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Hybridization, missing wild ancestors and the domestication of cultivated diploid bananas

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Hybridization and introgressions are important evolutionary forces in plants. They contribute to the domestication of many species, including understudied clonal crops. Here, we examine their role in the domestication of a clonal crop of utmost importance, banana (*Musa* spp.). We used genome-wide SNPs generated for 154 diploid banana cultivars and 68 samples of the wild *M. acuminata* to estimate and geo-localize the contribution of the different subspecies of *M. acuminata* to cultivated banana. We further investigated the wild to domestication transition in New Guinea, an important domestication center. We found high levels of admixture in many cultivars and confirmed the existence of unknown wild ancestors with unequal contributions to cultivated diploid. In New Guinea, cultivated accessions exhibited higher diversity than their direct wild ancestor, the latter recovering from a bottleneck. Introgressions, balancing selection and positive selection were identified as important mechanisms for banana domestication. Our results shed new lights on the radiation of *M. acuminata* subspecies and on how they shaped banana domestication. They point candidate regions of origin for two unknown ancestors and suggest another contributor in New Guinea. This work feeds research on the evolution of clonal crops and has direct implications for conservation, collection, and breeding.

KEYWORDS

banana (*Musa* spp.), domestication, hybridization, missing wild ancestor, *Musa acuminata*, selection, introgression

Introduction

Domestication holds a special place in the long trajectory of plants evolution that spans over hundreds of millions of years (Morris et al., 2018). Domesticates have indeed emerged in the last 12,000 years as results of co-evolutionary interactions between plants and human populations (Meyer and Purugganan, 2013). This recent evolutionary history – with regards to plant life on earth – resulted in major phenotypic changes in crops and have fascinated biologists since the early beginning of evolutionary studies (Darwin, 1869). Domesticated plants have thus been widely used for developing and testing evolutionary theories (Ross-Ibarra et al., 2007; Meyer and Purugganan, 2013; Turcotte et al., 2014; Gaut, 2015). In addition, the increasing pressure on environment and on food systems pushed research towards a better understanding of the mechanisms underlying the transition from wild, often inedible, plants to high yielding nutritious crops. Logically, studies focusing on unravelling the origins and trajectories of crop species increased in the last decades.

Hybridization, which in plants is a starting point for hybrid speciation and enables the introduction of adaptive variation through introgressions (Soltis and Soltis, 2009; Abbott et al., 2016), appears to also be an important evolutionary force in domesticates. Advances in genetics and genomics have highlighted the prominent roles of hybridization, and of introgression in the creation of plant domesticates, and in their diversification (reviews in Arnold, 2004; Purugganan, 2019). Some of the most important crops on Earth are indeed hybrids between two or more species, such as wheat (Baidouri et al., 2017), sugarcane (Pompidor et al., 2021) or strawberry (Feng et al., 2021). Introgressions from related species, such as in sunflower (Baute et al., 2015), or from different gene pools of same species, such as in maize (Gonzalez-Segovia et al., 2019) and Asian rice (Santos et al., 2019), also have contributed to shape domesticates diversity.

In the global picture of domestication studies, vegetatively propagated crops hold a special place, especially since their evolutionary history was long under-considered. However, many clonal crops, in addition to be of high economic importance, are also critical for food security in many developing countries. This is notably the case of cassava (*Manihot esculenta* Crantz), sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas* L.), potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.), yams (*Dioscorea* spp.) or bananas (*Musa* spp.). The clonal nature of these crops has indeed led to the over-simplified assumption that most of them were resulting from the capture and clonal multiplication of interesting wild genotypes (McKey et al., 2010). However, a few in depth studies provided interesting insights, highlighting for some species the regular occurrence of sexual reproduction despite their vegetative mode of propagation, as in *Ensete ventricosum* (Shigeta, 1996), cassava (Pujol et al., 2005; Sardos et al., 2008) and yams (*Dioscorea* spp.)

(Chair et al., 2010), or a hybrid nature for other species (Chair et al., 2016; Feng et al., 2021; Pompidor et al., 2021). Introgressions, who contributed to local adaptations were also identified, such as in apple (Cornille et al., 2012; Sun et al., 2020), and sometimes revealing complex schemes of crossing, such as in some citrus species (Wu et al., 2018; Ahmed et al., 2019). These studies also confirmed that not only the vegetatively propagated crops were under-studied, but their wild relatives were too (McKey et al., 2010), with the striking example of the greater yam (*D. alata* L.), a species of high importance in Africa and the Pacific, and for which no wild ancestral population was identified yet (Chair et al., 2016).

Banana (*Musa* spp.) is a vegetatively propagated crop native to a wide South-East Asia/Oceania region (Simmonds, 1962). It was domesticated from *Musa acuminata* (A genome), a wild species belonging to the monocots, more than 7,000 years ago, likely in New Guinea island (Denham et al., 2003). In this crop, the main traits selected during the wild-to-domesticate transition are parthenocarpy, i.e. the ability to set fruits without the need of prior pollination, and sterility (Simmonds, 1962; Denham et al., 2020). Together, parthenocarpy and sterility ensure the production of edible fleshy fruits that are free of seeds. They also make banana breeding quite challenging, as it is difficult to produce high-quality sterile and parthenocarpic improved varieties through recombination of fertile and non-parthenocarpic parents. Banana breeding is further hampered by the multiple levels of ploidy that can be found in cultivars (diploids, triploids, and tetraploids) and that reduce the number of potential diploid parents for crosses. In such context, the characterization of the diploid germplasm available and the better understanding of the wild-to-domesticate transition is key for the success of breeding schemes.

Cultivated bananas currently encompasses a wide diversity of cultivars of both dessert and cooking types. This diversity includes cultivars of pure *M. acuminata* ancestry and interspecific hybrids between *M. acuminata* and a few other species (Heslop-Harrison and Schwarzacher, 2007). The simplistic view that interesting genotypes were captured and then conserved clonally does not apply to the domestication of bananas. First, back-crossing was confirmed in the making of interspecific hybrids (Baurens et al., 2019; Cenci et al., 2021). Second, intra-specific hybridization also occurred between different subspecies of *M. acuminata* (Carreel et al., 2002; Perrier et al., 2011), leading sometimes to complex genomic structures organized in sub-genomes mosaics (Martin et al., 2020b), and rising substantial questions on the adaptative traits and selective advantages provided by the introgressions of the different subspecies of *M. acuminata* involved in the setup of cultivars.

Musa acuminata is a complex of sub-species that are geographically segregated across a gradient spanning from East India and Sri Lanka to Papua New Guinea, and the northern tip of Queensland in Australia. Subspecies show unique features, morphologically (Simmonds, 1956), genetically (Hippolyte et al.,

2012) and at the genome level (Martin et al., 2020a). The New Guinea subspecies *M. acuminata* ssp. *banksii* had a prominent role in the domestication of bananas and is believed to be the gene pool at the origin of parthenocarpy (Simmonds, 1956). Four other subspecies are long known to have also contributed to the genetic set up of cultivated bananas: ssp. *burmannica/siamea* that is found from southern India and Sri Lanka to Cambodia, ssp. *malaccensis* located in the Malayan peninsula, ssp. *zebrina* in Java and ssp. *errans* in the Philippines (Carreel et al., 2002; Perrier et al., 2011). However, recent studies of small sets of banana cultivars with pure *M. acuminata* ancestries revealed the existence of several ancestral gene pools contributing to the setup of banana cultivars and that are missing in the current representation of wild *M. acuminata* diversity (Martin et al., 2020b; Jeensae et al., 2021). Where these undefined gene pools originated, how much they contributed to the diversity of banana cultivars, and what were their roles in the domestication and diversification of bananas is not known.

In the present paper, we used SNP markers generated by Restriction site associated DNA sequencing (RADseq; Davey and Blaxter, 2010) to explore the geographical patterns of diversity in a wide set of diploid bananas composed of 226 *M. acuminata* accessions and *M. acuminata* derived diploid cultivars obtained from genebanks and collecting missions. We aimed at (1) determine the diversity, distribution, and geographical radiation of *M. acuminata* in its natural range, (2) assess the contribution of the undefined gene pools to the diversity of banana cultivars and identify candidate regions for their origins, and (3) clarify the processes of the transition between wild and domesticated plants by comparing the genetic diversity patterns of wild *M. acuminata* ssp. *banksii* and derived cultivated diploid bananas in New Guinea. This work has impact for *Musa* spp. genetic resources conservation and collection, banana breeding, and evolutionary biology research on vegetatively propagated crops.

Materials and methods

Plant materials

A set of 226 diploid banana accessions was selected (Table 1; Supplementary Table S1, Supplementary Material online). This set comprised 68 wild accessions belonging to subspecies of *M. acuminata*, 154 related edible diploid cultivars, three accessions of *M. schizocarpa* considered as outgroup and a hybrid between *M. acuminata* ssp. *banksii* and *M. schizocarpa*. These materials were provided by the ITC (170 samples *Musa* Germplasm Information System (MGIS - <https://www.crop-diversity.org/mgis/>) (Ruas et al., 2017), the banana collecting mission to the AROB (25 samples) (Sardos et al., 2018), CIRAD (24 samples) (Perrier et al., 2019), collecting missions to Indonesia (4 samples) (Sutanto et al., 2016) and EMBRAPA (3 samples).

TABLE 1 Origins and classification of the sample accessions.

AA (CVs)	n	ORIGIN												
		PNG	Hawaii	Philippines	Indonesia	Malaysia	Indo/malaysia	Thailand	Vietnam	Myanmar	India	East Africa	Not recorded	
<i>M. acuminata</i>														
<i>banksii</i>	23	20		1	2		7							2
<i>errans</i>	1		1											
<i>zebrina</i>	6		1		3									2
<i>sumatrana</i>	1				1									
<i>microcarpa</i>	2				2									
<i>malaccensis</i>	12					8		3						1
<i>truncata</i>	1					1								
<i>siamea</i>	3							3						
<i>burmannica</i>	3								3					
Other seedy	16				6	2						4		4
sub-total	68	20	1	2	14	11	7	6	3	0	0	4	3	7
<i>M. schizocarpa</i>	3													
<i>M. ac. x M. schizocarpa</i>	1													
	1				23	23	7	13	3	3	1	26		9
226	100	1	1	17	23	23	7	13	3	3	1	26		9

Bold values correspond to Totals and sub-totals.

Restriction-site-associated DNA sequencing

DNA from each accession was extracted following a 2X CTAB protocol (modified from Doyle and Doyle, 1990). Library for restriction-site-associated DNA sequencing (RADSeq; Davey & Blaxter, 2010) was built with the PstI restriction enzyme. The 300–500 short-insert libraries were sequenced with 91 bp paired-end reads using Illumina HiSeq2000 (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA) by BGI Hong Kong. At BGI, the raw data were modified with the following two steps: (1) reads polluted by adapter sequences were deleted; and (2) reads that contained >50% low-quality bases (quality value ≤ 5) or >10% N bases were removed.

Read processing and SNP calling

Reads contained in raw FASTQ files (one per sample) were checked using FastQC and then cleaned to remove Illumina adapter sequences and low-quality ends (Phred score > 20) with Cutadapt (Martin, 2011). After trimming, reads inferior to 30 bp were discarded. Reads were then aligned against the *Musa acuminata* genome v2 downloaded on the Banana Genome Hub (Droc et al., 2013) using BWA-MEM (Li and Durbin, 2010). Re-alignment was done with the IndelRealigner module from GATK v4.1 (McKenna et al., 2010). We then followed the GATK pipeline recommended for a non-model organism by adding the recalibration step. It consisted of performing an initial round of SNP calling on the original uncalibrated data, selecting the SNPs with the highest confidence, and then executing a round of base recalibration on the original mapped reads files. The SNP calling was done with the GATK module HaplotypeCaller v4.1 to call SNPs and indels. Considering inter-sample variation, the SNP calling was done on all samples simultaneously. The pipeline used to perform those analyses is available at https://github.com/CathyBreton/Genomic_Evolution.

Genetic diversity analyses

For the initial set of 226 accessions, SNPs were filtered for missing data (5% as maximum allowed) and MAF (1%), yielding a total of 39,031 bi-allelic SNPs. At this stage, eight accessions were discarded as having more than 15% of missing data.

A dissimilarity matrix was calculated following the Simple-Matching index with a minimum of 70% of common sites between each pair of remaining individuals with DARwin 6 (Perrier and Jacquemoud-Collet, 2006). A weighted Neighbor-Joining (NJ) tree rooted using *M. schizocarpa* as outgroup was then constructed. This first tree allowed identifying cultivated accessions exhibiting identical or nearly identical genotypes and

corresponding to duplicates or clonal varieties. To avoid potential bias in further analyses due to genotypes redundancy, we then allowed the presence of a single accession per Genotype Clusters, further reducing the set of accessions to 158 individuals. For each Genotype Clusters, selection of the unique representative kept for further analyses was based on the lowest rate of missing data per accession. For this subset of 158 representative accessions, we retrieved a new set of SNPs with a minor allele frequency of 0.01 (1%) or greater and allowing a maximum of 10% of missing data. With the 66,481 SNPs obtained, DARwin 6 was used to calculate a simple-matching distance matrix. A new weighted neighbour-joining tree rooted on *M. schizocarpa* was then constructed on the set of 158 accessions, eliminating potential distortion due to duplicated accessions.

Global population structure

Using VCFtools (Danecek et al., 2011), we generated a set of SNPs evenly distributed every 100 kb and not allowing missing data to reflect all chromosomal regions. This set involved 1278 SNPs used to investigate the structure of the 158 accessions of the pruned dataset. We used a Bayesian Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) approach implemented in the program STRUCTURE v2.3 (Pritchard et al., 2000). The admixture model with the assumption of correlated allele frequencies between groups (Falush et al., 2003) was chosen and 5 replicates of each value of k ranging from 1 to 15 were run with a burn-in-length of 50,000 followed by 150,000 iterations of each chain. The most likely true of the values of k was determined by examining DeltaK, an *ad hoc* quantity related to the second order rate of change of the log probability of data with respect to the number of clusters (Evanno et al., 2005) and plotted using STRUCTURE HARVESTER (Earl and vonHoldt, 2012). STRUCTURE was then run again following the same model for the best values of K identified with 5 replicates each and a burn-in length of 200,000 followed by 800,000 iterations of each chain.

Tests for introgression in cultivated bananas (AA)

The four taxon Patterson's D test (Green et al., 2010; Durand et al., 2011) was developed to detect introgressions in closely related taxa. It considers an ancestral "A" allele and a derived "B" allele across the genome of four taxa with a tree topology (((P1, P2),P3),O). Under the hypothesis "without introgression" the two allelic patterns at the tip of the tree, "ABBA" or "BABA", occur with equal frequency. An excess of "ABBA" or "BABA", reflected by a D-statistic significantly different from zero, indicates potential gene flow between P2 and P3 or P1 and P3,

respectively. Here, we used the derived statistic f_d that is a more conservative estimator of introgression developed for small number of SNPs (Martin et al., 2015) implemented in https://github.com/simonhmartin/genomics_general. A R script allowed the calculation of the P-value based on jackknife for the null hypothesis that f_d is 0. The procedure is available at https://github.com/CathyBreton/Genomic_Introgression_ABBA_BBAA_Test.

Two tests were performed. In the first one, 31 Papuan edible AAs closely related to the Papuan wild *M. acuminata* ssp. *banksii* were tested for introgression by the subspecies originating in SEA. In the second one, 23 edible AA from SEA were tested for introgression by the Papuan *M. acuminata* ssp. *banksii*. Accessions selected as representative for each wild taxon are presented in [Supplementary Tables 2, 3](#).

Population differentiation between wild and cultivated Papuan bananas

Based on STRUCTURE outputs, we considered a sub-cluster of 31 AA from PNG with a *M. acuminata* ssp. *banksii* genomic background over 90%. This population and its wild counterpart are represented in our samples by 31 and 24 accessions respectively. A set of 238,357 SNPs was retrieved from GIGWA (Sempéré et al., 2019; Rouard et al., 2022) allowing a maximum of 50% of missing data for each of the two populations. Using VCFtools, we first assessed observed heterozygosity (H_o) and inbreeding coefficient (F) for each of these accessions. Then, considering 200 kb windows exhibiting more than one SNPs, we calculated the nucleotide diversity (π) and Tajima's D for each population. Finally, we calculated weighted F_{st} between the cultivated accessions and their wild relative, genome-wide and for 200 kb windows along chromosomes. To better understand the nature of selection in the cultivated, we then considered the 1% lowest and highest Tajima's D values and the 1% greater F_{st} values.

Results

Diversity analysis

The dissimilarity matrix and the NJ Tree obtained on the whole sample set comprising 226 individuals ([Table 1](#) and [Supplementary Figure 1](#)) allowed the identification of 158 distinct genotypes including 26 genotype clusters (GC) and 132 unique genotypes ([Supplementary Table 1](#)). In the NJ tree constructed on this pruned dataset, the subspecies of *M. acuminata*: *banksii*, *malaccensis*, *zebrina* and *burmannica/siamea* formed segregated clusters. Three out of the four *M. acuminata* accessions (AMB007, AMB008 and Sup4), collected in Maluku islands (Indonesia, west of NG island), clustered at

the margin of ssp. *banksii* while the fourth one AMB004 clustered within ssp. *banksii* from New Guinea. The philippino *M. acuminata* ssp. *errans*, represented by the accessions 'errans' and 'UPLB' (initially classified as ssp. *banksii*) also clustered at the margin of ssp. *banksii*, along with 'Borneo' classified as ssp. *microcarpa* and collected in Borneo. The subspecies *sumatrana* and *truncata* from Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula respectively, clustered with ssp. *malaccensis* while the seeded plants collected in East Africa clustered with ssp. *zebrina* ([Figure 1A](#)).

Cultivated AA accessions are spread over the different clusters ([Figure 1A](#)). A first cluster composed only of edible AA accessions from New Guinea island ('AA NG 1') is tightly linked to the ssp. *banksii* cluster. A group of accessions from South-East Asia ('AA SEA 2'), mixed with various seeded hybrids, clusters with ssp. *zebrina*, such as seeded and edible AA bananas from East Africa ('Seeded EAfr' and 'AA EAfr'). Two accessions, 'Matti' and 'Tuu Gia' from India and Vietnam respectively, clustered with ssp. *burmannica/siamea*. The nine accessions from the Philippines form two clusters that are not linked to any wild representative, such as two groups of accessions from South-East Asia. The first one ('SEA 1') is located at the center of the tree while the second one ('SEA 3'), composed of accessions classified as Pisang Jari Buaya and of an accession named 'Pisang Madu', clusters at the margin of the tree. Two additional groups of edible AA bananas from New Guinea ('AA NG2' and 'AA NG3') are spread between the ssp. *banksii* and the South-East Asian subspecies of *M. acuminata*.

Population structure

The two best values of k identified by STRUCTURE in the pruned dataset were $k=2$ and $k=8$ ([Figures 1B, C](#)). For $k=2$, the Bayesian analysis recognized two genepools corresponding roughly to New Guinea island and South-East Asia with a high number of admixed accessions. For $k=8$, this analysis confirmed discrete genepools for the *M. acuminata* taxa *banksii*, *malaccensis*, *zebrina*, *burmannica/siamea* and for *M. schizocarpa*. We noted two accessions from Thailand originally classified as ssp. *malaccensis* that seem to also hold some ssp. *burmannica/siamea* signature in their genome ('Pa (Musore) n°2' with $Q_{burmannica/siamea} = 27,1\%$ and 'THA018' with $Q_{burmannica/siamea} = 27,3\%$). In addition, the genomic composition inferred for 'truncata' and 'sumatrana' accessions – belonging to eponymous subspecies – revealed patchworks of different genepools with a *malaccensis* dominance in both. However, their respective genomic profiles are slightly different ([Figures 1A, 2](#)).

Three undefined genepools, i.e. for which unadmixed individuals from the source populations are absent in the sample, were detected. The first one (denoted 'Und-1') (orange colored in [Figures 1A, 2, 3](#)) was very common in cultivated accessions. Three cultivars from Thailand and clustering within

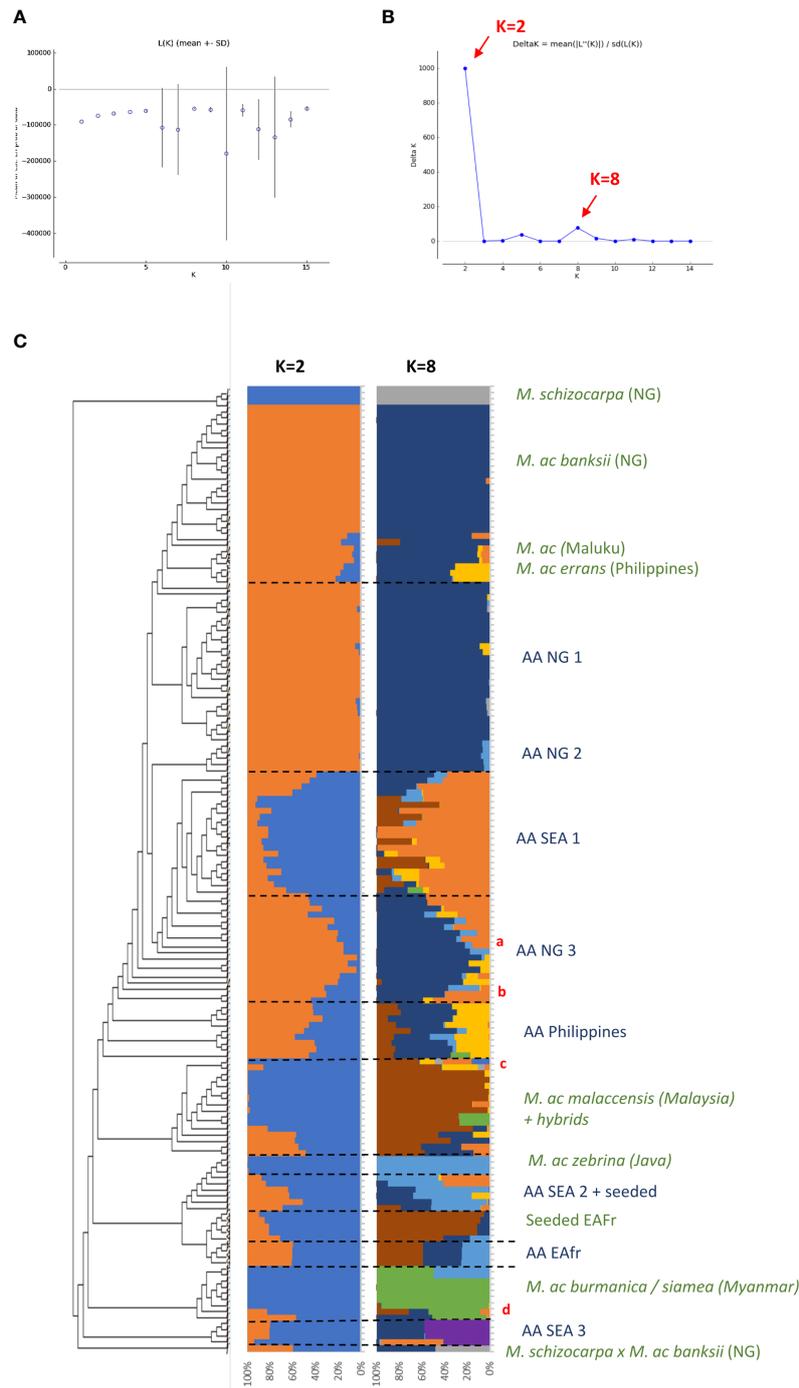


FIGURE 1

(A, B) present the results of the Bayesian clustering of the diploid bananas pruned sample (158 accessions) using STRUCTURE v2.3 (Pritchard et al., 2000) evaluated using STRUCTURE HARVESTER (Earl and vonHoldt, 2012) and based on the $\ln(P(D))/K$ and DeltaK, respectively. (C) Presents the global genetic structure of the pruned sample of 158 genotypes. The cladogram was obtained from the NJ tree constructed with DARwin 6 (Perrier and Jacquemoud-Collet, 2006) on the Simple-Matching distance matrix calculated on 66,481 biallelic SNPs and using FigTree v1.4.3 (Rambaut, 2006–2016) and the R package ape (Paradis and Schliep, 2019). Bar plots represent STRUCTURE outputs for K=2 and K=8 as inferred from 1,278 SNPs distributed evenly across the genome, each bar corresponds to a genotype and colours correspond to the detected ancestral gene pools. EAfr: East Africa; SEA: South-East Asia; NG: New-Guinea Island; a: ITC0299 'Guyod' from the Philippines, b: ITC0447 'Pu-Te Wey' from Malaysia, c: ITC1701 *M. acuminata* ssp. *sumatrana* from Sumatra and ITC0393 *M. acuminata* ssp. *truncata* from Malaysia, d: ITC1761 'Matti' from India and ITC0610 'Tuu Gia' from Vietnam.

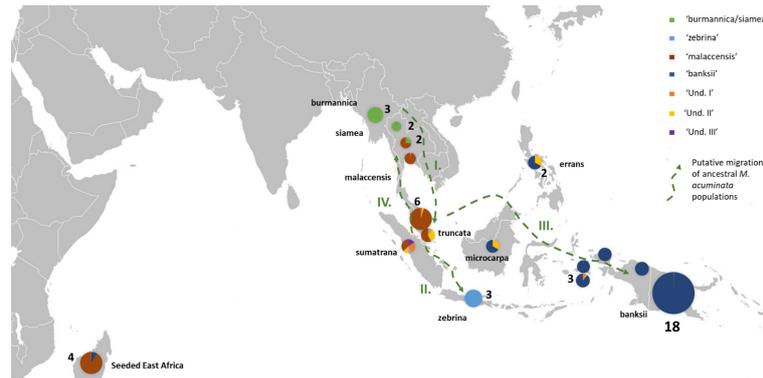


FIGURE 2

Distribution of the *M. acuminata* accessions of the sample. The pie charts illustrate genomic background (as inferred by STRUCTURE for $k=8$) and the numbers indicate the number of accessions sharing similar patterns. Putative dispersal roads of ancestral populations are represented by green dashed arrows. I. First dispersion from mainland South-East Asia towards the Malayan Peninsula and Sumatra, followed by II. Dispersal of populations to Java, III. dispersal to Borneo, the Philippines and New Guinea Island and IV. Secondary colonization of mainland South-East Asia. 'Und. I', 'Und. II' and 'Und. III' correspond to genepools for which no parental populations were identified in the samples.

'AA SEA1', are fully assigned ($Q_{Und-I} > 90\%$) to the Und-I genepool ('Thong Dok Mak', 'Kluai Lep Mu Nang' and 'Sa'). The 'Und-I' alleles were detected in many cultivated accessions from SEA and in a few accessions of 'AA NG3'. It was also inferred as introgressions in some wild specimens spread in different clusters, such as 'sumatrana' ($Q_{Und-I} = 26\%$) and three hybrids collected in Indonesian part of New Guinea in the 1960's and clustering with *ssp. malaccensis* ('Higa' and 'Hybrid') and with *ssp. banksii* ('Waigu').

The two other undefined genepools were inferred as introgressions. The genepool 'Und-II' was detected in the two *ssp. errans* specimen and in the accession 'Borneo'. These three accessions share similar profiles along with a partially common genetic background with *ssp. banksii*. 'Und-II' alleles were also

detected in some of the cultivated accessions including the two 'AA Philippines' clusters (yellow color in Figure 1A). The third undefined genepool 'Und-III' was identified in the cluster 'AA SEA3' (purple color in Figure 1A) in which accessions were collected in the north coast of Borneo and on Sulu, an island located between Borneo and the main Philippines islands (Figure 3). The genepool 'Und-III' was also inferred as a small introgression in the subspecies *sumatrana*.

The inferred genomic composition of the cultivated AA bananas confirmed the hybrid status of most of them. *Musa acuminata ssp. banksii* from NG is a prominent contributor to these edible AAs, including those in South-East Asia, followed by the Javanese *ssp. zebrina*, *ssp. malaccensis* from the Malayan peninsula and then *ssp. burmannica/siamea*. The latter ranges

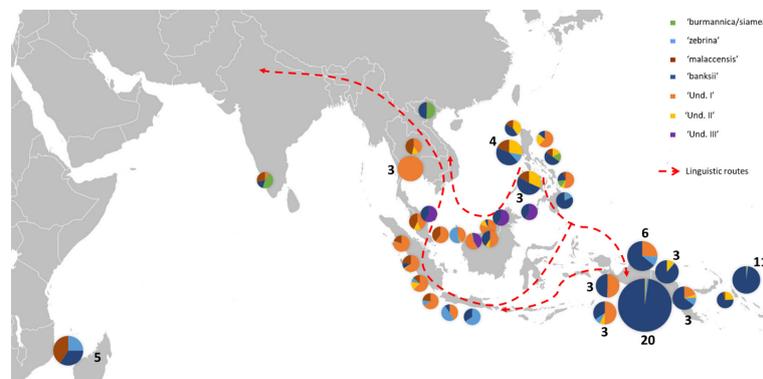


FIGURE 3

Distribution of cultivated AA accessions of the samples. The pie charts illustrate genomic background (as inferred by STRUCTURE for $k=8$) and the numbers indicate the number of accessions sharing similar patterns. Dashed red lines show linguistic paths for the words 'banana' in the region as inferred by Perrier et al. (2011). The historical movements of these terms reflect ancient spread of *Musa* cultivars in the region.

from India to north Thailand and is the subspecies contributing the least to the edible samples. Interestingly the two undefined gene pools 'Und-I' and 'Und-II' are important contributors to cultivated diploid bananas. Finally, we noted in this analysis that the 31 cultivated AA accessions in the clusters 'AA NG1' and 'AA NG2' were inferred with more than 90% of their genome belonging to *ssp. banksii* (Figures 1C, 3).

Detection of introgressions

Introgressions of South-East Asian subspecies into clusters 'NG 1' and 'NG 2'

To enable testing the 31 cultivated AA accessions from New Guinea with $Q_{banksii} > 90\%$ for introgression by one or more of the six SE Asian subspecies of *M. acuminata*, we performed 186 tests. Only Patterson's D tests for which the dominance of the BBAA pattern over ABBA and BABA were considered robust. Following this criteria, ten combinations which all exhibited BABA > BBAA were excluded. Within the remaining 176 tests, Patterson's D was statistically significantly negative (Z score < -2) for 70 combinations, showing significant excess of BABA sites over ABBA sites and indicating a highest proximity between *ssp. banksii* and the SEA subspecies tested. At the contrary, for 11 combinations, involving 7 accessions, the D scores obtained were significantly positive (Z score > 2), revealing a significant bias towards ABBA pattern compared with BABA and reflecting possible introgression of given SEA subspecies. We noted that the sub-species *zebrina* was detected in the 7 accessions and was the only introgressing gene pool for 4 of them. The subspecies *ssp. burmanica/siamea* was detected in 3 accessions. We noticed however that it was always coupled with suspected introgressions from other sub-species, *zebrina* (3 accessions), *sumatrana* (2 accession) and *malaccensis* (1 accession). For 95 combinations tested, D was not significantly departing from 0 ($-2 < z\text{-score} < 2$), therefore not showing significant differences between the counts of ABBA and BABA sites. Among those tests, nine accessions did not showcase any significant differences in the number of ABBA and BABA sites for any of the six SE Asian subspecies tested, suggesting that they may be truly unadmixed cultivated accessions (Supplementary Table 2).

Introgressions of subspecies *banksii* into South-East Asian cultivated AAs

We also performed Patterson's D tests on 33 cultivated AA accessions originating in South-East Asia to check for their introgression by *M. acuminata ssp. banksii*. However, for most of the tests, the count of the different patterns showed topology discordance compared to assumption. That is to say that for eight accessions, both ABBA and BABA counts were dominant over BBAA, that for 18 accessions ABBA counts were dominant over BBAA and for one accession, namely 'Malaysian Blood', BABA was dominant over BBAA. For all the six tests for which

no topology discordance was identified, statistically significant bias towards ABBA pattern were identified when compared to BABA, suggesting introgression of *ssp. banksii* in the accessions tested (Supplementary Table 3).

Pattern of differentiation between *M. acuminata ssp. banksii* and related cultivated AAs in New Guinea

The observed heterozygosity (H_o) of the accessions of the '*banksii*' cluster collected in New Guinea island (Figure 4) ranged from 0.02 to 0.12. The four accessions collected in the region of Ambon and Seram, at the west of New Guinea island, had two profiles. The accession AMB004 was similar to the accessions from New Guinea ($H_o=0.02$) while the three others, AMB007, AMB008 and Sup04, had H_o ranging between 0.30 and 0.34. Inbreeding coefficient (F) confirmed significant excess of homozygous sites for the accessions from New Guinea and AMB004 but not for 'AMB007', 'AMB008' and 'Sup04'. It is to be noted that none of the accessions collected in Ambon and Seram, including AMB004, was morphologically classified as belonging to the *banksii* subspecies at collection (Sutanto et al., 2016). In the 31 AA accessions from NG with $Q_{banksii} > 0.90$, heterozygosity ranged from 0.20 to 0.34 and inbreeding coefficient was reflecting excess of heterozygous sites for 22 accessions (Table 2).

For 24 accessions assigned to the subspecies *banksii*, we identified 1059 windows of 200kb size with more than 1 polymorphic SNP. For each window, Tajima's D values were plotted against nucleotide diversity (π) (Figure 5A). Mean Tajima's D in these windows was -0.28 (variance = 1.28) and the distribution was skewed towards negative values, reflecting a global excess of low frequency variants (Figures 5A–C), that can be interpreted as a signature for a recent expansion of the population after a bottleneck. The 31 cultivated AA diploids selected have a greater diversity as expressed by nucleotide diversity (π) and the highest number of 200kb windows with more than 1 variable SNP (1502). For these edible AA, mean Tajima's D parameter was 0.50 and the distribution of the values obtained for the windows was somewhat bimodal (variance = 2.47) with the main peak being largely negative, reflecting excess of low frequency variants. The second peak is largely positive, reflecting excess of common variants (Figures 5B, C). Windows with Tajima's D below the 1% lower limit (-2.39) and above the 1% upper limit (3.72) for the 31 AA from NG are presented in Table 3.

Whole genome F_{st} calculated between *ssp. banksii* and the cultivated AA from NG was 0.30. Considering 200 kb windows exhibiting more than 1 polymorphic SNP, the highest F_{st} value was 0.92 calculated on 25 SNPs on chromosome 4 (bin start 5.000.000). Tajima's D value for this genomic region was also among the 1% lowest Tajima's D values calculated along the

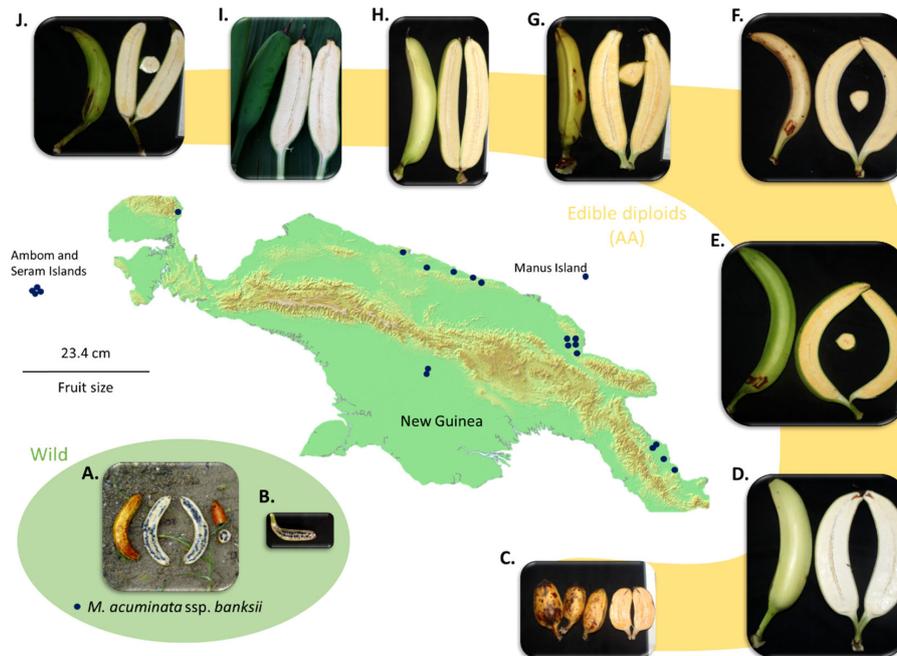


FIGURE 4

Map of New Guinea Island and examples of fruits of *M. acuminata* ssp. *banksii* (A, B) and of closely related cultivated AA accessions from Papua New Guinea (C), AROB003 'Mero Mero', (D) AROB034 'Nesuri', (E) AROB004 'Wiau', (F) AROB035 'Talasea', (G) AROB050 'Seseve', (H) AROB047 'Tobaung', (I) AROB019 'Tavilo', and (J) AROB016 'Nape'e'. Dark blue dots on the map represent collection locations for accessions within the cluster 'banksii' (according to Sharrock 1988; Sharrock et al., 1988; Sharrock et al., 1989, Sharrock 1989 and Sutanto et al., 2016). Photos: (A, B) taken by first author, (C–J) courtesy of NARI.

genome. Given that Tajima's D values in the 31 AA from NG plotted against F_{st} shows that most windows with negative Tajima's D exhibits also low F_{st} (Figure 5D and Supplementary Table 4), this genomic region on chromosome 4 is likely under strong selection.

Discussion

This study enables proposing hypotheses on the radiation of *M. acuminata* in South-East Asia and New Guinea and highlighting probable geographic regions of origins for the undefined genepools. Finally, by focusing on New Guinea Island we provide new insights on the wild-to-domesticates transition in the banana crop.

Secondary centers of radiation for *M. acuminata* are in Sumatra and the Malay peninsula

The geographic distribution of the diversity of the *M. acuminata* subspecies as detected in this study enables the proposition of a refined dispersal scenario. *Musa acuminata*

arose about 10 million years ago, probably in the northern Indo-Burma region (Janssens et al., 2016). Phylogenetic and phylogeographic studies performed on different markers obtained discordant results on its diversification and its dispersal at the intraspecific level (Janssens et al., 2016; Rouard et al., 2018; Fu et al., 2022). Whole genome sequences of four *M. acuminata* subspecies, ssp. *burmannica*, *zebrina*, *banksii* and *malaccensis*, showed ssp. *burmannica* as the first of the subspecies to have diverged in the species tree (Rouard et al., 2018). This finding suggested that this early divergence occurred in the indo-burmese area, consistently with the inferred origin of *M. acuminata* in this region (Janssens et al., 2016). These genomic results also suggested secondary diversification and dispersal of the ancestors of the others *M. acuminata* subspecies through the Malayan peninsula to Java, and then to New Guinea island and back to the southern Indo-Malayan region (Rouard et al., 2018). Using chloroplast sequences, Fu et al. (2022) confirmed the early emergence of ssp. *burmannica* from the Indo-Burma region, as well as dispersal and emergence of the other subspecies towards Island South-East Asia and New Guinea but with a slightly different pattern. At the east, ssp. *banksii* emerged in New Guinea on the one hand while ssp. *zebrina* and ssp. *microcarpa* appeared on Java and Borneo on the other hand. At the west, ssp. *malaccensis* and ssp. *truncata* diverged on the Malayan peninsula.

TABLE 2 Observed heterozygosity (Ho) and inbreeding coefficient (F) for the accessions of the clusters 'banksii' and 'AA NG'.

	ID	Name	N sites	F	Ho	
Cluster 'banksii'	AMB004	NA	13538	0.84	0.02	
	AMB007	Utang/Biji	15269	-1.09	0.32	
	AMB008	Utang/Biji	15247	-0.96	0.30	
	ITC0341	Banksii	12862	0.85	0.02	
	ITC0428	Higa	9875	0.86	0.02	
	ITC0453	Banksii	14587	0.59	0.06	
	ITC0606	Hybrid	15136	0.83	0.03	
	ITC0616	Hawain 2	13231	0.86	0.02	
	ITC0617	Hawain 3	15262	0.84	0.02	
	ITC0619	Banksii	14194	0.78	0.03	
	ITC0620	Banksii	14896	0.87	0.02	
	ITC0621	Banksii	14553	0.76	0.04	
	ITC0623	Banksii	14480	0.86	0.02	
	ITC0766	Paliama	14706	0.87	0.02	
	ITC0806	Banksii	15156	0.88	0.02	
	ITC0853	Banksii	14592	0.88	0.02	
	ITC0867	Banksii	15236	0.78	0.03	
	ITC0879	<i>Musa ac. ssp. banksii</i>	14872	0.87	0.02	
	ITC0885	<i>Musa ac. ssp. banksii</i>	9800	0.78	0.03	
	ITC0897	<i>Musa ac. ssp. banksii</i>	13061	0.23	0.12	
	ITC0937	Banksii	13272	0.86	0.02	
	ITC0955	Banksii	14695	0.87	0.02	
	ITC1219	Banksii	14867	0.84	0.02	
	Sup4	Utang/Biji?	13585	-1.24	0.34	
	AA NG ($Q_{banksii} > 0.90$)	AROB003	Mero Mero	25904	0.13	0.20
		AROB004	Wiau	25010	-0.15	0.27
		AROB005	Duma	24182	0.09	0.21
AROB016		Nape'e	25744	-0.03	0.24	
AROB019		Tavilo	26078	-0.33	0.31	
AROB022		Kararu 2	24989	0.06	0.22	
AROB034		Nesuri	26104	-0.04	0.24	
AROB035		Talasea	26122	-0.01	0.24	
AROB047		Tobaung	25856	-0.16	0.27	
AROB049		Nono 2	25954	-0.27	0.30	
AROB050		Sesévé	25898	-0.01	0.23	
ITC0589		Gulum	25181	-0.44	0.34	
ITC0600		Waimara	16022	0.09	0.21	
ITC0770		Navaradam	23952	-0.01	0.24	
ITC0773		Mpiajhap	19885	0.04	0.22	
ITC0778		Gorop	25711	0.08	0.21	
ITC0784		Tamai	25035	-0.02	0.24	
ITC0798		Garunga	19648	-0.20	0.28	
ITC0818		Enar	24672	0.02	0.23	
ITC0847		Hova	16980	0.05	0.22	
ITC0923		Yapu Yapu	24979	-0.16	0.27	
ITC0929		Loibwa	19807	0.09	0.21	
ITC0949		Wiliman	25988	-0.27	0.30	
ITC0984		Yangun Yefan	24766	-0.02	0.24	

(Continued)

TABLE 2 Continued

ID	Name	N sites	F	Ho
ITC1001	Bogia Mun	25866	-0.03	0.24
ITC1013	Sena	25660	0.09	0.21
ITC1023	Taoaya	19889	-0.23	0.29
ITC1206	Spiral	26107	-0.01	0.24
ITC1220	Yalumia	25961	-0.15	0.27
ITC1244	Mapua	25848	0.10	0.21
ITC1245	Papat	25459	-0.48	0.34

In this study, we confirmed the anticipated background described for the wild samples (Carreel et al., 1994; Perrier et al., 2011; Sardos et al., 2016; Christelova et al., 2017; Martin et al., 2020b) but we detected for the first time admixed profiles for *ssp. truncata* and for *ssp. sumatrana*. Although we cannot exclude that their under-representation, only one individual of each present in the set, influences the result, we hypothesize that these patterns result from shared ancestries with the different taxa inferred as introgressions, including the more distant *M. schizocarpa*. These shared ancestries are consistent with the proposed role of the Malayan peninsula and Sumatra as centers of secondary diversification and radiation for *Musa* section bananas (Janssens et al., 2016). Interestingly, *ssp. microcarpa* in Borneo and *ssp. errans* in the Philippines, which are both tightly linked to *M. acuminata ssp. banksii* in New Guinea, also share common ancestries with *ssp. sumatrana* and *truncata*. This pattern pleads for a dispersal

road leading to *ssp. banksii* through Borneo and the Philippines rather than through Java. It also suggests independent subspeciation of *ssp. zebrina* in Java. Both *ssp. sumatrana* and *ssp. truncata* also share ancestry with *ssp. malaccensis*. It argues for the recolonization of the north of the peninsula from the secondary radiation center, as inferred from Rouard et al. (2018). Introgressions of *ssp. burmannica/siamea* into several *M. acuminata ssp. malaccensis* samples from Thailand confirm genetic contacts between both gene pools in the region (Rouard et al., 2018; Martin et al., 2020b). Therefore, based on these results, we propose a refined dispersal scenario for *M. acuminata* with important secondary centers of radiation in Sumatra and the Malay peninsula from which three dispersion roads are inferred. The first one goes to Java, the second one passes through Borneo and the Philippines towards New Guinea and the third one goes back up to mainland South-East Asia (Figure 2).

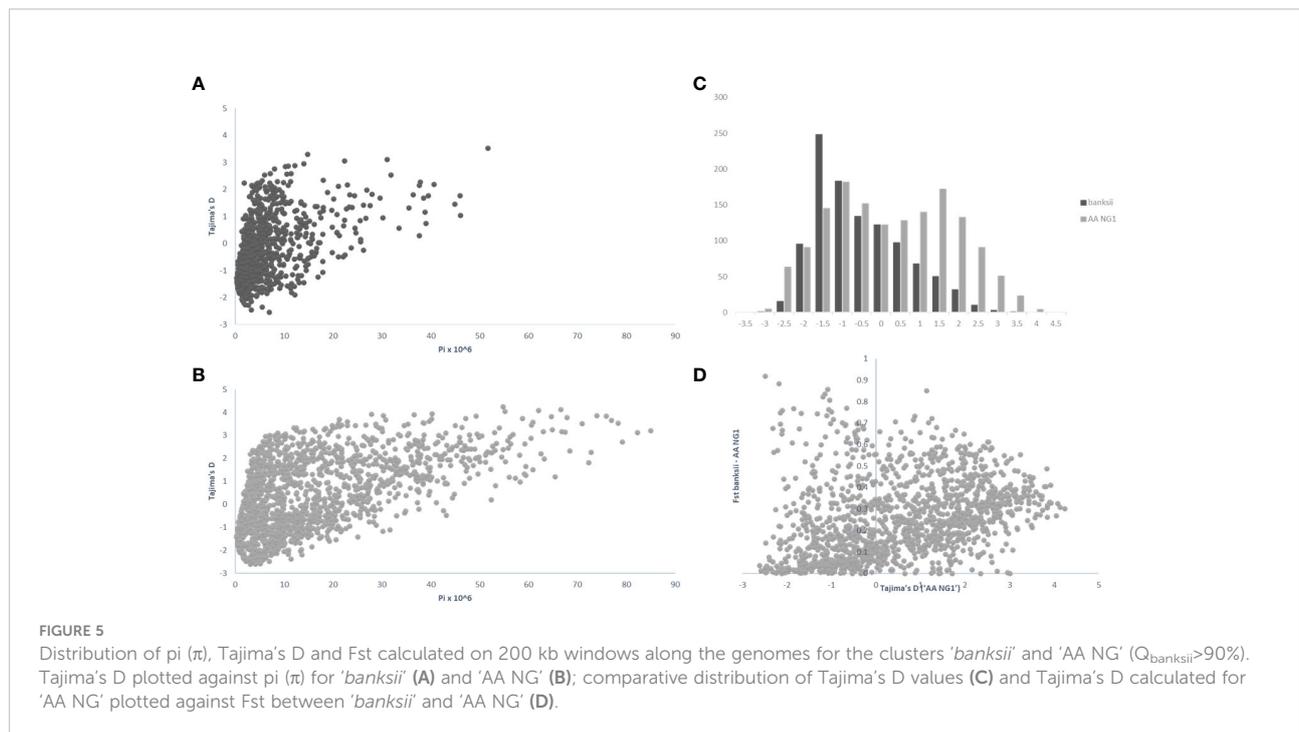


TABLE 3 Number of SNPs, Pi (π) and Fst between the clusters '*banksii*' and 'AA NG' for the windows (200 kb) with the 1% lowest and 1% highest values of Tajima's D calculated for 'AA NG'.

Chrom.	Window	'AA NG'			'banksii'			Fst
		SNPs	π	Taj.'s D	SNPs	π	Taj.'s D	
chr01	11000000	40	73.95	3.85	27	12.25	-1.78	0.31
chr01	11200000	24	49.32	3.84	11	6.30	-1.33	0.32
chr01	11400000	15	30.28	3.85	17	9.08	-1.30	0.26
chr02	23800000	32	66.65	4.13	26	14.08	-1.46	0.31
chr02	24000000	26	54.80	4.24	29	11.57	-1.81	0.30
chr02	24200000	30	55.18	4.05	31	16.98	-1.24	0.27
chr02	24400000	25	47.13	3.73	15	6.53	-1.81	0.36
chr02	24600000	29	62.04	4.08	29	12.24	-1.91	0.33
chr02	25000000	18	36.61	3.90	1	0.37	0.00	0.33
chr06	1800000	35	67.84	3.79	2	0.60	-1.21	0.40
chr10	21800000	33	64.73	3.81	3	6.15	1.65	0.40
chr10	28400000	22	40.21	3.72	3	1.66	-0.71	0.35
chr10	28600000	20	40.28	3.93	3	1.88	-0.50	0.33
chr10	29600000	30	58.82	3.74	2	1.84	-0.22	0.29
chr11	1	40	75.93	3.84	2	2.30	0.15	0.49
chr11	4800000	14	27.89	3.93	0	0.00	0.00	0.41
chr01	6200000	33	6.95	-2.48	5	3.29	-0.75	0.14
chr02	19800000	21	3.29	-2.58	1	0.24	0.00	-0.01
chr03	29600000	29	5.84	-2.40	2	1.14	-0.61	0.08
chr03	34400000	27	5.53	-2.45	2	0.79	-1.00	0.01
chr04	3200000	15	2.25	-2.48	2	1.67	-0.38	0.02
chr04	3400000	17	2.88	-2.48	3	1.30	-1.25	0.00
<i>chr04</i>	<i>5000000</i>	22	4.20	-2.48	3	4.92	1.42	0.92
chr06	9800000	21	3.15	-2.60	4	1.49	-1.18	0.00
chr06	10000000	26	4.94	-2.46	3	3.50	0.62	0.03
chr06	10200000	26	4.92	-2.49	4	3.10	-0.46	0.03
chr06	10400000	29	5.19	-2.59	4	2.93	-0.74	0.01
chr06	11600000	26	4.16	-2.62	5	2.74	-0.55	0.04
chr06	17400000	13	1.93	-2.42	0	0.00	0.00	-0.01
chr08	7200000	20	3.47	-2.52	2	0.45	-1.46	-0.01
chr08	38000000	45	11.40	-2.39	4	3.65	-0.32	0.06
chr11	27800000	16	2.89	-2.43	1	0.23	0.00	-0.01

Evidence for undefined ancestral gene pools in cultivated diploids and their presumed origins

In congruence with Perrier et al. (2011), the genomic constitutions inferred for cultivated AA diploids showed high levels of admixture with patterns that follow the routes of linguistic diffusion in both directions. At the extremes of the species range, the eastern ssp. *banksii* signature was identified in the sole AA specimen from India and as far as in East Africa, while the Myanmar ssp. *burmannica/siamea* at the west, which contributes the least to cultivated diploids, was detected as introgressions in accessions from Vietnam and the Philippines (Figures 1A, 3). Our analysis also revealed three gene pools for

which no reference wild accessions were identified. It is consistent with recent findings of Martin et al. (2020b), who identified two cryptic ancestor populations co-existing within an accession called 'Pisang Madu', and of Jeensae et al. (2021), who reported a new gene pool in some cultivated bananas. With the presence in our set of the clones 'Pisang Madu' and 'Pisang Mas', common to each study respectively, we assume 'Und I' and 'Und III' as the two cryptic ancestors inferred by Martin et al. (2020b) and 'Und I' as the unknown gene pool discovered by Jeensae et al. (2021).

Our analysis applied to a wide set of accessions highlights the important contribution of the gene pool 'Und I' to cultivated AA bananas. This gene pool was indeed inferred in accessions of all origins, with the noticeable exception of the East Africa region.

Based on linguistic and genetic evidence, the early origin of the East Africa bananas was pointed in the southeastern part of Indonesia, in a region between Java, Sulawesi and the western tip of New Guinea island (Perrier et al., 2011; Perrier et al., 2019), which could suggest that ‘Und I’ was not present in this region at this early time. Since the genepool ‘Und I’ is prominent in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, we hypothesize its origin around the Gulf of Thailand and the west of the South China Sea, probably in mainland Southeast Asia.

On the contrary and according to our results, the genepool ‘Und III’ is rare in cultivated bananas and was only found in ‘Pisang Madu’ and in the accessions classified as belonging to the ‘Pisang Jari Buaya’ subgroup. The collection sites of these accessions plead for a potential origin of ‘Und-III’ in Island South-East Asia rather than on the continent, maybe in a region between north Borneo and the Philippines, but further investigation should be conducted (Figure 3).

Finally, the genepool ‘Und II’ inferred in our analysis appeared to be an important contributor to cultivated diploids. It was notably found as introgressions in nearly all cultivated accessions from the Philippines and in landraces from South-East Asia and from New Guinea (Figures 1A, 3). The genepool ‘Und. II’ was also inferred as introgressions in *ssp. sumatrana*, *truncata*, *errans* and in the ‘Borneo’ accession, classified as belonging to *ssp. microcarpa* (Figure 2). We therefore interpret it as a signature of shared ancestry between these wild accessions, as well as with the cultivated diploids affected. However, as wild populations of *M. acuminata* in Borneo were reported morphologically heterogeneous (Häkkinen and Langhe, 2001), we cannot exclude the occurrence of an ancestral population corresponding to ‘Und. II’ on this island.

From seeded to edible bananas on New Guinea island

As confirmed in this study, *M. acuminata ssp. banksii* is a major contributor to cultivated bananas. By comparing a population of 31 closely related cultivated AA landraces from New Guinea to the sample of 24 *M. acuminata ssp. banksii*, we aimed at understanding the wild-to-cultivated transition. Unexpectedly, the subset of cultivated diploid AAs revealed higher levels of diversity than its wild relative, as expressed by π and observed heterozygosity (Figure 5). It differs substantially from the standard scenario in which domestication is expected to induce a loss of genetic diversity (Meyer and Purugganan, 2013). Possible explanations for such pattern are multiple and non-exclusive: i) it could result from an insufficient sampling of the wild population, or from the loss of wild genepools after domestication; ii) it may reflect hybridization between genetically distant genepools at the origin of the cultivated population; iii) the accumulation of somatic mutations, a common phenomenon in clonally propagated crops, can also contribute to higher levels of diversity (Miller and Gross, 2011).

Regarding our sampling, *M. acuminata ssp. banksii* exhibited very low levels of diversity and a global excess of rare polymorphism as expressed by the distribution of Tajima’s D values. These results point towards a population under expansion after a bottleneck. This bottleneck, reflecting a drastic population reduction, could have been induced by different factors. First, *M. acuminata ssp. banksii* displays hermaphrodite flowers causing dominant selfing (Simmonds, 1956; Kallow et al., 2021), an adaptive trait that induce bottlenecks when it emerges in limited numbers of individuals (Fuxe et al., 2009; Guo et al., 2009). Second, the last glacial period during which the climate was cooler and drier (Bowler et al., 1976; Hope et al., 2004) likely induced conditions less favourable for *M. acuminata* on the island. Third, early human activities have heavily impacted flora and fauna in this region (Fairbairn et al., 2006) and could have included the wild banana populations. Therefore, if first banana domesticates were extracted from the wild prior the bottleneck, their parental population(s) might have disappeared nowadays. Additionally, we cannot rule out a sampling effect to explain these results as most of the *M. acuminata ssp. banksii* accessions studied here were collected in the lowlands of Papua New Guinea (Figure 4), so we possibly captured only a portion of the diversity within the taxa. Specimens of *M. acuminata ssp. banksii* were also observed at a higher altitude (Eyland et al., 2021) and another genepool is suspected in Indonesian New Guinea (Simmonds, 1956; Argent, 1976), but these regions could not be explored.

Considering hybridization, this is not fully resolved. The Bayesian analysis run by STRUCTURE suggested *M. acuminata ssp. banksii* as unique ancestor for this set of cultivated accessions. The four taxa Patterson’s D test that was then run to refine these results revealed introgressions by South-East Asian *M. acuminata* subspecies in seven of the 31 cultivated banana of this set. These results suggest that Patterson’s D test is more sensitive than Bayesian clustering in detecting geneflow. However, it can only be run with taxa that are present in the setting. Therefore, we cannot totally rule out that genetically distant population - absent from the sampling - introgressed cultivated diploids from New Guinea.

Finally, the accumulation of somatic mutations through vegetative propagation creates diversity and increases heterozygosity in clonal crops (McKey et al., 2010). These mutations, as soon as they are not deleterious for the crop, occur and accumulate independently on both haplotypes. As a result, it creates rare diversity that, in a sterile crop, can only be transmitted to clonally derived landraces. Since duplicates and clonemates were removed from the set at the first step of the analysis, signatures of such accumulations can be found in higher heterozygosity levels and negative values of Tajima’s D (Figure 5) (further discussed below). However, they cannot explain all the diversity observed in the cultivated set.

The higher levels of diversity observed in the cultivated samples are due to a combination of these factors. Mutations

have accumulated through vegetative propagation, increasing heterozygosity and rare alleles. It is also likely that a different wild population, extinct or not, contributed to the genetic make-up of these cultivated diploids.

Besides, in domesticated plants, selection is expected to induce either an excess of low frequency polymorphism due to post-domestication's bottleneck expansion, as in selfing chickpea (Varshney et al., 2019), or a drop in rare alleles frequencies due to recent selection, such as in clonal African yams (Akakpo et al., 2017). In sugarcane, another clonal crop domesticated in New Guinea, coding regions of the genome were found with higher diversity and with moderate F_{st} values when comparing the cultivated to the wild. Authors suggested balancing selection and accumulation of mutations were jointly responsible for such pattern (Arro et al., 2016). The signal is not as clear in the edible AAs from New Guinea. The results, including higher diversity and the peak of positive values of Tajima's D coupled to moderate F_{st} (Figure 5), suggest balancing selection at work. Balancing selection would also explain the higher heterozygosity identified in the cultivated samples. Farming practices could be responsible for such selection. In cassava, for example, farmers unconsciously favour heterozygous, more vigorous, plants that are then clonally propagated (Pujol et al., 2005). However, such as in grape vine, another clonal crop (Houel et al., 2010), balancing selection does not act alone in banana. We identified on chromosome 4 a genomic region that cumulates low Tajima's D and high F_{st} values (Table 3; Figure 5). It strongly suggests positive selection and the fixation of an allele advantageous for the cultivated population. A gene of interest linked to domestication might be located in this region and should be further investigated.

To conclude, hybridization and introgressions have played a major role in the creation of banana domesticates. Undefined genepools contributed massively to the creation of the cultivated bananas of the sampling. In New Guinea, where cultivated diploids are tightly linked to the local wild relative *M. acuminata* ssp. *banksii*, a few introgressions were detected and an uncharacterized genepool is also suspected. The domestication and the diversification of banana therefore result from processes much more complex than expected for a clonal crop where, in theory, advantageous individuals are extracted from the wild and then maintained clonally (McKey et al., 2010).

This study revealed gaps in the knowledge of wild banana genepools that call for future actions. Further explorations of wild bananas species and populations are needed, in particular in the suggested areas of origins of the undefined ancestral genepools. The characterization of the entire wild banana genepool is a prerequisite to understand the diversification history of wild *Musa* species, including *M. acuminata*, and to develop efficient conservation plans for the taxa. It is also a key element for the resolution of the intra-specific hybridization

patterns of cultivated bananas. Coupled to the investigation of the correlation between the different wild ancestors' contributions to cultivars and selected agronomic traits, it will also enable the design of targeted and informed breeding strategies. Finally, with the latest availability of genomic resources and while clonal crops were understudied in the past, it may well be that cultivated bananas offer a unique ground for studying the evolutionary effects of hybridization.

Data Availability Statement

The datasets presented in this study can be found in online repositories. The names of the repository/repositories and accession number(s) can be found below: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PRJNA450532>.

Author contributions

JS designed the study. JS and JP performed field collections in PNG and IH provided genebank samples. JS and MR coordinated genotyping experiments. JS and CB performed analyses with inputs from MR, XP and SC. NR supervised the study and acquired funding. JS, CB and MR wrote the manuscript with inputs and review from all authors. All authors approved the final manuscript.

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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Supplementary material

The Supplementary Material for this article can be found online at: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpls.2022.969220/full#supplementary-material>

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