Peripatric speciation associated with genome expansion and female-biased sex ratios in the moss genus *Ceratodon*

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Short title: Peripatric speciation in the moss genus *Ceratodon*

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ABSTRACT

- PREMISE OF THE STUDY: A period of allopatry is widely believed to be essential for the evolution of reproductive isolation. However, strict allopatry may be difficult to achieve in some cosmopolitan, spore-dispersed groups, like mosses. Here we examine the genetic and genome size diversity in Mediterranean populations of the moss *Ceratodon purpureus* s.l. to evaluate the role of allopatry and ploidy change in population divergence.

- METHODS: We sampled populations of the genus *Ceratodon* from mountainous areas and lowlands of the Mediterranean region, and from western and central Europe. We performed phylogenetic and coalescent analyses on sequences from five nuclear introns and a chloroplast locus to reconstruct their evolutionary history. We also estimated the genome size using flow cytometry, employing propidium iodide, and determined their sex using a sex-linked PCR marker.

- KEY RESULTS: Two well differentiated clades were resolved, discriminating two homogeneous groups: the widespread *C. purpureus* and a local group mostly restricted to the mountains in southern Spain. The latter also possessed a genome size 25% larger than the widespread *C. purpureus*, and the samples of this group consist

entirely of females. We also found hybrids, and some of them had a genome size equivalent to the sum of the *C.*

purpureus and Spanish genome, suggesting that they arose by allopolyploidy.

• CONCLUSIONS: These data suggest that a new species of *Ceratodon* arose via peripatric speciation,

potentially involving a genome size change and a strong female-biased sex ratio. The new species has hybridized

in the past with *C. purpureus*.

Key words: Bryophyta, cosmopolitan species, DNA sequencing, flow cytometry, hybridization, Mediterranean

mountains, phylogenetic data, polyploidy.

INTRODUCTION

The origin of new species represents a major unsolved problem in evolutionary biology (Rieseberg and

Willis, 2007; Seehausen et al., 2014; Dev, 2015). Theory shows that the simplest mechanism for generating new

species is through allopatric speciation, in which some portion of a species' range becomes geographically

isolated, allowing natural selection or genetic drift to drive allele frequency changes that ultimately generate

additional reproductive barriers (Mayr, 1963; Barraclough and Vogler, 2000; Coyne and Orr, 2004). This is

because even modest levels of gene flow can homogenize allele frequencies between populations, retarding

divergence (Wright, 1931). While local adaptation can drive peripatric or sympatric divergence in cases where

the immigrant rate is less than the intensity of selection (Lenormand, 2002), most empirical studies cannot

exclude the possibility that speciation was preceded by a period of allopatry (Nadachowska-Brzyska et al., 2013;

Shaner et al., 2015). This presents a paradox in species-rich groups like mosses, where long-distance migration

appears to be common, but speciation and diversification have occurred in spite of the fact that geographic

barriers may not cause a long-term impediment to gene flow (Shaw et al., 2003; Piñeiro et al., 2012; Lewis et al.,

2014a; Szövényi et al., 2014; Barbé et al., 2016).

One potential resolution to this paradox is sympatric speciation through polyploidy, which is frequent in

flowering plants (Ramsey and Schemske, 1998; Mallet, 2005), and potentially in mosses (Crosby, 1980; Kuta

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and Przywara, 1997; Såstad, 2005; McDaniel et al., 2010; Rensing et al., 2013). Polyploidy generates a strong

reproductive barrier in a single mutational event (Ramsey and Schemske, 1998; Madlung, 2013). However, the

homogeneity in bryophyte genome sizes (Voglmayr, 2000) raises the possibility that the role played by

polyploidy in moss speciation may be small relative to other speciation mechanisms. The nature of the genomic,

demographic, or ecological factors beyond geographic isolation and polyploidy that generate reproductive

barriers between nascent species of mosses remain poorly characterized (McDaniel et al., 2010; Yousefi et al.,

2017).

Within mosses, the genetic basis of reproductive barriers is best characterized among populations of

Ceratodon purpureus (Hedw.) Brid. (Ditrichaceae) (McDaniel et al., 2007, 2008). Moreover, the developing

genomic and laboratory tools make this species a promising model for further ecological genomic study

(McDaniel et al., 2016). *Ceratodon purpureus* is abundant on every continent, and grows on wide variety of

substrates (Crum, 1973). Molecular population genetic analyses indicated that gene flow among northern and

even southern hemisphere populations was frequent but tropical populations were more genetically isolated

(McDaniel and Shaw, 2005). These observations suggest that the current level of sampling may be insufficient to

detect the full scope of population structure among populations in this taxon. Indeed, partial hybrid breakdown

was clearly evident in crosses between a temperate and a tropical population, suggesting that reproductive

barriers may be in the process of evolving between ecologically distinct regions of the distribution of *C.*

purpureus (McDaniel et al., 2007, 2008). These barriers did not involve ploidy differences. However, the

genome size of *C. purpureus* is well-characterized in only a modest number of European samples (0.39 pg s.d.

0.0046, n=10, Voglmayr, 2000), leaving open the possibility that polyploidy contributes to reproductive isolation

among isolates from other parts of its broad cosmopolitan distribution.

In a previous phylogeographic analysis (McDaniel and Shaw, 2005), the Mediterranean region contained

several rare haplotypes that were distantly related to the common haplotypes found throughout the range of *C.*

purpureus. Here we sought to test for the existence of any relationship between the genetic diversity and DNA

content found in the Mediterranean area in the moss genus *Ceratodon*. McDaniel and Shaw (2005) argued that

frequent gene flow maintained the genetic homogeneity of the species, at least among the temperate Northern

Hemisphere populations, but that the divergent populations were simply outside the main area of spore rain, and

therefore had not yet been homogenized. Alternatively, these isolated populations could represent cryptic

species, and reproductive isolation evolved in spite of this gene flow (McDaniel et al., 2007, 2008). To

distinguish between these alternatives, we evaluated the patterns of polymorphism in five nuclear introns and a

single chloroplast locus in plants sampled from mountainous areas of the Mediterranean region and other

mountain regions and lowlands mostly from southern Europe. We also estimated the genome size of these

isolates using flow cytometry. These data clearly show that a new species have evolved within the genus

Ceratodon, accompanied by both large non-polyploid and allopolyploid changes in genome size, and potentially

major changes in sexual system. These insights also highlight the complexity of peripatric speciation

mechanisms in bryophytes.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant material— For this study we generated genetic data for a total of 93 samples, 71 (76.4%) from

Mediterranean mountain areas (47 from Spanish Sierra Nevada Mountains, 19 from Spanish central mountain

ranges, three from Spanish south-eastern mountains, and two from Sicilian Mount Etna). Of the remaining 22

samples, 11 (11.8%) were from other European mountainous systems (eight from the Alps and three from the

Pyrenees) and 11 specimens (11.8%) were from lowlands (three from Czech Republic, two from Germany, two

from Sweden, two from United Kingdom, and two from South Africa). Mainly between April and November

2011-2014 (more detailed information in Appendix 1) we collected 84 new samples for this study, all of which

are deposited at MUB (Herbarium of the University of Murcia, Spain), nine samples were loaned from herbaria,

including BOL (Bolus Herbarium, University of Cape Town, South Africa), CBFS (University of South

Bohemia, Czech Republic), S (Herbarium of the Swedish Museum of Natural History, Sweden), and two

samples were donated from Laura Forrest (at Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, United Kingdom). We

sequenced four specimens of *Cheilothela chloropus* (Brid.) Lindb. to use as an outgroup (Voucher information

and Genbank accession numbers are listed in Appendix 1).

DNA sequencing— To examine the genealogical relationships among the 93 isolates, we sequenced five nuclear

exon-primed intron-spanning loci, including *rpL23A* and *TRc1b3.05* (McDaniel et al., 2013a; referenced by EST

accessions AW086590 and AW098560), *hp23.9*, *PPR* and *TBP* (McDaniel et al., 2013a, b), and a single

chloroplast locus (*trn*L). We amplified all loci from all individuals in 20 μL polymerase chain reaction using

Thermo Scientific DreamTaq DNA Polymerase (Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.). The cycling conditions were

94ºC for 2 min, then 10 cycles of 94ºC for 15 s, an annealing temperature of 65ºC that dropped one degree each

cycle, and 72ºC for 1 min, followed by 20 cycles of 94ºC for 15 s, 56ºC for 30 s, and 72ºC for 1 min, and

terminating with 72ºC for 7 min (McDaniel et al., 2013b). The resulting PCR products were ready to use for

sequencing removing unincorporated primers and inactivates unincorporated nucleotides using PCR clean-up

reaction with Exo I (Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.) and FastAP Alkaline Phosphatase enzymes (Thermo Fisher

Scientific Inc.). Both enzymes were heat-inactivated by maintaining the mixture at 85ºC for 15 min. Sequencing

was accomplished on an ABI3730XL DNA Analyzer, Applied Biosystems (Macrogen Europe, The Netherlands,

Amsterdam).

Cloning of DNA sequences— In samples where we observed double peaks in the chromatograms, we cloned all

loci. PCR products were isolated from agarose gels, and cloned using the CloneJet PCR Cloning Kit

(ThermoFisher Scientific, Spain). Cloning efficiency and accuracy were checked using PCR reactions.

Successful clones then were sequenced using an ABI3730XL DNA Analyzer (Macrogen).

Phylogenetic analyses— We aligned the DNA sequences using CLUSTALW (Larkin et al., 2007) as

implemented in Bioedit (Hall, 1999) and manually resolved inconsistencies in the resulting alignment. DnaSP v5

(Librado and Rozas, 2009) was used to observe characteristics such as total length with and without gaps,

number of constant positions and number of parsimony-informative variable positions about all loci. We coded

gaps as informative with a simple indel coding strategy (Simmons and Ochoterena, 2000) implemented in

SeqState (Müller, 2005). We performed phylogenetic analyses using MrBayes v.3.2 (Ronquist et al., 2012). The

need for a priori model testing was removed using the substitution model space in the Bayesian MCMC analysis

itself (Huelsenbeck et al., 2004) with the option nst=mixed. The sequence and indel data were treated as separate

and unlinked partitions. The a priori probabilities supplied were those specified in the default settings of the

program. Posterior probability distributions of trees were generated using the Metropolis-coupled Markov chain

Monte Carlo (MCMCMC) method. To search for convergence in the phylogenetic analyses we used two runs

with different setting for some of the loci. For *hp23.9, TBP* and *trn*L, four chains with 1×10^7 generations were

run simultaneously, with the temperature of the single heated chain set to the default in MrBayes. Nevertheless

eight chains with 1×10^6 generations each one were run, changing the temperature of the single heated chain set

to 2 (*PPR*), 3 (*TRc1b3.05*) and 6 (*rpL23A*), because with the default temperature setting convergence was not

reached in initial runs. Chains were sampled every 1000 generations and the respective trees were written into a

tree file. The first 25% of the total sampled trees of each run were discarded as burnin. Consensus trees and

posterior probabilities of clades were calculated by combining the two runs and using the trees sampled after the

chains converged and had become stationary. The sump command of MrBayes was used to check whether an

appropriate sample from the posterior was obtained. To do so, we first inspected visually the log likelihood plot,

which should not show tendencies to decrease or increase over time and the different runs should show similar

values. Then we checked that the effective sampling size (ESS) values for all parameters reached at least 500

and that the Potential Scale Reduction Factor (PSRF) for each parameter was close to 1.00. The genealogies

were rooted with sequences from *Cheilothela chloropus*. The final trees were edited with TreeGraph2 (Stöver

and Müller, 2010). We performed phylogenetic analyses using the same setting as before combining the new

sequences generated here with other sequences for the *TBP* locus available on GenBank from Antarctica (1),

Australia (1), and Eastern North America (54), which were previously reported by McDaniel et al. (2013b).

Low resolution in phylogenetic reconstructions can sometimes be caused by incongruence or conflicts in

the molecular datasets that lead to different equally possible solutions (Huson and Bryant, 2006; Draper et al.,

2015). To evaluate this possibility, we reconstructed a phylogenetic network based on the neighbor-net method

(Bryant and Moulton, 2004) using the program SplitsTree4, version 4.13.1 (Huson and Bryant, 2006) for the six

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concatenated loci. The calculations were based on uncorrected p-distances. To test the hypothesis of

recombination in each graph, a pairwise homoplasy index (Phi-test) was calculated, which is a robust and

reliable statistic to detect recombination. This estimates the mean refined incompatibility score from nearby

sites. Under the null hypothesis of no recombination, the genealogical correlation of adjacent sites is invariant to

permutations of the sites as all sites have the same history. In the case of finite levels of recombination, the order

of the sites is important, as distant sites will tend to have less genealogical correlation than adjacent sites (Bruen

et al., 2006). The significance is then tested using a permutation test by default. In accordance with Bruen et al.

(2006) for the Phi test of recombination, p-value < 0.05 indicates the presence of recombination signal.

Coalescent stochasticity analyses— Individual gene trees often differ from each other and from the species tree

(Rosenberg, 2002; Mao et al., 2014). To check whether the differentiation we found between the Sierra Nevada

(SN) and Worldwide (Ww) clades was a good fit to the multispecies coalescent model (MSCM), we employed

an approach based on posterior predictive simulation implemented in the R statistical language package,

"P2C2M" (Gruenstaeudl et al., 2016). In this approach, a posterior distribution of gene genealogies estimated

from empirical data is compared to a posterior predictive distribution of genealogies simulated under a model of

interest. We first used *BEAST (Heled and Drummond, 2010) to infer genealogies and species trees, and the

simulation of genealogies under the MSCM with ms program (Hudson, 2002) under a JC +I +G nucleotide

substitution model selected as the most probable in all loci using jModelTest (Posada, 2008). Gaps were

included as a character state in these analyses. The run was conducted assuming a strict clock for each locus. We

selected "Yule Model" as the species tree prior, and employed "Piecewise linear and constant root" as the

population size model. Finally, the default values for MCMC analysis were used. We compared the genealogies

from the posterior distribution to the species trees and from the posterior predictive distribution to the species

tree using two descriptive summary statistics: *lcwt* (likelihood of the coalescent waiting times) and the number

of deep coalescences (*ndc*). When samples are drawn from data with a good fit to the MSCM, the summary

statistics from each distribution should be approximately equal and the expected difference between the two is

zero (Reid et al., 2014). Data that are a poor fit to the MSCM are indicted by a deviation from the expectation of

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a difference distribution that is centered on zero is encountered above a specified quantile level (Gruenstaeudl et

al., 2016).

Genome size determination— We used flow cytometry (FCM) technology for 75 specimens to estimate nuclear

DNA content. One shoot of each sample was chopped with a razor blade together with the internal standard

Carex acutiformis Ehrh. 1C = 0.41 pg, Lipnerová et al., 2012) or *Bellis perennis* L. (1C = 1.56 pg; our own

calibration against *Carex acutiformis*) in 1 ml of LB01 buffer (Doležel et al., 1989). The fluorochrome

propidium iodide and RNase IIa (both at final concentration 50 µg/ml) were added immediately; the samples

were stained for at least 10 minutes. The samples were analyzed using a Partec CyFlow SL flow cytometer

equipped with a 532 nm (green) diode-pumped solid-state laser (100 mW output); the fluorescence intensity of

12000 particles was recorded. When possible, we used in vitro cultivated fresh material, but for 47 samples that

did not grow satisfactorily in vitro, we used dry material collected in the years 2009-2014. The fluorescence

histograms were processed using FlowJo v 10.2 software (TreeStar Inc.).

Sex determination— To determinate sex, one plant per sample was employed. We amplified the *rpS15A* sex-

linked locus by PCR and digested the product with HindIII. An intron in the *rpS15A* amplicon contains a cut-site

difference between the male and female products (Norrell et al., 2014) which is clearly observable in the banding

patterns which were visualized after electrophoresis in an agarose gel and scored by hand. We identified the sex

of 82 samples, 88.17 % of the total, which were from Sierra Nevada Mountains (42), Spanish central mountain

ranges (16), Spanish south-eastern mountains (3), Sicilian Mount Etna (2), Alps (7), Pyrenees (3), South Africa

(2), Germany (2), Czech Republic (3), and Sweden (2). For the remaining samples we could not unambiguously

interpret the pattern in the restriction-site fragment length polymorphism in the *rpS15A* amplicon. We express

the results as a proportion of males and computed the 95% confidence interval for this estimate with the *dbinom*

function in R (R Development Core Team, 2017).

Calculation of the binomial proportion confidence interval— If the total number of experiments and the

number of positive outcomes of a success-failure experiment are known, it is possible to calculate the confidence

intervals (CI) for the probability of success. As a consequence, the CI for the proportion of males (or females) in

a population (success) based on the results of sex-determination of a given number of individuals can be

calculated. We used the Hmisc package (Harrell, 2018) in R3.4.3 (R Development Core Team, 2017), with the

options "Wilson" and "Exact" (=Clopper-Pearson) to calculate the CI.

RESULTS

Phylogenetic analyses— The sequence alignments varied in total length between 207 (215 with coded gaps) to

848 (891) positions, for *hp23.9* and *rpL23A*, respectively. The number of constant positions was between 186

and 715 for the above mentioned loci and the parsimony-informative variable positions differed between 5 and

95 for *trn*L and *rpL23A*, respectively (Table 1). The loci *PPR, TBP, rpL23A*, and *TRc1b3.05* showed two well

differentiated clades with support of 0.87 (0.85-0.88)-0.77 (0.75-0.79) posterior probability (pp), 0.96 (0.95-

0.96)-1.00 (1.00-1.00) pp, 1.00 (1.00-1.00)-1.00 (1.00-1.00) pp, and 1.00 (1.00-1.00)-1.00 (1.00-1.00) pp,

respectively (Fig. 1, see Supplemental Data with this article, Appendices S1, S2, S3). In the case of *rpL23A*,

sequences of *Cheilothela chloropus* were not obtained for use as outgroup, but again two clades were resolved.

The *hp23.9* locus had a support for one clade of 1.00 (1.00-1.00) pp but the other clade had a value of 0.55

(0.45-0.61) pp (Appendix S4). In all the five nuclear loci studied, one of the clades was formed always by 34

Sierra Nevada Mountains samples and one of the Spanish south-eastern mountains; we refer to this as the SN

group. The second clade consistently included 42 specimens coming from the rest of the sampled areas,

including one from Sierra Nevada and two from Spanish south-eastern mountains; we refer to this as the Ww

group. For one marker (*TBP*) we added sequences available at GenBank, including samples from Antarctica,

Australia, and North America. The resulting tree topology shows that our samples give a reasonable good

representation of the Ww group and that none of these additional sequences is closely related to the SN samples

(Appendix S5). The remaining 17 sequenced samples were strongly resolved in either the SN clade or the Ww

clade, depending on the studied locus (they did not present intermediate sequences between both clades,

Appendix S6); we considered these samples recombinants. The term "hybrid" applied to bryophytes should

strictly be used only for the sporophytic hybrids (2n) (Anderson, 1980); for their gametophytic progeny (n)

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showing combination of parental alleles after meiosis "recombinants" should be used (Shaw, 1994, 1998) in

order not to confuse with hybrids observed among vascular plants. The recombinants derived mainly from SN

Mountains, but also from Spanish central mountain ranges, the Alps and the lowlands of the United Kingdom

(Fig. 2). The chloroplast locus showed one well supported clade 0.96 (0.95-0.98) pp, and all remaining samples

with deeper coalescent events (Fig. 1). All the samples considered as recombinants based on the nuclear markers

were closely related and sister to the rest of the SN samples, with the only exception of one specimen from

Sierra Nevada Mountains (MUB 49528), which is a recombinant and belongs to the Ww chloroplast clade.

Table 1. Characteristics of the loci used for molecular evolutionary analyses. The genomic location "nuclear -

putative autosomal" is based on unpublished data.

Locus	Genomic location	Sequence length (with gaps)	Invariant sites	Parsimony-informative sites
hp23.9	Nuclear – autosomal	207 (215)	186	15
PPR	Nuclear – U/V	331 (334)	309	8
rpL23A	Nuclear – putative autosomal	848 (891)	715	95
TBP	Nuclear – autosomal	365 (365)	337	11
TRc1b3.05	Nuclear – putative autosomal	402 (417)	362	28
*trn*L	Chloroplast	320 (320)	311	5

235 The apparent uncertain position of some individuals is clarified by the result of the Neighbor-Net network (Fig.

236 3). Moreover for the phi-test when the six loci were studied together, a highly significant p-value (0.0) was

237 obtained, confirming the presence of recombination signal. Graphically, two extreme groups can be observed,

238 the SN group and the Ww group, with some individuals in intermediate positions.

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Fig. 1. Phylogenetic trees inferred from two of the studied loci. For each tip in the trees geographical origin and number of herbarium are given (numbers without letters are from MUB); 2x is used to highlight diploid samples; number of equal sequences obtained by cloning is indicated between parentheses if there was more than one; bold letters indicate recombinant samples. A) From nuclear *TRc1b3.05* locus and B) From chloroplast *trn*L locus.

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Fig. 2. Geographic location of *Ceratodon* samples included in this study. Pie charts indicate proportion of samples of each genomic group by areas (black: Ww genome group; grey: SN genome group; white: recombinant samples). The number of samples by groups in each area is given.

Fig. 3. Neighbor-Net network to test signals of reticulate evolution between the samples. The main groups are highlight by color circles with its names. The p value from the Phi test of recombination is indicated.

Cloning DNA sequences— Loci cloning confirmed that diploid specimens (see Flow cytometry analyses

results) present two different copies of the same loci in most cases. The loci *TRc1b3.05*, *PPR* and *rpL23A*

presented predominantly a single copy, although some individuals presented the two copies in other loci

(Appendix S6). Some haploid individuals presented two different copies of a locus. This may be due to the

possibility of gene redundancy, which can result from unequal crossing over, retroposition or chromosomal (or

genome) duplication (Magadum et al., 2013).

Coalescent stochasticity analyses— Although our data suggested the existence of recombinants between the two

groups, incomplete lineage sorting and hybridization may result in similar molecular signals. Nevertheless, the

two summary statistics *ndc* and *lcwt* employed for the comparison of the genealogies from the posterior

distribution to the species trees and from the posterior predictive distribution to the species trees, show

significant ($p < 0.05$) differences between our data with respect to MSCM (Table 2), indicating that incomplete

lineage sorting (coalescent model) alone cannot explain the different tree topologies.

Table 2. Results of P2C2M analysis in which *lcwt* and *ndc* descriptive summary statistics are shown for each

DNA locus analyzed. All loci under study are of nuclear origin, except *trn*L. Asterisks indicate cases of poor

model fit at a probability level of 0.05, and. n.a., not applicable.

Locus	*lcwt*	*ndc*
hp23.9	510.16 (±117.86)*	-57.46 (±29.93)*
PPR	530.67 (±121.31)*	-59.88 (±29.87)*
rpL23A	462.75 (±110.74)*	-53.04 (±29.16)*
TBP	525.94 (±120.55)*	-59.56 (±29.77)*
TRc1b3.05	516.43 (±121.96)*	-58.31 (±29.96)*
*trn*L	n.a.	-65.33 (±29.26)*
Sum of all genes	n.a.	-353.59 (±105.62)*

Flow cytometry analyses— We obtained three clearly differentiated groups of cytotypes for both fresh and dry

material (Table 3, Fig. 4). Measurements from dry material gave higher values (by 18% on average) than those

from fresh material, for this reason a conversion factor (1/1.18 = 0.85) was employed to the former. When fresh

and dry materials are considered together, the first cytotype had a mean value of 1C = 0.37 pg, and the second

one showed 25.4% more of DNA content (1C = 0.46 pg). The third cytotype had 1C = 0.82 pg mean value of

DNA content. All of specimens of Ww group belonged to the smallest cytotype while those of the SN group

were categorized in the second cytotype, and the recombinant specimens were found in both the second and the

third cytotype (Appendix S6).

Table 3. Nuclear DNA content expressed in pg as measured by flow cytometry. Cytotypes considered, number

of samples used in the analyses (N), mean value of DNA, standard deviation and range of values obtained for

each cytotype are given (* conversion factor of 0.85 is applied to dry material when fresh and dry material are

combined).

	Cytotype	N	Mean (pg)	Standard deviation	Min (pg)	Max (pg)
Fresh material	a	5	0.36	<0.01	0.36	0.37
	b	20	0.46	0.01	0.45	0.48
	c	3	0.81	0.01	0.81	0.82
Dry material	a*	25	0.44	0.01	0.41	0.45
	b*	21	0.54	0.01	0.52	0.57
	c*	1	0.97	--	--	--
Fresh + dry material (*)	a+a*	30	0.37	0.01	0.35	0.38
	b+b*	41	0.46	0.01	0.44	0.48
	c+c*	4	0.82	0.01	0.81	0.82
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Fig. 4. Histogram of genome sizes of representative samples of *Ceratodon* generated by flow cytometry. A

conversion factor of 0.85 was applied to the data obtained from dry material.

Sex determination— All of the samples from SN group (29) and all the recombinant samples (15) were females,

while the Ww group (38) consisted mainly of females and two males (one from Sierra Nevada Mountains and

another one from the Alps), see Appendix 1. The high proportion of females in the Ww samples may be due to a

collection bias, as we preferentially chose moss cushions with sporophytes, because sporophyte morphology is

one of the few characters that enabled us to make a clear distinction in the field between *Ceratodon* and other

morphologically similar genera (e.g., in the Bryales Limpr. and Pottiales M. Fleisch.). The presence of

sporophytes, however, indicates that males must have been present. Male buds (perigonia) are deciduous, and

may not be produced each season, meaning that sterile plants may have been males. In the Sierra Nevada

Mountains we never observed sporophytes (the identity of all samples was verified in the laboratory by

examining microscopic gametophytic characters). Similarly, Rams et al. (2014) reported finding no sporophytes

in deep sampling carried out in Sierra Nevada Mountains from early spring to autumn from 2002 – 2004, and

García-Zamora et al. (1998) found only one fructified specimen identified as *C. purpureus* in a survey of a zone

close to Sierra Nevada in 1990-1991. Moreover, none of the *Ceratodon* samples from south eastern Spain in the

MUB and GDA/GDAC (University of Granada, Spain) herbaria showed sporophytes. If we exclude a possible

bias in the case of the Sierra Nevada Mountains samples, we can conclude based on the binominal distribution

that the 95% CI for the probability of encountering males in the SN-type populations lies in the range of $p = 0.00$

for the lower limit and $p = 0.12$ for the upper limit for both tested methods ("Wilson" and "Clopper-Pearson"),

which means that males might even be completely absent.

DISCUSSION

In most major models of speciation, a period of allopatry is essential to evolve reproductive isolation

(Coyne and Orr, 2004). However, in many cosmopolitan species, including many mosses and ferns, the entire

habitable range of species is within the range of the dispersal distance of spores (Muñoz et al., 2004; Frahm,

2007; Pisa et al., 2013) making strict allopatry unlikely. Therefore, it is reasonable to propose that speciation

mechanisms that either occur in sympatry or accommodate some gene flow contribute to generating the extant

diversity in such groups. The two best-studied sympatric speciation mechanisms in plants are polyploidy and the

evolution of self-fertilization (Barringer, 2007). Here we show that the evolution of a new species, closely

related to the cosmopolitan *Ceratodon purpureus*, was associated with a 25% increase in genome size and a

significant decrease in frequency of males (Nieto-Lugilde et al., under review). Surprisingly, although we have

found neither males nor evidence of recent sexual reproduction (i.e., sporophytes) in the new species, the genetic

diversity among members of this species is relatively high. Despite the long period of isolation suggested by the

sequence divergence between *C. purpureus* and the new species, we have found evidence of interspecific

hybridization, suggesting that the new species apparently has retained the capacity for sexual reproduction. In a

separate paper we discuss the taxonomic implications of this discovery (Nieto-Lugilde et al., under review).

Here we use genealogical and genome size data to make inferences regarding the genetic architecture of

speciation, and the demographic parameters that permit such divergence.

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Taxonomists have struggled with species delimitation in the genus *Ceratodon* since the description of

the genus. Burley and Pritchard (1990) found references for nearly 50 specific or subspecific taxa within

Ceratodon, but based on an extensive survey of herbarium specimens recognized only four species, *C.*

antarcticus Cardot., *C. conicus* (Hampe) Lindb., *C. heterophyllus* Kindb., and *C. purpureus*, including three

infraspecific taxa (subsp. *convolutus* (Reichardt) Burley*,* subsp. *purpureus,* and subsp. *stenocarpus* (Bruch &

Schimp.) Dixon). Previous molecular population genetic analyses indicated that disjunct populations of *C.*

purpureus were sometimes very closely related, clearly showing that long distance dispersal, even among

continents, was frequent enough to erase any signal of strong population structure (McDaniel and Shaw, 2005).

However, these data did not provide strong genealogical support either for or against the existence of distinct

species other than *C. purpureus*. Subsequent classical genetic analyses showed that geographically and

ecologically distant populations were partially reproductively isolated from one another (McDaniel et al., 2007,

2008), but these appeared to be somewhat porous reproductive barriers, and it was unclear that the populations

represented different species.

McDaniel and Shaw (2005) did find some isolates of *C. purpureus* that were genetically distant from the

more common haplotypes found in northern temperate regions. Here we found strong evidence that haplotypes

which are distantly related to the typical *C. purpureus* haplotypes are locally abundant in the Sierra Nevada

Mountains of southern Spain. We also found populations containing SN haplotypes and recombinants, together

with some rare samples with exclusively the typical *C. purpureus* haplotypes. To evaluate the possibility that the

segregation of these divergent haplotypes in the SN populations represents the retention of ancestral variation in

the species (i.e., coalescent stochasticity causing incomplete lineage sorting) we generated coalescent

simulations using *BEAST and P2C2M. These analyses showed that the divergence between these two

haplotypic classes was too great to be explained by coalescent stochasticity. The fact that this polymorphism is

found in all of the nuclear loci that we sampled, and is geographically concentrated to the Sierra Nevada region,

suggests that balancing selection is also an unlikely explanation. Collectively these data suggest that the SN

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haplotypes comprise a rare species sister to and partially reproductively isolated from the cosmopolitan *C.*

purpureus.

The default mode for the evolution of reproductive isolation is allopatric speciation. The sympatric

occurrence of typical *C. purpureus* haplotypes and SN haplotypes, even at modest frequencies, contradicts the

suggestion by McDaniel and Shaw (2005) that the Mediterranean populations were isolated from the rest of the

species as a result of decreased spore rain in peripheral populations separated by prevailing global wind patterns.

If we assume that the current dispersal capabilities of *C. purpureus* represent the ancestral condition, this

suggests that geography may not have been the primary isolating mechanism between the nascent species.

Morphological analysis of plants of both species grown in a common garden (as well as putative recombinants

between them; Nieto-Lugilde et al., under review) indicate that members of Ww group can be distinguished

morphologically from the SN group based on multivariate biometrical evaluation of microscopic features of the

caulidia and phyllidia (stem length, presence or absence of apical comal tuft, leaf size and shape, leaf costa

width at base of lamina and leaf costa excurrence). Nevertherless, we were unable to distinguish between the SN

group plants and recombinants in field samples, suggesting that the environment influences the variance in

taxonomically important characters. It is certainly possible that an extrinsic factor, like a habitat preference,

isolated the two species.

It is also possible that an intrinsic factor isolated the two species. Remarkably, however, we detected

only females in the SN species, suggesting that male lethality could contribute to isolating the two species. Sex

in dioecious bryophytes like *C. purpureus* is determined at meiosis, by the segregation of a UV chromosome

pair, meaning that ~50% of the spores produced in a population should be males. Some meiotic sex ratio

variation has been observed in this species in natural populations (overall mean of proportion of males was 0.41

(0.17-- 0.72), Norrell et al., 2014) and artificial crosses (male-biased sex ratio = 60%, McDaniel et al., 2008).

Even given our sample size (n = 29, with no males), we can conclude that the percentage of males in the SN

populations is much lower (95% CI included 0% - 12%; additional samples not included in this study lower the

95% CI to a range of 0% - 6.7%). We do not know whether the decrease of males coincided with the speciation

35   18

event, or occurred subsequent to the evolution of reproductive isolation. The evolution of apomixis or obligate

selfing from historically outcrossing lineages is a well-documented route to the evolution of new species in

plants (Stebbins, 1974; Barrett, 2010; Wright et al., 2013), and parthenogenetic lineages associated with the loss

of males are frequent in some animal lineages (insects: Hagimori et al., 2006 and Montelongo and Gómez-

Zurita, 2015; vertebrates: Neaves and Baumann, 2011 and Gutekunst et al., 2018). However, we know of no

other cases where the loss of males has been associated with speciation in bryophytes.

The presence of recombinants containing both typical *C. purpureus* alleles and alleles from the SN

species indicated that rare interspecies hybridization has occurred between individuals of the two species. Most

of the recombinants possessed the SN chloroplast type, based on the *trnL* sequence data, suggesting that this

species was more often the maternal parent (consistent with the rarity of males). We found one instance of a

recombinant plant that had a typical *C. purpureus trn*L sequence, but we cannot determine whether this was a

rare case of a hybridization involving a SN male (i.e., a cross in the opposite direction) or whether this resulted

from a backcross of a male recombinant to a typical *C. purpureus* female. Intrinsic genetic incompatibilities are

often manifest as Dobzhansky-Muller interactions, which result in asymmetric introgression patterns at the

causative loci (McDaniel et al., 2008) due to the death of incompatible multi-locus genotypes. Although we

sampled only six loci across the genome, the recombinants did have a tendency to have the SN alleles at the *TBP*

and *rpL23A* loci. We are currently examining the frequency of polymorphism across the genome of the SN and

recombinant genotypes to distinguish among forms of extrinsic and intrinsic isolation between the SN and

typical *C. purpureus* populations.

The flow cytometric data also showed that members of the SN species had a genome ~25% larger than

typical members of *C. purpureus*. It is possible that the speciation involved a whole genome duplication event

followed by rapid genome reduction, the duplication of a large chromosomes (Inoue et al., 2015; Panchy et al.,

2016), or the accumulation of transposable elements (TEs), which contribute to the extraordinary variation in

genome size within even closely related species in angiosperms (Vitte and Bennetzen, 2006). Although the

current data represent the most comprehensive sampling of variation in genome size in *Ceratodon*, we still lack

cytological data to determinate if variation in nuclear DNA content is due to an increase in the size of

chromosomes or by the increase of number of chromosomes. The variance in genome size is almost equal

between the two groups, suggesting that the SN species is fixed for whatever loci underlie the genome size

change. Additionally, recombinants between the two groups have the genome size of SN species, not an

intermediate value, suggesting that the increase in genome size may come from a single genomic change, rather

than many small changes across genome. One hypothesis is that these plants have gained DNA on the sex

chromosome which comprises nearly one-third of the genome (Heitz, 1932; Jachimsky, 1935; McDaniel et al.,

2007). Sex chromosomes in other organisms are known to accumulate genomic material rapidly, sometimes in

large translocations, and potentially generating pronounced evolutionary and ecological consequences (Tennesse

et al., 2017). We are now attempting to generate artificial crosses to evaluate the genetic basis of the genome size

difference.

We also found a third rare cytotype with a genome size approximately twice that of either SN plants or

typical *C. purpureus* plants. These isolates all had mixed haplotypes (i.e., gene sequences from both the SN and

typical *C. purpureus* clades) and a genome size very close to the sum of the SN group and Ww group (~1.2 %

smaller than the sum of the group means), suggesting that they arose from an allopolyploid event. Without more

sequence or cytological data we cannot formally eliminate the possibility that the larger cytotype arose from

autopolyploidy followed by hybridization, although this would require the gain of ~10 % or loss (~12 %) of the

genomic DNA. Additionally, allopolyploidy is a widely observed mechanism to restore the fertility of F1s

hybrids between partially reproductively isolated species with karyotypic differences and exhibit meiotic

abnormalities (De Storme and Mason, 2014).

Finally, the new SN species apparently maintains levels of genetic diversity nearly equivalent to typical

populations of its sister species *C. purpureus* without obviously undergoing sexual reproduction. Sexual

reproduction in mosses occurs when males and females grow in close proximity, and sperm cells disperse,

typically in humid conditions, from male to female plants, producing sporophytes, a very common observation

in most populations of *C. purpureus*. Given the complete absence of sporophytes in observed Sierra Nevada

samples, the predominant reproduction way seems to be by fragmentation of the gametophores. Moss

gametophores can persist for many years, even in relatively stressful conditions, and easily spread clonally by

fragmentation. In some cases, such fragments may be dispersed a considerable distance (Frahm, 2007, Lewis et

al., 2014b). It is clear that spatially heterogeneous selection (Vrijenhoek, 1978) or frequency-dependent selection

(Weeks and Hoffmann, 2008) can maintain high genetic diversity in clonal organisms. Antarctic populations of

C. purpureus, which similarly lack any sexual reproduction, were also quite variable, although less polymorphic

than was observed in the closely related nearby populations from Australia (Clarke et al., 2009). Also similar to

the Antarctic studies, we found polymorphic nuclear ITS sequences between samples collected a few meters

apart (unpublished data), indicating that these localities were colonized several times independently. However,

unlike the Antarctic case, the SN isolates are genetically distinct from any known spore source. It is possible that

sexual reproduction in the SN species generated the current variation under a past climate regime, or in

undetected localities, although it is clearly far rarer than in *C. purpureus*. Further analyses of the evolutionary

history of the SN population are likely to produce a better understanding of the phenomena that generate new

species in cosmopolitan taxa.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors thank the curators of herbaria BOL, GDA/GDAC and S for providing plant material. To Laura

Forrest from Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, United Kingdom, for donating samples. To the management

group of the National Park of Sierra Nevada Natural Space for allowing us to collect samples in the National and

Natural Parks. This study was supported financially by the Spanish Ministry of Science and innovation (Projects

CGL2011-22936/BOS and CGL2014-52579-R) and FEDER funds of the E.U., and an NSF grant (DEB

1541005) to SFM. M N.-L. also thanks the Spanish Ministry of Science and innovation, for being received a

"Formación de Personal Investigador" fellowship (FPI program 2012) (reference BES-2012-056799).

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American Journal of Botany 104: 1060–1072.

Appendix 1. Voucher information for the studied specimens. For each sequenced sample the next information is

626 given: herbarium code; geographical origin, collection date (year-month-day), gender if known (F for female, M

627 for male), presence of sporophyte if appropriate, indicated by an asterisk (*), GenBank accession numbers for

628 the six loci studied, given in the next order: *hp23.9*, *PPR*, *rpL23A*, *TBP*, *TRc1b3.05* and *trn*L; sequences

629 obtained by cloning are indicated by their GenBank accession number given in parentheses.

Ingroup
Mediterranean mountain areas
MUB 43730: Spanish south-eastern mountains, 2011-11-13, F, KP825628, KP826017, KP826181, KP826402, KP826531, KY229001. **MUB 49304:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-20, F, KP825703, KP826091, KP826265, KP826473, KP826601, MG050779. **MUB 49306:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-20, F, KP825701, KP826089, KP826263, KP826471, KP826599, KY229023. **MUB 49318:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-20, KP825698, KP826086, KP826260, KP826468, KP826596, –. **MUB 49319:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-20, KP825697, KP826085, KP826259, KP826467, KP826595, MG050780. **MUB 49323:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-20, F, KP825696, KP826084, KP826258, KP826466, KP826594, KY229040. **MUB 49326:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-20, F, KP825693, KP826081, KP826255, KP826463, KP826591, MG050781. **MUB 49327:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-20, F, KP825692, KP826080, KP826254, KP826462, KP826590, –. **MUB 49329:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-20, F, KP825690, KP826078, KP826252, KP826460, KP826588, KY229024. **MUB 49331:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-20, F, KP825688, KP826076, KP826250, KP826459, KP826586, –. **MUB 49339:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-20, F, (MG050789, MG050790, MG050791, MG050792, MG050793, MG050794, MG050795, MG050796, MG050797, MG050798, MG050799), (KP826073, MG050748, MG050749, MG050750, MG050751, MG050752), KP826248, (KP826456, MG050761, MG050762, MG050763, MG050764, MG050765), KP826583, KY229035. **MUB 49341:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-20, F, KP825683, KP826071, KP826246, KP826454, KP826581, MG050782. **MUB 49342:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-20, F, KP825682, KP826070, KP826245, KP826453, KP826580, –. **MUB 49351:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-20, F, KP825681, KP826069, KP826244, KP826452, KP826579, –. **MUB 49353:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-20, F, KP825679, KP826067, KP826242, KP826450, –, –. **MUB 49356:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-20, KP825677, KP826065, KP826239, KP826448, KP826577, KY229030. **MUB 49357:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-20, F, KP825676, KP826064, KP826241, KP826447, KP826576, –. **MUB 49366:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-21, F, KP825670, KP826058, KP826238, KP826442, KP826570, KY229011. **MUB 49370:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-21, KP825674, KP826062, KP826234, KP826446, KP826574, KY229015. **MUB 49373:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-21, F, KP825671, KP826059, KP826233, KP826443, KP826571, –. **MUB 49382:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-21, F, KP825669, KP826057, KP826180, KP826441, KP826569, –. **MUB 49387:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-21, F, KP825666, KP826054, KP826230, KP826438, KP826565, –. **MUB 49399:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-21, F, KP825663, KP826051, KP826224, KP826435, KP826563, KY229033. **MUB 49403:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-21, F, KP825660, KP826048, KP826182, KP826432, KP826560, –. **MUB 49408:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-21, F, KP825657, KP826045, KP826222, –, KP826557, KY229005. **MUB 49410:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-21, F, KP825655, KP826043, KP826220, KP826428, KP826555, –. **MUB 49411:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-21, F, KP825654, KP826042, KP826219, KP826427, KP826554, MG050783. **MUB 49412:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-21, F, KP825653, KP826041, KP826218, KP826426, KP826553, –. **MUB 49413:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-21, F, KP825652, KP826040, KP826217, KP826425, KP826552, KY229008. **MUB 49424:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-21, F, KP825651, KP826039, KP826216, KP826424, KP826551, –. **MUB 49426:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-21, F, KP825649, KP826037, KP826214, KP826422, KP826549, –. **MUB 49427:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-21, F, KP825648, KP826036, KP826213, KP826421, KP826548, –. **MUB 49442:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-21, F, KP825643, KP826031, KP826208, KP826417, KP826544, –. **MUB 49443:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-21, F, KP825642, KP826030, KP826207, KP826416, KP826543, –. **MUB 49444:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-21, F, KP825641, KP826029,

KP826206, KP826415, KP826542, MG050784. **MUB 49445:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2012-07-21, KP825640, KP826028, KP826209, KP826414, KP826541, –. **MUB 49451:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2013-07-12, F, (KP825639, MG050800, MG050801, MG050802, MG050803, MG050804, MG050805, MG050806, MG050807, MG050808), (KP826027, MG050753), (KP826204, MG050869, MG050870), KP826413, KP826540, KY229045. **MUB 49461:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2013-07-12, F, KP825638, KP826026, KP826203, KP826412, KP826539, KY229052. **MUB 49471:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2013-07-12, M, KP825706, KP826094, KP826201, KP826476, KP826604, KY229043. **MUB 49473:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2013-07-12, F, (KP825637, MG050809, MG050810, MG050811, MG050812, MG050813, MG050814, MG050815, MG050816, MG050817, MG050818, MG050819), KP826025, (MG050871, MG050872, MG050873, MG050874, MG050875, MG050876), (MG050766, MG050767, MG050768, MG050769, MG050770), KP826538, KY229041. **MUB 49480:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2013-07-12, F, (KP825636, MG050820, MG050821, MG050822, MG050823, MG050824, MG050825, MG050826), KP826024, KP826199, KP826410, KP826537, KY229046. **MUB 49485:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2013-07-12, F, (KP825635, MG050827, MG050828, MG050829, MG050830, MG050831, MG050832, MG050833), (KP826023, MG050754, MG050755, MG050756, MG050757, MG050758), (MG050877, MG050878, MG050879, MG050880, MG050881, MG050882), (KP826409, MG050771, MG050772, MG050773, MG050774, MG050775, MG050776), KP826536, KY229032. **MUB 49492:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2013-07-13, F, (MG050834, MG050835, MG050836, MG050837, MG050838, MG050839, MG050840), KP826022, KP826198, KP826408, –, KY229037. **MUB 49501:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2013-07-13, F, KP825633, –, KP826197, KP826407, KP826535, KY229042. **MUB 49504:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2013-07-13, F, (KP825632, MG050841, MG050842, MG050843, MG050844, MG050845), KP826021, KP826196, KP826406, (MG050867, MG050868), KY229047. **MUB 49505:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2013-07-13, F, KP825631, KP826020, KP826195, KP826405, KP826534, KY229031. **MUB 49518:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2013-07-13, F, (KP825630, MG050846, MG050847, MG050848, MG050849, MG050850, MG050851, MG050852, MG050853, MG050854), (KP826019, MG050759), KP826194, KP826404, KP826533, KY229038. **MUB 49528:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2013-07-13, F, (KP825629, MG050855, MG050856, MG050857, MG050858, MG050859, MG050860), (KP826018, MG050760), KP826193, (MG050777, MG050778), KP826532, KY229027. **MUB 49538:** Spanish central mountain ranges, 2011-10-27, F, KP825762, KP826150, KP826192, KP826528, KP826659, KY229021. **MUB 49540:** Spanish central mountain ranges, 2011-10-27, F, KP825760, KP826148, KP826191, KP826526, KP826657, –. **MUB 49541:** Spanish central mountain ranges, 2011-10-27, F, KP825759, KP826147, KP826190, KP826525, KP826656, MG050785. **MUB 49542:** Spanish central mountain ranges, 2011-10-27, F, KP825758, KP826146, KP826188, KP826524, KP826655, –. **MUB 49545:** Spanish central mountain ranges, 2011-10-27, KP825755, KP826143, KP826186, KP826521, KP826652, KY229029. **MUB 49550:** Spanish central mountain ranges, 2011-10-27, F*, KP825750, KP826138, KP826179, KP826516, KP826647, MG050786. **MUB 49552:** Spanish central mountain ranges, 2011-10-27, F*, KP825748, KP826136, KP826177, KP826514, KP826645, MG050787. **MUB 49553:** Spanish central mountain ranges, 2011-10-27, F*, KP825747, KP826135, KP826176, KP826513, KP826644, –. **MUB 49554:** Spanish central mountain ranges, 2011-10-27, F*, KP825746, KP826134, KP826175, KP826512, KP826643, KY229017. **MUB 49555:** Spanish central mountain ranges, 2011-10-27, KP825745, KP826133, KP826174, KP826511, KP826642, –. **MUB 49557:** Spanish central mountain ranges, 2011-10-27, F, KP825743, KP826131, KP826173, KP826509, KP826640, MG050788. **MUB 49558:** Spanish central mountain ranges, 2011-10-28, F, KP825742, KP826130, KP826172, KP826508, KP826639, –. **MUB 49560:** Spanish central mountain ranges, 2011-10-28, F*, KP825740, KP826128, KP826170, KP826506, KP826637, KY229013. **MUB 49562:** Spanish central mountain ranges, 2011-10-28, KP825738, KP826126, –, KP826504, KP826635, –. **MUB 49564:** Spanish central mountain ranges, 2011-10-28, F*, KP825736, KP826124, KP826168, KP826502, KP826633, –. **MUB 49566:** Spanish central mountain ranges, 2011-10-28, F, KP825734, KP826122, KP826167, KP826500, KP826631, KY229044. **MUB 49567:** Spanish central mountain ranges, 2011-10-28, F*, KP825733, KP826121, KP826166, KP826499, KP826630, KY229003. **MUB 49568:** Spanish central mountain ranges, 2011-10-29, F, KP825732, –, KP826165, –, KP826629, KY229048. **MUB 49569:** Spanish central mountain ranges, 2011-10-29, F*, KP825731, KP826119, KP826164, KP826497, KP826628, KY229009. **MUB 49570:** Sicilian Mount Etna, 2013-09-07, F, KP825714, KP826107, –, KP826478, KP826606, KY229016. **MUB 49593:** Sicilian Mount Etna, 2013-09-08, F, KP825715, KP826106, KP826163, KP826479, KP826607, KY229034. **MUB 49600:** Spanish south-eastern mountains, 2013-11-15, F*, KP825722, KP826104, KP826159, KP826486, KP826613, KY229022. **MUB 49602:** Spanish south-eastern mountains, 2013-11-15, F, KP825723, KP826105, KP826160, KP826487, KP826614, KY229050.

Other mountainous systems
CBFS 6159: Alps, 1997-08-14, KP825712, KP826100, –, KX503294, –, –. **CBFS 6162:** Alps, 1997-08-14, F, KP825711, KP826099, KP826154, KP826483, KP826611, KY229028. **CBFS 13557:** Alps, 2009-07-23, F, KP825708, KP826096, KP826151, –, KP826608. **MUB 49604:** Alps, 2012-09-14, F*, KP825627, KP826016, KP826162, KP826401, KP826530, KY229053. **MUB 49606:** Alps, 2012-09-14, F*, KP825727, KP826115, KP826161, KP826493, KP826624, --. **MUB 49613:** Alps, 2012-09-16, F*, KP825726, KP826114, –, KP826492, KP826623, KY229051. **MUB 49617:** Alps, 2012-09-16, F*, KP825725, KP826113, –, KP826491, KP826622, KY229002. **MUB 49619:** Alps, 2012-09-17, M, KP825724, KP826112, –, KP826490, KP826621, KY229000. **MUB 49624:** Pyrenees, 2012-08-31, F*, KP825730, KP826118, –, KP826496, KP826627, KY229007. **MUB 49629:** Pyrenees, 2012-08-31, F*, KP825729, KP826117, KP826158, KP826495, KP826626, KY229055. **MUB 49650:** Pyrenees, 2012-09-02, F*, KP825728, KP826116, KP826157, KP826494, KP826625, KY229004.

Lowlands
BOL 46302: South Africa, 2002-10-25, F*, KP825717, KP826109, –, KX503295, KP826618, KY229010. **BOL 46303:** South Africa, 2002-11-16, F*, KP825716, KP826108, –, –, KP826617, --. **MUB 49652:** Germany, 2011-08-11, F*, KP825718, KP826110, KP826156, KP826488, KP826619, KY229039. **MUB 49653:** Germany, 2011-02-09, F*, KP825719, KP826111, –, KP826489, KP826620, KY229020. **MUB 49654:** Czech Republic, 2014-04-11, F*, KX503276, –, KX503286, KX503291, KX503306, KY229012. **MUB 49655:** Czech Republic, 2014-04-11, F*, KX503275, –, KX503288, KX503290, KX503305, KY228999. **MUB 49659:** Czech Republic, 2014-04-12, F*, KX503274, –, KX503287, KX503289, KX503304, KY229006. **MUB 52185:** United Kingdom, 2014-12-10, KX503277, KX503282, KX503284, KX503292, KX503307, KY229049. **MUB 52186:** United Kingdom, 2014-04-03, (MG050861, MG050862, MG050863, MG050864, MG050865, MG050866), KX503283, KX503285, KX503293, KX503308, KY229054. **S B201182:** Sweden, 1985-07-16, F*, KP825721, KP826103, –, KX503296, KP826616, KY229018. **S B201183:** Sweden, 1985-07-21, F*, KP825720, KP826102, –, KP826485, KP826615, KY229014.

Outgroup: *Cheilothela chloropus*
MUB 52416: Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2011-04-28, KX503273, KX503281, –, KX503299, KX503303, KY229025. **MUB 52417:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2011-04-28, –, KX503280, –, KX503298, KX503302, –. **MUB 52418:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2011-04-28, –, KX503279, –, KX503297, KX503301, KY229026. **MUB 52419:** Sierra Nevada Mountains, 2011-04-28, –, KX503278, –, –, KX503300, –.

 Online Supplementary Materials

Appendix S1. Phylogenetic tree inferred from the nuclear *rpL23A* locus. For each tip in the trees geographical

origin and number of herbarium are given (numbers without letters are from MUB); 2x is used to highlight

diploid samples; number of equal sequences obtained by cloning is indicated between parentheses if there was

more than one; asterisk (*) is used for indicating samples with more than one copy for the locus; bold letters

indicate recombinant samples.

Appendix S2. Phylogenetic tree inferred from the nuclear *TBP* locus. Information about the data given for each

tip in the tree as in Appendix S1.

Appendix S3. Phylogenetic tree inferred from the nuclear *PPR* locus. Information about the data given for each

tip in the tree as in Appendix S1.

Appendix S4. Phylogenetic tree inferred from the nuclear *hp23.9* locus. Information about the data given for

each tip in the tree as in Appendix S1.

Appendix S5. Phylogenetic tree inferred from the nuclear *TBP* locus adding to the samples used in this work

other *Ceratodon* samples from Antarctica, Australia, and North America (GenBank accession numbers:

KC436690 to KC436698, KC436701 to KC436706 and KC436710 to KC436750); To simplify the

representation, we collapsed terminals of each group of individuals by area (total number of samples is given in

parentheses).

Appendix S6. List of samples employed, indicating for each DNA locus analyzed, to which clade obtained in

the phylogenetic analysis they belong (blue: SN clade, grey: Ww clade), the state of material used in cytometry

analysis, and the amount of DNA (in case of dry material corrected by a factor of 0.85).

Specimen	hp23.9	PPR	rpL23A	TBP	TRc1b3.05	TrnL	State of material used	Amount of DNA (pg)
BOL 46302	Ww	Ww		Ww	Ww	Ww		--
BOL 46303	Ww	Ww			Ww			--
CBFS 13557	Ww	Ww	Ww		Ww		dry	0,36
CBFS 6159	Ww	Ww		Ww				--
CBFS 6162	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww		--
MUB 43730	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN	dry	0,44
MUB 49304	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN	dry	0,47
MUB 49306	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN		--
MUB 49318	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN		fresh	0,47
MUB 49319	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN	fresh	0,45
MUB 49323	SN	SN	SN	Ww	SN	SN	fresh	0,46
MUB 49326	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN	dry	0,46
MUB 49327	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN			--
MUB 49329	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN	dry	0,45
MUB 49331	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN		fresh	0,46
MUB 49339	Ww/SN	Ww/SN	SN	Ww/SN	Ww	SN	fresh	0,82
MUB 49341	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN	fresh	0,45
MUB 49342	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN		fresh	0,46
MUB 49351	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN		fresh	0,47
MUB 49353	SN	SN	SN	SN			dry	0,45
MUB 49356	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN	fresh	0,47
MUB 49357	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN		dry	0,48
MUB 49366	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN	fresh	0,46
MUB 49370	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN	dry	0,46
MUB 49373	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN		dry	0,47
MUB 49382	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN		dry	0,48
MUB 49387	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN		dry	0,47
MUB 49399	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN	fresh	0,47
MUB 49403	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN		fresh	0,47
MUB 49408	SN	SN	SN		SN	SN	dry	0,45
MUB 49410	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN		dry	0,45
MUB 49411	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN	fresh	0,47
MUB 49412	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN		dry	0,48
MUB 49413	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN	dry	0,45
MUB 49424	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN		dry	0,46
MUB 49426	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN		dry	0,44
MUB 49427	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN		fresh	0,46
MUB 49442	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN		dry	0,45
MUB 49443	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN		dry	0,46
MUB 49444	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN	fresh	0,47
MUB 49445	SN	SN	SN	SN	SN		dry	0,47
MUB 49451	Ww/SN	Ww/SN	SN	SN	Ww	SN	fresh	0,46
MUB 49461	SN	SN	SN	SN	Ww	SN	dry	0,47
MUB 49471	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	fresh	0,37
MUB 49473	Ww/SN	Ww	Ww/SN	Ww/SN	Ww	SN	fresh	0,81
MUB 49480	Ww/SN	Ww	SN	SN	Ww	SN	dry	0,47
MUB 49485	Ww/SN	Ww/SN	Ww/SN	Ww/SN	Ww	SN	dry	0,82
MUB 49492	Ww/SN	Ww	SN	SN	Ww	SN	fresh	0,46
MUB 49501	Ww		SN	SN	SN	SN		--

MUB 49504	Ww/SN	Ww	SN	SN	SN	SN	fresh	0,82
MUB 49505	Ww	Ww	SN	SN	Ww	SN		--
MUB 49518	Ww/SN	Ww/SN	SN	SN	Ww	SN	fresh	0,45
MUB 49528	Ww	Ww/SN	SN	Ww/SN	Ww	Ww	fresh	0,46
MUB 49538	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	dry	0,35
MUB 49540	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww		dry	0,37
MUB 49541	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	dry	0,37
MUB 49542	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww			--
MUB 49545	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	dry	0,35
MUB 49550	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	fresh	0,36
MUB 49552	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	fresh	0,36
MUB 49553	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww		dry	0,38
MUB 49554	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	dry	0,35
MUB 49555	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww		dry	0,37
MUB 49557	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	dry	0,37
MUB 49558	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww		dry	0,38
MUB 49560	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	dry	0,36
MUB 49562	Ww	Ww		Ww	Ww		dry	0,36
MUB 49564	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww		dry	0,37
MUB 49566	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	dry	0,36
MUB 49567	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww		--
MUB 49568	Ww		SN		Ww	SN		--
MUB 49569	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww		--
MUB 49570	Ww	Ww		Ww	Ww	Ww	fresh	0,37
MUB 49593	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	fresh	0,36
MUB 49600	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww		--
MUB 49602	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww		--
MUB 49604	SN	Ww	SN	SN	Ww	SN	fresh	0,48
MUB 49606	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww		dry	0,37
MUB 49613	Ww	Ww		Ww	Ww	Ww	dry	0,38
MUB 49617	Ww	Ww		Ww	Ww	Ww	dry	0,38
MUB 49619	Ww	Ww		Ww	Ww	Ww	dry	0,37
MUB 49624	Ww	Ww		Ww	Ww	Ww	dry	0,37
MUB 49629	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww		--
MUB 49650	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	dry	0,38
MUB 49652	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	dry	0,37
MUB 49653	Ww	Ww		Ww	Ww	Ww	dry	0,37
MUB 49654	Ww		Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	dry	0,37
MUB 49655	Ww		Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	dry	0,38
MUB 49659	Ww		Ww	Ww	Ww	Ww	dry	0,38
MUB 52185	Ww	Ww	SN	SN	SN	SN		--
MUB 52186	Ww/SN	Ww	SN	SN	SN	SN	fresh	0,47
S B201182	Ww	Ww		Ww	Ww	Ww		--
S B201183	Ww	Ww		Ww	Ww	Ww		--