

Ancient hybridization between hare species: no evidence for the large X-effect on speciation

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The study of hybrid zones has often disclosed reduced levels of interspecific gene flow and higher differentiation on the X chromosome, suggesting an important role of the X on the establishment of post-zygotic reproductive isolation. In the Iberian Peninsula, variable levels of genetic admixture have been described across inheritance compartments between the extant *Lepus granatensis* and *L. timidus*, a species that went extinct from the region by the end of the last glacial period. Here, we surveyed sequence variation at 8 X-linked loci located along the X-chromosome in these species. We found generally high differentiation between the species but not significantly higher than that found for the autosomes estimated using published sequence data. This may result from introgression at one or eventually two genes. These results suggest that forces besides those preventing gene flow are in action in the X-chromosome of these hare species.

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poster presentation

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