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1 ABSTRACT

2 Southern and northern glacial refugia are considered paradigms that explain the complex phylogeographic patterns and processes of European biota. Although the Eurasian pygmy 3 shrew Sorex minutus Linnaeus, 1766 (Eulipotyphla, Soricidae) has been used a model 4 5 species to study geographic isolation and genetic diversification in Mediterranean peninsulas 6 in the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM), and post-glacial population expansion from cryptic 7 northern glacial refugia in Western and Central Europe, there has been incomplete 8 knowledge about the phylogeographic structure, genetic differentiation and demographic 9 history within these regions. Here, we provide a revisited statistical phylogeographic study of 10 S. minutus with greater sampling coverage in terms of numbers of individuals and 11 geographic range, making it the most comprehensive investigation of this species to date. 12 The results showed support for genetically distinct and diverse phylogeographic groups 13 consistent with southern and northern glacial refugia, as expected from previous studies, but also identified geographical barriers concordant with glaciated mountain ranges during the 14 LGM, early diversification events dated between the Upper Pleistocene and Lower Holocene 15 for the main phylogeographic groups, and recent (post-LGM) patterns of demographic 16 17 expansions. The results have implications for the conservation of intraspecific diversity and the preservation of the evolutionary potential of S. minutus. 18

19

20 KEYWORDS: Cytochrome b – glacial refugia – historical demography – Last Glacial

- 21 Maximum mammals postglacial colonisation.
- 22

1 INTRODUCTION

2 During the Quaternary glaciations, species in Europe were restricted to glacial refugia at 3 glacial maxima (Bilton et al., 1998; Taberlet et al., 1998; Hewitt, 2000; Stewart & Lister, 2001; Pazonyi, 2004; Sommer & Nadachowski, 2006). As glaciers retreated, a broad range 4 5 of recolonisation patterns emerged, as evidenced by palaeontological, biogeographic and 6 phylogeographic studies on various taxa, resulting in the complex contemporary patterns of 7 endemism, species richness and biodiversity hotspots observed across Europe. While 8 population contraction and lineage diversification within southern glacial refugia in the 9 Mediterranean peninsulas during the Last Glacial Maximum [LGM; 19-26.5 thousand years 10 ago (KYA) (Clark et al., 2009)], and subsequent northward postglacial recolonisation of Europe have been accepted and recognised since the 1990s (Bilton et al., 1998; Taberlet et 11 12 al., 1998; Hewitt 2000), the concept of cryptic northern glacial refugia also became a 13 paradigm to explain the complex phylogeographic patterns and processes of European biota (Stewart & Lister, 2001; Pazonyi 2004; Sommer & Nadachowski, 2006). Fossil records and 14 phylogenetic analyses revealed that many species of flora and fauna could have survived 15 during the LGM in the Carpathian Basin (Stewart & Lister, 2001; Pazonyi, 2004; Sommer & 16 17 Nadachowski, 2006; Stojak et al., 2015), in Dordogne region (Steward et al., 2010) and in the Ardennes (Stewart & Lister, 2001), and glacial refugia could also be located in Crimea 18 (Marková, 2011) or the Russian Plain (Banaszek et al., 2012). Nowadays, locations of 19 southern and northern glacial refugia during the LGM are hotspots of genetic diversity (Petit 20 21 et al., 2003; Stojak et al., 2016).

The Eurasian pygmy shrew *Sorex minutus* Linnaeus, 1766 (Eulipotyphla, Soricidae) (Hutterer, 1990) has been used as a phylogeographic model species for studying the persistence of populations in northern European refugia during the LGM (Bilton *et al.*, 1998: McDevitt *et al.*, 2010; Vega *et al.*, 2010a, b). It is one of the few mammalian species that is widely distributed in the three Mediterranean peninsulas, and in Central and Northern Europe (Fig. 1A); therefore, *S. minutus* is an excellent model for understanding the effects of the glaciations in Europe and the colonisation history during the Pleistocene and postglacial

1 times. Although several studies have found evidence supporting the hypotheses of southern 2 geographic isolation and genetic diversification, and population expansion from cryptic 3 northern glacial refugia (Bilton et al., 1998; McDevitt et al., 2010; Vega et al., 2010a, b), little 4 is known about the phylogeographic structure, genetic differentiation and demographic 5 history of this small mammal within these regions due to the limited number of samples from 6 Mediterranean peninsulas. An expanded phylogeographic study of the pygmy shrew is 7 therefore important for the understanding and further development of biogeographic models 8 of glacial refugia and postglacial recolonization, for depicting areas with high intraspecific 9 genetic diversity, for establishing conservation measures of rear-edge populations, and for 10 the preservation of the evolutionary potential of species, particularly in the face of climate and anthropogenic change (Deffontaine et al., 2005; Provan & Bennett, 2008; Stojak et al., 11 12 2019; Stojak & Tarnowska, 2019).

13 In this study, we explored the evolutionary history and phylogeographic structure of Sorex minutus using a statistical phylogeography approach (Knowles & Maddison, 2002; 14 Knowles, 2009). Here, we emphasise the genetic diversity and structure within and among 15 refugia, the inference of geographical barriers and the demographic history of *S. minutus*, 16 17 which are aspects that have not been studied in detail previously. Specifically, we asked the following questions: 1) What are the geographical distribution and genetic diversity patterns 18 19 of the genealogical lineages of S. minutus? 2) Is there an isolation-by-distance pattern across the geographic range of *S. minutus* or do the lineages show significant population 20 21 genetic structure? 3) What is the historical demography of S. minutus in Europe? Our results 22 showed support for distinct and genetically diverse lineages, geographical barriers 23 concordant with glaciated mountain ranges during the LGM, and recent (post-LGM) 24 population expansions with contemporary contact areas. The results presented here have 25 implications for the long-term conservation of intraspecific diversity and the preservation of the evolutionary potential of *S. minutus* in the face of modern climate change. 26

27

28 MATERIALS AND METHODS

1 Study species

2 Sorex minutus is common over most of its distribution but is rarely dominant and it occurs in 3 a wide range of terrestrial habitats with adequate ground cover and in relatively damp areas. including swamps, grasslands, heaths, sand dunes, woodland edge, rocky areas, shrubland 4 5 and montane forests (Hutterer, 1990, 2016; Churchfield, 1990; Churchfield & Searle, 2008). 6 It is found from southern and western Europe to much of central and northern Europe. 7 Ireland and the British Isles, and Siberia to Lake Baikal in the east (Hutterer, 1990, 2016). It 8 is found from sea level up to 2260 m (in the Alps), but its distribution becomes patchy and 9 limited to higher altitudes in southern Europe where it occurs with some degree of 10 geographical isolation and differentiation, while in central and northern parts of Europe and in Siberia it is more abundant and populations are more connected and widespread 11 12 (Hutterer, 1990, 2016). 13 Samples and molecular methods 14 A total of 671 cytochrome b (cyt b) DNA sequences of S. minutus from Europe and Siberia 15 were used for this study (Fig. 1B; see Supplementary information Table S1). DNA 16 17 sequences were obtained from samples collected from the wild following ethical guidelines (Sikes, Gannon & the Animal Care and Use Committee of the American 18 19 Society of Mammalogists, 2011), or from museums, and from published GenBank data (including AB175132: Ohdachi et al., 2006; AJ535393 – AJ535457: Mascheretti et al., 2003; 20 21 GQ272492 - GQ272518: Vega et al., 2010a; GQ494305 - GQ494350: Vega et al., 2010b; and JF510376 – JF510321: McDevitt et al., 2011). In addition, four cyt b sequences of S. 22 23 volnuchini, which was used as an outgroup (Fumagalli et al., 1999), were incorporated into 24 the analysis (including AJ535458: Mascheretti et al., 2003). 25 Genomic DNA from wild and museum samples was extracted using a commercial kit (Qiagen). Partial (1110 bp) cyt b sequences were obtained by PCR using two primer pairs 26 that amplified approximately 700 bp of overlapping fragments, or using five primer pairs (for 27

28 museum samples with highly degraded DNA) that amplified approximately 250 bp of

1 overlapping fragments (Vega et al., 2010a). PCR amplification was performed in a 50 µl final 2 volume: 1X Buffer, 1 µM each primer, 1 µM dNTP's, 3 mM MgCl₂ and 0.5 U Platinum Taq Polymerase (Invitrogen), with cycling conditions: 94°C for 4 min, 40 cycles at 94°C for 30 s, 3 55°C for 30 s and 72°C for 45 s, and a final elongation step at 72°C for 7 min. Purification of 4 5 PCR products was done with a commercial kit (Qiagen) and sequenced (Macrogen and 6 Cornell University Core Laboratories Center). 7 8 Phylogenetic analysis 9 Sequences were edited in BioEdit version 7.0.9.0 (Hall, 1999), aligned in ClustalX version 10 2.0 (Larkin et al., 2007). A haplotype data file was obtained using DnaSP version 5.10.1 (Librado & Rozas, 2009). Newly obtained haplotypes were deposited in GenBank 11 12 (Accession Numbers: XXXXX – XXXXX). 13 The model of evolution that best fitted the molecular data (haplotypes) was searched using jModelTest version 2.1.10 (Darriba et al., 2012) using the Bayesian Information 14 15 Criterion value. The substitution model supported was the GTR with specified substitution types (A-C=0.4250, A-G=23.5124, A-T=1.6091, C-G=1.8671, C-T=17.2314, G-16 17 T=1.0000), proportion of invariable sites (0.6044), gamma shape parameter (0.2816) and nucleotide frequencies (A=0.2777, C=0.3076, G=0.1416, T=0.2731). 18 The phylogenetic relationships among cyt b haplotypes of S. minutus were inferred 19 by Bayesian analysis and by generating a parsimony phylogenetic network. The Bayesian 20 analysis was done using MrBayes version 3.2.7 (Ronquist et al., 2012) with two independent 21 runs (10 million generations and 5 chains each), a sampling frequency every 1000 22 23 generations and temperature of 0.1 for the heated chain, and checking for convergence in 24 Tracer version 1.7.1 (Rambaut et al., 2018). Trees were summarized after a burn-in value of 25 2500 to obtain the posterior probabilities of each phylogenetic branch. The main phylogenetic groups (phylogroups) were identified based on monophyly of the haplotypes, 26 27 and were named based on the geographical origin of the samples. The phylogenetic network 1 was done using PopART version 1.7 (http://popart.otago.ac.nz) implementing a median-

2 joining algorithm.

3 Sequence polymorphism indices and diversity values, including the number of haplotypes (H), polymorphic (segregating) sites (S) and parsimony informative sites (P), 4 5 haplotype diversity (Hd), nucleotide diversity (π), and average number of nucleotide 6 differences (k), were estimated using DnaSP. This was done for the whole data set 7 (ingroup), for the main phylogroups, and also for other relevant geographic groups, including 8 island populations and continental samples.

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10 Population genetic structure

11 Pairwise genetic differentiation values (F_{ST}) between all pairs of phylogroups and other relevant geographic groups, and an Analysis of Molecular Variance (AMOVA) were

calculated using Arlequin version 3.11 (Excoffier et al., 2005). Ten thousand nonparametric 13

14 permutations were performed to generate a random distribution to test the significance of the

pairwise F_{ST} values and covariance components of the AMOVA, and α = 0.05 was set as the 15

16 threshold for statistical significance.

A Mantel test was used to evaluate the relationship between matrices of pairwise 17 geographic distances and genetic differentiation values (Slatkin's linearised pairwise F_{ST} as 18 $D = F_{ST}/(1-F_{ST})$; Slatkin, 1995). Despite criticisms, the Mantel test is still a widely used and 19 can be a powerful statistical approach to analyse sequence data to test evolutionary 20 21 hypotheses (Diniz-Filho et al., 2013). Due to the very low (or absence of) genetic variation in 22 the Orkney islands, DNA sequences originating from there were pooled to avoid issues with pairwise F_{ST} calculations. 23

24 Geographic barriers were computed using Barrier version 2.2 (Manni et al., 2004). 25 This approach implements Monmonier's maximum difference algorithm to find edges 26 (boundaries) on a Voronoi tessellation associated with the highest rate of change in genetic 27 distances among samples interconnected by a geometric network (i.e. Delaunay triangulation) (Manni et al., 2004). A barrier highlights the geographic areas where a genetic 28

discontinuity is found, and where samples on each side of the barrier are genetically more
similar than samples taken on different sides of the boundary. Pairwise genetic distances
were estimated using continental samples only, limiting the data set in the geometric network
calculation to one sample per locality, and computing a maximum of 10 barriers.

5

6 Historical demography

7 A strict molecular clock was compared to the uncorrelated lognormal relaxed molecular clock 8 (Drummond et al., 2006). Coalescent constant population size and Bayesian skyline 9 demographic models (Drummond et al., 2005) were compared to identify the best-fitting 10 pattern of changes in the pygmy shrew population. For model selection, path sampling and stepping-stone sampling (Baele et al., 2013), based on four independent MCMC chains 11 12 (1000 steps of 100.000 generations each, following a 10 million generations burn-in period). 13 were used for calculating the log Marginal Likelihoods Estimates (MLEs) for each model. MLEs were used to calculate Bayes Factors (BFs) for each comparison between tested 14 models to determine the best-fitting one (Kass & Raftery, 1995). The best-fitting models 15 were then used to estimate the Time of divergence from the Most Recent Common Ancestor 16 17 (TMRCA) and Bayesian Skyline Plots (BSP) (see below). The 95% Highest Posterior Density (HPD) was included in the TMRCA and BSP estimations. 18

19 TMRCAs for the ingroup (all S. *minutus* samples) and the phylogroups were estimated using BEAST version 2.5.2 (Bouckaert et al., 2014). The following prior 20 21 assumptions were: random starting tree, monophyletic groups (for the ingroup and the Irish 22 phylogroups) (Drummond et al., 2006) to calculate the evolutionary rate, and the GTR 23 substitution model with four categories, gamma = 0.9680 and proportion of invariable sites = 24 0.4680 (from jModelTest using the full data set). The oldest record of S. minutus has been 25 found in Podlesice and Mała Cave, Poland dated between 5.3 and 3.6 MYA (Early Pliocene; Mammal Neogene 14) (Rzebik-Kowalska, 1998). Using this fossil information, a calibration 26 point for the ingroup was set at 4.45 MYA (SD = 0.5 MY; 5.27 – 3.63 MYA) with a normal 27 prior distribution. A second calibration was set for the Irish lineage at 0.006 MYA (SD = 28

0.0005 MY; 0.00682 – 0.00518 MYA) based on the inferred colonisation time of Ireland by *S. minutus* using control region sequences (McDevitt *et al.*, 2009). The trace files were
 analysed in Tracer, the tree information from the four runs were combined and resampled at
 a lower frequency (for a total of 10,000 trees) using LogCombiner, and the information was
 summarized using TreeAnnotator selecting Maximum clade credibility tree and median
 heights. The phylogenetic tree showing the TMRCAs was created using FigTree version
 1.4.4 (http://tree.bio.ed.ac.uk/software/figtree/).

Genetic evidence of population expansion for the phylogroups, island populations
and continental samples was investigated using the R₂ test of neutrality (Ramos-Onsins &
Rozas, 2002), based on the difference of the number of singleton mutations and the average
number of nucleotide differences, and Fu's Fs (Fu, 1997), a statistic based on the infinite-site
model without recombination that shows large negative Fs values when there has been a
demographic population expansion. Both population expansion tests were carried out in
DnaSP using coalescent simulations for testing significance (10,000 replicates).

15 Mismatch distributions (i.e. the distribution of the number of differences between pairs of haplotypes) were estimated for the phylogroups (and where $N \ge 10$) to compare the 16 demography of the populations with the expectations of a sudden population expansion 17 18 model (Rogers & Harpending, 1992). For the phylogroups and continental samples that 19 showed a unimodal mismatch distribution and significant population expansion, the time since the population expansion (t) was calculated as $t = \tau/2u$, where τ (tau) is the mode for 20 the unimodal mismatch distribution, and u is the cumulative (across the sequence) 21 22 probability of substitution (Schenekar & Weiss, 2011). The calculations were done using the 23 MS Excel Mismatch Calculator (Schenekar & Weiss, 2011) with sequence length = 1110 bp, 24 generation time = 1 year (Hutterer *et al.*, 2016), percent divergence/MY = 0.551 (based on 25 the average substitution rate across all sites clock rate results from BEAST) and cumulative substitutions/generation = 0.00062. 26

BSPs were calculated using BEAST based on the posterior distribution of effective
population size through time from a sample of gene sequences. This was done for the

- 1 phylogroups showing a unimodal mismatch distribution and significant signatures of recent
- 2 population expansion (where $N \ge 10$). The analysis was run for 100 million generations,
- 3 sampled every 1000, using the best-fitting model.
- 4

5 RESULTS

6 Phylogenetic analysis

For the complete *S. minutus* data set (N = 671) (Fig. 1B), there were 424 haplotypes with
390 polymorphic sites of which 277 were parsimony informative (Table 1). We report 160
newly sequenced specimens of *S. minutus* from the Iberian (4) and Balkan (19) peninsulas
and from Central and Northern Europe (137) from which 127 were new haplotypes. Also,
there were three new sequences and haplotypes of *S. volnuchini*, from which two were from
Turkey and one from the Crimean Peninsula.

13 The Bayesian phylogenetic analysis showed S. minutus as a monophyletic group and revealed six distinct lineages corresponding to their geographical origin (i.e. phylogroups) 14 supported by high posterior probabilities (Fig. 2A). Samples from the Mediterranean 15 peninsulas clustered in three distinct phylogroups, namely the Iberian, Italian and Balkan 16 17 phylogroups. The Iberian group was represented with few DNA sequences (N = 6). It was geographically restricted to the Iberian Peninsula and included samples from Rascafría, 18 Central Spain (Sierra de Guadarrama) and Picos de Europa, Northern Spain. The Italian 19 phylogroup (N = 26) was mostly restricted to the north-central regions of the Italian 20 21 peninsula; it included samples from the Apennines and the Alps in Italy, but also from 22 Switzerland, Slovenia, Southern and Eastern France near the border with Italy, Czech 23 Republic and Germany. The Balkan phylogroup (N = 22) included samples mostly from the 24 Balkan Peninsula and a few from further north in Central Europe. This phylogroup showed a 25 weak north/south subdivision, with one clade containing samples from Switzerland, Austria, 26 Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary and Montenegro, another clade containing samples from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia, plus other ungrouped basal samples 27 28 from Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey (East Thrace, Southeast Europe).

1 There was also a well-supported and geographically widespread Western phylogroup 2 (N = 283), which included samples from northern Spain (Cantabrian Mountain Range), 3 Southern France and Andorra (i.e. the Pyrenees), western and central France (including Belle-Île), Ireland, the Orkney Islands, and western mainland Britain and offshore islands on 4 5 the western coast of mainland Britain. Samples from Ireland formed an internal monophyletic 6 lineage (i.e. the Irish phylogroup, N = 94) within the Western phylogroup. Notably, two 7 samples from Navarra in northern Spain (ESNa0861 and ESNa1131; Accession Number 8 JF510331) shared haplotypes with samples from Ireland. A monophyletic South Italian 9 phylogroup (N = 4) was most closely related to the Western phylogroup than to the Italian 10 phylogroup, and was geographically restricted to La Sila, Calabria in Southern Italy. Samples from northern and central Europe and Siberia, namely the Northern 11 12 phylogroup (N = 330), formed the most geographically widespread lineage and included 13 samples ranging from Central France and Britain (excluding those within the Western phylogroup), across Central and Northern Europe to Lake Baikal in Siberia, but did not 14 include samples from Southern Europe. Samples from mainland Britain belonging to the 15 Northern phylogroup did not form an internal monophyletic cluster. 16

17 The phylogenetic network had a complex structure (Fig. 2B), but the haplotypes clustered into the same phylogroups detected with Bayesian phylogenetics and were 18 distantly related from each other (> 10 mutational steps). The Western phylogroup had a 19 star-like pattern and showed three most internal haplotypes; notably, one internal haplotype 20 (Hap 64) included samples from Northern Spain and Ireland, and many other Irish 21 22 haplotypes derived from it. The Northern phylogroup showed a star-like pattern with many 23 reticulations and three most internal haplotypes separated from each other by few mutational 24 steps. There was an apparent geographical subdivision within the Northern phylogroup, 25 where samples from Siberia, Eastern and Northern Europe were derived or most closely connected to samples from Central Ukraine (Hap_287), samples from Central Europe were 26 derived or most closely connected to samples from The Netherlands (Hap_274), and all 27 28 samples from Britain were derived or most closely connected to other samples from The

Netherlands than to the other central haplotypes (Hap_90); however, the highly reticulated
 pattern of the inner haplotypes of the Northern phylogroup indicated that this geographical
 subdivision was weak.

Sequence polymorphism indices and diversity values for the phylogroups and other
geographic groups are shown in Table 1. For the phylogroups, the haplotype diversity values
were high (>90%), and the nucleotide diversity values were either half or almost half as
much as the ingroup. Notably, the Northern phylogroup had the highest haplotype diversity
values, followed by the Balkan phylogroup; however, the Balkan phylogroup had the highest
nucleotide diversity values. The Irish phylogroup, which clustered within the Western
phylogroup, showed slightly lower haplotype diversity than any other phylogroups.

The continental groups (Northern continental and Western continental) showed 11 12 equivalent DNA polymorphism values as the main phylogroups, but the island groups 13 showed different levels of DNA polymorphism (Table 1). There was low DNA polymorphism in islands of the Orkney Archipelago, with only 11 haplotypes in all Orkney Islands combined 14 (N = 119), but all haplotypes were unique to these islands. There were eight haplotypes in 15 Orkney Mainland (N = 44), from which seven were unique to this island (the largest island of 16 17 the archipelago), there were two unique haplotypes in Orkney South Ronaldsay (N = 40), and there was only one haplotype in Orkney Westray (N = 33) also present in Orkney Hoy 18 (N = 2) and Orkney Mainland. There were five haplotypes in Belle-Île (N = 5), and only one 19 was present in the continent also belonging to the Western phylogroup. The British group (N 20 21 = 91) showed high haplotype diversity but moderate nucleotide diversity values and had 80 22 haplotypes from which 77 were unique haplotypes not found elsewhere.

23

24 Population genetic structure

The highest pairwise differentiation values were found between some southern phylogroups and island groups, while the lowest values were between phylogroups and islands groups that clustered within them (Supplementary information Table S2). There was higher percentage of variation among (73.5 %) than within (26.5 %) groups, and there was a

1 significant population differentiation ($F_{ST} = 0.7349$, P < 0.0001). The Mantel test showed a nonsignificant relationship between pairwise geographic and genetic distances based on 2 3 Slatkin's linearised F_{ST} ($R_2 = 0.0095$, P = 0.2935) (Supplementary information Fig. S1). 4 The barriers identified using the computational geometry approach reflected the 5 genetic differentiation between S. minutus and S. volnuchini, and among the phylogroups within S. minutus (Fig. 1C). The first barrier separated S. minutus from S. volunichini. The 6 7 nine following barriers coincided with the location of mountain ranges, including a barrier 8 located in the north of the Balkan Peninsula, in the Alps and in the Pyrenees, which reflected 9 the genetic subdivisions and lineages in S. minutus.

10

11 Historical demography

12 Comparison of BFs for each model indicated the Bayesian skyline demographic model as 13 the best-fitting one (BF = 391), and the strict molecular clock was better than the uncorrelated lognormal relaxed molecular clock (BF = 23). The MLEs for the constant 14 population size and Bayesian skyline demographic models using the strict molecular clock 15 were -10960 and -10569, while using the uncorrelated lognormal relaxed molecular clock 16 17 were -10907 and -10592, respectively. Therefore, the strict clock and Bayesian skyline demographic model were selected as the best-fitting according to BFs. The effective sample 18 19 size (ESS) for all values was higher than 200.

All branches of the Bayesian genealogy (Fig. 3, Table 2) were well-supported 20 21 (posterior probabilities $PP \ge 0.97$), except for the clade containing all phylogroups excluding 22 Iberian (PP = 0.05). The ingroup split approximately KYA 83.4, with lower and upper 95% 23 highest posterior density HPD limits of approximately between 59.7 and 110.2 KYA. The 24 Iberian phylogroup split approximately 31.8 KYA (95% HPD: 22 – 43.1 KYA, respectively. 25 The Balkan phylogroup had a TMRCA of approximately 29.6 KYA (95% HPD: 21.8 – 40.5 KYA). The Northern and Western phylogroups split approximately 24.1 KYA (95% HPD: 16.4 26 - 33.1 KYA), and the Irish phylogroup arose approximately 5.9 KYA (95% HPD: 4.9 - 6.9 27 KYA). The Italian phylogroup had a TMRCA of approximately 15.3 KYA (95% HPD: 10.7 – 28

21.5 KYA), while the South Italian phylogroup of approximately 12.8 KYA (95% HPD: 8.5 –
 17.8 KYA).

The population expansion tests (R₂ and Fu's Fs) showed significant departures from neutrality for the ingroup and several other phylogroups, except for the Balkan, Iberian and South Italian (Table 2). The population expansions were not an effect of the island samples belonging to these phylogroups, and continental samples analysed separately also demonstrated a similar pattern (Table 2). For the island groups, only the Irish and British groups showed signatures of recent population expansions (Table 2).

9 The mismatch distributions varied significantly among the phylogroups (Fig. 4A: 10 Supplementary information Fig. S2). The ingroup showed a bimodal mismatch distribution, which reflected the pairwise comparisons within and among phylogroups in S. minutus. The 11 12 Northern (and Northern continental), Italian, Western (and Western continental) and Irish 13 phylogroups all had distinctly unimodal distributions with an almost perfect fit between observed and expected pairwise differences of a sudden population expansion model. All 14 population expansions for the phylogroups were dated to the Holocene; the Italian and 15 Northern phylogroups had the oldest times of expansion (>8.0 KYA), while the Irish showed 16 17 a relatively recent population expansion dated to 1.6 KYA.

The BSP obtained for three phylogroups (Northern, Western and Irish) suggested
that demographic expansions of these populations started approximately 5.0 KYA (Fig. 4B).
BSP calculation for the Italian phylogroup indicated an even earlier demographic expansion
(approximately 5.5 KYA) (Fig. 4B).

22

23 DISCUSSION

Quaternary refugia represent the geographical regions that species inhabit during periods of
glacial and interglacial cycles when there is the maximum contraction in geographical range
(Stewart *et al.*, 2009). There is support for both southern (Taberlet *et al.*, 1998; Hewitt, 2000)
and northern glacial European refugia (Bilton *et al.*, 1998; Stewart & Lister, 2001; Kotlík *et al.*, 2006; Provan & Bennett 2008; Fløjgaard *et al.*, 2009; Vega *et al.*, 2010a, b). Rather than

1 polarising the biogeographic patterns into southern and northern refugia (Tzedakis et al., 2 2013), the paradigms of postglacial colonisation in Europe (Hewitt, 2000) can be improved 3 with the acceptance of southern hotspots of diversification without northward colonisation 4 (Bilton et al., 1998) and the concept of refugia-within-refugia (Gómez & Lunt, 2007), as well 5 as with the findings of cryptic northern glacial refugia (Stewart & Lister 2001; Provan & 6 Bennett, 2008; Stewart et al., 2009), to reflect the evolutionary processes across varied 7 topographical areas that have shaped genetic diversity. The statistical phylogeographic 8 results obtained here, using published and newly described samples and haplotypes, 9 notably expand previous findings on S. minutus, giving a more precise population genetic 10 structure and demographic history. Thus, our findings on S. minutus contribute to the understanding of the phylogeographic patterns and processes during the Quaternary 11 12 allociations that shaped the European biota, and contribute to the emerging pattern of 13 complex biogeographical histories in Europe (Pedreschi et al., 2019).

14

15 Sorex minutus *phylogeography*

16 The significant genetic structure among phylogroups defined in this study illustrate the 17 complex history of European colonisation, isolation and diversification of S. minutus during the Pleistocene and Holocene, and is not a simple case of isolation by distance and 18 colonisation of Northern and Central Europe from expanding populations from the south. 19 While the southern phylogroups, including the Iberian, Balkan, Italian and South Italian, were 20 21 mostly restricted to the Southern European peninsulas (consistent with the traditional 22 southern glacial refugia), the Northern and Western phylogroups were widespread 23 geographically and were found north of the Mediterranean peninsulas, consistent with 24 previous studies with fewer samples (Bilton et al., 1998; Mascheretti et al., 2003; Vega et al. 25 2010a, b) and with different molecular markers (McDevitt et al., 2010).

The hypothesis of northern refugia is further supported by palaeontological and palynological evidence for other temperate and boreal species (Willis *et al.*, 2000; Willis & van Andel, 2004; Magri *et al.*, 2006; Sommer & Nadachowski, 2006), as well as many

1 phylogeographic studies in small mammals, including the field vole *M. agrestis* (Jaarola & 2 Searle, 2002), bank vole M. glareolus (Deffontaine et al., 2005; Kotlík et al., 2006; Wójcik et al., 2010), root vole M. oeconomus (Brunhoff et al., 2003), common vole M. arvalis (Heckel 3 et al., 2005; Stojak et al., 2016), common shrew S. araneus (Bilton et al., 1998; Yannic et al., 4 5 2008) and weasels Mustela nivalis (McDevitt et al., 2012). For several small mammals, 6 including S. minutus, suitable climatic conditions at the LGM could have been widespread 7 across Central and Eastern Europe (Fløjgaard et al., 2009; Vega et al., 2010b; McDevitt et 8 al. 2012; Stojak et al., 2019).

9 Until recently, it was unclear which species of Sorex inhabit Crimea, According to 10 Zagorodniuk (1996) it could be S. (minutus) dahli [mentioned in Hutterer (2005) as a synonym of Sorex volnuchini (dahli)], and Zaitsev et al. (2014) and Hutterer et al. (2016) 11 12 showed S. minutus in mainland Ukraine and in Crimea. Hutterer (2005) mentioned that S. 13 volnuchini might be present in Crimea, but in Hutterer et al. (2016) S. volnuchini is only shown in southern Russia and Caucasus States, Turkey and northern Iran. Our research 14 demonstrated that S. volnuchini may be present in the southern region of Crimea (based on 15 one cyt b sequence), while S. minutus is present in the mainland, but further sampling in this 16 17 region is needed.

The finding that in both the Iberian and Italian peninsulas there are two genetic 18 lineages of S. minutus (four in total) suggests that the refugial areas may have had 19 subdivisions at the LGM. In the Iberian Peninsula, the topography of the region with east-20 west mountain ranges and other high ground (over 1000 m a.s.l.), large rivers (which could 21 22 act as barriers to dispersal), and the distinct seasonal precipitation and vegetation types 23 (O'Regan, 2008), must have played an important role in the genetic differentiation of 24 populations and could explain the presence of two phylogroups (i.e. the Iberian and Western 25 phylogroups). McDevitt et al. (2010) proposed that the Western phylogroup could have originated in the Dordogne region based on a limited number of samples from France but the 26 presence of this phylogroup in northern Iberia could mean that an Iberian origin is possible 27 28 instead. A similar process could explain the presence of the two phylogroups in the Italian

1 peninsula (i.e. Italian and South Italian). The genetic differentiation of the South Italian 2 phylogroup, further supported by morphological data (Vega et al., 2010a), could be due to 3 the unique geography of Southern Italy consisting of mountain massifs of Pollino, La Sila and Aspromonte separated by lowland areas, which from the Pliocene to the end of the 4 5 Middle Pleistocene, at times of high sea level, were islands in a chain (Malatesta, 1985; 6 Caloi et al., 1989; Bonardi et al., 2001; Bonfiglio et al., 2002). The patterns of differentiation 7 within refugial areas were concordant with the 'refugia-within-refugia' concept widely 8 recognized for the Iberian Peninsula (Gómez & Lunt, 2007; Abellán & Svenning, 2019) and 9 similar to microrefugia in the Balkans (Kryštufek et al., 2007). For the Italian peninsula, a 10 comparable 'refugia-within-refugia' pattern was found in several species (Amori et al., 2008; Canestrelli et al., 2008; Castiglia et al., 2008; Vega et al., 2010a; Senczuk et al., 2017; 11 12 Bisconti et al., 2018).

13 The genetic similarity between the Western and South Italian phylogroups indicates a common history and it can be hypothesised that their common ancestor was more 14 widespread throughout the Italian peninsula, probably displaced later by the Italian lineage in 15 the Apennines and Western Alps. A similar scenario has been proposed for the water shrew 16 17 Neomys fodiens (Castiglia et al., 2007), Alpine salamander Salamandra salamandra (Steinfartz et al., 2000), black pine Pinus nigra (Afzal-Rafii & Dodd, 2007) and green lizard 18 Lacerta bilineata bilineata (Böhme et al., 2007), which showed closely related South Italian 19 and Western phylogroups most closely related to each other than to a North-Central Italian 20 21 lineage.

The phylogeographic patterns found here were further supported by the determination of barriers that coincided with mountain ranges located on the north of the lberian, Italian and Balkan peninsulas. Contact zones among phylogroups (i.e. localities where at least two cyt b phylogroups were present) were detected at the northern extremes of the southern peninsulas. During the LGM, glaciers covered most of the Alpine (Buoncristiani & Campy, 2004) and Pyrenean mountain ranges (Calvet, 2004), while glaciers in the Carpathians (Reuther *et al.*, 2007) and in the Balkan Peninsula (Hughes *et al.*, 2006)

1 were found > 1,000 m a.s.l. When climate ameliorated and suitable habitat became 2 available, pygmy shrew populations belonging to different phylogroups on different sides of 3 the mountain ranges could have expanded and colonised previously glaciated areas thus 4 forming the observed contact zones. Moreover, the widespread distribution and absence of 5 phylogeographic structure of the Northern phylogroup could be explained by the apparent 6 absence of major geographical barriers across Central and Northern Europe, and 7 recolonization from northern refugia. Similarly, pygmy shrews belonging to the Western and 8 Northern phylogroups could have quickly colonised mainland Britain across a land 9 connection to continental Europe (i.e. Doggerland; Gaffney et al., 2007), resulting in the 10 genetic similarities observed between the British Isles and continental Europe.

11

12 Sorex minutus *demography*

13 The oldest fossils assigned to S. minutus were found in Podlesice and Mała Cave, Poland dated to the Early Pliocene between 4 and 5.3 MYA (Rzebik-Kowalska, 1998). An early 14 widespread colonisation of Europe by S. minutus might have been possible because it was 15 probably one of the first species of the genus Sorex in the continent (Rzebik-Kowalska, 16 17 1998, 2008). The Bayesian analysis revealed, however, recent timing of diversification events, with TMRCAs for the ingroup and the phylogroups in continental Europe between 18 the Upper Pleistocene and Lower Holocene, and in the Middle Holocene for the Irish 19 phylogroup. Similar colonisation scenarios and divergence before the LGM from Eastern to 20 21 Western Europe have been proposed for other species, including the common vole *Microtus* 22 arvalis (Heckel et al., 2005; Stojak et al., 2016), the bank vole Clethrionomys glareolus (Deffontaine et al., 2005; Kotlík et al., 2006; Wójcik et al., 2010), and the root vole M. 23 24 oeconomus (Brunhoff et al., 2003).

The population expansion signatures for the Northern and Western phylogroups, star-like patterns in phylogenetic networks and population expansion times support recent and quick colonisation events of central and northern Europe, and appear to reflect responses to postglacial climate warming. The Western lineage was restricted to Central,

1 Western and South-Eastern France and North-Western Spain in continental Europe, but it 2 was the only lineage found in Ireland and several islands off the west and north coasts of 3 Britain. The region of the Dordogne in South-Western France was situated outside the LGM 4 permafrost area and has temperate mammal fossil records dated to the end of the LGM; 5 therefore, it has been suggested as another likely northern refugium (Sommer & 6 Nadachowski, 2006; McDevitt et al., 2010) where the Western lineage could have persisted 7 and recolonised Western and Central France after the LGM. But as stated above, an Iberian 8 origin for this phylogroup is also possible. However, SDM studies showed that suitable 9 climatic conditions during the LGM for S. minutus and other temperate small mammal 10 species could have been more continuous and present further north (Fløjgaard et al., 2009; Vega et al., 2010b), which could explain its widespread distribution in Western Europe and 11 its presence in Britain. According to BSP results, it is plausible that Northern and Western 12 13 phylogroups spread across Europe after the Younger Dryas (11.7 to 12.9 KYA). The British (island) group, belonging to the Northern phylogroup, showed a significant signature of 14 population expansion. This expansion could have selectively displaced pygmy shrew 15 populations of the Western lineage, which still remain in uplands and islands in the periphery 16 17 to the north, west and south of Britain forming a 'Celtic fringe' (Searle et al., 2009).

The widespread Italian lineage may be presumed to derive from a glacial refugium 18 19 located somewhere within the vicinity of the Apennine mountain chain. A significant 20 population expansion signature demonstrates that the Italian phylogroup went through a 21 recent expansion phase, calculated in BSP for about 5.5 KYA. Contrastingly, the lack of a 22 population expansion signature, the high nucleotide and haplotype diversities, and the highly divergent sequences showing a weak north/south subdivision of the Balkan phylogroup 23 24 warrants further attention. The Balkans is a European hotspot for biodiversity given its 25 environmental stability, topographic and climatic diversity and occasional connectedness with Asia Minor (Kryštufek & Reed, 2004; Kryštufek et al., 2007, 2009; Bužan et al., 2010), 26 and it could be expected that some of these factors shaped the genetic diversity of the 27 28 Balkan lineage there. Similarly, the lack of significant population expansion values for the

Iberian lineage may relate to historical stable population sizes; however, the sample size
 was low and this result should be taken with caution.

3

4 Further considerations and implications

The comparison of the results obtained here with those elsewhere shows an emerging
pattern of glacial refugia in Mediterranean peninsulas and further north in Central Europe for
several species.

8 Although S. minutus is considered as a least concern species by the IUCN (Hutterer 9 et al., 2016), the distinct phylogroups deserve more attention than this implies. Genetic 10 diversity is considered an important aspect of global biodiversity (McNeely et al., 1990), and local and/or country-based conservation efforts are highly valued (for example, in Britain and 11 12 Ireland the pygmy shrew is protected by law). The refugial areas in Southern Europe are 13 often found in mountain ranges at the low-latitude margins of the present-day distribution ranges of species and are most likely to contain rear-edge populations where selection for 14 local adaptations could have resulted in the evolution of distinct ecotypes (Cook, 1961; 15 Hampe & Petit, 2005). Rear-edge populations, including the southern lineages of S. minutus, 16 17 deserve further investigation and should be regarded for conservation because they are 18 important to determine the responses of species to modern climate change (Petit et al., 19 2003; Hampe & Petit, 2005).

In conclusion, the Eurasian pygmy shrew Sorex minutus is a good model for 20 21 understanding biological diversity, colonisation patterns and the effects of past climate 22 change on biological diversity. There is a mosaic of genetic lineages across continental 23 Europe, characterised by different demographic histories and natural colonisation patterns, 24 while island populations are characterised by recent natural and human-mediated 25 colonisations. This study has notably expanded previous findings on S. minutus, with a more precise statistical phylogeographic analysis of the genetic variability and structure, 26 colonisation routes, geographical barriers and historical demography across Europe. 27 28 Specifically, we provided new data from the Iberian and Balkan peninsulas, and from Central

and Eastern Europe (Poland, Ukraine and Russia), important for understanding postglacial
events. *Sorex minutus* is not an easy species to obtain in large numbers, and the sampling
described here represents a very substantial effort. However, it is a species that is unusually
widespread and genetically subdivided and therefore can inform better than almost any other
about the relative importance of southern and northern glacial refugia.

6

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1 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2
- 3 Table S1. Sorex minutus dataset and sample information
- 4 **Table S2.** Pairwise geographic distances (in Km, below diagonal) and genetic differentiation
- 5 (Slatkin's F_{ST}, above diagonal) among Sorex minutus phylogroups and other geographic
- 6 groups
- 7 **Figure S1.** Correlogram of pairwise geographic and genetic distances among *Sorex minutus*
- 8 phylogroups and other geographic groups.
- 9 Figure S2. Mismatch distributions of *Sorex minutus* phylogroups and other geographic
- 10 groups.

2

3

S Ρ π (SD) Phylogroups Ν Н Hd Hd (SD) Π k 390 671 277 424 0.9899 0.0015 0.0143 0.0000 15.8670 Ingroup Italian 0.0230 0.0061 0.0004 6.7720 26 51 19 18 0.9600 South Italian 4 16 1.0000 0.0020 0 4 0.1770 0.0072 8.0000 0.0290 0.0097 Balkan 22 55 28 0.9610 0.0009 10.7970 17 Iberian 6 15 6 5 0.9330 0.1220 0.0058 0.0013 6.4000 Western 283 147 83 102 0.9458 0.0067 0.0049 0.0002 5.4400 Irish 94 53 0.0020 0.0002 21 42 0.8920 0.0270 2.2180 330 311 197 278 0.0002 Northern 0.9984 0.0005 0.0065 7.1840 Continental groups Western (Continental) 15 28 11 0.0050 0.0006 13 0.9810 0.0310 5.5430 226 142 0.0002 Northern (Continental) 241 188 0.9978 0.0062 6.9300 0.0007 Other island groups Orkney Islands (All) 119 17 0.0027 3.0140 13 11 0.7720 0.0210 0.0001 **Orkney Mainland** 7 0.0550 0.0013 9 8 0.7550 0.0002 1.4790 44 Orkney South Ronaldsay 1 2 0.1420 0.0710 0.0001 0.0001 40 1 0.1420 Orkney Westray 33 0 0 1 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 0.0000 Orkney Hoy 2 2 2 1.0000 0.5000 0.0018 0.0009 2.0000 0 Belle Île 5 5 1.0000 0.1260 0.0038 0.0010 9 3 4.2000 91 146 61 80 British 0.9960 0.0030 0.0055 0.0003 6.1210

Table 1. DNA sequence polymorphism in Sorex minutus phylogroups and other geographic groups

N = Sample size; S = Number of polymorphic (segregating) sites; P = Parsimony informative sites; H = Number of haplotypes; Hd = Haplotype diversity; SD = Standard Deviation; π = Nucleotide diversity; k = Average number of nucleotide differences.

						t	TMRCA	95% HPD
Phylogroups	R ₂	P-value	Fs	P-value	Т	(in years)	(in KYA)	(in KYA)
Ingroup	0.0198	0.0004	-741.2620	***	7.8590	6425	83.4	59.7-110.2
Italian	0.0521	0.0000	-5.8766	0.0152	6.7720	5536	15.3	10.7-21.5
South Italian	0.1822	0.1658	0.0687	0.2975	5.6340	-	12.8	8.5-17.8
Balkan	0.0830	0.0542	-3.6701	0.0768	7.1500	-	29.6	21.8-40.5
Iberian	0.1462	0.0888	0.0731	0.4290	4.0100	-	31.8	22.0-43.1
Western	0.0175	0.0004	-114.6990	***	3.6660	2997	24.1	16.4-33.1
Irish	0.0187	0.0000	-52.5664	***	1.3040	1066	5.9	4.9-6.9
Northern	0.0105	0.0000	-663.4730	***	6.5390	5346	24.1	16.4-33.1
Continental groups								
Western (Continental)	0.0793	0.0045	-6.0342	0.0035	5.5430	4532	-	-
Northern (Continental)	0.0128	0.0000	-386.4520	***	5.8010	4742	-	-
Other island groups								
Orkney Islands (All)	0.0880	0.5209	0.6044	0.6437	1.1740	-	-	-
Orkney Mainland	0.0839	0.2301	-1.6879	0.1892	1.4790	-	-	-
Orkney Hoy	0.5000	1.0000	NC	NC	2.0000	-	-	-
Orkney South Ronaldsay	0.0712	0.1770	-0.2182	0.4420	0.1420	-	-	-
Orkney Westray	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	-	-	-
Belle Île	0.1915	0.2467	-1.6330	0.0732	3.5500	-	-	-
British	0.0161	0.0000	-122.8550	***	6.1210	5004	-	-

Table 2. Population expansion tests for Sorex minutus phylogroups and other geographic groups

 R_2 = Ramos-Onsins and Rozas (2002) test of neutrality; P-value = P-values of expansion tests expected under neutrality (*** = P < 0.001); Fs = Demographic population expansion test (Fu 1997); τ = (2ut) The mode of a mismatch distribution; t = Time of population expansion (for phylogroups with bi- or unimodal mismatch distributions); TMRCA = Time of divergence from the Most Recent Common Ancestor; 95% HPD = 95% Highest Posterior Density; KYA = Thousand Years Ago; NC = Not computable (not enough variation or samples)

1 FIGURE LEGENDS

2

3 **Figure 1.** A) Map of Eurasia showing the geographical distribution of the Eurasian pygmy shrew Sorex minutus (Hutterer et al., 2016). B) Sample localities of S. minutus used for this 4 5 study and divided into cytochrome (cyt) b phylogroups (symbols with a dot represent 6 samples used for inferring geographic barriers). C) Geographic barriers (red lines) for S. 7 *minutus*; the barriers (up to a maximum of 10) were inferred using Monmonier's maximum 8 difference algorithm which finds edges (boundaries) on the Voronoi tessellation (blue 9 polygons) associated with the highest rate of change in genetic distances among a subset of 10 continental samples (dots) interconnected with a Delaunay triangulation (green lines). 11 12 Figure 2. Phylogenetic reconstructions of the Eurasian pygmy shrew Sorex minutus using 13 cyt b sequences. A) Bayesian phylogenetic tree (with posterior probabilities on branches) showing the phylogroups. B) Haplotype phylogenetic network with haplotypes represented 14 as nodes and their evolutionary relationships represented by edges; relevant haplotypes 15 named at the centre of star-like patterns. 16 17 Figure 3. Time of divergence from the Most Recent Common Ancestor (TMRCA) for the 18 19 main phylogroups. Numbers on nodes represent posterior probabilities, and horizontal bars represent the 95% Highest Posterior Density (HPD). Dates in Thousand Years Ago (KYA). 20 21 22 Figure 4. Historical demography of the Eurasian pygmy shrew Sorex minutus. A) Mismatch distributions of groups with significant signatures of population expansion. B) Bayesian 23 24 Skyline Plots (BSP) of phylogroups with significant signatures of population expansion. The 25 solid lines in BSP are median estimates and the shaded areas represent 95% Highest 26 Probability Densities (confidence intervals). 27

1 FIGURES

2

3 **Figure 1.**



Figure 2.





Figure 3.



1 Figure 4.



1 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2
- 3 Table S1. Sorex minutus dataset and sample information

	oogiapino gi	South					Northern	Western	Orkney	
	Italian	Italian	Balkan	Iberian	Belle Île	Britain	(Continental)	(Continental)	Islands	Irish
Italian	-	1.6558	3.0387	3.6919	1.5940	2.8852	2.3798	1.4534	2.8673	4.0090
South Italian	773.14	-	2.5113	3.3869	1.3569	2.8562	2.3204	1.1713	2.7079	4.6820
Balkan	547.27	628.96	-	1.9234	2.5617	3.1494	2.8093	2.7975	6.2456	7.0533
Iberian	1349.26	1768.56	1880.98	-	4.2650	3.1850	2.6191	3.8498	7.3804	10.8797
Belle lle	1162.82	1815.47	1701.44	640.58	-	2.7595	2.1790	0.3345	1.2148	2.4003
Britain	1347.34	2108.66	1795.12	1286.79	647.11	-	0.1449	2.6083	3.9225	4.7265
Northern (Continental)	1022.36	1488.84	863.37	2218.78	1788.28	1554.91	-	2.0767	2.7910	3.2035
Western (Continental)	903.90	1444.78	1448.34	476.18	434.81	1006.85	1742.75	-	0.5436	1.1193
Orkney Islands	3476.34	3693.42	3127.67	4679.14	4175.54	3739.02	2477.61	4206.50	-	1.4635
Irish	1652.35	2396.73	2124.06	1311.98	726.86	346.14	1897.29	1151.96	4016.56	-

Table S2. Pairwise geographic distances (in Km, below diagonal) and genetic differentiation (Slatkin's F_{ST}, above diagonal) among Sorex minutus phylogroups and other geographic groups

- 1 **Figure S1.** Correlogram of pairwise geographic and genetic distances among *Sorex minutus*
- 2 phylogroups and other geographic groups.



- 1 Figure S2. Mismatch distributions of Sorex minutus phylogroups and other geographic
- 2 groups.

