



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Divergence history of the Rufous-tailed Tailorbird (*Orthotomus sericeus*) of Sundaland: Implications for the biogeography of Palawan and the taxonomy of island species in general

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ABSTRACT

The Rufous-tailed Tailorbird (*Orthotomus sericeus*)—a Sunda endemic—is divided into 3 morphologically based subspecies: one in western Sundaland (Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, and associated islands), one from the Natuna Islands in the South China Sea, and one on Borneo, Palawan, and smaller islands of the Sunda continental shelf east of Borneo. Previous study, however, suggested that these subspecies do not conform to molecular genetic subdivisions of the species. We reexamined the morphology and performed molecular phylogeographic and multi-locus coalescent analysis of two subspecies of Rufous-tailed Tailorbird comprising populations on the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo, and Palawan. We found (1) little morphological difference among the two subspecies, (2) no substantial genetic differences between the Borneo and western Sunda populations, but (3) marked genetic divergence between the Palawan and other populations. We conclude that the Bornean and western Sunda populations interbred extensively during Quaternary glacio-eustatic land connections, whereas the Bornean and Palawan populations did not. Unlike the other Greater Sunda Islands, Palawan has not been attached by a land bridge to the rest of Sundaland for at least one million years, and its relative isolation has prevented extensive intermixing between Palawan's and other Sunda populations. Thus, the Palawan population appears to be on its own evolutionary trajectory. The ability to demonstrate extensive interbreeding among some Sunda island populations, but not others, illustrates the practicality of testing Gill's (2014) “null hypothesis” that morphologically distinct populations on different islands are different species unless a compelling argument can be made to the contrary. In this case, Rufous-tailed Tailorbird morphology provided little or misleading evidence of the extent of interbreeding, whereas modern genetic analysis provided a clear view.

Keywords: Borneo, coalescent analysis, glacial cycles, multi-locus analysis, phylogeography, species concepts

Historia de divergencia de *Orthotomus sericeus* de Sondalandia: Implicancias para la biogeografía de Palawan y la taxonomía de las especies de las islas en general

RESUMEN

Orthotomus sericeus—endémica de Sonda—está dividida en tres subespecies en base a la morfología: una del oeste de Sondalandia (Península Malay, Sumatra e islas asociadas), una de las Islas Natuna en el Mar del Sur de China y una en Borneo, Palawan e islas más pequeñas de la plataforma continental de Sonda al este de Borneo. Estudios previos, sin embargo, sugirieron que estas subespecies no coinciden con las subdivisiones genéticas moleculares de la especie. Reexaminamos la morfología y realizamos análisis moleculares filogeográficos y de coalescencia multi-locus de dos subespecies de *O. sericeus* abarcando poblaciones de la Península Malay, Sumatra, Borneo y Palawan. Encontramos (1) poca diferencia morfológica entre las dos subespecies, (2) falta de diferencias genéticas substanciales entre las poblaciones de Borneo y del oeste de Sonda, pero (3) divergencia genética marcada entre la población de Palawan y otras poblaciones. Concluimos que las poblaciones de Borneo y del oeste de Sonda se entrecruzaron enormemente durante las conexiones terrestres glacio-eustáticas del Cuaternario, mientras que las poblaciones de Borneo y de Palawan no lo hicieron. A diferencia de las otras Islas Mayores de Sonda, Palawan no ha estado unida por un puente terrestre al resto de Sondalandia por al menos un millón de años, y su aislamiento relativo ha impedido una gran entremezcla entre las poblaciones de Palawan y otras poblaciones de Sonda. Así, la población de Palawan parece estar en su propia trayectoria evolutiva. La posibilidad de demostrar un enorme entrecruzamiento entre algunas

poblaciones de las islas de Sonda, pero no entre otras, ilustra la practicidad de evaluar la “hipótesis nula” de Gill (2014) de que poblaciones morfológicamente distintivas en islas diferentes son especies diferentes, a menos de que haya un argumento de peso en contra. En este caso, la morfología de *O. sericeus* brindó evidencia limitada o confusa del grado de entrecruzamiento, mientras que los análisis genéticos modernos brindaron un panorama claro.

Palabras clave: análisis de coalescencia, análisis multi-locus, Borneo, ciclos glaciares, conceptos de especie, filogeografía

INTRODUCTION

Palawan is a large Philippine island (14,650 km²) connected to the northeastern end of Sundaland (Figure 1), the biogeographic region of Southeast Asia that encompasses the Sunda continental shelf and its constituent land masses: the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java, Bali, Borneo, Palawan, and many other islands of the Indo-Malayan Archipelago (Whitmore 1981, 1987). During the Pliocene and Pleistocene, the Sunda shelf was exposed as land numerous times by glacial-eustatic sea level lowering, periodically uniting the Sunda islands with each other and the Asian mainland (Voris 2000, Sathiamurthy and Voris 2006). At these times, Palawan formed a peninsula northeast of Borneo pointing into the heart of the oceanic Philippine islands. Thus, biogeographers traditionally assumed Palawan was the main conduit for Asian vertebrates to reach the Philippines (Dickerson et al. 1928, Delacour and Mayr 1946, Inger 1954, Darlington 1957, Diamond and Gilpin 1983, Heaney 1985, Dickinson 1991). They also assumed that Asian invasions of the oceanic Philippines occurred relatively recently, i.e. during the late Quaternary, when glacial events were most frequent and dramatic. We now know, however, that invasions of the Philippines by many Asian forest animals occurred much earlier than the late Pleistocene, and the route through Palawan was less important than previously believed (e.g., for birds: Lim et al. 2010, Oliveros and Moyle 2010, Sheldon et al. 2012, Gamauf and Haring 2004, Moyle et al. 2007, Jones and Kennedy 2008, Moyle et al. 2009, Sheldon et al. 2009). The Sunda shelf, when exposed as land, does not simply transform into a wide expanse of rainforest through which forest animals can easily travel, but rather it seems to become a matrix of diverse habitats and montane and river barriers (Brandon-Jones 1998, Gathorne-Hardy et al. 2002, Meijaard and van der Zon 2003, Gorog et al. 2004, Cannon et al. 2009, Wurster et al. 2010, Slik et al. 2011). Movement through Palawan is further impeded by water barriers at both ends, making it act more as a filter or cul-de-sac than a transmigration facilitator (Esselstyn et al. 2010).

Part of the reason Palawan has been misunderstood as a biogeographic force is because only recently have we begun to understand the degree to which it is not a typical Sunda island. Whereas elements of Borneo, Sumatra, and even Java have been part of the Sunda continental core

since the Cretaceous (Hall 2002, 2009), Palawan is a newcomer to the area. It began as a continental fragment that broke off southern China ~30 Ma and drifted south to hit the Sunda shelf near northeastern Borneo ~20–10 Ma (Hall 1998, Zamoros and Matsuoka 2004, Yumul et al. 2009). Although Palawan was originally thought to have been submerged during all or most of its southward journey, Blackburn et al. (2010) and Siler et al. (2012) have argued that little evidence of complete submergence has been presented. Instead, on the basis of molecular genetic comparisons of frogs and lizards and a review of geology, they have suggested that parts of Palawan may actually have remained emergent during the entire journey. Moreover, the micro-continental plate on which Palawan sits would have drifted south with other micro-plates that later played a role in the accretion of some of the oceanic Philippine islands (e.g., Panay, Carabao, Mindoro, and the Romblons). Thus, Palawan may have acted as an “ark,” transporting vertebrates and other organisms to the oceanic Philippines, as well as to Sundaland and even Sulawesi (Blackburn et al. 2010). When Palawan reached its current location, it was thrust upward and took on its present conformation (Durkee 1993, Hall 2002, Yumul et al. 2009). As a result of its voyage, Palawan experienced a much different history than the other Sunda islands. Also, recent evidence indicates that Palawan has not been “firmly” connected to Sundaland as a result of sea level lowering. Although sea level models originally suggested a land connection between greater Borneo and Palawan during the last glacial maximum (e.g., Rohling et al. 1998), recent work indicates that during the most extreme glacial events of the last 700 Ka, sea levels did not fall below 125 m (± 12 m); before 700 Ka, sea level drops were even less extreme (Bintanja et al. 2005). Because Palawan is separated from Borneo by a 140 m channel (Heaney 1986), it has probably been isolated by a narrow water barrier for much of the Quaternary, if not forever (Bintanja et al. 2005, Esselstyn et al. 2010). Even if the channel were completely closed, the coastal habitat spanning Borneo and Palawan (e.g., mangrove, swamp forest, coastal strand) may not have been hospitable to most species of the interior lowland rainforest.

Palawan’s relatively recent and tenuous connection to Sundaland helps explain the history of its forest avifauna. Most of its upland birds appear to have colonized from Sundaland within the last 5–8 Ma; fewer have colonized

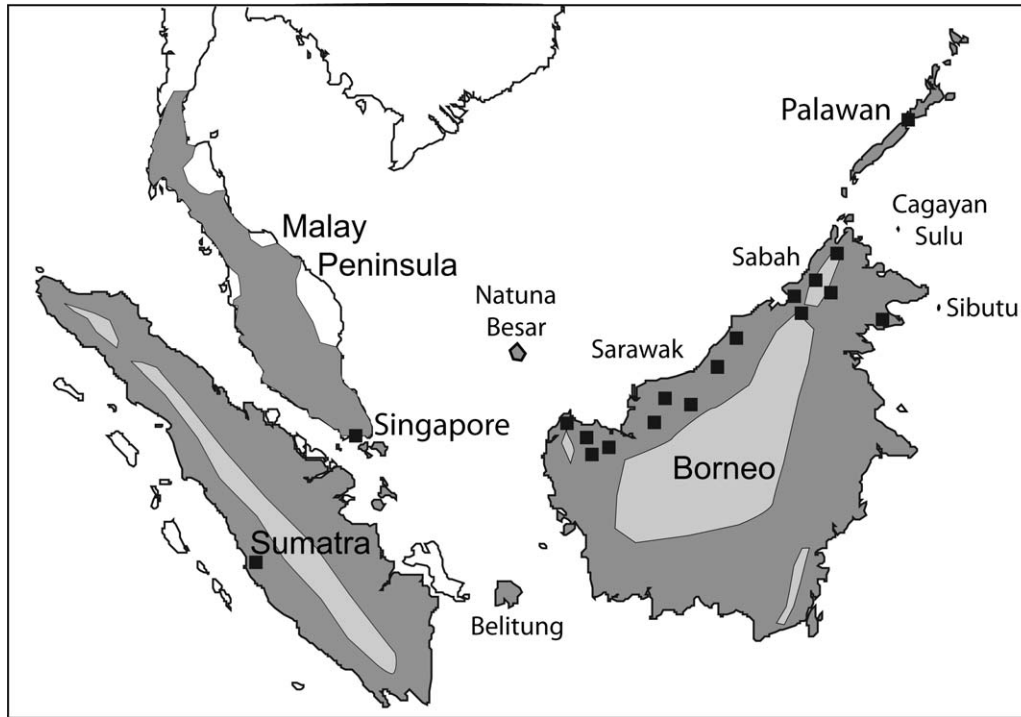


FIGURE 1. Map of Rufous-tailed Tailorbird distribution and sampling sites (black squares). Dark gray indicates the approximate distribution of the species (Sundaic lowlands). It is absent from light gray areas (mountains) and blank areas (Van Marle and Voous 1988, Madge 2006, Wells 2007, Phillipps and Phillipps 2014).

from the oceanic Philippines; none seems old enough to have ridden the island as an ark from mainland Asia (Lim et al. 2010, Lohman et al. 2010, Oliveros and Moyle 2010, Rahman et al. 2010, Oliveros et al. 2012, Irestedt et al. 2013). Among its Sunda colonizers, there appear to be 2

classes of genetic divergence (Table 1): the first representing earlier colonists, each of which is morphologically and genetically distinct from its sister taxon in Sundaland; and the second comprising more recent colonists displaying little morphological or genetic difference from their

TABLE 1. Bornean and Palawan sister taxa and their uncorrected proportional mitochondrial divergence values (Lim et al. 2010, Lohman et al. 2010, Oliveros and Moyle 2010, Rahman et al. 2010, Sheldon et al. 2012, R.G.M. and C.H.O. personal observation).

Palawan taxon ¹	Bornean taxon ¹	Main feeding guild	Main forest habitat	Divergence value
Class 1: Higher morphological and molecular divergence				
<i>Iole palawanensis</i>	<i>I. olivacea</i>	frugivore	1° & 2°	ND2 17%
<i>Malacopteron palawanense</i>	<i>M. magnirostre</i>	insectivore	1°	ND2 14%
<i>Pycnonotus cinereifrons</i>	<i>P. simplex</i>	frugivore	2°	ND2 14%
<i>Ptilocichla falcata</i>	<i>P. leucogrammica</i>	insectivore	1°	ND2 13.5%
<i>Malacocincla cinereiceps</i>	<i>M. malaccensis</i>	insectivore	1°	ND2 12.6%
<i>Alophoixus frater</i>	<i>A. bres</i>	frugivore	1°	ND2 12%
<i>Arachnothera dilutior</i>	<i>A. longirostra</i>	nectarivore	1° & 2°	Cytb 9%
<i>Copsychus niger</i>	<i>C. stricklandii</i>	insectivore	1°	ND2 9%
<i>Pachycephala cinerea plateni</i>	<i>P. c. cinerea</i>	insectivore	1° & 2°	ND2 8.5%
<i>Macronus gularis</i>	<i>M. bornensis</i>	insectivore	2°	ND2 7.9%
Class 2: Lower morphological and molecular divergence				
<i>Orthotomus sericeus</i>	<i>O. sericeus</i>	insectivore	2°	ND2 1.9%
<i>Pycnonotus atriceps</i>	<i>P. atriceps</i>	frugivore	2°	ND2 0.9%
<i>Alcedo meninting</i>	<i>A. meninting</i>	piscivore	1° & 2°	ND2 0.8%
<i>Ceyx erithaca</i>	<i>C. erithaca</i>	insectivore	1° & 2°	ND2 0.3%

¹ Classification of Gill and Donsker (2014).

Bornean sisters. The first group consists entirely of Palawan endemics, many of which have been recently accorded status as full species. Among these endemics are the sister species of some Sunda taxa that are completely or mainly restricted to mature forest in Borneo, e.g., Bornean Wren-Babbler (*Ptilocichla leucogrammica*), Short-tailed Babbler (*Malacocincla malaccensis*), and Grey-cheeked Bulbul (*Alophoixus bres*). Such species would be incapable of dispersing from Borneo to Palawan without a substantial rainforest corridor connecting the 2 islands (assuming ancestors of these species had the same habitat requirements as the modern birds). The second group of Palawan taxa, i.e. those displaying little divergence from their Bornean sisters, includes species that are expected to be good overwater dispersers: e.g., 2 kingfishers that occur in mangrove—Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher (*Ceyx erithaca*) and Blue-eared Kingfisher (*Alcedo meninting*)—and the highly vagile Black-headed Bulbul (*Pycnonotus atriceps*). One species that exhibits little morphological and only moderate genetic distinctiveness between its Palawan and Bornean populations is the Rufous-tailed Tailorbird (*Orthotomus sericeus*). Unlike the kingfishers and Black-headed Bulbul, the tailorbird is a notably poor flier and, presumably, disperser. Thus, it would not be expected to move back and forth between Borneo and Palawan without a land bridge.

The Rufous-tailed Tailorbird occurs on the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Belitung, Borneo, Palawan, Natunas, and various coastal islands (Figure 1). In the Philippines it is found only on islands that lie on the Sunda continental shelf, i.e. the Palawan chain (Balabac, Palawan, Busuanga, Culion), the western Sulu Archipelago (Sibutu, Sitanki, Omapoy, Sipangkot, Tumindao), and Cagayan Sulu (Dickinson et al. 1991). Originally, 4 subspecies of Rufous-tailed Tailorbird were described: the nominate *O. s. sericeus* of Borneo, *O. s. nuntius* of Cagayan Sulu Island and the Sulu Archipelago (Bangs 1922), *O. s. hesperius* of Sumatra, Belitung, and the Malay peninsula (Chasen and Kloss 1931), and *O. s. rubicundulus* of the Natuna Islands (Oberholser 1932). Individuals from Palawan were not examined in this initial taxonomic process. Later, the Palawan and other western Philippine populations were merged into *O. s. sericeus* because they were considered undifferentiated from Bornean birds (Peters 1939, Parkes 1960, Dickinson et al. 1991). This arrangement left just 3 morphologically based subspecies: *O. s. hesperius*, *O. s. sericeus*, and *O. s. rubicundulus*. However, subsequent molecular comparisons suggest this arrangement may be wrong. Mitochondrial ND2 sequence comparisons have indicated that the Palawan population is ~1.9% divergent from the Bornean population (Sheldon et al. 2012) and that the Borneo and western Sunda populations have recently and extensively intermixed (Lim et al. 2011).

In this paper, we explore Rufous-tailed Tailorbird phylogeography further in an effort to improve our understanding of the species' population history and the historical relationship between Palawan and the rest of Sundaland. Our investigation proceeds in 2 steps. First, we reexamine previous findings based on morphological characteristics and ND2 sequence divergence by comparing a relatively large number of individuals from populations spanning Sundaland. This step shows that populations from western Sundaland (Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula), Borneo, and Palawan are very similar to one another morphologically, and confirms that the Palawan population is genetically distinct from the western Sunda and Borneo populations. Next, we examine the divergence history of the Palawan population relative to the combined western Sunda and Borneo populations using a multi-locus coalescent analysis of ND2 and nuclear gene sequences. Specifically, we use immigration with migration analysis (IMa) to estimate the time since divergence of the 2 populations, levels of gene flow between them since their divergence, and their effective population sizes. This analysis provides a fairly clear picture of the recent biogeographic history of Rufous-tailed Tailorbird populations. It also illustrates an effective approach to identifying species limits in an island setting and, as such, illustrates the practicality of testing Gill's (2014) "null hypothesis" that morphologically distinguishable populations on different islands be considered different species unless a compelling argument can be made to the contrary.

METHODS

Because original descriptions of Rufous-tailed Tailorbird subspecies were vague and confused (Oberholser 1932, Peters 1939, Parkes 1960), we reassessed morphological variation among the populations whose DNA was compared in this study using specimens borrowed from the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, American Museum of Natural History, Delaware Museum of Natural History, Field Museum, Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science, National Museum of Natural History (U.S.A), Natural History Museum (U.K.), University of Kansas Museum of Natural History, and the Western Foundation. The taxa compared were *O. s. sericeus* from Borneo (30 individuals), *O. s. hesperius* from western Sundaland (peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, and Sumatra; 31 individuals), and *O. s. sericeus* from Palawan (31 individuals). We did not compare the Natuna and Cagayan Sulu populations because very few specimens exist from these sites; almost all are types (Bangs 1922, Chasen and Kloss 1931, Oberholser 1932), which are difficult to borrow and which museums are loath to subsample for DNA; and all are very old (collected in 1893,

1900, and 1921) and, thus, likely to be faded. Also, we reasoned that the populations of Natuna, which lies in the South China Sea between Borneo and the Malay Peninsula (Figure 1), would have been well connected and likely to interbreed with western populations during most or all glacial events (Voris 2000, Cannon et al. 2009). Cagayan Sulu is biogeographically more interesting than the Natunas, as it lies at the eastern limit of Sundaland. Unfortunately, only one specimen is available from this island, the type for the original *O. nuntius* (Bangs 1922). We hope to work with this specimen in the future.

We examined plumage color and measured 7 characters (all measurements were taken by VLC from adult birds using standard calipers): culmen length, length from nostril to bill tip, bill width, and bill depth; wing length; tail length; and tarsus length. Measurement data were analyzed using principal components analysis (PCA) and discriminant function analysis (DFA) using program “R” (R Development Core Team 2008) with the package MASS (Venables and Ripley 2002). PCA was based on a singular value decomposition of the data matrix for numerical accuracy. To test for sex-specific differences, separate analyses were performed on male and female specimens.

For molecular comparisons, we obtained mitochondrial ND2 (nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide dehydrogenase subunit 2) sequences of Rufous-tailed Tailorbird from 51 individuals from 3 areas (Table 2): Palawan (3 individuals); Malaysian Borneo (44 individuals); and Sumatra and Singapore (4 individuals). Two outgroup species were used in the phylogenetic analyses: Grey-backed Tailorbird (*O. derbianus*) of the Philippines and Ashy Tailorbird (*O. ruficeps*) from Borneo. These species are members of the clades closest to Rufous-tailed Tailorbird, but are still 9–11% divergent from it (Sheldon et al. 2012). ND2 sequences of 21 specimens, including outgroups, were produced in previous studies (Nguembock et al. 2007, Lim and Sheldon 2011, Sheldon et al. 2012); their GenBank numbers are listed in Table 2. Seven nuclear loci were sequenced in 19 individuals (Table 2). Six of the nuclear loci were autosomal: 16214 (methylmalonic aciduria type A protein mitochondrial precursor), 20771 (p21-activated protein kinase-interacting protein), and 27189 (gamma-tubulin complex component 3) from Backström et al. (2008a, 2008b); GARS (glythyl-tRNA synthetase intron 11) from Kimball et al. (2009); and GADPH (glyceraldehyde 3-PDH) and TGFB (fifth nuclear intron of transforming growth factor, β 2) from Primmer et al. (2002). One was a Z-linked locus: BRM15 (a core ATPase of the SWI/SNF ATP-dependent chromatin remodeling complex) from Borge et al. (2005).

DNA was extracted from ethanol-preserved pectoral muscle using DNeasy tissue kits (QIAGEN, Hilden, Germany) or from blood preserved in Queen’s Lysis Buffer (Seutin et al. 1991) using a standard phenol–chloroform

protocol. PCR was conducted using primers published in the citations above. PCR products were purified with 20% polyethylene glycol and cycle-sequenced in both directions using PCR primers and BigDye Terminator Cycle-Sequencing kits version 3.1 (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, California, USA). Cycle-sequencing products were cleaned with Sephadex G-50 fine (GEHealthcare, Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire, UK) before analysis on an ABI Prism 3100 Genetic Analyzer (Applied Biosystems). The sequences were assembled and edited in Sequencher version 4.7 (Gene Codes, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA). To determine allelic phases of non-recombining blocks in nuclear sequences, we used TA-cloning and computational procedures described in Lim and Sheldon (2011). GenBank numbers of sequences produced in this study are KJ864966–KJ865225.

The phylogeny of Rufous-tailed Tailorbird populations was estimated from aligned ND2 sequences using maximum-likelihood and Bayesian approaches, with models of molecular evolution first estimated with jmodeltest 0.1.1 (Posada 2008). We used MrBayes 3.2 to construct a majority rule consensus Bayesian tree using the following parameters: 2 simultaneous runs, number of MCMC generations = 10 million (sampling every 1,000 trees), burn-in fraction = 0.25, 4 search chains in each run, general time reversible model of nucleotide substitution (nst = 6), and gamma-distributed rate variation across sites (Ronquist et al. 2012). We ascertained that runs in MrBayes had converged in view of the small average standard deviation of split frequencies (0.004) and by inspection of log-likelihood-value and parameter trend lines in the program Tracer v1.6. For maximum likelihood phylogenetic analysis, 500 bootstrap replicates were estimated using a genetic algorithm implemented by the GARLI web service: http://www.molrev.org/software/phylogenetics/garli/garli_create_job (Zwickl 2006). GARLI parameters were set as follows: non-partitioned analysis; general time reversible model of nucleotide substitution; estimated base frequencies and proportion of invariant sites; and gamma-shaped, across-site rate heterogeneity (4 categories).

We evaluated Rufous-tailed Tailorbird population structure using an analysis of molecular variance (AMOVA) of the ND2 data in ARLEQUIN 3.5 (Excoffier and Lischer 2010). Following results from phylogenetic analysis (see Results) and based on our previous observation of genetic variation (Lim et al. 2011), we partitioned the data by grouping birds from western Sundaland and Borneo into one population (BWS) and birds from Palawan into another. We also constructed a median joining network from the ND2 data using the program Network v.4.6 (Bandelt et al. 1999) to visualize genetic diversity and geographical relationships.

TABLE 2. *Orthotomus* species and DNA samples used in this study.

Species ¹	Subspecies	Country	State or Province	Collection locality	Lat.	Long.	Specimen number ²	ND2 from previous studies ³	Nuclear genes sequenced ⁴
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Philippines	Palawan	Puerto Princesa	9.97	118.78	KUNHM 12601		yes
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Philippines	Palawan	Puerto Princesa	9.97	118.78	KUNMH 12624		yes
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Philippines	Palawan	Puerto Princesa	9.97	118.78	KUNMH 12631	JX006141*	yes
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sabah	Tawau Hills	4.4	117.89	LSU B51050		
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sabah	Tawau Hills	4.4	117.89	LSU B51057		
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sabah	Serinsim	6.29	116.71	LSU B46975		
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sabah	Serinsim	6.29	116.71	LSU B46989	HQ011047*	yes
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sabah	Serinsim	6.29	116.71	LSU B46990		
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sabah	Serinsim	6.29	116.71	LSU B47010	HQ011048*	
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sabah	Serinsim	6.29	116.71	LSU B47020		
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sabah	Ulu Kimanis	5.5	116	KUNHM 17792	JN826602*	yes
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sabah	Crocker Range	5.4	116.1	LSU B36342	HQ011046*	yes
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sabah	Crocker Range	5.4	116.1	LSU B36357		
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sabah	Crocker Range	5.4	116.1	LSU B36370		
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sabah	Klias	5.33	115.67	LSU B47190		
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sabah	Klias	5.33	115.67	LSU B47191	HQ011049*	yes
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sabah	Mendolong	4.85	115.7	LSU B51012	HQ011050*	yes
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sabah	Mendolong	4.85	115.7	LSU B51034		
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sarawak	Miri-Bintulu	4.16	114.03	LSU B58177		
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sarawak	Niah town	3.74	113.79	LSU B58183		
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sarawak	Batu Niah	3.82	113.76	LSU B58160		yes
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sarawak	Tatau Town	2.89	112.87	LSU B58190		yes
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sarawak	Tatau Town	2.89	112.87	LSU B58191		
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sarawak	Kanowit	2.08	112.14	LSU B52213		
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sarawak	Kanowit	2.08	112.14	LSU B52214		
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sarawak	Mukah	2.92	112.15	LSU B52224		
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sarawak	Mukah	2.92	112.15	LSU B52226		
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sarawak	Mukah	2.92	112.15	LSU B52227		
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sarawak	Sibu	2.36	111.82	LSU B58208		
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sarawak	Bako	1.72	110.48	BMNHC 82057		
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sarawak	Bako	1.72	110.48	BMNHC 82075		
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sarawak	Bako	1.72	110.48	BMNHC 82078		
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sarawak	Bako	1.72	110.48	BMNHC 81920		
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sarawak	Kota Samarahan	1.46	110.45	LSU B58212	HQ011055*	yes
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sarawak	Kota Samarahan	1.46	110.45	LSU B58216	HQ011056*	
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sarawak	Kota Samarahan	1.46	110.45	LSU B58217	HQ011057*	
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sarawak	Kubah	1.65	110.22	BMNHC 82014		
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sarawak	Kubah	1.65	110.22	BMNHC 82027		
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sarawak	Padawan	1.18	110.2	LSU B52139		
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sarawak	Padawan	1.18	110.2	LSU B52144	HQ011052*	
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sarawak	Padawan	1.18	110.2	LSU B52145		
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sarawak	Padawan	1.18	110.2	LSU B52136		
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sarawak	Padawan	1.18	110.2	LSU B52137	HQ011051*	yes
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sarawak	Padawan	1.18	110.2	LSU B52147		
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sarawak	Matang	1.61	110.2	LSU 52153	HQ011053*	yes
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>sericeus</i>	Malaysia	Sarawak	Matang	1.61	110.2	LSU B52167	HQ011054*	
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>hesperius</i>	Singapore	Singapore	Pulau Ubin	1.41	103.96	J1165	HQ011060*	yes
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>hesperius</i>	Malaysia	Singapore	Pulau Ubin	1.41	103.96	J1167	HQ011061*	yes
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>hesperius</i>	Singapore	Singapore	Bukit Batok	1.35	103.75	BMNHC 81966	HQ011058*	yes
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>hesperius</i>	Singapore	Singapore	Marina South	1.27	103.85	BMNHC 81969	HQ011059*	yes
<i>O. sericeus</i>	<i>hesperius</i>	Indonesia	Sumatra	Lunang Town	-2.27	101.03	BMNHC 67468	HQ011062*	yes
<i>O. derbianus</i> *		Philippines	Catanduanes	Catanduanes Is.	13.7	124.33	FMNH 350975	JX006122**	
<i>O. ruficeps</i> *		Malaysia	Sabah	Klias	5.33	115.67	LSU B47143	JX006132*	

¹ Classification follows Gill and Donsker (2014). * indicates outgroups.² BMNHC = Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, FMNH = Field Museum of Natural History, KUMNH = University of Kansas Natural History Museum, LSU = Louisiana State Museum of Natural Science.³ GenBank numbers for ND2 sequences obtained from previous studies: *Lim et al. (2011) and Sheldon et al. (2012); and **Nguembock et al. (2007).⁴ "Yes" indicates that nuclear loci were sequenced in this study. Seven loci were sequenced for most individuals; however, KUNHM 12601 lacks GAPDH and 16214; KUNHM 12631 lacks GARS, 16214 and 20771; LSU B58160 lacks BRM15 and 16214; KUNHM 17792 lacks 20771.

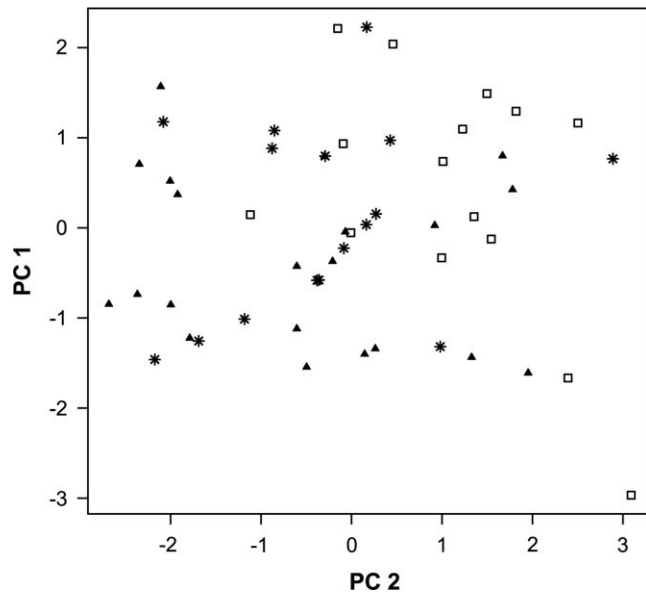


FIGURE 2. PCA of 6 size characters of male Rufous-tailed Tailorbird. Open squares: Borneo; closed triangles: western Sundaland; and stars: Palawan.

IMa analysis (Hey and Nielsen 2004) was conducted to determine time of divergence, effective population sizes, and gene flow between Palawan and BWS. In this analysis, we used phased sequences of all 7 nuclear genes and sequences of ND2. Approximate mutation rates of 4 nuclear genes (BRM15, GAPDH, GARS, and TGFB) and ND2 were applied so that IMa would produce results in demographic units (Lim and Sheldon 2011). To determine prior limits and run convergence characteristics, we performed several short-length (5 million generation) and moderate-length (50 million generation) IMa runs. We then carried out a final analysis of 100 million generations with 10 heated chains (total run time = 343 h; geometric heating scheme, $g_1 = 0.8$, $g_2 = 0.9$). We recorded results every 100 generations and discarded the first 10% as burn-in. We set one year as the generation time, as a best guess, but note that little is known about the breeding cycle of Rufous-tailed Tailorbird (Van Marle and Voous 1988, Smythies 1999, Wells 2007). In addition to using IMa to produce estimates of demographic parameters and divergence, we also used it to assess the fit of simpler demographic models nested within the full six-parameter divergence model (Hey and Nielsen 2007). In these nested models ($n = 16$), simplifications included assuming populations have the same effective size and symmetrical gene flow. We assessed the fit of reduced models to the data by comparing them against their null models using likelihood ratio tests (LRT). The significance of the differences was then determined with

appropriate chi-squared distributions and Bonferroni correction for multiple comparisons.

RESULTS

We observed no consistent differences in plumage among the 92 specimens compared, but note that the specimens from Western Sundaland were old and potentially faded. PCA of combined male and female measurements indicated the majority of variance (57%) was distributed among 2 components: PC1 (40%) and PC2 (17%). Wing and tail lengths accounted for most of this variation. In males alone, 50% of the variance was distributed between PC1 (32%) and PC2 (19%). In females, 55% was in PC1 (38%) and PC2 (16%). None of the PCA scatter plots indicated a clear difference among populations; the male plot shows the most difference (Figure 2). DFA of all individuals was highly influenced by bill depth and total culmen length, as was the DFA of males. In females, it was most influenced by bill width and wing length. In jackknife analysis of all individuals, DFA properly classified 57% of the Borneo population, 65% of the Palawan population, and 58% of the western Sundaland population. Overall classification accuracy was 60%. For males alone, DFA properly classified 60% to Borneo, 69% to Palawan population, and 67% to western Sundaland, with overall accuracy of 65%. For females, DFA accuracy was 73% for Borneo, 60% for Palawan, and 70% for western Sundaland, with overall accuracy of 55%. In general, none of the morphological characters we examined could discriminate effectively among the 3 populations (western Sundaland, Borneo, and Palawan) or the 2 subspecies (*sericeus* and *hesperius*).

The ND2 data consisted of 1,038 sites. Among Rufous-tailed Tailorbirds, 982 sites were invariable, 40 polymorphic, 8 unique, and 32 parsimony informative. The average uncorrected ND2 divergence between the Palawan and BWS populations was 1.7%. There were 20 haplotypes, haplotype diversity was 0.933, and nucleotide diversity was 0.00528. The haplotype network (Figure 3) showed a series of Bornean locations radiating from western Sundaland, and Palawan was differentiated by 19 steps from all other populations. AMOVA (Table 3) indicated a high degree of genetic structure occurring among populations, 63% (Borneo, Palawan, and Western Sundaland), and less within, 37%. Phylogenetic analysis of ND2 sequences using maximum likelihood bootstrapping (Figure 3) and Bayesian methods (not shown) yielded trees with largely unresolved among-population relationships, but again with the Palawan population well differentiated from the others.

IMa analysis yielded good mixing among successive MCMC chains (minimum swap rate >35%), and convergence in results was observed among different IMa runs.

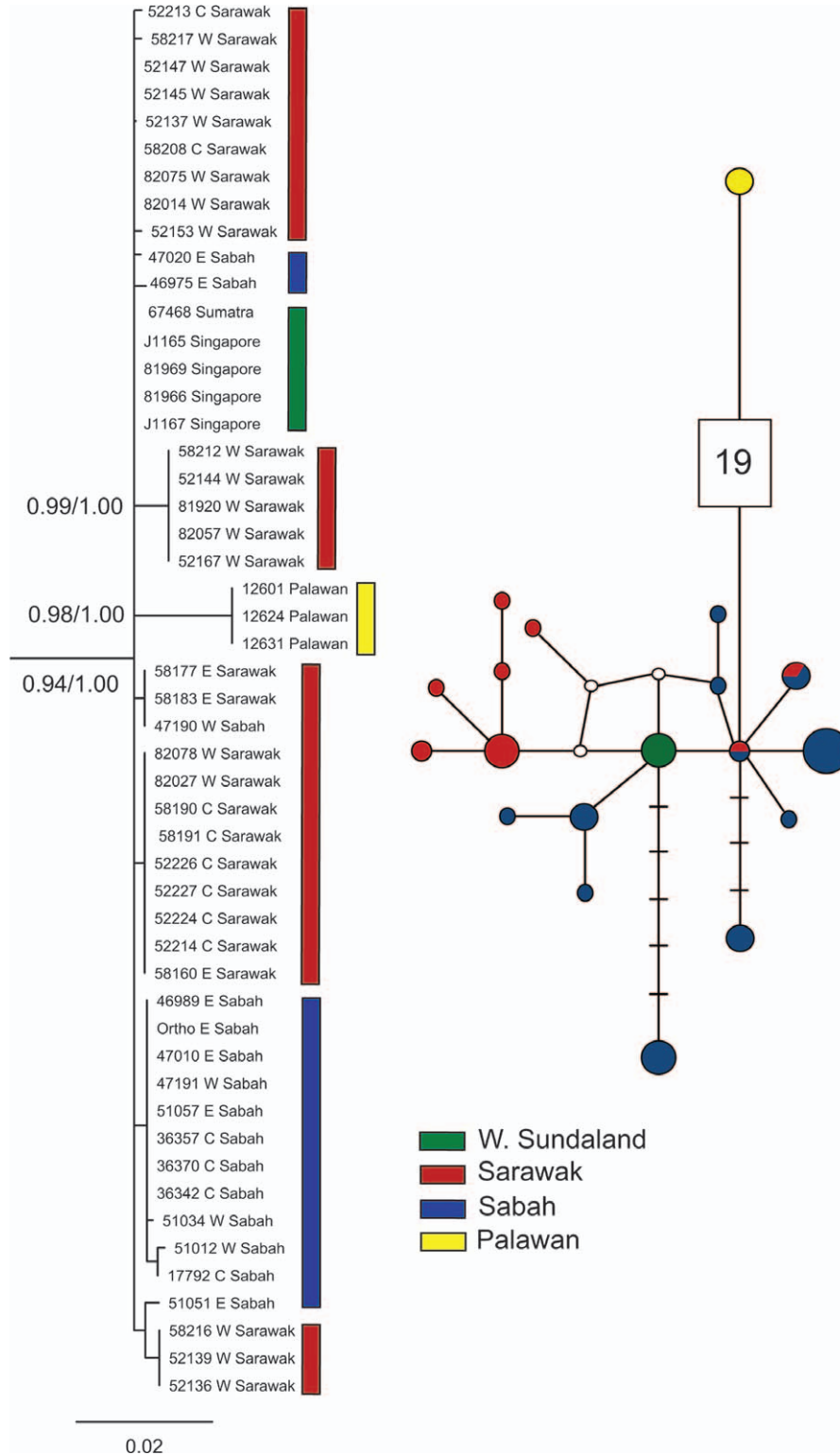


FIGURE 3. (Left) GARLI bootstrap consensus maximum-likelihood tree of Rufous-tailed Tailorbird population relationships from ND2 sequences. Numbers on the tree indicate bootstrap support/posterior probability of adjacent branches (numbers omitted when bootstrap support less than 70% or posterior probability less than 95%). Outgroups are not included in this figure; they are Ashy Tailorbird and Grey-backed Tailorbird (Sheldon et al. 2012). (Right) Median-joining network of ND2 haplotypes. Cross hatches on interconnecting lines indicate number of substitutions (19 on the line to Palawan); circle size denotes number of individuals sampled.

TABLE 3. Results of AMOVA among western Sunda, Borneo, and Palawan populations.

Source of variation	d.f.	Sum of squares	Variance components	% of variation
Among populations	2	46.242	3.035	63
Within populations	47	85.238	1.814	37
Total	49	131.48	4.849	100

For the longest IMA analysis (100 million generations, results reported here), different parameters were adequately sampled, with the minimum effective sample size being 311 (for time of divergence). Based on the full six-parameter IMA model (Table 4), the effective size of the BWS population (1.3×10^6) is about 7 times larger than that of the Palawan population. Palawan and BWS diverged from a small ancestral population ~ 1.2 Mya, although the confidence interval for divergence time is very large. Nested IMA models (Table 5) that assume the BWS population is the same size as Palawan's or the ancestral population (model numbers 6, 9, 14, 15) are significantly worse than their respective null models, which do not assume so. Gene flow in either direction was low (range: 0–0.0003 migrants per 1,000 generations per gene copy), and the relative magnitude of directionality is not distinguishable because of the large confidence intervals. However, nested models assuming no post-divergence gene flow (model numbers 4, 8, 10, 13, 16) are significantly worse than their respective null models, suggesting that there has been a small amount of gene flow between BWS and Palawan after the initial population divergence. In addition, the 2 nested models with unidirectional gene flow (2, 3) also cannot be rejected. Thus, the evidence is equivocal regarding which direction has the higher gene flow rate.

DISCUSSION

Biogeographic Patterns

Our morphological comparisons support traditional taxonomic opinion that Rufous-tailed Tailorbirds of Palawan “do not differ appreciably” from those of Borneo (Peters 1939:110, Parkes 1960). However, our multigene coalescent analysis indicates that the populations on Borneo and

Palawan have been largely independent of one another for ~ 1.2 Ma and have experienced only a small amount of gene flow since then. Even when the sea level dropped by its greatest extent—about 125 m during the last glacial maximum ($\sim 20,000$ years ago)—and the channel between Palawan and the rest of Sundaland was at its narrowest, gene flow was low. This rather decisive break contrasts strongly with the situation in western Sundaland, where the Sumatran, Malayan, and Bornean populations have extensively interbred, presumably during a series of glacial events, including the last glacial maximum (Lim et al. 2011). We may also assume, with some confidence, that the Natuna Islands' population of Rufous-tailed Tailorbird interbred with Bornean and other western populations during the late Quaternary because of the Natunas' intervening position (Figure 1) and the likely paleo-distributions of appropriate coastal habitats (Voris 2000, Cannon et al. 2009, Slik et al. 2011). The situation for the Rufous-tailed Tailorbird populations of Cagayan Sulu and the Sulu Archipelago east of Borneo, however, remains unclear, as we have not compared (the rare) specimens from these islands and are uncertain about the extent and timing of the islands' connections to Borneo or (in the case of Cagayan Sulu) to Palawan.

The precise scenario of division between Bornean and Palawan populations of Rufous-tailed Tailorbird is unknown. As a lineage, the Rufous-tailed Tailorbird has been extant for ~ 5 –10 Ma, and there is evidence that it may be the sister group of the main clade of Philippine tailorbirds (Sheldon et al. 2012). Thus, it may have reached Palawan millions of years ago and colonized Borneo ~ 1.2 Ma, or it may have dispersed to Palawan from Borneo for the first time ~ 1.2 Ma, or it may have moved back and forth freely between the 2 islands until ~ 1.2 Ma.

One million years of almost complete isolation of Palawan's Rufous-tailed Tailorbird population has not been adequate to cause it to diverge morphologically to any great extent from its Sundaic sisters. This is true even though the ecological situation for tailorbirds on Palawan is different than on Borneo and in western Sundaland. On Palawan, Rufous-tailed Tailorbird is the only species of *Orthotomus*, but in the rest of Sundaland at least 2 other *Orthotomus* species occur in sympatry with the Rufous-tailed Tailorbird. Assuming competition among tailorbirds

TABLE 4. Peak estimates and their 95% confidence intervals for current and ancestral population sizes (N_e), divergence time, and gene flow (with time moving forward, not in the coalescent) from Sundaland (S) to Palawan (P) and from Palawan to Sundaland based on the full IMA model.

	Palawan N_e	Sundaland N_e	Ancestral N_e	Time (years)	Gene Flow S→P*	Gene Flow P → S*
Peak estimate	1.68E+05	1.28E+06	7.50E+04	1.19E+06	0.00E+00	3.02E−04
95% confidence interval	6.56E+04 to 7.74E+05	8.54E+05 to 2.11E+06	5.15E+03 to 3.74E+05	3.65E+05 to 2.36E+06	0.00 to 8.59E−03	5.03E−05 to 2.16E−03

* Average number of migrants per 1,000 generations per gene copy.

TABLE 5. Marginal likelihood and peak estimates of the full and various reduced (nested) IMA models. Likelihood ratio test (LLR) statistic, models being compared, and significance of the statistic with and without Bonferroni correction (BC) are also shown. Population 1 = Palawan; population 2 = Borneo and western Sundaland. Because IMA analyzes data in the coalescent, m_1 indicates gene flow going from population 2 into population 1 when time is moving forward.

Model no.	Model ¹	log(P)	<i>t</i>	Θ ₁ (A)	Θ ₂ (B)	Θ _A (C)	m_1 (D)	m_2 (E)	Df ¹	vs Model	2LLR	<i>P</i>	Significant without BC ² ?	Significant with BC ² ?
FULL	ABCDE	-0.5775	1.0601	0.234	3.399	<0.001	3.948	0.529						
1	ABCDD	-1.792	1.479	0.407	2.923	0.001	1.075	1.075	1	Full	2.429	0.119	No	No
2	ABCD0	-2.471	0.939	0.341	3.000	0.005	5.993	0.000	1*	Full	3.786	0.026	Yes	No
3	ABC0D	-1.451	0.827	1.096	2.997	0.002	0.000	1.893	1*	Full	1.747	0.093	No	No
4	ABC00	-7.333	0.150	0.843	3.000	1.739	0.000	0.000	2*	ABCDD	11.081	0.000	Yes	Yes
5	AACDE	-3.415	0.886	2.022	2.022	0.007	0.000	3.223	1	Full	5.675	0.017	Yes	No
6	AAADE	-9.160	1.846	2.070	2.070	2.070	0.000	1.988	2	Full	17.165	0.000	Yes	Yes
7	AACDD	-5.399	1.320	2.660	2.660	0.007	1.149	1.149	2	Full	9.643	0.008	Yes	No
8	AAC00	-14.523	0.163	3.000	3.000	1.776	0.000	0.000	3*	AACDD	18.249	0.000	Yes	Yes
9	AAADD	-10.801	0.640	2.105	2.105	2.105	0.878	0.878	3	Full	20.447	0.000	Yes	Yes
10	AAA0D	-22.790	0.170	2.624	2.624	2.624	0.000	0.000	4*	AAADD	23.978	0.000	Yes	Yes
11	ABADE	-2.801	0.820	0.469	3.000	0.469	2.052	0.562	1	Full	4.447	0.035	Yes	No
12	ABADD	-3.047	0.793	0.614	3.000	0.614	0.843	0.843	2	Full	4.940	0.085	No	No
13	ABA00	-9.868	0.158	1.656	3.000	1.656	0.000	0.000	3*	ABADD	13.642	0.000	Yes	Yes
14	ABBDE	-5.021	2.755	0.658	3.000	3.000	0.000	1.804	1	Full	8.887	0.003	Yes	Yes
15	ABBDD	-7.936	1.668	0.517	2.799	2.799	1.261	1.261	2	Full	14.717	0.001	Yes	Yes
16	ABB00	-17.096	0.169	0.922	2.708	2.708	0.000	0.000	3*	ABBDD	18.319	0.000	Yes	Yes

¹ Models are based on 5 parameters: (A) size of population 1 (Θ₁); (B) size of population 2 (Θ₂); (C) size of the ancestral population (Θ_A); (D) gene flow going from population 2 (Borneo and western Sundaland) into population 1 (Palawan); (E) gene flow going from population 1 (Palawan) into population 2 (Borneo and western Sundaland). For models with at least one variable set to 0, the test chi-squared distribution is a mixture. See Hey and Nielsen (2007) for further details.

² BC = Bonferroni correction. A lack of significance suggests that the tested model is no worse than the fuller model.

(Mitra and Sheldon 1993, Soh 2001, Mahood et al. 2013), the Rufous-tailed Tailorbird of Palawan has enjoyed ecological release and would be expected to differ from other populations, especially in size (Clegg and Owens 2002, Scott et al. 2003). The Palawan population may have diverged in behavior and song, but we have not investigated these characters.

The genetic distance between the Rufous-tailed Tailorbird populations of Borneo and Palawan—1.7% in this study and 1.9% in previous studies—falls somewhat in the middle of the 2 divergence classes evident between Palawan and Bornean sister taxa in Table 1 (i.e. substantial divergence versus little divergence). The 2 tailorbird populations are more distinct genetically than those of kingfishers (*Ceyx erithaca* and *Alcedo meninting*) and Black-headed Bulbul (*Pycnonotus atriceps*), but much less than the other sister pairs. This difference may be attributed to the tailorbird's reduced dispersal capabilities relative to the kingfishers and bulbul (Burney and Brumfield 2009). Birds in both these groups range widely in coastal areas in search of food and have wings with relatively high aspect ratios compared to the short, rounded wings of tailorbirds. On the other hand, Rufous-tailed Tailorbird would be expected to disperse across salt water more readily than "typical" Sunda forest species because of its regular occurrence in mangroves and other coastal habitats (Van Marle and Voous 1988, Sheldon et al.

2001, Wells 2007), which likely predominated between Greater Borneo and Palawan during glacial events. Even so, it is not easy to explain why the weak-flying tailorbird should have a smaller pairwise population divergence value than some of the highly vagile, nectarivorous/frugivorous, coastal habitat generalist species in Table 1. We would expect, for example, that the mangrove-dwelling whistlers and wide-ranging spiderhunters and secondary forest bulbuls (e.g., *Pycnonotus simplex/cinereifrons*) would be able to disperse more readily than tailorbirds between Borneo and Palawan during times of low sea level. Bird-community "relaxation" factors (Diamond 1972), such as competition and extinction, clearly have played a role in determining the composition of the Palawan avifauna.

Taxonomy

A relatively large proportion of Philippine forest birds are classified as members of widespread Southeast Asian species when they are better treated as endemic Philippine species (Peterson 2006, Lohman et al. 2010). This underestimation of Philippine species endemism is largely a historical artifact, a hangover from taxonomic and biogeographic thinking of the mid-twentieth century. Although ornithologists have long recognized the distinctiveness of many Philippine forest-bird populations, they have purposely treated them as subspecies, not full species. This occurred because, in the years following World War

II, when taxonomic revision of birds was booming, the study of Southeast Asian bird relationships was dominated by ornithologists at American museums, including Herbert G. Deignan, Jean Delacour, Ernst Mayr, Kenneth C. Parkes, Austin L. Rand, and S. Dillon Ripley, and all of these men were heavily influenced by the polytypic species approach of Mayr (1942, 1963). It was quite natural for them to treat populations of similar-looking congeners that replace one another geographically as subspecies of widespread species. This tendency was exacerbated by the prevailing view of Philippine biogeography at the time, i.e. that Philippine populations were the result of late Pleistocene or Holocene expansions of widespread continental species. The presumed young age of Philippine taxa was all the more reason to join them as polytypic members of widespread species. Nowadays, however, we know that many Philippine forest populations are older than previously believed, and we have different and more precise standards of species description as a result of the promulgation of alternative species concepts that emphasize smaller groupings (McKittrick and Zink 1988), the development of more objective methods of morphological assessment (Rheindt and Eaton 2009, Tobias et al. 2010), and the widespread use of molecular tools that allow measurement of divergence among taxa.

As a result of these advances, we are now in a position to treat the taxonomy of Philippine populations more objectively. This ability is enhanced by the recent suggestion of Gill (2014) that physically separated, moderately divergent populations be treated as distinct species until compelling evidence of free interbreeding is produced, upon which the populations may be merged. In the Rufous-tailed Tailorbird, we have an almost perfect illustration of such “compelling evidence,” not only for interbreeding, but lack of interbreeding. Our genetic comparisons allow us to identify with confidence those populations that are interbreeding and those that are not. In this case, the Bornean and western Sunda populations are genetically intermixed and barely (if at all) differentiated morphologically. We can essentially prove these populations interbred during the last glacial maximum and were probably in contact until 10,000 years ago (Lim et al. 2011). Thus, they can be considered without question members of the same species. The Palawan population, however, is genetically distinct. Palawan has not been regularly attached to the rest of Sundaland by glacio-eustatic land or habitat bridges, and its population of tailorbirds has rarely interbred with the Bornean population. Thus, the Palawan population appears to be on its own evolutionary trajectory. However, it has not yet diverged morphologically, and we know of no non-DNA characteristics that distinguish it from the Bornean population, so there is no reason to call it a different species at this point. If diagnosable differences in song or

behavior are discovered for the Palawan population, it should then be named a different species.

Our personal preference is not to change the classification of Rufous-tailed Tailorbird populations, i.e. maintain the subspecies as they are. Although the western Sunda and Borneo populations do not appear to us to differ from one another morphologically, fresh specimens from Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula might exhibit plumage differences from Bornean birds. Naming the Palawan population as a distinct taxon, e.g., in recognition of its genetic distinctiveness or in the case of new character discovery, will have to wait until genetic comparisons are made between it and the Cagayan Sulu population, because the Palawan population is subsumed under the name given the Cagayan Sulu population (*Orthotomus sericeus nuntius*) by Bangs (1922).

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