



New nuclear markers and exploration of the relationships among Serraniformes (Acanthomorpha, Teleostei): The importance of working at multiple scales

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 2 August 2012

Revised 30 November 2012

Accepted 28 December 2012

Available online 7 January 2013

Keywords:

Serraniformes

Scorpaenidae

Nuclear genes

Phylogeny

Scorpaeniformes

Perciformes

ABSTRACT

We explore the relationships within Serraniformes (Li et al., 2009) using a dense taxon sampling and seven nuclear markers. Six had already been used for teleost phylogeny (IRBP, MC1R, MLL4, Pkd1, Rhodopsin, and RNF213) at other scales, and one (MLL2) is new. The results corroborate the composition of Serraniformes described in previous publications (some Gasterosteiformes, Perciformes and Scorpaeniformes). Within the clade, Notothenioidae and Zoarcoidei are each monophyletic. Cottoidei was not monophyletic due to placement of the genus *Ebinania* (Psychrolutidae). Our independent data confirm the sister-group relationship of Percophidae and Notothenioidae as well as the division of Platycephaloidei in four different groups (Bembridae, Platycephalidae, Hoplichthyidae and Peristediidae with Triglidae). Within Cottoidei, Liparidae and Cyclopteridae formed a clade associated with Cottidae, the genus *Cottunculus* (Psychrolutidae), and Agonidae. Serranidae and Scorpaenidae are not monophyletic, with the Serranidae divided in two clades (Serraninae and Epinephelinae/Anthiinae) and Scorpaenidae including Caracanthidae and the genus *Ebinania* (Psychrolutidae). We discuss some morphological characters supporting clades within the Scorpaenidae.

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1. Introduction

Through molecular phylogenetics studies, the last 15 years provided many surprises for the phylogeny of Percomorpha, the “bush at the top” of Teleosts (Nelson, 1989). Few before would have dared to propose relationships such as for instance the one uniting saithe and cods with john dorys (Wiley et al., 2000; Chen et al., 2003), or a group uniting groupers (Serranidae), perches (Percidae), sticklebacks (Gasterosteidae), searobins (Triglidae), and assemblages like icefishes (Notothenioidae), sculpins, and snailfishes (Cottoidei), eelpouts (Zoarcoidei) and scorpionfishes (Scorpaenoidae) (Wiley et al., 2000; Chen, 2001; Chen et al., 2003; Miya et al., 2003, 2005; Dettai & Lecointre, 2004, 2005, 2008; Smith & Wheeler, 2004, 2006; Smith & Craig, 2007; Li et al., 2009; Matschner et al., 2011; Near et al., 2012). Yet these groups have been recovered time and time again by multiple studies performed by different teams and with different species and samples. It is now

time to start taking seriously the clades that have been repeatedly corroborated, and to explore them in more detail. This has been started already on some groups, and we are here going to explore relationships within Serraniformes (Li et al., 2009) using a denser sampling and additional markers.

For the name and content of the species, families, suborders and orders, we will follow Nelson (2006).

Very reduced versions of the group started to appear in molecular phylogenies in the early 2000 (Wiley et al., 2000; Chen, 2001; Chen et al., 2003; Miya et al., 2003, 2005; Orrell et al., 2006). More complete versions with a better taxonomic coverage were published in Dettai and Lecointre (2004, 2005), Smith and Wheeler (2004, 2006) and Li et al. (2009). In this diverse and particularly interesting assemblage of families, some are important for world fisheries (groupers) or toxin evolution (mail-cheeked fishes); others have been used as developmental and genomic models (sticklebacks) or possess unique evolutionary biochemical and physiological traits (nototheniids, channichthyids).

From 8 to 28 families have been included in analyses of the Serraniformes depending on the sampling of the molecular study considered (Miya et al., 2003; Dettai & Lecointre, 2005; Smith & Wheeler, 2006; Li et al., 2009). While there is little contradiction among the studies, this lack of overlap makes assessment of

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corroboration across studies more difficult, and the composition of the clade remains to be checked with a better sampling of acanthomorphs. Serraniformes are an assemblage of some members, but not all, of several previously used Acanthomorph orders (Nelson, 2006). From Gasterosteiformes, they only include sticklebacks (Gasterosteidae) and aulorhynchids (Smith & Wheeler, 2004, 2006; Li et al., 2009), while the other members of the Gasterosteiformes are reliably grouped with other clades. Many Perciform families are members of the Serraniformes: wolfishes (Anarhichadidae), perches (Percidae), gunnels (Pholidae), groupers (Serranidae), weeverfishes (Trachinidae), eelpouts (Zoarcidae), icefishes, Antarctic dragon-fish or plunderfish (Notothenioidei) (Smith & Wheeler, 2004, 2006; Smith & Craig, 2007; Li et al., 2009; Matschner et al., 2011; Near et al., 2012; Wainwright et al., 2012), while again, all the other tested families from this polyphyletic order are reliably grouped with other clades. All Scorpaeniformes tested to this day appear to belong in Serraniformes, whether they were part of the Cottoidei, the Scorpaenoidei or the Hexagrammoidei: poachers (Agonidae), sculpins (Cottidae), pigfishes (Congiopodidae), lumpfishes (Cyclopteridae), snailfishes (Liparidae), fatheads (Psychrolutidae), scorpionfishes (Scorpaenidae), searobins (Triglidae) (Smith & Wheeler, 2004, 2006; Smith & Craig, 2007; Li et al., 2009; Near et al., 2012), but the combinations are new and the suborders are not all regrouped. Gasterosteiformes, Perciformes, and Scorpaeniformes are therefore para- or polyphyletic, as had already been suggested by morphological studies, albeit not always with the same groupings (Johnson & Patterson, 1993; Imamura & Yabe, 2002). For most of these groups, non-monophyly is not surprising. Perciformes never received a clear definition (Nelson, 2006). Some scorpaeniforms appear to be included in Perciformes (Johnson & Patterson, 1993; Mooi & Gill, 1995; but see review of Shinohara & Imamura, 2007). Inversely, several families belonging to the Perciformes might be included within Scorpaeniformes, like Champsodontidae (Mooi & Johnson, 1997). To explore Serraniformes, a large and representative sampling of both Perciformes and Scorpaeniformes is therefore necessary. At a smaller scale, some families present monophyly issues: Serranidae (Schoelinck et al., in preparation; Smith & Craig, 2007), Nototheniidae (Dettai et al., 2012), and Scorpaenidae (Smith & Wheeler, 2004; Li et al., 2009) are not monophyletic. However, the evaluation at this scale needs a fine-grained taxonomic sampling. By including as many families as possible from these groups, as well as multiple outgroups, we provide a clearer picture of which groups are really included in the Serraniformes, and what the relationships within this group are.

Marker choice has a high importance for the reliability and relevance of phylogenetic studies. Several studies showed that IRBP (*interphotoreceptor retinoid-binding protein*) (Dettai & Lecointre, 2008; Chen & Mayden, 2009), MLL4 (*Mixed-lineage leukemia-like protein 4*) (Dettai & Lecointre, 2005), Rhodopsin retrogene (Chen et al., 2003) and RNF213 (*ring finger protein 213*) (Li et al., 2009) are relevant for the large scale phylogeny of acanthomorphs. However, these markers have not resolved many of the relationships sufficiently or convincingly. While previous studies have provided valuable results on a limited number of markers, new and suitable nuclear markers are still needed to increase accuracy and resolution.

We selected Pkd1 (*polycystic kidney disease*) used previously only at a small scale (Lautredou et al., 2010, 2012). The gene Pkd1 encodes a glycoprotein, but its function is unclear except that it is involved in adhesive cell–cell/matrix interactions (Gluecksmann-Kuis et al., 1995). We also selected MC1R (*melanocortin type 1 receptor*), a protein involved in changes of body pigmentation in many groups (Mundy, 2005; Rosenblum et al., 2004; Healy et al., 2001) including teleosts (Logan et al., 2003b; Gross et al., 2009).

It has been used for phylogeny in primates (Mundy & Kelly, 2003) and cichlids (Henning et al., 2010).

Genome sequencing has created a wealth of new information for scientists to analyze, and genome/genome comparison allows to easily define and test new markers (Li et al., 2007, 2009). We included one new nuclear marker, MLL2 (*Mixed-lineage leukemia-like protein 2*), a histone methyltransferases (HMTs) (Yu et al., 1998; Hess, 2004; Ansari et al., 2008). While Pkd1, MC1R, and MLL2 are extensively studied for their function, little is known about their evolution and diversity in most groups. Acquiring sequences for a large diversity of species over an important group like acanthomorphs has an interest not only for the phylogenetic resolution it provides, but is also essential to make hypotheses about the evolution of protein structure and to improve the accuracy of functional classification (Rost, 1999; Sjolander, 2004; Jaroszewski et al., 2009; Godzik, 2011).

The first objective of this study is to assess the variability of the seven markers used in this study by comparing their divergence between chosen pairs of taxa with other nuclear markers used in teleosts (Chen et al., 2003; Smith & Wheeler, 2004, 2006; Li et al., 2007; Smith & Craig, 2007). The second objective is to use these markers (with a focus on Pkd1, MC1R and MLL2, never used for Serraniformes) to test the monophyly of clades within Serraniformes, especially Scorpaenidae and Serranidae, and provide phylogenetic hypotheses within the clade. New insights on the relationships within Serraniformes could change our interpretation of the evolution of Antarctic teleosts (Chen et al., 2003), of venom evolution (Nelson, 2006; Smith & Wheeler, 2006), and could bring a new light on the distribution of morphological characters, especially in Scorpaenidae.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Gene sampling

Seven protein-coding markers were used in this study. Four have already been used for large scale phylogenies on Acanthomorphs: IRBP, MLL4, Rhodopsin retrogene and RNF213. Pkd1, MLL2 and MC1R have never been used before in Serraniformes. They were developed with a protocol described in Li et al. (2009) and Lautredou et al. (2012).

New primers have been developed here for MLL4, RNF213, MC1R, MLL2 and Pkd1. Some of them were aimed at Serranidae (MLL2F100-MLL2R945, Pkd1F51b-Pkd1R737) or Notothenioidei (MLL2F30-MLL2R950) but they also work for other Serraniformes species (Table 1). The primers with a * in Table 1 are the most efficient.

We compared the position of MLL2 and MC1R in the genome of all teleosts available in the ensembl database (<http://www.ensembl.org/>).

2.2. Taxon sampling

Our sampling includes 193 specimens representing 148 species from Gasterosteiformes (8 families, 11 species), Perciformes (32 families, 87 species) and Scorpaeniformes (16 families, 50 species). Within Scorpaenidae, 26 species are represented (Table 2).

2.2.1. Choice of families and outgroups

To check the monophyly of each family, at least two specimens from each were included in the sampling when it was possible.

In the light of the acanthomorph phylogeny of Li et al. (2009), multiple outgroups were selected. This included two distant species from every large, recognized acanthomorph clade; therefore, an additional 57 perciforms were included in the sampling to test

Table 1
List of the primers used in this study. Frag. Size is the size of the fragment expected; F = Forward; R = Reverse; total of hyb. is the temperature of hybridization used to amplify every marker.

Gene	Frag. size (bp)	Name	Sens	Primers	Total of hyb. (°C)	Sources
IRBP	≈800	F104	F	ATAGTYNTGGACAANTACTGCTC	52	Dettai and Lecointre (2008)
		F110*	F	TGGACAAYTACTGCTCRCCAGA		
		R869	R	GTNACYTCCAGGWNAGGCC		
		R936*	R	CACGGAGGYTGAYNATCTTGAT		
MLL4	≈550 to 650	F1499	F	GTCAATCAGCAGTTCACGC	50	Dettai and Lecointre (2005)
		R2158	R	ARAGTAGTGGGATCYAGRTACAT		
		F11*	F	CAG TTC CAG CCY CTC TA		This study
		F111	F	CTCYATGACNCTYACCAC		
		R645*	R	GGTCTTTGATAATATTTGGGAC		
Rhodo	≈500 to 800	F193*	F	CNTATGAATAYCCTCAGTACTACC	50	Chen et al. (2003)
		F545	F	GCAAGCCCATCAGCAACTTCCG		
		R1039*	R	TGCTTGTTCATGCAGATGTAGA		
		R1073	R	CCRCAGCACARCGTGGTGATCATG		
RNF 213	≈700 to 1000	F3111	F	GCTGACTGGATTYAAAACCTT	47–60	Li et al. (2009)
		R4111	R	AACTGTCCAAARTCCACAC		
		F114*	F	TAY ATY TTC TTY AAT GAT GAC CAY	52	This study
		R784	R	GAA ATC ATC TYA TCK GTG TCT TTC		
		R828*	R	CGAACTCTGTACCCARG		
MC1R	≈700	F113	F	CCGCATCCSCAGGARCTNTTCC	58	This study
		R841	R	CCTGSAGGGTTTTNCGCAGC		
MLL2	≈800 to 1000	F4164	F	GARAGTCAGGTNTGCAGGC	62	This study
		R5171	R	TGGGAYTGKGGRTCKGAGG		
		F30	F	CCTGACTGCGGCCTGGGAGTCA	56	
		F100*	F	GACTGYCTGTAGCCYTCAGA		
		R930*	R	CCCTCCACCTTCAGGCT		
		R945	R	AGTTTACACCTCCAGATCCCT		
Pkd1	≈650 to 800	F62*	F	CATGAGYGTCTACAGCATCCT	50	Lautredou et al. (2010)
		R952*	R	YCCTCTNCCAAGTCCCACT		
		F51b	F	TAY GGC ATT CAC TAY GAY TGG	54	This study
		F63b	F	ACT GGC RCT TYG GAG A		
		R697	R	CAY CCA GTT GAA GAA GTT NGC		
		R737	R	AGG CTG ATG TTG GTT AAM GC		This study

the limits of the Serraniformes (listed A in Table 2). For many, the position in the acanthomorph phylogeny was previously unclear, so the potential of their inclusion in the Serraniformes needed to be tested. Further, 11 Gasterosteiformes were also included to assess how many clades that order is divided in (listed B in Table 2).

2.2.2. Identification

Morphological identification of 168 specimens was followed by molecular identification using COI (Table 2).

A distance tree of all COI sequences was made to check whether all sequences belonging to the same species clustered together (data not shown). If the position of a sequence was doubtful, it was compared using the blast tool of BOLD to the identified sequences available in the Barcode of Life Database (<http://www.boldsystems.org/>) for corroboration. We performed the same operations for the rhodopsin retrogene, searching in the NCBI nucleotide database (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>). For the other markers, there are not enough sequences available in the databases to make this worthwhile.

2.3. Molecular data

For each sample, a small piece of muscle tissue was stored at –24 °C or preserved in 70% ethanol at 3 °C. All DNA extractions followed a classical CTAB protocol with a chloroform isoamylalcohol step (Winnepennminck et al., 1993).

For the seven markers, DNA amplifications were performed by PCR in a final 21 µl volume containing 1 µl of DMSO, 1 µl of BSA, 0.80 µl of dNTP 6.6 mM, 0.12 µl of Taq DNA polymerase (MP Bio-medicals or Qiagen), using 2 µl of the buffer provided by the man-

ufacturer, 0.32 µl of each of the two primers at 10 pM (primer sequences in Table 1); 1 µl of DNA extract was added. After denaturation for 2 min, the PCR was run for 50 cycles of (20 s, 94 °C; 20 s, see Table 2 for hybridization temperatures; 50 s to 1 min 10 s, 72 °C) using a Biometra trioblock cyler (T3000). The results were visualised on ethidium-bromide stained agarose gels. Sequencing was performed by the National Center for Sequencing (Génoscope) at Evry using the same primers.

All markers were sequenced in both directions and sequence chromatograms were checked manually using Sequencher 4.8 (Gene Codes Corporation). The sequences were aligned by eye using BioEdit (Hall 1999), which was straightforward for IRBP, Rhodopsin, RNF213, Pkd1 and MC1R due to the rarity of gaps and because the markers are protein coding. The MLL2 and MLL4 amplicons exhibit more insertions-deletions events, but the alignment was easily performed when taking into account the reading frame.

2.3.1. Contaminations

Distance analyses were performed for each marker and the position of the specimens in the seven distance trees were compared to one another to check whether sequences were identical when they should not. Only doubtless sequences were kept for the analyses.

The sequences were deposited in GenBank (accession numbers in Table 2).

2.4. Analyses of the datasets

Mean pairwise differences among three pairs of taxa (a gasterosteid: *Gasterosteus aculeatus*, several species of zoarcid: *Lycodapus*

Table 2

Specimens included in this study. Specimen information, GenBank Accession numbers are listed. Sequences in bold have been produced for the present study. The two underlined sequences came from the study of Venkatesh et al. (1999) so the species is the same than for our study but not the specimen.

Family	Species	COI	RNF213	RH	MLL4	IRBP	Pkdt	MLL2	MC1R	Sample number	Voucher number
<i>Scorpaeniformes</i>											
Cottoidei	Agonidae	<i>Agonus cataphractus</i>	AP115-12	JX628498	AP115-12	JX628247	JX628377	JX628115	JX628001	BPS1034	
	Cottidae	<i>Cottus gobio</i>	AP113-12	JX628497	AP113-12	JX628246	JX627885	JX62824	JX628000	BPS1011	
	Cyclopteridae	<i>Cyclopterus lumpus</i>	AP041-12	JX628484	AP041-12	JX628232	JX628359	JX628359	JX627987	BPS0248	MNHN 2004-1506
	Liparidae	<i>Liparis montagui</i>	AP112-12	JX628496	AP112-12		JX627884	JX628113	JX627999	BPS1001	
		<i>Careproctus longipectoralis</i>	EATF268	JX628542	EATF268		JX627928	JX628162	JX628036	si273n2117	MNHN 2008-2593
		<i>Edentoliparis terraenovae</i>	EATF471	JX628545	EATF471		JX627931	JX628165	JX628038	si478n3092	MNHN 2008-2626
		<i>Paraliparis mawsoni</i>	EATF089	JX628537	EATF089		JX627924	JX628158		si89n460	MNHN-2008-2605
	Psychrolutidae	<i>Ebinania costaecanariae</i>	AP105-12			JX628239	JX627878	JX628106	JX627994	BPS0601	
		<i>Cottunculus thomsonii</i>	AP116-12			JX628248		JX628116	JX628002	BPS1064	
Dactylopteroidei	Dactylopteridae	<i>Dactylopterus volitans</i>	AP118-12				JX627887			BPS1219	
		<i>Dactyloptena orientalis</i>	<u>IQ431672</u>	JX628523	KC222256	JX628279	JX627909	JX6280	JX628145	JX628408	JX62
Hexagrammoidei	Hexagrammidae	<i>Hexagrammos decagrammus</i>				JX628293	JX627922		JX628166	T636	KU 23723
		<i>Oxylebius pictus</i>	AP168-12				JX627921			T56	KU 30409
		<i>Pleurogrammus monopterygius</i>			AP048-12					T2027	KU 28382
Platycephaloidei	Bembridae	<i>Bembradium sp.</i>		JX628471	AP167-12	JX628221	JX627856	JX628349	JX628083	JX627975	ASIZP0913782
		<i>Bembradium sp.</i>		JX628472	AP166-12	JX628222	JX627857	JX628350	JX628084	JX627976	ASIZP0913789
	Hoplichthyidae	<i>Hoplichthys langsdorfii</i>	AP063-12	JX628461	AP063-12	JX628212	JX627850	JX628341	JX628077	JX627966	ASIZP0913580
		<i>Hoplichthys regani</i>	AP062-12	JX628460	AP062-12		JX627849				ASIZP0913579
	Platycephalidae	<i>Onigocia bimaculata</i>	<u>IQ431939</u>	JX628511	KC222255	JX628264	JX627899				MBIO185
		<i>Onigocia bimaculata</i>	<u>IQ431940</u>	JX628515	KC222254	JX628272	JX627904	JX628400	JX628400	JX628016	MBIO479
	Peristediidae	<i>Peristedion orientale</i>	AP071-12	JX628465	AP071-12	JX628216	JX627854	JX628345		JX627970	ASIZP0913625
		<i>Satyrichthys hians</i>	AP069-12	JX628463	AP069-12	JX628214	JX627852	JX628343		JX627968	ASIZP0913618
		<i>Satyrichthys hians</i>	AP082-12				JX627862				ASIZP0913915
		<i>Satyrichthys murrayi</i>	AP070-12	JX628464		JX628215	JX627853	JX628344	JX628078	JX627969	ASIZP0913619
		<i>Satyrichthys welchi</i>	AP076-12	JX628469							ASIZP0913704
		<i>Satyrichthys sp.</i>	AP077-12	JX628470	AP077-12	JX628220	JX627855	JX62808	JX627855	JX627974	ASIZP0913720
		<i>Satyrichthys sp.</i>	AP064-12	JX628462	AP064-12	JX628213	JX627851	JX628342		JX627967	ASIZP0913583
	Triglidae	<i>Lepidotrigla sp.</i>	AP085-12	JX628477	AP085-12	JX628227	JX627866	JX628354	JX628089	JX627981	ASIZP0913968
		<i>Trigla lyra</i>	AP013-11		AP013-11						30
		<i>Trigloporus lastoviza</i>	AP098-12	JX628487	AP098-12	JX628234	JX627873	JX628234	JX62809	JX62809	BPS0400
Scorpaenoidei	Aploactinidae	<i>Erisphex pottii</i>		JX628474	AP165-12		JX627865	JX628353	JX628088	JX627979	ASIZP0913965
	Caracanthidae	<i>Caracanthus unipinna</i>	<u>IQ431536</u>	JX628527	KC222253	JX628283	JX627912	JX628412	JX628149	JX628026	MBIO1357
	Congiopodidae	<i>Zanclorhynchus spinifer</i>	AP139-12	JX628548	EU638021	JX628304	EU638165	JX628429	JX628170	JX628045	111
	Scorpaenidae	<i>Dendrochirus biocellatus</i>	<u>IQ431683</u>	JX628529	KC222252	JX628286	JX627915	JX628415	JX628152	JX628029	MBIO1580
	Scorpaeninae	<i>Dendrochirus sp.</i>	AP090-12				JX627868			JX627984	ASIZP0914018
		<i>Ebosia bleekeri</i>	AP088-12	JX628478	AP088-12	JX628228			JX628090	JX627982	ASIZP0914001
		<i>Neomerinthe folgori</i>	AP099-12	JX628488	AP099-12	JX628235	JX627874	JX6283	JX628100	JX627990	BPS0473
		<i>Parascorpaena mossambica</i>	<u>IQ431973</u>	JX628530	KC222251	JX628287	JX627916	JX628416	JX628153	JX6280	MBIO1582
		<i>Pontinus macrocephalus</i>	JX093922	JX628475	JX093947	JX628225	JX627863	JX093923	JX628086	JX627980	ASIZP0913936
		<i>Pontinus sp.</i>	AP134-12	JX628533	AP134-12	JX628290		JX628418	JX628155	JX628032	MB110
		<i>Pterois antennata</i>	<u>IQ432074</u>	JX628519	KC222250	JX628275	JX627906	JX628404	JX628141	JX628019	MBIO662
		<i>Scorpaena loppei</i>	AP017-11	JX628551		JX628309	JX627939	JX628435	JX628178	JX628049	247
		<i>Scorpaena onaria</i>			EU638257	AY141288	AY362236	DQ168114			
		<i>Scorpaena scrofa</i>	AP101-12	JX628489	AP101-12		JX627875	JX628364	JX628102		BPS0514
		<i>Scorpaenodes corallinus</i>	<u>IQ432121</u>	JX628528	KC222249	JX628285	JX627914	JX627914	JX628151	JX628028	MBIO1539

(continued on next page)

Table 2 (continued)

Family	Species	COI	RNF213	RH	MLL4	IRBP	Pkdt	MLL2	MC1R	Sample number	Voucher number	
	<i>Scorpaenodes guamensis</i>	JQ432122	JX628514	KC222248	JX628269	JX628397	JX628397	JX628136	JX628013	MBIO344	MNHN 2008-0385	
	<i>Scorpaenodes guamensis</i>	JQ432125			JX628270	JX627903	JX628398		JX628014	MBIO348		
		AFG18072	JX628526	KC222247	JX6282		JX628411	JX628148	JX628025	MBIO1319		
	<i>Scorpaenopsis diabolus</i>	JQ432132	JX628521	KC222246	JX628277	JX627907	JX628406	JX628143	JX628420	MBIO1003	MNHN 2008-0821	
		AFG18078	JX628524	KC222245	JX628280	JX627910	JX628409	JX628146	JX628023	MBIO1183	MNHN 2008-0904	
	<i>Scorpaenopsis possi</i>	JQ432137	JX628518	KC222244	JX628274	JX627905	JX628403	JX6288140	JX628018	MBIO604	MNHN 2008-0568	
	<i>Sebastapistes tinkhami</i>	JQ432147	JX628513	KC222243	JX628267		JX628395	JX628134	JX628011	MBIO303	MNHN 2008-0359	
Sebastinae	<i>Helicolenus dactylopterus</i>	AP027-11	JX628547	AP027-11	JX628302	JX627933	JX628428	JX628169	JX628042	58	MNHN 2011-781	
	<i>Helicolenus dactylopterus</i>	AP121-12	AP121-12	AP121-12	JX627891		JX628383	JX628121	JX628003	BPS1260		
	<i>Sebastes mentella</i>	AP122-12	JX628504	AP122-12	JX628253	JX627892	JX628384	JX628124	JX628004	BPS1301		
	<i>Trachyscorpia cristulata</i>	AP111-12		AP111-12	JX628245	JX627883	JX628374	JX628112	JX627998	BPS0998		
Synanceinae	<i>Synanceia verrucosa</i>		EU638267	EU638011		EU638156	JX628436	JX628179		255		
	<i>Synanceia verrucosa</i>	JQ432179	JX628520	KC222242	JX628276		JX628405	JX628142		MBIO833	MNHN 2008-0706	
Perciformes												
Notothenioidei	Artedidraconidae	<i>Dolloidracro longedorsalis</i>	EATF179	JX628539	EATF179	JX628295	JX627926	JQ688777	JX628160	si182n1370	MNHN-2009-0955	
	Bathydraconidae	<i>Cygnodraco mawsoni</i>	EATFR018		EATFR018		JX627940	JQ688767	JX628053	559		
		<i>Racovitzia glacialis</i>	EATF219	JX628541	EATF219	JX628297	JX627927	JX628424		si224n1697	MNHN-2009-1066	
		<i>Racovitzia glacialis</i>	EATF220		EATF220			JQ688778		si225n1698	MNHN-2009-1067	
	Bovichtidae	<i>Bovichtus diacanthus</i>	FKCI042	JX628555	FKCI042	JX628317	JX627942	JQ688741	JX628184	1205		
		<i>Cottoberca gobio</i>	EATFR003	JX628556	EATFR003	JX628319		JQ688745	JX628186	1233		
	Channichthyidae	<i>Champocephalus gunnari</i>	AP145-12	JX628557	AP145-12	JX628321	JX627944	JX628441	JX628188	JX628056	1272	
	Eleginopsidae	<i>Eleginops maclovinus</i>	FKCI050	EU638199	FKCI050	EU638047	EU638121	JQ688746	JX628210	1234	MNHN2005-0093	
	Harpagiferidae	<i>Harpagifer kerguelensis</i>	EATF605	JX628552	EATF605	JX628312		JQ688766		412	MNHN2000-0269	
	Nototheniidae	<i>Lepidonotothen squamifrons</i>	FKCI057	JX628559	JQ063278	JX628320	JX627943	JQ063252	JX628187	1251		
		<i>Trematomus eulepidotus</i>	EATF325	JX628543	GU997285	JX628298	JX627929	JX628425	JX628163	JX628037	si330n2440	MNHN 2009-1298
		<i>Trematomus tokarevi</i>	EATF442	JX628544	GU997387	JX628299	JX627930	GU997593	JX628164		si447n3011	MNHN-2009-1345
Percoidei	Acropomatidae	<i>Acropoma sp.</i>	A		AP164-12		JX627861		JX627978	ASIZP0913886		
		<i>Malakichthys griseus</i>	A AP080-12		AP080-12		JX627858			ASIZP0913880		
		<i>Malakichthys griseus</i>	A AP081-12		AP081-12		JX627860			ASIZP0913881		
		<i>Malakichthys sp.</i>	A AP061-12	JX628459	AP061-12	JX628211	JX627848	JX628340	JX628076	JX627965	ASIZP0913578	
		<i>Malakichthys sp.</i>	A		AP163-12					ASIZP0913898		
		<i>Neoscombrops pacificus</i>	A AP131-12		AP131-12	JX628263	JX627898		JX628035	JNC2653		
	Caristiidae	<i>Caristiis macropus</i>	A AP107-12			JX628241	JX627879	JX628370	JX628108	BPS0626		
	Centracanthidae	<i>Spicara alta</i>	A AP144-12	JX628553		JX628315		JX628439	JX628182	923		
		<i>Spicara maena</i>	A	JX628486	AP123-12	JX628254	JX627893	JX62825	JX628122	JX628005	BPS1329	
	Cirrhitidae	<i>Amblycirrhitus bimaculata</i>	A JQ431404		KC222241		JX627913	JX628413	JX628150	JX628027	MBIO1407	MNHN 2008-0994
			A AFG17584		KC222240	JX628268	JX627900	JX628396	JX628135	JX628012	MBIO311	MNHN 2008-0365
		<i>Paracirrhites forsteri</i>	A JQ431959		KC222239					MBIO61		
		<i>Paracirrhites hemistictus</i>	A AFG17905		KC222238	JX628266	JX627900	JX628394	JX628133	JX628010	MBIO261	MNHN 2008-0332
	Emmelichthyidae	<i>Erythrocles monodi</i>	A AP046-12		AP046-12					T8371	MCZ 167694	
	Gerreidae	<i>Diapterus peruvianus</i>	A AP047-12		AP047-12					T8533	KU 40323	
		<i>Eucinostomus argenteus</i>	A AP045-12		AP045-12					T3838	USNM 351280	
		<i>Gerres cinereus</i>	A AP042-12		AP042-12					T62	USNM 343870	
	Kyphosidae	<i>Kyphosus sectator</i>	A AP103-12	JX628491	AP103-12		JX627876	JX627876	JX628104	JX627993	BPS0572	
		<i>Kyphosus vaigiensis</i>	A JQ431874	JX628512	KC222237	JX628265		JX628393	JX628132	JX628009	MBIO207	MNHN 2008-0293
	Lethrinidae	<i>Gnathodentex aureolineatus</i>	A JQ431755	JX628516	KC222236	JX628273		JX628401	JX628138	MBIO487	MNHN 2008-0485	
		<i>Lethrinus olivaceus</i>	A JQ431885	JX628525	KC222235	JX628281	JX627911	JX628410	JX628147	JX62814	MBIO1269	
		<i>Monotaxis grandoculis</i>	A JQ431910		KC222234	JX628271		JX628399	JX628137	JX628015	MBIO468	MNHN 2008-0471
	Percichthyidae	<i>Howella parini</i>	A AP079-12	JX628473	AP079-12	JX628223	JX627859	JX628351	JX628085	JX627977	ASIZP0913816	
		<i>Howella zina</i>	A AP078-12		AP078-12					ASIZP0913761		

Percidae	<i>Pe rcafluvia ti lis</i>	AP040-12	JX628485	AP040-12	JX627871	JX628360	JX628097		BPS0265	MNHN 2004-1522
	<i>Stizostedion lucioperca</i>	AP117-12	JX628499	AP117-12	JX628249	JX627886	JX628379	JX628117	BPS1154	
Priacanthidae	<i>Heteropriacanthus cruentatus</i>	A J0431859	JX628522	KC222233	JX628278	JX627908	JX628407	JX628144	JX628021	MBIO1028 MNHN 2008-0834
	<i>Priacanthus blochii</i>	A AP089-12		AP089-12						ASIZP0914013
	<i>Priacanthus hamrur</i>	A J0432031	JX628531	KC222232	JX62828	JX627917	JX628417	JX628154	JX628031	MBIO1613 MNHN 2008-1084
	<i>Pri acanthus macracanthus</i>	A AP091-12		AP091-12						ASIZP0914061
	<i>Pri acanthus sp.</i>	A AP060-12		AP060-12		JX627847			JX627964	ASIZP0913565
	<i>Priacanthidae sp.</i>	A AP055-12		AP055-12						ASIZP0913544
	<i>Pristigenys meyeri</i>	A AP073-12		AP073-12						ASIZP0913647
	<i>Pristigenys nipponia</i>	A		AP056-12					JX627963	ASIZP0913552
	<i>Pristigenys nipponia</i>	A AP087-12		AP087-12						ASIZP0914000
	<i>Pristigenys sp.</i>	A AP074-12	JX628467	AP074-12	JX628218		JX628346	JX628080	JX627972	ASIZP0913677
Serranidae										
Anthiinae	<i>Holanthias chrysostictus</i>		EU638206	AY141290	AY362209	DQ168073				
	<i>Pseudanthias sp.</i>		JX628466	AP072-12	JX628217			JX628079	JX627971	ASIZP0913637
	<i>Pseudanthias sp.</i>		JX628476	AP084-12	JX628226	JX627864	JX628352	JX628087		ASIZP0913962
Epinephelinae	<i>Aporops bilinearis</i>	AFG17400		KC222230	JX628308	JX627938	KC222260	JX628176	JX628050	MBIO226 MNHN 2008-0307
	<i>Belonoperca chabanaudi</i>	AFG17427	JX628532	KC222231	JX628289	JX627918	KC222259	JX628192	JX628059	MBIO1850 MNHN 2008-1159
	<i>Cephalopholis sonnerati</i>	J0431575	JX628562	KC222229	JX628324	JX627945	JX628443	JX628193	JX628060	MBIO1869
	<i>Dermatolepis sp.</i>	AP137-12	JX628546	AP137-12	JX628300	JX627932	JX628427	JX628168	JX628040	24
	<i>Epinephelus aeneus</i>	AP127-12	JX628507	AP127-12	JX628258	JX627896	JX628389	JX628127		BPS1414
	<i>Epinephelus altivelis</i>	AP148-12		AP148-12	JX628328	JX627946	JX628446	JX628195	JX628064	3164
	<i>Epinephelus leucogrammicus</i>	AP133-12		AP133-12	JX628325		JX628444		JX628061	1929
	<i>Epinephelus sp.</i>	BFS285-11		EU637934						DHS353
	<i>Grammistops ocellatus</i>	J0431777	JX628554	KC222228	JX628316	JX627941	JX628440	JX628183	JX628054	MBIO975
	<i>Liopropoma lunulatum</i>	J0431889	JX628561	KC222227	JX628323	JX627947	JX628442	JX628191	JX628058	MBIO1710
	<i>Mycteroperca costae</i>	AP126-12	JX628506	AP126-12	JX628257	JX627895	JX628388	JX628126	JX628008	BPS1396
	<i>Mycteroperca marginata</i>	AP102-12	JX628490	AP102-12	JX628237		JX628365	JX628103	JX627992	BPS0522
	<i>Plectropomus leopardus</i>	AP147-12		AP147-12	JX628326		JX628445		JX628062	2555
	<i>Pogonoperca punctata</i>	AFG17966	JX628558	JX093951	JX628318	JX62818	JX093927	JX628185	JX628055	MBIO1217
	<i>Pseudogramma polyacantha</i>	AFG18006			JX628314		KC222258			MBIO509
	<i>Rypticus saponaceus</i>		EU638253	AY368329	AY362257	DQ168111				
	<i>Saloptia powelli</i>	AFG18033	JX628560	JX093954	JX62832	JX627949	JX093930	JX628189	JX628057	MBIO1460 MNHN 2008-1014
	<i>Variola louti</i>	EPINBO016	JX628563	EPINBO016	JX628327	JX627950	EPINBO016	JX628194	JX628063	3069 MNHN-icti-2964
Serraninae	<i>Chelidoperca sp.</i>		JX628468		JX628219		JX628347	JX628081	JX627973	ASIZP0913683
	<i>Chelidoperca sp.</i>		JX628479		JX628229	JX627867	JX628355	JX628091	JX627983	ASIZP0914008
	<i>Serranus atricauda</i>	AP095-12	JX628482	AP095-12		JX627869	JX628357	JX628094	JX627985	BPS0127
	<i>Serranus cabrilla</i>	AP110-12	JX628495		JX628244	JX627882	JX628373	JX628111	JX627997	BPS0985
	<i>Serranus cabrilla</i>	AP100-12			JX628236			JX628101	JX627991	BPS0482
	<i>Serranus scriba</i>	AP109-12	JX628494	AP109-12	JX628243	JX627881	JX628372	JX628110	JX627996	BPS0980
	<i>Serranus sp.</i>	AP136-12	JX628535	AP136-12	JX628292	JX627920	JX628419	JX628157	JX628034	MB123
Terapontidae	<i>Teraponjarbua</i>	A AP129-12	JX628509	AP129-12	JX628261			JX628130		JNC1990
	<i>Teraponjarbua</i>	A AP130-12	JX628510	AP130-12	JX628262	JX627897	JX628392	JX628131		JNC1991
Trachinoidei	<i>Ammodytidae</i>	A	JX628500		JX628250	JX627888	JX628380	JX628118		BPS1229
	<i>Gymnammodytes semisquamatus</i>									
	<i>Hyperoplus lanceolatus</i>	A AP119-12	JX628501		JX628251	JX627889	JX628381	JX628120		BPS1230
	<i>Ammodytes marinus</i>	A AP120-12	JX628502		JX628252	JX627890	JX628382	JX628119		BPS1232
Cheimarrichthyidae	<i>Cheimarrichthys fosteri</i>	A AP142-12	EU638185	AY141307	JX628311	DQ168052	JX628437	JX628180	JX628051	281
Champsodontidae	<i>Champsodon snyderi</i>	A AP140-12	EU637949	EU638182			KC222227			205
	<i>Champsodontidae sp.</i>	A AP094-12	JX628480		JX628230		JX628356	JX628092		BOA052
Chiasmodontidae	<i>Pseudoscopus altipinnis</i>	A AP097-12			JX628233	JX627872	JX628361	JX628098	JX627988	BPS0391
	<i>Chiasmodon niger</i>	A AP106-12	JX628493	AP106-12	JX628240		JX628369	JX628107		BPS0625
Creediidae	<i>Chalixodytes chameleontoculis</i>	A J0431598			JX628284					MBIO1388 MNHN 2008-0991
Percophidae	<i>Bembrops sp.</i>	BFS310-11	JX628508		JX628259		JX628390	JX628128		DHS380 MNHN-2010-804
	<i>Bembrops sp.</i>	BFS311-11			JX628260		JX628391	JX628129		DHS381 MNHN-2010-805

(continued on next page)

Table 2 (continued)

	Family	Species	COI	RNF213	RH	MLL4	IRBP	Pkdt	MLL2	MC1R	Sample number	Voucher number
	Pinguipedidae	<i>Parapercis millepunctata</i>	A J0431972	JX628517				JX628402	JX628139	JX628017	MBIO546	MNHN 2008-0526
	Trachinidae	<i>Echiichthys vipera</i>	AP002-11	JX628549		JX628306	JX627936	JX628432	JX628173	JX628147	176	MNHN 2011-793
		<i>Trachinus draco</i>	AP006-11	JX628550	AP006-11	JX628307	JX627937	JX628433	JX628174	JX628048	177	MNHN 2011-794
		<i>Trachinus draco</i>	AP104-12	JX628492	AP104-12	JX628238	JX627877	JX628367	JX628105		BPS0592	
	Uranoscopidae	<i>Uranoscopus scaber</i>	A AP125-12	JX628505	AP125-12	JX628256	JX627894	JX628387	JX628125	JX628007	BPS1386	
Zoarcoidei	Anarhichadidae	<i>Anarhichas lupus</i>	AP039-12	JX628483	AP039-12	JX628231	JX627870	JX628358	JX628095	JX627986	BPS0141	MNHN 2003-1599
	Pholidae	<i>Pholis gunnellus</i>	AP093-12	EU638241	AP093-12	AY362285	DQ168100	JX628430	JX628093		B114	
	Zoarcidae	<i>Lycodapus pachysoma</i>	EATF164	JX628538		JX628294	JX627925	JX628422	JX628159		si166n1250	MNHN-2009-1396
		<i>Pachycara brachycephalum</i>	EATF181	JX628540	EATF181	JX628296		JX628423	JX628161		si184n1389	MNHN-2009-0029
<i>Gasterosteiformes</i>												
Gasterosteoidae	Indostomidae	<i>Indostomus paradoxus</i>	B AP156-12	JX628578	EU637967	EU638057					1063	
		<i>Indostomus sp.</i>	B AP138-12		AP138-12	JX628301					36	
	Gasterosteidae	<i>Gasterosteus aculeatus</i>	AP108-12		AP108-12	JX628242	JX627880	JX628371	JX628109	JX627995	BPS0807	
		<i>Spinachia spinachia</i>	AP124-12	JX628503	AP124-12	JX628255		JX628386	JX628123	JX628006	BPS1348	
Syngnathoidei	Aulostomidae	<i>Aulostomus chinensis</i>	B AP143-12		AP143-12	JX628313		JX628438	JX628181	JX628052	414	
		<i>Aulostomus chinensis</i>	B AP149-12		AY141279	AY362226	DQ168040					
		<i>Aulostomus chinensis</i>	B AP169-12	JX628536	AP169-12		JX627923		JX628167	JX628039	T6839	SAIAB 77945
	Centriscidae	<i>Aeoliscus strigatus</i>	B AP146-12		EU637931		EU638100		JX628190		1658	
	Fistulariidae	<i>Fistularia petimba</i>	B AP141-12	EU638202	AY141324				JX628177		234	
	Macroramphosidae	<i>Macroramphosus scolopax</i>	B AP012-11		AP012-11	JX628303	JX627934			JX628043	59	MNHN 2011-782
		<i>Macroramphosus sp.</i>	B AP135-12	JX628534	AP135-12	JX628291	JX627919		JX628156	JX628033	MB112	
	Pegasidae	<i>Pegasus volitans</i>	B AP157-12	JX628579				JX628457	JX628209		1656	
Outgroup	Syngnathidae	<i>Hippocampus hippocampus</i>	B AP014-11							JX628044	96	MNHN 2011-785
	Berycidae	<i>Beryx splendens</i>	AP154-12	EU638174	AY141265	JX628339	DQ168045	JX628456	JX628208		1031	
	Blenniidae	<i>Blennius ocellaris</i>	AP001-11		AP001-11						152	MNHN 2011-791
	Bothidae	<i>Arnoglossus laterna</i>	AP032-11	JX628571	AP032-11	JX628332	JX627953		JX628200		161	MNHN 2011-790
		<i>Arnoglossus imperialis</i>	AP009-11		AP009-11				JX628197		28	MNHN 2011-779
	Callionymidae	<i>Callionymus maculatus</i>		JX628566		JX628329	JX627952			JX628041	25	MNHN 2011-777
	Carangidae	<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>	AP023-11	JX628574	AP023-11		JX627958	JX628452	JX628203	JX628070	203 204	MNHN 2011-796
		<i>Trachurus mediterraneus</i>		JX628575	AP031-11				JX628175			MNHN 2011-797
	Cepolidae	<i>Cepola macrophthalma</i>	AP005-11	JX628564			JX627951		JX628196	JX628065	9	MNHN 2011-773
	Gadidae	<i>Gadus morhua</i>		JX628570	AF137211	EU638050	JX627960	JX628454	JX628205	JX628072	125	
		<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>			AP018-11	JX628336					218	MNHN 2011-801
	Labridae	<i>Labrus bergylta</i>	AP029-11	JX628576		JX628337	JX627961	JX628455	JX628206		277	MNHN 2011-805
	Merlucciidae	<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	AP026-11		AP026-11						27	MNHN 2011-778
	Molidae	<i>Mola mola</i>	AP150-12	JX628565	AF137215	AY362251	AY362251	JX628447		JX628066	18	
	Moroni dae	<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	AP024-11		AP024-11						217	MNHN 2011-800
	Mugilidae	<i>Liza ramada</i>	AP016-11		AP016-11	JX628335	JX627959	JX628453	JX628204	JX628071	205	MNHN 2011-798
	Mullidae	<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>		JX628573	AP028-11	JX628333	JX627957	JX628451	JX628202		178	MNHN 2011-795
	Myctophidae	<i>Lampanyctus crocodilus</i>	AP010-11	JX628568	AP010-11	JX628330			JX628199		72	MNHN 2011-784
	Phycidae	<i>Phycis blennoides</i>	AP033-11		AP033-11	JX628331					123	
	Pomacentridae	<i>Dascyllus trimaculatus</i>	AP152-12		EU637953	EU638043	EU638117			JX628075	66	
	Scophthalmidae	<i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i>		JX628569	AP003-11	JX628334	JX627955	JX628449	JX628172	JX628068	151	MNHN 2011-789
	Siganidae	<i>Siganus vulpinus</i>	AP151-12	JX628567	EU638007	EU638090	JX627954	JX628448	JX628198	JX628067	54	
	Sparidae	<i>Boops boops</i>	AP007-11	JX628572	AP007-11		JX627956	JX628450	JX628201	JX628069	175	MNHN 2011-792
	Synbranchidae	<i>Monopterus albus</i>	AP155-12	JX628577	AY141276	AY362252	AY362252	JX628458		JX628074	1016	
	Zeidae	<i>Zeusfaber</i>	AP153-12		EU638023	AY362287	DQ168128		JX628207	JX628073	358	

pachysoma, *Zoarcetes viviparous*, *Lycodes diapterus*, and a scorpaenid: *Sebastes* spp.) were calculated using MEGA 4 (Tamura et al., 2007) for the seven markers of this study, four markers of Li et al. (2007): myh6, ENC1, Ptr and Tbr1 and the nuclear markers H3, 28S rDNA and TMO-4c4 used in different studies including the Serraniformes (Chen et al., 2003; Smith & Wheeler, 2004, 2006; Smith & Craig, 2007).

Gaps were treated as missing data in all analyses. First, each of the seven markers was treated as a unique dataset and analyzed separately. Then, IRBP, Rhodopsin, RNF213 and MLL4 were concatenated to make dataset 1 for comparison purposes with the separate analyses of the new markers. Dataset 2 is the concatenation of all the seven markers.

For the datasets 1 and 2, only the specimens for which at least three out of seven sequences were available were kept. For this study, ML and BI analyses of the seven markers and the two combined datasets were performed. Each marker was partitioned by codon position in all analyses, yielding 12 partitions for datasets 1 and 21 for dataset 2.

2.4.1. Maximum Likelihood analyses (ML)

The ML analyses were run with RaxML 7.2.7 on the Cipres Science Gateway online web server (Miller et al., 2010) with the GTR+G model implemented. The robustness of the nodes of the cladograms was estimated by the bootstrap method (Felsenstein, 1985) with 1000 replicates for each analysis.

2.4.2. Bayesian phylogenetic inference (BI)

Using jModelTest (Posada, 2008), we found the recommended model for partition is GTR+I+G under the AIC criterion. All the parameters were estimated during the analyses. The BI analyses were conducted with Mr. Bayes v. 3.1.2 (Huelsenbeck & Ronquist, 2005) on each dataset. Four chains (three heated and one cold) were run for 20 000 000 generations for each of the two independent runs for each dataset (one tree sampled out of 100). All the trees were pooled after a burn-in of 5%, after checking it was sufficient for convergence.

Reliability of the clades was assessed by comparing congruence of different trees inferred from independent markers. Then, reliability is considered to increase for a given clade if it is also recovered by an independent research team using different data.

We compared our results to the studies of Smith and Wheeler (2004, 2006) and Smith and Craig (2007). These used different markers and have different sampling, therefore providing independent results from ours. Only clades repeatedly recovered are going to be discussed.

2.5. Comparison of topologies

We evaluated the congruence between the topology of each new marker and the topology of the concatenated tree of IRBP, Rhodopsin, RNF213, and MLL4 using TOPD-FMST version 3.3 (Puigbo et al., 2007).

The TOPD-FMST analysis was performed under default conditions, with 100 simulated trees as a null model. The terminals not included in both trees are pruned during the analysis. To assess congruence, the nodal distance is calculated between the trees using the root-mean squared distance (RMSD) of the distance matrices. It is entirely based on the branching pattern and hence does not account for evolutionary rate variation across the phylogeny. The RMSD is 0 for identical trees and increases as the trees become more dissimilar. This analyse was estimated using ML trees because RMSD method is restricted to binary trees (Puigbo et al., 2007).

3. Results and discussion

Except for Pkd1, the new primers outperformed the older ones (see * in Table 1). In total, 130 specimens could be sequenced for IRBP (66%), 142 for MLL4 (72%), 160 for Rhodopsin (81%), and 131 for RNF213 (67%). Concerning the new markers, 133 specimens were sequenced for Pkd1 (67%), 114 for MC1R (58%), and 134 for MLL2 (68%). Among our specimens, MC1R had the lowest percentage of successful sequencing; however, no successful new primers were designed for this marker. Even without new primers, Rhodopsin is the easiest marker to amplify for all specimens, explaining its success as a first go-to nuclear marker in acanthomorph phylogeny (Venkatesh et al., 1999; Chen et al., 2003; Chen & Mayden, 2009; Lecointre et al., 2011).

3.1. Structure and location of MC1R and MLL2 in Teleostei

The Pkd1 gene is single-copy in acanthomorphs. It is composed of 58 exons in *Gasterosteus aculeatus*. The primers were designed on the exon 20 of the gene which is 2615 bp long, to amplify a 650–800 bp fragment (Fig. 1c).

From six to four members (MC1R, MC2R, MC3R, MC4R, and to orthologues of MC5R) of the melanocortin receptor family have been identified in pufferfish and zebrafish (Logan et al., 2003a,b), but the divergence across paralogues is ancient, and they can be steadily recognized (Selz et al., 2007). The MC1R gene is single-copy and approximately 1000 bp long (Logan et al., 2003b; Selz et al., 2007). It is composed of one or two exons, depending on the species. The primers were designed in the larger exon (Fig. 1a).

The MLL family includes seven paralogues in teleosts (MLL1, MLL2, MLL3a, MLL3b, MLL4a, MLL4b, MLL5) (Nagasawa et al., 2012). The MLL2 and MLL4a and MLL4b paralogues diverged before the diversification of vertebrates (Nagasawa et al., 2012). They are located on different chromosomes (see Table 3), and they are not providing the same functions, so they can be considered as totally independent markers for phylogenetics in fishes. Even if the separation between MLL4a and MLL4b is recent compared to MLL2 versus MLL4, their divergence is also sufficient to reliably differentiate, identify, and amplify the two copies reliably across species by PCR (see Fig. 3 of Nagasawa et al., 2012).

The fragment amplified in this study is part of MLL4b. The fragment of MLL2 amplified is 1000 bp long and is located in the exon 28 in *Gasterosteus aculeatus* (Fig. 1b). In *Oreochromis niloticus*, but no taxon included in our study, the amplified fragment is split in two exons according to the gene description in Ensembl.

Neither MC1R nor MLL2 could be found in the Ensembl *Gadus morhua* genome; perhaps, this is because the genome of this species is new and incomplete.

We have verified if one or more of the seven markers under study are located on the same chromosome pair for each of the species having genetic maps available in the Ensembl database (Table 3). Partial information is provided: the markers are located on different chromosomes in *Tetraodon nigroviridis* (six markers) and *Danio rerio* (three markers). No data are available for *Gadus morhua* and *Oreochromis niloticus*. Rhodopsin and MLL2 both map on chromosome seven of *Oryzias latipes* and on chromosome 12 of *Gasterosteus aculeatus*, suggesting the synteny of at least one chromosome segment between these two species.

3.2. Variability of the markers

Previous studies (Li et al., 2007) have proposed new markers, but many of them have little variability at smaller scales. The variability of IRBP, Rhodopsin, RNF213, and MLL4 is taxon dependent,

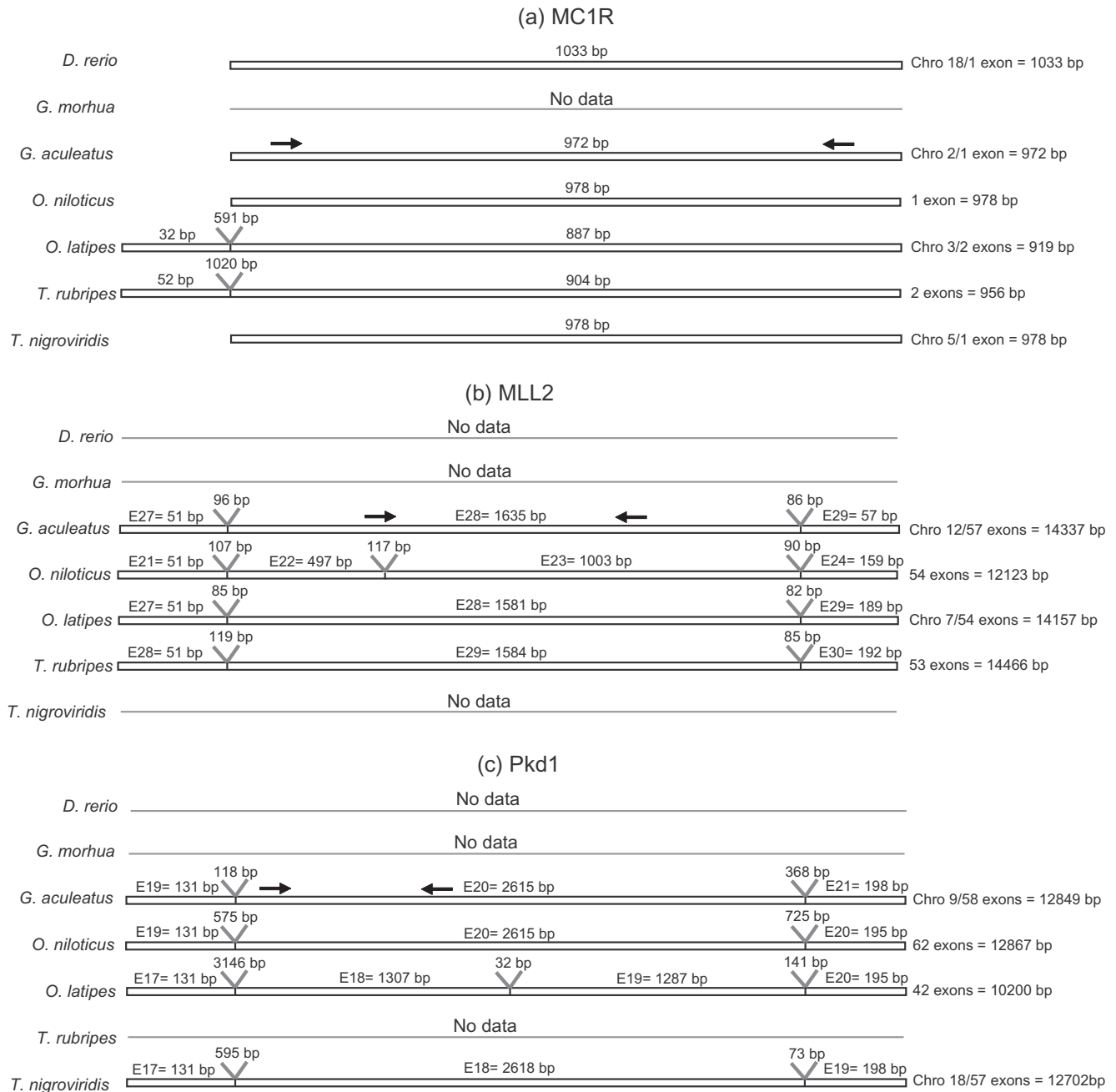


Fig. 1. Structure of (a) MC1R, (b) MLL2 and (c) Pkd1 and location of the amplified fragment for the seven species available in the Ensembl database. Introns are represented by gray areas. The Ex = y bp represent the number of the exons. The size of each exon is indicated after the signe equal. At the right of the figure are indicated: the localization of each gene on the chromosome of each species (Chro X) as well as the total number of exons of each gene. For several species, the localization of the genes on the chromosomes is unknown. Oligonucleotides primers positions are indicated by arrows.

but it has greater variability than ENC1 (Li et al., 2007) or H3 and 28S rDNA (Chen et al., 2003; Smith & Wheeler, 2004, 2006; Smith & Craig, 2007) (Fig. 2).

The exceptions to this increased variability are *tbr1* for the Gasterosteidae/Zoarcidae and *Pkd1*, *TMO4C4*, and *myh6* for the Cottidae/Gasterosteidae (Fig. 2). However, the markers of Li et al. (2007) were difficult to amplify for the Serraniformes.

Our seven markers have different variability depending on the taxa considered. This is of interest because some markers might be more interesting for reconstructing deeper divergences (MLL4, Rhodopsin, or RNF213) while others might present enough variability for more recent events like *Pkd1* already used at smaller

scale. Among the three new markers, *Pkd1* has the highest mean pairwise divergences for all the three pairs of taxa. It is in the same order of magnitude as the four previously used markers (*IRBP*, *Rhodopsin*, *RNF213*; and *MLL4*) (Fig. 2). Those four markers have proved very efficient at recovering relationships within teleosts (Dettai et al., 2012; Chen et al., 2003; Dettai & Lecointre, 2005, 2008; Chen & Mayden, 2009; Li et al., 2009). The MC1R gene has the lowest variability of the five others markers of this study; MLL2 has slightly more variability. The *TMO4C4* and the 28S genes have variability that is similar to MC1R, MLL2, and *Pkd1*; *TMO4C4* is the most variable marker for the comparison between Cottidae and Gasterosteidae. However, 28S and *TMO4C4* must be used more

Table 3

Chromosome location of the seven nuclear markers under study in the genetic maps of acanthomorph species available in the Ensembl database.

	IRBP	Rhodopsin	RNF213	MLL4	MC1R	MLL2	Pkd1
<i>Tetraodon nigroviridis</i>	chro 2	chro 9	chro 3	chro 10	chro 5	--	chro 18
<i>Takifugu rubripes</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Danio rerio</i>	-	chro 8	chro 3	-	chro 18	-	-
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Oreochromis niloticus</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Oryzias latipes</i>	-	chro 7	chro 8	chro 13	chro 3	chro 7	--
<i>Gasterosteus aculeatus</i>	chro 5	chro 12	chro 11	chro 1	chro 2	chro 12	chro 9

cautiously when comparing acanthomorphs (Li et al., 2009). The tbr1 gene is the most variable marker for Gasterosteidae and Zoarcidae, the variability of myh6 is in the same order of magni-

tude of MLL4 and MLL2. This can explain why myh6, ptr, and tbr1 are the three mostly used markers of (Li et al., 2007) in phylogenetic studies on acanthomorphs (Holcroft & Wiley, 2008;

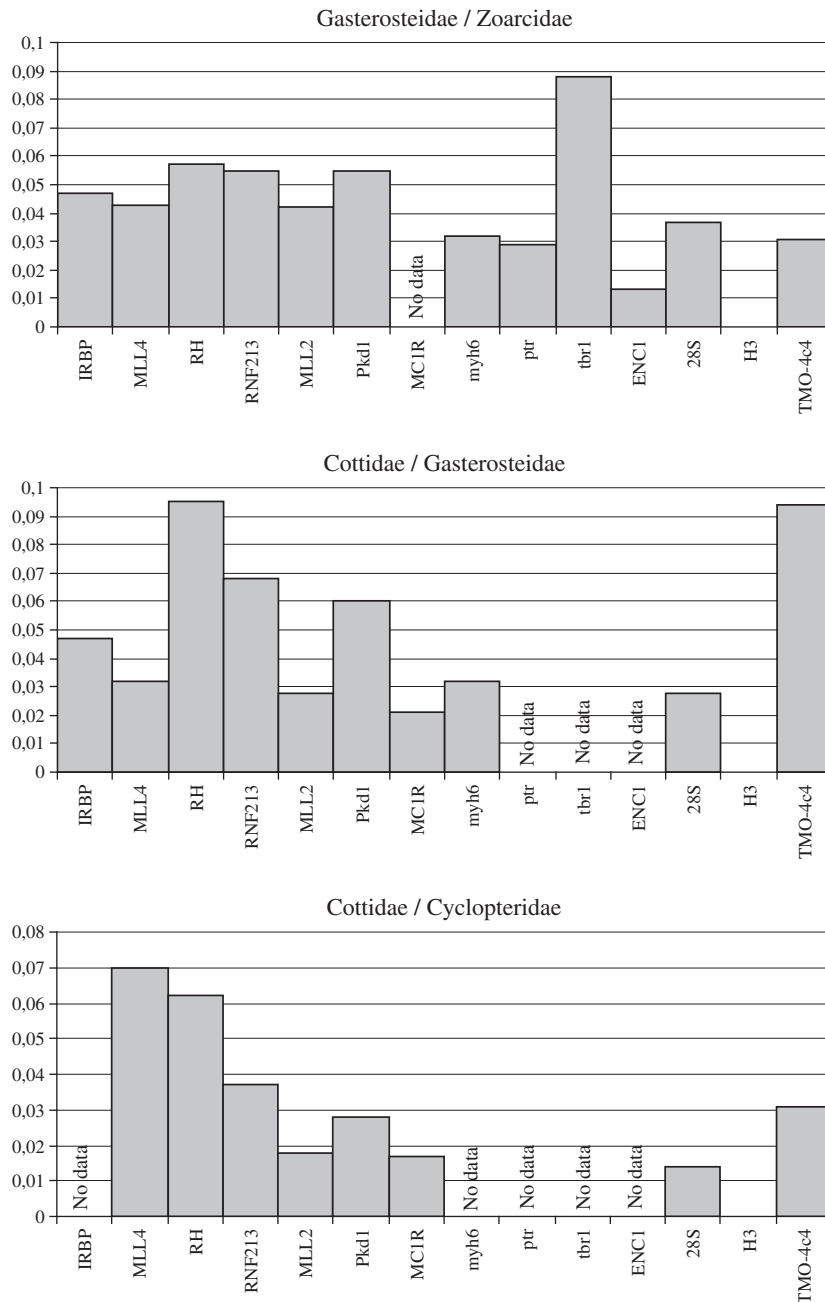


Fig. 2. Comparison of the mean pairwise differences for three pairs of taxa for the seven nuclear markers used in this study and for seven other nuclear markers commonly used for teleosts (myh6, ENC1, Ptr and Tbr1: Li et al., 2007; H3, 28S rDNA and TMO-4c4: Chen et al., 2003; Smith and Wheeler, 2004, 2006; Smith and Craig, 2007). The values were calculated with MEGA 4.

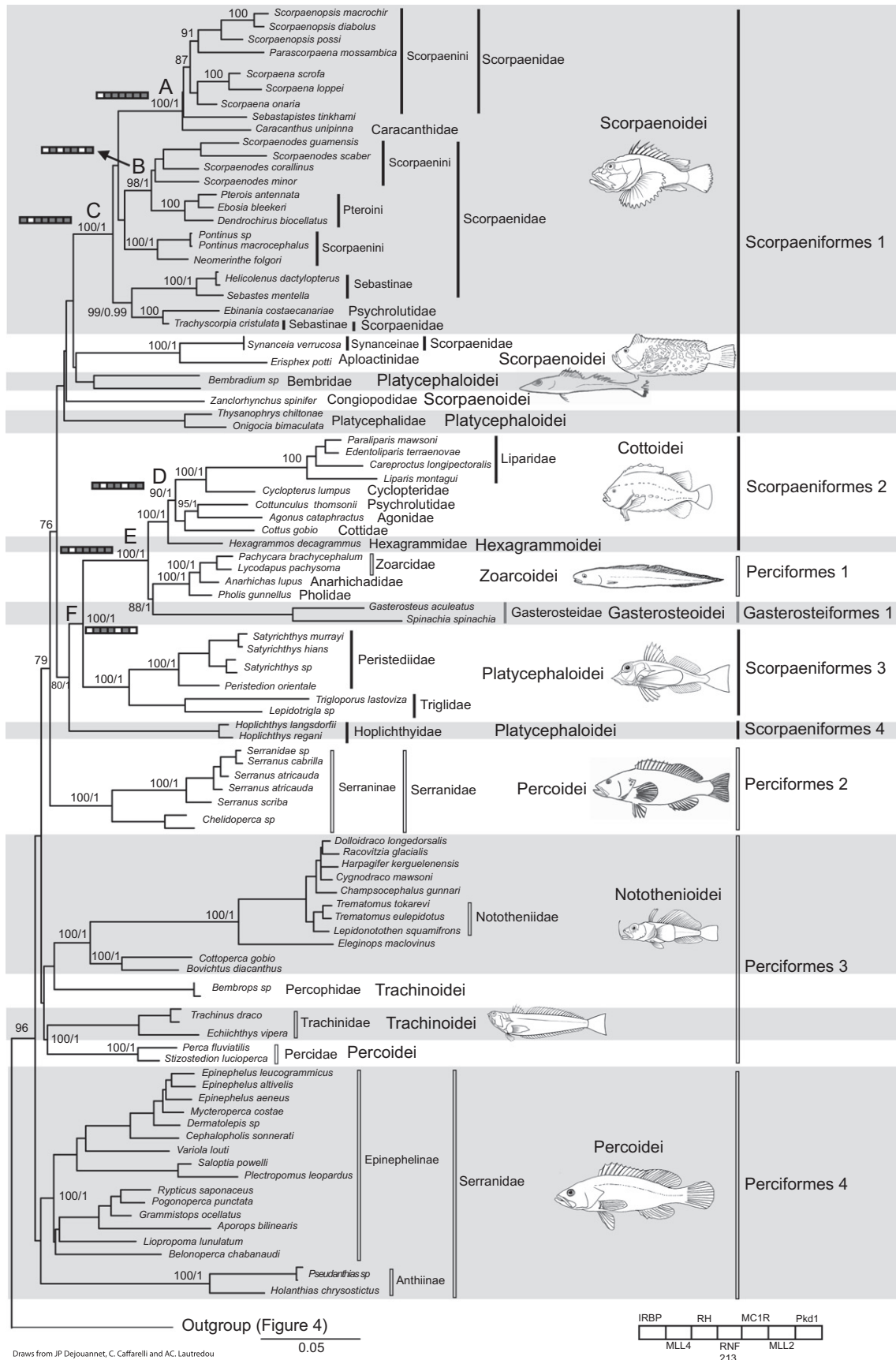


Fig. 3. Bayesian and Maximum likelihood trees of the ingroup (complete concatenation, dataset 2). Nodes with no indication have bootstrap values or posterior probabilities below 70 (ML analysis) or 0.90 (Bayesian analysis). The seven squares represent the seven markers. IRBP, MLL4, Rhodopsin, RNF213, MC1R, MLL2 and Pkd1. Nodes not recovered in the separate analysis of a marker are indicated with a white square, nodes recovered in the separate analysis of a marker are indicated by a gray square.

Matschiner et al., 2011). The H3 gene is not variable at all for the three taxa chosen.

3.3. Promises and advantages of new markers and new samples

While variability is important to evaluate the interest of markers at smaller scales, topology comparison allows evaluating their relevance for deeper divergences. We compared the topologies of the separate analyses of MC1R, MLL2, and Pkd1 versus the topology of the tree obtained from the dataset 1 (see Figs. 1a and 1b in the Supplementary material) (Mueller, 2006).

The RMSD of MC1R is 4.01 within the 95% confidence interval for random trees (5.33 ± 0.37); the RMSD of MLL2 is 3.62 (5.48 ± 0.36), the RMSD of Pkd1 is 3.27 (5.44 ± 0.35).

The RMSD values of each of the three new genes are close to each other, so there is no marker-specific bias affecting one of them and strong enough to provoke aberrant isolated topologies. In light of both its variability and the RMSD value, Pkd1 would appear to be the most adapted marker for phylogenetic work on this group. It had already been used for phylogeny at small scale on Acanthomorpha, but it appears to be a good marker in general.

3.4. Relationships among the Serraniformes

The separate ML and BI analyses of the seven markers were not well resolved but are congruent with each other (data not shown). In these trees, the Serraniformes are monophyletic only in the ML and BI trees of MLL2. The BI trees of the datasets 1 and 2 (Figs. 1b

and 2 of the Supplementary material) were less resolved than the ML trees (Figs. 3 and 4 and Fig. 1a of the Supplementary material) but were not in contradiction with them. Serraniformes are monophyletic only in the ML trees.

3.4.1. A mix of Gasterosteiformes, Perciformes, and Scorpaeniformes

In this study, nodes are considered supported when the bootstrap is above 70 and the posterior probability (pp) is above 0.90. We will discuss here only the clades that have been recovered by several independent loci or combinations of loci.

All the Perciformes that we tested for inclusion in the Serraniformes (listed under A in the Table 2) were positioned outside the clade. As shown by several previous molecular studies, members of three different orders are present within this clade: Gasterosteiformes, Perciformes, and Scorpaeniformes (Chen et al., 2003; Miya et al., 2003; Smith & Wheeler, 2004, 2006; Dettai & Lecointre, 2005, 2008; Smith & Craig, 2007; Kawahara et al., 2008; Li et al., 2009; Matschiner et al., 2011). Morphological studies have suggested that sticklebacks could be divided in several different clades but the composition of these clades is not the same depending on the study (Nelson, 1984; Springer & Orrell, 2004). In our sampling Gasterosteiformes are well represented with eight of 11 families. In the topologies resulting from datasets 1 and 2 (Figs. 3 and 4), Gasterosteiformes are divided in four groups: (1) a strongly supported clade composed of Fistulariidae, Aulostomidae, Centriscidae, and Macroramphosidae that grouped with Dactylopteridae (Scorpaeniformes) and Mullidae (Perciformes), as in Chen et al. (2003), Dettai and Lecointre (2005) and Li et al. (2009), (2) Pegasidae, (3)

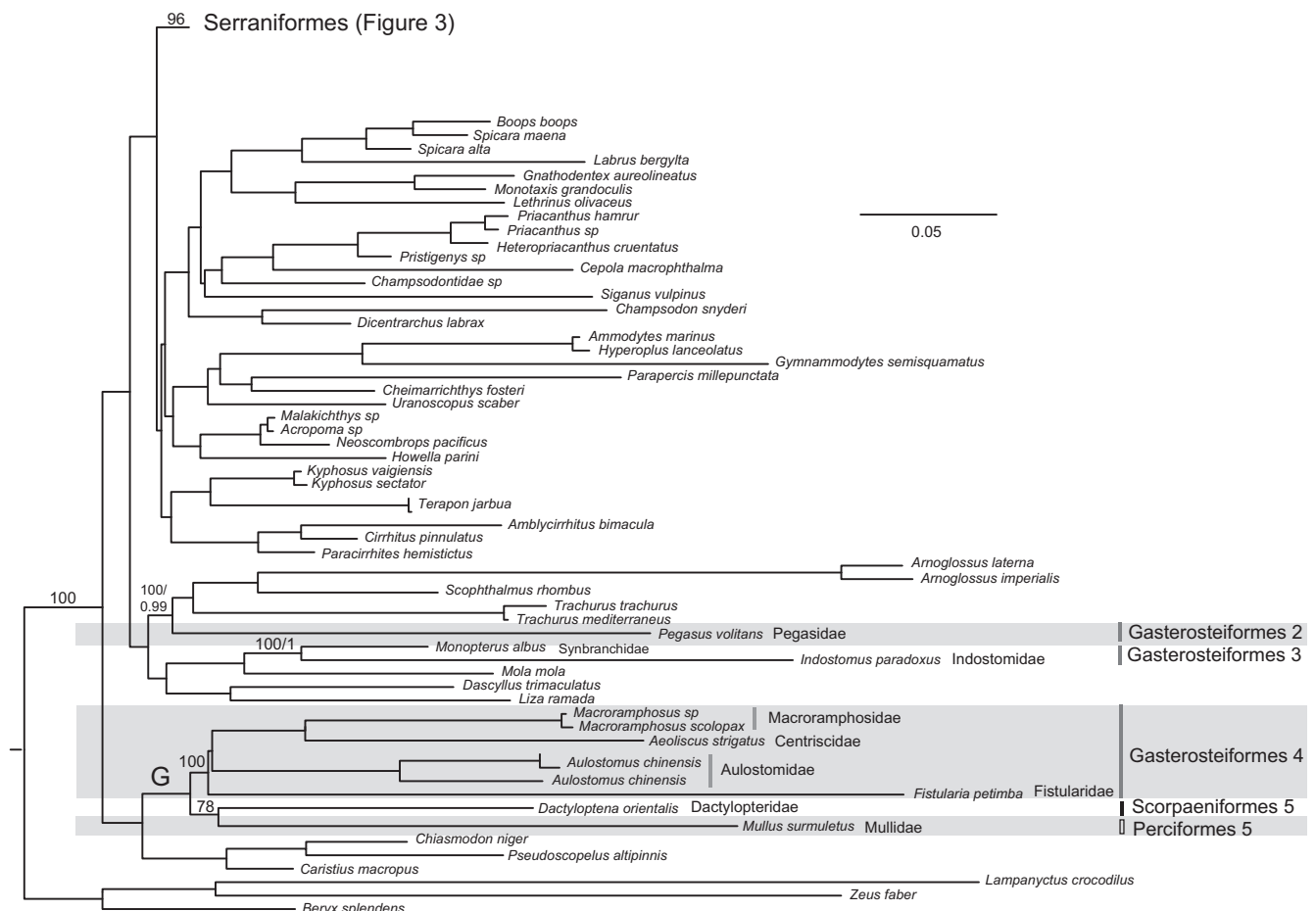


Fig. 4. Bayesian and Maximum likelihood trees of the outgroups (complete concatenation, dataset 2). Nodes with no indication have bootstrap values or posterior probabilities below 70 (ML analysis) or 0.90 (Bayesian analysis).

Indostomidae grouped with Synbranchidae as in Kawahara et al. (2008) and Li et al. (2009), (4) Gasterosteidae, the only one included within the Serraniformes in the present study as in Smith and Wheeler (2004, 2006), Kawahara et al. (2008). Both Smith and Wheeler (2004, 2006) and Kawahara et al. (2008) found that Aulorhynchidae grouped with Gasterosteidae (and therefore belong to Serraniformes), but we have no representative of the family in the present study.

Perciformes and Scorpaeniformes are divided in four distinct clades. The para- or polyphyly of these groups has been discussed for a long time using either morphological or molecular data (Johnson & Patterson, 1993; Imamura & Yabe, 2002; Chen et al., 2003; Miya et al., 2003; Smith & Wheeler, 2004, 2006; Matschiner et al., 2011).

3.4.2. Confirmation of the monophyly of several groups

Within Serraniformes, some clades described based on morphological data are repeatedly recovered using independent molecular data. They can therefore be considered reliable, within the obvious limitations of the molecular taxonomic sampling.

As in other several studies, the three sub-orders Notothenioidei and Zoarcoidei are monophyletic (Dettai et al., 2012; Dettai & Lecointre, 2004, 2005; Li et al., 2009; Matschiner et al., 2011). Cottoidei is monophyletic to the exclusion of *Ebinania* (Psychrolutidae) that groups with the genus *Trachyscorpia*. This will be discussed in Section 3.4.3. Trachinoidei are not monophyletic as suggested by many molecular and morphological studies (see Imamura & Odani, 2012 for a review). The question of the origin of Notothenioidei is still standing, and a number of hypotheses have been made. Based on morphological characters, multiple authors have suggested that Notothenioidei could be placed among trachinoids. Trichonotidae (sanddivers: Gosline, 1968; Hastings, 1993), Pinguipedidae (sandperches: Gosline, 1968; Pietsch, 1989; Hastings, 1993; Balushkin, 2000), and Cheimarrichthyidae (torrentfishes: Gosline, 1968) have been proposed as a sister-group of Notothenioidei, but the two last families are sister-group to each other outside the Serraniformes.

The sister-group of Notothenioidei is Percophidae, with Trachinidae and Percidae as a sister-group to both (Fig. 3). In previous molecular studies, Notothenioidei has grouped with Trachinidae (Li et al., 2009), with Percidae (Dettai & Lecointre, 2004) or with *Serranus* and Percidae (Matschiner et al., 2011), but there were no percophids in these samplings. Smith and Wheeler (2006) and Smith and Craig (2007) were the only ones to include both Percophidae (Bembropinae) and Notothenioidei, and recover the same result. But this clade is not well supported in our tree and is not recovered in any of the separate analyses, so it would still need to be corroborated with additional data. Smith and Craig (2007) suggested recognizing the superfamily Notothenioidea (Notothenioidei and Bembropinae) as they share a number of morphological features: the loss of one pectoral radial, i.e. with three distinct radials present instead of four, and the rostral displacement of the pelvic fins such that they originate anteriorly to the pectoral fins (Smith, 2005).

Within Cottoidei, Liparidae and Cyclopteridae formed a clade associated with Cottidae, Psychrolutidae, and Agonidae. Hexagrammidae are the sister-group of this set (clade D, Fig. 3). The sister-group relationship of Cyclopteroidea and Cottoidei is supported by molecular (Smith & Wheeler, 2004) and morphological studies (Imamura et al., 2005). Here, the monophyly of the lumpfish-snailfish group is supported in five of the seven separate analyses. It is congruent with morphological characters shared by these two groups such as pelvic fins modified into a sucking disc (when present); lateral line usually absent (Nelson, 2006).

Zoarcoidei and Gasterosteidae are the sister-group of clade D plus Hexagrammidae (clade E), supported in six of the seven separate analyses. Each of these relationships is very well supported. Clades D and E are recovered in every molecular study of

Serraniformes (Chen et al., 2003; Miya et al., 2003; Dettai & Lecointre, 2004, 2005, 2008; Smith & Wheeler, 2006; Smith & Craig, 2007; Li et al., 2009). According to Imamura and Yabe (2002), the relationship between Cottoidei and Zoarcoidei is supported by 13 synapomorphies (including a parietal sensory canal without spines, and the lack of supraneurals).

3.4.3. New clades

2.4.3.1. *Platycephaloidei*. In the present study (Fig. 3), Platycephaloidei are divided in four different clades, Bembridae, Platycephalidae, Hoplichthyidae, and a clade composed of Triglidae and Peristediidae. Peristediids and triglids are separated from the others by well supported nodes. This very interesting result is also recovered by Smith and Wheeler (2004, 2006) and Smith and Craig (2007). The Triglidae–Peristediidae are the sister-group of the clade E and form the clade F, very well supported by both bootstrap and pp. Li et al. (2009) also found Peristediidae in this position, but it was the only platycephaloid included in their sampling. For the first time, the position of Hoplichthyidae is very well supported in the Fig. 3 as the sister-group of the clade F (clade Isc of Dettai and Lecointre (2005) and Li et al. (2009)).

The suborder has been supported by morphological features for a long time. Imamura (1996) provided evidence that platycephaloids are monophyletic and are characterized by a posterior pelvic fossa. In the light of these results, this character needs to be reconsidered carefully, as it might be the result of a convergence.

2.4.3.2. *Serranidae*. Serranidae are not monophyletic, neither in our trees nor in previous studies (Dettai & Lecointre, 2004, 2005, 2008; Smith & Wheeler, 2006; Smith & Craig, 2007; Li et al., 2009; Matschiner et al., 2011). They are divided in two non-related clades here, one composed of Epinephelinae and Anthiinae (*Pseudanthias* and *Holanthias*), and the other composed of the Serraninae, like in other studies (Dettai & Lecointre, 2004, 2005; Smith & Wheeler, 2006). The monophyly of Epinephelinae is very well supported by both molecular and morphological data for the present sampling, and they share morphological characters on both larvae and adults. Adults have three opercular spines, and their first dorsal-fin pterygiophore lacks a separate distal radial (Gosline, 1966; Baldwin & Johnson, 1993). This modification might be related to the support of an elongate dorsal-fin spine in larvae (Gosline, 1966; Baldwin & Johnson, 1993). Elongate dorsal-fin spines are uncommon among known larvae of percoids and are lacking in serranines (Gosline, 1966; Baldwin & Johnson, 1993). Serraninae are monophyletic here as in Meisler (1987) who diagnosed this clade by the loss of the supramaxillae and the anterior portion of second infraorbital bone completely lateral to posterior lacrimal.

The position of Anthiinae remains an issue. In Smith and Craig (2007), Anthiinae are mixed with Serraninae, but, in our results, Anthiinae are the sister-group of Epinephelinae. However, their position is supported neither in the separate nor in the combined analyses, and they are the sister-group of Serraninae in ML and BI analyses of dataset 1. The taxonomic changes suggested by Smith and Craig (2007) seem appropriate, but the position of anthiinae as well as their morphological synapomorphies (absence of a toothplate on epibranchial two: (presence of 26 vertebrae: Anderson et al., 1990; and absence of a toothplate on epibranchial two: Baldwin, 1990) have to be explored further.

2.4.3.3. *Scorpaenoidei with emphasis on Scorpaenidae*. Scorpaenoidei are not monophyletic and are divided in three clades. The position of Congiopodidae is unclear. The genus *Zanclorhynchus* (Congiopodidae) had been proposed as the sister-group of Notothenioidei in Smith and Wheeler (2004), but they are distant from the Antarctic group in this study. However the Congiopodidae are not monophyletic in Smith and Wheeler (2004), and *Congiopodus* is grouped with

Bembridae. The only other well supported scorpaenoid lineage (clade C) groups Scorpaenidae, Caracanthidae, Sebastidae, and Psychrolutidae. It is supported by both bootstrap and pp, and is present in six of the seven separate analyses. In the MLL4 trees, the Psychrolutidae are monophyletic, which is not the case in the other separate analyses where *Ebinania* belongs to the Scorpaenidae. The sequences of the specimen *Ebinania* have been checked twice for each marker so there is no doubt about these sequences. The only molecular study including this family placed them in their expected position (Smith & Wheeler, 2004) in the same clade of Cottidae, and we recover this position for the psychrolutid genus *Cottunculus* in our separate analyses and in the combined analyses. In the present study, *Cottunculus* is the sister-group of Agonidae with a bootstrap of 95 and a pp of 1 and these two families form a clade with Cottidae. The genus *Ebinania* is the sister-group of *Trachyscorpia* in Fig. 3 and belongs to a very well supported clade composed of all sebastids in this study. The morphology of *Ebinania* and its position in the phylogeny should be investigated further.

Scorpaenidae are not monophyletic here or in any studies including multiple Scorpaenoidei (Smith & Wheeler, 2004, 2006; Smith & Craig, 2007), and appear to be split in four clades.

The only study where Scorpaenidae are monophyletic is Li et al. (2009) but there were only four specimens from this family included. Here, clade A is well supported, as it is recovered in six of the seven separate analyses. In combined analysis, Caracanthidae are included in Scorpaenidae, and more precisely in tribe Scorpaenini, like they were in previous molecular studies (Smith & Wheeler, 2004, 2006; Smith & Craig, 2007). Several morphological studies supported the close relationship of velvetfishes with Scorpaenidae (Cole & Montgomery, 2003; based on the morphology of the gonads; Shinohara & Imamura, 2005) and more precisely with two genera belonging in the Scorpaenini in a clade with *Taenianotus* and *Pteroidichthys* (Shinohara & Imamura, 2005). It would be very interesting to sample *Taenianotus* and *Pteroidichthys*. For the time being, we propose to include Caracanthidae in Scorpaenidae in agreement with Shinohara and Imamura (2005) and Smith and Craig (2007).

Scorpaena, *Scorpaenopsis*, *Sebastapistes* and *Parascorpaena* are in the same clade, and they are very similar to each other morphologically (Motomura & Buth, 2004; Motomura et al., 2004, 2005a,b, 2009a; Motomura, 2009). There is no morphological definition on a worldwide basis available for each genus (Motomura et al., 2004), but *Sebastapistes* and *Parascorpaena* are sometimes considered a subgenus of *Scorpaena* (Mandrytsa, 2001).

Clade B groups *Scorpaenodes* with Pteroini. *Scorpaenodes* and Pteroini have 13 dorsal-fin spines, a swimbladder, and do not have palatine teeth (Greenfield & Matsuura, 2002; Motomura et al., 2009a,b; Matsunuma & Motomura, 2011). They also shared a distinct morphological character among scorpaenids where the procurrent rays of the caudal fin are unsegmented and spinous. This character could be a synapomorphy of the group.

Scorpaenodes and *Scorpaenopsis* have the same general body shape, live in the same type of habitat, i.e., shallow tropical and subtropical waters, and hidden in rocky and coral reefs (Motomura et al., 2004, 2010), but they are in different clades. The morphology of these two genera appears therefore to be a convergence. Species in the genus *Scorpaenopsis* also lack palatine teeth (Motomura & Causse, 2011), so in the light of this phylogeny, the palatine teeth were lost independently twice.

Pontinus and *Neomerinthe* (Scorpaenini) are separated from the other scorpaenids and form the sister-group of Pteroini plus *Scorpaenodes*. This result is congruent with the study of Smith and Wheeler (2004). Clade B and *Pontinus* plus *Neomerinthe* share a flat occipital region covered with scales, which suggests a close relationship between these species (Motomura, unpublished data).

According to Nelson (2006), Synanceini belong to the Scorpaenidae. Yet *Synanceia* is well separated from the other scorpaenids in several studies, including this one (Smith & Wheeler, 2004, 2006; Smith & Craig, 2007). In these studies, Synanceini are the sister-group of Pataecidae, and both are included in a larger clade comprising also Gnathanacanthidae and Aploactinidae. Here, Synanceini are the sister-group of Aploactinidae (Fig. 3), but neither Pataecidae nor Gnathanacanthidae are present. We propose to recognize Synanceini again as a family Synanceidae. Finally, there is some morphological evidence that groups these families together, both larval (Leis & Rennis, 2000) and adult (presumed fusion of the scapula and uppermost pectoral radial (presumed fusion of the scapula and uppermost pectoral radial, Ishida, 1994).

4. Conclusion

The addition of taxa is important to resolve taxonomic issues. As there are numerous markers in this study as well as a good sampling, the present study can assess the relationships among the families belonging to the Serraniformes, as well as the monophyly or non-monophyly of the different families of this group. We confirm some previous results but also question some others. The clades D and E are very well supported and recovered in several studies. The sister-relationship of Percophidae and Notothenioidei in Smith and Craig (2007) as well as the division of Platycephaloidei in three different groups (Smith and Wheeler, 2004) needs some confirmation. We confirm here that the Platycephaloidei are polyphyletic, peristediids, hoplichthyids, bembroids and platycephalids clearly separated from each other.

For the Serranidae, the taxonomic changes of Smith and Craig (2007) seem appropriate in the light of our results but the monophyly of Anthiinae should be explored.

With 26 species of Scorpaenidae, this study has one of the best sampling after the 29 species (including Sebastidae, Setarchidae and Synanceidae) of Smith and Wheeler (2006). Combined with adapted markers, this sampling brings new light on the intrarelationships on Scorpaenidae: they should include Caracanthidae and perhaps part of the Psychrolutidae.

Acknowledgments

This work was supported by a TOTAL Foundation grant. We also thank Christina Cheng, Samuel Iglesias, Jean-Lou Justine, Charlotte Schoelincq, the Museum Victoria, the University of Kansas, the Moorea Biocode Project, the CEAMARC, SANTO and EVOHE cruises for the tissue samples. We thank the 'Service de systematique moleculaire' (IFR CNRS 101) of the 'Muséum national d'histoire naturelle', Paris, France, for support; the Barcode and the 'Bibliothèque du Vivant' projects for the sequencing. We thank Leo Smith and the 'anonymous reviewer'. We also thank Jean-Francois Dejoannet for the drawings.

Appendix A. Supplementary material

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2012.12.020>.

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