

Supplementary Material 2

Wolf DNA amplification success against sampling sessions, month of sampling and scat sample age in Southern Carpathians, Romania

During the three sampling sessions we collected in total 505 samples. Although the sampling sessions were open from July to June, 90% of samples were systematically collected from November to the end of May (Figure S1). The detectability of the samples was higher in this period due to the higher visibility on the snow cover. We had the highest proportion of genotyped samples in January and February, while poor samples were frequent in March (Figure S1), suggesting that a systematic sampling during winter results in a higher genotyping rate.

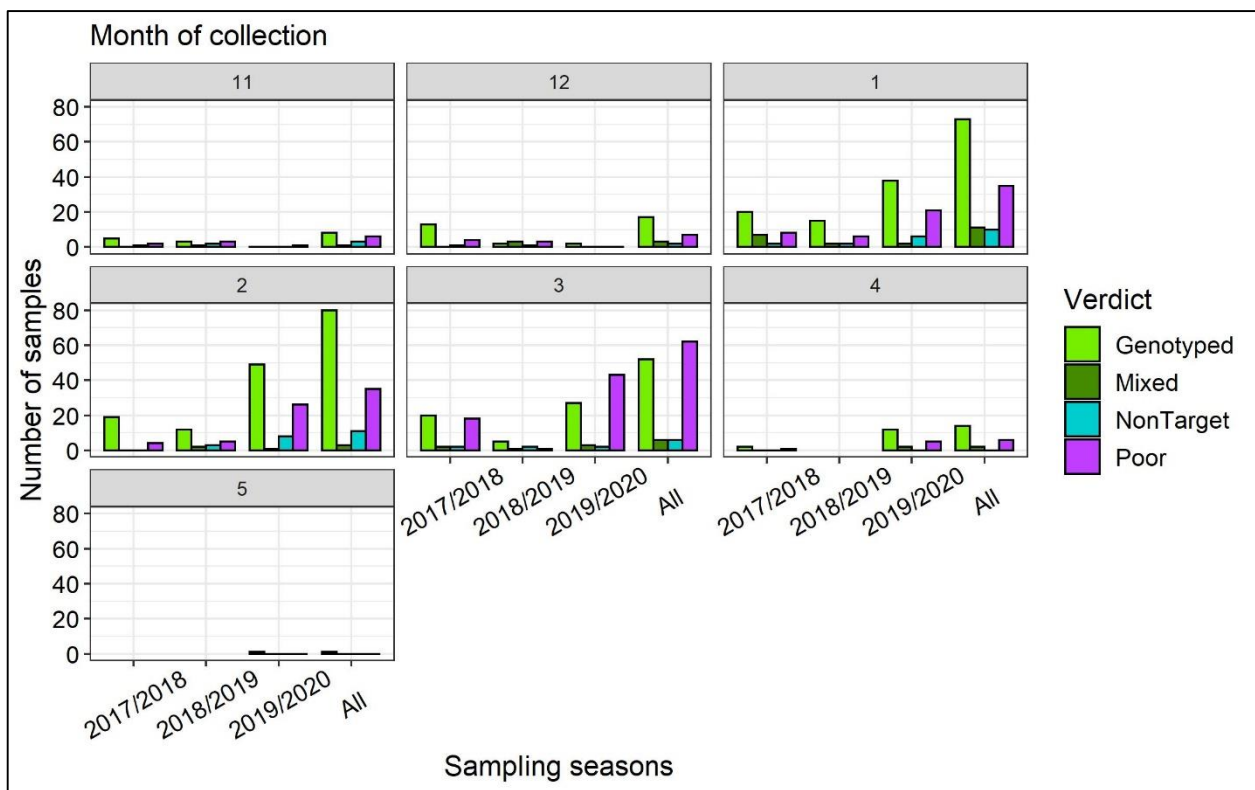


Figure S1. Number of samples collected per months. Panels represent November (11), December (12), January (1), February (2), March (3), April (4) and May (5). On the X-axes the sampling sessions are marked.

Scat samples represented the 70% of the total amount of samples, out of which 35.6% gave reliable genotype. Overall, across the three sampling sessions, the samples were one and two days old (Figure S2). Most of the scats in Session 1 were two days old, in the Session 2 mostly one-day old, while in the Session 3 the distribution of scat ages was more balanced with a peak at two days (Figure S2).

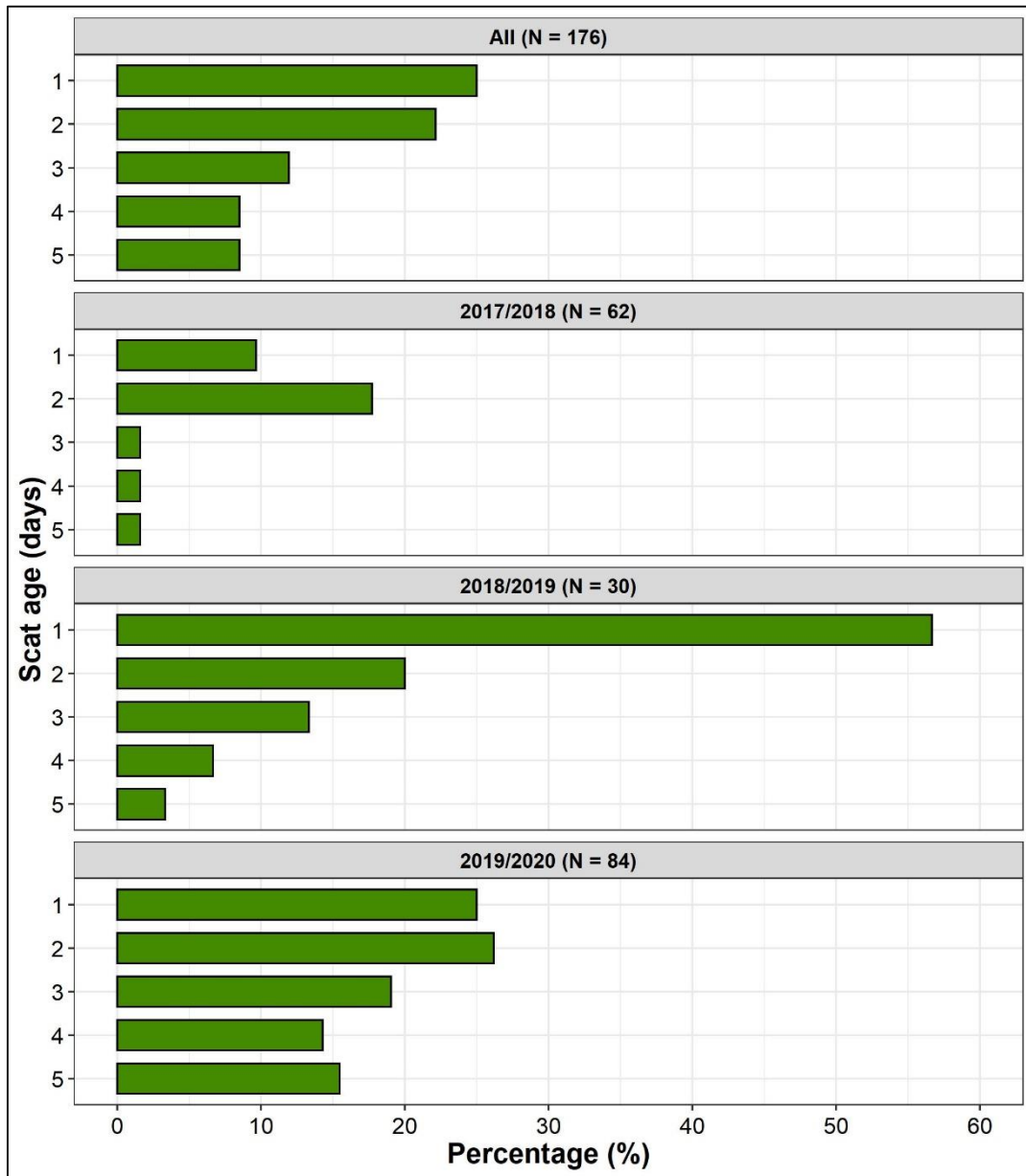


Figure 2. Scat samples amplification success by the field-estimated age of the samples (1-5 days old) in each sampling session.