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Complementarity of statistical treatments to reconstruct worldwide routes of invasion: the case of the Asian ladybird *Harmonia axyridis*

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Abstract

Inferences about introduction histories of invasive species remain challenging because of the stochastic demographic processes involved. Approximate Bayesian computation (ABC) can help to overcome these problems, but such method requires a prior understanding of population structure over the study area, necessitating the use of alternative methods and an intense sampling design. In this study, we made inferences about the worldwide invasion history of the ladybird *Harmonia axyridis* by various population genetics statistical methods, using a large set of sampling sites distributed over most of the species' native and invaded areas. We evaluated the complementarity of the statistical methods and the consequences of using different sets of site samples for ABC inferences. We found that the *H. axyridis* invasion has involved two bridgehead invasive populations in North America, which have served as the source populations for at least six independent introductions into other continents. We also identified several situations of genetic admixture between differentiated sources. Our results highlight the importance of coupling ABC methods with more traditional statistical approaches. We found that the choice of site samples could affect the conclusions of ABC analyses comparing possible scenarios. Approaches involving independent ABC analyses on several sample sets constitute a sensible solution, complementary to standard quality controls based on the analysis of pseudo-observed data sets, to minimize erroneous conclusions. This study provides biologists without expertise in this area with detailed methodological and conceptual guidelines for making inferences about invasion routes when dealing with a large number of sampling sites and complex population genetic structures.

Keywords: approximate Bayesian computation, biological invasion, harlequin ladybird, invasion routes, microsatellite

Introduction

Inferences about the introduction routes of invasive species make it possible to describe the geographic pathways followed by propagules, between the source and invading populations. This is an important task in the exploration of fundamental eco-evolutionary aspects of colonization success or failure (Keller & Taylor 2008) and for preventing future invasions (Simberloff *et al.* 2013). Historical and observational data for invasive species are often sparse and incomplete. Indirect methods based on molecular genetic markers have therefore been increasingly used for the inference of invasion routes over the last 15 years and have proved effective (Estoup & Guillemaud 2010). One of the main features to have emerged from the growing number of studies based on molecular methods is that the real histories of invasions are often far more complex than initially imagined, particularly due to multiple introductions (e.g. Facon *et al.* 2003; Kolbe *et al.* 2004; Ciosi *et al.* 2008; Darling *et al.* 2008; Yalcindag *et al.* 2012). Multiple population sources and/or stochastic demographic and genetic processes (such as founder effects and/or genetic admixture) may lead to a genetic structure within invaded areas that is difficult to predict. Moreover, invasive populations may themselves serve as a source of colonists invading other areas (i.e. the invasive bridgehead effect, Lombaert *et al.* 2010), thus further complicating the putative invasion routes. As a result, genetic studies of introduction routes of invasive species have become a methodological and analytical challenge in themselves (reviewed in Estoup & Guillemaud 2010).

The approximate Bayesian computation (ABC) method combines the use of simulations and summary statistics (Beaumont *et al.* 2002; Beaumont 2010; Bertorelle *et al.* 2010; Csillery *et al.* 2010). Because ABC is based on simulations, it allows sampling, demographic

and genetic stochasticity as well as complex processes (e.g. change in effective population size, admixture events, the involvement of a population that has not been sampled) to be explicitly taken into account. This approach is hence appropriate to make model-based inferences in a Bayesian setting for (very) complex scenarios with intractable likelihoods, such as those relating to the introduction histories of invasive species (see Box 1 for additional details). Thanks to these features and increasing computer power, ABC has been widely used in recent years, to retrace the invasion routes of a growing number of invasive species (e.g. Miller *et al.* 2005; Pascual *et al.* 2007; Lombaert *et al.* 2010; Ascunce *et al.* 2011; Auger-Rozenberg *et al.* 2012; Keller *et al.* 2012; Yalcindag *et al.* 2012; Konecny *et al.* 2013). Studies based on controlled simulated data sets have shown that, in most cases, ABC is more powerful in this context than more traditional population genetics methods, such as the interpretation of neighbour-joining tree or F-statistics analysis (Estoup & Guillemaud 2010; Guillemaud *et al.* 2010; Lombaert *et al.* 2010). However, ABC is not a strict alternative to other population genetics statistical approaches, instead being complementary to such approaches (see Box 1).

The use of the ABC method can be complex and risky, for several reasons. It may be difficult to choose the most appropriate priors and summary statistics (e.g. Templeton 2010; Robert *et al.* 2011), and this approach is also subject to what can be called the ‘population sampling curse’. Sampling is a general limitation in population genetic studies. It can have a strong impact on the power of statistical analyses, which depend on sample size and the spatial sampling scheme (Muirhead *et al.* 2008; Schwartz & McKelvey 2009). More generally, the definition of a ‘population’ is a real issue that must be dealt with (Waples & Gaggiotti 2006; Harwood 2009). Decisions about what and how to sample are even more key issues in ABC analyses of invasion

Box 1. Approximate Bayesian computation inferences on evolutionary models when dealing with a large number of site samples and genetic units: some useful tips

Model selection using approximate Bayesian computation (ABC): principles

The idea behind model selection using ABC is to approximate the complex likelihood of models (i.e. evolutionary scenarios) by massive simulations of data sets (i.e. multilocus genotypes or individual sequences) which are summarized by statistics such as mean number of alleles or F_{ST} . Basically, the (relative) posterior probabilities of the different models are determined by measuring the similarity between the observed data set and the large number of data sets simulated under the different models. Model comparison with ABC can be divided into several steps:

1. Choice of the observed data set to be analysed.

2. Definition of a finite set of competing evolutionary scenarios, of demographic, historical and genetic parameters and of their prior values.
3. Choice of summary statistics and simulation of a large number of data sets according to each evolutionary scenario, drawing parameters values from their prior distribution.
4. Selection of the simulated data sets that are most similar to the observed data set (based on summary statistics).
5. Computation of posterior probabilities of scenarios through a logistic regression step performed on the subset of simulated data sets retained in the previous step.
6. Quality control of the analysis which includes (i) some computation to evaluate the confidence in scenario choice and (ii) some model checking computation processed on the selected [scenario + parameter posterior distributions] combination to evaluate the fit with the observed data set (e.g. Cornuet *et al.* 2010).

How to deal with a data set including a large number of site samples and genetic structure?

The choice of the observed data set to be analysed is barely mentioned in studies dealing with ABC analyses. This choice is nevertheless crucial especially when the number of site samples is large and when genetic structure occurs in the studied areas. As a matter of fact, the number of genetic units in the data set will strongly impact the heaviness and sometimes feasibility of the ABC analyses (Estoup & Guillemaud 2010). Using Bayesian clustering methods such as STRUCTURE and BAPS represents a rather objective manner to define genetic units that can include several samples and hence substantially reduce the number and complexity of evolutionary scenarios to be compared using ABC. This point has been illustrated in previous studies (e.g. Ascunce *et al.* 2011; Konecny *et al.* 2013) and is central to the present study.

It is worth-stressing, however, that such clustering methods have to be used cautiously because they are based on various and sometimes different model assumptions and they are sensitive to both sampling scheme and size. The objective of inferring a clear-cut 'true' number of population units (i.e. genetic clusters) and partitioning of individuals may thus be awkward and sometimes unrealistic (Waples & Gaggiotti 2006; Harwood 2009; Schwartz & McKelvey 2009; Kalinowski 2011). Moreover, each biological model has its own peculiar features, depending on many factors (e.g. migration rates, isolation-by-distance patterns, effective sizes and hierarchical genetic structure) so that a biologically meaningful application of a theoretical population concept may not be always appropriate. It is therefore difficult to propose a simple general methodological framework based for instance on a single clustering method. In practice, we strongly recommend to use several (at least two) independent clustering methods assuming different model assumptions (e.g. possibility of genetic admixture or not, nonspatial vs. spatial models) and possibly to compute such methods at different spatial scales. Results should then be cross-validated and interpreted in the light of what is already known about the species of interest.

Once the number and identity of genetic units in the full data set have been deduced, one may want to pool the site samples belonging to the same genetic unit. Alternatively, one might want to take the opportunity to use site samples as replicates of the same evolutionary history and hence perform replications of ABC analyses. This might represent a more sensible strategy than a simple pooling of sample sites for at least two reasons: (i) clustering methods may have imperfectly identify the real number and identity of the population units so that some of the inferred genetic clusters may be characterized by the presence of residual genetic structure and (ii) doing so represents an indirect way to address the issue of false positive and false negative errors.

How to deal with multiple population sources in invasion scenarios?

The reconstruction of invasion routes is a good example wherein the number of populations can limit the feasibility of ABC analyses. In some cases, even after reducing the number of population units as described above, the number of invasive populations and hence of possible scenarios remains too large to be treated in a single ABC analysis (e.g. a set of one native and six invasive populations corresponds to $6! = 720$ different scenarios, in which each invasive population is successively derived from another invasive population). Historical information, like dates of first observation of the invasive populations, must be used in such cases, to reduce the number of possible scenarios. Such historical information can also be used to define various nested subsets of competing invasion scenarios that are analysed sequentially. The first scenario considers the oldest invasive population as target and determines its invasion route. Step by step, subsequent analyses use the results obtained from the previous analyses, until the most recent invasive populations are considered (Estoup & Guillemaud 2010).

routes, in which (i) population units must be defined at the outset (What is the target introduced population and what are its putative sources?) and (ii) computational power and scenario complexity limit the number of population samples that can be analysed simultaneously. Widely used population genetics approaches, such as clustering methods, are often used to define population genetic units. Different samples from the same defined genetic units are then pooled together before ABC to infer invasion routes (Box 1, e.g. Auger-Rozenberg *et al.* 2012; Boissin *et al.* 2012; Boubou *et al.* 2012; Keller *et al.* 2012; Konecny *et al.* 2013). This makes sense theoretically, but the methods used to define consistent genetic groups are known to perform poorly for determining the true number and identity of the populations (Pritchard *et al.* 2000; Evanno *et al.* 2005; Waples & Gaggiotti 2006). In practice, processing the data set of interest with several clustering methods assuming different model assumptions might be recommended (Box 1).

To take into account the risk that the sampling scheme may be incomplete (i.e. some important populations may have been missed), ABC users take advantage of the ability of the method to simulate unsampled 'ghost' populations (Beerli 2004; Slatkin 2005). However, only a few take into account the possibility of the clustering of samples being not entirely realistic and the potential qualitative impact on the results of the choice of samples used for ABC analyses (but see Pascual *et al.* 2007; Ascunce *et al.* 2011; Yalcindag *et al.* 2012).

We used a set of statistical methods (including those mentioned above) to make inferences about the invasion history of the Asian ladybird *Harmonia axyridis* from a large number of genotyped samples distributed over most of the areas invaded by this former biocontrol agent. The native area of *H. axyridis* covers a large part of Asia (Kazakhstan, southern Siberia, Mongolia, China, Korea and Japan, reviewed in Brown *et al.* 2011), with two distinct geographic East/West genetic units, as demonstrated by genetic and phenotypic analyses (Dobzhansky 1933; Blekhan *et al.* 2010; Lombaert *et al.* 2011). After a long period of use as a biocontrol agent against aphids during the 20th century, this species has recently become invasive on most continents. Invasive feral populations were first recorded in Eastern (Louisiana, USA, Chapin & Brou 1991) and Western (Oregon, USA, LaMana & Miller 1996) North America, in 1988 and 1991, respectively. Populations were then recorded in Europe (Belgium, Adriaens *et al.* 2003), South America (Argentina, Saini 2004) and Africa (South Africa, Stals 2010) in 2001. This species has spread over large areas and is still spreading in these regions, in which it has become a nuisance (Koch 2003; Roy *et al.* 2012). Lombaert *et al.* (2010) have shown that the two North

American outbreaks originated from two independent introductions from the native area. They also found that *H. axyridis* from Eastern North America acted as a bridgehead population, being the source population for the European, South American and African outbreaks, and displaying admixture with a European biocontrol strain in Europe. However, these results were obtained with a limited number of site samples, particularly for the invaded areas (i.e. only one site sample per invaded area was used). This is unfortunate, because the invaded areas are large and their spatial genetic structure remains unknown.

In this study, we first aimed at providing new insight into the invasion routes and processes associated with the worldwide spread of *H. axyridis*, focusing particularly on detection of the presence of bridgehead population(s) (i.e. invasive population(s) serving as a source of colonists invading other areas) and genetic admixture between differentiated sources, two potential important drivers of colonization success. Basically, a bridgehead effect parsimoniously explains the evolution of traits conferring invasiveness in multiple populations, and genetic admixture plays a crucial role in shaping the levels of adaptive genetic variation in introduced populations (Estoup & Guillemaud 2010; Guillemaud *et al.* 2011; Rius & Darling 2014; see also Discussion section). Second, we assessed the complementarity of a number of statistical methods and the consequences of using different sets of site samples for ABC inferences. Third, we aimed to provide biologists without expertise in this field with detailed methodological and conceptual guidelines about how to make inferences about invasion routes, using recently developed Bayesian methods, when dealing with a large number of sampling sites and a complex population genetic structure (hence the extensive Supporting Information section).

Methods

Sampling and genotyping

We sampled *H. axyridis* at a total of 47 sites. Samples were collected from 33 sites in the invaded areas (five of these site samples were previously used by Lombaert *et al.* 2011): nine sites in North America (30 42 individuals per site sample), four sites in South America (30 42 individuals per site sample), 16 sites in Europe (20 42 individuals per site sample) and four sites in Africa (31 individuals per site sample). We also included in our analyses the nine samples collected in the native range (26 36 individuals per site sample) and five European biocontrol site samples (18 29 individuals per site sample) previously used by Lombaert *et al.* (2011). Complete information about the site samples is

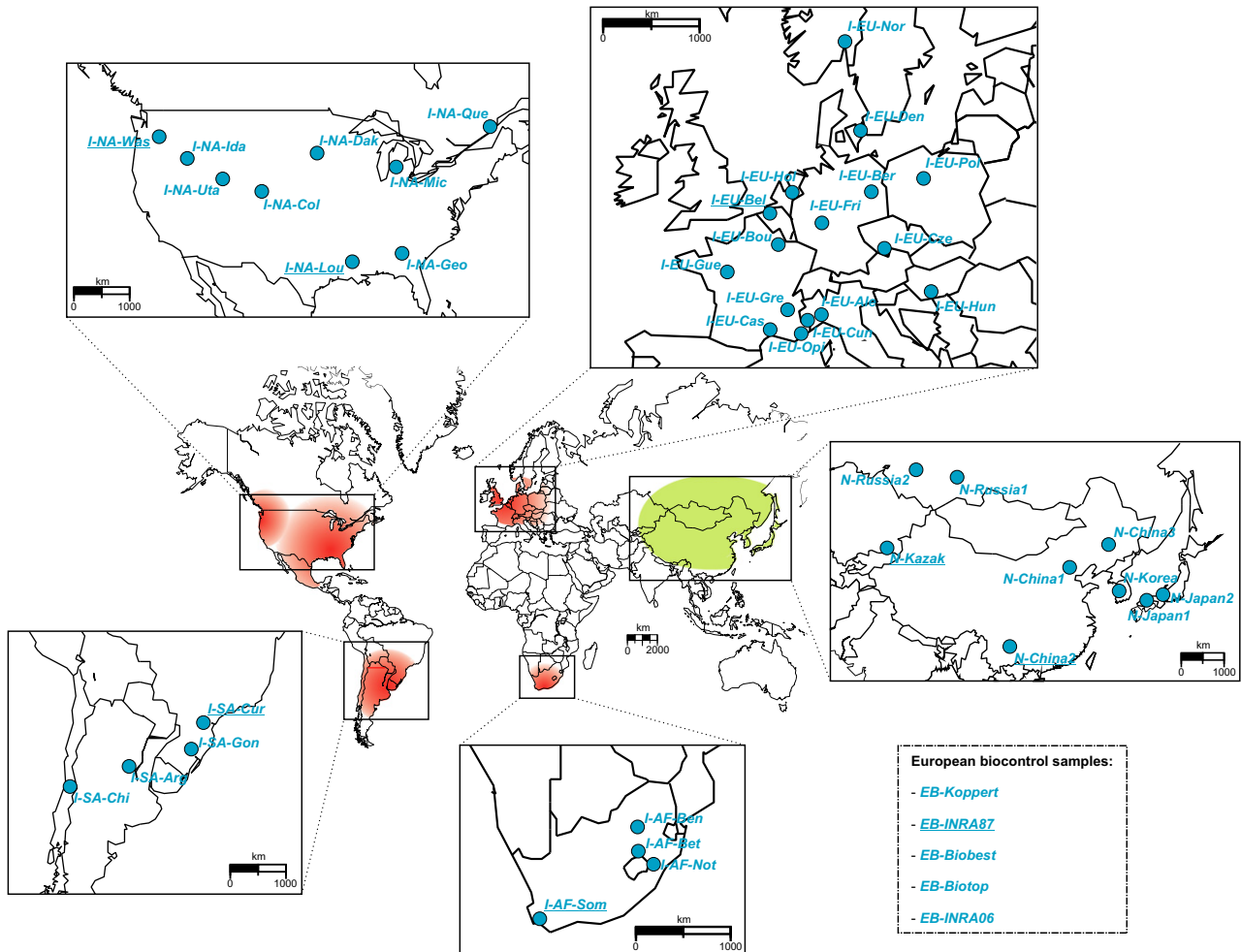


Fig. 1 Geographic locations of the genotyped site samples of *Harmonia axyridis*.

Note: In the central world map, the green and red areas roughly correspond to the native and invasive distribution of the species, respectively. Samples with underline code names correspond to the ‘reference’ source sample set (see Table 1) previously used in the ABC analyses processed by Lombaert *et al.* (2011). More details about each site samples can be found in Table S1 (Supporting information).

provided in Fig. 1 and Table S1 (Supporting information). Genotyping at 18 microsatellite markers was carried out for all 1442 individuals from all 47 sites as described by Loiseau *et al.* (2009).

Genetic variation within and between site samples, and tree construction

Genetic variation within site samples was quantified by calculating the mean expected heterozygosity H_e (Nei 1987) and the mean allelic richness (AR) corrected for 19 individuals by the rarefaction method of Leberg (2002), with *FSTAT* (version 2.9.3.2, Goudet 2002). Three of the five biocontrol samples were not used in this analysis because they were originally stored dry and amplification was therefore difficult for eight of the 18 microsatellite loci (Lombaert *et al.* 2011).

The level of genetic variation between site samples was measured by calculating pairwise F_{ST} estimates as described by Weir & Cockerham (1984) and carrying out exact tests for population genotypic differentiation (Raymond & Rousset 1995a) for all pairs of site samples, with *Genepop* (Raymond & Rousset 1995b). As these tests involved nonorthogonal and multiple comparisons, we corrected significance levels by the false discovery rate procedure (Benjamini & Hochberg 1995). We built a neighbour-joining (NJ) tree (Saitou & Nei 1987) with *POPULATIONS* 1.2.30 software (<http://bioinformatics.org/~tryphon/populations/>). We used the pairwise genetic distances between populations described by Cavalli-Sforza & Edwards (1967) because it is the most efficient distance for obtaining a correct tree topology with microsatellite markers and it makes no assumption regarding constant population size or

Table 1 Description of the five different sample sets that were chosen to represent the potential source genetic units in the ABC analyses

Potential source genetic unit	Different sets of samples representative of potential source genetic units				
	'Reference'	'High F_{ST} '	'Low F_{ST} '	'Pool high F_{ST} '	'Pool low F_{ST} '
Eastern Asia	N China2	N China1	N Japan1	N China2 + N China1	N China2 + N Japan1
Western Asia	N Kazak	N Russia1	N Russia2	N Kazak + N Russia1	N Kazak + N Russia2
Eastern North America	I NA Lou	I NA Dak	I NA Geo	I NA Lou + I NA Dak	I NA Lou + I NA Geo
Western North America	I NA Was	I NA Ida	I NA Was	I NA Was + I NA Ida	I NA Was + I NA Ida
European Biocontrol	EB INRA87	EB Biobest	EB Biotop	EB INRA87 + EB Biobest	EB INRA87 + EB Biotop
South America	I SA Cur	I SA Arg	I SA Gon	I SA Cur + I SA Arg	I SA Cur + I SA Gon
Europe	I EU Bel	I EU Cas	I EU Bou	I EU Bel + I EU Cas	I EU Bel + I EU Bou
Africa	I AF Som	I AF not	I AF Bet	I AF Som + I AF not	I AF Som + I AF bet

Sample names are as in Fig. 1 and Table S1 (Supporting information).

mutation rates among loci (Takezaki & Nei 1996). The robustness of the tree topology was evaluated by carrying out 1000 bootstrap replicates over all loci.

Definition and characterization of genetic units for ABC analyses

To define and characterize sensible genetic units for the subsequent ABC analyses, we first assessed the worldwide genetic structure of *H. axyridis*, with the widely used Bayesian clustering method implemented in STRUCTURE v2.3.3 software (Pritchard *et al.* 2000). We chose the admixture model with correlated allele frequencies, and we used the sampling location as prior information (Hubisz *et al.* 2009). We used default values for all the other parameters of the software. Each run consisted of a burn-in period of 10^5 Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) iterations, followed by 10^5 MCMC iterations. We analysed the whole data set, consisting of 47 site samples (totalling 1442 individuals) from both the native and invasive ranges of the species and from the five biocontrol strains. We carried out 20 replicate runs for each prior value of the number K of genetic clusters, set between 1 and 15. The STRUCTURE outputs were processed with CLUMPP (Jakobsson & Rosenberg 2007), using the LargeKGreedy algorithm, with 10 000 random permutations. A similarity coefficient (G' -statistic) $>90\%$ was used to assign groups of runs to a common clustering pattern, as proposed by Wang *et al.* (2007). The run with the highest likelihood pertaining to the most frequent clustering pattern at each K was used for plotting with DISTRUCT (Rosenberg 2004). It is worth-stressing that we used STRUCTURE with the aim of investigating various values of K and the sequence of differentiation when K increases, rather than to determinate the most likely number of clusters (cf. STRUCTURE is not well designed to estimate the most likely number of clusters; e.g. Waples

& Gaggiotti 2006). We, however, determined the highest level of genetic structure by the ΔK method (Evanno *et al.* 2005). Bayesian clustering methods are based on various and sometimes different model assumptions and are thus likely to yield different results (Box 1). We hence used the BAPS clustering method (Corander *et al.* 2003) as a complement to the STRUCTURE analysis. BAPS analyses were carried out on groups of individuals (i.e. site samples) rather than individuals, with more simple model assumptions (i.e. no admixture and uncorrelated allele frequencies), and at a different spatial scale (i.e. separate BAPS analyses were carried out for each continent independently). See Appendix S1 (Supporting information) for details. The cross-validation of the results obtained using both STRUCTURE and BAPS allowed us to define the final genetic units for the ABC analyses.

ABC-based inferences about invasion scenarios: overall methodology

We carried out two successive steps of ABC analyses to make inferences about the historical relationships among *H. axyridis* populations between and within the different invaded continents and the native area. It was not possible, in terms of computer capacity, to analyse all the target site samples (i.e. the site samples for which we want to know the origin) together with all the putative source site samples (Box 1). The populations considered in the ABC analyses therefore corresponded to the 15 genetic units identified by the combination of two Bayesian clustering methods (i.e. STRUCTURE and BAPS). All simulations and ABC analyses were carried out in DIYABC v2 software (Cornuet *et al.* 2014).

In all ABC analyses, the statistics used to summarize the data were those used by Lombaert *et al.* (2011).

These statistics are detailed in Appendix S2 (Supporting information). The ABC analyses were performed with historical, demographic and mutational parameter values drawn from the prior distributions defined from previous studies (Brown *et al.* 2011; Lombaert *et al.* 2011) and described in Table S2 (Supporting information), and by simulating 5×10^5 microsatellite data sets for each competing scenario. For each analysis, we estimated the posterior probabilities of the competing scenarios by polychotomous logistic regression (Cornuet *et al.* 2008) on the 1% of the simulated data sets closest to the observed data set. To substantially reduce the dimension of the set of explanatory variable, we used summary statistics transformed by linear discriminant analysis (LDA; Estoup *et al.* 2012). The selected scenario was that with the highest posterior probability value. When an admixed scenario was selected, we estimated the posterior distributions of the admixture rate parameter by local linear regression on the 1% of the 5×10^5 simulated data sets closest to the observed data set (Cornuet *et al.* 2008). The robustness and relevance of our inferences were assessed with methods based on the analysis of pseudo-observed simulated data sets (Cornuet *et al.* 2010; Robert *et al.* 2011): (i) type I error rate (risk to exclude the focal scenario when it is the true one) and type II error rate (risk to select the focal scenario when it is false) were calculated, to evaluate the robustness of scenario choice, and (ii) posterior model checking was performed on the final scenario of every analysis, to evaluate the goodness of fit between the inferred evolutionary history and the real data. These analyses are detailed in Appendix S2 (Supporting information).

First set of ABC analyses: origin of target genetic units

We first used eight relatively old and established genetic units (i.e. first observation of *H. axyridis* in 2001 or before) as a putative source of each of the 10 target genetic units analysed in this first set of ABC analyses (see Results section for more details about the description of the genetic units). The potential source genetic units included the two native genetic units (West and East) identified by Lombaert *et al.* (2011), the European biocontrol genetic unit and the ones associated with each of the five invasive site samples used in the previous studies by Lombaert *et al.* (2010, 2011) (see Fig. 1). In every analysis, we only used putative source genetic units observed before or, at the latest, in the same year as the target genetic unit. Because of the large number of genetic unit, we excluded any genetic unit from the same continent as a putative source in this first set of analyses for Europe, South America and Africa. The

earlier dates of first observation in North America allowed us, however, to include genetic units from the same continent in this specific area within the first set of analyses.

In all competing scenarios, an introduction event corresponds to a simple divergence event from a single or two (in case of an admixed origin) source genetic unit (s) followed by a period at low effective size (bottleneck event) predating a demographic stabilization at a higher effective size. Biocontrol genetic units are characterized by lower effective sizes compared to wild populations. No migration between any pair of genetic units was assumed. The competing scenarios only differ by the identity of the source(s) of the target introduced population. See Fig. S1 (Supporting information) for an illustration, Table S2 (Supporting information) for prior distributions and Appendix S2 (Supporting information) for additional details.

Second set of ABC analyses: relationships between target genetic units at the intracontinental scale

In the second set of ABC analyses, we defined specific competing invasion scenarios, to test the historical independence of two target genetic units from the same continent for which the same extra-continental sources were identified in the first set of ABC analyses. Our aim here was to determine whether the presence of several genetic units within a continent was due to multiple independent intercontinental introductions or to the secondary intracontinental foundation of these genetic units. See the results section and Appendix S2 (Supporting information) for details.

Consequences of using different sets of site samples for ABC inferences

We tested the impact on all our ABC inferences of using different samples to represent each of the target genetic units. We selected two site samples from each genetic unit. If at least three sites had been sampled for a given target genetic unit, we chose (i) the site sample having the lowest mean F_{ST} value with the other site samples from the same genetic unit (i.e. the 'most representative' site sample) and (ii) the one with the highest mean F_{ST} value (i.e. the 'least representative' site sample).

We also assessed the impact of using different sets of site samples within each source genetic unit. In a first sample set (referred to hereafter as the 'reference' set), we used the same site samples as in the study by Lombaert *et al.* (2011) (Table 1). In the second and third sample sets, we used the site samples displaying the highest and lowest F_{ST} values with the 'reference'

sample (as defined above) from the same predefined genetic unit, respectively. The second and third sample sets are thus referred to as the ‘high- F_{ST} ’ and ‘low- F_{ST} ’ sets, respectively. Finally, to evaluate the effect of pooling different samples from the same genetic unit, we tested two additional sets of source samples constructed by pooling two site samples together: the first set corresponded to the pooling of the ‘reference’ and ‘high- F_{ST} ’ site samples (hereafter referred to as the ‘pool-high- F_{ST} ’ set), and the second corresponded to the pooling of the ‘reference’ and ‘low- F_{ST} ’ site samples (hereafter referred to as the ‘pool-low- F_{ST} ’ set).

Overall, because we considered five different sample sets representing the different source genetic units (Table 1) to analyse 15 target site samples (from the 10 target genetic units; see Results section and Table 2), we performed a total of 75 independent analyses in the first set of ABC analyses (see Appendix S2, Supporting information for details). Likewise, the second set consisted of 10 independent analyses (see Results section and Table 3).

Results

Genetic variation and tree construction

The complete worldwide data set, including a total of 1442 individuals from 47 site samples (Table S1, Supporting information), displayed substantial polymorphism, with a mean of 14.94 alleles per locus, over all samples. Allelic richness (and heterozygosity H_e) ranged from 2.37 alleles per locus ($H_e = 0.20$) in a biocontrol sample (EB-INRA06) to 6.48 ($H_e = 0.56$) in a native sample (N-Japan1). See Fig. S2 (Supporting information) for a concise presentation of diversity measurements for each site sample.

We found statistically significant genotypic differentiation, in 1045 of a total of 1081 pairwise comparisons between site samples (Table S3, Supporting information). For 34 of the 36 pairs of site samples displaying no significant genotypic differentiation, both samples of the pair were located on the same continent. The two remaining pairs involved the Chilean sample (I-SA-Chi), which was not significantly different from two North American samples (I-NA-Geo and I-NA-Mic). As previously described by Lombaert *et al.* (2011), there was a low level of genetic differentiation in the native area, with a mean pairwise F_{ST} of 0.013. The level of genetic differentiation between all invasive samples was moderate, with a mean F_{ST} of 0.052. Within-continent mean F_{ST} values differed substantially: 0.004, 0.023, 0.040 and 0.091 for Africa, North America, Europe and South America, respectively. European biocontrol samples displayed a high degree of differentiation from all

feral (i.e. native and invasive) site samples (mean F_{ST} between biocontrol and feral samples = 0.219, Table S3, Supporting information), but the lowest F_{ST} values were systematically obtained with European invasive site samples.

In the unrooted NJ tree, the position of most of the site samples was geographically consistent (Fig. S3, Supporting information). Some distinctive and interesting patterns emerge from the tree (see legend of Fig. S3, Supporting information for details). However, the low bootstrap values at most tree nodes make it difficult to draw any robust conclusions about the relationships between the different groups observed in the tree.

Definition and characterization of genetic units for ABC analyses

STRUCTURE analyses of the worldwide *H. axyridis* data set yielded consistent results (i.e. low variance and high overall similarity coefficient) over the 20 runs tested, especially from $K = 1$ to $K = 5$. The natural logarithm of the likelihood of the data $\ln P(X|K)$ was highest for $K = 14$, but began to level off well before this K value was reached, and the ΔK statistic was higher for $K = 2$ (Fig. S4, Supporting information).

Detailed STRUCTURE clustering results (Fig. 2) gave qualitative outcomes consistent with F-statistics and NJ tree analyses and with previous knowledge about the invasion history of *H. axyridis* (Lombaert *et al.* 2010, 2011). European biocontrol samples were clearly differentiated from the Asian, American and African samples at $K = 2$, whereas most site samples from European invasive populations displayed admixture between the two clusters. This pattern is consistent with most European invasive populations being admixtures between European biocontrol and Eastern North America (ENA) clusters. This admixed origin was previously demonstrated with a single European sample from Belgium (I-EU-Bel, Lombaert *et al.* 2010). One notable exception is the sample from the south of France with a very high degree of ancestry from the biocontrol cluster (I-EU-Opi). The 3rd cluster (appearing at $K = 3$) distinguished between invasive ENA clusters from the native area and invasive Western North America (WNA) clusters and confirmed the link between the ENA outbreak and South America, Africa and Europe (e.g. Lombaert *et al.* 2010). A new cluster emerges in South America at $K = 4$ (except for the Chilean sample, which did not at any point differ significantly from ENA samples) and in Africa at $K = 6$. The 5th cluster distinguished WNA from the native area, and two admixed ENA/WNA samples could be identified (I-NA-Col and I-NA-Uta). Interestingly, the STRUCTURE pattern at $K = 5$ indicates a moderate to high level of WNA ancestry in Europe:

Table 2 Results of the first set of ABC analyses processed to make inferences about the origin of different target invasive genetic units

Continent	Target genetic unit	Target site sample	Number of scenarios	Most likely scenario (i.e. origin) when using different sets of samples representative of source genetic units (with its posterior probability)					Final selected scenario
				'Reference'	'High- F_{ST} '	'Low- F_{ST} '	'Pool-high- F_{ST} '	'Pool-low- F_{ST} '	
Africa	South	I-EU-Bet	28	ENA (0.55)	ENA (0.76)	ENA (0.70)	ENA (0.68)	ENA (0.77)	ENA (5/5)
	Africa	I-EU-Som	28	ENA (0.71)	ENA (0.64)	ENA (0.89)	ENA (0.73)	ENA (0.88)	ENA (5/5)
	Brazil	I-SA-Cur	28	ENA (0.41)	ENA + AF (0.49)	ENA + AF (0.42)	ENA (0.45)	ENA (0.44)	ENA (3/5)
South America	Argentina	I-SA-Gon	28	ENA (0.81)	ENA (0.40)	ENA (0.50)	ENA (0.77)	ENA (0.83)	ENA (5/5)
	Chile	I-SA-Arg	28	ENA (0.48)	WNA + AF (0.59)	ENA (0.57)	ENA + WNA (0.41)	ENA (0.43)	ENA (3/5)
	Western Europe	I-SA-Chi	28	ENA (0.51)	ENA (0.41)	ENA (0.58)	ENA (0.71)	ENA (0.71)	ENA (5/5)
Europe	Europe	I-EU-Bel	28	EBC + ENA (0.78)	EBC + ENA (0.51)	EBC + ENA (0.72)	EBC + ENA (0.65)	EBC + ENA (0.70)	EBC + ENA (5/5)
	South of France	I-EU-Cas	28	EBC + ENA (0.54)	EBC + AF (0.63)	EBC + ENA (0.76)	EBC + ENA (0.41)	EBC + ENA (0.79)	EBC + ENA (4/5)
	Italy	I-EU-Opi	28	EBC (0.88)	EBC + WNA (0.46)	EBC (0.72)	EBC (0.98)	EBC (0.97)	EBC (4/5)
North America	Utah	I-EU-Cun	28	WNA (0.69)	WNA (0.78)	WNA (0.72)	WNA (0.97)	WNA (0.90)	WNA (5/5)
	Colorado	I-EU-Ale	28	WNA (0.66)	WNA (0.58)	WNA (0.53)	WNA (0.75)	WNA (0.89)	WNA (5/5)
	Utah	I-EU-Hun	28	EBC + ENA (0.42)	EBC + ENA (0.44)	EBC + ENA (0.37)	EBC + SA (0.41)	EBC + ENA (0.54)	EBC + ENA (4/5)
North America	Utah	I-EU-Nor	28	ENat + EBC (0.24)	EBC + WNA (0.67)	EBC + WNA (0.50)	EBC + WNA (0.66)	EBC + WNA (0.55)	EBC + WNA (4/5)
	Utah	I-NA-Col	10	ENA + WNA (0.36)	ENA + WNA (0.83)	ENA + WNA (0.55)	ENA + WNA (0.77)	ENA + WNA (0.81)	ENA + WNA (5/5)
	Utah	I-NA-Uta	10	ENA + WNA (0.77)	ENA + WNA (0.42)	ENA + WNA (0.84)	ENA + WNA (0.68)	ENA + WNA (0.81)	ENA + WNA (5/5)

ENat, Eastern native area; ENA, Eastern North America; WNA, Western North America; SA, South America; AF, Africa; EBC, European Biocontrol

The most likely scenario [i.e. the source genetic unit(s)] with its posterior probability between brackets is given for each target invasive site sample (names as in Fig. 1 and Table S1). For each target site sample, the last column indicates the scenario that was found most frequently among the five ABC analyses (the frequency is given between brackets). More detailed results are provided in Table S4.

Table 3 Results of the second set of ABC analyses processed to make inferences about the intracontinental relationships between a subset of target invasive genetic unit

Continent (target genetic units)	Number of competing scenarios	Source sample set	Selected scenario	Posterior probability of selected scenario with 95% credibility intervals between brackets
South America (Brazil/Argentina/Chile)	5	'Reference'	Two independent ENA introductions: [Chile] + [Brazil, Argentina]	0.747 [0.733, 0.762]
		'High F_{ST}'	Two independent ENA introductions: [Chile] + [Brazil, Argentina]	0.788 [0.778, 0.798]
		'Low F_{ST}'	Two independent ENA introductions: [Chile] + [Brazil, Argentina]	0.692 [0.676, 0.708]
		'Pool high F_{ST}'	Two independent ENA introductions: [Chile] + [Brazil, Argentina]	0.877 [0.867, 0.886]
		'Pool low F_{ST}'	Two independent ENA introductions: [Chile] + [Brazil, Argentina]	0.674 [0.661, 0.688]
Europe (East Europe/West Europe/Italy)	4	'Reference'	Two independent WNA introductions: [East Europe] + [Italy]/One ENA introduction: [West Europe]	0.521 [0.510, 0.532]
		'High F_{ST}'	Two independent WNA introductions: [East Europe] + [Italy]/One ENA introduction: [West Europe]	0.737 [0.724, 0.749]
		'Low F_{ST}'	Two independent WNA introductions: [East Europe] + [Italy]/One ENA introduction: [West Europe]	0.508 [0.498, 0.518]
		'Pool high F_{ST}'	Two independent WNA introductions: [East Europe] + [Italy]/One ENA introduction: [West Europe]	0.524 [0.507, 0.542]
		'Pool low F_{ST}'	Two independent WNA introductions: [East Europe] + [Italy]/One ENA introduction: [West Europe]	0.646 [0.634, 0.657]

ENA, Eastern North America; WNA, Western North America. See main text (Methods sections) and Table 1 for details regarding the different source sample sets.

high in Italy and moderate in several of the most Eastern site samples. The genetic structuring of the native area into two clusters (previously identified by Lombaert *et al.* 2011) appeared at $K = 8$. Finally, a last cluster corresponding to the invasive Italian site samples appeared at $K = 9$.

The results of the intracontinental BAPS clustering analyses were similar to those of the STRUCTURE analyses (Appendix S1, Supporting information). The main, but slight, differences were the clearer East/West geographic pattern in Europe with BAPS and the identification as genetic unit of the I-NA-Col site sample in North America with STRUCTURE. Capitalizing on the above STRUCTURE and BAPS results, we grouped the 47 site samples into 15 genetic units for ABC analyses: two in Asia, four in North America, three in South America, one in South Africa, four in Europe and one European biocontrol (see Fig. 2). We then defined the 8 source and 10 target genetic units as well as the various sample sets used in the ABC analyses (see Table 1, Table 2 and Appendix S2, Supporting information).

First set of ABC analyses: origin of target genetic units

The results of this first set of ABC analyses are summarized in Table 2 (see more detailed results in Table S4, Supporting information). We provide here the posterior probabilities of competing scenarios estimated on the 1% of the simulated data sets closest to the observed data set, but results using another threshold of 0.5% were qualitatively identical (results not shown). Our evaluation of confidence in scenario choice for three ABC analyses (Appendix S2, Supporting information) revealed moderately high type I errors (0.39, 0.20 and 0.13, Table S5, Supporting information), but markedly low mean type II errors (0.035, 0.051 and 0.014, Table S5, Supporting information), suggesting that our model choice analyses were reliable overall. To check the adequacy of the chosen evolutionary scenarios and associated posterior distributions of parameters to the data, we performed model checking analyses. They indicated that the data simulated under the chosen model and

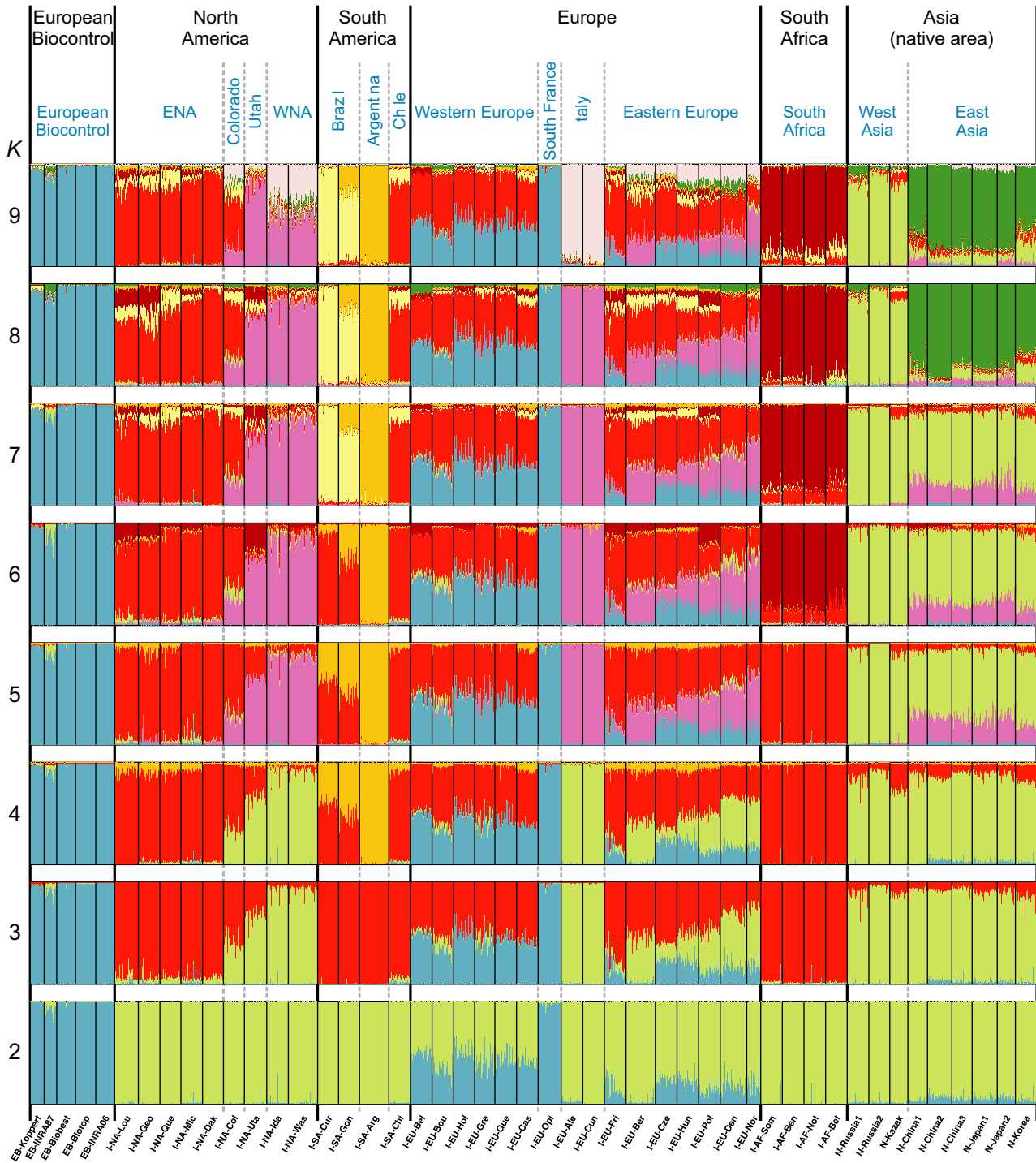


Fig. 2 Genetic clustering of the site samples of *Harmonia axyridis*.

Note: Ancestry estimation based on the Bayesian individual clustering method implemented in STRUCTURE is given for $K = 2-9$ genetic clusters (left). Each vertical line represents an individual and each colour represents a genetic cluster. Individuals are grouped by site sample (names at the bottom of the figure are as in Fig. 1 and Table S1, Supporting information). The black text at the top of the figure groups the samples by continent. The blue text at the top of the figure represents the fifteen final genetic units defined from both STRUCTURE and BAPS (see Appendix S1, Supporting information) analyses and thereafter used in the ABC analyses.

posteriors fitted well the observed genetic data for *H. axyridis* (Table S6, Supporting information).

All ABC analyses for the African target genetic unit gave similar results, regardless of the samples used as the target or source populations: the ENA genetic unit was unambiguously the source of the African genetic unit (Table 2). The results were less clear-cut for the three South American target genetic units. However, an ENA origin was considered to be the most likely scenario overall for each target genetic unit (i.e. Chile, Brazil and Argentina; Table 2). We obtained a small number of discrepant results for the I-SA-Cur and I-SA-Arg target samples, probably due to the high type I error risks associated with other scenarios. For example, we considered the Brazilian sample I-SA-Cur to have probably originated from the ENA genetic unit, despite two of the five ABC analyses indicating possible admixture between the ENA and African genetic units. This admixture scenario is genealogically similar to the simpler scenario of an ENA origin, because the African genetic unit itself originates from the ENA genetic unit (Table 2). It is therefore not surprising that the observed posterior probabilities were rather low (below 0.5) and similar for the three most likely scenarios in this case (Table S4, Supporting information). Moreover, analyses of the I-SA-Gon sample, from the same Brazilian genetic unit, systematically suggested an ENA origin (Table 2). Similar arguments led us to draw the same conclusion (i.e. an ENA origin) for the Argentinian genetic unit represented by the I-SA-Arg sample.

Three of the four European target genetic units gave clear-cut ABC results (Table 2) consistent with NJ and STRUCTURE analyses (Fig. S3, Supporting information and Fig. 2). We found that the WNA genetic unit was the source of the Italian target genetic unit (I-EU-Ale and I-EU-Cun samples), whereas the south of France genetic unit (I-EU-Opi) was probably directly derived from the European biocontrol strain. Finally, the two samples used to determine the origin of the Western European genetic unit (I-EU-Bel and I-EU-Cas) clearly suggested a scenario involving an admixture between the ENA genetic unit and the European biocontrol strain. By contrast, the ABC analyses of the two samples representing the Eastern European genetic unit (I-EU-Hun and I-EU-Nor) gave different results. Depending on the target sample and the putative source sample set, various admixture scenarios (involving the Eastern native, ENA, WNA, South American or European biocontrol genetic units) were selected, often with low to moderate posterior probabilities (Table 2). This makes it difficult to draw any firm conclusions about this specific invasive genetic unit at this point. The possibility of admixture between three different sources (ENA, WNA and European Biocontrol) suggested by the STRUCTURE

analyses (e.g. $K = 7$; Fig. 2) was not tested formally in these ABC analyses.

Regarding the two North American target genetic units (i.e. the I-NA-Col and I-NA-Uta samples), we obtained the highest posterior probability for an admixture scenario, with the ENA and WNA genetic units as parental sources, regardless of the set of site samples used as putative sources. This finding is consistent with the observed NJ tree topology (Fig. S3, Supporting information) and STRUCTURE results (Fig. 2). ABC estimates of the genetic contribution (i.e. admixture rate) of the ENA parental source were also consistent with geographic patterns (Fig. 1), as we obtained a higher rate for the more eastern Colorado sample I-NA-Col (mean of 71% over the five ABC analyses) than for the more western Utah sample I-NA-Uta (mean of 36% over the five ABC analyses), with almost nonoverlapping distributions of admixture rates between the two site samples.

Second set of ABC analyses: relationships between target genetic units at the intracontinental scale

As mentioned above, the invasion histories of South America and Eastern Europe remained unclear. The first set of ABC analyses indicated that all three South American target genetic units had the ENA genetic unit as their source. We investigated whether these target genetic units were established independently from the ENA source genetic unit (i.e. two or three ENA introductions into South America) or whether their establishment was not independent (i.e. a single ENA introduction responsible for all the South American genetic units), by defining a second set of ABC analyses including five competing scenarios (see Appendix S2, Supporting information for details). Whatever the set of source samples used, we found that the Chilean genetic unit was independent of the other two South American genetic units (Argentina and Brazil). By contrast, the South American genetic units from Argentina and Brazil both originated from the same introduction event from the ENA source genetic unit (Table 3). The low type I and II error rates indicated that this result was robust (Table S5, Supporting information) and there was a good fit between the model and the observed data (see model checking analyses summarized in Table S7, Supporting information). This scenario is consistent with the observed NJ tree topology (Fig. S3, Supporting information) and with STRUCTURE results (e.g. Argentina and Brazil appeared to be associated with the same private cluster at $K = 4$; Fig. 2). Thus, the *H. axyridis* populations in South America originated from two independent introductions from Eastern North America.

The first set of ABC analyses and the STRUCTURE analyses indicated that several genetic units within Europe may have originated from similar sources. In particular, the Italian and Eastern European genetic units both have a WNA origin (at least partially for the Eastern European genetic units), whereas the Western and Eastern European genetic units both originate at least partly from the ENA and biocontrol genetic units. We defined a second set of ABC analyses with four competing scenarios, corresponding to all the possible combinations of one single or two independent introductions from ENA and WNA (see Appendix S2, Supporting information for details). Whatever the set of putative source samples used, we found that a single introduction from ENA and two independent introductions from WNA were involved in Europe (Table 3). However, despite a good fit between the selected scenario and the data (model checking analyses, Table S7, Supporting information), type I and type II error rates were found to be high (0.400 and 0.136, respectively; Table S5, Supporting information), suggesting that these results should be interpreted with caution.

Discussion

New insights into the worldwide population structure and invasion routes of H. axyridis

Previous population genetic studies of the highly invasive species *H. axyridis* have focused on a limited num-

ber of site samples. In their study, Lombaert *et al.* (2011) used a total of 19 site samples, only five of which were sampled from invaded areas. Here, we have added another 28 invasive site samples, increasing the number of individuals from 561 to 1442. Through this major additional sampling effort and the use of different methodological tools, we provide new insight into the worldwide spatial structure and invasion routes of *H. axyridis* populations (summarized in Fig. 3).

North America was the first continent to be invaded, with two independent introductions from the Asian native area (Lombaert *et al.* 2010), one in the East, first observed in 1988 (ENA outbreak), and one in the West, first observed in 1991 (WNA outbreak). *H. axyridis* has since spread throughout North America and is now present in almost all states and jurisdictions of the USA, Canada and Mexico (Koch *et al.* 2006; Brown *et al.* 2011). Our survey of the genetic structure of North American *H. axyridis* populations is highly consistent with a spatial expansion of these two initial invasive populations, with no additional introduction event. A contact zone between both outbreaks with substantial genetic admixture was identified in Utah and Colorado. This result is consistent with historical spatial establishment data for this species in North America (Koch *et al.* 2006) and raises new unresolved questions about the evolutionary and practical consequences of such genetic admixture between two already successful invasive populations.

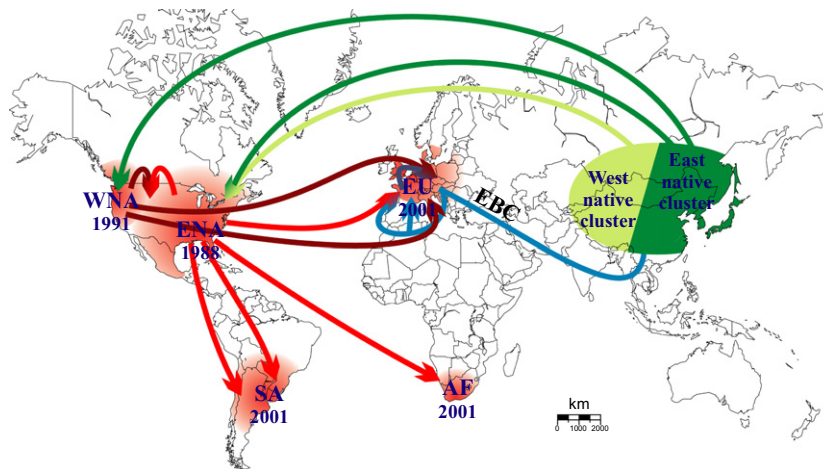


Fig. 3 Worldwide invasion scenario of *Harmonia axyridis*.

Note: Most likely scenario of invasions of *H. axyridis* into Eastern North America (ENA), Western North America (WNA), South America (SA), Europe (EU) and Africa (AF) deduced from a set of complementary population genetics analyses. For each outbreak, the arrow indicates the most likely invasion pathway. Bicolour arrows indicate admixture events. Years of first observation of invasive populations are indicated for each continent. Initially collected from the native area in 1982, the European biocontrol strain (EBC) is represented by a blue arrow. The ranges of the two native genetic units are roughly drawn and coloured in clear and dark green. The invasion routes of the most early WNA and ENA outbreaks were inferred by Lombaert *et al.* (2011).

The previously identified predominant role of North America in the worldwide invasion was confirmed by our results. We found that the Eastern North America (ENA) outbreak was the probable source of at least four introductions into other continents. One ENA introduction was responsible for the African outbreak. In South America, ladybirds from the ENA outbreak have independently founded at least two invasive populations. The population found in Brazil/Argentina has been described before (Lombaert *et al.* 2010), but the Chilean invasive population was found to have originated from a second independent introduction from ENA never before described. The previously described introduction of ENA propagules into the Western part of Europe (Belgium, France, Holland) followed by admixture with the European biocontrol strain (Lombaert *et al.* 2010) was confirmed by our analyses. We found that the Western North America (WNA) population was the source of at least two independent introductions in Europe. One of these introductions led to the establishment of a feral population in northern Italy, whereas the second probably resulted in admixture with the Western European invasive population in the more recently invaded eastern and northern parts of the continent (Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Denmark, Norway). The inferred history of this species in Eastern Europe should be considered with caution, as indicated by the high type II error rates (Table S5, Supporting information) and the greater heterogeneity of STRUCTURE Q-plots than for all other target genetic units (Fig. 2). Additional introduction events may have been involved in this area. Further analyses with additional competing scenarios, samples and/or markers are required for a finer assessment of the invasion history of *H. axyridis* in Eastern Europe.

We identified a single population in southeast of France that appeared to have originated exclusively from the European biocontrol (EBC) strain introduced into Europe in 1982. At first sight, this is surprising, because EBC individuals have long been thought to be unable to survive in the wild (Ferran *et al.* 1997; Turgeon *et al.* 2011). This feral population was first observed in 2005 in the town of Opio (France), in an area in which many attempts at introduction for biocontrol purposes occurred in the 1990s. *H. axyridis* has since repeatedly been observed in this area, in which it appears to have established a feral population. This population does not seem to have expanded spatially, unlike most of the other known *H. axyridis* outbreaks. This locally established population attests to the ability of the European biocontrol strain to found small overwintering populations in the wild, in an area with clement winters. It may also account for this species occasionally being recorded in France for brief periods during the 1990s, before the

introduction and expansion of the highly invasive Eastern North America population (Brown *et al.* 2008).

Two invasive bridgehead populations and several genetic admixture situations

The identification of bridgehead populations is of prime importance in the understanding of the evolutionary processes at work during a successful invasion. As a matter of fact, the invasive bridgehead scenario is evolutionary parsimonious (Estoup & Guillemaud 2010; Guillemaud *et al.* 2011): a single evolutionary shift in a single introduced population (the bridgehead) is required, whereas multiple changes are required in the case of multiple introduced populations, which must independently evolve traits conferring invasiveness. From an evolutionary biology perspective, the invasive bridgehead scenario is thus fundamentally different from scenarios in which the invasive populations originate directly from the native area, and this will have important consequences for the understanding of the whole story as well as for the prediction of the future distribution of the species. Our results highlight the complexity of the worldwide invasion history of *H. axyridis* with the identification of two independent bridgehead invasive populations which have been the source of at least six successful secondary introductions on three other continents. The findings reported here confirm the previously described bridgehead status of the ENA *H. axyridis* population (Lombaert *et al.* 2010), but the role of the WNA population as a second bridgehead population was previously unknown. After several attempts at the acclimation of *H. axyridis* for biocontrol purposes during the 20th century (Krafsur *et al.* 1997), the WNA and ENA outbreaks correspond to the only two populations known to have been established from the native area and to have spread. The eco-evolutionary characteristics of the ENA outbreak have been studied in detail (e.g. Labrie *et al.* 2006; Facon *et al.* 2011; Turgeon *et al.* 2011; Tayeh *et al.* 2012, 2013), whereas those of the WNA outbreak have yet to be investigated. Comparisons of the life history traits of the two North American bridgehead populations with those of noninvasive populations (native or biocontrol populations) might prove a fruitful source of knowledge about the respective role of adaptation and chance in invasion success. It would be particularly interesting to determine whether the deleterious alleles that contribute to inbreeding depression have been purged in the WNA population, as in the ENA population (Facon *et al.* 2011).

Genetic admixture events between differentiated sources are known to play a crucial role in shaping the levels of genetic variation in introduced populations.

They can produce new recombinant genotypes, counter-balance bottlenecks and promote high levels of genetic diversity (e.g. Kolbe *et al.* 2004; Bossdorf *et al.* 2005). They may also directly increase or decrease the mean fitness of individuals in a population, depending on the importance of both genetic load and local adaptations (Lynch 1991; Edmands 1999; Rius & Darling 2014). Admixture has therefore been identified as one of the key factors underlying invasion success, through its effects on the process of adaptation following establishment (Wares *et al.* 2005; Facon *et al.* 2006; Keller & Taylor 2008; Rius & Darling 2014). In this study, we identified several situations of genetic admixture in North America and Europe (Fig. 3). Besides, the ENA outbreak was previously shown to have probably originated from admixture between the two native genetic units (Lombaert *et al.* 2011). Other admixture events have probably already occurred or will occur in the near future, due to the presence of several expanding independent outbreaks on several continents, such as South America and Europe. It has been shown that the ENA propagules introduced into Western Europe may have benefited from admixture with the European biocontrol strain (Turgeon *et al.* 2011). On the other hand, no heterosis or outbreeding depression has been observed in laboratory crosses between individuals from various invasive *H. axyridis* populations (Tayeh *et al.* 2013). However, the full consequences of admixture in the wild remain to be explored, and the involvement of the WNA population in several admixture situations in North America and Europe has not yet been investigated.

Various methods providing congruent and complementary results

Despite the impressive complexity of the inferred invasion routes, most of the population genetics methods that we used provided congruent results. Basic measurements and representations of genetic variation within and between samples (e.g. allelic richness, F_{ST} , NJ tree) and the use of Bayesian clustering methods implemented in STRUCTURE or BAPS software provided a first set of meaningful qualitative insights into the invasion routes of *H. axyridis*. Clustering methods also made it possible to classify samples into sensible genetic units. The subsequent use of ABC methods then made it possible to carry out rigorous tests for evolutionary relationships between these predefined genetic units. We argue that the combined use of several methods, as in this study, is crucial, given the known difficulties in making robust inferences about complex genetic structure from data for a large set of site samples (e.g. Evanno *et al.* 2005; Waples & Gaggiotti 2006; Kalinowski 2011).

ABC is a powerful method, but it can give questionable results if misused. It is important therefore to check the quality of the results obtained thoroughly (Bertorelle *et al.* 2010; Cornuet *et al.* 2010; Robert *et al.* 2011). Our estimates of type II and to a lesser extent type I error rates in several ABC analyses suggest that, overall, we had sufficient power to discriminate between the sets of scenarios studied. Interestingly, we found that, despite the robustness of our first set of ABC analyses, the choice of data sets for the analysis did, in some cases, affect the selection of the most likely scenario. This was particularly true for analyses of the origin of the Eastern European genetic unit, and to a lower extent for analyses focusing on the population genetic units of Brazil, Argentina, Western Europe and the south of France. However, in all the replicate analyses carried out, a single scenario predominated, and this scenario was, in each case, consistent with previous population genetics analyses. Closer analysis of the cases in which the 'wrong scenario' was selected indicated that type I errors may have been responsible for these incorrect selections. For example, when the ENA-origin scenario was simulated for the analysis of the Brazilian site sample I-SA-Cur, most of the type I errors (the overall type I error was 0.39, Table S5, Supporting information) were associated with a scenario identifying the source as the African genetic unit (the type I error associated with this scenario was 0.19) or an admixture between the ENA and African genetic units (the type I error associated with this scenario was 0.07). Consistent with these findings, these two scenarios were those systematically presenting the highest posterior probabilities, together with the ENA-origin scenario, in analyses of real data sets (Table S4, Supporting information), leading to erroneous conclusions in some cases. We hence show here that the choice of site samples can have non-negligible consequences for the conclusions drawn from a single ABC analysis. The common practice of pooling-differentiated site samples may also give misleading results, as illustrated by the erroneous result obtained with the 'pool-high- F_{ST} ' sample set for analysis of the invasion history of the Argentinian sample I-SA-Arg (Table 2). We argue that, besides standard quality controls based on the analysis of pseudo-observed data sets, the use of different sample sets and comparisons of the results obtained represent a sensible solution to minimize the misinterpretation of ABC analyses.

Conclusion

This study shows that multiple invasion bridgeheads, introductions and admixtures have served as corner-

stone events in the invasion history of *H. axyridis*. This further strengthens the idea that such processes might be of general importance in invasion successes. The actual invasion history of *H. axyridis* may be even more complex than that inferred here. Although intensive, our sampling scheme remains incomplete, and we therefore cannot exclude the possibility of other as yet unelucidated introduction events. Overall, our findings confirm that accidental introductions have probably played a major role in the current distribution of *H. axyridis* (Koch 2003; Brown *et al.* 2011), as the invasion history described here does not correspond to knowledge of the history of biocontrol attempts. Our findings also show that this species is a very good model for exploring the role of multiple introduction and admixture events in the evolutionary potential of invasive species and the potential occurrence of evolutionary and/or environmental shifts in bridgehead populations (Wares *et al.* 2005; Facon *et al.* 2006). Finally, from a broader methodological perspective, this study highlights the importance of coupling ABC methods with more traditional approaches and suggests that carrying out independent ABC analyses on several sample sets, when possible, constitutes a complementary approach to standard quality controls based on the analysis of pseudo-observed data sets, to minimize erroneous model choices and conclusions.

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Data accessibility

Sampling locations and microsatellite data: Dryad doi:10.5061/dryad.80kg5.

Supporting information

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

Appendix S1 Analyses of *Harmonia axyridis* genetic structure with the clustering method implemented in BAPS.

Appendix S2 Retracing the routes of invasion using approximate Bayesian computation (ABC): a methodological guideline.

Fig. S1 Graphic representation of four ABC scenarios among the 28 compared to infer the origin of the Western European target genetic unit.

Fig. S2 Genetic diversity in the biocontrol, invasive and native site sample of *Harmonia axyridis*.

Fig. S3 Neighbor joining tree for the studied *Harmonia axyridis* site samples based on the distance of Cavalli Sforza & Edwards (1967, *American Journal of Human Genetics*, 19:233–257).

Fig. S4 Likelihood of the multilocus genetic data as a function of the number of genetic clusters among all 47 site samples of *Harmonia axyridis*.

Table S1 Biocontrol, invasive and native site samples of *Harmonia axyridis*.

Table S2 Prior distributions of demographic, historical and genetic parameters used in all ABC analyses processed to retrace the worldwide routes of invasion of *H. axyridis*.

Table S3 Pairwise estimates of F_{ST} between all pairs of *Harmonia axyridis* site samples.

Table S4 Detailed results of the first set of ABC analyses processed to make inferences about the origin of invasive genetic units.

Table S5 Evaluation of confidence in scenario selection using ABC.

Table S6 Model checking results for the first set of ABC analyses (i.e. origin of invasive genetic units)

Table S7 Model checking results for the second set of ABC analyses (i.e. intracontinental relationship between target invasive genetic units).