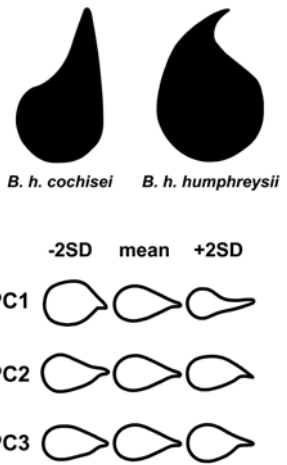
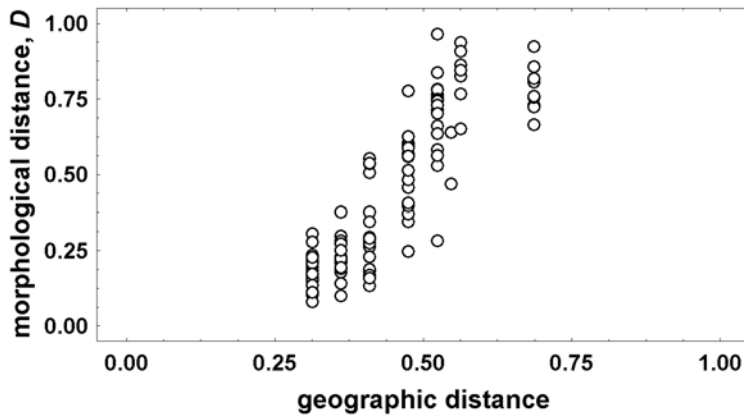


Testing sexual selections role in the formation of new species

Many insect species look very similar and are virtually indistinguishable except by characters used in reproductive interactions. For example, the shape of the male genitalia differ significantly between species of grasshoppers.



Such shape differences are hypothesized to reflect the action of sexual selection. This hypothesis can be tested by studying the changes in shape of the male genitalia along a geographic transect between two hybridizing species. This research will involve taking digital images and analyzing shape outlines. No prior experience is necessary, but an interest in evolutionary biology is preferred.

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