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## Microgeographic adaptation and the effect of pollen flow on the adaptive potential of a temperate tree species

### Citation for published version:

Gauzere, J, Klein, EK, Brendel, O, Davi, H & Oddoumuratorio, S 2020, 'Microgeographic adaptation and the effect of pollen flow on the adaptive potential of a temperate tree species', *New Phytologist*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/nph.16537>

### Digital Object Identifier (DOI):

[10.1111/nph.16537](https://doi.org/10.1111/nph.16537)

### Link:

[Link to publication record in Edinburgh Research Explorer](#)

### Document Version:

Peer reviewed version

### Published In:

New Phytologist

### Publisher Rights Statement:

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**Title:** Microgeographic adaptation and the effect of pollen flow on the adaptive potential of a temperate tree species.

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**Total word count:** 6,596

**Specific count:** Introduction 1,362 words, Material and methods 2,368 words, Results 714 words, Discussion 2,154 words.

**Table count:** 3

**Figure count:** 4

**Supporting information:** 4 Tables, 1 Figure

**Heading:** A quantitative assessment of the impact of gene flow on adaptive genetic variation in nature

This article has been accepted for publication and undergone full peer review but has not been through the copyediting, typesetting, pagination and proofreading process, which may lead to differences between this version and the [Version of Record](#). Please cite this article as [doi: 10.1111/NPH.16537](https://doi.org/10.1111/NPH.16537)

## 1 **Summary**

2 • In species with long-distance dispersal capacities and inhabiting a large ecological niche, lo-  
3 cal selection and gene flow are expected to be major evolutionary forces affecting the genetic  
4 adaptation of natural populations. Yet, in species such as trees, evidence of microgeographic  
5 adaptation and the quantitative assessment of the impact of gene flow on adaptive genetic vari-  
6 ation are still limited.

7 • Here, we used extensive genetic and phenotypic data from European beech seedlings col-  
8 lected along an elevation gradient, and grown in a common garden, to study the signature of  
9 selection on the divergence of eleven potentially adaptive traits, and to assess the role of gene  
10 flow in resupplying adaptive genetic variation.

11 • We found a significant signal of adaptive differentiation among plots separated by less than  
12 one kilometre, with selection acting on growth and phenological traits. Consistent with the-  
13oretical expectations, our results suggest that pollen dispersal contributes to increase genetic  
14 diversity for these locally differentiated traits.

15 • Our results thus highlight that local selection is an important evolutionary force in natural  
16 tree populations and suggest that management interventions to facilitate movement of gametes  
17 along short ecological gradients would boost genetic diversity of individual tree populations,  
18 and enhance their adaptive potential to rapidly changing environments.

19

20 **Key words:** Adaptive divergence; Climate change; Common garden ; Elevation gradient; *Fa-*  
21 *gus sylvatica*; Genetic diversity; Natural selection; Pollen dispersal

## 22 Introduction

23 Recent interest in microgeographic adaptation, *i.e.* adaptation at spatial scales compatible with  
24 substantial amounts of gene dispersal, suggests we must reconsider the scale at which evolution  
25 occurs (Richardson *et al.*, 2014). At this fine spatial scale, a major question that remains to be  
26 answered is whether gene flow is constraining or facilitating local adaptation. Too much gene  
27 flow would overwhelm the effects of natural selection that drive adaptive genetic divergence  
28 among populations (Lenormand, 2002) and decrease the adaptation of populations to their lo-  
29 cal environment (migration load). Conversely, gene flow can also resupply the genetic diversity  
30 eroded by genetic drift and selection, and thus facilitate future evolutionary responses (Pease  
31 *et al.*, 1989; Barton, 2001; Lenormand, 2002; Bridle *et al.*, 2010; Polechova & Barton, 2015).  
32 In many taxa, and especially long-lived organisms, gene flow is expected to be the main process  
33 maintaining the standing genetic variation within natural populations (Barton, 2001; Le Corre  
34 & Kremer, 2003; Bridle *et al.*, 2010). In the particular case of environments varying through  
35 both space and time, gene flow could also spread alleles pre-adapted to future environmental  
36 conditions (Davis & Shaw, 2001; Aitken *et al.*, 2008; Kremer *et al.*, 2012; Fitzpatrick & Reid,  
37 2019). Although theoretical developments on this topic have been rich and provided interest-  
38 ing hypotheses to test in nature, empirical studies on the role and importance of gene flow in  
39 adaptation are still lacking (but see Fitzpatrick *et al.* 2015, 2016).

41 Increasing evidence of microgeographic adaptation in nature provides strong support for  
42 the idea that gene flow rarely prevents the emergence of local adaptation or adaptive divergence  
43 (Anderson *et al.* 2015; Eckert *et al.* 2015; Fitzpatrick *et al.* 2015; Moody *et al.* 2015; Peterson  
44 *et al.* 2016; for a review see Richardson *et al.* 2014). This evidence strengthens the conclusions  
45 of studies at larger spatial scales, showing that geographic or genetic distances among popula-  
46 tions are not correlated with the level of local adaptation or adaptive genetic divergence (McKay  
47 & Latta, 2002; Leimu & Fischer, 2008; Hereford, 2009). These results suggest that selective  
48 pressures can be strong enough to counterbalance the effects of gene flow, and to shape genetic  
49 variation at a fine spatial scale. However, evidence of microgeographic adaptation is mainly  
50 reported for certain taxa (*e.g.* fish, Fitzpatrick *et al.* 2015; Moody *et al.* 2015; and annual or  
51 perennial herbs Anderson *et al.* 2015; Peterson *et al.* 2016), while others, such as temperate

52 tree species, are underrepresented. In trees, there is a long tradition of large-scale adaptation  
53 studies, through provenance trials, following a quantitative genetic approach (Savolainen *et al.*,  
54 2007; Alberto *et al.*, 2013). The development of genome-wide data and statistical methods has  
55 considerably changed this research field, and evidence of adaptations at regional and landscape  
56 scales are now flourishing (*e.g.* Csillery *et al.* 2014; Pluess *et al.* 2016). Yet, the adaptive re-  
57 sponse of phenotypic traits at the local scale is still poorly understood (but see Brousseau *et al.*  
58 2013; Eckert *et al.* 2015). Methodological limitations that previously hampered the robust  
59 testing of local phenotypic adaptation have been largely overcome (Ovaskainen *et al.*, 2011),  
60 permitting more accurate assessments of the scale at which phenotypic adaptations occur.

61

62 Empirical evidence of beneficial effects of gene flow on adaptive potential in nature are still  
63 rare, and are often assessed in laboratory settings (*e.g.* Swindell & Bouzat 2006). Some experi-  
64 mental studies on inbred plant populations have demonstrated the beneficial effect of gene flow  
65 on the reduction of homozygosity and reintroduction of variation for fixed deleterious alleles  
66 (*e.g.* Costa e Silva *et al.* 2014; Bontrager & Angert 2019). However, for outbred species, the  
67 role of gene flow on the maintenance of genetic diversity has been difficult to demonstrate, es-  
68 pecially when relying on natural crosses. This effect of gene flow is thought to be particularly  
69 important when the populations exchanging genes are strongly genetically differentiated (Pease  
70 *et al.*, 1989; Barton, 2001). Long-distance dispersal events could therefore play a major role  
71 in resupplying the genetic variation of populations and favoring the spread of beneficial alle-  
72 les (Savolainen *et al.*, 2007; Kremer *et al.*, 2012). In wind-pollinated species (anemophilous),  
73 these long-distance dispersal events are common, with mean pollen dispersal distances that can  
74 easily reach hundreds of meters, with rare events of spread over tens of kilometres in some  
75 species (Austerlitz *et al.*, 2004; Petit & Hampe, 2006; Ashley, 2010; Kremer *et al.*, 2012).  
76 Pollen dispersal may thus be highly efficient for spreading beneficial alleles between popula-  
77 tions (Kremer *et al.*, 2012). Even though a pollen grain brings half as many immigrating alleles  
78 as does a seed, gene flow by pollen or seed is expected to have similar consequences on popu-  
79 lation's adaptation and migration load (Lopez *et al.*, 2008).

80

81 Wind-pollinated tree species are therefore good study systems to look for empirical ev-  
82 idence of the beneficial effects of long-distance gene flow on adaptive capacities in nature.

83 However, to our knowledge, only two studies have looked for such evidence. In *Pinus con-*  
84 *torta*, Yeaman & Jarvis (2006) showed a positive correlation between the level of genetic vari-  
85 ance within populations for growth and the spatial heterogeneity of selection. This pattern is  
86 consistent with the theoretical expectation that gene flow among differentiated populations is an  
87 important source of genetic variation. Along a latitudinal gradient of genetically differentiated  
88 populations of *Pinus sylvestris*, Nilsson (1995) found that offspring harvested after one episode  
89 of reproduction showed a shift in average genetic values as compared to their mothers. This  
90 pattern is expected in the case of directional gene flow among locally differentiated populations  
91 (Figure 1). This effect of directional pollen dispersal on offspring's average genetic values for  
92 adaptive traits could be particularly beneficial if the environmental conditions of the recipient  
93 population change toward the one of the donor population (Davis & Shaw, 2001; Aitken *et al.*,  
94 2008).

95

96 The aim of the present study is to investigate the effects of natural selection and long-  
97 distance gene flow on the adaptive potential of a major temperate tree species, the European  
98 beech (*Fagus sylvatica* L.). This anemophilous species can disperse pollen at long-distance  
99 (Piotti *et al.*, 2011), a feature thought to explain the low level of neutral genetic differenti-  
100 ation among populations observed from the local to the European scale (Comps *et al.*, 2001;  
101 Buiteveld *et al.*, 2007). Several phenotypic traits show significant genetic differentiation among  
102 beech provenances at the European scale (Robson *et al.*, 2018), in particular budburst date  
103 (Gomory & Paule, 2011; Kramer *et al.*, 2017), height (Rose *et al.*, 2009) and, to a lesser ex-  
104 tent, wood anatomy, hydraulic traits and physiological foliar traits (Knutzen *et al.*, 2015; Hajek  
105 *et al.*, 2016; Stojnic *et al.*, 2018). These patterns are usually interpreted as a long-term response  
106 to selection, conferring better adaptation of beech populations to local climate and, most im-  
107 portantly, to summer drought. Our study aimed to test whether such patterns of phenotypic  
108 adaptation also exist at a fine spatial scale.

109

110 Here, we analysed the phenotypic and genotypic data of  $\sim 2,300$  beech seedlings from 60  
111 maternal families grown in a common garden. These open-pollinated families were collected  
112 from three natural beech plots, spreading along an elevation gradient at fine spatial scale ( $\sim$   
113 1.5 km in-between the most distant plots) at the southern, warm margin of this species' dis-

114 tribution. We focused on 11 potentially adaptive phenotypic traits, for which we previously  
115 found a significant genetic component in phenotypic variation (Gauzere *et al.*, 2016a). The  
116 first question investigated was: (1) is there genetic divergence across elevations for the quan-  
117 titative traits of interest? We expected trees from the low-elevation, warmer and drier plot to  
118 have evolved traits favouring adaptation to drought, and trees from the high-elevation, colder  
119 plot to have evolved traits favouring adaptation to low temperatures. Our second question was  
120 (2) is there a signature of local selection in the differentiation pattern of the trait studied. We  
121 tested this by comparing traits differentiation to neutral differentiation shown by microsatellite  
122 markers. Our final question was: (3) does gene flow contribute to the additive variance of traits  
123 under selection at the local scale? To that purpose, we used parentage analysis to identify the  
124 offspring likely originating from local or distant pollen immigration events, and we tested how  
125 long-distance pollen dispersal affected the genetic values of offspring after one episode of re-  
126 production.

127

## 128 **Material and methods**

### 129 **Species, sampling plots and experimental design**

130 *Fagus sylvatica* L. (European beech) is a monoecious, anemophilous and predominantly out-  
131 crossed tree species (Merzeau *et al.*, 1994; Wang, 2003). It is a shade-tolerant species requiring  
132 well drained and moderately deep soils and relatively high humidity rates (Breda *et al.*, 2006;  
133 Jump *et al.*, 2006). Its distribution ranges from the northern Mediterranean regions to the south  
134 of Scandinavia. On Mont-Ventoux, a mountain in the southeast of France, beech forests are lo-  
135 cated at the southern limit of their ecological range (Figure 2), in a mountainous Mediterranean  
136 ecosystem. On the northern face of Mont-Ventoux, the beech forest ranges almost continu-  
137 ously from 750 to 1,700 m a.s.l.. This steep elevation gradient provides almost linear variation  
138 in mean temperature and humidity with elevation (Davi *et al.*, 2011). Three plots were defined  
139 along this climatic gradient, at 1020 m (N1), 1140 m (N2) and 1340 m (N4) a.s.l (Table S1),  
140 over a total distance of about 1.5 km. A previous study showed that these plots have high  
141 pollen immigration rates (on average 53.3 %), moderate distances of pollen dispersal (on av-

142 erage 45.7 m), and non-negligible long-distance pollen dispersal events (Gauzere *et al.*, 2013b).  
143

144 In August 2009, 20 open-pollinated families were sampled in each of the three plots (60  
145 maternal progenies in total). Mother-trees were chosen for their high fertility and random loca-  
146 tion within the plot. In April 2010, the seeds were germinated and a subset of 46.4 seedlings on  
147 average per family were randomly planted in 25 blocks in a common garden experiment (with  
148 1.8 seedlings per family in each block) at the State nursery of Aix-en-Provence (43 ° 30'N  
149 5 ° 24'E). All seedlings were planted in independent pots of 1.2 L with sand substrate, fertilizer  
150 and regularly irrigated. The experiment ran for 3 years (from April 2010 to September 2013).  
151 Details on the seed collection, germination protocol and progeny test design can be found in  
152 Gauzere *et al.* (2016a).

153

154 All the potentially reproductive adults within the three plots, including the mother-trees,  
155 and an average of 23.9 offspring per family were genotyped at 13 microsatellites markers (690  
156 adults and 1437 offspring in total; see Gauzere *et al.* 2013b for the genotyping details).

157

## 158 **Phenotypic measurements**

159 A set of 11 different phenotypic traits were measured on the offspring grown in the common  
160 garden. These traits, already introduced in Gauzere *et al.* (2016a), are presented briefly be-  
161 low (see also Table 1). Height and diameter growths were measured between August 2010  
162 and November 2011 ( $\Delta H$ ,  $\Delta D$ ). For the whole trial, phenological events were also recorded:  
163 the date of budburst in 2011 and 2012 ( $t_{b2\rightarrow3(2011)}$ ,  $t_{b2\rightarrow3(2012)}$ ), the date of leaf senescence  
164 in 2011 ( $t_{s1\rightarrow2(2011)}$ ) and the duration of the growing season in 2011 ( $VD_{2011} = t_{s1\rightarrow2(2011)} -$   
165  $t_{b2\rightarrow3(2011)}$ ). At the end of the growing season in 2011, three light-exposed leaves were col-  
166 lected on the stem of each seedling to measure morphological and physiological traits. On fresh  
167 leaves, we first measured the leaf area ( $LA$ ), and put them to dry at 60 ° C to then measure the  
168 leaf dry mass ( $LM$ ) of each seedling. The leaf mass area, related to the photosynthetic capac-  
169 ity and stomatal conductance of the plant (Reich *et al.*, 2003), was calculated as  $LMA = \frac{LM}{LA}$ .  
170 Finally, for a subset of 1031 individuals (evenly sampled across families), we measured the  
171 leaf carbon isotope composition ( $\delta^{13}C$ ), as a surrogate for water use efficiency (Farquhar *et al.*,



172 1989). The nitrogen content in the leaves (%N) was also estimated for this subset of individ-  
173 uals, as leaf nitrogen density is linked to the photosynthetic capacity of leaves (Kattge *et al.*,  
174 2009). Note that three of these traits were transformed before analyses to limit departure from  
175 linear model assumptions:  $\Delta H$  with a logarithm transformation, and  $LM$  and  $LA$  with a square-  
176 root transformation (following Gauzere *et al.* 2016a).

177

## 178 **Test for population genetic differentiation**

179 To assess the genetic differentiation of quantitative traits among plots we ran a specific lin-  
180 ear mixed model (called "animal model") that uses relatedness information from a pedigree to  
181 dissociate the contribution of genetic, population and environmental effects on the total pheno-  
182 typic variance of traits. Thus, we analysed each trait  $Y$  measured in common garden using the  
183 following model, and focused particularly on the significance of the fixed plot effect  $P$ :

$$Y_{i,f,p,k} = \mu + P_i + B_f + M_p + a_k + \varepsilon_{i,f,p,k} \quad (1)$$

184 with, as fixed effects,  $\mu$  the intercept,  $P_i$  the effect of the plot of origin,  $B_f$  the effect of the  
185 block and  $M_p$  the observer effect (only included for the analysis of the phenological traits). The  
186 random terms are the additive genetic values of the individuals  $k$ ,  $\{a_k\} \sim N(0, AV_A)$  with  $A$  the  
187 matrix of pairwise relatedness derived from a pedigree, and  $V_A$  is the additive genetic variance,  
188 and the residuals,  $\{\varepsilon_{i,f,p,k}\} \sim N(0, I_{de}V_R)$  with  $I_{de}$  the identity matrix and  $V_R$  the residual vari-  
189 ance.

190

191 The (co)variance structure of the additive genetic effects was defined using a one-generation  
192 pedigree reconstructed in a previous study (Gauzere *et al.*, 2016a). Here, we did not model ma-  
193 ternal effects because of the lack of power to accurately dissociate maternal and additive genetic  
194 effects (Gauzere *et al.*, 2016b). Model (1) was fitted in AsReml-R (Gilmour *et al.*, 2006). Us-  
195 ing similar model, Gauzere *et al.* (2016a) previously showed that all traits presented moderate  
196 narrow-sense heritability, with  $h^2$  ranging from 0.12 to 0.35.

197

## 198 **Signature of natural selection accounting for genetic drift**

199 We used the method developed by Ovaskainen *et al.* (2011) to detect signatures of natural  
200 selection in trait differentiation among populations. This method requires genotypic and the  
201 phenotypic data, that are first analysed under a neutral model that assumes that the genes cod-  
202 ing for the trait are as divergent as the neutral markers ( $Q_{st} = F_{st}$  case). This first model thus  
203 considers the population mean genetic additive values as normally distributed, with the covari-  
204 ance between pairs of population means being proportional to the pairwise average coancestry  
205 between these populations (*i.e.* assuming neutrality for the trait):

$$\mathbf{A}^{\mathbf{P}} \sim N(0, 2V_A \times \boldsymbol{\theta}^{\mathbf{P}}) \quad (2)$$

206 with  $\mathbf{A}^{\mathbf{P}}$  the vector of the population-level effects,  $V_A$  the additive genetic variance of the trait,  
207  $\boldsymbol{\theta}^{\mathbf{P}}$  the matrix of pairwise population-level coancestry coefficients. Note that the  $\boldsymbol{\theta}^{\mathbf{P}}$  matrix  
208 provides an estimation of  $F_{st}$ .

209

210 The method then considers an animal model for each quantitative trait  $Y$ , that decomposes  
211 the additive value into a population and an individual effect. The population-level additive  
212 effect is determined by the mean genetic additive values in the parent population and the  
213 individual-level additive effects  $a_k$  are defined the same way as in model (1). The presence  
214 of selection on the trait is tested with the  $S$  statistics, which evaluates whether the realized pat-  
215 tern of population mean genetic additive values is likely under the neutral model (eq. 2).

216

217 To apply this method to our dataset, we first used the genotyping of the adult trees and the  
218 admixture  $F$ -model for neutral divergence among populations implemented in the R-package  
219 RAFM, to estimate  $\boldsymbol{\theta}^{\mathbf{P}}$  and the index of neutral genetic differentiation,  $F_{st}$  (Karhunen &  
220 Ovaskainen, 2012). We then analysed the traits measured in the common garden using the  
221 same fixed effects as in model eq.(1) and the one-generation pedigree using the R-package  
222 DRIFTSEL, to estimate  $V_A$ ,  $\mathbf{A}^{\mathbf{P}}$  and  $S$  (Karhunen *et al.*, 2013). These Bayesian analyses were  
223 repeated three times per trait to ensure convergence of the MCMC chains. We provide the  
224 average posterior  $S$  estimates (the chains provided very similar  $S$  values; Table S2). We also  
225 measured a low autocorrelation within the chains, indicating that the space of the parameter

226 values is efficiently explored.

227

## 228 **Immigrant characterization based on molecular markers**

### 229 **Categorical assignments of paternity**

230 We first tried to identify the father of the genotyped seedlings to characterize their immigration  
231 status. To that purpose, we used the likelihood-based method of categorical paternity assign-  
232 ment implemented in CERVUS (Marshall *et al.*, 1998) with allelic frequencies estimated from  
233 the genotypes of all adult trees. All the reproductive adults from the three sampled plots were  
234 considered as candidate fathers, but only fathers within the mother's plot were assigned (see  
235 below). We considered 0 % typing error, 100 % sampling of candidate fathers, a confidence  
236 level of 95 %, and allowed selfing (following Gauzere *et al.* 2016a). These choices were made  
237 to favour assignments to genotyped fathers, despite the risk of type I errors (*i.e.* a wrong tree  
238 is assigned while the true father is not sampled), knowing that quantitative genetic methods are  
239 robust to pedigree errors (Charmantier & Réale, 2005; Gauzere *et al.*, 2016b). We successfully  
240 assigned the paternity for 45.8 % of the genotyped offspring. We considered that individuals  
241 assigned to a father located within their mother's plot come from "local" pollen pool, while in-  
242 dividuals with no compatible father were considered "immigrant". Non-categorised individuals  
243 include individuals genotyped at less than 6 markers, offspring not assigned because of com-  
244 patibility with multiple fathers, and offspring assigned to a father outside their mother's plot.  
245 Indeed, given the large number of trees potentially contributing to median- and long-distance  
246 mating events, we considered that our ability to retrieve the true father outside the mother's plot  
247 was low and presented large expected type I error rate.

248

### 249 **Probability of long-distance pollination**

250 To refine the "immigrant" status, we also used the whole genetic dataset and a non-categorical  
251 paternity analysis to assess the likelihood for each genotyped seedlings to belong to long-  
252 distance immigrant pollen pool. To that purpose, we estimated the Mendelian transition prob-  
253 abilities ( $T$ ) that each offspring has the observed genotype  $g_0$  while originating from cross-

254 fertilization of female  $j$  with an ungenotyped male from a population with the allelic frequen-  
255 cies  $BAF$ :  $T(g_0|g_j, BAF)$ . We estimated this transition probability using (1) the global allelic  
256 frequencies estimated from a larger-scale study on the whole north-face of the Mont-Ventoux  
257 ( $AF_{global}$ ; Lander *et al.* 2011), and (2) the local allelic frequencies estimated from the genotyp-  
258 ing of all the reproductive trees in the three study plots ( $AF_{local}$ ). This allowed us to compute  
259 the probabilities that each offspring has the observed genotype  $g_0$  given that it originates from  
260 long-distance and local pollination event,  $T(g_0|g_j, AF_{global})$  and  $T(g_0|g_j, AF_{local})$  respectively.  
261 From these two probabilities, we derived for each offspring the LOD-score of long-distance  
262 immigration vs. local immigration:

$$v_{g_0} = \log \left( \frac{T(g_0|g_j, AF_{global})}{T(g_0|g_j, AF_{local})} \right) \quad (3)$$

263  $v_{g_0} > 0$  indicating that offspring  $g_0$  is more likely originating from a long-distance pollina-  
264 tion event and  $v_{g_0} < 0$  that it is more likely originating from a short-distance pollination event.  
265 These transitions probabilities were estimated using the MEMMi model (Gauzere *et al.*, 2013b).  
266

## 267 **Impact of pollen immigration on quantitative traits**

268 We explicitly tested whether (i) offspring originating from distant fathers presented more ge-  
269 netic variance for quantitative traits than offspring originating from local fathers, which is ex-  
270 pected in the case of migration from genetically differentiated populations in an island model,  
271 and whether (ii) offspring originating from distant fathers had shifted average genetic values  
272 for quantitative traits as compared to the ones originating from local fathers, which is expected  
273 in the case of directional pollen immigration from genetically differentiated populations along  
274 the gradient (Figure 1). In both cases (i) and (ii), pollen dispersal would result in increasing  
275 genetic variance and adaptive capacities. We ran two different models depending on how the  
276 immigration status was characterized (categorical or quantitative variable).  
277

278 First, for each phenotypic trait  $Y$ , we looked for differences in the mean and variance of ad-  
279 daptive genetic values ( $a_k$ ) between "local" and "immigrant" groups, using the following animal  
280 model:

$$Y_{i,f,p,k} = \mu + P_i + B_f + M_p + a_k + \varepsilon_{i,f,p,k} \quad (4)$$

281 with the same fixed effects than in model (1), but here the (co)variance structure of the ad-  
 282 ditive genetic effects depend on the immigration classes, with  $l = \text{"local"}$  and  $m = \text{"immigrant"}$ :  
 283  $\begin{bmatrix} V_{Al} & 0 \\ 0 & V_{Am} \end{bmatrix}$ . Note that the effect of "local" and "immigrant" categories on the average trait values  
 284 was tested and found to be never significant. This fixed effect is thus absent in the final model.  
 285 From model (4), we thus estimated two variance components:  $V_{Al}$  and  $V_{Am}$ .

286

287 We then performed a random regression model to investigate the effect of long-distance  
 288 pollen dispersal,  $v$ , on the variation in additive genetic variance. Random regression models  
 289 are commonly used in evolutionary biology and breeding to allow additive genetic effects (or  
 290 any random effect) to vary with a covariate (*e.g.* environment, age; Nussey *et al.* 2008). This  
 291 model defines a random intercept and slope at the additive genetic level, as deviation from the  
 292 mean linear effect of  $v$  on  $Y$ , to model the variation of  $V_A$  with  $v$  as:  $V_A(v) = V_A \text{ intercept} +$   
 293  $v^2 \cdot V_A \text{ slope} + 2 \cdot v \cdot \text{cov}_A(\text{intercept}, \text{slope})$ . The effects of  $v$  on  $V_A$  was tested using the following  
 294 models:

$$Y_{i,f,p,k} = \mu + P_i + B_f + M_p + \alpha v_k + a_k + \varepsilon_{i,f,p,k} \quad (5)$$

$$Y_{i,f,p,k} = \mu + P_i + B_f + M_p + \alpha v_k + \tilde{a}_k + \varepsilon_{i,f,p,k} \quad (6)$$

295 where  $\tilde{a}_k = a_k + \beta_k v_k$  describes the random intercept and slope of  $v$  on  $Y$  at the additive  
 296 genetic level in model (6). In both models (5) and (6) the term  $\alpha v_k$  is the fixed effect of the  
 297 LOD-score of long-distance vs. local migration on the trait.

298 From the model (6), we estimated the variances of the random intercept and slope, and the  
 299 covariance between them. Note that for each individual  $k$ , we only have one value of  $v$  and  $Y$ ,  
 300 but the model estimates these (co)variance components by comparing phenotypic similarities  
 301 and the effects of  $v$  on  $Y$  between relatives.

302

303 The significance of the qualitative and quantitative effects of pollen immigration on  $V_A$  were  
 304 tested by comparing the two hierarchical models (1) and (4), and the two models (5) and (6),  
 305 with a log-likelihood ratio test. We performed these analyses with AsReML-R, considering only

306 the information about maternal relatednesses, as we (often) ignore the father's identity of "im-  
307 migrant" individuals.

308

### 309 **Relatedness and $N_{ep}$ estimates**

310 We used the genetic dataset to estimate the average paternal relatedness ( $\bar{\rho}_p$ ) and effective  
311 number of pollen donors ( $N_{ep} = 1/\bar{\rho}_p$ ) in the "local" and "immigrant" pollen clouds. We first  
312 extracted the haplotype corresponding to the paternal contribution to each diploid genotype  
313 following Gauzere *et al.* (2016a). These paternal genotypes were then used to estimate the  
314 pairwise paternal relatednesses among each pair of offspring  $k$  and  $k'$  ( $\rho_{k,k'}$ ) using the kinship  
315 coefficient of Loiselle *et al.* (1995) implemented in SPAGEDI (Hardy & Vekemans, 2002), and  
316 the local allelic frequencies ( $AF_{local}$ ). These coefficients were estimated removing all the selfed  
317 individuals to only compare the outcrossed pollen pools.

318

## 319 **Results**

### 320 **Neutral genetic differentiation among plots and pollen immigration**

321 The admixture  $F$ -model of Karhunen & Ovaskainen (2012) estimated a posterior  $F_{st}$  value  
322 of 0.026 [0.024; 0.029], consistent with previous estimates of neutral genetic differentiation  
323 among populations measured with a comparable method but from 51 populations over a much  
324 wider area of Mont-Ventoux ( $F_{st} = 0.026$ ; Lander *et al.* 2011). The coancestry estimates within  
325 plots (diagonal elements of the  $\theta^P$  matrix) indicated that plot N1 tended to have lower effec-  
326 tive population size than plot N2 and N4 (Table 2). Plots N1 and N2 exhibited slightly higher  
327 between-plots coancestry coefficient, suggesting that the two closest plots exchanged more  
328 gene flow ( $\theta_{N1N2} > \theta_{N1N4} \sim \theta_{N2N4}$ ). Overall, the coancestry estimates were low (maximum  
329  $\theta_{N1} = 0.057$ ; Table 2) indicating that effective population sizes were globally large. This result  
330 is consistent with the large effective number of pollen donors  $N_{ep}$  estimated for these sites  
331 using the same dataset (Table S1; Gauzere *et al.* 2013b).

332

333 Using paternity assignment, we categorized  $n = 658$  offspring as "local" (45.5 %) and  $n$   
334 = 492 as "immigrant" (34 %). A total of 295 (20 %) offspring were outside of these two  
335 categories (*i.e.* ambiguous origin). Note that this "immigrant" status includes offspring with  
336 non-sampled fathers which could be located either at a short- or long-distance to the mother-  
337 tree's plot. We checked that the LOD-score of long-distance vs. local immigration was indeed  
338 higher on average for the "immigrant" than "local" individuals, with  $\bar{v} = -0.33$  and 0.18 for  
339 local and immigrant offspring respectively ( $p$ -value < 0.001 ANOVA test; Figure S1).

340

341 The analysis of the pairwise coefficient of paternal relatedness showed that within the im-  
342 migrant pollen pool fathers were significantly less related than within the local pollen pool,  
343 with  $\bar{\rho}_p = 0.011$  and  $\bar{\rho}_p = 0.007$  within the local and immigrant pollen pools respectively ( $p$ -  
344 value < 0.001 ANOVA test). Consequently, we estimated a higher effective number of pollen  
345 donors ( $Nep$ ) in the immigrant than in the local pollen pool ( $Nep = 26.4$  and 31.3 for local and  
346 immigrant pollen pools respectively).

### 347 **Patterns of genetic trait differentiation and test for selection**

348 Significant genetic differentiation across elevations was found for  $\Delta H_{log}$ ,  $\Delta D$ ,  $t_{b2 \rightarrow 3(2011)}$  and  
349  $t_{b2 \rightarrow 3(2012)}$ , while marginal differentiation was found for  $t_{s1 \rightarrow 2(2011)}$  (as revealed by  $P$  effect  
350 in model (1); Figure 3). Using the method of Karhunen & Ovaskainen (2012), we detected  
351 a signal of natural selection for three of these four traits:  $\Delta H_{log}$ ,  $\Delta D$  and  $t_{b2 \rightarrow 3(2011)}$  (*i.e.*  $S >$   
352 0.90; Figure 3). For growth traits, plots at intermediate and high elevations presented the high-  
353 est height and diameter increments ( $\Delta H_{logN2} = 0.88$ ,  $\Delta H_{logN4} = 1.03$  and  $\Delta D_{N2} = 0.82$ ,  $\Delta D_{N4}$   
354 = 0.72), while the site at the lowest elevation showed the lowest growth ( $\Delta H_{logN1} = 0.56$  and  
355  $\Delta D_{N1} = 0.50$ ; Figure 3). For the phenological traits, buds flushed earlier for plots from high  
356 elevations as compared to low elevation plots ( $t_{b2 \rightarrow 3(2011)N1} = 101.9$ ;  $t_{b2 \rightarrow 3(2011)N2} = 100.3$ ;  
357  $t_{b2 \rightarrow 3(2011)N4} = 99.8$ ; Figure 3). Interestingly, contrary to growth and phenological traits, mor-  
358 phological and physiological traits (except  $LMA$ ) tended to be slightly less differentiated than  
359 expected under neutral processes (with  $S \in [0.24; 0.39]$ ), with a strong conservation of the ge-  
360 netic values between plots (*e.g.* for the leaf mass  $LM_{\sqrt{N1}} = 0.44$ ,  $LM_{\sqrt{N2}} = 0.45$ ,  $LM_{\sqrt{N4}} = 0.44$ ;  
361 Figure 3).

362

## 363 **Effect of pollen immigration on within-plot genetic variation**

364 Using the categorical assignment and the model (4), we only estimated marginally significant  
365 difference in  $V_A$  between "local" and "immigrant" individuals for  $t_{b2 \rightarrow 3(2012)}$  ( $p_{value} = 0.088$ ;  
366 for all the other traits  $p_{value} > 0.1$ ). In that case, we predicted higher  $V_A$  within the "immigrant"  
367 than the "local" group ( $V_{A_{immig}} = 16.57$  and  $V_{A_{local}} = 3.16$ ; Table 3). Using the random regression  
368 model (6), we found significant variation in additive genetic variance with the likelihood of  
369 provenance from long-distance pollen pool for  $\Delta H_{log}$  ( $p_{value} = 0.005$ ), and a marginally signifi-  
370 cant effect for  $t_{b2 \rightarrow 3(2012)}$  ( $p_{value} = 0.078$ ; for all the other traits  $p_{value} > 0.1$ ; Table 3). The esti-  
371 mated variance-covariance terms showed increasing  $V_A$  with higher likelihood of long-distance  
372 pollination event for both  $\Delta H_{log}$  and  $t_{b2 \rightarrow 3(2012)}$  (Figure 4). Nevertheless, for these traits, the  
373 fixed effect of  $v$  was not significant, which indicated no global trend in the variation of breed-  
374 ing values with the likelihood that an offspring originates from long-distance pollen dispersal.  
375 Interestingly, these two different analyses highlighted the same trend towards a higher genetic  
376 variance for offspring originating from long-distance dispersal than from local dispersal.

377

## 378 **Discussion**

### 379 **The scale of phenotypic adaptation**

380 This study provides evidence that divergent selection can act on phenotypic traits at fine spatial  
381 scale in temperate tree species. The study beech plots showed important dispersal capacities,  
382 with pollen dispersal that can easily reach 100 m, a fat-tailed pollen dispersal kernel and high  
383 rates of immigration (Gauzere *et al.*, 2013b; Oddou-Muratorio *et al.*, 2018), similarly to other  
384 anemophilous tree species (see Ashley 2010; Kremer *et al.* 2012 for reviews). Since dispersal  
385 distances overlap the spatial scale of the selective environment, our results provide strong ev-  
386 idence that adaptive genetic differentiation can occur despite high gene flow (see Fitzpatrick  
387 *et al.* 2015; Peterson *et al.* 2016 for recent evidence in other taxa). This also suggests that  
388 selective pressures on seedling growth (in diameter and height) and on budburst timing were  
389 strong enough to counteract the homogenizing effect of gene flow on structuring the genetic  
390 variation at the scale of a few hundred meters up to one kilometre. We found that the seedlings



391 derived from the plots at high elevation, inhabiting the lowest temperature conditions, flushed  
392 earlier and had a higher height and diameter growth in the common garden than the plot at  
393 low elevation. For the budburst date, this pattern of genetic differentiation is opposed to the  
394 pattern of phenotypic variation measured *in situ*, where seedlings from plots at low elevations  
395 flushed earlier than plots at high elevations (Davi *et al.* 2011). Beech populations originating  
396 from higher longitude or elevation have also been shown to be genetically earlier in provenance  
397 tests (Teissier du Cros *et al.*, 1988; Gomory & Paule, 2011; Kramer *et al.*, 2017), suggesting  
398 that these populations evolved phenological traits promoting a longer growing season length.  
399 In forestry, growth is considered a good approximation of the performance of trees in a given  
400 condition (*e.g.* Rehfeldt *et al.* 1999, 2002). *In situ* and *ex situ*, the highest diameter growth  
401 values were measured at intermediate to high elevations (Cailleret & Davi 2011 and present  
402 study), suggesting that the genetic and environmental influences on growth traits are in the  
403 same direction. At this southern edge of the ecological conditions tolerated by beech (Figure  
404 2), the reduced allocation to stem growth at the low elevation plot is likely an adaptive response  
405 to drought, which has previously been described by comparing marginal vs central beech pop-  
406 ulations (Rose *et al.*, 2009). These studies, including ours, shed light on the phenotypic traits  
407 under selection and underlying adaptation at different spatial scales. However, they do not pro-  
408 vide a direct assessment of the strength of natural selection or the ecological bases of selection,  
409 nor do they quantify phenotypic mismatch and maladaptation, which would require selection  
410 analyses (MacColl, 2011).

411

412 The weak adaptive divergence of morphological and physiological traits as compared to  
413 growth and phenological traits along ecological gradients remains an open question. Meta-  
414 analyses highlighted that growth and phenological traits are the most genetically differentiated  
415 phenotypic traits at large spatial scale in temperate and boreal tree species (Savolainen *et al.*,  
416 2007; Alberto *et al.*, 2013). Here, our study suggests that this conclusion also holds at a nar-  
417 rower spatial scale. The existing literature also tend to indicate that morphological and physi-  
418 ological traits generally exhibit a lower fraction of genetically controlled phenotypic differen-  
419 tiation, and a higher within-population genetic variation than other traits (Hajek *et al.*, 2016).  
420 A putative explanation is that latitudinal or elevation gradients do not fully capture the spa-  
421 tial scale of variation for drought stress, even if they capture a strong variation in temperature.

422 In particular in our study, the important micro-heterogeneity in soil water capacity on Mont-  
423 Ventoux (Nourtier *et al.*, 2013) may generate micro-local differentiation of morphological and  
424 physiological traits, blurring the signal of divergent selection for morphological and physio-  
425 logical traits at a larger spatial scale (Cubry *et al.* unpublished). Another possible explanation  
426 is that morphological and physiological traits could be under stabilizing selection (*e.g.* Lamy  
427 *et al.* 2011). Unfortunately, the power to detect the signal of stabilizing selection is low for  
428 species with low neutral genetic differentiation, such as trees (Savolainen *et al.*, 2007), and pat-  
429 terns of weak quantitative trait differentiation are difficult to interpret (Whitlock, 2008). With  
430 the development of genomic resources, this question of microgeographic adaptation is now  
431 mainly addressed using genome-wide association studies (*e.g.* Eckert *et al.* 2015). However,  
432 associations between genotype, phenotype and environment often provide weaker evidence of  
433 adaptive differentiation at the phenotypic levels (Le Corre & Kremer, 2012), likely because of  
434 the complex multi-locus determinism of the traits underlying phenotypic adaptation. Using a  
435 more precise characterisation of ecological gradients, *e.g.* by considering the spatial-scale of  
436 water availability, and new methods to compare the similarity of habitats and phenotypes of-  
437 fer promising prospects to better understand the spatial scale of phenotypic adaptation and the  
438 ecological drivers of adaptive divergence (Karhunen *et al.*, 2014; Csillery *et al.*, 2020).  
439

#### 440 **Effects of pollen dispersal on quantitative trait variation at a local scale**

441 For populations locally adapted and experiencing strong selective pressures that vary through  
442 space, theory suggests that moderate gene flow can maintain quantitative genetic variation  
443 within these populations (Barton, 2001; Le Corre & Kremer, 2003; Bridle *et al.*, 2010). Al-  
444 though adaptive genetic differentiation is widespread, only a few studies have provided evi-  
445 dence that gene flow is an important process to maintain the high levels of genetic variation  
446 usually detected in nature (*e.g.* Yeaman & Jarvis 2006). Here, consistent with this theoretical  
447 expectation, we detected an effect of pollen dispersal on increased genetic variance for two  
448 locally differentiated traits, *i.e.* height growth and budburst date. However, we likely lacked  
449 power to detect this effect for the third heritable trait under selection, diameter growth. Be-  
450 cause female flowers are receptive before the emission of local pollen (protogyny) and lower  
451 populations flower earlier than higher populations, we hypothesized a directional pollen flow

452 across elevations in Gauzere *et al.* (2013a), which would have resulted in shifted genetic values  
453 between immigrant and local individuals (Figure 1; Nilsson 1995). Our results did not support  
454 this expectation.

455

456 We used two different approaches to characterize the pollen immigration status. Both anal-  
457 yses suggested that immigrant pollen brings more genetic variance for locally differentiated  
458 traits than local pollen. These effects were quantitatively high, with genetic variance for immi-  
459 grants more than twice as high as for local offspring. However, this result had large standard  
460 errors around the estimates, and the significance changed depending on how the immigration  
461 status was characterized. We checked that "immigrants" individuals originated from more di-  
462 verse fathers (higher  $Nep$ ), and had paternal genotypes more similar to global than local allelic  
463 frequencies (higher  $v$ ). Nevertheless, our immigrant status still likely suffers some inaccuracy.  
464 In particular, the low neutral genetic differentiation among the study beech plots ( $Fst = 0.026$ )  
465 and, overall, on the northern face of the Mont-Ventoux (Lander *et al.*, 2011), may reduce our  
466 ability to retrieve the origin of a pollen grain using molecular markers. Moreover, the low levels  
467 of quantitative genetic differentiation measured along the elevation gradient suggest that the ex-  
468 pected effects of pollen flow on genetic values after one episode of reproduction is necessarily  
469 moderate. Here, this effect may thus be difficult to detect, even knowing the true immigration  
470 status of all offspring.

471

472 The approach used here provides a direct quantification of the impact of contemporary  
473 pollen immigration on the genetic variance of quantitative traits. Although using molecular  
474 markers to distinguish migrants and local offspring could have been done on numerous ex-  
475 isting datasets, to our knowledge no study before ours had reiterated the approach first used  
476 by Nilsson (1995). However, we cannot estimate the immigration load associated with this  
477 increase in genetic variance for the locally differentiated traits. Although this genetic load is  
478 expected to be beneficial under rapidly changing environmental conditions (Yeaman & Jarvis,  
479 2006; Savolainen *et al.*, 2007; Kremer *et al.*, 2012), this remains to be tested. Applying this  
480 approach to other species and populations may improve our ability to both understand and  
481 quantify the impact of gene flow on the adaptive potential of quantitative traits under natural  
482 conditions. This effect should be more detectable for populations departing from migration-

483 selection equilibrium, such as isolated (or marginal) populations, or transplanted plant popula-  
484 tions (see Fitzpatrick *et al.* 2015, 2016 for examples in guppies).

485

486 The present results about trait differentiation and genetic variance of migrants and non-  
487 migrants extend previous studies about pollen dispersal kernels and migration rates (Gauzere  
488 *et al.*, 2013a), trait heritabilities (Gauzere *et al.*, 2016a) and variance of fecundities (Oddou-  
489 Muratorio *et al.*, 2018). Pulling all effects together suggests building a predictive mechanistic  
490 model to both (i) check whether the observed levels of genetic variance in migrant pollen are  
491 consistent with the amounts of migrant genetic variance that would be predicted mechanisti-  
492 cally and (ii) further investigate the adaptive dynamics at the scale of few generations (follow-  
493 ing *e.g.* Kuparinen *et al.* 2010). This work is beyond the scope of the present study because  
494 it still requires a map of beech density over the whole northern face of Mont-Ventoux and an  
495 extrapolation model to propose a spatially explicit distribution of adaptive diversity. Point (ii)  
496 would require information about the variation in selection gradients or adaptive landscapes with  
497 elevation. Unfortunately, empirical estimates of selection need specific approaches in natural  
498 populations of long-lived species and, hence, remain scarce in forest trees (but see Bontemps  
499 *et al.* 2017).

500

## 501 **Gene flow in the context of climate change**

502 One of the most documented consequences of climate change on tree ecosystem functioning  
503 is probably the impact of climate warming on the advancement of spring phenology (Menzel  
504 *et al.*, 2006; Fu *et al.*, 2015). Understanding the adaptive or maladaptive value of the response  
505 of phenology to climate has become a key focus of evolutionary studies (Tansey *et al.* 2017;  
506 Gauzere *et al.* in press). An underrated issue is that these phenological changes are also likely to  
507 affect gene flow among populations, and efficiency of long-distance pollen dispersal. For many  
508 temperate tree species, we now have strong evidence that climate warming reduces spring phe-  
509 nology synchrony among individuals experiencing the same environmental conditions (Zohner  
510 *et al.*, 2018), but also leads to more uniform spring phenology across climatic gradients (Vitasse  
511 *et al.*, 2018). The evolutionary consequences of pollen dispersal may therefore change with in-  
512 creasing climate warming. In this study, we detected an effect of local selection and pollen

513 dispersal on the adaptive potential of traits that are known to affect dispersal or reproduction in  
514 anemophilous tree species (tree height and phenology; Klinkhamer *et al.* 1997; Gauzere *et al.*  
515 2013a; Oddou-Muratorio *et al.* 2018). In particular, long-distance pollen dispersal events are  
516 only effective if the donor and recipient trees have synchronous phenology (Aitken *et al.*, 2008).  
517 Our results thus suggest that refining the models of phenotypic adaptation by incorporating the  
518 feedbacks between traits under divergent selection and dispersal-reproductive capacities may  
519 be important to thoroughly understand the evolutionary consequences of gene flow in plant  
520 species (*e.g.* Soularue & Kremer 2012).

521

522 With the concern that populations could be maladapted and lag behind with increasing  
523 climate change, new conservation and management strategies are needed to mitigate these ef-  
524 fects. Assisted gene flow, *i.e.* the managed movement of individuals or gametes between pop-  
525 ulations within species ranges, is one of the tools proposed to help populations adapt to new  
526 climatic conditions (Aitken & Whitlock, 2013; Aitken & Bemmels, 2016). However, assisted  
527 gene flow among distant populations, at different latitudes, may have unexpected consequences  
528 for the response of individuals or new hybrids, because of outbreeding depression (Aitken &  
529 Whitlock, 2013), but also because other environmental cues than temperature can govern physi-  
530 ological responses in trees (see for instance the role of photoperiod in bud development; Way &  
531 Montgomery 2015). Here, our results suggest some effect of local pollen dispersal on increas-  
532 ing genetic variation for locally differentiated traits after solely one episode of reproduction.  
533 Therefore, programs considering the movements of gametes along short ecological gradients  
534 could be efficient to boost genetic diversity and introduce genetic innovation within natural or  
535 managed tree populations. Our results also encourage the development of evolution-oriented  
536 forest management and silviculture, whereby thinning could be done to favour the spread of  
537 long-distance gene flow (*e.g.* by reducing local densities; Lefèvre *et al.* 2014). Nonetheless,  
538 contrarily to assisted gene flow, natural gene flow can also lead to increased maladaptation  
539 through migration load (Aitken & Whitlock, 2013).

540

## 541 **Conclusion**

542 By combining population genetics and quantitative genetics, we provided a first comprehen-  
543 sive analysis of the effects of gene flow on the adaptive potential of a tree species in nature. We  
544 found that gene flow among trees at different elevations did not prevent adaptive differentiation  
545 among plots separated by less than one kilometre, and that divergent selection at this fine spa-  
546 tial scale acted mainly on growth and phenological traits, likely as an adaptation to drought and  
547 temperature variation. For two genetically differentiated traits, our analyses suggested an effect  
548 of pollen dispersal on increasing genetic diversity after one episode of reproduction. However,  
549 our power to detect and estimate these effects was probably quite low. Our results thus suggest  
550 that local selection is an important evolutionary force in natural tree populations and that, under  
551 rapidly changing environmental conditions, gene flow can increase the adaptive capacities of  
552 natural populations.

553

## 554 **Acknowledgements**

555 We are grateful to Ian White for help with the implementation and interpretation of the random  
556 regression models in AsReml, and to Tonya Lander for useful comments on the manuscript.  
557 We thank Olivier Gilg, Frank Rei, Norbert Turion, Frédéric Jean and Mehdi Pringarbe, INRA  
558 UEFM, Avignon for sample collection, field measurements and seed germination. We also  
559 thank Anne Roig and Matthieu Lingrand for genotyping and managing the lab work and  
560 the employees of the nursery of Aix-Les-Milles for management and measurement work on  
561 the progeny trial. Isotopic measurements were performed by C. Hossann at SILVATECH  
562 (Silvatech, INRAE, 2018. Structural and functional analysis of tree and wood Facility, doi:  
563 10.15454/1.5572400113627854E12) from UMR 1434 SILVA at the research center INRA  
564 Nancy-Lorraine. SILVATECH facility is supported by the French National Research Agency  
565 through the Laboratory of Excellence ARBRE (ANR-11-LABX-0002-01). This study was  
566 funded by the EC-supported Network of Excellence Evoltree (GOCE-016322, BEECH ini-  
567 tiative), the ERA-Net BiodivERsA, LINKTREE (ANR- 08-Biodiversa-006-06), the TipTree  
568 (ANR-12-EBID-0003) and MeCC (ANR-13-ADAP-0006) projects. The UMR 1137 research

569 unit and the PTEF are supported by ANR through the ARBRE Laboratory of Excellence (ANR-  
570 12-LAB-XARBRE-01).

571

## 572 **Author contributions**

573 J.G., E.K.K. and S.O.M. conceived and designed the study. J.G collected the genetic and pheno-  
574 typic data, performed the analyses, wrote the first draft of the text and contributed the revisions.  
575 S.O.M. conceived and coordinated the beech experiment. J.G., H.D., O.B., E.K.K. and S.O.M.  
576 discussed and interpreted the findings. E.K.K., H.D., O.B. and S.O.M. contributed to the anal-  
577 yses and the revisions of preliminary drafts.

578

## 579 **Data archiving statement**

580 Data available upon request from the authors

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## 821 **Supporting Information**

- 822 **Fig. S1** Distribution of the LOD-score of long-distance vs local immigration between 'immi-  
823 grant' and 'local' groups.
- 824 **Table S1** Location, climate and ecological characteristics of the study plots.
- 825 **Table S2** Test for plot differentiation and signal of selection in quantitative traits.
- 826 **Table S3** Differences in additive genetic variance between 'immigrant' and 'local' groups esti-  
827 mated from model eq. (4).
- 828 **Table S4** Effect of pollen immigration on the variation in additive genetic variance estimated  
829 from model eq. (6).

## 830 **Figure legends**

831 Figure 1. Expected effects of random and directional gene flow between locally differentiated  
832 populations on individuals genetic values. (a) In the case of random gene flow, migrant gene  
833 flow (orange arrows) tends to homogenise the frequencies of the red, grey and blue genotypes  
834 in each environment. Hence, in the core population (*e.g.* grey habitat), individuals and gametes  
835 from migrant gene flow should exhibit more genetic variance for the traits under local selection  
836 ( $v_1 > v_2$ ) than individuals and gametes from local gene flow (*i.e.* gene flow within population,  
837 represented by the green arrows), while the mean genetic value (dotted line) should be identical  
838 (assuming a gradual shift of the optimum). (b) In the case of directional gene flow (*e.g.* only the  
839 red genotypes migrate to the grey habitat), migrant gene flow should introduce individuals and  
840 gametes with shifted mean genetic values (dotted lines;  $m_1 \neq m_2$ ), while the variance in genetic  
841 values between migrant and local gene flow should be similar (assuming stabilising selection  
842 is the same in each habitat).

843

844 Figure 2. Climatic space explored by the three study plots in comparison to the whole species  
845 range of *Fagus sylvatica*. This climatic space is represented as the variation of temperature and  
846 summer precipitation over beech distribution area, extracted for the SAFRAN database for the  
847 period 1958-2015 (collected on a 8 km<sup>2</sup> grid represented by grey dots). Each black triangle  
848 represents the average climate recorded since 2007 with HOBO weather stations for the plot  
849 N1 (1020 m), N2 (1140 m ) and N4 (1340 m a.s.l.).

850

851 Figure 3. Level of trait adaptive divergence between the three plots located at 1020 m (N1),  
852 1140 m (N2) and 1340 m (N4) a.s.l. for the growth, phenological, physiological and morpho-  
853 logical traits measured on seedlings of *Fagus sylvatica*. Histograms represent the *a posteriori*  
854 distributions of additive genetic values estimated for each plot. The dotted lines represent the  
855 median of these distributions. We also provide the test for population differentiation ( $P$ ) and  
856 signal of selection ( $S$ ) for these quantitative traits.  $S$  coefficient close to 1 and 0 indicates signal  
857 of divergent and stabilizing selection respectively. With "\*\*\*\*"  $p < 0.001$ , "\*\*\*"  $0.001 < p < 0.01$ ,  
858 "\*\*"  $0.01 < p < 0.05$ , "."  $0.05 < p < 0.09$ , "ns"  $p > 0.09$ .

859

860 Figure 4. Change in additive genetic variance ( $V_A$ ) with the LOD-score of long-distance im-

861 migration vs. local immigration ( $v$ ), estimated using model (6) in *Fagus sylvatica*. This re-  
862 lationship is represented only for the two traits, out of 11 tested, for which we found that  
863 this effect was significant or marginally significant: (left) the log-transformed height growth  
864 ( $\Delta H_{log}$ ) and (right) the budburst date in 2012 ( $t_{b2 \rightarrow 3(2012)}$ ). The solid line represents the es-  
865 timate, and the dashed lines the 95 % confidence intervals around this estimate. From the  
866 random regression model (6), we can estimate the change in  $V_A$  with a covariate  $x$  as:  $V_A(x) =$   
867  $\text{var}(\text{trait}_{intercept} + \text{trait}_{slope} \cdot x) = V_A \text{ intercept} + x^2 \cdot V_A \text{ slope} + 2 \cdot x \cdot \text{cov}_A(\text{intercept}, \text{slope})$ , using the  
868 estimates provided in Table 3.



Table 1: Description and descriptive statistics for the traits measured on seedlings of *Fagus sylvatica*. With  $N_w$  the number of phenotyped individuals. DOY: day of the year.

Abbreviation	Trait	Category	$N_w$	Unit	Transformation
$\Delta H_{log}$	Total height increase	Growth	2380	rate	log
$\Delta D$	Total diameter increase	Growth	2380	rate	-
$t_{b2 \rightarrow 3(2011)}$	Budburst date in 2011	Phenology	2334	DOY	-
$t_{b2 \rightarrow 3(2012)}$	Budburst date in 2012	Phenology	1835	DOY	-
$t_{s1 \rightarrow 2}$	Senescence date in 2011	Phenology	2386	DOY	-
$VD_{2011}$	Vegetation season duration in 2011	Phenology	2193	DOY	-
$LM_{\sqrt{}}$	Dry leaf mass	Morphology	2491	g	square-root
$LA_{\sqrt{}}$	Leaf Area	Morphology	2491	cm <sup>2</sup>	square-root
$LMA$	Leaf Mass Area	Morphology	2491	g.m <sup>-2</sup>	-
$\%N$	Nitrogen content in leaves	Physiology	1031	%	-
$\delta^{13}C$	Water use efficiency	Physiology	1031	‰	-

Table 2: Matrix of the coancestry coefficients estimated by the admixture  $F$ -model of Karhunen & Ovaskainen (2012) for the three plots of *Fagus sylvatica*. The diagonal correspond to the within-plot coancestry coefficient, with its median value and confidence intervals (*i.e.* values of the estimates that bound 95 % of the posterior distribution). Lower diagonal elements are the median coancestry coefficients among-plots, with confidence intervals in brackets.

	N1	N2	N4
N1	0.057 [0.033; 0.085]		
N2	0.018 [0.005; 0.035]	0.029 [0.017; 0.045]	
N4	0.012 [0.00; 0.024]	0.013 [0.002; 0.023]	0.035 [0.02; 0.052]

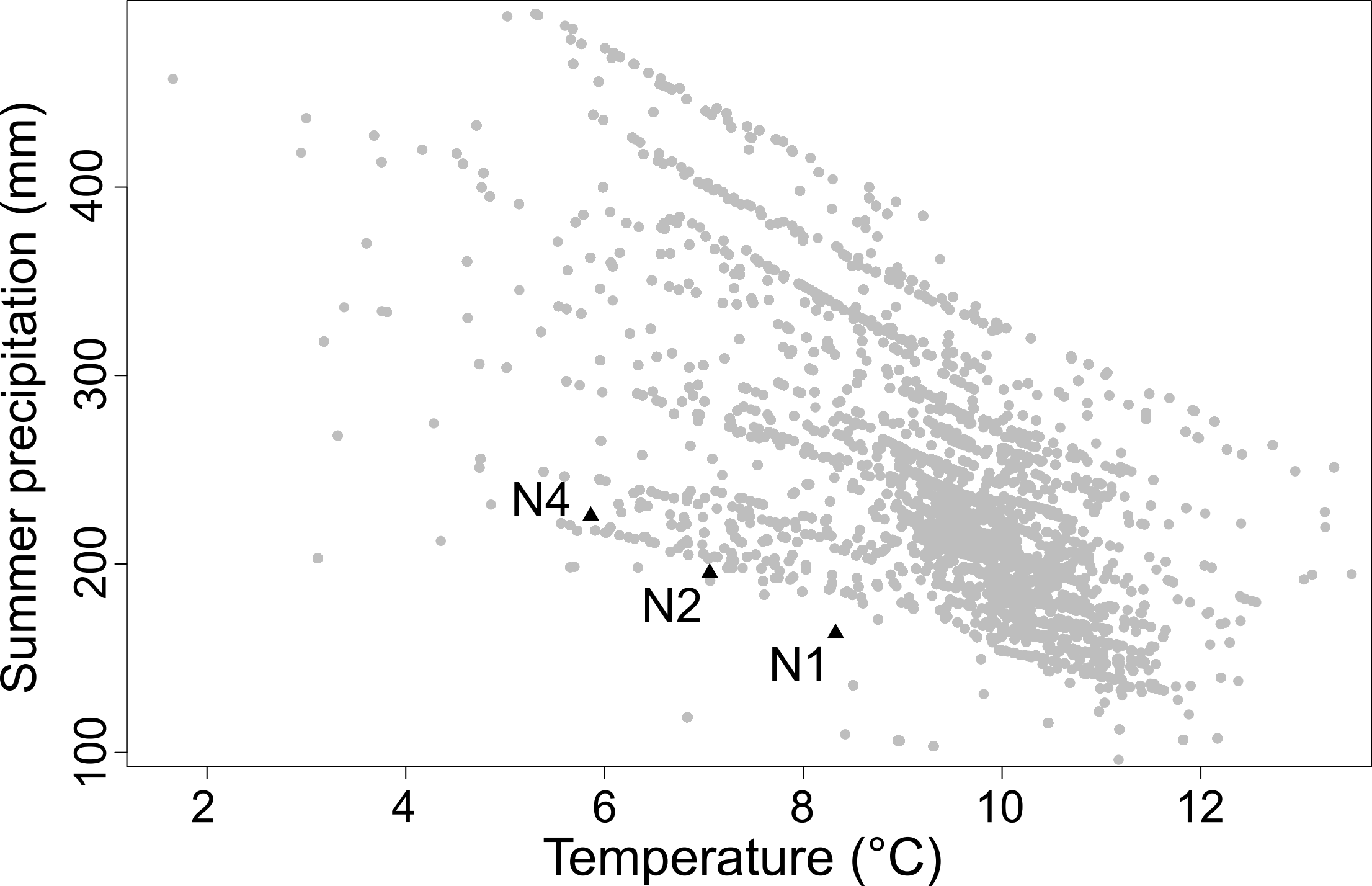
Table 3: Effect of pollen immigration on the variation in additive genetic variance for traits measured in seedlings of *Fagus sylvatica*. This effect was found significant or marginally significant for two genetically differentiated traits: using model (4) for  $t_{b2 \rightarrow 3(2012)}$  with  $pvalue = 0.088$ ; using model (6) for  $\Delta H_{log}$  with  $pvalue = 0.005$  and for  $t_{b2 \rightarrow 3(2012)}$  with  $pvalue = 0.078$ . Model (4) estimates an additive genetic variance ( $V_A$ ) for each "immigrant" and "local" group (with standard error in brackets). Model (6) estimates the additive genetic variance-covariance terms for the intercept and slope of the trait with the LOD-score of long-distance immigration vs. local immigration  $v$  (with standard error in brackets). The diagonal elements thus provide  $V_A_{intercept}$  and  $V_A_{slope}$ , and the off-diagonal element  $cov_A(intercept, slope)$ . See Supporting Information Tables S3 and S4 for the model outputs for all phenotypic traits.

**Model 4**

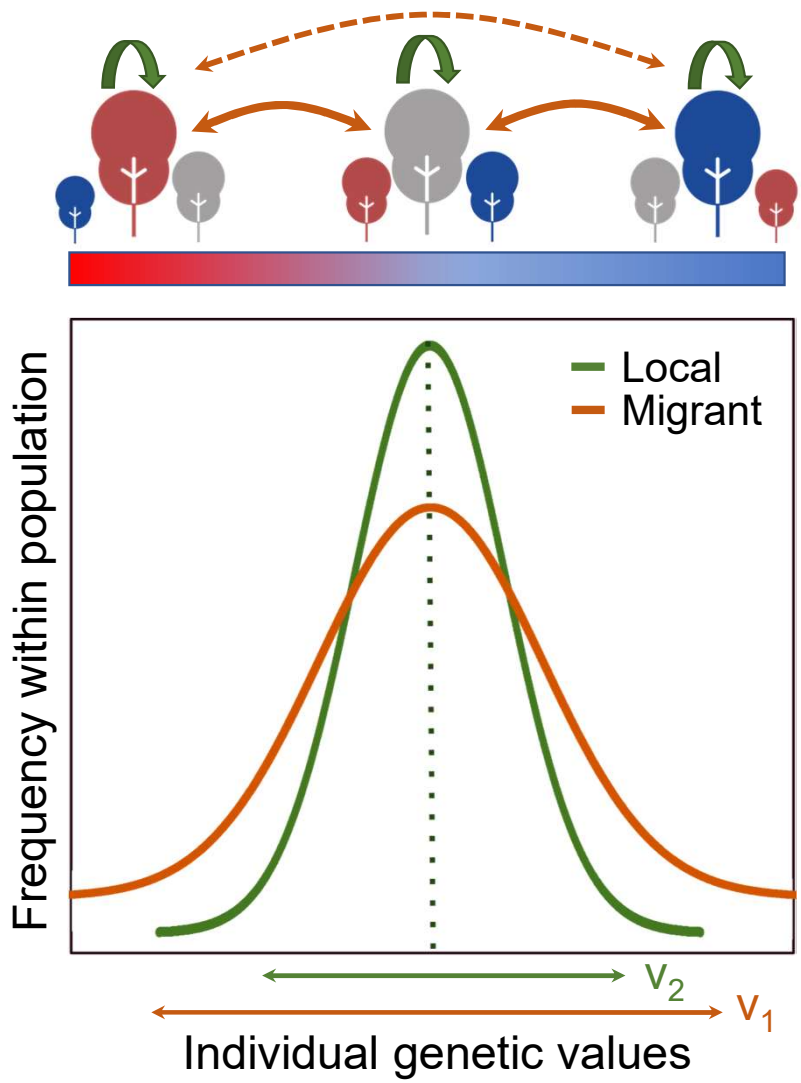
Trait	$V_{A_{immig}}$	$V_{A_{local}}$
$t_{b2 \rightarrow 3(2012)}$	16.57 (8.2)	3.16 (5.6)

**Model 6**

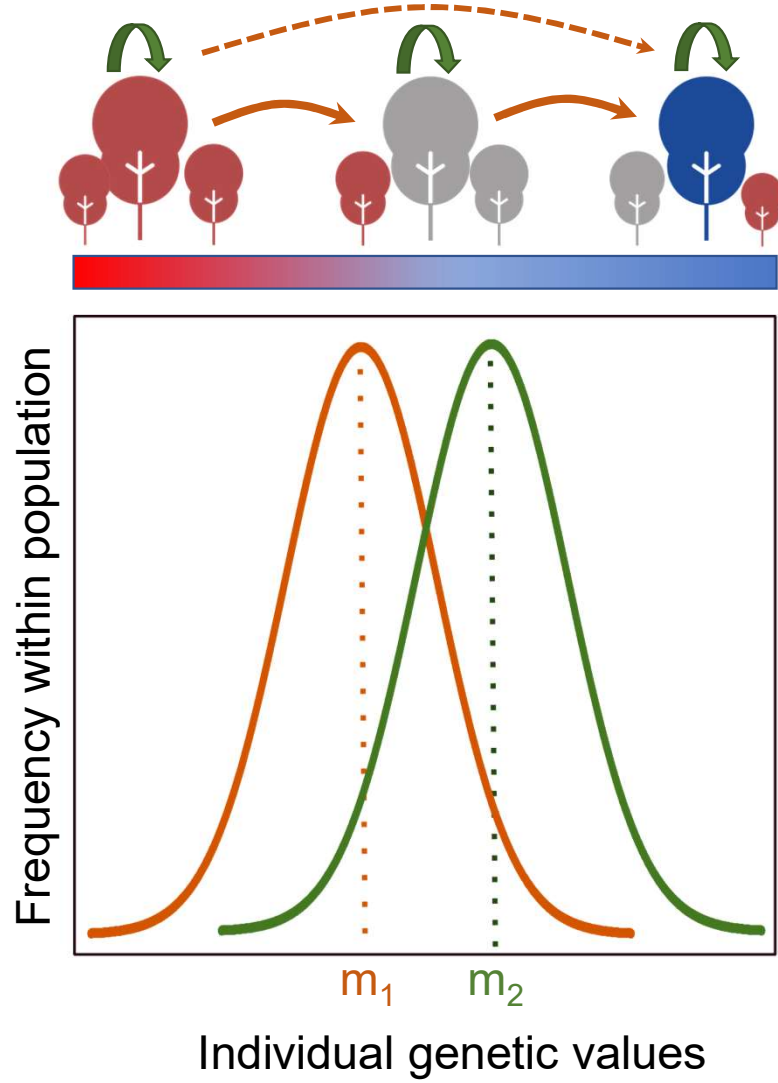
<i>additive genetic effects for <math>\Delta H_{log}</math></i>		
	$\Delta H_{log_{intercept}}$	$\Delta H_{log_{slope}}$
$\Delta H_{log_{intercept}}$	0.16 (0.041)	
$\Delta H_{log_{slope}}$	0.029 (0.010)	0.0092 (0.008)
<i>additive genetic effects for <math>t_{b2 \rightarrow 3(2012)}</math></i>		
	$t_{b2 \rightarrow 3(2012)_{intercept}}$	$t_{b2 \rightarrow 3(2012)_{slope}}$
$t_{b2 \rightarrow 3(2012)_{intercept}}$	7.36 (4.8)	
$t_{b2 \rightarrow 3(2012)_{slope}}$	3.44 (2.12)	2.47 (2.18)



(a) Random gene flow



(b) Directional gene flow



Legend

