



DATA NOTE

The genome sequence of the Sycamore-seed Pygmy moth, *Ectoedemia decentella* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1855) van Nieukerken, 1986

[version 1; peer review: 2 approved]

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Abstract

We present a genome assembly from a female specimen of *Ectoedemia decentella* (Sycamore-seed Pygmy; Arthropoda; Insecta; Lepidoptera; Nepticulidae). The genome sequence has a total length of 418.14 megabases. Most of the assembly (99.59%) is scaffolded into 31 chromosomal pseudomolecules, including the W and Z sex chromosomes. The mitochondrial genome has also been assembled, with a length of 15.25 kilobases.

Keywords



Ectoedemia decentella, sycamore-seed pygmy, leaf-mining moth, genome sequence, chromosomal, Lepidoptera




This article is included in the [Tree of Life gateway](#).

Open Peer Review

Approval Status

	1	2
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Any reports and responses or comments on the article can be found at the end of the article.

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Species taxonomy

Eukaryota; Opisthokonta; Metazoa; Eumetazoa; Bilateria; Protostomia; Ecdysozoa; Panarthropoda; Arthropoda; Mandibulata; Pancrustacea; Hexapoda; Insecta; Dicondylia; Pterygota; Neoptera; Endopterygota; Amphiesmenoptera; Lepidoptera; Glossata; Neolepidoptera; Heteroneura; Nepticuloidea; Nepticulidae; Nepticulinae; Trifurculini; *Ectoedemia*; *Ectoedemia decentella* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1855) van Nieukerken, 1986 (NCBI:txid1070333)

Background

Ectoedemia decentella is a leaf-mining micro-moth in the family Nepticulidae. It is common in England and is present throughout Central Europe (GBIF Secretariat, 2023).

There are two overlapping generations a year, flying between June and August. The adults come to light. Although tiny, with a forewing length of 2.5–3 mm, the black and white moth is distinctively marked (Sterling *et al.*, 2023). The moth lays its egg on the winged fruit of Sycamore (early generation) or the following year's buds (later generation). The larvae pupate in a cocoon on the trunk of the host tree (Langmaid *et al.*, 2018).

We present a chromosome-level genome sequence for *Ectoedemia decentella* based on a female specimen from Wytham Woods, Oxfordshire, UK, sequenced as part of the Darwin Tree of Life Project.

Genome sequence report

Sequencing data

The genome of a specimen of *Ectoedemia decentella* (Figure 1) was sequenced using Pacific Biosciences single-molecule HiFi long reads, generating 18.48 Gb (gigabases) from 1.81 million reads. GenomeScope analysis of the PacBio HiFi data estimated the haploid genome size at 350.58 Mb, with a heterozygosity of 1.50% and repeat content of 34.03%. These values provide an initial assessment of genome complexity

and the challenges anticipated during assembly. Based on this estimated genome size, the sequencing data provided approximately 48.0x coverage of the genome. Chromosome conformation Hi-C sequencing produced 80.52 Gb from 533.28 million reads. Table 1 summarises the specimen and sequencing information.

Assembly statistics

The primary haplotype was assembled, and contigs corresponding to an alternate haplotype were also deposited in INSDC databases. The assembly was improved by manual curation, which corrected 112 misjoins or missing joins and removed 11 haplotypic duplications. These interventions reduced the total assembly length by 1.55%, decreased the scaffold count by 26.87%, and increased the scaffold N50 by 2.77%. The final assembly has a total length of 418.14 Mb in 146 scaffolds, with 349 gaps, and a scaffold N50 of 14.11 Mb (Table 2).

The snail plot in Figure 2 provides a summary of the assembly statistics, indicating the distribution of scaffold lengths and other assembly metrics. Figure 3 shows the distribution of scaffolds by GC proportion and coverage. Figure 4 presents a cumulative assembly plot, with separate curves representing different scaffold subsets assigned to various phyla, illustrating the completeness of the assembly.

Most of the assembly sequence (94.15%) was assigned to 31 chromosomal-level scaffolds, representing 29 autosomes and the W and Z sex chromosome. These chromosome-level scaffolds, confirmed by Hi-C data, are named according to size (Figure 5; Table 3). No Hi-C signal could be detected for W chromosome during curation, because the PacBio reads come from the heterogametic sex and the Hi-C data are from a homogametic specimen. The order, orientation and length of the W chromosome is uncertain.

The mitochondrial genome was also assembled. This sequence is included as a contig in the multifasta file of the genome submission and as a standalone record.

Assembly quality metrics

The estimated Quality Value (QV) and *k*-mer completeness metrics, along with BUSCO completeness scores, were calculated for each haplotype and the combined assembly. The QV reflects the base-level accuracy of the assembly, while *k*-mer completeness indicates the proportion of expected *k*-mers identified in the assembly. BUSCO scores provide a measure of completeness based on benchmarking universal single-copy orthologues.

The combined primary and alternate assemblies achieve an estimated QV of 61.5. The *k*-mer recovery for the primary haplotype is 78.50%, and for the alternate haplotype 0.34%; the combined primary and alternate assemblies have a *k*-mer recovery of 78.59%. BUSCO analysis using the lepidoptera_odb10 reference set (*n* = 5,286) identified 83.7% of the expected gene set (single = 82.8%, duplicated = 0.9%).



Figure 1. Photograph of the *Ectoedemia decentella* (ilEctDece2) specimen used for genome sequencing.

Table 1. Specimen and sequencing data for *Ectoedemia decentella*.

Project information			
Study title	Ectoedemia decentella (sycamore-seed pygmy)		
Umbrella BioProject	PRJEB74970		
Species	<i>Ectoedemia decentella</i>		
BioSpecimen	SAMEA7520680		
NCBI taxonomy ID	1070333		
Specimen information			
Technology	ToLID	BioSample accession	Organism part
PacBio long read sequencing	ilEctDece2	SAMEA7520766	whole organism
Hi-C sequencing	ilEctDece3	SAMEA10979628	whole organism
Sequencing information			
Platform	Run accession	Read count	Base count (Gb)
Hi-C Illumina NovaSeq X	ERR12945471	5.33e+08	80.52
PacBio Sequel IIe	ERR12921317	1.81e+06	18.48

Table 2. Genome assembly data for *Ectoedemia decentella*.

Genome assembly		
Assembly name	ilEctDece2.1	
Assembly accession	GCA_964235475.1	
Alternate haplotype accession	GCA_964235105.1	
Assembly level for primary assembly	chromosome	
Span (Mb)	418.14	
Number of contigs	495	
Number of scaffolds	146	
Longest scaffold (Mb)	39.05	
Assembly metric	Measure	Benchmark
Contig N50 length	1.78 Mb	≥ 1 Mb
Scaffold N50 length	14.11 Mb	= chromosome N50
Consensus quality (QV)	Primary: 61.5; alternate: 58.6; combined: 61.5	≥ 40
k-mer completeness	Primary: 78.50%; alternate: 0.34%; combined: 78.59%	$\geq 95\%$
BUSCO*	C:83.7%[S:82.8%,D:0.9%], F:1.5%,M:14.8%,n:5,286	$S > 90\%$; $D < 5\%$
Percentage of assembly mapped to chromosomes	94.15%	$\geq 90\%$
Sex chromosomes	W and Z	localised homologous pairs
Organelles	Mitochondrial genome: 15.25 kb	complete single alleles

* BUSCO scores based on the lepidoptera_odb10 BUSCO set using version 5.5.0. C = complete [S = single copy, D = duplicated], F = fragmented, M = missing, n = number of orthologues in comparison.

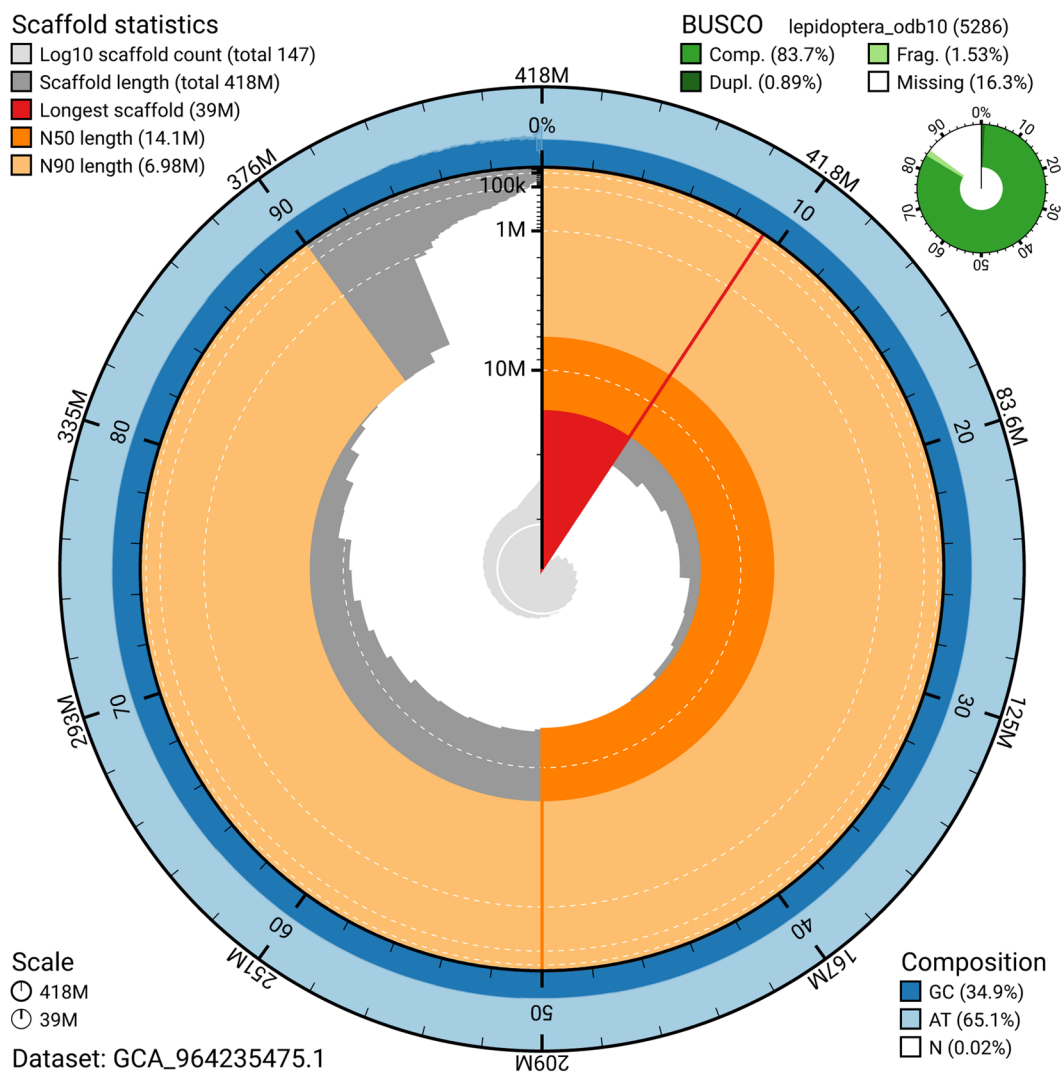


Figure 2. Genome assembly of *Ectoedemia decentella*, ilEctDece2.1: metrics. The BlobToolKit snail plot provides an overview of assembly metrics and BUSCO gene completeness. The circumference represents the length of the whole genome sequence, and the main plot is divided into 1,000 bins around the circumference. The outermost blue tracks display the distribution of GC, AT, and N percentages across the bins. Scaffolds are arranged clockwise from longest to shortest and are depicted in dark grey. The longest scaffold is indicated by the red arc, and the deeper orange and pale orange arcs represent the N50 and N90 lengths. A light grey spiral at the centre shows the cumulative scaffold count on a logarithmic scale. A summary of complete, fragmented, duplicated, and missing BUSCO genes in the lepidoptera_odb10 set is presented at the top right. An interactive version of this figure is available at https://blobtoolkit.genomehubs.org/view/GCA_964235475.1/dataset/GCA_964235475.1/snail.

Table 2 provides assembly metric benchmarks adapted from Rhie *et al.* (2021) and the Earth BioGenome Project (EBP) Report on Assembly Standards September 2024. The assembly achieves the EBP reference standard of 6.C.Q61.

Methods

Sample acquisition and DNA barcoding

An adult female *Ectoedemia decentella* (specimen ID Ox000462, ToLID ilEctDece2) was collected from Wytham Woods, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom (latitude 51.77, longitude -1.34) on 2020-06-13. The specimen used for Hi-C sequencing

(specimen ID Ox001926, ToLID ilEctDece3) was an adult specimen collected from the same location on 2021-06-16. Both specimens were collected and identified by Douglas Boyes (University of Oxford) and preserved on dry ice.

The initial identification was verified by an additional DNA barcoding process according to the framework developed by Twyford *et al.* (2024). A small sample was dissected from each specimen and stored in ethanol, while the remaining parts were shipped on dry ice to the Wellcome Sanger Institute (WSI) (Pereira *et al.*, 2022). The tissue was lysed, the COI marker

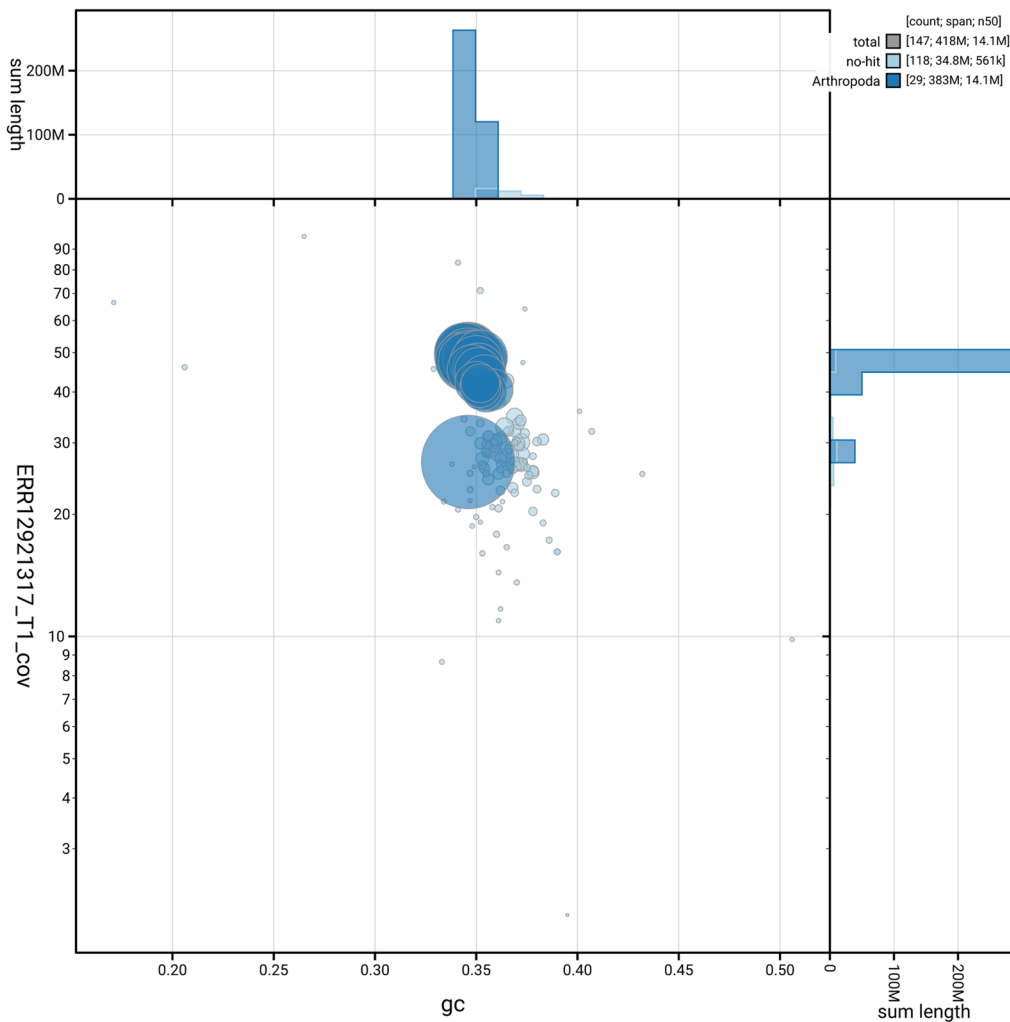


Figure 3. Genome assembly of *Ectoedemia decentella*, ilEctDece2.1: BlobToolKit GC-coverage plot. Blob plot showing sequence coverage (vertical axis) and GC content (horizontal axis). The circles represent scaffolds, with the size proportional to scaffold length and the colour representing phylum membership. The histograms along the axes display the total length of sequences distributed across different levels of coverage and GC content. An interactive version of this figure is available at https://blobtoolkit.genomehubs.org/view/GCA_964235475.1/dataset/GCA_964235475.1/blob.

region was amplified by PCR, and amplicons were sequenced and compared to the BOLD database, confirming the species identification (Crowley *et al.*, 2023). Following whole genome sequence generation, the relevant DNA barcode region was also used alongside the initial barcoding data for sample tracking at the WSI (Twyford *et al.*, 2024). The standard operating procedures for Darwin Tree of Life barcoding have been deposited on protocols.io (Beasley *et al.*, 2023).

Metadata collection for samples adhered to the Darwin Tree of Life project standards described by Lawniczak *et al.* (2022).

Nucleic acid extraction

The workflow for high molecular weight (HMW) DNA extraction at the Wellcome Sanger Institute (WSI) Tree of Life Core Laboratory includes a sequence of procedures: sample preparation

and homogenisation, DNA extraction, fragmentation and purification. Detailed protocols are available on protocols.io (Denton *et al.*, 2023b). The ilEctDece2 sample was prepared for DNA extraction by weighing and dissecting it on dry ice (Jay *et al.*, 2023). Tissue from the whole organism was homogenised using a PowerMasher II tissue disruptor (Denton *et al.*, 2023a).

HMW DNA was extracted in the WSI Scientific Operations core using the Automated MagAttract v2 protocol (Oatley *et al.*, 2023a). For ultra-low input (ULI) PacBio sequencing, DNA was fragmented using the Covaris g-TUBE method (Oatley *et al.*, 2023b). Sheared DNA was purified by solid-phase reversible immobilisation, using AMPure PB beads to eliminate shorter fragments and concentrate the DNA (Strickland *et al.*, 2023). The concentration of the sheared and purified DNA was assessed using a Nanodrop spectrophotometer and

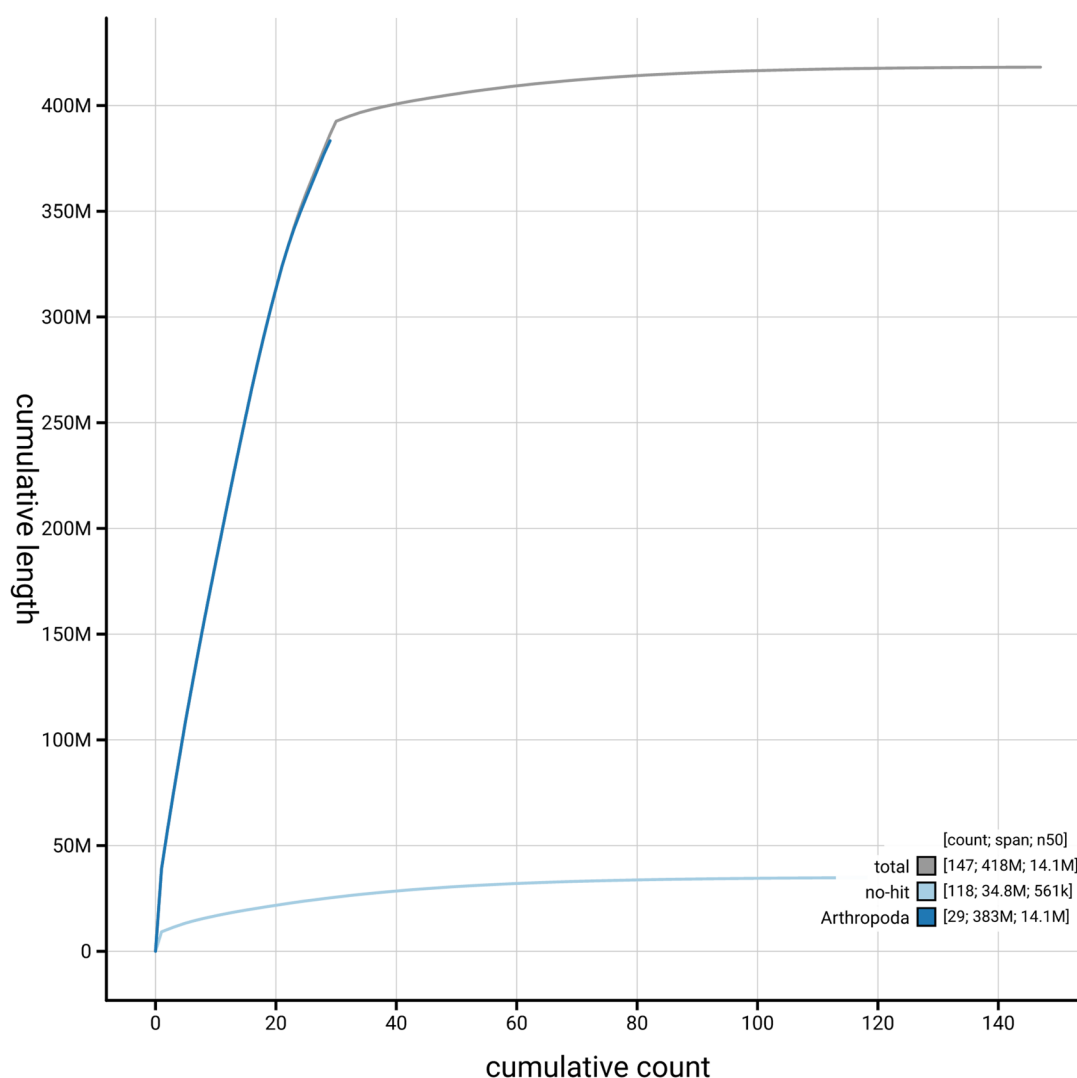


Figure 4. Genome assembly of *Ectoedemia decentella*, ilEctDece2.1: BlobToolKit cumulative sequence plot. The grey line shows cumulative length for all scaffolds. Coloured lines show cumulative lengths of scaffolds assigned to each phylum using the buscogenes taxrule. An interactive version of this figure is available at https://blobtoolkit.genomehubs.org/view/GCA_964235475.1/dataset/GCA_964235475.1/cumulative.

Qubit Fluorometer using the Qubit dsDNA High Sensitivity Assay kit. Fragment size distribution was evaluated by running the sample on the FemtoPulse system.

Hi-C sample preparation

Tissue from the whole organism of the ilEctDece3 sample was processed for Hi-C sequencing at the WSI Scientific Operations core, using the Arima-HiC v2 kit. In brief, 20–50 mg of frozen tissue (stored at -80°C) was fixed, and the DNA crosslinked using a TC buffer with 22% formaldehyde concentration. After crosslinking, the tissue was homogenised using the Diagnocine Power Masher-II and BioMasher-II tubes and pestles. Following the Arima-HiC v2 kit manufacturer's instructions,

crosslinked DNA was digested using a restriction enzyme master mix. The 5'-overhangs were filled in and labelled with biotinylated nucleotides and proximally ligated. An overnight incubation was carried out for enzymes to digest remaining proteins and for crosslinks to reverse. A clean up was performed with SPRIselect beads prior to library preparation. Additionally, the biotinylation percentage was estimated using the Qubit Fluorometer v4.0 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and Qubit HS Assay Kit and Arima-HiC v2 QC beads.

Library preparation and sequencing

Library preparation and sequencing were performed at the WSI Scientific Operations core.

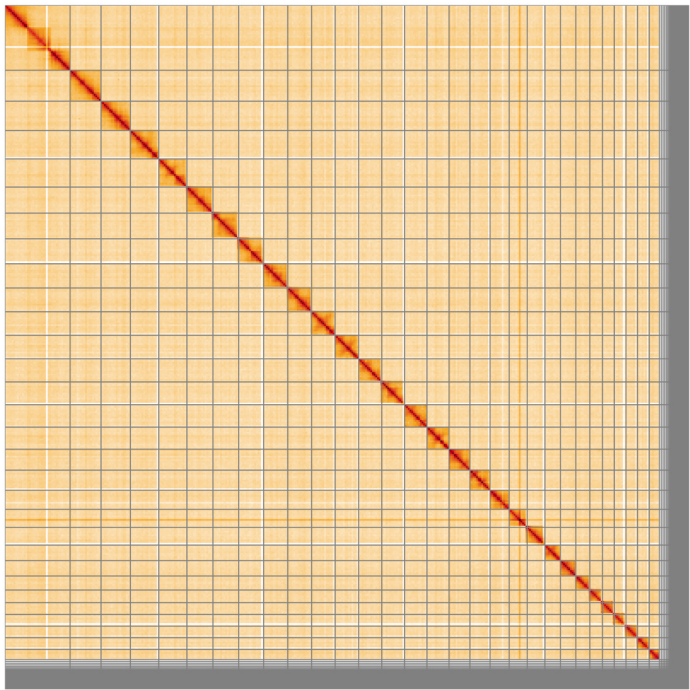


Figure 5. Genome assembly of *Ectoedemia decentella*: Hi-C contact map of the ilEctDece2.1 assembly, visualised using HiGlass. Chromosomes are shown in order of size from left to right and top to bottom. An interactive version of this figure may be viewed at <https://genome-note-higlass.tol.sanger.ac.uk/l/?d=Iq6Lbe-iQH2qwOX-I4NqtA>.

Table 3. Chromosomal pseudomolecules in the genome assembly of *Ectoedemia decentella*, ilEctDece2.

INSDC accession	Name	Length (Mb)	GC%
OZ174099.1	1	18.55	34.5
OZ174100.1	2	17.64	34.5
OZ174101.1	3	17.0	34.5
OZ174102.1	4	16.88	35
OZ174103.1	5	15.61	34.5
OZ174104.1	6	15.42	34.5
OZ174105.1	7	15.01	34.5
OZ174106.1	8	14.5	34.5
OZ174107.1	9	14.24	35
OZ174108.1	10	14.14	35
OZ174109.1	11	14.11	34.5
OZ174110.1	12	13.88	35
OZ174111.1	13	13.64	35
OZ174112.1	14	13.43	34.5
OZ174113.1	15	13.24	34.5

INSDC accession	Name	Length (Mb)	GC%
OZ174114.1	16	12.58	35
OZ174115.1	17	12.05	35
OZ174116.1	18	11.5	35
OZ174117.1	19	10.83	35
OZ174118.1	20	10.6	35
OZ174119.1	21	9.31	35
OZ174120.1	22	9.21	35
OZ174121.1	23	8.42	35.5
OZ174122.1	24	7.54	35
OZ174123.1	25	7.12	36
OZ174124.1	26	7.01	35.5
OZ174125.1	27	6.98	35.5
OZ174126.1	28	6.94	35
OZ174127.1	29	6.14	35
OZ174128.1	W	1.1	36.5
OZ174098.1	Z	39.05	34.5
OZ174129.1	MT	0.02	17.5

PacBio HiFi (ULI)

The sample requires Covaris g-TUBE shearing to approximately 10 kb prior to library preparation. Ultra-low input libraries were prepared using PacBio SMRTbell® Express Template Prep Kit 2.0 and PacBio SMRTbell® gDNA Sample Amplification Kit. To begin, samples were normalised to 20 ng of DNA. Initial removal of single-strand overhangs, DNA damage repair, and end repair/A-tailing were performed per manufacturer's instructions. From the SMRTbell® gDNA Sample Amplification Kit, amplification adapters were then ligated. A 0.85X pre-PCR clean-up was performed with Promega ProNex beads and the sample was then divided into two for a dual PCR. PCR reactions A and B each followed the PCR programs as described in the manufacturer's protocol. A 0.85X post-PCR clean-up was performed with ProNex beads for PCR reactions A and B and DNA concentration was quantified using the Qubit Fluorometer v4.0 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and Qubit HS Assay Kit and fragment size analysis was carried out using the Agilent Femto Pulse Automated Pulsed Field CE Instrument (Agilent Technologies) and gDNA 55kb BAC analysis kit. PCR reactions A and B were then pooled, ensuring the total mass was ≥ 500 ng in 47.4 μ l. The pooled sample then repeated the process for DNA damage repair, end repair/A-tailing and additional hairpin adapter ligation. A 1X clean-up was performed with ProNex beads and DNA concentration was quantified using the Qubit and fragment size analysis was carried out using the Agilent Femto Pulse Automated Pulsed Field CE Instrument (Agilent Technologies). Size selection was performed using Sage Sciences' PippinHT system with target fragment size determined by analysis from the Femto Pulse, usually a value between 4000 and 9000 bp. Size selected libraries were then cleaned-up using 1.0X ProNex beads and normalised to 2 nM before proceeding to sequencing.

Samples were sequenced using the Sequel IIe system (Pacific Biosciences, California, USA). The concentration of the library loaded onto the Sequel IIe was in the range 40–135 pM. The SMRT link software, a PacBio web-based end-to-end workflow manager, was used to set-up and monitor the run, as well as perform primary and secondary analysis of the data upon completion.

Hi-C

For Hi-C library preparation, DNA was fragmented using the Covaris E220 sonicator (Covaris) and size selected using SPRISelect beads to 400 to 600 bp. The DNA was then enriched using the Arima-HiC v2 kit Enrichment beads. Using the NEBNext Ultra II DNA Library Prep Kit (New England Biolabs) for end repair, a-tailing, and adapter ligation. This uses a custom protocol which resembles the standard NEBNext Ultra II DNA Library Prep protocol but where library preparation occurs while DNA is bound to the Enrichment beads. For library amplification, 10 to 16 PCR cycles were required, determined by the sample biotinylation percentage. The Hi-C sequencing was performed using paired-end sequencing with a read length of 150 bp on an Illumina NovaSeq X instrument.

Genome assembly, curation and evaluation

Assembly

Prior to assembly of the PacBio HiFi reads, a database of k -mer counts ($k = 31$) was generated from the filtered reads using FastK. GenomeScope2 (Ranallo-Benavidez *et al.*, 2020) was used to analyse the k -mer frequency distributions, providing estimates of genome size, heterozygosity, and repeat content.

The HiFi reads were first assembled using Hifiasm (Cheng *et al.*, 2021) with the --primary option. The Hi-C reads were mapped to the primary contigs using bwa-mem2 (Vasimuddin *et al.*, 2019). The contigs were further scaffolded using the provided Hi-C data (Rao *et al.*, 2014) in YaHS (Zhou *et al.*, 2023) using the --break option for handling potential misassemblies. The scaffolded assemblies were evaluated using Gfastats (Formenti *et al.*, 2022), BUSCO (Manni *et al.*, 2021) and MERQUERY.FK (Rhie *et al.*, 2020).

The mitochondrial genome was assembled using MitoHiFi (Uliano-Silva *et al.*, 2023), which runs MitoFinder (Allio *et al.*, 2020) and uses these annotations to select the final mitochondrial contig and to ensure the general quality of the sequence.

Assembly curation

The assembly was decontaminated using the Assembly Screen for Cobionts and Contaminants (ASCC) pipeline. Flat files and maps used in curation were generated via the TreeVal pipeline (Pointon *et al.*, 2023). Manual curation was conducted primarily in PretextView (Harry, 2022) and HiGlass (Kerpedjiev *et al.*, 2018), with additional insights provided by JBrowse2 (Diesh *et al.*, 2023). Scaffolds were visually inspected and corrected as described by Howe *et al.* (2021). Any identified contamination, missed joins, and mis-joins were amended, and duplicate sequences were tagged and removed. Sex chromosomes were identified by read coverage analysis. The curation process is documented at <https://gitlab.com/wtsi-grit/rapid-curation>.

Assembly quality assessment

The Merquery.FK tool (Rhie *et al.*, 2020), run in a Singularity container (Kurtzer *et al.*, 2017), was used to evaluate k -mer completeness and assembly quality for the primary and alternate haplotypes using the k -mer databases ($k = 31$) that were computed prior to genome assembly. The analysis outputs included assembly QV scores and completeness statistics.

A Hi-C contact map was produced for the final version of the assembly. The Hi-C reads were aligned using bwa-mem2 (Vasimuddin *et al.*, 2019) and the alignment files were combined using SAMtools (Danecek *et al.*, 2021). The Hi-C alignments were converted into a contact map using BEDTools (Quinlan & Hall, 2010) and the Cooler tool suite (Abdennur & Mirny, 2020). The contact map was visualised in HiGlass (Kerpedjiev *et al.*, 2018).

The blobtoolkit pipeline is a Nextflow port of the previous Snakemake Blobtoolkit pipeline (Challis *et al.*, 2020). It aligns the PacBio reads in SAMtools and minimap2 (Li, 2018) and generates coverage tracks for regions of fixed size. In parallel, it queries the GoAT database (Challis *et al.*, 2023) to identify all matching BUSCO lineages to run BUSCO (Manni *et al.*, 2021). For the three domain-level BUSCO lineages, the pipeline aligns the BUSCO genes to the UniProt Reference Proteomes database (Bateman *et al.*, 2023) with DIAMOND blastp (Buchfink *et al.*, 2021). The genome is also divided into chunks according to the density of the BUSCO genes from the closest taxonomic lineage, and each chunk is aligned to the UniProt Reference Proteomes database using DIAMOND blastx. Genome sequences without a hit are chunked using seqtk and aligned to the NT database with blastn (Altschul *et al.*, 1990). The blobtools suite combines all these outputs into a blobdir for visualisation.

The blobtoolkit pipeline was developed using nf-core tooling (Ewels *et al.*, 2020) and MultiQC (Ewels *et al.*, 2016),

relying on the Conda package manager, the Bioconda initiative (Grüning *et al.*, 2018), the Biocontainers infrastructure (da Veiga Leprevost *et al.*, 2017), as well as the Docker (Merkel, 2014) and Singularity (Kurtzer *et al.*, 2017) containerisation solutions.

Table 4 contains a list of relevant software tool versions and sources.

Wellcome Sanger Institute – Legal and Governance

The materials that have contributed to this genome note have been supplied by a Darwin Tree of Life Partner. The submission of materials by a Darwin Tree of Life Partner is subject to the ‘**Darwin Tree of Life Project Sampling Code of Practice**’, which can be found in full on the Darwin Tree of Life website [here](#). By agreeing with and signing up to the Sampling Code of Practice, the Darwin Tree of Life Partner agrees they will meet the legal and ethical requirements and standards set out within this document in respect of all samples acquired for, and supplied to, the Darwin Tree of Life Project.

Table 4. Software tools: versions and sources.

Software tool	Version	Source
BEDTools	2.30.0	https://github.com/arq5x/bedtools2
BLAST	2.14.0	ftp://ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/blast/executables/blast+/ blast+/
BlobToolKit	4.3.9	https://github.com/blobtoolkit/blobtoolkit
BUSCO	5.5.0	https://gitlab.com/ezlab/busco
bwa-mem2	2.2.1	https://github.com/bwa-mem2/bwa-mem2
Cooler	0.8.11	https://github.com/open2c/cooler
DIAMOND	2.1.8	https://github.com/bbuchfink/diamond
fasta_windows	0.2.4	https://github.com/tolkit/fasta_windows
FastK	666652151335353eef2fcd58880bcef5bc2928e1	https://github.com/thegenemyers/FASTK
Gfastats	1.3.6	https://github.com/vgl-hub/gfastats
GoAT CLI	0.2.5	https://github.com/genomehubs/goat-cli
Hifiasm	0.19.8-r603	https://github.com/chhy123/hifiasm
HiGlass	44086069ee7d4d3f6f3f0012569789ec138f42b84aa44357826c0b6753eb28de	https://github.com/higlass/higlass
MerquyFK	d00d98157618f4e8d1a9190026b19b471055b22e	https://github.com/thegenemyers/MERQUERY.FK
Minimap2	2.24-r1122	https://github.com/lh3/minimap2
MitoHiFi	3	https://github.com/marcelauliano/MitoHiFi
MultiQC	1.14, 1.17, and 1.18	https://github.com/MultiQC/MultiQC
Nextflow	23.10.0	https://github.com/nextflow-io/nextflow

Software tool	Version	Source
PretextView	0.2.5	https://github.com/sanger-tol/PretextView
samtools	1.19.2	https://github.com/samtools/samtools
sanger-tol/ascc	-	https://github.com/sanger-tol/ascc
sanger-tol/blobtoolkit	0.5.1	https://github.com/sanger-tol/blobtoolkit
Seqtk	1.3	https://github.com/lh3/seqtk
Singularity	3.9.0	https://github.com/sylabs/singularity
TreeVal	1.2.0	https://github.com/sanger-tol/treeval
YaHS	1.2a.2	https://github.com/c-zhou/yahs

Further, the Wellcome Sanger Institute employs a process whereby due diligence is carried out proportionate to the nature of the materials themselves, and the circumstances under which they have been/are to be collected and provided for use. The purpose of this is to address and mitigate any potential legal and/or ethical implications of receipt and use of the materials as part of the research project, and to ensure that in doing so we align with best practice wherever possible. The overarching areas of consideration are:

- Ethical review of provenance and sourcing of the material
- Legality of collection, transfer and use (national and international)

Each transfer of samples is further undertaken according to a Research Collaboration Agreement or Material Transfer Agreement entered into by the Darwin Tree of Life Partner, Genome Research Limited (operating as the Wellcome Sanger Institute), and in some circumstances other Darwin Tree of Life collaborators.

Data availability

European Nucleotide Archive: *Ectoedemia decentella* (sycamore-seed pygmy). Accession number PRJEB74970; <https://identifiers.org/ena.embl/PRJEB74970>. The genome sequence is released openly for reuse. The *Ectoedemia decentella* genome sequencing initiative is part of the Darwin Tree of Life (DTOL) project (PRJEB40665) and Project Psyche (PRJEB71705). All raw sequence data and the assembly have been deposited

in INSDC databases. The genome will be annotated using available RNA-Seq data and presented through the [Ensembl](#) pipeline at the European Bioinformatics Institute. Raw data and assembly accession identifiers are reported in [Table 1](#) and [Table 2](#).

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Sivasankaran Kuppusamy 

Loyola College, Chennai, India

The chromosome-level genome of *Ectoedemia decentella* (Herrich-Schaffer, 1855) van Nieukerken, 1986 was sequenced and assembled by the authors. They have appropriate methods for DNA isolation and they have used advanced software tools for the genome assembly and annotation.

Authors have assembled 418.14 Mb of total genome in size. They scaffolded into 31 chromosome pseudomolecules in assembly.

Comments on the manuscript

The first sentence of the background can start "*Ectoedemia decentella* (Herrich-Schaffer, 1855) van Nieukerken, 1986 is a leaf-mining...."

Throughout the manuscript, the authors consistently used the genus name *Ectoedemia decentella* in its full form. If possible, use the full genus name at first, and later to shorten it to *E. decentella*.

Authors have produced almost 100 Gb data. Even though they haven't observed and listed the number of protein-coding genes, number of non-coding genes and number of gene transcripts in the table. Any reason?

The research article was well prepared and the manuscript meets the necessary scientific standard and is suitable for indexing"

Is the rationale for creating the dataset(s) clearly described?

Yes

Are the protocols appropriate and is the work technically sound?

Yes

Are sufficient details of methods and materials provided to allow replication by others?

Yes

Are the datasets clearly presented in a useable and accessible format?

Yes

Competing Interests: No competing interests were disclosed.

Reviewer Expertise: Phylogenetic analysis of Noctuoidea moths using mitogenome sequence

I confirm that I have read this submission and believe that I have an appropriate level of expertise to confirm that it is of an acceptable scientific standard.

Reviewer Report 08 May 2025

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Panagiotis Ioannidis 

Foundation for Research & Technology - Hellas, Crete, Greece

This paper describes the sequencing and assembly of a lepidopteran species following the standard methodology. Moreover, the assembly is publicly available and free to use by anyone who's interested.

My impression is that, with 83.7% complete BUSCOs, the assembly is somewhat incomplete. Previous insect (lepidopteran, even) assemblies have >>90% complete BUSCOs. If the authors would like to comment on the possible causes for this, that would be great.

Other than this, I have a minor correction to suggest; in the "Assembly quality metrics" section the authors say "...identified 83.7% of the expected gene set...". I'd suggest they change this to "...identified 83.7% of the BUSCOs...", because a "gene set" is something else.

Is the rationale for creating the dataset(s) clearly described?

Yes

Are the protocols appropriate and is the work technically sound?

Yes

Are sufficient details of methods and materials provided to allow replication by others?

Yes

Are the datasets clearly presented in a useable and accessible format?

Yes

Competing Interests: No competing interests were disclosed.

Reviewer Expertise: Insect genomics, bioinformatics

I confirm that I have read this submission and believe that I have an appropriate level of expertise to confirm that it is of an acceptable scientific standard.
