

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Ontogenetic skull variation in an Amazonian population of lowland tapir, *Tapirus terrestris* (Mammalia: Perissodactyla) in the department of Loreto, Peru

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ABSTRACT

The skulls of 54 specimens of the South American tapir, *Tapirus terrestris* collected in the department of Loreto, Peru were measured, analyzed and compared to investigate skull development of this species. Univariate, multivariate and allometric analyses were performed using 32 skull variables through traditional morphometrics. Significant skull shape variation was detected among ontogenetic classes. Young individuals (class I, n = 22) showed higher variation than subadults and adults (class II, n = 23 and class III, n = 9), without evidence of sexual dimorphism (males = 35, females = 19). Principal component analyses and discriminant function analysis showed almost complete separation of the age classes. Allometric analysis indicated a tendency of unproportioned cranial growth. All our samples come from the same population living under the same ecological condition, which eliminates the effect of confounding variables related to habitat on the pattern of ontogenetic variation of this anatomical structure.

KEYWORDS: Amazonia; morphology; skull; tapir, ontogeny

Variación ontogenética de cráneos en una población amazónica del tapir sudamericano, *Tapirus terrestris* (Mammalia: Perissodactyla) en Loreto, Perú

RESUMEN

Se midió, analizó y comparó 54 cráneos de tapir sudamericano, *Tapirus terrestris* recolectados en el departamento de Loreto, Perú, para investigar el desarrollo craneal de esta especie. Se realizaron análisis univariados, multivariados y alométricos de los cráneos utilizando 32 variables mediante morfometría tradicional. Se detectó una variación significativa de la forma del cráneo entre clases ontogenéticas. Los individuos más jóvenes (clase I, n = 22) mostraron mayor variación que subadultos y adultos (clases II, n = 23 y III, n = 9), pero sin evidencia de dimorfismo sexual (machos = 35, hembras = 19). Un análisis de componentes principales y un análisis de función discriminante mostraron una separación casi completa de las clases ontogenéticas. El análisis alométrico indicó una tendencia de crecimiento craneal desproporcionado. Todas nuestras muestras provienen de la misma población que vive bajo la misma condición ecológica, lo que elimina el efecto de confusión de variables relacionadas con el hábitat sobre el patrón de variaciones ontogenéticas de esta estructura anatómica.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Amazonía, morfología, cráneo, tapir, ontogenia

INTRODUCTION

The ungulate mammal genus *Tapirus* Brisson, 1762 (Perissodactyla), comprises five living species: *T. pinchaque* (Roulin, 1829) distributed in the Andes mountains, *T. terrestris* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *T. kabomani* (Cozzuol *et al.* 2013) in South American Amazonia; *T. bairdii* (Gill, 1865) in Central America and *T. indicus* Desmarest, 1819 in

southeastern Asia. South American species of tapirs dispersed from North America during the Great American Biotic Interchange, which followed the formation of the Isthmus of Panama (Webb 1991; Woodburne 2010; Carrillo *et al.* 2014; O'Dea *et al.* 2016). All tapirs have rounded, protruding rumps with stubby tails, oval, white-tipped ears and splayed, hooved toes, with four toes on the front feet and three on the hind feet; females have a single pair of mammary glands and

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males have long penises relative to their body size (Bodmer *et al.* 1988; Maffei 2003). The most prominent feature of their head morphology is the presence of a short, mobile proboscis (Padilla and Dowler 1994).

Cranial characters are highly diagnostic in mammals and skulls are the most common skeletal structures preserved in museum collections (Pagels and Blem 1984; Janis 1990; Thomason 1991; Cooper and Purvis 2009; Figueirido *et al.* 2011; Dumbá *et al.* 2019). Cranial measurements combined with traditional morphometrics are useful tools for the description and statistical analysis of many biological questions related to growth, development and allometry (Gould 1966, 1980; Alberch *et al.* 1979; Rohlf and Slice 1990; Klingenberg 1996). Morphological variations related to sex and age are widely used to find phenotypic differences between and within populations linked to trophic adaptations that allow to avoid competition between sexes or age groups (Russel 1985; Rohlf 1998; Breno *et al.* 2011; Zatoń-Dobrowolska *et al.* 2017; Dumbá *et al.* 2019; Mandarim-De-Lacerda 2019).

Skull morphometry presents high levels of differentiation among species in the genus *Tapirus* (Dumbá *et al.* 2019). It has been suggested that the skull structure of *T. terrestris* is largely conserved throughout the postnatal ontogeny (Moyano and Giannini 2017), but this study was based on skulls collected over the entire geographic range of *T. terrestris*. Our study investigates the skull development in *T. terrestris*

using a large sample of skulls from the same population in Amazonia, with the aim of controlling the effect of ecological conditions on the ontogenetic and sexual dimorphism of the South American tapir.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Study area

Skulls of *T. terrestris* were collected by subsistence hunters in the Tamshiyacu Tahuayo Regional Community Conservation Area (4.201 km^2 ; $4^\circ 17' 37''\text{S}$, $73^\circ 14' 10''\text{W}$) (Figure 1) over ten years (1980-1990) as part of a participatory study on the impacts of hunting. Sex of specimens were obtained by two authors (E. Pezo and R. Bodmer) through anatomical visual inspection of specimens during field study. The collection sites were in *tierra firme* forests (75%) and floodplain forests (25%) (Bodmer *et al.* 2000). There are large expanses of *Mauritia flexuosa* palm swamps in the collected area, which produce a fruit favored by the tapir (Bodmer 1990). A more complete description of the habitats in the study area can be found in Pitman (2003).

Morphometric data

We examined 54 skulls (35 males and 19 females) deposited in the zoological collection of Museo de Zoología de la Universidad Nacional de la Amazonía Peruana - MZUNAP (Supplementary Material, Table S1).



Figure 1. Location of the Tamshiyacu Tahuayo Regional Community Conservation Area (in red) in Loreto, Peru. The total area of geographic distribution of *Tapirus terrestris* is marked in (gray) (IUCN 2021). This figure is in color in the electronic version.

We took 32 measurements from each skull with a manual caliper following Castañeda *et al.* (2016) (Figure 2; Table 1). We grouped the specimens into age classes following the dental eruption key by Gibson (2011), which is based on a population of Baird's tapir (*Tapirus bairdii*) from the Osa Peninsula in Costa Rica. We assumed that the values determined for *T. bairdii* are similar to those of *T. terrestris*. We examined the upper dentition and classified the specimens into three age classes following Moyano and Giannini (2017) with modifications by us (Figure 3):

- Class I (young juvenile, n = 22): molar 1 fully erupted, molar 2 and molar 3 not erupted;
- Class II (subadult to young adult, n = 23): molar 1 and 2 erupted, molar 3 not erupted;
- Class III (adult to old adult, n = 9): all dental elements fully erupted.

Class I comprised individuals under one year of age, Class II individuals between 1 and 6 years, and Class III individuals older than 6 years (see Gibson 2011).

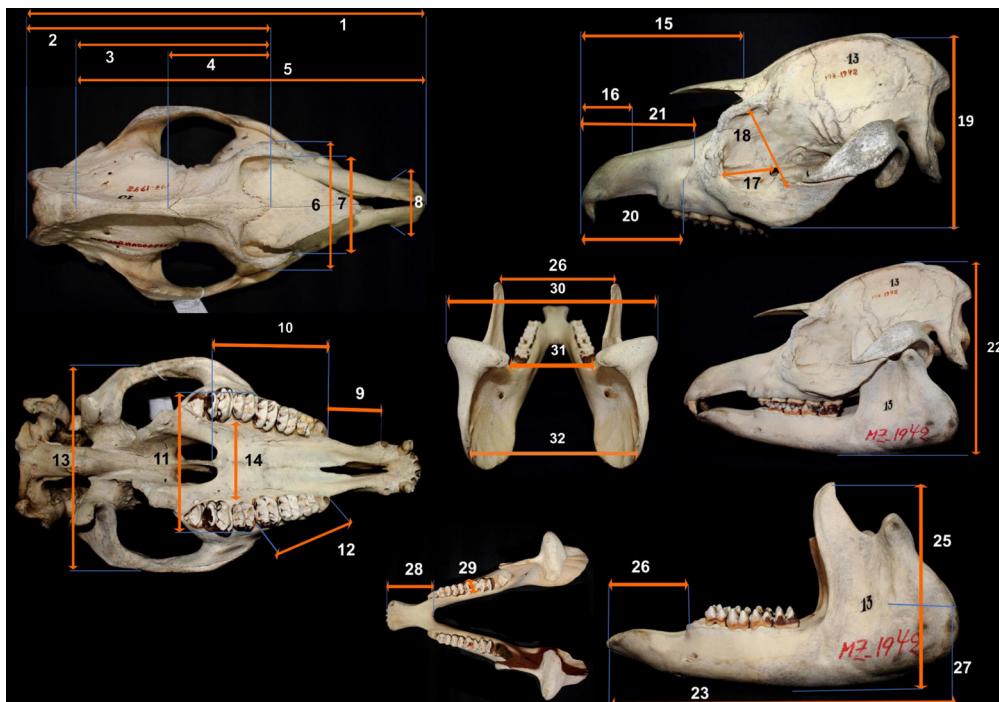


Figure 2. Skull measurements of *Tapirus terrestris* used in this study. Numbers correspond to Table 1. Credit: Abel Gómez Vasquez. This figure is in color in the electronic version.

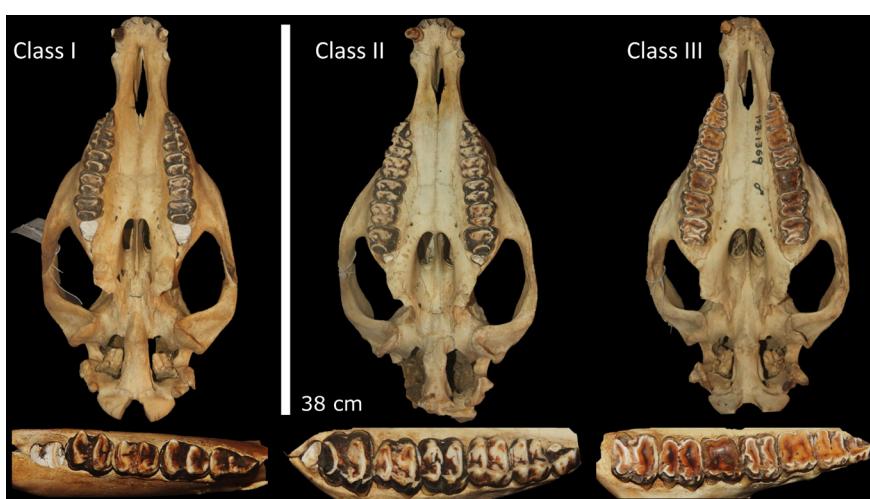


Figure 3. Skull of *Tapirus terrestris* in ventral view representing the three age classes used in this study. A – Class I (MZUNAP-MA 202); B – Class II (MZUNAP-MA 120); C – Class III (MZUNAP-MA 225). This figure is in color in the electronic version.

Table 1. List of morphological measurements of the skull of *Tapirus terrestris* used in this study. Numbers correspond to the measurements in Figure 2.

Nr	Variable	Description
Dorsal view of skull		
1	TLS	Total length of the skull, from the cranial tip of the incisor bones to the caudal level of the neckline
2	LSFNS	Length of the frontonasal suture
3	FNSL_POS_SC	Frontonasal suture length to parietal-occipital suture of sagittal crest
4	FSL_FPS_SC	Frontonasal suture length to the frontal parietal suture of the sagittal crest
5	POS1_SC	Parietal-occipital suture length from sagittal crest to prosthion
6	GWBO	Greater width between orbits
7	MWBO	Minimum width between orbits
8	GWP_IC	Greater width of the premaxilla between incisors and canines
Ventral view of skull		
9	P_P	Premolar - Prosthion
10	PL	Palatal Length
11	WP_BM1	Width of Palate at beginning of Molar 1
12	LRP	Length of row of premolars
13	ZW	Zygomatic width
14	ID_PM1	Internal distance from palate to molar 1
Lateral view of skull		
15	VCL	Visceral cranial length
16	PLL	Premaxillary Lateral Length
17	GILO	Greater internal longitude of the orbit
18	GIWO	Greater inner width of the orbit
19	CHWM	Cranial height without mandible
20	HIOF	Height of the infraorbital foramen
21	IPTS	Infraorbital foramen at the tip of the skull
Cranial-mandibular view		
22	SH	Skull Height
Lateral view of the jaw		
23	ML	Mandibular Length
24	LD	Length of diastema
Medial jaw view		
25	MMH	Maximum mandibular height
26	MHCP	Maximum Height of the condylar process
27	MF_CEM	Mandibular foramen to the caudal edge of the mandible
Dorsal jaw view		
28	MLS	Mandibular length (symphysis)
29	MTM1	Mandibular thickness in molar 1
Caudal jaw view		
30	ECA	External condylar amplitude
31	ICW	Internal condylar width
32	MWMC	Medial width of mandibular crest

Morphometric analysis

The effect of cranial length was removed from all variables by regressing the measurement on skull length and using the residuals in a Principal Component Analysis (PCA). The morphometric variables were compared between sexes and among age classes with linear model analysis with the two first principal component scores as dependent variables and age class and sex as the independent variables. The first two principal components were used because they explained the majority of the observed variance in shape by sex and age

class. A Discriminant Function Analysis (DFA) was performed using the same free-size data set to test the classification of individuals in the predicted groups. Thus, the PCA was used to detect groups and the DFA was subsequently applied to identify the set of characters that best diagnose those groups. All the statistical analysis were performed in R (R Development Core Team 2011) using the standard packages ggplot 2 (Wickham 2016), ggpur (Kassambara 2020), coefplot (Lander 2018), adopting a 0.05 significance cut-off. (Supplementary Material, Table S2 and Appendix S1).

Allometry

To determine the relative changes of each parameter, the allometric equation determined by Huxley (1932): $\log(y) = \log(a) + b \log(x)$. We considered the total length of the skull (x) as the base independent variable, whereas the other measures (y) were added to the regression. An analysis of covariance was used to test for differences in allometric patterns between age classes for all traits.

For a given variable, allometry is a deviation of its corresponding eigenvector element with respect to a hypothetical isometric value that represents isometry of all variables. The expected isometric value is calculated as the square root of $1/p$ with p equal to the number of variables. In our study the hypothetical isometric value was 0.182 for 32 skull variables.

RESULTS

Sexual dimorphism and ontogenetic variation

The first two principal components extracted by the PCA accounted for 69.7% of the variation in the dataset. The first component (PC1) explained 62.6 % of total variance, the second component (PC2) explained 7.1% (see Supplementary Material, Table S3 for character loadings, eigenvalues, and percentage of explained variance for PC1 and PC2).

The linear model analysis suggested non-significant differences in skull shape between sexes but significant differences between Class I vs. Class II and III, but not between Class II and Class III. The two axes of the PCA indicate a high overlap in relative skull shape between the sexes (Figure 4A). As no sexual dimorphism was detected, male and female data were pooled for morphometric analyses of age classes. The DFA classified 100% of the skulls into the correct sex, with moderate prior group probabilities (females = 35%, males= 64%) (Figure 5). The variables that contributed most to the classification were POSL SCP, WP_BM1, FSL_FPS_SC, MTM1 and HIOF (Supplementary Material, Table S3).

The comparative analysis of the quantitative PCA data allowed us to distinguish the three age classes. In the first PCA axis, specimens of class I shared relative shape with class II. In the second axis, the specimens of class I shared relative shape with classes II and III (Figure 4B). The DFA correctly classified 78.6% of the skulls, with a moderate prior probability of groups (class I = 40%, class II = 42%, class III = 16%) (Figure 6). The variables that contributed most to the classification were MTM1, FNSL_POS_SC, ML, HIOF, VCL and ID_PM1 (Supplementary Material, Table S3). The descriptive statistics of each measurement and significance values are in Table 2.

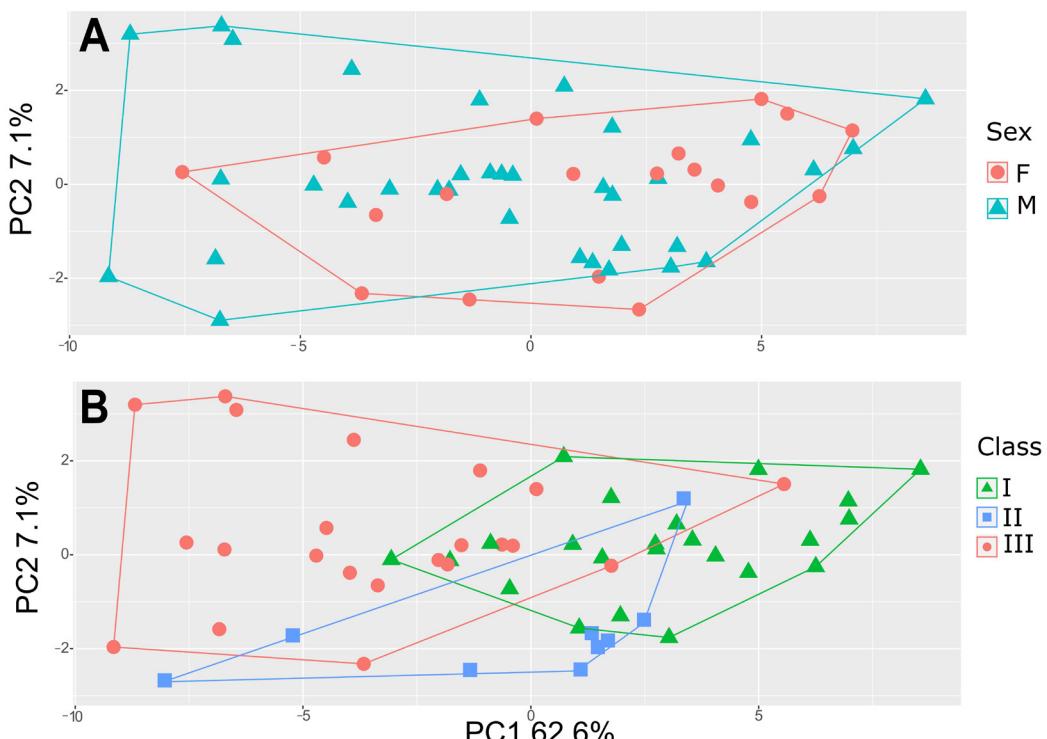


Figure 4. Principal component analysis (PCA) of skull morphometric variables of *Tapirus terrestris* from Loreto, Peru. A – between sexes (35 males and 19 females); and B – among age classes (class I: n = 22; class II: n = 23; class III: n= 9). This figure is in color in the electronic version.

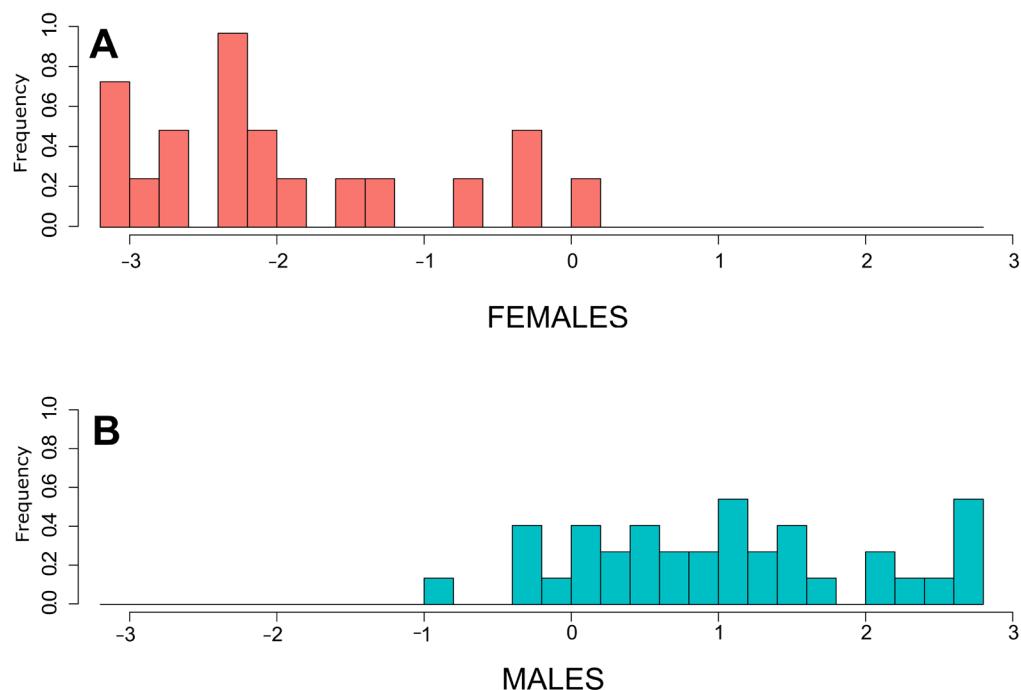


Figure 5. Linear discriminant (LD1) histograms of the discriminant function analysis for morphometric variables of skulls of *Tapirus terrestris* from Loreto, Peru between sexes. A – females; B – males. This figure is in color in the electronic version.

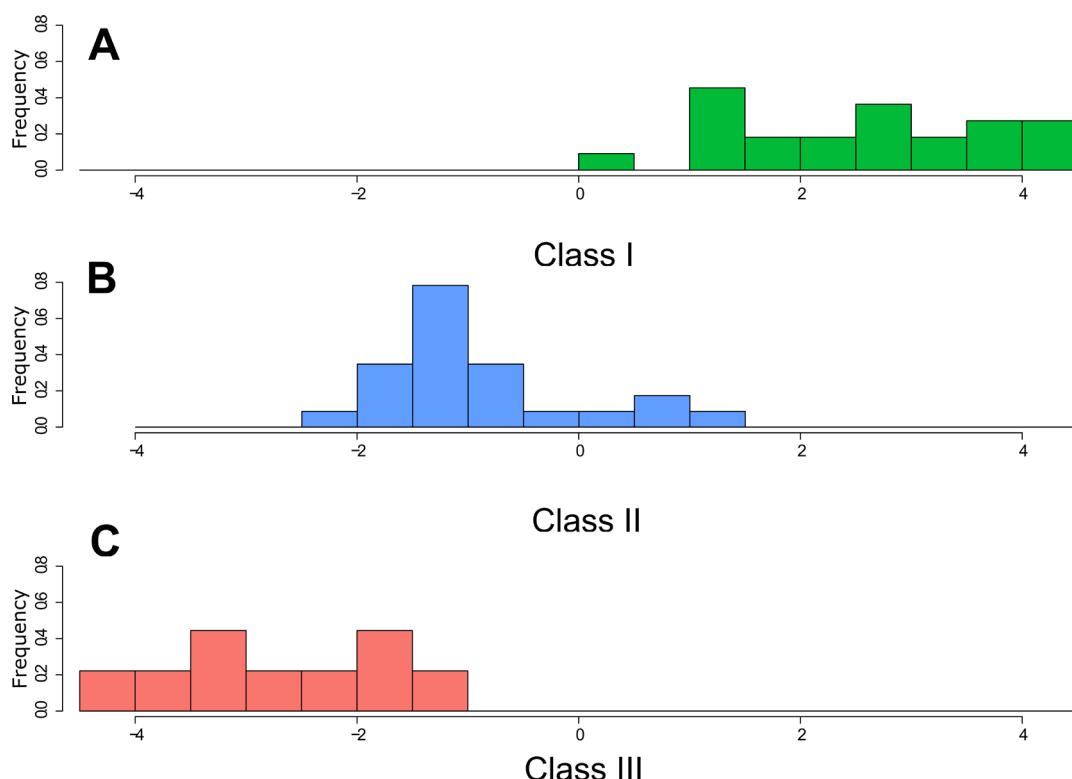


Figure 6. Linear discriminant (LD1) histograms of the discriminant function analysis for morphometric variables of skulls of *Tapirus terrestris* from Loreto, Peru among age classes. A – Class I; B – Class II; C – Class III. This figure is in color in the electronic version.

Table 2. Descriptive statistics of skull measurements of *Tapirus terrestris* from Loreto (Peru) for each of three age classes. min = minimum value; max = maximum value; me = median; me = mean; sd = standard deviation; cv = coefficient of variation; var = variance. * Indicates significant differences among age classes at $p \leq 0.05$. All measurements are in cm. Variable acronym correspondence as in Table 1.

Variable	Class	n	min	max	me	sd	cv	var
TLS*	I	22	33.90	39.40	36.25	1.48	0.04	2.20
	II	23	36.70	40.50	38.67	1.06	0.03	1.13
	III	9	35.30	39.70	38.37	1.29	0.03	1.67
LSFNS*	I	22	16.70	21.40	18.83	1.06	0.06	1.13
	II	23	18.50	22.10	20.03	0.94	0.05	0.89
	III	9	17.70	20.60	19.37	0.93	0.05	0.87
FNSL_POS_SC	I	22	11.90	16.40	14.47	1.21	0.08	1.47
	II	23	13.60	16.80	15.09	0.88	0.06	0.78
	III	9	13.70	16.30	14.86	0.78	0.05	0.62
FSL_FPS_SC	I	22	5.90	9.90	8.05	0.80	0.10	0.64
	II	23	7.40	9.90	8.41	0.72	0.09	0.52
	III	9	7.60	8.70	8.09	0.37	0.05	0.14
POSL SCP*	I	22	31.30	36.00	33.54	1.25	0.04	1.56
	II	23	33.30	36.90	35.17	1.05	0.03	1.11
	III	9	33.00	37.60	35.11	1.31	0.04	1.72
GWBO*	I	22	8.00	10.50	9.22	0.66	0.07	0.43
	II	23	8.50	10.90	9.93	0.58	0.06	0.34
	III	9	9.30	11.30	10.17	0.70	0.07	0.49
MWBO*	I	22	7.10	8.60	7.90	0.46	0.06	0.21
	II	23	7.40	9.50	8.32	0.47	0.06	0.22
	III	9	7.80	9.30	8.40	0.44	0.05	0.19
GWP_IC*	I	22	3.40	4.80	3.96	0.33	0.08	0.11
	II	23	3.60	5.00	4.31	0.31	0.07	0.10
	III	9	4.10	4.90	4.44	0.28	0.06	0.08
P_P*	I	22	7.40	9.70	8.44	0.65	0.08	0.42
	II	23	7.80	9.40	8.75	0.48	0.05	0.23
	III	9	6.60	9.00	8.16	0.78	0.10	0.61
PL	I	22	16.00	19.30	17.79	1.07	0.06	1.11
	II	23	17.80	20.50	19.19	0.71	0.04	0.51
	III	9	17.60	20.90	19.19	1.05	0.05	1.15
WP_BM1*	I	22	9.00	10.90	10.17	0.50	0.05	0.16
	II	23	9.70	11.20	10.53	0.38	0.04	0.15
	III	9	10.00	11.20	10.60	0.40	0.04	0.25
LRP	I	22	7.20	8.50	7.81	0.34	0.04	0.09
	II	23	7.00	8.10	7.70	0.32	0.04	0.10
	III	9	7.10	8.10	7.51	0.31	0.04	0.12
ZW*	I	22	15.40	18.10	16.81	0.87	0.05	0.47
	II	23	16.60	18.90	17.71	0.57	0.03	0.32
	III	9	17.00	19.10	18.04	0.69	0.04	0.76
ID_PM1*	I	22	5.10	6.40	5.61	0.36	0.06	0.21
	II	23	5.60	7.00	6.10	0.33	0.05	0.11
	III	9	5.30	6.90	6.09	0.45	0.07	0.13
VCL*	I	22	16.60	20.40	18.64	1.14	0.06	0.30
	II	23	18.70	21.60	20.04	0.74	0.04	0.55
	III	9	19.50	21.40	20.50	0.55	0.03	1.30

Table 2. Continued

Variable	Class	n	min	max	me	sd	cv	var
PLL	I	22	6.20	9.40	7.79	0.82	0.11	1.62
	II	23	7.20	10.30	8.73	0.80	0.09	0.64
	III	9	6.70	11.10	8.83	1.27	0.14	0.68
GILO	I	22	4.60	6.00	5.31	0.36	0.07	0.08
	II	23	4.80	6.20	5.47	0.36	0.07	0.13
	III	9	4.90	5.80	5.29	0.29	0.05	0.13
GIWO*	I	22	4.10	4.80	4.43	0.18	0.04	0.03
	II	23	4.30	5.00	4.62	0.20	0.04	0.04
	III	9	4.10	4.60	4.50	0.17	0.04	0.03
CHWM*	I	22	13.30	16.70	15.09	0.96	0.06	0.66
	II	23	13.40	17.10	15.76	0.75	0.05	0.56
	III	9	14.90	17.60	15.90	0.81	0.05	0.92
HIOF	I	22	1.50	2.30	1.81	0.23	0.13	0.04
	II	23	1.30	2.50	1.87	0.27	0.15	0.07
	III	9	1.60	2.10	1.80	0.20	0.11	0.05
IFTS*	I	22	10.20	13.20	11.80	0.80	0.07	0.31
	II	23	11.30	13.30	12.56	0.50	0.04	0.25
	III	9	11.60	13.70	12.74	0.55	0.04	0.63
SH*	I	22	20.00	25.30	22.86	1.45	0.06	1.18
	II	23	22.40	26.00	24.27	1.03	0.04	1.07
	III	9	23.50	27.00	24.70	1.09	0.04	2.10
ML*	I	22	25.90	31.50	28.96	1.51	0.05	1.02
	II	23	26.70	32.60	31.01	1.37	0.04	1.87
	III	9	29.60	32.60	31.68	1.01	0.03	2.29
LD	I	22	4.30	6.90	5.59	0.58	0.10	0.50
	II	23	5.00	6.60	5.80	0.46	0.08	0.21
	III	9	3.90	6.00	5.34	0.71	0.13	0.34
MMH*	I	22	13.60	18.10	15.86	1.06	0.07	0.41
	II	23	15.00	18.10	16.65	0.78	0.05	0.60
	III	9	16.30	18.00	17.00	0.64	0.04	1.12
MHCP*	I	22	10.00	13.60	12.22	0.83	0.07	0.46
	II	23	11.40	14.20	13.26	0.72	0.05	0.52
	III	9	12.40	14.40	13.32	0.68	0.05	0.70
MF_CEM	I	22	6.20	8.70	7.75	0.69	0.09	0.50
	II	23	6.20	9.50	8.01	0.78	0.10	0.61
	III	9	6.70	9.00	7.77	0.70	0.09	0.48
MLS*	I	22	7.10	9.50	8.11	0.70	0.09	0.45
	II	23	7.80	9.60	8.64	0.51	0.06	0.26
	III	9	8.00	10.00	9.08	0.67	0.07	0.50
MTM1*	I	22	1.80	3.00	2.22	0.23	0.10	0.01
	II	23	1.90	2.20	2.08	0.09	0.04	0.01
	III	9	1.80	2.10	2.00	0.10	0.05	0.05
ECA*	I	22	14.70	17.90	16.41	0.83	0.05	0.54
	II	23	15.70	18.60	17.46	0.73	0.04	0.53
	III	9	16.60	18.60	17.74	0.73	0.04	0.68
ICW*	I	22	6.60	8.60	7.39	0.49	0.07	0.23
	II	23	5.80	8.90	7.68	0.68	0.09	0.46
	III	9	7.20	8.60	7.96	0.48	0.06	0.24
MWWC*	I	22	10.60	13.60	12.30	0.94	0.08	0.61
	II	23	11.20	14.20	12.95	0.84	0.06	0.70
	III	9	12.30	14.50	13.22	0.78	0.06	0.89

Allometric analysis

The observed allometric trends were isometric in four (12.5%) of the 32 skull measurements (FSL_FPS_SC, P_P, PLL and MF_CEM), while 11 (34.3%) showed positive allometry (LSFNS, POSL SCP, MWBO, PL, WP_BM1, VCL, GIWO, IFTS, HCS, MMH, ECA), and 16 (53.1%) showed negative allometry (FNSL_POS_SC, GWBO, GWP_IC, LRP, ZW, ID_PM1, GILO, CH, HIOF, ML, LD_bCP1, MHCP, MLS, MTM1, ICW, MWMC) (Table 3; Figure 7).

DISCUSSION

Our results demonstrate previously undocumented ontogenetic shape changes in the skull of *T. terrestris* which the youngest individuals (class I) showing higher variation than subadults and adults (classes II and III). The changes were primarily related to relative differences in the growth of the facial skeleton compared to the braincase, showing that lowland tapirs follow the generalized mammalian pattern of greater relative growth of the face compared to the braincase as the animals mature (Cardini and Polly 2012). We were able to document these changes mainly because we had access to samples from a

relatively restricted geographical range. In previous studies that used samples from across the entire distribution range of *T. terrestris* (Moyano and Giannini 2017), this facial growth signal was apparently obscured by regional variation. The consistency in our sample likely eliminated confounding effect of variables related to regional ecological adaptations and phylogeographic variability on ontogenetic variation, showing how sample choice can affect results of morphological analyses.

Sexual dimorphism is very common in mammals, with males usually being larger than females (Weckerly 1998; Loison *et al.* 1999). In the genus *Tapirus*, it is known that females tend to be larger than males, with no other evidence of sexual dimorphism (Bodmer *et al.* 1988; Padilla *et al.* 2010; Medici 2011). Studies using skull morphometrics to determine sexual dimorphism in species of *Tapirus* are scarce. Our study is the first that report the absence of sexual dimorphism in this anatomical structure and a similar skull growth pattern between both sexes.

The ontogenetic changes reported in our study can be associated to skull development of tapirs and their ability to select specific food materials (De Santis *et al.* 2020). The main

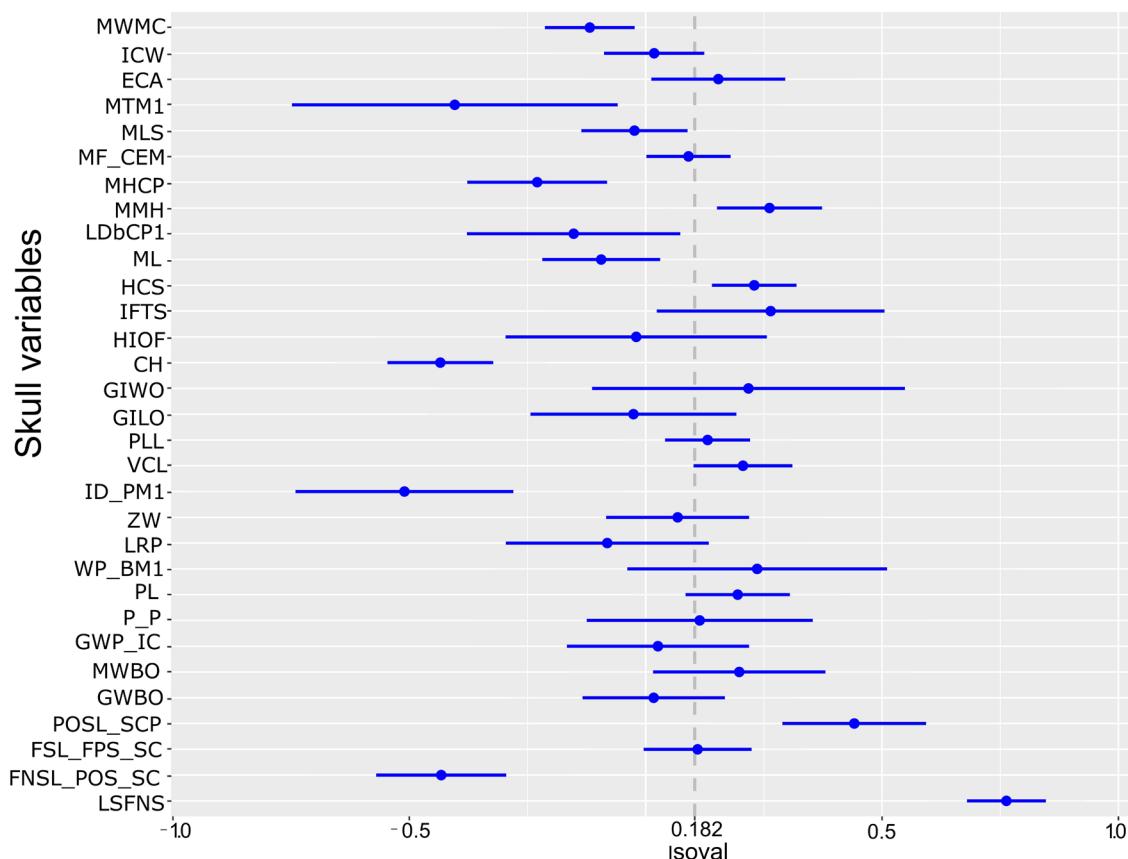


Figure 7. Distribution of confidence intervals of allometric analysis of *Tapirus terrestris* from Loreto, Peru relative to the isometric value (0.182). Variable acronyms as in Table 1. This figure is in color in the electronic version.

Table 3. Allometry in cranial measurements of *Tapirus terrestris* from Loreto, Peru. Variables in bold indicate significant results at $p \leq 0.05$. Growth trend: Iso = isometry; - = negative allometry; + = positive allometry. SE = standard error; CI= confidence interval.

Variable	Estimate	SE	t value	CI - 95%	Growth trend
Cranium					
LSFNS	0.77	0.08	9.58	0.63 – 0.90	+
FNSL_POS_SC	-0.42	0.12	-3.30	-0.63 – -0.20	-
FSL_FPS_SC	0.07	0.10	0.71	-0.10 – 0.25	Iso
POS1 SCP	0.47	0.13	3.55	0.24 – 0.69	+
GWBO	-0.06	0.12	-0.49	-0.28 – 0.15	-
MWBO	0.29	0.16	1.78	0.01 – 0.57	+
GWP_IC	0.04	0.18	0.25	-0.27 – 0.36	-
P_P	0.11	0.21	0.51	-0.25 – 0.48	Iso
PL	0.13	0.09	0.44	-0.02 – 0.28	+
WP_BM1	0.24	0.24	1.03	-0.16 – 0.66	+
LRP	-0.08	0.19	-0.46	-0.41 – 0.23	-
ZW	0.11	0.12	0.98	-0.08 – 0.32	-
ID_PM1	-0.47	0.22	-2.12	-0.85 – -0.09	-
VCL	0.22	0.10	2.24	0.05 – 0.39	+
PLL	0.14	0.08	1.65	-0.004 – 0.28	Iso
GILO	-0.01	0.21	-0.02	-0.36 – 0.35	-
GIWO	0.11	0.31	0.37	-0.42 – 0.65	+
CH	-0.38	0.10	-3.70	-0.56 – -0.20	-
HIOF	0.05	0.25	0.21	-0.38 – 0.49	-
IFTS	0.17	0.21	0.82	-0.18 – 0.53	+
Mandible					
HCS	0.22	0.08	2.62	0.07 – 0.36	+
ML	-0.08	0.11	-0.75	-0.28 – 0.10	-
LDbCP1	-0.07	0.21	-0.33	-0.43 – 0.29	-
MMH	0.22	0.10	2.10	0.04 – 0.39	+
MHCP	-0.17	0.13	-1.28	-0.40 – 0.05	-
MF_CEM	0.09	0.08	1.07	-0.05 – 0.23	Iso
MLS	-0.01	0.10	-0.09	-0.19 – 0.17	-
MTM1	-0.55	0.31	-1.76	-1.09 – -0.01	-
ECA	0.15	0.14	1.08	-0.08 – 0.39	+
ICW	0.01	0.10	0.16	-0.16 – 0.20	-
MWMC	-0.11	0.09	-1.24	-0.28 – 0.04	-

negative allometric effects were observed in the mandibular bones, while positive and isometric effects were observed in cranium bones, and the variables that most contributed to skull-shape discrimination among classes were associated to the neurocranium and the splanchnocranum. The Perissodactyla exhibit a wide range of differences in cranial shape and dimensions (Dumbá *et al.* 2019), but the factors

that drive the evolution of skull shape remain unclear (Cozzuol *et al.* 2013; Moyano and Giannini 2017). Our results suggest that the neurocranium and the splanchnocranum begin to differentiate slightly between subadults (class II) and adults (class III). This pattern can indicate that individuals from class II and III explore and compete for the same resources and therefore individuals of class II would be likely to disperse.

In *Tapirus*, the proboscis takes over part of the food-gathering function, which in other browsers rests entirely with the anterior dentition (Erwin 2007; Chalk 2011; Moyano and Giannini 2017; Law *et al.* 2018). Tapirs in our study region ingested 33% fruits, mainly the fruits of *Mauritia flexuosa* palm, and 66% leaves and fiber (Bodmer 1990). The tapirs ingest the pulp of the palm fruit while the very hard seeds are not masticated but swallowed whole or spat out (Bodmer 1990). Availability and quality of food resources across different ages are likely to affect the morphology of the skull, both as a consequence of a general influence on growth rates and locally at the level of skull structure (changes in strain and loadings) (Breno *et al.* 2011).

CONCLUSIONS

The geographical restriction in our sample eliminated the confounding effects of geographical and ecological variability on the morphological measurements and allowed to show more clearly the ontogenetic variation in skull shape in a population of South American tapir, *T. terrestris* in Loreto, Perú. Our results revealed a higher variation in skull shape in juveniles than in subadults and adults, without evidence of sexual dimorphism.

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SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL (only available in the electronic version)

Rojas *et al.* Ontogenetic skull variation in an Amazonian population of lowland tapir, *Tapirus terrestris* (Mammalia: Perissodactyla) in the department of Loreto, Peru

Tabla S1. Collection data of *Tapirus terrestris* specimens from Loreto, Peru used in this study. See Material and Methods for definitions of Class.

Collection code	Locality	District	Province	Sex	Class
MZUNAP-MA000119	Yavarí-Mirí	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	M	II
MZUNAP-MA000203	Corrientillo	Fernando Lores	Maynas	M	I
MZUNAP-MA000113	Nueva Esperanza	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	M	II
MZUNAP-MA000006	Yavarí-Mirí	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	M	III
MZUNAP-MA000206	Paraíso-Yavarí	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	M	II
MZUNAP-MA000115	Blanco	Fernando Lores	Maynas	H	III
MZUNAP-MA000120	Paraíso-Yavarí	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	H	I
MZUNAP-MA000202	Nueva Esperanza	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	H	II
MZUNAP-MA000008	Nueva Esperanza	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	H	III
MZUNAP-MA000220	San Antonio	Fernando Lores	Maynas	H	II
MZUNAP-MA000213	Carolina	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	H	I
MZUNAP-MA000214	San Francisco	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	M	II
MZUNAP-MA000219	Tamshiyacu	Fernando Lores	Maynas	M	II
MZUNAP-MA000221	Lemon	Fernando Lores	Maynas	M	I
MZUNAP-MA000229	Yavarí-Mirí	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	M	III
MZUNAP-MA000227	Nueva Esperanza	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	M	I
MZUNAP-MA000230	Yanayacu	Fernando Lores	Maynas	M	III
MZUNAP-MA000236	Yavarí-Mirí	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	H	II
MZUNAP-MA000410	San Francisco	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	H	III
MZUNAP-MA000407	Cuchura	Fernando Lores	Maynas	H	I
MZUNAP-MA000238	Lemon-Blanco	Fernando Lores	Maynas	M	II
MZUNAP-MA000237	Corrientillo	Fernando Lores	Maynas	M	II
MZUNAP-MA000228	Yavarí-Mirí	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	M	I
MZUNAP-MA000246	Nueva Esperanza	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	M	II
MZUNAP-MA000243	San Felipe	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	M	II
MZUNAP-MA000245	San José	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	M	II
MZUNAP-MA000247	San Antonio	Fernando Lores	Maynas	M	II
MZUNAP-MA000402	Yavarí-Mirí	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	M	III
MZUNAP-MA000405	Yavarí-Mirí	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	M	I
MZUNAP-MA000415	Quebrada Blanca	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	M	I
MZUNAP-MA000421	San Felipe	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	M	I
MZUNAP-MA000422	Corrientillo	Fernando Lores	Maynas	M	I
MZUNAP-MA000426	Nueva Esperanza	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	M	I
MZUNAP-MA000427	Yavarí-Mirí	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	M	I
MZUNAP-MA000412	Yavarí-Mirí	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	H	II
MZUNAP-MA000419	San Felipe	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	H	II
MZUNAP-MA000423	Nueva Esperanza	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	H	I
MZUNAP-MA000425	San Felipe	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	H	II
MZUNAP-MA000429	Nueva Esperanza	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	H	I
MZUNAP-MA000428	Yavarí-Mirí	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	M	II
MZUNAP-MA000430	San Felipe	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	M	I
MZUNAP-MA000431	Quebrada Blanca-San José	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	M	II
MZUNAP-MA000433	Nueva Esperanza-Yavarí Mirí	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	M	III
MZUNAP-MA000434	Yavarí-Mirí	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	M	I
MZUNAP-MA000436	San Antonio-Tahuayo	Fernando Lores	Maynas	M	I
MZUNAP-MA000447	Nueva Esperanza	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	H	II
MZUNAP-MA000448	Carolina	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	H	II
MZUNAP-MA000446	Corrientillo	Fernando Lores	Maynas	H	II
MZUNAP-MA000451	Carolina	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	H	I
MZUNAP-MA000432	RCTT	Fernando Lores	Maynas	H	I
MZUNAP-MA000444	San Felipe	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	M	I
MZUNAP-MA000445	Yavarí-Mirí	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	M	II
MZUNAP-MA000442	San Antonio	Fernando Lores	maynas	M	III
MZUNAP-MA000449	Carolina	Yavari	Mariscal Ramon Castilla	M	I

Table S2. Measurements of skulls of *Tapirus terrestris* from Loreto, Peru used for statistical analysis. The description of each measure is in Table 1 and Figure 2.

Code	sex	clase	LTC	LHSFN	LSFNHSPCS	LSP_OCSHP	MAEO	MADP	APIM1	LDP	PPR	LHPR	AC	DIPNM1	MAIO	MLIO	LLP	LVC	FIPC	AFI	ACC	LM	AMM	LDECP1	EMM1	FMBCM	AMPC	ACM	ACI	ACE	LMS			
MZUNAP-MA000119	M	II	399	21.7	157	9.5	35.1	105	95	4.2	7.8	186	104	72	179	62	192	8.6	5.7	4.4	158	15	125	252	322	5.1	18.1	142	7.7	9.6	2	18	7.6	12.9
MZUNAP-MA000203	M	I	348	17.8	13.7	7.6	32.3	84	7.8	3.7	8.2	17.8	9.9	7.6	16.6	5.2	18	6.7	5.2	4.2	14.8	1.5	11.4	21.2	27.9	5.8	15	11.4	6.2	8.1	1.8	15.9	7.4	10.9
MZUNAP-MA000113	M	II	37	18.9	14.4	8.1	34.5	98	8	3.7	8.4	17.8	9.7	7.4	17.1	5.6	19.8	7.3	5.6	4.6	15.6	1.4	11.9	23	26.7	5	15	11.4	6.2	7.8	2.1	15.7	7.5	11.5
MZUNAP-MA000006	M	III	35.3	17.7	13.7	7.6	33.0	93	8.1	4.3	6.6	17.7	10	7.1	17	5.7	19.5	6.7	5	4.1	14.9	1.6	11.6	23.8	29.6	3.9	16.3	12.5	6.7	8	2	16.6	7.9	13.2
MZUNAP-MA000206	M	II	38.8	20.4	15.3	7.4	35.2	99	9	5	9.2	19.7	10.9	8	17.5	6.5	19.6	8.1	5.9	4.7	15.5	1.9	12.8	23.7	31.5	6.3	17.2	13.7	7.2	8.5	2	17	7.2	11.2
MZUNAP-MA000115	H	III	38.5	19.4	15.0	7.9	35.5	105	8.3	4.2	8.2	19.3	106	7.4	18.3	6.2	20.4	9	4.9	4.5	15.9	1.6	12.9	24.4	32.2	5.7	17.9	13.7	7.4	8.7	1.9	17.4	7.7	14
MZUNAP-MA000120	H	I	36.9	18.0	13.6	8.3	34.5	10	8.3	4.8	8.5	18.1	107	8.2	18	5.7	20.4	8.5	5.7	4.7	15.8	1.8	12.5	23.6	30	5.5	15.7	12.5	6.6	8.9	2.3	17.9	7.8	13.5
MZUNAP-MA000202	H	II	38.8	20.9	15.6	9.3	35.0	102	8.4	4.2	9.1	19.3	11	7.9	18.2	6	19.4	9.8	5.4	4.6	16	1.9	12.4	25	31.6	5.9	15.6	13.4	6.6	8.7	2.2	17.8	7.7	13.6
MZUNAP-MA000008	H	III	38	18.8	14.8	7.8	35.4	11	8.8	4.1	8.3	19.8	112	8.1	18.4	6.4	20.3	8.7	5.8	4.6	15.4	1.9	12.6	25.3	30.7	5.9	16.5	13.9	7	9	2.1	18.4	8.6	13.6
MZUNAP-MA000220	H	II	40.5	21.9	16.3	9.5	36.5	109	8.1	4.4	9.4	20.5	107	7.9	18.2	6.4	20.2	9.7	5.3	4.9	16.2	2.5	13.1	26	32.6	6.6	17.3	14.2	8.9	9.4	2.1	17.9	8	14
MZUNAP-MA000213	H	I	34.6	18.0	14.1	7.8	32.6	88	7.2	4.3	7.4	16.1	9.9	7.6	16.1	5.4	17.5	8.2	5.1	4.3	14.7	1.5	10.7	22.6	27.3	4.3	15.8	12.5	6.6	7.2	2.2	15.7	7.4	12.2
MZUNAP-MA000214	M	II	38.2	19.8	16.1	9.4	36.1	10	8	4.2	8.9	19.4	105	7.8	17.9	6	19.9	8.7	5.1	4.9	17	2	12.6	25.5	32.1	6	16.8	13.3	8.8	8.8	2.2	17.6	8.1	13.1
MZUNAP-MA000219	M	II	36.7	19.6	14.6	7.6	33.3	95	7.9	4.2	7.9	18.2	107	7.9	17.6	5.9	18.7	7.6	5.6	4.3	15.6	2.2	11.3	22.5	29	5	16.6	13.1	7.8	8.3	2.1	18.3	8.2	13.3
MZUNAP-MA000221	M	I	37.7	19.7	15.6	7.4	35.2	94	8	4.1	8.7	19.2	108	8.2	17.9	6.3	19.3	8.6	5.8	4.7	15.1	1.7	12.7	23.2	29.8	5.6	16.6	12.7	7.4	9	2.1	17.1	8.6	13.3
MZUNAP-MA000229	M	III	38.8	20	15.1	8.7	34.4	101	8.4	4.3	7.3	19.4	106	7.3	19.1	5.8	20.1	8.1	5.5	4.6	15.4	1.6	12.6	24	32.1	4.6	17.2	12.7	7.9	10	2.1	17.6	8.4	14.5
MZUNAP-MA000227	M	I	33.9	18.7	15.1	8.1	32.1	84	7.1	3.4	7.7	16	9.4	7.7	15.4	6	16.7	6.2	5.2	4.4	13.6	2	10.2	20.7	25.9	5.5	15.1	11.3	7	7.4	2.3	15.5	7.3	10.9
MZUNAP-MA000230	M	III	39.7	19.7	16.3	7.7	37.6	101	8.1	4.9	9	20.9	109	7.7	18.2	6.9	21.4	11.1	5.5	4.6	16.1	2.1	13.7	25.3	32.6	6	17.2	13.3	7.9	9.7	2	18.2	7.4	12.9
MZUNAP-MA000236	H	II	38.2	19.9	15.6	8.4	35.3	96	8.4	4.3	8.2	19.3	107	8	17.5	6.4	19.5	7.7	5.5	4.7	15.4	2	12.4	23.8	30.6	5.8	17	13.2	7.8	8.5	2	17.7	8.1	14.1
MZUNAP-MA000410	H	III	39.2	19.7	15.2	8.2	35.9	103	8.4	4.7	8.2	20	108	7.7	18.4	6.2	20.5	9.3	5.1	4.5	17.6	2	12.7	27	32.6	5.3	18	14.4	8.3	9.3	1.8	18.6	8	13.7
MZUNAP-MA000407	H	I	35.2	18	12.7	7.4	31.8	87	7.2	3.8	7.8	16.6	10	7.9	15.5	5.1	18.3	7.4	5	4.3	14.1	1.5	11.2	21.8	28	4.9	15.5	12.3	7.7	8.2	2.1	15.2	6.8	11.6
MZUNAP-MA000238	M	II	39	19.9	14	7.8	35.2	105	8.9	4.6	9	19.4	112	7.9	18.4	7	21.1	8.7	6.2	4.9	15.6	1.6	13.1	24.4	32.2	6	16.2	13.5	9	8	2.1	18.6	7.7	14.2
MZUNAP-MA000237	M	II	38.2	19.3	14.4	7.7	34.8	107	8.5	4.8	8.2	19.3	103	7.3	17.6	6.1	20.3	8.6	5.3	4.4	15.7	1.9	13	24.7	30.9	5.4	16.1	13.3	7.7	9.5	2	17.1	6.7	13.4

Table S2. Continued

Code	sex	clase	LTC	LSFNHSP_OCS	DIPNM1	AC	LHPR	APIM1	PPR	LDP	MAEO	MLIO	LLP	LVC	MAIO	FIPC	AFI	ACR	LDECP1	AMMM	AMPC	FMBCM	LMS	EMM1	AMCM	ACI	ACE							
MZUNAP-MA00228	M	I	36.1	20.3	164	9.9	34.1	9.9	7.5	3.9	7.8	17.1	9.7	7.6	16.4	5.4	17.5	6.8	4.8	4.6	15.5	2	11.3	23.4	28.6	5.4	15.7	12.4	8.1	7.5	2	16.5	7.7	12.8
MZUNAP-MA00246	M	II	37.3	19.4	14.8	8.4	33.9	8.9	7.5	3.9	9.1	18.8	10.3	7	16.8	6	19.3	9.4	5.2	4.7	15.5	1.9	12.3	23.8	30.7	6.3	16.9	12.6	7.8	7.8	2.2	16.9	5.8	12.8
MZUNAP-MA00243	M	II	38.1	19.2	13.6	8.4	33.9	9.3	8.2	3.6	9.4	19.1	10.2	7.5	17.4	5.8	20.1	8.6	5.5	4.5	15.5	2.1	12.8	23.8	30.7	6.4	16.2	13.3	8.3	9.1	2.1	17.2	8.1	12.6
MZUNAP-MA00245	M	II	39.9	20.2	16	8.2	36.7	10.3	8.3	4.5	9.2	19.8	10.6	8.1	18	5.8	20.7	10.3	5.3	4.7	16.2	1.7	13.3	25	31	6.2	17	13.6	7.5	9.2	2.2	18	8.9	13.8
MZUNAP-MA00247	M	II	39.4	19.5	15.6	8.6	36.9	10.7	8.4	4.4	9.3	20.4	10.7	7.9	18	6.2	21.6	9.6	5.1	4.6	16.8	1.8	13	25.3	32.6	5.9	17.5	14.2	9.1	9	2.2	18.5	8	13.6
MZUNAP-MA00402	M	III	37.8	18.3	13.8	8.1	35.1	9.3	7.8	4.2	8.1	18.9	10.1	7.6	17.3	5.3	20.9	7.6	5.1	4.6	15.3	1.7	12.6	23.5	31.1	5.1	16.3	13.3	7.5	8.7	2	17.3	7.2	12.4
MZUNAP-MA00405	M	I	35.8	18.1	15.3	8.5	33.9	10.1	8.6	4.1	8.2	17	10.3	8.2	17.9	5.7	18.6	7.2	5.2	4.5	15.8	2.3	11.9	24.5	30.1	5.3	16.7	12.6	7.8	8.3	2.1	16.4	7.2	11.5
MZUNAP-MA00415	M	I	36.6	18.9	14.7	8.8	33.6	8.9	8.1	4.5	9.1	19.3	10.6	7.9	16.8	5.9	18.7	8.3	5.5	4.5	15.5	2	12.5	22.9	30.2	5.9	16.5	12.3	8.1	8.7	2.5	16.4	6.8	12.8
MZUNAP-MA00421	M	I	35.5	17.8	13.3	8.2	32.8	9.1	7.7	3.8	7.8	17.3	9.7	8.5	16.3	5.1	19.1	7.9	4.9	4.5	15.3	2.2	11.5	22.5	28.5	4.6	14.5	11.8	7.7	7.6	2.3	16	7.2	12.9
MZUNAP-MA00422	M	I	34.4	16.7	11.9	5.9	31.3	8.5	7.9	3.8	7.7	17.1	10.4	7.6	17	5.7	18.9	8.1	5.2	4.4	14.5	1.5	11.1	21.8	27.7	5.3	15.4	11.9	7.4	8.4	2.2	16.5	8.1	11.9
MZUNAP-MA00426	M	I	37	19.2	14	7.7	33.4	9.8	8	4.3	9.6	18.6	10.4	7.5	17.3	5.3	19.4	8.4	5.2	4.2	15.1	1.7	12.7	22.9	29.4	6.7	15.8	12.9	8.2	8.9	2.2	16.7	7.9	12.9
MZUNAP-MA00427	M	I	37.5	19.9	16	8.3	35.3	9.7	8.2	4.1	8.6	18.5	10.7	7.6	17.5	5.9	19.3	7.9	6	4.8	16.4	2	12.4	24.8	30.5	5.6	17	12.8	8.4	8.5	3	16.3	7.6	13
MZUNAP-HA00412	H	II	39.2	20.2	15.6	7.4	35.9	10.3	8.5	4.6	8.9	19.3	11	8.1	18.1	6.2	20.2	9.4	5.8	4.5	17.1	1.3	12.9	24.8	31.5	5.9	16.9	12.7	8.1	8.6	2.1	17.3	8.1	12.1
MZUNAP-HA00419	H	II	39.5	19.1	14.9	9.9	36.6	9.5	8	4.3	8.6	19.6	10.7	7.7	17.6	6.1	21.6	9.1	6.2	5	15.5	1.8	13.1	25	31.7	5.8	16.9	14	8.7	8.7	2	17.5	7.2	14.1
MZUNAP-HA00423	H	I	36.6	18.1	14.2	8.4	34	10.5	8.4	4	8.6	18.7	10.1	8.1	16.6	5.5	19.6	7	5.5	4.6	15.6	1.9	12.2	23.8	29.8	5.5	16.3	12.4	8.7	8	2.1	16.3	6.7	13.1
MZUNAP-HA00425	H	II	38.4	19.9	14.3	8.4	35.1	9.5	8.3	4.2	8.4	18	10.3	7.8	18.4	5.8	20.4	8.4	5.8	4.4	15.8	1.7	12.1	22.4	30.5	5.3	16.4	12.8	7.7	8.6	1.9	17.3	8.1	12.1
MZUNAP-HA00429	H	I	39.4	21.4	16.2	8.7	36	9.2	8.5	4.1	8.8	18.7	10.8	8.3	18	5.7	19.8	9.4	5.8	4.4	16.7	1.8	12.2	25.3	31	5.8	16.9	13.4	8.4	9.5	2.4	17.6	7.1	11.2
MZUNAP-HA00428	M	II	36.7	18.5	13.7	7.6	33.3	10.2	8.6	4.2	8.8	18.3	10.1	7.4	16.9	5.7	20.1	7.2	4.8	4.4	15.2	1.8	11.8	22.6	29	5.6	15	11.8	7.5	9.1	2.1	16.3	6.6	12.6
MZUNAP-HA00430	M	I	34.2	18.1	14.4	7.6	32.7	8	7.7	3.4	8.1	16.4	9	7.3	15.5	5.4	17.4	7.9	4.6	4.2	13.4	1.6	11.1	20	26.4	5.4	13.6	10	7.3	7.1	2.1	14.7	6.6	10.6
MZUNAP-HA00431	M	II	39.5	19.1	14.7	8.3	35.1	8.5	7.4	4.2	9.2	19.6	9.9	7.2	17.1	5.8	20.1	9.1	5.5	4.3	13.4	1.8	12.9	24.3	30.5	6.4	16.5	12.9	8.4	8.1	2	16.5	7.2	12.5
MZUNAP-HA00432	M	III	39.1	20.6	15.2	8.3	35.3	9.6	8.4	4.6	8.8	19.1	10.3	7.5	17.3	6.1	20.4	9.4	5.4	4.4	15.9	1.7	12.9	24	31.9	5.8	16.6	12.4	9	8.5	2	17	7.9	12.4
MZUNAP-HA00433	M	I	34.5	19.4	15.7	8.5	32.6	8.4	7.1	3.6	7.7	16.3	9.6	7.9	15.7	5.3	16.6	6.7	5.4	4.1	13.8	1.8	10.6	21.2	26.9	5.4	14.3	11.3	7.7	7.3	2.2	15.6	7.8	11
MZUNAP-HA00436	M	I	37.3	19.5	14.3	6.8	33.6	9.7	8.6	4	9	18.7	10.1	7.8	17.2	5.2	19.3	7.4	5.1	4.5	16	1.6	11.4	23.9	29.5	5.7	17.1	12.6	8.1	8.9	2.3	17.2	7.3	12.9

Table S2. Continued

Code	sex	clase	LTC	LHSFN	LSFNHSP_OCS	LSFNHSFPCS	DIPNM1	MAIO	MLIO	LLP	LVC	FIPC	ACR	AFI	ACC	LM	LDECP1	AMM	AMPC	FMBCM	LMS	ACE	ACI	AMCM										
MZUNAP-MA000447	H		398	206	142	84	349	98	83	45	82	191	11	8	189	65	206	87	57	48	163	21	126	257	31.9	56	174	134	8	84	2	18	86	122
MZUNAP-MA000448	H		395	221	168	8.8	358	99	82	4.5	87	193	108	7.8	181	65	195	84	5.1	4.8	15.9	2.2	12	242	31.9	5.5	17.6	14	9.5	82	2	18	76	12.6
MZUNAP-MA000446	H		39	204	16.1	8.6	36	10.1	8.9	4.4	8.9	20.1	10.5	7.8	17.6	6.1	19.8	9.1	5	4.6	15.9	1.8	126	24.3	31.8	6.1	16	13.7	8.2	83	22	178	7.9	12.3
MZUNAP-MA000451	H		37.4	19.5	15.9	7.8	35	9.5	7.8	3.7	9.1	18.2	10.9	7.8	16.7	5.7	19.1	8	5.1	4.4	15.9	1.7	12.5	23.6	29.4	6.1	16.2	11.8	8.3	7.3	2.3	16.7	6.9	12.9
MZUNAP-MA000432	H		369	18.9	13.8	8.7	33.2	93	8.1	3.8	8.7	19	10.2	7.9	16.2	5.8	19.4	9	5.5	4.3	15.4	1.9	12.1	24.3	30.3	5.7	16.4	13.2	7.8	7.6	2.2	15.9	7.6	12.1
MZUNAP-MA000444	M		386	19.9	14.6	8.5	34.9	94	8	4.1	9.7	18.8	10.4	7.4	18.1	6.4	20.4	8.5	5.8	4.5	15.7	2	13.2	24.1	31.5	6.9	18.1	13.6	8.7	86	2.1	17.7	7.4	12.9
MZUNAP-MA000445	M		37.9	20.1	14.7	7.7	33.8	9.9	8.1	4.3	8.5	18.5	10.1	7.6	16.6	5.8	19.2	8.8	5.2	4.6	14.9	2.1	12.3	23.3	30	5.4	16.8	12.6	7.7	8.5	2.1	16.6	7.8	13.2
MZUNAP-MA000442	M		38.9	20.1	14.6	8.5	33.8	11.3	9.3	4.7	8.9	17.6	10.9	7.2	18.4	6.2	21	9.6	5.3	4.6	16.6	2	13.1	25	32.3	5.8	17	13.7	8.2	9.8	2.1	18.6	8.5	12.3
MZUNAP-MA000449	M		365	18.3	12.9	8.1	32.9	9.1	8	3.8	8.9	17.9	10.1	7.2	17.2	5.8	16.8	7.2	5.3	4.3	13.3	1.9	12.3	20.9	28.4	6.1	14.8	11.2	8.4	7.5	2	172	7.3	13.6

Table S3. Character loadings, eigenvalues, and percentage of explained variance for PC1 and PC2 and character loadings of explained variance for discriminant function analysis (DFA) between sexes and age classes in one population of *Tapirus terrestris* from Loreto, Peru. In bold are the variables that most contributed to the discrimination by sex and class.

Variables	PC1	PC2	Discriminant function -sex	Discriminant function -classes
LSFNS	0.133	-0.418	-1.0859	0.082132474
FNSL_POS_SC	0.190	-0.263	1.8988	-2.680867569
FSL_FPS_SC	0.200	-0.204	-0.6469	1.333302555
POS_LSCP	0.123	-0.040	-1.2685	2.268403683
GWBO	0.190	0.096	0.2249	0.654518132
MWBO	0.191	0.046	-0.2732	0.121056639
GWP_IC	0.186	0.115	-0.1204	-0.015495093
P_P	0.185	-0.192	-0.3096	-1.321557959
PL	0.135	0.151	0.0823	-0.18820917
WP_BM1	0.187	0.144	-0.3320	2.458063571
LRP	0.219	-0.135	-3.7504	-1.09681079
ZW	0.163	0.226	-0.5520	-0.204340608
ID_PM1	0.181	-0.028	0.6491	-0.409336543
VCL	0.156	0.283	0.9626	-0.181388324
PLL	0.152	0.002	-0.2037	0.540287762
GILO	0.200	-0.117	0.1227	-0.595241483
GIWO	0.192	-0.074	-0.0606	-0.523564426
CH	0.192	0.077	0.4875	0.100269977
HIOF	0.218	-0.141	1.0474	0.695829283
IFTS	0.134	0.203	-0.7207	-1.98735352
HCS	0.158	0.215	-0.5688	-0.321369452
ML	0.136	0.359	1.1631	-0.126586857
LDbCP1	0.195	-0.200	-0.3584	1.631805873
MMH	0.166	0.101	-0.8151	0.390816631
MHCP	0.161	0.196	0.0122	-0.062988025
MF_CEM	0.190	-0.179	-0.8309	-0.144986022
MLS	0.181	0.116	-0.0717	-0.508597269
MTM1	0.213	-0.124	2.0835	0.742569806
ECA	0.167	0.197	0.0602	-1.519867419
ICW	0.211	-0.088	0.5128	-0.057136114
MWMC	0.202	0.019	0.3716	0.208014324
% variance	62.6 %	7.1%	-	-

Appendix S1. R code for morphometric statistical analysis (PCA, DFA and allometric analysis) in skulls of *Tapirus terrestris* from Loreto, Peru

```
#Import libraries
library(ggpubr)
library(ggplot2)
library(MASS)
library(plyr)
library(reshape)
library(vegan)
library(correlation)
library(boot)
library(quantreg)

#Import data
craneos<-read.table(file="SM_4_morfometric_data.txt",header=TRUE,sep="\\t",na.strings="NA",dec="")
craneos
names(craneos)
datos<-craneos[,1:5]
datos

medidas<-craneos[,6:37]
medidas

# Compute descriptive statistics by groups
stable <- desc_statby(craneos, measure.var = "LTC",
  grps = "sex")

#morphometric analysis
#residuals of each measure between total length of skull

LHSFN=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$LHSFN)
summary(LHSFN)
LHSFN=LHSFN$res
LHSFN

LSFNHSP_OCS=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$LSFNHSP_OCS)
summary(LSFNHSP_OCS)
LSFNHSP_OCS=LSFNHSP_OCS$res
LSFNHSP_OCS

LSFNHSFPCS=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$LSFNHSFPCS)
summary(LSFNHSFPCS)
LSFNHSFPCS=LSFNHSFPCS$res
LSFNHSFPCS

LSP_OCSHP=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$LSP_OCSHP)
summary(LSP_OCSHP)
LSP_OCSHP=LSP_OCSHP$res
LSP_OCSHP

MAEO=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$MAEO)
summary(MAEO)
MAEO=MAEO$res
MAEO

AMEO=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$AMEO)
summary(AMEO)
AMEO=AMEO$res
AMEO

MADP=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$MADP)
summary(MADP)
MADP=MADP$res

MADP
PPR=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$PPR)
summary(PPR)
PPR=PPR$res
PPR

LDP=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$LDP)
summary(LDP)
LDP=LDP$res
LDP

APIM1=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$APIM1)
summary(APIM1)
APIM1=APIM1$res
APIM1

LHPR=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$LHPR)
summary(LHPR)
LHPR=LHPR$res
LHPR

AC=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$AC)
summary(AC)
AC=AC$res
AC

DIPNM1=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$DIPNM1)
summary(DIPNM1)
DIPNM1=DIPNM1$res
DIPNM1

LVC=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$LVC)
summary(LVC)
LVC=LVC$res
LVC

LLP=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$LLP)
summary(LLP)
LLP=LLP$res
LLP

MLIO=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$MLIO)
summary(MLIO)
MLIO=MLIO$res
MLIO

MAIO=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$MAIO)
summary(MAIO)
MAIO=MAIO$res
MAIO

ACR=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$ACR)
summary(ACR)
ACR=ACR$res
ACR

AFI=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$AFI)
```

```

summary(AFI)
AFI=AFI$res
AFI

FIPC=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$FIPC)
summary(FIPC)
FIPC=FIPC$res
FIPC

ACC=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$ACC)
summary(ACC)
ACC=ACC$res
ACC

LM=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$LM)
summary(LM)
LM=LM$res
LM

LDECP1=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$LDECP1)
summary(LDECP1)
LDECP1=LDECP1$res
LDECP1

AMM=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$AMM)
summary(AMM)
AMM=AMM$res
AMM

AMPC=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$AMPC)
summary(AMPC)
AMPC=AMPC$res
AMPC

FMBCM=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$FMBCM)
summary(FMBCM)
FMBCM=FMBCM$res
FMBCM

LMS=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$LMS)
summary(LMS)
LMS=LMS$res
LMS

EMM1=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$EMM1)
summary(EMM1)
EMM1=EMM1$res
EMM1

ACE=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$ACE)
summary(ACE)
ACE=ACE$res
ACE

ACI=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$ACI)
summary(ACI)
ACI=ACI$res
ACI

AMCM=lm(medidas$LTC~medidas$AMCM)
summary(ACI)
AMCM=AMCM$res
AMCM

#residuals cbind
union.de.residuos<-cbind(LHSFN,LSFNHSP_OCS,LSFNHSFPCS,LSP_
OCSHP,MAEO,
AMEO,MADP,PPR,LDP,APIM1,LHPR,AC,DIPNM1,LVC,
LLP,MLIO,MAIO,ACR,AFI,FIPC,ACC,LM,LDECP1,AMM,
AMPC,FMBCM,LMS,EMM1,ACE,ACI,AMCM)
union.de.residuos

pca <- prcomp((union.de.residuos),retx=T, center=T, scale=T)
pca
summary(pca)

#PC1+PC2 Differences between ages and sex
summary(lm(pca$x[,1:2]~craneos$clase+craneos$sex))

#PCA graphic by sex
scores<-data.frame(craneos$sex,pca$x[,1:2])
scores

issp06 <- na.omit(scores)
issp06 <- droplevels(scores)
issp06

df <- scores
df
find_hull <- function(issp06) issp06[chull(issp06$PC1, issp06$PC2), ]
find_hull
hulls <- ddply(df,"craneos.sex",find_hull)
hulls

fig2 <- ggplot(data=issp06, aes(PC1, PC2, colour=craneos.sex, shape=craneos.sex)) +
  geom_point(size=5) +
  labs(x = "PC1 62.6%", y = "PC2 7.1%")
fig2

# Convex hulls
fig2b <- fig2 + geom_polygon(data=hulls, alpha=.001)
fig2b

#PCA graphic by age
scores<-data.frame(craneos$clase,pca$x[,1:2])
scores

issp06 <- na.omit(scores)
issp06 <- droplevels(scores)
issp06

df <- scores
df
find_hull <- function(issp06) issp06[chull(issp06$PC1, issp06$PC2), ]
find_hull
hulls <- ddply(df,"craneos.clase",find_hull)
hulls

fig2a <- ggplot(data=issp06, aes(PC1, PC2, colour=craneos.clase, shape=craneos.clase)) +
  geom_point(size=5) +
  labs(x = "PC1 62.6%", y = "PC2 7.1%")
fig2a

# Convex hulls
fig2a <- fig2a + geom_polygon(data=hulls, alpha=.001)
fig2a

figura <- ggarrange(fig2b, fig2a,
  labels = c("A","B"),
  ncol = 1, nrow = 2)

```

figura

```
#Discriminant Function
#sex
wine.lda<-lda(datos$sex~union.de.residuos)
wine.lda
var<-(wine.lda$svd^2)/sum((wine.lda$svd^2))
var
write.table(wine.lda$scaling, file="lda_sex.xls", sep="\t")
wine.lda.values <- predict(wine.lda)
wine.lda.values$class
ldahist(wine.lda.values$x[,1], g = craneos$sex)

#age
wine.lda<-lda(datos$clase~union.de.residuos)
wine.lda
var<-(wine.lda$svd^2)/sum((wine.lda$svd^2))
var
write.table(wine.lda$scaling, file="lda_age.xls", sep="\t")
wine.lda.values <- predict(wine.lda)
ldahist(wine.lda.values$x[,1], g = craneos$clase)

#allometric analysis
todos=lm(medidas$LTC~
medidas$LHSFN+medidas$LSFNHSP_OCS+
medidas$LSFNHSFPCS+medidas$LSP_OCSHP+medidas$MAEO+
medidas$AMEO+medidas$MADP+medidas$PPR+medidas$LDP+
medidas$APIM1+medidas$LHPR+medidas$AC+medidas$DIPNM1+
medidas$LVC+medidas$LLP+medidas$MLIO+medidas$MAIO+
medidas$ACR+medidas$AFI+medidas$FIPC+medidas$ACC+
medidas$LM+medidas$LDECP1+medidas$AMM+medidas$AMPC+
medidas$FMBCM+medidas$LMS+medidas$EMM1+medidas$ACE+
medidas$ACI+medidas$AMCM)

names(medidas)
coef<-as.matrix(coef(todos))
coef
write.table(intervals, file="intervales.txt", sep="\t")
intervals<-confint(todos, level=0.90)
intervals

summary(todos)

coeficientes=todos$coefficients
coeficientes
coeficientes=as.matrix(coeficientes)
write.table(coeficientes, file="morfo.txt", sep="\t")
todos$coefficients
todos
coefplot(todos, intercept=FALSE, group.par=list(lw=2, line.adj=0.182)
```