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Long-term in situ persistence of biodiversity in tropical sky-islands revealed by landscape genomics

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1 **Long-term *in situ* persistence of biodiversity in tropical sky-islands revealed by**
2 **landscape genomics**

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33

34 **Abstract**

35 Tropical mountains are areas of high species richness and endemism. Two historical
36 phenomena may have contributed to this: (1) fragmentation and isolation of habitats have
37 promoted the genetic differentiation of populations and increased the possibility of
38 allopatric divergence and speciation, and; (2) the mountain areas allowed long-term
39 population persistence during global climate fluctuations. These two phenomena have
40 been studied using either species occurrence data or estimating species divergence times.
41 However, only few studies have used intraspecific genetic data to analyse the mechanisms
42 by which endemism may emerge from its most fundamental evolutionary origin: long-term
43 persistence of genetically differentiated populations. Here, we use landscape analysis of
44 genomic SNP data sampled from two high-elevation plant species from an archipelago of
45 tropical sky-islands (the Transmexican Volcanic Belt) to test for population genetic
46 differentiation, synchronous demographic changes and habitat persistence. We show that
47 genetic differentiation can be explained by the degree of glacial habitat connectivity among
48 mountains, and that mountains have facilitated the persistence of populations throughout
49 glacial/interglacial cycles. Our results support the ongoing role of tropical mountains as
50 cradles for biodiversity by uncovering cryptic differentiation and limits to gene flow.

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55 **Introduction**

56 Tropical mountains are biodiversity hotspots that tend to have more species than the
57 lowlands surrounding them (Myers *et al.* 2000). Their levels of species richness are
58 particularly high due to the presence of species with wide-ranging distributions and high
59 aggregations of locally endemic species (Kruckeberg & Rabinowitz 1985; Jetz *et al.* 2004).
60 Variation in the contemporary environment may provide some explanation for regional
61 variation in the richness of geographically wide-ranging species, but the high level of
62 endemism present in tropical mountains exceeds predictions using macro-ecological
63 variables alone (Jetz & Rahbek 2002; Rahbek *et al.* 2007). This excess may, however, be
64 explained if analyses incorporate the history of species and their habitats (Jetz *et al.* 2004;
65 Graham *et al.* 2006; Fjeldså *et al.* 2012). Such an integrative approach has suggested that
66 tropical mountains are rich in biodiversity because they promote both species
67 differentiation and long-term population persistence (Fjeldså *et al.* 2012). This represents a
68 new and exciting advance that calls for phylogenetic and phylogeographic data to further
69 our understanding of the origin and maintenance of low-latitude mountain biodiversity.

70 The small surface area of high mountain regions and their geographic isolation leads
71 to small and fragmented populations. Such a scenario is expected to favour allopatric
72 speciation and hence the evolution of many new endemic taxa (Kessler 2002). Several
73 studies confirm this expectation and it is the most commonly cited explanation for
74 elevational patterns of endemism (Kessler 2002). Parapatric speciation may also occur,
75 although it seems to be a less frequent phenomena (Weir 2009; Cadena *et al.* 2011; Päckert
76 *et al.* 2012). With regard to allowing population persistence through time, tropical

77 mountains have been found to be areas of low climate change velocity, meaning they are
78 areas where biodiversity can survive through periods of global climate fluctuation through
79 small altitudinal shifts instead of long latitudinal movements (Loarie *et al.* 2009; Sandel *et*
80 *al.* 2011). Areas of low climate change velocity thus allow for relatively *in-situ* (within a
81 close horizontal distance to where they exist today) long-term population persistence, in
82 contrast to the range shifts or extinctions that are inferred for higher latitudes and
83 shallower lands (Hewitt 1996; Sandel *et al.* 2011). Population persistence is meaningful for
84 the accumulation of endemism because it leads to the local aggregation of endemic species
85 over time (Fjeldså *et al.* 1999).

86 The allopatric speciation and long-term persistence hypotheses have been examined
87 using species occurrence data (e.g. Sandel *et al.* 2011; Krömer *et al.* 2013) and, more
88 recently, incorporating molecular data for the estimation of species divergence times (e.g.
89 Smith *et al.* 2014). The scale of analysis ranges from coarse continental data (Rahbek *et al.*
90 2007; Sandel *et al.* 2011; Fjeldså *et al.* 2012) to more detailed analyses of specific mountain
91 ranges such as the Andes (e.g. Fjeldså *et al.* 1999; Kessler 2002), the Himalayas (e.g.
92 Päckert *et al.* 2012) and the Eastern Arc Mountains of Tanzania and Kenya (Fjeldså &
93 Bowie 2008). Although these studies have included an evolutionary perspective by jointly
94 analysing species ranges with phylogenetic data, there remains a need for intraspecific
95 analyses of the mechanisms by which endemism may emerge from its most fundamental
96 evolutionary origin: genetic differentiation among populations.

97 We address this knowledge gap by examining population genetic differentiation and
98 habitat persistence within high-altitude tropical mountains, using as a study area the
99 highest mountains of the Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt (TMVB, Fig. 1). We take a population

100 level approach because it is expected that areas that facilitate population persistence over
101 intraspecific (phylogeographic) timescales should, in the absence of further geological
102 change, also be stable across interspecific (phylogenetic) timescales, such that regions of
103 genetic endemism will eventually lead to regions of high species diversity (Hugall *et al.*
104 2002; Carnaval *et al.* 2009). Thus, examining population differentiation and long-term
105 population persistence at the microevolutionary scale can contribute to the evolutionary
106 understanding of tropical mountain biodiversity.

107 To analyse tropical montane taxa over a timescale consistent with population
108 genetic process, we frame our hypotheses under the expectations of a sky-island dynamic
109 for the TMVB (Toledo 1982; Mastretta-Yanes 2015a). The TMVB is an area that comprises
110 an archipelago of sky-islands at $\sim 19^{\circ}\text{N}$ (Mastretta-Yanes *et al.* 2015a) where the highest
111 stratovolcanoes ($>3,000$ masl) emerged during the last 1.5 Myr (Ferrari *et al.* 2012).
112 Species with current range limits above 3,000 masl are expected to: (1) have been
113 restricted to high-elevation refugia during the interglacial periods of the Pleistocene (such
114 as the present), where divergence could be promoted by restricted gene flow; and (2) have
115 extended ephemerally to lowlands during glacial periods, where the probability of genetic
116 admixture would be increased (Toledo 1982; Mastretta-Yanes 2015a). Therefore, for the
117 TVMB, population differentiation is expected to be a function of topographical variables.
118 Demographically, this sky-island dynamic translates into cycles of population contraction
119 (interglacial periods) and expansions (glacial periods), which should be temporally
120 synchronous among the different mountains, assuming these climatic conditions resulted
121 in a pervasive effect. If glacial-interglacial habitat persistence within mountains that are

122 otherwise isolated from each other occurs over extended periods, populations would also
123 be expected to accumulate private genetic diversity.

124 To test the above-mentioned expectations, we focus on two timberline-alpine
125 grassland plant species of the TMVB for which we generated genomic SNP data, *Juniperus*
126 *monticola* and *Berberis alpina*, and the glacial/interglacial distribution of their habitat type.
127 We first examine the distribution of suitable conditions across sampled mountains through
128 limited altitudinal range changes during glacial/interglacial stages. We then examine if
129 genetic differentiation can be explained by the degree of historical or contemporary habitat
130 connectivity among mountains. Finally, we estimate demographic change across
131 populations within a comparative framework to evaluate how landscape has shaped
132 biodiversity through time. Within our comparative framework, genetic differentiation is
133 expected to correlate with habitat connectivity regardless of intrinsic species
134 characteristics, and demographic changes driven by sky-islands dynamic are thus expected
135 to occur synchronously in both taxa. We then use these data to evaluate the general
136 hypothesis that long-term environmentally stable conditions for these ecosystems
137 persisted *in situ* throughout glacial/interglacial cycles.

138

139 **Methods**

140 *Study system and sampling*

141 *Juniperus monticola* (Cupressaceae) and *Berberis alpina* (Berberidaceae) are shrubs that
142 grow from 3,300 to 4,200 metres above sea level (masl) on rocky formations from above
143 the timberline and into alpine grasslands of the TMVB (Adams 2014; Mastretta-Yanes *et al.*

144 2014). They are closely related to *J. flaccida* and *B. moranensis*, which grow at lower
145 altitudes (800-2,600 masl and 1,800-3,150 respectively).

146 Mountain peaks from >3,000 masl within the TMVB and nearby areas of the
147 Altiplano Sur (AS) and the Sierra Madre Oriental (SMOr) were surveyed for *B. alpina* and *J.*
148 *monticola* during September-October 2010 and April-May 2011 (Fig. 1). *Berberis alpina*
149 was found in a total of six of the 17 locations surveyed, and *J. monticola* in 13, which
150 represent their known distribution within the TMVB and the AS. Samples of the closely
151 related species and outgroups *B. moranensis*, *B. trifolia*, *B. pallida*, *J. flaccida*, *J. zanonii* and *J.*
152 *deppeana* were collected at lower elevations (~2,000-3,150 for *Berberis* and ~800-2,500
153 masl for *Juniperus*) of the TMVB and at northernmost localities of the SMOr and Sierra
154 Madre Occidental (SMOcc) in October 2010 and 2012. Sampling was performed with
155 SEMARNAT permission No. SGPA/DGGFS/712/2896/10. Herbarium specimens of *B.*
156 *alpina*, *B. moranensis*, *J. flaccida* and *J. monticola* were prepared and deposited within the
157 Herbario Nacional in Mexico City (MEXU) or within Herbario CIIDIR in Durango.

158

159 *Molecular methods*

160 Based on data from related species, the sampled *Berberis* species are likely diploid with an
161 expected genome size of between 0.50 to 1.83 Gbp (Rounsaville and Ranney, 2010), while
162 the *Juniperus* are also likely diploid but with an expected genome size of 9 to 10 Gbp
163 (Zonneveld 2012). For both taxa, ddRAD libraries were prepared using modified versions
164 of protocols by Parchman et al. (2012) and Peterson et al. (2012). For *Berberis*, the enzyme
165 pair EcoRI-HF and MseI was used, while for *Juniperus*, the rare cutter SbfI-HF was used
166 instead of EcoRI-HF, thus allowing for a narrower subsampling of the larger juniper

167 genome. Samples were randomly divided into three (*Berberis*) or 10 (*Juniperus*) groups
168 with a common sequencing index (ddRAD libraries hereafter). All *Berberis* and two
169 *Juniperus* libraries were sequenced using single-end reads (100 bp long) in a separate lane
170 of an Illumina HiSeq2000, while two libraries were sequenced in a single lane of the same
171 platform for the rest of the *Juniperus* libraries. Further details on *Berberis* laboratory
172 protocol and sequencing output are detailed in Mastretta-Yanes et al. (2015b). For
173 *Juniperus* this information is available in Supporting Information 1.

174 The *Berberis* dataset consists of 75 individually tagged specimens of *B. alpina* and *B.*
175 *moranensis* (6-10 per mountain, Table 1), three samples of each outgroup (*B. trifolia* and *B.*
176 *pallida*) and 15 replicated samples, with at least one replicate per population or species.
177 The *Juniperus* dataset consists of 137 individually tagged specimens of *J. monticola* (10 per
178 mountain, Table 1), four of *J. flaccida*, one of *J. deppeana*, one of *J. zanonii*, 10 negative
179 controls and 20 replicated samples, with at least one replicate per sampling locality or
180 species (with the exception of *J. deppeana*).

181

182 *Sequencing output, de novo assembly and loci filtering of RAD data*

183 Complete details of *Berberis* sequencing output and quality filtering are available in
184 Mastretta-Yanes et al. (2015c). Briefly, after demultiplexing and quality trimming of
185 *Berberis* raw reads, final sequences were 84 bp long. *Juniperus* raw reads were
186 demultiplexed and quality filtered using *Stacks* v. 1.17 by: (1) truncating final read length
187 to 87; (2) removing any reads with an uncalled base; (3) discarding reads with low quality
188 scores (score limit 22 to 28, depending on the library); (4) discarding reads that have been
189 marked by Illumina's chastity filter as failing; (5) filtering adapter sequences, and; (6)

190 rescuing tags (maximum distance of one between barcodes). See Supporting Information 1
191 for full details on *Juniperus* bioinformatic pipeline.

192 Here we refer to a RAD-locus as a short DNA sequence produced by clustering
193 together RAD-alleles; in turn, RAD-alleles differ from each other by a small number of SNPs
194 in certain nucleotide positions (SNP-loci). Data were *de novo* assembled using the software
195 *Stacks* (Catchen *et al.* 2011, 2013). Data from *Berberis* had been previously assembled in
196 *Stacks* v. 1.02 with the parameter values $m=3$, $M=2$, $N=4$, $n=3$, $max_locus_stacks=3$ and a
197 SNP calling model with an upper bound of 0.05 (Mastretta-Yanes *et al.* 2015c). *Stacks* v.
198 1.17 was used for *Juniperus* with the parameter values $m=10$, $M=2$, $N=4$, $n=3$,
199 $max_locus_stacks=4$ and default SNP calling model. These settings were chosen after testing
200 a wide range of parameters as in Mastretta-Yanes *et al.* (2015c), and optimising the
201 recovery of a large number of loci while reducing the SNP and RAD allele error rates
202 (Supporting Information 1). After *de novo* assembly, the data were filtered to keep only
203 those samples that had more than 50% and 35% of the mean number of loci per sample for
204 *Berberis* and *Juniperus*, respectively (different percentages were used according to sample
205 size), and only those loci present in at least 80% of *Berberis* samples and 70% of *Juniperus*.
206 Putative paralogous loci of the *Berberis* dataset were filtered by identifying loci where the
207 frequency of the major allele equalled $p=0.5$ in more than one population or species, as
208 detailed in Mastretta-Yanes *et al.* (2014). For the *Juniperus* dataset the same procedure was
209 followed, but with the following modifications in response to the larger sample size: (1)
210 putative paralogous loci had to meet the extra condition of showing the deviations from
211 Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium (HWE) of $H_{obs} > 0.9$, negative F_{IS} or $F_{IS}=1$, and (2) putative
212 paralogous loci private to a single population of *J. monticola* were also excluded by

213 identifying loci where $p=0.5$ in any single sampling location, present in more than three
214 individuals of that population and showing deviations from HWE. To ameliorate the effect
215 of missing data on population genetics statistics, RAD-loci that were present in several
216 sampling locations but represented by only one individual in any given population were
217 also filtered. These extra conditions were not performed in the *Berberis* dataset due to the
218 small sample sizes for some sampling locations. Replicates were used to estimate error
219 rates for both taxa as in Mastretta-Yanes *et al.* (2015c). For the population genomic
220 analyses, only one sample for each replicate pair was used, along with all the remaining
221 non-replicated samples. For both species, only the first SNP of each RAD-locus was used for
222 population genomic analyses.

223 Considerably fewer loci were recovered in *Berberis pallida*, compared to the other
224 *Berberis* species, which is likely explained by mutations affecting restriction enzyme cutting
225 sites as a consequence of a distant evolutionary relationship with the other species in the
226 study. This species was therefore excluded from further analyses.

227

228 *Population genomic statistics and population differentiation*

229 The *populations* program of *Stacks* was used to estimate the number of private alleles, the
230 percentage of polymorphic loci, heterozygosity, π , and F_{IS} at each nucleotide position for
231 each sampling location (mountain) of the ingroup species. Pairwise F_{ST} values were
232 estimated, defining each sampling location as a population. SNP data was exported to
233 PLINK format and analysed with custom R v. 2.15.1 (R. Core Team 2012) scripts.

234

235 *Timberline-alpine grassland distribution of glacial and interglacial periods*

236 The distribution of the habitat of *J. monticola* and *B. alpina* was modelled using confirmed
237 data points of timberline-alpine grasslands of the TMVB. This “ecosystem approach” to
238 species distribution modeling (SDM) is similar to how Graham *et al.* (2006) modeled
239 rainforest expansion and contraction across climate fluctuations to examine the effect of
240 habitat persistence on rare species occurrence. Although this approach has been shown to
241 perform below average with respect to model sensitivity, it excelled in specificity statistics
242 and robustness against extrapolations far beyond training data, suggesting that the
243 ecosystem approach is well suited to reconstruct historical biogeography and glacial
244 distributions (Roberts & Hamann 2012). Alpine grassland herbarium and fieldwork
245 records were used as presence points and independent environmental variables were
246 extracted from the 19 bioclimatic layers of Hijmans *et al.* (2005). The modeling was
247 performed using Maxent v. 3.3.3k (Phillips *et al.* 2006) and the potential distribution of the
248 timberline-alpine grassland was projected to the LGM using the bioclimatic layers obtained
249 from CCSM and MIROC initiatives (Braconnot *et al.* 2007). Full details of the modelling are
250 available in Supporting Information 2.

251

252 *Landscape genomics analyses*

253 To examine if genetic differentiation and endemism can be explained by the degree of
254 historical spatial isolation among mountains we tested for isolation by resistance (IBR) vs
255 isolation by distance (IBD). The approach is similar to studies where the influence of
256 landscape features on population structure is investigated (e.g. McRae *et al.* 2008; Moore *et*
257 *al.* 2011).

258 Resistance distances (McRae 2006) for the IBR tests were used to estimate the
259 effective distance among sampling localities, using as conductance grid (the reciprocal of
260 the resistance) each of the 13 resistance surfaces described below. This method is based on
261 circuit theory and considers multiple potential paths of least resistance between sampling
262 points (McRae 2006), thus performing better than similar approaches like least-cost path
263 analysis (McRae & Beier 2007; Moore et al. 2011). Mantel tests with 10,000 permutations
264 were performed to test for IBR and IBD using the pairwise effective distances for each
265 resistance surface and the pairwise F_{ST} matrices of genetic differentiation for each species.
266 For this, the genetic differentiation matrices were linearized using the formula for isolation
267 by distance $F_{ST} / (1 - F_{ST})$ as advocated by Rousset (1997). Subsequently, partial Mantel
268 tests with 1,000 permutations were performed partialling out the flat resistance distances.
269 Tests were carried out independently for both species and also for a subset of *J. monticola*
270 populations (excluding Nevado de Colima and Tancítaro, see discussion for reasons).
271 Analyses and graphical representations of data were performed with R using the packages
272 *ape* (Paradis et al. 2004), *vegan* (Oksanen et al 2016), *ade4* (Dray & Dufour, 2007) and
273 *ggplot2* (Wickham & Chang 2013).

274 The 13 resistance surfaces used here were based on: (i) environmental modelling
275 (“present”, “CCSM” and “MIROC” for the LGM); (ii) a “flat” landscape, and; (iii) elevation
276 data (above 1800, 2000, 2300, 2500, 2700, 3000, 3300, 3500 and 4000 masl; Fig. 2). The
277 ‘flat’ landscape surface is equivalent to testing for IBD using Euclidean distances, but it
278 takes into account the fact that the underlying landscape is bounded and not infinite (Lee-
279 Yaw et al. 2009; Moore et al. 2011). Resistance distances were estimated using the pairwise
280 mode of the program *Circuitscape* v. 3.5.8 (McRae 2006; McRae & Beier 2007) setting the

281 sampling locations as focal points. For further details on generating the resistance
282 distances see Supporting Information 2. The average effective distance of each sampling
283 locality to the rest of the sampling localities was estimated from a pairwise distance matrix.

284

285 *Comparative demographic inference using the aggregate site frequency spectrum*

286 We tested which demographic syndrome (population expansion, contraction or constant
287 size) best fits the history of each sampled mountain locality for both species, and we then
288 examined if the inferred demographic changes were synchronous. To accomplish inference
289 of synchronicity, we used a recently developed method that allows for comparative
290 demographic inference of independent, co-distributed taxa, species and populations within
291 a unified analysis (Xue & Hickerson, in revision; Xue & Hickerson, 2015, and see Prates *et al*
292 2016 for an applied example). The method exploits the aggregate site frequency spectrum
293 (aSFS), which is a summary statistic vector that contains signal of co-demography. The
294 aSFS is assembled via a re-ordering procedure applied to genomic-scale data in the form of
295 the site frequency spectrum (SFS) across independent populations (either simulated or
296 empirical). This is then coupled with an inferential framework to compare observed and
297 simulated aSFS data under a hierarchical co-demographic model that freely
298 hyperparameterizes degree of synchronicity (Xue & Hickerson, under review). Three main
299 steps were followed to perform this analysis:

300 a. Downprojecting SNP data to equal sampling size. Since the aSFS assumes
301 independence among populations, we re-performed SNP calling on each population
302 individually in order to maximize the number of SNPs while also minimizing the amount of
303 missing data within each population. The aSFS requires all populations to be sampled for

304 the same number of individuals, with simulations requiring the same number of SNPs for
305 each population. A trade-off thus exists between higher number of individuals and less
306 populations with an adequate number of SNPs (at least 600, usually around 1,000) due to
307 missing data causing a large reduction of SNPs. To address this, two downprojected
308 datasets were constructed, allowing for differing in the number of individuals per
309 population. This was achieved by running the *populations* program of Stacks to export SNPs
310 to keep loci that were present in a minimum of 4 and 5 individuals per population (*-r* flag),
311 respectively. The SNP data of each population were then downprojected using *dadi* 1.7
312 (Gutenkunst *et al.* 2009) to an SFS with sampling sizes of 4 and 5 respectively.

313 b. Independent single population demographic analyses. First *fastsimcoal* version
314 2.5 (Excoffier *et al.* 2013) with the *FREQ* setting was used to directly generate 100,000
315 folded SFS simulations per model of instantaneous expansion, instantaneous contraction,
316 and constant size for a total of 300,000 simulations, per each of the two downprojection
317 datasets. Each SFS was simulated under 1,000 genealogies, which is based on the average
318 number of SNPs across all the empirical SFS, and the following priors: time of size change τ
319 $\sim U\{1,000, 250,000\}$ generations ago; magnitude of size change $\varepsilon \sim U(0.02, 0.20)$ for
320 expansion model and $\sim 1/U(0.02, 0.20)$ for contraction model; effective population size N_e
321 $\sim U\{100,000, 2,000,000\}$ for expansion model, $\sim U\{50,000, 500,000\}$ for constant size
322 model and $\sim U\{5,000, 100,000\}$ for contraction model. Then, to infer demographic
323 syndrome as well as to estimate posterior distributions for time, magnitude of population
324 size change and effective population size, an approximate Bayesian computation (ABC)
325 was done using the R package *abc* (Csilléry *et al.* 2012). Simple rejection was performed
326 with a tolerance level of 0.005.

327 c. Comparative co-demographic aSFS-based analysis. The results of the single
328 population analyses were used to inform the multi-population synchronicity analysis. As a
329 result there were 10 expanders and four contractors (total of $n = 14$ populations) for the
330 data downprojected to four individuals, and eight expanders and four contractors (total of
331 $n = 12$ populations) for the data downprojected to five individuals. The priors for the SFS
332 simulation were set to : time of size change $\sim U\{100,000, 2,000,000\}$ generations ago with a
333 pulse buffer on the prior $\beta = 20,000$ generations (forcing all other time draws to be $>$
334 $20,000$ generations apart from each synchronous pulse timing; Xue & Hickerson, in
335 revision), magnitude of size change $\sim U(0.05, 0.20)$ for expansion model and $\sim 1/U(0.05,$
336 $0.20)$ for contraction model, and effective population size $\sim U\{50,000, 500,000\}$ for
337 expansion model and $\sim U\{5,000, 100,000\}$ for contraction model. Per dataset
338 (downprojections to four and five individuals), two reference tables were constructed, each
339 with a different hyperparameterization scheme. Following Xue & Hickerson, (in revision)
340 the two hyperparameterization schemes included: 1) restricting synchrony to only a single
341 pulse and varying the proportion of taxa having membership within this pulse $\zeta \sim U\{1,$
342 $n\}/n$, with the remaining taxa temporally idiosyncratic in size change (the case of $\zeta = 1/n$
343 would represent total idiosyncrasy); 2) distributing taxa equally across synchronous
344 pulses, the number of which is varied $\psi \sim U\{0, 3\}$, thus allowing no idiosyncratic taxa
345 except in the case of total idiosyncrasy ($\psi = 0$). To clarify, for the latter scenario, when n is
346 not divisible by the number of pulses, the remainder is distributed randomly across as
347 many pulses as possible (*e.g.* if $n = 14$ and $\psi = 3$, then a random two of the three pulses
348 would have five taxa and the remaining would have four taxa). To construct each of the
349 four total reference tables, 1,000,000 folded aSFS were simulated, with each aSFS

350 partitioned between the expanders and contractors such that the SFS simulated under
351 expansion and the SFS simulated under contraction were each separately converted to two
352 aSFS vectors, which were then concatenated (Prates et al. 2016; Xue & Hickerson, under
353 review). Each per-population SFS was simulated under 1000 genealogies using the priors
354 mentioned before.

355 Hierarchical Random Forest (hRF) was performed for each reference table using the
356 R package *randomForest* (Liaw & Wiener, 2002) and hierarchical ABC (hABC) was
357 performed using the R package *abc* (Csilléry *et al.* 2012). To conduct hRF, we used 100
358 iterations of randomly selecting 5,000 simulations from the reference table to produce 10
359 decision trees, with the default 33% of variables per decision tree node. Decision trees
360 were built to capture variation in ζ for the first hyperparameterization scheme and ψ for
361 the second hyperparameterization scheme, and exploited for prediction of respective
362 hyperparameter values from the empirical data using the R function *predict()*. To conduct
363 hABC, simple rejection was performed with a tolerance level of 0.0015. The function *abc()*
364 was deployed for hyperparameter estimation and parameter summary estimation of
365 dispersion index (variance/mean) Ω and mean for timings of demographic changes across
366 populations (with lower values signaling greater synchronicity). Median and mode
367 statistics of posterior distributions were calculated for point estimates. For both hRF and
368 hABC, “leave-one-out” cross-validation, which involves removing a simulation and treating
369 it as a pseudo-observed dataset (POD) for estimation against the remaining reference table,
370 was performed using the function *cv4abc* following the same specifications with 50 total
371 PODs per reference table. Estimated values were leveraged against true POD values to
372 calculate Pearson’s correlation r and root mean squared error.

373 Although it is computationally possible to use the aSFS to estimate the timing of
374 demographic events within populations (Xue & Hickerson, under review), both *B. alpina*
375 and *J. monticola* violate key biological assumptions that compromise such estimations,
376 specifically a reproductive system of overlapping generations coupled with long lived
377 reproductive individuals (Peterson 2003; Francis 2004; Adams 2008; Bonner 2008). While
378 these features are not expected to greatly affect inference of co-demography (Xue &
379 Hickerson, under review), they are likely to confound the estimation of timing. This could
380 be addressed by translating number of generations into time by weighing individuals by
381 their reproductive value (Felsenstein 1971), but this is not feasible for our species. While
382 we do not estimate absolute timing, relative timing is assumed to be consistent between
383 populations to test for synchronicity.

384

385 **Results**

386

387 *Alpine grassland distribution during glacial/interglacial stages*

388 The uncorrelated environmental variables selected for the timberline-alpine grassland
389 modelling were isothermality, mean temperature annual range, temperature in the wettest
390 quarter, precipitation seasonality and precipitation in the coldest quarter (Fig. 3a). For the
391 present conditions (Fig. 3b), our modelling is congruent with the known distribution of the
392 timberline-alpine grasslands in this region (Rzedowski 1978; Calderón de Rzedowski &
393 Rzedowski 2005), but it may represent a slight overestimate (Supporting Information 2 for
394 discussion). The projection to the LGM shows that this ecosystem occurred in the same
395 geographic areas, but with a larger distribution extending to lower elevations (Fig. 3b).

396

397 *RAD-seq data yield and population genetic statistics*

398 *Berberis* data used here correspond to the subset of “putative orthologs within *B. alpina*”
399 described in Mastretta-Yanes *et al.* (2014). The dataset contains 3,669 SNPs (considering
400 only the first SNP of each RAD-locus) with an error rate of 2.3% (SD 0.27), 19% missing
401 data and a mean coverage of 10.3 (SD 4.6). For the *Juniperus* data (only *J. monticola*
402 ingroup), 2,925 SNPs (considering only the first SNP of each RAD-locus) were recovered,
403 with a SNP error rate of 1.4% (SD 0.8) and 16% of missing data.

404 Populations from both species show private alleles ranging 154-1101 and an
405 average nucleotide diversity ranging $\pi=0.08-0.13$ (Table 1). The F_{IS} decreases East-West
406 for *Berberis* and shows no clear pattern in *Juniperus*, with values ranging $F_{IS} = 0.03-0.07$
407 (Table 1). Pairwise F_{ST} values for *B. alpina* populations ranged from 0.056 to 0.123 and
408 were significant, with the Cofre de Perote population showing the highest levels of
409 differentiation and Tlaloc the smallest (Table S2.1). For *J. monticola* F_{ST} ranged from 0.022
410 to 0.074 and were significant, with La Malinche population showing the highest values of
411 differentiation and Tlaloc the smallest (Table S2.2).

412

413 *Isolation by resistance*

414 The plots of the resistance surfaces show that although most sampling points are separated
415 by comparable horizontal distances, there are important differences regarding the
416 connectivity among points, and these depend upon the elevation or distribution model
417 used to set the conductance values (Fig. 2).

418 The Mantel and partial Mantel tests yielded positive significant results with
419 different explanatory power depending on the surface used. The 'flat' landscape (i.e. IBD)
420 was outperformed by some of the scenarios considering the environmental modelling or
421 the elevation grids (Table 2). For *B. alpina* the highest explanatory power was provided by
422 the resistance surface of 3,000 masl both for the Mantel ($r = 0.940$, $p < 0.01$; Table 2), and
423 the partial Mantel test ($r = 0.717$, $p < 0.05$). For *J. monticola*, considering all populations, the
424 surface with the highest explanatory power was the flat surface (Mantel $r = 0.499$, $p < 0.05$)
425 and no partial Mantel test was significant. However, when excluding the populations of
426 Nevado de Colima and Tancítaro, environmental modelling for the LGM using the CCSM
427 layers provided the highest explanatory power both for the Mantel ($r = 0.686$, $p < 0.001$)
428 and partial Mantel test ($r = 0.453$, $p < 0.01$).

429

430 *Comparative demographic inferences using the aggregate site frequency spectrum*

431 A high degree of temporal synchrony among population size changes in both species was
432 detected across both single population and multi-population analyses and both sampling
433 levels. The single population analyses (Table S2.2) showed that 10 populations are
434 consistent with population expansion (*Berberis* Aj, Iz, Ma, TI, *Juniperus* Aj, Bl, Ch, Iz, Ne, TI;
435 population codes as in Fig. 1, see Supplementary Materials 2 for details on each population
436 inference), four are consistent with contraction (*Berberis* To, *Juniperus* Co, Ma, To), two are
437 consistent with constant size (*Juniperus* Ta, *Berberis* Pe) and two are inconclusive though
438 largely consistent with constant size (*Juniperus* Ci, Pp). The estimates of N_e seem relatively
439 consistent across populations, mostly ranging from 150-250K for expanders and 50-100K
440 for contractors. The magnitudes (ancient/present population size) were moderate and

441 relatively similar across population expansions (8.2-8.7, given that the factor of expansion
442 is the inverse of expansion magnitude; Table S2.3), whereas the two population
443 contractions exhibited stronger magnitude and increased variability (12.5-14.6, Table
444 S2.3). The single-population and the multi-population aSFS-based analyses are largely
445 consistent with high synchronicity for both the four (Table 3, Table S2.5) and five
446 individual (Table S2.4, Table S2.5) downprojections.

447

448 **Discussion**

449 We tested for population genetic differentiation and habitat persistence within the TMVB
450 by coupling species distribution modelling for glacial/interglacial cycles, landscape
451 genomic analyses with explicit quantitative hypotheses, and analyses of demographic
452 history within a comparative framework. Results support the hypothesis that tropical
453 mountains have facilitated the differentiation and long-term *in situ* persistence of alpine-
454 grasslands species from the TVMB.

455

456 *Altitudinal changes of alpine grasslands*

457 Ecosystem distribution modelling reveals that the alpine grasslands shifted altitude during
458 the Pleistocene climate fluctuations, but would have persisted within some mountains
459 during both glacial and interglacial periods (Fig. 3). It is important to note that both our
460 modelling approach and the available palynological and geological data are not species
461 specific, and taxa may respond differently to subtle environmental differences or have
462 different tolerance thresholds (Araújo & Guisan 2006; Roberts & Hamann 2012).
463 Nonetheless, broadly speaking, the present and past distributions of timberline-alpine taxa

464 from the TMVB are highly dependent on temperature or temperature associated variables,
465 which in turn are highly correlated to altitude (Beaman 1962; Lauer 1978; Almeida-Leñero,
466 *et al.* 2007). Thus, it is expected that the altitude of the landscape separating the highest
467 peaks of the TMVB would play a key role on population isolation.

468 The modelled lower elevations of TMVB timberline-alpine grasslands during the
469 LGM (Fig. 3c) is congruent with fossil pollen records down to 2,300-2,500 masl for reduced
470 forests (similar to open forests close to the timberline) and grasslands (Lozano-García &
471 Ortega-Guerrero 1994, 1998; Lozano-García *et al.* 2005; Caballero-Rodríguez *et al.* 2017).
472 Moraines also reveal that snow lines dropped by approximately 1,000 m during glacial
473 periods (Lozano-García & Vázquez-Selem 2005; Vázquez-Selem & Heine 2011). Considered
474 together, the palynological, geological and niche modelling data all suggest that open
475 forests and grasslands could have extended down to 2,300-2,500 masl at the LGM, and that
476 suitable conditions for alpine vegetation (now at around 4,000 masl) could have been
477 present at 3,000-3,300 masl.

478 Within the higher stratovolcanoes that reach more than 3,500 masl, altitudinal
479 shifts of approximately 1,000 m can be achieved within a relatively short horizontal
480 distance (3-6 km). This means that the alpine grasslands will shift altitudinally during
481 glacial and interglacial periods, but with only limited horizontal displacement in the
482 highest mountains. When such mountains are flanked by lower altitude terrains, forests are
483 expected to both remain isolated and persistent locally over timescales exceeding the
484 periodicity of a glacial cycle (Fig. 3b-c).

485

486 *Glacial distribution explains population differentiation*

487 Testing for IBR using surfaces that consider present and past potential habitat distributions
488 shows that, as predicted, accounting for topography-driven connectivity better explains
489 population differentiation than simple geographic distance (Table 2). The population
490 genetic differentiation of both species was better explained by resistance surfaces likely
491 representing their glacial distributions (~1,000 m below the elevation where they are
492 currently more abundant). This result is not surprising when considering that: (1) the
493 timberline attained its present altitude only 3,000 yr ago (Lozano-García & Vázquez-Selem
494 2005); (2) the last 700,000 yr have been dominated by major glacial periods with a
495 ~100,000 yr cycle interrupted by relatively short warm interglacials (Webb & Bartlein
496 1992); so that (3) recent distributions could be considered a perturbation of the “historical
497 average”, and (4) that *Berberis* and *Juniperus* are slow growing and live for decades and
498 hundreds of years, respectively (Francis 2004; Adams 2008), such that the number of
499 generations representing the present distribution could be relatively small.

500 For *B. alpina*, the explanatory power was highest in the IBR test with the surface
501 allowing for connectivity at 3,000 masl both in the Mantel test ($r = 0.940$) and the partial
502 Mantel test ($r = 0.717$, $p < 0.05$). This indicates that although simple geographic distance
503 provides explanatory power, more of the variance is explained if connectivity through time
504 is considered (Fig. 4). This also holds for *J. monticola*, when Nevado de Colima and
505 Tancítaro populations were excluded from the analysis (Fig. 5), as the IBR test with the
506 LGM-CCSM surface held more explanatory power (Mantel $r = 0.686$, $p < 0.001$, and partial
507 Mantel $r = 0.452$, $p < 0.01$; Table 2) than the other surfaces. The Nevado de Colima and
508 Tancítaro mountains are considerably further away from the remaining high mountains of
509 the TMVB (Fig. 1). Importantly however, our models infer that they were not connected by

510 alpine grasslands to the Central TMVB during the Pleistocene glaciations. They remained
511 isolated in both LGM models, even when allowing connectivity at altitudes as low as 2,300
512 masl (Fig. 2). These populations were thus more likely to have been founded by long
513 distance colonisation, as opposed to climate mediated gene flow with other populations.

514 Results for both species are consistent with population differentiation being
515 influenced by the landscape matrix among mountain peaks, and historical habitat
516 connectivity patterns associated with this. In particular, the connectivity that occurred
517 during the likely glacial distribution of each species. This fits the prediction of gene flow
518 occurring during glacial periods. The importance of the topographic matrix connecting
519 mountains is noteworthy, as even during their glacial extension species seem to have
520 maintained a fragmented (island-like) distribution (Fig. 2). Therefore glacial admixture is
521 expected to have occurred more readily among certain population clusters (e.g. Tláloc-
522 Iztaccihuatl-Popocatepetl, Fig. 2), while other populations should have remained isolated
523 during interglacial stages.

524

525 *Population differentiation and persistence under a sky-island dynamic*

526 Our analyses of historical habitat distribution, together with genetic differentiation and
527 demographic history of two high altitude plant species, support a sky-island dynamic
528 within the TMVB that has promoted population differentiation and long-term *in-situ*
529 persistence. The niche modelling demonstrates that since their emergence during the last
530 1.5 Myr (Ferrari *et al.* 2012), the highest volcanoes of the TMVB have provided stable
531 conditions throughout glacial-interglacial cycles suitable for continuous population
532 persistence for subalpine and alpine taxa.

533 The genetic data supports a scenario of long-term population persistence in both
534 species. Genomic differentiation was significant among all populations, with F_{ST} values
535 typically greater than 0.05 (Table S2.1 and S2.2), which is congruent with populations
536 diverging in allele frequencies and accumulating private alleles through the effects of
537 genetic drift and mutation, and absence (or very reduced amounts) of gene flow (Table 1).
538 In addition to differentiation, a demographic syndrome of either limited population
539 expansion or constant size was inferred for most populations of both species (Table 3).
540 Although we could not estimate the absolute timing of demographic events, we can infer
541 that the limited expansions occurred synchronously. This suggests that, in this topographic
542 context, populations from both species have undergone similar responses to environmental
543 change.

544 Inferences of population size constancy, or only limited expansion, points to a
545 demographic history of relative stability and are congruent with a sky-islands scenario for
546 the TVBM for two reasons. First, suitable habitat is expected to have persisted *in situ* within
547 the TMVB for both focal species during climate fluctuations (Fig. 3), thus allowing for *in situ*
548 population persistence. Second, estimated glacial ranges are not much larger than
549 interglacial ranges (Fig. 2; Fig. 3), which predicts only limited population size change
550 through a glacial cycle. More substantial demographic change is expected for species from
551 lower altitudes of the Mexican highlands (Mastretta-Yanes *et al.* 2015a), and for taxa with
552 more northern distributions (Hewitt 1996; Stewart *et al.* 2010), where species contracted
553 or expanded across large horizontal distances during the Last Glacial Maxima to the
554 present.

555

556 *Conservation and management implications*

557 Most of the sampled mountains of this study are Natural Protected Areas (NPA) currently
558 under different threats and management methods. Our results highlight the conservation
559 value of the TMVB peaks, showing that they are areas of long-term biodiversity persistence
560 despite historical climate fluctuations. Our results are also relevant for the management of
561 these NPA. Firstly, because we show that these mountain peaks behave like islands
562 showing high levels of genetic isolation. As a consequence, we suggest that these mountains
563 should be managed like islands, for instance promoting the use of native germplasm for
564 reforestation efforts. Secondly, our results show that alpine grasslands from the TMVB are
565 a natural ecosystem that has historically persisted within these mountains. Therefore the
566 aforestation of these grasslands, as currently done in some of the mountains, is destroying
567 a natural ecosystem of conservation importance.

568

569 **Conclusion**

570 We have shown that: (1) the highest stratovolcanoes of the TMVB facilitated the existence
571 of timberline-alpine grasslands throughout glacial/interglacial cycles (long-term *in situ*
572 population persistence); and (2) population genetic differentiation of species from this
573 ecosystem can be explained by the degree of habitat connectivity among mountains during
574 the glacial periods.

575 Similar scenarios have been postulated for taxa of the TMVB from lower altitudes
576 using classical population genetic and phylogeographic approaches (e.g. McCormack *et al.*
577 2008; Bryson *et al.* 2011, 2012; Gutiérrez-Rodríguez *et al.* 2011; Ornelas *et al.* 2013; Parra-
578 Olea *et al.* 2012). Some of these previous phylogeographic studies focusing on divergence

579 times (e.g. Ornelas *et al.* 2010; Bryson *et al.* 2012a; b; Leaché *et al.* 2013) have not been
580 able to distinguish between the confounding effects of climate and geological change,
581 because in the TMVB climate fluctuations and volcanic changes co-occurred during the
582 Pleistocene (Mastretta-Yanes *et al.* 2015). However, here we assessed present versus past
583 historical connectivity quantitatively and in a landscape explicit context. This spatial
584 approach allows to relate population differentiation to the Pleistocene glacial cycles and
585 the sky-island dynamics they produce in tropical mountains.

586 Our results support the ongoing role of tropical mountains as cradles for
587 biodiversity by uncovering cryptic differentiation and limits to gene flow, and as museums
588 for biodiversity by promoting long-term *in situ* persistence. Therefore, the conservation
589 importance of tropical mountains, such as the ones of the TMVB, resides not only on its
590 species richness *per se*, but on that landscapes like these promote both long-term
591 population survival and further diversification.

592

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609

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827 **Data Accessibility**

828 This project has been deposited at Dryad Repository under the accession XXXXXXXX. The
829 repository includes lab protocol, species occurrence data, spatial data, genetic data in plink
830 format and the scripts used for all analyses. Raw RADseq data is at the Sequence Read
831 Archive (SRA) accession SRP035472 for *Berberis* and XXXXXXX for *Juniperus*.

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834 **Author Contributions**

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836 AMY, DP, THJ and BCE conceived and designed the study. AMY performed fieldwork and
837 laboratory work, assembled the RAD data and made all analyses, except for the aSFS and
838 the ecosystem distribution modelling. ATX performed the aSFS analyses. AML performed
839 the ecosystem distribution modelling. NA and THJ supervised lab work and preliminary
840 analyses. AMY, DP and BCE lead manuscript writing. All authors contributed to the
841 discussion and manuscript writing.

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850 **Table 1. Summary population genetic statistics for *B. alpina* and *J. monticola***

Pop. ID	<i>N_s</i>	<i>N</i>	Priv.	Sites	<i>P</i>	<i>H_{obs}</i>	π	<i>F_{IS}</i>
<i>B. alpina</i>								
Pe	6	6.11	1101	2183	0.9108	0.1234	0.1395	0.0374
Tl	10	4.76	332	1557	0.9383	0.0917	0.1020	0.0235
Ma	10	6.42	503	1743	0.9338	0.0967	0.1060	0.0219
Iz	8	8.03	375	1708	0.9404	0.0924	0.0951	0.0141
Aj	8	8.54	477	1892	0.9357	0.1006	0.1025	0.0073
To	8	6.31	326	1376	0.9449	0.0908	0.0883	0.0004
<i>J. monticola</i>								
Ch	8	7.03	608	2691	0.9421	0.0689	0.0936	0.0650
Pe	5	4.04	206	1569	0.9549	0.0577	0.0741	0.0326
Ci	10	9.06	176	2189	0.9515	0.0583	0.0757	0.0465
Ne	10	8.70	177	2236	0.9522	0.0582	0.0756	0.0460
Ma	9	7.27	175	1842	0.9543	0.0487	0.0713	0.0564
Tl	10	8.81	324	2646	0.9461	0.0661	0.0860	0.0554
Iz	8	6.64	265	2337	0.9482	0.0651	0.0844	0.0492
Pp	8	7.00	208	2190	0.9497	0.0587	0.0804	0.0553
Aj	7	4.90	194	1812	0.9515	0.0505	0.0785	0.0622
To	8	6.13	154	1673	0.9549	0.0495	0.0706	0.0491
Bl	9	7.62	327	2260	0.9486	0.0626	0.0808	0.0468
Ta	10	8.40	431	2298	0.9467	0.0594	0.0826	0.0580
Co	8	5.37	309	1994	0.9477	0.0508	0.0849	0.0777

851 Results include only nucleotide positions that are polymorphic in at least one population. The first
852 column shows the number of individuals per population that were used for the analysis (*N_s*). Next
853 are the average number of individuals genotyped at each locus (*N*), the number of variable sites
854 unique to each population (i.e. private alleles, Priv.), the number of polymorphic nucleotide sites for
855 that population (Sites), the average frequency of the major allele (*P*), the average observed
856 heterozygosity per locus (*H_{obs}*), the average nucleotide diversity (π), and the average Wright's
857 inbreeding coefficient (*F_{IS}*). Populations are ordered East to West, top to bottom. Population IDs as
858 in Fig. 1.

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872 **Table 2. Isolation by resistance**

Surface	<i>B. alpina</i>		<i>J. monticola</i> all pops.		<i>J. monticola</i> excluding Co & Ta	
	<i>r</i>	Pt <i>r</i>	<i>r</i>	Pt <i>r</i>	<i>r</i>	Pt <i>r</i>
<i>present</i>	0.787**	0.059 NS	0.469 *	0.034 NS	0.662 ***	0.406**
<i>ccsm</i>	0.662*	0.061 NS	0.402 *	0.140 NS	<u>0.686</u> ***	<u>0.453</u> **
<i>miroc</i>	0.792**	0.218 NS	0.430 *	0.129 NS	0.675 ***	0.427**
<i>flat</i>	0.881**	--	<u>0.499</u> *	--	0.579 ***	--
<i>1,800</i>	0.888**	0.244 NS	0.327 NS	0.374 NS	0.575 ***	0.087NS
<i>2,000</i>	0.893***	0.307 NS	0.299 NS	0.376 NS	0.566 ***	0.052NS
<i>2,300</i>	0.827**	0.311 NS	0.319 NS	0.343 NS	0.555 ***	0.022NS
<i>2,500</i>	0.901**	0.417 NS	0.384 NS	0.285 NS	0.530 **	0.005NS
<i>2,700</i>	0.929**	0.620 *	0.443 *	0.159 NS	0.550 ***	0.068NS
<i>3,000</i>	<u>0.940</u> **	<u>0.717</u> *	0.374 *	0.184 NS	0.331 NS	-0.188NS
<i>3,300</i>	0.905**	0.435 NS	0.389 *	0.180 NS	0.353 NS	-0.230NS
<i>3,500</i>	0.833**	0.023 NS	0.386 *	0.149 NS	0.34 NS	-0.272NS
<i>4,000</i>	0.681*	0.017 NS	0.378 *	0.201 NS	0.335 NS	-0.249NS

873 Associations between genetic differentiation (linearized F_{ST} , see main text) and pairwise effective
874 distances at different surfaces (see Fig. 2 for an explanation of these). Mantel test *r* value (*r*) and
875 Partial Mantel test *r* value (Pt *r*) are reported for each species. Significance codes are as follows: <
876 0.001 '***', <0.01 '**', < 0.05 '*', and not significant 'NS'. Underlined cells correspond to the surface
877 with the highest prediction value for each taxon.

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889 **Table 3. Proportion of populations in synchrony and number of synchronous pulses.**
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Estimation method	ζ			ψ		
	res	<i>r</i>	<i>rmse</i>	res	<i>r</i>	<i>rmse</i>
hRF Hyperparameter Estimation	0.821	0.613	0.229	1.81	0.784	0.70
hABC Hyperparameter Estimation - Median	0.929	0.610	0.236	1.00	0.761	0.92
hABC Hyperparameter Estimation - Mode	0.999	0.561	0.303	1.00	0.619	1.05

891 Results for the downprojection to four individuals, see Table S2.4 for results with the
 892 downprojection to five. ζ : proportion of populations in synchrony (considering both species
 893 together). ψ : number of synchronous pulses. For ζ and ψ , the three columns show the resulting
 894 estimation (res), and the cross-validation accuracy check based on the correlation (*r*) and the root
 895 mean squared error (*rmse*) between the simulated true values and the estimated values.

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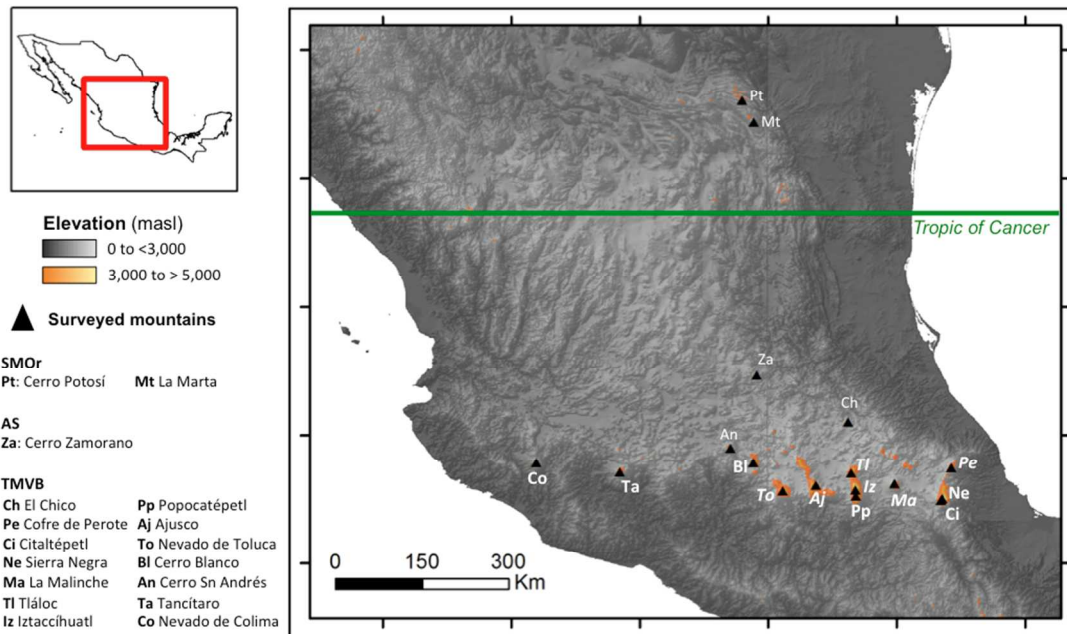
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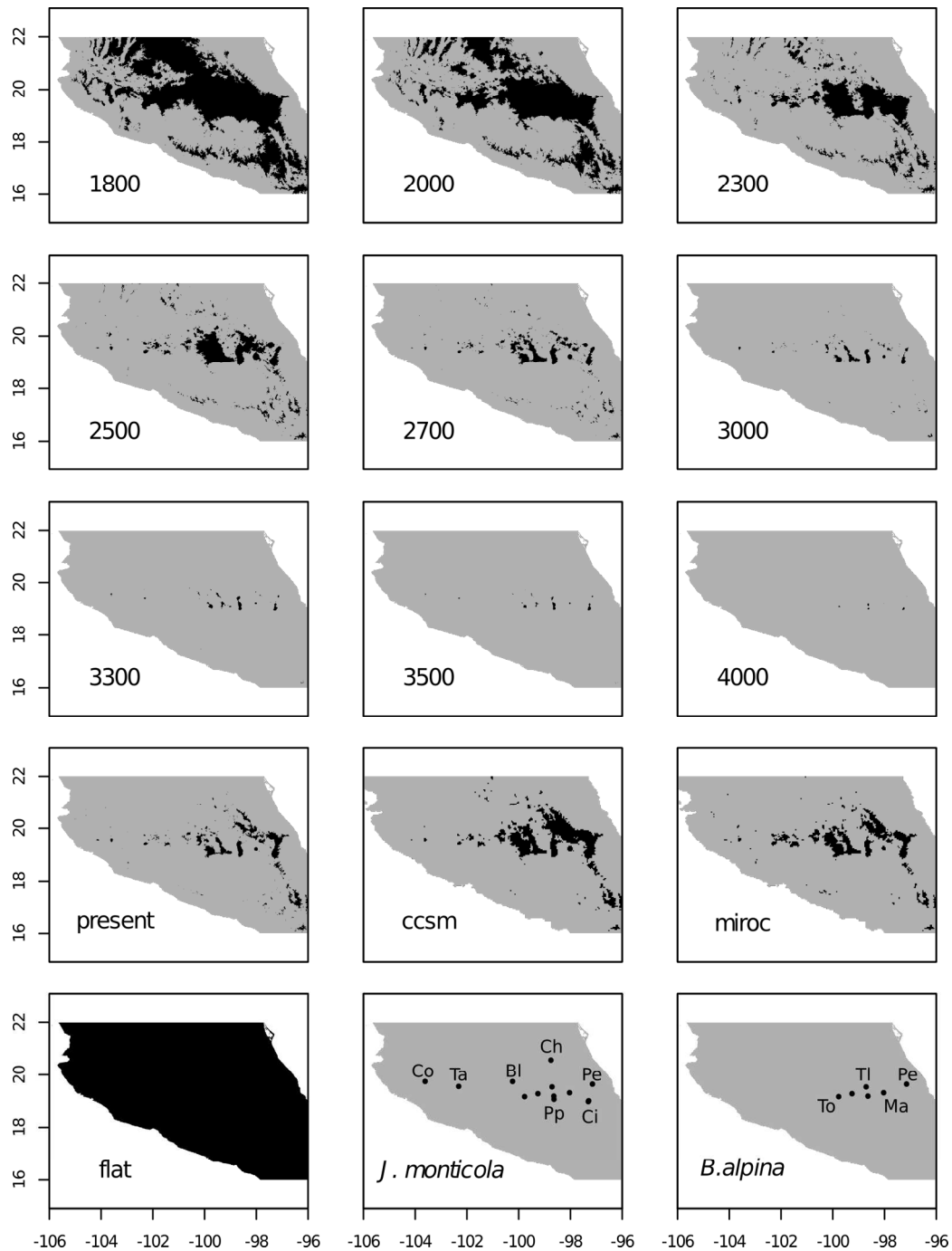
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917 **Figure 1.** High elevation mountains with timberline - alpine grasslands surveyed (triangles) for
918 *Berberis alpina* and *Juniperus monticola* in the Sierra Madre Oriental (SMOr), the Altiplano Sur (AS)
919 and the Transmexican Volcanic Belt (TMVB). *Berberis alpina* was found in populations Pe, Ma, Tl, Iz,
920 Aj and To (*italics*) and *Juniperus monticola* was in populations Ch, Pe, Ci, Ne, Ma, Tl, Iz, Pp, Aj, To, Bl,
921 Ta and Co (**bold**).

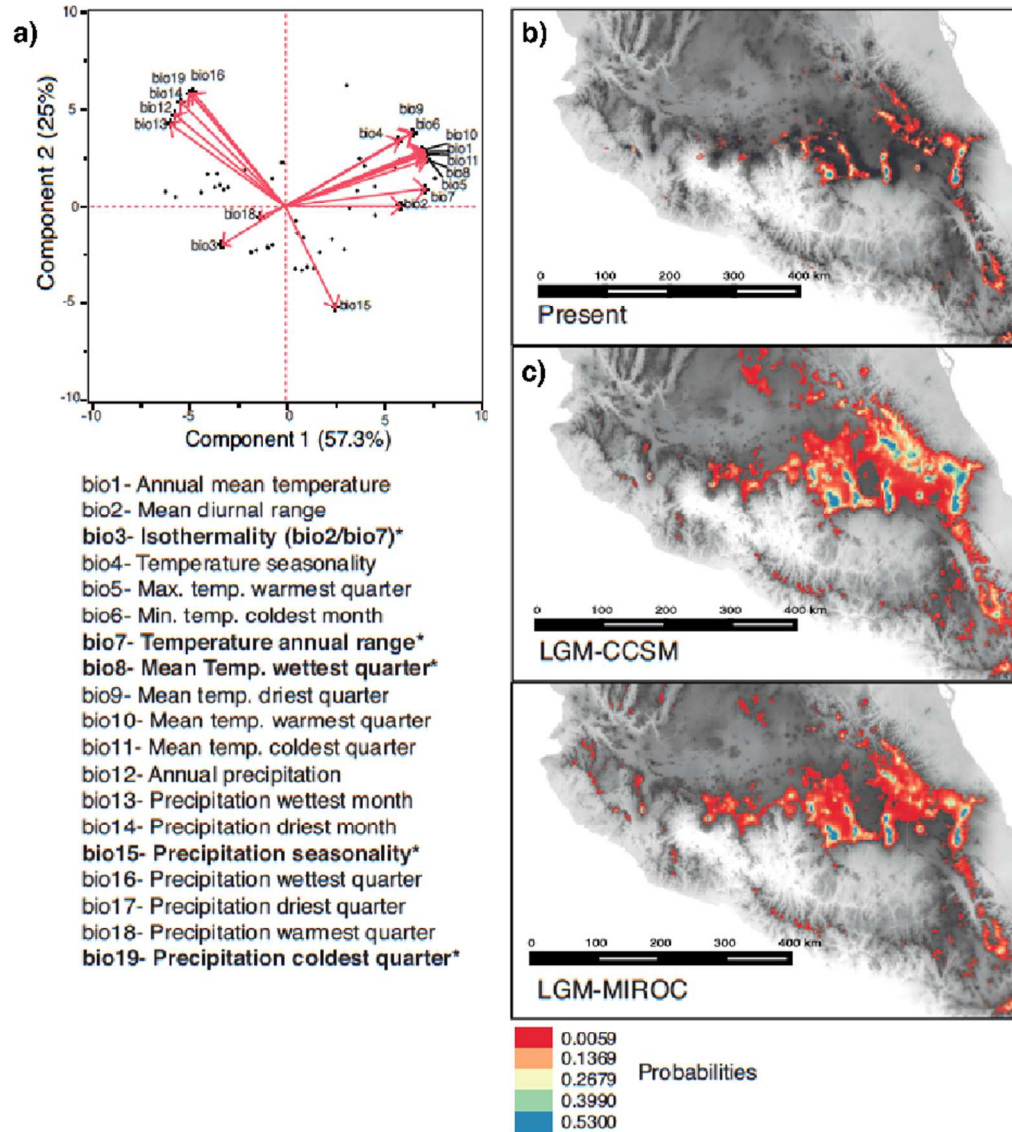
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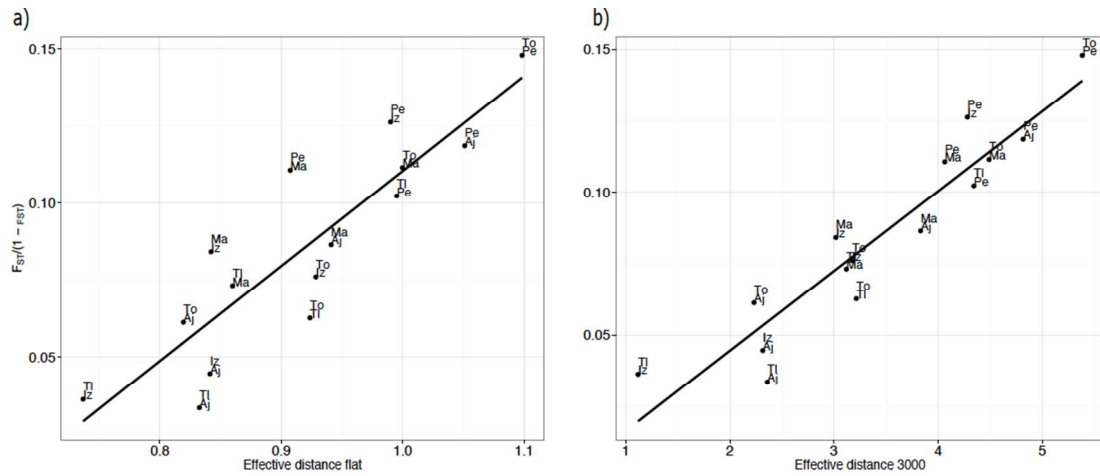
926 **Figure 2.** Resistance surfaces used to estimate effective distances among populations. Areas
 927 allowing the highest gene flow are shown in black. The first three rows show the surfaces using the
 928 elevation data; the fourth row uses the distribution modeling for the timberline-alpine grassland
 929 for the present and the LGM (CCSM and MIROC layers); the last row shows a landscape where all
 930 cells have high conductance ('flat' landscape) and sampling points for *J. monticola* and *B. alpina*.
 931 Some mountain names are indicated for reference (ID codes as in Fig. 1). For all panels, numbers on
 932 the x and y axes represent latitude and longitude, respectively.

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Figure 3. Environmental analyses and distribution models of the timberline - alpine grassland for interglacial and glacial conditions of the TMVB (a) Principal component analysis of 19 bioclimatic variables. The independent variables with the highest contributions to variance were selected for the potential distribution models and are indicated with an asterisk. Potential distribution models of the alpine grassland for the present (b) and Last Glacial Maximum (c). Two sets of environmental layers were used for the projection to the LGM: CCSM and MIROC (details in the methods). The yellow to blue color gradient of *b* indicates areas where the alpine grasslands are known to occur in the present interglacial. Projections to the LGM show that this ecosystem likely occurred in the same mountains, but with a larger distribution extending to lower altitudes.



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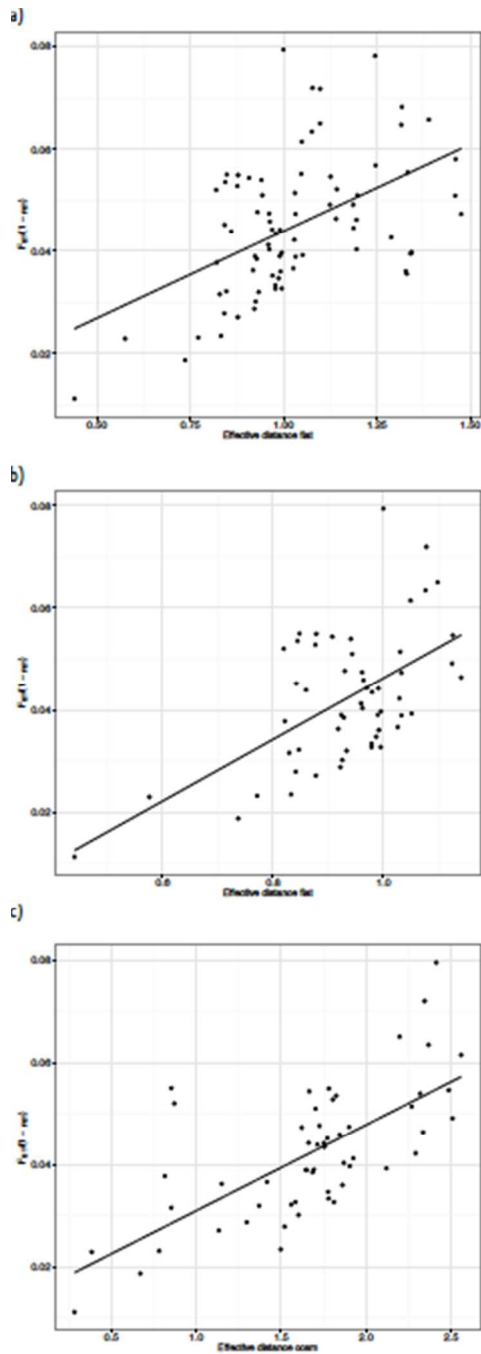
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949 **Figure 4.** For *B. alpina*, relationship between linearized pairwise F_{ST} and (a) the 'flat' surface950 (isolation by distance, Mantel $r=0.879$, $p<0.01$) and (b) the resistance surface of 3,000 masl, which951 provided the highest explanatory power (isolation by resistance, Mantel $r=0.940$, $p<0.01$, Partial952 Mantel $r=0.717$, $p<0.05$). Labels show populations of each pair-wise comparison. Codes as in Fig. 1.

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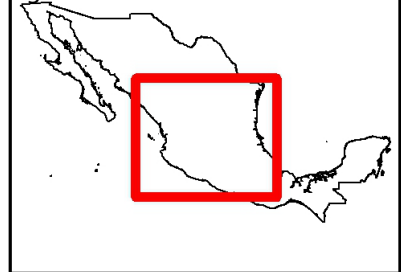
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957 **Figure 5.** For *J. monticola*, relationship between linearized pairwise F_{ST} and (a) the 'flat' surface958 including all populations (isolation by distance, Mantel $r=0.499$, $p<0.01$) or (b) excluding the959 Tancítaro and Nevado de Colima populations (isolation by distance, Mantel $r=0.579$, $p<0.001$). (c)960 Relationship between linearized pairwise F_{ST} and the resistance surface of SDM with LGM-CCSM961 conditions, which provided the highest explanatory power (isolation by resistance, Mantel $r=0.686$,962 $p<0.001$, Partial Mantel $r=0.453$, $p<0.01$).

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**Elevation (masl)**

0 to <3,000

3,000 to > 5,000

▲ Surveyed mountains

SMOr

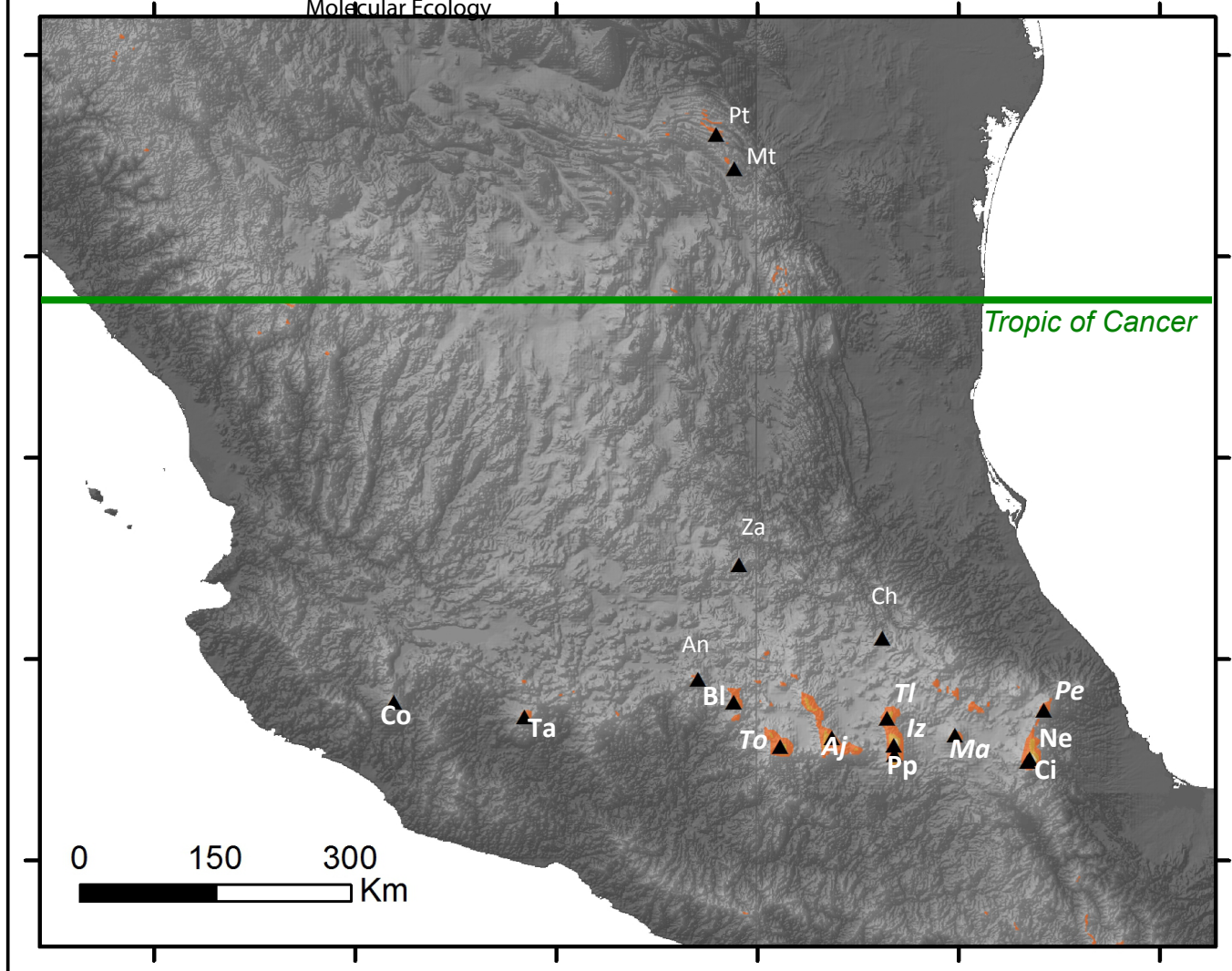
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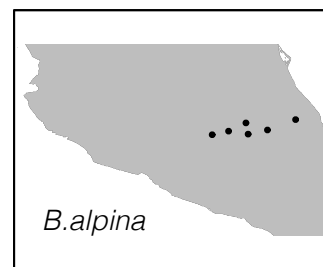
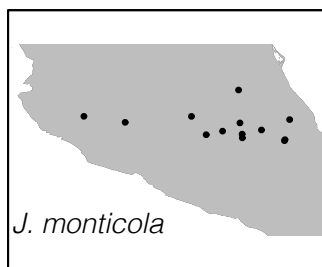
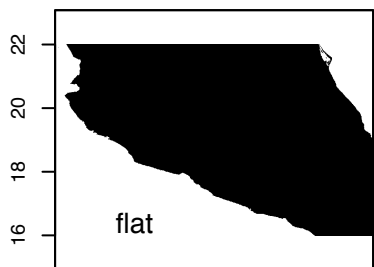
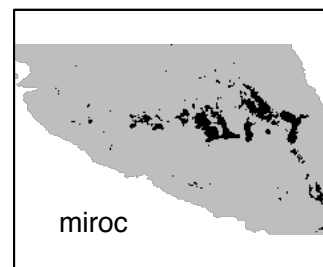
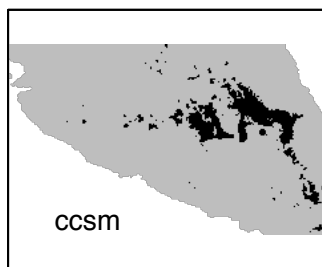
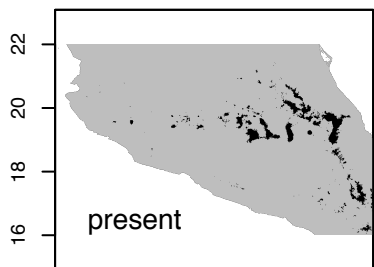
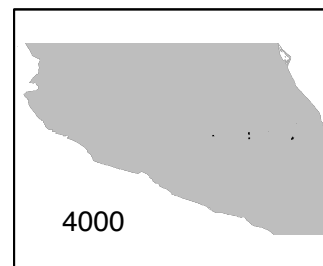
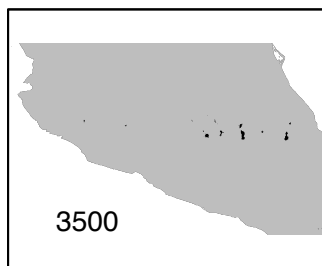
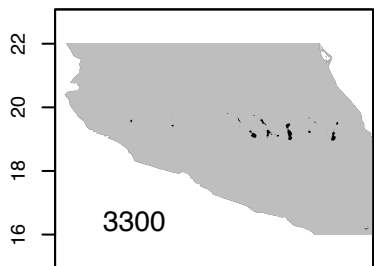
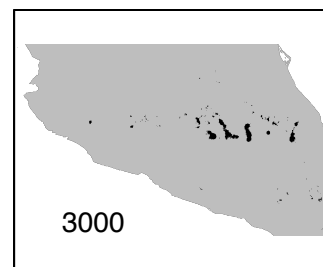
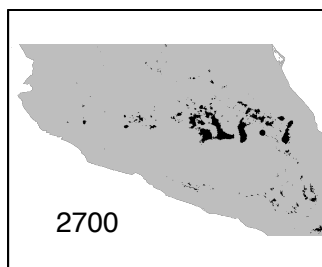
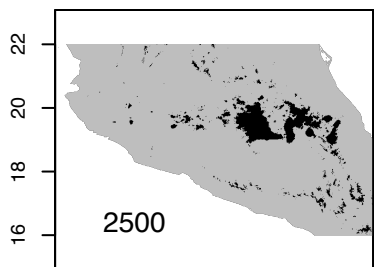
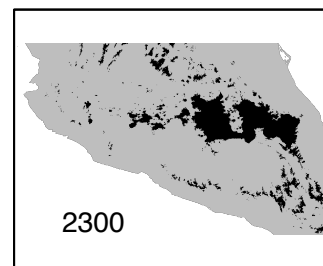
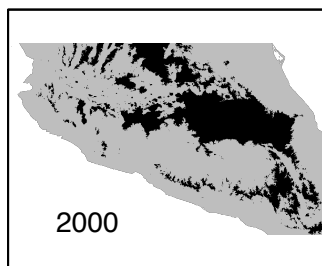
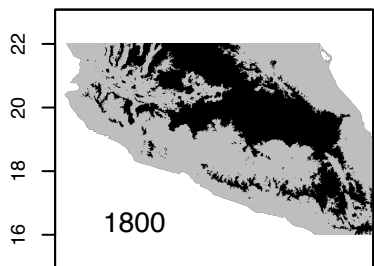
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Za: Cerro Zamorano

TMVB

Ch El Chico	Pp Popocatepetl
Pe Cofre de Perote	Aj Ajusco
Ci Citlaltépetl	To Nevado de Toluca
Ne Sierra Negra	Bl Cerro Blanco
Ma La Malinche	An Cerro Sn Andrés
Tl Tláloc	Ta Tancítaro
Iz Iztaccíhuatl	Co Nevado de Colima

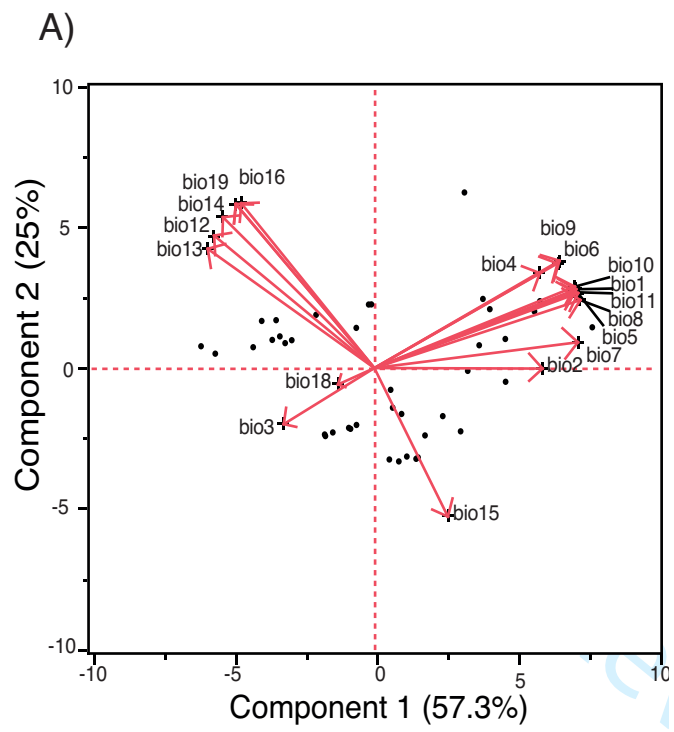
Molecular Ecology



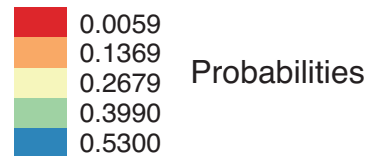
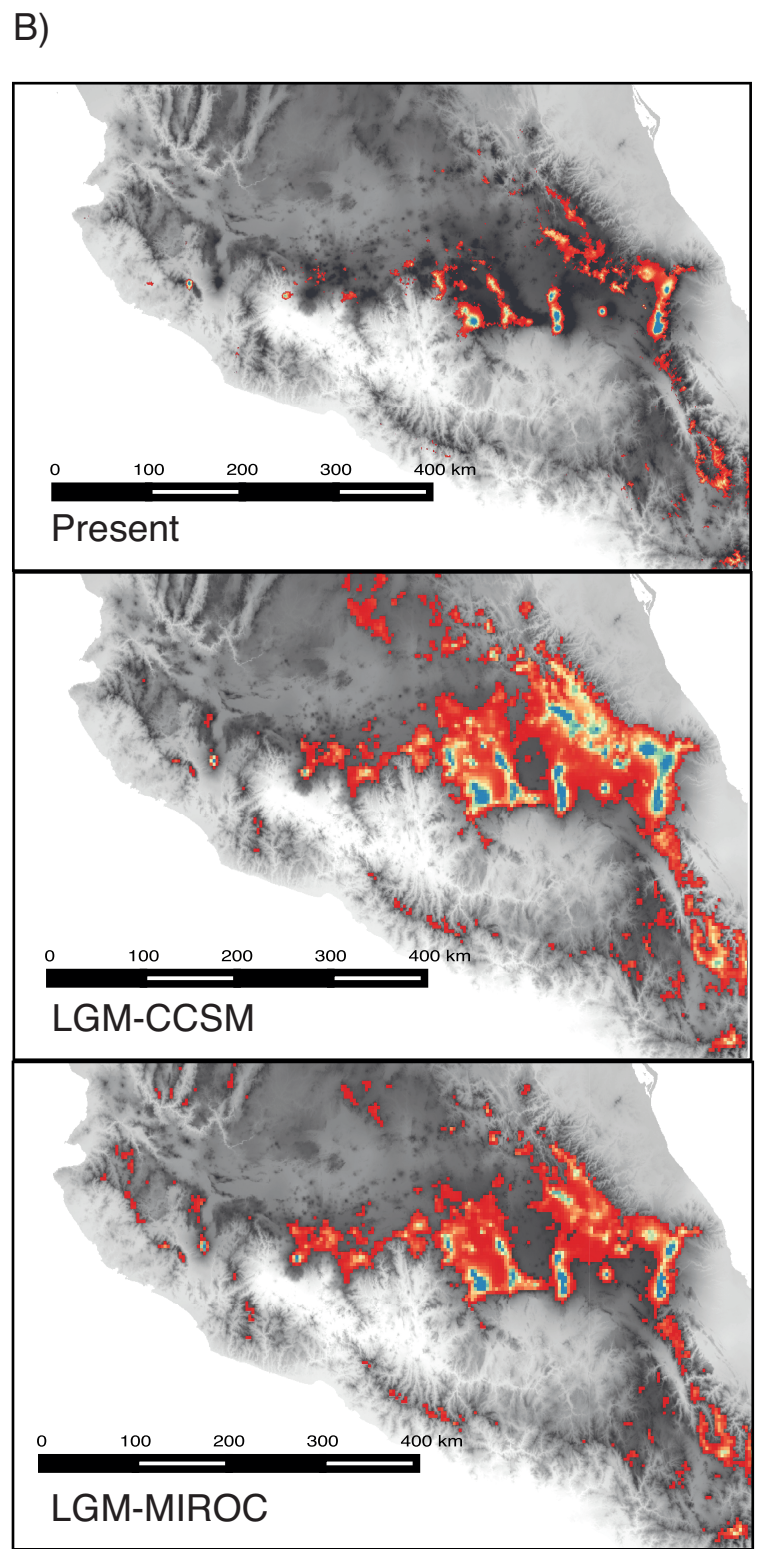
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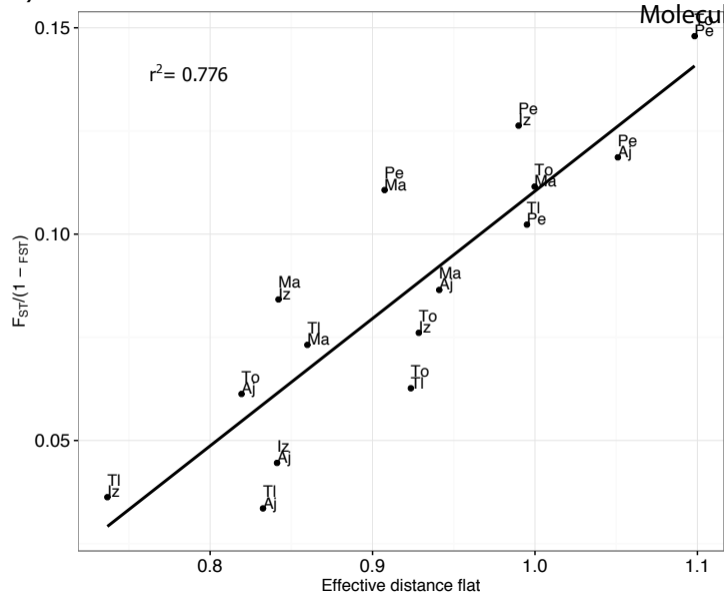
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- bio1- Annual mean temperature
- bio2- Mean diurnal range
- bio3- Isothermality (bio2/bio7)***
- bio4- Temperature seasonality
- bio5- Max. temp. warmest quarter
- bio6- Min. temp. coldest month
- bio7- Temperature annual range***
- bio8- Mean Temp. wettest quarter***
- bio9- Mean temp. driest quarter
- bio10- Mean temp. warmest quarter
- bio11- Mean temp. coldest quarter
- bio12- Annual precipitation
- bio13- Precipitation wettest month
- bio14- Precipitation driest month
- bio15- Precipitation seasonality***
- bio16- Precipitation wettest quarter
- bio17- Precipitation driest quarter
- bio18- Precipitation warmest quarter
- bio19- Precipitation coldest quarter***



a)



b)

