

**1 MATING STRATEGIES OF INVASIVE VERSUS INDIGENOUS CRAYFISH: MULTIPLE**  
**2 PATERNITY AS DRIVER FOR INVASION SUCCESS?**

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4 Running head: Mating strategies invasive vs native crayfish

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## ABSTRACT

19 The invasive spiny-cheek crayfish (*Faxonius limosus*) has been able to colonize  
20 many European waterbodies since its first introduction into Europe, threatening the  
21 indigenous crayfish fauna. *Faxonius limosus*' remarkable reproductive plasticity  
22 has been suggested as an important factor contributing to this species' alarming  
23 invasiveness. This is the first study comparing the reproductive strategies of an  
24 invasive (*F. limosus*) and a sympatric indigenous crayfish (*Pontastacus*  
25 *leptodactylus*). We investigated if and how parthenogenesis and multiple paternity  
26 contribute to the invasion process in the River Danube. Using microsatellites, we  
27 genotyped the offspring and their mothers of 11 clutches of *F. limosus* and 18  
28 clutches of *P. leptodactylus*. While no parthenogenesis has been found in *F. limosus*'  
29 populations, multiple paternity has been detected for the first time in both species,  
30 with comparable incidence. The results of the study indicate that multiple paternity  
31 does not play a dominant role in *F. limosus*' successful colonization of the Danube.  
32 However, the presented results have to be regarded as pilot study, with a limited  
33 number of samples and loci investigated. Given the relevance of mating system  
34 knowledge for management measures, future studies with larger sample number  
35 could provide precious contributions to the conservation actions.

36 **Keywords:** *Faxonius limosus*, mating system analyses, microsatellites, invasive  
37 species, *Pontastacus leptodactylus*, Danube

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## INTRODUCTION

40 Since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, at least 11 non-indigenous crayfish species  
41 (NICS) have been purposefully or accidentally introduced into Europe (Jussila *et al.*  
42 2015) and became invasive (Holdich *et al.* 2009); (Jussila *et al.* 2015). Today NICS  
43 are widespread across Western and Central Europe and they keep spreading (Kouba  
44 *et al.* 2014), causing changes in the distribution patterns of the indigenous crayfish's  
45 populations (Jussila *et al.* 2015). Crayfish represent keystone species in freshwater  
46 ecosystems, influencing the food web by being an important resource for other  
47 animals and by feeding on local vegetation and invertebrates (Reynolds *et al.* 2013).  
48 Several NICS can yield high-density populations and, even when replacing  
49 indigenous crayfish, they can have a significant effect on the indigenous biota such  
50 as benthic fish, molluscs, and macrophytes (Gherardi, 2007). Therefore, the  
51 consequences of their introduction, ranging from the danger posed to indigenous  
52 crayfish species to the stress imposed on the ecosystem structure, cannot be  
53 overlooked (Hobbs *et al.* 1989; Momot, 1995; Reynolds *et al.* 2013).

54           The North American spiny-cheek crayfish *Faxonius limosus* (Rafinesque,  
55 1817) was the first non-indigenous crayfish species introduced into Europe in 1890  
56 (Holdich *et al.* 2009; Filipová *et al.* 2011). Since its first introduction into Europe  
57 this invasive species has been able to quickly increase its population and  
58 successfully colonize many European waterbodies and can now be found in at least  
59 25 European countries (Kouba *et al.* 2014; Trichkova *et al.* 2015; Govedič, 2017;  
60 Kaldre *et al.* 2020). Many studies have addressed the alarming invasiveness of *F.*  
61 *limosus* (e.g. Kozák *et al.* 2006; Buřič *et al.* 2013; Kouba *et al.* 2014; Pârvulescu *et al.*  
62 *et al.* 2015). The spread of this invasive species represents a threat to all indigenous  
63 crayfish (Holdich and Pöckl, 2007). This includes direct stress by competing for the  
64 same resources (Holdich and Pöckl, 2007; Lele and Pârvulescu, 2017; Pacioglu *et al.*  
65 *et al.* 2020) and by a superior aggressive behaviour (Lele and Pârvulescu, 2017; Weis,  
66 2010; Pârvulescu *et al.* 2021), and indirect stress by acting as vector for the crayfish  
67 plague pathogen *Aphanomyces astaci* (Holdich and Pöckl, 2007).

68           *Faxonius limosus* exhibits r-selected life strategies typical for invasive  
69 crayfish species, such as short life cycle, high fecundity, early maturation, and  
70 capability of taking maximum advantage from abundant resources (Lindqvist and  
71 Huner, 1999; Kozák *et al.* 2007). This species possesses an exceptional  
72 reproductive plasticity (Buřič *et al.* 2013). The division of the mating period in  
73 spring and autumn seasons maximizes the probability of successful mating (Buřič  
74 *et al.* 2013). The ability of both females and males to alternate between sexually  
75 active and inactive forms allows them to direct the resources utilization toward  
76 structures useful for specific life stages (Buřič *et al.* 2010b; Buřič *et al.* 2010a).  
77 *Faxonius limosus* is also capable of increasing its fecundity, leading to a quick  
78 growth of the population by maximizing the exploitation of the resources made  
79 available by the decrease of indigenous crayfish populations (Pârvulescu *et al.*  
80 2015). *Faxonius limosus* has been found capable of facultative parthenogenesis  
81 under laboratory conditions (Buřič *et al.* 2011; Buřič *et al.* 2013). The occurrence  
82 of parthenogenesis in the wild would allow reproduction under suboptimal  
83 conditions, facilitating the colonization of new habitats from small founding  
84 populations (Buřič *et al.* 2011). Lastly, long-term sperm storage (Buřič *et al.* 2013)  
85 also allows the reception of spermatophores from different males, while enabling  
86 this animal to circumvent adverse environmental conditions (Walker *et al.* 2002).  
87 The potentially resulting multiple paternity can enhance the success of a population  
88 introduced in a new environment by increasing its genetic diversity.

89           Multiple paternity is widely spread both among vertebrates and  
90 invertebrates (Jennions and Petrie, 2000; Avise *et al.* 2011), with variable incidence  
91 across and within species (Taylor *et al.* 2014). Multiple mating is associated with  
92 considerable costs for females, such as loss of time and energy, and increased risk

of predation, diseases and injuries (Slatyer *et al.* 2012). Nonetheless, the ubiquitous nature of this reproductive strategy indicates that multiple paternity provides significant benefits (Hosken and Stockley, 2003). One of the major genetic benefits is the increased heterozygosity (Holman and Kokko, 2013; Taylor *et al.* 2014). High heterozygosity is linked to disease resistance, greater development stability, competitiveness, hatchability and survivorship, and the ability to respond to novel biotic and abiotic stimuli (Holman and Kokko, 2013; Taylor *et al.* 2014). Therefore, multiple paternity is an efficient method to increase offspring fitness (Palmer and Oldroyd, 2000; Taylor *et al.* 2014) and effective population size (Zeng *et al.* 2017). Multiple paternity has also been linked to the invasion success of non-indigenous species in reptiles (Eales *et al.* 2010), fishes (Zeng *et al.* 2017), mammals (Miller *et al.* 2010), gastropods (Le Cam *et al.* 2009; Rafajlović *et al.* 2013), insects (Ding *et al.* 2017) and malacostracans (Yue *et al.* 2010).

Many studies addressing the invasiveness of crustaceans compare indigenous and invasive species' behaviours (Weis, 2010). This approach allows for a deeper understanding of the contingency of a successful invasion (Stohlgren and Schnase, 2006; Weis, 2010). However, there is a general lack of comparative studies regarding the reproductive strategies of indigenous vs. invasive species (Weis, 2010). In this pilot study we analysed and compared, for the first time, the reproductive strategies of an invasive (*F. limosus*) and an indigenous (*Pontastacus leptodactylus* Eschscholtz 1823) crayfish species occurring in sympatry in the river Danube. *Faxonius limosus* has been detected in the Romanian Danube for the first time in 2009 after downstream dispersal from Serbia (Pârvulescu *et al.* 2009) and has partially replaced the indigenous *P. leptodactylus* in the upper Romanian Danube (Pârvulescu *et al.* 2012; Pârvulescu *et al.* 2015). We aimed to understand the role of different reproductive strategies in the success of the invasion by genotyping female crayfish and their offspring using microsatellite markers. Firstly, we investigated the presence of parthenogenesis in wild populations of *F. limosus*. Secondly, we analysed the incidence of multiple paternity in both crayfish species. We hypothesized that parthenogenesis and multiple paternity are prominent in the invasive species, thus acting as additional drivers for its invasion success.

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## 125 MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 126 Sampling and study design

Female crayfish with eggs were collected in the upper Danube during summer 2016 (Fig. 1). The river was divided into three sectors, based on the timeline of the invasion and the coexistence state of the two species: an old-invaded sector (OID) where the invasion of *F. limosus* dates back at least ten years; an active

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131 invasion front sector (IF) where both species coexist and *F. limosus* has been  
 132 present for no more than three years at the time of samples collection; a non-invaded  
 133 sector (NID) where only *P. leptodactylus* is present (Fig. 1). The crayfish were  
 134 caught in the littoral area using bait-trap left overnight. In total, eleven female *F.*  
 135 *limosus* and their clutches were collected for the analysis (Tab. 1). Four of them  
 136 were sampled from the IF sector and seven from the OID sector. Six female *P.*  
 137 *leptodactylus* and their clutches were sampled from each sector of the Danube river.  
 138 Three families consisted of mother and embryos extracted from eggs, while in the  
 139 other clutches (N = 15) the mothers were collected with juveniles (Tab. 1). Tissue  
 140 samples were stored in 96% ethanol. The sampling was conducted according to  
 141 animal welfare regulations, permits were obtained from the Iron Gates Nature Park  
 142 Administration and the Regional Environmental Protection Agency.

143

# 144 **DNA isolation and microsatellites genotyping**

145 Maternal DNA from female pereopod tissues and progeny DNA from whole  
 146 eggs or half juveniles was extracted using a modified high salt DNA extraction  
 147 protocol (Aljanabi and Martinez, 1997). DNA pellets were eluted in 50 µL 1xTE  
 148 Buffer.

149 For *P. leptodactylus* the genotyping was carried out using eight  
 150 microsatellites loci described in Gross *et al.* (2017). The Type-it® Microsatellites  
 151 PCR kit (QIAGEN) was used to amplify all loci across two multiplex PCRs:  
 152 multiplex A consisted of Aast4\_5, Aast4\_12, Aast4\_32 and multiplex B consisted  
 153 of Aast4\_8, Aast4\_16, Aast4\_26, Aast4\_30, Aast4\_34. The PCR reaction (6 µL)  
 154 contained: 0.5 µL of Q-Solution, 2.5 µL of Type-it Multiplex PCR Master Mix, 2  
 155 µL of Primer mix (0.25 µL of each primer), 1 µL of RNase-free water and 1 µL of  
 156 template DNA. The PCR protocol was the following: initial denaturation step (5  
 157 min, 95°C); 30 cycles of denaturation (30 sec, 94°C), annealing (90 sec, 57°C) and  
 158 extension (60 sec, 72°C); final extension step (30 min, 60°C).

159 To genotype *F. limosus* six microsatellite primers were chosen following  
 160 Buřič *et al.* (2011). The primers were grouped in three PCRs. Multiplex A included  
 161 PclG\_08, 2.12 and 3.1, multiplex B included PclG\_02, PclG\_26 and a single PCR  
 162 was run for PclG\_37. The PCR reaction was conducted under the same conditions  
 163 as for *P. leptodactylus* with the exception of the annealing temperature for primers  
 164 PclG\_08 and PclG\_37, set at 53°C. The fragment lengths were detected on a  
 165 Beckman Coulter CEQ™ 8000 system. The raw data was analysed using the  
 166 software GeneMarker v2.6.4 (Soft-Genetics, State College, PA, USA).

167

## 168 Data analyses

169 For *F. limosus*, genotypes of the eleven females and four additional adults  
 170 sampled in the same survey were used to calculate population allele frequencies and  
 171 to verify lack of linkage disequilibrium and agreement with the Hardy-Weinberg  
 172 equilibrium. For *P. leptodactylus* allele frequencies were calculated using only 15  
 173 of the 18 females analysed, as it was not possible to genotype the mothers from  
 174 three clutches due to missing data. For both species allele frequencies, presence of  
 175 linkage disequilibrium and agreement with the Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium of the  
 176 adult crayfish were tested with GENEPOP 4.2 (Raymond and Rousset, 1995). The  
 177 presence of null alleles per locus was tested with Micro-Checker (van Oosterhout  
 178 *et al.* 2004). A genotyping error rate of 0.05 for *F. limosus* and 0.04 for *P.*  
 179 *leptodactylus* was calculated by blindly repeating 10% of the samples per species.  
 180 The occurrence of parthenogenesis in *F. limosus* was verified by comparing the  
 181 mothers' genotypes to the genotypes of the respective offspring. Parthenogenesis  
 182 was assumed if all offspring had the identical multilocus genotype. Parentage  
 183 analysis for both species was conducted using the software GERUD2.0 (Jones,  
 184 2005), which reconstructs for each progeny arrays the minimum number of fathers  
 185 and their genotypes using polymorphic, codominant markers. The software ranks  
 186 the parental genotype combinations by likelihood. The mother's genotype is not  
 187 needed, but the offspring array has to share the same mother. GERUD2.0 does not  
 188 accept missing data, therefore specimens with too much missing data were not  
 189 considered for the analysis. Chi-square test was used to infer the significance of the  
 190 different incidence of multiple paternity between the two crayfish species.

191 The software PrDM (Neff and Pitcher, 2002) was used to evaluate the  
 192 probability of detecting multiple paternity (PrDM) based on the number of alleles  
 193 per locus and their frequency, the number of samples and sires' contribution. Eight  
 194 different scenarios were used to represent situations of equal males' contribution  
 195 (50:50, 33.3:33.3:33.3 and 25:25:25:25), moderate skewed contribution (66.7:33.3  
 196 and 57:28.5:14.5) and highly skewed contribution (70:10:10:10, 90:10 and  
 197 85:5:5:5). Those scenarios were based on recommendations by Neff and Pitcher  
 198 (2002) and on available multiple paternity data on crayfish (Walker *et al.* 2002; Yue  
 199 *et al.* 2010). The average number of offspring per clutch was used for those  
 200 simulations. The resulting values represent the power of the applied genetic markers.  
 201 Higher values indicate higher probabilities to detect multiple paternity in the  
 202 described scenario.

203

## 204 RESULTS

### 205 *Pontastacus leptodactylus*



No linkage disequilibrium was detected, and the population was in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium. No evidence of null alleles was found. Locus Aast4\_32 was monomorphic in our population. Excluding locus Aast4\_32, the expected heterozygosity of the seven remaining loci varied from 0.14 to 0.61, with an average value of 0.49 (Tab. 2). The observed heterozygosity ranged from 0.15 to 0.67, with an average value of 0.47. Excluding locus Aast4\_32, the mean number of alleles per locus was 2.57. Locus Aast4\_26 was not genotyped successfully in some families (F29, F11, F05 and E22, S1 Appendix) due to missing data and was therefore excluded from the parentage analyses for the respective clutches. For the family SRB204 the parentage analysis was conducted using only four loci due to missing data from loci Aast4\_12, Aast4\_32, Aast4\_26, Aast4\_34 (S1 Appendix). For clutches E22, F05, F28 and F29 the paternity analysis was conducted with unknown mother genotype due to missing data.

Altogether, 284 offspring were successfully genotyped. The number of genotyped progeny per clutch ranged from six to 22 (with an average of 15.8). The PrDM simulations produced probabilities ranging from 0.438 to 0.955 (Tab. 3). The PrDM value of 0.438 was obtained with the 90:10 scenario, while all other probabilities were higher than 0.622. Multiple paternity was detected in two clutches (11%), F22 and SRB111, respectively sampled in the non-invaded sector and the old-invaded sector (Tab. 1). The minimum number of fathers for both clutches was two. The mean number of sires per brood was 1.1.

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## 228 *Faxonius limosus*

No linkage disequilibrium among microsatellite loci was detected. Two loci (2.12 and PclG\_02) were monomorphic in our population. No null alleles were detected. All loci, with the exception of locus PclG\_37, were in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium. Excluding loci 2.12 and PclG\_02, the expected heterozygosity varied from 0.46 to 0.81 for the four remaining loci with an average value of 0.62, while the observed heterozygosity ranged from 0.64 to 0.82 with an average value of 0.73 (Tab. 2). Excluding the two monomorphic loci, the mean number of alleles per locus was 3.75. Locus PclG\_24 was excluded from all analysis due to too much missing data.

A total number of 86 offspring was successfully genotyped for all six loci. The number of analysed progeny per clutch ranged between four and 11 (with an average of 7.8). No parthenogenesis was detected in the clutches, as the offspring genotypes exhibited paternal alleles and were no clones from their mothers (S1 Appendix). For clutches FL0049, FL0072, FL0098, FL0111 and FL0137 the paternity analysis was conducted with unknown mother genotype due to missing

244 data in some loci (S1 Appendix). The PrDM ranged from 0.362 and 0.945 (Tab. 3).  
 245 The lowest probabilities were obtained in scenarios with high skewed paternal  
 246 contribution (90:10 and 85:5:5:5). All the other probabilities are greater than 0.718.  
 247 In total, two clutches (18%), one sampled in the OID sector and on in the IF sectors,  
 248 were sired by multiple males (Tab. 1). Chi-square test indicated no significant  
 249 difference in the incidence of multiple paternity in *F. limosus* and *P. leptodactylus*.

250

## 251 DISCUSSION

252 To our knowledge, this is the first study investigating the reproductive strategies of  
 253 an invasive (*F. limosus*) and an indigenous (*P. leptodactylus*) crayfish species  
 254 occurring in sympatry. No parthenogenesis has been found in *F. limosus*'  
 255 populations. Nonetheless, the hypothesis of *F. limosus* resorting to this mating  
 256 strategy in the wild still needs to be further investigated. The demonstrated  
 257 capability of this crayfish of reproducing asexually under laboratory conditions  
 258 (Buřič *et al.* 2011; Buřič *et al.* 2013) and the parthenogenesis documented in one  
 259 wild population of another crayfish species (Martin *et al.* 2007) provide a sound  
 260 theoretical background for this hypothesis.

261 In this study, multiple paternity has been documented in both *F. limosus* and  
 262 *P. leptodactylus* for the first time. This mating strategy has been detected in 18% of  
 263 the clutches of the invasive *F. limosus* and in 11% of the clutches of the indigenous  
 264 *P. leptodactylus*, but the difference in the incidence of multiple paternity between  
 265 the two species was not significant. However, our results are not conclusive, as the  
 266 study has important limitations. The chosen markers show low genetic diversity for  
 267 our populations, with three monomorphic loci across the two species and a low  
 268 mean number of alleles per locus. Therefore, the resolution was too low to  
 269 adequately address the research questions. Due to lack of project time and funding,  
 270 it was not possible to use different markers after the initial analysis. The study was  
 271 further limited by the small sample size for *F. limosus*, both in terms of number of  
 272 clutches and number of offspring per clutch. The study was originally designed to  
 273 include at least 20 offspring per clutch, but the sample size had to be reduced due  
 274 to the impossibility of producing data for many loci of an elevated number of  
 275 specimens. All these factors contributed to a low probability of detecting multiple  
 276 paternity with our genetic markers and dataset.

277 Multiple paternity has been already associated with successful biological  
 278 invasions and colonization of new habitats in a variety of animals, both in  
 279 vertebrates (Eales *et al.* 2010; Miller *et al.* 2010; Ding *et al.* 2017) and invertebrates  
 280 (Le Cam *et al.* 2009; Rafajlović *et al.* 2013; Zeng *et al.* 2017), including crayfish  
 281 (Yue *et al.* 2010). It is suggested that multiple paternity leads to higher hatchability



and greater early stage survivorship, probably due to avoidance of genetic incompatibility (Zeh, 1997; Tregenza and Wedell, 1998; Newcomer *et al.* 1999). This polyandrous mating strategy, where one female mates with several males, is associated with increased heterozygosity in the offspring (Holman and Kokko, 2013; Taylor *et al.* 2014). As a result, multiple paternity may act as a buffer against the loss of genetic diversity caused by the bottleneck event that may have occurred after the invasive species' introduction. Multiple paternity has been linked to increased fertility as it could ensure an adequate sperm supply, guaranteeing the fertilization of all the eggs produced by the female (Birkhead and Pizzari, 2002; Hosken and Stockley, 2003). Such benefit could be particularly relevant, as a higher production of eggs by females of *F. limosus* has been observed in the newly invaded habitat (Pârvulescu *et al.* 2015). Females of *F. limosus* can store viable sperm for several months (Buřič *et al.* 2013). The combination of this feature with multiple mating could increase its initial effective population size in the invaded environment (Eales *et al.* 2010). All of those benefits linked to multiple paternity, when associated with *F. limosus* fast life cycle, could be decisive in the establishment of a fast growing, quickly adapting population.

Finally, the importance of acquiring deeper knowledge of *F. limosus* mating behaviours lies in the repercussion it may have both on the management of the invasive *F. limosus* and the conservation of indigenous crayfish species (e.g. Sutherland, 1998; Caro, 1999; Rogowski *et al.* 2013; Wildermuth *et al.* 2013). Management of invasive crayfish species has often produced less than encouraging results (Hyatt, 2004; Freeman *et al.* 2010; Gherardi *et al.* 2011). Part of this inefficiency (besides other reasons, like the difficulty of catching small crayfish) may be traced back to a lack of relevant knowledge on mating behaviours and life strategies of the targeted species (Rogowski *et al.* 2013). In a successful management plan for control or removal of invasive species, the rate of removal must exceed the growth of the population (Bomford and O'Brien, 1995). Therefore, the use of models to estimate population trends is essential (Kajin *et al.* 2012). The predictive value of those demographic models can be enhanced by incorporating information on the mating system (Wildermuth *et al.* 2013). This could be especially useful for species with considerable reproduction ability and plasticity such as crayfish. For these reasons, we believe that further studies should be conducted on *F. limosus*' mating strategies and on their comparison with the mating strategies of indigenous crayfish. While this study did not lead to significant results, it highlighted critical issues met while inferring *F. limosus*' and *P. leptodactylus*' mating systems. Overcoming the limitations of this study by choosing markers with higher polymorphism and bigger sample sizes would lead to more reliable results that could be useful for management plans.

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## SUPPLEMENTARY FILE

323 The dataset supporting the conclusions of this article is presented in Supplementary  
324 material.

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326

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## 517 Tables

518 Tab. 1. Sampling location, sample size, offspring stage and inferred genetic paternity in  
519 18 clutches of *Pontastacus leptodactylus* and 11 clutches of *Faxonius limosus*.

Species	Sector	Mother's ID	Known maternal genotype	Offspring stage	No. of offspring	No. of alleles	No. of fathers	MP
PL	NID	E06	Yes	Fertilized eggs	17	8	1	No
PL	NID	E22	No	Fertilized eggs	20	7	1	No
PL	NID	F05	No	Juveniles	18	7	1	No
PL	NID	F11	Yes	Juveniles	17	7	1	No
PL	NID	F28	No	Juveniles	18	8	1	No
PL	NID	F29	No	Juveniles	19	7	2	Yes
PL	OID	SRB061	Yes	Juveniles	18	8	1	No
PL	OID	SRB111	Yes	Juveniles	15	8	2	Yes
PL	OID	SRB141	Yes	Juveniles	19	8	1	No
PL	OID	SRB171	Yes	Juveniles	19	8	1	No
PL	OID	SRB181	Yes	Juveniles	18	8	1	No
PL	OID	SRB204	Yes	Juveniles	7	4	1	No
PL	IF	ESL1	Yes	Juveniles	10	8	1	No
PL	IF	ORS011	Yes	Juveniles	17	8	1	No
PL	IF	ORS021	Yes	Juveniles	14	8	1	No
PL	IF	ORS031	Yes	Juveniles	8	8	1	No
PL	IF	ORS041	Yes	Juveniles	6	8	1	No
PL	IF	ORS254	Yes	Fertilized eggs	22	8	1	No
FL	IF	FL0036	Yes	Juveniles	11	6	3	Yes
FL	IF	FL0049	No	Juveniles	8	6	1	No
FL	IF	FL0072	No	Juveniles	7	6	1	No
FL	IF	FL0268	Yes	Juveniles	9	6	1	No
FL	OID	FL0001	Yes	Juveniles	11	6	3	Yes
FL	OID	FL0085	Yes	Juveniles	9	6	1	No
FL	OID	FL0098	No	Juveniles	4	6	1	No
FL	OID	FL0111	No	Juveniles	8	6	1	No
FL	OID	FL0124	Yes	Juveniles	4	6	1	No
FL	OID	FL0137	No	Juveniles	6	6	1	No
FL	OID	FL0155	Yes	Juveniles	9	6	1	No

520 MP, multiple paternity; PL, *Pontastacus leptodactylus*; FL, *Faxonius limosus*; NID, non-  
521 invaded sector; OID, old-invaded sector; IF, invasion front.

522 Tab. 2. Characterization of microsatellite loci for *Faxonius limosus* and *Pontastacus*  
523 *leptodactylus*. Estimates are based on adult female genotypes.

Species	Locus	N	N <sub>a</sub>	H <sub>o</sub>	H <sub>e</sub>
FL	3.1	11	3	0.8182	0.6405
FL	2.12	15	1	0.0000	0.0000
FL	PclG_08	14	2	0.7143	0.4592
FL	PclG_02	14	1	0.0000	0.0000
FL	PclG_26	12	3	0.7500	0.5799
FL	PclG_37	11	7	0.6364	0.8140
PL	Aast4_12	15	3	0.5333	0.5800
PL	Aast4_32	15	1	0.0000	0.0000
PL	Aast4_5	15	3	0.5333	0.5800
PL	Aast4_16	15	4	0.6000	0.6067
PL	Aast4_34	13	3	0.1538	0.1450
PL	Aast4_8	15	3	0.6667	0.4867
PL	Aast4_26	14	3	0.4286	0.5383
PL	Aast4_3	15	2	0.4000	0.4800

524 PL, *Pontastacus leptodactylus*; FL, *Faxonius limosus*; n, sample size; N<sub>a</sub>, number of  
525 alleles; H<sub>o</sub>, observed heterozygosity; H<sub>e</sub>, expected heterozygosity.

526

527 Tab. 3. Probability of detecting multiple paternity (PrDM) in *F. limosus* and *P.*  
 528 *leptodactylus* using 6 and 8 microsatellite loci respectively. Three mating scenarios are  
 529 tested: even contribution from the males, moderately skewed contribution, and highly  
 530 skewed contribution toward one male. Two to four males were taken into consideration.

Number of males	Mating scenario (paternal skew)	Number of offspring	
		<i>P. leptodactylus</i>	<i>F. limosus</i>
		16	8
2	50:50	0.717	0.756
	66.7:33.3	0.698	0.718
	90:10	0.438	0.362
3	33.3:33.3:33.3	0.903	0.904
	57:28.5:14.5	0.856	0.841
4	25:25:25:25	0.955	0.945
	70:10:10:10	0.838	0.769
	85:5:5:5	0.622	0.516

531

## Figure captions

**Fig. 1.** Sampling sites along the river Danube. NID, non-invaded sector; OID, old-invaded sector; IF, invasion front.

## Figure 1

