

Population genomic evidence for a repeated introduction and rapid expansion in Europe of a maize fungal pathogen

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1 Abstract

2 Modern agricultural practices and the climate change foster the rapid spread of plant pathogens like the
3 maize fungal pathogen *Setosphaeria turcica*, which causes Northern corn leaf blight and expanded into
4 Central Europe since the 1980s. To investigate the rapid expansion of *S. turcica* we sequenced 121 isolates
5 from Europe and Kenya. Population genomic inference revealed a single genetically diverse cluster
6 in Kenya and three clonal lineages with low diversity and one cluster of multiple clonal sublineages
7 in Europe. Phylogenetic dating suggests that all European lineages originated by sexual reproduction
8 outside Europe and subsequently were subsequently introgressed multiple times. In contrast to Kenyan
9 isolates, European isolates did not show sexual recombination despite the presence of both *MAT1-1* and
10 *MAT1-2* mating types. Coalescent analysis of the geographically most widespread European lineage
11 supported a neutral, strongly exponential population growth model over models with natural selection
12 caused by host defence resistance or environmental adaptation. Within clonal lineages, we observed
13 phenotypic variation in virulence to different monogenic resistances that may originate from repeated
14 mutations in virulence genes. Association mapping between genetic clusters did not identify genomic
15 regions associated with pathogen races but uncovered strongly differentiated genomic regions between

16 clonal lineages that harbor putative effector genes. In conclusion, the expansion and population growth
17 of *S. turcica* in Europe was mainly driven by the expansion of maize cultivation area and not by rapid
18 adaptation.

19 **Key words:** Demographic history | Population structure | Coalescent theory | *Setosphaeria turcica* |
20 Maize

21 **Significance statement**

22 The geographic expansion and plant pathogens caused by modern agricultural practices and climate
23 change is a major problem in modern agriculture. We investigated the rapid spread of the maize fungal
24 pathogen *Setosphaeria turcica* by whole genome sequencing of isolates from Kenya and Europe and
25 demonstrated that the rapid expansion in Central Europe since the 1980s mainly reflects the rapid growth
26 of the maize cultivation area in this region and not a rapid adaptation to resistant maize varieties. Our
27 analyses show that by monitoring whole genome sequence diversity of plant pathogens and their invasion
28 history, agricultural management and breeding strategies can be developed to control the evolution and
29 future spread of plant pathogens.

30 **Introduction**

31 Modern agricultural practice is characterized by reduced crop rotation, large field sizes of monocultures,
32 high chemical inputs and cultivation of resistant varieties. These factors influence both short-term
33 epidemics and a long-term evolution of resistant pathogen strains that may rapidly expand over large
34 geographic areas ([Papaïx et al., 2017](#)). In addition, climate warming favors the spread and adaptation
35 of pathogen species to new environments and geographic regions ([Bebber et al., 2013](#)). These factors
36 contribute to rapid crop-pathogen co-evolution, whose understanding is essential to improve management
37 practices and plant breeding to maintain food security in a rapidly changing world ([McDonald and](#)
38 [Stukenbrock, 2016](#)). Global pathogen monitoring systems for plant pathogens identify the origin and

39 expansion of new pathogen strains (Islam et al., 2016) to support resistance breeding and adaptation
40 of crop management practices. Disease monitoring is greatly facilitated by genome sequencing to
41 characterize pathogen diversity (Hubbard et al., 2015) although a sequence-based prediction of virulence
42 types remains challenging due to a rapid evolution of pathogen genomes (Lamour et al., 2012; Raffaele
43 et al., 2010; Dong et al., 2015; Thordal-Christensen et al., 2018; Frantzeskakis et al., 2019). Sequencing
44 data were used to track the epidemiology and demographic history of pathogens (e.g., Gladieux et al.,
45 2018; Stam et al., 2019; Latorre et al., 2020) and to reconstruct introductions (Yoshida et al., 2013).
46 However, the relative importance of demographic effects versus selection-driven adaptation to cultivation
47 conditions or plant resistance genes is still little understood. Therefore, a characterization of demography
48 and selection to evaluate the evolutionary potential of pathogen species (McDonald and Linde, 2002) will
49 contribute to developing evolution-informed, durable crop management strategies to avoid rapid breaking
50 of host resistance genes and reduce chemical inputs in plant protection (Burdon et al., 2014).

51 The hemibiotrophic fungal pathogen *Setosphaeria turcica* (Luttrell) Leonard and Suggs (teleomorph
52 *Exserohilum turcicum*, formerly known as *Helminthosporium turcicum*) is the most important leaf
53 pathogen of maize. It causes Northern corn leaf blight (NCLB), whose symptoms are long, elliptical
54 stripes of necrotic tissues (lesions) on maize leaves, which limits the photosynthetic productivity and
55 causes yield reduction (Galiano-Carneiro and Miedaner, 2017). NCLB is a worldwide disease with
56 a high incidence in the tropics, where it is a major cause of yield loss in maize. The most important
57 methods for controlling the disease are breeding of resistant varieties (Poland et al., 2011) and adapted
58 management practices including fungicide applications. Additional management practices, such as
59 biological control, are being studied (Sartoria et al., 2015; Sartori et al., 2017). *S. turcica* shows asexual
60 and sexual reproduction, which requires mating of two strains with different *MAT1-1* and *MAT1-2* alleles
61 at the *MAT1* mating type locus. Worldwide surveys of genetic diversity of *S. turcica* showed that sexual
62 reproduction is restricted to regions with a warm climate (Galiano-Carneiro and Miedaner, 2017). Genetic
63 diversity was higher in populations from Mexico in comparison to Kenya, China and Europe suggesting
64 that *S. turcica* originated in Mexico and recently arrived in Europe (Borchardt et al., 1998). NCLB was

65 first reported in Italy in 1876, followed by South-Western France around 1900. Until the 1980s, NCLB
66 was mainly restricted to the warmer regions of Southern Europe and the Balkans, but between 1988
67 and 1992 the disease crossed the Alps, and in 1995 it was reported in the Upper Rhine Valley in South
68 Germany. Afterwards it rapidly expanded throughout the maize cultivation regions in Northwestern
69 Europe. In response to the expansion of NCLB in Europe, breeders improved commercial varieties
70 by selecting for polygenic, quantitative resistances and by introgression of monogenic, race-specific
71 resistance genes from genetic resources. The four main resistance genes introgressed are *Ht1*, *Ht2*, *Ht3*
72 and *Htn1* (Welz and Geiger, 2000). Different races of *S. turcica* are defined by their infection ability of a
73 differentiation set of varieties harboring one of the four *Ht* genes. Race monitoring of more than 500
74 isolates revealed that *S. turcica* races are unequally distributed throughout Europe (Hanekamp, 2016).
75 Such a distribution raises the question whether the rapid expansion reflects a neutral demographic process
76 like a repeated and independent introduction of different strains that were rapidly distributed by seed
77 trade and agricultural practices, or a selection-driven adaptation to resistant host varieties that favored the
78 rapid expansion of novel, virulent pathogen strains throughout Europe.

79 We investigated both hypotheses by characterizing the genomic diversity of *S. turcica* isolates
80 collected from natural infections of different susceptible maize varieties lacking known *Ht* genes that
81 were cultivated throughout Europe in 2011 and 2012. Using phylogenetic analyses and coalescence
82 models we identify different clonal lineages throughout Central and Western Europe that are distinct from
83 Kenyan isolates used for comparison. The overall genetic diversity of the most widespread European
84 clonal lineage was not shaped by strong selection exerted by host resistance genes, but reflects a neutral,
85 exponential growth.

86 **Results**

87 **Read mapping and variant discovery**

88 We sequenced a sample of 166 isolates (157.2 GB raw sequence) from 11 different countries (Supplemen-
89 tary Dataset [S1](#)) and subsequently removed 37 isolates because of low coverage or a high proportion of
90 reads not mapping to the reference genome. Eight samples were technical replicates of the same isolate to
91 estimate the sequencing error rate. After excluding low quality samples and replicates we analysed a final
92 sample of 121 isolates with an average read coverage of 14.9x and a range from 5.5x to 44.7x coverage.
93 SNP calling with both GATK and samtools-bcftools identified 55,534 SNPs by both methods, of which
94 23,209 SNPs were retained after filtering (Materials and Methods). SNPs with a maximum of 35% of
95 missing data were imputed by multiple correspondence analysis (MCA). The median number of SNPs
96 differing between the eight technical replicates was 9.5, which corresponds to 99.96% identity between
97 replicates (Supplementary Table [S1](#)). To polarize SNPs into ancestral and derived variants we included
98 *Bipolaris sorokiniana* and *Bipolaris maydis* as outgroups ([Ohm et al., 2012](#); [Condon et al., 2013](#)). This
99 data set was expanded by two *Setosphaeria turcica* reference genomes obtained from isolates Et28A and
100 NY001 collected in the United States, which resulted in a total sample of 123 isolates. The data derived
101 from this sample consisted of 4,257 polarized SNPs, corresponding to 18.3% of non-polarized SNP data.

102 **Presence of different clonal lineages**

103 To determine the genetic relationship of *S. turcica* isolates we clustered the original 121 samples with
104 ADMIXTURE into $K = 5$ clusters (Fig. [1B](#)). Five isolates had ancestry coefficients of <70% and
105 were not assigned to clusters. All clusters defined by ADMIXTURE were supported by a rooted
106 Neighbor-Joining tree based on polarized SNPs, a principal component analysis (PCA) and Community
107 Oriented Network Estimation (CONE; [Kuismin et al., 2017](#)), see Fig. [1A-D](#). Three of the five ancestral
108 clusters, which we named 'Big Clonal' (47 isolates), 'Small Clonal' (16 isolates) and 'French Clonal'
109 (9 isolates), showed very short internal branches and the two remaining clusters, 'Diverse' (17 isolates)

110 and 'Kenyan' (27 isolates), showed long internal branches in the phylogenetic tree. The NJ tree, PCA
111 and Neighbor-Net reveal a close relationship of the French Clonal cluster with the Kenyan isolates and
112 a strong differentiation from the other three European clusters (Fig. 1A,C,E and Supplementary Fig.
113 S1). All five clusters, however, appear to have arisen by sexual recombination as indicated by reticulate
114 patterns at the base of each clade in the Neighbor-Net (Fig. 1E).

115 We also observed genetic differentiation within clusters. ADMIXTURE identified two distinct
116 subclusters within the Kenyan cluster ($K = 7$), the Diverse cluster ($K = 6$), and the Big Clonal cluster
117 ($K = 8$; Supplementary Fig. S1). CONE identified four connected subclusters within the Big Clonal
118 cluster and two disconnected subclusters in the Diverse cluster (Fig. 1D). The latter may consist of
119 distinct clonal lineages that originated by recombination as shown by the Neighbor-Net. In contrast,
120 no recombination is evident within the Big Clonal cluster and its subclusters, which therefore reflect
121 evolutionary lineages of independent mutations.

122 To test whether the four European genetic clusters are geographically clustered, we analysed the
123 spatial autocorrelation with Moran's I using ADMIXTURE ancestry coefficients ($K = 5$; Fig. 2A).
124 Correlograms of Moran's I indicate a wide geographic distribution and absence of geographic clustering
125 of the Diverse and Big Clonal clusters (Fig. 2B). In contrast, the French Clonal cluster is strongly
126 clustered in France and the Small Clonal cluster at sampling locations within and between the Upper
127 Rhine Valley and the border between Northwestern Austria and Southeastern Germany.

128 **Mating type and recombination**

129 Sexual reproduction in *S. turcica* is controlled by the *MATI* locus with the *MATI-1* and *MATI-2*
130 ideomorphs (Nelson, 1996; Turgeon, 1998), which are highly dissimilar alleles. Sequence reads from
131 *MATI-2* isolates do not map to a *MATI-1* reference (and vice versa) resulting in an alignment gap.
132 To determine the mating type of isolates we assembled all unmapped reads *de novo* into contigs and
133 compared them with BLAST to a database of *S. turcica* sequences that included both *MATI-1* and *MATI-2*
134 alleles. Isolates were classified as either *MATI-1* or *MATI-2* because all reads and contigs mapped to only

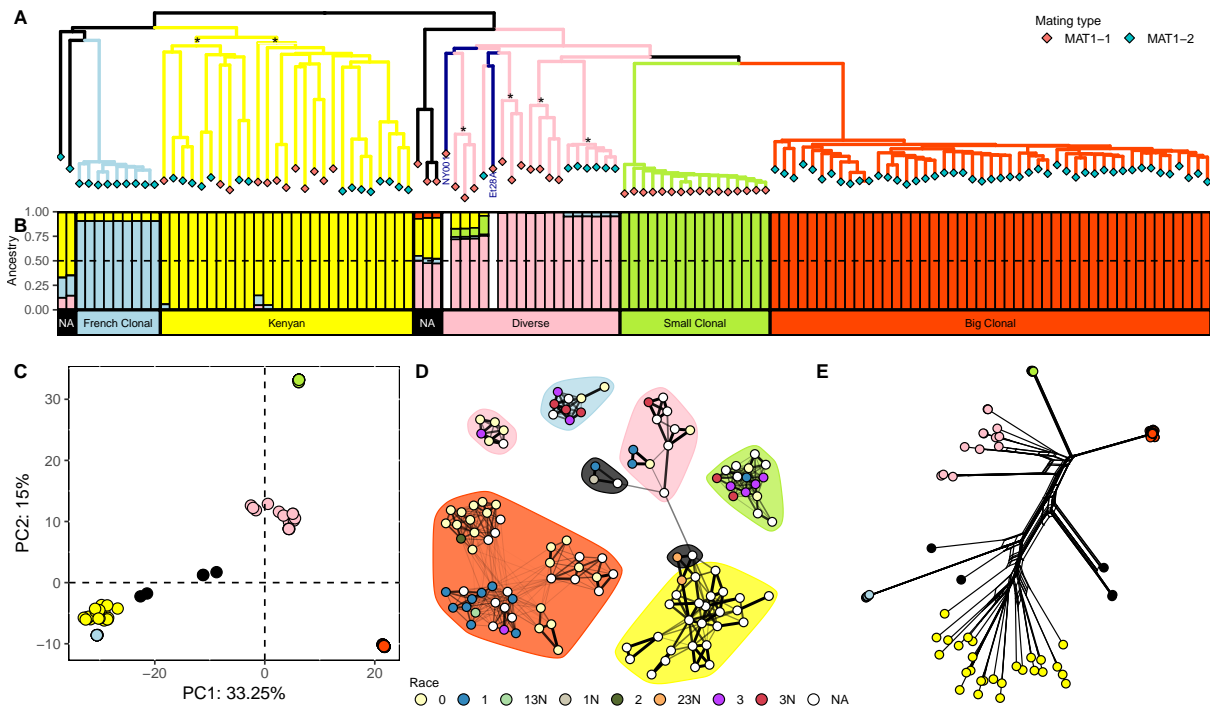


Fig 1. A) Rooted Neighbor-Joining tree from the polarized SNP dataset, branches are colored according to the observed ADMIXTURE clusters, dark blue indicates the two reference genomes (NY001 and Et28A), * sign indicates the subclusters within the major clusters (two subclusters in Kenyan and four in the Diverse cluster). Rhombuses in tip nodes are colored according to the mating type. **B)** Individual ancestry coefficients from ADMIXTURE for K=5 in the same order as the rooted NJ Tree. White gaps correspond to the two reference genomes which were not analysed in ADMIXTURE. NA show admixed individuals with no cluster assigned. **C)** First two axes of a PCA colored according to the five observed ADMIXTURE clusters. **D)** Population network created with CONE colored according the phenotyped race (NA in white for unknown race). Background color highlights the five ADMIXTURE classification clusters. **E)** Neighbor-Net created with SplitsTree colored according to the five observed ADMIXTURE clusters.

135 one of the two mating types. Three clusters (Big Clonal, Small Clonal and French Clonal) are fixed for
 136 one mating type, whereas the Kenyan and Diverse clusters each have approximately 1:1 ratios of the two
 137 mating types, consistent with a history of sexual reproduction (Table 1). The presence of different mating
 138 types as indicator of sexual reproduction is supported by the Phi recombination test, which identified

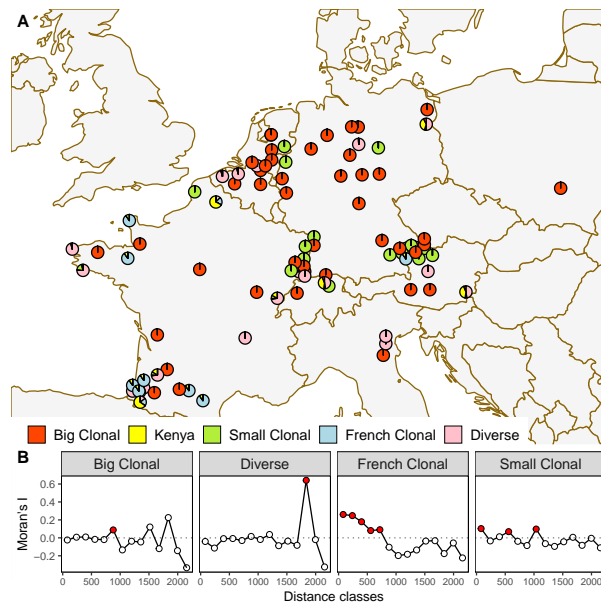


Fig 2. A) Geographic origin of European isolates. Pie charts indicate ancestry coefficients for $K = 5$ to show the geographic distribution of the five major genetic clusters. Geographically close isolates are shifted to avoid overlapping of pie charts. **B)** Correlogram of Moran's I of the European ancestry coefficient along different distance classes. In red, p -value of Moran's $I < 0.05$

139 past recombination events in the Kenyan and Diverse, but not in the other three clusters (Table 1). The
140 test also detected recombination within the two Kenyan subclusters, of which each harbors both mating
141 types in roughly equal proportions (Fig. 1A). We found no recombination within the four lineages of
142 the Diverse cluster, consistent with the fixation of one mating type within each lineage of this cluster.
143 A permutation test on the standardized index of association, \bar{r}_d , rejected the null hypothesis of random
144 association of alleles in all five clusters, suggesting that despite past episodes of sexual reproduction, the
145 Diverse and Kenyan clusters also show high rates of asexual reproduction in recent time.

146 The geographic distribution of the two mating types is correlated with the geographic distribution of
147 the four European clusters as the mating type is fixed within each of the three European clonal lineages.
148 However, mating types of the Diverse cluster are unequally distributed with a higher proportion of *MAT1-1*
149 in the Southeastern part and a higher proportion of *MAT1-2* in the Northwestern part of its sampling area
150 (Supplementary Fig. S2)

Table 1. Diversity and reproduction type statistics of Kenyan and European isolates.

Cluster	n	S	π	θ_W	Tajima's D	$MAT1-1 : MAT1-2$	p -value	
							Phi	\bar{r}_d
Kenya	26	11,880	6.631×10^{-5}	7.852×10^{-5}	-0.62	11 : 15	0.0000	0.001
Europe	94	14,094	5.365×10^{-5}	6.949×10^{-5}	-0.78	29 : 65	-	-
Small Clonal	16	393	1.52×10^{-6}	2.99×10^{-6}	-2.15	16 : 0	0.4873	0.001
French Clonal	9	215	1.47×10^{-6}	2×10^{-6}	-1.38	0 : 9	0.1034	0.001
Diverse	17	5,631	4.445×10^{-5}	4.201×10^{-5}	0.25	10 : 7	0.0000	0.001
Big Clonal	47	1,514	3.11×10^{-6}	8.65×10^{-6}	-2.36	0 : 47	0.9229	0.001

Diversity statistics: S : number of segregating sites, π : nucleotide diversity per bp, θ_W : Watterson's estimator per bp, D : Tajima's D . Results are rounded to the number of presented digits. Reproduction type statistics: $MAT1-1$: $MAT1-2$ as matying type counts. Phi (p -value): p -value of the Phi recombination test. \bar{r}_d (p -value): p -value of the standardized test of random association of alleles.

151 Differences in genetic diversity between clusters

152 Consistent with their different histories of sexual and asexual reproduction, the five clusters also differ by
 153 their level of nucleotide variation (Table 1, Fig. 3A). Nucleotide diversity, π and Watterson's estimator,
 154 θ_W , are higher among the 26 isolates from Kenya (Genome-wide $\pi = 6.631 \times 10^{-5}$, per base pair) than
 155 among the 94 isolates from Europe (5.365×10^{-5}). Both clusters harbor a high proportion of SNPs not
 156 present in the other cluster because only 4,647 SNPs segregate in both clusters, corresponding to 33%
 157 and 39% of the SNPs of the Kenyan and European clusters, respectively.

158 SNP-based genetic diversity differs between the four European clusters (Table 1A). The Diverse
 159 cluster shows 10 to 30 fold higher genetic diversity compared to the three clonal lineages. Its genetic
 160 diversity is 82% of the total European and 65% of Kenyan samples, respectively. Similar differences
 161 between the clusters are observed with haplotype diversity (Fig. 3B). Tajima's D values of the Big
 162 and Small Clonal clusters are highly negative (< -2) and less negative in the French Clonal cluster

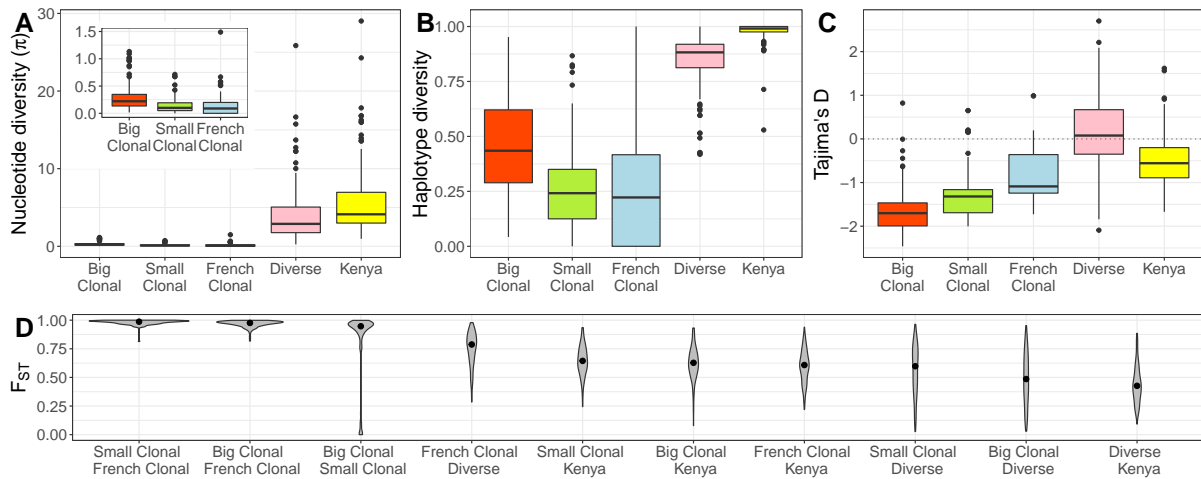


Fig 3. Levels of genetic diversity in five different genetic clusters defined by ADMIXTURE $k = 5$. **A**) Nucleotide diversity π per bp (in units of 10^{-6}), **B**) haplotype diversity, **C**) Tajima's D , and **D**) pairwise F_{ST} calculated in windows of 250kb. The inset plot in (A) zooms into the y axis for the three first clusters (same units).

163 (-1.4; Table 1, Fig. 3C). The negative Tajima's D values of the clonal lineages indicate a genome-wide
 164 excess of rare alleles that may be caused by demographic effects like population growth following recent
 165 emergence or genome-wide purifying selection. The first explanation was proposed for similar patterns
 166 in clonal lineages of other plant pathogens (e.g., Latorre et al., 2020). Genetic differentiation of SNPs
 167 was measured as F_{ST} and was highest between clonal lineages and smaller between the clonal lineages
 168 and the Diverse and Kenyan clusters, respectively (Fig. 3D).

169 The five clusters also differ in the distribution of genetic diversity along the genome. The Big Clonal,
 170 Small Clonal and French Clonal clusters have numerous genomic regions devoid of any genetic variation,
 171 whereas variation is more uniformly distributed in the Diverse and Kenyan clusters (Supplementary Figs.
 172 S3, S4 and S5). The lack of diversity is particularly strong for the Small Clonal and French Clonal
 173 clusters, because only 3% (Small Clonal) and 1% (French Clonal) of all 100 kb windows on the 15
 174 longest scaffolds of the reference genome segregate for five or more SNPs. For the clonal lineages, most
 175 windows reflect the genome-wide negative Tajima's D values and there are no visible outliers with highly
 176 negative Tajima's D values that may reflect strong localized selective sweeps (Supplementary Fig. S6).

177 In contrast, both the Big and Small Clonal clusters have windows with highly positive Tajima's D values
178 (e.g. on scaffolds 4 and 10), which may indicate mapping errors caused by structural variants or strong
179 balancing selection (Supplementary Table S2). However, these regions contain only very few (≤ 5) SNPs
180 and, for the Big Clonal cluster, outlier Tajima's D values do not deviate significantly from a neutral
181 model of a constant or exponentially growing population (Supplementary Text A, Table S3).

182 **Tests of selection**

183 To investigate whether the genetic clusters were affected by positive or purifying selection, we applied
184 the McDonald-Kreitman (MK) test and compared synonymous and non-synonymous variation among
185 isolates relative to the reference genome Et28A (Table 2). Although ratios of non-synonymous and
186 synonymous substitutions (D_n/D_s) are frequently used for interspecific comparisons, they can also be
187 interpreted for well separated clonal lineages (Kryazhimskiy and Plotkin, 2008). The Et28A reference
188 clusters with the Diverse cluster, thus they are not well separated and we did not perform the analysis for
189 the Diverse cluster. The ratio of synonymous to non-synonymous nucleotide diversity (π_N/π_S) estimates
190 the fraction of effectively neutral mutations among all mutations (Akashi et al., 2012) under Ohta's
191 nearly neutral model (Ohta, 1973). The Big Clonal, French Clonal and Kenyan clusters show π_N/π_S
192 ratios below 1 indicating that a majority of mutations are non-neutral or nearly neutral. Variation in
193 the Small Clonal cluster differs from a nearly neutral model with a ratio $\pi_N/\pi_S = 2.1$ and a much
194 higher ratio of non-synonymous to synonymous mutations, $P_n/P_s = 5.5$ than the other clusters (Table 2).
195 However, with the exception of the Small Clonal Cluster ($p < 0.0001$), a MK test does not reject the null
196 hypothesis of neutral evolution indicating that purifying selection has no significant effect on the fate of
197 mutations in four of the five genetic clusters of our sample, which is unexpected given the π_N/π_S ratios
198 observed.

Table 2. McDonald-Kreitman test

Cluster	π_N/π_S	P_n/P_s	D_n/D_s	NI	p -value
Big Clonal	0.747 ($1.30 \times 10^{-6}/1.80 \times 10^{-6}$)	1.648 (201/122)	1.366 (168/123)	1.206	0.283429
Small Clonal	2.123 ($8.00 \times 10^{-7}/4.00 \times 10^{-7}$)	5.455 (60/11)	1.480 (182/123)	3.686	0.000055
French Clonal	0.299 ($4.00 \times 10^{-7}/1.30 \times 10^{-6}$)	2.818 (31/11)	1.653 (390/236)	1.705	0.185753
Kenya	0.506 ($2.47 \times 10^{-5}/4.88 \times 10^{-5}$)	1.734 (1278/737)	1.395 (113/81)	1.243	0.161458

π_N/π_S is the ratio of non-synonymous to synonymous nucleotide diversity; P : population polymorphisms; D : fixed derived mutations (reference Et28A as outgroup); n : non-synonymous mutations, s : synonymous mutations; NI : Neutrality Index, calculated as $(P_n/P_s)/(D_n/D_s)$; p -value: Fisher's exact test p-value.

199 Inference of split times

200 To investigate the demographic history of European isolates we included the two North American isolates
201 Et28A and NY001 and used the polarized SNP data. A rooted tree revealed a close relationship of
202 the American and European isolates (Fig. 1A), which was independently confirmed by merging our
203 resequencing data with genotyping by sequencing (GBS) data of 13 North American isolates (Mideros
204 et al., 2018) resulting in a set of 280 genome-wide SNPs (Supplementary Fig. S7). The resulting
205 phylogenetic tree and PCA plot (Supplementary Fig. S7) of the merged dataset are essentially identical to
206 the analyses of European isolates based on the complete sequencing data. Both methods group the North
207 American isolates with the Diverse cluster, consistent with the tree in Fig. 1A.

208 To test whether European clonal lineages split before or after their introduction to Europe we estimated
209 divergence times between the five clusters as time back to the most recent common ancestor (MRCA)
210 of a pair of clusters, and emergence times of clonal lineages within clusters as time back to the MRCA
211 within in each cluster using BEAST (Fig. 4A and Supplementary Fig. S8). The three clonal clusters
212 diversified quite recently with posterior mean emergence of the most recent common ancestor in the

213 year 1985 for the Big Clonal (1978-1990 include $\geq 95\%$ posterior mass with highest posterior density;
214 95%HPI), 1998 for the Small Clonal (1993-2001; 95%HPI) and 1999 for the French Clonal (1995-2002;
215 95%HPI) clusters. Split times between clusters are more distant and range from the year 1609 between
216 Small Clonal and Big Clonal (1480-1809; 95%HPI), 1503 between the ancestors of Big Clonal, Small
217 Clonal and the Diverse cluster (1456-1667; 95%HPI) to 1198 between the ancestors of the Big Clonal,
218 Small Clonal, North American reference isolates and French Clonal (975-1368; 95%HPI). The Diverse
219 cluster emerged much later than the clonal clusters in 1520 (1386-1624; 95%HPI) and the nodes of its
220 genealogical tree are more spread over time. Split times and tree topology of the BEAST analysis agree
221 with the phylogeny in Fig. 1A and support a much closer pairwise relationship of Big Clonal and Small
222 Clonal than to the French Clonal cluster. Including non-clonal lineages in analyses to estimate split and
223 emergence times may introduce a bias due to reticulate events (Latorre et al., 2020). For this study, there
224 is no meaningful bias introduced (Supplementary Text B).

225 We then investigated whether the global expansion of maize cultivation after the beginning of the
226 Columbian exchange in 1492 and the strong increase of maize cultivation in Europe during recent decades
227 was accompanied by an increase of the effective pathogen population size, N_e . After adding global
228 population size as parameter to the phylogenetic model for BEAST median, posterior estimates of N_e
229 changed substantially over time (Fig. 4B and Supplementary Figure S8). Estimates of N_e based on
230 the European samples, three samples from Kenyan cluster and the North American reference sequence
231 indicate a long phase of population growth since the time of the most recent common ancestor (MRCA)
232 of the European samples about 825 years ago until a period between 1859 and 1900, followed by a
233 population decline until 1999, when population size N_e was lower than at the time of the MRCA. This
234 decline was then followed by a very recent epoch of strong population growth for 20 years until the last
235 sampling date 2012. A recent, rapid growth is consistent with strongly negative genome-wide Tajima's
236 D values within the three European clonal clusters. A decline of N_e followed by recent strong growth
237 was confirmed by analysing only Big Clonal, Small Clonal, and French Clonal clusters together with the
238 reference genome (Supplementary Figs. S9 and S10).

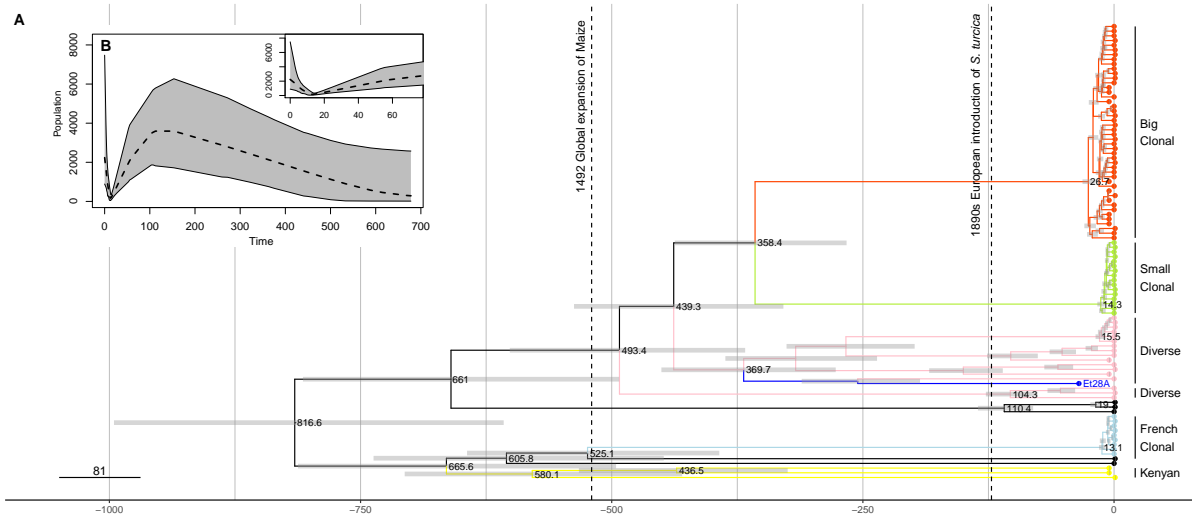


Fig 4. A) Dated phylogeny obtained with BEAST, using all European isolates, reference genome Et218A (in dark blue) and three samples from Kenyan cluster. Time is given as years before 2012, the year of the most recent sampling. Horizontal gray bars show the 95 % highest posterior density intervals (95% HPI) for split times. **B)** Extended Bayesian skyline plot obtained with BEAST for the analysis from (A). The inset zooms into the most recent past. Time runs backwards from 2012. The dashed line shows the median posterior population size, while the gray area shows the 95% HPI.

239 Neutral versus selection-driven population dynamics

240 The low genetic diversity and genome-wide excess of rare polymorphisms within clonal lineages may
241 reflect rapid population growth or result from recurrent, short phases in which newly emerged genotypes
242 with a skewed offspring distribution become dominant. Among predominately asexually reproducing
243 fungal pathogens, following processes may lead to a skewed offspring distribution even without population
244 size changes: (i) rapid selection of newly emerged genotypes with a very high fitness coefficient (Neher
245 and Hallatschek, 2013; Latorre et al., 2020), (ii) a large number of offspring originating by chance from a
246 single parental genotype analogous to sweepstake reproduction in marine species (Steinrücken et al., 2013;
247 Dutta et al., 2020), or (iii) a large number of offspring from genotypes that evolved virulence against
248 monogenic resistance genes present in maize varieties (boom-bust cycles) (Tellier and Lemaire, 2014).
249 Genealogies in these cases can be modeled as multiple-merger coalescents. We compared these models
250 with a standard Wright-Fisher type reproduction with growing population sizes, modeled via a bifurcating

251 Kingman coalescent with exponential growth. For the Big Clonal and Kenyan clusters we compared both
252 coalescent models using SNPs segregating within this cluster on the five largest scaffolds of the current
253 *S. turcica* reference genome using a Random Forest Approximate Bayesian Computation (RF-ABC)
254 approach for model comparison and parameter estimation. In the other clusters we observed high prior
255 error rates and low posterior probabilities and considered these results not as robust (Supplementary Table
256 S5). Table 3 shows the results of the RF-ABC analysis. For the Big Clonal cluster, it provides strong
257 support for a bifurcating Kingman coalescent with strong exponential growth over a multiple merger
258 coalescent, which refutes strong selection without growth or sweepstake reproduction. The Kingman
259 coalescent is also preferred for the Kenyan cluster, but with much smaller growth rates. All scaffolds in
260 the Big Clonal and in the Kenyan cluster show 'positive' (≥ 3 odds ratio) to 'strong' support (≥ 20 odds
261 ratio, only for Big Clonal) for an exponential growth model over a multiple merger model according to
262 the Kass-Raftery scale (Kass and Raftery, 1995). Simulations showed that the observed genetic diversity
263 in both the Kenyan and Big Clonal clusters are obtained with the best-fitting model (Supplementary Text
264 C, Figs. S11 and S12). Although our analyses reject the hypothesis that skewed offspring distribution
265 alone shapes genetic diversity for the Big Clonal and Kenyan clusters, a combination of exponential
266 growth with skewed offspring distributions explains the data similarly well as neutral population growth
267 (Supplementary Text D).

268 **Different pathogen races within clonal lineages**

269 To test whether isolates within clonal lineages belong to the same or different races, we identified 62
270 isolates in our sample whose race was determined in a race monitoring of 542 European *S. turcica* isolates
271 collected in 2011 and 2012 from the major maize growing regions in Europe (Hanekamp, 2016). The
272 monitoring revealed that race 0 was the most dominant with 45% of isolates, followed by race 1 (22%),
273 3 (15%) and 3N (14%). Only 4% of isolates were virulent against two or more resistance genes (races
274 13, 123, 23, 2, 23N, 12, 1N and 13N). Mapping the race type of the 62 isolates onto the CONE network
275 reveals that Big and Small Clonal clusters harbor four races each and the French Clonal cluster three

Table 3. RF-ABC model selection results

Cluster	SNP count	Mean OOB	Post. prob. Exp. growth	Odds ratio	Fitted rate g
Big Clonal	92-128	21-22%	83 - 98%	4.9-49	181-630
Kenya	683-1007	20%	75.2 - 84.3%	3-5.4	5.5-8.5

Mean OOB is the out-of-bag prior error rate for model classes, averaged over all model classes. Post. prob. exp. growth gives the posterior probability of the exponential growth model. Fitted parameter g : Posterior median of the exponential growth parameter in coalescent units, where one unit represents $2N$ generations. For each variable, we report the range of values for the five biggest scaffolds. For the transformation of posterior probabilities into odds ratios for a comparison of exponential growth vs. any other genealogy model used, see Materials and Methods.

276 races (Fig. 1D). Single, independent *de novo* mutations in pathogen effector genes are sufficient to create
277 new races and may explain the diversity of races within clonal lineages. Alternatively, the presence
278 of the same races in different lineages may reflect shared polymorphisms that originated in ancestral
279 populations although such an explanation seems unlikely given the low genetic diversity within clonal
280 lineages (Table 1).

281 **Identification of divergent regions and structural variants**

282 The differences in SNP allele frequencies between clonal lineages suggests that highly divergent genomic
283 regions and presence absence structural variants (PAVs) also contribute to genomic differentiation. We
284 therefore used sequence read coverage and k -mer frequencies to identify highly divergent regions and
285 PAVs. First, we calculated for each isolate its sequence coverage of the reference genome in 43,443
286 windows of 1 kb length and expressed coverage as percent bases covered by at least one sequence read in
287 each window. Windows with low coverage indicate a high proportion of mapping gaps in the reference

288 and windows with a highly variable coverage between isolates pinpoint structural variants. Using the top
289 2.5% windows ($n = 1,012$) with the most variable sequence coverage between isolates, we constructed a
290 NJ tree from a pairwise Euclidean distance matrix of reference sequence coverage (Supplementary Fig.
291 S13) to cluster isolates with similar variation in coverage. The topology of the resulting tree is highly
292 similar to the rooted SNP-based tree indicating that highly variable regions and PAVs reflect similar
293 genealogical process than SNP allelic variation.

294 To identify genomic regions that differentiate pairs of clonal clusters we used HAWK (Rahman
295 et al., 2018), which identifies k -mers whose frequency differs between clusters. Among all pairwise
296 comparisons (see Methods), we obtained different k -mer frequencies only between the Big Clonal vs.
297 Small Clonal clusters. Among 6,341 k -mers that differentiate the two clusters, 3,048 are associated with
298 the Big and 3,293 with the Small Clonal cluster. We *de novo* assembled both k -mer clusters independently
299 into longer sequence contigs and found that 93% of assembled k -mers mapped to few, distinct regions
300 of the reference genome, suggesting that a small number of genomic regions contribute to genomic
301 differences between the two clusters. Assembled k -mers mapped to only 1,167 (12.73 %) 10kb windows
302 of the reference genome. There were only 30 windows (0.33% of all windows) that collected the top
303 2.5% k -mer counts with at least 9.85 mapped k -mers per window. Among all mapped k -mers, 25% map
304 to these 30 windows, which tend to be highly repetitive. A majority of 22 out of 30 windows (73%) is
305 highly repetitive with $\geq 50\%$ repetitive elements and no window contains gene-rich regions.

306 To identify proteins that may differentiate the Big and Small Clonal clusters, we conducted a BLASTX
307 analysis against a non-redundant BLAST protein database with the remaining unmapped k -mers. For
308 both clusters, 'hypothetical protein' was the most frequent annotation of proteins among the five best
309 hits with a cutoff e -value of < 0.001 , followed by the mating type *MAT1-2* for the Big Clonal cluster.
310 The latter finding is a positive control of the k -mer mapping approach because Big Clonal has *MAT1-2*,
311 which does not map to the reference genome Et28A, and Small Clonal has *MAT1-1*, which maps to the
312 reference genome. For the Small clonal cluster, the second most frequent BLAST hit was 'polyketide
313 syntase protein', which is potentially associated with pathogen virulence (Ohm et al., 2012). We also

314 used the race assignment to identify k -mers associated with race-specific genes, however no significant
315 and robust outcome was found (Supplementary Table S6). This negative result may either reflect a too
316 small sample size or genetic differences of single or few variants that are not uncovered by the analysis of
317 k -mers.

318 Discussion

319 Our work confirms earlier studies of *S. turcica* genetic diversity and mode of reproduction in Europe and
320 Africa (Borchardt et al., 1998,?). Isolates originating from Kenya form a single cluster with high genetic
321 diversity, equal frequency of both mating types and genomic patterns of recombination consistent with a
322 higher rate of sexual reproduction of *S. turcica* in tropical climates. In contrast, European isolates are
323 composed of four distinct clusters, which differ by their relative frequency and geographic distribution.
324 Three clusters (Big Clonal, Small Clonal, French Clonal) represent single clonal lineages, whose genetic
325 diversity is very low, do not show evidence of recent recombination, and are fixed for one of the two
326 mating types. The fourth cluster (Diverse) consists of diverse clonal lineages that, taken together, have a
327 high level of genetic diversity, evidence of past recombination and an equal frequency of both mating
328 types. These three characteristics in combination with low F_{ST} values between the Diverse vs. the Big
329 Clonal and Small Clonal clusters, respectively, suggest that the Diverse cluster is a source of genetic
330 diversity from which clonal lineages emerged previous to the arrival of *S. turcica* in Europe. The two
331 North American isolates Et28A and NY001 cluster with the Diverse cluster and are highly similar to
332 different European isolates indicating the close connection between European and American samples that
333 may reflect an American origin of the Big Clonal, Small Clonal and Diverse clusters. In contrast, the
334 French Clonal cluster is closely related to the Kenyan cluster and therefore likely has the same origin. A
335 previous study interpreted the presence of African alleles in an isolate from Southwestern France of *S.*
336 *turcica* as recent migration (Borchardt et al., 1998). This is not supported by our analysis because the
337 split time of Kenyan and French Clonal clusters predates the arrival of *S. turcica* in Europe, and their
338 close relationship reflects a common ancestry instead of recent migration.

339 Our divergence time estimates suggest that individual lineages within each of the three Big Clonal,
340 Small Clonal and French Clonal clusters emerged less than 40 years ago. Although these very recent
341 emerge times are based on a limited sample we consider them reliable (Saunders et al., 1984) (Supplemen-
342 tary Text E). In contrast, the divergence times of the five clusters identified in our sample are more distant
343 and range between 816 to 360 years ago (Fig. 4), which predates the introduction of *S. turcica* into Europe
344 and strongly suggests these clusters originated outside Europe and were independently introduced. The
345 clonal sublineages within the Diverse cluster originated between 370 to 50 years ago and are separated by
346 sexual recombination events, which are unlikely under European climatic conditions. For this reason,
347 they were likely independently introduced into Europe.

348 **Evolutionary forces determining pathogen demography**

349 Although multiple crop pathogens expanded globally in short time, only few studies analysed the
350 evolutionary forces determining expansions, in particular the role of selection on plant pathogens, using
351 explicit population genetic modeling (Croll and McDonald, 2017). We employed Approximate Bayesian
352 Computation (ABC) to compare two coalescent models and to differentiate between a neutral model of
353 exponential growth and a selection-based model of the *S. turcica* expansion in Europe. Simulations of
354 models with asexual reproduction demonstrate a high power of ABC to differentiate between neutral
355 and selection-driven demographies with suitable summary statistics (Freund and Siri-Jégousse, 2020).
356 The Big Clonal cluster is particularly interesting for such an analysis because it is the most successful
357 cluster in terms of sample frequency and geographic distribution in Europe. Its large sample size
358 provides better statistical power and a restriction of ABC to clusters without a strong internal population
359 structure removes a bias in distinguishing among genealogy models (Koskela and Wilke Berenguer,
360 2019). The ABC analysis of the Big Clonal cluster (Table 3) reveals a recent population size increase and
361 in addition that observed genetic diversity in this cluster is not consistent with a history of rapid selection
362 as proposed for *Magnaporthe oryzae* (Latorre et al., 2020) or boom-bust cycles caused by host-pathogen
363 coevolution without population growth. In other fungal crop pathogens such as *Zymoseptoria tritici*

364 random fluctuations in fecundity and a potential for very large offspring numbers per individual have
365 been proposed (Dutta et al., 2020), which should lead to a multiple merger genealogy if it is strong
366 enough. Our results also exclude such a model as sole explanation for the observed diversity in the Big
367 Clonal Cluster or indicate that fecundity differences in the pathogen are too small to affect the shape of
368 the genealogy. Instead, observed diversity within this cluster can be explained by just assuming neutral
369 population growth. These analyses do not exclude the possibility that an exponential increase of N_e in
370 the Big Clonal cluster results from a relative fitness advantage caused by adaptive *de novo* mutations or a
371 favourable combination of adaptive mutations achieved via sexual recombination in the founders of the
372 cluster. In addition, a more complex pattern of neutral population growth on top of selection processes
373 or sweepstake reproduction can also not be ruled out. Since the Kenyan cluster also supports a neutral
374 coalescent model with a low rate of population growth there is no reason to expect multiple mergers as
375 standard gene genealogies in *S. turcica*. The absence of interpretable results for the ABC analyses for the
376 Small Clonal and French Clonal clusters likely results from too small sample sizes.

377 Tests of neutrality based on comparisons of non-synonymous and synonymous genetic diversity
378 (Table 2) do not contradict a model of neutral evolution as main driver of genetic diversity for the Big
379 Clonal, French Clonal and Kenyan clusters. Although these clusters exhibit an excess of non-neutral
380 diversity, there is no strong selection against it as indicated by non-significant MK test results. This
381 seems contradictory, but may result from (i) clonal interference, which prevents efficient selection against
382 deleterious mutants, or (ii) from a surplus of beneficial founder mutations that offsets the effect of
383 purifying selection, although this requires many beneficial mutations and is therefore unlikely, or (iii)
384 reflect an underpowered MK test. Nevertheless, this result shows that purifying selection is not a major
385 determinant of genetic diversity within these clusters. The Small Clonal cluster may have a different
386 evolutionary trajectory because the significant MK test result for purifying selection contrasts an excess of
387 non-synonymous diversity, which suggests that evolution in this cluster does not follow a nearly-neutral
388 model. Overall, *S. turcica* genetic clusters do not provide evidence for strong purifying selection, which is
389 in contrast to the rice fungal pathogen *Magnaporthe oryzae* (Gladieux et al., 2018). Lack of evidence for

390 selection as main determinant of genetic diversity in the Big Clonal cluster and a temporal coincidence of
391 *S. turcica* population growth with the expansion of maize cultivation in Europe leads us to propose that
392 the demographic expansion of this lineage was not driven by rapid evolutionary adaptation to European
393 maize varieties or the environment.

394 **Limited evidence for host-pathogen co-evolution in Europe**

395 Our sample of isolates was collected in 2011 and 2012 and represents a snapshot in time and space
396 that is restricted to Europe and Kenya. Both factors limit further interpretations of our results and
397 lead to questions about the role of *S. turcica* - maize coevolution within and outside Europe. First,
398 the demographic analysis suggests an independent and recent single introduction of the French Clonal,
399 Small Clonal and Big Clonal clusters into Europe (Table 3), although our results are also consistent
400 with independent, repeated introductions of the same clonal lineages. For example, the clonal lineages
401 within the Diverse cluster originated by sexual recombination over an extended period of time (Fig. 4).
402 Since sexual recombination is unlikely under European climatic conditions, the lineages likely originated
403 outside Europe and were then subsequently introduced. Further evidence for repeated introductions is the
404 high genetic similarity among European and North American isolates suggesting recent exchange or a
405 common origin in a different region, such as Mexico, because European isolates were more similar to
406 Mexican than to Kenyan isolates (Borchardt et al., 1998). Additional samples from putative regions of
407 origin such as Central America and tropical Africa are required to resolve this issue.

408 A second question refers to the effects of maize resistance genes on *S. turcica* evolution and epi-
409 demiology. There is no association between the five genetic clusters and the distribution of *S. turcica*
410 races among these clusters. This observation and a high proportion of race 0 (i.e., non-virulent against
411 four tested *Ht* genes) isolates in all five clusters shows that race-specific virulence did not generate new
412 pathogen lineages with a strongly increased fitness. In combination with the evidence for neutral evolution
413 of genetic variation in the European isolates, we conclude that strong selection against qualitative or
414 quantitative maize resistances had very little or no effect on genetic diversity in Europe. However, future

415 studies should associate the genetic diversity of host and pathogen genomes using joint association
416 analysis, (e.g., [Wang et al., 2018](#)), to elucidate the role of genotype by genotype (GxG) effects in the
417 spatial and temporal dynamics of host-pathogen interactions. Such information will contribute to avoid
418 breakdown of resistance genes and achieve long-term resistance management ([Nelson et al., 2018](#)).

419 A third question refers to the evolution of new races, because the presence of multiple races within the
420 five *S. turcica* clusters suggests a rapid and repeated breakdown of *Ht*-based monogenic resistances in
421 maize varieties (Fig. 1D). Since selection against host resistance does not seem to affect the evolutionary
422 dynamics of *S. turcica*, a frequent origin of new races may be facilitated by a high mutation rate, which
423 we estimated as posterior mean substitution rate of 10^{-4} substitutions per year per site using BEAST.
424 This rate is much higher than in *Magnaporthe oryzae*, where it was estimated to be in the order of 10^{-8}
425 ([Gladieux et al., 2018](#)). A *k*-mer based association analysis did not find *k*-mers that are significantly
426 associated with race type, possibly because of small sample sizes, whereas *k*-mer analysis of the complete
427 sample identified the mating type gene and several genomic regions that differentiate clonal groups and
428 harbor genes with putative roles in pathogenicity.

429 In conclusion, our analyses indicates a rapid spread of different *S. turcica* clonal lineages in Central
430 and Western Europe in the absence of both recombination and strong selection for pathogen virulence.
431 Monitoring of pathogen diversity on larger geographical scales and over time is required to fully un-
432 derstand forces influencing pathogen epidemiology and evolution, and the evolution of pathogen races.
433 However, our work shows that large scale sequencing and population genomic analysis provide useful
434 information to develop breeding programs informed by host-pathogen evolution and to control plant
435 pathogens by improved agricultural management.

436 **Materials and Methods**

437 **Cultivation of fungal isolates**

438 The origin and sampling information of isolates is described in Supplementary Dataset [S1](#). Lyophilized
439 isolates were transferred to Becton Dickinson BBD Potato Dextrose Agar plates and incubated for at least
440 10 days at 25°C and a 12h light / 12hr dark cycle until plates were completely covered by mycelia. This
441 fungal tissue was scraped from the surface with a spatulum and collected in a 2 ml plastic reaction tube.

442 **DNA extraction and NGS sequencing**

443 After adding six ceramic beads (2.8 mm diameter; MoBio, USA) to each tube, the tissue was ground in a
444 Retsch mixer mill (MM400) for 30 sec at a speed of 30 sec⁻¹. The DNA was then extracted with the Micro
445 AX Blood Gravity KI (A&A Biotechnology, Poland; Cat. No. 101-100) according to manufacturer's
446 instructions and diluted to a concentration of 2.5 ng μ l⁻¹ EB buffer. Whole genome sequencing libraries
447 were generated using a multiplex tagmentation protocol ([Baym et al., 2015](#)) with minor modifications.
448 The assignment of barcodes to isolates is detailed Supplementary Dataset [S1](#). The libraries were paired-
449 end sequenced (2 x 100 bp) on a HiSeq 2500 Illumina sequencer (Macrogen, Korea) in three batches of
450 24, 96 and 46 isolates, respectively.

451 **Read mapping and variant calling**

452 Raw Illumina reads processed with Trimmomatic v0.36 ([Bolger et al., 2014](#)) were mapped with BWA
453 v0.7.12-r1039 ([Li and Durbin, 2009](#)) against the *Setosphaeria turcica* reference genome Et28A v1.0
454 (race 23N strain 28A) ([Ohm et al., 2012](#); [Condon et al., 2013](#)) obtained from EnsemblFungi version 39
455 ([Kersey et al., 2016](#)). After removing PCR duplicates with Picard tools ([http://broadinstitute.
456 github.io/picard/](http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard/)) and realigned reads with GATK v3.7-0 ([McKenna et al., 2010](#)) samples that
457 had low percentage of mapping reads (<83%) and/or low coverage (<5X) were excluded. For variant
458 calling we kept bi-allelic SNPs discovered in both GATK and samtools/bcftools callers ([Li et al., 2009](#);

459 [Li, 2011](#); [Narasimhan et al., 2016](#)). SNPs were filtered for minimum read depth of 3 and a maximum of
460 100, minimum proportion of reads supporting a genotype call of 0.8, maximum percentage of missing
461 data per SNP of 35%. Missing genotypes were imputed with multiple correspondance analysis (MCA)
462 using the R package `missMDA` ([Josse and Husson, 2016](#)).

463 **Variant polarization**

464 To polarize alleles we used the reference genomes of two closely related species, *Bipolaris sorokiniana*
465 ND90Pr ([Ohm et al., 2012](#); [Condon et al., 2013](#)) and *Bipolaris maydis* ATCC 48331 ([Ohm et al., 2012](#);
466 [Condon et al., 2013](#)) that were both obtained from EnsemblFungi. Outgroup genomes were aligned with
467 *Setosphaeria turcica* reference genome using TBA ([Blanchette et al., 2004](#)). Genotype calling from
468 the alignment was done with MafFilter ([Dutheil et al., 2014](#)) and only bi-allelic variants shared with
469 both outgroup species were kept. Ancestrality of the alleles was assigned to the allele of the outgroup
470 species and genotypes of the 130 samples (129 isolates and *S. turcica* reference genome) were polarized
471 accordingly. Additionally, we included the draft genome of *S. turcica* (race 1 strain NY001; JGI Fungal
472 Program ([Grigoriev et al., 2012](#); [Nordberg et al., 2014](#)) under GOLD Project ID Gp0110874), originally
473 collected in Freeville, New York in 1983 ([Chung et al., 2010](#)) as additional sample to the polarized SNP
474 dataset.

475 **Mating type assignment**

476 The *S. turcica* Et28A reference genome is of mating type *MAT1-1*. For this reason, isolates with a
477 mapping gap on the *MAT1* locus were candidates for *MAT1-2* type. Confirmation of the mating type
478 was done with a *de-novo* alignment of the unmapped reads with MegaHit ([Li et al., 2015](#)) and posterior
479 blasting with BLAST ([Altschul et al., 1990](#); [Camacho et al., 2009](#)) to a nucleotide database of *S. turcica*
480 (which included the sequences of *MAT1-1* and *MAT1-2*).

481 **Population structure**

482 To infer population structure we conducted Principal Component Analysis (PCA), maximum likelihood
483 estimation of individual ancestries with ADMIXTURE (Alexander et al., 2009) and population network
484 estimation with community detection using neighborhood selection with CONE (Kuismin et al., 2017).
485 PCA was calculated with the `glPca` function of the `adegenet` (Jombart, 2008; Jombart and Ahmed,
486 2011) R package. We used $K = 5$ clusters because higher values did not significantly reduce cross-
487 validation error (Supplementary Fig. S14) and produced the same composition of clusters with $K = 5$ in
488 20 independent runs. The different admixture runs were merged with CLUMPAK (Kopelman et al., 2015).
489 Population networks were estimated using R scripts for haploid data provided by CONE authors (Kuismin
490 et al., 2017). An unrooted Neighbor-joining tree was built from Euclidean distances and Neighbor-net
491 was calculated with SplitsTree v4.14.6 (Huson and Bryant, 2006) using Hamming distances calculated
492 from the unpolarized SNP dataset. A correlogram on Moran's I (Cliff et al., 1981) was used to test the
493 European spatial autocorrelation along different distance classes of equal frequency using `correlog`
494 function from the R package `pgirmess` (Bivand and Wong, 2018; Bivand et al., 2013). As quantitative
495 variable we used the individual's ancestry coefficient of ADMIXTURE $K = 5$.

496 **Diversity statistics**

497 Numbers of segregating sites S , genome-wide nucleotide diversity π , Watterson's estimator θ_W and
498 Tajima's D were calculated for the two sets of European and of Kenyan isolates, as well as for the
499 subpopulations within them. The single isolate from Turkey within the Kenyan cluster (WGRS-Test.23)
500 has a strong effect on its diversity measures because it contributes 886 additional SNPs (7% of the total).
501 Since this sample is geographically separated from Kenya, we excluded it from the subsequent analysis
502 of the Kenyan cluster. Both π and θ_W are reported per base pair by dividing genomewide values by the
503 maximum number of bases aligned to the reference across all sampled isolates (which are 39,649,104
504 of 43,013,545). For the 15 biggest scaffolds, an additional sliding window analysis for windows of size
505 100k bp was performed. We computed π , θ_W , Tajima's D and the haplotype diversity per window for all

506 groups with the R package PopGenome (Pfeifer et al., 2014).

507 **MK test**

To calculate the McDonald–Kreitman (MK) test we first ran SnpEff version 4.3t (Cingolani et al., 2012) with the *-classic* output style and Setosphaeria_turcica_et28a genome version on vcf subsets that included i) only population polymorphisms and ii) only fixed derived mutations. We used reference Et28A as outcluster, and excluded positions were Et28A and the sample WGRS_62 (closest sample to Et28A) were different. Neutrality Index (NI) was calculated as $\frac{(P_n/P_s)}{(D_n/D_s)}$, where P are polymorphisms, D substitutions, s synonymous mutations and n non-synonymous mutations. Fisher's exact test P -value was computed using the 2x2 contingency table of the four type of mutations. π_N/π_S ratio was calculated as

$$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^I \pi_{ni} N_i / \sum_{i=1}^I N_i}{(\sum_{i=1}^I \pi_{si} S_i / \sum_{i=1}^I S_i)},$$

508 where I is the number of scaffolds, N_i is the number of non-synonymous sites in scaffold i , S_i the
509 number synonymous sites in scaffold i and π_{ni} , π_{si} are the non-synonymous or synonymous nucleotide
510 diversities per non-synonymous or synonymous site in scaffold i . All π_{ni} , π_{si} , N_i and S_i were obtained
511 from *population_summary.txt* output file after running SnpGenie (Nelson et al., 2015).

512 **Analysis of reproduction type**

513 The reproduction type (clonal vs. sexual) was analyzed with three approaches. First, we calculated the
514 mating type ratio for each population. A 1:1 ratio of the mating type is a strong indicator for sexual
515 reproduction whereas a significant skewed ratio indicates clonal reproduction (Sommerhalder et al.,
516 2006; Milgroom, 1996). Second, we tested for recombination using the Phi test (Bruen et al., 2006) as
517 implemented in SplitsTree and third, we tested the null hypothesis of random association of alleles by
518 999 permutation tests of the standardized index of association ($r\bar{d}$) with poppr (Kamvar et al., 2014).

519 **Analysis of demography within clonal subpopulations**

520 For the five clusters Big Clonal, Small Clonal, French Clonal, Diverse and Kenyan, we performed model
521 selection between sweepstake reproduction using genealogies modelled by Dirac- and Beta- n -coalescents,
522 or rapid selection using the Bolthausen-Sznitman n -coalescent in a fixed-size population, and standard
523 reproduction with a Kingman's n -coalescent in a fixed-size or an exponentially growing population.
524 Additionally, we performed parameter estimation within the best-fitting model class. Model selection
525 and parameter estimation was performed via random-forest based Approximate Bayesian Computation
526 (Pudlo et al., 2015; Raynal et al., 2019) using quantiles of summary statistics for unpolarized data (Freund
527 and Siri-Jégousse, 2020). For the analysis, we treated each scaffold as a single non-recombining locus
528 and ran it on the 5 biggest scaffolds. We considered Beta($2 - \alpha, \alpha$)- n -coalescents with $\alpha \in (1, 2)$ where
529 $\alpha = 1$ denotes the Bolthausen-Sznitman n -coalescent, Dirac n -coalescents with parameter $p \in (0, 1)$
530 and, for Kingman's n -coalescent, exponential growth rates in $(0, 2500)$. We set a uniform prior on p for
531 Dirac- n -coalescents, while for Beta- n -coalescents, we set $\alpha = 1$ with a probability of 5% and in all other
532 case draw α uniformly from $(1, 2)$. For Kingman's n -coalescent with exponential growth, we used an
533 uniform prior on the log scale on $(0, 2500)$ with a spike corresponding to a prior probability of 0.02 at
534 $g = 0$.

535 The scaled mutation rate θ was set to the generalized Watterson estimator $\theta_W = 2S/E(L_n)$, where L_n is
536 the expected total length of the underlying genealogy model, but with a random fluctuation around this
537 estimate as in Freund and Siri-Jégousse (2020, Scenario 3). As statistics, we used the (.1, .3, .5, .7, .9)-
538 quantiles of the branch length of the neighbor-joining tree reconstructed from the genetic data, of the
539 Hamming distances and of the linkage disequilibrium statistic r^2 , as well as the number of segregating
540 sites S , nucleotide diversity π and the folded site frequency spectrum, where all minor allele counts above
541 15 are summed up as a single statistic. Each model class is simulated 175,000 times and the random
542 forest is built from 500 trees. Simulations were performed as in Freund and Siri-Jégousse (2020), ABC
543 parameter estimation and model selection were conducted with the R package `abcrf`. An estimated
544 lower bound for odds ratio/Bayes factors of the best fitting model to any other model was given by

545 $BF = \frac{P(model|Data)}{1-P(model|Data)}$, i.e. we treat the posterior probability of any other model as posterior probability
546 that the best fitting model is not the true model.

547 **Phylogenetic dating with BEAST**

548 We ran BEAST2 ([Bouckaert et al., 2014](#)) on the non-polarized variants for all European isolates except
549 WGRS_5, three Kenyan isolates (WGRS_26, WGRS_29 and WGRS-Test_23) and the American reference
550 genome. Sample WGRS_5 was labeled as sample from Kenya, but population structure analyses clustered
551 it with the Big Clonal cluster. We therefore excluded it from analyses using geographic information.
552 Each isolate was timed by its year of isolation. As site model, we used a Γ model with four categories
553 and estimated the proportion of invariant site, starting with a proportion of 0.8. We used the HKY model
554 for mutation, estimating the frequencies and assumed used a strict molecular clock. Test runs with a
555 relaxed exponential molecular clock with two discrete rates and with the different mutation model GTR
556 showed only very small changes, which indicated that potentially shorter generation times of *S. turcica*
557 in warmer climates need not to be accounted for. Since only in-species samples are included, we used
558 the Coalescent Extended Bayesian Skyline as the tree model. As starting tree, we used the cluster tree
559 estimated via NJ2. All other model settings were kept at the default values. The MCMC parameters
560 were 225 million cycles (every 100th trace and 1,000th tree stored) with a 10 million pre-burnin period.
561 For tree annotation, we used a 10 % burn-in. We conducted two independent runs. Effective Sample
562 Size (ESS) scores, which estimate the numbers of independent draws from the posterior distribution that
563 each BEAST run represents, were >100 for all non-population size parameters. Several population size
564 parameter scored between 45 and 100 for a single run, all but one (=93) scored > 100 when runs were
565 combined.

566 **Variation in sequence coverage**

567 To use variation in sequence coverage as phylogenetic signal, we calculated variation of coverage in 1kb
568 windows in each isolate. The most variable 2.5% windows were used to calculate a pairwise distance

569 matrix of variance in coverage between all samples, from which a Neighbor-Joining tree was constructed.

570 **Reference-free association mapping**

571 To characterize sequence reads that did not map to the reference, we conducted reference-free association
572 study based on k -mers using the HAWK (Hitting Associations With K -mers) pipeline ([Rahman et al.,](#)
573 [2018](#)). We ran HAWK between pairs of different clusters and between pairs of races independent of their
574 assignment to populations: race 1 vs. race 0, race 0 vs. all, race 1 vs. all, race 3 vs. all, race 3N vs. race 0,
575 race 3N vs. all, race 3 vs. race 1 and 0, race 3N vs. race 1 and 0, race 3 and 3N vs race 0 and 1. Race 1
576 vs. race 0 was also analysed for samples from the Big Clonal cluster only. Significantly differentiated
577 k -mers were mapped against the reference genome to characterize the extent of clustering in some
578 regions. Repetitive elements in windows with high number of k -mers mapped were searched with the
579 protein-based RepeatMasking ([Smit and Green, 2015](#)). Gene-rich or gene-poor regions were determined
580 for windows with high numbers of mapped k -mers by counting genes in these regions. Remaining
581 unmapped assembled k -mers were compared against the NCBI non-redundant protein database using
582 BLASTX to identify putative protein sequences.

583 **Data Availability**

584 Raw sequence data of the 121 isolates generated in this study is available in the European Nucleotide
585 Archive (ENA) under the project ID PRJEB37432. Scripts for analysing the data are available from DOI:
586 [10.5281/zenodo.4036236](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4036236). Geographic and phenotypic information of the isolates is in the Supplementary
587 Dataset [S1](#).

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595 **Author Contributions**

596 FF, AvT and KS designed the study. AvT contributed materials. HH phenotyped the races. MV-V, FF,
597 and KS analysed the data. MV-V, FF and KS wrote the manuscript. The authors declare no conflict of
598 interest.

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