

**Reconstructing the invasion history of *Heracleum persicum*
(Apiaceae) into Europe**

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1 **Reconstructing the invasion history of *Heracleum persicum* (Apiaceae) into Europe**

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10 **Keywords:** Approximate Bayesian Computation; biodiversity; genetic variation; giant
11 hogweeds; invasive alien species; population genetics

12 **Running title:** Invasion history of *Heracleum persicum*

13 **Abstract**

14 Sparse, incomplete and inappropriate historical records of invasive species often hamper
15 invasive species management interventions. Population genetic analyses of invaders might
16 provide a suitable context for the identification of their source populations and possible
17 introduction routes. Here, we describe the population genetics of *Heracleum persicum* Desf.
18 ex Fisch and trace its route of introduction into Europe. Microsatellite markers revealed a
19 significantly higher genetic diversity of *H. persicum* in its native range, and the loss of
20 diversity in the introduced range may be attributed to a recent genetic bottleneck. Bayesian

1 cluster analysis on regional levels identified three and two genetic clusters in the native and
2 the introduced ranges, respectively. A global structure analysis revealed two worldwide
3 distinct genetic groups: one primarily in Iran and Denmark, the other primarily in Norway.
4 There were also varying degrees of admixture in England, Sweden, Finland and Latvia.
5 Approximate Bayesian computation indicated two independent introductions of *H. persicum*
6 from Iran to Europe: the first one in Denmark and the second one in England. Finland was
7 subsequently colonized by English populations. In contrast to the contemporary hypothesis of
8 English origin of Norwegian populations, we found Finland to be a more likely source for
9 Norwegian populations, a scenario supported by higher estimated historical migration from
10 Finland to Norway. Genetic diversity *per se* is not a primary determinant of invasiveness in *H.*
11 *persicum*. Our results indicate that, due to either pre-adaptations or rapid local adaptations,
12 introduced populations may have acquired invasiveness after subsequent introductions, once a
13 suitable environment was encountered.

14 **Introduction**

15 Invasive alien species affect biodiversity at all organizational levels from genes to ecosystems
16 (Vitousek & Walker 1989; Vilà *et al.* 2011), and cause significant damage to the environment
17 and economy (Pimentel 2011). Interspecies hybridization between the invasive and native
18 species is considered a major cause for loss of native genetic distinctness (Rhymer &
19 Simberloff 1996; Lockwood *et al.* 2013). Moreover, invasive alien species can change entire
20 ecosystems by altering fire regimes (Pemberton & Ferriter 1998; Brooks *et al.* 2004; Watt *et*
21 *al.* 2009; Simberloff 2013), hydrology (Zavaleta 2000), fauna of decomposers (Bedano *et al.*
22 2014) and nutrient pools (Vitousek *et al.* 1987; Wang *et al.* 2015). Invasive alien species are
23 considered one of the major threats to global biodiversity (CBD 2001; Genovesi *et al.* 2013).
24 Besides considerable concern in understanding biological invasion, management, control, and

1 eradication of invasive species remains challenging due to sparse, incomplete and
2 inappropriate historical records (Estoup & Guillemaud 2010). Due to this lack of historical
3 information, many invasive species remain unnoticed until their populations explode.
4 However, indirect methods based on molecular genetic markers have proved effective in
5 bridging such gaps between invasion history and management by providing insight into the
6 complex history of biological invasions (Lombaert *et al.* 2014).

7 Information about population genetics, introduction history and identification of source
8 populations are crucial in understanding the invasion process (Cristescu 2015). The genetic
9 diversity of a species indicates its evolutionary potential to adapt to a novel environment
10 (Sakai *et al.* 2001). This may be especially important for exotic invasive species as they have
11 to adapt and survive to novel environments. Genetic diversity of introduced populations
12 largely depends on the number of founders and the number of introductions from the
13 genetically differentiated (native) source populations (Kolbe *et al.* 2004; Lavergne &
14 Molofsky 2007; Ward *et al.* 2008; Simberloff 2009). Genetically diverse populations may
15 have higher establishment success if they contain genetic variants more suited to the new
16 environment, thereby posing greater invasion risk (Lee 2002; Forsman 2014; Bock *et al.*
17 2015). Although introduced invasive species suffer from genetic bottlenecks, they often
18 overcome adverse effects of population reduction by genetic admixture via multiple
19 introductions from the native range (Kolbe *et al.* 2004) and/or other successful introduced
20 populations (invasive bridgehead effect, Lombaert *et al.* 2010; Benazzo *et al.* 2015). Given
21 that multiple introductions and genetic admixture may enhance invasibility (Kolbe *et al.* 2004;
22 Roman & Darling 2007; Marrs *et al.* 2008; Ward *et al.* 2008), the number of introductions
23 may indicate risk of further regional spread of a species. Better understanding of the genetic
24 diversity of introduced populations and vital source populations along with the number of

1 introductions may be used to prevent further introductions and/or spread of invasive species
2 by designing monitoring and quarantine strategies targeting the source area and the important
3 vectors (Estoup & Guillemaud 2010). Thus, genetic diversity of invasive populations can be
4 used as a risk assessment tool.

5 The change in effective sizes and ranges of natural populations in the past leave signatures
6 in their genetics (Cornuet *et al.* 2010), and this historical signature can be inferred by
7 examining genetic variation among populations (Lawton-Rauh 2008). For example, genetic
8 differentiation among populations is considered a product of limited dispersal and gradual
9 genetic drift. As a result, genetic similarity becomes correlated to geographic distance
10 (isolation by distance, Wright 1943). Introduction route of a species can be inferred using
11 molecular data in several ways, including assessing similarity among genetic clusters
12 (Pritchard *et al.* 2000; Besnard *et al.* 2014; Yu *et al.* 2014), assigning individuals to source
13 populations (Rannala & Mountain 1997; Paetkau *et al.* 2004), quantifying gene flow between
14 isolated populations (Nielsen & Wakeley 2001), and comparing plausible migration scenarios
15 using simulation approaches (Beaumont *et al.* 2002; Cornuet *et al.* 2010; Besnard *et al.* 2014).

16 Invasive vascular plants constitute about 53% of the invasive species of Europe, and 49%
17 of these plants are of non-European origin (Pyšek *et al.* 2009). Anthropogenic pressure is a
18 main driver of European plant invasion, and a strong positive correlation is found between
19 human population density and alien richness (Marini *et al.* 2012). Most alien plant species
20 have deliberately been introduced into Europe, ornamentals in particular (Lambdon *et al.*
21 2008). Among the many terrestrial invasive plant species, a group of large hogweeds
22 commonly known as “giant hogweeds” are posing threats to public health and biodiversity in
23 different parts of Europe (Nielsen *et al.* 2005; EPPO 2009). Giant hogweeds (*sensu* Nielsen *et*

1 *al.* 2005) include three invasive species of *Heracleum* (Apiaceae) in Europe (i.e., *H.*
2 *mantegazzianum*, *H. persicum* and *H. sosnowskyi*). The first two species were famous garden
3 plants during the 19th century in Europe, and the latter was introduced into North-West Russia
4 as a forage crop at the end of the 1940s (Nielsen *et al.* 2005; EPPO 2009; Alm 2013). Within
5 less than two centuries of introduction, giant hogweeds became some of the most prominent
6 invasive species in northern Europe. They possess some typical features of invasive species,
7 e.g., early and fast growth, high stature, huge biomass production, extensive cover, and
8 abundant seed production. In addition, *H. persicum* is perennial and highly clonal, which is
9 not the case for other two giant hogweeds. It has successfully adapted to new environmental
10 conditions; from hot summers of Persia, with “short” days, to the much cooler conditions and
11 perpetual daylight in parts of its introduced range at 51-71° northern latitude. An invasive
12 species possessing all the characteristics of the ‘ideal-weed’ (Baker 1965) rarely exists in
13 nature; however, *H. persicum* seems to exhibit most of the necessary characteristics (van
14 Kleunen *et al.* 2015). Thus, *H. persicum* represents a model to provide broader understanding
15 of the evolution of invasiveness, especially the paradoxical role of population bottlenecks,
16 genetic diversity of the source populations, and introduction history.

17 The source and introduction route of *H. persicum* in Europe are unclear. Hypotheses
18 concerning introduction routes are based on historical accounts and limited observational data
19 (Estoup & Guillemaud 2010). The first seed record of *H. persicum* in Europe comes from the
20 seed list of Royal Botanic Garden Kew from 1819 (Pyšek *et al.* 2010). Historical records
21 show that an English man planted seeds in Northern Norway in 1836 (Christy 1837; Fröberg
22 2010; Alm 2013); however, it is unclear whether he brought seeds from naturally growing
23 English populations or from other sources. Meanwhile, the absence of naturalized populations
24 of *H. persicum* in the UK (Sell & Murrell 2009; Stace 2010) is surprising, as the species has

1 proved highly invasive elsewhere in NW Europe. In addition, the taxonomy of the giant
2 hogweeds has been a subject of controversy (Jahodová *et al.* 2007; Fröberg 2010; Alm 2013),
3 and a variety of ill-defined Latin names have been used for Scandinavian plants, including *H.*
4 *giganteum*, *H. laciniatum*, and *H. panaces*. *Heracleum persicum* may be hiding in historical
5 accounts due to misinterpretation as *H. mantegazzianum*. Under such circumstances,
6 population genetics of *H. persicum* may serve as a promising alternative to resolve not only
7 introduction pathways, but also illuminate the complex invasion history (Estoup &
8 Guillemaud 2010; Brouat *et al.* 2014).

9 Even though *H. persicum* is highly invasive in the introduced range, we assume that it
10 suffered a loss of genetic diversity due to population bottlenecks during the initial
11 introduction. To test whether introduced populations are genetically depauperate, we
12 compared genetic diversity of native and introduced populations. Introduced populations often
13 overcome the effects of genetic bottlenecks due to multiple introductions or genetic
14 admixture, and we considered the number of introductions as an indicator of propagule
15 pressure that may enhance establishment success of *H. persicum*. We evaluated whether
16 introduced populations were formed by multiple introductions and if there has been admixture
17 between introduced populations. To aid management interventions, we identified respective
18 source populations of the introduced invasive populations and tested whether genetic diversity
19 *per se* was inherently linked with invasiveness. By tracing the routes of introduction, we
20 evaluated whether *H. persicum* followed the route indicated by historical accounts when
21 invading Europe.

22 **Material and Methods**

23 *Study species*

1 The enigmatic, invasive *Heracleum* species found in northern Scandinavia has been identified
2 as *H. persicum* based on genetic similarity with Iranian species (Jahodová *et al.* 2007), which
3 is also supported by morphological investigations (Fröberg 2010). Although earlier studies
4 (Nielsen *et al.* 2005; EPPO 2009; Fröberg 2010) stated that *H. persicum* was native to Iran
5 and Turkey, Ahmad (2014) has recently reported it as a new species in Iraq, at a single station
6 close to the Iranian border. Similarly, *H. persicum* is narrowly distributed in southeast Turkey
7 (SE Anatolia) (Ahmad 2014; Arslan *et al.* 2015) in an area bordering northwest Iran.
8 However, it is widely distributed in north, west, northeast and central Iran (Rechinger 1987;
9 Ahmad 2014). It was introduced to Denmark, England, Finland, Latvia, Norway, Sweden and
10 Iceland (Fröberg 2010; Wasowicz *et al.* 2013). The plant is polycarpic and generally attains a
11 height of 2.5 m and sometimes reaches up to 3 m (Fröberg 2010; Alm 2013). Seed
12 germination requires stratification at 2-4°C for two months and flowering starts after the third
13 year post germination. Temporal variation in flower maturation promotes outcrossing. Male
14 flowers in the primary umbel mature earlier than female flowers. In the secondary umbels
15 flowering occurs after seeds are set in the primary umbels and female flowers are generally
16 abortive (Often & Graff 1994; Fröberg 2010). Reproduction primarily occurs through seeds;
17 however, clonal reproduction is also common in disturbed habitats where seed reproduction
18 fails. The plant sap is phototoxic and induces photo-contact allergy when exposed to
19 ultraviolet radiations (Nielsen *et al.* 2005; EPPO 2009). In the introduced range, *H. persicum*
20 commonly grows at seashores, roadsides, abandoned farmlands, highly disturbed areas, and
21 semi-natural habitats like forest clearings. The earliest European record of the species
22 appeared in the seed list of Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, London in 1819 (Pyšek *et al.* 2010).
23 It has been recommended for regulation as a quarantine pest in Europe (EPPO 2009) and is
24 black-listed in Norway (Gederaas *et al.* 2012).

1 ***Plant material***

2 Historical records of the species from the global biodiversity information facility (GBIF)
3 (<http://www.gbif.org/species/3628745>), Norwegian Biodiversity Information Centre
4 (<http://www.biodiversity.no/>), sampling locations reported by Jahodová *et al.* (2007), and the
5 most recent data available for Norway (Fremstad & Elven 2006) were rigorously evaluated
6 before starting the sampling (Fig. 1). Sampling was done throughout the species' distribution
7 range between 2012 and 2014 (Fig. 1), except Iraq and Iceland, for which the species has only
8 recently been found (Wasowicz *et al.* 2013; Ahmad 2014), and Turkey, from where export of
9 plant material is now prohibited. We collected four samples and one representative herbarium
10 voucher from 5 different spots at 5–10 m intervals per population, and care was taken to avoid
11 resampling from the same genet, resulting in 1-20 samples per population. All samples were
12 dried on silica gel and photographed. A few populations collected during 2003-2004 were
13 retrieved from the material of Jahodová *et al.* (2007) (see Table 1) and herbarium vouchers for
14 those samples are deposited with original collectors. The leaf samples, DNA extracts, and
15 herbarium vouchers of all other samples are deposited at Tromsø Museum (TROM).

16 ***DNA extraction and standardization***

17 DNA was extracted using a DNeasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) following
18 manufacturer's protocol. DNA concentration of each sample was measured by NanoDrop
19 2000 (Thermo Scientific, Waltham, USA), and all the samples were normalized to 10 ng/μl
20 for downstream analyses.

21 ***Microsatellite genotyping***

22 We selected 25 microsatellite markers developed by Rijal *et al.* (2015) and two markers
23 developed by Henry *et al.* (2008), the latter two accommodated in multiplex II and III of Rijal

1 *et al.* (2015), to genotype microsatellites of *H. persicum*. Altogether 578 samples of *H.*
2 *persicum* were screened in 3 multiplexes as described by Rijal *et al.* (2015). The total volume
3 of PCR was 6 μ l which consisted of 3 μ l master mix and 0.5 μ l RNA free water (Type-it
4 Microsatellite PCR Kit, Qiagen); 1 μ l primer mix; and 1.5 μ l template DNA. The thermal
5 cycling conditions of each multiplex PCR were: initial denaturation at 95 °C for 10 min
6 followed by 10 cycles of 95 °C for 30s, 60-50 °C of touch down PCR for 1 min with 1°C
7 decrease per cycle, and 72 °C for 45s; 25 cycles of 95 °C for 30s, 50 °C for 1 min, 72 °C for
8 45s; and a final extension of 60 °C for 15 min. A mixture of 2 μ l of 1:20 diluted PCR product,
9 7.8 μ l of HiDi Formamide and 0.2 μ l of LIZ 600 (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA,
10 USA) was denatured at 95 °C for 5 min and electrophoresis was performed on 3130xL genetic
11 analyzer (Applied Biosystems). Samples that had poor amplification or failed during fragment
12 analysis were re-analyzed. Any samples with poor chromatogram, after re-analysis, were
13 discarded from genotyping. The genotyping error rate (Bonin *et al.* 2004) was estimated by
14 replicating 96 samples for 7 loci from multiplex III.

15 ***Data analysis***

16 The fragments were further analyzed in GENEIOUS version 6.1.6 (Biomatters Ltd, New
17 Zealand) following 3rd Order Least Squares method implemented in microsatellite plugin for
18 allele calling. Due to stutter band in locus Hp_25, allele calling became problematic in some
19 of the populations. The locus Hp_05 was polymorphic for only one sample from Denmark.
20 Thus, we discarded these loci from further analyses. Similarly, three samples were discarded
21 from the further analysis due to poor chromatograms. PGDSPIDER version 2.0.5.0 (Lischer
22 & Excoffier 2012), MICROSATELLITE TOOLS (Park 2001), and GENALEX version 6.5
23 (Peakall & Smouse 2012) were used as data conversion tools; and the latter two were also
24 used to check errors in genotypic data. Genotypic error rate was estimated by taking the ratio

1 of mistyped genotypes to the total observed genotypes during the replication (the per-
2 genotype error rate) whereas the ratio of miss-called allele to the total number of observed
3 allele in the replication was considered as the per-allele error rate (Morin *et al.* 2009).

4 *Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium and linkage disequilibrium*

5 The test of Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) and linkage disequilibrium (LD) was
6 performed in GENEPOP version 4.3 (Raymond & Rousset 1995; Rousset 2008) with 10 000
7 dememorization and in 1000 batches with 10 000 iterations per batch. We also performed a
8 HWE jackknife test (Morin *et al.* 2009) using package ‘strataG’ (Archer 2014) in R version
9 3.1.2 (Team 2014) to detect the influential samples in populations. We re-ran the HWE test to
10 evaluate the impact of influential samples on HWE by omitting samples with unusually large
11 odds ratio (> 99% of the rest of the distribution) as suggested by Morin *et al.* (2009).

12 *Molecular diversity and genetic differentiation*

13 The percentage of polymorphic loci (P%), Shannon’s information index (I), unbiased
14 expected heterozygosity (U_{H_E}), average (N_A) and effective (N_E) number of alleles, observed
15 (H_O) and expected heterozygosity (H_E), inbreeding coefficient (F_{IS}), and frequencies of
16 private alleles were calculated for populations with ≥ 4 samples, i.e., 38 populations and 25
17 loci. All the analyses were performed in GENALEX version 6.5 (Peakall & Smouse 2012).

18 Allelic richness (A_R) was calculated to account for the possible bias due to difference in
19 population size. The pairwise population genetic differentiation (F_{ST}) was calculated and
20 tested for significance based on 1000 permutation without assuming HWE. Both analyses
21 were performed in FSTAT version 2.9.3.2 (Goudet 1995). FSTAT is sensitive to missing loci
22 and produces error while calculating A_R and does not provide p-values for F_{ST} . The locus

1 Hp_30 was not present in Danish populations, loci Hp_07, Hp_10 and Hp_24 were missing in
2 Latvia, and in Gryllefjord locus Hp_23 was present in two individuals. Thus, we included
3 populations with nine or more samples (30 populations) and excluded the aforementioned
4 loci, i.e., 20 loci included, while calculating A_R and F_{ST} . Null alleles overestimate population
5 differentiation by reducing within-population genetic diversity. The frequency of null allele
6 was estimated following expectation maximization (EM) algorithm (Dempster *et al.* 1977) as
7 implemented in FREENA (Chapuis & Estoup 2007). The global F_{ST} was calculated with and
8 without correction for null allele, using FREENA with 1000 bootstrap resampling over loci, to
9 evaluate the impact of null alleles in estimation of genetic differentiation.

10 Native and introduced populations were not equally represented in this study due to
11 unequal sampling. Thus, when comparing diversity estimates between native and introduced
12 ranges we used Welch two sample t-test, which corrects the problem of unequal sampling by
13 incorporating variance in the analysis and adjusting the degrees of freedom (Ruxton 2006).
14 The tests were performed in R version 3.1.2 (R Core Team 2014).

15 *Genetic bottleneck*

16 To assess the effects of population bottlenecks in *H. persicum*, tests of heterozygosity excess
17 and deficiency, were performed in BOTTLENECK version 1.2.02 (Piry *et al.* 1999), using all
18 available mutation models, with 1000 iterations. Infinite allele model (IAM) overestimates,
19 whereas stepwise mutation model (SMM) underestimates the bottleneck signature (Cornuet &
20 Luikart 1996). Two-phase mutation model (TPM) is one of the complex but realistic
21 mutational models that also includes the possibility of non-stepwise mutations to SMM
22 (Selkoe & Toonen 2006). Thus, a TPM was used with 70% proportion of SMM along with
23 30% variance for TPM. To get an overview, results based on all mutation models were

1 evaluated by applying Wilcoxon's test as it is the most powerful method when less than 20
2 polymorphic loci are considered (Cornuet & Luikart 1996; Piry *et al.* 1999). We also used
3 mode shift test available in BOTTLENECK version 1.2.02 (Piry *et al.* 1999) to explore recent
4 bottleneck-induced distortion in the allele frequency (Luikart *et al.* 1998; Awad *et al.* 2014).
5 The signature of subsequent population expansion after the bottleneck was tested with k and g
6 tests (Reich & Goldstein 1998) using an excel macro KGTESTS (Bilgin 2007). Populations
7 with ≥ 4 samples, i.e., 38 populations and 20 loci were included in both of the analyses.

8 *Population genetic structure*

9 All 25 loci and 575 samples from 50 populations (Table 1) were assessed for genetic
10 relationship by principal coordinate analysis (PCoA) in GENALEX version 6.5 (Peakall &
11 Smouse 2012). The number of genetic clusters in *H. persicum* was estimated in STRUCTURE
12 version 2.3.4 (Pritchard *et al.* 2000). The genetic structures of native and introduced
13 populations were first evaluated separately. Altogether 25 loci and 548 samples from 38
14 populations (with ≥ 4 samples) from native and introduced ranges were included in a global
15 analysis. To detect the most likely native sources of the introduced populations, Denmark,
16 England and Finland were analyzed separately as well as jointly with native populations. To
17 identify likely sources of Norwegian populations, they were analyzed separately with English
18 and Finnish populations as well as in combination with all others. The analysis was performed
19 on the Lifeportal computing platform (<https://lifeportal.uio.no/>) with initial burnin period of
20 200 000 followed by 250 000 Markov Chain Monte Carlo steps. The independent allele
21 frequency and admixture model was assumed when performing Bayesian clustering analyses.
22 The expected number of clusters (K) was set to 1-10 with 10 iterations for each K. The
23 structure output was further processed in STRUCTURE HARVESTER (Earl & vonHoldt
24 2012). The best K was selected based on the Evanno *et al.* (2005) as implemented in

1 STRUCTURE HARVESTER (Earl & vonHoldt 2012). Finally, summation of the individual
2 file for different runs from STRUCTURE was performed in CLUMPAK (Kopelman *et al.*
3 2015).

4 *Colonization routes*

5 To trace the most likely introduction route of *H. persicum* in Europe, we tested four
6 competing hypotheses by implementing Approximate Bayesian Computation (ABC) approach
7 in DIY-ABC version 2.0.4 (Cornuet *et al.* 2014). Sweden and Latvia consisted of only 8 and 6
8 multi-locus genotypes without missing loci, respectively, and their genetic structures were
9 similar to England and Finland. The addition of less informative populations not only
10 increases the number and complexity of the ABC scenarios, but also poses challenges in the
11 result interpretation (Estoup *et al.* 2012). Thus, Latvia and Sweden were excluded from the
12 ABC analysis; and 20 random multi-locus genotypes without missing genotypes were selected
13 each from England, Finland, Iran and Norway, and 19 from Denmark. The theoretical
14 rationale for such regional sampling is provided in Stenøien *et al.* (2011).

15 Testing historical scenarios within the ABC framework is inherently a post hoc analysis
16 and the hypotheses (historical scenarios) are generally based on the available historical
17 information and genetic population structures (Estoup *et al.* 2012; Lombaert *et al.* 2014). Our
18 hypotheses were also based on historical records and we used genetic evidence to test those
19 hypotheses. Most of the introduced alleles (nearly 78%) were in a subset of Iranian alleles and
20 private alleles of the introduced range were seemingly recently mutated from alleles
21 introduced from Iran (Table S3). Thus, we tested the following scenarios (Fig. 2) by
22 considering Iranian populations as the native source of the introduced populations: (i)
23 scenario 1 was based on the historical account which assumes that *H. persicum* was first

1 introduced from Iran to England and then to Norway, and finally to Denmark and Finland
2 from Norway; (ii) scenario 2 assumed serial introductions from Iran to Denmark to England
3 to Finland to Norway; (iii) scenario 3 assumed two independent introductions from England
4 to Denmark and from Denmark to Finland, while Finland acted as source for Norway; and
5 (iv) scenario 4 hypothesized two independent introductions from Iran to Denmark and
6 England. The Finnish population was assumed to have originated in England and acted as
7 source for Norwegian populations.

8 The priors in the ABC analysis were defined based on the available information and later
9 adjusted according to the results of initial runs. The effective population size of the native
10 range (Iran) and introduced ranges were considered as N_1 : 10-2000 and N_2 : 10-200,
11 respectively. Due to high abundance of *H. persicum* in Norway, but low genetic diversity,
12 different ABC runs were performed assuming effective size of Norwegian population equal to
13 Iran as well as less than or equal to other introduced populations. Invasive species suffer
14 through an initial bottleneck as only few individuals invaded the new area (Sakai *et al.* 2001).
15 *Heracleum persicum* produces hermaphrodite flowers and like most of the members of
16 Apiaceae the species is considered to be self-compatible (Perglová *et al.* 2007). On this basis,
17 we assume that even a single plant of *H. persicum* can produce seeds. Thus, we arbitrarily
18 specified population size during bottleneck (N_{1b}) as 1-100. A variation of 30-100 years in the
19 lag phase of invasive weeds has been reported (Aikio *et al.* 2010). If we assume the upper
20 limit as the lag phase for *H. persicum* and a generation time of 3-6 years, then bottleneck
21 duration may also vary from 17-33 generations. In general, defining narrow bottleneck
22 duration prior reduces accuracy of scenario identification (Guillemaud *et al.* 2010). Thus, we
23 defined a wide period, i.e., 2-100 generations as the bottleneck duration (db). The species was
24 present in Europe as early as 1819, which gives an estimate of 32-65 generations if we assume

1 3-6 years as the generation time of *H. persicum*. To cover the uncertainties in the divergence
2 time we chose to use widely divergent time priors. Thus, the time since divergence of the
3 recent to the oldest clades was considered as 2-100, 2-200, 2-300 and 2-400 generations ago;
4 and defined as t_1 , t_2 , t_3 and t_4 , respectively. All the microsatellite loci were included in a single
5 group and assumed to follow the identical mutation model with minimum mutation rate of 10^{-6}
6 to maximum 10^{-2} per generation as reported for plant microsatellites (Udupa & Baum 2001;
7 McConnell *et al.* 2007). The reference table was generated by 8×10^6 randomizations, twice
8 the number considered optimal by the program (Cornuet *et al.* 2014). We compared the
9 posterior probabilities of competing scenarios based on the logistic regression of the raw and
10 the linear discriminant analysis (LDA) transformed summary statistics (Estoup *et al.* 2012;
11 Lombaert *et al.* 2014). We used 4×10^6 simulated data sets while performing logistic
12 regression on LDA transformed summary statistics. The type I and II error rates were used to
13 discriminate the most plausible scenario. Type I error was the proportion of the number of
14 times other scenarios have the highest posterior probability than the scenario under
15 consideration. Type II error rate was based on the scenario II which had the largest type II
16 error rate (as suggested by Estoup *et al.* 2012) and calculated as the proportion of the number
17 of times the scenario under consideration has the highest posterior probability in scenario II.

18 *Migration rates*

19 To quantify demographic parameters, especially migration rate between Norway and Finland,
20 we used isolation with migration analysis in IMA software which allows subsequent migration
21 between two lineages being split from an ancestral population (Nielsen & Wakeley 2001; Hey
22 & Nielsen 2004, 2007). The isolation with migration analysis was performed setting the
23 upper limit of the prior distribution of population mutation parameter as 1 for both Norway
24 and Finland and 10 for the ancestral population. The upper migration priors for both lineages

1 were set to 250. The divergence time prior for two lineages was set to 0.5. Burn-in period was
2 set as 10 000 and genealogy was saved each hour. Metropolis coupling was implemented with
3 20 chains and two geometric heating terms, i.e., 0.8 and 0.9. Average mutation rate of
4 microsatellite loci was considered as 10^{-5} (Udupa & Baum 2001; McConnell *et al.* 2007).
5 Three replicates of isolation with migration analyses were performed with identical settings
6 until 50 million MCMC steps had been generated after burn-in.

7 **Results**

8 ***Genotypic error***

9 Four samples had a replicate with poor chromatograms and were removed from downstream
10 analyses. The absolute difference between loci varied from 0.07 to 1.03 base pairs (bp) with
11 mean (\pm SE) of 0.26 (\pm 0.06) bp based on two replicates of 92 samples. We observed a per-
12 genotype error of 2.2%, which was slightly higher than the per-allele error rate of 1.5%.

13 ***Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium and linkage disequilibrium***

14 Out of 950 population-locus combinations, 37 departed from HWE after Bonferroni
15 correction (about 4%, Table S1). Most of the combinations (29) deviating from HWE were
16 confined to three loci: Hp_13, Hp_14 and Hp_20; and the remaining eight deviations were
17 distributed among populations, occurring no more than twice per population and locus (Table
18 S1). Jackknife analysis produced odd-ratios for loci Hp_14 and Hp_20 indicating that these
19 two loci had a comparatively large impact on tests for deviations from HWE (result not
20 shown). Removal of 18 samples with ≥ 1.2 odd ratio did not change the overall HWE result
21 (result not shown). The test of genotypic disequilibrium was significant for two loci pairs
22 (Hp_27 \times Hp_30 and HMN SSR_132B \times HMN SSR_206) after Bonferroni correction (Table
23 S2).

1 *Molecular diversity and genetic differentiation*

2 The average percentage of polymorphic loci was lowest for Norway (52.1%) and highest for
3 Sweden (86.4%) (Table 1). Out of 205 alleles recorded, 163 were common and, 25 and 17
4 were private to the native and the introduced populations respectively. There were 48 and 35
5 alleles private to native and introduced ranges respectively (Table S3). The Latvian
6 population did not contain any private alleles. The Shannon's information index, allelic
7 richness, expected and unbiased expected heterozygosities were lowest in Norway and highest
8 in Iran (Table 1). The average number of alleles ranged from 1.72 (Latvia) to 3.34 (Iran).
9 Minimum and maximum values of the observed heterozygosity were found for Norway and
10 England, respectively. Similarly, the inbreeding coefficient ranged from -0.24 (England) to
11 0.11 (Iran). Locus-wise diversity statistics for native and invaded ranges are provided in Table
12 S4.

13 Out of 435 comparisons, F_{ST} values of 295 population pairs were significant after
14 Bonferroni correction (Table S5). One population from Iran (Mazandara) was not
15 significantly differentiated from any native or introduced populations (non-significant
16 pairwise F_{ST}). Three populations from Norway (Kvaløyvegen of Tromsø, Hammerfest, and
17 Nesna) were not significantly differentiated from most of the native and introduced
18 populations. The mean (\pm SE) country-wise F_{ST} (averaged over population) was lowest
19 between England and Sweden, i.e., 0.267 (\pm 0.006), and highest between Norway and
20 Denmark, i.e., 0.552 (\pm 0.005) (Table 2). The average (\pm SE) frequency of null allele per
21 locus varied from 0 ± 0 to 0.140 ± 0 (Table S6). There was a strong positive correlation
22 between number of alleles and frequency of null allele, and only five loci had > 0.05 null
23 allele frequency (Fig. S1). The average (\pm SE) frequency of null alleles per population ranged
24 from 0.001 ± 0 to 0.137 ± 0.023 (Table S6). The genetic differentiation between native and

1 introduced ranges remained non-significant, when F_{ST} was estimated by including and
2 excluding null alleles (result not shown).

3 The percentage of polymorphic loci, Shannon's information index, average numbers of
4 alleles, effective number of alleles, private alleles, allelic richness; observed, expected (gene
5 diversity) and unbiased expected heterozygosities, as well as inbreeding coefficients were
6 significantly higher in the native range than in the introduced range (Table 3). The loss of
7 genetic diversity ranged from 16-49% in the introduced range, and on average nearly 42% of
8 the gene diversity (H_E , Table 3) was lost by the introduced populations compared to the native
9 populations. The average frequency of null alleles was significantly higher in native compared
10 to introduced range. The fixation index F_{ST} was lower in the native compared to the
11 introduced range but the difference was marginal and non-significant (Table 3).

12 ***Genetic bottleneck***

13 The tests of heterozygosity excess was significant after Bonferroni correction for one native
14 and seven introduced populations when infinite allele model was considered (Table S7).
15 However, the numbers were reduced to four and three introduced populations when two-phase
16 and stepwise mutation models were assumed, respectively. Neither heterozygosity excess nor
17 deficiency was observed in one native and twelve introduced populations. Similarly, mode of
18 the allele frequency was shifted in 79% of the populations. About 67% native and 81% of the
19 introduced populations showed mode shifts in the allele frequency distributions indicating
20 recent bottlenecks (Table S7).

1 The within-locus k tests were significant for five introduced populations indicating a signal of
2 population expansion (Table S7). The inter-locus g test was not very informative, as there
3 were no clear trends between g ratios and significant k values (Table S7).

4 ***Population genetic structure***

5 Ordination of microsatellites revealed that the Iranian, Danish and Norwegian populations of
6 *H. persicum* were distinct from each other. Populations from England, Finland, Latvia, and
7 Sweden appeared in between the former populations in the ordination plot (Fig. 3). Most of
8 the variation (22.9%) in ordination plot was explained by the first axis while the second axis
9 explained 6.6% of the variation. Finland consisted of highly variable samples scattering
10 across most of the length of the first axis (Fig. 3).

11 There were three and two distinct genetic clusters in the native and the introduced ranges
12 of *H. persicum*, respectively (Fig. 4). The two genetic clusters remained consistent when
13 native populations were analyzed with introduced populations from each country or in
14 combinations (Fig. S2). Based on the rate of change of the likelihood distribution and the
15 delta K value (Fig. 4C), two genetic clusters were detected for *H. persicum* in a global
16 analysis (Fig. 1 & Fig. 4D). More than 90% of the genomes of Norwegian samples were
17 assigned to cluster I (hatched cluster in Fig. 1 and Fig. 4D & F). However, more than 90% of
18 the genomes of Iranian and Danish samples were assigned to cluster II (plain cluster in Fig. 1
19 and Fig. 4D & F). Samples from England, Finland, Latvia and Sweden shared a higher
20 proportion of both clusters. Assignment graphs of higher K values (2-4) for native,
21 introduced, native-Denmark, native-England, global analyses, and Norway are provided as
22 supporting information (Fig. S2).

1 *Colonization routes*

2 The pre-evaluation of the scenarios suggested that priors were satisfactory delimited as the
3 simulated data surrounded observed data in the ordination plot. There were no differences in
4 the overall scenario discrimination patterns when the effective population size of Norway
5 varied. The third scenario, which assumed two independent introductions from England to
6 Denmark and Finland as well as another introduction to Norway from Finland, appeared more
7 plausible than other scenarios when raw summary statistics were used. The posterior
8 probability of scenario III was slightly higher in both the direct and logistic methods (average
9 posterior probabilities 0.390 ± 0.010 and 0.648 ± 0.014 , respectively) (Fig. S3 and Table S8).
10 However, the highest posterior probability (0.651 ± 0.004) was observed for the fourth
11 scenario, which assumed multiple introductions to Denmark and England from Iran, when
12 LDA-transformed summary statistics were used. The type I and II error rates were 3.0 and 1.9
13 times higher for the scenario III compared to the scenario IV, respectively, when using raw
14 summary statistics (Table 4). The LDA transformed summary statistics produced 5.8 and 0.9
15 times higher type I and II error rates, respectively, for the scenario III compared to the
16 scenario IV. The observed data of the scenario IV was more properly surrounded by the
17 posteriors than the scenario III (Fig. S4) which further indicated that the fourth scenario was
18 more likely than others.

19 The effective population sizes of Iran and Denmark/England/Finland/Norway under
20 scenario IV were estimated to 1250 and 132, respectively (median of N_1 and N_2 , Table 5). The
21 result indicated that the Danish and the English lineages of *H. persicum* were derived from
22 Iran about 218 and 139 generations ago respectively (median of t_4 and t_3 , Table 5). However,
23 the Finnish and the Norwegian lineages were split from their respective common ancestors
24 about 75 and 57 generations ago, respectively (median of t_2 and t_1 , Table 5). The medians of

1 the biases were found within the range of -0.046 to 0.839 for t_1 and db respectively (Table
2 S9).

3 ***Migration rate***

4 Exact mutation rates of *Heracleum* microsatellites have not been reported. When minimum
5 (4.4×10^{-4}) and maximum (1.4×10^{-3}) mutation rate estimates from ABC analysis (Table 5,
6 25 and 97.5% quintiles) were used, population divergence time (τ/μ) varied from 24-75
7 generations for highest to lowest mutation rates. Average divergence time of Norwegian and
8 Finnish lineages estimated by isolation with migration model was nearly 50 generations,
9 which was approximately similar to the ABC estimates. The IM model suggested a higher rate
10 of migration from Finland to Norway than vice versa (Table 6 & Fig. 5).

11 **Discussion**

12 We found significantly lower percentages of polymorphic loci, allelic richness and private
13 alleles in the introduced range of *H. persicum* compared to its native range. In addition, a
14 significant loss of genetic diversity, as revealed by reduced expected heterozygosity and
15 effective number of alleles, was also observed in the introduced range. Heterozygosity excess,
16 an indicator of a genetic bottleneck, was observed in a few introduced populations.

17 ***Genetic diversity, population differentiation and bottleneck***

18 Several monomorphic loci, lower genetic diversity, shifts in allele frequency and bottleneck
19 signatures detected in the introduced range indicate that the introduced populations were
20 established by few founders (Cornuet & Luikart 1996; Luikart *et al.* 1998; Piry *et al.* 1999;
21 Sakai *et al.* 2001). Meanwhile, tests of recent population expansion was significant for five
22 Norwegian populations growing south of Tromsø. Spread of *H. persicum* south of Tromsø is

1 considered as a more recent event in Norway (Alm 2013). Successful invaders are expected to
2 experience frequent bottlenecks without dramatic changes in genetic variation (Dlugosch *et*
3 *al.* 2015). Thus, detection of bottleneck signature and population expansion characterizes a
4 general process of initial establishment and colonization of *H. persicum* as it is spreading to
5 new locations (Alm 2013; Wasowicz *et al.* 2013). Some of the earliest records of *H. persicum*
6 in Norway come from Hammerfest, Honningsvåg, Talvik, and Tromsø (see Fig. 1) (Alm 2013
7 & references therein) and none of them showed signatures of bottlenecks. Thus, evidence of
8 bottlenecks is more common in the most recent populations, which agrees with general
9 principles of the currently employed test that expect detection of bottleneck signatures for
10 relatively recently bottlenecked populations ($2N_e-4N_e$ generations in the past) (Cornuet &
11 Luikart 1996; Piry *et al.* 1999).

12 The inbreeding coefficients were significantly lower for introduced populations indicating
13 a genetic bottleneck. Inbreeding depression depends on several factors including life history
14 stages and population history (Husband & Schemske 1996). In general, due to fewer
15 individuals, mating between close relatives (biparental inbreeding) is nearly unavoidable in
16 smaller populations, which could force species towards the verge of extinction as a
17 consequence of inbreeding depression and loss of alleles (Newman & Pilson 1997; Frankham
18 & Ralls 1998). Thus, one would expect severe inbreeding in introduced species, as they are
19 generally founded by few individuals, which in turn may reduce fitness. Surprisingly,
20 inbreeding coefficients were either close to zero (an indication of perfect outcrossing) or
21 negative (an indication of heterozygote excess) for introduced populations of *H. persicum*.
22 Inbreeding can be avoided and outcrossing promoted through protandry in Apiaceae, a feature
23 that has been reported for *H. mantegazzianum* (Perglová *et al.* 2007). Inbreeding coefficients
24 close to zero for several native and introduced populations indicate that the phenomenon is

1 pervasive in both ranges. Negative inbreeding coefficients, on the other hand, have been
2 frequently reported for the introduced populations of invasive species (Walker *et al.* 2003;
3 Henry *et al.* 2009; Hagenblad *et al.* 2015). Thus, it could perhaps be viewed as a phenomenon
4 linked with reduction in population size during expansion of the invasive species. Populations
5 which showed relatively more negative inbreeding coefficients were those that predominantly
6 had bottleneck signatures under IAM (Table 1 and Table S7). Thus, populations exhibiting a
7 significant heterozygosity excess or negative inbreeding coefficient might have experienced a
8 recent genetic bottleneck (Cornuet & Luikart 1996).

9 In general, introduced populations are genetically less diverse than native populations
10 (Barrett & Kohn 1991; Sakai *et al.* 2001; Lavergne & Molofsky 2007) and this is also the case
11 for introduced and native populations of *H. persicum*. This pattern is expected when only a
12 fraction of the genetic diversity of the native population is introduced during initial
13 colonization (Barrett & Kohn 1991). In addition, introduced populations generally suffer from
14 population bottlenecks often for a longer period of time which also reduces the genetic
15 diversity (Allendorf & Lundquist 2003). However, Dlugosch *et al.* (2015) argue that invaders
16 often retain significant amount of genetic variation if the founding populations are large
17 enough to overcome the demographic constraints. In a closely related species, *H.*
18 *mantegazzianum*, Walker *et al.* (2003) found a large genetic differentiation among
19 populations at different river catchments in the introduced range and credited the observed
20 variation to several independent introductions and relatively large initial founder populations.
21 Niinikoski & Korpelainen (2015) found high genetic differentiation and a modest level of
22 genetic variation in the introduced Finnish populations of *H. mantegazzianum*. It should be
23 noted that both studies had no comparison with the native range and thus the differentiation is
24 relative. Similarly, while comparing genetics of giant hogweeds, Jahodová *et al.* (2007) found

1 high overall genetic variability in the invaded ranges and concluded that the invasive
2 populations were not affected by genetic bottlenecks. In contrast, by comparing native and
3 introduced populations of *H. mantegazzianum*, Henry *et al.* (2009) found a significant
4 reduction of the genetic diversity in the introduced range and concluded that a founder event
5 might have occurred. In extreme cases, some of the Norwegian invasive populations of *H.*
6 *persicum* have lost > 65% of the genetic diversity compared to native populations (Nesna &
7 Gryllefjord, Table 1); otherwise, on average 16-35% of the genetic diversity was lost in the
8 other introduced regions. Although nearly 50% of the genetic diversity is lost by the
9 Norwegian populations compared to native populations (average H_E , Table 1), *H. persicum* is
10 most abundant and vigorous in Norway compared to other introduced areas. Although neutral
11 genetic markers may be poorly correlated with quantitative traits (Merilä & Crnokrak 2001;
12 Reed & Frankham 2001; McKay & Latta 2002), a low level of genetic diversity does not
13 seem to limit the invasiveness in giant hogweeds. Genetic diversity *per se* appears less
14 important in determining the invasiveness of *H. persicum* in the introduced range. Genetics of
15 invasive species, thus, represents a paradox in terms of the role of genetic diversity in
16 adaptability (Simberloff 2013; Edelaar *et al.* 2015).

17 ***Route of introduction***

18 We found higher population structuring within the native range as indicated by three distinct
19 genetic clusters. However, two genetic clusters were consistent when some of the initially
20 established introduced populations (Danish and English) were analyzed separately or in
21 combination with native populations, and populations from north-central Iran appeared more
22 likely to be the sources of these introduced populations (Fig. S2 C & D). A global Bayesian
23 cluster analysis and ordination plot revealed two pure and one admixed genetic structures for
24 introduced populations of *H. persicum* (Fig. 1 & 4D & F). Denmark and Norway were

1 clustered separately with distinct genetic structures, whereas England, Finland, Latvia and
2 Sweden showed admixed genetic structure. Based on this result, we inferred that the Danish
3 and all introduced genotypes (except the Norwegian) originated from two independent
4 introductions from the native range, and the Norwegian genotypes originated from one of the
5 introduced populations composed of mixed genotypes.

6 Although we could not include samples from Turkey and Iraq, genetic diversity, structure
7 analyses, and the *post hoc* ABC analysis indicated Iran as the source area for the European *H.*
8 *persicum*. Nearly 78% of the introduced alleles were subset of the Iranian alleles and the
9 remaining 22% private alleles were seemingly recent deviants of the Iranian alleles (1-4
10 mutational steps, Table S3). Although our six populations covered the major geographic
11 distribution of the species in Iran (see Fig. 1), relatively higher genetic differentiation among
12 Iranian populations (Fig 4A & S2) indicates that inclusion of more populations from Iran
13 would have encompassed most of the introduced private alleles. Nevertheless, the apparent
14 similarity in the allelic composition between Iran and the introduced range of *H. persicum* is
15 unlikely to be a chance effect alone. The narrow distribution of *H. persicum* in Turkey, as
16 well as its morphological mismatch with the Scandinavian specimens (Øvstedal 1987) make it
17 less likely to assume Turkey (and even more so, Iraq, with only a single, recently discovered
18 station 400 m from the Iranian border) as sources of the European *H. persicum*, although we
19 cannot exclude this as those populations were not sampled. The wide distribution of *H.*
20 *persicum* in Iran as well as its morphological and genetic similarity with the European
21 specimens (Jahodová *et al.* 2007; Fröberg 2010) indicate Iran as the more likely source of the
22 European *H. persicum*.

1 Our findings do not corroborate the contemporary hypothesis that assumes an English
2 population of *H. persicum* as the source of Norwegian population and all other European
3 populations as descendant of the latter (Nielsen *et al.* 2005; Jahodová *et al.* 2007; EPPO
4 2009). In an earlier study, Jahodová *et al.* (2007) concluded that, as the Danish population
5 appeared completely different from other introduced populations but more similar with Iran,
6 multiple introductions from Iran might be responsible for invasion of *H. persicum* in Nordic
7 countries. Structure analysis revealed that the Danish populations are more genetically similar
8 to the Iranian than to the other introduced populations. As introduced populations tend to be
9 more genetically similar to the source population(s) than to each other (Bond *et al.* 2002), our
10 data indicate that the introduced populations were founded by more than one independent
11 introduction from Iran.

12 In the ABC analyses, the LDA transformed summary statistics provided the highest
13 support for the scenario IV that assumed two independent introductions to Denmark and
14 England from the native source, and the subsequent spread in other parts from England.
15 Although, direct summary statistics provided the highest support for the scenario III, we
16 considered scenario IV as the most likely scenario based on LDA transformed summary
17 statistics. LDA reduces the number of dimensions which decreases the number of explanatory
18 variables and maximizes the differences among the scenarios, thereby improving the accuracy
19 of the ABC approximation by avoiding correlations among explanatory variables (Estoup *et al.*
20 2012). In addition, scenario IV had lower type I and II error rates compared to scenario III.
21 The ABC result was also supported by Bayesian cluster analysis showing shared clustering
22 between English, Norwegian, and Finnish but not Danish populations (Fig. 1 & 4D & F). The
23 genetic variation of introduced populations depends on the genetic diversity of the source
24 population, and a relative decrease (due to bottleneck) or increase (due to multiple

1 introductions and admixture) in the diversity of the introduced population is likely to happen
2 (Edelaar *et al.* 2015). However, neither structure analysis nor genetic diversity patterns
3 indicate any genetic admixture in the introduced range. Multiple introductions do not seem to
4 have increased genetic variation. Instead, the pattern of loss of the genetic diversity in the
5 introduced range closely resembled the introduction events indicated by the ABC analyses.
6 For instance, Danish and English populations most likely originated from the similar native
7 source from Mazandaran of central Iran close to the capital city Tehran (see Fig S2) and have
8 lost nearly 16% and 19% of the genetic diversity of the source; Finnish populations lost 6% of
9 the English genetic variation; and Norway lost nearly 33% of the Finnish genetic variation.
10 Thus, genetic diversity patterns of *H. persicum* appear to have been shaped largely by
11 diversity of the source and the introduction history.

12 Although ABC appears as a promising methodology for inferring invasion scenarios,
13 incorporating too many populations exponentially decreases the probability of accepting a
14 simulation, a phenomenon known as the ‘curse of dimensionality’. It also increases the
15 number of scenarios and parameters to be tested (Beaumont *et al.* 2002; Cornuet *et al.* 2010).
16 We traced the invasion history of *H. persicum* by ABC analysis and expected managers to
17 utilize this information to avoid further introduction by isolating or eliminating small,
18 introduced populations from the important source populations. We still suggest caution while
19 interpreting ABC outcomes as our results were based on only four competing scenarios (out
20 of 120 possible introduction scenarios).

21 Nevertheless, IM analysis provided new insights into the spread of *H. persicum* into
22 Europe. As migration rate was higher from Finland to Norway than the reverse, it is quite
23 likely that Norwegian populations were founded by Finnish propagules. Though the first seed

1 record for *H. persicum* comes from Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the first verified Nordic
2 escape record comes from Finland from 1871 (see Fig. 1) (Fröberg 2010). The first verified
3 record of species in Denmark dates back to 1888 and the first Norwegian record to 1899
4 (Fröberg 2010). In contrast, the Norwegian records of *H. persicum* cultivation date back to the
5 1830s (Christy 1837; Fröberg 2010; Alm 2013). One likely explanation for this discrepancy
6 may be the lack of historical records of *H. persicum* in Finland. In Denmark, past authors
7 failed to realize that the introduced plants could belong to several species, generally
8 interpreting both extant stands and the historical records as relating to *H. mantegazzianum*
9 (e.g. Brøndegaard 1990). Brøndegaard (1979: p.307) cites anecdotal evidence of introduction
10 of (presumed) *H. mantegazzianum* to Denmark in the 1830's. The timing is probably more
11 reliable than the mode (as packing material for statues) and route (from Italy) of transport. In
12 the light of our molecular data, early cultivations in Denmark are likely to have included *H.*
13 *persicum*.

14 In addition, historical records of workers' movement from Finland to Norway, especially
15 in the area where *H. persicum* was first recorded, further links Finnish and Norwegian
16 populations of *H. persicum*. The earliest documented introduction of a large *Heracleum*
17 species to northern Norway was made by a British traveler, W. Christy, in 1836. He visited
18 Kåfjord at Alta and Hammerfest, and distributed seeds from England at both stations (Christy
19 1837). In 1835, Kåfjord was the largest single settlement in the otherwise sparsely populated
20 county of Finnmark, due to the English-owned and run copper mines. In 1840, the mines
21 employed 651 workers, with Finns constituting the largest ethnic group, outnumbering
22 Norwegians (Moberg 1968; Nielsen 1995). It is likely that seeds from northern Norway may
23 have been transferred to Finland and vice versa. Thus, while genetic data confirms the

1 historical record of link between Finland and Norway, the inferred direction of spread is
2 opposite.

3 Extensive populations of *H. persicum* in Norway suggest that it might be one of the oldest
4 European populations. However, if Norwegian populations were older than Finnish and
5 Danish populations, and founded the latter two, we should expect to observe higher level of
6 polymorphisms in Norway than in other places. Norwegian populations are composed of quite
7 distinct genotypes (Fig 1, 3, 4 S2) and genetically highly structured compared to other regions
8 (highest average regional F_{ST} , Table 2) indicating limited dispersal. Reduced gene flow is a
9 prerequisite for local adaptation (Lenormand 2002). Thus, despite the lowest genetic
10 diversity, spatially extensive populations in Norway may be due to local adaptations or
11 success of pre-adapted genotypes from Iranian temperate mountains. These genotypes may be
12 favored in cool northern Norwegian climate compared to other countries. From its present
13 distribution in Norway, it is evident that *H. persicum* thrives in the humid coastal areas with
14 mild winters, and avoids the drier inland areas with their cold winters, which may also explain
15 the general scarcity of records of naturalized plants in Sweden and Finland. Also, fewer
16 ornamental plants are able to thrive in northern Norway than England and Denmark may have
17 increased its popularity. The current genetic (dis)similarity among regional populations might
18 be due to discrepancy in regional climate and local adaptation.

19

1 **Management implications**

2 The genetic diversity of *H. persicum* is comparatively lower in the introduced than in the
3 native range. *Heracleum persicum*, however, is vigorous and highly invasive in the introduced
4 range despite lower genetic diversity.

5 As it is now generally regarded as an obnoxious weed in Norway, we assume that the
6 historical vector (i.e., frequent cultivation in gardens) responsible for the original introduction
7 and dispersal of *H. persicum* is now obsolete, indicating no further risk of intentional
8 introductions from the native sources (unless Iranian immigrants are tempted to cultivate it
9 from fruits imported for culinary use). However, a successfully established invasive
10 population may pose greater risk of spread than the native source as the former needs a single
11 evolutionary shift to acquire invasiveness while the latter needs multiple changes along with
12 independent evolution of traits to be invasive (Estoup & Guillemaud 2010; Lombaert *et al.*
13 2010). Further introduction and expansion of *H. persicum* is quite likely in Europe due to high
14 frequency of cross-border travels and transportations. While tracing the route of the
15 introduction of *H. persicum*, the English and the Finnish populations appeared as the
16 important sources for founding introduced populations. We urge managers to pay special
17 attention while formulating management interventions to avoid the possible second
18 introduction from the respective sources. Otherwise, successive waves of introduction from
19 similar sources may augment further invasions (Benazzo *et al.* 2015). In addition, population
20 admixture due to multiple introductions is considered a stimulus for rapid evolutionary
21 changes (Kolbe *et al.* 2004; Lavergne & Molofsky 2007; Facon *et al.* 2008; Dlugosch *et al.*
22 2015). Thus, it is important to emphasize that some populations in the introduced range of *H.*
23 *persicum* (i.e. Denmark, England, Finland, and Sweden) still have higher genetic diversity and

1 may contribute to increase genetic diversity of neighboring populations, for example
2 Norwegian populations, by multiple introductions.

3 In general, biological control agents are chosen from the native (source) range of the
4 invasive species (Roderick & Navajas 2003). *Heterodera persica*, a cyst-forming nematode,
5 has been reported to parasitize on *H. persicum* in Iran (Maafi *et al.* 2006). *Heterodera persica*
6 may be considered as a candidate bio-control agent in the introduced range of *H. persicum*;
7 however, so far, there has been no effort to test the effectiveness of *H. persica* as biological
8 control agent against *H. persicum*. Meanwhile, we suggest to carefully assess the pitfalls of
9 biological control agents as it has received both negative and positive responses (Messing &
10 Wright 2006; Seastedt 2015). Moreover, it is important to note that single agent from the
11 native range adapted against certain genotypes of *H. persicum* may not be sufficient for
12 biological control (Marrs *et al.* 2008) as there are two distinct and one admixed groups of *H.*
13 *persicum* in Europe.

14 Most microsatellite markers used in this study are also polymorphic for other giant
15 hogweeds, i.e., *H. mantegazzianum* and *H. sosnowskyi*, the native *H. sphondylium* which has
16 been reported to hybridize with giant hogweeds (EPPO 2009), their invasive hybrids, and
17 some also for *Anthriscus sylvestris* (Rijal *et al.* 2015). Hybridization can impede management
18 interventions through creation of unique characteristics, e.g. production of novel chemicals,
19 which in turn makes hybrids unrecognizable or unpalatable to specific herbivores or
20 biological control agents (Schoonhoven *et al.* 2005; Williams *et al.* 2014). In general,
21 hybridization appears a common phenomenon within the genus *Heracleum* (EPPO 2009). In
22 particular, *H. persicum* commonly hybridizes with *H. sphondylium*, producing fertile and
23 vigorous hybrids. They have already shown their presence and effect in Scandinavia (Fröberg

1 2010; Alm 2013; Rijal *et al.* 2015), and may further pose management challenges due to
2 enhanced invasive abilities in hybrids as a consequence of interspecies hybridization
3 (Ellstrand & Schierenbeck 2000; Schierenbeck & Ellstrand 2009). Thus, population genetics
4 of *H. persicum* may shed light on the genetic attributes of other giant hogweeds as well as
5 their invasive hybrids.

6 **Conclusions**

7 Even though the genetic data indicated at least two independent introductions of *H. persicum*
8 to Europe, a clear genetic bottleneck was inferred, increasing with the stepwise introduction to
9 more northern ranges within Europe. In contrast to the contemporary hypothesis of English
10 origin of Norwegian populations, Finland appears as a more likely source for Norwegian
11 populations of *H. persicum*. Despite the lowest level of genetic diversity, Norwegian
12 populations are the most vigorous in the introduced range, suggesting no effect of bottlenecks
13 on the invasiveness of *H. persicum*. Thus, genetic diversity *per se* does not seem to be an
14 important determinant of invasiveness in *H. persicum*. Our result indicates that, due to either
15 pre-adaptations or rapid local adaptation, introduced populations may acquire invasiveness
16 after subsequent introductions when a suitable environment is encountered.

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1 **Data accessibility**

2 Geographic coordinates and sampling locations are provided in Table 1. DNA and primer
3 sequences of 25 microsatellite markers used in this study are available as supplementary
4 material in Rijal *et al.* (2015) at <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11105-014-0841-y>.
5 Final microsatellite genotypes for 25 loci and 575 samples, input files and important analysis
6 scripts are available on Dryad doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5061/dryad.kg66r>

7 **Authors Contributions**

8 D.P.R., T.A. and I.G.A. designed the project, obtained funding, and participated in the
9 fieldworks. H.K.S. was also involved in sampling design and provided appropriate training on
10 statistical analyses to D.P.R.. S.J. has contributed important samples from England, Finland,
11 Denmark and Iran. D.P.R. performed laboratory work, analyzed data and wrote manuscript.
12 All co-authors commented on the manuscript.

1 **Table 1** Sampling details and genetic diversity indices for populations of *Heracleum persicum*. Populations with < 4 samples (italicized)
 2 were not considered while calculating average diversity statistics across country (bold). Sample collectors: AP, Atehfah Pirany; DPR, Dilli
 3 Prasad Rijal; GG, Gertrude Gavrilova; IGA, Inger Greve Alsos; LF, Lars Fröberg; MFA, Mohsen Falahati-Anbaran; OB, Olaf Booy; PU,
 4 Pertti Uotila; RS, Rouhollah Sobhian; SJ, Šárka Jahodová; TA, Torbjørn Alm; and TJ, Tina Jørgensen. N, number of samples; P (%),
 5 percentage of polymorphic loci; I, Shannon’s information index; N_A, average number of alleles over loci; N_E, effective number of alleles;
 6 A_R, allelic richness based on three samples; H_O, observed heterozygosity; H_E, expected heterozygosity; uH_E, unbiased expected
 7 heterozygosity; F_{IS}, inbreeding coefficient; NA, not applicable.

8

| Country | District/Region | Location | Latitude | Longitude | Collectors | Year | N | P (%) | I | N _A | N _E | A _R | H _O | H _E | uH _E | F _{IS} |
|---------|-----------------|-------------------|----------|-----------|-----------------|------|-------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Denmark | Sjælland | Roskilde | 55.6833 | 12.0333 | SJ/LF | 2003 | 15.0 | 81.82 | 0.58 | 2.44 | 1.68 | 1.92 | 0.38 | 0.34 | 0.35 | -0.08 |
| | Sjælland | Roskilde | 55.6833 | 12.0364 | TJ | 2012 | 20.0 | 81.82 | 0.59 | 2.20 | 1.81 | 1.93 | 0.46 | 0.38 | 0.39 | -0.17 |
| | | | | | | | 17.5 | 81.82 | 0.58 | 2.32 | 1.74 | 1.93 | 0.42 | 0.36 | 0.37 | -0.13 |
| England | London | Buckingham Palace | 51.4984 | -0.1457 | SJ/OB | 2004 | 10.0 | 72.73 | 0.51 | 2.04 | 1.68 | 1.81 | 0.46 | 0.33 | 0.35 | -0.35 |
| | London | Kensington Garden | 51.5079 | -0.1740 | SJ/OB | 2004 | 15.0 | 86.36 | 0.64 | 2.52 | 1.81 | 1.97 | 0.39 | 0.39 | 0.40 | 0.00 |
| | London | Kensington Garden | 51.5102 | -0.1751 | DPR | 2012 | 4.0 | 68.18 | 0.49 | 1.88 | 1.66 | NA | 0.45 | 0.33 | 0.37 | -0.36 |
| | | | | | | | 9.7 | 75.76 | 0.55 | 2.15 | 1.72 | 1.89 | 0.44 | 0.35 | 0.37 | -0.24 |
| Finland | Uusimaa | Helsinki | 60.2558 | 24.9711 | SJ/PU | 2004 | 15.0 | 86.36 | 0.55 | 2.32 | 1.70 | 1.83 | 0.38 | 0.34 | 0.35 | 0.04 |
| | Uusimaa | Karkkila | 60.5211 | 24.3483 | SJ/PU | 2004 | 15.0 | 59.09 | 0.37 | 1.76 | 1.44 | 1.58 | 0.27 | 0.24 | 0.25 | 0.04 |
| | Uusimaa | Tammisari | 59.9836 | 23.4153 | SJ/PU | 2004 | 15.0 | 86.36 | 0.72 | 3.00 | 2.05 | 2.04 | 0.42 | 0.41 | 0.42 | -0.06 |
| | | | | | | | 15.0 | 77.27 | 0.55 | 2.36 | 1.73 | 1.82 | 0.36 | 0.33 | 0.34 | 0.01 |
| Iran | Namin | Anbaran | 38.5244 | 48.4625 | MFA | 2013 | 19.0 | 95.45 | 1.01 | 4.52 | 2.66 | 2.43 | 0.49 | 0.53 | 0.54 | 0.04 |
| | Ardabil | Fandoughlu | 38.4159 | 48.5719 | MFA | 2013 | 19.0 | 90.91 | 0.87 | 3.88 | 2.29 | 2.39 | 0.40 | 0.46 | 0.48 | 0.14 |
| | Mazandaran | Javaherdeh | 36.8482 | 50.4710 | MFA | 2014 | 16.0 | 72.73 | 0.77 | 3.16 | 2.30 | 2.10 | 0.34 | 0.42 | 0.43 | 0.11 |
| | Mashhad | Mashhad | 36.3611 | 59.3500 | SJ/RS | 2005 | 16.0 | 77.27 | 0.53 | 2.24 | 1.66 | 1.75 | 0.34 | 0.33 | 0.34 | -0.05 |
| | Mazandaran | Mazandaran | 36.1918 | 51.3385 | AP | 2013 | 13.0 | 95.45 | 0.75 | 3.00 | 2.05 | 2.14 | 0.31 | 0.43 | 0.46 | 0.33 |
| | Mazandaran | Rudbarak | 36.4520 | 51.0744 | MFA | 2014 | 16.0 | 81.82 | 0.83 | 3.60 | 2.32 | 2.14 | 0.37 | 0.44 | 0.45 | 0.09 |
| | | | | | | | 16.5 | 85.61 | 0.80 | 3.40 | 2.21 | 2.16 | 0.38 | 0.43 | 0.45 | 0.11 |
| Latvia | Madona | Ergil | 56.9000 | 25.6333 | SJ/GG | 2003 | 15.0 | 59.09 | 0.44 | 1.72 | 1.45 | 1.73 | 0.33 | 0.28 | 0.29 | -0.09 |
| Norway | Vesterålen | Andenes | 69.3218 | 16.1277 | DPR, IGA, TA | 2012 | 19.0 | 59.09 | 0.32 | 1.80 | 1.34 | 1.42 | 0.21 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.05 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Salten | Bodø | 67.2866 | 14.3993 | DPR | 2012 | 20.0 | 59.09 | 0.31 | 1.80 | 1.35 | 1.41 | 0.23 | 0.20 | 0.20 | -0.03 |
| Nord-Troms | Breiviklia | 69.6780 | 18.9766 | DPR | 2012 | 20.0 | 81.82 | 0.50 | 2.40 | 1.61 | 1.68 | 0.36 | 0.30 | 0.31 | -0.02 |
| Helgeland | Båsmoiveien | 66.3368 | 14.1133 | DPR | 2013 | 4.0 | 27.27 | 0.19 | 1.28 | 1.14 | NA | 0.21 | 0.12 | 0.14 | -0.52 |
| Salten | Fauske | 67.2583 | 15.3842 | DPR | 2012 | 20.0 | 68.18 | 0.41 | 1.84 | 1.51 | 1.53 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.14 |
| <i>Central Hålogaland</i> | <i>Gratangen</i> | <i>68.6732</i> | <i>17.6966</i> | <i>DPR</i> | <i>2013</i> | <i>1.0</i> | <i>16.00</i> | <i>0.11</i> | <i>1.16</i> | <i>1.16</i> | <i>NA</i> | <i>0.16</i> | <i>0.08</i> | <i>0.16</i> | <i>-1.00</i> |
| Midt-Troms | Gryllefjord | 69.3626 | 17.0570 | DPR, IGA, TA | 2012 | 20.0 | 36.36 | 0.23 | 1.52 | 1.28 | 1.36 | 0.20 | 0.15 | 0.15 | -0.22 |
| Vest-Finnmark | Hammerfest | 70.6656 | 23.6985 | DPR | 2012 | 18.0 | 68.18 | 0.42 | 2.00 | 1.49 | 1.59 | 0.29 | 0.26 | 0.27 | -0.05 |
| Vest-Finnmark | Honningsvåg | 70.9944 | 25.9733 | DPR | 2012 | 20.0 | 72.73 | 0.41 | 2.04 | 1.53 | 1.53 | 0.28 | 0.26 | 0.27 | 0.10 |
| <i>Stjørdalen</i> | <i>Husbyvegen</i> | <i>63.471</i> | <i>10.967</i> | <i>DPR</i> | <i>2013</i> | <i>3.0</i> | <i>28.00</i> | <i>0.19</i> | <i>1.32</i> | <i>1.27</i> | <i>NA</i> | <i>0.17</i> | <i>0.13</i> | <i>0.16</i> | <i>-0.29</i> |
| Hålogaland | Ibestad | 68.7872 | 17.1573 | DPR | 2013 | 20.0 | 54.55 | 0.35 | 1.80 | 1.44 | 1.49 | 0.27 | 0.23 | 0.23 | -0.10 |
| Salten | Inndyr | 67.0477 | 14.0446 | DPR | 2013 | 6.0 | 54.55 | 0.35 | 1.60 | 1.44 | NA | 0.31 | 0.24 | 0.26 | -0.23 |
| Nord-Troms | Kvaløya | 69.6837 | 18.8113 | DPR | 2012 | 20.0 | 54.55 | 0.33 | 1.64 | 1.39 | 1.48 | 0.31 | 0.22 | 0.23 | -0.28 |
| Nord-Troms | Kvaløyvegen | 69.6651 | 18.9085 | DPR | 2012 | 20.0 | 59.09 | 0.36 | 1.80 | 1.43 | 1.45 | 0.28 | 0.24 | 0.25 | -0.07 |
| <i>Salten</i> | <i>Langstranda</i> | <i>67.2714</i> | <i>14.3488</i> | <i>DPR</i> | <i>2013</i> | <i>3.0</i> | <i>48.00</i> | <i>0.30</i> | <i>1.56</i> | <i>1.37</i> | <i>NA</i> | <i>0.29</i> | <i>0.20</i> | <i>0.24</i> | <i>-0.41</i> |
| Ofoten | Narvik | 68.4398 | 17.4252 | DPR | 2013 | 6.0 | 50.00 | 0.32 | 1.56 | 1.42 | NA | 0.22 | 0.22 | 0.24 | 0.00 |
| Helgeland | Nesna | 66.1951 | 13.0298 | LUT | 2012 | 18.0 | 22.73 | 0.21 | 1.36 | 1.29 | 1.36 | 0.20 | 0.14 | 0.15 | -0.34 |
| <i>Helgeland</i> | <i>Nordlandsveien</i> | <i>66.316</i> | <i>14.157</i> | <i>DPR</i> | <i>2013</i> | <i>2.0</i> | <i>24.00</i> | <i>0.17</i> | <i>1.12</i> | <i>1.12</i> | <i>NA</i> | <i>0.24</i> | <i>0.12</i> | <i>0.16</i> | <i>-1.00</i> |
| Helgeland | Novikveien | 66.0068 | 12.5763 | DPR | 2013 | 15.0 | 40.91 | 0.30 | 1.68 | 1.41 | 1.41 | 0.25 | 0.19 | 0.19 | -0.25 |
| <i>Trondheim Region</i> | <i>Othilienborgvegen</i> | <i>63.4072</i> | <i>10.4455</i> | <i>DPR</i> | <i>2013</i> | <i>3.0</i> | <i>32.00</i> | <i>0.19</i> | <i>1.28</i> | <i>1.19</i> | <i>NA</i> | <i>0.16</i> | <i>0.13</i> | <i>0.15</i> | <i>-0.20</i> |
| Øst-Finnmark | Sandnesveien | 69.6754 | 29.9626 | DPR | 2013 | 4.0 | 22.73 | 0.18 | 1.28 | 1.25 | NA | 0.22 | 0.13 | 0.15 | -0.64 |
| Central Hålogaland | Sandtorg | 68.5675 | 16.3504 | DPR, IGA, TA | 2012 | 20.0 | 36.36 | 0.28 | 1.68 | 1.36 | 1.44 | 0.23 | 0.18 | 0.19 | -0.08 |
| <i>Helgeland</i> | <i>Sjøbergs gate</i> | <i>66.022</i> | <i>12.6355</i> | <i>DPR</i> | <i>2013</i> | <i>3.0</i> | <i>36.00</i> | <i>0.24</i> | <i>1.40</i> | <i>1.32</i> | <i>NA</i> | <i>0.25</i> | <i>0.16</i> | <i>0.19</i> | <i>-0.52</i> |
| Midt-Troms | Soleng | 69.2458 | 19.4366 | DPR | 2013 | 10.0 | 54.55 | 0.36 | 1.68 | 1.44 | 1.50 | 0.33 | 0.24 | 0.25 | -0.24 |
| Helgeland | Sørlandsveien | 66.2998 | 14.1065 | DPR | 2013 | 5.0 | 50.00 | 0.35 | 1.64 | 1.45 | NA | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.26 | 0.07 |
| Vest-Finnmark | Talvik | 70.0470 | 22.9630 | DPR | 2012 | 20.0 | 77.27 | 0.46 | 2.16 | 1.55 | 1.64 | 0.29 | 0.28 | 0.29 | 0.14 |
| Salten | Tømmerneset | 67.9067 | 15.8742 | DPR | 2013 | 4.0 | 13.64 | 0.16 | 1.24 | 1.18 | NA | 0.19 | 0.11 | 0.13 | -0.67 |
| Østlandet | Tøyen Botanical Garden, Oslo | 59.9181 | 10.7693 | DPR | 2012 | 7.0 | 81.82 | 0.64 | 2.40 | 1.90 | NA | 0.37 | 0.39 | 0.42 | 0.00 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------|---------|-----|------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| | <i>Nord-Troms</i> | <i>Åsgård-Givørbukta</i> | 69.6676 | 18.9118 | DPR | 2012 | 3.0 | 44.00 | 0.28 | 1.40 | 1.32 | NA | 0.25 | 0.19 | 0.25 | -0.28 |
| | | | | | | | 14.4 | 52.07 | 0.34 | 1.74 | 1.42 | 1.48 | 0.26 | 0.22 | 0.23 | -0.15 |
| Sweden | <i>Vilhelmina Ö</i> | <i>Latikberg</i> | 64.6443 | 17.0482 | DPR | 2013 | 1.0 | 40.00 | 0.28 | 1.24 | 1.24 | NA | 0.40 | 0.20 | 0.40 | -1.00 |
| | Jämtland | Lit | 63.3170 | 14.8387 | DPR | 2013 | 9.0 | 86.36 | 0.50 | 2.12 | 1.64 | 1.67 | 0.42 | 0.32 | 0.34 | -0.22 |
| | <i>Lycksele</i> | <i>Lycksele</i> | 64.6757 | 17.83 | DPR | 2013 | 3.0 | 44.00 | 0.33 | 1.56 | 1.46 | NA | 0.36 | 0.22 | 0.26 | -0.64 |
| | <i>Järpen</i> | <i>Tossövägen</i> | 63.3416 | 13.4476 | DPR | 2013 | 2.0 | 56.00 | 0.36 | 1.56 | 1.46 | NA | 0.36 | 0.25 | 0.35 | -0.43 |
| | <i>Vännäs</i> | <i>Tväråbäck</i> | 63.9978 | 19.7241 | DPR | 2013 | 1.0 | 36.00 | 0.25 | 1.32 | 1.32 | NA | 0.36 | 0.18 | 0.36 | -1.00 |
| | <i>Västerbotten</i> | <i>Umeå</i> | 63.8237 | 20.2783 | DPR | 2013 | 2.0 | 40.00 | 0.28 | 1.44 | 1.39 | NA | 0.28 | 0.20 | 0.26 | -0.43 |

1

For Review Only

Table 2 The country-wise F_{ST} values averaged over populations of *Heracleum persicum*. Standard errors are given in the parentheses.

| | Iran | Denmark | England | Finland | Latvia | Norway | Sweden |
|---------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Iran | 0.253 (0.023) | | | | | | |
| Denmark | 0.388 (0.015) | 0.037 (0.000) | | | | | |
| England | 0.385 (0.014) | 0.336 (0.010) | 0.082 (0.000) | | | | |
| Finland | 0.409 (0.019) | 0.392 (0.028) | 0.272 (0.016) | 0.286 (0.023) | | | |
| Latvia | 0.407 (0.019) | 0.452 (0.009) | 0.306 (0.003) | 0.354 (0.025) | 0.000 (0.000) | | |
| Norway | 0.503 (0.006) | 0.552 (0.005) | 0.421 (0.008) | 0.396 (0.009) | 0.480 (0.008) | 0.109 (0.005) | |
| Sweden | 0.405 (0.021) | 0.465 (0.005) | 0.267 (0.006) | 0.327 (0.028) | 0.304 (0.000) | 0.432 (0.014) | 0.000 (0.000) |

1 **Table 3** Comparison of overall genetic diversity statistics between native and introduced
 2 populations of *Heracleum persicum*. Non-significant *p*-value is in bold. P (%), percentage of
 3 polymorphic loci; I, Shannon's information index; N_A , average number of alleles over loci;
 4 N_E , effective number of alleles; A_R , allelic richness based on three samples; H_O , observed
 5 heterozygosity; H_E , expected heterozygosity; uH_E , unbiased expected heterozygosity; F_{IS} ,
 6 inbreeding coefficient; P_A , number of private alleles; F_{ST} , fixation index.

7

| Estimates | Native | Introduced | t | df | p-value |
|-------------|--------|------------|-------|-------|--------------|
| P (%) | 85.50 | 59.81 | 4.82 | 15.78 | 0.000 |
| I | 0.80 | 0.40 | 5.66 | 6.60 | 0.001 |
| N_A | 3.40 | 1.88 | 4.62 | 5.50 | 0.005 |
| N_E | 2.21 | 1.50 | 5.04 | 5.74 | 0.003 |
| A_R | 2.16 | 1.61 | 5.00 | 6.88 | 0.002 |
| H_O | 0.38 | 0.30 | 2.43 | 8.58 | 0.039 |
| H_E | 0.43 | 0.25 | 5.86 | 8.20 | 0.000 |
| uH_E | 0.45 | 0.27 | 5.88 | 8.43 | 0.000 |
| F_{IS} | 0.11 | -0.14 | 3.95 | 10.88 | 0.002 |
| P_A | 4.17 | 1.89 | 3.07 | 7.89 | 0.016 |
| F_{ST} | 0.25 | 0.30 | -1.94 | 19.77 | 0.066 |
| Null allele | 0.07 | 0.03 | 3.11 | 5.72 | 0.022 |

8

1 **Table 4** Type I and II error rates for scenarios 3 and 4 (see Fig. 2 for the details) based on the
 2 logistic regression with raw (from 8×10^6 simulated data) and LDA-transformed (from $4 \times$
 3 10^6 simulated data) summary statistics. LDA, linear discriminant analysis.

4

| Errors | Summary statistics | Scenarios | | Magnitude of error difference compared to scenario 4 |
|---------|--------------------|-----------|------|---|
| | | 3 | 4 | |
| Type I | Raw | 0.43 | 0.11 | 3.0 |
| | LDA-transformed | 0.44 | 0.06 | 5.8 |
| Type II | Raw | 0.26 | 0.09 | 1.9 |
| | LDA-transformed | 0.25 | 0.14 | 0.9 |

5

For Review Only

1 **Table 5** ABC results of historical parameters estimated from 20008 pseudo-observed data sets
 2 simulated under scenario III (see Fig. 2) for *Heracleum persicum*. Mean, median, mode as
 3 well as 2.5, 5, 95 and 97.5 % quintiles of estimated values are provided. N_1 and N_2 , current
 4 effective population size of Iran and Norway, and Denmark, England and Finland,
 5 respectively; db, duration of bottleneck; N_{1b} , population size during bottleneck; t_1 , t_2 , t_3 and t_4
 6 time since divergence of the youngest to the oldest lineages (see Fig. 2 and text for details).

7

| Parameter | Mean | Median | Mode | q25 | q50 | q95 | q97.5 |
|---------------|---------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| N_1 | 1250 | 1250 | 1250 | 528 | 637 | 1880 | 1940 |
| N_2 | 130 | 132 | 136 | 58 | 70 | 186 | 193 |
| db | 29 | 22 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 81 | 89 |
| N_{1b} | 62 | 64 | 69 | 17 | 24 | 95 | 97 |
| t_1 | 56 | 57 | 54 | 19 | 25 | 87 | 92 |
| t_2 | 79 | 75 | 66 | 28 | 34 | 139 | 157 |
| t_3 | 144 | 139 | 142 | 54 | 65 | 242 | 261 |
| t_4 | 222 | 218 | 215 | 83 | 99 | 362 | 379 |
| Mutation rate | 0.00075 | 0.0007 | 0.0006 | 0.00044 | 0.00047 | 0.00122 | 0.0014 |

8

1 **Table 6** Maximum likelihood estimates (MLE) along with the 95 % highest posterior density
 2 (HPD) intervals for divergence time ($\tau = t\mu$ where t is the generation since divergence) of
 3 Norwegian (N) and Finnish (F) lineages of *Heracleum persicum*. Estimates of ancestral (θ_A),
 4 Norwegian (θ_N), and Finnish (θ_F) population size as well as migration rate to Norway ($m_{F>N}$)
 5 and to Finland ($m_{N>F}$) are provided.

| Parameter | 95 % HPD Low | MLE High Point | 95 % HPD High |
|------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| τ | 0.015 | 0.033 | 0.474 |
| θ_N | 0.003 | 0.003 | 0.037 |
| θ_F | 6.038 | 0.836 | 498.340 |
| θ_A | 203.423 | 331.607 | 965.098 |
| $m_{F>N}$ | 18.708 | 48.542 | 237.292 |
| $m_{N>F}$ | 10.208 | 10.458 | 156.625 |

6

1 Figure legends

2 **Fig. 1** Geographical locations of previous records (small circles) and genetic structure of
3 sampled populations from native and introduced ranges of *Heracleum persicum*. Size of a pie
4 chart reflects gene diversity (expected heterozygosity) of each population. Hatched and plain
5 pie charts indicate proportion of genomes of each population assigned to Cluster_I and
6 Cluster_II, respectively as revealed by global structure analysis based on $K = 2$. Dates
7 indicate the first seed and plantation record for England and Norway (bold) respectively, the
8 first cultivation record for Tromsø (bold italic), and the earliest records of garden escapes for
9 Scandinavia (normal). Arrow indicates inferred route of introduction of *H. persicum* into
10 Europe based on approximate Bayesian computation analysis.

11 **Fig. 2** Illustrations of four historical scenarios for introduction route of *Heracleum persicum*
12 into Europe.

13 **Fig. 3** Principal coordinate analysis of *Heracleum persicum* showing genetic relationship
14 among samples originating both from native (Iran, 99 samples) and introduced ranges (476
15 samples).

16 **Fig. 4** Genetic structure of *Heracleum persicum* in Iran based on $K=3$ (A), and global analysis
17 (D) and introduced populations based on $K=2$ (F). The transformed values (1/1000) of the rate
18 of change of the likelihood distributions (diamond) and delta K (circle) for Iran (B), global
19 analysis (C) and introduced populations (E). Delta K value of Iran was 1/100 transformed.
20 Vertical bar represents proportion of individual genome assigned to each cluster. The
21 abbreviated names consist of the first four characters of populations and countries from table
22 1.

23 **Fig. 5** Log scaled marginal densities of migration rate of *Heracleum persicum* from Norway
24 to Finland (dashed line) and Finland to Norway (solid line) estimated by IM analysis.

1 Supporting information

2 **Table S1** Exact test of Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium using a Markov chain with 10 000
3 demorization steps (1000 batches and 10 000 iterations per batch). Significant p-values after
4 Bonferroni correction (corrected p-value = 0.0000592) are given in bold. NA in bold, not
5 available due to monomorphic loci and missing loci.

6 **Table S2** Test of linkage disequilibrium using a Markov chain with 10 000 demorization
7 steps (1000 batches and 10 000 iterations per batch). Significant p-values before Bonferroni
8 correction (p-value ≤ 0.05) and loci pairs with significant linkage disequilibrium after
9 Bonferroni correction (corrected p-value = 0.000167) are given in bold.

10 **Table S3** Number of private alleles in the native and the introduced ranges of *Heracleum*
11 *persicum* along with their frequencies and nearest alleles. Number of steps indicate required
12 mutational steps (addition + and deletion -) to form private allele, assuming stepwise mutation,
13 from the nearest allele.

14 **Table S4** Locus wise genetic diversity statistics between native and introduced populations of
15 *Heracleum persicum*. Lower case n and i preceding each diversity index represents native and
16 introduced ranges respectively. N_S , number of alleles sampled; H_O , observed heterozygosity;
17 H_S , gene diversity; F_{IS} , inbreeding coefficient.

18 **Table S5** Pairwise population F_{ST} values significantly different from each other after
19 Bonferroni correction are indicated in bold. The p-values were generated after 8700
20 permutations and the adjusted p-value for multiple comparisons at 5% nominal level was
21 0.000115. NA, not-applicable.

22 **Table S6** Estimation of frequency of null alleles in each population and locus by expectation
23 maximization algorithm.

24 **Table S7** Test of the signature of bottleneck following infinite allele model (IAM), two-phase
25 model (TPM) and step-wise mutation model (SMM). All the significant p-values before
26 Bonferroni correction (p < 0.05) for one (1t) and two-tailed (2t) Wilcoxon test are provided
27 and significant p-values after Bonferroni correction (corrected p-value 0.002) are given in
28 bold. The p-value for k-test and score of g-test are also provided. A significant p-value for k-
29 test and corresponding lowest score for g-test indicate population expansion.

30 **Table S8** Comparison of four historical scenarios of route of introduction of *Heracleum*
31 *persicum* based on direct and logistic regression with raw and LDA transformed summary
32 statistics as implemented in DIYABC. Values in the parentheses are 95 % confidence interval.
33 Average values and standard errors (S.E., in parentheses) are given in bold. n = simulated
34 data closest to observed.

35 **Table S9** ABC results for mean relative biases of historical parameters for *Heracleum*
36 *persicum* based on present data. The result was based on 19989 pseudo-observed and 500 test

1 data set simulated under scenario IV (Fig. 2). N_1 and N_2 , effective population size of Iran, and
2 Denmark, England, Finland and Norway respectively; db , duration of bottleneck; N_1b ,
3 population size during bottleneck; t_1 , t_2 , t_3 and t_4 , time since divergence of the youngest to the
4 oldest lineages (see Fig. 2 and text for details).

5 **Fig. S1** Relationship between number of alleles per locus and null allele frequency in
6 *Heracleum persicum*. Horizontal broken line is set at 0.05 null allele frequency.

7 **Fig. S2** The graphical output of structure analysis based on $K = 2-4$ for (A) Iran, (B)
8 introduced range, (C) Iran-Denmark, (D) Iran-England, (E) global analysis, and (F) Norway.
9 Based on the delta K value, the best $K = 3$ for Iran and 2 for all other analyses.

10 **Fig. S3** Comparison of four scenarios for introduction history of *Heracleum persicum* based
11 on (A) direct, and logistic regression with (B) raw and (C) LDA transformed summary
12 statistics as implemented in DIYABC (see Fig. 2 and the text for details). X-axes, the number
13 of simulated data closest to the observed; and y-axes, posterior probabilities.

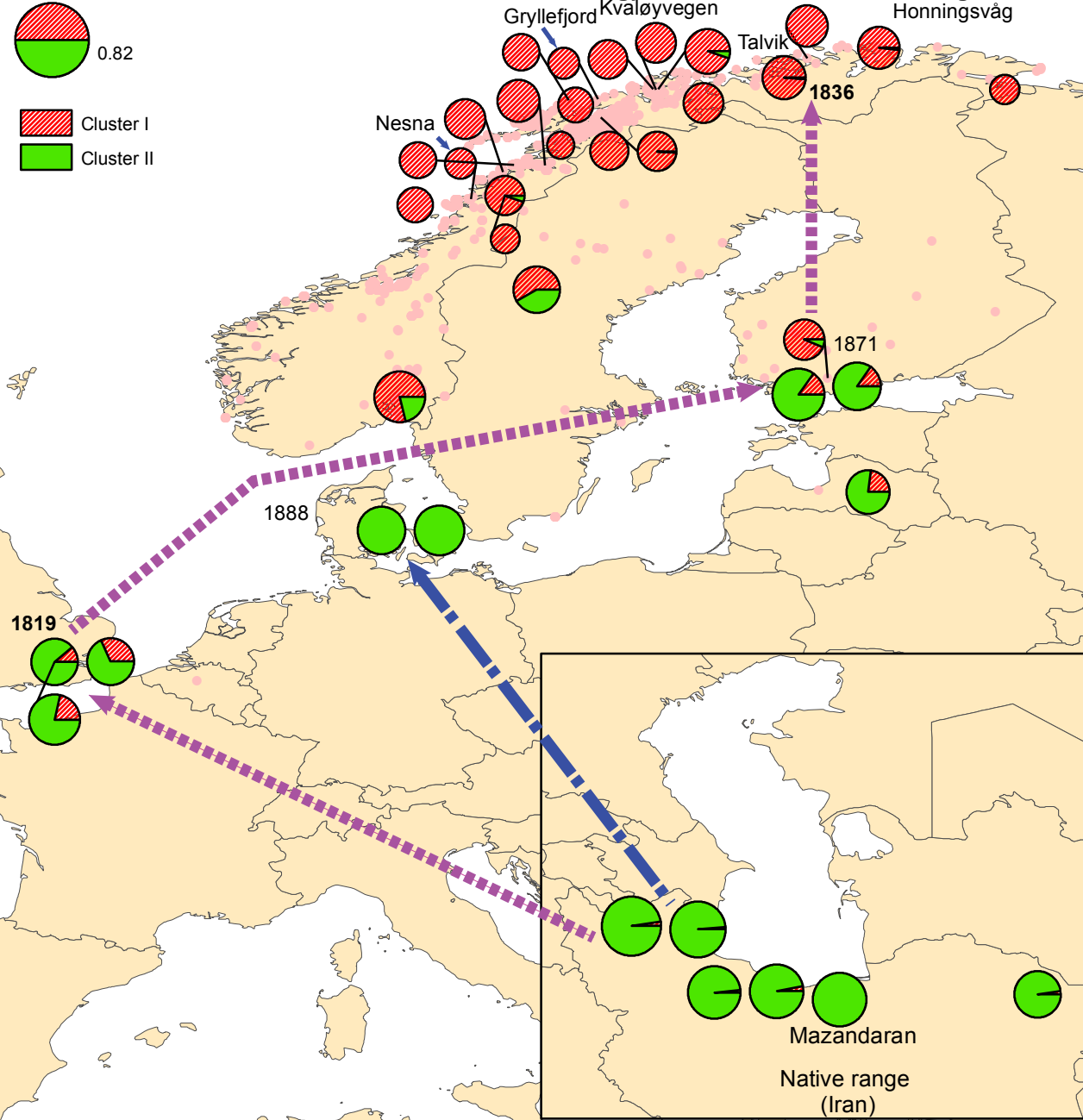
14 **Fig. S4** Principal component analysis of priors (open circle), posteriors (solid circle) and
15 observed data (yellow solid circle) for (A) scenario III and (B) scenario IV (see Fig. 2 and the
16 text for details).

Gene diversity



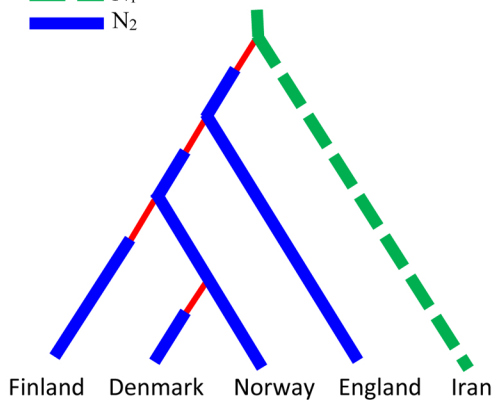
- Cluster I
- Cluster II

Molecular Ecology

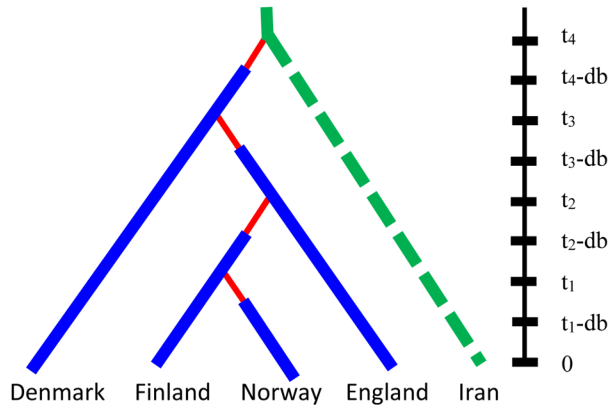


— N_{1b}
- - N_1
— N_2

Scenario 1

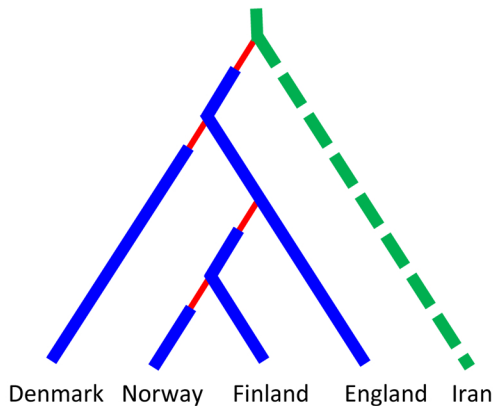


Scenario 2

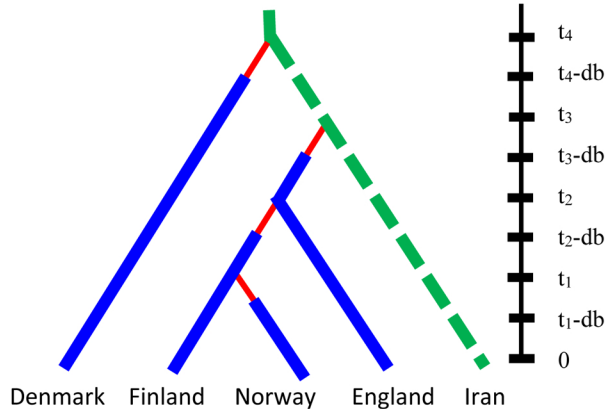
t₄t₄-dbt₃t₃-dbt₂t₂-dbt₁t₁-db

0

Scenario 3



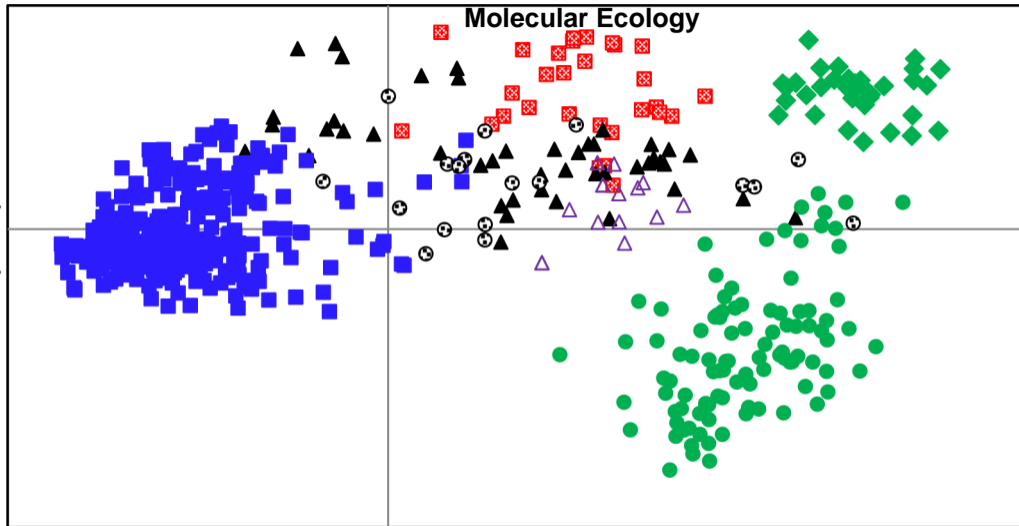
Scenario 4

t₄t₄-dbt₃t₃-dbt₂t₂-dbt₁t₁-db

0

PC 2 (6.6 %)

Molecular Ecology



PC 1 (22.9 %)

◆ Denmark

▣ England

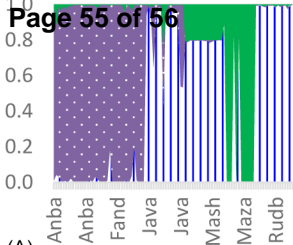
▲ Finland

● Iran

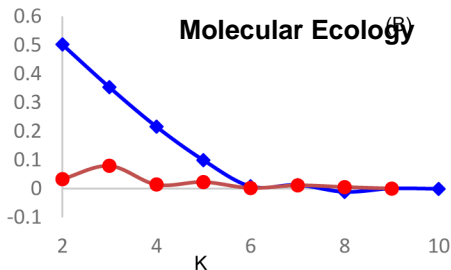
△ Latvia

■ Norway

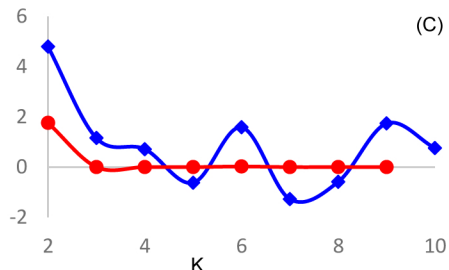
⊕ Sweden



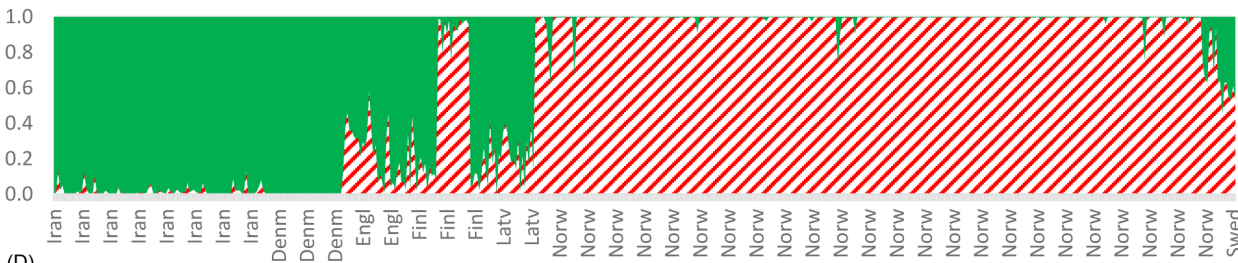
(A)



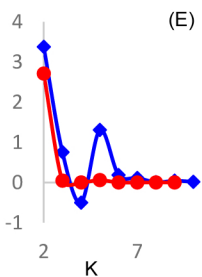
(B)



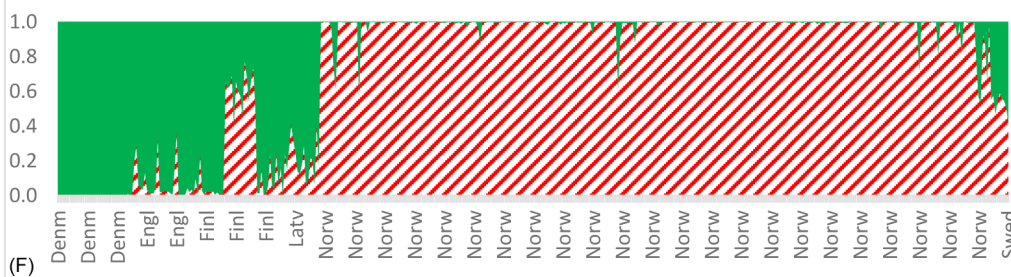
(C)



(D)



(E)



(F)

