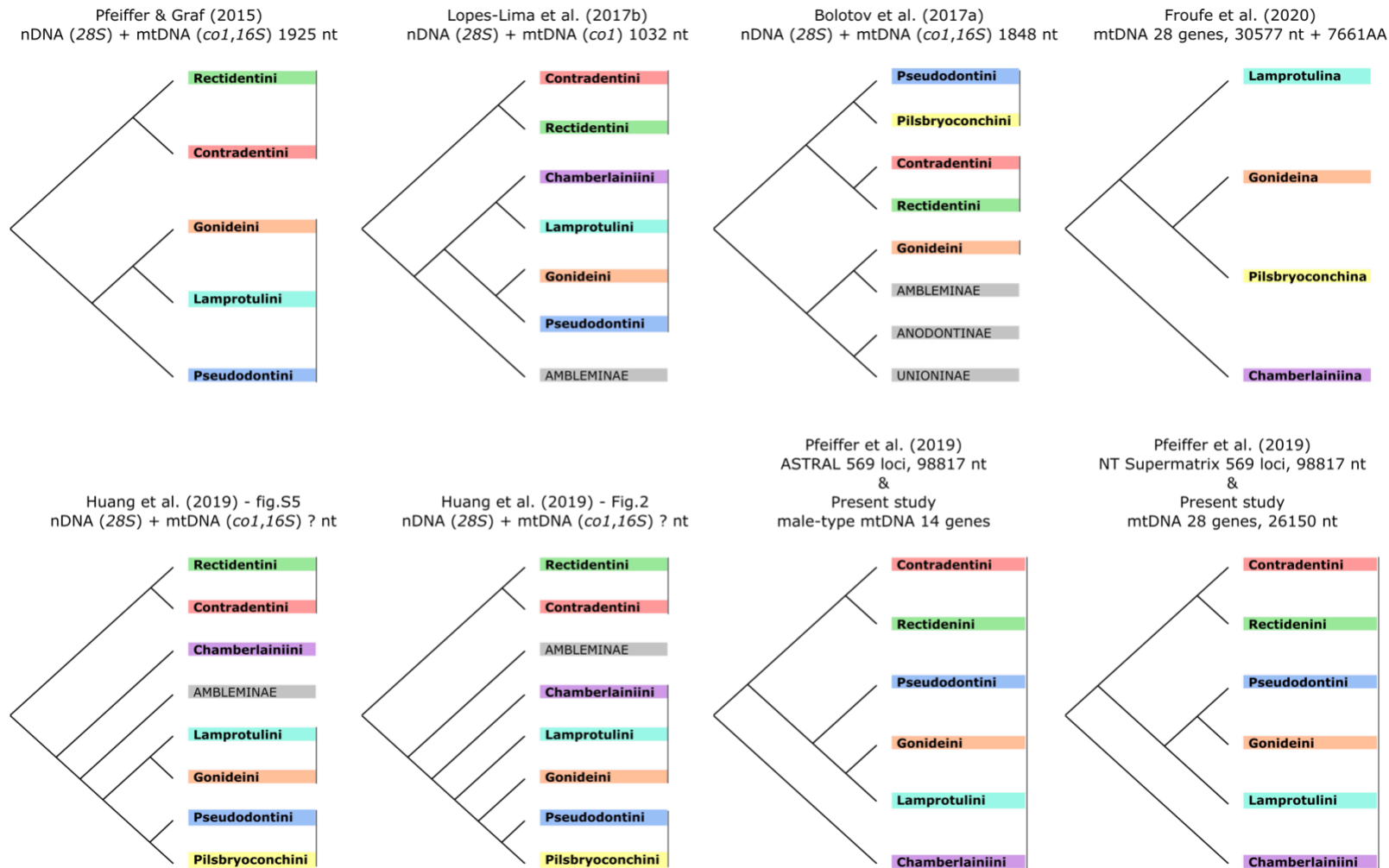
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770

771 **Table 3.** Substitution rates (μ) and K_a/K_s -ratios for female- and male-type mtDNA genes (gene fragments) for the Unionidae, and results of General
772 Linear Models examining effects of type and node age on divergence rate. Abbreviations: PCG, protein-coding gene; RCC, respiratory chain
773 complex

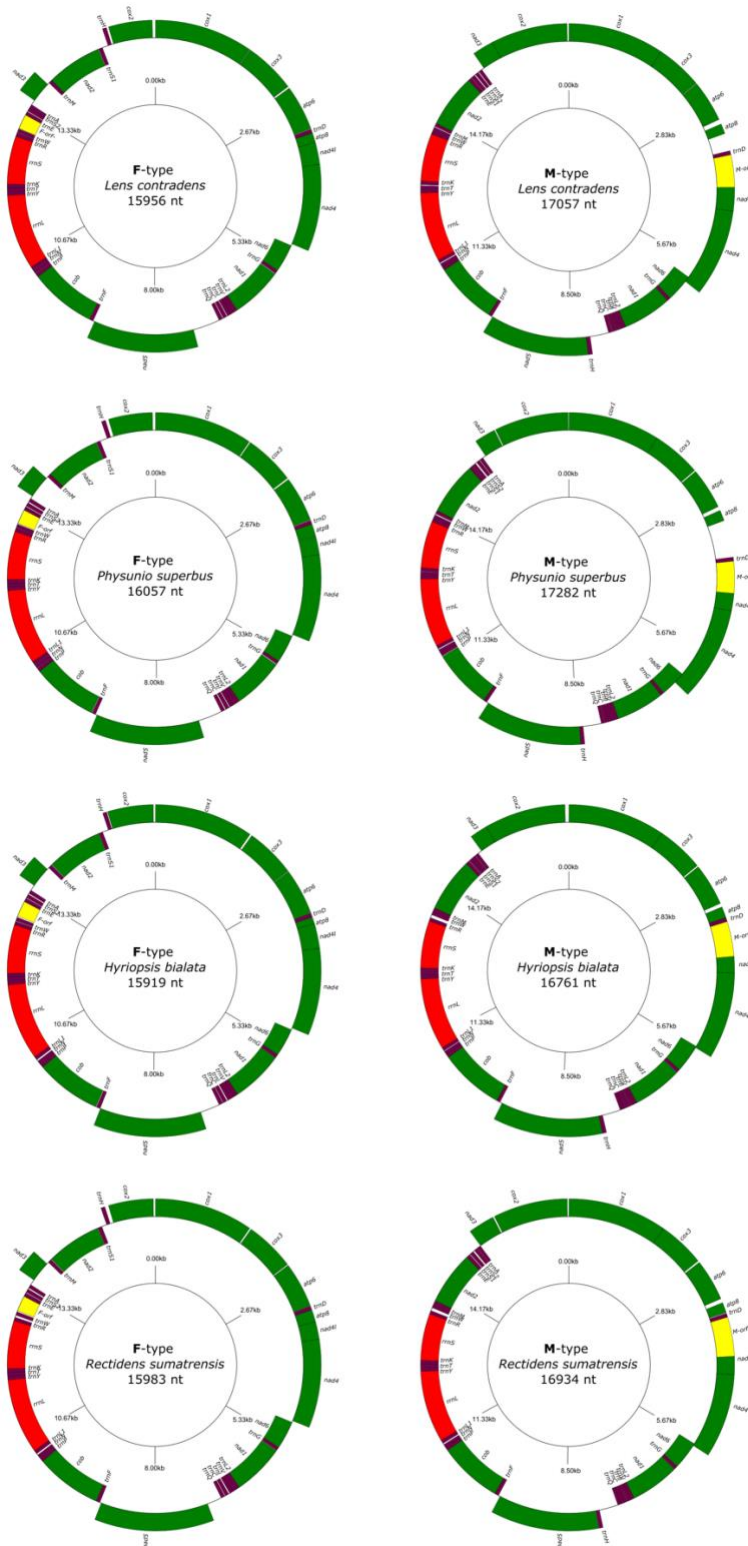
Type of DNA	Gene (fragment)	μ [substitutions/site/year x 10^{-9}] (mean (lower-upper 95% HPD))		K_a/K_s (mean \pm SD)		General Linear Model statistics; response variable = $\ln(\text{divergence rate})$				
		Female-type	Male-type	Female-type	Male-type	P (type)	P (ln(node age))	R ² (type)	R ² (ln(node age))	R ² (total model)
Whole mitogenome		2.17 (1.61-3.32)	2.96 (2.23-4.41)	0.09 \pm 0.02 ¹	0.20 \pm 0.04 ¹	<0.0001	<0.0001	0.25	0.35	0.78
PCG, RCC5	<i>atp6</i>	2.42 (1.81-3.68)	3.33 (2.52-4.93)	0.13 \pm 0.04	0.25 \pm 0.08	<0.0001	<0.0001	0.19	0.22	0.54
PCG, RCC5	<i>atp8</i>	6.77 (5.13-10.0)	7.71 (5.86-11.3)	0.39 \pm 0.19	0.51 \pm 0.19	n.s.	n.s.	0.04	0.01	0.07
PCG, RCC3	<i>cob</i>	2.51 (1.87-3.80)	3.14 (2.36-4.71)	0.06 \pm 0.02	0.12 \pm 0.03	<0.0001	<0.0001	0.10	0.14	0.33
PCG, RCC4	<i>cox1</i>	1.50 (1.11-2.30)	2.02 (1.52-3.03)	0.02 \pm 0.01	0.12 \pm 0.03	<0.0001	<0.0001	0.13	0.52	0.83
PCG, RCC4	<i>cox2</i>	1.90 (1.41-2.90)	3.58 (2.70-5.32)	0.09 \pm 0.03	0.23 \pm 0.07	<0.0001	<0.0001	0.44	0.14	0.73
PCG, RCC4	<i>cox3</i>	1.70 (1.26-2.60)	2.49 (1.87-3.74)	0.05 \pm 0.01	0.16 \pm 0.05	<0.0001	<0.0001	0.22	0.36	0.75
PCG, RCC1	<i>nad1</i>	2.37 (1.77-3.60)	3.27 (2.47-4.87)	0.06 \pm 0.02	0.14 \pm 0.05	<0.0001	0.0004	0.23	0.05	0.36
PCG, RCC1	<i>nad2</i>	3.09 (2.30-4.70)	4.41 (3.35-6.45)	0.13 \pm 0.05	0.28 \pm 0.07	<0.0001	<0.0001	0.34	0.08	0.54
PCG, RCC1	<i>nad3</i>	2.52 (1.86-3.90)	4.03 (3.05-5.91)	0.11 \pm 0.03	0.32 \pm 0.12	<0.0001	<0.0001	0.32	0.23	0.72
PCG, RCC1	<i>nad4</i>	2.80 (2.08-4.30)	3.86 (2.92-5.70)	0.14 \pm 0.04	0.25 \pm 0.07	<0.0001	<0.0001	0.28	0.22	0.66
PCG, RCC1	<i>nad4l</i>	2.24 (1.68-3.40)	3.69 (2.81-5.36)	0.17 \pm 0.10	0.34 \pm 0.11	<0.0001	n.s.	0.39	0	0.39
PCG, RCC1	<i>nad5</i>	2.84 (2.12-4.30)	3.95 (2.99-5.84)	0.11 \pm 0.03	0.25 \pm 0.07	<0.0001	<0.0001	0.26	0.10	0.46
PCG, RCC1	<i>nad6</i>	3.18 (2.41-4.70)	5.35 (4.07-7.85)	0.14 \pm 0.05	0.26 \pm 0.10	<0.0001	n.s.	0.42	0	0.42
Large rRNA	<i>rrnL</i>	1.49 (1.11-2.30)	1.76 (1.33-2.63)	n/a	n/a	<0.0001	<0.0001	0.08	0.23	0.41
Small rRNA	<i>rrnS</i>	1.14 (0.85-1.70)	1.42 (1.08-2.13)	n/a	n/a	<0.0001	<0.0001	0.16	0.12	0.38
PCG fragment	<i>col</i>	1.60 (1.18-2.50)	2.15 (1.61-3.22)	n/a	n/a	<0.0001	<0.0001	0.12	0.52	0.79
PCG fragment	<i>nd1</i>	2.33 (1.74-3.50)	3.22 (2.43-4.79)	n/a	n/a	<0.0001	<0.0001	0.24	0.07	0.39
Large rRNA fragment	16S rRNA	0.83 (0.62-1.30)	1.19 (0.90-1.78)	n/a	n/a	<0.0001	0.0054	0.23	0.02	0.30

774 ¹ PCGs only



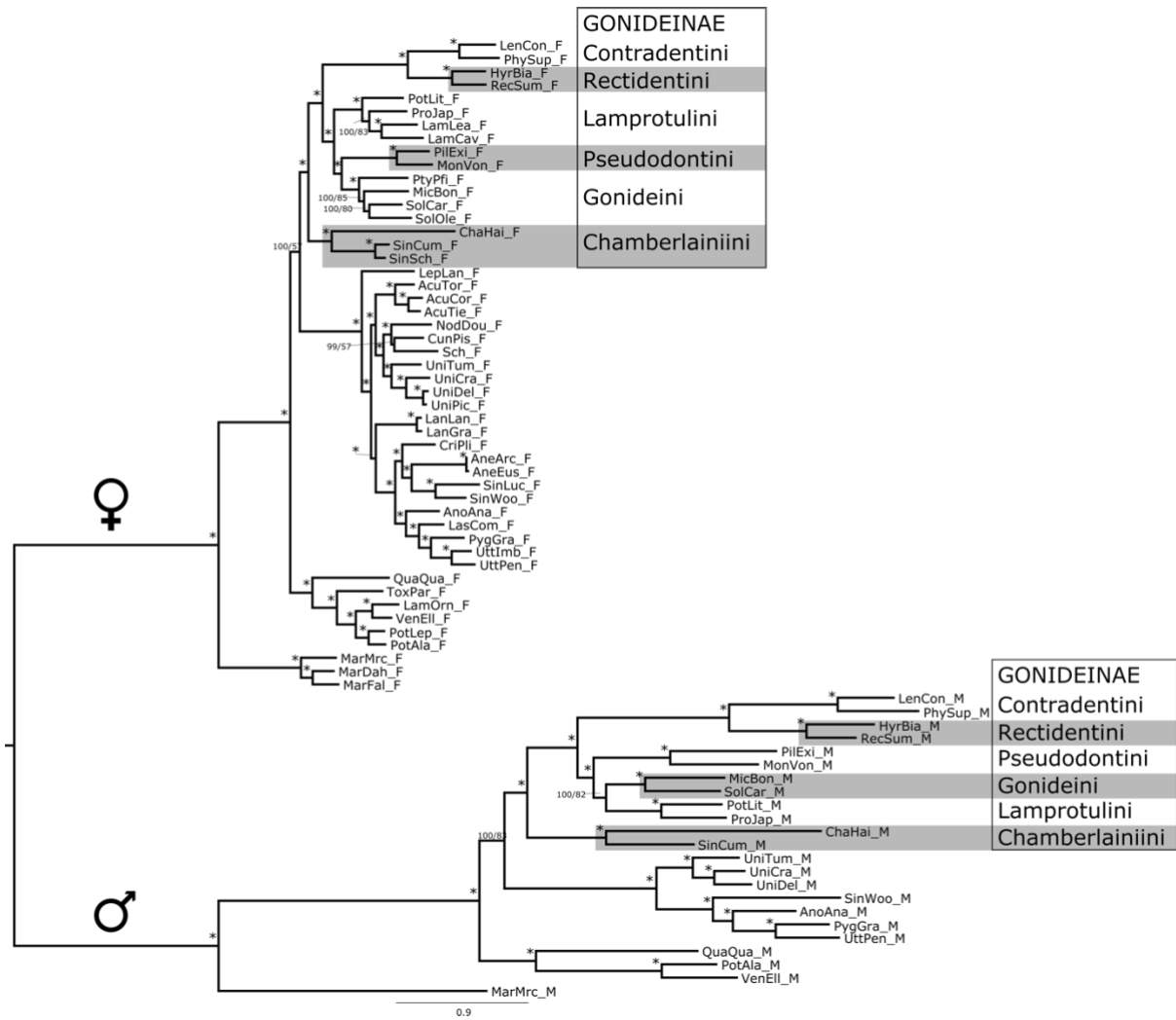
775

776 **Figure 1.** Recent multi-locus phylogenetic hypotheses on Gonideinae *sensu* Pfeiffer et al. (2019). Vertical bars indicate subfamilies recognised in
 777 respective publications. Note that Froufe et al. (2020) adopt a new systematic framework with three instead of two family-group levels, and thus,
 778 traditional tribes (ending -ini) are considered subtribes (ending -ina) in that study.



780

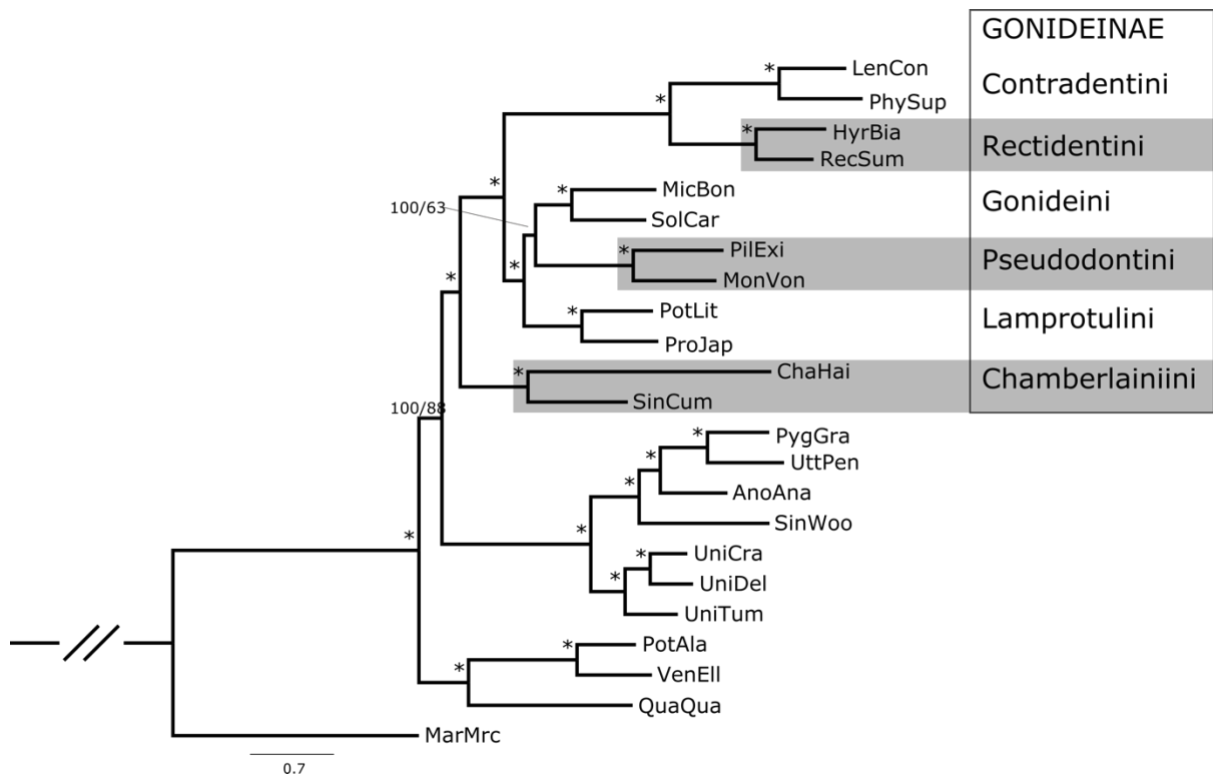
781 **Figure 2.** Gene maps of the F- and M-type mitochondrial genomes of *Lens contradens*,
 782 *Physunio superbus*, *Hyriopsis bialata* and *Rectidens sumatrensis*. Genes positioned inside the
 783 circle are encoded on the heavy strand, and genes outside the circle are encoded on the light
 784 strand. Colour codes: Small and large ribosomal RNAs (red); transfer RNAs (purple); *M-orf*,
 785 F-specific open reading frame (yellow); *M-orf*, M-specific open reading frame (yellow);
 786 protein-coding genes (green).



787

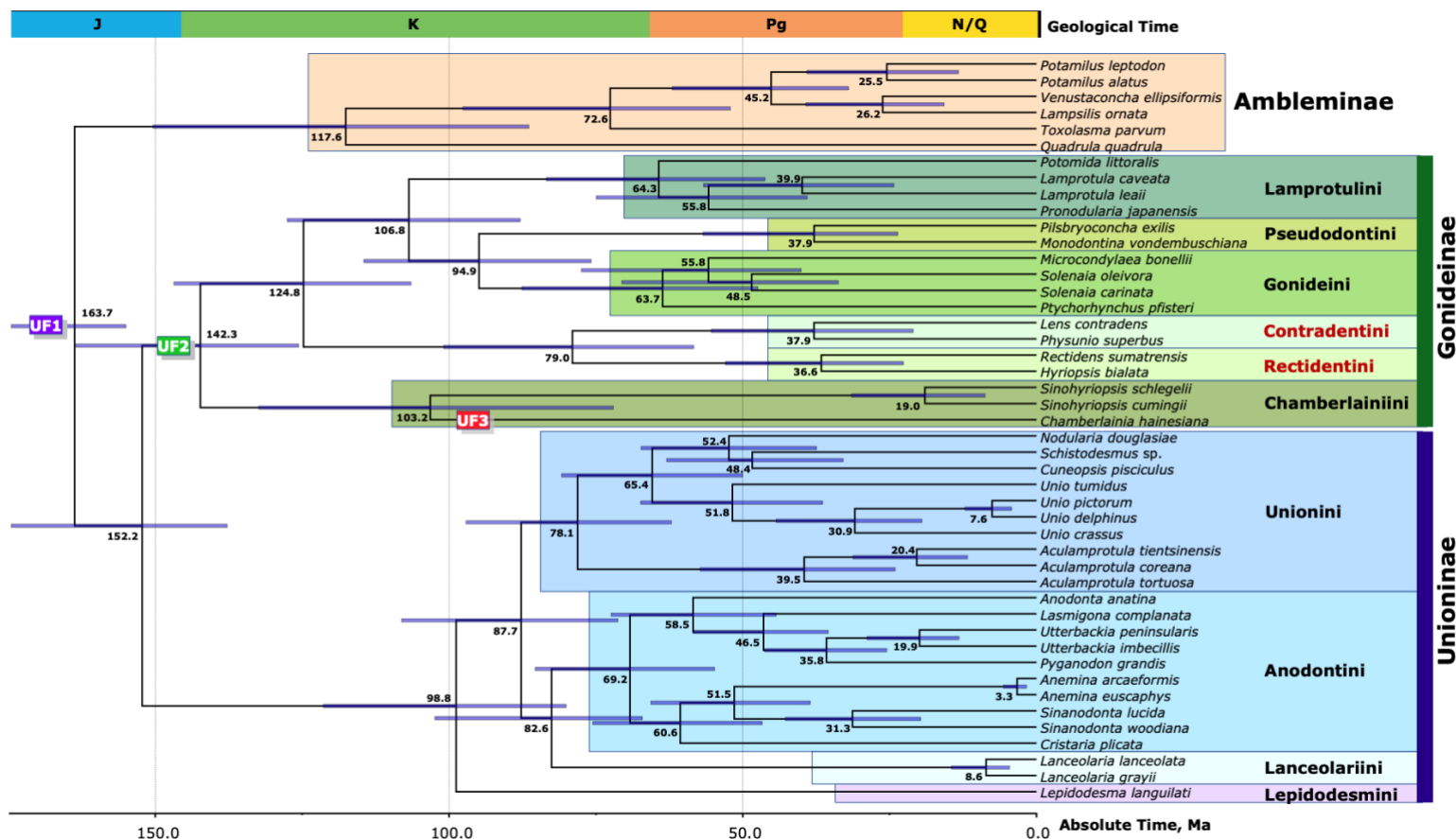
788 **Figure 3.** Phylogenetic tree of the Unionidae + Margaritiferidae estimated from 14
 789 concatenated individual mtDNA gene sequences (12 protein-coding and 2 rRNA genes).
 790 Values for branch support above each node represent Bayesian posterior probabilities
 791 percentage/Maximum Likelihood bootstrap support

792



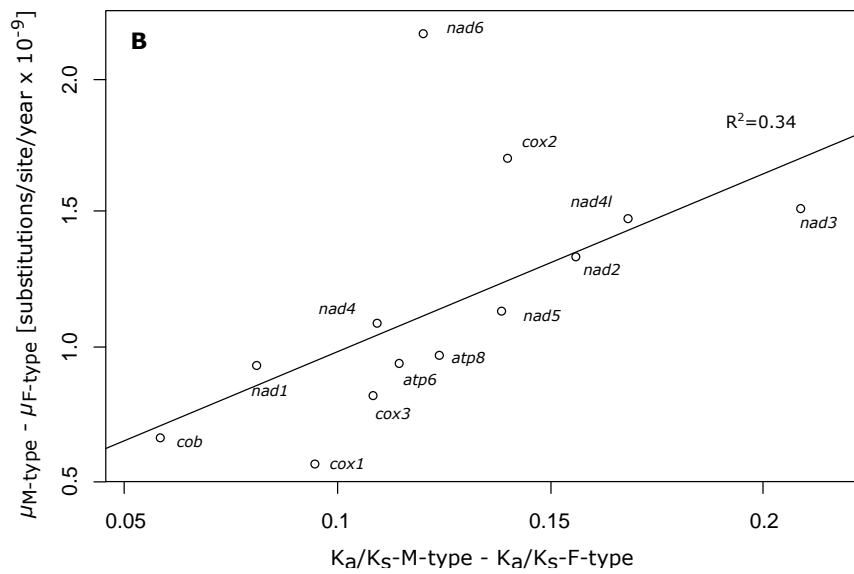
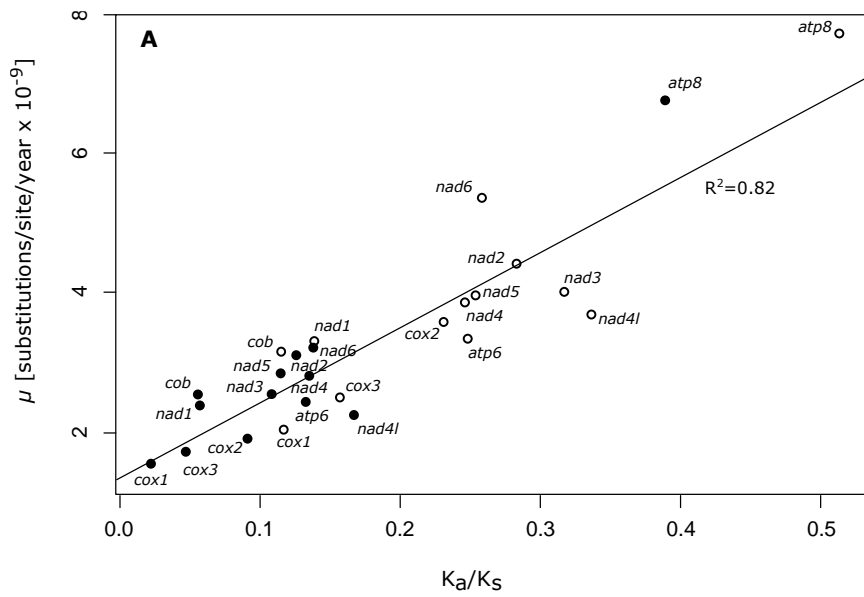
794

795 **Figure 4.** Phylogenetic tree of the Unionidae + Margaritiferidae estimated from 28
 796 concatenated individual mtDNA gene sequences, i.e. 14 from female-type (12 protein-coding
 797 and 2 rRNA genes) and 14 (12 protein-coding and 2 rRNA genes) from male-type
 798 mitochondria. Values for branch support above each node represent Bayesian posterior
 799 probabilities percentage/Maximum Likelihood bootstrap



801

802 **Figure 5.** Fossil-calibrated ultrametric chronogram of the Unionidae calculated under a lognormal relaxed clock model and a Yule process
 803 speciation implemented in BEAST v. 1.10.1 and obtained for the complete F-type mitogenome data set. The newly sequenced tribe-level taxa are
 804 coloured red. An outgroup sample (Margaritiferidae) has been removed for better visualisation (but see original BEAST tree in Fig. S1A). Bars
 805 indicate 95% confidence intervals of the estimated divergence times between lineages (Mya). Black numbers near nodes are mean ages (Mya).
 806 Colour labels indicate the F-mtDNA gene order (UF1, UF2, and UF3). Stratigraphic chart according to the International Commission on
 807 Stratigraphy v. 2018/08 (www.stratigraphy.org).



809

810 **Figure 6.** Relationship between (A) mean K_a/K_s and substitution rate (μ) per female-type (full
 811 circles) and male-type (empty circles) mtDNA protein-coding gene; and (B) differences
 812 between male- and female-type K_a/K_s and μ per protein-coding mtDNA gene.

813

814

815 **Supporting information**

816 **Figure S1.** Original BEAST v. 1.10.1 trees obtained for the (A) complete F-type and (B) M-
817 type mitogenome data set, respectively.

818

819 **Figure S2.** Relationship of divergence rates and node age for each female- (F) and male-type
820 (M) mtDNA gene, fragment and the whole mitogenome, calculated based on a fossil-calibrated
821 mitogenomic phylogeny of the Unionidae. For each regression line, R^2 , slope (m) and intercept
822 (b) values are given.

823

824 **Table S1.** Best-fit models of nucleotide substitution for each partition subset based on Bayesian
825 Information Criteria (BIC) using PartitionFinder2 (version 2.1.1 Lanfear et al., 2017) for the
826 Bayesian Inference (BI) and Maximum Likelihood (ML) analyses.

827

828 **Table S2.** List of fossil calibrations that were used in BEAST analyses

829