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# Cryptic diversity and gene introgression of Moinidae (Crustacea: Cladocera) in Nigeria

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## Abstract

The distribution and species/lineage diversity of freshwater invertebrate zooplankton is understudied in Sub-Saharan Africa. In the present study, we explored the lineage diversity and regional distribution of Moinidae (Crustacea: Cladocera) species in Southeast Nigeria. Three species of Moinidae were identified, based on morphology, in 11 of 32 Nigerian lakes examined. Their phylogenetic relationships were investigated based on mitochondrial DNA sequences (cytochrome oxidase c subunit I gene; *co1*) and two nuclear internal transcribed spacer regions (*ITS-1* and *ITS-2*). Three *co1* lineages were detected, corresponding to the morphological species. Two of the *co1* lineages are newly reported, but one *co1* lineage (and the haplotype found) is globally distributed, suggesting an ability of moinids to disperse over long distances. Interestingly, two individuals that were morphologically *M. cf. macrocota* and had *ITS* alleles typical of that species had mtDNA sequences typical of *M. cf. micrura*. Additionally, one individual that corresponded morphologically to *M. cf. macrocota* (and also had a mitochondrial sequence typical of *M. cf. micrura*) had one *ITS-2* allele typical of that species and one typical of *M. cf. micrura*. This discordance between mtDNA and nuclear phylogenies suggests gene introgression and/or hybridization between different species within the genus. Our data shows the lineage distribution/diversity and the presence of gene introgression/interspecific hybridization among moinid species from a tropical region.

## Keywords

new lineages – gene introgression – Moinidae – Nigeria

## Introduction

“Cosmopolitanism”, based on the apparent lack of morphological variation among presumed conspecific populations across wide regions, was widely accepted in the past (Baas-Becking, 1934). This was especially so for freshwater invertebrate zooplankton, as they have large population sizes and strong dispersal abilities (Bohonak & Jenkins, 2003). However, some “species” that have been claimed to be cosmopolitan are increasingly shown to be groups or complexes of morphologically similar species (Frey, 1987). More recently,

extensive genetic studies have confirmed that many widespread freshwater invertebrate “species” (based on morphological criteria) often consist of very distinct, locally endemic lineages, some of which likely represent cryptic species (Marrone et al., 2013; Neretina et al., 2021; Penton et al., 2004).

Gene introgression/hybridization is frequently observed in nature, with at least 25% of plant species and 10% of animal species engaging in interspecific crosses (Mallet, 2005). This phenomenon can be inferred from mito-nuclear incongruence among phylogenetic trees (Linder & Rieseberg, 2004),

which is the frequently observed across taxa (e.g., Degnan & Rosenberg, 2006; Nichols, 2001; Rosenberg, 2013; Thielsch et al., 2017). Successful interspecific hybridization has been often documented in cyclical parthenogens, such as aphids (Delmotte et al., 2003) and zooplanktonic cladocerans (Hebert, 1985; Ma et al., 2019; Xu et al., 2013).

The Moinidae (Crustacea: Cladocera) is a speciose cladoceran family belonging to the order Anomopoda, close relatives of the Daphniidae. Based on the checklist from the FADA website (Kotov et al., 2013), this family includes 35 valid species in two valid genera: *Moina* Baird, 1850 (34 species) and *Moinodaphnia* Herrick, 1887 (1 species). Moinidae occur in a wide range of water-bodies, but are frequently present in temporary waters (Smirnov, 1976). Similar to other zooplankton (e.g., *Daphnia* Mueller, 1776), Moinidae utilize cyclical parthenogenesis, in which several generations of parthenogenetically produced females alternate with a sexual generation with males producing sperm and females producing haploid eggs (Dumont & Negrea, 2002). When the environmental conditions are suitable, parthenogenesis is common resulting in rapid population growth. When unfavorable conditions arise, such as food shortage or overcrowding, moinid individuals can switch to sexual production of males and sexual haploid eggs that require fertilization, followed by diapause. This sexual phase can lead to interspecific hybridization if closely related species co-occur (Hebert, 1985). Indeed, a very recent study showed discordances between mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) and nuclear ITS-1 phylogenies of the genus *Moina* in China, which is indicative of interspecific introgression and hybridization (Ni et al., 2019).

Until now, Moinidae has received little attention with respect to molecular systematics (e.g., Bekker et al., 2016; Mirabdullayev,

1998; Neretina & Kirdyashova, 2019; Ni et al., 2019; Padhye & Dumont, 2014). The first genetic study discovered that *M. cf. micrura* Kurz, 1875 from Europe and Australia belonged to two genetically divergent but morphologically similar species (Petrusek et al., 2004). Later studies using DNA-barcoding detected a cryptic species of the *M. brachiata* Jurine, 1820 complex in Hungary (Nedli et al., 2014) and in Northern Eurasia (Bekker et al., 2016). More recently, analysis of COI sequences revealed four species complexes with eleven lineages of *Moina* across China (Ni et al., 2019). Very recent integrative taxonomic studies have also explored underestimated species diversity of Japanese moinids (Makino et al., 2020), diversity in the *M. macrocopia* complex worldwide (Montoliu-Elena et al., 2019) and in the *M. micrura* complex worldwide (Elias-Gutierrez et al., 2019). There have been relatively few studies including moinids from Africa (Etile et al., 2020; Ghaouaci et al., 2018; Jeje, 1989; Marrone et al., 2016; Smirnov, 2008). Based on morphology, a previous study reported *M. reticulata* Daday, 1905 in West Africa (Lamoot & Dumont, 1974). In Nigeria, three species of *Moina* (*M. micrura*, *M. reticulata* and *M. dubia* Richard, 1874) and one species of *Moinodaphnia* (*Moinodaphnia macleayi* King, 1853) were recorded (Jeje, 1989). However, there have been no studies on phylogeography and lineage/genetic diversity of Moinidae from Nigeria, despite the importance of this region as a biogeographic hotspot (e.g., Myers et al., 2000; Penner et al., 2013).

The present study assessed genetic diversity of Moinidae within a small area of Southeast Nigeria, with emphasis on possible hybridization/gene introgression. DNA sequences from three regions of the genome were used: the mitochondrial cytochrome oxidase c subunit I gene (COI), and the nuclear internal transcribed spacer regions (ITS-1 and ITS-2).

We placed Moinidae species from Southeast Nigeria in a global context by utilizing previously published sequences. We also estimated the existence and number of new lineages within the family Moinidae, by using two different species-delimitation methods. Finally, we tested the hypothesis that hybridization and introgression could occur among members of the Moinidae from tropical regions, as observed in other zooplankton elsewhere (Hebert, 1985).

## Methods

### Sampling

Zooplankton samples were collected from 32 locations (lakes or ponds) in Southeast Nigeria (Fig. 1) during August and September of 2018.

Three or four sampling sites were selected from each location, and a plankton net (mesh size 125 µm) was hauled vertically through the water column. Samples collected from different sites in the same locations were pooled and preserved with 95% ethanol at 4°C in the laboratory. Moinidae was only detected in 11 out of the 32 locations investigated in this study.

### Morphological examination

For morphological examination, animals were selected from alcohol-preserved samples under a dissecting microscope, placed on slides and examined under a high-resolution optical microscope (ECLIPSE Ci-S, Nikon). Ten parthenogenetic females from each species of Moinidae were examined (Supplementary Fig. S1) based on five key morphological characteristics, including head, antenna II, limb I, valve and postabdomen (Elias-Gutierrez et al., 2019; Goulden, 1968; Montoliu-Elena et al., 2019). In addition, the morphology of adult males and ephippial female (if present) from each species of Moinidae were recorded.

### DNA extraction and sequencing

On average, ten individuals of Moinidae (identified based on morphological characteristics under a microscope) per location were randomly selected for DNA extraction following a standard protease-K digestion protocol (Schwenk et al., 1998). Sample sizes were low ( $N < 3$ ) for one of the 11 populations because of the low frequency of moinids in the zooplankton there. Each individual was placed in a 20 µL H<sub>3</sub> buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.3, 0.05 M KCl, 0.005% Tween 20 and 0.005% NP-40) with final concentration 0.1 mg/mL proteinase K, and incubated for 16 h at 55°C in a water bath with mild shaking. The proteinase K was then irreversibly denatured by a 12 min incubation at 95°C. Finally, the tube with DNA was centrifuged briefly and stored at 4°C before PCR.

A 680 bp segment of the mitochondrial cytochrome c oxidase subunit I (COI) gene, a 810 bp segment of the first nuclear internal transcribed spacer (ITS-1) and a 1050 bp segment of the second nuclear internal transcribed spacer (ITS-2) were used as genetic markers. For COI, PCR amplification used a standard primer pair; LCO1490 and HCO2198 (Folmer et al., 1994), with cycling conditions as in our previous study (Ni et al., 2019). PCR products were then purified and sequenced in the forward direction, using an ABI PRISM 3730 DNA capillary sequencer, by Majobio Bio-pharm Technology Co., Ltd (Shanghai, China). Ninety-seven individuals were successfully sequenced at the COI locus, and then an average of 10 individuals from each of the three COI lineages (corresponding to morphospecies: see below) identified (31 individuals in total; Table 1) were chosen for sequencing of the nuclear internal transcribed spacers (ITS-1 or/and ITS-2). Amplification of the ITS-1 and ITS-2 regions was performed using primers 18SD and 5.8BR, 5.8BF and 28SD2BR, respectively (Taylor et al., 2005), following the protocol used in our previous studies (Ni

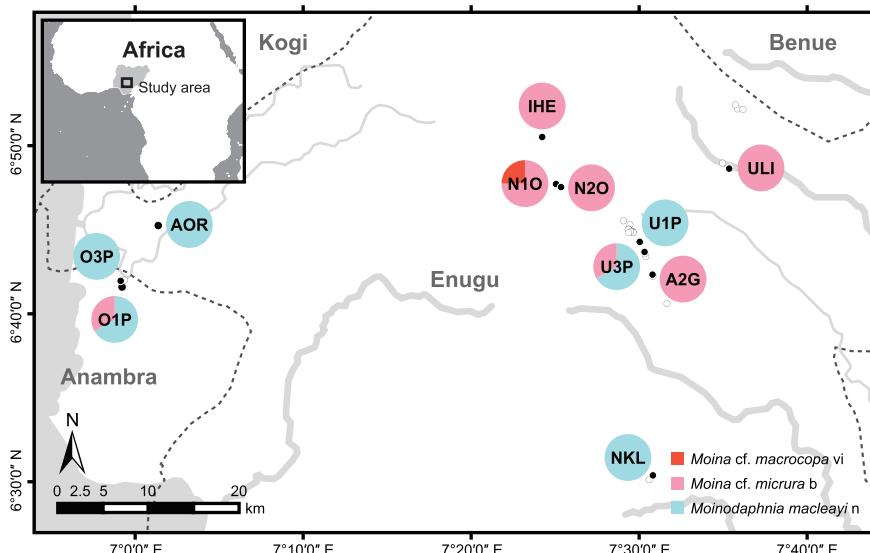


FIGURE 1 Geographic locations of sampling for Moinidae in Southeast Nigeria. Solid black circles indicate locations where moinids were present, empty circles indicate locations where no moinids were detected. Large colored circles near solid black circles represent the distribution of coi lineages. For abbreviations of location names, refer to Table 1.

et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2021). As ITS fragments sometimes had multiple heterozygous sites (because of the presence of different alleles), cloning was carried out to obtain unambiguous chromatograms (Ni et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2021). Up to 15 clones were sequenced for each ITS PCR product: only identical sequences obtained at least twice per PCR product were selected for further analysis. All ITS PCR products were sequenced using the forward primer on an ABI PRISM 3730 DNA capillary sequencer by Majobio Bio-pharm Technology Co., Ltd (Shanghai, China). All the chromatograms were carefully checked and manually corrected in MEGA X (Kumar et al., 2018), and the quality scores of the sequences were examined in Chromas Lite Version 2.1 (Technelysium Pty. Ltd, South Brisbane, Australia). For all markers, chromatograms with double peaks or noise were re-sequenced in the reverse direction, and only chromatograms with high quality sequences (Phred quality score  $> 40$ ) were chosen for the subsequent genetic analysis. All new sequences were

submitted to GenBank and assigned accession numbers: coi: MZ505633-MZ505638, ITS-1: MZ504730-MZ504744 and ITS-2: MZ504753-MZ504780.

#### **Sequence alignment and genetic diversity**

For coi, unique haplotypes were identified in DnaSP 6 (Rozas et al., 2017). These were then aligned together with the n1o haplotypes represented among 416 reference sequences retrieved from GenBank (Supplementary Table S1), using Clustal W (Thompson et al., 1994) in MEGA X (Kumar et al., 2018). For ITS fragments, unique alleles were verified in DnaSP 6, and then aligned using MUSCLE (Edgar, 2004) in MEGA X. Twenty-five reference sequences of Moinidae ITS fragments were retrieved from GenBank (Supplementary Table S2) and aligned together with the ITS unique haplotypes in this study. For each species, the number of haplotypes ( $N_2$ ), haplotype diversity ( $H$ ) and nucleotide diversity ( $\pi$ ) were calculated in DNAsP 6 for both coi and ITS markers. Intra-individual differences

TABLE 1 List of localities inhabited by moinids in SE Nigeria and genetic characterization of sequenced individuals

Location (abbreviation)	Latitude, longitude	mtDNA Taxon	COI						ITS-1						ITS-2		
			N <sub>1</sub>	N <sub>2</sub>	Haplotype	Lineage	H	π	N <sub>3</sub>	N <sub>4</sub>	H	π	N <sub>5</sub>	N <sub>6</sub>	H	π	
Adannai Opanda	6.75438N, 7.02303E	<i>Moinodaphnia</i> <i>macleayi</i>	10	3	AOR1,AOR2, n AOR3		0.711	0.00190	2	4	1	0.00846	4	5	1	0.00630	
Rd Pool 1 (AOR)		<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>	12	1	OPI	b	0	0	1	1	n.s.	n.s.	3	3	1	0.00298	
Agu Elkwegbe	6.70439N, 7.51358E	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>	7	1	IHE1	b	0	0	0	0	n.s.	n.s.	2	3	1	0.01665	
The Pool (IHE)	6.84209N, 7.40359E	<i>Moinodaphnia</i> <i>macleayi</i>	8	1	AOR1	n	0	0	3	4	0.833	0.32709	3	3	1	0	
Nike Lake (NKL)	6.50617N, 7.51315E	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>	15	1	OPI	b	0	0	4	4	0.818	0.04260	7	9	0.772	0.04884	
Nome Pool 1 (NiO)	6.79523N, 7.41813E	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocpa</i>	5	1	NiO1	vi	0	0	3	4	1	0.03546	2	4	1	0.03546	
Nome Pool 2	6.79475N, 7.41961E	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>	13	1	OPI	b	0	0	2	3	1	0.17598	1	1	n.s.	n.s.	
Amaho (N2O)	6.69373N, (OPI)	<i>Moinodaphnia</i> <i>macleayi</i>	2	1	AOR1	n	0	0	0	0	n.s.	n.s.	0	0	n.s.	n.s.	
Omasi Pool 1	6.69932N, (O3P)	<i>Moinodaphnia</i> <i>macleayi</i>	8	3	AOR1,AOR2, n AOR3		0.607	0.00145	0	0	n.s.	n.s.	0	0	n.s.	n.s.	
Ukwuado Pool 1	6.74756N, 7.49361E	<i>Moinodaphnia</i> <i>macleayi</i>	12	1	AOR1	n	0	0	0	0	n.s.	n.s.	3	3	1	0.00172	

Location (abbreviation)	Latitude, longitude	mtDNA Taxon	COI						ITS-1						ITS-2		
			N <sub>1</sub>	N <sub>2</sub>	Haplotype	Lineage	H	π	N <sub>3</sub>	N <sub>4</sub>	H	π	N <sub>5</sub>	N <sub>6</sub>	H	π	
Ukwuado Pool 3 Opi (U3P)	6.74720N, 7.49405E	<i>Moinodaphnia</i> <i>macleayi</i>	2	1	AOR1	n	o	o	o	o	o	n.s.	o	o	n.s.	n.s.	
Umuaruma Lake Ihandiagu (ULI)	6.75886N, 7.48433E	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>	1	1	OpI <sub>1</sub>	b	n.s.	n.s.	o	o	n.s.	n.s.	o	o	n.s.	n.s.	
		<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>	1	1	OpI <sub>1</sub>	b	n.s.	n.s.	o	o	n.s.	n.s.	o	o	n.s.	n.s.	

N<sub>1</sub>, THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS USED FOR COI SEQUENCING; N<sub>2</sub>, THE NUMBER OF HAPLOTYPES; H, HAPLOTYPE DIVERSITY; π, NUCLEOTIDE DIVERSITY; N<sub>3</sub>, THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS FOR ITS-1 SEQUENCING; N<sub>4</sub>, THE NUMBER OF ITS-1 ALLELES; N<sub>5</sub>, THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS FOR ITS-2 SEQUENCING; N<sub>6</sub>, THE NUMBER OF ITS-2 ALLELES.

between ITS-1 or ITS-2 alleles in heterozygotes was calculated in MEGA X.

### Phylogenetic analyses

Potential loss of phylogenetic signal because of substitution saturation among COI sequences was assessed using the test of Xia et al. (2003) implemented in DAMBE 5 (Xia, 2013). jModelTest 2.1.3 (Darriba et al., 2012) was then used to determine the best-fitting evolutionary models and partitioning schemes by employing the greedy algorithm and the Bayesian information criterion. A phylogenetic tree was constructed from the COI alignment applying the Bayesian method in BEAST 2 (Bouckaert et al., 2014). The analysis was run for 10,000,000 generations and a tree recorded every 1000 generations. The first 25% were discarded as burn-in, and the final 7,500 trees summarized using TreeAnnotator. GTR+G was found to be the best fitted substitution model (Huelsenbeck & Ronquist, 2001). A strict clock and a birth-death tree model were used as priors to obtain an ultrametric tree for the generalized mixed Yule coalescent model analyses. Tracer v1.6 (Rambaut et al., 2018) was applied to ensure that the analysis had run for a sufficient number of generations. *Ceriodaphnia* Dana, 1853, a member of the Cladocera phylogenetically close to Moinidae, was used as an outgroup (Bekker et al., 2016; Ni et al., 2019). Similarly, a Bayesian phylogenetic tree was constructed separately for the ITS-1 and ITS-2 marker in BEAST 2 using the GTR+I+G substitution model.

### Detection of new lineages and phylogeographic analyses

Two independent species-delimitation methods were used to test the hypothesis that Moinidae is a complex of reproductively isolated species/lineages: the general mixed Yule coalescent model (GMYC, Pons et al., 2006) and Poisson tree processes methods

(PTP, Zhang et al., 2013). These methods were applied to all genetic markers. The GMYC is a likelihood-based method for delimiting species/lineages by fitting within- and between-species branching models to reconstruct gene trees using an ultrametric tree. The GMYC modelling was carried out using the *splits* package (Ezard et al., 2009) in R 3.6.1 (R Development Core Team, 2013). The PTP calculations were performed on the bPTP webserver (<http://species.h-its.org/ptp/>), with 100,000 MCMC generations, thinning set to 100 and burn-in at 25% and performing a Bayesian search. The input phylogenetic trees were generated with BEAST 2 as above. Finally, to visualize genealogical relationships among Moinidae lineages within species, COI haplotype networks were constructed in HAPLOVIEWER (Salzburger et al., 2011). Here, 626 Moinidae reference sequences, for which there was detailed collection information, were chosen from 21 geographical regions, including the Bolivia, Canada, China (Eastern Plain, Inner Mongolia-Xiangjiang Plateau, Northeast Plain, Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau), Czech Republic, Hungary, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Mexico, Russia (Central Siberian Plateau, the East European Plain, the East Siberia and the Western Siberian Plain), Spain, Thailand, and U.S.A, see Supplementary Table S3. The maximum likelihood trees inferred with MEGA X with the best model (GTR+G) were used as input.

## Results

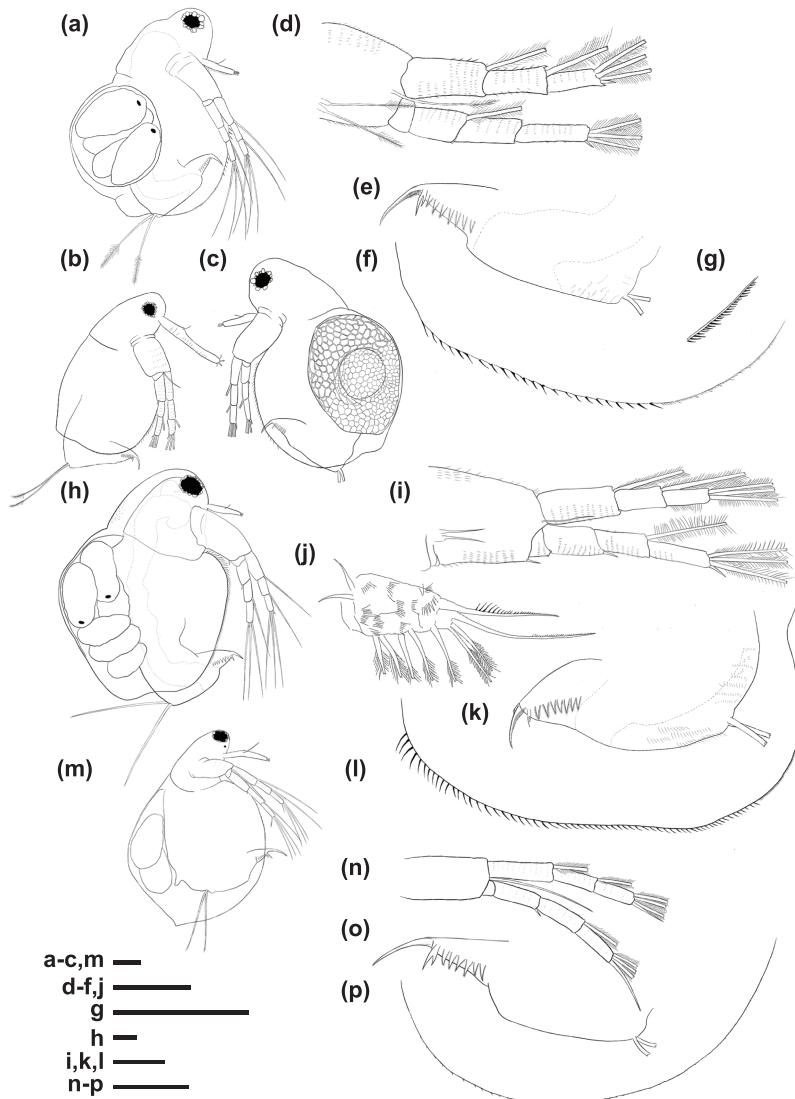
### Morphological examination

Our morphological examination revealed three moinid species in Southeast Nigeria: *M. cf. micrura*, *M. cf. macrocopa* and *Moinodaphnia macleayi* (All the voucher specimens are preserved in Zooplankton

Collection at Fudan University; Fig. 2a-p, and Table 2). *M. cf. micrura* (Fig. 2a) and *M. cf. macrocopa* (Fig. 2h) could be distinguished by two key morphological features: arrangement of the setules on the postero-ventral margin and setae of limb I. The setules on the postero-ventral margin of *M. cf. micrura* are grouped (Fig. 2g), but those of *M. cf. macrocopa* are not. The setae of the penultimate segment of limb I of *M. cf. macrocopa* bears strong denticles (Fig. 2j), whereas the corresponding seta of *M. cf. micrura* bears relatively thin setules. We only found males and sexual females of *M. cf. micrura* (Fig. 2b and c). The ephippium carried by the latter contains a sexual egg which is reticulated over its surface (Fig. 2c). Parthenogenetic females of *M. macleayi* could be easily distinguished from other species because they have an ocellus and a long spine on the exopod of antenna II (Fig. 2m and n).

### Genetic diversity

A total of 97 moinid individuals (an average of 8.8 individuals per population) were successfully sequenced at the COI (478 bp in the aligned dataset); among them, six unique COI haplotypes were detected (Table 1). Three haplotypes (AOR<sub>1</sub>, AOR<sub>2</sub> and AOR<sub>3</sub>) belonged to *M. macleayi*, two haplotypes (O1P<sub>1</sub> and IHE<sub>1</sub>) to *M. cf. micrura* and one haplotype (N1O<sub>1</sub>) to *M. cf. macrocopa* (Table 1). For each morphologically defined species, the population haplotype diversity (H) of COI ranged from 0 to 0.711, and the population nucleotide diversity ( $\pi$ ) ranged from 0 to 0.00190 (Table 1). The COI alignment (excluding the outgroup) contained 121 variable sites. In total, 15 individuals belonging to 3 species/lineages were sequenced at locus ITS-1 (5 heterozygotes and 10 homozygotes, resulting in a total of 20 sequences; 677 bp in the aligned dataset; Table 3); among them 16 unique ITS-1 alleles were detected (Tables 1 and 3). For



**FIGURE 2** Morphology of Moinidae from Southeast Nigeria. *Monia* cf. *micrura* from the Nome Pool 2, Amaho: lateral view of (a) parthenogenetic female, (b) male and (c) ephippial female; (d) antenna II, (e) postabdomen (f) valve and (g) postero-ventral margin of valve of the parthenogenetic female. *Monia* cf. *macrocopia*, parthenogenetic female from Nome Pool 1: (h) lateral view, (i) antenna II, (j) limb I, (k) postabdomen and (l) valve. *Moinodaphnia macleayi*, parthenogenetic female from Adanni Opanda Rd Pool 1: (m) lateral view, (n) antenna II, (o) postabdomen and (p) valve. Scale bars 0.1 mm.

TABLE 2 Summary of morphological characteristics of parthenogenetic females of three moinid species examined in the present study

Species identified by morphology	Head		Antenna II		Limb I		Valve		Postabdomen	
	Covered with hair	Supraocular depression	Ocellus	Distribution of spines	Sensory seta at the basipodite	Strong denticles on penultimate segment	Setae on postero-ventral margin	Setae on margin	No. of feathered setae	No. of abdominal process
<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>	No	Markedly absent	Absent	0-1-0-1/0-0-1	Long	Absent	Grouping	6-7	Absent	
<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocopa</i>	Yes	Absent	Absent	0-1-0-1/0-0-1, one stout spine at the tip of basipodite	Short	Present	No groupings	7-9	Absent	
<i>Moinodaphnia</i> cf. <i>macleayi</i>	No	Absent	Present	0-1-0-1/0-0-1, apical spine on exopod specially long	Long	Absent	No groupings	5-6	1	

TABLE 3 List of individuals sequenced at rts-1 and rts-2 in this study. Bold type indicates any mismatch assignment by coi versus rts. Abbreviations of population IDs are provided in Table 1

Individual ID	mtDNA lineage ID	Morphological species	rts-1		rts-2	
			rts-1 Allele ID	rts-1 clade	rts-2 Allele ID	rts-2 clade
AOR13-2	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i> n	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i>	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i> 1-6	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i>	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i> II-1	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i>
AOR13-3	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i> n	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i>	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i> 1-7	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i>	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i> II-2	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i>
AOR13-5	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i> n	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i>	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i>	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i>	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i> II-4	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i>
AOR13-6	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i> n	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i>	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i> 1-4	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i>	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i> II-5	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i>
AOR13-7	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i> n	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i>	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i> 1-5	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i>	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i> II-3	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i>
UiP20-12	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i> n	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i>	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i>	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i>	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i> II-7	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i>
UiP20-13	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i> n	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i>	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i>	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i>	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i> II-8	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i>

TABLE 3 List of individuals sequenced at ITS-1 and ITS-2 in this study. Bold type indicates any mismatch assignment by COI versus ITS. Abbreviations of population IDs are provided in Table 1 (*cont.*)

Individual ID	mtDNA lineage ID	Morphological species	ITS-1		ITS-2	
			ITS-1 Allele ID	ITS-1 clade	ITS-2 Allele ID	ITS-2 clade
UiP20-14	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i> n	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i>			<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i> II-6	<i>Moinodaphnia macleayi</i>
N2O2-1	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> b	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>	I-10		<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> II-12	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>
N2O2-2	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> b	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocota</i>	I-11	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocota</i>		
NiO24-1	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> b	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>			<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> II-11	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>
NiO24-2	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> b	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>	I-12		<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> II-11	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>
NiO24-3	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> b	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>			<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> II-10	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>
NiO24-4	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> b	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocota</i>			<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocota</i>	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocota</i>
NiO24-5	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocota</i>	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocota</i>	vi	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocota</i> I-3	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocota</i> II-1	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocota</i>
					<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocota</i> II-3	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocota</i>

Individual n	mtDNA lineage ID	Morphological species	ITS-1		ITS-2	
			ITS-1 Allele ID	ITS-1 clade	ITS-2 Allele ID	ITS-2 clade
NiO24-6	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocopa</i>	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocopa</i>	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocopa</i> I-3	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocopa</i>	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocopa</i> II-4	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocopa</i>
NiO24-7	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocopa</i>	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocopa</i>	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocopa</i> I-4	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocopa</i>	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocopa</i> II-5	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocopa</i>
NiO64-1	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> b	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> I-13	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> II-1	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>
NiO64-2	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> b	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocopa</i>	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocopa</i> I-3	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>macrocopa</i>	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> II-9	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>
NiO64-4	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> b	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> b			<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> II-13	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>
NiO64-5	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> b	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> b			<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> II-13	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>
NiO64-6	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> b	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> b			<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> II-3	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>
IHE39-1	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> b	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> b	I-12	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> II-6	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>

TABLE 3 List of individuals sequenced at ITS-1 and ITS-2 in this study. Bold type indicates any mismatch assignment by COI versus ITS. Abbreviations of population IDs are provided in Table 1 (*cont.*)

Individual ID	mtDNA lineage ID	Morphological species	ITS-1		ITS-2	
			ITS-1 Allele ID	ITS-1 clade	ITS-2 Allele ID	ITS-2 clade
IHE43-12	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> b	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> b			<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> II-14	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>
A2G47-2	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> b	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> b			<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> II-2	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>
A2G47-3	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> b	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> b			<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> II-5	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>
A2G47-5	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> b	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>			<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> II-4	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>
A2G61-1	<i>Moinodaphnia</i> cf. <i>micrura</i> b	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>			<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>	<i>Moina</i> cf. <i>micrura</i>
NKL63-1	<i>Moinodaphnia</i> <i>macleayi</i> n	<i>Moinodaphnia</i> <i>macleayi</i>	I-9	<i>Moinodaphnia</i> <i>macleayi</i> I-1	<i>Moinodaphnia</i> II-9	<i>Moinodaphnia</i> <i>macleayi</i>
NKL63-3	<i>Moinodaphnia</i> <i>macleayi</i> n	<i>Moinodaphnia</i> <i>macleayi</i>		<i>Moinodaphnia</i> <i>macleayi</i>		<i>Moinodaphnia</i> <i>macleayi</i>
NKL63-4	<i>Moinodaphnia</i> <i>macleayi</i> n	<i>Moinodaphnia</i> <i>macleayi</i>		<i>Moinodaphnia</i> <i>macleayi</i> I-3	<i>Moinodaphnia</i> II-9	<i>Moinodaphnia</i> <i>macleayi</i>

ITS-2, 26 individuals belonging to 3 species/lineages were sequenced (6 heterozygotes and 19 homozygotes, resulting in a total of 31 sequences; 955 bp in the aligned dataset; Table 3); among them 28 unique ITS-2 alleles were detected (Tables 1 and 3). The haplotype diversity ( $H$ ) ranged from 0.818 to 1 (mean = 0.930) for ITS-1 and from 0.772 to 1 (mean = 0.967) for ITS-2, and the nucleotide diversity ( $\pi$ ) ranged from 0.00846 to 0.32709 (mean = 0.11792) and from 0 to 0.04884 (mean = 0.01599) for ITS-2. The amount of intra-individual difference between alleles of heterozygotes at ITS-1 ranged from 1 bp to 11 bp, and at ITS-2 ranged from 3 bp to 150 bp (due to variable numbers of simple-sequence repeats; data not shown).

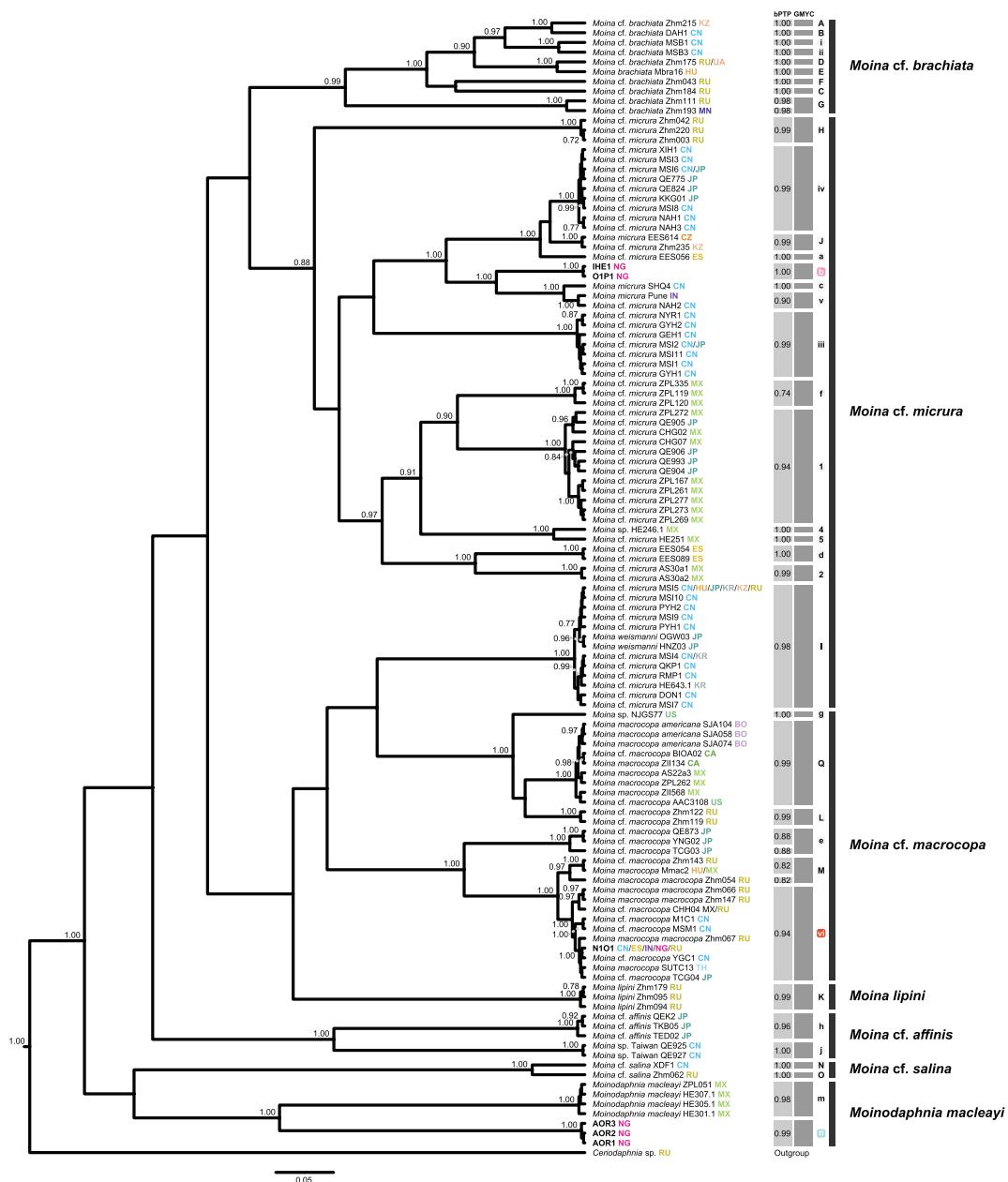
### Phylogeny and gene introgression

Based on the COI Bayesian tree, two independent species-delimitation methods (i.e. GMYC and bPTP) consistently indicated that Southeast Nigerian Moinidae populations fell into three distinct lineages, each representing a single morphological species: *Moina* cf. *macrocopa* (lineage vi in Fig. 3), *M. cf. micrura* (b) and *Moinodaphnia macleayi* (n). Posterior probability (PP) support for these species/lineages by the bPTP method was consistently  $> 0.90$ . Our COI phylogeny shows that *M. cf. micrura* and *M. cf. macrocopa* are paraphyletic groups. One lineage of *M. cf. micrura* (lineage I) is more closely related to the *M. cf. macrocopa* clade than to the remaining *M. cf. micrura* lineages (Fig. 3). This lineage also included sequences from specimens identified as *M. weismanni* Ishikawa, 1896. The identity of these merits further investigation. No Nigerian sequences occupied paraphyletic positions. Both of the nuclear (i.e., ITS-1 and ITS-2) Bayesian trees also indicated the presence of three species from Southeast Nigeria (Fig. 4). Interestingly, two individuals that were morphologically *M. cf. macrocopa* and had ITS alleles typical of that species had

mtDNA sequences typical of *M. cf. micrura* (Table 3 and Fig. 4a). Additionally, one individual that corresponded morphologically to *M. cf. macrocopa* had one ITS-2 allele typical of that species and one typical of *M. cf. micrura* (Table 3 and Fig. 4b). This individual also had a mitochondrial sequence typical of *M. cf. micrura* (Table 3). Moreover, one ITS-1 allele of *M. cf. macrocopa* was shared between Chinese and Nigerian individuals. Different moinid species/lineages co-existed in the same lake across a small geographical scale in Southeast Nigeria (Table 1 and Fig. 1). Of particular note, *M. cf. micrura* and *M. cf. macrocopa* coexisted in NiO (Table 1 and Fig. 1). Intriguingly, the two introgressed individuals co-existed with both their parental species in NiO.

### Biogeography

The name *M. cf. micrura* has been applied to moinids from more countries than any other. It has been reported from 14 out of 22 surveyed regions, including China (Eastern Plain, Inner Mongolia-Xinjiang Plateau, Northeast Plain and Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau), Czech Republic, Hungary, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia (East European Plain) and Spain (Fig. 5). Moinids that we classed as *M. cf. micrura* were also the most widely distributed species in Southeast Nigeria, where it was found in 7 out of 11 lakes (Fig. 1). The lineage (b) of this species in Southeast Nigeria has been found nowhere else in the world (Figs 3 and 5). The second most frequently occurring species in this study was *Moinodaphnia macleayi*, detected in 6 out of 11 lakes (Fig. 1). Again, the Nigerian lineage (n) is new and known from nowhere else (Figs 3 and 5). One *M. cf. macrocopa* lineage (vi) was detected in a single lake (NiO) in this study. The single Nigerian haplotype from this lineage is also known from China (Eastern



**FIGURE 3** Bayesian phylogenetic tree and species- delimitation of Moinidae from Southeast Nigeria, based on the mitochondrial *COI* gene (478 bp). A single representative of each haplotype (for reference sequences see Supplementary Table S1) is included in the tree. Codes of Moinidae haplotypes from Nigeria are provided in Table 1. Only posterior probabilities > 0.70 are shown. The numbers in the bands relating to the bPTP method indicate the statistical support (pp) for lineage membership. The lineage ID s are shown in columns relating to the species-delimitation methods, and the newly detected lineages from Nigeria are indicated in colored squares. Abbreviations of country names in which each haplotype was detected are, BO: Bolivia, CA: Canada, CN: China, CZ: Czech Republic, HU: Hungary, IN: India, JP: Japan, KZ: Kazakhstan, KR: Korea, MX: Mexico, MN: Mongolia, NG: Nigeria, RU: Russia, TH: Thailand, UA: Ukraine, US: U.S.A.

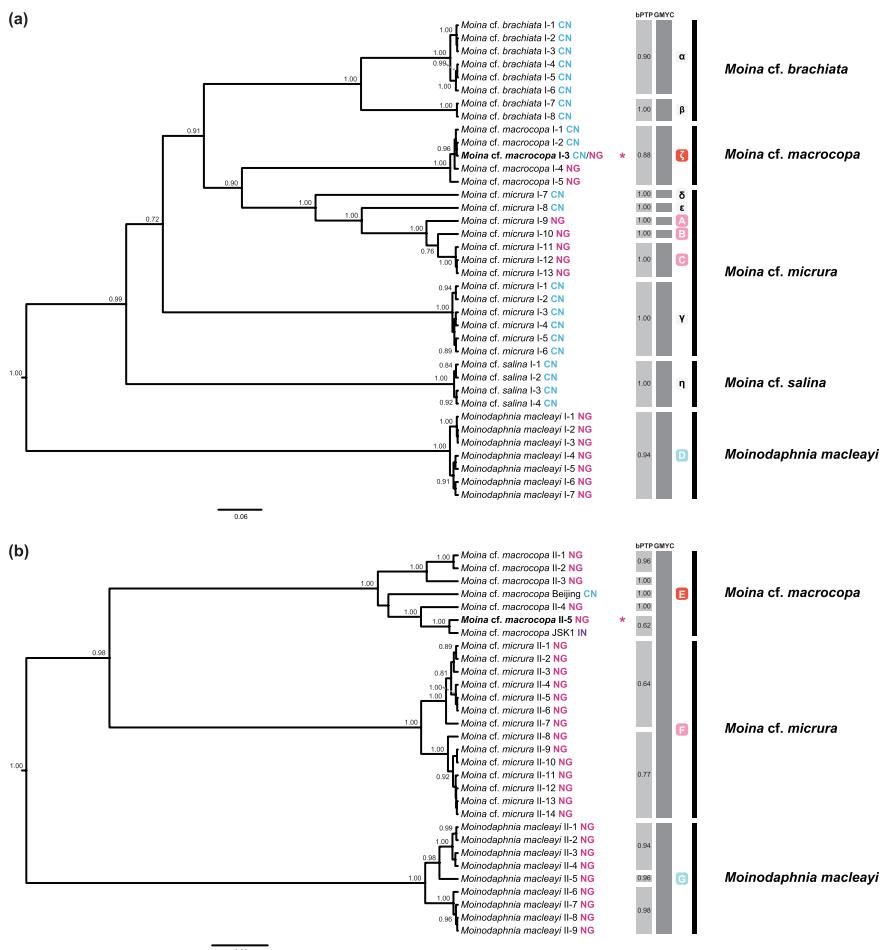


FIGURE 4 Bayesian phylogenetic tree of the (a) ITS-1 region (677 bp) and (b) ITS-2 region (955 bp) of Moinidae lineages from Nigeria. Only posterior probabilities > 0.70 are shown. The lineage ID s are shown in columns relating to the species-delimitation methods, and those newly detected from Nigeria are indicated in colored squares. The mismatch assignments by COI and ITS-1 are in bold and highlighted with an asterisk. For abbreviations of country names refer to Fig. 3.

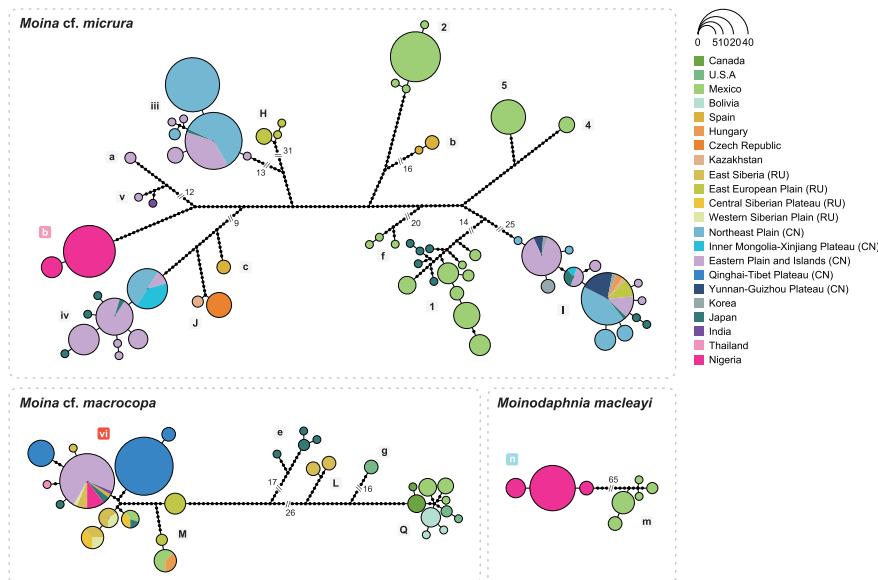
Plain), India, Japan, Russia (East Siberia and Western Siberian Plain) and Spain (Fig. 5).

## Discussion

### Lineage diversity in Moinidae from Southeast Nigeria

In line with previous surveys from Nigeria (Egborge et al., 1994; Jeje, 1989; Ovie & Adeniji, 1994), our morphological examination of moinids from a small geographical area in

Southeast Nigeria revealed the presence of *Moina cf. macrocoda*, *M. cf. micrura* and *Moinodaphnia macleayi*. Our mtDNA-based phylogeny placed each of these three species in a single lineage, nested among conspecifics from other parts of the world. Two out of these three lineages are newly reported. With the advance of genetic tools, multiple new lineages in freshwater zooplankton taxa are indeed increasingly being recognized. Examples are common among monogont rotifers (e.g., Fontaneto et al., 2009;



**FIGURE 5** Haplotype network of Moinidae lineages within species, based on the mitochondrial *coI* gene (478 bp). Each circle represents a unique haplotype and its size reflects the number of sequences. Segment sizes within circles indicate the distribution of haplotypes among different regions (color key to regions is on the left side of the figure). The lineage ID's are shown in columns relating to the species-delimitation methods, and those newly detected from Nigeria are indicated in colored squares. The number of marks on connecting lines shows the number of mutations separating haplotypes.

Gabaldon et al., 2016) and cladocerans (e.g., Adamowicz et al., 2009; Forro et al., 2008; Petrusk et al., 2012).

Studies on *Moina* in Eurasia have generally found several *coI* lineages representing each morpho-species (Bekker et al., 2016; Ni et al., 2019). In contrast, we detected only one lineage per moinid species from Southeast Nigeria, suggesting a low lineage diversity per species there. It is important to point out, however, that we only sampled a few individuals collected over a short span of time in a small geographical area.

#### Gene introgression among moinid lineages

Mito-nuclear discordances, signatures of hybridization and introgression have been frequently reported in animals (reviewed in Toews & Brelsford, 2012). Examples from Cladocera include species within *Daphnia* (Thielsch et al., 2017) and *Diaphanosoma* Fischer, 1850 (Liu et

al., 2018). A very recent study has also observed mito-nuclear mismatches in the genus *Moina* in China: one morphologically *M. cf. micrura* individual possessing *M. cf. micrura* mtDNA had *rrs-1* alleles of the *M. cf. brachiata* clade (Ni et al., 2019). In the case of our individuals N1O64-2 and N2O2-2 from Nigeria, the mitochondrial background was of *M. cf. micrura* and the nuclear was of *M. cf. macrocota*: morphology was also consistent with the latter. This suggests a past hybridization between these two species, followed by introgression into *M. cf. macrocota*. It is impossible to say how ancient the initial hybridization was: the mitochondrial lineage is distinct from other lineages of *M. cf. micrura*, which could reflect an ancient origin, or could reflect a local Nigerian population of *M. cf. micrura* that has not previously been sampled. We prefer the latter explanation: the same mitochondrial lineage was found in individual N1O24-4, which we

believe to be a result of recent hybridization. This individual had two ITS-2 alleles, one typical of *M. cf. micrura* and the other typical of *M. cf. macrocopia* (unfortunately we did not have sufficient DNA to amplify ITS-1 for further confirmation). F<sub>1</sub> hybrids (or individuals clonally descended from them) would be expected to have ITS (and other nuclear) alleles typical of both parental species in equal proportions (Dunn et al., 2012; Harrison and Larson, 2014). Back-crossing of the hybrid into only one of the parental species will, over generations, greatly reduce the representation of nuclear genes of the other species (Breeuwer & Werren, 1995). Thus, we believe individual NiO24-4 to be a relatively recent hybrid. Our data therefore suggested that gene introgression/hybridization occurs between *M. cf. micrura* and *M. cf. macrocopia* in Southeast Nigeria. Interestingly, we found that these two species could co-exist in the same lakes. Sympatry provides a possibility for interspecific hybridization that is a frequently observed in zooplankton (Smirnov, 1976). Although cyto-nuclear discordance in *Moina* most likely results from hybridization and subsequent introgression of the mitochondrial genome (Gompert et al., 2008; Linnen & Farrell, 2007), other explanations are possible. These include incomplete lineage sorting of ancestral polymorphisms (Franco et al., 2015; Mckay & Zink, 2010), and selection acting on mitochondrial genes (Cheviron & Brumfield, 2009; Pavlova et al., 2013).

In agreement with a recent study (Ni et al., 2019), our data showed apparent paraphyly in the COI phylogeny of moinid species. This phenomenon could reflect introgression of mitochondrial genomes of one species into the nuclear background of another following hybridization (Funk & Omland, 2003). Paraphyly in phylogenies has already been detected in other cladocerans, especially in the water-flea genus *Daphnia* (e.g., Colbourne et al., 1998; Hebert et al., 1989). For example,

populations of *D. pulicaria* Forbes, 1893 contain mtDNA genomes derived through introgression with *D. pulex* Leydig, 1860, rendering the former paraphyletic with respect to the latter (Hebert et al., 1989). Another explanation for apparent paraphyly is misidentification of specimens for which sequences have been deposited in GenBank.

### *Phylogeography of Moinidae*

Our mtDNA-based haplotype network shows that *M. cf. micrura* (type locality Czech Republic) has a global distribution and many lineages. This species is represented in Southeast Nigeria only by one new lineage (including two haplotypes) found nowhere else to date. Previous studies have shown that *Moina* lineages can be restricted to a certain region (Ni et al., 2019; Smirnov, 1976), which may be a common phenomenon among globally distributed zooplankton taxa (e.g., Andrews et al., 2014; Colbourne et al., 1998; Cornils et al., 2017). However, one haplotype of *M. cf. macrocopia* (type locality of *M. macrocopia* s.str. is Europe) that we found in Nigeria has also been detected in China (Eastern Plain), India, Japan, Russia (East Siberia and Western Siberian Plain) and Spain. One ITS-1 allele of *M. cf. macrocopia* that we found in Nigeria has also been reported from China. It seems that at least some lineages of this species are very widespread, suggesting relatively recent dispersal. Indeed, it is evident that *M. cf. macrocopia* is a widespread Old-World species, known from across the Palaearctic as well as from Uganda (Montoliu-Elena et al., 2019) and now Nigeria. For such global distribution, birds could be important vectors for the passive dispersal of dormant eggs of freshwater zooplankton (Havel & Shurin, 2004). The dispersal of *M. cf. macrocopia* could be also due to recent human transport. The potential for humans to unwittingly translocate zooplankton taxa requires further investigation.

*Moinodaphnia macleayi* (type locality Australia) is widely distributed in Afrotropical, Australasian, Nearctic, Neotropical, Oriental, and Palaearctic regions (Kotov et al., 2013; Smirnov, 1976). However, the taxonomy of the genus *Moinodaphnia* is not well developed. Our data shows a new lineage (i.e., "n") of *Moinodaphnia macleayi* from Nigeria. This lineage could belong to the "forgotten" taxon *Moinodaphnia mocquerysi* Richard, 1892, which has been regarded as a junior synonym of *M. macleayi* (Kotov & Ferrari, 2010). Further studies are called for to put this lineage into an appropriate global phylogeography of the genus *Moinodaphnia*. Also, further sampling in Nigeria, and West Africa generally, is needed to check for the presence of other species from Moinidae in this region. Several moinids, e.g., *M. dumonti* Kotov, Elías-Gutiérrez & Granados-Ramírez, 2005, have been described from tropical South America (Kotov et al., 2005). It will be interesting to discover whether some of these also occur in tropical Africa.

In conclusion, we have detected three distinct species of Moinidae within a small geographical area in Southeast Nigeria. Our data revealed several examples of discordance between mtDNA and nuclear ITS phylogenies, indicative of interspecific hybridization and subsequent introgression between Moinidae species. Future studies are called for to investigate other geographical areas, and more habitat types such as puddles, small temporary pools and natural lakes, to ensure the lineage diversity and gene introgression in Moinidae from Africa are better understood.

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## Authors' contributions

MY designed the study. ZD, JW, EC, OE and OJ carried out the sampling and molecular work, ZD, JW, YN, DB, WH and MY analysed and interpreted genetic data. MY wrote the manuscript with the help of ZD. All authors read and approved the final version.

## Competing interests

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

## Supplementary material

Supplementary material is available online at: <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.14914956>

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