

Development of target sequence capture and estimation of genomic relatedness in a mixed oak stand

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9 **Abstract**

10 Anticipating the evolutionary responses of long-lived organisms, such as trees, to environmental
11 changes, requires the assessment of genetic variation of adaptive traits in natural populations. To this
12 end, high-density markers are needed to calculate genomic relatedness between individuals allowing
13 to estimate the genetic variance of traits in wild populations. We designed a targeted capture-based,
14 next-generation sequencing assay based on the highly heterozygous pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*)
15 reference genome, for the sequencing of 3Mb of genic and intergenic regions. Using a mixed stand of
16 293 *Q. robur* and *Q. petraea* genotypes we successfully captured over 97% of the target sequences,
17 corresponding to 0.39% of the oak genome, with sufficient depth (97X) for the detection of about
18 190 thousand SNPs evenly spread over the targeted regions. We validated the technique by
19 evaluating its reproducibility, and comparing the genomic relatedness of trees with their known
20 pedigree relationship. We explored the use of the technique on other related species and highlighted
21 the advantages and limitations of this approach. We found that 92.07% of target sequences in *Q.*
22 *suber* and 70.36% of sequences in *Fagus sylvatica* were captured. We used this SNP resource to
23 estimate genetic relatedness in the mixed oak stand. Mean pairwise genetic relatedness was low
24 within each species with a few values exceeding 0.25 (half sibs) or 0.5 (full sibs). Finally we applied
25 the technique to a long standing issue in population genetics of trees regarding the relationship
26 between inbreeding and components of fitness. We found very weak signals for inbreeding
27 depression for reproductive success and no signal for growth within both species.

29 1 Introduction

30 Predicting the evolutionary potential of natural populations is a major goal in many biological
31 domains (e.g evolutionary biology, landscape ecology, conservation biology) given the global
32 changes currently faced by organisms and populations. From an evolutionary perspective, the
33 principal challenge is predicting the evolutionary changes required to track ongoing environmental
34 changes and to identify key traits likely to respond to ongoing natural selection. These concerns are
35 particularly important in the case of forest trees, which have long generation times. Their
36 evolutionary response must therefore occur within a very small number of generations. The
37 prediction of evolutionary responses requires the estimation of essential genetic parameters, such as
38 selection gradients, heritability and evolvability, *in situ*, at the site at which selection is acting
39 (Conner et al., 2003; Kruuk and Hill, 2008). Trait heritability can be estimated in situations in which
40 the phenotypic similarity between individuals can be compared to their genetic similarity or
41 relatedness (Ritland, 2000).

42 In animals, such as mammals and birds, such studies are generally performed on pedigreed
43 populations (Kruuk, 2004). However, for trees, it is almost impossible to obtain pedigrees extending
44 over more than two generations, at least over the lifetime of the scientist. Fortunately, recent
45 developments in genomics, and the use of NGS sequencing have made it possible to measure the
46 realized relatedness between individuals based on a large number of genetic markers, as it has been
47 shown that the realized proportion of the genome identical by descent is more precisely estimated
48 with a large number of molecular markers than with pedigree relationships (Kardos et al., 2015),
49 These new methods thus open up new possibilities for the estimation of heritability and genetic
50 variances *in situ* (Béréños et al., 2014). Such approaches have already been implemented in trees
51 (Castellanos et al., 2015). We addressed the aforementioned evolutionary questions, by identifying a
52 large number of unlinked SNP markers in species of the Fagaceae family. These markers are widely
53 distributed across the genome, encompassing genes and regions of biological interest, as well as
54 regions assumed to be neutral.

55

56 Whole-genome shotgun sequencing is an easy way to sequence a genome randomly and to identify
57 large numbers of molecular markers suitable for our objectives. However, shotgun sequencing may

Targeted sequence capture in oaks

58 constrain marker development in highly repetitive genomes, such as that of oaks, which consists of
59 52% transposable elements, as reported by Plomion et al. (2018).

60 Targeted sequence capture coupled with NGS constitutes an efficient alternative approach to the
61 exploration of genetic diversity in a very large number of genomic regions and specimens. The use of
62 sequence capture techniques provides evolutionary biologists with easy access to nucleotide
63 diversity, for addressing various research questions, as already demonstrated in in arable crops (Zhou
64 et al., 2012), fruit (Tennessen et al., 2013) and forest trees (Holliday et al., 2016; Fahrenkrog et al.,
65 2017).

66 Furthermore, these techniques provide high sequence coverage for a small set of target sequences,
67 making it possible to multiplex several samples, thereby reducing the cost of large-scale applications,
68 for population genetics studies, for example. Sequence capture techniques require access to a
69 reference genome, but provide highly reproducible SNPs and markers with greater transferability
70 across species than for other pangenomic marker systems (e.g RADseq or GBS) (Harvey et al.,
71 2016). Intra- and interspecific reproducibility is a prerequisite for comparative studies across
72 populations or related species, even if sampling and molecular analysis are performed at different
73 times. For example, George et al. (2011) developed a genomic capture approach in humans that
74 successfully captured about 96% of coding sequences in monkeys (George et al., 2011). Similarly, in
75 gymnosperms, a common capture design established for spruce and lodgepole pine (Suren et al.,
76 2016) successfully captured more than 50% of the targeted bases with a coverage of at least 10X.

77

78 Our main objective here was to develop a large number of SNPs for estimating the genetic
79 relatedness and inbreeding coefficient in a mixed oak stand containing two sister species: *Quercus*
80 *petraea* and *Quercus robur*. We thus developed a targeted sequence enrichment strategy, explored its
81 transferability to related species and applied the detected markers to a long-standing question in tree
82 population genetics: the relationship between inbreeding and fitness components.

83

84 **2 Materials and Methods**

85

86 **2.1 Target sequence capture**

87

88 **2.1.1 Plant material and DNA extraction**

89 Leaves were collected from 278 adult oak trees and 15 siblings (8 *Q. petraea* and 7 *Q. robur*) in a
90 mixed oak stand (*Quercus petraea* – *Quercus robur*) located in the Petite Charnie State Forest in
91 western France (latitude: 48.086°N; longitude: 0.168°W). This population corresponds to cohort #1b
92 described by Truffaut et al. (2017). The trees were all cut between 1989 and 1993, but were grafted
93 and maintained in a common garden in a nursery located in Guéméné (latitude: 47.63°N; longitude: -
94 1.89°W). Leaves were sampled from these grafted plants for DNA extraction. The 15 siblings were
95 sampled during the natural regeneration of the adult trees in the Petite Charnie Forest and are part of
96 cohort #2 described by Truffaut et al. (2017). The parents of the siblings were identified by molecular
97 parentage analysis in a previous study (Truffaut et al., 2017), and pedigree relationships were inferred
98 between the parents and their offspring, and between the offspring (Figure 1).

99 We also collected leaves from two adult beech trees (*Fagus sylvatica*) from St Symphorien, on a
100 tributary of the Ciron river, in south-west France (latitude: 44.25°N; longitude: 0.29°W) and two
101 adult cork oak trees (*Quercus suber*) growing at the INRA Research Station at Pierroton in south-
102 west France (latitude: 44.44°N; longitude: 0.46°W). We considered a total of 300 samples in all, as
103 **three adult trees** from the Petite Charnie forest were sampled twice.

104 For DNA extraction, leaves were frozen and stored at -80°C. DNA was extracted with the QIAGEN
105 DNeasy Plant Maxi Kit and DNA quality and quantity were assessed with a spectrophotometer
106 (NanoDrop Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, USA) and a fluorometer (Tecan Infinite F200,
107 Männedorf, Switzerland) with a Broad Range Quant-it dsDNA kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific,
108 Waltham, USA). For each replicated individual, DNA was extracted independently from each of the
109 two samples, independent libraries were constructed and replicates were sequenced in separate proton
110 sequencing runs.

111

112 **2.1.2 Target sequence selection and probe design**

113 We used in-solution hybridization-based sequence capture technology, based on the results of
114 Mamanova et al. (2010). These authors compared the performance of several target-enrichment

Targeted sequence capture in oaks

115 techniques, assessed on the basis of several criteria: percentage of target sequences captured,
116 proportion of sequencing reads on target, variability of sequencing coverage across target regions,
117 reproducibility, cost, ease of use and minimum amount of DNA required. Given the number of
118 samples studied, the target size imposed by our resources (2.9 Mb) and the relatively large proportion
119 of repetitive sequences, hybridization-based sequence capture appeared to be the most relevant
120 method in our case.

121 The haploid version of the *Quercus robur* genome (haplome V2.3), available from
122 <http://www.oakgenome.fr/> and described by Plomion et al. 2018, was used for probe design (Plomion
123 et al., 2018). The oak genome consists of 25,808 predicted protein-coding genes spread over 1,409
124 scaffolds. The oak genome is highly repetitive. We therefore limited the length of target sequences to
125 150 bp, when necessary, to avoid repetitive sequences. Target sequences were selected on the basis
126 of previous results for genetic diversity and the expression of genes of ecological and physiological
127 relevance. Indeed, over the last 10 years, various genetic surveys have been conducted to identify
128 expressed candidate genes, outlier genes displaying species or population genetic differentiation, or
129 genes displaying significant genotype-phenotype or genotype-environment associations. We
130 reviewed all these surveys and used relaxed thresholds of selection to identify candidate sequences
131 for genomic capture (Table 1). As our resources were limited to a total sequence length of 2.9 Mb for
132 capture, we could not consider entire genes as targets for probe design. We therefore selected target
133 sequences within each gene, depending on its length. For genes of less than 1.5 kb in length, we
134 identified a single 150 bp target sequence located in an exon. Longer genes were artificially
135 subdivided into three regions, and we selected two 150 bp target sequences located in two extreme
136 regions of the gene: one within an exon, and the other within an intron-exon transition (Supplemental
137 file 1). In total, our capture experiment included 9,748 candidate genes. We completed the selection
138 and design of target sequences for genomic capture, by including 150 bp sequences located in
139 intergenic regions. These sequences were selected with a 100 kb sliding window. We examined
140 8,936 windows, and retained a 150 bp sequence at the beginning of the window only if no other
141 target sequence had previously been identified in the window (Table 1). If the target sequence
142 colocalized with a transposable element (TE), it was shifted 150 bp further along in the genome.

143 Once target sequences had been identified, we retained only those with a GC content between 30%
144 and 60%, as suggested by Chilamakuri et al. (2014). We avoided repetitive regions of the genome by
145 aligning candidate target sequences against the oak genome with BLAT v.35x1, using default

Targeted sequence capture in oaks

146 parameters (Kent, 2002), and we retained target sequences with fewer than 10 alignments on the oak
147 genome that were distant from TEs.

148 Following this strategy, we identified 15,623 candidate target sequences, which were sent to Agilent
149 Technologies (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, California, USA) for the design of 120 bp probes.

150

151 2.1.3 *Library preparation*

152 Our targeted enrichment procedure was based on Agilent's SureSelect target enrichment system for
153 Ion Torrent Proton sequencing (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA). We randomly
154 assigned the 300 DNA samples to 20 groups, each corresponding to a proton sequencing run. The 15
155 samples in each run were labeled (indexed 1 to 15). We assessed reproducibility, by duplicating three
156 samples corresponding to three individuals. For the **three** duplicated samples, DNA was extracted
157 separately from the two samples, independent libraries were constructed and sequencing was
158 performed in separate runs. A pre-capture library was prepared for each sample, using the
159 NEBNext® Fast DNA Library Prep Set for Ion Torrent™ from New England Biolabs (Ipswich, MA,
160 USA) according to the manufacturer's instructions: 400ng of genomic DNA was sheared, with an
161 M220 focused ultrasonicator (Covaris, Inc., Woburn, MA, USA), to yield 200 bp fragments. Each
162 sheared DNA sample was subjected to end repair and ligated to barcoded adapters. We then selected
163 DNA fragments of 300 bp in size by two consecutive Agencourt® AMPure® XP steps (Beckman
164 Coulter, Inc., Brea, CA, USA): 0.7X then 0.15X. The libraries were subjected to 11 cycles of
165 amplification. Each library was quantified with a Qubit Fluorometer, with the Qubit™ dsDNA HS
166 Assay Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA). Then equimolar pools of three libraries
167 were prepared (250 ng for each library) for target enrichment.

168

169 2.1.4 *Target enrichment*

170 The size of the DNA library was limited by the use of in-solution capture, which requires an excess
171 of probe over template. Hybridization to the probes was carried out for 24 h at 65°C, according to the
172 Agilent protocol, in a thermocycler, with 750 ng of library. Following the hybridization and washing
173 steps, the recovered targeted DNA fragments were amplified in KAPA HiFi HotStart ReadyMix
174 (Kapa Biosystems, Wilmington, MA, USA) for 40 s at 98°C, followed by eight cycles of 30 s at

Targeted sequence capture in oaks

175 98°C, 30 s at 62°C, and 30 s at 72°C, with a final extension for 5 min at 72°C. The captured library
176 pools were quantified by qPCR on a LightCycler® 480 System (Roche Molecular Diagnostics), with
177 the Ion Library TaqMan™ Quantification kit. In total, 20 pools of 15 libraries were used in
178 equimolar amounts, with a final concentration of the pooled samples of 5 pM for sequencing on an
179 Ion Proton System (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA).

180

181 2.1.5 Sequence enrichment

182 For each sample, high-quality Ion Torrent proton reads were demultiplexed and subjected to quality
183 control with Torrent suite V5.0.5 (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Reads were independently aligned with
184 the oak genome, using the Torrent Mapping Alignment Program (TMAP, Thermo Fisher Scientific)
185 and the default parameters for the Torrent suite. We estimated target enrichment by quantifying the
186 proportion of sequencing reads correctly aligned with the target sequences. For each sample, this
187 “on-target” set of reads was considered for further analysis. We investigated the coverage of target
188 sequences and calculated the percentage of the length of the target covered by at least one read.
189 These analyses were performed with custom scripts developed in Python V2.7.2.

190

191 2.2 SNP detection and population genetics analyses

192

193 2.2.1 SNP detection and filtering

194 For each sample (including cork oak and beech, which were used to test the transferability of the
195 capture probes to related species), SNPs were independently called, first with the *mpileup* function of
196 samtools V1.3.1, and then with the *bcftools* function V1.1-60-g3d5d3d9 (Li et al., 2009). We
197 considered only diallelic variants with a coverage of more than 10X. The minimum allele frequency
198 (MAF, upper case used at the individual level) within an individual, calculated on the basis of all the
199 reads containing the SNP, was set to 30%. A nucleotide polymorphism was considered to be an SNP,
200 if at least one individual was found to be heterozygous at the position concerned within the whole
201 population of 300 samples. **For studies of relatedness between individuals, we considered only the**
202 **293 oak trees from the Petite Charnie forest (278 adults + 15 siblings).** The SNP detection pipeline is
203 described in Supplemental file 2. We performed multiple controls and filtering steps in the Petite

Targeted sequence capture in oaks

204 Charnie population (*i.e.* 293 trees). We removed all trees for which more than 20% of the SNPs were
205 missing. Similarly, SNPs scored in less than 95% of the trees were removed from the dataset,
206 together with SNPs located on the 538 unanchored scaffolds of the oak genome (Plomion et al.,
207 2018).

208

209 **2.2.2 Assignment of individuals to species**

210 For the assignment of each individual to a species, we retained markers in Hardy-Weinberg
211 equilibrium located at least 1,000 bp apart, to avoid a redundancy of marker information due to
212 linkage disequilibrium. We assigned each individual to a species (*i.e.* cluster) with the
213 fastSTRUCTURE V1.0 algorithm (Raj et al., 2014). We allowed one to five clusters, with default
214 parameters, and the DISTRUCT algorithm was run over assignments based on cluster numbers of
215 two to five, to determine the most likely number of clusters. We assigned individuals strictly to one
216 species (*Q. robur* or *Q. petraea*) excluding admixed individuals on the basis of the posterior
217 probability of each individual belonging to one of the clusters.

218

219 **2.2.3 Estimation of genomic relatedness and inbreeding**

220 We investigated the genetic relatedness between trees, by removing markers in linkage
221 disequilibrium ($r^2 > 0.4$) with their neighbors, using the indep-pairphase function of PLINK
222 v1.90b3.34 (Purcell et al., 2007) (window size of 50 markers). We performed a Hardy-Weinberg
223 equilibrium exact test (Wigginton et al., 2005) with the -hardy function of PLINK, and *p*-values
224 were adjusted according to the FDR method of Benjamini & Hochberg (1995), with the R function
225 p.adjust (Benjamini, Y. and Hochberg, Y., 1995). Only markers with a *P*-value greater than 0.05
226 after correction were retained. From these markers, we computed the *F_{st}* for each marker common to
227 both populations (*Q. petraea* and *Q. robur*) with the function Fst from the R package pegas (Paradis
228 2010). Finally we considered six sets of markers defined on the basis of minimum allele frequency,
229 considered here at the population level (maf, in lower case, for population level): we selected markers
230 with a maf exceeding a threshold of 0.01, 0.05, 0.1, 0.15, 0.3 or 0.4 (Supplemental file 2).

231

Targeted sequence capture in oaks

232 For each species and each set of SNPs, the genomic relatedness matrix (G) between individuals was
233 estimated as:

234

235

$$G = \frac{(M - P) \cdot (M - P)'}{2 \sum p_i \cdot (1 - p_i)}$$

236

237 where M is an $n \times m$ matrix of genotypes scored as -1, 0 or 1 for homozygote, heterozygote, alternative
238 homozygote, P is a $n \times m$ matrix of allele frequencies computed as $2(p_i - 0.5)$, p_i is the maf at locus
239 i , n is the number of individuals and m is the number of markers, as described by Van Raden (2008),
240 with the `kin` function of the R package `synbreed` (VanRaden, 2008; Wimmer et al., 2012).

241 As indicated above, 15 offspring from the Petite Charnie stand were previously genotyped for 82
242 SNPs, and their parents were identified by parentage analysis (Truffaut et al., 2017). The 15 siblings
243 were either full-sibs or half-sibs from 13 different adult trees, resulting in a total of 54 pairwise-
244 related individuals. Eight siblings were the offspring of six adult *Q. petraea* trees, whereas seven
245 were the offspring of seven adult *Q. robur* trees. Four different pedigree relationships were identified
246 among these 54 pairs of trees: parent-offspring selfed, parent-offspring, full sib-full sib, half sib-half
247 sib. These relationships corresponded to three different expected coefficients of relationship: 1, 0.5,
248 0.25 (Figure 1). For the 54 pairs of trees, we compared genomic relatedness (G) with the expected
249 pedigree relatedness. Finally, we also calculated the genomic relatedness based on the 82 SNPs
250 obtained in a previous study (Truffaut et al., 2017). In the genomic relatedness matrix (G), diagonal
251 elements (G_{ii}) correspond to the relatedness of each individual i to itself relative to population allelic
252 frequencies. In a theoretical population, at equilibrium, with no inbreeding, each individual should
253 have a G_{ii} of 1. Inbreeding is thus assessed as $G_{ii} - 1$ (Van Raden, 2008). The deviation from 0 is
254 interpreted as the individual level of inbreeding relative to the population: the coefficient of genomic
255 inbreeding can be positive (*i.e.* individuals are more homozygous than expected from population
256 allelic frequencies) or negative (*i.e.* individuals are less homozygous than expected from population
257 allelic frequencies).

258

Targeted sequence capture in oaks

259 2.2.4 *Correlation between genomic inbreeding and fitness*

260 We used two traits as proxies for fitness: (i) the reproductive success of each adult tree, as assessed
261 by the parentage analysis of 2,500 offspring and the adult trees, and (ii) the growth of each tree, as
262 assessed by measuring stem circumference at breast height when the trees were cut. The method used
263 to assess reproductive success has been described elsewhere (Truffaut et al., 2017). For each species
264 we used the glm function of R to generate a generalized linear model with the number of offspring
265 regressed against environmental variables and the inbreeding level, according to the formula:

266

$$267 \quad g(F_i) = \alpha + \beta_1 X_{i1} + \gamma I_i + \varepsilon_i$$

268

269 where F_i is the reproductive success of individual i , α is the intercept, β_1 is the regression coefficient
270 associated with the first axis of principal component analysis (PCA) on the five environmental
271 variables (i.e. elevation, pH, soil moisture, C/N ratio, organic matter content, see Truffaut et al., 2017
272 for details), X is the first PC value extracted from this PCA, I_i is the inbreeding coefficient of
273 individual i associated with the regression coefficient γ , ε_i is the residual error and g is a log-link
274 function associated with the Poisson distribution data. Independent variables were centered such that
275 the intercept of the model corresponded to the phenotypic mean for the population. This
276 transformation had no effect on the regression coefficient values, their standard error or the
277 associated P -values. We applied a similar approach to the circumference, except that we used a linear
278 model, as circumference is a normally distributed quantitative variable, and we added the age at
279 which each tree was cut as an independent variable (range: 78 to 102 years).

280

281 **3 Results**

282

283 **3.1 Target sequence capture**

284

Targeted sequence capture in oaks

285 3.1.1 *Agilent probe design*

286 The 3P *Quercus robur* reference genome was used for probe design (Plomion et al., 2018).

287 The mean size of the target sequences was 150 bp and the probes were 120 bp long. One or two non-
288 overlapping probes were therefore designed per target sequence, resulting in a total of 33,931 120 bp
289 probes designed with SureSelect eArray software (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, California,
290 USA). These probes covered a total of 2,897,647 bp (*i.e.* 0.39% of the estimated haploid genome
291 size). In total, 23,704 probes targeted 11,446 (44.35%) of the 25,808 predicted protein-coding genes
292 and 10,227 probes targeted intergenic regions (Table 2). In total, 11,120 probes (46.91%) targeted
293 exons, whereas 6,731 (28.40%) targeted intronic regions and 5,853 (24.69%) targeted exon-intron
294 regions.

295 The probes designed successfully avoided repeated regions within the genome, as fewer than 10
296 alignments with the oak genome were identified for 97.36% of the probes (33,034 probes).

297

298 3.1.2 *Target sequences identification*

299 We selected a total of 15,623 genomic regions for capture (*i.e.* 2,914,160 bp), as described in Table
300 1. Agilent Technologies successfully designed 33,931 probes for 15,477 target sequences (99.07%).
301 Among the target sequences, 4,031 (26.05%) corresponded to intergenic regions and 11,446
302 (73.95%) corresponded to genes (Table 2). In total, 4,960 (43.33%) sequences corresponded to
303 exons, whereas 2,991 (26.13%) sequences were located in intronic regions and 3,495 (30.54%) were
304 located in exon-intron regions. The 4,031 intergenic target sequences were distributed as follows: an
305 initial set of 1,796 intergenic target sequences (Table 1), with 2,235 sequences of 150 bp in length
306 used as putative selectively neutral control regions for population genetic analyses. These control
307 regions were evenly distributed over the genome.

308

309 3.1.3 *Efficiency of target enrichment*

310 The probes designed captured 15,477 target sequences, corresponding to 2,897,647 bp of *Q. robur*
311 DNA. In total, 20 pools of 15 individuals each were independently sequenced with the Ion Torrent
312 Proton sequencing system (*i.e.* 300 samples), with **three samples** sequenced twice. Each sequencing
313 run produced between 65,426,948 and 134,977,869 reads (Supplemental file 3). Target enrichment

Targeted sequence capture in oaks

314 was assessed by aligning the reads with the oak genome: on average, for each run, 25.20% of the
315 reads captured 97.19% (*i.e.* 15,042) of the target sequences (Supplemental file 3). On average,
316 95.47% of the length of the target sequences was captured, and the mean coverage depth over all
317 samples was 96.81X, (range: 48.39X to 161.67X). Coverage length was 95.82% and 98.24X
318 coverage was achieved for the set of *Q. robur* and *Q. petraea* samples from the Petite Charnie stand
319 (*i.e.* 296 samples). The size of the sequenced reads ranged from 140 bp to 190 bp (mean: 174 bp).
320 The length of the sequencing reads was significantly positively correlated with the percentage of on-
321 target sequences (adjusted $R^2=0.2892$, P -value= $2.2e-16$) (Supplemental file 4).

322

323 3.1.4 SNP calling

324 We identified 191,281 polymorphic sites in one of the 297 trees, distributed between 13,572 target
325 sequences (87.69%). The number of SNPs in target sequences ranged from 1 to 603 (Figure 2A).
326 Most of the target sequences displaying polymorphism (10,419, 67.32%) contained between one and
327 20 SNPs. The SNPs were, thus, evenly spread over most of the target sequences. We classified these
328 SNPs into genic and intergenic sites on the basis of the oak gene model (Plomion et al., 2018). There
329 were 191,281 SNPs in total: 92,002 (48.10%) were located in intergenic regions and 99,279
330 (51.90%) were located within genes. In total, 51,536 SNPs (51.91%) were exonic, 43,075 SNPs
331 (43.39%) were intronic and 4,668 SNPs (4.70%) were located in UTR regions (2,131 in the 5'UTR
332 and 2,537 in the 3'UTR) (Figure 2 B). On average, 7.28 and 10.49 SNPs were detected every 100 bp
333 in genic and intergenic regions, respectively. Intergenic regions were much less covered than genic
334 regions, with a median sequencing depth of 97 and 63 in genic and intergenic regions, respectively.
335 Finally, we detected a mean of 13,219 SNPs per tree within the Petite Charnie population.

336

337 3.1.5 Reproducibility

338 Mean sequencing depth differed considerably between proton sequencing runs (Supplemental file 5),
339 even though number of samples per pool in the sequencing runs was identical (15). Four variables
340 were correlated, to some extent, with sequencing depth: the percentage of reads on target (r^2
341 =0.182753, Figure 3 A), the number of SNPs detected ($r^2 = 1.165e+01$, Figure 3 B), the number of
342 captured target sequences ($r^2 = 6.175e-01$, Figure 3 C) and the mean length of the captured sequences
343 ($r^2 = 7.401e-03$, Figure 3 D).

Targeted sequence capture in oaks

344 The genomic capture assay was repeated twice for **three oak genotypes** of the Petite Charnie
345 population. For each genotype, the number of captured targets and the length of the capture sequence
346 were similar (Table 3A). Given the different sequencing depths of the different runs and the stringent
347 filters applied for SNP detection (intra-individual MAF = 30%, depth \geq 10), for each individual, we
348 did not capture the entire set of targeted SNPs (Table 3A) (80.31% for tree #049, 72.32% for tree
349 #288, 60.90% for tree #402). Nevertheless, when captured in both replicates, the same alleles were
350 almost systematically correctly retrieved (Table 3A) (99.9% similarity). When considering all sites
351 (polymorphic sites and monomorphic sites covered by at least by 20X), the percentage of genotype
352 similarity among replicates was 99.86%, 99.65% and 99.27% for tree #049, tree #288 and tree #402,
353 respectively. As expected, decreasing the intra-individual minimum allele frequency (MAF) for SNP
354 detection from 30% to 10% increased the number of SNPs detected. This also made it possible to
355 increase the proportion of targeted SNPs detected for all samples (80% to 84% for tree #049, 60% to
356 68% for tree #402 and 72% to 78% for tree #288). Again, when variants were detected in both
357 replicates, allele similarity was maintained (99.9%). For all samples, sequencing depth exceeded 10X
358 for most of the SNPs detected in only one of the two replicates (Table 3B). We conclude that the
359 individuals were monomorphic at these loci. However, increasing the sequencing depth threshold
360 from 10X to 20X should significantly increase the number of SNPs detected in both replicates.

361 Finally, we were also able to test for SNP reproducibility, as **25 SNPs** identified by SNP calling were
362 included in an earlier SNP scoring method used in a previous study of the same trees (Truffaut et al.,
363 2017). Indeed, the 278 adult oak trees of La Petite Charnie had already been scored for 82 SNPs for a
364 parentage analysis, with a MassARRAY® System 16 and iPLEX® 17 chemistry (Agena Bioscience,
365 San Diego, CA, USA) and 25 of these SNPs were also used in this study. The SNPs identified by the
366 two methods were similar for the two methods except for two trees, for which differences were
367 observed at multiple SNPs. We suspect that these differences result from labeling errors, given that
368 the two analyses were conducted three years apart, with different DNA extracts. These two trees were
369 therefore removed from subsequent analyses. **A total of 25 SNPs and 250 individuals was scored**
370 **with both methods** (sequence capture and sequenome) giving two sets of 6,250 genotypes. We thus
371 compared the two sets, and over the 6,250 repeated genotypes, 97.67% was concordant (i.e. similar)
372 between the two methods.

373

Targeted sequence capture in oaks

374 3.1.6 Transferability

375 We studied the transferability of the targeted sequence capture technology to other species, by
376 including two cork oak (*Q. suber*) and two beech (*F. sylvatica*) samples in our study. An alignment
377 of cork oak reads against the 3P oak genome showed a significant level of target enrichment: on
378 average, for both samples, 15.86% of the reads captured 92.07% (*i.e.* 14,283 and 14,217) of the target
379 sequences (Table 4). When captured, target sequences were covered over 87.18% of their length on
380 average, and the mean depth of coverage over the two samples was 56.03X. Lower values were
381 obtained for the two beech specimens. On average, 8.93% of the reads captured 70.63% (*i.e.* 10,851
382 and 11,014) of the targeted sequences. Length coverage was only 51.60%, and sequencing coverage
383 was significantly lower, at 26.30X.

384 When considering *Q. robur* and *Q. petraea* trees only (*i.e.* 293 trees), we identified 13,219 SNPs per
385 sample, on average (Table 4). Smaller numbers of SNPs were detected in the other two species:
386 9,093 and 3,000 SNPs in cork oak and beech, respectively.

387 When considering all 297 trees studied here (including 2 *Q. suber* and 2 *F. sylvatica* genotypes), we
388 identified a total of 191,281 polymorphic sites heterozygous in at least one of these trees (Figure 4).
389 In total, 177,232 polymorphic sites were identified in *Q. robur* and *Q. petraea*, and 13,354 and 4,295
390 sites were identified in *Q. suber* and *F. sylvatica*, respectively. A set of 36 SNPs was found to be
391 common to all three species, as 10,181 SNPs were specific to *Q. suber* (*i.e.* 76% of the *Q. suber*
392 SNPs) and 3,836 SNPs were specific to *F. sylvatica* (*i.e.* 89.31% of the *F. sylvatica* SNPs). As
393 expected, more SNPs were shared between the *Quercus* sp. than between *Quercus* and *Fagus*.

394

395 3.2 Population genetics in the Petite Charnie forest stand

396

397 3.2.1 Species assignment and interspecific differentiation

398 According to fastSTRUCTURE, the most probable number of clusters was 2, consistent with the
399 findings of a previous analysis performed on oak trees in the same forest, with 82 SNPs (Truffaut et
400 al., 2017). Individual trees were assigned to the two species according to the value of the admixture
401 coefficient (*q*) obtained with fastSTRUCTURE software. Trees were assigned to three groups on the
402 basis of threshold values of *q*: *Q. petraea* purebreds ($q \geq 0.9$), admixed trees ($q 0.1-0.9$) and *Q. robur*

Targeted sequence capture in oaks

403 purebreds ($q \leq 0.1$), as described in Truffaut et al. (2017). The results of the fastSTRUCTURE
404 assignment were similar to of the published results obtained with STRUCTURE (Truffaut et al.
405 2017), except for two individuals assigned to *Q. robur* by Truffaut et al. but considered admixed in
406 our study. These two trees had admixture values very close to the q threshold values in study of
407 Truffaut et al. (2017). Population maf values and heterozygosity distribution within species are
408 presented in Supplemental file 6. Of the 45,429 SNPs detected in *Q. petraea* and the 51,886 SNPs
409 detected in *Q. robur*, 21,331 were common to these two species. F_{st} values for all the 21,331 markers
410 common to *Q. petraea* and *Q. robur* showed an L-curve distribution, with a large number of SNPs
411 displaying very low levels of interspecific differentiation (Figure 5). The mean and median F_{st} values
412 between the two species were 0.069 and 0.019, respectively, suggesting that these two species
413 display no clear differentiation over a large part of their genome.

414

415 3.2.2 SNP detection and filtering

416 Successive filtering steps on the 191,281 polymorphic sites resulted in various numbers of markers.
417 The final filtering step based on population maf resulted in the lowest number of markers for maf
418 =0.4 and the highest for maf = 0.01, with 1,561 to 33,131 usable markers for *Q. robur* and 1,454 to
419 32,047 for *Q. petraea*, respectively (see Supplemental file 2 for details).

420

421 3.2.3 Genomic relatedness

422 We first compared the expected relationship coefficient derived from pedigree relationships and
423 realized genomic relatedness in the two parent-offspring groups of known pedigree relationships, for
424 54 individual pairs (Figure 1). Considering only genomic relatedness estimated by genomic capture,
425 very minor differences in mean values were observed for numbers of markers between 32,500
426 markers (maf =0.01) and 1,500 markers (maf= 0.4). However, this difference in the number of
427 markers had a slight impact on precision, as the variance of the estimate was lower for larger
428 numbers of markers (Figure 6), a finding supported by the overall distribution of relatedness between
429 individuals (Figure 7). Thus, the use of numerous rare alleles has no major effect on the prediction of
430 genomic relatedness. Realized genomic relatedness was slightly lower than expected, in both species
431 (Figure 6). Conversely, when estimated with 82 SNPs only, genomic relatedness was scattered

Targeted sequence capture in oaks

432 around the expected value (Figure 6). The fact of including non-neutral markers (located in exons) in
433 the SNPs sets had no impact on the genomic relatedness estimation (not shown here).

434 At population level, relatedness coefficients were distributed around a mean value of 0 (Figure 7), as
435 expected, given the method used to calculate relatedness. However, we can consider overall mean
436 genetic relatedness to be low within natural populations of *Q. petraea* and *Q. robur*. Among parents
437 (*i.e.* excluding the 15 offspring) with a population maf=0.05, only 20 (*Q. robur*) and 40 (*Q. petraea*)
438 pairs of trees had a genomic relatedness of more than 0.25 (expected for first-cousin relationship or
439 half-sibs) and only three (*Q. robur*) and two (*Q. petraea*) pairs had a genomic relatedness of more
440 than 0.5 (expected for full-sibs), among 8,151 (*Q. robur*) and 10,150 (*Q. petraea*) pairwise estimates.

441

442 3.2.4 Correlation between inbreeding and fitness related traits

443 Genomic inbreeding coefficients were estimated separately for each species from the G matrix
444 calculated with the 1% population maf threshold and markers common to the two species. Overall
445 rates of inbreeding within the two oak species were low (Supplemental file 7). However, one *Q.*
446 *petraea* tree had a very high inbreeding value (0.58), and was discarded from the analysis. Overall,
447 the individuals of *Q. robur* were more inbred (mean inbreeding = 0.068, SD=0.030) than the
448 individuals of *Q. petraea* (mean inbreeding = 0.037, SD=0.056). GLM analysis showed the number
449 of offspring to be significantly negatively correlated with inbreeding level in *Q. petraea*
450 (coefficient=-3.62, *P*-value=6.06e-3), whereas this relationship was not significant in *Q. robur*
451 (coefficient=-1.81, *P*-value=0.114) (Figure 8b). There was no significant correlation between
452 genomic inbreeding and circumference at breast height (*Q. petraea*: coefficient=-25.39, *P*-value
453 =0.83; *Q. robur*: coefficient=-36.14, *P*-value =0.58 (Figure 8a)). These results was slightly modified
454 when the G matrix was computed with the markers selected with a maf threshold of 5% : the
455 relationship between number of offspring and inbreeding in *Q. petraea* became positive while
456 remaining non-significant. Thus, whatever the significance and sign of the relationship, inbreeding
457 depression signals were found to be very weak for both traits, within both species (Figure 8). Finally,
458 when G matrix is computed over all the individuals without subdividing by species, inbreeding had a
459 significant negative effect on both growth (coefficient = -107.41, *P*-value = 0.02) and reproductive
460 success (coefficient = -1.94, *P*-value = 0.02).

461

462 **4 Discussion**

463

464 **4.1 Targeted sequence capture is a reliable, reproducible and transferable marker technique**
465 **for population genetics studies in oaks and beyond**

466

467 Using targeted sequence capture, we successfully sequenced a large number of target genomic
468 regions in a single assay. We obtained robust and reproducible target-enrichment results over several
469 hundred samples, despite the use of only one *Q. robur* individual to design the capture probes. We
470 evaluated the performance of target enrichment according to several parameters (number of captured
471 targets, number of reads on target, length of targeted sequences, sequencing depth). Two of these
472 parameters varied considerably between experiments, providing a cause of concern, at first sight, for
473 SNP detection. First, as observed in other studies (Fu et al., 2010; Albert et al., 2007) about 25% of
474 the sequencing reads mapped to the targeted regions. A low proportion of the reads would be
475 expected to be on-target for complex genomes, such as those of plants, which consist largely of
476 repetitive sequences and transposable elements (52% of the *Quercus robur* genome), making it
477 difficult to design highly specific capture probes. The duplicated nature of many of the genes in most
478 plants, particularly in trees (Plomion et al. 2018), adds another layer of difficulty in terms of
479 specificity. In this study, the length of sequencing reads was positively correlated with the percentage
480 of on-target sequences. As the length of sequencing reads was increased to 190 bp, the proportion of
481 reads correctly aligned with their targets increased significantly (Supplemental file 4). This may
482 reflect the relatively large size of the Agilent probes (120 bp) and the requirement of a sufficiently
483 long target sequence fragment for correct hybridization. Despite the small size of the on-target
484 fraction, it was sufficiently large to cover most of the target sequences deeply enough for the
485 detection of a very large number of polymorphic sites in specific areas of the oak genome. Second,
486 we observed significant variation in the number of sequences generated per sequencing run. The
487 number of reads generated differed by a factor of up to two, but the small number of samples pooled
488 per run (15) guaranteed that sufficient reads were produced to cover most of the target sequences
489 with a sufficient depth in all samples. However, alternative NGS sequencing platforms, such as the
490 Illumina NextSeq sequencing system (© Illumina), which is able to provide up to 400 million reads
491 per run, should be considered, as such systems would make it possible to multiplex a larger number
492 of samples per run, thereby decreasing the cost per sample analyzed.

Targeted sequence capture in oaks

493 Despite the variation of coverage and of the number of reads on target, this approach made it possible
494 to recover SNPs with sufficient reliability, not only in genic regions, but also in intergenic regions.
495 Indeed, even in intergenic regions, which are known to be highly redundant in plants, we managed to
496 obtain a sufficiently high sequencing depth to detect a large number of SNP markers. Intergenic
497 markers are particularly important for population genetic studies, in which they may be considered as
498 neutral regions of the genome for the formulation of hypotheses relating to genetic diversity. They
499 may also make a significant contribution to phenotypic variation. Li et al. (2012) showed that
500 intergenic regions in maize play a significant role in quantitative trait variation, particularly for the 5
501 kb window upstream of the gene. These areas are enriched in trait-associated SNPs. There are,
502 therefore, several complementary reasons for which intergenic regions should also be explored in
503 population and quantitative genetic studies. Our study provides a large resource of genic and
504 intergenic SNPs for the exploration of polymorphisms of QTLs previously identified as involved in
505 the response to root waterlogging (Parelle et al., 2007) and bud phenology (Derory et al., 2010).
506 Using target sequence enrichment, we targeted not only candidate genes previously identified as
507 involved in drought resistance, response to waterlogging and bud phenology, but also sequences
508 displaying differentiation within species or populations, of displaying significant genotype-phenotype
509 or genotype-environment associations. Such large numbers of polymorphisms in these genomic areas
510 would never have been identified with other methods, such as Radseq. Unlike capture data, Radseq
511 data display a high variability of sequencing depth across loci, thus limiting the detection of
512 polymorphic sites to genomes with a high level of coverage (Harvey et al., 2016). However, even in
513 areas with high coverage, Radseq data have been shown to include a much higher proportion of
514 singleton alleles, consistent with a high proportion of spurious allele calls (Harvey et al., 2016).

515

516 We studied the reproducibility of DNA capture by including three replicates in our design. We
517 performed independent DNA extractions from the same tissues, constructed independent libraries and
518 sequenced three replicates in different sequencing runs. Our assay was highly reproducible between
519 replicates, as we obtained very similar results for each metric. We also compared the sets of SNPs
520 independently detected in each replicated individual. The variability of sequencing depth between
521 runs explains the identification of non-identical sets of SNPs (60% to 80%). However, 99.9% of the
522 SNPs identified in each replicated individual were identical. For the retrieval of all polymorphic sites,
523 we would need to increase sequencing effort (*i.e.* coverage) at the targeted loci. Finally, we also

Targeted sequence capture in oaks

524 obtained reproducible results (in 97.67% of the cases) with another genotyping assay (mass
525 spectrometry), for a set of 250 trees genotyped for 25 SNPs with both technologies (Truffaut et al.,
526 2017).

527

528 One of the key assets of sequence capture technology is its ability to capture orthologous loci in
529 closely related species. Capture efficiency and coverage decrease with increasing divergence between
530 species. However, it is reasonable to think that a subset of design probes remain useful at the
531 genus/family level, particularly for slowly evolving genes. The efficiency of sequence capture
532 between species has been studied with animals. George et al. (2011) used a target capture method
533 designed for humans on four monkey species. Despite sequence divergence of up to 4% between
534 humans and monkeys, they were able to capture 96% of the target sequences. We used targeted
535 probes designed for the *Q. robur* genome (Plomion et al., 2018) to recover the corresponding target
536 sequence in three other species from the Fagaceae: *Q. petraea*, *Q. suber* and *F. sylvatica*. Even if *Q.*
537 *petraea* and *Q. robur* are considered to be separate species, they belong to the same species complex
538 and can hybridize (Lepais et al., 2009). It has recently been shown that *Q. petraea* and *Q. robur* share
539 a mosaic of genes that have crossed species boundaries (Leroy et al., 2017). Logically, as divergence
540 between these two species is very limited, we expected the detection of orthologous sequences in *Q.*
541 *petraea* to be straightforward. We also considered a more distantly related species from the same
542 genus (*Q. suber*) and another species (*Fagus sylvatica*) from a different genus belonging to the same
543 botanical family (Fagaceae). No whole-genome sequence is yet available for *Q. suber* or *F. sylvatica*.
544 However, transcriptomic assemblies are available for both species (Lesur et al., 2015; Pereira-Leal et
545 al., 2014). These genetic resources limit the possibility of identifying markers outside the exonic
546 gene space. Without a complete reference genome, it is not possible to detect many of the
547 polymorphisms in intronic and intergenic regions. We were able to capture sequences from both
548 species, despite the use of much smaller numbers of cork oak and beech trees (2) than of *Q. robur*/*Q.*
549 *petraea* trees (293). It would, therefore, be reasonable to expect the detection of a much larger
550 number of markers if a larger number of genotypes was considered. As expected, we clearly showed
551 that, with increasing divergence time, the number of captured target sequences and the fraction of
552 their length captured decrease. The number of SNPs detected in *Q. suber* and *F. sylvatica* also
553 decreased with decreasing sequencing depth. Given that the probes were designed based on the
554 *Quercus robur* reference genome (Plomion et al., 2018), probe hybridization was less efficient for

Targeted sequence capture in oaks

555 cork oak and beech samples, resulting in partial hybridization, lower levels of coverage and the
556 capture of shorter sequences. Nevertheless, we were still able to detect several thousand SNPs in each
557 species.

558 Our findings demonstrate that this sequence capture assay for the targeted resequencing of oak
559 genomic regions is a cost-effective strategy for generating orthologous markers in related species of
560 the Fagaceae family in the absence of a reference genome.

561

562 4.2 Estimation of relatedness among individuals in a wild oak population

563

564 We aimed to develop SNP markers for assessing genetic relatedness in natural populations, with a
565 view to estimating genetic parameters and breeding values in evolutionary studies. Genetic
566 relatedness has traditionally been assessed by determining pedigree relationships over multiple
567 generations. However, this approach is difficult to implement for long-lived species, such as oaks,
568 due to obvious biological and logistic constraints. We therefore attempted to estimate genomic
569 relatedness among trees within a single generation, to find ways of conducting quantitative
570 evolutionary studies in the wild. The genomic relatedness estimated with a large number of
571 molecular markers has already been shown to be more efficient than pedigree relationships for the
572 purposes of prediction (Kardos et al., 2015). We show here that genomic capture is a promising
573 molecular technique for this purpose.

574 Our targeted sequence capture approach generated thousands of genotype-specific single-nucleotide
575 variants, making it possible to determine the relatedness between individuals with a high degree of
576 precision. The precision of relatedness estimates increased only slightly when the number of markers
577 increased above a few thousand.

578 The lack of variation of realized relatedness with the number of markers used (*i.e.* between maf=1%
579 and maf=40%), beyond a few thousand markers, suggests that several thousand markers are
580 sufficient for the estimation of relatedness between individuals and, thus, of the level of inbreeding of
581 each individual (relative to the population). By contrast, we found that the use of a much more
582 limited number of markers (a few tens), as in most traditional population genetic investigations,

Targeted sequence capture in oaks

583 results in a broad scattering of genomic relatedness values around the expected value, with a
584 tendency towards a large sampling variance. However, our results also show that the genomic
585 relatedness estimated with thousands of markers is systematically slightly lower than that predicted
586 on the basis of pedigree, at least for oaks. A similar trend has been reported for other forest trees (e.g.
587 Bartholomé et al., 2016) and this pattern is predictable, given that allelic frequencies are estimated
588 from data for a population of related individuals (Kardos et al., 2015; Wang and Zhang, 2014).
589 Indeed, simulation studies showed that the difference in the proportion of identity by descent (IBD)
590 between the genomes of individuals within populations is systematically overestimated when IBD is
591 estimated on the basis of the level of homozygosity expected at population level under neutral
592 conditions (Kardos et al., 2015). In this case, we expect a systematic downward bias in the estimation
593 of relatedness.

594

595 4.3 Within-population inbreeding depression is weak, but differs between closely related 596 white oak species

597

598 Inbreeding depression can be defined as a decrease in fitness trait (*i.e.* survival, fertility or growth)
599 values in the most inbred individuals (Charlesworth and Willis, 2009). Studies of inbreeding
600 depression in natural populations were long characterized by the difficulty of accurately estimating
601 inbreeding coefficients. In traditional population genetic studies, using a few tens or hundreds of
602 markers, heterozygosity is often used as a proxy for inbreeding and fitness values are regressed
603 against heterozygosity level to estimate inbreeding depression. This method has been shown to be
604 imprecise, partly because heterozygosity at a few loci is not necessarily correlated with inbreeding
605 (Szulkin et al., 2010 and references therein). With the thousands of markers developed in this study,
606 it should be possible to estimate relative inbreeding levels more precisely between individuals.

607 The method we used to estimate the genomic relatedness matrix provides values for inbreeding (and
608 relatedness) relative to population allelic frequencies. Thus, inbreeding values cannot be used to
609 compare homozygosity levels between individuals from different species. However, when estimating
610 inbreeding by considering all individuals (*i.e.* pure *Q. petraea*, pure *Q. robur* and admixed
611 genotypes) to belong to the same population, individuals assigned to the species *Q. robur* tend to be

Targeted sequence capture in oaks

612 more inbred overall than individuals assigned to the species *Q. petraea*, and, as expected, individuals
613 classified as admixed are less inbred than “pure” individuals (data not shown).

614 Our results showed that, within species, growth was not affected by inbreeding depression in either
615 species. However, reproductive success within species was characterized by weak inbreeding
616 depression in *Q. petraea*, whereas no such trend was observed in *Q. robur*. A comparison between
617 species showed that both growth and reproductive success were significantly lower in *Q. robur* than
618 in *Q. petraea*. Thus, even though no particular pattern was detected within species, *Q. robur*
619 individuals tended to be more inbred than *Q. petraea*, suggesting that *Q. robur* is more affected by
620 inbreeding depression than *Q. petraea*.

621 As illustrated in a recent paper (Truffaut et al., 2017), the two species occupy contiguous areas in the
622 study plot (*i.e.* *Q. petraea* trees are in the north east and *Q. robur* trees are in the south west). Thus,
623 as individuals compete principally with the surrounding trees, competition on this plot can be
624 considered to occur principally within species. Given that both these species are outcrossers and form
625 large populations (Gerber et al., 2014), strong inbreeding depression would be expected, due to an
626 accumulation of deleterious alleles (genetic load). However, our results in this study do not support
627 this hypothesis. There are two non-exclusive interpretations for these observations. First, inbreeding
628 levels tend to be extremely low in adult trees (the trees were roughly 100 years old), probably
629 because the individuals with the highest levels of inbreeding are eliminated, by natural or human-
630 mediated selection, when the stand is young. Second, a context of strong selection and competition
631 may have reduced the inbreeding load (Agrawal, 2010; Hedrick et al., 1999; Whitlock, 2002), by
632 purging deleterious mutations. However, the negative correlation between fitness and inbreeding
633 level observed when considering all individuals (from both species) may reflect the spatial
634 distribution of the species in this mixed forest plot, resulting in weaker competition between
635 individuals from different species, attenuating “between species” selection. As both species display
636 differences in fitness-related traits correlated with differences in inbreeding coefficient, *Q. petraea*
637 seedlings might be expected to outcompete *Q. robur* in mixed stands. Interestingly, these
638 expectations are supported by recent observations showing that *Q. petraea* seedlings have gained
639 ground over *Q. robur* seedlings in one generation (Truffaut et al., 2017).

640 Finally, inbreeding may also be limited by an even-age silvicultural regime. In such systems, in
641 which all trees within a given plot belong to the same age class, mating between relatives, and

Targeted sequence capture in oaks

642 between parents and offspring in particular, is avoided, which is not the case in other systems
643 involving trees of different ages (Finkeldey and Ziehe, 2004).

644

645 5 Conclusion

646 We demonstrate here that the combination of targeted sequence capture with next-generation
647 sequencing is an efficient method for studying genetic diversity, at genome scale, in natural oak
648 populations. We show here that this method is highly reproducible and can be extended to related
649 species within the Fagaceae. We also used this technique to assess realized genomic relatedness in
650 natural oak populations. We found that this method could be used to retrieve relationships predicted
651 by pedigree relatedness. Given our results and those of previous SNP transferability studies
652 (Lepoittevin et al., 2015), we conclude that this method can be applied to a large number of white oak
653 species, but also to other more distant oak species from other botanical sections (Hubert et al., 2014)
654 or related genera of the Fagaceae family. We used this method to assess genetic relatedness and
655 inbreeding coefficients, but it could also be used for other purposes requiring a very large number of
656 markers, such as phylogenomics, phenotype-genotype-environment associations, and the prediction
657 of breeding values for relevant traits. This work paves the way for evolutionary and genetic studies *in*
658 *natura* in long-lived tree species, such as oaks, that are difficult to study in controlled or common
659 garden conditions.

660

661 6 Data availability

662 Sequencing data for the 300 samples considered in this study are available in the NCBI - SRA
663 database under the Bioproject *PRJNA445867*. The haploid version (scaffolds) of the *Quercus robur*
664 genome (haplome V2.3) has been deposited on the EMBL - ENA database under accession
665 *OLKR01000000*.

666 The set of 191,281 polymorphic sites between *Q. petraea*/*Q. robur*, *Q. suber* and *F. sylvatica*
667 associated with each trait detailed in Table 1 is available through the EVOLTREE eLab service:
668 <http://www.evoltree.eu/index.php/snp-db>. The list of candidate genes included in the set of target
669 sequences, the 33,931 probe sequences, the description of the probes along with their transferability

Targeted sequence capture in oaks

670 and the analysis scripts used in our study can be found on the TreePeace website under the
671 *Publications* tab: http://www.treepeace.fr/?page_id=1401.

672

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682

683 **8 Author contributions**

684 IL contributed to the conception of the work, performed SNP detection, evaluated the success of the
685 sequence capture experiment and contributed to the writing of the draft manuscript. HA analyzed the
686 genomic relatedness between individuals and contributed to the writing of the draft manuscript. CB
687 was responsible for library construction and sequencing. EC was involved in sampling. CP
688 supervised the sequence capture experiment and revised the manuscript. AK contributed to the
689 conception of the work and revised the manuscript.

690

691 **9 Conflict of interest**

692 The authors declare that the submitted work was not carried out in the presence of any personal,
693 professional or financial relationships that could potentially be construed as a conflict of interest.

694

695 **10 References**

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836

837 11 Tables and Figures

838

839 11.1 Figure legends

840

841 **Figure 1: Pedigree relationships between *Q. robur* and *Q. petraea* siblings in the sequence**
842 **capture experiment. A** Pedigree relationships between 8 *Q. petraea* siblings and their parents. **B**
843 Pedigree relationships between 7 *Q. robur* siblings and their parents. Rectangles and ellipses

Targeted sequence capture in oaks

844 correspond to siblings and parents, respectively. Numbers connecting trees correspond to expected
845 genetic relatedness between individuals, based on their known pedigree.

846

847 **Figure 2: Distribution of SNPs in target sequences.** **A** Distribution of SNPs in target sequences. **B**
848 Distribution of SNPs in target sequences based on sequence types.

849

850 **Figure 3: Correlation between sequencing depth and genomic capture efficiency parameters:** **A**
851 Mean number of reads aligned with target sequences, **B** mean number of SNPs per sample, **C** number
852 of captured target sequences, **D** target sequence length.

853

854 **Figure 4: Inter-specific transferability of SNPs.** Venn diagram showing the distribution of 191,281
855 polymorphic sites between *Q. petraea*/*Q. robur*, *Q. suber* and *F. sylvatica*.

856

857 **Figure 5: Distribution of F_{st} between *Q. petraea* and *Q. robur* over 21,331 markers.** The 21,331
858 SNPs correspond to a set of markers common to *Q. petraea* and *Q. robur* (also considering those
859 fixed within populations).

860

861 **Figure 6: Comparison of expected (pedigree-based) and realized genomic relatedness for**
862 **different marker sets.** Expected relatedness based on pedigree relationship is illustrated in Figure 1,
863 and shown on this graph by bold black horizontal lines. Coloured box plots correspond to realized
864 genomic relatedness, as determined with different subsets of SNPs screened according to different
865 thresholds of minimum allele frequency (maf). The pink large-range box plots corresponds to the
866 realized genomic relatedness obtained with the 82 SNPs in the Sequenom assay (see text). **The**
867 **number of pairwise relatedness estimates for each expected relatedness category are as follows**
868 **: *Q. petraea* $n_{0.25}=14$, $n_{0.5}=18$, $n_1=1$; *Q. robur* $n_{0.25}=6$, $n_{0.5}=16$, $n_1=0$. The expected relatedness**
869 **coefficients are extracted from Figure 1.**

870

871 **Figure 7: Distribution of genomic relatedness between *Q. petraea* and *Q. robur* trees of the**
872 **Petite Charnie forest.**

873

874 **Figure 8: Correlation between genomic inbreeding and growth (a) or reproductive success**
875 **(b).** The solid curves correspond to the regression of growth or reproductive success against
876 inbreeding coefficient according to the estimated regression coefficients. The dotted lines correspond
877 to the 95% confidence interval of the regressions.

878

Targeted sequence capture in oaks

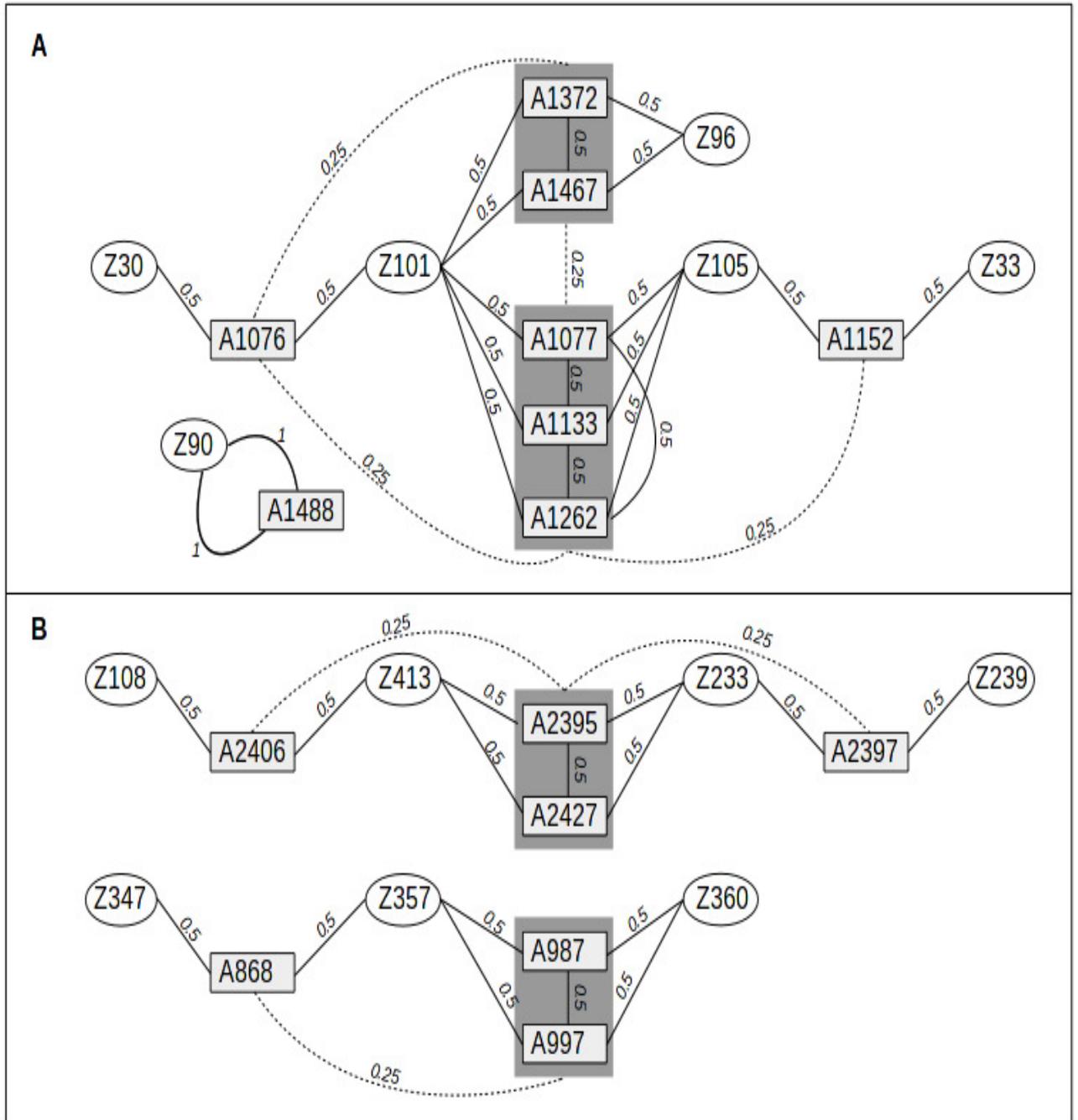


Figure 1

Targeted sequence capture in oaks

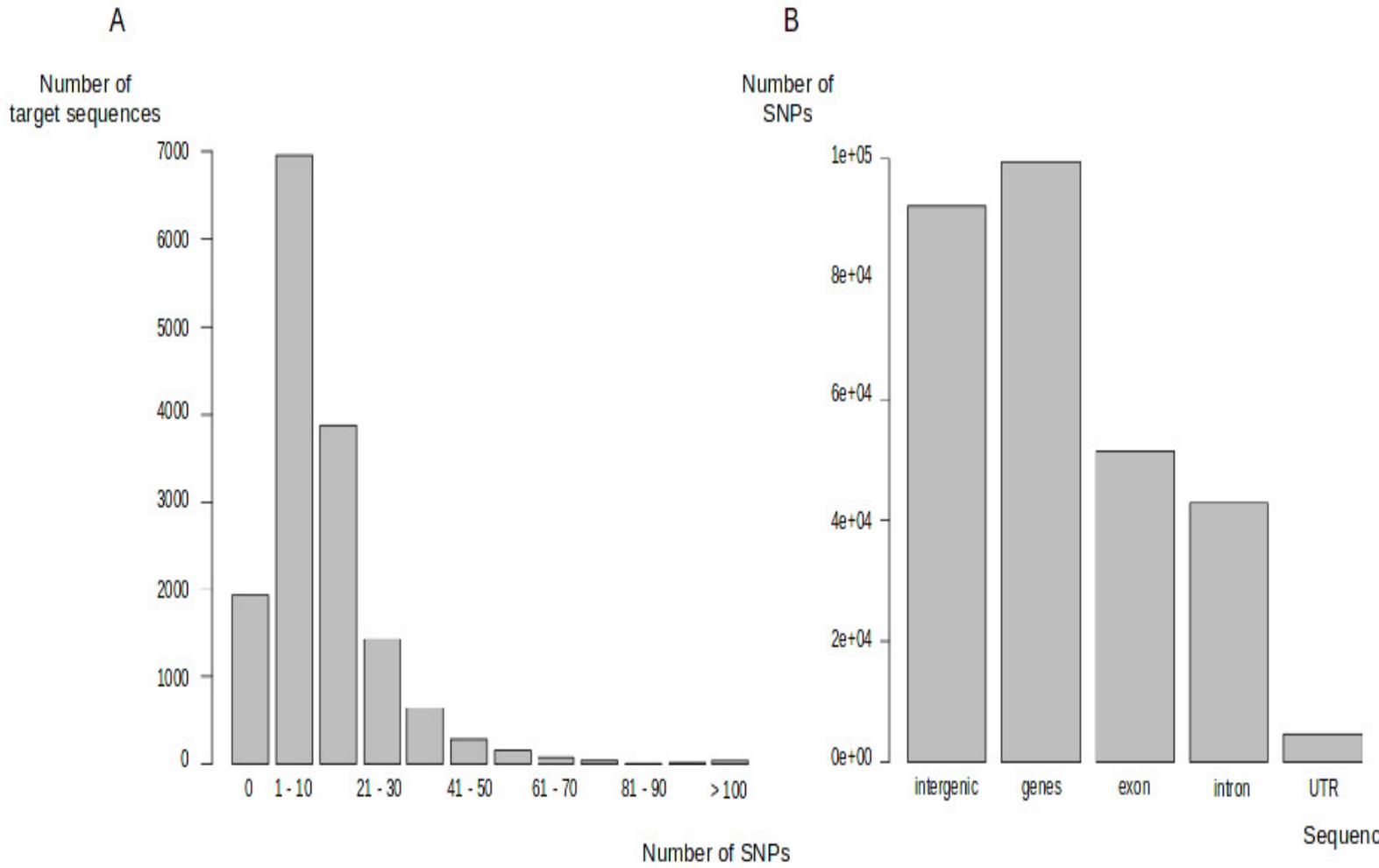
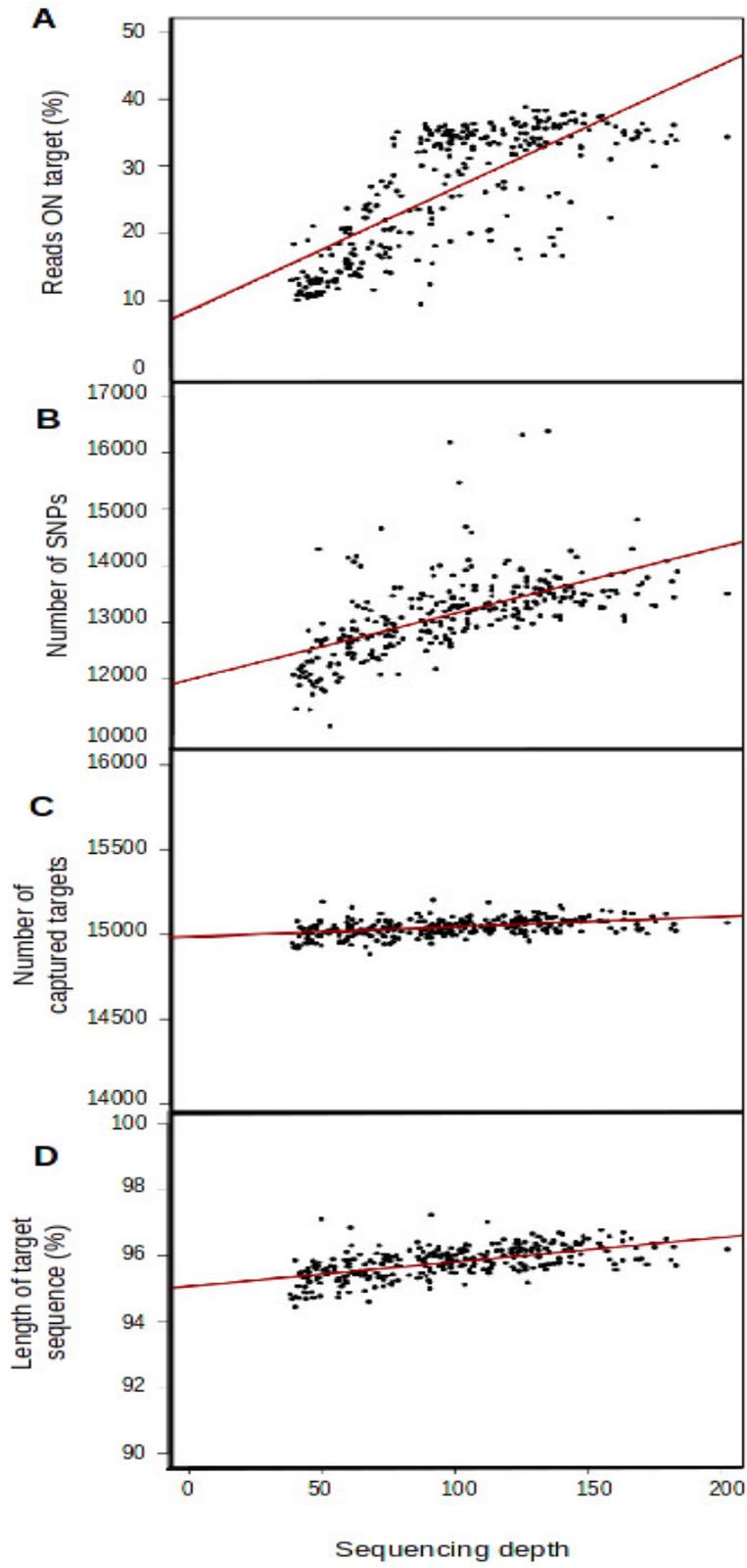


Figure 2

Targeted sequence capture in oaks



Targeted sequence capture in oaks

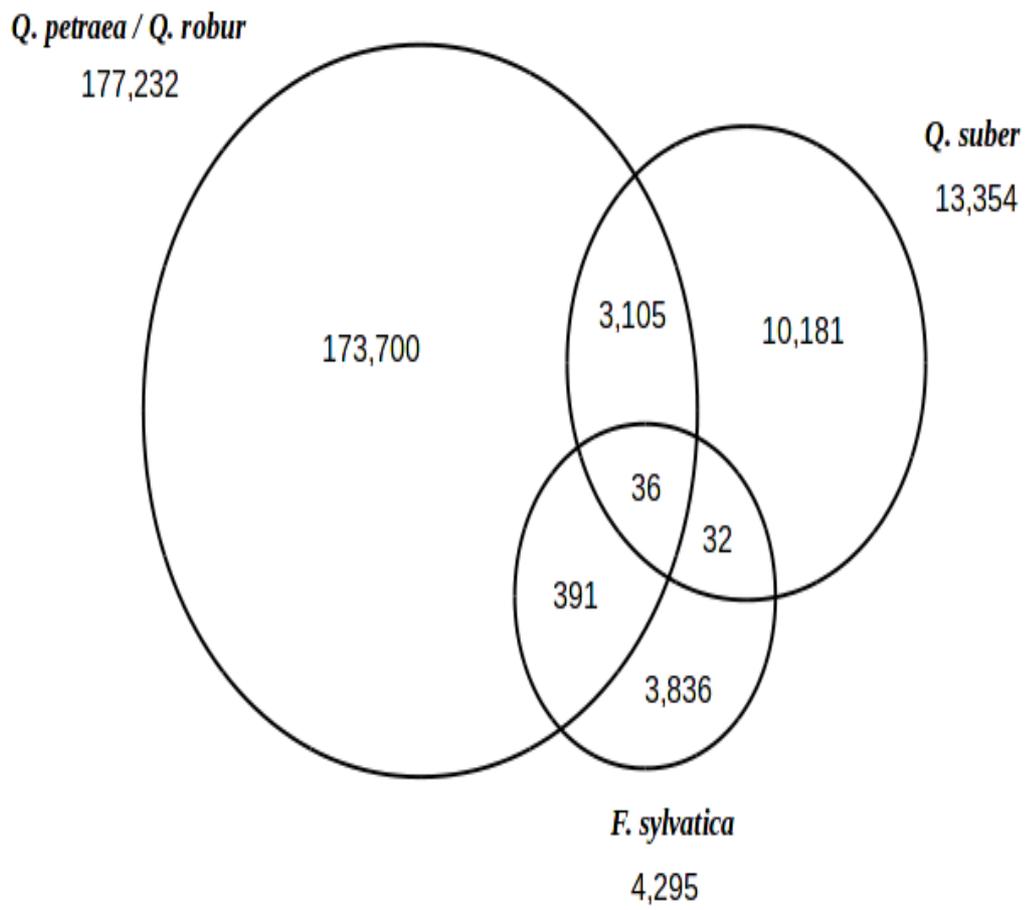


Figure 4

Targeted sequence capture in oaks

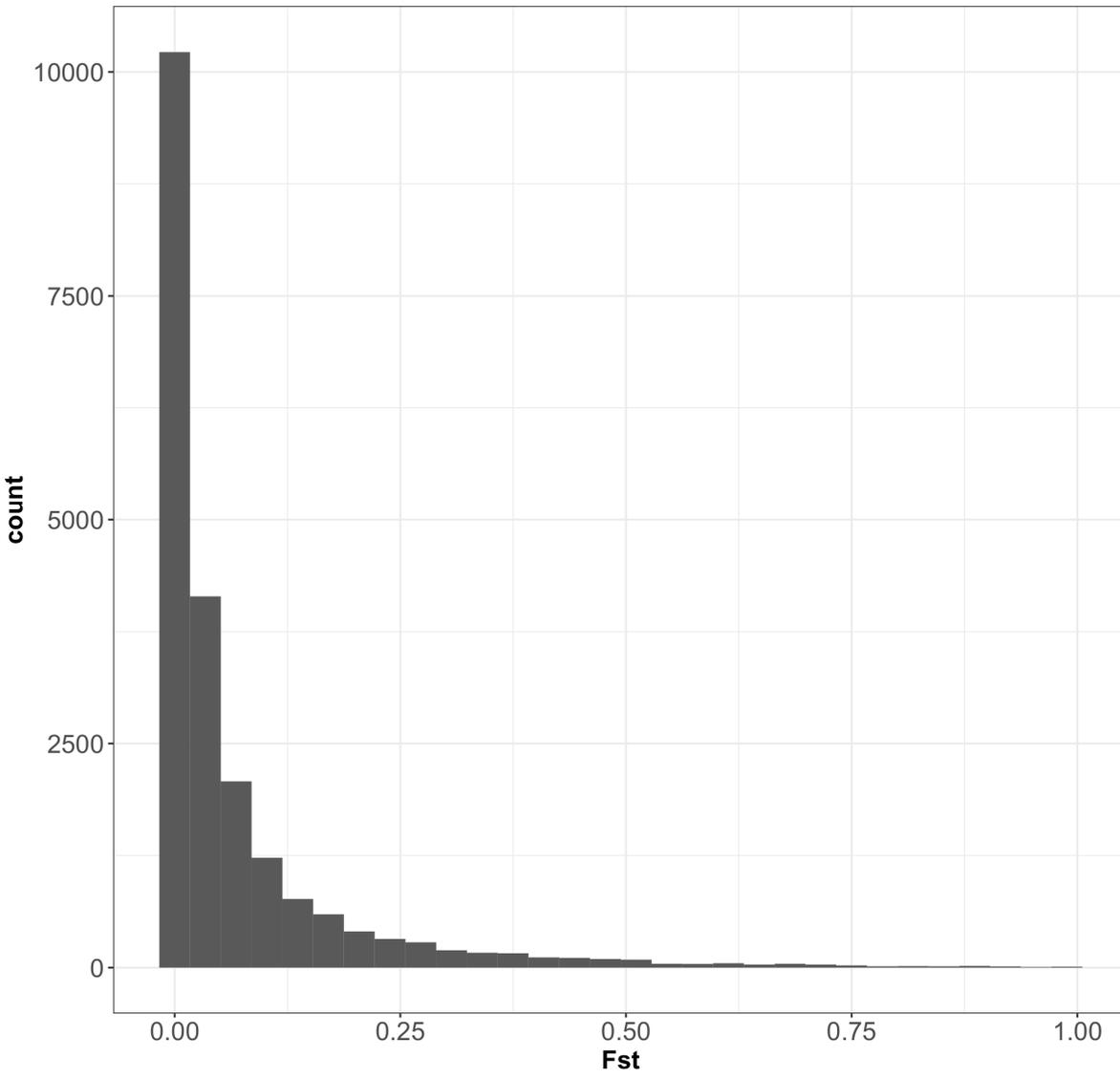


Figure 5

Targeted sequence capture in oaks

a) *Q. petraea*

b) *Q. robur*

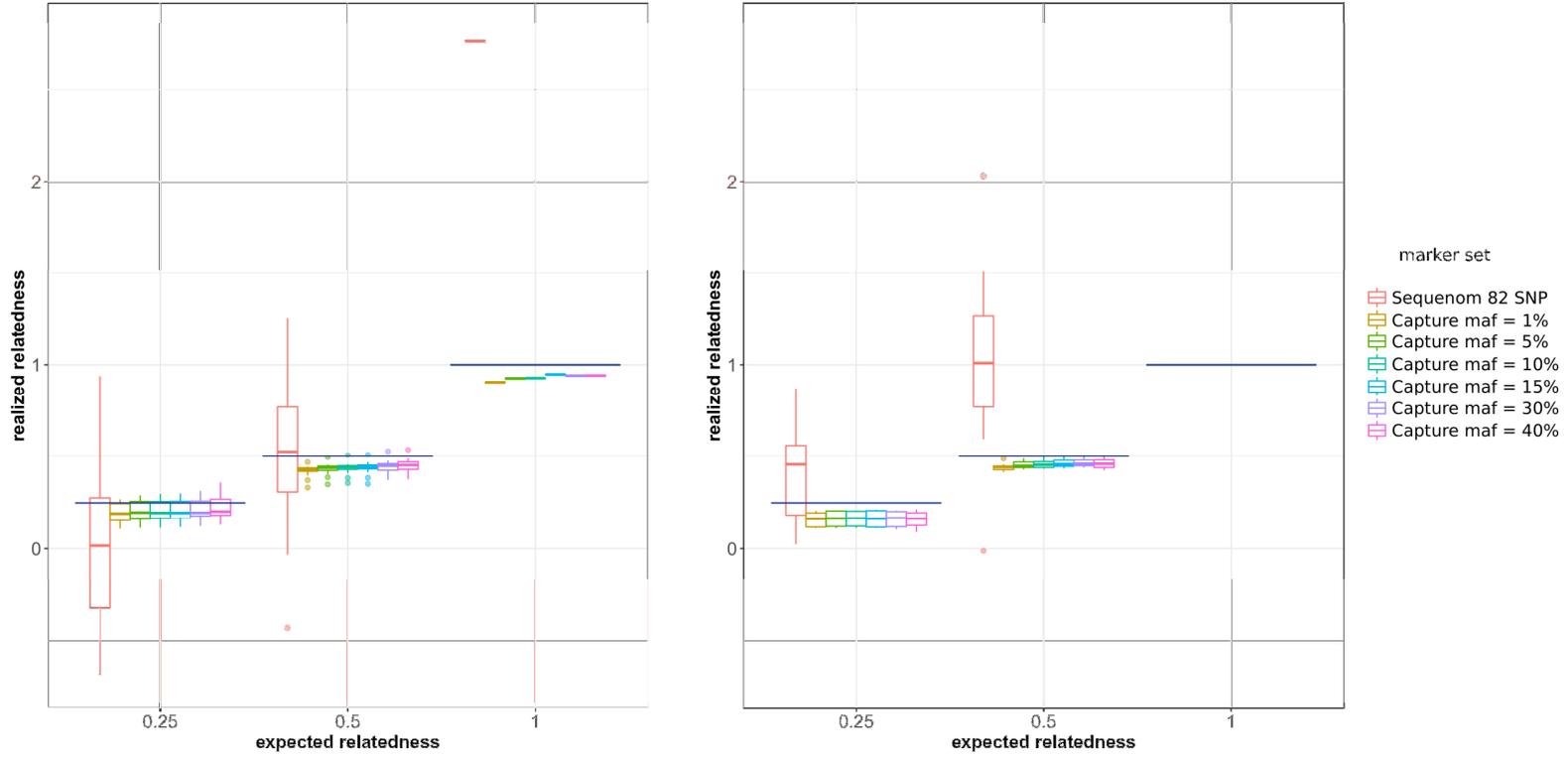


Figure 6
884

Targeted sequence capture in oaks

a) *Q. petraea*

b) *Q. robur*

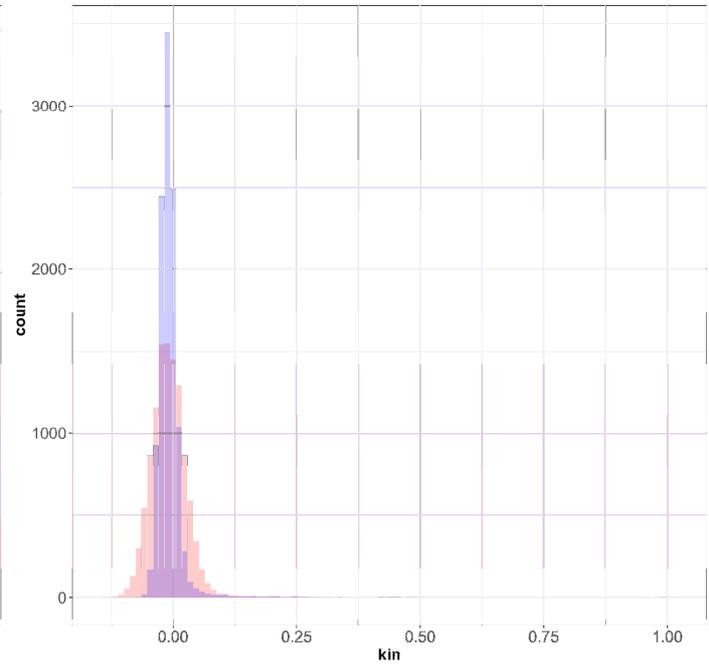
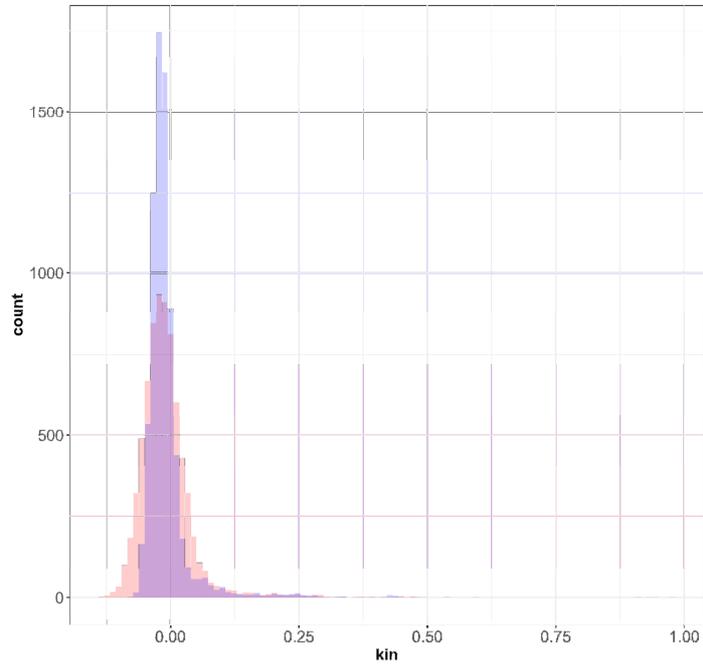
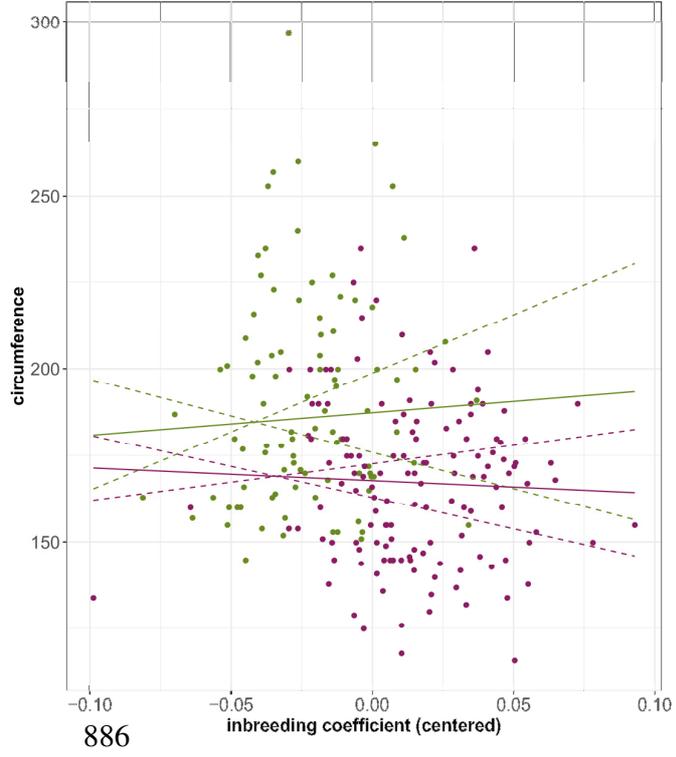


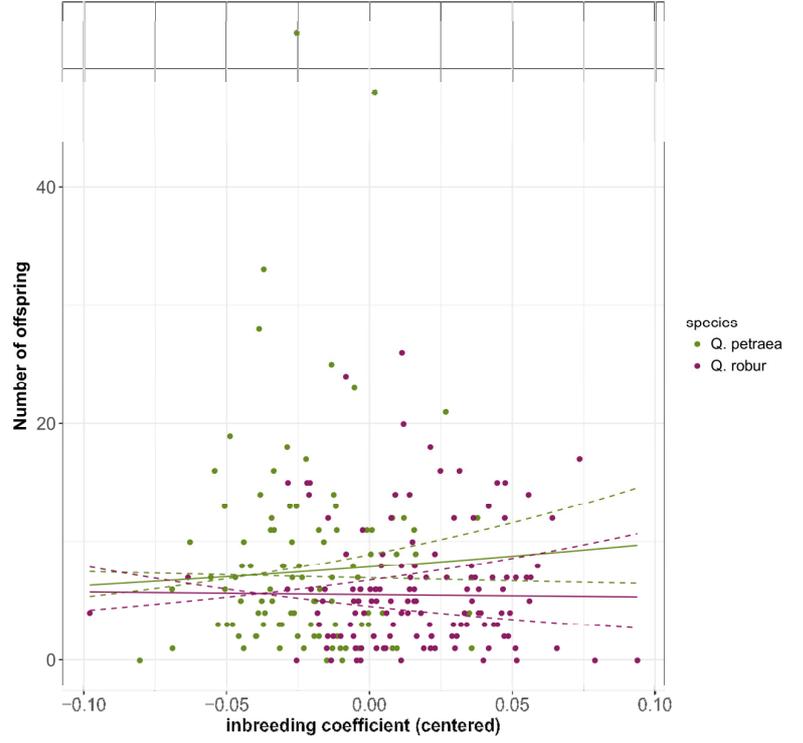
Figure 7

Targeted sequence capture in oaks

a) growth



b) reproductive success



887

888

889 **11.2 Tables**

890

891 **Table 1: List of candidate target sequences selected before probe construction.** Eight sets of
892 sequences were selected in total (see Materials and methods): five were reported in earlier studies
893 (Alberto et al., 2013; Guichoux et al., 2013; Le Provost et al., 2016; Ueno et al., 2013), two are
894 unpublished and the last one is provided here.

895

896 **Table 2: Number of probes and target sequences in intergenic and genic regions.** A total of
897 33,931 120 bp probes were designed to capture 15,477 target sequences.

898

899 **Table 3: Statistics of the replicated samples. A** Comparison of the number of SNPs detected for the
900 **three replicated samples. B** For each genotype (tree #049, tree #402, tree #288), the number of
901 polymorphic and monomorphic sites detected for each replicate (rep #1 and rep #2) was compared
902 with the total number of sites found to be polymorphic in at least one replicate. Htz is the number of
903 polymorphic sites; Hmz is the number of monomorphic sites; NA is the number of sites for which
904 sequencing depth was insufficient for the detection of polymorphism.

905

906 **Table 4: Interspecific transferability statistics.** For each species, the values for the percentage of
907 reads on target per tree, the percentage of captured sequences per tree, the percentage length in
908 captured sequences per tree, the sequencing depth per tree and the number of SNPs per tree are
909 provided. For *Q. petraea* and *Q. robur*, 293 trees (adults and siblings) from the mixed oak stand
910 located in the Petite Charnie State Forest were considered. *Q. suber* data were obtained from two
911 adult trees located at the INRA Research Station at Pierroton. *F. sylvatica* data were obtained from
912 two adult trees located in St Symphorien. In total, 15,477 target sequences selected in the 3P *Q.*
913 *robur* genome were considered for all species.

914

915

Set of sequences	Selection criteria of target sequences	Phenotypic or environmental variation	Number of candidate target sequences	Reference
1	Species divergence	unknown	17	Guichoux <i>et al.</i> , 2013
2	Species divergence	unknown	1,560	Leroy <i>et al.</i> , 2018
3	Genotype-Phenotype association	Time of leaf unfolding	681	Unpublished
4	Genotype-Phenotype association	Time of leaf unfolding	40	Alberto <i>et al.</i> , 2013
5	Genotype-Environment association	Temperature	740	Unpublished
6	Differential expression	Response to waterlogging	4,694	Le Provost <i>et al.</i> , 2016
7	Differential expression	Dormancy	6,069	Ueno <i>et al.</i> , 2013
8	None (intergenic regions)	Unknown	1,822	This study
Total			15,623	

Table 1

Targeted sequence capture in oaks

Sequence type	Number of probes	Number of targets
Intergenic region	10,227	4,031
Genic region	23,704	11,446
<i>Exon</i>	11,120	4,960
<i>Intron</i>	6,731	2,991
<i>Intron-exon junction</i>	5,853	3,495
Total	33,931	15,477

Table 2

A

Run ID	Tree ID	Number of captured target	captured length (%)	depth (X)	SNPs	common SNPs	identical alleles	different alleles
G	049	15,030 (97.11%)	95.78	137	13,804	12,422	12,417	5
R	049	15,120 (97.69%)	96.52	179	14,080			
I	402	15,053 (97.26%)	95.62	47	14,291	10,843	10,832	11
R	402	15,069 (97.36%)	96.23	124	16,318			
J	288	14,884 (96.17%)	94.62	67	12,431	10,908	10,900	8
R	288	15,038 (97.16%)	95.90	158	13,561			

B

Tree ID	Number of Polymorphic sites	repeat 1			repeat 2		
		Htz	Hmz	NA	Htz	Hmz	NA
049	15,462	13,804	1,658	0	14,080	1,382	0
402	17,805	12,330	4,765	710	16,318	1,486	1
288	15,084	12,431	1,951	702	13,561	1,520	3

Table 3

Species	reads ON target (%)	captured sequences (%)	captured length (%)	sequencing depth (X)	number of SNPs
<i>Q. petraea</i> <i>Q. robur</i>	25.20	97.19	95.82	98.24	13,219
<i>Q. suber</i>	15.86	92.07	87.18	56.03	9,093
<i>F. sylvatica</i>	8.93	70.63	51.60	26.30	3,000

Table 4