

1 **A genomic assessment of the marine-speciation paradox within the toothed whale**  
2 **superfamily Delphinoidea**

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12  
13 **Abstract**

14 The importance of post-divergence gene flow in speciation has been documented  
15 across a range of taxa in recent years, and may have been especially widespread in highly  
16 mobile, wide-ranging marine species, such as cetaceans. Here, we studied individual  
17 genomes from nine species across the three families of the toothed whale superfamily  
18 Delphinoidea (Delphinidae, Phocoenidae, Monodontidae). To investigate the role of post-  
19 divergence gene flow in the speciation process, we used a multifaceted approach, including:  
20 (i) phylogenomics, (ii) the distribution of shared derived alleles, and (iii) demographic  
21 inference. We found the divergence of lineages within Delphinoidea did not follow a process  
22 of pure bifurcation, but was much more complex. Sliding-window phylogenomics reveal a  
23 high prevalence of discordant topologies within the superfamily, with further analyses  
24 indicating these discordances arose due to both incomplete lineage sorting and gene flow. D-  
25 statistics, D-foil, and *f*-branch analyses supported gene flow between members of  
26 Delphinoidea, with the vast majority of gene flow occurring as ancient interfamilial events.  
27 Demographic analyses provided evidence that introgressive gene flow has likely ceased  
28 between all species pairs tested, despite reports of contemporary interspecific hybrids. Our  
29 study provides the first steps towards resolving the large complexity of speciation within  
30 Delphinoidea; we reveal the prevalence of ancient interfamilial gene flow events prior to the  
31 diversification of each family, and suggests that contemporary hybridisation events may be  
32 disadvantageous, as hybrid individuals do not appear to contribute to the parental species'  
33 gene pools.

## 43 Introduction

44

45 The formation of new species involves the divergence of lineages through  
46 reproductive isolation. Isolation can initially occur in allopatry (geographical isolation  
47 without gene flow) or in sympatry (biological/ecological isolation with gene flow). Over  
48 time, isolation can be maintained and strengthened, ultimately leading to the formation of  
49 new species (Norris and Hull, 2012). While allopatric speciation requires geographical  
50 isolation plus time, sympatric speciation often requires a broader and more complicated set of  
51 mechanisms (Turelli et al., 2001). These mechanisms mostly rely on ecologically mediated  
52 natural selection. Parapatric speciation, on the other hand, encompasses intermediate  
53 scenarios of partial, but incomplete, physical restrictions to gene flow leading to speciation.  
54

55

56 Through the analysis of whole-genome datasets, the detection of post-divergence gene  
57 flow in various distinct taxonomic groups is becoming commonplace (Árnason et al., 2018;  
58 Barlow et al., 2018; Westbury et al., 2020), demonstrating that speciation is much more  
59 complex than a simple bifurcating process (Campbell and Poelstra, 2018; Feder et al., 2012).  
60 Speciation is not an instantaneous process, but usually requires tens of thousands to millions  
61 of generations to achieve complete reproductive isolation (Butlin and Smadja, 2018; Coyne  
62 and Orr, 2004; Liu et al., 2014). The duration it takes to reach this isolation may be especially  
63 long in highly mobile marine species, such as cetaceans, due to a relative lack of geographic  
64 barriers in the marine realm, and therefore high potential for secondary contact and gene flow  
65 (Árnason et al., 2018).

66

67 The apparent inability to undergo allopatric speciation in marine species has been  
68 termed the marine-speciation paradox (Bierne et al., 2003). However, over the past decade,  
69 genomic studies have provided insights into how speciation can occur within cetaceans  
70 (Árnason et al., 2018; Moura et al., 2020). For example, initial phases of allopatry among  
71 populations of killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) may have led to the accumulation of ecological  
72 differences between populations, which strengthened population differences even after  
73 secondary contact (Foote et al., 2011; Foote and Morin, 2015). However, whether these initial  
74 phases of allopatry caused the divergence, or whether speciation occurred purely in sympatry,  
75 remains debated (Foote, 2018; Moura et al., 2015). But, these two hypotheses are not  
76 necessarily mutually exclusive. Instead, differentiation in parapatry, encompassing features of  
77 both allopatric and sympatric speciation, may have been key in the evolutionary history of  
78 cetaceans.

79

80 The toothed whale superfamily Delphinoidea represents an interesting opportunity to  
81 further explore speciation in the presence of putative interspecific gene flow. The crown root  
82 of Delphinoidea has been dated at ~19 million years ago (Ma) (95% CI 19.73 - 18.26 Ma)  
83 (McGowen et al., 2020) and has given rise to three families: (i) Delphinidae, the most  
84 species-rich family, which comprises dolphins and ‘black-fish’ (such as killer whales and  
85 pilot whales (*Globicephala spp.*)); (ii) Phocoenidae, commonly known as porpoises; and (iii)  
86 Monodontidae, which comprises two extant lineages, beluga (*Delphinapterus leucas*) and  
narwhal (*Monodon monoceros*).

87

88 Delphinoidea is of particular interest, as contemporary interspecific hybrids have been  
89 reported within all three families (Delphinidae (Espada et al., 2019; Miyazaki et al., 1992;  
90 Silva et al., 2005); Phocoenidae (Willis et al., 2004); Monodontidae (Skovrind et al., 2019)).  
91 However, these represent recent hybridization events that occurred long after species  
92 divergence, and their contribution to the parental gene pools is mostly unknown. The  
93 presence of more ancient introgressive hybridization events between families, and during the  
94 early radiations of these families, has yet to be investigated. With the rapid increase of  
95 genomic resources for cetaceans, and in particular for species within Delphinoidea, we are  
96 presented with the ideal opportunity to investigate post-divergence gene flow between  
97 lineages, furthering our understanding of speciation processes in cetaceans.

98

99 Here, we utilise publicly available whole-genome data from nine species of  
100 Delphinoidea, representing all three families, to investigate signs of post-divergence gene  
101 flow across their genomes. Our analyses included five Delphinidae (killer whale, Pacific  
102 white-sided dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus obliquidens*), long-finned pilot whale (*Globicephala*  
103 *melas*), bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin (*T.*  
104 *aduncus*)); two Phocoenidae (harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*), finless porpoise  
105 (*Neophocaena phocaenoides*)); and two Monodontidae (beluga, narwhal). Moreover, we  
106 compare their species-specific genetic diversity and demographic histories, and explore how  
107 species abundances may have played a role in interspecific hybridisation over the last two  
108 million years.

109

## 110 **Results and discussion**

111

### 112 **Sliding window phylogenomic analyses**

113 To assess the evolutionary relationships across the genomes of the nine Delphinoidea  
114 species investigated, we computed non-overlapping, sliding-window, maximum-likelihood  
115 phylogenies of four different window sizes in RAxML (Stamatakis, 2014). These analyses  
116 resulted in 43,207 trees (50 kilobase (kb) windows), 21,387 trees (100 kb windows), 3,705  
117 trees (500 kb windows), and 1,541 trees (1 megabase (Mb) windows) (Fig. 1, Supplementary  
118 Fig. S1, Supplementary Table S1). The 50 kb windows retrieved 96 unique topologies, 100  
119 kb windows retrieved 47 unique topologies, 500 kb windows retrieved 16 unique topologies,  
120 and 1 Mb windows retrieved 15 unique topologies. Regardless of window size, we retrieved  
121 consensus support for the species tree previously reported using target-sequence capture  
122 (McGowen et al., 2020). However, when considering the smallest window size (50 kb), we  
123 found a considerable proportion of trees (up to 76%) with an alternative topology to the  
124 species tree (Fig. 1A). These alternative topologies may be due to incomplete lineage sorting  
125 (ILS) or interspecific gene flow (Leaché et al., 2014). Moreover, the higher prevalence of this  
126 pattern in the shorter 50 kb windows may indicate that inconsistencies in topology are caused  
127 by ancient, rather than recent, gene flow events, as recombination is expected to break up  
128 longer introgressed regions over time (as a comparison, only 21% of windows in the 1 Mb  
129 dataset do not show the most common topology, Fig. 1B).

130

131 We explored whether the large number of phylogenetic discrepancies in the 50kb  
132 windows could be linked to the GC content (%GC) of the windows as elevated levels of GC  
133 content can result from higher levels of GC-Biased Gene Conversion (gBGC) in regions with  
134 higher levels of recombination (Lartillot, 2013). When binning windows into either high,  
135 medium, or low levels of GC content, the most common topologies were consistent, but with  
136 slight differences in overall values (Supplementary Table S2). This result suggests that the  
137 topological discrepancies are not arising purely due to GC-content linked biases and  
138 recombination rate.

139

### 140 **Separating ILS and gene flow**

141 To investigate whether the alternative topologies could simply be explained by ILS,  
142 or a combination of ILS and gene flow, we ran Quantifying Introgression via Branch Lengths  
143 (QuIBL) (Edelman et al., 2019) on every twentieth tree from the 50 kb sliding-window  
144 analysis (Supplementary Table S3), as well as on a dataset that contained trees constructed  
145 using 20 kb windows with a 1 Mb slide (Supplementary Table S4). We were only able to  
146 investigate the potential cause of discordances within the Delphinidae family, as we did not  
147 recover any phylogenetic discordances between families, and all families were respectively  
148 monophyletic.

149

150 When considering the results using 50 kb windows, we found significant evidence of  
151 ILS and gene flow in all species pairwise comparisons within Delphinidae. The only  
152 comparisons that did not show significant results for gene flow were those that contained  
153 both the bottlenose and Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins. The lacking evidence of gene flow  
154 when both *Tursiops* species were included, suggests signals of gene flow between either  
155 *Tursiops* species and killer whale, Pacific white-sided dolphin, or pilot whale are likely  
156 remnants of ancestral gene flow events between the ancestral *Tursiops* and the given  
157 comparative species.

158

159 Similar to the 50 kb windows, the 20 kb window analysis showed a large proportion  
160 of alternative topologies within Delphinidae likely arose due to both ILS gene flow. Again,  
161 we retrieved most non-significant results when both *Tursiops* species were included in the  
162 analysis. Moreover, although we found no evidence of gene flow between killer whale and  
163 pilot whale when either *Tursiops* was included as the triplet outgroup, we found evidence of  
164 gene flow when the Pacific white-sided dolphin was the triplet outgroup. We also found no  
165 evidence for gene flow between the Indo-Pacific bottlenose and Pacific white-sided dolphins,  
166 regardless of triplet outgroup. It is difficult to ascertain why we observe discrepancies  
167 between results based on the triplet outgroup. But, taken together, our QuIBL analyses  
168 suggest a combination of ILS and gene flow played a role in shaping the evolutionary history  
169 of Delphinidae.

170

### 171 **Accounting for ILS in gene flow estimates**

172 To further explore potential gene flow while taking ILS into account, we used D-  
173 statistics (Durand et al., 2011; Green et al., 2010). D-statistics uses a four-taxon approach  
174 [[[H1, H2], H3], Outgroup] to uncover the differential distribution of shared derived alleles,

175 which may represent gene flow between either H1/H3 or H2/H3. Here we used baiji (*Lipotes*  
176 *voxillifer*) as the outgroup, and alternated ingroup positions based on the consensus topology.  
177 In congruence with the QuIBL results, we found significant levels of gene flow within  
178 Delphinidae. However, we also found higher levels of gene flow between the killer whale,  
179 pilot whale, and Pacific white-sided dolphin and the Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin, relative  
180 to the bottlenose dolphin. In fact, 85 out of 86 tests showed significant signs of gene flow  
181 both within and between families (Supplementary Table S5). The only comparison that did  
182 not return a significant result was [[[finless porpoise, harbour porpoise], narwhal], outgroup].  
183 This does not necessarily mean there was no gene flow between these species, but could be  
184 caused by equal amounts of gene flow between both porpoise species and narwhal. Such  
185 abundant signs of gene flow suggests the evolutionary history of Delphinoidea was more  
186 complex than a simple bifurcating process. Alternatively, our findings may reflect limitations  
187 of the D-statistic and false positives due to gene flow between ancestral lineages (Moodley et  
188 al., 2020).

189

### 190 **Direction of gene flow**

191 Due to the inability of the four-taxon D-statistics approach to detect the direction of  
192 gene flow, as well as whether gene flow events may have occurred between ancestral  
193 lineages, we used D-foil (Pease and Hahn, 2015). D-foil enables further characterization of  
194 the D-statistics results, which may be particularly relevant given the complex array of gene  
195 flow putatively present within Delphinoidea. D-foil uses a five-taxon approach [[H1, H2]  
196 [H3, H4], Outgroup] and a system of four independent D-statistics in a sliding-window  
197 fashion, to uncover (i) putative gene flow events, (ii) donor and recipient lineages, and (iii)  
198 whether gene flow events occurred between a distantly related lineage and the ancestor of  
199 two sister lineages, which is indicative of ancestral-lineage gene flow. However, as the input  
200 topology requirements of D-foil are [[H1, H2] [H3, H4], Outgroup], we were only able to  
201 investigate gene flow between families, and not within families, using this analysis. Hence,  
202 we tested for gene flow between Delphinidae/Phocoenidae, Delphinidae/Monodontidae, and  
203 Phocoenidae/Monodontidae.

204

205 The D-foil results underscore the complex pattern of post-divergence gene flow  
206 between families indicated by the D-statistics. We found support for interfamilial gene flow  
207 events between all nine species investigated, to varying extents (Supplementary Table S6).  
208 This could reflect multiple episodes of gene flow between all investigated species.  
209 Alternatively, the pattern could reflect ancient gene flow events between the ancestors of H1-  
210 H2 and H3-H4 (in the topology [[H1, H2] [H3, H4], Outgroup]), with differential inheritance  
211 of the introgressed loci in subsequent lineages. Such ancestral gene flow events have  
212 previously been shown to lead to false positives between species pairs using D-statistics  
213 (Moodley et al., 2020). A further putative problem with these results can be seen when  
214 implementing D-foil on the topology [[Delphinidae, Delphinidae], [Monodontidae,  
215 Phocoenidae], Outgroup]. We found the majority of windows support a closer relationship  
216 between Delphinidae (ancestors of H1 and H2) and Monodontidae (H3), as opposed to the  
217 species tree. If this result is correct, it suggests the input topology was incorrect, and the  
218 results reflect more recent common ancestry and not gene flow. This would imply

219 Delphinidae and Monodontidae are sister lineages, as opposed to Phocoenidae and  
220 Monodontidae. However, this falls in contrast with the family topology of [Delphinidae,  
221 [Phocoenidae, Monodontidae]] retrieved in our phylogenetic analyses under the multi-species  
222 coalescent (Fig. 1) and those reported by others (McGowen et al., 2020; Steeman et al.,  
223 2009).

224

225 Taken together, it is difficult to ascertain whether our D-statistics and D-foil results of  
226 prevalent gene flow among most species pairs are true, or whether some results may have  
227 arisen due to biases that can occur when attempting to infer gene flow between highly  
228 divergent lineages. False positives and potential biases in D-statistics and D-foil can arise due  
229 to a number of factors including (i) ancestral population structure, (ii) introgression from  
230 unsampled and/or extinct ghost lineages, (iii) differences in relative population size of  
231 lineages or in the timing of gene flow events, (iv) different evolutionary rates or sequencing  
232 errors between H1 and H2, and (v) gene flow between ancestral lineages (Moodley et al.,  
233 2020; Slatkin and Pollack, 2008; Zheng and Janke, 2018). These issues are important to  
234 consider when interpreting our results, as the deep divergences of lineages suggest the  
235 possibility for a number of ancestral gene flow events, as well as gene flow events between  
236 now-extinct lineages, that may bias results.

237

### 238 **Gene flow between ancestral lineages**

239 Due to the large number of possible D-statistics comparisons, and difficulties  
240 disentangling false positives that may arise due to ancient gene flow events, we performed  
241 the *f*-branch test (Malinsky et al., 2021, 2018). The test takes correlated allele sharing into  
242 account when visualising *f*<sub>4</sub>-ratio (similar to D-statistics) results. The *f*-branch results  
243 suggested several instances of gene flow, many between ancestral lineages with relatively  
244 small values of *f*<sub>b</sub> (<0.04 with the majority being ~0.01) (Fig. 2 and Supplementary Fig. S3).  
245 This result suggests widespread gene flow but in small quantities. However, it should be  
246 noted that *f*<sub>b</sub> represents relative quantities of gene flow and likely also decreases the older  
247 the introgression event (Martin et al., 2015) so the values we present here may not fully  
248 represent the absolute levels of gene flow. When considering interfamilial gene flow events,  
249 we see excess allele sharing (*f*<sub>b</sub>) between the ancestral Monodontidae branch and all  
250 Delphinidae species, which we interpret as gene flow between the ancestral lineages of  
251 Monodontidae and Delphinidae. We also uncovered elevated *f*<sub>b</sub> between the ancestor of all  
252 Delphinidae (to the exclusion of the killer whale) and all Phocoenidae and Monodontidae  
253 species, which could suggest gene flow between Delphinidae and the ancestral  
254 Phocoenidae/Monodontidae lineage. However, the exclusion of the killer whale may be due  
255 to the inability of the four taxon *f*<sub>4</sub>-ratio test to calculate gene flow between the killer whale  
256 and ancestral Phocoenidae/Monodontidae. Based on this limitation, we take a conservative  
257 approach and suggest this result reflects gene flow between the ancestral Delphinidae and  
258 ancestral Phocoenidae/Monodontidae (Fig. 2C).

259

260 Further supporting the hypothesis of gene flow between the ancestral Delphinidae and  
261 ancestral Phocoenidae/Monodontidae (Fig. 2C), we also observed signs of gene flow between  
262 the finless porpoise and all Delphinidae species, which suggests gene flow between the

263 finless porpoise and ancestral Delphinidae. This seems unreasonable, as the finless porpoise  
264 diverged from the harbour porpoise much more recently (~5 Ma) than the time to the most  
265 recent common ancestor (tMRCA) of all Delphinidae (~10 Ma, (McGowen et al., 2020),  
266 meaning gene flow would have occurred independently between the finless porpoise and  
267 almost every Delphinidae species studied here. Moreover, the  $f$ -branch showed similar  $fb$   
268 between the Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin and all Phocoenidae and Monodontidae, as well  
269 as between the ancestral *Tursiops* and all Phocoenidae and Monodontidae. Similar to the  
270 finless porpoise and ancestral Delphinidae, this result seems unlikely due to the divergence  
271 times of *Tursiops*.

272

273 We also found signals of gene flow between beluga and both Phocoenidae species,  
274 but not between narwhal and Phocoenidae. This pattern may be more parsimoniously  
275 explained by an ancestral event between Phocoenidae and Monodontidae, where the narwhal  
276 retained less introgressed alleles. A given  $fb$  statistic presents the signal of excess gene flow  
277 relative to the ingroup's sister taxa (Malinsky et al., 2021). Hence, not recovering a signal of  
278 gene flow with the sister taxa does not mean it did not occur. Rather, gene flow may have  
279 occurred between taxa, but to a lesser degree. Taking this into account, we suggest our results  
280 may instead be remnants of ancestral gene flow events between the ancestral Phocoenidae  
281 and Monodontidae lineages (Fig. 2C). A lack of evidence for more recent, species-specific  
282 gene flow events here is congruent with the sliding-window and species tree analyses, which  
283 showed strong support for Phocoenidae and Monodontidae as sisters.

284

285 The  $f$ -branch test also revealed interspecific gene flow events within Delphinidae may  
286 have been common. We uncovered evidence for gene flow between the Pacific white-sided  
287 dolphin and ancestral *Tursiops*, as well as the killer whale and ancestral *Tursiops*. However,  
288 we are unable to dissect whether there was gene flow between the pilot whale and ancestral  
289 *Tursiops*, due to the limitation of the four-taxon requirement.

290

291 To investigate whether the X chromosome may have presented a more pronounced  
292 barrier to gene flow relative to the autosomes, we ran the  $f$ -branch test on scaffolds aligning  
293 to the X chromosome. Results were similar to the genome-wide dataset (Supplementary Figs.  
294 S2 and S4). The most obvious difference is that evidence for gene flow between Phocoenidae  
295 and Monodontidae is not as pronounced as in the genome-wide dataset. It is difficult to  
296 discern whether the lack of resolution here is due to the X chromosome constituting a smaller  
297 dataset, or whether parts of the X chromosome were not incorporated into the recipient gene  
298 pool due to the occurrence of more rapid reproductive isolation on the X chromosome  
299 (Payseur and Rieseberg, 2016). The former option appears more probable, due to the  
300 consistent evidence for gene flow between the beluga and both Phocoenidae species, which  
301 are likely the remnants of ancestral gene flow events between Phocoenidae and  
302 Monodontidae.

303

304 By combining results acquired through sliding-window phylogenies, QuIBL, D-  
305 statistics, Dfoil, and  $f$ -branch, we are able to better decipher the complex evolutionary history  
306 of Delphinidae, and the signatures of interspecific gene-flow events present in most

307 individuals studied. We found the most probable explanation for such wide-spread signatures  
308 to be the differential inheritance of remnant loci from ancestral gene flow events. However,  
309 as exemplified here and due to the limitations of each method, uncovering the exact lineages  
310 involved in these events is challenging.

311

### 312 **Cessation of lineage sorting and/or gene flow**

313 To further elucidate the complexity of interspecific gene flow within Delphinoidea,  
314 we implemented F1 hybrid PSMC (hPSMC) (Cahill et al., 2016) on the autosomes of our  
315 species of interest. This method creates a pseudo-diploid sequence by merging pseudo-  
316 haploid sequences from two different genomes, which in our case represents two different  
317 species. The variation in the interspecific pseudo-F1 hybrid genome cannot coalesce more  
318 recently than the emergence of reproductive isolation between the two parental species. If  
319 some regions within the genomes of two target species are yet to fully diverge, due to ILS or  
320 to gene flow, hybridisation may still be possible. Therefore, we can use this method to infer  
321 when reproductive isolation between two species may have occurred.

322

323 When considering the upper bound of when two target genomes coalesce (equating  
324 the oldest date), and the lower bound of each divergence date (equating the most recent date)  
325 (McGowen et al., 2020), we found the majority of comparisons (29/36) show lineage sorting  
326 and/or gene flow occurred for >50% of the post-divergence branch length (Fig. 3,  
327 Supplementary data - hPSMC). However, we used divergence times estimated assuming a  
328 fixed tree-like topology without taking gene tree discordances into account, which could lead  
329 to extended terminal branches and overestimated dates due to molecular substitutions of  
330 discordant loci needing to be placed somewhere on the tree (Mendes and Hahn, 2016).  
331 Nevertheless, our results suggest that reaching complete reproductive isolation in  
332 Delphinoidea was a slow process, due to ILS and/or gene flow. ILS levels are known to be  
333 proportional to ancestral population sizes, and inversely proportional to time between  
334 speciation events (Pamilo and Nei, 1988). Hence, if ILS was the only explanation for this  
335 phenomenon, this would suggest extremely large ancestral population sizes. We do indeed  
336 see that the species pairs with the highest  $N_e$  prior to the end of lineage sorting/gene flow  
337 (Supplementary table S7) also have the largest discrepancies between divergence date and the  
338 date at which the two genomes coalesce. However, an alternative, and perhaps more likely,  
339 explanation is the occurrence of gene flow after initial divergence, supported by our  
340 phylogenomic, D-statistics, Dfoil, and  $f$ -branch results above. Post-divergence gene flow may  
341 reflect the ability of cetacean species to travel long distances, and the absence of significant  
342 geographical barriers in the marine environment. Alternatively, if geographic barriers did  
343 drive initial divergence, the pattern retrieved in our data may reflect secondary contact prior  
344 to complete reproductive isolation.

345

346 Our hPSMC results showed an almost simultaneous cessation of lineage sorting/gene  
347 flow regardless of species pair within the Delphinidae family (Fig 3A), as well as  
348 comparisons between families (Fig 3B). Based on our D-statistic/D-foil/ $f$ -branch results  
349 showing many of the signals of gene flow may be remnants of ancestral gene flow events, we  
350 hypothesise that our deep-time hPSMC results may also be produced by ILS of ancestrally



351 introgressed regions. If we assume the divergence dates are correct, this hypothesis also  
352 offers an explanation regarding why the end of interfamilial ILS/gene flow occurs after the  
353 tMRCA of the family in many cases. For example, the tMRCA of Phocoenidae is ~6Ma, and  
354 the tMRCA of Monodontidae is ~7Ma but our hPSMC suggests that ILS/gene flow did not  
355 stop between Phocoenidae and Monodontidae until ~5Ma. Superficially, this implies that  
356 interfamilial gene flow occurred uniquely between beluga/finless porpoise, beluga/harbour  
357 porpoise, narwhal/finless porpoise, and narwhal/harbour porpoise, and ceased for all species  
358 pairs at the same time. While this may have been the case, a more likely explanation is that  
359 lineage sorting of introgressed regions from an ancestral gene flow event was not complete  
360 until the time periods that our hPSMC results recovered.

361

362 Despite our hPSMC results of long-term lineage sorting/gene flow in the majority of  
363 species comparisons, they also suggested that lineage sorting is complete and gene flow has  
364 ceased between all lineages in our dataset. This finding is in contrast with confirmed reports  
365 of fertile contemporary hybrids between several of our target species, and may reflect the  
366 inability of hPSMC to detect low levels of migration. For example, viable offspring have  
367 been reported between bottlenose dolphins and Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins (Gridley et  
368 al., 2018) and between bottlenose dolphins and Pacific white-sided dolphins (Crossman et al.,  
369 2016; Miyazaki et al., 1992). Simulations have shown that in the presence of as few as  
370 1/10,000 migrants per generation, hPSMC will suggest continued gene flow. However, this is  
371 not the case with a rate  $< 1/100,000$  migrants per generation. Rather, in the latter case, the  
372 exponential increase in effective population size ( $N_e$ ) of the pseudo-hybrid genome, which  
373 can be used to infer the date at which gene flow ceased between the parental species,  
374 becomes a more gradual transition, leading to a larger estimated time interval of gene flow  
375 (Cahill et al., 2016). Within Delphinidae, we observe a less pronounced increase in  $N_e$  in the  
376 pseudo-hybrids, suggesting continued, but very low migration rates (Supplementary results -  
377 hPSMC). This finding suggests that gene flow within Delphinidae may have continued for  
378 longer than shown by hPSMC, which may not be sensitive enough to detect low rates of  
379 recent gene flow. Either way, our hPSMC results within and between all three families  
380 showed a consistent pattern of long periods of lineage sorting/gene flow in Delphinoidea,  
381 some lasting more than ten million years post divergence.

382

383 We further assessed the robustness of our hPSMC results to the inclusion or exclusion  
384 of repeat regions in the pseudodiploid genome. We compared the hPSMC results when  
385 including and removing repeat regions for three independent species pairs of varying  
386 phylogenetic distance. These included a shallow divergence (bottlenose and Indo-Pacific  
387 bottlenose dolphins), medium divergence (beluga and narwhal), and deep divergence  
388 (bottlenose dolphin and beluga) (Supplementary Figs. S5 - S7). For all species pairs, results  
389 showed that pre-divergence  $N_e$  is almost identical, and the exponential increase in  $N_e$  is just  
390 slightly more recent when removing repeat regions, compared to when repeat regions are  
391 included. This gives us confidence that the inclusion of repeats did not greatly alter our  
392 results.

393

394 To add independent evidence for continued lineage sorting/gene flow for an extended  
395 period after initial divergence, we compared relative divergence time between killer whale,  
396 Pacific white-sided dolphin, and long-finned pilot whale based on the species tree and a set of  
397 alternative topologies (Supplementary Fig. S8). We focused on Delphinidae, due to the large  
398 number of loci per alternative topology (Supplementary Tables S1, S2, S3, and S4). By  
399 assuming ILS and gene flow are the dominant forces behind gene-tree discordance, we can  
400 uncover information about the timing of ILS and gene flow events among lineages, by  
401 isolating the loci that produce each topology (Mendes and Hahn, 2016). In agreement with  
402 our hPSMC results, this analysis showed that ILS/gene flow continued for a long time after  
403 initial divergence. For example, we observed that the killer whale diverged from all other  
404 Delphinidae at a relative divergence time of 0.45 (45% of the divergence time of  
405 Delphinoidea and the baiji) in the consensus topology (Supplementary Fig. S8A). In an  
406 alternative topology, the killer whale was placed as sister to the Pacific white-sided dolphin  
407 (Supplementary Fig. S8B); despite still diverging from the remaining Delphinidae at  
408 approximately the same relative timing (0.42), it diverged from the Pacific white-sided  
409 dolphin at a relative divergence time of 0.25. As we assumed the alternative topologies only  
410 arose due to ILS and/or gene flow, this suggested lineage sorting and/or gene flow continued  
411 along ~40% of the post-divergence branch length. This estimate was qualitatively equivalent  
412 to that made using hPSMC (minimally 43%). Similarly, long periods of post-divergence  
413 lineage sorting/gene flow were observed when investigating topologies with the killer whale  
414 and long-finned pilot whale as sister species (Supplementary Fig. S8C, ~43%), and with the  
415 Pacific white-sided dolphin and long-finned pilot whale as sister species (Supplementary Fig.  
416 S8D, ~37%). As the results here included alternative topologies that likely arose due to both  
417 ILS and gene flow, we propose that the numbers present a more conservative estimate. One  
418 would expect ILS to be a more prevalent force behind discordances shortly after the species'  
419 divergence, whereas gene flow can occur after many generations. Therefore, if we could  
420 more confidently disentangle alternative topologies arising due to ILS from those arising due  
421 to gene flow, we would expect much more recent relative divergence times for loci that  
422 underwent gene flow.

423

424 In summary, by combining findings from several analyses, and with the knowledge  
425 that interspecific hybridisation is still ongoing between many of the lineages studied here, we  
426 suggest that both ILS and gene flow played a major role over extended periods of time, in the  
427 speciation of Delphinoidea.

428

### 429 **Interspecific hybridisation**

430 Making inferences as to what biological factors lead to interspecific hybridisation is  
431 challenging, as many variables may play a role. One hypothesis is that interspecific  
432 hybridization may occur at a higher rate during periods of low abundance, when a given  
433 species encounters only a limited number of conspecifics (Crossman et al., 2016; Edwards et  
434 al., 2011; Westbury et al., 2019). When considering species that have not yet undergone  
435 sufficient divergence preventing their ability to hybridise, individuals may mate with a  
436 related species, instead of investing energy in finding a relatively rarer conspecific mate.

437

438 To explore the relationship between susceptibility to interspecific hybridisation and  
439 population size, we calculated the level of genome-wide genetic diversity for each species, as  
440 a proxy for their  $N_e$  (Fig. 4A). Narwhal, killer whale, beluga, and long-finned pilot whale had  
441 the lowest diversity levels, respectively, and should therefore be more susceptible to  
442 interspecific hybridization events. A beluga/narwhal hybrid has been reported (Skovrind et  
443 al., 2019), as has hybridisation between long-finned and short-finned pilot whales (Miralles et  
444 al., 2016). However, hybrids between species with high genetic diversity, including harbour  
445 porpoise (Willis et al., 2004), Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin (Baird et al., 2012), and  
446 bottlenose dolphin (Espada et al., 2019; Herzing and Johnson, 1997), have also been  
447 reported, suggesting genetic diversity alone is not a good proxy for susceptibility to  
448 hybridisation.

449  
450 To investigate the effect of interspecific gene flow on  $N_e$ , we estimated changes in  
451 intraspecific genetic diversity through time (Fig. 4B-D). The modelled demographic  
452 trajectories, using a Pairwise Sequentially Markovian Coalescent model (PSMC), span the  
453 past two million years. We could therefore assess the relationship for the three species pairs,  
454 where the putative interval for the cessation of lineage sorting/gene flow was contained  
455 within this period: harbour/finless porpoise (Phocoenidae), beluga/narwhal (Monodontidae),  
456 and bottlenose/Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin (Delphinidae) (Fig. 3).

457  
458 In the harbour porpoise, we observed an increase in  $N_e$  beginning  $\sim 1$  Ma, the rate of  
459 which increased further  $\sim 0.5$  Ma (Fig. 4C). We observed a similar pattern in belugas; an  
460 increase in  $N_e$   $\sim 1$  Ma, relatively soon after the proposed cessation of gene flow with narwhals  
461  $\sim 1.8 - 1.2$  Ma (Fig. 4D). Although  $N_e$  may reflect abundance, it is also influenced by several  
462 other factors, including population connectivity and gene flow. If gene flow explained our  
463 changes in  $N_e$ , we would therefore expect a decrease in  $N_e$  after gene flow ceased, but  
464 instead we observed an increase. An increase in  $N_e$  may coincide with an increase in relative  
465 abundance, which would increase the number of potential conspecific mates, and in turn  
466 reduce the level of interspecific gene flow. However, this is difficult to say for certain  
467 without more information on abundances through time.

468  
469 We observed a different pattern in the bottlenose/Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins.  
470 We found a relatively high population size during the period of gene flow in both species;  $N_e$   
471 declines  $\sim 1 - 0.5$  Ma, coinciding with the putative end of gene flow  $\sim 1.2 - 0.4$  Ma. The  
472 decline in  $N_e$  could either reflect a decline in abundance, or a loss of connectivity between  
473 the two species. In the latter, we expect levels of intraspecific diversity (and thereby inferred  
474  $N_e$ ) to decline with the cessation of gene flow, even if absolute abundances did not change.  
475 This is indeed suggested by our data, which showed both species undergoing the decline  
476 simultaneously, indicative of a common cause.

477  
478 Seven of the nine Delphinoidea genomes investigated showed a similar pattern of a  
479 rapid decline in  $N_e$  starting  $\sim 150-100$  thousands of years ago (kya) (Fig. 4B-D; the  
480 exceptions are Pacific white-sided dolphin and narwhal). This concurrent decline could  
481 represent actual population declines across species, or, alternatively, simultaneous reductions

482 in connectivity among populations within each species. Based on similar PSMC analyses, a  
483 decline in  $N_e$  at this time has also been reported in four baleen whale species (Árnason et al.,  
484 2018). Therefore, the species-wide pattern may reflect climate-driven environmental change.  
485 The period of 150-100 kya overlaps with the onset of the last interglacial, when sea levels  
486 increased to levels as high, if not higher, than at present (Polyak et al., 2018), and which may  
487 have had a marine-wide effect on both population connectivity and sizes. The unique life  
488 histories, distribution, and ecology of the cetacean species suggests that a combination of  
489 both decreased population connectivity and population sizes across the different studied  
490 species. A similar marine-wide effect has been observed among baleen whales and their prey  
491 species in the Southern and North Atlantic Oceans during the Pleistocene-Holocene climate  
492 transition (12-7 kya) (Cabrera et al., 2018). These results indicate that past marine-wide  
493 environmental shifts have driven demographic changes in population across multiple marine  
494 species.

495

496 Although speculative, we suggest that recent species-wide declines associated with  
497 the onset of the last glacial period, may have facilitated the resurgence of hybridization  
498 between some of the nine Delphinoidea species analysed. If interspecific hybridisation has  
499 increased after these declines, species may already be sufficiently differentiated that offspring  
500 fertility is reduced. Even if offspring are fertile, the high level of differentiation between  
501 species may mean hybrids are unable to occupy either parental niche (Skovrind et al., 2019)  
502 and are strongly selected against. A lack of significant contribution from recent hybrids to the  
503 parental gene pools may be why we observe contemporary hybrids, but do not find evidence  
504 of this in our analyses.

505

## 506 **Conclusions**

507

508 Allopatric speciation is generally considered the most common mode of speciation, as  
509 the absence of gene flow due to geographic isolation can most easily explain the evolution of  
510 ecological, behavioural, morphological, or genetic differences between populations (Norris  
511 and Hull, 2012). However, our findings suggest that within Delphinoidea, speciation in the  
512 presence of gene flow was commonplace, consistent with sympatric/parapatric speciation, or  
513 allopatric speciation and secondary contact.

514

515 The ability for gene flow events to occur long after initial divergence may also  
516 explain the presence of contemporaneous hybrids between several species. In parapatric  
517 speciation, genetic isolation is achieved relatively early due to geographical and biological  
518 isolation, but species develop complete reproductive isolation relatively slowly, through low  
519 levels of migration or secondary contact events (Norris and Hull, 2012). The prevalence of  
520 this mode of speciation in cetaceans, as suggested by our study and previous genomic  
521 analyses (Árnason et al., 2018; Moura et al., 2020), may reflect the low energetic costs of  
522 dispersing across large distances in the marine realm (Fish et al., 2008; Williams, 1999) and  
523 the relative absence of geographic barriers preventing such dispersal events (Palumbi, 1994).  
524 Both factors are believed to be important in facilitating long-distance (including inter-  
525 hemispheric and inter-oceanic) movements in many cetacean species (Stone et al., 1990).

526

527 Our study shows that speciation in Delphinoidea was a complex process and involved  
528 multiple ecological and evolutionary factors. Our results take a step towards resolving the  
529 enormous complexity of speciation within this superfamily, through a multifaceted analysis  
530 of nuclear genomes. Our study underscores the challenges of accurately interpreting some  
531 results, potentially due to the high levels of divergence between the target species and  
532 amplified by rapid diversification where ILS is likely pervasive, and where introgression  
533 among ancestral lineage was also likely. Moreover, while we make inferences based on a  
534 genome-wide dataset, certain regions of the genome may have a greater contribution to  
535 reproductive isolation than others, e.g. sex chromosomes and regions of reduced  
536 recombination (Payseur and Rieseberg, 2016). By using the hypotheses we form about  
537 general patterns and major processes of gene flow and speciation uncovered in our data, we  
538 hope that future studies may be able to build on our results to make more specific inferences  
539 as to the genomics of speciation in Delphinoidea, as additional genomic data and new  
540 methodologies for data analysis become available.

541

## 542 **Methods**

543

### 544 **Data collection**

545 We downloaded the assembled genomes and raw sequencing reads from nine toothed  
546 whales from the superfamily Delphinoidea. The data included five Delphinidae: Pacific  
547 white-sided dolphin (NCBI Biosample: SAMN09386610), Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin  
548 (NCBI Biosample: SAMN06289676), bottlenose dolphin (NCBI Biosample:  
549 SAMN09426418), killer whale (NCBI Biosample: SAMN01180276), and long-finned pilot  
550 whale (NCBI Biosample: SAMN11083132); two Phocoenidae: harbour porpoise (Autenrieth  
551 et al., 2018) and finless porpoise (NCBI Biosample: SAMN02192673); and two  
552 Monodontidae: beluga (NCBI Biosample: SAMN06216270) and narwhal (NCBI Biosample:  
553 SAMN10519625). To avoid reference biases, where reads more similar to the reference map  
554 more successfully than more divergent reads, artificially inflating signals of genetic  
555 similarities between a highly divergent outgroup and an ingroup species used as mapping  
556 reference (Liu et al., 2021), we downloaded the assembled outgroup baiji genome (Genbank  
557 accession code: GCF\_000442215.1) as mapping reference in the gene flow analyses.  
558 Delphinoidea and the baiji diverged ~24.6 Ma (95% CI 25.2 - 23.8 Ma) (McGowen et al.,  
559 2020).

560

### 561 **Initial data filtering**

562 To determine which scaffolds were most likely autosomal in origin, we identified  
563 putative sex chromosome scaffolds for each genome through synteny, and omitted them from  
564 further analysis. We found putative sex chromosome scaffolds in all ten assemblies by  
565 aligning them to the Cow X (Genbank accession: CM008168.2) and Human Y (Genbank  
566 accession: NC\_000024.10) chromosomes. Alignments were performed using satsuma  
567 synteny v2.1 (Grabherr et al., 2010) with default parameters. Since short scaffolds have a  
568 higher likelihood of including assembly errors, we also removed scaffolds smaller than 100  
569 kb from all downstream analyses.

570

## 571 **Mapping**

572 We trimmed adapter sequences from all raw reads using skewer v0.2.2 (Jiang et al.,  
573 2014). We mapped the trimmed reads to the baiji for downstream gene flow analyses, and to  
574 the species-specific reference genome for downstream demographic history and genetic  
575 diversity analyses using BWA v0.7.15 (Li and Durbin, 2009) and the mem algorithm. We  
576 parsed the output and removed duplicates and reads with a mapping quality lower than 30  
577 with SAMtools v1.6 (Li et al., 2009). Mapping statistics can be found in supplementary tables  
578 S8 and S9.

579

## 580 **Sliding-window phylogeny**

581 For the sliding-window phylogenetic analysis, we created fasta files for all individuals  
582 mapped to the baiji genome using a consensus base call (-dofasta 2) approach in ANGSD  
583 v0.921 (Korneliussen et al., 2014), and specifying the following filters: minimum read depth  
584 of 5 (-mininddepth 5), minimum mapping quality of 30 (-minmapq 30), minimum base  
585 quality (-minq 30), only consider reads that map to one location uniquely (-uniqueonly 1),  
586 and only include reads where both mates map (-only\_proper\_pairs 1). All resultant fasta files,  
587 together with the assembled baiji genome, were aligned, and sites where any individual had  
588 more than 50% missing data were filtered before performing maximum likelihood  
589 phylogenetic analyses in a non-overlapping sliding-window approach using RAxML v8.2.10  
590 (Stamatakis, 2014). We performed this analysis four times independently, specifying a  
591 different window size each time (50 kb, 100 kb, 500 kb, and 1 Mb). We used RAxML with  
592 default parameters and a GTR+G substitution model. Using the trees from each window, we  
593 estimated the species tree under the multi-species coalescent using ASTRAL-III (Zhang et  
594 al., 2018), and extracted the proportion of gene trees supporting each branch using PHYLIP  
595 (Felsenstein, 2005). We also visualised all trees of equal sized windows using DensiTree  
596 (Bouckaert, 2010).

597

598 We tested whether discordant phylogenetic topologies may be linked to GC content in  
599 the 50kb windows. To do this, we calculated the GC content for each window and binned the  
600 windows into three bins: The 33% with the lowest levels of GC content, the 33% with  
601 intermediate levels, and the 33% with the highest levels of GC content.

602

## 603 **Quantifying Introgression via Branch Lengths (QuIBL)**

604 To test hypotheses of whether phylogenetic discordance between all possible triplets  
605 can be explained by incomplete lineage sorting (ILS) alone, or by a combination of ILS and  
606 gene flow, we implemented QuIBL (Edelman et al., 2019) in two different datasets. The first  
607 dataset leveraged the results of the above 50 kb-window analysis, by taking every twentieth  
608 tree from the 50kb sliding-window analysis and running it through QuIBL. The second  
609 dataset was created specifically for this test, and contained topologies generated from 20 kb  
610 windows with a 1 Mb slide using the phylogenetic methods mentioned above. We ran QuIBL  
611 specifying the baiji as the overall outgroup (totaloutgroup), to test either ILS or ILS with gene  
612 flow (numdistributions 2), the number of total EM steps as 50 (numsteps), and a likelihood  
613 threshold of 0.01. We determined the significance of gene flow by comparing the BIC1 (ILS

614 alone) and BIC2 (ILS and gene flow). When BIC2 was lower than BIC1, with a difference of  
615  $> 10$ , we assumed incongruent topologies arose due to both ILS and gene flow. Triplet  
616 topologies supporting the species tree, and those that had  $< 5$  alternative topologies, were  
617 excluded from interpretations.

618

### 619 **D-statistics**

620 To test for signs of gene flow in the face of ILS, we ran D-statistics (Durand et al.,  
621 2011; Green et al., 2010) using all individuals mapped to the baiji genome in ANGSD, and  
622 using a consensus base call approach (-doabbababa 2), specifying the baiji sequence as the  
623 ancestral outgroup sequence, and the same filtering as for the fasta file construction with the  
624 addition of setting the block size as 1Mb (-blocksize). Significance of the results was  
625 evaluated using a block jackknife approach with the Rscript provided in the ANGSD  
626 package.  $|Z| > 3$  was deemed significant.

627

### 628 **D-foil**

629 As D-statistics only tests for the presence and not the direction of gene flow, we ran  
630 D-foil (Pease and Hahn, 2015), an extended version of the D-statistic, which is a five-taxon  
631 test for gene flow, making use of all four combinations of the potential D-statistics  
632 topologies. For this analysis, we used the same fasta files constructed above, which we  
633 converted into an mvf file using MVFtools (Pease and Rosenzweig, 2018). We specified the  
634 5-taxon [[H1, H2], [H3, H4], baiji], for all possible combinations, following the species tree  
635 (Fig. 1) and a 100 kb window size. All scaffolds were trimmed to the nearest 100 kb to avoid  
636 the inclusion of windows shorter than 100 kb. The significance of each window was  
637 separately assessed by a chi-squared goodness-of-fit test within the software.

638

### 639 **The *f*-branch statistic**

640 To aid in the interpretation of the multitude of D-statistics comparisons, we  
641 implemented the *f*-branch test (Malinsky et al., 2021, 2018) to uncover correlations between  
642 results that may indicate ancestral gene flow events. For this analysis, we needed a variant  
643 call file (VCF). However, the raw sequencing reads for the baiji are not available. To  
644 overcome this, we simulated 100 million 150 bp reads from the assembled genome using  
645 SAMtools wgsim, which we mapped back to the baiji assembly using the same mapping  
646 parameters specified above. We constructed a multi-individual VCF of all individuals  
647 mapped to the baiji using bcftools mpileup, and filtered said VCF file to only include SNPs  
648 using BCftools call and the -mv parameter, resulting in 138,715,767 sites for downstream  
649 analyses. We ran the multi-individual VCF through Dtrios in Dsuite v0.4 r43 (Malinsky et al.,  
650 2021) and specified the species tree as the most common topology from our sliding window  
651 analyses, and otherwise default parameters. We ran the output from Dtrios through *f*-branch  
652 and visualised the output using the dtools.py script from Dsuite. To assess whether sex  
653 chromosomes may support a different scenario of gene flow events, we also ran the *f*-branch  
654 on scaffolds  $> 1$  Mb aligning to the X chromosome which gave us 3,728,572 sites. Although  
655 the default parameters for the *f*-branch statistic in Dsuite only consider *fb* with  $p < 0.01$ , we  
656 also assessed statistical significance of *fb* using a block Jack-knife approach by including the

657 -Z parameter when running the *f*-branch statistic in Dsuite. A Z score  $|Z| > 3$  was considered as  
658 significant.

659

### 660 **Mutation rate estimation**

661 For use in the downstream demographic analyses, we computed the mutation rate per  
662 generation for each species. To do this, we estimated the pairwise distances between all  
663 ingroup species mapped to the baiji, using a consensus base call in ANGSD (-doIBS 2), and  
664 applying the same filters as above, with the addition of only considering sites in which all  
665 individuals were covered (-minInd). The pairwise distances used in this calculation were  
666 those from the closest lineage to the species of interest (Supplementary Tables S10 and S11).  
667 The mutation rates per generation were calculated using the resultant pairwise distance as  
668 follows: mutation rate = pairwise distance x generation time / 2 x divergence time.  
669 Divergence times were taken from the full dataset 10-partition auto-correlated rate (mean)  
670 values from McGowen et al. (2020) (Supplementary Table S11). Generation times were taken  
671 from previously published data (Supplementary Table S12).

672

### 673 **Cessation of lineage sorting and/or gene flow**

674 To estimate when lineage sorting and/or gene flow may have ceased between each  
675 species pair, we used the F1-hybrid PSMC (hPSMC) approach (Cahill et al., 2016). As input  
676 we used the haploid consensus sequences mapped to the baiji that were created for the  
677 phylogenetic analyses. Despite the possibility of producing consensus sequences when  
678 mapping to conspecific reference genomes, we chose the baiji for all comparisons, as  
679 previous analyses have shown the choice of reference genome does not influence hPSMC  
680 results (Moodley et al., 2020; Westbury et al., 2019). We merged the haploid sequences from  
681 each possible species pair into pseudo-diploid sequences using the scripts available in the  
682 hPSMC toolsuite. We independently ran each resultant species pair pseudo-diploid sequences  
683 through PSMC, specifying atomic intervals 4+25\*2+4+6. We plotted the results using the  
684 average (i) mutation rate per generation and (ii) generation time for each species pair being  
685 tested. From the output of this analysis, we visually estimated the pre-divergence  $N_e$  of each  
686 hPSMC plot (i.e.  $N_e$  prior to the point of asymptotic increase in  $N_e$ ) to be used as input for  
687 downstream simulations. Based on these empirical results, we ran simulations in ms (Hudson,  
688 2002) using the estimated pre-divergence  $N_e$ , and various predefined divergence times, to  
689 find the interval in which gene flow may have ceased between a given species pair. The time  
690 intervals and pre-divergence  $N_e$  for each species pair used for the simulations can be seen in  
691 supplementary table S7. The ms commands were produced using the scripts available in the  
692 hPSMC toolsuite. We plotted the simulated and empirical hPSMC results to find the  
693 simulations with an asymptotic increase in  $N_e$  closest to, but not overlapping with, the  
694 empirical data. The predefined divergence times of the simulations showing this pattern  
695 within 1.5x and 10x of the pre-divergence  $N_e$  were taken as the time interval in which gene  
696 flow ceased.

697

698 We repeated the above analysis for three species pairs: bottlenose/Indo-Pacific  
699 bottlenose dolphins, beluga/narwhal, and beluga/bottlenose dolphin, but with an additional  
700 step, where we masked repeat elements of the haploid genomes using bedtools v2.26.0



701 (Quinlan, 2014) and the repeat annotations available on Genbank. Once we masked the repeat  
702 elements, we re-ran the hPSMC analysis as above.

703

### 704 **Relative divergence times in Delphinidae**

705 To further examine the timing of the ending of lineage sorting and/or gene flow, we  
706 performed phylogenetic inferences to uncover the relative divergence times on subsets of  
707 genomic loci showing alternative topologies in Delphinidae. To do this, we masked repeats in  
708 the same fasta files used for our other phylogenetic analyses using the baiji Genbank  
709 annotation and bedtools (Quinlan, 2014). We extracted 1 kb windows with a 1 Mb slide from  
710 the aligned fasta files and only kept loci containing less than 50% missing data for any  
711 individual. We separated our data set into the loci that supported each of four sets of  
712 relationships. These included loci that supported (i) the consensus species tree ( $n = 109$ ), (ii)  
713 the Pacific white-sided dolphin as sister to the killer-whale ( $n = 84$ ), (iii) the Pacific white-  
714 sided dolphin as sister to the clade of bottlenose dolphins, with the long-finned pilot and  
715 killer whales in a monophyletic clade as sisters to this group ( $n = 48$ ), and (iv) the Pacific  
716 white-sided dolphin as sister to the long-finned pilot whale ( $n = 59$ ).

717

718 As focal species, we selected to test the Pacific white-sided dolphin, killer whale, and  
719 long-finned pilot whale, as they showed the highest number of discordances, allowing for a  
720 more balanced comparison of divergence-time estimates among different topologies. For  
721 each of the four sets of loci, we inferred the relative divergence times across our samples of  
722 Delphinidae, also including the beluga and the baiji in the taxon set. We analysed each data  
723 set independently, constrained the tree topology to that of the corresponding set of loci, and  
724 constrained the age of the root to 1. We performed Bayesian dating using a GTR+ $\Gamma$   
725 substitution model and an uncorrelated-gamma relaxed clock model in MCMCtree, as  
726 implemented in PAML v4.8 (Yang, 2007). The posterior distribution was approximated using  
727 Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) sampling, with samples drawn every  $10^3$  MCMC steps  
728 over  $10^7$  steps, after discarding a burn-in phase of  $10^5$  steps. Convergence to the stationary  
729 distribution was verified by comparing parameter estimates from two independent analyses,  
730 and confirming that effective sample sizes were above 200 for all sampled parameters.

731

### 732 **Heterozygosity**

733 As a proxy for species-level genetic diversity, we estimated autosome-wide  
734 heterozygosity for each of the nine Delphinoidea species. We estimated autosomal  
735 heterozygosity using allele frequencies (-doSaf 1) in ANGSD (Korneliussen et al., 2014),  
736 taking genotype likelihoods into account (-GL 2) and specifying the same filters as for the  
737 fasta file construction, with the addition of adjusting quality scores around indels (-baq 1). To  
738 ensure comparability between genomes of differing coverage, we uniquely set the subsample  
739 filter (-downSample) for each individual to result in a 20x genome-wide coverage.  
740 Heterozygosity was computed from the output of this using realSFS from the ANGSD  
741 toolsuite and specifying 20 Mb windows of covered sites (-nSites).

742

### 743 **Demographic reconstruction**

744 To determine the demographic histories of all nine species over a two million year  
745 time scale, we ran a Pairwise Sequentially Markovian Coalescent model (PSMC) (Li and  
746 Durbin, 2011) on each diploid genome independently. We called diploid genome sequences  
747 using SAMtools and BCFtools v1.6 (Narasimhan et al., 2016), specifying a minimum quality  
748 score of 20 and minimum coverage of 10. We ran PSMC specifying atomic intervals  
749 4+25\*2+4+6 and performed 100 bootstrap replicates to investigate support for the resultant  
750 demographic trajectories. PSMC outputs were plotted using species-specific mutation rates  
751 and generation times (Supplementary Table S12).

752

### 753 **Figure legends:**

754

755 **Figure 1: Sliding-Window Maximum likelihood trees of nine Delphinoidea species and**  
756 **the baiji.** The trees were constructed using non-overlapping sliding windows of (A) 50 kb in  
757 length and (B) 1 Mb in length. Black lines show the multi-species coalescent species tree  
758 estimate, grey lines show individual trees. Numbers on branches show the proportion of  
759 windows supporting the node. Branches without numbers had maximal support. Bottlenose  
760 dolphin silhouette: license Public Domain Dedication 1.0; remaining Delphinoidea  
761 silhouettes: Chris huh, license CC-BY-SA-3.0 ([https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/)  
762 [sa/3.0/](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/)).

763

764 **Figure 2: Genome-wide *f*-branch results.** (A) Species tree; (B) and (C) Species tree in  
765 expanded form, with internal branches as dotted lines. The values in the matrix refer to  
766 excess allele sharing between the expanded tree branch (relative to its sister branch) and the  
767 species on the *x*-axis. Lines connecting branches show: (B) gene flow events inferred directly  
768 from the *f*-branch results; (C) gene flow events that we hypothesised from the *f*-branch  
769 results, while accounting for (i) the inability to detect gene flow between sister lineages, and  
770 (ii) a lack of a positive means less gene flow relative to the sister lineage, rather than no gene  
771 flow.

772

773 **Figure 3: Estimated divergence times and time intervals during which gene flow ceased**  
774 **between species (A) within families and (B) between families.** Estimated time intervals of  
775 when gene flow ceased between species pairs are based on hPSMC results. A PSMC analysis  
776 on a pseudo-F1 hybrid diploid genome between two species results in an asymptotic increase  
777 in  $N_e$  at the time point the two genomes coalesce. By simulating data with various timings of  
778 divergence, and finding the simulated data most closely matching the empirical data, we  
779 determined the time interval gene flow ceased (Supplementary results - hPSMC).

780

Divergence time estimates are taken from McGowen et al 2020.

781

782 **Figure 4: Autosome-wide heterozygosity and demographic histories over the past two**  
783 **million years.** (A) Autosome-wide levels of heterozygosity calculated in 20 Mb sliding  
784 windows. (B-D) Demographic history of all studied species within (B) Delphinidae, (C)  
785 Phocoenidae, and (D) Monodontidae, estimated using PSMC. Thick coloured lines show  
786 estimated demographic trajectory, faded lines show bootstrap support values. Colours of B-D  
787 correspond to species' colour from A.

788

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798

## 799 **Author contributions**

800 Conceptualization, MVW; Formal analysis, MVW, AAC, AR-I, BDC, DAD, SH; Writing –  
801 Original Draft MVW; Writing – Review & Editing, All authors; Supervision, MVW, EDL;  
802 Funding Acquisition, EDL

803

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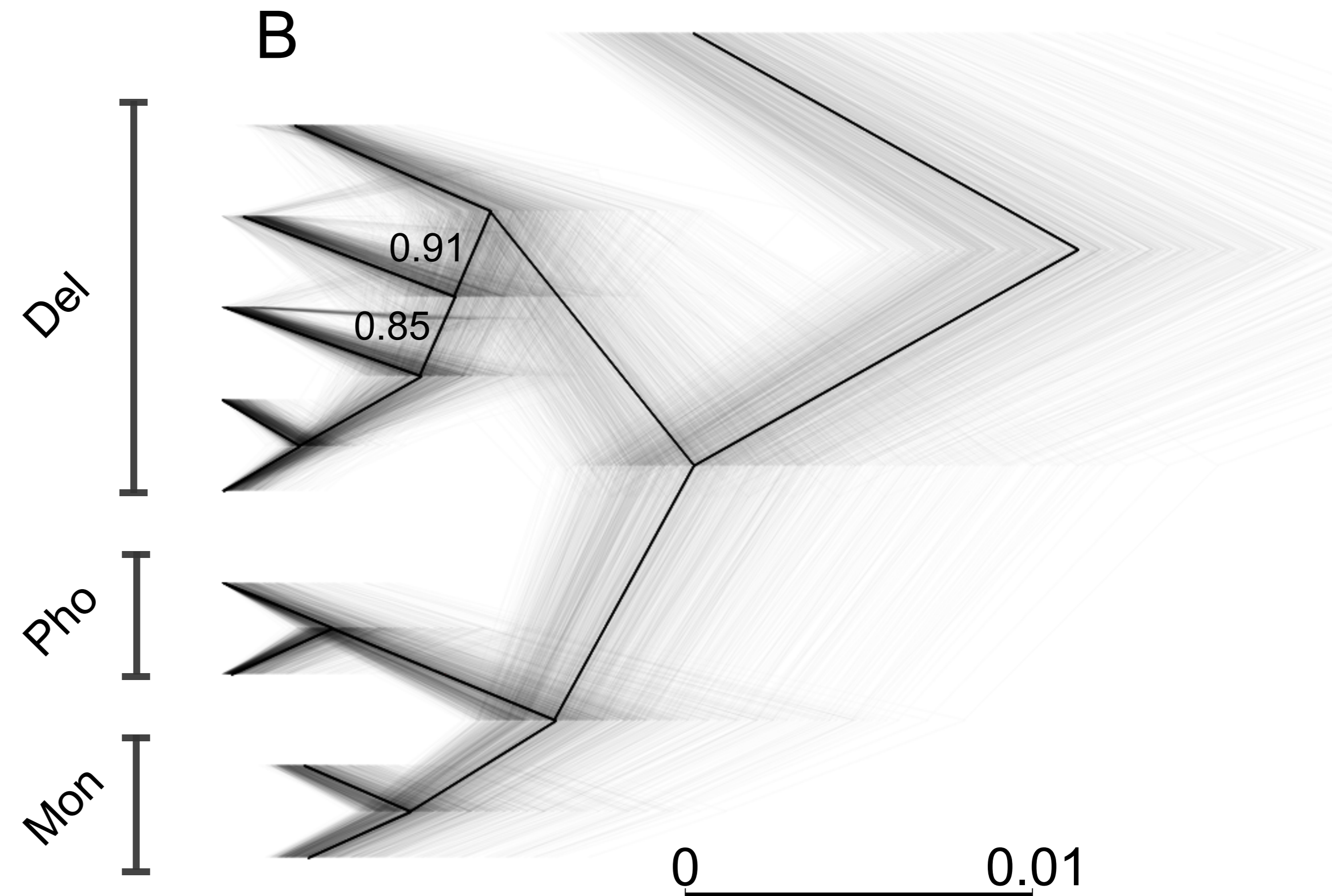
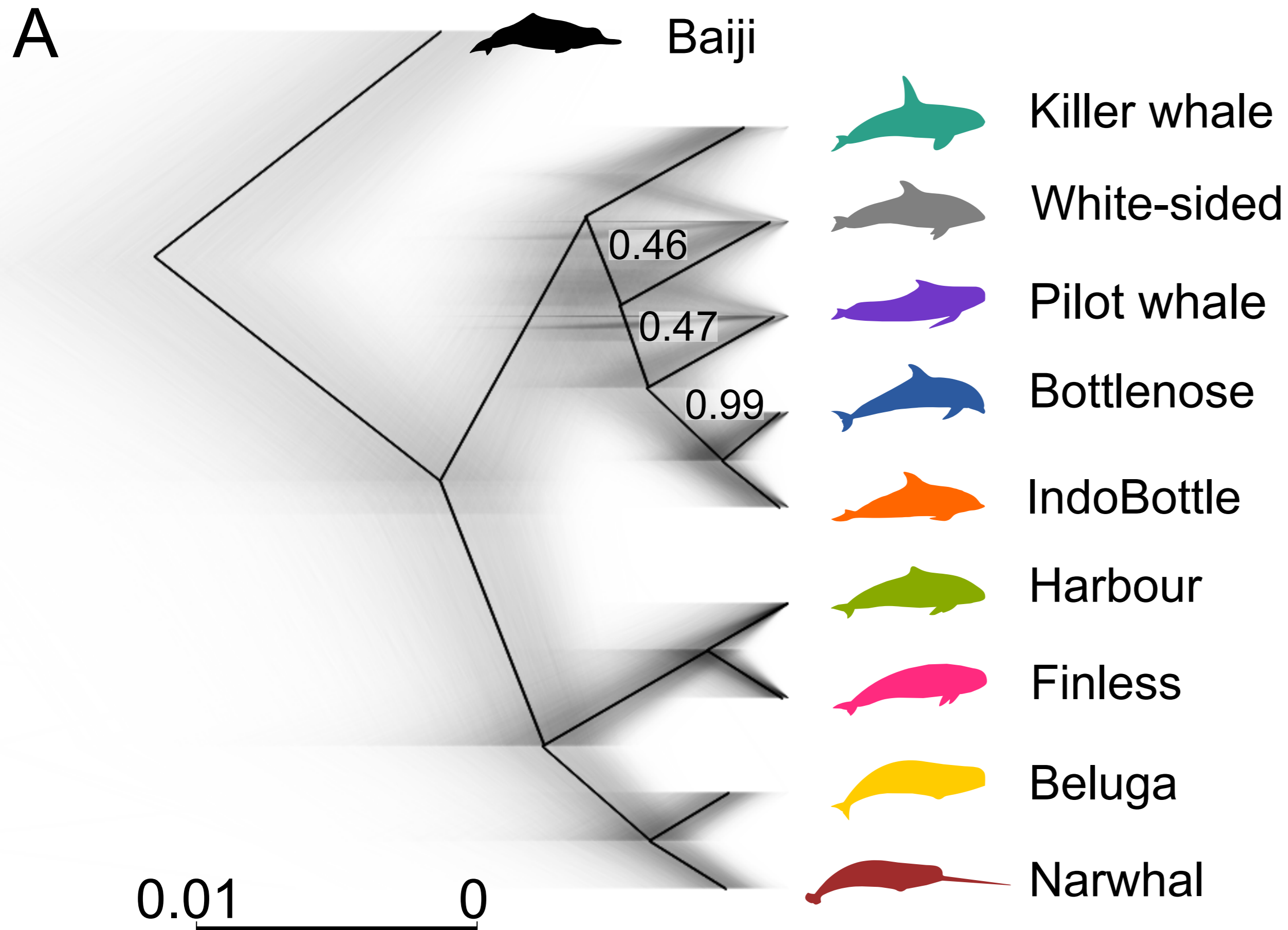
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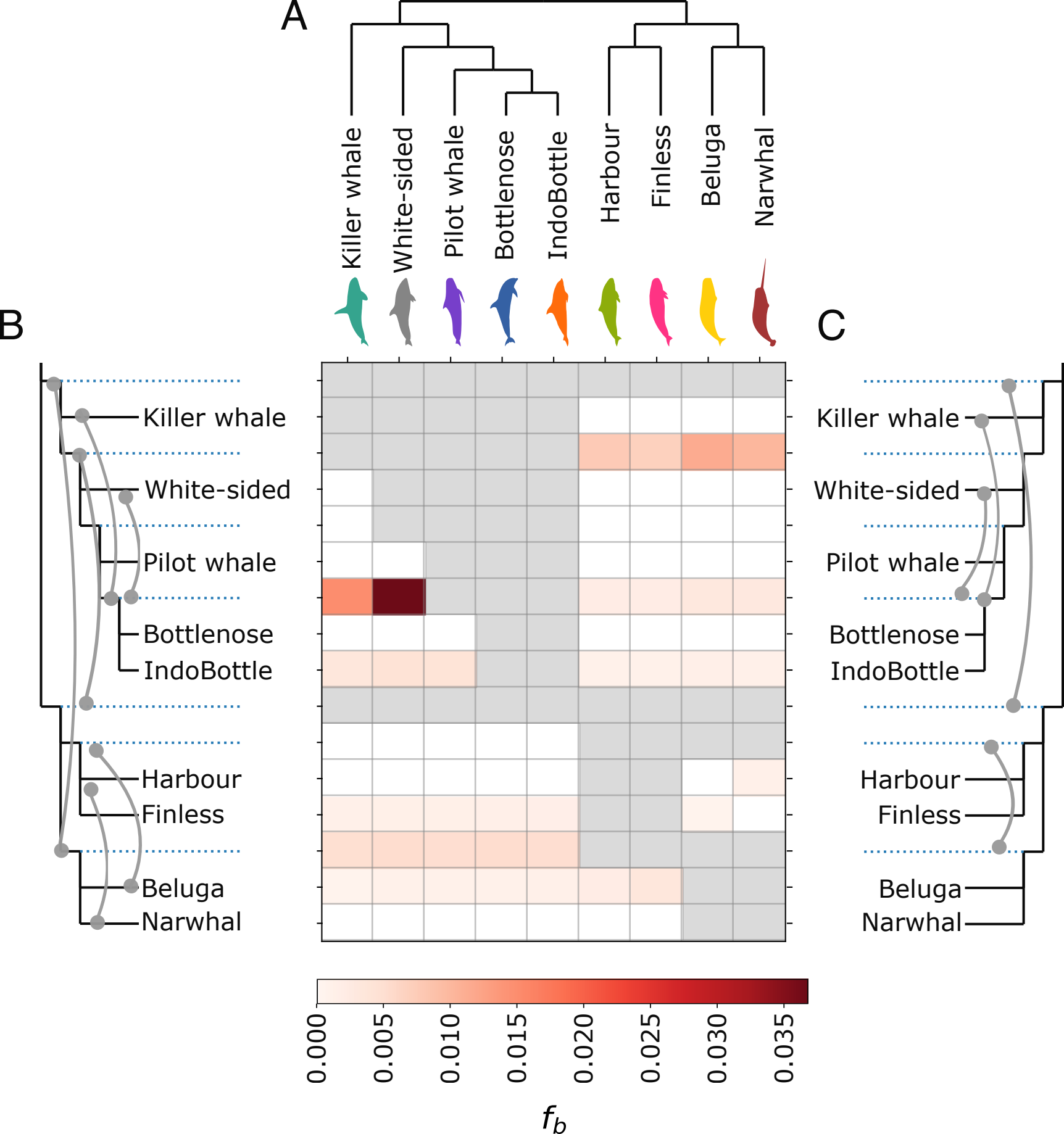
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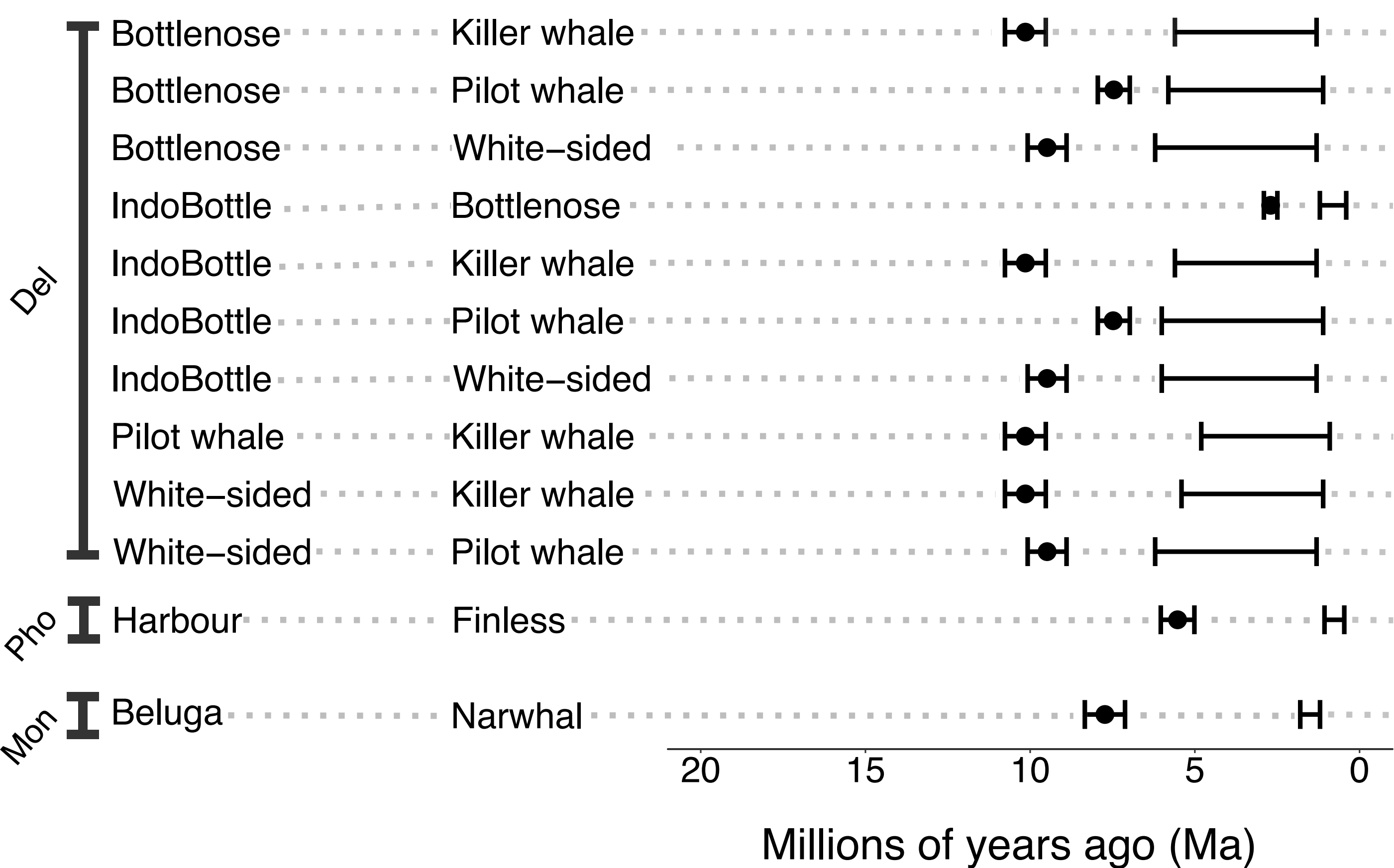
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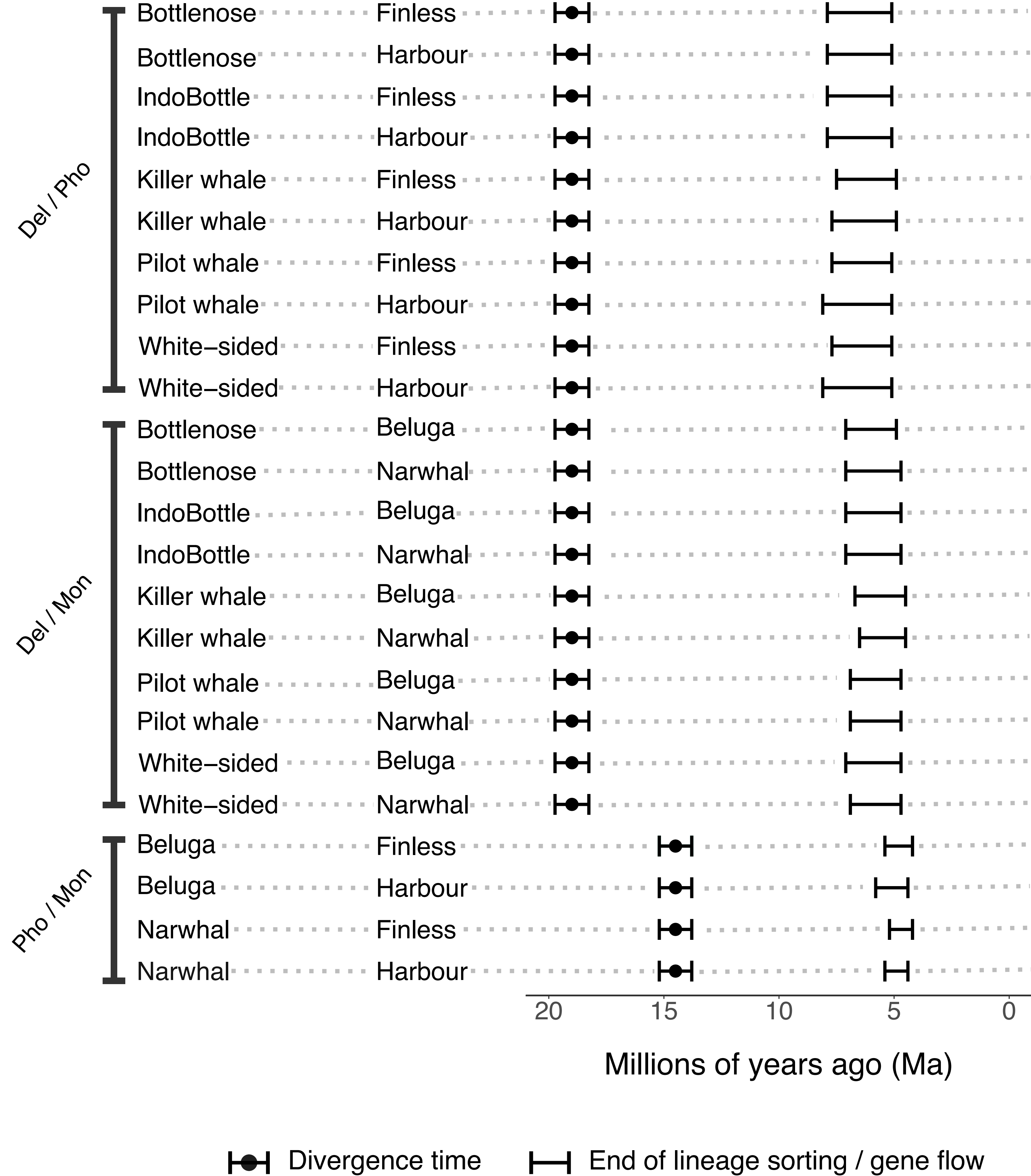




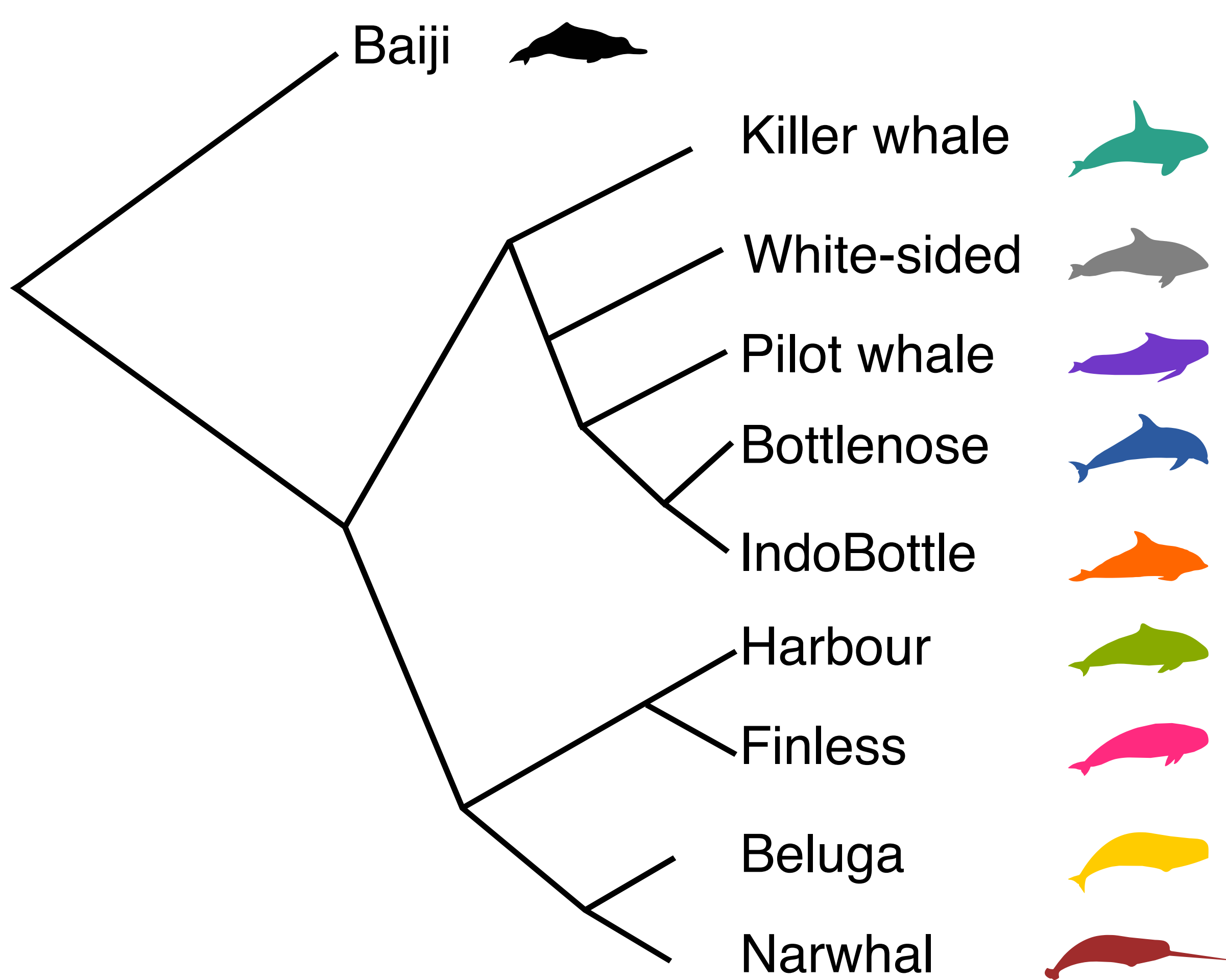
### A Within families



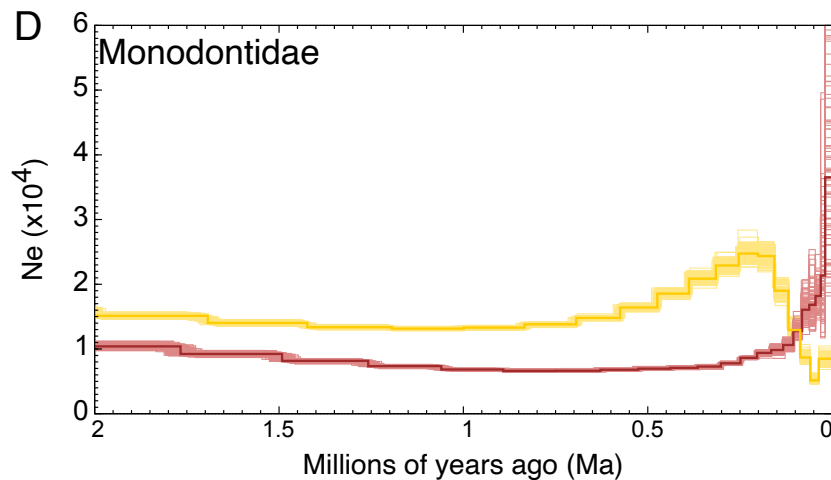
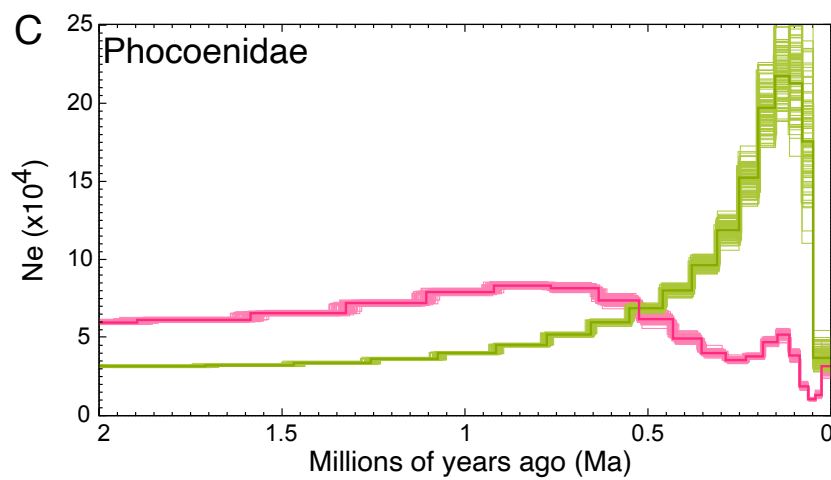
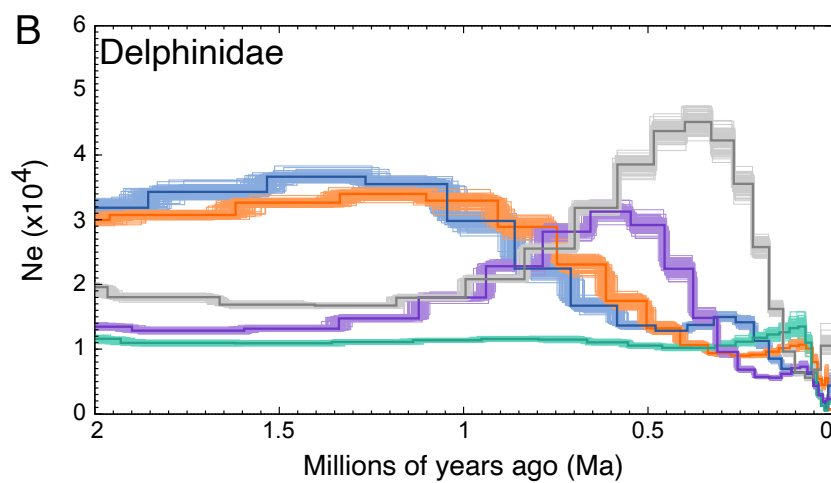
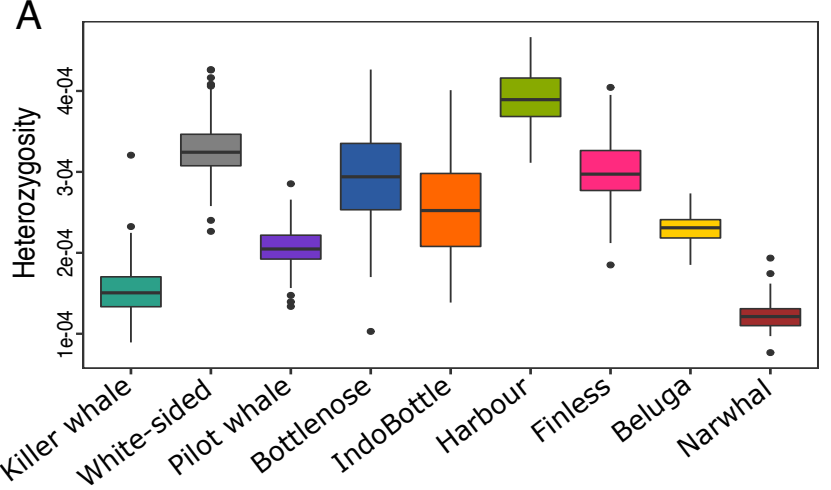
### B Between families



### C



Divergence time    
 End of lineage sorting / gene flow



## Supplementary information

**Supplementary table S1:** Proportions of the most frequent five topologies based on window sizes. NA - not in the five most frequent for that window size. Whitesided - Pacific white-sided dolphin, Pilotwhale - long-finned pilot whale, IndoBottlenose - Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin, Bottlenose - bottlenose dolphin, Killerwhale - killer whale, Beluga - beluga, Narwhal - narwhal, Harbour - harbour porpoise, Finless - finless porpoise, Baiji - Baiji (outgroup).

50kb	100kb	500kb	1Mb	Topology
0.24	0.32	0.64	0.79	(((((Whitesided,(Pilotwhale,(IndoBottlenose,Bottlenose))),Killerwhale)),((Beluga,Narwhal),(Harbour,Finless))),Baiji);
0.14	0.14	0.09	0.05	(((((Pilotwhale,(IndoBottlenose,Bottlenose)),(Whitesided,Killerwhale)),((Beluga,Narwhal),(Harbour,Finless))),Baiji);
0.13	0.14	0.14	0.10	(((((Pilotwhale,(Whitesided,(IndoBottlenose,Bottlenose))),Killerwhale)),((Beluga,Narwhal),(Harbour,Finless))),Baiji);
0.09	0.08	0.04	0.02	(((((Pilotwhale,Whitesided),(IndoBottlenose,Bottlenose)),Killerwhale)),((Beluga,Narwhal),(Harbour,Finless))),Baiji);
0.08	NA	NA	NA	(((((Killerwhale,(Pilotwhale,(IndoBottlenose,Bottlenose))),Whitesided)),((Beluga,Narwhal),(Harbour,Finless))),Baiji);
NA	0.07	0.03	0.02	(((((Whitesided,((Pilotwhale,(IndoBottlenose,Bottlenose))),Killerwhale)),((Beluga,Narwhal),(Harbour,Finless))),Baiji);
0.69	0.76	0.94	0.98	Top 5 topologies combined

**Supplementary table S2:** Proportions of the most frequent five topologies based on GC content and a window size of 50kb. NA - not in the five most frequent for that window size. Whitesided - Pacific white-sided dolphin, Pilotwhale - long-finned pilot whale, IndoBottlenose - Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin, Bottlenose - bottlenose dolphin, Killerwhale - killer whale, Beluga - beluga, Narwhal - narwhal, Harbour - harbour porpoise, Finless - finless porpoise, Baiji - Baiji (outgroup).

Low GC	Medium GC	High GC	Topology
2814	3395	4227	((((Killerwhale,(Whitesided,((IndoBottlenose,Bottlenose),Pilotwhale))),((Beluga,Narwhal),(Harbour,Finless))),Baiji);
2023	2107	2085	(((((Pilotwhale,(IndoBottlenose,Bottlenose)),(Whitesided,Killerwhale)),((Beluga,Narwhal),(Harbour,Finless))),Baiji);
1740	1898	1976	(((((Pilotwhale,(Whitesided,(IndoBottlenose,Bottlenose))),Killerwhale)),((Beluga,Narwhal),(Harbour,Finless))),Baiji);
1287	1289	1317	(((((Pilotwhale,Whitesided),(IndoBottlenose,Bottlenose)),Killerwhale)),((Beluga,Narwhal),(Harbour,Finless))),Baiji);
1152	NA	NA	(((((Whitesided,(IndoBottlenose,Bottlenose)),(Pilotwhale,Killerwhale)),((Beluga,Narwhal),(Harbour,Finless))),Baiji);
NA	1190	1149	(((((Whitesided,((Pilotwhale,(IndoBottlenose,Bottlenose))),Killerwhale)),((Beluga,Narwhal),(Harbour,Finless))),Baiji);

**Supplementary table S3:** QuIBL results when using every twentieth tree from the 50kb sliding window analysis - attached as spreadsheet. QuIBL analyses all triplet combinations ((A, B), C) in a given set of phylogenetic trees. Here we only present the alternative topologies within Delphinidae, that are in disagreement with the species tree, and may have arisen due to ILS or gene flow. The gene flow pair shows individuals A and B and outgroup is C. Two BIC scores are presented - one for ILS alone and one for ILS and gene flow. A BIC difference >10 suggests ILS and gene flow both as factors giving rise to the discordance topologies. % of total trees shows the percentage of all trees in the dataset having said triplet topology, whereas % of trees supporting topology explained by gene flow shows the percentage of the trees supporting said triplet topology that likely arose due to gene flow (based on branch length) instead of ILS. - attached as spreadsheet

**Supplementary table S4:** QuIBL results from trees constructed using 20kb windows with a 1Mb slide - attached as spreadsheet. QuIBL analyses all triplet combinations ((A, B), C) in a given set of phylogenetic trees. Here we only present the alternative topologies within Delphinidae, that are in disagreement with the species tree, and may have arisen due to ILS or gene flow. The gene flow pair shows individuals A and B and outgroup is C. Two BIC scores are presented - one for ILS alone and one for ILS and gene flow. A BIC difference >10 suggests ILS and gene flow both as factors giving rise to the discordance topologies. ‘% of total trees’ shows the percentage of all trees in the dataset having said triplet topology. ‘% of trees supporting topology explained by gene flow’ shows the percentage of the trees supporting said triplet topology that likely arose due to gene flow (based on branch length) instead of ILS. - attached as spreadsheet

**Supplementary table S5:** D-statistics results for all triplet combinations phylogenetically concurrent with our results shown in Figure 1. Baiji was used as the outgroup/ancestral sequence. A non-significant result ( $|Z| < 3$ ) is indicated in bold. Colours indicate the family of the given individual. Red = Delphinidae, yellow = Phocoenidae, blue = Monodontidae.

H1	H2	H3	nABBA	nBABA	D-score	Z-score
Bottlenose	IndoBottlenose	Killer whale	597,251	554,780	0.037	23.26
Bottlenose	IndoBottlenose	Pilotwhale	748,948	691,844	0.040	24.13
Bottlenose	IndoBottlenose	Whitesided	721,498	665,420	0.040	25.20
Pilotwhale	Whitesided	Killer whale	2,224,888	2,119,068	0.024	11.77
Pilotwhale	Bottlenose	Killer whale	1,998,297	1,795,444	0.053	26.15
Pilotwhale	IndoBottlenose	Killer whale	2,004,478	1,757,429	0.066	31.95
Pilotwhale	Bottlenose	Whitesided	2,490,189	2,051,579	0.097	42.67
Pilotwhale	IndoBottlenose	Whitesided	2,508,755	2,007,966	0.111	48.64
Whitesided	Bottlenose	Killer whale	2,111,742	2,014,525	0.024	11.88
Whitesided	IndoBottlenose	Killer whale	2,117,925	1,975,800	0.035	17.25
Killer whale	Pilotwhale	Finless	928,942	840,273	0.050	51.99

Killer whale	Whitesided	Finless	924,323	829,525	0.054	56.12
Killer whale	Pilotwhale	Harbour porpoise	959,748	851,885	0.060	60.74
Killer whale	Whitesided	Harbour porpoise	956,686	840,318	0.065	65.46
Killer whale	Bottlenose	Finless	942,684	757,495	0.109	107.12
Killer whale	Bottlenose	Harbour porpoise	974,032	767,636	0.119	116.98
Killer whale	IndoBottlenose	Finless	943,526	728,185	0.129	120.99
Killer whale	IndoBottlenose	Harbour porpoise	974,967	739,024	0.138	130.60
Pilotwhale	Whitesided	Finless	861,276	855,083	0.004	4.41
Pilotwhale	Whitesided	Harbour porpoise	892,930	884,620	0.005	5.64
Pilotwhale	Bottlenose	Finless	828,193	724,397	0.067	73.75
Pilotwhale	Bottlenose	Harbour porpoise	857,823	749,827	0.067	76.38
Pilotwhale	IndoBottlenose	Finless	829,393	692,413	0.090	97.23
Pilotwhale	IndoBottlenose	Harbour porpoise	859,146	718,044	0.089	98.69
Whitesided	Bottlenose	Harbour porpoise	887,876	787,914	0.060	68.88
Whitesided	Bottlenose	Finless	857,483	760,224	0.060	69.75
Whitesided	IndoBottlenose	Harbour porpoise	888,872	755,955	0.081	92.25
Whitesided	IndoBottlenose	Finless	858,523	727,924	0.082	92.84
Bottlenose	IndoBottlenose	Narwhal	414,272	380,995	0.042	33.84
Bottlenose	IndoBottlenose	Beluga	434,366	396,566	0.045	37.67
Killer whale	Pilotwhale	Narwhal	955,756	837,598	0.066	61.58
Killer whale	Pilotwhale	Beluga	984,462	854,528	0.071	65.67
Killer whale	Whitesided	Narwhal	953,496	826,881	0.071	66.17
Killer whale	Whitesided	Beluga	982,162	844,661	0.075	67.95
Killer whale	Bottlenose	Narwhal	971,164	751,458	0.128	111.86
Killer whale	Bottlenose	Beluga	1,001,546	767,422	0.132	113.69
Killer whale	IndoBottlenose	Narwhal	974,507	722,249	0.149	126.51
Killer whale	IndoBottlenose	Beluga	1,007,582	736,424	0.155	128.87
Pilotwhale	Whitesided	Beluga	918,941	911,423	0.004	4.93
Pilotwhale	Whitesided	Narwhal	891,298	883,114	0.005	5.61
Pilotwhale	Bottlenose	Narwhal	859,652	743,735	0.072	78.60
Pilotwhale	Bottlenose	Beluga	887,196	766,562	0.073	81.55
Pilotwhale	IndoBottlenose	Narwhal	863,608	710,777	0.097	103.83
Pilotwhale	IndoBottlenose	Beluga	895,023	731,826	0.100	105.92
Whitesided	Bottlenose	Narwhal	888,390	780,573	0.065	74.77
Whitesided	Bottlenose	Beluga	917,400	804,237	0.066	76.44
Whitesided	IndoBottlenose	Narwhal	892,496	747,539	0.088	97.69
Whitesided	IndoBottlenose	Beluga	925,091	769,228	0.092	102.86

<b>Finless</b>	<b>Harbour porpoise</b>	<b>Narwhal</b>	<b>452,411</b>	<b>450,657</b>	<b>0.002</b>	<b>1.59</b>
Harbour porpoise	Finless	Beluga	570,767	552,830	0.016	13.47
Narwhal	Beluga	Harbour porpoise	532,605	502,660	0.029	25.72
Narwhal	Beluga	Finless	514,273	466,273	0.049	41.75
Finless	Narwhal	Killer whale	973,140	885,678	0.047	47.30
Finless	Narwhal	Bottlenose	1,077,206	966,370	0.054	55.93
Finless	Narwhal	IndoBottlenose	1,080,812	970,600	0.054	56.63
Finless	Narwhal	Pilotwhale	1,059,846	950,178	0.055	57.27
Finless	Beluga	Killer whale	989,901	875,364	0.061	57.51
Finless	Narwhal	Whitesided	1,062,632	951,040	0.055	57.94
Finless	Beluga	Bottlenose	1,103,352	951,967	0.074	68.54
Finless	Beluga	Pilotwhale	1,084,679	936,511	0.073	68.84
Finless	Beluga	IndoBottlenose	1,109,158	955,589	0.074	69.72
Finless	Beluga	Whitesided	1,087,277	938,148	0.074	69.88
Harbour porpoise	Narwhal	Killer whale	1,004,793	891,909	0.060	59.43
Harbour porpoise	Beluga	Killer whale	1,028,676	885,849	0.075	69.85
Harbour porpoise	Narwhal	Pilotwhale	1,124,641	974,232	0.072	75.43
Harbour porpoise	Narwhal	Bottlenose	1,145,470	990,640	0.072	75.66
Harbour porpoise	Narwhal	Whitesided	1,127,578	976,951	0.072	75.84
Harbour porpoise	Narwhal	IndoBottlenose	1,153,263	994,022	0.074	78.93
Harbour porpoise	Beluga	Pilotwhale	1,163,136	965,266	0.093	88.73
Harbour porpoise	Beluga	Whitesided	1,165,862	968,086	0.093	89.42
Harbour porpoise	Beluga	Bottlenose	1,185,612	981,030	0.094	89.66
Harbour porpoise	Beluga	IndoBottlenose	1,197,547	984,311	0.098	93.10

**Supplementary table S6:** 100kb non-overlapping sliding window D-foil results for all quadruplet combinations [[H1,H2][H3,H4]] phylogenetically concurrent with our consensus topology shown in figure 1. Baiji was used as the outgroup/ancestral sequence. - attached as a spreadsheet. NA indicates not enough data in the window. None indicates no gene flow. As we implemented many different combinations, the species designation to H1 - H4 is indicated at the top of the table. Numbers within the table show the number of windows that show evidence to the gene flow event depicted. - attached as spreadsheet

**Supplementary table S7:** The pre-divergence  $N_e$ , divergence time intervals, and the increments specified for each of the species pair used for the simulations to compare against the hPSMC results.

<b>Species pair</b>	<b>Pre-divergence <math>N_e</math></b>	<b>Range (Ma)</b>	<b>Increments (years)</b>
Beluga whale + Narwhal	30,000	1-2	100,000
Beluga whale + Finless porpoise	60,000	3-7	200,000
Beluga whale + Harbour porpoise	60,000	3-7	200,000
Narwhal + Finless porpoise	60,000	3-7	200,000
Narwhal + Harbour porpoise	60,000	3-7	200,000
Beluga whale + Bottlenose dolphin	105,000	3.9-8.5	200,000
Beluga whale + Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin	105,000	3.9-8.5	200,000
Narwhal + Bottlenose dolphin	105,000	3.9-8.5	200,000
Narwhal + Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin	105,000	3.9-8.5	200,000
Narwhal + Killer whale	105,000	3.9-8.5	200,000
Narwhal + Long-finned pilot whale	105,000	3.9-8.5	200,000
Narwhal + Pacific white-sided dolphin	105,000	3.9-8.5	200,000
Beluga whale + Killer whale	105,000	3.9-8.5	200,000
Beluga whale + Long-finned pilot whale	105,000	3.9-8.5	200,000
Beluga whale + Pacific white-sided dolphin	105,000	3.9-8.5	200,000
Harbour porpoise + Bottlenose dolphin	105,000	3.9-8.5	200,000
Harbour porpoise + Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin	105,000	3.9-8.5	200,000
Finless porpoise + Bottlenose dolphin	105,000	3.9-8.5	200,000
Finless porpoise + Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin	105,000	3.9-8.5	200,000
Finless porpoise + Killer whale	105,000	3.9-8.5	200,000
Finless porpoise + Long-finned pilot whale	105,000	3.9-8.5	200,000
Finless porpoise + Pacific white-sided dolphin	105,000	3.9-8.5	200,000
Harbour porpoise + Killer whale	105,000	3.9-8.5	200,000
Harbour porpoise + Long-finned pilot whale	105,000	3.9-8.5	200,000



Harbour porpoise + Pacific white-sided dolphin	105,000	3.9-8.5	200,000
Harbour porpoise + Finless porpoise	40,000	0.3-1.4	100,000
Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin + Bottlenose dolphin	20,000	0.2-1.2	100,000
Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin + Killer whale	50,000	0.9-2.1 & 3.4-7	200,000
Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin + Long-finned pilot whale	50,000	0.9-2.1 & 3.4-7	200,000
Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin + Pacific white-sided dolphin	50,000	0.9-2.1 & 3.4-7	200,000
Bottlenose dolphin + Killer whale	50,000	0.9-2.1 & 3.4-7	200,000
Bottlenose dolphin + Long-finned pilot whale	50,000	0.9-2.1 & 3.4-7	200,000
Bottlenose dolphin + Pacific white-sided dolphin	50,000	0.9-2.1 & 3.4-7	200,000
Long-finned pilot whale + Killer whale	60,000	0.9-2.1 & 3.4-7	200,000
Pacific white-sided dolphin + Killer whale	50,000	0.9-2.1 & 3.4-7	200,000
Pacific white-sided dolphin + Long-finned pilot whale	50,000	0.9-2.1 & 3.4-7	200,000

**Supplementary table S8:** Mapping statistics of each Delphinoidea species used in this study when specifying the reference genome as the baiji assembly.

<b>Common name</b>	<b>Raw read pairs</b>	<b>Mapped reads</b>	<b>Coverage</b>	<b>Bp-mapped</b>
Beluga	466,374,135	476,814,543	31.44	69,807,010,359
Bottlenose dolphin	578,690,171	732,418,659	47.61	105,524,983,813
Harbour porpoise	289,063,910	418,431,029	23.17	50,830,083,145
Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin	466,306,082	551,837,703	35.62	78,749,625,267
Indo-Pacific finless porpoise	523,612,238	557,766,873	24.96	54,450,935,944
Killer whale	1,467,089,287	1,047,260,000	39.53	88,692,400,000
Long-finned pilot whale	428,064,233	504,482,080	28.61	63,276,638,573
Narwhal	384,563,392	468,429,237	31.09	68,247,058,370
Pacific white-sided dolphin	453,348,710	499,704,592	28.83	63,800,396,300

**Supplementary table S9:** Mapping statistics of each Delphinoidea species used in this study when specifying the reference genome as a conspecific assembly.

<b>Common name</b>	<b>Raw read pairs</b>	<b>Mapped reads</b>	<b>Coverage</b>	<b>Bp-mapped</b>
Beluga	466,374,135	531,535,936	34.47	79,218,898,913
Bottlenose dolphin	578,690,171	779,210,277	54.03	114,530,169,747
Harbour porpoise	289,063,910	431,762,883	23.74	52,067,455,809
Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin	466,306,082	587,440,922	37.88	85,032,333,848
Indo-Pacific finless porpoise	523,612,238	620,580,505	27.33	61,286,732,910
Killer whale	1,467,089,287	1,213,221,913	44.93	100,903,316,971
Long-finned pilot whale	428,064,233	598,612,204	32.79	75,639,560,432
Narwhal	384,563,392	529,082,769	33.85	78,238,763,386
Pacific white-sided dolphin	453,348,710	592,814,373	33.02	76,299,243,217

**Supplementary table S10:** Genome-wide pairwise distance matrix of the nine Delphinoidea included in this study. Bottlenose = bottlenose dolphin, Finless = finless porpoise, Harbour = harbour porpoise, Indobottle = Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin, Killer = killer whale, Pilot = pilot whale, White = Pacific white-sided dolphin.

Beluga	0.0000	0.0211	0.0151	0.0153	0.0211	0.0205	0.0056	0.0210	0.0209
Bottlenose	0.0211	0.0000	0.0230	0.0231	0.0040	0.0113	0.0210	0.0102	0.0107
Finless	0.0151	0.0230	0.0000	0.0056	0.0230	0.0224	0.0151	0.0229	0.0228
Harbour	0.0153	0.0231	0.0056	0.0000	0.0231	0.0225	0.0152	0.0231	0.0230
Indobottle	0.0211	0.0040	0.0230	0.0231	0.0000	0.0113	0.0210	0.0102	0.0107
Killer	0.0205	0.0113	0.0224	0.0225	0.0113	0.0000	0.0204	0.0113	0.0112
Narwhal	0.0056	0.0210	0.0151	0.0152	0.0210	0.0204	0.0000	0.0209	0.0208
Pilot	0.0210	0.0102	0.0229	0.0231	0.0102	0.0113	0.0209	0.0000	0.0109
White	0.0209	0.0107	0.0228	0.0230	0.0107	0.0112	0.0208	0.0109	0.0000

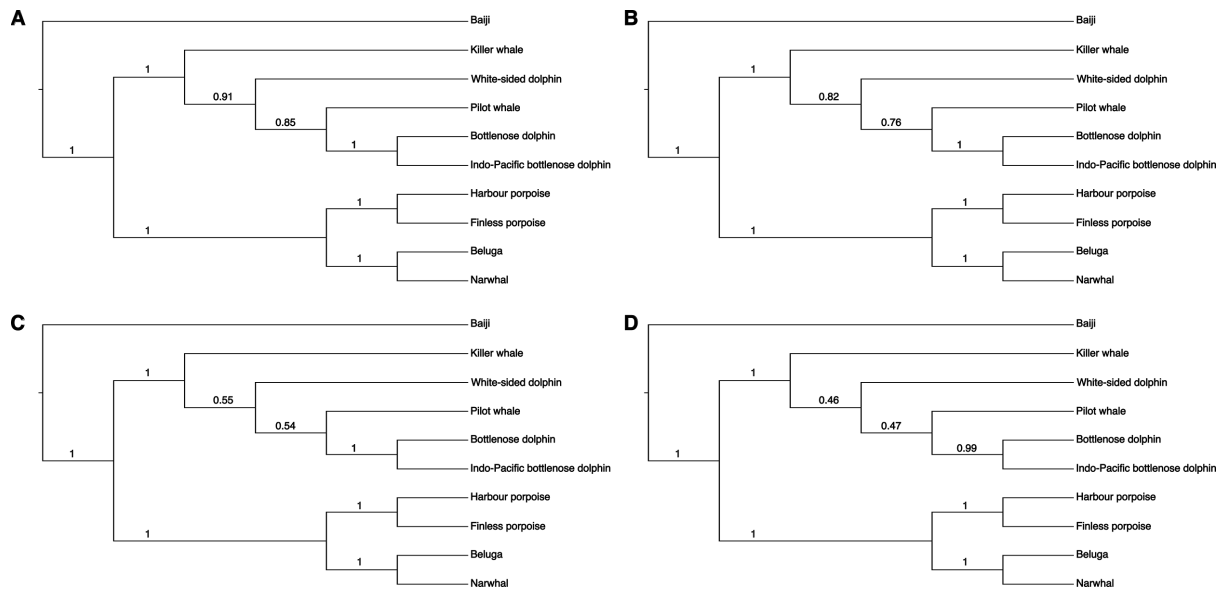
**Supplementary table S11:** Metrics used to calculate the mutation rate per year with the equation mutation rate = divergence time / 2x genetic distance. Mean divergences were taken from the full dataset 10-partition AR from McGowen et al 2020 (McGowen et al., 2020) and average genetic distances were calculated from the results shown in supplementary table S5.

Species	Closest relative	Divergence (Ma)	Distance	Mutation rate per year
Beluga	Narwhal	7.72	0.0056	$3.63 \times 10^{-10}$
Killer whale	Delphinidae	10.16	0.0113	$5.56 \times 10^{-10}$
Bottlenose dolphin	Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin	2.69	0.0040	$7.51 \times 10^{-10}$
Harbour porpoise	Finless porpoise	5.36	0.0056	$5.25 \times 10^{-10}$
Long-finned pilot whale	<i>Tursiops</i> spp.	7.46	0.0102	$6.83 \times 10^{-10}$
Pacific while-sided dolphin	<i>Tursiops</i> + <i>Globicephala</i>	9.48	0.0108	$5.69 \times 10^{-10}$

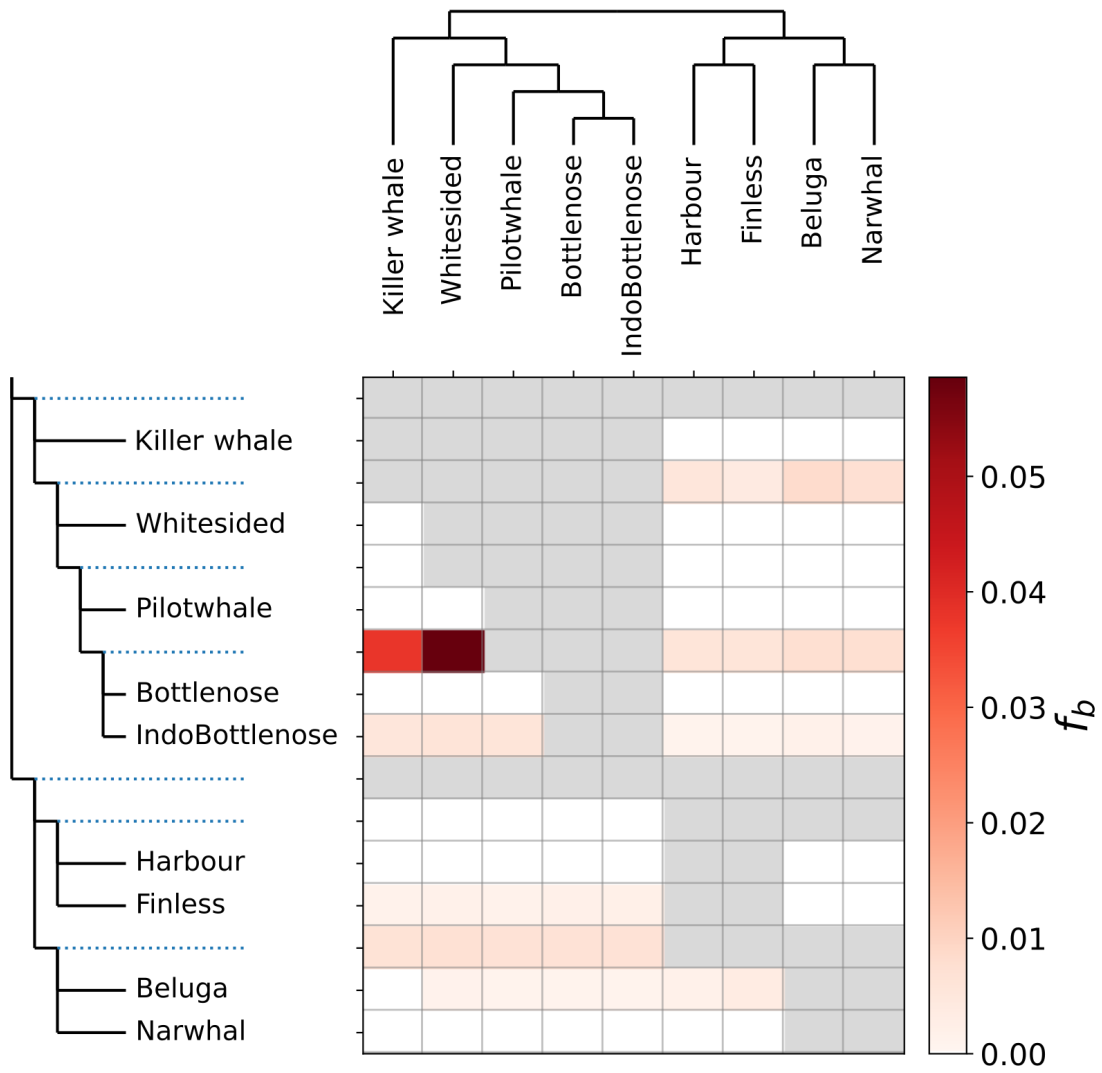
**Supplementary table S12:** Generation times, generational mutation rates and references for the generation times for each of the nine Delphinoidea species used in this study.

<b>Common name</b>	<b>Generation time</b>	<b>Generational mutation rate</b>	<b>Generation time reference</b>	<b>Bp-mapped</b>
Beluga	32	$1.16 \times 10^{-8}$	(Garde et al., 2015)	79,218,898,913
Bottlenose dolphin	21	$1.58 \times 10^{-8}$	(Taylor et al., 2007)	114,530,169,747
Harbour porpoise	10	$5.25 \times 10^{-9}$	(Birkun and Frantzis, 2008)	52,067,455,809
Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin	21	$1.58 \times 10^{-8}$	(Taylor et al., 2007)	85,032,333,848
Indo-Pacific finless porpoise	8	$4.20 \times 10^{-9}$	(Zhou et al., 2018)	61,286,732,910
Killer whale	26	$1.43 \times 10^{-8}$	(Foote et al., 2016)	100,903,316,971
Long-finned pilot whale	24	$1.64 \times 10^{-8}$	(Taylor et al., 2007)	75,639,560,432
Narwhal	30	$1.09 \times 10^{-8}$	(Garde et al., 2015)	78,238,763,386
Pacific white-sided dolphin	21	$1.21 \times 10^{-8}$	(Taylor et al., 2007)	76,299,243,217

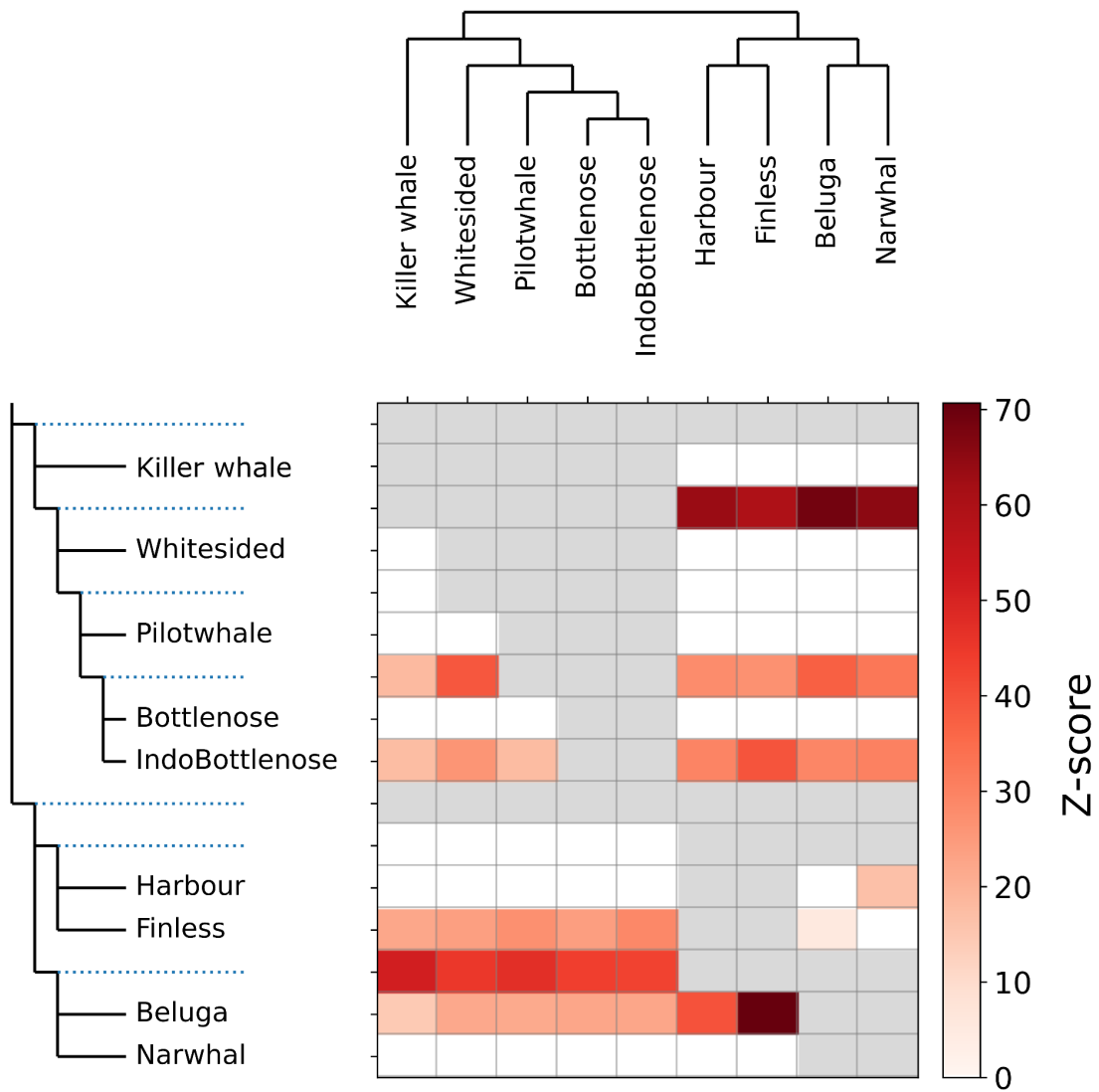
## Supplementary figures



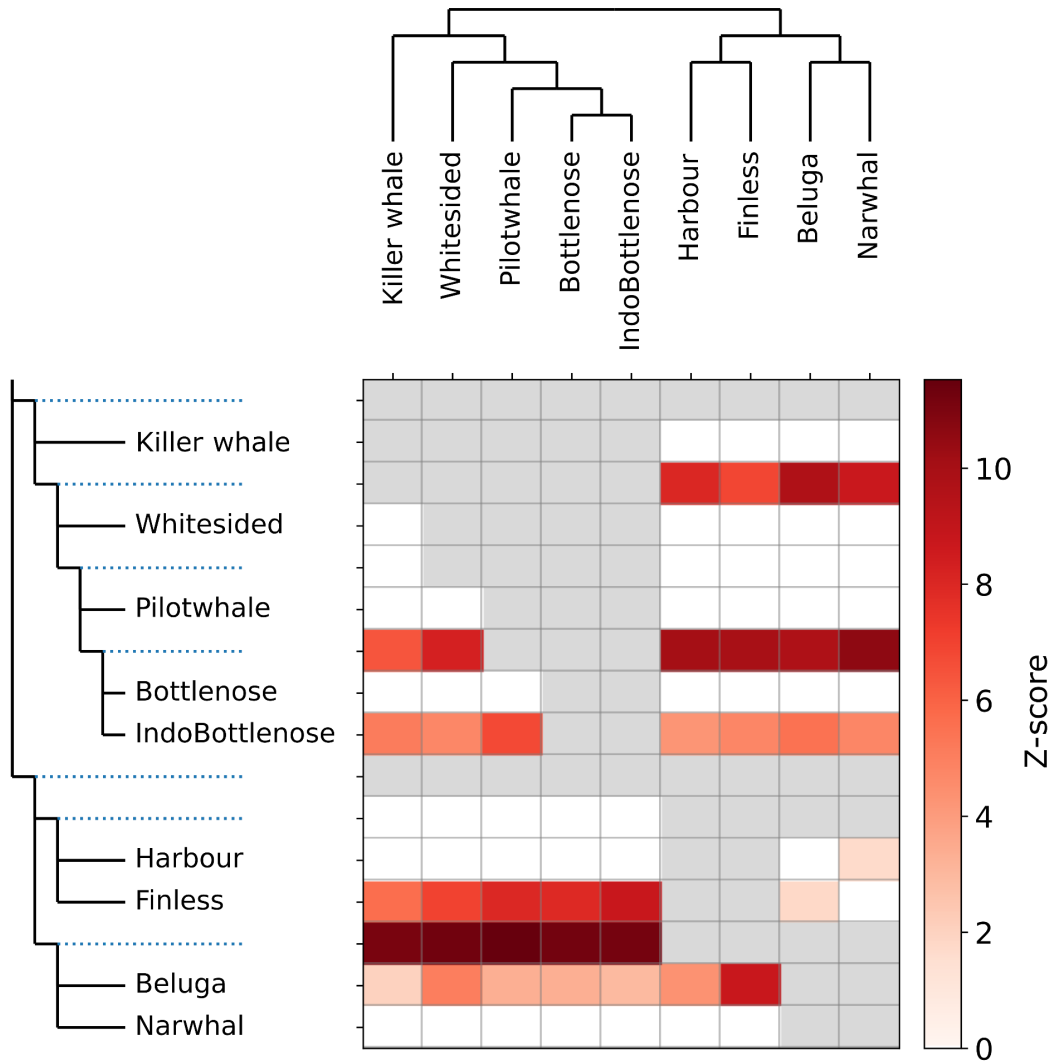
**Supplementary figure S1:** Consensus trees of independent Maximum-Likelihood trees constructed from non-overlapping sliding windows of (A) 1Mb, (B) 500kb, (C) 100kb, or (D) 50kb in length. Branch numbers represent the number of independent trees supporting each node.



**Supplementary figure S2:** X chromosome Fbranch results. The species tree is displayed above while the trees to the left and right of the matrix are an expanded form, including internal branches as dotted lines. The values in the matrix refer to excess allele sharing between the expanded tree branch (relative to its sister branch) and the species on the  $x$ -axis.

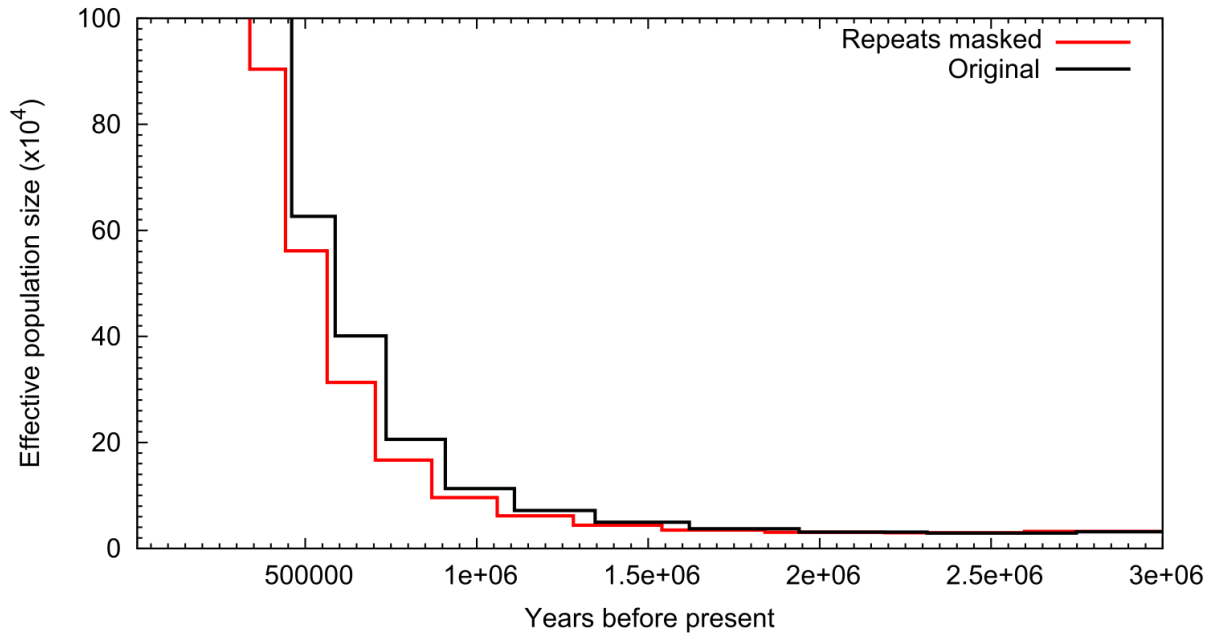


**Supplementary figure S3:** Significance (Z-score) of the autosomal  $f$ -branch results. A  $|Z| > 3$  is considered significant. The values in the matrix refer to Z-score for the  $f_b$  value (Fig 2) between the expanded tree branch (relative to its sister branch) and the species on the  $x$ -axis.

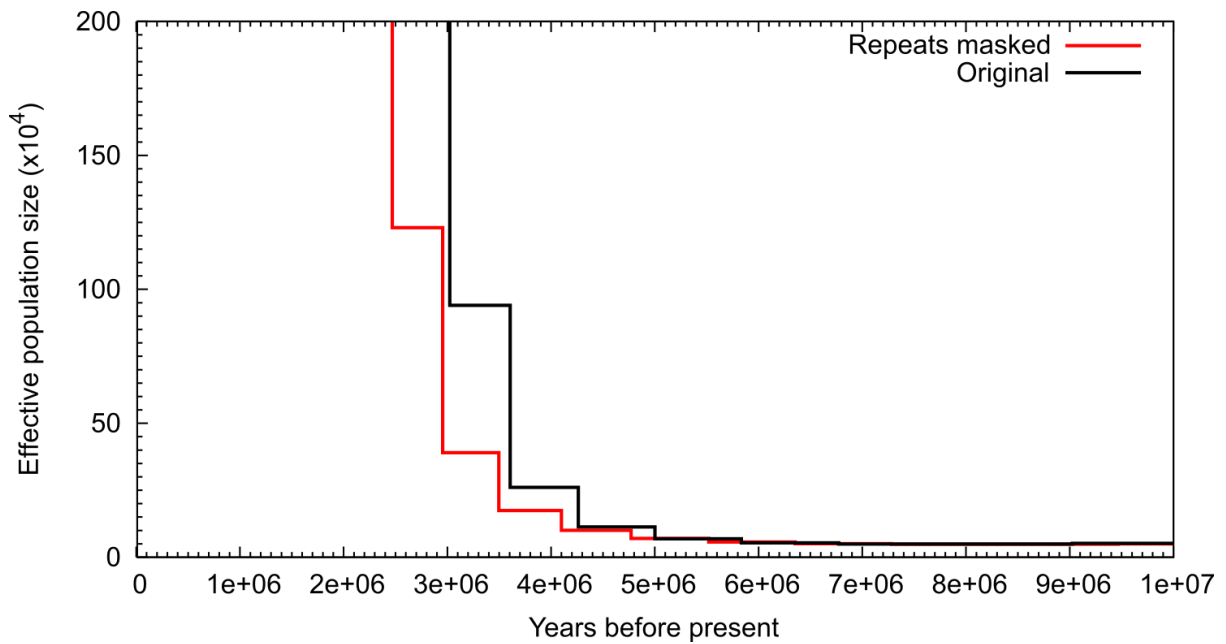


**Supplementary figure S4:** Significance (Z-score) of the X chromosome *f*-branch results. A  $|Z| > 3$  is considered significant. The values in the matrix refer to Z-score for the *fb* value (Supplementary Fig S2) between the expanded tree branch (relative to its sister branch) and the species on the *x*-axis.

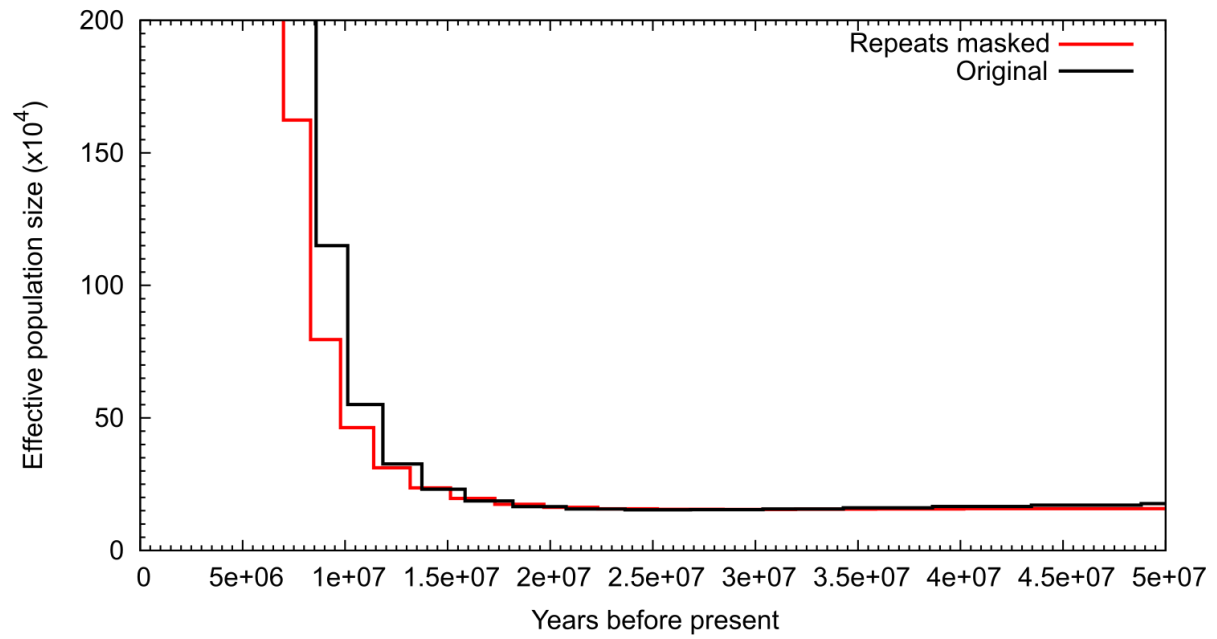




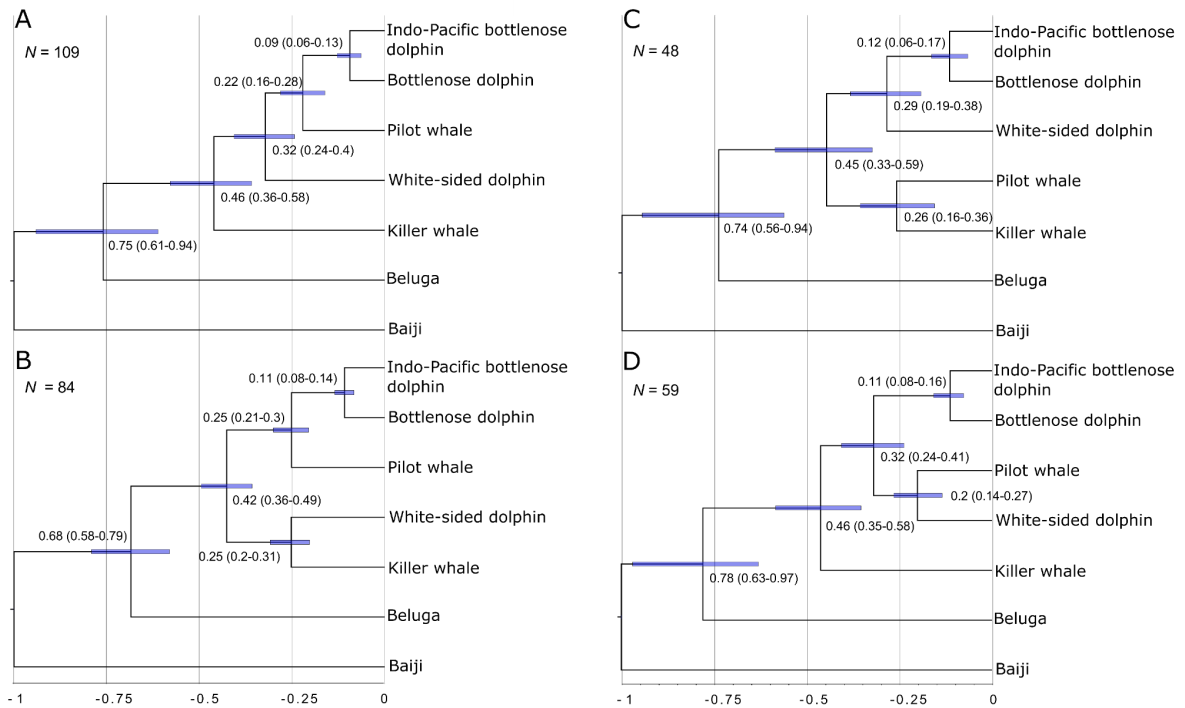
**Supplementary figure S5:** Comparison of hPSMC results using a pseudodiploid sequence from the bottlenose and Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins (shallow divergence) with either repeat regions masked or not.



**Supplementary figure S6:** Comparison of hPSMC results using a pseudodiploid sequence from the beluga and narwhal (medium divergence) with either repeat regions masked or not.



**Supplementary figure S7:** Comparison of hPSMC results using a pseudodiploid sequence from the bottlenose dolphin and beluga (deep divergence) with either repeat regions masked or not.



**Supplementary figure S8:** Relative divergence times of alternative topologies assumed to arise due to incomplete lineage sorting (ILS) or gene flow.  $N$  represents the number of independent loci supporting said topology. A) Consensus species topology. B) ILS/gene flow between the killer whale and Pacific white-sided dolphin. C) ILS/gene flow between killer whale and long-finned pilot whale. D) ILS/gene flow between Pacific white-sided dolphin and the long-finned pilot whale. Blue bars and numbers in parentheses show 95% credibility intervals.

### Supplementary results - hPSMC

Additional plots of the hPSMC empirical and simulated data can be found under the following link: [https://sid.erda.dk/cgi-sid/lis.py?share\\_id=ewvczfS2hH](https://sid.erda.dk/cgi-sid/lis.py?share_id=ewvczfS2hH) on the University of Copenhagen's electronic research data archive (ERDA). Bold lines show the hPSMC empirical data, faded lines show the simulated data, and the black lines show the simulated data that most closely match the empirical data without overlapping it between 1.5x and 10x the pre-divergence  $N_e$ .

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Triplet analysed	Gene flow pair	Control taxon	BIC2Dist (IBS + Gene flow)	BIC1Dist (IBS alone)	BIC difference	Significant for gene flow (BIC difference >10)	Number of trees	Percentage of total trees (2161) from triplet	Percentage of trees supporting topology explained by gene flow
Pilot whale_Bottlenose dolphin_Killer whale	Bot-Orca	Pilot whale	-4176.75	-4015.52	-161.23	Yes	363	16.80	44.13
White-sided dolphin_Bottlenose dolphin_Killer whale	Bot-Orca	White-sided dolphin	-5203	-5001.75	-201.25	Yes	451	20.87	51.55
Pilot whale_Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin_Killer whale	Indo-Orca	Pilot whale	-4163.39	-4003.35	-160.04	Yes	362	16.75	44.27
White-sided dolphin_Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin_Killer whale	Indo-Orca	White-sided dolphin	-5157.77	-4961.79	-195.98	Yes	448	20.73	91.82
Pilot whale_Bottlenose dolphin_Killer whale	Pilot-Orca	Bottlenose dolphin	-4149.09	-3995.26	-153.83	Yes	353	16.34	26.63
Pilot whale_Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin_Killer whale	Pilot-Orca	Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin	-4145.01	-3991.4	-153.61	Yes	353	16.34	24.46
White-sided dolphin_Pilot whale_Killer whale	Pilot-Orca	White-sided dolphin	-5551.99	-5354.47	-197.52	Yes	479	22.17	30.52
White-sided dolphin_Pilot whale_Bottlenose dolphin_Killer whale	Pilot-White	Bottlenose dolphin	-5329.17	-5126.07	-203.10	Yes	459	21.24	44.05
White-sided dolphin_Pilot whale_Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin_Killer whale	Pilot-White	Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin	-5332.08	-5127.41	-204.67	Yes	459	21.24	37.09
White-sided dolphin_Pilot whale_Bottlenose dolphin_Killer whale	White-Bot	Pilot whale	-7160.67	-6929.73	-230.94	Yes	629	29.11	86.33
White-sided dolphin_Pilot whale_Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin_Killer whale	White-Indo	Pilot whale	-7154.12	-6919.18	-234.94	Yes	628	29.06	49.33
White-sided dolphin_Bottlenose dolphin_Killer whale	White-Orca	Bottlenose dolphin	-5679.95	-5365.25	-314.70	Yes	478	22.12	29.40
White-sided dolphin_Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin_Killer whale	White-Orca	Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin	-5687.27	-5373.09	-314.18	Yes	479	22.17	31.43
White-sided dolphin_Pilot whale_Killer whale	White-Orca	Pilot whale	-6205.88	-5910.93	-294.95	Yes	529	24.48	50.04
Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin_Bottlenose dolphin_Killer whale	Bot-Orca	Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin	-47.1718	-40.833	-6.34	No	4	0.19	1.09
Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin_Bottlenose dolphin_Killer whale	Indo-Orca	Bottlenose dolphin	-35.0559	-32.055	-3.00	No	3	0.14	0.37
Pilot whale_Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin_Bottlenose dolphin_Killer whale	Pilot-Bot	Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin	-56.1656	-53.3674	-2.80	No	5	0.23	1.09
Pilot whale_Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin_Bottlenose dolphin_Killer whale	Pilot-Indo	Bottlenose dolphin	-43.6088	-44.5198	0.91	No	4	0.19	0.15
White-sided dolphin_Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin_Killer whale	White-Bot	Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin	-53.2849	-53.8868	0.60	No	5	0.23	0.46
White-sided dolphin_Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin_Killer whale	White-Indo	Bottlenose dolphin	-41.6525	-42.3186	0.67	No	4	0.19	0.31

Triplet analysed	Gene flow pair	Control taxon	BIC2Dist (IBS + Gene flow)	BIC1Dist (IBS alone)	BIC difference	Significant for gene flow	Number of trees	% of total trees	% of trees supporting topology explained by gene flow
Pilot whale_Bottlenose dolphin_Killer whale	Bot-Orca	Pilot whale	-5877.09	-5828.01	-49.08	Yes	543	19.89	12.79
White-sided dolphin_Bottlenose dolphin_Killer whale	Bot-Orca	White-sided dolphin	-6493.50	-6410.93	-82.57	Yes	589	21.58	14.76
Pilot whale_Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin_Killer whale	Indo-Orca	Pilot whale	-5836.61	-5777.56	-59.05	Yes	539	19.74	13.24
White-sided dolphin_Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin_Killer whale	Indo-Orca	White-sided dolphin	-6501.26	-6417.36	-83.90	Yes	590	21.61	14.82
Pilot whale_White-sided dolphin_Killer whale	Pilot-Orca	White-sided dolphin	-6892.35	-6861.90	-30.45	Yes	631	23.11	12.75
Pilot whale_White-sided dolphin_Bottlenose dolphin	Pilot-White	Bottlenose dolphin	-7033.39	-6989.18	-44.21	Yes	648	23.74	14.00
Pilot whale_White-sided dolphin_Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin	Pilot-White	Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin	-7073.33	-7026.60	-46.73	Yes	651	23.85	14.15
Pilot whale_White-sided dolphin_Bottlenose dolphin	White-Bot	Pilot whale	-9197.44	-9186.93	-10.51	Yes	865	31.68	16.05
Pilot whale_White-sided dolphin_Killer whale	White-Orca	Pilot whale	-8498.20	-8408.06	-90.14	Yes	784	28.72	19.25
White-sided dolphin_Bottlenose dolphin_Killer whale	White-Orca	Bottlenose dolphin	-7986.93	-7853.23	-133.70	Yes	726	26.59	19.83
White-sided dolphin_Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin_Killer whale	White-Orca	Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin	-7983.67	-7846.07	-137.60	Yes	726	26.59	20.03
Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin_Bottlenose dolphin_Killer whale	Bot-Orca	Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin	-143.55	-144.83	1.28	No	13	0.48	0.39
Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin_Bottlenose dolphin_Killer whale	Indo-Orca	Bottlenose dolphin	-82.72	-81.61	-1.11	No	8	0.29	0.25
Pilot whale_Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin_Bottlenose dolphin	Pilot-Bot	Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin	-306.79	-305.15	-1.64	No	28	1.03	0.82
Pilot whale_Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin_Bottlenose dolphin	Pilot-Indo	Bottlenose dolphin	-330.52	-336.87	6.35	No	31	1.14	0.52
Pilot whale_Bottlenose dolphin_Killer whale	Pilot-Orca	Bottlenose dolphin	-5643.28	-5648.29	5.01	No	521	19.08	9.13
Pilot whale_Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin_Killer whale	Pilot-Orca	Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin	-5701.86	-5699.31	-2.55	No	525	19.23	9.77
White-sided dolphin_Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin_Bottlenose d	White-Bot	Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin	-257.04	-258.27	1.24	No	24	0.88	0.56
Pilot whale_White-sided dolphin_Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin	White-Indo	Pilot whale	-9117.94	-9115.68	-2.26	No	858	31.43	15.41
White-sided dolphin_Indo-Pacific Bottlenose dolphin_Bottlenose d	White-Indo	Bottlenose dolphin	-170.67	-176.49	5.81	No	16	0.59	0.23

Mesodontidae vs Delphinidae

Table with columns H1-H4 and rows for Beluga, Narwhal, Bottlenose dolphin, etc. Includes data for gene flow and NA values.

Phocaenidae vs Delphinidae

Table with columns H1-H4 and rows for Finless, Harbour, Bottlenose dolphin, etc. Includes data for gene flow and NA values.

Phocaenidae vs Mesodontidae

Table with columns H1-H4 and rows for Beluga, Narwhal, Finless, etc. Includes data for gene flow and NA values.

Delphinidae vs Mesodontidae/Phocaenidae

Large table with columns H1-H4 and rows for White-sided dolphin, Killer whale, Narwhal, etc. Includes data for gene flow and NA values.