

1 **Spatio-temporal shifts driven by climate change threaten**
2 **persistence and resilience of honey bee populations**

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7 **ABSTRACT**

8 Understanding how climate shapes intraspecific genetic turnover is critical for predicting
9 biodiversity responses to global change, yet such analyses remain limited for systems where
10 natural adaptation and human-mediated dispersal jointly structure diversity. Here, we
11 investigate the spatio-temporal dynamics of genetic composition in the western honey bee
12 (*Apis mellifera*) across Anatolia and Thrace, a major historical refugium harboring five
13 subspecies. Using a dataset of 672 individuals genotyped at 30 microsatellite loci, we
14 characterize population structure and model ancestry compositions as a function of
15 environmental and geographic variables. We integrate Gradient Forests and Generalized
16 Dissimilarity Modelling to identify key climatic drivers of intra-specific turnover and project
17 future changes under multiple CMIP6 climate scenarios.

18 We detect five major ancestral groups with widespread admixture structured by both spatial
19 processes and environmental gradients. While geographic distance explains a substantial
20 proportion of variation, climatic variables account for a large fraction of ancestry turnover.
21 Spatial projections reveal distinct ecological regions corresponding to subspecies
22 distributions, with high turnover zones aligned with major geographic and ecological barriers.

1 Climate projections indicate substantial restructuring of ancestry compositions over the 21st
2 century. Most ancestral groups show declines in persistence and resilience, whereas lineages
3 associated with warmer and drier conditions expand under future scenarios. Regions of high
4 uniqueness and refugia contract, while areas experiencing rapid turnover and novel ancestry
5 compositions increase. Existing Genetic Conservation Areas provide incomplete
6 representation of diversity and are projected to lose effectiveness under future climates.

7 Our results demonstrate that climate change is likely to disrupt spatial genetic structure,
8 promote admixture, and threaten persistence and resilience of honey bee populations. By
9 modeling ancestry composition as a multidimensional proxy for genetic variation, for the first
10 time to our knowledge, this study provides a scalable framework for forecasting intraspecific
11 biodiversity dynamics and informing conservation and management strategies under global
12 change.

13 **INTRODUCTION**

14 In the face of ongoing global change, biogeography has evolved into a dynamic field for
15 understanding species' responses to environmental transformations (Parmesan, 2006). As
16 habitats shift, ranges fluctuate, and ecosystems rapidly change, spatially explicit genetic data
17 enables the exploration of mechanisms shaping distributions (Joost et al., 2007; Gienapp et
18 al., 2008; Eckert et al., 2008). However, identifying ecological patterns associated with
19 genetic clines can be challenging (Jones et al., 2013). Nevertheless, approaches like Gradient
20 Forests (GFs) and Generalized Dissimilarity Modeling (GDM) that account for non-linear
21 interactions between environmental variables and ancestry compositions can be helpful
22 (Ferrier et al., 2007; Ellis et al., 2012). GFs and GDM have been used in studying biodiversity
23 at several layers, from ecosystems, communities, and species to populations, morphological
24 traits, and genes (Bay et al., 2018; Mokany et al., 2019a, 2019b; Morgan et al., 2020;

1 Gougherty et al., 2021; Fitzpatrick et al., 2021). Once biodiversity at any level is modeled as a
2 function of multiple environmental gradients, the resulting models can be used to develop
3 forecasts under global climate change scenarios (Fitzpatrick et al., 2011; Fitzpatrick & Keller,
4 2015), including invasion risk assessments (Chen et al., 2024).

5 The western honey bee (*Apis mellifera* L.) is a flagship species with a wide geographical
6 range and significant ecological and economic roles (Franck et al., 2001; Meixner et al., 2010;
7 Iwasaki & Hogendoorn, 2021). As generalist, widespread, and efficient pollinators, honey
8 bees provide insights into ecosystems and help monitor community diversity and
9 sustainability (Quigley et al., 2019; Cunningham et al., 2022). Moreover, spatio-temporal
10 analyses on honey bee models can be applied to various species and biological questions,
11 including invasive species adaptation (Dearden et al., 2009; Giordano et al., 2022). Despite
12 human-mediated gene flow, environmental features and genotype-environment interactions
13 often continue to shape the spatially structured genomic diversity of honey bees (Wallberg et
14 al., 2014; Harpur et al., 2014; Cridland et al., 2017, 2018; Wragg et al., 2018; Parejo et al.,
15 2020; Dogantzis et al., 2021; Gmel et al., 2023). Nevertheless, anthropogenic factors are also
16 shown to influence gene flow, with queen/colony trade and migratory beekeeping creating
17 mobile hybrid zones in space and time (Kükrer et al., 2021). While allelic divergence,
18 selection candidates, and gene-environment associations are well-studied (Fuller et al., 2015;
19 Chen et al., 2016, 2018; Wallberg et al., 2017; Henriques et al., 2018; Montero-Mendieta,
20 2019; Christmas et al., 2019; Ji et al., 2020; Cao et al., 2023), the role of climate in
21 compositional turnover among honey bee populations remains understudied.

22 Climate regulates various processes on Earth, such as ecosystem productivity, and sustains
23 life, including those of humans (Howden et al., 2007; Willis & Bhagwat, 2009; Bellard et al.,
24 2012). As climate change disrupts these processes, understanding the interconnected
25 relationships becomes essential to mitigate negative impacts, including local extinctions,

1 changes in distribution ranges of species and ecosystems, community compositions, and
2 ecosystem functioning (Thuiller et al., 2019; Babcock et al., 2019; Román-Palacios & Wiens,
3 2020; Pörtner et al., 2022). Additionally, climate change influences species invasions as
4 invasive species exploit altered environments to spread, destabilizing native ecosystems
5 (Dukes & Mooney, 1999; Bellard et al., 2016). High climate vulnerability often leads to
6 economic damages and potential food insecurity, primarily affecting smallholder operations
7 where environmental fluctuations amplify challenges (Cohn et al., 2017; Coronese et al.,
8 2019). Mitigating economic losses and supporting food security can be enhanced by
9 recognizing locally adapted geographic forms. In the case of honey bees, these forms may
10 exhibit higher yield, improved colony development, enhanced performance, increased
11 survival, lower pathogen levels, infrequent occurrence of diseases, and broader expression of
12 desirable traits in swarming, defensiveness, or hygiene.

13 Quantitative studies on the impacts of global change on honey bees and beekeeping are
14 disproportionately few relative to the severity of threats they face (Gordo & Sanz, 2006;
15 Kovac & Stabentheiner, 2011; Delgado et al., 2012; Howlett et al., 2013; Wang et al., 2016;
16 Langowska et al., 2017; Flores et al., 2019; Nürnberger et al., 2019; Rowland et al., 2021;
17 Becsi et al., 2021). Furthermore, there is a notable absence of forecasts regarding the diverse
18 impacts of environmental transformations on honey bees, including spatio-temporal analyses
19 of intra-specific turnover (Kükrer & Bilgin, 2020). The growing interest in ecological
20 forecasting stems from the urgency to provide vital information on future population,
21 community, and ecosystem states to enhance conservation, management, and adaptation
22 strategies (Petchey et al., 2015). A recent systematic review of climate change impacts on
23 honey bees and beekeeping revealed significant negative effects on honey bee ecology and
24 physiology, such as food reserves, plant-pollinator networks, mortality rates, gene expression,
25 and metabolism (Zapata-Hernández et al., 2024). The assessment identified several

1 knowledge gaps, including limited predictive studies and a lack of comprehensive climate
2 analyses. Most studies focused on individual bee behavior rather than population dynamics
3 and were conducted at short spatial (<10 km) and temporal (<5 years) scales, limiting their
4 applicability to large-scale assessments. Additionally, environmental analyses have
5 predominantly relied on short-term weather data rather than long-term climate trends,
6 complicating efforts to forecast future impacts.

7 To assess honey bee diversity across temporal and spatial scales, we first characterize neutral
8 genetic diversity and population structure across historical refugia in and around Anatolia, a
9 natural laboratory with diverse bee habitats and vast environmental heterogeneity (Hewitt,
10 1999; Sönmez, 2022). Turkey hosts five native honey bee subspecies that meet, exchange
11 genes, and adapt to local conditions, creating a unique experimental setting by blending
12 genetic elements from Europe, Asia, and Africa (Kandemir et al., 2006; Kükrer et al., 2021).
13 Deploying GFs, we identify key drivers of intra-specific turnover by modeling genetic
14 composition as a function of climate and geography. Then, we apply GDM to site-pair
15 dissimilarities in environmental variables selected by GFs to model ancestry estimates treated
16 as relative abundances and serve as response variables. Finally, we conduct forecasts and
17 spatio-temporal analyses to predict vulnerability and evaluate the persistence, resilience, and
18 conservation efficacy of native populations to inform the management of honey bees.

19 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

20 **2.1 Sampling and genotyping**

21 We collected 460 honey bee samples from 392 localities in 75 provinces in Turkey between
22 May 2016 and November 2019, covering the natural ranges of five subspecies: O lineage bees
23 from *A. m. syriaca*, *A. m. caucasica*, *A. m. anatoliaca*, *A. m. meda*, and the Thracian ecotype
24 of C lineage. Additional samples included 45 *A. m. carnica* from Austria and Germany, 12 *A.*

1 *m. caucasica* from Georgia, and 174 samples from stationary beekeepers previously collected
2 across Turkey (Kükreer, 2013; Oskay et al., 2019). In total, 691 samples were obtained (**Fig.**
3 **1a**). We isolated DNA from bee heads, grouped 30 microsatellite loci into four sets (see
4 **Supplementary Table 1** for sample metadata, markers, and genotypes), amplified markers,
5 determined fragment sizes, and binned the microsatellite alleles as specified in Kükreer et al.
6 (2021). We excluded one locus due to inconsistent amplification, estimated genotyping errors
7 by blind double-genotyping, and removed samples with sibling status or insufficient loci,
8 leaving 672 samples for analysis. See **Supplementary Text** for details.

9 **2.2 Exploring genetic diversity and population structure**

10 We estimated null allele frequency, allelic richness, observed and expected heterozygosity,
11 linkage disequilibrium, and other diversity metrics at the loci and population levels. We
12 constructed phylogenies by UPGMA (Unweighted Pair Group Method with Arithmetic Mean)
13 based on population genetic distances (Reynolds et al., 1983), visualized by the online tool
14 Interactive Tree of Life v5 (Letunic and Bork, 2021). We examined population structure via
15 genetic fixation index (F_{st}), Analysis of Molecular Variance (AMOVA), Principal Component
16 Analysis (PCA), and discriminant and spatially explicit versions of it. We estimated
17 individual membership coefficients using Structure 2.3.4 (Pritchard et al., 2000). Based on
18 these analyses, we identified five ancestral groups corresponding to the subspecies and
19 removed 80 samples with obvious mismatches to spatially expected ancestry. After this
20 filtering according to admixture patterns (i.e., the particular composition of ancestry estimates
21 at a specific site), 592 samples were left for downstream analyses. Then, we interpolated
22 ancestry estimates on geographic maps using a kriging model (Jay et al., 2012). See
23 **Supplementary Text** for details.

24 **2.3 Modeling intra-specific turnover and predicting ancestry compositions**

1 The kriging model omits interactions between ancestry compositions and the environment
2 besides geographic distance. Nevertheless, population structure and environmental factors
3 interplay in more complex ways than isolation by distance alone. Therefore, we modeled
4 intra-specific turnover to identify climatic and geographic drivers of admixture variation. We
5 fitted Gradient Forests (GFs) and Generalized Dissimilarity Models (GDMs) to ancestry
6 estimates of 554 individuals in and around Anatolia, excluding the 38 reference *carnica*
7 samples from Austria and Germany to focus on the study area. We fitted the models using 19
8 bioclimatic variables from WorldClim 2.1 in 2.5-minute spatial resolution (Fick & Hijmans,
9 2017) and 18 climatic and topographic variables from the Envirem dataset (Title & Bemmels,
10 2018). These datasets describe annual and seasonal temperature and precipitation trends and
11 extreme or limiting climatic factors. We retrieved altitude data from The Shuttle Radar
12 Topography Mission (SRTM) at 90-meter resolution (Jarvis et al., 2008). We applied a 3 km
13 buffer distance for each variable, aligning with the effective foraging radius of a worker bee
14 (Haldane & Spurway, 1954; Visscher & Seeley, 1982). We summarize complete variable
15 names, abbreviations, and units in **Table 1**.

16 GF is a machine learning approach that models compositional turnover by fitting regression
17 trees to create cumulative importance functions of predictor variables and to assess how split
18 values along a gradient explain biological variation. We fitted GFs as implemented in
19 extendedForest 1.6.1 and gradientForest 0.1-32 (Ellis et al., 2012) to logit-transformed
20 ancestry estimates to identify rapid changes and the most important environmental gradients.
21 Since GFs can't directly incorporate geographic distances, we included spatial effects using
22 the first two Moran's Eigenvector Maps (MEMs) with cumulative adjusted R^2 values of 0.9,
23 calculated from the geographic coordinates. We hypothesized that if local adaptation
24 significantly influences genetic differentiation, the cumulative R^2 of environmental predictors
25 could exceed that of MEM variables. We expected *caucasica* ancestry to respond strongly to

1 moisture-related predictors, reflecting adaptation to cool and moist environments during the
2 flowering season, and *syriaca* ancestry to temperature-related predictors, reflecting adaptation
3 to hot Mediterranean climates. Recognizing that environmental factors may vary between
4 subspecies transition zones, we constructed additional regional GF models with relevant
5 samples and ancestry components. We considered important variables with weighted R^2
6 values larger than 0.01 in this basal GF analysis and included them in subsequent GDM
7 processes as potential predictors.

8 GDMs explain biological variation as a function of climate and geography, identifying
9 environmental gradients linked to compositional turnover. By relating biological distance to
10 differences in environmental conditions or physical isolation, GDMs can infer where turnover
11 is rapid along each gradient. We used *gdm* 1.5.0-9.1 (Fitzpatrick et al., 2022) to fit GDMs and
12 infer admixture patterns across the area. We fitted additional regional models focusing on
13 transition zones between ancestral group pairs. To address multicollinearity and select
14 independent variables for our models, we applied an elimination procedure based on the
15 variance inflation factor (VIF) by setting a correlation threshold of 0.75 and a VIF threshold
16 of 5. We hypothesized those environmental predictors would explain more variance in
17 compositional turnover than geographic distances alone if local adaptation were to play a
18 major role in genetic differentiation. We spatially projected these GDMs, serving as
19 surrogates for ancestry compositions across a densely sampled landscape. To visualize the
20 transformed environmental variables, we used PCA to reduce outputs into synthetic variables,
21 representing them in a red-green-blue color palette. We cross-validated our global model ten
22 times, training with 90% of the data and testing on the remaining 10%. We grouped predictors
23 into temperature, precipitation, or interaction (tXp) variables and evaluated variance
24 partitioning.

25 **2.4 Spatio-temporal analysis of biodiversity patterns and conservation implications**

1 Once a spatial model based on transformed variables is established, it can predict ecological
2 similarity between sites under current or future conditions. Using our dissimilarity model, we
3 analyzed spatio-temporal variation in ecological distances to address questions about honey
4 bee diversity patterns. Ecological similarity computations were derived and slightly modified
5 from Mokany et al. (2022).

6 *2.4.1 Survey gaps, uniqueness, and turnover speed*

7 First, we assessed potential survey gaps within our study area by recording the pairwise
8 ecological similarity between each raster grid cell and its most similar sampling site, with
9 lower scores indicating higher potential gaps. We evaluated each cell's uniqueness by its
10 mean ecological similarity to random reference cells covering 5% of the study area. We
11 hypothesized that core regions where subspecies are found in unadmixed forms would show
12 high uniqueness while transitional zones would show moderate values. We calculated the
13 turnover speed at each site as the mean ecological similarity of the corresponding cell to its
14 neighbors within a 0.5-degree radius. We predicted that geographic or ecological barriers to
15 gene flow would exhibit fast turnover sites, indicating isolation by barriers (IBB) or
16 environment (IBE). Regions like the Taurus Mountain Range, the Sea of Marmara and the
17 Straits, the Anatolian Diagonal, and the East Anatolian Plateau might show high turnover
18 rates. Conversely, we expect sites with low turnover speed to align with an isolation by
19 distance (IBD) pattern.

20 *2.4.2 Ancestral group similarity and hierarchical classification*

21 We used unadmixed sampling sites with ancestry estimates over 0.85 in one of the five
22 ancestral groups to assess changes in ecological similarities across the study area. We
23 calculated the mean ecological similarities to these unadmixed reference cells for each
24 ancestral group and cell and constructed affinity maps. We used a supervised approach to

1 classify the study area into five clusters corresponding to the five subspecies. First, we
2 calculated pairwise ecological similarities between unadmixed reference cells and carried out
3 a hierarchical clustering. Then, we assigned each cell to the most similar cluster. We repeated
4 this at the six- and seven-cluster levels to explore potential ecotypes below the subspecies
5 level. To evaluate the effectiveness of our method, we also used random reference cells and
6 derived hit rates for both approaches in predicting the dominant ancestral group at sampling
7 sites with ancestry estimates exceeding 0.625 (representing an F1 crossed to a backcrossed
8 hybrid at a putative hybrid zone).

9 *2.4.3 Genetic Conservation Area resemblance and complementarity*

10 Currently, eight Genetic Conservation Areas (GCA) in Turkey restrict migratory beekeeping
11 and queen/colony sales, located in Adıyaman, Ardahan, Artvin, Düzce, Hatay, İzmir,
12 Kırklareli, and Muğla, respectively. GCAs house breeding and conservation apiaries
13 containing a representative sample of native colonies from each corresponding province. To
14 evaluate representation, we calculated the ecological similarities of each cell in the study grid
15 to those within the GCAs, recording the maximum value as the resemblance index. We
16 iterated this procedure three times, adding hypothetical GCAs (Hakkari, Çankırı, and Muş) to
17 enhance complementarity and representativeness. We compared resemblance indices under
18 different conservation scenarios using a paired t-test and visualized stepwise resemblance
19 gains. For each scenario, we compared the total protected surface area directly in GCAs or
20 indirectly through a resemblance index above 0.7. Finally, we assessed the differential impact
21 of additional GCAs on resemblance values within the area classified to each ancestral group
22 using ANOVA followed by Tukey's test.

23 *2.4.4 Temporal analyses*

1 In the temporal analysis, we used six CMIP6 climate projections known for their short-term
2 accuracy and varying long-term equilibrium climate sensitivity: CNRM-ESM2-1, INM-CM4-
3 8, MPI-ESM1-2-HR, MIROC6, EC-Earth3-Veg, UKESM1-0-LL (Tokarska et al., 2020;
4 Meehl et al., 2020). We computed composite means of WorldClim variables for Shared
5 Socioeconomic Pathways (SSPs) 126, 245, 370, 585, and mid-years 2030, 2050, 2070, 2090.
6 We then calculated Envirem variables from monthly average minimum/maximum
7 temperatures and total precipitation.

8 We predicted 16 SSP-time period combinations across the study area using the dissimilarity
9 model. We then assessed temporal changes in survey gaps, uniqueness, turnover speed,
10 ancestral group similarities, and classification outcomes. We conducted paired t-tests for cell-
11 level comparisons. We considered sites under-sampled if their gap values were below 0.45,
12 unique if their uniqueness was below the 10th percentile, fast turnover if within the 10th
13 percentile of turnover speed values, and high correspondence if their ecological similarity to
14 any ancestral group exceeded 0.4. We hypothesized that climate change-induced impacts
15 would manifest distinctly across the landscape. First, we anticipate increased survey gaps due
16 to inadequate ecological gradient coverage, reflecting an increased mismatch between the
17 characteristics of current sampling sites and future conditions prevailing in the study area.
18 Second, we predict lowlands in cooler climates will face invasions by populations preadapted
19 to hotter, arid conditions, leading to decreased uniqueness and dramatic shifts in ancestry
20 compositions and classification outcomes within affected areas. Additionally, we expect an
21 increase in fast turnover sites due to an expanded interface between ancestral groups
22 occupying different altitudes.

23 2.4.5 *Persistence, resilience, disappearance, and emergence*

1 To further evaluate climate change impacts on honey bee diversity, we employed four
2 additional indices: persistence (inverse offset), resilience (refugia value), disappearance
3 (forward offset), and emergence (reverse offset). For the persistence index, we calculated the
4 future ecological similarity of each cell to itself to derive offset values. To avoid divisions by
5 zero, we added 1 to the summed offset values before averaging across scenarios, measuring
6 consistent durability in ancestry compositions. Since offsets inversely relate to persistence, we
7 took the inverse of the final value. For the disappearance index, we calculated the ecological
8 similarity of each cell under current conditions to all future cells in the random reference set,
9 recorded the maximum value for each scenario, and averaged these to measure the continuous
10 loss of site-specific ancestry compositions across SSPs and periods. For the emergence index,
11 we calculated the ecological similarity of each future cell to the current random set, recorded
12 the maximum value for each scenario, and averaged these as a measure of consistent novelty
13 in ancestry compositions. For the resilience index, we calculated the ratio between the mean
14 ecological similarity of each future cell to its 0.5-degree radius neighbors under current and
15 future conditions. Deriving this resilience index, a ratio higher than 1 indicates higher
16 ecological similarity to neighbors' current conditions, suggesting a high value as a potential
17 refugium. We averaged these ratios across SSP-period combinations to identify continuous
18 refugia for ancestry compositions.

19 Sites with high resilience had refugia values greater than 1, low persistence if their average
20 offset values were in the 4th quartile, and high disappearance or emergence if their maximum
21 similarity to reference cells was below 0.6. A decline in persistence and resilience indices,
22 along with an uptick in disappearance and emergence indices over time, supports the assertion
23 that climate change poses a significant threat to honey bee biodiversity. Climate change could
24 impact different ancestral groups in various ways and show diverse effects across spatial
25 scales or protection statuses. Disproportionate impacts within GCAs or unique sites may

1 indicate conservation shortfalls. Thus, we analyzed how persistence, resilience,
2 disappearance, emergence, and resemblance indices varied with spatial patterns. We checked
3 if index values differed between densely/sparsely surveyed, unique/generic, fast/slow
4 turnover, protected/unprotected sites, and those with high/low ecological similarity to any
5 ancestral group or area classified to any of the clusters. We used a Bonferroni corrected t-test
6 for each index and ANOVA followed by Tukey's test for classification outcomes to infer
7 interactions between indices and spatial patterns. We include detailed information regarding
8 the R packages (R Core Team 2022 version 4.2.2) and the session information in
9 **Supplementary Table 2.**

10 **RESULTS**

11 **3.1 Population structure points to distinct ancestral groups but also widespread** 12 **admixture**

13 Our exploration of population structure revealed multiple population profiles and substantial
14 differentiation among honeybee populations. Using clustering methods and population genetic
15 analyses, we identified distinct ancestral groups and widespread admixture across the
16 landscape. In the phylogeny, the European population diverged first, followed by Thrace and
17 East and South Marmara (**Fig. 1b**). Clustering analysis unveiled five main ancestral groups:
18 Thracian, Anatolian, Caucasian, Levantine, and Zagrosian (**Fig. 1c**). At $K = 2$, individual
19 membership coefficients differentiated samples from Europe and Asia, with Thracian samples
20 appearing as a mixture of the two gene pools. At $K = 5$, Thracian samples formed their own
21 cluster. By $K = 7$, all subspecies were observable, along with a spurious cluster within the
22 *anatoliaca* range (see **Supplementary Text** for a more detailed analysis of genetic diversity
23 and population structure). Populations with high Anatolian ancestry were mainly in western
24 Turkey; still, those neighboring Thrace, Caucasus, Levant, and Zagros showed high ancestry

1 estimates from these groups (**Fig. 1d**). Interpolation of ancestry estimates provided a detailed
2 view of gradual admixture patterns, highlighting core regions where subspecies are found in
3 unadmixed forms and adjacent transition zones. The kriging outcome also revealed areas
4 where changes might be rapid (**Fig. 1e**). Notably, the transition between Anatolian and
5 Zagrosian ancestral groups in East Anatolia deviated from gradualness, with Zagrosian
6 ancestry tracking the Araxes valley and Anatolian ancestry following the Murat and Karasu
7 rivers, the two main tributaries of the Euphrates.

8 **3.2 Environmental gradients identified by GF models drive intra-specific turnover**

9 Model performances for distinct ancestral groups in the global GF model averaged 0.64,
10 ranging from 0.41 for the Zagrosian cluster to 0.74 for the Levantine cluster (**Supplementary**
11 **Table 3**). The model identified the first two MEMs as the most important predictors of intra-
12 specific turnover in ancestry compositions (**Fig. 2a** and **Supplementary Table 4**). The vital
13 role of MEM1 and MEM2 (R^2 values of 0.12 and 0.18) suggests the importance of spatial
14 location or other unmeasured environmental predictors. Spatial MEMs had the highest
15 relative contribution, but climatic variables still constituted 53% of the captured R^2 . When
16 limited to selected variables with R^2 over 0.01, the relative contribution of climatic factors
17 was 40% (0.20 over 0.50). PETwetest, Pwarmest, Tdriest, and isothermality followed the
18 MEMs with the highest R^2 -weighted importance. Other important variables included aridity,
19 Tseasonality, TUR_alt, continentality, Pdriest, Pwetest, minTwarm, PETdriest, and Pcoldest.
20 Thracian ancestry responded strongly to PETwetest (<30mm/month), TUR_alt (<500m), and
21 Pcoldest. In contrast, Caucasian ancestry showed the highest sensitivity to Pwarmest
22 (>150mm), Tdriest, aridity, Pwetest, and PETdriest (**Fig. 2b**). Zagrosian, Levantine, and
23 Anatolian ancestral groups responded similarly to most predictors except isothermality and
24 Tseasonality for Zagrosian cluster and minTwarm for Levantine cluster (>20°C).

1 **3.3 GDMs disclose major climatic predictors of environment-ancestry composition** 2 **relationships**

3 The global GDM included geographic distance and seven environmental variables as
4 predictors (Pdriest, minTwarm, Pwetest, PETdriest, continentality, PETwetest, and
5 isothermality) after controlling for multicollinearity. These variables influenced predicted
6 dissimilarities with summed coefficient values between 0.1 and 1.1. The mean dissimilarity
7 between site pairs with identical predictor values was 0.17. Predictor variables, including
8 geographic distance, explained 27.0% of the deviance with a mean absolute error of 0.19 in
9 ten times cross-validation. The seven climatic variables combined accounted for 15.6% of the
10 deviance, with 5.5% for temperature (isothermality, minTwarm, and continentality), 6.8% for
11 precipitation (Pwetest and Pdriest), and 8.6% for tXp (PETdriest and PETwetest) related
12 variables. Turnover was most sensitive to geographic distance and Pdriest, followed by
13 minTwarm, Pwetest, and PETdriest (**Fig. 2c**). The least influential environmental variables—
14 continentality, PETwetest, and isothermality—are associated more with transitions from
15 Thracian to Anatolian or Anatolian to Zagrosian ancestral groups, which are more gradual
16 than transitions to Caucasian or Levantine ancestral groups (**Fig. 3a**). While geographic
17 distance was the most important variable in the global model, it dropped to second or third in
18 regional models (see **Supplementary Text** for details about regional GFs and GDMs).

19 **3.4 Spatial analyses unveil ecological patterns and turnover dynamics**

20 Based on our GDM, we classified the study area via hierarchical clustering supervised by
21 unadmixed reference cells and identified five primary bioregions representing ancestral
22 groups within the study area (**Fig. 3b**). Our supervised classification approach proved
23 accurate with a hit rate of 86% (n = 389), compared to the 59% accuracy of the approach
24 based on random reference cells. The majority of the study area had low gap values, showing

1 strong ecological consistency with the sampling sites (mean maximum similarity 0.78, SD =
2 0.07), enabling a robust analysis of the interplay between ancestry compositions and
3 environmental conditions (**Fig. 4a**). Sites that deviated from the broader ecological context,
4 identified as highly unique, corresponded mainly to core zones where subspecies were
5 unadmixed (**Fig. 4b**), suggesting localized ecological conditions driving distinct adaptations.
6 Spatial analysis revealed two regions with exceptionally high turnover speeds: the Taurus
7 Mountains, which act as a physical barrier to gene flow, and the East Anatolian Plateau,
8 indicating rapid ecological transitions due to dynamic environmental gradients or ecological
9 boundaries (**Fig. 4c**).

10 **3.5 Assessment of GCA resemblance prompts recognition of new conservation sites**

11 Established GCAs encompassed all ancestral groups except Zagrosian (**Fig. 5a**). Adding
12 further GCAs in Hakkari, Çankırı, and Muş significantly improved resemblance (**Fig. 5b, 5c,**
13 **and 5d**), increasing protected area coverage from 59,711 km² to 81,949 km² (**Fig. 5e**). The
14 indirectly protected area with high resemblance to GCAs expanded from 499,719 km² to
15 754,809 km², nearly covering Turkey's entire surface area (**Supplementary Table 5**). The
16 mean gain per cell in resemblance was 0.023 with Hakkari, 0.018 with Çankırı, and 0.007
17 with Muş (all $p < 0.001$), totaling nearly 0.05. Initial resemblance differences between
18 ancestral groups were significant (all $p < 0.001$). Thracian and Caucasian groups are currently
19 best represented, followed by the Anatolian group, with mean differences of 0.06 and 0.04
20 compared to the best-protected groups. The Zagrosian group is least represented, with mean
21 differences of 0.12 and 0.11. Adding Hakkari reduced these to 0.05 and 0.04 (both $p < 0.001$).
22 Including Çankırı reduced the Thracian-Anatolian difference to 0.02 ($p < 0.001$), equalizing
23 Caucasian and Anatolian representation. After adding Muş, the resemblance of Zagrosian,
24 Anatolian, and Caucasian groups equalized, each staying 0.02 below the Thracian group ($p <$

1 0.001). Across all scenarios, there was minimal improvement in the Levantine group's
2 resemblance (**Supplementary Table 6**).

3 **3.6 Temporal analyses point to shifts in turnover patterns and the vulnerability of** 4 **ancestral groups**

5 Ecological boundaries remained relatively stable throughout the first half of the century.
6 However, divergence emerged among the models in the latter half, especially under more
7 pessimistic SSP scenarios (**Fig. 3c and 3d**). The impacts of climate change varied across the
8 study area. Thrace experienced substantial early changes, followed by disruptions in the
9 Caucasus. Later, divergence intensified between the highlands and lowlands within Anatolia.
10 Coastal regions were initially more vulnerable to climate-induced changes, but inland areas
11 were similarly affected later under intense SSP scenarios. Increases in minT_{warm} were a
12 primary driver of these changes, along with significant impacts from PET_{driest}. SSP-period
13 combinations showed variation in scenarios, with the Thracian group shrinking drastically in
14 some, nearly disappearing within Turkey's borders. High losses of ecological similarity were
15 apparent in rasters associated with the Caucasian group, indicating retreat and fragmentation,
16 particularly at lower altitudes. This pattern was also observable in the Anatolian and
17 Zagrosian rasters, albeit to a lesser degree. In the late SSP585 scenario, the Levantine group
18 gained excessive ground in central Anatolia and the central Black Sea. We compare spatial
19 dynamics in SSP-period combinations in the **Supplementary Text**.

20 Ecological similarities to each ancestral group revealed a consistent decline in cells similar to
21 any group, except for the Levantine group, which initially declined but later gained (**Fig. 6a**).
22 By the end of the projection period, the number of cells showing high ecological similarity to
23 unadmixed Thracian or Caucasian samples was halved. Although regions with high similarity
24 to the Zagrosian group declined, the Anatolian group experienced the most drastic decrease in

1 total surface area. Despite this decline, the Anatolian ancestral group maintained its classified
2 area until the late stages of the projection period (**Fig. 6b**). The Thracian group steadily
3 decreased from over 50,000 km² to 25,000 km², the Caucasian group from c. 100,000 km² to
4 75,000 km², and the Zagrosian group from c. 200,000 km² to 150,000 km². Conversely, the
5 Levantine group nearly doubled its size from c. 175,000 km² to 300,000 km² by the end of the
6 projection period, with total classification changes across the study area reaching 150,000
7 km².

8 Survey gaps notably increased, especially in areas of higher climate impact (**Fig. 4d**). There
9 was a significant decrease in maximum ecological similarity to sampling sites, with similarity
10 loss averaging around 0.06 per cell ($p < 0.001$). The proportion of the study area with survey
11 gap values exceeding the threshold increased continuously under each scenario throughout the
12 years, ranging from nearly none to 50,000 km² by the end of the century (**Fig. 6c**). Cell-level
13 uniqueness increased slightly, averaging around 0.03 ($p < 0.001$), while the total area
14 classified as highly unique consistently decreased from c. 100,000 km² to 75,000 km².

15 Uniqueness declined consistently at Levant and Thrace, and the coherence of highly unique
16 locations in the Caucasus was disrupted (**Fig. 4e**). Turnover speed did not exhibit substantial
17 changes at the cell level. However, the proportion of sites with fast turnover increased across
18 the study area, their surface area rising from c. 100,000 km² to 150,000 km². Notable changes
19 in turnover patterns included a shift of the geographical barrier at the mid-portion of the
20 Southeastern Taurus range some 125 kilometers north to the Munzur Mountains in East
21 Anatolia (**Fig. 4f**). The Aegean mountainous areas and coastal regions along the Eastern
22 Black Sea also displayed increased turnover speeds due to rising temperatures.

23 **3.7 Climate change dynamics disrupts persistence and threatens resilience across** 24 **spatial and temporal scales**

1 Highly persistent sites and sites displaying high resilience declined over time and across
2 scenarios, while sites with exceptionally high disappearance or emergence indices increased
3 (**Fig. 6d**). Novel ancestry compositions emerged later due to intensifying environmental
4 changes. Sites with high persistence decreased from 800,000 km² to 575,000 km², affecting
5 nearly one-fourth of the study area. Low persistence was heterogeneous, with Thrace, Upper
6 Euphrates, Levantine regions, Aegean, central and eastern Black Sea coasts experiencing the
7 highest declines (**Fig. 7a**). East-Central Anatolia showed the highest persistence, followed by
8 the highlands of West and East Anatolia. A Tukey's test indicated that sites classified to
9 various ancestral groups had significant mean differences (all $p < 0.001$, **Supplementary**
10 **Table 7**), with the Thracian group having the lowest persistence scores. Sites with high
11 ecological similarity to Anatolian or Zagrosian groups showed greater persistence (both $p <$
12 0.001 , **Supplementary Table 8**). Persistence was lower in regions with fast turnover rates
13 and high resemblance to GCAs, whereas highly unique regions had high persistence (all $p <$
14 0.001 with mean differences 0.70, 0.21, and 0.35). Under SSP126, persistence loss was
15 limited, while SSP585 showed almost homogeneous low persistence across the study area,
16 except for some restricted sites (see **Supplementary Text** for SSP scenario comparisons).

17 The area that could serve as refugia declined from 300,000 km² to 250,000 km². Refugium
18 sites concentrated around mountainous areas, especially those surrounded by lowlands or
19 adjacent to low-persistence sites (**Fig. 7b**). Regions classified to Thracian and Levantine
20 ancestral groups suffered from an absence of such places, notably lacking effective refugia
21 (all $p < 0.001$). In contrast, resilience was slightly higher at sites highly similar to the
22 Zagrosian group and in areas with slow turnover (both $p < 0.001$ with mean differences 0.08
23 and 0.07). There were considerable differences across SSPs. In extreme cases, newly
24 established refugia were sometimes overridden, such as in Thrace and Aegean, or even in the

1 central Anatolian plateau and the mid-portion of the Southeastern Taurus range at later stages
2 of the projection period.

3 Low persistence may lead to the replacement of local ancestry compositions with those from
4 neighboring sites or, at other times, may end up in novel ancestry compositions. The
5 disappearance of current ancestry compositions occurred relatively quickly, and their total
6 extent stabilized at around 25,000 km². In contrast, the emergence of new ancestry
7 compositions became more pronounced in the second half of the century, affecting an area of
8 up to 100,000 km². Sites suffering the most from disappearance included the eastern Black
9 Sea coast, a relatively restricted zone in South Aegean, Mount Uludağ in Marmara, northern
10 Syria, and the southern lowlands of the mid-portion of the Southeastern Taurus range (**Fig.**
11 **7c**). Emergence was prevalent in central and eastern Black Sea coast, around the Bosphorus,
12 and the Araxes River valley north of Mount Ararat in the easternmost part of Anatolia (**Fig.**
13 **7d**). In the late stage pessimistic SSP scenarios, high disappearance was predicted throughout
14 Thrace, entirely replaced by novel ancestry compositions extending to the western Black Sea
15 region. Mean differences in disappearance and emergence indices were significant between
16 sites classified to the Thracian group or others (all $p < 0.001$). The two indices were slightly
17 larger in regions with fast turnover (both $p < 0.001$ with mean differences of 0.08).

18 **DISCUSSION**

19 This study provides insights into the drivers of intra-specific turnover in honey bee ancestry
20 compositions and the complex dynamics of population structure in response to environmental
21 gradients. The findings highlight the importance of global and local factors in shaping genetic
22 differentiation among subspecies, emphasizing the role of specific climatic variables beyond
23 geographic distance in understanding ancestry turnover patterns. The spatio-temporal analyses
24 of climate change impact indicate heightened vulnerability in distinct ancestral groups and

1 underscore the need for new conservation sites to enhance the representation and resilience of
2 honey bee populations. The study highlights potential implications of introgression and
3 maladaptation in the absence of obvious reproductive barriers and has relevance to range
4 shifts and predictions of invasibility and invasive spread.

5 **4.1 Global and local drivers of intra-specific turnover**

6 One of the key outcomes of this study was the identification of global and regional drivers of
7 intra-specific turnover. The impact of localized climatic factors on the complexity of genetic
8 differentiation highlights the importance of considering regional contexts and fine-scale
9 ecological patterns (Kim et al., 2023). The global dissimilarity model relied on precipitation
10 and potential evapotranspiration levels during the wettest and driest periods—essential
11 predictors of soil moisture gradients, plant phenology, and community structure (Zhu et al.,
12 2016; Liu et al., 2022; Dudenhöffer et al., 2022). Changes in phenology and composition
13 affect periodic resource availability and diversity, require life-history adaptations, and can
14 drive shifts in insect phenology involving polygenic effects (Alstad et al., 2016; Grünzweig et
15 al., 2022). Among temperature-associated variables, the minimum temperature of the warmest
16 period played a significant role. While extreme maxima define heat tolerance limits and can
17 affect sperm viability and queen failure (Sinervo et al., 2010; McAfee et al., 2020), minimum
18 temperature levels during the warmest period might act as a response threshold for epigenetic,
19 physiological, or behavioral adaptations in thermoregulation (Stabentheiner et al., 2022;
20 Zhang et al., 2022; Alghamdi & Alattal, 2023; Alattal & Alghamdi, 2023). Bees adapted to
21 hotter environments exhibit extended foraging durations and ranges in their natural habitats
22 compared to exotic subspecies (Alattal & Alghamdi, 2015).

23 Levantine ancestry responded strongly to minTwarm, and moisture-related variables were
24 particularly predictive for Caucasian ancestry. *A. m. syriaca* bees exhibit adaptations to

1 elevated temperatures, including smaller size, lighter coloration, and shorter hair (Ruttner,
2 1988), while *caucasica* bees are large, dark, and hairy propolis hoarders (Kekeçoğlu et al.,
3 2020). Both subspecies display divergent behaviors adaptive to their native distributions
4 (Brillet et al., 2002; Çakmak et al., 2010; Kence et al., 2013; Claudio et al., 2018; Yıldız &
5 Karabağ, 2022). Additionally, Zagrosian ancestry within the native range of subspecies *meda*
6 was most sensitive to continentality and isothermality. Differential neural, hormonal, and
7 developmental responses across local populations shape the physiological and behavioral
8 plasticity of bees in response to thermal fluctuations (Willmer & Stone, 2004; Grodzicki &
9 Caputa, 2014; Abram et al., 2017; González-Tokman, 2020). Temperature oscillations
10 distinctly affect populations and survival, causing up-regulated stress responses during
11 cooling or heating (Fahrenholz et al., 1989; Torson et al., 2015; Mucci et al., 2021; Kaya-
12 Zeeb et al., 2022). For instance, temperature increase rates influenced the critical thermal
13 limits of *scutellata*-hybrids derived from African bees (Gonzalez et al., 2022). Besides direct
14 impacts on individual and colony levels, thermal fluctuations are associated with plant
15 productivity, pollen richness, land cover, and nutrition (Reitalu et al., 2019; Niemczyk et al.,
16 2021), which can affect foraging and colony health.

17 Although climatic variables contributed significantly to the captured variance, spatial
18 processes captured by MEMs in GFs and geographic distance in global GDM were the most
19 critical predictors of intra-specific turnover. These results suggest that geographic distance
20 and environmental factors not captured by other predictors have shaped genetic differentiation
21 among honey bee populations, as observed in various species (Vanhove et al., 2021; Lima-
22 Rezende et al., 2022). Physical barriers emerged as another geographic mechanism leading to
23 isolation. Despite small ecological distances and gene flow across the Bosphorus and
24 Dardanelles straits, the Sea of Marmara formed a major boundary between western Anatolia
25 and Thrace. Similarly, the transition from *syriaca* to *meda* and *anatoliaca* was primarily

1 aligned with the Taurus Mountains. Consistent with other species, isolation by environment
2 was evident along ecological boundaries and gradients, attributable to rapid ecological
3 changes on the East Anatolian Plateau and the Anatolian Diagonal (Bilgin, 2011; Gür, 2016;
4 Nielsen et al., 2021). When ecological barriers to gene flow are in place, only a limited
5 number of alleles beneficial at both sides of the barrier may introgress (Akerman & Bürger,
6 2014). Without barriers or strong selection pressure, populations widely admix and
7 homogenize.

8 **4.2 Climate vulnerability in the form of declining persistence and resilience**

9 Our temporal analyses of climate change impact raise concerns about the persistence and
10 resilience of honey bee diversity. Persistence is uneven across the study area, indicating that
11 local populations may experience changes in ancestry compositions and suggesting current
12 geographically structured genetic diversity is vulnerable to climate change. Shrinking regions
13 of exceptional uniqueness, dramatic declines in the proportion of sites with high similarity to
14 any of the ancestral groups, and physical shifts at sites of fast turnover and along transition
15 zones all point to wider admixture across the landscape. Climate change-induced
16 hybridization in insect populations can result in introgression, genetic swamping, shifts in
17 hybrid zone boundaries, species fusions, invasions, and local extinctions (Arce-Valdés &
18 Sánchez-Guillén, 2022).

19 Except for *syriaca* adapted to elevated temperatures, local subspecies consistently shrink
20 under each forecast, with the Thracian ancestral group being particularly threatened. Although
21 physical barriers like the Sea of Marmara and the Taurus Mountains may buffer the spread of
22 Levantine ancestry to Anatolia and Anatolian ancestry to Thrace, bees with Levantine
23 ancestry appear to gain a competitive advantage over time, potentially initiating invasive
24 dynamics. Interestingly, morphometric analyses of honey bee samples from the Jordan

1 Valley, dating back 3000 years, suggest a different geographical distribution of subspecies in
2 the past, with shifts from local *anatoliaca* ancestry to *syriaca* (Bloch et al., 2010).
3 Intriguingly, *syriaca* bees are not favored by beekeepers due to their high defensiveness,
4 tendency to swarm, and low honey yields. So, it is unlikely that this shift was human-
5 mediated but rather was the outcome of past climate alterations. Our predictions about rapid
6 shifts in ancestry compositions align with ecological forecasts for other insects, showing a
7 mix of winners and losers (Neupane et al., 2024). Given their ectothermic nature, insect
8 physiology and trophic or community interactions highly depend on ambient temperatures,
9 rendering them vulnerable to warming and temperature extremes (Chen et al., 2011; Harvey et
10 al., 2020). Furthermore, populations with enhanced survival responses to increased drought
11 frequency and intensity have an evolutionary advantage (Exposito-Alonso et al., 2018).

12 Potential refugia for current ancestry compositions, concentrating around mountainous areas,
13 decline across years and SSPs. Regions inhabited by Thracian and Levantine ancestral groups
14 lack refugia, impairing resilience with increasing disappearance and emergence indices. Insect
15 populations show diverse resilience through shifts and adaptations amid rapid anthropogenic
16 change (Lancaster et al., 2016; Dudaniec et al., 2018; Halsch et al., 2021; McCulloch &
17 Waters, 2023). Geographically restricted alpine species with limited dispersal face increased
18 extinction risks, while surviving upland insect lineages may rapidly adapt (Kinzner et al.,
19 2019; Shah et al., 2020). In our models, newly established mountainous refugia were
20 sometimes overridden in later stages of pessimistic scenarios. In these instances, ecological
21 similarity between the study area and sampling sites gradually declined. This increase in
22 survey gaps underscores the importance of intensified monitoring and further sampling at
23 those sites. Monitoring intraspecific genetic diversity is crucial for understanding species'
24 adaptation to changing environments and mitigating climate-induced risks, particularly in
25 vulnerable regions (Pearman et al., 2024).

1 Climate responses can be asymmetric, often showing sharp declines beyond certain upper
2 thresholds. Projected climate risks are significantly amplified under the SSP585 scenario
3 compared to SSP126, underscoring the urgency for stringent emission controls. Considering
4 the higher equilibrium climate sensitivity in the CMIP6 models, scenarios where warming
5 exceeds 4 °C might not be unrealistic (Lee et al., 2023). Therefore, our results incorporating
6 all four SSPs may serve as a baseline for understanding the climate vulnerability of honey bee
7 populations. This vulnerability and the novel nature of human-mediated gene flow associated
8 with climate change threaten populations alongside ongoing anthropogenic impacts from
9 migratory beekeeping and trade (Kükreer et al., 2021). Although we focused on Anatolia and
10 Thrace for our model system, our approach holds importance for monitoring and conserving
11 managed and wild honey bee populations in neighboring countries such as Azerbaijan,
12 Armenia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Iran, Iraq, and Syria. While our study addresses
13 managed honey bees, feral populations and wild pollinators might face similar environmental
14 challenges (Jaffe et al., 2010; Requier et al., 2019). Additionally, our modeling approach
15 could benefit both domestic and wild animal and plant species, particularly non-native
16 established and invasive ones in the Mediterranean, where similar pressures drive invasions.

17 **4.3 Assessing and enhancing conservation strategies through resemblance analyses**

18 This initial assessment provides essential first steps in genetic monitoring and systematic
19 conservation planning of honey bee populations. It collates specimen and genetic data across
20 the country, identifies conservation goals, evaluates existing conservation sites, and helps
21 expansion designs (Kukkala & Moilanen, 2013). Our findings have significant implications
22 for breeding and conservation management, emphasizing the potential benefits of
23 incorporating genetic and environmental factors to evaluate complementarity and
24 representativeness (Sarkar, 2006). Incorporating environmental variation in conservation
25 decision-making is feasible when cross-taxon surrogates are unavailable (Rodrigues &

1 Brooks, 2007). Hanson et al. (2017) confirmed that environmental and geographic variation
2 could predict adaptive and neutral genetic variation in 27 plant species over the European
3 Alps. Our assessment of GCA resemblance highlights the need to identify and incorporate
4 new conservation sites to enhance ancestral group representation. According to our analysis,
5 *A. m. meda* is currently unprotected, making it an urgent conservation priority.

6 Our analyses show that freely evolving GCAs may shift in ancestry compositions in response
7 to environmental change. Alarming, sites with low persistence overlap with established
8 GCAs. Thrace, the Aegean coast, and parts of the Caucasus range, each housing GCAs, suffer
9 from low persistence. Moreover, sites resembling GCAs exhibit significantly reduced
10 persistence. Breeding programs often depend on locally adapted geographic forms, yet
11 climate change may significantly impact protected areas (Geldmann et al., 2019). Our study
12 indicates that local genetic stocks in conservation sites might be maladapted to future
13 conditions like many other animal and plant species (Hoffmann, 2010; Breed et al., 2013;
14 Henry, 2016; Marsh et al., 2021). When selecting new GCAs, choosing sites with high
15 persistence and resilience indices might be adaptive against invasibility. Assessing the climate
16 efficacy of current GCAs by computing resemblance indices for future rasters could also be
17 beneficial. Additionally, identifying current sites with a lowered resemblance to future GCAs
18 can highlight those with eroding conservation statuses. See **Supplementary Text** for an
19 extended discussion on conservation planning strategies.

20 **4.4 Methodological considerations and enhancements**

21 We assume past trends have been stable and current states reflect an optimally balanced
22 situation. Complexity and difficulty in specifying ecological niches make predicting novel
23 system states in response to change challenging. The unpredictability is further exacerbated
24 by computational irreducibility, where evolution may be considered a chaotic process with

1 low intrinsic predictability (Coreau et al., 2009; Doebeli & Ispolatov, 2010; Beckage et al.,
2 2011). We employed six general circulation models across four SSPs and four periods to
3 address challenges associated with future climate unpredictability. Additionally, we
4 implemented a rigorous variable selection procedure, considering variance inflation factors
5 and GF outcomes before modeling dissimilarities. Despite the robustness of our models,
6 forecasting ancestry estimates is challenging due to unknown physiological limits, intragroup
7 genetic diversity affecting adaptive capacities, developmental plasticity, and specific plant-
8 pollinator interactions (Franks et al., 2014; Keeler et al., 2021). Still, our turnover predictions
9 can be seen as an assessment of ongoing pressures and climatic stress on local populations
10 that must cope with environmental transformations. The increased mismatch between existing
11 gene combinations and the environment can undermine resilience.

12 To our knowledge, we employed GDM to model ancestry estimates and forecast intra-specific
13 turnover in ancestry compositions for the first time. Previous research has mainly relied on
14 genetic distances or differentiation indices, which may underestimate the true magnitude of
15 local adaptation (DeMarche et al., 2019). Instead of reducing population differentiation to a
16 single metric like F_{st} , we used ancestry compositions as a multi-dimensional proxy to
17 represent local-scale processes. Forecasting with multi-dimensional ancestry compositions is
18 viable, as neighboring populations with similar environmental constraints to future site
19 conditions may already exhibit preadaptations (Davis & Shaw, 2001). Elevated habitat
20 suitability correlates positively with gene flow across landscapes, supported by both
21 theoretical frameworks and empirical evidence from phylogeographical and landscape genetic
22 studies (Auffret et al., 2017; Knowles & Massatti, 2017; Massatti & Winkler, 2022).

23 Space-for-time substitution is supported by common garden experiments and fossil data when
24 spatial and temporal models capture comparable climate dissimilarities as in our models
25 (Blois et al., 2013; Lovell et al., 2023). For honey bee subspecies, common garden

1 experiments underline the role of competitive advantage provided by local adaptations (Costa
2 et al., 2012; Hatjina et al., 2014; Büchler et al., 2014; Meixner et al., 2014; Uzunov et al.,
3 2014). Under competitive advantage, *scutellata*-European hybrids derived from non-native
4 African bees introduced to Brazil colonized the New World in less than 50 years, only to be
5 halted at hybrid zones in California and Argentina. Besides, highland populations showed a
6 notable decrease in *scutellata* ancestry compared to lowlands, with ancestry compositions
7 correlating between populations in similar habitats despite a large geographical separation
8 (Everitt et al., 2023). While Calfee et al. (2020) confirmed the genomic cohesion and
9 polygenic basis of the rapid expansion of *scutellata* ancestry and related fitness costs in cooler
10 climates, they faced challenges identifying the precise environmental variables driving the
11 relationship in intra-specific turnover. Our findings bring honey bees to the list of species
12 with comparative studies providing essential evidence on ecological factors and
13 environmental gradients influencing variations in insect abundance and diversity (Blüthgen et
14 al., 2022).

15 The four vulnerability indices (persistence, resilience, disappearance, and emergence) provide
16 specific averages across scenario-period combinations to understand consistent and
17 continuous impacts. Additionally, we introduce a highly sensitive classification approach,
18 using sites with highly unadmixed samples to predict expected cluster distributions jointly
19 from genetic and environmental variables. This supervised approach can be applied across
20 different taxonomic levels, ecosystems, and communities while classifying biodiversity. Our
21 simplified method for computing forward and reverse offsets is faster and less
22 computationally demanding—a suitable tool for the developing world where computational
23 resources might be limited (see **Supplementary Text** for an extended discussion on the
24 methodology). Our streamlined approach and the provided **Supplementary Code** are
25 instrumental for vulnerability assessment and enable straightforward interpretation.

1 CONCLUSION

2 Our research sheds light on the drivers of intra-specific turnover in ancestry compositions
3 across honey bee populations. Spatial analyses integrating GFs and GDMs provide insights
4 into the diversity patterns and turnover dynamics. Our findings underscore spatial processes
5 and specific climatic variables influential in genetic differentiation. Furthermore, declining
6 persistence and resilience levels reveal the vulnerability of honey bee populations against
7 climate change. These results highlight the urgent need to identify and incorporate new
8 conservation sites to enhance the representation and resilience of ancestral groups. Overall,
9 this study contributes essential knowledge to honey bee biogeography, facilitating informed
10 conservation strategies to safeguard their unique diversity and persistence in the face of global
11 change.

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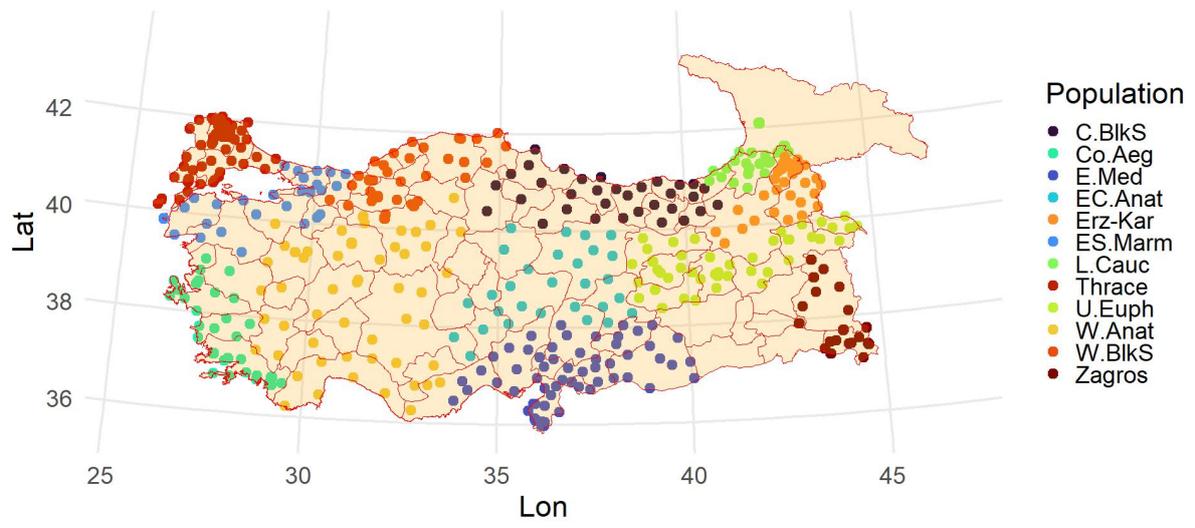
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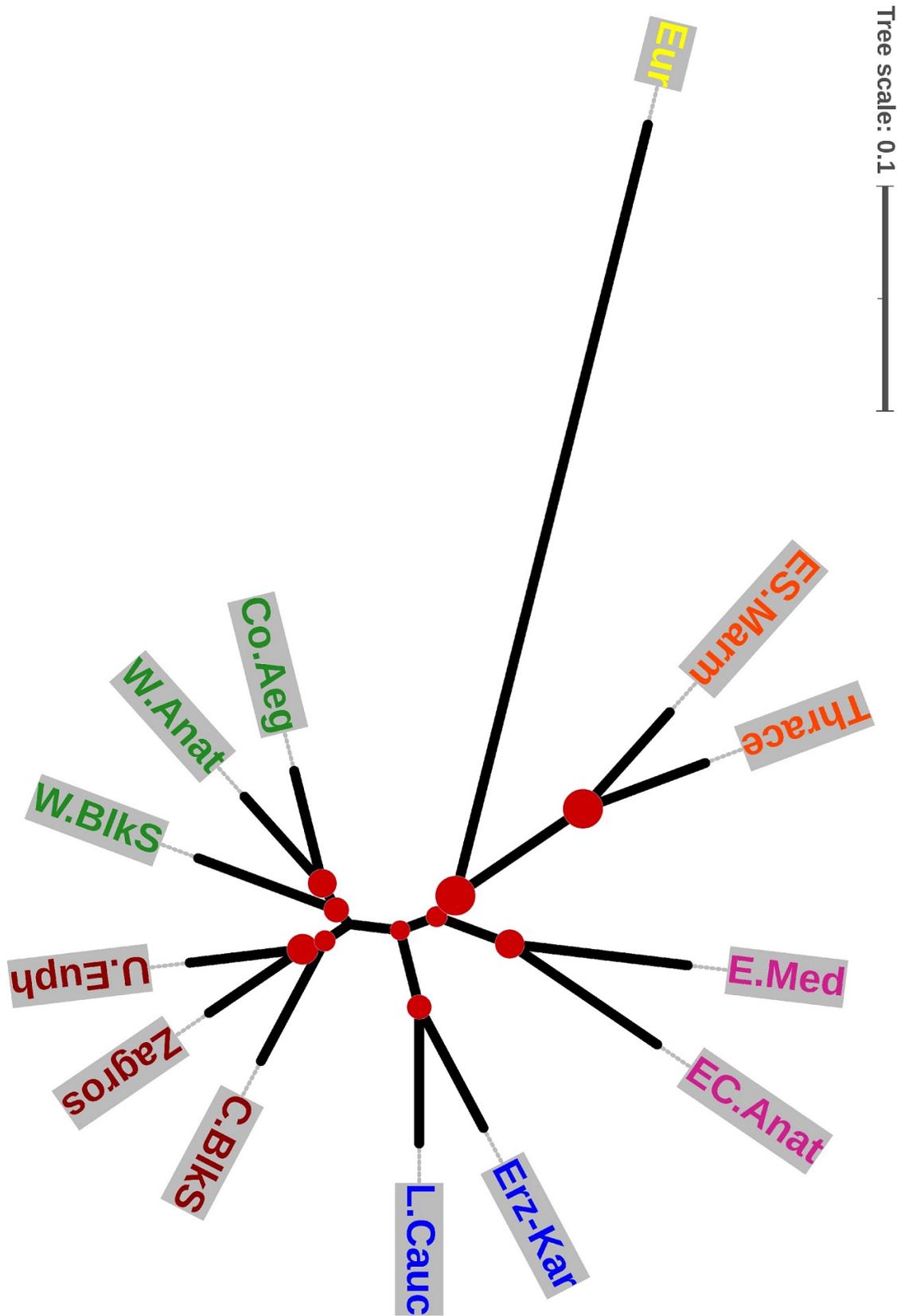
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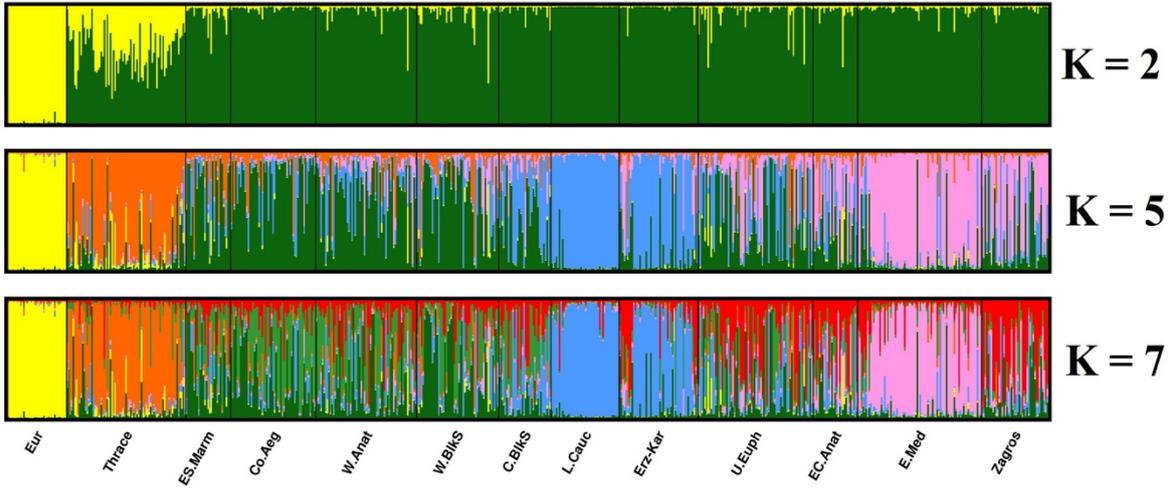
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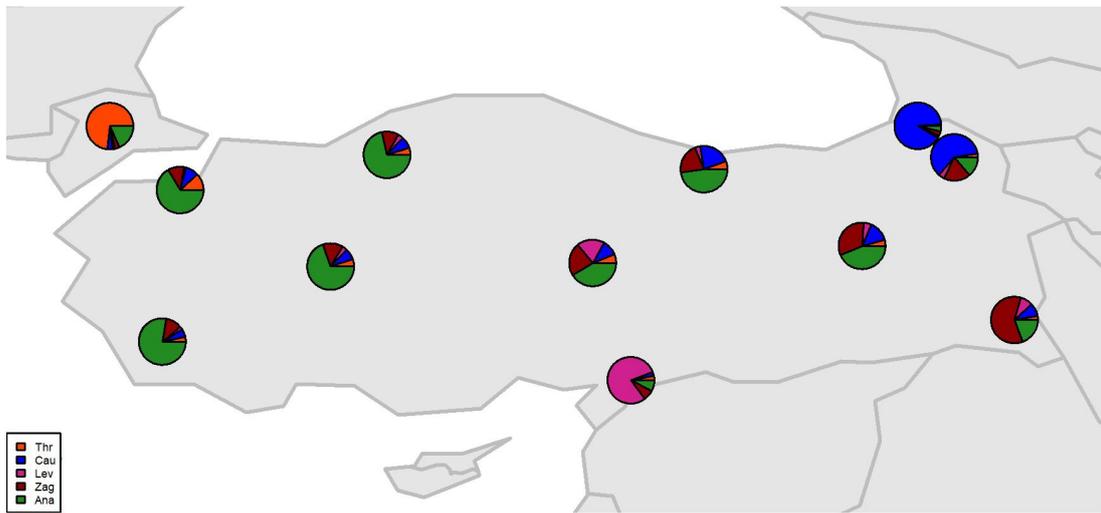


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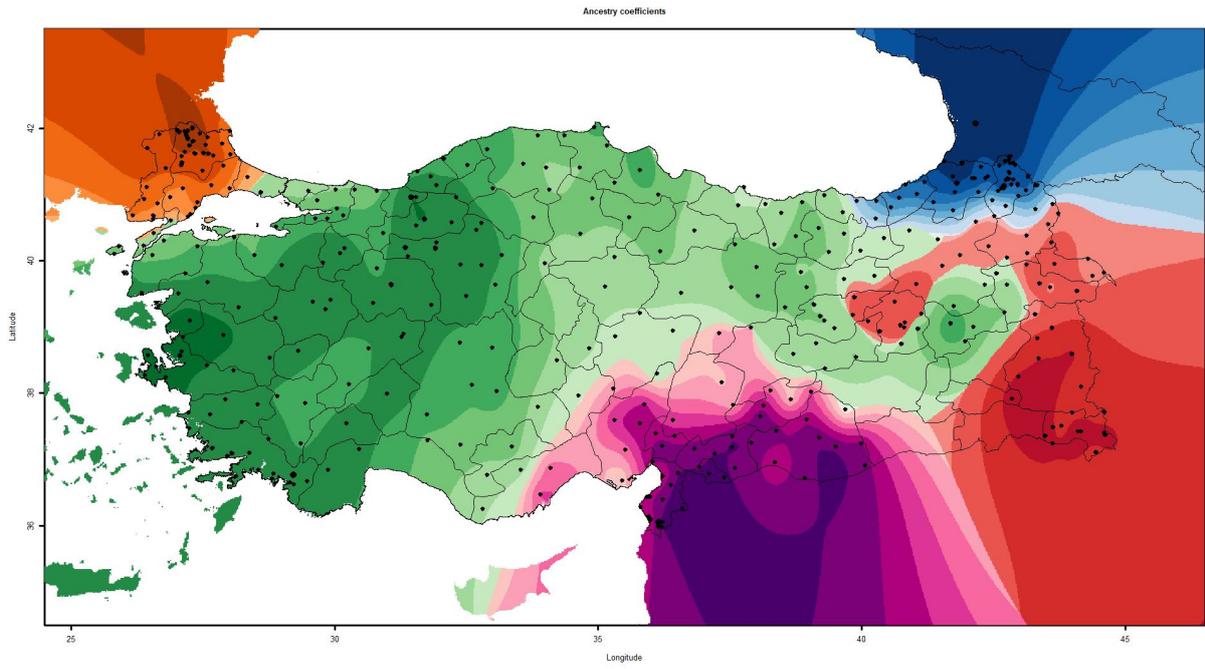




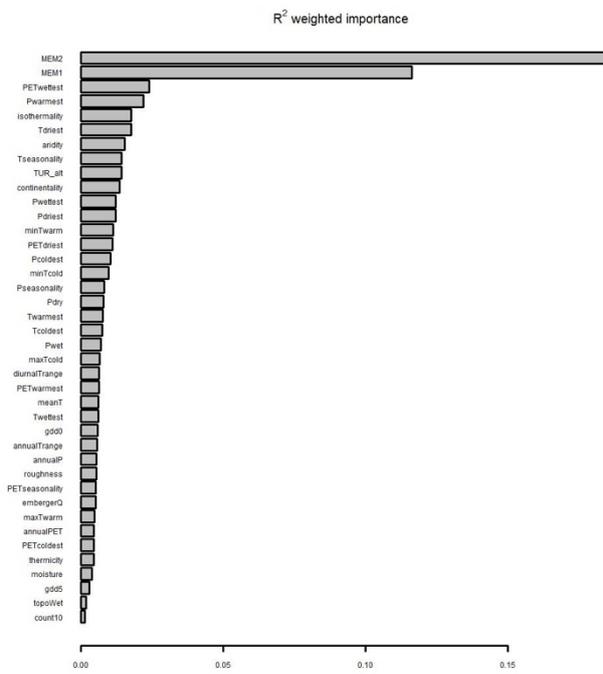
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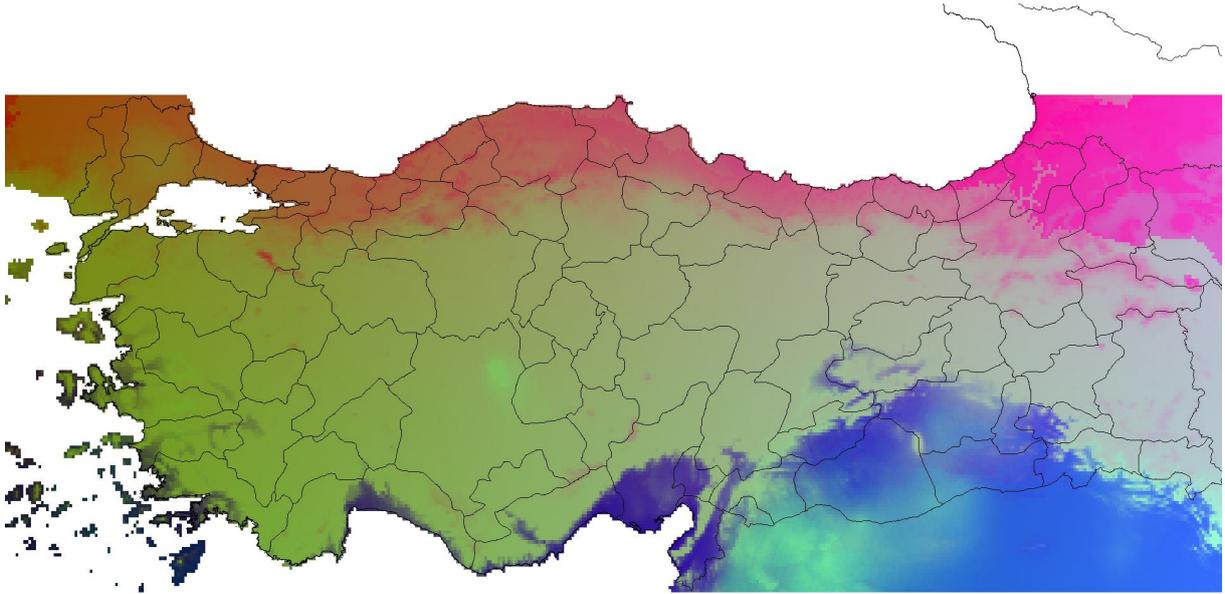
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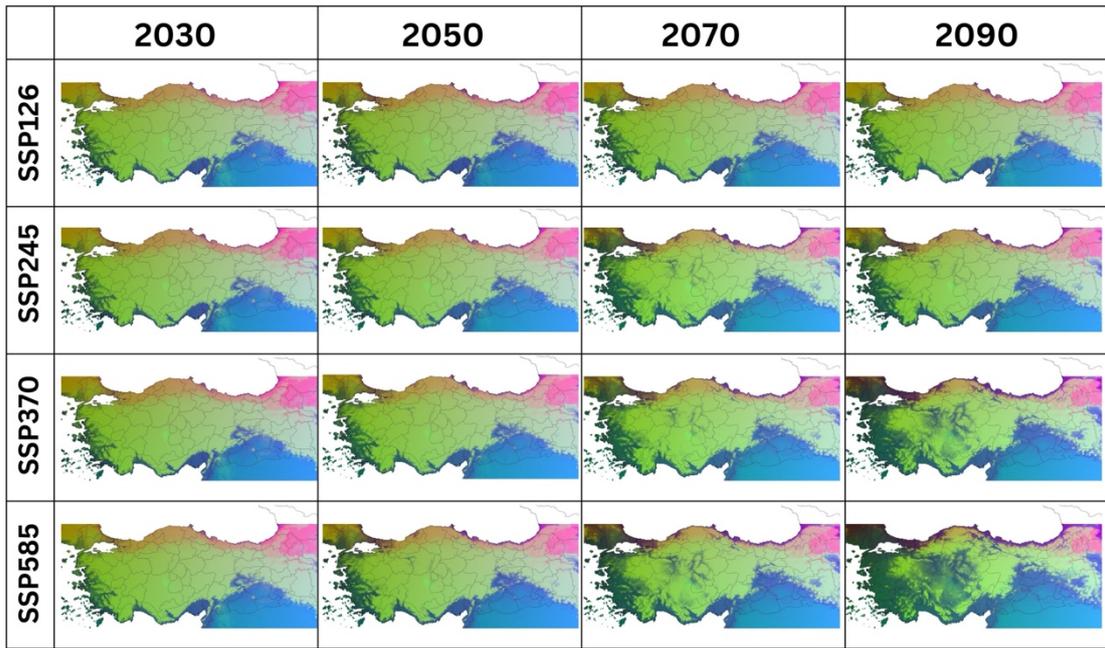
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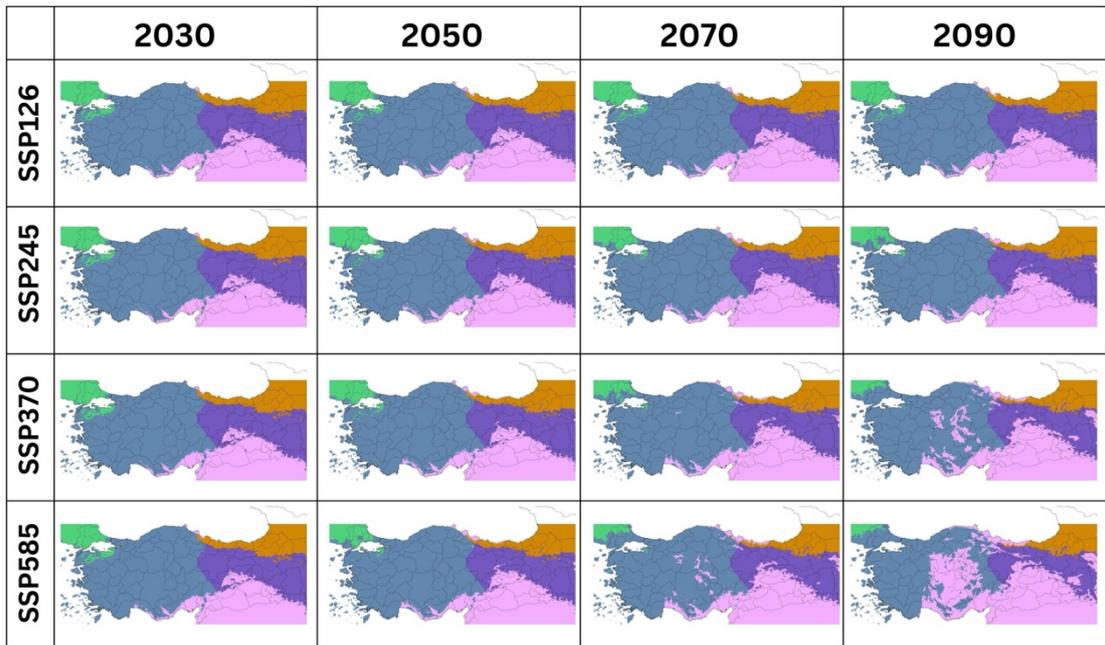
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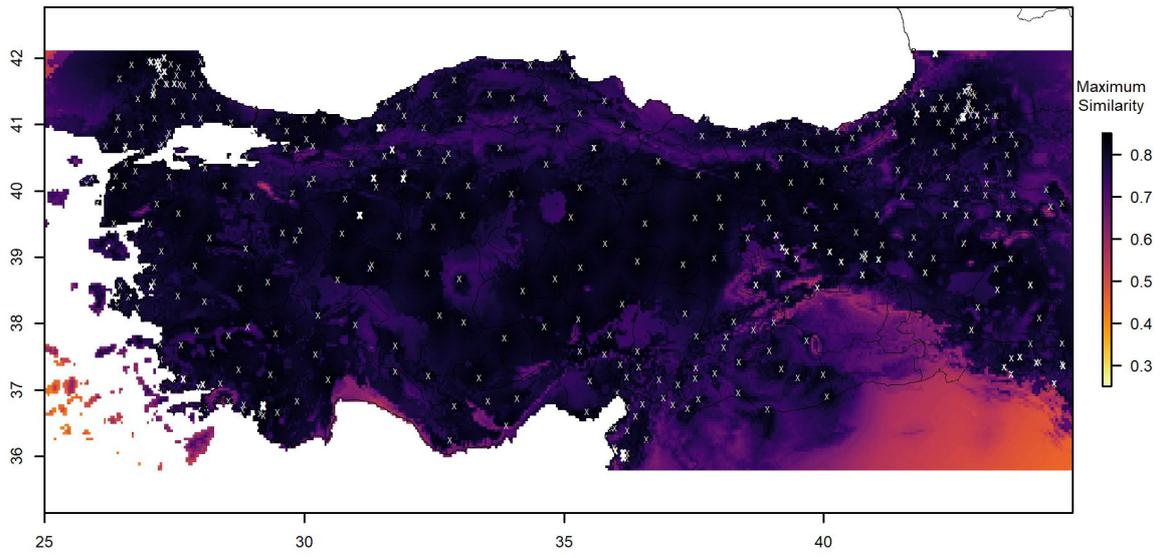
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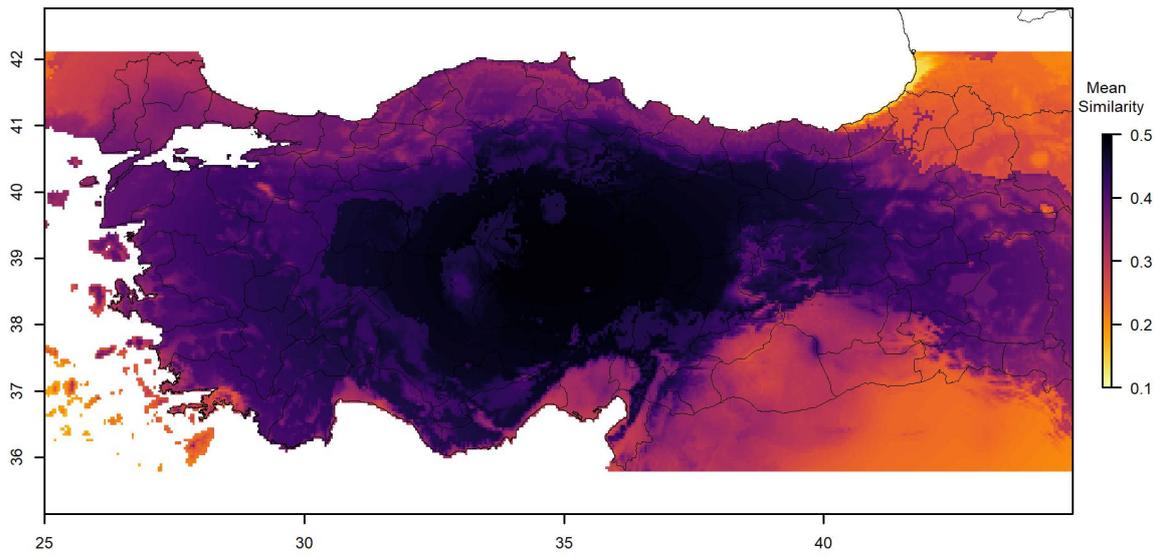
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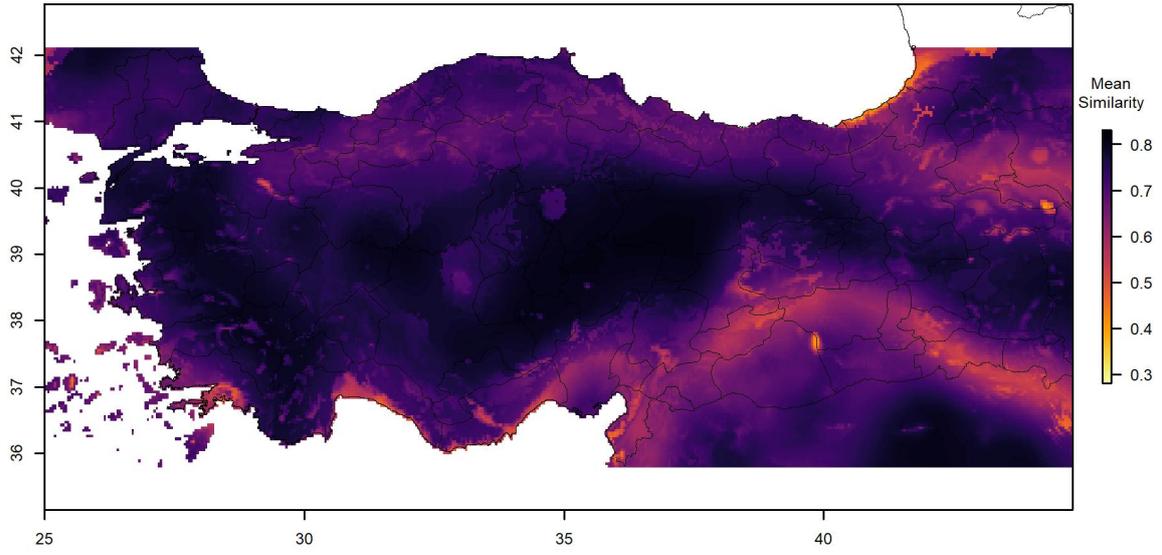
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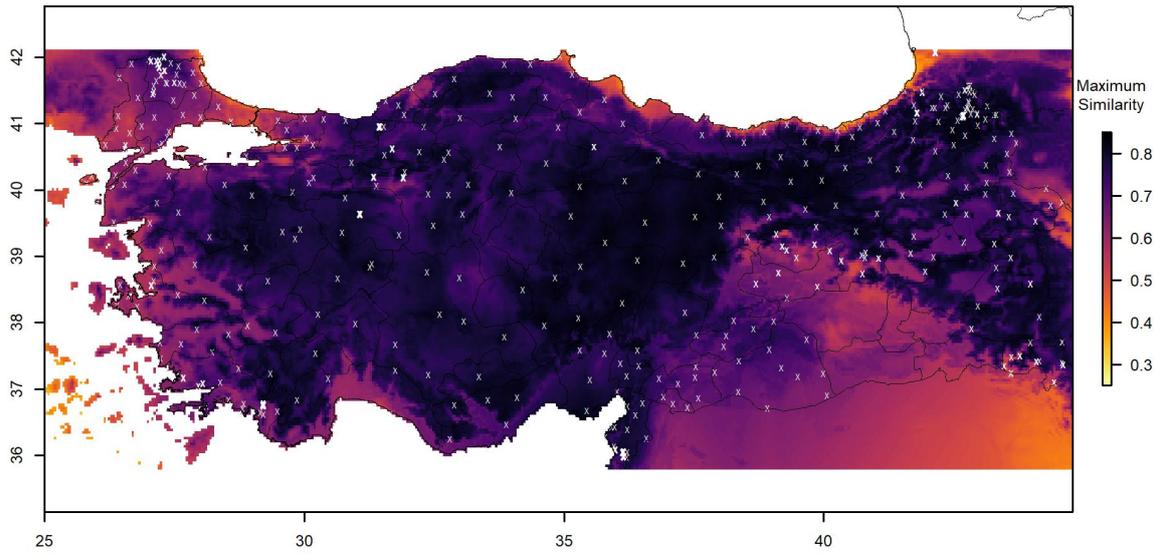
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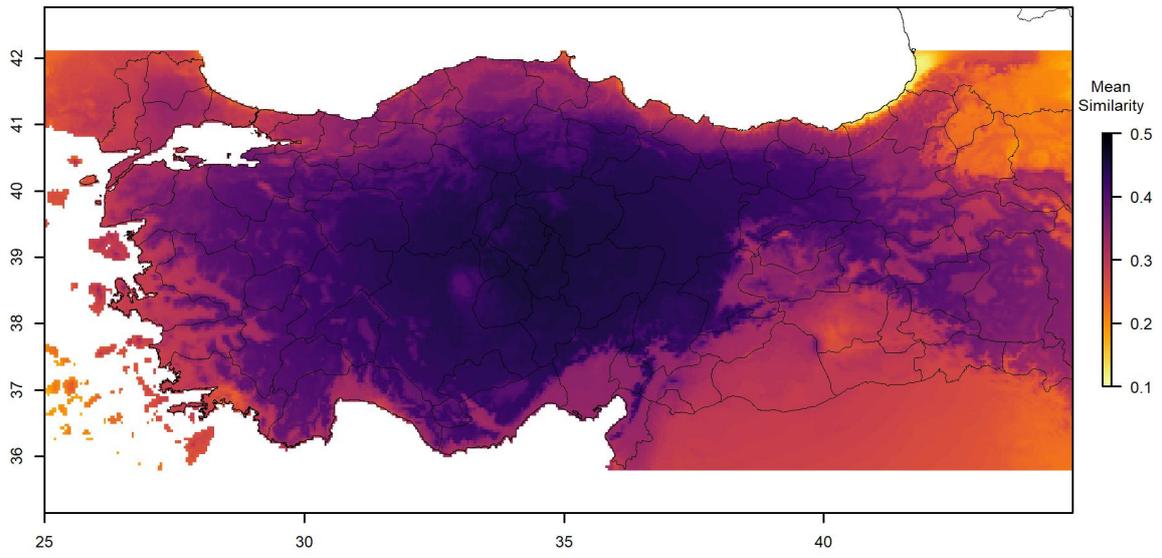
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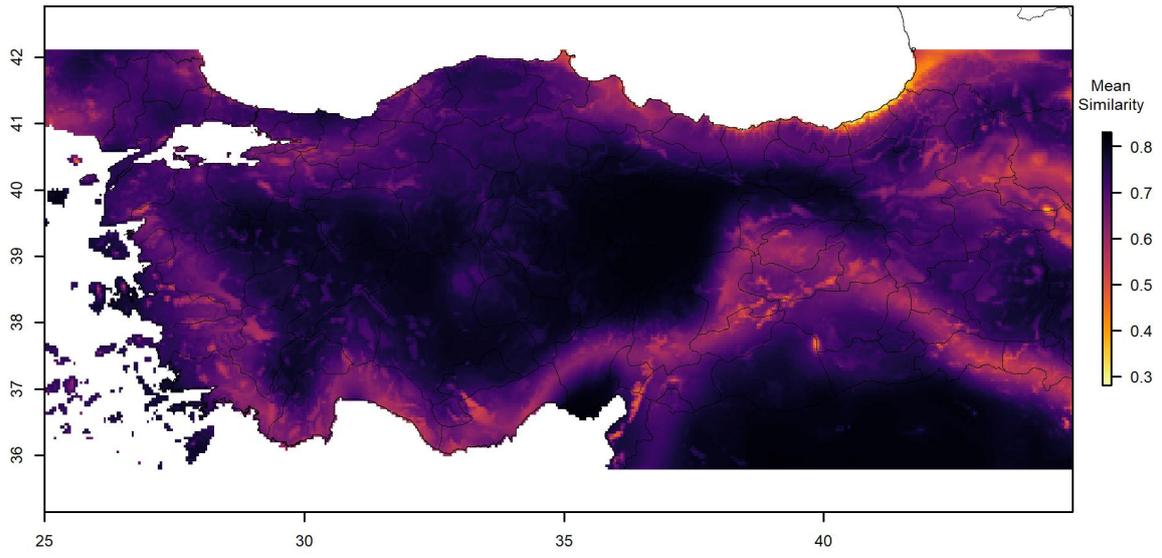
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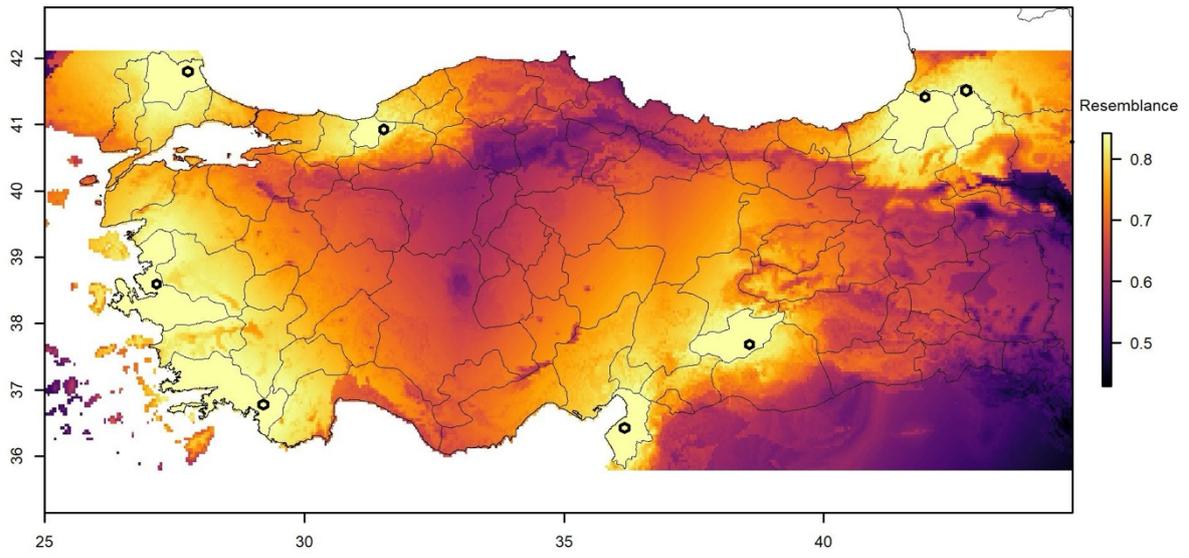
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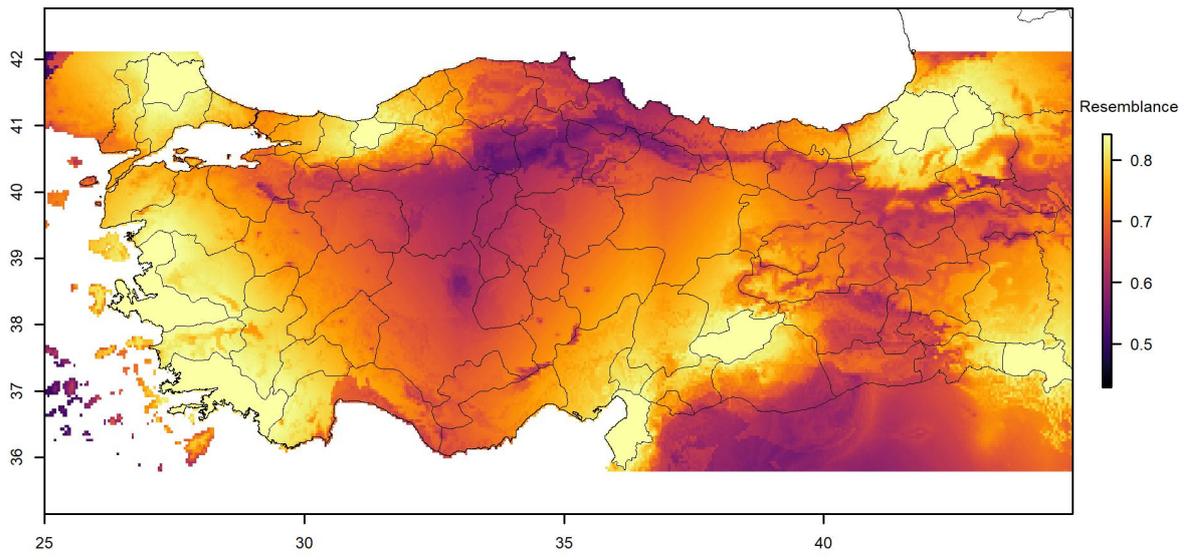
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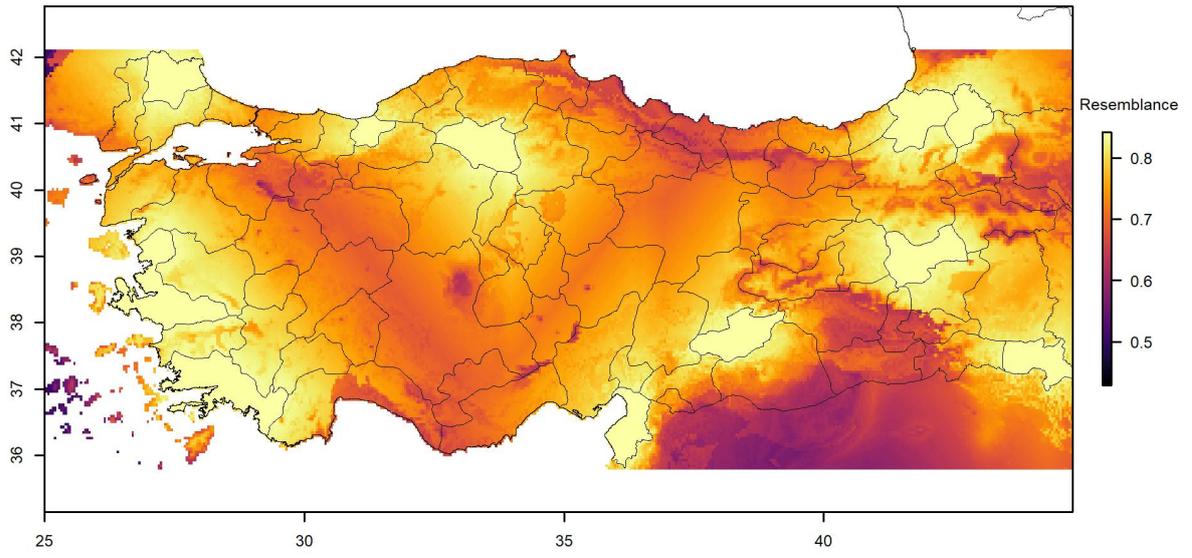
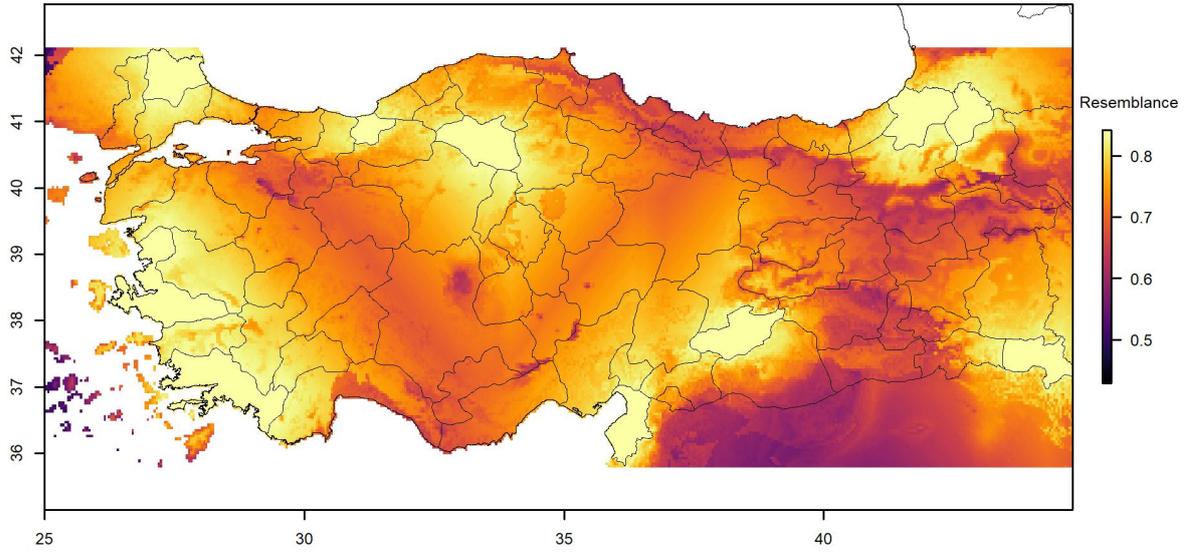
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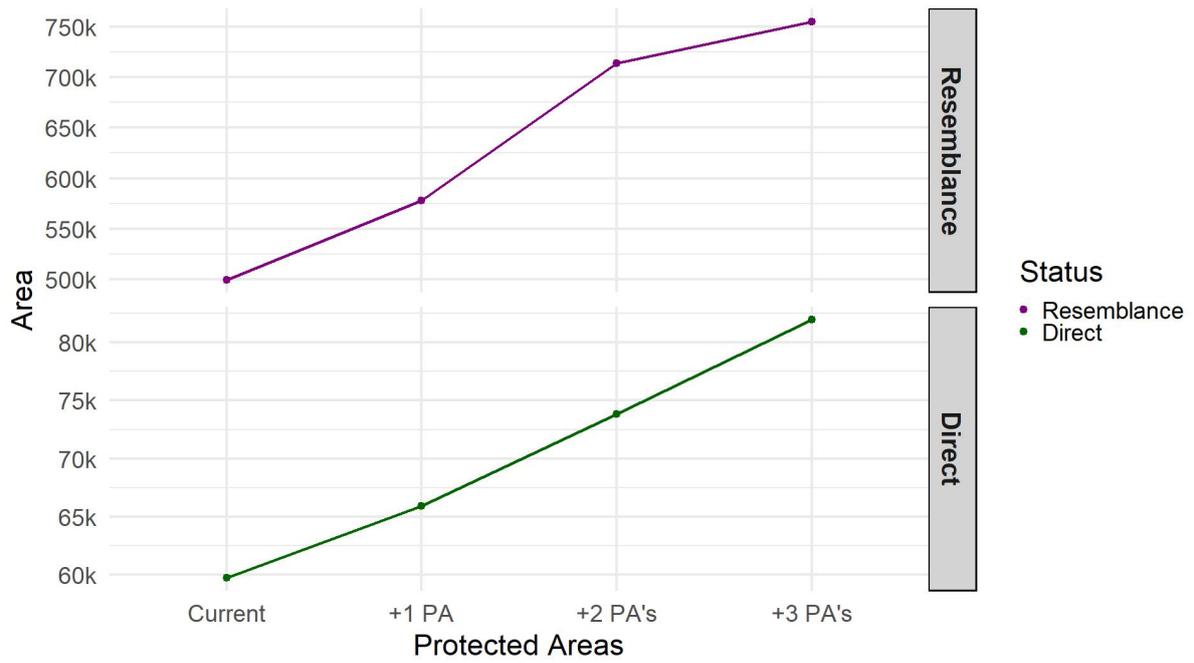


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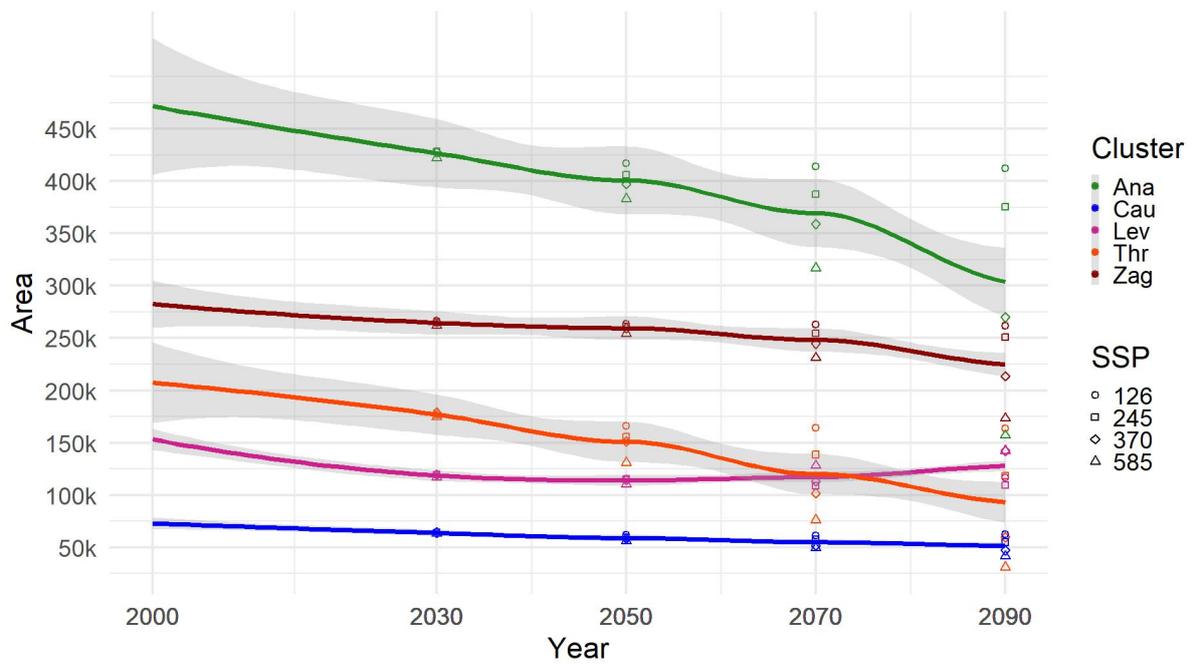


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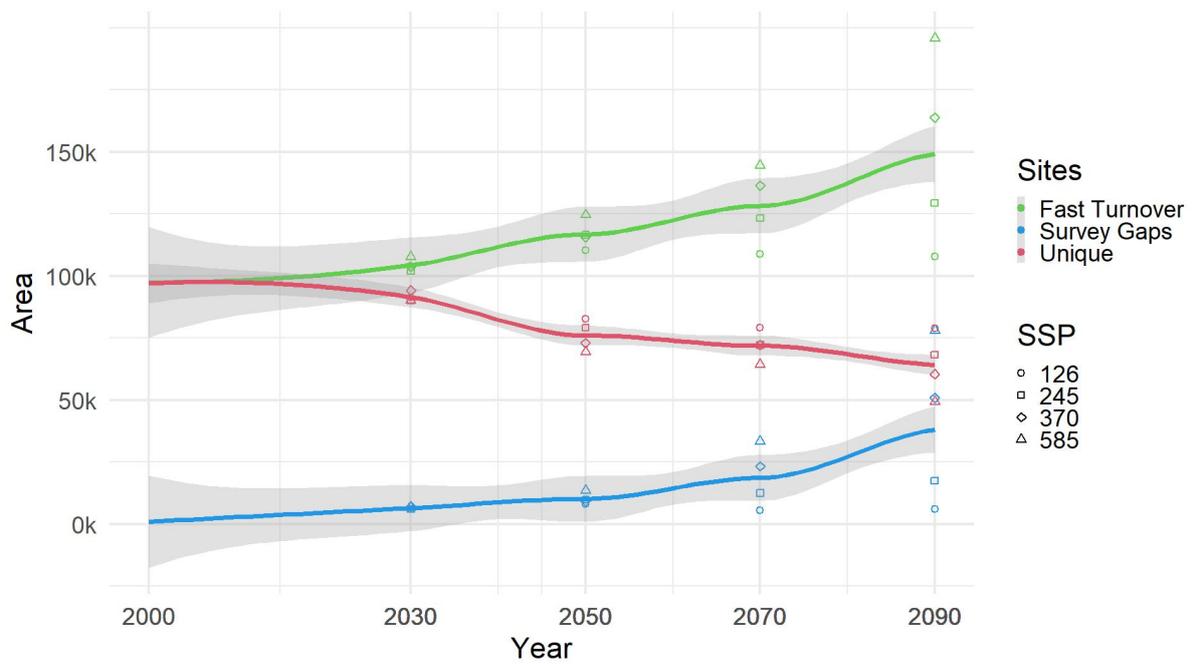
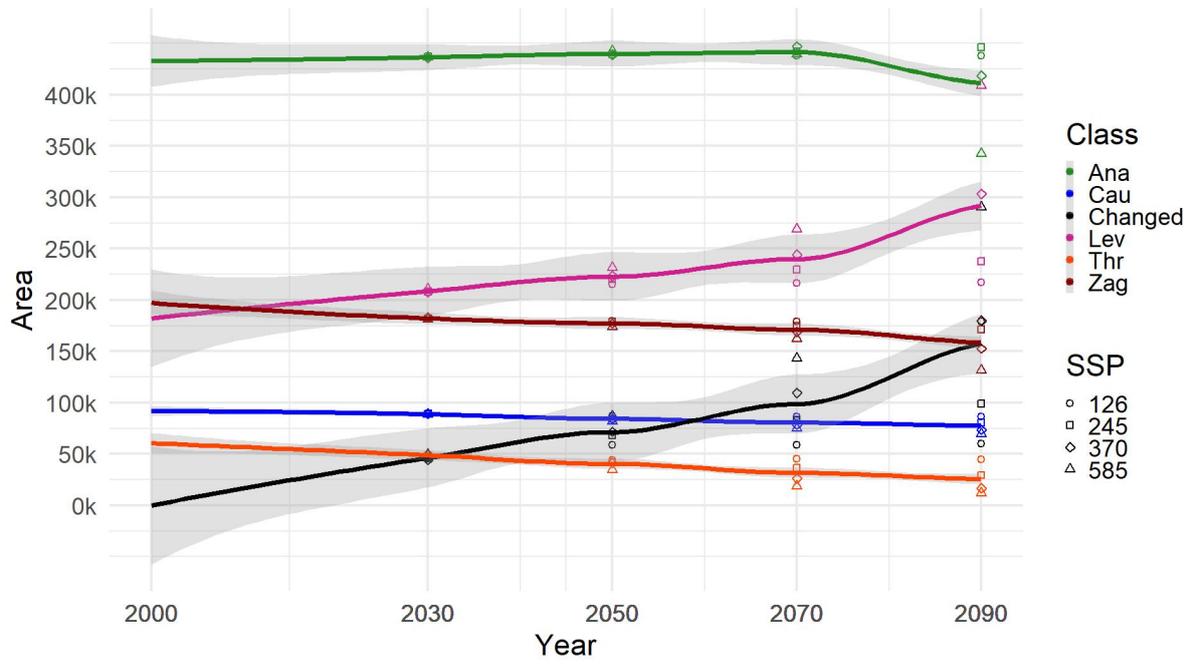


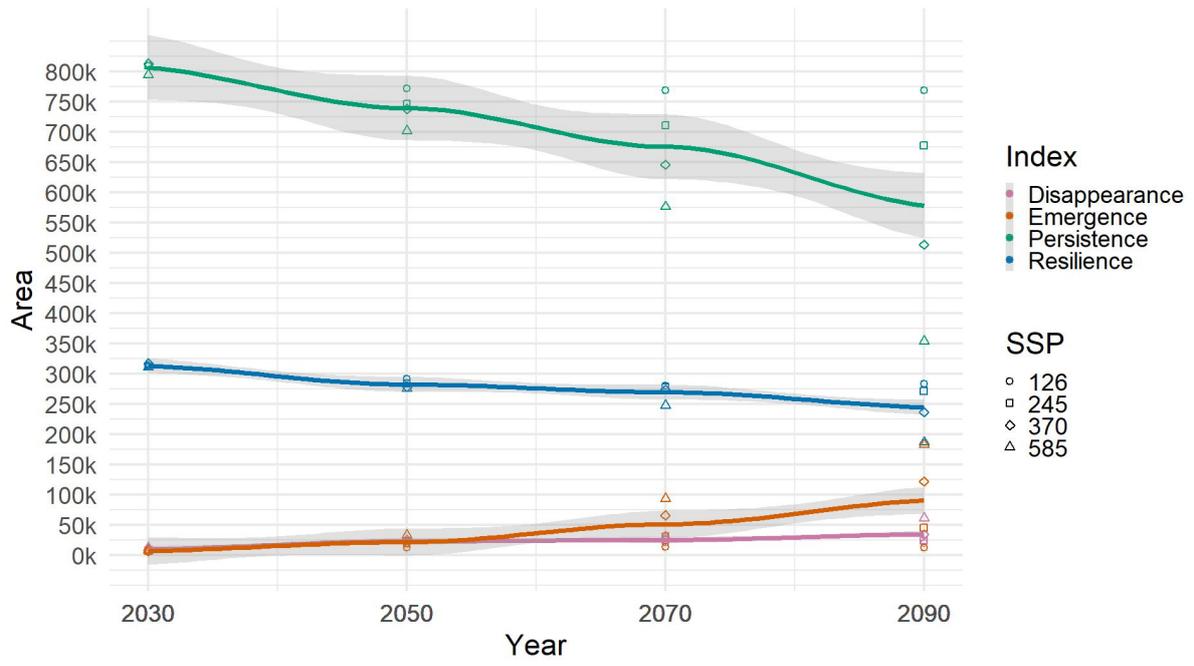


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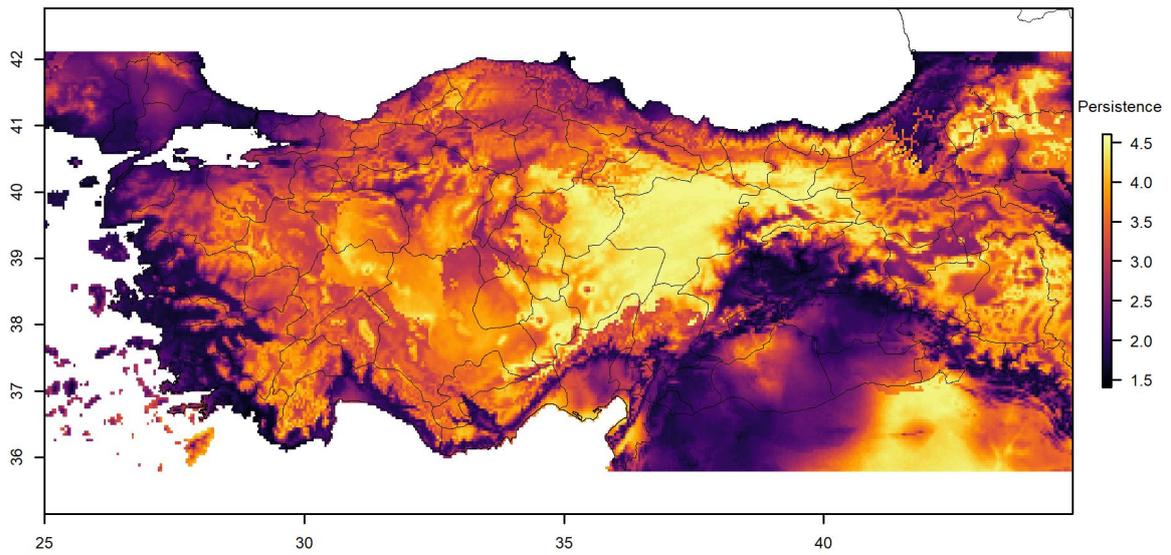


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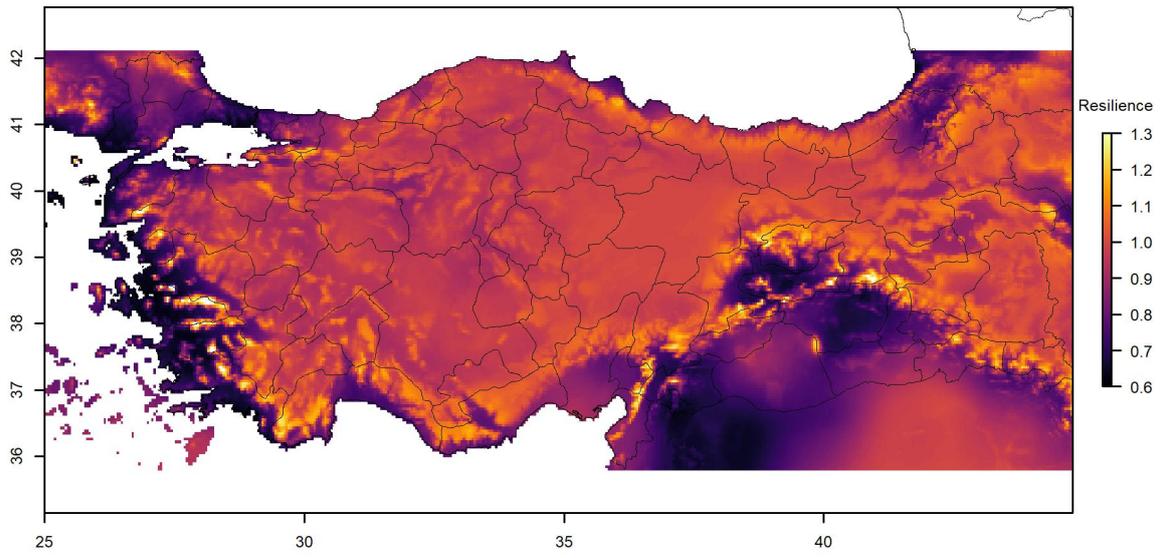




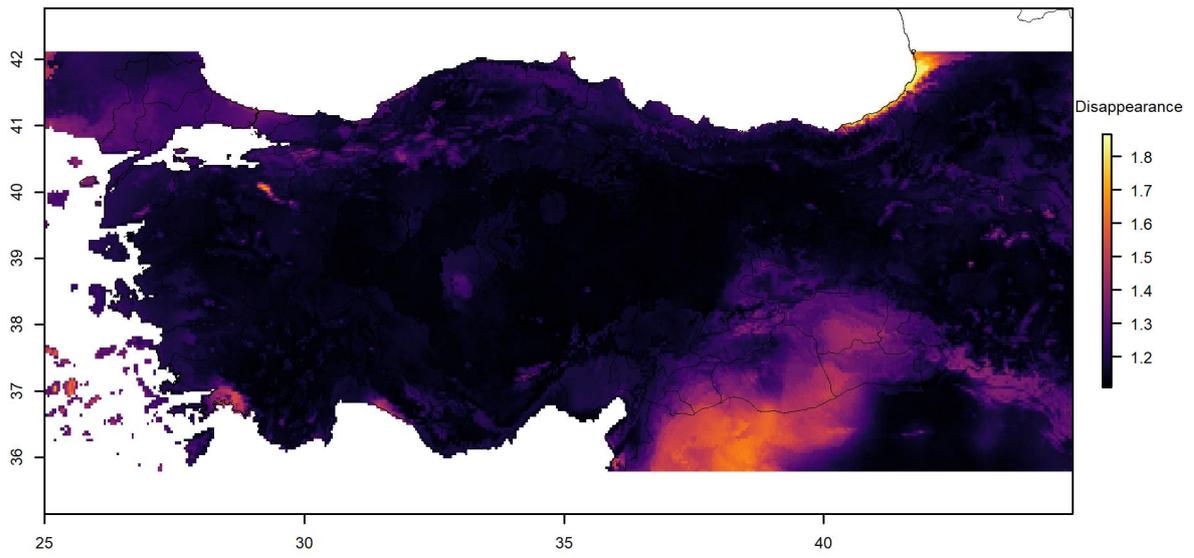
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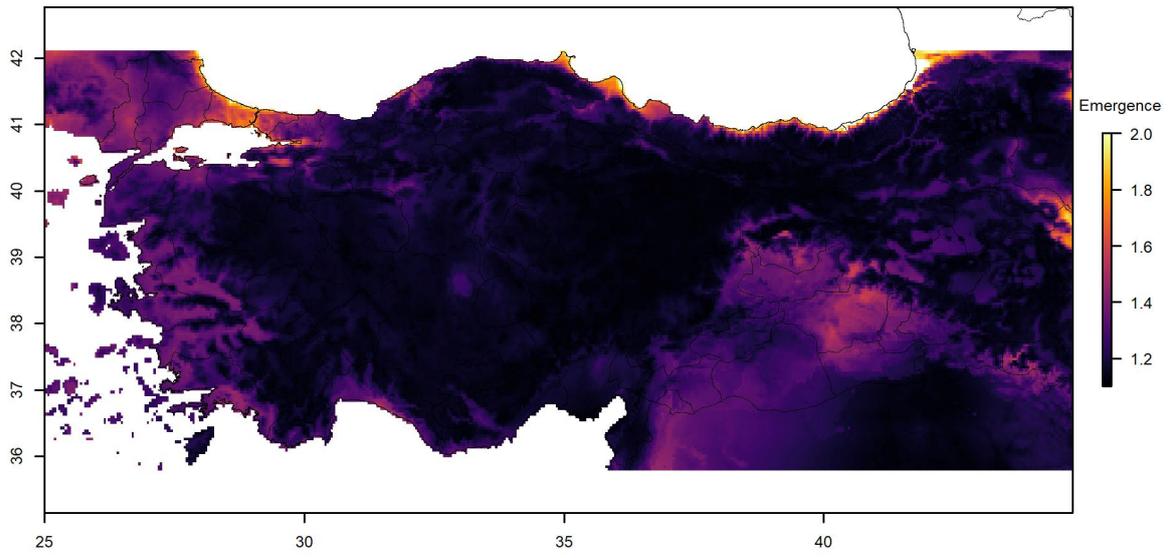
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