

1 **Title**

2 Enemy release mitigates inbreeding depression in native and invasive *Silene latifolia*
3 populations: experimental insight into the role of inbreeding × environment interactions in
4 invasion success

5 **Running title:**

6 I×E interactions in a plant invader

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37 **Abstract**

38 Inbreeding and enemy infestation are common in plants and can synergistically reduce their
39 performance. This inbreeding \times environment (I \times E) interaction may be of particular
40 importance for the success of plant invasions if introduced populations experience a release
41 from attack by natural enemies relative to their native conspecifics. Using native and invasive
42 plant populations, we investigate whether inbreeding affects infestation damage, whether
43 inbreeding depression in performance is mitigated by enemy release and whether genetic
44 differentiation among native and invasive plants modifies these I \times E interactions. We used the
45 plant invader *Silene latifolia* and its natural enemies as a study system. We performed two
46 generations of experimental out- and inbreeding within eight native (European) and eight
47 invasive (North American) *S. latifolia* populations under controlled conditions using field-
48 collected seeds. Subsequently, we exposed the offspring to an enemy exclusion and
49 inclusion treatment in a common garden in the species' native range to assess the interactive
50 effects of population origin (range), breeding treatment and enemy treatment on infestation
51 damage as well as plant performance. Inbreeding increased flower and leaf infestation
52 damage in plants from both ranges, but had opposing effects on fruit damage in native
53 *versus* invasive plants. Both inbreeding and enemy infestation had negative effects on plant
54 performance, whereby inbreeding depression in fruit number was higher in enemy inclusions
55 than exclusions in plants from both ranges. Moreover, the magnitude of inbreeding
56 depression in fruit number was lower in invasive than native populations. Our results support
57 that inbreeding increases enemy susceptibility of *S. latifolia*, which magnifies inbreeding
58 depression in the presence of enemies. Enemy release in the invaded habitat may thus
59 increase the persistence of inbred founder populations and thereby contribute to successful
60 invasion. Moreover, our findings emphasize that genetic differentiation among native and
61 invasive plants can shape the magnitude and even the direction of inbreeding effects.

62 **Keywords**

63 biological invasion, genetic differentiation, genetic paradox, herbivory, purging, white

64 campion

65 **Introduction**

66 Understanding the forces that promote or prevent species range expansions remains a
67 challenging goal in ecology (Barrett, 2015). During invasion of a new range, populations can
68 be simultaneously exposed to increased inbreeding following founder effects (Schrieber &
69 Lachmuth, 2017) and to substantial alterations in the biotic and abiotic environment (Catford,
70 Jansson, & Nilsson, 2009). Inbreeding and environmental change are known to interact in
71 affecting individual fitness (Fox & Reed, 2011), population growth (Reed, Briscoe, &
72 Frankham, 2002) and colonization abilities (Hufbauer, Rutschmann, Serrate, Vermeil de
73 Conchard, & Facon, 2013). Such inbreeding \times environment (I \times E) interactions are
74 increasingly perceived as potential determinants of species ranges and their dynamics under
75 global change (Colautti, Alexander, Dlugosch, Keller, & Sultan, 2017; Leimu, Vergeer,
76 Angeloni, & Ouborg, 2010; Reed, Fox, Enders, & Kristensen, 2012; Schrieber & Lachmuth,
77 2017). Nevertheless, empirical studies on the environmental dependency of inbreeding
78 effects in the context of invasions are scarce (Murren & Dudash, 2012; Rosche et al., 2017),
79 despite their potential relevance for the prediction and management of invasive species.

80 Invaders can preserve high levels of genetic diversity and sufficient outcrossing rates
81 during their expansion due to e.g. mass introductions and genetic admixture (Hufbauer,
82 2008; Rius & Darling, 2014). However, numerous invasions were evidently accompanied by
83 repeated population bottlenecks during initial introduction and/or colonization at the leading
84 edge of expansion, which resulted in successive genetic depletion and severe inbreeding in
85 phases most crucial for invasion success (reviewed in Schrieber & Lachmuth, 2017).
86 Inbreeding can reduce fitness in the offspring generation (Angeloni, Ouborg, & Leimu, 2011).
87 Such inbreeding depression arises from an increase in genome-wide homozygosity, which
88 enhances the phenotypic expression of deleterious recessive mutations (dominance) and
89 reduces the expression of heterozygote advantage (over-dominance) (Charlesworth & Willis,
90 2009). Fitness reductions following inbreeding compromise the establishment and growth of
91 colonizing populations (Hufbauer et al., 2013) and are thus assumed to hamper invasions.

92 The environmental dependency of inbreeding depression provides a hitherto
93 underappreciated explanation for invasion success in the face of increased inbreeding rates.
94 Abiotic and biotic stressors induce changes in gene expression, protein and metabolite
95 synthesis, which maintain physiological homeostasis and, consequently, fitness under
96 unfavorable environmental conditions (Bundy, Davey, & Viant, 2008). Inbreeding can
97 compromise such stress responses *via* dominance and over-dominance effects, which
98 increases the magnitude of inbreeding depression in stressful environments (Fox & Reed,
99 2011; Kristensen, Pedersen, Vermeulen, & Loeschcke, 2010) while inbreeding depression
100 remains low to absent in benign environments (Enders & Nunney, 2016; Rosche et al.,
101 2017). Plant invasions are often accompanied by a release from environmental stressors
102 such as resource limitation (Blumenthal, 2006), competition (Mitchell et al., 2006) and natural
103 enemies (Keane & Crawley, 2002). Both inbreeding and stress release occur particularly
104 during the early stages of invasion and towards the leading edge of expansion (Dietz &
105 Edwards, 2006; Mitchell et al., 2006). As a consequence, inbreeding depression may be
106 mitigated in small founder populations that experience a stress release in the non-native
107 range, thus fostering invasion success (Schrieber & Lachmuth, 2017).

108 Natural enemies are especially important to IxE interactions during invasions, since they
109 have the potential to regulate long-term patterns of host plant abundance, population
110 dynamics and distribution (Maron & Crone, 2006). Moreover, there is ample evidence for the
111 dependency of plant inbreeding depression on rates of infestation by natural enemies (Bello-
112 Bedoy & Núñez-Farfán, 2011; Carr & Eubanks, 2002; Hayes, Winsor, & Stephenson, 2004).
113 Studies quantifying inbreeding depression in native and invasive plant populations in the
114 presence *versus* absence of their natural enemies may thus provide insight into the role of
115 IxE interactions in invasion success. Such studies can also yield information on how
116 phenotypic differentiation among host populations impacts the outcome of IxE interactions,
117 which may help to explain reported inconsistency in their effects on plant performance (Fox &
118 Reed, 2011; Sandner & Matthies, 2016; 2017). During invasions, plant species often evolve
119 differences in performance and defense traits (Orians & Ward, 2010; Whitney & Gabler,

120 2008). This phenotypic divergence can arise either from adaptive responses to changes in
121 the selective regime, for e.g. climate, competition and natural enemies (Agrawal et al., 2015;
122 Colautti & Barrett, 2013; Zhang & Jiang, 2006), or from neutral processes such as genetic
123 drift and founder effects (Keller & Taylor, 2008; Lachmuth, Durka, & Schurr, 2011; Travis et
124 al., 2007). Both adaptive and non-adaptive genetic differentiation likely also alter the genetic
125 architecture underlying inbreeding depression and its dependency on the environment, e.g.
126 through differences in the accumulation and purging of genetic load (Klopfstein, Currat, &
127 Excoffier, 2006; Schrieber & Lachmuth, 2017).

128 Here, we investigate the combined effects of inbreeding and enemy infestation on the
129 performance of native and invasive populations of the plant species *Silene latifolia* Poir.
130 (Caryophyllaceae). The species is native to Eurasia and has been introduced to North
131 America in the early 19th century. During its invasion of North America, *S. latifolia*
132 experienced events conducive to the expression of I×E-interactions: introduced plants
133 escaped their natural enemies (Wolfe, 2002) and experienced severe population bottlenecks
134 (Keller, Gilbert, Fields, & Taylor, 2012; Taylor & Keller, 2007) as well as high inbreeding
135 levels in founder populations (Fields & Taylor, 2014; Richards, 2000). Moreover, invasive
136 populations evolved differences in enemy susceptibility and performance (Blair & Wolfe,
137 2004; Wolfe, Elzinga & Biere, 2004; Keller, Sowell, Neimann, Wolfe & Taylor 2009; Schrieber
138 et al. 2017) making *S. latifolia* ideally suited for examining the impact of genetic
139 differentiation on the outcomes of I×E interactions. We conducted experimental inbreeding
140 and outbreeding within native and invasive *S. latifolia* populations, exposed the offspring to
141 the absence and presence of natural enemies, and measured traits related to growth,
142 reproduction and infestation damage to address the following predictions: i) Inbred plants
143 incur higher infestation damage than outbreds. ii) Plant growth and reproduction are lower in
144 inbreds than outbreds (inbreeding depression) and in the presence than absence of natural
145 enemies (stress). iii) The magnitude of inbreeding effects on growth and reproduction is
146 higher in the presence than in the absence of natural enemies (I×E interaction). iv) The

147 aforementioned individual and combined effects of inbreeding and enemy infestation are
148 modified by the distinct evolutionary histories of native and invasive populations.

149 **Materials and Methods**

150 Study system

151 *Silene latifolia* is a short-lived perennial herb mainly distributed across ruderal habitats. The
152 plant is dioecious and produces sexually dimorphic flowers pollinated by insects. Females
153 develop large numbers of capsules containing several hundred seeds, which lack a specific
154 dispersal syndrome and are thus mainly dispersed passively and by human activities. Limited
155 seed dispersal and restricted pollen transfer among neighboring plants can lead to restricted
156 gene flow and the formation of kin-structured patches within populations (McCauley, 1997;
157 1994). These characteristics have been shown to result in high levels of biparental
158 inbreeding in small, isolated or recently founded *S. latifolia* populations (Fields & Taylor,
159 2014; Richards, 2000).

160 In its native range (Eurasia), *S. latifolia* is attacked by three specialist enemies: *Hadena*
161 *bicruris* Hufn. (Noctuidae) - a noctuid moth that is a specialist pollinator (adult) and a seed
162 predator (larva) at the same time; *Microbotryum violaceum* (Pers.) G. Deml & Oberw.
163 (Microbotryaceae) - a systemic sterilizing fungus; and *Brachycaudus lychnidis* L. (Aphididae)
164 - an aphid that causes flowers to abort due to phloem-feeding (Wolfe, 2002). Moreover,
165 native populations are attacked by various leaf- and flower feeding generalist herbivores,
166 including slugs (mainly *Arion lusitanicus* Mabille (Arionidae)), beetles, thrips, caterpillars
167 (often *Mamestra brassicae* L. (Noctuidae)) and leaf miners as well as by several generalist
168 rust and mildew fungi (Schrieber et al. 2017). In the invaded range (North America), *H.*
169 *bicruris* is completely absent (Wolfe, 2002), the occurrence of *M. violaceum* is locally
170 restricted to a small region in Virginia (Antonovics, Hood, Thrall, Abrams, & Duthie, 2003),
171 and the abundance of aphids as well as leaf and flower feeding generalists is very low
172 relative to the native range (Wolfe, 2002). Invasive *S. latifolia* populations exhibit higher

173 growth and reproduction as well as higher susceptibility to enemy infestation relative to
174 native populations, which can be attributed to both adaptive and non-adaptive evolutionary
175 processes (Blair & Wolfe 2004; Wolfe et al. 2004; Keller et al. 2009; Schrieber et al. 2017). A
176 trade-off between growth/reproduction and enemy susceptibility was not detected in this
177 species (Schrieber et al. 2017).

178 Field sampling and experimental setup

179 We collected open-pollinated seeds from eight native and eight invasive *S. latifolia*
180 populations (Supporting Information Fig. S1, Table S2). Sampling in the native range
181 comprised the geographic source regions of introduction (broadly, eastern and western
182 Europe), while sampling in the invasive range comprised the geographic regions of initial
183 introduction and early expansion (eastern North America), as identified by Taylor & Keller,
184 (2007) and Keller et al. (2012). Within each population, we sampled one capsule (maternal
185 family) from each of five different female plants that were equally distributed over the
186 population area and spatially separated from each other as far as possible. Using these
187 maternal families, we conducted two generations of experimental inbreeding and outbreeding
188 within all native and invasive populations under controlled greenhouse conditions. The
189 offspring were exposed to the absence and presence of natural enemies in a common
190 garden in the species' native range. Data for the outbred plants from this experiment have
191 previously been used to investigate adaptive and non-adaptive differentiation in growth,
192 reproduction and enemy susceptibility between the native and invaded range (Schrieber et
193 al., 2017).

194 Experimental inbreeding and outbreeding

195 For the P-generation, we germinated ten seeds from each of the five field-collected families
196 in 0.8 mM Gibberellic acid in a germination chamber (16 h light at 25 °C, 8 h dark at 13 °C).
197 After six days, the seedlings were planted into pots and transferred to the greenhouse (16 h
198 light at 25 °C, 8 h dark at 13 °C) where they received weekly fertilization (Kamasol Brilliant

199 Rot, Compo Expert, Münster, GE). After seven weeks, we randomly chose one male and one
200 female plant per family for crosses. Each female received pollen from a sib male belonging to
201 the same family (inbreeding), and pollen from a male belonging to a different family within the
202 same population (outbreeding) at distinct flowers (Fig. 1). The crossing of the P-generation
203 resulted in 160 population ($N = 16$) \times family ($N = 5$) \times breeding treatment ($N = 2$)
204 combinations (PFBCs). For the second generation, we randomly chose one capsule per PFB
205 and propagated the F1-plants from its seeds as described for the P-generation. Female
206 inbred offspring received pollen from an inbred male from the same family, while female
207 outbred offspring received pollen from an outbred male from a different family with respect to
208 the relationships created in the first generation (Fig. 1). We lost seven of the 160 PFBCs due
209 to lack of germination, high mortality, lack of flowering or production of sterile flowers in both
210 inbred and outbred families during the propagation of the F1-generation. Consequently, we
211 obtained a total of 153 PFBCs for the F2-generation plants, which were used for the enemy
212 release experiment.

213 Enemy release experiment

214 We exposed native and invasive, inbred and outbred *S. latifolia* plants from the F2-
215 generation to an enemy exclusion and an enemy inclusion treatment using a fully factorial
216 experimental approach (16 populations [8 native *versus* 8 invasive] \times 4-5 families \times 2
217 breeding treatments [inbred *versus* outbred] \times 2 enemy treatments [exclusion *versus*
218 inclusion] \times 8 replicates = 1,224 plants). In early spring, we germinated eight seeds
219 originating from one capsule per PFBC and reared the F2-plants for six weeks in a common
220 garden in Halle (Saale), Germany (51.489 °N 11.959 °E alt: 88 m). After six weeks, we
221 moved the plants to the UFZ Research Station in Bad Lauchstädt, Germany (51.391°N,
222 11.878°E, alt: 116 m). The planting area was densely covered by a diverse plant community
223 of grasses and forbs including a patchy population of *S. latifolia* that was infested by all of the
224 above-mentioned specialist and generalist enemies. In the common garden, we established
225 four vegetation-free belts, which comprised four plots respectively ($\Sigma = 16$ plots) (Fig. 2).

226 Each plot included all native and invasive populations represented by two to three F2
227 maternal families each with one inbred and one outbred individual. As such, the five families
228 within each population were split between two plots (plot pair), which together comprised all
229 of the 153 PFBCs. Each plot pair was replicated an additional seven times. While
230 populations and families were planted randomly within the plots, the range and breeding
231 treatments were uniformly distributed according to a fixed scheme (Fig. 2) in order to reduce
232 confounding plot edge effects. Plots within pairs and plot pair repetitions were randomly
233 distributed across the experimental area. We experimentally excluded natural enemies in
234 eight of the plots (enemy exclusions) over a period of three months (Fig. 2). For this purpose,
235 we used slug fences coated with a gastropod deterrent (Schneckenabwehrpaste, Irka,
236 Mietingen, GE), as well as a molluscicide (Limex, Celaflo), systemic insecticides (alternating
237 between Calypso and Confidor, Bayer, Leverkusen, GE) and a systemic universal fungicide
238 (Baycor M, Bayer, Leverkusen, GE), which were applied in a two-week cycle in accordance
239 with the manufacturers instructions. The remaining eight plots (enemy inclusions) were not
240 treated with pesticides and therefore extensively colonized by specialist and generalist
241 herbivores two weeks after the experiment was set up. The removal of vegetation however
242 deterred *A. lusitanicus* from entering the inclusion plots, so we equipped them with slug
243 fences whose impassable sides were turned towards the plot interior and introduced 15 *A.*
244 *lusitanicus* individuals to each plot. We adjusted the number of slugs within each inclusion
245 plot to 15 three times a week. The infection with specialist and generalist fungi remained low
246 in all inclusion plots for the entire experimental period. All plots were weeded weekly and
247 watered when necessary during the experiment.

248 After three months of enemy treatment application, we collected data on morphological
249 defense and infestation damage for each plant in the enemy inclusion plots. We collected
250 leaves at similar stages of development to determine trichome density in a 5 × 5 mm area
251 away from the main vein and at the broadest section of the leaf. In addition, we determined
252 the proportion of flowers (including buds) damaged by tissue removal (generalist herbivores)
253 or phloem sucking (*B. lychnidis*), the proportion of fruits predated by *H. bicruris* larvae and

254 the proportion of fully grown leaves infested by generalist herbivores (mainly *A. lusitanicus*
255 and *M. brassicae*). Data on infection rates with the specialist fungus *M. violaceum* and other
256 generalist fungi were not included in the data analysis, as the abundance of these pathogens
257 was generally very low. Furthermore, we collected data on plant growth and reproduction in
258 both enemy inclusion and exclusion plots. We measured the corolla diameter of the biggest
259 flower and counted the number of flowers (including buds) for all male and female plants.
260 Moreover, we determined the number of fruits for all female plants. Seed number, weight and
261 germination were not assessed, since seeds resulted from uncontrolled crossings among
262 plants from all populations, both ranges and both breeding treatments. Finally, we
263 determined the dry aboveground biomass (48 h, 80 °C) for all plant individuals.

264 Statistical analysis

265 All statistical analyses were conducted with R version 3.2.3 (R Development Core Team,
266 2015). We used linear mixed-effects models (LMMs) for response variables with Gaussian
267 error distribution and generalized linear mixed-effects models (GLMMs) for response variables
268 with Poisson or binomial errors (R-package: lme4; Bates, Maechler, Bolker, & Walker, 2014).

269 The models for the responses trichome density (LMM, Gaussian, square-root transformed),
270 leaf damage (GLMM, binomial), flower damage (GLMM, binomial) and fruit damage (GLMM,
271 binomial) (all assessed in enemy inclusion plots only) comprised the fixed effects of range and
272 breeding treatment as well as an interaction among both factors. The models for the
273 responses biomass (LMM, Gaussian, square-root transformed), corolla size (LMM, Gaussian),
274 number of flowers (GLMM, Poisson) and number of fruits (GLMM, Poisson) (all assessed in
275 both enemy exclusions and inclusions) comprised the fixed effects of range, breeding
276 treatment and enemy treatment as well as all possible interactions among these factors. All of
277 the described models additionally involved the latitudinal coordinates of the population of origin
278 (centered and scaled) and plant sex (except for fruit damage and number of fruits) as
279 covariates. Moreover, all models included the random effects of plot, population and paternal

280 plant in P-generation nested within population as well as maternal plant in P-generation nested
281 within population.

282 All models were fitted with a maximum likelihood approach. GLMMs were then tested for
283 under- and overdispersion (R-package: blemco, Korner-Nievergelt et al. 2015). The GLMMs
284 for leaf damage and number of flowers were overdispersed and consequently complemented
285 by an observational level random factor in order to improve the model fit and avoid biased
286 parameter estimates (Harrison, 2014; 2015). After assuring that (G)LMMs exhibit variance
287 homogeneity and normal distribution of residuals by means of visual inspection (Zuur, Ieno,
288 Walker, Savilliev, & Smith, 2009), we applied step-wise backward model selection to obtain the
289 minimal adequate models. Here, we removed fixed effect terms with $p > 0.05$ based on
290 likelihood ratio tests (Venables & Ripley, 2000). For illustration of the interactive effects of
291 range, breeding treatment and enemy treatment on plant performance responses, we
292 extracted least square means with standard errors from the respective full mixed effects
293 models (Lenth, 2016). In contrast to raw data means and their standard errors, these model
294 estimates account for the specific error distribution of the responses, for the effects of
295 covariates as well as for random effects.

296 **Results**

297 Interactive effects of range and breeding treatment on morphological plant defense and 298 infestation damage

299 The density of leaf trichomes was not significantly influenced by range, breeding treatment, the
300 interaction range \times breeding treatment or one of the covariates (Table 1, Fig. 3a). The
301 proportion of damaged leaves was significantly related to range and breeding treatment (Table
302 1). Invasive plants experienced more leaf damage compared to native plants ($p < 0.05$, $\chi^2 =$
303 5.4) and inbred plants from both distribution ranges suffered stronger from leaf infestation
304 compared to outbreds ($p < 0.001$, $\chi^2 = 41.7$) (Fig. 3b). The proportion of damaged flowers
305 depended significantly on range, breeding treatment and the covariate sex (Table 1). Flower

306 infestation was higher for invasive than native ($p < 0.01$, $\chi^2 = 6.8$), inbred than outbred ($p <$
307 0.001 , $\chi^2 = 41.0$) (Fig. 3c) and male than female plants ($p < 0.05$, $\chi^2 = 5.2$). The proportion of
308 damaged fruits was significantly influenced by the interaction range \times breeding treatment ($p <$
309 0.05 , $\chi^2 = 4.1$). Here, invasive plants received generally more fruit damage than native plants
310 and fruit infestation was higher on inbred than outbred native plants but lower on inbred than
311 outbred invasive plants (Fig. 3d).

312 Interactive effects of range, breeding treatment and enemy treatment on plant growth and
313 reproduction

314 The aboveground biomass of experimental plants was significantly related to the interaction
315 range \times enemy treatment, to breeding treatment and to plant sex (Table 1, Fig. 4a). Plants
316 exhibited reduced biomass in enemy inclusions relative to exclusions, whereby this effect
317 was stronger in invasive than native populations ($p < 0.05$, $\chi^2 = 4.8$). Inbred plants produced
318 significantly less biomass compared to outbred plants ($p < 0.001$, $\chi^2 = 116.6$) and female
319 plants had higher biomass than males ($p < 0.001$, $\chi^2 = 44.5$). Range, breeding treatment and
320 enemy treatment had no significant interactive effects on the corolla diameter of *S. latifolia*
321 plants (Table 1). Instead, corolla size was generally lower for inbred than outbred ($p < 0.001$,
322 $\chi^2 = 54.5$) (Fig. 4b) and female than male plants ($p < 0.001$, $\chi^2 = 41.4$). The number of flowers
323 per plant individual was distinctively lower for inbred than outbred ($p < 0.001$, $\chi^2 = 24.5$) (Fig.
324 4c) and female than male plants ($p < 0.001$, $\chi^2 = 133.5$). The number of fruits produced by
325 female plants depended significantly on the two-way interactions range \times breeding treatment
326 and breeding treatment \times enemy treatment (Table 1, Fig. 4d). Invasive plants produced more
327 fruits than native plants in both breeding and enemy treatments. Moreover, inbred plants had
328 less fruits than outbred plants in both enemy treatments and in populations from both
329 distribution ranges. This inbreeding depression was less intense in invasive than native
330 populations ($p < 0.05$, $\chi^2 = 5.9$) and stronger in enemy inclusions than exclusions ($p < 0.05$,
331 $\chi^2 = 4.1$).

332 **Discussion**

333 Our study provides support that I×E interactions can contribute to successful plant invasion
334 and that these interactions are shaped by the evolutionary histories of plant populations. Here,
335 we discuss a) that inbreeding increases enemy infestation damage, which in turn magnifies
336 inbreeding depression in *S. latifolia* plants from both distribution ranges; and b) that some of
337 the inbreeding effects on infestation damage and reproductive traits differ in their magnitude
338 and even in their direction among native and invasive plants as a result of non- adaptive/
339 adaptive evolutionary processes.

340

341 **Enemy release mitigates inbreeding depression in native and invasive *S. latifolia* plants**

342 In accordance with our hypothesis, inbred *S. latifolia* plants from both distribution ranges for
343 the most part incurred higher infestation damage from natural enemies in the common garden
344 than outbreds (Fig. 3b, c; but see Fig. 3d and discussion in next section). Plants often exhibit
345 increased susceptibility to enemies following inbreeding (Bello-Bedoy & Núñez-Farfán, 2011;
346 Campbell, Thaler, & Kessler, 2013; Kariyat, Mena-Alí, et al., 2012), since dominance and over-
347 dominance can either affect gene-loci that contribute directly to plant resistance against
348 enemies (Kariyat, Mena-Alí, et al., 2012) or induce general stress responses that trade-off
349 against responses to environmental stressors such as natural enemies (Kristensen et al.,
350 2010). Using the same inbred and outbred families of native and invasive *S. latifolia*
351 populations investigated in the present study, Schrieber, Kröner, Schweiger and Müller (in
352 press) demonstrated that inbreeding significantly compromises the plants' chemical responses
353 to insect herbivory. That study also indicated that higher infestation damage on inbred *S.*
354 *latifolia* individuals can result from compensatory feeding triggered by poor host plant quality.
355 Previous studies on other plant species also demonstrated that inbreeding reduces the
356 concentration of chemicals mediating direct (Campbell et al., 2013) and indirect (Kariyat,
357 Mauck, De Moraes, Stephenson, & Mescher, 2012) plant defense as well as host plant quality
358 (Leimu, Kloss, & Fischer, 2008).

359 In line with our expectation, both inbreeding and enemy infestation reduced the growth and
360 reproduction of *S. latifolia* in native and invasive populations, whereby inbreeding had a
361 pronounced impact while the effect of enemy infestation was more moderate (Fig. 4). As
362 hypothesized, the effects of breeding and enemy treatment were not purely additive. While the
363 magnitude of inbreeding depression was independent of the enemy treatment for biomass,
364 corolla diameter and flower number (Fig 4a, b, c), it was significantly lower in enemy
365 exclusions than inclusions for fruit number in both distribution ranges (Fig. 4d). The
366 observation that inbreeding depression in traits closely linked to individual fitness increases
367 under stress, while morphological traits that are only indirectly related to reproductive success
368 (i.e., biomass, corolla diameter) are not significantly affected by IxE interactions, has also
369 been made in previous studies (Bello-Bedoy & Núñez-Farfán, 2011; Schou, Loeschcke, &
370 Kristensen, 2015). This difference can indeed be expected, since the investment in
371 reproduction by the end of a growing season is highly dependent on an individual's cumulative
372 performance and thus cumulative (interactive) effects of inbreeding and herbivory on
373 performance throughout the season (Orr, 2009). Moreover, in contrast to flower number, fruit
374 number in experimental *S. latifolia* plants was affected by all three types of infestation damage
375 (leaf, flower and fruit infestation) and thus pressure by natural enemies was highest for this
376 fitness related trait. Our finding indicates that the enemy release in the invaded habitat may
377 mitigate detrimental inbreeding effects on reproductive output in colonizing *S. latifolia*
378 populations. The IxE interactions detected for native populations under experimental
379 conditions may be representative of a scenario of initial population founding and establishment
380 during early invasion phases, in which plants are naive to the novel environment. IxE
381 interactions in the investigated invasive plants, in turn, may represent a scenario of population
382 founding at the leading edge, where populations have already undergone evolutionary
383 responses to the environment of the introduced range.

384 Our findings of lower inbreeding depression in benign *versus* harsh habitats in a plant
385 invader go along with those of two previous studies on *Mimulus guttatus* DC. (Murren &
386 Dudash, 2012) and *Centaurea stoebe* L. (Rosche et al., 2017), which together emphasize the

387 relevance of I×E interactions for species expansions and the need for further research under
388 more realistic field conditions. The transplantation of inbred and outbred plants to native as
389 well as invasive field habitats is necessary to assess the net effect of multiple stressors
390 occurring in both environments on the magnitude of inbreeding depression. Ideally, such
391 approaches should involve the quantification of demographic rates in order to parameterize
392 models that estimate population growth and/or spread rates (Normand, Zimmermann, Schurr,
393 & Lischke, 2014; Schultz, Eckberg, Berg, Louda, & Miller, 2017). Studies of this kind could
394 further elaborate whether and to what extent I×E interactions add to several other mechanisms
395 (e.g., genetic admixture, mass introductions, Estoup et al., 2016; Roman & Darling, 2007) that
396 can explain the successful spread of invaders in the face of genetic bottlenecks, i.e. the so-
397 called genetic paradox of biological invasions (Schrieber & Lachmuth, 2017).

398 Evolutionary history modifies the magnitude and direction of inbreeding effects on plant
399 interactions with natural enemies

400 We detected evolutionary differentiation in plant susceptibility to enemy infestation (Fig. 3b, c,
401 d) and plant performance among native and invasive populations of *S. latifolia* (Fig. 4d). This
402 observation has also been made in previous studies of *S. latifolia* (Blair & Wolfe, 2004; Keller
403 et al., 2009; Schrieber et al., 2017; Wolfe et al., 2004), where it has been discussed in detail
404 with regard to the driving evolutionary forces (i.e. adaptive *versus* non-adaptive evolution,
405 potential selective agents, trade-offs).

406 However, new to our study is the finding that the magnitude and even the direction of
407 inbreeding effects on some metrics of infestation damage and reproductive traits differed
408 among native and invasive *S. latifolia* populations. While inbreeding slightly increased fruit
409 damage in native plants, the proportion of fruits infested by *H. bicurris* was considerably lower
410 on inbreds than outbreds for invasive plants. At the same time, fruit infestation was generally
411 higher on invasive plants (Fig. 3d). This finding may be attributed to the combined effects of
412 genetic differentiation and inbreeding on host plant attractivity. Previous studies elaborated
413 that higher fruit infestation by *H. bicurris* on invasive *S. latifolia* does not result from higher

414 larva performance, but from increased oviposition rates (Elzinga & Bernasconi, 2009). Adult *H.*
415 *bicruris* females are attracted to oviposition on *S. latifolia* by a specific floral volatile blend,
416 whereby invasive plants emit larger total amounts of these volatiles (Dötterl, Jürgens, Wolfe, &
417 Biere, 2009). Based on studies using other plant species (Delphia, Rohr, Stephenson,
418 De Moraes, & Mescher, 2009; Ferrari, Stephenson, Mescher, & Moraes, 2006), one possibility
419 is that inbreeding reduced the total floral volatile production in *S. latifolia* either directly by
420 impairing the synthesis of volatiles or by reducing flower number (Fig 4c, enemy exclusions),
421 which may have made inbred plants less attractive hosts for oviposition. This potential
422 inbreeding effect on host plant attractivity may have been only apparent in invasive
423 populations due to a specific volatile concentration threshold for the plant's apparency to *H.*
424 *bicruris*. Further studies on the inbreeding effects on the composition and concentration of
425 floral volatiles are necessary to test this assumption.

426 In addition, we found that inbreeding depression for fruit number was less pronounced in
427 introduced relative to native populations (Fig. 4d). Differences in the magnitude of
428 experimental inbreeding depression among populations have often been related to the history
429 of inbreeding within natural source populations (Angeloni et al., 2011). Inbreeding depression
430 is assumed to be lower in populations that have experienced high levels of natural inbreeding,
431 as a result of exposing deleterious recessive mutations to negative selection. As a
432 consequence, the frequency of these mutations within populations can rapidly decrease (i.e.
433 purging of genetic load; Crnokrak & Barrett, 2002), which reduces dominance effects resulting
434 from experimental inbreeding. Invasive populations of *S. latifolia* indeed experienced
435 increased inbreeding levels during the colonization of North America, as evinced by inter- and
436 intra population crossing experiments (Richards, 2000), enhanced genetic structure in recently
437 founded compared to longer established populations (McCauley, Raveill, & Antonovics, 1995)
438 and the occurrence of severe demographic bottlenecks during initial founding (Keller et al.,
439 2012; Taylor & Keller, 2007). Since reproductive traits such as fruit production are crucial for
440 invasion success (Burns, Ashman, Steets, Harmon-Threatt, & Knight, 2011; Phillips, Brown, &

441 Shine, 2010), strong negative selection against genetic load may have induced highly efficient
442 purging under demographic conditions of colonization and invasion.

443 **Conclusions**

444 Our findings indicate that stress release during invasions may mitigate inbreeding depression
445 in founding populations, which potentially contributes to the successful establishment and
446 expansion of introduced populations. On the other hand, I×E interactions may hamper the
447 colonization of novel habitats that exhibit increased stress levels relative to a species' native
448 source habitat (Hufbauer et al., 2013). Furthermore, our data illustrate that the inbreeding
449 effects on an organism's interaction with its environment are likely shaped by the evolutionary
450 histories of populations. As the native and invaded range of a species can differ systematically
451 in the stress regimes they experience, ongoing invasions provide ideal study systems for
452 investigating the effects of evolutionary differentiation on the outcomes of I×E interactions, and
453 how, in turn, the different outcomes may alter the evolutionary trajectories of invasive
454 populations. Studies addressing these issues hold implications that extend far beyond invasive
455 model species. I×E interactions may potentially shape the dynamics of natural populations
456 whenever they are simultaneously exposed to habitat change and increased inbreeding rates
457 following founder effects or population size reductions. These conditions occur not only during
458 species range expansions, but also during range shifts and retractions in the course of global
459 change (Colautti et al., 2017).

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470 **Author contributions**

471 SL and KS conceptualized the research and designed the study. KS conducted the field
472 sampling, the experimental crossings and the enemy release experiment and collected the
473 data with assistance of CW, DH and SW. KS analyzed the data. KS and SL interpreted the
474 data. KS wrote the first version of the manuscript and SL, SK and IH contributed to the final
475 version.

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702 **Supporting Information**

703 **Supporting Information 1, Fig. S1**

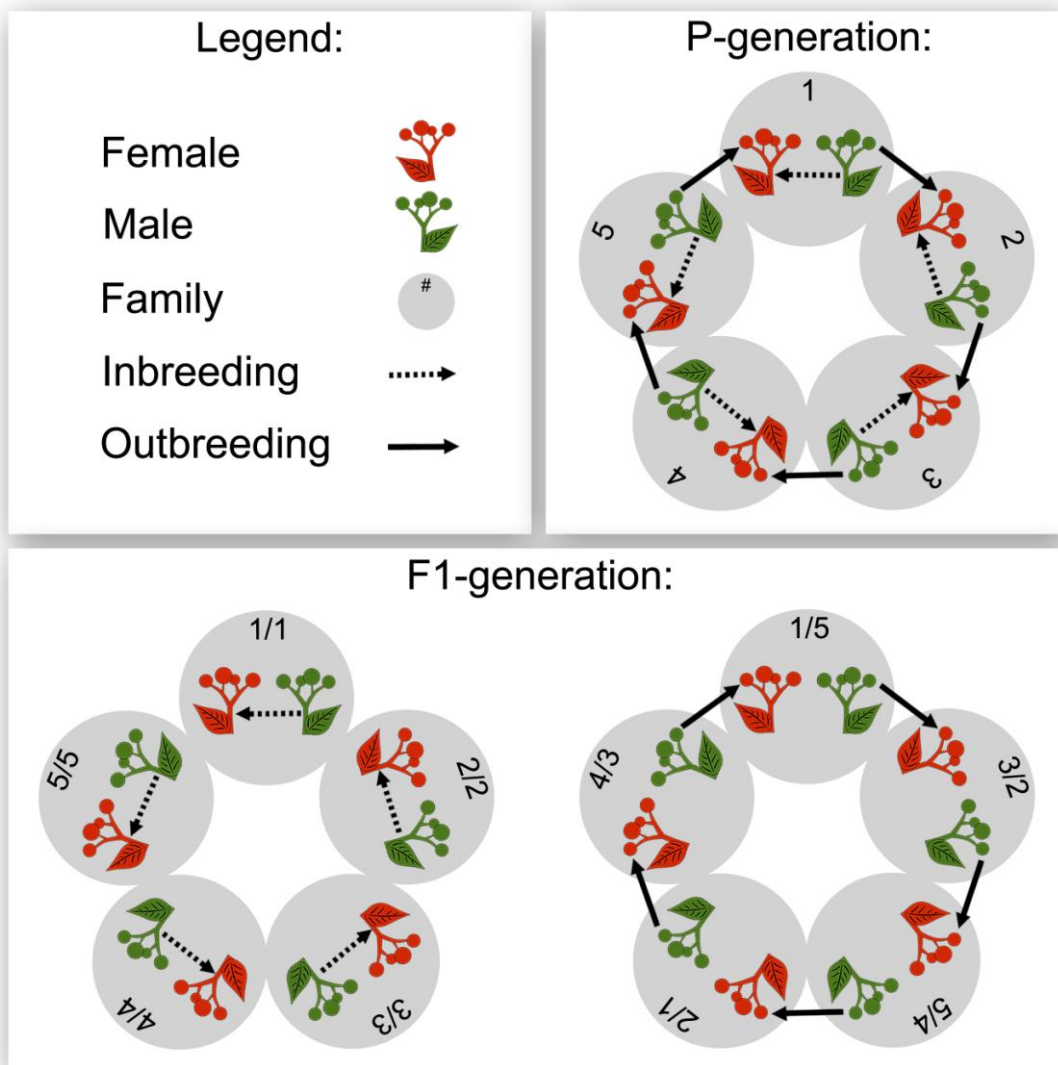
704 Map of the geographic locations of the sampled native and invasive *Silene latifolia*
705 populations.

706 **Supporting Information 2, Table S2**

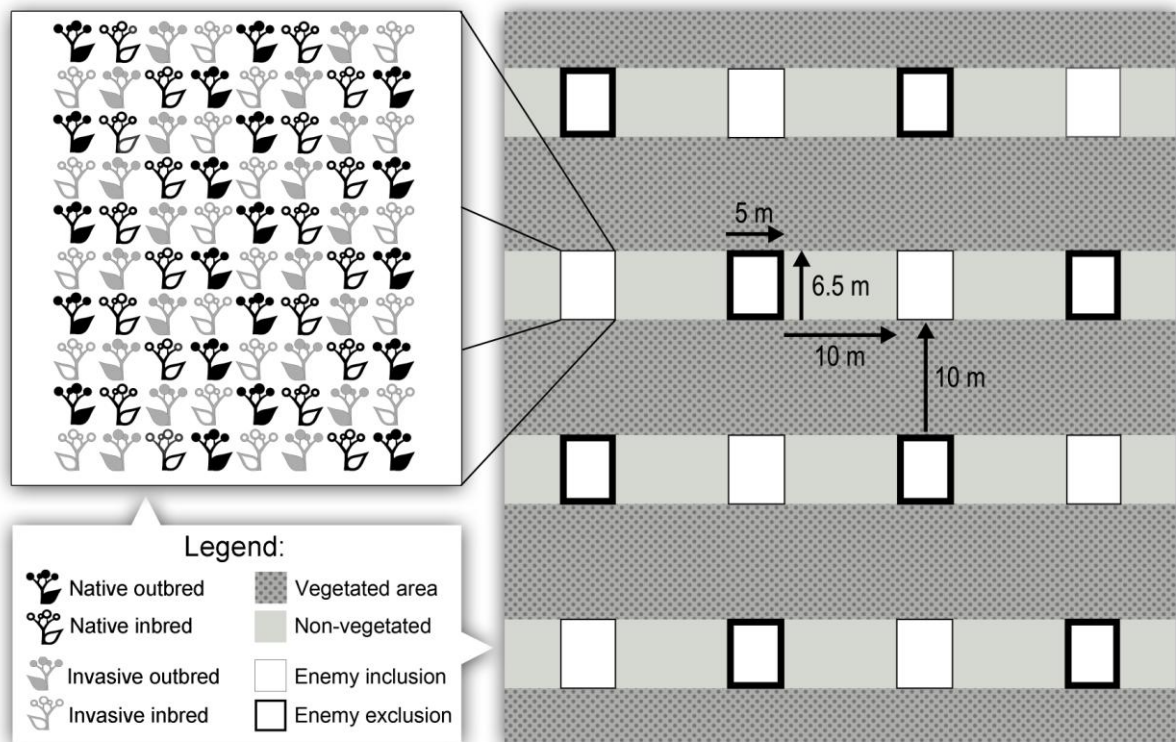
707 Overview of the geographic locations and sizes of the sampled native and invasive *Silene*
708 *latifolia* populations.

709 **Figures:**

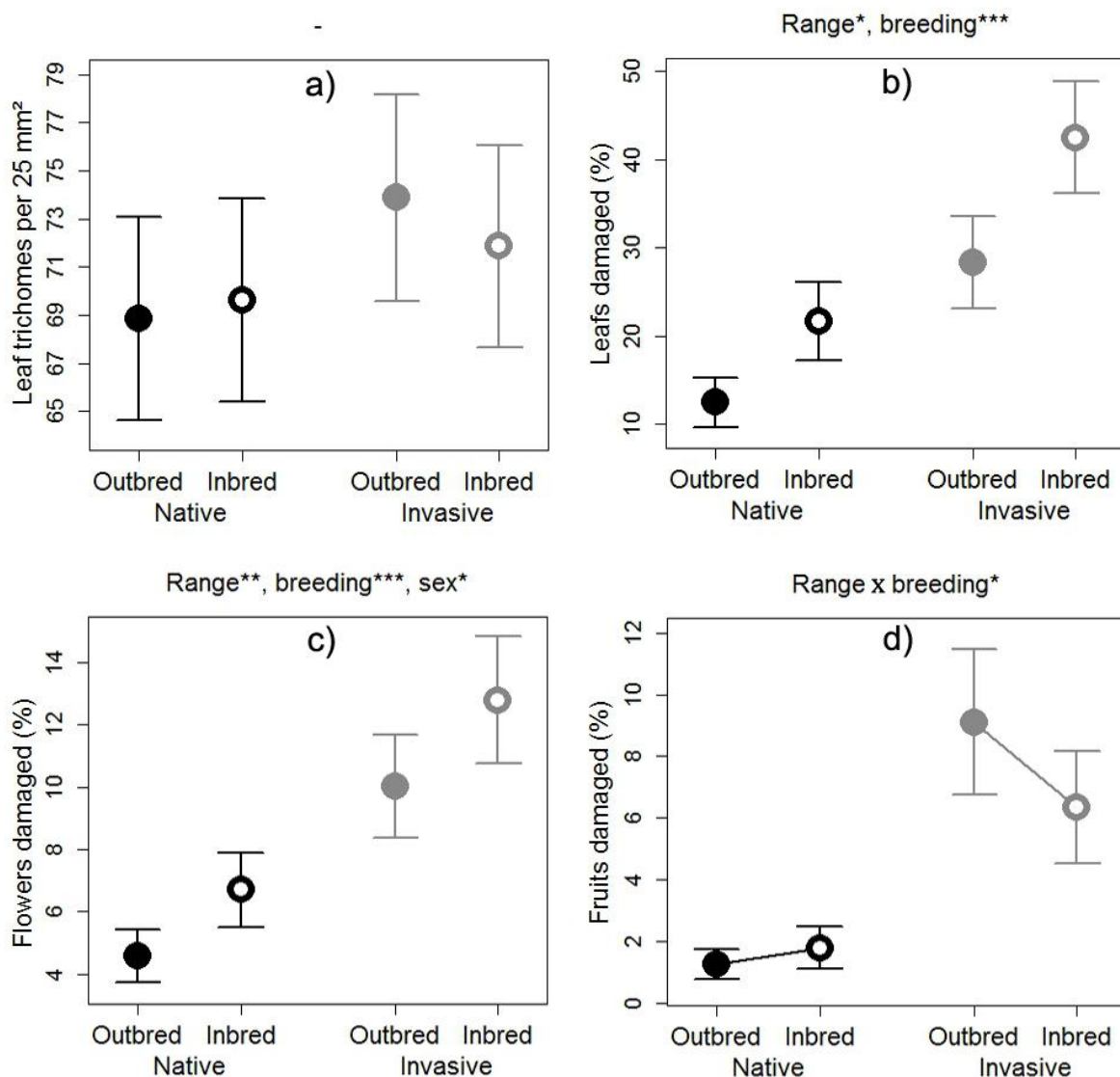
710 **Fig. 1:** Overview of the two generations of experimental breeding within each of the 16 *Silene*
711 *latifolia* populations. The crossings were performed with five families (numbered circles). In the
712 P-generation females (orange plants) were fertilized with pollen from males (green plants)
713 from the same family for inbreeding (dashed arrows), and with pollen from males from a
714 different family for outbreeding (solid arrows). In the P-generation, inbreeding and outbreeding
715 were performed at distinct flowers of the same female individual. In the F1-generation,
716 inbreeding was performed with individuals from inbred families and outbreeding with
717 individuals from outbred families from the P-generation. Numbers for the F1-generation
718 families correspond to the maternal/paternal plant of the breedings in the P-generation.



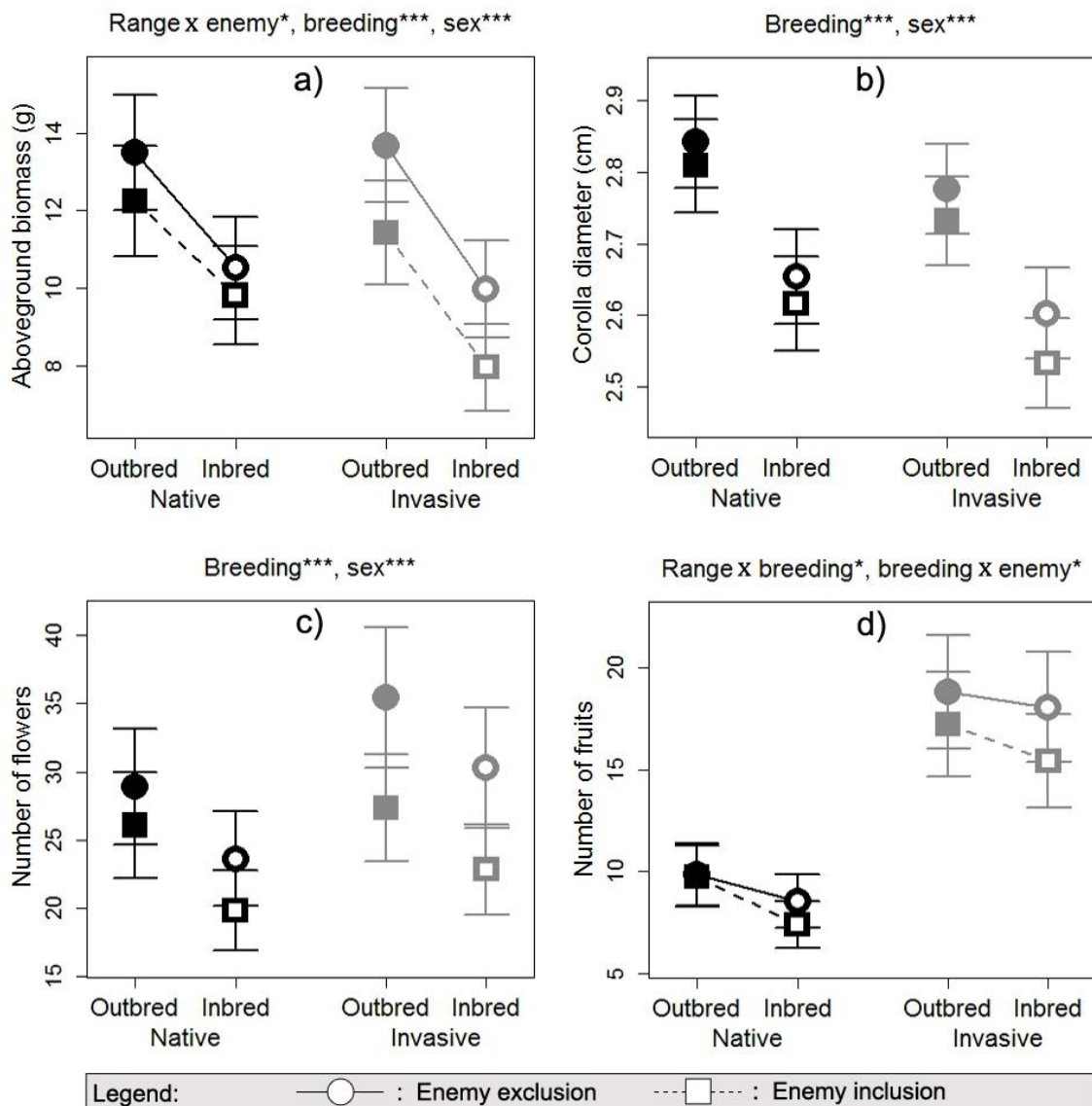
719 **Fig. 2:** Overview of the experimental manipulation of enemy infestation. The figure illustrates
720 the non-vegetated areas (light gray faces) with the experimental plots (white faces) and the
721 vegetated areas (structured, dark gray faces) from which natural enemies colonized the
722 plots. Either the enemy exclusion (bold black frames) or the enemy inclusion (thin black
723 frames) treatment was applied to each eight uniformly distributed plots. Within each plot,
724 plants were equally distributed with respect to range (native = black, invasive = gray) and
725 breeding treatment (filled = outcrossed, open = inbred).



726 **Fig. 3:** Combined effects of range (native [black] *versus* invasive [gray]) and breeding
727 treatment (outbred [filled] *versus* inbred [open]) on **a)** the density of leaf trichomes, **b)** the
728 proportion of damaged leaves, **c)** the proportion of damaged flowers and **d)** the proportion of
729 damaged fruits in *Silene latifolia*, which were acquired in enemy inclusions. The circles and
730 arrows represent least square means with their standard errors extracted from the full
731 (G)LMMs. The significance levels for fixed effects terms maintained in the minimal adequate
732 (G)LMMs (determined with likelihood ratio tests) are denoted at the top of each plot (*: $p <$
733 0.05, **: $p <$ 0.01, ***: $p <$ 0.001). Connecting lines between means of inbreds and outbreds
734 mark significant range \times breeding treatment interactions.



735 **Fig. 4:** Combined effects of range (native [black] *versus* invasive [gray]), breeding treatment
 736 (outbred [filled] *versus* inbred [open]) and enemy treatment (exclusion [circles] *versus*
 737 inclusion [squares]) on the **a)** aboveground biomass, **b)** corolla diameter, **c)** number of
 738 flowers, and **d)** number of fruits of *Silene latifolia*. The circles and arrows represent least
 739 square means with their standard errors extracted from the full (G)LMMs. The significance
 740 levels for fixed effects terms maintained in the minimal adequate (G)LMMs (determined with
 741 likelihood ratio tests) are denoted at the top of each plot (*: $p < 0.05$, **: $p < 0.01$, ***: $p <$
 742 0.001). Connecting lines between means of inbreds and outbreds mark significant two-way
 743 interactions in which breeding treatment is involved.

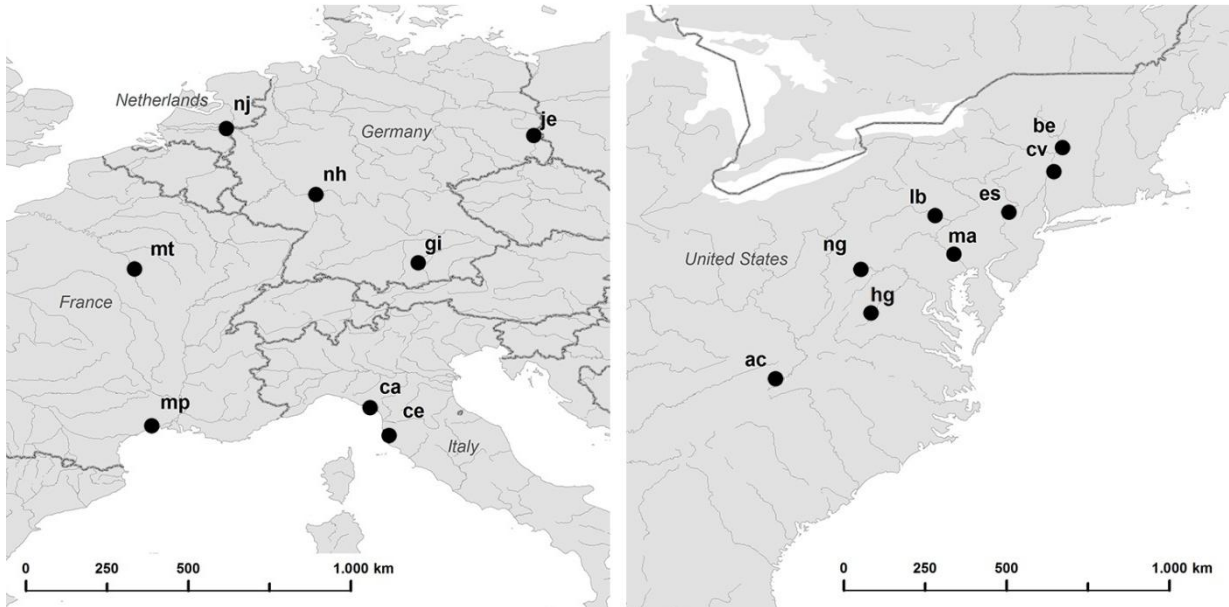


744 **Table 1:** Overview and results of analyses evaluating the interactive effects of range, breeding treatment and enemy treatment as well as the effects of
 745 covariates (sex, latitudinal origin of population) on the performance of *Silene latifolia*. Responses are presented with their error distribution and the applied model
 746 type (LMM, linear mixed effects model; GLMM, generalized linear mixed effects model). The table presents χ^2 and p -values obtained during stepwise backward
 747 model selection based on likelihood ratio tests for each fixed effect term as well as the number of groups within random effects and the number of observations
 748 for each response; ii: fixed effect term in significant interaction, -: fixed or random effect not tested.

Responses:	Leaf trichomes		Leaf damage		Flower damage		Fruit damage		Biomass		Corolla diameter		Number flowers		Number fruits	
	LMM (Gaussian)		GLMM (binomial)		GLMM (binomial)		GLMM (binomial)		LMM (Gaussian)		LMM (Gaussian)		GLMM (Poisson)		GLMM (Poisson)	
Fixed effects:	χ^2	p	χ^2	p	χ^2	p	χ^2	p	χ^2	p	χ^2	p	χ^2	p	χ^2	p
Range	0.345	0.557	5.391	0.020	6.795	0.009	i.i.	i.i.	i.i.	i.i.	1.674	0.196	1.643	0.200	i.i.	i.i.
Breeding	0.213	0.644	41.693	<0.001	40.982	<0.001	i.i.	i.i.	116.629	<0.001	54.468	<0.001	24.516	<0.001	i.i.	i.i.
Enemy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	i.i.	i.i.	1.752	0.186	2.914	0.088	i.i.	i.i.
Range × breeding	0.758	0.384	0.031	0.860	1.478	0.224	4.124	0.042	3.039	0.081	0.005	0.941	0.740	0.389	5.871	0.015
Range × enemy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.772	0.029	0.191	0.663	2.651	0.103	0.301	1.070
Breeding × enemy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.058	0.810	0.091	0.763	0.340	0.557	4.150	0.042
Range x breeding × enemy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.239	0.625	0.036	0.849	0.100	0.745	0.476	0.490
Sex	0.196	0.658	0.144	0.704	5.225	0.022	-	-	44.511	<0.001	41.416	<0.001	133.510	<0.001	-	-
Latitudinal origin Population	1.034	0.309	1.993	0.158	1.332	0.248	2.862	0.091	0.007	0.933	0.002	0.969	0.000	0.962	1.304	0.253
Random effects:	Groups		Groups		Groups		Groups		Groups		Groups		Groups		Groups	
Plot	8		8		8		8		16		16		16		16	
Population	16		16		16		16		16		16		16		16	
Population/mother in P-generation	76		76		76		73		76		76		76		76	
Population/father in P-generation	79		79		79		75		79		79		79		79	
Population/observation	-		592		-		-		-		-		1192		-	
Observations	551		592		571		282		1192		1128		1192		579	

Supporting Information 1

Fig. S1: Map of the geographic locations of the sampled native (left) and invasive (right) *Silene latifolia* populations.



Supporting Information 2

Table S2: Overview of the geographic locations and sizes of the sampled native and invasive *Silene latifolia* populations.

Range	City (state)	ID	°N	°E	Population size
Native	Caresana (IT)	ca	44.07702	9.96384	262
Native	Cecina (IT)	ce	43.313769	10.51195	149
Native	Gilching (GE)	gi	48.105634	11.253771	35
Native	Jethe (GE)	je	51.6899	14.59683	485
Native	Montpellier (FR)	mp	43.653567	3.893247	341
Native	Monteneau (FR)	mt	47.848117	3.552508	19
Native	Nackenheim (GE)	nh	49.925119	8.342758	132
Native	Nijmegen (GE)	nj	51.883074	5.85185	46
Invasive	Crumpler (NC)	ac	36.52576	-81.41558	60
Invasive	Bennington (VT)	be	42.894717	-73.294919	31
Invasive	Hillsdale (NY)	cv	42.234825	-73.506433	350
Invasive	Bushkill (PA)	es	41.14009	-74.9294	900
Invasive	Harrisonburg (VA)	hg	38.49079	-78.97762	70
Invasive	Lewisburg (PA)	lb	40.98179	-76.93041	184
Invasive	Washington Boro (PA)	ma	39.99635	-76.47243	1100
Invasive	Grantsville (MD)	ng	39.637308	-79.099481	1000