Efficient hybrid strategies for assembling the plastome, mitochondriome, and large nuclear genome of diploid *Ranunculus cassubicifolius* (Ranunculaceae)

Karbstein, Kevin[1,2,4*], Tomasello, Salvatore[1], Wagner, Natascha[1], Barke, Birthe Hilkka[1], Paetzold, Claudia[3], Bradican, John Paul[1], Preick, Michaela[5], Irisarri, Iker[6,7,9], de Vries, Jan[6,7,8] & Hörandl, Elvira[1]

[1] *University of Göttingen, Albrecht-von-Haller Institute for Plant Sciences, Department of Systematics, Biodiversity and Evolution of Plants (with Herbarium), Göttingen, Germany*

[2] *University of Göttingen, Georg-August University School of Science (GAUSS), Göttingen, Germany*

[3] *Senkenberg Naturhistorische Sammlungen, Dresden, Germany*

[4] *Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry, Department of Biogeochemical Integration, Jena, Germany*

[5] *Institute for Biochemistry and Biology, University of Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany*

[6] *University of Göttingen, Institute for Microbiology and Genetics, Department of Applied Bioinformatics, Göttingen, Germany*

[7] *University of Göttingen, Campus Institute Data Science (CIDAS), Göttingen, Germany*

[8] *University of Göttingen, Göttingen Center for Molecular Biosciences (GZMB), Department of Applied Bioinformatics, Göttingen, Germany*

[9] *Leibniz Institute for the Analysis of Biodiversity Change (LIB), Centre for Molecular Biodiversity Research, Museum of Nature, Hamburg, Germany*

ORCID:

Kevin Karbstein 0000-0003-1424-6557

Salvatore Tomasello 0000-0001-5201-1156

Natascha Wagner 0000-0001-6623-7623

Birthe Hilkka Barke 0000-0001-5379-6055

Claudia Paetzold 0000-0002-4128-6645

Iker Irisarri 0000-0002-3628-1137

Jan de Vries 0000-0003-3507-5195

Elvira Hörandl 0000-0002-7600-1128

*   **corresponding author:** *email: kkarb@bgc-jena.mpg.de, elvira.hoerandl@biologie.uni-*
goettingen.de

Running Head

Efficient hybrid assembly strategies for plant genomes

Abstract

Currently, we lack efficient strategies - in terms of laboratory work and cost, as well as

assembly quality - to reliably reconstruct large and complex genomes from non-model plants.

This often impairs the study of evolutionary intricate groups characterized by hybridization,

polyploidy, and/or apomixis. The large *Ranunculus auricomus* polyploid complex is an

angiosperm model system for apomixis, evolution, and biogeography research. However,

neither plastid, mitochondrial, nor high-quality nuclear genomes are available, and a genus-

wide draft genome has yet to be assembled, limiting phylogenomic, ecological, and

taxonomic analyses thus far. We tested different Illumina (short, highly accurate reads),

Oxford Nanopore Technology (ONT; long, less accurate reads), and Illumina-ONT-hybrid

assembly strategies using the diploid species *R. cassubicifolius*, a sexual diploid progenitor of

the *R. auricomus* complex, and selected the best assemblies in terms of completeness,

contiguity, and BUSCO quality scores. We first assembled the entire plastome (156 Mbp; 78

protein-coding genes, 30 tRNAs, and 4 rRNAs) and mitochondriome (1,260 Mbp; 39 protein-

coding genes, 13 tRNAs, 3 rRNAs), using an Illumina- and hybrid-based strategy,

respectively. The best out of 11 strategies used raw Nanopore reads assembled and polished

by filtered Nanopore and Illumina reads accompanied by genome annotation yielded a 3.45

Gbp high-quality genome with (>99% completeness), 97% single-copy and duplicated

complete BUSCO genes found, median contig length (N_{50}) of 104 Mbp, and 39,544 predicted

genes. The genomic information presented herein helps to improve phylogenomic analyses in
this species complex, and will enable improved functional, biogeographic, and population
genomic analyses for the *R. auricomus* complex, the genus, and beyond in Ranunculaceae in
the future.

Keywords

hybrid assembly, large diploid plant genomes, *de novo* assembly, plastome, mitochondriome,
genome, Illumina sequencing, Nanopore sequencing, gDNA, *Ranunculus auricomus*

Significance Statement

The *Ranunculus auricomus* complex is a model system in flowering plant apomixis,
evolution, and biogeography research, but thus far no genus-wide complete genome exists.
Using Illumina and/or Nanopore data, we assembled the plastome, mitochondriome, and high-
quality diploid genome. We created efficient assembly strategies, which are applicable to
other non-model systems and useful for improving phylogenomic analyses, enabling better
functional (e.g., apomixis), biogeographic, and population genomic analyses at the complex,
but also at the genus and family level.

     Resource Article

     ## Introduction

Over the past decade, the scientific community has experienced a massive expansion

in accessible sequencing technologies. Biologists have moved beyond short-read (100-250

bp) Illumina sequence data, which often produce incomplete genetic assemblies and lack the

information required to assemble repetitive regions that plague large genomes. This results in

highly fragmented, erroneous *de novo* genome assemblies (Gatter et al., 2021; Rhie et al.,

2021; Zimin and Salzberg, 2022). Today, long-read sequencing technologies, such as

Nanopore (Oxford Nanopore Technologies, ONT) or PacBio (Pacific Biosciences), can bridge

such gaps and improve the quality of genome assemblies. DNA reads derived from PacBio

are typically up to 25 kbp in length; in contrast, ONT sequencing is typically less accurate per

base (ca. 90%, although new ONT generations can also reach up to 99%) but can provide

much longer reads of up to 500 kbp or even 1.5 Mbp, and can be easily performed in any

laboratory (reviewed in Pucker et al., 2022). Three strategies are currently available for

genome assembly: (i) Illumina short-read assembly (e.g., Lu et al., 2020; Zimin and Salzberg,

2022), (ii) ONT long-read assembly (e.g., Dmitriev et al., 2021), or (iii) Illumina and ONT

hybrid assembly (e.g., Prjibelski et al., 2020; Gatter et al., 2021; Zimin and Salzberg, 2022).

For any of the three cases, assembly quality and completeness can be improved with gap

filling using trusted contigs from prior assemblies, or with different polishing strategies using

available, quality-filtered Illumina- and/or ONT-reads.

In the latter two cases, the combination of low- to medium-coverage long-read data

with highly accurate Illumina sequences is particularly attractive for improving genome

assemblies when resources are limited, as is usually the case when working with non-model

plants. Scientists therefore aim to produce "high-quality" genomes, i.e., genome assemblies

characterized by, for example, high completeness (>90%), contiguity (N_{50}>1 Mpb), and >90%

recovery rate of conserved single-copy genes (e.g., BUSCO; assembly standards of the Earth

Biogenome Project; Lawniczak et al., 2022). However, some metrics are rather adapted to

animals, for example, flowering plants have undergone many ancient or recent

polyploidization events (Van De Peer et al., 2017; Leebens-Mack et al., 2019; Hörandl, 2022)

and are characterized by quite large, repetitive genomes, and thus a BUSCO score of >90%

single-copy genes can often not be met (Dmitriev et al., 2021) or is not informative for quality

assessment of large, repetitive genomes (Mokhtar et al., 2023). Therefore, other thresholds,

metrics, or characteristics have been proposed (Kress et al., 2022; Hotaling et al., 2023; Mokhtar et al., 2023). Irrespective of chosen metrics, efficient strategies in terms of laboratory effort, cost, and assembly quality are needed to reliably reconstruct large and complex high-quality genomes for non-model organisms. This often hampers the study of evolutionary, biogeographic, and ecological relationships within taxonomically complex groups (TCGs), which are characterized by intricate evolutionary processes such as hybridization, polyploidy, and/or apomixis (Karbstein et al., under review; Ennos et al., 2005).

The *Ranunculus auricomus* complex represents one of such TCGs and is one of the largest polyploid apomictic plant species groups in Europe, comprising more than 840 described morphospecies (Hörandl and Raab-Straube, 2015). Individuals are distributed across Eurasia, ranging from Greenland to Europe, Siberia, and Alaska, and from the Arctic through to temperate and Mediterranean climate zones (Jalas and Suominen, 1989; GBIF Secretariat, 2021). The *R. auricomus* complex is a model system for understanding the evolution and biogeography of phylogenetically young, reticulately evolving flowering plant groups characterized by reticulate evolution (Paun et al., 2006; Hörandl et al., 2009; Pellino et al., 2013; Hodač et al., 2018; Karbstein et al., 2020b, 2020a, 2021, 2022; Tomasello et al., 2020; Karbstein, 2021). It is also a model system for unraveling the molecular, cytogenetic, and evolutionary mechanisms of apomixis (i.e., the asexual reproduction via seeds; Hojsgaard et al., 2014; Barke et al., 2018, 2020; Hodač et al., 2019; Pellino et al., 2020; Paetzold et al., 2022). Apomixis is relevant for agricultural applications (e.g., Schmidt, 2020), and is often associated with hybridization and/or polyploidy, which are considered major evolutionary forces in plant evolution. All flowering plants share a polyploid ancestor, and at least 30% of flowering plant species are of recent polyploid origin, while more than 25% of extant plant species are known to be involved in interspecific hybridization or introgression events (Mallet, 2005; Soltis et al., 2015; Van De Peer et al., 2017; Leebens-Mack et al., 2019; Hörandl, 2022).

Consequently, improving (phylo)genomic approaches for di- and polyploids, and observing regulatory mechanisms of apomixis (e.g., Brukhin et al., 2019) with *R. auricomus* reference genomes will help to develop a better understanding of plant evolution and biodiversity, and is therefore of general interest in biological research. Organellar genome reconstruction is valuable for studying nuclear-organelle compatibility and the chimerism of cyto-nuclear complexes (Sloan et al. 2018, Moller et al. 2021). Little is known about plant mitochondrial genomes although mitochondrial-nuclear compatibility is important for

speciation, evolution of crossing barriers, and for emergence of male cytoplasmic sterility
(Postel and Touzet, 2020; Møller et al., 2021). Elucidating cyto-nuclear complexes could also
be important in the study of the evolution of sex (Havird et al., 2015).

The *R. auricomus* complex contains five newly circumscribed, predominantly diploid
sexual species (Karbstein et al., 2020b), which have generated the more than 800 described
polyploid apomictic taxa within the last 0.8 million years (Tomasello et al., 2020; Karbstein et
al., 2022). The diploid genome size of the *R. auricomus* complex (2n = 16) ranges between
6.12 and 6.30 pg DNA based on DNA image cytometry (Hörandl and Greilhuber, 2002).
Therefore, *R. auricomus* genomes are large even at the diploid level (diploid genome sizes are
estimated to be between 5.998-6.174 Gbp, Leitch et al., 2019). Increasing proportions of
repetitive regions have usually been considered responsible for genome size inflation
(Bennetzen, 2005), which could also be relevant for *R. auricomus* genomes (Hörandl et al.,
2009; Hodač et al., 2018; Karbstein et al., 2022). However, so far, reference genomes for the
species complex, but also for the entire genus *Ranunculus*, are still missing. Among
Ranunculaceae, the only other reference genomes are available from diploid *Aquilegia* species
(Xie et al., 2020; Mokhtar et al., 2023), but these genomes are much smaller (mean 0.9 Gbp,
Leitch et al. 2019), and no polyploid complexes appear in this genus (TROPICOS database
vers. 3.4.2, http://www.tropicos.org; CCDB database vers. 1.66, http://ccdb.tau.ac.il/home/,
Rice et al., 2015).

The evolutionary relationships among diploid sexual *R. auricomus* progenitors have
recently been clarified (Tomasello et al., 2020; Karbstein et al. 2020b), as noted above, and
initial insights into the allopolyploid origins and genome evolution of derivatives have been
obtained (Karbstein et al. 2021a, 2022). A *Ranunculus* reference genome would be a major
step forward in improving the reconstruction of the species by facilitating read mapping to
orthologous loci, allele phasing, and subgenome assignments; it would be the starting point
for sophisticated approaches like reference-guided assemblies (e.g., Eaton and Overcast,
2020), polyploid phasing used for multilabeled, subgenome species trees (e.g., Dauphin et al.,
2018) or allopolyploid network reconstructions (e.g., Jones, 2017; Šlenker et al., 2021), or
functional genomics (e.g., in relation to apomixis, adaptation, and gene expression; Syngelaki
et al., 2021). High-quality genomes are essential for studying loci under selection and
mutation-selection dynamics (e.g., Del Amparo et al., 2021), which could so far only be
performed on (incomplete) transcriptomes (Pellino et al., 2013; Paetzold et al., 2022). In
addition, the reconstruction of reference plastomes could help to reveal nuclear-plastid
discordances and thus reticulation signals (e.g., hybridizations, McKain et al., 2018; Karbstein

et al., 2022). Mitochondrial information would provide additional insights into discordances
with the nuclear genome and plant sex determination (e.g., male sterility; Park et al., 2021).
To generate a plastome, mitochondriome, and a high-quality genome of a diploid *R.*
auricomus, we used different assembly strategies using short but highly accurate Illumina
reads with medium genome coverage and long but less accurate ONT reads with low genome
coverage, as it is a typical scenario for working with non-model plant groups.
186
187

Methods
Plant Material
In the present study, analyses were performed on two diploid sexual individuals of the
species *Ranunculus cassubicifolius* within the *R. auricomus* complex (taxonomic treatment
follows Karbstein et al., 2020a). Measurements of ploidy and reproduction mode are
published in Hörandl and Greilhuber (2002; under *R. carpaticola*), and Karbstein et al. (2020)
and (2021). Fresh leaf material was directly harvested in 2019 from individual EH8483/10,
originally sampled in Revúca, Slovakia (48°41'39"N, 20°07'42"E) in Slovakia (Hörandl and
Greilhuber, 2002; under *R. carpaticola*). High-molecular-weight DNA was extracted
immediately after harvest and used for Illumina DNA sequencing. The same population was
already used for transcriptome (Pellino et al., 2013) and microsatellite analyses (Paun et al.,
2006; Hodač et al., 2018). We harvested fresh young, 12 hours dark-adapted, leaf material
from another conspecific individual originated from nearby (LH040/02; 48°40'38"N,
20°06'24"E, Karbstein et al., 2020a) for ONT gDNA sequencing in 2021 because the
previously used individual died. All plants were cultivated at the Old Botanical Garden of the
University of Göttingen.
204

DNA extraction
For Illumina short-read sequencing, gDNA was directly extracted from approximately
200 mg of fresh leaf material from a single *R. cassubicifolius* s.l. individual (EH8483) using
liquid nitrogen and the DNeasy PowerPlant Pro Kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) according to
the manufacturer´s instructions. The DNA concentration was assessed using the Qubit
Fluorometer 2.0 and the Qubit dsDNA HS Assay Kit (ThermoFisher Scientific, Waltham,
USA), and the DNA quality was checked by the Genomic DNA ScreenTape device (Agilent
Technologies, Santa Clara, USA). The extraction yielded 16 ng/µl of DNA with a median
fragment length of 19 kb.

For ONT long-read sequencing, gDNA extraction was mainly performed according to
the Qiagen protocol specifically developed for the isolation of gDNA from plants and fungi
and the manufacturer´s instructions of the Qiagen Genomic DNA Buffer Set using Genomic
Tip 20/G (details in Text S1). We again used fresh leaf material from a single *R.*
cassubicifolius s.l. individual (LH040), and performed three gDNA extractions in parallel.
Several protocol modifications were applied to increase DNA yield and to optimize DNA
quality (see also Vaillancourt and Buell, 2019; Li et al., 2020). Fresh leaf material (ca. 75 mg)
was frozen with liquid nitrogen and immediately finely ground using a mortar and pestle. The
still frozen leaf powder was transferred into a 2.0 ml Eppendorf tube containing 400 µl API
Qiagen extraction buffer (Qiagen DNeasy Plant Mini Kit). The mixture was incubated at 40°C
for 1.5 hours with gentle agitation. Then, 4 µl Qiagen RNase A (100 mg/ml) was added, and
the mixture was incubated again for 30 minutes at 37°C, followed by the addition of 18 µl
Qiagen Proteinase K (20 mg/ml), and incubation for 2 h at 50°C with gentle agitation. The
mixture was centrifuged at 12,000 x g for 20 minutes, and ca. 400 µl of the lysate was
transferred (using wide-bore pipettes) to a buffer QBT-equilibrated Genomic Tip. The DNA
was washed with 5 x 1 ml Buffer QC, and eluted with 0.8 ml pre-warmed (55°C) Buffer QF
into a new 2.0 ml Eppendorf tube. The DNA was precipitated by adding 0.7 volume of room-
temperature isopropanol and inverting the tube up to 20 times, followed by 15 minutes of
incubation. Using a glass rod, the DNA was rolled up and placed into a new 1.5 ml Eppendorf
tube containing ice-cold 80% ethanol. The DNA was air dried, resuspended in 200 µl
autoclaved ddH$_2$O, and samples were pooled in a single tube. The tube was stored at 4 °C
until library preparation for ONT sequencing was finished.

The DNA concentration was assessed using the Qubit Fluorometer 3.0 and the Qubit
dsDNA HS Assay Kit, and the DNA quality was checked using the NanoDrop 2000
Spectrophotometer (ThermoFisher Scientific, Waltham, USA; Text S1). The DNA length and
RNA absence were assessed by 2% agarose gel electrophoresis (50 V, 90 min) including the
Quick-Load 1 kb DNA Ladder (New England Biolabs Inc., Ipswich, USA; Text S1). The
extracted gDNA was not fragmented and larger than 10 kb (Fig. S1). We obtained a final
DNA yield (after some dilution steps) of 61.2 µg (51.0 ng/µl * 1200 µl ddH$_2$O).

Genome Sequencing on the Illumina Platform
Library preparation was performed using the 10x Chromium Controller Genomics Kit
(10x Genomics, Pleasanton, USA) following the manufacturer's instructions. The DNA
library quality was assessed by a qPCR based on the NEBNext Library Quant Kit (New

England Biolabs Inc., Ipswich, USA). Sequencing with standard Illumina primers was performed on a NextSeq 500/550 instrument (Illumina, San Diego, USA) with a read length of 150 + 150 bp (paired-end).

Genome Sequencing on the ONT Platform

Library preparation was conducted using an ONT Ligation Sequencing Kit SQK-LSK110 optimized for high throughput and long reads (ONT, Oxford, UK) and applicable for singleplex gDNA sequencing. We adjusted the DNA concentration to 1000 ng in 47 µl (ca. 21.5 µl/ng). We followed the manufacturer's instructions for library preparation with a few modifications (protocol vers. GDE_9108_v110_revL_10Nov2020, accessible via community.nanoporetech.com). Incubation times were increased up to 15 min, ethanol wash buffer concentration was increased to 80%, and we enriched DNA fragments of more than 3 kb. A hardware check was performed for each device, and a flow cell check was run prior to sequencing runs. Active pores ranged from ca. 800-1500. Flow cell no. 1 was loaded with freshly prepared libraries, flow cell no. 2 with one freshly prepared and one at -80°C (two days) stored libraries, and flow cell no. 3-6 with two at -80°C for 1-2 weeks stored libraries. We used a MinION 101B device, the ONT software MINKNOW vers. 21.11.7, 21.11.9, and 22.03.5 were installed on a local Linux system, and six R9.4.1 flow cells following the manufacturer's instructions for priming and loading. After one or two days of runtime, the old library was exhausted and thus replaced with a second library using the supplied flow cell wash kit (protocol vers. WFC_9120_v1_revB_08Dec2020). Sequencing was run for 3-5 days per flow cell until the majority of pores were inactive (> 99%).

Genomic Data Analysis

For Illumina sequence data, we first converted the raw output into *fastq files using SUPERNOVA vers. 2.1.1 (10x Genomics, San Francisco, USA; Marks et al., 2017; Weisenfeld et al., 2018) and BLC2FASTQ vers. 2.20 (Illumina, San Diego, USA), resulting in 51 Gb raw *fastq files. Read quality was assessed by FASTQC vers. 0.11.4 (reports on FigShare; Andrews, 2010). We performed polyX-tail and adapter trimming, and quality filtering of Illumina raw reads, using ATRIA vers. 3.1.2 (Chuan et al., 2021) with default settings, and BBMAP vers. 37.66 ('repair.sh'; sourceforge.net/projects/bbmap/) to reorder filtered paired-end reads.

For long-read ONT sequencing, six flow cells generated 391 Gb *.fast5 (28-104) output files, 5.77 (0.48-1.81) million reads, with a median read fragment length of 21 (19.6-

23.2) kbp with the longest read being 849 kbp, and an estimated output of 51 Gbp (3.3-11.7).

Reports per flow cell can be accessed via FigShare. Subsequent analyses were performed on

the local HPC cluster (GWDG, Göttingen, Germany). Basecalling was performed with the

ONT software GUPPY vers. 6.0.1 specifying the configuration file

"dna_r9.4.1_450bps_fast.cfg" for fast base-calling (in preruns, the difference between 'fast'

and much slower 'high accuracy' was very small, see FASTQC files on Figshare). After that,

NANOFILT vers. 2.2.0 (De Coster et al., 2018) was applied to remove the first 50 bp of the

reads, which were usually of low quality. The read quality of all datasets was checked using

FASTQC (reports on FigShare).

The plastid genome. The *R. cassubicifolius* plastome was assembled using Illumina

short-read data and the software GETORGANELLE vers. 1.7.5.3 (Jin et al., 2020; as

recommended by Freudenthal et al., 2020), specifying the "embplant_pt" database, k-mer size

range between 45 and 121, use of all Illumina reads, and as seed the *Ranunculus repens*

plastome (154,247 bp, GenBank accession number NC_036976; Dann et al., 2017). The

average embplant_pt base coverage was 560. The plastome was annotated for protein-coding

genes, tRNA, rRNA, and repeat content (microsatellites, tandem repeats, and dispersed

repeats), using CPGAVAS2 (Shi et al., 2019) with default settings and 2,544 reference

plastomes (Shi et al., 2019), and drawn using CPGVIEW (Liu et al., 2023). Geneious R11

2023.1.2 (Kearse et al., 2012) was used to check and edit the annotation results. The final

plastome sequence incl. annotations was deposited into GenBank (OP250948). The plastome

with annotations is also shown in Figure 1.

To investigate sequence differences between *R. cassubicifolius* and *R. repens*, we

performed progressiveMAUVE (Darling et al., 2004) whole genome alignment analysis in

Geneious. In addition, mapping TEG off-target reads to reference plastomes from sampled or

herbarium specimens is a common strategy for constructing plastome phylogenies in

evolutionary studies (Folk et al., 2015; Tomasello et al., 2020). Therefore, we followed the

procedures described in the study by Karbstein et al. (2022) to examine the effect of read

mapping and lengths of the resulting alignments using the distantly related plastome of *R.*

repens, the *R. cassubicifolius* plastome assembled here as a closely related reference, and 87

di- and polyploid, sexual and apomictic *R. auricomus* TEG samples (SRA BioProject

PRJNA628081; Tomasello et al., 2020; Karbstein et al., 2022).

The mitochondrial genome. To assemble the mitogenome, we used

GETORGANELLE with the same settings as described above, except that we specified

"embplant_mt" and as seed the closest available mitochondriome (*Hepatica maxima*,

GenBank accession number NC_053368.1; Park and Park, 2020). The estimated average embplant_mt base coverage was 92. To improve mitogenome assembly, we mapped ONT reads against the contigs derived from GETORGANELLE and extracted mapped reads (442,704 reads, 953 Mbp, 10% of all ONT reads) with an estimated mitogenome coverage of 756 (see Results section) using SAMTOOLS2 vers. 1.9 ('sort' and 'index'; Danecek et al., 2021) and BEDTOOLS vers. 2.29.1 ('bamtofastq'; Quinlan and Hall, 2010). We applied MASURCA vers. 4.0.9 (Zimin and Salzberg, 2022) to perform hybrid assembly based on extracted ONT reads and "embplant_mt" hitting Illumina reads derived from the GETORGANELLE assembly process. Then, we retained a mitochondrial genome in 18 scaffolds and a total length of 351,681 bp. We aligned contigs in Geneious to reduce overlapping regions and thus contig number, and mapped Illumina and ONT reads against the retained three contigs using MINIMAP2 ('-ax sr' and '-ax map-ont' options, respectively), converted *.sam files to *.bam files using SAMTOOLS2 ('sort' and 'index'), and inspected alignments by IGV Viewer vers. 2.16.1 (Thorvaldsdottir et al., 2013) (reports on FigShare). Using SAMTOOLS2 option 'depth', we inferred a mean Illumina coverage of 1404, and ONT coverage of 618. We completed the mitochondrial genome by inspecting the mapping results and editing the gap regions usually spanned by Illumina- and/or ONT-reads.

The assembly was annotated for protein-coding genes, tRNA, rRNA, and repeat content, and visualized using the webservers of organellar genome annotation tools AGORA (Jung et al., 2018) with *H. maxima* as reference and a maximum number of matched sub gene's count per each contig as 1, CPGAVAS2 (Shi et al., 2019) with the same settings as described above, and MFannot (Lang et al., 2023) and CPGView (Liu et al., 2023) with default settings. For visual identification of repetitive regions, the BLASTN webserver tool (Zhang et al., 2000; Camacho et al., 2009) was used to compare the *R. cassubicifolius* mitogenome against itself (e-value cutoff of 1×10^{-6}, word size of 16; following Park and Park (2020). Geneious was used to inspect and edit the annotation results. The resulting *gb file was converted into a feature table file for GenBank submission using the GB2SEQUIN tool (Lehwark and Greiner, 2019) within the CHLOROBOX webserver. The final annotated mitochondrial genome is illustrated in Figure 2. The mitochondrial raw data and the annotated mitochondrial genome will be made available upon publication (SRA: PRJNA831351, and BankIt: 2722616, respectively). To investigate sequence differences between *R. cassubicifolius* and *H. maxima* as the closest reference mitogenome, we again performed progressiveMAUVE in Geneious.

The nuclear genome. We applied different genome assembly approaches (default

settings with haploid genome size of 3.3 Gbp and RAM of at least 1.5 TB, unless otherwise

specified): (i) using moderate-coverage Illumina short-reads, we performed analysis with

SUPERNOVA (specifying the incorporation of all reads, acceptance of extreme coverages)

and SUPERNOVA with subsequent gap filling by filtered ONT reads, and SPADES vers.

3.13.2 (Prjibelski et al., 2020); (ii) using moderate-coverage Illumina short-reads and low-

coverage ONT long-reads, we performed analysis with SPADES (incl. the option of untrusted

SUPERNOVA contigs for gap filling), MASURCA vers. 4.1.0 (Zimin et al., 2017),

MUCHSALSA/LazyB vers. 0.0.2 (Gatter et al., 2021), and WENGAN (M) vers. 0.2 (Di

Genova et al., 2021); (iii) using low-coverage ONT long-reads, we performed analyses with

CANU vers. 2.1.1 (Koren et al., 2017) and FLYE vers. 2.9.1 (Kolmogorov et al., 2019) (first:

CANU corrected reads with the option '--nano-hq' as recommended, and second ONT raw

reads with the option '--nano-raw' without polishing) using ONT long-reads followed by the

optimized polishing strategy of Dmitriev et al. (2021), i.e., two-times via filtered ONT reads

using RACON vers. 1.4.3 (Vaser et al., 2017) and MEDAKA vers. 0.7.1

(https://github.com/nanoporetech/medaka), and once using Illumina reads via the POLCA

function (Zimin and Salzberg, 2020) within the MASURCA pipeline.

Statistics for genome assemblies were calculated using QUAST vers. 5.0.1 (Gurevich et al.,

2013), and summarized in Table 1 (reports on FigShare). Genomic completeness in terms of

expected single-copy genes inherent to land plants was estimated by 'Benchmarking

Universal Single-copy Orthologs' (BUSCO vers. 5.0.0; Waterhouse et al., 2018; Manni et al.,

2021) with the 'embryophyta_odb10' vers. 2020-09-10 dataset containing 60 species and

1375 core genes, and shown in Figure 3. The assembly with the highest completeness, largest

contig size, and best BUSCO scores (Table 1, Fig. 3, reports on FigShare), was selected for

genome annotation. We thus annotated the assembled genome from FLYE+Polishing (3.45

Gbp)   with   FUNANNOTATE   pipeline   vers.   1.8.15

(https://github.com/nextgenusfs/funannotate; Palmer and Stajich, 2022). First, the assembly

was cleaned (only contigs >1 kbp, and duplicated contigs; -14 bp removed) and sorted by size

using MINIMAP2 (Li, 2018), and simple repeats were masked using TANTAN ('-s

arabidopsis'; Frith, 2011) as they easily align to each other, which causes false homology

predictions and which in turn negatively impact gene annotation. Approximately 6.33% (218

Mbp) of the genome was masked. Then, five recently published diploid *R. auricomus*

transcriptomes from flower buds (*R. cassubicifolius*, *R. notabilis*, and their F_2 hybrids;

Paetzold et al., 2022) were downloaded from NCBI BioProject PRJNA870679 and quality checked with FASTQC vers. 0.11.4.

To ensure successful genome annotation based on transcriptomic data, RNA reads from different *R. auricomus* species were mapped to the filtered genome, resulting in 81% mapped reads. This represents a good result in the context of multispecies mapping (target: >90% of mapped reads from the same individual as BioGenome Standard; report on FigShare). Then, the filtered genome and the transcriptomes were used to train the annotation process by a genome-guided transcriptome assembly using TRIMMOMATIC (Bolger et al., 2014), TRINITY (Grabherr et al., 2011), HISAT2 (Kim et al., 2015), KALLISTO (Bray et al., 2016), and PASA (Haas et al., 2008) to filter, normalize, and genome-guided cluster transcriptomic data. Sorted alignments, transcripts, and transcriptome annotations are the input for the genome gene prediction process performed by AUGUSTUS (Stanke et al., 2008), GLIMMERHMM (Majoros et al., 2004), and SNAP (Korf, 2004), and results were summarized with EVIDENCEMODELER (Haas et al., 2008). Using the update function, UTRs were added and gene models in disagreement with RNA data were fixed (partly manually, as recommended). Functional genome annotation was then done with INTERPROSCAN (Jones et al., 2014), EGGNOG-MAPPER (Cantalapiedra et al., 2021), and ANTISMASH (Blin et al., 2021). The article will be updated soon with annotation results, and the annotated genome will be deposited in NCBI under Bioproject PRJNA831351 upon publication.

Results and Discussion

More than 610 million, 150 bp raw Illumina reads were generated leading to 91 Gbp and genome coverage of ca. 28x (mean base accuracy > 99.9%) assuming a haploid genome size of 3.3 Gbp (see Introduction). In addition, the final ONT long-read dataset contains 50.9 Gbp and 4.26 million reads, yielding a coverage of 16x (mean base accuracy of 97%) on an estimated haploid genome size of 3.3 Gbp.

The plastid genome. Based on short Illumina reads, we retained a circular plastid genome with 156,233 bp in two different states caused by the differing orientations of the inverted repeat (IR) regions ("flip-flop"; Stein et al., 1986; Walker et al., 2015). Results were visually inspected using Bandage vers. 0.9.0 (Wick et al., 2015). The plastome shows a typical tetrapartite structure of a small single-copy region (SSC, length: 19,826 bp) and a large single-copy region (LSC, length: 85,629 bp) separated by two IR regions (length: 2 x

25,389 bp). The plastome contains 85 (78 unique) protein-coding genes, 37 (30 unique)

tRNAs, and 8 (4 unique) rRNAs (duplicated ones in IRs). We also observed 35 SSR, 32 long

tandem repeat, and 34 dispersed repeat motifs. In comparison with the closely related,

recently published plastome of *R. sceleratus* (sister section to sect. *Auricomus*; Genbank

accession number ON755204, Kim et al., 2023) and the more distantly related plastome of *R.*

repens (different subgenus within Ranunculaceae), the plastome of *R. cassubicifolius* shows a

maximum number of unique protein-coding genes (78/77/78), tRNAs (30/28/29), and rRNAs

(4/3/4). The plastome size of *R. cassubicifolius* was slightly smaller compared to *R. sceleratus*

(+96 bp, 156,329 bp), but smaller compared to *R. repens* (-1,986 bp; 154,247 bp), mainly due

to differences in repeat motives in the SSC (19,826/18,434 bp) and LSC (85,629/84,224 bp)

regions (e.g., the *R. cassubicifolius* plastome has additional, long repeats between various

genes), but not in the IR regions (25,389/25,794 bp).

Interestingly, the plastome of *R. cassubicifolius* additionally contains the gene *ycf15*

(table for plastome comparisons on FigShare), which is controversial in terms of origin and

function. The gen *ycf15* probably originated at the roots of the angiosperms and not in

eubacteria, and has been disabled or lost in many ancestral angiosperm lineages, and

compared to other pseudogenes like *infA* or *rpl22*, no intracellular transfer to the nucleus has

been observed across many angiosperm lineages (Shi et al., 2013). For the genus *Ranunculus*,

the complete loss of this gene was assumed (Shi et al., 2013) but the recent study of Kim et al.

(2023) for *R. austro-oreganus* and *R. occidentalis,* and the results presented here for *R.*

cassubicifolius contradict this assumption. Despite the gene is only 54 bp long and apparently

degraded (e.g., Shi et al., 2013; Li et al., 2021), we found two copies of *ycf15* in the IRA and

IRB regions with regular ATG start and TGA stop codon, suggesting that it is functional in *R.*

cassubicifolius. In addition, in contrast to *R. repens*, the plastome of *R. cassubicifolius* (and of

R. sceleratus) has lost the *rpl32* ribosomal gene (involved in protein biosynthesis and the

function of the plastid, but often non-functional in other Ranunculaceae), potentially as the

result of complete loss or gene transfer into the nucleus, as also observed in other clades

within Ranunculaceae (Park et al., 2015; Zhai et al., 2019; Park and Park, 2020). However,

the function of *ycf15* and the co-transcribed, large plastid gene *ycf2* is still unclear, although

ycf2 together with *accD* influence plastid structure and competitiveness, and thus may play a

role in uniparental/biparental inheritance of plants that is known to shape the ability of

hybridization (Shi et al., 2013; Liu et al., 2017; Sobanski et al., 2019; Postel and Touzet,

2020). In general, we detected no substantial plastome rearrangement and gene transfer in

mapping results (see reports on FigShare), additionally supporting phylogenetically close

relationships among these plastome lineages.

Interestingly, mapping off-target plastid reads from a previous target enrichment

project (Karbstein et al., 2022) against the coding regions of reference plastomes from *R.*

repens and *R. cassubicifolius* yielded slightly better assemblies for the closely-related *R.*

cassubicifolius with 24.30% compared to 24.07% plastome completeness i.e., assembly

lengths) resulting in 827 bp longer alignments on average (37,968 vs. 37,141 bp; see plastome

mapping report on FigShare). The estimated sequence difference in plastomes among these

species is little (<2% in coding regions), and thus this approach did not improve mapping

substantially. However, read mapping to the closest possible reference ensures reliable locus

assembly, particularly in non-coding regions often characterized by insertions and deletions

even among individuals of a species (Freeland et al., 2011; Folk et al., 2015; Scheunert et al.,

2020). Although mapping to a closer reference was only marginally more efficient (0.23%),

off-target read mapping resulted in a significantly larger alignment of 2.2% (+ 827 bp). This

might be even more effective when no close reference plastome is available within the genus,

with the potential to improve subsequent phylogenomic analysis due to increased sequence

length and information content.

The mitochondrial genome. Based on short Illumina read assembly bridged with

ONT reads, we retained a mitochondrial genome with 1,260,409 bp, which is comparable in

size to *H. maxima* with 1,122,546 bp, corresponding to the phylogenetically relatively close

relationship between *Hepatica* and *Ranunculus* within the Ranunculaceae family (Zhai et al.,

2019). The annotated mitochondriome of *R. cassubicifolius* contains 78 (39 unique) protein-

coding genes, 24 (unique 13) tRNAs, and 6 (unique 3) rRNAs. In comparison with *H.*

maxima, the mitochondriome of *R. cassubicifolius* shows an equal number of unique protein-

coding genes (39/39), tRNAs (13/13), and rRNAs (3/3), but is larger (+137,863 bp; 1,122,546

bp) mainly due to sequence recombination and rearrangements indicated by the presence of

additional protein-coding genes (e.g., many genes, tRNAs, and rRNAs could be annotated

twice; 78/40, 24/18, 6/3) under similar repeat content (ca. 7%). This is supported by a

substantial number of observed mitogenome rearrangements between both species despite

their relatively close phylogenetic relationship (mapping results on FigShare). In contrast to

plastomes, plant mitochondrial genomes are recombinationally active, can exist as

populations of alternative structures even within individuals, and are considered to be

organized in noncircular structures (Sloan, 2013; Møller et al., 2021); algae and plant

mitochondrial genomes can range among the largest chondromes known from 66 kbp up to 11

Mbp in flowering plants (Smith and Keeling, 2015; Dong et al., 2018). The annotation results

presented here are consistent with the general observation that angiosperm mitochondriomes

contain 19 to 64 known genes (excluding duplicates and ORFs) and highly variable intergenic

regions (Dong et al., 2018).

Fig. 1. (a) Annotated plastome of *Ranunculus cassubicifolius* (LH040). Results of plastome annotation using the software CPGAVAS2, talking the default settings and the 2,544 reference plastomes (Shi et al., 2019). The plastome assembly is 156,233 bp large, and represented in a single circular contig). It contains 85 (78 unique) protein-coding genes, 37 (30 unique) tRNAs, and 8 (4 unique) rRNAs, as shown in the outer circle. Genes and t/rRNAs on the inside and outside of the circle are transcribed in the clockwise and counterclockwise directions, respectively. The first inner circle represents the GC content (%), the second inner circle the plastome structure, i.e., a small single-copy region (SSC) and a large single-copy region (LSC) separated by two inverted repeat (IRA/B) regions. The third inner circle reflects the repeat content, i.e., microsatellites (1-6 bp per repeat), tandem repeats (>6 bp per repeat), and dispersed repeats (transposable elements, or satellite DNA; reports on FigShare). See Shi et al. (2019) and http://www.1kmpg.cn/cpgview/ for more information.

502
Fig. 2. (b) The assembled mitochondrial genome of *Ranunculus cassubicifolius* (LH040).
Results of mitochondriome annotation were generated using AGORA Webserver (Jung et al.,
2018). The mitochondriome is 1,260,409 bp in size represented in a single, circular contig,
and contains 78 (39 unique) protein-coding genes, 24 (unique 13) tRNAs, and 6 (unique 3)
rRNAs, as shown in the outer circle. Genes and t/rRNAs on the inside and outside of the
circle are transcribed in the clockwise and counterclockwise directions, respectively. The first
inner circle represents the GC content (%). The second inner circle reflects the repeat content,
i.e., microsatellites (1-6 bp per repeat), tandem repeats (>6 bp per repeat), and dispersed
repeats (transposable elements, or satellite DNA; reports on FigShare). See Shi et al. (2019)
and http://www.1kmpg.cn/cpgview/ for more information.

The nuclear genome. Genome assembly strategies yielded different results
concerning genome completeness and continuity (% from expected genome size, number of
contigs, mean contig lengths, N_{50}), and quality (BUSCO scores; Table 1, Fig. 3). Although
some genome assemblies based on short Illumina reads performed well in terms of
completeness (SUPERNOVA 86-87%, except SAMBA 17%), they produced the largest
number of contigs (1.23-1.33 million contigs) with the shortest N_{50} length (1.75-3.8 Mbp).
Assemblies were highly fragmented (F; 28-36%) with low to moderate numbers of complete
single-copy (S, 20-60%) and duplicated (D, 2-11%), and missing (M, 10-34%) BUSCO
genes. This is in line with literature showing highly fragmented, gappy, low-quality
assemblies of large and complex genomes when short-read data are used (Gatter et al., 2021;
Rhie et al., 2021; Zimin and Salzberg, 2022; Hotaling et al., 2023).

Hybrid assemblies of SPADES, MASURCA, MUCHSALSA, and WENGAN based
on short Illumina and long ONT reads performed better in terms of continuity due to fewer
but larger contigs (368 up to 1.18 million contigs with 4.7-55 N_{50} length), but not in terms of
completeness (0.15-13%) as large portions of BUSCO genes were often missing in assemblies
(M: 8-99.6%, F: 0.2-24%, D: 0-2%, S: 0.2-66%). This is interesting because many hybrid
assemblers are considered by developers to be particularly useful under low-coverage and/or
large-and-complex-genome scenarios (e.g, Zimin et al., 2017; Di Genova et al., 2021; Gatter
et al., 2021). However, hybrid assemblers (but also assemblers in general) have rarely been
implemented for large and complex plant genomes under both Illumina and ONT low-
coverage scenarios, which may explain their lower performance here. Compared to already
discussed strategies, the ONT long-read based assemblies conducted with CANU and FLYE
were generally superior in terms of completeness (25-99%), continuity (30,612 to 65,232
contigs with 37-104 N_{50} length), and quality as the majority of BUSCO genes were found (M:
1-29%, F: 2-7%, D: 8-29%, S: 56-68%). This is also consistent with results of the recently
published review by Hotaling et al. (2023), which indicates that assemblies based on long
reads, compared to short reads, provide more complete and continuous genomes of higher
quality.

In detail, FLYE compared to CANU assemblies were slightly better in quality (M: 20
vs. 29%, F: 6 vs. 7%, D: 14 vs. 8%, S: 59 vs. 56%), and much better in completeness (49 vs.
25%) and continuity (80 vs. 37 Mbp N_{50} length). Interestingly, concerning CANU and FLYE
assemblies, polishing improved quality (M: 29/20% and 3/1%, F: 7/3% and 5/2%, D: 8/10%
and 27/29%, S: 66/56% and 65/68%) but not completeness (25/25% and 100/100%) and

continuity (37/38 Mbp and 103/104 Mbp). Consequently, long-read FLYE assembly followed

by various polishing strategies with both filtered short- and long-reads represents the best

assembly strategy for the large and complex *R. cassubicifolius* plant nuclear genome under

both Illumina and ONT low- to moderate-coverage scenarios, and is supported by similar

findings for smaller plant genome assemblies (e.g., Dmitriev et al., 2021).

The genome fulfills some standards of the high-quality genome requirements proposed by the

Earth Biogenome Project (https://www.earthbiogenome.org/assembly-standards, Lawniczak

et al., 2022), and by other authors (Hotaling et al., 2023; Mokhtar et al., 2023) (discussion

part will be updated soon). The assembly was specifically successful regarding gene

completeness (BUSCO 97%), which will be important for i.a. understanding the genetic

background of shifts in mode of reproduction from sex to apomixis (Paetzold et al., 2023).

The quite high-quality assembly of BUSCO genes will be further an important resource for

high-quality multi-assemblies in the genus for a comprehensive analysis of loci under

selection (e.g., via dN/dS ratios; Pellino et al., 2013), which gives insights into general

genome evolution, adaptation, and speciation. We assembled the complete organelles but did

not yet aim at a complete chromosome-level assembly of the nuclear genome as set as

standard by Lawniczak et al. (2022). This requirement, however, is most important for

organisms with sex chromosomes. In *Ranunculus* all species are hermaphroditic and no sex

chromosomes are known (these are in general very rare in plants, e.g., Charlesworth, 2015,

2016). A chromosome-level assembly using the Hi-C technology is under work.

Metric	SUPERNOVA (SR)	SUPERNOVA (SR) + Polishing (LR)	SPADES (SR)	SPADES (SR+LR)	MASURCA (SR+LR)	MUCHSALSA (SR+LR)	WENGAN (SR+LR)	CANU (LR)	CANU (LR) +Polishing (SR+LR)	FLYE (LR, CANU-filtered)	FLYE (LR)	FLYE (LR) +Polishing (LR+LR+SR)
Total assembly length, Mbp	2,761 (86%)	2,788 (87%)	0,557 (17%)	0,408 (13%)	0,076 (2.4%)	0,043 (1.3%)	0,005 (0.15%)	0,80 (25%)	0,81 (25%)	1,56 (49%)	3,58 (99%)	**3,45 (99%)**
Number of contigs	6,920,808	6,917,617	1,231,317	1,184,036	38,650	915	368	30,612	32,959	42,987	65,232	**54,310**
Number of contigs > 1 Mbp	562,716	560,357	122,407	110,594	12,799	915	368	30,612	31,072	41,985	64,618	**53,572**
Largest contig, Mbp	39	183	69	96	145	131	95	540	542	735	976	**974**
GC, %	40	40	39	39	40	42	40	40	40	42	43	**43**
N_{50}, Mbp	1.75	1.80	3.8	4.7	9.7	52.9	20.6	37.2	37.7	80.5	103	**104**
N_{75}, Mbp	0.91	0.92	1.91	2.31	1.11	40.3	10.4	21.9	22.2	35.9	52.9	**56.2**
L_{50}	259,069	248,906	29,900	23,910	1,507	307	76	6,935	6,937	5,520	10,305	**9,889**
L_{75}	639,776	628,182	67,267	54,888	10,467	537	170	13,891	13,885	12,873	22,076	**20,928**

Fig. 3. BUSCO assessment results for different draft genome assemblies of the diploid sexual species *Ranunculus cassubicifolius*. Using Illumina short- or ONT long-reads (SR, LR), we carried out different SR, hybrid (SR+LR), and LR assembly strategies (see Methods section for details). The polishing of the CANU and FLYE assemblies includes the following steps: polishing via filtered ONT reads using RACON and MEDAKA, respectively, and via Illumina reads using POLCA (MASURCA pipeline). The best assembly in terms of complete BUSCO genes (S+D) is highlighted with a black square (i.e., "FLYE (LR) + Polishing (LR+ LR + SR)"). Analyses based on 1,614 BUSCO groups searched. See table on FigShare for more details.

Conclusions

In this study, we assembled the complete plastome, mitochondriome, and large nuclear genome of a diploid sexual progenitor species within the *Ranunculus auricomus* complex, using different combinations of highly accurate Illumina short-reads and less accurate ONT long-reads under low to medium-coverage scenarios. To enable successful ONT sequencing, we optimized extraction and library preparation protocols for pure high-molecular-weight DNA (gDNA) from leaves of two single, genetically highly similar *R. cassubicifolius* individuals of the same geographic region. Using Illumina NextSeq sequencing, we obtained filtered reads with 28x genome coverage (610 million of 150 + 150 paired-end reads yielding 91 Gbp). DNA sequencing on ONT MinION 101B devices and subsequent quality filtering resulted in 16x genome coverage (51 Gbp, N_{50}=21 kbp).

We generated, for the first, the complete plastid and intricate mitochondrial genome for the *R. auricomus* complex based on Illumina and Illumina+ONT read assemblies, respectively. We then performed various assembly short-, long-, and hybrid-read strategies for large, complex plant genomes followed by gap filling and/or polishing with various state-of-the-art bioinformatic tools. The best result in terms of contiguity and completeness was achieved by ONT read FLYE-assembly polished several times with filtered ONT (RACON, MEDAKA) and Illumina reads (POLCA), representing the first genome within the genus *Ranunculus* and the third (2 *Aquilegia* genomes, Filiault et al., 2018; Xie et al., 2020) high-quality genome within the Ranunculaceae (compare with Xie et al., 2020).

The obtained results and in particular genomes are useful for (i) improving read mapping, locus assembly, and allele phasing of subgenomic reduced-representation sequencing (RRS) (e.g., RAD-Seq, target enrichment) as shown here (Fig. X), transcriptome (RNA-Seq), and whole genome (re)sequencing data (e.g., WGS, WGR), (ii) as a basis for understanding cyto-nuclear compatibility for both plastid-nuclear and mitochondria-nuclear interactions; (iii) as diploid reference for the analysis of the more complex allo- and autopolyploid nuclear genomes within the genus *Ranunculus* (iii) as reference for further studies of genome evolution, loci under selection, adaptation and speciation (iv) For improving functional analyses (e.g., gene expression studies) related to apomixis, adaptation, and many other traits.

Data Availability. The authors declare that basic data supporting the findings are available
within the manuscript and Supporting Information. Raw sequencing data and the assembled
genomes are deposited on the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI)
database under the BioProject accession numbers: PRJNA826743 for Illumina raw reads
(https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bioproject?LinkName=biosample_bioproject&from_uid=2758
2367), PRJNA831351 for filtered Nanopore reads, filtered mitochondrial Illumina and
Nanopore reads, and the assembled and annotated genome
(https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bioproject/PRJNA831351/), OP250948 for the assembled and
annotated plastome (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/search/all/?term=OP250948), OP2722616
for the assembled and annotated mitochondrial genome. We deposited software reports on
FigShare (https://figshare.com/s/b7fba31a6f2444123906, upon publication: doi:
10.6084/m9.figshare.20488908).

Author Contributions
KK, II, JdV, and EH designed research; EH collected plant materials; KK, ST, JPB, and BBH
performed lab work; KK, II, JdV, ST, and NW analyzed data; KK and EH wrote the paper
with contributions of all authors.

Funding
This work (gDNA extraction, genome sequencing, assembly, and annotation) was financially
supported by German Research Foundation (DFG) grant Ho4395/10-2 to E.H. within the
priority program SPP 1991 "Taxon-Omics: New Approaches for Discovering and Naming
Biodiversity". Work in the lab of JdV is supported by the European Research Council through
funding under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme
(Grant Agreement No. 852725; ERC-StG "TerreStriAL").

Acknowledgments
We acknowledge Jennifer Krüger for technical help, Silvia Friedrichs and Gabriele Ließmann
for garden work, Ladislav Hodač for material sampling, and Magnus Nordborg and Robin
Burns for bioinformatic advice.

Supplementary Material
The Supplementary Material for this article can be found attached to this article.

References

Andrews, S. (2010). FastQC: a quality control tool for high throughput sequence data. Available at: https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/.

Barke, B. H., Daubert, M., and Hörandl, E. (2018). Establishment of apomixis in diploid F2 hybrids and inheritance of apospory from F1 to F2 hybrids of the *Ranunculus auricomus* complex. *Front. Plant Sci.* 9, 1–12. doi: 10.3389/fpls.2018.01111.

Barke, B. H., Karbstein, K., Daubert, M., and Hörandl, E. (2020). The relation of meiotic behaviour to hybridity, polyploidy and apomixis in the *Ranunculus auricomus* complex (Ranunculaceae). *BMC Plant Biol.* 20, 523. doi: 10.1186/s12870-020-02654-3.

Bennetzen, J. L. (2005). Mechanisms of recent genome size variation in flowering plants. *Ann. Bot.* 95, 127–132. doi: 10.1093/aob/mci008.

Blin, K., Shaw, S., Kloosterman, A. M., Charlop-Powers, Z., van Wezel, G. P., Medema, M. H., et al. (2021). antiSMASH 6.0: improving cluster detection and comparison capabilities. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 49, W29–W35. doi: 10.1093/nar/gkab335.

Bolger, A. M., Lohse, M., and Usadel, B. (2014). Trimmomatic: a flexible trimmer for Illumina sequence data. *Bioinformatics* 30, 2114–2120. doi: 10.1093/bioinformatics/btu170.

Bray, N. L., Pimentel, H., Melsted, P., and Pachter, L. (2016). Near-optimal probabilistic RNA-seq quantification. *Nat. Biotechnol.* 34, 525–527. doi: 10.1038/nbt.3519.

Brukhin, V., Osadtchiy, J. V., Florez-Rueda, A. M., Smetanin, D., Bakin, E., Nobre, M. S., et al. (2019). The *Boechera* genus as a resource for apomixis research. *Front. Plant Sci.* 10, 1–19. doi: 10.3389/fpls.2019.00392.

Camacho, C., Coulouris, G., Avagyan, V., Ma, N., Papadopoulos, J., Bealer, K., et al. (2009). BLAST+: architecture and applications. *BMC Bioinformatics* 10, 421. doi: 10.1186/1471-2105-10-421.

Cantalapiedra, C. P., Hernández-Plaza, A., Letunic, I., Bork, P., and Huerta-Cepas, J. (2021). eggNOG-mapper v2: functional annotation, orthology assignments, and domain prediction at the metagenomic scale. *Mol. Biol. Evol.* 38, 5825–5829. doi: 10.1093/molbev/msab293.

Charlesworth, D. (2015). Plant contributions to our understanding of sex chromosome evolution. *New Phytol.* 208, 52–65. doi: 10.1111/nph.13497.

Charlesworth, D. (2016). Plant sex chromosomes. *Annu. Rev. Plant Biol.* 67, 397–420. doi: 10.1146/annurev-arplant-043015-111911.

Chuan, J., Zhou, A., Hale, L. R., He, M., and Li, X. (2021). Atria: an ultra-fast and accurate

trimmer for adapter and quality trimming. *Gigabyte* 2021, 1–18. doi:

10.46471/gigabyte.31.

Danecek, P., Bonfield, J. K., Liddle, J., Marshall, J., Ohan, V., Pollard, M. O., et al. (2021).

Twelve years of SAMtools and BCFtools. *Gigascience* 10, 1–4. doi:

10.1093/gigascience/giab008.

Dann, M., Bellot, S., Schepella, S., Schaefer, H., and Tellier, A. (2017). Mutation rates in

seeds and seed-banking influence substitution rates across the angiosperm phylogeny.

bioRxiv, 156398. doi: 10.1101/156398.

Darling, A. C. E., Mau, B., Blattner, F. R., and Perna, N. T. (2004). Mauve: multiple

alignment of conserved genomic sequence with rearrangements. *Genome Res.* 14, 1394–

1403. doi: 10.1101/gr.2289704.

Dauphin, B., Grant, J. R., Farrar, D. R., and Rothfels, C. J. (2018). Rapid allopolyploid

radiation of moonwort ferns (*Botrychium*; Ophioglossaceae) revealed by PacBio

sequencing of homologous and homeologous nuclear regions. *Mol. Phylogenet. Evol.*

120, 342–353. doi: 10.1016/j.ympev.2017.11.025.

De Coster, W., D'Hert, S., Schultz, D. T., Cruts, M., and Van Broeckhoven, C. (2018).

NanoPack: visualizing and processing long-read sequencing data. *Bioinformatics* 34,

2666–2669. doi: 10.1093/bioinformatics/bty149.

Del Amparo, R., Branco, C., Arenas, J., Vicens, A., and Arenas, M. (2021). Analysis of

selection in protein-coding sequences accounting for common biases. *Brief. Bioinform.*

22, 1–10. doi: 10.1093/bib/bbaa431.

Di Genova, A., Buena-Atienza, E., Ossowski, S., and Sagot, M.-F. (2021). Efficient hybrid de

novo assembly of human genomes with WENGAN. *Nat. Biotechnol.* 39, 422–430. doi:

10.1038/s41587-020-00747-w.

Dmitriev, A. A., Pushkova, E. N., Novakovskiy, R. O., Beniaminov, A. D., Rozhmina, T. A.,

Zhuchenko, A. A., et al. (2021). Genome sequencing of fiber flax cultivar Atlant using

Oxford Nanopore and Illumina platforms. *Front. Genet.* 11, 1–7. doi:

10.3389/fgene.2020.590282.

Dong, S., Zhao, C., Chen, F., Liu, Y., Zhang, S., Wu, H., et al. (2018). The complete

mitochondrial genome of the early flowering plant *Nymphaea colorata* is highly

repetitive with low recombination. *BMC Genomics* 19, 1–12. doi: 10.1186/s12864-018-

4991-4.

Eaton, D. A. R., and Overcast, I. (2020). ipyrad: Interactive assembly and analysis of RADseq

datasets. *Bioinformatics* 36, 2592–2594. doi: 10.1093/bioinformatics/btz966.

Ennos, R., French, G., and Hollingsworth, P. (2005). Conserving taxonomic complexity.

Trends Ecol. Evol. 20, 164–168. doi: 10.1016/j.tree.2005.01.012.

Filiault, D. L., Ballerini, E. S., Mandáková, T., Aköz, G., Derieg, N. J., Schmutz, J., et al.

(2018). The *Aquilegia* genome provides insight into adaptive radiation and reveals an

extraordinarily polymorphic chromosome with a unique history. *Elife* 7, 1–31. doi:

10.7554/eLife.36426.

Folk, R. A., Mandel, J. R., and Freudenstein, J. V. (2015). A protocol for targeted enrichment

of intron-containing sequence markers for recent radiations: A phylogenomic example

from *Heuchera* (Saxifragaceae). *Appl. Plant Sci.* 3, 1500039. doi:

10.3732/apps.1500039.

Freeland, J. R., Kirk, H., and Petersen, S. D. (2011). *Molecular Ecology*. sec. ed. Chichester,

England: Wiley doi: 10.1002/9780470979365.

Freudenthal, J. A., Pfaff, S., Terhoeven, N., Korte, A., Ankenbrand, M. J., and Förster, F.

(2020). A systematic comparison of chloroplast genome assembly tools. *Genome Biol.*

21, 254. doi: 10.1186/s13059-020-02153-6.

Frith, M. C. (2011). A new repeat-masking method enables specific detection of homologous

sequences. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 39, e23–e23. doi: 10.1093/nar/gkq1212.

Gatter, T., von Löhneysen, S., Fallmann, J., Drozdova, P., Hartmann, T., and Stadler, P. F.

(2021). LazyB: fast and cheap genome assembly. *Algorithms Mol. Biol.* 16, 8. doi:

10.1186/s13015-021-00186-5.

GBIF Secretariat (2021). *Ranunculus auricomus* L. *GBIF Backbone Taxon.* doi:

https://doi.org/10.15468/39omei.

Grabherr, M. G. ., Haas, B. J., Yassour, M., Levin, J. Z., Thompson, D. A., Amit, I., et al.

(2011). Full-length transcriptome assembly from RNA-Seq data without a reference

genome. *Nat. Biotechnol.* 29, 644–652. doi: 10.1038/nbt.1883.

Gurevich, A., Saveliev, V., Vyahhi, N., and Tesler, G. (2013). QUAST: quality assessment

tool for genome assemblies. *Bioinformatics* 29, 1072–1075. doi:

10.1093/bioinformatics/btt086.

Haas, B. J., Salzberg, S. L., Zhu, W., Pertea, M., Allen, J. E., Orvis, J., et al. (2008).

Automated eukaryotic gene structure annotation using EVidenceModeler and the

program to assemble spliced alignments. *Genome Biol.* 9, R7. doi: 10.1186/gb-2008-9-1-

r7.

Havird, J. C., Hall, M. D., and Dowling, D. K. (2015). The evolution of sex: A new

hypothesis based on mitochondrial mutational erosion. *BioEssays* 37, 951–958. doi: 10.1002/bies.201500057.

Hodač, L., Barke, B. H., and Hörandl, E. (2018). Mendelian segregation of leaf phenotypes in experimental F2 hybrids elucidates origin of morphological diversity of the apomictic *Ranunculus auricomus* complex. *Taxon* 67, 1082–1092. doi: 10.12705/676.6.

Hodač, L., Klatt, S., Hojsgaard, D., Sharbel, T. F., and Hörandl, E. (2019). A little bit of sex prevents mutation accumulation even in apomictic polyploid plants. *BMC Evol. Biol.* 19, 170. doi: 10.1186/s12862-019-1495-z.

Hojsgaard, D., Greilhuber, J., Pellino, M., Paun, O., Sharbel, T. F., and Hörandl, E. (2014). Emergence of apospory and bypass of meiosis via apomixis after sexual hybridisation and polyploidisation. *New Phytol.* 204, 1000–1012. doi: 10.1111/nph.12954.

Hörandl, E. (2022). Novel approaches for species concepts and delimitation in polyploids and hybrids. *Plants* 11, 204. doi: 10.3390/plants11020204.

Hörandl, E., and Greilhuber, J. (2002). Diploid and autotetraploid sexuals and their relationships to apomicts in the *Ranunculus cassubicus* group: insights from DNA content and isozyme variation. *Plant Syst. Evol.* 234, 85–100. doi: 10.1007/s00606-002-0209-x.

Hörandl, E., Greilhuber, J., Klímová, K., Paun, O., Temsch, E., Emadzade, K., et al. (2009). Reticulate evolution and taxonomic concepts in the *Ranunculus auricomus* complex (Ranunculaceae): insights from analysis of morphological, karyological and molecular data. *Taxon* 58, 1194–1215. doi: 10.1002/tax.584012.

Hörandl, E., and Raab-Straube, E. (2015). Ranunculaceae. *Euro+Med Plantbase - Inf. Resour. Euro-Mediterranean plant Divers.* Available at: http://ww2.bgbm.org/EuroPlusMed.

Hotaling, S., Wilcox, E. R., Heckenhauer, J., Stewart, R. J., and Frandsen, P. B. (2023). Highly accurate long reads are crucial for realizing the potential of biodiversity genomics. *BMC Genomics* 24, 117. doi: 10.1186/s12864-023-09193-9.

Jalas, J., and Suominen, J. (1989). *Atlas florae europaeae, vol. 8, Nymphaeaceae to Ranunculaceae*. Helsinki, Finland: The committee for mapping the flora of Europe and Societas Biologica Fennica Vanamo.

Jin, J.-J., Yu, W.-B., Yang, J.-B., Song, Y., DePamphilis, C. W., Yi, T.-S., et al. (2020). GetOrganelle: a fast and versatile toolkit for accurate de novo assembly of organelle genomes. *Genome Biol.* 21, 241. doi: 10.1186/s13059-020-02154-5.

Jones, G. (2017). Bayesian phylogenetic analysis for diploid and allotetraploid species

networks. *bioRxiv*, 1–15. doi: 10.1101/129361.

Jones, P., Binns, D., Chang, H.-Y., Fraser, M., Li, W., McAnulla, C., et al. (2014).

InterProScan 5: genome-scale protein function classification. *Bioinformatics* 30, 1236–

1240. doi: 10.1093/bioinformatics/btu031.

Jung, J., Kim, J. I., Jeong, Y.-S., and Yi, G. (2018). AGORA: organellar genome annotation

from the amino acid and nucleotide references. *Bioinformatics* 34, 2661–2663. doi:

10.1093/bioinformatics/bty196.

Karbstein, K. (2021). Untying Gordian knots: The evolution and biogeography of the large

European apomictic polyploid *Ranunculus auricomus* plant complex. *eDiss*. doi:

21.11130/00-1735-0000-0008-5946-6.

Karbstein, K., Kösters, L., Hodač, L., Hofmann, M., Hörandl, E., Tomasello, S., et al. Species

Delimitation 4.0: Integrative Taxon-omics and Artificial Intelligence. *Submitt. to Trends*

Ecol. Evol.

Karbstein, K., Rahmsdorf, E., Tomasello, S., Hodač, L., and Hörandl, E. (2020a). Breeding

system of diploid sexuals within the *Ranunculus auricomus* complex and its role in a

geographical parthenogenesis scenario. *Ecol. Evol.* 10, 14435–14450. doi:

10.1002/ece3.7073.

Karbstein, K., Tomasello, S., Hodač, L., Dunkel, F. G., Daubert, M., and Hörandl, E. (2020b).

Phylogenomics supported by geometric morphometrics reveals delimitation of sexual

species within the polyploid apomictic *Ranunculus auricomus* complex

(Ranunculaceae). *Taxon* 69, 1191–1220. doi: 10.1002/tax.12365.

Karbstein, K., Tomasello, S., Hodač, L., Lorberg, E., Daubert, M., and Hörandl, E. (2021).

Moving beyond assumptions: Polyploidy and environmental effects explain a

geographical parthenogenesis scenario in European plants. *Mol. Ecol.* 30, 2659–2675.

doi: 10.1111/mec.15919.

Karbstein, K., Tomasello, S., Hodač, L., Wagner, N., Marinček, P., Barke, B. H., et al. (2022).

Untying Gordian knots: Unraveling reticulate polyploid plant evolution by genomic data

using the large *Ranunculus auricomus* species complex. *New Phytol.* 235, 2081–2098.

doi: 10.1111/nph.18284.

Kearse, M., Moir, R., Wilson, A., Stones-Havas, S., Cheung, M., Sturrock, S., et al. (2012).

Geneious Basic: An integrated and extendable desktop software platform for the

organization and analysis of sequence data. *Bioinformatics* 28, 1647–1649. doi:

10.1093/bioinformatics/bts199.

Kim, D., Langmead, B., and Salzberg, S. L. (2015). HISAT: a fast spliced aligner with low

memory requirements. *Nat. Methods* 12, 357–360. doi: 10.1038/nmeth.3317.

Kim, K.-R., Park, S. Y., Kim, H., Hong, J. M., Kim, S.-Y., and Yu, J.-N. (2023). Complete

chloroplast genome determination of *Ranunculus sceleratus* from Republic of Korea

(Ranunculaceae) and comparative chloroplast genomes of the members of the

Ranunculus genus. *Genes (Basel).* 14, 1149. doi: 10.3390/genes14061149.

Kolmogorov, M., Yuan, J., Lin, Y., and Pevzner, P. A. (2019). Assembly of long, error-prone

reads using repeat graphs. *Nat. Biotechnol.* 37, 540–546. doi: 10.1038/s41587-019-0072-

8.

Koren, S., Walenz, B. P., Berlin, K., Miller, J. R., Bergman, N. H., and Phillippy, A. M.

(2017). Canu: scalable and accurate long-read assembly via adaptive k-mer weighting

and repeat separation. *Genome Res.* 27, 722–736. doi: 10.1101/gr.215087.116.

Korf, I. (2004). Gene finding in novel genomes. *BMC Bioinformatics* 5, 1–9. doi:

10.1186/1471-2105-5-59.

Kress, W. J., Soltis, D. E., Kersey, P. J., Wegrzyn, J. L., Leebens-Mack, J. H., Gostel, M. R.,

et al. (2022). Green plant genomes: What we know in an era of rapidly expanding

opportunities. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 119, 1–9. doi: 10.1073/pnas.2115640118.

Lang, B. F., Beck, N., Prince, S., Sarrasin, M., Rioux, P., and Burger, G. (2023).

Mitochondrial genome annotation with MFannot: a critical analysis of gene

identification and gene model prediction. *Front. Plant Sci.* 14, 1–11. doi:

10.3389/fpls.2023.1222186.

Lawniczak, M. K. N., Durbin, R., Flicek, P., Lindblad-Toh, K., Wei, X., Archibald, J. M., et

al. (2022). Standards recommendations for the Earth BioGenome Project. *Proc. Natl.*

Acad. Sci. 119, 1–8. doi: 10.1073/pnas.2115639118.

Leebens-Mack, J. H., Barker, M. S., Carpenter, E. J., Deyholos, M. K., Gitzendanner, M. A.,

Graham, S. W., et al. (2019). One thousand plant transcriptomes and the phylogenomics

of green plants. *Nature* 574, 679–685. doi: 10.1038/s41586-019-1693-2.

Lehwark, P., and Greiner, S. (2019). GB2sequin - A file converter preparing custom GenBank

files for database submission. *Genomics* 111, 759–761. doi:

10.1016/j.ygeno.2018.05.003.

Leitch, I., Johnston, E., Pellicer, J., Hidalgo, O., and Bennett, M. (2019). Angiosperm DNA

C-values database (release 9.0, Apr 2019). Available at: https://cvalues.science.kew.org/.

Li, H. (2018). Minimap2: pairwise alignment for nucleotide sequences. *Bioinformatics* 34,

3094–3100. doi: 10.1093/bioinformatics/bty191.

Li, X., Li, Y., Sylvester, S. P., Zang, M., El□Kassaby, Y. A., and Fang, Y. (2021).

Evolutionary patterns of nucleotide substitution rates in plastid genomes of Quercus. *Ecol. Evol.* 11, 13401–13414. doi: 10.1002/ece3.8063.

Li, Z., Parris, S., and Saski, C. A. (2020). A simple plant high-molecular-weight DNA extraction method suitable for single-molecule technologies. *Plant Methods* 16, 38. doi: 10.1186/s13007-020-00579-4.

Liu, L.-X., Li, R., Worth, J. R. P., Li, X., Li, P., Cameron, K. M., et al. (2017). The complete chloroplast genome of Chinese bayberry (*Morella rubra*, Myricaceae): Implications for understanding the evolution of Fagales. *Front. Plant Sci.* 8, 1–15. doi: 10.3389/fpls.2017.00968.

Liu, S., Ni, Y., Li, J., Zhang, X., Yang, H., Chen, H., et al. (2023). CPGView: A package for visualizing detailed chloroplast genome structures. *Mol. Ecol. Resour.* 23, 694–704. doi: 10.1111/1755-0998.13729.

Lu, L., Zhao, J., and Li, C. (2020). High-quality genome assembly and annotation of the big-eye mandarin fish (Siniperca knerii). *G3 Genes, Genomes, Genet.* 10, 877–880. doi: 10.1534/g3.119.400930.

Majoros, W. H., Pertea, M., and Salzberg, S. L. (2004). TigrScan and GlimmerHMM: two open source ab initio eukaryotic gene-finders. *Bioinformatics* 20, 2878–2879. doi: 10.1093/bioinformatics/bth315.

Mallet, J. (2005). Hybridization as an invasion of the genome. *Trends Ecol. Evol.* 20, 229–237. doi: 10.1016/j.tree.2005.02.010.

Manni, M., Berkeley, M. R., Seppey, M., Simão, F. A., and Zdobnov, E. M. (2021). BUSCO update: Novel and streamlined workflows along with broader and deeper phylogenetic coverage for scoring of eukaryotic, prokaryotic, and viral genomes. *Mol. Biol. Evol.* 38, 4647–4654. doi: 10.1093/molbev/msab199.

Marks, P., Garcia, S., Martinez, A., Belhocine, K., Bernate, J., Bharadwaj, R., et al. (2017). Resolving the full spectrum of human genome variation using linked-reads. *bioRxiv*, 1–43. doi: 10.1101/230946.

McKain, M. R., Johnson, M. G., Uribe-Convers, S., Eaton, D., and Yang, Y. (2018). Practical considerations for plant phylogenomics. *Appl. Plant Sci.* 6, e1038. doi: 10.1002/aps3.1038.

Mokhtar, M. M., Abd-Elhalim, H. M., and El Allali, A. (2023). A large-scale assessment of the quality of plant genome assemblies using the LTR assembly index. *AoB Plants* 15, 1–8. doi: 10.1093/aobpla/plad015.

Møller, I. M., Rasmusson, A. G., and Van Aken, O. (2021). Plant mitochondria – past, present

and future. *Plant J.* 108, 912–959. doi: 10.1111/tpj.15495.

Paetzold, C., Barke, B. H., and Hörandl, E. (2022). Evolution of transcriptomes in early-

generation hybrids of the apomictic *Ranunculus auricomus complex* (Ranunculaceae).

Int. J. Mol. Sci. 23, 13881. doi: 10.3390/ijms232213881.

Palmer, J. M., and Stajich, J. E. (2022). Funannotate (Version 1.8.13) [Computer software].

Park, H.-S., Lee, W. K., Lee, S.-C., Lee, H. O., Joh, H. J., Park, J. Y., et al. (2021).

Inheritance of chloroplast and mitochondrial genomes in cucumber revealed by four

reciprocal F1 hybrid combinations. *Sci. Rep.* 11, 2506. doi: 10.1038/s41598-021-81988-

w.

Park, S., Jansen, R. K., and Park, S. (2015). Complete plastome sequence of *Thalictrum*

coreanum (Ranunculaceae) and transfer of the rpl32 gene to the nucleus in the ancestor

of the subfamily Thalictroideae. *BMC Plant Biol.* 15, 40. doi: 10.1186/s12870-015-0432-

6.

Park, S., and Park, S. (2020). Large-scale phylogenomics reveals ancient introgression in

Asian Hepatica and new insights into the origin of the insular endemic *Hepatica maxima*.

Sci. Rep. 10, 16288. doi: 10.1038/s41598-020-73397-2.

Paun, O., Stuessy, T. F., and Hörandl, E. (2006). The role of hybridization, polyploidization

and glaciation in the origin and evolution of the apomictic *Ranunculus cassubicus*

complex. *New Phytol.* 171, 223–236. doi: 10.1111/j.1469-8137.2006.01738.x.

Pellino, M., Hojsgaard, D., Hörandl, E., and Sharbel, T. (2020). Chasing the apomictic factors

in the *Ranunculus auricomus* complex: exploring gene expression patterns in

microdissected sexual and apomictic ovules. *Genes (Basel).* 11, 1–22. doi:

10.3390/genes11070728.

Pellino, M., Hojsgaard, D., Schmutzer, T., Scholz, U., Hörandl, E., Vogel, H., et al. (2013).

Asexual genome evolution in the apomictic *Ranunculus auricomus* complex: examining

the effects of hybridization and mutation accumulation. *Mol. Ecol.* 22, 5908–5921. doi:

10.1111/mec.12533.

Postel, Z., and Touzet, P. (2020). Cytonuclear genetic incompatibilies in plant speciation.

Plants 9, 487. doi: 10.3390/plants9040487.

Prjibelski, A., Antipov, D., Meleshko, D., Lapidus, A., and Korobeynikov, A. (2020). Using

SPAdes de novo assembler. *Curr. Protoc. Bioinforma.* 70, 1–29. doi: 10.1002/cpbi.102.

Pucker, B., Irisarri, I., de Vries, J., and Xu, B. (2022). Plant genome sequence assembly in the

era of long reads: Progress, challenges and future directions. *Quant. Plant Biol.* 3, e5.

doi: 10.1017/qpb.2021.18.

Quinlan, A. R., and Hall, I. M. (2010). BEDTools: a flexible suite of utilities for comparing
genomic features. *Bioinformatics* 26, 841–842. doi: 10.1093/bioinformatics/btq033.
Rhie, A., McCarthy, S. A., Fedrigo, O., Damas, J., Formenti, G., Koren, S., et al. (2021).
Towards complete and error-free genome assemblies of all vertebrate species. *Nature*
592, 737–746. doi: 10.1038/s41586-021-03451-0.
Rice, A., Glick, L., Abadi, S., Einhorn, M., Kopelman, N. M., Salman-Minkov, A., et al.
(2015). The Chromosome Counts Database (CCDB) - a community resource of plant
chromosome numbers. *New Phytol.* 206, 19–26. doi: 10.1111/nph.13191.
Scheunert, A., Dorfner, M., Lingl, T., and Oberprieler, C. (2020). Can we use it? On the
utility of de novo and reference-based assembly of Nanopore data for plant plastome
sequencing. *PLoS One* 15, e0226234. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0226234.
Schmidt, A. (2020). Controlling apomixis: Shared features and distinct characteristics of gene
regulation. *Genes (Basel).* 11, 329. doi: 10.3390/genes11030329.
Shi, C., Liu, Y., Huang, H., Xia, E.-H., Zhang, H.-B., and Gao, L.-Z. (2013). Contradiction
between plastid gene transcription and function due to complex posttranscriptional
splicing: an exemplary study of *ycf15* function and evolution in angiosperms. *PLoS One*
8, e59620. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0059620.
Shi, L., Chen, H., Jiang, M., Wang, L., Wu, X., Huang, L., et al. (2019). CPGAVAS2, an
integrated plastome sequence annotator and analyzer. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 47, W65–W73.
doi: 10.1093/nar/gkz345.
Šlenker, M., Kantor, A., Marhold, K., Schmickl, R., Mandáková, T., Lysak, M. A., et al.
(2021). Allele sorting as a novel approach to resolving the origin of allotetraploids using
Hyb-Seq data: A case study of the Balkan Mountain endemic *Cardamine barbaraeoides*.
Front. Plant Sci. 12, 1–22. doi: 10.3389/fpls.2021.659275.
Sloan, D. B. (2013). One ring to rule them all? Genome sequencing provides new insights
into the 'master circle' model of plant mitochondrial DNA structure. *New Phytol.* 200,
978–985. doi: 10.1111/nph.12395.
Smith, D. R., and Keeling, P. J. (2015). Mitochondrial and plastid genome architecture:
Reoccurring themes, but significant differences at the extremes. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.*
112, 10177–10184. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1422049112.
Sobanski, J., Giavalisco, P., Fischer, A., Kreiner, J. M., Walther, D., Schöttler, M. A., et al.
(2019). Chloroplast competition is controlled by lipid biosynthesis in evening primroses.
Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A. 116, 5665–5674. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1811661116.
Soltis, P. S., Marchant, D. B., Van de Peer, Y., and Soltis, D. E. (2015). Polyploidy and

genome evolution in plants. *Curr. Opin. Genet. Dev.* 35, 119–125. doi:

10.1016/j.gde.2015.11.003.

Stanke, M., Diekhans, M., Baertsch, R., and Haussler, D. (2008). Using native and

syntenically mapped cDNA alignments to improve de novo gene finding. *Bioinformatics*

24, 637–644. doi: 10.1093/bioinformatics/btn013.

Stein, D. B., Palmer, J. D., and Thompson, W. F. (1986). Structural evolution and flip-flop

recombination of chloroplast DNA in the fern genus *Osmunda*. *Curr. Genet.* 10, 835–

841. doi: 10.1007/BF00418530.

Syngelaki, E., Paetzold, C., and Hörandl, E. (2021). Gene expression profiles suggest a better

cold acclimation of polyploids in the Alpine species *Ranunculus kuepferi*

(Ranunculaceae). *Genes (Basel).* 12, 1818. doi: 10.3390/genes12111818.

Thorvaldsdottir, H., Robinson, J. T., and Mesirov, J. P. (2013). Integrative Genomics Viewer

(IGV): high-performance genomics data visualization and exploration. *Brief. Bioinform.*

14, 178–192. doi: 10.1093/bib/bbs017.

Tomasello, S., Karbstein, K., Hodač, L., Pätzold, C., and Hörandl, E. (2020). Phylogenomics

unravels Quaternary vicariance and allopatric speciation patterns in temperate montane

plant species: a case study on the *Ranunculus auricomus* species complex. *Mol. Ecol.* 29,

2031–2049. doi: 10.1111/mec.15458.

Vaillancourt, B., and Buell, C. R. (2019). High molecular weight DNA isolation method from

diverse plant species for use with Oxford Nanopore sequencing. *bioRxiv*, 1–13. doi:

10.1101/783159.

Van De Peer, Y., Mizrachi, E., and Marchal, K. (2017). The evolutionary significance of

polyploidy. *Nat. Rev. Genet.* 18, 411–424. doi: 10.1038/nrg.2017.26.

Vaser, R., Sović, I., Nagarajan, N., and Šikić, M. (2017). Fast and accurate de novo genome

assembly from long uncorrected reads. *Genome Res.* 27, 737–746. doi:

10.1101/gr.214270.116.

Walker, J. F., Jansen, R. K., Zanis, M. J., and Emery, N. C. (2015). Sources of inversion

variation in the small single copy (SSC) region of chloroplast genomes. *Am. J. Bot.* 102,

1751–1752. doi: 10.3732/ajb.1500299.

Waterhouse, R. M., Seppey, M., Simão, F. A., Manni, M., Ioannidis, P., Klioutchnikov, G., et

al. (2018). BUSCO applications from quality assessments to gene prediction and

phylogenomics. *Mol. Biol. Evol.* 35, 543–548. doi: 10.1093/molbev/msx319.

Weisenfeld, N. I., Kumar, V., Shah, P., Church, D. M., and Jaffe, D. B. (2018). Corrigendum:

Direct determination of diploid genome sequences. *Genome Res.* 28, 606.1-606.1. doi:

10.1101/gr.235812.118.

Wick, R. R., Schultz, M. B., Zobel, J., and Holt, K. E. (2015). Bandage: interactive

visualization of de novo genome assemblies. *Bioinformatics* 31, 3350–3352. doi:

10.1093/bioinformatics/btv383.

Xie, J., Zhao, H., Li, K., Zhang, R., Jiang, Y., Wang, M., et al. (2020). A chromosome-scale

reference genome of *Aquilegia oxysepala var. kansuensis*. *Hortic. Res.* 7, 113. doi:

10.1038/s41438-020-0328-y.

Zhai, W., Duan, X., Zhang, R., Guo, C., Li, L., Xu, G., et al. (2019). Chloroplast genomic

data provide new and robust insights into the phylogeny and evolution of the

Ranunculaceae. *Mol. Phylogenet. Evol.* 135, 12–21. doi: 10.1016/j.ympev.2019.02.024.

Zhang, Z., Schwartz, S., Wagner, L., and Miller, W. (2000). A greedy algorithm for aligning

DNA sequences. *J. Comput. Biol.* 7, 203–214. doi: 10.1089/10665270050081478.

Zimin, A. V., Puiu, D., Luo, M.-C., Zhu, T., Koren, S., Marçais, G., et al. (2017). Hybrid

assembly of the large and highly repetitive genome of *Aegilops tauschii*, a progenitor of

bread wheat, with the MaSuRCA mega-reads algorithm. *Genome Res.* 27, 787–792. doi:

10.1101/gr.213405.116.

Zimin, A. V., and Salzberg, S. L. (2020). The genome polishing tool POLCA makes fast and

accurate corrections in genome assemblies. *PLOS Comput. Biol.* 16, e1007981. doi:

10.1371/journal.pcbi.1007981.

Zimin, A. V., and Salzberg, S. L. (2022). The SAMBA tool uses long reads to improve the

contiguity of genome assemblies. *PLoS Comput. Biol.* 18, 1–11. doi:

10.1371/journal.pcbi.1009860.

1008

Ranunculus cassubicifolius

Ranunculus cassubicifolius

mitochondrial genome

1,260,409 bp

- complex I (NADH dehydrogenase)
- complex II (succinate dehydrogenase)
- complex III (ubiquinol cytochrome c reductase)
- complex IV (cytochrome c oxidase)
- ATP synthase
- cytochrome c biogenesis
- RNA polymerase
- ribosomal proteins (SSU)
- ribosomal proteins (LSU)
- maturases
- other genes
- transfer RNAs
- ribosomal RNAs
- origin of replication
- polycistronic transcripts
- introns