

INTROGRESSIVE DESCENT AND HYPERSEXUALITY DRIVE THE EVOLUTION OF SEXUAL PARASITISM AND MORPHOLOGICAL REDUCTION IN A FUNGAL SPECIES COMPLEX.

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ABSTRACT:

Taxonomists consider species as discrete units of biological organization, which are subject to a continuous process of evolutionary change and are connected through their shared ancestry. However, the continuous nature of evolutionary change is difficult to reconcile with the discrete outcome of speciation, especially where species boundaries are permeable. A good example of this inconsistency is the lichen genus *Pyrenodesmia*, which shows a high morphologic and genetic diversity that defies systematization by taxonomic or phylogenetic methods. Here we show that hybridization explains the presence of discordant morphs and that European species are interconnected through cross-mating in a single reproductive network, a syngameon, despite which species remain largely distinct and distinguishable. Whole genome data reflect the important role played by genome defense mechanisms in the genomic stabilization of fungal hybrids. The recurrence of Repeat Induced Point mutations (RIP) shapes genomes with islands of suppressed recombination and loss of gene content, which in turn generates a feedback loop reinforcing the lack of reproductive isolation through the loss of heterokaryon incompatibility and a tendency towards morphological reduction.

BODY

1 The idea that life is structured into discrete evolutionary units (i.e. species) is central to
2 biological science, and articulates the way we understand, organize and communicate
3 biodiversity. Considering species as the natural unit of biological organization,
4 evolution, and ecological interaction is a widely accepted simplification that allows
5 linking evolutionary biology with all other disciplines in biology, from ecology to
6 molecular biology, but overlooks significant aspects of the way organisms evolve. First
7 and foremost, species cannot be considered as the only unit of selection and evolution
8 because both processes are acting simultaneously across all levels of organization (1–
9 3). Second, there is no unifying consensus on what species are, their necessary

10 properties (4–15), and how they integrate into a continuous process of evolutionary
11 change. This has led to discussing whether species provide any usable insight when
12 dealing with prokaryotic lineages (16–19).

13
14 The need to consider evolution and selection as multilevel processes has become ever
15 more apparent with the increased availability of sequenced genomes. Horizontal
16 transfer of genetic information between distant organisms is more frequent than once
17 thought and has been identified as a key element in habitat adaptation (20), which
18 reinforces the idea that communities function as supra-specific evolutionary units (21)
19 shaped by the transfer of information through non-genealogical bonds (3). Similarly,
20 the study of hybridization between closely related plant and animal species has long
21 identified species complexes in which phenotypically differentiated species are
22 interconnected through gene flow. Both syngamea (22, 23) and metasppecies (24, 25)
23 can be interpreted as supra-specific units of evolution. Conversely, the detailed
24 comparative study of genomes identified significant asymmetries in the distribution of
25 recombination, hybridization and mutation among genomic regions (26–28). This
26 heterogeneity, which influences and is influenced by the underlying genomic
27 architecture, results in identifying genomic islands of speciation (29) and local
28 adaptation (30), which can be interpreted as infra-individual units of selection.

29
30 Next, the use of molecular genetic characters and phylogenetic methods (31) in fungal
31 research fundamentally changed the way diversity is studied and understood. In the first
32 instance, genetic characters allow identifying cohesive and diagnosable (6) groups of
33 specimens even when the “discontinuity of organic variation”(32) is not observable
34 using morphology and chemistry. Furthermore, the presumed objectivity of genetic
35 characters and phylogenetic methods resulted in a widespread redefinition of fungal
36 taxa in terms of monophyly (33–37) and a widespread identification of cryptic species
37 (38–51) in fungi. This resulted in considering that the “true diversity of fungi” (52) had
38 been obscured by overly wide taxonomic concepts based on morphology. To open the
39 treasure chest of fungal diversity, molecular taxonomists progressively incorporated
40 growingly complex methods of unsupervised species discovery and validation (53–61).
41 However, recent surveys tone down notably the former claims made on the extent of
42 fungal diversity (62) former claims on hidden fungal diversity. In addition to the known
43 limitations of DNA barcoding when used for species delimitation, validation, and
44 recognition (63), phylogenetic methods of species delimitation (31), despite their
45 progressive refinement (64–71), are quite limited in their application and share the same
46 caveats. First, they cannot accommodate gene flow (72–74) unless species limits are
47 imposed a priori (75–83). Second, they are only meaningful when populations don’t
48 deviate significantly from classical population genetics models (84). Both limitations
49 have been systematically overlooked despite the growing evidence that species
50 boundaries are semi-permeable (85) in lichenized (86–88) and non-lichenized fungi
51 (89–91), and the evidence that the outcome of reproduction may not adhere to
52 mendelian inheritance (92–94) or the simplistic expectations of Hardy-Weinberg
53 equilibrium.

54
55 Here we evaluate the diversity observed in the lichen genus *Pyrenodesmia* from
56 multiple points of view to quantify the usability of phylogenetic species concepts and
57 the extent to which hybridization and reticulation shape its evolutionary history. Using
58 a multilevel approach we evaluate the presence of supra-specific evolutionary units,
59 how they influence the reproductive and evolutionary strategies of species within the

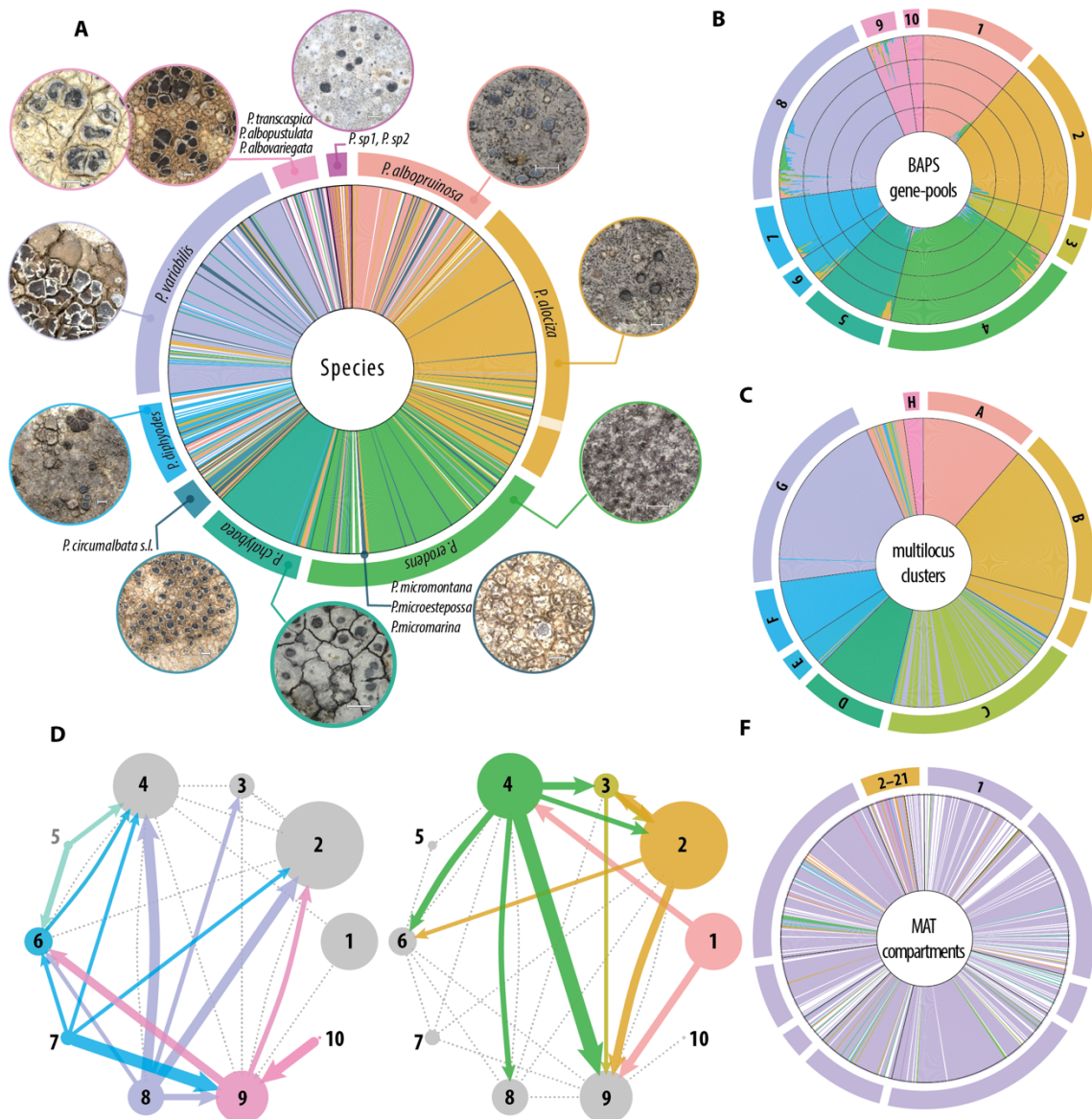


Fig. 1 Taxonomic, phylogenetic, and population summary of the dataset. Figures a-c and f provide a graphical summary of the structure of the dataset using the assignment of specimens to gene-pools estimated in BAPS as organizing scaffold. **a** | Assignment of individual specimens to the twelve most relevant morphospecies. A more complete taxonomic profile is provided in the supplementary material. Each color signifies the assignment to a species or species group. The scale bars in all habitus pictures amount to 500 μ m. **b** | Assignment to admixed gene-pools (populations) obtained in BAPS, each specimen is represented by a stacked barplot. The color highlights the proportion of the variability assigned to each of the ten estimated admixed pools. **c** | Assignment to putative species (coassignment clusters) using a multilocus interpolation of single locus bGMYC assignments. All clustering algorithms consistently identified eight clusters. **d-e** | Estimates of migration between the BAPS gene-pools calculated using in migrate-n. For clarity, the network is split into two subnetworks highlighting gene flow from pools mostly containing well-developed epilithic species and those from pools comprising mostly reduced endolithic species. Each node is a numbered gene pool, correlative to the numbering used in fig.1a. the size of each bubble represents the estimated mutationally scaled population size (θ), and the edges represent immigration estimates recalculated to represent the number of immigrants per generation ($2N_e$). The size of each edge represents the migrant estimates provided in the supplement. The network was simplified to include only strong connections ($2N_e > 2$). **f** | Assignment to Mating compartments using the unipartite network of MAT idiomorph cooccurrence. The network contains a main subnetwork comprising most specimens and 20 secondary ones.

60 genus, as well as the influence that hybridization may have on genome architecture and
61 mosaicism.

62

63 We ask the following questions: (i) What is the diversity of the genus *Pyrenodesmia* in
64 the European continent? (ii) Are phylogenetic species concepts usable? How many
65 phylogenetic species are there? (iii) Is there evidence of hybridization in the genus? (iv)
66 What are the reproductive units (v) What are the genomic consequences of reticulate
67 evolution and hybridization?

68

69 **One-third of European *Pyrenodesmia* specimens cannot be identified using**
70 **existing morphological species concepts.**

71

72 The genus *Pyrenodesmia* s.s. (34) is a widespread lineage of lichenized fungi within
73 the family *Teloschistaceae* whose species form mostly saxicolous crusts and share the
74 lack of anthraquinone pigments as the most obvious, albeit paraphyletic character (95).
75 Its species are quite diverse in apothecial morphology, thallus pigmentation, and thallus
76 development, ranging from the large crusts of *P. transcaspica* to the endolithic thalli of
77 *P. erodens*, *P. albopruinosa*, and *P. alociza* (Fig 1a). Despite the substantial
78 morphological and ecological differences, the taxonomy of the genus remains unclear.
79 The main culprits are the low signal found in micromorphological characters and the
80 abundance of intermediate forms which are difficult to interpret. As a result, pre-
81 molecular taxonomic works (96–98) used a broad concept of species (i.e. *P. variabilis*
82 or *P. circumalbata*) and their classifications were often disparate. Meanwhile, recent
83 phylogenetic surveys consistently describe new species using monophyly as diagnostic
84 criterion (99–106), suggesting that a significant proportion of the species diversity
85 remains unidentified.

86

87 As starting point we opted for re-evaluating the species diversity of the genus
88 *Pyrenodesmia* in a well-studied region, so we assembled a dataset comprising mostly
89 saxicolous species growing on limestone across Southern Europe (Table S1, Figure S1).
90 Based on the taxonomic literature we expected to find at least seventeen distinct
91 species, six of which are common in Southwestern Europe (*P. albopruinosa*, *P. alociza*,
92 *P. chalybaea*, *P. circumalbata*, *P. erodens* and *P. variabilis*), five are difficult to
93 differentiate from each other (*P. diphyodes*, *P. helygeoides*, and *P. microsteposa*, *P.*
94 *micromarina* and *P. micromontana*) and one is rare (*P. badioreagens*). The remaining
95 five species occur outside of the studied region (*P. albopustulata*, *P. albovariegata*, *P.*
96 *concreticola*, *P. molariformis* and *P. transcaspica*) and were included to provide a
97 wider geographic and taxonomic context. The morphological study resulted in
98 identifying 42 operational units (species and pseudospecies) of which twelve were
99 collected outside of the main study area, nine are clearly identifiable, three have been
100 described based on molecular characters and are doubtful (Figure 1a) and the remaining
101 eighteen show intermediate character combinations and are difficult to place, being
102 potentially undescribed species.

103

104 The consensus in lichenology is that molecular taxonomic methods are necessary to
105 overcome the bias introduced by overly simple and subjective morphological species
106 concepts (52, 62). To address diversity, most surveys follow a similar recipe (63):
107 assembling a phylogenetic dataset, proposing a set of operational taxonomic units
108 (OTUs), which are finally validated using a multilocus framework, often based on
109 multispecies coalescent (107–110) or an analogous strategy (111). To evaluate the

110 species diversity of *Pyrenodesmia*, we assembled a phylogenetic dataset including 824
111 lichen specimens and five nuclear loci (Tables S2-S4). The need to phase sequences
112 from specimens that included dikaryotic mycelia resulted in a 0.98 complete data
113 matrix of 910 phased genotypes (Table S3).

114
115 The resulting dataset showed very high haplotype and nucleotide diversity (Table S3).
116 Haplotype diversity is reflected in low levels of sequence duplication, with 0.40–0.56
117 of sequences being unique, meanwhile the high nucleotide divergence between
118 sequences is best reflected by having between 0.38 and 0.46 of sites being parsimony
119 informative across all nucleotide alignments, excluding the outgroups.

120 This is very different to what we encountered in previous macrolichen surveys (112–
121 117) where species tend to comprise: a) few closely related haplotypes, identifiable as
122 discrete lineages in phylogenetic trees and network reconstructions and b) few
123 overrepresented haplotypes common across large geographic regions (115, 118, 119).
124 The observed phylogenetic continuum is similar to that of *Lecanora polytropa*, a
125 species complex proposed to comprise 70 putative species worldwide (62).

126
127 **Interpreting diverging genotypes as separate species artificially inflates the**
128 **estimates of species diversity.**

129
130 An immediate consequence of interpreting highly diverse single locus alignments in
131 terms of species delimitation is the proposal of high numbers of putative species (Table
132 S3). Widespread, albeit simplistic distance-based (ABGD and ASAP) and phylogenetic
133 methods (GMYC) identify an average of 180 species, although the number of proposed
134 entities has a wide range between 23 and 368 OTUs depending on the locus, method,
135 and threshold used for delimitation (Table S3). The high nucleotide divergence found
136 between haplotypes results in a high abundance of singleton clusters (0.90–0.63),
137 comprising a single observation, reflected in the strong numerical discordance between
138 the number of identified clusters and entities in GMYC. The multitree implementation
139 of the GMYC algorithm (bGMYC), aimed at integrating phylogenetic uncertainty often
140 results in the most conservative estimates, although they also depend on the criterion
141 used to obtain a consensus from the coassignment matrix: the average silhouette width
142 of k-medoids estimated 15–97 OTUs, the median number of partitions 5–50 OTUs.

143 In general terms, the main OTUs statistically associate with the identified
144 morphospecies across all loci, the correspondence between them is never complete, and
145 specimens with very different morphology tend to be clumped together (Table S3,
146 Supplementary material). Furthermore, the OTU delimitations are not fully concordant
147 between loci. To integrate all sequenced loci on a single delimitation strategy we
148 combined the bGMYC coassignment matrices obtained for single loci into a single
149 dissimilarity matrix, which was used to estimate a consensus delimitation using k-
150 medoids clustering and average silhouette width as criterium (Figure 1c). This
151 consensus delimitation consistently partitioned the dataset into 8 genetic clusters, which
152 are largely coherent with single-locus OTUs (Cramer's $V = 0.81$ – 0.97 , Supplementary
153 information), morphology-based identifications (Figure 1a, Cramer's $V = 0.77$
154 Supplementary information), and estimates of population structure (Figure 1b,
155 Cramer's $V = 0.932$). This multilocus consensus, limited as it is by its mathematical
156 simplicity, highlights the inadequacy of using single locus datasets to generate species
157 hypotheses and of interpreting speciation as the only source of genetic variability.

158
159 **Phylogenetic analyses suggest the presence of widespread hybridization.**

160

161 The limitations of phylogenetic methods of species delimitation are well known (31)
162 and have been thoroughly discussed in the fungal literature (52), despite which they
163 remain useful for species discovery (62, 63). Most models used in species delimitation
164 rely on strong assumptions about the contribution that reproductive isolation, genetic
165 drift, and mutation have to the genetic variability at macro and microevolutionary
166 levels. Most importantly, phylogenetic species concepts rely on considering species as
167 reproductively isolated lineages, a condition that is not always met in natural
168 populations.

169

170 In *Pyrenodesmia*, the phylogenetic signal in the identifiable phenotype-based species
171 and the concordance between single-locus phylogenies are high and statistically
172 supported, but still partial. The average concordance between loci, estimated using
173 Nye's similarity metric (120) on Bayesian tree distributions, amounts to 0.45 (0.15–
174 0.70) of the average concordance found within loci. The concordant fraction within loci
175 averages 0.34–0.42, this is significantly higher (ML $t = 34.99$, $p\text{-value} < 2.2e-16$; By $t =$
176 245.11 , $p\text{-value} < 2.2e-16$) than the random expectation (ML 0.15, By 0.19), and about
177 half of the concordance observed within loci (By 0.69 $t = -100.79$, $p\text{-value} < 2.2e-16$),
178 which provides more reasonable null expectation. Despite the concordance found
179 between loci, the consensus phylogenetic network reflects a strong incongruence
180 between gene trees, resulting in a single basal polytomy and a significant amount of
181 reticulation events across the whole extent of the phylogeny (Fig. S3). Pairwise
182 hybridization numbers (121) also suggest a dominance of hybridization but are
183 significantly biased by considering both micro and macroevolutionary processes.

184

185 The distribution of phylogenetic signal in phenotypic species measured using Pagel's λ
186 is also revealing (Figure S17). Although most likelihood ratio tests (LR) are significant,
187 because specimens with similar phenotypes tend to aggregate in discrete lineages across
188 the phylogenies (Supplementary_material), coherent groups are often interspersed by
189 single specimens with discordant phenotypes. The most abundant and well-defined
190 phenospecies have λ estimates consistently close to 1, whereas putative species that
191 have intermediate phenotypes, and species that are clearly too broad (e.g. *P.*
192 *circumalbata*) or some recently defined in phylogenetic terms (*P. micromarina*, *P.*
193 *micromontana* and *P. microestepossa*) have lower λ values in at least one of the loci.
194 The distribution of λ is likely influenced by imbalanced sampling size but serves to
195 illustrate the extent to which intermediate phenotypes are also associated with
196 intermediate genotypes.

197

198 Quantifying the contribution of hybridization and retention of ancestral polymorphism
199 to incomplete lineage sorting (ILS) remains a methodological challenge in
200 phylogenetics. Multispecies coalescent methods consider all ILS to predate species
201 differentiation, while more complex models (75, 76, 122, 123) are only usable when
202 clear species concepts can be imposed *a priori*.

203

204 **Analyses of population structure identify ten partially admixed gene-pools which**
205 **partially match observable phenospecies.**

206

207 An alternative to phylogenetic methods is to estimate population structure under
208 mixture and admixture models, which can accommodate hybridization. To
209 accommodate linkage information contained within loci we used the codon model of

210 linkage implemented BAPS (124, 125) in mixture and admixture models. The mixture
211 analysis identified 10 evolutionary populations (gene pools, Figure 1b) consistently
212 across starting conditions and the maximum number of populations. Mixture clusters
213 show a high concordance with phenospecies and bGMYC clusters (figure 1a–c),
214 although the concordance is, as always partial. The admixed fractions represent a large
215 fraction of the phylogenetic signal ($\lambda = 0.95\text{--}0.99$), reflecting the similarity of different
216 clustering results on the same data. The proportion of admixed individuals is quite low;
217 0.3 of individuals are assigned to a gene pool with a probability above 0.95, while in
218 only 0.16 the largest fraction represents less than 0.9 of the genetic variation. The low
219 admixture between gene pools suggests having strong post-mating isolation, as also
220 does the high concordance between phenospecies and gene pools (0.77). The
221 contribution of the different gene pools to the admixed signal is somewhat proportional
222 to the overall representation of each gene pool (i.e. cluster size) in the dataset, but the
223 linear relationship is not significant as clusters 3 and 4 have a larger contribution to the
224 admixed signal than expected.

225

226 **The contribution to gene flow of gene pools is not uniform**

227

228 The genetic connectivity between the ten gene pools was explicitly modelled using
229 migrate-n (126) together with approximate demographic parameters (Figure 1d–e). The
230 model is limited in that it cannot differentiate the different components contributing to
231 lineage sorting, or better lack thereof. Because it uses a migration rate, it interpolates
232 the transition between the imposed populations (gene-clusters) across genealogical
233 time. The analyses were run using a Bayesian method and complete model. The
234 estimated model parameters were mutationally scaled immigration rates (M) and
235 effective population sizes (θ), average values have been reinterpreted in terms of
236 migrants per generation, to filter out biologically relevant connections.

237

238 The contribution of the ten gene pools and their associated species to gene flow is not
239 uniform, coherent with the general observation that hybridization propensity is not
240 uniform across species and that patterns of hybridization are often dominated by a few
241 species (22). Gene pool number five, strongly associated with *P. chalybaea*, is largely
242 isolated from the rest, and only has a significant contribution to geneflow into pools six
243 and four. The overall pattern of gene flow is strongly dominated by gene flow from to
244 pools 1–4 associated with highly reduced endolithic species (Figure 1a,d–e). Clusters
245 6,7, 9 and 10 comprise a large fraction of species that are underrepresented in the dataset
246 or that show intermediate morphologies and may be misrepresenting the underlying
247 biological compartmentalization and are strongly interconnected between them. Cluster
248 8 which largely contains specimens of *P. variabilis* is the stronger contributor to
249 geneflow into the reduced phenospecies, followed by cluster 7 which is loosely
250 associated with *P. helygeoides* and *P. diphyodes* while cluster 9 is the one receiving
251 most gene flow from them. In terms of mutationally scaled immigration rate, the
252 stronger connectivity is found between pools 2 and 3 which are largely conspecific (*P.*
253 *alociza*) and are clustered together in bGMYC (Figure 1), pool three is exclusively
254 Iberian and could represent either resulting from population structure per se or be
255 reflecting the assimilation of a preexisting species into *P. alociza* through introgression.
256 Next to them the highest estimates of M is immigration into pools 6, 7, 8 and 9 from 4
257 and into 3,4,5, and 6 from 8.

258

259 The marked imbalance in gene flow to and from the reduced phenospecies and the
260 abundance of intermediate morphs suggest that, despite the strong genetic signal, the
261 evolution of *Pyrenodesmia* is strongly shaped by introgression and hybridization. While
262 the group is likely formed by at least ten differentiated ancestral evolutionary
263 populations or species, different genetic combinations contributed significantly to the
264 observed genetic and phenotypic variability in the genus, making its systematic
265 taxonomic treatment very difficult, and maybe even undesirable.

266 267 **Sequencing of mating type (MAT) idiomorphs identifies a large syngameon in** 268 **European *Pyrenodesmia*.**

269
270 Despite the frequent claims of being integrative, “molecular taxonomic” surveys are
271 often plagued by *post hoc* theorizing, because they use the same data for hypothesis
272 generation and testing. To avoid this limitation we devised a method to identify
273 reproductive compartments (i.e. biological species) by quantifying reproductive
274 isolation at the dikaryotic stage, premating isolation in the sense of Steensels et al. (90).
275 To do this we sequenced the MAT idiomorphs in samples containing dikaryotic mycelia
276 and quantified their reciprocal association using: a) cophylogenetic methods, b)
277 bipartite networks and c) unipartite networks. Each method provides a different
278 perspective, but the unipartite networks at individual level provided the best framework
279 to assign individual samples to reproductive units. We queried genome drafts of
280 *Pyrenodesmia* for MAT cassettes and developed specific primers for two coding
281 regions found in the complementary idiomorphs: the putative pheromone receptor of
282 *mat1-1* and the homeobox domain of *mat1-2* (127). To simplify we will address them
283 as alpha (α) and hmg respectively. The widely conserved, bipolar mating system and
284 the widespread homothallism found in *Lecanoromycetes* greatly simplify the analyses.

285
286 We obtained sequences of either one of the idiomorphs in 0.88 of the samples; in 0.51
287 we obtained sequences of both mating types (Supplementary table 3), as in general we
288 avoided including apothecia or apothecial primordia in the DNA extractions. The
289 genetic diversity of the MAT idiomorphs in the reduced datasets is similar to those
290 estimated for the phylogenetic loci (nucleotide diversity $\alpha = 0.06$; hmg = 0.05),
291 although haplotype diversity is higher ($\alpha = 0.681$; hmg = 0.572) resulting in a high
292 proportion of unique haplotypes ($\alpha = 0.66$; hmg = 0.57).

293
294 The cophylogenetic signal in nucleotide datasets collapsed to haplotypes was evaluated
295 using two closely related methods: RandomTaPas (128), which is recursive, and PaCo
296 (129) which is a global method to interpret large tanglegrams. Both, identified low
297 cophylogenetic signals with normalized Gini coefficients (G^*) of 0.76, which,
298 interpreted as a fraction of dissimilarity, is roughly the inverse of the 0.15 concordant
299 fraction found between observed and randomized phylogenies for the phylogenetic loci.
300 Cophylogenetic methods summarizing multiple random tanglegrams contain very few
301 well-supported cophylogenetic relationships, suggesting the absence of a
302 coevolutionary association between both mating type idiomorphs. This can also be
303 caused by the alteration of genetic drift due to the suppressed recombination around the
304 mating type cassette (130).

305
306 To better model reproductive isolation, we made use of network models implemented
307 in R packages *bipartite* (131) and *igraph* (131, 132). Under the premise that mate
308 recognition and compatibility function at protein level, we translated the nucleotide

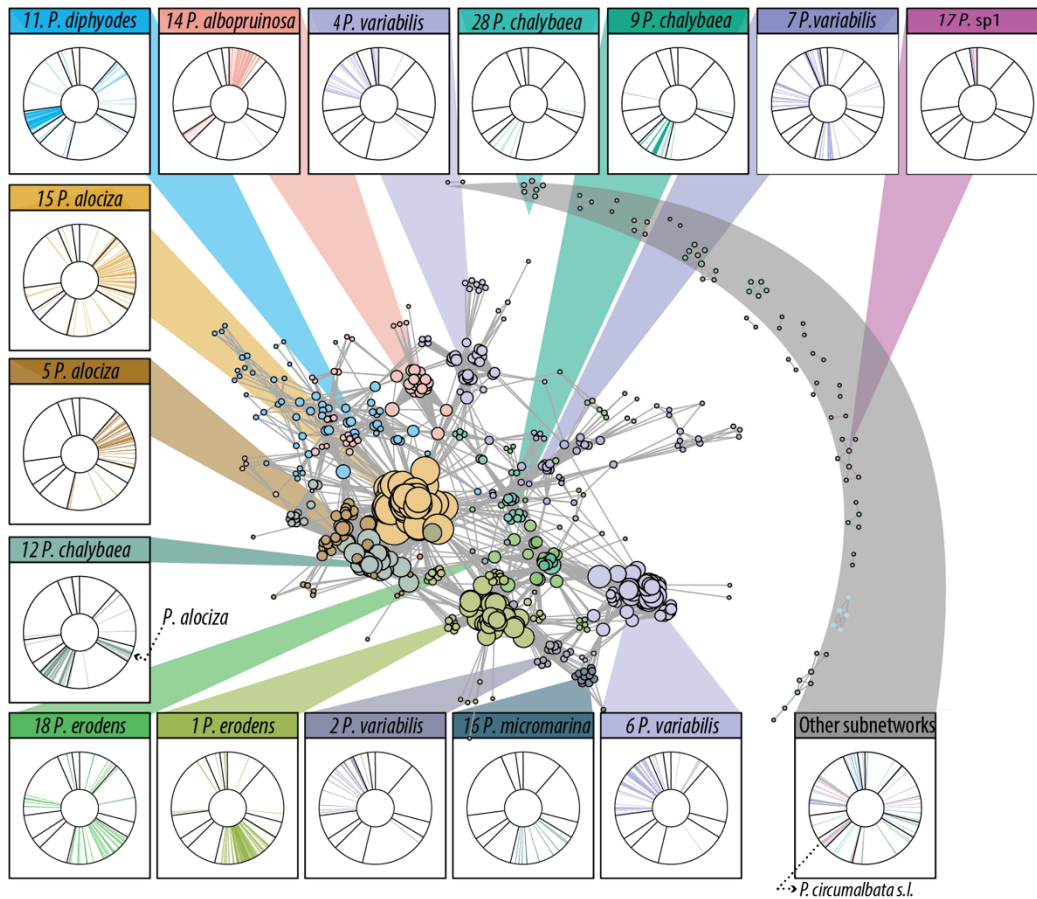


Fig. 2 Modularity of the unipartite network of MAT idiomorph cooccurrence. Figures a-c and f provide a graphical summary of the structure of the dataset using the assignment of specimens to gene-pools estimated in BAPS as organizing scaffold. estimates provided in the supplement. The network was simplified to include only strong connections ($2N_e > 2$). f | Assignment to Mating compartments using the unipartite network of MAT idiomorph cooccurrence. The network contains a main subnetwork comprising most specimens and 20 secondary ones.

309 sequences and collapsed them to 0.99 similarity haplotypes (133). Additional analyses
310 using nucleotide and aminoacid haplotypes were also carried out. Because they differ
311 in their resolution but not in the overall pattern and are left out of the manuscript.

312

313 Bipartite networks use the haplotypes of the alpha and hmg idiomorphs as independent
314 strata, giving two disjoint sets of nodes. The edges quantify the times each combination
315 of haplotypes is found in the dataset. In unipartite networks nodes represent specimens
316 and edges quantify the number of aminoacid haplotypes of any of the two idiomorphs
317 number shared between specimens.

318

319 All estimated networks show a similar pattern of compartmentalization, with a single
320 subnetwork grouping most of the nodes, that is 0.69 in the bipartite network of
321 haplotypes, 0.87 in the bipartite network at 0.99 similarity and 0.89 in the unipartite
322 network (Figure 1f). The rest of the subnetworks group underrepresented sequences,
323 species and geographic regions. The number of compartments is proportional to the
324 similarity threshold used to compress the dataset, decreasing from 66 to 22 when
325 collapsing the aminoacid sequences to 0.99 similarity (Figure 2, Supplementary
326 material). The statistical properties of the complete network, obviously arise from those
327 of the main interconnected subnetwork. Both have very low density (0.036, 0.045), low
328 average centrality (0.059, 0.074) and an average path length of (3.654, 3.656)
329 (Supplementary table X). The distribution of statistical properties at the network level
330 is not homogeneous between species, and nodes identified as *P. alociza* and *P. erodens*
331 tend to have a higher centrality and degree than the rest, while betweenness is similar
332 across the network.

333

334 The presence of well-supported reproductive units (modules) was further investigated
335 using the Louvain (134) community detection algorithm on the unipartite network. The
336 performance of different algorithms was evaluated using Bayes Factors and two null
337 models using R package *Robin* (135). The selected Louvain algorithm estimated a
338 modularity of 0.77 for the complete network, and split the main compartment into 13
339 modules, adding up to a total of 34 modules (Figure 2), which group between 0.11 and
340 0.05 of the specimens. Their assignment to modules is quite coherent with the results
341 of population genetics and bGMYC, but the overall association estimated using
342 Cramer's V between phenospecies and modules (0.47), and between modules and
343 phenospecies per geographic region (0.57), are weaker than that reported between
344 phenospecies and gene-pools (0.77), despite having a larger number of categories.

345

346 The bipartite networks are less useful to assign specimens to single reproductive
347 compartments but allow addressing whether asymmetries in connectivity between
348 both strata. The 0.99 bipartite network is very similar to the unipartite network in
349 terms of compartmentalization (21 compartments). In both cases, the diversity of the
350 alpha locus (Supplementary table 3) is slightly higher than that of hmg, which results
351 in a slightly asymmetric network. (-0.19). The c-scores show disaggregation in both
352 levels, but the checkerboard analyses are biased by the abundance of zero values. The
353 V.ratios give a better representation of aggregation and show that the hmg stratum is
354 more aggregated (6.18) than alpha (1.39), which is slightly higher than the numerical
355 imbalance between the number of haplotypes in both strata ($\text{hmg}/\alpha = 91/136 = 0.67$).
356 The higher mean number of shared partners ($\text{hmg}/\alpha = 0.07/0.11 = 0.64$) and partner
357 diversity ($\text{hmg}/\alpha = 0.9/1.45 = 0.62$) found for the hmg locus likely reflect this
358 numerical imbalance. Contrarily, the mean number of links per sequence is much

359 higher in hmg (8.8) than in alpha (3.93) and differs (0.45) from the reported
360 asymmetry expected as a result of haplotype richness. This asymmetry is likely to
361 result from a net difference in specificity between both strata, as reflected by hmg
362 having a much higher number of realized links than alpha, as shown by the net
363 difference in cluster coefficient (hmg = 0.065, α = 0.043), although when weighted
364 using Ophal's method based on four-paths, cluster coefficients are higher in alpha
365 (0.20) than in hmg (0.12) due to the imbalance between both strata.
366

367 In summary, the study of mat loci show that *Pyrenodesmia* forms a complex syngameon
368 in Europe in which species keep their reproductive boundaries open and are able to
369 hybridize with each other. Mating happens randomly across the dataset, but at the same
370 time is highly structured. It is not reasonable to consider mating as equally probable
371 across all specimens in the dataset, because geographic and ecological boundaries, local
372 vicinity and population sizes contribute significantly to premating isolation and have
373 not been explicitly accounted for. The randomness in mating is supported by the lack
374 of cophylogenetic signal found at nucleotide level, and most importantly by the lack of
375 significant difference between the observed unipartite network and the most
376 conservative null model, a random graph (dk-series 2.1 model), which preserves the
377 joint degree distribution and the clustering coefficient of the original network but not
378 the full clustering spectrum (136). Overall, there is a clear preference for intraspecific
379 mating, or mating within gene pools (Supplementary_material), which is obviously
380 limited by the local occurrence of both species and genotypes. Furthermore, the
381 discordance found between the promiscuity identified in dikaryotic samples and the
382 gene-pool structure suggests that premating reproductive barriers are weaker than post-
383 mating barriers in *Pyrenodesmia*. A thread of doubt does remain, because it is possible
384 that the post-mating hybridization identified in the sanger dataset reflects the presence
385 of non-viable dikaryotic combinations caused by the lack of mating isolation, and not
386 actual recombined hybrids.
387

388 **Phylogenomic reconstructions identify signatures of both hybridization and** 389 **hybrid speciation.**

390
391 To address this discordance, we looked for signals of hybridization at a genomic scale.
392 We assembled a comparative genomic dataset including 23 specimens of *Pyrenodesmia*
393 and two external references (Supplementary_material). Their phylogenomic
394 examination was carried out using 2767 single copy orthologous genes, whose
395 phylogenetic trajectories were modelled independently using maximum likelihood
396 (ML) and bootstrapped replicates for nodal support. The summary Figure 3d combines
397 the topology of a cluster consensus network (Figure S4) and the nodal support values
398 of a consensus phylogenetic tree (Figure S5). Both consensus approaches allow
399 identifying a phylogenetic signal of hybridization at whole genome level. The
400 estimation of pairwise hybridization networks (121) identifies 6 hybridization events
401 across the ML reconstructions, which is coherent with the reticulations depicted in the
402 cluster consensus network. Three of them are intraspecific, while two link specimens
403 of *P. alociza* with non-endolithic species, some ill-defined reduced morphs. A third
404 interspecific reticulation is basal to a wider clade containing *P. erodens*, which is
405 otherwise well supported with 0.92 internode and tree certainty values.
406

407 ***P. erodens* shows signs of genome concertation and stabilization.**

408

409 The evolutionary importance of hybridization has been recently reconsidered in whole
410 genome surveys, which found evidence of cross-specific gene transfer across the
411 eukaryotic tree of life, contradicting the canonical view that hybridization is a rare and
412 deleterious event. Hybridization in fungi (90), originating through sexual or parasexual
413 gene transfer (137), has been identified as a major cause of genomic instability (138)
414 but has also been proposed as an important source of adaptive traits and genetic
415 variability (20). What is still not clearly understood is the outcome that hybridization
416 has in haploid organisms, in which the vegetative outcome is not necessarily a one-to-
417 one hybrid, but a complex gradient of recombined genotypes. Additionally,
418 chromosomal structure may determine a mosaic of regions with enhanced and
419 suppressed recombination, and genome defence mechanisms may determine
420 asymmetries in the stability of gene content in hybrids.

421
422 We addressed this heterogeneity using the genome of *P. erodens* as baseline reference.
423 Despite the strong contribution of this species to the overall admixed signal, and mating
424 network, the phylogenomic reconstruction suggest that its genome has been shaped by
425 an old hybridization event. Its evolutionary placement is quite coherent across loci and
426 seems dominated by mechanisms ensuring the stability of its gene content. With 41.8Kb
427 its genome is 0.3 larger than the quasi-complete reference genomes of *X.parietina* (14)
428 and *G. flavorubescens*, but contains roughly twice the number of chromosomes (24,14
429 and 11.5 respectively) approximated counting telomeric (CCCTAA/TTAGGG)n
430 motifs, 14 on both ends, 20 on one end in *P. erodens*. The genome size is not
431 significantly different to other *Pyrenodesmia* draft genomes, although their sizes may
432 be smaller due to the stringent metagenome filtering used.

433
434 The difference in chromosome number and the similarity in genome sizes suggests that
435 genome duplication or aneuploidy may have shaped the evolution of the whole genus.
436 More contiguous assemblies would be needed to thoroughly discuss the extent to which
437 this is shared among *Pyrenodesmia* species or reflect older events taking place within
438 the subfamily *Caloplacoideae*. The ancestral origin of the hybridization event is also
439 supported by the low of heterozygosity found and the low levels of interchromosomal
440 homology observed, with a single intragenomic syntenic region between chromosomes
441 15 and 24, related to mobile elements, and the lack of shared k-mers between scaffolds.

442
443 Despite being similar in size, the genome of *P. erodens* has a lower gene content than
444 the other high contiguity genomes in the dataset (Supplementary_material). This
445 slight depauperation is also observable in the functional annotations, where the
446 tendency towards a reduction of genes identified per functional unit (e.g. pfams,
447 interpro, COGS, etc.) is clearly observable (Figure 4b) although it is partly obscured
448 by the overall stability in gene content (Figure 4a). The simplification of the genome
449 also results in a reduction on the number of tRNAs (46) compared to the references
450 (57), which could also explain the loss of genes with discordant codon usage. The rest
451 of *Pyrenodesmia* genomes show similarly reduced tRNA counts, except for *P. alociza*
452 which has consistently higher tRNA counts (77–137), correlated with the strong
453 signal of hybridization found for all its specimens in the phylogenomic dataset.

454
455 **Genome defence mechanisms are largely responsible for the simplification of the**
456 ***P. erodens* genome.**

457

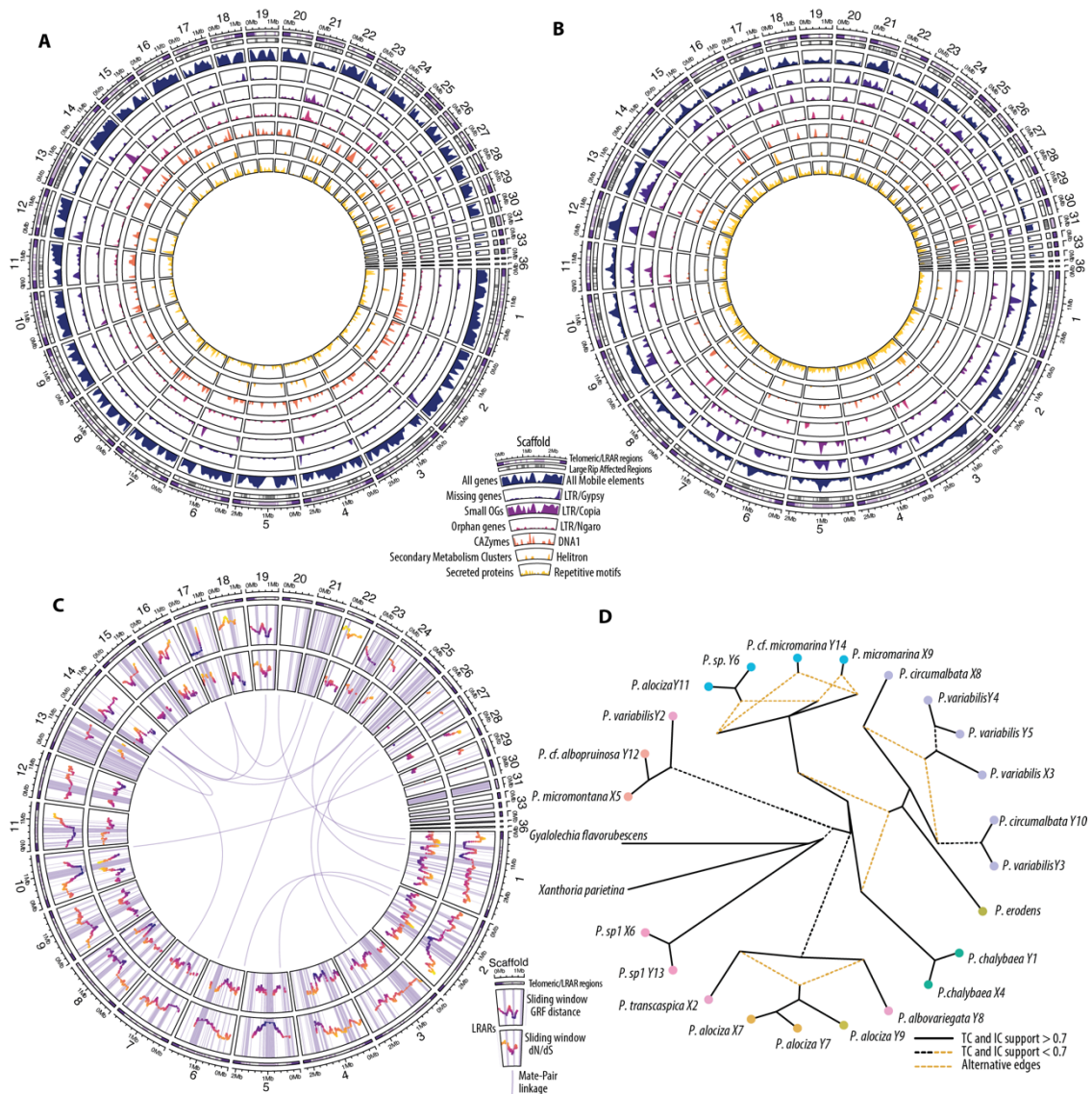


Fig. 3 Summary of the genomic draft of *Pyrenodesmia erodens* and its phylogenomic context. **a** | Genome structure and annotation. The plot represents the individual scaffolds numbered from 1 to 36 and their length. Each sector contains the following fields: 1 | Regionalization. Telomeric and subtelomeric regions of 0.35Mb from the terminus are highlighted in darker color, large RIP affected regions (LRARs) and 0.03Mb flanks are highlighted in a lighter color. 2 | LRARs identified using theRipper. 3 | Density plot of coding regions calculated using a sliding window of 50Kb, common to all other density plots. 4 | Density of missing genes, it considers the syntenic position of genes missing in the syntenic blocks of *P. erodens* but present in more than X other *Pyrenodesmia* genomes. 5 | Density of genes assigned to small OGs) found in at least 5 genomes. 6 | Density of singleton or orphan genes, assigned to OGs found only in *P. erodens*. 7 | Density of genes related to Carbohydrate metabolism (CAZymes) 8 | Density of Secondary metabolism clusters (Terpenes, PKS and NRPKS) 9 | Density of secreted proteins. **b** | Annotation of repetitive and transposable elements in the *P. erodens* genome. Each sector contains nine fields, the first two are the same as above, the rest show the estimated densities of: 3 | All mobile elements. 4 | LTR/Gypsy. 5 | LTR/Copia. 6 | LTR/Ngaro. 7 | DNA elements including those of Voyager proteins 8 | helitron 9 | repetitive sequences. **c** | Summary of the phylogenetic landscape across the *P. erodens* genome. Each sector representing a scaffold contains three fields: 1 | regionalization of the genome. 2 | Generalized Robinson-Foulds distances between neighboring single copy orthologous genes (SCOGs). Each data point represents the average distance between the ML phylogenetic reconstructions on overlapping sliding windows containing 20 consecutive SCOGs. Vertical bands highlight the identified LRARs including centromeric regions. 3 | Sliding window of dN/dS values calculated using the same method as above. On both the numerical values are emphasized by using a color gradient between blue and orange. The central region of the plot shows the linkage between scaffolds using regions with a high density of split mate-pairs, in which each paired sequence aligns to a different scaffold. **d** | Phylogenomic consensus network. Well supported edges (IC and TC > 0.7) are drawn as whole black lines, edges common between the consensus tree and network reconstructions but with lower support are shown as black dotted lines. Edges representing a hybridization event, with IC/TC values are highlighted as colored dotted lines. The color of each tip is coherent with the assignment to the gene pools in Fig1b.

458 The dataset shows significant conservation of syntenic blocks, but loss of individual
459 genes is widely distributed across the genome. Most notably, the genome of *P.*
460 *erodens* is largely affected by Repeat Induced Point Mutations (RIP), a genome
461 defence mechanism largely responsible for preventing the proliferation of
462 transposable elements (TEs) in fungal genomes. Because RIP is a widespread
463 mechanism in fungi, the GC content (0.44) and the proportion of the *P. erodens*
464 genome affected by RIP (0.28) are within the values observed in other Ascomycota
465 (Supplementary_material). What makes this genome peculiar that most RIP is found
466 within large RIP affected regions (LRARs), adding up to 0.27 of the total genome
467 size. Also, these LRARs are unevenly distributed among the scaffolds (Figure 3a–c),
468 eight of which (11–13, 15, 17, 21, 23 and 25) are disproportionately affected by RIP
469 (Figure 3a–c) to the extent of having very low coding density (Figure 3a), a high
470 density of genes missing from syntenic blocks (Figure 3a), identified as single-copy
471 orthologs (Figure 3c) and hardly any gene with a functional annotation (Figure 3a).
472 These “supernumerary scaffolds” do not simply represent assembly artifacts, they are
473 long (1.54–0.7 Mb) and amount to 0.22 of the total genome size.

474
475 The canonical view is that LRARs result from the proliferation of TEs and the
476 subsequent genome defence. In addition to that, we hypothesize that RIP is a strong
477 force driving genome stabilization and concertation, if not by itself, coupled with
478 other mechanisms of genome defence and RNA interference. This idea is coherent
479 with the evidence that fungal polyploids are most obvious in yeasts defective in RIP
480 associated genes (139). RIP eliminates non-contiguous homologous chromatin
481 regions which are repeated. In its nature RIP is symmetric, resulting in the deletion of
482 both copies in a heterokaryon. What we observe, however is the maintenance of genes
483 that largely share a common phylogenetic history, a directionality that could be
484 explained by a hypothetical interaction between RNA interference mechanisms and
485 RIP. Beyond hypothetical considerations, this directionality can be observed in the
486 strong association between LRAR and mobile element density in the described
487 “supernumerary scaffolds”. The causal relationship is however difficult to establish
488 because most of the signal is caused by the presence of LTR/Copia and LTR/gypsy
489 elements which attach specifically to GC poor regions such as centromeres. It has
490 been hypothesized that the proliferation of repetitive elements is also promoted by
491 hybridization, but the extent to which LRARs originate from LTR-mediated extension
492 of RIP affected regions or are the original cause of RIP is difficult to assess.
493 Moreover, LTR elements are typically found in centromeres, and although we
494 attempted classifying LRARs according to their content in transposable elements, we
495 did not manage to properly differentiate centromeres from secondary LRARs. Finally,
496 RIP tends to extend beyond the homologous region potentially altering flanking
497 genes. In *P. erodens* we found a strong collinearity between the density of genes
498 missing from syntenic blocks and the density of transposable elements using sliding
499 windows (Supplementary_material) as well as a negative correlation with the total
500 gene density. This correlation is stronger when telomeric regions are excluded, but is
501 not statistically supported when windows with 0 genes are taken out. Overall
502 suggesting a strong association between the loss of genes and the action of RIP on the
503 genome.

504
505 **RIP also drives genome compartmentalization and evolutionary stratification**

506

507 While mobile elements and genome defence mechanisms play a major role shaping
508 the gene content of *P. erodens*, they are also a major source of evolutionary
509 stratification. We surveyed evolutionary stratification by mapping the discordance of
510 phylogenetic signal between contiguous single copy OGs using generalized
511 Robinson-Foulds distances on overlapping sliding windows (Figure 3c). This
512 approach shows that regions proximal to putative centromeres, especially those placed
513 between two large LRARs show lower average phylogenetic discordance between
514 OGs (Figure 3c), as well as an accumulation of non-synonymous mutations, shown as
515 higher average dN/dS values (Figure 3c), and divergent average m1/m2 and m7/m8
516 ratios (Supplementary material). This is coherent with the idea that areas proximal to
517 centromeres show suppressed recombination (140–143) and significantly contribute
518 to genome architecture (144). The proliferation of LRAR caused by the interaction of
519 genome defence mechanisms (RIP) and the proliferation of mobile elements in AT
520 rich regions, results in the development of polycentric chromosomes (145), which
521 behave locally in a similar way as reported for more complex repeat based holocentric
522 (146) chromosomes in plants. The proliferation of transposable elements is also
523 increased in subtelomeric regions, which are also affected by RIP but show significant
524 differences in behaviour and gene content compared to the rest of the genome.

525
526 To study the differences across genomic regions we split the genome into three
527 functional regions: subtelomeric, LRAR and general. The first category includes
528 350Kb proximal to scaffold ends containing telomeric, including LRARs found
529 within them. The second contains centromeric and non-centromeric large RIP affected
530 regions including 30Kb on each flank. The third contains the rest of the euchromatin.
531 These three regions differ significantly in their evolutionary and functional
532 stratification (Figure 4). The subtelomeric regions have slightly higher average RF
533 distances between single copy orthologs (Figure 4q), and although the dN/dS values
534 (Figure 4r) are also lower the difference is not statistically significant. Meanwhile,
535 while the difference between LRARs and the rest of the genome is not significant, the
536 LRARs show a more bimodal distribution of metrics reflecting the presence of
537 LRARs centromeric or proximal to centromeres and other regions that do not show a
538 strong signal of reduced recombination, because they are younger or incorporate
539 genes that relocated within TEs.

540
541 The three regions differ in the extent to which they have been affected by different
542 processes. The coding density is obviously lower in LRAR flanks than in the rest of
543 the genome, while subtelomeric regions although often including LRARs have a
544 slightly higher density than the rest (Figure 4c). Rare genes belonging to small OGs
545 and orphan genes are significantly associated with subtelomeric regions (Figure 4d–
546 e), while the density of missing genes is obviously higher in LRARs (Figure 4f). In
547 contrast, while the three regions differ in the overall density of repetitive sequences
548 (Figure 4k), the density of mobile elements is statistically similar in subtelomeric and
549 LRAR regions (Figure 4j), a divergence that may result from the different extent to
550 which the three regions are affected by the proliferation of different types of TEs
551 (Figure 4l-p).

552
553 Finally, the telomeric regions have a significantly higher density of genes related to
554 carbohydrate metabolism (CAZymes, Figure 4g), secreted proteins (Figure 4h), and
555 secondary metabolism clusters (Figure 4i) than the rest of the genome. Phylogenetic
556 stratification of the genome is also observable across the dataset. Regions of reduced

557 and increased recombination are intermixed across the genome (Figure 3c) and are
558 strongly associated with the presence of LRARs. This suggests that subtelomeric
559 regions, which have increased recombination and are strongly associated with certain
560 mobile elements, are key in the acquisition of functional diversity and adaptive traits.
561 Furthermore, subtelomeric regions show higher average dissimilarity between single-
562 copy OG phylogenies than the rest of the genome (Figure 4q) and slightly lower
563 evidence for positive selection (Figure 4r–t). The scale at which stratification takes
564 place is finer than the coarse regions used in this survey and its study requires an in-
565 depth systematization to characterize the recombination history of individual
566 chromosome regions.

567 3. DISCUSSION

568 Language provides us with the basic tools to imagine, organize and share our
569 knowledge of the natural world. Taxonomists use a hierarchic system of linguistic
570 categories to represent and organize the observable discontinuity of organic variation.
571 For them, life is organized in discrete units, species, that are subject to a continuous
572 process of evolutionary change and are connected through their shared ancestry.
573

574 Reconciling the continuous nature of evolutionary change with the discrete outcome
575 of speciation is a foundational challenge in evolutionary biology, which is becoming
576 ever more apparent as the evidence that cross-specific exchange of genetic
577 information is frequent piles up across all domains of life. Viewing species as only
578 units of biological organization is often a useful compromise; flexible enough to
579 allow interpreting lack of reproductive isolation in terms of interspecific hybridization
580 and introgression. But to what extent is it a harmful simplification? Is it necessary to
581 perpetuate an unrealistic *scala naturae* made up of fix categories and deterministic
582 expectations? Life is a complex evolving system in which both genealogical and non-
583 genealogical bonds are equally relevant in shaping its structure, diversity, variability,
584 and stability.
585

586 The lichen genus *Pyrenodesmia* provides a clear example of a genus whose species
587 remain interlinked at a supra-specific level. The genus contains a discrete number of
588 identifiable genetic entities which associate significantly with already described
589 morphospecies, as well as several morphologically and genetically discordant
590 specimens which amount to ca. 30% of the dataset. Some of them are unrecognized
591 species, but others are clearly intermediates in their phenotype, their genotype, or
592 both. The evidence that the identifiable genetic groups transfer genetic information
593 with each other, as provided by admixture and gene flow (migration) analyses (Figure
594 1a–e) could be interpreted in terms of hybridization or introgression between species
595 resulting from secondary contact between well-differentiated species. However, in the
596 European continent, all species are interconnected through mating in a single large
597 reproductive network, a syngameon, despite which the main species remain largely
598 distinct and distinguishable. Moreover, the phylogenetic (Supplementary_material)
599 and phylogenomic trees (Figure 3d, Supplementary_material) reflect the presence of a
600 long-standing history of genetic exchange more than a series of unresolved secondary
601 contacts.
602

603 Coherently with findings made on other syngamea, the contribution of the different
604 species and gene pools to the hybrid signal is asymmetric at pre- and post-mating

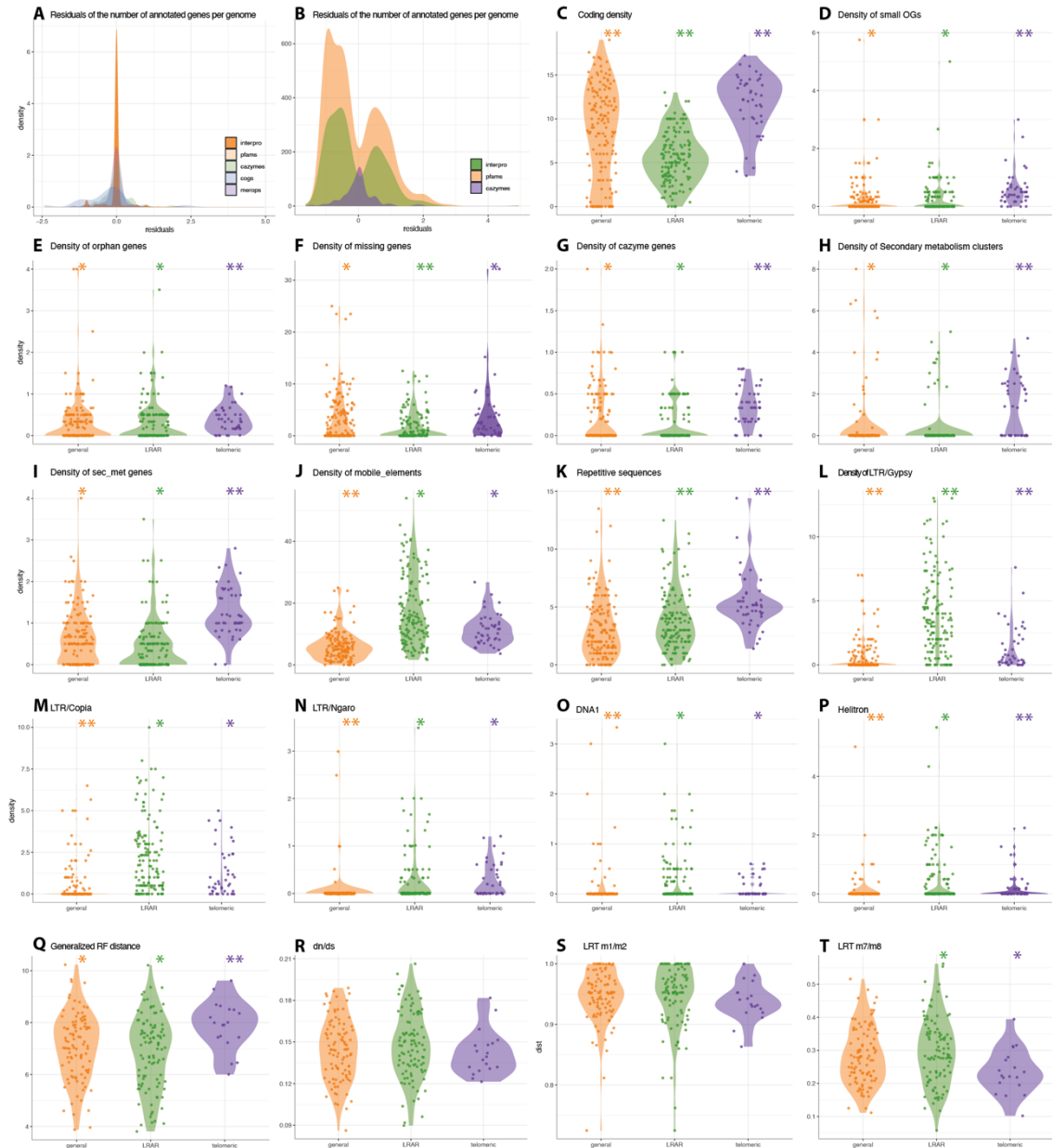


Fig. 4 Intragenomic regionalization of the *P. erodens* genome. **a** | Density plot of the standardized residuals of annotated gene representation in the genome. It includes all genes which rendered a positive match to Pfam, Interpro, COG, Merops and DbCAN databases. The expected value was imposed as the median of all other Pyrenodesmia genomes. **b** | Density plot of non-zero standardized residuals of annotated genes. Highlighting the towards depauperation of gene content. **c-p** | Show the density of different genomic features in the three imposed regions, telomeric and subtelomeric, LRARs and their flanks and the rest of the genome. Densities were calculated using a sliding window of 20Kb: **c** | Coding density. **d** | Small OGs. **e** | Orphan genes (singleton OGs). **f** | Missing genes. **g** | CAZymes. **h** | Secondary metabolism clusters. **i** | Secreted proteins. **j** | mobile elements. **k** | Repetitive sequences **l** | LTR/Gypsy. **m** | LTR/Copia **n** | LTR/Ngaro **o** | DNA1. **p** | Helitron. **q-t** | Distribution of phylogeny based metrics averaged across groups of 20 neighboring OGs. **q** | Generalized Robinson-Foulds distances. **r** | Ratio of non-synonymous and synonymous substitutions ($\omega = dN/dS$). **s** | Averaged value of the Likelihood Ratio Test between models m1, which considers loci being either conserved or neutral ($\omega < 1$ & $\omega = 1$), and m2, which include a third category allowing loci to be under positive selection ($\omega < 1$, $\omega = 1$ & $\omega > 1$). **t** | Averaged value of the Likelihood Ratio Test between models m7 and m8. Both models consider that ω varies across sites following a beta distribution restricted to the interval (0,1), model m8 includes an additional category of sites under selection which can take a value of ω above 1.

605 levels. In *Pyrenodesmia*, cross-specific bonds seem to be driven by species that have
606 reduced endolithic thalli (Figure 1a–f, Figure 2), and appear to be of hybrid origin in
607 the phylogenomic reconstructions (Figure 3d), particularly *P. erodens* and *P. alociza*
608 (gene pools 2,3). These are preferentially introgressed by larger epilithic species of
609 gene pools 6–9). The observed asymmetry is even stronger when considering
610 migration between gene pools using each mat idiomorph. The directionality of
611 geneflow as estimated using migrate-n is difficult to interpret, especially because
612 there is some discordance between gene pools and phenotype groups. Further
613 evidence of the asymmetry is provided by the net difference in average closeness
614 centrality estimated for the different mat modules (Supplementary material), and the
615 strong contribution of *P. alociza* and *P. erodens* modules to the network structure.
616

617 In terms of evolutionary ecology, there is no clearer contributor to fitness than mating
618 itself. In that respect, syngamea could be interpreted to behave in a way analogous to
619 metapopulations (metaspecies), where asymmetries in mating are strong drivers of
620 both population structure and local adaptation. Contrary to metapopulations, geneflow
621 between species may result not just in the acquisition of maladaptive traits, but have
622 stronger selective consequences. In that respect, the diversity of reproductive
623 interactions can be interpreted in terms of reproductive niche, transposing an Eltonian
624 niche concept (147) to describe the width of the genealogical vicinity with which
625 mating is possible. Seen from that perspective, mating behaves the same as any other
626 biotic interaction. Species will show different degrees of reproductive specificity,
627 from a very narrow reproductive niche as *P. chalybaea* to a generalist with fully open
628 reproductive boundaries. An idea subsequent to that of niche, which is sometimes
629 strongly discussed by ecologists, but is a central consideration is that the observed
630 interactions result from the realization of a broader fundamental niche which may
631 result from local processes such as competition or density. This would reconcile the
632 discordance between the lack of compartmentalization and the strong association
633 between the estimated modules, phenotypic species and region.
634

635 The outcome of reproductive interactions may also be interpreted in terms of their
636 effect on both mates, which can be beneficial by increasing the transfer of adaptive
637 traits to deleterious in case of, for instance genome or mitonuclear incompatibilities.
638 In that respect we hypothesize that the strategy of the endolithic *Pyrenodesmia*
639 species is analogous to sexual parasitism (148), which use closely related species to
640 propagate, at the expense of certain gene leakage between species and some
641 backcrossing leading to hybrid phenotypes. It is not necessary to annihilate the
642 accepting genotype to be parasitism, but simply to increase its own fitness at the
643 expense of the other species in the syngameon. Compared to other models of sexual
644 parasitism, fungi are different because of the meaning of mating and the haploid
645 nature of the vegetative mycelium. The outcome of hybridization is not completely
646 known, but it is not necessary Mendelian, especially because hybrids result in a whole
647 probabilistic spectrum of partially recombined haploid genotypes.
648

649 As genomes diverge and species within the syngameon diversify, hybridization comes
650 at a stronger cost to both sides of the interaction. The genomes of sexual parasites
651 must reflect the deleterious effects of non-specific mating at genome level but also the
652 traits selected to maintain the feedback loop in which maintaining the increased
653 fitness of the parasitic behaviour overweighs any other adaptive strategy.
654

655 In the phylogenomic dataset we observe two species which show different traits
656 related to their hybrid history. The genome of the *P. erodens* culture seems to reflect
657 the long term outcome of hybridization. Its genome shows traces of genome
658 stabilization. We do not know whether the higher chromosome number results of
659 hybridization or is a shared trait within the genus. Its gene content remains quite
660 stable despite hybridization, although partial gene loss is observable across the whole
661 genome. The loss of genes is mostly caused by the action of genome defence
662 mechanisms, especially RIP, which disproportionately affects certain scaffolds and
663 chromosomes to the point of completely obliterating their gene content. This
664 asymmetry is not typical of RIP and cannot be explained by the observed proliferation
665 of transposable elements alone. This makes us conclude that RIP, in interaction with
666 other genome defence mechanisms is a key factor maintaining fungal genomes
667 haploid and driving concertation of gene content in hybrid genomes.

668
669 The accumulation of large RIP affected regions (LRARs) also modifies the
670 recombination landscape of the *Pyrenodesmia* genomes, because it generates regions
671 of reduced recombination between LRARS that likely behave as centromeres (Figure
672 3c). These provide certain protection from the deleterious effects of recombination
673 and may contribute to the overall stability of the genome but are on the long run prone
674 to accumulate non-synonymous mutations (Figure 3c). Meanwhile the subtelomeric
675 regions of the genome remain active both in terms of recombination and incorporation
676 of mobile elements, retaining a strong potential for the acquisition of functional
677 variability (Figure 3–4). The loss of certain genetic elements like heterokaryon
678 incompatibility genes, as observed in *P. erodens* is a potential mechanism to increase
679 cross-reproductive fitness, while the reduction in tRNA content may provide
680 additional transcriptional silencing of foreign genes.

681
682 The genomes of *P. alociza* on the other hand appear as recent hybrids. They show
683 increased genome content and tRNA count, but are difficult to interpret because they
684 do not originate from a haploid tissue and may not represent accurately the real
685 genomic structure. They do hint to a first stage in hybridization in which genome
686 stabilization is still an ongoing process, which requires a more in-depth look.

687
688 On the whole, this survey raises worrying questions on the way phylogenetic surveys
689 interpret the genetic variability of fungi. Is the supraspecific evolutionary unit found in
690 *Pyrenodesmia* an exception? Most likely it is not, and while molecular characters
691 provide an objective description of the relatedness between genes, and organisms, the
692 methods used impose very strong opinions on the interpretation of relatedness, the
693 outcome of evolution and the properties of populations and species. To what extent are
694 we doing a good job describing fungal evolution in terms of hyperdiversity and cryptic
695 speciation? How much are we affected by confirmation bias? Or are we assuming
696 simplistic operational expectations because they are publishable?

697 4. MATERIAL AND METHODS

698 ***Dataset assembly, collections and morphological identification***

699 We assembled a collection of *Pyrenodesmia* specimens growing mainly on limestone
700 surfaces across the Mediterranean region of the Eurasian continent. These were
701 enriched with reference collections made in Central Asia and North America. Sample

702 location is shown in ST 1. The identification of the specimens using morphological
703 characters is a daunting task. The univocal identification of specimens to one taxon is
704 often hampered by the lack of clear differentiation, the abundance of intermediate forms
705 and the difficulty to carry barcoding using molecular characters. In general terms we
706 used the monographic work of Wunder (96) as a backbone over which we integrated
707 newer taxa and taxonomic concepts (97, 99, 101, 102, 105). This effort has been largely
708 summarized by Frolov et al. (106).

709

710 ***Development of specific primers***

711 The assembly of a multilocus dataset proved particularly challenging. Added to the
712 species identification problems, the microscopic nature of most species hampered the
713 process of DNA extraction. This is especially true for endolithic samples which have
714 low fungal biomass and high amounts of Calcium carbonate. In most cases the yield
715 sufficed to amplify repeated loci as ITS or mtLSU, but not single-copy nuclear loci, a
716 problem exacerbated by the mediocre performance of standard fungal-specific primers.
717 To enable the assembly of a multilocus dataset we developed specific primers for
718 *Pyrenodesmia*. Instead of developing primers internal to those used as standard, we
719 aimed at providing Teloschistaceae/*Pyrenodesmia*-specific primers covering a larger
720 genomic region, more in tune with modern PCR and sanger sequencing capabilities.
721 For this we assembled nine reference genomic drafts to serve as reference and to test
722 the usability of genome-wide phylogenomic surveys. We queried the assembled loci
723 using Blastn (149) as to extract complete sequences of a set of loci commonly used in
724 previous phylogenetic surveys at generic and family levels: The mitochondrial large
725 subunit rRNA (mtLSU), the nuclear Internal transcribed spacer region of the rRNA
726 cistron (ITS), and five protein coding loci: mini-chromosome maintenance complex
727 protein 7 (*mcm7*), Elongation Factor α (*Ef α*), β -Tubulin, and the largest subunits of the
728 RNA polymerase II (*RPB1* and *RPB2*).

729 Further subsetting, multiple sequence alignment and primer design were carried out in
730 Geneious v7 (150) using the included augustus (151) and Primer3 plugins. Multiple
731 sequence alignments contained a single gene copy per genome with the exception of
732 ITS and mtLSU, and all belonged to contigs predicted as fungal. To provide more
733 specific primers for mtLSU, which is prone to cross-contamination, and to exclude the
734 photobiont sequences in ITS we included contaminant sequences of lichen-associated
735 fungi and *Trebouxia* photobionts as found in the sequenced metagenomes.

736

737 ***PCR and sequencing***

738 Because standard PCR protocols did not deal well with the low quantities of DNA used,
739 PCRs were carried out using the KAPA3G Plant PCR Kit (Kapa Biosystems, VWR)
740 using the following cycling conditions for the phylogenetically informative loci: Initial
741 Denaturation at 95°C for 5 minutes, 40 cycles of Denaturation at 95°C for 20s,
742 Annealing at 57°C for 15s, Extension at 72°C for 30s and a Final Extension step at 72°C
743 for 7m. For the MAT loci 40 cycles of Denaturation at 95°C for 30s and annealing at
744 60°C for 15s were used instead.

745 All reactions were carried out using 10 μ L reaction volumes. The mastermix was
746 modified to include: 5 μ l 2x KAPA Plant PCR Buffer, 0.7 μ l Forward Primer (10 μ M)
747 and 0.7 μ l Reverse Primer (10 μ M), 1-3 μ l Template DNA, 0.05 μ L KAPA3G Plant
748 DNA Polymerase (2.5 U/ μ L), fill up to 10 μ l with PCR-grade water. Sanger sequencing
749 was carried out by Microsynth Austria on an ABI 3001 platform.

750

751 ***Dataset assembly***

752 Although more than 1200 specimens were processed, the final dataset includes 824
753 specimens for which we could assemble a credible and almost complete data-matrix
754 (98%), with sequences of at least three out of the five loci used. To achieve the
755 maximum completion of the dataset we repeated the amplification and sequencing
756 progressively increasing the amount of template until the gaps were filled or the extract
757 was exhausted. The microscopic nature of most samples did not allow doing multiple
758 extractions per sample; in consequence sequences are never pooled from parallel
759 extractions. The dataset used in the manuscript does not make use of mtLSU nor RPB2
760 sequences, but we provide for coherence with previous surveys that may have RPB2 or
761 mtLSU. The mitochondrial LSU was discarded as it contains two complementary
762 homopolymeric regions that degrade the performance of Sanger sequencing beyond the
763 limits of usability. Additionally, we suspect the complex reproductive biology to cause
764 significant mitonuclear discordance and heteroplasmy. The two overlapping fragments
765 of a long region of RPB2 were the last to be sequenced and remain very incomplete due
766 to the exhaustion of DNA extracts.

767 All sequences were processed in Geneious v.11 (152) departing from the raw .ab1 files.
768 After a first alignment using mafft (151), sequences were trimmed, and base calling
769 errors were manually corrected. Correction was aided by the simultaneous graphic
770 visualization of the electropherograms and DNA alignment. Each sequence was
771 processed the same way, corrections were made conservatively and tend to equalize
772 non-variable sites but leave ambiguous calls in informative ones. Many sequences
773 required extensive editing; in most cases the sequencing artefacts were systematic
774 issues, caused by PCR errors and low template concentrations. In most cases sequences
775 were obtained using reverse and forward primers, instead of enforcing the creation of a
776 consensus contig assembly, we manually merged both senses during the correction step.
777 The process of dataset assembly was iteratively repeated as new sequences were added.

778

779 ***Extent of the multilocus dataset***

780 We assembled a wide phylogenetic dataset including 824 lichen specimens and five
781 sanger-sequenced nuclear loci (Tables S2-S4). Most specimens correspond to
782 saxicolous species collected on limestone substrates across Southern Europe (Table S1,
783 Figure S1). A subset of genetically divergent Central Asian and North American
784 species to provide a broader phylogenetic context. The use of custom primers (Table
785 S2) allowed us to assemble a 98% complete phylogenetic dataset. To deal with
786 ambiguous basecalling caused by having partly dikaryotic specimens, the dataset was
787 phased and concatenated into a data matrix including 910 phased haplotypes.

788

789 ***Taxonomic credibility***

790 After the datasets are assembled and aligned, their taxonomic consistency is assessed
791 by several means. First, sequences of each locus are blasted against a local copy of the
792 NCBI nt database (downloaded 3.2017), the resulting text output is processed in
793 MEGAN v5 (153, 154) to obtain an estimate of the Least common ancestor for each
794 sequence. Samples containing foreign sequences or with a dubious adscription were
795 excluded from the dataset. Because of the different representation of the loci in the
796 NCBI database, the ITS, mtLSU and BT sequences are identified at least at a subfamily

797 level (Caloplacoideae), the *mcm7* sequences could be assigned to belong to the
798 OSLEUM clade, while *Efa*, RPB1 and RPB2 could not be filtered taxonomically, and
799 we relied on phylogenetic reconstructions for cleaning foreign sequences.

800

801 ***Phasing of mixed sequences***

802 The base calling of sanger sequences when using difficult material is often
803 unsatisfactory, and often results in sequences containing numerous ambiguous sites. It
804 is common practice in phylogenetic surveys, to retain ambiguous sites in the dataset
805 when the overall sequence quality is high, since they have little influence on the
806 topology, especially when used in a concatenated data matrix.

807 Base calling, being an automated process, does not take into account the process
808 causing an ambiguous signal (e.g. primer degradation, presence of homopolymers,
809 heterozygotic samples, paralogs, etc.). In datasets containing both intra and
810 interspecific variability, like the one used, a single isolate may contain multiple variants
811 in haploid or dikaryotic hyphae. This means that ambiguous sites accumulate in
812 phylogenetically informative sites, significantly degrading the interpretation of the
813 data. To avoid this type of dataset erosion we decided to curate sequences individually
814 and carry out context-based haplotype inferences.

815 Upon the reception of sequence data, 1) forward and reverse sequences of the same
816 specimen sequences were added and aligned to the data matrix in Geneious v7 using a
817 fast MAFFT algorithm. 2) Using the electropherograms as context, low quality regions
818 were eliminated and only high-quality fragments were used. 3) When high quality
819 fragments did not cover the whole length of the sequence, they were repeated and
820 appended to the alignment. 4) When forward and reverse sequences were properly
821 overlapping and the context did not suggest a chimeric sequence was being created, all
822 sequences were manually collapsed into one consensus. 5) Some samples however
823 showed either different forward and reverse sequences or more often ambiguities
824 reflecting a mixture of sequences similar to those existing in the dataset. In this case
825 more than one sequence per sample was left in the alignment and the curated sequences
826 were used to call phased haplotypes.

827 Most loci contained few mixed sequences and haplotypes could be phased manually.
828 Four samples of ITS were mixed as well as two of RPB1, 12 of *EF- α* and 21 samples
829 of β -tubulin. The mating type loci had also some mixed samples, 12 in *mata* and five
830 in *hmg*. The nuclear *mcm7* locus, however showed 80 samples which were clearly
831 mixed and difficult to phase manually.

832 The genome assemblies showed no duplication of the *mcm7* locus in *P. erodens*, in the
833 assembly or looking at the patterns of Heterozygosity obtained by read-mapping.
834 Haplotype phasing was carried out using the algorithm implemented in the program
835 Phase v 2.1 (155–158); the input/output interface between alignment files and Phase
836 was provided by fastphase (159).

837 To incorporate phased sequences into the population analyses, individual specimens
838 with duplicated sequences in one locus were duplicated in all other datasets for
839 population analyses. Haplotype phased specimens were treated as separate haploid
840 entities and not as diploid in downstream population inferences. A total of 86 samples
841 are duplicated in the final data matrix.

842

843 ***Pylogenetic reconstructions, consensus and hybridization networks***

844 Phylogenetic reconstruction on the duplicated dataset were carried out using iqtree
845 (160) for Maximum Likelihood reconstructions and BEAST v2.2 (161) for Bayesian
846 reconstructions. Initial selection of substitution models and partitions was carried out
847 using the model testing capabilities of IQtree (162). The ML topologies of the five
848 somatic loci were summarized using a majority rule consensus calculated in RaxML
849 (163, 164). Dendroscope v3 (165) was used to explore alternative consensus
850 algorithms. Consensus networks captured best the phylogenetic incongruence between
851 loci, we show the cluster network consensus and k-levels network. Pairwise
852 hybridization networks were also used an hybridization number was estimated.

853

854 Bayesian reconstructions were carried out as a previous step for bGMYC (166), so a
855 constant size coalescent model was used for each locus, which represents a conservative
856 approach for the further the GMYC analysis. A strict clock and the substitution models
857 selected in IQtree were also used.

858

859 ***Species delimitation***

860 To estimate the number of putative phylogenetic species based on single loci we used
861 a multitree implementation of the General Mixed Yule Coalescent method as
862 implemented in R package bGMYC(166). We chose a subset of 50 equally spaced trees
863 from the posterior tree distribution of a Bayesian analysis using a constant size
864 coalescent tree model. For each tree 500 alternative delimitations were obtained using
865 a mcmc of 50K samples after burn-in of 40K iterations. A larger number of trees could
866 not be used due to the large size of the dataset. The median number of species across
867 all 2500 replicates is provided (Table S3). A consensus assignment was obtained using
868 after summarizing the alternative bGMYC solutions as a coassignment matrix. This
869 was converted to a dissimilarity matrix and processed using an iterative k-medoid(167)
870 clustering method as implemented in function *pamk* of R package *fpc* (168). We
871 imposed a search between 1 and 100 clusters and used the default average silhouette
872 width criterion for the selection of the optimal number of groups. For the sake of
873 visualization single locus clusters were also calculated using a maximum value of K of
874 10 or 15 clusters (Figures S2–S12). Additionally, we used single and multiple threshold
875 GMYC(55) analyses for comparison, carried out using the consensus topology of the
876 Bayesian analyses. Finally simpler OTU delimitations using the distance based
877 ABGD(56) and ASAP(169) methods are provided (Table S2).

878 Using multilocus methods of species delimitation and discovery such as Tr2(170),
879 SpedeStem (171) and Stacey (172) was the original aim of the survey. These require
880 that species are either not connected through geneflow or need a putative delimitation
881 to be used as starting point, which in our case is not readily attainable.

882 A multilocus interpretation of the bGMYC analyses is provided instead, making use of
883 the obtained coassignment matrices. Each matrix summarizes the delimitation across
884 multiple trees and replicates per locus as the probability that each pair of tips are
885 assigned to the same cluster/putative species. Assuming that loci are not linked, and the
886 species assignments are independent, the probability that two tips are coassigned across
887 loci can be summarized two ways, as the average coassignment probability (average)
888 or as the probability that two tips are coassigned in one or another locus, using the
889 polynomial extension of $p(A \text{ or } B) = p(a) + p(b) - p(ab)$. The resulting pooled
890 coassignment matrix was converted to a dissimilarity matrix $(1-x)$ and clustered using
891 a k-medoids method as implemented in function *pamk* of package *fpc*. Selection of k
892 was automated using an average silhouette width as criterion.

893

894 ***Inference of gene pools***

895 Gene pools were estimated using BAPS(125). All loci were imported as concatenated
896 alignments, duplicated sequences were included as independent haploid entities and not
897 as diploid/polyploid data. Multilocus mixture clustering was carried iteratively using
898 20, 30, 50, 60, 80, 100, 150, 200 and 220 as maximum number of clusters. All analyses
899 using a codon linkage model converged in identifying 10 genepools, using a less
900 adequate linear linkage model, ten and eleven were equally likely solutions. The
901 contribution of the different clusters under an Admixture model was calculated in an *a*
902 *posteriori* run based on the precomputed mixture clusters. Finally the dataset was
903 deduplicated in R. The proportions belonging to admixture fractions were recalculated,
904 and the assignment to mixture clusters reinterpreted from the largest Admixture
905 proportion. This deduplication did not alter the assignment to mixture clusters, but
906 changed the admixture proportions.

907

908 The association between morphospecies and gene-clusters was surveyed using
909 contingency tables and chi-square and statistical co-independence tests as implemented
910 in R package vcd (173, 174). The geographic distribution of cluster assignment was
911 mapped using R packages ggplot2 (175), rnatuarearth and rnatuarearthdata(176) .

912

913 ***Estimating geneflow between gene pools***

914 Geneflow between genepools was estimated using migrate-n v. 3.6.11 (177–180)
915 Sampled specimens were clustered according to the assignment to mixture gene-pools
916 estimated in BAPS, the connection matrix was imposed to be complete and initial
917 values of theta and M were estimated from Fst table. A Bayesian estimation method
918 was imposed using four incrementally heated chains (1,1.5,3,10K) and no swapping as
919 it was intended for model selection. Each long chain is composed of 10M iterations in
920 10 replicate chains each with a burnin of 1M generations and 1M generations sampled
921 every 100th step. The results were tabulated and plotted in R using package igrph
922 (CITE). The analyses were run using mutationally scaled population size and migration
923 rate parameters. To interpret the data M was multiplied by the immigrated population
924 size to obtain the number of migrants per generation 2Nem. We considered a
925 conservative 2 migrants per generation as a significance threshold for plotting.

926

927 ***Targeting MAT loci***

928 In addition to the phylogenetically informative loci mentioned above, we developed
929 specific primers for the mating type gene idiomorphs (MAT) using in the genome draft
930 assemblies. To identify the MAT region we used a similar BLAST approach, but we
931 included as target sequences both MAT 1.1.1 and MAT 1.1.2 genes as well as the
932 flanking proteins SLA2 and APN2 from other Lecanoromycetes species. We identified
933 all assemblies to be heterothallic and found no evidence of having both idiomorphs
934 present in different parts of the genome (homoeothallic or pseudohomoeothallic).
935 Heterothallism was further confirmed by mapping the raw reads back to the MAT
936 regions of each idiomorph. Specific primers were developed to cover informative
937 fractions of the MAT.1.1.1 or MAT α gene as well as the gene of the HMG MAT 1.1.2
938 gene. Newly developed primers are summarized in (ST_2 primers).

939

940 ***Phylogenetic diversity and cophylogenetic analysis of MAT genes***

941 Nucleotide sequences of the two MAT idiomorphs (alpha and hmg) were used in the
942 same way as the phylogenetic loci. Cophylogenetic analyses of mating type genes was
943 carried out using two closely related methodologies aimed at interpreting
944 cophylogenetic patterns in large data matrices implemented in R packages Paco and
945 Random Tapas (128, 129). Both methods largely rely on using the Gini coefficient
946 (181, 182) to measure the inequality among the values of the residual frequency
947 distribution obtained using using procrustean superimposition of the host and
948 symbiont matrices in Euclidean space. A Gini coefficient of 0 expresses perfect
949 equality, where all values are the same, while a Gini coefficient of 1 (or 100%)
950 expresses maximal inequality among values. To run cophylogenetic analyses on such
951 a highly diverse dataset, required collapsing the nucleotide dataset. To simplify the
952 analyses and retain the distinction between nucleotide and aminoacid datasets,
953 idiomorph alignments were collapsed to OTUs using a conservative ABGD run,
954 resulted in a matrix containing 243 alpha and 225 hmg OTUs respectively.
955 Phylogenetic ML trees were pruned to include a representative sequence per distance
956 cluster.

957

958 ***Network analysis of MAT idiomorph distribution***

959 Nucleotide sequences of the two MAT idiomorphs (alpha and hmg) were translated to
960 aminoacid sequences in Geneiousv7, using the alignment to a complete genomic
961 reference as reading frame reference. Aminoacid sequence alignments were imported
962 into R using package phangorn, where they were collapsed into haplotypes. Haplotype
963 datasets were collapsed to 99, 97 and 95% similarity clusters using Cd-HIT (133, 183,
964 184). The resulting cluster assignments were imported into R, where the occurrence of
965 idiomorph haplogroups per specimen were tabulated.

966

967 The table of idiomorph association at individual level was used to generate a unipartite
968 graph using igraph v.1.3.2 (132). To identify reproductive compartments in the
969 network, we first partitioned it identifying its maximal connected components (i.e.
970 compartments). Further, modularity was estimated using four alternative algorithms:
971 walktrap (185), louvain (134), labelProp (186) and infomap (187). Alternative partitions
972 were validated and compared using the methodology implemented in R package *ROBin*
973 (188). Alternative partitions are compared in terms of their stability against increasing
974 levels of random perturbation, measured using the Variation of Information metric (VI)
975 (189). Model comparison was carried out using the Gaussian Process ranking method
976 for time series implemented in package *geprege* (190). A key limitation of the used
977 methodology is its dependence on the adequacy of the randomized networks used as
978 null models. We explored two alternative randomization approaches based on the
979 observed network. The configuration model (CM) implemented in random function of
980 package *Robin* generates a random graph with the same degree sequence as the original
981 but with a randomized group structure. Meanwhile the program *RandNetGen* (136) was
982 used to generate a random graph based on the dk-series 2.1 model, which preserves the
983 joint degree distribution and the clustering coefficient of the original network but not
984 the full clustering spectrum.

985

986 Alternatively, the idiomorph table was processed as a bipartite network using package
987 bipartite (131, 191). Network compartmentalization was estimated using function
988 *compart*, and modularity was surveyed using function *computeModules*. The network
989 structure and the differences between levels were calculated using functions
990 *networklevel* and *classlevel*.

991

992 **Genomic sequencing assembly and annotation**

993 The genome of *Pyrenodesmia erodens* was sequenced using material from axenic
994 culture; all other genomes have been assembled from metagenomic libraries of
995 complete thallus fragments. Library construction and sequencing were outsourced to
996 the High-Throughput Genomics and Bioinformatic Analysis center of the Huntsman
997 Cancer Institute of the University of Utah (Salt Lake City, UT). The reference genome
998 of *P. erodens* was assembled using two libraries, a paired-end sequencing library
999 constructed using the TruSeq DNA PCR-Free sample preparation kit (Illumina) with
1000 an insert size of 550bp, and a mate-pair library constructed using Nextera Mate Pair
1001 Library Preparation Kit (Illumina) sequenced using three target insert sizes 3Kb, 5.3Kb
1002 and 10Kb.

1003

1004 For the metagenomic libraries we used either TruSeq DNA PCR-free (Illumina) or nano
1005 kits (Illumina) depending of the DNA yield of the isolation process in any case using a
1006 more conservative 350bp insert size. All libraries were sequenced using a HiSeq 125
1007 cycle paired-end sequencing v4 protocol using two lanes of an Illumina HiSeq-2000
1008 platform.

1009

1010 The quality of the resulting libraries was quantified using fastqc (192). They were
1011 quality trimmed and filtered using trimmomatic (193), and assembled using spades v
1012 3.6.2 (194). Quality and completeness were assessed using quast (195) and busco (196).
1013 For *P. erodens* we evaluated missassemblies graphically by mapping mate-pair libraries
1014 onto the assembled genome. We identified several problematic regions, especially
1015 around large homopolymer repeats (polyC). These were manually split and
1016 rescaffolded using sspace v2(197).

1017

1018 Lichen metagenomes were assembled using spades v 3.6.2 (194) using the algorithm
1019 for isolates. Additional metagenome assemblies, metaspades and megahit were used
1020 for cross-validation. Metagenome assemblers were used but discarded as their intended
1021 use is beyond that of this manuscript. algorithms were also employed, but were
1022 ultimately discarded. Although several alternative metagenome assembly algorithms
1023 were tried, isolate but in addition alternative approaches were also metagenome
1024 assemblers. Fungal scaffolds were identified using a custom strategy implemented in R
1025 (SUPPLEMENT). The graphic strategy akin to that used in a blobology approach
1026 makes use of k-mer coverage, length and GC content to plot the sequencing distribution
1027 of scaffolds. Decision on the origin of each assembled scaffold was made using
1028 sequence comparison strategies and different sources of evidence. A nucleotide blast
1029 was carried out against the reference genome (*P. erodens*) using blastn (198); diamond
1030 (199) was used for nucleotide to protein alignments (blastx) using a dataset of
1031 publically available Lecanoromycete proteins (*Xanthoria parietina*, *Cladonia uncialis*
1032 and *P. erodens*) as well as against a copy of the ncbi's nr dataset (DATE). The blast
1033 results were analyzed using megan v5 (200) to obtain a taxonomic assignment. Finally
1034 the presence of Lecanoromycete single copy orthologs was evaluated using busco

1035 (201). The different lines of evidence were concatenated in a binary string, including
1036 whether the nucleotide blast was positive or not, whether the blastx was positive or not
1037 and if any of the hits were the best hits for a particular reference protein in the database,
1038 whether the scaffold was identified as fungal or Lecanoromycete and whether
1039 Lecanoromycete buscos were identified. The process continued onto gene prediction
1040 and annotation as described below. After a first round of gene prediction and functional
1041 annotation, genomes were additionally filtered to eliminate minor scaffolds containing
1042 only proteins identified as being of bacterial origin using the eggNOG (202) database
1043 and eggNOG-mapper (203).

1044

1045 Gene prediction and annotation of the *P. erodens* genome differs from the rest of the
1046 genomes. In general we used the funannotate v(1.7.4) (204) as the main analytical
1047 pipeline to mask the genome, carry out gene prediction and annotation. Because we had
1048 no RNA evidence to train gene models, gene prediction was purely based in preexisting
1049 protein databases, RefSeq (205) and the specific lichen protein database used for
1050 filtering including the proteins identified in the *P. erodens* genome. The latter genomic
1051 draft was initially annotated using the Maker v3 (206) pipeline and and Bast2GO (207).
1052 A first set of proteins was used as an additional source of evidence for the final gene
1053 prediction, which used the funannotate pipeline (204) to keep coherent with the rest of
1054 the survey. Differently to the proposed strategy implemented in funannotate we opted
1055 to carry out EggnoGmapper (203) Interproscan (208) Antismash (209) certain analyses
1056 independently and later integrate them into funannotate. Funannotate compare was used
1057 to obtain a first tabulate of genome features across the dataset. Antismash results were
1058 further explored to find Biosynthetic Genes using similarity clustering as implemented
1059 in bigScape (210). Synteny was explored using multiple collinearity criteria as
1060 implemented in MCScanX (211). Ripping was surveyed using the TheRipper online
1061 tool (212). The presence of repetitive and mobile elements in the unmasked genomes
1062 was carried out using Repeatmasker/modeler (213) and the last publicly available
1063 repbase database (214). Additionally, protein motifs found associated with giant mobile
1064 elements (215) were searched individually using blast (149)alignments.

1065

1066 ***Phylogenomic inference***

1067 Predicted protein sets were processed in Orthofinder (216) which was used to identify
1068 Orthogroups and single copy orthologs (OGs). The OG aminoacid alignments were
1069 used to query the corresponding mRNA sets, using gene names, which were put
1070 together using a simple R script. Nucleotide alignments per OG were then carried
1071 out using mafft (151) in Auto mode and trimmed using trimal (217).

1072 Single gene trees were calculated in iqtree (218) using bootstrap replicates to obtain
1073 nodal support values. ML topologies were compiled into a single file and processed in
1074 raxml (163) to generate a consensus and calculate internode centrality and tree
1075 certainty support values (IC/TC) (219, 220). A cluster network consensus was
1076 estimated in dendroscope (165), where pairwise hybridization networks (121)
1077 And hybridization numbers were also calculated.

1078

1079 ***Data exploration in R***

1080 Genome annotation data were imported into R, explored and visualized using
1081 functions implemented in the karyoploteR (221) and GenomicRanges (222) packages
1082 for both visualization and summary. The genomic dataset was split into three range

1083 sets. First, telomeric and subtelomeric regions were taken out. We chose as
1084 subtelomeric the terminal 250Kb of scaffolds where telomeric repeats were identified.
1085 Second LRARs not contained within telomeric regions were taken out. They were
1086 extended to cover an additional 30Kb on each flank, overlapping ranges were merged.
1087 The remaining ranges were considered as the general coding fraction. The density of
1088 genomic features was estimated using function *kpPlotDensity* and a window size of
1089 50Kb. Differences in density across sliding windows between genomic were
1090 visualized using violin plots in *ggplot2*. Differences between regions were tested
1091 using pairwise Wilcoxon rank sum test with continuity correction. The loss of genes
1092 within syntenic blocks was obtained by parsing the output of MCScanX. The overall
1093 influence of the density of mobile elements on the estimated gene loss was modelled
1094 using *glm* Poisson regression. Further visualizations were carried out using package
1095 *circlize* (223).

1096 **Reproducibility and data availability**

1098 All datasets, scripts and supplementary materials are organized as Rmarkdown
1099 documents https://github.com/ferninfm/pyrenodesmia_phylogenomics and
1100 https://github.com/ferninfm/pyrenodesmia_phylogenetics. They are provided as html
1101 and pdf files but can also be compiled for reproducibility. Sanger-sequenced data has
1102 been made available through NCBI's genebank under accession numbers XXXXX-
1103 XXXXX. Short read files and assembled genomic drafts are made available under
1104 Bioproject #XXXXXX and Biosamples #XXXXXX #XXXXXX.

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