First microsatellite markers for the pine catkin sawfly *Xyela concava* (Hymenoptera, Xyelidae) and their application in phylogeography and population genetics

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Microsatellites are widely used as powerful markers in population genetics because of their ability to access recent genetic variation and to resolve subtle population genetic structures. However, their development, especially for non-model organisms with no available genome-wide sequence data, has been difficult and time-consuming. Here, a commercial high-throughput sequencing approach (HTS) was used for the very first identification of microsatellite motifs in the genome of *Xyela concava* and the design of primer pairs flanking those motifs. Sixteen of those primer pairs were selected and implemented successfully to answer questions on the phylogeography and population genetics of *X. concava*. The markers were characterized in three geographically distinct populations of *X. concava* and tested for cross-species amplification in two additional *Xyela* and one *Pleroneura* species (Xyelidae). All markers showed substantial polymorphism as well as revealing subtle genetic structures among the three genotyped populations. We also analyzed a fragment of the nuclear gene region of sodium/potassium-transporting ATPase subunit alpha (*NaK*) and a mitochondrial gene region partly coding for cytochrome oxidase subunit I (*COI*) to demonstrate different genetic resolutions and sex-biased patterns of these markers, and their potential for combined use in future studies on the phylogeography and population genetics of *X. concava*. Although a limited number of populations was analyzed, we already obtained new insights on the latter two topics. The microsatellites revealed a generally high gene flow between the populations, but also suggested a deep historical segregation into two genetic lineages. This deep genetic segregation was confirmed by *NaK*. While the high gene flow was unexpected, because of assumed restricted dispersal ability of *X. concava* and the discontinuous distribution of the host trees between the populations, the segregation of two lineages is comprehensible and could be explained by different refuge areas of the hosts during glacial times. The *COI* results showed a discordant strong genetic structure between all populations, which might be explained by the smaller effective population size of the mitochondrial genome.
However, given the frequent evidence of a similar nature in recent studies on sawflies, we also consider and discuss mitochondrial introgression on population level as an alternative explanation.
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Abstract

Microsatellites are widely used as powerful markers in population genetics because of their ability to access recent genetic variation and to resolve subtle population genetic structures. However, their development, especially for non-model organisms with no available genome-wide sequence data, has been difficult and time-consuming. Here, a commercial high-throughput sequencing approach (HTS) was used for the very first identification of microsatellite motifs in the genome of *Xyela concava* and the design of primer pairs flanking those motifs. Sixteen of those primer pairs were selected and implemented successfully to answer questions on the phylogeography and population genetics of *X. concava*. The markers were characterized in three geographically distinct populations of *X. concava* and tested for cross-species amplification in two additional *Xyela* and one *Pleroneura* species (Xyelidae). All markers showed substantial polymorphism as well as revealing subtle genetic structures among the three genotyped populations. We also analyzed a fragment of the nuclear gene region of sodium/potassium-transporting ATPase subunit alpha (*NaK*) and a mitochondrial gene region partly coding for cytochrome oxidase subunit I (*COI*) to demonstrate different genetic resolutions and sex-biased patterns of these markers, and their potential for combined use in future studies on the phylogeography and population genetics of *X. concava*. Although a limited number of populations was analyzed, we nevertheless obtained new insights on the latter two topics. The microsatellites revealed a generally high gene flow between the populations, but also suggested a deep historical segregation into two genetic lineages. This deep genetic segregation was confirmed by *NaK*. While the high gene flow was unexpected, because of assumed restricted dispersal ability of *X. concava* and the discontinuous distribution of the host trees between the populations, the segregation of two lineages is comprehensible and could be explained by different refugial areas of the hosts during glacial times. The *COI* results showed a discordant strong genetic structure between all populations, which might be explained by the smaller effective population size of the mitochondrial genome. However, given the frequent evidence of a similar nature in recent studies on sawflies, we also consider and discuss mitochondrial introgression on population level as an alternative explanation.

Introduction

Xyelidae have always attracted the attention of taxonomists and systematists. They represent the sister group of the rest of the megadiverse insect order Hymenoptera (Ronquist et al., 2012; Klopfstein et al., 2013; Malm & Nyman, 2015), which is traditionally divided into the paraphyletic “Symphyta” (missing the wasp waist) and the monophyletic Apocrita (sharing a wasp waist as a derived feature) (Malm & Nyman, 2015). The recent inconsistent phylogenetic placement of xyelids together with Pamphiliidae and Tenthredinidae as sister clade to all remaining Hymenoptera by Peters et al. (2017) might have been caused by an artificial grouping due to shared very slow mutation rates in those groups (Ronquist et al., 2012). The rich fossil record of Xyelidae includes the earliest fossil forms of Hymenoptera dating from the Middle–Upper Triassic (Kopylov, 2014). Proper knowledge of the phylogeography and
Population genetics of xyelids is therefore important in understanding the underlying evolutionary processes, which in turn will help to understand the evolution of other hymenopterans. Unfortunately, such data are scarce for xyelids due to the rarity of many species, ephemerality of the imagines, and considerable problems in identifying species morphologically as well as genetically (e.g., Burdick 1961; Blank, Shinohara & Byun, 2005; Blank, Shinohara & Altenhofer, 2013; Blank et al., 2017; Blank & Kramp 2017). While a limited number of microsatellite studies has been conducted on sawflies (Hartel, Frederick & Shanower, 2003; Cook et al., 2011; Caron et al., 2013; Bittner et al., 2017), none has focused on xyelids. Consequently, little is known about the population dynamics of this early-diverging group, including effects of ephemerality of imagines and their dispersal ability, host adaption and host dependency, and reproduction mode.

Here, we report on the first developed and tested set of 16 polymorphic nuclear microsatellite markers for *Xyela concava* Burdick, 1961, to shed light on the latter issues. *X. concava* is widely distributed in southwestern USA, where it is closely associated with the pinyon-juniper woodland vegetation type of higher elevation semideserts, i.e., with pine species of the subgenus *Strobus* subsection *Cembroides* (Farjon 2010). Females oviposit into developing male cones of *Pinus cembroides* Zuccarini, 1830, *P. edulis* Engelmann, 1848 and *P. monophylla* Torrey & Frémont, 1845 (Fig. 1), where the larvae feed on the sporophylls. After having ceased feeding, *Xyela* larvae dig into the soil below the host trees and may diapause up to several years before pupating (Blank, Shinohara & Altenhofer, 2013). Imagines of the next generation emerge during spring and often visit flowering plants with easily accessible anthers, such as mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus* spp.) and cliff-rose (*Purshia* spp.), from which they gather pollen for nutrition with their adapted mouthparts (Burdick 1961; Blank, personal observation). Flight behavior is described as erratic and slow (Burdick 1961). Therefore, given an assumed restricted dispersal ability and a close association with particular host species, it is intriguing to see how the variation within and among populations have been influenced by the distribution of the host trees during glacial and postglacial times. The high resolution power and therefore high capability of microsatellite markers to assess subtle and recent population genetic structures makes them well suited to this task. We used a commercial high-throughput sequencing approach for the development of the microsatellite markers and applied them to describe genetic structures and variation among and within three geographically distinct populations of *X. concava*. Furthermore, we compared the resolution of genetic variation of these markers with compiled data for one nuclear and one mitochondrial gene coding region and discuss their possible combined suitability for identifying genealogical lineages and answering phylogeographical questions. Finally, cross-amplification patterns for two species of *Xyela* and one of *Pleroneura*, sister taxon of *Xyela* (Smith 1967), are illustrated.
**Material and methods**

### Sampling

*Xyela* larvae were extracted from staminate cones of pines as described by Blank, Shinohara & Altenhofer (2013) and stored in 100% ethanol at -20°C. We included in the analysis larvae originating from three collection sites which are located 900–1,200 km from each other (see Table S1). The specimens are preserved in the Senckenberg Deutsches Entomologisches Institut, Müncheberg, Germany. Since it is impossible to identify *Xyela* larvae to species level morphologically, they were COI barcoded and identified by comparison with sequences from imagines identified as *X. concava* morphologically (identification following Burdick (1961), reference sequences of imagines were published by Blank, Kramp & Shinohara (2017) and are deposited in the GenBank (NCBI) database, accession numbers KY198313 and KY198314). Finally, 98 larvae of *X. concava* were selected for the analysis (for detailed data see Table S1).

### DNA extraction

Whole larvae were used for DNA extraction. The integument was slightly cut with a scalpel, so that the exterior stayed intact for later morphological inspection. DNA was extracted and purified with E.Z.N.A. Tissue DNA Kit (Omega Bio-Tek) according to the manufacturer’s protocol, but with an extended 2 hour incubation time at 55°C (Thermomixer, without shaking) for cell lysis. The extracted DNA was stored at -20°C until later use. The integuments were retained and stored in 70% ethanol.

### Microsatellite marker development and screening

Total genomic DNA of a single female of *X. concava* (specimen ID: DEI-GISHym 30887, see Table S1) was extracted following the protocol described above. 10 ng/µl DNA in a total volume of 20 µl was sent to AllGenetics & Biology (Coruña, Spain) for the commercial identification of microsatellite motifs and the design of motif flanking primer pairs. A library was prepared for the DNA sample using the Nextera XT DNA kit (Illumina), following the manufacturer’s instructions. The library was enriched with the following microsatellite motifs: AC, AG, ACG, and ATCT. Enriched DNA was sequenced in the Illumina MiSeq platform (PE300) and produced 3,043,190 paired-end reads. These paired-end reads were processed in Geneious 10.0.5 (Biomatters, Ltd.) using in-house developed scripts (property of AllGenetics & Biology) and overlapped into 1,521,595 sequences (trim error probability limit of 0.03). Primer design was carried out by AllGenetics & Biology in Primer 3 (Koressaar & Remm 2007; Untergrasser et al., 2012) for 500 sequences containing microsatellite motifs. For a preliminary screening, fifty primer pairs were picked and four *X. concava* larvae (DEI-GISHym 32824–32827) were used for tests of polymorphism. Furthermore, 12 specimens of *X. deserti* Burdick, 1961, 12 specimens of an undescribed *Xyela* species, possibly a member of the *X. alpigena* group (Blank & Kramp 2017), and six specimens of *Pleroneura koebelii* Rohwer, 1910 (see Table S1) were tested for cross-species amplification to check the marker system for potential use on two closely and one
more distantly related xyelid species. The PCR analysis included a temperature gradient in the primer annealing step to find the best conditions for each primer pair. PCR was carried out in a total volume of 5 µl containing 0.5 µl DNA, 0.1 µl of primers (10 pmol each) and 2.5 µl of 2x Multiplex PCR Plus Master mix (QIAGEN). The PCR protocol consisted of an initial DNA polymerase (HotStar Taq) activation step at 95 °C for 5 min, followed by 35 cycles of 30 s of 95 °C (DNA denaturation step), 90 s at 50 °C, 52 °C, 54 °C and 56 °C (primer annealing step, temperature ramp), and 30 s at 72 °C (elongation step); the last cycle was followed by a final 10 min extension step at 68 °C. 5 µl of the PCR product was visualized on a 2 % agarose gel. Primer pairs that produced no amplification, multiple or unexpected size PCR products were discarded. Eighteen primer pairs, showing discernably strong and specific signals, were picked for further analysis. 5’-end fluorescently labelled reverse primers (6-Fam (Biomers) and NED, VIC, PET (Thermo Fisher Scientific)) for the selected primer pairs were synthesized for multiplexing and capillary electrophoresis. PCR was carried out in four multiplex reactions for four X. concava DNA samples in a total volume of 10 µl containing 2.5 µl DNA, 1.0 µl of fluorescently labelled primer pair mix (0.5 pmol each, containing up to five primer pairs, depending on compatible annealing temperature, dye and expected fragment size range) and 5.0 µl of 2x Multiplex PCR Plus Master mix (QIAGEN). PCR reaction conditions were as described above with the respective optimal annealing temperature for each primer pair mix. Reactions were diluted 1:2 and sent to Macrogen Europe (Amsterdam, the Netherlands) for fragment analysis.

Allele sizes were scored using GeneMapper 5.0 (Applied Biosystems). No marker showed strong stutter peaks or intensive background signal. Two primer pairs appeared to be monomorphic and were excluded from further analyses. Sixteen primer pairs showed apparent polymorphism for the four tested samples and were finally selected (Table 1).

**COI and NaK polymerase chain reaction analysis**

Primers used for amplification and sequencing are listed in Table 2. The mitochondrial region amplified is a 1,078 bp long fragment of cytochrome oxidase subunit I gene (**COI**). The first 658 bp of this fragment (from the 5' end) correspond to the standard barcode region of the animal kingdom (Hebert et al. 2004). Additionally, a 1,654 bp long fragment of the nuclear gene region of sodium/potassium-transporting ATPase subunit alpha (**NaK**) was amplified.

PCR reactions were carried out in a total volume of 20–25 µl containing 1.5–3.0 µl DNA, 1.2–2.5 µl of primers (5 pmol each) and 10.0–12.5 µl of 2x Multiplex PCR Plus Master mix (QIAGEN). The PCR protocol consisted of an initial DNA polymerase (HotStar Taq) activation step at 95 °C for 5 min, followed by 38–40 cycles of 30 s at 95 °C, 90 s at 49–59 °C depending on the primer set used, and 50–120 s (depending on the amplicon size) at 72 °C; the last cycle was followed by a final 30 min extension step at 68 °C. 3 µl of the PCR product was visualized on a 1.4 % agarose gel. Primers and dNTPs were inactivated with FastAP and Exonuclease I (Thermo Fisher Scientific). 1.7–2.2 U of both enzymes were added to 17–22 µl of PCR solution and incubated for 15 min at 37 °C, followed by 15 min at 85 °C. Purified PCR products were sent to Macrogen Europe (Amsterdam, the Netherlands) for sequencing. To obtain unequivocal
sequences, both sense and antisense strands were sequenced. Sequences were aligned manually with Geneious 11.0.5. Ambiguous positions (i.e., double peaks in chromatograms of both strands) due to heterozygosity or heteroplasmy were coded using IUPAC symbols. Sequences have been deposited in the GenBank (NCBI) database (accession numbers MK265017–MK265114 and MK264919–MK265016, for detailed data see Table S1).

**Genetic data analysis**

Estimations of genetic variation were obtained by calculating average number of alleles ($N_A$), observed ($H_O$) and expected heterozygosity ($H_E$) as well as deviations from Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) for each locus for all *X. concava* populations using ARLEQUIN 3.5.2.2 (Excoffier & Lischer, 2010) and 1,000 permutations. The same program was used to assess the suitability of resolving population differentiation by estimating population pairwise measures of $F_{ST}$ (1,000 permutations). The program GENEPOP 4.7.0 (Rousset, 2008) was used to estimate the inbreeding coefficient $F_{IS}$ (1,000 permutations). GENEPOP was also used in combination with the ENA correction implemented in the program FreeNA (Chapuis & Estoup, 2007) to test for the presence and frequency of null alleles in the populations and to correct for the potential overestimation of $F_{ST}$ values induced by the occurrence of null alleles (1,000 permutations).

Number of genotypes (NG) in the dataset was counted with Excel. To test for isolation by distance, a Mantel test for the microsatellite data was performed (1,000 replicates) in ALLELES IN SPACE (Miller, 2005).

To assess the suitability of the microsatellite markers for assessing genetic population structures, three independent Bayesian assignment tests were carried out, one non-spatial using STRUCTURE 2.3.4 (Pritchard, Stephens & Donnelly, 2000) and two spatial model based using BAPS 6.0 (Corander, Waldmann & Sillanpää, 2003; Corander, Sirén & Arjas, 2008) and GENELAND 4.0.8 (Guillot, Mortier & Estoup, 2005). GENELAND assignment results for the microsatellite markers were also compared with results in GENELAND for the mitochondrial and nuclear gene coding markers (here without any comparison with a non-spatial assignment in STRUCTURE, since the model assumptions are likely to be violated for sequence data (Falush, Stephens & Pritchard, 2003)). In BAPS, a maximum number of 10 $K$ was given as a prior. In STRUCTURE, ten replicates for each $K$ from 1 to 10 were carried out with 50,000 burn-in steps followed by 100,000 MCMC. The online program STRUCTURE HARVESTER (Earl & vonHoldt, 2012) was used to infer the most likely value of $K$. GENELAND was carried out with an uncertainty on coordinates of 25 km, 100,000 iterations, a thinning to every 100 replicate and 10 independent runs. In STRUCTURE and GENELAND, a no admixture model and independency of allele frequency (uncorrelated model) was assumed, since correlated frequency models, though more powerful in detecting subtle differentiations, are more sensitive to departure from model assumptions (Guillot et al., 2012).
Results

The identification of microsatellite motifs by using HTS yielded 500 potential markers of which 50 were picked for a preliminary screening. Sixteen were finally implemented. Alongside primer pairs that produced no amplification or were monomorphic, some also unexpectedly showed PCR products of multiple sizes and had to be discarded.

The microsatellite markers amplified 3–14 different alleles and 3–18 different genotypes per population and locus (Table 3). Observed heterozygosities ranged from 0.00 to 0.78 and were significantly lower than those expected under Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium except for one locus, indicating a deficiency of heterozygotes in the analyzed *Xyela concava* populations and/or the presence of null alleles. This deficit is also confirmed by positive $F_{IS}$ values obtained for all but three loci in one population. Estimated frequencies of null alleles were variable depending on the respective microsatellite locus and *X. concava* population and varied between 0 and 39% (Table 4).

The estimation of the frequency of null alleles, though highly variable depending on the locus-population combination, did not introduce any bias to our dataset and thus did not cause an overestimation of pairwise $F_{ST}$ values.

The $F_{ST}$ values uncorrected and corrected for the presence of null alleles showed higher values between the populations of Monitor Pass and Uinta Mountains as well as between the populations of Monitor Pass and Big Burro Mountains than the values between the populations of Uinta Mountains and Big Burro Mountains (Table 5). In general, all $F_{ST}$ values were comparatively low (0.028–0.113) but either had a considerably narrow confidence interval or were significant or approaching the level of significance ($P = 0.055$). The $F_{ST}$ values for *NaK* and *COI* were, in comparison, higher (0.215–0.740). While the values for *NaK* showed the same pattern as the microsatellite markers in respect of genetic relationship of the populations, the $F_{ST}$ values for *COI* indicated relatively high differences between all populations (Table 6). The Mantel test showed no isolation by distance ($r^2 = 0.0173, P < 0.001$). While spatial assignment tests for *NaK* and the microsatellites came up with the same pattern as the $F_{ST}$ values – as indicated by the assignment of two populations with high posterior probabilities to one genetic group or lineage (Figs. 2 and 3) – the non-spatial STRUCTURE analysis for microsatellites was slightly non-confirmative, with genotypes from the Big Burro Mountains and Uinta Mountains assigned to one separate lineage, yet with genotypes from all three populations assigned to one shared overlapping genetic lineage. The analysis of the *COI* data revealed that each population represented one distinct cluster ($K = 3$) (Fig. 3B, C, D).

All microsatellite markers were successfully tested for cross-species amplification. For the three additional species of *Xyela* and *Pleroneura*, four markers showed polymorphic products and five were apparently monomorphic for *X. deserti*. Eight markers showed polymorphic products for the new *Xyela* species of the *alpigena* group, while no or unspecific fragments were amplified for *Pleroneura koebelei* (Table 7).
Discussion

Of 50 initial markers, only 16 could finally be implemented. Such high drop-out rates due to large numbers of repetitive motifs throughout the genome causing nonspecific binding of primers are already known (Schoebel et al., 2013). Other recent studies on invertebrates, using the same commercial HTS approach for the identification of SSR motifs, resulted in 11 to 21 polymorphic microsatellite markers, which nonetheless could be applied successfully (Reineke et al., 2015; González-Castellano et al., 2018; Gomes et al., 2019).

The analyses demonstrated that the degree of variability of the new microsatellite marker set is adequate in that it reveals polymorphic alleles within and across populations. The low significant deviations from Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium as well as positive $F_{IS}$ values for almost all loci in all populations could, however, have several causes. Given the ephemerality of the imagines and their fluctuating abundance due to extended diapausing, the major reason might have been a sampling bias, where only a fraction of each population was sampled (Wahlund effect). Furthermore, homozygote genotypes equally distributed across all populations indicated haploidy for altogether 26 specimens and may have had an impact on the discrepancy between the observed and expected heterozygosities. Thelytokous parthenogenesis – producing solely female offspring – which is known in xyelids (Blank, Shinohara & Altenhofer, 2013), also might have contributed to the deficiency. However, due to the observed genotypic variation across the data set, apomictic parthenogenesis seems unlikely (Caron et al., 2013).

The results based on the non-spatial model in STRUCTURE were not as confirmative as in the spatial-model based assignment tests. Since in STRUCTURE no spatial information and therefore fewer assumptions are incorporated, geographical barriers and distance as likely causes for differentiated populations might have been underestimated (Coulon et al., 2006). On the other hand, because it does not include spatial information, STRUCTURE may here indicate a subtler genetic structure with possible higher exchange rates of the nuclear genome among all populations. However, both model applications told a broadly concordant narrative for the microsatellite markers, which are also supported by the low but significant $F_{ST}$ values. First, the recent, seemingly discontinuous distribution of the hosts, *P. edulis* and *P. monophylla*, at higher elevations in mountain ranges with up to 100 km between single patches, apparently does not represent a barrier for recent and present gene flow. This is also supported by the Mantel test, which indicated no isolation by distance. *X. concava* is assumed to be relatively stationary due to the observed slow and erratic flight behavior (Burdick, 1961). Therefore, other explanations for the ability to disperse over long distances should be considered, such as passive dispersal by wind.

Second, the proposed geographically remote and restricted refugia of the host species during glacial times (Bentancourt et al., 1991; Grayson 2011; Duran, Pardo & Mitton, 2012), and the considerably long distances between them, might have been sufficiently great to cause restricted gene flow and genetic segregation into two lineages. This assumption was also supported by the high and significant $F_{ST}$ values and the genetic clustering of the *NaK* coding region, which due to the slower mutation rates presumably better reflects events in the past. In the $F_{ST}$ statistics and
assignment tests of the microsatellite data (displaying presumably more recent events) the
segregation could still be detected, but also a recent state of admixture was indicated. To test this
hypothesis and a possibly ongoing admixture of the segregated lineages, populations of X.
concava in hybrid zones and overlapping distribution areas of the host species should be
included in future studies.

Compared to the results of the nuclear microsatellites and NaK, $F_{ST}$ values and Bayesian
statistics for the mitochondrial COI region showed a clear non-congruent pattern with a strong
genetic structure among all three populations. One explanation could be the small effective
population size ($N_e$) of the mitochondrial genome due to uniparental inheritance, which increases
the rate at which populations will become genetically more structured (lineage sorting; Harrison,
1989). However, this non-congruent pattern also might have been caused by biased
mitochondrial introgression as often found in “Symphyta” as recently discussed by Prous, Lee &
Mutnanen (2019, preprint). The authors assume that mitochondrial introgression in sawflies might
be promoted by a combination of the haplodiploid reproduction system of Hymenoptera and the
low mitochondrial mutation rates in sawflies. The assumption is partly based on theoretical
models of Patten, Carioscia & Linnen (2015) showing that haplodiploid species are especially
prone to biased mitochondrial introgression. Furthermore, Sloan, Havird & Sharbrough (2017)
recently suggested that species with low mitochondrial mutation rates might favor a specific
beneficial (possibly locally adapted and/ or novel) mitochondrial haplotype to compensate for
deleterious mitonuclear mutation loads. The specific haplotype then selectively sweeps through a
population (or species) and purges deleterious mitochondrial mutations (the alternative solution
being compensatory co-evolutionary changes in the nuclear genome). Tendentially, this would
lead to a strong mitochondrial population structure and a mitonuclear discordance, which might
be reflected in the data set. Given the evidence for the very low evolutionary rates of molecular
characters in xyelids (Ronquist et al., 2012), this might be especially true for them. Additionally,
mitochondrial introgression might likely be the cause for mitonuclear discordance in cases where
there is a general agreement among large numbers of nuclear loci but discordance with
mitochondrial genealogies (Sloan, Havird & Sharbrough, 2017). Therefore, this new set of
microsatellites may also be an attractive tool to indicate mitochondrial introgression at the
population level of X. concava and other closely related xyelids.
Conclusions

The implemented new set of microsatellite markers will be valuable for future analyses of additional and less distantly located populations while unraveling the population structure of *Xyela concava*. Together with other nuclear gene coding markers it can be used to elucidate both old and recent divisions in the gene pool to reveal more details of the phylogeography of this species. Furthermore, especially because of different underlying evolutionary processes affecting the nuclear and mitochondrial genome, this new set of microsatellites can potentially be used to reveal processes such as mitochondrial introgression at population level.

Even from this small data set, some tentative phylogeographic trends can be stated for *X. concava*. This study covers only three populations but nevertheless indicates a segregation of two genetic lineages and a recent state of admixture, which might have been caused by glacial retreat events. This would agree with proposed geographically separate glacial refugia of the host species. However, more populations covering the complete distribution of *X. concava*, especially populations from overlapping distribution areas of the hosts, need to be analyzed to test this hypothesis.
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Table 1 (on next page)

Sixteen polymorphic microsatellite loci and the corresponding flanking primer pairs identified in the pine catkin sawfly *Xyela concava*
| Locus         | Size range (bp) | Motif | Ta in °C | label | Primer sequence (5’—3’)                  |
|--------------|----------------|-------|----------|-------|------------------------------------------|
| AG_30887_445 | 75–93          | AAG<sub>(11)</sub> | 50       | VIC   | F: GTCTCGACCTCCCCCTCTACGA R: ACGGAAAGTGCATCGGATCTTC |
| AG_30887_046 | 195–225        | AGC<sub>(30)</sub> | 50       | PET   | F: CTTTTTCGTCCTGTTGACCA R: GATACGCCAGCCTCTTCTGTC |
| AG_30887_083 | 178–190        | AAG<sub>(10)</sub> | 50       | 6-Fam | F: TTCCAGTTTCTTGCAACCGC R: ATTCGCAAGCCTCTTCTGCA |
| AG_30887_188 | 179–188        | AAT<sub>(9)</sub>  | 50       | NED   | F: GCGGCGGTATAATGAGTGT R: GGAAGTGAAGTGCATACCCGTT |
| AG_30887_479 | 93–102         | ACT<sub>(8)</sub>  | 50       | PET   | F: GCTGTTTACATGCGAGTAT R: CCCCATCCCTACTACCGCT |
| AG_30887_193 | 110–134        | AGC<sub>(17)</sub> | 50       | VIC   | F: AGAGTGCCAACGTGGAAAT R: TTACCTTTCCCATGCCCATGC |
| AG_30887_234 | 376–424        | AAT<sub>CG</sub><sub>(8)</sub> | 50       | PET   | F: AGTCTGATCCCTCTCAGGCA R: ATACGTGCCAGTTCG ACT CTG |
| AG_30887_282 | 239–263        | AGC<sub>(10)</sub> | 50       | 6-Fam | F: CTGTGCTTACGTCCTTNTAGG R: CCCATCGTTGGTGTCGATAG |
| AG_30887_286 | 103–121        | AGC<sub>(8)</sub>  | 50       | NED   | F: GCGTCGCTTGAATCTCTGG R: CATTGCATCCGACGACTC |
| AG_30887_179 | 111–126        | AGC<sub>(9)</sub>  | 50       | 6-Fam | F: CCCGTTTCGTAATCTCGCTCT R: GACGTGGAATTCGACTC |
| AG_30887_460 | 90–116         | AT<sub>(5)</sub>   | 50       | PET   | F: ACCTACCTATGCGGACCA R: TTACATGCTGACACCCGGA |
| AG_30887_347 | 237–249        | AAG<sub>(8)</sub>  | 50       | PET   | F: CGGGACCTCGTGCTATT R: GGCAGCAATCCACCTGATA |
| AG_30887_393 | 136–175        | AAG<sub>(8)</sub>  | 50       | 6-Fam | F: CCATCAGTGGCCGCGATAT R: GCACCTCAAGGATCTCTAA |
| AG_30887_414 | 122–179        | AAG<sub>(8)</sub>  | 50       | NED   | F: TGATTTCGCAACCGAGGGA R: CCCTTTATTCTCAGCAAACCGC |
| AG_30887_012 | 130–148        | AGG<sub>(9)</sub>  | 50       | PET   | F: TTCCGGACGACTTTGACCTG R: CCTGATTCCGATTCCCGTT |
| AG_30887_223 | 120–186        | AAG<sub>(9)</sub>  | 50       | 6-Fam | F: TCAAGCGGGAGAAAGAGCGT R: TTAACCAGCCATCGACGTTT |
Table 2 (on next page)

Nuclear NaK and mitochondrial COI primers used for amplification (PCR) and sequencing (seq)
| Gene Region | Primer name | Primer sequence (5'-3') | Ta in °C | PCR/ Sequencing | Reference |
|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|---------|-----------------|-----------|
| COI         | symF1       | TTTCAACWAATCATAARAYATTGG | 49      | PCR, seq        | Prous et al. 2016 |
| COI         | symR1       | TAAAACCTTCWGRTGICCAAARAATC | 49      | PCR/ seq        | Prous et al. 2016 |
| COI         | symC1-J1751 | GGAGCNCTGATATAGCWTTYCC   | 49      | seq             | Prous et al. 2016 |
| NaK         | NaK263F     | CTYAGCCAYGCRAARGCRAARGA  | 59      | PCR/ seq        | Prous et al. 2017 |
| NaK         | NaK907Ri    | TGRATRAARTGRTGRAYTCYTITGC | 59      | seq             | Prous et al. 2017 |
| NaK         | NaK1250Fi   | ATGTGTTYGAYAAYCARATYATIQA | 59      | seq             | Prous et al. 2017 |
| NaK         | NaK1918R    | GATTTGGCAATNGCTTTGGCAGTDAT | 59      | PCR/ seq        | Prous et al. 2017 |
Table 3 (on next page)

Comparative genetic diversity values for the three Xyela concava populations

Analyzed for each of the 16 microsatellite loci and on average over all loci including number of alleles ($N_A$), Number of genotypes (NG), observed ($H_o$) and expected ($H_e$) heterozygosity and estimates of $F_{IS}$
| Locus         | Big Burro Mountains | Monitor Pass | Uinta Mountains |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|
|              | $N_A/NG$ | $F_{IS}$ | $H_O$ | $H_E$ | $N_A/NG$ | $F_{IS}$ | $H_O$ | $H_E$ | $N_A/NG$ | $F_{IS}$ | $H_O$ | $H_E$ |
| AG_30887_445 | 6/7      | 0.91    | 0.07  | 0.78* | 6/11    | 0.50    | 0.40  | 0.79* | 7/12    | 0.43    | 0.40  | 0.69* |
| AG_30887_046 | 10/11    | 0.33    | 0.61  | 0.85* | 9/14    | 0.44    | 0.47  | 0.82* | 7/11    | 0.04    | 0.78  | 0.80* |
| AG_30887_083 | 5/7      | 0.39    | 0.43  | 0.69* | 3/5     | 0.63    | 0.20  | 0.53* | 4/5     | -0.18   | 0.63  | 0.53* |
| AG_30887_188 | 4/6      | 0.84    | 0.11  | 0.66* | 3/5     | 0.31    | 0.37  | 0.53* | 3/5     | 0.63    | 0.25  | 0.66* |
| AG_30887_479 | 3/4      | 0.22    | 0.43  | 0.54* | 4/5     | 0.79    | 0.10  | 0.47* | 4/6     | -0.06   | 0.53  | 0.49* |
| AG_30887_193 | 6/8      | 0.31    | 0.50  | 0.72* | 5/12    | 0.47    | 0.40  | 0.74* | 7/13    | 0.04    | 0.78  | 0.80* |
| AG_30887_234 | 6/9      | 0.34    | 0.50  | 0.75* | 6/8     | 0.42    | 0.40  | 0.68* | 6/9     | 0.21    | 0.63  | 0.78* |
| AG_30887_282 | 8/8      | 0.40    | 0.46  | 0.77* | 6/9     | 0.61    | 0.30  | 0.75* | 6/9     | -0.03   | 0.73  | 0.70* |
| AG_30887_286 | 6/8      | 0.76    | 0.18  | 0.74* | 5/9     | 0.24    | 0.47  | 0.61  | 7/11    | 0.53    | 0.35  | 0.74* |
| AG_30887_179 | 3/3      | 1.00    | 0.00  | 0.62* | 5/7     | 0.55    | 0.20  | 0.43* | 5/6     | 0.76    | 0.15  | 0.61* |
| AG_30887_460 | 6/6      | 0.75    | 0.14  | 0.55* | 4/4     | 0.30    | 0.13  | 0.18* | 6/6     | 0.74    | 0.15  | 0.56* |
| AG_30887_347 | 4/5      | 0.34    | 0.43  | 0.64* | 3/6     | 0.51    | 0.33  | 0.67* | 4/7     | 0.06    | 0.63  | 0.66* |
| AG_30887_393 | 7/7      | 0.82    | 0.11  | 0.59* | 6/10    | 0.44    | 0.40  | 0.71* | 5/9     | 0.67    | 0.20  | 0.59* |
| AG_30887_414 | 12/12    | 0.35    | 0.54  | 0.82* | 10/18   | 0.54    | 0.40  | 0.86* | 9/13    | 0.13    | 0.68  | 0.77* |
| AG_30887_012 | 5/7      | 0.90    | 0.07  | 0.73* | 3/4     | 0.51    | 0.27  | 0.54* | 3/4     | 0.67    | 0.23  | 0.67* |
| AG_30887_223 | 9/11     | 0.76    | 0.14  | 0.80* | 14/18   | 0.36    | 0.47  | 0.89* | 13/15   | 0.72    | 0.23  | 0.82* |

Mean: 0.59 0.29 0.71 0.48 0.33 0.64 0.33 0.46 0.68
S.D.: 0.26 0.21 0.09 0.13 0.12 0.18 0.33 0.24 0.10

* significant departure from H-W equilibrium (P < 0.05)

S.D. = standard deviation
Table 4 (on next page)

Estimated null allele frequencies for each of the 16 polymorphic microsatellite loci and each population including the average null allele frequency
## Estimated null allele frequency

| Locus      | Big Burro Mts | Monitor Pass | Uinta Mts |
|------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| AG_30887_445 | 0.395         | 0.221        | 0.167     |
| AG_30887_046 | 0.165         | 0.191        | 0.028     |
| AG_30887_083 | 0.175         | 0.229        | 0.041     |
| AG_30887_188 | 0.334         | 0.116        | 0.247     |
| AG_30887_479 | 0.095         | 0.267        | 0.040     |
| AG_30887_193 | 0.130         | 0.194        | 0.037     |
| AG_30887_234 | 0.161         | 0.184        | 0.087     |
| AG_30887_282 | 0.194         | 0.260        | 0.036     |
| AG_30887_286 | 0.314         | 0.073        | 0.208     |
| AG_30887_179 | 0.381         | 0.190        | 0.282     |
| AG_30887_460 | 0.259         | 0.000        | 0.257     |
| AG_30887_347 | 0.148         | 0.200        | 0.048     |
| AG_30887_393 | 0.309         | 0.163        | 0.247     |
| AG_30887_414 | 0.196         | 0.245        | 0.053     |
| AG_30887_012 | 0.378         | 0.183        | 0.264     |
| AG_30887_223 | 0.319         | 0.162        | 0.314     |

Mean          | 0.247         | 0.180        | 0.147     |
Table 5 (on next page)

Pairwise $F_{ST}$ estimates between populations of *Xyela concava* for the 16 microsatellite loci including corresponding $P$ values and confidence intervals

Estimates are given both uncorrected and corrected for the presence of null alleles. Bold typeface denotes pairwise $F_{ST}$ estimates that are significantly different from zero ($P < 0.005$). Values in square brackets indicate 95% confidence intervals for pairwise corrected $F_{ST}$ estimates.
|               | Big Burro Mts | Monitor Pass | Uinta Mts |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| **$F_{ST}$** uncorrected |               |              |           |
| Big Burro Mts | *             |              |           |
| Monitor Pass  | **0.09182**   | *            |           |
| Uinta Mts     | 0.02254       | **0.07705**  | *         |
| **$F_{ST}$** ENA corrected |               |              |           |
| Big Burro Mts | *             |              |           |
| Monitor Pass  | 0.083 [0.054, 0.115] | *        |           |
| Uinta Mts     | 0.015 [0.004, 0.028] | 0.065 [0.041, 0.094] | *         |
**Table 6** (on next page)

Pairwise $F_{ST}$ estimates between populations of *Xyela concava* for NaK and COI including corresponding $P$ values

Bold typeface denotes pairwise $F_{ST}$ estimates that are significantly different from zero ($P < 0.005$)
|   | NaK                          | BB Mts | Mon Pass | Uinta Mts |
|---|-----------------------------|--------|---------|-----------|
|   | Big Burro Mts               | *      |         |           |
|   | Monitor Pass                | 0.740  | *       |           |
|   | Uinta Mts                   | 0.215  | 0.680   | *         |
|   |                             |        |         |           |
|   | COI                          | BB Mts | Mon Pass | Uinta Mts |
|   | Big Burro Mts               | *      |         |           |
|   | Monitor Pass                | 0.699  | *       |           |
|   | Uinta Mts                   | 0.508  | 0.678   | *         |
Table 7 (on next page)

Cross-species amplification

(-) no product, (+) monomorphic product, (++) polymorphic product
| Locus         | *Xyela deserti* | *Xyela* spec. nov. | *Pleroneura koebelei* |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| AG_30887_445 | -               | -                 | -                    |
| AG_30887_046 | +               | ++                | -                    |
| AG_30887_083 | -               | -                 | -                    |
| AG_30887_188 | -               | -                 | -                    |
| AG_30887_479 | +               | ++                | -                    |
| AG_30887_193 | -               | ++                | -                    |
| AG_30887_234 | +               | ++                | -                    |
| AG_30887_282 | ++              | ++                | -                    |
| AG_30887_286 | ++              | ++                | -                    |
| AG_30887_179 | -               | -                 | -                    |
| AG_30887_460 | -               | -                 | -                    |
| AG_30887_347 | ++              | ++                | -                    |
| AG_30887_393 | +               | -                 | -                    |
| AG_30887_414 | ++              | -                 | -                    |
| AG_30887_012 | -               | -                 | -                    |
| AG_30887_223 | +               | ++                | -                    |
Figure 1

Location of the collection areas and distribution of the host species

[p]Credit *Pinus spec.* shape files: https://data.usgs.gov/metadata[p]
Figure 2

Bayesian assignment of *Xyela concava* populations to each of the identified clusters ($K = 2$) for the microsatellite markers

(A) GENELAND (Posterior probabilities are indicated in the scale bar. The contour lines in the maps indicate the spatial positions of genetic discontinuities. Lighter shading indicates a higher probability of belonging to the genetic population), (B) BAPS (the area of each population is proportional to the number of specimens used) and (C) STRUCTURE
Figure 3

Bayesian spatial assignment (GENELAND) of *Xyela concava* populations to each of the identified clusters for (A) *NaK* ($K = 2$) and (B), (C), (D) *COI* ($K = 3$).

The different colors represent the estimated posterior probabilities of the membership to each cluster. Posterior probabilities are indicated in the scale bar. The contour lines in the maps indicate the spatial positions of genetic discontinuities. Lighter shading indicates a higher probability of belonging to the genetic population.
