# First microsatellite markers for the pine catkin sawfly *Xyela concava* (Hymenoptera, Xyelidae) and their application in phylogeography and population genetics (#37530)

First revision

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## 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. Peerl reviewing PDF | (2019:05:37530:1:1:NEW 4 Sep 2019)



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.
- 18 However, their development, especially for non-model organisms with no available genome-
- 19 wide sequence data, has been difficult and time-consuming. Here, a commercial high-throughput
- 20 sequencing approach (HTS) was used for the very first identification of microsatellite motifs in
- 21 the genome of *Xyela concava* and the design of primer pairs flanking those motifs. Sixteen of
- 22 those primer pairs were selected and implemented successfully to answer questions on the
- 23 phylogeography and population genetics of *X. concava*. The markers were characterized in three
- 24 geographically distinct populations of *X. concava* and tested for cross-species amplification in
- 25 two additional *Xyela* and one *Pleroneura* species (Xyelidae). All markers showed substantial
- 26 polymorphism as well as revealing subtle genetic structures among the three genotyped
- 27 populations. We also analyzed a fragment of the nuclear gene region of sodium/potassium-
- 28 transporting ATPase subunit alpha (NaK) and a mitochondrial gene region partly coding for
- 29 cytochrome oxidase subunit I (COI) to demonstrate different genetic resolutions and sex-biased
- 30 patterns of these markers, and their potential for combined use in future studies on the
- 31 phylogeography and population genetics of *X. concava*. Although a limited number of
- 32 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
- 34 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
- 36 dispersal ability of *X. concava* and the discontinuous distribution of the host trees between the
- 37 populations, the segregation of two lineages is comprehensible and could be explained by
- 38 different refuge areas of the hosts during glacial times. The *COI* results showed a discordant
- 39 strong genetic structure between all populations, which might be explained by the smaller
- 40 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
- 42 introgression on population level as an alternative explanation.

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#### Introduction

- 45 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;
- 47 Klopfstein et al., 2013; Malm & Nyman, 2015), which is traditionally divided into the
- 48 paraphyletic "Symphyta" (missing the wasp waist) and the monophyletic Apocrita (sharing a
- 49 wasp waist as a derived feature ) (Malm & Nyman, 2015). The recent inconsistent phylogenetic
- 50 placement of xyelids together with Pamphiliidae and Tenthredinidae as sister clade to all
- 51 remaining Hymenoptera by Peters et al. (2017) might have been caused by an artificial grouping
- 52 due to shared very slow mutation rates in those groups (Ronquist et al., 2012).
- 53 The rich fossil record of Xyelidae includes the earliest fossil forms of Hymenoptera dating from
- 54 the Middle–Upper Triassic (Kopylov, 2014). Proper knowledge of the phylogeography and



population genetics of xyelids is therefore important in understanding the underlying 55 evolutionary processes, which in turn will help to understand the evolution of the non-xyelid 56 hymenopteran lineages. Unfortunately, such data are scarce for xyelids due to the rarity of many 57 species, ephemerality of the imagines, and considerable problems in identifying species 58 morphologically as well as genetically (e.g., Burdick 1961; Blank, Shinohara & Byun, 2005; 59 Blank, Shinohara & Altenhofer, 2013; Blank et al., 2017; Blank & Kramp 2017). While a limited 60 number of microsatellite studies has been conducted on sawflies (Hartel, Frederick & Shanower, 61 2003; Cook et al., 2011; Caron et al., 2013; Bittner et al., 2017), non has been focused on 62 xyelids. Consequently, little is known about the population dynamics of this ancestral species 63 group, including effects of ephemerality of imagines and their dispersal ability, host adaption and 64 host dependency, and reproduction mode. 65 Here, we report on the first developed and tested set of 16 polymorphic nuclear microsatellite 66 markers for Xyela concava Burdick, 1961, to shed light on the latter issues. X. concava is widely 67 68 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 69 Strobus subsection Cembroides (Farjon 2010). Females oviposit into developing male cones of 70 *Pinus cembroides, P. edulis* and *P. monophylla* (Fig. 1), where the larvae feed on the 71 sporophylls. After having ceased feeding, Xyela larvae dig into the soil below the host trees and 72 may diapause up to several years before pupating (Blank, Shinohara & Altenhofer, 2013). 73 Imagines of the next generation emerge during spring and often visit flowering plants with easily 74 accessible anthers, such as mountain mahogany (Cercocarpus spp.) and cliff-rose (Purshia spp.), 75 from which they gather pollen for nutrition with their adapted mouthparts (Burdick 1961; Blank, 76 77 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 78 host species, it is intriguing to see how the variation within and among populations have been 79 influenced by the distribution of the host trees during glacial and postglacial times. The high 80 resolution power and therefore high capability of microsatellite markers to access subtle and 81 recent population genetic structures makes them very suitable for this task. We used a 82 commercial high-throughput sequencing approach for the development of the microsatellite 83 markers and applied them to describe genetic structures and variation among and within three 84 85 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 86 gene coding region and discuss their possible combined suitability for identifying genealogical 87 lineages and answering phylogeographical questions. Finally, cross-amplification patterns for 88 89 two species of *Xyela* and one of *Pleroneura*, sister taxon of *Xyela* (Smith 1967), are illustrated.



#### Material and methods

92 93

#### Sampling

- 94 Xyela larvae were extracted from staminate cones of pines as described by Blank, Shinohara &
- 95 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
- 97 Table S1). The specimens are preserved in the Senckenberg Deutsches Entomologisches Institut,
- 98 Müncheberg, Germany. Since it is impossible to identify *Xyela* larvae to species level
- 99 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).

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#### **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.
- 110 The extracted DNA was stored at -20 °C until later use. The integuments were retained and
- stored in 70 % ethanol.

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#### Microsatellite marker development and screening

- 114 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 XTDNA 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
- 122 (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 koebelei* Rohwer, 1910 (see Table S1) were tested for
- 130 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
- 138 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
- 140 discarded. Eighteen primer pairs, showing discernably strong and specific signals, were picked
- 141 for further analysis. 5'-end fluorescently labelled reverse primers (6-Fam (Biomers) and NED,
- 142 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
- 144 four X. concava DNA samples in a total volume of 10 µl containing 2.5 µl DNA, 1.0 µl of
- 145 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
- 147 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.
- 149 Reactions were diluted 1:2 and sent to Macrogen Europe (Amsterdam, the Netherlands) for
- 150 fragment analysis.
- 151 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
- 159 658 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– $25~\mu l$  containing 1.5– $3.0~\mu l$  DNA, 1.2–
- 2.5 μl of primers (5 pmol each) and 10.0–12.5 μl of 2x Multiplex PCR Plus Master mix
- 164 (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  $\mu$ l of the PCR product was visualized
- on a 1.4 % agarose gel. Primers and dNTPs were inactivated with FastAP and Exonuclease I
- 169 (Thermo Fisher Scientific). 1.7-2.2~U of both enzymes were added to  $17-22~\mu l$  of PCR solution
- and incubated for 15 min at 37 °C, followed by 15 min at 85 °C. Purified PCR products were
- 171 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–
- 176 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  $(H_{\rm D})$  and expected heterozygosity  $(H_{\rm E})$  as well as deviations from Hardy-Weinberg
- equilibrium (HWE) for each locus for all *X. concava* populations using ARLEOUIN 3.5.2.2
- 182 (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
- 184  $F_{ST}$  (1,000 permutations). The program GENEPOP 4.7.0 (Rousset, 2008) was used to estimate
- the inbreeding coefficient  $F_{\rm IS}$  (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  $F_{\rm ST}$  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
- 191 IN SPACE (Miller, 2005).
- To assess the suitability of the microsatellite markers for accessing genetic population structures,
- three independent Bayesian assignment tests were carried out, one non-spatial using
- 194 STRUCTURE 2.3.4 (Pritchard, Stephens & Donnelly, 2000) and two spatial model based using
- 195 BAPS 6.0 (Corander, Waldmann & Sillanpää, 2003; Corander, Sirén & Arjas, 2008) and
- 196 GENELAND 4.0.8 (Guillot, Mortier & Estoup, 2005). GENELAND assignment results for the
- 197 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
- 199 STRUCTURE, since the model assumptions are likely to be violated for sequence data (Falush,
- 200 Stephens & Pritchard, 2003)). In BAPS, a maximum number of 10 K was given as a prior. In
- 201 STRUCTURE, ten replicates for each K from 1 to 10 were carried out with 50,000 burn-in steps
- 202 followed by 100,000 MCMC. The online program STRUCTURE HARVESTER (Earl &
- 203 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
- 205 10 independent runs. In STRUCTURE and GENELAND, a no admixture model and
- 206 independency of allele frequency (uncorrelated model) was assumed, since correlated frequency
- 207 models, though more powerful in detecting subtle differentiations, are more sensitive to
- 208 departure from model assumptions (Guillot et al., 2012).

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#### Results

- 211 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 212
- pairs that produced no amplification or were monomorphic, some also showed unexpected 213
- multiple size PCR products and had to be discarded. 214
- The microsatellite markers amplified 3–14 different alleles and 3–18 different genotypes per 215
- population and locus (Table 3). Observed heterozygosities ranged from 0.00 to 0.78 and were 216
- significantly lower than those expected under Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium except for one locus. 217
- indicating a deficiency of heterozygotes in the analyzed *Xyela concava* populations and/or the 218
- 219 presence of null alleles. This deficit is also confirmed by positive  $F_{\rm IS}$  values obtained for all but
- three loci in one population. Estimated frequencies of null alleles were variable depending on the 220
- respective microsatellite locus and X. concava population and varied between 0 and 39 % (Table 221
- 222
- The estimation of the frequency of null alleles, though highly variable depending on the locus-223
- 224 population combination, did not introduce any bias to our dataset and thus did not cause an
- overestimation of pairwise  $F_{ST}$  values. 225
- The  $F_{\rm ST}$  values uncorrected and corrected for the presence of null alleles showed higher values 226
- between the populations of Monitor Pass and Uinta Mountains as well as between the 227
- 228 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 229
- comparatively low (0.028–0.113) but either had a considerably narrow confidence interval or 230
- were significant or approaching the level of significance (P = 0.055). The  $F_{ST}$  values for NaK and 231
- COI were, in comparison, higher (0.215–0.740). While the values for NaK showed the same 232
- pattern as the microsatellite markers in respect of genetic relationship of the populations, the  $F_{\rm ST}$ 233
- values for *COI* indicated relatively high differences between all populations (Table 6). The 234
- Mantel test showed no isolation by distance ( $r^2 = 0.0173$ , P < 0.001). While spatial assignment 235
- tests for NaK and the mircosatellites came up with the same pattern as the  $F_{ST}$  values-indicated 236
- 237 by assigning two population with high posterior probabilities to one genetic group or lineage
- (Figs. 2 and 3)—the non-spatial STRUCTURE analysis for microsatellites was slightly non-238
- confirmative, with genotypes from the Big Burro Mountains and Uinta Mountains assigned to 239
- one separate lineage, but also with genotypes from all three populations assigned to one shared 240
- overlapping genetic lineage. The analysis of the *COI* data revealed that each population 241
- represented one distinct cluster (K = 3) (Fig. 3B, C, D). 242
- All microsatellite markers were successfully tested for cross-species amplification. For the three 243
- additional species of Xyela and Pleroneura, four markers showed polymorphic products and five 244
- 245 were apparently monomorphic for X. deserti Burdiek, 1961. Eight markers showed polymorphic
- products for the new *Xyela* species of the *alpigena* group, while no or unspecific fragments were 246
- amplified for *Pleroneura koebelei* Rohwer, 1910 (Table 7) 247



#### Discussion

- 250 Of 50 initial markers, only 16 could finally be implemented. Such high drop-out rates due to
- 251 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 between 11 to 21
- polymorphic microsatellite markers, which nonetheless could be applied successfully (Reineke et
- 255 al., 2015; González-Castellano et al., 2018; Gomes et al., 2019).
- 256 The analyses demonstrated that the degree of variability of the new microsatellite marker set is
- 257 adequate in that it reveals polymorphic alleles within and across populations. The low significant
- deviations from Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium as well as positive  $F_{\rm IS}$  values for almost all loci in
- all populations could, however, have several causes. Given the ephemerality of the imagines and
- 260 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).
- 262 Furthermore, homozygote genotypes equally distributed across all populations indicated
- 263 haploidy for altogether 26 specimens and may have had an impact on the discrepancy between
- 264 the observed and expected heterozygosity. Thelytokous parthenogenesis producing solely
- 265 female offspring which is known in xyelids (Blank, Shinohara & Altenhofer, 2013), also might
- 266 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
- 270 therefore fewer assumptions are incorporated, geographical barriers and distance as likely causes
- for differentiated populations might have been underestimated (Coulon et al., 2006). Vice versa,
- because it does not include spatial information, STRUCTURE may here indicate a subtler
- 273 genetic structure with possible higher exchange rates of the nuclear genome among all
- 274 populations. However, both model applications told a broadly concordant narrative for the
- 275 microsatellite markers, which are also supported by the low but significant  $F_{ST}$  values. First, the
- 276 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
- 278 represent a barrier for recent and present gene flow. This is also supported by no isolation by
- 279 distance in the Mantel test. 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
- 283 glacial times (Bentancourt et al., 1991; Grayson 2011; Duran, Pardo & Mitton, 2012), and the
- 284 considerably long distances between them, might have been too much to overcome, and resulted
- in a very restricted gene flow and a 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 rather displays, events in the
- past. In the  $F_{\rm ST}$  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 289 was indicated. To test this hypothesis and a possibly ongoing admixture of the segregated 290 lineages, populations of X. concava in hybrid zones and overlapping distribution areas of the host 291 species should be included in future studies. 292 293 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 294 genetic structure among all three populations. One explanation could be the small effective 295 population size  $(N_e)$  of the mitochondrial genome due to uniparental inheritance, which increases 296 the rate at which populations will become genetically more structured (lineage sorting; Harrison, 297 1989). However, this non-congruent pattern also might have been caused by biased 298 mitochondrial introgression as often found in "Symphyta" as recently discussed by Prous, Lee & 299 Mutanen (2019, preprint). The authors assume that mitochondrial introgression in sawflies might 300 be promoted by a combination of the haplodiploid reproduction system of Hymenoptera and the 301 302 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 303 prone to biased mitochondrial introgression. Furthermore, Sloan, Havird & Sharbrough (2017) 304 recently suggested that species with low mitochondrial mutation rates might favor a specific 305 306 beneficial (possibly locally adapted and/ or novel) mitochondrial haplotype to compensate for deleterious mitonuclear mutation loads. The specific haplotype then selectively sweeps through a 307 population (or species) and purges deleterious mitochondrial mutations (the alternative solution 308 being compensatory co-evolutionary changes in the nuclear genome). Tendentially, this would 309 lead to a strong mitochondrial population structure and a mitonuclear discordance, which might 310 be reflected in the data set. Given the evidence for the very low evolutionary rates of molecular 311 characters in xyelids (Ronquist et al., 2012), this might be especially true for them. Additionally, 312 mitochondrial introgression might likely to be the cause for mitonuclear discordance in cases in 313 which there is a general agreement among large numbers of nuclear loci but discordance with 314 mitochondrial genealogies (Sloan, Havird & Sharbrough, 2017). Therefore, this new set of 315 microsatellites may also be an attractive tool to indicate mitochondrial introgression at the 316 population level of *X. concava* and other closely related xyelids. 317

318 319

#### **Conclusions**

320 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 321 *Xyela concava*. Together with other nuclear gene coding markers it can be used to elucidate both 322 old and recent divisions in the gene pool to reveal more details of the phylogeography of this 323 324 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 325 reveal processes such as mitochondrial introgression at population level. 326 Even from this small data set, some tentative phylogeographic trends can be stated for X. 327

328 *concava*. This study covers only three populations but already, indicates a segregation of two



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329	genetic lineages and a recent state of admixture, which might have been caused by glacial retreat
330	events. This would agree with proposed geographically separate glacial refugia of the host
331	species. However, more populations covering the complete distribution area of X. concava,
332	especially populations from overlapping distribution areas of the hosts, need to be analyzed to
333	test this hypothesis.
334	



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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	$AAG_{(11)}$	50	VIC	F: GTCTCGACTCCCTCCTACGA R: ACGGAAGTGCATCGGATCTTC
AG_30887_046	195–225	AGC <sub>(30)</sub>	50	PET	F: CCTTTCGTCCTGGTTGACCA R: GATACGCCAGCCTATCCGTC
AG_30887_083	178–190	$AAG_{(10)}$	50	6-Fam	F: TTCCAGTTTCTTGCAACGCG R: ATTCGCAAGCCTCTTCTGCA
AG_30887_188	179–188	$AAT_{(9)}$	50	NED	F: GCGGCGGTATAATGAGTCGT R: GGAAAGTGACTGCTACCGGT
AG_30887_479	93–102	$ACT_{(8)}$	50	PET	F: GCTGTTCACATGGCAGGTAG R: CCACCATCCCTACTACGGCT
AG_30887_193	110–134	AGC <sub>(17)</sub>	50	VIC	F: AGAGTGCCAACGTGGGAAAT R: TTACTTTGCCCATGCCATGC
AG_30887_234	376–424	AATGCG <sub>(8)</sub>	50	PET	F: AGTCTGATCCTTCCTGCGGA R: ATACGTGCCAGTTCGATCGT
AG_30887_282	239–263	AGC <sub>(10)</sub>	50	6-Fam	F: CTGTGCCTACGTCCCTTAGG R: CCCATCGTTTGGTCGGTAGA
AG_30887_286	103–121	$AGC_{(8)}$	50	NED	F: GCGTCCGTCTGAAATCTTGG R: CATTCGCATTCGACGCACTC
AG_30887_179	111–126	$AGC_{(9)}$	50	6-Fam	F: CCCGTTCGTAAATCGGTCCT R: GACGTGGAATCGGTGGACTC
AG_30887_460	90–116	AT <sub>(5)</sub>	50	PET	F: ACGTACTTATTGGGCGCGAA R: TTTACATGCTGTACACCGGGA
AG_30887_347	237–249	$AAG_{(8)}$	50	PET	F: CCCGGACCTCGTGCTATTC R: GGCGACAATCCCACGTGATA
AG_30887_393	136–175	$AAG_{(8)}$	50	6-Fam	F: CCATCACTGTGCCGCGATAT R: GCACCTCAGGGATCCTCAAT
AG_30887_414	122–179	$AAG_{(8)}$	50	NED	F: TGATTTGTGCAACCGAGGGA R: CCCTTTATTCTCAGCAACCGC
AG_30887_012	130–148	$AGG_{(9)}$	50	PET	F: TTCCGGACGACTTTGACCTG R: CCTCGATTCCGATTCCCGTT
AG_30887_223	120–186	$AAG_{(9)}$	50	6-Fam	F: TCAAAGCGGAGAAAGAGCGT R: TTAACCGCCATCGACCGTTC



#### 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	TTTCAACWAATCATAAARAYATTGG	49	PCR, seq	Prous et al. 2016
COI	symR1	TAAACTTCWGGRTGICCAAARAATC	49	PCR/ seq	Prous et al. 2016
COI	symC1-J1751	GGAGCNCCTGATATAGCWTTYCC	49	seq	Prous et al. 2016
NaK	NaK263F	CTYAGCCAYGCRAARGCRAARGA	59	PCR/ seq	Prous et al. 2017
NaK	NaK907Ri	TGRATRAARTGRTGRATYTCYTTIGC	59	seq	Prous et al. 2017
NaK	NaK1250Fi	ATGTGGTTYGAYAAYCARATYATIGA	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		N	Monitor Pass			Ui	Uinta Mountains				
Locus	N <sub>A</sub> /NG	$F_{ m IS}$	$H_{\rm O}$	$H_{ m E}$	$N_{\rm A}/{ m NG}$	$F_{ m IS}$	$H_{\rm O}$	$H_{\mathrm{E}}$	$N_{\rm A}/{ m NG}$	$F_{ m IS}$	$H_{\rm O}$	$H_{ m E}$
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 S.D.				0.71 0.09				0.64 0.18		0.33 0.33	0.46 0.24	0.68 0.10

<sup>2 \*</sup> significant departure from H-W equilibrium (P < 0.05)

<sup>3</sup> 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  $F_{\rm ST}$  estimates that are significantly different from zero (P < 0.005). Values in square brackets indicate 95 % confidence intervals for pairwise corrected  $F_{\rm ST}$  estimates



$F_{\rm ST}$ uncorrected	Big Burro Mts	<b>Monitor Pass</b>	Uinta Mts
Big Burro Mts	*		
Monitor Pass	0.09182	*	
Uinta Mts	0.02254	0.07705	*
$F_{\rm ST}$ ENA corrected	Big Burro Mts	Monitor Pass	Uinta Mts
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  $F_{\rm ST}$  estimates between populations of  $Xyela\ concava$  for NaK and COI including corresponding P values

Bold typeface denotes pairwise  $F_{\rm ST}$  estimates that are significantly different from zero (P < 0.005)



NaK	BB Mts	Mon Pass	Uinta Mts
Big Burro	*		
Mts	•		
<b>Monitor Pass</b>	0.740	*	
Uinta Mts	0.215	0.680	*
COI	BB Mts	Mon Pass	Uinta Mts
Big Burro	*		
Mts	•		
<b>Monitor Pass</b>	0.699	*	
Uinta Mts	0.508	0.678	*



### Table 7(on next page)

Cross-species amplification

(-) no product, (+) monomorphic product, (++) polymorphic product

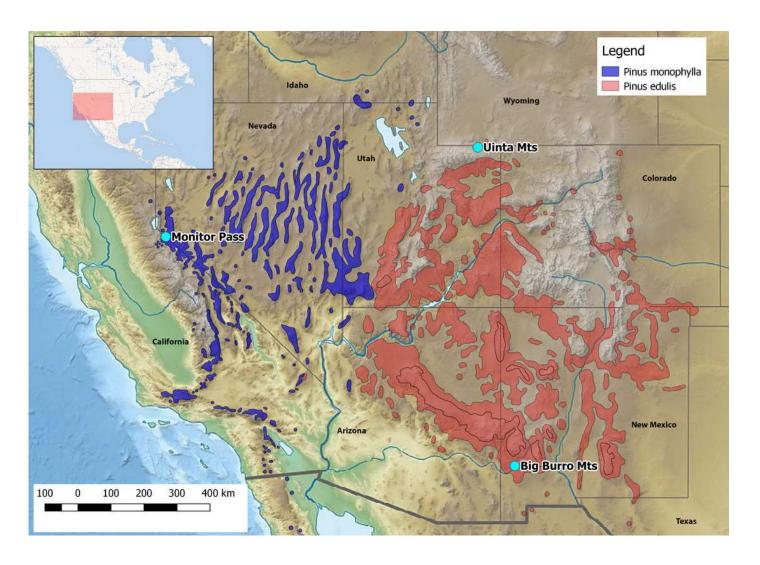


Locus	Xyela deserti	<i>Xyela</i> spec. nov.	Pleroneura koebelei
AG_30887_445	-	-	-
AG_30887_046	+	++	-
AG_30887_083	-	-	-
AG_30887_188	-	-	-
AG_30887_479	+	++	-
AG_30887_193	-	++	-
AG_30887_234	+	++	-
AG_30887_282	++	++	-
AG_30887_286	++	++	-
AG_30887_179	-	-	-
AG_30887_460	-	-	-
AG_30887_347	++	++	-
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: <a href="https://data.usgs.gov/metadata[p">https://data.usgs.gov/metadata[p]</a>]

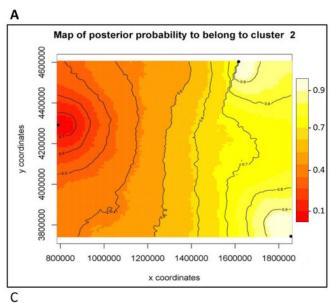


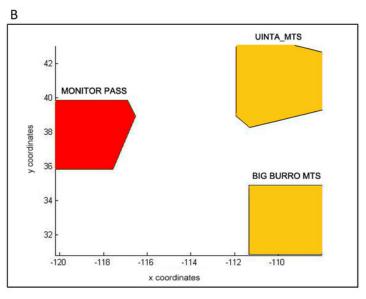


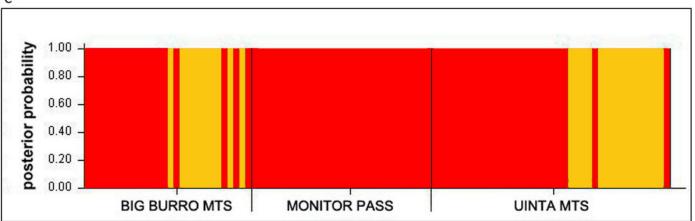
## Figure 2

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.



