

Historical and cospeciating associations between Cerataphidini aphids (Hemiptera: Aphididae: Hormaphidinae) and their primary endosymbiont *Buchnera aphidicola*

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Almost all viviparous aphid species harbour *Buchnera aphidicola* as their primary endosymbiont. Some species of the tribe Cerataphidini, however, possess yeast-like symbionts instead. Based on the multiple aphid and *Buchnera* genes, we construct the phylogenies of Cerataphidini aphid species and their corresponding *Buchnera*, respectively. Phylogeny building and ancestral state reconstructions suggest that in the evolutionary course of Cerataphidini, *Buchnera* has been lost several times and replaced by a eukaryotic symbiont. The *Buchnera* phylogeny generally mirrors that of aphid hosts, and strong aphid–*Buchnera* cospeciation signals are detected by statistical tests. This study therefore presents a good example of parallel evolution between aphids and *Buchnera* at the level of an entire aphid tribe, and the results suggest that the historical changes in symbiotic associations appear to have no effect on the pattern of aphid–*Buchnera* codiversification.

ADDITIONAL KEYWORDS: character reconstruction – parallel evolution – phylogenetic relationship – statistical testing.

INTRODUCTION

Endosymbiosis is found in many insect groups, and more than 10% of insect species exhibit an obligate mutualistic association with intracellular bacteria (Douglas, 1989; Moran & Telang, 1998; Moran, McCutcheon & Nakabachi, 2008). These intimate symbiotic associations are ideal systems in which to study the patterns of bacterial evolution, the origin of organelles and host–parasite coevolution. Many studies have addressed the evolutionary relationships between different insect groups and their endosymbionts (Lo *et al.*, 2003; Degnan *et al.*, 2004; Allen *et al.*, 2007; Gruwell, Morse & Normark, 2007; Toju *et al.*, 2013). Aphid–*Buchnera* symbiosis represents a classic and well-known example of obligate mutualism, and

it has been widely investigated (Baumann *et al.*, 1995; Baumann, Moran & Baumann, 1997; review in Liu, Huang & Qiao, 2013).

Buchnera aphidicola (Gammaproteobacteria: Enterobacteriaceae) is the primary endosymbiont of almost all aphid species, and it inhabits specialized aphid cells called bacteriocytes (Buchner, 1965; Unterman, Baumann & Mclean, 1989; Munson, Baumann & Kinsey, 1991). *Buchnera* supplies aphids with nutrients (e.g. amino acids and vitamins) that are important to their growth and development but lacking in phloem sap (Douglas & Prosser, 1992; Douglas, 1998; Nakabachi & Ishikawa, 1999; Shigenobu *et al.*, 2000; Moran & Degnan, 2006; Wilson *et al.*, 2010). *Buchnera* is maternally transmitted between aphid generations and cannot live independently without its aphid host (Buchner, 1965; Baumann *et al.*, 1995).

Theoretically, symbionts with such a mode of strict vertical transmission should show a pattern of

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diversification that is parallel to their hosts and consequently leads to phylogenetic concordance between these two partners. [Munson *et al.* \(1991\)](#) reconstructed the phylogeny of *Buchnera* of 11 aphid species from four Aphididae subfamilies using 16S rRNA sequences, resulting in congruent phylogenetic relationships with the morphology-based tree of corresponding aphid hosts ([Heie, 1987](#)). Higher-level phylogenetic correspondence of aphids and *Buchnera* was then reconfirmed by [Moran *et al.* \(1993\)](#) and [Baumann, Moran & Baumann \(1997\)](#), and the establishment of this symbiotic association was estimated to date back to 160–280 Mya followed by long-term cospeciation of aphids and *Buchnera* ([Moran *et al.*, 1993](#)). [Martinez-Torres *et al.* \(2001\)](#) tested their phylogenetic congruence based on more gene sequences and broader taxonomic sampling. Some disagreements between the *Buchnera* phylogeny and the classic taxonomy and molecular phylogeny of aphids were revealed, which suggested that the aphid phylogeny should be revised. At finer phylogenetic scales, codiversification of *Buchnera* and their aphid hosts has been documented within certain aphid groups [e.g. *Uroleucon ambrosiae* (Thomas), *Brachycaudus* van der Goot, *Mollitrichosiphum* Suenaga, *Uroleucon* Mordvilko, *Pemphigus* Hartig and allied genera] ([Clark *et al.*, 2000](#); [Funk *et al.*, 2000](#); [Jousselin, Desdevises & Coeur d'acier, 2009](#); [Liu *et al.*, 2013, 2014](#)). Some studies also used molecular data derived from *Buchnera* to investigate the phylogeny and phylogeographic history of aphids ([Peccoud *et al.*, 2009](#); [Jousselin, Genson & Coeur d'acier, 2010](#); [Nováková *et al.*, 2013](#)).

Previous studies concerning aphid–*Buchnera* relationships have mainly been focussed on aphid lineages that were in stable symbiotic associations with this obligate mutualist. However, *Buchnera* has been reported to be absent in some species of Cerataphidini ([Fukatsu & Ishikawa, 1992](#); [Fukatsu *et al.*, 1994](#)). The aphid tribe Cerataphidini (Aphididae: Hormaphidinae) is heteroecious, seasonally obligately alternating between primary host plants, *Styrax* (Styracaceae), on which morphologically diverse galls are formed, and secondary host plants such as Compositae, Gramineae, Loranthaceae, Palmaceae and Zingiberaceae ([Chen & Qiao, 2009](#); [Aoki & Kurosu, 2010](#); [Chen, Jiang & Qiao, 2014](#)). Cerataphidini aphid species produce specialized sterile soldiers ([Aoki, Yamane & Kiuchi, 1977](#); [Aoki & Miyazaki, 1978](#); [Stern & Foster, 1996](#)) and are mainly distributed in eastern and south-eastern Asia ([Ghosh, 1985, 1988](#)). Within Cerataphidini, most species harbour *Buchnera* as their primary endosymbiont. However, some cerataphidine aphids have been reported to possess a different kind of symbiont ([Fukatsu & Ishikawa, 1992](#); [Fukatsu *et al.*, 1994](#)).

[Fukatsu *et al.* \(1994\)](#) surveyed the symbiotic systems of 39 Cerataphidini species using a histochemical method. *Buchnera* was found to be absent in 12 species, including *Cerataphis* Lichtenstein (excl. *Cerataphis bambusifoliae* Takahashi), *Glyphinaphis* van der Goot and *Tuberaphis* Takahashi, which harboured eukaryotic yeast-like symbionts (YLSs) instead.

Therefore, the aphid tribe Cerataphidini is an ideal model to understand the evolutionary dynamics of aphid–*Buchnera* symbiosis. In the present study, we aimed to trace the possible evolutionary scenarios for the association between cerataphidine aphids and *Buchnera* and to investigate the consequences of a partner changing in the obligate symbiosis for aphid–*Buchnera* codiversification.

We reconstructed detailed phylogenetic relationships of Cerataphidini aphid species and corresponding *Buchnera* based on largely expanded data sets, which contained six aphid and four *Buchnera* gene sequences of broadly sampled species from all known cerataphidine genera. We then traced the evolutionary history of the aphid–*Buchnera* association using ancestral character state reconstruction and tested the phylogenetic congruence between them. The results of this study will be helpful for understanding the patterns of aphid–*Buchnera* symbiosis and the evolution of interactions between aphids and their symbionts.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

SAMPLING AND DATA COLLECTION

Twenty-six aphid species belonging to all ten known genera of Cerataphidini were sampled in this study. Five species of the other two tribes of Hormaphidinae (i.e. Hormaphidini and Nipponaphidini) and one species of Eriosomatinae, which is the traditional sister group of Hormaphidinae ([Heie, 1967](#); [Ghosh, 1985, 1988](#); [Wojciechowski, 1992](#); [Zhang *et al.*, 1999](#)), were chosen as outgroups. Aphid samples were preserved in 95 or 100% ethanol for molecular experiments. Samples stored in 75% ethanol were used to make slide voucher specimens. All aphid voucher specimens and samples were deposited in the National Zoological Museum of China, Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China. Detailed voucher information of all samples is provided in Supporting Information, Table S1.

Total DNA, including the *Buchnera* genome, was extracted from single aphid individuals using DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit (Qiagen, Germantown, MD, USA). To reconstruct reliable phylogenetic relationships within Cerataphidini, six genes of aphids were amplified: four

mitochondrial genes (the standard *COI* barcode, *COI/COII*, *Cytb*, and 12S/16S rRNA) and two nuclear genes (*EF-1 α* and *LWO*). Four gene fragments of *B. aphidicola* were amplified, including 16S rRNA, *dnaB*, *groEL* and *ilvD*. Some published gene sequences were taken from previous studies (see Supporting Information, Table S1). All primers used in this study are provided in Supporting Information, Table S2. PCR amplification was performed in a 25- μ L reaction mixture containing 10 \times EasyTaq DNA Polymerase Buffer (+Mg²⁺), 1.5 U EasyTaq DNA Polymerase, 2.5 mM each dNTP, 5 pmole each primer (TransGen Biotech, Beijing, China) and 1- μ L DNA extract. The PCR conditions were as follows: 2- to 5-min initial denaturation at 94–95 °C followed by 35–40 cycles of denaturation at 92–95 °C for 20–90 s, annealing at 48–55 °C for 30–90 s, extension at 68–72 °C for 1–2 min, and a 7- to 10-min final extension at 72 °C. The annealing temperatures of each specific primer set were as follows: 48 °C for *Cytb* and *LWO*, 53 °C for *ilvD* and 50 °C for all the other genes. For the amplifications of *Cytb*, *LWO*, *EF-1 α* and *ilvD* genes of some samples, a second nested PCR was necessary on a 1- μ L aliquot from the first PCR. Conditions were identical except for the increase of the annealing temperature to 50 °C for *Cytb* and *LWO*, 52 °C for *EF-1 α* and 55 °C for *ilvD*. PCR products of some fragments were cloned using pMD19-T Vector System (TaKaRa, Dalian, China) and Trans5 α Chemically Competent Cell (TransGen Biotech) following the manufacturer's instructions. The PCR products and clones were sequenced on an ABI 3730 automated sequencer (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, USA).

Raw sequences were assembled by SeqMan II (DNASStar, Madison, WI, USA). Introns of *EF-1 α* and *LWO* genes were removed by the GT-AG rule and aligning with the cDNA sequences from *Aleurodaphis blumeae* van der Goot (GenBank accession numbers JX489689 and JX489722) and only exons were used for further analyses. All sequences have been deposited in GenBank (Supporting Information, Table S1). Multiple alignments were performed with MEGA 6.0 (Tamura *et al.*, 2013) and MAFFT 7 (Katoh & Standley, 2013). Gblocks 0.91b (Castresana, 2000) was used to eliminate the poorly aligned positions of *COI/COII*, 12S/16S rRNA and 16S rRNA sequences.

PHYLOGENETIC ANALYSIS

We constructed phylogenetic trees of aphids and corresponding *Buchnera* based on a combined aphid gene data set and a combined *Buchnera*-derived gene data set, respectively. Two data sets were produced for aphids: one contained all sampled aphid species and the other only included species harbouring *Buchnera*. For Bayesian analysis, the best model of nucleotide substitution for each gene was selected by jModelTest

2.1.10 (Guindon & Gascuel, 2003; Durrin *et al.*, 2012). The Bayesian information criterion (Schwarz, 1978) favoured TIM1 + I + G for *COI*, TIM2 + I + G for *COI/COII* and 12S/16S rRNA, GTR + I + G for *Cytb* and *dnaB*, TIM2 + G for *EF-1 α* , TPM2uf + G for *LWO*, TVM + I + G for 16S rRNA, TIM3 + I + G for *groEL* and TPM3uf + I + G for *ilvD*. The Bayesian analysis was implemented in MrBayes 3.2.6 (Ronquist *et al.*, 2012) under default priors with each gene partition unlinked for parameter estimations. Four chains were run starting from a random tree with 1 million Markov chain Monte Carlo generations and sampled every 100 generations. The first 25% of trees were discarded as burn-in samples. The remaining trees were used to construct a 50% majority-rule consensus tree and to compute the posterior probabilities (PP). Maximum likelihood (ML) analysis was carried out using RAxML v8.2.8 (Stamatakis, 2014) with the GTRCAT model for each gene partition, and all parameters were estimated during the ML search. Bootstrap analysis was performed with 1000 replicates.

ANCESTRAL STATE RECONSTRUCTION

To trace the historical changes of the aphid–*Buchnera* relationship within Cerataphidini, we performed ancestral state reconstruction using a ML approach. Whether *Buchnera* was present or absent was coded as 1 or 0, respectively. Reconstructions were performed in Mesquite 3.10 (Maddison & Maddison, 2016) under Mk1 and AsymmMk models using the Trace Character Over Trees option. All reconstructions were integrated over 1000 randomly selected trees from the post-burn-in aphid Bayesian trees, and the ancestral states were summarized on the Bayesian consensus tree.

PHYLOGENETIC CONGRUENCE TESTING

In this study, we applied three widely used statistical methods to test the phylogenetic concordance between aphids and *Buchnera* within Cerataphidini. The outgroup-pruned ML trees of *Buchnera*-harbouring aphid species and corresponding *Buchnera* were used.

TreeMap 1.0 (Page, 1994) is a topology-based program and reconciles the parasite and host trees by introducing four types of events: cospeciation (C), duplication (D), host switching (H) and sorting (S). We used both exact and heuristic searches to identify the optimal reconstructions that maximize the number of cospeciations and minimize the number of non-cospeciation events. Using the proportional-to-distinguishable option, 1000 random *Buchnera* trees were generated, and randomization tests were conducted to assess whether the observed numbers of cospeciation events were greater than expected by chance.

The distance-based program ParaFit (Legendre, Desdevises & Bazin, 2002) tests the significance of a global hypothesis of coevolution between parasites and their hosts as well as individual host–parasite association links. In the present study, the null hypothesis that the evolution of Cerataphidini aphid species and *Buchnera* has been independent (i.e. they are randomly associated) was tested through a permutation procedure. The patristic distances of *Buchnera* and aphids were calculated by Patristic (Fourment & Gibbs, 2006) from their outgroup-pruned ML trees and then were transformed to principal coordinates called matrix B and matrix C by DistPCoA (Legendre & Anderson, 1998). The aphid–*Buchnera* associations were described in matrix A. If the aphid–*Buchnera* link is observed in nature between the aphid species in the column and the *Buchnera* in the row, 1 was written. Otherwise, 0 was written. The test was performed for 999 permutations using ParaFit.

Jane 4.0 (Conow *et al.*, 2010) is an event cost-based program that uses a heuristic approach with a genetic algorithm to find optimal solutions. The event cost regime followed the default settings: cospeciation (0), duplication (1), host switching (2), loss (1) and failure to diverge (1). We performed analyses with 100 generations, a population size of 300 and a maximum of 99999 stored solutions

in each run. Statistical tests were then conducted to compare the resulting costs to the cost of original associations by randomizing the tip of trees and randomizing the parasite tree topology with a sample size of 500.

RESULTS

PHYLOGENETIC RELATIONSHIPS

For all sampled Cerataphidini aphid species, ML and Bayesian analyses yielded identical ingroup topology (Fig. 1). The monophyly of Cerataphidini was strongly supported (bootstrap = 99%, PP = 1.00). All genera represented by multiple species were recovered as monophyletic with high support values, except *Tuberaphis* and *Cerataphis*. *Ktenopteryx* + *Aleurodaphis* split off earliest from other taxa. *Tuberaphis* and *Cerataphis* formed a monophyletic clade as a whole, followed by *Glyphinaphis* and the remaining five genera. *Pseudoregma* and *Ceratovacuna* formed a sister group. The phylogenetic tree of cerataphidine species harbouring *Buchnera* (excl. *Glyphinaphis*, *Tuberaphis* and *Cerataphis brasiliensis*) (Fig. 2A) showed an ingroup topology that was essentially identical to Figure 1.

Buchnera is absent from several of the sampled aphid species of Cerataphidini, which resulted in negative

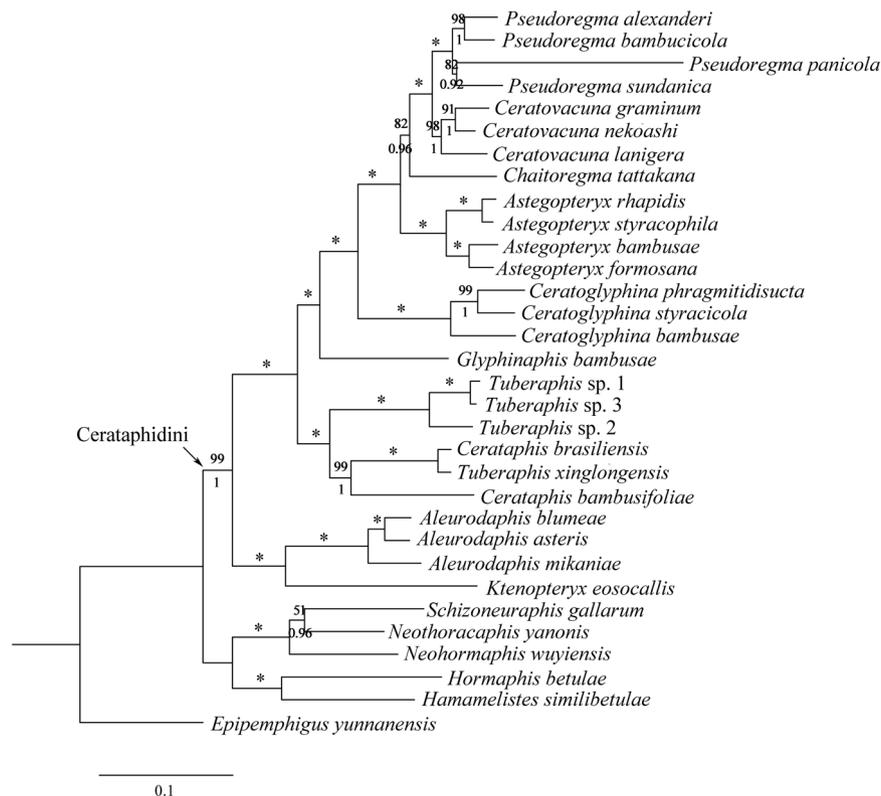


Figure 1. Cerataphidini phylogeny obtained from ML analysis. ML bootstrap values (> 50%) and Bayesian PP values (> 0.70) are shown above and below the branches, respectively. *Represents 100% ML bootstrap and 1.00 PP.

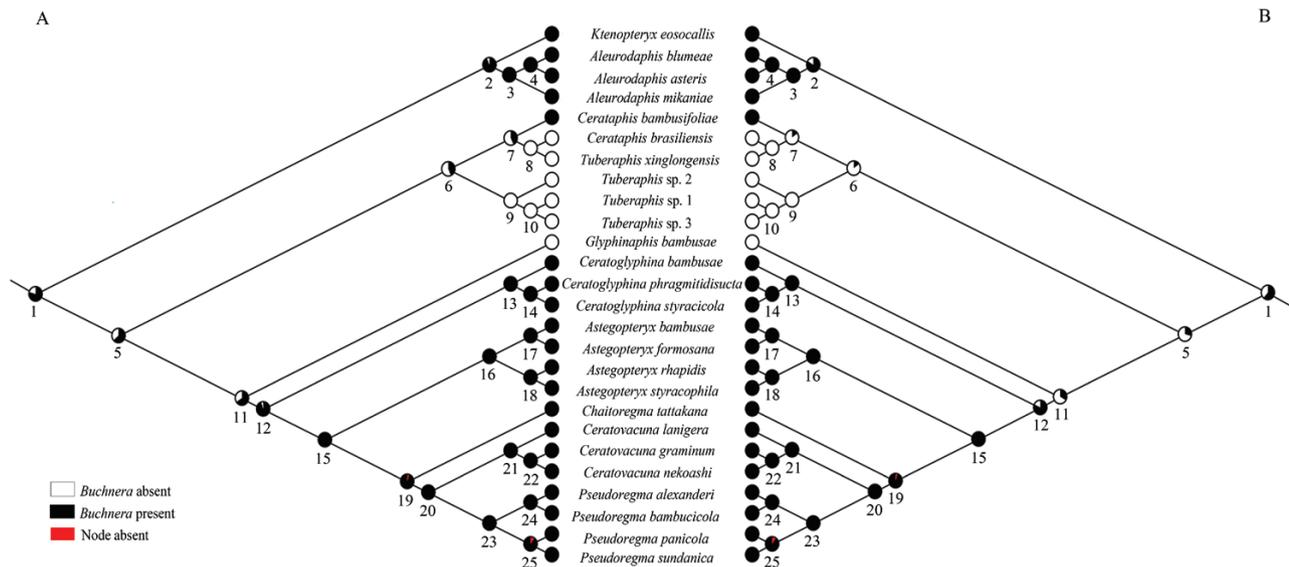


Figure 3. Ancestral state reconstructions for *Buchnera* infection in Cerataphidini under Mk1 model (A) and AsymmMk model (B). Pie charts at nodes indicate the percentages of trees for which a given state is reconstructed as the uniquely best state for that node.

of *Buchnera* (one in *C. bambusifoliae* and one in node 12) (AsymmMk model, Fig. 3B).

PHYLOGENETIC CONGRUENCE

A tanglegram for the association between Cerataphidini aphids and *Buchnera* generated by TreeMap is presented in Figure 2. The heuristic search introduced 17 cospeciations, two duplications and six sorting events. Eight best reconstructions were identified in the exact search with 17 cospeciations, zero or one duplication, one or two switches, and two or four sorting events. Randomization test results suggested that the observed number of cospeciation events was significantly greater than expected by chance ($P < 0.001$). The ParaFit analysis rejected the null hypothesis that the phylogenetic trees of aphids and *Buchnera* are randomly associated (ParaFitGlobal = 0.0851, $P = 0.001$). Twelve of 20 individual host–parasite association links contributed to the global trace statistic ($P < 0.05$). The result of Jane analysis also showed significant phylogenetic concordance between aphids and *Buchnera* within Cerataphidini ($P < 0.001$) with 17 cospeciations, two host switches and two losses.

DISCUSSION

EVOLUTION OF APHID–*BUCHNERA* SYMBIOSIS WITHIN CERATAPHIDINI

Buchnera aphidicola is commonly found among almost all aphid species of Aphididae as their obligate primary

endosymbiont (Buchner, 1965; Baumann, Moran & Baumann, 1997). It has been suggested that this endosymbiotic association had a single origin in the common ancestor of all modern viviparous aphid species, dating back to 160–280 Mya (Munson *et al.*, 1991; Moran *et al.*, 1993). Therefore, the common ancestor of Cerataphidini should have harboured *Buchnera*, especially considering the fact that most extant cerataphidine species are infected with *Buchnera*. In the present study, the character reconstructions using different models strongly suggested that the ancestor of Cerataphidini had established a symbiotic association with *Buchnera*, which provides clear evidence for the ancestrality of *Buchnera* infection within the Cerataphidini.

Using a histochemical method, Fukatsu *et al.* (1994) found that six *Tuberaphis* species, five *Cerataphis* species and *Glyphinaphis bambusae* did not harbour the typical intracellular symbiotic bacteria, *Buchnera*. In this study, we examined all sampled cerataphidine species using specific PCR amplification and discovered that *C. brasiliensis* and *G. bambusae*, which had been detected in Fukatsu *et al.* (1994), as well as four species of *Tuberaphis* newly sampled in our study were not infected with *Buchnera*. Ancestral state reconstructions suggested that several changes for the aphid–*Buchnera* association had occurred during the evolution of Cerataphidini. Alternative scenarios could be proposed based on the results of character reconstruction, which included multiple independent losses of *Buchnera* or losses followed by reacquisitions of *Buchnera*. However, considering the long history

of aphid–*Buchnera* symbiosis (Moran *et al.*, 1993) and the intimate nutritional interactions between these two partners within this obligate mutualism (Shigenobu *et al.*, 2000; Tamas *et al.*, 2002; Wilson *et al.*, 2010), there seems to be little possibility of regaining *Buchnera* after losing. Therefore, we infer that at least three *Buchnera* losses have taken place for the sampled cerataphidine representatives.

Previous studies discovered that the Cerataphidini aphid species without *Buchnera* harboured eukaryotic YLSs (Fukatsu & Ishikawa, 1992; Fukatsu *et al.*, 1994). PCR amplifications of 18S rRNA of YLS from the *Buchnera*-free aphid samples in our study confirmed this finding (data not shown). The genome sequencing of YLS from *C. brasiliensis* revealed that the YLS possesses genes for the full biosynthetic pathways of essential amino acids (Vogel & Moran, 2013). We consequently hypothesize that in *Glyphinaphis* and certain species of *Cerataphis* and *Tuberaphis*, of which *Buchnera* are lost, YLSs have replaced the nutritional functions of *Buchnera*.

Fukatsu *et al.* (1994) speculated that in the evolutionary course of Cerataphidini, the replacement of *Buchnera* by YLS occurred only once in the common ancestor of *Cerataphis*, *Glyphinaphis* and *Tuberaphis* because such replacement was extremely rare in aphids. However, neither our study nor previous phylogeny reconstructions of Cerataphidini (Stern, 1994, 1998; Huang *et al.*, 2012; Chen *et al.*, 2014) supported clustering of these three genera into a monophyletic clade. Additionally, it is worth noting that both our study and Fukatsu *et al.* (1994) discovered that *C. bambusifoliae* did harbour *Buchnera*. The high morphological similarity of *C. bambusifoliae* to other *Cerataphis* species (Takahashi, 1925), the formation of single-cavity galls (Kurosu *et al.*, 2008) and its phylogenetic position revealed by the present and previous studies (Stern, 1998; Chen *et al.*, 2014) confirm its affiliation to the genus *Cerataphis*. Therefore, even if the monophyly of *Cerataphis*, *Glyphinaphis* and *Tuberaphis* as a whole is supported and *Buchnera* has been lost and replaced by YLS in their common ancestor, one reacquisition of *Buchnera* should have occurred in *C. bambusifoliae*. The probability of that reacquisition happening, however, is very small, as we stated above.

To date, little is known about the detailed process and the mechanism of *Buchnera* loss and symbiont replacement in Cerataphidini. Assuming there is a higher transmission efficiency of YLS, Fukatsu *et al.* (1994) proposed that the replacement might have been completed within just a small number of aphid generations. However, we cannot rule out the possibility that *Buchnera* and YLS may have experienced a period of coexistence similar to *Serratia symbiotica*

and *Buchnera* in *Cinara cedri* Mimeur (Lachninae), in which *Buchnera* is undergoing a process of genome degradation and functional complement by the co-resident *S. symbiotica* (Pérez-Brocal *et al.*, 2006; Lamelas *et al.*, 2008, 2011). In certain lineages of Cerataphidini, *Buchnera* may completely lose its symbiotic capacity after YLS has taken over all its functions and eventually become lost from its aphid host.

PARALLEL EVOLUTION OF *BUCHNERA* AND CERATAPHIDINI APHIDS

In the present study, we constructed the phylogenies of *Buchnera*-harbouring aphid species and corresponding *Buchnera* using six aphid genes and four *Buchnera* genes from broad taxonomic samples covering all known genera of the tribe Cerataphidini. Phylogenetic matching between aphids and *Buchnera* was well presented in Cerataphidini (Fig. 2). Aphid genera were defined with strong support in the phylogenetic tree of *Buchnera*. The bacterial phylogeny almost fully reflected the generic and interspecific relationships among aphid species, except for the positions of *C. tattakana* and *C. lanigera*. Several phylogenetic hypotheses revealed in the present and previous studies using aphid genes were confirmed by the genes derived from *Buchnera*, such as the basal position of *Ktenopteryx* + *Aleurodaphis* and the sister group relationship between *Ceratovacuna* and *Pseudoregma* (Stern, 1994, 1995, 1998; Huang *et al.*, 2012; Chen *et al.*, 2014). Moreover, statistical testing also revealed significant phylogenetic congruence between *Buchnera* and aphids and suggested that they were cospeciating. A total of 17 cospeciation events were detected by the analyses of TreeMap and Jane. The results of ParaFit also indicated a significant correlation between the phylogenies of aphids and *Buchnera*.

The pattern of codiversification between aphids and their primary endosymbiont *Buchnera* has been demonstrated in several aphid groups covering different taxonomic levels from the whole group of viviparous aphids (the Aphididae) to populations within a specific aphid species (Munson *et al.*, 1991; Moran *et al.*, 1993; Baumann, Moran & Baumann, 1997; Clark *et al.*, 2000; Funk *et al.*, 2000; Jousset *et al.*, 2009; Liu *et al.*, 2013, 2014). The present study confirmed significant concordance of aphid and *Buchnera* phylogenies at the level of an entire aphid tribe, which would enrich the instances of aphid–*Buchnera* parallel evolution. Furthermore, our study showed that *Buchnera* had been lost and replaced by YLS within certain lineages of Cerataphidini. The significant cophylogenetic pattern between aphids and corresponding *Buchnera* corroborated their strict cospeciating relationship,

which was not affected by the historical changes of symbiotic associations between *Buchnera* and Cerataphidini aphids.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

In conclusion, our results indicated that during the evolutionary history of Cerataphidini, the obligate endosymbiont *Buchnera* had been lost several times and replaced by the eukaryotic YLS with similar nutritional functions. Both phylogeny comparison and results of statistical testing suggested there was significant concordance between the aphid and bacterial phylogenies, which confirms that *Buchnera* and their aphid hosts have diversified in parallel within the Cerataphidini, and their cospeciation pattern has not been affected by the evolutionary lability of this obligate symbiosis. To explore the origin of the aphid–YLS association, a comprehensive survey of the symbiont systems of all known species from *Cerataphis* and *Tuberaphis* is necessary. Further phylogenetic studies with a broad sampling of YLS-harbouring species and more information about YLSs (e.g. transmission mode, genome) are greatly needed to elucidate the mechanism underlying symbiont replacement and the evolution of symbiotic interactions between aphids and YLSs.

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional Supporting Information may be found in the online version of this article at the publisher's web-site:

Table S1. Voucher information and GenBank accession numbers for all aphid species used in this study.

Table S2. Primers used in this study.