



OPEN Genetic monitoring of an endangered arable weed reveals local maintenance of genetic variation in times of land use and climate change

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Genetic monitoring is a powerful tool to reveal human impact on genetic diversity and genetic differentiation in times of land use and climate change. Unfortunately, it is not yet frequently applied in wild plant nature conservation at present. Consequently, we conducted a genetic monitoring study of the rare and endangered arable weed *Sherardia arvensis*, which continuously decreased in the recent decades due to environmental changes. Therefore, detecting a possible shift in genetic diversity and differentiation is highly relevant for conservation. We applied multiplexed ISSR genotyping by sequencing (MIG-seq) to compare genetic variation within and among eight populations, as well as effective population size of the species using samples collected at the same sites in 2007 and 2020. We obtained 371 SNPs from 160 analysed individuals. In contrast to our expectations, we observed nearly similar levels of genetic diversity and differentiation within and among populations in 2007 and 2020, although 25% of the investigated populations went extinct in the study period. Effective population sizes showed some differences between the study years, depending on the analysis. The observed maintenance of genetic diversity and differentiation patterns may most likely be explained by the longevity of seeds in the soil, which is generally high in many arable weeds. In the case of *S. arvensis* seeds may persist in the soil for up to ten years. This allows the regeneration of populations and contributes to the maintenance of genetic variation. A potential impact of population loss and decrease of effective population size on genetic diversity and differentiation may therefore be delayed, comparable to the already described phenomenon of an extinction debt in other species. Our study clearly underlines, that long-term genetic monitoring over long time periods is needed to reveal potential changes of genetic diversity and differentiation in the Anthropocene.

Keywords *Sherardia arvensis*, Rare species, MIG-seq, Conservation genetics, Next-generation-sequencing, Agrobiodiversity

In the Anthropocene global biodiversity declined drastically due to human impact¹. Indeed, a dramatic loss of diversity at the ecosystem, species and genetic level in recent decades has been observed and reported in a multitude of different scientific studies^{2–5}. Among many others, habitat destruction, land use changes and climate change are the most important reasons for the loss of biological diversity¹. These processes can cause an extinction vortex⁶, which strongly contributes to species loss. In this case, the progressively decreasing size of a species' population, first leads to a loss of genetic diversity and increased genetic differentiation, followed by decreasing individual fitness and finally to population extinction. When this process continues, remnant populations become increasingly isolated and suffer from genetic drift and inbreeding, which in turn further increases the likelihood of extinction events⁷. Once started on this downwards spiral, possibilities to reverse the trend are limited. Consequently, for many declining and strongly endangered species, decreasing levels of genetic diversity within populations and increasing levels of differentiation between populations can be postulated

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nowadays. However genetic diversity is widely recognized as the basis for adaptation and is of high conservation concern. Next to classical genetic diversity and differentiation measures based on genetic markers like expected and observed heterozygosity, the effective population size has been identified as an important parameter by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2022^{14–16}. It is particularly useful as a metric to monitor within population genetic diversity as it shows effects of genetic drift, inbreeding and adaptive potential^{16,17}.

In this context monitoring, “the systemic and focused observation and measurement of present changes in biodiversity”⁸ is an impressive and effective approach to uncover human impact on the development of biodiversity at all levels^{9–11}. At the ecosystem and the species level, monitoring is a well-established and regularly used nature conservation tool. Based upon historical and present maps or aerial photos, the loss and gain of specific ecosystems over time can be analysed¹². Similarly, historical and present species lists, or vegetation surveys can be used to analyse the occurrence and distribution of species over time at the local, regional or even global level². Genetic diversity and differentiation as an essential part of biodiversity has, however, been largely neglected in biodiversity monitoring up till now¹³.

So far, the genetic monitoring of plant species has mostly focused on crop species^{18–20} or on the effects of ex situ conservation and reintroduction on genetic variation^{21–25}. However, genetic monitoring studies, comparing populations of rare and endangered plant species at different times in the field to uncover the temporal development of genetic diversity and differentiation have been conducted less frequently²⁶. This can be traced back to several reasons. First, molecular and standardized methods to analyse genetic diversity and differentiation at a broader scale have only become available by and by in recent decades. Second, high quality DNA material, which can be used for genetic monitoring, is often not available. On the one hand, DNA from herbarium specimen is often degraded, in particular when vouchers are old, and cannot easily be used for genetic analyses. Moreover, the number of replications is often too limited for monitoring genetic diversity and differentiation at the population level. On the other hand, collections of DNA solutions are rare and often not old or large enough to study changes in genetic diversity and differentiation over time. Consequently, genetic monitoring studies of rare and endangered plant species are urgently required in conservation^{27–29} and highly significant to analyse changes of genetic diversity and differentiation in a conservation context.

Arable weeds, plant species growing in cultivated fields alongside the crop species, belong to the most endangered plant species in Central Europe^{30–34} and are, therefore, highly interesting for genetic monitoring studies. In the modern agricultural landscape, arable weeds strongly declined especially due to land use intensification and other changes^{35,36}. More efficient seed cleaning, increased application of fertilizers and herbicides, deeper depth of tillage and the loss of field margin areas due to increased arable field size during land consolidation processes caused an exhaustive decline of arable weed populations all over Central Europe^{31,32}.

Our study species, the blue field madder (*Sherardia arvensis*), is an originally quite common arable weed. However, due to agricultural intensification in recent decades the species has become rare and is now included in the German and Bavarian Red List^{33,34}. The genetic diversity and differentiation of *S. arvensis* has already been analysed in a previous study using AFLP markers, which revealed a stronger isolation by distance, i.e. higher genetic differentiation with increasing geographical distance, of these arable weed populations in Central Europe compared to the Mediterranean, where many weeds originate from³⁵.

For the study presented here, we resampled plant material of *S. arvensis* in 2020 at the study sites in arable field margins, where plant material had already been collected in 2007 for the study of Listl and Reisch³⁵. We then applied multiplexed ISSR (inter simple sequence repeats) genotyping-by-sequencing (MIG-seq) to analyse samples from both years and checked for potential changes of genetic diversity and differentiation between 2007 and 2020. Considering the above-mentioned loss of individuals and populations in recent decades, we focused on the following questions: (i) has there been a significant loss of genetic diversity within populations since 2007? (ii) Has the effective population size (N_e) changed between 2007 and 2020? And finally, (iii) has the level of genetic differentiation among populations increased within this 13-year period?

Materials and methods

Study species

Our study species *Sherardia arvensis* L., commonly known as blue field madder, is an annual herbaceous plant species of the Rubiaceae family. The pink to purplish flowers bloom from June to October⁴⁰, while pollination frequently occurs by selfing⁴¹. *S. arvensis* seeds survive in the soil seed bank up to 10 years⁴².

The species is often considered as an archaeophyte, which was introduced to Central Europe during the Roman Empire at the latest⁴³. Due to human agriculture, it is distributed globally. In temperate continental climates it originally occurs in arable fields³⁹. However, because of land use changes and agricultural intensification many populations disappeared in the last decades, or they are now restricted to arable field margins. The species is, therefore, included as “near threatened” in the German and Bavarian Red List^{37,38}. The collection of the plant material, therefore, did not require permission from local authorities. However, we adhered to relevant institutional and national guidelines to ensure the least possible harm to the studied plant populations.

Study sites and sampling procedure

Based upon the data from a previous study of Listl and Reisch³⁹, we selected 12 populations of *S. arvensis* at study sites near Regensburg in southeastern Germany for our investigation (Table 1; Fig. 1), where the species occurred at arable field margins. We revisited all the sites in 2020 to resample *S. arvensis*. However, only at eight study sites *S. arvensis* still occurred. Comparable to the sampling procedure in 2007, at each study site leaf material from ten individuals was collected in 2020, placed in paper filter bags and stored over silica gel to dry at room temperature until DNA extraction in the lab. The plant specimens were identified by two of the current authors in the two sampling years, in 2007 by Daniela Listl and in 2020 by Ellen Gradl respectively. No voucher specimen was collected.

Pop ID	Location name	Status	La. (N)	Lo. (E)
01	Wenzenbach	+	49°04'51"	12°13'15"
02	Etterzhausen	-	49°01'15"	12°00'04"
03	Tegernheim	+	49°01'35"	12°09'46"
04	Sinzing	-	48°58'57"	12°02'08"
05	Nittendorf	-	49°01'01"	11°57'58"
06	Pollenried	+	49°02'38"	11°55'42"
07	Laaber	+	49°05'20"	11°53'24"
08	Bergmatting	+	48°58'17"	11°58'45"
09	Velburg	+	49°14'01"	11°38'20"
10	Beilngries	-	49°02'38"	11°29'01"
11	Aichkirchen	+	49°01'19"	11°43'52"
12	Heitzenhofen	+	49°06'48"	11°54'33"

Table 1. Studied sites and populations with population ID (Pop ID), location name, status (+: existing, -: extinct) and their geographic location.

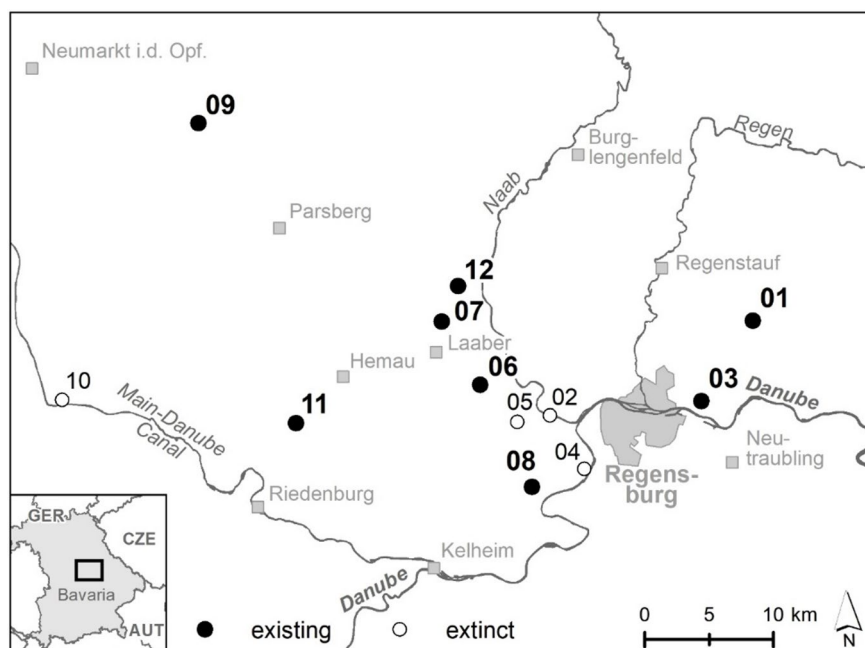


Fig. 1. Geographic location of the study sites sampled in 2007 and 2020 around the city of Regensburg (federal state of Bavaria, Germany). Study sites are indicated by black dots. The numbers refer to Listl and Reisch 2014. Sites where *Sherardia arvensis* could not be resampled in 2020, since the populations went extinct, were labelled with white dots.

MIG-seq analysis and SNP detection

From the dried plant material collected in 2020, DNA was extracted using the CTAB protocol by Rogers and Bendich⁴⁴, modified by⁴⁵. DNA extracts of the individuals sampled in 2007 had previously been extracted with the same method and had been stored since then at $-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ in the Regensburg DNA bank. DNA extracts from 2007 to 2020 were diluted with water to a standardized concentration of $15\text{ ng}/\mu\text{L}$ and stored at $-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ until further analysis. Standardized DNA concentrations are not a requirement for the MIG-seq analysis; however, we would argue that homogenization across samples will lead to more equal numbers of reads per individual and thus more reliable results from the sequencing step.

To analyse the genetic diversity and differentiation of all samples, we conducted multiplexed ISSR (inter simple sequence repeats) genotyping-by-sequencing (MIG-seq) following the protocol by Suyama and Matsuki⁴², which provides genome-wide SNP information. This method is a simple, fast and more cost-efficient approach to obtaining SNPs for ecological questions and non-model species than comparable NGS methods. It has been successfully applied to a variety of study organisms, from corals, snails to different plant species^{46–49}. In short, the MIG-seq library was constructed using two PCR steps and fragments between 300 and 800 bp were isolated for sequencing on an Illumina MiSeq Sequencer (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA) using a MiSeq Reagent Kit v3 (150

cycles, Illumina) as described by Suyama and Matsuki⁵⁰. The raw data was analysed using Trimmomatic, FastQC and Stacks. From the obtained NGS data the primer regions were removed with *Trimmomatic* v.0.36⁵¹ and the quality check was done with *FastQC* v.0.11.5 (<https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/>). We then analysed the cleaned data with Stacks v.2.66⁵², using the pipeline for de novo SNP discovery which includes the programs *ustacks*, *cstacks*, *sstacks*, *tsv2bam* and *gstacks*. We set the minimum depth coverage at $m = 3$ and the maximum distance at $M = 2$. SNPs were called using the *populations* module in Stacks. To avoid linkages between SNPs we used the *write-single-snp* option, we specified the minimum minor allele frequency (*min-maf* = 0.05), the minimum number of populations which contained retained loci ($p = 1$), maximum observed heterozygosity required to process a locus (*max-obs-het* = 0.8) and retained only those loci that were present in at least 50% of individuals (*min-samples-overall* = 0.5). For comparison we also analysed the dataset with *min-maf* = 0.01 and *min-samples-overall* = 0.6, 0.7 and 0.8 and obtained similar results with regards to the genetic structure. Therefore, only the results with *min-maf* = 0.05 and *min-samples-overall* = 0.5 will be presented here.

Statistical analysis

From the analysis in stacks using the SNPs, we obtained the mean observed (H_O) and expected heterozygosity (H_E) and fixation index within a population (F_{IS}) for each population using the *populations* module.

We used Wilcoxon signed rank tests from the *rstatix* package in R⁵³, to check whether study sites differ significantly between 2007 and 2020 in genetic diversity. Furthermore, we analysed genetic differentiation within and among populations, as well as between sampling years using GenAlEx 6.5⁵⁴.

Bayesian cluster analyses were carried out using STRUCTURE⁵⁵ with a burnin and MCMC repetition of 100,000 and 1,000,000 respectively, testing for $K = 1-16$ with 20 repetitions of each K . We obtained the most likely number of K using the method described by Evanno et al.⁵⁶ with the online tool *Structure Selector*⁵⁷ and R-package *pophelper*⁵⁸. In a second step we ran the structure analysis again on subsets of individuals (Supplementary information 1). The subsets consisted of individuals with more than 50% membership to a primary cluster. To complement the structure analysis, we performed a Discriminant analysis of principal components (DAPC) with the *adegenet*-package⁵⁹. In the first step, in which clusters were detected, we retained all PC axes and choose K when the decrease of BIC reached a plateau (Supplementary information 2). In the second step, that implemented the DAPC, we only retained the first 50 PC axes and retained all discriminant functions.

Additionally, we calculated the effective population size (N_e) using the software NEESTIMATOR v.2.1⁶⁰. We calculated single-sample contemporary N_e using the method based on linkage disequilibrium⁶¹⁻⁶³, as well as temporal sample estimates based on Jordé and Ryman's⁶⁴ estimator as implemented in the software assuming random mating, using 0.05 as the lowest allele frequency threshold and using jackknife-based confidence intervals, similar to the analyses done by Lévêque et al.⁶⁵.

Results

In total 160 samples were successfully analysed using MIG-seq. After quality filtering, trimming and SNP calling, a total of 371 variable loci were obtained. Mean observed (H_O) and expected heterozygosity (H_E) and fixation indices (F_{IS}) were nearly identical (Table 2) in 2007 and 2020 ($H_{O\ 2007}$: 0.17, $H_{O\ 2020}$: 0.16; $H_{E\ 2007}$: 0.19, $H_{E\ 2020}$: 0.20, $F_{IS\ 2007}$: 0.11, $F_{IS\ 2020}$: 0.16). Consequently, genetic diversity did not differ significantly between 2007 and 2020 using Wilcoxon tests.

In a three level AMOVA (Table 3) including both data from 2007 to 2020 we observed 1% of the total variation between 2007 and 2020, 18% among the populations and 81% within populations. In separate two level AMOVAs (Table 3) genetic differentiation among populations was only slightly stronger in 2007 ($\Phi_{PT} = 0.19$) than in 2020 ($\Phi_{PT} = 0.18$).

In the Bayesian cluster analysis (Fig. 2) individuals and populations formed most likely two main groups ($\Delta K = 5125.60$) for both years. Following the investigation of the lower hierarchy cluster, the first cluster was most likely subdivided into four subclusters, while cluster two was divided into two subclusters (see Supplementary information 1 & 2). These results are further supported by the DAPC analysis (Fig. 3), which shows a similar distribution of samples into the six clusters. Most populations were assigned to the same or similar clusters for both investigated years, while some populations changed more considerably. For example, population 06 was mainly assigned to cluster 1d in 2007 and in 2020 was most likely assigned to cluster 1a, making it more similar to population 11. Similar change patterns were observed for populations 07 and 08. Other populations like population 01, 03, 09, 11 and 12 were more stable between the years.

The estimation of effective population size (Tables 4 and 5) showed different results for the single sample analysis and the temporal method. Single sample estimates changed between the different years, most populations showed a reduction in N_e , while some showed an increase in N_e estimates (population 07 and 09), while population 12 was estimated at infinite for both study years (Table 4). The temporal method showed infinite estimates for most populations, only population 7 (N_e : 34.03) and population 11 (N_e : 47.9) showed distinct values, which were however larger than the sample size and the number of individuals present during sampling (personal observation) (Table 5).

Discussion

Loss of populations

For the genetic monitoring study presented here, we revisited 12 study sites, where *S. arvensis* had been sampled in 2007. However, populations of *S. arvensis* still occurred at only 75% of the sites. Our investigation illustrates,

Pop ID	<i>n</i>	H _O	H _E	F _{IS}
2007				
1	10	0.15	0.16	0.06
3	10	0.16	0.2	0.16
6	10	0.17	0.12	-0.07
7	10	0.16	0.24	0.26
8	10	0.17	0.23	0.21
9	10	0.17	0.2	0.15
11	10	0.17	0.22	0.19
12	10	0.16	0.12	-0.05
Mean 2007		0.17	0.19	0.11
2020				
1	10	0.17	0.21	0.18
3	10	0.18	0.2	0.12
6	10	0.16	0.21	0.19
7	10	0.16	0.25	0.3
8	10	0.15	0.18	0.14
9	10	0.16	0.21	0.21
11	10	0.16	0.22	0.21
12	10	0.16	0.13	-0.04
Mean 2020		0.16	0.2	0.16
PWilcoxon test		0.64	0.31	0.25

Table 2. Genetic variation of the populations of *Sherardia arvensis* at the selected study sites in 2007 and 2020. Given are the population ID (Pop ID), the number of samples included in the analysis *N*, observed heterozygosity H_O, expected heterozygosity H_E and the fixation index F_{IS}. We observed no significant differences between 2007 and 2020 using Wilcoxon tests.

Level of variation	df	SS	MS	%	Φ _{IT}	<i>p</i>
In 2007 and 2020						
Among years	1	1110.28	1110.28	1	0.18	0.001
Among populations within years	14	12788.6	913.47	18		
Within populations	144	40515.8	281.36	81		
In 2007						
Among populations	7	6693.9	956.27	19	0.19	0.001
Within populations	72	20856.2	289.67	81		
In 2020						
Among populations	7	6094.65	870.66	18	0.18	0.001
Within populations	72	19659.6	273.05	82		

Table 3. Molecular variance within and among populations of *Sherardia arvensis* from the study sites in 2007 and 2020 calculated in different analyses of molecular variance (AMOVA). SS indicates the sum of squares, MS the mean squares, % the proportion of genetic variability. Levels of significance are based on 999 iteration steps.

therefore, the continuous decline of arable weed populations, which has been previously observed for many species in Central Europe^{32,33}.

In the case of *S. arvensis* agricultural land use change may be a key reason for the observed population decline. Fields where *S. arvensis* went seemingly extinct, are meanwhile used for the cultivation of maize instead of cereals. Since arable weeds are light-demanding species and compete with crop plants for light as the main resource⁶⁶ the shadier environmental conditions at maize field margins may have caused the population loss.

Another reason for the population decline may be the changing climate conditions in central Europe. Previous studies showed that many rare arable weed species require low germination temperatures⁶⁷. Furthermore, populations seem to be specifically adapted in seed germination to temperature conditions at their growing sites⁶⁸. Moreover, vegetation strongly suffered from droughts in the recent decade⁶⁹. It has been demonstrated that especially the germination response of rare arable weeds is sensitive to reduced water availability⁷⁰. The increased temperatures and lack of water during the recent decade may, therefore, have contributed further to the observed loss of *S. arvensis* populations.

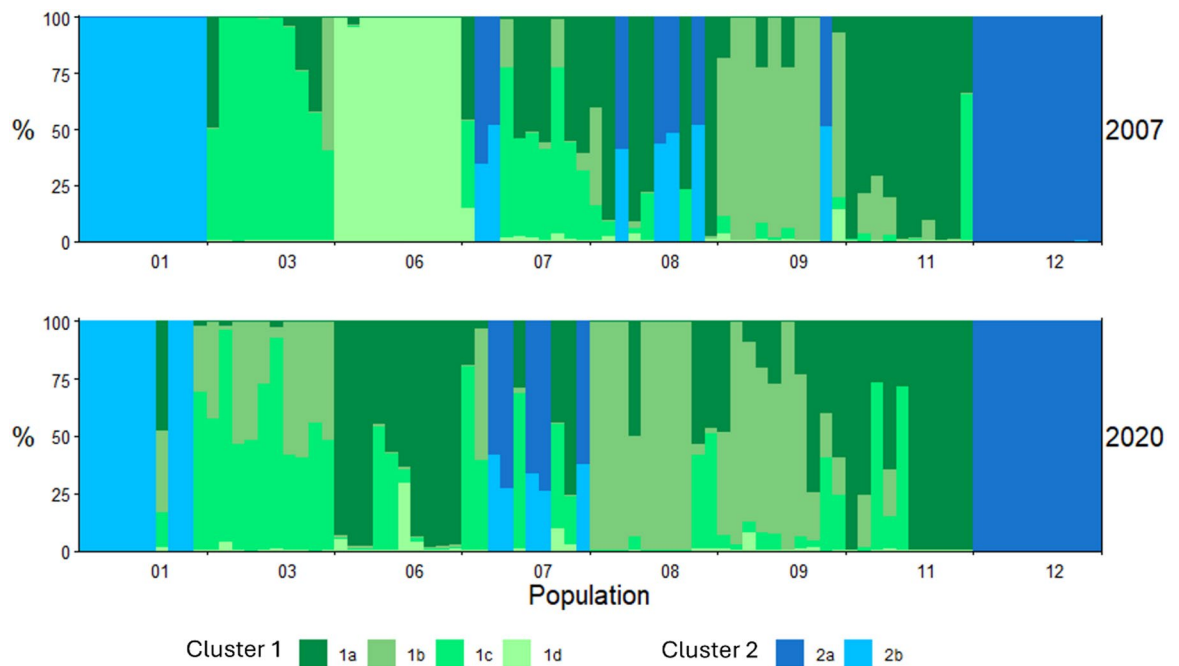


Fig. 2. Results of the Bayesian cluster analysis with Structure (based upon SNPs from the MIG-seq analysis) over all sampled individuals simultaneously. Populations from both years of *Sherardia arvensis* were assigned to two main groups (cluster 1 in green and cluster 2 in blue), each of which is sub-structured into several subgroups (1a-1d and 2a and 2b respectively), each bar represents one individual.

Trends in genetic diversity and differentiation patterns

The level of genetic diversity was within the range to be expected for short lived, selfing plant species, which is generally lower than in longer lived and outbreeding plant species^{71,72}. The investigation of effective population size showed declining numbers for some of the populations in the single-sample estimates, while others increased. The temporal approach showed infinite or larger values than the census size, similar to Lévêque et al.⁶⁵, who also found different values depending on the method used to estimate N_e . Unfortunately, most single sample estimates, if not infinite, were below the currently recommended threshold of N_e of 50, which is often considered to be the baseline to preserve genetic diversity in wild populations^{16,17,27}. However, estimates of N_e are also expected to be lower in species of conservation concern, than in non-threatened species¹⁷.

In contrast to our expectations, the genetic monitoring we conducted here revealed similar levels of genetic diversity and differentiation within and among the studied populations in 2007 and 2020. At first glance, this seems to be inconsistent when considering the ongoing loss of populations and the preceding decline of population size in arable weeds in general, which should be associated closely with significant changes in the genetic structure, especially in the form of reduced genetic diversity, increasing effects of inbreeding and increasing genetic differentiation.

There is, however, one important reason for the observed more or less stable pattern of genetic diversity and differentiation, which is the longevity of *S. arvensis* seeds in the soil seed bank. Arable weed species often have long-living seeds as revealed by a previous study on arable weeds, where 50% of the analysed species persisted more than 20 years in the soil seed bank. In the same study a soil seed bank longevity of up to 10 years has been reported for *S. arvensis*⁴². The availability of seeds in the soil, may thus buffer populations against extinction and the loss of genetic variation⁷³⁻⁷⁶. Previous studies in other plant species revealed similar levels of genetic diversity and differentiation in the present vegetation and the soil seed bank. The soil seed bank may thus be considered as a source of hidden diversity and part of the effective population size^{76,77} and thus a buffer against loss of genetic diversity⁷⁶, which could have contributed significantly to the current preservation of genetic diversity and differentiation levels in *S. arvensis* as well as counteracting possible effects of inbreeding, also under conditions of ongoing population decline and increasing isolation.

Our study hence supports the assumption that the reaction of plant populations to decreasing population size and increasing isolation may be delayed, which is often postulated when patterns of genetic diversity and differentiation do not match present patterns of fragmentation⁷⁸. Recent studies already demonstrated that actually existing levels of genetic diversity and differentiation within and among populations of specific species often reflect historical patterns of distribution^{78,79} comparable to an extinction debt at the species level^{80,81}. Obviously, longer periods of time are needed to analyse temporal changes of genetic diversity and differentiation. The results of our study show that, at present, *S. arvensis* is more strongly endangered due to the ongoing loss of populations than to a loss of genetic diversity and increase of genetic differentiation and inbreeding. However, the decrease in effective population size in many of the studied populations in the single sample estimates might be an indication, that the buffering capability of the soil seed bank is declining. Similarly, the infinite

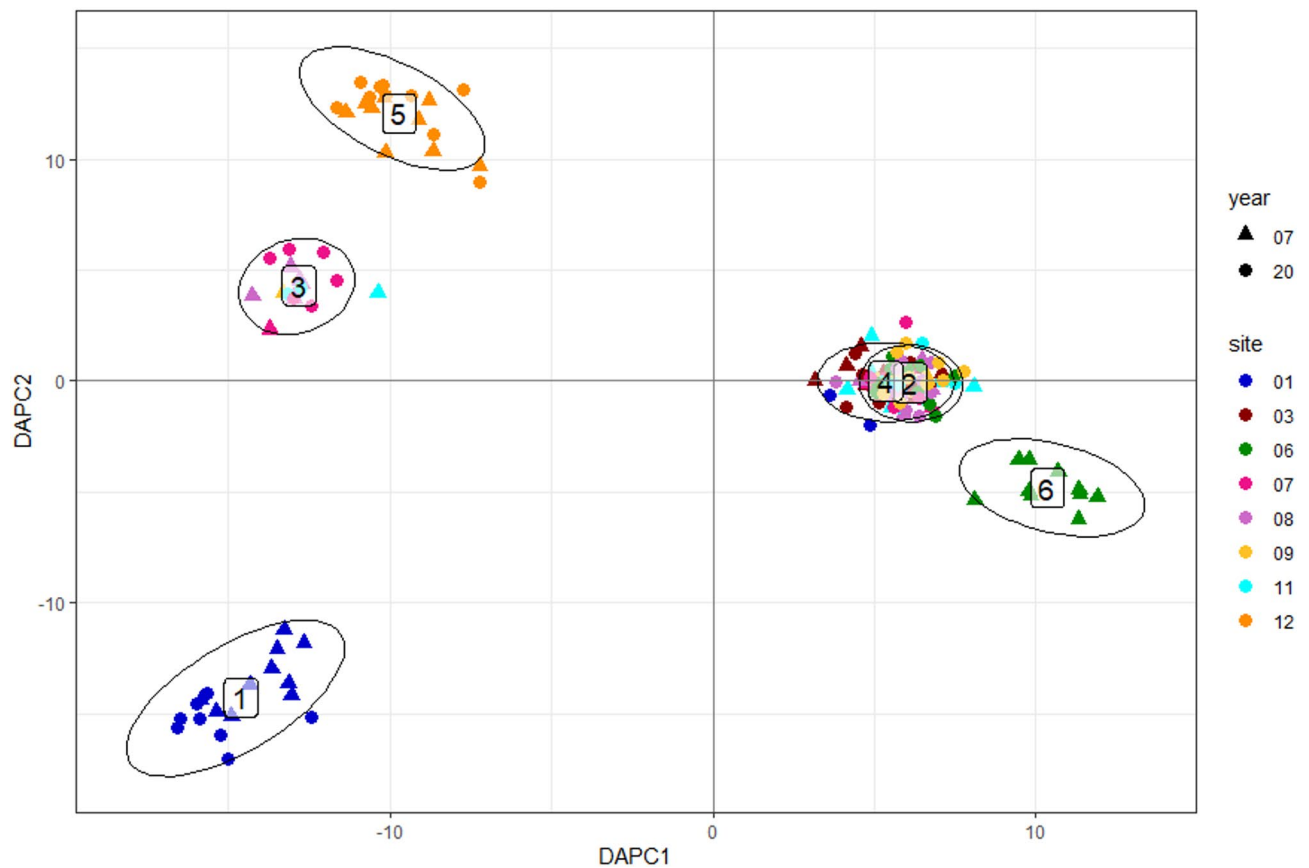


Fig. 3. Result of the Discriminant analysis of principal components (DAPC), showing the data structure for six clusters. Samples from 2007 are indicated with a triangle, while samples from 2020 are shown with a dot. The symbols are coloured according to their origin site. Cluster 2 and 4 are overlapping, while clusters 1, 3, 5 and 6 are clearly separated.

values obtained in the temporal approach could be a product of the relatively small sample size and actually represent an overestimation of available genetic diversity in the populations^{16,17}. But, some populations also increased in their estimates of effective population size between the two study years. It is possible that this may be caused by current or historic gene flow among populations, which are geographically close and might be part of a larger metapopulation, which could explain the shifts in genetic diversity and differentiation found in this study. Historic and present land-use has been repeatedly found to influence current genetic variation patterns in grassland habitats^{79,82,83} and might thus also be of concern in arable weed populations, which experience similar human impacts.

Our investigation, therefore, clearly underlines the need for long-term genetic monitoring over several decades, accompanied by demographic monitoring of a larger sample size and experimental studies to reveal current and future human impacts on genetic diversity and differentiation in the Anthropocene.

		LD method		95% CI
		Sample size	N_e	
2007	1	10	35.8	[7.5; ∞]
	3	10	56.1	[1.4; ∞]
	6	10	∞	[∞; ∞]
	7	10	15.5	[2.7; ∞]
	8	10	41.5	[3.1; ∞]
	9	10	15.2	[2.5; ∞]
	11	10	11	[2.1; ∞]
	12	10	∞	[∞; ∞]
2020	1	10	5.4	[1.6; ∞]
	3	10	9.1	[1.4; ∞]
	6	10	11.4	[2.4; ∞]
	7	10	∞	[12.1; ∞]
	8	10	2.8	[1.1; ∞]
	9	10	113.9	[3.1; ∞]
	11	10	2.4	[0.9; ∞]
	12	10	∞	[∞; ∞]

Table 4. Effective population size estimates for single sample contemporary N_e using the method based on linkage disequilibrium (LD) for each single population. Values for the 95% confidence intervals based on a jackknife procedure are represented in square brackets.

	Temporal method		95% CI
	Sample size	N_e	
1	20	∞	[∞; ∞]
3	20	∞	[∞; ∞]
6	20	∞	[∞; ∞]
7	20	34.03	[26.3;48.1]
8	20	∞	[∞; ∞]
9	20	∞	[∞; ∞]
11	20	47.9	[34.2;80.3]
12	20	∞	[∞; ∞]

Table 5. Effective population size estimates for Temporal sample estimates using Jorde & Ryman's⁶⁴ estimator for each population pair. Values for the 95% confidence intervals based on a jackknife procedure are represented in square brackets.

Data availability

The datasets generated during the current study are available in the European Nucleotide Archive (ENA) under the accession number PRJEB85125.

Received: 20 January 2025; Accepted: 29 January 2026

Published online: 04 February 2026

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Acknowledgements

The authors thank Petra Schitko and Lina Begemann for their support in the lab and with data analysis, as well as Sabine Fischer for assistance with the map.

Author contributions

E.G. and C.R. developed the study design; D.L. & E.G. identified and collected the plant material; E.G. and Y.S. collected the genetic data; E.G. and L.W. analysed the data, C.R. led the writing of the manuscript; all authors contributed to manuscript writing.

Funding

Open Access funding enabled and organized by Projekt DEAL.

Declarations

Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

Additional information

Supplementary Information The online version contains supplementary material available at <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-026-38363-4>.

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