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Allozyme similarity between the pied and collared flycatchers (Aves: *Ficedula hypoleuca* and *F. albicollis*)

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ABSTRACT

The genetic differentiation between two closely related Old World flycatchers, *Ficedula hypoleuca* and *F. albicollis*, was studied by protein electrophoresis. These species hybridize in areas of geographic overlap and only hybrid males appear to be fertile. A total of 170 *F. hypoleuca* from four localities, and 63 *F. albicollis* from three localities were sampled. The proportion of polymorphic loci, among the 35 loci investigated, was 11.4 % for *F. hypoleuca* and 8.6 % for *F. albicollis*. The average heterozygosity was 0.9 % and 1.4 %, respectively. No fixed allelic differences could be found between the species, and, among 8 variable loci, only three showed significant allele frequency differences. The relative gene diversity (G_{ST}) between the species was 2.4 %; thus most variation (97.6 %) occurred within each species. Nei's genetic distance was 0.0006 ± 0.0003 . The low genetic differentiation found between these two flycatchers is discussed in the light of extensive introgression since their speciation.

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