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1 **Phylogeography and historical introgression in smoothtail nine-**
2 **spined sticklebacks, *Pungitius laevis* (Gasterosteiformes:**
3 **Gasterosteidae)**

4
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10
11 Running head: Historical introgression in *Pungitius laevis*

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18 **Abstract**

19 Pleistocene glaciations have strongly affected the biogeography of many species residing in
20 periglacial and previously glaciated regions. Smoothtail nine-spined sticklebacks (*Pungitius*
21 *laevis*) have three highly divergent mitochondrial lineages in France, one of which shares the
22 same mitochondrial cluster with a congener *P. pungitius*. To understand if interspecific
23 introgression has happened between the two species, we carried out phylogeographic and
24 population genetic analyses using mitochondrial and nuclear gene sequences. Our results
25 indicated asymmetric mitochondrial introgression from *P. pungitius* to *P. laevis* and genetic
26 admixture of these species in one of the *P. laevis* lineages, suggesting historical hybridization.
27 Deep intraspecific mitochondrial divergence within *P. laevis* in central and southern France
28 mostly coinciding with major drainages suggests that these areas were important glacial refugia
29 for the species explaining the observed intraspecific divergence. The historical hybridization
30 between *P. laevis* and *P. pungitius* likely occurred in a refugium at central France, and the
31 newly formed *P. laevis* lineage spread northward during postglacial recolonization. The study
32 adds to the long list of species showing complete mitogenome capture owing to historical
33 hybridizations, and highlights the reticulate nature of population differentiation in taxa subject
34 to postglacial range-expansions.

35 **Keywords:** genetic admixture, hybridization, introgression, phylogeography, *Pungitius*,
36 stickleback

40 **Introduction**

41 Pleistocene glaciation cycles caused dramatic climate oscillations, and significantly affected
42 the diversification of organisms distributed in boreal and temperate regions (Hewitt, 2000, 2004;
43 Wiens & Donoghue, 2004). During repeated ice sheet expansions, the distribution ranges of
44 species became restricted to glacial refugia in the south (Taberlet *et al.*, 1998; Hewitt, 1999).
45 Comparative analyses of many terrestrial and aquatic organisms have revealed that prolonged
46 isolation in different refugia has led to extensive intraspecific genetic differentiation (Hewitt,
47 1999; Pamilo & Savolainen, 1999; Schmitt, 2007), and even promoted speciation (Avice &
48 Walker, 1998; Stewart & Lister, 2001). Since a limited number of founding individuals often
49 seeded postglacial recolonizations, northern populations also tend to have lower genetic
50 diversity than populations in the south (Hewitt, 1996; Bernatchez & Wilson, 1998; Hawkins &
51 Porter, 2003). In addition, as distinct evolutionary lineages or species that inhabited in different
52 refugia often used multiple routes for postglacial recolonization, hybridization has frequently
53 occurred in their secondary contact areas (Remington, 1968; Hewitt, 2001, 2011).

54 Hybridization between distinct lineages or species often results in genetic introgression
55 from one group to another, and backcrossing of hybrids with a parental group can give rise to
56 hybrid swarms (Rhymer & Simberloff, 1996). Incongruent phylogeographic patterns between
57 mitochondrial and nuclear markers are found in various organisms (Toews & Brelsford, 2012).
58 For instance, although different taxonomic groups can be readily distinguished using nuclear
59 genetic markers, they can become assigned into a single mitochondrial group if mitochondrial
60 introgression has occurred (Irwin, Rubtsov & Panov, 2009; Wiens, Kuczynski & Stephens,

61 2010; Boratyński *et al.*, 2011; Darras & Aron, 2015). Postglacial introgression has often been
62 observed in both North American and Eurasian organisms, typically in specific areas where
63 diverged lineages from different refugia have come into secondary contact after northward
64 expansions (Zink, 1994; Hewitt, 1999; Spellman, Riddle & Klicka, 2007). While such
65 admixture can complicate phylogeographic reconstructions, it is becoming clear that
66 hybridization can be also involved in generating new species or lineages (Mallet *et al.*, 2007;
67 Schumer, Rosenthal & Andolfatto, 2014).

68 Evolutionary history and genetic structuring of freshwater taxa are strongly influenced by
69 the historical and contemporary connectivity of the waterways (McGlashan & Hughes, 2001;
70 Smith & Dowling, 2008). As fluvial conditions are strongly affected by climate, local
71 geomorphological events, river captures and sea level changes, glaciation cycles probably
72 resulted in numerous drainage re-connections and disconnections (Blum & Törnqvist, 2000;
73 Whitfield & Harvey, 2012). However, as evidenced by large body of research, fairly detailed
74 reconstructions of historical biogeography of freshwater fauna in formerly glaciated areas are
75 possible with the aid of genetic markers (Bernatchez & Wilson, 1998; Makhrov & Bolotov,
76 2006).

77 Stickleback fishes of the family Gasterosteidae are widely distributed in the northern
78 hemisphere (Wootton, 1976), and their diversification has been strongly impacted by glaciation
79 events (Mäkinen & Merilä, 2008; Münzing, 1969; Orti *et al.*, 1994; Takahashi & Goto, 2001;
80 Wang *et al.*, 2015). The smoothtail nine-spined stickleback (*Pungitius laevis*) is a small
81 freshwater fish found in coastal and inland areas of western Europe (Kottelat & Freyhof, 2007).

82 It is morphologically very similar to the nine-spined stickleback (*P. pungitius*), although they
83 can be distinguished on the basis of the absence or presence of lateral scutes and keels (Keivany
84 & Nelson, 2000; Kottelat & Freyhof, 2007). Because of their morphological similarities, *P.*
85 *laevis* has often been taxonomically considered as a subspecies of *P. pungitius* (Münzing, 1969;
86 Gross, 1979; Paepke, 1996). However, a previous phylogenetic study showed high degree of
87 mitochondrial divergence between *P. laevis* and *P. pungitius*, additionally demonstrating the
88 presence of three highly divergent *P. laevis* lineages in France (Wang *et al.*, 2015). The
89 divergences of these lineages were estimated to have occurred around 1.95 to 1.38 Mya in
90 Pleistocene, which are much older divergences than those estimated for globally distributed *P.*
91 *pungitius* lineages (Wang *et al.*, 2015). Given that all divergent *P. laevis* lineages, as well as *P.*
92 *pungitius* are found in the central and southern parts of France, these areas have been considered
93 as important glacial refugia for ancestral European *Pungitius* fishes (Wang *et al.*, 2015). It is
94 noteworthy that one of the three divergent mitochondrial lineages in *P. laevis* is
95 phylogenetically positioned in the western European clade of *P. pungitius* (Wang *et al.*, 2015).
96 Thus, it appears that this lineage has a unique evolutionary history that differs from those of the
97 other *P. laevis* lineages. For instance, this lineage might have experienced hybridization and
98 introgression with *P. pungitius* and expanded its geographic range to the northern parts of
99 France where this lineage is currently distributed (Wang *et al.*, 2015). It is also possible that
100 this lineage represents a convergent form of *P. pungitius* that has lost its lateral scutes and keels
101 resulting in morphological similarity to *P. laevis*.

102 The aim of this study was to investigate the evolutionary history and processes underlying

103 the divergence between different lineages of *P. laevis*. In particular, we were interested in
104 elucidating the hypothesis that *P. laevis* lineage III was formed as a result of hybridization and
105 introgression between *P. laevis* and *P. pungitius*, rather than being a morphologically distinct
106 form of *P. pungitius*. To address these issues, we conducted a fine scale phylogeographic
107 analyses of samples collected from 30 sites in France using both mitochondrial and nuclear
108 gene sequences.

110 **Materials and methods**

111 *Samples*

112 We collected 114 individuals of *P. laevis* from 25 sites and 22 individuals of *P. pungitius* from
113 five sites in France (Fig. 1 and Table S1, Supporting information). *P. laevis* and *P. pungitius*
114 were distinguished based on the absence and presence of keels at caudal regions, respectively,
115 which is a diagnostic morphological and taxonomic trait characterizing these species (Kottelat
116 & Freyhof, 2007). The sampling sites covered most parts of the species distribution ranges in
117 France (Wootton, 1976; Paepke, 2001; Kottelat & Freyhof, 2007), including seven main
118 drainage basins (*viz.* Seine, Loire, Dordogne, Charente, Meuse, Rhine and Rhône basins). The
119 *P. laevis* individuals were sampled from three sites in the Dordogne River tributaries (Dordogne
120 basin), two sites in the Charente River (Charente basin), eight sites in the Loire River (Loire
121 basin), seven sites in the Seine River tributaries (Seine basin), four sites in the Meuse River
122 (Meuse basin) and one site in the Mosel River (Rhine basin; Fig. 1). The *P. pungitius*
123 individuals were collected from five sites in the Saône River (Rhône basin; Fig. 1). Although

124 all the individuals were included in the mitochondrial gene analyses, 82 *P. laevis* individuals
125 from 18 sites and 20 *P. pungitius* individuals from four sites were used for nuclear gene analysis
126 due to small sample sizes in some sites (Table S1, Supporting information). Fin clips were
127 collected and preserved in ethanol for DNA extraction. *P. platygaster* collected from Greece
128 (40°50'N, 22°18'E) was used as an outgroup in nuclear phylogenetic analyses. Mitochondrial
129 data for *P. platygaster* were adopted from Wang *et al.* (2015).

131 *DNA extraction and sequencing*

132 Whole genomic DNA was extracted using the silica-based method (Elphinstone *et al.*, 2003) or
133 DNeasy Tissue Kit (QIAGEN). Phylogenetic analyses were conducted with one mitochondrial
134 gene (cytochrome *b*) and eight nuclear gene fragments, including four exon primed intron
135 crossing (EPIC) markers (04174E20, 19231E4, 36298E1 and 55305E1) and four conserved
136 coding regions (myh6, plagl2, SH3PX3 and sreb2; Table S2, Supporting information). A total
137 length of 1104 bp of cytochrome *b* gene was obtained using two primer pairs (Kocher *et al.*,
138 1989; Palumbi, 1996; Shikano *et al.*, 2010; Table S2, Supporting information). Each nuclear
139 gene was amplified and sequenced using the primers reported by earlier studies (Li *et al.*, 2007;
140 Li, Riethoven & Ma, 2010; Table S2, Supporting information), resulting in 274 to 853 bp length
141 for each gene with a total alignment length of 4919 bp (Table S2, Supporting information).
142 Polymerase chain reactions (PCRs) for cytochrome *b* and nuclear genes were performed
143 following Shikano *et al.* (2010) with slight modifications on annealing temperature for each
144 gene (Table S2, Supporting information). PCR procedures for the four coding genes included

145 the second PCR to avoid nonspecific amplification (Li *et al.*, 2007). Direct sequencing of PCR
146 products was conducted following Shikano *et al.* (2010) with MegaBACE 1000 (Amersham
147 Biosciences) and ABI 3730XL (Applied Biosystems) for mitochondrial and nuclear genes,
148 respectively. Cytochrome *b* sequences for 45 individuals from 13 sites were obtained from
149 Wang *et al.* (2015).

150 DNA sequences were aligned using MEGA6 (Tamura *et al.*, 2013). To minimize the
151 effects of sequencing error in nuclear genes, only SNPs observed in at least two individuals
152 were considered as polymorphic sites according to Hey & Wakeley (1997). Phylogenetic tree
153 reconstruction and pairwise nucleotide difference estimation (see below) were performed with
154 IUPAC codes for heterozygous sites, and other analyses were conducted using genotypic data
155 transformed with PGDSpider (Lischer & Excoffier, 2012). The mitochondrial and nuclear
156 datasets were analyzed separately, since possible mitochondrial introgression from *P. pungitius*
157 to *P. laevis* was indicated by an earlier study (Wang *et al.*, 2015). Novel mitochondrial and
158 nuclear gene sequences were deposited in GenBank (accession numbers: KX384688–
159 KX384725, KX758649–KX758992).

161 *Genetic diversity*

162 For the mitochondrial data, nucleotide diversity (π), haplotype diversity (H_d) and number of
163 polymorphic sites (S) were calculated using DnaSP 5.10.1 (Librado & Rozas, 2009). For the
164 nuclear data, the number of alleles (N_a), expected heterozygosity (H_E) and heterozygosity
165 deficiency (F_{IS}) at polymorphic sites were calculated using GenAIEx 6.5 (Peakall & Smouse,

166 2012). Tests for linkage disequilibrium and Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) were
167 conducted using Genepop 4.2 (Raymond & Rousset, 1995; Rousset, 2008) with Bonferroni
168 correction (Bonferroni, 1936). Given that genetic population structure is highly heterogeneous
169 even within the same phylogenetic lineage (see results), these tests were performed for each
170 site. Thus, it should be noted that the results of these tests can be conservative due to a relatively
171 small sample size in each site. Statistical significance in the level of genetic diversity among
172 four different taxonomic or phylogenetic groups (i.e. *P. laevis* lineage I, II and III and *P.*
173 *pungitius*; see results) was examined using ANOVA followed by Fisher's LSD post-hoc test.
174 The analyses were performed on nucleotide diversity (π) and haplotype diversity (H_d) in the
175 mitochondrial data, and for allele number (N_a) and expected heterozygosity (H_E) in the nuclear
176 data. The hierarchical analysis of molecular variance (AMOVA) was conducted to evaluate the
177 distribution of genetic variation within populations, among populations and among the four
178 phylogenetic groups (see above) using Arlequin v3.5 (Excoffier & Lischer, 2010).

179 180 *Phylogeny and population structuring*

181 Bayesian inference phylogenetic analysis was conducted using MrBayes 3.2 (Ronquist *et al.*,
182 2012). The best-fit substitution model was determined based on BIC criteria with Kakusan 4
183 (Tanabe, 2007). For the mitochondrial data, K80 + Gamma, HKY85 and GTR + Gamma were
184 used for the first, second and third codon positions, respectively. The phylogenetic analysis for
185 the nuclear data was performed with GTR + Gamma for 04174E20 and 55305E1, HKY85 +
186 Gamma for 36298E1, plag12, SH3PX3 and sreb2, JC69 + Gamma for 19231E4 and K80 +

187 Gamma for myh6. The MCMC chains were run for 10 000 000 generations (2500 trees were
188 used as burn-in and every 1000 generations were sampled), at which the average standard
189 deviation of split frequencies reached less than 0.01. Tree topology, as well as posterior
190 probabilities, were viewed using FigTree v1.4.2 (<http://tree.bio.ed.ac.uk/software/figtree/>). The
191 incongruence between the mitochondrial and nuclear trees was tested using Congruence Among
192 Distance Matrices (CADM) with 9999 permutations (Campbell, Legendre & Lapointe, 2011).
193 In this analysis, the average number of nucleotide differences (pairwise nucleotide differences)
194 between pairs of the four phylogenetic groups (*P. laevis* lineage I, II and III and *P. pungitius*)
195 were calculated for the mitochondrial and nuclear data separately. The null hypothesis was set
196 to incongruence of phylogenetic patterns in the two data sets.

197 For the nuclear data, phylogenetic relationships were also inferred based on principal
198 component analysis (PCA) using Eigensoft (Patterson, Price & Reich, 2006). Perl script
199 SmartPCA was used to calculate principal components and determine the statistical significance
200 of each component. Graphical plotting was conducted using R v3.2.3 (R Development Core
201 Team 2008). In addition, population admixture analysis was carried out for the nuclear data
202 using STRUCTURE 2.3.4 (Pritchard, Stephens & Donnelly, 2000). To investigate different
203 genetic groups (K) of *P. laevis* and *P. pungitius*, the analysis was conducted for K = 1 to 9
204 under the admixture and independent allele frequency models. Each K was run independently
205 with 10 replicates. The burn-in period was set to be 500 000 iterations, and the running period
206 after burn-in was 1 000 000 iterations. The highest hierarchical level of genetic groups in the
207 data was inferred from delta K (Evanno, Regnaut & Goudet, 2005) using Structure Harvester

208 (Earl 2012).

209
210 *Colonization history and recent gene flow*

211 The evolutionary history of *P. laevis* lineage III was assessed based on the geographic trends
212 in genetic diversity within the lineage and the patterns of genetic divergence between
213 populations in this and other lineages. Since *P. laevis* lineage III is phylogenetically distinct
214 from *P. pungitius* based on the analysis of nuclear genes (see results), it appears that
215 hybridization and introgression occurred between *P. laevis* and *P. pungitius* in the past before
216 *P. laevis* lineage III expanded its distribution in the northern parts of France including the Seine,
217 Meuse and Mosel River basins. Given that divergence between *P. laevis* and *P. pungitius* traces
218 back to Pleistocene glaciations (Wang *et al.*, 2015), hybridization could have occurred in glacial
219 refugia in the south when these species retreated southward during glaciations. Since postglacial
220 recolonization to the north is expected to lead to the northward reduction of genetic diversity
221 due to founder effects and population bottlenecks associated with range expansion (Hewitt,
222 2000, 2004), we investigated correlation between mitochondrial DNA nucleotide diversity
223 (sensitive to population size reductions) and latitudinal location to infer the colonization history
224 of *P. laevis* lineage III.

225 In addition, we tested possible recent gene flow between *P. laevis* lineage III and *P.*
226 *pungitius*, as well as between *P. laevis* lineage III and lineage I, which have allopatric
227 distribution patterns. Under the null hypothesis that there is no recent gene flow between the
228 different phylogenetic groups, we expected that the level of genetic differentiation is

229 independent of geographic distance between the sites within each of these groups. In contrast,
230 if there is recent gene flow between the groups, we expected to see lower degree of genetic
231 differentiation between the sites where these groups are geographically more closely located.
232 Linear regressions of genetic differentiation (F_{ST}) at the nuclear genes against geographic
233 distance were performed by Real Statistics Resource Pack (<http://www.real-statistics.com/>) in
234 Excel 2016 to assess if genetic differentiation within each of the lineages is independent of
235 geographic distance. The same analysis was also conducted with the average pairwise
236 nucleotide differences between pairs of the populations. Since the distance data violates
237 assumption of independence among data points, the significance testing was performed using
238 randomization with 2000 permutations.

240 **Results**

241 *Mitochondrial phylogeny*

242 The 1104 bp mitochondrial sequence contained 128 segregating sites defining 61 haplotypes
243 among 114 *P. laevis* and 22 *P. pungitius* individuals (Tables S1, S3, Supporting information).
244 Nucleotide diversity and haplotype diversity were 0.0342 and 0.973 in *P. laevis*, and 0.0029
245 and 0.887 in *P. pungitius*, respectively (Table S1, Supporting information). Nucleotide diversity
246 differed significantly among the four phylogenetic groups (i.e. *P. laevis* lineage I, II and III and
247 *P. pungitius*; ANOVA, $F_{3,25} = 5.44$, $P = 0.0051$; Fig. 2), although there was no significant
248 difference in haplotype diversity among them ($F_{3,25} = 1.10$, $P = 0.37$). While nucleotide
249 diversity did not significantly differ between *P. laevis* lineage III (0.00069) and *P. pungitius*

250 (0.00067; Fisher's LSD, $P = 0.97$; Fig. 2), each of these lineages showed lower nucleotide
251 diversity than *P. laevis* lineage II (0.00254; Fisher's LSD, $P < 0.01$; Fig. 2).

252 In the Bayesian phylogenetic tree, three major mitochondrial clades were found. *P. laevis*
253 individuals were divided into three highly divergent lineages (i.e. lineage I, II and III) with high
254 posterior probabilities (>0.99 ; Fig. 3A). All *P. pungitius* individuals clustered with *P. laevis*
255 lineage III (Fig. 3A). *P. laevis* lineage I included individuals from the Loire River drainage
256 (LI_FON, LI_ERD, LI_FIL, LI_RID, LI_VRI and LI_NOH) and a close Loire bordering area
257 of the Seine drainage (LI_LOI and LI_OUA), which is connected to the Loire River through
258 the Canal de Briare. This lineage was further divided into two subclades, with one composed
259 of individuals from LI_FON, LI_ERD, LI_LOI and LI_OUA, and the other composed of
260 individuals from LI_FIL, LI_RID, LI_VRI and LI_NOH (Fig. 3A). *P. laevis* lineage II
261 consisted of individuals from southwestern France, including the Dordogne River and its
262 tributaries (LII_MED, LII_LAR and LII_BLA) and the Charente River and its vicinity area
263 (LII_ANT, LII_TOU, LII_PUY and LII_PAY). This lineage was also divided into two
264 subclades (Fig. 3A). One subclade was composed of individuals from four sites close to the
265 Dordogne estuary (LII_ANT, LII_TOU, LII_MED and LII_LAR), and the other subclade
266 included those from four sites farer from the coastline (LII_PUY, LII_PAY and LII_BLA; Fig.
267 3A). *P. laevis* lineage III was composed of *P. laevis* individuals from the Seine drainage
268 (LIII_ARO, LIII_EUR, LIII_CHA, LIII_YON and LIII_DRU), the Meuse River (LIII_TRO,
269 LIII_BAR, LIII_MAZ and LIII_MOU) and the Mosel River (LIII_ORN), as well as *P.*
270 *pungitius* individuals from the Saône drainage (PP_ORA, PP_OGN, PP_MON, PP_MEN and

271 PP_VEY). No subdivision was found between the *P. laevis* and *P. pungitius* individuals (Fig.
272 3A).

273 The AMOVA revealed that the variance among phylogenetic groups accounted for
274 majority (81.3%) of the total variance in the data (Table 1). Variation within phylogenetic
275 groups and within populations only accounted for 15.3% and 3.4% of the total variance,
276 respectively. Genetic differentiation among groups (F_{CT}), within populations (F_{SC}), and among
277 populations (F_{ST}) were 0.813, 0.819 and 0.966 respectively (Table 1).

278 *Nuclear phylogeny*

279 In the total 4905 bp sequence of the eight nuclear gene fragments (Table S2, S4, Supporting
280 information), 73 SNPs were identified in the 82 *P. laevis* and 20 *P. pungitius* individuals. None
281 of the SNPs showed significant linkage disequilibrium or departure from HWE after Bonferroni
282 correction. The mean values of the number of alleles (N_a) and expected heterozygosity (H_E) in
283 the study sites were 1.116 and 0.043 for *P. laevis* and 1.076 and 0.020 for *P. pungitius*,
284 respectively (Table S1, Supporting information). The number of alleles (N_a) and expected
285 heterozygosity (H_E) were significantly different among the four phylogenetic groups (ANOVA,
286 $F_{3,18} = 5.93$, $P = 0.005$ for N_a ; $F_{3,18} = 5.28$, $P = 0.009$ for H_E ; Fig. 2). In contrast to the
287 mitochondrial data, *P. laevis* lineage III showed significantly higher N_a (1.20) and H_E (0.070)
288 than all of the other groups ($N_a = 1.05$ – 1.08 , $H_E = 0.019$ – 0.033 ; Fisher's LSD, $P < 0.05$ or $P <$
289 0.01 : Fig. 2).

291 The nuclear phylogenetic tree revealed two main clusters corresponding to *P. laevis* and

292 *P. pungitius* with high posterior probabilities (1.00 and 1.00, respectively; Fig. 3B). Although
293 the mitochondrial phylogenetic tree indicated a single cluster for the individuals of *P. laevis*
294 lineage III and *P. pungitius*, these were not clustered together in the nuclear phylogenetic tree
295 (Fig. 3B). In the *P. laevis* cluster, individuals belonging to the lineage I and II formed a
296 subcluster with a high posterior probability (0.98), and those of the lineage II were indicated as
297 a monophyletic group (Fig. 3B). In contrast, the individuals of *P. laevis* lineage III did not form
298 a subcluster (Fig. 3B). The CADM test indicated that the phylogenetic relationships of the four
299 phylogenetic groups (*P. laevis* lineage I, lineage II, lineage III and *P. pungitius*) are incongruent
300 with those obtained from the mitochondrial data ($P = 0.58$).

301 The AMOVA revealed that 58.6% of the genetic variation was explained by phylogenetic
302 groups, whereas variance within phylogenetic groups and within populations accounted for 26.4%
303 and 15.0% of variance, respectively (Table 1). The F_{CT} , F_{SC} and F_{ST} values were 0.586, 0.637
304 and 0.850, respectively (Table 1). In the PCA, three principal components were identified to be
305 significant with inertia values of 29.3, 14.1 and 8.9 (Fig. 4). All *P. laevis* individuals formed a
306 single cluster distinct from *P. pungitius* individuals (Fig. 4). Within the *P. laevis* cluster, the
307 individuals from the same mitochondrial lineages tended to cluster together, but the individuals
308 of *P. laevis* lineage II were further separated into two subgroups (Fig. 4). Notably, the
309 individuals of *P. laevis* lineage III clustered in between *P. pungitius* and other *P. laevis* lineages
310 showing large spread along the first principal component axis (Fig. 4).

311 In the Bayesian admixture analysis with STRUCTURE, the delta K showed a clear peak
312 at $K = 2$, indicating that population structure was best explained by two genetic clusters (Fig.

S1, Supporting information). At $K = 2$, one genetic cluster was found for the individuals of *P. laevis* lineages I and II, and another cluster was observed for those of *P. pungitius* (Fig. 5). However, the individuals of *P. laevis* lineage III showed a pattern of admixture between these clusters (Fig. 5). At $K = 3$, *P. laevis* lineage I and II were separated into two different clusters, and *P. laevis* lineage III was indicated to be an admixture of *P. laevis* lineage I and *P. pungitius* (Fig. 5). At $K = 4$, *P. laevis* lineage II was divided into two subgroups, and at $K = 5$, *P. laevis* lineage III was indicated as an independent cluster, although admixture from *P. laevis* lineage I and/or *P. pungitius* were found in some individuals (Fig. 5).

Colonization history and recent gene flow

Both nucleotide diversity (π) and haplotype diversity (H_d) in the mitochondrial data decreased significantly with increasing latitude in *P. laevis* lineage III (π : $r^2 = 0.442$, $N = 10$, $P = 0.036$; H_d : $r^2 = 0.540$, $N = 10$, $P = 0.016$; Fig. 6). However, no such a trend was found in *P. pungitius* (π : $r^2 = 0.289$, $N = 5$, $P = 0.084$; H_d : $r^2 = 0.033$, $N = 5$, $P = 0.77$). Hence, while *P. laevis* lineage III and *P. pungitius* belong to the same mitochondrial clade, they show different geographic patterns of mitochondrial diversity.

In the tests for recent gene flow with the nuclear genes, no significant correlation was found between genetic (F_{ST}) and geographic distance across *P. laevis* lineage III and *P. pungitius* sites ($r^2 = 0.006$, $N = 28$, $P = 0.52$), or in between the *P. laevis* lineage III and lineage I sites ($r^2 = 0.012$, $N = 42$, $P = 0.35$; Fig. S2, Supporting information). Likewise, no significant correlation was found between pairwise nucleotide difference and geographic distance across

334 *P. laevis* lineage III and *P. pungitius* sites ($r^2 = 0.134$, $N = 28$, $P = 0.06$), or in between the *P.*
335 *laevis* lineage III and lineage I sites ($r^2 = 0.023$, $N = 42$, $P = 0.34$; Fig. S3, Supporting
336 information). Thus, the null hypothesis of the presence of recent gene flow was rejected.

338 Discussion

339 Our results provide a basis to reject the hypothesis that *P. laevis* lineage III would be a
340 phenotypically convergent form of *P. pungitius* which has lost its keel plates and become
341 morphologically indistinguishable from *P. laevis*. Instead, the results provide evidence for
342 historical interspecific introgression between *P. pungitius* and *P. laevis*, resulting in a formation
343 of a new evolutionary lineage which appears to be morphologically indistinguishable from pure
344 *P. laevis*, but carries traces of genomic admixture between the two parental species. Most
345 notably, this introgression led to capture of *P. pungitius* mitogenome to *P. laevis* lineage III,
346 but traces of nuclear introgression are clearly visible. The lack of evidence for recent gene flow
347 between the species indicates that this secondary contact leading to the observed introgression
348 took place historically.

350 *Hybridization and mitochondrial introgression*

351 While *P. laevis* lineage III clustered together with *P. pungitius* in the mitochondrial analysis,
352 nuclear phylogenetic tree identified that all *P. laevis* individuals formed a monophyletic group
353 distinct from *P. pungitius*. The Structure analyses indicated that *P. laevis* lineage III individuals
354 are a genetic admixture between *P. laevis* and *P. pungitius*, suggesting that *P. laevis* lineage III

355 was formed in an asymmetric introgression between *P. pungitius* and *P. laevis*, which is also
356 consistent with the PCA results. As hybridization between different species leads to transfer of
357 alleles from one species to another, introgressed populations are generally expected to have
358 higher genetic variability than either of the parental species (Katoh & Ribi, 1996). In fact, *P.*
359 *laevis* lineage III was found to exhibit a higher level of genetic variation at nuclear genes than
360 the other *P. laevis* lineages (and *P. pungitius*), further supporting the admixed origin of the *P.*
361 *laevis* lineage III individuals. Since our data do not indicate ongoing gene flow either between
362 *P. laevis* lineages I and III or between *P. laevis* lineage III and *P. pungitius*, hybridization likely
363 occurred historically. Genetic introgression is often observed in stickleback fishes both in
364 Eurasia and North America (Takahashi & Takata, 2000; Takahashi *et al.*, 2016, Taylor &
365 McPhail, 1999). Takahashi *et al.* (2016) reported extensive genetic introgression among several
366 *Pungitius* species in East Asia, including that from *P. pungitius* to *P. sinensis*, as well as from
367 *P. sinensis* to *P. tymensis* and *P. kaibarae*. The frequent occurrence of introgression in genus
368 *Pungitius* could be due to relatively low degree of reproductive isolation among *Pungitius*
369 species.

370 Given that *P. laevis* lineage III is widely spread over the Seine, Meuse and Mosel Rivers,
371 a problem to be solved is how such a vast area became colonized by this lineage. Mitochondrial
372 genetic diversity in *P. laevis* lineage III showed clear decrease with the increasing of latitude,
373 indicating that the lineage may have gone through northward population expansion after
374 glaciations. Given the northward latitudinal reduction of mitochondrial diversity in lineage III,
375 hybridization might have occurred at a southern refugium when *P. pungitius* and *P. laevis*

376 retreat during glaciations and the newly formed lineage spread to the current distribution area
377 during postglacial recolonization. Sediments at the upstream of the Seine and Aube Rivers were
378 deposited during the last glacial period and filled incised valleys forming alluvial plains
379 (Bendjoudi *et al.*, 2002). This might have facilitated water connections in the Seine drainage,
380 and provided a passage for the lineage to spread in it. Of course, given that the river networks
381 in France have been strongly influenced by human activities including artificial canals (Persat
382 & Keith, 2011), it is also possible that the spread of lineage III was assisted by humans.

383 Although *P. laevis* lineage III is genetically admixed by *P. pungitius* and *P. laevis* in the
384 analyses of nuclear DNA, all the individuals carried the *P. pungitius* mitochondria. This type
385 of asymmetric introgression, in which the mitochondria of one species is replaced by that of
386 another (i.e. mitogenome capture), is rather common in fish and other taxonomic groups (Sousa-
387 Santos *et al.*, 2014; Carson & Dowling, 2006; Nevado *et al.*, 2009; Toews & Brelsford, 2012).
388 Asymmetric introgression can come about in various different ways. For example, asymmetric
389 reproductive isolation, differences in generation length, selective sweeps and different dispersal
390 distances between species can all cause asymmetric gene flow from one species to another
391 (Chan & Levin, 2005; Crespin, Berrebi & Lebreton, 1999; Harrison & Larson, 2014). In East
392 Asian *Pungitius* fishes, postzygotic reproductive isolation was found between freshwater and
393 brackish-water types, in which mitochondrial introgression has occurred relatively recently
394 (Takahashi, Tsuruta & Goto, 2003; Wiens, 2004), indicating that F₁ hybrid males are sterile but
395 females are fertile (Takahashi, Nagai & Goto, 2005). Reproductive isolation has been proven
396 also between landlocked and marine forms of the three-spined stickleback (*Gasterosteus*

397 *aculeatus*), in which mitochondrial introgression has occurred (Yamada, Higuchi & Goto,
398 2001). In this case, all the F₁ hybrid females were sterile in both pairing directions, and only
399 male F₁ hybrids generated from female landlocked and male marine forms were fertile (Honma
400 & Tamura, 1984). The asymmetric introgression from *P. pungitius* to *P. laevis* might have
401 occurred due to such postzygotic reproductive isolation, although no information is currently
402 available to evaluate this possibility. However, also differences in population size are
403 considered as a possible reason for the mitochondrial introgression between the freshwater and
404 brackish-water types and between the Pacific and Japan Sea three-spined stickleback forms
405 (Yamada *et al.*, 2001; Takahashi *et al.*, 2003). Similarly, the asymmetric introgression of *P.*
406 *pungitius* mitochondrial DNA into *P. laevis* lineage III could also be due to other causes, such
407 as possible selective advantage of the *P. pungitius* mitochondrial DNA on *P. laevis* genetic
408 background in the environments inhabited by lineage III.

409 410 *Geographic distribution of different lineages and species*

411 The three *P. laevis* lineages and *P. pungitius* were found to be geographically clearly isolated
412 from each other and distributed mostly in different drainage systems. *P. laevis* lineage II
413 occurred in southwestern France including the Charente and Dordogne Rivers and their
414 tributaries or vicinities, whereas *P. laevis* lineage I occurred in central France in the Loire River
415 drainage and in upstream parts of the Loing River. *P. laevis* lineage III was confined at the
416 Seine, Meuse and Mosel River basins, whereas *P. pungitius* was confined in the Saône basin.
417 The divergence between *P. laevis* lineages I and II traces back to the Pleistocene glaciations

418 (1.95 Ma; Wang *et al.*, 2015), which strongly affected the biogeography of many species in
419 France (Gouin *et al.*, 2006). Historically, the southernmost range of ice sheets reached the
420 northern France (Hewitt, 2004; Buoncristiani & Campy, 2004), and while regions from the
421 Seine-Normandie basin to the northern part of the Adour-Garonne basin, which contains the
422 Charente and Dordogne Rivers, were not covered by ice, they experienced continuous or
423 discontinuous permafrost during Pleistocene glaciations (Bertran *et al.*, 2014). However, the
424 southern part of the Adour-Garonne basin was nearly free of ice during the Pleistocene, which
425 may suggest a refugium for the *P. laevis* lineage II (Bertran *et al.*, 2014). Several refugial areas
426 have been identified in southern France, and these refugia are frequently associated with the
427 divergence between different lineages of freshwater species. For example, freshwater crayfish
428 (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) was found to have diverged into three deep lineages ($\Phi_{st} = 0.731$)
429 distributed in river basins in southern, northwestern and eastern France, respectively. The
430 intraspecific divergence in this species was inferred to have risen from retreat to different
431 refugia during glaciations. One refugium was possibly located in south-western France when
432 the Adour-Garonne basin was free of ice, while the others were suggested to be located at the
433 Mediterranean coast and Rhine basin (Gouin *et al.*, 2001). Similarly, brown trout (*Salmo trutta*
434 L.) diverged into five lineages in Eurasia during Pleistocene glaciations (0.5–2.0 Mya;
435 Bernatchez, 2001). Accordingly, five glacial refugia are suggested for this species, two of which
436 were located in southern France with corresponding lineages currently distributed to eastern
437 and northwestern France (Bernatchez, 2001). For graylings (*Thymallus thymallus*) and dace
438 (*Leuciscus leuciscus*), the Loire region has been suggested to be a refugium, although it is

439 located close to periglacial area (Weiss *et al.*, 2002; Costedoat & Gilles, 2009). By inference,
440 as both central and southern France have been identified as refugia for some species, it is
441 possible that the ancestors of *P. laevis* lineage I have inhabited the Loire River region as a
442 refugium, and become isolated from those of the lineage II, which currently inhabits the
443 Charente and Dordogne Rivers. The Loire River has been mostly independent from the Adour-
444 Garonne basin since 4.5 Mya (Persat & Keith, 2011), and the separation of these drainages may
445 have facilitated the divergence between the lineages I and II. Moreover, *P. pungitius* in the
446 Saône catchment represents the southernmost populations of this species in Europe. These *P.*
447 *pungitius* populations are isolated from other western European *Pungitius* populations. Thus, it
448 seems likely that the Saône basin was a refugium to *P. pungitius*, and the population in this
449 catchment persisted there during and after glaciations. A possible scenario for the origin of *P.*
450 *laevis* lineage III is that *P. laevis* lineage I retreated to the upstream of the Seine River during
451 the glaciations, and met *P. pungitius* that formerly resided in the area or colonized from the
452 Saône watershed through periodic waterway connection caused by ancient river capture. This
453 contact between the two species may have resulted in the formation of *P. laevis* lineage III.

454 Comparative phylogeographic studies of various species have discovered that genetic
455 diversity of species or lineages currently inhabiting formerly glaciated regions have lower
456 genetic diversity than species of lineages occurring in south (Hewitt, 1996; Bernatchez &
457 Wilson, 1998). By inference, the higher genetic diversity of *P. laevis* lineage II than the two
458 other *P. laevis* lineages and *P. pungitius* implies that *P. laevis* lineage II might have been less
459 affected by glaciations than the others. Since the *P. laevis* lineage II was inferred to have

460 occupied the southernmost refugium, the results concur with general patterns seen in other
461 studies. However, in the mitochondrial phylogenetic tree of *P. laevis* lineage II, populations
462 from the Charente and Dordogne Rivers form two distinct clusters with haplotypes from both
463 rivers. This clustering pattern could be explained by admixture owing to historical sea level
464 fluctuations, which occurred during Quaternary glaciations in European regions (Lericolais *et*
465 *al.*, 2007; Mellett *et al.*, 2013). It is widely recognized that freshwater fishes are forced to retreat
466 to inlands during sea level upraises, and recolonization towards the coastline occurs when sea
467 level drops (De Bruyn & Mather, 2007; Swartz *et al.*, 2014). However, an alternative
468 explanation to these patterns is provided by artificial transfers by humans.

469 470 *Conclusion*

471 The results identified and mapped the occurrence and phylogeographic distributions of three
472 distinct *P. laevis* lineages in France, as well provided evidence for interspecific hybridization
473 between *P. laevis* and *P. pungitius* being behind the formation of *P. laevis* lineage III. The two
474 other deep lineages (I and II) of *P. laevis* have likely diverged from each other in different
475 refugia during glaciations. Although future work is needed to test the extent of reproductive
476 isolation between *P. pungitius* and *P. laevis*, as well as between the different *P. laevis* lineages,
477 the results add to the evidence that interspecific hybridization between closely related fish
478 species has been probably more common than previously thought.

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728 Supporting information

729 Additional supporting information may be found in the online version of this article.
730

731 **Table S1.** Genetic diversity at mitochondrial cytochrome *b* gene and eight nuclear genes in 25
732 *P. laevis* and five *P. pungitius* sites.
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734 **Table S2.** Primers and PCR conditions used for mitochondrial and nuclear genes.
735

736 **Table S3.** Mitochondrial haplotype information in 25 *P. laevis* and five *P. pungitius* sites.
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738 **Table S4.** Sequence information of nuclear genes in 18 *P. laevis* and four *P. pungitius* sites.
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740 **Fig. S1.** Delta K values at K = 2 to K = 8 in the STRUCTURE analyses based on nuclear genetic
741 data.
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743 **Fig. S2.** Relationships between nuclear genetic distance (F_{ST}) and geographic distance in the
744 data between (A) the *P. laevis* lineage III and *P. pungitius* sites and between (B) the *P. laevis*
745 lineage III and I sites.
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747 **Fig. S3** Relationships between nuclear genetic distance (pairwise nucleotide difference) and
748 geographic distance in the data between (A) the *P. laevis* lineage III and *P. pungitius* sites and
749 between (B) the *P. laevis* lineage III and I sites.
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Legends to figures

Fig. 1 Sampling sites of *P. laevis* and *P. pungitius* used in this study. The four different colours of site IDs and symbols indicate different phylogenetic groups identified by mitochondrial and nuclear DNA data. Sampling sites with circle symbols were used in both mitochondrial and nuclear analyses, whereas those with square symbols were used only in mitochondrial analyses. The seven sampled main rivers are indicated in shaded colors. The dashed circle and solid circle show the distribution areas of *P. laevis* and *P. pungitius*, respectively.

Fig. 2 Comparisons of genetic diversity among four different phylogenetic groups based on (A) mitochondrial nucleotide diversity and (B) haplotype diversity, as well as on (C) expected heterozygosity and (D) the number of alleles at nuclear loci. The vertical bars represent the standard errors of the mean. Statistically significant comparisons are indicated with asterisks (* $P < 0.05$ and ** $P < 0.01$).

Fig. 3 Bayesian phylogenetic trees of *P. laevis* and *P. pungitius* individuals based on (A) mitochondrial and (B) nuclear genetic data. Different phylogenetic groups are indicated with differently coloured bars. The numbers represent the posterior probability (>0.85) of each node. Numbers in brackets indicate the number of individuals in the same population.

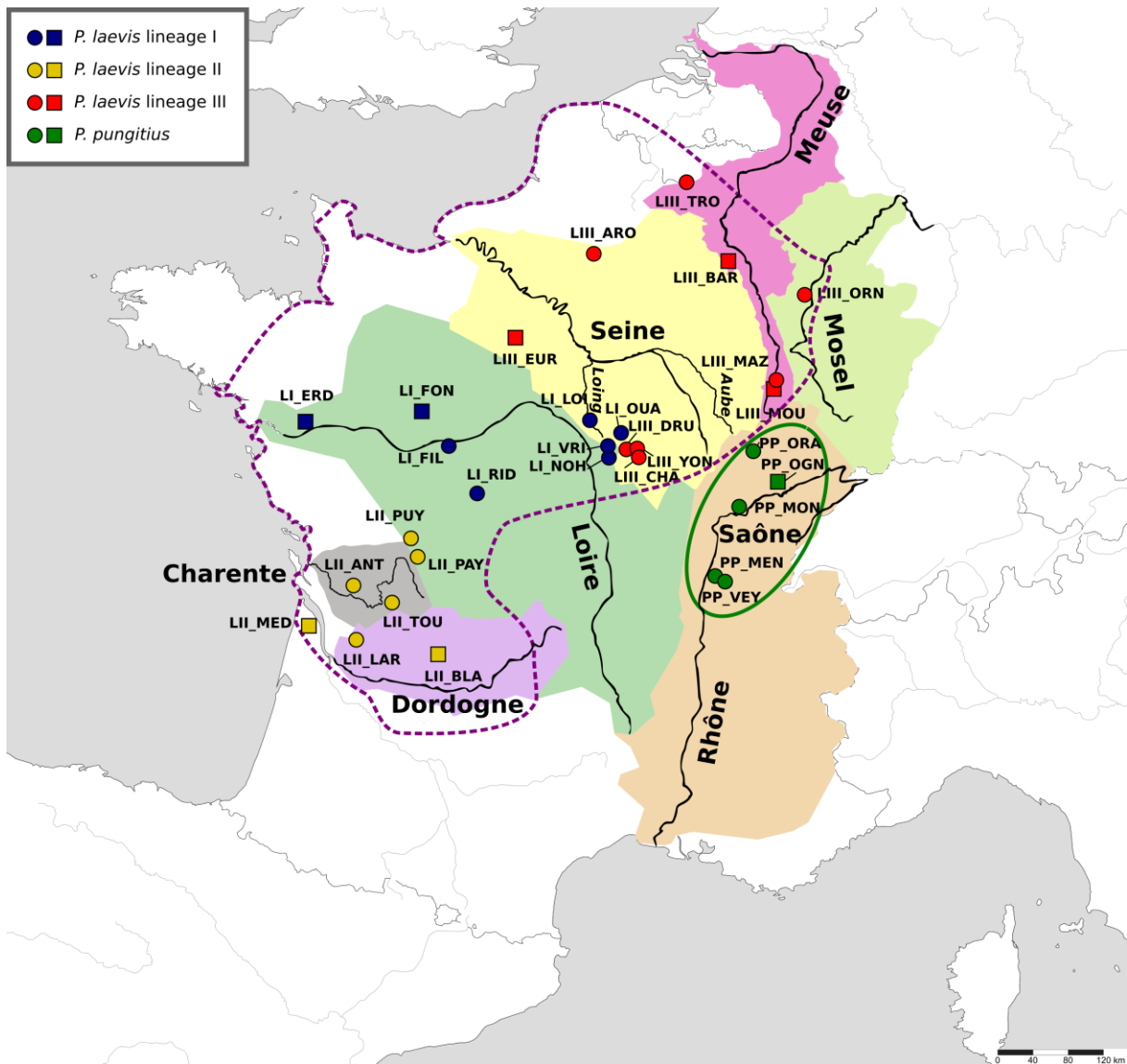
Fig. 4 Scatter plot of *P. laevis* and *P. pungitius* individuals based on three principal components (PC1, PC2 and PC3) of nuclear data. The symbols in blue, yellow, red and green indicate the individuals of *P. laevis* lineage I, lineage II and lineage III and *P. pungitius*, respectively.

Fig. 5 Bayesian clustering of *P. laevis* and *P. pungitius* individuals at $K = 2$ to $K = 5$ based on nuclear data. Each vertical bar represents each individual. The results based on $K = 2$ was indicated to be the optimal number of clusters in the data (Fig. S1, Supporting information).

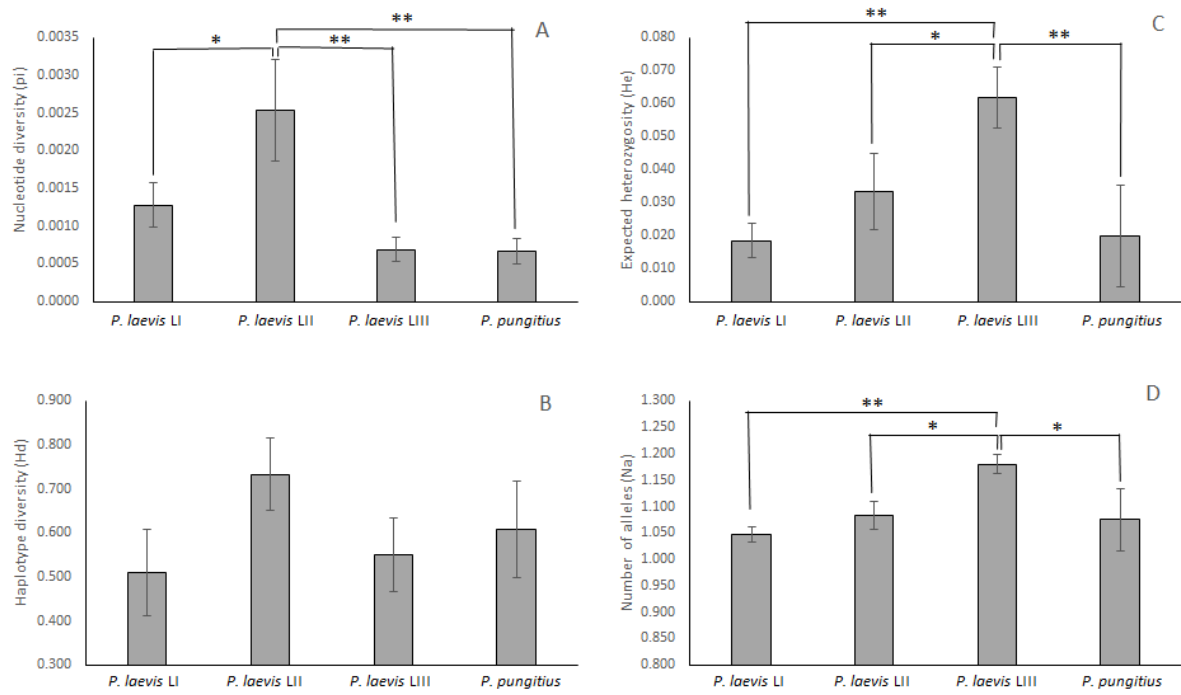
Fig. 6 Mitochondrial (A) nucleotide and (B) haplotype diversity as a function of latitude in the *P. laevis* lineage III sites.

Tables

Table 1. AMOVA statistics in mitochondrial and nuclear data

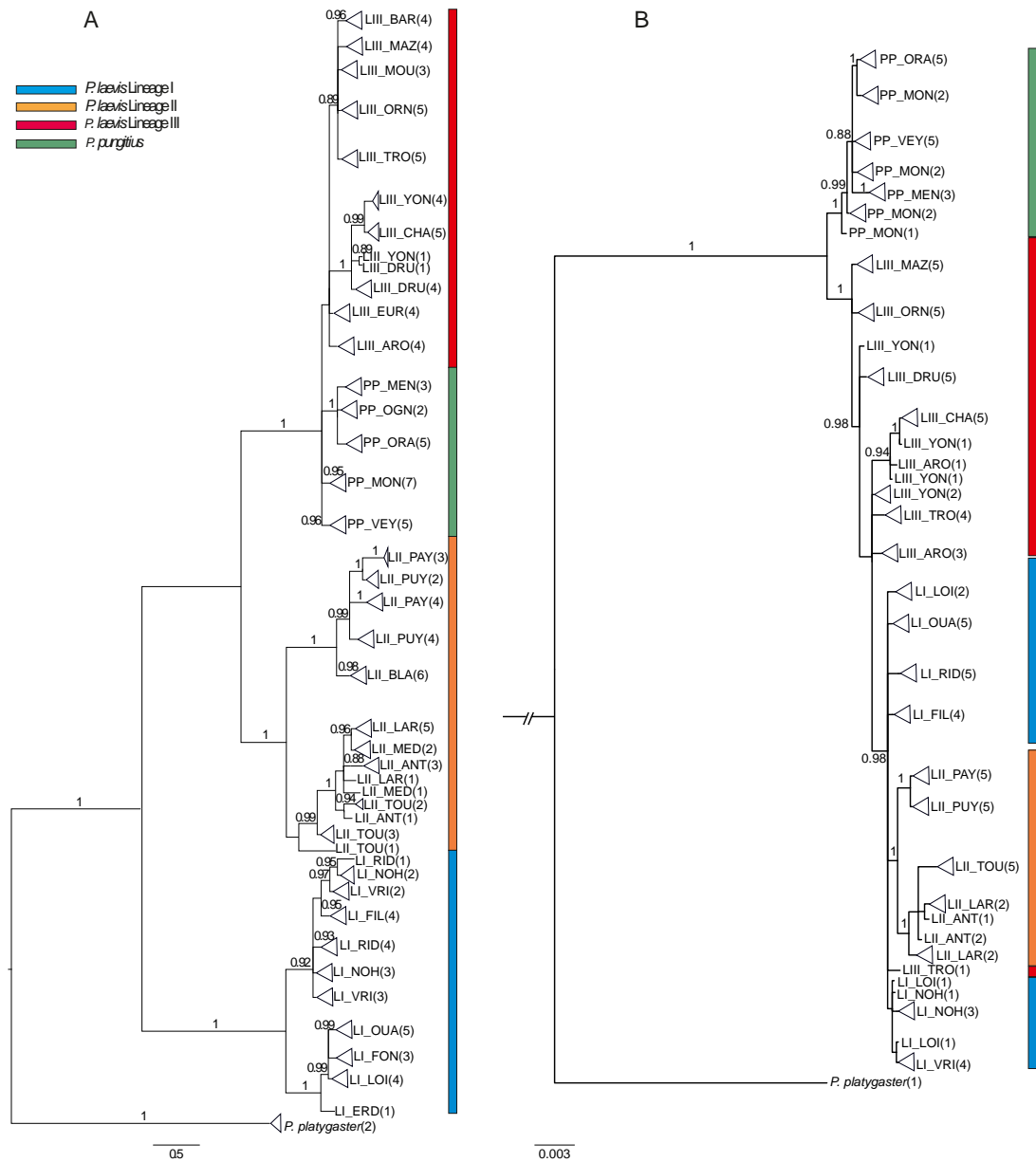


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798
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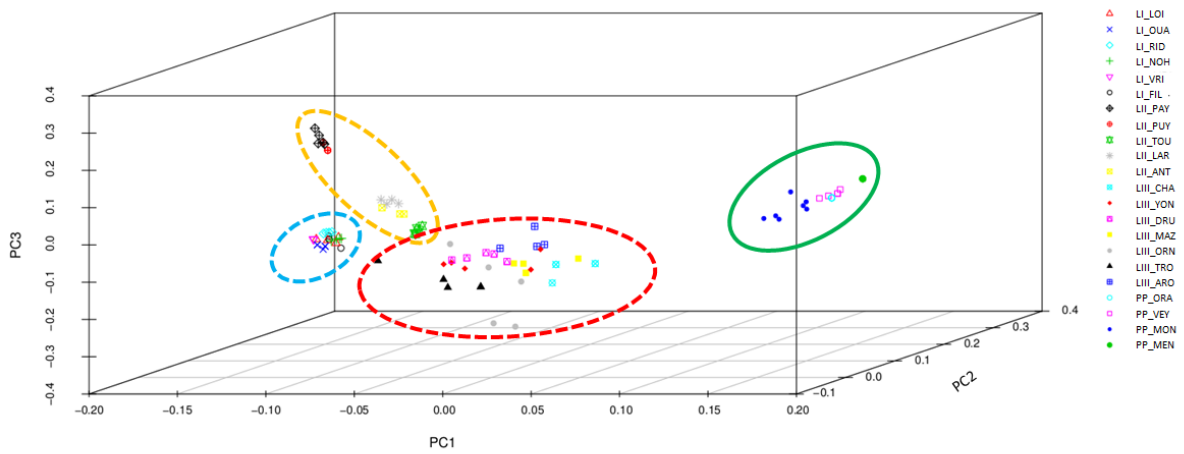


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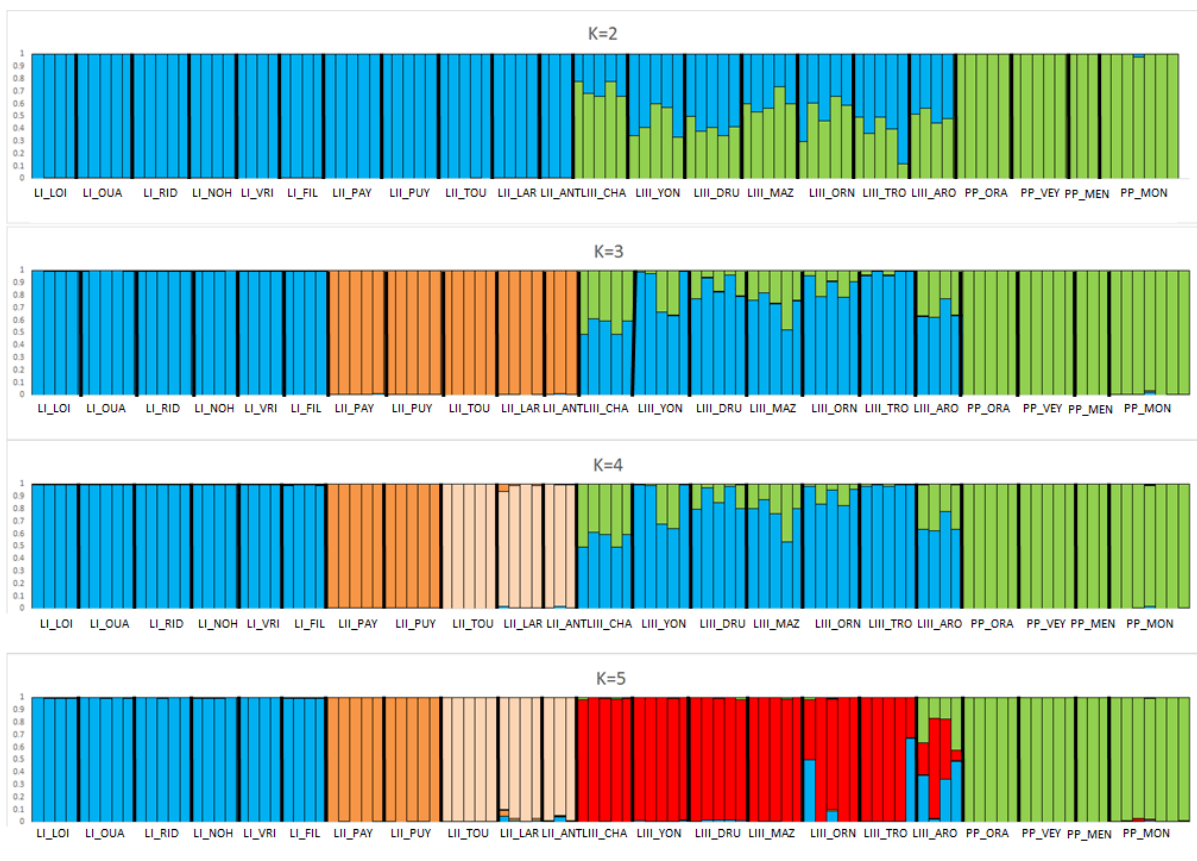


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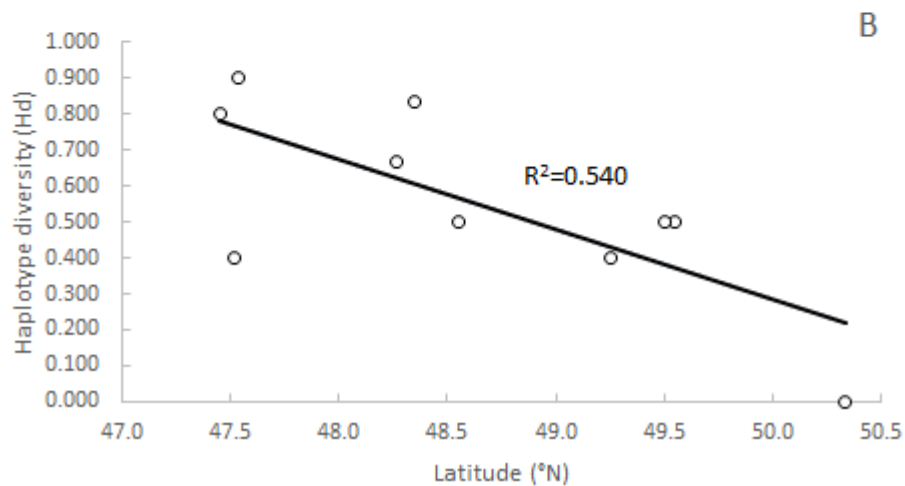
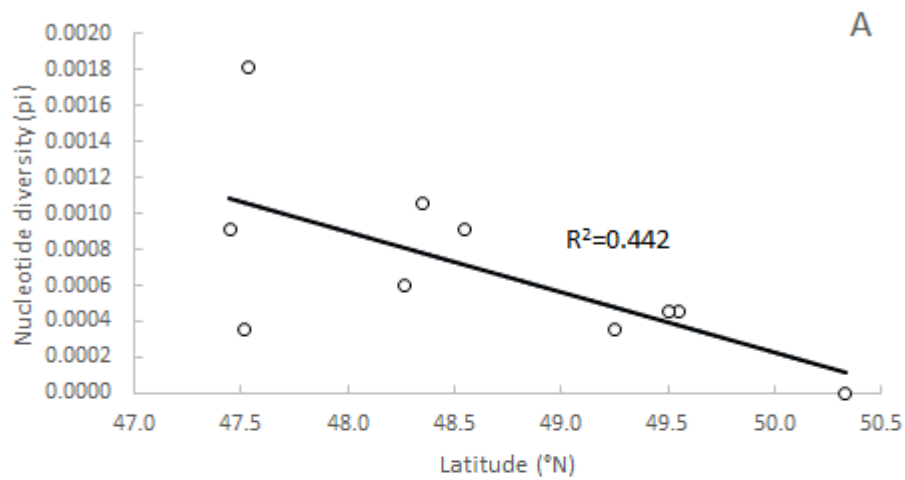


Fig. 6 Mitochondrial (A) nucleotide and (B) haplotype diversity as a function of latitude in the *P. laevis* lineage III sites.

Table 1. AMOVA statistics in mitochondrial and nuclear data

Source of variation	Mitochondrial data				Nuclear data			
	d.f.	Sum of squares	Variance component	Percentage of variation	d.f.	Sum of squares	Variance component	Percentage of variation
Among groups	3	1880.2	18.3	81.3	3	1025.0	6.2	58.6
Among populations within group	26	418.7	3.4	15.3	18	492.8	2.8	26.4
Within populations	106	80.2	0.8	3.4	182	290.5	1.6	15.0

Mitochondrial data: $F_{CT} = 0.813$, $F_{ST} = 0.966$ and $F_{SC} = 0.819$; nuclear data: $F_{CT} = 0.586$, $F_{ST} = 0.850$ and $F_{SC} = 0.637$.