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Molecular taxonomic analysis of the plant associations of adult pollen beetles

2 (Nitidulidae; Meligethinae), and the population structure of *Brassicogethes aeneus*

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Abstract:

40 Pollen beetles (Nitidulidae, Meligethinae) are among the most abundant flower-visiting insects in
Europe. While some species damage millions of hectares of crops annually, the biology of many
42 species is little known. We assessed the utility of a 797 base pair fragment of the cytochrome
oxidase 1 gene to resolve Molecular Operational Taxonomic Units in 750 adult pollen beetles
44 sampled from flowers of 63 plant species sampled across the UK and continental Europe. We used
the same locus to analyse region-scale patterns in population structure and demography in an
46 economically important pest, *Brassicogethes aeneus*. We identified 44 Meligethinae at ca. 2%
divergence, 35 of which contained published sequences. A few specimens could not be identified
48 because the MOTUs containing them included published sequences for multiple Linnaean species,
suggesting either retention of ancestral haplotype polymorphism or identification errors in
50 published sequences. Over 90% of UK specimens were identifiable as *Brassicogethes aeneus*. Plant
associations of adult *B. aeneus* were found to be far wider taxonomically than for their larvae. UK
52 *Brassicogethes aeneus* populations showed contrasting affiliations between the north (most
similar to Scandinavia and the Baltic) and south (most similar to western continental Europe), with
54 strong signatures of population growth in the south.

56 **Keywords:**

DNA barcodes; *Brassicogethes*; Meligethinae; Pollen beetles; pollinators

58

Résumé: Les méligèthes (Nitidulidae, Meligethinae), dont certaines espèces endommagent
60 annuellement plusieurs millions d'hectares, sont parmi les insectes floricoles les plus abondants

d'Europe. Cependant leur biologie est pour la plupart largement méconnue. Nous avons évalué la pertinence d'un fragment de 797 paires de bases (pb) du gène codant pour la cytochrome oxydase 1 (CO1), amplifié en utilisant les primers 'Pat' et 'Jerry' de Simons et al. (1994), pour résoudre les MOTUs (Unités Taxonomiques Opérationnelles Moléculaires) chez les Meligethinae; dans un échantillon de 756 spécimens adultes capturés sur 63 espèces végétales de 15 familles différentes échantillonnées en Grande Bretagne et dans 12 pays d'Europe continentale. Nous avons utilisé le même locus pour analyser à une échelle régionale la démographie et la structure de la population d'un ravageur économiquement important : *Brassicogethes aeneus*. Nous avons identifié 44 MOTUs de Meligethinae présentant une divergence de ca. 2% dont 35 contiennent des séquences publiées. Quelques spécimens, contenant des MOTUs incluant des séquences liées à plusieurs espèces linnéennes, n'ont pu être identifiés, ce qui laisse supposer soit une rétention de polymorphismes d'haplotypes ancestraux, soit des erreurs d'identifications dans les séquences publiées. Plus de 90% des spécimens capturés au Royaume-Uni ont été attribués au MOTU correspondant à *Brassicogethes aeneus*. Les associations entre plantes et *B. aeneus* adultes se sont révélées nettement plus diversifiées qu'au stade larvaire. En Grande Bretagne, les populations de *Brassicogethes aeneus* présentent une affiliation différente entre le nord (plus proche des populations scandinaves et baltes) et le sud (plus semblable aux populations d'Europe de l'ouest), avec de forts signes de développement des populations vers le sud.

Mots-clés : Code-barres génétique; *Brassicogethes*; Meligethinae; méligèthes; pollinisateurs

80

Introduction

82 Pollen beetles (Meligethinae) are tiny but sometimes superabundant flower visitors across
the Holarctic, Afrotropics and Oriental regions (Audisio et al., 2009). Their relative abundance
84 across a range of habitats is shown by the fact that a recent survey found them to comprise over
25% of all flower visitors across UK urban, nature reserve and farmland habitats (Baldock et al.,
86 2015). The two most frequently recorded UK Meligethinae are pest species, *Brassicogethes aeneus*
(syn. *Meligethes aeneus* Fab.) and *B. viridescens* (syn. *Meligethes viridescens* Fab.) (Hokkanen
88 2000; Alford 2003; Olfert and Weiss 2006; Veromann et al. 2006). As adults, both are 2-3mm long,
with dark-metallic colouration and superficially similar morphologies. Hibernating adults become
90 active in early spring and attain sexual maturity by feeding on spring-flowering plants in a range of
families (Free and Williams, 1978). They then migrate to the flower buds of yellow Brassicaceae
92 such as winter oil-seed rape, where they feed and oviposit (Kirk-Spriggs, 1996). The larvae feed
within the flowers before falling to the ground to pupate (Cook et al., 2004). The new generation
94 of adults emerges in midsummer and feeds on the pollen of a wider range of plant species (Free
and Williams 1978), building up the fat reserves required to overwinter successfully. In contrast to
96 work on larval host-plants (e.g. Audisio et al. 2009; Kirk-Spriggs 1996), the food-plant associations
of adult pollen beetles are not widely reported. Adult associations may nevertheless influence
98 population dynamics through impacts on adult maturation, overwinter survival and recruitment to
successive generations (Free and Williams, 1978; Veromann et al., 2014). Activities of adults and
100 larvae reduce plant fitness both directly (by consumption) and indirectly (through impacts on
pollinator visitation rates) (Kirk-Spriggs, 1996; Krupnick et al., 1999; Krupnick and Weis, 1999).
102 There is evidence that pollen beetles can also act as pollinators; adults in flowers have pollen on
their bodies and can disperse pollen at both within-field and landscape scales (Williams *pers.*

104 *comm.*; Ramsay et al. 2003), and for some plant species they are thought to be the dominant
pollinating insect (Alonso, 2004; Gómez, 2003).

106 The winged adults of some pollen beetles are able to disperse over large distances with the
assistance of prevailing wind currents (Tamir et al. 1967; Chapman et al. 2012). Genetic analyses
108 of European populations also suggest high dispersal, with low differentiation between populations
across Sweden (Kazachkova et al., 2007, 2008), and between Lithuania and Finland (Makūnas,
110 2012), and more significant (though still low) differentiation between samples from Denmark,
France, Finland, Germany, Sweden, and the UK (Kazachkova et al., 2008). The structure of pollen
112 beetle populations is of considerable applied interest because of increasing resistance of pest
species to some pesticides (Hansen, 2003; Kupfer and Schröder, 2015) and possible population
114 variation in the ambient temperatures at which adult dispersal, and hence crop infestation,
occurs. Spatial scales of dispersal are also important in predicting range expansion, and at least
116 one species - *B. viridescens* - is introduced and invasive in the Nearctic (Mason et al., 2003; Olfert
and Weiss, 2006). Understanding of the impacts of these insects, including adaptive responses to
118 pesticides (Zimmer et al., 2014) and environmental change (Hokkanen, 2000) requires enhanced
understanding of their taxonomy, plant associations, and population structure.

120 Adult pollen beetles can be identified by specialists using morphological criteria, though
identification of larval instars to species is much more difficult (Audisio et al., 2009; Audisio and
122 Jelinek, 2015). Kirk-Spriggs (1996) recognised 37 UK species of Meligethinae, and a recent genus-
level revision (Audisio et al., 2009) identified ten genera in the UK fauna (*Acanthogethes*,
124 *Afrogethes*, *Boragogethes*, *Brassicogethes*, *Genistogethes*, *Lamiogethes*, *Sagittogethes*,
Stachygethes, *Thymogethes*, and *Xerogethes*). A growing body of work has applied molecular
126 taxonomic approaches to this group (Audisio et al., 2002, 2000; Trizzino et al., 2009) which, due to

the challenges it poses for morphological identification, is eminently suitable for molecular
128 taxonomy. Our study aimed to assess the utility of DNA sequence-based molecular operational
taxonomic units (MOTUs) to (i) estimate Meligethinae beetle species richness in a range of UK
130 habitats; (ii) identify adult food-plant associations of pollen beetle MOTUs and relate these to
known larval food-plant associations; and (iii) identify Europe-wide geographic and demographic
132 patterns in haplotype distributions for the pest species *Brassicogethes aeneus*.

134 **Materials and methods**

Specimen sampling strategy

136 Sampling for this study comprised 756 new sequences for beetles from 14 European
countries (see map, Fig.S1. Locations are also provided as .kmz file suitable for Google Earth in File
138 S1), sampled from 63 plant species in 15 angiosperm families (Table S1, Fig.S2). Our analyses
incorporated a further 82 published Meligethinae sequences. Individual level metadata and
140 accession numbers for new and previously published sequences are provided in Table S1.

The sampling for this study was divided into three components.

142 (i) 365 specimens were drawn from sampling by the UK Urban Pollinators Project (UPP) (Baldock
et al., 2015) in 2011 from sites centred on 12 cities spanning the UK, in the southwest (Bristol,
144 Cardiff, Swindon, Southampton), southeast (London, Reading), northeast (Hull, Leeds, Sheffield)
and Scotland (Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow). Specimens were collected from 39 plant species in 10
146 families (Fig.S2) during 1 km walked transects in one of three habitat types - nature reserve, farm,
and urban - around each city (see Baldock et al. (2015) for full details on site selection and habitat
148 categories). Our subsampling included 222 specimens from farmland, 132 from nature reserves

and 11 from urban sites (Table 1). All host plants from which specimens were collected were
150 identified based on direct observations using Stace (2010). Farmland specimens were most
frequently sampled from *Brassica napus* sbsp. *oleifera* (Brassicaceae, 29% of specimens) and
152 *Ranunculus repens* (Ranunculaceae, 21%), while nature reserve specimens were most frequently
sampled from *Cirsium arvense* (Asteraceae, 18%) and *Rubus fruticosus* (Rosaceae, 14%) (Table S1).
154 Insect specimens were identified to genus morphologically by taxonomists at the National
Museum of Wales, Cardiff, and have been deposited in the specimen archive of the UK Insect
156 Pollinators Initiative (Vanbergen et al., 2014) at the Natural History Museum, London, with NHM
accession numbers in Table S1.

158 (ii) To provide wider phylogeographic perspective we sequenced a further 391 adult specimens
from additional sites in the UK and 13 continental European countries (Table 1), ranging from the
160 Outer Hebrides islands in the north west of the UK to Romania in south east Europe. This
represents the widest geographic sampling of Meligethinae published to date. To increase the
162 probability of extensive sampling of *Brassicogethes aeneus* for population-level analysis, 60% of
the additional specimens were collected from *Brassica napus* sbsp. *oleifera*.

164 (iii) Our analyses included 82 previously published sequences for specimens from 12 European
countries, all of which have Linnaean names but lack associated plant data (Table S1). Published
166 sequences included those for vouchers at the Natural History Museum, London, for the
commonest UK species (*B. aeneus* and *B. viridescens*) and sequences for 36 additional
168 Meligethinae species from the genera *Afrogethes* (8 species), *Acanthogethes* (1 species),
Boragogethes (1 species), *Brassicogethes* (11 species), *Genistogethes* (1 species), *Lamiogethes* (5
170 species), *Meligethes* (3 species), *Sagittogethes* (3 species), *Stachygethes* (1 species), *Thymogethes*

(1 species) and *Pria dulcamarae*. The published sequences include 19 of the 36 species recorded
172 from the UK (Kirk-Spriggs, 1996).

174 **DNA extraction**

A single leg of each adult beetle specimen was crushed using forceps to break the
176 exoskeleton. DNA was extracted using a chelex protocol following Nicholls et al. (2010). The leg
was incubated overnight at 37°C in a 1.5mL eppendorf tube containing 50µL 5% chelex resin
178 solution and 5µL of 10mg/mL Proteinase K. After incubation, each sample was mixed, centrifuged,
heated for 15 minutes at 95°C to denature any remaining Prot K, re-centrifuged and then stored at
180 -20°C prior to use in PCR.

182 **PCR and sequencing**

We amplified the 797 base pair (bp) fragment of the cytochrome oxidase 1 gene (CO1)
184 available in Genbank for the widest diversity of Meligethinae species at the start of the project.
This fragment was amplified using primers SJerryF and SPatR developed by Timmermans et al.
186 (2010) and modified from C1-J-2183 (Jerry) and TL2-N-3014 (Pat) in Simons et al. (1994). This
region has been widely applied in studies of beetle phylogenetics, phylogeography and DNA
188 taxonomy because it is more easily amplified in some taxa and can contain greater phylogenetic
signal than the standard Folmer barcode region of the same gene (Cardoso and Vogler, 2005;
190 Gómez-Zurita et al., 2010; Kubisz et al., 2012). In pollen beetles we found the LCO/HCO primers
failed to produce bands for some specimens at an annealing temperature of 51°C and produced
192 multiple bands when initial PCR cycles used a lower annealing temperature of 45°C (Hebert et al.,

2004). The Pat/Jerry region does not overlap with the standard Folmer barcode fragment, for
194 which extensive resources for Meligethinae are now available on the Barcoding of Life
BOLDSYSTEMS database (accessed 9 January 2016). The fragment that we used proved
196 informative both in allocating specimens to MOTUs and in resolving the population structure and
demographic status of populations

198 PCRs used the following reaction mix and primers: 12.94 μ L MilliQ water, 2 μ L 10mg/ml BSA,
2 μ L 10 \times reaction buffer, 1 μ L 50mM MgCl₂, 0.16 μ L 25mM dNTPs, 0.1 μ L 5U/ μ L Taq polymerase,
200 0.3 μ L 20 μ M primer SJerryF (5'CAACATYTATTYTGATTYTTTGG3'), 0.3 μ L 20 μ M primer SPatR
(5'GCACTAWTCTGCCATATTAGA3') and 1.2 μ L template DNA. The PCR program used was 94°C for 2
202 minutes, 35 cycles of (94°C for 30 seconds, 51°C for 30 seconds, 72°C for 1 minute), 72°C for 5
minutes, then hold at 10°C. PCR success was checked by running 3 μ L on a 2% agarose gel, and the
204 remainder of each reaction was prepared for sequencing by adding 2.5 μ L of a 0.4U/ μ L Shrimp
Alkaline Phosphatase and 0.6U/ μ L Exonuclease 1 (SAP/EXO 1) mix to each PCR reaction
206 (incubating for 37°C for 40 minutes and 94°C for 15 minutes) to remove unincorporated dNTPs
and primers. Samples were sequenced using ABI BigDye Terminator version 3.1 sequencing
208 chemistry (Applied Biosystems) and run on an ABI 3730 capillary machine by the Edinburgh
Genomics NERC facility.

210

Sequence alignment and phylogenetic analysis

212 Sequences were edited and checked for an appropriate open reading frame (to eliminate
possible nuclear pseudogenes - NUMTs; Bensasson et al. 2001) using Sequencher version 5.01
214 (Gene Codes Corporation, Ann Arbor MI, USA) and aligned using the Clustal W algorithm in

MegAlign v5.05 (DNASTAR Inc., Madison WI, USA). After editing, all CO1 sequences were 797bp
216 long, and the completed alignment was checked by eye. Sequences and Genbank Accession
numbers (**to be added on acceptance**) for each accession are given in Table S1. For inference of
218 phylogenetic relationships we generated a trimmed alignment in which duplicate haplotypes from
the same sampling location were removed using Collapse v.1.2 (Posada, 2013), leaving 241
220 haplotypes including the outgroup *Kateretes rufilabris* from the family Kateretidae, sister taxon to
the Nitidulidae (Genbank accession number DQ221966; Cline et al. 2014). An appropriate model of
222 sequence evolution for our data was identified using MrModeltest v2.3 (Nylander, 2004) as
GTR+I+G. This model was used in Bayesian inference of phylogenetic relationships in the software
224 MrBayes 3 (Ronquist and Huelsenbeck, 2003). The MrBayes analysis ran for 2.5 million iterations,
with 1 cold chain and 3 heated chains using default heat parameters, after which the average
226 standard deviation of split frequencies was 0.02. We used a burn-in of 250,000 generations and
checked parameter posterior distributions for convergence in Geneious. No molecular clock was
228 enforced.

230 **Molecular taxonomic analysis**

Similarity of new data to published sequences was examined in the first instance using
232 nucleotide BLAST search (Altschul et al., 1990). Sequences from samples identified through BLAST
as Meligethinae or its outgroup *Kateretes rufilabris* (788 newly generated and published
234 sequences) were allocated to molecular operational taxonomic units (MOTUs) using two
approaches: jMOTU v1.0.8 (Jones et al., 2011) and ABGD (downloaded July 2014) (Puillandre et al.,
236 2012). jMOTU clusters sequences into MOTUs that differ by pre-defined numbers of bases; we
examined divergence distances amongst sequences ranging from 1-80 bp, with a low BLAST

238 identity filter of 97%. In the presence of a barcoding gap, the plot of MOTU by divergence should
form a plateau, with no change in MOTU number across the divergence levels corresponding to
240 the gap.

ABGD defines MOTUs based upon prior values of within-species divergence, and assesses
242 how MOTU number changes as within-species divergence increases. We used prior within-species
divergence limits ranging from 0.4% to 10%, split into 30 steps; K2P distances were used, with a
244 Ti/Tv ratio of 1.45 (calculated by MrModeltest), and using the default value of 1.5 for slope
increase. Output from the recursive partitioning scheme was used, with the final number of
246 MOTUs chosen at the point where the plot of MOTU versus intraspecific divergence levelled off.

248 **Analysis of population genetic structure and demography**

We analysed population genetic differentiation and demography only for the single most
250 abundant MOTU, corresponding to *Brassicogethes aeneus* (n=635), using the package Arlequin
(Excoffier et al., 2005). Our aim was to understand the spatial scale of haplotype variation in the
252 UK, and to place UK variation in a broader European context. We used analyses of molecular
variance (AMOVA) to quantify population genetic structure at three nested spatial scales
254 (specified fully in Table S2a):

- (a) Between locations within each region of the UK.
- 256 (b) Between 4 regions of the UK (Scotland, NE England, SW England and Wales, and SE
England), and
- 258 (c) Between five regions of Europe (Northern UK, Southern UK, France/Belgium/Germany,
Scandinavia and the Baltic, and Southern Europe - shown in Fig.2);

260 Our division of the UK into regions in (b) was intended to explore the possibility of latitudinal
genetic structure associated with restricted gene flow along relatively narrow habitat corridors of
262 a key foodplant, *Brassica napus* sbsp. *oleifera* agriculture in northern Britain (Botanical Society of
Britain and Ireland distribution map, <http://bsbidb.org.uk/maps/?taxonid=2cd4p9h.ydh>, accessed
264 19 January 2016). Division of the UK into North and South at the largest spatial scale reflects the
results of analyses at the UK level. Our division of continental Europe into three regions *a priori*
266 reflects previous work showing insect dispersal to the UK from the southeast (region
France+Belgium+Germany) and from the northeast (region Scandinavia+the Baltic, which includes
268 samples from Sweden, Estonia and Poland) (Brattström et al., 2010; Chapman et al., 2012, 2002; L
Raymond et al., 2013; Stefanescu et al., 2013; BC Williams, 1951). Samples from the final region
270 (region Southern Europe, which includes samples from Italy, Austria, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria
and Greece) were included to provide a preliminary assessment of haplotype variation for a region
272 known to support high diversity in many widespread European taxa (e.g. Hewitt, 2000; Stone et al.,
2012; Taberlet et al., 1998). We were unable to obtain any samples from the Iberian peninsular,
274 though this region often harbours distinct genetic variation in widely distributed taxa and should
be included for a comprehensive understanding of Europe-wide patterns (Hewitt, 2000; Taberlet
276 et al., 1998). Though patterns at any single locus must be analysed with care (Hurst and Jiggins,
2005), patterns in mitochondrial haplotypes remain informative of genetic relationships between
278 populations (e.g. Bradman et al., 2011; Stone et al., 2012; Winkelmann et al., 2013).

We also used AMOVA to test for food-plant family- associated population structure in the
280 same European *Brassicogethes aeneus* MOTU. Because *B. aeneus* larvae are thought to only
develop on a Brassicaceae subset of the food-plants visited by adults, and mating occurs in the
282 spring when adults recruit to Brassicaceae after hibernation, our expectation was for there to be

no intraspecific population structure based on adult food-plants. This analysis included Europe-
284 wide sampling of *B. aeneus* from adult food-plants in the families Alliaceae, Apiaceae, Asteraceae,
Brassicaceae, Fabaceae, Ranunculaceae and Rosaceae. All AMOVAs used 10000 permutations,
286 with 1000 permutations for significance testing of pairwise F_{ST} .

Haplotype diversity in *Brassicogethes aeneus* was illustrated using a minimum spanning
288 network (Bandelt et al., 1999) constructed in the package PopART (<http://popart.otago.ac.nz>).
Pairwise differentiation between sites or groups was quantified using F_{ST} and tested using exact
290 tests in Arlequin (Michel Raymond and Rousset, 1995).

The demographic history of *B. aeneus* population units was assessed using haplotype
292 pairwise mismatch distributions and tests of selective neutrality in Arlequin. Mismatch distribution
patterns were compared for goodness-of-fit to a model of sudden population expansion using the
294 sum of squared deviations test (Schneider and Excoffier, 1999). Departures from selective
neutrality indicative of selection or population size change were tested using Tajima's D (Tajima,
296 1989a, 1989b) and Fu's F_S (Fu, 1997).

298 Results

Sequence diversity and phylogenetic relationships between Meligethinae CO1 haplotypes

300 Across all accessions in our analysis the 797 bp CO1 fragment showed 587 variable sites,
with no evidence of nuclear pseudogenes (NUMTs). The amplified CO1 fragment showed low
302 phylogenetic resolution at the generic level, and published sequences for the genera *Afrogethes*,
Lamiogethes, and *Sagittogethes* were non-monophyletic in our Bayesian phylogenetic
304 reconstruction (Fig.1, Fig. S3). Sequences for most of the newly-sampled specimens fell into

strongly-supported clades (posterior probability = 1) containing published sequences for one of

306 *Brassicogethes aeneus* or *B. viridescens* (Fig.S3).

308 **Resolution of Meligethinae into Molecular Operational Taxonomic Units.**

721 of 756 specimens initially identified as pollen beetles (337/365 UK UPP specimens and

310 384/391 wider European samples) showed $\geq 98\%$ BLAST sequence similarity to published

sequences for Meligethinae. The UPP exceptions included sequences with $\geq 98\%$ match to

312 published data for other small and superficially similar beetles that are frequently found in

flowers, including *Hydrothassa marginella* (11 sequences, Chysomelidae), *Anaspis frontalis* (five

314 sequences, Scruptiidae), *Eusphalerum sorbi* (four sequences, Staphylinidae) and *Epuraea melina*

(two sequences, Nitidulidae, Carpophilinae). All non-Meligethinae sequences so identified were

316 excluded from further analyses.

jMOTU analysis of the resulting putative Meligethinae sequences and 81 published

318 Meligethinae sequences (n=788) revealed putative barcoding gaps (Fig.S4) at 1.0-1.4% divergence

(8-11 base pairs, n=50 MOTUs) and at 2.0-2.3% divergence (16-18 base pairs, n=44 MOTUs). ABGD

320 gave strong support for 44 MOTUs at 0.78 to 1.7% divergence. Membership of the 44 MOTUs

identified by jMOTU and ABGD was almost identical, with only a single individual of the 788 (a

322 Genbank sequence for *M. aeneus* from Greece, AM491335) changing MOTU membership

between the two analyses (shown for all sequences in Table S1). In subsequent analyses we have

324 used the n=44 ABGD MOTU allocations. Phylogenetic relationships between the 44 MOTUs, and

the published voucher sequences they contain, are shown in Fig.1 and Fig.S3.

326 Thirty-five of the MOTUs contain previously published Genbank sequences, leaving nine
unidentified. MOTUs at this level show some disagreement with morphology-based allocations to
328 Linnaean species. In four cases, published sequences attributed to a single morphological species
were split between two MOTUs: *Brassicogethes viridescens* (MOTUs 13, 44), *B. coracinus* (MOTUs
330 15, 17), *B. erysimicola* (MOTUs 16, 17) and *Afrogethes fruticola* (MOTUs 26, 27). In contrast, three
MOTUs each incorporated published sequences attributed to more than one recognised genus
332 and/or species. This was most dramatic in the case of the eight Linnaean species included in
MOTU 17 (*Brassicogethes coracinus*, *B. arankae*, *B. erysimicola*, *B. matronalis*, *B. nr coracinus*, *B.*
334 *M2 nr longulus*, *B. thalassophilus* and *B. longulus*), but was true also for MOTU 8 (2 species:
Lamiogethes bidens, *Sagittogethes ovatus*) and MOTU 24 (2 species: *Afrogethes canariensis*,
336 *Afrogethes isoplexidis*).

338 DNA sequence-based identification of specimens

ABGD matched 97.6% (all but 17) of putative Meligethinae specimens to MOTUs containing
340 published Meligethinae sequences (Table S1, Fig.1). Ninety-seven percent of UK sampled
specimens (326/337 UPP and 51/52 additional non-UPP) were allocated to the single MOTU (30)
342 containing all published sequences for *Brassicogethes aeneus*. The remainder were matched with
Kateretes rufilabris (MOTU 2, one specimen from Dundee's nature reserve site), *Brassicogethes*
344 *viridescens* (MOTU 44, n=7: one from Edinburgh's nature reserve site, four from Dundee's farm,
one from Glasgow's nature reserve, and one from London's nature reserve), and *Fabogethes*
346 *nigrescens* (MOTU 36, one from London's farm). Only one UPP specimen, from the Bristol
farmland habitat, was allocated to a MOTU (9) lacking any identified reference sequence. In the
348 phylogenetic tree of haplotype sequences (Fig.1 and Fig.S3) this MOTU is placed between MOTU

40 *Stachygethes ruficornis* and MOTU 34, which includes an unidentified pollen beetle from
350 Croatia (see below); without denser taxon sampling and/or use of an additional sequence marker
we cannot place this specimen by barcode identification even to genus.

352 The 339 Meligethinae specimens from non-UPP sites in the UK and continental Europe
were allocated to 15 MOTUs; 322 specimens were allocated to eight MOTUs containing previously
354 identified specimens, while 17 specimens (from Italy, France, Croatia and Poland) were allocated
to seven MOTUs lacking a published reference sequence (Table S1). Again, the vast majority (91%)
356 of specimens were sequence-matched to *B. aeneus* (MOTU 30, n=309). Smaller numbers of
specimens were sequence-matched to *Sagittogethes obscurus* (MOTU 11, n=2, from France),
358 *Brassicogethes viridescens* (MOTU 13, n=17, from Austria and the UK; and MOTU 44, n=28, from
the UK, Italy, Sweden, Estonia), *Lamiogethes pedicularius* (MOTU 31, n=8 from Austria) and
360 *Thymogethes gagathinus* (n=2, from Croatia). All of these identifications are consistent with
known geographic ranges (Audisio et al., 2009). Six specimens were allocated to MOTUs
362 containing reference sequences for more than one species, preventing unambiguous
identification. Three specimens (from Estonia, Bulgaria and Poland) were allocated to multispecies
364 MOTU 17 (the *Brassicogethes coracinus* group in Fig.1, which contains *Brassicogethes coracinus*/
B. arankae/*B. erysimicola*/*B. matronalis*/*B. nr longulus*), and two specimens from Hungary were
366 allocated to MOTU 8 (which contains *Lamiogethes bidens*/*Sagittogethes ovatus*).

368 **Adult food-plant associations**

Adults sequence-matched with *B. aeneus* were sampled from 41 plant species in nine
370 families (Table 2, Fig.S2, Table S1). Only one specimen was sampled from a monocot flower -

Gagea lutea (Liliaceae) in the Bükk Mountains, Hungary. Specimens identified as *B. aeneus* made up 95% of the 305 Meligethinae specimens sampled from *Brassica napus* sbsp. *oleifera* Europe-wide, the other species being *B. viridescens* (4%), *B. coracinus* and *Fabogethes nigrescens* (<1% each). The dominant flower associations recorded for *B. aeneus* other than *Brassica napus* sbsp. *oleifera* (44% of specimens) were *Ranunculus repens* (8.3%), *Rubus fruticosus* (6.7%) and *Cirsium arvense* (5%) (Table 2). The flower associations we found for *B. aeneus* match very closely those recorded by Free and Williams (Free and Williams, 1978) (Table 2), who also recorded this species from *Arctium vulgare* and *Matricaria matricarioides* (Asteraceae), *Stellaria holostea* (Caryophyllaceae), *Papaver rhoeas* (Papaveraceae), *Prunus avium* (Rosaceae) and *Galium verum* (Rubiaceae). AMOVA showed no evidence of plant family-associated structuring in mitochondrial haplotypes in *B. aeneus*, with less than 1% of variation explained by differences between plant families (Table S2d). However, the flower associations of *B. aeneus* are non-random. If we compare the flower associations of this species at the plant family level with the full set of insect-flower associations for the same sites, using only the Urban Pollinators project data (n = 10477 insect-flower association records), we find that adult *B. aeneus* show a significant preference for Brassicaceae and are less common than expected on flowers of Asteraceae ($\chi^2 = 20.13$, df = 6, p = < 0.001).

Adults of the second most abundant species overall, *Brassicogethes viridescens* (n=43 Europe-wide), were sampled from 17 plant species in 10 families: Asteraceae (*Angelica sylvestris*, *Brachyglottis* sp., *Calendula arvensis*, *Centaurea* sp., *Cirsium arvense*, *Cirsium vulgare*, *Crepis* sp., *Hieracium* sp., *Leucanthemum vulgare*, *Taraxacum* agg.), Boraginaceae (*Symphytum* spp.), Brassicaceae (*Brassica napus*), Campanulaceae (*Campanula* sp.), Fabaceae (*Melilotus albus*), Hypericaceae (*Hypericum* sp.), Oleaceae (*Jasminum* sp.), Onagraceae (*Chamerion angustifolium*),

394 Ranunculaceae (*Ranunculus arvensis*) and Rosaceae (*Filipendula ulmaria*). In addition to *Brassica*
napus sbsp. *oleifera*, *Brassicogethes coracinus* was sampled from *Sinapis alba* (Brassicaceae) and
396 *Fabogethes nigrescens* was sampled from *Crepis* sp. (Asteraceae). *Lamiogethes pedicularius* was
sampled from four species of Asteraceae (*Taraxacum* agg., *Arnica montana*, *Hieracium* sp.,
398 *Leucanthemum vulgare*) and one of Ranunculaceae (*Ranunculus arvensis*). *Sagittogethes obscurus*
was sampled from *Hypochaeris radicata* (Asteraceae); *Thymogethes gagathinus* was sampled from
400 *Potentilla reptans* (Rosaceae).

402 **Population structure and demography of *Brassicogethes aeneus***

Across the UK and continental Europe 634 specimens were sequence-matched to
404 *Brassicogethes aeneus*, distributed across countries and regions of Europe as shown in Fig.2. The
B. aeneus MOTU contained 120 CO1 haplotypes. The haplotype frequency distribution was very
406 skewed towards rare haplotypes, with 89 haplotypes represented by a single individual, 187
individuals sharing the commonest haplotype, and 402 individuals (>63%) having one of the top
408 three most abundant haplotypes. The haplotype network for *B. aeneus* is shown in Fig.2.

(a) Spatial patterns in population structure

410 As expected from the overall haplotype distribution the commonest alleles were shared by
most sites, such that only a small component of haplotype variation was explained by differences
412 between population units at any spatial scale. At the level of individual UK populations, the only
significant genetic differences (exact tests in Arlequin, $p < 0.05$) were between Kildonan (on South
414 Uist in the Outer Hebrides Islands of Scotland) and all other UK sites, and between Edinburgh
(Scotland) and each of London and Hull (SE and NE England, respectively). When UK sites were

416 grouped into four regions (Table S2, Scotland, NE England, SE England, and SW England/Wales),
differences between regions explained a low (2.5%) but significant ($p < 0.01$) component of
418 haplotype variation (AMOVA, Table S2b), with pairwise F_{ST} values ranging from 0.003 between NE
and SE England to 0.053 between Scotland and SE England. Only the differences between Scotland
420 and each of NE and SE regions of England were significant (Arlequin, exact tests, $p < 0.05$). Genetic
differentiation between European regions explained a slightly greater (4.4%) and more significant
422 ($p < 0.001$) component of haplotype variation in *B. aeneus* (AMOVA, Table S2c). Pairwise F_{ST} values
ranged from 0.014 between Scandinavia+the Baltic and Scotland to 0.096 between the
424 Scandinavia+the Baltic and France+Belgium+Germany, with all pairwise differences significant
except that between Scotland and the Baltic region.

426 (b) Population demography and tests of selective neutrality

Pairwise mismatch distributions were unimodal and compatible with a rapid population
428 expansion model for all regions of Europe except the Baltic, for which rapid population expansion
was rejected ($p < 0.001$) (Fig.3, Table S2c). In the absence of significant genetic differentiation
430 between Scotland and Scandinavia+the Baltic, a combined dataset also rejected a rapid population
expansion model (Fig.3). All five regional groupings showed significantly negative values of F_u 's F_S ,
432 with significantly negative values of Tajima's D for three regions (England/Wales,
France+Belgium+Germany, and Southern Europe).

434

Discussion

436 **Sequence-based identification of pollen beetles**

The region of cytochrome oxidase c used in our analysis contains sufficient variation to
438 separate specimens effectively into molecular operational taxonomic units. Identification of 99%
of individuals in our samples to 35 reference taxa, in almost all cases to MOTUs containing
440 published sequences for a single Linnaean species, compares favourably with documented DNA-
barcoding of other groups (e.g. Hajibabaei et al. 2006; Ward et al. 2005). However, matching to a
442 single species was not possible for the three MOTUs that each contained published sequences for
more than one Linnaean species - eight species in the case of MOTU 17. Sharing of mitochondrial
444 haplotypes among species is widely reported, particularly through sharing of ancestral
polymorphism or hybridisation in recent radiations of species (e.g. Funk and Omland 2003;
446 Nicholls et al. 2012), and incomplete sorting of ancestral polymorphism has been hypothesised to
explain low phylogenetic signal of cytochrome oxidase sequences in pollen beetles (De Biase et al.,
448 2012). Placement of published sequences for representatives of two genera in a single MOTU
(MOTU 8, *Lamiogethes bidens* and *Sagittogethes ovatus*) nevertheless suggests possible
450 misidentification of some reference specimens. Future sequence-based identification of
Meligethinae should be developed around the standard Folmer barcode fragment of cytochrome
452 oxidase c, for which a growing resource (570 specimen records, including 389 barcodes of 53
species) now exists on the Barcode of Life BOLDSYSTEMS database (accessed 9 January 2016).

454 The generally low phylogenetic resolution seen at the generic level in our analysis is
concordant with other analyses of mtDNA in pollen beetles (Audisio et al., 2009). The tightly-
456 clustered '*B. coracinus* group' (MOTU 17 in Fig.1, with individual sequences shown in Fig.S3)
mirrors recent taxonomic work (Audisio et al., 2011; De Biase et al., 2012) suggesting a clade of
458 recently radiated taxa with challenging taxonomy: our sampling fails to resolve the complexes (e.g.

‘*subaeneus*’, ‘*coracinus*’, ‘*longulus*’) described therein, though our taxon sampling is far from
460 complete.

462 **Species richness and plant associations**

Our sampling of 756 specimens was dominated by a single species: the economically
464 important pest *Brassicogethes aeneus*. This comprised 97% of UK specimens, with no evidence of
variation in Meligethinae faunas between UK farm and nature reserve habitats. A striking feature
466 of our sampling is that despite being specialist feeders on particular plant families as larvae, the
adults were sampled from a wide range of different plant taxa. For example, while *Brassicogethes*
468 species are specialist feeders on Brassicaceae as larvae, the adults of both *Brassicogethes aeneus*
and *B. viridescens* were recorded from flowers of nine and 10 families, respectively. Similarly,
470 *Fabogethes nigrescens* (which feeds on Fabaceae as a larva; (Audisio et al., 2009)) and
Lamiogethes pedicularius, *Sagittogethes obscurus* and *Thymogethes gagathinus* (specialists of
472 Lamiaceae, (Audisio et al., 2009)) were sampled from non-larval food-plants in Asteraceae,
Brassicaceae, Ranunculaceae and Rosaceae.

474 We did not determine whether the adult beetles we collected were feeding on the
sampled flowers. We suggest that this is likely, because the primary role of flower associations in
476 these beetles is to provide pollen food for early summer maturation of eggs in the parental
generation, and for laying down of overwintering fat reserves in their adult offspring (Free and
478 Williams, 1978; Veromann et al., 2014; Vinatier et al., 2012). Once mating is completed in late
spring, there is no other reason to be in flowers. Nevertheless, this aspect of adult biology merits
480 further study, for example through quantitative plant DNA barcoding of gut contents against a

panel of plants from which adults have been collected. These methods have been used successfully
482 to resolve trophic relationships in other beetle taxa (García-Robledo et al., 2013; Jurado-Rivera et
al., 2009; Kajtoch et al., 2015; Kishimoto-Yamada et al., 2013; Kitson et al., 2013; Navarro et al.,
484 2010).

The wider adult host-feeding range of some Meligethinae raises the twin questions of the
486 function of adult feeding and the determinants of larval host specificity. If adult feeding is a
significant predictor of successful overwintering and maturation to breed in the following year,
488 then understanding the range and relative rates of exploitation of adult food-plants may be
important in the population dynamics of otherwise specialist pest species, such as *B. aeneus* (IH
490 Williams and Free, 1978). Contrasts in the host-plant range of adults and larvae are the results of
adult preference for feeding and oviposition respectively (Cook et al., 2002; Hervé et al., 2014;
492 Jönsson et al., 2007; Kaasik et al., 2014). There is evidence that adult oviposition choices influence
the developmental success of larval pollen beetles (Veromann et al., 2014), but little is known
494 about the consequences of plant choice for adult feeding. Our results are compatible with lower
constraint on adult food-plant choice. One testable hypothesis is that the larvae, though able to
496 move between flowers on a single plant (IH Williams and Free, 1978), are constrained to acquire
the resources they need to reach adulthood within a narrow window of opportunity (Beduschi et
498 al., 2015; Cook et al., 2004). This in turn could have driven the evolution of larval physiological
traits matched to the detoxification and assimilation challenges of specific food-plants, resulting in
500 high larval host-plant specificity. In contrast the more mobile adults are able to move between
food resources, escaping time constraints on food assimilation efficiency in favour of physiological
502 traits allowing exploitation (perhaps at lower efficiency) of a wider host-plant range over a longer
period.

504 An alternative hypothesis to higher larval than adult food-plant specificity is that the
contrasting host ranges of larval and adult stages merely reflect seasonal changes in the
506 availability of highly rewarding pollen sources. When adults emerge from hibernation in
April/May, they first feed on early flowering species such as *Salix* spp. and *Anemona nemorosa*
508 (Thieme, personal observation). Later in the spring there are relatively few alternative forb species
to cultivated *Brassica napus* sbsp. *oleifera* that are both at high floral density and provide a high
510 pollen volume per flower (see per-species values in Hicks et al. (*in press*)). This hypothesis is
supported by the fact that the non-Brassicaceae host-plants selected by the other spring adult *B.*
512 *aeneus* in our dataset also provide high pollen volumes per capitulum (*Ficaria verna*, *Taraxacum*
agg.) and/or provide high floral density (*Allium ursinum*). Food-plant associations of newly
514 emerged adults in the summer are compatible with the same hypothesised preference for plants
that provide high, spatially-concentrated, pollen resources (e.g. *Cirsium* spp., *Rubus* spp.,
516 *Ranunculus* spp., *Taraxacum* agg., *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Leucanthemum vulgare*) – as are additional
food plant associations for pre-winter adults outwith this study (e.g. *Sambucus nigra* and *Tilia* spp.,
518 ornamentals such as lilies and roses, and flowers of vegetables such as cauliflower and broccoli;
Thieme, personal observation). Further sampling of pollen beetle-plant associations is required to
520 better understand the basis of adult food plant preferences given availability. Given that pollen
beetles are often very abundant, their flower associations may be important and information-rich.

522 These hypotheses could be tested by examining the relative impacts of alternative host-
plant selection on larval and adult life stages, with the prediction of greater impacts of host
524 variation on larval rather adult components of fitness. At an applied level, there may be important
correlations between damage associated with *B. aeneus* infestation of oil-seed rape crops in early
526 summer and the local or regional abundance of alternative adult food-plants. One possibility is

that such alternative food sources facilitate the build-up of *B.aeneus*, leading to a positive
528 correlation with economic damage (see Free and Williams 1978 on the importance of *Taraxacum*
agg. in this regard). An alternative is that high abundance of alternative food sources could reduce
530 beetle abundance on oil-seed rape plants at the crucial green and yellow bud stages, leading to a
negative correlation with economic damage. Though there has been extensive study of the impact
532 of landscape characteristics on pollen beetle abundance (e.g. Beduschi et al. 2015; Rusch et al.
2012; Valantin-Morison et al. 2007; Zaller et al. 2008), we know of no studies specifically
534 incorporating the available richness and abundance of adult food-plants.

536 **Population structure and demography of *Brassicogethes aeneus***

The patterns of mitochondrial haplotype differentiation in *B. aeneus* match previous work
538 showing low local differentiation and slightly greater divergence at larger spatial scales
(Kazachkova et al., 2007, 2008; Makūnas, 2012). Our results are novel in showing north-south
540 differentiation at UK and European scales, and low genetic differentiation between Scotland and
the Baltic. A selectively neutral interpretation of these patterns is that dispersal in *B. aeneus* is, or
542 has been, primarily longitudinal rather than latitudinal. The patterns in *B. aeneus* contrast with the
lack of north-south genetic differentiation seen in species known to undertake latitudinal
544 migrations in Europe, such as the hoverfly *Episyrphus balteatus* (Raymond et al. 2013). Genetic
differentiation in *B. aeneus* is nevertheless low ($F_{ST} < 0.1$ in all regional comparisons), and similar in
546 magnitude to *Episyrphus balteatus* (<0.05 , Raymond et al. 2013) and the grain aphid *Sitobion*
avenae ($<<0.05$ Llewellyn et al. 2003).

548 Without more in-depth analysis using a larger number of markers it is not clear whether
the patterns observed in *B. aeneus* represent ongoing gene flow between regional populations, or
550 slow sorting of high levels of ancestral polymorphism in large populations without gene flow.
Comparison with patterns in nuclear markers is also required to test the possibility that selection
552 may be influencing mitochondrial haplotype frequencies - either directly, via mito-nuclear
interactions, or via co-inherited symbionts such as *Wolbachia* (Grant et al., 2006; Hurst and Jiggins,
554 2005). It is possible that UK north-south differentiation is associated with relatively narrow habitat
corridors of *B. napus* sbsp. *oleifera* agriculture in northern Britain (Botanical Society of Britain and
556 Ireland distribution map, <http://bsbidb.org.uk/maps/?taxonid=2cd4p9h.ydh>, accessed 19 January
2016), restricting adult dispersal and associated gene flow. Similarly, lack of east-west
558 differentiation in the north could be due to occasional large-scale longitudinal migrations, as have
been observed for Diamondback moths, *Plutella xylostella* (Chapman et al., 2012, 2002, 2004).
560 These reach the UK on warm winds from the east at a similar time of year as pollen beetles, with
particularly notable migrations from Scandinavia in the 1960s.

562 The unimodal mismatch distributions shown by all regional European population of *B.*
aeneus except the Baltic are compatible with either rapid population expansion (Rogers and
564 Harpending, 1992; Slatkin and Hudson, 1991) or range expansion accompanied by high dispersal
between populations (Excoffier, 2004; Ray et al., 2003). These interpretations are also compatible
566 with the observed negative values of Fu's FS (and in some cases Tajima's D), though these can also
indicate purifying selection. The hypothesis of range expansion with high dispersal is further
568 supported by the low absolute levels of genetic divergence observed between regional
populations. This interpretation, if correct, suggests that other genetic processes in *B. aeneus*,
570 such as selection for pesticide resistance (Zimmer et al., 2014) may operate on an Europe-wide

spatial scale. Further work using multiple nuclear markers is required to separate the effects of
572 selection from neutral processes, and to discriminate population divergence from subsequent
gene flow in *B. aeneus*.

574

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872

874 **Table 1.** Summary of sampling for the study. Sampling sources are identified as the UK Urban
 876 Pollinators Project (UPP) or additional sampling in the country indicated. Site numbers refer
 877 to locations mapped in Figure S1. Habitat categories for farm (F), urban (U) and nature
 878 reserve (NR) follow those for the UPP (see Baldock et al. 2015). Full specimen metadata are
 provided in Table S1.

Site	Source	Site name	Habitat	n	Latitude	Longitude
1	UK (UPP)	Bristol	F	5	51°24'16.27"N	002°41'08.51"W
1	UK (UPP)	Bristol	NR	1	51°26'42.69"N	002°38'56.02"W
2	UK (UPP)	Cardiff	F	1	51°29'53.92"N	003°17'31.78"W
2	UK (UPP)	Cardiff	NR	1	51°32'58.37"N	003°22'22.57"W
3	UK (UPP)	Dundee	F	46	56°22'15.84"N	003°05'39.74"W
3	UK (UPP)	Dundee	NR	11	56°23'14.68"N	002°50'31.82"W
3	UK (UPP)	Dundee	U	8	56°27'42.17"N	002°59'58.59"W
4	UK (UPP)	Edinburgh	F	33	55°49'00.95"N	003°03'57.59"W
4	UK (UPP)	Edinburgh	NR	31	55°49'58.24"N	002°59'23.27"W
5	UK (UPP)	Glasgow	F	12	55°54'06.55"N	003°58'36.64"W
5	UK (UPP)	Glasgow	NR	10	55°57'33.88"N	004°19'56.06"W
6	UK (UPP)	Hull	F	6	53°47'54.93"N	000°35'49.58"W
6	UK (UPP)	Hull	NR	43	53°41'46.21"N	000°27'18.38"W
7	UK (UPP)	Leeds	NR	28	53°37'49.69"N	001°29'47.08"W
8	UK (UPP)	London	F	43	51°40'43.23"N	000°08'34.28"W
8	UK (UPP)	London	U	1	51°29'41.45"N	000°25'26.58"W
9	UK (UPP)	Reading	F	62	51°22'25.60"N	000°55'51.85"W
10	UK (UPP)	Sheffield	F	12	53°29'57.70"N	001°31'35.79"W
11	UK (UPP)	Southampton	F	2	51°01'03.93"N	001°28'00.35"W
12	UK (UPP)	Swindon	NR	7	51°26'03.28"N	001°48'31.05"W
12	UK (UPP)	Swindon	U	2	51°33'30.12"N	001°50'07.84"W
4	UK	Edinburgh	F	5	55°48'52.79"N	3°04'05.81"W
4	UK	Edinburgh	NR	5	55°51'16.00"N	3°13'46.61"W
5	UK	Kildonan, South Uist	F	24	57°13'N	7°24'W
13	UK	Birmingham	U	6	52°27'01.46"N	1°43'51.45"W
1	UK	Bristol	U	9	51°23'12.83"N	2°42'39.05"W
14	UK	Inverness	U	3	57°28'39.62"	4°13'07.63"W
15	Austria	Mariahof	F	26	47°05'N	14°23'E
16	Belgium	Louvain-la-Neuve	U	14	50°39'59.28"N	4°37'22.67"E
17	Bulgaria	Sofia	F	13	42°46'N	23°21'E
18	Croatia	Plitvice	F	10	44°53'N	15°36'E
18	Croatia	Otocac	F	5	44°52'N	15°14'E
19	Estonia	Tartu	F	47	58°21'04.4"N	26°36'83.6"E
20	France	Neuville sur Vanne	F	20	48°15'10"N	3°47'12"E
21	France	Vay	F	15	47°31'00.83"N	1°44'21.78"W
21	France	La Grignonais	F	5	47°31'05.73"N	1°42'08.15"W
21	France	Carquefou	F	5	47°18'50.54"N	1°30'11.22"W
21	France	Blain	F	5	47°29'26.96"N	1°45'08.28"W
22	Germany	Uslar	F	5	51°39'20"N	9°38'26"E
22	Germany	Göttingen-North	F	5	51°32'46"N	9°55'34"E
22	Germany	Waake	F	5	51°33'24"N	10°3'19"E
22	Germany	Göttingen-South	F	5	51°30'13"N	9°54'55"E
22	Germany	Einbeck	F	5	51°49'14"N	9°52'11"E
23	Germany	Puch Fürstenfeldbruck	F	14	48°11'16.63"N	11°12'48.97"E
24	Germany	Pommritz Bautzen	F	12	51°09'29.72"N	14°33'58.58"E
22	Germany	Wesendorf Gifhorn	F	12	53°35'32.14"N	10°32'38.29"E

22	Germany	Sohlingen Uslar	F	10	51°39'58.20"N	9°36'58.20"E
25	Hungary	Bukk Montts	F	7	48°06'30"N	20°49'60"E
26	Hungary	Màtrafüred	F	9	47°49'33"N	19°56'67"E
26	Hungary	Szentkut	F	9	47°59'33"N	19°46'33"E
27	Italy	Biancavilla	U	5	37°40'54.45"N	14°54'13.33"E
28	Poland	Warsaw	F	14	52°9'39.93"N	21°3'15.72"E
29	Romania	Dalga	F	7	44°26'N	27°04'E
30	Spain	A Coruña Arins	F	10	42°51'58.60"N	8°29'55.30"W
31	Sweden	Amalienlund Skane	F	5	56°08'36.37"N	13°04'58.57"E
32	Sweden	Hasslösa gird Vinninga	F	4	58°25'01.46"N	13°09'25.81"E
32	Sweden	Kilagarden Skara	F	5	58°21'00.00"N	13°15'00.00"E
33	Sweden	Rinkabyholm Kalmar	F	3	56°38'57.20"N	16°14'27.02"E
33	Sweden	Vingslätt Kalmar	F	4	56°47'60.00"N	16°18'00.00"E
34	Sweden	Biovklinge Uppsala	F	5	60°02'09.73"N	17°34'41.18"E
34	Sweden	Solna Uppland	F	4	59°30'14.38"N	16°22'46.38"E
34	Sweden	Fålhagen	F	10	59°51'28.27"N	17°38'59.83"E

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880 **Table 2.** Food-plants of specimens molecular-identified as *Brassicogethes aeneus*. Only
 882 records with confirmed plant identification (n=626) are included. Countries are represented
 by their three letter ISO codes. The right-hand column indicates food-plants also identified by
 IH Williams and Free (1978).

Plant family	Plant species	Country (sample size)	IH Williams and Free 1978
ALLIACEAE	<i>Allium ursinum</i>	GBR (2)	
APIACEAE	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	GBR (8)	X
ASTERACEAE	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	GBR (9)	X
ASTERACEAE	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	GBR (1)	
ASTERACEAE	<i>Brachyglottis</i> spp.	GBR (4)	
ASTERACEAE	<i>Carduus nutans</i>	GBR (3)	
ASTERACEAE	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	GBR (31)	X
ASTERACEAE	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	GBR (8)	
ASTERACEAE	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	GBR (2)	X
ASTERACEAE	<i>Crepis vesicaria</i>	GBR (2)	
ASTERACEAE	<i>Helminthotheca echioides</i>	GBR (10)	
ASTERACEAE	<i>Hieracium</i> sp.	AUT (1)	X
ASTERACEAE	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	GBR (8)	
ASTERACEAE	<i>Lapsana communis</i>	BEL (1), GBR (6)	
ASTERACEAE	<i>Leontodon saxatilis</i>	BEL (5)	
ASTERACEAE	<i>Matricaria chamomilla</i>	GBR (28)	
ASTERACEAE	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	GBR (3)	X
ASTERACEAE	<i>Solidago gigantea</i>	SWE (1)	
ASTERACEAE	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	GBR (10)	
ASTERACEAE	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	GBR (3)	X
ASTERACEAE	<i>Sonchus palustris</i>	BEL (4)	
ASTERACEAE	<i>Tanacetum parthenium</i>	GBR (12)	
ASTERACEAE	<i>Taraxacum</i> agg.	AUT (1), HUN (3), GBR (26)	X
ASTERACEAE	<i>Tripolium pannonicum</i>	SWE (1)	
BRASSICACEAE	<i>Aubrieta</i> sp.	GBR (1)	
BRASSICACEAE	<i>Brassica napus</i> sbsp. <i>oleifera</i>	BGR (12), EST (38), FRA (40), GER (67), POL (5), ROM (7), SWE (29), GBR (76)	
BRASSICACEAE	<i>Sinapis alba</i>	FRA (5), POL (7)	
BRASSICACEAE	<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	GBR (1)	X
FABACEAE	<i>Genista tinctoria</i>	ITA (1)	
FABACEAE	<i>Lupinus luteus</i>	GER (6)	
LILIACEAE	<i>Gagea lutea</i>	HUN (1)	
RANUNCULACEAE	<i>Ficaria verna</i>	HUN (13)	
RANUNCULACEAE	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	BEL (4), GBR (18)	
RANUNCULACEAE	<i>Ranunculus arvensis</i>	AUT (1)	
RANUNCULACEAE	<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	GBR (1)	
RANUNCULACEAE	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	GBR (52)	X
ROSACEAE	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	GBR (3)	
ROSACEAE	<i>Rosa</i> sp.	GBR (2)	X
ROSACEAE	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	GBR (42)	X
RUBIACEAE	<i>Galium uliginosum</i>	GBR (1)	

886 **Figure legends.**

Figure 1. Phylogenetic relationships between Meligethinae MOTUs (Molecular Operational Taxonomic Units) (n=44) supported by ABGD. The tree shown is a Bayesian majority rule consensus tree inferred using MrBayes (Ronquist and Huelsenbeck, 2003) using a GTR+I+G model of sequence evolution selected using MrModeltest (Nylander, 2004), and rooted with a published sequence for *Kateretes rufilabris* (Genbank accession DQ221966). Numbers at nodes indicate posterior probability support. The most species-rich genera in the tree are colour coded as shown in the key. Triangles at branch tips indicate multiple member sequences in a MOTU. Relationships between the full set of 241 unique CO1 haplotypes are shown in Figure S3.

Figure 2. Minimum spanning haplotype network for specimens identified as *Brassicogethes aeneus* (MOTU 30). The 120 sampled haplotypes are shown as filled circles joined by links in the network, while unsampled haplotypes are shown by short transverse lines. Colours in circles show the proportions of samples for a given haplotype sampled from each of the European regional groupings used in AMOVA analyses. Numbers in the inset map show sample sizes by country and (in boxes) by region.

Figure 3. Observed pairwise mismatch distributions for CO1 haplotype sequences from four regional groupings of populations across Europe (in blue) shown alongside the distributions predicted under a model of rapid population growth (in red). Populations in Scotland and the region (Scandinavia + the Baltic) have been pooled to reflect the lack of significant genetic differentiation between them. Analytical summaries for these distributions are provided in Table S2.

908 **Supplementary Material****Supplementary Tables**

910 **Table S1.** Full metadata and accession numbers for all specimens used in analyses, including previously published sequences.

912 **Table S2.** Levels and sample sizes for the hierarchical AMOVA analyses of samples identified as *Brassicogethes aeneus*.

914

Supplementary Files

916 **File S1.** Keyhole Markup Language (.kmz) format file of sampling locations and associated metadata suitable for viewing in Google earth.

918

Supplementary Figures

920 **Figure S1.** Sampling locations for pollen beetles in this study. Sites 1-34 refer to site names and metadata in Table 1, while sites 35-40 identify site locations for published sequences. The colour
922 for each location symbol identifies the European regional grouping used in AMOVA analysis of *Brassicogethes aeneus* (red=Scotland, green=England and Wales,
924 yellow=France/Belgium/Germany, purple=Scandinavia and the Baltic, pink= Southern Europe).

Figure S2. Food-plant associations of sampled beetles. Full metadata for each specimen are
926 provided in Table S1. (a) Numbers of species in each plant family from which adult beetles were collected in this study, and (b) the numbers of adult beetles collected from each plant family
928 across the whole study. In (a) and (b), coloured bars for each plant family show (from left)

sampling for all beetles field-identified as pollen beetles, beetles BLAST-identified as Meligethinae,
930 and beetles sequence-matched with *Brassicogethes aeneus*. (c) Numbers of adult beetle (field-
identified as Meligethinae) collected from each plant family in farmland and nature reserve
932 habitats in the UK Urban Pollinators Project.

Figure S3. Phylogenetic relationships between the full set of 241 unique CO1 haplotype sequences
934 for published Meligethinae and newly sampled specimens identified by BLAST search as $\geq 98\%$
similar to Meligethinae. The tree shown is a Bayesian majority rule consensus tree inferred using
936 MrBayes (Ronquist and Huelsenbeck, 2003) using a GTR+I+G model of sequence evolution
selected using MrModeltest (Nylander, 2004), and rooted with a published sequence for *Kateretes*
938 *rufilabris* (Genbank accession DQ221966). Numbers at nodes indicate posterior probability
support. To simplify presentation, where multiple copies of a haplotype were sampled we
940 illustrate only one per habitat type (farm, urban or nature reserve) for UK Urban Pollinators
Program sites (taxon names all in red), and one copy per country for sites outside the UK.
942 Coloured circles by taxon names show the European regions used in AMOVA analyses for
Brassicogethes aeneus.

944 **Figure S4.** Variation in the number of Meligethinae MOTUs (Molecular Operational Taxonomic
Units) resolved in our dataset as a function of percentage sequence divergence, analysed using
946 either jMOTU (panel a) or ABGD (panel b).

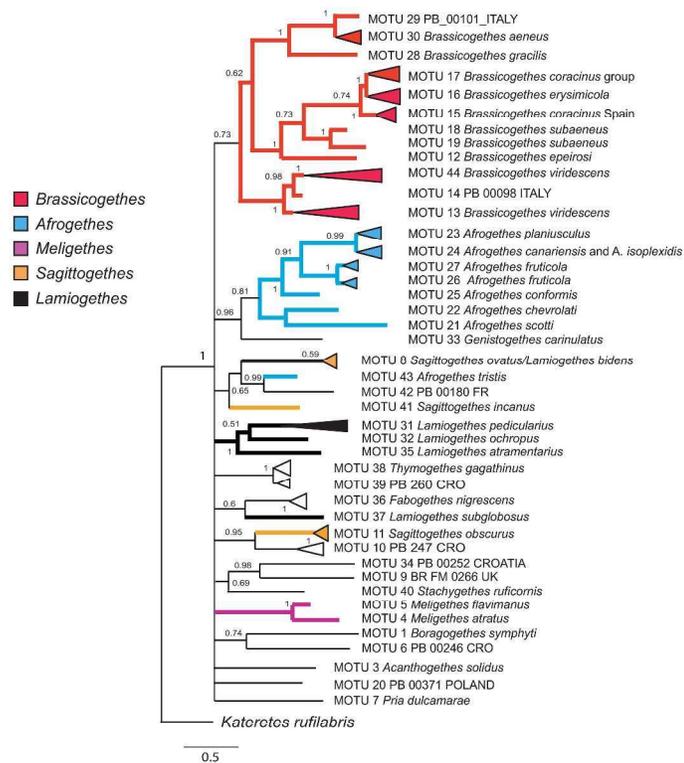


Figure 1. Phylogenetic relationships between Meligethinae MOTUs (Molecular Operational Taxonomic Units) (n=44) supported by ABGD. The tree shown is a Bayesian majority rule consensus tree inferred using MrBayes (Ronquist and Huelsenbeck, 2003) using a GTR+I+G model of sequence evolution selected using MrModeltest (Nylander, 2004), and rooted with a published sequence for *Kateretes rufilabris* (Genbank accession DQ221966). Numbers at nodes indicate posterior probability support. The most species-rich genera in the tree are colour coded as shown in the key. Triangles at branch tips indicate multiple member sequences in a MOTU. Relationships between the full set of 241 unique CO1 haplotypes are shown in Figure S3.

315x454mm (300 x 300 DPI)

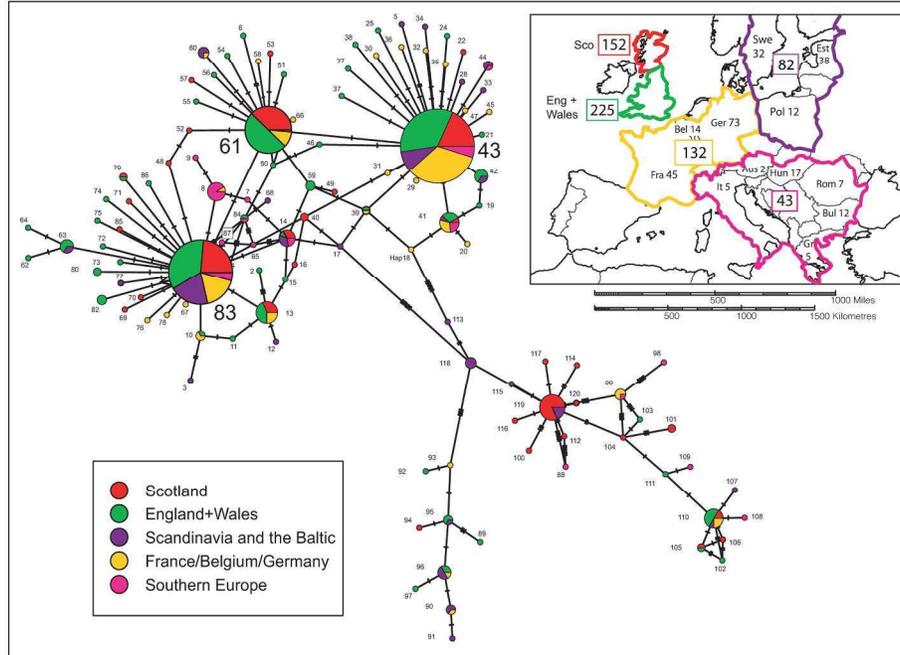


Figure 2. Minimum spanning haplotype network for specimens identified as *Brassicogethes aeneus* (MOTU 30). The 120 sampled haplotypes are shown as filled circles joined by links in the network, while unsampled haplotypes are shown by short transverse lines. Colours in circles show the proportions of samples for a given haplotype sampled from each of the European regional groupings used in AMOVA analyses. Numbers in the inset map show sample sizes by country and (in boxes) by region.
226x168mm (300 x 300 DPI)

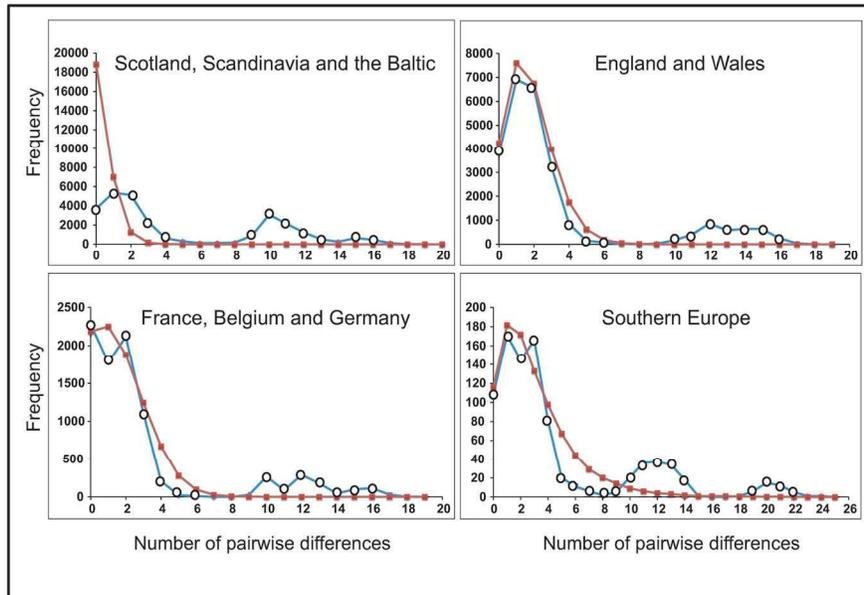


Figure 3. Observed pairwise mismatch distributions for CO1 haplotype sequences from four regional groupings of populations across Europe (in blue) shown alongside the distributions predicted under a model of rapid population growth (in red). Populations in Scotland and the region (Scandinavia + the Baltic) have been pooled to reflect the lack of significant genetic differentiation between them. Analytical summaries for these distributions are provided in Table S2.

162x117mm (300 x 300 DPI)

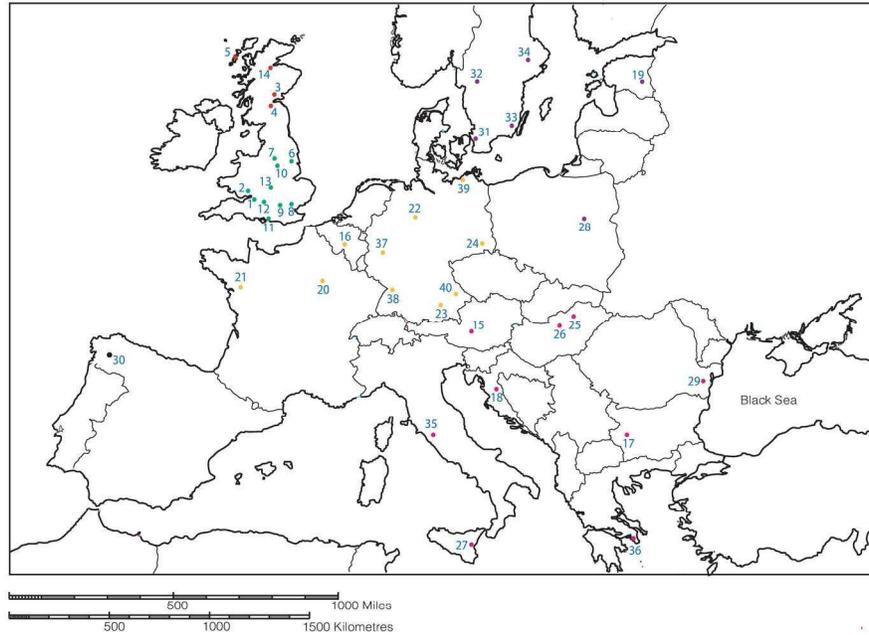


Figure S1. Sampling locations for pollen beetles in this study. Sites 1-34 refer to site names and metadata in Table 1, while sites 35-40 identify site locations for published sequences. The colour for each location symbol identifies the European regional grouping used in AMOVA analysis of *Brassicogethes aeneus* (red=Scotland, green=England and Wales, yellow=France/Belgium/Germany, purple=Scandinavia and the Baltic, pink= Southern Europe).
187x140mm (300 x 300 DPI)

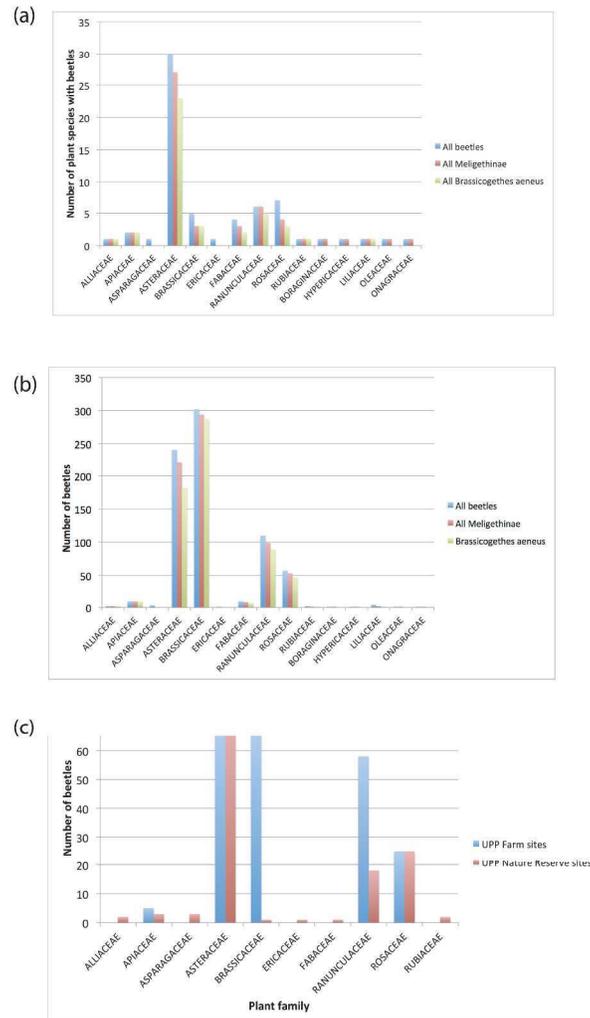


Figure S2. Food-plant associations of sampled beetles. Full metadata for each specimen are provided in Table S1. (a) Numbers of species in each plant family from which adult beetles were collected in this study, and (b) the numbers of adult beetles collected from each plant family across the whole study. In (a) and (b), coloured bars for each plant family show (from left) sampling for all beetles field-identified as pollen beetles, beetles BLAST-identified as Meligethinae, and beetles sequence-matched with *Brassicogethes aeneus*. (c) Numbers of adult beetle (field-identified as Meligethinae) collected from each plant family in farmland and nature reserve habitats in the UK Urban Pollinators Project.

271x447mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Figure S4

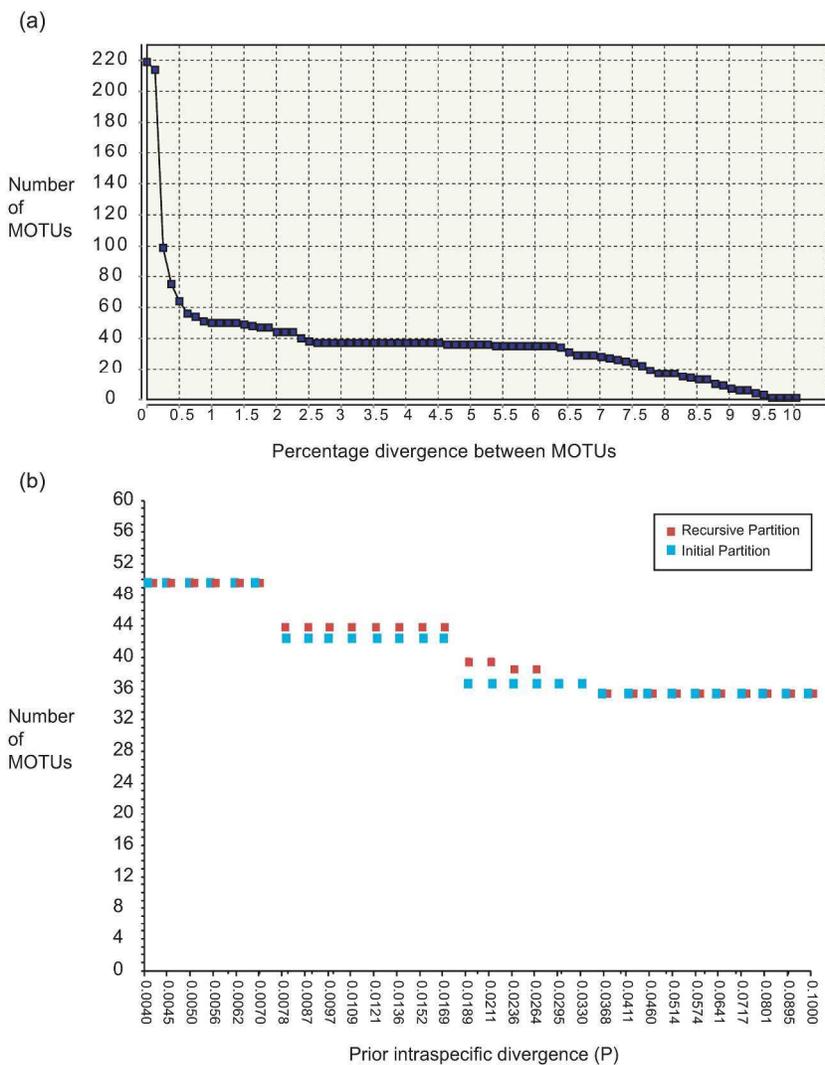


Figure S4. Variation in the number of Meligethinae MOTUs (Molecular Operational Taxonomic Units) resolved in our dataset as a function of percentage sequence divergence, analysed using either jMOTU (panel a) or ABGD (panel b).
270x334mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Table S2. Sampling design and analysis summaries for AMOVA and demographic analyses of *Brassicogethes aeneus*. Part (a) shows the sample sizes associated with three hierarchical levels of spatial grouping of sites: 1. Sites within the UK; 2: Sites grouped within 4 regions across the UK, and 3: Sites grouped within 5 regions of Europe. The UK location 'SW England and Wales' included samples from Bristol, Birmingham, Cardiff, Swindon and Southampton. Parts (b)-(c) show summaries of AMOVAs and analysis of Tajima's D and Fu's FS at each of these hierarchical levels. Outputs are from Arlequin. Status of the sudden expansion model refers to compatibility of observed mismatch distributions with predictions of a model of sudden population expansion, assessed using the sum of squared deviations test of Schneider and Excoffier (1999). Part (d) shows an AMOVA summary for haplotype differentiation in *B. aeneus* across food plant families.

(a)

1. UK Location	Sample size	UK Region
Kildonan	24	Scotland
Edinburgh	71	Scotland
Dundee and Inverness	56	Scotland
Leeds and Sheffield	39	NE England
Hull	49	NE England
London	43	SE England
Reading	62	SE England
SW England and Wales	29	SW England and Wales
2. UK Region	Sample size	Europe Region
Scotland	151	Scotland
NE England	88	England and Wales
SE England	105	England and Wales
SW England and Wales	29	England and Wales
3. Europe Region		
Scotland	152	
England and Wales	225	
Scandinavia and the Baltic	82	
France, Belgium, Germany	132	
Southern Europe	43	

(b) Analyses at the level of Sites within regions within the UK

Region	Scotland	NE England	SE England	SW England and Wales
Sample size	152	88	105	29
Number of alleles	34	27	29	11
Theta_pi	4.63	3.79	2.67	3.90
Expected no. of alleles	16.81	12.60	10.38	8.80
Tajima's D (p value)	-0.95 NS	-1.31 NS	-1.76 (0.012)	-0.95 NS
Fu's FS	-12.01	-11.64	-18.84	-1.31

(p value)	(0.005)	(0.001)	(0.001)	NS
Status of sudden expansion model (p value if rejected)	accepted	accepted	rejected $p < 0.044$	accepted

AMOVA

Source of variation	d.f.	Sum of squares	Variance components	Percentage of variation
Among UK regions	3	18.58	-0.42	2.5**
Within regions	369	104.31	1.92	97.5
Total	372	725.88	2.14223	

(c) Analyses at the level of regions within Europe

Region	Scotland	Scandinavia and the Baltic	Scotland and Baltic combined	Rest of UK	France Belgium Germany	Southern Europe
Sample size	152	82	234	225	132	43
Number of alleles	34	27	55	50	29	18
Theta_pi	4.63	5.62	5.00	3.25	2.81	4.60
Expected no. of alleles	16.81	15.92	19.87	14.34	11.40	11.22
Tajima's D (p value)	-0.95 NS	-0.63 NS	-1.16 NS	-1.65 (0.015)	-1.76 (0.013)	-1.71 (0.023)
Fu's FS (p value)	-12.01 (0.005)	-7.01 (0.03)	-25.09 (0.0001)	-25.97 (0.0001)	-15.88 (0.0001)	-4.67 (0.046)
Status of sudden expansion model (p value if rejected)	accepted	rejected $p < 0.001$	rejected $p < 0.001$	accepted	accepted	accepted

AMOVA.

Source of variation	d.f.	Sum of squares	Variance components	Percentage of variation
Among populations	4	52.831	0.09364	4.37 ***
Within populations	629	1288.564	2.04859	95.63
Total	633	1341.395	2.14223	

(d) AMOVA for *B. aeneus* haplotype distribution across plant families.

Source of variation	d.f.	Sum of squares	Variance components	Percentage of variation
Among plant families	6	15.81	0.0115	0.62 NS
Within plant families	603	1111.55	1.843	99.38
Total	609	1127.37	1.855	