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1 **Evolutionary rate and genetic load in an emblematic Mediterranean tree**
2 **following an ancient and prolonged population collapse**

3

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22

23 **Abstract**

24 Severe bottlenecks significantly diminish the amount of genetic diversity and the speed
25 at which it accumulates (i.e. evolutionary rate). They further compromise the efficiency
26 of natural selection to eliminate deleterious variants, which may reach fixation in the
27 surviving populations. Consequently, expanding and adapting to new environments may
28 pose a significant challenge when strong bottlenecks result in genetic pauperization.
29 Herein, we surveyed the patterns of nucleotide diversity, molecular adaptation and
30 genetic load across 177 gene-loci in a circum-Mediterranean conifer (*Pinus pinea* L.) that
31 represents one of the most extreme cases of genetic pauperization in widespread
32 outbreeding taxa. We found very little genetic variation in both hypervariable nuclear
33 microsatellites (SSRs) and gene-loci, which translated into genetic diversity estimates
34 one order of magnitude lower than those previously reported for pines. Such values
35 were consistent with a strong population decline that began some ~ 1 Ma. Comparisons
36 with the related and parapatric maritime pine (*Pinus pinaster* Ait.) revealed reduced
37 rates of adaptive evolution (α and ω_a) and a significant accumulation of genetic load. It is
38 unlikely that these are the result from differences in mutation rate or linkage
39 disequilibrium between the two species; instead they are the presumable outcome of
40 contrasting demographic histories affecting both the speed at which these taxa
41 accumulate genetic diversity, and the global efficacy of selection. Future studies, and
42 programs for conservation and management, should thus start testing for the effects of
43 genetic load on fitness, and integrating such effects into predictive models.

44

45 **Introduction**

46 Evolutionary rate, the speed at which genetic diversity accumulates within a species'
47 genome, depends on both the rate at which mutations appear, and the likelihood that
48 they reach fixation (Charlesworth et al. 1995; Eyre-Walker and Keightley 2007;
49 Charlesworth 2009). This likelihood is conditioned by each mutation's effect on fitness,
50 and stochastic processes that may eliminate them. Consequently, evolution (and
51 adaptation) indirectly relies on species' biological features like population size (or its
52 change over time), migration rate and mating system, which condition both the efficacy
53 of selection and the extent of genetic drift (e.g. Charlesworth 2009; Chen et al. 2017). For
54 instance, deleterious mutations accumulate at very low frequencies in large populations
55 (often in heterozygous states), while they can more easily reach fixation in smaller
56 populations, because of a diminished efficiency of purifying selection (Charlesworth et
57 al. 1993; Eyre-Walker and Keightley 2007). Similarly, advantageous variants may
58 increase in frequency at faster rates in large populations or under elevated gene flow
59 regimes, than in smaller or isolated stands, where they can disappear through the effect
60 of drift (Charlesworth and Eyre-Walker 2007; Eyre-Walker and Keightley 2009).

61 The consequences of drastic population size reductions on the efficacy of selection
62 and the accumulation of genetic load (the reduction of mean fitness in a population
63 caused by deleterious variation relative to a mutation-free population) are thus
64 fundamental aspects of population genetics (e.g. Kimura et al. 1968; Ohta 1992; Gillespie
65 2001). They are also of high interest in current conservation, domestication,
66 improvement and clinical genetics projects (e.g. Marsden et al. 2016; Robinson et al.
67 2016; Pedersen et al. 2017). Theory predicts that neutral variation accumulates
68 proportionally to mutation rate, and independently of population size (Lanfear et al.
69 2014). As a result, the (neutral) evolutionary rate of population/species should not be

70 affected after a bottleneck if mutation rate remains unchanged. However, a negative
71 relationship is expected between the accumulation of deleterious mutations and
72 population size, with larger populations/species purging more efficiently
73 disadvantageous variants than smaller ones (e.g. Chen et al. 2017). Consequently,
74 comparing how different sorts of mutations (neutral vs. putatively deleterious)
75 accumulate in populations/species with contrasting demography may be used as a
76 proxy for inferring adaptive evolutionary rates (e.g. Böndel et al. 2015; González-
77 Martínez et al. 2017; Grivet et al. 2017).

78 Some studies (e.g. Balloux and Lehmann 2012; Wei et al. 2015) have nevertheless
79 suggested that mutation rate can also be affected by demographic fluctuations,
80 particularly when generations overlap, as in most long-lived taxa, including mammals
81 and forest trees. While such a possibility may flaw the comparisons above, other authors
82 have claimed that it is the generation time that is affected by demographic changes,
83 rather than mutation rate itself (Lanfear et al. 2014). A recent empirical survey on two
84 pines with contrasting demography, and similar generation times and life-history traits,
85 (Grivet et al. 2017) pointed in that direction, as it reports no differences in the rate of
86 evolution between these taxa.

87 Forest trees are reputed for their resilience to stochastic processes, particularly those
88 derived from population size changes (Petit and Hampe 2006). They have long
89 generation times, extensive gene flow and large reproductive output over the years,
90 which, combined with strong selective pressures at early life stages, reduce the impact
91 of inbreeding depression and maintains (ancestral) genetic diversity (e.g. Ledig et al.
92 2000). On the other hand, such features also result in a lowered accumulation of
93 mutations per unit of time, which suggests a slow recovering of molecular genetic
94 variation after a strong and prolonged bottleneck (Lanfear et al. 2014; Jaramillo-Correa

95 et al. 2015a). Interestingly, these features can also make them more impermeable to the
96 accumulation of genetic load and favour the spread of new advantageous mutations
97 (Petit and Hampe 2006; Lanfear et al. 2014).

98 Stone pine (*Pinus pinea* L.) is an emblematic Mediterranean tree that has been
99 associated to humans for thousands of years. For instance, fatty acids related to stone
100 pine nuts have been identified in calculus from hominid teeth remnants more than 300
101 ka old (Hardy et al. 2015), and charcoal fragments assigned to stone pine have been
102 reported in several human settlements dating back to the last ~50 ka (Prada et al. 1997;
103 Badal 1998; Carrión et al. 2008). Archaeological evidence indicates that this species has
104 been cultivated for over 6,000 years (Prada et al. 1997; Pérez-Jordà et al. 2017), and its
105 nuts have been traded since the Phoenician civilization (i.e. 3,500 BP; Wilcox 1977;
106 Popova and Hristova 2017). Stone pine is thus considered an archaeophyte (i.e. a species
107 distinguished by unrecorded early man introductions) currently distributed around the
108 whole Mediterranean basin, where it forms small populations growing on different
109 types of soil, from the sea level up to 1,000 meters (Richardson 1998). Despite this
110 distribution, stone pine is one of the most genetically depauperate outbreeding plants in
111 the world, with virtually no genetic variation at allozyme or chloroplast microsatellite
112 loci (Fallour et al. 1997; Vendramin et al. 2008). These features make stone pine an ideal
113 model for testing hypotheses related to evolutionary rate changes and the accumulation
114 of genetic load after strong and prolonged bottlenecks.

115 Herein, we collected nuclear microsatellite and DNA sequence data to estimate more
116 accurately the genomic diversity of stone pine and infer its demographic history. For
117 comparison, we used data available for the parapatric sister taxon maritime pine (*Pinus*
118 *pinaster* Ait.), which inhabits similar environments but has much higher amounts of
119 genetic diversity (Bucci et al. 2007; Jaramillo-Correa et al. 2015b; Grivet et al. 2017). We

120 then determined the accumulation of putatively neutral and deleterious genetic
121 variation since its divergence from maritime pine, by using the distantly related (and
122 native to North America) loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda* L.) as outgroup. We inferred various
123 evolutionary parameters by taking into account both the shared and exclusive portion of
124 genetic variation to each taxon. We hypothesized that the low effective population size
125 of stone pine resulted in a diminished evolutionary rate and in higher genetic load when
126 compared to maritime pine. However, such values should be different from those
127 expected under a simple bottleneck model with no selection. That is, we expected that
128 purifying selection have managed to purge most of the deleterious part of the genetic
129 load and allowed for the retention of some advantageous variants in stone pine (i.e. the
130 number of fixed adaptive mutations should be different from zero).

131

132 **Materials and Methods**

133 *Sampling, genotyping and sequencing*

134 Two datasets were used to infer demographic and population genetic patterns in stone
135 pine. First, nuclear microsatellite (nuSSR) data were obtained for 735 individuals from
136 33 populations distributed along the species range (Fig. 1A; Table S1). Sample size per
137 population varied between 16 and 30 individuals; all of which were at least 50 m apart.
138 DNA was extracted from foliage using DNeasy Plant Mini Kits (QIAGEN, Valencia, CA,
139 USA) and amplified using stone pine specific primers for 13 nuSSRs. Primer sequences
140 and PCR conditions are described in Pinzauti et al. (2012). PCR amplification was carried
141 out in a GeneAmp PCR 9700 thermal-cycler (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, California,
142 USA), and PCR products were separated in an ABI 3130xl automatic sequencer (Applied
143 Biosystems). Electrophoregrams were scored using GeneMapper version 4.0 (Applied
144 Biosystems).

145 Second, DNA sequences for 264 gene loci originally identified on loblolly pine were
146 obtained for 12 individuals from as many populations dispersed across the full species'
147 range (Fig. 1A; Table S1). Sanger resequencing was performed on haploid seed
148 megagametophytes, which allows for direct phase inference and identification of co-
149 amplified gene paralogs. DNA sequences were visually checked and manually edited
150 with SEQUENCHER 4.7 (Gene Codes Corporation, Ann Arbor, MI, USA). Low-quality
151 sequences and those exhibiting double peaks (indicative of paralog co-amplification)
152 were removed, which resulted in a final dataset of 177 gene loci scattered over most
153 pine chromosomes (see Westbrook et al. 2015; Plomion et al. 2016), and covering up to
154 56 Kbp. The retained sequences were aligned with their maritime pine and loblolly pine
155 orthologs, and annotated from homology with EST contigs from the last species and the
156 NCBI reference protein database using GENEIOUS version 6.1 (Biomatters, Auckland, New
157 Zealand).

158

159 *Genetic diversity and population structure*

160 For nuSSR data, standard genetic diversity statistics were estimated for each population
161 using GENALEX version 6.503+ (Peakall and Smouse 2006). These included the mean (A)
162 and effective (A_e) number of alleles, the number of private alleles, and the observed (H_0)
163 and expected (H_E) heterozygosity, from which F -statistics were computed with FSTAT
164 (Goudet 2002). Deviations from Hardy-Weinberg (H-W) expectations and linkage
165 disequilibrium between loci were also evaluated with GENALEX. Only one locus
166 ($pEST2669$) showed deviations from H-W in over 70% of the populations and was
167 removed from all analyses. No linkage between pairs of loci was systematically
168 observed. Population clustering and differentiation were evaluated using a principal
169 coordinates analysis (PCoA, performed with GENALEX; Peakall and Smouse 2006), and

170 with Bayesian software STRUCTURE (Pritchard et al. 2000). For the latter analysis, ten
171 runs of 1,000,000 iterations of an admixture model with correlated allele frequencies
172 and no priors on population locations were performed for K -values ranging from 1 to 13,
173 after a burn-in period of 500,000 steps. Convergence among runs with the same K -value
174 was verified using CLUMPP (Jakobsson and Rosenberg 2007), and the most plausible
175 number of clusters was determined in STRUCTURE HARVESTER (Earl and von Holdt 2011)
176 following Evanno et al. (2005) and Janes et al. (2017).

177 For the DNA sequence dataset, standard diversity estimates, such as the number of
178 segregating sites (S) and haplotypes (h), π (Nei and Li 1979) and Watterson's θ_w
179 (Watterson 1975) were calculated using DnaSP v.6 (Rozas et al. 2017) for all sites, and
180 separately for synonymous and non-synonymous sites. In addition, the pairwise
181 divergence (D_{xy}) from loblolly pine was computed together with the number of
182 synonymous substitutions per synonymous site (K_s) and of non-synonymous
183 substitutions per non-synonymous site (K_a), both using the Jukes-Cantor correction. To
184 ease some of the demographic and genetic-load inferences below, the two last
185 parameters (K_s and K_a) were also determined between maritime and loblolly pines.
186 Sequence alignments were also used to separate divergence counts into those that were
187 exclusive to each maritime and stone pines (i.e. that arose after their divergence), and
188 those that were shared between these two taxa (i.e. that appeared before their split but
189 after the separation from their common ancestor with loblolly pine).

190 191 *Phylogeny and demographic inferences*

192 The phylogenetic relationships and divergence times between stone, maritime and
193 loblolly pines were co-inferred from a random subset of 50 gene-sequence alignments.
194 This subset was selected to reduce computing time and facilitate convergence among

195 partitions and runs. First, the best-fit gene partition, with the corresponding molecular
196 evolution models, was selected based on a Bayesian Information Criterion with
197 PARTITIONFINDER 1.1 (Lanfear et al. 2012) using linked branch lengths and a greedy
198 algorithm. Then, phylogenies were inferred using the Bayesian framework implemented
199 in BEAST v1.7 (Drummond et al. 2013) by assuming a *log*-normal relaxed molecular clock
200 and specifying *log*-normal-distributed priors for the parameters, and a Calibrated Yule
201 model for the tree. Following previous phylogenetic work on pines (e.g. Germandt et al.
202 2005; Saladin et al. 2017), the divergence between North American loblolly pine
203 (subsect. *Autrales*) and the two Mediterranean pines (stone and maritime pines; subsect.
204 *Pinaster*) was calibrated using a *log*-normal distribution centred at 35 million years ago
205 (Ma) and a 95% probability interval of ± 10 Ma; such a calibration covers the subgenus
206 *Pinus* split, which was dated back to 45Ma based on *P. bailey* fossils (Saladin et al. 2017).
207 Analyses consisted of ten runs of 100 million iterations each; samples were collected
208 every 1,000 steps after removing the first 25% of trees as burn-in. Chain mixing,
209 likelihood stability, and convergence across runs were surveyed using TRACER v1.6
210 (Drummond et al. 2012). Subsampled trees were finally summarized by Maximum Clade
211 Credibility with common ancestor heights as node heights on TREEANNOTATOR 1.8.0
212 (Drummond et al. 2012).

213 The demographic history of stone pine was initially surveyed using STAIRWAYPLOT (Liu
214 and Fu 2015), an approach that uses the site frequency spectrum (SFS) to fit a
215 demographic model consisting of population size changes over various periods of time.
216 This analysis was performed from the unfolded SFS derived from all DNA sequences
217 (55,833 sites) and using the median mutation rate inferred on the phylogenetic analyses
218 above (i.e. 4.18×10^{-8} per site per generation); as for other pines (Brown et al. 2004;
219 Willyard et al. 2006), a generation time of 25-40 years was assumed. Median values and

220 confidence intervals for population size estimates were derived from 200 replicates of
221 the input file using the built-in bootstrap function. Stairway-plots were generated for the
222 whole sample and for each genetic cluster separately (see below).

223 In addition, and to gain a more detailed insight of the most recent demographic
224 history of stone pine, we tested several potential evolutionary scenarios based on
225 present-day population structure (involving two differentiated genetic clusters for
226 eastern and western Mediterranean populations, see Results), using the approximate
227 Bayesian procedure implemented in DIYABC (Cornuet et al. 2010).

228 The tested scenarios were as follows (see also Fig. S1, provided as Supplementary
229 Information):

230 *Scenario 1 (null hypothesis)*: no population genetic structure and no population size
231 changes;

232 *Scenario 2 (ancient bottleneck)*: no population genetic structure and ancient and
233 severe bottleneck;

234 *Scenario 3 (ancient split + bottleneck 1)*: ancient divergence followed by collapse of
235 both eastern and western Mediterranean genetic clusters;

236 *Scenario 4 (ancient split + bottleneck 2)*: ancient divergence followed by collapse of
237 the eastern genetic cluster;

238 *Scenario 5 (ancient bottleneck + split)*: ancient and severe bottleneck predating the
239 divergence of the two genetic clusters;

240 *Scenario 6 (ancient bottleneck + split + recent bottleneck)*: identical to *Scenario 5* but
241 including a collapse for the eastern genetic cluster after divergence.

242 After fine-tuning prior parameters (all of which had uniform distributions, except for
243 mutation rate, which had a *log*-uniform distribution), a reference table with one million
244 simulated datasets per scenario was built. Then, the 1% of these datasets that were the

245 closest to the observed data were used to infer the posterior probability of each
246 scenario. Goodness-of-fit was assessed for each scenario by model checking using the
247 Principal Component Analysis (PCA) implemented in DIYABC, which measures the
248 discrepancy between simulated and real data. Confidence in scenario choice (i.e. Type I
249 and II errors) was estimated by simulating 500 datasets under each scenario to
250 determine the probability of not choosing each scenario when it was the true one, or to
251 choosing it when it was not the true scenario. The most likely scenario was finally
252 employed to estimate demographic parameters for the two genetic clusters: time in
253 number of generations, and effective sizes for the current and ancestral populations (see
254 Figs. 2 and S1).

255

256 *Adaptive evolution and accumulation of genetic load*

257 The proportion of nonsynonymous substitutions fixed by adaptive evolution (α) and the
258 rate of adaptive substitutions scaled by the rate of neutral substitutions (ω_a) were
259 inferred from DNA sequence data using methods available in DOFE 4.0
260 ([http://www.sussex.ac.uk/lifesci/eyre-walkerlab/documents/dofe-31-for-](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/lifesci/eyre-walkerlab/documents/dofe-31-for-windows.zip)
261 [windows.zip](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/lifesci/eyre-walkerlab/documents/dofe-31-for-windows.zip)). To ease the results interpretation, statistics were estimated and
262 compared between stone and maritime pines by using loblolly pine as an outgroup; only
263 the non-shared part of the divergence (i.e. the fixed exclusive differences for each taxon
264 determined above) from loblolly pine was included in these calculations. Briefly, α was
265 estimated based on Smith and Eyre-Walker (2002), and ω_a was determined using the
266 non-parametric method of Gossman et al. (2010) and method II of Eyre-Walker and
267 Keightley (2009). This last statistic incorporates putative demographic changes that
268 may affect the patterns of nucleotide polymorphism by comparing the observed SFS at
269 neutral sites, with the one expected in a stationary population at equilibrium. This

270 method was also used to infer the distribution of fitness effects (DFE) for 0-fold
271 degenerate mutations exclusive to each species. For stone pine, DFE was estimated for
272 the whole species and for each genetic cluster, and summarized in three bins of
273 increasing purifying selection ($0 < N_e s < 1$; $1 < N_e s < 10$; $N_e s > 10$).

274 In addition, the relative proportion of new deleterious mutations that had
275 accumulated since the divergence of each taxa was approximated in two ways. First, the
276 ratio π_a/π_s (a *proxy* of the efficacy of selection) was estimated, using loblolly pine as
277 outgroup, from the diversity of 0-fold and 4-fold positions of all polymorphic coding
278 sequences with only two variants per polymorphic site. Second, the functional effects of
279 all variants (fixed and polymorphic) exclusive to each stone or maritime pines were
280 inferred using PROVEAN (Choi and Chan 2015). This tool uses alignments from protein
281 blasts against public databases to determine a score for any given site change, by
282 assuming that the rarer a mutation is, the most likely it is to be deleterious. It gives
283 particularly low scores to nonsense replacements and to those resulting in substantial
284 biochemical changes, especially in conserved protein regions (Choi and Chan 2015).
285 Following a similar survey in spruce (Conte et al. 2017), variants with scores below -
286 2.282 were retained as deleterious candidates (see also Zhang et al. 2016 for poplar).
287 Candidate counts per species, per gene and per individual were finally compared with
288 non-parametric tests.

289

290 **Results**

291 *Microsatellite variation and genetic structure*

292 Genetic diversity estimated with nuSSRs was extremely low in stone pine. Four out of
293 the 13 loci surveyed were monomorphic; the nine polymorphic nuSSRs carried between
294 two and five alleles, totalling only 29 size variants (mean = 2.23 alleles per locus). The

295 mean number of alleles per population ranged between 1.00 and 1.69 (mean = 1.38),
296 and the average number of effective alleles per population between 1.00 and 1.41 (mean
297 = 1.19; Table S1). In addition, allele frequencies were highly homogeneous across
298 populations. Most loci only displayed one frequent allele common to all populations
299 (frequency > 0.8) and a few rare variants scattered across isolated populations with no
300 apparent geographic trend. Ten out of the 29 alleles observed (34.5%) were private;
301 four of these were observed in populations from the Iberian Peninsula, although some
302 were also found in France, Tunisia, Lebanon and Turkey (Fig. 1A); two of these private
303 alleles were in homozygous state. Heterozygosity was also very low, ranging from 0.014
304 and 0.176 for H_0 (mean = 0.083) and between 0 and 0.221 for H_E (mean = 0.114; Fig. 1A;
305 Table S1). Mean population divergence was high ($F_{ST} = 0.242$), and the most plausible
306 number of genetic clusters was two (Fig. 2). These clusters were mostly located in the
307 eastern or western parts of the Mediterranean Basin. Increasing K -value to three
308 revealed an additional subdivision for the eastern genetic cluster, separating
309 populations from Israel/Lebanon from those of Greece/Turkey; stands from Cyprus
310 were genetically intermixed. K -values 4 and 5 revealed no further subdivisions (Fig. S2).
311 For all examined K -values, assignment of the Portuguese population and of a Spanish
312 marginal population (Garrovillas, see Fig. 2B) was dubious; they both had a large genetic
313 component from the eastern genetic cluster, suggesting a recent anthropogenic
314 introduction. These populations were removed from further analyses. Similarly weak
315 population genetic structure was observed with the first two coordinates of the PCoA,
316 which explained 44% and 23.7% of the data variance, respectively (Fig. S2).

317

318 *Species divergence and demography*

319 Only one tree topology was supported by the phylogenetic analyses (posterior
320 probability = 1.0 for all nodes), indicating (as expected) that stone pine is more closely
321 related to maritime pine than to loblolly pine. Divergence between stone pine and its
322 common ancestor with maritime pine dated back to ~29 Ma (95%CI: 35-12Ma), while
323 its separation from the common ancestor with loblolly pine was inferred in ~40Ma
324 (95%CI: 25-52Ma; Fig. 3A).

325 The demographic history of stone pine, as inferred with STAIRWAYPLOT (on DNA
326 sequence variation), was marked by a deep trend of effective population size decrease
327 starting ~1Ma. This trend was observed for the whole species (Fig. 3C), and for each
328 independent genetic cluster (Fig. S3). For the whole species, a first initial collapse
329 reduced the stone pine population size by about 80%, while two more recent episodes
330 narrowed it down to 1-5% of its ancestral size during the last ~200Ka (Fig. 3C).
331 Population collapse seemed stronger for the eastern genetic cluster than for the western
332 one (Fig. S3). Interestingly, maritime pine suffered a population size decline of a similar
333 magnitude during this period, from which it was able to recover to approximately
334 ancestral population sizes before the decline (Fig. 3B). No population size recovery was
335 inferred for stone pine.

336 A more detailed exploration of the recent demographic dynamics of stone pine was
337 performed by testing several hypotheses by approximate Bayesian inference on the
338 nuSSR data. The most likely scenario (*scenario 5*, see Materials and Methods; Posterior
339 Probability = 0.8) involved a severe bottleneck in the ancestral population, and a more
340 recent population subdivision between the western and eastern genetic clusters, which
341 currently have highly dissimilar population sizes (much larger in the west; Fig. 3D).
342 These episodes were respectively inferred 5,510 and 238 generations into the past. If we
343 consider a generation time of 25-40 years, as for other pines, the ancestral population

344 collapse would date back to between 220Ka and 135 Ka, which roughly coincides with
345 the previous interglacial and the second to last glacial period (i.e. the Mindel-Riss
346 interglacial and Riss Glaciation in the Alps), respectively, and with the second population
347 decline inferred from the DNA-sequence data (Fig. 3C). Moreover, population divergence
348 would have occurred during the Holocene (9.5 – 6Ka), roughly coinciding with the
349 earliest fossil evidence of stone pine cultivation (see Discussion).

350

351 *Nucleotide diversity, adaptive evolution and genetic load*

352 DNA sequence variation was also extremely low for stone pine (even lower than for the
353 nuSSRs, in comparative terms); only 15 of the 177 gene loci were polymorphic (8.5%),
354 and contained 21 variable sites, which represents one SNP every ~2.5 Kbp. For a
355 comparison, 171 of the same gene loci were polymorphic in maritime pine, and
356 harbored 548 SNPs (one SNP every ~102 bp). This translated into a mean nucleotide
357 diversity that was one order of magnitude lower in stone pine ($\pi = 0.000212$ [95%CI:
358 0.000184–0.000246]; $\theta_w = 0.000149$ [95%CI: 0.000126–0.000178]) than in maritime
359 pine ($\pi = 0.002423$ [95%CI: 0.002065–0.002778]; $\theta_w = 0.002305$ [95%CI:
360 0.001993–0.002621]; Table 1). Both π and θ_w estimates were equally low and not
361 significantly different between the two stone pine genetic clusters (Table S2).

362 Despite this very low nucleotide diversity, the mean rate of total (D_{xy}), synonymous
363 (K_s) and non-synonymous substitutions (K_a) accumulated in stone pine since its
364 divergence from loblolly pine (0.0168 [95%CI: 0.0147–0.0185], 0.0382 [95%CI:
365 0.0338–0.0426], 0.0099 [95%CI: 0.0073–0.0116]; respectively) were virtually identical
366 to those observed for maritime pine ($D_{xy} = 0.0164$ [95%CI: 0.0146–0.0182]; $K_s = 0.0384$
367 [95%CI: 0.0336–0.0432]; $K_a = 0.0101$ [95%CI: 0.00836–0.0118]). Decomposing these
368 figures revealed that they were mostly due to the number of shared substitutions

369 between species (Fig. 4). The non-shared portion was significantly smaller in stone pine
370 than in maritime pine, and it was composed of a relatively similar number of
371 synonymous and non-synonymous substitutions (152 vs. 113). In maritime pine, the
372 non-shared variants contained almost twice as many silent than replacement
373 substitutions (325 vs. 188; Fig. 4). Such values translated in a larger K_a/K_s ratio
374 (estimated per gene) for stone pine than for maritime pine (0.46 [95%CI: 0.41–0.52] vs.
375 0.33 [95%CI: 0.24–0.40]), suggesting relaxed purifying selection in stone pine (Table 1).
376 The efficacy of selection, as determined with the π_a/π_s ratio, pointed in the same
377 direction, as estimates were again higher in stone pine (0.448 [95%CI: 0.371–0.526])
378 than in maritime pine (0.256 [95%CI: 0.186–0.326]; Table 1). As for nucleotide
379 diversity, no differences were observed for K_a/K_s and π_a/π_s ratios between stone pine
380 genetic clusters (Table S2).

381 In terms of adaptive evolution, stone pine also seemed hampered when compared to
382 maritime pine, not only because the proportion of (non-shared) non-synonymous
383 substitutions fixed by adaptive evolution (α) and the relative rate of (non-shared)
384 adaptive substitutions (ω_a) were both significantly lower, but because they were also
385 not significantly different from zero; estimates of α and ω_a were respectively 0.171
386 (95%CI: -0.027–0.309) and 0.062 (95%CI: -0.001–0.119) for stone pine, while they were
387 0.494 (95%CI: 0.346–0.609) and 0.304 (95%CI: 0.219–0.391) for maritime pine (Fig. 4).
388 Estimates of α and ω_a were virtually identical for both stone pine genetic clusters (Table
389 S2). On the other hand, the general shape of the distribution of fitness effects (DFE) was
390 similar for both stone and maritime pines. However, the first species had a significantly
391 higher proportion of least deleterious mutations (Fig. 4), while maritime pine had a
392 higher proportion of highly deleterious mutations. Again, no differences were observed
393 between stone pine eastern and western genetic clusters. It must be reminded that all

394 calculations above for stone and maritime pines (i.e. DFE, α , ω_a , K_a/K_s and π_a/π_s) were
395 performed using only exclusive polymorphisms and replacements accumulated after the
396 divergence from loblolly pine.

397 Finally, genetic load, evaluated as the predicted number and frequency of non-shared
398 replacements with putatively deleterious effects according to PROVEAN (Choi and Chan
399 2015), was higher in stone pine than in maritime pine. The first species accumulated
400 relatively less replacements (116) and in less genes (20) than maritime pine (166
401 replacements in 38 genes; Mann-Whitney U-test; $P = 0.0394$ and $P = 0.0142$ for the
402 number of replacements and genes, respectively). However, 34 of the replacements
403 observed in stone pine (29.3% of the total) were putatively deleterious, and most of
404 them (27 out of the 34; or 23.3% of the total substitutions) were fixed in the individuals
405 analysed (Fig. 4). On the other hand, 48 (28.9%) putatively harmful replacements were
406 inferred for maritime pine, while only 15 of them (9% of the total substitutions) were
407 fixed (Fig. 4). Both the total number of putatively deleterious mutations and the number
408 of fixed deleterious mutations were significantly different between the two pines
409 (Mann-Whitney U-test; $P = 0.0271$ and $P = 0.0128$, respectively).

410 Differences in genetic load were more evident when evaluated at the individual level.
411 In stone pine, individuals had on average 0.22 putatively deleterious mutations per
412 gene, while they were significantly less (mean = 0.15) in maritime pine (Mann-Whitney
413 U-test; $P = 0.0184$). After scaling by the number of synonymous mutations per species,
414 the mean number of putatively deleterious mutations per gene per individual was still
415 significantly higher for stone pine (0.042) than for maritime pine (0.019; Mann-Whitney
416 U-test; $P = 0.0036$), indicating relaxed purifying selection in the first species.

417 Interestingly, deleterious variants were not equally distributed across polymorphic
418 and monomorphic genes in stone pine (Table S3), particularly those that were fixed for

419 significantly more replacement substitutions than the average gene (i.e. five or more
420 replacements; $n=39$). More than half of the polymorphic genes (53%) contained
421 putatively deleterious variants, while only a fifth of the monomorphic genes bearing five
422 or more replacements exhibited such harmful variants (Mann-Whitney U-test; $P =$
423 0.0083). These monomorphic genes with reduced fixation of deleterious mutations were
424 further biased towards regulation and stress response processes and have often been
425 reported as candidate genes for adaptation in other pines (see Discussion), while the
426 polymorphic genes showed no particular function enrichment (Table S3).

427

428 **Discussion**

429 In this study, we demonstrate that the widespread and outbreeding stone pine has
430 unprecedentedly low genome-wide levels of genetic diversity. This near absence of
431 genomic variation is the product of a deep and prolonged demographic collapse, rather
432 than changes in the speed at which it accumulates genetic diversity. This demographic
433 framework further resulted in a lowered efficacy of purifying selection and the fixation
434 of deleterious variants.

435

436 *Low levels of genome-wide genetic diversity and phylogeographic inferences*

437 In line with previous studies on allozymes (Fallour et al. 1997) and chloroplast
438 microsatellites (cpSSRs) (Vendramin et al. 2008), we found very little genetic variation
439 in both hypervariable nuclear microsatellites (29 alleles in 13 nuSSRs) and gene loci (21
440 SNPs in 177 gene loci spanning more than 55 Kbp). While estimation accuracy of
441 individual parameters might be at stake because of our relatively small dataset (both in
442 terms of markers and sample size), it is unlikely that such low diversity values are the
443 result of limited population or genome sampling. Indeed, both population genetics and

444 coalescence theory indicates that much of the genetic variability within a species can be
445 captured with a limited number of individuals, while strong demographic changes
446 affecting the whole genome can be detected even when surveying a modest part of the
447 genome (Tajima 1983; Nielsen and Slatkin 2013).

448 In plants, low diversity values are usually observed in self-fertilizing taxa or in species
449 with very restricted distributions, but are unusual in widespread outbreeding taxa
450 (Table 2). Within the genus *Pinus*, and forest trees in general, estimates of genomic
451 diversity are usually much higher than those obtained herein for stone pine ($\pi =$
452 0.0002), even for endemic species, such as *P. balfouriana* ($\pi = 0.0028$) or *P. longaeva* ($\pi =$
453 0.0021; Eckert et al. 2013). Indeed, to our knowledge, the only conifer for which such an
454 equally low nucleotide diversity has been reported is the tertiary relict *Picea breweriana*
455 ($\pi = 0.0001$; Chen et al. 2010), which is distributed in small scattered stands at the
456 border between California and Oregon.

457 Previous works have suggested an ancient and prolonged bottleneck to account for
458 the low genetic variation in stone pine, but without providing further insights on times
459 or population sizes (Fallour et al. 1997; Vendramin et al. 2008). Our demographic
460 framework indicated a general and strong trend of population collapse that could have
461 started as early as ~ 1 Ma, reduced the ancestral stone pine population to 1-10% of its
462 original effective size, and continued well within the Holocene (Fig. 3). The number and
463 timing of decline pulses vary according to the type of marker (SSRs vs. gene-loci) and
464 method used (ABC vs. SFS-based), but they all coincide with glacial periods of the
465 Pleistocene (e.g. Günz, Riss, and Würm; Cohen and Gibbard 2011; Fig. 3). While such
466 differences might be the result of our limited sample size, variation in demographic
467 parameters is rather common when using different markers and methods (e.g. Patton et

468 al. 2019). This deserves a more detailed study, likely including simulations, which is out
469 of the scope of the present work.

470 In addition to demographic history, some biological features of stone pine, such as its
471 inability to disperse its seeds by wind (contrarily to other Mediterranean pines) or the
472 3-year cone maturation (all other Mediterranean pines take only two years), may have
473 also contributed to its unusually low genetic diversity. For example, because of
474 restricted gene flow, all mutations that appeared after or during the population decline
475 would have been only locally dispersed, increasing their chances to be lost by genetic
476 drift. Ancient alleles would have suffered a similar fate, being differentially fixed or lost,
477 but never dispersed among distant populations. Indeed, such a feature can also explain
478 the genetic structure of stone pine, which is mostly driven by private nuSSR alleles,
479 whose spatial distribution (together with that of polymorphic SNPs and rare cpDNA
480 haplotypes; see Vendramin et al. 2008) could be mostly the result of restricted gene flow
481 among populations.

482 According to our Bayesian simulations, the main genetic clusters of stone pine did not
483 diverge until the Holocene (9 – 6.5 Ka; Fig. 3), while none of the main genetic clusters
484 showed signs of expansion. This implies that stone pine should have colonized its
485 current distribution very quickly. However, its low seed dispersal ability hints that a
486 circum-Mediterranean colonization could not have occurred without the support of
487 idiosyncratic dispersers (Vendramin et al. 2008). Evidence indicates that stone pine
488 seeds have been consumed by humans since at least ~50 Ka BP, that it has been
489 cultivated for over 6,000 years, and its nuts traded during no less than three millennia
490 (Prada et al. 1997; Badal 1998; Carrión et al. 2008; Pérez-Jordà et al. 2017). Estimated
491 divergence times between genetic clusters roughly coincide with the beginning of stone
492 pine cultivation, which points at anthropogenic factors as the main drivers of recent

493 expansion, divergence and ecological success (Barbero et al. 1998; Richardson, 1998;
494 Vendramin et al. 2008).

495 Archeological remnants and analyses of ancient trade routes further suggest that the
496 ancestral stone pine population (from where colonization took place) was likely located
497 within the Iberian Peninsula (Carrión et al. 2008; Mutke et al. 2019; Fig. 3.4 from
498 Rubiales et al. 2011); a view supported by the distribution of private nuSSR alleles (Fig.
499 1) and rare cpDNA types (Vendramin et al. 2008), and by the higher effective population
500 sizes estimated herein for the western genetic cluster (Fig. 3D). Unfortunately, the low
501 genetic diversity of this species hampers for the time being more detailed
502 phylogeographic and genomic analyses (including the putative effects of incipient
503 domestication for nut taste and size).

504

505 *Evolutionary rates and adaptive variation*

506 Our estimates of adaptive evolution (α , ω_a , and DFE) pointed to a diminished (adaptive)
507 evolutionary rate in stone pine when compared to maritime pine, as well as a relaxation
508 of purifying selection (Table 1; Fig. 4). These results agree with theoretical expectations,
509 implying less potential for adaptive evolution in species with small effective population
510 size (i.e. stone pine). Although limited by our rather modest genome sampling, π_a/π_s , α
511 and ω_a values, and the DFE, obtained herein for stone pine are not unusual for pines or
512 plants in general (Gossman et al. 2010; Chen et al. 2017; Grivet et al. 2017). The nearly
513 neutral theory of molecular evolution predicts a simple relationship between adaptive
514 evolution and effective population size, which can be derived into a *log-log* linear
515 correlation between π_s and π_a/π_s (Kimura 1968; Welch et al. 2008). Such a relationship
516 was indeed reported for a wide variety of organisms (Chen et al. 2017), and the values
517 obtained herein for stone pine fit well within this regression line (Fig. S4). Thus, current

518 effective population size resulting from the peculiar demography of this species seems
519 to account for both the rate at which it is accumulating genetic diversity, and the global
520 efficacy of selection. Because, the sequenced gene-loci were widespread within the stone
521 pine genome, it is unlikely that sequencing additional genes would reverse the patterns
522 observed herein.

523 It could be argued that other elements, such as variation in mutation rate (μ) and
524 linkage disequilibrium (LD), or spatiotemporal changes of fitness effects, may underlie
525 observed differences between stone and maritime pines. For instance, it has been
526 suggested that demographic fluctuations can affect μ , particularly in species with
527 overlapping generations (Balloux and Lehmann 2012; Wei et al. 2015). Although we did
528 not formally estimate this parameter, no significant differences were observed between
529 the two pines for D_{xy} , K_a or K_s , which suggest that their mutation rates should be at least
530 in the same order of magnitude. Indeed, to our knowledge, no differences in mutation
531 rates have been reported so far among pine taxa, including those from different
532 subsections (Willyard et al. 2009).

533 Linkage disequilibrium can cause selection at one locus to affect the fixation of
534 mutations in neighbouring genomic regions (i.e. interference; Lanfear et al. 2014).
535 Conifers are among the plants with the lowest genome-wide recombination rates
536 (Jaramillo-Correa et al. 2010b), which indicates that interference should be indeed taken
537 into account. Unfortunately, because of its low diversity, no reliable recombination
538 inference could be performed herein for stone pine. However, given that fixations
539 between loci (including both nuSSRs and gene-sequences) appeared independent from
540 each other, and that even modest amounts of recombination can be sufficient to alleviate
541 interference (Presgraves 2005; Weissman and Barton 2012), the contribution of LD
542 variation to explain observed differences across stone and maritime pines should be

543 negligible. Future studies with more complete genome data are however necessary to
544 test this hypothesis more formally.

545 Selective pressures may also vary across a species range and over time, having
546 heterogeneous effects on substitutions rates, and thus on evolutionary rate (Bell 2010).
547 However, if our demographic and phylogeographic inferences are correct, such changes
548 should be affecting more maritime pine than stone pine; given that the first species is
549 composed by six ancient genetic clusters distributed across contrasting environments
550 (Bucci et al. 2007; Jaramillo-Correa et al. 2015b), while population structure in stone
551 pine is less marked and more recent (Fig. 3). While there is still little information on how
552 spatiotemporal variation of fitness affects evolutionary rate (Lanfear et al. 2014), no
553 differences in the proportion of adaptive substitutions were observed across the more
554 ancient maritime pine gene pools (Grivet et al. 2017). Thus, suggesting again that
555 differences in demography appear as the most likely explanation for the contrasting
556 rates at which these two parapatric pines are accumulating genetic diversity.

557 Genomes of heavily bottlenecked species usually exhibit overall genetic depletion,
558 with isolated and randomly distributed peaks of diversity (Robinson et al. 2016). Stone
559 pine seems to fit such expectations. The few SNPs detected were distributed in only 15
560 genes that were not particularly biased towards specific biological processes. They
561 participated in functions as varied as transport, ATP binding and secondary metabolism,
562 and are scattered in various pine linkage groups (Westbrock et al. 2015; Plomion et al.
563 2016). More than half of these genes (53%) contained putatively deleterious variants
564 (either fixed or polymorphic; Table S3).

565 Interestingly, among the monomorphic genes, those that were fixed for significantly
566 more replacement substitutions than the average gene (i.e. five or more replacements;
567 $n=39$) tended to have fewer deleterious variants. These genes were further enriched

568 towards regulation and stress response processes, and most of them (60%) have been
569 reported as candidate genes for local adaptation in other pines and/or are upregulated
570 under drought stress in stone pine (Perdiguero et al. 2013; Table S3). Although these
571 observations are preliminary, given the modest gene sampling of our study and the lack
572 of current knowledge on gene function in conifers, they do provide an interesting
573 starting point to understand how adaptive variation arises and reaches fixation in these
574 taxa.

575

576 *Long-term persistence in the absence of genetic variation*

577 An interesting question that arises from our study is how a species genetically depleted
578 has been able to survive, thrive, and successfully compete with taxa that occupy a
579 similar ecological niche. Extrapolating from the limited number of genes surveyed,
580 maritime pine bore significantly more silent and replacement substitutions and more
581 putatively harmful mutations than stone pine. The large majority of these changes
582 (91%) were in a heterozygous state in maritime pine, whereas most of the non-
583 synonymous substitutions detected for stone pine, including many evaluated as
584 deleterious, were homozygous (Fig. 4). These results fit the expectations of a differential
585 accumulation of neutral and putatively deleterious mutations within a species after a
586 bottleneck (Gillespie 2001; Lanfear et al. 2014; Chen et al. 2017), and it is unlikely that
587 this trend could be reversed when additional gene-regions are sequenced.

588 The accumulation of partially deleterious mutations in stone pine also points to
589 reduced inbreeding depression. In forest trees, this phenomenon generally results in the
590 elimination of virtually all inbred progeny at early life-stages (Petit and Hampe 2006),
591 which is believed to be homozygous for recessive deleterious mutations. When
592 populations are large (as for maritime pine), deleterious mutations tend to accumulate

593 in heterozygous states. However, after a bottleneck (as for stone pine), these mutations
594 are exposed and can be purged more efficiently, which leads to inbreeding tolerance (i.e.
595 inbreds are no longer selected against), and to a more accelerated diversity loss by
596 genetic drift (Lanfear et al. 2014). Early work in stone pine and other genetically
597 depleted conifers seem to point in that direction (Ammannati 1989; Ledig et al. 2000).

598 It must be noted, however, that genetic load in stone pine is likely underestimated
599 because of our limited genome sampling, and because virtually all mutations evaluated
600 as deleterious came from bioinformatics predictions. That is, they were either very rare
601 within conifer databases or produced biochemical changes in the proteins. No strongly
602 harmful mutations, like premature stop codons or insertions changing the protein
603 reading frames, were observed in stone pine. While such types of mutations might be
604 detected with a more in-depth genome survey, they are also expected to be more
605 common in species with lower inbreeding depression than forest trees, such as annual
606 plants or vertebrates, including humans (Robinson et al. 2016; González-Martínez et al.
607 2017; Pedersen et al. 2017; Laenen et al. 2018). Should this trend be confirmed after a
608 more extensive exome re-sequencing, it will indicate that purifying selection is still
609 operating for highly-deleterious variants in stone pine, as could be inferred from the
610 DFE (Fig. 4).

611 Another mechanism fostering stone pine long-term persistence despite depleted
612 genetic variation might be the presence of islands of genetic diversity within its genome,
613 and which may be associated to relevant adaptive quantitative genetic variation and/or
614 phenotypic plasticity (Carrasquinho and Gonçalves 2013; Mutke et al. 2013; Sánchez-
615 Gómez et al. 2011). Typically, this type of variation is produced by small allele frequency
616 changes in multiple loci across the genome (Pritchard et al. 2010; Boyle et al. 2017;
617 Csilléry et al. 2018); variation that is better preserved during bottlenecks by balancing

618 or frequency-dependent selection than newly arisen mutations (Lynch 1996). If this is
619 the case for stone pine, a more detailed genomic survey (including full genome or
620 transcriptome sequencing) should reveal further diversity-rich regions upon which
621 selection may operate. Another possibility is methylation diversity, which has already
622 been shown to be substantial in stone pine (Sáez-Laguna et al. 2014). Such variability is
623 often inheritable, and can rapidly accumulate after bottlenecks and contribute to
624 phenotypic plasticity in adaptive traits (Chinnusamy and Zhu 2009; Johanness et al. 2009;
625 Balao et al. 2018).

626 Finally, future studies should formally survey the effects on fitness (e.g. via
627 association with adaptive phenotypes, as in Zhang et al. 2016) of the putatively
628 deleterious variants inferred in this study; given that these are merely bioinformatics
629 predictions (Choi and Chan 2015; Conte et al. 2017). Integrating such effects, and genetic
630 load, into predictive models should become a priority for the improvement of
631 commercially important traits in stone pine, such as those related to nut production (see
632 Wallace et al. 2018). Considering deleterious variants is also important for conservation
633 and management programs in forest trees (Holliday et al. 2017). Indeed, avoiding
634 deleterious alleles, especially in homozygosity, might account for a larger part of the
635 phenotypic variance of species than the avidly-searched adaptive genes usually reported
636 in most population genomic studies.

637

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653

654 **Data accessibility**

655 Nuclear microsatellite (nuSSR) data, DNA sequence alignments, gene annotations, and
656 site type counts are available in Dryad, with doi: 10.5061/dryad.59zw3r23r.

657

658 **Author contributions**

659 JPJC, GGV and SCGM conceived the study. GGV, BF, SCGM, DG and FAA produced the data.
660 DG and FB contributed to data analyses. JPJC and SCGM analysed the data and drafted
661 the manuscript. All authors revised and edited the text, and produced the final
662 manuscript.

663

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951

952 **Legends to Figures**

953 **FIGURE 1** Stone pine (*P. pinea*) distribution (green areas) and location of populations
954 sampled for nuSSR (circles) and DNA sequence analyses (triangles). Circle color
955 indicates the number of private alleles (A_{PT}) found for nuSSRs.

956

957 **FIGURE 2 (A)** Geographic distribution of mean genetic-cluster membership for stone
958 pine (*P. pinea*) populations, as obtained from STRUCTURE analysis of nuSSR variation
959 when assuming two genetic clusters ($K = 2$). **(B)** Individual bar-plot of genetic-cluster
960 membership coefficients for the same analysis. **(C)** Distribution of ΔK values for the
961 various numbers of genetic clusters (K) assumed in STRUCTURE analyses. See Table S1 for
962 population codes and additional details.

963

964 **FIGURE 3** Genetic divergence and demographic history of stone pine (*P. pinea*). **(A)**
965 Phylogenetic relationship and divergence times from maritime (*P. pinaster*) and loblolly
966 (*P. taeda*) pines as determined from the Bayesian analyses of 50 nuclear gene-loci.
967 Numbers and shaded rectangles over branches represent mean and 95% credible
968 intervals (CI) for divergence time estimates (in Ma), respectively. All nodes had
969 posterior probabilities of 1.0. **(B, C)** Changes of population size over time for maritime
970 **(B)** and stone **(C)** pines inferred with a stairway-plot derived from the site frequency
971 spectrum (SFS) of 55,833 DNA-sequence sites. Dark and light lines represent the median
972 and 95% CI, respectively. Estimates based on the assumption of a mutation rate of $1.64 \times$
973 10^{-9} per site per year, and a generation time of 25 years. Blue areas denote glacial
974 periods; those mentioned in the text are indicated on top of **B**. **(D)** Schematic
975 representation of the best demographic scenario for stone pine according to DIYABC

976 (based on the variation of 13 nuSSRs), and population parameters estimated from this
977 scenario (see Fig. S1 for all scenarios).

978

979 **FIGURE 4 (A)** Shared and non-shared (exclusive) mean number of SNPs found in 177
980 gene-loci in stone (*P. pinea*) and maritime (*P. pinaster*) pines after their divergence from
981 loblolly pine (*P. taeda*). Exclusive SNPs are further subdivided in synonymous and non-
982 synonymous (replacements); non-synonymous variants are additionally separated in
983 putatively neutral and deleterious, according to functional effects inferred with PROVEAN
984 (Choi and Chan 2015). The mean number of fixed deleterious SNPs per species is also
985 indicated. **(B)** Proportion of (non-shared) non-synonymous substitutions fixed by
986 adaptive evolution (α) and relative rate of (non-shared) adaptive substitutions (ω_a) per
987 species. **(C)** Distribution of fitness effects (DFE) of exclusive mutations in each taxa.

988

989

990 **TABLE 1** Mean DNA sequence diversity and divergence from loblolly pine (*P. taeda*)
 991 estimated from 177 common gene-loci (representing 55,833 bp) in stone (*P. pinea*) and
 992 maritime (*P. pinaster*) pines

993

Parameter*	Stone pine	Maritime pine
θ_w (<i>SD</i>)	0.00015 (0.00055)	0.00231 (0.00212)
π (<i>SD</i>)	0.00021 (0.00125)	0.00242 (0.00243)
π_a (<i>SD</i>)	0.00019 (0.00126)	0.00029 (0.00407)
π_s (<i>SD</i>)	0.00043 (0.00353)	0.00454 (0.00474)
π_a/π_s (<i>SD</i>)	0.4487 (0.5238)	0.2561 (0.4781)
D_{xy} (<i>SD</i>)	0.0168 (0.0115)	0.0164 (0.0117)
K_a (<i>SD</i>)	0.0099 (0.0114)	0.0101 (0.0115)
K_s (<i>SD</i>)	0.0382 (0.0289)	0.0384 (0.0317)
K_a/K_s (<i>SD</i>)	0.4598 (1.0666)	0.3315 (0.5126)

994 * Abbreviations: *SD*, standard deviation; θ_w , average Watterson's nucleotide diversity
 995 per site; π , average Tajima's nucleotide diversity per site; π_a , average π for non-
 996 synonymous sites; π_s , average π for synonymous sites; π_a/π_s , mean per gene ratio of
 997 non-synonymous to synonymous nucleotide diversity; D_{xy} , average pairwise divergence;
 998 K_a , average number of non-synonymous substitutions per non-synonymous site; K_s ,
 999 average number of synonymous substitutions per synonymous site; K_a/K_s , mean per
 1000 gene ratio of non-synonymous to synonymous substitutions. The last three estimates
 1001 were determined using the Jukes-Cantor correction.

TABLE 2 Genetic diversity (cpDNA, cpSSR, and nuSSR) in genetically depauperate but widespread plants, including stone pine. Clonal and self-fertilizing plants were excluded.

Species	Markers	H_0	H_E	H_S	H_T	References
<i>Pinus resinosa</i>	9 cpSSR			0.543	0.618	Echt et al. 1998
	10 cpSSR		0.152			Walter and Epperson 2005
	5 nSSR	0.185	0.508			Boys et al. 2005
<i>Pinus pinea</i>	3 cpSSR				0.019	Vendramin et al. 2008
	9 nSSR	0.083	0.114			<i>This study</i>
<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	7 nSSR	0.760	0.750		0.762	Ross-Davis et al. 2008
	7 nSSR	0.659	0.691			Boraks and Broders 2016
<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	4 cpDNA loci		0.727			Lemieux et al. 2011
	3 cpSSR		0.672			Lemieux et al. 2011
	13 nSSR	0.566	0.526			Potter et al. 2012







