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Genomic changes and stabilization following homoploid hybrid speciation of the Oxford ragwort *Senecio squalidus*

Highlights

- The genome of *S. squalidus*, a recent homoploid hybrid species, is presented
- Sorting of parental alleles is associated with presence of genetic incompatibilities
- Fixed alleles from the major parent are associated with divergent natural selection
- Typical patterns of hybrid speciation appear <300 generations after speciation

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In brief

Nevado et al. report genomic reorganization following hybrid speciation. They find that the typical genomic signatures of homoploid hybrid species are well established ~300 generations after hybridization and that both pre-existing genetic incompatibilities and divergent natural selection play an important role following hybrid speciation.



Article

Genomic changes and stabilization following homoploid hybrid speciation of the Oxford ragwort *Senecio squalidus*

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SUMMARY

Oxford ragwort (*Senecio squalidus*) is one of only two homoploid hybrid species known to have originated very recently, so it is a unique model for determining genomic changes and stabilization following homoploid hybrid speciation. Here, we provide a chromosome-level genome assembly of *S. squalidus* with 95% of the assembly contained in the 10 longest scaffolds, corresponding to its haploid chromosome number. We annotated 30,249 protein-coding genes and estimated that ~62% of the genome consists of repetitive elements. We then characterized genome-wide patterns of linkage disequilibrium, polymorphism, and divergence in *S. squalidus* and its two parental species, finding that (1) linkage disequilibrium is highly heterogeneous, with a region on chromosome 4 showing increased values across all three species but especially in *S. squalidus*; (2) regions harboring genetic incompatibilities between the two parental species tend to be large, show reduced recombination, and have lower polymorphism in *S. squalidus*; (3) the two parental species have an unequal contribution (70:30) to the genome of *S. squalidus*, with long blocks of parent-specific ancestry supporting a very rapid stabilization of the hybrid lineage after hybrid formation; and (4) genomic regions with major parent ancestry exhibit an overrepresentation of loci with evidence for divergent selection occurring between the two parental species on Mount Etna. Our results show that both genetic incompatibilities and natural selection play a role in determining genome-wide reorganization following hybrid speciation and that patterns associated with homoploid hybrid speciation—typically seen in much older systems—can evolve very quickly following hybridization.

INTRODUCTION

Hybridization can be a creative force in organic evolution,^{1–4} enabling the transfer of genes between species (introgression) and the origin of new hybrid species involving either no change in chromosome number (homoploid hybrid speciation) or whole-genome duplication (allopolyploidy). Homoploid hybrid speciation is considered rare,⁵ although this might be partly due to difficulties in recognizing it⁶ and the stringent criteria required to demonstrate its occurrence, particularly proving that reproductive barriers between the hybrid and its parents arose via hybridization⁷ (though see Nieto Feliner et al.⁸ for other

perspectives). However, these difficulties are beginning to be overcome by genomic and genetic analyses, and there is now good evidence for homoploid hybrid speciation having occurred in plants, including sunflowers,⁹ *Ostryopsis*,¹⁰ and *Senecio*,^{11,12} and animals, including butterflies,^{13,14} finches,¹⁵ bears,¹⁶ and monkeys.¹⁷ In most cases, the origins of known homoploid hybrid species are relatively ancient, and consequently, it is difficult to distinguish changes that occurred in the hybrid during its origin from those happening at a later stage. Only two homoploid hybrid species are known to be of very recent origin, a finch species that originated in the Galapagos Islands between 1981 and 2012¹⁵ and the Oxford ragwort (*Senecio squalidus*), a plant



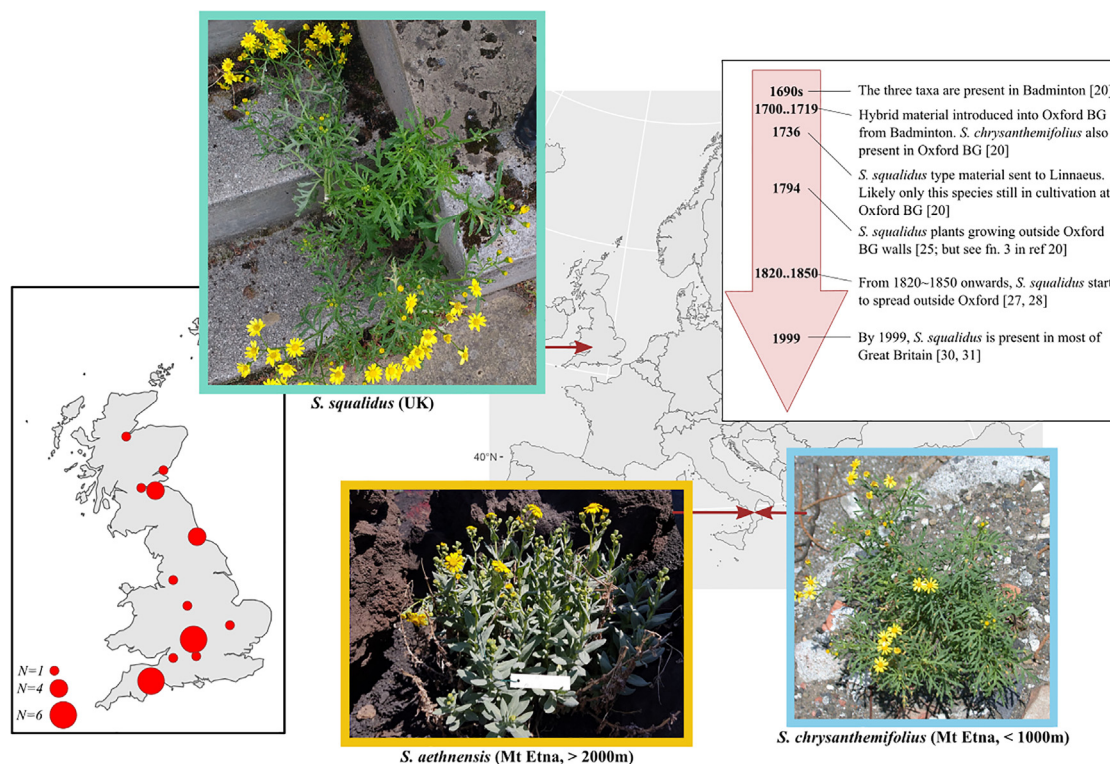


Figure 1. *Senecio squalidus* and its two parental species

Photos show typical plants of *S. squalidus* in the UK (top) and its two parental species from Mount Etna: *S. aethnensis* is found in volcanic soils at high elevation (above 2,000 m) and *S. chrysanthemifolius* in disturbed habitats at lower elevation (below 1,000 m). Inset to the top right notes key events, inferred from historical records, detailing the origin of *S. squalidus* and its expansion across the British Isles. Map to the bottom left details the sampling of *S. squalidus* used in this study (size of red circles denotes number of individuals sequenced from each location). See also Table S1.

species that originated in the UK at the end of the 17th century.^{12,18} These two species are particularly valuable for determining genomic and genetic changes during the initial stages of homoploid hybrid speciation. Here, we focus on such changes in the Oxford ragwort.

Senecio squalidus L. (Asteraceae) holds a unique place in the natural history of the UK and Ireland. This short-lived perennial herb, now a common sight along railways, road verges, and wasteland in urban areas across the UK, originated from hybridization between *S. aethnensis* Jan ex DC. and *S. chrysanthemifolius* Poir.^{12,18–21} (Figure 1). The two parental species occur naturally at high (*S. aethnensis*, >2,000 m) and low (*S. chrysanthemifolius*, <1,000 m) elevations on Mount Etna, Sicily, and form a hybrid zone at intermediate elevations.^{18,22–24} During the late 17th century, both of these species were introduced to Britain, and hybridization between them gave rise to a new hybrid lineage in the garden of the Duchess of Beaufort at Badminton, Gloucestershire, and at the Oxford Botanic Garden.^{12,20} The new hybrid lineage was subsequently cultivated extensively at the Oxford Botanic Garden, from where it escaped²⁵ and naturalized in Oxford during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. During the industrial revolution of the 19th century, *S. squalidus* spread from Oxford via the clinker beds of the expanding railway network and went on to colonize much of the British Isles over a period of ~150 years.^{20,26–29} Its

range now extends as far north as central Scotland and west into Cornwall, Wales, and Northern and Southern Ireland.^{30,31} More recently, it may have been introduced elsewhere in Europe and North America.^{32,33} The spread of *S. squalidus* across the UK has triggered a burst of evolution in UK *Senecio* following its hybridization with the native tetraploid species *S. vulgaris* L. ($2n = 40$). This has resulted in the origin of a new allohexaploid species, *Senecio cambrensis* Rosser ($2n = 60$), and two tetraploid introgressant taxa, *S. eboracensis* Abbott & Lowe and *S. vulgaris* var. *hibernicus* Syme,^{24,29,34} which have themselves become models for studying introgression and allopolyploidy in plants.^{35,36} In addition, there is evidence of another tetraploid species, *S. viscosus* L., having been introgressed by *S. squalidus*.³⁷

The speed of colonization of the UK is intriguing in the context of the population history of *S. squalidus* and the fact that, like its parental species, it is strongly self-incompatible.^{29,38–41} According to Baker's rule, self-incompatible species tend to be poor colonizers compared with self-compatible species,^{42–44} especially if their founding population contains very few S-haplotypes that limit mate availability, as has been shown for *S. squalidus*.^{40,41,45–48} This has made *S. squalidus* an especially interesting study system in terms of the inheritance and evolution of its sporophytic self-incompatibility (SSI) system and its origin and spread in the UK.^{24,29,49}

Table 1. Statistics of the genome assembly of *S. squalidus* compared with other Asteraceae species

Species	<i>Senecio squalidus</i>	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	<i>Lactuca sativa</i>	<i>Erigeron canadensis</i>	<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>
Source	this study	GCA_002127325.2	GCF_002870075.2	GCF_010389155.1	GCF_001531365.1
Number of scaffolds	592	332	8,325	357	13,588
Scaffold N50 (Mb)	66.7	176	1.77	45.5	0.125
Contig N50 (kb)	157	2,000	28	1,600	19
Total length (Mb)	652	3,010	2,380	426	725
Number of genes	30,249	83,308	38,919	44,592	26,889
Complete BUSCOs (%)	97.2	98.1	99.6	99.5	98.1
Complete single-copy BUSCOs (%)	87.1	87.3	99.1	97.6	96.0

See also [Tables S2](#) and [S5](#).

Previous studies estimated that the two parental species of *S. squalidus* diverged on Mt. Etna in the last 150,000 years^{50,51} and remain distinct despite ongoing gene flow.^{51–53} This is likely due to strong ecological selection, as identified by clinal patterns of variation⁵² and analysis of genomic differentiation across the Mt. Etna hybrid zone.⁵⁴ Crosses between the two species have also identified numerous loci showing transmission ratio distortion (TRD) in their progeny^{11,55,56} and, in some instances, hybrid breakdown,⁵⁶ suggesting rapid establishment of intrinsic reproductive isolation mechanisms (incompatibilities) that may be (partly) responsible for the maintenance of the two species in the face of ongoing gene flow. Segregation of these incompatibilities in *S. squalidus* has, in turn, likely contributed to this species' reproductive isolation from its parents.¹¹ In addition, crosses between the two parental species have shown significant changes in gene expression in the hybrids,^{57–59} including transgressive expression patterns, which may explain how *S. squalidus* managed to colonize Britain, an environment where its parental species were never reported outside cultivation⁶⁰ and where both parental species perform poorly.⁶¹

To gain a better understanding of the processes underpinning homoploid hybrid speciation and how they affect rapid adaptation to a novel environment, we generated and analyzed a chromosome-level genome assembly of *S. squalidus*. The availability of this contiguous genome assembly together with a re-analysis of RNA sequencing (RNA-seq) data from this species (28 specimens covering most of the species' distribution range in Great Britain; [Figure 1](#); [Table S1](#)) and its two parental species (16 specimens each; [Table S1](#))^{12,50} has allowed us to shed light on how pre-existing hybrid incompatibilities between the parental species, and selection acting on different parental alleles, together contributed to shaping the genome of *S. squalidus* and to fueling its rapid spread across the UK following homoploid hybrid speciation.

RESULTS

A chromosome-level genome assembly of *S. squalidus*

The chromosome-level assembly of *S. squalidus* consisted of 592 scaffolds, with an N50 of 66.7 Mb and a total length of 662.2 Mb ([Table 1](#)). We estimated the haploid genome size of the same individual as ~775 Mb using flow cytometry. This estimate is slightly lower than the ~880 Mb estimate for this

species obtained previously⁶² and implies that ~85% of the genome of *S. squalidus* is represented in our new assembly. The ten longest scaffolds accounted for over 95% of the assembly (631.8 Mb) and corresponded to the haploid chromosome number in *S. squalidus*.⁶³ Detailed statistics of the newly assembled genome are available in the BlobToolKit browser⁶⁴ and the Hi-C contact map on the genome-note server.⁶⁵

We annotated 30,249 protein-coding genes in the *S. squalidus* genome ([Table S2](#)), and 97.2% of the single-copy plant orthologs (BUSCOs) were present and complete in the annotation ([Table 1](#)). Approximately 62% of the genome consists of repetitive elements (REs), with long terminal repeat elements being the most frequent ([Figure 2A](#)). REs were not homogeneously distributed along chromosomes, with fewer repetitive regions found in terminal regions of each chromosome ([Figure 2C](#)). We identified simple sequence repeats (SSRs) in *S. squalidus* and four other members of the Asteraceae family and found ~71,000 SSRs in the *S. squalidus* nuclear genome, which was less than in lettuce (~265,000), sunflower (~252,000), and globe artichoke (~134,000) and more than in *Erigeron* (~59,000). The distribution of repeat types and density in these genomes was similar, with dinucleotide repeats predominating ([Figure 2B](#)).

Chloroplast genome assembly

The chloroplast genome of *S. squalidus* ([Figure S1](#)) was 150,803 bp in length, with a large single copy region (LSC, 82,949 bp), a small single copy region (SSC, 18,213 bp), and a pair of inverted repeats (IRs, 24,821 bp). The cpDNA genome is therefore slightly smaller than that from lettuce, sunflower, and globe artichoke (151,104 to 152,765 bp).

Annotation of the chloroplast genome identified 116 genes, including 80 protein-coding, 5 rRNA, and 31 tRNA genes, as well as 126 SSRs (all of which were mononucleotide repeat SSRs) ([Table S2](#)). Comparison of the chloroplast genomes of *S. squalidus* and its two parental species (using a single individual of each species) identified 3 indels and 3 SNPs across all 3 species: 2 indels and 1 SNP supported a closer relationship between *S. squalidus* and *S. aethnensis*, while the remaining polymorphisms supported a closer relationship between the two parental species ([Figure S1](#)). However, follow-up work analyzing more individuals of all three species, and ideally including *S. aethnensis* from higher elevations, is required to confirm this because the *S. aethnensis* individual used for cpDNA assembly

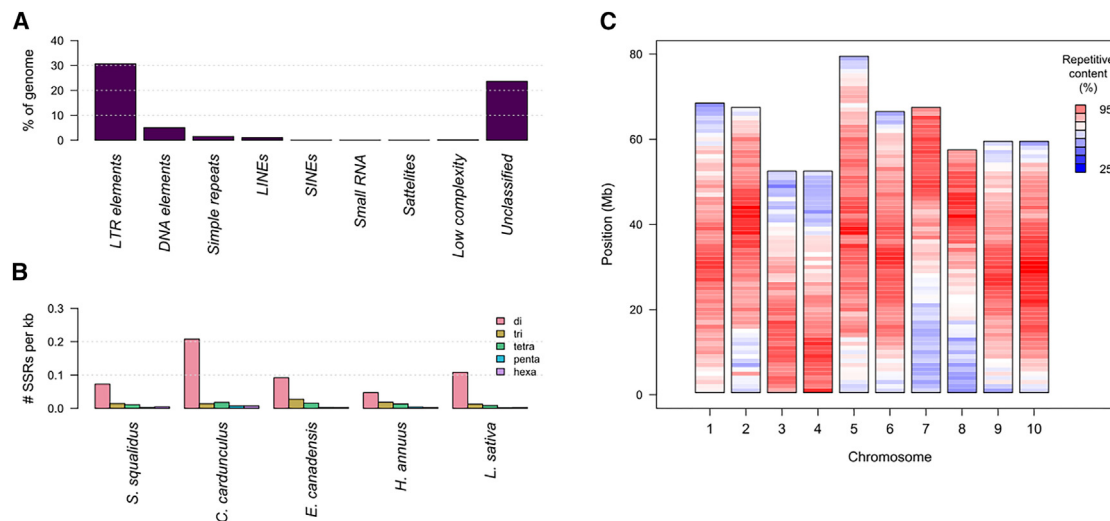


Figure 2. Analyses of repetitive regions in the newly assembled genome of *S. squalidus*

(A) Overall percentage of the genome, consisting of different repeat elements.

(B) Number of simple sequence repeats (SSRs) per kb identified in *S. squalidus* and other Asteraceae species with published genomes.

(C) The distribution of all repeat elements calculated as percentage of sequence over 1 Mb windows across each chromosome.

See also Figures S1 and S2 and Table S3.

was collected at 2,036m elevation, where admixed individuals may still be found.

Large-scale synteny across Asteraceae

To place the observed synteny changes on an evolutionary time-scale, we estimated phylogenetic relationships and divergence times across representative Asteraceae genomes using 440 low-copy orthologs (Figure 3A). We estimate that the crown group of Asteraceae originated in the Palaeocene (65.8–55.3 mya; Ypresian–Danian) and that the divergence between the lineages leading to *Lactuca* (Cichorieae) and the Asteroideae occurred during the Eocene (48.3–40.5 mya, Bartonian–Lutetian). The divergence between the lineages leading to *Helianthus* and *Senecio* occurred later during the Eocene (42.5–35.6 mya, Priabonian–Bartonian). The divergence among the *vulgaris* clade of *Senecio*⁶⁶ was characterized by a rapid radiation during the Miocene (4.9–3.9 mya). We note that the crown age for Asteraceae estimated here is somewhat younger than previous studies.⁶⁷ Given that the two studies use an almost identical set of node calibrations, the difference most likely results from the different taxon sampling: a stronger emphasis on the origin of the Senecioneae in this study versus a focus on the backbone of the Asteraceae phylogeny in previous work.

We investigated synteny between *S. squalidus*, the common sunflower, and lettuce and found many syntenic blocks between *S. squalidus* and each of the other species that spanned over 10 Mb (Figures 3C and 3D). The whole-genome duplication specific to the sunflower clade⁶⁸ is evident from patterns of synteny across several pairs of chromosomes (Figure 3D). Of note, chromosome 4 of *S. squalidus* showed synteny over its entire length with chromosome 2 of *L. sativa* and with chromosome 14 of *H. annuus*, as well as with several other Asteraceae species analyzed (Figure 3B). This large-scale synteny pattern is remarkable given that it involves species that diverged up to 48 mya and that *Helianthus* has since experienced an independent genome

duplication and expansion.^{69,70} The mechanisms promoting maintenance of synteny over large divergence times remain unclear, but the new genome assembly provided in this study can be used to leverage additional information and gain insight into how collinearity of such a large region is maintained across Asteraceae species.

LD is highly heterogeneous along the genome of *S. squalidus*

To estimate recombination rates along the genome of *S. squalidus*, we mapped markers from the most extensive genetic linkage map available,⁵⁶ which was obtained from crosses between the two parental species, to the new assembly. We found that 87% of markers from this genetic map were in the same order along the new assembly, and we used these to estimate chromosome-wide average recombination rates; these ranged from 1.6 to 4.4 cM/Mb (Table S3). Regions with low local recombination rates putatively indicate the centromeres of chromosomes, often found toward the center of chromosomes (Figure S2). To estimate effective recombination rates along the genome, we used pairwise linkage disequilibrium (LD) estimates between pairs of SNPs within each chromosome, with population-level RNA-seq data collected for each species. The results show overall higher LD in *S. squalidus* compared with both parental species, which is in line with its recent origin.

Analysis of genome-wide LD identified a region on chromosome 4 (the first ~15 Mb) with reduced recombination in *S. squalidus* compared with the rest of chromosome 4 (Figure S3A). This region exhibits significantly lower recombination within all three species, with the effect being larger in *S. squalidus* (Figures S3A and S3B). Furthermore, F_{ST} between all pairs of species are significantly higher in this region (Figure S3C), and *S. squalidus* exhibits relatively high polymorphism, high Tajima's D , and an excess of *S. aethnensis* diagnostic alleles (Figure 4).

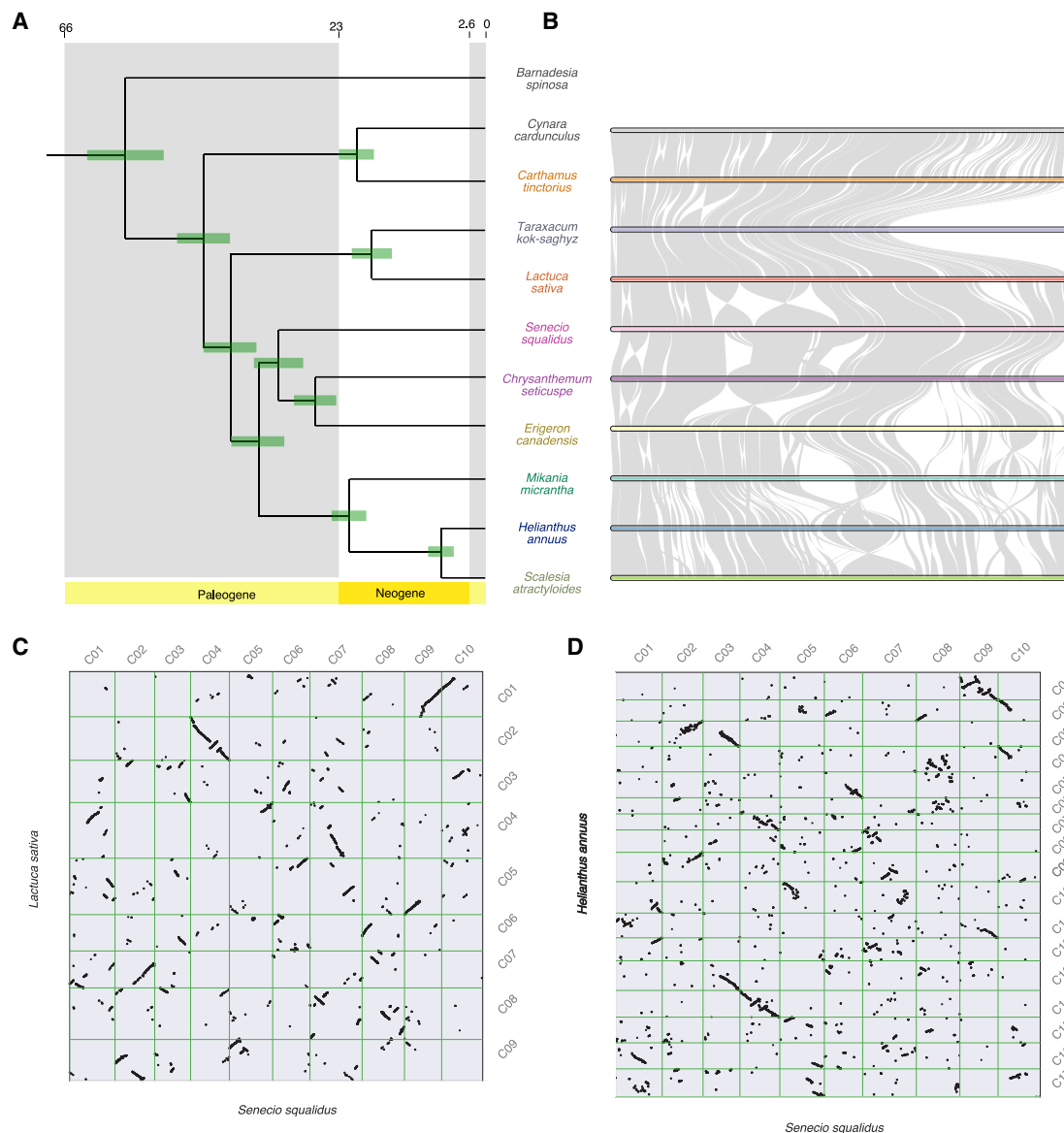


Figure 3. Synteny and molecular dating analysis across representative Asteraceae species

(A) Dated phylogeny of the representative Asteraceae species analyzed in this study (excluding outgroups outside Asteraceae used for calibration), showing the divergence times of *S. squalidus*, *H. annuus*, and *L. sativa*. Numbers on top of panel show inferred ages in mya; green rectangles represent the 95% highest posterior density intervals of node ages.

(B) Synteny plots showing in detail the large-scale synteny between chromosome 4 of *S. squalidus* and remaining Asteraceae species.

(C and D) Synteny analysis between *S. squalidus* and *L. sativa* (C) and between *S. squalidus* and *H. annuus* (D) genomes, shown as a dot plot and covering only the 10 chromosomes of *S. squalidus*.

See also Tables S6 and S7.

At least three scenarios could explain the peculiar pattern of recombination, polymorphism, and divergence on this region of chromosome 4. First, this region could harbor chromosomal rearrangements between the two parental species, thus being involved in homoploid hybrid speciation according to the recombinational model.^{71,72} This hypothesis is supported by high F_{ST} between the parental species in this region ($F_{ST} = 0.44 \pm 0.15$ versus genome-wide $F_{ST} = 0.37 \pm 0.16$; Figure S3C), which could indicate reduced introgression caused by rearrangements between the two species. However, this hypothesis would not

explain the increased LD found on this region in each of the parental species, given that a fixed rearrangement is not predicted to cause reduced recombination within species. Furthermore, we did not find any genetic incompatibility between the parental species on this region (Figure 4, top). Finally, the high polymorphism and Tajima's D observed in this region in *S. squalidus* suggest that this region still harbors alleles from both species, which contrasts with the recombinational speciation model that predicts regions with rearrangements would quickly fix for alternative parental alleles.

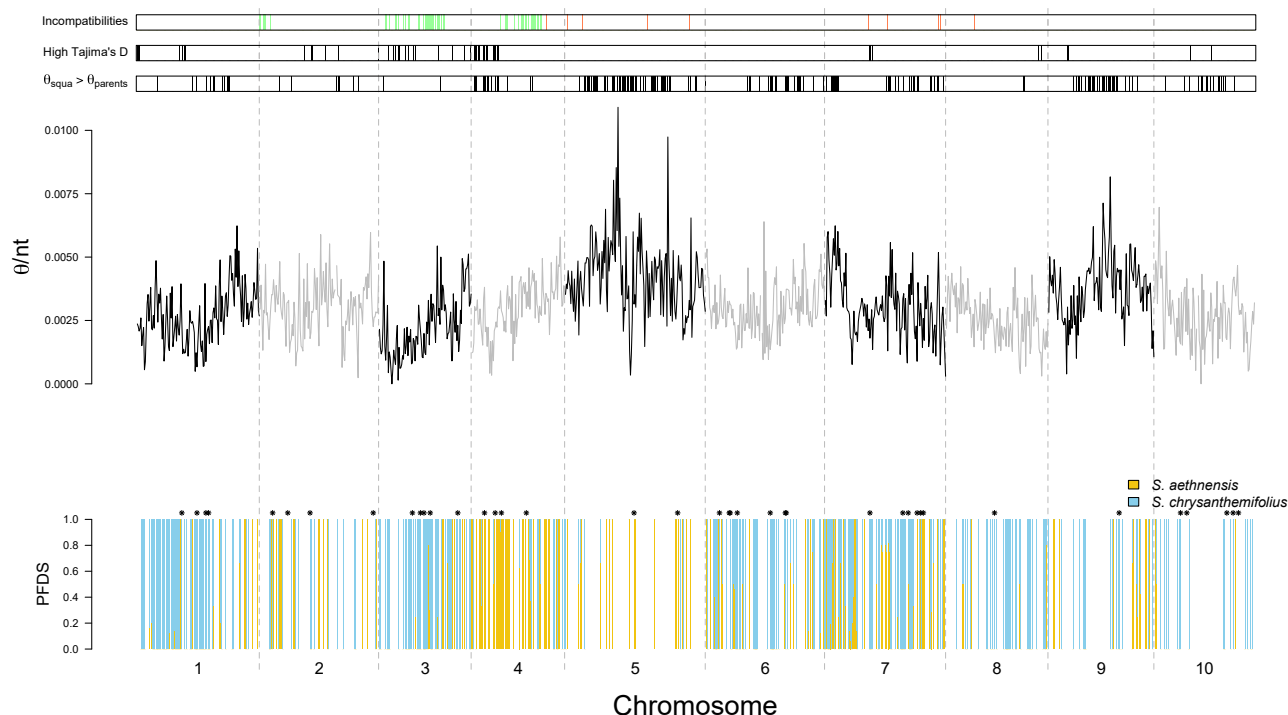


Figure 4. Analysis of polymorphism using non-overlapping windows (500 kb size) along the genome of *S. squalidus*

Middle panel denotes polymorphism (Watterson's estimator) in *S. squalidus* along the 10 chromosomes (alternating black and gray line). Top bars denote location of incompatibilities described in the two studies mentioned in the main text (green from Chapman et al.⁵⁶; orange from Brennan et al.⁵⁵), genomic windows with high Tajima's D in *S. squalidus* (Z score > 1.65 , or approx. one-tailed $p < 0.05$), and genomic windows where polymorphism in *S. squalidus* is higher than in both parental species. Bottom panel denotes the proportion of fixed diagnostic SNPs (PFDSs) from each parental species that are fixed or nearly fixed in *S. squalidus*. Genomic windows without diagnostic SNPs, or only with diagnostic SNPs that are polymorphic in *S. squalidus*, are not shown. In the bottom panel, asterisks atop the bars denote genomic windows with evidence for divergent natural selection acting on the two parental species on Mount Etna (from Wong et al.⁵⁴).

See also Figures S3–S7 and Table S4.

A second possible explanation for the patterns observed would involve introgression of a haplotype from a fourth species into *S. squalidus* during its colonization of the UK. This hypothesis could explain the high LD found in *S. squalidus* and the increased F_{ST} between *S. squalidus* and its parental species on this region (Figure S3C), as well as the high polymorphism and Tajima's D in this region in *S. squalidus* (Figure 4). However, this hypothesis would not explain the high F_{ST} and LD observed in both parental species in this region (Figure S3).

A third possible explanation for the patterns observed is that this region of chromosome 4 harbors the self-incompatibility (S)-locus controlling SSI in *Senecio*. We favor this hypothesis as it could better explain all the patterns observed. First, S-loci are typically under strong balancing selection: as S-haplotypes become rarer, their fitness increases because individuals that carry them can mate with a larger pool of mates; conversely, any S-haplotype reaching high frequency will see its fitness decrease as fewer mates will be available for breeding. The elevated Tajima's D in this region could thus be explained by the action of frequency-dependent balancing selection on the S-locus. Second, because *S. aethnensis* was the minor contributor to the gene pool of *S. squalidus*, S-haplotypes of this species might be expected to be rarer in the hybrid lineage giving rise to *S. squalidus*. Selection favoring these rare S-haplotypes

could thus explain the higher frequency of *S. aethnensis* diagnostic alleles in this region of chromosome 4. Third, S-loci are typically located in regions of reduced recombination,⁷³ which ensures that both male and female SI-determining genes are inherited together. Given the recent hybrid origin of *S. squalidus*, the region of reduced recombination typical of the S-locus is expected to extend further than in either parental species, and this is what we observed (Figure S3).

To further narrow down the potential location of the S-locus within this region of chromosome 4, we estimated average LD between pairs of SNPs within 1 Mb windows across chromosome 4 in the three *Senecio* species. We reasoned that because the three species share the same S-locus, the window harboring the S-locus should exhibit high LD in all species. We found only one window within this region that exhibited high LD in all species (Figure S4). Analysis of tissue-specific gene expression in all three *Senecio* species identified putative S-genes; however, none of these candidate genes showed a clear functional similarity to any S-genes identified in other species (Table S4; Figure S4). Overall, while we lack strong evidence for specific genes involved in self-incompatibility in *S. squalidus*, the region identified in chromosome 4 represents an interesting target for future studies. These could leverage additional data (including tissue-specific gene expression of multiple *S. squalidus* individuals of

known *S*-genotype) to test whether this region on chromosome 4 harbors the *S*-locus of *Senecio*.

The genome of *S. squalidus* is a mosaic of parental alleles

Genome-wide analysis of polymorphism and divergence within *S. squalidus* and between *S. squalidus* and its parental species revealed a general loss of polymorphism and an increase in Tajima's *D* (indicative of a reduction in low-frequency variants) in *S. squalidus*. Genome-wide diversity, measured as average Watterson's θ across non-overlapping sliding windows of 500 kb, was 0.0030 ± 0.0013 , 0.0035 ± 0.0014 , and 0.0041 ± 0.0017 and genome-wide average Tajima's *D* was 1.06 ± 0.92 , 0.08 ± 0.73 , and 0.13 ± 0.60 in *S. squalidus*, *S. chrysanthemifolius*, and *S. aethnensis*, respectively. Watterson's θ was significantly lower and Tajima's *D* significantly higher in *S. squalidus* compared with either of the two parental species (Welch two-sample *t* test, $p < 0.0001$).

Genome-wide average differentiation measured as mean F_{ST} between *S. squalidus* and the two parental species confirmed *S. chrysanthemifolius* as the more genetically similar parental species (Welch two-sample *t* test, $p < 0.0001$), even though genome-wide estimates of F_{ST} were similar across all pairs (*S. squalidus* versus *S. chrysanthemifolius*, $F_{ST} = 0.36 \pm 0.14$; *S. squalidus* versus *S. aethnensis*, $F_{ST} = 0.40 \pm 0.14$; *S. aethnensis* versus *S. chrysanthemifolius*, $F_{ST} = 0.37 \pm 0.16$). In line with our previous study,¹² and in agreement with the recent hybrid origin of *S. squalidus*, we find that the majority of diagnostic SNPs, i.e., those where the two parental species are nearly fixed for different alleles, are found in a polymorphic state in *S. squalidus* (64% of all diagnostic SNPs). However, diagnostic SNPs that were nearly fixed in *S. squalidus* more often carried the *S. chrysanthemifolius* allele (1,377 SNPs) rather than the *S. aethnensis* allele (539 SNPs) (binomial test, $p < 0.0001$). Diagnostic SNPs fixed in *S. squalidus* are not randomly distributed along the genome (Pearson's chi-squared test, $p < 0.0001$; Figure 4). Instead, *S. aethnensis*-like alleles are preferentially found on chromosomes 4 and 5 (and to a lesser extent on chromosome 2), while elsewhere in the genome *S. chrysanthemifolius*-like alleles are more common (Figure S5).

Despite lower genome-wide average polymorphism, many regions of the genome show levels of polymorphism that are higher in *S. squalidus* than in either parental species (Figure 4, top). Given the extremely young age of *S. squalidus*, the higher polymorphism in these regions most likely reflects the retention of alleles from both parental species rather than *de novo* mutations accumulating since the origin of *S. squalidus*. Also evident from the genome-wide analysis is that the large regions harboring incompatibilities in chromosomes 2, 3, and 4 (discussed below) are almost completely devoid of high-polymorphism windows (average Watterson's θ within these regions = 0.0028 versus outside = 0.0031; Welch two-sample *t* test, $p = 0.027$), which is in line with sorting of parental haplotypes in *S. squalidus* in these regions.

Genetic incompatibilities are located in regions of reduced recombination and polymorphism

To gain insight into the role of pre-existing genetic incompatibilities (between the two parental species) in the evolution of

S. squalidus, we analyzed genome-wide patterns of LD and the distribution of genetic incompatibilities identified in previous studies.^{11,55,56} Here, we define incompatibilities broadly as regions showing evidence for significant TRD in experimental crosses, as these imply a fitness cost on hybridization between the two species.

The three regions harboring incompatibilities described using RNA-based genetic mapping⁵⁶ spanned ~5.9 Mb of chromosome 2, 33 Mb of chromosome 3, and 23 Mb of chromosome 4 (Figure 4). Watterson's θ was significantly lower (Welch two-sample *t* test, $p = 0.027$) and Tajima's *D* significantly higher (Welch two-sample *t* test, $p = 0.001$) in genomic windows harboring incompatibilities compared with the rest of the genome (Figures S6A and S6B). We also found that markers overlapping the regions of genetic incompatibilities were significantly more likely to be located in regions of low recombination compared with the rest of the genome (mean local recombination rate in incompatibility markers = 1.24 cM/Mb; non-incompatibilities = 2.75 cM/Mb; *t* test, $p = 0.002$; Figure S6C). This pattern does not seem to be driven solely by putative location of incompatibilities near centromeres, as incompatibilities span very large areas (Figure 4). Mapping of incompatibilities identified using a different cross⁵⁵ revealed that incompatibilities are present on chromosomes 4, 5, 7, and 8, but their sparse occurrence precluded more detailed analysis (Figure 4).

Genomic windows harboring genetic incompatibilities between the parental species thus exhibit lower polymorphism and higher Tajima's *D* in *S. squalidus* compared with the rest of the genome (Figure S6) and are less likely to exhibit higher polymorphism than found in either parental species (Figure 4, top). This suggests that, in regions harboring genetic incompatibilities, alleles from one of the parental species have been fixed in *S. squalidus*, while in other regions of the genome alleles from both species might still be segregating. Importantly, across the genome different genetic incompatibility regions have been fixed for different parental haplotypes,¹¹ which agrees with the hypothesis that sorting of incompatibilities is important in generating reproductive barriers between homoploid hybrids and their parental species⁷⁴ and could play a role in speciation.^{71,72}

A role for natural selection on the sorting of parental alleles following hybrid speciation

As expected for a homoploid hybrid species, and demonstrated in hybrid sunflowers,⁷⁵ the distribution of parental alleles across the *S. squalidus* genome is not random. Instead, parent-specific alleles occur in blocks, i.e., tracts of the genome where all diagnostic SNPs are inherited from the same parent. After hybridization, the size of these blocks is reduced due to recombination until fixation of haplotypes from either parental species occurs, at which point recombination can no longer reduce block size.⁷⁶ The distribution of block sizes can be used to infer the time taken between generation of a hybrid population and establishment of a hybrid species.^{76,77} In *S. squalidus*, we find that two chromosomes (4 and 5) carry long blocks of *S. aethnensis*-specific alleles, with *S. chrysanthemifolius*-specific blocks more common elsewhere (Figure 4). These long ancestry blocks in *S. squalidus* point to a very rapid establishment of the newly formed hybrid lineage and this is in line with the historical records and demographic reconstructions that imply a very strong genetic

bottleneck in the origin of *S. squalidus* and the establishment of a new, stabilized hybrid lineage within 30–100 generations.¹²

We recover two additional genomic patterns in *S. squalidus* that are in line with other, much older cases of homoploid hybrid speciation.^{10,14,17,78,79} First, the *S. squalidus* genome exhibits an unequal contribution of genetic material from the two parental species: of 1,916 diagnostic SNPs that were fixed or nearly fixed in *S. squalidus*, 71.9% carry the *S. chrysanthemifolius* allele and 28.1% the *S. aethnensis* one. Second, regions with minor parent ancestry exhibit higher recombination rates (Figure S7A), although this trend is non-significant (Welch two-sample *t* test, *p* = 0.087). Whether these genome-wide patterns are due to neutral or selective processes is central to our understanding of homoploid hybrid speciation and its role in generating novel phenotypes.

The unequal contribution of the two parental species could be due to preferential backcrossing of *S. squalidus* with *S. chrysanthemifolius*. Indeed, historical records suggest that *S. aethnensis* × *S. chrysanthemifolius* hybrid material was grown alongside *S. chrysanthemifolius* (but not *S. aethnensis*) in Oxford, allowing for backcrossing and introgression of *S. chrysanthemifolius* alleles into *S. squalidus*. However, the period during which this occurred was relatively short, as all *S. chrysanthemifolius*-like herbarium specimens from Oxford Botanic Garden pre-date 1720 (S.A. Harris, personal communication). Furthermore, it is unclear whether these *S. chrysanthemifolius*-like specimens were “pure” *S. chrysanthemifolius* plants or admixed individuals, and only in the former case would this scenario explain the preferential introgression of *S. chrysanthemifolius* alleles into *S. squalidus*.

An alternative explanation for preferential fixation of *S. chrysanthemifolius* alleles in *S. squalidus* is that such fixation was driven by natural selection. This could be due to purifying selection removing deleterious alleles from the minor parent, as shown for hybrid swordtail populations⁷⁹ and hybrid chestnut trees species,⁷⁸ or positive selection driving fixation of advantageous alleles from the major parent in the hybrid genomic background, as inferred in other systems.^{10,14,16,17} Our results do not support a role for purifying selection removing deleterious alleles from the minor parent because genetic diversity of *S. aethnensis* is greater than in *S. chrysanthemifolius* (Watterson’s θ = 0.0041 ± 0.0017 versus 0.0035 ± 0.0014), which suggests that deleterious mutations would be more common in the major parent. As for positive natural selection driving fixation of major parent alleles, it is worth noting that *S. chrysanthemifolius* in Sicily grows in disturbed habitats (roadsides, derelict buildings, and abandoned orchards and vineyards) akin to those favored by *S. squalidus* in the UK, such that natural selection could favor alleles from this species in *S. squalidus*. Given the very recent origin of *S. squalidus* and the strong bottleneck associated with its origin in the UK, we are unable to apply tests for selection that rely on fixation of alleles in *S. squalidus* since its origin. However, we can test whether alleles that experience divergent selection between the two parental species on Mount Etna are preferentially fixed for either parental species in *S. squalidus*.

Previous studies found evidence for divergent selection acting between the two parental species on Mount Etna using different datasets and approaches.^{52,54} Here, we make use of the results of the latest analysis, which identified 76 outlier loci using a

nextRADseq dataset representing multiple populations (192 individuals in total) of the two species.⁵⁴ We identified the genomic location of 44 of these loci on the newly assembled genome and mapped them onto 39 genomic windows (Figure 4, bottom). Of these 39 genomic windows, *S. squalidus* carries exclusively *S. chrysanthemifolius* alleles at all fixed diagnostic SNPs in 17 windows, exclusively *S. aethnensis* alleles at all fixed diagnostic SNPs in 5 windows, is polymorphic at diagnostic SNPs in 6 windows, and, at the remaining 11 windows, no diagnostic SNPs were identified. A permutation test shows that the observed number of windows with *S. chrysanthemifolius* ancestry is significantly higher than expected by chance: out of 1,000 permutations, only six resulted in 17 or more genomic windows carrying outlier loci and with only *S. chrysanthemifolius* diagnostic SNPs (Figure S7B).

Our analysis shows that genomic windows of major parent ancestry are more likely to be under divergent selection between the two parental species on Mount Etna than expected by chance. A limitation of this analysis is that selective regimes are likely different in the UK compared with Mount Etna, such that genes that experience divergent selection on Mount Etna might be evolving neutrally in the UK. The reverse is also true: genes that evolved neutrally between the parental species on Mount Etna might have been important in adaptation of *S. squalidus* to its new environment in the UK. Regardless of this limitation, our results lend support to a role for natural selection in driving preferential fixation of *S. chrysanthemifolius* alleles in *S. squalidus*.

DISCUSSION

The generation of a chromosome-level genome assembly for *Senecio squalidus*, combined with re-analysis of transcriptome data for this species and its two parental species,^{12,50} has provided a greater understanding of the genomic and genetic changes that occurred in *S. squalidus* following its hybrid origin. We have determined how this species’ hybrid genome is structured, how its genome compares with those of other Asteraceae species in terms of synteny, where genomic incompatibilities are located, and how natural selection may have determined the genomic contribution of the two parental species of *S. squalidus*. The availability of a high-quality genome for *S. squalidus* also sets the stage for future population genomic studies, particularly to pinpoint the combinations of alleles important in adapting the species to conditions in the UK and to clarify the evolution of other hybrid taxa that have originated very recently in the UK following hybridization with *S. squalidus*.^{24,29,34}

How, then, did hybridization fuel the adaptation and rapid spread of *S. squalidus* across the UK? It is remarkable that neither of the parental species of *S. squalidus* is established in the UK outside cultivation⁶⁰ and that common garden experiments have shown that both parental species, their naturally occurring hybrids from Mount Etna, and newly synthesized hybrids between the two species perform poorly in the UK.⁶¹ Our results suggest that natural selection preferentially drove *S. chrysanthemifolius* alleles to fixation in the new hybrid species, possibly as this species occupies ecologically similar habitats to those *S. squalidus* would find in the UK. This has two important implications. First, while selection may have preferentially favored *S. chrysanthemifolius* alleles in *S. squalidus*,

whatever *S. aethnensis* alleles remain in the hybrid species must be central to the success of the hybrid lineage in its new environment—without these minor alleles, *S. squalidus* would become genetically identical to *S. chrysanthemifolius* and would thus perform poorly in the UK. The identification of these minor parent genes, how they underpin adaptation to the UK, and in particular, how this effect might depend on epistatic interactions with *S. chrysanthemifolius* alleles in other genes, are promising avenues for future research. Second, sorting of parental alleles in *S. squalidus* preferentially occurred at genomic regions that harbor highly differentiated alleles between the two parental species, suggesting that natural selection acted on alleles that were already under divergent selection between the parental species. Thus natural selection may have acted on a novel combination of alleles that were themselves previously subjected to natural selection in a different environment, which could help explain how adaptation to a novel environment proceeded so quickly, and further supports the hypothesis that hybridization plays a creative role in generating novel phenotypes that are able to colonize new niches.

RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

Lead contact

Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the lead contact, Bruno Nevado (bnevado@fc.ul.pt).

Materials availability

This study did not generate new unique reagents.

Data and code availability

- The genome assembly of *S. squalidus* is available from NCBI under accession number GCA_910822075.1. The raw sequence data used in the genome assembly are available from NCBI SRA repository under various accession numbers (see [Table S5](#)). The population-level raw sequence data for each species is available from NCBI SRA repository under BioProject ID PRJNA549571.
- This paper does not report original code.
- Any additional information required to reanalyze the data reported in this paper is available from the [lead contact](#) upon request.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Study design, B.N., S.J.H., T.B., and D.F.; data collection, B.N., E.L.Y.W., T.B., J.W.C., A.C.B., S.A.M., A.T., J.T., and Y.S.; genome assembly, B.N., S.A.M.,

A.T., J.T., and Y.S.; genome annotation, B.N.; data analysis, B.N., M.A.C., and J.W.C.; writing, B.N., M.A.C., J.W.C., R.J.A., S.J.H., and A.C.B. All authors read and approved the manuscript.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The authors declare no competing interests.

STAR★METHODS

Detailed methods are provided in the online version of this paper and include the following:

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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STAR★METHODS

KEY RESOURCES TABLE

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Biological samples		
<i>Senecio squalidus</i> individual used for genome assembly	Individual collected from the wild in Oxford.	OX6
Deposited data		
<i>S. squalidus</i> genome assembly	NCBI datasets	GenBank: GCA_910822075.1
<i>S. squalidus</i> raw data for genome assembly	NCBI SRA database	GenBank: ERR3313259,ERR3313274,ERR3313389,ERR3313390,ERR3313391,ERR3313394,ERR3313395,ERR3313398,ERR3313399,ERR3313293,ERR3313402,ERR3313403,ERR3313404,ERR3313405,ERR3396649,ERR3421359,ERR3316189,ERR3316195,ERR3316191,ERR3316193,ERR3316192,ERR3316194,ERR3316196,ERR3316190,PRJNA1138554
Raw RNAseq data from <i>S. squalidus</i> and its two parental species	NCBI SRA database	GenBank: SAMN12091851,SAMN12091852,SAMN12091853,SAMN12091854,SAMN12091855,SAMN12091856,SAMN12091871,SAMN12091872,SAMN12091873,SAMN12091874,SAMN12091875,SAMN12091876,SAMN12091877,SAMN12091878,SAMN12091879,SAMN12091880,SAMN12091881,SAMN12091882,SAMN12091883,SAMN12091884,SAMN12091885,SAMN12091886,SAMN12091887,SAMN12091888,SAMN12091889,SAMN12091890,SAMN12091891,SAMN12091892,SAMN12091893,SAMN12091894,SAMN12091895,SAMN12091896,SAMN12091897,SAMN12091898,SAMN12091899,SAMN12091900,SAMN12091901,SAMN12091902,SAMN12091903,SAMN12091904
Software and algorithms		
falcon-unzip	N/A	Chin et al. ⁸⁰
purge_dups	N/A	Guan et al. ⁸¹
scaff10x	N/A	https://github.com/wtsi-hpag/Scaff10X
longranger	N/A	https://support.10xgenomics.com/genome-exome/software/pipelines/latest/advanced/other-pipelines
freebayes	N/A	Garrison and Marth ⁸²
bcftools/samtools	N/A	Rosser et al. ¹⁴
blobtoolkit	N/A	Challis et al. ⁸³
novoplasty	N/A	Dierckxsens et al. ⁸⁴
geseq	N/A	Tillich et al. ⁸⁵
ogdraw	N/A	Greiner et al. ⁸⁶

(Continued on next page)

Continued

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
seaview	N/A	Gouy et al. ⁸⁷
repeatmasker	N/A	Smit et al. ⁸⁸
repeatmodeler	N/A	Smit et al. ⁸⁹
MAKER pipeline	N/A	Cantarel et al. ⁹⁰
snap	N/A	Korf ⁹¹
busco	N/A	Seppey et al. ⁹²
misa	N/A	Beier et al. ⁹³
blastp	N/A	Camacho et al. ⁹⁴
interproscan	N/A	Jones et al. ⁹⁵
trinity	N/A	Haas et al. ⁹⁶
MCscan pipeline	N/A	Tang et al. ⁹⁷
orthofinder	N/A	Emms and Kelly ⁹⁸
mafft	N/A	Katoh and Toh ⁹⁹
trimal	N/A	Capella-Gutiérrez et al. ¹⁰⁰
iqtree	N/A	Nguyen et al. ¹⁰¹
astral	N/A	Zhang et al. ¹⁰²
trimmomatic	N/A	Bolger et al. ¹⁰³
star	N/A	Dobin et al. ¹⁰⁴
picardtools	N/A	available from http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard/
vcf2fas	N/A	https://github.com/brunonevado/vcf2fas
mstatspop	N/A	https://github.com/CRAGENOMICA/mstatspop
mareyemap	N/A	Rezvoy et al. ¹⁰⁵
vcftools	N/A	Danecek et al. ¹⁰⁶
beagle	N/A	Browning and Browning ¹⁰⁷
ldheatmap	N/A	Shin et al. ¹⁰⁸
R	N/A	https://www.r-project.org

EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND STUDY PARTICIPANT DETAILS

For genome assembly we selected a single, healthy, *S. squolidus* individual (accession name: Ox6) collected from an Oxford population and previously confirmed as heterozygous for self-incompatibility (S) haplotypes S1 and S4.⁴¹ This genotype was maintained clonally via cuttings in glasshouses at the Universities of Bristol and Oxford. DNA extraction was carried out using fresh material (young leaves) at the Sanger institute using the BioNano PlantTissue DNA Isolation protocol (<https://bionanogenomics.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/30068-Bionano-Prep-Plant-Tissue-DNA-Isolation-Protocol.pdf>). Genome size of Ox6 was estimated using flow cytometry (<https://www.plantcytometry.nl/>).

METHOD DETAILS

Genome sequencing

DNA was prepared by shearing for sequencing on the Pacific Biosciences SEQUEL I platform. Two library fragments sizes were prepared (~6 kb and ~12 kb) and sequenced over 16 SMRT cells (14 for 6kb, 2 for 12 kb), generating 84 Gb of raw data, ~160-fold coverage, with an overall read N50 of 7 kb. We generated ~300-fold base coverage in 10X Chromium Genome long fragment read clouds. We commissioned ~100-fold coverage each in Dovetail Chicago and Hi-C data. Details of sequencing are given in Table S5.

Nuclear genome assembly

Assembly was carried out following the Vertebrate Genome Project pipeline v1.0¹⁰⁹ with FALCON-UNZIP.⁸⁰ Haplotypic duplication was identified and removed with PURGE_DUPS.⁸¹ A first round of scaffolding was carried out with 10X Genomics read clouds using SCAFF10X (available from <https://github.com/wtsi-hpag/Scaff10X>). Scaffolding with Hi-C data¹¹⁰ was performed using SALSA2.¹¹¹ The Hi-C scaffolded assembly was polished with arrow using the PacBio data, then polished with 10X Illumina data by aligning to the assembly with LONGRANGER align (available from <https://support.10xgenomics.com/genome-exome/software/pipelines/latest/advanced/other-pipelines>), calling variants with FREEBAYES⁸² and applying homozygous non-reference edits using BCFTOOLS consensus. Two rounds

of the Illumina polishing were applied. The assembly was checked for contamination using BLOOTKIT⁸³ and contaminating scaffolds were removed.

Chloroplast genome assembly

To assemble the chloroplast genome of *S. squalidus* we used the *de novo* assembler NOVOPLASTY v2.5⁸⁴ on the adaptor-trimmed Illumina PE reads. We used the first 500bp of the *Jacobaea vulgaris* complete cpDNA sequence as seed (GenBank: HQ234669) and set the following options: insert size automatic, genome range 120–200k bp, K-mer 39, insert range 1.6, insert range strict 1.2 and coverage cut off 1000. The chloroplast genome was annotated using GENE⁸⁵ and displayed using OGDRAW⁸⁶ available from <https://chlorobox.mpimp-golm.mpg.de>. The resulting complete cpDNA genomes were aligned by hand using SEAVIEW v 4.0.⁸⁷ This was repeated for one individual of each of *S. aethnensis* and *S. chrysanthemifolius* – DNA extracts for these individuals were obtained from fresh leaves of individuals grown in the greenhouse, using Qiagen DNeasy Plant kit. Material was sequenced on an Illumina HiSeq 2000.

Annotation

Prior to annotation we identified repeat regions within the genome using both REPEATMASKER v4.0⁸⁸ and a custom repeat library generated for our species using REPEATMODELER v1.0.⁸⁹ To annotate the genome assembly of *S. squalidus* we used the MAKER pipeline v2.31.⁹⁰ In the first annotation pass we used both *ab initio* and transcriptome-based gene prediction evidence obtained from the transcriptome reference of *S. squalidus* assembled in our previous work¹² and the proteomes of globe artichoke (*Cynara cardunculus* var. *scolymus*, GenBank: GCA_001531365.1) and common sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*, GenBank: GCA_002127325). The obtained gene models were then improved with SNAP v. 2006-07-28⁹¹ and a second and final annotation pass with MAKER was performed using these improved gene models. To evaluate the completeness of the genome assembly and the performance of the annotation pipeline we used the homology-based approach implemented in BUSCO v4.1.⁹² Simple sequence repeat markers (SSRs; aka microsatellites) were identified in the *S. squalidus* genome using MISA⁹³ and a minimum of 8 repeats for dinucleotide repeats, 6 repeats for trinucleotide repeats, and 4 repeats for tetra-, penta- and hexanucleotide repeats. The same settings were used to mine the genomes of lettuce (GenBank: GCF_002870075.2), sunflower (GenBank: GCA_002127325.2), globe artichoke (GenBank: GCF_001531365.1) and *Erigeron canadensis* (GenBank: GCF_010389155.1) for comparison. Gene sequences annotated across the 10 chromosomes of *S. squalidus* were translated to proteins and blasted against the UniProt sequence database¹¹² using BLASTP.⁹⁴ Blast hits were loaded into BLAST2GO and INTERPROSCAN⁹⁵ was used to add InterPro terms to each annotated gene. These multiple sources of information were used to annotate each gene with its most likely gene ontology term.

Tissue-specific RNAseq of *S. squalidus*

To infer tissue-specific gene expression values we used RNAseq expression data. We sampled different tissues (roots, young leaves, fully developed leaves, capitulum buds, flower buds and whole open flowers) from a single *S. squalidus* individual grown in the greenhouse under a 16:8h light cycle, planted in a mixture of soil and perlite. Tissues were flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen and RNA extracted using the method described in Hegarty et al.⁵⁹ Expression values for each gene and each tissue were estimated with Trinity v 2.12⁹⁶ using the bowtie alignment option and the RSEM abundance estimation method.

Synteny across the Asteraceae

Macro-synteny was inferred using chromosome-scale assemblies across a diversity of Asteraceae species. Gene models and genome annotation files were obtained from publicly available databases and patterns of synteny were analyzed in pairwise comparisons of all species using the MCSCAN pipeline⁹⁷ and visualized as dotplots and synteny plots using the JCVI pipeline.¹¹³

To gain a better understanding on how synteny changes through time within Asteraceae, we used phylogenetic and molecular clock methods to date split events between representative species of this family. We obtained proteomes for other *Senecio* species, sunflower and lettuce, as well as for outgroup species (Table S6). Orthologous genes among proteomes were identified using ORTHOFINDER v2,⁹⁸ with a Diamond similarity search and default parameters. Low copy number gene families from ORTHOFINDER were aligned using MAFFT with the localpair option⁹⁹ and trimmed using TRIMAL with the automated1 option.¹⁰⁰ Phylogenetic trees for individual gene families were reconstructed under the best fitting model (–MFP) in IQTREE,¹⁰¹ with 10,000 ultrafast bootstrap replicates.¹¹⁴ The bootstrap consensus trees were provided as input to ASTRAL-III to reconstruct the species relationships.¹⁰² Gene families were clustered by rate, approximated using the root to tip distance, into five clusters. Each cluster was concatenated and formed a single partition in a partitioned molecular clock analysis. Eight relevant fossil calibrations were selected (Table S7) and modelled as a uniform distribution between a hard minimum and a soft maximum age, with a 1% probability tail that the maximum could be exceeded. The selection of the fossil *Tubulifloridites lillei* has proven contentious in the past,⁶⁷ and as such a 2.5% probability tail was attached to the minimum age here. Clock analyses were run using the normal approximation method in Yang,¹¹⁵ where branch lengths and the Hessian matrix are first estimated prior to the clock analysis.¹¹⁶ A relaxed clock was selected, where the clock rate for each branch is independently drawn from a lognormal distribution. The prior on the mean was modelled as a gamma distribution with a shape parameter of 2 and scale parameter of 20. Four independent chains were run for 5 million generations, with effective sample sizes measured using Tracer¹¹⁷ to determine convergence.

Population genomics statistics

To evaluate the effect of hybridization on genome-wide patterns of polymorphism in *S. squalidus*, we re-analyzed RNAseq data from this species ($n = 26$) and its two parental species ($n = 16$ each) from previous studies^{12,50} (Table S1). Raw sequence reads were trimmed for low quality bases and adaptors using TRIMMOMATIC v0.35,¹⁰³ and mapped to the genome with the splice-aware aligner STAR v2.7¹⁰⁴ using default settings and including the annotation information generated for the new genome. Duplicate reads were marked with PICARDTOOLS v2 (available from <http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard/>) using the markduplicates function and SNP calling performed with SAMTOOLS v1.3¹¹⁸ bcftools command. We used the multiallelic SNP caller, disregarded reads with mapping quality below 20 and bases with base quality below 20 and included in the output homozygous-reference blocks with a minimum depth of 8 reads (-g8). Inclusion of homozygous-reference blocks is essential to distinguish regions of missing data (i.e., that have not been sequenced to high enough depth to perform confident genotype calling) from regions that were adequately covered but where no SNPs are present (i.e., truly invariant positions). We further filtered the resulting SNP set by excluding SNPs covered by fewer than 8 reads (the same depth threshold as used for the homozygous blocks); SNPs within 3bp of an indel (-g3); SNPs with quality below 15; and heterozygous SNPs with fewer than two reads supporting each allele. We converted the resulting vcf file into fasta format using VCF2FAS, which reads vcf files with reference-homozygous blocks and correctly assigns missing data and homozygous-reference genotypes (available from <https://github.com/brunonevado/vcf2fas>).

We obtained genome-wide estimates of polymorphism and divergence, namely Watterson's θ , F_{ST} and Tajima's D , using MSTATSPOP v0.1 (available from <https://github.com/CRAGENOMICA/mstatspop>) and applying a non-overlapping sliding window approach with 500 kb size and 500 kb steps. We used this software as it implements the algorithms described in Ferretti et al.¹¹⁹ to provide unbiased estimates even in the presence of high levels of missing data between individuals. Smaller window sizes were explored as well, but these resulted in too many windows with too much missing data (data not shown). To determine the parental contributions to the genome of *S. squalidus* we identified SNPs where the two parental species were fixed or nearly fixed for alternative alleles (>90% in one parent and <10% in the second parent and at least 10 alleles of each species sequenced), and where *S. squalidus* carried almost exclusively one of these alleles (frequency of most common allele > 90% in *S. squalidus*). We further identified windows with significantly higher Tajima's D than the genomic background using a Z-test ($Z_{score} > 1.65$, roughly equivalent to a 1-tailed test at $P < 0.05$). Resulting data was plotted in the R statistical package (available from <https://www.r-project.org>).

Testing for the role of selection in sorting of parental alleles in *S. squalidus*

To test for a role for natural selection in the sorting of parental alleles in *S. squalidus*, we identified the genomic location of outlier loci identified in a previous study as being under divergent selection between the two parental species across an elevation gradient on Mount Etna.⁵⁴ We blasted the sequences of the 76 nextRAD outlier loci identified in that study against the newly assembled genome of *S. squalidus*, retaining hits with more than 95% sequence identity and at least 140 bp long. Markers with hits on multiple scaffolds and identical match statistics were disregarded. For markers with multiple hits on the same scaffold, the hit with no gaps and higher sequence identity was kept.

To test whether regions containing loci under selection were more likely to have already sorted for either parental alleles, we identified the ancestry of each genomic window based on the presence of diagnostic SNPs: windows where all diagnostic SNPs that are fixed or nearly fixed in *S. squalidus* carry the same parental allele were labelled as having sorted for that parental species; windows where diagnostic SNPs are either polymorphic in *S. squalidus* or nearly fixed for different parental alleles were labelled as polymorphic windows; and regions without diagnostic SNPs were labelled as having unknown ancestry. We then calculated how many windows that sorted for the two parental alleles carried also loci under divergent selection on Mount Etna, based on the presence of at least one outlier nextRAD locus. To test whether this number is higher than expected by chance, we performed a permutation test in R: we randomly selected the same number of windows and assigned them to "outlier" status and calculated how many of these windows have also sorted for each parental species. For this permutation test we ignored windows with unknown ancestry and performed 1000 replicates to assess whether the values observed are likely to have occurred by chance alone.

Genetic linkage maps and mapping genetic incompatibilities

To estimate recombination rates along the genome of *S. squalidus* we mapped markers from the most extensive genetic linkage map available,⁵⁶ which was obtained from crosses between the two parental species, to the new assembly. We used BLASTN v2.2,⁹⁴ retaining only the top-hit with an E-value below $1e-30$ and an identity above 95%. After removal of markers with different order in the linkage map and the genomic assembly, we used MAREYMAP v1.3¹⁰⁵ to estimate local recombination rate along each chromosome. Additionally, we located markers flanking the genomic position of the genetic incompatibilities identified in crosses between the two parental species^{55,56} on the *S. squalidus* genome using BLASTN with the same settings as above.

As an additional measure of the recombination rate along the genomes of *S. squalidus*, *S. aethnensis* and *S. chrysanthemifolius*, we used the population-level data described above to estimate effective recombination based on observed patterns of LD between SNPs. For each species, we obtained a new VCF file with SAMTOOLS as described above but performed genotype calling jointly for all conspecific individuals. We filtered these joint VCF files with VCFTOOLS v0.1,¹⁰⁶ retaining only biallelic SNPs with less than 80% missing data and excluding SNPs within 1,000 bp of each other. For each chromosome we phased the filtered SNP subsets with Beagle v 5.2¹⁰⁷ using default values, and plotted resulting patterns of LD between pairs of SNPs using the R package LDheatmap.¹⁰⁸

QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Statistical analyses were carried out in R v. 3.8 (<https://www.r-project.org>). For identification of genomic regions with elevated Tajima's D, raw values were transformed into Z-scores (with the *scale* function in R), and high Tajima D regions identified as those with a Z-score above 1.65 (approx. 1-tailed $P < 0.05$). For comparison of statistics related to polymorphism, divergence and recombination in different genomic regions, Welch two sample t-tests were used (with the *t.test* function in R).