

## **Non-contact competition in a sessile marine invertebrate: causes and consequences**

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### **Supplement.**

As fecundity may scale more with size than age in colonial organisms, we ensured that all colonies were the same size when transplanted across density treatments. Based on Experiment 2, we knew that conspecific density slowed the growth of focal colonies such that colonies exposed to high density took 4 days longer to reach the equivalent size of colonies exposed to low density. Consequently, high-density treatments were deployed 4 days prior to low density treatments. When the colony size in high and low-density treatments was matched, focal individuals were reciprocally transplanted among treatments (Fig. S1). As colonies were deployed on separate days, we had to include an extra set of transplants to ensure that our deployment staggering wasn't confounded over a temporal scale (Fig. S2).

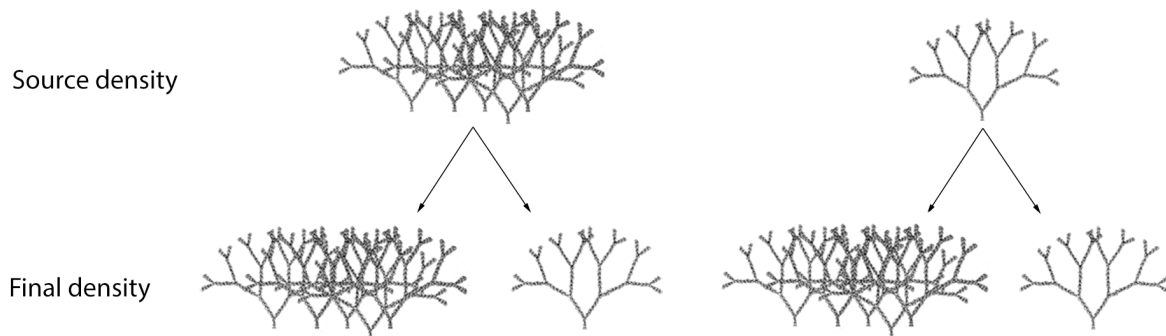


Fig. S1. Simple reciprocal transplant experiment design for two densities. Colonies which originated in high density were moved to high density and low density. Similarly, colonies originating in low density were moved to a low density and high density.

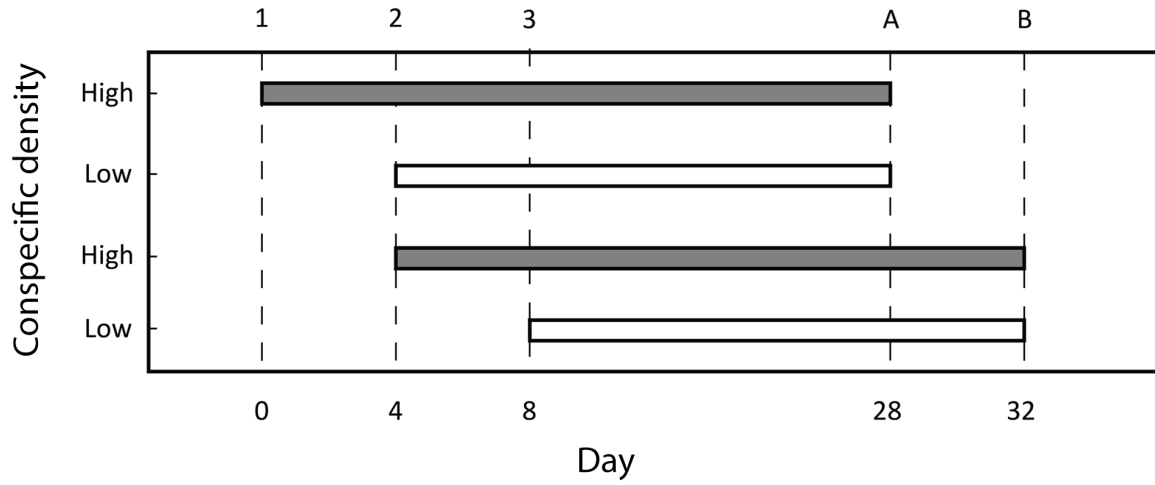


Fig. S2. A schematic diagram of the time delay to control colony size at transplantation - colonies in low density grew faster than those in high density. To ensure that there was no effect of time, a new run was deployed 4 days later. The x-axis represents the day at which colonies were either grown or transplanted, and the y-axis represents the high and low density environments. Dashed lines represent when each treatment was deployed in the field (label 1, 2, 3), or when the colonies were transplanted (label A, B).