

# Adaptation to local climate in multi-trait space: evidence from silver fir (*Abies alba* Mill.) populations across a heterogeneous environment

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**Title:** Adaptation to local climate in multi-trait space: evidence from silver fir (*Abies alba* Mill.) populations across a heterogeneous environment

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## 1 **Abstract**

2 Heterogeneous environments, such as mountainous landscapes, create  
3 spatially varying selection pressure that potentially affects several traits  
4 simultaneously across different life stages, yet little is known about the  
5 general patterns and drivers of adaptation in such complex settings. We  
6 studied silver fir (*Abies alba* Mill.) populations across Switzerland and  
7 characterized their mountainous landscape using downscaled historical  
8 climate data. We sampled 387 trees from 19 populations and genotyped  
9 them at 374 single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) to estimate their  
10 demographic distances. Seedling morphology, growth and phenology traits  
11 were recorded in a common garden, and a proxy for water use efficiency  
12 was estimated for adult trees. We tested whether populations have more  
13 strongly diverged at quantitative traits than expected based on genetic drift  
14 alone in a multi-trait framework, and identified potential environmental  
15 drivers of selection. We found two main responses to selection: (i)  
16 populations from warmer and more thermally stable locations have evolved  
17 towards a taller stature, and (ii) the growth timing of populations evolved  
18 towards two extreme strategies, "start early and grow slowly" or "start late  
19 and grow fast", driven by precipitation seasonality. Populations following  
20 the "start early and grow slowly" strategy had higher water use efficiency  
21 and came from inner Alpine valleys characterized by pronounced summer  
22 droughts. Our results suggest that contrasting adaptive life-history  
23 strategies exist in silver fir across different life stages (seedling to adult),  
24 and that some of the characterized populations may provide suitable seed  
25 sources for tree growth under future climatic conditions.

<sup>26</sup> **Keywords:**

<sup>27</sup> selection, demography, quantitative trait, ontogeny, life-history, stable

<sup>28</sup> carbon isotopes



## 29 **Introduction**

30 Phenotypic differences between populations may reflect neutral, adaptive,  
31 and/or plastic processes (Kawecki & Ebert, 2004). Neutral processes often  
32 lead to phenotypic differentiation between populations at the species'  
33 range edges, where populations are small and isolated (*e.g.* Hampe & Petit,  
34 2005, Kawecki, 2008). The relative importance of adaptation and plasticity  
35 ultimately depends on the degree of environmental heterogeneity and the  
36 dispersal ability of the species (Via & Lande, 1985, Sultan & Spencer, 2002,  
37 Chevin & Lande, 2010, Polechova, 2018). Local adaptation is likely to  
38 establish when the spatial scale of environmental variation is greater than  
39 the dispersal ability of the species, while plasticity is likely to be favoured  
40 with a fine-scale environmental variability and/or in the presence of  
41 long-distance gene flow.

42 Forest trees have large effective population sizes, species ranges that  
43 span large spatial scales, a long-life span and a predominantly outcrossing  
44 mode of reproduction (Petit & Hampe, 2006). Long-distance gene flow is  
45 also common in forest trees and its role in adaptation has been recognized  
46 (Kremer *et al.*, 2012). These characteristics largely favour plasticity, which  
47 has been illustrated by multi-site common garden trials, for example for  
48 growth (*e.g.* Rehfeldt *et al.*, 2002) or phenology (*e.g.* Vitasse *et al.*, 2010, De  
49 Kort *et al.*, 2016); see further references in Kremer *et al.* (2012).  
50 Nevertheless, local adaptation is also common in forest trees, with ample  
51 evidence for adaptive divergence along continuous environmental clines,  
52 such as those created by latitude or distance to the sea in the boreal zone,  
53 or altitudinal gradients in the temperate zone (Savolainen *et al.*, 2007,

54 Alberto *et al.*, 2011, Lind *et al.*, 2018).

55 While adaptation has been extensively studied along environmental  
56 gradients, much less is known about its general patterns and drivers in  
57 heterogeneous environments. Indeed, populations across heterogeneous  
58 landscapes may display rapid and often non-predictable changes in genetic  
59 diversity and trait divergence (Yeaman & Jarvis, 2006). Mountainous  
60 regions of the Northern Hemisphere often create such heterogeneous  
61 landscapes for many species. Here, post-glacial recolonization not only  
62 traced the climatic niche, but was also constrained by topography, creating  
63 complex patterns in species distributions and demography (Hewitt, 1999).  
64 Environmental drivers of adaptation in mountain ranges can go undetected  
65 with coarse-scale climate data (*e.g.* Austin & Van Niel, 2011, Ruosch *et al.*,  
66 2016). The development of many fine-scale environmental data sets  
67 provides new opportunities to study adaptation across mountainous  
68 landscapes (*e.g.* Karger *et al.*, 2017, Hengl *et al.*, 2017). It is also increasingly  
69 recognized that spatial heterogeneity in climate in mountainous landscapes  
70 represents an important spatial buffer in response to climate change (*e.g.*  
71 Ackerly *et al.*, 2010).

72 The phenotypic signature of spatially varying selection across  
73 populations can be assessed using  $Q_{ST}$ , a measure of genetic differentiation  
74 between populations (Whitlock, 2008). Comparing  $Q_{ST}$  with divergence at  
75 neutral genetic markers ( $F_{ST}$ ) provides a means for identifying locally  
76 adapted populations (Whitlock, 2008, Whitlock & Guillaume, 2009). In  
77 principle, a comparison of  $Q_{ST}$  to  $F_{ST}$  controls for demography, but  
78 insufficiently so, because the complex history of potentially numerous  
79 populations cannot be adequately represented by  $F_{ST}$ . This issue has been

80 widely recognized and alternative solutions have been suggested (*e.g.*  
81 Chenoweth & Blows, 2008, Martin *et al.*, 2008). The most complete  
82 approach has been proposed by Ovaskainen *et al.* (2011), which uses a  
83 statistically more powerful and biologically more meaningful null  
84 hypothesis: it accounts for the neutral demographic distances among all  
85 populations to derive a null expectation of trait divergence (see  
86 applications in (*e.g.* De Kort *et al.*, 2016, Schäfer *et al.*, 2018)). Furthermore,  
87 most past studies assessed traits in isolation from each other and focus on  
88 traits that are likely affected by the studied environmental gradient. The  
89 method of Ovaskainen *et al.* (2011) can be used to assess adaptive  
90 divergence on multiple traits at a time, thus potentially identify adaptive  
91 life-history strategies.

92 Most evidence for adaptive divergence in forest trees comes from  
93 seedling traits measured in common garden experiments. Although  
94 multiple seedling traits can be used to identify adaptive life-history  
95 strategies, it is difficult to assess if results are transferable to natural  
96 populations (*e.g.* Neale & Kremer, 2011). Indeed, trees have a long life span  
97 with two characteristic life-history stages, seedling and adult, where  
98 different selection pressures and physiological processes are operating  
99 (Petit & Hampe, 2006). Connecting these two life stages is essential because  
100 seedling mortality has the largest impacts on the structure and function of  
101 future forests, while the death of big trees causes the longest lasting carbon  
102 losses (McDowell *et al.*, 2013). Tree breeders have long known that seed or  
103 seedling traits are often poor predictors of adult traits in field conditions  
104 (*e.g.* Resende *et al.*, 2012), with some exceptions, *e.g.* wood traits (Gaspar  
105 *et al.*, 2008) or seed size in pines (Zas & Sampedro, 2015). Measures of adult

106 growth traits *in-situ* may also be uninformative when they are affected by  
107 management practices and competition, even if this effect is less  
108 pronounced for shade-tolerant species, such as silver fir (Kunstler *et al.*,  
109 2011). In contrast, carbon stable isotope discrimination,  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ , may  
110 represent a suitable trait for adult trees.  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  is related to the intrinsic  
111 water-use efficiency, a measure of relative water loss per molecule carbon  
112 acquired in the leaf, and has been advocated as a proxy for drought  
113 tolerance (Farquhar *et al.*, 1989). In vascular plants,  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  is to a large extent  
114 genetically determined (Dawson *et al.*, 2002), and several important  
115 quantitative trait loci (QTL) have been identified in forest trees (Brendel  
116 *et al.*, 2002, 2008). Further, for example, in *Picea mariana*,  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  was highly  
117 negatively genetically correlated to growth, while being less  
118 environmentally sensitive than growth, thus the authors suggested this  
119 trait for indirect selection for growth (Johnsen *et al.*, 1999). Overall,  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  is  
120 one of the key traits for understanding the genetics of drought tolerance  
121 (Moran *et al.*, 2017).

122 Here, we study adaptive divergence patterns in populations of silver fir  
123 (*Abies alba* Mill.) across a highly heterogeneous mountainous landscape.  
124 We asked whether populations have developed adaptive life-history  
125 strategies in response to local climatic conditions that are consistently  
126 present from the seedling to adult stage, while controlling for demographic  
127 distances between populations. Seedling morphology, growth and  
128 phenology were recorded in a common garden on half-sib families. We  
129 hypothesized that traits most likely do not evolve independently, thus we  
130 used a multi-trait quantitative genetic approach to identify correlated  
131 responses to selection. Adult  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  was measured *in-situ* on unrelated

132 individuals, and was used to correlate the populations' mean water use  
133 efficiency in the field with the populations' mean life-history strategies in  
134 seedlings. We developed a set of fine spatial scale historical climate  
135 variables to identify potential drivers of locally adapted life-history  
136 strategies. Finally, we estimate the evolutionary potential in seedling  
137 quantitative traits to assess the future of silver fir populations in  
138 Switzerland.

## 139 **Material and Methods**

### 140 **Study system**

141 Silver fir is an ecologically and economically important European conifer. It  
142 can likely tolerate episodes of drought due to its deep rooting system (*e.g.*  
143 Lebourgeois *et al.*, 2013, Vitali *et al.*, 2017) and its high tolerance to bark  
144 beetle attack (Wermelinger, 2004). We selected 19 putatively autochthonous  
145 silver fir populations across a highly heterogeneous Alpine region across  
146 the Swiss Alps, Pre-Alps, Central Plateau and Jura Mountains (Fig. 1a,  
147 Supporting Information Fig. S1 and Table S1). The selection was based on  
148 various data sources, including the national register of seed stands (NKS,  
149 for autochthony/allochthony information), national forest inventory (NFI,  
150 for the distribution of silver fir and stand histories), the long-term forest  
151 ecosystem research (LWF), and after consulting forest experts. In 2009,  
152 seeds were collected from three trees, and in 2013 and 2016, needles were  
153 sampled from 19 to 22 adult trees per population (total of 387 trees),  
154 including the previously sampled trees. A minimum distance of 100m was

155 respected between the sampled trees to minimize the risk of collecting  
156 closely related trees (e.g. parent-offspring or sibs). Note that it is common  
157 practice to sample adult trees with only 20m (Mosca *et al.*, 2012) or 37m  
158 (Roschanski *et al.*, 2016) minimum distance for population samples.

159 Based on palynological evidence, it is likely that the Swiss range of  
160 silver fir was colonized from south to north after the Last Glacial  
161 Maximum. The species most likely reached the southern slopes of the Alps  
162 between 10 and 9 kyr BP and the northern slopes between 8 and 5 kyr BP  
163 (Van der Knaap *et al.*, 2005, Liepelt *et al.*, 2009, Ruosch *et al.*, 2016).  
164 Range-wide patterns of chloroplast and mitochondrial DNA variation  
165 (Liepelt *et al.*, 2002) and isozyme data (Burga & Hussendörfer, 2001) from  
166 extant silver fir populations suggest that the Swiss Alps were colonized  
167 from a single ancestral refugial population situated in the Central and/or  
168 Northern Apennines, even though the potential contribution of eastern  
169 refugial populations cannot be excluded.

## 170 **Adult tree data**

171 All adult trees were genotyped at 374 single-nucleotide polymorphism  
172 (SNP) loci originating from three different sources. Our aim was to estimate  
173 demographic distances between populations, so we attempted to select  
174 principally neutral markers. First, we used 220 out of 267 SNPs from  
175 Roschanski *et al.* (2016): we excluded the 25 SNPs that coded for  
176 non-synonymous mutations and 22 others where we had more than 10%  
177 missing data. Second, we selected 110 new putatively neutral SNPs from  
178 the transcriptome assembly of Roschanski *et al.* (2016), based on respective  
179 values of Tajima's D between 2 and -2 and dN/dS between 0.9 and 1.1, and

180 with low LD with the existing 220 SNPs ( $r^2 < 0.1$  and p-value  $> 0.05$ ).  
181 However, only 25 of these SNPs were successfully genotyped, most likely  
182 because the primer sequences were not specific enough (results not  
183 shown). Third, we selected 149 SNPs from the control panel of Mosca *et al.*  
184 (2012) that had less than 5% missing data in that study. Of these, 129 SNPs  
185 were successfully genotyped. Both DNA isolation and genotyping was  
186 performed using KASP arrays and the all-inclusive service from LGC  
187 Genomics (Middlesex, UK).

188 Ten of the adult trees per population were measured for  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ . Needles  
189 were sampled in spring 2016 for 2015 grown needles. Approximately 80 mg  
190 freeze-dried needle material was milled in 2 ml polypropylene tubes  
191 equipped with a 5 mm glass ball at 30 Hz for 4 min. Subsamples of  
192 approximately 5 mg needle powder were combusted in an elemental  
193 analyzer (Flash EA by Thermo Finnigan, D- Bremen) coupled to an isotope  
194 ratio mass spectrometer (Delta XP by Thermo Finnigan, D- Bremen) by a  
195 Conflo II interface (Thermo Finnigan, D- Bremen).

## 196 **Seedling common garden data**

197 In April 2010, from three mother trees per population (subsequently called  
198 families) approximately 2000 seeds were sown in open-air nursery beds at  
199 the Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL in Birmensdorf, Switzerland  
200 ( $47^\circ 21' 42''\text{N}$ ,  $8^\circ 27' 22''\text{E}$ , 550 m a.s.l.). Families and populations were not  
201 replicated or randomized in the nursery because the soil was well mixed  
202 and the terrain was mostly flat, but the position of each seedling was  
203 recorded to check and control for spatial auto-correlation (see  
204 Supplementary Methods S1). In spring 2012, at least 12 randomly selected

205 viable seedlings per family were transplanted to an open experimental field  
206 site at Brunnersberg, a former pasture on a south facing slope (20-24%  
207 incline) in the Swiss Jura Mountains ( $47^{\circ}19'35''N$ ,  $7^{\circ}36'42''E$ , 1090 m a.s.l.).  
208 Seedlings were planted at  $30 \times 40$  cm spacing, provenances and families  
209 were randomized across 16 blocks. Both the nursery and common garden  
210 locations were within the natural range of silver fir. Note that the data  
211 presented here were part of a larger experiment involving more species and  
212 populations, see Frank *et al.* (2017b) for more details.

213 Phenotypic measurements used herein were performed during the  
214 fourth and fifth growing seasons, in 2013 and 2014 respectively. The 2013  
215 measures were published in Frank *et al.* (2017b); see also Supplementary  
216 Methods S1. Traits included Terminal Bud Break (2013 and 2014, variable  
217 names capitalized hereafter) and Lateral Bud Break (2013) defined as the  
218 Julian date when the membrane below bud scales was broken and the first  
219 green needles became visible, Growth Cessation (2013) defined as the date  
220 when 95% of terminal leader height growth was achieved, Maximum  
221 Growth Rate (2013) calculated as the first derivative of the growth curve  
222 fitted to five to 17 height measures recorded during the growing season  
223 following the procedure proposed in Frank *et al.* (2017b), Growth Duration  
224 (2013) defined as time from Terminal Bud Break to Growth Cessation,  
225 Height (2013 and 2014) defined from the ground surface to the uppermost  
226 bud base, and Diameter (2013 and 2014) at 2 cm above ground surface. The  
227 latter two were measured after Growth Cessation. For clarity, we call  
228 Height and Diameter morphology traits, Maximum Growth Rate and  
229 Duration growth traits, and Terminal/Lateral Bud Break and Growth  
230 Cessation (equivalent to bud set) phenology traits. In total, we analyzed 880



231 observations. All traits were normally distributed, or could be  
232 approximated with a normal distribution in the case of discrete traits, and  
233 correlated with one another to a varying extent (Supporting Information  
234 Fig. S2).

## 235 **Environmental data**

236 We used downscaled historical climatic data to characterize environmental  
237 differences among populations. In order to obtain the closest  
238 representation of the climate of the period when the current populations  
239 were established, we used data from 1 January 1901 to 31 December 1978.  
240 The choice of this period was justified by two facts: (i) no  
241 observation-based climate data go back further in time, and (ii) starting  
242 from approximately 1980, the temperature time series are overwhelmed by  
243 the effect of global warming (Harris *et al.*, 2014). We used statistical  
244 downscaling using the delta method (Hay *et al.*, 2000) to obtain 1 km grid  
245 scale monthly minimum, maximum and mean temperature, and total  
246 precipitation fields for this period. The reference climatic data set was the  
247 0.5° resolution CRU TS v. 4.01 data (20 September 2017 release, Harris *et al.*  
248 (2014)) available for the 1 January 1901 - 31 December 2016 period, while  
249 the downscaling was based on the overlapping period (i.e. 1 January 1979 -  
250 31 December 2016) with the 1 km resolution CHELSA data (Karger *et al.*,  
251 2017). Further, soil available water capacity (AWC) was obtained at a 250 m  
252 resolution from the Soilgrids data base (Hengl *et al.*, 2017).

253 We calculated the 19 bioclimatic variables (Booth *et al.*, 2014) using the  
254 R package *dismo* (Hijmans *et al.*, 2017), and two potential  
255 evapotranspiration (PET) indices and four standardized precipitation -

256 evapotranspiration index (SPEI) variables using the R package SPEI  
257 (Beguería & Vicente-Serrano, 2017), two indicators of late frost, and the  
258 self-calibrated Palmer's drought severity index or scPDSI (Wells *et al.*  
259 (2004), Table 1). SPEI and scPDSI were summarized as measures of drought  
260 severity and frequency across the full monthly time series (Table 1). All  
261 climatic variables were considered as raw values or as deviations from the  
262 common garden environment in Brunnersberg (based on the CHELSA data  
263 for the period of 1 January 1979 - 31 December 2013). However, the two  
264 ways of calculating the climate led to the same conclusions (results not  
265 shown), so we present results with the raw variables only for ease of  
266 interpretation.

## 267 **Statistical analysis**

268 We used the statistical framework developed by Ovaskainen *et al.* (2011)  
269 and Karhunen *et al.* (2014) with slight modifications. Briefly, this  
270 methodology integrates genetic, phenotypic and environmental data to test  
271 if trait differentiation measured in a common garden experiment reflects  
272 local adaptation, while accounting for past demography inferred from  
273 supposedly neutral molecular marker data, and to identify potential  
274 environmental drivers. The three steps of this analysis were (i) inference of  
275 the demography, (ii) estimation of the additive genetic trait values in a  
276 supposed ancestral population and contrasting these with their equivalents  
277 in the contemporary populations, and (iii) assessing if the deviations of  
278 additive genetic trait values from the ancestral values can be explained by  
279 environmental variation. We detail these steps in the following paragraphs  
280 (see also Supporting Information Fig. S1 for an overview).

281 First, we estimated the coancestry matrix (a.k.a. drift distances)  
282 between all pairs of populations from variation in SNP allele frequencies  
283 assuming an admixture F-model (AFM) and using a Metropolis-Hastings  
284 algorithm implemented in the R package *RAFM* (Karhunen & Ovaskainen,  
285 2012). Further, we compared the posterior mean coancestry matrix against  
286 that estimated using the Bayesian clustering algorithm implemented in the  
287 software *STRUCTURE* v.2.3.4 (Falush *et al.*, 2003). See details of the  
288 demographic inference in Supplementary Methods S2.

289 Second, we used the method of Ovaskainen *et al.* (2011) to test if the  
290 estimated additive genetic trait values of the contemporary populations  
291 have diverged more from the ancestral value than expected by genetic drift  
292 only. We used a slightly modified version of the R package *driftsel*  
293 (Karhunen *et al.*, 2013) that co-estimates the ancestral variance-covariance  
294 matrix ( $G_A$ ), the ancestral mean additive genetic trait values and the effect  
295 of covariates (i.e. the fixed effects), and the population effects (i.e.  
296 deviations from the ancestral mean) using a Bayesian mixed-effects animal  
297 model. This model is different from a classical animal model (reviewed in  
298 Kruuk *et al.* (2008)) in that it accounts simultaneously for the family  
299 structure of the common garden (i.e. the pedigree) and the drift distances  
300 (i.e. the demography) previously estimated from genetic marker data. In  
301 Ovaskainen *et al.* (2011) a single statistic, the  $S$ -statistic, is calculated to  
302 evaluate the overall evidence for selection across all populations.  $S = 0.5$   
303 indicates consistency with neutrality,  $S = 0$  implies a match with purifying,  
304 and  $S = 1$  with diversifying selection. In this study, we also assess to what  
305 extent the particular populations deviate from their neutral expectation  
306 (see Supplementary Methods S3 for details).

307 We tested all traits individually and all pairwise combinations between  
308 traits measured in the same year. Seed weight and block of the common  
309 garden were included as covariates. We ran three independent Markov  
310 chains of the Bayesian animal model using a burn-in of 50,000 iterations  
311 followed by 30,000 iterations for estimation for single traits, and a burn-in  
312 of 70,000 iterations followed by 30,000 iterations for estimation for trait  
313 pairs, both with a thinning interval of 20. The three independent chains  
314 converged to similar optima and led to the same conclusions concerning  
315 the signature of selection (potential scale reduction factor of the  $S$ -statistic  
316 ranged between 0.99 and 1.1 across all traits) for the single trait and two  
317 trait analysis. However, with more than two traits the convergence was no  
318 longer optimal, so we did not consider these higher order trait interactions.

319 Third, we attempted to identify the potential environmental drivers of  
320 adaptive divergence between populations. We used the  $H^*$ -test, which can  
321 be viewed as a standardized version of the  $H$ -test developed by Karhunen  
322 *et al.* (2014) (see Supplementary Methods S3 for more details). To avoid a  
323 multiple testing burden of 34 environmental variables in Table 1, we  
324 performed a Principal Component Analysis (PCA) on the standardized and  
325 scaled variables. The first five axes explained 84% of the variance, thus we  
326 performed a  $H^*$ -test for each of these PC axes only. The variables with the  
327 highest loadings on each of the PC axes were the following: PC1: bio.2  
328 (Mean Diurnal Range) and Elevation, PC2: bio.10 (Mean Temperature of the  
329 Warmest Quarter) and PET.harg, PC3 and 4: none, PC5: bio.8 (Mean  
330 Temperature of the Warmest Quarter) and bio.15 (Precipitation  
331 seasonality). See Supporting Information Table S2 for the loadings of all  
332 environmental variables on the first five PC axes. The novel

333 methodological aspects detailed in Supplementary Methods S3, i.e. the  
334 procedure to evaluate adaptive divergence at each population, and the  
335  $H^*$ -test are now implemented in the R package *driftsel*<sup>1</sup>.

336 For a comparison with the Ovaskainen *et al.* (2011) approach, we also  
337 performed a classic  $Q_{ST} - F_{ST}$  test using the bootstrap procedure described  
338 in Whitlock & Guillaume (2009) implemented in the R package QstFstComp  
339 (Gilbert & Whitlock, 2015)<sup>2</sup>. We considered a one-tailed test, because we  
340 were interested in testing for adaptive divergence only, thus  $Q_{ST}$  being  
341 significantly greater than  $F_{ST}$ .

342 Finally, the resemblance between the family members measured in the  
343 common garden experiment can also be exploited to estimate the  
344 evolutionary potential of the studied traits. Two commonly used measures  
345 of evolutionary potential are the heritability ( $h^2=V_A/V_P$ ) and the additive  
346 genetic coefficient of variation ( $CV_A=\sigma_A/M$ ) (Mittell *et al.*, 2015), where  $V_A$   
347 is the additive genetic variance and  $\sigma_A$  is its square-root,  $V_P$  is the total  
348 phenotypic variance and  $M$  is the trait mean.  $CV_A$  is dimensionless,  
349 independent of other sources of variance, thus has been advocated for  
350 comparisons between traits (Houle, 1992, Hansen *et al.*, 2011).

## 351 **Results**

### 352 **Population history**

353 The STRUCTURE analysis and the estimated drift distances among  
354 populations using AFM indicated the presence of two main clusters that

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<sup>1</sup><https://github.com/kcsillery/driftsel>

<sup>2</sup><https://github.com/kjgilbert/QstFstComp>

355 correspond to Eastern and Western Swiss populations (Fig. 1). In addition,  
356 the population POS did not belong to either of these two groups, which is  
357 plausible given its isolated geographic location on the south side of the  
358 Swiss Alps (Fig. 1). The posterior mean global  $F_{ST}$  across the 19  
359 populations based on the coancestry matrix was 0.0184 (95% credible  
360 interval: 0.0167, 0.0202). In contrast,  $F_{ST}$  estimated with the Whitlock &  
361 Guillaume (2009) approach was 0.0056 (95% confidence interval: 0.0051,  
362 0.0061). Both methods show that  $F_{ST}$  is small, which reflects recent  
363 divergence between Swiss populations (approximately 200 generations if  
364 we assume a colonization 8 kyr BP and a generation time of 40 years) and  
365 ongoing gene flow due to long-distance dispersal. Further,  $F_{ST}$  from *driftsel*  
366 is likely lower because *driftsel* explicitly models the demographic distances  
367 between populations, and it is less sensitive to the level of polymorphism in  
368 marker loci (Karhunen & Ovaskainen, 2012). Demographic distances  
369 between populations estimated using *RAFM* or the software STRUCTURE  
370 were similar; the highest similarity between the two was achieved for  
371  $K = 4$  in STRUCTURE (Mantel statistic of 0.891, which is similar to  
372 deviations between different chains of AFM; see Supplementary Methods  
373 S2 for more details).

### 374 **Adaptive trait divergence across all populations**

375 Similar degrees of adaptive divergence were revealed using the  $S$ -test of  
376 (Ovaskainen *et al.*, 2011) and classic  $Q_{ST} - F_{ST}$  comparison (Whitlock &  
377 Guillaume, 2009) across traits (Table 2). Using either of the methods, the  
378 strongest signature of selection was observed for seedling Height followed  
379 by the Bud Break traits, then for Growth Duration and Diameter. Traits

380 measured both in 2013 and 2014 revealed similar signatures of selection,  
381 but in the  $Q_{ST} - F_{ST}$  test Terminal Bud Break was only marginally  
382 significant in 2014. Maximum Growth Rate and Cessation showed no  
383 evidence of adaptive divergence in either of the tests due to their high  
384 within population variance (Table 2).

385 Several trait pairs showed a signature of selection using the  $S$ -test,  
386 mostly those that already did so in the single trait analysis (Fig. 2a). We  
387 extracted the genetic correlations between traits from the posterior mean  
388 ancestral  $G$ -matrix ( $G_A$ ), and assessed if the 95% credible interval included  
389 zero (Fig. 2a, Supporting Information Table S3). Trait pairs that involved  
390 Height had the highest  $S$  statistics, but their genetic correlations did not  
391 differ from zero. Bud break often had high genetic correlations with growth  
392 traits and also high  $S$  values. The lowest  $S$  was observed between the  
393 Maximum Growth Rate and Growth Cessation (Fig. 2a). We used a  
394 standardized Mantel test following Cheverud (1988) to compare the  
395 phenotypic variance-covariance matrix ( $P$ -matrix) with  $G_A$ . The null  
396 hypothesis is no association between genetic and phenotypic matrices. The  
397 test was averaged across the posterior distribution of  $G_A$ . Five trait pairs  
398 had significantly different  $G_A$ - and  $P$ -matrices (Mantel-test,  $p > 0.05$ ), but  
399 only two had  $r_g$  different from zero (Supporting Information Table S3):  
400 Terminal and Lateral Bud Break, and Terminal Bud Break and Growth  
401 Duration. These two trait pairs were more strongly genetically correlated  
402 than expected based on the phenotypes (Fig. 2b). The posterior mean  $r_g$   
403 was at its maximum value for Terminal and Lateral Bud Break, which is  
404 likely due to developmental constraints. Further, Terminal Bud Break and  
405 Growth Duration also had a 38% higher genetic than phenotypic

406 correlation (Fig. 2b).

### 407 **Adaptive life-history strategies of particular populations**

408 Unusual trait divergence at several populations contributed to the overall  
409 signature of selection using the *S* test. Fig. 3 shows, for each trait, how  
410 much each population diverged from the ancestral mean and if this  
411 divergence is more than expected by drift. The highest number of  
412 populations with adaptive divergence was observed for Height (Fig. 3a–b):  
413 seven (in 2013) and eight (in 2014) out of 19 populations deviated from their  
414 neutral expectations. All these outlier populations evolved towards a  
415 higher mean height and no populations have been selected for reduced  
416 height. The *S*-test revealed also a signature of selection for Diameter (Table  
417 2), however, none of the particular populations showed unusual divergence  
418 (Fig. 3c–d). Yet, since there was a strong genetic correlation between  
419 Height and Diameter, the same populations showed the largest Diameter as  
420 for Height (Fig. 3a–d). The signature of selection on bud break traits was  
421 dominated by divergence in one population (SIR) that had unusually early  
422 bud break (Fig. 3e–g). Similarly, for Growth Duration, unusually longer  
423 growth duration was detected in two populations only, SIR and MGY (Fig.  
424 3i).

425 In the two trait analysis, the correlated evolution of Bud Break and  
426 Growth Duration and Rate of particular populations became even more  
427 apparent (Fig. 4). SIR and MGY still showed a signature of selection, but at  
428 the opposite end of the trait space, and population VRG evolved towards  
429 late Terminal Bud Break and shorter Growth Duration. These patterns can  
430 be interpreted as contrasting life-history strategies. SIR and MGY followed



431 a "start early and grow slowly" strategy, i.e. they burst buds early and then  
432 grow for a long time at a low rate, while at the other end of trait space,  
433 population VRG followed a "start late and grow fast" strategy, i.e. bursts  
434 buds late, but then grows fast for a short period of time (Fig. 4).

435 Phenology and growth traits' posterior mean additive genetic trait  
436 values were significantly correlated with  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  in adult trees measured  
437 *in-situ* (2013 Terminal Bud Break,  $r=-0.54$ ,  $p\text{-value} = 0.033$ ; 2014 Terminal  
438 Bud Break  $r=-0.5$ ,  $p\text{-value} = 0.055$ ; 2013 Lateral Bud Break  $r=-0.56$ ,  $p\text{-value} =$   
439  $0.025$ , 2013 Maximum Growth Rate  $r=-0.53$ ,  $p\text{-value} = 0.041$ ; 2013 Growth  
440 Duration  $r=0.53$ ,  $p\text{-value} = 0.037$ ). The correlations with the  
441 phenology-growth complex were such that the "start early and grow  
442 slowly" seedling strategy had, on average, higher water use efficiency in  
443 adults, while the "start late and grow fast" seedling strategy low water use  
444 efficiency in adult trees (Fig. 4). In contrast, the other traits were not  
445 correlated with mean  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  (absolute value of  $r < 0.25$  and  $p\text{-value} > 0.58$ ).  
446  $p\text{-values}$  were corrected for multiple testing using the method of correction  
447 for non-independent tests (Cheverud, 2001); see all additive trait  
448 value-mean  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  correlations in Supplementary Information Fig. S3.

## 449 **Environmental drivers**

450 Environmental PC axes explained a non-zero proportion of the trait  
451 divergence for most traits, but the highest correlations (>90%) were  
452 obtained for Height, Lateral Bud Break and Growth Duration (Table 3).  
453 Notice that, not surprisingly, these traits showed a signature of selection  
454 with the  $S\text{-tests}$  (Table 2 and Fig. 3). For each of these traits a particular  
455 aspect of the environment mattered. For Height, and also for Diameter to

456 some extent, environmental PC axis 1 showed the highest correlations with  
457 trait divergence (Table 3). The raw environmental variables that had the  
458 highest loadings on PC1 were variables related to the mean and variance in  
459 temperature, such as Annual Mean Temperature (bio.1), Elevation,  
460 potential evapotranspiration (PET.thorn), Late frost (late.frost2), or  
461 Isothermality (bio.3) (see the list of top ten variables in Table S2). Fig. 5a  
462 shows the full environmental space defined by PC1 and PC4, which was the  
463 second most important axis for Height: populations that evolved towards a  
464 taller stature are situated in the warmer and more thermally stable part of  
465 the climatic space.

466 For the phenology-growth complex, PC axes 2 and 5 had the highest  
467 correlations with trait divergence (Table 3). The environmental variables  
468 with the highest loadings on these axes were principally variables related to  
469 the mean and variance in precipitation, such as Annual Precipitation (bio.12),  
470 Precipitation Seasonality (bio.15), Precipitation of Wettest Quarter (bio.16)  
471 (see the list of top ten variables in Table S2). Thus, the "start early and grow  
472 slowly" seedling strategy of SIR and MGY, together with their high water  
473 use efficiency as adult trees (Fig. 4), has potentially evolved as a response  
474 to the low yearly total amount of precipitation (755mm in SIR and 801mm  
475 in MGY) and low precipitation seasonality (Fig. 5b). At the other end of the  
476 trait space, the climate of population VRG is characterized by high levels of  
477 yearly total precipitation (1621mm) and ample winter snow as reflected by  
478 its higher precipitation seasonality (Fig. 5b).

## 479 **Evolutionary potential**

480 We found the highest potential for evolution in three growth traits:  
481 Maximum Growth Rate, Growth Duration and Diameter, while spring  
482 phenology showed the lowest potential for evolution (Table 2). Estimating  
483 the additive genetic variance across the 19 populations and 57 families  
484 (three families per population) involves the assumption that the additive  
485 genetic variance is constant across the sampling area. We tested this  
486 hypothesis using the larger data set used by Frank *et al.* (2017b) involving  
487 4107 observations from 91 populations and 259 families. We found that  
488 estimates of  $CV_A$  were not strongly affected by the reduction in sample size,  
489 and  $h^2$  and  $CV_A$  were similar across three main geographic regions of  
490 Switzerland (Supplementary Methods S1), suggesting that our sample size  
491 was sufficient to estimate the evolutionary potential across the 19  
492 populations.

## 493 **Discussion**

### 494 **Are there general patterns of adaptation across a** 495 **heterogeneous environment?**

496 In this study, we found evidence for locally adapted life-history strategies  
497 across a heterogeneous Alpine landscape. The high number of populations  
498 leveraged the power of classical  $Q_{ST} - F_{ST}$  tests and led to similar global  
499 conclusions than the  $S$ -test of Ovaskainen *et al.* (2011) (Table 2). However,  
500 using our novel methodology, we were also able to identify adaptive

501 life-history strategies in a multi-trait space and pinpoint which populations  
502 show a signature of adaptive divergence (Ovaskainen *et al.* (2011) and  
503 Supplementary Methods S3). In particular, we identified two groups of  
504 correlated characters whose evolution could be driven by the  
505 environmental cues. First, our results suggest that the two morphological  
506 characters, Height and Diameter, evolve in a correlated manner, and that  
507 warmer and more thermally stable environments select for larger stature  
508 (Fig. 5a). Second, we identified a phenology–growth trait complex that may  
509 evolve in response to precipitation. Populations from areas characterized  
510 by generally low levels of precipitation (i.e. with drought) evolved to start  
511 the growing season early and then grow slowly, and also to have a high  
512 water use efficiency (Fig. 4 and 5b). These populations, SIR and MGY,  
513 originate from a dry inner Alpine valley of Switzerland, the Rhône Valley.  
514 Further, the other Rhône Valley populations, GRY and BRS, and populations  
515 from other areas of Switzerland with a similar climate, such as the Rhine  
516 valley (JEZ) and Ticino (PRA) are also the closest in the phenology–growth  
517 trait space to SIR and MGY (Fig. 1). In contrast, VRG, situated in a valley  
518 characterized by ample precipitation, evolved towards a "start late and  
519 grow fast" strategy. Again, independent data from adult trees corroborated  
520 our findings, VRG, and other populations from humid sites, such as GRB  
521 and MUO, had a low water use efficiency (Fig. 4).

522 The length of the annual development cycle of temperate trees is  
523 constrained between two opposing forces: maximizing the length of the  
524 vegetative season while avoiding late frost and summer drought. This  
525 life-history trade-off is particularly important in mountainous  
526 environments, where the length of the growing season is often limited by

527 late snow or compromised by summer drought in dry, inner Alpine valleys.  
528 Our study region is relatively small, and limited to one part of the Alpine  
529 Range. However, the correlation between the phenology–growth  
530 life-history trade-off in seedlings and water use efficiency in adults  
531 provides independent evidence for this trade-off (Fig. 4), and supports the  
532 existence of a general pattern of adaptation across a mountainous  
533 landscape. Thus, we speculate that the phenology–growth life-history  
534 trade-off may be more general across other mountainous regions and  
535 provide a testable prediction in other mountain ranges and species.

### 536 **Why are some traits under selection and not others?**

537 Demonstrating selection for taller stature in a tree is not surprising because  
538 tall stature has numerous fitness advantages. Taller seedlings/young trees  
539 have access to more light and can out-compete their neighbors, and high  
540 stature in mature trees can facilitate pollen and seed dispersal (Petit &  
541 Hampe, 2006). Interestingly, at least some of the populations that appear to  
542 have been selected for larger stature (Fig. 3a–b) are located on the Swiss  
543 Plateau, where the effect of forest management cannot be fully excluded  
544 (e.g. Bürgi & Schuler, 2003). Since tree height is also a key trait from an  
545 economical point of view, there is a possibility that the observed patterns  
546 are, in part, a result of artificial selection for height.

547 A long-standing hypothesis in evolutionary biology is that traits  
548 belonging to the same functional and/or developmental group are  
549 genetically more integrated than traits with different functions or  
550 developmental origins (Berg, 1960, Pigliucci & Preston, 2004). Several  
551 empirical studies found evidence that there is greater genetic and

552 phenotypic character integration within suites of functionally or  
553 developmentally related traits than between them, *e.g.* within or between  
554 floral vs. vegetative traits in plants (Waitt & Levin, 1998, Baranzelli *et al.*,  
555 2014). Here, we found two trait pairs with an ancestral *G*-matrix that was  
556 significantly different from the *P*-matrix, and in both cases the genetic  
557 correlation was significantly higher than the phenotypic correlation. First,  
558 between Terminal and Lateral Bud Break the genetic correlation was one,  
559 which illustrates a complete character integration (Fig. 2b). Second,  
560 between Terminal Bud Break and Growth Duration (Fig. 4), which suggests  
561 that at the physiological and molecular level, spring phenology and growth  
562 are strongly linked.

563 There is overwhelming evidence of adaptive clines for bud set (a proxy  
564 for growth cessation) in many forest tree species, including conifers, but  
565 none in *Abies* species (Alberto *et al.*, 2013). Consistently, in this study,  
566 Growth Cessation did not show evidence of adaptive divergence. The  
567 explanation may lie in the deterministic bud development of *Abies* species  
568 (Cooke *et al.*, 2012). They produce terminal buds during the summer at the  
569 tip of each leading branch shoot and remain dormant during the following  
570 winter. Each bud contains a preformed stem unit composed of internodes  
571 and leaf primordia that will grow to branches and photosynthesizing  
572 needles, respectively, during the following growing season.

### 573 **Potential limitations and caveats**

574 Adaptive trait divergence may be a result of local adaptation or adaptive  
575 phenotypic plasticity (Merilä & Hendry, 2014). To tell these two apart, one  
576 has to measure trait values of a particular genotype across different

577 environments. Common garden studies of forest trees often observe  
578 site-specific effects for growth or phenology, indicative of adaptive  
579 plasticity (Alberto *et al.*, 2013). For example, Santos-del Blanco *et al.* (2013)  
580 found a growth-reproduction trade-off in *Pinus halepensis*, with trees in  
581 high stress sites investing more in reproduction and trees in low stress sites  
582 investing more in vegetative growth. Here, we only had a single common  
583 garden and the relocation to Jura did not affect all provenances the same  
584 way. Thus, we could not distinguish between local adaptation and adaptive  
585 plasticity. Nevertheless, even if plasticity is known to play an important  
586 role in explaining phenotypic differences, the signature of adaptive  
587 divergence is often confirmed across all tested common garden sites (*e.g.*  
588 Rodríguez-Quilón *et al.*, 2016).

589 Plasticity could have also caused the observed spatial variation in  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$   
590 measured in adult trees *in-situ*. It appears that the importance of plastic and  
591 genetic factors is species specific even among conifers. For example, in  
592 *Pinus sylvestris*, Santini *et al.* (2018) suggested that plastic, and not genetic,  
593 responses dominate the inter-population variability in water use efficiency,  
594 even though, admittedly they did not have progeny information. In  
595 contrast, Voltas *et al.* (2008) reported large genetic differences among  
596 populations in *Pinus halepensis* using a common garden trial.  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  is also  
597 prone to temporal, year-to-year, fluctuations because it integrates the  
598 photosynthetic activity through the period the tissue was synthesized,  
599 which is a single growing season. While measures of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  are often  
600 correlated across years (*e.g.* Chevillat *et al.*, 2005), environment can also  
601 have an effect (*e.g.* Rinne *et al.*, 2015). For example, a temporal increase in  
602 water use efficiency due to anthropogenic  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{N}$  fertilization have

603 been reported across different forest tree species across Europe (Saurer  
604 *et al.*, 2014). Finally, spatial variation, notably latitudinal and altitudinal  
605 trends, in  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  have long been demonstrated (Körner *et al.*, 1991).  
606 However, it is often difficult to pinpoint single environmental variables  
607 across regional or continental spatial scales that explain the variation in  
608  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  (Leonardi *et al.*, 2012). Thus, we estimated that any attempts for  
609 environmental corrections of the population mean  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  would lack a solid  
610 basis.

611 Common garden studies that use seeds from wild populations may  
612 provide inaccurate estimates of population differentiation, particularly for  
613 early traits, due to environmental maternal effects (Bossdorf *et al.*, 2005).  
614 Quantitative genetic studies that control for genetic and/or epigenetic  
615 maternal effects in forest trees are still rare (Alberto *et al.*, 2013). Although  
616 there is evidence for long-lasting effects of seed size in *Pines* (Zas &  
617 Sampedro, 2015, Surles *et al.*, 1993), such effects are less obvious in other  
618 conifers (St. Clair & Adams, 1991). Nevertheless, we controlled for the  
619 average seed weight of the families in the Bayesian animal model (see also  
620 Supplementary Methods S1), which is admittedly just one component of  
621 the maternal effects. More recently, the role of epigenetic "memory" effects  
622 has been demonstrated in forest trees (Prunier *et al.*, 2016). For example, a  
623 common garden transplantation experiment of Norway spruce and  
624 European larch found that the previous year's environment and  
625 provenance contributed to the current year's bud break phenology  
626 (Gömöry *et al.*, 2015). Similar effects could have played a role in our  
627 experiments, however, all populations experienced the same year-to-year  
628 environmental fluctuations.



629 The design of the common garden study suffers from three potential  
630 limitations. First, for height, the results might be sensitive to  
631 non-randomization in the nursery (see Supplementary Methods S1).  
632 Seedlings were likely stressed from the replanting from the nursery to the  
633 common garden location in 2012, which may still be detectable in 2013  
634 Height (Supplementary Methods S1), and in 2014, a frost event in March  
635 damaged some seedlings. However, even with this new stress, the evidence  
636 for adaptive trait differentiation was almost identical to that in 2013 (e.g.  
637 Fig. 3). Second, we had phenotypic observations from three families per  
638 population, which is rather low. Nevertheless, using the full phenotypic  
639 data set of Frank *et al.* (2017b) across 91 populations, we were able to  
640 combine populations from nearby regions, thereby increasing the number  
641 of families to 5.3 families per population, on average. We found that  
642 estimates of evolutionary potential and also  $Q_{ST}$  were extremely similar to  
643 those obtained from three families (Supplementary Methods S1). Third, we  
644 estimated the evolutionary potential, in particular, the evolvability, across  
645 many populations, thereby assuming that the additive genetic variance is  
646 constant across the study region. Laboratory experiments have shown that  
647 the  $G$ -matrix can change in response to drift or selection, but maybe not in  
648 the wild (Delahaie *et al.*, 2017). To test this hypothesis, we estimated the  $h^2$   
649 and  $CV_A$  separately for the three main climatic regions as defined by  
650 foresters. We found that the evolutionary potential was similar across the  
651 three regions (Supplementary Methods S1), suggesting that the assumption  
652 of constant additive genetic variance across Swiss populations is  
653 acceptable. Overall we found that  $CV_A$  was much more robust to any of the  
654 three above-cited issues than  $h^2$ , in agreement with previous studies

655 (Houle, 1992, Hansen *et al.*, 2011).

## 656 **Practical implications and the future of silver fir in the** 657 **study area**

658 Silver fir has been identified as a conifer with great ecological and  
659 economic potential for the future because of its high tolerance to bark  
660 beetle attacks (Wermelinger, 2004), and because it may cope well with  
661 drought stress (Lebourgeois *et al.*, 2013, Vitali *et al.*, 2017, Frank *et al.*,  
662 2017a). Nevertheless, silver fir may already be threatened in some  
663 Mediterranean areas, where die-back events have been documented  
664 (Cailleret *et al.*, 2014), or in Southwestern Europe, where reduced growth  
665 has been reported (Gazol *et al.*, 2015). In this study we found that silver fir  
666 was able to evolve to a taller stature in warm and thermally stable regions,  
667 such as the Swiss Plateau. Indeed, positive effects of climate warming have  
668 been observed in temperate forest trees, where warming enhanced growth  
669 (Gazol *et al.*, 2015). Since height, diameter and growth rate have the highest  
670 evolvability and strongest signature of selection among the studied traits  
671 (Table 2), we may speculate that some populations will respond with  
672 enhanced growth. However, the predicted pace of climate change is much  
673 faster than it has been during post-glacial expansion/re-colonization, thus  
674 assisted migration may provide a practical solution to overcome this rapid  
675 rate of change (Aitken & Bemmels, 2016). Based on our results, populations  
676 of the Rhône and Rhine Valleys could provide drought tolerant seed sources  
677 for future plantations in other parts of Switzerland.

## 678 **Data archiving**

679 SNP and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  data have been submitted to Dryad ([https://doi.org/](https://doi.org/10.5061/dryad.s205vd8)  
680 [10.5061/dryad.s205vd8](https://doi.org/10.5061/dryad.s205vd8)).

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## 696 **Compliance with ethical standards**

## 697 **Conflict of interest**

698 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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**Table 1:** Geography and environmental variables calculated for the period of 1 January 1901 - 31 December 1978 from monthly mean, minimum and maximum temperature and total precipitation (CRU TS v. 4.01 data Harris *et al.* (2014) downscaled using CHELSA (Karger *et al.*, 2017)), and available water capacity (AWC, Soilgrids data base Hengl *et al.* (2017)). Abbreviations: PET: Potential Evapotranspiration; scPDSI: Palmer’s Drought Severity Index, SPEI: Standardised Precipitation-Evapotranspiration Index.

Variable	Description	Mean	(Min., Max.)
<b>Geography</b>			
Long	Longitude (degrees)	8.3	(6.2, 10.5)
Lat	Latitude (degrees)	46.7	(46.1, 47.3)
Elev	Elevation (m a.s.l)	1062.2	(481, 1602.5)
Slope	Slope (%)	40	(0, 70)
<b>Standard bioclimatic indexes</b>			
bio.1	Annual Mean Temperature	6.1	(3.1, 9.3)
bio.2	Mean Diurnal Range (Mean of monthly Tmax - Tmin))	8.9	(8.6, 9.2)
bio.3	Isothermality (bio.2/bio.7) (* 100)	23.9	(23.2, 24.6)
bio.4	Temperature Seasonality (standard deviation *100)	663.7	(636.4, 676.9)
bio.5	Max Temperature of Warmest Month	24.2	(21, 27.4)
bio.6	Min Temperature of Coldest Month	-13	(-15.8, -10)
bio.7	Temperature Annual Range (bio.5-bio.6)	37.2	(36.2, 37.9)
bio.8	Mean Temperature of Wettest Quarter	9.5	(-2.6, 17.7)
bio.9	Mean Temperature of Driest Quarter	-1.7	(-6.1, 3.9)
bio.10	Mean Temperature of Warmest Quarter	16.8	(13.8, 20)
bio.11	Mean Temperature of Coldest Quarter	-6	(-8.5, -3.3)
bio.12	Annual Precipitation	1176.4	(505.6, 1690.9)
bio.13	Precipitation of Wettest Month	281	(128.1, 432.6)
bio.14	Precipitation of Driest Month	4	(0.4, 9.1)
bio.15	Precipitation Seasonality (Coefficient of Variation)	50	(46, 55.3)
bio.16	Precipitation of Wettest Quarter	641.2	(274.2, 1024.7)
bio.17	Precipitation of Driest Quarter	55.6	(24.5, 83.7)
bio.18	Precipitation of Warmest Quarter	277.3	(156, 442.9)
bio.19	Precipitation of Coldest Quarter	222.7	(65.6, 452.7)
<b>Drought</b>			
AWC	Available Water Capacity	163.9	(147.7, 184.5)
PET.thorn	Mean annual PET (Thorntwaite)	43.8	(37.3, 51.8)
PET.harg	Mean annual PET (Hargreaves)	52.6	(47.3, 59.4)
SPEI.m1	Number of month with SPEI < -1	162	(144, 178)
SPEI.m2	Number of month with SPEI < -2	13.8	(7, 22)
SPEI.q5	5% quantile of SPEI	-1.6	(-1.6, -1.5)
SPEI.q1	1% quantile of SPEI	-2.1	(-2.2, -1.9)
scPDSI.m3	Number of month with scPDSI < -3	42.6	(29, 53)
scPDSI.m4	Number of month with scPDSI < -4	9.6	(2, 14)
scPDSI.q5	5% quantile of scPDSI	-3.2	(-3.4, -2.8)
scPDSI.q1	1% quantile of scPDSI	-4.5	(-4.9, -4.1)
<b>Late frost</b>			
late.frost	Min temperature of the first month of the year with mean temperature > 5°C	1.7	(1.4, 2)
late.frost2	Min temperature of May	4.7	(1.5, 8.2)



**Table 2:** Evidence of adaptive divergence across 19 Swiss silver fir (*Abies alba* Mill.) populations using the  $Q_{ST} - F_{ST}$  test of Whitlock & Guillaume (2009) and the  $S$ -test of Ovaskainen *et al.* (2011). 2.5%, 97.5% are the lower and upper 95% confidence intervals for  $Q_{ST}$ . The evolvability suggested by Houle (1992) was estimated using a linear mixed effects model (see Supplementary Methods S1 for details).

Trait	$Q_{ST} - F_{ST}$ test				$S$ -test	Evolvability
	$Q_{ST}$	2.5%	97.5%	p-value	$S$	$CV_A$
Height 2013	0.18	0.05	0.42	0.003	1.00	0.100
Height 2014	0.29	0.11	0.59	0.002	1.00	0.153
Diameter 2013	0.09	0.00	0.29	0.044	0.92	0.161
Diameter 2014	0.08	0.00	0.23	0.042	0.83	0.153
Terminal Bud Break 2013	0.15	0.01	0.64	0.054	0.94	0.021
Terminal Bud Break 2014	0.18	0.04	0.57	0.025	0.86	0.021
Lateral Bud Break 2013	0.12	0.02	0.35	0.020	0.96	0.020
Maximum Growth Rate 2013	0.06	-0.02	0.28	0.133	0.67	0.184
Growth Duration 2013	0.25	0.05	0.96	0.035	0.93	0.097
Growth Cessation 2013	0.23	-2.62	2.75	0.081	0.54	0.004

**Table 3:**  $H^*$ -test for the first five principal components of the environmental variables listed in Table 1 for each trait.  $H^*$  and the cumulative variance explained by each PC axes are expressed as percentages. For each trait, the highest  $H^*$  value is highlighted in bold. The variables with the highest loadings on each of the PC axes are the following: PC1: bio.2 (Mean Diurnal Range) and Elevation, PC2: bio.10 (Mean Temperature of the Warmest Quarter) and PET.harg, PC3 and 4: none, PC5: bio.8 (Mean Temperature of the Warmest Quarter) and bio.15 (Precipitation seasonality)

Trait	PC1	PC2	PC3	PC4	PC5
Height 2013	92	62	35	74	41
Height 2014	94	60	33	73	42
Diameter 2013	88	45	31	66	40
Diameter 2014	78	42	29	67	45
Terminal Bud Break 2013	12	84	32	68	94
Terminal Bud Break 2014	23	82	30	35	88
Lateral Bud Break 2013	17	80	16	47	95
Maximum Growth Rate 2013	51	70	31	49	86
Growth Duration 2013	08	92	56	70	93
Growth Cessation 2013	20	73	55	33	44
Cumulative Variance	38	56	70	79	84

## Figure legends

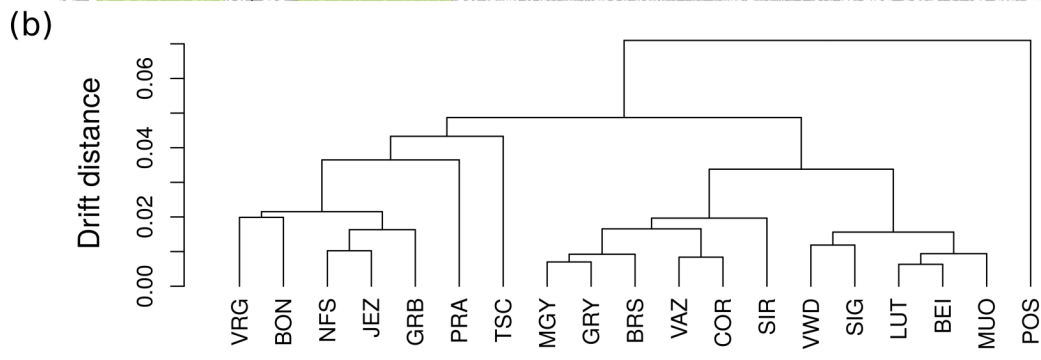
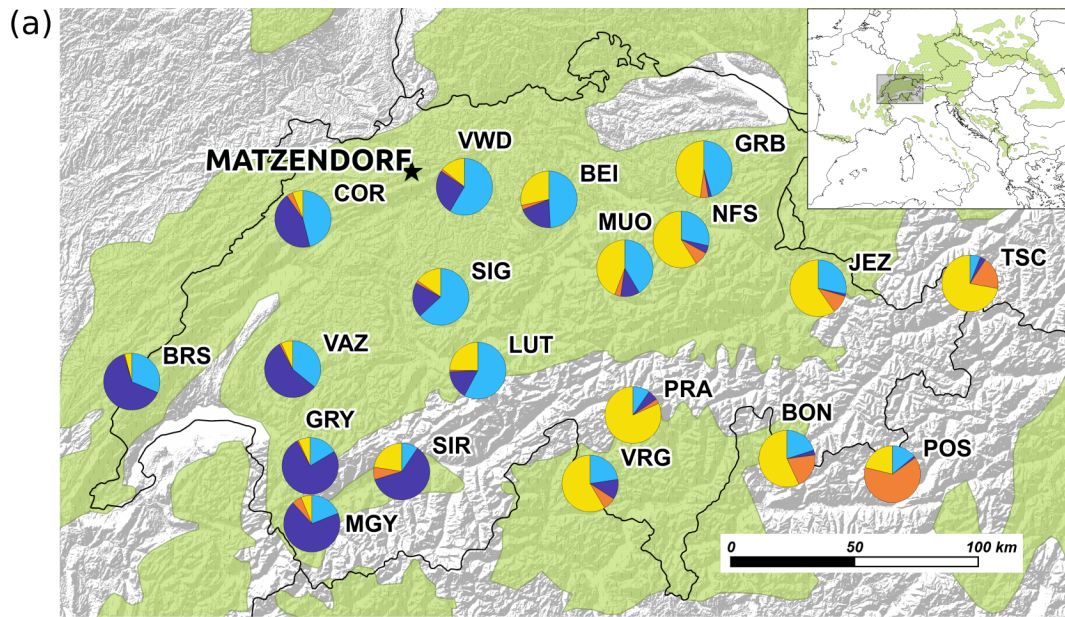
Fig. 1. (a) Geographic location of the silver fir (*Abies alba* Mill.) populations indicated by a summary of the STRUCTURE results with  $K=4$ . Each pie shows the average coancestry of the sampled, on average, 20 individuals from the 19 populations from the four assumed genetic clusters. (b) Drift distances between populations as estimated with the admixture F-model (AFM). Coancestry between populations is the mean of the posterior means from 10 independent Markov chains. Distances were calculated from the posterior mean coancestry matrix to draw the dendrogram.

Fig. 2. (a) The strength of selection acting on a given pair of traits measured using the  $S$  statistics of Ovaskainen *et al.* (2011), and the genetic correlation between them estimated from the ancestral  $G$ -matrix (see Supplementary Methods S3 for formulae). Points and trait names in blue indicate trait pairs with genetic correlations significantly different from zero. (b) Phenotypic and genetic correlations between trait pairs estimated from the  $P$ - and the ancestral  $G$ -matrix. Points and trait names in blue indicate trait pairs with genetic correlations significantly different from zero and different from phenotypic correlations. The trait abbreviations for 2013 are as follows: H2013: Height 2013, D2013: Diameter 2013, TBB2013: Terminal Bud Break 2013, LBB2013: Lateral Bud Break 2013, MGR2013: Maximum Growth Rate 2013, GD2013: Growth Duration 2013, GC2013: Growth Cessation 2013, and with identical letter codes for 2014.

Fig. 3. Adaptive divergence for each trait separately. (a–j) Panels show the estimated ancestral additive mean trait value (horizontal line), the amount of trait divergence from this mean that is expected based on drift (gray envelop), and the estimated posterior distribution of the additive trait values for each population (boxes). Blue boxes indicate strong evidence of selection at the particular population. Populations are ordered on each panel according to their additive trait values.

Fig. 4. Correlated adaptive divergence in a two-trait space between Terminal Bud Break, Growth Duration and Maximum Growth Rate. Colors indicate the mean water use efficiency ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ) of ten adult trees from the given population. Less negative  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  indicate higher water use efficiency. The capital letter A in the middle of the ellipses indicates the estimated ancestral additive mean trait value. Ellipses represent the median amount of trait divergence that is expected based on drift for each population (null hypothesis). Population codes (3 letters) represent the median of the posterior distribution of the additive trait values for each population. Populations with strong evidence of selection using the  $S$ -test are highlighted with an ellipse in color (identical to that of the population code). Ellipses of populations that do not deviate from drift are shown in gray.

Fig. 5. Principal component (PC) analysis of the environmental variables listed in Table 1 with populations (three letter codes) highlighted in blue if they showed evidence of selection in the  $S$ -tests for 2013 or 2014 Height (a) and for Terminal Bud Break, Maximum Growth Rate and Duration (b). Each panel shows the environmental space with the first two PC axes that had explained the highest amount of variance using the  $H^*$ -test, which were PC 1 and 4 for 2013 or 2014 Height, and PCs 2 and 5 for Bud Break and Growth Duration.



**Figure 1**

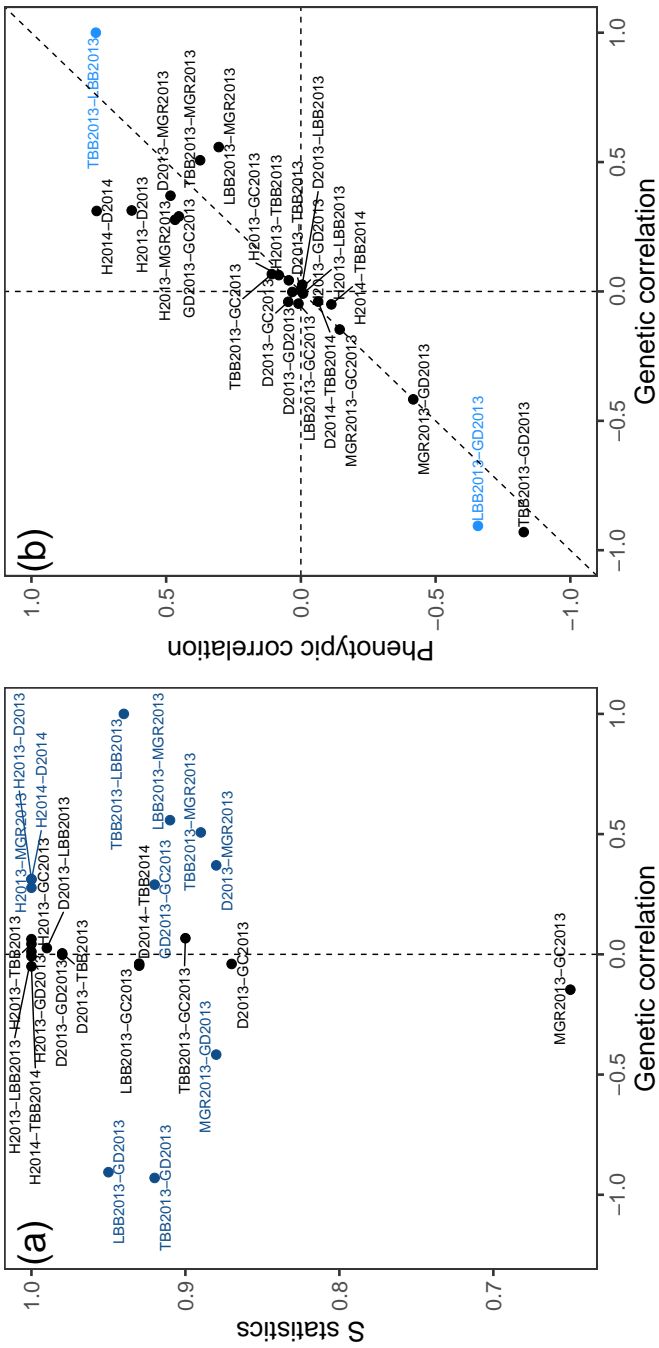


Figure 2

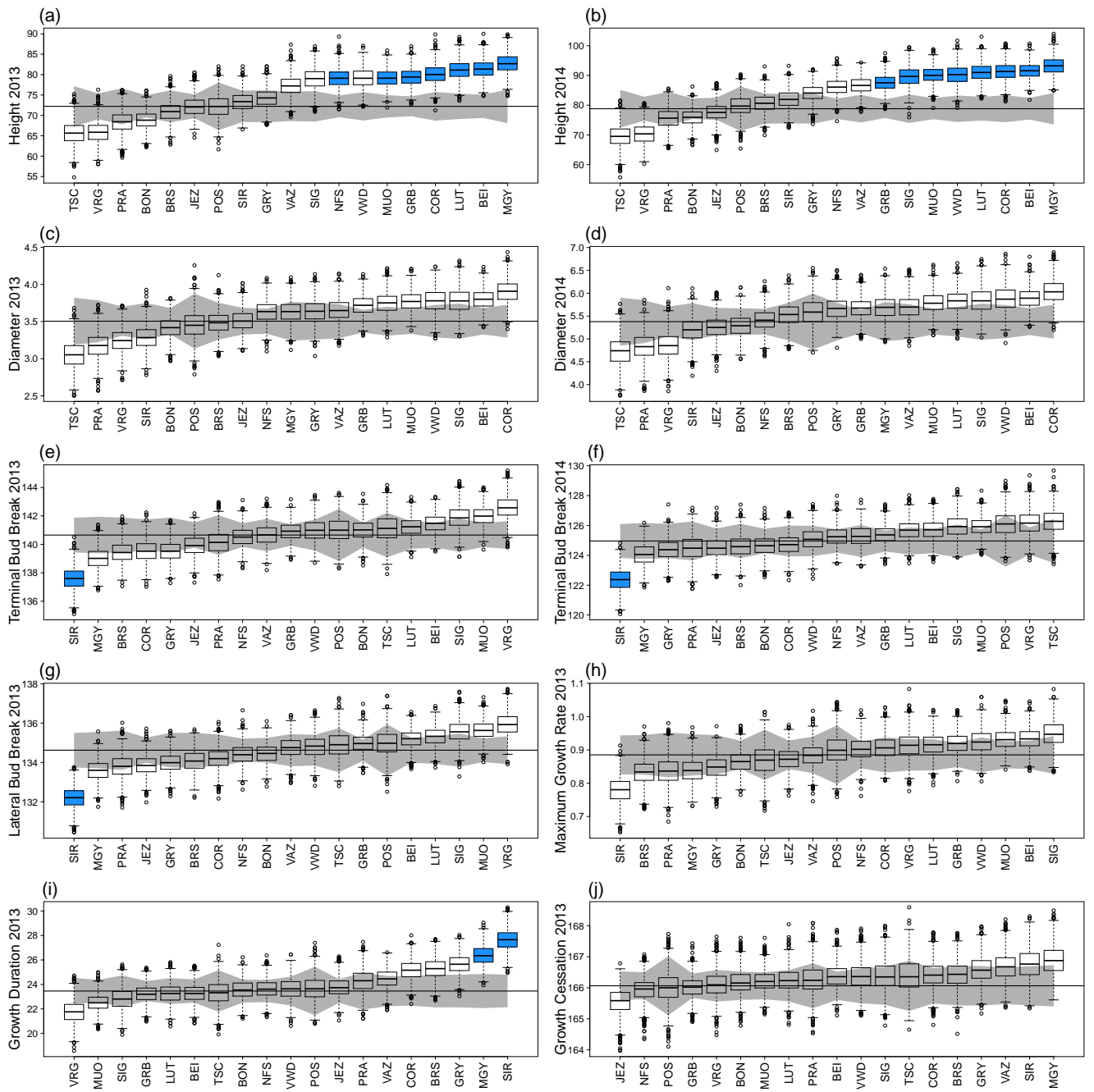


Figure 3

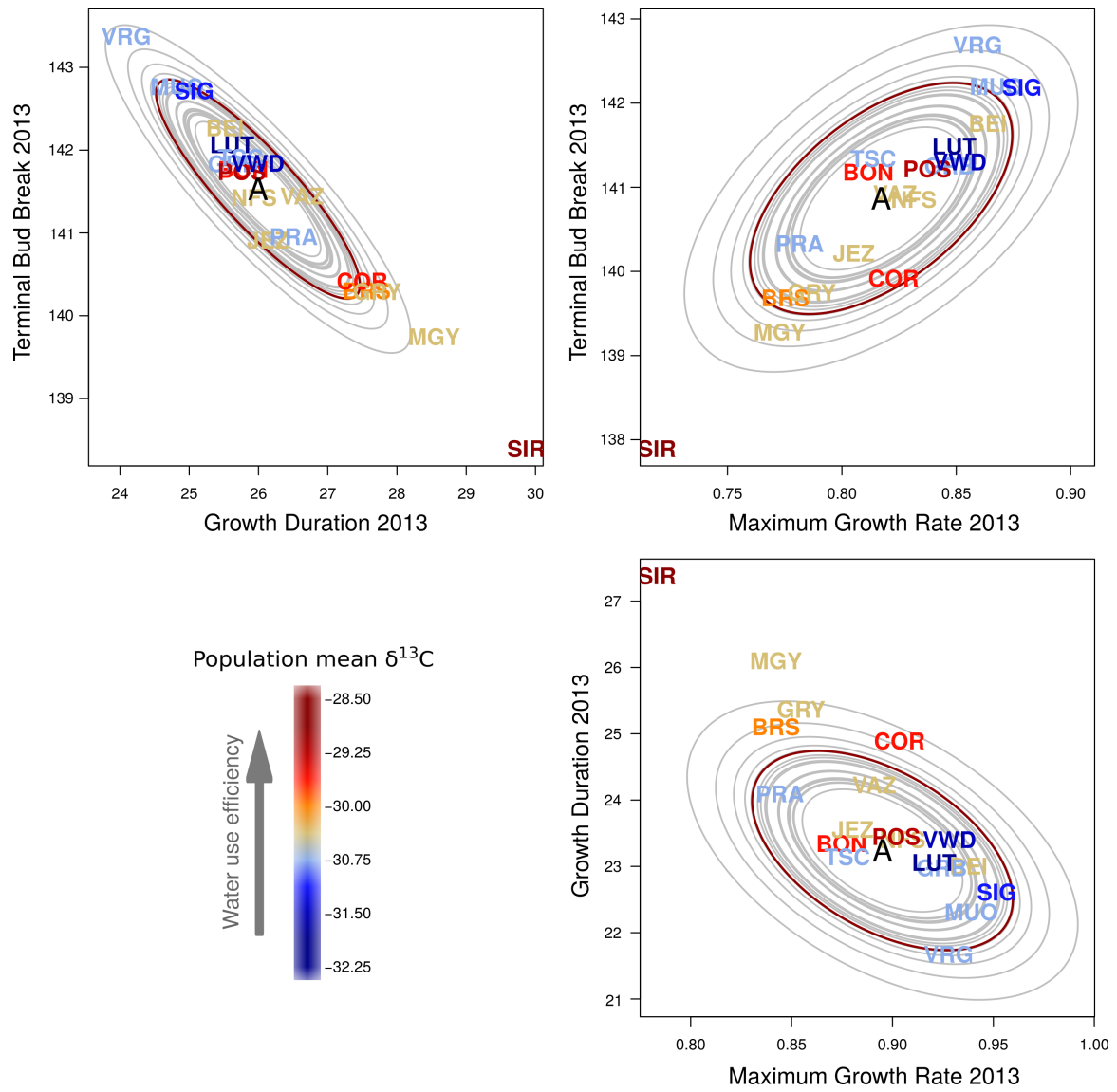


Figure 4

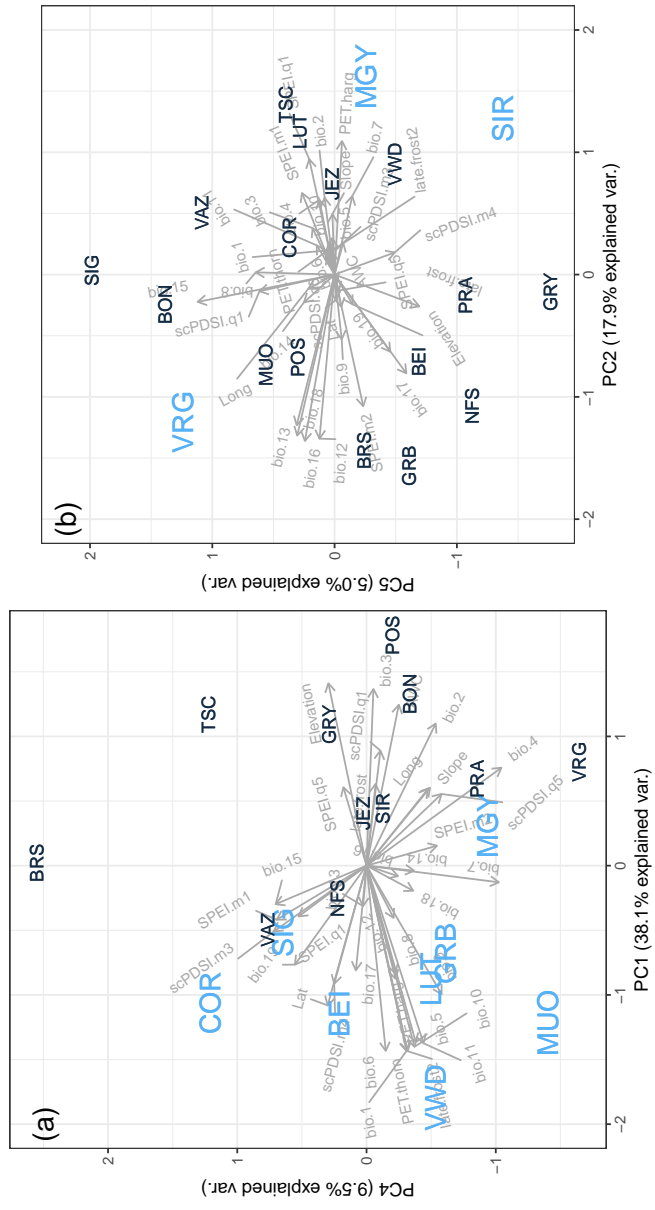


Figure 5



# Supplementary Information

**Title:** Adaptation to local climate in a multi-trait space: evidence from silver fir (*Abies alba* Mill.) populations across a heterogeneous environment

**Authors:** Katalin Csilléry, Otso Ovaskainen, Christoph Sperisen, Nina Buchmann, Alex Widmer, Felix Gugerli

**The following supplementary information are available for this article:**

Supplementary Figure S1: Schematic illustration of the work-flow.

Supplementary Figure S2: Distribution of trait values and correlations between trait pairs.

Supplementary Figure S3: Correlation between population mean  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  of adult trees and the additive genetic trait values of seedlings.

Supplementary Table S1: Geographic and forestry information about the 19 populations.

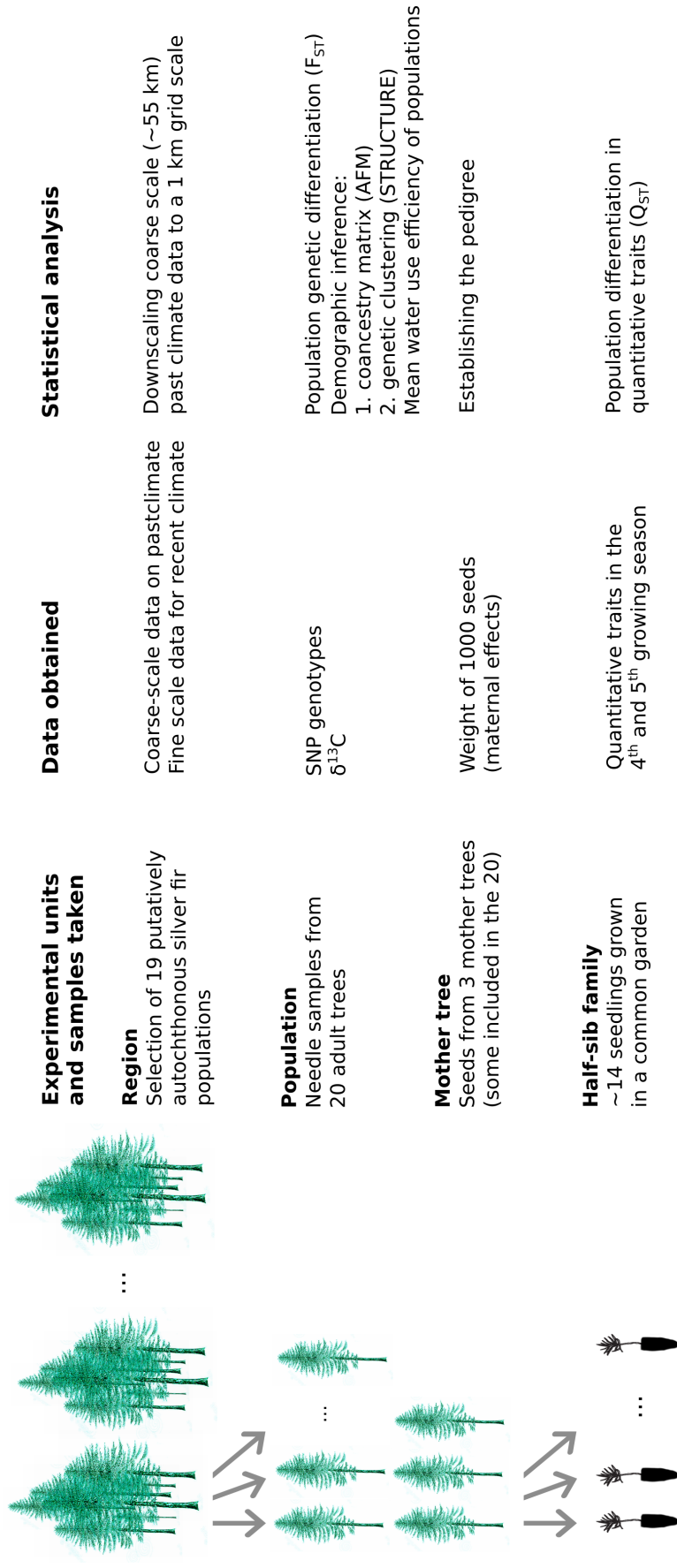
Supplementary Table S2 Loadings of the environmental Principal Component Analysis.

Supplementary Table S3: Genetic correlations between trait pairs and comparison of the  $G_A$ - and  $P$ -matrices.

Supplementary Methods S1: Estimating of the heritability, evolutionary potential and population differentiation across the 19 populations: the effect of experimental design, covariates, sample size and scaling

Supplementary Methods S2: Demographic inference of the 19 populations

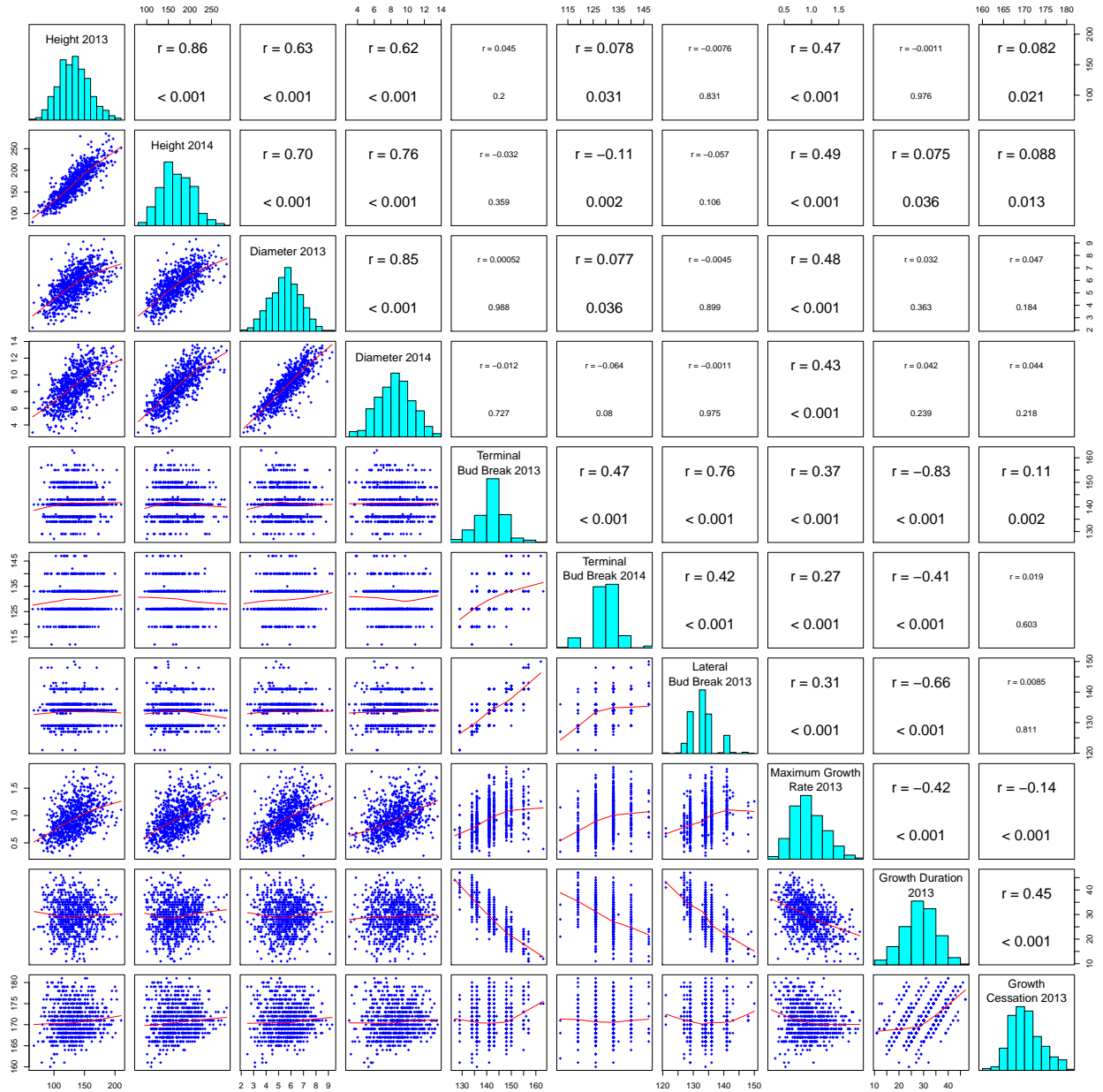
Supplementary Methods S3: Details of the modifications to the methods proposed by Ovaskainen *et al.* (2011) and Karhunen *et al.* (2014)



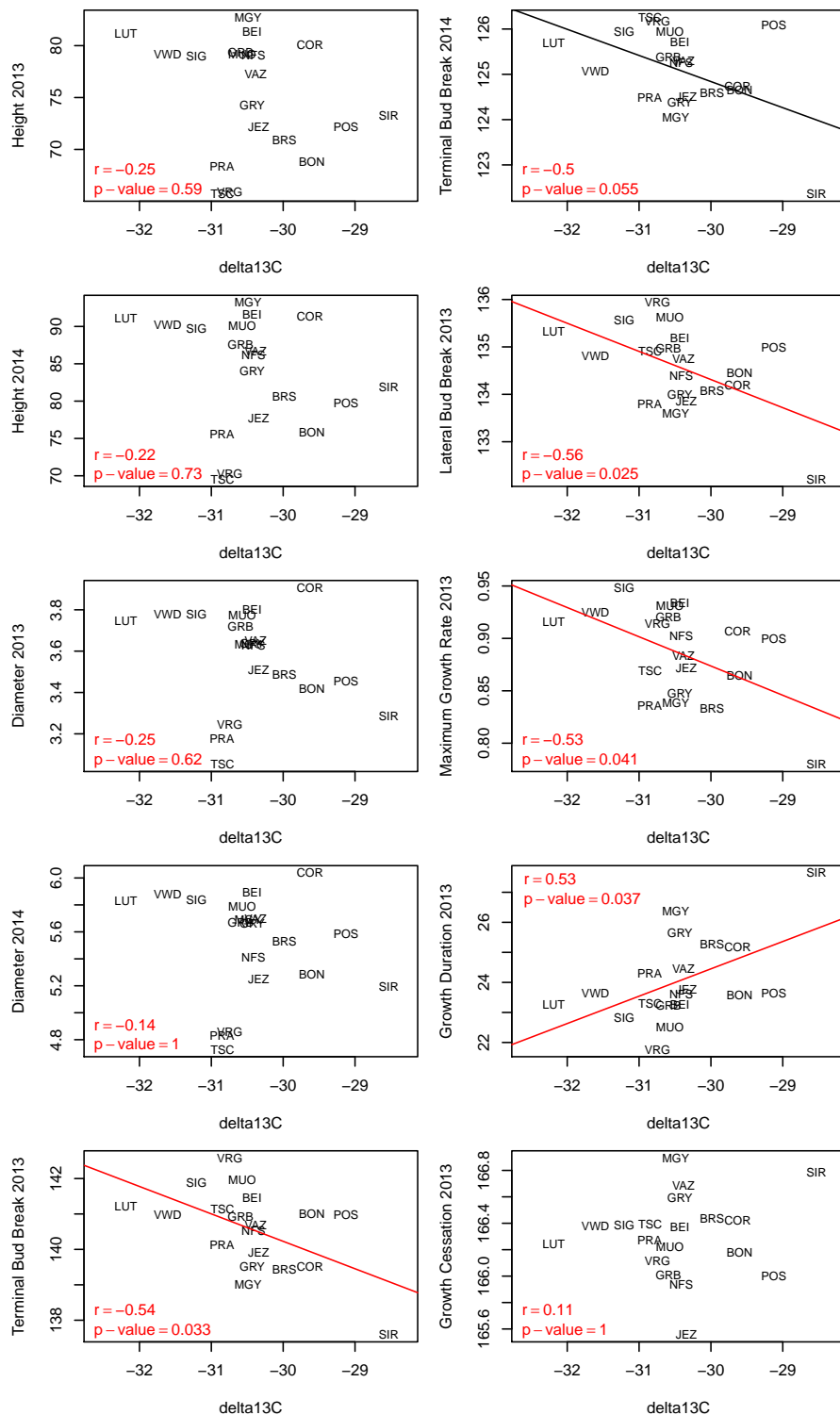
**Combined analysis of selection using multiple data types:**

1.  $Q_{ST}$ - $F_{ST}$  comparisons
2. Bayesian animal model to estimate additive genetic traits values and population effects while simultaneously accounting for the demography and the pedigree
3. S-test of selection in quantitative traits
3. H-test for the role of climate in trait divergence
4. Contrasting seedling trait divergence and adult mean water use efficiency

**Figure S1:** Schematic illustration of the work-flow.



**Figure S2:** Raw values of traits measured in a common garden on silver fir (*Abies alba* Mill.) seedlings. Figures show scatter plots between values for all pairs of traits (lower triangle), the distribution of each trait (diagonal), and the Pearson's correlation coefficient and associated  $p$ -value from a correlation test between values of all pairs of traits (upper triangle).



**Figure S3:** Correlation between population mean  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  of adult trees measured *in-situ* and the additive genetic trait values of seedlings in the ten quantitative traits. Pearson's correlation and p-values from a correlation test adjusted for multiple testing are written on each panel in red. The direction of significant correlations is indicated with a red line, while a black line indicates a marginally significant correlation.

**Table S1:** Abbreviations of the population names, their longitude and latitude, elevation in meters, and names of the nearby village (all in Switzerland) from which the population name abbreviations were derived. Data base/Publication/Expert specifies the source of information for deriving the putatively autochthonous status of the populations (see next page for details of abbreviations). NKS status is provided for populations present in the NKS data base.

Population code	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation	Nearby village	Data base/Publication/Expert	NKS status
BEI	47.230°N	8.318°E	843	Beinwil	Dr A. Burkhardt (WSL, Researcher)/NKS	la
BON	46.324°N	9.541°E	1334	Bondo	Huss/Burga	NA
BRS	46.595°N	6.175°E	1221	Le Chenit (Le Brassus)	Huss/Burga	NA
COR	47.162°N	7.055°E	840	Cormoret	NKS	la
GRB	47.334°N	9.114°E	922	Oberhelfenschwil (Graben)	IUFRO/NKS	a
GRY	46.299°N	7.091°E	1433	Gryon	NKS	la
JEZ	46.921°N	9.700°E	1158	Jenaz	U. Bühler (GR, Forest Office)	NA
LUT	46.634°N	7.952°E	817	Lütschental	M. Flury (Jenaz GR, District forester)	NA
MGY	46.095°N	7.100°E	1022	Martigny	Burga/K. Zumbunn (BE, Forester)	NA
MUO	46.991°N	8.708°E	691	Muotatal	C. Pernstich (VS, Forestry Office)	NA
NFS	47.090°N	8.997°E	1152	Näfels	Max Böhel (Muotatal SZ, District forester)	NA
POS	46.270°N	10.082°E	1602	Poschiavo (Le Prese)	J. Walcher and K. Winzeler (GL, Forestry Office)	NA
PRA	46.479°N	8.750°E	1180	Prato (Leventina)	U. Bühler (GR, Forestry Office)	NA
SIG	46.891°N	7.761°E	938	Signau	Huss/Burga/IUFRO	NA
SIR	46.280°N	7.560°E	1149	Sierre	Huss/Burga/Dr L. Walthert (WSL, Researcher)	NA
TSC	46.938°N	10.481°E	1284	Tschlin	IUFRO/NKS/Huss	a
VAZ	46.639°N	7.002°E	965	Maules	IUFRO/NKS/Huss/Burga	a
VRG	46.237°N	8.530°E	1149	Vergeletto	Dr L. Walthert (WSL, Researcher)	NA
VWD	47.273°N	7.884°E	481	Vordemwald	IUFRO/NKS/Huss LWF/Huss/ Dr L. Walthert and Dr P. Weber (WSL, Researcher)	la NA NA

NKS: Der nationale Kataster der Samenerntebestände (National catalogue of seed sources)

<http://www.nks.admin.ch/>

IUFRO: International Union of Forest Research Organizations

<https://www.iufro.org/>

LWF: Long-term Forest Ecosystem Research

<https://www.wsl.ch/en/forest/forest-development-and-monitoring/long-term-forest-ecosystem-research-lwf.html>

[//www.wsl.ch/en/forest/forest-development-and-monitoring/long-term-forest-ecosystem-research-lwf.html](https://www.wsl.ch/en/forest/forest-development-and-monitoring/long-term-forest-ecosystem-research-lwf.html)

Huss: Hussendörfer, E. (1997): Untersuchungen über die genetische Variation der Weisstanne (*Abies alba* Mill.) unter dem Aspekt der In-situ-Erhaltung genetischer Ressourcen in der Schweiz (PhD thesis ETH Zurich Nr. 11849). Beih. Schweiz. Z. Forstwes. 83: 1–151 (in German)

Burga: Burga, CA and Hussendörfer, E (2001): Vegetation history of *Abies alba* Mill. (silver fir) in Switzerland—pollen analytical and genetic surveys related to aspects of vegetation history of *Picea abies* (L.) H. Karsten (Norway spruce). *Vegetation History and Archaeobotany* 10 (3): 151-15

WSL: Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL

a: autochthonous

la: likely autochthonous

NA: not applicable

**Table S2:** Principal Component Analysis (PCA) of the 36 environmental variables listed in Table 1 (main text). PC axes 1 to 5 explained 84.5% of the variance in the raw environmental variables. The first ten environmental variables with the highest loadings are shown for each PC axes.

PC1 (38.1%)		PC2 (18.0%)		PC3 (14.0%)		PC4 (9.5%)		PC5 (5.0%)	
Variables	Loadings	Variables	Loadings	Variables	Loadings	Variables	Loadings	Variables	Loadings
late.frost2	-0.26	bio.16	-0.36	Long	0.35	bio.4	-0.38	bio.15	0.56
PET.thorn	-0.26	bio.12	-0.35	bio.14	-0.33	bio.7	-0.37	late.frost	-0.35
bio.1	-0.26	bio.13	-0.35	SPEI.q5	-0.32	scPDSI.m3	0.26	bio.8	0.32
bio.6	-0.26	bio.18	-0.33	bio.8	0.24	bio.15	0.26	scPDSI.q1	0.31
Elevation	0.26	PET.harg	0.29	scPDSI.m3	0.24	SPEI.m1	0.25	bio.17	-0.29
bio.10	-0.25	SPEI.m2	-0.28	scPDSI.q5	-0.24	bio.9	-0.21	scPDSI.m4	-0.25
bio.11	-0.25	SPEI.q1	0.25	Lat	0.23	scPDSI.q5	-0.21	bio.19	-0.23
bio.3	0.25	bio.17	-0.21	bio.19	-0.21	bio.19	0.2	bio.18	0.15
bio.5	-0.25	SPEI.m1	0.18	SPEI.m1	-0.2	SPEI.m2	-0.2	bio.13	0.15
AWC	0.23	bio.7	0.17	scPDSI.q1	-0.2	bio.2	-0.19	SPEI.m1	0.13

**Table S3:**  $S$ -test, genotypic ( $r_g$ ) correlations estimated from the posterior distribution of the ancestral  $G$ -matrix (see Results in the main text for details), phenotypic correlations ( $r_p$ ), the absolute difference between the latter two (Abs. diff.), and the  $p$ -value from a standardized Mantel test that indicates if the  $G_A$  and  $P$ -matrices are correlated with each other. Traits were measured on silver fir (*Abies alba* Mill.) seedlings in a common garden.

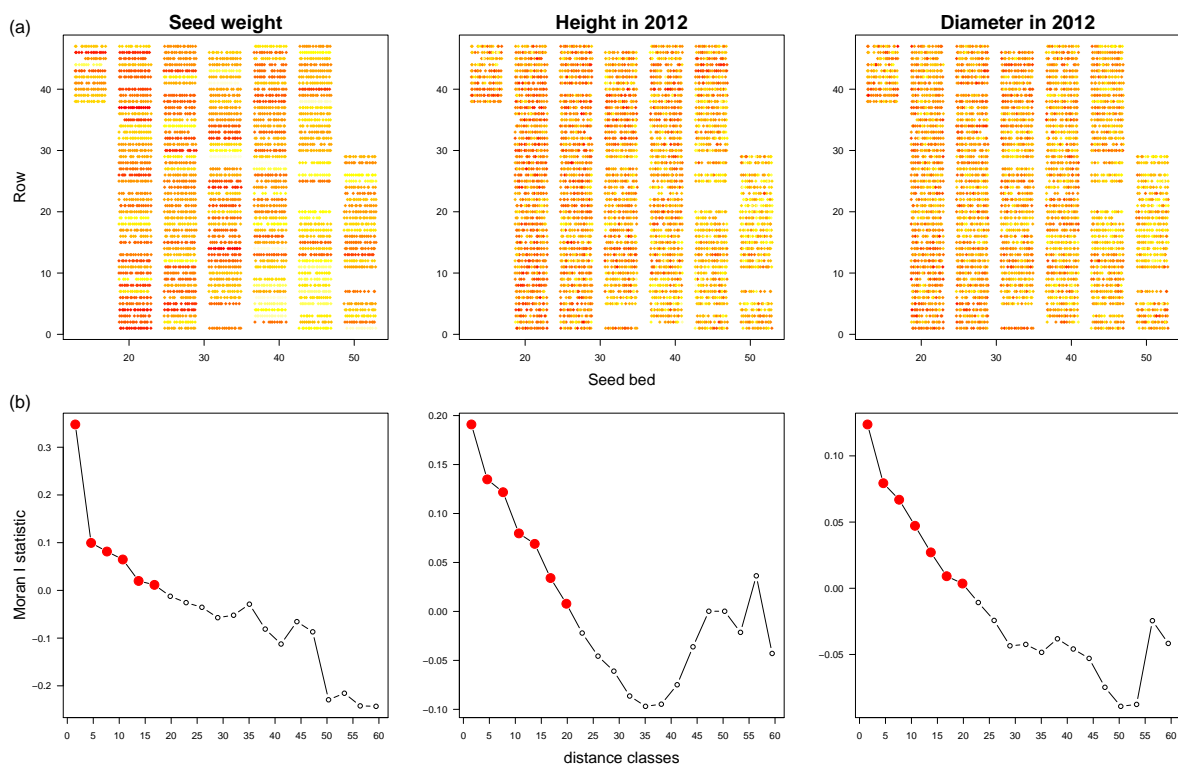
Trait pair	$S$ -test		$r_g$			$r_p$		Mantel-test	
	Mean	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	Mean	Abs. diff.	p-value			
Height 2013-Diameter 2013	1.00	0.31	0.23	0.38	0.63	-0.32	0.000		
Height 2013-Terminal Bud Break 2013	1.00	0.04	-0.09	0.15	0.04	0.00	0.023		
Height 2013-Lateral Bud Break 2013	1.00	-0.01	-0.13	0.12	-0.01	0.00	0.009		
Height 2013-Maximum Growth Rate 2013	1.00	0.28	0.13	0.39	0.47	-0.19	0.000		
Height 2013-Growth Duration 2013	1.00	0.01	-0.08	0.11	0.00	0.01	0.026		
Height 2013-Growth Cessation 2013	1.00	0.06	-0.06	0.22	0.08	-0.02	0.001		
Diameter 2013-Terminal Bud Break 2013	0.98	0.00	-0.16	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.000		
Diameter 2013-Lateral Bud Break 2013	0.99	0.03	-0.14	0.21	0.00	0.02	0.001		
Diameter 2013-Maximum Growth Rate 2013	0.88	0.37	0.19	0.52	0.48	-0.11	0.003		
Diameter 2013-Growth Duration 2013	0.98	0.00	-0.15	0.12	0.03	-0.03	0.001		
Diameter 2013-Growth Cessation 2013	0.87	-0.04	-0.25	0.18	0.05	-0.01	0.059		
Terminal Bud Break 2013-Lateral Bud Break 2013	0.94	1.00	1.00	1.55	0.76	0.55	0.557		
Terminal Bud Break 2013-Maximum Growth Rate 2013	0.89	0.51	0.16	0.84	0.37	0.13	0.000		
Terminal Bud Break 2013-Growth Duration 2013	0.92	-0.93	-1.09	-0.68	-0.83	0.10	0.000		
Terminal Bud Break 2013-Growth Cessation 2013	0.90	0.07	-0.25	0.38	0.11	-0.04	0.104		
Lateral Bud Break 2013-Maximum Growth Rate 2013	0.91	0.56	0.25	0.86	0.30	0.25	0.002		
Lateral Bud Break 2013-Growth Duration 2013	0.95	-0.91	-1.10	-0.66	-0.66	0.25	0.063		
Lateral Bud Break 2013-Growth Cessation 2013	0.93	-0.05	-0.38	0.30	0.01	0.04	0.516		
Maximum Growth Rate 2013-Growth Duration 2013	0.88	-0.42	-0.61	-0.20	-0.42	0.00	0.000		
Maximum Growth Rate 2013-Growth Cessation 2013	0.65	-0.15	-0.48	0.24	-0.14	0.00	0.001		
Growth Duration 2013-Growth Cessation 2013	0.92	0.29	0.03	0.53	0.45	-0.16	0.037		
Height 2014-Diameter 2014	1.00	0.31	0.23	0.37	0.76	-0.45	0.000		
Height 2014-Terminal Bud Break 2014	1.00	-0.05	-0.13	0.04	-0.11	-0.06	0.010		
Diameter 2014-Terminal Bud Break 2014	0.93	-0.04	-0.20	0.14	-0.06	-0.02	0.000		



# Supplementary Methods S1: Estimating of the heritability, evolutionary potential and population differentiation across the 19 populations: the effect of experimental design, covariates, sample size and scaling

## Effect of nursery design on quantitative genetic parameters

The full common garden study of (Frank *et al.*, 2017) consisted of 4107 observations on 91 populations and 259 families. The subset analyzed in this paper, for which genetic marker and water use efficiency data had been collected consisted of 880 observations on 19 populations and 57 families. Seedlings were planted in seven nursery beds each with 47 row pairs. Provenances were planted in the order of reading rows of an imaginary grid placed on the map of Switzerland from the top left to right bottom corner. The three families were planted one after the other, each taking up two rows. Size, growth and phenology traits were not measured in the nursery. Height and Diameter were first measured in 2012 after the transplantation to the common garden site, thus these measures may also incorporate differing planting depth. In contrast, the weight of 1000 seeds were measured for each family, which provides means of accounting for maternal effects.



**Figure A1:** (a) Spatial patterns in Seed Weight, Height 2012 and Diameter 2012 in the nursery. x (seed bed) and y (row) coordinates correspond to distances in meters. The 94 rows are illustrated by 47 row-pairs that the three families of a population occupied. Colors reflect the absolute values of each variable with larger values being darker red. (b) Spatial autocorrelation with respect to the spatial arrangement in the nursery expressed with Moran's I. Red dots indicate significant clustering of similar values.

Fig. A1(a) shows maps of the nursery beds with colors proportional to Seed Weight (trait names are capitalized hereafter), and seedling's Height and Diameter 2012 and the degree of

spatial autocorrelation (Fig. A1(b)). Although there is clear evidence for spatial autocorrelation in Height and Diameter 2012 related to the spatial arrangement in the nursery (Fig. A1), we argue that this is entirely due to population and family effects that were non-randomized. The two lines of evidence to support this are: (i) the presence of spatial autocorrelation with respect to spatial arrangement in the nursery is present already for Seed Weight, and (ii) the lack of spatial correlation other than the effects of population and family for Height 2012 (Table A1). Thus, we conclude that it is likely that the non-randomization of populations and families did not alter the consecutive trait measures. Yet, including Seed Weight as a covariate in models of 2013 and 2014 traits seems useful because it potentially accounts for maternal effects.

Frank *et al.* (2017) used Height 2012 as a covariate to account for nursery effects when estimating population and family variance components for all traits measured in 2013 and 2014. Height 2012 is strongly correlated with Height 2013 (Pearson's correlation of  $r=0.85$ ), thus including it as a covariate, does not account for the temporal correlation due to repeated measures for Height. Thus, including Height 2012 as a covariate decreased the population and family variance components for Height and Diameter 2013 and Growth variables, while leaving the phenology traits unaffected (Fig. A2(a)). Thus, we did not follow the statistical treatment used in Frank *et al.* (2017).

### Effect of sample size on quantitative genetic parameters

First, we assessed the effect of reduced sample size, i.e. using a subset of 19 populations out of the 91. We were interested if quantitative genetic parameters were sensitive to number of populations used, in other words, if they represent similar amounts of trait variation than the larger sample. Population genetic parameters estimated using the reduced set were overall similar to those obtained using the larger data set (Fig. A2(b)).  $CV_A$  was the most robust sample size, while  $Q_{ST}$  estimates were generally larger, which was expected given that we selected a subset of populations representing diverse ecological conditions. The ordering of the traits in terms of  $h^2$  and  $Q_{ST}$  were also different, which most likely reflects the choice of particular populations.

Second, we assessed the effect of having only three families per population, which is the bear minimum for estimating population genetic differentiation. The low number of families also affected the study of Frank *et al.* (2017), however, they partly compensated for it by having a large number of populations (so-called "genecological" approach). We used the full data set of 91 populations to "borrow" families from nearby populations, thereby increase the number of families. We select populations that are nearby our 19 populations taking into account the following criteria: populations had to be no further than 35 km from each other, they had to be in same valley or in the neighbouring valley with the same exposition, and had to have no

**Table A1:** Model comparison of mixed effects models fitted with lme in R with family nested in population as random effects and with and without Seed Weight as a covariate and with and without spatial autocorrelation structure (SpAC).

Seed Weight	SpAC	df	AIC	BIC	logLik	Ratio	p-value
no	no	4	32840	32865	-16416		
no	yes	6	32843	32881	-16416	1	0.700
yes	no	5	32796	32827	-16393		
yes	yes	7	32799	32843	-16393	1	0.677

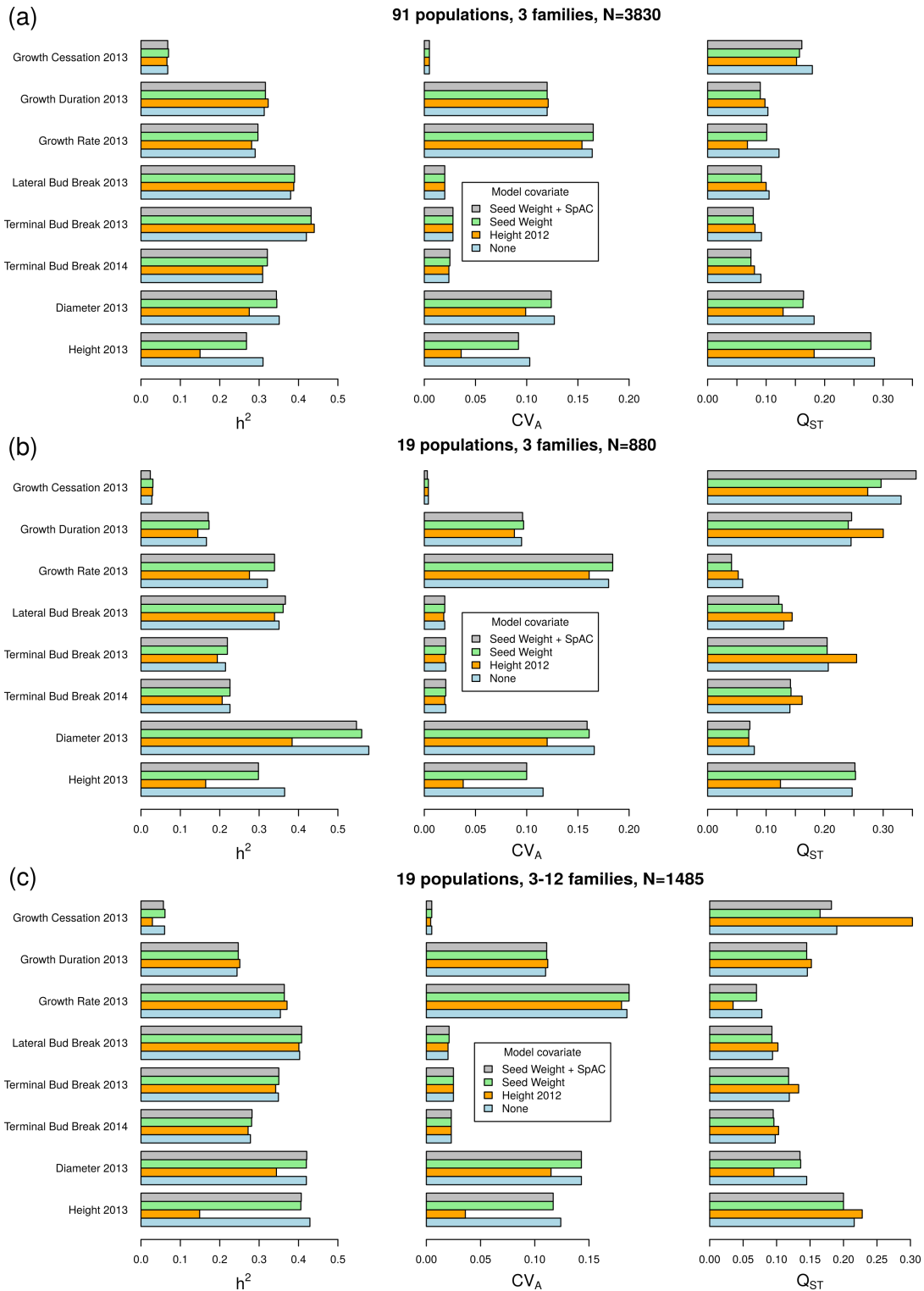
more than 200 m difference in elevation. According to these criteria, we were able to increase the number of families in 9 populations, so that the average number of families was 5.3 (range: 3-12). Our analysis showed that the resulting parameter estimates were extremely similar for all three parameters to those obtained with three families only (Fig. A2(c)).

### **Is the additive genetic variance homogeneous across populations?**

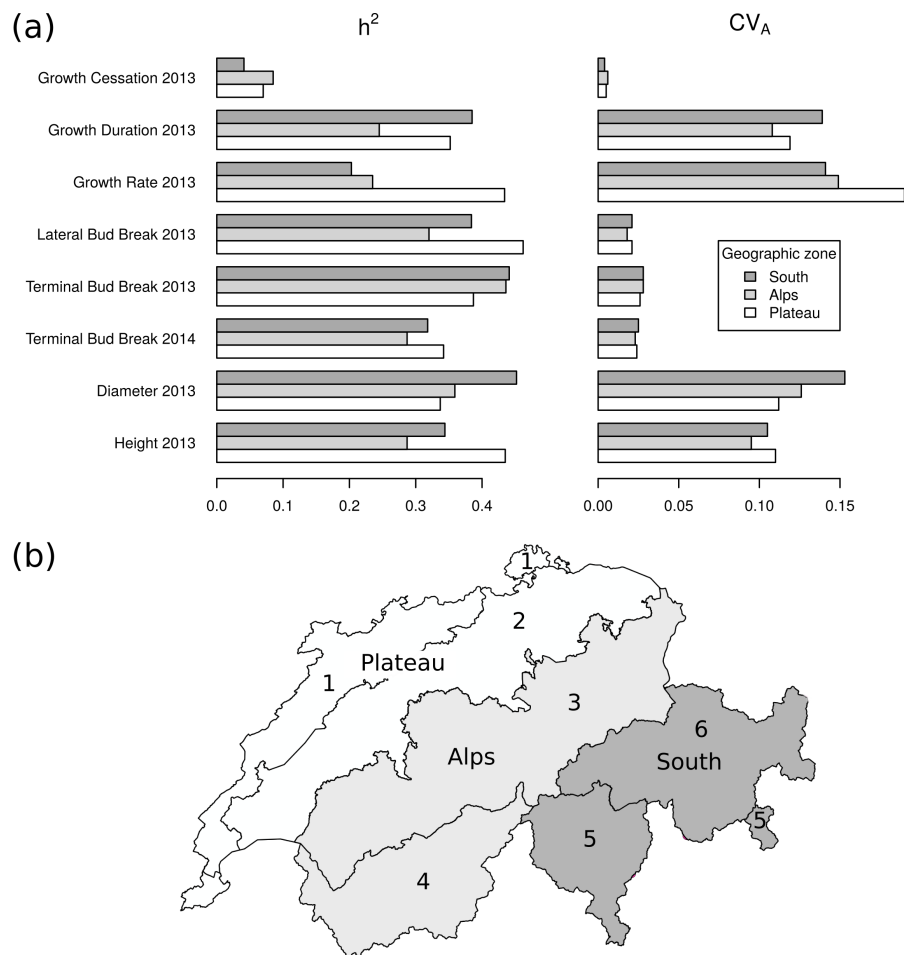
Estimating the additive genetic variance from populations across a heterogeneous landscape involves the assumption that the additive genetic variance is constant across the sampling area. Indeed, the global population parameters presented on Fig. A2(a), and thus the results presented in Frank *et al.* (2017), assume a common additive genetic variance across Switzerland. In order to test if such an assumption is reasonable, we estimated two standardized measures of the additive genetic variance,  $h^2$  and  $CV_A$ , for the main geographic regions of Switzerland separately using the full data set of 91 populations.

Switzerland is divided into six main forestry regions based on a phylogeographic study (Burga & Hussendörfer, 2001). We pooled these regions to three regions to assure that each region have a sample size of at least 880 to make it comparable with our study using 19 populations. As a result, the three regions had 1247 (Plateau), 1699 (Alps), and 884 (South) observations. We found that  $h^2$  and  $CV_A$  were relatively consistent across regions (Fig. A3). Not surprisingly,  $CV_A$  was more consistent across regions than  $h^2$  because the latter is dependent on the environmental variance, which is likely different among the regions. These results suggest that regardless of the different demographic history and potential lack of gene flow between the regions separated by high mountain passes, the additive genetic variance is of similar magnitude across the landscape across the different traits.

In conclusion, assessment of the effect of geographic region and sample size highlights that assuming a common additive genetic variance across either 90 or 19 populations without accounting for their demography and potentially differing selection pressures stays relatively robust, but not free from potential biases. Overall  $CV_A$  was more stable with respect to sample size, family number and region. Thus, in agreement with Houle (1992), Hansen *et al.* (2011), the mean standardized measure of the additive genetic variance seems more appropriate as a measure of the evolutionary potential and for comparative purposes.



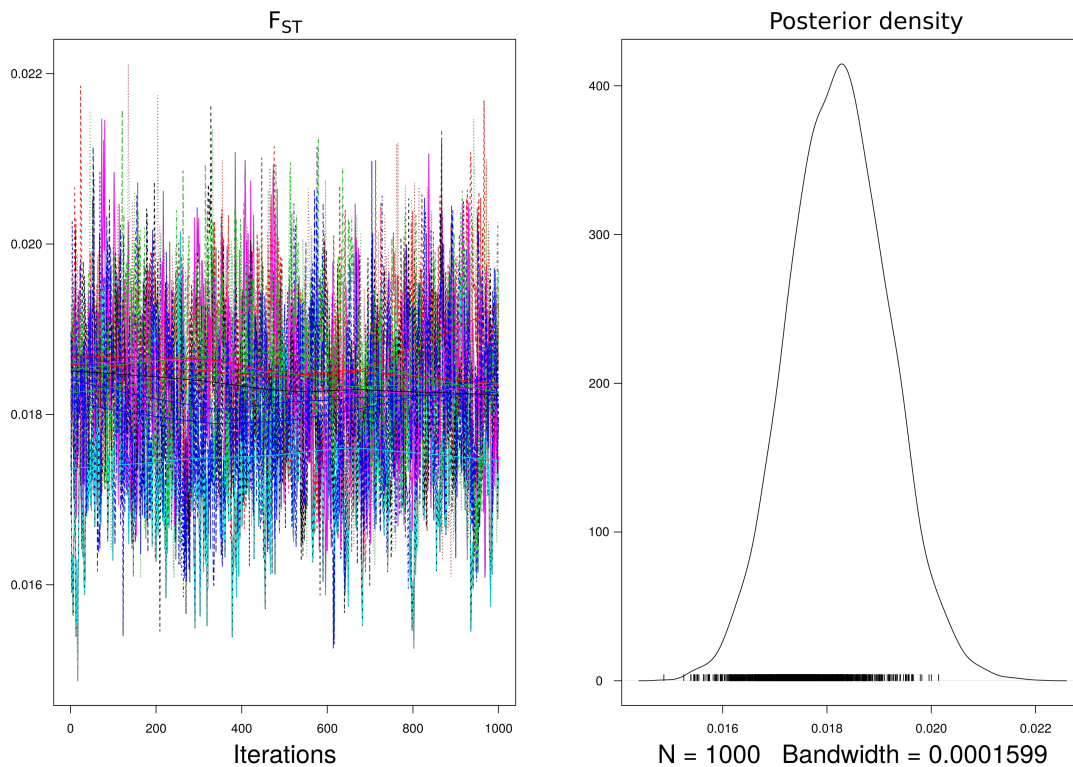
**Figure A2:** Heritability ( $h^2$ ), additive genetic coefficient of variation ( $CV_A$ ) and genetic differentiation between populations ( $Q_{ST}$ ) estimated using four different versions of a mixed effects model fitted with lme in R with family nested in population as random effects and block in the common garden as fixed effect, and covariates as indicated in the legend. SpAC stands for spatial autocorrelation structure. The model with covariate Height 2012 was used in Frank *et al.* (2017). (a) using the full data set from Frank *et al.* (2017); (b) using the 19 populations studied herein; (c) using the 19 populations studied herein, but with increasing the number of families per population by pooling nearby populations.



**Figure A3:** (a)  $h^2$  and  $CV_A$  estimated using only the populations from one of the three main geographic regions of Switzerland. (a) The six forestry regions of Switzerland are indicated by numbers (1: Jura, 2: Plateau, 3: Alps, 4: Valley, 5: Ticino, 6: Grison). We pooled these six regions to three to have at least 800 observations for each region. The names of three regions are labelled and marked with different colours. The matching colour coding of (a) and (b) helps the reader.

## Supplementary Methods S2: Estimating the demography of the 19 silver fir populations

Estimating the demography of 19 populations is a high dimensional estimation problem. We used the admixture F model (AFM), which assumes that the current populations are derived from a single, non-sampled, ancestral population (Karhunen & Ovaskainen, 2012). The method of (Ovaskainen *et al.*, 2011) also relies on this assumption. For parameter estimation, a Metropolis-Hastings algorithm is implemented in the R package RAFM (Karhunen & Ovaskainen, 2012). We ran ten independent Markov chains of the AFM model using a burn-in of 30,000 iterations followed by 10,000 iterations for estimation with a thinning interval of ten. The estimated posterior distribution of the coancestry matrix is 19 by 19, and it is challenging to use directly this matrix for convergence diagnostics. Thus, we calculated the  $F_{ST}$  from each matrix to calculate the convergence diagnostics using the R package *coda* (Fig. A4). Single chain diagnostics indicated satisfactory convergence (Table A2). All chains passed Heidelberg's test (Heidelberg & Welch, 1981). Geweke's statistics were calculated using the default window sizes, 0.1 and 0.5. We found that z-scores were between -1.96 and 1.96, indicating convergence (Geweke, 1991).



**Figure A4:** The posterior distribution of  $F_{ST}$  calculated from the posterior distribution of the 19 by 19 coancestry matrix across ten independent chains of the Metropolis-Hastings algorithm.

Mixing of the chains was assessed using Gelman's mean potential scale reduction factor (Gelman & Rubin, 1992). A value of one indicate that the variance between and within chains is equal. Different Markov chains reached slightly different optima, in particular, two chains had a lower  $F_{ST}$  than the others (Fig. A4 and A5). The mean potential scale factor was 1.09, with an upper credible interval of 1.19. Thus, we estimated the posterior mean coancestry matrix from each Markov chain and averaged them across the ten Markov chains.

**Table A2:** Single chain convergence diagnostics. The posterior distribution of  $F_{ST}$  was calculated from the posterior distribution of the 19 by 19 coancestry matrix across ten independent chains of the Metropolis-Hastings algorithm.

Chain	Heidelberger and Welch result	Welch p-value	Geweke z-score
1	passed	0.63	-1.21
2	passed	0.30	0.25
3	passed	0.74	0.53
4	passed	0.78	1.07
5	passed	0.63	-1.21
6	passed	0.05	1.81
7	passed	0.22	1.31
8	passed	0.78	-0.37
9	passed	0.50	-0.67
10	passed	0.09	0.86

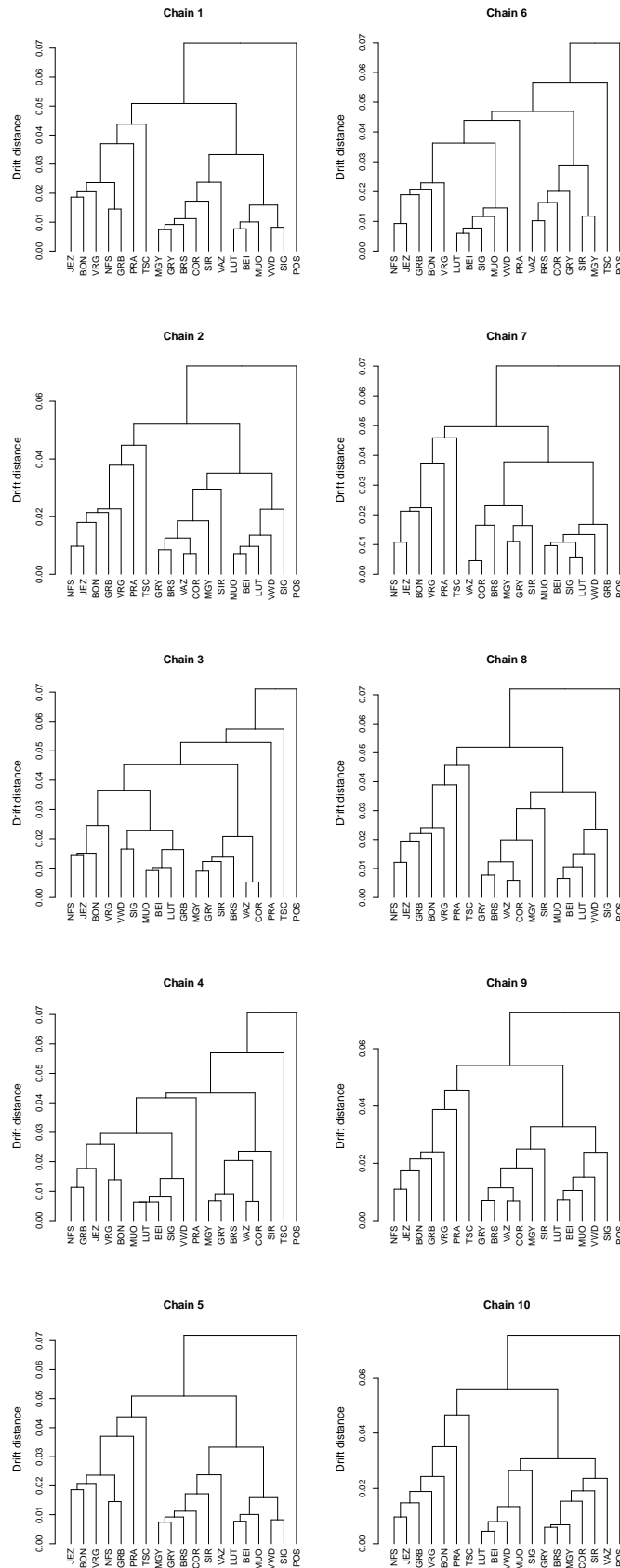
To further validate the results of the AFM model, we compared it to the Bayesian clustering algorithm implemented in STRUCTURE v.2.3.4 Pritchard *et al.* (2000). We used the admixture model with correlated allele frequencies Falush *et al.* (2003), which is the closest model to AFM. Further, we included sampling location information to improve clustering performance ("locprior model", Hubisz *et al.* (2009)), an additional information that cannot be accounted for in AFM. We estimated the prior population allele frequency parameter ( $\lambda$ ) from the data, as the default of 1 is not necessarily a good choice for SNP data, where most minor alleles are rare. We estimated  $\lambda$  using  $K = 1$  to avoid non-identifiability issues with the other hyperparameters ( $\lambda, \alpha, F$ ).  $\lambda$  was consistently around 0.65 across ten repeated runs (range: 0.63-0.66, median: 0.65). Then, we tested  $K$  values from 1 to 19 using ten independent Markov chains for each  $K$ , and 500,000 burn-in iterations and 500,000 iterations for estimation of the membership coefficients. Different number of clusters ( $K$ ) were compared with Structure Harvester (Earl *et al.*, 2012) using the  $LnPr(X|K)$  and Evanno *et al.*'s (2005) method. Admixture coefficients were averaged across ten repeated runs using CLUMPP v.1.1.2 Jakobsson & Rosenberg (2007) using the Greedy algorithm for any  $K > 3$  and large- $K$ -Greedy for  $K > 5$ .

STRUCTURE and AFM results were compared for each  $K$  using a Mantel test using the *ecodist* R package (Goslee & Urban, 2007). We calculated a distance matrix from the coancestry matrix and compared to a distance matrix calculated from the CLUMPP outfiles for each  $K$ . The individual coancestries of the CLUMPP outfiles were first reduced to population coancestries by taking the mean coancestry of the individuals within a population for each  $K$  yielding a  $19 \times K$  matrix for  $K = 2, \dots, 19$ . Dendrograms from AFM and STRUCTURE were also compared visually using the R package *dendextend* (Galili, 2015).

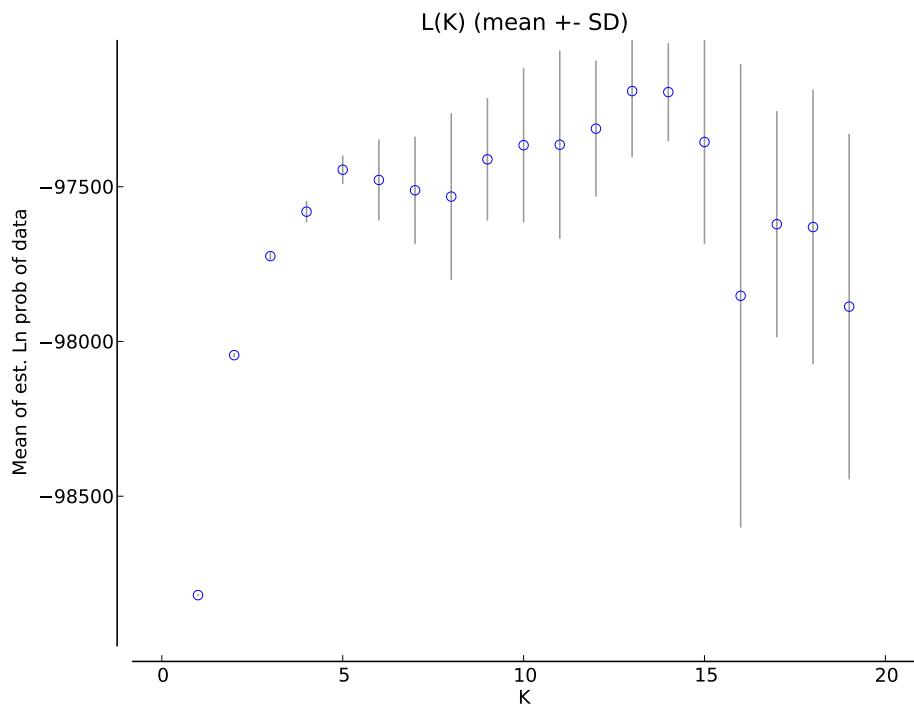
The software STRUCTURE using the log likelihood criteria suggested five as optimal number of clusters, nevertheless, additional increase in the log likelihood is suggestive of deeper hierarchical structure (Figure A6). The highest similarity between AFM and STRUCTURE was achieved for  $K = 4$  (Figure A7 and A8). STRUCTURE also generally confirmed the East-West differentiation as first level structure and several parts of the dendrograms from the two algorithms were identical (Figure A8). For comparison, the mean Mantel statistic between all pairs of coancestry matrices from the ten independent chains was 0.928 (range: 0.854 - 1). Thus, on average, the ten different AFM chains were more

similar to each other than AFM to STRUCTURE, there were AFM chains just as similar to each other as AFM to STRUCTURE.

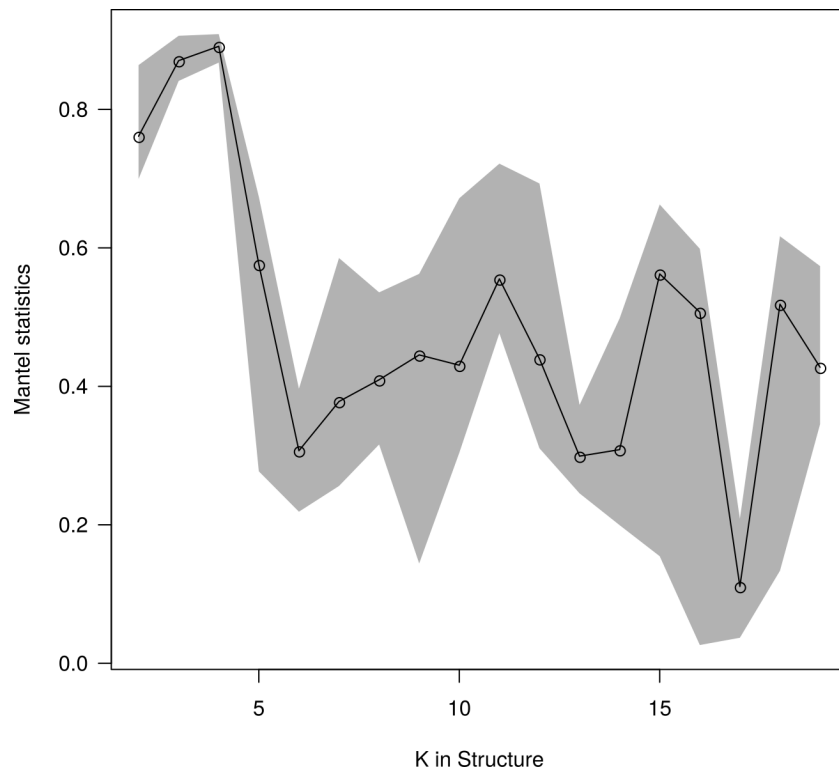




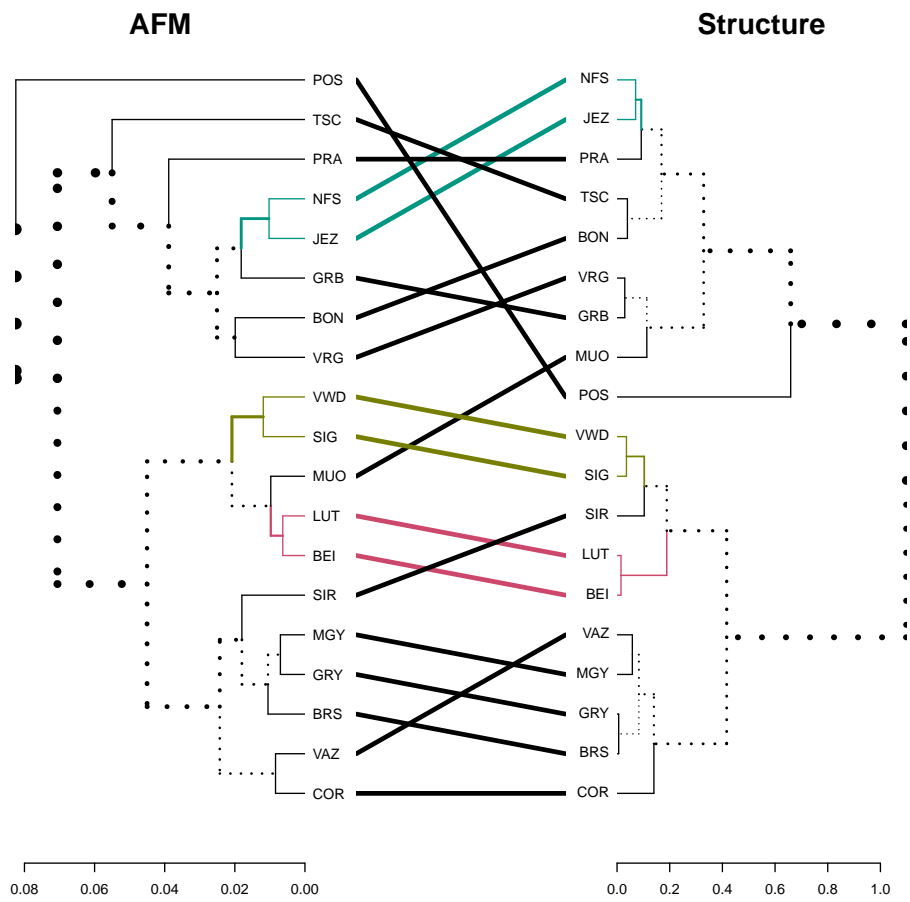
**Figure A5:** Drift distances between populations estimated using ten independent Markov chains of the AFM model. Each panel corresponds to a Markov chain. Distances were calculated from the posterior mean coancestry matrix to draw the dendrogram. Note that the final coancestry between populations used for inference of adaptive divergence in the main text was the mean of the posterior means from ten independent Markov chains.



**Figure A6:** The log-likelihood from STRUCTURE from  $K = 2$  to 19.



**Figure A7:** Mantel test statistic and its 95% percentile interval from a randomization procedure between distance matrices from AFM and STRUCTURE from  $K = 2$  to 19.



**Figure A8:** Entangled dendrograms from AFM and STRUCTURE with  $K = 4$ . Colors highlight populations that belong to the same clusters.

### Supplementary Methods S3: Details of the modifications to the methods proposed by Ovaskainen *et al.* (2011) and Karhunen *et al.* (2014)

Following the notation of Ovaskainen *et al.* (2011), if we consider only additive effects, the vector of additive values of all traits for individual  $i$  is  $\mathbf{a}_i$ , and the matrix of additive vectors for all individuals is  $\mathbf{A} = (\mathbf{a}_i)_i$ . Then, the mean additive value of population  $X$ ,  $\mathbf{a}_X^P$ , can be obtained as the mean of the additive values of all individuals in population  $X$ , and the matrix of additive vectors for all populations is  $\mathbf{A}^P = (\mathbf{a}_X^P)_X$ . When populations are derived from a common ancestral population and the trait values are normally distributed, under drift, the matrix of population-level effects,  $\mathbf{A}^P$ , is expected to follow the multivariate normal distribution as

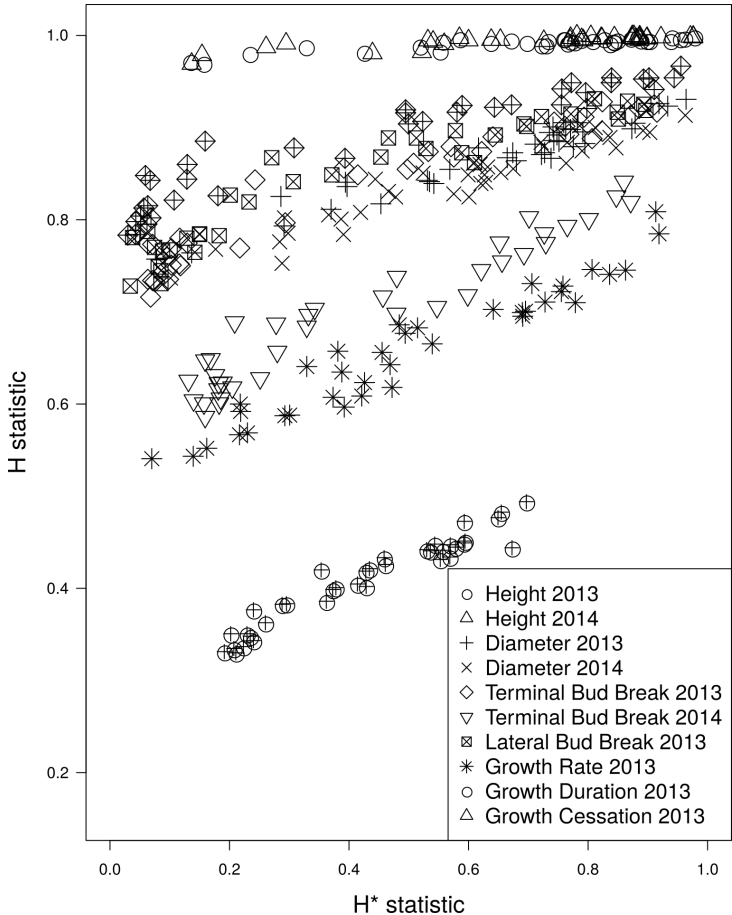
$$\mathbf{A}^P \sim N(\boldsymbol{\mu} \otimes \mathbf{I}_{n_p}, 2\mathbf{G}^A \otimes \boldsymbol{\theta}^P), \quad (1)$$

where  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$  is the vector of expected additive trait means determined by the allele frequencies in the ancestral population,  $n_p$  is the number of populations and  $\mathbf{I}_{n_p}$  is an  $n_p \times n_p$  identity matrix,  $\mathbf{G}^A$  is the ancestral variance-covariance matrix,  $\boldsymbol{\theta}^P$  is the population-to-population coancestry matrix, and  $\otimes$  is the Kronecker product.  $\boldsymbol{\theta}^P$  can be estimated assuming the admixture F-model, while  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$ ,  $\mathbf{A}^P$ , and  $\mathbf{G}^A$  can be co-estimated using the Bayesian mixed-effects animal model accounting for the family structure of the common garden (i.e. the pedigree) and  $\boldsymbol{\theta}^P$  (Ovaskainen *et al.*, 2011). Then, the additive genetic variance-covariance matrix of the contemporary populations assuming no selection,  $\mathbf{G}$ , can be estimated as  $\mathbf{G} = 2\mathbf{G}^A(1 - \theta^S)$ , where  $\theta^S$  is the mean within-population (or self) coancestry of all populations, thus the drift distance of the contemporary populations from the ancestral population. Here, we estimated the heritability of traits and the genetic correlation between trait pairs as the proportion of the observed phenotypic variance and covariances that are additive (i.e. using  $\mathbf{G}$ ) (Falconer & Mackay, 1996). The evidence for selection can be summarized using the  $S$ -statistic calculated as the Mahalanobis distance between  $\mathbf{A}^P$  and the distribution of equation 1.  $S = 0.5$  indicates consistency with neutrality,  $S = 0$  implies a match with purifying, and  $S = 1$  with diversifying selection. Thus,  $S$  measures the overall signature of selection across all populations.

In this study, we assess to what extent the particular populations deviate from their neutral expectation. Population  $X$ , whose 95% of the posterior distribution of  $\mathbf{a}_X^P$  is outside of the neutral envelop defined as  $\boldsymbol{\mu} \pm \sqrt{2\mathbf{G}^A\boldsymbol{\theta}_X^S}$  strongly contributes to the overall selection signal captured by the  $S$  statistic. The neutral envelop can be uni- or multi-variate depending if one or multiple traits are studied. Our motivation for this population-wise evaluation of divergence is that a single  $S$ -statistic cannot distinguish between the two scenarios of many populations that are slightly diverged or a single/few populations that are diverged to a great extent.

The  $H$ -statistics measure if the distance between the populations' mean additive trait values is more similar to the environmental distances than expected based on drift (Karhunen *et al.*, 2014). The original  $H$ -test is based on the Mantel test statistic, i.e. the product moment between the distance matrices of environment and traits. As the covariance is not only influenced by the correlation between the matrices but also by the absolute values of trait differences, the original  $H$ -test may yield false positive results. In particular, in cases with strong evidence for selection, the  $H$  statistic can be high (i.e. close to 1) even when selection is uncorrelated with the tested environmental driver (Fig. A9). For this reason, we propose the use of the  $H^*$  statistic, which is the Pearson or standardized Mantel statistic,

thus the  $H^*$ -test can be viewed as a standardized version of the  $H$ -test. We note that the superiority of a standardized Mantel statistic has already been pointed out in the context of spatial distance matrices (Legendre & Fortin, 2010).



**Figure A9:** Comparison of the  $H$ - and  $H^*$ -statistics for the 10 studied traits. Each point indicates the  $H$ - and  $H^*$ -statistics for one of the environmental variable listed in Table 1 of the main text.

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