

1 **Running Title: Fine scale connectivity in reef fish**

2 **Connectivity dominates larval replenishment in a coastal reef fish**
3 **metapopulation**

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18

19 **Summary**

20 Direct estimates of larval retention and connectivity are essential to understand the structure and
21 dynamics of marine metapopulations, and optimize the size and spacing of reserves within
22 networks of marine protected areas (MPAs). For coral reef fishes, while there are some empirical
23 estimates of self-recruitment at isolated populations, exchange among sub-populations has been
24 rarely quantified. Here we used microsatellite DNA markers and a likelihood-based parentage
25 analysis to assess the relative magnitude of self-recruitment and exchange among 8
26 geographically distinct sub-populations of the panda clownfish *Amphiprion polymnus* along 30
27 km of coastline near Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. In addition, we used an
28 assignment/exclusion test to identify immigrants arriving from genetically distinct sources.
29 Overall, 82% of the juveniles were immigrants while 18% were progeny of parents genotyped in
30 our focal metapopulation. Of the immigrants, only 6% were likely to be genetically distinct from
31 the focal metapopulation, suggesting most of the connectivity is among sub-populations from a
32 rather homogeneous genetic pool. Of the 18% that were progeny of known adults, two thirds
33 dispersed among the 8 sub-populations and only one third settled back into natal sub-
34 populations. Comparison of our data with previous studies suggested that variation in dispersal
35 distances is likely to be influenced by the geographic setting and spacing of sub-populations.

36

37 **Keywords:** Parentage analysis, microsatellites, *Amphiprion polymnus*, dispersal, larvae, self-
38 recruitment, marine protected area, long distance immigrants.

1 **1. INTRODUCTION**

2 In marine ecosystems the extent to which discrete populations are linked by dispersal (either
3 larvae, juveniles or adults) is termed connectivity [1]. Connectivity can have different meanings
4 and implications depending on the scale considered and how it is measured. From an
5 evolutionary perspective, connectivity can be defined as the degree to which gene flow affects
6 evolutionary processes within populations (genetic connectivity) [2]. From an ecological
7 perspective, demographically connected populations are those in which population growth rates
8 are affected by dispersal [3]. Demographic connectivity has been acknowledged as a vital
9 parameter for understanding the dynamics of populations and how they respond to natural and/or
10 human disturbances [4-8]. Most populations of marine organisms are likely to function as
11 metapopulations where numerous sub-populations are connected to varying degrees by larval
12 dispersal [9-11]. Estimates of the magnitude of retention within and connectivity among sub-
13 populations at ecological time scales is essential to understand natural metapopulation dynamics
14 [e.g. 12; 13; 14] and model human impacts on marine ecosystems [15]. In addition, the efficacy
15 of management strategies, such as no-take marine reserve networks, depends on how individual
16 reserve populations function and how they are connected to the metapopulation at larger scale
17 [16; 17]. How individual reserves function depends on the degree to which they are self-
18 sustaining, are connected to zones open to fishing and are connected to other reserves in the
19 network [11; 17; 18]. These functions cannot be confirmed without quantifying patterns of
20 retention within and connectivity among populations. While the nature of demographic
21 connectivity among marine populations is beginning to be described [16; 19], the factors that
22 shape its variation remain poorly understood.

23

1 The metapopulation concept is particularly applicable to coral reef organisms with pelagic
2 larvae, as adult populations are usually restricted to discrete patches of reef habitat [10; 17].
3 Recent empirical studies have revealed that local replenishment of coral reef fishes is
4 significantly higher than previously envisaged [20-24]. However, in all these studies a significant
5 proportion of the newly settled juveniles originated from locations beyond the spatial extent of
6 focal populations. Coupled biophysical models have suggested that ecologically relevant larval
7 dispersal in reef fishes occurs over scales of 10 to 100 kilometers in the Caribbean Sea [25; 26]
8 and along the Great Barrier Reef [27]. These modeling studies have also predicted that levels of
9 self-recruitment may be highly variable among reefs. Testing these model predictions requires
10 estimates of retention within and connectivity among sub-populations on a larger scale than has
11 previously been available.

12
13 Empirical studies of demographic connectivity have suggested that variation in dispersal
14 distance among species are more likely to be influenced by geographic isolation and spacing of
15 reefs than individual species characteristics [17]. Modeling studies have provided some support
16 for this idea, with lower simulated self-recruitment of reef fish species along an extensive system
17 of barrier reefs [27] than on more isolated oceanic reefs in the Caribbean [26]. However, field
18 data on population connectivity remains insufficient to test the accuracy of these simulated
19 dispersal outcomes. The empirical studies conducted to date, using otolith chemistry [24], mass
20 marking of larvae [21; 22; 28], and DNA parentage analysis [22; 23], have primarily been
21 limited to estimating levels of self-recruitment within populations. While one study has
22 documented dispersal from a small island to distant reefs [23], we have no direct quantitative
23 estimates of connectivity in situations where sub-populations are distributed among several sites
24 with suitable habitats.

1
2 The aim of this study was to apply parentage analysis and assignment tests based on hyper-
3 variable microsatellite DNA markers to investigate self-recruitment and demographic
4 connectivity among subpopulations using as model the panda anemonefish (*Amphiprion*
5 *polymnus*) in Bootless Bay, Papua New Guinea. The approach was based on the identification of
6 offspring produced by genotyped parents. Natal origins of recently settled recruits can then be
7 determined providing the location of the parents is known or can be assumed at the time of
8 conception. Parentage analysis based on microsatellite markers has been validated in two species
9 of anemonefishes, *Amphiprion polymnus* [22] and *Amphiprion percula* [23], by comparing the
10 results with those obtained by simultaneous use of chemical tagging techniques on the same
11 individuals. These data represent the first direct estimates of self-recruitment and connectivity
12 among geographically isolated subpopulations of a coral reef fish.

13

14 **2. METHODS**

15 *a) Study species and location*

16 The panda clownfish (*Amphiprion polymnus*) is a southeast Asian endemic that lives in close
17 association with discrete aggregations of two species of anemone (*Stichodactyla hadonni* and
18 *Heteractis crispa*) occurring in sandy habitats associated with coral reefs [29]. Each anemone is
19 usually occupied by one breeding pair and up to eight smaller non-breeders and juveniles. The
20 female (the largest individual) lays demersal eggs on the upper surface of shells or dead coral
21 next to the anemone. Embryos develop over a period of 6-7 days before hatching [29] and post-
22 larvae settle into anemones after a pelagic larval phase lasting 9-12 days [30].

23

1 The study location encompassed Bootless Bay and an area of coast adjacent to Port Moresby,
2 Papua New Guinea. This area supported a metapopulation of 8 spatially discrete subpopulations
3 (termed *sites* to avoid confusion with other subpopulation definitions) (Figure 1). Distances
4 among sites varied from 1 to 30 km. With the exception of Fisherman Island (FI) anemones
5 within each site were confined to a ~1ha patch of shallow sand and seagrass. At each site (except
6 for FI), an exhaustive search for all anemones colonised by *A. polymnus* was performed prior to
7 tissue collections. The population of Fishermen Island (FI) was spread over a larger area and we
8 estimated that near 50% of this sub-population was sampled. In total, 215 anemones hosting *A.*
9 *polymnus* were found among the 8 sites (Figure 1).

10

11 *b) Sampling and genotyping*

12 A total of 942 individuals were sampled among the 8 sites between January and April 2008.
13 Each fish was captured by SCUBA using hand nets, measured (total length TL), fin clipped
14 underwater *in situ*, and then released back onto the same anemone. Fish that were too small to be
15 fin clipped (less than 30mm) were collected. In addition, all juveniles settling on each anemone
16 over the sampling period were captured using hand nets. Finally, at the end of the experiment 15-
17 30 fertilized eggs were collected (randomly within the clutch) from 5 egg clutches, each from a
18 different anemone. All samples were preserved in 95% ethanol and returned to the laboratory for
19 subsequent genotyping. For all analyses fish were divided into 3 categories according to their
20 size. The first category 'breeders' consisted of the female and male (the two biggest individuals)
21 of each anemone. The remaining fish were then divided into 2 arbitrary categories: 'non-
22 breeders' (>50mm) and 'juveniles' (< 50mm).

23

1 Details of the 18 microsatellite loci and genotyping procedure are described in Quenouille et al.
2 [31] and Beldade et al. [32]. After DNA extraction, 3 multiplex polymerase chain reactions
3 (PCRs) were performed per individual, using fluorescently-labelled primers to process 18
4 microsatellite loci containing a mixture of dimer and tetramer repeats. PCR products were
5 processed on a Beckman Coulter sequencer CEQ 8000 Genetic Analysis System and the
6 resulting electropherograms were scored manually. Uncertainties were reconciled by re-
7 amplification and comparison. Alleles were scored as PCR product size in base pairs. Allelic
8 frequency and expected heterozygosity under Hardy Weinberg equilibrium were calculated for
9 each locus in GENALEX version 6 [33]. Tests for Hardy-Weinberg and linkage disequilibrium
10 were conducted using GENEPOP 3.4. [34] and significance levels were adjusted with sequential
11 Bonferroni corrections for multiple tests with $P < 0.05$. All 18 loci satisfied Hardy-Weinberg and
12 linkage disequilibrium assumptions.

13

14 *c) Population structure*

15 We estimated genetic variability within and among sites and between resident breeders, non-
16 breeders and juveniles using F and R statistics via analysis of molecular variance (AMOVA) in
17 Arlequin v 3.11 [35]. Tests for statistical significance for all estimates were based on 10^4
18 random permutations, and significance levels were adjusted with a sequential Bonferroni
19 correction for multiple tests.

20

21 *d) Parentage analysis*

22 Parentage analysis was performed using FAMOZ [36]. The algorithm in this package calculates
23 Log of the odds ratio (LOD) scores for parent-offspring relationships and constructs statistical
24 tests for parentage assignment. Tests are based on simulations that generate offspring from

1 genotyped parents (H_0 : the most likely parent is the true parent) or from allele frequencies in the
2 population (H_1 : the most likely parent is not the true parent). For each analysis, allelic
3 frequencies were estimated from the 942 genotyped individuals and these estimations were
4 assumed to match the true allele frequencies in the population. Then, simulations of sets of 10^4
5 juveniles were carried out under the two possible hypotheses (H_0 and H_1 above) and subsequent
6 statistical tests were constructed to decide whether a given parent would be selected as the true
7 parent or true parent pair. The distribution of the simulated LOD scores under the two
8 hypotheses was plotted and the intersection between these distributions was designated as the
9 threshold decision value (individuals with LOD scores above the threshold value were accepted
10 as true parents). FAMOZ also allows for the introduction of an error rate in the LOD score
11 calculation that takes into account genotyping errors and null alleles [37]. Introduction of this
12 error, even if it underestimates the real error rate, can reduce type I and II errors related to the
13 parentage tests [37; 38]. We evaluated four different error rates and chose the best compromise
14 between introduced error and type I and II statistical errors. An error rate of 10^{-3} yielded the
15 lowest statistical type I and II errors ($0.10\% \pm 0.04$ and $4.2\% \pm 0.4$ respectively) and was used
16 for all further parentage analyses. Tests evaluations were done using the software option
17 “parentage test simulation”. We performed 30 test simulations for each introduced error rate to
18 estimate mean type I and II statistical errors.

19

20 All loci showed Mendelian segregation after comparing 36 successfully genotyped eggs of 5
21 different clutches (from each sampled egg clutch, 8 eggs were randomly sub-sampled and
22 screened for 18 loci) with the respective genotyped parents. None of the 942 screened
23 individuals shared the same diploid genotype. Anemonefish are considered monogamous with
24 only the two biggest fish (breeders) been reproductively active in the fish colony [29]. However,

1 we used our data set to test whether some non-breeder fish were contributing to offspring
2 production in this population. In this preliminary test, all parentage assignments consisted of
3 breeders. None of the sub-adults (non-breeders) was associated with a breeder of the same
4 anemone as the most likely parent pair of any of the juveniles in the sample. However, a few
5 non-breeders were assigned as single parents to juveniles. Given the nature of these assignments
6 we considered them to be more likely full sib or half sib rather than parent/offspring
7 relationships. The presence of full sib or half sib relationships can lead to false positive parent-
8 offspring assignments and significantly bias parentage analysis [39; 40]. Therefore to eliminate
9 this source of error a second and final parentage analysis was performed using only breeders as
10 potential parents.

11

12 *e) Assignment Test*

13 We used GeneClass2 [41] to assign or exclude juveniles from the Bootless Bay population
14 (AMOVA analysis revealed no significant genetic differences between sites, therefore all sites
15 were considered as one single genetic pool, see results for details). This approach does not
16 assume that the true candidate population has been sampled and can be advantageous in
17 situations where it is not possible to sample all potential populations [42]. Genotypes of all
18 breeders and non-breeders (n = 451) were used as the reference population. The likelihood that a
19 new recruit came from the Bootless Bay population was computed with the partially Bayesian
20 criterion of Rannala and Mountain [43]. Then, this likelihood ratio was compared to a
21 distribution of 10^4 genotypes simulated ratios from the reference population with a Monte Carlo
22 algorithm [44]. A new recruit was determined to have originated from a different population
23 when the probability of exclusion from Bootless Bay was > 95% ($P < 0.05$).

24

1 3. RESULTS

2 *a) Population genetic structure*

3 There was no significant genetic differentiation among the 8 sub-populations. Both global F_{st}
4 and R_{st} were low ($F_{st} = 0.0011$, $R_{st} = 0.0021$) and not significantly different from zero (p-values
5 0.11 and 0.08 respectively). Pairwise F_{ST} values among all samples were low (<0.0106) and
6 only one out of 120 pair-wise comparisons was significantly greater than 0 after Bonferroni
7 corrections (electronic supplementary material, table S1.A). Similarly, pairwise R_{ST} values
8 among all samples were low (<0.0219) and none were significantly greater than 0 after
9 Bonferroni corrections (electronic supplementary material, table S1.B). We concluded that the 8
10 sites were one single genetic pool for all following analyses.

11

12 *b) Evaluation of parentage assignment*

13 Parentage analysis assigned 100 juveniles, from a total of 491 that were genotyped, to a sampled
14 parent or parent pair from one of the eight sites. Almost half (45%) of these recruits were
15 assigned independently to both the male and female in the same anemone, while the remaining
16 recruits (55%) were assigned to a single parent. We excluded from further analysis all juveniles
17 assigned to only one parent that presented two or more confirmed mismatches between their
18 genotypes and that of the assigned parent (11 juveniles). The remaining 89 recruits were
19 accepted as being true offspring of the parents to which they were assigned. No juveniles were
20 assigned to two parents from different anemones. Overall, missing values accounted for 1.5 % of
21 the genetic data and were distributed among all loci (there were no particular loci with consistent
22 missing data).

23

24 *c) Self-recruitment and connectivity*

1 Local recruitment ($n = 89$) accounted for 18.2 % of total recruitment ($n = 491$) to the focal
2 population (Table1, Figure 2). Of these local recruits, 35 (7.1%) individuals settled into
3 anemones at the same site as their parents (self recruits) while 54 (11.1%) settled in a site other
4 than their natal anemone site (local connectivity). At the site level self-recruitment averaged
5 7.5% across all sites, but with variability among sites, ranging from 0% at LI site to 27% (16 of
6 59 individuals) at TA. The number of juveniles that settled in a given site but came from a
7 different site than that of their natal anemone (local connectivity) averaged 12.3% and varied
8 among sites from 5.7% (4 of 70 individuals) in site BA to 20% (2 of 10 individuals) in site MN
9 (Table 1, Figure 2).

10

11 We examined larval dispersal as a function of linear distance among sites for those individuals
12 identified by DNA parentage analysis as being offspring of breeders from the focal
13 metapopulation (Figure 3). Linear distances among sites were grouped in classes (classes' sizes
14 of 2 km each), with self-recruitment considered a separate class. Approximately 68% of locally-
15 spawned recruits (~12.4% of all juveniles) settled within 3 km of their natal site and 75% of
16 these recruits (~13.5% of all juveniles) settled within 7 km of their natal site. The last 25% of the
17 juveniles identified by the parentage analysis (4.7% of all juveniles) dispersed between 7 and 28
18 km away from their site of origin. The multimodal dispersal distribution of juveniles differed
19 significantly from the frequency of linear distances among the 8 sites (Figure 3) (chi-square =
20 20.04, $df = 9$, $P < 0.05$). We found that higher numbers of larvae recruited back to their natal
21 sites, with concomitantly lower numbers of larvae dispersing longer distances than predicted
22 based on the distributions of distances among sites.

23

1 Assignment tests revealed that 31 of 491 juveniles had a probability <0.05 of being from the
2 same genetic pool as the focal metapopulation. These individuals likely came from one or more
3 genetically distinct populations and accounted for 6.3% of total recruitment. Altogether,
4 parentage analysis and assignment tests accounted for 24.5% of sampled juveniles. The
5 remaining recruits $\sim 75\%$ were sourced from a similar gene pool to that of the focal
6 metapopulation but we can infer little more about the origin and dispersal distances of these
7 individuals.

8

9 **4. DISCUSSION**

10 This study provides the first direct estimates of self-recruitment and demographic connectivity
11 among multiple subpopulations in a coastal coral reef metapopulation. Our results indicated that
12 larval retention within the metapopulation was dominated by local exchange among sites, rather
13 than self-recruitment at the site level. At the other extreme, a small number of individuals came
14 from one or more genetically distinct populations, presumably well beyond the geographic
15 boundaries of our study. The majority of the recruits were genetically indistinguishable from the
16 focal metapopulation, but did not match any of the breeders that we genotyped. Because the
17 sampling within the focal metapopulation was fairly complete, we hypothesize that most of these
18 juveniles represent dispersal from other non-sampled sites along the adjacent coastline.

19

20 Compared to our previous study in this location [45], by doubling the number of microsatellite
21 markers used, we reduced the statistical errors linked to likelihood based parentage assignments
22 to less than 5% (both type I and II errors based on simulated data). In addition, we were able to
23 increase substantially the spatial scale and provide for the first time direct estimates of larval
24 exchange among subpopulations spaced up to ~ 28 km from each other. At this geographic scale,

1 levels of self-recruitment were highly variable among sites, but sites with higher numbers of
2 breeders tended to have more self-recruits than sites with fewer breeders (Table 1). The
3 exception was site TA, which had by far the highest level of self-recruitment despite not
4 representing the largest breeding population. Site TA was located in a relatively protected
5 location close to the head of the bay, while all the other sites with larger breeding populations
6 were outside the bay (BE and FI) or in more exposed locations (BA). Interestingly, in terms of
7 proportions, the site with the second highest self-recruitment rate was MN, a site with a small
8 breeding population also sheltered within the head of the bay. Larvae spawned at these sheltered
9 sites (TA and MN) would therefore likely be less susceptible to advection by alongshore current
10 flows than larvae from more exposed locations outside Bootless Bay. In addition, the proportion
11 of larvae locally spawned that recruited to their natal sites was over-represented compared to the
12 proportion expected based on the distribution of distances among sites. However, almost half of
13 these self-recruiters were from site TA, indicating that shorter dispersal distances may be a
14 feature of the most protected sites in coastal embayments. Overall, the frequency distribution of
15 known dispersal trajectories appears to be largely explained by the geographic spacing, location
16 and size of the subpopulations. Certainly, the different modes in this distribution coincide with
17 the frequency of spacing between sites.

18

19 The high variation in levels of self-recruitment among sites, and the relationship between self-
20 recruitment and population size is consistent with the model of James et al [27] for the Great
21 Barrier Reef whereby large reefs contributed more than smaller ones to the local larval pool. Our
22 mean estimate of self-recruitment per site (7.5%) is similar to mean simulated values among 321
23 relatively continuous reefs along the Great Barrier Reef. In their simulations, James and co-
24 workers estimated that virtual larvae returning to their natal reef comprised less than 10% of the

1 settling cohort for most of the reefs. While local retention of larvae may be an advantage in
2 environments where habitat is limited or separated by great distances [17], this advantage may not
3 be extended to situations where habitats are more continuously distributed as in Bootless Bay.
4 Particular sites, with high replenishment rates, such as TA site in this study, could play a crucial
5 role in sustaining the stock in the entire metapopulation [12; 46].

6
7 The coastal geographic setting may be critical in explaining the low self-recruitment pattern of
8 our focal clownfish metapopulation. In the present study, levels of self-recruitment at both ‘site’
9 (ranged from 0 to 27%, average 7.5%) and ‘metapopulation’ level (18%) were relatively low
10 compared with published values for *A. polymnus* and other clownfish species (*A. percula*) at
11 more isolated locations in Kimbe Bay (Papua New Guinea) [20; 22; 23]. These values also
12 correspond to the lowest empirical estimate of self-recruitment measured so far among coral reef
13 fishes [reviewed in 17]. However, our estimate of self recruitment at the metapopulation level for
14 2008 (18%) is close to that of our previous estimate of 25% obtained at a smaller spatial scale in
15 Bootless Bay (excluding MN, BE and FI) sampled in 2005-2006 [45], suggesting that these
16 results are not atypical of this region and that the geographic settings do have an important role
17 in determining the observed dispersal pattern.

18
19 In contrast of low self recruitment estimates in Bootless Bay for *A. polymnus*, Almany and
20 colleagues [20] reported consistent high self recruitment rates in Kimbe Island for two species
21 with contrasting life-history characteristics (*Amphiprion percula*: benthic eggs and ~11 days of
22 Pelagic Larval Duration (PLD) and *Chaetodon vagabundus*: pelagic eggs and ~38 days of PLD).
23 Both *Amphiprion* species have similar life-history characteristics and differences between studies
24 in Bootless Bay and Kimbe Island suggest that, at ecological time scales, dispersal kernels may

1 be more influenced by the relative isolation or geographic setting of the focal populations than
2 species specific life-history characteristics [47]. Still, this trend clearly needs to be tested in more
3 species and locations before any conclusion can be made. Besides, other studies based on
4 geochemical signatures in otoliths suggest that this is not a general rule. Patterson et al. [48]
5 showed that *Pomacentrus coelestis* on Lizard Island exhibited 75% self-recruitment even though
6 it has many other reefs relatively close by, while Patterson and Swearer [49] showed that *Coris*
7 *picta* exhibited 26-65% self-recruitment on isolated Lord Howe Island. However, until all
8 existing methods to estimate self-recruitment are cross-validated, comparisons among them
9 should be made cautiously [17].

10

11 Parental analysis suggested that most sites received a higher proportion of recruitment from
12 larvae spawned at different sites within the metapopulation than from self-recruitment. This high
13 connectivity among sites was likely underestimated, in particular that between the inside and
14 outside of Bootless Bay, as it was not possible for us to exhaustively search all potential areas
15 outside of the Bay. This lack of sampling presumably explains a significant proportion of the
16 ~300 juveniles that settled in our study area and were left unassigned either by parentage analysis
17 or assignment tests. It seems that a much larger sampling effort along the coast line will be
18 necessary to find the origin of those juveniles.

19

20 Assignment tests detected that a non negligible percentage (6.3%) of the juveniles sampled in
21 this location were genetically distinct from the focal metapopulation. We hypothesize that these
22 recruits were long distance immigrants, but unfortunately, even if this was confirmed, we could
23 not estimate how far these juveniles had travelled. This would require much more extensive
24 sampling of genetic signatures at greater distances to the east and west of Bootless Bay. If

1 indeed these genetically distinct recruits are long distance immigrants they may play an
2 important role in buffering extinction risk in this metapopulation [50]. However, the fact that
3 these individuals apparently belonged to a different genetic pool suggests that either we have
4 fortuitously captured a very rare dispersal event, or that the juveniles that we collected would not
5 have successfully reproduced if we had not captured them. This is because a constant exchange
6 of this magnitude with successful reproduction of these individuals should lead to
7 homogenization of these genetic pools [2]. The question that remains is how variable this
8 contribution is over time and whether or not these individuals are capable of successfully
9 integrating into their new population.

10

11 In conclusion, given the relatively low observed self-recruitment rates, a high proportion of
12 connectivity among sites, and the relatively high proportion of long distance dispersal, it appears
13 that connectivity and not self-recruitment dominates larval replenishment in this focal clownfish
14 metapopulation. We found that 18% of juveniles in Bootless Bay settled between 0 and 28 km
15 from their place of origin while over 80% were likely to have dispersed from populations beyond
16 our studied sites. These results have significant implications for the design of MPA network in
17 this area as they indicate that a single MPA inside Bootless Bay may not be sufficient to
18 maintain the metapopulation if unprotected sources were to collapse. In addition, while there is
19 consistent evidence that life-history characteristics of individual species can play an important
20 role in terms of dispersal at evolutionary (genetic) time-scales [51-54], the suggestion that the
21 spatial distribution of suitable habitats may have more impact on levels of demographic
22 connectivity than life history characteristics of individual species clearly deserves more attention
23 in future studies. If this happens to be true, it will have encouraging implications for the use of
24 MPAs to offer protection to coral reef fish assemblages [55]. Testing this hypothesis at more

1 locations, and on more species, remains a top priority for conservation biologists working in
2 coral reef ecosystems.

3

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5 A1364 and followed all the guidelines for the country in which took place.

6

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17

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1 **TABLES**

2 **Table 1** *Amphiprion polymnus* connectivity matrix among 8 sub-populations in and nearby
 3 Bootless Bay, calculated by identifying the natal origins of juveniles using parentage analysis.
 4 Numbers in brackets on the Source sites names correspond to the number of breeders that were
 5 sampled at each site. The numbers on brackets on the sink sites correspond to the number of
 6 juveniles sampled at each site. LD indicates the number of juveniles sampled at each site that had
 7 an exclusion probability >0.95 to belong to the genetic pool of Bootless bay and classified as
 8 long distance immigrants. In the last two columns, %SR corresponds to the percentage of self-
 9 recruitment and %LC to the percentage of local connectivity.

		source site								LD	% SR	%LC
		BA (57)	LO (37)	MO (29)	TA (48)	LI (31)	MN (13)	BE (57)	FI (62)			
sink site	BA (70)	4	--	1	1	--	1	1	--	10	5.7	5.7
	LO (69)	3	3	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	4.3	15.9
	MO (70)	1	3	1	3	2	2	--	1	1	1.4	17.1
	TA (59)	--	--	1	16	1	1	--	1	3	27.1	6.8
	LI (42)	1	1	--	3	--	--	1	1	3	0	16.7
	MN (10)	1	--	--	--	--	1	1	--	--	10.0	20.0
	BE (102)	3	1	1	1	1	1	7	1	8	6.8	8.8
	FI (68)	--	--	2	2	--	--	1	3	4	4.4	7.3
total (490)	13	8	8	27	5	8	12	8				
average										7.5	12.3	

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11

12 **FIGURE CAPTIONS**

13 **Figure 1** Map showing the 8 sites of anemone aggregations hosting *Amphiprion polymnus* in
 14 Bootless Bay area (black filled circles). Crosses (x) indicate locations with potential suitable
 15 habitat that were explored but no anemones hosting *A. polymnus* were found. The number of
 16 anemones and sampled *A. polymnus* at each site are indicated in brackets. Inset: Location of
 17 Bootless Bay in Papua New Guinea. Site abbreviations are as follows: Manubada Island (BE),

1 Lion Island (LI), Taurama (TA), Motupore North Patch reef (MN), Motupore Island (MO),
2 Loloata Island (LO), Loloata South Bank (BA) and Fishermen Island (FI). Broken lines represent
3 the limit of shallow reefs.

4

5 **Figure 2** Zoomed map of Bootless Bay area showing inferred individual dispersal trajectories
6 (arrows) of *A. polymnus* juveniles between anemone patches based on parentage analysis. Self
7 recruitment is represented by black circles. Thickness of arrows and diameter of circles are
8 proportional to the number of juveniles with similar trajectories. For more details about
9 individual trajectories see table 1.

10

11 **Figure 3** Distribution of the frequency of distances among sites (white bars) and frequency of
12 newly settled juveniles (solid bars) according to the estimated dispersal distance obtained from
13 parentage analysis. Labels on the x axis correspond to the mean value of the distance classes.
14 Note that the zero (0) distance class represents juveniles that settled in the same site as their
15 parents (self recruits)

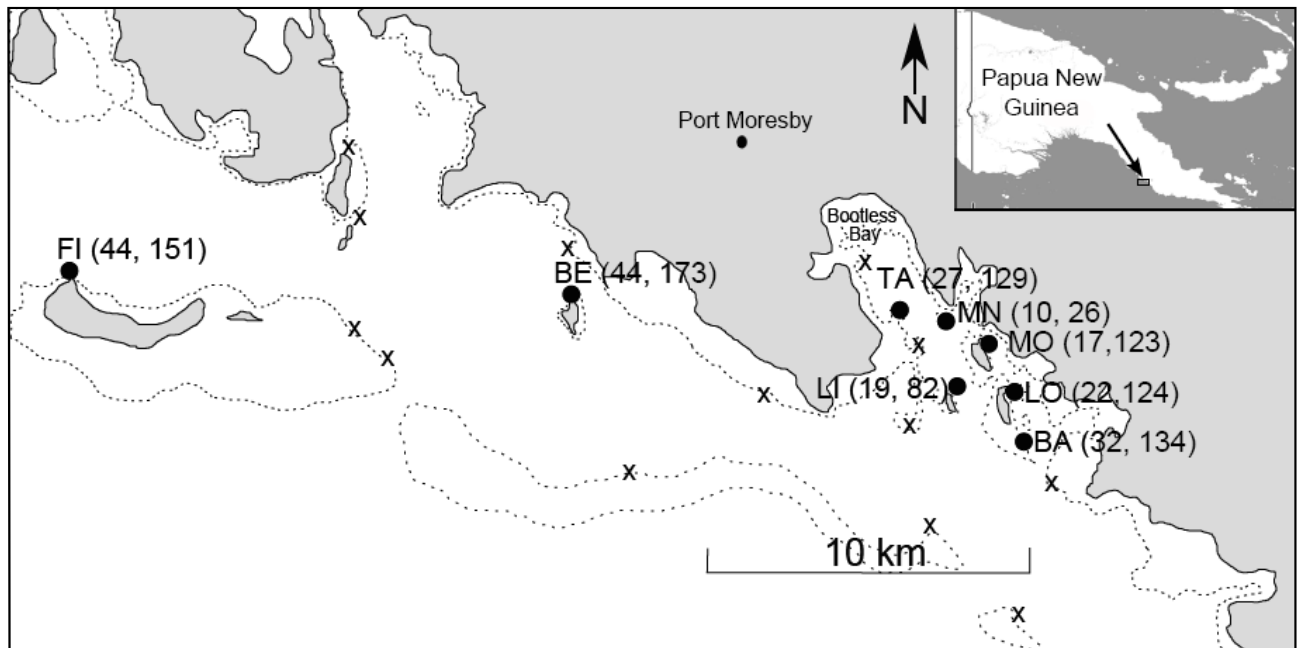


Figure 1 Map showing the 8 sites of anemone aggregations hosting *Amphiprion polymnus* in Bootless Bay area (black filled circles). Crosses (x) indicate locations with potential suitable habitat that were explored but no anemones hosting *A. polymnus* were found. The number of anemones and sampled *A. polymnus* at each site are indicated in brackets. Inset: Location of Bootless Bay in Papua New Guinea. Site abbreviations are as follows: Manubada Island (BE), Lion Island (LI), Taurama (TA), Motupore North Patch reef (MN), Motupore Island (MO), Loloata Island (LO), Loloata South Bank (BA) and Fishermen Island (FI). Broken lines represent the limit of shallow reefs.

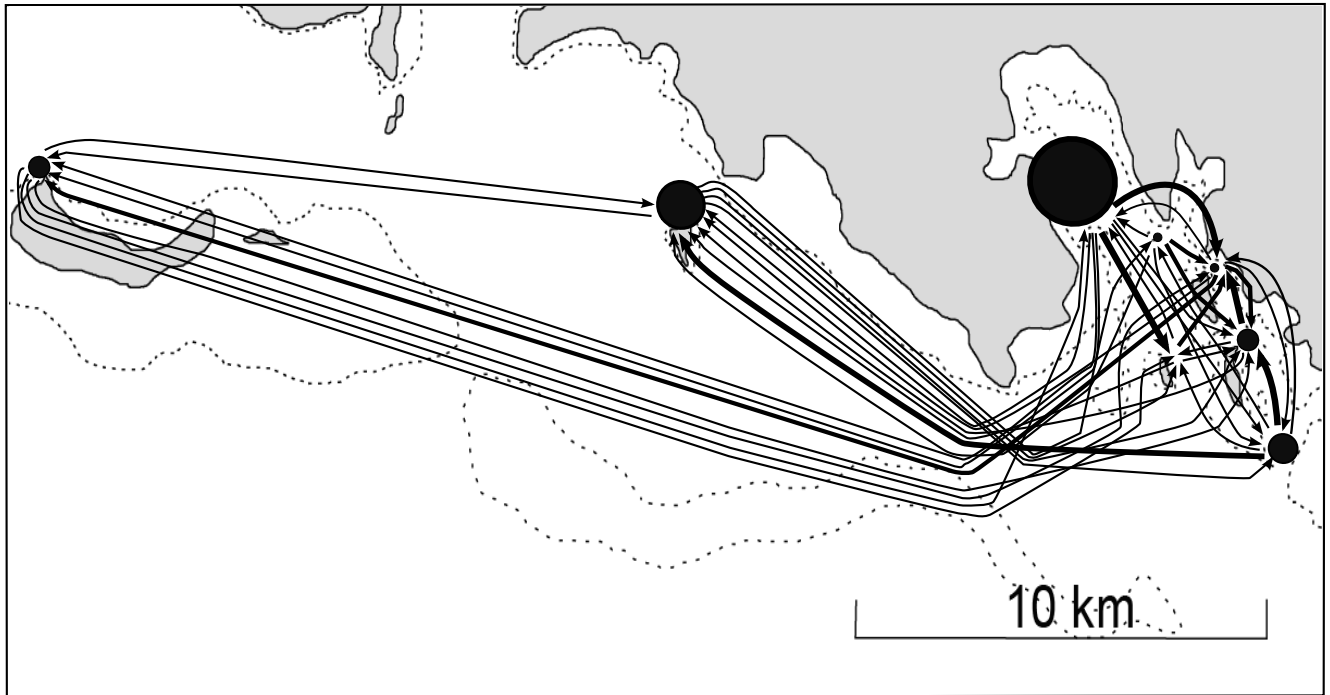


Figure 2 Zoomed map of Bootless Bay area showing inferred individual dispersal trajectories (arrows) of *A. polymnus* juveniles between anemone patches based on parentage analysis. Self recruitment is represented by black circles. Thickness of arrows and diameter of circles are proportional to the number of juveniles with similar trajectories. For more details about individual trajectories see table 1.

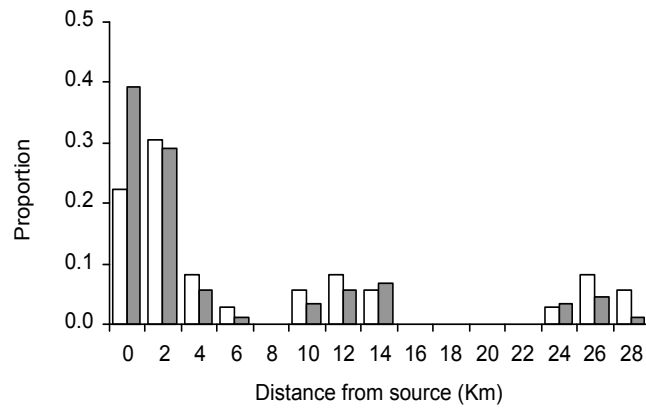


Figure 3 Distribution of the frequency of distances among sites (white bars) and frequency of newly settled juveniles (solid bars) according to the estimated dispersal distance obtained from parentage analysis. Labels on the x axis correspond to the mean value of the distance classes. Note that the zero (0) distance class represents juveniles that settled in the same site as their parents (self recruits).