Genetic Characterization of the Northern Shrimp, Pandalus borealis, in the Northwest Atlantic Using Electrophoresis of Enzymes

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Abstract

The genetic variability of the northern shrimp, *Pandalus borealis*, collected in the Saguenay Fjord, in six areas of the Estuary and the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and in two areas off the Labrador coast was assessed using eight enzymatic loci. Males, primiparous and multiparous females were sampled at all but one site in order to determine if gene frequencies within these regions of the Northwest Atlantic are temporally stable. For this protandrous species, variation of the genetic characteristics on a geographic scale and among maturity stages was largely determined by the variation occurring at the *EST**, *HK*-1* and to a lesser extent at the *HK*-2* loci. The other loci did not vary significantly either on geographic or temporal scales. Deviations from Hardy-Weinberg expectations, all of them due to deficits in heterozygotes, were observed mainly at the same three loci and the number of deviations increased when males, primiparous and multiparous females were pooled. A cluster analysis of genetic distance did not reveal geographic patterns in the clustering of the samples. Although some rare private alleles were detected in the Gulf of St. Lawrence samples, the data suggest that gene flow is extensive across the study area.

Key words: allozyme, genetics, Northwest Atlantic, Northern shrimp, Pandalus borealis, population structure

Introduction

The northern shrimp, (Pandalus borealis) is a circumboreal protandric hermaphrodite crustacean found and exploited in the high latitudes of the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans (Ivanov, 1972; Shumway et al., 1985). In the Northwest Atlantic, it is distributed from the Gulf of Maine to the Davis Strait (Ivanov, 1972) and in the St. Lawrence system the species can be found from West Newfoundland to the Saguenay Fjord. Exploited aggregations are found in the Estuary and the Gulf of St. Lawrence, in the Gulf of Maine and on the Scotian Shelf, along the east coast of Newfoundland and Labrador and in the Davis Strait (Parsons and Frechette, 1989; Lambert et al., MS 1998; Parsons et al., MS 1999).

Despite the economic importance of the northern shrimp, only a few studies have attempted to describe its population genetic structure. These studies show that shrimp occurring in seas that are geographically far apart such as the Barents and the Bering seas, the Sea of Japan and the Gulf of St. Lawrence are clearly genetically differentiated from each other (Kartavtsev et al., 1991; Kartavtsev et al., 1993; Kartavtsev, 1994; Jónsdóttir et al., 1998). It is worth mentioning however, that the taxonomic status of the northern shrimp is under debate. Indeed, Squires (1992) recognized the Pacific form as a species (Pandalus eous) rather than a subspecies of P. borealis, while Sokolov (1997) argued that most of the morphological features considered by Squires reflected within species variability and that the subspecies ranking should be retained. The possibility that some of the differences observed in previous studies might have been between species rather than within species cannot be excluded until the taxonomic status of the northern shrimp is clarified. Since the present study does not provide additional

relevant information, this issue will not be considered further.

The possibility of observing genetically differentiated populations over shorter distances is not well established. Indeed, while some studies have shown that populations of shrimp were homogeneous within seas and that this homogeneity appears to be stable through time (Kartavtsev et al., 1991; Kartavtsev et al., 1993; Kartavtsev, 1994), another has detected differences in allelic frequencies at allozyme loci between shrimp collected inshore and offshore off Iceland and in the Denmark Strait (Jónsdóttir et al., 1998). Our studies to date of the genetic structure of the northern shrimp have been largely restricted to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. These preliminary studies suggest the existence of heterogeneity in allelic frequencies among samples in this area (Savard, MS 1989; Savard et al., MS 1993; Sévigny, 1994).

An understanding of the geographical stock structuring is critical to the development and implementation of management and conservation measures of exploited species. Indeed, management of the fishery of a marine species is based on the definition of management units, which should correspond to stocks (or populations) with particular patterns of recruitment, growth and mortality. The assessment of the population genetic structure of exploited species can thus provide valuable information on the interaction between populations and their resilience to exploitation and therefore, can influence the choice of resource conservation strategies (Carvalho and Hauser, 1995; Shaklee and Bentzen, 1998; Ward, 2000 for reviews). However, the life cycle of the northern shrimp is characterised by the presence of a larval stage that may last for 2-4 months. Since the circulation patterns prevailing in the Northwest Atlantic favour widespread dispersion (Drinkwater and Mountain, 1997; Fig. 1), we can hypothesise that genetic differentiation will be weak for this species in the Northwest Atlantic.

The goal of the present study was to describe genetic variability of the northern shrimp in the St. Lawrence system and along the Labrador coast, to determine if the genetic variation patterns observed suggest the existence of genetically differentiated populations in Eastern Canada. The description of genetic variation presented in this study is based on allozyme loci and includes samples collected over a large geographic area. Males, primiparous and multiparous females were sampled at several sites in order to assess the importance of the temporal variability, since these maturity stages

were assumed to represent different age groups (Shumway et al., 1985). Indeed, genetic difference on a geographic scale will indicate that populations are relatively isolated and self-recruiting if the difference observed is stable through time. By contrast, if temporal variation is important, the genetic difference observed among sites might be modified between generations if genetically different cohorts are recruited (David et al., 1997; Li and Hedgecock, 1998). More specifically, the objectives of the present study were to determine if:

- genetically isolated populations are present within the Gulf of St. Lawrence,
- genetically isolated populations are present along the Labrador coast,
- the populations from the Gulf of St. Lawrence are genetically isolated from those of the Labrador coast, and
- 4) the genetic characteristics described are temporally stable.

Material and Methods

Sampling and sample preservation

Samples were collected within commercially exploited shrimp aggregations in the Estuary and the Gulf of St. Lawrence as well as in Hawke and Hopedale Channels on the Labrador coast during the routine annual surveys conducted by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada. Samples were also collected in the Saguenay Fjord, which sustains a peripheral unexploited population. Samples were collected using a bottom trawl from August to September 1990 (Fig. 1). They were collected in one tow at the Rimouski site, two tows at Pointe-des-Monts, Sept-Îles, North and South Anticosti sites and, over much larger areas (12 tows) in the Esquiman Channel, Hawke Channel and Hopedale Channel. Samples from the Saguenay Fjord were collected with baited traps during the summer 1990 in the Baie des Ha! Ha!, at Sainte-Rose-du-Nord and at Baie Trinité (Sévigny, 1994). For the present study, these three sampling stations are considered part of the same site.

Sampled shrimp were classified into three maturity stages assumed to represent three different age groups: males, primiparous and multiparous females (Table 1). Individuals were sexed from the characteristics of the first pleopod endopodite (Rasmussen, 1953). The separation between primiparous and multiparous females was based on the presence or absence of sternal spines located on the midventral face of the first four abdominal segments (McCrary, 1971). Specimens were dissected on board and samples of abdominal muscle and

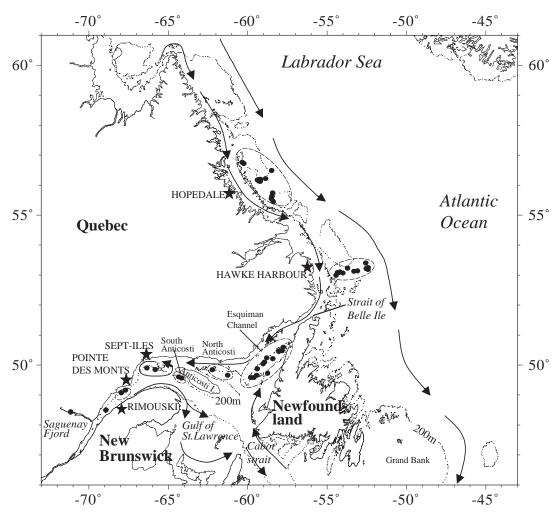


Fig. 1. Location of the sampling sites in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and east of the Newfoundland-Labrador coast. Samples encircled by broken lines were considered to be part of the same sampling site. The general circulation patterns of the Northwest Atlantic are also indicated.

hepatopancreas tissue were frozen either in liquid nitrogen or in dry ice and transported to the Maurice Lamontagne Institute, Quebec, where they were transferred to an ultracold freezer (-80°C) pending genetic analyses. Whole specimens from the Esquiman Channel and of the Saguenay Fjord where frozen on board in liquid nitrogen and dry ice, respectively. They were dissected in the laboratory prior to electrophoresis analyses.

Allozyme analysis

Tissue homogenates were prepared according to the procedure described in Roby *et al.* (1991). All allozymes were assayed on cellulose acetate gels using the technique of Hebert and Beaton (1989), except for esterases which were studied on discontinuous polyacrylamide slab gels (method adapted from Ornstein, 1964). Enzyme activities were visualised according to the standard staining procedure described by Murphy et al. (1990). All staining solutions other than esterases were incorporated in a 1% agar overlay. The bands of activity which were consistently detected in the hepatopancreas extracts without specific substrate and with MTT (3-(4,5-Dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide) and PMS (Phenazine methosulfate) were tentatively attributed to the activity of tetrazolium reductase (TR). Specimens of known genotype were used as standards on every gel to assess both the quality of the electrophoretic separation and to ensure the accuracy of allele identification. Uncommon alleles at each locus were re-run simultaneously to ascertain their classification.

		Maturity stage		
	Male	Fen	nale	
Sampling Site		Primiparous	Multiparous	Total
Saguenay Fjord	30	34	225	289
Rimouski	70	3	7	80
Pointe-des-Monts	50	50	50	150
Sept-Iles	50	50	50	150
South Anticosti	50	50	50	150
North Anticosti	50	50	50	150
Esquiman Channel	13	58	50	121
Hawke Channel	50	49	21	120
Hopedale Channel	47	48	48	143

TABLE 1. Number of northern shrimp (Pandalus borealis) collected for allozyme analyses.

Statistical analysis

Allele frequencies and other population genetic statistics such as the F statistics (F_{IS} and F_{ST}) observed and expected heterozygosities were calculated for each locus using the Biosys-1 computer program of Swofford and Selander (1989). This program was also used to test for deviations from Hardy-Weinberg expectations at all sites using the chi-square (χ^2) test of goodness-of-fit. When more than two alleles were observed at a locus, genotypes were pooled into three classes representing the homozygotes for the most common allele, the heterozygotes for the most common allele and all other genotypes. Tests of conformance to Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium were carried out for each maturity group within sites and for all the maturity stages pooled at each site. These tests could not be performed for the GPI* and PGM* loci for any of the maturity stages and for the maturity stages pooled due to the low variability detected at these two loci. Furthermore, these could not be performed at the Rimouski site for the primiparous and the multiparous females since only 3 and 7 individuals respectively were collected at this site (Table 1).

Differences in allelic frequencies between males, primiparous and multiparous females within sites and heterogeneity in allelic frequencies among sampling sites within the Gulf of St. Lawrence, within the Labrador Sea and across the study area were tested for significance using the Monte Carlo randomization procedure (Roff and Bentzen, 1989) as implemented in the REAP software (McElroy *et al.*, 1992). The advantage of this procedure is that it allows testing without grouping rare alleles. Despite this procedure, comparison of allelic frequencies among maturity stages could not be carried out at the *GPI** and *PGM** loci because the variability detected at these loci was too low. Furthermore, the comparison

among maturity groups could not be carried out at the Rimouski site for any loci because of the low number of primiparous and multiparous females collected at this site. Sequential Bonferroni tests were used to maintain the overall significance level $\alpha = 0.05$ as recommended by Rice (1989).

The F statistic analysis was used to partition the genetic variance into that occurring within populations (F_{IS}) and that occurring between populations (F_{ST}) . A chi-square test (Workman and Niswander, 1970) was used to evaluate the null hypothesis of $F_{ST} = 0$. In this test, the χ^2 values were calculated according to the equation: $2nF_{ST}(K-1)$ with degrees of freedom equal to (K-1)(S-1). Similarly, the significance of F_{IS} was tested using the equation: $n(F_{IS})^2(K-1)$ with degrees of freedom equal to (K(K-1))/2. In these equations n is the total number of individuals sampled, K is the number of alleles at the locus and K represents the number of populations sampled.

Gene flow was estimated from Wright's fixation index (Wright, 1978) according to the formula:

$$F_{ST} = 1/(1 + 4N_{\rho}m)$$

where m is the migration rate and N_e is the effective number of individuals.

Absolute differentiation between populations was estimated using Nei (1978) unbiased and Cavalli-Sforza and Edwards (1967) chord genetic distances.

Results

Genetic variability was detected at eight enzymatic systems, five of which were better resolved in the

hepatopancreas (Table 2). The number of alleles observed at these loci varied from 2 to 6 (Table 2). Genetic variability was the lowest at the GPI* locus that was variable in only two sites (Table 3). For this locus, only one heterozygous individual was detected at the Rimouski site and two at Esquiman Channel. This locus was analysed despite its low variability for comparison with previous studies (Kartavtsev et al., 1991; Kartavtsev et al., 1993; Kartavtsev, 1994; Jónsdóttir et al., 1998). Genetic variability was also low at the PGM* locus with observed heterozygosities varying between 0.007 for the pooled maturity stages in Saguenay Fjord and 0.063 for the primiparous females in the Hopedale Channel (Table 3). When the maturity stages were considered separately, the lowest value of mean observed heterozygosity was 0.164 for the primiparous females collected at the South Anticosti site while the highest value of 0.258 was estimated for the males from Hawke Channel (Table 3). Mean observed heterozygosity evaluated for all the maturity stages pooled varied from 0.204 for the South Anticosti site to 0.242 for the Esquiman Channel site. There was no apparent trend in heterozygosity change among maturity stages within sites or on the geographical scale (Table 3).

Conformance to Hardy-Weinberg expectations

A general pattern emerged when deviation from Hardy-Weinberg expectations was considered for each maturity stage. Indeed, for all three stages, significant deviations were observed mainly at the *EST**, *HK*-1* and *HK*-2* loci and all deviations (eight for males, six and nine for primiparous and multiparous females respectively) were caused by deficits in the number of heterozygotes (Table 4).

Deviations from Hardy-Weinberg were more frequently observed (17 site-loci) when all the maturity stages were pooled. As was the case for maturity stage considered individually, the significant deviations were largely restricted to the *EST** (all sites) and *HK-1** (five sites) loci. In addition, deviations were observed at the *HK-2** (two sites) and *MDH** (one site) loci (Table 4).

The F-statistics (Wright, 1978) were also used to test for genetic differentiation. The values of F_{IS} , indicating the within-sample genetic structuring, differed significantly from zero at the EST^* , HK- I^* and HK- I^* and IK- I^* loci for maturity stages pooled. All values were positive indicating a deficit in heterozygotes (Table 5).

Genetic variability among maturity stages within sites

A total of 48 randomisation tests were carried out. Of these, significant difference was detected at the TR^* locus in Saguenay Fjord ($\chi^2 = 8.91$; P = 0.011) and North Anticosti samples ($\chi^2 = 6.22$; P = 0.038), at the $HK-2^*$ locus at Pointe-des-Monts ($\chi^2 = 11.05$; P = 0.002), at the EST^* locus ($\chi^2 = 24.99$; P = 0.0000) and $HK-1^*$ ($\chi^2 = 15.27$; P = 0.004) in Hawke Channel and at the MDH^* locus ($\chi^2 = 8.54$; $\chi^2 = 0.011$) in Hopedale Channel. When the Bonferroni procedure (Rice, 1989) was applied for each site, differences remained significant for the EST^* , $HK-1^*$ and $HK-2^*$ loci.

Geographic variation

Significant heterogeneity in allelic frequencies was observed among sites at the scale of the Northwest Atlantic as well as within each of the two large scale areas investigated, the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Labrador Sea (Table 6). It is worth noting that all

TABLE 2.	Enzymatic systems used in the genetic characterisation of the northern shrimp, <i>Pandalus borealis</i> . The
	number of observed alleles corresponds to those detected in the samples. H = hepatopancreas, M =
	muscle.

				No. of
		Observed		Observed
Enzyme	E.C. No. ^a	Loci	Tissue	Alleles
Esterase (EST)	3.1.1	1	Н	6
Glucose-6-phosphate isomerase (GPI)	5.3.1.9	1	M	2
Hexokinase (HK)	2.7.1.1	HK-1	Н	4
		HK-2	Н	2
Malate dehydrogenase (MDH)	1.1.1.37	1	M	2
Phosphogluconate dehydrogenase (PGDH)	1.1.1.44	1	Н	3
Phosphoglucomutase (PGM)	5.4.2.2	1	M	3
Tetrazolium reductase (TR)		1	Н	2

^a E.C. No. = classification based on Enzyme Committee, International Union of Biochemistry.

Allelic frequencies, observed (H_o) and expected (H_o) heterozygosities and mean observed $(Mean\ H_o)$ heterozygosities at polymorphic loci for the northern shrimp, Pandalus borealis. Genetic data for the males only are shown for the Rimouski site since sample size of primiparous and multiparous females was low; these data were included in the total. M = male; P = multiparous female; P = mulTABLE 3.

Locus	Saguenay Fjord	Rimouski	Pointe-des-Monts	Sept-Îles	Site South Anticosti	North Anticosti	Esquiman Channel	Hawke Channel	Hopedale Channel
	M PF MF T	M T	M PF MF T	M PF MF T	M PF MF T	M PF MF T	M PF MF T	M PF MF T	M PF MF T
EST									
Ν		67 74	50 50 50 150	48 47 48 143	49 49 50 148	50 49 50 149	13 57 50 120	48 46 16 110	43 48 47 138
V_*	.625 .609 .579 .588	642 649	.670 .780	.677 .617 .604 .633	.755 .673 .670 .699	.670 .724 .720 .705	.577 .632 .650 .633	0.7 .826 .563 .741	.581 .604 .638 .609
*B	.286 .391 .324 .328	.306 .304	.290 .180	.250 .340 .365 .318	.235 .296 .310 .280	.310 .255 .220 .262	.346 .342 .300 .325	0.2 .130 .281 .186	.337 .354 .287 .326
<i>\$</i>	0	.022	.020 0	.063 .011 .021 .031	0 0 0 0	.020 0 .030 .017	0 0 0 0	0.1 .033 .031 .050	0 0 .011 .004
Q_*	0 0 .012 .010	.022	0 00.010.010	0.010 0 0.003	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	.012 0 .011 .007
3_*	0	0 0	0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0.010.004	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
*E	0	.007	.020 .020	0 .032 .010 .014	.010 .031 .020 .020	0 .020 .030 .017	.077 .026 .040 .038	0 .011 .125 .023	.070 .042 .053 .054
H_o	.357 .344 .441 .420	.239 .243	300 .240 .380 .307	.188 .234 .250 .224	.204 .122 .140 .155	.320 .265 .260 .282	.538 .351 .280 .342	0.3 .174 .500 .282	.186 .250 .255 .232
H_e	.532 .484 .557 .545	497 489	.471 .362	480 508 507 499	.378 .463 .459 .433	459 414 436 436	563 488 491 494	0.4 .303 .607 .415	.550 .513 .512 .522
GPI									
Ν	34 224	70 80	50 50	50 50 50 150	50 50 50 150	50 50 50 150	13 58 50 121	50 49 21 120	47 48 48 143
V_{*}	_	.993 .994	1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	1 .991 .990 .992	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1
*B	0 0 0 0		0 0 0	0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 .009 .010 .008	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
H_o	0	.014 .013	0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 .017 .020 .017	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
H_{e}	0 0	.014 .013	0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 .017 .020 .016	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
HK-I									
N	31 203		48 50 48	47 50 47 144	50 47 47 144	50 49 48 147	12 55 43 110	41 39 12 92	28 41 38 107
V_*	952		958 900 927	904 .880 .904 .896	.980 .947 .936 .955	.840 .745 .760 .782	988. 788. 909. 837	0.7 .936 .875 .826	.875 .805 .882 .850
$_{*B}$.333 .301	.042 .100	.096 .110 .085 .097	.020 .053 .064 .045	.160 .255 .229 .214	.042 .073 .140 .095	0.3 .064 .125 .168	.107 .171 .092 .126
\mathcal{L}_{*}^{C}	0 0	.014 .013	0 0 0	0 0 0 0			0 0 0 0		0 0 0 0
Q_*	0 .007	0	0 0 0	0 .010 .011 .007	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 .018 .023 .018	0 0 0 000	.018 .024 .026 .023
H_o	680	.406 .372	.083 .160 .104 .116	.064 .120 .191 .125	.040 .106 .043 .063	.240 .184 .167 .197	.083 .182 .233 .191	0.2 .077 .250 .174	.250 .244 .132 .206
H_e	.094 .138	.467 .441	.081 .182	.175 .216 .177 .189	.040 .102 .121 .087	.272 .384 .373 .343	.083 .169 .282 .206	0.4 .122 .228 .291	.227 .326 .216 .261
HK-2									
N	34	65 74	20	47 49 49 145	50 50 50 150	49 50 50 149	12 58 49 119	43 46 14 103	42 46 47 135
V_*	.529		.430 .643 .620	. 596 . 582 . 541 . 572	.640 .630 .640 .637	.592 .580 .520 .564	708 595 602 609	0.6 .511 .679 .573	.619 .533 .585 .578
*B	.471	.623 .419	.570 .357 .380	404 418 459 428	.360 .370 .360 .363	.408 .420 .480 .436	.292 .405 .398 .391	0.4 .489 .321 .427	.381 .467 .415 .422
H_o		.138 .541	300	.383 .429 .347 .386	.600 .340 .520 .487	449 360 400 403	.417 .397 .469 .429	0.6 .37 .357 .466	.476 .326 .532 .444
H_e	.449 .506 .471 .474	.473 .490	.495 .464	.487 .492 .502 .491	.465 .471 .465 .464	.488 .492 .504 .494	.431 .486 .484 .478	0.5 .505 .452 .492	.477 .503 .491 .490

(Continued). Allelic frequencies, observed (H_o) and expected (H_o) heterozygosities and mean observed (Mean H_o) and expected (Mean H_o) heterozygosities at polymorphic loci for the northern shrimp, *Pandalus borealis*. Genetic data for the males only are shown for the Rimouski site since sample size of primiparous and multiparous females was low; these data were included in the total. M = male; P = primiparous female; M = multiparous female; T = multiparous female; T = multiparous female size; T = muTABLE 3.

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					Site				
Locus	Saguenay Fjord	Rimouski	Pointe-des-Monts	Sept-Îles	South Anticosti	North Anticosti	Esquiman Channel	Hawke Channel	Hopedale Channel
	M PF MF T	M T	M PF MF T	M PF MF T	M PF MF T	M PF MF T	M PF MF T	M PF MF T	M PF MF T
HQW									
N	30 34 224 288	70 80	50 50 50 150	50 50 50 150	50 50 50 150	50 50 50 150	13 58 50 121	50 49 21 120	47 48 48 143
V_*	.467 .353 .422 .418	.471 .481	430 .460 .410 .433	390 .520 .480 .463	.420 .560 .430 .470	.430 .390 .490 .437	.462 .457 .480 .467	0.4 459 476 438	.564 .354 .438 .451
*B	.533 .647 .578 .582	.529 .519	.570 .540 .590 .567	.610 .480 .520 .537	580 440 570 530	.570 .610 .510 .563	538 .543 .520 .533	0.6 .541 .524 .563	.436 .646 .563 .549
H_o	.467 .412 .487 .476	.429 .438	460 560 580 533	.500 .560 .520 .527	520 400 540 487	540 500 540 527	.308 .500 .480 .471	0.4 347 476 375	.362 .458 .500 .441
H_e	506 464 489 488	.502 .502	.495 .502 .489 .493	.481 .504 .504 .499	.492 .498 .495 .500	.495 .481 .505 .494	.517 .501 .504 .500	0.5 .502 .511 .494	.497 .462 .497 .497
PGDH									
N	23 33 202 258	64 72	49 48 50 147	49 50 48 147	50 50 50 150	48 50 49 147	12 58 50 120	50 49 21 120	46 48 45 139
V_*	.87 .848 .881 .876	.906	78. 078. 878. 788.	.898 .900 .875 .891	.860 .900 .910 .890	.865 .900 .878 .881	.792 .836 .850 .837	0.8 .847 .952 .863	859 .896 .889 .881
*B	.13 .152 .119 .124	.094 .083	.143 .125 .130 .133	.102 .100 .125 .109	.140 .100 .090 .110	.135 .090 .122 .116	.208 .147 .150 .154	0.2 .153 .048 .138	.141 .104 .111 .119
<i>C</i>	0 0 0 0	0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 .010 0 .003	0 .017 0 .008	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
H_o	.261 .182 .218 .217	.188 .167	.286 .167 .260 .238	.163 .200 .250 .204	.240 .200 .100 .180	.271 .200 .204 .224	.250 .293 .260 .275	0.3 .224 .095 .225	.196 .125 .178 .165
H_e	.232 .261 .210 .218	.171 .154	.247 .221 .228 .231	.185 .182 .221 .195	.243 .182 .165 .196	.237 .184 .217 .211	.344 .281 .258 .276	0.3 .262 .093 .238	.245 .189 .200 .210
PGM									
N	30 34 224 288	70 80	50 50 50 150	50 50 50 150	50 50 50 150	50 50 50 150	13 58 50 121	50 49 21 120	47 48 48 143
V_*	1 .971 .996 .993	979 981	980 .990 1 .990	980 1 970 983	990 1 970 987	.990 .980 1 .990	1 .991 .980 .988	1 990 1 992	1 969 979 983
*B	0 .029 .004 .007	.021 .019	.020 0 0.007	.020 0 .030 .017	.010 0 .030 .013	.010 .020 0 .010	0 .009 .020 .012	0 .010 0 .008	0 .031 .021 .017
<i>C</i>	0 0 0 0	0 0	0 .010 0 .003	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0
H_o	0 0 000.007	.043 .038	.040 .020 0 .020	.040 0 .060 .033	.020 0 .060 .027	.020 .040 0 .020	0 .017 .040 .025	0 .020 0 .017	0 .063 .042 .035
H_e	0 .058 .009 .014	.042 .037	.040 .020 0 .020	.040 0 .059 .033	.020 0 .059 .026	.020 .040 0 .020	0 .017 .040 .025	0 .020 0 .017	0 .061 .041 .034
TR									
N	30 34 224 288	70 80	50 50 50 150	50 50 50 150	50 50 50 150	50 50 50 150	13 58 50 121	50 49 21 120	47 48 48 143
V_*	.950 .985 .882 .901	957 944	890 940 920 917	890 910 920 907	.850 930 .870 .883	940 920 840 900	923 .879 .870 .880	0.9 .878 .833 .871	.894 .906 .833 .878
*B	.050 .015 .118 .099	.043 .056	.110 .060 .080 .083	.110 .090 .080 .093	.150 .070 .130 .117	.060 .080 .160 .100	.077 .121 .130 .120	0.1 .122 .167 .129	.106 .094 .167 .122
H_o	.100 .029 .210 .177	.086 .112	.220 .120 .153	.180 .180 .160 .173	.300 .140 .260 .233	.120 .160 .200 .160	.154 .207 .180 .190	0.2 .245 .238 .242	.213 .188 .292 .231
H_e	.097 .029 .209 .178	.083 .107	.198 .114 .149 .153	.198 .165 .149 .170	.258 .132 .228 .207	.114 .149 .272 .181	.148 .214 .228 .212	0.2 .217 .285 .226	.192 .172 .281 .216
Mean H_o	.197 .184 .233 .223	.193 .240	.211 207 .226 .215	.19 .215 .222 .209	.241 .164 .208 .204	.245 .214 .221 .227	.219 .245 .245 .242	.258 .182 .240 .223	.210 .207 .241 .219
S.E.	.060 .064 .069 .067	.055 .068	.056 .066 .073 .064	.061 .069 .058 .062	.080 .061 .075 .068	.068 .058 .065 .063	.069 .061 .060 .060	750. 070. 050. 890.	.057 .052 .069 .057
Mean H_e	.242 .237 .26		.233 .247	.258 .265	231 .249	268 288	272 288	241 .272	278 28
S.E.	770. 770. 870. 670.	820. 620.	.074 .068 .075 .073	.071 .076 .074 .074	.071 .075 .070 .071	.072 .070 .071 .071	.082 .072 .069 .070	.071 .069 .083 .068	.076 .071 .072 .073

sites. Abbreviations for maturity stages are as in Table 3. The values at the \overrightarrow{GPI} and \overrightarrow{PGM} loci were not included because of the low variability observed at these two loci. Significance was determined after Bonferroni correction: *=P<0.05, **=P<0.01. ***=P<0.001, n.t. = not tested. Values of the χ^2 tests of goodness of fit for deviation from Hardy-Weinberg expectations for the different maturity stages and for all maturity stages pooled at all sampled TABLE 4.

	Hawke Hopedale Channel Channel	2.74 17.07*** 7.83* 11.45** 0.01 9.89** 8.09*	* *	3.39 0.83 0.68 0.34 0.29 1.16	3.39 3.57 4.77 0.01 0.10 0 7.05* 1.85		
	Esquiman Channel	0.05 3.71 9.66** 9.86**				1.09 0.23 0.01 0.01	
	North Anticosti	5.53 5.92 8.69* 19.19***	0.71 13.80*** 18.17*** 29.19***	0.32 3.68 2.18 5.08	0.42 0.08 0.25 0.68	1.08 0.55 0.19 0.67	0.17 0.33 3.67
Site	South Anticosti	10.46** 26.40*** 24.18***	0.01 0.12 23.43*** 11.97**	4.28 3.96 0.70 0.35	0.16 1.97 0.42 0.11	0.01 0.55 8.72* 1.08	1.44 0.24 1.02
`	Sept-Îles	16.35*** 14.81*** 11.45**	21.14*** 10.35** 0.46 16.42***	2.19 0.83 4.77 6.67	0.08 0.62 0.05 0.47	0.75 0.55 0.89 0.35	0.44 0.43 0.33
	Pointe-des- Monts	5.53 4.92 2.17 1.7 17***	0.07 0.79 3.13 2.61	7.93* 1.35 3.04 12.87***	0.26 0.69 1.78 1.02	1.25 3.14 1.02 0.15	0.69 0.17 2.11
	Rimouski		2.16 n.t. n.t. 3.23	33.11*** n.t. n.t. 0.79	1.52 n.t. n.t. 1.35	0.62 n.t. n.t. 0.54	0.12 n.t. n.t.
	Saguenay Fjord	3.11 2.77 5.82 10.33**	0.07 0.53 26.22*** 21.36***	4.38 1.21 3.54 7.26*	0.19 0.44 0.01 0.17	0.42 3.34 0.29 0	0.06
	Maturity Stage	M PF T	M PF T	M PF T	M MF T	M PF T	M PF MF
	Locus	EST	HK-1	HK-2	МДН	РБВН	TR

TABLE 5.	F statistics calculated for each locus and estimated values
	of the number of Pandalus borealis migrants per
	generation $(N_{\rho}m)$ for all maturity stages pooled. * =
	P<0.05

Locus	F_{IS}	F_{ST}	$N_e m$
EST	0.417*	0.010*	25
GPI	-0.007	0.005	50
HK-1	0.259*	0.052*	5
HK-2	0.103*	0.002	125
MDH	0.040	0.002	125
PGDH	0.013	0.004	62
PGM	0.017	0.001	250
TR	-0.017	0.005	50
Mean over loci	0.155	0.010	25
Mean over loci excluding EST and HK-1	0.050	0.003	83

differences in allelic frequencies on the geographic scale were observed at the EST* and HK-1* loci for some maturity stages and in some areas investigated. Indeed, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, significant difference could be detected only at the HK-1* locus for the males and at the EST^* and $HK-1^*$ loci for the pooled samples. In the Labrador Sea, differences were observed only at the EST* locus for the males, primiparous females and maturity stages pooled. At the scale of the Northwest Atlantic, differences were detected at the EST* locus for the males and the maturity stages pooled and at the HK-1* for the males, primiparous females and for the pooled maturity stages. No difference could be detected for the multiparous females at any locus in any of the studied area (Table 6). Values of F_{ST} , an index measuring the degree of differentiation among sub-populations, ranged from 0.001 to 0.052 for the maturity stages pooled and were significantly different from zero at the EST* and HK-1* loci only (Table 5).

Nine alleles in low frequency (\leq 0.01 at some sites after pooling the maturity stages) were detected (Table 3). Of these alleles, four (EST*C, EST*D, HK-1*D, PGM*B) were present in one or more sites of both the St. Lawrence system and the Labrador Sea. The other five (EST*E, GPI*B, HK-1*C, PGDH*C, PGM*C) were private to the St. Lawrence system. They were often detected at sites separated by large geographic distances and were absent at intermediary sites.

Absolute differentiation among the sampling sites was weak. Unbiased Nei's genetic distances for pooled maturity stages ranged from 0.000 to 0.011 while that of Cavalli-Sforza and Edwards genetic distances varied from 0.034 to 0.105 (Table 7). UPGMA cluster analysis of Cavalli-Sforza and Edwards genetic distances calculated for each maturity stage and for all maturity stages pooled showed that genetic differences that exist among shrimp samples did not reveal geographic patterns in the clustering of the samples (Fig. 2). For example, the two samples from the Labrador Sea appeared to be more similar to some samples from the Gulf of St. Lawrence than they were to each other. It thus seemed that samples separated by large geographic distances were less different from each other than they were from geographically contiguous samples. correspondence between genetic and geographic distances did not improve when the analyses were carried out without the EST* and HK-1* loci (results not shown).

Gene flow estimation

Values of N_em calculated at each locus were high except for HK-1* (Table 5). An overall value of 25 was estimated from F_{ST} mean value calculated over all loci. The lowest values of N_em were observed at the EST^* and HK-1* loci. However, disequilibrium of genotypic proportion as well as significant differences in allelic frequencies among maturity stages were observed at

TABLE 6. Values of the χ^2 tests of heterogeneity of allelic frequencies for *Pandalus borealis* male (M), primiparous (PF) and multiparous (MF) females and for all individuals pooled (All)

Locus		Gulf of 5	Gulf of St. Lawrence			Labr	Labrador Sea			Northw	Northwest Atlantic	
	M	PF	MF	All	M	PF	MF.	All	M	PF	MF	All
EST	41.49	29.18	36.10	66.84***	18.19***	17.66***	6.13	27.77***	65.04**	60.03	50.22	104.72***
HK-1	91.87***	40.06	45.14	152.9***	6.04	6.52	0.83	3.4	99.3***	47.55**	49.19	164.13***
НК-2	14.35	10.31	5.85	6.47	0.04	1.00	0.79	0.01	14.89	14.24	6.65	7.05
МДН	2.01	11.56	3.51	4.37	5.21	2.22	0.18	0.1	8.38	15.71	3.71	4.47
РБВН	0.49	9.34	3.47	16.75	0.13	0.57	1.40	0.41	4.55	12.95	5.63	20.76
TR	0.064	8.13	4.85	6.48	60.0	0.41	0.00	0.05	12.50	9.70	7.33	9.75

TABLE 7.	Matrices of genetic distances between samples for all Pandalus borealis maturity stages pooled over all loci. Nei
	(1978) genetic distances are shown above diagonal and Cavalli-Sforza and Edwards (1967) chord distances are
	shown below the diagonal.

Populations	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1 Saguenay Fjord		.010	.001	.000	.001	.005	.000	.005	.001
2 Rimouski	.094		.009	.006	.011	.001	.007	.005	.005
3 Pointe-des-Monts	.047	.088		.000	.001	.002	.001	.001	.001
4 Sept-Iles	.034	.076	.043		.001	.002	.000	.002	.000
5 South Anticosti	.063	.105	.046	.056		.005	.000	.003	.002
6 North Anticosti	.072	.056	.060	.052	.072		.002	.000	.001
7 Esquiman Channel	.064	.099	.064	.061	.056	.070		.003	.000
8 Hawke Channel	.063	.080	.059	.049	.077	.042	.076		.002
9 Hopedale Channel	.052	.084	.054	.044	.062	.062	.046	.063	

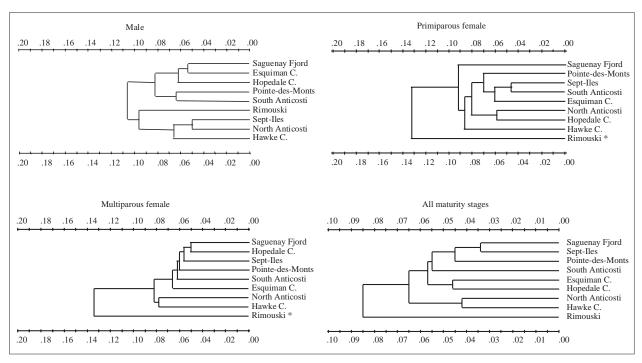


Fig. 2. Dendrogram, constructed from Cavalli-Sforza and Edwards (1967), showing genetic distance summarising the genetic relationship among the nine northern shrimp samples from the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Labrador Sea. (* very small sample sizes).

these loci in many samples. The possibility that these changes could result from environmental effects cannot be ruled out. Therefore, the mean $N_e m$ was recalculated without taking into account these two loci. When these two loci are omitted, the mean $N_e m$ increased to 83 (Table 5).

Discussion

The present study differs from previous ones (Kartavtsev *et al.*, 1991; Kartavtsev *et al.*, 1993; Kartavtsev, 1994; Jónsdóttir *et al.*, 1998) as eight loci from either the abdominal muscle tissue or the

hepatopancreas were used to assess genetic variability of the northern shrimp, *P. borealis* in the Northwest Atlantic. Using the hepatopancreas allowed the resolution of five additional polymorphic loci (Table 2). The *GPI**, *PGM** and *MDH** loci were the only ones that had been used in previous studies on northern shrimp. In this study the *GPI** locus also showed the lowest variability of all as only three heterozygous individuals were detected in the analyzed samples. Variability at the *PGM** locus was also low in all samples.

There are some differences in the number of alleles detected at the three loci common to studies carried out in the North Atlantic. In the Barents Sea, Kartavtsev et al. (1991) detected two alleles at the GPI*, the PGM* and at the MDH* loci. In the present study, two alleles were detected at the GPI* and the MDH* loci but three were detected at the PGM* locus (Table 2 and 3). Such differences are not surprising given the distance separating the study areas and the fact that shrimp from different seas are genetically differentiated (Kartavtsev et al., 1991; Kartavtsev et al., 1993; Kartavtsev, 1994). Jónsdóttir et al. (1998) detected four alleles at the GPI* locus and six at the PGM* and MDH* loci in samples collected in the Denmark Strait and from inshore and offshore Iceland. Various factors may explain the discrepancies between our results and previous results. Indeed, Jónsdóttir et al. (1998) assessed genetic variability using starch gel electrophoresis and isoelectric focusing, an electrophoretic separation technique based on protein isoelectric point differences (see Whitmore, 1990 for a review), while cellulose acetate was used in the present study. However, these differences may also indicate that genetic differentiation has taken place between Northwest (Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Labrador Sea) and Northeast Atlantic populations of northern shrimp. Additional studies will be necessary to assess the importance of the interaction between populations from both sides of the North Atlantic.

A general picture emerges from the present study. The changes in the genetic statistics such as deviation from Hardy-Weinberg expectations, differences among maturity stages and macrogeographic heterogeneity of allelic frequencies are almost exclusively the results of variation occurring at the EST* and HK-1* loci. This observation applies even though the variability at most of the other loci is high enough to allow the detection of changes in the genetic characteristics of the species within maturity stages or with space. The fact that the pattern of variation detected at the EST* and

HK-1* loci differs from that detected at the other loci suggests that these two loci may not be neutral. Furthermore, it is also at these two loci that significant differences were observed between maturity stages at some sites, an indication that selection may be influencing the variability at these loci. However in the present study, the relevant factors generating the genetic variation observed at these two loci could not be identified. This study is not the first one that has observed such variation. For example, deviation from Hardy-Weinberg caused by deficit in heterozygotes was observed at an EST* locus in the estuarine population of the mud crab (Macrophthalmus hirtipes) and was attributed to selection against the heterozygotes (Sin and Jones, 1983). Heterozygote deficiency was also observed at the EST*, HK-1*, GPI* and PT-2* loci in the crab Trapezia digitalis (Huber, 1987) and in the spiny lobster (Panulirus marginatus) at the EST-3* and MPI* loci (Seeb et al., 1990). In this species, heterogeneity on the geographical scale as well as difference between years was detected at the EST-3* locus. Multilocus studies involving other types of molecular markers will be necessary to understand the dynamics of the EST* and HK-1*loci in the northern shrimp.

When the EST^* and $HK-1^*$ loci are not taken into consideration for the above reasons, there are indications that gene flow may be important across the study area. Firstly, none of the other most variable loci (HK-2*, MDH*, PGDH* and TR*) has allowed the discrimination of differentiated populations at any of the geographical scales considered in this study; within the St. Lawrence system and the Labrador Sea and between these two systems. The variability detected at the HK-2*, MDH*, PGDH* and TR* loci should be sufficiently high to confer discrimination power to these loci. Secondly, gene flow $(N_a m)$ estimated from the mean F_{ST} values is high (25) across the study area even when EST* and HK-1* loci are included in the calculation. It is worth noting that the smallest $N_{\rho}m$ value (5) was observed at the HK-1* locus. The value further increases to 83 when EST* and HK-1* loci are not taken into account. Thirdly, among the nine low frequency alleles detected at different loci, four (EST*C, EST*D, HK-1*D, PGM*B) were present in one or more sites of both the St. Lawrence system and the Labrador Sea. The other five alleles (EST*E, GPI*B, HK-1*C, PGDH*C, PGM*C) were private to the St. Lawrence system. Although these may indicate restricted gene flow (Slatkin, 1985), they were often detected at sites separated by large geographic distances and were absent at intermediary or adjacent sites. Therefore, they

may not have been detected at other sites or in the Labrador Sea because of inadequate sample size. Indeed, it has been estimated that a sample size of at least 754 individuals would be necessary to detect, with a probability of 95%, all the alleles with frequencies of 0.01 present at a locus (Gregorius, 1980). The sample size is adequate for the St. Lawrence system if all sites are considered but is too small for the Labrador Sea sites. A mean of 1064.9 individuals (S.D. = 26.6) were analyzed in the St. Lawrence system when all loci and sites were considered while the mean for the Labrador Sea sites are only 237.0 (S.D. = 36.9). In any case, except for the distribution of these private alleles, our results are in general agreement with those obtained in previous studies that have shown homogeneity within seas (Kartavtsev et al., 1991; Kartavtsev, 1994). However, the possibility that differentiation can occur on a smaller scale in other oceans cannot be excluded since Jónsdóttir et al. (1998) have shown that some differentiation has taken place in the Northeast Atlantic.

The lack of genetic differentiation over large geographic distance is not unusual for marine species (Shaklee and Bentzen, 1998; Bohonak, 1999; Ward, 2000) and most likely reflects the relative absence of barriers to gene flow in the marine environment. Several factors may account for the homogeneity observed for the northern shrimp in the present study. The geographic distribution of this species in the Northwest Atlantic, although characterised by aggregations of commercial importance, is continuous in the deep waters at approximately 300-500 m from the northern tip of the Labrador Shelf to the portion of the Grand Bank north of the 46°N (Lilly et al., 1998). Similarly, within the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the species is continuously distributed from the Newfoundland coast to the Saguenay Fjord (Lambert et al., MS 1998). Such a distribution pattern favours gene flow. Furthermore, gene flow in P. borealis is most likely determined by the interaction between the duration of the pelagic larval stage and the circulation patterns observed in the Northwest Atlantic (Drinkwater and Mountain, 1997; Fig. 1). The 2-4 month duration of the larval phase provides a mechanism by which stocks can recruit from distant populations. The surface circulation patterns would favour such dispersion and subsequent homogenisation over large distances. In the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Ouellet et al., (1990) have shown that although the emergence of larvae takes place in areas corresponding to the main aggregations of adult shrimps, they are afterward dispersed by currents and exchanges may take place between aggregations. Pandalus borealis larvae are also broadly distributed along the Labrador coast and dispersion may also be caused by the circulation patterns in the area (Chaput, 1984). Gene flow does not need to be constant over time to prevent differentiation through random drift. Episodic events of expansion and shift in the geographic distribution of the aggregations of northern shrimp such as the ones that were observed recently in the Gulf of St. Lawrence (Lambert et al., MS 1998) and in the Labrador Sea (Parsons et al., MS 1999) may constitute a very efficient mechanism to increase gene flow among aggregations and prevent differentiation.

The results of the present study suggest that P. borealis does not form genetically distinct populations even over the large distance of the study area. Since there was generally no variation among maturity stages for most loci, it can also be assumed that the observed genetic patterns are temporally stable. However, there are a number of limitations to the present study. Our conclusions are based on a single survey and the analyses were carried out using a single analytical tool, electrophoresis of enzymes, that is an indirect indicator of genetic variation and detects only a small fraction of the variation at protein loci. Some areas of the species distribution such as the Scotian Shelf, the Gulf of Maine and Davis Strait were not sampled. Additional studies will be necessary to further test the general hypothesis of genetic homogeneity in the northern shrimp and to describe further the possible interaction between some areas such as the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Labrador Sea populations. These studies should also test the possibility of differentiation on broader scales. Estimating the importance of exchanges between the Northeast Atlantic and the Labrador Sea populations may also have important implications for the management of this species. As suggested by Ward (2000), various molecular tools should be used whenever possible.

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