Title: Adaptive introgression: an untapped evolutionary mechanism for crop adaptation

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29 ABSTRACT

30 Global environmental changes strongly impact wild and domesticated species biology and their 31 associated ecosystem services. For crops, global warming has led to significant changes in terms of phenology and/or yield. To respond to the agricultural challenges of this century, there is a strong 32 need for harnessing the genetic variability of crops and adapting them to new conditions. Gene 33 34 flow, from either the same species or a different species, may be an immediate primary source to 35 widen genetic diversity and adaptions to various environments. When the incorporation of a foreign variant leads to an increase of the fitness of the recipient pool, it is referred to as "adaptive 36 introgression". Crop species are excellent case studies of this phenomenon since their genetic 37 38 variability has been considerably reduced over space and time but most of them continue 39 exchanging genetic material with their wild relatives. In this paper, we review studies of adaptive introgression, presenting methodological approaches and challenges to detecting it. We pay 40 41 particular attention to the potential of this evolutionary mechanism for the adaptation of crops. Furthermore, we discuss the importance of farmers' knowledge and practices in shaping wild-to-42 crop gene flow. Finally, we argue that screening the wild introgression already existing in the 43 44 cultivated gene pool may be an effective strategy for uncovering wild diversity relevant for crop adaptation to current environmental changes and for informing new breeding directions. 45

47 **1. Introduction**

The fate of wild and domesticated species and their associated ecosystem services is increasingly 48 49 depending on global environmental changes, as climate warming, nitrogen cycle alteration or land use (Perring et al., 2015; Shibata et al., 2015; Walther et al., 2002). For instance, modifications of 50 temperature and rainfall regimes have been shown to directly impact on plant phenology or 51 52 distribution within these past decades. A meta-analysis including nearly 1600 species showed that 53 41% of them had experienced phenological advancement and northward range movement (Parmesan and Yohe, 2003). In a mountain area, Crimmins et al. (2011) documented downward 54 elevation shifts driven by water deficits in 64 plant species. Forest inventories across the eastern 55 56 USA revealed direct effects of climate on forest biomass, through changes in tree species 57 composition towards species more drought-tolerant, but slower growing. Climate effects have also been reported on major crop species. Global maize and wheat yield has declined by 4-6% since the 58 59 early 1980s (Lobell et al., 2011). Earlier flowering and changes in genetic composition have been recorded in the staple African cereal pearl millet (Vigouroux et al., 2011). Reduced flowering time 60 and loss of genetic diversity in response to increasing temperatures have also been observed in wild 61 62 wheat and barley over less than 30 years (Nevo, 2012). Future climate scenarios foresee an acceleration of the rise in temperature and an increase in hydrological variability (IPCC, 2014), 63 64 which are probably the prelude to further dramatic consequences for species biology.

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Phenotypic plasticity and dispersal (through seeds and pollen) can be very rapid responses to 66 change, but it is less clear whether adaptation, the evolution of genetic traits making organisms 67 better fitted to survive and reproduce in their environment, could also play a significant role in this 68 process. The ability to adapt to new conditions depends on the rate of environmental change (Loarie 69 et al., 2009) and on the genetic variability available (Doi et al., 2010; Hoffmann et al., 2017). The 70 genetic diversity of a population relies either on standing genetic variation or on new genetic 71 72 variants. On short time scales, the mutation rate may be too low. Moreover, standing genetic 73 variation may be limited, especially for populations whose genetic diversity has been reduced by demographic bottlenecks, as many domesticated species (Glémin and Bataillon, 2009). However, 74 75 new variants could arise from gene flow, in numbers up to two or three orders of magnitude more than that introduced by mutation (Grant and Grant, 1994). Thus, gene flow, either from the same 76 species or a different species, may amount to an immediate primary source of functional alleles 77 78 (Ellstrand, 2014). If a foreign functional variant increases the fitness of the recipient pool, it increases in frequency across generations, a phenomenon referred to as "adaptive introgression" 79 (Anderson, 1949; Rieseberg and Wendel, 1993). 80

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Prior to any possible "adaptive introgression", hybridization/gene flow events need to take place. 82 However, the fate of hybrids is uncertain. Hybrids are usually selected against in parental habitats 83 84 (Baack et al., 2015) because they show reduced fertility and viability (Lowry et al., 2008). This process might be due to genetic incompatibilities and/or the break-up of epistatic co-adapted gene 85 complexes (Barton and Hewitt, 1985; Hewitt, 1988). Yet, when species are not too divergent and 86 isolating barriers are incomplete (Coyne and Orr, 2004), hybridization can lead to the introgression 87 of advantageous alleles (Barton and Bengtsson, 1986). Compared to neutral introgression, which 88 could be lost by drift across generations, adaptive introgression would be maintained and may 89 eventually give rise to fixation (Figure 1). Interestingly, hybridization has the potential to introduce 90 large sets of new alleles simultaneously at multiple unlinked loci, allowing adaptation even for 91 polygenic traits (Abbott et al., 2013; Mallet, 2007), thus playing a key role in species evolution (e.g. 92 93 Arnold and Kunte, 2017; Arnold and Martin, 2009; Hedrick, 2013).

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In the context of species conservation and management a large body of literature discuss how gene flow could also be associated with negative effects. Undesirable consequences of gene flow are

associated with the risks of invasiveness (Ellstrand and Schierenbeck, 2000; Whitney et al., 2006),
transgene escape (Ellstrand et al., 2013 and references therein), or genetic erosion of native
populations (Wolf et al., 2001). Little attention has been paid to the potential of managed gene flow
to increase genetic variation for species rescue (Hedrick, 2009) and adaptation (Aitken and
Whitlock, 2013). Up to now, the potential of adaptive introgression as a source of adaptation to ongoing global changes for domesticated species has been overlooked.

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In this paper, we review studies of adaptive introgression, paying particular attention to the potential 104 of this evolutionary mechanism for the adaptation of crops. By the term 'introgression' we mean the 105 106 consequence of gene flow, at both the interspecific and the intraspecific level, i.e. independently of 107 the taxonomic classification of the gene pools exchanging genetic material. We focus on sexually reproductive organisms; and we did not directly discuss horizontal gene transfer (reviewed in 108 Arnold and Kunte, 2017). Within this framework, we report on 34 case studies addressing adaptive 109 introgression (Table 1). After discussing methodological approaches and challenges to detecting 110 adaptive introgression, we focus on gene flow in crops and the importance of farmer practices in 111 112 shaping wild-to-crop gene flow.

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114 **2. Empirical evidence of adaptive introgression**

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116 Despite the occurrence of hybridization in nature, involving 25% of plants and 11% of animals 117 (Mallet, 2005), relatively little evidence supports the fact that gene flow leads to enhanced fitness, 118 i.e. adaptive introgression. This may be because investigating the fitness of adaptive introgression 119 is intrinsically difficult. For example, demonstrations of adaptive introgression in Helianthus were 120 based on crossing and backcrossing to experimentally reproduce introgression and demonstrate 121 enhanced fitness in the recipient taxon (Whitney et al., 2006, 2010). With high-throughput sequencing technologies, we can instead search for selection signatures on the introgressed variant 122 123 in the recipient genomes (e.g. Arnold et al., 2016; Racimo et al., 2015). An increasing number of publications involving large-scale genetic data are accumulating in this field (Table 1). Those 124 125 studies reveal or confirm instances of adaptive introgression in many kinds of organisms, including domesticated species (e.g. Anderson et al., 2009; Hufford et al., 2013; Kovach et al., 2009; Miao et 126 127 al., 2016; Rochus et al., 2017). It also appears that different abiotic and biotic selective pressures 128 drive the introgression of adaptive traits, with evolutionary consequences spanning different spatial 129 and temporal scales.

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131 Recent striking studies report ancient adaptive introgression events in animals or humans. Up to 5%of the modern human genome might be of introgressed origin from archaic hominins (e.g. Green et 132 133 al., 2010; Hsieh et al., 2016; Reich et al., 2009; Sankararaman et al., 2014). Introgressed loci from 134 Neanderthals or Denisovans appear to be linked to skin colour phenotypes (Vernot and Akey, 2014), immune responses (Abi-Rached et al., 2011) and hypoxia adaptation to high altitudes 135 136 (Huerta-Sánchez et al., 2014). In animals, Tibetan Mastiff dogs were also found to have received a 137 genomic region encompassing two genes linked to hypoxia adaptation (the EPAS1 and the HBB genes) from the local populations of grey wolf (Miao et al., 2016; Zhang et al., 2014). On the other 138 139 hand, the American grey wolf inherited an adaptive allele for coat pigmentation from past 140 hybridization with domestic dogs (Anderson et al., 2009). In Chinese and European pigs, gene flow would seem to date from the Pleistocene era, when northern Chinese and European breeds would 141 142 appear to have acquired a large adaptive genomic region from a Sus species that is now extinct (Ai et al., 2015). 143

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Adaptive introgression can also take place on a much shorter evolutionary time scale. For instance, the acquisition of pesticide resistance through genetic exchange can be achieved in a few decades,

as observed in insects (Lynd et al., 2010; Weetman et al., 2010) and rodents (Liu et al., 2015; Song 147 et al., 2011). A mutation in the voltage-gated sodium channel gene (kdr) provides strong resistance 148 149 to pyrethroid and dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) in the mosquito Anopheles gambiae, one 150 of the vectors of malaria in sub-Saharan Africa. The resistance allele was transferred from A. gambiae sensu stricto (S form) to a conspecific A. coluzzi (M form) (Weill et al., 2000) and its 151 152 frequency has greatly increased in A. coluzzi populations over the past two decades (Lynd et al., 153 2010; Norris et al., 2015). Selection tests and demographic simulations suggest this increase has been driven by selection (Lynd et al., 2010; Weetman et al., 2010). Another recent example of 154 adaptive introgression in plants has been discovered in a population of Arabidopsis arenosa (Arnold 155 156 et al., 2016) using genome scans. Several genomic signatures of selection associated with 157 adaptation to serpentine soils were found to be of introgressed origin from a different species, A. lyrata. The uncontrolled escape of agricultural adaptations (e.g. resistance to biotic and abiotic 158 159 stressors, often achieved with transgenes) from fields to wild populations, through weedy forms, is another well-known case of rapid adaptive introgression. This causes substantial yield losses and 160 requires strong economic efforts in managing cultivated and wild species (e.g. Ellstrand et al., 2013; 161 162 Hooftman et al., 2007; Rose et al., 2009; Uwimana et al., 2012).

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165 **3. Characterizing adaptive introgression with genetic data**

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To infer adaptive introgression, it is necessary to demonstrate 1) the introgression, by showing the 167 168 foreign origin of the genetic variant and its persistence in the recipient pool (i.e. should be found in backcrossed generations), and 2) its adaptive value, by identifying selection footprints on the 169 170 introgressed fragment and (if possible) its fitness value. Genomic studies of adaptive introgression 171 seek to aim at gathering these three lines of evidence. Because of multiples factors (migration rate, 172 number of generations since introgression, intensity of selection) affecting the introgression process 173 and its interaction with selection, a variety of genomic patterns can be observed in the recipient population (Figure 1). As these are complex patterns, there is no unique approach to detecting 174 175 signatures of adaptive introgression (Table 1). Below, we detail some of the most common 176 approaches used to detect introgression and to prove the action of selection (cf. Table 1).

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178 *3.1 Detection of introgression*179

The aim of detecting introgression is to identify populations and individuals of admixed origin and quantify rates of gene flow, but also to find the traits or the genomic regions that have crossed isolation barriers. Availability of whole genome data maximizes the chances of detecting introgression even when it is rare in the genome (Hufford et al., 2013; Racimo et al., 2015; Rochus et al., 2017; Schaefer et al., 2016). In the following sections, we describe approaches used to detect introgression with genetic data, bearing in mind that none of them provides absolute proof of introgression and that the best strategy is to gather evidence in different ways.

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The ability to detect introgression increases with the divergence between the hybridizing taxa. For 188 189 higher divergent taxa, we have more markers fixed between species or with large allele frequency 190 differences. These "diagnostic alleles" allow easy identification of the ancestry of a genomic 191 fragment in the recipient population (e.g. Gittelman et al., 2016; Kim et al., 2008; Kovach et al., 192 2009; Norris et al., 2015; Smith et al., 2004). However, even with slight differences in allele 193 frequencies, genetic clustering methods can be used to identify introgression. A variety of 194 approaches are available, such as multivariate analyses (e.g. Frichot et al., 2014; Jombart et al., 2009) or Bayesian algorithms (e.g. Alexander et al., 2009; Anderson and Thompson, 2002; 195 196 Pritchard et al., 2000) (Figure 2a). The power of these global ancestry methods to detect gene flow

197 comes from the use of multiple independent (i.e. not physically linked) polymorphic markers. These 198 methods can be applied both genome-wide (Gagnaire et al., 2009; e.g. Rochus et al., 2017) and to 199 single genomic regions. Window-based analyses of ancestry along the maize genome were 200 successfully used to identify introgressed fragments from the wild progenitor teosinte (Hufford et 201 al., 2013).

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203 When higher density molecular markers are available, other recent methods are able to assign an ancestry probability to each polymorphic variant (Racimo et al., 2015; Schaefer et al., 2016). These 204 local ancestry methods use probabilistic approaches, such as Hidden Markov Models (e.g. Reich et 205 al., 2012), or Conditional Random Fields (e.g. Sankararaman et al., 2014) to infer the ancestry state 206 207 of each site, taking into account the information of physically close positions. As physical linkage disequilibrium patterns dilute with generations, these approaches are less efficient for the detection 208 209 of ancient introgression, compared to global ancestry methods. While some implementations require phased data (e.g. Song and Hein, 2005) or training data (e.g. Sankararaman et al., 2014), 210 more recent developments have overcome these constraints (e.g. Guan, 2014). So far, such 211 212 approaches have been mainly applied to model species (e.g. Staubach et al., 2012 on *Mus musculus*; Turissini and Matute, 2017 on Drosophila; Zhou et al., 2016 on humans), but the increasing 213 214 availability of whole genome data will soon make them suitable for other study systems.

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The approaches described above help to quantify the amount of shared diversity between genetic 216 pools. Shared variants between populations may be the result of different processes other than 217 218 introgression: the retention of ancestral polymorphic alleles by chance (referred to as Incomplete Lineage Sorting, ILS, Figure 3), balancing selection or convergence (see Hedrick, 2013 for a 219 comparison). For lower divergence times (as for wild-crop complexes), the probability that the two 220 related groups have conserved ancestral polymorphism is higher. Thus, in most cases, the main 221 challenge to detecting introgression is to distinguish it from ancestral shared polymorphism. 222 223 Tracking the absence of the introgressed variants in ancient samples of the recipient pool would be an efficient way of excluding shared ancestral polymorphism. However, historical samples are 224 225 difficult to obtain for most biological systems, so different methods have been developed to search for specific signatures on the genome that help to differentiate between introgressed fragments and 226 227 inherited ancestral fragments.

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Coalescent samplers have been widely used to test for gene flow versus ILS using maximum 229 230 likelihood or Bayesian models (Pinho and Hey, 2010). However, they are not straightforwardly applied to all study systems, because they require a strong computation effort and are not easy to 231 transpose to a genome-wide scale. An alternative, simpler strategy takes advantage of the 232 233 expectations associated with phylogenetic relationships between individuals or populations (Figure 3). Given a genealogical tree describing the history of divergence between taxa or populations, a 234 precise amount of shared variation between branches is expected because of drift and ILS. A 235 236 significant excess of shared variation instead may be indicative of gene flow (Kulathinal et al., 2009; Patterson et al., 2012; Peter, 2016). A number of statistics have been developed to test for the 237 excess of shared polymorphism. The most used are the D-statistic (or ABBA-BABA test, Durand et 238 239 al., 2011; Green et al., 2010) and the f3 and f4 statistics (globally referred to as f-statistics, Reich et 240 al., 2009, 2012). These statistics were initially applied to human populations and have proven to be useful in other study systems, e.g. to detect the introgression of adaptation to serpentine soils in 241 Arabidopsis species (Arnold et al., 2016). In general, the power of these tests to detect admixed 242 genomes or populations is greater when applied to genome-wide data (see Patterson et al., 2012 for 243 244 a review; Peter, 2016), but most recent statistics can be applied to small genomic regions, e.g. f_D 245 (Martin et al., 2015; Racimo et al., 2017).

247 Other approaches take advantage of haplotype characteristics to distinguish between introgression and ILS. As recombination breaks apart haplotypes over generations, introgressed haplotypes 248 249 should be longer than haplotypes due to ILS and should exhibit higher levels of linkage 250 disequilibrium (see figure 1 from Racimo et al., 2015). If admixture occurred recently compared to the divergence between populations, these features can be exploited to detect introgressed tracts. A 251 252 test of significance can be associated by performing coalescent simulations of specific demographic 253 scenarios (setting values of divergence times, recombination rates, population structure or selection 254 adapted to the case in hand) to obtain the expectations for haplotype length statistics in the absence of gene flow. Haplotype length analyses led to the identification of candidate introgressed tracts and 255 256 estimation of the age of the last introgression event in humans (Racimo et al., 2015) and dogs (Miao et al., 2016). A recently developed statistic, S*, uses linkage disequilibrium information to detect 257 introgressed haplotypes when no information about the donor is available. S* is designed to identify 258 divergent haplotypes whose variants are in strong linkage disequilibrium and are not found in a 259 non-admixed reference population. S* increases as the number of linked SNPs and the distance 260 between them increases (Vernot et al., 2016). This statistic helped to reveal the introgressed origin 261 262 of the EPAS1 gene in Tibetans, before the identification of the Denisovan donor (Huerta-Sánchez et 263 al., 2014).

265 3.2 Detection of selection

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To prove adaptive introgression, the action of selection has to be demonstrated on the introgressed variant. A number of reviews address methods and tools for detecting selection with molecular data (e.g. Bank et al., 2014; Pavlidis and Alachiotis, 2017). In practice, most of the available approaches are more sensitive to signatures of strong positive selection (i.e. selective sweeps, Smith and Haigh, 1974). For regions under strong positive selection, expectations are lower diversity, higher linkage disequilibrium and specific distortions of the allele frequency spectrum compared to the genomewide patterns.

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275 In within-population analyses, local patterns of lower genome diversity (Figure 2b) and shifts of the allele frequency spectrum toward an excess of low frequency alleles are often informative for 276 277 detecting positive selection. For instance, polymorphism summary statistics, such as π (nucleotide 278 expected heterozygosity) and Tajima's D, have helped to discover and characterize introgressed loci 279 involved in serpentine adaptation of Arabidopsis arenosa (Arnold et al., 2016) and in the pesticide resistance of mosquitoes (Norris et al., 2015) and mice (Song et al., 2011). Advanced methods for 280 281 genomic scans of positive selection are the Composite Likelihood Ratio test approaches (reviewed in Pavlidis and Alachiotis, 2017). These tests compare the probability of the observed local site 282 283 frequency spectrum under a model of selection with the probability of observing the data under the standard neutral model. The neutral expectations can be inferred by genome-wide observed patterns 284 or by specific simulated demographic scenarios (e.g. Liu et al., 2015; Quach et al., 2016; Staubach 285 286 et al., 2012).

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Haplotypic information is also extremely useful for identifying almost fixed or very recently fixed 288 289 selective sweeps. The frequency of the introgressed haplotype in the recipient population can serve 290 for identifying selection. This interpretation is based on the assumption that introgressed regions 291 under selection should be at higher frequencies in the population relatively to the rest of the genome 292 (e.g. Vernot et al., 2016). The extent of linkage disequilibrium generated on the sides of a beneficial 293 mutation (or the haplotype size) is another signature captured by a number of tests for selection 294 (Crisci et al., 2012). The BADH2 gene, responsible for the much-appreciated characteristic 295 fragrance of some Asian rice varieties, provides a nice example of adaptive introgression detected 296 by haplotype analysis. This gene only shows strong signatures of selection in fragrant accessions, as

revealed by a dramatic reduction in diversity (π) and a large block of linkage disequilibrium in regions flanking the functional mutation. The selected fragrant allele is likely to have originated after domestication in the genetic background of the *japonica* varietal group and to have been transferred to the *indica* variety by introgression (Kovach et al., 2009).

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302 Extreme differentiation between populations in specific genomic regions can also be interpreted as 303 a signature of selection subtending local adaptation. For introgressed alleles adaptive in the recipient population, higher differentiation can be expected between the recipient and another non-304 305 admixed population (e.g. Ai et al., 2015). In addition, recipient-donor differentiation will be lower for introgressed regions compared to the rest of the genome (Figure 2b). Thus, comparisons of 306 307 pairwise differentiation values between different populations (i.e. donor, recipient and "reference" non-admixed population) may help to disentangle instances of adaptive introgression (e.g. Arnold et 308 309 al., 2016; Enciso-Romero et al., 2017; Racimo et al., 2017). A number of differentiation/divergence statistics with different properties are available (e.g. Cruickshank and Hahn, 2014). Among them, 310 estimators of F_{ST} (Wright, 1931) are the most commonly used for detecting selection (e.g. Arnold et 311 312 al., 2016; Gagnaire et al., 2009; Gittelman et al., 2016).

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314 It should be noted, however, that inferring separately introgression and selection might not be the 315 best approach to detect adaptive introgression, as expected genetic patterns are not necessarily the 316 same. For example, we do not necessarily expect a reduction of diversity in an introgressed region under positive selection. In fact, it has been shown by simulations that admixture can increase 317 318 diversity blowing the diversity loss due to selection (Racimo et al., 2017). Recent investigations 319 into the joint dynamics of introgression and positive selection have opened promising avenues for the analysis of genetic data in quest of adaptive introgression instances (Racimo et al., 2017). These 320 321 authors proposed new statistics informative to identify candidates to adaptive introgression and based to the number and frequency of alleles shared by the donor and the recipient populations (but 322 323 absent or nearly absent in non-introgressed reference populations). Such "unique shared alleles" should be numerous and at high frequency in genomic regions interested by adaptive introgression 324 325 (Figure 3c). The proposed statistics resuming these patterns, Q95 and U, have proven successful to retrieve several known regions of archaic adaptive introgression from Neanderthals and Denisovans 326 327 in modern human genome (Racimo et al., 2017). However, these statistics are not straightforwardly 328 applicable to any study system. Specific demographic simulations are necessary to assess their 329 expected value in absence of adaptive introgression.

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331 Different types of selection other than selective sweeps may generate genetic patterns that are more difficult to distinguish from non-selective processes with the approaches described above. 332 333 Balancing selection on an introgressed locus, for instance, might go undetected because it would maintain several variants at intermediate frequency within the recipient population. Such a pattern 334 can be interpreted as the result of migration-drift equilibrium, unless a direct link has been 335 336 established between the locus and a phenotypic trait. Examples of adaptive introgression driven by balancing selection are the incompatibility locus in Arabidopsis (Castric et al., 2008), skin colour 337 change in wolves (Anderson et al., 2009; von Holdt et al., 2016) and the HLA locus in humans 338 339 (Abi-Rached et al., 2011). Soft-sweeps, fixation of a beneficial allele starting from multiple copies 340 of it in the population (Hermisson and Pennings, 2005), could also interest introgressed regions. Typically, when the migration rate is high, the same beneficial allele can enter the recipient 341 342 population associated with different genetic backgrounds. This kind of positive selection signature is difficult to detect because diversity and site frequency spectrum patterns do not change 343 344 dramatically as in hard selective sweeps (Hermisson and Pennings, 2017).

It should be noted also that inferences of selection based on molecular data only give indirect 346 evidence of the adaptive value of introgressions, particularly when they target genomic regions with 347 348 an unknown contribution to fitness-related traits (e.g. Gagnaire et al., 2009). However, detecting 349 selection in genic regions linked to specific functions or phenotypes (shown by phenotype-genotype 350 association analysis for instance) greatly helps the interpretation in terms of adaptation (e.g. 351 Hufford et al., 2013; Racimo et al., 2015; Rochus et al., 2017). Ultimately, one direct validation of 352 the adaptive role of introgression is to demonstrate the fitness advantage of the introgressed allele or trait for the recipient population (e.g. Martin et al., 2006; Whitney et al., 2006, 2010, 2015; Figure 353 354 4). However, field studies involving phenotypic exploration can be time-consuming and difficult to implement for most species. 355

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357 **4. Gene flow in crops: challenges and opportunities**

The domestication process often involves dispersion across long distances and different environmental conditions, combined with intense selection. Under such a process, multiple opportunities arise for gene flow with locally adapted cultivated or wild forms (Allaby et al., 2008; Meyer and Purugganan, 2013). In addition, among domestication characters, genetic divergence between domesticated and wild relatives is often low and the reproductive barriers narrow (e.g. Dempewolf et al., 2012). These characteristics make domesticated species likely carriers of adaptive introgression.

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Thanks to the analysis of genome-wide data, the importance of gene flow in shaping today's 367 368 diversity of domesticated species is becoming evident, particularly in crops. The evolution of two major cereals, rice and barley, fits a domestication history with frequent gene flow events. In rice, 369 complex introgressive hybridizations have shuffled the genome of Asian rice, leading to the current 370 371 main groups O. sativa japonica and O. s. indica. Surveys indicate that O. s. indica had acquired 372 major domestication alleles through gene flow from O. s. japonica into the wild progenitor O. rufipogon, or into putative proto-indica populations (Choi et al., 2017). White pigmentation, 373 374 aromatic fragrance and glutinous starch are some of the phenotypic traits involved in allele transfers 375 driven by strong directional selection (Huang et al., 2012; Kovach et al., 2009; Olsen and Purugganan, 2002). In barley, the genome of domesticated forms appears to be a mosaic of 376 377 fragments originating from different cultivated and wild populations across the Fertile Crescent (Pankin and von Korff, 2017; Poets et al., 2015). Introgression from local wild relatives has also 378 been shown in grapes (Myles et al. 2011), apples (Cornille et al., 2012) and olives (Diez et al., 379 2015). Similarly, gene flow events have occurred in domesticated animals. For instance, Rochus et 380 al. (2017) analyzed the diversity of French sheep breeds to find that one mutation in a genomic 381 region related to milk production and growth originated in a southern breed and was introgressed 382 383 and selected for in northern breeds.

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While adaptive introgression of agronomic traits between different breeds or cultivars may occur 385 386 relatively easily under similar human selective pressures, the transfer of beneficial traits from wild 387 relatives seems more difficult, since selection in natural environments usually goes in the opposite direction from selection in agricultural environments. Crop-wild admixed plants (weeds) may tend 388 to be phenotypically intermediate and thus to have unwanted wild-type traits (e.g. asynchrony of 389 390 phenology changes, multiple branching, seed shattering, noxious or unpalatable compounds). To 391 understand how wild alleles can enter the crop gene pool by spontaneous gene flow, Jarvis and 392 Hodgkin (1999) point to the necessity of understanding how farmers' taxonomy and practices (i.e. 393 seed management, weeding, etc.) are applied to the new phenotypic variations resulting from 394 hybridization. Barnaud et al. (2009) investigated criteria used by farmers to characterize 395 morphotypes of domesticated and weedy sorghum. While strong counter-selection was performed 396 against weedy types, they found that progenies of weedy types could be misidentified as cultivated forms, thus favoring wild-to-crop introgression. For pearl millet, it has been suggested that 397 398 incomplete weeding and singling allow hybridization and introgression to occur freely and extensively (Couturon et al., 1997; Robert et al., 2003, Mariac et al. 2006), favoring the 399 maintenance of wild genetic material in the cultivated gene pool. In addition, weedy types can play 400 401 an important role for food security. In many cases, weedy types are early maturing plants and they 402 are used under harsh conditions or between main harvests. In Sudan, farmers recognize a crop-wild 403 hybrid of sorghum, which is allowed to grow and is selectively harvested in bad years (Ejeta and 404 Grenier, 2005). Hybrids can be harvested during periods of scarcity in the case of pearl millet too 405 (Couturon et al., 2003; Mariac et al., 2006) or in common bean (de la Cruz et al., 2005; Zizumbo-406 Villarreal et al., 2005). Some studies have also documented farmers practicing conscious directional selection towards evolution and changes of cultivated phenotypes by using the diversity available in 407 408 the wild relatives. For instance, in Benin, farmers voluntarily grow wild and hybrid yams 409 (Dioscorea spp.) in their fields to increase diversity (Scarcelli et al., 2006).

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411 All in all, this demonstrates how farmer practices can maintain and, in some cases, actively favor 412 wild-to-crop introgression. This can be particularly important for crop adaptation, since the trade-off 413 of strong human selection for certain traits has been the loss of diversity for other important adaptive 414 traits (e.g. Zheng et al., 2008). Notably, traits involved in climate and soil adaptation, or resistance to 415 pests and diseases, display much greater diversity in wild species than in domesticated species (Dempewolf et al., 2017; Guarino and Lobell, 2011; Hajjar and Hodgkin, 2007). Therefore, favoring 416 417 introgression from wild relatives may be an indirect way for farmers to introduce lost or new 418 adaptations. A compelling example of the potential adaptive outcome of wild-to-crop introgression is the adaptation to altitude acquired by highland maize landraces. Maize was domesticated from low 419 altitude wild populations of teosinte (Zea mais ssp.parviglumis) and colonized high altitude 420 environments (Matsuoka et al., 2002) where a different wild relative is found (Z. m. mexicana). 421 422 Hufford et al. (2013) performed genomic scans on Mexican sympatric populations of maize and mexicana and found nine genomic regions of introgression of mexicana into maize landraces. These 423 424 regions, related to adaptive traits, such as the quantity of leaf macrohairs and pigmentation intensity, could have helped maize to adapt to high altitude (Hufford et al., 2013). Recent study suggested that 425 426 wild-to-crop gene flow significantly genetic diversity and possibly lead to introgressions of local 427 adaptation in pearl millet, a major staple African crops (Burgarella et al., in press).

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429 The transferal of wild traits into a cultivated genetic background through classic breeding programs 430 has so far been limited to a narrow range of traits (Warschefsky et al., 2014), e.g. disease resistance in cassava (Bredeson et al., 2016) and tomatoes (Lin et al., 2014). One main difficulty for conventional 431 432 breeding in introgressing wild genes into cultivated gene pools is that wild diversity is mostly unexplored and desirable characters have still to be identified. Furthermore, wild species have many 433 traits associated with poor agronomic performance (e.g. low yields, seed shattering, small seed or 434 435 fruit size). Thus, several backcrosses are necessary to dilute the unwanted diversity associated with wild introgression (Dempewolf et al., 2017) or to produce specifically design lines in which small 436 regions of the wild relative are introduced (e.g. Fonceka et al., 2012). We argue that screening the 437 438 wild introgression already existing in the cultivated gene pool thanks to natural gene flow may be an 439 effective strategy to uncover wild diversity relevant for crop adaptation to environmental changes and to inform new breeding directions. Therefore, research efforts should be devoted to quantifying and 440 441 characterizing the extent of such spontaneous wild-to-crop introgression. Two main challenges are associated with this approach. First one will need to have access to wild "pure" genetic resources, 442 443 which highlight the crucial need of wild relative conservation programs. Second, identification of adaptive introgression in crops might be more challenging because of the low genetic divergence 444 445 usually observed between crop species and their wild relatives (as exposed in paragraph 3). However,

interest in the study of adaptive introgression, notably in humans, means the field is moving fast
towards new analytical approaches designed to identify specific features in genomes (e.g. Racimo et
al., 2017). Of course, the validation of adaptive introgression detected via molecular data should be
validated with classic experiments (Figure 4) to measure the strength of selection in the field and to
assess the biological function of the introgressed alleles (Suarez-Gonzalez et al., 2018; Whitney et al.,
2006). Given their adaptation to human-controlled environments, this step seems easier to accomplish
in most crops than in wild species.

453

Regarding the introduction or re-introduction of adaptive variation, it might be wondered to what 454 extent introgression from wild relatives can affect the whole crop genome. Recent studies have 455 suggested that introgression can be favored at genome-wide level when it reduces the genetic load 456 of the recipient species (Sankararaman et al., 2014; Wang et al., 2017). Genetic load refers to the 457 458 genome-wide accumulation of weakly deleterious alleles that reduces its fitness (Crow, 1958). Given the repeated selection rounds associated with the domestication process, crop species 459 experience a reduction in the effective population size and in effective recombination, which in turn 460 461 reduces the efficacy of purifying selection in removing deleterious alleles and increases the effect of hitchhiking selection (i.e. deleterious variants increase in frequency because they are linked to 462 selected beneficial alleles). Inbreeding, which is commonly practiced to fix traits of interest, also 463 464 slightly contributes to fixing deleterious alleles. In crops, a reduction in fitness is expected 465 compared to the wild progenitor, the so-called 'cost of domestication' (Lu et al., 2006). A greater 466 genetic load than in the wild counterpart was observed in several domesticated species such as rice 467 (Lu et al., 2006), maize (Wang et al., 2017), sunflower (Renaut and Rieseberg, 2015), dogs (Marsden et al., 2016) and horses (Schubert et al., 2014). Since wild species are expected to have a 468 lower genetic load than cultivated species, spontaneous introgression from wild species could be 469 470 favored, because it alleviates the domestication cost, even in the absence of strong directional selection on the introgressed alleles. Recent findings in maize support this expectation, as negative 471 472 correlations were observed between wild introgression and genetic load (Wang et al. 2017).

473

474 Despite the potential benefits of wild introgression for crops (i.e. acquisition of specific adaptations and reduction of genetic load), genomic heterogeneity is expected in terms of permeability to gene 475 476 flow. In particular, regions involved in major domestication characters are expected to be under 477 strong selection, thereby acting as barriers to gene flow (so-called "islands of domestication", Frantz 478 et al., 2015). Thus, the probability of introgression along the crop genome largely depends on the 479 number and distribution of domestication loci. Loci responsible for domestication traits have been 480 identified in a number of crops (Doebley et al., 2006; Gross and Olsen, 2010; Meyer et al., 2012), but knowledge is far from complete. Up to now, research on the genetic architecture of domestication 481 482 traits indicates that domestication loci are limited to a few genomic regions in most studied species (Burger et al., 2008; Glémin and Bataillon, 2009) and may not be a major obstacle to introgression in 483 the rest of the genome. The efficiency of counter-selection would thus depend on the genetic distance 484 485 between the introgressed fragment and the domestication genes, which is determined by the extent of 486 local linkage disequilibrium. According to this expectation, Hufford et al. (2013) identified cold spots 487 and hotspots of wild introgression in the maize genome. Interestingly, cold spots were significantly 488 enriched in domestication genes (Hufford et al., 2013).

489

490 **5. Conclusion and prospects**

491

Today's access to both phenotypic and genomic information provides the opportunity to further investigate the role and mechanism of adaptive introgression in crops. From an applied point of view, it can be a fair source of adaptation to be exploited in breeding programs. Along human

migrations, crops had the opportunity to exchange with multiple wild populations. These exchanges 495 might have resulted in the introgression of local adaptations that have already passed the 496 497 reproductive and the "agronomic" barriers. Identifying such local adaptive introgression, combined 498 with complementary tools (e.g. climatic modeling), could be an efficient way of adapting crops to the predicted new environmental conditions. We therefore think there is a need to emphasize the 499 500 importance of conserving wild genetic resources and jointly investigating wild and crops relatives. 501 This research will also allow advances on key questions with broader prospects, such as introgression rates and genome permeability (Hufford et al., 2013; Scascitelli et al., 2010). Genomic 502 scan approaches could be complemented by the development of recombinant inbred line (RILs) 503 wild-crop hybrid populations (e.g. Fonceka et al., 2012; Nice et al., 2016). Such pre-breeding 504 material can be exchanged and tested in different environments, which would also help to answer 505 the other side of the coin, the risk of transgene escapes in the case of crop-to-wild gene flow. 506 507

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510

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- 517 Author contribution statement
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516

519 CB, AB and CB-S wrote the first draft, all authors made a substantial, direct and intellectual520 contribution to this work.

- 522 Conflict of interest statement
- 523

- 524 The authors declare no conflict of interest.
- 525

526 Table legends

527 Table 1. Summary of studies reviewed. Species names for donor and recipient taxa are listed, as 528 well as the type of data and methods used for 1) detection of the introgression and 2) detection of 529 the selection. "Genomic data" term include s whole-genome sequences or candidates genes 530 sequencing. "Genetic data refers to molecular markers such as QTL or SSR.

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- 535 Figure legends
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Figure 1. Genomic signature of adaptive introgression. A genomic fragment is transferred from
the donor to the recipient population via gene flow and subsequent backcrosses. If it enhances the
fitness of the recipient population, it experiences positive selection and rises in frequency.

540

Figure 2. Approaches to detect introgression (a, b) and adaptive introgression (c). Regions of donor origin in the recipient genome can be revealed by performing local ancestry analyses (a) and comparisons of donor-recipient differentiation levels (b). Introgressed fragments will show a larger proportion of ancestry in the donor population (a. in black) and lower differentiation (b. arrow) than non-introgressed recipient genomic regions. Positive selection increases the frequency of the donor allele and the neutral variants physically linked to it. The result is a local higher number and frequency of alleles shared by donor and recipient populations and absent in other non-introgressed

- 548 populations (c. arrow).
- 549

550 Figure 3. Hybridization and incomplete lineage sorting (ILS) revealed by molecular

551 **phylogenetics.** Top: evolutionary process. The species (or population) tree is represented by the

grey area. The dotted line represents a single gene genealogy. Bottom: Coalescent tree inferred for

the gene. (a) Congruent gene genealogy with species/population tree; (b) ILS: ancestral

- polymorphism is maintained before the divergence between A and B, so that B shares the allele T
- with C and not with A; (c) Introgression: B receives the allele T from C by gene flow. In the case of ILS and introgression, the gene genealogy is incongruent with the species/population tree.
- Figure 4. Direct measure of adaptive introgression. Direct evidence of the adaptive value of the introgressed fragment (black segment) consists in showing that it confers greater fitness to the recipient genome. This can be achieved by experimental crosses: introgression without positive

selection on the introgressed allele (A) vs adaptive introgression (B).

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Table 1. Summary of studies reviewed. Species names for donor and recipient taxa are listed, as well as
the type of data and methods used for 1) detection of the introgression and 2) detection of the selection.
"Genomic data" term include s whole-genome sequences or candidates genes sequencing. "Genetic data
refers to molecular markers such as QTL or SSR.

Group	Donor	Recipient	Data	Method for detection of Introgression	Method for detection of Selection	Adaptive trait	Publicatio
Animal	Anopheles gambiae	A. coluzzi	Genomic data	Diagnostic alleles	Haplotype based test; Test for temporal evolution of allele frequencies	Pesticide resistance	Lynd et al. (2010)
Animal	Anopheles gambiae	A. coluzzi	Genomic data	Diagnostic alleles	Differentiation approach; Diversity statistics	Pesticide resistance	Norris et a (2014)
Animal	Drosophila yakuba	D. santomea	Genomic data (mtDNA)	Genes genealogy; Isolation with Migration model	Coalescent simulations	па	Llopart et (2014)
Animal	Mus spretus	M. m. domesticus	Genomic and phenotypic data	Genes genealogy; Hudson- Kreitman- Aguade test	Differentiation approach; Fitness measures	Pesticide resistance	Song et al. (2011)
Animal	Mus spretus	M. m. domesticus	Genomic data	Genes genealogy	XP-CLR	Pesticide resistance	Liu et al. (2015)
Animal	Mus musculus musculus	M. m. domesticus	Genomic data	Local ancestry inference	XP-CLR; Differentiation approach; Coalescent simulations	Genetic disease, alpha-amylase genes	Staubach e al. (2012)
Animal	Onchorhynchus mykiss	0. clarkii lewisi	Genomic data	Diagnostic alleles	Heterogeneity test of Long (1991)	Fecondity	Hohenlohe et al. (201
Animal	Ambystoma tigrinum mavortium	A. californiense	Genomic data	Diagnostic alleles	Heterogeneity test of Long (1991)	na	Fitzpatrick et al. (2009
Animal	Sus sp.	Sus scrofa domesticus	Genomic data	Genes genealogy	Differentiation approach	Highland adaptation	Ai et al. (2015)
Animal	Sus celebensis	Sus scrofa domesticus	Genomic data	Genes genealogy; Differentiation statistics	Differentiation approach	Aggressive behaviour	Zhu et al. (2017)
Animal	Canis lupus familiaris	C. lupus lupus	Genomic data	Genes genealogy	Haplotype based test	Concealment during predation	Anderson al. (2009)
Animal	C. lupus lupus	C. l. familiaris	Genomic data	D statistic	Haplotype based test; Differentiation outlier approach	Highland adaptation	Miao et al. (2016)
Animal	Ovies aries	Ovies aries\$	Genomic data	Local ancestry inference; Populations genealogy	Differentiation outlier approach	па	Rochus et (2017)
Animal	Anguilla rostrata	A. anguilla	Genomic data	Local ancestry inference	Differentiation outlier approach; Allele frequencies outlier test	па	Gagnaire e al (2009)

Animal	Heliconious melpomene	H. cydno clade	Genomic data	Genes genealogy; Isolation with Migration model, Linkage Desiquilirium analysis	Not addressed, but trait previously tested as under natural selection	Wing pattern	Pardo-Diaz et al. (2012
Animal	Heliconious melpomene	H. beskei	Genomic data	Gene genealogy; D- statistic and <i>f</i> - statistics	Not addressed, but trait previously tested as under natural selection	Wing pattern	Zhang et al (2016)
Human	Homo s. denisovans	H. s. sapiens	Genomic data	D statistic, S* statistic	Differentiation outlier approach	Highland adaptation	Huerta Sanchez et al. (2014)
Human	Homo s. neandertalensis, H. s. denisovans	H. s. sapiens	Genomic and expression data	Diagnostic alleles	McDonald– Kreitman test; Haplotype based test; Differentiation outlier approach	Immune response	Deschamp et al. (2016
Human	Homo neandertalensis, H. s. denisovans	H. s. sapiens	Genomic and expression data	Differention comparisons; Haplotype length vs. ILS (Incomplete Lineage Sorting)	Differentiation outlier approach; Gene expression; Genotype- Phenotype association	Immune response	Danneman et al. (2016
Human	Homo neandertalensis, H. s. denisovans	H. s. sapiens	Genomic data	f statistics, S*statistic	Coalescent simulations	Immune response and metabolism	Vernot et <i>a</i> (2016)
Human	Homo neandertalensis, H. s. denisovans	H. s. sapiens	Genomic data	Diagnostic alleles	Coalescent simulations	Immune response, defense, regulatory regions, pigmentation	Gittelman al. (2016)
Human	Homo s. neandertalensis	H. s. sapiens	Genomic data	Genes genealogy	Allele frequencies outlier test	Immune response	Mendez et al. (2012)
Human	Homo s. neandertalensis	H. s. sapiens	Genomic data	Diagnostic alleles	Coalescent simulations; Haplotype based test	Immune response	Sams et al. (2016)
Human	Homo s. neandertalensis	H. s. sapiens	Genomic data	Diagnostic alleles	Differentiation outlier approach; Haplotype based test; XP-CLR; Coalescent simulations	Immune response	Quach et a (2016)
Human	H. s. sapiens	H. s. sapiens	Genomic data	Population genealogy; D statistic and f statistics	Allele frequencies outlier test	Highland adaptation	Jeong et al. (2014)
Plant	Arabidopsis lyrata	A. arenosa	Genomic data	f statistics	Differentiation outlier approach	Serpentine syndrome	Arnold et a (2016)
Plant	Helianthus debilis	H. annuus	Phenotypic data	Experimental hybrid populations	Common garden experiments - Fitness measures	Herbivory, drought	Whitney et al. (2006, 2010)
Plant	Helianthus debilis	H. annuus	Genomic and phenotypic	Experimental hybrid populations	Genotype- Phenotype association -	Number of seeds and pollen export	Whitney et al. (2015)

			data		Fitness measures		
Plant	Iris fulva	I. brevicaulis	Genomic and phenotypic data	Experimental hybrid populations	Genotype- Phenotype association - Fitness measures	Flood tolerance	Martin et a (2006)
Plant	Populus balsamifera	P. trichocarpa	Genomic, expression and phenotypic data	Local ancestry inference	Diversity statistics; Genotype- Phenotype association	Light response	Suarez- Gonzalez e al. (2016)
Plant	Zea mays mexicana	Z. m. mays	Genomic data	Local ancestry inference	Genotype- Environment association	Highland adaptation	Hufford et al. (2013)
Plant	Oryza sativa japonica	Oryza sativa indica	Genomic data	Diagnostic alleles	Haplotype based test	Fragrance	Kovach et al. (2009)
Plant	Senecio squalidus	S. vulgaris	Genomic data	Diagnostic alleles	not adressed but strongly suggested	Flower asymmetry	Kim et al. (2008)
Plant	Arabidopsis halleri	A. lyrata	Genomic data	Differentiation comparisons; Isolation with Migration model	not adressed but strongly suggested	Pistil self- incompatibility	Castric et a (2008)

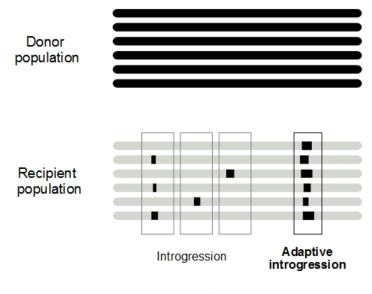
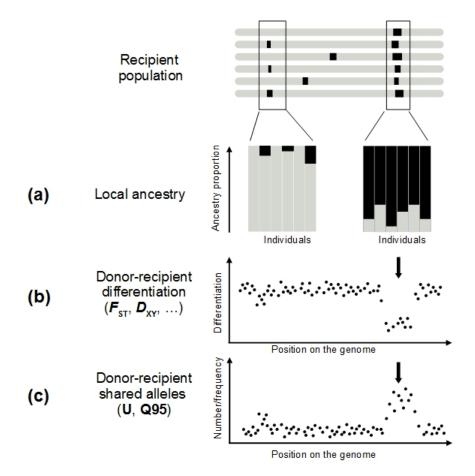


Figure 1



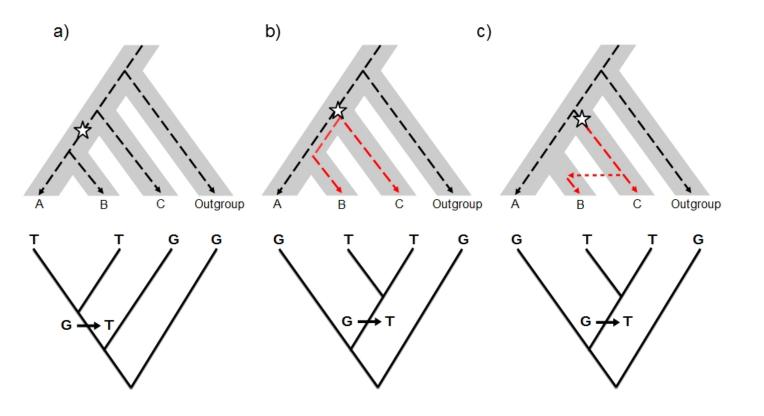


Figure 3

