

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Feminization and the collapse of haplodiploidy in an asexual parasitoid wasp harboring the bacterial symbiont *Cardinium*

M Giorgini<sup>1</sup>, MM Monti<sup>1</sup>, E Caprio<sup>2</sup>, R Stouthamer<sup>3</sup> and MS Hunter<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Istituto per la Protezione delle Piante, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Portici, Napoli, Italy; <sup>2</sup>Dipartimento di Entomologia e Zoologia agraria 'Filippo Silvestri', Università di Napoli 'Federico II', Portici, Napoli, Italy; <sup>3</sup>Department of Entomology, University of California, Riverside, CA, USA and <sup>4</sup>Department of Entomology, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, USA

*Cardinium* is a bacterial symbiont infecting many species of arthropods, and is associated with manipulation of host reproduction. *Cardinium* is the causal agent of asexual reproduction, or thelytoky, in the chalcidoid parasitoid wasp *Encarsia hispida*. Feeding antibiotics to the infected adult females results in uninfected male offspring. Here, we show that these males are diploid. Diploid males are extremely unusual in the large hymenopteran superfamily Chalcidoidea, and, to our knowledge, have never before been associated with symbiont infection in this group. These

findings indicate that at least in *E. hispida*, diploidy restoration is a necessary condition but not sufficient to elicit female development. *Cardinium* is required to feminize diploid male embryos and thus must interact with elements of the host sex determination system. In addition, our data suggest that *Cardinium* is necessary for the fertility of *E. hispida*; antibiotic curing of *Cardinium* reduces offspring production of adult females.

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## Introduction

*Cardinium* are bacteria in the Bacteroidetes that are intracellular, inherited symbionts of arthropods (Zchori-Fein *et al.*, 2004). *Cardinium* has been detected in 6–7% of arthropods screened, and has been found in the Hymenoptera, Hemiptera and Acari (Weeks *et al.*, 2003; Zchori-Fein and Perlman, 2004). Recently, a high incidence (22%) has been detected in spiders (Araneae) (Duron *et al.*, 2008). Like *Wolbachia*, in the  $\alpha$ -Proteobacteria, *Cardinium* may cause manipulation of host reproduction in ways that increase its frequency within a host population, including feminization (genotypic males develop as functional phenotypic females) (Weeks *et al.*, 2001), cytoplasmic incompatibility (Hunter *et al.*, 2003; Gotoh *et al.*, 2007) and thelytokous parthenogenesis (females produce only daughters from unfertilized eggs) (Zchori-Fein *et al.*, 2001, 2004; Provencher *et al.*, 2005; Groot and Breeuwer, 2006; Matalon *et al.*, 2007). *Cardinium* also increases the fecundity of a mite host (Weeks and Stouthamer, 2004).

Here, we study an asexual parasitic wasp, *Encarsia hispida*, which is infected by *Cardinium* (Zchori-Fein *et al.*, 2004). Single (*Cardinium* or *Wolbachia*) and multiple

(*Cardinium* plus *Wolbachia*) bacterial infections are frequent in the genus *Encarsia* (Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea: Aphelinidae) (Perlman *et al.*, 2006), a group of endoparasitoid wasps that attack mainly whiteflies or armoured scale insects (Heraty and Woolley, 2002). In this genus, bacterial symbionts are associated with cytoplasmic incompatibility, thelytokous parthenogenesis and a change of the wasp host selection behavior (Hunter and Zchori-Fein, 2006; Perlman *et al.*, 2006; Kenyon and Hunter, 2007). Like other Hymenoptera, sexual *Encarsia* species reproduce by arrhenotokous parthenogenesis, that is, females develop from diploid, fertilized eggs, whereas males develop parthenogenetically from haploid, unfertilized eggs (Hunter and Woolley, 2001). Some species of *Encarsia* are asexual, that is, thelytokous parthenogens with rare or unknown males. All asexual species of *Encarsia* examined to date are infected by *Cardinium*, except for *Encarsia formosa*, where the causal agent of thelytoky is *Wolbachia* (van Meer *et al.*, 1999; Zchori-Fein *et al.*, 2001). The role of *Cardinium* in the induction of thelytoky has been confirmed only in *E. hispida* (Zchori-Fein *et al.*, 2004) but nothing is known about the mechanisms used by this symbiont to induce the production of all-female offspring.

Symbiotic microorganisms that manipulate host reproduction can promote evolutionary changes in their hosts by interacting with fundamental biological processes, such as sex determination, sexual differentiation and the cell cycle (Werren and O'Neill, 1997; Charlat *et al.*, 2003). The arthropod sex determination system is the target of feminizing and male-killing microorganisms

Correspondence: Dr M Giorgini, Istituto per la Protezione delle Piante, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, via Università 133, Portici, Napoli 80055, Italy.

E-mail: giorgini@ipp.cnr.it

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and the genetic conflict occurring between microbial genes and host nuclear genes can be an important force that drives the diversification of sex determination (Werren and Beukeboom, 1998; Caubet *et al.*, 2000). Within infected host populations, microbial genes are selected to favor a female-biased host sex ratio, which increases the transmission of cytoplasmically inherited microorganisms, whereas host genes are selected to prevent the action of the symbionts and restore an unbiased sex ratio. As a consequence of this conflict, new host sex-determining genes can be selected. The best-known example of such a conflict is in the female heterogametic isopod *Armadillidium vulgare* (Rigaud, 1997; Caubet *et al.*, 2000). Also relevant to this study, symbionts have been implicated in possible evolutionary routes to haplodiploidy (Hamilton, 1993; Normark, 2004).

Here, we show that asexual reproduction of *E. hispida* depends ultimately on *Cardinium*-mediated feminization of genetic diploid males. In addition, *Cardinium* seems necessary for the fertility of infected females.

## Materials and methods

### Study insect

*Encarsia hispida* is a cosmopolitan parasitoid of whiteflies and contributes to biological control of economic pests such as the sweetpotato whitefly, *Bemisia tabaci* and the greenhouse whitefly, *Trialeurodes vaporariorum* (Polaszek *et al.*, 2004). It is fixed for asexuality but male production can be induced by feeding infected adult females antibiotics (Hunter, 1999; Giorgini, 2001). We studied two populations of *E. hispida*, one collected in Portici, Napoli, Italy from *B. tabaci*, the other in San Diego, California, CA, USA from the giant whitefly *Aleurodicus dugesii*. They were reared in the laboratory at 25 ± 0.5 °C, 65 ± 5% relative humidity and 16L:8D photoperiod. Sequences of a 762 bp region of the mitochondrial COI gene for these two populations are identical (GenBank accession numbers AY264343 and EU488723). This region has shown its utility in distinguishing cryptic species in the genus *Encarsia* (Monti *et al.*, 2005), therefore we consider the two populations to be conspecific.

### Molecular analysis to detect the bacterial infection

Previously it has been shown that the only inherited bacterial symbiont in Californian *E. hispida* is *Cardinium* (Zchori-Fein *et al.*, 2004). Here we analyzed the Italian population. The presence of the bacterial symbionts associated with thelytokous reproduction in arthropods, including *Cardinium*, *Wolbachia* and *Rickettsia* (Huigens and Stouthamer, 2003; Hagimori *et al.*, 2006; Hunter and Zchori-Fein, 2006), was checked in 20 Italian females by PCR using the following sets of primers: CLOf and CLOr1 (Weeks *et al.*, 2003), and ChF and ChR (Zchori-Fein and Perlman, 2004) for *Cardinium* 16S rDNA; *ftsZf1* and *ftsZr1* (Werren *et al.*, 1995) for *Wolbachia ftsZ* cell-cycle gene; Rb-F and Rb-R (Gottlieb *et al.*, 2006) for *Rickettsia* 16S rDNA.

To verify the possible presence of any other symbiont, the bacterial 16S rDNA was amplified from single *E. hispida* using the universal primers 27F and 1513R (Weisburg *et al.*, 1991), cloned and sequenced. A high-fidelity AccuTaq LA DNA polymerase (Sigma-Aldrich,

Saint Louis, MO, USA) was used in PCR protocols following the manufacturer's instructions. Samples that yielded amplicons of the expected size (~1500 bp) were cloned by using p-GEMT Easy Vector System (Promega, Madison, WI, USA). Five females were analyzed, and 3–6 different clones from each wasp were sequenced, using the ABI Prism Big Dye terminator Cycle Sequencing Kit and the ABI Prism 310 Genetic Analyzer (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, USA) sequencer according to the manufacturer's protocols. To obtain overlapping sequences and to resolve ambiguities, both DNA strands were sequenced. Sequences were assembled using SeqMan in the Lasergene software package (Dnastar, Madison, WI, USA). Alignments were carried out with the ClustalW method of MegAlign in the same package. The sequences were compared to sequences in GenBank using BLAST searches.

### Induction of male progeny by antibiotic treatment

Females were treated with antibiotics to produce male larvae for karyological analysis and male adults for DNA measurement by flow cytometry. Because it is not feasible to sex the larvae, a preliminary experiment was performed to select a treatment inducing 100% male progeny. Newly emerged individual adult females of the Italian *E. hispida* were fed with tetracycline in honey (50 mg ml<sup>-1</sup>) for 24 h in a glass vial and then allowed to oviposit for 48 h on a bean leaf disk infested with 50 greenhouse whitefly nymphs. The leaf disks were 35 mm diameter and laid onto a 4–5 mm thick layer of 1% water agar in a 35 mm ventilated Petri dish. At 8–10 days after the wasps were removed, parasitized pupal cases containing the parasitoid pupae were singly isolated in vials, and the emerged adults were sexed. Experimental conditions were 25 ± 0.5 °C, 65 ± 5% relative humidity and 16L:8D photoperiod. PCR assays with the *Cardinium*-specific primers were performed on 20 treated adult females immediately after the antibiotic treatment and 20 newly emerged adult males, each one chosen from the progeny of 20 different treated females. To obtain all-male progenies from Californian *E. hispida*, adult females were fed with rifampicin as described by Zchori-Fein *et al.* (2004).

### Effect of tetracycline on fertility and longevity of treated *E. hispida*

Fertility was measured as number of adult offspring produced by each female ovipositing for 48 h as described above. Tetracycline-treated females ( $n = 19$ ) were compared to newly emerged untreated females fed with honey only for 24 h ( $n = 14$ ). To test for antibiotic toxicity, we compared the longevity of tetracycline-treated females ( $n = 49$ ) to that of untreated females ( $n = 46$ ). Longevity was measured in the absence of hosts. Newly emerged single females, after the initial 24 h treatment, were kept in a glass vial and fed with honey (fresh honey was supplied every 5 days) until death (females were checked daily).

### Determination of the karyotype

Analysis of the chromosome sets was performed on both female and male individuals. Metaphase chromosomes were obtained from samples of third instar larvae. Each sample consisted of all of the progeny of single females.

The progeny of 50 tetracycline-treated and 20 infected females of the Italian population, and of 10 rifampicin-treated and 10 infected females of the Californian population was analyzed. Larvae were extracted from parasitized whitefly puparia in a drop of saline and subjected to the scraping plus air-drying method reported by Baldanza *et al.* (1993) with the following modifications. The larval progeny of each female was dissected (each larva was nicked between head and thorax) in 0.5 ml colchicine 0.1% in Shen solution (0.9 g NaCl, 0.042 g KCl, 0.025 g CaCl<sub>2</sub> in 100 ml distilled water) and incubated at room temperature for 1 h. After incubation, the colchicine solution containing the dissected larvae was transferred in a 1.5 ml tube and centrifuged at 1300 r.p.m. for 10 min. The supernatant was removed, 0.5 ml of hypotonic solution (sodium citrate 0.5%) was added and after 20 min the tube was centrifuged at 1300 r.p.m. again for 10 min. The supernatant was removed, and 0.5 ml of fixative (glacial acetic acid/methanol 3:1) was added. After 1 h at 4°C the tissues were broken up by sucking and pushing them repeatedly with a pipettor equipped with a 0.2 ml tip. The samples were pelleted by centrifugation at 1300 r.p.m. for 10 min. The supernatant was removed, 0.5 ml of fixative was added and a new centrifugation at 1300 r.p.m. for 10 min was performed. After the supernatant was removed, the pellet was resuspended in volumes of fixative necessary to spread the pellet on slides (0.01 ml fixative per three larvae processed). Eventually, samples were dropped on slides (0.01 ml per slide), air-dried and stained in Giemsa (5% in phosphate buffer, pH 6.8).

#### Measurement of the nuclear DNA content

Flow cytometry was performed on samples of five Californian *E. hispidula* combined with one *Drosophila melanogaster* adult as an internal standard. Male and female adult wasps were analyzed separately, and, for each sex three replicates were performed. To assess the ploidy level, quantification of DNA content was carried out from nuclei derived from head cells, mainly the brain tissue. Nervous tissue in Hymenoptera reflects the true ploidy level of the insect (Aron *et al.*, 2005). Heads were dissected from freshly killed insects and macerated in a drop of Galbraith buffer (Galbraith *et al.*, 1983) with a razor blade to free nuclei. As a size standard, half of a head of *D. melanogaster* was added to each sample. The volume of buffer was adjusted to 1 ml, and the samples were filtered through a 20 µm mesh nylon filter and stained with 75 µl propidium iodide (1 mg ml<sup>-1</sup>) for 1–2 h while kept on ice. The mean fluorescence of stained nuclei in each sample was determined by a Becton Dickinson FACScan flow cytometer, with a 488 nm Argon ion laser, after exclusion of cellular debris and nuclear doublets. Data were analyzed by the software CellQuest.

## Results

Like rifampicin-fed Californian *E. hispidula* (Zchori-Fein *et al.*, 2004), tetracycline-fed females of the Italian population produced all-male adult progeny, whereas naturally infected females produced only daughters. In addition, the number of viable adult offspring produced by tetracycline-treated Italian females was significantly lower (mean of adult sons ± s.d. 4 ± 2.18,

$n = 19$ ) than that produced by untreated females (mean of adult daughters ± s.d. 13.93 ± 2.61,  $n = 14$ ) (analysis of variance (ANOVA) test,  $F_{1,31} = 140.81$ ,  $P = 0$ ). No negative effect of tetracycline on longevity of treated females was found. Longevity did not differ significantly (ANOVA test,  $F_{1,93} = 0.58$ ,  $P = 0.45$ ) between treated (mean ± s.d. 37.02 ± 14.27 days,  $n = 49$ ) and untreated females (mean ± s.d. 34.83 ± 13.77 days,  $n = 46$ ). A reduction of the number of viable offspring produced by treated females was observed also for the Californian population (Zchori-Fein *et al.*, 2004).

PCR assays on untreated females of the Italian *E. hispidula* revealed that all females were positive for *Cardinium* but not for *Wolbachia* and *Rickettsia*. Forty-five percent of tetracycline-treated females remained infected immediately after the antibiotic treatment; in spite of this, the progeny of treated females was always male and *Cardinium* was never detected in any male offspring. Similar results were obtained for Californian *E. hispidula*, with the difference that the uninfected males were produced by rifampicin-treated females and PCR failed to detect *Cardinium* in these females (Zchori-Fein *et al.*, 2004).

Amplifications of the bacterial 16S rDNA extracted from Italian *E. hispidula* produced a fragment of ~1500 bp. After deletion of primers, aligned sequences from 22 out of 24 clones showed a high degree of similarity (average of 99.81%) and had a 99.6–100% similarity with the sequence of *Cardinium* found in the Californian population (GenBank accession number AY331187; Zchori-Fein *et al.*, 2004). Sequences were deposited in GenBank (accession numbers DQ854692–DQ854713). The consensus sequence generated from these clones showed 100% similarity with the sequence of *Cardinium* found in the Californian *E. hispidula*. The sequences of the two remaining clones were only found once; BLAST results from GenBank indicate that one was 99% similar to a *Methylobacterium* sp. (GenBank accession number AM237344), whereas the other did not show any significant match. No evidence exists for involvement of these bacteria in any reproductive manipulation and we consider them to be environmental contaminants. We conclude that *Cardinium* is the only intracellular symbiont of Italian *E. hispidula*, as it is in the Californian population.

The analysis of the male karyotype showed 10 chromosomes in the metaphase plates examined

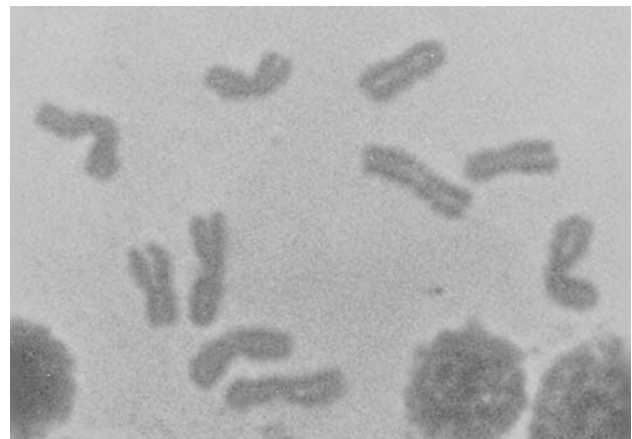


Figure 1 Karyotype of a male of *E. hispidula* ( $2n = 10$ ).

( $n > 100$ ) (Figure 1). Observations of female metaphase preparations ( $n > 100$ ) were consistent with a previous study (Baldanza *et al.*, 1999), which showed, through chromosome banding techniques, that *E. hispidula* females are diploid with karyotype  $2n = 10$ . The flow cytometry analysis ruled out the possibility that male tissue was a mosaic of haploid and diploid cells; we observed no notable differences between the nuclear DNA content of females and males (Figure 2) and thus we conclude that both sexes are entirely diploid.

## Discussion

We found that *Cardinium* is the causal agent of asexual reproduction in an Italian population of *E. hispidula*, as it is in a Californian population. We also found that in both populations, antibiotic-treated females produce only uninfected male progeny. These males have the same ploidy level as females and are diploid. The results suggest that *Cardinium* manipulate the reproduction of *E. hispidula* by feminizing unfertilized diploid male eggs, which then develop into functional adult females.

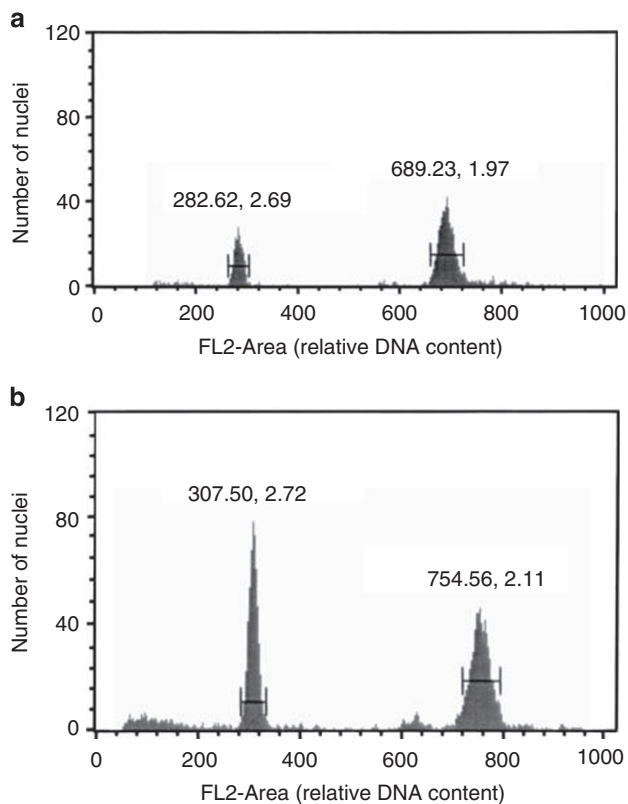
Second, we found that tetracycline treatment of *E. hispidula* has a negative impact on offspring production. This effect is not antibiotic specific, as a reduction in

fertility was also observed when rifampicin was used (Zchori-Fein *et al.*, 2004). We can suggest three non-exclusive hypotheses for lowered fertility: antibiotic toxicity, developmental instability or higher mortality of developing male progeny, and a fitness benefit to the presence of *Cardinium* that is lost after antibiotic curing. Of these, we think antibiotic toxicity may be the least likely hypothesis, although negative effect of antibiotics have been reported in the *Wolbachia*-infected *E. formosa* (Stouthamer and Mak, 2002). Our results show that the antibiotic treatment has no negative effects on the longevity of treated *E. hispidula*. In addition, in three separate studies on *Encarsia* species infected by *Cardinium*, antibiotics did not influence the number of eggs laid (Kenyon and Hunter, 2007) or the fertility of cured females (Hunter *et al.*, 2003; Perlman *et al.*, 2006). Finally, the fitness of *Cardinium*-infected asexual mites has not been negatively influenced by antibiotic treatment (Chigira and Miura, 2005). It is perhaps more plausible to imagine that diploid males may suffer higher developmental mortality, or if immature intersexes occur, they may not survive to adulthood. Finally, it is possible that *Cardinium* is necessary for normal levels of fertility of *E. hispidula*. *Cardinium* could be involved in oogenesis as well as in embryogenesis and larval development. For instance, *Cardinium* infection is associated with an increase of fecundity in a mite host (Weeks and Stouthamer, 2004). In other examples, the reproductive manipulator *Wolbachia* is necessary for oogenesis in a parasitic wasp (Dedeine *et al.*, 2001) and for normal development of eggs in the vine weevil (Son *et al.*, 2008).

## Symbiont-mediated transitions between thelytoky and feminization, haplodiploidy and diploidy

Several microorganisms, including microsporidia and bacteria, are feminizers in diploid arthropods (Rigaud, 1997). *Wolbachia* is a feminizer in two species with female heterogamety (Rigaud, 1997; Hiroki *et al.*, 2002), and in a species with an XX/X0 sex determination system (Negri *et al.*, 2006). Within haplodiploid arthropods, so far, feminization has been reported only for *Cardinium* in the asexual mite *Brevipalpus* where *Cardinium* feminizes unfertilized haploid eggs (Weeks *et al.*, 2001; Chigira and Miura, 2005). This mechanism of feminization in *Brevipalpus* differs from that described here in *E. hispidula*, where unusual diploid males are converted to females.

In the Hymenoptera, thelytoky (asexual reproduction determining the development of diploid female from unfertilized eggs) is common in the superfamily Chalcidoidea (van Wilgenburg *et al.*, 2006), and strongly associated with infections of *Wolbachia* (Huigens and Stouthamer, 2003) or *Cardinium* (Hunter and Zchori-Fein, 2006). In *Wolbachia*-infected parthenogenetic wasps the bacteria are responsible for diploidy restoration in unfertilized eggs (Stouthamer and Kazmer, 1994; Gottlieb *et al.*, 2002; Pannebaker *et al.*, 2004). Recently, a *Rickettsia* has also been found to cause diploidy restoration in a thelytokous chalcidoid species (Adachi-Hagimori *et al.*, 2008). In *E. hispidula*, the observation that antibiotic treatment causes the production of diploid sons suggests either a very early role, or no role for *Cardinium* in diploidy restoration of unfertilized eggs. Because asexual reproduction in the genus *Encarsia* is almost exclusively associated with *Cardinium* infection (Zchori-Fein *et al.*,



**Figure 2** Flow cytometric DNA histograms from a sample of (a) female and (b) male wasps. The number of nuclei with different levels of fluorescence (relative nuclear DNA content) is shown; the mean value of fluorescence and the coefficient of variation are given above the peak. Two major peaks of nuclei can be observed: on the left is the internal standard *D. melanogaster*, on the right is *E. hispidula*. Females and males show similar nuclear DNA content (2.44- and 2.45-fold the standard, respectively); no peak for haploid nuclei occurs in male wasps. Similar results were obtained from all replicates of the experiment (data not shown).

2001), it is highly likely that *Cardinium* is ultimately responsible for the generation of diploid males in *E. hispida*. What cannot currently be determined is whether that role was historical, such that diploidy is now fixed in *E. hispida* and controlled by the host, or whether in development, diploidy restoration is determined upstream of feminization, such that antibiotic treatment prevents the latter, but not the former. Bacterial products formed within the infected mother could be sufficient for diploidy restoration, but live bacteria in the eggs may be necessary to feminize. Similarly, Arakaki *et al.* (2000) suggested that bacterial products, not live *Wolbachia* in the eggs, are necessary for diploidy restoration in the thelytokous parasitoid *Telenomus nawai*. Determining whether *Cardinium* is evolutionarily or currently (during development) responsible for diploidy restoration would allow us to more precisely name the reproductive phenotype as parthenogenesis induction (haploid males convert to diploid females) or feminization in the strict sense (diploid males develop as functional females). This predicament also highlights the close relationship between these two phenotypes of reproductive manipulation; although they are often treated as dichotomous, they may grade into each other.

These results are, to the best of our knowledge, the first report of diploid males associated with symbiont infection in the Chalcidoidea, where the greatest number of records of parthenogenesis induction by symbionts occurs. In addition, diploid males have never been found in the genus *Encarsia* where the occurrence of haploid males is the rule in all sexual species studied so far (Hunter *et al.*, 1993; Baldanza *et al.*, 1999). Aside from our findings in *E. hispida*, only two examples of diploid males are known in the hymenopteran groups where the genetic mechanism of single-locus complementary sex determination (sl-CSD) is absent (Stille and Darving, 1980; Dobson and Tanouye, 1998). In sl-CSD groups, diploid males arise from inbreeding due to homozygosity at the sex locus; heterozygous and hemizygous individuals are females and males, respectively (van Wilgenburg *et al.*, 2006). In the non-CSD bisexual *Nasonia vitripennis* (Chalcidoidea) diploid males may be produced following mutagenesis (Whiting, 1960; Trent *et al.*, 2006). In the other example, diploid males have been recorded in the thelytokous gall wasp *Diplolepis rosae* (Cynipoidea) (Stille and Darving, 1980) where homozygous parthenogenesis is associated with *Wolbachia* infection (van Meer *et al.*, 1999). To our knowledge, however, in PI-*Wolbachia*-infected wasps, there are no studies of antibiotic curing and diploidy restoration that have performed cytogenetic analyses to reveal the ploidy level of the males produced by cured females. The widely accepted explanation for *Wolbachia*-induced parthenogenesis is that *Wolbachia* influences only ploidy level (Huigens and Stouthamer, 2003), and female development of the host then follows without bacterial influence on the sex determination system. It is not yet clear whether this explanation is correct for PI-*Wolbachia*-infected wasps, but our data show it to be false for PI-*Cardinium*. Although diploidy restoration is likely a necessary condition, it is not sufficient to elicit female development in *E. hispida*. *Cardinium* is required to feminize diploid (male) embryos and must interact with elements of the host sex determination system. This contrasts with the recent discovery of a PI-*Rickettsia* able

to induce female development by only diploidization of unfertilized eggs in the parasitoid *Neochrysocharis formosa*; in this system antibiotic treatment of infected females causes the production of haploid males (Adachi-Hagimori *et al.*, 2008).

In Hymenoptera without sl-CSD, the mechanism of sex determination is not well understood. For *Nasonia*, a model based on genomic imprinting, in which female development occurs when paternally inherited genes are present during zygotic development, has been proposed (Dobson and Tanouye, 1998; Beukeboom *et al.*, 2007). One of the difficulties with this model, however, has been its inability to explain female development in impaternal thelytokous wasps without claiming feminization has been taken over by the bacterium. Although models of sex determination developed for *Nasonia* may not apply to all the Chalcidoidea, it is interesting to note that genomic imprinting is consistent with the occurrence of diploid males in *E. hispida* because the progeny inherits only maternally derived genes and *Cardinium* controls sex determination.

Finally, our finding of feminizing *Cardinium* and diploid males in *E. hispida* suggests a possible route for the collapse of haplodiploidy into a diplodiploid genetic system. Hosts may contribute to or take over the process of asexual diploidy restoration from symbionts if this reduces mortality of parthenogenetic daughters. Reversion to diplodiploidy from haplodiploidy is quite rare, but in one of two examples of scale insects highlighted by Normark (2004), symbionts appear to have a function. Although relatives are haplodiploid, Buchner (1965) noted that female embryos in the family Stictococcidae are diploid and infected with a bacterium, whereas males are also diploid, but free of bacteria. The interaction of reproductive manipulators with host sex determination systems may lead to the diversification of arthropod sex determination (Rigaud, 1997; Charlat *et al.*, 2003), and also genetic systems more generally.

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