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### **Title**

Multi-locus genomic signatures of local adaptation to snow across the landscape in California populations of a willow leaf beetle

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**Keywords**: Climate change, cold tolerance, insect, local adaptation, landscape genomics, winter 

#### **Abstract** 17

Organisms living in mountains contend with extreme climatic conditions, including short growing seasons and long winters with extensive snow cover. Anthropogenic climate change is driving unprecedented, rapid warming of montane regions across the globe, resulting in reduced winter snowpack. Loss of snow as a thermal buffer may have serious consequences for animals overwintering in soil, yet little is known about how variability in snowpack acts as a selective agent in montane ecosystems. Here we examine genomic variation in California populations of the leaf beetle *Chrysomela aeneicollis*, an emerging natural model system for understanding how organisms respond to climate change. We used a genotype-environment association approach to identify genomic signatures of local adaptation to microclimate in populations from three montane regions with variable snowpack and a coastal region with no snow. We found that both winter-associated environmental variation and geographic distance contribute to overall genomic variation across the landscape. We identified non-synonymous variation in novel candidate loci associated with cytoskeletal function, ion transport and membrane stability, cellular processes associated with cold tolerance in other insects. These findings provide intriguing evidence that variation in snowpack imposes selective gradients in montane ecosystems. 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

#### **Introduction** 33

Seasonality serves as one of the strongest and most ubiquitous sources of environmental variation impacting natural systems, with distinct selective forces operating between periods of summer growth and reproduction and overwintering survival (Fretwell, 1972; Williams et al., 2017). For small montane ectotherms, elevated and variable air temperatures during summertime can cause physiological stress during critical periods of reproduction, growth, and development (Dahlhoff et al., 2008; McMillan et al., 2005; Neargarder et al. 2003). As hotter, drier summers become more common, upslope shifts in montane insect species are becoming more frequent, posing novel challenges at the limits of physiological tolerance (Larsen, 2012; Moret et al., 2016). For organisms that overwinter beneath the soil, snow cover is a key environmental factor influencing physiology and survival because snow buffers microclimate variability (Pauli et al., 2013; Slatyer et al., 2022; Zhu et al., 2019). Climate change is causing more prevalent, intense, and lengthy droughts, which in turn leads to more winters with a higher elevation snowline and lower total snowpack (Huning & AghaKouchak, 2020; Mote et al., 2018). Reductions in snowpack may expose organisms overwintering in the soil to temperature extremes that cause physiological stress, reducing their overwintering survival and reproductive success at subsequent summer emergence. Recent declines in insect populations in montane environments documented across the globe demonstrate the urgency in gaining a clear understanding of how organisms cope with greater seasonal variability in temperature and precipitation in montane ecosystems (Birrell et al., 2020; Halsch et al., 2021; Shah et al., 2020). Seasonal fluctuation can maintain genetic polymorphisms within populations (Haldane & Jayakar, 1963; Wittmann et al., 2017), and variation in the extent and magnitude of seasonal fluctuations can generate spatial 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54

clines in allelic variants (Conover, 1992; Rank & Dahlhoff, 2002; Rhomberg & Singh, 1986). Elucidating how past climatic conditions have structured genetic variation and corresponding physiological responses for organisms in these habitats will be critical for predicting their responses to future environmental change. 55 56 57 58

Local adaptation, which occurs when resident genotypes have a higher relative fitness in their local habitat than genotypes originating from other habitats, is an important mechanism by which genetic variation is maintained in heterogeneous environments (Felsenstein, 1976; Hedrick et al., 1976; Kawecki & Ebert, 2004). The extent and persistence of local adaptation is determined by a balance between natural selection for alleles that confer improved reproductive success in a particular microclimate and the homogenizing effects of gene flow and other neutral processes (Forester et al., 2016; Kawecki & Ebert, 2004; Nadeau et al., 2016; Orsini et al., 2013; Slatkin, 1987). Neutral processes that influence patterns of genetic variation among populations include dispersal rates, colonization history, and population expansion and contraction, which in turn affects levels of genetic drift (Nadeau et al., 2016; Orsini et al., 2013). Local adaptation may be detected by identifying a stronger genetic variant 'signal' from weaker, non-selective 'noise' (Shafer & Wolf, 2013; Wang & Bradburd, 2014). Unfortunately, selective climatic gradients, geography, and migration corridors tend to covary, which complicates quantifying the relative contribution of selective and neutral evolutionary forces; thus, effects of isolation by distance and population structure must be taken into account before patterns of genomic variation can be associated with selective features of the environment (Forester et al., 2018a; Frichot et al., 2013; Rellstab et al., 2015; Sork et al., 2013). 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75

In this study, we investigated relationships between microclimatic factors and genetic variation in the willow leaf beetle *Chrysomela aeneicollis*, a well-described model species for understanding how climate change impacts montane ecosystems (Dahlhoff et al., 2019; Millstein, 2006; Rank & Dahlhoff, 2002). This insect is ideal for investigating processes of local adaptation in a region of high topographic and seasonal landscape heterogeneity (Camus, 2020). During the brief summer growing season, this univoltine beetle species mates, lays eggs, and undergoes one generation of larval development before new adults emerge and feed before winter returns (Smiley & Rank, 1986). They overwinter in the soil as freeze-tolerant adults for eight to nine months before emergence of reproductively mature adults (Boychuck et al., 2015; Roberts et al., 2021). 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85

In western North America, *C. aeneicollis* is found living on willows in cool, moist habitats separated by regions of arid or Mediterranean climates, resulting in highly fragmented distribution with little connectivity among populations (Brown, 1956; Dellicour et al., 2014). In California, this species inhabits regions with distinct microclimate and seasonal characteristics: along high-elevation (2700 - 3400 m) streams and bogs in the Sierra Nevada, in isolated montane populations on the edge of the Great Basin, and in low elevation riparian habitats along the Northern California coast. Within the Sierra Nevada, populations experience stressfully warm and cold temperatures throughout the year and their distribution is affected by seasonality and elevation, with populations contracting upslope and declining in abundance during droughts and growing in size and expanding to lower elevations after wet, snowy winters (Dahlhoff et al., 2019; McMillan et al., 2005; Rank, 1994; Rank et al., 2020; Roberts et al., 2021; Smiley & Rank, 1986). Despite these fluctuations in population size, Sierra Nevada populations have 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97

maintained high levels of heterozygosity at protein coding genes and other loci and show no deviation from Hardy Weinberg expectations with respect to expected versus observed genotype frequencies (Rank 1992a, Rank et al. 2020), suggesting that they are sufficiently large to avoid bottlenecks and effects of inbreeding. Montane populations show evidence of substantial, stable genetic differentiation along a 60 km latitudinal gradient, from the South Fork of the Kings River in the south to Rock Creek in the north, with especially high divergence at mitochondrial loci and the metabolic enzyme locus *phosphoglucose isomerase*, *Pgi* (Dahlhoff et al., 2008; Rank, 1992a; Rank et al., 2020; Rank & Dahlhoff, 2002). Prior laboratory and field studies have also shown that effects of temperature on performance and fitness components vary among individuals with different nuclear and mitochondrial variants (Camus, 2020; Dahlhoff et al., 2019; Dahlhoff & Rank, 2000; Dick et al., 2013; Rank et al., 2020). While extensive studies support the hypothesis that variation at metabolic loci such as *Pgi* and the mitochondrion reflect local adaptation (Bracewell et al., 2023; Dahlhoff et al., 2008; Dahlhoff & Rank, 2000; Rank & Dahlhoff, 2002), we lack information about how variation throughout the genome reflects the complex interaction of neutral and adaptive processes across the beetle's range. 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112

Here, we address this gap by evaluating relationships between genomic variation and environmental conditions in locations where willow beetle populations occur in four distinct ecoregions of California (Griffith et al., 2016). We quantified differentiation at nuclear loci among populations in three montane regions in Eastern California and populations in an isolated coastal area; this sampling design covers all known regions within California where this species is currently known to occur (Brown, 1956; Dellicour et al., 2014). We identified selective microclimatic gradients that contribute to spatial patterns of potentially adaptive genomic 113 114 115 116 117 118 119

- variation across the landscape, then used this information to predict functions of newly identified 120
- genes that vary along microclimatic gradients to examine how genomic differentiation among 121
- these regions may contribute to local adaptation. 122

#### **Results** 124

#### *Sequencing and marker filtering* 125

Illumina sequencing generated 5.06 billion paired-end reads from 175 individuals in 12 126

populations (Table 1), of which 4.05 billion total reads (80.1%) passed initial quality filters (per 127

sample: mean  $= 23.1$  million, sd  $= 7.9$  million). The joint genotype calling workflow identified 128

12 million hard-filtered biallelic SNPs (Tables S1, S2). We then used a conservative SNP 129

filtering approach based on minor allele frequency (MAF), heterozygosity, and inbreeding 130

coefficient, resulting in 22,323 SNPs across all individuals and 12 populations. Filtering 131

thresholds that contributed substantially to the reduced set of analyzed SNPs were those that 132

removed SNPs with a MAF < 0.01 (Table S2B) and that removed loci with low quality reads 133

within populations (Table S2C). These SNPs were distributed evenly across the nuclear genome 134

(Table S1). 135

#### *Microclimate simulation* 136

The NicheMapR microclimate model simulated 24 variables for the 12 beetle populations that represent air, soil, and snow conditions beetles experience throughout their lifecycle (Table S3). Simulated environmental variables demonstrated high sensitivity to the shade input parameter in the model (Fig S1), but relative multivariate environmental distances between populations were consistent between minimum and maximum shade conditions (Fig S2). Simulated microclimatic data under minimum shade conditions were more concordant with available empirical measurement based on RMSE (Table S4), so downstream analyses were therefore conducted using simulated environmental variables under 10% shade. 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144

#### *Population genomic differentiation across California landscape* 145

The first two principal components on population-level minor allele frequencies explained 55.8% of total genomic variation (Fig 1B). Eastern Cascade and Coast Range ecoregions exhibited the greatest genomic divergence among populations, and population genomic variation in the Sierra Nevada and Central Basin ecoregions followed a latitudinal gradient (Fig 1; Table S5). SNP filtering thresholds used in analyses did not meaningfully influence estimates of population structure compared to more relaxed filter thresholds (Fig S3-S5). 146 147 148 149 150 151

A population genetic structure analysis was used to estimate proportions of individual genomes originating from ancestral gene pools based on the five populations determined by selecting a value of K that minimized cross entropy (Fig S6). Individuals in the Sierra Nevada ecoregion show a strong pattern of genetic differentiation with latitude (Fig 1). Based on proportions of estimated ancestral coefficients, individuals in the southern drainage Tuttle Creek (TC) are genetically distinct and belong to one ancestral population. Individuals in Taboose Pass (TP) are mixed, sharing ancestry with neighbors in Tuttle Creek to the south, Big Pine (BP) and Baker (BK) Creek to the north. Individuals in South Bishop Creek (BC) and Tyee Lakes (TL) share ancestry with both southern (BP, BK) and northern (NF, PC, RC) populations, which in turn share ancestry with those from the Great Basin (DC). Individuals collected in Eastern Cascades and Coast Range ecoregions were genetically distinct from each other and from the Sierra Nevada-Great Basin complex (Fig 1). 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163

Analysis of pairwise  $F_{st}$  values among population pairs revealed that populations in the montane Eastern Cascades region were more similar to montane populations in the Sierra Nevada and Great Basin than they were to Coast Range populations, despite similar geographic 164 165 166

distances separating each region (Fig 2). When populations were classified by habitat type (coastal or mountain),  $F_{st}$  values for "coast vs. mountain" population pairs were four-fold greater (LSM =  $0.43 \pm 0.02$ ) than those for "mountain vs. mountain" population pairs (LSM =  $0.11 \pm$ 0.01,  $F_{1,63} = 197.4$ ,  $P \le 0.001$ ; Fig 2). The overall relationship between geographic distance and  $F<sub>st</sub>$  was similar within the two types of population pairs and was consistent with 'isolation by distance' genetic differentiation ( $F_{1,63} = 24.5$ ,  $P \le 0.001$ ; Fig 2). Together, these results suggest that isolation by distance and isolation by environment (coastal versus montane) both shape genomic differentiation, and differences in environmental conditions appear to strongly influence genetic composition of *C. aeneicollis* populations. 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175

#### *Associations between environmental and genomic variation* 176

*Partial redundancy analysis (pRDA)*- The pRDA made it possible to identify specific genetic polymorphisms that were associated with environmental differences among populations. Among all California populations, the pRDA was globally significant ( $F_{2,7} = 2.18$ ,  $P = 0.001$ ; Fig 3), and the constraining environmental matrix explained 17.1% of variation in genomic data, while the conditioning spatial matrix explained 19.0% of genomic variation. The forward selection procedure identified a significant positive spatial variable (MEM1), which was retained as conditioning variable in pRDA. The forward selection procedure identified annual air temperature range at 1.75 m above ground level (annual  $T_{\text{max}} - T_{\text{min}}$ ) and maximum daily snowfall as significant environmental predictors of genomic variation (Fig 3; annual air temperature range  $F_{1,7} = 2.28$ ,  $P = 0.001$ ; maximum daily snowfall  $F_{1,7} = 2.08$ ,  $P = 0.001$ ). The first and second RDA axes also explained substantial proportions of genomic variation (RDA1 = 18.7%,  $F_{1,7}$  = 2.32, *P* = 0.014; RDA2 = 16.6% *F*1,7 = 2.05, *P* = 0.022). Candidate single nucleotide 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188

polymorphisms (SNPs) were identified based on high correlation with temperature- and snowrelated environmental variables ( $r > |0.65|$ ) and z-score values of loadings of loci in ordination space ( $\zeta$  scores  $\pm$  2.1, two-tailed P = 0.036). Based on these criteria, 107 SNPs were identified as candidate loci (Fig 3). Sixty-eight SNPs were related to annual air temperature range, thirtyseven to maximum daily snowfall, and two were related to both temperature and snowfall (Table S6). When the coastal Gualala River population was excluded, the pRDA was globally significant ( $F_{1,8} = 2.04$ ,  $P = 0.021$ ; Fig S7), and with MEM1 as the conditioning variable, the forward selection procedure identified only maximum daily snowfall as a significant predictor of genomic variation. Using the above candidate loci criteria, 116 SNPs were related to maximum snowfall (Table S9). 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198

*Latent factor mixed model (LFMM)*- The LFMM represents a second approach to identify SNPs 199

related to environmental variability while accounting for overall population genetic structure. 200

With all California populations, a LFMM was run with five estimated ancestry coefficients as 201

latent factors to test single-locus relationships with annual air temperature range and maximum 202

daily snowfall (ancestry coefficients shown in Fig 1). A large proportion of identified 203

polymorphisms (19.2%; 4,289 SNPs) were associated with annual air temperature range, and 204

7.2% (1,603 SNPs) were associated with maximum daily snowfall (Fig 4). Using the LFMM 205

excluding the coastal Gualala River population and four ancestral populations, 1,471 SNPs 206

(6.6% total) were associated with maximum snowfall (Table S9, Fig S8). 207

*SNP and protein functional annotations* 208

To reduce probability of false positive associations and narrow the search for candidate 209

polymorphisms, we focused on SNPs identified by both pRDA and LFMM, and we assessed 210



#### **Discussion** 229

Detecting accurate signals of local adaptation in the genome requires linking observed genetic patterns to underlying selective features of the environment while accounting for associations imposed by neutral processes. Here we demonstrate that populations of the willow leaf beetle *Chrysomela aeneicollis* across California are differentiated across the nuclear genome, and we provide strong evidence that snow serves as a prominent selective gradient and driver of local adaptation across their geographic range. We show that both large-scale variation in snowfall across the California landscape and small-scale variation in snowfall within montane locations are associated with adaptive genetic variation. Specifically, we provide evidence that variation in maximum daily snowfall is linked to non-synonymous polymorphisms in genes associated with cytoskeletal motility, ion transport, and membrane structure and function, highlighting the potential role of adaptive protein modifications that could enhance insect cold tolerance in cold snowy regions. 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241

#### *Spatial patterns of genetic divergence in Chrysomela aeneicollis* 242

Results of this study reveal that populations of the willow leaf beetle *Chrysomela aeneicollis* living in different regions of California are genetically differentiated across loci in the nuclear genome. Three of four ecoregions sampled show substantial levels of genetic divergence among them, such that North Coast populations are distinct from those in the Eastern Cascades ecoregion, and both of those populations are distinct from populations in the Sierra Nevada and Great Basin (Fig 1). Within Eastern California, populations from northern drainages of the Eastern Sierra Nevada are less genetically isolated from populations sampled in the neighboring White Mountains than those found in southern drainages of the Sierra Nevada. Furthermore, 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250

consistent with previous studies, populations within the Sierra Nevada show relatively high levels of genetic divergence given their relatively close geographic proximity (Fig 1) (Dahlhoff et al., 2008; Rank, 1992a; Rank et al., 2020). Patterns of genetic differentiation separating populations in different ecoregions suggest that geographic and seasonal environmental variation present a major selective pressure on alleles in the nuclear genome and that genes related to thriving under different local environmental conditions contribute to local adaptation among populations of *C. aeneicollis* (Fig 2). 251 252 253 254 255 256 257

The strong pattern of geographic differentiation of genomic variation across California was illustrated for the first time in the present study, but it is consistent with findings of Dellicour et al. (2014). The earlier study found that *C. aeneicollis* populations in Western North America (Montana, coastal Oregon, Colorado, and California) were strongly differentiated at mitochondrial and nuclear genetic markers, suggesting that geographic isolation among these regions predates recent fluctuations in the extent of glaciation over the past 50,000 years. Isolation of populations at mitochondrial loci was greater than nuclear genes, but there was overall agreement among loci that differentiation among geographic regions was substantial, which would contribute to conditions favoring local adaptation (Dellicour et al., 2014). To date, this study provides the best picture of signatures of adaptation to seasonal variation in this wideranging insect. 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268

*Maximum daily snowfall variation contributes to adaptive genetic variation*  269

Identifying climatic variables that act as drivers of spatially varying selection will be critical for 270

predicting evolutionary responses to climate change and environmental disturbance (Bay et al., 271

2018). Among all simulated microclimate conditions that represent air, soil, and snow conditions 272

throughout the year, we found that maximum daily snowfall explains a significant portion of variation in genomic data, after controlling for spatial autocorrelation and population history (Fig 3, Fig S7). This association is identified both across the California landscape, where climatic conditions differ greatly between coastal and montane populations, as well as within montane populations, where differences in climatic conditions are more subtle. Comparisons made within montane populations suggest that this snowfall gradient may characterize spatially varying selective pressures related to winter cold exposure within mountain ecoregions (Fig S9). Ecophysiological models for *C. aeneicollis* indicate that the relationship between elevation and cold exposure in soil is strongly non-linear, with cold exposure peaking at mid-elevation montane populations that are not buffered by persistent snow cover (Roberts et al., 2021). Since snow decouples the relationship between air and soil temperatures, variation in snow cover reflects variation in cold exposure in the soil at a given elevation. Without the thermal buffer that snow provides for organisms overwintering in soil, cold microclimate temperatures can drop below a species-specific cold tolerance threshold, which can result in mortality or sublethal cold injuries (Bale, 1996; Sinclair et al., 2003). This result highlights the importance of snow cover variation as a key factor in maintaining this variation and driving selection on genes associated with cold tolerance and stress in winter. 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289

Prior work in Sierra Nevada populations of *C. aeneicollis* shows that air temperature varies between genetically differentiated populations and shows evidence of physiological adaptation to different thermal regimes (Dahlhoff & Rank, 2000; 2007; Rank et al., 2008). However, in the present study, the effect of 'annual air temperature range' (Fig 3) is largely driven by climatic conditions in the Coast Range (CR). This broad thermal selective gradient covaries with neutral patterns of population structure, which complicates distinctions between neutral and selected loci (Nadeau et al., 2016); thus, the high detection rates observed in the LFMM in the present study could also be due to residual, unaccounted population structure (Fig 4). 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298

*Putative mechanisms of local adaptation to snow cover mirror mechanisms of cold tolerance*  Genes containing nonsynonymous SNPs associated with variation in snowfall encode proteins with functions related to ion binding, actin and cytoskeleton binding and organization, and membrane components; protein identifications were assigned with a high level of confidence, as all homologous proteins are present in other beetle species (Table 3). These protein functions align with previously identified mechanisms of cold tolerance and acclimation in both insects and plants (Des Marteaux et al., 2018; Kim et al., 2006; Örvar et al., 2000; Pokorná et al., 2004). Primary cellular challenges associated with deep and prolonged cold exposure or freezing include loss of ion and water homeostasis and depolymerization of cytoskeletal components (e.g. actin and tubulin), which can impair ion transport function, cause loss of cell junction integrity, and exacerbate disturbances in membrane integrity caused by paracellular leaks of water and ions (Cantiello, 1995; Khurana, 2000; Toxopeus & Sinclair, 2018; Turner et al., 1997). Coldacclimated insects are better able to maintain ion and water balance at low temperatures 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311

compared to warm-acclimated insects (Overgaard & Macmillan, 2017), due to cellular structural modifications that enhance cytoskeletal stability, thus protecting ionoregulatory tissues (e.g. Malpighian tubules in insects) from chilling injury and loss of transport function (Des Marteaux et al., 2018). Cold-acclimated insects also differentially regulate cytoskeletal gene expression, with cold acclimation inducing upregulation of actin-associated genes or enzymes that promote membrane and cytoskeletal remodeling (Des Marteaux et al., 2017; Kim et al., 2006; Toxopeus et al., 2019). Because polymorphisms associated with variation in snowfall may relate to protein modifications that enhance cytoskeletal and membrane stability in the cold, putative mechanisms underlying local adaptation to snow are related to primary cellular mechanisms of cold acclimation and tolerance. These results provide genomic evidence that variation in snowfall imposes a selective gradient in exposure to cold stress, supporting the theory that snow modulates cold stress and exposure for insects that overwinter in the soil (Roberts et al., 2021). *Tandem genotype-environment association approach identifies signatures of local adaptation*  In detecting genomic signatures of local adaptation, genotype-environment associations identified by various methods will depend strongly on demographic and sampling scenarios (Forester et al., 2018; M. R. Jones et al., 2013; Nadeau et al., 2016; Rellstab et al., 2015). Simulations conducted by Forester et al. 2016 find that multivariate ordination methods like pRDA produce uniformly low false positive rates (0-2%), whereas LFMM produced high false positive rates under low dispersal scenarios (Forester et al., 2016). *Chrysomela aeneicollis* individuals have low levels of dispersal, with individuals often spending most of their life on a single host plant (Rank, 1992b, 1994). 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332

Nonetheless, correcting for population structure in pRDA can result in low power to detect true associations (Lotterhos, 2023), and recent simulation modeling indicates that LFMM provides the best compromise between detection power and error rates in situations with complex hierarchical neutral genetic structure (De Villemereuil et al., 2014). Herbivorous insects can have a subdivided population structure that reflects the distribution of their plant hosts (Moraiti et al., 2014; Orrest & Thomson, 2011), and previous work found hierarchical, subdivided genetic structure among patches and willows within a patch (Rank, 1992a). The application of these two GEA methods highlights the trade-off between conservative and liberal approaches in detecting a true adaptive signal, yet applying these methods in combination can therefore yield increased confidence in true positive detections of local adaptation. Future work should investigate the relationship between non-clinal allele frequency patterns and environmental gradients, which can evolve under multivariate environments and can lead to inaccurate inferences using GEA approaches (Lotterhos, 2023). *Limitations* A limitation of this study is sampling bias toward populations in the Sierra Nevada ecoregion relative to the other three eco-regions included in this study (Fig 1), which may bias genetic-environmental relationships and relative contributions of isolation by environment and distance (Fig 2). Replicated sampling along environmental gradients increases confidence in true positive detections of genotype-environmental associations (Rellstab et al., 2015), yet the beetle's fragmented distribution in California limits replication across climatic conditions. 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352

Another potential limitation is that temporal coverage of sampling was limited to one year in all 353

but the Sierra Nevada (SN) Ecoregions (Table 1), so that allele frequencies in these populations 354

may be influenced by environmental conditions in the collection year. Prior studies suggest that genetic variation among SN, CB and CR populations has remained relatively stable since we last sampled and analyzed them (Dellicour et al., 2014). We therefore expect that patterns reported here reflect adaptation to long-term environmental conditions due to the geographic isolation among populations. 355 356 357 358 359

Additionally, stringent SNP filter thresholds were applied to ensure quality genotypes within each population, resulting in a relatively modest set of polymorphisms  $(N = 22,323)$ SNPs). While these thresholds did not alter overall estimates of population structure (Figs S3- S5), candidate SNPs associated with environmental gradients in this study likely represent a subset of loci involved in local adaptation. 360 361 362 363 364

*Conclusion* 365

Many montane species live on the periphery of both suitable habitat and physiological tolerance, which contributes to the unique sensitivity of montane populations to climate change. Even small environmental changes may result in large implications for survival and reproductive success (Dahlhoff et al., 2019; Pepin et al., 2015; Stewart et al., 2017). The willow leaf beetle has emerged as a natural model for analyzing the relationship between adaptive genetic variation and environmental change (Dahlhoff et al., 2019; Dahlhoff & Rank, 2000; Rank, 1992a; Rank et al., 2020b). By analyzing all known Californian *C. aeneicollis* populations across the nuclear genome, this study represents the broadest investigation of adaptive genetic variation in the species to date and provides a path forward for understanding the evolutionary significance of variation at genes associated with response to environmental stress. Future work should identify regions where genetic–environmental relationships will be most likely disrupted by climate 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376

- change and reduced snowfall, which will be critical for land management decisions and gene 377
- conservation in vulnerable populations (Shaffer et al., 2022). 378

#### **Methods** 380

#### *Study populations and sampling design* 381

Ecoregions were identified following United States Geological Survey (USGS) designations 382

- (Griffith et al., 2016). Beetle populations from the Sierra Nevada ecoregion were surveyed at 383
- winter snowmelt (May-June) from 1996-2016, following methods detailed in Dahlhoff et al. 384
- 2019 (Appendix 1.1). In all, 175 individuals from 54 sampling locations were included and 385
- assigned *a priori* to 12 populations (Table 1, Fig 1) based on previous work (Dellicour et al., 386
- 2014a; Rank, 1992a; Rank et al., 2020a). These represent all known populations in California, 387
- and they experience a wide range of seasonality, snow cover, and air temperature variation, 388
- especially between montane and coastal regions (Table S3). Though allele frequencies can 389
- fluctuate within a beetle population across years (Rank & Dahlhoff, 2002), the magnitude of 390
- these fluctuations is relatively small compared to the magnitude of genetic divergence among 391
- regions (Dahlhoff et al., 2008; Dellicour et al, 2014; Rank et al., 2020). 392
- *DNA Library preparation and processing of genomic sequencing data* 393
- Genomic DNA was extracted from individual beetles using NucleoMag Bacteria DNA Isolation 394
- kit (Macherey-Nagel, Düren, Germany), and whole genome libraries were prepared following 395
- the plexWell library preparation protocol by the CCGP MiniCore. Paired-end sequencing (2 x 396
- 150 bp) was performed on an Illumina HiSeq4000 platform at UC Berkeley's QB3 Genomics 397
- Core Facility (Berkeley, CA, USA). Nextera adapter sequences and low-quality bases (base 398
- quality  $\leq$  15, sliding window 4 bp) were removed from each read using Trimmomatic v0.39 399
- (Bolger et al., 2014). Reads were aligned to a *Chrysomela aeneicollis* reference genome 400
- (Bracewell et al., 2023) using the Burrows-Wheeler Aligner (BWA-MEM) algorithm (Li  $\&$ 401

Durbin, 2009). Joint genotyping was performed on all samples using Genome Analysis Toolkit (GATK) v4.2.6.0 functions HaplotypeCaller and GenotypeGVCFs (Poplin et al., 2017). Variant data were filtered to include only biallelic SNPs, and SNPs were hard-filtered using GATK bestpractice recommendations (Van der Auwera & O'Conner, 2020) (Table S2A). SNPs were removed if minor allele frequency (MAF) across all individuals was less than 0.01 or if heterozygote frequencies deviated greatly from Hardy Weinberg expectations (e.g., excess heterozygosity or inbreeding coefficient greater than  $+0.5$ ) (Table S2B). Finally, SNPs were retained if 70% of all samples and 70% of samples within each population showed a read depth between three and 30 and a genotype quality greater than 20 [Table S2C; (Xuereb et al., 2018)]. After filtering, principal components analysis (PCA) was performed on Hellinger-transformed population-level minor allele frequencies (Legendre & Gallagher, 2001; Xuereb et al., 2018). Because variant filter thresholds influence estimates of population structure (Linck & Battey, 2019; Pearman et al., 2022), we assessed sensitivity of genetic differentiation to filter threshold levels. 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415

*Microclimate variable simulation*  416

To obtain spatially explicit environmental variables representing local microclimate conditions across the life cycle, microclimate simulations were conducted for the 12 beetle populations using the biophysical modeling package *NicheMapR* (Kearney & Porter, 2017). The model computes microclimatic conditions at a defined distance above ground, given local habitat properties and weather conditions. The microclimate model was run using historical gridded weather data from the GRIDMET daily weather database with 5 x 5 km resolution (Abatzoglou, 2013). The mid-latitude, -longitude, and -elevation of all demes within each population were 417 418 419 420 421 422 423

used as input in the model (Table 1, S2). The microclimate model was run in soil moisture and snow modes under both minimum (10%) and maximum shade (90%) conditions for 1989-2020. Simulated variables included air temperature and humidity at 1.75 m above the ground, snowrelated variables, and soil-related variables. To characterize mean environmental conditions, daily microclimate variables were averaged over 30 simulated years (Table S3). We evaluated sensitivity of simulated microclimate variables to input microclimate model parameters by calculating RMSE between simulated outputs and empirically derived microclimate data from available weather stations (California Department of Water Resources, CDEC). Air temperature and snow depth data from CDEC were available for weather stations within 1 km of midelevation sites in Rock Creek, Big Pine Creek, South Bishop Creek, and North Bishop Creek. *Population genomic differentiation across the California landscape* Population structure from SNP genotypic data was assessed by estimating proportions of individual genomes originating from ancestral gene pools. A range of estimated ancestral gene pools  $(K = 1-10)$  were tested using a sparse non-negative matrix factorization algorithm using the function 'snmf' in the R package *LEA* v.3.6.0 [(Frichot et al., 2014; Frichot & François, 2015),  $K = 3-7$  shown in Fig S11]. The value of K that minimized cross-entropy and best explained genotypic data was five [(Alexander & Lange, 2011), Fig S6] and this value was used for subsequent analysis. The 'snmf' function was also used to estimate individual ancestry coefficients. Five replicates were run using the best estimate of K, and individual ancestry coefficients were extracted from the replicate with the lowest cross-entropy. 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443

To quantify contributions of geographic and environmental distances to patterns of genetic differentiation, we assessed isolation by distance (IBD) and isolation by environment 444 445

(IBE) for all population pairs using an analysis of covariance (ANCOVA). The ANCOVA tested whether the means of pairwise  $F_{st}$  between populations were equal across habitat type, while controlling geographic distance. Unbiased pairwise  $F_{st}$  using minor allele frequencies of all populations were calculated using the R package *BEDASSLE* v.1.6 (Bradburd, 2022; Weir & Hill, 2002). Pairwise geographic distance in kilometers was calculated using the R package *fields* v.13.3 (Nychka & Furrer, 2021). Population pairs were identified as "coast vs. mountain" and "mountain vs. mountain" to describe habitat type of populations, as this categorical descriptor represents most environmental variation among populations (Table S3). Using the R package rstatix v.0.7.1, ANCOVA was conducted with pair-wise  $F_{st}$  values as dependent variable, binary environmental descriptor as categorical independent variable, and geographic distance as a covariate. Least squares means were calculated for habitat types using the R package *emmeans* v.1.8.3. 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457

#### *Genotype-environment association tests to identify signatures of local adaptation* 458

Signatures of local adaptation to climate were investigated using two genotype-environment association (GEA) methods, partial redundancy analysis [pRDA, (Borcard et al., 1992; Forester et al., 2018; Peres-Neto et al., 2006)] and latent factor mixed modeling [LFMM, (Frichot et al., 2013)], which control for signals generated by neutral processes through separate mechanisms. Both GEA analyses were performed on two sets of populations: 1) all populations and 2) all montane populations excluding the coastal (Gualala River) population. Partial redundancy analysis (pRDA) was conducted at the population level since the resolution of environmental data did not include environmental variation within a population. To account for isolation by distance, we conducted a spatial eigenfunction analysis that produced a conditioning matrix in 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467



annotated genome (Bracewell et al., 2023). SNPs were annotated based on genomic location, and 489

- coding effects were predicted (Appendix 1.4). To assign a putative protein name, protein 490
- sequences were aligned to NCBI's protein database using BlastP (Table 3, S7, S10). Gene 491
- Ontology (GO) terms were assigned to candidate genes using the functional annotation web 492
- server database Protein ANNotation with Z-scoRE [PANNZER2, (Törönen et al., 2018)]. 493
- 494

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### **Tables** 794

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### **Table 1. Localities and sample sizes for population genomic studies.** 796



<sup>1</sup>We sampled newly emerged overwintered adults, either from the most recent population 797

expansion (2013-14), or the most recent observation of overwintered beetles at that site. Further 798

details of sampling design are described in Appendix 1.1. 799

**Table 2. Candidate SNPs correlated with microclimate variables.** Total number of SNPs are shown. For genic SNPs, the number of unique genes containing at least one non-synonymous (NSY) or synonymous (SYN) substitution, as well as genes where the SNP is located in an intron, are also indicated. Candidate SNPs and genes are delineated by identification through analyses with montane and coastal populations or analyses with only montane populations. 800 801 802 803 804



**Table 3. Candidate proteins that vary with microclimate**. Proteins were identified using 807

- BlastP alignment using predicted amino acid sequence; associated NCBI accession number is 808
- noted for sequence with highest homology to reference taxa; populations included in analysis 809
- (montane and coastal, montane only, or both) are indicated. 810



<sup>A</sup>Reference taxa: *Leptinotarsa decemlineata (Ld:* Colorado potato beetle), *Anoplophora glabripennis* (*Ag:* Asian 811

long-horned beetle)*, Tribolium castaneum* (*Tc:* Red flour beetle), *Diabrotica virgifera* (*Dv:* Corn rootworm beetle). 812

 $B$ GOTerm Categories: cellular component<sup>1</sup>, molecular function<sup>2</sup>, biological process<sup>3</sup> 813

 ${}^{\text{C}}$ SNP only detected with pRDA;<sup>y</sup>SNP locations directly adjacent (Table S6) 814











**California. A.** Map of study populations. Abbreviation in parenthesis refers to population 821

ecoregion (SN: Sierra Nevada, CB: Central Basin, EC: Eastern Cascades, CR: Coast Range). 822

- Inset map features the sampled populations located in the Sierra Nevada and Central Basin 823
- ecoregions. Populations in the Sierra Nevada ecoregion are presented using a blue color gradient 824
- and are ordered based by latitude, south to north. representing increasing latitude. *B.* PCA 825





**Figure 2. Genomic differentiation as a function of geographic distance and habitat type for California willow beetle populations***.* Data shown highlight the relationship between pairwise geographic distance (km) and pairwise genetic distance (*F*st). The black lines indicate the fitted values from the ANCOVA model, and points are color coded by the categorical independent variable used in the ANCOVA model. 



**Figure 3. Partial redundancy analysis (pRDA) identifies candidate loci associated with selective climatic gradients. A.** Ordination of populations and environmental variable loadings in multivariate space. Environmental variable loadings are multiplied by 10 to improve visualization. **B***.* Ordination of SNP loci and environmental variable loadings in multivariate space. Outlier loci are colored based on correlation with an environmental variable (Pearson's r > |0.65|). Environmental variable loadings are multiplied by 0.4 to improve visualization. Twoletter population designations are described in Table 3. Results of pRDA with only montane populations are provided in Figure S7. 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851



B. Maximum snowfall



853



**selective climatic gradients.** Points indicate the FDR-adjusted p-value (q-value) of the 855

association between a locus and an environmental gradient. The dotted black line represents a q-856

value of 0.05, and purple and red colored loci are those detected by the pRDA. *A.* Loci 857

associations with annual air temperature range. *B.* Loci associations with maximum daily 858

snowfall. Results of LFMM with only montane populations are provided in Figure S8. 859