



Arias-Robledo, G., Stark, T., Wall, R. L., & Stevens, J. R. (2019). The toad fly *Lucilia bufonivora*: its evolutionary status and molecular identification. *Medical and Veterinary Entomology*, 33(1), 131-139. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mve.12328>

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[10.1111/mve.12328](https://doi.org/10.1111/mve.12328)

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The toad fly *Lucilia bufonivora*: its evolutionary status and molecular identification

Journal:	<i>Medical and Veterinary Entomology</i>
Manuscript ID	MVE-18-1759.R1
Wiley - Manuscript type:	Original Article
Date Submitted by the Author:	n/a
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Category:	Veterinary
Abstract:	The blowfly genus <i>Lucilia</i> is composed largely of saprophages and facultative myiasis agents, including the economically important species <i>Lucilia cuprina</i> and <i>Lucilia sericata</i> . Only one species is generally recognised as an obligate agent of myiasis, <i>Lucilia bufonivora</i> Moniez, and this is an obligate parasite of toads. <i>Lucilia silvarum</i> (Meigen), a sister species, behaves mainly as a carrion breeder, however, it has also been reported as a facultative parasite of amphibians. Morphologically, these species are almost identical and historically this has led to misidentification, taxonomic ambiguity and a paucity of studies of <i>L. bufonivora</i> . In this study, dipterous larvae were analysed from toad myiasis cases from the UK, The Netherlands and Switzerland, together with adult specimens of fly species implicated in amphibian parasitism: <i>L. bufonivora</i> , <i>L. silvarum</i> and <i>Lucilia elongata</i> . Partial sequences of two genes, COX1 and EF1 α , were amplified. Seven additional blowfly species were analysed as outgroups. Bayesian inference trees of COX1, EF1 α and a combined-gene dataset were constructed. All larvae isolated from toads were identified as <i>L. bufonivora</i> and no specimens of <i>L. silvarum</i> were implicated in amphibian myiasis. This study confirms <i>L. silvarum</i> and <i>L. bufonivora</i> as distinct sister species and provides unambiguous molecular identification of <i>L. bufonivora</i> .

1 **The toad fly *Lucilia bufonivora*: its evolutionary status and molecular identification**

2

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12

13

14 **Abstract.** The blowfly genus *Lucilia* is composed largely of saprophages and facultative myiasis
15 agents, including the economically important species *Lucilia cuprina* and *Lucilia sericata*. Only one
16 species is generally recognised as an obligate agent of myiasis, *Lucilia bufonivora* Moniez, and this
17 is an obligate parasite of toads. *Lucilia silvarum* (Meigen), a sister species, behaves mainly as a
18 carrion breeder, however, it has also been reported as a facultative parasite of amphibians.
19 Morphologically, these species are almost identical and historically this has led to misidentification,
20 taxonomic ambiguity and a paucity of studies of *L. bufonivora*. In this study, dipterous larvae were
21 analysed from toad myiasis cases from the UK, The Netherlands and Switzerland, together with
22 adult specimens of fly species implicated in amphibian parasitism: *L. bufonivora*, *L. silvarum* and
23 *Lucilia elongata*. Partial sequences of two genes, *COXI* and *EF1 α* , were amplified. Seven
24 additional blowfly species were analysed as outgroups. Bayesian inference trees of *COXI*, *EF1 α*
25 and a combined-gene dataset were constructed. All larvae isolated from toads were identified as
26 *L. bufonivora* and no specimens of *L. silvarum* were implicated in amphibian myiasis. This study
27 confirms *L. silvarum* and *L. bufonivora* as distinct sister species and provides unambiguous
28 molecular identification of *L. bufonivora*.

29

30 **Key words.** Myiasis, obligate parasitism, Calliphoridae, *Bufo bufo*, cytochrome *c* oxidase subunit 1,
31 Elongation factor 1 alpha

32

33 Introduction

34 The cosmopolitan genus of calliphorid blowflies, *Lucilia*, is composed largely of saprophages and
35 facultative agents of myiasis, the latter showing species-specific differences in their propensity to
36 infest living hosts. Of most economic importance within the genus are *Lucilia cuprina*
37 (Wiedemann) and *Lucilia sericata* (Meigen), which are primary agents of sheep myiasis in many
38 areas of the world. Only one species is believed to be an obligate agent of myiasis, *Lucilia*
39 *bufonivora* Moniez, which has a high host-specificity for anurans. Eggs are laid on the living host
40 and, after hatching, the first stage larvae migrate to the nasal cavities where larval development
41 takes place (Fig. 1), usually resulting in the death of the amphibian host (Zumpt, 1965).
42 *L. bufonivora* has been reported as the cause of myiasis in a range of amphibian hosts, however,
43 most reports relate to infestations of the common toad, *Bufo bufo* (Weddeling & Kordges, 2008;
44 Diepenbeek & Huijbregts, 2011; Martín *et al.*, 2012). This blowfly is widely distributed in Europe
45 (Rognes, 1991; Verves & Khrokalo, 2010) and Asia (Fan *et al.*, 1997), and recently adult specimens
46 of *L. bufonivora* have been reported in North America and Canada (Tantawi & Whitworth, 2014).
47 *Lucilia silvarum* (Meigen) is another widely distributed blowfly species in the Palearctic
48 (Schumann, 1986) and the Nearctic (Hall, 1965). It lives mainly as a carrion breeder in the
49 Palearctic (Zumpt, 1956), however, there are several reports of *L. silvarum* being involved in
50 amphibian myiasis in North America (Hall, 1948; Bolek & Coggins, 2002; Bolek & Janovy, 2004;
51 Eaton *et al.*, 2008) and therefore it is usually considered a facultative rather than an obligate parasite
52 (Nuorteva, 1963); there is no reliable evidence of the involvement of this species in amphibian
53 myiasis in Europe.

54 While most cases of toad myiasis by *L. bufonivora* have been reported to occur in the nasal
55 cavities of their host (Diepenbeek & Huijbregts, 2011; Martín *et al.*, 2012), toad myiasis due to
56 *L. silvarum* have been reported to occur in the back, neck, legs and parotid glands of the host; there
57 are no reports of *L. silvarum* developing in the nasal cavities (Bolek & Coggins, 2002; Bolek &
58 Janovy, 2004). Despite this apparent behavioural difference, the adults of these two closely related

59 blowfly species are almost identical morphologically, making identification difficult since reliable
60 identification requires examination of the male genitalia or the female ovipositor. Morphological
61 identification and differentiation of the larval stages is even more problematic and Zumpt (1965)
62 argued that in Europe most records of toad myiasis, thought to have been caused by *L. silvarum*,
63 should probably be attributed to *L. bufonivora*.

64 Due to their morphological similarity, the taxonomic status of *L. bufonivora* and *L. silvarum*
65 has been unclear for many decades; indeed, Townsend (1919) proposed a new genus, *BufoLucilia*,
66 which included *L. bufonivora* as the type species, along with *L. silvarum*. Hall (1948) also included
67 *Lucilia elongata* Shannon in this genus, which has also been reported as a facultative amphibian
68 parasite in North America (James & Maslin, 1947; Bolek & Janovy, 2004). The genus *BufoLucilia*
69 was dismissed as a synonym of *Lucilia* by Rognes (1991), although it is still used as a subgenus by
70 some authors (Verves & Khrokalo, 2010; Draber-Mońko, 2013). However, while several studies
71 provide strong support for the grouping of *L. bufonivora* and *L. silvarum* as closely related sister
72 species (e.g. Stevens & Wall, 1996a; McDonagh & Stevens, 2011), recognition of subgenus
73 *BufoLucilia* would leave other *Lucilia* species in a heterogeneous and paraphyletic group, as
74 observed with some other proposed (but poorly supported) genera, for example, *Phaenicia* (Stevens
75 & Wall, 1996a). Thus, the evolutionary relationships between *L. bufonivora* and *L. silvarum* remain
76 unclear.

77 Here, we utilise sequence data from the mitochondrial protein-coding gene cytochrome c
78 oxidase subunit I (*COXI*) and the nuclear gene elongation factor 1 alpha (*EFl α*) to facilitate
79 unambiguous identification of *L. bufonivora* larvae infesting live toads and we identify the causal
80 agent of obligate amphibian myiasis. Additionally, we confirm the hypothesis that *L. bufonivora*
81 and *L. silvarum* are distinct sister species, and we discuss the evolutionary relationships between the
82 closely related taxa associated with amphibian myiasis.

83

84

85 **Materials and methods**

86 *Adult and larval specimens*

87 Larval specimens putatively identified as *L. bufonivora* were sampled from 16 separate toad
88 myiasis cases from six different locations in Britain (8 cases), four locations in The Netherlands (7
89 cases) and one site in Switzerland (1 case) (Table 1, Fig. S1). Four adult specimens of *L. bufonivora*
90 were also analysed, two from southern Germany and two collected with the aid of baited traps in
91 The Netherlands (Table 2, Fig. S1). Five adult specimens of *L. silvarum* were analysed, including
92 three from the UK, one from the USA and one from The Netherlands. A specimen of *L. elongata*
93 from Alberta, Canada was also added to facilitate further exploration of the evolutionary
94 relationships across the broader group of fly species reported as amphibian parasites.

95 For comparative purposes, adult specimens of seven other *Lucilia* species were also
96 analysed (Table 2, Fig. S1). Specimens were collected in the UK and The Netherlands using liver-
97 baited traps and identified using keys by van Emden (1954). Additionally, two new specimens of
98 adult *Lucilia mexicana* from Chapingo, Mexico were analysed (Table 2). Sequence data for
99 specimens of *L. silvarum*, *L. sericata*, *L. cuprina* and *L. illustris* and *Lucilia ampullacea* were
100 obtained from EMBL/GenBank and also included in the analysis. Three adult samples of
101 *Calliphora vicina* collected in the UK and Switzerland were included as outgroup taxa. All
102 specimens were stored in 100% ethanol at 4°C prior to analysis.

103

104 *DNA extractions and PCR procedures*

105 Thoracic muscle of adult specimens was used for DNA extraction to avoid contamination
106 with ingested protein, eggs or parasites. To avoid potential contamination from larval gut contents,
107 the anterior and posterior ends of larvae were used for DNA extraction from LII and LIII life stages,
108 while whole specimens were used if samples were LI; live larvae were maintained on damp filter
109 paper for 3–6 hours prior to storage in ethanol to allow them to evacuate their gut contents. DNA

110 extractions were carried out using a QIAGEN DNeasy® Blood and Tissue Kit (Qiagen GmbH,
111 Germany) according to manufacturer's instructions.

112 DNA was extracted as total nucleic acid and subjected to PCR to amplify the cytochrome
113 oxidase I (*COXI*) region of the mitochondrial protein-coding gene and the *EF1-EF4* region of the
114 nuclear protein-coding gene elongation factor 1 alpha (*EF1α*). Universal insect primers previously
115 published (Table 3) were used. The PCR protocol published by Folmer *et al.* (1994) was modified
116 to amplify *COXI* and *EF1-EF4* with the following cycling conditions: 94°C for 5 min, followed by
117 35 cycles of 95°C for 30 s, 50°C (*COXI*) or 48°C (*EF1-EF4*) for 30 s, 72°C for 1 min, and a final
118 step of 72°C for 1 min. A negative control (no template DNA) was included in each set of PCR
119 amplifications. PCR products were separated by gel electrophoresis and bands were visualized by
120 ethidium bromide staining. Targeted bands of *COXI* were cut out and purified using a QIAquick®
121 Gel Extraction Kit (Qiagen GmbH, Germany). Successful *EF1-EF4* products were purified using
122 0.5µL of Exonuclease I and 0.5 µL of Antarctic phosphatase per 20 µL of PCR product. A total of
123 658 bp of the *COXI* region were amplified in a single fragment with primers HCO2198 and
124 LCO1490. A fragment of 638 bp of the *EF1α* region was amplified with primers EF1 and EF4.
125 Purified PCR products were sequenced using commercial sequencing facilities, EUROFINS®
126 (*EF1α*) and GENEWIZ® (*COXI*).

127

128 *Sequence alignment*

129 The quality of the sequences was checked and edited manually for both forward and reverse
130 fragments; sequences were then assembled into a single consensus sequence using BioEdit
131 software. Each consensus sequence was checked against previously published sequences in
132 EMBL/GenBank using BLAST. Multiple sequence alignment was carried out using BioEdit
133 implementing the CLUSTALW algorithm.

134

135

136 *Phylogenetic analysis*

137 The best-fitting nucleotide substitution model for each dataset was selected using
138 jModelTest (Posada, 2008) (TreNef + I was selected for the *EF1-EF4* dataset; TIM3 + I +G was
139 selected for *COXI*). Prior to Bayesian inference analyses the best-fitting model selected for each
140 gene was implemented by changing the default settings (*nst*, *rates*, *ngammacat*, *statefreqpr*, *revmat*,
141 *shapepr* and *pinvarpr*) in the software MrBayes v3.2.6 (Huelsenbeck & Ronquist, 2001)
142 phylogenetic analysis was then carried out implementing MCMC starting from two independent
143 analyses simultaneously, each with three heated chains and one cold chain, they were run for 10,000
144 generations sampling every 10 generations. Analyses were stopped when the critical value for the
145 topological convergence diagnostic fell below the default threshold (0.01). A fraction (0.25) of the
146 sampled values were discarded (*burninfrac* = 0.25) when the convergence diagnostics were
147 calculated. Substitution model parameters (*sump*) and branch lengths (*sumt*) were summarized; tree
148 topology was then calculated with the remaining data by constructing a majority-rule consensus
149 tree. A combined-gene analysis was also carried out with a partitioned dataset; model parameters
150 for each gene were implemented separately (unlinked), allowing each gene to evolve under different
151 rates. An incongruence length difference test (ILD) was run in PAUP*4.0a152 to test phylogenetic
152 congruence and to quantify the differences in topology between the single-gene trees. Analysis was
153 conducted on a partitioned dataset with the combined dataset (*EF1 α* and *COXI*).

154

155 **Results**

156 *Molecular identification of Lucilia bufonivora*

157 All 20 larval specimens from the 16 infestations studied (Table 1) gave nuclear and
158 mitochondrial sequence data consistent with BLAST searches for *Lucilia bufonivora*. Additionally,
159 molecular data reaffirmed the identity of adult fly samples identified as *L. bufonivora* on the basis
160 of morphology. All *L. bufonivora* samples were grouped together in a single unstructured clade in
161 all phylogenies (Fig. 2, Fig. 3).

162

163 *Single-gene phylogenies: EF1 α*

164 Bayesian inference analysis of the *EF1-EF4* region of the nuclear gene *EF1 α* identified the
165 amphibian parasite species group as monophyletic (Fig. 2a). Within this group all *L. bufonivora*
166 specimens analysed grouped together in a single clade with strong support (Fig. 2a), and with
167 minimal intra-specific variation (only one English specimen, Lbufo17, showed minor variation).
168 However, the analysis did not show clear distinction of the North American species *L. elongata*
169 from *L. silvarum* (Fig. 2a), although within this group, both USA samples of *L. silvarum*
170 (Sacramento and San Francisco) were placed together with strong support and higher intra-specific
171 variation.

172 Both specimens of *L. ampullacea* were grouped together in a single clade as a sister taxon of
173 the amphibian parasite species group. This analysis also gave strong support to the clear
174 relationships of *L. sericata* and *L. richardsi* (Fig. 2a), placing together both US and UK samples of
175 *L. sericata* as a sister clade to the *L. richardsi* clade. *L. caesar* and *L. illustris* were also placed
176 together in a monophyletic group. Both specimens of *Lucilia cuprina* (NZ and AUS) were grouped
177 in a single clade separated from the species mentioned above; a similar pattern of separation was
178 observed with the two sequences of *L. mexicana* (Fig. 2a).

179 Subfamily relationships were clearly distinguished: all members of the Luciliinae were well
180 separated from those of the Calliphorinae lineage with strong support. All sequences of *Calliphora*
181 *vicina* analysed grouped together in the same outgroup clade.

182

183 *Single-gene phylogenies: COX1*

184 The Bayesian inference tree based on *COX1* gene sequence data (Fig. 2b) placed all
185 *L. bufonivora* in a single clade with no intra-specific variation between them. *Lucilia elongata* was
186 grouped as a sister clade to *L. bufonivora* with strong support (Fig. 2b). *Lucilia silvarum* showed
187 some intra-specific variation: *L. silvarum* from the UK formed a distinct sister clade, separate to a

188 Dutch specimen; together these samples formed a monophyletic European *L. silvarum* clade (Fig.
189 2b). Sequences of *L. richardsi* – a European blowfly species – were placed as a sister clade to the
190 European *L. silvarum* group; however, both North American *L. silvarum* samples were placed apart
191 from this group (*L. richardsi* + European *L. silvarum*), further emphasising the relatively high intra-
192 specific variation in *L. silvarum*.

193 The Bayesian analysis recovered the sheep myiasis agents *L. sericata* and *L. cuprina* as
194 sister species with strong support (0.99). The *L. caesar* group was also recovered, placing
195 *L. ampullacea* as a sister taxon to the *L. illustris* + *L. caesar* clade. The North American species
196 *L. mexicana* was well separated from the *L. caesar* group. Subfamily Luciliinae was recovered in
197 this tree with high support (Fig. 2b) and all samples of *C. vicina* used in this study were placed in
198 the same clade as an outgroup.

199

200 *Combined-gene phylogeny*

201 The ILD test detected incongruence between the two genes used in this study ($P = 0.01$);
202 nonetheless, Bayesian inference analysis of a combined partitioned dataset produced a phylogeny
203 with generally strong posterior probabilities (Fig. 3). All *L. bufonivora* samples were grouped in a
204 single clade as a sister species to *L. elongata*. As observed in the *COXI* tree, a monophyletic
205 European *L. silvarum* group (GBR + NDL) was recovered, with *L. richardsi* grouped as its sister
206 taxon (Fig. 3); again, both American specimens of *L. silvarum* were placed outside of this group as
207 sister taxa with high support values. Both sheep blowfly species, *L. sericata* and *L. cuprina*, were
208 recovered as a monophyletic group with strong support. The closely related species *L. illustris* and
209 *L. caesar* were recovered as sister species, however, this combined-gene analysis placed
210 *L. mexicana* more closely related to the *L. caesar* group than the *L. ampullacea* clade. Subfamily
211 relationships of Luciliinae were recovered with strong posterior probability (1), grouping all
212 *C. vicina* samples as an outgroup and differentiating subfamily Calliphorinae from Luciliinae with
213 strong support (Fig. 3).

214

215 **Discussion**

216 Using mitochondrial data (*COXI*) McDonagh & Stevens (2011) differentiated *L. bufonivora* from
217 *L. silvarum* and placed them as separate sister species. However, in the same study both species
218 were placed in the same clade using *EF1 α* and *28S rRNA* as phylogenetic markers, the latter failing
219 to classify them as distinct species. In this study, the *EF1-EF4* region of the protein-coding nuclear
220 gene *EF1 α* showed just a single nucleotide difference between the sequence data of *L. silvarum* and
221 *L. bufonivora*; however, Bayesian inference analysis showed clear groupings, identifying them as
222 distinct sister species. Addition of data from the North American amphibian parasite *L. elongata*,
223 another putatively closely related taxon, allowed an even clearer understanding of the evolutionary
224 relationships between *L. silvarum* and *L. bufonivora*, resulting in the differentiation of them as
225 distinct sister species. The *EF1 α* tree supported the suggestion that *L. bufonivora* has diverged
226 relatively recently from its sister taxon *L. silvarum* (Stevens & Wall, 1996a). The *COXI*-based
227 phylogeny showed clear relationships and distinction between *L. bufonivora* and *L. silvarum*, a
228 finding reiterated in the combined-gene tree. It is probable that in the combined-gene tree a stronger
229 signal in the mtDNA data (*COXI*) is driving the clear distinction and is dominating the weaker
230 phylogenetic signal of the nuclear data (*EF1-EF4*). The low signal present in the *EF1 α* sequence
231 data accords with the lower rate of evolution reported previously in this nuclear gene (McDonagh &
232 Stevens, 2011) compared with that reported in the majority of insect mitochondrial genes
233 (McDonagh *et al.*, 2016). Indeed, *COXI* has been widely used in blowfly systematics (Otranto &
234 Stevens, 2002; Stevens *et al.*, 2002; Wells *et al.*, 2002) and due to generally higher rates of
235 sequence change in mtDNA it is expected to reach reciprocal monophyly before nuclear genes
236 (Funk & Omland, 2003; Dowton, 2004; Lin & Danforth, 2004). As such, mitochondrial sequence
237 data (e.g. *COXI*) are useful for inferring the relationships of recently diverged species (Stevens &
238 Wall, 1997; Shao & Barker, 2006), and our results appear to reaffirm this, suggesting that
239 *L. bufonivora* is clearly a separate sister species to *L. silvarum*.

240 Molecular analysis of different populations of *L. bufonivora* from across Europe, detected
241 no intra-specific differences in mitochondrial sequence data, while the nuclear gene *EFl α* also
242 exhibited only minimal intra-specific sequence variation (Fig. 2a). However, in *L. silvarum* marked
243 intra-specific variation in both nuclear and mitochondrial sequence data was observed between
244 European and North American populations of this fly; recent phylogenetic analysis of populations
245 of this species from the USA and Germany also showed a high degree of intra-specific difference
246 (Williams *et al.*, 2016). In the current study, intra-specific variation was also observed between
247 European samples, with UK *L. silvarum* differing from a Dutch specimen of the same species. In
248 contrast, a lack of significant variation in both nuclear and mitochondrial genes in the different
249 European populations of *L. bufonivora* analysed suggests that it may be a recently diverged species
250 that has accumulated less molecular variation. Further studies would be of value, particularly to
251 explore the differences between European and North American populations of *L. bufonivora* (e.g.
252 Tantawi & Whitworth, 2014).

253 Even when both species have been reported as amphibian parasites (Baumgartner, 1988),
254 *L. bufonivora* has never been observed breeding in carrion. In contrast, its sister species *L. silvarum*
255 is reported mainly as a common carrion-breeding species in Europe (Rognes, 1991), with no
256 confirmed records of parasitism in amphibians due to it in this region (Diepenbeek & Huijbregts,
257 2011; Fremdt *et al.*, 2012). In North America, however, there have been several reports of
258 amphibian myiasis cases apparently involving *L. silvarum* (Bolek & Coggins 2002; Bolek & Janovy
259 2004; Eaton *et al.*, 2008). The phylogeny constructed from the combined dataset characterised
260 *L. silvarum* from the USA as more closely related to *L. bufonivora* than to *L. silvarum* from Europe.
261 This finding is congruent with the reported amphibian parasitic behaviour of North American
262 *L. silvarum*, and reiterates the significance of the relatively high intra-specific variation present
263 between European and North American populations of *L. silvarum*, which in turn reflects the fact
264 that very different larval feeding strategies can be exhibited even between closely related blowfly
265 taxa (Stevens, 2003; Stevens & Wallman, 2006).

266 Using the nuclear marker *EF1 α* , amphibian parasitism in *Lucilia* appears as a monophyletic
267 trait with the inclusion of *L. bufonivora*, *L. silvarum* and *L. elongata*. However, in the combined-
268 gene and *COX1* trees this group becomes paraphyletic due to the inclusion of the European species
269 *L. richardsi*. It is important to mention that the biology of *L. elongata* has been poorly studied, and
270 this species has never been reported as carrion-breeder (James & Maslin, 1947; Briggs, 1975; Bolek
271 & Janovy, 2004), possibly behaving only as an obligate parasite of anurans in North America. Thus,
272 *L. elongata* and *L. bufonivora* may be the only two species that exhibit this obligate parasitism
273 behaviour among the genus *Lucilia*. Interestingly, they are placed together as monophyletic sister
274 taxa in both the *COX1* and combined-gene trees.

275 *Lucilia bufonivora* is considered a rare species in England and there are few reports of
276 confirmed toad myiasis cases where it is involved (McDonagh & Stevens, 2011) and adult flies of
277 this species are rarely caught using carrion-baited traps (Arias-Robledo, unpublished data). This
278 may illustrate the highly specific nature of the cues emanating from a living amphibian host that are
279 required to attract *L. bufonivora*, or simply may reflect its restricted distribution and low abundance
280 in the field. In this study, the molecular identification of larval samples extracted from toad myiasis
281 cases as *L. bufonivora* reaffirmed the presence of this obligate parasite in Britain (Fig. 3). A study
282 in Germany suggests that this species is highly variable in its local abundance (Weddeling &
283 Kordges, 2008).

284 Based on mitochondrial data, European specimens of *L. silvarum* were found to be more
285 closely related to *L. richardsi* than to *L. bufonivora*. However, the *EF1 α* -based phylogeny placed
286 *L. richardsi* as a sister species of *L. sericata* outside of the amphibian parasite group of flies, as
287 observed in previous phylogenetic analyses (McDonagh & Stevens, 2011). Although *L. sericata*
288 and *L. silvarum* have been reported as facultative parasites of sheep and amphibians, respectively
289 (McLeod, 1937; Hall, 1948), there are no records of *L. richardsi* being involved in cases of sheep or
290 toad myiasis. However, Nuorteva (1959) reported that three males of *L. richardsi* were reared from
291 a single case of wound myiasis in a bird (a nightjar). The high similarity of *L. richardsi* with

292 *L. sericata* based on nuclear DNA and with *L. silvarum* based on mitochondrial DNA, might be
293 attributed to introgressive hybridization, however, more detailed studies are required to confirm
294 this. The occurrence of hybridisation has important implications for speciation, and this
295 phenomenon has been reported several times occurring within the genus *Lucilia*, as it is the case of
296 the hybridization between the closely related species *L. sericata* and *L. cuprina* (Stevens & Wall,
297 1996b; Williams & Villet, 2013). Similarly, *Lucilia illustris* and *Lucilia caesar* present very low
298 genetic distances, and they could not be reliably identified using mitochondrial markers, which
299 might result from hybridisation or incomplete lineage sorting (Sonet *et al.*, 2012).

300 It has been suggested that the myiasis habit may have arisen in multiple independent
301 evolutionary events within the subfamily Luciliinae (Stevens, 2003). The results presented here
302 support this and suggest that the *obligate* parasitic habit in the genus *Lucilia* possibly diverged from
303 *L. silvarum*. Further studies that include more specimens of *L. elongata* from different geographical
304 regions are required to explore its molecular identity and to resolve its evolutionary relationships
305 within the broader amphibian parasite group of blowfly species.

306

307 **Acknowledgements**

308 We thank the many colleagues who have provided specimens of *L. bufonivora* for this study:
309 G. Guex (University of Zurich, Switzerland), S. Henderson (Holkam, UK), L. Griffiths
310 (Nottingham Trent University, UK), A. Breed (Animal and Plant Health Agency, Defra, UK), K.
311 Seilern-Moy (ZSL, London, UK), J. Groen (Bureau FaunaX, The Netherlands), C. Laurijssen (Van
312 Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands) and R. Koelman (Leeuwarden,
313 The Netherlands), J. Mostert (Rotterdam, The Netherlands), D. Mebs (University of Frankfurt,
314 Germany); also to A. Spitzen and A. Buitenhek (The Netherlands) for providing access to trapping
315 sites; F. Arias (Universidad Autónoma Chapingo, Mexico) for providing specimens of *L. mexicana*;
316 A. Telfer (University of Guelph, Canada) for providing the *L. elongata* specimen, and to R. A. King
317 and T. Jenkins (University of Exeter, UK) for help with molecular analysis and S. Abdullah

318 (University of Bristol, UK) for help with the manuscript. The award of a PhD studentship to GA-R
319 from the CONACYT (Mexico) is gratefully acknowledged.
320

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- 449
- 450

451 **Figure Legends**

452

453 Figure 1. Common toad (*Bufo bufo*) with nasal myiasis due to *Lucilia bufonivora*, Bridgnorth,
454 Shropshire, UK; posterior ends of live 3rd instar larvae are visible within the enlarged wounds at
455 the site of each nostril (photograph courtesy of Dr A. Breed, Animal and Plant Health Agency,
456 Defra, UK).

457

458 Figure 2. Bayesian inference trees constructed from **(a)** the *EF1-EF4* region of the nuclear gene
459 *EF1 α* and **(b)** the mitochondrial gene *COXI*. Posterior probability values are labelled on each node.
460 AUS = Australia, CAN = Canada, CHE = Switzerland, DEU = Germany, GBR or UK = United
461 Kingdom, NLD = The Netherlands, NZL = New Zealand, Suff = Suffolk (UK), USA = United
462 States, WN = Winssen (The Netherlands), Olst = Olst (The Netherlands). * = sequence data from
463 EMBL/GenBank. Lbufo = *L. bufonivora*, Lsilv = *L. silvarum*, Lrich = *L. richardsi*, Lillus = *L.*
464 *illustris*, Lcae = *L. caesar*, Lamp = *L. ampullacea*, Lmex = *L. mexicana*, Cvic = *Calliphora vicina*,
465 Lbufo17 = *L. bufonivora* (Shrewsbury-1).

466

467 Figure 3. Bayesian inference tree constructed from a partitioned dataset of the combined genes
468 *EF1 α* and *COXI*. Posterior probability values are labelled on each node. AUS = Australia, CAN =
469 Canada, CHE = Switzerland, DEU = Germany, GBR or UK = United Kingdom, NLD = The
470 Netherlands, NZL = New Zealand, Suff = Suffolk (UK), USA = United States, WN = Winssen (The
471 Netherlands), Olst = Olst (The Netherlands). * = sequence data from EMBL/GenBank. Lbufo = *L.*
472 *bufonivora*, Lsilv = *L. silvarum*, Lrich = *L. richardsi*, Lillus = *L. illustris*, Lcae = *L. caesar*, Lamp =
473 *L. ampullacea*, Lmex = *L. mexicana*, Cvic = *Calliphora vicina*, Lbufo17 = *L. bufonivora*
474 (Shrewsbury-1).

475

476 Table 1. Larval *Lucilia* specimens studied, including the location of collection, name of sample
 477 used for phylogenetic analysis and accession numbers for EMBL/GenBank DNA sequences for
 478 both *COX1* and *EF1 α* .

Infestation ID	Larvae analysed	Country/Region of origin	Code	<i>COX1</i>	<i>EF1α</i>
BB016-2	1	Haaksbergen, The Netherlands	L. bufo (NLD1)	FR719161	FR719238
BB016-3	1	Haaksbergen, The Netherlands	L. bufo (NLD2)	FR719161	FR719238
BB016-1	1	Zelhem, The Netherlands	L. bufo (NLD3)	FR719161	FR719238
BB016-4	1	Haaksbergen, The Netherlands	L. bufo (NLD4)	FR719161	FR719238
BBSP1	1	Haaksbergen, The Netherlands	L. bufo (NLD5)	FR719161	FR719238
Friesl-1	1	Friesland, The Netherlands	L. bufo (NLD6)	FR719161	FR719238
Rott-1	1	Rotterdam, The Netherlands	L. bufo(NLD7)	FR719161	FR719238
Oss-Ch-1	1	Ossingen, Switzerland	L. bufo (CHE)	FR719161	FR719238
WV15 6QR-1	1	Bridgnorth, Shropshire, UK	L. bufo (GBR1)	FR719161	FR719238
WV15 6QR-2	1	Bridgnorth, Shropshire, UK	L. bufo (GBR2)	FR719161	FR719238
XT767-16	1	Loughborough, UK	L. bufo (GBR3)	FR719161	FR719238
XT931-16	1	Bridgnorth, Shropshire, UK	L. bufo (GBR4)	FR719161	FR719238
Holk-1	2	Holkam, UK	L. bufo (GBR5 + 6)	FR719161	FR719238
			L. bufo 17	FR719161	+LT900481
Shrew-446	2	Shrewsbury, UK	L. bufo (GBR8)	FR719161	FR719238
Nott-1	2	Nottingham, UK	L. bufo (GBR9 + 10)	FR719161	FR719238
Suff-1	2	Suffolk, UK	L. bufo (Suff1 + 2)*	FR719161	FR719238

479
 480 + = new sequence; * see McDonagh & Stevens (2011)

481
 482

483 Table 2. Larval *Lucilia* specimens studied, including the location of collection, name of sample
 484 used for phylogenetic reconstruction, and accession numbers for GenBank DNA sequences for both
 485 *COX1* and *EF1 α* .

486

Species	ID	Country/Region of origin	Code	COX1	EF1 α
<i>L. bufonivora</i>	DM	Baden-Württemberg, Germany	L. bufo (DEU1)	FR719161	FR719238
<i>L. bufonivora</i>	DM	Baden-Württemberg, Germany	L. bufo (DEU2)	FR719161	FR719238
<i>L. bufonivora</i>	GAR	Olst, The Netherlands	L. bufo (Olst)	FR719161	FR719238
<i>L. bufonivora</i>	GAR	Winssen, The Netherlands	L. bufo (WN)	FR719161	FR719238
<i>L. elongata</i>	AT	Canada	L. elongata(CAN)	KM858341*	+LT965032
<i>L. silvarum</i>	GAR	Bristol, UK	L. silv (GBR1)	KJ394947	FR719260
<i>L. silvarum</i>	GAR	Bristol, UK	L. silv (GBR2)	KJ394947	FR719260
<i>L. silvarum</i>	GAR	Bristol, UK	L. silv (GBR4)	KJ394947	FR719260
<i>L. silvarum</i>	RLW	San Francisco, USA	L. silv (USA)	FR719259*	FR719259*
<i>L. silvarum</i>	RLW	Sacramento, USA	Lsilv SacrUSA-2	+LT963484	+LT965034
<i>L. silvarum</i>	GAR	Olst, The Netherlands	Lsilv (NLD-1)	+LT963483	FR719253
<i>L. richardsi</i>	GAR	Bristol, UK	L. rich (1)	FR872384	FR719253
<i>L. richardsi</i>	GAR	Bristol, UK	L. rich (2)	KJ394940	FR719253
<i>L. sericata</i>	GAR	Bristol, UK	L. sericata (UK)	AJ417714	+LT965035
<i>L. sericata</i>	JRS	Los Angeles, USA	L. sericata(USA)	AJ417715*	FR719257*
<i>L. cuprina</i>	RLW	Perth, Australia	L. cuprina(AUS)	AJ417707*	FR719245*
<i>L. cuprina</i>	AH/ DMB	Dorie, South Island, New Zealand	L. cuprina NZ)	AJ417706*	FR719244*
<i>L. caesar</i>	GAR	Bristol, UK	L. cae (Bristol-1)	+LT900367	+LT900482
<i>L. illustris</i>	RLW	Somerset, UK	L. illus	FR872384*	FR719253*
<i>L. ampullacea</i>	GAR	Bristol, UK	L. amp (Bristol-2)	+LT963485	+LT965033
<i>L. ampullacea</i>	RLW	Somerset, UK	L. amp	FR719236*	EU925394*
<i>L. mexicana</i>	FAV	Chapingo, Mexico	L. mex (MEX1)	+LT900368	+LT900483
<i>L. mexicana</i>	FAV	Chapingo, Mexico	L. mex (MEX2)	+LT900368	+LT900483
<i>C. vicina</i> [^]	GAR	Switzerland (laboratory reared)	C. vic (CHE)	KJ635728 [#]	FR719219
<i>C. vicina</i>	GAR	Bristol, UK	C. vic (1)	KJ635728	FR719219
<i>C. vicina</i>	GAR	Bristol, UK	C. vic (2)	KJ635728	FR719219

487

488 Adult specimen identification: GAR = Gerardo Arias-Robledo (Bristol, UK), JRS = Jamie Stevens
 489 (Exeter, UK), RLW = Richard Wall (Bristol, UK), FAV = Francisco Arias-Velazquez (Chapingo,
 490 Mexico), DM = Dietrich Mebs (Frankfurt, Germany), AH = Allen Heath (AgResearch, New
 491 Zealand), DMB = Dallas Bishop (AgResearch, New Zealand); AT = Angela Telfer (Guelph,
 492 Canada).

493 + = new sequence; * = sequence data from EMBL/GenBank; ^ = unidentified specimens provided
 494 by G. Guex (Zurich) and identified at University of Exeter by GAR; # identity based on 540 bp of
 495 sequence data.

496 Table 3. Amplification and internal sequencing primers used to amplify the two genes studied,
 497 including the source of published primers.

498

Gene	Primer	Sequence	Source
<i>EF1α</i>	EF1	ACAGCGACGGTTTGTCTCATGTC	McDonagh et al. (2009)
	EF4	CCTGGTTCAAGGGATGGAA	McDonagh et al. (2009)
<i>COX1</i>	LCO1490	GGTCAACAAATCATAAAGATATTGG	Folmer et al. (1994)
	HCO2198	TAAACTTCAGGGTGACCAAAAATCA	Folmer et al. (1994)

499

500

501

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Figure 1

283x198mm (72 x 72 DPI)

View Only

Cvic(1)

Cvic(CHE)

Cvic(2)

Lbufo(NLD1)

Lbufo(NLD2)

Lbufo(NLD3)

Lbufo(NLD4)

Lbufo(NLD5)

Lbufo(NLD6)

Lbufo(NLD7)

Lbufo(CHE)

Lbufo(GBR1)

Lbufo(GBR2)

Lbufo(GBR3)

0.925 Lbufo(GBR4)

Lbufo(GBR5)

Lbufo(GBR6)

Lbufo17

Lbufo(GBR8)

Lbufo(GBR9)

Lbufo(GBR10)

Lbufo(DEU1)

Lbufo(DEU2)

0.922 Lbufo(Suff1)

Lbufo(Suff2)

Lbufo(Olst)

Lbufo(WN)

Lelongata(CAN)

Lsilv(GBR1)

0.947 Lsilv(GBR2)

Lsilv(GBR4)

Lsilv(NLD)

Lsilv-Sacramento

0.892 0.97 Lsilv(USA)*

1 Lamp(Bristol)

Lamp*

1 Lrich(1)

0.727 Lrich(2)

0.94 Lsericata(UK)

0.99 Lsericata(US)*

0.82 1 Lillus*

1 Lcae(Bristol-1)

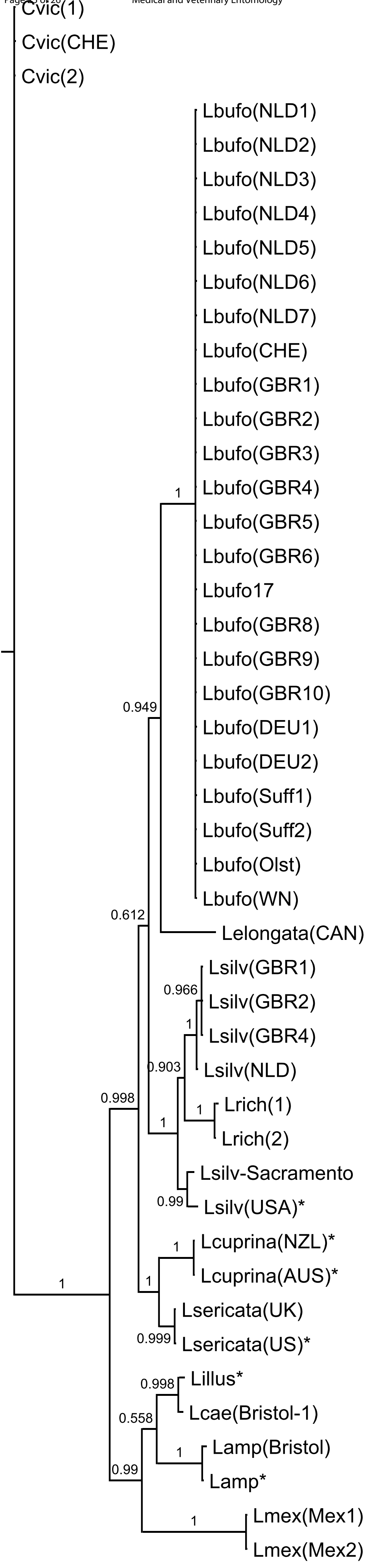
1 Lcuprina(AUS)*

Lcuprina(NZL)*

1 Lmex(Mex1)

Lmex(Mex2)





Cvic(1)

Cvic(CHE)

Cvic(2)

Lbufo(NLD1)

Lbufo(NLD2)

Lbufo(NLD3)

Lbufo(NLD4)

Lbufo(NLD5)

Lbufo(NLD6)

Lbufo(NLD7)

Lbufo(CHE)

Lbufo(GBR1)

Lbufo(GBR2)

Lbufo(GBR3)

1 Lbufo(GBR4)

Lbufo(GBR5)

Lbufo(GBR6)

Lbufo17

Lbufo(GBR8)

Lbufo(GBR9)

Lbufo(GBR10)

0.992 Lbufo(DEU1)

Lbufo(DEU2)

Lbufo(Suff1)

Lbufo(Suff2)

Lbufo(Olst)

Lbufo(WN)

1 Lelongata(CAN)

Lsilv(GBR1)

0.98 Lsilv(GBR2)

1 Lsilv(GBR4)

0.88 Lsilv(NLD)

1 Lrich(1)

Lrich(2)

Lsilv-Sacramento

1 Lsilv(USA)*

1 Lcuprina(NZL)*

Lcuprina(AUS)*

0.99 Lsericata(UK)

1 Lsericata(US)*

1 Lillus*

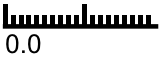
Lcae(Bristol-1)

0.598 1 Lmex(Mex1)

Lmex(Mex2)

0.944 1 Lamp(Bristol)

Lamp*



0.0