Title: Genomic footprints of local adaptation along elevation gradients associate with present phenotypic variation in teosintes

Short Title: Linking selective footprints to phenotypes in teosintes

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Abstract

Local adaptation across species range is widespread. Yet, much has to be discovered on its environmental drivers, the underlying functional traits and their molecular determinants. Because elevation gradients display continuous environmental changes at a short geographical scale, they provide an exceptional opportunity to investigate these questions.

30 Here, we used two common gardens to phenotype 1664 plants from 11 populations of annual teosintes. These populations were sampled across two elevation gradients in Mexico. Our results point to a syndrome of adaptation to altitude with the production of offspring that flowered earlier, produced less tillers, and larger, longer and heavier grains with increasing elevation. We genotyped these plants for 178 outlier single nucleotide polymorphisms

35 (SNPs), which had been chosen because they displayed excess of allele differentiation and/or correlation with environmental variables in six populations with contrasted altitudes. A high proportion of outlier SNPs associated with the phenotypic variation of at least one trait. We tested phenotypic pairwise correlations between traits, and found that the higher the correlation, the greater the number of common associated SNPs. In addition, allele

40 frequencies at 87 of the outlier SNPs correlated with an environmental component best summarized by altitudinal variation on a broad sample of 28 populations. Chromosomal inversions were enriched for both phenotypically-associated and environmentally-correlated SNPs. Altogether, our results are consistent with the set-up of an altitudinal syndrome promoted by local adaptation of teosinte populations in the face of gene flow. We showed

45 that pleiotropy is pervasive and potentially has constrained the evolution of traits. Finally, we recovered variants underlying phenotypic variation at adaptive traits. Because elevation

mimics climate change through space, these variants may be relevant for future maize breeding.

Keywords: spatially-varying selection; F_{st}-scan; association mapping; altitudinal syndrome; pleiotropy; chromosomal inversions;

Author summary

Across their native range, species encounter a diversity of habitats promoting local adaptation of geographically distributed populations. While local adaptation is widespread, much has yet to be discovered about the conditions of its emergence, the targeted traits, their molecular determinants and the underlying ecological drivers. Here we employed a reverse ecology approach, combining phenotypes and genotypes, to mine the determinants of local adaptation of teosinte populations distributed along two steep altitudinal gradients in Mexico. Evaluation of 11 populations in two common gardens located at mid-elevation pointed to the set-up of an altitudinal syndrome, in spite of gene flow. We scanned genomes to identify loci with allele frequencies shifts along elevation. Interestingly, variation at these loci was commonly associated to variation of phenotypes. Because elevation mimics climate change through space, these variants may be relevant for future maize breeding.

Introduction

Local adaptation is key for the preservation of ecologically useful genetic variation [1]. The conditions for its emergence and maintenance have been the focus of a long-standing debate nourished by ample theoretical work [2–9]. On one hand, spatially-varying selection promotes the evolution of local adaptation, provided that there is genetic diversity underlying the variance of fitness-related traits [10]. On the other hand, opposing forces such as neutral genetic drift, temporal fluctuations of natural selection, recurrent introduction of maladaptive alleles via migration among populations and homogenizing gene flow may hamper local adaptation (reviewed in [11]). Empirical evidence for local adaptation is brought by measures of reciprocal native-site fitness advantage [11]. Meta-analyzes indicate that local adaptation is pervasive, with evidence through reciprocal transplants detected in 45% to 71% of populations [12,13].

While local adaptation is widespread, much has yet to be discovered about the traits submitted to spatially-varying selection, their molecular determinants and the underlying ecological drivers [14]. Empirical studies on these important questions rely on the predictions that local adaptation increases with phenotypic, genotypic and environmental divergence among populations [2,15,16]. Comparisons of the quantitative genetic divergence of a trait (Q_{st}) with the neutral genetic differentiation (F_{st}) can provide hints on whether trait divergence is driven by spatially-divergent selection [17–20]. Application of these approaches reveals striking examples of divergent selection for developmental rate in the common toad [21], for drought and frost tolerance in alpine populations of the European silver fir [22], and for traits related to plant phenology, size and floral display among populations of *Helianthus* species [23,24].

At the genomic level, local adaptation is usually detected by genomic regions

harboring population-specific signatures of selection. These signatures include alleles

95   displaying greater-than-expected differentiation among populations [25] and can be identified

through F_{st}-scans [26–32]. F_{st}-scans and its derivative methods [26–32], however, suffer from

a number of limitations, among them the high number of false positives (reviewed in [33,34])

and the lack of power to detect true positives [35]. Despite these caveats, F_{st}-outlier approach

has brought emblematic allele discoveries such as at *EPAS1,* a gene involved in the

100   adaptation to altitude in Tibetan human populations [36]. An alternative to detect locally

adaptive loci is to test genotype-environment correlation [32,37–42]. Correlation-based

methods have proven to be more powerful than differentiation-based methods [43]. However,

spatial autocorrelation of population structure and environmental variables can lead to

spurious signatures of selection [44].

105   Both differentiation and environmental genome scans recover sets of outlier loci, a

proportion of which are false positives [45]. Ultimately, a link between outliers and

phenotypic variation therefore needs to be established. Replicated common gardens of

Arabidopsis ecotypes have shown that fitness-associated alleles display geographic and

climatic patterns of selection [46]. Another study, demonstrated that the relative fitness of

110   *Arabidopsis* accessions in a given environment could actually be predicted from climate-

associated SNPs [47]. While it is clear that climatic selection over broad latitudinal

scales produces genomic and phenotypic patterns of local adaptation in the selfer plant

Arabidopsis, whether such patterns would persist in the face of gene flow, at shorter spatial

scale and/or in outcrossing species remains to be elucidated. More importantly, the question

115   of whether loci exhibiting footprints of selection are relevant for present day phenotypic

variation in natural populations remains open.

We focused on a well-established outcrossing plant system, the teosintes, to investigate the relationship of molecular, environmental, and fitness variation in populations sampled across two elevation (climatic) gradients in Mexico. Teosintes are the closest wild

120   relatives of maize and encompass two annual subspecies, *Zea mays* ssp. *parviglumis* (hereon *parviglumis*) and *Zea mays* ssp. *mexicana* (hereon *mexicana*). Both display large effective population sizes [48]□, and span a diversity of climatic conditions, from warm and mesic conditions below 1800 m for *parviglumis*, to drier and cooler conditions up to 3000 m for *mexicana* [49]□. Previous studies have discovered potential determinants of local adaptation

125   in these systems. At a genome-wide scale, decrease in genome size correlates with increasing altitude, which likely results from the action of natural selection on life cycle duration [50, 51]□□. More modest structural changes include megabase inversions that harbor clusters of SNPs whose frequencies are associated with environmental variation [52, 53]□. Also, differentiation- and correlation-based genome scans in six teosinte populations succeeded in

130   finding outlier SNPs for local adaptation [54, 55]□.Yet, a link with phenotypic variation has yet to be established.

In this paper, we used teosinte populations distributed along two altitudinal gradients covering a relatively short yet climatically diverse, spatial scale. Both gradients encompass populations from the two subspecies that are the closest wild relatives of maize, *Zea mays*

135   ssp. *parviglumis* and *Z. mays* ssp. *mexicana*. We first performed common garden experiments on a subset of 11 populations, for which we evaluated 18 phenotypic traits in two locations over two consecutive years. We genotyped individuals from this association panel at outlier SNPs detected from whole genome sequencing of six populations, as well as at 38 microsatellite markers. We next genotyped outlier and neutral SNPs on an extended sample

140   of 28 teosinte populations. We address three main questions: Is there a suite of traits that

defines a syndrome of adaptation to altitude in teosintes? How powerful are genome scans to

detect variants involved in present phenotypic variation? What are the genetic and

environmental drivers of its evolution?

Results

Phenotypic variation within and among populations.

In order to investigate phenotypic variation, we set up two common garden

150   experiments located at mid-elevation in Mexico to evaluate individuals from 11 teosinte

populations (S1 Fig, S1 Table). These populations were sampled among 37 populations

distributed along two altitudinal gradients from lowland populations of the subspecies

parviglumis (8) to highland populations of the subspecies *mexicana* (3) (S2 Fig). They were

therefore climatically contrasted as can be appreciated in the Principal Component Analysis

155   (PCA) computed on 19 environmental variables (S3 Fig). The corresponding set of

individuals from the 11 populations formed our association panel.

We gathered phenotypic data during two consecutive years (2013 and 2014). We

targeted 18 phenotypic traits that included six traits related to plant architecture, three traits

related to leaves, three traits related to reproduction, five traits related to grains, and one trait

160   related to stomata (S2 Table). Each of the four experimental assays (year-field combinations)

encompassed four blocks. In each block, we evaluated one offspring of ~15 mother plants

(half-sibs) from each of the 11 teosinte populations using a semi-randomized design. After

filtering for missing data, our association panel encompassed 1664 teosinte individuals.

We found significant effects of Field, Year and/or their interaction for most traits
165   (model M1, S3 Table), and a highly significant effect of the population for all of them (S3

Table). Principal component analysis including all phenotypic measurements highlighted the

distinction between *parviglumis* and *mexicana* subspecies along PC1 (Fig 1A), an axis that

strongly correlated with altitude (Fig 1B & 1C). Furthermore, while populations of each

subspecies largely overlapped, we observed a consistent tendency within subspecies for

170   population phenotypic differentiation along PC1, irrespective of the gradient (Fig 1C). Traits

that correlated the most to PC1 were grain-related traits, tillering, and female and male

flowering time (Fig 1B). PC2 instead correlated with traits exhibiting a trend toward increase-

with-elevation within *parviglumis*, but decrease-with-elevation within *mexicana* (Fig 1D).

PC2 correlated with vegetative growth-related traits such as plant height, height of the lowest

175   and highest ear (Fig 1B). Together, both axes explained 37% of the phenotypic variation.

We investigated in greater detail the influence of altitude on each trait independently.

All traits, except for the number of nodes with ears (NoE), exhibited a significant effect of

altitude (S3 Table, M3 model). Note that after accounting for elevation, the population effect

remained significant for all traits (data not shown), suggesting that other factors than altitude

180   also contributed to shape phenotypic variation among populations. Traits related to flowering

time and tillering displayed a continuous decrease with elevation, and traits related to grain

size increased with elevation (Fig 2 & S4 Fig). Stomata density also diminished with altitude

(Fig 2). In contrast, traits related to PC2 (e.g., plant height, height of the lowest ear, height of

the highest ear, Fig 1B&1D) displayed maximum values at intermediate altitudes (highland

185   *parviglumis* and lowland *mexicana*) (S4 Fig). We estimated narrow-sense heritabilites

(additive genotypic effect) per population for all traits using a mixed 'animal' model.

Average heritabilities per trait ranged from 0.154 for leaf color to 0.644 for female flowering

time (S2 Table). We obtained higher heritabilities for grain related traits when mother plant

measurements were included in the model with 0.631 ($SD = 0.246$), 0.511 ($SD = 0.043$) and

190   0.274 ($SD = 0.160$) for grain length, weight and width, respectively, as compared to when

they were not included.

      Altogether, the continuous variation of a subset of traits across populations in both

elevation gradients was consistent with a syndrome where populations produced less tillers,

flowered earlier and carried larger, longer and heavier grains with increasing elevation (S4

195   Fig).

Figure 1: Principal Component Analysis on phenotypic values corrected for the

experimental setting. Individuals factor map (A) and corresponding correlation circle (B) on

the first two principal components with altitude added as a supplementary variable (in blue).

200   Individual phenotypic values on PC1 (C) and PC2 (D) are plotted with populations ranked by

altitude and color-coded following A. For populations from the two subspecies, *parviglumis*

(circles) and *mexicana* (triangles), color intensity indicates ascending elevation in green for

parviglumis and red for *mexicana*. Corrections for experimental setting are detailed in Model

M2.

Figure 2: Box-plots of adjusted means for four traits. Traits are female flowering time

(A), male flowering time (B), grain length (C) and stomata density (D). Populations are

ranked by altitude. *Parviglumis* populations are shown in green and *mexicana* in red, lighter

colors are used for gradient 'a' and darker colors for gradient 'b'. Units of measurement are

210   detailed in S2 Table. In the case of flowering times, we report data for 9 out of 11 populations

because most individuals from the two lowland populations (P1a and P1b) did not flower in

our common gardens. Covariation with elevation was significant for the four traits.

Corrections for experimental setting are detailed in Model M'1.

215 **Identification of traits under spatially-varying selection.**

To identify traits whose variation among populations was driven primarily by local selection, we contrasted genetic differentiation (F_{st}) and phenotypic differentiation (Q_{st}). We computed F_{st} using 38 SSRs (S4 Table). This analysis encompassed a total of 1125 plants of our association panel, for which we had both individual phenotypes and individual genotypes.

220 Q_{st} was significantly larger than F_{st} for eight traits: grain length, width and weight, number of tillers, heights of the highest and lowest ears, female and male flowering time (Fig 3). Among these traits, six were among the most correlated with altitude (Fig 1B) and exhibited a marked altitudinal pattern of variation: grain length, width and weight, number of tillers, and female and male flowering time (Fig. 2, S4 Fig).

Figure 3: Significance of Q_{st}-F_{st} difference for each trait. The dotted blue line indicates the 95% threshold of the simulated distributions and the red line refers to the observed difference. We considered as spatially-varying traits those for which the observed difference fell outside the 95% threshold.

Structuring of adaptive and neutral genetic diversity.

We successfully genotyped 218 (~81%) out of the 270 outlier SNPs, of which 141 were previously detected in candidate regions for local adaptation [55]. Candidate regions were identified from re-sequencing data of six teosintes populations (S1 Table) following an
235 approach that included high differentiation between highlands and lowlands, environmental

correlation, and in some cases their intersection with genomic regions involved in quantitative trait variation in maize. The remaining ones (77) were discovered in the present study by performing F_{st}-scans on the same re-sequencing data (S1 Table, S5 Table). We detected outlier SNPs that were both highly differentiated between the two pairs of highland

240 and lowland populations (gradients *a* and *b*), while still segregating and displaying a pattern of differentiation by altitude within at least one of the two subspecies. F_{st}-scans pinpointed three genomic regions of particularly high differentiation (S5 Fig) that corresponded to previously described inversions [52,53]: one inversion on chromosome 1 (*Inv1n*), one on chromosome 4 (*Inv4m*) and one on the far end of chromosome 9 (*Inv9e*). The 218 outlier

245 SNPs were distributed along the 10 chromosomes of maize, and exhibited low level of linkage disequilibrium (LD), except for SNPs located on chromosomes eight, nine, and a cluster of SNPs located on chromosome 4 (S6 Fig).

We compared the neutral genetic structure of the association panel revealed by SSRs to the genetic structure revealed by outlier SNPs. For SSRs, the highest likelihood was

250 obtained at K = 2 and K = 5 clusters. At K=2, we found a clustering associated with subspecies differentiation between *mexicana* and *parviglumis* (data not shown). At K=5, we observed an additional layer of structuration associated to both altitudes and gradients (Fig 4A & 4B). In contrast, the genetic structure recovered from the 218 outlier SNPs formed three clusters (K=3) (Fig 4C). As expected, their geographical distribution revealed a

255 structuring by altitude irrespective of the gradient (Fig 4D). Noteworthy was the lowland group that encompassed geographically distant populations from the two gradients (Fig 4D).

Figure 4: Comparison of genetic clustering revealed by 38 neutral SSRs and 178 outlier SNPs. The comparison was established on a subset of 1,426 individuals from our association

260 panel, for which both SSR and SNP genotyping was available. For SSRs and outlier SNPs, the marginal likelihood was maximized at K=5 (A) and K=3 (C), respectively. Colors represent the K clusters. Individuals (vertical lines) are partitioned into colored segments whose length represents the membership proportions to the K clusters. Populations (names after subspecies names M: *mexicana,* P: *parviglumis* and gradient 'a' or 'b') are ranked by

265 altitude indicated in meters. The corresponding geographic distribution of populations along with their average membership probabilities are plotted for SSRs (B) and outlier SNPs (D).

Associating genotypic variation at outlier SNPs to phenotypic variation.

We tested the association between phenotypes and 178 outlier SNPs (MAF>5%)

270 using our association panel. For each SNP-trait combination, the sample size ranged from 264 to 1068, with a median of 1004 individuals (S6 Table). We used neutral SSRs to correct for both structure and kinship. This model resulted in a uniform distribution of P-values when testing the association between genotypic variation at SSRs and phenotypic variation at traits (S7 Fig). Under this model, we found that 148 outlier SNPs (83.1%) associated to at least one

275 trait (Fig 5 and S8 Fig) at an FDR of 5%.

A growing body of literature stresses that incomplete control of population stratification may lead to spurious associations [56]. Hence, highly differentiated traits along environmental gradients are expected to co-vary with any variant whose allele frequency is differentiated along the same gradients, without underlying causal link. We actually found a

280 borderline significant correlation (P-value=0.03) between the strength of the population effect for each trait – a measure of trait differentiation (S3 Table) – and its number of associated SNPs (S5 Table). The correlation however disappeared after removing male and female flowering time. The level of differentiation between the two subspecies in our outcrossing

system was relatively low ($F_{st} \approx 12\%$, 55). As a comparison, in the selfer *Arabidopsis*

thaliana, differentiation among populations from the same geographical area varies between

29% and 80% [57]. Subspecies differentiation was fully accounted for in SSRs genetic

structuring as shown by the clear distinction between *mexicana* populations and the rest of

the samples (Fig 4A). To verify that additional layers of structuring among populations did

not cause an excess of spurious associations, we randomized phenotypes within populations,

positing that if associations indeed originated from under-correction of population structure,

they would persist after randomization. We performed this analysis for female flowering

time. We observed an average of 0.06 significant SNP associations for female flowering time

over 50 randomizations, instead of 59 originally detected. This striking difference suggests

that the majority of our associated SNPs are true positives.

The number of associated SNPs per trait varied from three SNPs for leaf length as for

stomata density, to 61 SNPs for male flowering time, with an average of 26.7 SNPs per trait

(S5 Table). About half (54.6%) of associated SNPs were common to at least two traits (S5

Table), and the remaining 49 SNPs were associated to a single trait (S5 Table). The group of

eight traits displaying evidence of spatially varying selection in the Q_{st}-F_{st} analyses displayed

a greater number of SNPs associated per trait (36.4 on average), compared to the non-

spatially varying traits (19.1 on average). Finally, one striking feature of our results was that

inversions of chromosomes 1, 4, and 9, taken together, were enriched for associated SNPs

associated with phenotypes ($\chi^2 = 5.11$, P-value=0.02).

Figure 5: Manhattan plots of associations between 178 outlier SNPs and four

phenotypic traits. X-axis indicates the positions of outlier SNPs on chromosomes 1 to 10,

black and gray colors alternating per chromosome. The red lines indicate significance thresholds at 5% FDR, with associated SNPs above those lines colored accordingly.

310 **Drivers of correlation between traits.**

Traits related to development, phenology and fitness are not independent. In order to evaluate their correlations, we computed pairwise-correlations between traits after correcting for experimental design and population structure (K=5) for all traits. We found 63 (41%) significant correlations among 153 tested pairs of traits. Among the strongest positive

315 correlations, were the following pairs of traits: male and female flowering time, plant height and height of the highest ear, height of the highest and lowest ear, grain length and width (Fig 6A). The correlation between female (or male) flowering time with grain weight was among the strongest negative correlations (Fig 6A).

We next asked whether the strength of the pairwise correlations between traits

320 depended on the number of common associated SNPs, i.e. SNPs associated significantly with the variation of the two traits considered in the pairwise correlation. We found a significant and positive correlation (Fig 6B). This correlation persisted even after removing the strongest correlation between male and female flowering time. To summarize, our results showed a large proportion of significantly correlated traits, and the traits that were the most correlated

325 also displayed significantly more common associated SNPs.

Figure 6: Pairwise correlations between phenotypic traits, and number of common associated SNPs. The matrix of phenotypic pairwise correlations (Pearson coefficient sign and magnitude for significant correlations) is shown along with the number of common

330 associated SNPs in black for significant correlations and gray otherwise (A). The correlation

between the absolute value of the pairwise phenotypic correlation coefficient and the excess of common associated SNPs (B) is significant (Pearson r=0.41, P-value=4.16 10^{-6}; Kendall r=0.19, P-value=1.8 10^{-3}; regression line is indicated in red). It remained significant after discarding the most outlier data point (the pairwise correlation between female and male

335   flowering time >0.8). Black and gray dots refer to significant and not significant pairwise correlations respectively.

We considered the four year-field assays as different experimental environments. We used the blocks within them as replicates to explore the consistency of pairwise phenotypic

340   correlations across experimental environments and populations (4x4=16 correlation values). We formulated the following interpretations: (1) correlations consistent across both experimental environments and populations most likely reflects genetic mechanisms constraining the independent evolution of traits; (2) correlations consistent across experimental environments within one or few populations may be best explained by

345   population-specific adaptive correlation; (3) plastic response in our common garden setting would generate environmental-specific correlations regardless of the population.

Among 63 significant pairwise correlations that had common associated SNPs, 96.8% exhibited neither treatment nor population effects, and therefore likely resulted from underlying genetic constraints (S9 Fig). This was the case for male and female flowering

350   time, for height of the lowest and highest ear, grain length and width, for instance. Only six correlations displayed population effects such as male flowering time and leaf length for instance (S9 Fig). However, close inspection of the results revealed that population effect was always driven by one or two extreme populations with a paucity of data (data not shown). Finally, we found eight correlations with a significant experimental environment effect which

355   may reflect a plastic response common to all populations (S9 Fig). The correlation between

plant height and height of the highest ear fell in that category. Note that two pairwise

correlations (plant height with grain length, and height of the highest ear and grain length)

displayed a pattern consistent with a population-specific plastic response (experimental

environment x population interaction effect).

Environmental variables underlying local adaptation.

    In order to analyze the environmental patterns correlating to our 218 outlier SNPs

frequencies, we genotyped an extended sample of 28 populations distributed along the two

elevation gradients. We assessed correlation between outlier SNPs and 19 climatic variables.

365   Because climatic variables are not independent, we summarized environmental information

from the sampled populations by two principal components (PCenv1 and PCenv2). The first

component that explained 56% of the variation correlated with altitude, and was defined both

by temperature- and precipitation- related variables (S3 Fig) such as the Minimum

Temperature of Coldest Month (T6), Mean Temperature of Driest and Coldest Quarter (T9,

370   T11), Precipitation of Driest Month and Quarter (P14, P17). The second PC explained 20.5%

of the variation and was mainly defined (S3 Fig) by Isothermality (T3), Temperature

Seasonality (T4) and Temperature Annual Range (T7).

    Roughly 53% (115) of the 218 outlier SNPs associated with at least one of the two

first PCenvs, with 98 and 33 associated with PCenv1 and PCenv2, respectively. Among those

375   that were tested for phenotypic association (178), we found 104 (58%) that were associated to

the first two environmental components, either exclusively to PCenv1 (71) or PCenv2 (17),

or both (16) (S10 Fig, S1 Fig).

SNPs correlating with PCenvs were not more often associated to phenotypes than expected by chance ($\chi^2 = 0.13 \ 10^{-5}$, P-value=0.99). Inversions, however, were enriched for

380 SNPs correlating with PCenv1 ($\chi^2 = 18.55$, P-value=1.66 10^{-5}). Finally, SNPs associated to spatially varying traits associated more often than expected to environmental PCenv1 ($\chi^2 = 7.85$, P-value = 5 10^{-3}), but not to PCenv2 ($\chi^2 = 2.19$, P-value= 0.14).

Discussion

Local adaptation of plant populations sampled across vast geographical ranges has been well documented. Population genomics has brought a flurry of tools to detect outlier loci with footprints of local adaptation across populations, but the multiplicity of confounding factors has questioned their reliability for detecting outlier loci underlying adaptive processes.

390 As a result, whether loci exhibiting footprints of selection are relevant for present day phenotypic variation in natural populations is an open question. Ultimately, it is the intertwining of trait, molecular, and environmental variation that is paramount for the study of local adaptation.

Here we investigated those links on a well-established outcrossing system, the closest

395 wild relatives of maize, along altitudinal gradients that display considerable environmental shifts over short geographical scales. We used populations that range from 504 to 2176 m in altitude over ~460 kms for gradient *a*, and from 342 to 2581m in altitude over ~350 kms for gradient *b* (S2 Fig). We genotyped 28 populations at 218 outlier SNPs detected with population genomic tools, and determined population values for 19 climatic variables (S1

400 Table). In parallel, we conducted an association analysis using individuals derived from

grains collected from 11 of those populations. We phenotyped individuals in two common gardens for two years, and genotyped them at neutral markers and outlier SNPs.

Syndrome of adaptation to altitude.

405   Common garden studies of adaptation along elevation gradients have been conducted in European and North American plants species [58]. Together with other studies, they have revealed that adaptive responses to altitude are multifarious [59]. They include physiological responses such as high photosynthetic rates [60], tolerance to frost [61], biosynthesis of UV-induced phenolic components [62]; morphological responses with reduced stature [63,64],

410   modification of leaf surface [65], increase in leaf non-glandular trichomes [66], modification of stomata density; and phenological responses with variation in flowering time [67], and reduced growth period [68].

Our multivariate analysis on phenotypes revealed a marked differentiation between subspecies along the first axis (21.26% of the total variation) that also discriminated

415   populations by altitude (Fig 1B). Because convergence of phenotypes may be caused by shared population history, we controlled for neutral genetic differentiation. We identified six traits that exhibited a pattern consistent with both spatially-varying selection (Fig 3) and a clinal increase/decrease of population average phenotypic differences with elevation (S4 Fig). These traits collectively defined a teosinte altitudinal syndrome of adaptation characterized

420   by early-flowering, production of few tillers and of heavy, long and large grains. We also observed increased leaf pigmentation with elevation, although with a less significant signal (S3 Table), consistent with the pronounced difference in sheath color reported between *parviglumis* and *mexicana* [69,70].

We recovered a trend towards depleted stomata density at high altitudes (S4 Fig). This

425   trend could arguably represent a physiological adaptation as stomata influence components of

plant fitness through their control of transpiration and photosynthetic rate [71]. Indeed, in

natural accessions of *A. thaliana*, stomatal traits showed signatures of local adaptation and

were associated with both climatic conditions and water-use efficiency [72]. Furthermore,

previous work has shown that in arid and hot highland environments, densely-packed stomata

430   may promote increased leaf cooling in response to desiccation [73] and may also counteract

limited photosynthetic rate with decreasing pCO_2 [74]. Accordingly, increased stomata

density with elevation has been reported in Alpine species such as the European Beech [75].

In our case, higher elevations display arid but *cooler* temperatures during the growing season,

features perhaps more comparable to other tropical mountains for which a diversity of

435   patterns in stomatal density variation with altitude has been reported [76]. Further work will

be needed to decipher the mechanisms driving the pattern of declining stomata density with

altitude in teosintes.

Several elements suggest that our observed clinal trends in phenology and

morphology reflect genetic differentiation rather than environmental maternal effects. First, if

440   phenotypic traits were strongly influenced by environmental maternal effects, we would not

have found strong associations with genetic polymorphisms (Fig 5, S8 Fig). For grain lenght

and weight, we more finely ruled out a strong mother plant effect since we estimated high

heritabilites ($h^2 > 0.5$). Second, a greenhouse experiment reported similar trends for 17

accessions of annual teosintes including both *parviglumis* and *mexicana* [77]. Consistently

445   with our findings, the aforementioned study revealed reduced tiller number, as well as

increase in grain weight and grain number per ear and increase in leaf width with altitude

[77].

Altogether, the altitudinal syndrome was consistent with natural selection for rapid life-cycle shift, with early-flowering in the shorter growing season of the highlands and

450   production of larger propagules than in the lowlands. Although we did not formally measure biomass production, the lower number of tillers and higher amount and size of grains in the highlands as compared with the lowlands may reflect trade-offs between allocation to grain production and vegetative growth [78]. Because grains fell at maturity and a single teosinte individual produces hundreds of ears, we were unable to provide a proxy for total grain

455   production. The existence of fitness-related trade-offs therefore still needs to be formally addressed.

Beyond trade-offs, our results more generally question the extent of correlations between traits, and the part of the phenotypic responses that are due to such correlations rather than local adaptation. In maize, for instance, we know that female and male flowering

460   time are positively correlated [79], and themselves correlate with yield-related traits [80]. Response to selection for late-flowering also triggers a correlated increase in leaf number in cultivated maize [81], and common genetic loci have been shown to determine both traits [82]. Whether such correlations result from modern breeding or exist in teosintes remains to be established. We took advantage of our phenotypic measures to evaluate pairwise

465   correlations between traits. We found strong positive correlations between male and female flowering time, grain length and width, plant height and height of the lowest or highest ear. Strong negative correlations concerned grain weight with both male and female flowering time. Together these correlations were consistent with observations in maize, most of which resulted from genetic constraints, either due to pleiotropy or linked loci. Such constraints

470   seem therefore to have been inherited from wild ancestors to maize.

Footprints of past adaptation are relevant to detect variants involved in present phenotypic variation.

One of the most striking results of our study is that a large majority of our outlier SNPs (83% at 5% FDR) were associated with phenotypic variation. Given our FDR threshold and except for four traits (leaf length, leaf and grain coloration, stomata density), the number of associated SNPs by far exceeded the number of false positives expected. This result suggests that despite abundant criticisms [35], differentiation- and correlation-based methods are powerful to detect loci associated with adaptive phenotypic variation. It is intriguing in several respects. First, for most outlier SNPs, detection was performed on a subset of only six nonetheless highly differentiated populations. Second, the method used to pinpoint outlier SNPs (basic F_{st} scans *versus* other methods, S5 Table) did not affect the rate by which SNPs associated with phenotypes ($\chi^2_{(df=1)} = 7.97 \ 10^{-30}$, P-value $\approx$ 1.00). Third, while most methods used to detect outlier SNPs were based on allele differentiation *between* populations, there was still enough variation *within* populations to detect genotype-phenotype association signals. This seems to indicate that variation persisted over long time scales despite continuous selection.

The number of SNPs associated per trait varied from 3 to 61, with no association for leaf and grain coloration (S5 Table). Our results therefore point to a high proportion of associated SNPs, and since LD is very limited in teosinte populations (decaying within <100bp, [55]) this indicates that phenotypic variation is driven by numerous independent loci. Consistently, Weber et al. [83] found that individual SNPs account for small proportions of the phenotypic variance. In sum, our results argue in favor of a scenario of polygenic

adaptation where, within population, concerted changes of allele frequencies at many loci

495 collectively contribute to determine phenotypic variation [84].

Another key observation was that a majority of associated SNPs were shared by two

or more traits, and the stronger the correlation between traits, the more they displayed

common associated SNPs (Fig 6B). Hence, phenotypic correlations are at least partially

determined by common genetic variants, suggesting that pleiotropy is pervasive. This is

500 consistent with previous reports showing, for example, that the genetic control of female and

male flowering time involves a common set of genes [79]. Note that, while we did not test for

epistasis – the effect of marker combinations as opposed to single marker analysis – genome-

wide association mapping studies (GWAS) in maize all concur to phenotypic variation being

dominated by additive effects [79,85]. Overall, most traits that we studied are highly

505 pleiotropic and have likely evolved under long-term stabilizing polygenic selection [49]. In

such context, differences in detection power of our GWAS among traits may reflect

differences of trait genetic architecture, that is differences in the number, frequency and

effect of variants contributing to heritable variation. For instance, just like in previous studies

[79], we detected many SNPs associated with flowering time, but found only three SNPs

510 associated with leaf length and stomata density. It is possible that selection at these latter

traits has been less stable over time and/or weaker generating a skew towards low frequency,

small effect variants that we were unable to detect [86].

The proportion of genic SNPs associated to phenotypic variation (85%) was not

significantly higher than that of non-genic SNPs (78%) (>1kb from a gene) ($\chi^2_{(df=1)}$ = 0.93, P-

515 value = 0.334) stressing the importance of considering both types of variants [87]. Several

genes that we recovered from our SNPs deserve specific attention (S5 Table). For example,

Eukaryotic Initiation Factor (*EiF4A*) has been previously pinpointed in maize GWAS for

multiple traits, such as female and male flowering time, plant height [81] and photoperiod

response [88]. We also recovered *Sugary1* (*Su1*), a starch debranching enzyme that was

520   selected during domestication and subsequent breeding [89,90]. We found that *Su1* was

associated with variation at three traits (flowering time, tillering and tassel branching)

pointing to high pleiotropy. A previous study reported association of this gene to oil content

in teosintes [83]. We identified association with a SNP at *Sh2* and five traits. Paralogs of *Sh2*

expressed in different tissues encode the large subunit of a rate-limiting starch biosynthetic

525   enzyme, and some of them were selected during domestication and breeding [91]. Significant

associations with the number of grains per ear and grain weight in teosintes are consistent

with the findings that the insertion of a *shrunken-2* (*Sh2*) modified gene in maize can provoke

a temperature-dependent increase in grain number [92].

530   **Environmental variables driving local adaptation.**

A substantial proportion of our set of outlier SNPs was chosen due to their significant

correlation among six populations between variation of allele frequencies and the projection

on the first environmental principal component [55]. We showed here that these correlations

hold on our broad sample of 28 populations, with allele frequency at 115 (53%) SNPs

535   correlating with environmental variation. As expected, the principal component driven by

altitude (PCenv1) correlated to allele frequency for a greater fraction of SNPs than the second

orthogonal component. Neither of them, however, displayed enrichment for SNPs associated

with phenotypic variation. This observation conforms with the fact that correlation-based

methods detect *between*-population divergence while phenotypic associations seek *within*-

540   population variation. SNPs associated with environmental variation but not phenotypic

variation, may indicate either that they were fixed – or almost fixed – within populations of

our association panel leading to low statistical power, or that the phenotype they influence was not measured. Conversely, SNPs associated to phenotypic but not to environmental variation may indicate either no environmental effect or the absence of the environmental

545   driver from our variables. For example, it has been shown that soil is an important driver of local adaptation in teosintes [93], yet we did not quantify plant-soil interaction phenotypic traits, and neither did we evaluate soil variables. Finally, the subset of 87 (S5 Table, S11 Fig) outlier SNPs that are associated to both environmental and phenotypic variation point to situations where the SNP still segregates within populations and relates to measured

550   phenotypes that are themselves associated to environmental driver(s) (PCenv1 and/or PCenv2). These genomic locations are likely of particular interest for ongoing adaptation.

Interestingly, we identified three Mb-scale inversions located on chromosomes 1 (*Inv1n*), 4 (*Inv4m*) and 9 (*Inv9e*) that, taken together, were enriched for SNPs associated with environmental variables related to altitude and/or phenotypic variation at multiple traits.

555   Previous work [52,53] has shown that *Inv1n* and *Inv4m* segregate within both *parviglumis* and *mexicana*, while two inversions on chromosome 9, *Inv9d* and *Inv9e*, are present only in some of the highest *mexicana* populations; such that all four inversions also follow an altitudinal pattern. Our findings confirmed that three of these inversions possessed an excess of SNPs with high F_{st} between subspecies and between low- and high-*mexicana* populations

560   for *Inv9e* [54]. Noteworthy *Inv9d* contains a large ear leaf width quantitative trait locus in maize [87]. Corroborating these results, we found consistent association between the only SNP located within this inversion and leaf width variation in teosinte populations (S5 Table). Overall, our results further strengthen the role of chromosomal inversions in teosinte altitudinal adaptation. Because they suppress recombination between inverted and non-

565   inverted genotypes, their spread has likely contributed to the emergence and maintenance of

locally adaptive allelic combinations in the face of gene flow, not unlike a growing number of examples from other models (reviewed in [94]) including insects [95], fish [96], birds [97] and plants [98,99].

570   **Conclusion.**

Elevation gradients provide an exceptional opportunity for investigating variation of functional traits in response to continuous environmental factors at short geographical scales, where gene flow among populations is ongoing. Here we documented patterns indicating that

575   local adaptation, likely facilitated by the existence of chromosomal inversions, allows teosintes to cope with specific environmental conditions. Using population genomic tools, we recovered variants that underlie adaptive phenotypic variation in teosintes. We also found evidence of pleiotropy (or of tightly linked genes) on phenotypic variation, which may impose genetic constraints and compromise the evolution of traits. Finally, we detected a

580   number of SNPs associated with phenotypic variation of traits related to altitudinal adaptation. These traits are relevant for maize evolution and breeding. Whether the underlying SNPs detected in teosintes bear similar effects in maize, or whether their effects differ in domesticated backgrounds, will have to be further investigated.

Material and Methods

Description of teosinte populations and sampling.

We used 37 teosinte populations of *mexicana* (16) and *parviglumis* (21) subspecies from two previous collections [51,54,55] to design our sampling. These populations (S1 Table) are distributed along two altitudinal gradients (S1 Fig). We plotted their altitudinal

590 profiles using R 'raster' package [100] (S2 Fig). We further obtained 19 environmental variable layers from http://idrisi.uaemex.mx/distribucion/superficies-climaticas-para-mexico. These high-resolution layers comprised monthly values from 1910 to 2009 estimated via interpolation methods [101]. We extracted values of the 19 climatic variables for each population (S1 Table).

595 We defined an association panel of 11 populations on which to perform a genotype-phenotype association study. Our choice was guided by grain availability as well as the coverage of the whole climatic and altitudinal ranges. Hence, we computed Principal Component Analyses (PCA) for each gradient from environmental variables using the FactoMineR package in R [102] and added altitude to the PCA graphs as a supplementary

600 variable. Our association panel comprised five populations from a first gradient (*a*) – two *mexicana* and three *parviglumis,* and six populations from a second gradient (*b*) – one *mexicana* and five *parviglumis* (S1 Fig).

High throughput sequencing (HTS) data were obtained for six populations out of the 37 populations (M6a, P1a, M7b, P2b, M1b and P8b; S1 Fig, S1 Table) to detect candidate

605 genomic regions for local adaptation [55]. The four highest and lowest of these populations are also included in our 11 common garden experiment populations.

Finally, we designed an extended sample of 28 populations to investigate correlation with environmental variation.

610   **Common garden experiments**

We used two common gardens for phenotypic evaluation of the association panel. Common gardens were located at INIFAP (Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales, Agricolas y Pecuaria) experimental field stations in the state of Guanajuato in Mexico, one in Celaya municipality at the Campo Experimental Bajío (CEBAJ) (20°31'20'' N,

615   100°48'44''W) at 1750 meters of elevation, and one in San Luis de la Paz municipality at the Sitio Experimental Norte de Guanajuato (SENGUA) (21°17'55''N, 100°30'59''W) at 2017 meters of elevation. These locations were selected because they present intermediate altitudes (S2 Fig) and environmental conditions where both lowland and highland populations could grow (S3 Fig). The two common gardens were replicated in 2013 and 2014.

620   The original sampling contained 15 to 22 mother plants per population. Eight to 12 grains per mother plant were sown each year in individual pots. After one month, seedlings were transplanted in the field. Each of the four fields (2 locations, 2 years) was separated into four blocks encompassing 10 rows and 20 columns. We evaluated one offspring of ~15 mother plants from each of the 11 teosinte populations in each block, using a semi-

625   randomized design, i.e. each row containing one or two individuals from each population, and individuals being randomized within row, leading to a total of 2,640 individual teosinte plants evaluated.

Because grains were directly collected from wild populations, environmental maternal effects were not controlled for in our experiments. Such control would necessitate grain

630   production from selfing of each plant in a system where inbreeding depression is likely very strong. We are therefore confounding here genetic and environmental maternal effects.

Genotyping of outlier SNPs

We extracted total DNA from each individual plant of the association panel as well as 20 individuals from each of the 18 remaining populations that were not included in the association panel (Table 1). Extractions were performed from 30 mg of lyophilized adult leaf material following recommendations of DNeasy 96 Plant Kit manufacturer (QIAGEN, Valencia, CA, USA). We genotyped SNPs using Kompetitive Allele Specific PCR technology (KASPar, LGC Group) [103].

Among SNPs identified as potentially involved in local adaptation, 270 were designed for KASPar assays, among which 218 delivered accurate quality data. Of the 218 SNPs, 141 were detected as outliers in two previous studies using a combination of statistical methods – including F_{st}-scans [104], Bayescan [29] and Bayenv2 [32,105], Bayescenv [106] – applied to either six of our teosinte populations [55] or to a broader set of 49 populations genotyped by the Illumina® MaizeSNP50 BeadChip [54]. The remaining outlier SNPs (77) were detected by F_{st}-scans from six populations (S1 Fig, S1 Table), following a simplified version of the rationale in [55] by considering only differentiation statistics: SNPs were selected if they displayed both a high differentiation (5% highest F_{st} values) between highland and lowland populations of both gradients, and a high differentiation (5% highest F_{st} values) between highland and lowland populations either within *parviglumis* (P2b and P8b) or within *mexicana* (M7b and M1b) or both, in gradient *b* (S1 Fig). In other words, we conditioned detection of outliers to repeated patterns in the two gradients, allele differentiation by altitude within one of the two subspecies, and avoided those fixed between the two subspecies.

SSR genotyping and genetic structuring analyses.

In order to quantify the population structure and individual kinship in our association panel, we genotyped 46 SSRs (S4 Table). Primers sequences are available from the maize database project [107] and genotyping protocol were previously published [108]. Genotyping

660 was done at the GENTYANE platform (UMR INRA 1095, Clermont-Ferrand, France). Allele calling was performed on electropherograms with the GeneMapper® Software Applied Biosystems®. Allele binning was carried out using Autobin software [109], and further checked manually.

We employed STRUCTURE Bayesian classification software to compute a genetic

665 structure matrix on individual genotypes. Individuals with over 40% missing data were excluded from analysis. For each number of clusters (K from 2 to 13), we performed 10 independent runs of 500,000 iterations after a burn-in period of 50,000 iterations, and combined these 10 replicates using the LargeKGreedy algorithm from the CLUMPP program [110]. We then used the Evanno method [111] to choose the optimal K value and plotted the

670 resulting clusters using DISTRUCT software. We followed the same methodology to compute a structure matrix from the outlier SNPs.

We also inferred a kinship matrix from SSRs using SPAGeDI [112]. Kinship coefficients were calculated for each pair of individuals as correlation between allelic states [113]. Since teosintes are outcrossers and expected to exhibit an elevated level of

675 heterozygosity, we estimated intra-individual kinship to fill in the diagonal. We calculated ten kinship matrices, each excluding the SSRs from one out of the 10 chromosomes. Finally, we computed the pairwise linkage disequilibrium (LD) between the 178 outlier SNPs at a frequency > 5% using the R package LDcorSV [114] while correcting for the underlying structure and kinship estimated from SSRs [115]. SNP and microsatellite data are available

680 at: XX.XXXX/XX.figshare.XXXXXXX .

Phenotypic trait measurements

We evaluated a total of 18 phenotypic traits in the association panel (S2 Table). We measured six traits related to plant architecture (PL: Plant Height, HLE: Height of the Lowest Ear, HHE: Height of the Highest Ear, Til: number of Tillers, LBr: number of Lateral Branches, NoE: number of Nodes with Ears), three traits related to leave morphologies (LeL: Leaf Length, LeW: Leaf Width, LeC: Leaf Color), three traits related to reproduction (MFT: Male Flowering date, FFT: Female Flowering date, TBr : Tassel Branching), five traits related to grains (Gr: number of Grains per ear, GrL: Grain Length, GrWi: Grain Width, GrWe: Grain Weight, GrC: Grain Color), and one trait related to Stomata (StD: Stomata Density). These traits were chosen because we suspected they could contribute to differences among teosinte populations based on a previous report of morphological characterization on 112 teosinte collections grown in five localities [116].

We measured the traits related to plant architecture and leaves after silk emergence. Grain traits were measured at maturity. Leaf and grain coloration were evaluated on a qualitative scale. For stomata density, we sampled three leaves per plant and conserved them in humid paper in plastic bags. Analyses were undertaken at the Institute for Evolution and Biodiversity (University of Münster) as followed: 5mm blade discs were cut out from the mid length of one of the leaves and microscopic images were taken after excitation with a 488nm laser. Nine locations ($0.15mm^2$) per disc were captured with 10 images per location along the z-axis (vertically along the tissue). We automatically filtered images based on quality and estimated leaf stomata density using custom image analysis algorithms implemented in Matlab. For each sample, we calculated the median stomata density over the (up to) nine locations. To verify detection accuracy, manual counts were undertaken for 54 random

705   samples. Automatic and manual counts were highly correlated (R^2=0.82), indicating reliable

detection (see S1 Annex StomataDetection, Dittberner and de Meaux, for a detailed

description). The filtered data set of phenotypic measurements is available

at: XX.XXXX/XX.figshare.XXXXXXX.

710   **Statistical analyses of phenotypic variation**

In order to test for genetic effects on teosinte phenotypic variation, we decomposed

phenotypic values of each trait considering a fixed population effect plus a random mother-

plant effect (model M1):

$Y_{ijklm} = \mu + \alpha_i + \beta_j + \theta_{ij} + \gamma_{k/ij} + \delta_l + P_{m/l} + \varepsilon_{ijklm}$ (M1)

715   where the response variable Y is the observed phenotypic value, μ is the total mean, α_i is the

fixed year effect (i = 2013, 2014), β_j the fixed field effect (j is field station,*SENGUA,*

CEBAJ), θ_{ij} is the year by field interaction, $\gamma_{k/ij}$ is the fixed block effect (k = 1, 2, 3, 4) nested

within the year-by-field combination, δ_l is the fixed effect of the population of origin (l = 1 to

11*),* $P_{m/l}$ is the random effect of mother plant (m = 1 to 15) nested within population, and ε_{ijklm}

720   is the individual residue. For the distribution of the effects, the same variance was estimated

within-populations. All mixed models were run using ASReml v.3.0 [117], and fixed effects

were tested through Wald tests.

For each trait, we represented variation among populations using box-plots on mean

values per mother plant adjusted for the experimental design following model M'1

725     $Y_{ijklm} = \mu + \alpha_i + \beta_j + \theta_{ij} + \gamma_{k/ij} + p_{m/l} + \varepsilon_{ijklm}$ (M'1)

where mother plant within population is considered as fixed. We used the function *predict* to

obtain least-square means (ls-means) of each mother plant, and looked at the tendencies

between population's values.

We performed a principal component analysis (PCA) on phenotypic values corrected for the

730   experimental design, using FactoMineR package in R [102] from the residues of model M2

computed using the *lm* package in R:

$$Y_{ijklm} = \mu + \alpha_i + \beta_j + \theta_{ij} + \gamma_{k/ij} + \varepsilon_{ijklm} \tag{M2}$$

Finally, we tested for altitudinal effects on traits by considering the altitude of the sampled

population (*l*) as a covariate (ALT) in model M3.

735   $$Y_{ijklm} = \mu + \alpha_i + \beta_j + \theta_{ij} + \gamma_{k/ij} + P_{m/l} + a \cdot ALT_l + \varepsilon_{ijklm} \tag{M3}$$

Where all the terms are equal to those in model M1 except that the fixed effect of the

population of origin, that was replaced by a regression on the population altitude (ALT$_l$).

We aimed at detecting traits evolving under spatially varying selection by comparing

phenotypic to neutral genotypic differentiation. Q_{st} is a statistic analogous to F_{st} but for

740   quantitative traits, which can be described as the proportion of phenotypic variation explained

by differences among populations [19,118]. Significant differences between Q_{st} and F_{st} can

be interpreted as evidence for spatially-varying ($Q_{st} > F_{st}$) selection [118]. We used the R

package *QstFstComp* [119] that is adequate for experimental designs with randomized half-

sibs in outcrossing species. We established a distribution of the difference between statistics

745   (Q_{st}-F_{st}) under neutral hypothesis using the half-sib dam breeding design and 1000 resamples,

and compared it to the observed difference using a 95% threshold cutoff value in order to

detect traits under spatially-varying selection.

Q_{st} estimates relied on the assumption that the observed phenotypic variation was

determined by additive genotypic variation. We thus estimated narrow-sense heritability for

750   each trait in each population to estimate the proportion of additive variance in performance.

We calculated per population narrow-sense heritabilites as the ratio of the estimated additive

genetic variance over the total phenotypic variance on our common garden measurements

using the MCMCglmm R package [120] where half sib family is the single random factor, and the design (block nested within year and field) is corrected as fixed factor. For three grain-related traits, we also ran the same model but including mother plants phenotypic values calculated from the remaining grains not sown. We ran 100,000 iterations with 10,000 burn-in, inverse gamma (0.001; 0.001) as priors. We then calculated the mean and standard deviation of the 11 per population h^2 estimates.

Pairwise correlations between traits.

We evaluated pairwise-correlations between traits by correlating the residues obtained from model M4, that corrects for the underlying genetic structure as estimated from SSRs:

$$Y_{ijklm} = \mu + \alpha_i + \beta_j + \theta_{ij} + \gamma_{ijk} + \sum_{n=1}^{4} b_n C^n_{ijklm} + \varepsilon_{ijklm} \qquad (M4)$$

where b_n is the fixed effect of the structure covariate C^n. Membership values for the C^n covariates were calculated at the individual level, i.e. for each offspring of mother plant m from population l, grown in the year i field j and block k. C^n is thus declared within $ijkl$ indices, although purely genetic covariants.

We further considered the four year-field experimental environments as independent, and used blocks as replicates within year-field. We obtained 16 Pearson correlation values for each pair of traits (four per year-field treatment). We retained correlation values calculated with >7 data points. We then used R values as response variables in a linear model (M5) that considered a fixed population (δ) and year-field ($\alpha_i + \beta_j + \theta_{ij}$) effects, and their interaction (φ):

$$R_{ijlk} = \mu + \alpha_i + \beta_j + \theta_{ij} + \delta_l + \varphi_{ijl} + \varepsilon_{ijlk} \qquad (M5)$$

For all linear models, we visually checked assumptions of independence and normally distributed residues.

Association mapping

We tested the association of phenotypic measurements with outlier SNPs on a subset

780   of individuals for which (1) phenotypic measurements were available, (2) at least 60% of

outlier SNPs were adequately genotyped, and (3) kinship and cluster membership values

were available from SSR genotyping. For association, we removed SNPs with minor allele

frequency lower than 5%.

In order to detect statistical associations between outlier SNPs and phenotypic

785   variation, we used the following mixed model derived from [121]:

$$Y_{ijklom} = \mu + \alpha_i + \beta_j + \theta_{ij} + \gamma_{ijk} + \sum\nolimits_{n=1}^{4} b_n \cdot C^n_{ijkolm} + \zeta_o + u_{ijklm} + \varepsilon_{ijklom} \quad (M6)$$

where ζ is the fixed bi-allelic SNP factor effect with one level for each of the three genotypes

(o=1, 2, 3; with o=2 for heterozygous individuals,), u_{ijklom} being the random genetic effect of

each individual. We assumed that the vector of u_{ijklom} followed a N(0,K σ^2u) distribution,

790   where K is the inversed kinship matrix.

The model was implemented in ASReml v.3.0 [117] in R and run for each SNP

independently. In order to avoid overcorrection of neutral genetic structure and improve

power, we ran the model independently for each chromosome using a kinship matrix

estimated from all SSRs except those contained in the chromosome tested [122]. We tested

795   SNP effects though the Wald statistics provided by ASReml, and applied 5% False Discovery

Rate (FDR) thresholds for each phenotype separately. We generated Qqplots using 38 SSRs

for each of the 18 traits. To this purpose, multiallelic genotypes were transformed to biallelic

genotypes filtered for MAF > 5% and ran associations with the complete M6 model as well

as the M6 model with either excluding kinship or structure and kinship.

800   Finally, we tested for correlation between the excess of common associated SNPs between two traits, and the absolute value of their pairwise phenotypic correlation. We computed both parametric (Pearson coefficient) and non-parametric (Kendall coefficient) correlation (Fig 6B). We calculated the excess of common associated SNPs as the difference between observation and expectation – under the hypothesis that the proportion of associated

805   SNPs is independent between traits.

Environmental correlation of outlier SNPs

       We tested associations between allelic frequency at 218 outlier SNPs and environmental variables using Bayenv 2.0 [37,105]. Because environmental variables are

810   highly correlated, we used the first two principal component axis from the environmental PCA analysis (PCenv1 and PCenv2) to run Bayenv 2.0. This software requires a neutral covariance matrix, that we computed from an available dataset of SNPs [54] for 28 popualtions (S1 Table). We consequently restricted our analysis to 28 populations. From this available dataset, we randomly extracted 1000 SNPs found to display no selection footprint,

815   hereafter neutral SNPs [54]. Genotypes were available for 24 to 34 individuals per population, albeit different from the ones of our association mapping panel. We employed these neutral SNPs to compute a population correlation matrix in Bayenv 2.0 by running 100,000 iterations and saving the matrix every 500 iterations. We then tested the correlation of these to the last matrix obtained as well as with an *Fst* matrix calculated using BEDASSLE

820   [123], as described in [54].

       For each outlier SNP, we compared the posterior probability of a model that included an environmental factor (PCenv1 or PCenv2) to a null model. We determined a 5% threshold for significance of environmental association by running 100,000 iterations on neutral SNPs.

We carried out five independent runs for each outlier SNP and evaluated their consistency

825   from the coefficient of variation of the Bayes factors calculated among runs.

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Author contributions

Conceived and designed the experiments: MIT, DM. Contributed plant material: LEE, JAA-L, SM, MIT. DNA extractions: HC, AR, M-AF, DM. Conducted field experiments and performed phenotypic measurements: M-AF, MIT, MGC, SM. Outlier SNP detection: M-AF. Microsatellite genotyping: AV, HC, FD, MF. Neutral SNP genotyping: LEE, JAA-L. Stomata density images and pipeline: JdD, HD. Statistical methodology: LM, MIT, DM, M-AF, NEM-A. Implemented methods, wrote scripts: M-AF, NEM-A. Analyzed the data: M-AF, NEM-A. Prepared Tables and Figures: M-AF, NEM-A. Discussed interpretations: M-AF, NEM-A, DG, LM, JdM, YV, DM, MIT. Wrote the paper: NEM-A, M-AF, MIT. Corrected and commented the manuscript: all authors.

 Supporting information captions

SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURES

Figure S1: Geographical location of the 37 populations. *parviglumis* (circles) and

865   *mexicana* (triangles) populations were sampled along gradient *a* (gray) and gradient *b* (black)

in Mexico. The 11 populations indicated with a purple outline constituted our association

panel.

Figure S2: Altitudinal profiles along gradients *a* and *b*. Sampled populations are plotted

870   on parallel altitudinal profiles for gradients *a* and *b*. Darker gray lines indicate lower latitude

for gradient *a* and lower longitude for gradient *b*. Sampled populations are plotted by green

circles (*parviglumis*) or red triangles (*mexicana*). The altitude of the two experimental fields

(CEBAJ: 1750m and SENGUA: 2017m) are marked with stars on y-axes.

875   **Figure S3: Principal Component Analysis of 19 climate variables for 37 teosinte**

populations. A: Projection of *parviglumis* (green circles) and *mexicana* (red triangles)

populations on the first PCA plane with gradients *a* and *b* indicated by triangles and circles

respectively. The 11 populations evaluated in common gardens are surrounded by a purple

outline. Populations that were previously sequenced to detect selection footprints are shown

880   in bold (S1 Table). B: Correlation circle of the 19 climatic variables on the first PCA plane.

Climatic variables indicated as Tn (n from 1 to 11) and Pn (n from 12 to 19) are related to

temperature and precipitation, respectively. Altitude (in blue) was added as a supplementary

variable.

885 **Figure S4: Box-plots of adjusted means by field, year and block, for all traits.**

Populations are ranked by altitude. *parviglumis* populations are shown in green and *mexicana*

in red. Lighter colors are used for gradient 'a' and darker colors for gradient 'b'. Units of

measurement correspond to those defined in S2 Table. For male and female flowering time,

we report values for all 11 populations although very few individuals from the two most

890 lowland populations (P1a and P2b) flowered. Covariation with altitude was significant for all

traits except for the number of nodes with ears on the main tiller (S3 Table).

Figure S5: Genomic F_{st}-scans on 6 teosinte populations. We computed 4 pairwise-F_{st}

values from 6 populations previously sequenced (S1 Table). Those include F_{st} between

895 lowland and highland populations of each gradient (P1a-M6a, P2b-M7b) as well as within

subspecies on gradient *b* (P2b-P8b, M1b-M7b). F_{st} values are averaged across sliding

windows of 20 SNPs with a step of five SNPs (from top to bottom, chromosome 1 to 10) and

normalized across pairwise comparisons to facilitate vizualisation. Only the top 1% values

are represented. The 1‰ thresholds for each pairwise comparisons are indicated by colored

900 horizontal lines. Horizontal black bars indicate location of inversions on chromosome 1

(*Inv1n*), chromosome 4 (*Inv4m*) and chromosome 9 (*Inv9d*). The subset of 218 outlier SNPs

analyzed in the present study is indicated with black tick marks along the X axes.

Figure S6: Pairwise Linkage Disequilibrium (LD) between outlier SNPs. Pairwise LD

905 between 178 SNPs was estimated using r^2, and corrected for structure and kinship computed

from 38 SSRs.

Figure S7: QQ-plots of observed P-values and expected P-values generated from 38 SSRs. We employed three versions o the model M6 with different types of corrections for
910   genetic strucutre and kinship.

Figure S8: Manhattan plots of association between 178 outlier SNPs and 14 phenotypic traits. X-axis indicates the position of outlier SNPs on chromosomes 1 to 10 (black and gray colors alternating). The red line indicates significance thresholds with associated SNPs above
915   those lines colored accordingly.

Figure S9: Significant effects of year-field, population and their interaction on phenotypic correlations. Pairwise correlations between phenotypic traits were computed as in Fig 6. The squares surrounding the correlations denote significant effects recovered from
920   the M5 model where correlation values were considered as response variables. Note that a correlation may not be significant considering data from all populations and environments together, yet we may observe significant correlations when calculated by year-field or population.

925   **Figure S10: Venn diagram of SNPs associated to phenotypic variation and SNPs whose allele frequencies correlated to environmental PCs (PCenv1 and PCenv2).** The 165 SNPs that displayed either association with phenotypes (Pheno) and/or environmental correlations to PCenv1 and PCenv2 are shown on the diagram.

930   **Figure S11: Manhattan plots of association between 178 outlier SNPs and 18 phenotypic traits along with their Bayenv2 outlier status for PCenv1.** X-axis indicates the position of

SNPs on chromosomes 1 to 10 (black and gray colors alternating). The dotted red line indicates significance threshold for phenotypic association. SNPs are colored in red when they were significantly associated with the phenotypic variation, in purple when they were additionally associated to PCenv1. Below the threshold, SNPs in sky blue are those associated to environmental PCenv1 but not to phenotypes.

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES

S1 Table. Description of 37 teosinte populations and sets of populations used in the present study by data types.

S2 Table. List of the 18 phenotypic traits measured and estimates of narrow-sense heritabilities (h^2).

S3 Table. Significance of main effects for each trait as determined by models M1 and M3.

S4 Table. Description of 46 SSRs and genotyping success rate.

S5 Table. Characteristics, association with phenotypes and correlation with environment of 218 outlier SNPs.

S6 Table. Number of individuals used to test associations between 178 SNPs and 18 phenotypes.

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