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2 **Geographic variation in dispersal and dispersal distance facilitate range expansion of a**
3 **lakeshore plant in response to climate change**

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19 Running title: Geographic variation in dispersal

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21 Keywords: *Cakile edentula*, climate change, dispersal evolution, expanding range limit,
22 geographic range, genetic diversity

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29 Biosketch: The goal of this research team is to further the understanding of how rapid evolution
30 influences range dynamics under environmental change through the combination of modelling
31 and empirical approaches. The team focuses on critical drivers underlying species distributions
32 such as dispersal, habitat specialization, and the evolution of domestication or invasion. This
33 study was the product of a doctoral dissertation project conducted at Purdue University by
34 E.A.L. Author contributions: E.A.L, N.C.E, and M.R.C. conceived the study idea; L.B. created
35 the climate data; E.A.L. and M.R.C. developed the individual-based model; E.A.L. collected the
36 data, analysed the data, and led the writing; all authors edited the manuscript.

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Geographic variation in dispersal and dispersal distance facilitate range expansion of a lakeshore plant in response to climate change

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Running title: Geographic variation in dispersal

Keywords: *Cakile edentula*, climate change, dispersal evolution, expanding range limit, geographic range, genetic diversity

32 Data availability statement: The habitat suitability maps and code for the individual-based model
33 used to generate all data in the manuscript are available from the Dryad Digital Repository.

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34 **Abstract:**

35 Aim: Geographic variation in dispersal abilities is widespread and likely to affect species' range
36 dynamics in response to climate change. However, distribution models that predict climate-
37 induced range shifts do not account for spatial variation in dispersal. We developed an eco-
38 genetic model to investigate how variation in dispersal distances across a species' range could
39 interact with climate-induced selection and alter predicted range dynamics in a species with
40 documented variation in dispersal traits.

41 Location: We investigated the range of an annual plant, *Cakile edentula* var. *lacustris*, which
42 occupies beaches spanning a 555 km latitudinal gradient along the Laurentian Great Lakes.

43 Methods: We built a hybrid model that combines climatic niche modelling, based on decadal
44 climate projections, with an individual-based model that allows for evolutionary processes to act
45 upon a heritable dispersal kernel. We evaluated how spatial variation in dispersal distance and
46 dispersal evolution influenced range dynamics, spatial and temporal variation in dispersal, and
47 the distribution of neutral genetic variation. The model was parametrized with data on *C.*
48 *edentula*'s distribution, life history, and dispersal characteristics.

49 Results: Geographic variation in dispersal distance, adaptive dispersal evolution, and dispersal
50 distance increased the potential for local populations of *C. edentula* to keep pace with changing
51 climatic conditions through range shifts. Dispersal distances always increased at the expanding
52 and contracting range edges when dispersal was allowed to evolve. Furthermore, scenarios where
53 dispersal distances were initially lower at the range edges resulted in the largest evolutionary
54 changes over 105 years (> 1.5 km increase in mean distance at northern edge). Adaptive
55 dispersal evolution always reduced neutral genetic diversity across the species' range.

56 Main conclusions: Variation in dispersal abilities across *C. edentula*'s range and adaptive
57 evolution led to different predicted outcomes in range dynamics during climate change
58 illustrating the importance of including spatial variation in dispersal into species distribution
59 models.

60

61 Keywords: *Cakile edentula*, climate change, dispersal evolution, expanding range limit,
62 geographic range, genetic diversity

63 **Introduction:**

64 Recent empirical and theoretical work has demonstrated that diverse taxa may be able to rapidly
65 adapt to environmental changes, such as those presented by habitat modification (Bosse et al.,
66 2017) and climate change (Palkovacs et al., 2012; Siepielski et al., 2017). Climate change is
67 already acting as an important selective agent for many species, but it remains challenging to
68 predict which species will be able to keep pace with changing conditions (Bateman et al., 2013;
69 Siepielski et al., 2017). One way that populations may respond to climate change is through
70 dispersal evolution – the heritable change in a dispersal kernel due to the selection on dispersal
71 traits (Hargreaves & Eckert 2014). Distribution models that are used to predict species’
72 responses to climate change do not often include scenarios where dispersal can evolve as the
73 geographic range changes (Bateman et al., 2013; but see Dytham et al., 2009; Hargreaves et al.,
74 2015 for examples of general species models). However, recent empirical studies have shown
75 that dispersal traits often exhibit heritable genetic variation and may be able to quickly respond
76 to selection (e.g., Phillips et al., 2006; Weiss-Lehman et al., 2017). Such rapid changes in
77 dispersal could facilitate metapopulation persistence by influencing the rate at which new habitat
78 can be colonized as it becomes available (Bell & Gonzalez, 2011; Boeye et al., 2013; Kubisch et
79 al., 2013; Hargreaves et al., 2015).

80 The dynamics of dispersal evolution are expected to be shaped by the distribution of
81 genetic variation in dispersal traits across a species’ range (Travis et al., 1998), and prior studies
82 have established that mean dispersal distances often vary geographically among populations
83 within a species’ range (Hargreaves & Eckert, 2014). For example, mean dispersal distances are
84 sometimes shorter at the edges of a species’ range compared to the interior (Talavera et al., 2011;
85 LaRue et al., 2018). Furthermore, the evolutionary responses of dispersal traits may vary at
86 different positions within the species’ range, such as the range edges vs. the interior, due to the
87 genetic composition of individual populations (Bridle, 2007). For example, edge populations
88 may have low additive genetic variation in dispersal traits due to founder effects (Eckert et al.,
89 2008; Razgour et al., 2013), which in turn may limit the potential for dispersal-related traits to
90 quickly respond to selection. Nevertheless, the strength of selection imposed by climate change

91 may be stronger in marginal populations that are near rapidly changing habitat (Hargreaves &
92 Eckert, 2014), and the failure for dispersal traits to adaptively evolve may hinder metapopulation
93 persistence. Furthermore, evolutionary processes may influence a species' ability to respond to
94 changing patterns of selection by shaping the amount and distribution of genetic variation in
95 traits that influence organismal performance within habitat patches (Edmonds et al., 2004;
96 Klopstein et al., 2006). Genetic bottlenecks during colonization events can cause reduced
97 variation in populations that are expanding into new habitat patches (e.g., neutral genetic
98 variation), which in turn may limit the evolutionary potential of those populations during and
99 after establishment (Bridle & Vines, 2004; Gaston et al., 2009). Currently, we lack models that
100 evaluate how preexisting geographic variation and evolutionary change in dispersal strategies
101 directly influence species' range dynamics and neutral genetic variation in response to climate
102 change (Johnson et al., 2019).

103 The diversity of dispersal mechanisms documented across the globe's species results in
104 orders of magnitude of differences in their dispersal distances, making it critical that models of
105 range shifts in response to climate change are grounded in taxa-specific dispersal properties. For
106 example, plants and animals can be widely different in the extent of their maternal control on
107 their offspring's dispersal (Starrfelt & Kokko, 2010). Maternal plant traits directly influence
108 dispersal of their offspring by determining how they are released into the environment (e.g., the
109 height at which wind-dispersed seeds are released) and their external characteristics (e.g., seed
110 morphology) (Donohue, 1999); in contrast, the dispersal kernel of mammals tends to be
111 dominated by the phenotype of the offspring (Starrfelt & Kokko, 2010). These differences can
112 have implications for range dynamics: for example, dispersal kernels determined by offspring
113 can result in more rapid range expansion than those determined by the maternal phenotype
114 (Starrfelt & Kokko, 2010). Similarly, in organisms that engage in passive dispersal, geographic
115 variation in the dispersal vectors that they rely upon can lead to drastically different range
116 dynamics. Seeds that disperse by water, such as floating seeds, lead to more rapid colonization
117 and range expansion than seeds that fall directly to the ground and are pulled down by gravity as
118 they fall (Nathan et al., 2006). Collectively, the diversity of dispersal mechanisms in nature
119 raises the need to fine-tune distribution models that incorporate dispersal variation to represent
120 the dispersal properties of the studied organism.

121 Here we present a spatially-explicit, individual-based model that evaluates the interplay
122 between geographic variation in dispersal and subsequent evolution in response to climate
123 change. Given that model outcomes would be highly dependent on the dispersal kernels, we
124 chose to base model parameters on the biology of *Cakile edentula* subsp. *edentula* var. *lacustris*
125 (Brassicaceae; Fig. 1A), because extensive information about its dispersal strategy (Donohue,
126 1998; 1999), geographic variation in dispersal traits (LaRue et al., 2018), and its geographic
127 range was readily available (Rodman, 1973; LaRue et al., 2018). This annual herb occupies
128 beach habitats that outline the shores of the Great Lakes, with a geographic range that spans 555
129 km from 41 to 46 degrees of latitude north (Rodman, 1973) (Fig. 1B, C). *Cakile edentula*
130 reproduces predominantly via self-pollination, so seed dispersal likely accounts for most of the
131 gene flow within and among populations (Rodman, 1973). Individual plants produce dimorphic
132 fruits that disperse locally by wind or longer distances by water (Rodman, 1973). Previous work
133 has documented heritable variation in wind and water dispersal traits across the species' range,
134 including reduced potential for water dispersal at the range edges (LaRue et al., 2018). While our
135 analyses were based on the biology of *C. edentula*, we expect that our results may be relevant to
136 organisms that exhibit passive, long-distance dispersal (e.g., many plant, insect, and marine
137 organisms). In our analysis, we first evaluated how existing patterns of dispersal distance and
138 geographic variation in dispersal properties can influence our predictions for how a species'
139 range will shift in response to climate change. Next, we evaluated how the adaptive evolution of
140 dispersal traits over time altered these predictions. We also tracked variation at neutral loci to
141 monitor how dispersal variation and evolution alters the distribution of genetic diversity as a
142 species' range adjusts with climate change. To do this, we used neutral markers as a proxy for
143 genetic variation that does not influence dispersal genotypes, but instead is shaped by the
144 patterns of colonization and gene flow that result from the dispersal patterns that drive range
145 expansion and contraction under climate change. Our results revealed that the initial dispersal
146 distance and spatial distribution of dispersal distances across the range of *C. edentula* had large
147 effects on species' range dynamics, and that dispersal trait evolution facilitated metapopulation
148 persistence. More generally, these results demonstrate that incorporating variation in dispersal
149 traits, both across a species' range and through time, can substantially alter the predictions of
150 species' distribution models as climate change proceeds.

151 **Methods:**

152 We evaluated how geographic variation in dispersal and dispersal trait evolution can alter
153 predictions for range dynamics under climate change by combining the projected habitat
154 suitability from a *C. edentula*-specific species distribution model with an eco-genetic, individual-
155 based model (Fig. 1D). Future climate change projections of air temperature were obtained
156 monthly for the decades 2020 to 2090 and used as climate change projections for input into
157 MaxEnt. To obtain these projections, we used the NorESM1-M model from the CMIP5 multi-
158 model ensemble (Coupled Model Intercomparison Project; Taylor et al., 2012) with the
159 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) representative concentration pathways of
160 RCP 2.6 (low emission) and RCP 8.5 (high emission) (IPCC, 2014). We chose to use the
161 NorESM1-M as our climate change framework because it represents a medium amount of future
162 projected change in temperature for the Great Lakes region. We relied on a simple delta method
163 to produce future temperature values (Prudhomme et al., 2002) by calculating changes between
164 the projected future decade and modeled historical period (1971- 2000) on a monthly basis, and
165 then adding those changes to an observed data set of historical temperature. By applying the
166 delta method, we did not have to correct for global circulation model biases, because we
167 compensated for differences between the historical and projected future temperatures at specific
168 locations. It is important to note that our method does not eliminate model bias, but it does allow
169 us to initialize our climate data from a realistic starting point based on historical temperature
170 observations. The historical data consisted of the University of Delaware Air Temperature and
171 Precipitation observations (Willmott & Matsuura, 2001) obtained from the NOAA/OAR/ESRL
172 PSD website (Boulder, Colorado, USA; <http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/>).

173 We used the program MaxEnt to predict future habitat suitability under present and future
174 climate change scenarios (Phillips et al., 2004; 2006; Elith et al., 2011) (e.g., Fig. 1B, C).
175 MaxEnt estimates the potential distribution of a species' habitat suitability based on maximum
176 entropy distribution, which requires species presence data and treats the remaining spatial points
177 as background data as opposed to absences. Documented occurrences of *C. edentula* were
178 obtained from the published literature (Gormally et al., 2011; LaRue et al., 2018) and the GBIF
179 database (Lane, 2008). We used the SDMToolbox in ArcMap 10.2 (Brown, 2014) to inspect a
180 matrix of pairwise Spearman correlation coefficients between twelve-monthly average
181 temperature variables because extreme collinearity between predictor variables in MaxEnt can
182 lead to unreliable results (Brown, 2014). We then removed redundant climate variables with

183 correlation coefficients greater than 0.80, while retaining those that were not highly correlated.
184 The final variables used were temperature in the months of January and July. The default settings
185 for the cross-validate method in MaxEnt were used, except we increased the number of
186 independent models runs from 1 to 20, starting with a random seed, and increased the number of
187 iterations from 500 to 5,000.

188 We constrained analyses to the coastal habitat of the Great Lakes, where *C. edentula* is
189 restricted due to its obligate association with sandy beaches. We created a raster of habitat
190 suitability across the range of *C. edentula* from MaxEnt output, which contained the probability
191 of species presence from 0 to 1 for each cell (Phillips et al., 2004; 2006; Elith et al., 2011). We
192 incorporated the entire 555 km extent of the species' latitudinal range; however, we restricted the
193 longitudinal extent of the range to Lakes Michigan and Superior (approximately one half of the
194 species' entire longitudinal range) due to computational constraints of using large geographic
195 areas (Fig. 1D). This process resulted in a total of 876 patches (i.e., raster cells) along the coast
196 where the final size of each individual patch was 36 km². Like all distribution models using
197 Maxent (Elith et al., 2006), this approach assumes that the climatic niche of *C. edentula* can be
198 estimated from its current distribution. We consider this assumption reasonable given that *C.*
199 *edentula*'s range limits have remained relatively stable in recent history (Rodman, 1973; LaRue
200 et al., 2018) despite its potential for long-distance dispersal by water (Rodman, 1973), and thus it
201 is likely that the species' distribution limits reflect the bounds of its climatic tolerances
202 (Hargreaves et al., 2014).

203 Habitat suitability values were recalculated each year for 25 years of present-day climate
204 and 80 years of projected climate change. Control scenarios assumed present-day habitat
205 suitability values in all patches ranged from 0 – 1 for the entire 105 years. For climate change
206 scenarios, we changed the habitat suitability values across the species' range at nine time points.
207 The values for the first 25 years (2000–2025) were based on the present-day climate map. Over
208 the next 80 years (2025–2095), we generated a new habitat suitability map every 10 years using
209 projected climate change estimates.

210 Habitat suitability values were used to determine the simulated dynamics of the
211 population sizes of local patches and the global population size each year. We chose an average

212 patch population size of 50 individuals, because it is well within the range of observed natural
213 populations in field surveys (LaRue et al., 2018). We constrained the maximum number of
214 individuals living in the range each year to be less than or equal to the product of the average
215 patch population size (50) and the total number of patches with suitability values > 0 . This
216 allowed for a possible maximum global population size of 43,800 individuals if all 867 patches
217 had habitat suitability values greater than zero, but the actual size varied each year due to
218 variation in the number of suitable patches available. The maximum number of individuals that
219 could live within each local habitat patch was calculated each year as the product of the habitat
220 suitability value for a given habitat patch and 50 individuals. As seen in our study, the machine
221 learning algorithm of MaxEnt does not always produce a maximum predicted habitat suitability
222 of 1 (e.g. the highest habitat suitability across the entire range equalled 0.6), which could lead to
223 an actual local population size of less than the average of 50 across the range. This would result
224 in a smaller global population size than expected, therefore when this occurred, we scaled the
225 local carrying capacities to reach the expected value of the global population size, but never
226 more than the size of the carrying capacity of the global population each year. This scaling
227 process resulted in local population sizes that ranged from 1 to 120 individuals (e.g., Fig. S1.1)
228 and a mean of 50 individuals. We also incorporated density-independent demographic processes
229 in the population size of patches by randomly sampling a new value of population size for each
230 occupied habitat patch from a normal distribution with a mean equal to the population size
231 within each patch and a standard deviation equal to two.

232 To allow dispersal to evolve, each individual in the model was assigned a unique
233 dispersal kernel and genetic variation within populations in the dispersal distance parameter. To
234 allow for a spatial resolution that spanned the latitudinal extent of the Great Lakes, we combined
235 the wind and water dispersal traits into a single dispersal kernel. This procedure allows for some
236 seeds to successfully disperse long-distances via water dispersal pathways, while allowing for
237 more seeds to successfully disperse shorter distances via wind dispersal pathways, which is in
238 accordance with studies on reproductive success and fitness (Donohue, 1997). Based on this
239 rationale, we used a Weibull distribution to model the fat-tailed dispersal kernel (Nathan et al.,
240 2012) of *C. edentula* seeds that can disperse locally as well as long distances by water. The
241 Weibull distribution was fitted with two parameters: a fixed shape parameter of 1.0 so that some
242 offspring could be philopatric (i.e., many seeds do not reach the lake, where they would disperse

243 via water), and a scale parameter that varied in units of kilometres to set the dispersal kernel
244 width. For simplicity, we refer to this scale parameter as the dispersal distance, where a larger
245 value indicates a broader dispersal kernel and greater expected dispersal distances than smaller
246 values (e.g., Fig. 1E). We incorporated genetic variation in dispersal distance among individuals
247 in the first generation by randomly sampling the predetermined mean dispersal distance (varied
248 between parameter sets, Table S1) from a normal distribution with a standard deviation of 0.5
249 km. Reproduction occurred through asexual reproduction of adults each year; while *Cakile*
250 *edentula* reproduces sexually, it does so primarily through self-pollination (Donohue, 1997), thus
251 we simplified reproduction to be asexual for computational tractability (Dytham, 2009). Each
252 offspring inherited a slightly modified dispersal distance parameter from their parent, which was
253 created with a random deviate drawn from a normal distribution (mean = parental dispersal
254 distance, standard deviation = 0.1 km) to incorporate genetic and non-genetic sources of
255 phenotypic variation (i.e., mutation and/or environmental variation of a maternally determined
256 dispersal kernel). Dispersal was simulated as the movement of seeds away from the parent plant
257 (Fig. 1D). First, we calculated the Euclidian distance between the parent plants' home habitat
258 patch and all other suitable patches. Next, we used the parental dispersal kernel (assuming that
259 parental traits contribute more to the dispersal kernel than seed traits; Donohue, 1999) to
260 calculate the probabilities that each seed could disperse from its home patch to every other
261 habitat patch in the metapopulation. A longer parental dispersal distance value results in a higher
262 probability for a seed to recruit into other suitable patches (and patches need not be immediately
263 adjacent) versus remaining in the parental patch. Each parent produced 50 seeds, a number
264 consistent with field observations (Donohue, 1998; LaRue et al., 2018). We then proportionately
265 distributed up to 50 offspring per parent across suitable patches based on the dispersal
266 probability values from the parent's dispersal kernel. If the total number of offspring from all
267 parents that dispersed into a habitat patch exceeded the local population size (based on the
268 habitat suitability score), we randomly removed offspring from each patch until the population
269 size in the patch was met. All parents were removed after the dispersal of offspring was
270 completed, consistent with the annual life cycle of *Cakile edentula* (Rodman, 1973).

271 The effects of geographic variation in dispersal and dispersal distance were evaluated by
272 comparing model outcomes for four different initial patterns of dispersal distance across the
273 species' range: i. uniform-1 km, ii. uniform-5 km, iii. shorter at the range edges than interior

274 (short range-edge dispersal), or iv. longer at the range edges than interior (long range-edge
275 dispersal). The two uniform scenarios had no initial variation in dispersal among populations
276 representing the assumptions of a traditional species' distribution model. The long range-edge
277 scenario represents systems where range-edge populations have higher mean dispersal distances
278 compared to those in the interior (e.g., *Abronia umbellate*; Darling et al., 2008), while the short
279 range-edge dispersal scenario represents systems where the mean dispersal distance is shorter at
280 the range edges than interior (e.g., *C. edentula*; LaRue et al., 2018). These spatial patterns were
281 implemented using a quadratic equation ($x = \text{latitude}$, $y = \text{dispersal distance}$; Table S1.1),
282 assuming that the centre of the range was halfway between the southern and northern limits at
283 45.5° N. In these four scenarios, genetic variation in dispersal distance existed within
284 populations to allow for the opportunity of an adaptive evolutionary response to selection to be
285 able to occur. However, we also ran a neutral model for each of the four dispersal scenarios, in
286 which there was no genetic variation in dispersal within populations. Under these conditions,
287 adaptive evolution in dispersal was impossible in the two uniform scenarios, and only occurred
288 in the short and long range-edge scenarios when dispersing offspring successfully colonized any
289 new habitat patch for which that dispersal phenotype did not exist before (e.g., colonization
290 could result in genetic variation being introduced into a population which was previously fixed in
291 its dispersal distance). Finally, we conducted a separate set of analyses that used the same range
292 mean dispersal distance from the short range-edge and long range-edge scenarios, but assumed a
293 uniform distribution across the species range, to ensure that any differences we observed
294 between the uniform and non-uniform dispersal scenarios was due to geographic variation in
295 dispersal distances and not the differences in the grand means. These results confirmed our
296 predictions and are presented in Fig. S1.3.

297 To test how adaptive dispersal evolution and geographic variation of dispersal influence
298 neutral genetic diversity as climate change proceeded, we assigned each individual 50
299 polymorphic microsatellite loci to measure neutral genetic diversity of populations across the
300 range. At the beginning of each model run during initiation (Fig. 1D), each locus had 50 alleles
301 where allele frequencies were specified by the equation:

$$302 \quad A_i = \frac{i}{(Na+1-i)} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^{Na} \frac{i}{(Na+1)-i} \quad (1)$$

303 where N_a equalled the total number of alleles and i at equals allele i in the set 1: N_a . This
304 equation provides allele frequencies that are typical of neutral allele frequency distributions
305 (adapted from Bernatchez & Duchesne, 2000). Genotypes were created in Hardy-Weinberg
306 Equilibrium for each locus and individuals were assigned multi-locus genotypes by randomly
307 sampling genotypes at each locus with replacement. At the end of the simulated 105 years, we
308 measured the expected heterozygosity and average number of alleles per locus.

309 We ran the model under the different scenarios for projected climate change, dispersal,
310 and evolutionary potential in dispersal (Table S1.2), and recorded the distribution, abundances,
311 and dispersal distances of all individuals at decadal time points during each simulation. Results
312 of preliminary analyses were not sensitive to variation in the average local population size or the
313 number of offspring per parent (e.g., Fig. S1.2), and therefore we maintained values of 50 for
314 each of these parameters across all subsequent analyses. We recorded the mean dispersal
315 distance, expected heterozygosity at microsatellite loci, local population size in each habitat
316 patch, and the proportion of the landscape occupied every ten years between year 2000 (year
317 zero) and 2105. The results for each variable were calculated as the average value over 40
318 replicate iterations. The model and all data analyses were implemented with R version 3.2.4 (R
319 Core Team, 2018).

320 **Results:**

321 Geographic variation in dispersal without adaptive evolution

322 When dispersal could not evolve, the distribution of individual dispersal distances remained
323 relatively constant across the range over time, regardless of the initial pattern of dispersal
324 variation or the climate change scenario imposed (Fig. 2). We found no evidence for range
325 expansion or contraction under either present-day or low-emission climate change scenarios
326 when the initial patterns of dispersal variation were either uniform-1 km (Fig. 2A-B) or shorter at
327 the range edges than the interior (Fig. 2G-H). When the initial dispersal distances were uniform-
328 5 km or when edge populations started with longer dispersal distances than interior populations
329 (i.e., long range-edge), range limits remained stable under present-day climate scenarios (Fig. 2
330 D, J), while the northern range limit expanded under both low- and high-emission climate change
331 scenarios (Fig. 2E-F, K-L). The southern range limit, by contrast, contracted only under the high-

332 emission climate change scenarios, regardless of the initial pattern of dispersal variation (Fig.
333 2C, F, I, L).

334 Geographic variation in dispersal with adaptive evolution

335 Adaptive evolution interacted with initial geographic patterns in dispersal and dispersal distance
336 to shape dispersal and range dynamics as climate change proceeded. When dispersal was allowed
337 to evolve, the northern range limit remained stable under present-day climatic conditions (Fig.
338 3A, D, G, J) and expanded under low- and high-emission scenarios (Fig. 3B-C, E-F, H-I, K-L),
339 regardless of the initial patterns of dispersal variation across *C. edentula*'s range. Under high
340 emission climate change, the uniform-5 km dispersal scenario colonized new habitat in the north
341 (Fig. 3F) one decade faster than the short range-edge (Fig. 3I) and long range-edge dispersal
342 scenarios (Fig. 3L), and two decades faster than the uniform-1 km dispersal scenario (Fig. 3C).
343 Increased dispersal distances evolved at the northern range limit under all climate change
344 scenarios (Fig. 3; Fig. S1.3), and the magnitude of this change increased with growing levels of
345 climate change, the presence of starting geographic variation in dispersal, and initial dispersal
346 distance (Fig. 3). The greatest response to selection at the northern limit (i.e., the difference
347 between the initial and final average dispersal distance) occurred in the short range-edge scenario
348 under high-emission climate change (Fig. 3H-I), with mean dispersal distance at the expanding
349 northern limit evolving from 1 km to 6 km within two decades of the onset of climate change. A
350 relatively weaker response to selection on dispersal was observed in the uniform-1 km scenario
351 (Fig. 3B-C), where the mean dispersal distance at the northern limit evolved from 1 km to only 3
352 km within three decades of the onset of climate change (Fig. 3C). Increased dispersal distances
353 also evolved at the expanding northern edge in the long-edge (Fig. 3K-L) and uniform-5 km
354 scenarios (Fig. 3E-F), with an initial mean dispersal distance of 5 km growing to 6.5 km and 7
355 km, respectively, in the northernmost populations within two decades of the onset of high-
356 emission climate change (Fig. 3F). Like the northern limit, the southern limit remained stable
357 under low-emission and present-day climates (Fig. 3, A-B, D-E, G-H, J-K), and expanded
358 northward (contracting) under the high-emission climate scenario (Fig. 3C, H, I, L). Selection
359 drove the evolution of increased dispersal distance in southern populations under both climate
360 change scenarios, regardless of the initial dispersal parameters applied (Fig. 3C, F, I, L).

361 Impact of adaptive evolution and dispersal variation on neutral genetic diversity

362 Geographic variation in dispersal and adaptive evolution influenced the distribution of neutral
363 genetic diversity across the range. Expected heterozygosity was always lower across the range
364 when dispersal was allowed to evolve (c.f., Fig S1.4; Fig. 4). We found that expected
365 heterozygosity was lower at the range edges compared to the interior under the low- and high-
366 emission climate change scenarios (Fig. 4). We also found that expected heterozygosity was by
367 far the lowest in the northern range-edge populations than elsewhere in *C. edentula*'s range
368 under all climate scenarios and was most pronounced when climate change occurred (Fig. 4; Fig.
369 S1.4). Range-wide genetic diversity measured as the average number of alleles per locus was
370 slightly greater in the absence of climate change (NA = 45.1) and low-emission climate scenarios
371 (NA = 45.2) in comparison with the high-emission climate change scenarios (NA = 41.7) (Fig.
372 4).

373 **Discussion:**

374 Even in the absence of dispersal evolution, geographic variation in dispersal distances can play
375 an important role in determining range-wide outcomes for species' responses to climate change.
376 In our analysis of *C. edentula*'s geographic range, individuals that had longer (5 km) dispersal
377 distances, either uniformly across the species' range or only in edge patches, could colonize
378 novel habitats more quickly, enabling the species' northern range edge to keep pace with
379 changing environmental conditions (Fig. 2). When individuals had uniformly short dispersal
380 distances across the species' range, or when range-edge populations had relatively short dispersal
381 distances, the northern limit could not keep pace with changing climatic conditions because
382 patches that became suitable north of the range limit were not colonized. To date, remarkably
383 few studies have rigorously quantified the extent and distribution of intraspecific variation in
384 dispersal (Saastamoinen et al., 2018; Johnson et al., 2019). Our results highlight that the
385 incorporation of empirical estimates of key dispersal parameters could substantially alter
386 predictions of species' range dynamics in response to climate change.

387 The interaction between geographic variation in dispersal and dispersal evolution results
388 in complex outcomes that are not always intuitive. For example, a *C. edentula* range
389 characterized by short range-edge dispersal ultimately evolved longer dispersal distances and

390 colonized habitat more quickly at range limits than a range with a uniform initial dispersal
391 distance of 1 km (cf., Fig. 3I, B). This result occurred because gene flow from the interior portion
392 of the range increased the genetic variation in dispersal distances at the range edge more quickly
393 than mutation, allowing a faster response to selection. In all four dispersal scenarios, longer
394 dispersal distances evolved than were present in any habitat patch at the start of the simulations,
395 which is consistent with other individual-based models that investigated how dispersal evolves in
396 response to climate change (e.g., Boeye et al., 2013; Henry et al., 2013; Dytham et al., 2014;
397 Hargreaves et al., 2015; Hillaert et al., 2015). This result suggests that even if metapopulations
398 are at equilibrium with respect to dispersal distances prior to the onset of climate change, they
399 are unlikely to remain at equilibrium as climate change progresses. Spatial sorting has the
400 potential to substantially increase dispersal distance at an expanding range front without
401 dispersal evolving (Shine et al., 2011). However, we found the distribution of dispersal distances
402 across the species' range through time remained relatively constant when dispersal was not
403 allowed to evolve (Fig. 2), suggesting that spatial sorting alone does not explain the increases in
404 dispersal distances that developed at expanding northern limits when dispersal evolved (e.g., Fig.
405 2C; Fig. 3C), at least at the spatial scale evaluated in our model. Finally, our model suggests that,
406 when dispersal is heritable, longer dispersal distances will evolve at southern range limits in
407 response to climate change. Previous studies have shown that there can be both selection for
408 (Hillaert et al., 2015) or against long-distance dispersal at contracting range edges (Boeye et al.,
409 2013; Henry et al., 2013); our result can be explained by the short-term increases in individual
410 fitness that are gained by dispersing away from the contracting southern range limit where
411 habitat quality is declining. However, because our model only included the evolution of dispersal
412 distance and not direction (as expected for many passively dispersing organisms, but not
413 necessarily active dispersers), consistent with spatial sorting (Hastings, 1983), the descendants of
414 highly dispersing parents continued to occupy the southern-most habitat patches. This
415 phenomenon was observed in both the low and high-emission scenarios but was more commonly
416 observed with an initial short range-edge than with the long range-edge dispersal pattern.

417 The overall ability for a species to colonize new habitat over short timescales (e.g., years
418 to decades) may depend upon both the initial dispersal potential of the species and the pattern of
419 geographic variation in dispersal. When the initial mean dispersal distance in northern edge
420 populations are relatively small, as in the uniform-1 km and short range-edge scenarios, dispersal

421 evolution was required for range expansion to occur under climate change (Fig. 2B-C, H-I; 3B-
422 C, H-I). However, dispersal evolution was not required for range expansion when northern
423 populations had relatively high dispersal potential prior to the onset of climate change, as in the
424 uniform-5 km and long range-edge scenarios (Fig. 2E-F, K-L). Collectively, these results
425 indicate that even though dispersal is likely to evolve under all climate change scenarios,
426 successful range expansion is highly dependent on dispersal evolution when the populations at
427 the expanding edge have limited dispersal potential. Furthermore, geographic variation in
428 dispersal influenced range expansion even in the presence of long dispersal distances; the long
429 and short range-edge dispersal scenarios could not colonize habitat as quickly (one decade
430 slower) as the scenario with the longest uniform dispersal distance.

431 In this model, we assumed that the dispersal patterns of the offspring were determined by
432 the parental plant, as is the case for *C. edentula* (Donohue, 1999), such that the parental plants
433 not only dictate the dispersal characteristics of the seeds, but also contribute directly to dispersal
434 via characteristics such as plant height. Maternal dispersal traits are particularly likely to
435 influence the dispersal kernel of offspring in plants compared to that in animals (Starrfelt &
436 Kokko, 2010). These differences highlight the importance of creating species' distribution
437 models that include taxa-specific dispersal characteristics, such as the parental contribution to the
438 dispersal kernel. When the phenotypic characteristics that determine the dispersal kernel for a
439 species are known, data on variation in those traits can be paired with models that evaluate how
440 variation in these traits influence predicted range shifts under environmental change (e.g.,
441 Dytham et al., 2014). To incorporate evolutionary changes in traits, it is also useful to know their
442 underlying genetic architecture (e.g., numbers of loci, dominance, epistasis) and heritability
443 under varying environmental conditions (Saastamoinen et al., 2018).

444 Neutral genetic diversity within populations across a species' range is an important
445 consideration in conservation and should be incorporated into species' distribution models that
446 strive to predict the response of species to climate change (i.e., Edmonds et al., 2004; Klopstein
447 et al., 2006). While the interactive effects of geographic variation in dispersal and dispersal
448 evolution may ultimately dictate if new patches are colonized, the neutral effects associated with
449 colonization, such as population bottlenecks, can have large effects on remaining genetic
450 diversity. In our analysis, adaptive evolution always reduced neutral genetic diversity across the

451 species' range (Fig 4; Fig. S1.4); furthermore, dispersal evolution allowed for increased
452 colonization of new habitat, further reducing the amount of neutral genetic diversity in all newly
453 colonized populations due founder effects (Edmonds et al., 2004; Klopstein et al., 2006). These
454 effects unfolded irrespective of climate change regime or the initial pattern of geographic
455 variation in dispersal. The genome-wide reduction in genetic diversity associated with increased
456 colonization may be substantial, as loci that are putatively neutral with respect to climate change,
457 may be required for future adaptive responses to other environmental changes (e.g., infectious
458 disease, habitat alterations) (Bridle & Vines, 2007; Eckert et al., 2008; Gaston, 2009).

459 Even though the interaction between geographic variation and adaptive evolution in
460 dispersal is complex, accounting for these multifaceted interactions can substantially improve
461 our potential to design conservation strategies that successfully manage populations, species, and
462 communities threatened by climate change. Here, we found that incorporating dispersal variation
463 and adaptive evolution into species distributions models had large effects on the range dynamics
464 that are predicted for one species, and we hypothesize that predictions for other species would
465 change as well. According to our study, dispersal measured at one point in a species' range will
466 potentially lead to significant errors in predicted range shifts with climate change if dispersal
467 distances vary across the species' range. Overall, our results emphasize that more detailed
468 experimental and observational studies of dispersal variation for individual taxa are required to
469 better predict the eco-evolutionary responses of different species to ongoing and future
470 environmental change.

471

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591

592 **Biosketch:**

593 The goal of this research team is to further the understanding of how rapid evolution influences
594 range dynamics under environmental change through the combination of modelling and
595 empirical approaches. The team focuses on critical drivers underlying species distributions such
596 as dispersal, habitat specialization, and the evolution of domestication or invasion. This study
597 was the product of a doctoral dissertation project conducted at Purdue University by E.A.L.
598 Author contributions: E.A.L, N.C.E, and M.R.C. conceived the study idea; L.B. created the

599 climate data; E.A.L. and M.R.C. developed the individual-based model; E.A.L. collected the
600 data, analysed the data, and led the writing; all authors edited the manuscript.

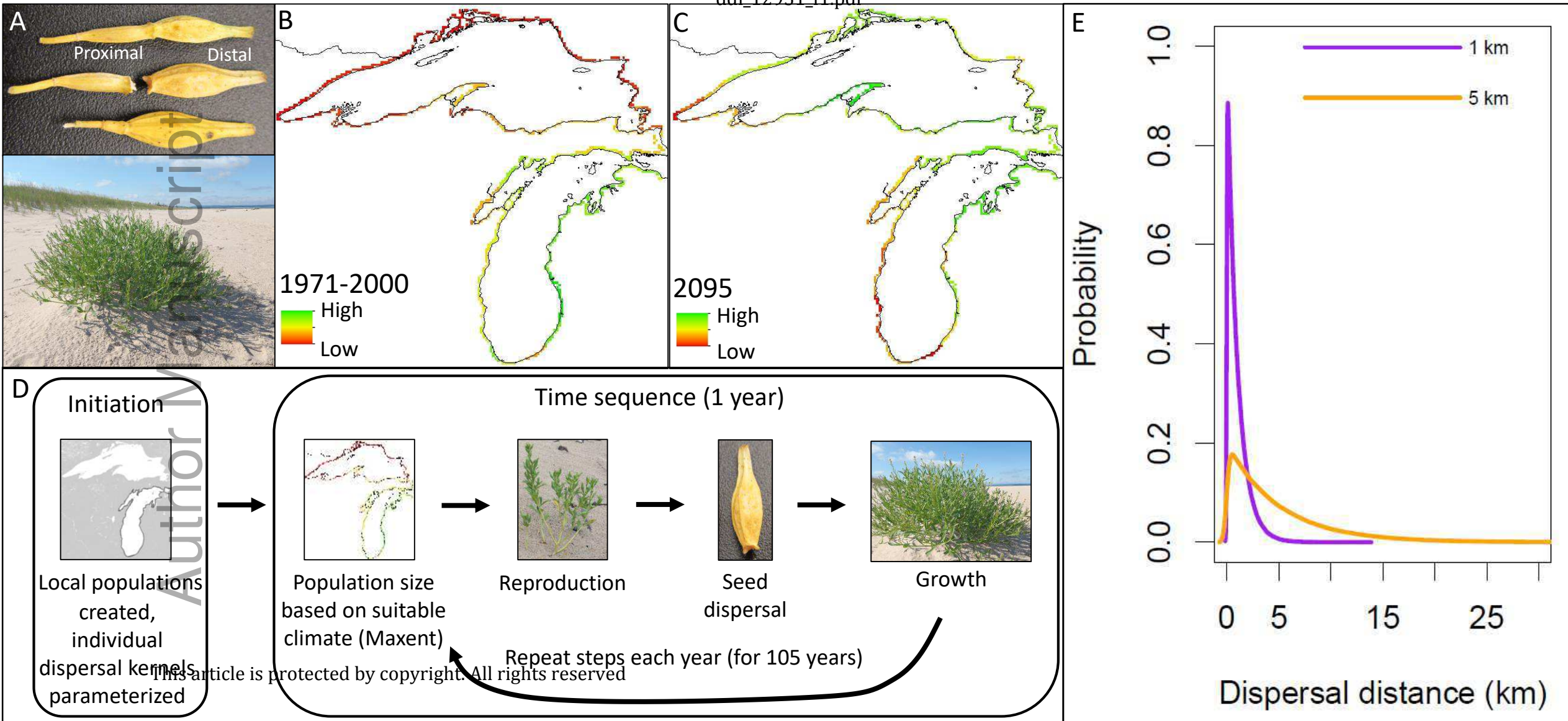
601 **Figure Legends**

602 **Figure 1.** The dispersal strategy of *Cakile edentula*, example maps of predicted habitat
603 suitability across its geographic range in the Great Lakes, model steps, and range of dispersal
604 kernel shapes. A) The home-site (proximal) and water-dispersing (distal) fruits of *C. edentula*
605 (top) and the typical growth form of the plant on a Great Lakes beach (bottom). B) The predicted
606 distribution of habitat suitability under present day climate (1971–2000) and C) under projected
607 high emissions climate change in year 2095, where green represents high habitat suitability,
608 yellow represents intermediate habitat suitability, and red represents low habitat suitability. D)
609 General overview of steps in our hybrid species distribution model that combined climatic niche
610 modelling with an individual-based model. First, the population genetic and demographic
611 characteristics of populations across the range are initiated at the beginning of the simulation.
612 The remaining steps occur each year in order including: the determination of the metapopulation
613 and local carrying capacities based on climatic habitat suitability values, asexual reproduction,
614 dispersal of the offspring based on the maternal dispersal kernel, seed establishment, death of
615 parental plants, and plant growth for seed production in the next year.

616 **Figure 2.** Changes in the dispersal kernel over 105 generations for dispersal scenarios with no
617 adaptive evolution. A) present-day climate and uniform-1 km dispersal, B) low-emission and
618 uniform-1 km dispersal, C) high-emission and uniform-1 km dispersal, D) present-day climate
619 and uniform-5 km dispersal, E) low-emission and uniform-5 km dispersal, F) high-emission and
620 uniform-5 km dispersal, G) present-day climate and short range-edge dispersal, H) low-emission
621 and short range-edge dispersal, I) high-emission and short range-edge dispersal, J) present-day
622 climate and long range-edge dispersal, K) low-emission and long range-edge dispersal, and L)
623 high-emission and long range-edge dispersal. Insets (far left) illustrate the dispersal distance
624 across the latitudinal range at the beginning of the simulation and colour scale (far right)
625 illustrate the average dispersal distance ranging from short (purple) to long (red). Grey squares
626 indicate a 0.5 degree area of latitude in the range that contained no individuals.

627 **Figure 3.** Changes in the dispersal kernel over 105 generations for scenarios when dispersal
628 kernels were allowed to evolve in response to climate-induced changes to habitat quality over the
629 course of the simulation. A) present-day climate and uniform-1 km dispersal, B) low-emission
630 and uniform-1 km dispersal, C) high-emission and uniform-1 km dispersal, D) present-day
631 climate and uniform-5 km dispersal, E) low-emission and uniform-5 km dispersal, F) high-
632 emission and uniform-5 km dispersal, G) present-day climate and short range-edge dispersal, H)
633 low-emission and short range-edge dispersal, I) high-emission and short range-edge dispersal, J)
634 present-day climate and long range-edge dispersal, K) low-emission and long range-edge
635 dispersal, and L) high-emission and long range-edge dispersal. Insets (far left) illustrate the
636 dispersal distance across the latitudinal range at the beginning of the simulation and colour scale
637 (far right) illustrate the average dispersal distance ranging from short (purple) to long (red). Grey
638 squares indicate a 0.5 degree area of latitude in the range that contained no individuals.

639 **Figure 4.** Effects of geographic variation in dispersal distance and adaptive evolution of
640 dispersal distance on the spatial distribution of expected heterozygosity (left y-axis) and average
641 number of alleles per locus for 50 microsatellites across the species' range (right y-axis). Panels
642 are as follows: A) present-day climate and uniform-1 km dispersal, B) low-emission and
643 uniform-1 km dispersal, C) high-emission and uniform-1 km dispersal, D) present-day climate
644 and short range-edge dispersal, E) low-emission and short range-edge dispersal, F) high-
645 emission and short range-edge dispersal, G) no climate change and long range-edge dispersal, H)
646 low-emission and long range-edge dispersal, and I) high-emission and long range-edge dispersal,
647 J) present-day climate and uniform-5 km dispersal, K) low emission and uniform-5 km dispersal,
648 and L) high emission and uniform-5 km dispersal. Expected heterozygosity was calculated for
649 each locus and then averaged across loci within a patch. The filled blue circles represent the
650 mean expected heterozygosity over 0.5 degrees of latitude at year 2105 (left y-axis), the grey
651 shading is the standard deviation of the mean, and the light blue open circles are the estimates for
652 individual populations. The orange horizontal line represents the average number of alleles per
653 locus across the range in year 105 (right y-axis). The black vertical line at latitude = 47.9 marks
654 the northern range limit from year 0–25 during present-day climate.



- Climate change

Climate change (low emission)

+ Climate change (high emission)

Starting geographic variation in dispersal distance (km)

