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EVOLUTIONARY AND BIOGEOGRAPHIC HISTORY OF THE
EXTANT PENGUINS (AVES: SPHENISCIDAE) USING
GENOMIC DATA

HISTÓRIA EVOLUTIVA E BIOGEOGRÁFICA DOS PINGUINS
VIVENTES (AVES: SPHENISCIDAE) USANDO DADOS
GENÔMICOS

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*Dissertation presented to the Institute of
Biology of the University of Campinas in partial
fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
Master in Genetics and Molecular Biology, in
the area of Animal Genetics and Evolution.*

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RESUMO

A história evolutiva e biogeográfica de espécies marinhas é altamente dependente de seus aspectos biológicos e dos oceanos que habitam, como é o caso dos pinguins vivos (Aves: Spheniscidae). Apesar de estudos anteriores terem focado na resolução do tempo e das relações evolutivas entre as espécies de pinguim vivos, assim como em sua correlação com a distribuição geográfica do grupo, as hipóteses na literatura ainda são controversas. Neste estudo, utilizamos elementos ultraconservados (UCEs) como marcadores genômicos para elucidar as principais questões a respeito da história evolutiva dos pinguins: (i) quais as relações evolutivas entre as espécies e gêneros de pinguins vivos, (ii) quando tais eventos de radiação aconteceram, (iii) qual a distribuição geográfica ancestral de Spheniscidae, e (iv) como esses eventos de radiação estão correlacionados com as dinâmicas e geologia dos oceanos do Hemisfério Sul. Para responder tais questões, inferimos uma filogenia robusta e estimamos os tempos de divergência e distribuição geográfica ancestral dos pinguins utilizando dados moleculares em escala genômica. Nossas análises recuperaram a divergência de Spheniscidae no início do Mioceno (21.9 milhões de anos atrás) e uma filogenia na qual *Aptenodytes* é a primeira linhagem a divergir, seguido de *Pygoscelis* e, finalmente, pelo clado que contém *Eudyptes*/*Megadyptes* e *Spheniscus*/*Eudyptula*. A maioria dos eventos de especiação ocorreu durante o Plioceno e Pleistoceno. Nossas análises da história biogeográfica recuperaram uma provável distribuição ancestral na região da Austrália/Nova Zelândia durante o aquecimento global do início do Mioceno, o que teria permitido a seguinte colonização do continente Antártico pelo ancestral de *Aptenodytes*. O surgimento da corrente circumpolar Antártica (ACC) provavelmente seria um fator chave na diversificação e expansão das linhagens de pinguins para suas atuais distribuições sub-Antárticas e sub-Tropicais. Resumidamente, demonstramos como dados genômicos são capazes de auxiliar na resolução de incongruências na história evolutiva dos pinguins. Nossos resultados podem amparar futuras comparações intra e interespecíficas relacionadas à importância de condições climáticas e oceânicas na radiação das diferentes espécies de pinguins, que podem servir de modelo para as possíveis respostas dessas aves no cenário de mudanças climáticas atuais e futuras.

ABSTRACT

The evolutionary and biogeographic history of marine species is highly dependent on their biology and the oceans they inhabit, which is the case of extant penguins (Aves: Spheniscidae). Although previous studies have focused on unraveling the evolutionary relationships of extant penguin species and the connection with their distributional range, the hypotheses in literature remain controversial. In this study, we used UCEs as genomic markers in order to unravel the main questions about the evolutionary history of extant penguins: (i) what are the evolutionary relationships among penguin species and genera, (ii) when radiation events occurred, (iii) what is the most likely geographic range of the ancestor of the crown penguins, and (iv) how the diversification events correlated with the Southern oceans' dynamics and geology. To answer these questions, we inferred a robust phylogenetic tree and estimated the divergence times and ancestral range of penguins using molecular data in genomic scale. Our analyses recovered an early Miocene divergence of Spheniscidae, 21.9 million years ago (Mya), and a phylogenetic relationship in which *Aptenodytes* is the first lineage to diverge, followed by *Pygoscelis* and finally by the clades formed by *Eudyptes*/*Megadyptes* and *Spheniscus*/*Eudyptula*. Most speciation events occurred during the Pliocene and Pleistocene, accompanying the global cooling events of the Pleistocene glaciations. Our historical biogeographical analyses recovered the most likely ancestral range for the Spheniscidae family on the Australia/New Zealand region during the early Miocene warming, which may have allowed the following colonization of the Antarctic continent by the *Aptenodytes* ancestor. The onset of the Antarctic circumpolar current (ACC) likely played a key role in the diversification and expansion of penguin lineages to the further sub-Antarctic and sub-tropical locations they currently inhabit. In summary, we demonstrate how genomic data can support the resolution of incongruences in the evolutionary history of penguins. Our results can aid further interspecific and intraspecific comparisons on the importance of ocean and climate conditions in the radiation of different penguin species, which can be useful to model these birds' putative responses to the ongoing climate change conditions.

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in literature which recovered Miocene estimates. *S*: *Spheniscus*; *Ea*: *Eudyptula*; *Es*: *Eudyptes*; *M*: *Megadyptes*.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACC: Antarctic circumpolar current

APF: Antarctic Polar Front

AU test: Approximately unbiased test

BAYAREALIKE: Bayesian inference of historical biogeography for discrete areas (with likelihood)

COI: Cytochrome oxidase 1 gene

DEC: Dispersal-Extinction-Cladogenesis

DIVALIKE: Dispersal-Vicariance Analysis with likelihood

ELW: Expected likelihood weights

HPD: Highest posterior density

ILS: Incomplete lineage sorting

KH test: Kishino-Hasegawa test

Mya: Million years ago

ML: Maximum likelihood

MMCT: Middle Miocene climate transition

RAG-1: Recombination-activating gene 1

RELL: Resampling estimated log-likelihood

SH test: Shimodaira-Hasegawa test

STF: Subtropical Front

UCEs: Ultraconserved elements

UFBoot: Ultrafast bootstrap

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1. Introduction

1.1. Introducing penguins

The life histories of top marine predators are intrinsically connected with the dynamics of the oceans they inhabit. Their evolutionary and biogeographic history is highly associated with biogeographic barriers and the species' biological features, which are fundamental for determining the distribution of species in this heterogeneous environment (Munro and Berg 2017). Southern Ocean marine birds' distribution and evolution are especially associated with the main Southern Hemisphere ocean fronts (e.g. Subtropical Front - STF, Antarctic Polar Front - APF) and currents (e.g. Antarctic circumpolar current - ACC) (Bost et al. 2009) (Figure 1). This dependency on ocean fronts and currents is even more prominent in the evolution and biogeographic history of flightless marine birds, such as penguins.

Penguins (Sphenisciformes) are flightless marine birds with a widespread distribution in the Southern oceans. Ranging from the higher latitudes of the Antarctic continent to the lower latitudes of the equatorial region, penguin species may vary in size and annual cycles' length, but share various morphological, physiological and behavioral specializations for the marine life (Borboroglu and Boersma 2015). Among the adaptations that enabled life underwater, we can cite penguin's packed scale-like feathers, which provide thermal insulation for the waterproof effect (Taylor 1986), visual accommodation of the cornea for both air and water vision (Sivak 1976; Sivak and Millodot 1977; Bowmaker and Martin 1985), stiff wing joints (Raikow et al. 1988), and dense bones that counterbalance buoyancy while diving (Meister 1962).

The order Sphenisciformes includes both the stem group of extinct penguins, with more than 50 species, and the crown group of extant species, all included in the Spheniscidae family. The 18 extant penguin species are divided into six genera: *Aptenodytes* (comprising the two larger penguin species), *Pygoscelis* (three widespread Antarctic and sub-Antarctic penguins), *Spheniscus* (banded penguins), *Eudyptes* (crested penguins), *Eudyptula* (with the little penguin as its only species), and *Megadyptes* (with the yellow-eyed penguin as its only species) (Ksepka and Ando 2011). The exact number of extant species is still debatable due to putative deeper

intraspecific divergences (*e.g.* gentoo penguins, Vianna et al. 2017) and recent diversification events (*e.g.* little penguin, Banks et al. 2002; rockhopper penguins, Banks et al. 2006; royal and macaroni penguins, Frugone et al. 2018; and Humboldt and Galapagos penguins, Ramos et al. 2018).

As mentioned before, the ancient and ongoing divergences in penguin's evolutionary history are deeply correlated with the dynamics of the Southern Oceans, as well as with geological and climate change events (Kooyman 2002; Clarke et al. 2007; Clucas et al. 2018). In the last decades, several studies have focused on unraveling the evolutionary relationships and timing of diversification of extant penguins and its relationship with tectonic dynamics and the features of the oceans they inhabit (Jouventin 1982; Schreiweis 1982; O'Hara 1989; McKittrick 1991; Giannini and Bertelli 2004; Bertelli and Giannini 2005; Baker et al. 2006; Bertelli et al. 2006; Ksepka et al. 2006; Acosta Hospitaleche et al. 2007; Ksepka and Clarke 2010; Ksepka et al. 2012; Ksepka and Thomas 2012; Subramanian et al. 2013; Gavryushkina et al. 2017; Cole et al. 2019). Nevertheless, these studies have reached different results and hypotheses regarding penguins' evolutionary and biogeographic histories. Hence, the phylogenetic hypotheses, the estimated timing of diversification and the putative ancestral range of Spheniscidae described in the literature are still controversial.

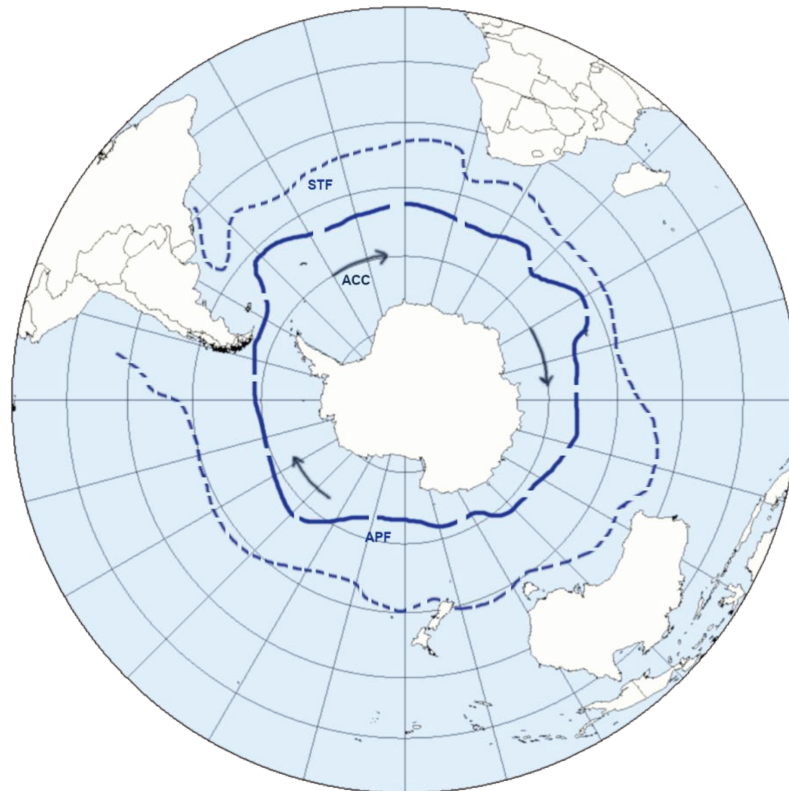


Figure 1. Southern Ocean main currents and fronts. External dotted lines represent the Sub-Tropical Front (STF), internal ones represent the Antarctic Polar Front (APF). Arrows represent the direction in which the Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC) flows, from west to east.

1.2. Literature on the evolutionary history of extant penguins

There are two main competing phylogenetic hypotheses at the genus level of extant penguins in literature. The clades formed by *Spheniscus/Eudyptula* and *Eudyptes/Megadyptes* are already well established, but the deeper position of *Aptenodytes* and *Pygoscelis* is still unclear. While some authors recover *Aptenodytes* as the first genus to diverge, followed by *Pygoscelis* and the two remaining extant clades (*i.e.* *Aptenodytes* sister to all other genera) (Bertelli and Gianni 2005; Baker et al. 2006; Bertelli et al. 2006; Ksepka et al. 2006; Clarke et al. 2007; Ksepka and Clarke 2010), others propose that *Aptenodytes* and *Pygoscelis* constitute a deep clade, sister to all other extant penguins (*i.e.* *Aptenodytes/Pygoscelis* as sister to all other genera)

(Subramanian et al. 2013; Gavryushkina et al. 2017; Cole et al. 2019) (Figure 2). Species-level relationships are less controversial, although the genus *Eudyptes* holds most of the problematic issues, due to putative introgression events among its taxa (Frugone et al. 2018; Vianna et al. unpublished).

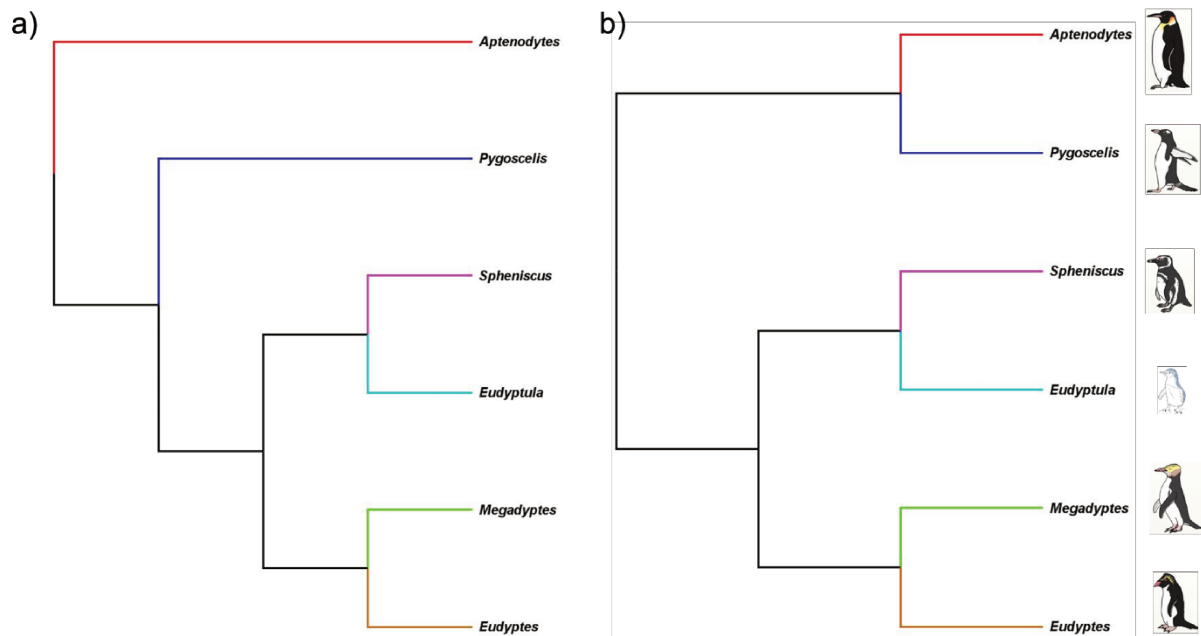


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In addition to the unresolved phylogenetic relationships, the timing of the deeper lineage divergences of the crown group are also contrasting in literature. Earlier estimates propose an Eocene divergence of Spheniscidae from the stem group at approximately 40 million years ago (Mya) (Baker et al. 2006). However, the discovery and identification of the fossil *Madrynornis mirandus* (Acosta Hospitaleche et al. 2007),

which is the oldest Spheniscidae fossil known so far (10.0 ± 0.3 Mya), and the use of different tree topologies and estimation methodologies (*e.g.* fossilized birth-death model Stadler 2010), led the latest studies to recover a more recent divergence timing of extant penguins, in the Miocene, from 23 to 12.7 Mya (Subramanian et al. 2013; Gavryushkina et al. 2017; Cole et al. 2019).

Less explored than the phylogenetic and divergence time estimates, the biogeographic history of crown penguins is also an unresolved matter. Dated and not dated phylogenetic studies in the last decade attempted to estimate the ancestral range distribution of the group (Bertelli and Giannini 2005; Baker et al. 2006; Ksepka et al. 2006). Bertelli and Giannini (2005) and Ksepka et al. (2006) proposed an ancestral range for Spheniscidae in the Australia/New Zealand regions as well as in the Antarctic Peninsula, without dating the cladogenesis events. On the other hand, Baker et al. (2006) proposes an Antarctic origin for the extant penguins during the Eocene (~40 Mya) and, according to these authors, crown penguins may have expanded to lower latitudes as a response to global cooling during the second half of the Paleogene (Baker et al. 2006).

Although previous studies that tried to uncover the evolutionary and biogeographic history of extant penguins made use of technologies and tools available at the time they were published (*i.e.* mostly before 2013), there are some methodological considerations, which we focused on resolving in our work, that should be brought up. First, not all studies used a complete taxon dataset (*e.g.* Subramanian et al. 2013 used only 11 living species), therefore, they do not represent a complete evolutionary history of the group. In addition, many previous phylogenetic inferences were performed using parsimony methodologies, which are less time consuming and were likely the most compatible optimization methods for the available computational capacity at the time. However, for phylogenetic analyses using characters with more than two states (*e.g.* nucleotide data have four states: A, T, C, G), parsimony methods are not the most appropriate, once highly inconsistent trees can be generated (Felsenstein 1978).

Finally, most phylogenetic and divergence time estimation studies used a set of five genes alone (*i.e.* 12S, 16S, cytochrome oxidase 1 – COI, cytochrome b, and recombination-activating gene 1 – RAG-1) (Bertelli and Giannini 2005; Baker et al. 2006), together with five introns (Subramanian et al. 2013), or in combination with

morphological characters (Bertelli and Giannini 2005; Bertelli et al. 2006; Ksepka et al. 2006; Clarke et al. 2007; Ksepka and Clarke 2010; Ksepka et al. 2012; Ksepka and Thomas 2012; Gavryushkina et al. 2017). Data from a larger number of molecular loci was only possible to be implemented in penguin macroevolutionary research recently, by Cole et al. (2019), who inferred the dated phylogeny of penguins from the mitogenomes of extinct and extant species.

Many factors can influence molecular phylogenetic inferences, such as alignment and sequencing quality, presence of phylogenetically informative sequences that reflect the evolution of the species (*e.g.* excluding putative paralogs), sequence model selection, and efficiency of tree search algorithm (Talavera and Vila 2011). Thus, the different conclusions reached by phylogenetic studies using molecular data were likely due to the type and small number of genetic markers (*e.g.* most were mitochondrial markers). The incongruences between gene trees and species trees get even more sensitive when involving taxa with large effective population sizes and rapid radiation events (Maddison 1997), which is the case for penguins, since the most recent penguin phylogenetic studies propose that most internal penguin lineages diverged in less than 5 Mya (Gavryushkina et al. 2017; Cole et al. 2019). Moreover, other molecular events, such as introgression or incomplete lineage sorting could have made the resolution of these relationships more difficult (*e.g.* Scally et al. 2012; Wen et al. 2016; Wang et al. 2018).

Aside from the above-mentioned factors, fossil calibration also plays a key role on the timing of extant penguin diversification (Ho and Phillips 2009). Although Sphenisciformes hold a wide fossil record, most of fossil taxa is composed by incomplete skeletons and few bones, which hampers the accurate placement of the extinct specimens on the penguin phylogeny (Ksepka et al. 2012). For example, one of the most controversial, yet fundamental, fossil specimen for the crown penguin dating is *Madrynornis mirandus*. *M. mirandus* has already been considered a close relative to *Eudyptes* (Acosta Hospitaleche et al. 2007; Ksepka and Clarke 2010), to *Spheniscus/Eudyptula* (Degrange et al. 2018), and as a sister taxon to Spheniscidae (Hoffmeister 2014; Hoffmeister et al. 2014). Even though the exact position of the fossil is still uncertain, its crown status is the most certain supposition proposed so far (Degrange et al. 2018). Additionally, different tree topologies can also have an impact on divergence time estimation, once a node calibration applied to a clade that was

recovered by one study may not apply for the same clade in another study because of distinct tree topology (*e.g.* the differences regarding *Aptenodytes* position in Baker et al. 2006 and Subramanian 2013).

Finally, the discrepancies in the penguin biogeographic history in literature can be mostly explained by the different methodologies and area subdivisions used for the ancestral range reconstructions. Ancestral range is estimated using the dated phylogenetic tree of the species, data about its current geographical distribution, and a set of biogeographical parameters, such as dispersal, extinction, sympatry and vicariance (Matzke 2013b). The previous biogeographic inferences were performed based on character mapping on the phylogenies, without the application of specific biogeographic estimation tools (such as SIMMAP, Bollback 2006). Also, the distinct prior geographic subdivisions used by the studies was likely the main reason for the different ancestral ranges recovered. For instance, Baker et al. (2006) divided the current penguin range into three total areas following latitude sectors (60°S, 60° - 45°S, 45°S - 0°), whereas Bertelli and Giannini (2005) considered 10 different areas according to current penguin colony distribution.

We strongly believe that the incongruences regarding penguin evolution in literature are due to the poor choice and small quantity of molecular markers in combination with different analytic tools and priors used by the previous studies, which were not able to recover with much confidence the evolutionary history of Spheniscidae. In this scenario, here we aimed to use nuclear markers captured from high-throughput sequences of penguin species' genomes in order to provide more robust estimates of evolutionary relationships, divergence times and the ancestral range of extant penguins.

1.3. Ultraconserved elements as large-scale molecular markers

Recovering a robust dated phylogeny of extant penguins is the first and fundamental step towards unravelling their evolutionary history. The increased access to low cost high-throughput sequence data of non-model species has allowed the use of genomic data among several evolutionary distant and close taxa (Margulies et al. 2006). Along with that, the emergence of next-generation sequencing technologies has

led to an unprecedented amount of sequencing data in the last decade. As a consequence, phylogenetic analyses in genomic scale, also known as phylogenomics, of non-model organisms have provided the opportunity to refine former controversial evolutionary relationships, especially in cases where taxa diverged in a relatively rapid period of time, such as mammals and many bird groups (*e.g.* Hackett et al. 2008; McCormack et al. 2012; 2013; Nery et al. 2012; Jarvis et al. 2014; Zhang et al. 2014).

The ultraconserved elements (UCEs) are genomic scale molecular markers that have been increasingly used in phylogenomic studies throughout the last decade. UCEs consist on highly conserved regions of the genomes shared among evolutionary-distant taxa, firstly described for human, mouse and rat by Bejerano et al. (2004). Further studies revealed UCEs in more distant related taxa from human, such as fish, insects and even yeast, although the degree of sequence identity and the percentage of compatible alignments were lower in these cases than in closer species (Sandelin et al. 2004; Siepel et al. 2005).

UCEs have been widely and increasingly applied to infer phylogenetic relationships in both deep (Crawford et al. 2012; McCormack et al. 2012; 2013; Faircloth et al. 2013; 2015; Sun et al. 2014; Blaimer et al. 2015; Starrett et al. 2017; Van Dam et al. 2017; 2019; Smith et al. 2018) and shallow scales (Giarla and Esselstyn 2015; Lima et al. 2018; Winker et al. 2018). The use of UCEs for the detection of divergence at different timescales is possible due to the UCE structure. They have a highly conserved region at the center (*i.e.* core region) and two more variable flanking regions at each border. The flanking DNA contains most phylogenetically informative sites that are useful in the reconstruction of the evolutionary history at different taxonomic levels (Faircloth et al. 2012) (Figure 3), which was one of the reasons why we chose this type of marker, once we performed evolutionary analyses within and among the species scale.

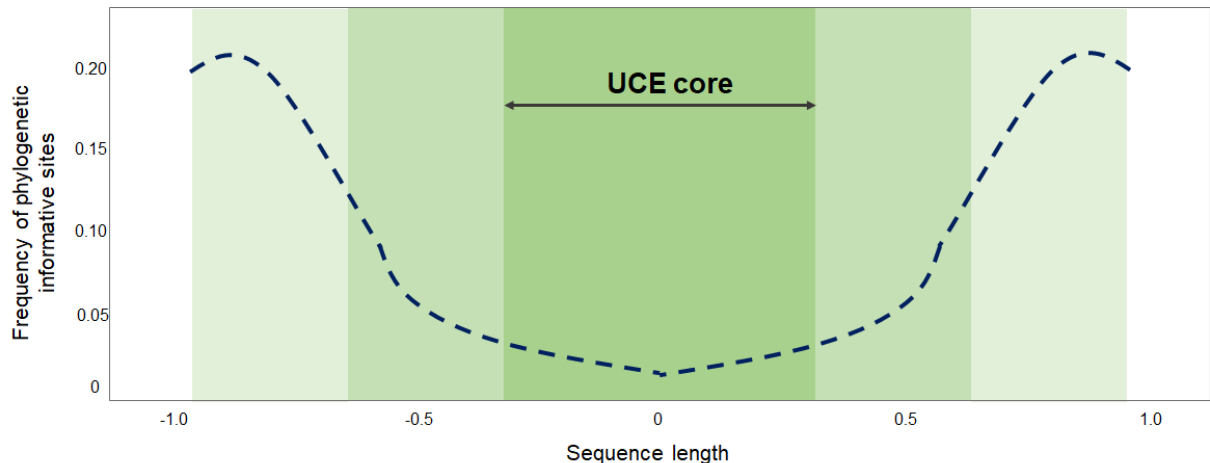


Figure 3. Illustration of the general UCE structure. Horizontal axis represents sequence length, and vertical axis represents the frequency of phylogenetic informative sites, which increase from the UCE core (darker green region) towards the flanking regions (gradually lighter green regions). Adapted from Van Dam et al. (2017).

The functional roles of UCEs are still unknown, although it is well established that most UCEs comprehend non-protein-coding regions (intronic or intergenic) that are involved in the regulation of transcription and in enhancer activities of developmental genes (Bejerano et al. 2004; Stephen et al. 2008). Regardless of the uncharted nature of UCEs, several controversial phylogenies have been successfully inferred using them as a molecular marker (*e.g.* Faircloth et al. 2013; 2015; Crawford et al. 2015; Bryson et al. 2016; Van Dam et al. 2019).

In this study, we used UCEs as genomic markers, in combination with proper analyze tools, in order to unravel the main questions regarding the macroevolutionary history of extant penguins: what are the evolutionary relationships among extant penguin species and genera, and in which timing have these diversification events occurred? What is the most likely geographic range of the ancestor of the crown penguins? How are these diversification events correlated with the Southern oceans' dynamics and geology? To answer these questions, we inferred a robust phylogenetic tree and estimated the divergence times and ancestral range of Spheniscidae family using molecular data in genomic scale, in combination with appropriate inference parameters and models. With this work, we demonstrate how large-scale target

sequence techniques can aid the resolution of incongruences regarding the evolutionary history of close taxa, as is the case for extant penguins.

2. Objectives

2.1. General objectives

Our study aimed to provide accurate phylogenetic estimates on the evolutionary and biogeographic history of extant penguins, unravelling the fundamental questions about this group evolution using high-throughput genomic data. Also, we intended to elucidate how Cenozoic oceanographic and climatological events may have influenced the radiation of this widespread Southern bird family.

2.2. Specific objectives

2.2.1. Biological objectives

Our specific biological objectives with this study were:

- a) To estimate a robust and well supported phylogeny of extant penguin species and genera;
- b) To estimate the divergence times among extant penguin lineages;
- c) To estimate the ancestral range of Spheniscidae;
- d) To associate the estimated biogeographic and cladogenetic events with ocean dynamics, continental shifts and global climate changes.

2.2.2. Methodological objectives

Our methodological objectives which make this study innovative in the area:

- a) To use biological information derived from genomic data from roughly all extant penguin species in order to recover an evolutionary history more compatible with the species history;
- b) To implement appropriate available methodologies and statistic tools for phylogenomics, divergence time, and ancestral range estimation.

3. Material and Methods

3.1. Taxa and sampling locations

Our dataset included seventeen penguin species and the outgroup *Macronectes giganteus* (Giant Petrel) from the order Procellariiformes, considered the evolutionary closest group to Sphenisciformes (Jarvis et al. 2014; Zhang et al. 2014). All extant penguin genera were represented in our study and almost all species, except for the endemic Snares islands penguin (*Eudyptes robustus*) due to the absence of samples. For the species *Eudyptes chrysolophus*/*E. c. schlegeli* (macaroni and royal penguins, considered as the same species in our study) and *Pygoscelis papua* (gentoo penguins), three and four specimens from distinct locations were sequenced, respectively. For the remaining species, only one representative was sequenced, totalizing 22 penguin individuals and the outgroup species (Table 1).

All sequences used in our study were captured from the reconstructed genomes of penguins generated by the project *Penguin Phylogenome*. The *Penguin Phylogenome* project is an international scientific collaboration among penguin specialists in which 22 genomes belonging to 17 living species were sequenced in order to unravel a complete evolutionary history of penguins, focusing on patterns of macroevolution, demography, biogeography, molecular evolution and ecology based on genomic data. Sample collection, DNA extraction, genome sequencing and assembly were performed by international collaborators from the *Penguin Phylogenome* project.

DNA was extracted from blood samples of wild animals for all penguins and the outgroup, except for *Spheniscus demersus* (African penguin), which came from an aquarium specimen, and *Eudyptes pachyrhynchus* (Fiordland), *E. sclateri* (erect-crested), and *Megadyptes antipodes* (yellow-eyed), which came from preserved museum specimens. DNA extraction was performed using a modified salt extraction protocol (Aljanabi and Martinez 1997; Vianna et al. 2017). Paired-end libraries were constructed using the Illumina TruSeq Nano kit. The 22 penguin genomes and the Giant Petrel (*Macronectes giganteus* – outgroup) genomes were sequenced to ~30x coverage with 150 paired reads using Illumina HiSeq X platform at Medgenome (USA).

Raw reads were trimmed and treated to remove the low-quality ones. Final clean reads were aligned to the Emperor penguin (*Aptenodytes forsteri*) draft genome (<http://gigadb.org/dataset/100005>; scaffold-level assembly) using LAST (<http://last.cbrc.jp/>). We had access to the assembled genomes in contigs and scaffolds. More detailed extraction and sequencing methodology are depicted in the supplementary material of Vianna et al. (unpublished).

Table 1. Species included in the study and the locations from where the samples were taken, including the outgroup species. The first column refers to the species scientific name, the second to the common name and the last to the sampling location.

Species		Sample locations
Common name	Scientific name	
Northern rockhopper penguin	<i>Eudyptes moseleyi</i>	Amsterdam Island
Eastern rockhopper penguin	<i>Eudyptes filholi</i>	Kerguelen Island
Southern rockhopper penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysocome</i>	Terhalten Island, Chile
Erect-crested penguin	<i>Eudyptes sclateri</i>	Bounty Island, New Zealand (Museum)
Fiordland penguin	<i>Eudyptes pachyrhynchus</i>	Ocean off Albany, Western Australia, Australia (Museum)
Macaroni penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>	Marion Island
Macaroni penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>	Elephant Island, Antarctica
Royal penguin	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus schlegeli</i>	Macquarie Island, Tasmania
Yellow-eyed penguin	<i>Megadyptes antipodes</i>	Southern Islands, New Zealand (Museum)
Magellanic penguin	<i>Spheniscus magellanicus</i>	Puñihuil, Chiloé, Chile
African penguin	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>	Aquarium, California Academy of Science
Humboldt penguin	<i>Spheniscus humboldti</i>	Pan de Azucar, Chile

Galapagos penguin	<i>Spheniscus mendiculus</i>	Galapagos Islands
Little penguin	<i>Eudyptula minor</i>	Cheyne Island, Western Australia
Adelie penguin	<i>Pygoscelis adeliae</i>	Lagotellerie, Antarctica
Chinstrap penguin	<i>Pygoscelis antarcticus</i>	Narebski, Antarctica
Gentoo penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua</i>	Antarctica
Gentoo penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua</i>	Falkland/Malvinas
Gentoo penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua</i>	Kerguelen Islands
Gentoo penguin	<i>Pygoscelis papua</i>	Crozet Islands
King penguin	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>	Inutil Bay, Chile
Emperor penguin	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>	Pointe Géologie, Adélie Land, Antarctica
Giant petrel - outgroup	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	Antarctica

3.2. Sequence data treatment, UCE capture and alignment

We first filtered the scaffolds and contigs from the genomes using python scripts available in <https://github.com/freitas-lucas/UCes>, in order to withdraw ambiguous nucleotides from the extended IUPAC code (Johnson 2010) different from “N”, once the aligner used by the UCE capture pipeline (LASTZ, Harris 2007), does not recognize sequence characters other than “A”, “T”, “C”, “G” or “N”.

We performed the UCE capture following the scripts from the PHYLUCE pipeline, which is a specific pipeline for UCE data (available in: <https://github.com/faircloth-lab/phylyuce>) (Faircloth 2015). This pipeline is used for UCE loci identification in whole genomes. The identification is done by the alignment of a probe set of 5060 UCE loci specific for tetrapods (Faircloth et al. 2012 - available at <https://www.ultraconserved.org/>) to the species genome contigs and scaffolds. The script “probe_run_multiple_lastzs_sqlite” was used to align the 120 base pairs (bp) length UCE probes to the genomes. The UCE loci and their respective 500 bp flanking

regions were then sliced from the genomes using the script “probe_slice_sequence_from_genomes”.

Once the UCEs are obtained from genomes using a target-sequence capture approach, high levels of missing data are expected, which means that not all UCEs will be found for all taxa in the analysis (Streicher et al. 2015). However, the existence of missing data itself is not a problem for phylogenetic analyses, so that excluding taxa or loci due to their missing data may be prejudicial for the accuracy of the estimates (Wiens and Tiu 2012; Wagner et al. 2013; Huang and Knowles 2014; Jiang et al. 2014; Hosner et al. 2015). Thus, our final dataset was composed by the UCEs that were present in a minimum of 18 of the 23 individuals, in order to maximize the amount of data in our matrix in a feasible level for divergence time analyses, and to deal with the missing data problem. Finally, sequences were aligned using MAFFT v7.407 (Nakamura et al. 2018) with a python loop script.

3.3. Phylogenetic analyses, divergence time estimation and tree topology tests

Phylogenomic analyses were done under concatenated and species-tree approaches. Model selection of sequence evolution was performed with ModelFinder (Kalyaanamoorthy et al. 2017), implemented in IQ-TREE version 1.6.8. (Nguyen et al. 2015). For the concatenated analyses, we carried out both maximum likelihood (ML) and Bayesian phylogenetic analyses. We ran the maximum likelihood analyses in IQ-TREE (Nguyen et al. 2015), with 1,000 bootstrap replicates using the ultrafast bootstrap approximation (UFBoot) (Hoang et al. 2017). The Bayesian phylogenetic analysis and the divergence time estimation were performed in BEAST v2.5.2 (Bouckaert et al. 2014) at CIPRES Science Gateway (Miller et al. 2010), using the GTRGAMMA model with base frequencies empirically estimated. We used a relaxed lognormal distribution clock under the calibrated Yule speciation process. The MCMC was run in two independent runs for 500 million generations, sampling and getting log parameters every 10,000 generations. The output log files were analyzed in Tracer v.1.7.1 (Rambaut et al. 2018) and trees were summarized using TREEANNOTATOR (Bouckaert et al. 2014) with a 10% burn-in.

We used the calibration priors suggested and explained by Cole et al (2019) using four crown fossils for internal calibrations and the oldest stem penguin fossil, *Waimanu manneringi* (Slack et al. 2006s), to calibrate the root of Sphenisciformes/Procellariiformes (Table 2). The maximum age bounds were determined according to the maximum estimated age of the geological layer where they were discovered (Cole et al. 2019).

We also inferred phylogenies using the multispecies coalescent method, in ASTRAL-III (Zhang et al. 2018). In multispecies coalescent approaches, such as the used by ASTRAL-III, tree estimation is made in a two-step approach. First, unrooted “gene trees” (*i.e.* a gene tree for each UCE loci) are estimated by maximum likelihood in IQ-TREE. Then, gene trees are summarized by ASTRAL-III to generate a single species tree, with branch support measured by the local posterior probability (Sayyari and Mirarab 2016).

Additionally, tree topology tests were carried out in IQ-TREE v1.6.8. to assess the log-likelihoods, posterior probabilities and weights of our alignment to recover the two main phylogenetic hypotheses in literature (*i.e.* H1: *Aptenodytes* as sister to all extant penguins; H1': *Aptenodytes* and *Pygoscelis* as sister groups). We performed the topology tests available in the software: the REL approximation (Kishino et al. 1990) with 1000 bootstrap replicates, the one-sided Kishino-Hasegawa (KH) test (Kishino and Hasegawa 1989), the Shimodaira-Hasegawa (SH) test (Shimodaira and Hasegawa 1999), the expected likelihood weights (ELW) (Strimmer and Rambaut 2002), and the approximately unbiased (AU) test (Shimodaira, 2002).

Table 2. Fossil calibrations used in the divergence time estimation. Age intervals are represented in millions of years ago (Mya). Node numbers correspond to those in Figure 5.

Node number	Description	Age interval (Mya)	Fossil calibration taxa
-	Sphenisciformes /Procellariiformes (root)	60.5 – 72.1	<i>Waimanu manneringi</i>
1	Spheniscidae	9.7 – 25.2	<i>Madrynornis mirandus</i>

2	<i>Pygoscelis</i>	6.3 – 25.2	<i>Pygoscelis calderensis</i>
3	<i>Spheniscus/Eudyptula</i>	9.2 – 23.03	<i>Spheniscus muizoni</i>
4	<i>Eudyptes/Megadyptes</i>	3.06 – 25.2	<i>Eudyptes sp.</i>

3.4. Ancestral range estimation

For the historical biogeographic analysis, we estimated the ancestral range of the living penguin species in the R package BioGeoBEARS (Matzke 2013a). BioGeoBEARS implements the biogeographical models adopted by the most used methods for inference of ancestral ranges in a likelihood framework: Dispersal-Extinction-Cladogenesis (DEC) (Ree and Smith 2008), Dispersal-Vicariance Analysis (DIVA) (Ronquist 1997) (DIVALIKE), and Bayesian inference of historical biogeography for discrete areas (BAYAREA) (Landis et al. 2013) (BAYAREALIKE). Each of these methods allows the inclusion of a set of anagenetic free parameters (*e.g.* dispersal; extinction) and have fixed cladogenetic parameters (*e.g.* sympatry; vicariance).

The three standard models of the program (*i.e.* DEC, DIVA and BAYAREA) can be distinguished mostly based on the parameters considered by the model and the weights given to each parameter. Briefly, DIVA penalizes events other than vicariance, while DEC gives equal weights to all parameters, and BAYAREA does not consider vicariance (Matzke 2013a). In addition, BioGeoBEARS allows the inclusion of the cladogenetic parameter *j* (“jump dispersal”), which accounts for founder-event speciation (Templeton 2008), in any of the previous models. In the founder-event speciation, a daughter lineage can have a different range from the parental lineage during the cladogenesis event, an important feature to be considered, especially in oceanic island systems (Matzke 2014).

BioGeoBEARS estimates the likelihood of the ancestral ranges at the nodes of the phylogeny, using as input the dated phylogenetic tree and a geographic file containing the current distribution of the species. The phylogenetic tree used as input in BioGeoBEARS must have only one representant of each species (or monophyletic

populations) at the tips of the tree. Thus, we pruned our original 23 taxa tree in order to include only 17 taxa (one from each penguin species) and maintain original branch lengths, choosing the sampled oldest population (according to our phylogenetic analyses) for those species with more than one individual (*i.e.* *Pygoscelis papua* from Crozet archipelago and *Eudyptes chrysolophus* from Elephant island).

The geographic input file depicts the areas where each species natively breeds in a presence/absence matrix. The determination of each species' areas of occurrence followed the current distribution of penguin colonies in continental coasts and islands, available in the Handbook of the Birds of the World and BirdLife International (2017). We subdivided the extant penguin geographic distribution into 10 different areas according to the penguin species nesting sites in continental and island coasts and based on Bertelli and Giannini's (2005) subdivision: A) South American coasts and Falkland islands; B) Scotia Arc islands; C) Antarctic Peninsula; D) Antarctic continent; E) Tristan da Cunha and Gough islands; F) Bouvet islands; G) South African coasts; H) Indian Ocean islands; I) Australia/New Zealand coasts and nearby islands; and J) Galapagos islands (Figure 6a). Each area is considered as a character state in the tree, and the output tree contains the set of areas (range) covered by the ancestral lineage of Spheniscidae. We tested all previously mentioned models alone (DEC, DIVALIKE, BAYAREALIKE), and with the addition of the founder-event speciation parameter j (DEC+J, DIVALIKE+J, BAYAREALIKE+J) (Matzke 2013b).

We performed a constrained analysis, in which we took into consideration that not all 10 areas that are currently inhabited by penguins existed throughout their radiation, such as islands that emerged or were formed after a certain moment in geological time. This was the case of the islands of the Scotia Arc (B), Bouvet (F), Galapagos (J), and Tristan da Cunha and Gough (E) and the time in which each area emerged and became established is depicted in Table 3.

Table 3. Age of islands considered on the biogeographic analyses. First column corresponds to the name of the island / archipelago, second column indicates the minimum age of the area and third column indicates the paper from which the age information comes from.

Islands	Minimum age (Mya)	Paper
Scotia Arc	9.0	Dalziel et al. 2013b
Galapagos	3.0	Parent et al. 2008
Tristan da Cunha and Gough	2.5	Maund et al. 1988
Bouvet	1.0	Prestvik and Winsnes 1981

4. Results

4.1. UCE data information

We initially captured 4,096-4,940 UCE loci from each of the 22 penguins and the outgroup genomes. After quality filtering and sampling for subsets allowing missing data, we recovered a final dataset of 1,971 UCEs present in at least 18 lineages, 78% of total specimens. The final alignment length was of ~2,2 million base pairs (bp) per individual (incomplete matrix), with 73.4% of pairwise identity, with 0.7% identical sites and 39,457 parsimony informative sites. As expected for UCE data (Blair et al. 2018), the sequences showed an AT bias of 62.5% *versus* 37.5% of GC content. The best fit sequence evolution model for our data is TVM+F+R2, a base substitution transversion model, with equal transversion rates and unequal base frequencies, empirically estimated. Additionally, it considers the FreeRate model for rate heterogeneity across sites with two categories (Yang 1995; Soubrier et al. 2012).

4.2. A robust phylogeny of extant penguins

All phylogenetic inference approaches recovered the same genus-level topology, with 100% bootstrap (ML), 1.0 posterior probability (Bayesian inference), and 1.0 local posterior probability (multispecies coalescent) (Figure 4). *Aptenodytes* was recovered as the sister group to all other extant penguins, followed by the divergence of *Pygoscelis*. We also recovered the two main internal clades, *Spheniscus*/*Eudyptula* and *Eudyptes*/*Megadyptes*.

In the genus *Pygoscelis*, *Pygoscelis adeliae* is the first pygoscelid species to diverge, followed by *P. antarcticus* and *P. papua*. Within *P. papua*, the Crozet lineage was the first to diverge, followed by Kerguelen and the Atlantic lineages (Falkland and Antarctic). The genus *Spheniscus* had two internal clades, one with the lower latitude *S. mendiculus* and *S. humboldti* species and another with *S. magellanicus* and *S. demersus* species.

Finally, two main *Eudyptes* lineages were found. One including the paraphyletic *E. chrysolophus* (macaroni penguin) and *E. c. schlegeli* (royal penguin), in which the

macaroni sample from Marion Island (Indian Ocean) is more closely related to the New Zealander royal penguin than to the Atlantic macaroni penguin from Elephant Island (located in the West Antarctic Peninsula). The other *Eudyptes* lineage recovered was represented by the New Zealander penguins *E. pachyrhynchus* (Fiordland penguin) and *E. sclateri* (erect-crested penguin) as sister group to the rockhopper penguins. Inside the rockhoppers, *E. chrysocome* (Southern rockhopper) and *E. filholi* (Eastern rockhopper) are evolutionarily closer between each other than to *E. moseleyi* (Northern rockhopper).

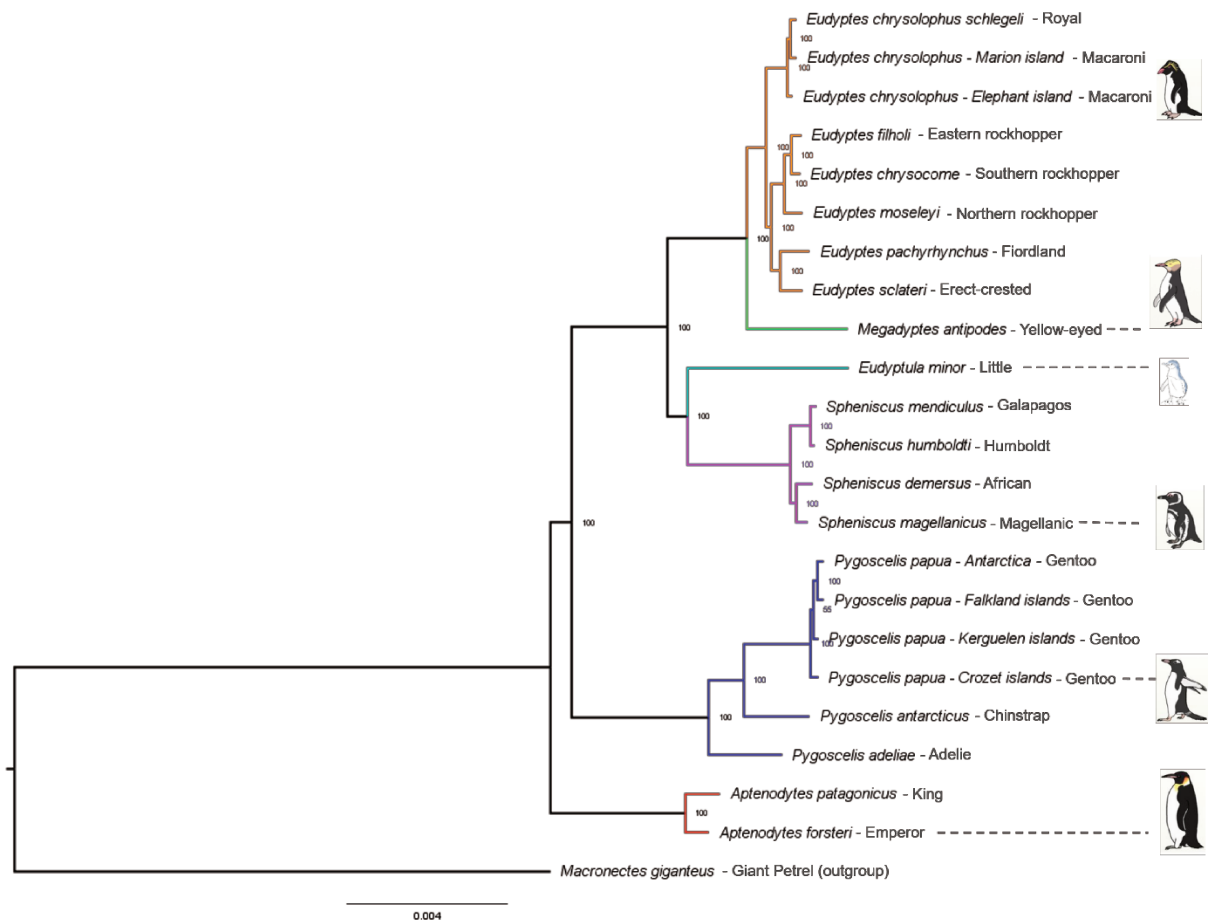


Figure 4. Maximum likelihood phylogenetic tree generated by IQ-TREE of the 23 individuals sampled in our study. Node labels indicate bootstrap values recovered by the ultrafast bootstrap approximation (UFBoot) in IQ-TREE. Branches are colored according to penguin genera: *Aptenodytes* (red), *Pygoscelis* (dark blue), *Spheniscus* (purple), *Eudyptula* (light blue), *Megadyptes* (green) and *Eudyptes* (yellow).

The tree topology tests revealed that the genus-level topology recovered by our study (*i.e.* H1- *Aptenodytes* sister to all extant genera) has a statistically significant superior log-likelihood than the contrasting phylogeny in literature (*i.e.* H1'- *Aptenodytes*+*Pygoscelis* as sister to the other genera). The KH, SH and AU tests rejected the alternative literature, and RELL and ELW returned much higher posterior weights for our topology compared to the alternative one. KH, SH and AU's p-values and RELL and ELW posterior weights are depicted in Table 4.

Table 4. Tree topology tests performed in IQ-TREE. First column corresponds to the hypotheses tested: (H1) corresponds to the *Aptenodytes* sister to all extant genera, and (H1') corresponds to *Aptenodytes* and *Pygoscelis* as a clade sister to the other extant genera. LogL is the log-likelihoods of each model. Bp-RELL represents the bootstrap proportion using RELL method, p-KH is the p-value of one sided Kishino-Hasegawa test, p-SH is the p-value of Shimodaira-Hasegawa test, c-ELW is the model selection probability of the expected likelihood weights (ELW), and p-AU is the p-value of the approximately unbiased (AU) test. Positive signs (+) indicate the best fit topology and negative signs (-) indicate the rejected topology under each test.

H	logL	bp-RELL	p-KH	p-SH	c-ELW	p-AU
1	-3782435	1 (+)	1 (+)	1 (+)	1 (+)	1 (+)
1'	-3782999	0 (-)	0 (-)	0 (-)	7.18^{-200} (-)	1.21^{-05} (-)

4.3. A Miocene origin of Spheniscidae

Divergence time estimation recovered a Miocene divergence of Spheniscidae approximately 21.9 Mya (95% highest posterior density - HPD - interval 19.1 - 25.2 Mya), when *Aptenodytes* diverged from the other penguin taxa (Figure 5). *Pygoscelis* and the clade containing the remaining genera diverged 20.3 Mya (95% HPD 17.4 - 22.9 Mya), and *Eudyptes*/*Megadyptes* and *Spheniscus*/*Eudyptula* 14.1 Mya (95% HPD 11.3 - 16.7 Mya). *Eudyptula* diverged from *Spheniscus* 12.6 Mya (95% HPD 9.4 - 16.1

Mya). *Megadyptes* and *Eudyptes* diverged 6.4 Mya (95% HPD 4.9 - 8.1 Mya) (APPENDIX - Table 6).

All species-level divergence events occurred in the past 10 million years. The *Aptenodytes* species diverged 2.6 Mya (95% HPD 1.0 - 4.4 Mya). In the *Pygoscelis* lineage, *P. adeliae* diverged from their congeners 8.4 Mya (95% HPD 6.4 - 11.2 Mya), followed by *P. antarcticus* and *P. papua* at 4.9 Mya (95% HPD 2.4 - 7.8 Mya). The banded penguins have a more recent divergence: *Spheniscus magellanicus*/*S. demersus* (Magellanic/African penguins) and *S. mendiculus*/*S. humboldti* (Galapagos/Humboldt penguins) divergence was estimated in 2.7 Mya (95% HPD 1.6 - 3.8 Mya). *S. magellanicus*/*S. demersus* speciation likely occurred in 1.5 Mya (95% HPD 0.04 - 2.7 Mya) and *S. mendiculus*/*S. humboldti* in around 591.3 thousand years ago (95% HPD 0.007 - 1.4 Mya). Finally, the two main *Eudyptes* lineages diverged at approximately 4.6 Mya (95% HPD 0.03 - 3.7 Mya). *E. moseleyi*, *E. chrysocome* and *E. filholi* diverged from *E. pachyrhynchus*/*E. sclateri* 3.06 Mya (95% HPD 0.1 - 5.3 Mya).

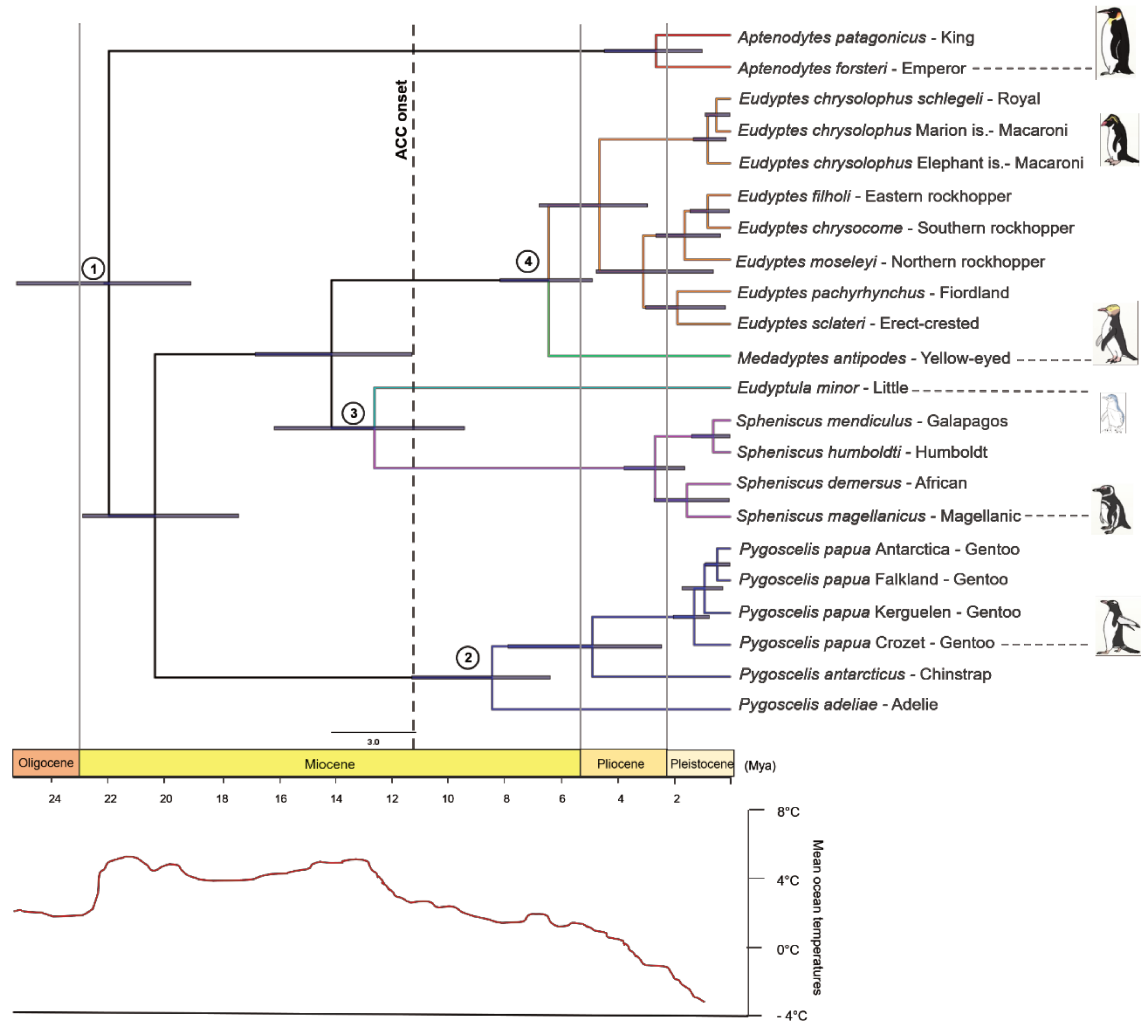


Figure 5. Dated phylogenetic tree of the extant penguin taxa recovered by BEAST v.2.5.2. Numbered nodes indicate calibration points depicted in Table 2: 1) Spheniscidae is calibrated with the fossil *Madrynornis mirandus*, 2) *Pygoscelis* with *Pygoscelis calderensis*, 3) *Spheniscus/Eudyptula* with *Spheniscus muizoni* and 4) *Eudyptes/Megadyptes* with *Eudyptes* sp. Blue bars correspond to the 95% highest posterior densities (HPD) probabilities. The Antarctic circumpolar current (ACC) complete onset is represented by the gray dashed line at 11.6 Mya. Mean ocean temperatures are depicted below, following information from Zachos et al. (2014).

4.4. Australia/New Zealand as the ancestral range of crown penguins

Biogeographic history estimation recovered a most likely ancestral range of “I” (*i.e.* Australia/New Zealand coasts and nearby islands) under most models (DEC, DIVALIKE, and DIVALIKE+J) (Figure 6b). Among the six biogeographic tested models, DIVALIKE+J was the best fit to our data (AICc = 158.3) (Table 5), followed by DEC+J (AICc = 159.2). BAYAREALIKE (AICc = 181.1) and BAYAREALIKE+J (AICc = 164.7) were the models the worst fit to our data. Both BAYAREALIKE and BAYAREALIKE+J performed worst in our data, as expected, once these models are based on the unrealistic premise that vicariance does not occur (*i.e.* cladogenesis events cannot occur concomitantly with area separation events) (Moyle et al. 2016).

Table 5. BioGeoBEARS tested models’ statistics. First column indicates the models (DEC, DIVALIKE, BAYAREALIKE with and without the inclusion of the *j* parameter); “LnL” column indicates the log-likelihood of our data given each model; “d” (dispersal), “e” (extinction) and “j” (jump dispersal) columns indicate the likelihood of their respective parameters; “AICc” indicates the corrected Akaike information criterion and “Weights” the weighted AICc of the models. Bold line (DIVALIKE+J statistics) indicates the best fit of the six tested models, with the lowest AICc and highest weight.

Model	LnL	d	e	j	AICc	Weights
DEC	-78.47	0.026	0.017	0	161.8	0.07
DEC+J	-75.68	0.015	0.0009	0.093	159.2	0.26
DIVALIKE	-77.26	0.027	0.010	0	159.4	0.24
DIVALIKE+J	-75.23	0.022	5.5e-08	0.058	158.3	0.41
BAYAREALIKE	-88.10	0.031	0.12	0	181.1	4.7e-06
BAYAREALIKE+J	-78.44	0.020	0.034	0.120	164.7	0.01

When comparing the nested models’ (*e.g.* DEC is nested in DEC+J) AICc and log-likelihoods, the models which included the jump dispersal (“j”) parameter were the best fit to our data. This implies that models which allow long distance dispersal and cladogenesis events to occur simultaneously are more suitable to analyze the extant penguin radiation. The importance of incorporating the founder-event speciation parameter has been previously shown in oceanic island species, such as wild coffee plants in the Hawaiian island system (Matzke 2014), in the diversification of songbirds

(Moyle et al. 2016), and anole lizards (Poe et al. 2017). This seems to be the case of extant penguins as well, which have a wide distribution in Southern Ocean islands and coasts.

According to our ancestral range estimates, Spheniscidae penguins likely originated in the Australia/New Zealand region, where most of the extant taxa initially diversified. Despite that, an early colonization of the Antarctic continent was performed by *Aptenodytes* clade ancestor, but further radiation of the extant *A. patagonicus* (king) and *A. forsteri* (emperor) species and expansion to other areas only occurred later in the Pliocene. *Pygoscelis* ancestors were the next to step out of the original Australian/New Zealander distribution, colonizing the Antarctic Peninsula by early Miocene, and only later settling in the Antarctic continent, in the case of the *P. adeliae* (Adelie penguin) ancestor, and Indian Ocean islands.

Spheniscus ancestor's expansion to South America likely occurred around 12.7 Mya and a much younger expansion to South Africa occurred only during late Pliocene (~2.65 Mya). According to the DIVALIKE+J model, the ancestor of *Spheniscus/Eudyptula* colonized South America, implying a posterior re-colonization of the Australian / New Zealander quadrant by *Eudyptula*'s ancestor. However, the second-best model, DEC+J, recovered an exclusive *Spheniscus* colonization of South America (APPENDIX Figure 7c), indicating that the *Eudyptula* lineage did not disperse further its original distribution, which is more biologically plausible. The same case is true for *S. magellanicus* (Magellanic) and *S. demersus* (African penguin), which are depicted as an originally South African clade in the DIVALIKE+J model, but in the DEC+J only *S. demersus* colonizes the region at early Pleistocene (~1.5 Mya). Again, the later hypothesis is more plausible than a *S. magellanicus*' South America – South Africa – South America dispersal supported by the first hypothesis. The re-colonization of South America (in the latter case) and Australia and New Zealand (in the *Eudyptula*'s case) by close related clades are both hardly likely due to the east wise flow of Southern Ocean cold currents (e.g. the Antarctic Circumpolar Current), as will be discussed in the following sections.

Finally, the *Eudyptes/Megadyptes* ancestor likely inhabited Australia and New Zealand. *Megadyptes antipodes* is the only species whose current distribution remained entirely within the ancestral range, while *Eudyptes* ancestor likely inhabited

the Indian Ocean islands. Within the *Eudyptes* clade, *E. chrysolophus* (Macaroni and Royal penguins) ancestor dispersed to the Antarctic Peninsula at 4.62 Mya, later colonizing the other locations of its current distribution, while the ancestor of the remaining *Eudyptes* re-colonized Australia and New Zealand. The New Zealander penguins *E. sclateri* (Erected-crested) and *E. pachyrhynchus* (Fiordland) diversified within their ancestor's range, while the rockhoppers (*E. chrysocome*, *E. filholi* and *E. moseleyi*) later dispersed to other locations, such as the newly formed Tristan da Cunha archipelago in the case of *E. moseleyi* (Northern rockhopper) and the Falkland islands in the case of *E. chrysocome* (Southern rockhopper).

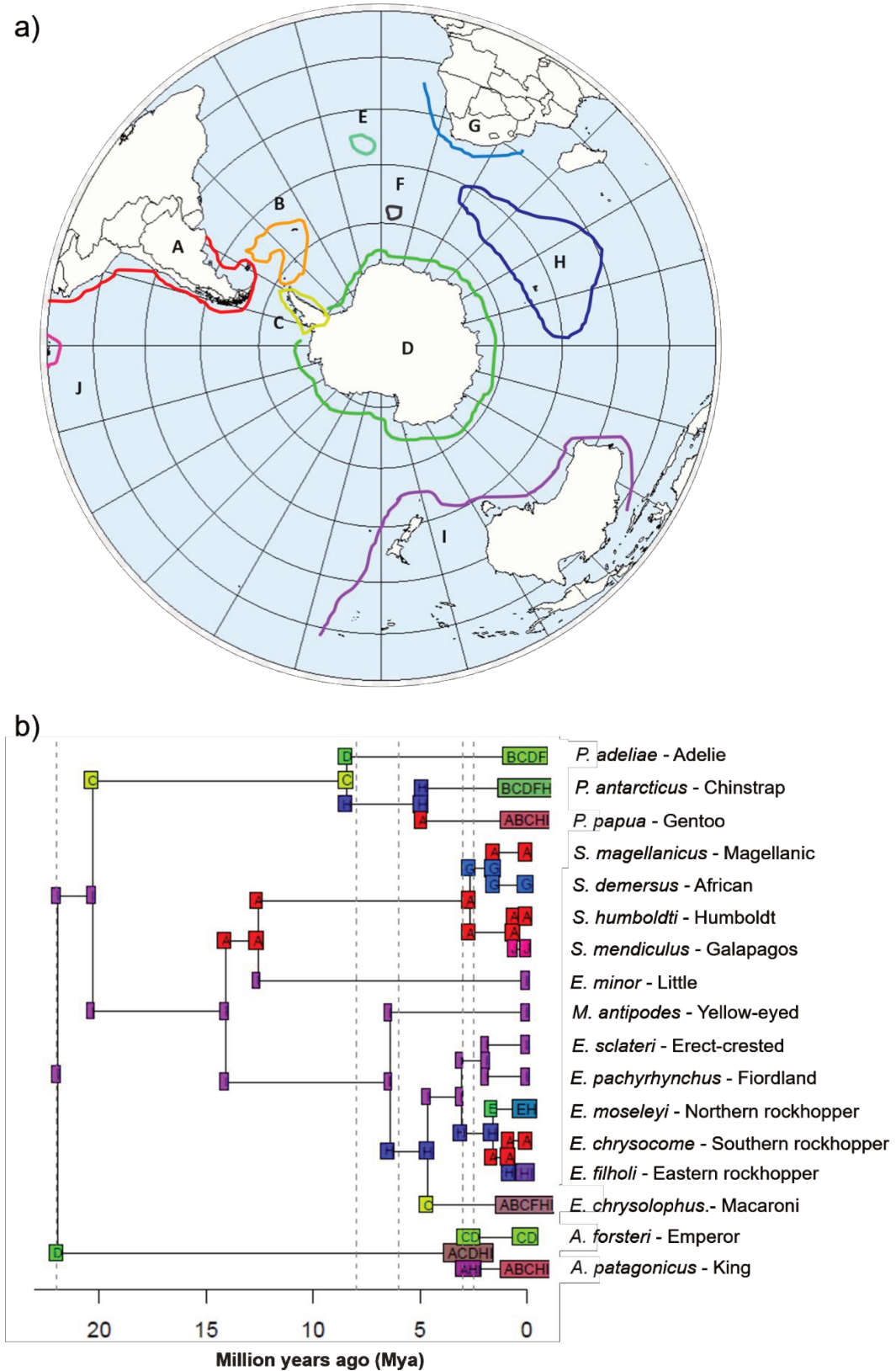


Figure 6. Ancestral range estimation results under the DIVALIKE+J model. a) Geographic locations of the areas inputted in BioGeoBEARS: A) South American coasts and Falkland islands; B) Scotia Arc islands; C) Antarctic Peninsula; D) Antarctic

continent; E) Tristan da Cunha and Gough islands; F) Bouvet islands; G) South African coasts; H) Indian Ocean islands; I) Australia/New Zealand coasts and nearby islands; and J) Galapagos islands; b) Ancestral range reconstruction tree. Ranges on the tips of the tree represent the current distribution of the species, ranges on the nodes represent the most likely distribution of the clade ancestral, and ranges on the vertices represent the range distribution right after cladogenesis events.

5. Discussion

5.1. UCEs unravel the evolutionary history of extant penguins

Genome-wide ultraconserved elements allowed us to recover a robust and highly supported phylogeny of extant penguins, in which *Aptenodytes* is sister group to the remaining penguin genera. Our genus-level phylogeny and tree topology tests found a higher likelihood for our hypothesis, which was also the relationship recovered by previous studies (*e.g.* Bertelli and Gianni 2005, Baker et al. 2006; Bertelli et al. 2006; Ksepka et al. 2006; Clarke et al. 2007; Ksepka and Clarke 2010) and reject the *Aptenodytes/Pygoscelis* clade hypothesis (from Subramanian et al. 2013; Gavryushkina et al. 2017; Cole et al. 2019). These last studies, which recovered a deep *Aptenodytes/Pygoscelis* relationship, used different datasets: Subramanian et al. (2013) used five genes (mitochondrial genes: 12S, 16S, cytochrome oxidase 1 - COI, and cytochrome b; nuclear gene: recombination-activating gene 1 - RAG-1) and five introns, Cole et al. (2019) used mitogenomes, while Gavryushkina et al. (2017) made a total-evidence analysis with morphological and molecular data with the same five genes as Subramanian et al. (2013).

The recovery of a different topology from our nuclear genomic-scale study was likely due to the poor choice of molecular markers by previous works. Although mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is free from recombination and, therefore, commonly used for phylogenetic inference, various studies have found inconsistencies in trees inferred with mtDNA and nuclear markers due to introgression and/or incomplete lineage sorting (ILS) (*e.g.* Carr et al. 1986; Funk and Omland 2003; Weisrock et al. 2005; Leaché and McGuire 2006; Wang et al. 2018). Thus, the mitochondrial and nuclear genes (*e.g.* 12S, 16S, RAG-1) used by the three studies that recovered *Aptenodytes/Pygoscelis* may have undergone ILS in the *Aptenodytes* and *Pygoscelis* lineages, recovering a sister lineage relationship. Moreover, the short internal branch recovered by our analysis at the divergence of *Aptenodytes* from other penguins likely indicates that a rapid radiation event occurred in less than 1 million years, possibly by multiple cladogenesis events occurring simultaneously in various lineages (Weisrock et al. 2005). This may have led to the recovery of the *Aptenodytes/Pygoscelis* clade by previous studies that used a small quantity of genes, which may have not separated

concomitantly with the lineages divergence, once fewer than 10 loci may be incapable of recovering rapid divergence events (Oliveros et al. 2019) Not only our coalescent analysis, but also the amount of genome-wide data used in our concatenated tree allowed the detection of the deep “*Aptenodytes*/other penguins” lineage splitting event. In addition, we performed further ML tree reconstructions with other high-throughput molecular markers (*e.g.* introns, coding-sequences, mitogenomes) (data not shown, publication in progress), which also recovered the same genus and species-level tree topology, in agreement with our UCEs tree results.

At the species level, we recovered the already well-established relationships within *Spheniscus* (African/Magellanic and Galapagos/Humboldt penguins) and *Pygoscelis* (Adelie sister to chinstrap/gentoo penguins) (Baker et al. 2006; Gavryushkina et al. 2017; Cole et al. 2019). Regarding the relationships among *Eudyptes*’ species, literature is more controversial. Gavryushkina et al. (2017) found the same topology as our study, recovering the clade including *E. moseleyi*, *E. chrysocome*, *E. filholi* sister to the *E. pachyrhynchus* and *E. sclateri* penguins (and the Snares penguin, not included in our study) and a second clade including *E. chrysolophus* (macaroni) and *E. chrysolophus schlegeli* (royal) penguins.

As our phylogeny indicates, despite their morphological differences, *E. c. schlegeli* (royal) and *E. chrysolophus* (macaroni) are not separated monophyletic clades from the genetic point of view, as it had already been stated by Frugone et al (2018). Royal penguins are endemic to the sub-Antarctic Macquarie island and have a white face phenotype, while macaroni penguins are widespread in the sub-Antarctic islands of the three main oceans and have a black-face phenotype. A putative secondary contact between the two former species may have led to introgression events that makes it impossible to dissociate between the two of them using identification markers such as COI (Frugone et al. 2018). In this scenario, our results, in combination with Frugone et al. (2018), indicate a major need in the revaluation of the clade’s taxonomic status.

Other previous studies which used birds UCEs to explore recent radiation events at the family level also recovered robust and well supported phylogenies. White et al. (2017) recovered a highly supported Nyctibiidae family (potoos) phylogeny using both concatenated and multispecies coalescent methods. They also allowed different levels of missing data (ranging from 75% to 100%), which showed no influence on the

robustness of the tree. Hosner et al. (2015) recovered highly supported landfowl (Aves: Galliformes) phylogenies under both concatenated and coalescent approaches but recovered more robust phylogenies when including only the most informative UCE loci.

All these studies, in the absence of reference genomes, sequenced the UCEs following proper probe design protocols, different from our study, in which we captured the UCEs from whole genomes. Generally, they captured a bigger quantity of UCE loci (2 to 4,8 k UCEs) with smaller flanking regions (UCE total length = ~100 bp in White et al. 2017, and 226 to 386 bp in Hosner et al. 2015) compared to our genome captured UCE dataset, due to quality trimming process. However, their final alignment lengths used for phylogenetic analyses were similar to the 2 billion bp of our study. On the other hand, Meiklejohn et al. (2016) estimated the phylogenetic relationships of the Phasianidae (pheasants and allies) using 1,479 UCEs of 193 to 774 bp (median = 400 bp) length, with a much smaller alignment length compared to our study (~599k bp). They observed low bootstrap support under some multispecies coalescent methods, which they resolved selecting more parsimony informative sites.

Using much smaller alignment lengths, such as the ~599k bp Meiklejohn et al. (2016), may not allow recovering full bootstrap support under multispecies coalescent methods. We therefore evidence, in agreement with Streicher et al. (2015), that the UCE power of phylogenetic resolution lies mostly on the high quantity of data this marker is able to provide, and that using smaller quantities of UCEs (< 1,500 loci) in combination with small UCE sizes (*e.g.* < 500 bp) may impact on the robustness of estimates. Nevertheless, these previous works in combination with our present study highlight the potential of UCEs in recovering robust phylogenetic results inside Aves. Besides their easiness of alignment among evolutionary distant taxa, low levels of saturation (McCormack et al. 2012) and abundance throughout vertebrate genomes (Bejerano et al. 2004), UCEs have shown to be useful in recovering conflicting phylogenetic relationships at the taxonomic level we have studied.

5.2. The importance of fossil calibration on penguin divergence time estimation

Our study recovered an early Miocene (~21.9 Mya) estimation for Spheniscidae origin, which is closer to the latest divergence time estimates of extant penguins

(Subramanian et al. 2013; Gavryushkina et al. 2017; Cole et al. 2019) than to the older Eocene estimate of Baker et al. (2006). The main factors that must have influenced in a more recent estimation are the calibration priors. Baker et al. (2006) only used external calibration priors, in contrast with more recent works. Additionally, the *Madrynornis mirandus* crown fossil, which Cole et al. (2019) and our study used to calibrate the Spheniscidae root, was discovered and identified by Acosta Hospitaleche et al. in 2007, right after Baker et al. (2006) publication.

The absence of a maximum calibration bound in a phylogeny can cause low substitution rates and arbitrary old divergence time estimates (Ho and Phillips 2009). Therefore, the use of *M. mirandus* as a Spheniscidae root calibration constraint pulled the divergence of Spheniscidae estimation to a more recent time, in the Miocene epoch. The inclusion of more recent calibration maximum and its impact on divergence time estimates have already been observed in other studies with different organisms, such as land plants (Morris et al. 2018), arthropods (Blair and Hedges 2004) and more recently in passerine birds (Oliveros et al. 2019).

Previous studies have shown that calibration uncertainty have a major influence over time estimation on phylogenies (Lee et al. 2009; Warnock et al. 2015; Morris et al. 2018). Not only the inclusion of the calibration itself, but the minimum and maximum bounds determined by prior densities have great impact on the estimates (Ho and Phillips 2009; Heled and Drummond 2011; Lee and Skinner 2011). Due to the relative abundance of crown penguin fossil record and the well-known stratigraphic layers in which they have been found (Ksepka and Ando 2011), the determination of calibration distribution and intervals made by Cole et al. (2019) and used by our study are among the most accurate so far under the node dating method we used.

Although Gavryushkina et al. (2017) estimated a much younger age for crown penguins of 12.7 Mya (95% HPD: 9.9 - 15.7), using a total-evidence approach for the dating and the fossilized birth-death model (Stadler 2010), all 95% HPD node age intervals of their study overlap with our estimates. The same is true for the Cole et al. (2019) and Subramanian et al. (2013) estimates, although the later used a smaller dataset of extant species and comparison among various nodes was not possible (APPENDIX, Table 6). However, these studies recovered the contrasting phylogenetic hypothesis (*Aptenodytes* and *Pygoscelis* as sister taxa) and it is recognizable that the

different tree topology has influenced the calibration used Subramanian et al. (2013). This study did not include the *M. mirandus* calibration prior but calibrated the misguided *Aptenodytes/Pygoscelis* clade with *Pygoscelis grandis* (~7.6 Mya) (Walsh and Suárez 2006), which pulled the Spheniscidae to a much younger age than Baker et al. (2006), closer to our estimate. Thus, even though the latest time divergence studies on extant penguin recovered similar age estimates to our results, the divergence nodes recovered by them are presumably wrong representations of the evolutionary history of penguins.

5.3. The influence of ocean dynamics and tectonics on penguin radiation

We estimated an early Miocene origin for Spheniscidae in the Australia/New Zealand region. The patterns of species radiation and range expansion suggests the fundamental role of the Antarctic circumpolar current (ACC) and global climate cooling events in the evolutionary and biogeographic history of extant penguins. The ACC is the largest ocean current in the world and encircles the Southern oceans eastward completely, allowing the admixture of the three main Southern oceans - Atlantic, Indian and Pacific (Barker et al. 2007). The timing of the ACC onset has been a debate (for a review, see Barker et al. 2007), but Dalziel et al. (2013a) has shown evidence that the onset of the deep ACC likely occurred 11.6 Mya (upper age limit), after the opening of the Drake Passage (between South America's Cape Horn and Antarctic Peninsula's South Shetland islands) and complete opening of the East Scotia Sea.

The influence of the ACC on extant penguin evolution and distribution has already been addressed by previous studies (Baker et al. 2006; Vianna et al. 2017; Cole et al. 2019) as well as with other marine species (Macaya and Zuccarello 2010; Nikula et al. 2010; Fraser et al. 2012). While most of the initial penguin radiation events took place in the Australia/New Zealand sector during the Miocene, the *Aptenodytes* and *Pygoscelis* penguins' ancestor colonized the Antarctic region (areas "D" – Antarctic Continent and "C" – Antarctic Peninsula respectively) by early Miocene, while Antarctic ice sheets were reduced compared to their current and previous Oligocene extent (Zachos et al. 2001). The *Aptenodytes* extant species divergence and expansion out of Antarctica, on the other hand, occurred much later during the Pleistocene glaciation, with a range expansion allowed by the ACC onset and possibly

correlated with permanent Antarctic ice sheet establishment (Zachos et al. 2001), especially for the *Aptenodytes patagonicus* (king penguin) lineage, which holds a sub-Antarctic distribution (Borboroglu and Boersma 2015).

Although the *Pygoscelis* ancestor inhabited the Antarctic Peninsula around 20.31 Mya, lineage-specific dispersal events, such as the colonization of Antarctic continent by the *P. adeliae* (Adelie) and the Indian Ocean islands by *P. antarcticus* (Chinstrap) and *P. papua* (Gentoo), occurred only after the ACC opening. Although not explored by our biogeographic analyses, our phylogeny in combination with previous more detailed population studies have shown that the relationship among Crozet, Kerguelen and Atlantic gentoo penguins follows the ACC direction. Vianna et al. (2017) included the same gentoo lineages of our study in addition to populations from Heard (Indian Ocean), Macquarie (Pacific Ocean) and Mirtillo islands (Patagonia) and also identified the pattern of eastern wise migration, following the ACC flow.

This would also be the case of the *Spheniscus/Eudyptula* ancestors, which colonized South America and Falkland Islands (area “A”) by the end of the middle Miocene climate transition (MMCT). This would have been possible due to a putative proto-ACC at approximately 12.57 Mya, which would enable the dispersal from the Australia/New Zealand region to South America in a clockwise direction (Barker et al. 2007), pattern which was already observed for South American and New Zealander mollusks (Beu et al. 1997). The posterior colonization of South African lower latitudes and the Galapagos islands in the Pleistocene occurred over the Pleistocene glaciation phase and may have been aided by the ACC and the north flow of the Benguela and Humboldt currents respectively.

While *Eudyptula*, *Megadyptes* and the *Eudyptes* clade including *E. sclateri* and *E. pachyrhynchus* divergences occurred entirely within the Australia/New Zealand quadrant, the *E. moseleyi*, *E. chrysocome*, *E. filholi* and *E. chrysolophus* showed a major range expansion pattern. *E. chrysolophus* likely dispersed to their currently broad distribution on the sub-Antarctic islands in multiple colonization events. For *Eudyptes moseleyi*, *E. chrysocome* and *E. filholi* (rockhoppers), whose ancestors likely inhabited sub-Antarctic and temperate regions, we can identify that the Subtropical front (STF) must have played an important role as a barrier separating the *Eudyptes moseleyi* species from *E. chrysocome* and *E. filholi*. The STF is a non-circular ocean

front between sub-Antarctic and temperate waters in the Southern oceans and is an effective barrier for gene flow for *Eudyptes* penguins, delimiting the occurrence of the *E. moseleyi* at the north and *E. chrysocome* and *E. filholi* south of the STF (Frugone et al. 2018).

Another oceanic front which played a key role in the diversification of the *Eudyptes* clades was the Antarctic Polar Front (APF). As showed in section 5.1., the macaroni and royal penguins (*E. chrysolophus*) genomic data indicates that the two species are likely experiencing a secondary contact. The relatedness between the royal penguin from the Macquarie islands and the macaroni from Marion island can be explained by the fact that both lineages are located north of the APF, while the more evolutionary distant macaroni penguin from Elephant island is located south of this front. Therefore, the APF likely played a key role in the genetic differentiation among the two macaroni penguins and, in combination with the ACC, may have aided the secondary contact between royal and macaroni penguins north of the APF.

Ocean fronts have been previously shown to be significant barriers for gene flow for organisms with both benthic (Griffiths et al. 2009; Poulin et al. 2014) and pelagic lifestyles, such as fish and cetaceans (Shaw et al. 2004; Rogers et al. 2006; Fontaine et al. 2007). Clucas et al. 2018 explored the effect of Southern Ocean fronts on *Pygoscelis papua* and *Aptenodytes patagonicus*, whose populations are distributed to the north and to the south of the Antarctic Polar Front (APF). Even for the more vagile *A. patagonicus*, the APF showed to be an important barrier for gene flow among colonies, which was more intensely observed for the coastal *P. papua* (Gentoo penguin). In this scenario, we the APF and STF likely played key roles in the macroevolution of penguins within their wide Southern Ocean distribution.

In combination with the ocean circulation dynamics and fronts, global climate changes have played key roles in penguin evolution. Global warmth events in early Miocene may have allowed the Antarctic continent colonization by the *Aptenodytes* ancestor, which was not covered by the present day eastern high-magnitude and thick ice-shelf (Flower and Kennett 1994). In contrast, temperature drops on global climate during the Miocene and Pleistocene may have orientated their expansion and diversification. The middle Miocene climate transition (MMCT) (Shevenell et al. 2004) is likely related with the expansion of the *Spheniscus/Eudyptula* ancestor to South

America. Indeed, the more recent late Pliocene-Pleistocene glaciations (De Schepper et al. 2014) are concurrent with most penguin speciation events and with lower latitude expansion events, such as *S. demersus* and *S. mendiculus* expansions to South Africa and Galápagos islands respectively, and *Aptenodytes patagonicus* to a sub-Antarctic distribution.

Our observation of cladogenesis events accompanied the onset of lower global temperatures periods in the Pliocene-Pleistocene boundary, which may have forced penguins to colonize warmer and ice-free grounds. In this case, we can agree with Baker et al. (2006) regarding that a second wave of cladogenesis events accompanied falls in mean global temperatures and expansion of sea ice, which may have led to the colonization of lower latitude areas and, consequently, radiation of various penguin genera. These events would have also been allowed by north-flowing ocean currents (such as the Humboldt and Benguela currents) and available habitats and niches at the new regions, such as Galapagos islands and South African coasts.

Studying past diversification patterns is essential for speculating the future trends and putative resilience ability of species facing climate changes scenarios. Clucas et al. (2014) modeled possible “winners” (populations which will expand with climate warming) and “losers” (populations which will retract with climate warming) in the global warming scenario through the demographic history of *Pygoscelis* penguins under the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM). They showed that *P. adeliae* and *P. antarcticus*, which likely had population expansions during the LGM, would be “losers” under future climate change, in contrast with *P. papua*, who would be “winners”. Additionally, further modeling studies alert for possible loss and restrictions on *Aptenodytes forsteri* and *A. patagonicus* current distribution range due to possible oceanographic disturbances mainly caused by climate change (Jenouvrier et al. 2017; Cristofari et al. 2018).

Although species response to specific environmental pressures can only be modeled and investigated in detail under microevolutionary studies (Gienapp et al. 2008), our findings point out for the radiation and adaptation of extant penguins in low global temperatures. Our study shows a potential correlation between global cooling and diversification events in penguins, putatively accompanied by ancestral niche expansion and diversification during expansion to new habitats. Thus, we alert for the

importance of investigating more penguin taxa's resilience modeling under the future climate warming scenario in order to detect future population trends that may even affect whole species.

6. Conclusions

Our analyses recovered an early Miocene divergence of Spheniscidae and a phylogenetic relationship in which *Aptenodytes* is the first lineage to diverge, followed by *Pygoscelis* and finally by the clade containing *Eudyptes/Megadyptes* and *Spheniscus/Eudyptula*. Most speciation events occurred during the Pliocene and Pleistocene, according to our estimates, during mean global temperature drops. The Antarctic circumpolar current is likely the fundamental factor that describes the extant penguin distribution patterns. We demonstrate how high-throughput genomic data can support the resolution of incongruences in the evolutionary history of penguins and how tree topology and fossil calibration can highly influence the divergence time estimation of the group. Our results can aid further interspecific and intraspecific comparisons on the importance of ocean and climate conditions in the radiation of different penguin species, which can be useful to model these birds' putative responses to the ongoing climate change conditions.

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APPENDIX

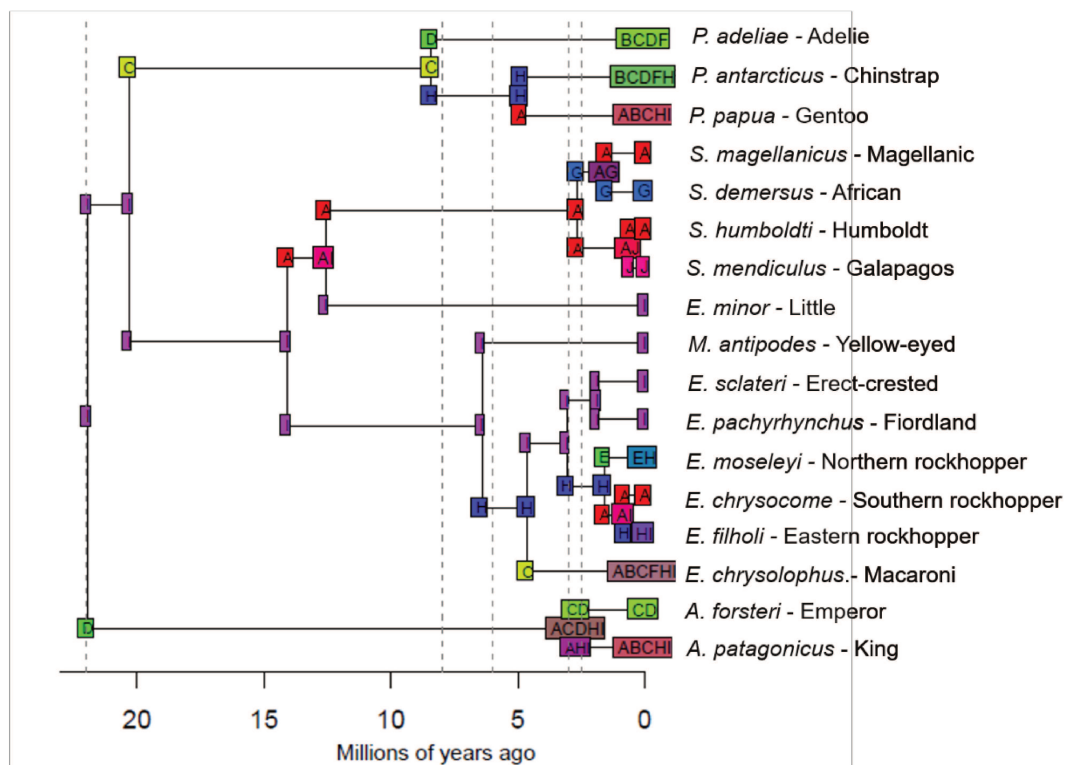
Table 6. Divergence time estimates in 95% high posterior density (HPD) intervals. First column represents the description of the node, second column the 95% HPDs of our study, and remaining columns represent estimates from previous studies in literature which recovered Miocene estimates. *S*: *Spheniscus*; *Ea*: *Eudyptula*; *Es*: *Eudyptes*; *M*: *Megadyptes*.

Nodes	Our study	Literature		
		Cole et al. (2019)	Gavryushkina et al. (2017)	Subramanian et al. (2013)
Spheniscidae	19.0 - 25.1	22 - 12.5	9.9 - 15.7	17.0 - 23.8
<i>Pygoscelis</i> / <i>S+Ea+Es+M</i>	17.3 - 22.8	-	-	-
<i>S+Ea</i> / <i>Es+M</i>	11.2 - 16.7	17.1 - 10.6	7.9 - 12.9	13.6 - 18.2
<i>Spheniscus</i> / <i>Eudyptula</i>	9.3 - 16.1	13.9 - 9.3	7.1 - 11.9	11.0-15.0
<i>Eudyptes</i> / <i>Megadyptes</i>	4.8 - 8.1	9.3 - 4.7	3.2 - 6.8	10.0 - 12.2
<i>A. forsteri</i> / <i>A. patagonicus</i>	1.0 - 4.4	5.1 - 2.0	0.7 - 2.4	-
<i>P. adeliae</i> / <i>P. antarcticus</i> + <i>P. papua</i>	6.3 - 11.2	10.4 - 4.9	3.3 - 9.0	5.0 - 9.1
<i>P. antarcticus</i> / <i>P. papua</i>	2.4 - 7.8	8.2 - 3.5	1.6 - 5.2	-
<i>P. papua</i> Crozet/ others	0.7 - 2.0	-	-	-
<i>P. papua</i> Kerguelen/ Atlantic	0.2 - 1.6	-	-	-
<i>P. papua</i> Falkland/ Antarctica	0.008 - 0.8	-	-	-
<i>S. demersus</i> + <i>S. mendiculus</i> / <i>S. magellanicus</i> + <i>S. demersus</i>	1.6 - 3.7	3.0 - 1.4	0.9 - 2.3	-
<i>S. mendiculus</i> / <i>S. humboldti</i>	0.007 - 1.3	1.6 - 0.6	0.6 - 1.8	-
<i>S. magellanicus</i> / <i>S. demersus</i>	0.04 - 2.6	2.2 - 0.9	0.5 - 1.6	0.9 - 3.1
<i>Eudyptes</i> / <i>Eudyptes</i>	2.9 - 6.7	5.3 - 2.7	1.4 - 3.3	5.3 - 2.7

<i>E. chrysolophus</i> Elephant/	0.1 - 1.2	-	-	-
<i>E. schlegeli</i> / <i>E. chrysolophus</i> Marion	0.009 - 0.8	-	0.1 - 0.7	-
Rockhoppers/ <i>E. pachyrhynchus</i> + <i>E. sclateri</i>	0.6 - 4.7	4.9 - 2.4	-	4.9 - 2.4
<i>E. pachyrhynchus</i> / <i>E. sclateri</i>	0.1 - 2.9	3.5 - 1.7	1.0 - 2.6	3.5 - 1.7
<i>E. moseleyi</i> / <i>E. filholi</i> + <i>E. chrysocome</i>	0.3 - 2.6	2.7 - 1.2	0.3 - 1.2	2.7 - 1.2
<i>E. filholi</i> / <i>E. chrysocome</i>	0.02 - 1.4	1.3 - 0.5	0.09 - 0.5	1.3 - 0.5

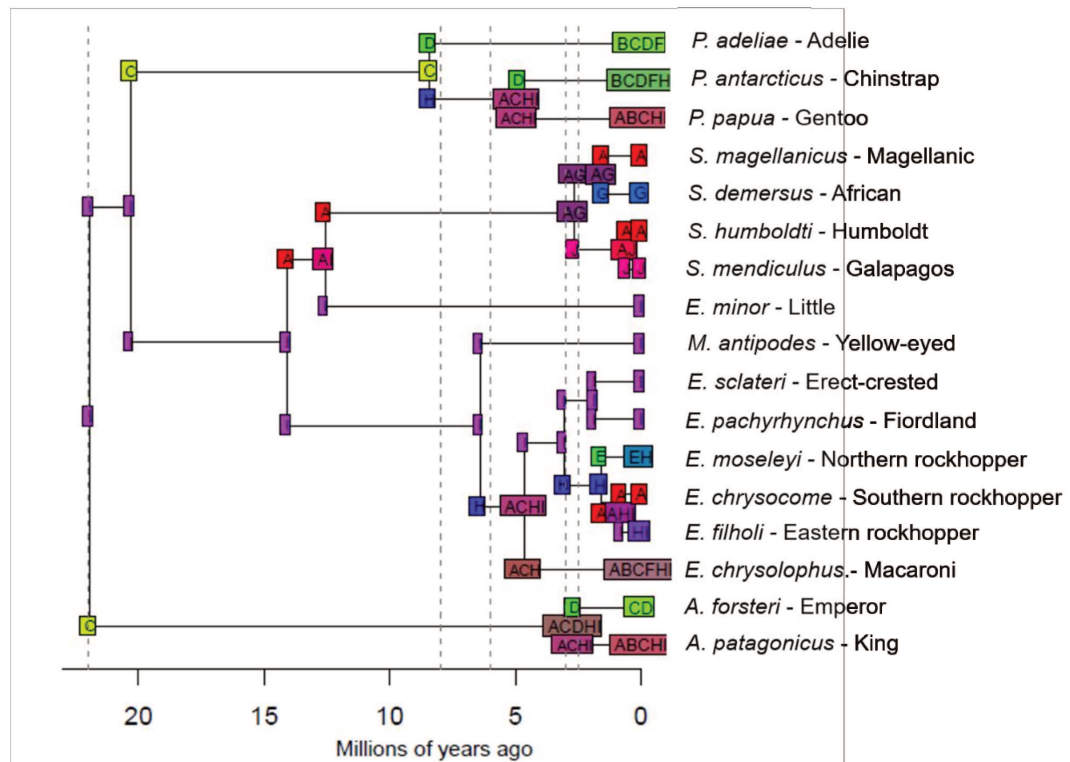
a)

DIVALIKE



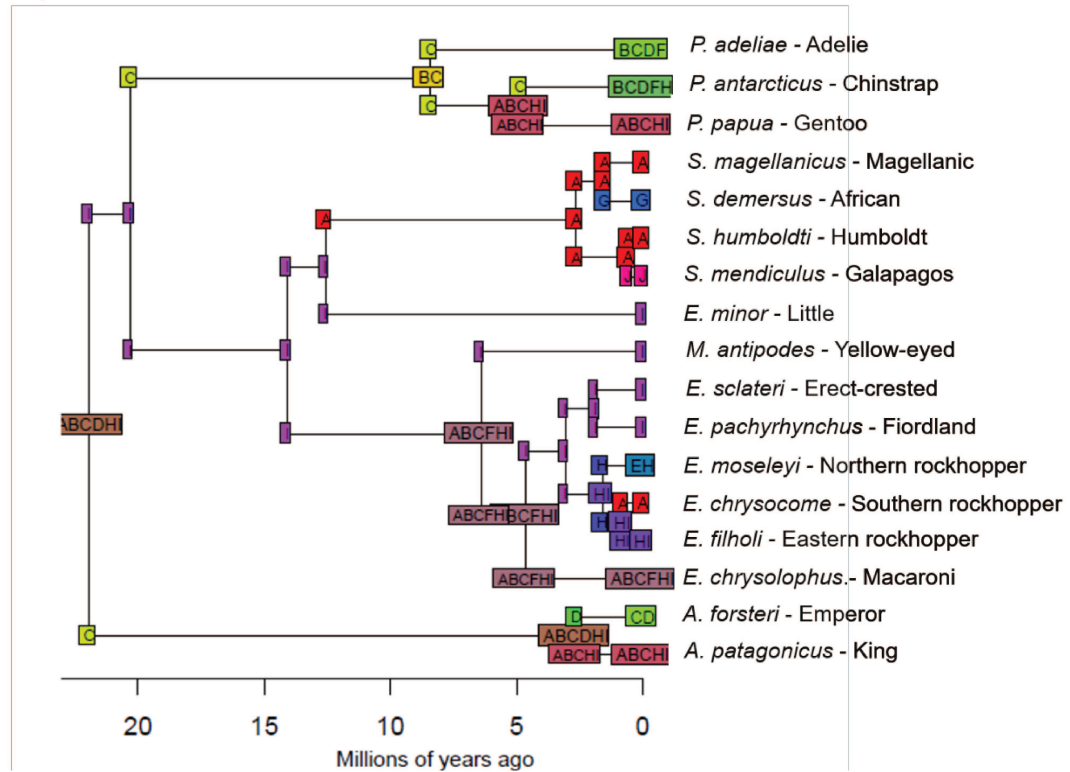
b)

DEC



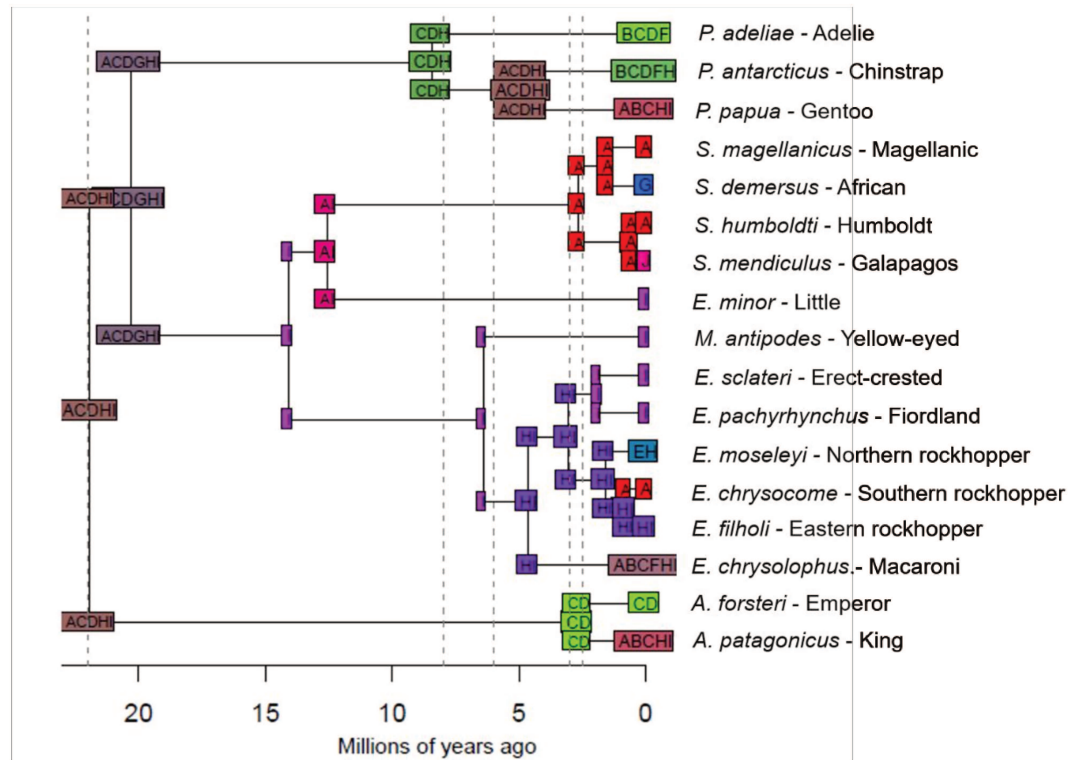
c)

DEC+J



d)

BAYAREALIKE



e)

BAYAREALIKE+J

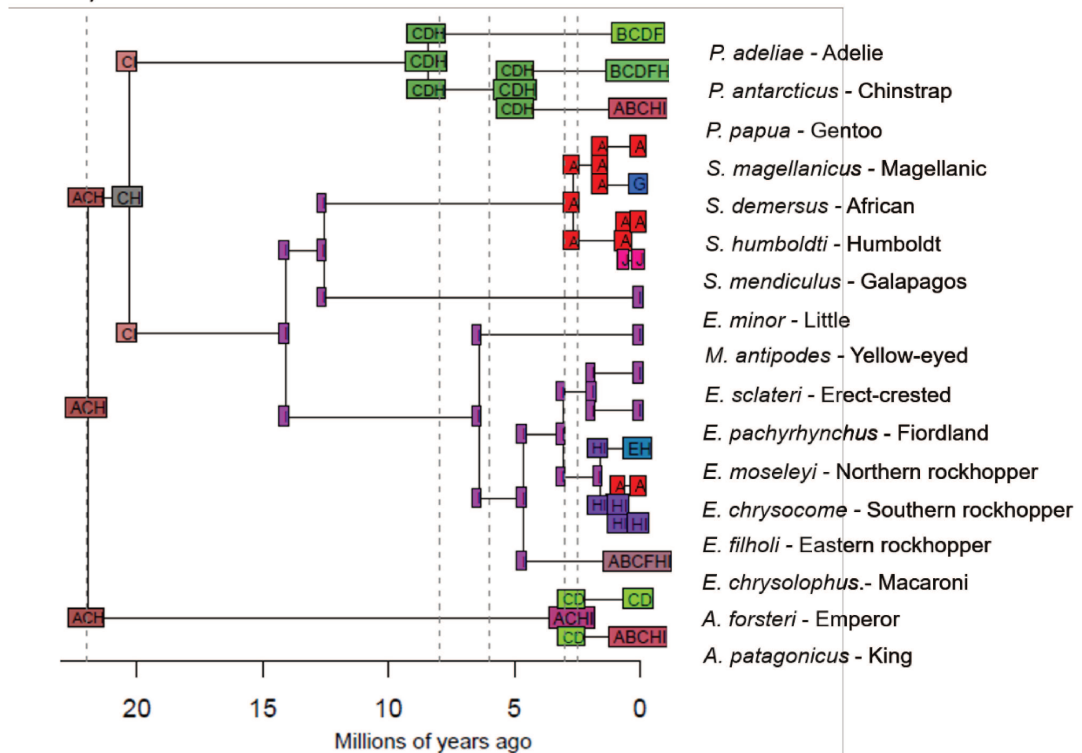


Figure 7. Ancestral range estimation results under the a) DIVALIKE; b) DEC; c) DEC+J; d) BAYAREALIKE; e) BAYAREALIKE+J models. Geographic locations of the areas inputted in BioGeoBEARS: A) South American coasts and Falkland islands; B) Scotia Arc islands; C) Antarctic Peninsula; D) Antarctic continent; E) Tristan da Cunha and Gough islands; F) Bouvet islands; G) South African coasts; H) Indian Ocean islands; I) Australia/New Zealand coasts and nearby islands; and J) Galapagos islands. Ranges on the tips of the tree represent the current distribution of the species, ranges on the nodes represent the most likely distribution of the clade ancestral, and ranges on the vertices represent the range distribution right after cladogenesis events.

ATTACHMENT I



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DECLARAÇÃO

Em observância ao §5º do Artigo 1º da Informação CCPG-UNICAMP/001/15, referente a Bioética e Biossegurança, declaro que o conteúdo de minha Dissertação de Mestrado, intitulada "HISTÓRIA EVOLUTIVA E BIOGEOGRÁFICA DOS PINGUINS VIVENTES (AVES: SPHENISCIDAE) USANDO DADOS GENÔMICOS", desenvolvida no Programa de Pós-Graduação em Genética e Biologia Molecular do Instituto de Biologia da Unicamp, não versa sobre pesquisa envolvendo seres humanos, animais ou temas afetos a Biossegurança.

Assinatura: Flávia AN Fernandes
Nome do(a) aluno(a): Flávia Akemi Nitta Fernandes

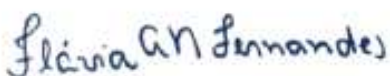
Assinatura: [Signature]
Nome do(a) orientador(a): Mariana Freitas Nery

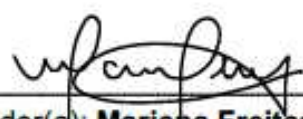
ATTACHMENT II

Declaração

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Campinas, 25 de junho de 2019

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