

Phylogeny and genetic variation in the spiders of the genus *Ryuthela* (Araneae: Liphistiidae)

Akio Tanikawa

Laboratory of Biodiversity Science, School of Agriculture and Life Sciences, The University of Tokyo, 1-1-1,
Yayoi, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, 113-8657 Japan
E-mail: dp7a-tnkw@j.asahi-net.or.jp

Abstract — The molecular analysis using the partial sequencing data of mt-DNA COI gene and nuclear 28S-rRNA gene is conducted to infer the phylogenetic and geographical genetic variations in the genus *Ryuthela*. The genus *Ryuthela* is suggested to be the monophyletic and the most derived group in the subfamily Heptathelinae. *Ryuthela iheyana*, *R. sasakii* and *R. ishigakiensis* are monophyletic groups, respectively, but *R. nishihirai* seems to be paraphyletic to *R. iheyana*. *Ryuthela* spiders appear to be diverged into many phylogenetic groups with strong geographic associations.

Key words — *Ryuthela iheyana*, *Ryuthela ishigakiensis*, *Ryuthela nishihirai*, *Ryuthela sasakii*, COI, 28S, Okinawa

Introduction

Many members of araneomorph spiders are able to disperse great distances by aerial ballooning, but primitive mygalomorph spiders seldom disperse by ballooning (Greenstone et al. 1987). Therefore their interpopulation gene flow may be limited and prone to exhibit population divergence. DNA sequencing data showed that *Aptosticus simus*, the trap door spider with a limited dispersal capability, is geographically subdivided and divergent in the absence of morphological differentiation (Bond et al. 2001). Furthermore, in the trapdoor spider species *Antrodiaetus unicolor*, species-level paraphyly was detected by DNA sequencing data (Hendrixson & Bond 2005).

Although I recognized four species in the genus *Ryuthela* by the male palpal morphology (Tanikawa 2013), species concept based on morphological distinctiveness appears to underestimate true diversity for spiders with limited dispersal capabilities (Bond et al. 2001). Because the genus *Ryuthela* is trap door spiders with a limited ability to disperse and have only a slight morphological differentiation among species (Tanikawa 2013), as in *Aptosticus* or *Antrodiaetus*, geographical divergence and/or species level paraphyly or polyphyly are expected. I conducted molecular analysis using nuclear 28S-rRNA gene and mitochondrial COI gene to infer the phylogenetic relationships among the species and to assess intraspecific and interspecific genetic variations in the genus *Ryuthela*.

Materials and methods

Sampling. The specimens used in this study were collected from throughout the distribution range of *Ryuthela*, that is, from Okinawajima Is. to Iriomotejima Is. of Ryukyu

Isls., the southwest Japan (Fig. 1). Female and juvenile specimens were preserved in 99.5% ethanol at 4°C. Male adult spiders were preserved in 75% ethanol at room temperature, except for dissected right fourth leg preserved in 99.5% ethanol at 4°C. Young males were brought back alive to the laboratory and reared until becoming adults. Two specimens of *Liphistius* sp. from Thailand and Malaysia, three specimens of *Heptathela hangzhouensis* from China, and two specimens of *Heptathela yanbaruensis* from Okinawajima Is. were used as the out group in phylogenetic analysis. Sampling data of the specimens used in this study are shown in Appendix.

DNA extraction, polymerase chain reaction and sequencing. Genomic DNA was extracted from muscle of legs of large individuals or the whole cephalothorax of small individuals using DNeasy Blood & Tissue kit (Qiagen, Inc., Germantown, MD). The mitochondrial cytochrome oxidase subunit I (mt-COI) partial sequences and nuclei 28S-rRNA (28S) partial sequences were used for phylogenetic analysis. Mt-COI was amplified using the primer combination CB1: 5' — TAT GTA CTA CCA TGA GGA CAA ATA — 3' (Jermiin & Crozier 1994) with HCOI-2198: 5' — TAA ACT TCA GGG TGA CCA AAA AAT CA — 3' (Folmer et al. 1994). The reactants were initially denatured for 2 min at 90°C, proceeded with 40 cycles of 15 sec at 90°C, 20 sec at 50°C, 4 min at 72°C. 28S was amplified using the primer combination ZX1: 5' — ACC CGC TGA ATT TAA GCA TAT — 3' with AS8OP1: 5' — AGA GCC AAT CCT TGT CCC GA — 3' (Bond & Hedin 2006). The reactants were initially denatured for 2 min at 94°C, proceeded with 40 cycles of 30 sec at 94°C, 20 sec at 50°C, 2 min at 72°C. PCR products were purified using the ExoSAP-IT (GE Healthcare Bio-Sciences, Co.

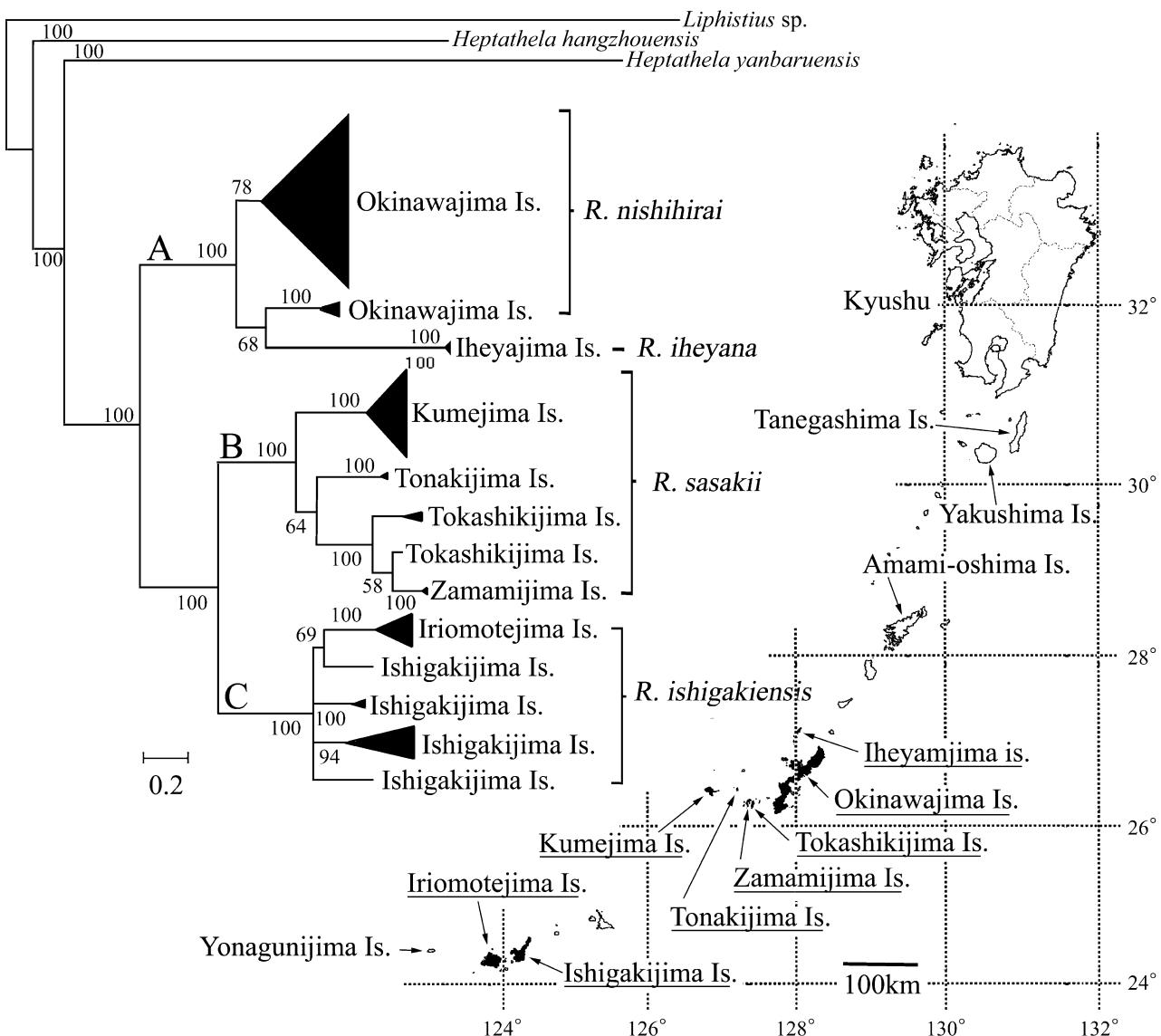


Fig. 1. Left: 50% majority rule consensus tree topologies obtained from Bayesian inference. Posterior probabilities are shown just after nodes. As for the details of topologies and distributions in each island, see figs. 2–4 and appendix. Scale=0.2 substitution/site. Right: Map showing the Ryukyu Isls. The underlined names show the islands from where *Ryuthela* specimens were collected. Scale=100 km.

Ltd., Buckinghamshire, England). The purified PCR products were sequenced using the BigDye terminator cycle sequencing kit (ver.3.1) using the primer HCOI-2198 (mt-COI) or ZR1 (28S) and analyzed on ABI 3100 or ABI 3130xl automated DNA sequencer (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA). Chromatograms were checked by eye using BioEdit Ver. 7.0.5.0.3 (Hall 1999) or MEGA version 5.05 (Tamura et al. 2011). Sequence alignments were done by MUSCLE (Edgar 2004) in MEGA. Overall mean p-distance was calculated using MEGA by averaging the number of base differences per site over all sequence pairs.

Phylogenetic analysis. The Perl script KAKUSAN 4 (Tanabe 2011) and TREEFINDER (Jobb et al. 2004) were used to determine the appropriate model of DNA evolution by BIC for Bayesian analyses. MrBays ver. 3.1.2 (Ronquist

& Huelsenbeck 2003) was employed to infer the phylogeny on combined data set. Four concurrent Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) chains were run for 7,000,000 generations, saving a tree every 100 generations. Topologies prior to ln stabilization (“burn-in”) were discarded and posterior clade probabilities were computed from the remaining trees. The data of two *Liphistius* specimens were used for root estimation.

Result

In total, I sampled 270 specimens from 75 localities as shown in Appendix and obtained 578 bp of mt-COI, and 697 bp of 28S-rRNA partial sequences from those specimens. About a half (9/20) of 28S sequences showed heterozygote. Overall mean p-distances were 0.122 for mt-

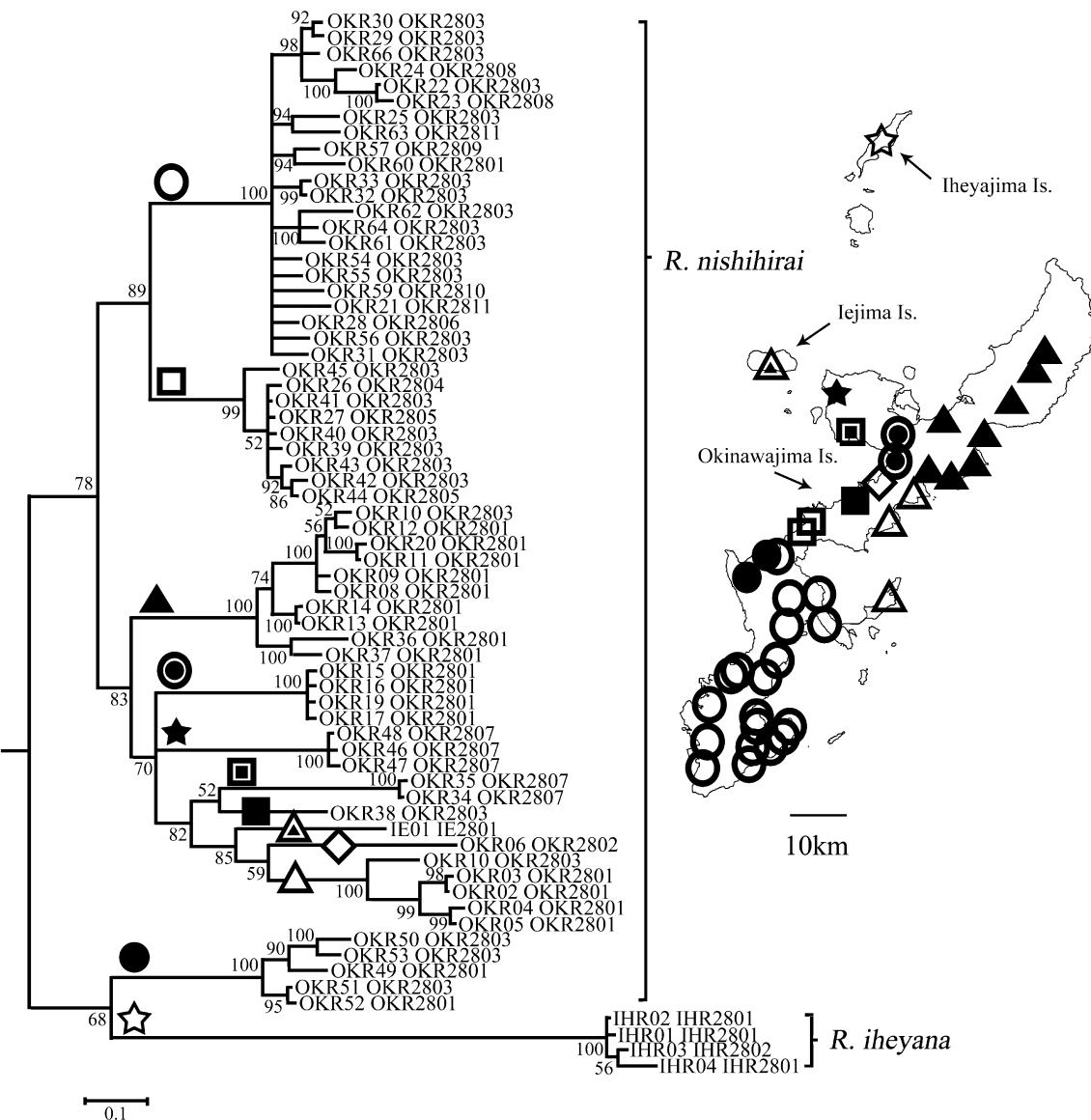


Fig. 2. Left: Details of the topologies of clade A, *R. nishihirai* and *R. iheyana*. The symbols at nodes correspond to their localities shown in right map. The OTUs are shown by the nemes of COI haplotype and 28S genotype. Scale=0.1 substitution/site. Right: Map showing the localities of specimens belonging to each sub-clade. Scale=10 km.

COI and 0.0154 for 28S-rRNA. The nucleotide sequence data are available in the DDBJ/EMBL/GenBank databases.

The best-fit models of sequence evolution determined by KAKUSAN 4 were HKY85+G for 28S, and for mt-COI, SYM+G for the first codon position, F81+I for the second position and HKY85+G for the third position, and gene proportional and codon proportional rather than other patterns of mixed model. Bayesian inference resulted in a phylogenetic tree shown in Figs. 1–4.

Strongly supported (pp=100) three major clades were recognized in *Ryuthela* (Fig. 1), that is, clade A (comprising *R. nishihirai* and *R. iheyana*), clade B (*R. sasakii*), and clade C (*R. ishigakiensis*). Three species, *R. iheyana*, *R. sasakii* and *R. ishigakiensis*, were inferred to be monophyletic, but *R. nishihirai* seems to be paraphyletic to *R. iheyana*. The

geographical population of *R. nishihirai* inferred to be a sister of *R. iheyana* is living in the middle part of Okinawajima Is., far apart from Iheyajima Is. (Fig. 2). *Ryuthela sasakii* was not united with *R. nishihirai* inhabiting nearby but with *R. ishigakiensis* inhabiting in distant islands (Fig. 1). In each major clade, there were many minor clades arising mainly from mt-DNA variability with strong geographic associations (Figs. 2–4), namely, *Ryuthela* populations were geographically divergent, though the relationships among them were ambiguous.

Discussion

The data set of the present study supports the monophyly of the genus *Ryuthela*, while the genus *Heptathela* is not

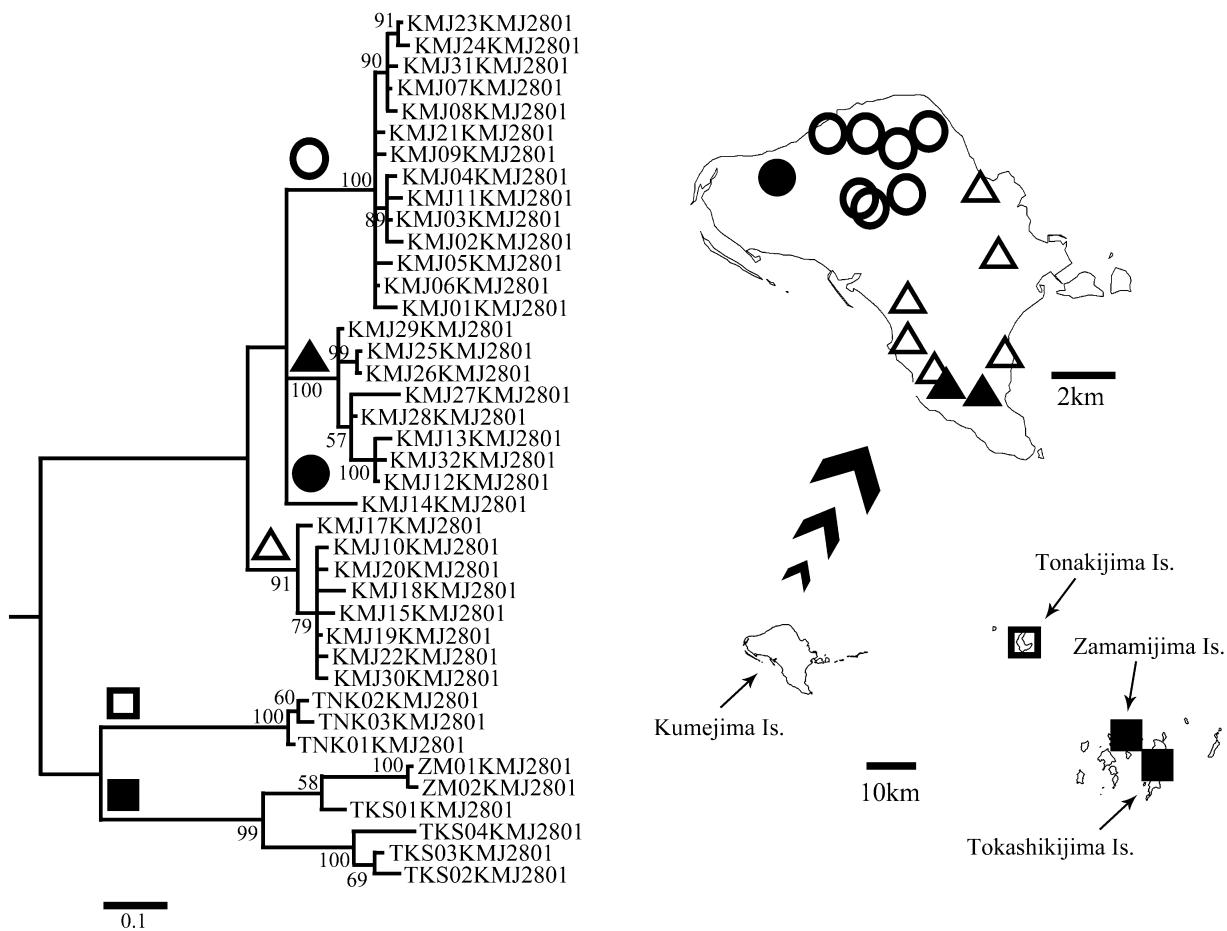


Fig. 3. Left: Detail of the topologies of clade B, *R. sasakii*. The symbols at nodes correspond to their localities shown in right map. The OTUs are shown by the names of COI haplotype and 28S genotype. Scale=0.1 substitution/site. Right: Map showing the localities of specimens belonging to each sub-clade. Scales=2 km, 10 km.

monophyletic but is paraphyletic to *Ryuthela*. The phylogenetic position of *Ryuthela* inferred in this study is inconsistent with the cladogram inferred by Haupt using the morphological data (Haupt 2003, fig. 61). The present study shows that *Ryuthela* is a sister group of Japanese *Heptathela* and seems to be the most derived group in the subfamily Heptathelinae, while Haupt's (2003) inference showed that Chinese *Heptathela* (*Sinothela* in Haupt 2003) is a sister of Japanese *Heptathela*, and *Ryuthela* is a sister of all the other members of Heptathelinae (Heptathelidae in Haupt 2003). Haupt mentioned that “*Ryuthela* possibly has hitherto unknown southern connection”, but the phylogenetic position inferred in this study is not necessarily in such supposition but connection to the Eastern China along with Japanese *Heptathela*. Further examination should be done in future to clarify the phylogenetic structure of Heptathelinae and the position of *Ryuthela*, including the sequencing data of Vietnamese *Heptathela* (*Nanthela* in Haupt 2003).

There are many minor clades arising mainly from mt-DNA variability, which are distributed geographically nearby (Figs. 2–4), that is, *Ryuthela* spiders, at least

females, are diverged into many geographical groups. This mt-DNA divergence supports the low mobility of female spiders as was observed in a previous study (Kikuya 1993). Although such a deep geographical divergence suggests a long history after expanding the distribution of *Ryuthela*, I could not separate them by morphology. There is a possibility of the existence of the cryptic species that are reproductively isolated with no clear morphological differences. However, as the males of *Ryuthela* wander to search for females in the breeding season, nuclear DNA may exhibit a low divergence due to high mobility of males. It is therefore necessary to analyze the population structure using nuclear DNA markers, whose evolutionary rate are much higher than 28S-rRNA gene, to infer the actual amount of gene flow among geographical groups.

Acknowledgements

I wish to express my hearty thanks to Dr. Tadashi Miyashita, The University of Tokyo, for his critical reading of the manuscript of this paper. My sincere thanks are also due to Dr. Masanobu Yoshio, Tokyo College of Environment, Dr. Haruki Tatsuta, University of the Ryukyus, for their guidance on DNA analysis. I am deeply indebted

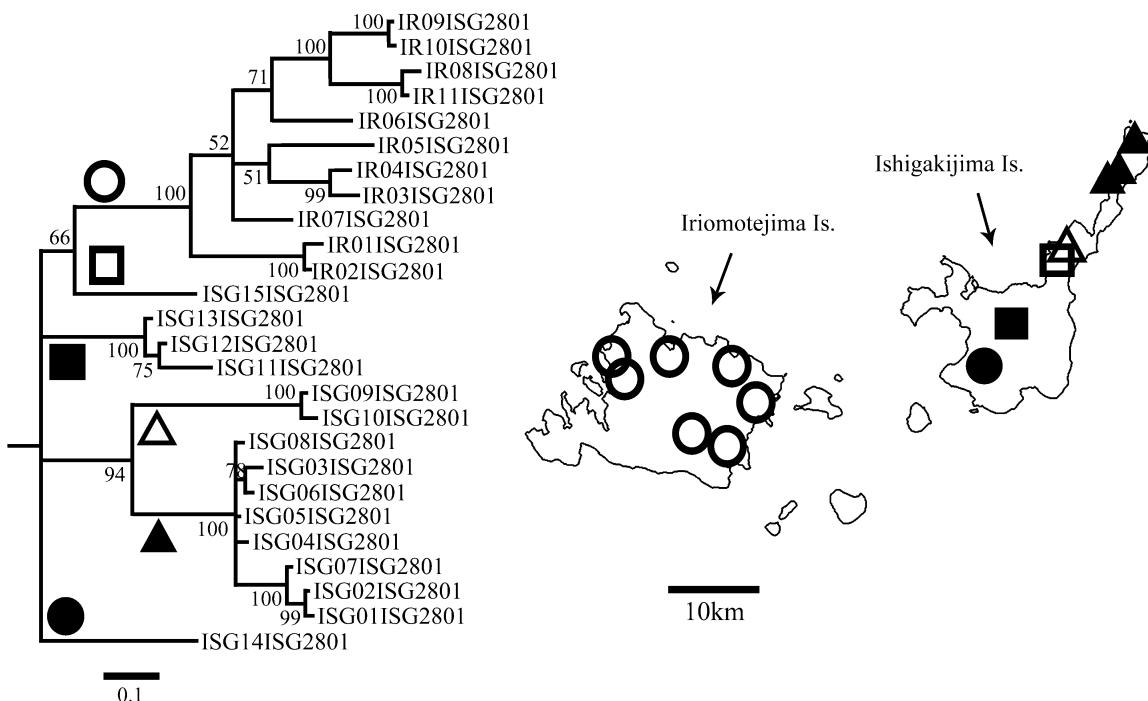


Fig. 4. Left: Detail of the topologies of clade C, *R. ishigakiensis*. The symbols at nodes correspond to their localities shown in right map. The OTUs are shown by the names of COI haplotype and 28S genotype. Scale = 0.1 substitution/site. Right: Map showing the localities of specimens belonging to each sub-clade. Scale = 10 km.

Dr. Yuki G. Baba, National Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences, Mr. Takeshi Sasaki and Mr. Nobuto Shimada, University of the Ryukyus, Ms. Yoshiko Honda, Hiroshima, Mr. Naoki Koike, Kyoto University, Dr. Shuqiang Li, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Dr. Mi Xiao-Qi, Hunan Normal University, for their offering specimens used in this study or supporting my field work. This work was supported by JSPS KAKENHI Grant Numbers 18916031, 20918018.

References

- Bond, J. E., Hedin, M. C., Ramirez, M. G. & Opell, B. D. 2001. Deep molecular divergence in the absence of morphological and ecological change in the Californian coastal dune endemic trapdoor spider *Aptostichus simus*. *Mol. Ecol.*, 10: 899–910.
- Edgar, C. R. 2004. MUSCLE: multiple sequence alignment with high accuracy and high throughput. *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 32: 1792–97.
- Folmer, O., Black, M., Hoew, W., Lutz, R. & Vrijenhoek, R. 1994. DNA primers for amplification of mitochondrial cytochrome oxidase subunit I from diverse metazoan invertebrates. *Mol. Mar. Biol. Biotechnol.*, 3: 294–299.
- Greenstone, M. H., Morgan, C. E. & Hultsch, A.-L. 1987. Ballooning spiders in Missouri, USA, and New South Wales, Australia: family and mass distributions. *J. Arachnol.*, 15: 163–170.
- Hall, T. A. 1999. BioEdit: a user-friendly biological sequence alignment editor and analysis program for Windows 95/98/NT. *Nucl. Acids. Symp.*, Ser. 41: 95–98.
- Haupt, J. 2003. The Mesothelae — a monograph of an exceptional group of spiders (Araneae: Mesothelae): (Morphology, behaviour, ecology, taxonomy, distribution and phylogeny). *Zoologica*, 154: 1–102.
- Hendrixson, B. E. & Bond, J. E. 2005. Testing species boundaries in the *Antrodiaetus unicolor* complex (Araneae: Mygalomorphae: Antrodiaetidae): “Paraphyly” and cryptic diversity. *Mol. Phylogenet. Evol.*, 36: 405–416.
- Jermiin L. S. & Crozier, R. H. 1994. The cytochrome b region in the mitochondrial DNA of the ant *Tetraponera rufoniger*: sequence divergence in Hymenoptera may be associated with nucleotide content. *J. Mol. Evol.*, 38: 282–294.
- Jobb, G., von Haeseler, A. & Strimmer, K. 2004. TREEFINDER: a powerful graphical analysis environment for molecular phylogenetics. *BMC Evol. Biol.*, 4: 18.
- Kikuya, N. 1993. Kimuragumo. Yasaka-shobo, Tokyo, 211 pp. (In Japanese)
- Ronquist, F. & Huelsenbeck, J. P. 2003. MrBayes 3: Bayesian phylogenetic inference under mixed models. *Bioinforma.*, 19: 1572–1574.
- Tamura, K., Peterson, D., Peterson, N., Stecher, G., Nei, M., & Kumar, S. 2011. MEGA5: Molecular Evolutionary Genetics Analysis using Maximum Likelihood, Evolutionary Distance, and Maximum Parsimony Methods. *Mol. Biol. Evol.*, 28: 2731–2739.
- Tanabe, A. S. 2011. Kakusan4 and Aminosan: two programs for comparing nonpartitioned, proportional, and separate models for combined molecular phylogenetic analyses of multilocus sequence data. *Mol. Ecol. Resources*, 11: 914–921.
- Tanikawa, A. 2013. Taxonomic revision of the spider genus *Ryuthela* (Araneae: Liphistiidae). *Acta Arachnol.*, 62: 33–40.

Received January 25, 2013 / Accepted February 23, 2013

N24.38739 E123.75228	2	IR09	AB778248	—	
N24.38739 E123.75228	1	IR10	AB778249	ISG2801	AB778048
N24.38739 E123.75228	1	IR11	AB778250	ISG2801	AB778048
N24.38516 E123.81487	1	IR01	AB778240	ISG2801	AB778048
N24.38516 E123.81487	1	IR02	AB778241	ISG2801	AB778048
N24.37759 E123.88276	1	IR04	AB778243	ISG2801	AB778048
N24.37759 E123.88276	2	IR04	AB778243	—	
N24.36305 E123.76592	1	IR08	AB778247	ISG2801	AB778048
N24.34300 E123.91141	1	IR03	AB778242	ISG2801	AB778048
N24.34300 E123.91141	1	IR05	AB778244	ISG2801	AB778048
N24.34300 E123.91141	2	IR05	AB778244	—	
N24.31222 E123.84026	1	IR07	AB778246	ISG2801	AB778048
N24.31222 E123.84026	2	IR07	AB778246	—	
N24.29813 E123.87680	1	IR06	AB778245	ISG2801	AB778048
N24.29813 E123.87680	1	IR06	AB778245	—	
Out group					
<i>Heptathela yanbaruensis</i> , Okinawajima Is.					
N26.61563 E128.09049	1	OKHY112	AB778251	OKHY2801	AB778049
N26.83633 E128.27544	1	OKHY203	AB778252	OKHY2801	AB778049
<i>Heptathela hangzhouensis</i> , Changsha, China					
unknown	1	CH01	AB778253	CH2801	AB778050
unknown	1	CH02	AB778254	CH2802	AB778051
unknown	1	CH03	AB778255	CH2801	AB778050
<i>Liphistius</i> sp., Thailand					
unknown	1	LT02	AB778256	LT2801	AB778052
<i>Liphistius</i> sp., Malaysia					
unknown	1	LM01	AB778257	LM2801	AB778053