

Molecular phylogeny of the land snail genus *Alopi* (Gastropoda: Clausiliidae) reveals multiple inversions of chirality

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Whereas the vast majority of gastropods possess dextral shell and body organization, members of the Clausiliidae family are almost exclusively sinistral. Within this group a unique feature of the alpine genus *Alopi* is the comparable representation of sinistral and dextral taxa, and the existence of enantiomorph taxon pairs that appear to differ only in their chirality. We carried out a molecular phylogenetic study, using mitochondrial cytochrome c oxidase subunit I (*COI*) gene sequences, in order to find out whether chiral inversions are more frequent in this genus than in other genera of land snails. Our results revealed multiple independent inversions in the evolutionary history of *Alopi* and a close genetic relationship between members of the enantiomorph pairs. The inferred *COI* phylogeny also provided valuable clues for the taxonomic division and zoogeographical evaluation of *Alopi* species. The high number of inverse forms indicates unstable fixation of the coiling direction. This deficiency and the availability of enantiomorph pairs may make *Alopi* species attractive experimental models for genetic studies aimed at elucidating the molecular basis of chiral stability.

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INTRODUCTION

In contrast to the predominantly bilateral symmetry of most animals, snails develop in an asymmetric fashion, which is easily recognizable by the helical organization of their body. The vast majority of taxa display dextral chirality, characterized by the clockwise growth of the shell when viewed from its apex. Rare mutant populations of opposite, sinistral coiling

have proven instrumental for investigating the molecular genetic background of chiral determination. These studies revealed that coil direction depends on the polar orientation of cells at the early embryonic stage, which is established by the correct performance of polarity-setting cytoskeletal elements (Crampton, 1894; Shibasaki, Shimizu & Kuroda, 2004; Kuroda *et al.*, 2009). Although the key function determining chirality has not yet been identified, genetic studies in species of four gastropod super-families indicated that it is a maternally inherited dominant cytoplasmic factor encoded by a single gene

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(Sturtevant, 1923; Degner, 1952; Asami, Gittenberger & Falkner, 2008). Mutations in this gene can have considerable evolutionary consequences. For instance, altered body structure can make inverse individuals less likely targets for predation (Hoso, Asami & Hori, 2007), and severely reduced mating success with non-inverted members of the population can lead to reproductive isolation (Gittenberger, 1988). These effects can enhance diversification and lead to the appearance of new subspecies and species.

Despite the ancestral dominance of dextrality in gastropods, sinistral coiling can be found at various taxonomic levels. In dextral species there are several reports of rare inverted individuals, as well as of small populations with frequent or uniform sinistrality. Also, there are entire species, genera, and even families of gastropods with dominant sinistrality (for examples, see Davison *et al.*, 2005). One of the sinistral families is that of the clausiliids (Clausili-

idae, door snails), characterized by a spindle-shaped shell that is equipped with intricate closing (clausiliar) apparatus. Situated inside the last whorl, this structure efficiently seals the entrance when the snail retreats, and consists of multiple lamellae and plicae that are useful morphological markers for taxonomists. Sinistrality is very stringently determined in most clausiliid subfamilies, but not in the relatively young and species-rich Alopiinae that dominate the eastern Mediterranean basin. In this subfamily a number of genera also include dextral species (Gittenberger & Uit de Weerd, 2006; Nordsieck, 2007).

Among the Alopiinae genera that include dextral species, *Alopiia* H. & A. Adams, 1855, a south-east European genus endemic to the Carpathian Mountains (Fig. 1), is of particular interest. In contrast to the other genera composed of predominantly sinistral species, in this genus sinistral and dextral forms are represented comparably, with 50 and 23 taxa,

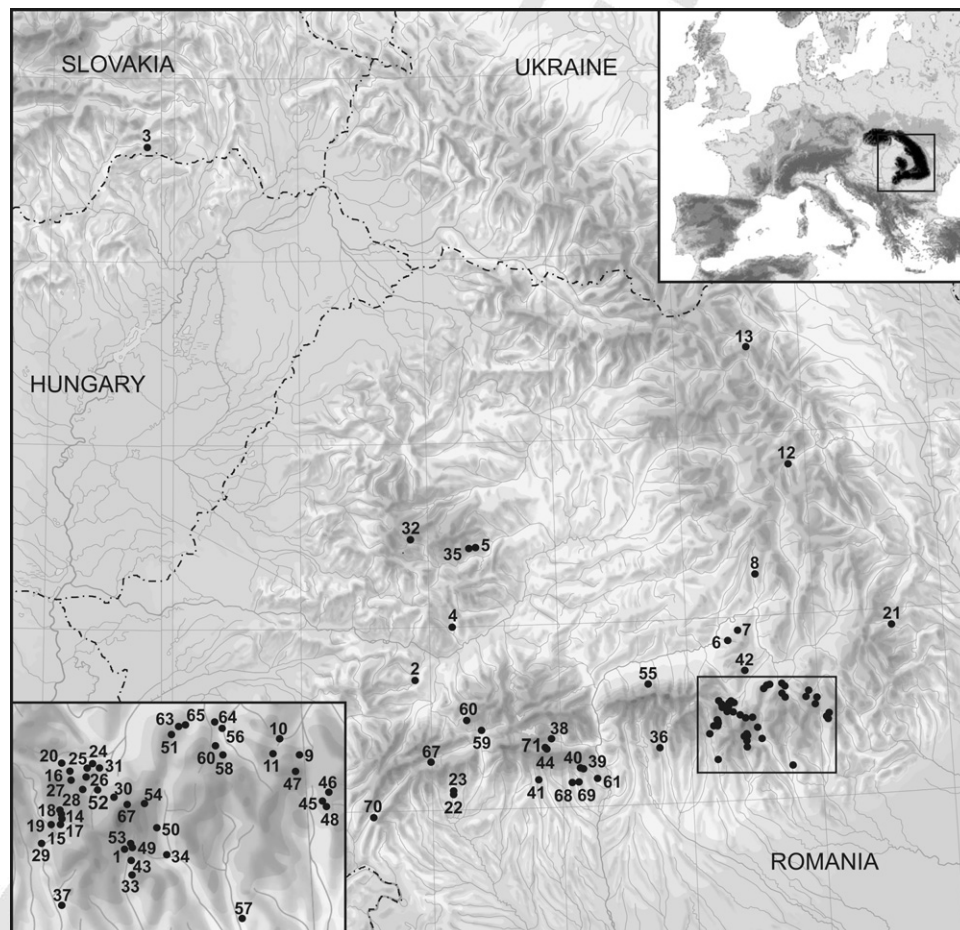


Figure 1. Sampling sites of the *Alopiia* material studied from the Romanian and Slovakian Carpathians. The taxa and localities corresponding to the numbered dots are identified in Table 1. The insets show the position of the Carpathians (black shaded) in Europe and an enlarged map of the south-eastern Carpathian ranges (upper right and lower left corners, respectively).

1 respectively. Furthermore, *Alopi*a includes enantio-
 2 morph (oppositely coiled, but otherwise seemingly
 3 identical) taxon pairs that always occur in contiguous
 4 ranges (Wagner, 1914; Soós, 1943). Considering that
 5 in other clausiliid genera chiral inversions are very
 6 rare, the null hypothesis of our current study was
 7 that *Alopi*a is not an exception from this rule. In this
 8 case the unusually high number of dextral forms
 9 might be explained by a reversion that happened
 10 early during *Alopi*a diversification, and then served
 11 as a basis for a monophyletic lineage of dextral
 12 species. The alternative hypothesis was that the
 13 dextral taxa of *Alopi*a could have resulted from mul-
 14 tiple independent reversion events. Clarifying which
 15 of these hypotheses was correct promised intriguing
 16 information in broader contexts. If dextral and sinis-
 17 tral lineages evolved in parallel, enantiomorph pairs
 18 would exemplify extreme morphological convergence.
 19 If, however, the phylogenetic history of the genus
 20 included multiple inversions, then the genetic deter-
 21 mination of chirality is less stable than in other
 22 genera, offering *Alopi*a species as uniquely suitable
 23 objects for studying the genetic background of chiral
 24 stability. Either way, ascertaining the phylogenies of
 25 sinistral and dextral forms could also provide impor-
 26 tant phylogenetic background for *Alopi*a taxonomy.

27 As are most genera of the Alopinae, *Alopi*a is an
 28 obligate rock-dwelling genus with numerous, mostly
 29 polytypic, species (Nordsieck, 2007). Because of the
 30 restricted vagility of the animals and the scattered
 31 distribution of their preferred habitat type (bare
 32 limestone outcrops), *Alopi*a populations occur in well-
 33 defined, isolated patches. Populations of shared mor-
 34 phological characters and geographical ranges have
 35 traditionally been considered as subspecies, and cur-
 36 rently there is wide consensus regarding their delimita-
 37 tions (Szekeres, 1976; Grossu, 1981; Nordsieck,
 38 2008). However, the evaluation of taxonomic relation-
 39 ships between these subspecies, and particularly
 40 the enantiomorph pairs, has long been controversial
 41 because of a disagreement over the homologous
 42 or homoplastic origin of the dextral subspecies. One
 43 attempt at classification was based on the notion that
 44 the far-reaching similarity of enantiomorphs, regard-
 45 less of chirality, indicated close evolutionary relation-
 46 ships, and that classification should rely primarily
 47 on other morphological characters of the shells (e.g.
 48 sculpture or closing apparatus) and soft organs (e.g.
 49 genitalia), rather than chiral differences (Bielz, 1861;
 50 Wagner, 1914). Accordingly, these authors regarded
 51 enantiomorph pairs as subspecies of the same
 52 species. The other, contrasting approach assumed ~~the~~
 53 parallel evolution of sinistral and dextral lineages
 54 from the onset of *Alopi*a diversification, concluding
 55 that taxa of opposite chirality cannot be classified
 56 within the same species (Kimakowicz, 1894). Later

systematic studies merely followed up these two clas-
 sification concepts, favouring either the former (Soós,
 1943; Szekeres, 2007) or latter (Soós, 1928; Grossu,
 1981; Nordsieck, 2008) approach. Therefore, finding
 out which of the two concurring approaches faith-
 fully reflects the evolutionary relationships within
 the genus necessitated ascertaining the phylogenetic
 origin of dextrality.

The aim of this study was to test our hypotheses on
 the incidence of chiral inversions by elucidating the
 evolutionary relationships within *Alopi*a, especially
 those of the enantiomorph taxon pairs, based on a
 molecular phylogenetic analysis. The gene sequence
 best suited for this purpose is mitochondrial cyto-
 chrome *c* oxidase subunit I (*COI*), because its high
 divergence rate (Pons *et al.*, 2010) offers good resolu-
 tion, even at the infraspecific level, it has been
 successfully used for inferring close phylogenetic rela-
 tionships in other genera of the Alopinae (Uit de
 Weerd, Schneider & Gittenberger, 2005 and Uit de
 Weerd, Schneider & Gittenberger, 2009), and has
 been proposed to serve as the central barcoding
 marker for the identification of animal taxa (Hebert
et al., 2003). Considering *COI* data as indicators of
 genetic divergence, we propose a taxonomic division
 of the genus that is compatible with both the molecu-
 lar and morphological characters. Relying on our
 phylogenetic results we discuss the zoogeographical
 background of *Alopi*a diversification, and make an
 attempt at estimating the start date of this process.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

SNAIL SAMPLES

The *Alopi*a samples used in this study were collected
 from the entire geographical range of the genus (Fig. 1;
 Table 1). Sampling was designed to include most (64)
 of the 73 recognized taxa, and all those of disputed
 species affiliations. In order to avoid ambiguous iden-
 tification, each taxon was sampled at its type locality
 or one of its localities well known in the literature.
 Further clausiliid samples of the subfamilies Alopinae
 [*Herilla ziegleri dacica* (Pfeiffer, 1852)] and Clausili-
 inae [*Vestia elata* (Rossmässler, 1836)] were used as
 out-groups. The list of samples, with full names and
 locality information, are given in Table 1. All material,
 preserved in 99% ethanol, has been deposited at the
 Mollusca Collection of the Hungarian Natural History
 Museum, Budapest (for collection numbers see the
 GenBank records listed in Table 1).

DNA ISOLATION AND SEQUENCING

DNA was prepared from foot tissue of ethanol-
 preserved specimens using QIAamp DNA Mini Kit
 (Qiagen, Valencia, CA, USA). A 655-bp segment of the

Table 1. Data of the *Alopiia* and out-group samples used in this study

Samples	Locality	Geographic position	GenBank
1	<i>A. alpina</i> Kimakowicz, 1933	Bucegi Mountains, Bătrâna	JQ911783
2	<i>A. bielzii bielzii</i> (Pfeiffer, 1949)	Hunedoara	JQ911784
3	<i>A. bielzii clathrata</i> (Bielz, 1856)	Slovak Karst, Zadiel	JQ911785
4	<i>A. bielzii madensis</i> (Fuss, 1855)	Ardeu near Balşa	JQ911786
5	<i>A. bielzii tenuis</i> (Bielz, 1861)	Gilău Mountains, Belioara	JQ911787
6	<i>A. bogatensis angustata</i> (Bielz, 1859)	Peşani Mountains, Comana	JQ911788
7	<i>A. bogatensis bogatensis</i> (Bielz, 1856) A	Peşani Mountains, Bogata	JQ911789
8	<i>A. bogatensis bogatensis</i> (Bielz, 1856) B	Peşani Mountains, Vârghuş	JQ911790
9	<i>A. canescens canescens</i> (Charpentier, 1852)	Ciucaş Mountains, Ciucaş	JQ911791
10	<i>A. canescens haueri</i> (Bielz, 1859)	Ciucaş Mountains, Dungu	JQ911792
11	<i>A. canescens stricticollis</i> (Kimakowicz, 1894)	Ciucaş Mountains, Tesla	JQ911793
12	<i>A. glauca</i> (Bielz, 1853) A	Haşmaş Mountains, Bicz	JQ911794
13	<i>A. glauca</i> (Bielz, 1853) B	Rarău Mountains, Rarău	JQ911795
14	<i>A. glorifica deceptans</i> Deli & Szekeres, 2011	Piatra Craiului Mountains, Seaca Pietrelor	JQ911796
15	<i>A. glorifica elegantissima</i> Nordsieck, 1977	Piatra Craiului Mountains, Dâmbovicioara	JQ911797
16	<i>A. glorifica glorifica</i> (Charpentier, 1852)	Piatra Craiului Mountains, Crăpătura	JQ911798
17	<i>A. glorifica intercedens</i> (Schmidt, 1857) A	Piatra Craiului Mountains, Dâmbovicioara	JQ911799
18	<i>A. glorifica intercedens</i> (Schmidt, 1857) B	Piatra Craiului Mountains, Seaca Pietrelor	JQ911800
19	<i>A. glorifica magnifica</i> Kimakowicz, 1962	Piatra Craiului Mountains, Podu Dâmbovitei	JQ911801
20	<i>A. glorifica subita</i> (Kimakowicz, 1894)	Piatra Craiului Mountains, Colţu Chiliiilor	JQ911802
21	<i>A. glorifica vranceana</i> Grossu, 1967	Vrancea Mountains, Tisaru	JQ911803
22	<i>A. grossuana grossuana</i> Nordsieck, 1977	Vâlcan Mountains, Sohodol	JQ911804
23	<i>A. grossuana nemethi</i> Deli & Szekeres, 2011	Vâlcan Mountains, Sohodol	JQ911805
24	<i>A. lischkeana boettgeri</i> (Kimakowicz, 1883)	Piatra Craiului Mountains, Râu Mare	JQ911806
25	<i>A. lischkeana cybaea</i> (Kimakowicz, 1894)	Piatra Craiului Mountains, Râu Mare	JQ911807
26	<i>A. lischkeana galbina</i> Kimakowicz, 1943	Piatra Craiului Mountains, Măgura Sat	JQ911808
27	<i>A. lischkeana lischkeana</i> (Charpentier, 1852)	Piatra Craiului Mountains, Râu Mare	JQ911809
28	<i>A. lischkeana livens</i> (Bielz, 1853)	Piatra Craiului Mountains, Peştera	JQ911810
29	<i>A. lischkeana sarkanyi</i> Szekeres, 2007	Piatra Craiului Mountains, Mateiaş	JQ911811
30	<i>A. livida bipalatalis</i> (Kimakowicz, 1883)	Bucegi Mountains, Gaura	JQ911812
31	<i>A. livida deaniana</i> (Cooke, 1922)	Piatra Craiului Mountains, Măgura Mică	JQ911813
32	<i>A. livida julii</i> (Wagner, 1914)	Bihor Mountains, Ordâncuşa	JQ911814
33	<i>A. livida livida</i> (Menke, 1828) A	Bucegi Mountains, Ialomîţa	JQ911815
34	<i>A. livida livida</i> (Menke, 1828) B	Bucegi Mountains, Peleş	JQ911816
35	<i>A. maciana Bădărău & Szekeres, 2001</i>	Gilău Mountains, Belioara	JQ911817
36	<i>A. maftiana maftiana</i> Grossu, 1967	Făgăraş Mountains, Vâlsan	JQ911818
37	<i>A. maftiana valerica</i> Szekeres, 2007	Cetaţeni	JQ911819

38	<i>A. mariae coronata</i> Kimakowicz, 1943	Lotru Mountains, Piatra Fetii	45°23'48"N, 23°54'17"E; 1370 m	JQ911820
39	<i>A. mariae hildgardae</i> Kimakowicz, 1931	Căpățâna Mountains, Buila	45°14'19"N, 24°06'27"E; 1350 m	JQ911821
40	<i>A. mariae mariae</i> Kimakowicz, 1931	Căpățâna Mountains, Buila	45°14'07"N, 24°06'11"E; 1300 m	JQ911822
41	<i>A. mariae soosi</i> Brandt, 1961	Căpățâna Mountains, Olteț	45°12'03"N, 23°47'00"E; 670 m	JQ911823
42	<i>A. meschendorferi</i> (Bielz, 1858)	Peșani Mountains, Măgura Codlei	45°42'26"N, 25°24'33"E; 1040 m	JQ911824
43	<i>A. monacha</i> (Kimakowicz, 1894) A	Bucegi Mountains, Ialomija	45°23'38"N, 25°26'15"E; 1600 m	JQ911825
44	<i>A. monacha</i> (Kimakowicz, 1894) B	Lotru Mountains, Târnava*	45°21'15"N, 23°52'34"E; 1720 m	JQ911826
45	<i>A. nefasta helenae</i> Kimakowicz, 1928	Ciucaș Mountains, Groșoara	45°28'56"N, 25°57'50"E; 1280 m	JQ911827
46	<i>A. nefasta mauritii</i> Kimakowicz, 1928	Ciucaș Mountains, Groșoara	45°29'43"N, 25°57'34"E; 1550 m	JQ911828
47	<i>A. nefasta nefasta</i> (Kimakowicz, 1894)	Ciucaș Mountains, Bratocea	45°29'46"N, 25°53'52"E; 1660 m	JQ911829
48	<i>A. nefasta zaganii</i> Szekeres, 1969	Ciucaș Mountains, Groșoara	45°28'57"N, 25°57'56"E; 1320 m	JQ911830
49	<i>A. nixa fussi</i> (Kimakowicz, 1894)	Bucegi Mountains, Ialomija	45°26'20"N, 25°27'10"E; 2380 m	JQ911831
50	<i>A. nixa nixa</i> (Kimakowicz, 1894)	Bucegi Mountains, Moraru	45°27'11"N, 25°29'10"E; 1540 m	JQ911832
51	<i>A. plumbea bellicosa</i> (Kimakowicz, 1894)	Postăvaru Mountains, Postăvaru	45°34'07"N, 25°34'03"E; 1760 m	JQ911833
52	<i>A. plumbea plumbea</i> (Rossmässler, 1839)	Bran	45°30'54"N, 25°21'58"E; 760 m	JQ911834
53	<i>A. pomatias</i> (Pfeiffer, 1868) A	Bucegi Mountains, Doamnele	45°25'27"N, 25°26'28"E; 1960 m	JQ911835
54	<i>A. pomatias</i> (Pfeiffer, 1868) B	Bucegi Mountains, Mălăești	45°27'36"N, 25°26'54"E; 1880 m	JQ911836
55	<i>A. pomatias</i> (Pfeiffer, 1868) C	Făgăraș Mountains, Podragu†	45°37'33"N, 24°40'20"E; 1610 m	JQ911837
56	<i>A. regalis deubeli</i> (Clessin, 1890)	Piatra Mare Mountains, Cărbunarea	45°34'54"N, 25°41'05"E; 1090 m	JQ911838
57	<i>A. regalis doftanei</i> Nordsieck, 1977	Valea Doftanei N, of Brebu	45°12'30"N, 25°44'25"E; 500 m	JQ911839
58	<i>A. regalis glabriuscula</i> (Rossmässler, 1859)	Piatra Mare Mountains, Șura de Piatra	45°33'08"N, 25°39'05"E; 1690 m	JQ911840
59	<i>A. regalis microstoma</i> (Kimakowicz, 1883)	Șureanu Mountains, Șipot	45°30'44"N, 23°13'15"E; 770 m	JQ911841
60	<i>A. regalis mutabilis</i> (Kimakowicz, 1894)	Timișu de Jos	45°35'33"N, 25°37'52"E; 750 m	JQ911842
61	<i>A. regalis nordsiecki</i> Grossu & Tesio, 1973	Băile Olănești	45°12'34"N, 24°13'59"E; 460 m	JQ911843
62	<i>A. regalis petrensis</i> Nordsieck, 1996	Șureanu Mountains, Roșie	45°27'37"N, 23°22'09"E; 840 m	JQ911844
63	<i>A. regalis proclivis</i> (Kimakowicz, 1894)	Postăvaru Mountains, Peștera de Lapte	45°35'25"N, 25°33'52"E; 1340 m	JQ911845
64	<i>A. regalis regalis</i> (Bielz, 1851)	Săcele, Baciu	45°34'19"N, 25°40'03"E; 860 m	JQ911846
65	<i>A. regalis wagneri</i> (Kimakowicz, 1894)	Postăvaru Mountains, Cruce Mare	45°35'56"N, 25°35'46"E; 1310 m	JQ911847
66	<i>A. straminicollis</i> (Charpentier, 1852)	Bucegi Mountains, Velican	45°28'37"N, 25°26'15"E; 1810 m	JQ911848
67	<i>A. subcosticollis</i> (Schmidt, 1868)	Retezat Mountains, Soocu	45°16'25"N, 22°57'33"E; 990 m	JQ911849
68	<i>A. vicina fortunata</i> Kimakowicz, 1931	Căpățâna Mountains, Bistrița	45°11'35"N, 24°02'25"E; 640 m	JQ911850
69	<i>A. vicina occulta</i> Kimakowicz, 2007	Căpățâna Mountains, Costești	45°11'54"N, 24°04'15"E; 700 m	JQ911851
70	<i>A. vicina tamosorum</i> Szekeres, 2007	Valea Cernei	45°03'15"N, 22°36'00"E; 380 m	JQ911852
71	<i>A. vicina vicina</i> (Kimakowicz, 1894)	Lotru Mountains, Târnava	45°21'10"N, 23°51'46"E; 1710 m	JQ911853
72	<i>Herilla ziegleri dacica</i> (Pfeiffer, 1848)	Dubova	44°37'25"N, 22°15'15"E; 110 m	JQ911854
73	<i>Vestia elata</i> (Rossmässler, 1836)	Slovenský Raj, Geravy Plateau	48°53'04"N, 20°24'13"E; 1080 m	JQ911855

*Type locality of *A. soosiana* Agócsy & Pócs, 1961.

†Type locality of *A. vicina peregrina* Kimakowicz 1943.

COI gene, between nucleotides 39 and 693 relative to the translational start codon (Hatzoglou, Rodakis & Lecanidou, 1995), was amplified by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) as described in Fehér *et al.* (2009). Primers PF372 5'-TCAACGAATCATAAAGATATTGG-3' and PR373 5'-TATACTTTCAGGATGACCAAAGAA TCA-3' were designed by modifying the *Albinaria* primers L1490-Alb and H2198-Alb (Gittenberger, Piel & Groenenberg, 2004), respectively. Isolated and purified PCR products were sequenced on both DNA strands using an ABI Prism 3100 Genetic Analyzer (Applied Biosystems, Carlsbad, CA, USA).

PHYLOGENETIC ANALYSIS

DNA sequences were of equal length (655 bp) and showed proper open reading frames (ORFs), allowing unambiguous alignment. Identical sequences were collapsed into haplotypes. All sequence data have been deposited in GenBank (accession numbers JQ911783–JQ911855; Table 1).

The appropriate model for nucleotide substitution (HKY + I + G) was selected by jModelTest 0.1.1 (Guindon & Gascuel, 2003; Posada, 2008) using the Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC). The invertebrate mitochondrial code table, as implemented in MEGA 5.0 (Tamura *et al.*, 2011), was used to deduce encoded amino acid sequences.

The molecular clock hypothesis was tested by likelihood ratio test in MEGA 5.0, using the topology shown in Figure 2, and the null hypothesis of equal evolutionary rate throughout the tree was rejected ($\log L_0 = -4582.32$, $\log L_1 = 4665.43$, $\Delta = 166.22$, d.f. = 67, $P < 0.000$).

Haplotypes were analysed by various methods and settings in order to test the method dependence of phylogenetic tree topology and root position. An unconstrained Bayesian tree was inferred by MrBayes 3.2.1 (Ronquist *et al.*, 2012) using the following parameters: HKY + I + G model of sequence evolution; a four-chain (one cold, three heated; $T = 0.2$) Metropolis-coupled Markov chain Monte

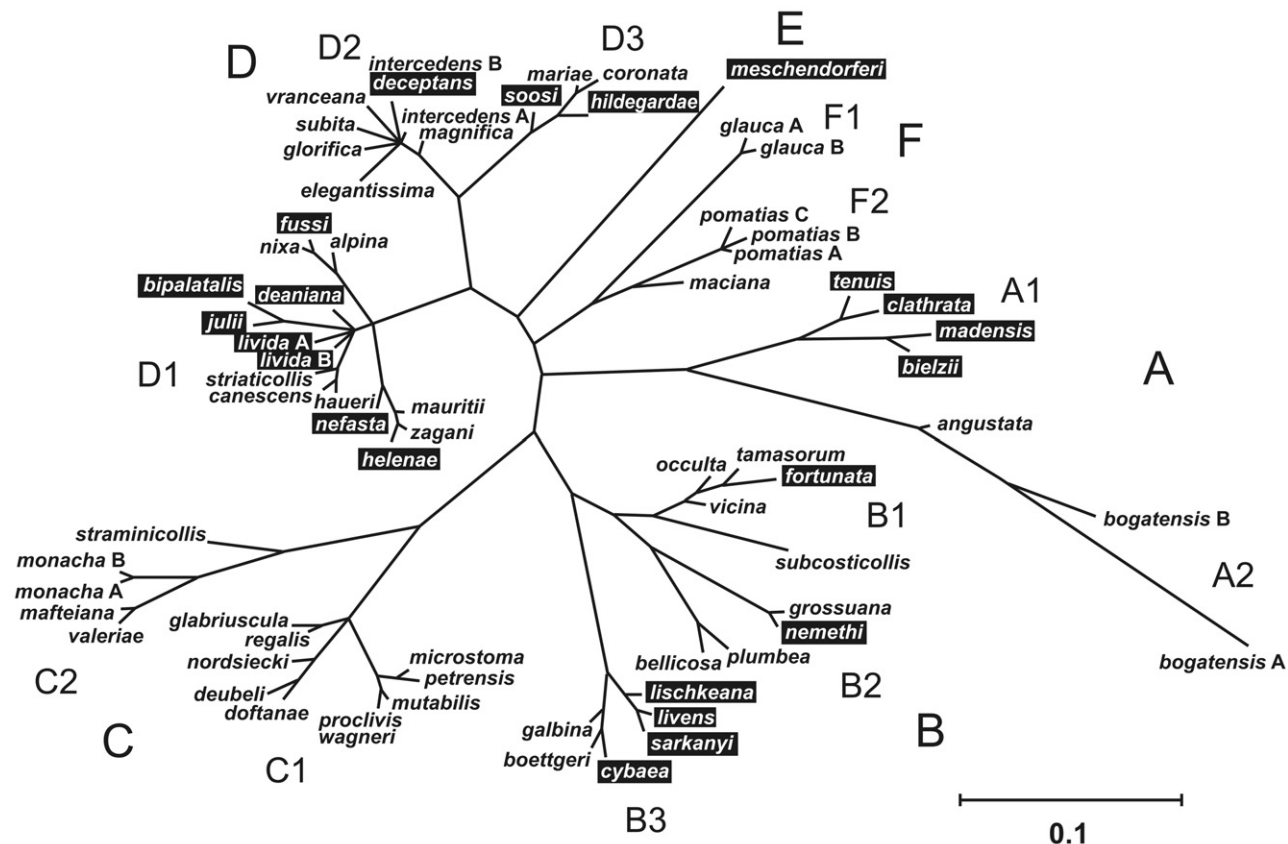


Figure 2. Unrooted phylogenetic tree inferred from *Alopia* COI sequences by unconstrained Bayesian analysis. Sequences are identified with the subspecific names of the sinistral (normal print) or dextral (inverted print) taxa of their origin (see Table 1). Major clades are marked with upper case letters and numbering. The sequences labelled *proclivis* and *wagneri* (clade C1), as well as *intercedens* (clade B) and *deceptans* (clade D3), belong to identical haplotypes. Scale bar: 0.1 substitutions per site.

Carlo (MCMC) analysis run for 10⁶ generations; trees sampled every 100 generations, starting after a burn-in of 10⁵ generations. Neighbor-joining (NJ), maximum likelihood (ML) and maximum parsimony (MP) analyses were performed with MEGA 5.0. For ML analysis we used the HKY + I + G model of sequence evolution with five gamma rate categories and the nearest-neighbor interchange heuristic search strategy. The MP tree analysis was performed using the close-neighbor interchange heuristic search strategy with random additions to ten initial sequences. The NJ analysis was performed under the Kimura two-parameter (K2P) model of substitution. Bootstrap values of the ML, MP, and NJ analyses were calculated with 1000 bootstrap replicates.

To define the most likely rooting site, we also carried out likelihood mapping (Strimmer & von Haeseler, 1997) as implemented in TREE-PUZZLE 5.2 (Schmidt *et al.*, 2002). This method can manage a maximum of four clusters, and therefore the unconstrained Bayesian tree (Fig. 2) was divided into three trifurcation-separated subgroups in six combinations, and these were analysed against the cluster of the out-groups (*Herilla* and *Vestia*). The following combinations were tested: (1) clades C/B/A + D + E + F/out-groups; (2) clades C + B/A/D + E + F/out-groups; (3) clades A + B + C/F/E + D/out-groups; (4) clades E/D/A + B + C + F/outgroups; (5) clades C1/C2/A + B + D + E + F/out-groups; and (6) A1/A2/B + C + D + E + F/out-groups.

To estimate divergence times, we used a data set that included representatives of all *Alopi*a clades and 20 additional sequences of *Carinigera* Möllendorff, 1873 downloaded from the GenBank database. Bayesian analyses were performed using BEAST 1.4.6 (Drummond & Rambaut, 2007), with the following settings: HKY + I + G model of sequence evolution with five gamma rate categories, Yule tree prior, and a relaxed (uncorrelated lognormal) clock assumption. Two analyses were carried out using clock rates of 1 or 8.6% ('ucl.d.mean' parameters). Following a burn-in of 10⁶ cycles, every 1000th tree was sampled from 10⁷ MCMC steps. Convergence of the chains to the stationary distribution was checked by visual inspection of plotted posterior estimates using the TRACER 1.3 (Rambaut & Drummond, 2007). The effective sample size for each parameter sampled from the MCMC analysis was always found to exceed 100. Sampled trees were annotated to a maximum clade credibility tree.

USE OF TAXONOMIC NAMES

Recent concepts of *Alopi*a classification (Grossu, 1981; Szekeres, 2007; Nordsieck, 2008) have been based on conflicting principles, and none of them is in full

agreement with our results. A comprehensive systematic revision of the genus is beyond the scope of the present study, and will be provided in a follow-up taxonomic publication. Nevertheless, based on our results we make taxonomic statements when this is essential for the consistency of the classification that we use. For easy comparison, our names and an assessment of earlier taxonomic nomenclature are provided in Appendix S1.

RESULTS

COI PHYLOGENY IN THE GENUS *ALOPIA*

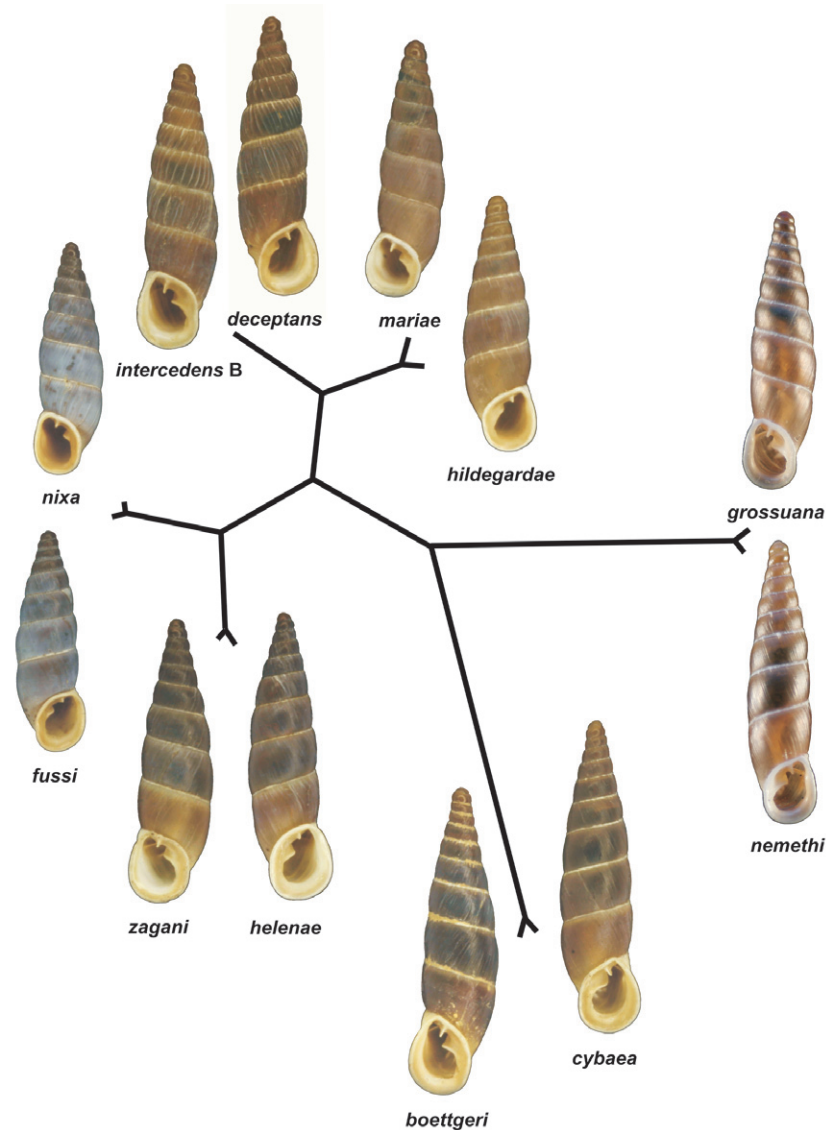
The *COI* gene sequences were determined from 71 *Alopi*a samples (Table 1) belonging to 69 haplotypes. Within the amplified 655-bp region we identified 206 variable positions, corresponding to 31.4% of the nucleotides. The highest observed intrageneric value of pairwise sequence divergence was 13.0%. Most of the detected variability had no effect on the deduced amino acid sequence, except those at nucleotide position 470, causing the replacement of proline by alanine or serine in 11 haplotypes, and unique mutations at positions 167, 315, 358, 360, 470, 480, and 525, leading to amino acid substitutions in seven distinct haplotypes.

An unconstrained Bayesian tree generated from the *COI* sequences (Fig. 2) featured six basic evolutionary lineages (clades A–F). Supporting posterior probability values of the node positions are given in Appendix S2. All inference methods used (also including ML, MP, and NJ) yielded congruent topologies within the basic clades (data not shown) and nearly identical relative positions for the major clades (Appendix S2). By contrast, these methods failed to identify a consistent root position relative to the out-groups. Furthermore, likelihood mapping determined two, almost equally likely root positions that did not match any of those assigned by the above inference analyses (Appendix S3).

A recent analysis of the molecular evolution of mitochondrial genes in beetles (Pons *et al.*, 2010) revealed an overall 8.6% per million years (Myr) divergence rate for the *COI* sequences. Based on this clock rate, which is similar to that determined for salamander species (Mueller, 2006), our Bayesian analysis using an uncorrelated lognormal relaxed clock model estimated the divergence of the major *Alopi*a clades at 1.2 Mya, with a 95% highest posterior density (HPD) interval of 1.6–0.8 Myr (for details, see Appendix S4).

SPECIATION IN *ALOPIA* INVOLVED MULTIPLE INVERSIONS OF CHIRALITY

The *COI*-based phylogram shows differential representation of the sinistral and dextral taxa in the



Colour online, B&W in print

Figure 3. Shell morphology and *COI*-based phylogenetic relationships of the enantiomorph taxon pairs. The schematic tree follows the topology of the phylogram shown in Figure 2.

major evolutionary lineages (Fig. 2). Clades C and F comprise only sinistral taxa, whereas clade E includes only the dextral taxon *Alopia meschendorferi* (Bielz, 1858). By contrast, clades B and D contain multiple closely related taxa with both coil directions, including all enantiomorph taxon pairs. In clade A the two subgroups A1 and A2 correspond to the invariably dextral *Alopia bielzii* (Pfeiffer, 1848) and sinistral *Alopia bogatensis* (Bielz, 1856) forms, respectively.

An intriguing result of the molecular phylogenetic analysis was that it revealed very high levels of sequence identity between the enantiomorph taxa *Alopia glorifica deceptans* Deli & Szekeres, 2011 and *Alopia glorifica intercedens* (Schmidt, 1857) (100%),

Alopia lischkeana boettgeri, *Alopia lischkeana cybaea* (~~von~~ Kimakowicz, 1894), *Alopia nefasta helenae* Kimakowicz, 1928, *Alopia nefasta zagani*, *Alopia nixa fussi* (~~von~~ Kimakowicz, 1894), and *Alopia nixa nixa* (~~von~~ Kimakowicz, 1894) (99.8%), *Alopia grossuana grossuana* and *Alopia grossuana nemethi* Deli & Szekeres, 2011 (99.6%), as well as *Alopia mariae hildegardae* and *Alopia mariae mariae* (98.6%). These data indicate close evolutionary relationships within these taxon pairs of opposite chirality but otherwise identical morphology (Fig. 3).

The *COI*-based phylogram implies that the dextral taxa did not evolve as a monophyletic lineage that stemmed from an inversion early in *Alopia* phylogeny.

1 Instead, they appeared polyphyletically as the results
 2 of several independent inversions, rendering dextral
 3 coiling a homoplastic trait in this genus. The dextral
 4 lineages of *A. bielzii* (clade A1) and *A. meschendorferi*
 5 (clade E) show deep divergence (Fig. 2), whereas some
 6 others reveal only minor or no changes of the *COI*
 7 sequence relative to the closest related sinistral taxa.

8
 9 *COI* PHYLOGENY ELUCIDATES EVOLUTIONARY
 10 RELATIONSHIPS

11 We found that clusters of the *COI* phylogram show
 12 good correspondence with some of the morphological
 13 traits shared by subspecies that have been classified
 14 within the same species or species assigned to species
 15 groups, especially when these characters have been
 16 considered unique for those taxa. Such features
 17 are, for instance, the rugose shell wall of *A. bielzii*
 18 (clade A1), the characteristic lump behind the peris-
 19 tome of *A. bogatensis* (clade A2), or the elongated
 20 male genital structures of *Alopi**a glauca* (Bielz, 1853),
 21 *Alopi**a maciana* Bădărău & Szekeres, 2001, and
 22 *Alopi**a pomatias* (Pfeiffer, 1865), which constitute
 23 the subgenus *Alopi**a* (*Kimakowiczia*) Szekeres, 1969
 24 (clade F). The correlation between the molecular
 25 clade positions of the subspecies and species with
 26 their shared morphological characters and geographi-
 27 cal ranges is shown in Appendix S5.

28 The molecular data also revealed hitherto unrecog-
 29 nized phylogenetic relationships between *Alopi**a*
 30 forms separated by large geographical distances.
 31 The results indicated that the subspecies *vranceana*
 32 belongs to clade D2, corresponding to the species
 33 *A. glorifica*, despite the 110 km that separates it from
 34 the Piatra Craiului Mountains where all other *glori-*
 35 *fica* subspecies are limited (Fig. 1, localities 21 versus
 36 15–20). Likewise, in clade C1 the subspecies *micro-*
 37 *stoma*, *nordsiecki*, and *petrensis* cluster together with
 38 the morphologically very similar subspecies *regalis*
 39 (clade C1), although the aforementioned three
 40 taxa were traditionally classified with other species
 41 (Appendix S1) because of their occurrence 120–
 42 190 km west of the Postăvaru and Piatra Mare Moun-
 43 tains, the diversity centre of *Alopi**a regalis* (Fig. 1,
 44 localities 59, 61, and 62 versus 58, 60, 63, 64, and 65).
 45 Furthermore, the *COI* phylogram justifies the classi-
 46 fication of the subspecies *julii* of central Transylvania
 47 within the species *Alopi**a livida* (Menke, 1828) (Soós,
 48 1943; Grossu, 1981; Nordsieck, 2008), as opposed to
 49 that of Wagner (1914) and Szekeres (1976), assuming
 50 that the striking shell similarity of *julii* and *livida*
 51 (clade D1), occurring 170 km apart (Fig. 1, localities
 52 32 versus 31, 33, and 34), resulted from the conver-
 53 gent reduction of distinctive shell structures.

54 Sequence data also necessitate synonymizing the
 55 forms ~~*Alopi**a peregrina*~~ Kimakowicz, 1943 of the

56 Lotru Mountains (Fig. 1, locality 44) and ~~*Alopi**a soo-*~~
 57 ~~*siana*~~ Agócsy & Pócs, 1961 (Fig. 1, locality 55) of the
 58 Făgăraş Mountains (Table 1), which used to be con-
 59 sidered valid taxa (Szekeres, 1976; Grossu, 1981; Nor-
 60 dsieck, 2008). The extensive *COI* homology and the
 61 apparent morphological correspondence reveal that
 62 these *Alopi**a* forms are merely disjunct populations of
 63 *Alopi**a monacha* (Kimakowicz, 1894) (99.6% identical
 64 with *peregrina*) and *A. pomatias* (99.8% identical with
 65 *soosiana*) that are native to the Bucegi Mountains.

66 Although *COI* data elucidated phylogenetic rela-
 67 tionships, they also revealed distinct origins of certain
 68 taxa with similar shell morphology and overlapp-
 69 ing distribution. Although originally the *Alopi**a*
 70 forms from the Postăvaru and Piatra Mare mountains
 71 were divided as subspecies of *Alopi**a plumbea* (Ross-
 72 mässler, 1839) or *A. regalis* (~~Kimakowicz, 1894; Soós,~~
 73 ~~1943~~), respectively, later the morphological similarity
 74 lead to merging all of these within *A. plumbea*
 75 (Szekeres, 1976; Grossu, 1981; Nordsieck, 2008). Our
 76 molecular phylogram, however, indicates that the
 77 subspecies formerly belonging to *A. plumbea* (*belli-*
 78 *cosa* and *plumbea* in clade B2) and those of *A. regalis*
 79 (*deubeli*, *glabriuscula*, *mutabilis*, *proclivis*, *regalis*,
 80 and *wagneri* in clade C1) represent two distinct evo-
 81 lutionary lineages. In another case, morphologically
 82 similar *Alopi**a* taxa of the Piatra Craiului Mountains
 83 were found to harbour two distinct types of *COI*
 84 sequences. This implies that the subspecies belong-
 85 ing to clades B3 (*A. lischkeana*) and D2 (*A. glorifica*)
 86 evolved independently.

87
 88 DISCUSSION

89 The 655-bp segment of the *COI* sequence, which has
 90 been widely used for inferring phylogenetic informa-
 91 tion in various animal groups, represents one of the
 92 best-studied molecular markers in the subfamily
 93 Alopiniinae. In *Alopi**a* the *COI* phylogenies deduced by
 94 various methods gave consistent topologies within
 95 each of the major clades, indicating that the analysed
 96 sequence information was sufficient for reliable recon-
 97 struction of the evolutionary relationships (Nguyen,
 98 Gesell & Haeseler, 2012). Tree topologies in taxonomi-
 99 cally unambiguous groups (e.g. clades A and F) were
 100 in full agreement with the morphology-based classi-
 101 fication; therefore, we assumed similar good agree-
 102 ment between the *COI* phylogeny and speciation in
 103 groups with less distinctive morphological features.
 104 Accordingly, the taxonomic division we propose is
 105 based on the evaluation of both molecular data and
 106 morphological characters, relying on the same princi-
 107 ple as applied for defining the systematic status of
 108 *Carinigera* species (Gittenberger & Uit de Weerd,
 109 2006).

When correlating *COI* clade positions with shared morphological traits and common patterns of geographical distribution (Appendix S5), the taxonomic positions in two cases proposed here seem to require further clarification. One is the subgenus *Alopi* (*Kimakowiczia*), which includes three species (clade F) showing shell and genital structures that markedly differ from those of other *Alopi* groups (Bădărău & Szekeres, 2001). But, despite the unique morphology, the subgeneric separation of this group is not supported by the *COI* phylogeny, which shows the same depth of divergence for the *Alopi* (*Kimakowiczia*) group as for the other major clades of the genus (Fig. 2). In the second case, the relationship between *A. glorifica* and *A. lischkeana*, both native to the Piatra Craiului Mountains, requires better insight. Although *COI* sequences suggest only a distant relationship between these species, their morphological similarity raises the question whether indeed they are of distinct origin, with nuclear genes showing similar descent as that of *COI*. Addressing these questions will require further molecular phylogenetic studies, involving both nuclear and mitochondrial DNA sequences.

Unlike close evolutionary relationships, the topology of the major clades had relatively weak support in the *COI* phylogram (Appendix S2). A similar result was obtained by Uit de Weerd, Piel & Gittenberger (2004), who found that in four Alopeiinae genera nuclear DNA segments showed greater support for deeper nodes than *COI* and other mitochondrial sequences. Uit de Weerd *et al.* (2004) proposed that for genes with a high divergence rate (Pons *et al.*, 2010), this might result from a saturation effect. But in *Alopi*, *COI* sequences show only modest (up to 13.0%) maximum intrageneric pairwise divergence, so saturation alone cannot explain the weaker resolution of deep branching points and the ambiguous root position. We therefore interpret these as likely consequences of radiation: a lineage-splitting burst within a relatively short period of time (Wilke *et al.*, 2010) that might have happened early during the diversification of the genus.

The only available fossil finds of *Alopi* were recovered from non-layered cave deposits of the Holocene period (Ložek, 1964; Szekeres, 2007). In the absence of dated fossils we calculated the divergence time of the main *Alopi* clades on the basis of the 8.6% per Myr *COI* clock rate determined in beetles (Pons *et al.*, 2010), considering that an appropriate choice of this parameter can lead to realistic estimates even when geological calibration is not possible (Wilke, Schultheiss & Albrecht, 2009). With the application of this rate the divergence time was placed at about 1.2 Mya, much more recently than the roughly 10.4 Mya calculated with the canonical ~1% rate used previously for mitochondrial DNA sequences

(Wilke *et al.*, 2009; Appendix S4). As a group of south-east Mediterranean origin, the ancestors of *Alopi* could have colonized the Carpathians via the land contact formed between the Southern Carpathians and the Balkan Mountains, disrupting the continuity of the receding Paratethys. This geological transformation took place around the Pliocene–Pleistocene boundary, dated to 2.6 Mya (Olteanu & Jipa, 2006; Andreescu *et al.*, 2011), suggesting that the appearance and expansion of *Alopi* must be more recent events. This assumption is in line with the lack of *Alopi* in the Early Pleistocene cave deposits of the Şprengi Hill at Braşov (Soós, 1916), and also with the Late Pleistocene dating of fossil *Mastus venerabilis* (Pfeiffer, 1855), a species of the Enidae arriving at the Carpathians from the same direction, and preferring the same habitats as *Alopi*, found in loess samples of south-eastern Hungary (Soós, 1943). The modest (13.0%) intrageneric pairwise divergence of *COI* sequences in *Alopi*, as compared with those of the Balkan genera *Albinaria* Vest, 1867 (18.2%), *Carinigera* (19.9%) and *Inchoatia* Gittenberger & Uit de Weerd, 2006 (17.8%), also implies that this is a relatively young genus in the Alopeiinae. Accordingly, the 8.6% clock rate-based 1.2 Mya dating of early *Alopi* divergence, placing this event at the middle of the Pleistocene, appears to be a realistic estimate.

Mountains of the Southern and southernmost Eastern Carpathians were colonized by *Alopi* from different directions, leading to the presence of more than one abundant species in the Piatra Craiului (*A. glorifica* and *A. lischkeana*), Bucegi (*A. livida* and *A. monacha*), and Ciucaş [*Alopi canescens* (Charpentier, 1852) and *A. nefasta*] ranges. These examples show that although infraspecific differentiation was usually confined to a particular mountain, co-occurrence in the same mountain does not necessarily mean close phylogenetic relationship. Though the current distribution of *Alopi* species seems to have been formed mostly by waves of gradual range expansion, disjunct occurrences (e.g. those shown in Fig. 4) also indicate a role for passive long-range dispersal, possibly mediated by birds (Uit de Weerd *et al.*, 2005; Maciorowski, Urbańska & Gierszal, 2012).

Because of their rock-dwelling character, *Alopi* species tend to be highly endemic, often divided within the same mountain complex into locally isolated subspecies (Soós, 1928). But the present distribution of certain groups reveals multiple waves of range expansion, which were probably facilitated by major climatic changes in the Late Pleistocene. For instance, the massive westwards expansion of alpine *A. livida* could have been possible during a cold period, whereas its displacement by thermophilic

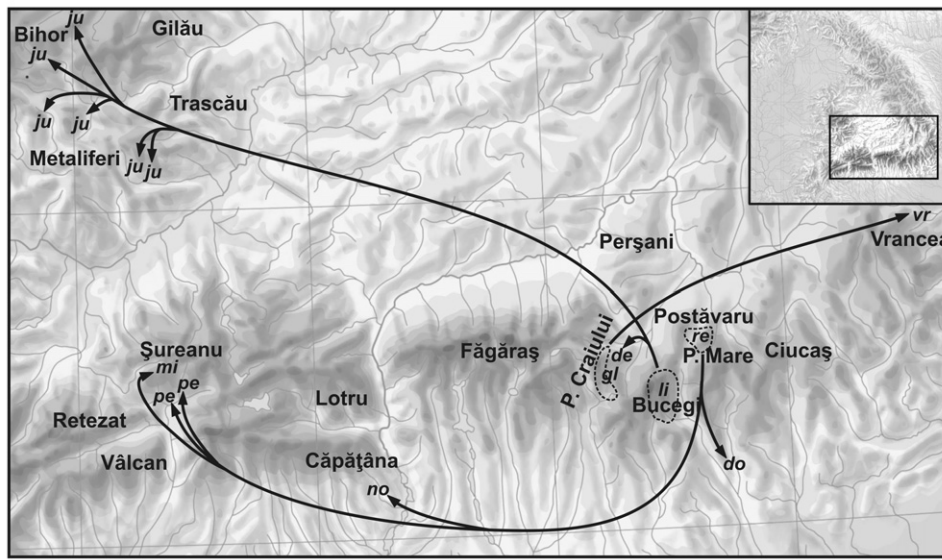


Figure 4. *Alopia* species of disjunct distribution. Main ranges (encircled by broken lines) and isolated occurrences of *Alopia glorifica*, *Alopia livida*, and *Alopia regalis* forms. Symbols correspond to *A. glorifica* subspecies of the Piatra Craiului Mountains (*gl*), *A. g. vranceana* (*vr*), *A. livida* subspecies of the Bucegi Mountains (*li*), *A. l. deantiana* (*de*), *A. l. julii* (*ju*), *A. regalis* subspecies of the Piatra Mare and Postăvaru Mountains (*re*), *A. r. doftanae* (*do*), *A. r. microstoma* (*mi*), *A. r. nordsiecki* (*no*), and *A. r. petrensis* (*pe*). Arrows show the assumed directions of range expansion. Major mountains are identified.

A. bielzii over much of its range in the Bihor-Vlădeasa, Metaliferi, and Trascău mountains (Fig. 4) must have taken place at stages of warmer climate. Likewise, cooler periods could have been favourable for the wide distribution of the cold-hardy species of clade F, whereas during subsequent warming their habitats became fragmented and, in the cases of *A. maciana* and *A. pomatias*, increasingly overtaken by more thermotolerant *A. bielzii* and *A. livida*, respectively. Disjunct occurrences of four *A. regalis* subspecies, far away from the main range of the species in the Piatra Mare Mountains, also attests to an earlier westwards expansion (Fig. 4).

In the exposed limestone habitats, climatic cycles could have had a substantial influence on diversification (Scheel & Hausdorf, 2012). Range expansions at favourable periods were followed by the breaking-up of the ranges during epochs of harsher climate. This led to the severe reduction of population sizes, as seen today in the case of alpine *A. pomatias* and of some species or subspecies occurring at low (below 1000 m a.s.l.) altitudes (Bădărău & Szekeres, 2001; Szekeres, 2007). Colonization by passive dispersal, a common method of radiation among rock-dwelling snails, also generated very small populations. In such cases unbalanced gene pools result in increased phenotypic variability, which can lead to multiple local forms within relatively short periods of time (Gitten-

berger, 1991; Rundell & Price, 2009). Such genetic drift effects may be behind the apparent discrepancy between the more diverse morphological traits in *Alopia* and the less diverse indispensable *COI* genes, compared with other genera of the Alopiinae.

Speciation in *Alopia* is further enhanced by an increased tendency for chiral reversal. The anatomical difference between the individuals of opposite coiling considerably restricts interchiral mating, thereby leading to reproductive isolation and, in most cases, selection-based disappearance of reversed snails in the population (Gittenberger, 1988; Asami, Cowie & Ohbayashi, 1998). But because of the relatively high frequency of inversions in this genus, occasionally such individuals of the same offspring succeed in establishing stable subpopulations, a process facilitated by the low dispersal rate of rock-dwelling snails (Schilthuizen & Lombaerts, 1994). As the reproductive success of each chiral morph is ensured by the availability of surrounding mating partners of the same chirality, this gradually leads to territorial separation and, in time, the formation of isolated sinistral and dextral populations (Ueshima & Asami, 2003). At this level of speciation, exemplified by the enantiomorph pairs of *Alopia*, further gene flow between neighbouring populations of the opposite chiral forms is severely restricted (Schilthuizen & Lombaerts, 1994). With their clearly different morphology and reproductive

isolation they represent divergent evolutionary lineages, and can be regarded as distinct subspecies.

Our molecular phylogenetic study revealed that dextral taxa of *Alopi*a did not evolve monophyletically, but via multiple independent inversions. Although the establishment and stabilization of reversed populations happened rarely, this was much more common than in any other genera of clausiliids (Gittenberger, Hamann & Asami, 2012). Based on the *COI* tree (Fig. 2) we calculate that, considering a parsimonious scenario of only sinistral to dextral inversions, chirality changes gave rise to new phylogenetic lineages on at least 13 occasions during the evolution of the genus. This clearly indicates the decreased stability of chiral fixation in the species of clades B and D. Because of this unique feature and the availability of enantiomorph pairs, these *Alopi*a taxa can become valuable subjects of genetic studies aimed at clarifying the molecular background of chiral determination and its fixation.

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION



Additional supporting information may be found in the online version of this article:

Appendix S1. *COI*-based topology and nomenclatural status of the *Alopia* taxa studied.

Appendix S2. Branch support values of the *COI* clades in *Alopia*.

Appendix S3. Putative root positions in the *COI* phylogram of *Alopia*.

Appendix S4. Comparison of divergence times in the genera *Carinigera* and *Alopia*, based on their *COI* sequences.

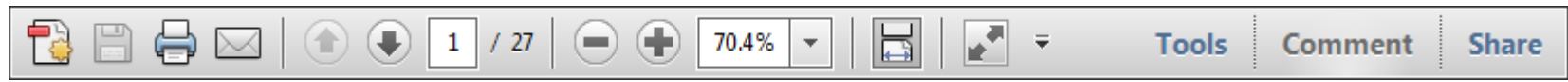
Appendix S5. Correlations between *COI* topology, morphology, and geographical distribution of *Alopia* species.

USING e-ANNOTATION TOOLS FOR ELECTRONIC PROOF CORRECTION

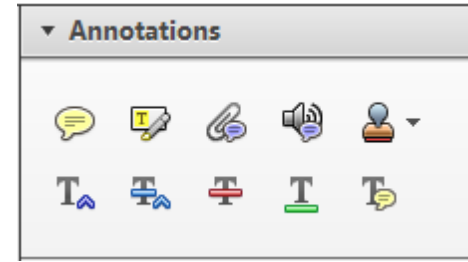
Required software to e-annotate PDFs: Adobe Acrobat Professional or Adobe Reader (version 8.0 or above). (Note that this document uses screenshots from Adobe Reader X)

The latest version of Acrobat Reader can be downloaded for free at: <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

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This will open up a panel down the right side of the document. The majority of tools you will use for annotating your proof will be in the [Annotations](#) section, pictured opposite. We've picked out some of these tools below:



1. Replace (Ins) Tool – for replacing text.

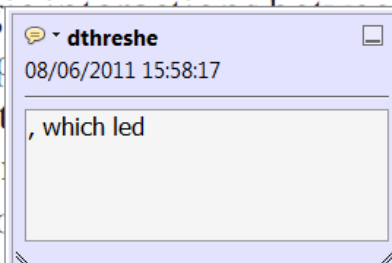


Strikes a line through text and opens up a text box where replacement text can be entered.

How to use it

- Highlight a word or sentence.
- Click on the [Replace \(Ins\)](#) icon in the Annotations section.
- Type the replacement text into the blue box that appears.

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2. Strikethrough (Del) Tool – for deleting text.



Strikes a red line through text that is to be deleted.

How to use it

- Highlight a word or sentence.
- Click on the [Strikethrough \(Del\)](#) icon in the Annotations section.

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3. Add note to text Tool – for highlighting a section to be changed to bold or italic.



Highlights text in yellow and opens up a text box where comments can be entered.

How to use it

- Highlight the relevant section of text.
- Click on the [Add note to text](#) icon in the Annotations section.
- Type instruction on what should be changed regarding the text into the yellow box that appears.

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4. Add sticky note Tool – for making notes at specific points in the text.



Marks a point in the proof where a comment needs to be highlighted.

How to use it

- Click on the [Add sticky note](#) icon in the Annotations section.
- Click at the point in the proof where the comment should be inserted.
- Type the comment into the yellow box that appears.

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USING e-ANNOTATION TOOLS FOR ELECTRONIC PROOF CORRECTION

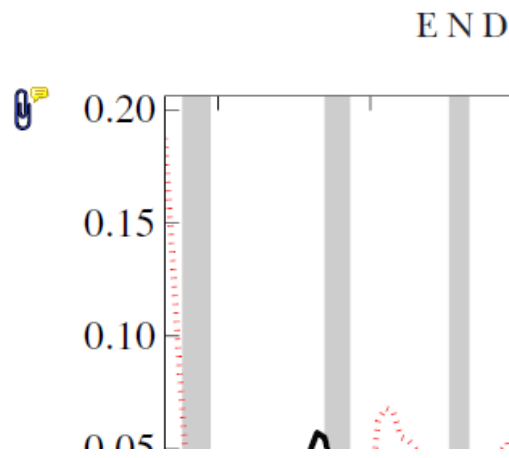
5. Attach File Tool – for inserting large amounts of text or replacement figures.



Inserts an icon linking to the attached file in the appropriate place in the text.

How to use it

- Click on the [Attach File](#) icon in the Annotations section.
- Click on the proof to where you'd like the attached file to be linked.
- Select the file to be attached from your computer or network.
- Select the colour and type of icon that will appear in the proof. Click OK.



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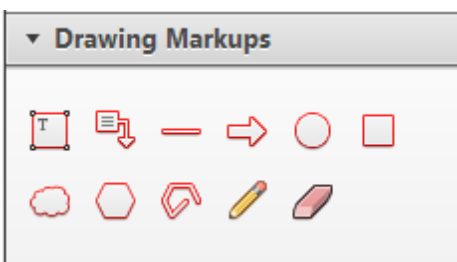


Inserts a selected stamp onto an appropriate place in the proof.

How to use it

- Click on the [Add stamp](#) icon in the Annotations section.
- Select the stamp you want to use. (The [Approved](#) stamp is usually available directly in the menu that appears).
- Click on the proof where you'd like the stamp to appear. (Where a proof is to be approved as it is, this would normally be on the first page).

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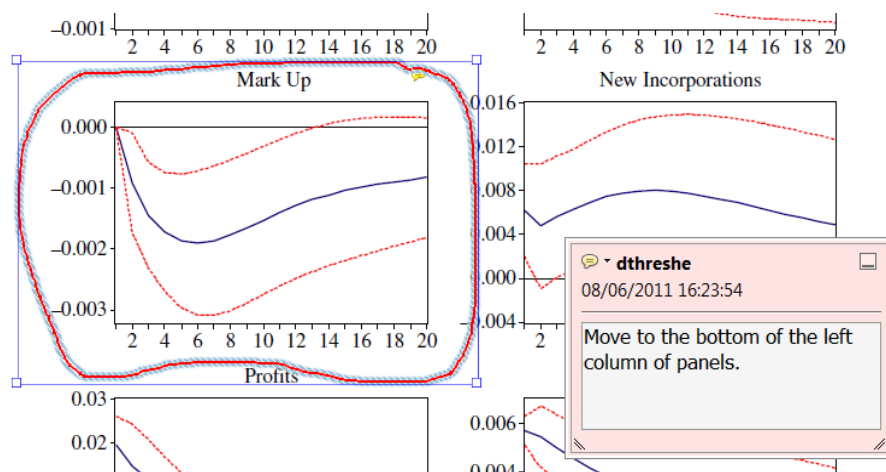


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Allows shapes, lines and freeform annotations to be drawn on proofs and for comment to be made on these marks..

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- Double click on the shape and type any text in the red box that appears.



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