Evolution of dispersal and life history interact to drive accelerating spread of an invasive species

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ABSTRACT

Populations on the edge of an expanding range are subject to unique evolutionary pressures acting on their life-history and dispersal traits. Empirical evidence and theory suggest that traits there can evolve rapidly enough to interact with ecological dynamics, potentially giving rise to accelerating spread. Nevertheless, which of several evolutionary mechanisms drive this interaction between evolution and spread remains an open question. We propose an integrated theoretical framework for partitioning the contributions of different evolutionary mechanisms to accelerating spread, and we apply this model to invasive cane toads in northern Australia. In doing so, we identify a previously unrecognized evolutionary process that involves an interaction between life-history and dispersal evolution during range shift. In roughly equal parts, life-history evolution, dispersal evolution, and their interaction led to a doubling of distance spread by cane toads in our model, highlighting the potential importance of multiple evolutionary processes in the dynamics of range expansion.

INTRODUCTION

There is a growing appreciation that rapid evolution can alter ecological processes in important ways (e.g., Ellner *et al.*, 2011; Schoener, 2011). Rapid adaptation, for example, can change population dynamics in managed fisheries (Law, 2000) and fundamentally alter disease dynamics (Ewald, 1994). The rate at which a species shifts its range is another ecological process for which rapid evolution is increasingly seen as important. Predicting a species' rate of range shift has long been a major focus of ecologists (e.g., Elton, 1958), because the magnitude of damage caused by noxious invasive species is determined by the speed and extent to which these species spread (Epanchin-Niell & Hastings, 2010). Range shift is also critical to our understanding of how species track climate change: both historical climate change (Skellam, 1951; Clark, 1998) as well as the rapid anthropogenic shifts we are currently experiencing (Parmesan & Yohe, 2003). Thus, a full understanding of the drivers of range expansion is an imperative for applied ecological research, and rapid evolution may well be an important facet of that understanding.

A phenomenon of interest in any range expansion is the possibility of increasing spread rates over time. Accelerating spread has been observed in many invasions (Veit & Lewis, 1996; Crooks & Soule, 1999; Urban *et al.*, 2008), and four purely ecological mechanisms—long-distance dispersal, Allee effects, density-dependent dispersal, and temporal variability—have been invoked to account for this phenomenon (Kot *et al.*, 1996; Veit & Lewis, 1996; Shigesada & Kawasaki, 1997; Ellner & Schreiber, 2012). An additional, evolutionary, explanation has also been proposed. This evolutionary explanation builds on the well-established principle that spread rate is determined jointly by population growth and dispersal at the invasion front (Fisher, 1937) and argues that evolved changes in either dispersal or the life-history traits governing population growth can cause accelerating spread (Holt *et al.*, 2005).

We might expect life-history and dispersal traits to evolve during spread for three related reasons. First, dispersal phenotypes are spatially assorted on the invasion front—only the best dispersers are represented at the leading edge of the front—and this leads to assortative mating by dispersal (Shine *et al.*, 2011). Second, because the leading edge of the invasion front is

at low density relative to populations behind it, individuals at the edge may experience little competition from conspecifics and so have high absolute fitness relative to individuals in the core of the range. Together, spatial assortment and the increased fitness of invasion-front individuals drive the evolution of increasing dispersal on the leading edge of the invasion front: an interaction of evolutionary forces that has been termed "spatial selection" (Phillips *et al.*, 2008b, 2010b). Third, life-history traits of populations at the edge can evolve in response to natural selection in the traditional sense. That is, life-history phenotypes that result in greater contributions to population growth under low-density conditions at the invasion front will be represented more among future occupants of the invasion front, wherever that may be (Holt *et al.*, 2005; Phillips, 2009; Perkins, 2012).

Recent theoretical work has shown that these evolutionary forces can all generate phenotype change at the edge of an expanding range, that this change gives rise to accelerating spread, and that the extent of spread acceleration observed in nature can be achieved with modest heritabilities and realistic levels of selection (Travis & Dytham, 2002; Travis *et al.*, 2005, 2009; Burton *et al.*, 2010; Bénichou *et al.*, 2012; Bouin *et al.*, 2012; Perkins, 2012). This theoretical work has meanwhile been corroborated by numerous empirical demonstrations of evolved phenotypic changes in range-shifting populations (Simmons & Thomas, 2004; Hughes *et al.*, 2007; Léotard *et al.*, 2009; Rogers & Siemann, 2004; Phillips *et al.*, 2006, 2008a; Phillips, 2009) and the implication that such phenotype changes have resulted in accelerating spread in at least one case (Phillips *et al.*, 2008a). Despite these multiple lines of evidence, an empirical link between trait evolution and accelerating spread has yet to be made.

This linkage is necessary because it is currently not known the extent to which accelerating spread is derived from rapid evolution in real-world examples. Further, we currently have no idea as to the relative roles of evolution of traits with direct impacts on population growth (hereafter "life-history traits") versus those directly related to dispersal (hereafter "dispersal traits") in driving accelerating spread. Analyses of stage-structured integrodifference equations (Neubert & Caswell, 2000; Caswell *et al.*, 2003; Jongejans *et al.*, 2008) and spatial integral projection

models (Jongejans *et al.*, 2011) show that shifts in either life-history or dispersal traits can impact spread rates, but these analyses do not account for the evolutionary processes that may or may not have led to those differences.

To integrate the three evolutionary forces outlined above and quantify their potential contributions to spread, we propose a general model that combines the well-known theories of stage-structured population dynamics, integrodifference equations, and evolutionary quantitative genetics. The structure of this model is necessarily more complex than other quantitative-genetic models employed for the study of spatial phenomena in evolutionary ecology (e.g., Kirkpatrick & Barton, 1997), because those models do not have the capacity for dispersal evolution (although see Bénichou *et al.*, 2012; Bouin *et al.*, 2012). At the same time, the model we propose is more easily parameterized with data and makes less specific assumptions than individual-based models (e.g., Burton *et al.*, 2010). The resulting model is complex but can nonetheless be parameterized using commonly measured data: life tables, dispersal kernels, phenotype distributions, and heritabilities. Here we apply this model to the well-studied cane toad invasion of Australia, for which data to parameterize the model are readily available.

The cane toad (*Rhinella marina*) was first introduced in northeastern Australia in 1935. Since then it has spread to occupy more than 1.3 million km^2 of the continent (Urban *et al.*, 2007). Importantly, while toads initially spread at around 10 $km \cdot yr^{-1}$, their spread rate across northern Australia has steadily increased so that they now spread at around 50 $km \cdot yr^{-1}$ (Urban *et al.*, 2008; Phillips *et al.*, 2006). Furthermore, life-history evolution and dispersal evolution have both been documented in the toads' invasion across northern Australia (Phillips *et al.*, 2006, 2008a, 2010b; Phillips, 2009), and contemporary estimates of the phenotype distributions of two life-history traits (tadpole stage duration, metamorph growth) and one dispersal trait (dispersal distance) are available from near the introduction site (Gordonvale) and at a more recently invaded population (Timber Creek).

The confluence of these observations affords us a unique opportunity to place our analysis of the relative contributions of different evolutionary processes to spatial spread in an empir-

ical context. Initializing the model with phenotypes from the introduction site, we compare phenotype evolution and distance spread after 72 years under model scenarios with differing assumptions about trait heritability. Examining differences in phenotype distributions and distance spread between model scenarios allows us to isolate the relative effects of the evolution of life-history versus dispersal traits. Under our model, evolutionarily-derived increases in cane toad spread are driven roughly equally by life-history evolution, dispersal evolution, and, unexpectedly, by an interaction between the two. Combined, these evolutionary processes more than double distance spread in the model.

METHODS

Methodological Overview

We developed a model with the specific intent of examining distance spread under different evolutionary scenarios. Our objective was not to determine how close different evolutionary scenarios came to emulating the observed spread of toads, but to understand the relative impacts of different evolutionary mechanisms on the joint dynamics of phenotype change and spatial spread. We realized different evolutionary scenarios by setting initial heritabilities either to zero or to some realistic positive value. The model was parameterized wherever possible with data, and initial heritabilities were selected such that the model produced changes in phenotype means close to differences between contemporary estimates of phenotype means in populations located near the introduction site (Gordonvale) and at a more recently invaded area (Timber Creek).

The Variables

The model we use is designed to describe the dynamics of population densities, continuous genotype distributions, and continuous phenotype distributions of multiple life stages in discrete time and continuous space. A general framework for modeling such dynamics for any collection of traits and an arbitrary categorization of life stages is presented in the Supporting Information. The following description pertains to an application of that framework to cane toads.

Population densities of cane toad juveniles $J_t(x)$ and adults $A_t(x)$ are censused once per year t along a single spatial dimension x. These densities are further distributed across values of three quantitative traits: duration of the tadpole stage (T), metamorph growth rate (M), and dispersal tendency (D). Due to how they enter the model, we sometimes refer to T and M together as "life-history traits" (L) and to D as the "dispersal trait."

Also at each time t and location x, the model follows the joint probability distributions, $\psi_{J,t}(\mathbf{g}, x)$ and $\psi_{A,t}(\mathbf{g}, x)$, of genotypes, $\mathbf{g} = (g_T, g_M, g_D)$, defined on the same scales of measurement as the traits themselves. At the onset of an invasion, we assume that these genotypes are multivariate normally distributed about their means with additive genetic variance $\mathbf{G}$. The bearers of each genotype combination possess phenotypes, $\mathbf{z} = (z_T, z_M, z_D)$, that are multivariate normally distributed with mean equal to their genotype value and variance $\mathbf{E}$ attributable to various environmental and non-additive genetic sources. Consequently, joint phenotype distributions, $\psi_{J,t}(\mathbf{z}, x)$ and $\psi_{A,t}(\mathbf{z}, x)$, are also multivariate normally distributed with variance $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{G} + \mathbf{E}$ at the onset of invasion. Thereafter, all genotype and phenotype distributions are free to depart from their initial forms due to selection and gene flow. The initial heritability of trait i, h_i^2, is then equal to $\mathbf{G}_{i,i}/\mathbf{P}_{i,i}$. We constrained all covariances between traits to zero, although the modeling framework is flexible in this regard.

The Model

We now describe the biological assumptions and processes governing the spatiotemporal dynamics of the aforementioned variables for cane toads. A detailed mathematical exposition of the general modeling framework and additional information about the numerical implementation of the cane toad model are available in the Supporting Information.

For the population-dynamic component of the model, we apply an existing model of cane toad population dynamics (Lampo & De Leo, 1998) at local populations along the spatial dimension x. Per-capita recruitment to the juvenile stage is a product of clutch size ϕ, egg survival σ_E, tadpole survival σ_T, and metamorph survival σ_M (Fig. 1, top left). Survivals through the

tadpole and metamorph stages are not fixed, however (Fig. 1, top). Assuming constant daily mortality risks for tadpoles and metamorphs, survival through each of these stages depends on how long it takes for toads to progress through them. Accordingly, maximal survival through the tadpole stage under ideal conditions can be written as

$$\hat{\sigma}_T(z_T) = \hat{\sigma}_{T,\text{daily}}^{z_T}, \tag{1}$$

where $\hat{\sigma}_{T,\text{daily}}$ is maximal daily survival. Consistent with Lampo & De Leo (1998), we define realized survival through the tadpole stage as a density-dependent function

$$\sigma_T(z_T) = \frac{\hat{\sigma}_T(z_T)}{1 + dT}, \tag{2}$$

where d is the strength of density dependence and $T = \phi\sigma_E A$ is tadpole density. The metamorph phenotype, on the other hand, is defined as a growth rate. By stipulating that passage through the metamorph stage requires some critical amount of growth, we can calculate the survival of a metamorph with a relatively fast or slow growth rate by raising baseline metamorph survival $\tilde{\sigma}_M$ to a power of the ratio of the baseline growth rate $\tilde{z}_M$ with that individual's growth rate z_M; i.e,

$$\sigma_M(z_M) = \tilde{\sigma}_M^{\tilde{z}_M/z_M}. \tag{3}$$

After surviving those preliminary stages, a proportion σ_J of juveniles survives to adulthood in the second year (Fig. 1, right), and a proportion σ_A of adults survives to each year thereafter (Fig. 1, bottom).

The dynamics of local populations distributed along the spatial dimension x are linked by a dispersal event each year. We assume that juveniles do not move far enough to be of any consequence at a geographic scale, so we only model dispersal explicitly for adults. The outcome of this dispersal event is governed by a probability density function $k(x, x')$ that determines how a population at each location x' redistributes itself to all other locations x. We implement dispersal

with a kernel that depends on the distance $|x - x'|$ between locations and on an individual's dispersal phenotype z_D (Fig. 1, bottom).

Phenotype-dependent survival and dispersal in the model allow for the possibility of genetically based evolution, provided that there is variation among genotypes (i.e., any entry of $\mathbf{G} > 0$). Because our model specifies the relationship between the distributions of phenotypes and the genotypes that underlie them, we can directly calculate how phenotype-dependent survival and dispersal shape the genotype distributions, $\psi_{J,t}(\mathbf{g}, x)$ and $\psi_{A,t}(\mathbf{g}, x)$. Following selection on juveniles, maturation to adulthood, and adult dispersal, adult toads mate randomly to produce the distribution of genotypes that will enter the juvenile cohort in the following year (Fig. 1, left). The full mathematical form of the model can be reproduced by applying the preceding details to the general model formulation presented in the Supporting Information.

Parameterization

Distributions of life-history phenotypes in our model were parameterized by fitting normal distributions to the relevant subset of the values of z_T and z_M measured in Phillips (2009) (Fig. 2, bottom left and center). Specifically, we used phenotype measurements from juveniles reared in a common laboratory environment whose parents were collected *in situ* near either Gordonvale or Timber Creek and then bred in a common laboratory environment (Phillips, 2009). Thus, there is strong evidence that the differences between the distributions of z_T and z_M between these populations are genetic in origin. The fitted distributions from offspring of toads collected near Gordonvale served as the initial conditions of these distributions in our model at the onset of invasion. Likewise, the fitted distributions from offspring of toads collected near Timber Creek served as the empirical benchmark against which the life-history phenotypes in our model were compared after 72 years of spread. Values of all other parameters in the population-dynamic component of the model were taken from Lampo & De Leo (1998).

The dispersal component of the model was parameterized using radiotracking data from Phillips *et al.* (2008a). The subset of toads from that study that we used here were collected *in*

situ near either Gordonvale or Timber Creek and held in a common environment for two months. Thereafter, toads were released at a common location in the field and radiotracked for five nights, rendering a list of daily movement distances and turning angles for each released individual. This experimental design ensured that environmental effects at the time of observation were controlled for, and a subsequent study (Phillips *et al.*, 2010a) demonstrated a clear genetic basis to differences between the populations at Gordonvale and Timber Creek. To then obtain a distribution of displacements over 180 days (the approximate length of the active season for toads in northern Australia), we summed 180 resampled daily movements for each toad 10^5 times. Assuming that daily movements are independent and identically distributed for each individual, the sum of daily movements over the course of a season should converge to a normal distribution. With the further assumption that movements were isotropic, and thus that there was zero mean displacement, each individual's normal dispersal kernel has a single variance parameter σ^2 that determines the scale of its dispersal. Finding that these individual variances are approximately lognormally distributed, we defined the dispersal phenotype as $z_D = \log(\sigma^2)$ to obtain a normally distributed dispersal phenotype appropriate for our model. The distribution of z_D at the onset of invasion was then parameterized by fitting a normal distribution to all $\log(\sigma^2)$ of toads collected near Gordonvale (Fig. 2, bottom right). Likewise, the normal distribution of z_D fitted to all $\log(\sigma^2)$ of toads collected near Timber Creek served as the empirical benchmark against which the dispersal phenotype in our model was compared after 72 years of spread (Fig. 2, bottom right).

The evolutionary component of our model was parameterized by setting the initial heritability of each trait to the value that resulted in a change in phenotype mean after 72 years equal to the difference between phenotype means measured at Gordonvale and Timber Creek (Fig. 2, bottom). For the life-history traits, we picked initial heritabilities that satisfied this criterion given a simplified model of phenotype change in which selection at the invasion front was assumed to remain consistent for the very small population size that defined the location of the moving invasion front (details available in the Supporting Information). Because no simpler

model of dispersal evolution in this context is possible, we used the full model to pick an initial heritability for the dispersal trait consistent with the difference between phenotype means at Timber Creek and Gordonvale. This resulted in the following values for the initial heritabilities: $h_T^2 = 0.10$, $h_M^2 = 0.16$, and $h_D^2 = 0.21$.

Analysis

Our primary aim was to determine the relative contributions of natural selection (on life-history) versus spatial selection (on dispersal) as drivers of phenotypic change and spread acceleration on moving invasion fronts. To determine the consequences of different scenarios in which these factors play varying roles, we compared phenotype means at the invasion front and distances spread after 72 years under different scenarios. The four scenarios we examined allowed neither, either, or both sets of traits to evolve by manipulating which traits had a positive initial heritability. Hereafter, we will refer to these scenarios using the convention L_0D_0, L_+D_0, L_0D_+, and L_+D_+, where the subscripts of L denote the positivity of both h_T^2 and h_M^2, and the subscripts of D denote the positivity of h_D^2. Positive values of initial heritabilities were consistent across scenarios.

RESULTS

Allowing traits to evolve led to substantial improvements in the model's ability to reproduce the phenomenon of accelerating spread observed by Urban *et al.* (2008). In the absence of genetic variation and evolution (L_0D_0), spread in the model proceeded at a constant rate to a distance of 470 km after 72 years (Fig. 3). Thus, the best available data indicate that variable but non-evolving dispersal is not sufficient to account for the accelerating spread of toads. Evolution of life-history and dispersal traits, run separately, increased distance spread to 601 km (L_+D_0) and 677 km (L_0D_+), respectively. When life-history and dispersal traits were allowed to evolve simultaneously (L_+D_+), spread accelerated markedly to a distance of 1004 km (Fig. 3): a 114% increase in distance spread relative to the scenario with no evolution.

Another important, and more general, result to emerge is that the extent to which traits evolve in the model is not consistent across scenarios. In particular, when all phenotypes were allowed to evolve independently in scenario L_+D_+, the life-history traits fell slightly short of their final values achieved in the L_+D_0 scenario, but the dispersal trait greatly exceeded the value it achieved in the L_0D_+ scenario (Fig. 2). The fact that the dispersal trait changed much more in L_+D_+ than in L_0D_+ implies an interaction between life-history and dispersal evolution during spread. Such an interaction can be explained by an increase in the strength of spatial selection acting on the dispersal trait. Because both spatial sorting and natural selection interact to drive the evolution of dispersal during spread (together, spatial selection), when population growth increases due to natural selection the rate of dispersal evolution also increases. This "enhanced spatial selection" strongly impacts the dispersal trait because of the gradient in that trait along the invasion front driven by spatial sorting. The distributions of the life-history traits, on the other hand, show no such gradient (because these phenotypes are not associated with dispersal distance) and so do not receive the additional evolutionary boost afforded to dispersal.

Finally, the scenarios we examined allow us to partition the spread increase in L_+D_+ relative to L_0D_0 into contributions from natural selection on life-history traits (24%), spatial selection on the dispersal trait (39%), and enhanced spatial selection on the dispersal trait that occurred as a byproduct of the evolution of the life-history traits and their impact on population growth (37%). Thus, changes in the dispersal trait were directly responsible for most (76%) of the increase in spread due to evolution, but nearly half of that increase was an indirect result of life-history evolution. The acceleration of cane toad spread in our model therefore appears not to have been dominated by any single trait or evolutionary process.

DISCUSSION

Although previous work has demonstrated genetically based evolution of cane toads (Phillips *et al.*, 2006, 2008b, 2010a; Phillips, 2009) and suggested that these changes might have accounted for accelerating spread across northern Australia (Phillips *et al.*, 2006, 2008a), ours is

the first study to connect these disparate data on phenotype change and spatial spread with a mathematical model. Our results show that modest heritabilities (0.10-0.21) are sufficient to account for phenotype changes between the introduction site and the invasion front (Fig. 2) and that these changes have large enough effects on population growth and dispersal to have a substantial impact on spread on the ecological time scale of interest (Fig. 3). By comparing phenotype changes and distances spread under different scenarios about the initial heritability of life-history and dispersal traits, we found that no single evolving trait dominated spread dynamics. Rather, life-history evolution, dispersal evolution, and an interaction between the two all appear to have made important contributions to the spatial spread of this invasive species. In particular though, the increase in spread due to an interaction between life-history and dispersal evolution identifies a new mechanism, which we term "enhanced spatial selection," for trait change during spread and highlights the importance of this process for the spread of invasive species.

The process of enhanced spatial selection would seem to be a general outcome of allowing both life history and dispersal to evolve during spread. If we recall that spatial selection on dispersal is the interaction between spatial assortment of dispersal phenotypes and differential population growth driven by density release, then we can see that higher population growth resulting from natural selection should indeed enhance spatial selection. More generally, any factor that modulates a gradient in population growth in the direction of spread has the potential to modulate dispersal evolution, enhancing or suppressing it depending on the direction of the gradient. For a species spreading into increasingly inhospitable conditions (e.g., to track a shifting climate), the action of spatial selection could be suppressed. Indeed, even without an environmental gradient, spatial selection can be suppressed by Allee effects (Travis & Dytham, 2002). Together, however, our model and the body of evidence for cane toads suggest that natural selection on life-history traits enhanced the evolution of dispersal traits in the cane toad invasion of northern Australia.

Moreover, the various mechanisms for trait change during range expansion are not simply

evolutionary curiosities but also drivers of ecological dynamics. In the case of the cane toad invasion of northern Australia, our analysis posits that genetically based trait change could have led to a more than twofold increase in the distance spread by cane toads over 72 years. This impact on spread appears equally attributable to three distinct mechanisms: natural selection, spatial selection, and enhanced spatial selection. In other systems, the contributions of these mechanisms will likely differ from those seen here, depending on patterns of genetic variation and selection. In related but strictly ecological analyses, some have shown that differences in demographic characteristics contribute more to differences in spread rates (Caswell *et al.*, 2003; Smith *et al.*, 2009), whereas others have shown that differences in dispersal play a larger role (Caswell *et al.*, 2003; Bullock *et al.*, 2008; Jongejans *et al.*, 2008). Although we are unable to provide general answers about when certain ecological or evolutionary mechanisms contribute more or less to spread, we do make the important advance of demonstrating the impact that rapid evolution can have on spread in a natural system and discovering the importance of an interaction between life-history and dispersal evolution. By building on our modeling framework (i.e., applying it to other species or developing novel extensions of it), others will be able to provide additional clarity on these issues.

Although our model is well-supported by empirical studies and well-suited to assessing the relative impacts of different evolutionary scenarios on spread, it should not be misconstrued as an attempt to thoroughly recreate the spread dynamics of cane toads. Most notably, the distance spread in our most plausible evolutionary scenario was only 58% of the empirical estimate of distance spread by Urban *et al.* (2008). This is unsurprising for several reasons, of which we comment on a few. First, and perhaps most importantly, spatial spread is an inherently stochastic process that is extremely difficult to predict, even in controlled laboratory environments (Melbourne & Hastings, 2009). Second, any number of factors not considered by our model could have affected spread, including spatiotemporal variability (Grosholz, 1996), genotype-by-environment interactions (Bowler & Benton, 2005), and subtle environmental gradients (Urban *et al.*, 2008). Incorporating such factors would likely only affect absolute predictions

of the model rather than relative predictions across evolutionary scenarios, which are our focus. Third, more exhaustive sampling of daily displacements by Phillips *et al.* (2008a) or assuming a leptokurtic form of the individual dispersal kernel could have led to much greater estimates of distance spread, but doing so would not be supported by available evidence and would not impact our findings. Despite these limitations, our analysis is clear about the relative impacts of different evolutionary mechanisms on spread, and it yields quantitative results about distance spread on the same order of magnitude as empirical estimates.

Our analysis should also not be construed as a complete recreation of the evolutionary history of cane toads in Australia. One source of uncertainty is that, for lack of historical evidence, we initialize phenotypes in the model based on contemporary estimates from Gordonvale and thus assume that the population there has evolved very little. The behavior of the model at the introduction site contradicts this assumption, however. With all $h_i^2 > 0$, changes in $\overline{z}_T$, $\overline{z}_M$, and $\overline{z}_D$ at the introduction site equal 76%, 84%, and 4% of the changes at the invasion front. This assumption of little change at the introduction site is therefore appropriate for dispersal evolution but less so for life-history evolution. Rather than bend the model to accommodate this behavior by calibrating initial phenotype distributions and heritabilities to potentially unrealistic values, we find a more parsimonious reconciliation of this discrepancy to be that the model of life-history evolution is simply less appropriate for the high-density context of an established population than it is for a low-density population on the invasion front (Phillips *et al.*, 2010b). Although further empirical studies of life-history evolution in the wild could provide clarity on this issue, such refinements would have little bearing on our qualitative results about the impact of different evolutionary forces on the dynamics of frontal populations. Another source of uncertainty is the evolutionary impact of a secondary introduction sometime around 1964-1968 in an area about 150 km ahead of the invasion front (Estoup *et al.*, 2004). Joint analysis of genetic data and historical distribution records, however, indicates relatively little signal of this secondary introduction in the genetics of descendent populations (Estoup *et al.*, 2010). Incorporating this secondary introduction into our model may therefore have little impact on

our estimates of evolution along the invasion front but could boost our estimate of distance spread.

Perhaps the most serious limiting assumption of our model is that about genetic variation. Our model does allow for changes in genetic variation due to selection and gene flow and for departures of the genotype distributions from normality (Turelli & Barton, 1994). It does not, however, account for changes in genetic variation due to drift. Even so, because we calibrated trait heritabilities to achieve empirically estimated shifts in trait means, allowing for a decay in heritability over time due to drift would have simply required a recalibration of our initial heritability estimates. The main consequence of this is that the initial heritability values that we used could somewhat underrepresent the true heritabilities during the early stages of the cane toad's invasion. In addition to genetic variation within traits, our modeling framework is also capable of accommodating genetic covariances among traits, but we have no such data for cane toads and likely will not for some time due to the difficulty of fully estimating the **G** matrix for non-model organisms. Despite these uncertainties, our model accords with empirical demonstrations that life-history and dispersal traits in cane toads are heritable and that they have shifted during the cane toad's rapid range expansion across northern Australia (Phillips *et al.*, 2006, 2008a, 2010a; Phillips, 2009).

CONCLUSION

Overall, we have developed a useful framework with which to explore the role of evolution in the ecological dynamics of range expansion. Applying this framework to cane toads, our results indicate that rapid evolution of life-history and dispersal traits at the invasion front could have led to a more than twofold increase in the distance spread by cane toads across northern Australia. Additionally, by partitioning evolutionary impacts on spread into those acting separately on life-history and dispersal traits, our analysis reveals a new mechanism for dispersal evolution under range shift: enhanced spatial selection. These results speak broadly to the importance of incorporating the capacity for trait change into spread models and into

ecological models more generally. Doing so can have dramatic impacts on the predictions flowing from such models and thereby on our capacity to anticipate and manage the dynamics of species undergoing range shifts during invasion or in response to climate change.

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505 # FIGURES

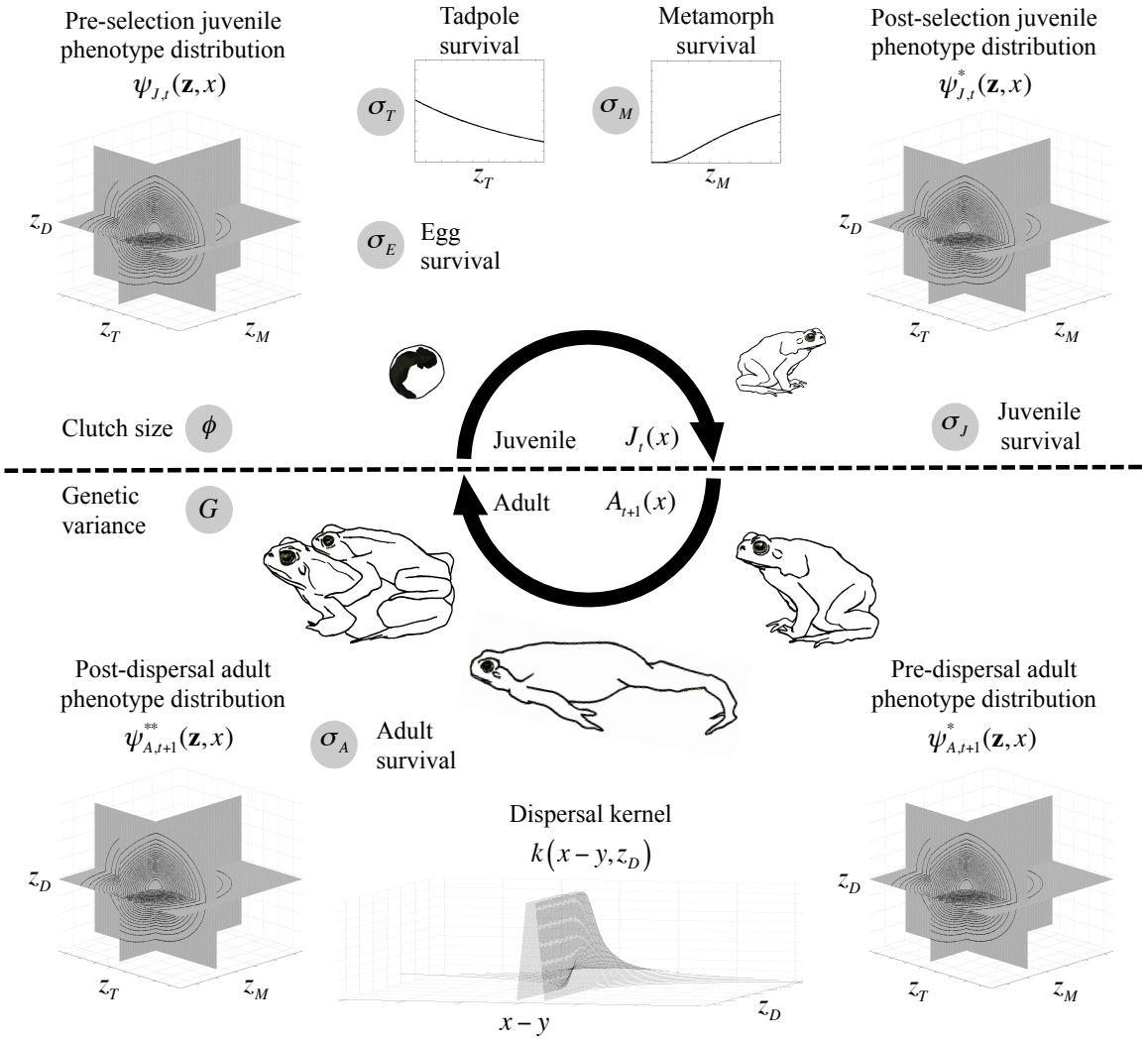

Figure 1. Model schematic showing the progression of the cane toad life cycle (clockwise) through the juvenile (top) and adult (bottom) stages. The four slice plots of the $\mathbf{z} = (z_T, z_M, z_D)$ phenotype space at some point in space x show the distinct phenotype distributions tracked by our model: $\psi_{J,t}(\mathbf{z}, x)$ (top left) is that of a virgin cohort; $\psi^*_{J,t}(\mathbf{z}, x)$ (top right) results from phenotype-dependent tadpole and metamorph survival; $\psi^*_{A,t+1}(\mathbf{z}, x)$ (bottom right) is comprised of newly matured adults and those surviving from past years; $\psi^{**}_{A,t+1}(\mathbf{z}, x)$ (bottom left) is the result of phenotype-dependent dispersal from and to each location. Model parameters are highlighted with gray backgrounds.

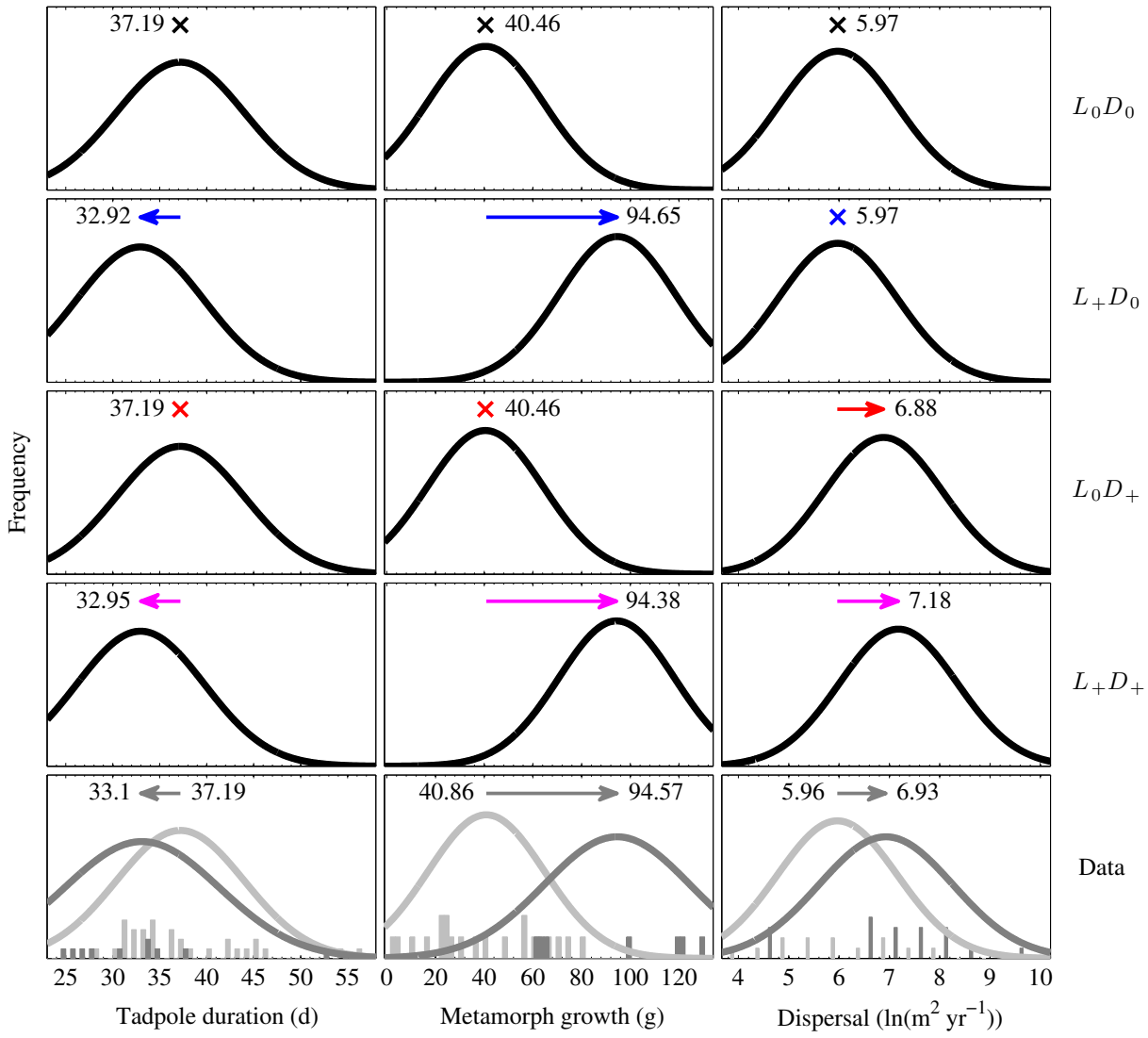

Figure 2. Phenotype marginal distributions of tadpole duration (left column), metamorph growth (center column), and dispersal tendency (right column), estimated from empirical data from Gordonvale (bottom row, light gray) and Timber Creek (bottom row, dark gray) and calculated with our model under different scenarios (top four rows) about initial heritability of life-history (L) and dispersal (D) traits (0, not heritable; +, heritable). Arrows show direction and magnitude of difference in phenotype means between Gordonvale and Timber Creek, and their colors correspond to the scenarios in Fig. 3. A $\times$ indicates no change in phenotype mean.

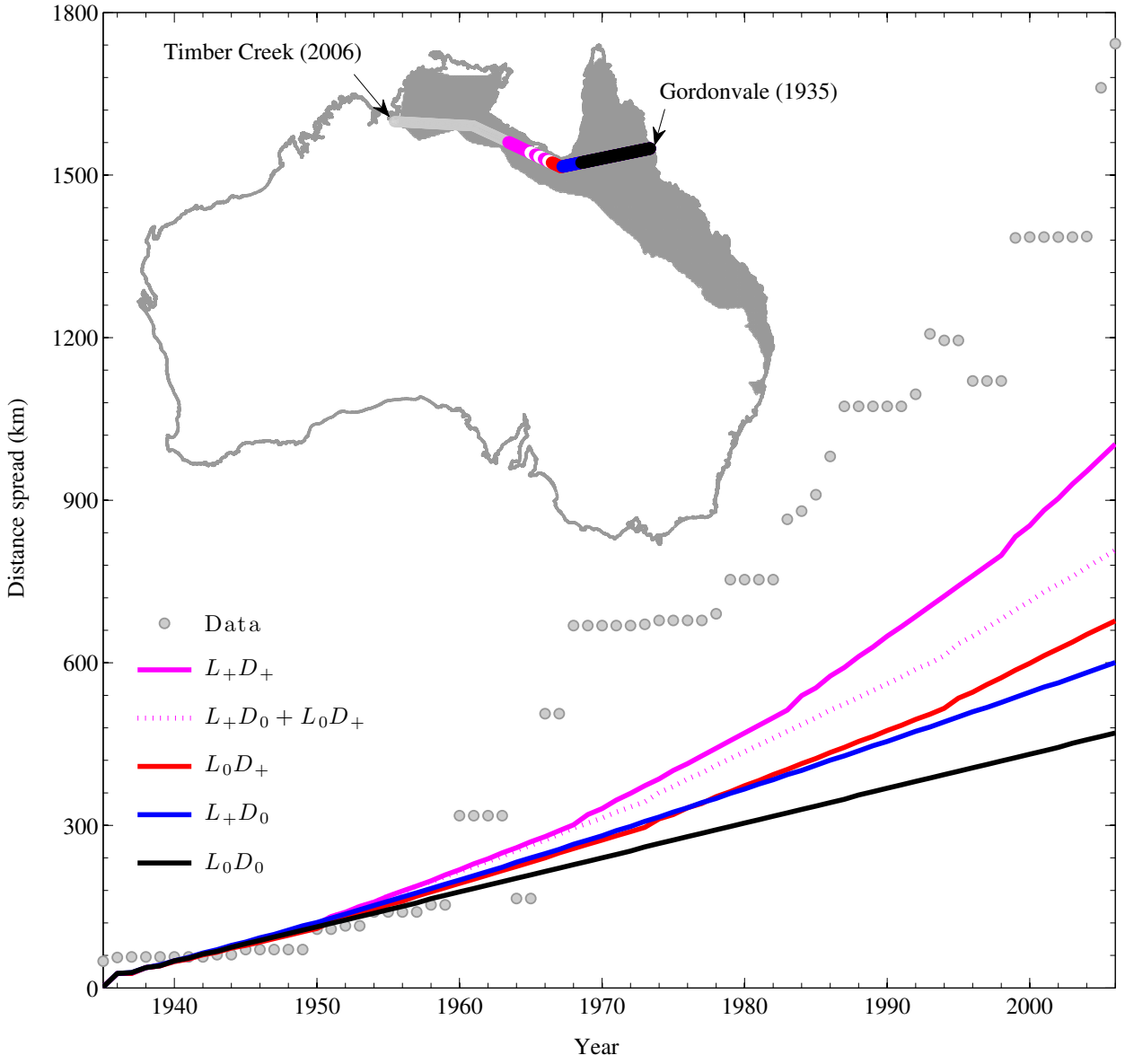

Figure 3. Distance spread by cane toads, modeled under different evolutionary scenarios. Solid lines correspond to model scenarios about initial heritabilities (0 or +) of life-history (L) and dispersal (D) traits. The dashed line shows the sum of the increases in distance spread in scenarios in which only one type of trait evolved (L_+D_0 and L_0D_+) relative to when neither evolved (L_0D_0), which contrasts with the scenario in which both traits evolved simultaneously (L_+D_+). The line between Gordonvale and Timber Creek shows the one-dimensional path along which spread was modeled, and colors on that line show distance spread by 2006 under the different model scenarios. Although the model was neither fit to spread data nor intended to fully recreate empirical patterns, we show an empirical estimate of cane toads' distance spread over time and their range in Australia as of 2006 for context (from Urban *et al.*, 2008).