

Original Article

## Mitochondrial DNA diversity of the lemon emigrant butterfly *Catopsilia pomona* Fabricius (Lepidoptera: Pieridae) in Khon Kaen Province, Thailand

Nutnicha Khomphimai<sup>1</sup>, Chananchida Samranthin<sup>1</sup>, Kanokporn Chaianunporn<sup>2</sup>,  
Wibhu Kutanan<sup>3</sup>, and Thotsapol Chaianunporn<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Environmental Science, Faculty of Science,  
Khon Kaen University, Mueang, Khon Kaen, 40002 Thailand

<sup>2</sup> Faculty of Medicine, Mahasarakham University, Mueang, Maha Sarakham, 44000 Thailand

<sup>3</sup> Department of Biology, Faculty of Science,  
Khon Kaen University, Mueang, Khon Kaen, 40002 Thailand

Received: 2 October 2018; Revised: 19 February 2019; Accepted: 24 February 2019

---

### Abstract

We investigated genetic diversity, population structure, and demographic history of a *Catopsilia pomona* population in Khon Kaen Province, Thailand, using partial 863 base pairs *cytochrome oxidase subunit I* (*COI*) sequences among various sampling locations and periods. We collected 10 butterfly individuals from 3 locations and from 2 periods, before migration (March to April 2017) and after migration (May to June 2017). The sequence analyses of 60 butterflies revealed 36 haplotypes defined by 36 polymorphic sites. In the six groups we studied, the haplotype diversity in each group was high (0.667–0.978), whereas the nucleotide diversity was relatively low (0.002–0.006). The haplotype diversity and the number of haplotypes increased after migration in all locations. The Analysis of Molecular Variance (AMOVA) showed no differences between the groups before and after migration ( $\Phi_{ct} = -0.030$ ,  $P > 0.9$ ) and among sampling locations ( $\Phi_{ct} = -0.001$ ,  $P > 0.4$ ). The Bayesian skyline plot indicated a previous demographic expansion since the Middle Pleistocene.

**Keywords:** *cytochrome oxidase subunit I*, genetic diversity, migration, mitochondrial DNA, population structure

---

### 1. Introduction

Dispersal and gene flow are important processes for biological populations that not only increase genetic diversity but also counteract deleterious impacts of genetic drift and inbreeding (Frankham, Ballou, & Briscoe, 2010). It is expected that the gene flow among populations leads to an increase of a population's capacity to adapt to environmental changes by introducing new alleles into a population (Roitman

*et al.*, 2017) and a reduction of genetic effects of population fragmentation such as inbreeding depression, loss of genetic variability or elevated extinction risk (Frankham *et al.*, 2010). Understanding the movement of organisms and their gene flow is thus crucial for the prediction of adaptive potential of a population to respond to environmental changes.

The lemon emigrant butterfly, *Catopsilia pomona*, is a medium-sized butterfly in the family of Pieridae. It is widely distributed throughout Asia, ranging from India, Southeast Asia, and China to northern Australia (Orr & Kitching, 2010; Inayoshi, 2017). *C. pomona* is one of the most abundant pierid butterflies in Southeast Asia (Corbet & Pendlebury, 1992). In Thailand, it can be found in all regions throughout the year (Subinprasert & Archawaranon, 2002). In Khon Kaen Pro-

---

\*Corresponding author

Email address: thotsapol@kku.ac.th

vince, this butterfly species can be observed almost year-round. It is very abundant in this area because many *Cassia fistula*, commonly known as golden rain trees, were planted in Khon Kaen Province as street trees and are important larval host plants of *C. pomona* (Ek-Amnuay, 2012; Chaianunporn & Khoosakunrat, 2018).

The common name of *C. pomona* reflects the migration behavior of this species. The migration has been observed in many areas, such as in India (Williams, 1927; Ramesh, Jahir, Satpathy & Selvanayagam, 2012), Australia (Dingle, Zalucki, & Rochester, 1999), and Thailand (Chaianunporn & Khoosakunrat, 2018). In Khon Kaen Province, the migration behavior of the butterfly was observed during June 2015 in eastward and westward directions (Chaianunporn & Khoosakunrat, 2018). However, the migration route of this butterfly in Thailand has never been studied. Research on the migration patterns and its influences on the genetic structure of the *C. pomona* populations are still limited and might hamper effective management planning for this species.

Molecular techniques make it possible to analyze demographic processes and migration among localities (Roderick, 1996; Freeland, 2005). Specifically, phylogeography and population genetics of a species can provide insight into how life history traits affect the patterns of genetic variation. By assessing landscape-level genetic diversity of a highly mobile butterfly species, scientists have gained a better understanding of how both natural and anthropogenic barriers have shaped their dispersal patterns (Stevens, Turlure & Baguette, 2010). As a wide-ranging, well dispersed butterfly species, it is expected that the population of *C. pomona* contains no or very low genetic structure among localities as observed in other highly mobile butterfly species, e.g., the monarch butterfly, *Danaus plexippus*, population which is panmictic in the entire North America (Pierce *et al.*, 2014; Zhan *et al.*, 2014; Pfeiler *et al.*, 2017).

Among molecular markers, mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) sequences are used to study genetic diversity and phylogeography because of the relatively high mutation rate, haploid, maternal inheritance, lack of recombination, and their relatively conserved overall structure (Freeland, 2005). Moreover, it has been shown in *D. plexippus* that mtDNA sequences were suitable for studying genetic diversity in a highly mobile species (Brower & Jeansonne, 2004; Pfeiler *et al.*, 2017), and they provided consistent results with microsatellites (Lyons *et al.*, 2012; Pierce *et al.*, 2014), and whole genome analysis (Zhan *et al.*, 2014). In addition, the complete mitochondrial genome sequences of *C. pomona* have already been studied (Hao, Hao, Sun, Zhang, & Yang, 2014).

Here, we examined the genetic diversity, population structure, and demographic history of a *C. pomona* population using the partial DNA sequence of mtDNA gene *cytochrome oxidase subunit I (COI)*. We collected *C. pomona* samples from three locations in Mueang Khon Kaen District, Khon Kaen Province, Thailand, and from two periods: before and after migratory events. The results provided information about the suitability of *COI* for studying the genetic variation within the population of *C. pomona* and the influence of the butterfly's migration on its genetic diversity and genetic structure.

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1 Survey and sampling

We collected *C. pomona* from three locations in Mueang Khon Kaen District, Khon Kaen Province, Thailand where many *C. fistula* trees are planted and *C. pomona* have been observed: Ban Bueng Niam (BBN: east of Mueang Khon Kaen District: 16.438173°N 102.918382°E), Khon Kaen University (KKU: central of Mueang Khon Kaen District: 16.450637°N 102.816950°E), and Ban Nong Lub (BNL: west of Mueang Khon Kaen District: 16.450940°N 102.767773°E). BBN is about 10 kilometers away from KKU and KKU is about 5 kilometers away from BNL (Figure 1).

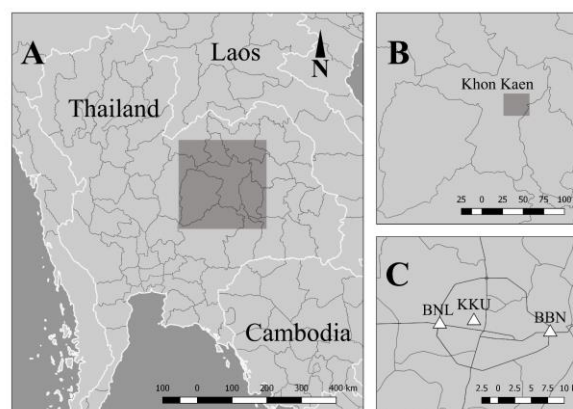


Figure 1. (A) Map of Thailand. The gray square indicates the area represented in Figure B. (B) Khon Kaen Province. The gray square indicates the area represented in Figure C. (C) Three study locations in Mueang Khon Kaen District, Khon Kaen Province, Ban Bueng Niam (BBN), Khon Kaen University (KKU) and Ban Nong Lub (BNL). BBN is about 10 kilometers away from KKU, and KKU is about 5 kilometers away from BNL. The solid lines present main roads of Mueang Khon Kaen District.

In June 2015, the migration behavior (directional flight in large groups) was detected via direct sighting study in BBN (Chaianunporn & Khoosakunrat, 2018). However, the migration time varies from year to year. In 2017, we simultaneously conducted weekly capture-mark-recapture in the three study locations and observed the migration behavior from late April to early May 2017. In addition, during this period, the number of *C. pomona* caught increased in all locations (Figure 2).

The sampling was conducted from March to June 2017 in all three sampling locations. The samples were divided into two sampling periods according to the migration behavior of the butterfly observed, i.e. before migration (BF) from March to April 2017 and after migration (AT) from May to June 2017. We collected 10 adult butterflies per location per period for a total of 60 samples. The butterfly samples were caught by net, immediately stored in 95% alcohol at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and taken directly to the laboratory according to Moreau, Wray, Czekanski-Moir and Rubin (2013).

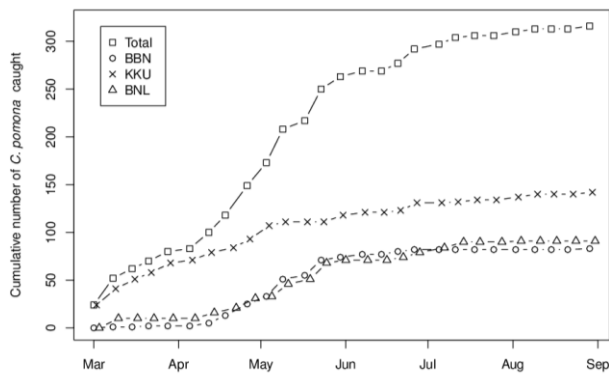


Figure 2. Cumulative number of *C. pomona* caught by week in a capture-mark-recapture study between March to September 2017 in BBN (circle line), KKU (cross line) and BNL (triangle line). The square line presents the weekly total cumulative number of three sampling locations.

## 2.2 Molecular analysis

Genomic DNA was extracted from the specimens' thoracic tissue using the ZR Tissue and Insect DNA Mini Prep™ (ZYMO RESEARCH). The DNA concentration and sample purity, determined from the 260 nm/280 nm ratio of each sample, was measured using the NanoDrop spectrophotometer. The partial *COI* gene was then amplified by the polymerase chain reaction (PCR). The forward primer and reverse primer were designed from the complete mtDNA sequence of *C. pomona* (NCBI Reference Sequence: NC\_022687.1; Hao *et al.*, 2014) using Primer-BLAST (Ye *et al.*, 2012). The newly designed PCR forward primer called CpCOIF (5'-GGGGCAGGTACTGGATGAAC-3') and reverse primer called CpCOIR (5'-ATCGTCGAGGTA TTCCTGCT-3') are specific for the partial *COI* region of *C. pomona* mtDNA. This yielded a 958-bp sequence which corresponded to positions 1810–2767 of the reference sequence (NC\_022687.1; Hao *et al.*, 2014). We prepared PCR Master Mix in a total volume of 30  $\mu$ L containing 0.2  $\mu$ L *Taq* DNA polymerase (5 u/ $\mu$ L), 3  $\mu$ L 10x reaction buffer, 1.5  $\mu$ L dNTPs (2 mM), 1.2  $\mu$ L MgCl<sub>2</sub> (50 mM), 0.6  $\mu$ L of each primer (10  $\mu$ M), 2  $\mu$ L of DNA templates, and 20.9  $\mu$ L of distilled water. The final concentration of DNA templates ranged from 20 to 200 ng per reaction. The reaction conditions were performed as follows. The initial denaturation was at 95 °C for 5 min, followed by 40 cycles at 94 °C for 40 sec, annealing at 58.5 °C for 30 sec, and extension at 72 °C for 40 sec, with final extension at 72 °C for 5 min. The PCR products were checked by 1% agarose gel electrophoresis. We delivered the PCR products to Bioneer Corporation (Republic of Korea) for purification and sequencing using the same primer pair as we did for PCR. The sampling information of each specimen and its respective GenBank accession number is shown in Supplementary Table A1.

## 2.3 Data analysis

The sequences from the 60 samples were assembled and aligned using Bioedit Version 7.2.5 (Hall, 1999) and Clustal W multiple alignment. In order to analyze haplotype diversity, nucleotide diversity and shared haplotypes, the

samples were divided according to 3 categories, i.e. 2 groups according to the sampling periods, 3 groups according to the sampling locations, and 6 groups according to both the sampling locations and the sampling periods. The genetic diversity and the analysis of molecular variance (AMOVA) were carried out using ARLEQUIN Version 3.5.2.2 (Excoffier & Lischer, 2010) to compare the values for  $\Phi_{ct}$  (difference among groups),  $\Phi_{sc}$  (difference among collections within groups), and  $\Phi_{st}$  (differences among all collections) of the samples with all possible groupings. A neighbor joining tree based on pairwise  $\Phi_{st}$  among *C. pomona* groups was built using ARLEQUIN. Analyses of the phylogenetic relationships among samples using maximum likelihood, neighbor joining, and maximum parsimony with 500 bootstrap replications were carried out by MEGA7 Version 7.0.26 (Kumar, Stecher, & Tamura, 2016). Bayesian interference analysis was performed with MrBayes v3.2 (Huelsenbeck & Ronquist, 2001). The program employs a Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) sampling approach. A MCMC analysis was for 1 million generations starting with random tree and trees were sampled every 500 generations. Four hundred fifty generations were discarded as burn-in samples. The number of haplotypes and the haplotype diversity of each sampling location before and after migration were compared by Mann-Whitney U test using program R (version 3.4.3).

Median-joining networks (Bandelt, Forster, & Röhl, 1999) by haplogroups without pre- and post-processing steps were constructed by Network program (www.fluxus-engineering.com). The Bayesian skyline plots based on Bayesian MCMC analyses were created using BEAST 1.8.0. We ran jModel test 2.1.7 (Darriba, Taboada, Doallo, & Posada, 2012) and selected HKY+G as the best fitted substitution model according to the Akaike information criterion and Bayesian information criterion in order to choose the most suitable models for creating the BEAST input files by BEAUTi v1.8.2 (Drummond, Suchard, Xie, & Rambaut, 2012). The HKY+G model with strict clocks was used for the Bayesian skyline plot calculations. We assumed a neutral mutation rate of  $1.15 \times 10^{-9}$  per site per generation based on Pfeiler *et al.* (2017) by assuming 2.3% pairwise divergence per million years (Brower, 1994) and 10 generations of *C. pomona* per year (Chaianunporn & Khoosakunrat, 2018). The analysis was run for  $8 \times 10^7$  steps sampling every  $10^3$  steps under the piecewise-linear Bayesian skyline model with a random starting tree. Tracer 1.6 was used to check for convergence.

## 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1 Genetic diversity of *C. pomona*

In total, we analyzed sequences with a length of 863 bp of the partial *COI* gene of 60 *C. pomona* individuals and identified 36 unique haplotypes defined by 36 polymorphic sites (Table 1) (Supplementary Table A2). All nucleotide substitutions were synonymous transitions except at position 125 (haplotype 27) and 861 (haplotype 20) which resulted in neutral amino acid substitutions (Betts & Russell, 2003). Four haplotypes were found in more than one individual. Haplotype 1 was the most common haplotype among the butterfly samples (15 individuals, accounting for 25% of butterfly samples) and it matched with the reference sequence (NC\_022687.1). It was found in all locations both before and

after migration (Figure 3). Haplotype 2 was found in 7 individuals in BF-BBN, AT-BBN, and AT-BNL, while haplotype 3 and 4 occurred in only one location, BF-KKU and AT-KKU, respectively. Thirty-two haplotypes occurred only in single individuals and distributed in various sampling locations and sampling periods. The phylogenetic relationship among all samples and supporting bootstrap and Bayesian interference values are presented in Supplementary Figure A1.

From a comparison between sampling periods, 15 haplotypes were found before migration and 23 haplotypes after migration (Table 1). The haplotype diversity (*H*) values were 0.869 and 0.968 for the before migration group and after migration group, respectively. The haplotype number and diversity were significantly higher in the after migration group than in the before migration group in all locations (Mann-Whitney U test: *U* = 0.000, *P*=0.043 for haplotype number and *U* = 0.000, *P*=0.046 for haplotype diversity). Among the three sampling locations, the highest number of haplotypes were found in KKU with 15 (7 before migration and 9 after migration), followed by 13 haplotypes in BNL (5 before migration and 9 after migration) and 11 haplotypes in BBN (5

before migration and 8 after migration). When we divided the groups into sampling locations and the periods (6 groups), the haplotype diversity was at its lowest in BF-BNL (*H* = 0.667) and its highest was in AT-KKU and AT-BNL (*H* = 0.978).

The haplotype diversity of *C. pomona* grouped according to the different sampling locations and periods corresponded to the migration behavior of *C. pomona* observed during the study period from late April to the beginning of May (Figure 2). An increase in the number of haplotypes and a higher haplotype diversity in *C. pomona* groups after migration suggested that migrating *C. pomona* individuals brought new haplotypes into the population.

The nucleotide diversity before and after migration was equal ( $\pi=0.004$ ) (Table 1). Among the sampling locations, we found that the nucleotide diversity ranged from 0.003 (BBN) to 0.006 (KKU). Among the sampling locations and periods (6 groups), nucleotide diversity ranged from 0.002 (BF-BBN) to 0.006 (BF-KKU). The haplotype diversity and the nucleotide diversity in the combined dataset of all individuals of *C. pomona* was 0.925 and 0.004, respectively.

Table 1. Sequence analysis.

| Group                 | n  | k  | PS | <i>H</i> ±SD | $\pi$ ±SD   |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|--------------|-------------|
| Before migration (BF) | 30 | 15 | 24 | 0.869±0.050  | 0.004±0.003 |
| After migration (AT)  | 30 | 23 | 25 | 0.968±0.022  | 0.004±0.003 |
| BBN                   | 20 | 11 | 14 | 0.868±0.057  | 0.003±0.002 |
| KKU                   | 20 | 15 | 22 | 0.958±0.033  | 0.006±0.003 |
| BNL                   | 20 | 13 | 17 | 0.853±0.080  | 0.004±0.002 |
| BF-BBN                | 10 | 5  | 6  | 0.800±0.100  | 0.002±0.002 |
| BF-KKU                | 10 | 7  | 15 | 0.867±0.107  | 0.006±0.004 |
| BF-BNL                | 10 | 5  | 10 | 0.667±0.163  | 0.003±0.002 |
| AT-BBN                | 10 | 8  | 10 | 0.956±0.059  | 0.004±0.002 |
| AT-KKU                | 10 | 9  | 12 | 0.978±0.054  | 0.005±0.003 |
| AT-BNL                | 10 | 9  | 13 | 0.978±0.054  | 0.004±0.003 |
| All                   | 60 | 36 | 36 | 0.925±0.026  | 0.004±0.003 |

Abbreviations: n, sample size; k, number of haplotypes; PS, number of polymorphic sites; *H*, haplotype diversity; SD, standard deviation;  $\pi$ , nucleotide diversity of each group of *C. pomona*; BBN, Ban Bueng Niam; KKU, Khon Kaen University; BNL, Ban Nong Lub.

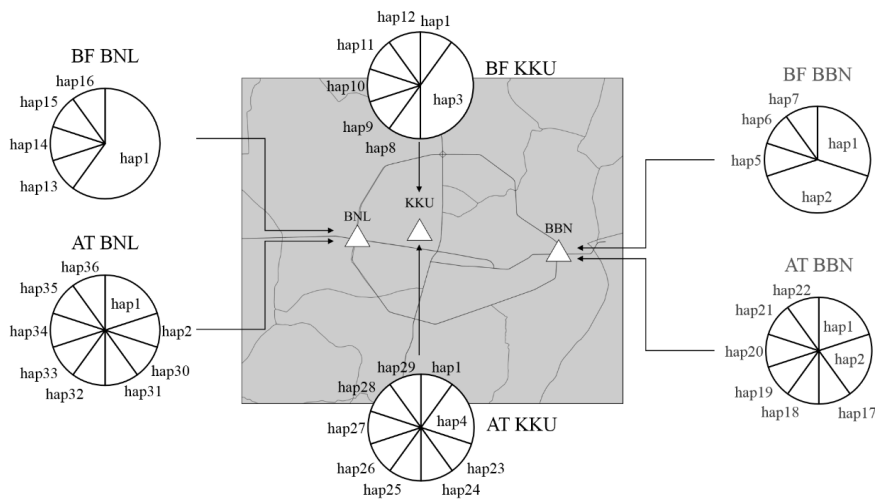


Figure 3. Pie diagrams showing the distribution of haplotypes of *C. pomona* in each sampling location and period. The numbers in the diagrams show the haplotype numbers.

The total haplotype diversity of *C. pomona* in this study (0.925) was relatively high in comparison with other butterfly populations, such as the satyrine butterfly, *Mycalesis orseis*, (0.550–0.890) (Benedick *et al.*, 2007), the afrotropical butterfly, *Bicyclus anynana* (0.750–0.920) (de Jong *et al.*, 2011), and the monarch butterfly, *Danaus plexippus* (0.220–0.600) (Pfeiler *et al.*, 2017). In contrast, the total nucleotide diversity was relatively low. This indicated there were only slight differences among the haplotypes. The combination of high haplotype diversity and low nucleotide diversity in the *C. pomona* population could be a sign of rapid demographic expansion from a small effective population size (Avice, 2000).

### 3.2 Neighbor joining tree among groups

The neighbor joining tree based on pairwise  $\Phi_{st}$  values of groups shows that BF-BNL was closer to AT-BBN, and that BF-BBN was related to AT-BNL. The butterfly group in KKU was obviously located intermediately among BBN and BNL (Figure 4). This suggested migration of this species between BBN and BNL because haplotype 2 was shared by both BF-BBN and AT-BNL but it could not be found in BF-BNL. This result was consistent with the migration behavior observed by Chaianunporn and Khoosakunrat (2018) who reported the migration behavior of *C. pomona* at BBN in 2015 where *C. pomona* flew east-west and west-east directions.

### 3.3 Analysis of molecular variance

The AMOVA results did not indicate any population structure between the before- and after-migration groups (–3.05% of variation,  $\Phi_{ct}=-0.030$ ,  $P>0.900$ ), but there was significant genetic variation among collections within the same sampling periods ( $\Phi_{sc}=0.110$ ,  $P<0.003$ ) and among all collections ( $\Phi_{st}=0.083$ ,  $P<0.002$ ) (Table 2). Only 11.35% of the genetic variation was distributed among locations within the same sampling periods. The remaining 91.70% of the genetic variation was found among all collections. The AMOVA results based on varying sampling locations also

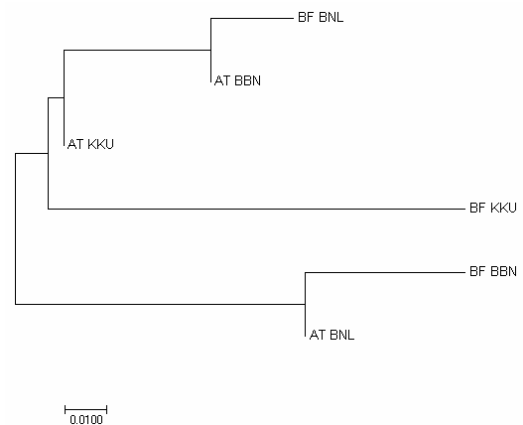


Figure 4. Neighbor joining tree based on pairwise  $\Phi_{st}$  among 6 *C. pomona* groups defined by sampling locations and periods.

revealed no significant difference among the sampling locations (–0.09% of variation,  $\Phi_{ct}=-0.001$ ,  $P>0.4$ ), but significant genetic differentiation was found between the two sampling periods within the sampling locations (9.48% of variation,  $\Phi_{sc}=0.095$ ,  $P<0.013$ ) and among all collections (90.61% of variation,  $\Phi_{st}=0.094$ ,  $P<0.000$ ) (Table 3).

It was not unexpected that the AMOVA results suggested no genetic structure among the butterfly groups because *C. pomona* is a strong flyer and performs migration. A high migration rate could counteract the impact of genetic drift and therefore slow down genetic differentiation among populations living in fragmented habitats. This finding was in agreement with the results in other highly mobile butterfly species such as *D. plexippus*. Pfeiler *et al.* (2017) detected no genetic structure among migratory populations of *D. plexippus* in long-distance localities (over 100 km;  $\Phi_{st}=-0.052-0.135$  for *COI* and  $\Phi_{st}=-0.064-0.072$  for *COII*). In contrast, the population structure was observed among migratory and non-migratory populations of *D. plexippus* within the same distance ( $\Phi_{st}=-0.265-0.613$  for *COI* and  $\Phi_{st}=0.423-0.469$  for *COII*) (Pfeiler *et al.*, 2017).

Table 2. Analysis of Molecular Variance (AMOVA) of *C. pomona* grouping by sampling periods (periods to locations).

| Source of variation                       | d.f. | Sum of squares | Variance components | Percentage of variation | P-value | Fixation Indices   |
|---|------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------|--------------------|
| Among sampling periods                    | 1    | 2.15           | –0.06 Va            | –3.05                   | >0.9    | $\Phi_{ct}=-0.030$ |
| Among populations within sampling periods | 4    | 15.53          | 0.22 Vb             | 11.35                   | <0.003  | $\Phi_{sc}=0.110$  |
| Among all collections                     | 54   | 93.70          | 1.74 Vc             | 91.70                   | <0.002  | $\Phi_{st}=0.083$  |
| Total                                     | 59   | 111.38         | 1.89                |                         |         |                    |

Table 3. Analysis of Molecular Variance (AMOVA) of *C. pomona* grouping by sampling locations (locations to periods).

| Source of variation                         | d.f. | Sum of squares | Variance components | Percentage of variation | P-value | Fixation Indices   |
|---|------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------|--------------------|
| Among sampling locations                    | 2    | 7.03           | –0.002 Va           | –0.09                   | >0.4    | $\Phi_{ct}=-0.001$ |
| Among populations within sampling locations | 3    | 10.65          | 0.18 Vb             | 9.48                    | <0.013  | $\Phi_{sc}=0.095$  |
| Among all collections                       | 54   | 93.70          | 1.74 Vc             | 90.61                   | <0.000  | $\Phi_{st}=0.094$  |
| Total                                       | 59   | 111.383        | 1.915               |                         |         |                    |

**3.4 Haplotype network and the Bayesian skyline plot**

The haplotype network (Figure 5) showed that no population structure could be found between the groups before and after migration (Figure 5A) among the butterflies in different sampling locations (Figure 5B) or among both sampling periods and locations (Figure 5C) which reflected the results of AMOVA presented above. It showed the common haplotype (haplotype 1) found in all sampling locations and sampling periods with many single haplotypes around it. The star-like shape of the network indicated recent population expansion. The result was supported by the Bayesian skyline plot (Figure 6) which indicated a previous demographic expansion since the Middle Pleistocene (~750,000 years before present) followed by a stable effective female population size of  $1.5 \times 10^8$  individuals over the last 200,000 years.

One reason for the large effective population size of *C. pomona* is that its larval host plants, *C. fistula* and other *Cassias* and *Senecio*s, are common and very widespread. Its main host plant species, *C. fistula*, flourishes under tropical rainforest conditions and a tropical monsoon climate with low temperature tolerance to 0 °C (CABI, 2018). The period when the butterfly population began to expand about 750,000 years to 1 million years ago (MYA) (Middle Pleistocene) corresponded to periodic climatic fluctuation (changes between interglacial and glacial cycles) as well as climate shifts of Indian summer monsoon around 1.1–1.8 MYA (Zhisheng *et al.*, 2011). These climatic events led to a warmer, more humid period. These climatic events were possibly related to

increased habitable areas of the butterfly and expansion of *C. fistula* and other larval food plants from 750,000 years before present. As a consequence, *C. pomona* expanded its population during this time period. The similar patterns of population expansion during the Middle Pleistocene was also observed in another butterfly species in Asia, Fischer’s blue butterfly, i.e. *Tongeia fischeri*, which experienced the same geological or climatic scenarios (Jeratthitikul *et al.*, 2013).

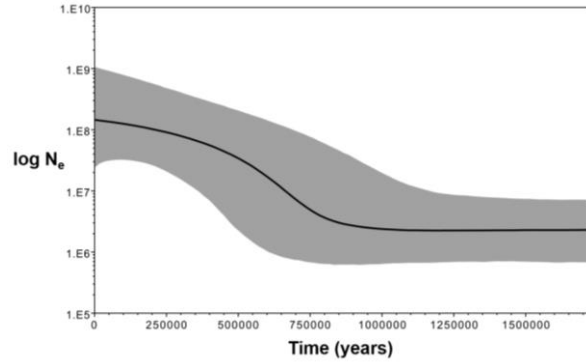


Figure 6. The Bayesian skyline plot inferred from the partial *COI* sequences shows the demographic history of *C. pomona* 1.7 million years ago. The middle solid line represents the median of effective female population size estimate of *C. pomona* ( $\log N_e$ ) over absolute time in years before present (X-axis) and gray shade indicates 95% highest posterior density intervals surrounding the median.

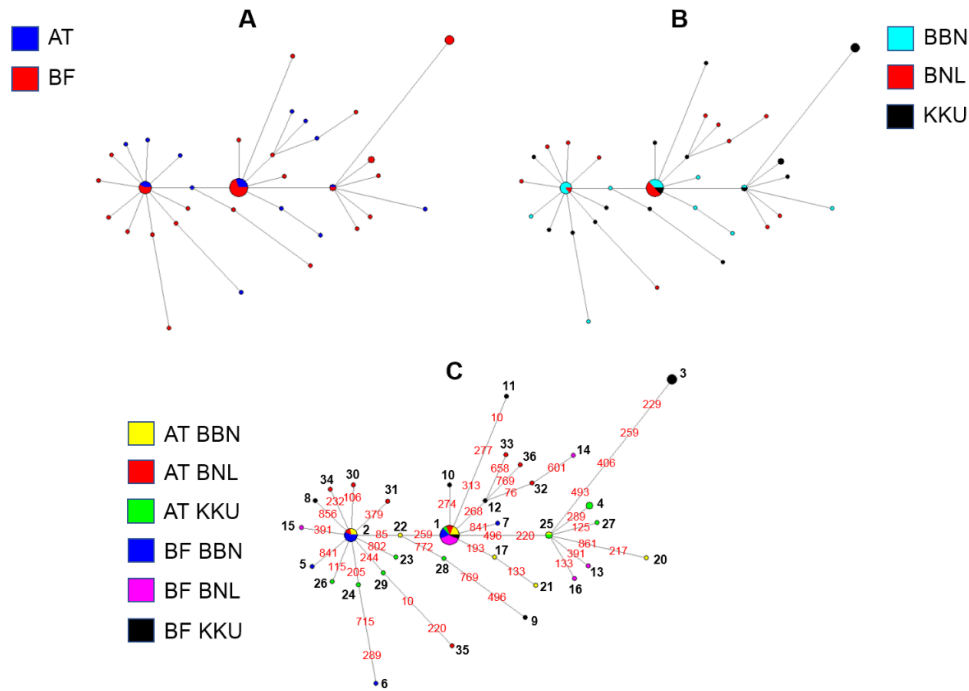


Figure 5. Network of 60 sequences of *C. pomona*. Circle size is relative to number of haplotype copies present in dataset. Colors indicate groups of the butterflies in this study: (A) Groups according to sampling periods; (B) Groups according to sampling locations; (C) Groups according to sampling periods and sampling locations. The black numbers indicate the haplotype number and the red numbers show the mutation point between each haplotype pair. The mutation points on the position 55, 259, and 841 were removed from the network because they caused reticulation of the network. Thus, haplotypes 18 and 19 are merged with haplotypes 25 and 1, respectively.

#### 4. Conclusions

The molecular approach has been widely used to assess genetic diversity and population connectivity in species capable of dispersing over a wide geographic range, e.g., de Jong *et al.* (2011) and Pfeiler *et al.* (2017). Our results verify that the highly variable *COI* sequences are suitable to assess the genetic consequences of migration behavior of *C. pomona*. With this molecular marker, we observed that the migrating butterflies brought new alleles into the population. However, as a result of long-distance dispersal, there was no genetic structure of *C. pomona* detected at the scale of this study (about 15 kilometers). Thus, a further study of the butterfly in a wider geographical range based on this genetic marker would provide more insight into the population connectivity which would suggest the migration route and migration distance of this butterfly species. Moreover, additional molecular markers with different modes of inheritances should be examined to compare results between maternal, paternal, and bi-parental relationships. A systematic genetic monitoring based on different markers could provide a better understanding of the impacts of both the climatic fluctuations, and natural and human-made barriers on population structure. These factors are important for making an inference about the population status and providing information for management decisions.

#### Acknowledgements

We acknowledge two anonymous reviewers for the valuable comments. We thank Ms. Suparat Srithawong for the laboratory assistance and the Geo-Informatics Centre for Development of Northeast Thailand for providing the geographic information of Khon Kaen Province. This study was supported by the research capability enhancement program through the graduate student scholarship, Faculty of Science, Khon Kaen University, Thailand.

#### References

- Avise, J. C. (2000). *Phylogeography: The history and formation of species*. Cambridge, England: Harvard University Press.
- Bandelt, H. J., Forster, P., & Röhl, A. (1999). Median-joining networks for inferring intraspecific phylogenies. *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, 16, 37-48.
- Benedick, S., White, T. A., Searle, J. B., Hamer, K. C., Mustafa, N., Khen, C. V., . . . Schilthuizen, M., & Hill, J. K. (2007). Impacts of habitat fragmentation on genetic diversity in a tropical forest butterfly on Borneo. *Journal of Tropical Ecology*, 23, 623-634.
- Betts, M. J., & Russell, R. B. (2003). Amino acid properties and consequences of substitutions. In M. R. Barnes, & I. C. Gray (Eds.). *Bioinformatics for Geneticists*, Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons.
- Brower, A. V. Z. (1994). Rapid morphological radiation and convergence among races of the butterfly *Heliconius erato* inferred from patterns of mitochondrial DNA evolution. *PNAS*, 91, 6491-6495.
- Brower, A. V. Z. & Jeansonne, M. M. (2004). Geographical populations and "subspecies" of New World monarch butterflies (Nymphalidae) share a recent origin and are not phylogenetically distinct. *Annals of the Entomological Society of America*, 97, 519-523.
- CABI (2018). *Cassia fistula [original text by Datiles, M. J. & Acevedo-Rodríguez, P.] In Invasive Species Compendium*. Wallingford, England: CAB International. Retrieved from <http://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/11434>.
- Chaianunporn, T., & Khoosakunrat, S. (2018). Relationship between lemon emigrant butterfly *Catopsilia pomona* (Lepidoptera: Pieridae) population dynamics and weather conditions in Khon Kaen Province, Thailand. *Tropical Natural History*, 18, 97-111.
- Corbet, A. S., & Penndlebury, H. M. (1992). *The Butterflies of the Malay Peninsula*. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: United Selangor Press.
- Darriba, D., Taboada, G. L., Doallo, R., & Posada, D. (2012). jModelTest 2: More models, new heuristics and parallel computing. *Nature Methods*, 9, 772. doi:10.1038/nmeth.2109.
- de Jong, M.A., Wahlberg, N., van Eijk, M., Brakefield, P.M., & Zwaan, B.J. (2011). Mitochondrial DNA signature for range-wide populations of *Bicyclus anynana* suggests a rapid expansion from recent refugia. *PLoS ONE*, 6, e21385. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0021385 Dingle, H., Zalucki, M. P., & Rochester, W. A. (1999). Season-specific directional movement in migratory Australian butterflies. *Australian Journal of Entomology*, 38, 323-329.
- Drummond, A. J., Suchard, M. A., Xie, D., & Rambaut, A. (2012). Bayesian phylogenetics with BEAUti and the BEAST 1.7. *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, 29, 1969-1973.
- Ek-Amnuay, P. (2012). *Butterflies of Thailand (2nd ed)*. Bangkok, Thailand: Baan Lae Suan, Amarin Printing and Publishing.
- Excoffier, L., & Lischer, L. (2010). Arlequin suite ver 3.5: A new series of programs to perform population genetics analyses under Linux and Windows. *Molecular Ecology Resources*, 10, 564-567.
- Frankham, R., Ballou, J. D., & Briscoe, D. A. (2010). *Introduction to conservation genetics (2nd ed.)*. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press.
- Freeland, J. R. (2005). *Molecular ecology*. Wiltshire, England: Great Britain: Antony Rowe
- Hall, T. A. (1999). BioEdit: A user-friendly biological sequence alignment editor and analysis program for Windows 95/98/NT. *Nucleic Acids Symposium Series*, 41, 95-98.
- Hao, J.-J., Hao, J.-S., Sun, X.-Y., Zhang, L.-L., & Yang, Q. (2014). The complete mitochondrial genomes of the Fenton's wood white, *Leptidea morsei*, and the lemon emigrant, *Catopsilia pomona*. *Journal of Insect Science*, 14, 130.
- Huelsenbeck, J. P., & Ronquist, F. (2001). MrBayes: Bayesian inference of phylogeny. *Bioinformatics*, 17, 754-755.

- Inayoshi, Y. (2017). *Catopsilia pomona pomona* (Fabricius, 1775). A Check List of Butterflies in Indo-China (chiefly from Thailand, Laos and Vietnam). Retrieved from <http://yutaka.it-n.jp/pie/20490001.html>
- Jeratthitikul, E., Hara, T., Yago, M., Itoh, T., Wang, M., Usami, S., & Hikida, T. (2013). Phylogeography of Fischer's blue, *Tongeia fischeri*, in Japan: Evidence for introgressive hybridization. *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, 66, 316–326.
- Kumar, S., Stecher, G., & Tamura, K. (2016). MEGA7: Molecular evolutionary genetics analysis version 6.0. *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, 33, 1870–1874.
- Lyons, J. L., Pierce A. A., Barribeau, S. M., Sternberg, E. D., Mongue, A. J., & de Roode, J. C. (2012). Lack of genetic differentiation between monarch butterflies with divergent migration destinations. *Molecular Ecology*, 21, 3433–3444.
- Moreau, C. S., Wray, B. D., Czekanski-Moir, J. E., & Rubin, B. (2013). DNA preservation: A test of commonly used preservatives for insects. *Invertebrate Systematics*, 27, 81–86.
- Orr, A., & Kitching, R. (2010). *The butterflies of Australia*. Crows Nest, Australia: Allen and Unwin.
- Pfeiler, E., Nazario-Yepiz, N. O., Pérez-Gálvez, F., Chávez-Mora, C. A., Laclette, M. R. L., Rendón-Salinas, E., & Markow, T. A. (2017). Population genetics of overwintering monarch butterflies, *Danaus plexippus* (Linnaeus), from central Mexico inferred from mitochondrial DNA and microsatellite markers. *Journal of Heredity*, 108, 163–175.
- Pierce, A. A., Zalucki, M. P., Bangura, M., Udawatta, M., Kronforst, M. R., Altizer, S., . . . de Roode, J. C. (2014). Serial founder effects and genetic differentiation during worldwide range expansion of monarch butterflies. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 281, 0142230.
- Ramesh, T., Jahir, H. K., Satpathy, K. K., & Selvanayagam, M. A. (2012). A note on annual bidirectional movement of butterflies at South-Eastern plains of India. *Zoology*, 2(2), 1-6.
- Roderick, G. K. (1996). Geographic structure of insect population: Gene flow, phylogeography, and their uses. *Annual Review of Entomology*, 41, 263–290.
- Roitman, M., Gardner, M. G., New, T. R., Nguyen, T. T. T., Roycroft, E. J., Sunnucks, P., . . . Harrisson, K. A. (2017). Assessing the scope for genetic rescue of an endangered butterfly: The case of the Eltham copper. *Insect Conservation and Diversity*, 10, 399–414.
- Stevens, V. M., Turlure, C., & Baguette, M. (2010). A meta-analysis of dispersal in butterflies. *Biological Reviews of the Cambridge Philosophical Society*, 85(3), 625-642.
- Subinprasert, S., & Archawaranon, M. (2002). *Study Butterfly for Conservation in Thailand*. Bangkok, Thailand: Ramkhamhaeng University.
- Williams, C. (1927). A study of butterfly migration in south India and Ceylon, based largely on records by Evershed, M. G., Green, E. E., Fryer, J. C. F., & Ormiston, W. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London*, 75, 1-33.
- Ye, J., Coulouris, G., Zaretskaya, I., Cutcutache, I., Rozen, S., & Madden, T. (2012). Primer-BLAST: A tool to design target-specific primers for polymerase chain reaction. *BMC Bioinformatics*, 13, 134.
- Zhan, S., Zhang, W., Niitepöld, K., Hsu, J., Fernández Haeger, J., Zalucki, M. P., . . . Kronforst, M. R. (2014). The genetics of monarch butterfly migration and warning coloration. *Nature*, 514, 317–321.
- Zhisheng, A., Clemens, S. C., Shen, J., Qiang, X., Jin, Z., Sun, Y., . . . Lu, F. (2011) Glacial-interglacial Indian summer monsoon dynamics. *Science*, 333, 719–723.



## Appendix

Table A1. Sampling information of each *C. pomona* specimen, and its respective GenBank accession number. Sexes and forms are identified according to Ek-Amnuay (2012).

| Code      | Specimen No. | Locality             | Coordinates               | Date     | Sex and form               | Haplotype | GenBank accession No. |
|-----------|--------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------|----------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| BF BBN 1  | NK031        | Ban Bueng Niam       | 16.438537°N, 102.918382°E | 18-03-17 | female f. <i>nivescens</i> | 2         | MH557302              |
| BF BBN 2  | NK039        | Ban Bueng Niam       | 16.438242°N, 102.918323°E | 08-04-17 | female f. <i>jugurtha</i>  | 1         | MH557303              |
| BF BBN 3  | NK043        | Ban Bueng Niam       | 16.438255°N, 102.918377°E | 08-04-17 | male f. <i>alcmeone</i>    | 1         | MH557304              |
| BF BBN 4  | NK042        | Ban Bueng Niam       | 16.438249°N, 102.918383°E | 08-04-17 | female f. <i>nivescens</i> | 2         | MH557305              |
| BF BBN 5  | NK044        | Ban Bueng Niam       | 16.438234°N, 102.918301°E | 08-04-17 | male f. <i>alcmeone</i>    | 2         | MH557306              |
| BF BBN 6  | NK028        | Ban Bueng Niam       | 16.438300°N, 102.918423°E | 11-03-17 | male f. <i>alcmeone</i>    | 5         | MH557307              |
| BF BBN 7  | NK029        | Ban Bueng Niam       | 16.438229°N, 102.918407°E | 11-03-17 | female f. <i>nivescens</i> | 2         | MH557308              |
| BF BBN 8  | NK040        | Ban Bueng Niam       | 16.438261°N, 102.918396°E | 08-04-17 | female f. <i>crocale</i>   | 6         | MH557309              |
| BF BBN 9  | NK041        | Ban Bueng Niam       | 16.438249°N, 102.918383°E | 08-04-17 | male f. <i>alcmeone</i>    | 1         | MH557310              |
| BF BBN 10 | NK045        | Ban Bueng Niam       | 16.438251°N, 102.918380°E | 08-04-17 | male f. <i>alcmeone</i>    | 7         | MH557311              |
| BF KKU 1  | NK012        | Khon Kaen University | 16.450669°N, 102.817024°E | 01-03-17 | male f. <i>alcmeone</i>    | 3         | MH557312              |
| BF KKU 2  | NK017        | Khon Kaen University | 16.450622°N, 102.817152°E | 01-03-17 | male f. <i>alcmeone</i>    | 8         | MH557313              |
| BF KKU 3  | NK018        | Khon Kaen University | 16.450493°N, 102.817152°E | 01-03-17 | male f. <i>alcmeone</i>    | 3         | MH557314              |
| BF KKU 4  | NK020        | Khon Kaen University | 16.450512°N, 102.817158°E | 01-03-17 | male f. <i>alcmeone</i>    | 3         | MH557315              |
| BF KKU 5  | NK013        | Khon Kaen University | 16.450645°N, 102.817045°E | 01-03-17 | male f. <i>alcmeone</i>    | 9         | MH557316              |
| BF KKU 6  | NK014        | Khon Kaen University | 16.450684°N, 102.816988°E | 01-03-17 | male f. <i>alcmeone</i>    | 3         | MH557317              |
| BF KKU 7  | NK015        | Khon Kaen University | 16.450670°N, 102.817015°E | 01-03-17 | male f. <i>alcmeone</i>    | 10        | MH557318              |
| BF KKU 8  | NK016        | Khon Kaen University | 16.450728°N, 102.817045°E | 01-03-17 | female f. <i>nivescens</i> | 1         | MH557319              |
| BF KKU 9  | NK019        | Khon Kaen University | 16.450493°N, 102.817152°E | 01-03-17 | female f. <i>nivescens</i> | 11        | MH557320              |
| BF KKU 10 | NK021        | Khon Kaen University | 16.450512°N, 102.817158°E | 01-03-17 | female f. <i>nivescens</i> | 12        | MH557321              |
| BF BNL 1  | NK034        | Ban Nong Lub         | 16.451310°N, 102.767508°E | 02-04-17 | male f. <i>alcmeone</i>    | 13        | MH557322              |
| BF BNL 2  | NK036        | Ban Nong Lub         | 16.451360°N, 102.767509°E | 02-04-17 | male f. <i>alcmeone</i>    | 14        | MH557323              |
| BF BNL 3  | NK032        | Ban Nong Lub         | 16.451246°N, 102.767509°E | 02-04-17 | male f. <i>alcmeone</i>    | 1         | MH557324              |
| BF BNL 4  | NK033        | Ban Nong Lub         | 16.451367°N, 102.767458°E | 02-04-17 | female f. <i>jugurtha</i>  | 15        | MH557325              |
| BF BNL 5  | NK035        | Ban Nong Lub         | 16.451315°N, 102.767508°E | 02-04-17 | female f. <i>jugurtha</i>  | 1         | MH557326              |
| BF BNL 6  | NK037        | Ban Nong Lub         | 16.451350°N, 102.767505°E | 02-04-17 | female f. <i>jugurtha</i>  | 1         | MH557327              |
| BF BNL 7  | NK038        | Ban Nong Lub         | 16.451368°N, 102.767460°E | 02-04-17 | female f. <i>jugurtha</i>  | 1         | MH557328              |
| BF BNL 8  | NK046        | Ban Nong Lub         | 16.450510°N, 102.767643°E | 10-04-17 | female f. <i>crocale</i>   | 16        | MH557329              |
| BF BNL 9  | NK047        | Ban Nong Lub         | 16.450500°N, 102.767651°E | 10-04-17 | male f. <i>alcmeone</i>    | 1         | MH557330              |
| BF BNL 10 | NK048        | Ban Nong Lub         | 16.450453°N, 102.767465°E | 17-04-17 | female f. <i>jugurtha</i>  | 1         | MH557331              |
| AT BBN 1  | NK049        | Ban Bueng Niam       | 16.438387°N, 102.918390°E | 20-05-17 | male f. <i>alcmeone</i>    | 17        | MH557332              |
| AT BBN 2  | NK050        | Ban Bueng Niam       | 16.438370°N, 102.918350°E | 20-05-17 | male f. <i>alcmeone</i>    | 18        | MH557333              |
| AT BBN 3  | NK051        | Ban Bueng Niam       | 16.438380°N, 102.918349°E | 20-05-17 | male f. <i>alcmeone</i>    | 2         | MH557334              |
| AT BBN 4  | NK052        | Ban Bueng Niam       | 16.438408°N, 102.918371°E | 27-05-17 | male f. <i>alcmeone</i>    | 1         | MH557335              |





Table A2. Continued.

| Haplotype | Nucleotide position |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |   |
|-----------|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
|           | 277                 | 289 | 313 | 379 | 391 | 406 | 493 | 496 | 601 | 658 | 715 | 769 | 772 | 802 | 820 | 841 | 856 | 861 |   |
| 35(1)     | .                   | .   | .   | .   | .   | .   | .   | .   | .   | .   | .   | .   | .   | .   | .   | .   | .   | .   | . |
| 36(1)     | .                   | .   | .   | .   | .   | .   | .   | .   | .   | T   | .   | .   | .   | .   | .   | .   | .   | .   | . |

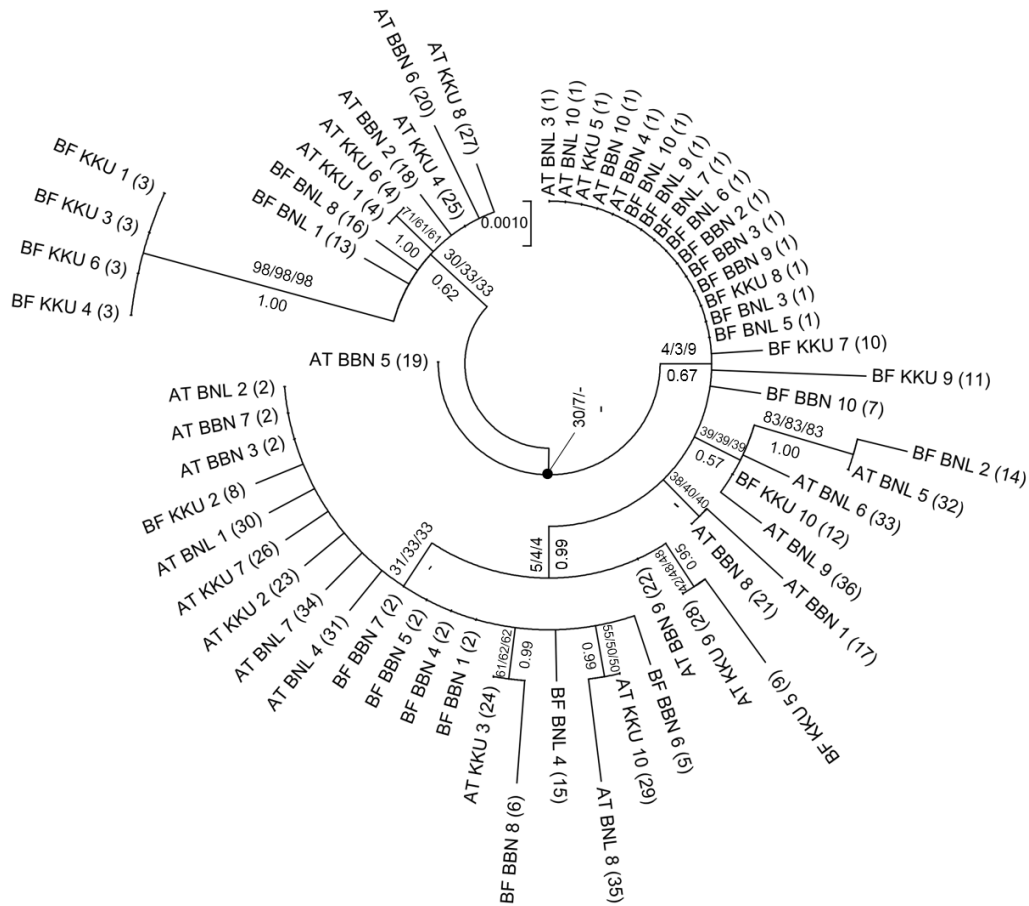


Figure A1. The maximum likelihood tree of 60 individuals of *C. pomona* in Khon Kaen Province based on the Tamura-Nei model (Tamura & Nei, 1993). The haplotype number is given in parentheses. The numbers above the tree branches show 3 values of bootstrap supports from Maximum likelihood/Neighbor joining/Maximum parsimony method, respectively, and the numbers below the tree branches show Bayesian inference support.

**References**

Ek-Amnuay, P. (2012). *Butterflies of Thailand (2nd ed)*. Baan Lae Suan, Amarin Printing and Publishing Co., Bangkok.

Hao, J.-J., Hao, J.-S., Sun, X.-Y., Zhang, L.-L., & Yang, Q. (2014). The complete mitochondrial genomes of the

Fenton's wood white, *Leptidea morsei*, and the lemon emigrant, *Catopsilia pomona*. *Journal of Insect Science*, 14, 130.

Tamura, K. & Nei, M. (1993). Estimation of the number of nucleotide substitutions in the control region of mitochondrial DNA in humans and chimpanzees. *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, 10, 512-526.