

1 Genomic signatures of host-specific selection in a parasitic 2 plant

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8 **Target journal:** AJB

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20 Manuscript received: _____; revision accepted: _____.

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22 Running head: *Striga hermonthica* population genomics

23 **ABSTRACT**

24 **Premise**—Parasitic plants and their hosts are model systems for studying genetic
25 variation in species interactions across environments. The parasitic plant *Striga hermonthica*
26 (witchweed) attacks a range of cereal crop hosts in Africa and exhibits substantial variation in
27 performance on different host species. Some of this variation is due to local adaptation, but the
28 genetic basis of specialization on certain hosts is unknown.

29 **Methods**—To identify genomic regions that are strongly differentiated between parasites
30 attacking different host species, we present an alignment-free analysis of *S. hermonthica*
31 population diversity using whole genome sequencing (WGS) data for 68 individuals from
32 western Kenya. We validate our findings with germination experiments and analyses based on a
33 *de novo* assembled draft genome.

34 **Results**—Reference-free and reference-based analyses suggest that only a small
35 portion of the *S. hermonthica* genome is strongly differentiated by host species in populations
36 from western Kenya. Analysis of host-associated *k*-mers implicated genes involved in
37 development of the parasite haustorium (a specialized structure used to establish vascular
38 connections with host roots) and a potential role of chemocyanins in molecular host-parasitic
39 plant interactions. Conversely, no phenotypic or genomic evidence was observed suggesting
40 host-specific selection on parasite response to strigolactones, hormones exuded by host roots
41 and required for parasite germination.

42 **Conclusions**—This study demonstrates the utility of WGS for plant species with large,
43 complex genomes and no available reference. Contrasting with theory emphasizing the role of
44 early recognition loci for host specificity, our findings support host-specific selection on later
45 interaction stages, recurring each generation after homogenizing gene flow.

46

47 **Key words:** population genomics, recurrent selective sweeps, agroecosystems,
48 Orobanchaceae, host-parasite coevolution, chemocyanin

49 **INTRODUCTION**

50 Characterizing the genomic basis of adaptation to local biotic environments is a key challenge
51 for evolutionary ecology (Ebert and Fields, 2020). Parasites and mutualists exert strong
52 influences on host fitness, and may even constitute the predominant selective pressure shaping
53 patterns of local adaptation in some systems (Fumagalli et al., 2011; Castellano et al., 2019).
54 Many host-parasite and host-mutualist systems involve a complex multi-step infection process
55 including many stages of interaction between host and symbiont derived molecules (Hall et al.,
56 2017). An outstanding question is whether adaptation to local biotic environments occurs most
57 often via selection on genes involved during initial infection stages, or whether genetic variation
58 at later stages of the interaction is also frequently maintained.

59 The expectation from theoretical studies is that initial recognition loci are more likely than
60 downstream effector loci to contribute to host genotype by parasite genotype interactions ($G_H \times$
61 G_P) and correspondingly, local adaptation (Nuismer and Dybdahl, 2016). The first prediction,
62 that recognition loci contribute more to $G_H \times G_P$, is supported by empirical studies of the
63 waterflea *Daphnia magna* and its bacterial parasite *Pasteuria ramosa* (Hall et al., 2017). In this
64 system, most of the genetic variance in parasite infection was associated with a single major
65 effect QTL linked to the early stage of parasite attachment (Hall et al., 2019). In contrast, many
66 different QTLs of smaller effect were associated with later stages, highlighting the potential for
67 independent evolution of traits involved in different stages of the infection process (Hall et al.,
68 2019). Supporting the second prediction that selection on recognition traits often underlies local
69 adaptation (Nuismer and Dybdahl, 2016), studies of plant pathosystems have revealed
70 reciprocal coevolutionary selection on host resistance (R) genes and parasite avirulence genes,
71 for example in the flax-flax rust system (Ravensdale et al., 2011; Thrall et al., 2012). However, a
72 high degree of genotype specificity has also been observed for many host-parasite systems
73 characterized by more quantitative mechanisms of resistance (Poland et al., 2009). For host-
74 parasite interactions characterized by quantitative genetic architectures, we still know little
75 regarding the genetic basis of local adaptation in natural populations and the extent to which
76 initial vs. later infection stages contribute to $G_H \times G_P$.

77 An emerging model system for studying spatial pattern and process in coevolutionary
78 genomics is the parasitic plant *Striga hermonthica* (family Orobanchaceae) and its cereal hosts.
79 In contrast to *Striga gesnerioides*, which parasitizes cowpea via a qualitative gene-for-gene
80 mechanism, natural variation in host resistance to *S. hermonthica* is highly polygenic (Li and
81 Timko, 2009; Timko et al., 2012) with at least one large effect locus (Gobena et al., 2017).
82 *Striga hermonthica* parasitizes grass hosts including sorghum, maize, rice, and millets and is
83 one of the greatest biotic constraints to food security in Africa (Ejeta, 2007; Spallek et al., 2013;
84 Savary et al., 2019). An individual *S. hermonthica* plant can produce thousands of seeds that

85 are speculated survive in the soil for a decade or more under optimal conditions (Bebawi *et al.*
86 1984; but see Gbèhounou *et al.* 2003).

87 A great deal has been learned in the past decades regarding the mechanisms through
88 which *Striga* parasitizes diverse hosts. To germinate, parasite seeds must detect strigolactones
89 (SLs), hormones exuded from host roots under nutrient-deficient conditions that also stimulate
90 host interactions with beneficial mycorrhizal fungi (Akiyama *et al.*, 2005). Perception of SLs is
91 mediated through binding to paralogs of KARRIKIN INSENSITIVE 2 (KAI2), known as
92 HYPOSENSITIVE TO LIGHT (HTL) receptors. SL receptors of the *KAI2d* clade rapidly
93 expanded and diversified during the transition to parasitism in the Orobanchaceae, a plant
94 family that includes thousands of mostly root parasitic species (Conn *et al.*, 2015). For example,
95 the ~600 Mb genome of *Striga asiatica* contains 21 *KAI2* genes, many of which occur as
96 tandem duplications (Yoshida *et al.*, 2019). *Striga hermonthica* may possess 13 or more *KAI2*
97 paralogs (Nelson, 2021), including 11 for which the binding affinity for diverse SLs has been
98 extensively characterized (Toh *et al.*, 2015; Tsuchiya *et al.*, 2015).

99 Following SL perception and parasite germination, host-derived phenolic compounds
100 induce formation of the haustorium, the specialized multicellular feeding structure used by
101 parasitic plants to infest host tissues (Cui *et al.*, 2018). Intrusive cells of the haustoria invade
102 host tissues to form direct connections with host vasculature (Masumoto *et al.*, 2021). Water,
103 nutrients, and other molecules including mRNA (Kim *et al.*, 2014), small RNA (Shahid *et al.*,
104 2018), DNA (Yang *et al.*, 2019), and proteins (Liu *et al.*, 2020; Shen *et al.*, 2020) can be directly
105 transferred across haustorial connections. In addition to low germination stimulation (Dayou *et*
106 *al.*, 2021; Mallu *et al.*, 2021), post-germination host resistance to *Striga hermonthica* can occur
107 at later interaction stages through induction of an intense hypersensitive response, formation of
108 a mechanical barrier, or failure of the parasite to form vascular connections (Mbuvi *et al.*, 2017;
109 Mutinda *et al.*, 2018; Kavuluko *et al.*, 2020). Much of the genetic variation in these mechanisms

110 of resistance may result from host populations' local adaptation to parasitism across the range
111 of *Striga hermonthica* (Bellis et al., 2020).

112 Conversely, many parasite populations may also be adapted to their local host
113 communities. Across the geographic range of *S. hermonthica* in Africa, there exists
114 considerable variation in host crop communities, and regional abundance of a particular host
115 species is associated with high *Striga* performance on that crop (Bellis et al., 2021). Given the
116 low germination of millet- and sorghum-specific *S. hermonthica* populations in response to root
117 exudates from the alternate host (Parker and Reid, 1979), it is possible that at least some of this
118 host specialization results from natural selection on SL perception. Host-specific germination by
119 *Striga* genotypes could potentially result from duplication of different *KAI2* paralogs and
120 neofunctionalization to fine-tune the response to different SLs, with host community
121 heterogeneity maintaining presence/absence variation (Nelson, 2021). In contrast, if parasite
122 local adaptation involves later interaction stages, 'core parasitism genes' implicated in
123 haustorium development in previous studies (Yang et al., 2014) could be the targets of host-
124 specific selection.

125 Extensive genetic and germplasm resources for host species have enabled broad-scale
126 studies of sorghum local adaptation to *S. hermonthica* parasitism (Bellis et al., 2020), but
127 understanding the genetic basis of reciprocal adaptation is challenged by a paucity of genomic
128 data for parasites. At the population-scale, restriction-site associated DNA sequencing (RAD-
129 Seq) and analysis of polymorphism in transcriptomes have begun to shed light on population
130 level diversity in *S. hermonthica* parasites (Unachukwu et al. 2017; Lopez et al. 2019). However,
131 reduced representation approaches pose difficulties if only a fraction of host-associated genome
132 diversity is tagged by RAD-Seq markers (Lowry et al., 2017) or (in the case of transcriptomes) if
133 genes under selection are not expressed in sequenced tissues. Like other parasitic
134 angiosperms, *S. hermonthica*, a diploid species with $n = 19$ or 20 (Iwo et al., 1993; Aigbokhan et
135 al., 1998), is characterized by a larger genome than non-parasitic relatives (Lyko and Wicke,

136 2021), with estimated genome size of ~1 Gb (1C = 0.9 Gb; Yoshida *et al.* 2010) or greater (1C =
137 1.4 Gb; Estep *et al.* 2012). Several genome assembly projects are currently underway, but high
138 heterozygosity, obligate outcrossing, and a large genome pose substantial challenges for
139 assembly, and a publicly available reference for *S. hermonthica* is not currently available (but
140 see Qiu *et al.*, 2022 for another genome assembly that may be available soon). Here, we
141 provide a reference-free analysis of population-scale diversity in *S. hermonthica*, based on
142 whole genome sequencing (WGS) data. Using a unique alignment-free bioinformatic approach,
143 we identify genetic variation associated with host-specific parasitism in natural populations and
144 investigate signatures of selection surrounding candidate loci. Based on these findings, we
145 evaluate the hypothesis that adaptation to local host populations results from selection on genes
146 involved in early stages of the interaction (SL perception) against the alternative that selection
147 on genes involved in later stages is primarily responsible.

148

149 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

150 **Sample Collection**—Seeds and leaf tissue were collected from *S. hermonthica*
151 individuals in July 2018 from six locations in western Kenya (Fig. 1A), which are location-
152 matched with previously collected specimens in herbaria. Two plots with *S. hermonthica*
153 parasitizing different host species were sampled at each location, chosen as close as possible
154 and in most cases, from nearby plots on the same farm (i.e. within 15 meters). In one location
155 (Mumias), we were not able to find a parasite population on another host, so two maize-
156 parasitizing populations were sampled. Per plot, twelve *S. hermonthica* individuals were chosen
157 haphazardly, with effort taken to sample individuals distributed evenly throughout the plot.
158 Individuals were photographed before collection, and images for representative individuals at
159 each site were uploaded to iNaturalist. Three to four leaves per individual were sampled directly
160 into silica gel, before collection of the whole individual into separate paper bags. Plants were
161 dried in paper bags before harvesting and manual cleaning of seeds. Cleaned seeds were

162 shipped to Penn State for germination rate experiments and stored in individual 2 mL
163 microcentrifuge tubes at room temperature prior to experiments. Five voucher specimens (ESB
164 collection numbers 2018.1 to 2018.5) were deposited in the collection of the East African
165 Herbarium (EA).

166

167 **Whole genome sequencing**—For samples collected in 2018, whole genome
168 sequencing was performed for a subset of 68 *S. hermonthica* individuals. This included all 24
169 individuals collected from adjacent plots of finger millet and maize in Kisii and all 24 individuals
170 collected from adjacent plots of sorghum and maize in Homa Bay. We hypothesized that for
171 each of these locations, parasites sampled from different hosts would show overall high
172 similarity across much of the genome due to high rates of gene flow among neighboring plots.
173 However, we expected to identify loci under strong host-specific selection as differentiated
174 against this backdrop. To interpret patterns of host-specific differentiation for the Homa Bay and
175 Kisii populations in the context of broader population genetic diversity in western Kenya, we also
176 sequenced DNA from five individuals (two or three per host species) from four additional
177 locations. DNA was extracted from silica-dried leaf tissue in the USDA APHIS quarantine facility
178 at the Pennsylvania State University using the E.Z.N.A. Plant DNA DS Mini Kit (Omega Bio-tek,
179 Norcross, Georgia, USA) according to the manufacturer’s protocol. Genomic library preparation
180 and paired-end 150 bp sequencing was carried out by the Texas A&M AgriLife Genomics and
181 Bioinformatics Service, on a single lane of a NovaSeq 6000 S4 flow cell.

182

183 **Population structure**—To determine whether parasites from the same location showed
184 the expected pattern of low genetic differentiation between different hosts, we followed a
185 reference-free approach to evaluate population genomic patterns among sequenced samples.
186 Raw reads that could be classified as plant-derived were identified using Kraken 2 (Wood et al.,
187 2019), based on a custom database built from the complete set of plant genomes and proteins

188 in the NCBI RefSeq collection, sequences from 472 Mbp of the *Striga asiatica* genome (Yoshida
189 et al., 2019) and *S. hermonthica* transcriptome sequences (build StHeBC4) from the Parasitic
190 Plant Genome Project II (Yang et al., 2014). Classified sequences were trimmed using BBduk
191 from BBTools (Bushnell, n.d.), removing sequence on the ends of reads with low quality
192 (qtrim=rl trimq=20 minlen=50) or 3' matches to adapters (k=23 mink=11 hdist=1 tpe tbo ktrim=r).
193 To reduce bias associated with differences in per-sample read depth, reads were downsampled
194 to 5.2 Gbp with BBTools Reformat.

195 *Mash*, a dimensionality reduction technique based on the MinHash algorithm, was used
196 to estimate genetic distance between samples based on resulting read sets (Ondov et al.,
197 2016). *Mash* previously showed improved performance compared to alignment-based methods
198 for estimating pairwise genetic distance for polyploid plant genomes using simulated and real
199 data (VanWalleendael and Alvarez, 2020). We used a *k*-mer size of 31, removing *k*-mers with
200 less than 2 copies but increasing the sketch size to 1×10^7 to account for a larger volume of
201 input data. Principal Coordinates Analysis was performed in R version 4.0 with the *pcoa* function
202 of the 'ape' package (Paradis and Schliep, 2019). A shorter *k*-mer size ($k=21$) was also tested
203 but did not alter clustering patterns in PCoA. Correlation between the genetic distance matrix
204 and the geographic distance matrices, calculated with 'geodist', was determined using a Mantel
205 test (Padgham and Sumner, 2021).

206 If contamination is present in our Kraken2 plant genome database, our reference-free
207 analysis of population diversity could be biased by contaminant sequences. Therefore, we also
208 included an analysis of population structure based on alignment to our assembled reference
209 genome (see "Validation of *k*-mer based approaches"). After removing scaffolds shorter than
210 500 bp from the reference, high quality sequences from each *S. hermonthica* individual were
211 mapped using BWA-MEM v0.7.17 (Li, 2013). Sequences mapping with quality less than 20
212 were excluded using SAMtools v1.10 (Li et al., 2009). Pairwise genetic relationships were
213 calculated from genotype probabilities using *ngsDist* (Vieira et al., 2016). Genotype posterior

214 probabilities were assigned using ANGSD v0.935 (Korneliussen et al., 2014), ignoring sites with
215 a minimum coverage less than 50 or greater than 500 across all 68 individuals and contigs less
216 than 2.5 kb.

217

218 ***Host-specific differentiation***—We next sought to identify particular genomic regions
219 differentiated between parasites growing on different hosts. This analysis targeted parasite
220 populations from Homa Bay or Kisii, for which we sequenced DNA from parasites for two
221 different hosts on the same farm from immediately adjacent plots. For the Kisii population, the
222 dataset included individuals from finger millet and maize, whereas for the Homa Bay population
223 the dataset included parasites from sorghum and maize ($n = 12$ from each host species; 48
224 individuals total). Counts for k -mers of length 31 were summarized across sequenced
225 individuals using HAWK; 31-mers were used as the longest k -mer that can be represented
226 efficiently on a 64-bit machine (Rahman et al., 2018). At each k -mer we considered two allelic
227 states (present or absent) where the k -mer was marked as present in an individual if it was
228 counted at least twice or absent if it was not observed at all. A single biallelic SNP in otherwise
229 invariant 31 bp of sequence, for example, would be represented by two distinct 31-mers. Note
230 that k -mers which only appear once in samples are filtered by HAWK by default (Rahman et al.,
231 2018). Allelic states were used to calculate the fixation index, G_{ST} (Nei and Chesser, 1983), for
232 each k -mer using custom Python scripts (<https://github.com/em-bellis/StrigaWGS>). G_{ST} is a
233 generalization of the widely used fixation index F_{ST} applicable to non-diploid loci (Nei, 1973); for
234 the purposes of our k -mer analysis, we consider loci as haploid rather than diploid, since only
235 presence or absence of the k -mer is scored. While we did not remove k -mers with excessively
236 high counts (likely derived from repetitive genomic sequences) these are not likely to be
237 identified as G_{ST} outliers since the k -mer would need to have a count of zero in most samples
238 from one population but not the other.

239 To gather functional information for host-associated k -mers, 31-mers with G_{ST} above 0.5
240 were extracted and assembled into longer contigs using ABYSS 2.0.2 (Jackman et al., 2017),
241 specifying a k -mer length of 29 for assembly. The k -mer length for assembly was chosen to
242 facilitate assembly of relatively longer contigs (minimum expected length of 59 bp, if formed by
243 two 29-mers overlapping with a SNP site on either side). To evaluate significance of the chosen
244 G_{ST} threshold, we carried out permutation analyses for Homa Bay and Kisii populations
245 separately. For each table (unique k -mers in rows and individuals in columns), the host label for
246 each individual was randomly permuted, and G_{ST} values for each k -mer recalculated. For
247 each permutation, we then calculated the proportion of k -mers with $G_{ST} > 0.5$, to estimate the
248 proportion of 'outlier' k -mers at our chosen G_{ST} threshold expected by chance. Assembled
249 contigs were then queried against contigs from two published *S. hermonthica* transcriptome
250 assemblies using BLAST optimized for short sequences (blastn-short). Transcriptome
251 assemblies in our BLAST database included StHeBC4 (265,694 scaffolds covering 369.7 Mb)
252 from the Parasitic Plant Genome Project (Westwood et al., 2012) and Sh14v2 (81,559 scaffolds
253 covering 83.9 Mb) from Yoshida *et al.* (2019). Annotations are based on the top hit from the
254 Sh14v2 transcriptome.

255 To further investigate genomic regions associated with host-specific differentiation, we
256 mapped cleaned sample reads to mRNA reference sequences, following the strategy from
257 Therkildsen and Palumbi (2017). Mapping to a transcriptome reference has the potential to
258 introduce errors in SNP calling due to intron/exon boundaries and the short length of transcripts,
259 so we focused this analysis on a small set of loci for which alignments could be manually
260 inspected including three transcripts with potential functions in haustorium development
261 (StHeBC4_h_c11261_g0_i1, StHeBC4_p_c12587_g2_i1, StHeBC4_u_c12903_g27039_i4; see
262 Results). The reference also included transcript sequences for a set of 11 previously
263 characterized *S. hermonthica* strigolactone receptors [GenBank accession numbers KR013121
264 - KR13131] (Tsuchiya et al., 2015). High quality, contaminant-filtered reads were mapped to the

265 reference transcriptome using BWA-MEM (Li, 2013), and alignments with low quality were
266 removed using SAMtools view (-q 20) (Li et al., 2009). Allele frequencies for each site in the
267 reference transcriptome were estimated based on genotype likelihoods using ANGSD, ignoring
268 low quality bases (-minQ 25), allowing reads for which only one end mapped (-
269 only_proper_pairs 0), and assuming known major and minor alleles but accounting for
270 uncertainty of the minor allele (-doMaf 3) (Kim et al., 2011; Korneliussen et al., 2014). Sites with
271 information for fewer than nine of twelve individuals in the population were excluded, and the
272 difference in estimated allele frequency between parasite populations on different hosts was
273 visualized with R version 4.0 (R Core Team, 2020). This strategy was used to filter false SNP
274 calls due to errors in mapping DNA-derived reads to a transcriptome reference, since these
275 SNPs should be observed as a fixed difference from the reference that occurs in both
276 populations. We further investigated genes with potential structural variation by extracting reads
277 aligned to the transcript reference and their unmapped pairs and reassembling them with
278 ABYSS (k=51) (Jackman et al., 2017).

279
280 **Validation of k-mer-based approaches**—To investigate patterns of selection
281 surrounding putative host-associated loci and validate findings from reference-free analyses, we
282 also mapped reads generated for *S. hermonthica* to a draft reference assembled specimen,
283 grown *ex situ* from seeds collected on maize in the Irimbi district of Southern Uganda
284 (specimens voucher deposited at MSUN). DNA was extracted from developing leaves and
285 inflorescences of one individual using a modified 1x CTAB-protocol with subsequent PEG-8000
286 precipitation and purification (Wicke et al., 2016). Genomic libraries were sequenced on an
287 Illumina HiSeq 2000 in 101 bp paired-end mode at Eurofins GATC Biotech GmbH (Constance,
288 Germany). Additional data were generated to a targeted depth of 110X using the HiSeq 2500
289 platform using the HiSeq SBS Kit v4 at Eurofins GATC Biotech GmbH, for which DNA from the
290 original extract was subjected to Φ 29-polymerase based whole-genome amplification. Whole

291 genome-amplified DNA was size-selected for >20 kb fragments on 1% low-melting point
292 agarose and purified using an agarose digest-based purification with subsequent
293 ethanol/sodium acetate precipitation (Wicke et al., 2013). For the final assembly, we employed
294 Trimmomatic v0.36 (Bolger et al., 2014) to remove adapters and retain only sequences longer
295 than 36 bp with an average per-base quality above 15 ("ILLUMINACLIP:TruSeq3-PE.fa":
296 2:30:10 SLIDINGWINDOW:4:15 MINLEN:36). The quality-trimmed data were assembled using
297 SPAdes v3.10.1 with *k*-mer sizes of 21, 33, 55, and 77 (Bankevich et al., 2012). Assembly
298 quality was ascertained using Quast v4.5 (Gurevich et al., 2013) with default parameters for
299 eukaryotes. The resulting assembled contigs were contaminant-filtered, for which we ran a
300 nucleotide BLAST search of all contigs against the non-redundant nucleotide database (access
301 date: 10.07.2017) using BLAST+ v2.6 with an e-value of $1E10^{-4}$. Only contigs with the three best
302 hits matching to green land plants (Viridiplantae) were retained.

303 After removing scaffolds shorter than 500 bp from the reference, high quality sequences
304 from each *S. hermonthica* individual were mapped using BWA-MEM v0.7.17 (Li, 2013).
305 Sequences mapping with quality less than 20 were excluded using SAMtools v1.10 (Li et al.,
306 2009). Tajima's D was calculated in non-overlapping windows of 1-kb using ANGSD v0.935
307 based on the folded site frequency spectrum and including reads where only one end mapped (-
308 only_proper_pairs 0), to account for the highly fragmented nature of the assembly (Korneliussen
309 et al., 2014). F_{ST} was also calculated in non-overlapping windows with ANGSD, using the
310 SAMtools method for calculating genotype likelihoods. Genome-wide mean values of Tajima's D
311 were determined by fitting an intercept-only linear mixed model to window estimates of F_{ST} or
312 Tajima's D, including a random effect of 'contig' to account for increased correlation among
313 measurements from nearby genomic regions, with the R package lme4 (Bates et al., 2015). An
314 empirical *P*-value for Tajima's D for the contig containing the focal chemocyanin was calculated
315 based on the number of 10,000 randomly sampled windows of size matching the assembled
316 length of the contig (1-kb) with values more extreme than the observed value.

317 To validate the presence/absence polymorphism for the focal chemocyanin gene, we
318 performed PCR using primers designed from the reassembled ‘finger millet’ allele (Primer Set A:
319 5'-AAGATTGCGGTTACCACCAG-3' and 5'-TCTCGATCCTTTTGGGAATGG-3') and the
320 transcript reference (Primer Set B: 5'- CAGGAGCAAGTAGAGTAGAGCA-3' and 5'-
321 TGGGGAAAGAGGTAGTGCAA-3'). PCR was performed with DreamTaq DNA Polymerase 2x
322 Mastermix (ThermoFisher, Waltham, Massachusetts, USA) under the following cycling
323 conditions: 95°C for 3 min; 30 cycles of 95°C (30 s), 50.3°C (30 s), 72°C (60 s); 72°C for 5 min.
324

325 **Germination experiments**—Seed germination was assayed in the USDA-APHIS-
326 permitted quarantine lab at Pennsylvania State University (permit no. P526P-21-04540). A
327 detailed step-by-step protocol is available from protocols.io repository (Bellis and Kelly, 2019),
328 following the modifications for testing seeds collected from individual plants. Briefly, seeds were
329 surface sterilized for 10 minutes in 1.5 mL microcentrifuge tubes with a 0.5% sodium
330 hypochlorite solution before preconditioning for 12 days at 30°C in separate wells of foil-
331 wrapped 12-well culture plates, with three replicates per unique germination stimulant and
332 parasite genotype combination. Germination counts were performed 3 days after addition of
333 germination stimulants. Tested germination stimulants included (+)5-deoxystrigol (Olchemim,
334 Olomouc, Czech Republic; CAS: 151716-18-6) or (±)orobanchol (Olchemim; CAS: 220493-64-1)
335 at 0.01 µM and (±)-GR24 (Chempep, Wellington, Florida, USA; CAS: 76974-79-3) at 0.2 µM.
336 GR24 is a synthetic strigolactone analog commonly used in laboratory germination studies of
337 parasitic plants as a positive control. 5-deoxystrigol is one of the major SLs produced by
338 compatible grass hosts (Awad et al., 2006) and is a potent stimulator of parasite germination
339 whereas orobanchol is a more dominant SL among dicot hosts (Yoneyama et al., 2008) and is a
340 less potent stimulator of *S. hermonthica* germination for certain genotypes (Hausmann et al.,
341 2004; Cardoso et al., 2014; Bellis et al., 2020).

342 In addition to seed collections kept separately from individual plants, we also included
343 tests of bulk seed collected from the Kibos population that were confirmed to have high
344 germinability in our previous experiments (Bellis et al., 2020). We used a generalized linear
345 mixed model (GLMM) with a random effect of *S. hermonthica* genotype (of the parent plant) to
346 compare differences in germination rate among sites, hosts, and treatments (orobanchol vs. 5-
347 deoxystrigol). GLMMs were implemented in R version 4.0 with the lme4 package (Bates et al.
348 2015), and significance of fixed effects was determined using likelihood ratio tests.

349

350 RESULTS

351 **Sequencing**—For the 68 Kenyan samples, on average 80% of reads per library were
352 classified as plant-derived using Kraken 2 (range: 71-86%). Most classified reads were
353 assigned specifically to *S. hermonthica* (mean: 46%) or *S. asiatica* (mean: 30%), both
354 represented in our database by high-quality transcriptomic or genomic resources from which
355 contaminant sequences (including from plant hosts) have been carefully filtered (Yang et al.,
356 2014; Yoshida et al., 2019). After quality and adapter trimming, on average 7.7 Gigabase pairs
357 of plant-derived sequence data remained per sample (range: 5.2-11.7 Gbp). Given flow
358 cytometry estimates of the genome size of *S. hermonthica* ranging from 1C = 0.9 Gb (Yoshida
359 et al., 2010) to 1C = 1.4 Gb (Estep et al., 2012), this sequencing effort corresponds to an
360 approximate average depth of 5.5x to 8.6x read coverage per base for each sample.

361

362 **Population structure**—Principal Coordinates Analysis (PCoA) based on *k*-mers
363 indicated high genetic diversity within populations, with only subtle differentiation of populations
364 from the same farm collected from different hosts (Fig. 1). Greater correlation was observed
365 between genetic and geographic distance than expected by chance ($p = 0.001$, Mantel test), but
366 patterns of isolation-by-distance were extremely weak (Fig. 1F). Within-population diversity was
367 very high at the geographic scale investigated. Many individuals exhibited a comparable range

368 of pairwise genetic diversity within a single field (*k*-mer distance ranging from 0.0216 - 0.0286; *n*
369 = 572 pairwise comparisons) as between individuals sampled more than 100 km apart (*k*-mer
370 distance ranging from 0.0242 - 0.0286; *n* = 336 pairwise comparisons; Fig. 1F).

371 Our alignment-free approach may not remove all contaminant sequences, and so we
372 also carried out a reference-based analysis using a draft reference genome assembled as part
373 of this study. Estimation of pairwise distances from reference-based analyses suggested that
374 samples were not strongly clustered by host or by sampling location, except for nine individuals
375 parasitizing finger millet in Kisii that clustered separately from other samples (Fig. 2). These
376 findings are consistent with our *k*-mer based analysis, in which the same individuals appear
377 close together and are also separated from other finger millet parasitizing individuals along the
378 first PCoA axis (Fig. 1D). Although some limited population genetic structuring may be present
379 within highly diverse *S. hermonthica* populations (perhaps due to multiple source populations,
380 for example), populations are not strongly differentiated by host at the genome-wide level.

381

382 **Germination rate variation**—Previous studies have suggested that in contrast to other
383 locations in Africa, *S. hermonthica* populations from western Kenya demonstrate a generalist
384 germination response to strigolactones (Hausmann et al., 2004; Bellis et al., 2020). However,
385 *Striga* germination tests are typically conducted with bulk seeds collected from many individuals
386 in a field, potentially masking individual-level variation that could be segregating with respect to
387 parasitism on different hosts, for example if a generalist population is composed of individuals
388 that specialize on different resources (Bolnick et al., 2002).

389 To characterize individual-level variation in *S. hermonthica* parasitism, we conducted
390 controlled germination tests in the USDA-permitted quarantine facility at Pennsylvania State
391 University. Positive controls with bulk seed (collected in the Kibos region) and 0.2 μM of the
392 artificial strigolactone GR24 indicated good germinability for positive controls (66.5%), and no
393 germinated seeds were observed in wells with only sterile water. Compared to the higher

394 concentration of GR24, bulk seed showed slightly lower germination rates in response to 0.01
395 μM of the natural SLs orobanchol (51.0%) and 5-deoxystrigol (55.7%) indicating that the
396 concentrations of orobanchol and 5-deoxystrigol used in the individual-level experiment should
397 produce strong but sub-maximal germination responses.

398 We did not find significant host-associated germination variation among seeds collected
399 from individual parasites on different hosts (Table S1; Fig. 3). After accounting for treatment and
400 site, host-of-origin was not a statistically significant effect in our model ($P = 0.247$; likelihood
401 ratio test for test of full vs. reduced GLMM). The probability of germination was 30% lower for
402 individuals from Kisii compared to Homa Bay ($P = 0.04$; GLMM with fixed effects of 'Site' and
403 'Treatment') and 15% lower in response to orobanchol than to 5-deoxystrigol ($P = 0.004$;
404 GLMM).

405
406 ***Host-associated loci***—Germination tests did not support host-specific differences in
407 strigolactone response in these populations. However, it is possible that host-specific selection
408 could still leave detectable signatures at the genetic level. We identified host-associated genetic
409 variation without a reference using a k -mer based approach. For Homa Bay, the total number of
410 31-mers generated was 2,765,562. For Kisii, the total number of 31-mers generated was
411 2,123,902. Highly differentiated k -mers were defined as those having $G_{ST} > 0.5$. A lower
412 proportion of 31-mers were highly differentiated for parasites on sorghum vs. maize hosts in
413 Homa Bay (0.6% of 31-mers) compared to finger millet vs. maize hosts in Kisii (4.8% of 31-
414 mers; Fig. 4A). These proportions far exceeded the proportions expected by chance, based on
415 G_{ST} values observed among 1000 random permutations of host labels for each of the
416 populations (Fig. 4B, D). In 1,000 random permutations, the maximum proportion of k -mers with
417 $G_{ST} > 0.5$ for the Homa Bay population was 0.2%, whereas the maximum for the Kisii population
418 was 0.5%.

419 Highly differentiated 31-mers were then assembled into longer contigs for follow-up
420 analysis. For the Homa Bay population (maize vs. sorghum hosts), 42 contigs were assembled
421 ranging in length from 58 to 91 bp. Fifteen of these contigs had good BLAST hits to the
422 transcriptome database, with >85% identity over at least 45 bp (Table S2). For the Kisii
423 population (finger millet vs. maize hosts), highly differentiated *k*-mers assembled into 469
424 contigs with length ranging from 29 to 211 bp. Of these, 240 had good BLAST hits to transcripts
425 in our database (Table S3).

426 Of particular interest to our investigation were host-specific contigs with high levels of
427 similarity to known *Striga* parasitism genes including SL receptors and genes involved in
428 haustorium development. We first searched for similarity to a set of 11 *S. hermonthica*
429 strigolactone receptors that vary in their binding affinity for diverse strigolactones [GenBank
430 accession numbers KR013121 – KR13131] (Tsuchiya et al., 2015). We observed only one likely
431 spurious match to *ShHTL2* (87% similarity over 23 bp) and no hits to any of the 21 *KAI2*
432 paralogs from the *Striga asiatica* genome (Yoshida 2019). In follow-up analyses based on
433 alignments to reference *ShHTL* transcripts, only one site in *ShHTL6* had an estimated difference
434 in allele frequency between parasites on finger millet and maize exceeding 0.5 (Fig. S1). This
435 polymorphism occurred at position 457 and does not result in an amino acid change. Together,
436 we find little phenotypic or genomic evidence supporting host-specific differentiation for loci
437 involved in perception of strigolactones in these populations.

438 In contrast, several assembled host-specific contigs had good matches to loci implicated
439 in development of haustoria. Annotated transcripts included a 60 bp contig with >98% similarity
440 over its full length to a transcript annotated as *SUPPRESSOR OF G2 ALLELE SKP1 (SGT1)*
441 (Table S2). *SGT1* was among the top upregulated genes in haustoria of the root parasitic plant
442 *Thesium chinense* and was hypothesized to be important for generating auxin response maxima
443 during haustorium development (Ichihashi et al., 2017). In *S. hermonthica*, it is also highly
444 expressed in imbibed seeds (Stage 0) and in haustoria attached to host roots (Stage 3; Fig. S2).

445 Parasitism on different hosts was associated with genetic structural variation in *SGT1*, with two
446 <100 bp regions often absent from parasites on sorghum but present for parasites on maize and
447 finger millet. We also identified a 59 bp contig with 96% similarity over its full length to a
448 transcript annotated as a pectin methylesterase; pectin methylesterases have previously well-
449 characterized functions in developing haustoria (Yang et al., 2014). The pectin methylesterase
450 transcript was not expressed in parasites grown on sorghum in most stages, but exhibited low,
451 non-zero expression in *S. hermonthica* seedlings after exposure to a haustorium inducing factor
452 (mean TPM = 0.03). Strong differentiation in transcript-aligned reads between individuals from
453 finger millet (frequency of the deletion allele = 0.65) and maize (frequency of the deletion allele
454 = 0.03) verified the signal observed from the *k*-mer association analysis.

455 Two additional assembled host-differentiated contigs of 113 bp and 103 bp had 99% and
456 97% similarity, respectively, over their full length to separate regions of a single transcript
457 annotated as a precursor of chemocyanin (Table S3). Chemocyanins may be of particular
458 interest due to the evolutionary co-option of many pollen tube genes by parasitic plants for
459 haustorium development (Yang et al., 2014) and the key role of chemocyanin as an attractant
460 for directing pollen tube growth (Kim et al., 2003). Alignment of our DNA sequences to the
461 chemocyanin transcript reference revealed host-associated structural variation (Fig. 5A). PCR-
462 based confirmation indicated 500 bp or more of genome sequence directly upstream of the 5'
463 end of the transcript was completely missing from parasites on maize, suggesting potential
464 impact on variation in gene expression levels. The fragmented nature of the draft genome
465 assembly precluded our ability to design PCR primers completely spanning the deletion, but
466 PCR banding patterns showed a characteristic absence of the region in individuals having the
467 allele more common on finger millet (Fig. S3), and a diversity of deletion alleles at this site (Fig.
468 S4). Using just sequences for individuals parasitizing finger millet, we reconstructed a 934 bp
469 contig, from reads that mapped to the transcript reference and their unmapped pairs.
470 Alignments to this 'finger millet' allele confirmed its presence in 9/12 individuals from Kisii

471 parasitizing finger millet and 0/12 parasites on maize (Table S3). Among all individuals
472 sequenced in our study, the allele is present at lowest frequency in maize parasites (14% of
473 individuals; $n = 35$) and intermediate frequency for parasites on sorghum (22%; $n = 18$); and
474 sugarcane (33%; $n = 3$)

475 Although patterns of allele frequency differentiation are partially correlated with overall
476 patterns of population structure (Fig. 2), additional lines of evidence point to an important role of
477 the chemocyanin in parasitic plant-host interactions. The chemocyanin transcript was present in
478 a previously identified list of *S. hermonthica* “core parasitism” genes, with highest expression
479 after exposure to haustorial initiation factors and during early post-attachment (Yang *et al.* 2014;
480 Fig 3B). It was also highly expressed in cells at the host-parasite interface in a study that used
481 laser capture microdissection to characterize gene expression in the *S. hermonthica*-sorghum
482 interaction (Honaas *et al.*, 2013).

483

484 **Validation of k-mer-based approaches**—To further investigate signatures of selection
485 in the context of genome-wide patterns, we assembled a draft genome for *S. hermonthica* from
486 South Uganda. The total length of the assembled genome after filtering was 1,431 Mbp over
487 12,155,247 contigs, with a maximum contig length of 37.5 kb. The assembly was highly
488 fragmented with the largest 1.69 million contigs accounting for 50% of the assembly, and the
489 length of these contigs ≥ 110 bp (N/L50 = 1690935/110). Nevertheless, sequences of interest
490 were present on contigs long enough to allow for further interrogation. Specifically, the
491 assembled chemocyanin transcript for the finger millet allele had 97.8% identity over 918 bp to a
492 single contig of 1,055 bp (NODE_132909_length_1055_cov_32.632), and no other close hits.
493 After removing contigs shorter than 500 bp, 307026 scaffolds with a total length of 479 Mbp
494 remained.

495 To evaluate signatures of selection on the chemocyanin gene in the context of genome-
496 wide patterns, we estimated Tajima’s D and F_{ST} for all assembled 1-kb non-overlapping

497 windows for maize- vs. finger millet-parasitizing individuals in the Kisii population. Consistent
498 with the expected signature of a selective sweep, a Tajima's D value of -1.7 in the Kisii
499 population indicated a significant excess of low-frequency polymorphism (empirical P -value =
500 0.009) for the chemocyanin contig in the *de novo* assembly compared to the genome-wide
501 value of 0.11 ± 0.013 (mean \pm std. error; linear mixed effects model; distribution of Tajima's D
502 values relative to F_{ST} shown in Fig. 5C). For non-overlapping 1-kb windows with data ($n =$
503 237,632 windows), the median F_{ST} value was 0.038. Of these windows, 1.8% had an average
504 F_{ST} value greater than 0.15 and 0.5% had an average F_{ST} value greater than 0.2. The maximum
505 value of F_{ST} observed for the reference-based analysis was 0.57, for a 4-kb contig with similarity
506 to a *Phelipanche aegyptiaca* gene annotated as an ortholog of AT5G64440 (fatty acid amide
507 hydrolase) which is an important regulator of plant growth (Wang et al., 2006). Notably, F_{ST} for
508 chemocyanin contig could not be reliably calculated using the reference-based approach
509 because only 30 positions in the 1055-bp contig had data for a majority of individuals due to
510 structural variation. Together with observations from the G_{ST} analysis, our results suggest that
511 only a small portion of the *S. hermonthica* genome is strongly differentiated by host species in
512 these populations from western Kenya.

513

514 **DISCUSSION**

515 Agricultural weeds are increasingly recognized as important model systems for
516 addressing key questions in evolution and ecology (Vigueira et al., 2013; Baucom, 2019). In
517 particular, compared to many other systems, parasitic weeds offer particular advantages for the
518 study of coevolution including well-developed genomic and germplasm resources for their hosts,
519 high quality distributional data, and a rich literature describing variation in species interactions
520 over many decades (Bellis et al., 2020, 2021). Yet, despite recent advances in genome
521 sequencing for parasitic plants, evolutionary analyses particularly for species with large,
522 complex genomes (e.g. >1 Gb) remain a challenge (Lyko and Wicke, 2021). Consequently,

523 previous population-level diversity studies for *S. hermonthica*, one of the most damaging
524 parasitic plants in agriculture, have used reduced representation approaches (Unachukwu et al.,
525 2017; Lopez et al., 2019). However, reduced representation approaches such as RAD-seq may
526 miss signatures of selection that are highly localized in the genome (Lowry et al., 2017; Lou et
527 al., 2021), and transcriptomes fail to provide information regarding non-coding regions of the
528 genome, which also generate phenotypic diversity. As the cost of sequencing continues to
529 decrease, whole genome resequencing coupled with alignment-free bioinformatic approaches
530 can provide a promising alternate approach for surveying population genomic diversity (Voichek
531 and Weigel, 2020). Here, we report some of the first publicly available WGS data for field-
532 sampled individuals of the parasitic weed *Striga hermonthica*. Our analyses underscore high
533 within-population genomic variation and implicate host-specific selection on genes involved
534 during parasite attachment and haustorial development.

535 Perhaps surprisingly, we find little genomic or phenotypic evidence for host-specific
536 selection on strigolactone perception variation in the studied populations. Specifically, one may
537 expect selection on perception loci to be relatively strong, particularly since *S. hermonthica* is an
538 obligate parasite and so the costs of germination in the absence of a suitable host are high. This
539 suggests that, at least in western Kenya, most common grass hosts may be suitable, so that
540 costs of germinating on the wrong host are low. The genomes of *Striga* spp. include a diverse
541 repertoire of strigolactone receptors, each with variable affinity for different SLs (Tsuchiya et al.,
542 2015; Yoshida et al., 2019), providing many potential targets for selection on SL response
543 variation. One possibility is that these receptors are now subject to purifying selection in western
544 Kenya, rather than diversifying selection expected if SL perception variation is strongly linked to
545 fitness variation across different hosts. Environmental niche models from our previous study
546 (Bellis et al., 2021) predict highest suitability for *Striga* parasitism of maize across sampling
547 locations in our study (mean suitability: 0.92) but lower suitability for sorghum and pearl millet
548 (0.46 and 0.03, respectively). Another possibility is that the particular host genotypes studied

549 here may overlap in SL exudation profile enough that selection on parasite germination rate
550 variation is not strong in these natural field populations. For example, while zealactones appear
551 to be uniquely produced by maize (Charnikhova et al., 2017), some varieties also naturally
552 produce sorgomol and 5-deoxystrigol in high quantities (Yoneyama et al., 2015), strigolactones
553 common in sorghum root exudate that promote strong germination response in *S. hermonthica*.

554 A third explanation, if selection on SL perception is indeed important for local adaptation,
555 is that selection may only be strong in some populations across the range of *S. hermonthica*.
556 This explanation is consistent with the idea of coevolutionary hotspots, where there is reciprocal
557 selection among coevolving species (Thompson, 2005), but with the genetic targets of selection
558 involving different stages of the infection process in different locations. In western Kenya, for
559 example, coevolutionary hotspots may be 'hotter' for genes involved in parasitic interactions
560 post- germination than for SL perception. Kenyan *S. hermonthica* populations exhibit a more
561 generalist germination response compared to populations from West Africa, which show
562 pronounced differences in response to orobanchol vs. 5-deoxystrigol from host root exudates or
563 to strigolactone standards (Parker and Reid, 1979; Haussmann et al., 2004; Bellis et al., 2020).
564 This idea also corresponds with previous findings that East African *S. hermonthica* may have
565 greater average infestation success across diverse sorghum genotypes than West African
566 populations (Bozkurt et al., 2015). Functional $G_H \times G_P$ in strigolactone response variation may
567 segregate among populations in a different part of the parasite range than studied here, for
568 example among West African populations, or at a broader spatial scale, for example in West vs.
569 East African parasite populations (Haussmann et al., 2004; Bellis et al., 2020).

570 In contrast to general expectations (Nuismer and Dybdahl, 2016), our genomic analyses
571 revealed the strongest evidence for host-specific selection on genes involved in the later stages
572 of parasite development. The best evidence for host-specific selection on haustorium loci came
573 from our analyses of a transcript annotated as a chemocyanin precursor (Fig. 5). In addition to
574 strong differentiation between finger millet and maize hosts, the 1-kb region including the

575 chemocyanin exhibited an excess of rare polymorphism and multiple alleles (Fig. S3-S4),
576 consistent with expectations for recurrent soft sweeps from standing genetic variation (Pennings
577 and Hermisson, 2006). Notably, even the strongest signals of host-specific selection detected in
578 our study did not reveal any loci exhibiting complete or near complete differentiation between
579 parasites on different hosts, indicating that there may be relatively few genetic barriers to
580 parasitism of different cereal host species in the studied region. The ‘finger millet’ chemocyanin
581 allele, for example, was also present at low frequency in the genomes of parasites on other host
582 species. This suggests a neutral impact of the allele on parasitism of other hosts, and
583 potentially, a lack of trade-offs, given that all sequenced parasite individuals were already at an
584 advanced life stage. The importance of conditional neutrality for local adaptation in other
585 systems (Lowry et al., 2019) further highlights the complexity of selective pressures shaping
586 local adaptation of parasitic plants to dynamic host communities.

587

588 **CONCLUSIONS**

589 While our results emphasize the challenges of *Striga* management due to high genomic
590 diversity and adaptive potential, they also highlight the promise of low coverage WGS
591 approaches for functional genomics of non-model species. The outlier signal for two of the three
592 candidate loci we describe in detail here resulted from structural variation that would not have
593 been uncovered in an alignment-based analysis or using a RAD-Seq approach that may only
594 survey a small portion of the genome or be prone to allele drop-out. Reference-free approaches
595 continue to gain ground for studies of genomic and phenotypic variation in plants, with well-
596 documented advantages (VanWallendael and Alvarez, 2020; Voichek and Weigel, 2020). Our
597 study indicates that the utility of large WGS datasets may not be out of reach even for species
598 such as *Striga hermonthica* characterized by large, complex genomes. As the need to mitigate
599 biotic constraints on global food security becomes increasingly critical, reference-free analyses

600 coupled with WGS data may serve as a promising strategy for rapid characterization of alleles
601 involved in parasite adaptation across diverse environments.

602

603 **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

604 This study is based on work supported by a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral
605 Research Fellowship in Biology to E.S.B. under Grant 1711950, the Arkansas Biosciences
606 Institute (the major research component of the Arkansas Tobacco Settlement Proceeds Act of
607 2000), and the *Emmy Noether*-program of the German Science Foundation (WI4507/3-1 to
608 S.W.). A.K. and X.H. were supported by NSF EPSCoR Award 1946391. J.R.L. was supported
609 by NIH R35 GM138300. This work is supported by the Arkansas High Performance Computing
610 Center which is funded through multiple National Science Foundation grants and the Arkansas
611 Economic Development Commission. We also thank the Texas A&M AgriLife Research:
612 Genomics and Bioinformatics Service for library preparation and sequencing.

613

614 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

615 C.S.v.M., S.W., C.O.O., E.K., T.X., and E.S.B collected and processed samples and performed
616 laboratory experiments. C.S.v.M., S.W., A.K., and E.S.B. carried out analyses. X.H., S.W.,
617 S.M.R., C.W.D., J.R.L., and E.S.B. contributed to experimental design and interpretation. E.S.B.
618 and J.R.L. drafted the manuscript, with input and critical revision from all authors. All authors
619 approved the final version of the manuscript.

620

621 **DATA AND CODE AVAILABILITY**

622 Raw reads from whole genome sequencing of the 68 *S. hermonthica* individuals from the 2018
623 collection and the Ugandan reference have been deposited in the National Center for
624 Biotechnology Information (NCBI) Sequence Read Archive (SRA) database,

625 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra> (BioProject accession no. PRJNA801489). The reference
626 assembly of the Ugandan specimen is available for download and BLAST searches on *WARPP*
627 (<https://warpp.app>; (Kösters et al., 2021)). Images associated with the different collection sites
628 are available from iNaturalist. Germination rate data and code to reproduce the analyses are
629 available at <https://github.com/em-bellis/StrigaWGS>.

630 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

631 Additional supporting information may be found online in the Supporting Information Section at
632 the end of the article.

633 Appendix S1: Supplementary Figures and Tables.

634

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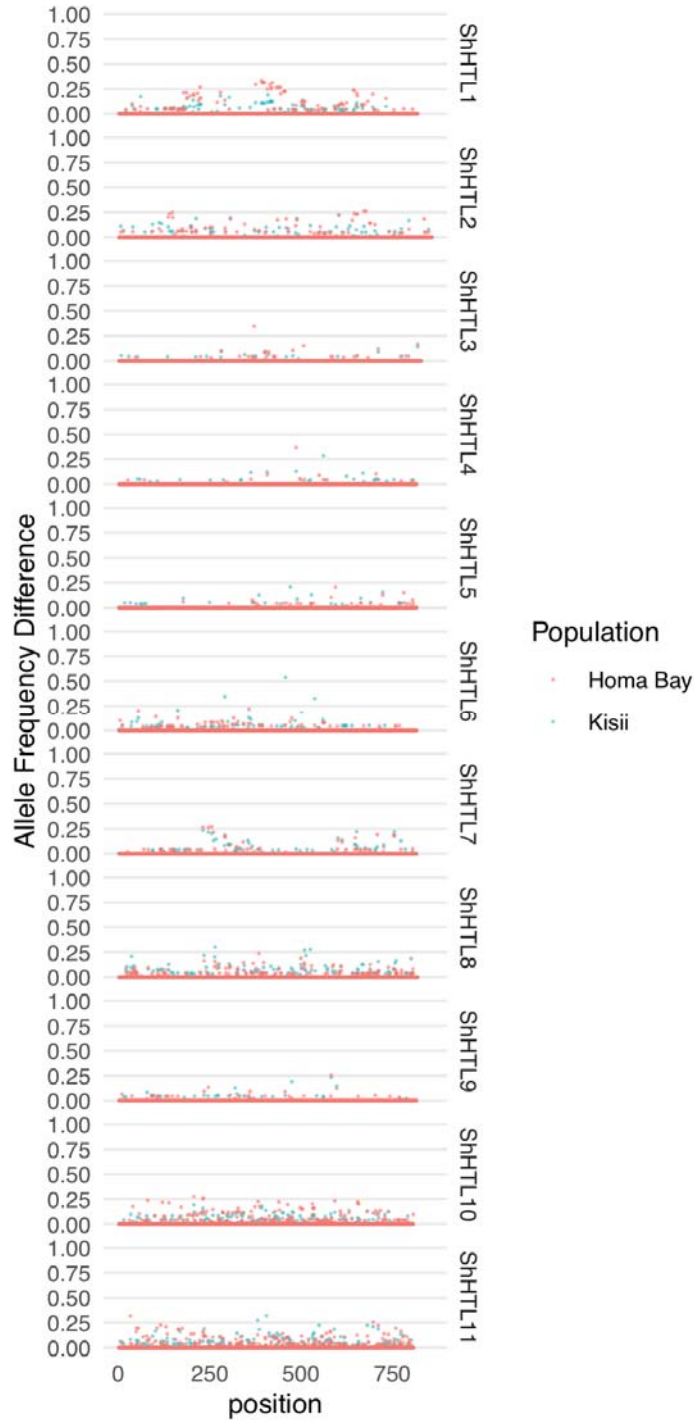
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883

884

885 **Appendix S1: Supplementary Figures and Tables**



886

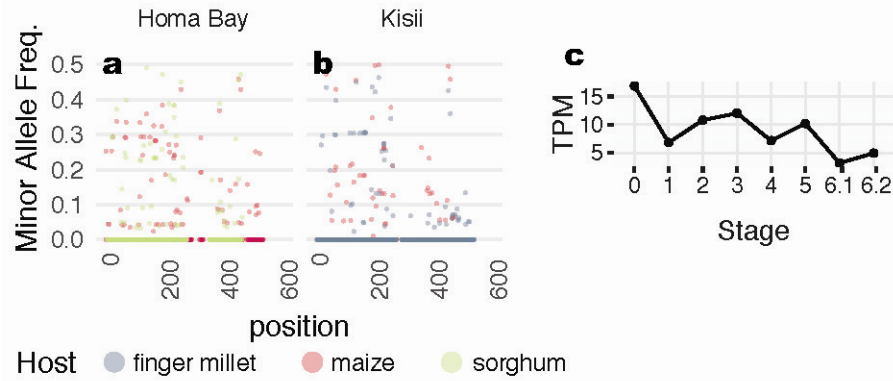
887

888 **Figure S1.** Allele frequency differences for 11 *ShHTL* receptors from Tsuchiya et al. (2015).

889 Allele frequencies were estimated from genotype likelihoods based on reads mapped to each

890 reference transcript. Allele frequency was estimated for parasites on each host species

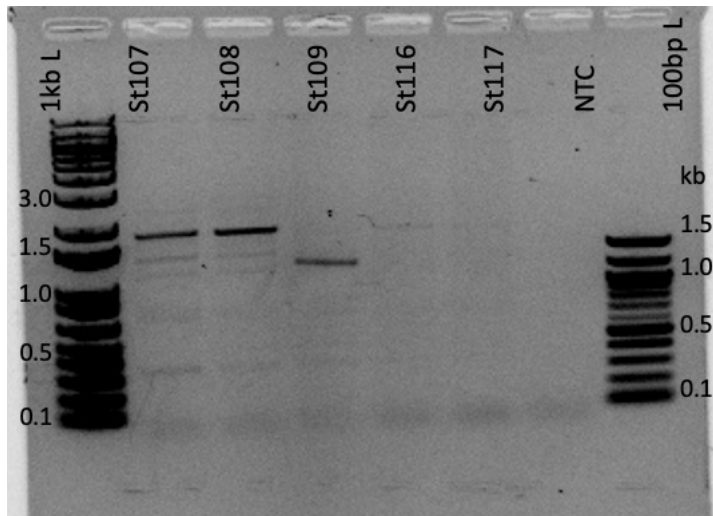
891 separately ($n = 12$ per unique host and population). The difference in allele frequency estimates
892 between two hosts within a single population is shown.
893



894

895 **Figure S2.** (a, b) Minor allele frequency differences based on alignments to the *SGT1* transcript
896 sequence (StHeBC4_p_c12587_g2_i1), split by population. If the locus is not present in any of
897 the sequenced individuals for that population due to genetic structural variation, no data point is
898 shown. Frequencies were estimated based on genotype likelihoods from $n = 12$ individuals per
899 unique host and population. (c) Gene expression data in transcripts per million (TPM) from the
900 PPGPII data across the 6 stages of haustorial development from data published.

901



910

911 **Figure S4. PCR banding results suggest multiple deletion variants.** PCR amplification

912 using the outer primers from set A (5'-TCTCGATCCTTTTGGGAATGG-3') and B (5'-

913 TGGGAAAGAGGTAGTGCAA-3'); see Fig. S3). NTC: no template control. Lane 1: Sh107;

914 Lane 2: Sh108, Lane 3: Sh109; Lane 4: Sh116; Lane 5: Sh117.

915

916

917 **Table S1.** GLMM for analysis of germination rate variation

	Estimate	Std. Error	z-value	P
Intercept	2.29	0.97	2.37	0.017
Site == Kisii	-2.16	0.79	-2.72	0.006
Host == Maize	-1.13	0.79	-1.43	0.153
Host == Sorghum	-1.90	1.12	-1.70	0.089
Treatment == ORO	-0.16	0.06	-2.85	0.004

918

919

920

921 **Table S2.** Hits to transcripts from the Parasitic Plant Genome Project (PPGP II) or Sh14v2 (from
922 Yoshida 2019) for contigs assembled from host-associated *k*-mers for *Striga hermonthica* Homa
923 Bay population (maize vs. sorghum hosts). Transcripts with greater than 85% identity over at
924 least 45 bp are shown.

PPGP II	Sh14v2	Description
StHeBC4_p_c26811_g0_i3	Sh14Contig_5850	lipid-a-disaccharide synthase-like
None	Sh14Contig_37747	None
None	Sh14Contig_44696	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g35328_i2	Sh14Contig_229	retrotransposon gag protein
StHeBC4_p_c12587_g2_i1	Sh14Contig_28742	disease-resistance protein SGT1
None	Sh14Contig_5301	None
None	Sh14Contig_37747	None
None	Sh14Contig_60980	hypothetical protein ASPNIDRAFT_144168
StHeBC4_u_c25350_g11_i1	Sh14Contig_78939	None
None	Sh14Contig_41198	None
None	Sh14Contig_32559	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g30818_i7	Sh14Contig_35967	None
None	Sh14Contig_47805	None
StHeBC4_p_c9824_g0_i1	None	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g42998_i1	None	None

925

926 **Table S3.** Hits to transcripts from the Parasitic Plant Genome Project (PPGP) or Sh14v2 (from
 927 Yoshida 2019) for contigs assembled from host-associated *k*-mers for *Striga hermonthica* Kisii
 928 population (maize vs. finger millet hosts). Transcripts with greater than 85% identity over at least
 929 45 bp are shown.

PGPPII	Sh14v2	Description
None	Sh14Contig_45649	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g32907_i4	Sh14Contig_20178	probable nicotinate-nucleotide pyrophosphorylase
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g22013_i6	Sh14Contig_24947	None
StHeBC4_u_c3941_g0_i1	Sh14Contig_42609	hypothetical protein VITISV_012016
None	Sh14Contig_70490	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g34431_i1	Sh14Contig_17925	upf0326 protein at4g17486-like
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g35474_i1	Sh14Contig_4481	None
StHeBC4_u_c24490_g2_i1	Sh14Contig_81114	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g14638_i24	Sh14Contig_23122	far-red impaired response protein
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g34431_i2	Sh14Contig_17925	upf0326 protein at4g17486-like
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g19156_i3	Sh14Contig_3012	alcohol dehydrogenase homolog
StHeBC4_p_c26043_g0_i2	Sh14Contig_13886	omega-amidase nit2
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g10585_i1	Sh14Contig_34611	None
None	Sh14Contig_20326	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g6756_i1	Sh14Contig_12790	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g15860_i5	Sh14Contig_29096	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g7220_i1	Sh14Contig_60050	None
None	Sh14Contig_3989	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g2276_i2	Sh14Contig_4881	rna polymerase ii c-terminal domain phosphatase-like 1-like
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g1840_i3	Sh14Contig_19406	e3 ubiquitin-protein ligase ring1-like
None	Sh14Contig_71030	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g39698_i9	Sh14Contig_45458	gag-protease polyprotein
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g32907_i12	Sh14Contig_81511	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g34427_i1	Sh14Contig_46360	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g35474_i1	Sh14Contig_4481	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g11444_i1	Sh14Contig_40193	polyprotein
StHeBC4_u_c19051_g0_i1	Sh14Contig_66323	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g10585_i1	Sh14Contig_12790	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g1736_i4	Sh14Contig_28260	None
None	Sh14Contig_31117	PREDICTED: uncharacterized protein LOC100256114
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g33489_i1	Sh14Contig_51019	None
StHeBC4_p_c16693_g0_i2	Sh14Contig_33691	hypothetical protein VITISV_018984
StHeBC4_p_c23323_g2_i3	Sh14Contig_3290	diphthamide biosynthesis protein 2-like
StHeBC4_p_c18975_g7_i10	Sh14Contig_7369	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g4626_i6	Sh14Contig_4698	retrotransposon protein
None	Sh14Contig_80867	None
StHeBC4_h_c11261_g0_i2	Sh14Contig_13520	chemocyanin precursor
StHeBC4_p_c23585_g1_i4	Sh14Contig_1911	None
StHeBC4_p_c24979_g0_i1	Sh14Contig_4792	97 kda heat shock protein
StHeBC4_h_c12903_g23955_i1	Sh14Contig_45458	gag-protease polyprotein

StHeBC4_u_c12903_g1547_i1	Sh14Contig_68469	None
None	Sh14Contig_48379	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g30160_i1	Sh14Contig_57886	None
None	Sh14Contig_64011	None
None	Sh14Contig_1642	retrotransposon ty1-copia subclass
StHeBC4_p_c22011_g3_i2	Sh14Contig_15531	wd repeat-containing protein 26-like
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g7195_i9	Sh14Contig_60490	unnamed protein product
StHeBC4_h_c24484_g1_i2	Sh14Contig_42033	hypothetical protein VITISV_042364
StHeBC4_p_c20621_g7_i3	Sh14Contig_4748	gag-pol precursor
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g27039_i4	Sh14Contig_4713	pectin methylesterase
StHeBC4_p_c18975_g7_i5	Sh14Contig_7369	None
None	Sh14Contig_65419	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g32907_i15	Sh14Contig_29096	None
None	Sh14Contig_52781	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g208_i2	Sh14Contig_7920	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g22741_i4	Sh14Contig_9532	pattern formation
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g38175_i2	Sh14Contig_17588	ring zinc finger ankyrin protein
None	Sh14Contig_4395	unnamed protein product [Vitis vinifera]
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g34427_i3	Sh14Contig_46360	None
StHeBC4_h_c11261_g0_i1	Sh14Contig_13520	chemocyanin precursor
StHeBC4_h_c12903_g40212_i2	Sh14Contig_24771	copia ltr rider
StHeBC4_p_c13584_g0_i1	Sh14Contig_33358	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g16409_i3	Sh14Contig_576	atp-dependent helicase brm-like
StHeBC4_h_c11483_g0_i1	Sh14Contig_55439	FAR1; Zinc finger, SWIM-type
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g20722_i11	Sh14Contig_28640	PREDICTED: uncharacterized protein LOC100854178, partial
StHeBC4_h_c12903_g12703_i2	Sh14Contig_9184	photosystem ii cp43 chlorophyll apoprotein
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g2185_i1	Sh14Contig_12790	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g34644_i1	Sh14Contig_4585	trehalose-phosphatase synthase 2
StHeBC4_p_c24106_g0_i1	Sh14Contig_40210	None
StHeBC4_h_c18968_g1_i5	Sh14Contig_1642	retrotransposon ty1-copia subclass
StHeBC4_u_c3088_g0_i1	Sh14Contig_31622	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g35782_i1	Sh14Contig_27773	None
None	Sh14Contig_23637	None
StHeBC4_u_c19051_g0_i1	Sh14Contig_63267	None
None	Sh14Contig_11046	uncharacterized protein loc100253271
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g27691_i1	Sh14Contig_35466	None
StHeBC4_u_c22214_g0_i6	Sh14Contig_43769	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g1736_i12	Sh14Contig_28260	None
None	Sh14Contig_58406	None
StHeBC4_u_c26755_g1_i1	Sh14Contig_68980	None
StHeBC4_p_c26987_g0_i1	Sh14Contig_48	6-4 photolyase
StHeBC4_u_c16917_g1_i1	Sh14Contig_50405	None
StHeBC4_u_c22344_g0_i6	Sh14Contig_813	thaumatin-like protein
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g699_i2	Sh14Contig_58790	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g14484_i1	Sh14Contig_12513	None
StHeBC4_p_c9911_g3_i3	Sh14Contig_54171	predicted protein
None	Sh14Contig_7920	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g34427_i8	Sh14Contig_46360	None

StHeBC4_p_c12903_g35474_i1	Sh14Contig_4481	None
None	Sh14Contig_43642	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g15888_i3	Sh14Contig_81511	None
StHeBC4_p_c24979_g1_i1	Sh14Contig_4792	97 kda heat shock protein
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g14483_i5	Sh14Contig_16250	tcp transcription factor 13
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g6756_i1	Sh14Contig_12790	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g10875_i1	Sh14Contig_20081	beta-glucan-binding protein
StHeBC4_p_c17648_g0_i3	Sh14Contig_15582	e3 ubiquitin-protein ligase upl3
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g22225_i1	Sh14Contig_48959	None
None	Sh14Contig_45784	None
None	Sh14Contig_75797	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g11727_i4	Sh14Contig_4041	None
StHeBC4_p_c23083_g3_i1	Sh14Contig_37240	None
None	Sh14Contig_5997	None
None	Sh14Contig_67788	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g6756_i1	Sh14Contig_1062	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g11833_i1	Sh14Contig_14842	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g6700_i3	Sh14Contig_43681	hypothetical protein VITISV_013115
StHeBC4_p_c20608_g0_i7	Sh14Contig_35726	PREDICTED: putative kinase-like protein TMKL1-like
None	Sh14Contig_29426	None
None	Sh14Contig_70066	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g29964_i1	Sh14Contig_37086	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g39295_i4	Sh14Contig_19126	epoxide hydrolase 2-like
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g1736_i13	Sh14Contig_29803	None
None	Sh14Contig_29803	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g6843_i1	Sh14Contig_4375	translation initiation factor eif-2b subunit delta-like
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g1736_i7	Sh14Contig_28260	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g38577_i4	Sh14Contig_21342	None
StHeBC4_p_c25304_g0_i1	Sh14Contig_5367	serine threonine-protein kinase pbs1-like
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g1736_i12	Sh14Contig_28260	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g7992_i1	Sh14Contig_22515	poly-specific ribonuclease parn
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g4208_i1	Sh14Contig_47575	None
StHeBC4_p_c11471_g0_i1	Sh14Contig_66224	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g40108_i1	Sh14Contig_17925	upf0326 protein at4g17486-like
StHeBC4_p_c26825_g3_i2	Sh14Contig_30816	unnamed protein product
StHeBC4_u_c17841_g0_i1	Sh14Contig_54135	None
StHeBC4_h_c12903_g30936_i1	Sh14Contig_28702	copla LTR rider
None	Sh14Contig_37720	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g10585_i1	Sh14Contig_12790	None
StHeBC4_u_c14956_g0_i2	Sh14Contig_3380	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g19836_i1	Sh14Contig_44128	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g9452_i3	Sh14Contig_68177	None
StHeBC4_p_c21038_g1_i1	Sh14Contig_46012	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g35474_i11	Sh14Contig_4481	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g15810_i1	Sh14Contig_12790	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g1736_i7	Sh14Contig_28260	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g34427_i1	Sh14Contig_61194	None

StHeBC4_p_c18569_g2_i14	Sh14Contig_67725	None
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StHeBC4_p_c22472_g0_i1	Sh14Contig_63886	predicted protein
StHeBC4_u_c24133_g4_i1	Sh14Contig_30270	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g12274_i1	Sh14Contig_5997	None
None	Sh14Contig_267	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g34427_i3	Sh14Contig_31554	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g33372_i2	Sh14Contig_18809	serine threonine protein kinase
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g12842_i2	Sh14Contig_58393	hypothetical protein VITISV_012059
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g13577_i4	Sh14Contig_4336	retrotransposon unclassified
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g34427_i9	Sh14Contig_46360	None
StHeBC4_u_c20739_g0_i7	Sh14Contig_30629	None
None	Sh14Contig_64863	None
StHeBC4_u_c18975_g2_i1	Sh14Contig_7369	None
StHeBC4_u_c3227_g1_i1	Sh14Contig_65419	None
StHeBC4_u_c18360_g0_i1	Sh14Contig_44903	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g6756_i1	Sh14Contig_1062	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g20268_i2	Sh14Contig_73193	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g15476_i8	Sh14Contig_78156	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g29964_i1	Sh14Contig_35346	None
None	Sh14Contig_62455	None
None	Sh14Contig_11292	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g43157_i2	Sh14Contig_5125	None
None	Sh14Contig_71030	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g18073_i1	Sh14Contig_20326	None
StHeBC4_p_c17480_g0_i1	Sh14Contig_62447	None
StHeBC4_p_c18975_g4_i6	Sh14Contig_44012	F7F22.15, related
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g32577_i4	Sh14Contig_50541	None
None	Sh14Contig_78156	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g32032_i1	Sh14Contig_20326	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g25724_i1	Sh14Contig_32318	None
StHeBC4_u_c13414_g0_i1	Sh14Contig_61194	None
None	Sh14Contig_43845	None
None	Sh14Contig_37580	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g1736_i12	Sh14Contig_28260	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g17146_i3	Sh14Contig_34580	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g33830_i2	Sh14Contig_22568	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g18700_i3	Sh14Contig_2850	None
None	Sh14Contig_61087	retrotransposon protein, putative, Ty3-gypsy subclass
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g208_i2	Sh14Contig_7920	None
StHeBC4_u_c14380_g6_i22	Sh14Contig_20089	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g22518_i1	Sh14Contig_39552	None
StHeBC4_u_c18188_g0_i1	Sh14Contig_30718	retrotransposon protein, putative, unclassified, expressed
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g35782_i1	Sh14Contig_27773	None
None	Sh14Contig_53940	None
None	Sh14Contig_29803	None

StHeBC4_p_c20119_g0_i1	None	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g26306_i42	None	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g15888_i8	None	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g34326_i2	None	None
StHeBC4_u_c22214_g0_i5	None	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g32907_i15	None	None
StHeBC4_p_c15477_g0_i2	None	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g18330_i2	None	None
StHeBC4_u_c20631_g2_i1	None	None
StHeBC4_u_c18975_g1_i1	None	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g33550_i2	None	None
StHeBC4_u_c20348_g0_i3	None	None
StHeBC4_u_c19161_g0_i1	None	None
StHeBC4_p_c18860_g2_i3	None	None
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StHeBC4_u_c20110_g5_i1	None	None
StHeBC4_u_c17278_g0_i2	None	None
StHeBC4_p_c18569_g0_i2	None	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g15860_i11	None	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g16409_i1	None	None
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StHeBC4_u_c18975_g1_i1	None	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g34427_i1	None	None
StHeBC4_u_c13012_g0_i1	None	None
StHeBC4_u_c20371_g0_i1	None	None
StHeBC4_u_c22472_g0_i4	None	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g34431_i3	None	None
StHeBC4_p_c18860_g2_i4	None	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g15230_i2	None	None
StHeBC4_u_c18860_g2_i48	None	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g8484_i1	None	None
StHeBC4_u_c18238_g1_i1	None	None
StHeBC4_u_c25350_g7_i2	None	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g29135_i2	None	None
StHeBC4_u_c13414_g0_i1	None	None
StHeBC4_p_c16184_g0_i1	None	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g27140_i4	None	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g18100_i3	None	None
StHeBC4_p_c26242_g21_i7	None	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g15860_i5	None	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g33449_i1	None	None
StHeBC4_u_c13012_g0_i1	None	None
StHeBC4_h_c10541_g0_i1	None	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g33428_i2	None	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g1552_i1	None	None

StHeBC4_p_c16622_g1_i2	None	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g8677_i10	None	None
StHeBC4_u_c10677_g0_i1	None	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g40108_i1	None	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g15860_i5	None	None
StHeBC4_p_c19033_g0_i1	None	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g33830_i1	None	None
StHeBC4_p_c12903_g11366_i6	None	None
StHeBC4_u_c12903_g25897_i6	None	None

930

931 **Table S4.** Chemocyanin variant calls for sequenced individuals. Individuals are coded as '1' if
 932 they possess the 'finger millet' allele or '0' if the allele is missing.

SampleID	Site	Host	Lat	Lon	Elevation_ft	Chemocyanin
SH009	Mumias	maize	0.3342	34.47782	4306	0
SH014	Mumias	maize	0.3342	34.47782	4306	0
SH023	Mumias2	maize	0.3038	34.50713	4299	1
SH027	Mumias2	maize	0.3038	34.50713	4299	0
SH031	Mumias2	maize	0.3038	34.50713	4299	0
SH035	Kibos	sorghum	-0.0363167	34.81567	3893	1
SH039	Kibos	sorghum	-0.0363167	34.81567	3893	0
SH042	Kibos	sorghum	-0.0363167	34.81567	3893	1
SH046	Kibos	maize	-0.0341417	34.81628	3917	0
SH055	Kibos	maize	-0.0341417	34.81628	3917	0
SH065	Muhoroni2	maize	-0.15125	35.19167	4239	0
SH070	Muhoroni2	maize	-0.15125	35.19167	4239	0
SH072	Muhoroni2	sugarcane	-0.15125	35.19167	4239	0
SH074	Muhoroni2	sugarcane	-0.15125	35.19167	4239	1
SH077	Muhoroni2	sugarcane	-0.15125	35.19167	4239	0
SH079	Chemelil	maize	-0.082375	35.13167	4176	0
SH087	Chemelil	maize	-0.082375	35.13167	4176	1
SH091	Chemelil2	sorghum	-0.0941667	35.12495	4060	0
SH097	Chemelil2	sorghum	-0.0941667	35.12495	4060	1
SH101	Chemelil2	sorghum	-0.0941667	35.12495	4060	0
SH103	Kisii	finger millet	-0.6138	34.73172	4925	1
SH104	Kisii	finger millet	-0.6138	34.73172	4925	1
SH105	Kisii	finger millet	-0.6138	34.73172	4925	1
SH106	Kisii	finger millet	-0.6138	34.73172	4925	1
SH107	Kisii	finger millet	-0.6138	34.73172	4925	1
SH108	Kisii	finger millet	-0.6138	34.73172	4925	1
SH109	Kisii	finger millet	-0.6138	34.73172	4925	1
SH110	Kisii	finger millet	-0.6138	34.73172	4925	1
SH111	Kisii	finger millet	-0.6138	34.73172	4925	1
SH112	Kisii	finger millet	-0.6138	34.73172	4925	0
SH113	Kisii	finger millet	-0.6138	34.73172	4925	0
SH114	Kisii	finger millet	-0.6138	34.73172	4925	0
SH115	Kisii	maize	-0.6133167	34.7318	4930	0
SH116	Kisii	maize	-0.6133167	34.7318	4930	0
SH117	Kisii	maize	-0.6133167	34.7318	4930	0
SH118	Kisii	maize	-0.6133167	34.7318	4930	0
SH119	Kisii	maize	-0.6133167	34.7318	4930	0
SH120	Kisii	maize	-0.6133167	34.7318	4930	0
SH121	Kisii	maize	-0.6133167	34.7318	4930	0
SH122	Kisii	maize	-0.6133167	34.7318	4930	0
SH123	Kisii	maize	-0.6133167	34.7318	4930	0
SH124	Kisii	maize	-0.6133167	34.7318	4930	0
SH125	Kisii	maize	-0.6133167	34.7318	4930	0
SH126	Kisii	maize	-0.6133167	34.7318	4930	0
SH127	Homa Bay	sorghum	-0.5839667	34.4762	4173	0

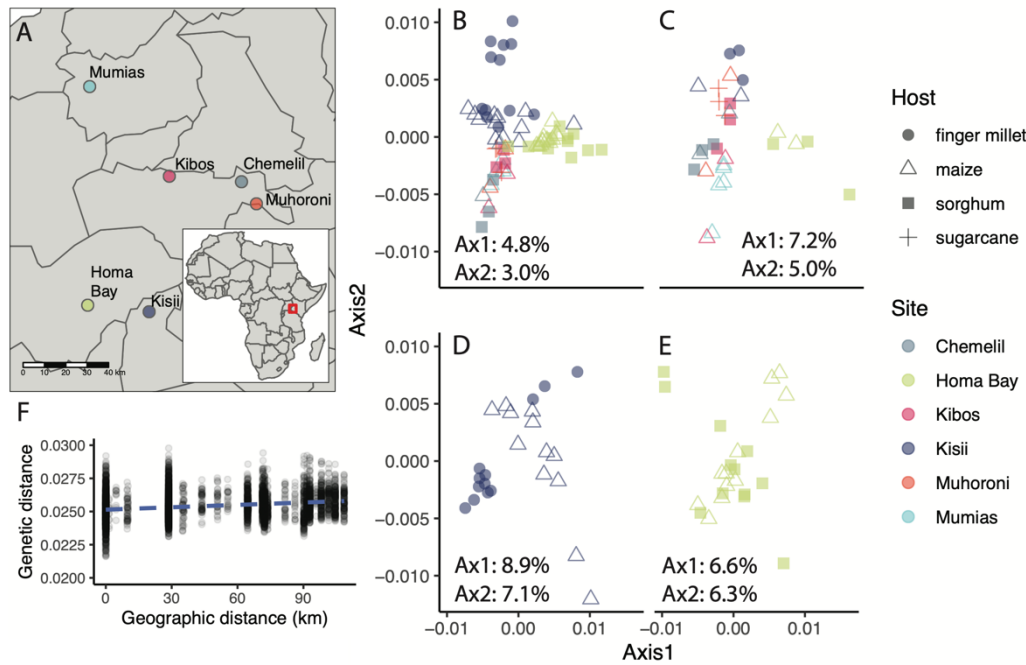
SH128	Homa Bay	sorghum	-0.5839667	34.4762	4173	0
SH129	Homa Bay	sorghum	-0.5839667	34.4762	4173	0
SH130	Homa Bay	sorghum	-0.5839667	34.4762	4173	0
SH131	Homa Bay	sorghum	-0.5839667	34.4762	4173	0
SH132	Homa Bay	sorghum	-0.5839667	34.4762	4173	0
SH133	Homa Bay	sorghum	-0.5839667	34.4762	4173	1
SH134	Homa Bay	sorghum	-0.5839667	34.4762	4173	0
SH135	Homa Bay	sorghum	-0.5839667	34.4762	4173	0
SH136	Homa Bay	sorghum	-0.5839667	34.4762	4173	0
SH137	Homa Bay	sorghum	-0.5839667	34.4762	4173	0
SH138	Homa Bay	sorghum	-0.5839667	34.4762	4173	0
SH139	Homa Bay 2	maize	-0.5834	34.47635	4161	0
SH140	Homa Bay 2	maize	-0.5834	34.47635	4161	0
SH141	Homa Bay 2	maize	-0.5834	34.47635	4161	0
SH142	Homa Bay 2	maize	-0.5834	34.47635	4161	1
SH143	Homa Bay 2	maize	-0.5834	34.47635	4161	1
SH144	Homa Bay 2	maize	-0.5834	34.47635	4161	0
SH145	Homa Bay 2	maize	-0.5834	34.47635	4161	1
SH146	Homa Bay 2	maize	-0.5834	34.47635	4161	0
SH147	Homa Bay 2	maize	-0.5834	34.47635	4161	0
SH148	Homa Bay 2	maize	-0.5834	34.47635	4161	0
SH149	Homa Bay 2	maize	-0.5834	34.47635	4161	0
SH150	Homa Bay 2	maize	-0.5834	34.47635	4161	0

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935 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

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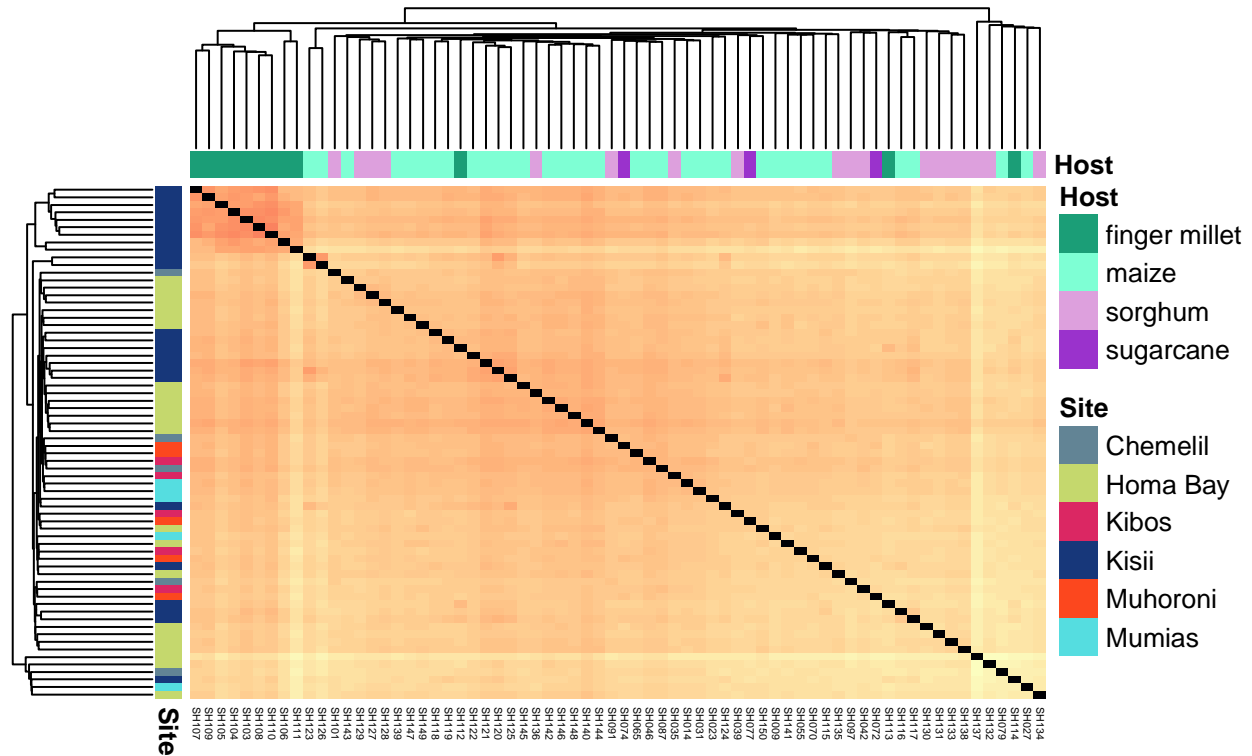
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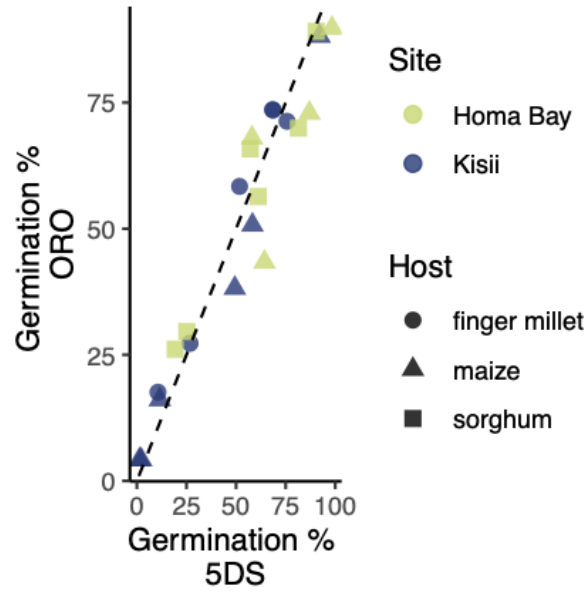
947

Figure 1. Population genomics of *S. hermonthica* from western Kenya. A) Map of the six sampling locations. (B-E) Principal Coordinates Analysis (PCoA) based on *k*-mer-derived genomic distances, performed separately for B) all sampled individuals ($n = 68$), C) five individuals per location ($n = 30$), D) individuals from Kisii ($n = 24$), and E) individuals from Homa Bay ($n = 24$). Relative proportion of variability explained by the first and second principal coordinate axes is indicated for each analysis. F) Genetic vs. geographic distance. Genetic distance was based on 31-mers. The dashed blue line indicates expectations from the best fit line ($y = 0.000013 * km + 0.0246$; $R^2 = 0.05$) for $n = 4,556$ pairwise comparisons among different individuals.



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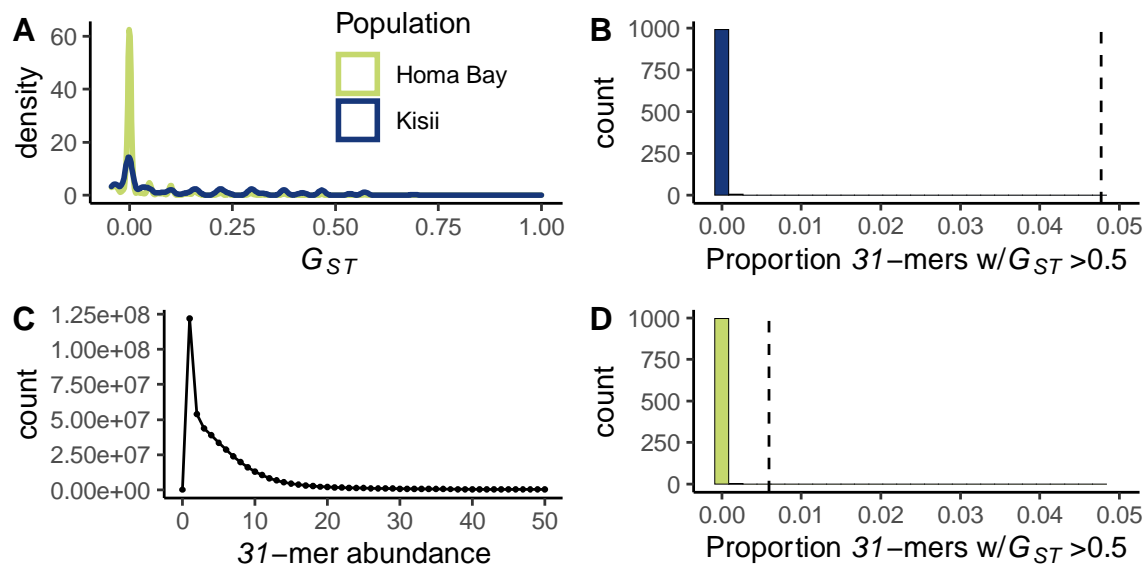
949 **Figure 2.** Population structure of Kenyan *S. hermonthica* samples from reference-based
950 analysis. Pairwise genetic distances were estimated from genotype probabilities, for 11,615,822
951 variable sites across 43,910 contigs longer than 2.5 kb. Genetic distances are colored in a heat
952 map-scale from 0.24 (red) to 0.33 (yellow). Individuals are ordered based on a hierarchical
953 clustering computed from the estimated genetic distances.



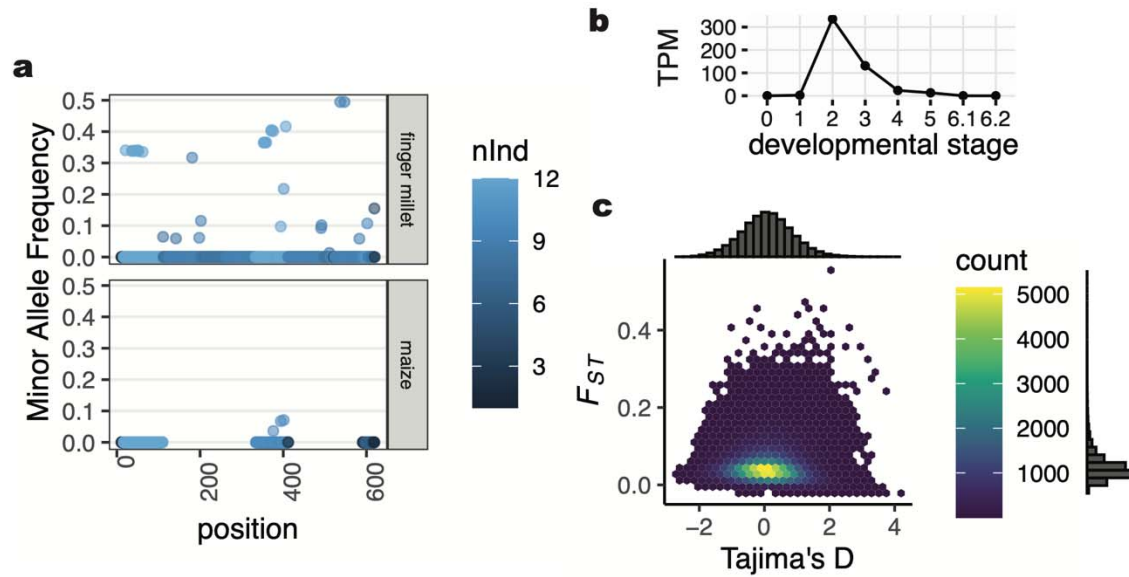
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955 **Figure 3.** Germination response variation in Homa Bay and Kisii populations. Seeds from $n = 6$
956 individuals per unique site and host were tested in response to synthetic strigolactones
957 orobanchol (ORO, 0.01 μM) and 5-deoxystrigol (5DS, 0.01 μM). The dashed line indicates the
958 expectation if the percent germination in response to the two different germination stimulants is
959 identical.

960



961
962 **Figure 4.** G_{ST} and k -mer distributions. A) Observed distribution of G_{ST} values. For Homa Bay,
963 G_{ST} is for parasites in adjacent plots of maize vs. sorghum at 2,765,562 31-mers. For Kisii, G_{ST}
964 is for parasites in adjacent plots of maize vs. sorghum at 2,123,902 31-mers. B) Proportion of
965 31-mers with $G_{ST} > 0.5$ in the Kisii dataset. The shown distribution is based on 1,000 random
966 permutations of host labels. The dashed line indicates the observed proportion. C) A
967 representative k -mer distribution spectrum for sample SH046. Most unique 31-mers are
968 observed only once or twice due to the high heterozygosity of this species. D) Proportion of 31-
969 mers with $G_{ST} > 0.5$ in the Homa Bay dataset. The shown distribution is based on 1,000 random
970 permutations of host labels. The dashed line indicates the observed proportion.



971
972 **Figure 5.** Genetic variation in *Striga hermonthica* from Kisii, Kenya. (a) Presence/absence
973 variation across the chemocyanin precursor transcript (StHeBC4_h_c11261_g0_i1), for $n = 12$
974 individuals per host (finger millet or maize). If the locus is not present in any of the sequenced
975 individuals, no data point is shown, otherwise each point is colored according to the number of
976 individuals (nInd) with data for the position. Two regions in the transcript have no reads aligned
977 from maize-parasitizing individuals (lower panel), consistent with absence of the corresponding
978 *k*-mers and PCR-banding results that suggest a deletion. (b) Gene expression data in
979 transcripts per million (TPM) from the PPGPII dataset for the chemocyanin precursor transcript
980 across six stages of haustorial development (0: imbibed seed; 1: germinated seedling after
981 exposure to GR24; 2: germinated seedling after exposure to DMBQ; 3: ~48 hrs post-
982 attachment; 4: ~72 hrs post-attachment; 5: late post-attachment; 6.1: vegetative structures; 6.2:
983 reproductive structures). (c) Distribution of Tajima's D and F_{ST} values across 154,722 non-
984 overlapping 1-kb windows. Only windows with data for more than 50% of sites are shown,
985 excluding impacts of structural genetic variation as in (a). Tajima's D for the chemocyanin was -
986 1.7.