The Consequences of Polyandry for Sibship Structures, Distributions of Relationships and Relatedness, and Potential for Inbreeding in a Wild Population

Ryan R. Germain,1,* Peter Arcese,2 and Jane M. Reid1

1. School of Biological Sciences, Zoology Building, University of Aberdeen, Tillydrone Avenue, Aberdeen AB24 2TZ, Scotland; 2. Department of Forest and Conservation Sciences, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia V6T 1Z4, Canada

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Abstract: The evolutionary benefits of simultaneous polyandry (female multiple mating within a single reproductive event) remain elusive. One potential benefit could arise if polyandry alters sibship structures and consequent relationships and relatedness among females’ descendants, thereby intrinsically reducing future inbreeding risk (the indirect inbreeding avoidance hypothesis). However, such effects have not been quantified in naturally complex mating systems that also encompass iteroparity, overlapping generations, sequential polyandry, and polygyny. We used long-term social and genetic pedigree data from song sparrows (Melospiza melodia) to quantify cross-generational consequences of simultaneous polyandry for offspring sibship structures and distributions of relationships and relatedness among possible mates. Simultaneous polyandry decreased full sibships and increased half-sibships, on average, but such effects varied among females and were smaller than would occur in the absence of sequential polyandry or polygyny. Further, while simultaneous polyandry decreased the overall frequencies of possible matings among adult full sibs, it increased the frequencies of possible matings among adult half-sibs and more distant relatives. These results imply that the intrinsic consequences of simultaneous polyandry for inbreeding risk could cause weak indirect selection on polyandry, but the magnitude and direction of such effects will depend on complex interactions with other mating system components and the form of inbreeding depression.

Keywords: extrapair reproduction, inbreeding avoidance, kinship, monogamy, polyandry, relatedness.

Introduction

Understanding the evolutionary causes and consequences of simultaneous polyandry, defined as female mating with multiple males within a single reproductive event, remains a central challenge in evolutionary ecology (Arnqvist and Nilsson 2000; Jennions and Petrie 2000; Parker and Birkhead 2013; Pizzari and Wedell 2013). One key puzzle is that direct costs of multiple mating identified in diverse systems often exceed any obvious direct benefits, meaning that polyandry can decrease females’ own fitness (e.g., Rowe 1994; Fedorka et al. 2004; Cornell and Tregenza 2007; Forstmeier et al. 2014). The widespread occurrence of simultaneous polyandry consequently implies that it might provide some indirect benefit, manifested as increased fitness of polyandrous females’ descendants rather than of the polyandrous females themselves (Tregenza and Wedell 2000; Slatyer et al. 2012; Taylor et al. 2014).

Numerous potential indirect benefits of polyandry that would be manifested as increased offspring fitness have been proposed (Jennions and Petrie 2000; Slatyer et al. 2012). For instance, polyandrous females might produce female and/or male offspring of higher additive genetic or phenotypic value for fitness (e.g., Garcia-Gonzalez and Simmons 2005; Forstmeier et al. 2011; Reid and Sardell 2012) or produce offspring that are less inbred and hence express less inbreeding depression (Stockley et al. 1993; Tregenza and Wedell 2000, 2002; Michalczyk et al. 2011; Duthie et al. 2016). However, such mechanisms often require some form of active female mate choice and/or paternity allocation, which may impose additional costs such as male harassment or increased risk of predation during mate searching (e.g., Rowe et al. 1994, 1998; Parker and Pizzari 2010; Duthie et al. 2016) or invoke genetic constraints on female strategies (Forstmeier et al. 2011, 2014). Further, empirical evidence of substantial indirect fitness benefits to polyandrous females’ offspring remains scant (Jennions and Petrie 2000; Arnqvist and Kirkpatrick 2005; Evans and Simmons 2008; Reid and Sardell 2012; Forstmeier et al. 2014; Hsu et al. 2014).

This situation raises the possibility that polyandry evolution might be facilitated by indirect benefits manifested a further generation into the future (i.e., increased fitness of polyandrous females’ grand-offspring). Indeed, the in-
Conceptualized mating systems with simultaneous polyandry and distinct males across females (distinct males assumption; Figure 1) postulates that simultaneous polyandry directly affects the distribution of paternity among population members and thereby alters inbreeding risk for polyandrous females’ offspring. Specifically, when polyandry causes multiple paternity, some offspring of polyandrous females are maternal half-sibs (i.e., common mother, different father) rather than full sibs (i.e., both parents in common), as would result from monandry (fig. 1A). In situations where individuals mate locally (i.e., given restricted dispersal), polyandry might consequently reduce the potential (i.e., the expected frequency given random mating) for full-sib inbreeding among a female’s offspring (Cornell and Tregenza 2007). Grand-offspring of polyandrous females would consequently be less inbred than grand-offspring of monandrous females, on average, and—given inbreeding depression in fitness—contribute more offspring (i.e., great-grand-offspring of the original polyandrous female) to the population. The relative frequency of alleles underlying polyandry might consequently increase across generations. Consequently, the basic IIAH outlines a mechanism by which simultaneous polyandry could reduce inbreeding across generations and hence facilitate its own ongoing evolution and persistence, without requiring direct inbreeding avoidance through mate choice or incurring associated costs.

To provide a first theoretical evaluation of the IIAH, Cornell and Tregenza (2007) presented a mathematical model that considers the evolutionary dynamics of polyandry resulting from reduced occurrence of full-sib inbreeding among polyandrous females’ offspring. They primarily considered the specific circumstance of nonoverlapping, alternating generations of within-brood inbreeding and complete outbreeding, such as could occur in short-lived invertebrates colonizing discrete patches. Their analyses suggest that the intrinsic evolutionary benefit of the IIAH process is small, as is typical for any form of indirect selection (e.g., Kirkpatrick and Barton 1997; Möller and Alatalo 1999; Arntz and Kirkpatrick 2005), but might still act in combination with other benefits and appropriate genetic architecture to facilitate ongoing polyandry evolution. However, Cornell and Tregenza’s (2007) specific formulation of the IIAH makes assumptions that, while sensible in the context of their initial conceptual development and associated heuristic model, limit its direct applicability to understanding polyandry evolution in complex natural reproductive systems where polyandry and inbreeding risk co-occur.

First, Cornell and Tregenza’s (2007) formulation of the IIAH does not explicitly consider how the consequences of polyandry for the potential occurrence of inbreeding might extend beyond a polyandrous female’s immediate full-sib versus half-sib offspring and accumulate across multiple broods and generations. In iteroparous species, individuals commonly produce multiple offspring broods within and/or across years with overlapping generations. In such cases,
multiple full sibs and maternal half-sibs could be produced across different broods, for example, where females mate with different initial (e.g., socially paired) males in different reproductive events (i.e., sequential polyandry) due to mate death or divorce. The set of possible mates available to a given individual offspring once they reach adulthood might then include various full sibs and half-sibs originating from current, previous, and subsequent broods produced by their mother. Moreover, it might also include full and half-cousins and more distant full and half-relatives, which are themselves generated across broods and generations, contingent on the degrees of simultaneous and sequential polyandry enacted by each individual’s female ancestors.

Second, Cornell and Tregenza’s (2007) formulation does not explicitly consider how the effects of polyandry on the frequencies of different relationships—and hence on the potential for different degrees of inbreeding—depend on the overall distribution of paternity within a population. Their model assumes that all polyandrous females’ additional mates are distinct, such that they do not sire offspring elsewhere in the population (hereafter called the distinct males assumption). Polyandry then creates maternal half-sibs rather than full sibs but does not create any paternal half-sibs (fig. 1A). The potential for full-sib mating among a polyandrous female’s offspring is consequently reduced, reflecting the implicit increase in effective population size. However, in many natural systems, males commonly sire offspring of multiple polyandrous and/or monandrous females (i.e., polygyny; fig. 1B; e.g., Uller and Olsson 2008; Freeman-Gallant et al. 2005; Lebigre et al. 2012; McDonald et al. 2013). Such co-occurrence of polyandry and polygyny can still reduce the number of full sibs and increase the number of maternal half-sibs compared to monandry but can also increase the number of paternal half-sibs and reduce the number of unrelated individuals in the population (fig. 1B). Further, polyandrous females may mate with the same additional males over successive reproductive events and/or allocate all paternity to their additional mate and, consequently, produce more full sibs and fewer half-sibs than otherwise expected (fig. 1C). By altering the distribution of relationships among possible mates, such paternity allocations could reduce, eliminate, or even reverse the evolutionary benefit of simultaneous polyandry that the basic IIAH postulates.

Furthermore, in populations where some degree of inbreeding is common, changes in sibship structures—and hence in the relationships among possible mates resulting from polyandry—may cause more complex changes in relatedness. This is because shared ancestry between a focal pair’s parents can increase the pair’s relatedness above that expected given the same immediate relationship in an outbred population. For example, the relatedness between inbred half-sibs can approach that between outbred full sibs (Jacquard 1974; Lynch and Walsh 1998; Reid et al. 2016). Polyandry might, therefore, have less effect on the distribution of relatedness among possible mates than expected given its effect on the distribution of relationships.

Despite these possibilities, no studies have yet quantified the consequences of simultaneous polyandry for the distributions of sibships, relationships, and relatedness arising in natural populations. Consequently, there is no empirical basis on which to consider how the evolutionary causes and consequences of simultaneous polyandry could be influenced by the intrinsic effects of such polyandry on population-wide sibship or relationship structures and the resulting potential for inbreeding. Such investigations are particularly required for complex mating systems where iteroparity, overlapping generations, and nonindependent paternity within and among females’ reproductive events can result in complex combinations of polyandry, polygyny, and mate fidelity occurring alongside inbreeding (e.g., Cockburn et al. 2003; Michalczyn et al. 2011; Culina et al. 2015; Reid et al. 2015b).

Effects of simultaneous polyandry on relationships and relatedness among possible mates could be quantified by experimentally enforcing polyandry or monandry across multiple generations (e.g., Power and Holman 2014). However, such experiments may simultaneously alter other life-history traits such as female fecundity or offspring survival (e.g., Fox 1993; Fedorka and Mousseau 2002; Fisher et al. 2006; Taylor et al. 2008), thereby directly altering sibship structures and relationship frequencies. Furthermore, distributions of relationships and relatedness all depend on population size and dispersal rate, among-individual variation in survival and reproductive success, and variation in prereproductive mortality of offspring sired by different males (e.g., Fisher et al. 2006; Gowaty et al. 2010; Sardell et al. 2011; Hsu et al. 2014). The composite effects of simultaneous polyandry on the potential for inbreeding could, therefore, be usefully quantified in free-living populations where individual reproduction and offspring survival are not artificially constrained.

One tractable approach is to utilize systems where a female’s potential and realized allocations of offspring paternity to initial versus additional mates can be documented directly. Realized distributions of relationships and relatedness emerging from realized paternity can then be compared with inferred distributions that would have emerged had all of a female’s offspring in a given brood been sired by her initial mate (i.e., within-brood monandry). Socially monogamous species with extrapair reproduction—and hence underlying simultaneous polyandry—allow such comparisons. Here, a female’s initial socially paired male can be identified from behavioral observations, and realized paternity can be assigned by molecular genetic analysis (e.g., Webster et al. 1995, 2007; Freeman-Gallant et al. 2005; Lebigre et al. 2012). Accordingly, we used comprehensive song sparrow (Melospiza melodia) pedigree data to quantify the consequences of extrapair re-
production for sibship structures and distributions of relationships and relatedness between possible mates, thereby quantifying key processes that underlie the IIAH.

First, we quantify the degree to which extrapair reproduction changes the proportion of full-sib versus half-sib offspring produced by females over their lifetimes given realized patterns of iteroparity and social pairing and repairing, thereby quantifying the fundamental basis for the IIAH. We further quantify the degree to which observed changes differ from those predicted given lifelong monogamy and the distinct males assumption, thereby quantifying effects of sequential polyandry and polygyny on the IIAH process. We additionally quantify how sibship structures differ among females’ hatched and adult offspring, thereby considering the degree to which prereproductive mortality can shape effects of extrapair reproduction on sibship structures among breeding individuals.

Second, we quantify the degree to which extrapair reproduction alters the distribution of relationships among possible mates given natural iteroparity and overlapping generations, thus altering the individual and population-wide potential for inbreeding between close and more distant relatives within the observed adult population.

Third, we quantify the degree to which extrapair reproduction interacts with inbreeding to shape the distribution of relatedness across possible mates within and across categories of relationship. Through this sequence of three sets of analyses, we elucidate the potential overall effects of the IIAH process on the population-wide potential for inbreeding in naturally complex mating systems.

Methods

Study System

A resident population of song sparrows inhabiting Mandarte Island, British Columbia, Canada, has been intensively studied since 1975 (Smith et al. 2006). Each year, all breeding pairs are closely monitored, all nests are located, and all offspring are uniquely marked with colored plastic leg bands ~6 days after hatching (Smith et al. 2006; Wilson et al. 2007; Germain et al. 2015). Mandarte lies within a large song sparrow metapopulation and receives regular immigrants (recent mean 0.9 year−1, ~75% female) that prevent the mean degrees of relatedness and inbreeding from increasing (Reid et al. 2006; Wolak and Reid 2016). All immigrant breeders are mist netted and banded soon after arriving. Subsequently, the identities of all individuals alive in late April (i.e., the start of the breeding season) are recorded in a comprehensive census (resighting probability >0.99; Wilson et al. 2007), and the socially paired parents that rear each brood of chicks are identified (Smith et al. 2006).

Resulting data show that Mandarte’s song sparrows typically form socially monogamous breeding pairs that rear 1–4 broods of 1–4 (mean = 2.2) offspring each per year (Smith et al. 2006). Both sexes can first breed aged 1 year, and median adult life span is 2 years (maxima of 8 and 9 years in breeding females and males, respectively; Smith et al. 2006; Keller et al. 2008). Due to a typically male-biased adult sex ratio, 10%–40% of males remain socially unpaired annually (Smith et al. 2006; Sardell et al. 2010; Lebigre et al. 2012). Both sexes can form new social pairings within and among years following divorce or death of their socially paired mate (Smith et al. 2006; Reid et al. 2015b), and dispersal within the study system is not sex biased (Arcese 1989).

Extrapair reproduction in song sparrows is frequent: overall, 28% of hatched offspring are sired by extrapair males (Sardell et al. 2010; see also Hill et al. 2011), which is within the range commonly observed in passerine birds (Griffith et al. 2002). Consequently, ~45% of broods show mixed paternity, while ~10% of broods contain ≥2 offspring that are all sired by the same extrapair male. Population-wide extrapair paternity is distributed across multiple males rather than monopolized by few males (Reid et al. 2011a; Lebigre et al. 2012; Reid and Sardell 2012).

Overall, this system has proved valuable for understanding variation in mating strategy and fitness occurring in natural viscous metapopulations (i.e., with restricted dispersal) where relatives and nonrelatives interact. Specifically, previous analyses showed substantial variance in relatedness and associated opportunity for inbreeding and inbreeding avoidance (Wolak and Reid 2016). However, comparisons of observed relatedness among mates with that expected given random mating revealed little evidence of active inbreeding avoidance through nonrandom social pairing (Keller and Arcese 1998; Reid et al. 2006) or through nonrandom extrapair reproduction (Reid et al. 2015a, 2015b). This is despite evidence of strong inbreeding depression in fitness (Keller 1998; Reid et al. 2014; Nietlisbach et al. 2017). Further, female extrapair reproduction is heritable (Reid et al. 2011b), but females receive no obvious direct benefits (e.g., nuptial gifts, offspring provisioning) from extrapair males, and extrapair reproduction can reduce offspring fitness (Reid and Sardell 2012; Sardell et al. 2012). However, the potential role of the IIAH process in maintaining extrapair reproduction—and underlying simultaneous polyandry—has not previously been examined.

Social and Genetic Pedigrees

Fully evaluating the IIAH process requires quantifying sibship structures, relationships, and relatedness, which can all be calculated from pedigree data linking offspring to parents. We first compiled a social pedigree linking all banded
offspring to their observed mother and her socially paired male spanning 1975–2015 (Reid et al. 2014, 2015a, 2015b). Since 1993, all adults and banded offspring were blood sampled and genotyped at ~160 highly polymorphic microsatellite loci, and all offspring were assigned to genetic sires with >99% individual-level statistical confidence (Nietlisbach et al. 2015, 2017; Reid et al. 2015a). We then compiled a genetic pedigree linking all banded offspring to their mother and true genetic father (Sardell et al. 2010; Reid et al. 2014, 2015a, 2015b; Nietlisbach et al. 2015). We thereby generated two parallel pedigrees spanning 1993–2015 that describe sibship structures and the distributions of relationships and relatedness among all population members as they would have been had all observed breeding pairs been monogamous within broods (social pedigree) and given the realized pattern of extrapair reproduction and underlyling polyandry (genetic pedigree; Leibigre et al. 2012; Reid et al. 2014). Because there is no extrapair maternity (Sardell et al. 2010), the two pedigrees differ only in the paternity of ~28% of individuals and are identical in terms of individual longevity, female reproductive success, and offspring survival to recruitment. Differences in sibship structure, relationships, and relatedness among possible mates between the two pedigrees therefore stem solely from extrapair reproduction (see “Discussion”).

To maximize use of all available pedigree data and relax the alternative assumption that all 1993 breeders are unrelated, we grafted each of the 1993–2015 social and genetic pedigrees onto the basal 1975–1992 social pedigree (Reid et al. 2014, 2015a). To minimize error in estimates of relationships and relatedness stemming from inadequate pedigree depth and/or remaining paternity error for some individuals hatched during 1975–1992, we restricted analyses to adults alive during 2008–2015. All such individuals had genetically verified ancestors back to all great-great-grandparents or were descendants of immigrants, meaning that any error due to misassigned paternities before 1993 was trivial (Reid et al. 2015a). Immigrants are assumed to be unrelated to existing residents—and therefore to all possible mates—in their arrival year (Marr et al. 2002; Reid et al. 2006, 2014, 2015a), and this assumption is supported by comparisons among neutral microsatellite marker data (Keller et al. 2001; P. Nietlisbach and L. F. Keller, unpublished data). However, immigrants could potentially inbreed with their own descendants in subsequent years.

**Sibship Structures**

To quantify the degree to which extrapair reproduction altered the proportions of full sibs versus half-sibs that each female produced over her lifetime, we compared sibship structures between the social and genetic pedigrees. We first calculated each female’s total lifetime number of banded offspring (j) and calculated the total number of sibships (i.e., all possible full-sib and half-sib relationships, hereafter identified as N_sibs) among the j offspring as N_sibs = j(j − 1)/2. We then calculated the number of full sibships and maternal half-sibships among each female’s offspring given the social and genetic pedigrees and divided these numbers by N_sibs to obtain the lifetime proportions of full sibships (Propfull_sibs) and half-sibships (Prophalf_sibs) produced by each female (where Propfull_sibs = 1 − Prophalf_sibs) given each pedigree. The absolute difference between each female’s value of Propfull_sibs given the social and genetic pedigrees (i.e., Diff_social_gen = |Propfull_sibs[social] − Propfull_sibs[genetic]|) quantifies the effect of extrapair reproduction (i.e., simultaneous polyandry) on sibship structures while fully accounting for natural patterns of variation in paternity stemming from female rearing between broods (i.e., sequential polyandry) and repeat mating with the same extrapair male across multiple broods.

We then undertook analyses to explicitly quantify the combined effects of simultaneous and sequential polyandry and of polygyny on sibship structures. First, we quantified the difference between Propfull_sibs given the genetic pedigree and the value of Propfull_sibs that would arise given strict lifelong monandry (i.e., 1.0, hence Diff_life_monandry_gen = 1.0 − Propfull_sibs[genetic]). Second, to quantify the degree to which observed sibship structures differed from those that would have arisen in the absence of polygyny (i.e., given the distinct males assumption that is implicit in the basic IIAH; see “Introduction”), we additionally considered a hypothetical pedigree in which extrapair males could sire multiple offspring within a given brood but could not sire other within-pair or extrapair offspring in the population (i.e., fig. 1A). We assigned a unique sire identity to all extrapair offspring in each observed brood, maintaining the observed paternity distribution (i.e., X, extrapair offspring sired by male i), and then recalculated Propfull_sibs and Prophalf_sibs, for each female. Finally, to elucidate mechanisms underlying observed changes in sibship structures, we also calculated the total number of males that sired at least one of each female’s offspring given the social, genetic, and distinct males pedigrees.

We fitted generalized linear mixed models (GLMMs) to test whether the sibship structures of females’ offspring (binomial error structures, with Propfull_sibs and N_sibs as the binomial numerator and denominator, respectively) or the number of different sires (Poisson error structures) differed between the pedigrees. These models included fixed effects of pedigree (three levels) and random female identity effects. Goodness of fit (R^2) for each model was assessed by the conditional coefficient of determination (Nakagawa and Schielzeth 2013). We used Tukey’s post hoc tests to evaluate pairwise differences in Propfull_sibs and number of sires among the three pedigrees at α = 0.05. To quantify how differences in sibship structure varied with the degree to which individual females expressed extrapair reproduction, we fitted fur-
other generalized linear models (GLMs) to quantify how Diff \(_{\text{social gen}}\) and Diff \(_{\text{lifemandry gen}}\) varied with whether any of a female’s offspring were sired by an extrapair male (supporting information S1; supporting information sections S1–S6 are available in the online appendix) or with the overall proportion of their lifetime offspring that were sired by an extrapair male. These GLMs had binomial error structures, with Diff \(_{\text{social gen}}\) and Diff \(_{\text{lifemandry gen}}\) as respective binomial numerators and \(N_{\text{offs}}\) as the binomial denominator. There was little overdispersion in our data set beyond that accounted for by the fitted models.

All the above analyses were implemented across each female’s offspring that survived to banding and across offspring that survived to age 1 year (recruits). These two sets of analyses respectively illustrate the direct primary effects of the distribution of paternity on sibship structures and怎样 elucidate the net effects of this distribution coupled with the overall proportion of their lifetime offspring that were sired by an extrapair male. These GLMs had binomial error structures, with Diff \(_{\text{social gen}}\) and Diff \(_{\text{lifemandry gen}}\) as respective binomial numerators and \(N_{\text{offs}}\) as the binomial denominator. There was little overdispersion in our data set beyond that accounted for by the fitted models.

Distribution of Relationships among Possible Mates

We next quantified how changes in sibship structures resulting from extrapair reproduction translated into cross-generational differences in relationships among possible mates within the observed adult population and hence affected the potential for inbreeding among females’ descendants. We used annual censuses of all adults alive in each year during 2008–2015 (annual means of 26.9 ± 8.8 SD females [range 13–38] and 35.1 ± 10.5 SD males [range 20–56]) to generate the set of all possible female-male pairs that could possibly have mated in each year, assuming no mating constraints (hereafter referred to as all possible matings). Since we analyzed relationships from the female perspective, the assumption of no constraints is reasonable; due to the occurrence of extrapair copulations, any adult female could possibly mate with any adult male in the population outside the constraints of realized social pairings.

We compared the frequencies of all possible matings for each adult female in each year that comprised key relationships given the social and genetic pedigrees. These relationships comprised fathers, full brothers, and sons (first-degree relatives); grandfathers, uncles, half-brothers, double first cousins (i.e., both parents of each mating individual are full sibs), nephews, and grandsons (second-degree relatives); and great-grandfathers, single first cousins, and great-grandsons (third-degree relatives). We also considered half-uncles, half–single first cousins (i.e., one parent of each mating individual is a half-sib), and half-nephews (fourth-degree relatives) and thereby quantified effects of extrapair reproduction (and consequent production of half-sibs rather than full sibs) on possible matings that would otherwise have involved third-degree relatives. Matings involving immigrants were defined as unrelated except where immigrants could mate with their own descendants. All possible matings that did not fall into any of the above categories were considered more distantly related. If a possible mating fell into multiple categories (e.g., one case where a possible mate was both a female’s son and grandson [i.e., the progeny of a female mating with another son]), it was allocated to the closer relationship. These full and half-relationships provide a mechanistic link between the generation of half-sibs caused by polyandry and resulting cross-sex relationships among possible mates.

We used Wilcoxon matched pair tests to evaluate whether the lifetime number of possible matings between individual adult females and available adult males in each relationship category differed between the genetic versus social pedigrees. While changes in some relationships given the genetic pedigree may be counted in multiple years (if both the female and possible mate survive across years), these represent separate potential opportunities for inbreeding given random mating and were thus retained. Although each female has exactly one father in each pedigree, changes in assigned father between the two pedigrees could change whether a female’s assigned father is still alive in certain years and hence available as a possible mate. Since there is no extrapair maternity, the number of possible female-son matings cannot change between the two pedigrees. However, such matings were counted to provide a complete summary of possible matings among first-degree relatives.

Distribution of Relatedness among Possible Mates

Given the occurrence of ancestral inbreeding in a population, sibship structures resulting from polyandry and consequent frequencies of relationships between possible mates do not translate directly into fixed degrees of relatedness. Hence, to quantify how polyandry translates into quantitative differences in relatedness among possible mates in future generations, we used standard pedigree algorithms (Lange 1997) to calculate the coefficient of kinship (\(k\)) between all adult females and all available adult males given the social (\(k_{\text{SOC}}\)) and genetic (\(k_{\text{GEN}}\)) pedigrees. The coefficient \(k\) measures the probability that two homologous alleles sampled from two individuals will be identical by descent relative to the pedigree baseline and equals the coefficient of inbreeding (\(f\)) of
Polyandry and Potential for Inbreeding

Results

Sibship Structure of Banded Offspring

A total of 98 female song sparrows alive during 2008–2015 produced at least two banded offspring over their lifetime (mean 11.4 ± 10.6; median 7–8, range 2–60) and hence at least one sibship. Table 1A, 1B summarizes the number of sires and Propfull sibs among these females’ lifetime banded offspring given the social, genetic, and distinct males pedigrees.

Given the social pedigree, the mean number of sires per female was 1.9 and mean Propfull sibs was 0.74 (table 1A, 1B; fig. 2A, 2B). Thus, even without considering extrapair reproduction (i.e., simultaneous polyandry), the occurrence of repairing between breeding events (i.e., sequential polyandry) meant that the mean proportion of full sibships among females’ banded offspring was on average ~26% less than expected under lifelong monandry (i.e., 1.0).

Given the genetic pedigree, the mean number of sires per female was 2.9, equating to a mean increase of 1.0 sire per female compared to the social pedigree (table 1A; fig. 2A). Consequently, as might be expected, Propfull sibs among the banded offspring of most females (60%; 59/98) was lower given the genetic pedigree than given the social pedigree (table 1B; fig. 2B). However, for 38% (37/98) of females, there was no change, and 2% (2/98) of females actually had higher Propfull sibs given the genetic pedigree, illustrating that polyandry can increase rather than decrease full sibships (fig. 2B). Indeed, mean DiffSOC gen was greater in females where at least one offspring was sired by an extrapair male but greatest in females with intermediate proportions of extrapair offspring (fig. 3A; supporting information S1).

As expected, the number of sires per female was greatest given the distinct males pedigree (fig. 2A) but in fact did not differ significantly from the genetic pedigree (table 1A). However, most females (69%, 68/98) had even lower Propfull sibs given the distinct males pedigree than given the genetic pedigree, and no females had higher Propfull sibs (fig. 2B), creating a mean reduction in Propfull sibs of ~8% relative to the genetic pedigree (table 1B). Thus, while female song sparrows would produce offspring with similar numbers of males given the distinct males assumption as in reality (i.e., given the genetic pedigree), they would produce fewer full sibships.

Sibship Structure of Recruited Offspring

A total of 37 females produced at least two recruited offspring over their lifetime (mean 4.2 ± 3.0; median 3, range 2–13). Across these females, the number of males that sired banded offspring was consistently higher and Propfull sibs were consistently lower than across the full set of 98 females (table 1A, 1B vs. 1C, 1D). This is because females that produced ≥2 recruits typically produced numerous banded offspring spanning multiple broods. However, the patterns of differences between the pedigrees mirrored those estimated across all 98 females (Tukey tests; table 1A, 1B vs. 1C, 1D).

Comparisons within the 37 females showed that the mean number of sires decreased between banded and recruited offspring, as might be expected given offspring mortality, and hence no longer differed as substantially among the three pedigrees (table 1C, 1E). Meanwhile, mean Propfull sibs was slightly higher for recruited offspring than for banded off-

resulting offspring (Jacquard 1974; Lynch and Walsh 1998; Reid et al. 2016). Values of \( k \geq 0.25 \) indicate pairings between first-degree relatives (such as full sibs).

We quantified differences in \( k \) between each individual adult female and her lifetime set of possible mates given the genetic and social pedigrees in three ways. First, to retain the mechanistic links with relationships and underlying sibship structures, we quantified the differences in each female’s mean \( k_{SOC} \) and \( k_{GEN} \) with all possible mates that were identified as first-, second-, third-, and fourth-degree relatives or as more distantly related or unrelated, given the social pedigree. Second, to quantify the effect of extrapair production on the \( k \) between each possible female-male pair, we calculated the difference in \( k \) for each possible mating as \( k_{DIFF} = k_{GEN} - k_{SOC} \). Calculated mean \( k_{DIFF} \) for each individual female, and quantified the proportion of females for whom mean \( k_{DIFF} \) increased, decreased, or did not change given the genetic versus social pedigrees. Finally, we quantified the degree to which extrapair reproduction altered the overall potential for inbreeding across the whole population. To do so, we pooled all possible matings during 2008–2015 and used a two-sample Anderson-Darling test to test whether the shapes of the continuous distributions of \( k_{GEN} \) and \( k_{SOC} \) differed significantly (using 10,000 resampling permutations).

Together, these analyses quantify the effects of realized patterns of polyandry (and associated polygyny) on the expected degree of inbreeding that would be manifested given random within-pair and/or extrapair mating in future years and generations.

Analyses were run in R, version 3.2.2 (R Development Core Team 2015), using packages MasterBayes, nadi4, lme4, kinship2, and kSamples (Hadfield et al. 2006; Wolak 2012; Sinnwell et al. 2014; Bates et al. 2015; Scholz and Zhu 2015). Raw means are reported ±1 SD. Data underlying all analyses and figures are deposited in the Dryad Digital Repository: http://dx.doi.org/10.5061/dryad.78568 (Germain et al. 2018).
Table 1: Summary statistics and generalized linear mixed models estimating differences in the number of males that sired a female’s offspring and the proportion of full sibships (Propfull sibs) among females’ offspring given the social, genetic, and distinct males pedigrees.

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<tr>
<td>Banded offspring, full data set:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Number of males:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>1.9 (1.2)</td>
<td>1 (1–6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetic</td>
<td>2.9 (2.1)</td>
<td>2 (1–10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinct males</td>
<td>3.5 (2.9)</td>
<td>2 (1–14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Propfull sibs:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>.74 (.31)</td>
<td>1.00 (.15–1.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetic</td>
<td>.53 (.34)</td>
<td>.40 (.00–1.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinct males</td>
<td>.49 (.35)</td>
<td>.33 (.00–1.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banded offspring, restricted data set:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Number of males:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>2.7 (1.5)</td>
<td>2 (1–6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetic</td>
<td>4.3 (2.5)</td>
<td>4 (1–10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinct males</td>
<td>5.2 (3.2)</td>
<td>5 (1–14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Propfull sibs:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>.56 (.32)</td>
<td>.46 (.15–1.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetic</td>
<td>.40 (.28)</td>
<td>.30 (.10–1.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinct males</td>
<td>.34 (.25)</td>
<td>.25 (.05–1.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recruited offspring:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Number of males:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>1.6 (.6)</td>
<td>2 (1–3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetic</td>
<td>2.2 (1.2)</td>
<td>2 (1–7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinct males</td>
<td>2.3 (1.3)</td>
<td>2 (1–7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Propfull sibs:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>.67 (.37)</td>
<td>.85 (.00–1.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetic</td>
<td>.47 (.37)</td>
<td>.40 (.00–1.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinct males</td>
<td>.43 (.38)</td>
<td>.33 (.00–1.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Focal females and offspring comprise banded offspring of all females that produced ≥2 banded offspring (i.e., ≥2 sibs, n = 98 females: A, B), and banded offspring (C, D) and recruited offspring (E, F) of females that produced ≥2 recruited offspring (n = 37 females). Raw means are presented ±1 SD. Models assumed Poisson (A, C, E) or binomial (B, D, F) error structures. Estimated pedigree effects (on latent scales) are differences from the intercept (social pedigree) and are presented ±1 SE. df is the residual degrees of freedom, $R^2$ is the conditional coefficient of determination, and Z and P values are presented for each fixed effect level where the social pedigree represents the intercept. "Tukey" summarizes a Tukey post hoc test assessing differences among pedigrees, where different lowercase letters (a, b, c) represent groups with significantly different means.

spring across all three pedigrees (table 1D, 1F), but mean Propfull sibs among recruited offspring was again lower given the genetic versus social pedigrees (table 1F). At the individual level, 46% (17/37) of females had lower Propfull sibs given the genetic pedigree, while 51% (19/37) had no change and one female had higher Propfull sibs (fig. 2D). Again Diff$_{social gen}$ was greater in females with intermediate proportions of extrapair offspring (fig. 3C), and the effects of extrapair reproduction on recruit sibship structure were smaller than would be observed given lifelong monandry (fig. 3D; supporting information S1). Finally, the difference in Propfull sibs given the genetic versus distinct males pedigrees was no longer significant across recruited offspring (Tukey test; table 1F; fig. 2D). Thus, while patterns in the effects of extrapair mating on sibship structure were qualitatively similar among banded and recruited offspring, these effects were more pronounced among banded offspring, suggesting that early offspring mortality can reduce or alter the effects of polyandry on sibship structures.

Distribution of Relationships among Possible Mates

There was a total of 8,028 possible matings between adult females and adult males that were alive in each year during 2008–2015, spanning 114 females and 144 males. On average, there were 0.6 fewer possible matings between individual focal females and their full brothers given the genetic versus social pedigrees, but 1.6 more possible matings with half-brothers (table 2). However the distributions of the within-female differences in the number of full and half-brothers between the two pedigrees spanned zero, show-
ing that some females had more full brothers and/or fewer half-brothers given the genetic pedigree (table 2; fig. 4). This illustrates that patterns of extrapair reproduction enacted by some female’s ancestors increased rather than decreased the number of possible matings between focal females and full brothers versus half-brothers.

On average, there were also fewer possible matings between females and their full uncles, nephews, double first cousins, and single first cousins given the genetic versus social pedigree and correspondingly increased numbers of possible matings with half-uncles and half–single first cousins (but little change in the number of possible matings with half-nephews; table 2). However, the distributions of the within-female differences again spanned zero, especially for half–single first cousins (fig. 4). There was consequently substantial among-individual variation in the consequences of ancestral extrapair reproduction for the risk of inbreeding with third- versus fourth-degree relatives.

As expected, there was no change in the number of possible female-son matings given the genetic versus social pedigrees and only small average changes in the number of possible matings with fathers, grandfathers, grandsons, great-grandfathers, and great-grandsons (table 2) with little variation among individuals (fig. 4). Furthermore, there was little or no change in the number of possible matings between females and more distant relatives or completely unrelated males, respectively (table 2).

Overall, the individual-level differences in the distribution of relatives available as possible mates translated into substantial population-level differences: extrapair reproduction meant that, across the population, adult females had 40% fewer possible matings with full brothers, 166% more possible matings with half-brothers, and 85% more

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**Figure 2:** Number of different males that sired female song sparrows’ banded (A) and recruited (C) offspring and the sibship structures of females’ banded (B) and recruited (D) offspring given the social pedigree (“Social”), genetic pedigree (“Genetic”), and distinct males pedigree (“Distinct males”). In A and C, box lines represent the median and upper and lower quartiles, whiskers demarcate ±1.5 the interquartile range, and the plus sign shows the mean. In B and D, the left and right axes show, respectively, the proportions of sibships among each female’s offspring that are full sibships (Propfull sibs) and half-sibships (Prophalf-sibs), where points denote individual females (jittered for clarity) and lines join observations for individual females given the three pedigrees.
possible matings with fourth-degree relatives than with analogous second- and third-degree relatives (supporting information S4).

**Distribution of Relatedness among Possible Mates**

Due to variation in inbreeding among females’ ancestors, there was substantial among-individual variation in the mean kinship ($k$) between adult females and their possible mates that were identified as first-, second-, third-, or fourth-degree relatives given the social pedigree (fig. 5), particularly for first- and second-degree relatives. Of the females that had ≥1 possible mate that was identified as a first-, second-, third-, or fourth-degree relative given the social pedigree, most, but not all, had lower $k$ with these same sets of possible mates given the genetic pedigree (fig. 5). Across females, mean $k_{\text{GEN}}$ was significantly lower than mean $k_{\text{SOC}}$ for all four categories of relative, but the magnitude of the difference was smallest for fourth-degree relatives (table 3). Conversely, mean $k_{\text{SOC}}$ and mean $k_{\text{GEN}}$ did not differ across females’ possible mates that were identified as more distant relatives given the social pedigree (table 3; fig. 5). Because newly arrived immigrants were the only individuals that were completely unrelated to their possible mates, mean $k_{\text{SOC}}$ and mean $k_{\text{GEN}}$

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**Figure 3:** Relationships between the proportion of a female’s lifetime offspring that were extrapair offspring (proportion EPO) and the absolute difference in Prop\_full\_sibs given the genetic versus social pedigrees (Diff\_social\_gen; A, C), and the genetic pedigree versus strict lifelong monandry (Diff\_monandry\_gen; B, D) for banded (A, B) and recruited (C, D) offspring. Predictions (black lines) and confidence intervals (gray bands) are from generalized linear models (supporting information S1).
were identical across individuals that were identified as non-relatives in the social pedigree (table 3; fig. 5). Of the 114 females, 71% (81) had negative values of mean $k_{\text{DIFF}}$ across all possible matings given the genetic pedigree versus the social pedigree, while 25% (29) had positive values of mean $k_{\text{DIFF}}$, and 4% (4) had no change in mean $k_{\text{DIFF}}$ (three females immigrating that were alive in only 1 year and one female immigrant whose only possible matings with relatives were with sons or grandsons). Grand mean $k_{\text{DIFF}}$ across all possible matings for individual females was $-0.007 \pm 0.01$ (median $-0.008$, range $-0.035$--$0.017$), showing that, on average, females were slightly less related to all possible mates given the genetic pedigree and hence given ancestral extrapair reproduction than given the social pedigree.

However, across all pooled possible matings for all females, the distributions of $k_{\text{GEN}}$ and $k_{\text{SOC}}$ were significantly different (two-sample Anderson-Darling [AD] test, $AD = 28.27$, $T = 35.79$, $P < .001$). This difference arose because the distribution of $k_{\text{GEN}}$ included fewer possible matings at higher $k$ (fig. 6, black bars) but more possible matings at lower but nonzero $k$ (fig. 6, white bars) than the distribution of $k_{\text{SOC}}$. There was again no difference in the number of possible matings among unrelated individuals (i.e., $k = 0$; fig. 6). Thus, the main effects of ancestral extrapair mating were not in altering mean relatedness among potential mates but in altering the distribution of relatedness: cumulative effects of extrapair reproduction meant that females were less likely to mate at intermediate and higher levels of $k$ (i.e., with closely related males) and more likely to mate at lower but nonzero levels of $k$ (i.e., with more distantly related males).

**Discussion**

Simultaneous polyandry is widely hypothesized to have evolved to facilitate inbreeding avoidance in populations where relatives interact and inbreeding depression is strong (e.g., Stockley et al. 1993; Tregenza and Wedell 2000; Michalczyk et al. 2011; Duthie et al. 2016; Bocedi and Reid 2017). Consequently, numerous empirical studies on diverse systems have tested whether polyandrous females avoid inbreeding by expressing precopulatory and/or postcopulatory choice for less closely related mates (Keller and Arcese 1998; Tregenza and Wedell 2002; Reid et al. 2006, 2015a; Firman and Simmons 2008; Brouwer et al. 2011). However, no studies have quantified the degree to which intrinsic effects of polyandry on sibship structures might indirectly reduce future inbreeding risk (i.e., the indirect inbreeding avoidance hypothesis) in systems experiencing natural variation in polyandry, polygyny, and paternity within and across overlapping generations. Accordingly, we compared long-term social and genetic pedigree data from free-living song sparrows to examine...
Figure 4: Distributions of the difference in the number of possible matings at each focal relationship level (listed in table 2) across 114 individual adult females given the genetic versus social pedigrees and hence given ancestral polyandry. Negative and positive values, respectively, indicate decreases and increases in the number of possible matings with available adult males at each relationship level. White bars denote lineal relatives (where little difference in the number of possible matings is expected), black bars denote relationship levels where the mean increase or decrease in the number of possible matings differed significantly from zero (table 2), and gray bars denote all other non-lineal relationship levels. Two relationship levels (son and unrelated) are not depicted because the difference in the number of matings between the social and genetic pedigrees was uniformly zero (table 2).
Figure 5: Mean coefficient of kinship (k) between individual adult female song sparrows and all possible adult male mates that were identified in the social pedigree as first-, second-, third-, or fourth-degree relatives, as more distant relatives, or as unrelated, where k is calculated given the social pedigree (“Social”) or genetic pedigree that includes ancestral extrapair reproduction (“Genetic”). Note that Y-axis scales differ among rows of panels. Points denote individual females (jittered for clarity), and lines join observations for individual females given the two pedigrees. Of the females that had ≥1 possible mate that was identified as a first-, second-, third-, or fourth-degree relative given the social pedigree, most but not all had lower mean k with these same sets of possible mates given the genetic pedigree (80% [83/104], 84% [83/99], 87% [68/78], and 73% [71/97] of females, respectively).
the consequences of extrapair paternity and hence of under-
lying simultaneous polyandry for sibship structures and re-
sulting distributions of relationships and relatedness. Fur-
ther, by comparing observed patterns to those that would have
arisen given lifelong monandry (i.e., no simultaneous or se-
quential polyandry) or given simultaneous polyandry but no
resulting polygyny (i.e., the distinct males assumption), we
isolated effects of major components of the complex overall
natural mating system on sibship structures.

Comparisons between social and genetic pedigrees have
previously been used to quantify effects of extrapair repro-
duction on the variance in male reproductive success and
hence on effective population size and the opportunity for
selection (Webster et al. 1995, 2007; Freeman-Gallant et al.
2005; Lebigre et al. 2012). Such effects are often small, includ-
ing in song sparrows (Lebigre et al. 2012; see also Karl 2008).
However, such results do not preclude the possibility that
ancestral extrapair reproduction could affect individual-
level inbreeding risk. This is because the same overall variance
in male reproductive success—but very different sibship struc-
tures and distributions of relationships and relatedness—
can arise if individual males sire several offspring of one fe-
nale (i.e., generating full sibs) or sire one offspring of several
females (i.e., generating paternal half-sibs).

Sibship Structures

It may seem inevitable that extrapair reproduction will re-
duce full sibships, as assumed by the basic IIAH and by
Cornell and Tregenza’s (2007) initial theoretical model. How-
ever, our analyses illustrate that such effects arising within a
natural mating system are not so straightforward. Compari-
sion of the social and genetic song sparrow pedigrees showed
that extrapair reproduction did indeed increase the mean
number of different males that sired individual females’ off-
spring and hence reduce the mean proportion of full sibships
(Propfull sibs) and increase the mean proportion of maternal
half-sibships (Prophalf-sibs) among females’ lifetime banded off-
spring. However, such means mask substantial among-
female variation, including cases where extrapair reproduc-
ition increased rather than reduced Propfull sibs (fig. 2B).
Such patterns can result from nonindependent extrapair paternity
when females produce numerous extrapair offspring with the
same male across broods (as indicated by fig. 3A, 3C) and/or if
a female’s extrapair male from one brood becomes her socially
paired male for another brood (or vice versa). Further, com-
parisons with the hypothetical occurrence of lifelong monog-
amy showed that the occurrence of social repairing across
breeding attempts (i.e., sequential polyandry) already re-
duced the effects of simultaneous polyandry on sibship struc-
tures by ~26%. Selection for simultaneous polyandry stem-
ing from the IIAH process might consequently be weaker
given iteroparity and associated repairing than given semel-
parity and/or strict lifelong monogamy. Comparison with
the hypothetical distinct males pedigree showed that 68% of
females would have had lower Prophalf sibs among their banded
offspring in the absence of polygyny than given the observed
pattern of polygyny defined by the genetic pedigree (fig. 2B).
This implies that Cornell and Tregenza’s (2007) theoretical
formulation of the IIAH might overestimate indirect selec-
tion on polyandry arising in polygynandrous systems.

While simultaneous polyandry can clearly affect the sibship
structure of females’ conceived offspring, its consequences

Table 3: Mean ± SD (and range) pairwise coefficient of kinship ($k$) calculated from the social pedigree ($k_{soc}$) or genetic pedigree ($k_{gen}$) between individual adult female song sparrows and all possible adult male mates that were classified as first-, second-, third-, or fourth-degree relatives or as more distant relatives or as unrelated given the social pedigree.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relationship given social pedigree</th>
<th>$k_{soc}$</th>
<th>$k_{gen}$</th>
<th>Mean difference</th>
<th>Z ($P$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First degree ($n = 378$, $♀ = 104$)</td>
<td>.314 ± .034 (.261–.472)</td>
<td>.263 ± .067 (.031–.368)</td>
<td>-.051 ± .07 (-.301–.062)</td>
<td>5.7 (&lt;.001)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second degree ($n = 453$, $♀ = 99$)</td>
<td>.197 ± .032 (.147–.361)</td>
<td>.157 ± .042 (.03–.338)</td>
<td>-.041 ± .045 (-.165–.128)</td>
<td>7.2 (&lt;.001)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third degree ($n = 297$, $♀ = 78$)</td>
<td>.141 ± .026 (.094–.255)</td>
<td>.112 ± .029 (.057–.198)</td>
<td>-.033 ± .031 (-.14–.063)</td>
<td>6.7 (&lt;.001)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth degree ($n = 629$, $♀ = 97$)</td>
<td>.125 ± .022 (.084–.174)</td>
<td>.108 ± .032 (.031–.179)</td>
<td>-.017 ± .026 (-.099–.06)</td>
<td>4.3 (&lt;.001)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More distant ($n = 5,463$, $♀ = 110$)</td>
<td>.087 ± .017 (.034–.119)</td>
<td>.088 ± .018 (.041–.122)</td>
<td>.001 ± .011 (.023–.039)</td>
<td>.2 (.84)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrelated ($n = 808$, $♀ = 114$)</td>
<td>.000 ± .000 (-)</td>
<td>.000 ± .000 (-)</td>
<td>.00 ± .00 (-)</td>
<td>.0 (1.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The number of possible matings and individual females in each category are represented by $n$ and $♀$, respectively. Mean difference denotes the mean decrease (negative values) or increase (positive values) in mean $k$ for individual females given the genetic versus social pedigrees (i.e., $k_{gen} - k_{soc}$). The Wilcoxon rank sum test statistic value and associated $P$ value are denoted by $Z$ and $P$, respectively.
cooperation and competition) ultimately depend on its effects on the sibship structure of offspring that survive to life-history stages when key interactions occur. In song sparrows, further comparisons of the genetic and social pedigrees showed that the effects of extrapair reproduction on sibship structures were qualitatively similar, but subtly different, across recruited versus banded offspring (fig. 2). Most notably, Propfull sibs for recruits no longer differed between the genetic and distinct males pedigrees (table 1B, 1D vs. 1F). These patterns imply that theoretical predictions regarding indirect selection on polyandry might, in some instances, be relatively robust to an assumption of no polygyny. However, such inferences from observed genetic and social pedigrees require the additional, and commonly violated, assumption that offspring survival to recruitment does not depend on paternity. In song sparrows, female extrapair offspring are less likely to recruit than female within-pair offspring reared in the same brood (i.e., maternal half-sisters; Sardell et al. 2011), and extrapair offspring of both sexes have lower survival and/or reproductive success than within-pair offspring in other passerine birds (e.g., house sparrows, *Passer domesticus* [Hsu et al. 2014]; coal tit, *Periparus ater* [Schmoll et al. 2009]). Any small reduction in inbreeding among polyandrous females’ offspring might therefore be further reduced by stochastic and/or deterministic variation in survival of offspring sired by different males. The ultimate consequences of polyandry for the expected frequency of close inbreeding and consequent fitness among descendants of polyandrous females in natural populations may, therefore, be smaller than predicted by models that do not consider differential offspring survival (e.g., Cornell and Treffenza 2007) and estimated in laboratory populations where variation in survival may be minimized (e.g., Power and Hol-

**Figure 6:** Overall distributions of pairwise coefficients of kinship across all possible matings between adult female and male song sparrows, calculated from the social pedigree (black bars) or genetic pedigree that includes ancestral extrapair reproduction (white bars), with gray bars denoting overlap between the two distributions. Dotted, dashed, and dot-dashed lines depict kinship values equivalent to first cousin (0.0625), half-sib (0.125), and full-sib (0.25) matings, respectively. Boxplots further visualize the distribution of $k$ given each pedigree, where box lines represent the median and upper and lower quartiles, whiskers demarcate $1.5 \times$ the interquartile range, and the plus sign represents the mean. Mean $k_{soc}$ was 0.101 ± 0.069 (median 0.094, range 0.000–0.472), and mean $k_{gen}$ was 0.094 ± 0.065 (median 0.087, range 0.00–0.421), corresponding to a small but statistically significant mean decrease of $-0.006 \pm 0.040$ (median $-0.003$, range $-0.301$–$0.251$; Wilcoxon signed rank test: $Z = 18.95$, $P < .001$).
man 2014). Future theoretical and empirical studies considering the evolutionary causes and consequences of polyandry arising through its effects on sibship structures should therefore consider such effects within the context of the overall mating system, including natural variation in paternity arising through sequences of polygyny and mate fidelity, repairing due to divorce and mate death, and differential offspring survival.

**Distributions of Relationships and Relatedness**

The effects of simultaneous polyandry on sibship structures among recruited offspring are likely to alter the frequencies of diverse types of half-relatives versus full relatives spanning multiple (overlapping) generations, thereby altering any future individual’s overall potential for inbreeding or interacting with different types of relatives. The form and magnitude of indirect selection on polyandry stemming from the IIAH process might then differ from that predicted in restricted situations with within-brood mating and nonoverlapping generations (e.g., Cornell and Tregenza 2007). Indeed, our comparisons of the social and genetic pedigrees of female and male song sparrows that survived to adulthood showed that ancestral extrapair reproduction generally reduced the potential for inbreeding among different degrees of full relatives and increased the potential for inbreeding among more distant half-relatives. However, this change was not consistent across all individual females and types of relationship (table 2; fig. 4; supporting information S4). Similarly, simultaneous polyandry reduced the mean kinship ($k$) between adult females and their possible mates, most notably with available adult males that would otherwise have been first-degree relatives (fig. 5). However, the overall conclusions remained unchanged when all possible matings among first-degree relatives were excluded (supporting information S5), thereby considering a scenario where individuals actively avoid inbreeding with first-degree relatives, as could be achieved through some form of active or passive kin discrimination (e.g., Stow and Sunnucks 2004; Gerlach and Lysiak 2006; Archie et al. 2007; Brouwer et al. 2011; Ihle and Forstmeier 2013). Overall, the individual-level differences in relatedness among possible mates stemming from simultaneous polyandry resulted in fewer possible matings at intermediate and higher $k$ (i.e., among closely related pairs) and more possible matings at lower but nonzero $k$ (fig. 6).

Such conclusions rely on the implicit assumptions of our study design that mating decisions and recruitment are unaffected by pedigree structure and hence that there is no active inbreeding avoidance or differential survival by within-pair versus extrapair offspring. Indeed, previous analyses provided no evidence that song sparrows actively avoid inbreeding through social pairing or extrapair reproduction, as observed distributions of $k$ among social and extrapair mates do not differ from those expected under random mating (Keller and Arcese 1998; Reid et al. 2006, 2015a, 2015b). However, to further consider the implications of such assumptions, we conducted additional analyses to quantify effects of polyandry on relatedness within a single cohort (supporting information S6). Such analyses have the advantage that they do not require any assumptions regarding patterns of mating or survival in the absence of extrapair reproduction but the disadvantage that they eliminate effects of polyandry on relatedness generated across multiple (overlapping) generations. These analyses also showed reduced potential for close inbreeding ($k \geq 0.25$) given the genetic versus social pedigrees but no reduction in more distant inbreeding ($0.03125 \leq k < 0.25$; supporting information S6). These supporting results illustrate that overall effects of polyandry in reducing the potential for inbreeding at intermediate $k$ accumulate across generations, meaning that exact quantitative outcomes could be influenced by patterns of differential survival of within-pair versus extrapair offspring.

**Implications**

Our results imply that the magnitude and direction of indirect selection on simultaneous polyandry stemming from the intrinsic consequences of such polyandry for distributions of $k$ among females’ offspring—and hence grandoffspring $f$—will depend on the shape of the relationship between fitness and $f$ (i.e., the form of inbreeding depression). Given multiplicative effects of deleterious recessive alleles, inbreeding depression is expected to be log linear, such that the reduction in fitness decreases with increasing $f$ (fig. 7; Morton et al. 1956; Charlesworth and Charlesworth 1987; Charlesworth and Willis 2009). Counterintuitively, under these conditions, polyandry might in fact cause a net decrease in mean fitness even though it slightly reduces mean grand-offspring $f$. Intrinsic indirect selection on polyandry stemming from indirect inbreeding avoidance might then impede rather than facilitate polyandry evolution. However, given epistatic or threshold effects, inbreeding depression could be weak up to some value of $f$ above which fitness decreases markedly (e.g., fig. 7; Charlesworth and Willis 2009). Given such threshold effects, the long-term relative frequency of alleles underlying polyandry could then increase due to the reduced frequency of matings among close relatives and the resulting net increase in mean offspring fitness that would arise despite an increased frequency of matings among more distant relatives.

The form of inbreeding depression is very difficult to quantify in natural populations, not least because close inbreeding often occurs infrequently and may be more likely in high-fitness lineages where more relatives are available for mating, meaning that phenotypic effects of inbreeding could be confounded with environmental and/or additive
genetic effects (Reid et al. 2008). Experimental assessments of the shape of inbreeding depression across ranges of $f$ relevant to natural animal mating systems are also scarce because most experimental studies consider restricted inbred groups generated through one or multiple generations of sib-sib mating (Charlesworth and Charlesworth 1987; Keller and Waller 2002; Charlesworth and Willis 2009). Full quantitative, mechanistic evaluation of the indirect inbreeding avoidance process in driving or impeding polyandry evolution will therefore require information on distributions of sibships, relationships, and relatedness arising within complex natural mating systems to be coupled with detailed experimental assessments of the form of inbreeding depression arising across appropriate ranges of $f$.

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Editor: Yannis Michalakis

A song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) resident on Mandarte Island, British Columbia, Canada. Photo credit: Ryan R. Germain.