

Journal of Bryology

Genetic analysis of four Île Amsterdam sphagna: high morphological divergence within Sphagnum subgenus Subsecunda --Manuscript Draft--

Manuscript Number:	
Full Title:	Genetic analysis of four Île Amsterdam sphagna: high morphological divergence within Sphagnum subgenus Subsecunda
Article Type:	Original Research Paper
Keywords:	Africa, Île Amsterdam, island populations, morphological divergence, Sphagnum, Sphagnum cavernulosum, subgenus Subsecunda
Corresponding Author:	Eric F. Karlin, Ph.D. Ramapo College Mahwah, NJ UNITED STATES
Corresponding Author Secondary Information:	
Corresponding Author's Institution:	Ramapo College
Corresponding Author's Secondary Institution:	
First Author:	Eric F. Karlin, Ph.D.
First Author Secondary Information:	
Order of Authors:	Eric F. Karlin, Ph.D. Sean C. Robinson, Ph.D. Kristian Hassel, Ph.D. Kjell Ivar Flatberg, Ph.D.
Order of Authors Secondary Information:	
Abstract:	<p>Genetic analyses using both SSRs and nucleotide sequences were carried out on four Île Amsterdam sphagna: Sphagnum cavernulosum of unknown subgenus, S. complanatum and S. islei of subg. Subsecunda, and S. cf. planifolium representing subg. Cuspidata. Genetic analyses show that all four species belong to subgenus Subsecunda and none are allopolyploids. This includes S. cavernulosum, which is morphologically divergent from all extant subgenera in the genus. Sphagnum cavernulosum, S. complanatum and S. islei are part of the Afro-Australasian clade of subg. Subsecunda, with S. complanatum and S. islei being closely associated with the African S. capense complex. Sphagnum cavernulosum is an outlier within the Afro-Australasian clade. Preliminary genetic analyses show S. islei to be closely related to S. complanatum and the two taxa may represent two morphologically divergent genets of one species. Although initial morphological study placed specimens identified as S. cf. planifolium in subg. Cuspidata, they are shown to belong to the S. africanum clade of subg. Subsecunda. These plants are closest to the African S. truncatum based on morphology. It is concluded that the source population for the Île Amsterdam populations of each of these four species appears to have ultimately been based in Africa. Further study is required to determine the ecological and evolutionary significance, if any, provided by the pronounced morphological plasticity within species and the high morphological divergence among species in subg. Subsecunda. A prior report of S. recurvum (subg. Cuspidata) possibly occurring on Île Amsterdam is concluded to have been based on laboratory error.</p>
Funding Information:	

1 **Genetic analysis of four Île Amsterdam sphagna: high**
2 **morphological divergence within *Sphagnum* subgenus *Subsecunda***

3
4 Eric F. Karlin¹, Sean C. Robinson², Kristian Hassel³, Kjell Ivar Flatberg³

5
6 ¹*Environmental Science Program, School of Theoretical & Applied Science, Ramapo*

7 *College, Mahwah, NJ 07430, USA;* ² *Biology Department, SUNY College at Oneonta,*

8 *Oneonta, NY 13820, USA;* ³ *Department of Natural History, NTNU University Museum,*

9 *Norwegian University of Science and Technology, N-7491 Trondheim, Norway*

10
11 Correspondence to: Eric F. Karlin, Environmental Science Program, School of Theoretical &
12 Applied Science, Ramapo College, Mahwah, NJ, 07430, USA.

13 Email: ekarlin@ramapo.edu Phone: 201-684-7743

14
15 Running head: Karlin *et al.* Morphological divergence in subgenus *Subsecunda*

16
17 **Author details**

18 Eric F. Karlin, Professor of Plant Ecology, Environmental Science Program, School of
19 Theoretical & Applied Science, Ramapo College, Mahwah, NJ, 07430-1680, USA.

20 Email: ekarlin@ramapo.edu. Telephone: +1-201-684-7743.

21 ORCID: 0000-0003-4218-8825.

22
23 Sean C. Robinson, Assistant Professor of Biology, Curator of the Jewell and Arline
24 Moss Settle Herbarium, Biology Department, 218 Science 1, SUNY-Oneonta, Oneonta,
25 New York 13820, USA. Email: sean.robinson@oneonta.edu. Telephone: +1-607-436-3732.

26 ORCID: 0000-0003-0961-4968

27
28 Kristian Hassel, Associate Professor, Department of Natural History, NTNU University
29 Museum, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, N-7491 Trondheim, Norway,
30 email: kristian.hassel@ntnu.no phone: +47 73592252

31 ORCID: 0000-0002-1906-8166

32
33 Kjell Ivar Flatberg, Department of Natural History, NTNU University Museum, Norwegian
34 University of Science and Technology, N-7491 Trondheim, Norway, email:
35 kjell.flatberg@ntnu.no phone: +47 73592248

36
37 Manuscript text: 6956 words

38 (includes Tables & Figures, excludes Cover Page & Appendices)

39 Appendix 1: 914 words

40 Appendix 2: (a figure with a legend = 36 words)

41 Tables: one (1)

42 Figures: three (4) in text, one in Appendix 2

43

44

45 Abstract

46 Genetic analyses using both SSRs and nucleotide sequences were carried out on four Île
47 Amsterdam sphagna: *Sphagnum cavernulosum* of unknown subgenus, *S. complanatum* and *S.*
48 *islei* of subg. *Subsecunda*, and *S. cf. planifolium* representing subg. *Cuspidata*. Genetic
49 analyses show that all four species belong to subgenus *Subsecunda* and none are
50 allopolyploids. This includes *S. cavernulosum*, which is morphologically divergent from all
51 extant subgenera in the genus. *Sphagnum cavernulosum*, *S. complanatum* and *S. islei* are part
52 of the Afro-Australasian clade of subg. *Subsecunda*, with *S. complanatum* and *S. islei* being
53 closely associated with the African *S. capense* complex. *Sphagnum cavernulosum* is an outlier
54 within the Afro-Australasian clade. Preliminary genetic analyses show *S. islei* to be closely
55 related to *S. complanatum* and the two taxa may represent two morphologically divergent
56 genets of one species. Although initial morphological study placed specimens identified as *S.*
57 *cf. planifolium* in subg. *Cuspidata*, they are shown to belong to the *S. africanum* clade of
58 subg. *Subsecunda*. These plants are closest to the African *S. truncatum* based on morphology.
59 It is concluded that the source population for the Île Amsterdam populations of each of these
60 four species appears to have ultimately been based in Africa. Further study is required to
61 determine the ecological and evolutionary significance, if any, provided by the pronounced
62 morphological variation within species and the high morphological divergence among species
63 in subg. *Subsecunda*. A prior report of *S. recurvum* (subg. *Cuspidata*) possibly occurring on
64 Île Amsterdam is concluded to have been based on laboratory error.

65

66 **Keywords:** Africa, Île Amsterdam, island populations, , morphological divergence,
67 *Sphagnum*, *Sphagnum cavernulosum*, subgenus *Subsecunda*

68

69

70 **Introduction**

71 Compared to many isolated oceanic islands, Île Amsterdam has a diverse *Sphagnum* flora,
72 both in terms of species richness and the number of subgenera. Flatberg *et al.* (2011) reported
73 four subgenera and six species to be present there and that four of the six species were
74 apparently either endemic to Île Amsterdam (*S. cavernulosum* Flatberg & Whinam, *S.*
75 *complanatum* Flatberg & Whinam, *S. islei* Warnst.) or endemic to both Île Amsterdam and the
76 nearby Île Saint-Paul (*S. lacteolum* Besch.). In comparison, just two *Sphagnum* species
77 representing two subgenera are reported for the Hawaiian Islands (Karlin, 2001). From one to
78 three *Sphagnum* species are reported for each of the following isolated oceanic Holantarctic
79 islands, with none being endemic: Australia: Macquarie Island (*S. ×falcatulum s.s.* Besch.);
80 New Zealand: Antipodes Islands (*S. ×australe s.l.* Mitt., *S. ×falcatulum s.l.*), Auckland
81 Islands (*S. ×australe s.l.*, *S. ×falcatulum s.l.*), Campbell Island (*S. ×australe s.l.*, *S. novo-*
82 *zelandicum* Mitt.), Chatham Islands (*S. ×australe s.l.*, *S. ×cristatum* Hampe, *S. ×irritans*
83 Warnst.) (Fife, 1996, Seppelt, 2012; Karlin *et al.*, 2013; Karlin & Robinson, 2017). However,
84 the tallies are a bit ambiguous for the Holantarctic islands because of the occurrence of two
85 cryptic species complexes. *Sphagnum ×falcatulum s.l.* has been shown to be a cryptic species
86 complex composed of three genetically distinct taxa: *S. ×falcatulum s.s.* (allo-allo-triploid), *S.*
87 *×irritans* (allo-diploid), and *S. cuspidatum* (haploid) (Karlin *et al.*, 2009, 2011, 2013; Karlin
88 & Robinson, 2017), with *S. ×falcatulum s.l.* being used when it is not known which of the
89 three species are present in a given area. *Sphagnum ×australe s.l.* has also shown to be a
90 cryptic species complex composed of three genetically distinct taxa: allo-diploid I *S.*
91 *×australe*, allo-diploid II *S. ×australe*, allo-allo-triploid *S. ×australe* (Karlin *et al.*, 2009,
92 Karlin, 2014).

93 The Île Amsterdam flora includes two species in subg. *Subsecunda* (*S. complanatum*
94 and *S. islei*), one species in subg. *Rigida* (*S. lacteolum*) and one species in subg. *Acutifolia* (*S.*

95 *cf. violascens* Müll.Hal.) (Flatberg *et al.*, 2011). The morphological characters of another
96 species, *S. cavernulosum* do not fit into any subgenus currently recognized in *Sphagnum*.
97 Finally, Flatberg *et al.* (2011) also reported one subg. *Cuspidata* species for Île Amsterdam. It
98 was based on two identically labelled specimens with morphologically uniform plants that
99 were collected from one locality (AMS 44). We will refer to these two specimens as ‘berry’
100 for this study. Flatberg *et al.* (2011) proposed that the plants could belong to the
101 morphologically variable Australasian *S. cf. falcatum*, but without further comments on
102 taxonomy. These two specimens were finally assigned to and arranged under *S. cf.*
103 *planifolium* Müll. Hal. in the TRH herbarium, a morphologically heterogeneous species
104 traditionally placed in subgenus *Cuspidata* and known from tropical Africa and Madagascar
105 (Eddy, 1985). For either species, the occurrence of a population on Île Amsterdam would
106 represent a notable range extension. Although *S. ×falcatum* and *S. ×planifolium* have both
107 been traditionally placed in subg. (or section) *Cuspidata* (Warnstorf, 1911, Eddy, 1985,
108 Fife, 1996, Seppelt, 2012), recent studies have shown both to be cryptic species complexes of
109 allopolyploids having a history of inter-subgeneric hybridization between members of subg.
110 *Cuspidata* and subg. *Subsecunda* (Karlin *et al.*, 2009, 2011, 2014; Karlin, 2014). Karlin
111 (2014) concluded that inter-subgeneric allopolyploids should be unranked at the subgenus
112 level. That ‘berry’ was associated with both *S. ×falcatum* and *S. ×planifolium* suggests that
113 it may also have a history of inter-subgeneric hybridization involving subg. *Cuspidata* and
114 subg. *Subsecunda*. Three other *Sphagnum* allopolyploids (all gametophytically allo-diploid)
115 have been documented to have a history of hybridization between these two subgenera: *S.*
116 *×irritans* (Karlin & Robinson, 2017), *S. ×mendocinum* (Shaw & Goffinet, 2000; Karlin *et al.*,
117 2010), and *S. ×slooveri* (Karlin *et al.*, 2014).

118 Despite repeated attempts, Flatberg *et al.* (2011) failed to obtain genetic sequences
119 from the Île Amsterdam specimens they studied. Thus their species delimitations are based

120 solely on morphological characters. Sporophytes were not observed on any of the Île
121 Amsterdam sphagna, suggesting that sexual reproduction was either lacking, or very rare, for
122 the *Sphagnum* populations present there.

123 This study uses microsatellites (SSRs) and nucleotide sequences to explore a number
124 of unresolved questions associated with four of the Île Amsterdam taxa: *S. cavernulosum*, *S.*
125 *complanatum*, *S. islei*, and *S. cf. planifolium*. Specifically, we examined: 1) the relationship of
126 *S. cavernulosum* to the genus *Sphagnum*; 2) the relationship of *S. islei* and *S. complanatum* to
127 each other and to species of the ‘*S. capense*’ complex; 3) the possibility that ‘berry’ has a
128 history of inter-subgeneric hybridization between subg. *Cuspidata* and subg. *Subsecunda*; 4)
129 the allelic diversity in the Île Amsterdam populations of *S. cavernulosum*, *S. complanatum*,
130 and *S. islei*.

131 **Material and methods**

132 *Notes on the taxa*

133 We follow the classification of *Sphagnum* of Shaw *et al.* (2010), which divides the genus into
134 six subgenera: *Acutifolia* (which includes sections *Acutifolia*, *Insulosa*, and *Polyclada*),
135 *Cuspidata*, *Rigida*, *Sphagnum*, *Squarrosa*, and *Subsecunda*.

136 *Sphagnum cavernulosum*

137 Given its morphological peculiarities, it is possible that *S. cavernulosum*: 1) does not belong
138 in *Sphagnum*; 2) belongs in *Sphagnum* and has a history of inter-subgeneric hybridization; 3)
139 is a morphological outlier of an extant subgenus; or 4) represents a previously unrecognized
140 subgenus in *Sphagnum*. Examples of all four possibilities have recently been documented in
141 *Sphagnum*: 1) the transfer of some species placed in *Sphagnum* to different genera and
142 families (Crum & Seppelt, 1999; Shaw *et al.*, 2010; Shaw *et al.*, 2016); 2) inter-subgeneric
143 hybridization in *Sphagnum* (Shaw *et al.*, 2000; Karlin *et al.*, 2009, 2014; Karlin, 2014);
144 morphological outliers occurring within a subgenus (Shaw *et al.*, 2004); and 4) genetic

145 evidence suggesting that one of the three monoploid genomes present in individuals of the
146 double allopolyploid *S. australe s.l.* belongs in *Sphagnum* (based on both nuclear and plastid
147 sequences), but is genetically divergent from the currently recognized subgenera (Karlin,
148 2014). Subsequent mitochondrial and plastid genomic analyses by Shaw *et al.* (2016) found
149 that this monoploid genome likely represents an early-diverging lineage within subg.
150 *Sphagnum*.

151 *Sphagnum complanatum* and *S. islei*

152 Eddy (1985) placed *S. islei* in synonymy with the African *S. capense*. Noting that both *S.*
153 *complanatum* and *S. islei* were morphologically close to *S. capense*, Flatberg *et al.* (2011)
154 concluded that they were distinct from that species and also from each other. However, given
155 the absence of sexual reproduction in either species on Île Amsterdam (Flatberg *et al.*, 2011),
156 it may be that these two Île Amsterdam taxa are morphologically distinct genets of one
157 species, both of the same sex, which represent independent long distance founding events.
158 Genetic analyses are required to explore the relationships of these three species.

159 *Taxon sampling*

160 The specimens sampled included 24 Île Amsterdam *Sphagnum* specimens collected by J.
161 Whinam in 2007 and three specimens collected by Y. Frenot in 2010. The latter specimens
162 were not included in the study of Flatberg *et al.* (2011). All specimens were housed at
163 herbarium TRH (Norwegian University of Science and Technology) and had been identified
164 by K. I. Flatberg (KIF). The 2007 material included eight specimens of *S. cavernulosum*
165 (collected at seven sites), 11 specimens of *S. complanatum* (collected at 11 sites), three
166 specimens of *S. islei* (collected at three sites) and two identically labelled specimens with
167 morphologically uniform plants (collected from one locality: AMS 44) that were filed under
168 *S. cf. planifolium*. We will refer to the latter two specimens as ‘berry’. The three 2010

169 specimens had been identified KIF as *S. cavernulosum*, *S. complanatum*, and *S. islei*.

170 Information on specimens yielding usable DNA is provided in Appendix 1.

171 *DNA analysis*

172 DNA was extracted from one gametophyte stem selected from each specimen. The remaining
173 portion of each isolate was placed in a small, labelled packet and returned to the specimen.

174 Two or three separate DNA samples were obtained from each of the two ‘berry’ specimens
175 and the three 2010 specimens. Extractions were done using Qiagen DNeasy plant mini kits
176 and a modified version of the Qiagen protocol (Qiagen, Valencia, CA). Modifications to the
177 Qiagen protocol included an additional tissue disruption after adding Buffer AP1 (lysis
178 buffer) and RNase A, and an extension of the initial incubation time at 65 °C in Buffer AP1
179 (lysis buffer) from 10 minutes to four hours. Microsatellites were amplified in 10 µl multiplex
180 reactions, each targeting three loci, using Qiagen multiplex PCR kits and methods described
181 in Shaw *et al.* (2008b). One (1) µl of each PCR product was then mixed with 0.25 µl GS500
182 LIZ size standard and 10 µl Hi-Di Formamide (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA) for
183 electrophoresis on an ABI 3730x1 DNA Analyzer at Cornell University’s Biotechnology
184 Resource Center in Ithaca, NY.

185 *Microsatellite (SSR) markers*

186 All samples were assayed for 16 SSRs (numbered as in Shaw *et al.*, 2008b): 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10,
187 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 28, 29, 30. Duplicate runs of all SSRs were undertaken for samples
188 having amplicons at two or more SRRs. Fragments were analyzed using the GeneMarker
189 software, version 2.6.7 (SoftGenetics, State College, PA). Alleles of different sizes
190 (nucleotide pairs) were simply coded as different, regardless of SSR repeat numbers. In
191 addition, SSR data sets of subg. *Subsecunda* species from Africa (9 samples representing five
192 haploid and one allopolyploid species) and Australasia (10 samples representing two haploid

193 species) used in prior studies (Karlin *et al.*, 2008, 2014) were also utilized. Information about
194 these specimens is listed in Appendix 1.

195 *Nucleotide sequences*

196 One nuclear and one plastid nucleotide sequence were assayed for the three 2010 samples and
197 the two 2007 samples of ‘berry’. The plastid locus was ‘trnL (UAA) 59 exon-trnF(GAA)
198 region’ (hereafter, trnL). The nuclear locus was ‘5.8S ribosomal RNA gene, partial sequence;
199 and internal transcribed spacer 2, complete sequence; and 26S ribosomal RNA gene, partial
200 sequence’ (hereafter referred to as *ITS2*⁺). Thirty-eight *ITS2*⁺ sequences and thirty *trnL*
201 sequences of additional *Sphagnum* species were obtained from Genbank. All specimens from
202 which nucleotide sequences were obtained (and their GenBank accession numbers) are listed
203 in Appendix 1. Nucleotide BLAST (BLASTn) was used to determine the Genbank sequences
204 having the highest identity to nucleotide sequences obtained from the Île Amsterdam species
205 being studied.

206 *Statistical analyses*

207 Phylogenetic analyses were done separately for the *ITS2*⁺ and *trnL* loci. The best-fit models of
208 nucleotide substitution were determined for each locus based on the Akaike information
209 criterion (AIC) as implemented in jModeltest 0.1.1 (Posada, 2008). The program MrBayes
210 3.1.2 (Huelsenbeck & Ronquist, 2001; Ronquist & Huelsenbeck, 2003) was used for
211 conducting Bayesian analysis (Yang & Rannala, 1997) of each locus. Except for three indels
212 in the *trnL* data alignment, gaps and missing characters were treated as missing data, and thus
213 did not contribute any phylogenetic information. It was concluded, however, that three indels
214 in the *trnL* alignment had phylogenetic information. Thus the *trnL* data was divided into two
215 partitions for analysis: one partition for the nucleotides and a second partition for the presence
216 or absence of each the three indels.

217 A genetic distance matrix of haplotypes based on 11 SSRs (1, 4, 7, 12, 14, 17, 18, 19,
218 22, 28, 29) was created using the program GenAlEx 6.501, with *S. islei* being excluded
219 because of missing data. The other six SSRs were not included in this analysis because of
220 missing data among the specimens in the data set. This distance matrix was used for both
221 Principal Coordinates Analysis (PCoA), using GenAlEx, and neighbor-joining analysis, using
222 the Neighbor program in PHYLIP 3.69 (Felsenstein, 1989). The latter analytical approach was
223 applied by Karlin *et al.*, (2013). A tree based on the neighbor-joining analysis was created by
224 using TreeDyn as implemented on the ‘phyogeny.fr’ online platform (Chevenet *et al.*, 2006;
225 Deeper *et al.* 2008). SSR data from the two 2007 specimens of *S. islei* having amplicons was
226 pooled to yield a haplotype based on 9 SSRs (out of the 11 SSRs used above, with 8 alleles
227 from one specimen and 1 allele from the second). This was included in a second neighbor-
228 joining analysis based on 9 SSRs (1, 4, 12, 14, 17, 18, 19, 22, 29) that was focused primarily
229 on the Afro-Australasian clade.

230 **Results**

231 DNA extracted from the 2007 specimens of *S. cavernulosum*, *S. complanatum*, and *S. islei*
232 was of low quality and the majority did not yield any SSR amplicons; the few that did yielded
233 amplicons of very low amplitude. The latter included two *S. islei* specimens, which
234 collectively had alleles at 11 SSRs. In contrast, DNA from the two 2007 ‘berry’ specimens
235 and the three 2010 specimens was of higher quality and yielded SSR amplicons with strong
236 peaks as well as *ITS* nucleotide sequences; *trnL* nucleotide sequences were also obtained from
237 the three 2010 specimens. Subsequent to genetic analyses, a closer morphological assessment
238 led KIF to conclude that the 2010 specimen which had initially been identified as *S. islei* was
239 *S. complanatum*. Consequently, we have no nucleotide sequence data for *S. islei*. The number
240 of SSRs producing amplicons varied among the Île Amsterdam species, being lowest for *S.*
241 *islei* and highest for ‘berry’ (16 SSRs). The limited results from the 2007 specimens precluded

242 a study of the genetic diversity in the Île Amsterdam populations of *S. cavernulosum*, *S.*
243 *complanatum*, and *S. islei*.

244 *Estimated Gametophytic Ploidy*

245 With the exception of SSR-5, the four Île Amsterdam species each had one allele per
246 individual per SSR. This indicates that 1) they are not allopolyploids and 2) that they are
247 likely gametophytically haploid. The exception to this pattern was SSR-5. The one 2010
248 *Sphagnum cavernulosum* sample had two alleles per individual (alleles ‘196’ & ‘477’) and the
249 two 2010 *S. complanatum* samples had two (alleles ‘194’ & ‘196’) and three (alleles ‘194’,
250 ‘196’, and ‘480’) alleles per individual, respectively. This indicates that more than one copy
251 of SSR-5 is present in each individual of these two species, and this has also been detected in
252 some members of the Afro-Australian clade (Karlin *et al.*, 2008, 2014). However, just one
253 weakly amplified allele per individual was obtained from the 2007 specimens yielding
254 amplicons at SSR-5: *S. cavernulosum* (2 specimens), *S. complanatum* (1 specimen) and *S.*
255 *islei* (1 specimen). As alleles are apparently not always amplified from each of the copies of
256 SSR-5 present in individuals, particularly with low quality DNA, we conclude that our data
257 set is not sufficient to resolve the total number of copies of SSR-5 present in individuals of *S.*
258 *cavernulosum*, *S. complanatum* and *S. islei*. The three separate samples run on both of the two
259 2007 ‘berry’ specimens each had one strongly amplified allele at SSR-5 and we conclude that
260 these plants had just one copy of SSR-5 per individual.

261 *Nucleotide Sequences*

262 As BLAST searches of GenBank accessions showed the nucleotide sequences of all three
263 species to be associated with subg. *Subsecunda*, phylogenetic analyses focused on that group.
264 Based on the nuclear *ITS2*⁺ sequences, three Southern Hemisphere clades within subg.
265 *Subsecunda* are present in the analysis (Fig. 1). *Sphagnum cavernulosum* and *S. complanatum*
266 group with the Afro-Australasian clade, having the highest genetic similarity with the African

267 species (Fig. 1). However, these two Île Amsterdam species both show some genetic
268 divergence from the African members of the clade. In contrast, *ITS2*⁺ sequences place “berry”
269 in the ‘*S. africanum*’ clade, which includes both African and Neotropical species (Fig. 1).
270 Given the very high genetic similarities among the component species, it is not possible to
271 resolve ‘berry’ from the other taxa in this clade based on *ITS2*⁺ sequences.

272

273 Figure 1 about here

274

275 The plastid (*trnL*) sequences yield a phylogenetic tree similar to that based on *ITS*
276 sequences (Figs. 1, 2). However, while divergence between *S. complanatum* and many of the
277 African and Australasian species is slight when based on *trnL* sequences, *S. cavernulosum* is
278 shown to be quite divergent from the other members of this clade (Fig. 2). Although *trnL*
279 sequences for ‘berry’ are lacking, there is no clear delineation among other members of the *S.*
280 *africanum* clade based on *trnL* data.

281

282 Figure 2 about here

283

284 *Genetic distance among SSR haplotypes*

285 A neighbor-joining tree showing genetic distance among haplotypes (based on 11 SSRs) of *S.*
286 *cavernulosum*, *S. complanatum*, ‘berry’, and members of the ‘*S. africanum*’ clade and the
287 Afro-Australasian clade clearly show *S. cavernulosum* to belong to the Afro-Australasian
288 clade, but that it is notably divergent from the other members of that clade (Fig. 3). ‘Berry’ is
289 deeply embedded within the ‘*S. africanum*’ clade and *S. complanatum* is associated with
290 African members of the Afro-Australasian clade, having the highest allelic similarity with one
291 of the two specimens of *S. capense* represented in the analysis (Fig. 3). Although the SSR data

292 shows more variability than that detected with the nucleotide sequences for the “*S.*
293 *africanum*” clade, with the exception of *S. bordasii* Besch., it does not allow for delineation
294 among the component species included in this analysis. Karlin *et al.* (2014) concluded that *S.*
295 *bordasii* was likely an allopolyploid, with at least one of its two ancestral species belonging to
296 the “*S. africanum*” clade. Thus its notable divergence from the other members of “*S.*
297 *africanum*” clade reflects its hybrid history.

298

299 Figure 3 about here

300

301 Allelic divergence between ‘berry’ and one specimen of *S. africanum* and one
302 specimen of *S. truncatum* is slight, and falls well within the range of intra-specific divergence
303 detected among individuals of the latter two species (Fig. 3). Likewise, allelic divergence
304 between *S. complanatum* and one specimen of *S. capense* also falls within the range of intra-
305 specific divergence detected within *S. capense* as well as that among individuals of the
306 Australasian *S. comosum* and *S. novo-zelandicum* (Fig. 3).

307 The first axis of a Principal Coordinates Analysis (PCoA) of the 11 SSR data set (with
308 28% of the total allelic variation) is associated with the resolution of the ‘*S. africanum*’ clade
309 from the Afro-Australasian clade. The second axis, with 16% of the total allelic variation,
310 focuses on the separation of the Australasian species from the other members of Afro-
311 Australasian clade, with *S. cavernulosum* being divergent from other members of both clades.
312 Finally, the third axis, with 10% of the allelic variation, is associated with the resolution of the
313 two Australasian species (*S. comosum* and *S. novo-zelandicum*).

314 The neighbor-joining tree based on 9 SSRs shows *S. islei* to be most closely related to
315 *S. complanatum*, with the two species forming a clade sister to a specimen of *S. capense*
316 (Appendix 2). This analysis shows allelic divergence between *S. complanatum* and *S. islei* to

317 be far less than the respective range of intra-specific divergences detected within each of the
318 three species in the Afro-Australasian clade represented by two or more specimens each in
319 this analysis (i.e. *S. capense*, *S. comosum*, *S. novo-zelandicum*).

320

321 **Discussion**

322 Genetic data shows that the diversity of subgenera in genus *Sphagnum* represented at Île
323 Amsterdam is less than previously thought, with the four species investigated in this study all
324 belonging to ubg. *Subsecunda*. Due to low quality of extracted DNA from many of the Île
325 Amsterdam specimens, combined with seemingly high morphological variation, we are in
326 many cases not able to evaluate the morphological species concepts applied.

327 *Sphagnum cavernulosum*

328 Genetic analyses clearly show *S. cavernulosum* to belong in *Sphagnum* and that it is a
329 member of subg. *Subsecunda*. It is part of the Afro-Australasian clade within that subgenus,
330 which closely corresponds to ‘lineage B’ of Shaw *et al.* (2008a). *ITS2*⁺ data indicate *S.*
331 *cavernulosum* to be most closely related to African species. However, *trnL* and SSR data
332 both show it to be an outlier within this clade. *Sphagnum cavernulosum* is not unique in
333 having a morphology that is highly divergent from that typically associated with subg.
334 *Subsecunda*. Genetic analyses have shown that three other species that were once placed in
335 different sections (or subgenera) based on their respective highly divergent morphologies
336 belong in subg *Subsecunda*: 1) *S. macrophyllum* (and the closely related *S. cribosum*) were
337 formerly in section *Isocladus*; and 2) *S. pylaseii* was formerly in section *Hemitheca* (Shaw *et*
338 *al.* 2004). These three latter species (Figs. 1, 2) are all part of a clade that also includes *S.*
339 *cyclophyllum* and *S. microcarpum* (Shaw *et al.*, 2004). All members of this clade are largely
340 limited to eastern North America. Thus *S. cavernulosum* represents a separate evolutionary
341 innovation which resulted in a large morphological divergence within subg. *Subsecunda*.

342 *Sphagnum complanatum* and *S. islei*

343 Genetic analyses show that both *S. complanatum* and *S. islei* are most closely related to the
344 African members of the Afro-Australasian clade members (i.e. *S. capense*, *S. davidii*, *S.*
345 *pycnocladulum*). Based on the data in hand, the very slight allelic divergence between *S.*
346 *complanatum* and *S. islei* suggests that they can be morphologically divergent genets of the
347 same species. However more genetic data is required to make this conclusion. Indeed, this
348 study indicates that further study of the taxonomic relationships among African members of
349 the Afro-Australasian clade is required.

350 ‘berry’

351 Both SSRs and *ITS2*⁺ nucleotide sequences unequivocally show ‘berry’ to be a member of
352 subg. *Subsecunda*, not *Cuspidata*, and they also show no sign of a history of inter-subgeneric
353 hybridization. The plant belongs to the ‘*S. africanum*’ clade, a group which includes both
354 African members (*S. africanum*, *S. bordasii*, *S. truncatum*) as well as Neotropic members (*S.*
355 *acutirameum*, *S. uleanum*). The clade is a subset of lineage ‘D’ of Shaw *et al.* (2008a).
356 However, genetic divergence between ‘berry’ and the other members of the *S. africanum*
357 clade is minimal and it is not possible to delineate ‘berry’, let alone most of the species in this
358 clade, based on the genetic data in hand. We conclude that not only is it premature to describe
359 ‘berry’ as a new species, but that an in depth study of the ‘*S. africanum*’ complex is also
360 needed to tease out the taxonomic relationships among its component species. A detailed
361 morphological description of ‘berry’ (which we will subsequently refer to as *S. cf. truncatum*
362 Hornsch. solely based on morphological characters) is provided below to facilitate future
363 study.

364 *Morphological description*

365 *Sphagnum cf. truncatum* Hornsch.

366 *Shoots* medium-sized, slender and rather flaccid, juvenile more or less unbranched shoots
367 common; colour green, yellowish-green to pale brown, sometimes with weak orange stain.
368 *Capitulum* 10–15 mm in diameter, with somewhat laterally and narrowly pointed branches.
369 *Stem* varyingly greenish to pale brownish in parts; in transverse section with predominantly
370 unistratose cortex of enlarged cells, sometimes with 2(–3)–stratose portions, sclerodermis
371 weakly differentiated, 2–4 cells wide, medulla of large, parenchymatous cells; outer cortical
372 wall in superficial view e fibrillose and eporose (Fig. 4B). *Stem leaves* scattered to rather
373 densely arranged, varyingly spreading to pendent-spreading along stem, shape varying from
374 broadly lingulate, elongate-lingulate to elliptic-lingulate (Fig. 4A); apex narrowly to broadly
375 rounded to sometimes sub-obtuse, occasionally slightly erose to notched, often somewhat
376 involute; lateral leaf margins in distal part narrowly bordered by elongate cells 2–4 cells wide,
377 border narrower or lacking in proximal part of leaf; length (1.5–)1.7(–2.0) mm, breadth mid-
378 leaf (0.8–)0.9(–1.1) mm; breadth at proximal end (0.8–)0.9(–1.1); hyalocysts in superficial
379 view elongate, fairly straight to narrowly S-shaped, much shorter in distal than proximal part
380 of leaf, many to most cells densely fibrillose from distal to proximal leaf ends, most cells at
381 least one-septate, and often some cells septate in 3–4 parts; cells on adaxial surface with
382 usually 3–10 medium-sized, perfect to partly imperfect (shadow), ± circular, irregularly
383 distributed pores in distal leaf part, in proximal part of leaf mostly eporose: cells on adaxial
384 surface pauciporose except for a few scattered, obscure pores/pseudopores, in proximal leaf
385 part often with one small, perfect pore at one or both cell ends and sometimes with a few
386 additional, minute to medium-sized, free-lying, circular pores; chlorocysts in superficial view
387 short and narrowly S-shaped in distal leaf part to long and nearly straight in proximal part.
388 *Branches* usually in fascicles, rather distantly arranged along stem, consisting of usually (1–
389)2(–3) divergent and 1–2(–3) somewhat thinner and shorter pendent branches varyingly
390 spreading from stem. *Divergent branches* arched decurved-spreading from stem, broadest in

391 proximal half, ending acute-obtuse or more gradually tapering into a narrow point above in
392 wetter habitats; length (10–)15–20(–25) mm; branch stems pale except for usually slight pale
393 brown in proximal part, in transverse section with uni-stratose cortex (Fig. 4F), in superficial
394 view with elongate retort cells with one distal end pore with indistinct neck (Fig. 4G). *Leaves*
395 *of divergent branches* non-ranked, fairly straight to varyingly secund, rather concave and
396 often folded in microscope, particular in proximal part of branch, leaves in middle part of
397 branch broadly lanceolate–ovate to elliptic–ovate, relatively wider towards proximal leaf-end;
398 leaf apex broadly rounded-dentate to truncate-dentate with 5–9 distinct teeth (Fig. 4C, 4D);
399 lateral margins with distinct border of elongate, thickened cells 3–5 cm wide, resorption
400 furrow lacking; length (3.1–)3.7(–4.1) mm, breadth mid-leaf (0.9–)1.3(–1.6) mm; hyalocysts
401 narrowly S-shaped elongate to nearly straight and larger of size in proximal leaf part,
402 fibrillose throughout leaf, non-septate to sometimes some cells septate in 2(–3) parts in
403 proximal leaf part; hyalocysts on abaxial surface eporose to more often pauciporose with
404 small, circular to obscure pores at cell ends and corners (Fig. 4H, 4I); porosity on adaxial
405 surface rather similar to abaxial surface, but usually less pauciporose with often 2–6(–8)
406 mostly circular, commissural to sub-commissural, occasionally free-lying, non-ringed pores in
407 addition to a few cell end pores (Fig. 4J); chlorocyst lumen in transverse section elliptic to
408 elliptic–rectangular/trapezoidal, exposed equally on both surfaces to more broadly exposed on
409 abaxial (convex) surface, without resorption furrow. Leaves of pendent branches smaller and
410 narrower than on divergent branches and often secund to falcate; hyalocysts with pore
411 structure similar to leaves of divergent branches.

412 Figure 4 about here

413 Sexuality: not known; plants with perigonal leaves, antheridia, perichaetia and
414 sporophytes unrecorded. The habitat is unspecified, but the growth form of the plants
415 indicates an aquatic habitat.

416 Morphological comparison: Table 1 compares selected morphological characters of
417 the Île Amsterdam plant with three African species of the *S. africanum* group as
418 circumscribed by Eddy (1985), i.e. *Sphagnum truncatum* Hornsch., *S. rutenbergii* Müll.Hal.
419 and *S. africanum* Welw. & Duby and with one South American species, *S. acutirameum*
420 (Crum, 1992). *Sphagnum truncatum* is known from southern Africa, Madagascar, Mauritius
421 and Réunion, *S. rutenbergii* from Madagascar and Mauritius, *S. africanum* from West Africa,
422 and *S. acutirameum* from Brazil.

423

424 Table 1 about here

425

426

427 Our comparison shows that the Île Amsterdam plant, (1) has longer branch leaves and
428 relatively shorter stem leaves than outlined for the other four species. *Sphagnum rutenbergii*
429 is separated by predominantly 2–3-stratose stem cortex, *S. africanum* and *S. acutirameum*
430 have fewer branches in the fascicles and non-truncate/dentate branch leaf apices. *S.*
431 *rutenbergii* and *S. africanum* also differ by their multi-porose abaxial surfaces of the branch
432 leaves, and *S. acutirameum* by its multi-porose adaxial surfaces. Other branch and stem leaf
433 porosity differences are less obvious, as are cross section shapes and outlines of branch leaf
434 chlorophyllose cells (not included in Table x). The multi-septate stem leaves of the Île
435 Amsterdam plant are shared by the putative allopolyploid *S. bordasii*. Eddy (1985) considered
436 *S. bordasii* to be a variety of *S. truncatum* based solely on morphology (*S. truncatum* var.
437 *bordasii* (Besch.) A.Eddy). However its allopolyploid status clearly shows *S. bordasii* to be
438 evolutionarily quite distinct from *S. truncatum*, which SSR analysis shows to likely be
439 gametophytically haploid (Karlin *et al.*, 2014). This taxon is known from southern Africa,
440 Burundi, Madagascar, Mauritius and Réunion, and with type collections from Mauritius.

441 The morphological variation of the African members is complex, and Eddy's
442 taxonomical treatment includes several synonymic names at species and intraspecific levels,
443 particularly within *S. truncatum* and *S. rutenbergii*. The influence of phenotypic plasticity is
444 difficult to evaluate only based on herbarium material. The seemingly long branch leaves of
445 the Île Amsterdam plant compared to the other African taxa within the *S. africanum* group
446 compared here, can therefore reflect local microhabitat conditions where plants were collected
447 rather than different genotypes. A more comprehensive genetic and morphological study is
448 therefore necessary for outlying the taxonomic position of the Île Amsterdam plant within the
449 *S. africanum* group in more detail. Morphologically it seems to stand closest to *S. truncatum*
450 and the allopolyploid *S. bardasii* and we thus preliminarily classify 'berry' as *S. cf.*
451 *truncatum*.

452 *Sphagnum tumidulum* Besch.

453 *Sphagnum tumidulum* represents another example of morphological divergence among
454 members of subg. *Subsecunda*. Although placed in subg. *Subsecunda*, the morphology of *S.*
455 *tumidulum*'s branch leaf chlorophyll cells is atypical for the subgenus (Warnstorf 1911;
456 Eddy, 1985; Liu, 2014). Recent plastid and mitochondrial genomic analyses have confirmed
457 the placement of *S. tumidulum* in this subgenus (Shaw *et al.*, (2016) and SSR analysis by Liu
458 *et al.* (2014) concluded that *S. tumidulum* is likely to be gametophytically haploid (i.e. it is not
459 an allopolyploid). Eddy (1985) found *S. tumidulum* to be morphologically quite distinct from
460 members of section *Acrosphagnum* (i.e. the *S. capense* complex). However, *trnL* sequences
461 hint a close relationship between *S. tumidulum* and the Afro-Australasian clade (Fig 2).

462 Additional genetic data is needed to explore this question.

463 *Sphagnum recurvum* P. Beauv.

464 Based on genetic analysis, Karlin *et al.* (2014) reported the possible occurrence of *S.*
465 *recurvum* (subg. *Cuspidata*) on Île Amsterdam which would represent a large extension in the

466 geographic distribution of this species. However, they noted that the provenance of the
467 specimen was equivocal and that laboratory error may have led to the discrepancy. As we
468 find no members of subg. *Cuspidata* to be present on Île Amsterdam, we conclude that their
469 report resulted from laboratory error.

470 *Source populations*

471 Genetic data indicates that the source populations for the Île Amsterdam populations
472 of *S. complanatum*, *S. islei*, and 'berry' were each ultimately based in Africa. In contrast,
473 although genetic data clearly places *S. cavernulosum* in the Afro-Australasian clade, the
474 location of the source population is ambiguous. However, *ITS2*⁺ data suggests that it may
475 have been African. This fits well with the predominantly westerly winds associated with the
476 island.

477 *Polymorphism in subg. Subsecunda*

478 Morphological variation is pronounced in subg. *Subsecunda* at both intra-specific and inter-
479 specific levels. It is particularly extreme in some allopolyploids having one or more subg.
480 *Subsecunda* monoploid genomes (Karlin *et al.*, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2013; Shaw *et al.* 2012;
481 Karlin and Robinson, 2017), it has also been found to be pronounced among the ramets of a
482 clonal population of the haploid *S. comosum* Müll. Hal. (Karlin *et al.*, 2008). That two of the
483 four Île Amsterdam sphagna examined in this study were not initially placed in subg.
484 *Subsecunda* based on their respective morphological characters highlights the high degree of
485 morphological divergence occurring in this subgenus. This leads to the following question,
486 which is far beyond the scope of this study to address: 'For subg. *Subsecunda*, what
487 ecological and/or evolutionary significance, if any, is provided by having a high
488 morphological variation, both for individual species as well as at the subgenus level?'

489 **Acknowledgements**

490 We thank for help with lab work.

491 **Geolocation Information**

492 *Sphagnum cavernulosum* — EK1012: 37.8539°S, 77.5400°E; *Sphagnum complanatum* —
493 EK1013 & EK1014: 37.8539°S, 77.5400°E; *Sphagnum islei* — EK945: 37.8402°S,
494 77.5585°E; EK946: 37.8439°S, 77.5485°E; *Sphagnum cf. truncatum* — EK901: 37.8417°
495 S, 77.5492°E;

496 Disclosure statement. There are no financial interests or benefits arising from the direct
497 applications of this research.

498 Taxonomic Additions and Changes: None.

499 **ORCID**

500 *Eric F. Karlin* <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-4218-8825>

501 *Sean C. Robinson* <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-0961-4968>

502 *Kristian Hassel* <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-1906-8166>

503 **References**

- 504 **Chevenet, F., Brun, C., Banuls, A.L., Jacq, B. & Chisten, R. 2006.** TreeDyn: towards
505 dynamic graphics and annotations for analyses of trees. *BMC Bioinformatics*. 7: 439.
- 506 **Crum, H. 1992.** Miscellaneous notes on the genus *Sphagnum*. 3. New species from Brazil.
507 *The Bryologist*, 95: 419–29.
- 508 **Crum, H.A. & Seppelt, R.D. 1999).** *Sphagnum leucobryoides* reconsidered, *Contributions*
509 *University.Michigan Herbarium*, 22: 29–31.
- 510 **Dereeper, A., Guignon, V., Blanc, G., Audic, S., Buffet, S., Chevenet, F., Dufayard, J.F.,**
511 **Guindon, S., Lefort, V., Lescot, M., Claverie, J.M., Gascuel, O. 2008.**
512 Phylogeny.fr: robust phylogenetic analysis for the non-specialist. *Nucleic Acids*
513 *Research*, 36 (Web Server issue):W465-9. Epub 2008 Apr 19.
- 514 **Eddy, A. 1985.** A revision of African Sphagnales. – *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural*
515 *History)*, Botany series 12: 77–162.

516 **Felsenstein, J. 1989.** PHYLIP - Phylogeny Inference Package (Version 3.2). *Cladistics*, 5:
517 164–6.

518 **Fife, A.J. 1996.** A synopsis of New Zealand Sphagna, with a description of *S. simplex* sp. nov.
519 *New Zealand Journal of Botany*, 34: 309–28.

520 **Flatberg, K. I., Whinam, J. & Lebouvier, M. 2011.** Three species of *Sphagnum* endemic to
521 Île Amsterdam, Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises: *S. cavernulosum* sp. nov., *S.*
522 *complanatum* sp. nov. and *S. islei*. *Journal of Bryology*, 33: 105–21.

523 **Huelsenbeck, J. P. & Ronquist, F. 2001.** MRBAYES: Bayesian inference of phylogeny.
524 *Bioinformatics*, 17:754–5.

525 **Karlin, E.F. 2001.** Taxonomy of Hawaiian Sphagna. *The Bryologist*, 104: 290–96.

526 **Karlin, E.F. 2014.** Subgenome analysis of two Southern Hemisphere allotriploid species in
527 *Sphagnum* (Sphagnaceae). *Journal of Bryology*, 36: 165–79.

528 **Karlin, E.F., Boles, S.B. & Shaw, A.J. 2008.** Systematics of *Sphagnum* section *Sphagnum* in
529 New Zealand: a microsatellite-based analysis. *New Zealand Journal of Botany*, 46: 105–
530 18.

531 **Karlin, E.F., Boles, S.B., Seppelt, R.D., Terracciano, S. & Shaw A.J. 2011.** The peat
532 moss *Sphagnum cuspidatum* in Australia: microsatellites provide a global perspective.
533 *Systematic Botany*, 26: 22–32.

534 **Karlin, E.F., Boles, S.B., Ricca, M., Tensch, E., Greilhuber, J., & Shaw, A.J. 2009.**
535 Three-genome mosses: complex double allopolyploid origins for triploid gametophytes
536 in *Sphagnum*. *Molecular Ecology* 18: 1439–54.

537 **Karlin, E.F., Giusti, M.M., Lake, R.A., Boles, S.B. & Shaw, A.J.. 2010.** Microsatellite
538 analysis of *Sphagnum centrale*, *S. henryense*, and *S. palustre* (Sphagnaceae). *The*
539 *Bryologist*, 113: 90–8.

540 **Karlin, E.F., Buck, W.R., Seppelt, R.D., Boles, S.B. & Shaw, A.J. 2013.** The double
541 allopolyploid *Sphagnum* \times *falcatulum* (Sphagnaceae) in Tierra del Fuego, a Holantarctic
542 perspective. *Journal of Bryology*, 36: 165–79.

543 **Karlin, E.F. & Robinson, S.C. 2017.** Update on the Holantarctic *Sphagnum* \times *falcatulum* s.l.
544 (Sphagnaceae) complex: *S. irritans* is associated with the allo-diploid plants. *Journal of*
545 *Bryology*, 39: 8–15.

546 **Karlin, E.F., Temsch, E.M., Bizuru, E., Marino, J., Boles, S.B., Devos, N. & Shaw, A.J.**
547 **2014.** Invisible in plain sight: recurrent double allopolyploidy in the African *Sphagnum*
548 \times *planifolium* (Sphagnaceae). *The Bryologist*, 117: 187–201.

549 **Liu, Y., Ah-Peng, C., Wilding, N., Bardat, J., Devos, N., Carter B. & Shaw, A.J. 2014.**
550 Population structure in the tropical peatmoss *Sphagnum tumidulum* Besch. (Sphagnaceae).
551 *The Bryologist*, 117:329–35.

552 **Peakall, R. & Smouse, P.E. 2006.** GENALEX 6: genetic analysis in Excel. Population
553 genetic software for teaching and research. *Molecular Ecology Notes*, 6: 288–95.

554 **Peakall, R. & Smouse, P.E. 2012.** GenAlEx 6.5: genetic analysis in Excel. Population
555 genetic software for teaching and research - an update. *Bioinformatics*, 28, 2537–39.

556 **Posada, D. 2008.** jModelTest: phylogenetic model averaging. *Molecular Biology and*
557 *Evolution*, 25: 1253–6.

558 **Ronquist, F. & Huelsenbeck, J.P. 2003.** MRBAYES 3: Bayesian phylogenetic inference
559 under mixed models. *Bioinformatics*, 19:1572-74.

560 **Seppelt, R.D. 2012.** Australian Mosses Online 52. Sphagnaceae. Australian Biological
561 Resources Study, Canberra. Version 22 June 2012. Available at:
562 http://www.anbg.gov.au/abrs/Mosses_online/52_Sphagnaceae.html. Accessed 31August
563 2017.

- 564 **Shaw, A.J. & Goffinet, B. 2000.** Molecular evidence of reticulate evolution in the
565 peatmosses (*Sphagnum*), including *S.ehyalinum* sp. nov. *The Bryologist*, 103: 357–74.
- 566 **Shaw, A. J., Boles, S. & Shaw, B. 2008a.** Phylogenetic delimitation of the *Sphagnum*
567 *subsecundum* complex (Sphagnaceae, Bryophyta). *American Journal of Botany* 95:
568 731–44.
- 569 **Shaw, A.J., Cao, T., Wang, L.-S., Flatberg, K.I., Flatberg, B., Shaw, B., Zhou, P., Boles,**
570 **S.B. & Terraccino, S. 2008b.** Genetic variation in three Chinese peat mosses based
571 on microsatellite markers, with primer information and analysis of ascertainment bias.
572 *The Bryologist* 111: 271–81.
- 573 **Shaw, A.J., Shaw, B., Ricca, M., & Flatberg, K.I. 2012.** A phylogenetic monograph of
574 the *Sphagnum subsecundum* complex (Sphagnaceae) in eastern North America. *The*
575 *Bryologist*, 115: 128–52.
- 576 **Shaw, A.J., Cox, C.J. & Boles, S.B. 2003.** Polarity of peatmoss (*Sphagnum*) evolution: who
577 says mosses have no roots? *American Journal of Botany*, 90: 1777–1787.
- 578 **Shaw, A.J., Cox, C.J. & Boles, S.B. 2004.** Phylogenetic relationships among *Sphagnum*
579 sections: *Hemitheca*, *Isocladius*, and *Subsecunda*. *The Bryologist*, 107: 189–96.
- 580 **Shaw, A.J., Cox, C.J., Buck, W.R. , Devos, N. , Buchanan, A.M. , Cave, L. , Seppelt, R. ,**
581 **Shaw, B., Larrain, J., Andrus, R. et al. 2010.** Newly resolved relationships in an early
582 land plant lineage: Bryophyta class Sphagnopsida (peat mosses). *American Journal of*
583 *Botany* 97: 1511–31.
- 584 **Shaw, A.J., Devos, N., Liu, Y., Goffinet, B., Cox, C.J., Flatberg, K.I. & Shaw, B. 2016.**
585 Organellar phylogenomics of an emerging model system: *Sphagnum* (peat moss). *Annals*
586 *of Botany*, 118: 185–96.
- 587 **Warnstorf, C. 1911.** Sphagnales–Sphagnaceae (Sphagnologia universalis). In: Engler A (ed.)
588 Das Pflanzenreich: regni vegetabilis conspectus, Vol 51. Leipzig:W. Engelmann.

589 **Yang, Z. & Rannala, B. 1997.** Bayesian phylogenetic inference using DNA sequences: a
590 Markov Chain Monte Carlo method. *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, 14: 717–24.

591 Figure 1. Phylogram based on Bayesian analysis of *ITS2*⁺ sequences (nuclear) of *S.*
592 *cavernulosum*, *S. complanatum*, ‘berry’, and other species in subg. *Subsecunda*. Arrows
593 indicate Île Amsterdam samples.

594

595 Figure 2. Phylogram based on Bayesian analysis of *trnL* sequences (plastid) of *S.*
596 *cavernulosum*, *S. complanatum*, ‘berry’, and other species in subg. *Subsecunda*. Arrows
597 indicate Île Amsterdam samples.

598

599 Fig. 3. Neighbor joining tree of haplotypes (based on 11 SSRs) of *S. cavernulosum*, *S.*
600 *complanatum*, and ‘berry’ plus members of the ‘*S. africanum*’ clade and the Afro-
601 Australasian clade. Arrows indicate Île Amsterdam samples.

602

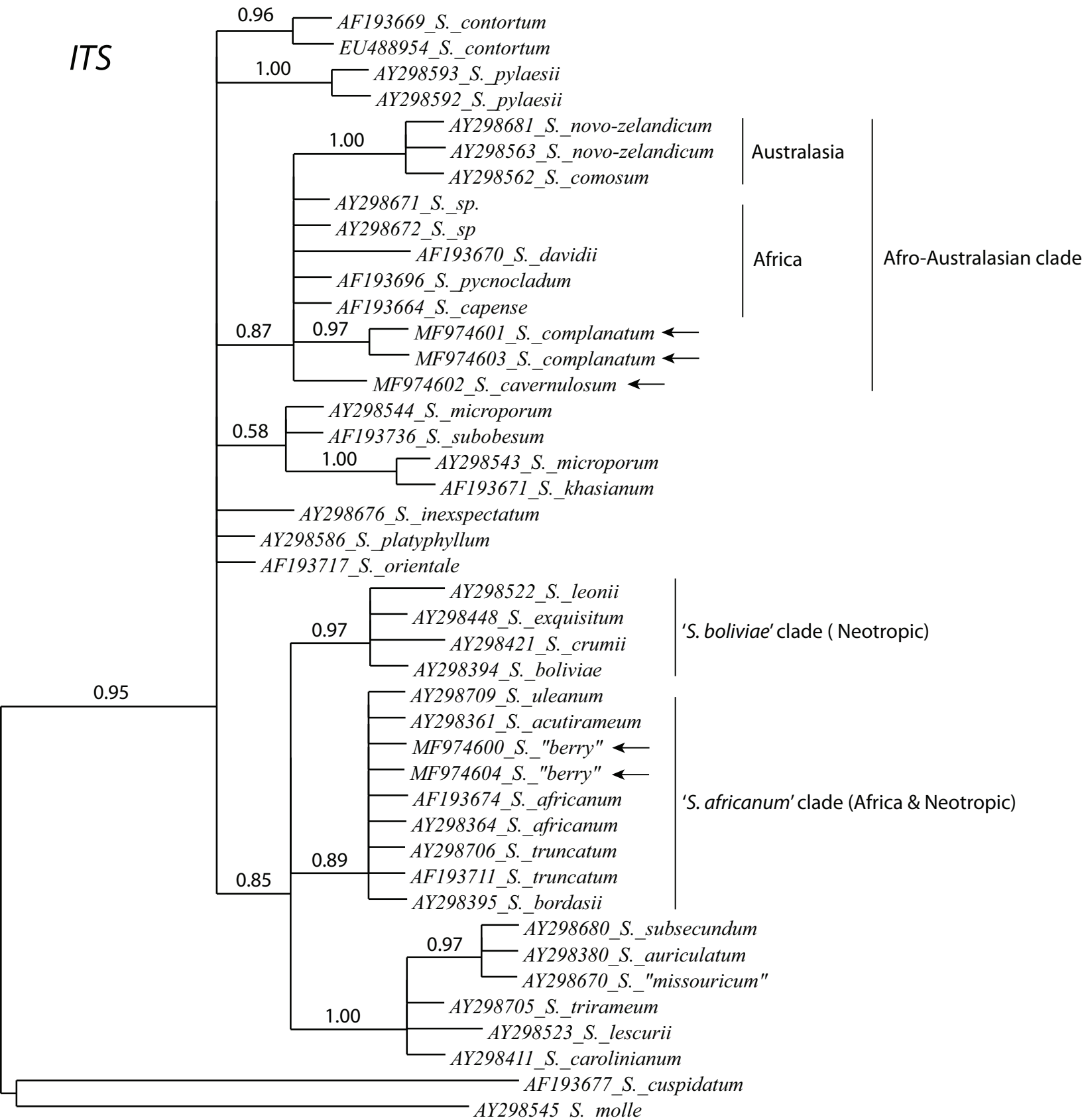
603 Fig. 4. *Sphagnum* cf. *truncatum*. A: Stem leaves. B: Stem in cross section. C: Leaf from
604 middle part of divergent branch. D: Branch leaf apex. E: Chlorophyllose cells of divergent
605 branch leaves in cross section. F: Branch in cross section. G: Retort cells of branch cortex in
606 superficial view. H: Cell structure on mid-leaf abaxial surface of stem leaf. I–J: Cell structure
607 on mid-leaf surface of divergent branch leaves. I: Abaxial surface. J: Adaxial surface.
608 Material: Île Amsterdam, Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises, leg. J. Whinam
609 12.12.2007 (TRH 742253).

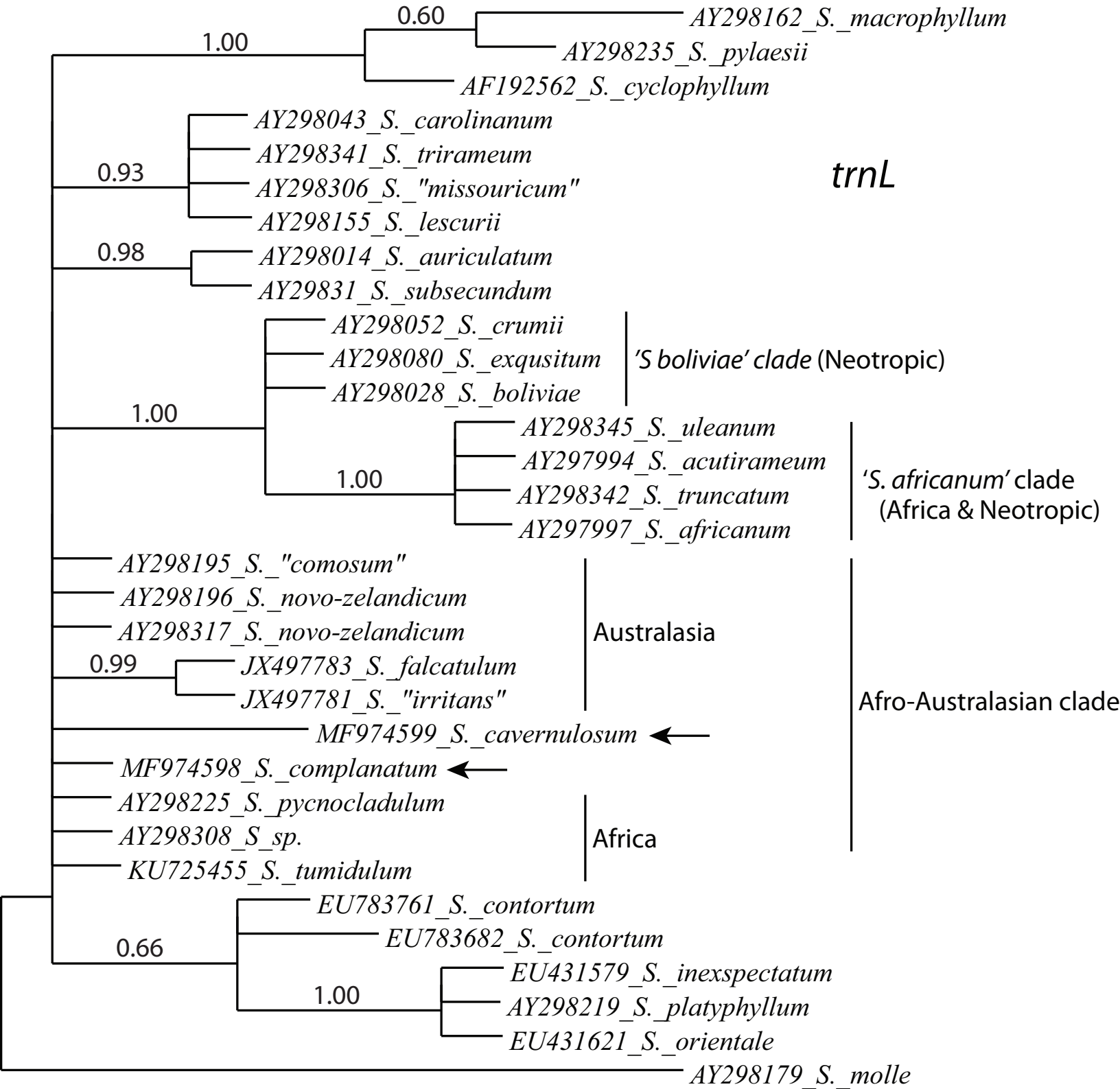
Table. 1. Morphological comparison of the Île Amsterdam plant with four other *Subsecunda* species in the *S. africanum* group.

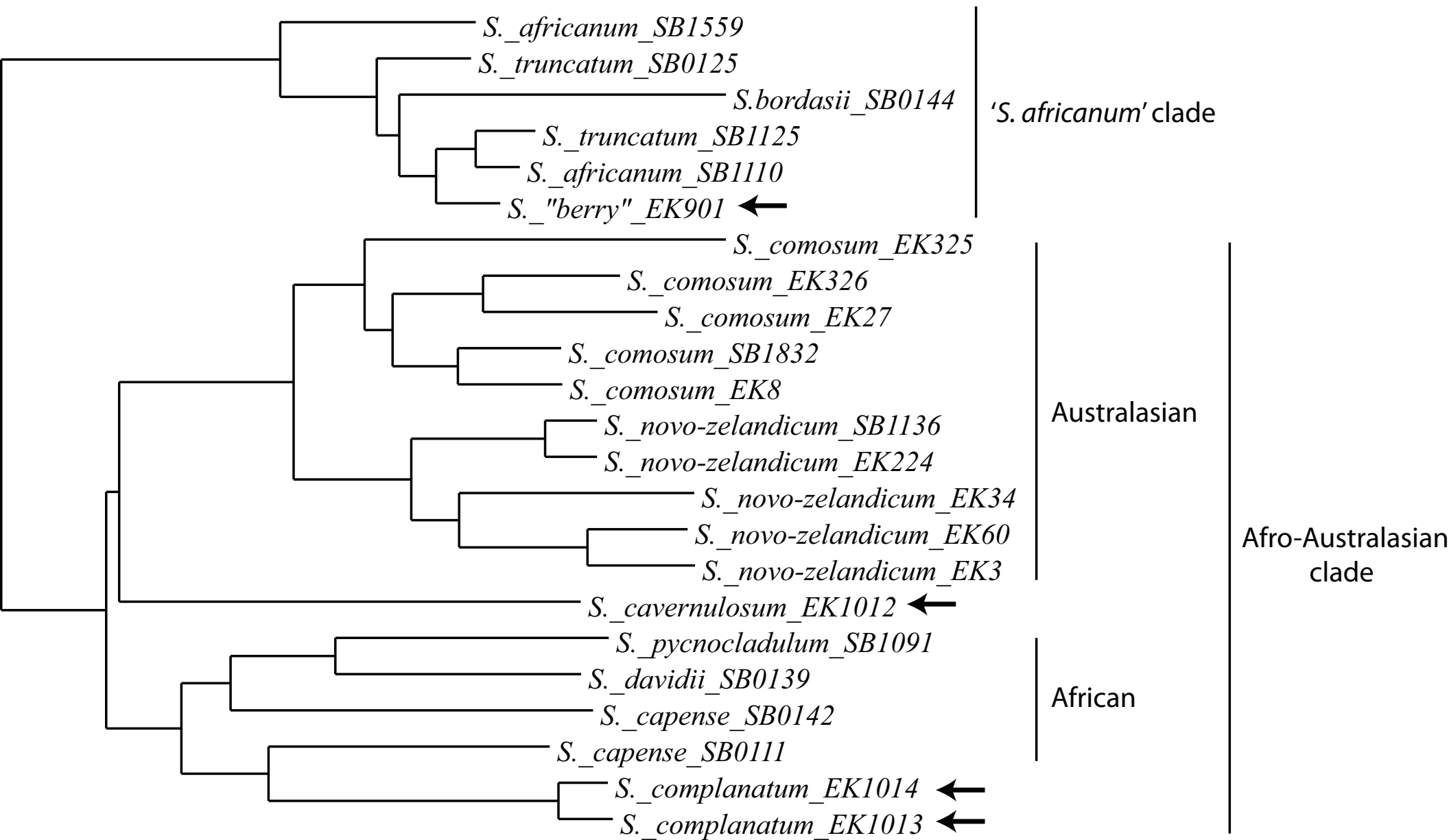
Morphological characters/ taxon	Île Amsterdam plant	<i>S. truncatum</i>	<i>S. rutenbergii</i>	<i>S. africanum</i>	<i>S. acutirameum</i>
Stem cortex, cross section	predominantly uni-stratose	predominantly uni-stratose, sometimes with irregular duplication	predominantly 2–3-stratose	predominantly uni-stratose	uni–stratose
Stem leaf size	(1.5–)1.7(–2.0) mm long	1.4–2.8 mm long	1.8–2.8 mm long	1.9–2.8 mm long	2.0–2.2 mm long
Branch leaf size	(3.1–)3.7(–4.1) mm long	1.6–3.0 mm long	(1.4–)1.6–2.0(–2.8) mm long	(1.2–)1.4–1.9(–2.1) mm long	3 mm long
Relative leaf size	stem leaves markedly shorter than branch leaves	stem leaves often as long as branch leaves	stem leaves always longer than branch leaves	stem leaves always longer than branch leaves	stem leaves shorter than branch leaves
Stem leaf hyalocyst septations	abundant throughout most of leaf	non-septate to few cells septate (in var. <i>truncatum</i>), to abundant septate throughout most of leaf in var. <i>bordasii</i>	not mentioned	not mentioned	not mentioned
Branches in fascicles	3–5(–6)	2–4(–5)	(2–)4–5	never more than 3	1 to 3
Branch leaf apex	truncate, 5–9-dentate	broadly truncate, 8–15-dentate	truncate, 6–9-dentate	broadly rounded and eroded, sub-cucullate, never truncate-dentate	narrowly rounded and slightly erose-dentate

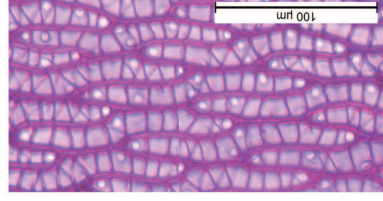
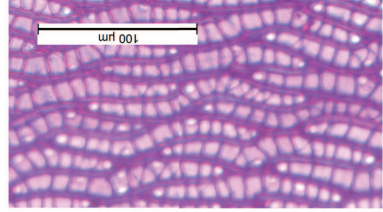
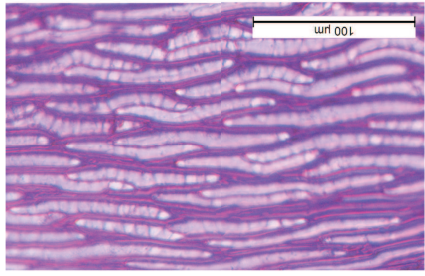
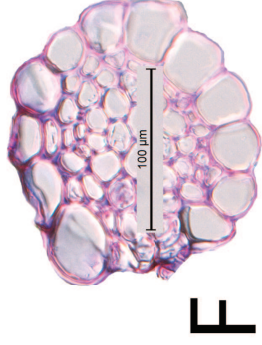
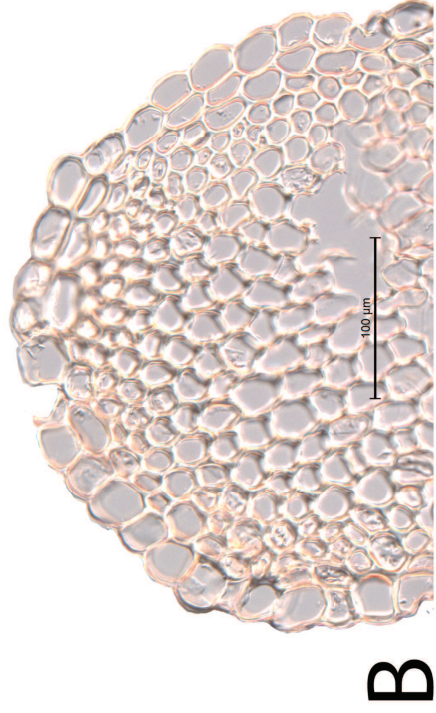
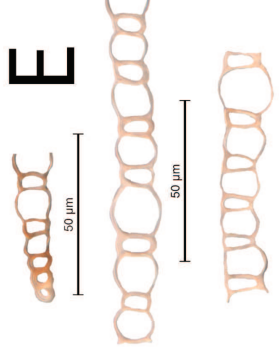
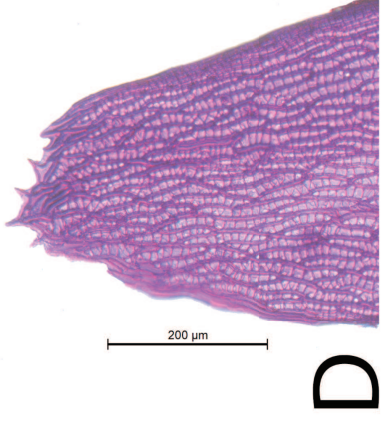
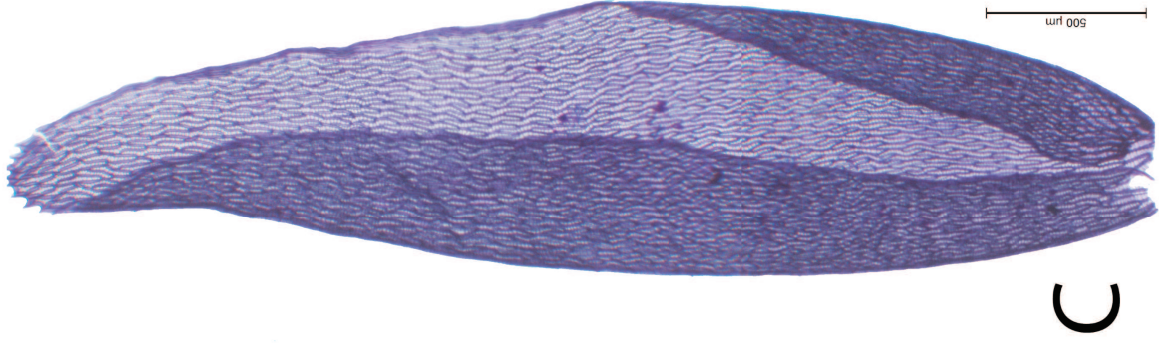
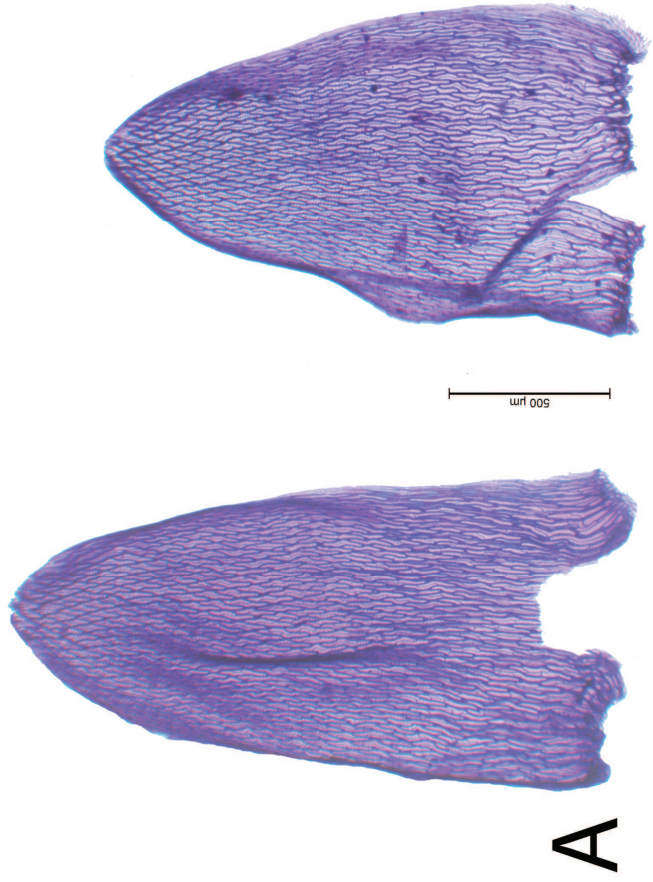
Branch leaf porosity, abaxial surface	pauciporose with cell ends, small, circular to diffuse pores and occasional obscure, cell corner pores	few to very numerous, small, mainly ringed pores, scattered or in series along the commissures	with abundant small, ringed pores in series along the commissures, sometimes with additional pores in the cell midline	with abundant small, ringed commissural pores, with scattered additional midline pores	few or none pores
Branch leaf porosity, adaxial surface	2-6(-8) mostly circular, commissural to sub-commissural, occasionally free-lying, non-ringed pores in addition to cell end pores	equally variable as on abaxial surface, with few to abundant pores, sometimes more abundant than on abaxial surface	without pores or with a few scattered pores mainly in, or near, the apical and upper-lateral cell angles	with usually a few scattered small pores and varying number of pseudopores	many pores in interrupted or nearly continuous commissural rows
Stem leaf porosity, abaxial surface	eporose to more often pauciporose with small, circular to obscure pores at cell ends and corners	more or less as in branch leaves	not mentioned	± identical to branch leaves	pores in interrupted, commissural rows near apex
Stem leaf porosity, adaxial surface	rather similar to abaxial surface, but usually less pauciporose with often 2-6(-8) mostly circular, commissural to sub-commissural, occasionally free-lying, non-ringed pores in addition to a few cell end pores;	more or less as in branch leaves	not mentioned	± identical to branch leaves	more numerous pores over a larger area

ITS









H

I

J

B

C

F

D

E

G

H

I

J

B

C

F

D

E

G

Appendix 1

Voucher information and GenBank accession numbers for nucleotide sequences used in this study was well specimens for which microsatellite data was obtained. Voucher specimens are deposited in the following herbaria: DUKE – Duke University; MICH – University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; MO – Missouri Botanical Garden; NY – New York Botanical Garden; TRH – Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

Taxon — Isolate & voucher specimen: *ITS*, *trnL*, SSRs (+ = yes);

Note: ‘---’ an updated name is used, with the name the accession is filed under in Genbank listed in brackets

Newly generated DNA data:

Subgenus *Subsecunda*

Sphagnum cavernulosum* Flatberg & Whinam** — EK1150 *Frenot s.n.*, Île Amsterdam (B742385 TRH): MF974602, MF974599, +; ***Sphagnum complanatum* Flatberg & Whinam** — EK1151 *Frenot s.n.*, Île Amsterdam (B742376, TRH): MF974601, MF974598, -; ***Sphagnum complanatum — EK1013 *Frenot s.n.*, Île Amsterdam (B742376, TRH): -, -, +; ***Sphagnum complanatum*** — EK1152 *Frenot s.n.* (B742379 TRH): MF974603, -, -; ***Sphagnum complanatum*** — EK1152 *Frenot s.n.* (B742379 TRH): -, -, +; ***Sphagnum islei* Warnst.** — EK945 J. Whinam JW03, Île Amsterdam (B674407 TRH): -, -, +; ***Sphagnum islei*** — EK946 J. Whinam JW38 (B674409 TRH): -, -, +; ***Sphagnum cf. truncatum* Hornsch.** — EK1153 J. Whinam AMS 44, Île Amsterdam (B742253, TRH): MF974604, -, +; ***Sphagnum cf. truncatum*** — EK1154 J. Whinam AMS 44 (B742252, TRH): MF974600, -, +;

Extant DNA data:

Unranked at subgenus level (inter-subgeneric allopolyploids)

Sphagnum falcatulum Besch. — EK140 Karlin 0511-2009, New Zealand (DUKE): -, JX497783, -; *Sphagnum 'irritans'* Warnst. [*falcatulum*] — EK53 Karlin 0511-2001, New Zealand (DUKE): -, JX497781, -;

Subgenus *Acutifolia*

Sphagnum molle Sull. — SB392 Andrus 8113, Ireland (DUKE): AY298545, AY298179, -;

Subgenus *Cuspidata*

Sphagnum cuspidatum Ehrh. ex Hoffm. — SB642 Shaw 9327, USA (DUKE): AF193677, -, -;

Subgenus *Subsecunda*

Sphagnum acutirameum H. A. Crum — SB873 Vital & Buck 19692, Brazil (NYBG):

AY298361, AY297994, -; *Sphagnum africanum* Welw. & Duby — SB1110 Stoutamire s.n.,

South Africa (MICH): AY298364, AY297997, +; *Sphagnum africanum* — SB97 Von Rooy

1802, South Africa (DUKE): AF193674, -, -; *Sphagnum africanum* — SB1559 Van Rooy

1802, South Africa (DUKE): -, -, +; *Sphagnum auriculatum* Schimp. — SB1093 Infanti &

Heras VIT 16670, Spain (DUKE): AY298380, AY298014, -; *Sphagnum boliviae* Warnst. —

SB1109 de Luna 2097, Boliva (MICH): AY298394, AY298028, -; *Sphagnum bordasii* Besch.

— SB144 Buck 13594, South Africa (NYBG): AY298395, -, +; *Sphagnum capense*

Hornschn. — SB142 Snook 7352, South Africa (NYBG): AF193664, -, -; *Sphagnum*

carolinianum R. E. Andrus — SB1385 Anderson 27727, USA (DUKE): AY298411,

AY298043, -; *Sphagnum 'comosum'* Müll. Hal. [*S. novo-zelandicum*] — SB1132 Wynne s.n.,

Australia (MICH): AY298562, AY298195, +; *Sphagnum comosum* — EK8 Karlin 0511-1703,

New Zealand (DUKE): -, -, +; *Sphagnum comosum* — EK27 Karlin 0511-0732, New Zealand

(DUKE): -, -, +; EK325 Streimann 52994, Australia (MICH): -, -, +; *Sphagnum comosum* —

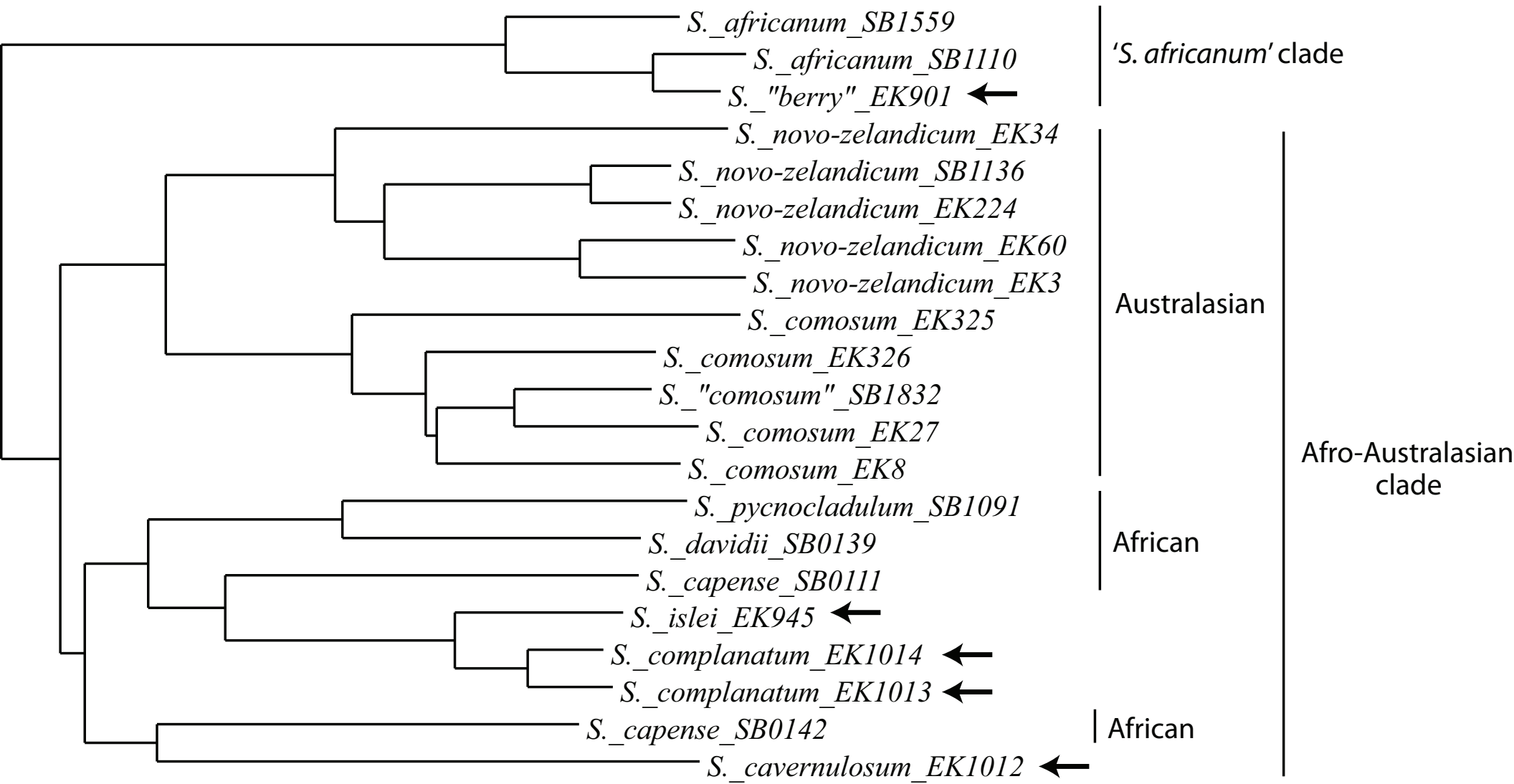
EK326 *Streimann 48043*, Australia (DUKE): -, -, +; *Sphagnum 'comosum'* [*S. cymbifolioides*]
 — SB1832 *Streimann 43159*, Australia (DUKE): -, -, +; *Sphagnum contortum* **Schultz** —
 LP16 *Shaw 13143*, Norway (DUKE): EU488954, -, -; *Sphagnum contortum* — LP83 *Shaw*
13307, Norway (DUKE) : -, EU783761, -; *Sphagnum contortum* — LP104 *Shaw 12095*,
 Sweden (DUKE): -, EU783682, -; *Sphagnum contortum* — SB648 *Anderson 25410*, USA
 (DUKE): AF193669, -, -; *Sphagnum crumii* **Schäf.-Verw.** — SB1082 *Schafer-Verwimp &*
Verwimp 15129, Brazil (MICH): AY298421, AY298052, -; *Sphagnum cyclophyllum* **Sull. &**
Lesq. — SB78 *Shaw 8560*, USA (DUKE): -, AF192562, -; *Sphagnum davidii* **Warnst.** —
 SB139 *Buck 13508*, South Africa (NYBG): AF193670, -, -; *Sphagnum exquisitum* **H. A.**
Crum — SB1122 *Schafer-Verwimp & Verwimp 15127*, Brazil (MICH): AY298448, AY298080,
 -; *Sphagnum inexpectatum* **Flatberg** — SB1355 *Uchida 2015*, Japan (DUKE): AY298676, -,
 -; *Sphagnum inexpectatum* — SB2192 *Shaw 14028*, USA (DUKE): -, EU431579, -;
Sphagnum khasianum **Mitt.** — SB134 *Redfern et al. 34401*, China (NYBG): AF193671, -, -;
Sphagnum leonii **H. A. Crum** — SB1079 *Leoni 2170*, Brazil (MICH): AY298522, -, -;
Sphagnum lescurii **Sull.** — SB1134 *Vincent 6143* Belize (MICH): AY298523, AY298155, -;
Sphagnum macrophyllum **Bernh. ex Brid.** — SB814 *Risk 6856*, USA (DUKE): -, AY298162,
 -; *Sphagnum microporum* **Warnst. ex Cardot** — SB1337 *Yamaguchi 14436*, Japan (DUKE):
 AY298543, -, -; *Sphagnum microporum* — SB1339 *Higuchi 40841*, Japan (DUKE):
 AY298544, -, -; *Sphagnum 'missouricum'* **Warnst. ex Cardot [subsecundum]** — SB1059,
Schofield 101087, Canada (DUKE): AY298670, AY298306, -, -; *Sphagnum novo-zelandicum*
Mitt. — SB1136 *Seppelt 20349*, Australia (MICH): AY298563, AY298196, +; *Sphagnum*
novo-zelandicum — SB1136 *Seppelt 20349*, Australia (MICH): AY298563, AY298196, +;
Sphagnum 'novo-zelandicum' [*S. subsecundum*] — SB881 *Buck 6817*, New Zealand (NYBG):

AY298681, AY298317, -; *Sphagnum novo-zelandicum* — EK224 Vitt 2319, New Zealand
(NY): -, -, +; *Sphagnum novo-zelandicum* — EK34 Karlin 0511-1767, New Zealand
(DUKE): -, -, +; *Sphagnum novo-zelandicum* — EK60 Karlin 0511-1002, New Zealand
(DUKE): -, -, +; *Sphagnum orientale* L. I. Savicz — SB630 Afonina exsicc., Russia (MO):
AF193717, -, -; *Sphagnum orientale* — SB2346 Shaw 13794, USA (DUKE): -, EU431621, -;
Sphagnum platyphyllum (Lindb. ex Braithw.) Sull. ex Warnst. — SB1389 Schofield 105816,
USA (DUKE): AY298586, AY298219, -; *Sphagnum pycnocladulum* Müll. Hal. — SB610
Chapman 6573, Malawi (MO): AF193696, -, -; *Sphagnum pycnocladulum* — SB1091
Chapman 6573, Malawi (MO): -, AY298225, -; *Sphagnum pylaesii* Brid. — SB1165 Belland
& Schofield 16525, Canada (MICH): AY298592, -, -; *Sphagnum pylaesii* — SB1166 M. Lewis
87449, Bolivia (MICH): AY298593, -, -; *Sphagnum pylaesii* — SB1400 Durfort s.n. (DUKE):
-, AY298235, -; *Sphagnum sp.* — SB1140 Miehe & Miehe U71-10970, Uganda (DUKE):
AY298672, AY298308, -; *Sphagnum sp.* — SB1139 Miehe & Miehe U80-11017, Uganda
(DUKE): AY298671, -, -; *Sphagnum subsecundum* Nees — SB1394 Heidestein 201032,
Netherlands (DUKE): AY298680, AY298316, -; *Sphagnum trirameum* H. A. Crum — SB847
Allen 18212, Belize (NYBG): AY298705, AY298341, -; *Sphagnum truncatum* Hornsch. —
SB1125 Stoutamire s.n., South Africa (MICH): AY298706, AY298342, +; *Sphagnum*
truncatum — SB125 Buck 13599, South Africa (NYBG): AF193711, -, +; *Sphagnum*
tumidulum Besch. — SB610 Chapman 6573, Malawi (MO): -, KU725455, -; *Sphagnum*
uleanum Müll. Hal. — SB1103 Schafer-Verwimp & Verwimp 10616, Brazil (MICH):
AY298709, AY298345, -;

Appendix 2

Appendix 2 figure goes here

Neighbor-joining tree of haplotypes (based on 9 SSRs) *S. cavernulosum*, *S. complanatum*, *S. islei*, and members of the ‘Afro-Australasian clade, with three members of the *S. africanum*’ clade as an outgroup. Arrows indicate Île Amsterdam samples.



2.