Convergent seed color adaptation during repeated domestication of an ancient new world grain

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ABSTRACT Out of the almost 2,000 plants that have been selected as crops, only few are fully domesticated, and many intermediates between wild plants and domesticates exist. Genetic constraints might be the reason why incompletely domesticated plants have few characteristic crop traits, and retained numerous wild plant features. Here, we investigate the incomplete domestication of an ancient grain from the Americas, amaranth. We sequenced 121 genomes of the crop and its wild ancestors to show that grain amaranth has been selected three times independently from a single wild ancestor, but has not been fully domesticated. Our analysis identified a MYB-like transcription factor gene as key regulator for seed color variation and shows that the trait was independently converted in Central and South America. We suggest a low effective population size at the time of domestication as potential cause for the lack of adaptation of complex domestication traits. Our results show how genetic constraints influenced domestication and might have set the fate of hundreds of crops.

KEYWORDS Domestication, Orphan crop, MYB transcription factor, amaranth, crop wild relatives

Introduction

Crop domestication was the foundation for modern societies and has taken place almost simultaneously in many parts of the world. Around 2,000 crops have been cultivated and underwent artificial selection during adaptation to human-mediated environments (Harlan 1992). This intense selection changed characteristic plant traits that are favorable for human cultivation (Olsen and Wendel 2013). Major crops, such as maize, rice, and wheat, combine multiple domestication traits, which together are referred to as domestication syndrome (Hammer 1984), reflecting their adaptation to agro-ecological systems and human preferences (Olsen and Wendel 2013; Li *et al.* 2006; Doebley 2004; Peleg *et al.* 2011). The domestication syndrome includes production-related traits, e.g. seed shattering, larger seeds, and the loss of seed dormancy, and traits that reflect human preference, including taste change, and seed or fruit color variation (Hammer 1984; Lenser and Theißen 2013).

Crop domestication is a long and fluid process rather than an instantaneous event, and for this reason crops differ in their degree of domestication (Stetter *et al.* 2017a; Gaut *et al.* 2018). Although plants with different degrees of domestication have been cultivated by humans over similar time periods (MacNeish 1965), fully domesticated crops that combine multiple domestication traits are a small minority compared to hundreds of cultivated crops with a weak domestication syndrome (Meyer *et al.* 2012).

A weak domestication syndrome in many minor crops cannot be explained by low selection pressure due to cultural preferences of humans alone, as minor crops were often of high importance for early cultures and have been cultivated for similar time scales as fully domesticated crops. Yet, the lack of adaptation to agro-ecological systems led to the decline of importance and production of many crops that were commonly grown in early human civilizations (Cubry *et al.* 2018; Meyer *et al.* 2012). One potential reason for the lack of adaptation might be genetic constraints (Walsh and Blows 2009) in the ancestor or during early domestication. Incompletely domesticated crops are therefore a highly suitable model to investigate the role of genetic constraints, because traits under selection are known and multiple incompletely domesticated species are available as replicates (Purugganan and Fuller 2009).

The pseudo-cereal grain amaranth is an example of a crop with a long cultivation history, but a weakly pronounced domestication syndrome. While few domestication traits, like reduced spines on the inflorescences, increased number of seeds per inflorescences are adapted, other typical domestication traits of grain crops, such as increased seed size and the loss of seed shattering, are missing (Sauer 1967; Brenner *et al.* 2010; Stetter *et al.* 2017b). One distinct domestication trait of cultivated amaranth is seed color. Most cultivated grain amaranth landraces have white seeds, whereas all wild amaranths have dark seeds (Stetter *et al.* 2017b).

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Three species of *Amaranthus* are cultivated as grain crops in South America (*Amaranthus caudatus* L.) and Central America (*A. hypochondriacus* L. and *A. cruentus* L.) (Brenner *et al.* 2010). They are closely related and were likely domesticated from the same wild ancestor, *A. hybridus* L., but it remains unclear if three independent or a single domestications gave rise to the three grain amaranth species (Sauer 1967; Kietlinski *et al.* 2014; Stetter and Schmid 2017). Archaeological findings show that amaranth seeds were collected already 8,000 years ago in South America (Arreguez *et al.* 2013) and 6,000 years ago in North America (MacNeish 1965). Historical accounts suggest that grain amaranths were of similar importance for the agriculture of pre-Colombian societies as maize (Sauer 1967), but amaranth cultivation rapidly declined after the Spanish conquest of the Americas. Nowadays, amaranth grains are gaining importance for human nutrition, due to their high concentration of essential amino acids which provide high nutritional value (Downton 1973; Rastogi and Shukla 2013) and low gluten content that make it a suitable cereal replacement for patients with celiac disease (Ballabio *et al.* 2011).

We investigate the domestication process of amaranth by combining whole genome re-sequencing of a diverse set of 121 genebank accessions of the three grain amaranth species and two wild relatives, with an F_2 mapping population from a cross of domesticated and wild individuals, and two bulk populations from advanced breeding material segregating for seed color. To characterize seed color as exemplary domestication trait, we combine genetic and evolutionary analyses to infer the role of selection and genetic constraints during domestication. Our results provide strong evidence that grain amaranth was independently domesticated three times and that white seed color was independently selected in each grain species. We identify a MYB-like transcription factor within a QTL region as potential regulator of seed coat color variation of grain amaranth. Finally, we suggest that domestication in many minor crops might have been limited by the lack of functional diversity for complex domestication traits at the time of domestication.

Results and discussion

Resequencing and variant characterization

We resequenced a diverse set of 121 genebank accessions that represent the native distribution ranges of grain amaranth. The set included the three grain amaranths, caudatus (*A. caudatus* L., $n = 32$), cruentus (*A. cruentus* L. $n = 25$), and hypochondriacus (*A. hypochondriacus*, $n = 24$), the two wild relatives hybridus (*A. hybridus* L., $n = 19$) and quitensis (*A. quitensis* (Kunth), $n = 19$), and two individuals that were labeled as 'hybrids' or *A. powellii* L. in their passport data (Table S2). The average sequence coverage per accession was 9x and 94% of reads could be mapped to the hypochondriacus 2.1 reference genome (Lightfoot *et al.* 2017). After variant calling, we identified over 29 million biallelic variants with less than 30% missing data and from these we extracted a final data set of 17,157,381 million biallelic SNPs for further analysis.

Three independent domestication attempts from a single ancestor

In numerous crop species, domestication led to a reduction in genetic diversity due to population bottlenecks and strong directional selection (Hufford *et al.* 2012; Stein *et al.* 2018) We also observe a reduction of nucleotide diversity (π) in all three grain amaranths (caudatus: $\bar{\pi} = 1.50 \times 10^{-3}$; cruentus: $\bar{\pi} = 2.031 \times 10^{-3}$; hypochondriacus: $\bar{\pi} = 2.32 \times 10^{-3}$) relative to hybridus ($\bar{\pi} = 4.91 \times 10^{-3}$), although the wild relative quitensis ($\bar{\pi} = 1.57 \times 10^{-3}$) has similar values as the cultivated amaranths (Figure 1A). Using the fixation index, F_{st} as measure of genetic differentiation we tested different hypotheses of domestication. If all three grain amaranth species were domesticated in a single process, the level of genetic differentiation should be lower between the three domesticated than between the wild and domesticated amaranths. A single domestication is not supported by our data, because the three domesticated amaranths are more strongly differentiated from each other ($F_{st} = 0.207 - 0.281$) than each domesticated amaranth from their wild ancestor, hybridus ($0.097 - 0.135$) (Figure 1C). This result is supported by a principal component analysis (PCA), which separates accessions into three groups. The first principal component (PC) separates South American (caudatus, quitensis, and hybridus from South America) from Central American accessions (cruentus, hypochondriacus, and hybridus from Central America). The second PC differentiates between the two Central American grain species, and the third PC differentiates between quitensis and the other South American species. The PCA analysis suggests three independent domestications, as each of the three grain amaranth species clusters with a subset of hybridus accessions that originate from the same geographic region as their genetically most similar cultivated amaranths (Figure 1 and S1). Consecutive domestications after initial domestication from hybridus would result in a closer relationship between two crop species than between each crop and hybridus. The F_{ST} value between the sympatric species caudatus and quitensis was only 0.037 (1C). Such a close genetic relationship was observed before and led to the hypothesis that quitensis is the direct ancestor of caudatus (Sauer 1967; Kietlinski *et al.* 2014) (Figure 1). F_{st} between hybridus and caudatus was higher than between caudatus and quitensis, but hybridus is geographically structured (Figure S3). South American hybridus is more closely related to caudatus and quitensis than caudatus to quitensis (Figure 1, S1 and S3). The previous analysis of a large sample of South American

Figure 1 Distribution and diversity of amaranth. **A)** Nucleotide diversity (π) distribution of 10 kb windows, vertical line denotes mean. **B)** Distribution of Tajima's D in 10 kb windows, vertical line denotes mean. **C)** Circles show the approximate geographic distribution of each species. Values on the lines show genome wide pairwise F_{st} comparisons between species. **D)** PCA of 121 individuals that indicates the differentiation between Central and South American accessions on PC 1, and between the grain amaranths from Central America on PC 2. **E)** shows the differentiation between caudatus and quitensis on PC 3

amaranths has shown the close relationship between hybridus and quitensis and suggested hybridus as ancestor of caudatus (Stetter *et al.* 2017b).

Model based inference of population structure suggested between three and seven clusters and separated the three grain amaranths and clustered wild relatives with domesticated accessions from the same geographic regions (Figure S3 and S4). Taken together, the population structure analysis is highly consistent with a model of independent domestication of each of the three grain amaranths from geographically separated populations of hybridus.

Common major domestication QTL in all three domesticated amaranths

Figure 2 Genetic control of seed color variation **A)** Local PCA of QTL regions, using only SNPs within QTL regions for seed color as indicated by blue lines in B. Circles indicate the predominant crop species in the cluster, cruentus (blue), caudatus (green) and hypochondriacus (orange). **B)** Genome wide association mapping within 116 diverse amaranth accessions from the two wild amaranths and the three grain amaranth species. Horizontal line shows significance level of 10^{-5}. dashed blue lines indicate QTL regions for seed color as identified in three independent populations. **C)** Zoom of QTL region on chromosome 9 and genes within this region. The candidate gene AmMYBL1 is marked by vertical lines.

We showed previously that white seed color is a domestication trait in South American caudatus (Stetter *et al.* 2017b) and investigated whether this is the case for the other two grain amaranth species by analyzing the seed color of all individuals in the diversity panel. All individuals from the wild species have dark seeds, whereas the majority (73 to 82 %) of all three grain amaranth accessions have white seeds (Figure S5). Since the population genetic analysis of our diversity panel suggests independent domestication of the three grain amaranths, we investigated if the seed color conversion was selected independently and identified the genetic basis of this trait.

The segregation ratio in traditional quantitative genetic analyses based on crosses between white and dark seeded amaranths suggested that seed color is controlled by two genetic loci and white seed color is recessive (Kulakow *et al.* 1985). To identify the genes that control seed color, we conducted a QTL analysis in a segregating F_2 population of a cross between a cultivated caudatus (white seeds) and wild quitensis (dark seeds), a bulked segregant analysis (BSA) of a population consisting of a diverse panel of cruentus and hypochondriacus individuals, and a genome wide association study (GWAS) with 116 accessions from the five species of the diversity panel. We identified the same two major QTL on chromosomes 3 and 9 in all three populations (Figures 2 and S6). The QTL on chromosome 3 is located in a relatively narrow interval (100 kb), whereas the QTL on chromosome 9 extends over a fairly large interval in the F_2 mapping and the bulk segregant analysis (Figure S6). Similar to the F_2 and BSA mapping results, SNP markers associated with seed color are distributed over a large region of ca. 600 kb on chromosome 9. Such a large interval is not expected in a GWAS on a genetically diverse panel of two wild and three domesticated amaranth species, even after correction for population structure. Nonetheless, the analysis showed a large linkage block in all three mapping populations. The suppression of recombination in this region might be caused by a chromosomal inversion during domestication, leading to the joint inheritance of the large region (Griffiths *et al.* 2005).

We tested whether white seed color originated once or multiple times during domestication by conducting a local PCA on the two QTL regions in the diverse GWAS panel (Figure 2A). A single origin of the white seeds is expected to separate the white and the dark seeded accessions into two separate groups independent of the species. The analysis reveals three groups that correspond to the three grain amaranth species, in which the wild ancestors are nested in each group, similar to the genome-wide population structure, showing that the conversion from dark to white seeds occurred independently in each of the three grain amaranths (Figure 2A and S7).

MYB-like gene as candidate for convergent seed color conversion

To identify candidate genes controlling seed color, we investigated the annotation of genomic regions with significant SNPs in the GWAS. The QTL region on chromosome 3 harbors five genes and the large region on chromosome 9, 50 genes (Table S3). In the latter region we identify a MYB-like transcription factor gene. The MYB transcription factor family is widely know for their key regulatory function in color traits across the plant kingdom (Gates *et al.* 2016). The MYB gene on chromosome 9 is an ortholog of the Anthocyanin Regulatory C1 gene in maize (Cone *et al.* 1986), and the MYB2 gene in grape (Walker *et al.* 2007). The latter is responsible for red and green grape skin and the change from red to green grapes is caused by the insertion of a transposable element (TE) within the gene (Walker *et al.* 2007). In blood orange, an expression change of a MYB gene increases the anthocyanin content in the flesh and leads to the dark red flesh color (Butelli *et al.* 2012).

We therefore conclude that the MYB transcription factor (Amaranth MYB-like 1, short: AmMYBL1) is a promising candidate gene for the seed coat color in amaranth. The sorted haplotype representation of the AmMYBL1 region shows that the three grain species differ in this region and that individuals with dark seeds have haplotypes more similar to the wild relatives than white-seeded grain amaranths (Figure S8A).

MYB transcription factors build a complex with two other transcription factors, bHLH and WD-repeat (Ramsay and Glover 2005), and we analyzed their presence in the QTL on chromosome 3 and 9, but we did not detect these based on similarity to ortholog sequences from other plants, which suggests that other genes in the QTL region on chromosome 3 influence seed color (Jun *et al.* 2015).

Genome wide signatures of selection

An independent domestication and strong selection on domestication traits is expected to leave footprints of selection throughout the genome. In major crops, artificial selection during crop domestication led to a number of hard selective sweeps (Tian *et al.* 2009; Olsen *et al.* 2006). We used a test of selection that is based on the analysis of the site frequency spectrum (SFS) separate in each of the five species to detect hard selective sweeps within each species. We observed a substantial overlap in the top 0.5 % outlier regions (17 of 99, $p \leq 7.073 \times 10^{-22}$), between the two wild species quitensis and hybridus. The overlap of putative sweep regions between wild and domesticated amaranths was lower, but also significant (4 of 99, $p \leq 0.002$). In contrast, outlier regions did not overlap between the three domesticated amaranths, instead were unique to each species (Figure 3), which is consistent with the hypothesis of three independent domestications. We did not identify hard selective sweeps in the two genomic regions that harbor the seed color QTL in the three domesticated amaranths. Such a result may be either explained by multiple new mutations in the causative region with a species during domestication, or selection from standing variation. Standing genetic variation for the recessive white seed color could persist at low frequency in the wild, despite potential selection against white seeds. The persistence of up to 27 % dark seeded accession in grain amaranths further suggest the absence of a full hard selective sweep during domestication.

Figure 3 Selective sweeps during amaranth domestication. Selective sweeps along the genome in cultivated grain amaranths in **A)** caudatus, **B)** cruentus and **C)** hypochondriacus. The horizontal line shows the top 0.05 % likelihood scores within each species **D)** Overlap between sweep regions of the top 0.5% outlier regions in amaranth species. Lines between species show comparisons and bar height represents the number of overlaps.

Gene flow between species

Crops and their wild relatives can often intercross in the wild and exchange adaptive traits (Janzen *et al.* 2018). Early hybrids between fully domesticated crops and their wild relatives create poor crops and poor wild plants, because of their combination of traits. Crops contribute domestication traits, such as lack of dormancy or non-shattering, which is highly disadvantageous in the wild, and wild relatives introduce lower productivity and the loss of human preference traits (e.g. seed color) to crops. Nonetheless, in a number of major crops such as maize (Hufford *et al.* 2013), barley (Poets *et al.* 2015), rice (Cubry *et al.* 2018; Meyer *et al.* 2016) and pearl millet (Burgarella *et al.* 2018) adaptive introgression from wild relatives is observed.

The analysis of population structure did not indicate a strong isolation between wild relatives and domesticated amaranths, which may reflect extensive gene flow. To understand the extent and directions of gene flow, we generated a population tree and estimated gene flow (Figure 4). The resulting unrooted tree is consistent with the population structure analysis, but also indicates a substantial level of gene flow between different groups. All three grain amaranths show traces of gene flow from or into wild relatives. The tree shows gene flow between Central and South American amaranths, which suggests a history of migration and exchange of genetic variation. The observed pattern of gene flow from wild into domesticated amaranths might have prevented the fixation of the white seed color, as we suggested previously for the South American caudatus (Stetter *et al.* 2017b).

Demographic history

The demographic history of crop species influences the extent and type of phenotypic variation available for selection during domestication. Polygenic domestication traits like grain size or seed shattering may require evolutionary changes in numerous loci (Huang *et al.* 2010; Xue *et al.* 2016) and more genetic variation to select the favorable combination for a functional domestication trait. A potential reason for incomplete domestication in amaranth might be the lack of functional diversity for complex traits during domestication. We therefore reconstructed the demographic history and the split times for the different species.

The demographic analysis shows that all five species followed similar trajectories before the split, with minor differences in the timing of demographic changes (Figure S10). Hybridus has a larger effective population size (N_e) than the three domesticated species, which is consistent with the level of nucleotide diversity (Figure 1A) of present populations. The estimated split times of the domesticated amaranths from their wild ancestor, hybridus, ranged from 50,000 generations for caudatus to 8,500 generations in hypochondriacus. In South America, the second wild relative, quitensis, split more recently from hybridus (35,000 generations) than the domesticated caudatus. The population bottleneck in hybridus predated the split of the species and propagates into all species (Figure 5 and S10).

The strong overlap between population histories before the splits between species indicates high confidence for the demographic model. The early date estimated as split time for caudatus might be confounded by introgression from Central American amaranth into caudatus (Figure 4) and a potentially inaccurate estimate of the mutation rate, which was taken from *A. thaliana*. While the mutation rate influences the absolute datings, it does not influence the relative timing between populations. The independent demographic analyses suggest that the bottleneck in amaranth

Figure 4 Allele frequency based species tree of wild and domesticated amaranth. Arrows indicate gene flow between groups and their color indicates the intensity.

predates its domestication, leading to reduced population size in the ancestor of the three crop species during the time of domestication (Figure 5).

A bottleneck may have caused a lack of functional diversity for complex domestication traits during the time of domestication. Polygenic domestication traits, such as seed shattering and seed size, require either the presence of standing variation at functional sites or a large number of new mutations during domestication. While new mutations can lead to rapid adaptation for traits with major regulator genes, such as seed color, which we show here to be controlled by two major QTL (Figure 2), they are less likely to drive polygenic adaptation with a large number of small effect alleles (Stetter *et al.* 2018). Hence, the small population size in the ancestor of all three grain amaranths that we observe here could potentially have prevented the adaptation of complex traits and might have hindered the complete domestication in amaranth.

Conclusion

In this study we resequenced a large number of genebank accessions to investigate the incomplete domestication of grain amaranth. We reveal that amaranth was independently domesticated three times from a single ancestor (hybridus), twice in Central America and once in South America. Yet each of these attempts was only partially successful, as key domestication traits are missing in all three grain amaranth species. We find convergence for seed color conversion and

Figure 5 Demographic history of grain amaranth species. Black lines show population size estimates for hybridus. Vertical line shows the estimated split time between wild ancestor and domesticated amaranth in generations before present.

identify the transcription factor MYBl1 as candidate gene for the seed color coat color determination in amaranth. The seed color QTL regions did not show the signature of hard selective sweeps in the three domesticated amaranth species, similar to several domestication genes in other crops (Studer *et al.* 2011; Zhu *et al.* 2012). The white seed color trait in amaranth might have been selected from standing genetic variation in the wild ancestor, where the recessive white alleles are deleterious. In other crop ancestors dark seeds provide resistance to biotic stresses, but are selected against during domestication, because of human color preferences and pleiotropic effects with other domestication traits (Sweeney and McCouch 2007).

Hundreds of crops show a similar lack of complex domestication traits as amaranth. Our case study of an incomplete domestication indicates that the population size decline in the ancestor might have resulted in a lack of diversity to simultaneously select several quantitative domestication traits with high selection pressure. The demographic history has been reconstructed for a number of crops, which show bottlenecks during domestication, but have larger ancestral effective population size (Zhou *et al.* 2017; Beissinger *et al.* 2016; Wang *et al.* 2017; Cubry *et al.* 2018; Meyer *et al.* 2016). To further investigate this potential reason for incomplete domestication the demographic history of more incomplete domesticates should be studied and more potential reasons for a lack of adaptation, e.g. trait pleiotropy (Caspari 1952) and the balance between new beneficial mutations and genetic load (Morran *et al.* 2009) should be discovered. Understanding the domestication process, not only of major crops, but also the hundreds of locally grown crops is essential to adapt cropping systems and increase crop diversity for a sustainable future agriculture.

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Author Contributions

M.G.S and K.J.S designed the experiments and supervised the research. M.G.S produced the mapping population, M.G.S conducted population genetic analyses, M.V. and M.G.S conducted bulk segregant and QTL mapping analysis. M.G.S wrote the draft of the manuscript. All authors edited, read and agreed to the final version of the manuscript.

Data Availability

Sequencing data is available from the European Nucleotide Archive (ENA) under the project numbers PRJEB30531 (whole genome diversity panel), PRJEB30532 (BSA data), and PRJEB30533 (F2 mapping population). Scripts used for the analysis are available through figshare (10.6084/m9.figshare.7600166)

Methods

Plant material and sequencing.

Geographically diverse amaranth accessions (Table S2) representing all three grain amaranth species, *A. caudatus* L., *A. cruentus* L. and *A. hypochondriacus* L., and three wild relatives, *A. hybridus* L., *A. quitensis* L. and *A. powellii* S. Watson, were obtained from USDA ARS genebank. DNA of young leafs from a single individuals per accession was extracted using DNeasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen, Netherlands) following manufacturers' instructions and sequencing libraries were prepared after quality control. Samples were sequences on an Illumina NextSeq with 2x150 bp with VIB Genomics Core Facility (Belgium) or an HiSeq4000 with 2x100 bp by Macrogen (Korea).

Data processing and filtering.

Sequencing reads were filtered and trimmed with `Trimmomatic v0.36` (Bolger *et al.* 2014) and read quality was assessed with `fastQC` (https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/). High quality reads were mapped to the *A. hypochondriacus* reference genome V2.1 (Lightfoot *et al.* 2017) using `BWA mem` (Li 2013). SNPs were called and filtered according to GATK "Best Practices" (McKenna *et al.* 2010). Additional filtering for a maximum of 30 % missing values at a site, and only SNPs from the 16 largest scaffolds of the reference genome (corresponding to the 16 chromosomes) was performed with `vcftools 0.1.14` (Danecek *et al.* 2011). For the GWAS analysis SNPs were filtered for a minor allele frequency >0.05.

Population genetic analysis.

We used filtered SNP data for all population genetic analyses. Population structure was inferred with ADMIXTURE (Alexander *et al.* 2009) with cross validation to determine cluster numbers most strongly supported by the data. Principle component analysis was performed after LD filtering in 10,000 bp windows with an LD threshold of 0.3 using SNPrelate (Zheng *et al.* 2012).

Nucleotide diversity (π) and Tajima's *D* (Tajima 1989) were calculated using vcftools 0.1.14 (Danecek *et al.* 2011). F_{ST} values were calculated with SNPrelate (Zheng *et al.* 2012).

Mapping population and QTL mapping.

An F_2 mapping population was created from a single F_1 hybrid plant between 'Oscar Blanco' (PI 642741,*A. caudatus*, white seeds) and PI 490705 (*A. quitensis*, dark seeds). A total of 224 F_2 plants were genotyped using the original protocol for genotyping by sequencing (GBS) (Elshire *et al.* 2011) and their seed color was recorded at maturity after cultivation in a greenhouse. DNA of young leaves was extracted and GBS libraries were prepared as described in (Stetter *et al.* 2017b) and sequenced on a Illumina HiSeq4000 instrument with 2x100 bp by Macrogen. After read filtering, alignment the *A. hypochondriacus* reference genome V2.1 (Lightfoot *et al.* 2017) with BWA mem (Li 2013) and SNP calling with samtools (Li *et al.* 2009) and 206 samples were kept for further analysis. Linkage mapping was performed with r/qtl (Arends *et al.* 2010).

Bulk segregant analysis.

Leaf samples from a total of 200 plants with contrasting seeds colors (dark and white) were collected from the Hohenheim Amaranth Breeding Population in October 2016 in Stuttgart, Germany. This advanced population is an early breeding population (three mass selection cycles) consisting of segregating populations from spontaneous (interspecific) hybrids and genetic resources mainly consisting of *A. cruentus* and *A. hypochondriacus*. One hundred single plants for each seed color were collected from diverse parental backgrounds to form two bulks. DNA was extracted using the DNeasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen, Netherlands) following manufacturers instructions and TruSeq DNA PCR-Free Library (Illumina, USA) sequencing libraries were prepared after quality control. Libraries were sequenced with 2x150 bp on a Illumina HiSeq X instrument by Macrogen at 23 -28x coverage. After quality control with FastQC, reads were trimmed with Trimmomatic v0.36 (Bolger *et al.* 2014) and mapped to the *A. hypochondriacus* reference genome V2.1 (Lightfoot *et al.* 2017) with BWA mem (Li 2013) and SNPs were called according to GATK "Best Practices" (McKenna *et al.* 2010). Bulk segregant analysis was performed with the G' method (Magwene *et al.* 2011) implemented in QTLseqr R library Mansfeld and Grumet (2018) on a total of 2,656,505 sites after filtering for high quality SNPs.

Genome wide association mapping ad candidate gene identification

Seed colors were inferred visually from seed samples for the 121 diverse individuals and coded binary. We performed GWAS on 276,466 LD pruned SNPs that were used for the PCA for 116 unambiguous white and dark seed accessions (accessions with mixed seed colors were removed from the analysis) using the compressed mixed linear (Zhang *et al.* 2010) model implemented in GAPIT (Lipka *et al.* 2012). To identify independent or shared origin of the seed color QTLs we performed a PCA analysis on SNPs within the two QTL regions on chromosome 3 and 9 identified using mapping and GWAS. Gene annotations and sequences were extracted from the *A. hypochondriacus* reference genome V2.1 (Lightfoot *et al.* 2017). Haplotypes were plotted for the region around AmMYBl1 (chr 9: 1405000 - 14709000) and the entire QTL region on chromosome 3 (chr 3: 5881516 - 5966304) using haplostrips (Marnetto and Huerta-Sánchez 2017).

Selective sweep detection.

We studied the potential adaptation during amaranth domestication by identifying regions under selection using a composite likelihood ratio test (Nielsen *et al.* 2005) implemented in SweeD (Pavlidis *et al.* 2013) using 20 kb windows along the genome. We applied the test to each amaranth population and considered the top 5% of SNPs as outliers. To analyze convergence between the populations we compared the overlapping outliers between populations using upsetR (Lex *et al.* 2014).

Gene flow and reconstruction of demographic history.

We modeled the level of gene flow between amaranth populations with Treemix (Pickrell and Pritchard 2012) allowing for a maximum of four migration events. To infer the demographic history of domesticated and wild amaranth populations we ran SMC++ on the folded site frequency spectrum with a maximum gap size of 1,000 bp for each population separately and in pairs of *A. hybridus* and the respective other species to infer split times. As there is currently no reliably mutation rate estimate available for the different *Amaranthus* species we used the estimate for *Arabidopsis thaliana* of 7×10^{-9} (Ossowski *et al.* 2010). It should be noted that an incorrectly estimated mutation rate may offset the timescale of the population size inference and the estimated split time.

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Supplement

Supplementary Notes

Species delimitation

For six accessions, the species assignment in the genebank passport data did not match the results of the genetic analysis (Table S1) and may either represent misclassified accessions or mixup of seeds during seed handling and regeneration. These should be reconsidered for morphological classification. A possible misclassification is of particular interest interesting for the only amaranth variety ever registered in Germany, which considered to be *A. cruentus*, but according to the genetic data appears to be *A. hypochondriacus*.

Table S1 Accessions in which the species assignment in the genebank passport data is not supported by the genetic analysis.

Individual	Genebank annotation	Genomic group
PI604587	*A. hypochondriacus*	*A. cruentus*
Ames2215	*A. hypochondriacus*	*A. cruentus*
PI604595	*A. hypochondriacus*	*A. cruentus*
Baernkrafft (German variety)	*A. cruentus*	*A. hypochondriacus*
PI511723	*A. cruentus*	*A. hypochondriacus*
PI511876	*A. cruentus*	*A. hypochondriacus*

Figure S1 PCA Interactive 3D representation of PCA showing PC1 - PC3.

Table S2 Accessions sequenced in this study and seed color denominated from the same seed bag as sequenced individuals. Accessions denoted as 'not clear' had seeds of both seed colors in the seed lot distributed by the USDA germplasm collection and were removed from the GWAS analysis

No	Accession number	Species	Origcty	Seed color
1	PI 490491	caudatus	ARG	dark
2	PI 511712	caudatus	ECU	dark
3	PI 608019	caudatus	ECU	dark
4	PI 649228	caudatus	PER	dark
5	PI 490511	caudatus	PER	dark
6	PI 490518	caudatus	PER	dark
7	PI 481949	caudatus	PER	dark
8	PI 511686	caudatus	PER	dark
9	PI 649217	caudatus	PER	not clear
10	PI 511690	caudatus	PER	not clear
11	PI 511680	caudatus	ARG	white
12	PI 511679	caudatus	ARG	white
13	PI 490459	caudatus	BOL	white
14	PI 511681	caudatus	BOL	white
15	PI 490604	caudatus	BOL	white
16	PI 642741	caudatus	BOL	white
17	AMA 107	caudatus	CHN	white
18	PI 490609	caudatus	ECU	white
19	PI 649230	caudatus	PER	white
20	PI 511704	caudatus	PER	white
21	PI 649227	caudatus	PER	white
22	AMA 125	caudatus	PER	white
23	PI 481957	caudatus	PER	white
24	PI 511706	caudatus	PER	white
25	PI 490561	caudatus	PER	white
26	PI 511687	caudatus	PER	white
27	PI 490612	caudatus	PER	white
28	PI 490431	caudatus	PER	white
29	PI 511696	caudatus	PER	white
30	PI 481965	caudatus	PER	white
31	Ames 5302	caudatus	PER	white
32	PI 481960	caudatus	PER	white
33	PI 511717	cruentus	GTM	dark
34	PI 667160	cruentus	GTM	dark
35	PI 658728	cruentus	MEX	dark
36	PI 511714	cruentus	PER	dark
37	PI 511713	cruentus	PER	dark
38	AMA 155	cruentus	USA	dark
39	PI 667165	cruentus	BRA	not clear
40	PI 643049	cruentus	MEX	not clear
41	Baernkrafft	cruentus	DEU	white
42	PI 433228	cruentus	GTM	white
43	PI 451826	cruentus	GTM	white
44	PI 643039	cruentus	MEX	white
45	PI 643058	cruentus	MEX	white
46	PI 649514	cruentus	MEX	white
47	PI 606798	cruentus	MEX	white
48	PI 576482	cruentus	MEX	white
49	PI 576481	cruentus	MEX	white
50	PI 649609	cruentus	MEX	white
51	PI 511723	cruentus	MEX	white
52	PI 511876	cruentus	MEX	white
53	Ames 5552	cruentus	MEX	white
54	PI 643042	cruentus	MEX	white
55	PI 649524	cruentus	MEX	white
56	PI 643037	cruentus	MEX	white
57	PI 649509	cruentus	MEX	white
58	PI 604571	hybr.	MEX	dark
59	PI 636180	hybridus	COL	dark
60	PI 490684	hybridus	ECU	dark
61	PI 511754	hybridus	ECU	dark
62	PI 490679	hybridus	ECU	dark
63	PI 490689	hybridus	ECU	dark
64	PI 490670	hybridus	ECU	dark
65	PI 490664	hybridus	ECU	dark
66	PI 490739	hybridus	ECU	dark
67	PI 667156	hybridus	ECU	dark
68	PI 490731	hybridus	ECU	dark
69	PI 667158	hybridus	GTM	dark
70	PI 604582	hybridus	MEX	dark
71	PI 604568	hybridus	MEX	dark
72	PI 604574	hybridus	MEX	dark
73	PI 511724	hybridus	MEX	dark
74	Ames 5232	hybridus	PER	dark
75	PI 490740	hybridus	PER	dark
76	PI 490489	hybridus	PER	dark
77	Ames 5335	hybridus	BOL	not clear
78	PI 652432	hypochondriacus	BRA	dark
79	PI 604581	hypochondriacus	MEX	dark
80	PI 649602	hypochondriacus	MEX	dark
81	PI 604587	hypochondriacus	MEX	dark
82	Ames 2085	hypochondriacus	MEX	not clear
83	PI 649607	hypochondriacus	MEX	white
84	PI 649587	hypochondriacus	MEX	white
85	PI 649537	hypochondriacus	MEX	white
86	PI 643036	hypochondriacus	MEX	white
87	PI 649575	hypochondriacus	MEX	white
88	Ames 5457	hypochondriacus	MEX	white
89	PI 633589	hypochondriacus	MEX	white
90	PI 649565	hypochondriacus	MEX	white
91	PI 604559	hypochondriacus	MEX	white
92	PI 643070	hypochondriacus	MEX	white
93	PI 643041	hypochondriacus	MEX	white
94	PI 604595	hypochondriacus	MEX	white
95	PI 649529	hypochondriacus	MEX	white
96	Ames 2215	hypochondriacus	MEX	white
97	PI 511731	hypochondriacus	MEX	white
98	PI 643067	hypochondriacus	MEX	white
99	PI 649559	hypochondriacus	MEX	white
100	PI 649595	hypochondriacus	MEX	white
101	PI 649623	hypochondriacus	MEX	white
102	AMA 89	powellii	RWA	dark
103	Ames 21666	quitensis	ARG	dark
104	Ames 5334	quitensis	ARG	dark
105	PI 511736	quitensis	BOL	dark
106	PI 652426	quitensis	BRA	dark
107	PI 652428	quitensis	BRA	dark
108	PI 652422	quitensis	BRA	dark
109	PI 511747	quitensis	ECU	dark
110	PI 511749	quitensis	ECU	dark
111	PI 511737	quitensis	ECU	dark
112	PI 490705	quitensis	ECU	dark
113	PI 511745	quitensis	ECU	dark
114	PI 490720	quitensis	ECU	dark
115	PI 511741	quitensis	ECU	dark
116	Ames 5247	quitensis	ECU	dark
117	PI 490673	quitensis	ECU	dark
118	PI 649246	quitensis	PER	dark
119	PI 511751	quitensis	PER	dark
120	Ames 5342	quitensis	PER	dark
121	PI 490466	quitensis	PER	dark

Table S3 Candidate genes for seed color in grain amaranth

Chromosome	Start	End	Name	Strand	Description
3	5881516	5896384	AH005257	+	Similar to CCT1: T-complex protein 1 subunit alpha (Arabidopsis thaliana)
3	5897584	5905365	AH005258	+	Similar to MLO13: MLO-like protein 13 (Arabidopsis thaliana)
3	5906387	5930826	AH005259	-	Similar to NUP160: Nuclear pore complex protein NUP160 (Arabidopsis thaliana)
3	5933604	5946653	AH005260	-	Similar to CMO: Choline monooxygenase, chloroplastic (Amaranthus tricolor)
3	5959962	5966304	AH005261	-	Similar to Ank3: Ankyrin-3 (Mus musculus)
9	14260388	14267067	AH014529	-	Similar to NYC1: Probable chlorophyll(ide) b reductase NYC1, chloroplastic (Oryza sativa subsp. japonica)
9	14276572	14283316	AH014530	+	Protein of unknown function
9	14291900	14298118	AH014531	-	Protein of unknown function
9	14298147	14298790	AH014532	-	Protein of unknown function
9	14298908	14299399	AH014533	-	Protein of unknown function
9	14304669	14312794	AH014534	+	Similar to CSLG2: Cellulose synthase-like protein G2 (Arabidopsis thaliana)
9	14333735	14334892	AH014535	+	Similar to rmnd5a: Protein RMD5 homolog A (Xenopus laevis)
9	14345025	14345715	AH014536	+	Similar to OFP8: Transcription repressor OFP8 (Arabidopsis thaliana)
9	14353195	14353923	AH014537	+	Protein of unknown function
9	14355443	14356829	AH014538	-	Similar to TRX2: Thioredoxin H2 (Arabidopsis thaliana)
9	14366001	14367256	AH014539	-	Similar to TRX2: Thioredoxin H2 (Arabidopsis thaliana)
9	14372147	14375412	AH014540	-	Similar to HSFC1: Heat stress transcription factor C-1 (Arabidopsis thaliana)
9	14378777	14389557	AH014541	-	Similar to KIN13B: Kinesin-like protein KIN-13B (Arabidopsis thaliana)
9	14396256	14396438	AH014542	+	Protein of unknown function
9	14404615	14409777	AH014543	-	Similar to Os01g0583100: Probable protein phosphatase 2C 6 (Oryza sativa subsp. japonica)
9	14412914	14418029	AH014544	-	Similar to CFIS1: Pre-mRNA cleavage factor Im 25 kDa subunit 1 (Arabidopsis thaliana)
9	14420597	14423542	AH014545	-	Similar to At4g06634: Uncharacterized zinc finger protein At4g06634 (Arabidopsis thaliana)
9	14443999	14450734	AH014546	+	Protein of unknown function
9	14467556	14471512	AH014547	+	Protein of unknown function
9	14472750	14477103	AH014548	-	Similar to UBA1C: UBP1-associated proteins 1C (Arabidopsis thaliana)
9	14480031	14487685	AH014549	+	Protein of unknown function
9	14503360	14505015	AH014550	+	Protein of unknown function
9	14513815	14518528	AH014551	+	Protein of unknown function
9	14525887	14543181	AH014552	+	Similar to XI-K: Myosin-17 (Arabidopsis thaliana)
9	14545885	14551450	AH014553	-	Similar to SPBC776.05: Uncharacterized membrane protein C776.05 (Schizosaccharomyces pombe (strain 972 / ATCC 24843))
9	14552847	14558739	AH014554	-	Similar to AL5: PHD finger protein ALFIN-LIKE 5 (Arabidopsis thaliana)
9	14580201	14584739	AH014555	+	Protein of unknown function
9	14587900	14593548	AH014556	+	Similar to NFYA6: Nuclear transcription factor Y subunit A-6 (Arabidopsis thaliana)
9	14598265	14609302	AH014557	+	Similar to BRXL4: Protein Brevis radix-like 4 (Arabidopsis thaliana)
9	14610048	14614953	AH014558	+	Similar to NLP3: Omega-amidase, chloroplastic (Arabidopsis thaliana)
9	14622402	14624168	AH014559	+	Similar to At1g54200: Protein BIG GRAIN 1-like B (Arabidopsis thaliana)
9	14641501	14645682	AH014560	+	Similar to VPS2.1: Vacuolar protein sorting-associated protein 2 homolog 1 (Arabidopsis thaliana)
9	14650590	14651111	AH014561	-	Similar to ATL53: Putative RING-H2 finger protein ATL53 (Arabidopsis thaliana)
9	14657567	14664508	AH014562	+	Similar to MSL10: Mechanosensitive ion channel protein 10 (Arabidopsis thaliana)
9	14665596	14668727	AH014563	-	Similar to RPA1A: Replication protein A 70 kDa DNA-binding subunit A (Arabidopsis thaliana)
9	14677913	14679912	AH014564	-	Similar to EFL4: Protein ELF4-LIKE 4 (Arabidopsis thaliana)
9	14700127	14700888	AH014565	+	Similar to UP3: Stress-response A/B barrel domain-containing protein UP3 (Arabidopsis thaliana)
9	14705869	14708414	AH014566	+	Similar to C1: Anthocyanin regulatory C1 protein (Zea mays)
9	14713047	14716244	AH014567	-	Similar to RPS3A: 40S ribosomal protein S3-1 (Arabidopsis thaliana)
9	14722269	14730995	AH014568	+	Protein of unknown function
9	14734261	14737531	AH014569	-	Similar to GRF5: Growth-regulating factor 5 (Arabidopsis thaliana)
9	14759660	14776842	AH014570	-	Protein of unknown function
9	14780031	14782777	AH014571	+	Similar to OPR3: 12-oxophytodienoate reductase 3 (Solanum lycopersicum)
9	14783927	14788106	AH014572	-	Similar to REM16: B3 domain-containing protein REM16 (Arabidopsis thaliana)
9	14792503	14796787	AH014573	-	Similar to REM10: B3 domain-containing protein REM10 (Arabidopsis thaliana)
9	14805984	14809221	AH014574	+	Similar to OPR3: 12-oxophytodienoate reductase 3 (Solanum lycopersicum)
9	14814160	14814522	AH014575	-	Similar to NFYB6: Nuclear transcription factor Y subunit B-6 (Arabidopsis thaliana)
9	14830784	14835140	AH014576	-	Similar to GALS1: Galactan beta-1,4-galactosyltransferase GALS1 (Arabidopsis thaliana)
9	14842490	14846361	AH014577	-	Similar to AMC5: Metacaspase-5 (Arabidopsis thaliana)
9	14855046	14855666	AH014578	-	Similar to ABP19A: Auxin-binding protein ABP19a (Prunus persica)

Figure S2 Cross validation of ADMIXTURE.

Figure S3 Individual based ancestry contribution calculated with ADMIXTURE for $K = 4$, for three potential crop populations and wild ancestors and $K = 8$ representing species by geographic origin.

Figure S4 Neighbor joining tree from genomic SNPs of 121 diverse individuals. Colors represent the different species.

Figure S5 Seed color phenotypes of diversity panel by species.

Figure S6 Comparison of QTL regions across mapping populations. A) Genome wide association mapping in 116 diverse germplasm accessions, including crop and wild species B) Results of a bulked segregant analysis for seed color in 100 bulked samples of dark seeded individuals and 100 samples with white seeds from breeding population consisting of hypochondriacus and cruentus. C) QTL mapping results for seed color of F_2 mapping population between caudatus (white seeds) and quitensis (dark seeds).

Figure S7 Local PCA for each QTL region. A) QTL on chromosome 3 using 127SNPs after LD pruning and B) QTL on chromosome 9 using 933 SNPs after LD pruning in the region.

Figure S8 Haplotype representation of SNPs in A) AmMYBl1 region with 2 kb upsream and downstream of the gene and B) QTL region on chromosome 3. White bars represent the reference allele, black bars the alternative allele and grey bars represent missing SNP values

Figure S9 Selective sweeps in cultivated and wild amaranth populations along the genome. A) caudatus, B) cruentus, C) hypochondriacus, D) hybridus, E) quitensis. Horizontal line shows top 0.5% of cutoff for outliers

Figure S10 Demographic history for individual amaranth populations.

Figure S11 Split times of crops species from sepatate hybridus (SA= South America; CA = Central America) populations.