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1	The impact of biological invasion and genomic local adaptation on the
2	geographical distribution of Aedes aegypti in Panama
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20	Keywords
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22	Aedes mosquitoes, local adaptation, sequence capture, Environmental Association Analysis,
23	arboviral disease landscape, Panama
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25	

26 Abstract

27

28 Local adaptation is an important consideration when predicting arthropod-borne disease risk 29 because it can impact on vector population fitness and persistence. However, the extent that vector 30 populations are adapted to local environmental conditions and whether this can impact on species 31 distributions generally remains unknown. Here we find that the geographic distribution of Ae. 32 acquest across Panama is rapidly changing as a consequence of the recent invasion by its ecological 33 competitor, Aedes albopictus. Although Ae. albopictus has displaced Ae. aegypti in some areas, 34 species coexist across many areas, raising the question: What biological and environmental factors 35 permit population persistence?. Despite low population structure and high gene flow in Ae. aeqypti 36 across Panama, excepting the province of Bocas del Toro, we identify 128 candidate SNPs, clustered 37 within 17 genes, which show a strong genetic signal of local adaptation. This putatively adaptive 38 variation occurs across relatively fine geographic scales with the composition and frequency of 39 candidate adaptive loci differing between populations in wet tropical environments along the 40 Caribbean coast and the dry tropical conditions typical of the Pacific coast of Panama. Temperature 41 and vegetation were important predictors of adaptive genomic variation in Ae. aegypti with 42 potential areas of local adaptation occurring within the Caribbean region of Bocas del Toro, the 43 Pacific coastal areas of Herrera and Panama City and the eastern Azuero Peninsula. Interestingly, 44 several of these locations coincide with areas where Ae. aegypti and Ae. albopictus co-exist, 45 suggesting that Ae. aegypti could have an adaptive edge under local environmental conditions that 46 impacts on inter-specific competition with Ae. albopictus. Our results guide future experimental 47 work by suggesting that locally adapted Ae. aegypti are able to persist on invasion by Ae. albopictus 48 and, as a consequence, may fundamentally alter future arborviral disease risk and efforts to control 49 mosquito populations.

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- 51

52 Author Summary

53

54	Local environmental adaptation of mosquito vectors can alter the landscape of arthropod-borne
55	disease by impacting on life history traits that increase their relative fitness thus promoting
56	population persistence. We have identified a number of genomic loci in Ae. aegypti from Panama
57	that exhibit a signal of natural selection associated with variation in the environment. Loci with a
58	signal of local adaptation are predominately partitioned between wet and dry tropical environments
59	with variation largely impacted by temperature and vegetation indices. Local adaptation in tandem
60	with changes in the geographic distribution of Ae. aegypti due to the recent invasion of its ecological
61	competitor, Ae. albopictus, has the potential to alter the landscape of arborviral disease.
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63	Introduction
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64 65	The establishment and persistence of vectors within new geographic locations poses a serious threat
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65 66 67	from emerging and endemic arboviral diseases [1,2]. For example, shifts in the distribution of ticks and <i>Culex</i> mosquitoes are linked to the rise of West Nile Virus and tick-borne encephalitis viruses
65 66 67 68	from emerging and endemic arboviral diseases [1,2]. For example, shifts in the distribution of ticks and <i>Culex</i> mosquitoes are linked to the rise of West Nile Virus and tick-borne encephalitis viruses within North America [3–5]. In addition, the introduction of invasive <i>Aedes</i> mosquitoes has facilitated
65 66 67 68 69	from emerging and endemic arboviral diseases [1,2]. For example, shifts in the distribution of ticks and <i>Culex</i> mosquitoes are linked to the rise of West Nile Virus and tick-borne encephalitis viruses within North America [3–5]. In addition, the introduction of invasive <i>Aedes</i> mosquitoes has facilitated the recent spread of Zika and Chikungunya viruses throughout the Americas [6,7]. Although

the threat of human arboviruses. However, local environmental adaptation has not yet been

74 characterised for any *Aedes* mosquito.

75

76 The importance of adaptation for human disease is exemplified in *Aedes aegypti*'s evolution to human 77 commensalism and the establishment of a number of arboviruses worldwide [8]. This mosquito has 78 undergone behavioural and genetic changes in comparison to its ancestral African form, including the 79 evolution of house-entering behaviour and a preference for human odour and blood-feeding [9–11]. 80 The adaptation of *Ae. aegypti* to exploit human environments has allowed for the spread of zoonotic 81 arboviral diseases from forest animals to humans and promoted invasiveness through human-assisted 82 dispersal [8]. Another human commensal, Aedes albopictus, is similar to Ae. aegypti across many 83 ecological axes. The tiger mosquito has expanded from Asia within the last ~40 years and is now also 84 globally distributed [12]. In many locations, Ae. albopictus has displaced resident Ae. aegypti [13,14], 85 but the factors that facilitate co-occurrence are still unclear [15]. Identifying the abiotic and biotic 86 factors important in Aedes species interactions, particularly whether the two Aedes mosquitoes 87 coexist is critical. These interactions are likely to fundamentally reshape the arboviral disease 88 landscape worldwide.

89

90 Here we characterize genome-wide variation in Ae. aegypti across Panama and use this data to 91 explore the interplay between invasion history, the potential for local adaptation, and ecological 92 change. Panama provides an ideal opportunity to begin to understand how these factors interact 93 and, ultimately, affect the disease landscape by impacting on Aedes species distributions. Panama is 94 a small country, measuring just 772 kilometres East to West and 185 km North to South, but 95 provides a wealth of contrasting climatic conditions and discrete environments. This is largely owing 96 to its situation as a narrow isthmus flanked by the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean as well as the 97 Cordillera Central mountain range, which acts as a North-South divide. Panama is also a hub of 98 international shipping trade, providing an important route of Aedes mosquito invasion into the 99 Americas. Panama's worldwide connections have potentially facilitated multiple introductions of the invasive Ae. aegypti mosquito dating back to the 18th century in association with the global shipping 100 101 trade [8,16,17]. In addition, the Pan-American highway bisects the country, stretches almost 48,000

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102 km throughout mainland America and provides important conduit for human-assisted dispersal of
 103 *Aedes* mosquitoes [13,18].

104

105	We first investigate how genomic variation in Ae. aegypti is distributed across Panama. Secondly,
106	we evaluate the historical and current geographic distributions of both this mosquito and Ae.
107	albopictus. Aedes albopictus was first documented in Panama in 2002, providing the opportunity to
108	study how the interactions between the two species play out across a heterogeneous landscape.
109	Finally, we investigate whether local environmental adaptation could play a role in Aedes population
110	dynamics by identifying loci with a genomic signal of local adaptation that are associated with
111	discrete environmental conditions. These genomic regions might allow Ae. aegypti populations to
112	persist in competition with invading Ae. albopictus. How this scenario plays out in Panama will
113	provide insight into global species interactions and the spatial heterogeneity of viral transmission.
114	
115	Results
116	
117	Characterisation of sequence variation in Ae. aegypti. We processed 70 Ae. aegypti individuals with
118	hybridisation capture-based enrichment from 14 localities widespread across Panama. An average
119	number of 27,351,514 reads were mapped to the genome for each individual with 62 % of these
120	targeted to the designed capture regions. The mean coverage depth per individual was
121	approximately 74X. After applying stringent quality filters, 371,307 SNP's were identified throughout
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	all captured regions for downstream analyses.
123	all captured regions for downstream analyses.
123 124	Global and local population structure of <i>Ae. aegypti</i> : Our large SNP dataset allowed us to examine

127 previously acquired *Ae. aegypti* SNP dataset from 26 other countries worldwide [19–23].

128 FastStructure analysis revealed that the number of model components and model maximum 129 likelihood were maximised by assigning each individual to between K=4-6 populations (S1 Fig). 130 Similar to that reported previously, we found that the new world variation is composed of an 131 admixture of populations distinct from African and Asian sources at higher values of K [19,20] (S1 132 Fig). Individuals from Panama, Costa Rica, Colombia, the Caribbean islands and populations from 133 Arizona and Texas in South western USA were consistently composed of a similar composition 134 throughout each possible value of K (S1 Fig). Thus, Ae. aegypti from Panama were genetically similar 135 to those found throughout the Americas, consistent with a strong geographic component to the 136 distribution of genetic variation across the world [24]. 137 138 Within Panama, the much larger dataset including all 371,307 SNP's, highlighted significant 139 population structure. There were two major genomic clusters (Fig 1B & 1C) that distinguished 140 individuals from Bocas del Toro province in the western Caribbean region compared to individuals 141 from all other regions across Panama, revealed on both FastStructure and PCA analysis of all SNP's. 142 In addition, Ae. aegypti from the eastern Azuero Peninsula also appeared somewhat genetically 143 discrete (Fig 1C). All areas of Panama, including sampling locations on the Azuero Peninsula had 144 similar levels of heterozygosity and therefore the population differences we observed are not 145 expected to result from a recent population bottleneck or from insecticide spraying treatment, 146 which is irregularly applied during epidemics to target adults only within the urban areas of Panama 147 (Fig 1B).

148

The geographical distribution of *Ae. aegypti* in response to invasion by *Ae. albopictus*. To
understand how the recent introduction of *Ae. albopictus* has shaped populations of *Ae. aegypti*across Panama over the last decade, we coupled historical surveys of mosquito populations with
intensive sampling of focal populations over the last three years. Over the sampling period, there
has been significant changes in the geographic distribution of *Ae. aegypti* (Fig 2). Analysis of all

154 occurrence data throughout all years revealed that the presence of Ae. aegypti is positively and 155 significantly associated with the presence of Ae. albopictus (GLM, Z = 18.93, d.f = 7390, P = 0.000), 156 reflecting the ecological similarity of the two species and the continued expansion of Ae. albopictus 157 throughout much of Ae. gegypti's historical range. Although both species now co-exist in many areas 158 throughout Panama, areas in the wet and humid western Azuero Peninsula, rural Chiriquí, Veraguas 159 and the province of Panamá outside of Panama City (Gamboa and Chilibre), were solely inhabited by 160 Ae. albopictus. This includes regions, from which Ae. aegypti was previously documented by the 161 health authorities, confirming that Ae. albopictus has indeed replaced Ae. aegypti in these areas. The 162 replacement of Ae. aegypti by Ae. albopictus was further supported by a general decrease in the 163 proportion of positive sampling sites. This proportion has decreased for Ae. aegypti since 2005 from 164 ~50 % to ~20 %, while the presence of Ae. albopictus has increased from 0 to ~65 % (S2 Fig). Ae. 165 aegypti continued to be found in high abundance in Bocas del Toro and Darién, where Ae. albopictus 166 has only recently arrived (Darién) or has not yet been documented (Bocas del Toro). 167 Genomic evidence for local adaptation in Ae. aegypti in response to environmental 168 169 heterogeneity across Panama. The spatial environmental heterogeneity of Panama coupled with 170 the recent population changes associated with the introduction of Ae. albopictus provides a 171 framework to ask if there was any evidence that local adaption of Ae. aegypti might allow 172 population persistence. If so, we would expect populations of *Ae. aegypti* to harbour genomic loci 173 with a signal of selection that are correlated to the local environmental conditions. These loci are 174 expected to be present in regions of Aedes co-existence. 175 176 As a first step, we applied redundancy analysis (RDA) to jointly identify candidate outlier loci and to

As a first step, we applied redundancy analysis (RDA) to jointly identify candidate outlier loci and to assess how candidate variation was partitioned among the different environmental variables. In this analysis, we tested a number of environmental variables including Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), average rainfall, average humidity, average minimum and maximum temperature, and

180 human population density. RDA identified 1,154 candidate SNP's with a genomic signal of local 181 adaptation, which we used to visualise putatively adaptive variation on ordination plots. Overall, 182 there was a partitioning of alleles dependant on dry tropical and wet tropical conditions. For 183 example, the position of sampled individuals on the RDA ordination plots, in relation to the depicted 184 environmental variables, revealed that the candidate genotypes of Ae. aegypti from the wet tropical 185 regions of Almirante and Changuinola in Bocas del Toro province were positively associated with 186 humidity and average rainfall. Those from the wet tropical region of Chiriquí Grande in Bocas del 187 Toro were also positively associated with increasing NDVI vegetation index and negatively associated 188 with higher temperatures (Fig 3A). In comparison, the candidate genotypes of individuals from dry 189 tropical regions of Panamá province (i.e., Princesa Mía, Lluvia de Oro, Nuevo Chorrillo), Los Santos 190 (i.e., La Villa de Los Santos, Pedasí), Darién (i.e., Metetí) and David in Chiriquí province were 191 somewhat positively influenced by both temperature variables and negatively associated with wet 192 and vegetated conditions. Putatively adaptive variation in individuals from the province of Colón 193 (i.e., Sabanitas and Portobelo), locations which receive high rainfall but higher temperatures and 194 lower vegetation cover than in Bocas del Toro province, were associated with intermediate 195 temperature and vegetation conditions.

196

197 RDA is robust in detecting adaptive processes that result from weak, multilocus effects across a 198 range of demographic scenarios and sampling designs [25]. However, a proportion of the 1,154 199 candidate loci identified through this single analysis were likely false positives. Thus, rather than 200 reflecting local adaptation, the strongly skewed frequency differences could be reflective of 201 demographic processes such as hierarchical population structure, isolation by distance, allele surfing 202 on range expansion and background selection, as well as, coincidental associations of allele 203 frequencies to environmental variation or even covariance to other environmental factors not 204 included in the analysis [26]. To further refine our identification of putatively adaptive loci, we 205 identified candidates using two additional methods, PCAdapt and Latent Factor Mixed Model

analysis (LFMM). Both are considered less sensitive to confounding demography due to their ability
to account for population structure or unobserved spatial autocorrelation in the data [27]. The three
methods identified different numbers of putatively adaptive loci. For example, compared to the
1,154 outlier SNP's identified by RDA, PCAdapt identified 352 SNP's (S3 Fig), whereas LFMM analysis
identified 3,426 outlier SNP's with a signature of selection widespread across the genome and
associated with the environment respectively (S4 Fig).

212

Across all three methods there were 128 SNP's consistently identified as outliers, providing greater confidence that these loci are located in or close to genomic regions possibly involved in local adaptation. These candidate SNPs fell into 15 distinct clusters, suggesting that linkage disequilibrium was driving some of the observed patterns (S5 Fig). The 128 SNPs fell into 17 genes, 11 of which are annotated as involved in structural functions, enzyme activity and metabolism (S1 Table). None of these genes are known to be involved in the development of insecticide resistance in populations of *Aedes* mosquitoes.

220

221 We further narrowed down which of the environmental variables contributed most to the 222 partitioning of genomic variation using a combination of Generalised Dissimilarity Modelling (GDM) 223 and Gradient Forests (GF) analyses. Both approaches allowed us to visualize the allelic turnover of 224 these putatively adaptive loci in relation to each environmental variable. The environmental 225 variables that contributed the greatest variance to both GDM and GF models on analysis of the 128 226 candidate loci were minimum and maximum temperature (S2 Table, S6 Fig). GDM analysis revealed 227 that an increase in average minimum temperature accompanied a large change in putatively 228 adaptive allele frequencies, visualised as a smooth curve accumulating in a steeper incline at the 229 higher temperature range (Fig 3B). In comparison, GF turnover plots show a steeper incline at the 230 mid-range for both average minimum and maximum temperature (S7 & S8 Fig). GDM analysis also 231 revealed a distinct frequency change in putatively adaptive alleles with increasing NDVI vegetation

index, although the change in allele frequency was relatively minor compared to that of minimum
temperature (Fig 3B). In comparison, a low to negligible difference in allele frequency was observed
in association with average rainfall, average humidity and human population density. Therefore, the
variation in putatively adaptive allele frequencies between populations from dry tropical and wet
tropical environments of Panama appears largely driven by differences in temperature and NDVI
vegetation index.

238

239 The geographic distribution of candidate adaptive alleles in relation to the present 240 distribution of Ae. albopictus. Across our 128 candidate SNP's, we used GDM and GF analysis to 241 visualise the change in frequencies across Panama, and therefore the geographical landscape 242 features which increase or decrease the genomic signature of local adaptation in relation to the 243 environment. GDM analysis presented a smoother turnover in the geographical distribution of 244 putatively adaptive loci than that of putatively neutral loci as indicated by a smoother transition in 245 the colour palette between proximal geographic locations (Fig 4A & 4B). For example, there was 246 similarity in the colouring and therefore allele composition between wet tropical regions along the 247 Caribbean coast (i.e., the mainland/islands of Bocas del Toro, Chiriquí, and both the inland and 248 Caribbean coastal regions stretching from Bocas del Toro through Veraguas to Colón). Similarly, 249 there was greater continuity between dry tropical areas including David in Chiriquí, the eastern 250 Azuero Peninsula (i.e., La Villa de Los Santos and Pedasí), the Pacific coastal regions stretching from 251 the Azuero Peninsula through Coclé to Panamá, and the Darién (i.e., Metetí), indicating that these 252 environments share putatively adaptive alleles. Patterns in the data were less distinct for GF analysis 253 but the geographical distribution of putatively adaptive variation agreed with the GDM analysis in 254 that there was a continuity in the allele composition between the eastern Azuero Peninsula and dry 255 tropical Pacific coastal regions, distinct from the wet tropical regions along the Caribbean coast (S9 256 Fig).

257

258 Allele frequency turnover as predicted under neutral conditions and a scenario of local adaptation 259 involving the candidate loci were compared across geographical space to identify locations that 260 show the greatest disparity. These reflected the populations within Panama expected to be 261 experiencing a strong genomic signal of local adaptation. Their comparison revealed multiple 262 patches of potential local adaptation widespread across Panama, with a palpable patch occurring in 263 the Azuero Peninsula, as indicated by a high distance between the patterns of predicted 264 compositional allele frequency turnover (Fig 4C). A genomic signal of local adaptation was not 265 identified in the region of Bocas del Toro. Since this region has a strong population structure and 266 distinct climate within Panama, it is likely that the co-correlation of population structure and 267 environmental variation across our sampling design hindered the inference of possible local 268 adaptation in this case. This conclusion was supported by FastStructure analysis of the 128 269 putatively adaptive loci, which revealed that Ae. aegypti from the wet tropical region Bocas del Toro 270 has a distinct allele composition composed of alleles assigned to a distinct composition of K 271 populations, including unique alleles in addition to those shared broadly across the dry tropical 272 regions of Panama (S10 Fig). Although the Talamanca mountain range was documented as a natural 273 geographical barrier to dispersal across the region of Bocas del Toro for some Anopheles mosquitoes 274 [28], this was not expected to hinder gene flow in Ae. aegypti, since human-assisted movement of 275 this mosquito occurs via the local transport network [18]. Partitioning of the genomic data into 6=K 276 populations revealed that Sabanitas on the Caribbean coast, which is subject to intermediate climate 277 conditions, shared some of the distinct alleles present in Bocas del Toro. Moreover, individuals from 278 the Azuero Peninsula, the driest and least vegetated region of Panama, were also somewhat distinct 279 from other sampled regions since they had reduced levels of admixture.

280

Comparison of the geographical distribution of putatively locally adapted *Ae. aegypti* as revealed by
 GDM analysis and the species distribution data revealed that both *Ae. aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus* tended to co-occur in regions where *Ae. aegypti* have divergent candidate loci, despite evidence for

- 284 species replacement elsewhere (Fig 5). Notably long-term co-existence was documented with the
- 285 Pacific regions of Panama City, Coclé, the eastern Azuero Peninsula and potentially David in Pacific
- 286 Chiriquí, where patches of local adaptation in *Ae. aegypti* were identified.
- 287
- 288 Discussion
- 289

290 We combined genomic and ecological data to investigate whether Ae. aeqypti have a signal of local 291 adaptation to the environment, and to investigate whether this variation could influence species 292 persistence on invasion by the recently introduced competitor Ae. albopictus. We first documented 293 how fine-scale genomic variation within Ae. aegypti is distributed across a complex environment 294 [11]. On a regional scale, Panamanian populations of Ae. aegypti are genetically similar to other 295 Central and Caribbean American populations highlighting high dispersal potential and recent gene 296 flow in this invasive species; however, this similarity belies a more complex local genomic 297 architecture. Across Panama, genomic variation was not structured randomly, with the isolated 298 Bocas del Toro region showing significant overall population differentiation. Across the rest of 299 Panama, populations are more homogeneous suggesting high levels of gene flow, likely facilitated by 300 the dispersal of Aedes mosquitoes in used tyres that are traded along the Pan-American highway 301 [18]. Nonetheless, a subset of genomic variation was differentially distributed with evidence of 302 localised adaptation across a relatively small number of SNPs and over a relatively fine geographical 303 scale. Genomic variation in these SNPs was strongly correlated with temperature and NDVI 304 vegetation index. Both these abiotic variables were previously identified as important in predicting 305 large-scale Aedes distribution patterns [12]. Temperature is important for egg laying, development 306 and survival of Ae. aegypti in larval habitats [29] and likely to promote selection to thermal tolerance 307 at the adult stage to resist diurnal and inter-seasonal variation [30]. Vegetation is considered an 308 important variable that contributes to oviposition cues [31], feeding dynamics [32] and microhabitat 309 characteristics such as local moisture supply and shade [33,34]. Although correlational, the genomic

patterns raise an important question: Is population persistence in the face of an ongoing invasion by*Ae. albopictus* the result of local adaptation?

312

313 The possibility of climatically adapted populations of *Ae. aegypti* is not without precedence. Data on 314 a wide range of organisms with varying dispersal abilities [35–41] demonstrate that even well-315 connected populations can adapt to environmental differences and habitat heterogeneity across 316 narrow spatial scales. Similar to other landscape genomics studies on plants [42–44], insects [45] 317 and vertebrates [46], we have found a signal of local environmental adaptation across a small 318 number of loci. The inability to identify more putative regions under selection may be the result of 319 the analytical difficulties weak multilocus signatures from the genomic differentiation introduced by 320 genetic drift and demography [25,47]. However, selection on just a few loci with large effects is 321 expected when migration is high since large effect loci are better able to resist the homogenising 322 effects of gene flow [48]. These few regions are expected to have a strong impact on fitness in one 323 environment over the other because the allele with the highest fitness is expected to spread to all 324 populations if this condition is not met [48].

325

326 The pattern of recent population distribution change in Ae. aegypti in response to the introduction 327 of Ae. albopictus was also consistent with local adaption. Similar to studies from the South Eastern 328 USA and Bermuda [49–54], we have found that species co-occurrence is condition dependant, with 329 the long-term persistence of *Ae. aegypti* occurring throughout many areas despite invasion by *Ae*. 330 albopictus 7 to 15 years ago. Previous studies have suggested Ae. aegypti is able to persist in dry 331 climate conditions and/or urban environments because they are better adapted [15 and refs within]. 332 The eggs of Ae. aegypti are more tolerant to higher temperatures and desiccation in comparison to 333 the eggs of Ae. albopictus, which are able to survive lower temperatures through diapause [15,55]. 334 Consistent with the prediction that local environmental adaptation contributes to Ae. aegypti 335 persistence, we found putatively adaptive loci within the dry tropical Pacific regions of Chiriquí

336 (David), Coclé, the eastern Azuero Peninsula and provincial Panamá where both species co-occur. 337 There was also genetic evidence for local adaptation in the isolated wet tropical region of Bocas del 338 Toro and Costa Abajo near Colon, but whether this variation will allow Ae. aegypti to resist invasion 339 by Ae. albopictus is unknown, given that Ae. albopictus was only recorded in Costa Abajo in 2018 and 340 has not yet reached Bocas del Toro. Alternatively, the present patterns of species co-existence could 341 simply reflect the abilities of Aedes species to exploit a different ecological niche without involving 342 local environmental adaptation. Nonetheless, this doesn't reconcile the fact that Ae. aegypti is no 343 longer found in many areas where candidate adaptive alleles were not detected. Our findings 344 provide us with clear testable hypotheses moving forward. For example, if the genomic regions we 345 identified are adaptive, then we expect genotype specific survival under different environmental 346 conditions, which can be tested in a common garden with reciprocal transplant experiment in the 347 presence of an ecological competitor.

348

349 The presence of locally adapted populations of *Ae. aegypti* could have a significant impact on the 350 future arboviral disease landscape. Climate variables, most notably precipitation and temperature 351 associated with altitudinal and latitudinal clines, are able to drive population differentiation in both 352 Anopheles mosquitoes and Drosophila flies [56–59]. In the former, the Anopheles gambiae species 353 complex is hypothesised to have radiated through ecological speciation driven by adaptation to 354 aridity and in response to larval habitat competition. This has led to a series of ecotypes with semi-355 permeable species boundaries [60]. The resulting differences among ecotypes in anthropophily and 356 the adult resting behaviour has a significant impact on malaria transmission risk [61]. Thus, at the 357 most basic level, differentially adapted population variants of Ae. aegypti across Panama, could have 358 different abilities to vector arboviral disease [62–67]. In addition, environmental adaptation would 359 need to be considered in spatially predictive models. Currently, species geographic distribution or 360 disease prediction models incorporate a set of environmental parameters coupled with a predicted 361 outcome on mosquito biology and abundance without considering adaptive response [68,69].

362 Assuming that the whole population will respond to environmental precursors as a homogenous unit 363 is erroneous when local adaptation is present and considering adaptability as a parameter, in 364 combination with the environmental response, will improve the accuracy of future projections 365 [12,70]. Furthermore, the presence of locally adapted populations threatens the efficiency of gene 366 drive systems aimed at promoting disease resistance within mosquito populations. This is because 367 environmental differences between sites, as well as physical geographical barriers, will restrict 368 mosquito dispersal and therefore limit the spread of beneficial alleles or inherited bacteria [71]. 369 However, if locally adaptive alleles are well-characterised, this knowledge could also potentially be exploited. A more tailored approach could improve gene drive efficiency, since locally adapted 370 371 individuals are theoretically more likely to survive to pass on the intended benefit to the next 372 generation. 373 374 If local environmental adaptation is proven to influence Aedes co-occurrence, then this could 375 facilitate the emergence of sylvatic arboviral disease. Ae. albopictus is an opportunistic feeder, able 376 to utilise a wide range of peri-domestic habitats outside of its native range [72,73] and the species 377 could act as an efficient bridge vector for emergent zoonotic diseases from the forest [73]. The 378 addition of the specialised commensal Ae. aegypti, provides the opportunity for any emergent 379 epidemic to spread and be maintained within the urban population [8–11]. This scenario may have

happened recently, where yellow fever virus re-emerged from forest reservoirs in Brazil [74]. In this case, the re-emergence was a function of both ecological changes and vaccination frequency. Unlike yellow fever virus, there is no vaccination against dengue, Zika, or chikungunya, reinforcing the role that ecological changes will likely play in future epidemics.

384

385 **Conclusion:** The identification of small number of putatively adaptive genomic intervals provides

386 exceptional experimental opportunities to determine 1) If these regions are in fact under selection,

2) How selection might be acting if our hypothesis is true. Defining species fitness in association with

388	our candidate loci will allow us to untangle the interplay between genomic process, the
389	environment, species competition and how these resolve the spatial distribution and abundance of
390	medically important Ae. aegypti. Advances will be used to improve the accuracy of disease
391	prediction models and characterise the genomic basis of adaptations with the capacity to alter the
392	epidemiological landscape.
393	
394	Materials and Methods
395	
396	Mosquito Sampling Aedes mosquitoes were collected through active surveillance and oviposition
397	traps placed across 35 settlements and nine provinces of Panama from 2016 and 2018 (S3 Table).
398	Immature stages of Aedes from each trap were reared to adulthood as separate collections in the
399	laboratory, identified using the morphological key of Rueda et al. [75] and stored in absolute ethanol
400	at -20°C.
401	
402	Genomics data. DNA was extracted from 70 Ae. aegypti (Fig 1A), representing populations subject to
403	different environmental conditions using a modified phenol chloroform method [76]. To identify
404	putative regions involved in the local adaption of Ae. aegypti, 26.74 Mb of the AaeL3 exome were
405	targeted for capture. For each sample, 100 ng DNA was mechanically sheared to fragment sizes of \sim
406	350-500 base pairs and processed to add Illumina adapters using the Kapa Hyperprep kit. Amplified
407	libraries were assessed on a Bioanalyser and Qubit before 24 uniquely barcoded individuals each
408	were pooled to a combined mass of 1 μg to create three libraries of 24 individuals for hybridization.
409	Sequence capture of exonic regions was performed on each pool according to the NimbleGen
410	SeqCap EZ HyperCap workflow and using custom probes designed by Roche for the regions we
411	specified (S1 Dataset).

413	Low quality base calls (<20) and Illumina adapters were trimmed from sequence ends with
414	TrimGalore [77], before alignment to the Ae. aegypti AaeL5 reference genome with Burrows-
415	Wheeler aligner [78]. Read duplicates were removed with BamUtil. Sequence reads were processed
416	according to the GATK best practise recommendations, trained with a hard-filtered subset of SNPs
417	using online recommendations (https://gatkforums.broadinstitute.org/gatk/discussion/2806/howto-
418	apply-hard-filters-to-a-call-set). SNPs were called with a heterozygosity prior 0.0014 synonymous to
419	previously reported values of theta [24]. Filters applied to the resulting SNP dataset included a
420	minimum quality of 30, minimum depth of 30, minimum mean depth of 20, maximum 95 % missing
421	data across individuals and a minor allele frequency ≥ 0.01. Indels were additionally removed to
422	reduce uncertainty in true variable sites by poor alignment to the reference genome.
423	
424	Environmental Data. Climate variables including average rainfall, average humidity, average
425	minimum and maximum temperature difference, average minimum temperature and average
425 426	minimum and maximum temperature difference, average minimum temperature and average maximum temperature were obtained for each collection site from interpolated raster layers
426	maximum temperature were obtained for each collection site from interpolated raster layers
426 427	maximum temperature were obtained for each collection site from interpolated raster layers composed of values reported by Empresa de Transmisión Eléctrica Panameña (ETESA). All available
426 427 428	maximum temperature were obtained for each collection site from interpolated raster layers composed of values reported by Empresa de Transmisión Eléctrica Panameña (ETESA). All available data points from 2010 to 2017 representing 50-60 meteorological stations across Panama were
426 427 428 429	maximum temperature were obtained for each collection site from interpolated raster layers composed of values reported by Empresa de Transmisión Eléctrica Panameña (ETESA). All available data points from 2010 to 2017 representing 50-60 meteorological stations across Panama were averaged. NDVI vegetation indexes for Panama were obtained from MODIS Vegetation Indices 16-
426 427 428 429 430	maximum temperature were obtained for each collection site from interpolated raster layers composed of values reported by Empresa de Transmisión Eléctrica Panameña (ETESA). All available data points from 2010 to 2017 representing 50-60 meteorological stations across Panama were averaged. NDVI vegetation indexes for Panama were obtained from MODIS Vegetation Indices 16- day L3 Global 250m products (NASA, USA) with values averaged over all available images from 2010
426 427 428 429 430 431	maximum temperature were obtained for each collection site from interpolated raster layers composed of values reported by Empresa de Transmisión Eléctrica Panameña (ETESA). All available data points from 2010 to 2017 representing 50-60 meteorological stations across Panama were averaged. NDVI vegetation indexes for Panama were obtained from MODIS Vegetation Indices 16- day L3 Global 250m products (NASA, USA) with values averaged over all available images from 2010 to 2017. Human population density values were obtained from Instituto Nacional de Estadística y
426 427 428 429 430 431 432	maximum temperature were obtained for each collection site from interpolated raster layers composed of values reported by Empresa de Transmisión Eléctrica Panameña (ETESA). All available data points from 2010 to 2017 representing 50-60 meteorological stations across Panama were averaged. NDVI vegetation indexes for Panama were obtained from MODIS Vegetation Indices 16- day L3 Global 250m products (NASA, USA) with values averaged over all available images from 2010 to 2017. Human population density values were obtained from Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censo 2010. Raster layers for Generalised Dissimilarity Models and Gradient Forest analyses were
426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433	maximum temperature were obtained for each collection site from interpolated raster layers composed of values reported by Empresa de Transmisión Eléctrica Panameña (ETESA). All available data points from 2010 to 2017 representing 50-60 meteorological stations across Panama were averaged. NDVI vegetation indexes for Panama were obtained from MODIS Vegetation Indices 16- day L3 Global 250m products (NASA, USA) with values averaged over all available images from 2010 to 2017. Human population density values were obtained from Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censo 2010. Raster layers for Generalised Dissimilarity Models and Gradient Forest analyses were created for each variable by inverse distance interpolation across the extent of Panama to a

437 One variable, average minimum and maximum temperature difference was removed from analysis

438 because it was highly correlated with the other temperature variables (>0.8 correlation coefficient).

439 All other variable comparisons had a correlation coefficient below 0.7 and were retained for analysis440 (S4 Table).

441

442 **Analysis of population structure.** FastStructure was also applied to all loci to infer the ancestry 443 proportions of K modelled populations [81]. The optimal model complexity (K*e) was chosen to be 444 two populations using the python script chooseK.py and confirmed by a PCA of all loci performed 445 with the R package PCAdapt [82] (see Analysis of local environmental adaptation below). 446 FastStructure analysis with a logistic prior was also applied to 2,630 SNP's shared with a worldwide 447 SNP dataset representing Ae. aegypti from 26 different countries [19–23]. 448 449 Species distribution analysis. Historical data on species distributions from 2005 to 2017 was 450 obtained from the Panamanian Ministry of Health (MINSA). This data was obtained through active 451 surveillance of settlements regardless of time of year. A binomial Generalised Linear Model was 452 performed to test for an association between the presence and absence of Ae. aegypti with the 453 presence and absence of Ae. albopictus using the species occurrence data obtained from both 454 MINSA and our own sampling using the Stats package in R [80]. The proportion of sampling sites 455 positive for Ae. aegypti and Ae. albopictus presence from 2005 through 2018 were calculated by 456 combining our mosquito surveillance data with that obtained from MINSA. Maps of the species 457 distribution of Ae. aegypti and Ae. albopictus were produced in QGIS [79]. 458 459 Analysis of local environmental adaptation. To identify loci with a signal of selection differentiated

across regional environmental conditions, three methods with different underlying algorithms and
 assumptions were applied. Two EAA approaches, redundancy analysis (RDA) and latent factor mixed
 models (LFMM) were implemented to identify loci associated with environmental predictors. RDA
 uses multivariate regression to detect genomic variation across environmental predictors as
 expected from a multilocus signature of selection [25]. In comparison, LFMM is a univariate

465 approach which models background variation using latent factors, while simultaneously correlating 466 the observed genotype frequencies of individuals to each environmental variable [83]. Before 467 implementation of RDA, missing genotype values were imputed as the most common across all 468 individuals. Loci which are strongly correlated to environmental predictors were then identified 469 through multivariate linear regression of the genomic data with the environmental variables 470 followed by constrained ordination of the fitted values as implemented with the RDA function in the 471 R package Vegan [84]. Multi collinearity of the data was verified to be low as indicated by genomic 472 inflation factors ranging from 1.31-5.80. Candidate loci were then identified as those which 473 contribute most to the significant axes as determined by F statistics [85]. To account for population 474 structure, we applied two latent factors to our LFMM analysis based on the PCA and scree plots of 475 proportion of explained variance produced with PCAdapt (see below). As per recommendations to 476 improve power, we filtered our data before analysis to include only sites with an MAF > 5 % and 477 analysed our data with five separate LFMM runs, each with 20,000 cycles after an initial burn-in 478 period of 10,000 cycles. Median Z-scores were calculated from the five runs and Bonferroni 479 corrected for multiple tests, before loci significantly correlated with environmental variables were 480 identified based on a false discovery rate of 10 % using the Benjamini-Hochberg procedure outlined 481 in the program documentation. Visualisation of the Bonferroni adjusted probability values for the 482 loci correlated with each environmental factor revealed that the majority of probability values were 483 at a flat distribution while those correlated with environmental variables were within a peak close to 484 0, indicating that confounding factors were under control. In addition to the two EAA analyses, 485 PCAdapt was applied to identify loci putatively under selection pressure because they deviate from 486 the typical distribution of the test statistic Z [82]. Two K populations were chosen to account for 487 neutral population structure in the data based on scree plots of the proportion of explained variance 488 and visual inspection of PCA and STRUCTURE plots which revealed that populations from the region 489 of Bocas del Toro form a distinct genomic grouping (Fig 1, S11 Fig).

490

491 Distribution of candidate loci across geographical space. Both putatively neutral and adaptive 492 genomic variation was visualised across geographic space using Generalised Dissimilarity Modelling 493 (GDM) and Gradient Forests (GF) analysis [86]. GDM is a regression-based approach which maps 494 allelic turnover using non-linear functions of environmental distance in relation to F_{ST} genetic 495 distance. In comparison, GF uses a machine learning regression tree approach. Through subsetting 496 the genomic and environmental data, the algorithm determines the degree of change for each allele 497 along an environmental gradient and calculates the resulting split importance. Allelic turnover was 498 investigated for both a set of reference SNP's, not expected to be under selective pressure, as well 499 as the loci putatively involved in local adaptation as jointly identified by LFMM, PCAdapt analysis and 500 RDA. SNP's representative of neutral variation included those not identified as a candidate outlier by 501 any of the three methods. So as to reduce the dataset and avoid inclusion of strongly linked loci, 502 SNP's were thinned by a distance of 10 KB, an appropriate cut-off as indicated by the calculation of 503 R₂ linkage disequilibrium values for this dataset (S12 Fig).

504

505 To perform GDM analysis, the R program StAMPP [87] was used to generate the input FST matrixes 506 and BBmisc [88] used to rescale the distances between 0 and 1. Environmental and genetic distance 507 data were converted to GDM format and analysis performed using the R package GDM [89]. GF 508 analysis [90] was implemented on a matrix of minor allele frequencies for each SNP for both the 509 reference and candidate datasets, obtained through VCFtools [91]. Both SNP datasets only included 510 loci present in at least 11 of 14 populations to ensure robust regression. The model was fitted with 511 2,000 regression trees, a correlation threshold of 0.5 and variable importance computed by 512 conditional permutation with a distribution maximum of 1.37. Both analyses included Moran's 513 eigenvector map (MEM) variables which are weightings derived from the geographic coordinates of 514 sampling locations used to model unmeasured environmental variation and geographic distance 515 analogous to latent factors [86]. To visualise the patterns in allele variation across space, PCA was 516 used to reduce the variability into three factors. The difference in genomic composition was mapped

517	across the landscape of Panama by assigning the three centred principle components to RGB
518	colours; similar genomic composition across space is indicated by a similar colour shade. The
519	difference in allele turnover for the reference and candidate dataset was characterised to explore
520	whether allelic turnover was greater than predicted under neutral expectations. Exploration was
521	achieved by comparing and visualising the compositional turnover of allele frequencies for both
522	reference and candidate SNP dataset across geographical space using a Procrustes superimposition
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524	
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532	Author contributions
533	
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536	analysis and figure preparation. KLB wrote the manuscript with contributions from WOM and JRL.
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546	Ethics Statement			
547	Field research conducted in Panama was authorised under the Ministerio de Ambiente permit			
548	number SE/A-67-2016-9.			
549				
550	Data availability			
551				
552	SNP da	ata is available in the Sequence Read Archive data repository XXX		
553				
554	Comp	eting interests		
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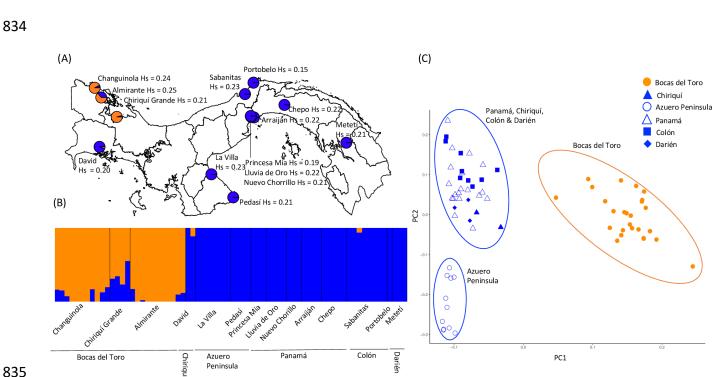
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836 Fig 1. Strong local population structure within the context of regional homogeneity and global

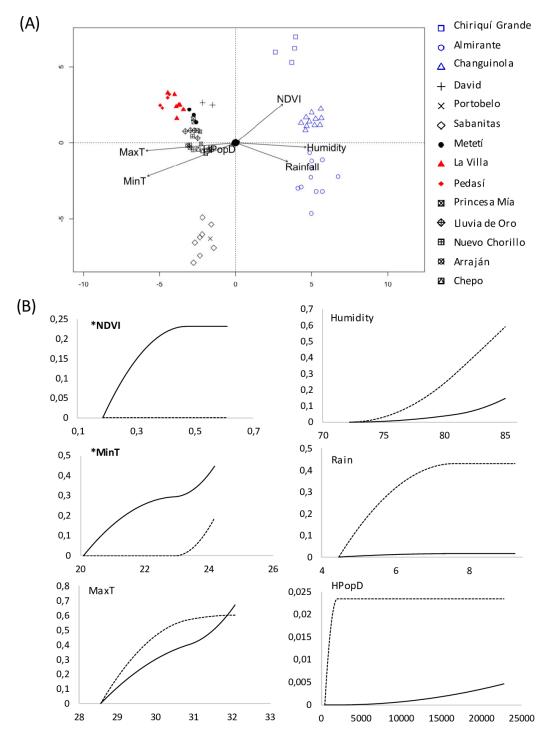
837 population structure: (A) FastStructure plot of K=6 populations comparing 2,630 SNP's in individuals

838 of Ae. aegypti from Bocas del Toro and the rest of Panama to genetically similar populations

839 originating from South-western USA, Caribbean islands, Costa Rica and Columbia. FastStructure

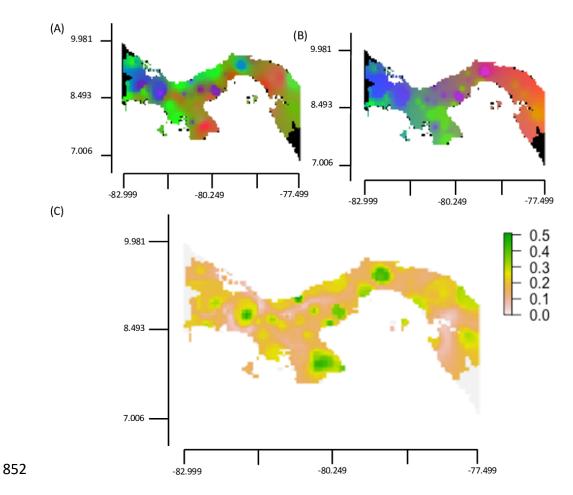
840 assigns each individual to one or more K populations, as indicated by its colour. Genetically similar

- 841 populations share the same colour or similar admixture composition on comparison. (B) Admixture
- 842 proportions of K=2 populations in relation to sampling locations and population heterozygosity Hs of
- 843 Ae. aegypti across Panama as determined by FastStructure for 371,307 SNP's. (C) PCA of all Ae.
- 844 aegypti SNP's grouped by region.
- 845





- 848 The presence of *Ae. aegypti* (orange), *Ae. albopictus* (blue) and species co-occurrence (yellow)
- recorded by extensive sampling with both active surveillance and oviposition traps during the wet season months from 2016 through to 2018 in comparison to (B) Species occurrence data recorded
- 851 from 2005 through 2017 through active surveillance by the Ministry of Health in Panama.



853 Fig 3. Putative adaptive variation in *Ae. aegypti* is partitioned between wet and dry tropical

854 **environments and associated with temperature and vegetation indices**: (A) Ordination triplot of 855 the first two constrained ordination axes of the redundancy analysis representing SNP's either

856 positively or negatively associated with the environmental variables as depicted by the position of

the arrows. *Ae. aegypti* from the wettest region (blue) and driest region (red) are highlighted. (B)
Compositional turnover splines for GDM analysis for the reference loci that are putatively neutral

859 (dashed line) and the 128 candidate loci with a signal of local adaptation (black line) in association

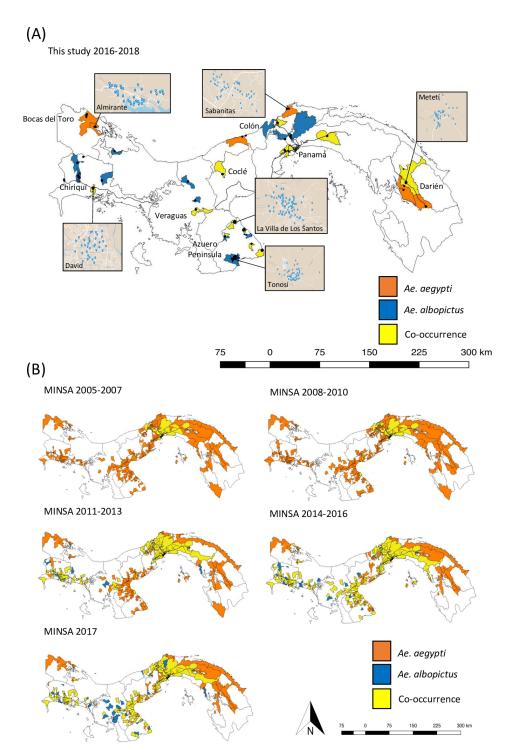
860 with NDVI vegetation index (NDVI), average minimum temperature (MinT), average maximum

temperature (MaxT), average humidity (Humidity), average rainfall (Rain) and human population

862 density (HPopD). A change in allele frequency relative to the reference loci is seen in the putatively

adaptive alleles with increasing values of NDVI and MinT, marked in bold with an asterix.

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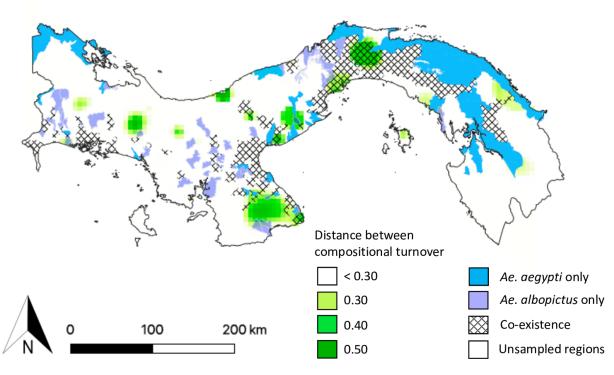


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867 Fig 4. Patches of local adaptation are revealed on comparison of putative neutral and adaptive

868 variation across geographical space: RGB maps of compositional allele frequency turner over across 869 geographical space based on GDM analysis of (A) putatively neutral loci, (B) the 128 candidate loci 870 with a signal of local adaptation and (C) the difference in allele compositional turnover between the 871 putatively neutral reference loci and putatively adaptive candidate dataset using a Procrustes 872 superimposition on the PCA ordinations. On maps (A) and (B), the dissimilarity between allele 873 composition is depicted by an increasing divergent colour spectrum. Locations with a similar allele 874 composition are a similar colour. On map (C), the scale represents the distance between the allele 875 compositional turnover of the reference and candidate SNP datasets, with higher distances 876 indicating areas that are potentially experiencing local adaptation. 877

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879 Fig 5. Putatively adaptive loci are predicted in Ae. aegypti populations within areas of species co-880 existence. Corregimientos with Aedes co-occurrence (dashed areas) are shown based on the most 881 recent species distributions recorded during this study in 2018 and in other sampled regions by 882 MINSA in 2017. The co-occurrence data is overlaid onto the compositional turnover of the reference 883 and candidate SNP dataset from Figure 4., with values greater than 0.30 shown. Green coloured 884 areas represent regions with a greater predicted distance between the allele composition of the 885 reference and candidate datasets, indicating the potential presence of locally adapted Ae. aegypti. 886 Corregimientos where only Ae. aegypti (blue) and Ae. albopictus (purple) were present are also 887 indicated.