

# 1 **European pollen-based REVEALS land-cover reconstructions for the** 2 **Holocene: methodology, mapping and potentials**

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31 **Abstract.** Quantitative reconstructions of past land-cover are necessary to determine the processes involved in climate-human-  
32 land cover interactions. We present the first temporally continuous and most spatially extensive pollen-based land-cover  
33 reconstruction for Europe over the Holocene (last 11,700 cal yr BP). We describe how vegetation cover has been quantified  
34 from pollen records at a 1°x1° spatial scale using the ‘Regional Estimates of VEgetation Abundance from Large Sites’  
35 (REVEALS) model. REVEALS calculates estimates of past regional vegetation cover in proportions or percentages.  
36 REVEALS has been applied to 1128 pollen records across Europe and part of the Eastern Mediterranean-Black Sea-Caspian-  
37 Corridor (30°-75°N, 25°W-50°E) to reconstruct the percentage cover of 31 plant taxa assigned to 12 plant functional types  
38 (PFTs) and 3 land-cover types (LCTs). A new synthesis of relative pollen productivities (RPPs) for European plant taxa was  
39 performed for this reconstruction. It includes multiple RPP values ( $\geq 2$  values) for 39 taxa, and single values for 15 taxa (total  
40 of 54 taxa). To illustrate this, we present distribution maps for five taxa (*Calluna vulgaris*, *Cerealia-t*, *Picea abies*, deciduous  
41 *Quercus t.* and evergreen *Quercus t.*) and three land-cover types (open land-OL, evergreen trees-ET and summer-green trees-  
42 ST) for eight selected time windows. The reliability of the REVEALS reconstructions and issues related to the interpretation  
43 of the results in terms of landscape openness and human-induced vegetation change are discussed. This is followed by a review  
44 of the current use of this reconstruction and its future potential utility and development. REVEALS data quality are primarily  
45 determined by pollen count data (pollen count/sample, pollen identification and chronology) and site type/number (lake or  
46 bog, large or small, 1 site vs multiple sites) used for REVEALS analysis (for each grid cell). A large number of sites with high  
47 quality pollen count data will produce more reliable land-cover estimates with lower standard errors compared to a low number  
48 of sites with lower quality pollen count data. The REVEALS data presented here can be downloaded from  
49 <https://doi.pangaea.de/10.1594/PANGAEA.937075> (Fyfe et al., 2022).

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## 51 **1 Introduction**

52 The reconstruction of past land cover at global, continental and sub-continental scales is essential for the evaluation of climate  
53 models, land-use scenarios and the study of past climate – land cover interactions. Vegetation plays a significant role within  
54 the climate system through biogeochemical and biogeophysical feedbacks and forcings (Foley, 2005; Gaillard et al., 2015,  
55 2010b, 2018; Strandberg et al., 2014). Land use has modified the land cover of Europe over Holocene timescales at local,  
56 regional and continental scales (Roberts et al., 2018; Trondman et al., 2015; Woodbridge et al., 2018). Concerted efforts have  
57 been made to model land-use and land-cover change (LULCC) over Holocene time scales (e.g. HYDE 3.2 (Klein Goldewijk  
58 et al., 2017) and KK10 (Kaplan et al., 2011)). KK10 has been used to assess the impact of the scale of deforestation between  
59 6000 and 200 cal yr BP in Europe on regional climate in the modelling study of Strandberg et al (2014). The KK10-inferred  
60 land-cover change resulted in cooling or warming of regional climate by 1°C to 2°C depending on the season (winter or summer)  
61 and/or geographical location. Major changes in the forest cover of Europe over the Holocene may therefore have had a  
62 significant impact on past regional climate, particularly those driven by deforestation since the start of agriculture during the  
63 Neolithic period, the timing of which varies in different parts of Europe (Fyfe et al., 2015; Gaillard et al., 2015; Hofman-  
64 Kamińska et al., 2019; Nosova et al., 2018; Pinhasi et al., 2005; de Vareilles et al., 2021). Estimating past land-cover change  
65 can enable quantification of the scale at which human impact on terrestrial ecosystems perturbed the climate system. This in  
66 turn allows us to consider when environmental changes moved beyond the envelope of natural variability (Ruddiman, 2003;  
67 Ruddiman et al., 2016). We focus here on the role of LULCC in the climate system; anthropogenic land-cover change can  
68 have broader consequences for other processes and lead to changes in erosion and fluvial systems (Downs and Piégay, 2019),  
69 biodiversity (Barnosky et al., 2012), nutrient cycling (Guiry et al., 2018; McLauchlan et al., 2013), habitat exploitation by  
70 megafauna (Hofman-Kamińska et al., 2019), and wider ecosystem functioning (Ellis, 2015; Stephens et al., 2019).

71 The Earth System Modelling (ESM) community use LULCC model scenarios, along with dynamic vegetation models, to  
72 understand interactions between different components of the earth system in the past (Gilgen et al., 2019; He et al., 2014;  
73 Hibbard et al., 2010; Smith et al., 2016). Disagreement between LULCC scenarios suggests that their evaluation is needed  
74 using independent, empirical datasets (Gaillard et al., 2010a). Pollen-based reconstruction of past land cover represents  
75 probably the best empirical data for this purpose, as fossil pollen is a direct proxy for past vegetation, and fossil pollen records  
76 are ubiquitous across the continent of Europe (Gaillard et al., 2010a, 2018). The Landscape Reconstruction Algorithm (LRA)  
77 with its two models Regional Estimates of VEgetation Abundance from Large Sites (REVEALS) (Sugita, 2007a) and LOcal  
78 VEgetation Estimates (LOVE) (Sugita, 2007b) is the only current land-cover reconstruction approach based on pollen data that  
79 effectively reduces the biases caused by the non-linear pollen-vegetation relationship due to differences in sedimentary  
80 archives, basin size, inter-taxonomic differences in pollen productivity and dispersal characteristics, and spatial scales.  
81 REVEALS and LOVE are mechanistic models that transform pollen count data to produce quantitative reconstructions of  
82 regional (spatial scale  $\geq 10^4$  km<sup>2</sup>) and local (spatial scale = relevant source area of pollen *sensu* Sugita (1993),  $\geq$  ca. 1-5 km  
83 radius) vegetation cover, respectively (Sugita, 2007a; 2007b). The REVEALS model was first tested and validated in southern

84 Sweden (Hellman et al., 2008a, 2008b) and later in other parts of Europe and the world (Mazier et al., 2012; Soepboer et al.,  
85 2010; Sugita et al., 2010).

86 The first pollen-based REVEALS reconstruction of plant cover over the Holocene covering a large part of Europe (Trondman  
87 et al., 2015) was used for the assessment of LULCC scenarios (Kaplan et al., 2017), and helped to evaluate climate model  
88 simulations using LULCC scenarios (Strandberg et al., 2014). A comparison between REVEALS-based open land cover from  
89 pollen records and Holocene deforestation simulated by HYDE 3.1 and KK10 showed that the REVEALS reconstructions  
90 were more similar to KK10 than HYDE 3.1 scenarios (Kaplan et al., 2017). Therefore, estimates of past plant cover from fossil  
91 pollen assemblages are essential to both test and constrain LULCC models, and also provide alternative inputs to Earth System  
92 Models (ESMs), Regional Climate Models (RCMs) and ecosystem models (Gaillard et al., 2018; Harrison et al., 2020). This  
93 allows improved assessments of biogeophysical and biogeochemical forcings on climate due to LULCC over the Holocene  
94 (Gaillard et al., 2010; Harrison et al., 2020; Ruddiman et al., 2016; Strandberg et al., 2014).

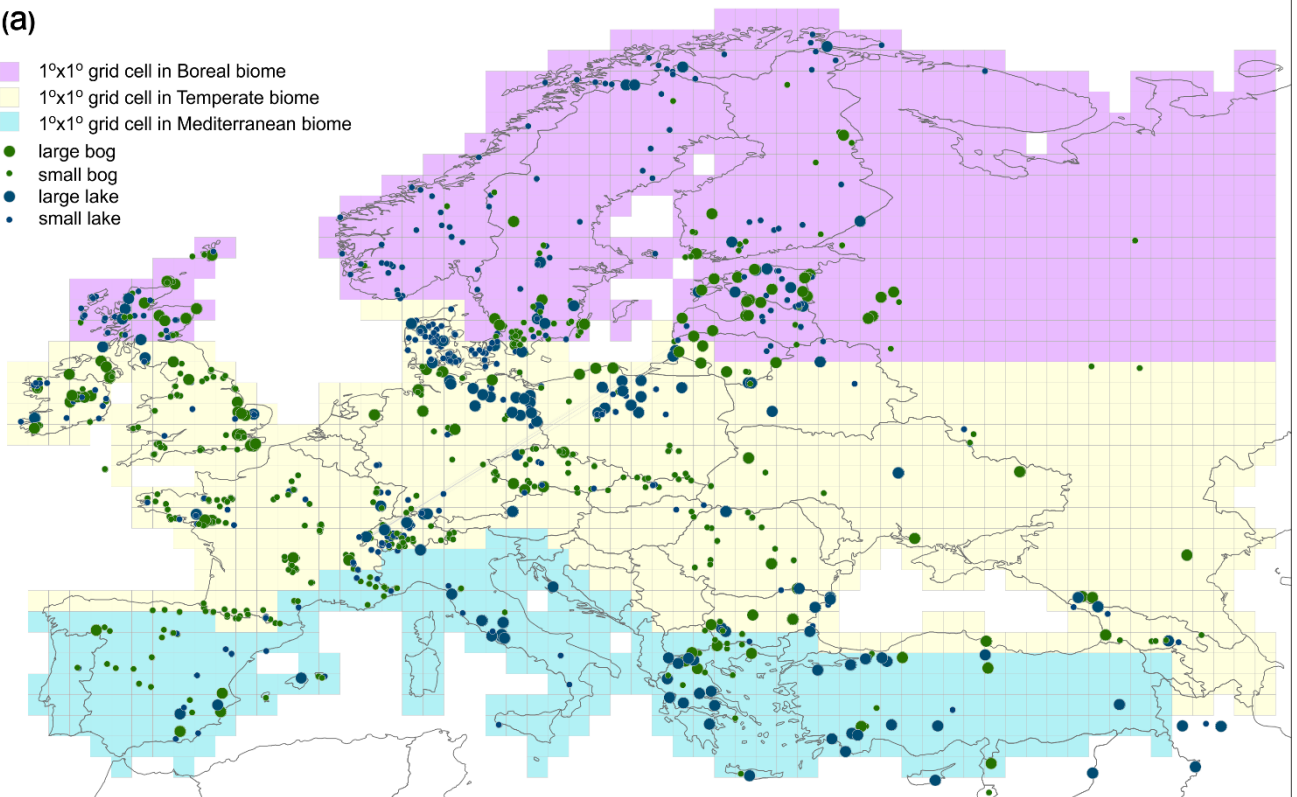
95 Europe is of particular interest as one of the global regions that has experienced major human-induced land-cover  
96 transformations. Europe has large N-S and W-E gradients in modern and historical climate and land use (Marquer et al., 2014,  
97 2017). Early agriculture dates from the start of the Holocene in the SE Mediterranean region (Palmisano et al., 2019; Roberts  
98 et al., 2019; Shennan, 2018), and human impact on vegetation across most of Europe is characterized by early land-cover  
99 changes through agriculture and the use of fire (Feurdean et al., 2020; Marquer et al., 2014; Strandberg et al., 2014; Trondman  
100 et al., 2015). There is therefore a clear need to extend quantitative vegetation reconstruction to the whole of Europe, including  
101 for the first time the Mediterranean region and additional areas of eastern Europe. The increase in the spatial coverage of sites  
102 and temporal scale to the entire Holocene to capture transient vegetation change at sub-millennial time scales is vital to capture  
103 information on the transformation of the biosphere by human actions. Europe has a deep history of pollen data production  
104 (Edwards et al., 2017) and an open-access repository for pollen records (the European Pollen Database (EPD)) as well as  
105 regional pollen repositories (list of databases and access links in section 2.2 and the Data Availability section). These data  
106 repositories result in abundant pollen records that can be used for data-driven reconstructions of past vegetation patterns at  
107 continental scales. Pollen based vegetation reconstructions for Europe have used community-level approaches (Huntley, 1990),  
108 biomization methods (Davis et al., 2015; Prentice et al., 1996), modern analogue techniques (MAT; Zanon et al., 2018), and  
109 pseudobiomization (Fyfe et al., 2010, 2015; Woodbridge et al., 2014). These approaches capture the major trends in vegetation  
110 patterns over the course of the Holocene (Roberts et al., 2018; Sun et al., 2020) and biomization methods have proved useful  
111 for evaluation of climate model results (Prentice and Webb III, 1998). The results of these forms of pollen data manipulation  
112 either classify pollen data into discrete classes (e.g. biomization, pseudobiomization) or are semi-quantitative, capturing  
113 relative change through time based on all pollen taxa within a sample. They cannot achieve reconstructions of the cover of  
114 evergreen versus summer-green trees, for example, or the cover of individual tree and herb taxa. Although useful in  
115 summarising palynological change over time based on entire pollen assemblages, such outputs are of limited use when  
116 differentiation of plant functional types (PFTs) is necessary (Strandberg et al., 2014). Forest cover over the Holocene inferred  
117 from pollen records using these approaches differs from forest cover obtained with REVEALS (Hellman et al., 2008a; Roberts

118 et al., 2018); these differences confirm that REVEALS corrects biases resulting from the non-linearity of the pollen-vegetation  
119 relationship.

120 In this paper we present the results of the second generation of REVEALS-based reconstruction of plant cover over the  
121 Holocene in Europe, after the first reconstruction published by Trondman et al. (2015). This second generation reconstruction  
122 is, to date, the most spatially and temporally complete estimate of plant cover for Europe across the Holocene. As with the  
123 Trondman et al. (2015) reconstruction, this new dataset is specifically designed to be used in climate modelling. It is performed  
124 at a spatial scale of  $1^{\circ} \times 1^{\circ}$  (ca.  $100 \text{ km} \times 100 \text{ km}$ ) across  $30^{\circ}$ - $75^{\circ}$ N,  $25^{\circ}$ W- $50^{\circ}$ E (Europe and part of the Eastern Mediterranean-  
125 Black Sea-Caspian-Corridor) (Fig. 1). The number of pollen records used (1128), the area covered and time length (entire  
126 Holocene) are a significant advance on the results presented in Trondman et al. (2015), which used 636 pollen records covering  
127 NW Europe (including Poland and the Czech Republic but excluding western Russia and the Mediterranean area), and  
128 produced estimates for five time windows (in cal yr BP, hereafter abbreviated BP): 6200-5700, 4200-3700, 700-350, 350-100  
129 BP and 100 BP to present. Marquer et al. (2014, 2017) produced continuous REVEALS reconstructions over the entire  
130 Holocene, however, only for transects of individual sites (19 pollen records) and groups of grid cells around them.

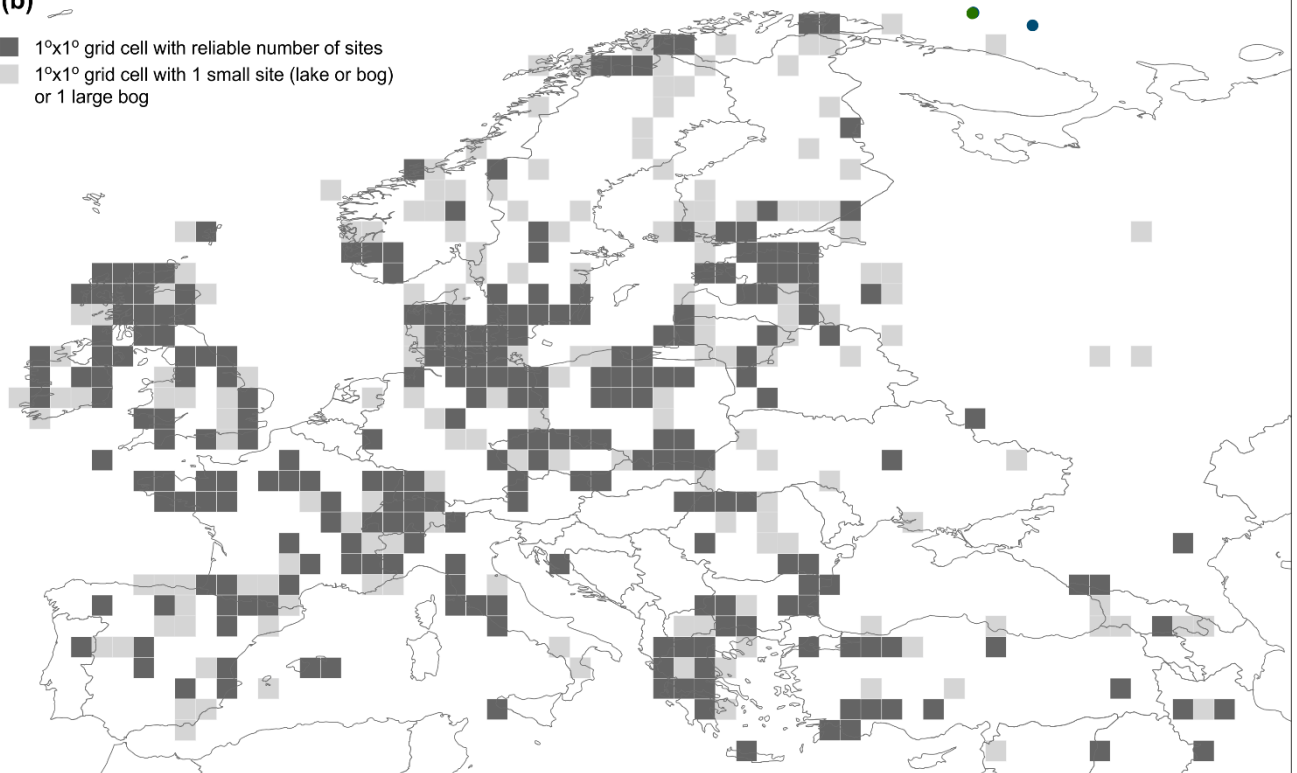
(a)

- 1°x1° grid cell in Boreal biome
- 1°x1° grid cell in Temperate biome
- 1°x1° grid cell in Mediterranean biome
- large bog
- small bog
- large lake
- small lake



(b)

- 1°x1° grid cell with reliable number of sites
- 1°x1° grid cell with 1 small site (lake or bog) or 1 large bog



132 **Figure 1: Study region showing site coverage, (a) Colours represent different modern biomes (purple = boreal, yellow = temperate,**  
 133 **blue = Mediterranean) while size and colour of circle represents site type and size (see caption in panel a). (b) Grid cell reliability**  
 134 **dependent on number of pollen records, black grid cells =reliable results, grey grid cells = less reliable results. Reliable =  $\geq 1$  large**  
 135 **lake (s),  $\geq 2$  small lake(s) or/and small bog(s), mix of  $\geq 1$  large lake (s) and  $\geq 1$  small lake(s) or/and small bog(s); less reliable = 1 bog**  
 136 **(large or small) or 1 small lake. See section 4.1 for details and discussion on reliability of REVEALS results.**

## 137 2 Methods

### 138 2.1 REVEALS model and parameters

139 The REVEALS model (Sugita, 2007a) is a generalized version of the R-Value model of Davis (Davis, 1963). The development  
 140 of pollen-vegetation modelling from the R-Value model, via the ERV models of Andersen (Andersen, 1970) and Parsons and  
 141 Prentice (Parsons and Prentice, 1981) through to the REVEALS model is described in detail in numerous earlier papers  
 142 (Broström et al., 2004; Bunting et al., 2013b; Sugita, 1993, 2007a).

143 Using simulations, Sugita (2007a) showed that “large lakes” represent regional vegetation, i.e. between-lake differences in  
 144 pollen assemblages are very small, which was the case for lakes  $\geq 50$ ha in the simulations (Sugita, 2007a). Tests using modern  
 145 pollen data from surface lake sediments have shown that pollen assemblages from lakes  $\geq 50$ ha are appropriate to estimate  
 146 regional plant cover using the REVEALS model (e.g. tests by Hellman et al. (2008a and b) in southern Sweden and by Sugita  
 147 et al. (2010) in northern America).

148 The REVEALS model (equation 1) calculates estimates of regional vegetation abundance in proportions or percentage cover  
 149 using fossil pollen counts from “large lakes” (Sugita, 2007a).

$$150 \hat{V}_i = \frac{n_{i,k} / \hat{\alpha}_i \int_R^{Z^{\max}} g_i(z) dz}{\sum_{j=1}^m \left( \frac{n_{j,k}}{\hat{\alpha}_j \int_R^{Z^{\max}} g_j(z) dz} \right)} = \frac{n_{i,k} / \hat{\alpha}_i K_i}{\sum_{j=1}^m (n_{j,k} / \hat{\alpha}_j K_j)} \quad (1)$$

- 151 •  $\hat{V}_i$  is the estimate of the regional vegetation abundance for taxon  $i$  (proportion or percentage).
- 152 •  $n_{i,k}$  is the pollen count of taxon  $i$  at site  $k$ .
- 153 •  $\hat{\alpha}_i$  is the estimate of pollen productivity (relative pollen productivity, RPP) for taxon  $i$ .
- 154 •  $z$  is the distance between the centre of the sedimentary basin and the pollen source.
- 155 •  $g_i(z)$  is the pollen dispersal/deposition function for taxon  $i$  expressed as a function of distance  $z$ . Fall speed of pollen  
 156 (FSP), wind speed and atmospheric conditions are parameters needed to calculate this function.
- 157 •  $R$  is the radius of the sedimentary basin.

- 158 •  $Z_{\max}$  is the maximum distance within which most pollen originates (i.e. the maximum spatial extent of the regional  
159 vegetation).
- 160 •  $m$  is the total number of taxa included,
- 161 •  $K_i = \int_R^{Z_{\max}} g_i(z) dz$  is the “pollen dispersal-deposition coefficient” of taxon  $i$  from the border of the study site  
162 (distance from the pollen sample corresponding to the radius  $R$  of the lake) to  $Z_{\max}$ .
- 163

164 The assumptions of the REVEALS model are listed in Sugita (2007a). Using simulations Sugita (2007a) demonstrated that, in  
165 theory, the model can also be applied to pollen records from multiple “small lakes” (< 50 ha), i.e. lakes for which between lake  
166 differences in pollen assemblages can be large. However, the REVEALS estimates using pollen records from “small lakes”  
167 generally have larger standard errors (SE) than those based on pollen data from large lakes. The latter was demonstrated for  
168 empirical pollen records from large lakes versus small sites (lakes and bogs) by Trondman et al. (2016) in southern Sweden  
169 and Mazier et al. (2012) in the Czech Republic. Although the application of the model to pollen data from bogs violates the  
170 model assumption that no plants grow on the basin, REVEALS can be applied using models of pollen dispersal and deposition  
171 for lakes or bogs. The Prentice model (Prentice, 1985; 1988) describes deposition of pollen at a single point in a deposition  
172 basin and is suitable for pollen records from bogs. Sugita (1993) developed the “Prentice-Sugita model” that describes pollen  
173 deposition in a lake, i.e. on its entire surface with subsequent mixing in the water body before deposition at the lake bottom.  
174 The original versions of both models use the Sutton model of pollen dispersal, i.e. a Gaussian plume model from a ground-  
175 level source under neutral atmospheric conditions (Sutton, 1953). A Lagrangian stochastic model of dispersion has also been  
176 introduced as an alternative for the description of pollen dispersal in models of the pollen-vegetation relationship in general,  
177 and in the REVEALS model in particular (Theuerkauf et al., 2012, 2016). It is difficult, in both theory and practice, to eliminate  
178 the effects of pollen coming from plants growing on sedimentary basins (e.g. Poaceae and Cyperaceae in bogs) on regional  
179 vegetation reconstruction. Previous studies have assessed the impacts of the violation of this assumption on REVEALS  
180 outcomes (Mazier et al., 2012; Sugita et al., 2010; Trondman et al., 2016, 2015). An empirical study in southern Sweden  
181 (Trondman et al., 2016) indicated that REVEALS estimates based on pollen records from multiple small sites (lakes and/or  
182 bogs) are similar to the REVEALS estimates based on pollen records from large lakes in the same region. The results also  
183 suggested that increasing the number of pollen records significantly decreased the standard error of the REVEALS estimates,  
184 as expected based on simulations (Sugita, 2007a). It is therefore appropriate to use pollen records from small bogs to increase  
185 the number of pollen records included in a REVEALS reconstruction, following the protocol of the first generation REVEALS  
186 reconstruction for Europe (Mazier et al., 2012; Trondman et al., 2015). However, REVEALS estimates of plant cover using  
187 pollen assemblages from large bogs only should be interpreted with great caution (Mazier et al., 2012; see also section 4,  
188 Discussion).

189 The inputs needed to run the REVEALS model are: original pollen counts; relative pollen productivity estimates (RPPs) and  
190 their standard deviation; fall speed of pollen (FSP); basin type (lake or bog); size of basin (radius); maximum extent of regional



191 vegetation; wind speed (m/s); and atmospheric conditions. FSP can be calculated using measurements of the pollen grains and  
192 Stokes' law (Gregory, 1973). RPPs of major plant taxa can be estimated using datasets of modern pollen assemblages and  
193 related vegetation, and the Extended R-Value model (e.g. Mazier et al., 2008). RPPs exist for a large number of European  
194 plant taxa, and syntheses of FSPs and RPPs were published earlier by Broström et al. (2008) and Mazier et al. (2012). The  
195 latter was used in the “first generation” REVEALS reconstruction (Trondman et al., 2015). A new synthesis of European RPPs  
196 was performed for this “second generation” reconstruction (Appendices A, B, and C). Preparation of data from individual  
197 pollen records, and the values of model parameters used, are described below (sections 2.2 and 2.3).

## 198 **2.2 Pollen records – data compilation and preparation**

199 1143 pollen records from 29 European countries and the Eastern Mediterranean-Black Sea-Caspian-Corridor were obtained  
200 from databases and individual data contributors. The contributing databases include: the European Pollen Database (Fyfe et  
201 al., 2009; Giesecke et al., 2014); the Alpine Palynological database (ALPADABA; Institute of Plant Sciences, University of  
202 Bern; now also archived in EPD); the Czech Quaternary palynological database (PALYCZ; Kuneš et al., 2009); PALEOPYR  
203 (Lerigoleur et al., 2015); and datasets compiled within synthesis projects from the Mediterranean region (Fyfe et al., 2018;  
204 Roberts et al., 2019) and the Eastern Mediterranean-Black Sea-Caspian-Corridor (EMBSecBIO project; Marinova et al., 2018)  
205 (see Fig. 1 for map and Data availability section for data location and team list for individual pollen data contributors). We  
206 followed the protocols and criteria published in Mazier et al. (2012) and Trondman et al. (2015) for selection of pollen records  
207 and application of the REVEALS model. Available pollen records were filtered based on criteria including basin type (to  
208 exclude archaeological sites and marine records) and quality of chronological control (excluding sites with poor age-depth  
209 models or fewer than three radiocarbon dates). This resulted in 1128 pollen records from lakes and bogs, both small and large.  
210 The rationale behind the use of pollen records from small sites is based on the knowledge that REVEALS estimates based on  
211 pollen records from multiple sites provide statistically validated approximations of the regional cover of plant taxa (e.g.  
212 Trondman et al., 2016; see details under section 2.1 on the REVEALS model).

213 The taxonomy and nomenclature of pollen morphological types from the 1128 pollen records were harmonised. The pollen  
214 morphological types were then consistently assigned to one of 31 RPP taxa (Table 1; see section 2.3 and Appendices A-C for  
215 details on the RPP dataset used in this study), following the protocol outlined in Trondman et al. (2015: SI-2 with examples of  
216 harmonization between pollen-morphological types and RPP taxa). This process takes into account plant morphology, biology,  
217 and ecology of the species that are included in each pollen morphological type. Consequently, RPP-harmonized pollen count  
218 data were produced for each of the 1128 pollen records. It should be noted that the EMBSecBIO data does not contain pollen  
219 counts from cultivars, i.e. pollen from cereals and cultivated trees were deleted from the pollen records (Marinova et al., 2018).  
220 Therefore, the cover of agricultural land (represented by cereals in this reconstruction) will always be zero in the Eastern  
221 Mediterranean-Black Sea-Caspian-Corridor in grid cells with only pollen records from EMBSecBIO, even though agriculture  
222 did occur in the region from the early Neolithic.

223 For the application of REVEALS, an age-depth model (in cal yr BP) is required for each pollen record. We used the author's  
224 original published model, the model available in the contributing database or, where necessary, a new age-depth model was  
225 constructed following the approach in Trondman et al. (2015). The age-depth model for each pollen record is used to aggregate  
226 RPP-harmonised pollen count data into 25 time windows throughout the Holocene following a standard time division used in  
227 Mazier et al. (2012) and Trondman et al. (2015), which were later adopted by the Past Global Changes (PAGES) LandCover6k  
228 working group (Gaillard et al., 2018). The first three time windows (present–100 BP (where present is the year of coring), 100-  
229 350 BP; 350-700 BP) capture the major human-induced land-cover changes since the early Middle Ages. Subsequent time  
230 windows are contiguous 500-year long intervals (e.g. 700-1200 BP, 1200-1700 BP, 1700-2200 BP, etc.) with the oldest interval  
231 representing the start of the Holocene (11200-11700 BP). The use of 500-year long time windows is motivated by the necessity  
232 to obtain sufficiently large pollen counts for reliable REVEALS reconstructions. Since the size of the error on the REVEALS  
233 estimate partly depends on the size of the pollen count (Sugita, 2007a), the length of the time window should be a reasonable  
234 compromise to ensure both a useful time resolution of the reconstruction and an acceptable reliability of the REVEALS  
235 estimate of plant cover (Trondman et al., 2015).

236 **Table 1: Land-cover types (LCTs) and Plant Functional Types (PFTs) according to Wolf et al. (2008) and their corresponding pollen**  
 237 **morphological types. Fall speed of pollen (FSP) and the mean relative pollen productivity (RPP) estimates from the new RPP**  
 238 **synthesis (see section 2.3 and Appendices A-C for details) with their standard errors in brackets (see text for more explanations).**  
 239 **\*The FSP values of evergreen *Quercus t.* and Mediterranean Ericaceae according to the original study (Mazier, unpublished) are**  
 240 **0.015 and 0.051, respectively (see Appendix B, Table B.3). The value of 0.035 (FSP of deciduous *Quercus t.*) and 0.038 (FSP of boreal-**  
 241 **temperate Ericaceae) were used instead (see discussion in section 4.2 for explanation). , t = type e.g. evergreen *Quercus t.* RPP used**  
 242 **in this study are relative to grass pollen productivity where Poaceae = 1 (indicated in bold).**

Land-cover types (LCTs)	PFT	PFT definition	Plant taxa/Pollen-morphological types	FSP (m/s)	RPP (SD)
Evergreen trees (ET)	TBE1	Shade-tolerant evergreen trees	<i>Picea abies</i>	0.056	5.437 (0.097)
	TBE2	Shade-tolerant evergreen trees	<i>Abies alba</i>	0.12	6.875 (1.442)
	IBE	Shade-intolerant evergreen trees	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	0.031	6.058 (0.237)
	MTBE	Mediterranean shade-tolerant broadleaved evergreen trees	<i>Phillyrea</i>	0.015	0.512 (0.076)
			<i>Pistacia</i>	0.03	0.755 (0.201)
			Evergreen <i>Quercus t.</i>	0.035*	11.043 (0.261)
	TSE	Tall shrub, evergreen	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	0.016	2.07 (0.04)
	MTSE	Mediterranean broadleaved tall shrubs, evergreen	Ericaceae	0.038*	4.265 (0.094)
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>			0.032	1.89 (0.068)	
Summer-green trees (ST)	IBS	Shade-intolerant summer-green trees	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	0.021	13.562 (0.293)
			<i>Betula</i>	0.024	5.106 (0.303)
	TBS	Shade-tolerant summer-green trees	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	0.042	4.52 (0.425)
			<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>	0.042	0.24 (0.07)
			<i>Castanea sativa</i>	0.01	3.258 (0.059)
			<i>Corylus avellana</i>	0.025	1.71 (0.1)
			<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	0.057	5.863 (0.176)
			<i>Fraxinus</i>	0.022	1.044 (0.048)
			Deciduous <i>Quercus t.</i>	0.035	4.537 (0.086)
			<i>Tilia</i>	0.032	1.21 (0.116)
	<i>Ulmus</i>	0.032	1.27 (0.05)		
TSD	Tall shrub, summer-green	<i>Salix</i>	0.022	1.182 (0.077)	
Open land (OL)	LSE	Low shrub, evergreen	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	0.038	1.085 (0.029)
	GL	Grassland - all herbs	<i>Artemisia</i>	0.025	3.937 (0.146)
			Amaranthaceae/Chenopodiaceae	0.019	4.28 (0.27)
			Cyperaceae	0.035	0.962 (0.05)
			<i>Filipendula</i>	0.006	3 (0.285)
			<b>Poaceae</b>	<b>0.035</b>	<b>1 (0)</b>
			<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	0.029	2.33 (0.201)
			<i>Rumex acetosa-t</i>	0.018	3.02 (0.278)
	AL	Agricultural land - cereals	Cerealia-t	0.06	1.85 (0.380)
			<i>Secale cereale</i>	0.06	3.99 (0.320)

243

## 244 2.3 Model parameter setting

245 For the purpose of this study, a new synthesis of the RPP values available for European plant taxa was performed in 2018-  
246 2019 based on the by Mazier et al. (2012) and additional RPP studies published since then (Appendix A-C). This synthesis  
247 provides new alternative RPP datasets for Europe, including or excluding plant taxa with dominant entomophily, and with the  
248 important addition of plant taxa from the Mediterranean area (Appendix A, Table A1). The selection of RPP studies, RPP  
249 values (shown in Appendix B, Tables B1 and B2) and calculation of mean RPP and their standard error (SD) for Europe are  
250 explained in Appendix C. The location of studies included in the RPP synthesis is shown in Fig. C1 and related information is  
251 provided in Table C1. The synthesis includes a total of 54 taxa for which RPP values are available (Tables B1 and B2), 39  
252 taxa from studies in boreal and temperate Europe, and 15 taxa from studies in Mediterranean Europe of which seven include  
253 exclusively sub-Mediterranean and Mediterranean taxa: *Buxus sempervirens*, *Carpinus orientalis*, *Castanea sativa*, Ericaceae  
254 (Mediterranean species), *Phillyrea*, *Pistacia* and evergreen *Quercus* type. RPP values are available from both boreal/temperate  
255 and Mediterranean Europe for seven taxa: i.e. Poaceae (reference taxon), *Acer*, *Corylus avellana*, Apiaceae, *Artemisia*,  
256 *Plantago lanceolata* and Rubiaceae (Table B2). Table A1 presents the new RPP dataset for the 54 plant taxa and, for  
257 comparison, the mean RPP values from Mazier et al. (2012) and from the recent synthesis by Wieczorek & Herzs Schuh (2020).  
258 Moreover, comparison with the RPP values of three studies not used in our synthesis is shown in Table A2. For the REVEALS  
259 reconstructions presented in this paper, we excluded strictly entomophilous taxa, which resulted in a total of 31 taxa (Table 1).  
260 The excluded taxa are Compositae (Asteraceae) SF Cichorioideae, *Leucanthemum (Anthemis)-t.*, *Potentilla-t.*, *Ranunculus*  
261 *acris-t.*, and Rubiaceae. We included entomophilous taxa that are known to be characterised by some anemophily, e.g.  
262 *Artemisia*, Amaranthaceae/Chenopodiaceae, Rubiaceae, and *Plantago lanceolata*. We excluded plant taxa with only one RPP  
263 value except Chenopodiaceae, *Urtica*, *Juniperus*, and *Ulmus*, and the seven exclusively sub-Mediterranean and Mediterranean  
264 taxa mentioned above.

265 The FSP values (Tables 1 and A1) for boreal and temperate plant taxa were obtained from the literature (Broström et al., 2008;  
266 Mazier et al., 2012); these values were in turn extracted from Gregory (1973) for trees, and calculated based on pollen  
267 measurements and Stokes' law for herbs (Broström et al., 2004). FSPs for Mediterranean taxa (*Buxus sempervirens*, *Castanea*  
268 *sativa*, Ericaceae (Mediterranean species), *Phillyrea*, *Pistacia*, and *Quercus* evergreen type) were obtained by using pollen  
269 measurements and Stokes' law (Mazier et al., unpublished); the FSP of *Carpinus betulus* (Mazier et al., 2012) was used for  
270 *Carpinus orientalis* (Grindean et al., 2019).

271 The site radius was obtained from original publications where possible. Sites in the EMBSeCBIO were classified as small  
272 (0.01-1 km<sup>2</sup>), medium (1.1-50 km<sup>2</sup>) or large (50.1-500 km<sup>2</sup>). These were assigned radii of 399m, 2921m and 10000 m,  
273 respectively. Where a site's radius could not be determined from publication, it was geolocated in Google Earth and the area  
274 of the site was measured. A radius value was extracted assuming that a site shape is circular (Mazier et al., 2012). A constant  
275 wind speed of 3 m/s, assumed to correspond approximatively to the modern mean annual wind speed in Europe, was used  
276 following Trondman et al. (2015).  $Z_{\max}$  (maximum extent of the regional vegetation) was set to 100 km.  $Z_{\max}$  and wind speed

277 influence on REVEALS estimates has been evaluated earlier in simulation and empirical studies (Gaillard et al., 2008; Mazier  
278 et al., 2012; Sugita, 2007a), which support the values used for these parameters. Atmospheric conditions are assumed to be  
279 neutral (Sugita, 2007a).

## 280 **2.4 Implementation of REVEALS**

281 REVEALS was implemented using the REVEALS function within the LRA R-package of Abraham et al. (2014) (see Code  
282 availability, section 6). The function enables the use of deposition models for bogs (Prentice's model) and lakes (Sugita's  
283 model), and two dispersal models (a Gaussian plume model, and a Lagrangian stochastic model taken from the DISCOVER  
284 package (Theuerkauf et al., 2016)). Within this study, the Gaussian plume model was applied. The REVEALS model was run  
285 on all pollen records within each  $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$  grid cell across Europe. The REVEALS function is applied to lake and bog sites  
286 separately within each  $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$  grid cell, and combines results (if there is more than one pollen record per cell) to produce a  
287 single mean cover estimate (in proportion) and mean standard error (SE) for each taxon. The formulation of the SE is found  
288 in Appendix A of Sugita (2007a). The REVEALS SE accounts for the standard deviations on the relative pollen productivities  
289 for the individual pollen taxa (Table 1) and the number of pollen grains counted in the sample (Sugita, 2007a). The uncertainties  
290 of the averaged REVEALS estimates of plant taxa for a grid cell are calculated using the delta method (Stuart and Ord., 1994),  
291 and expressed as the SEs derived from the sum of the within- and between-site variations of the REVEALS results in the grid  
292 cell. The delta method is a mathematical solution to the problem of calculating the mean of individual SEs (see Li et al., 2020,  
293 Appendix C, for formula and further details). Results of the REVEALS function are extracted by time window, producing 25  
294 matrices of mean REVEALS land-cover estimates and 25 matrices of corresponding mean SEs for each of the 31 RPP taxa  
295 and each grid cell. The 31 RPP taxa are also assigned to 12 plant functional types (PFTs) and three land-cover types (LCTs)  
296 (Table 1), and their mean REVEALS estimates calculated. These PFTs follow Trondman et al. (2015), with the addition of  
297 two PFTs for Mediterranean vegetation not reconstructed in earlier studies: Mediterranean shade-tolerant broadleaved  
298 evergreen trees (MTBE) and Mediterranean broadleaved tall shrubs, evergreen (MTSE). The mean SE for LCTs and PFTs  
299 including more than one plant taxon are calculated using the delta method (Stuart and Ord., 1994), as described above.

## 300 **2.5 Mapping of the REVEALS estimates**

301 To illustrate the information that the new REVEALS reconstruction provides, we present and describe (section 3) maps of the  
302 REVEALS estimates (% cover) and their associated SEs for the three LCTs (Fig. 2 to 4) and five taxa for eight selected time  
303 windows: the five taxa are *Cerealia-t* and *Picea abies* (Fig. 5 and 6), *Calluna vulgaris*, deciduous *Quercus* type (t.), and  
304 evergreen *Quercus* t. (Fig. D1-D3). The selection of the five taxa and eight time windows is motivated essentially by notable  
305 changes in the spatial distribution of these taxa through time, with higher resolution for recent times characterised by the largest  
306 and most rapid human-induced changes in vegetation cover. For visualisation purposes, the estimates are mapped in nine %  
307 cover classes. These fractions are the same for the three LCTs (Figures 2-4), and the mapped output can therefore be directly  
308 compared. In contrast, the colour scales used for the five taxa vary between maps depending on the abundance of the PFT/taxon

309 (Fig. 5 and 6, D1-D3). Different taxa thus have different scales and maps cannot be directly compared. We visualise uncertainty  
310 in our data by plotting the SE as a circle inside each grid cell; it is the coefficient of variation (CV, i.e. the standard error  
311 divided by the REVEALS estimate). Circles are scaled to fill the grid cell if the SE is equal or greater than the mean REVEALS  
312 estimate (i.e.  $CV \geq 1$ ). Grid-based REVEALS results that are based on pollen records from just one large bog, or single small  
313 bogs or lakes, provide lower quality results (see section 2.1 on the REVEALS model, and discussion section 4.1). The quality  
314 of REVEALS land-cover estimates by grid cell and time window is provided in Table GC\_quality\_by\_TW (see section 5, Data  
315 availability). The percentage scale ranges we use here are different from those used in the maps of Trondman et al. (2015) and,  
316 therefore, the data visualisation cannot be directly compared.

### 317 **3 Results**

318 The complete REVEALS land cover reconstruction dataset includes mean REVEALS values (in proportions) and their related  
319 mean SE for 31 individual tree and herb taxa, twelve PFTs and three LCTs for each grid cell in 25 consecutive time windows  
320 of the Holocene (11.7 k BP to present). Here, results are illustrated by maps of the three LCTs (Fig. 2-4) and five taxa (Fig. 5-  
321 6, D1-D3). The presented maps are not part of the published dataset archived in the PANGAEA online public database (see  
322 Data availability, section 5), they are examples of how the data can be visually presented and what they can be used for.

### 323 **3.1 Land-cover types**

324 The three land-cover types are evergreen trees (ET), summer-green trees (ST) and open land (OL). ET includes six PFTs which  
325 are composed of nine pollen-morphological types (from here after referred to as taxa). ST includes three PFTs which are  
326 composed of twelve taxa while OL includes three PFTs that are in turn composed of ten taxa (Table 1).

#### 327 **3.1.1 Open Land (OL)**

328 At the start of the Holocene, open land (OL) (Fig. 2) has higher cover in western Europe where it generally exceeds 80%  
329 compared with central Europe where it is typically ~60%. There is a general decline in OL cover through the early Holocene.  
330 At 5700-6200 BP most grid cells in central Europe have the lowest OL cover values between 10-50%. In western Europe,  
331 whilst OL is generally reduced, several grid cells on the Atlantic fringe of northern Scotland persistently maintain 80-90% OL  
332 cover. OL increases from the mid-Holocene, and by 2700-3200 BP the United Kingdom, France, Germany and the  
333 Mediterranean region have grid cells recording OL values >70%. In central, northern and eastern Europe grid cells OL values  
334 vary between 10 - 70% at 2700-3200 BP. Time windows from the last two millennia show a consistent increase in OL with  
335 values >60% across most of central, southern and western Europe and 20-70% in northern Europe.



337 **Figure 2. Grid-based REVEALS estimates of Open Land (OL) cover for eight Holocene time windows. Percentage cover of open**  
338 **land in 10% intervals represented by increasingly darker shades of green from 20%. Grey cells: cells without pollen data for the**  
339 **time window, but with pollen data in other time windows. Circles in grid cells represent the coefficient of variation (CV; the standard**  
340 **error divided by the REVEALS estimate). When  $SE \geq$  REVEALS estimate, the circle fills the entire grid cell and the REVEALS**  
341 **estimate is not different from zero. This occurs mainly where REVEALS estimates are low.**

### 342 **3.1.2 Evergreen Trees (ET)**

343 The cover of evergreen trees (ET) (Fig. 3) at 9700-10200 BP is <30% across Europe, and by 7700-8200 BP fewer than 30 grid  
344 cells show ET >50%. ET cover slowly increases through the early Holocene and at 5700-6200 BP groups of grid cells in  
345 southern Europe record >80%, while in northern Europe ET cover ranges between 10% and 60%. There is a consistent increase  
346 in ET cover over Europe during the mid- and late-Holocene with ET cover peaking at 2700-3200 BP before starting to decline.  
347 Across western parts of Europe, including the United Kingdom, western France, Denmark, and the Netherlands ET never  
348 exceeds 20% cover.



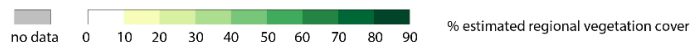
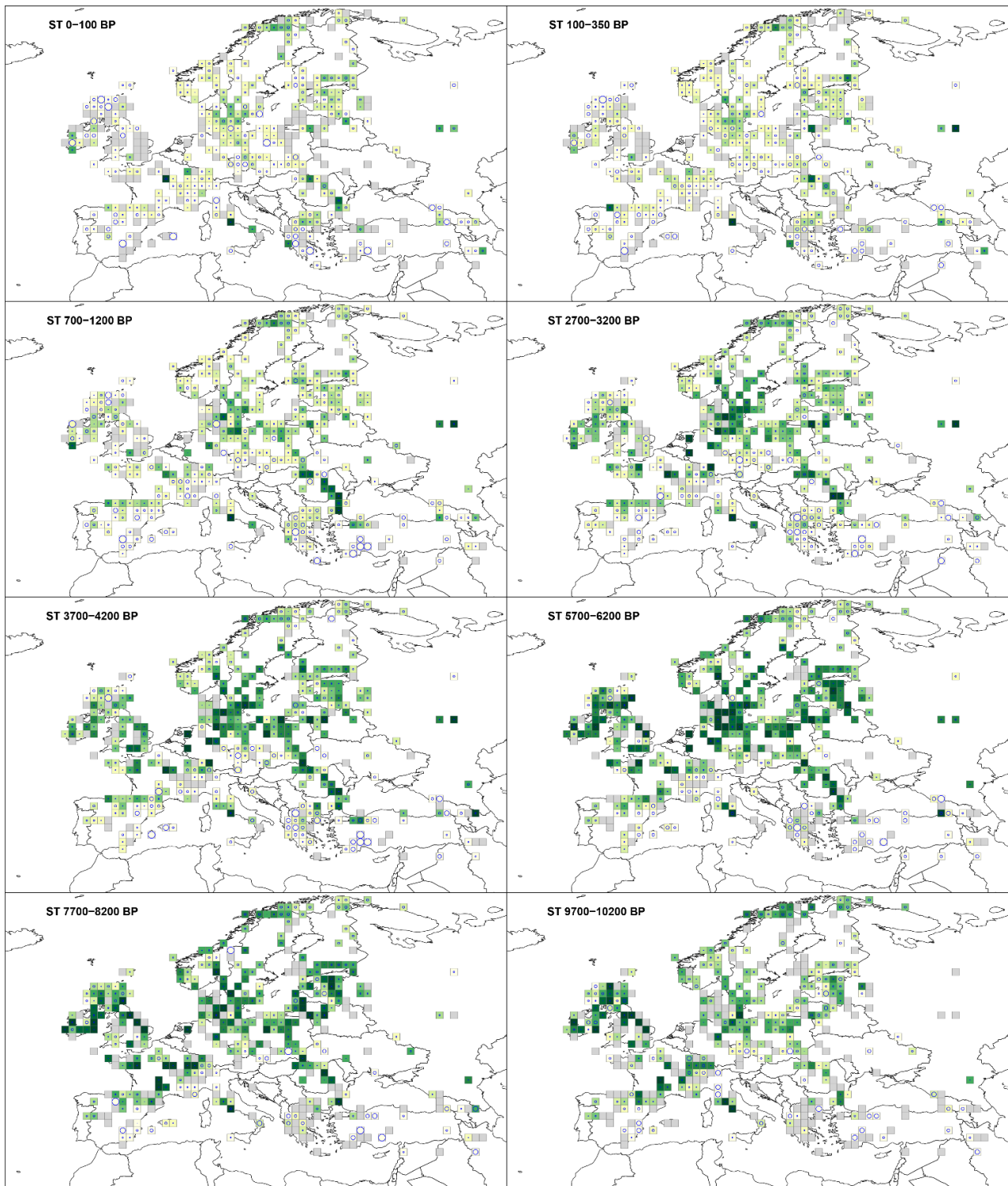


no data 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 % estimated regional vegetation cover

350 **Figure 3. Grid-based REVEALS estimates of Evergreen Tress (ET) cover for eight Holocene time windows. Percentage cover of**  
351 **Evergreen Trees in 10% intervals represented by increasingly darker shades of green from 20%. Grey cells: cells without pollen**  
352 **data for the time window, but with pollen data in other time windows. Circles in grid cells represent the coefficient of variation (CV;**  
353 **the standard error divided by the REVEALS estimate). When  $SE \geq$  REVEALS estimate, the circle fills the entire grid cell and the**  
354 **REVEALS estimate is not different from zero. This occurs mainly where REVEALS estimates are low.**

### 355 **3.1.3 Summer-green Trees (ST)**

356 The cover of summer-green trees (ST) (Fig. 4) in the early Holocene at 9700-10200 BP is >40% across Europe. A small  
357 number (<10) of grid cells in northern, western, central and southern Europe have ST cover >60%. This significantly increases  
358 towards 5700-6200 BP, at which time ST cover is >60% in central Europe, and 40-60% in northern Europe. ST cover remains  
359 <20% in southern Europe. From 5700-6200 BP there is a steady decline in ST cover across Europe. At 2700-3200 BP only  
360 central Europe has ST cover >50% while values are <50% for the rest of Europe. There is a consistent decline over the last  
361 two millennia BP. Most of Europe has ST cover <30% in the two last time windows (100-350 BP and 100 BP-present), except  
362 for a group of grid cells in the southern Baltic states and scattered records elsewhere.



364 **Figure 4. Grid-based REVEALS estimates of Summer-green Trees (ST) cover for eight Holocene time windows. Percentage cover**  
365 **of ST in 10% intervals represented by increasingly darker shades of green from 20%. Grey cells: cells without pollen data for the**  
366 **time window, but with pollen data in other time windows. Circles in grid cells represent the coefficient of variation (CV; the standard**  
367 **error divided by the REVEALS estimate). When  $SE \geq$  REVEALS estimate, the circle fills the entire grid cell and the REVEALS**  
368 **estimate is not different from zero. This occurs mainly where REVEALS estimates are low.**

### 369 **3.2 Selected taxa**

370 In terms of PFTs, *Cerealia-t.* is assigned to agricultural land (AL), *Picea abies* to shade tolerant evergreen trees (TBE1:  
371 *Picea abies* is the only taxon in this PFT), *Calluna vulgaris* to low evergreen shrubs (LSE: *Calluna vulgaris* is the only taxon  
372 in this PFT), deciduous *Quercus t.* to shade tolerant summer-green trees (TBS), and evergreen *Quercus t.* to Mediterranean  
373 shade-tolerant broadleaved evergreen trees (MTBE) (Table 1).

#### 374 **3.2.1 Cerealia-type**

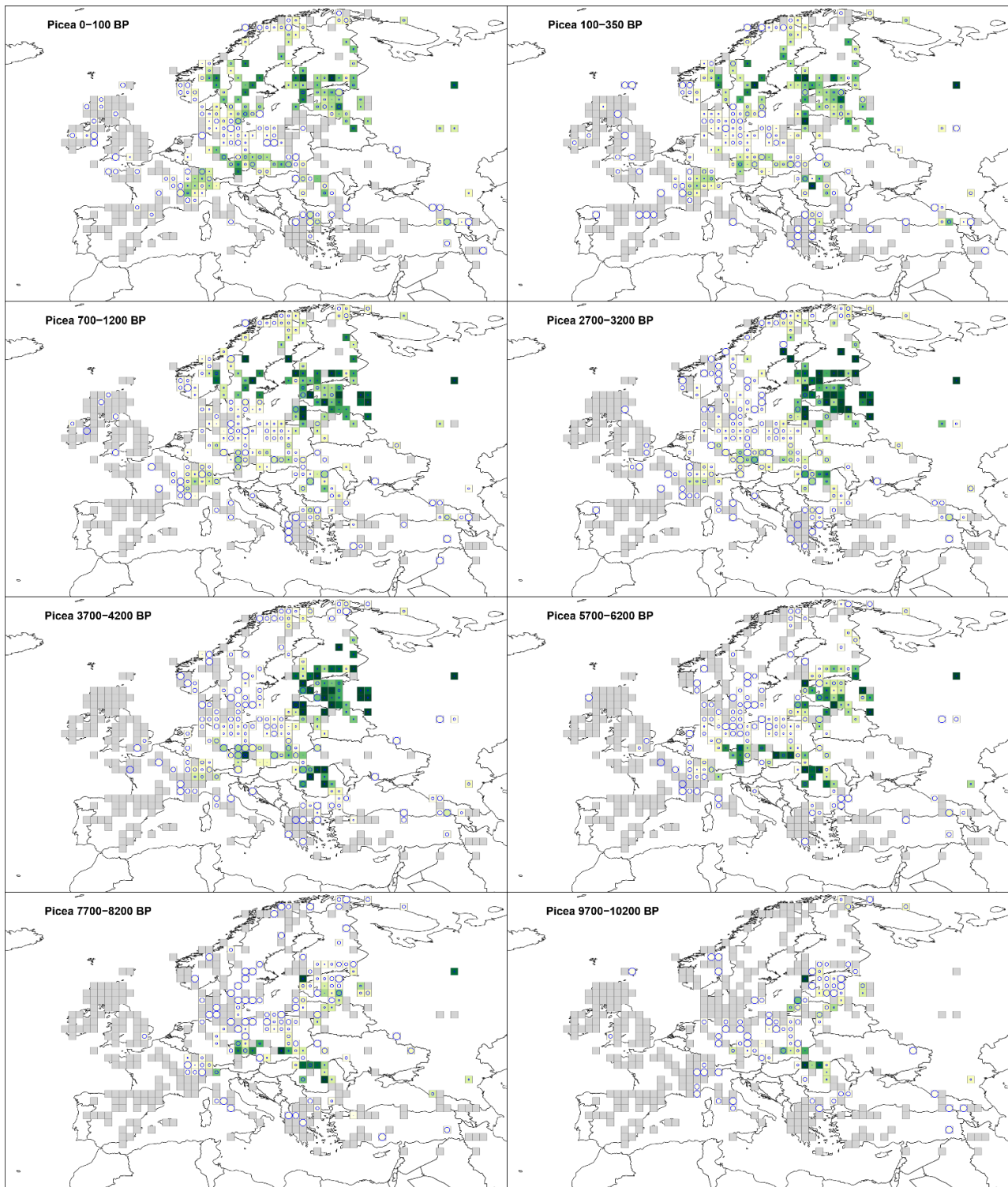
375 *Cerealia-t.* (Fig. 5) is recorded throughout the Holocene with 10-15% as the maximum cover. *Cerealia-t.* is present in southern  
376 Europe at 9700-10200 BP with several grid cells recording >5 to 10%. Whilst scattered grid cells in central and western Europe  
377 record the presence of *Cerealia-t.* at very low levels (0.5-1%), these values have high SE (greater than the REVEALS estimate)  
378 and are therefore not different from zero; they correspond to single findings of *Cerealia-t.*. By 5700-6200 BP, grid cells in  
379 Estonia and France record 3-5% cover, and several regions within central and western Europe record 0-5% (0.5-1%), although  
380 with high SEs. At 2700-3200 BP, *Cerealia-t.* is recorded across central and western Europe in the United Kingdom, France,  
381 Germany, and Estonia with low values. In Norway, Sweden and Finland it has 0-1% cover with high SEs. The highest cover  
382 (>5%) is observed across Europe from 1200 BP.



384 **Figure 5. Grid-based REVEALS estimates of Cerealia – t. cover for eight Holocene time windows. Percentage cover in 0.5% intervals**  
385 **between 0 and 3%, 1% intervals between 3 and 5, and 5% interval between 5 and 10%. Intervals represented by increasingly darker**  
386 **shades of green from 1-1.5%. Grey cells: cells without pollen data for the time window, but with pollen data in other time windows.**  
387 **Circles in grid cells represent the coefficient of variation (CV; the standard error divided by the REVEALS estimate). When  $SE \geq$**   
388 **REVEALS estimate, the circle fills the entire grid cell and the REVEALS estimate is not different from zero. This occurs mainly**  
389 **where REVEALS estimates are low.**

### 390 **3.2.2 *Picea abies***

391 *Picea abies* cover (Fig. 6) is low (1-2%) at 9700-10200 BP, although a number of grid cells in central and eastern Europe  
392 record values between 30 and 50%. By 7700-8200 BP, grid cells recording 30-50% cover are observed in more regions of  
393 central and eastern Europe than earlier (Russia, Estonia, Romania, Slovakia and Austria). At 5700-6200 BP, almost all of  
394 central Europe has consistent but low cover of *Picea abies*; values are higher towards northeastern Europe (Russia, Estonia,  
395 Latvia, Belarus and Lithuania), up to 30-50%. By 2700-3200 BP the cover of *Picea abies* has increased across central (ca.  
396 10%) and northeastern Europe (>30%). From 1200 BP, *Picea abies* is recorded in northern Europe, particularly in Norway  
397 and Sweden with some grid cells recording 25-50% cover.



no data 0 2 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 50 % estimated regional vegetation cover

399 **Figure 6. Grid-based REVEALS estimates of *Picea* cover for eight Holocene time windows. Percentage cover in 1% interval between**  
400 **0 and 2%, 3% interval between 2 and 5%, 5% intervals between 5 and 30%, and 20% interval between 30 and 50%. Intervals**  
401 **represented by increasingly darker shades of green from 5-10%. Grey cells: cells without pollen data for the time window, but with**  
402 **pollen data in other time windows. Circles in grid cells represent the coefficient of variation (CV; the standard error divided by the**  
403 **REVEALS estimate). When  $SE \geq$  REVEALS estimate, the circle fills the entire grid cell and the REVEALS estimate is not different**  
404 **from zero. This occurs mainly where REVEALS estimates are low.**

### 405 **3.2.3 *Calluna vulgaris***

406 During the Holocene, *Calluna vulgaris* cover (Fig. D1) peaks at 50%, and is largely distributed in a central European belt from  
407 the United Kingdom across to the southern Baltic States. At 9700-10200 BP, it is recorded in only a few grid cells, mostly in  
408 central and western Europe, and at levels <10%. Cover slowly increases and by 7700-8200 BP, there are several grid cells with  
409 cover >25% within the United Kingdom, and with 10-20% cover within Denmark. At 5700-6200 BP, grid cells in coastal  
410 locations in northwestern Europe (particularly France, Germany and Denmark) have 50% *Calluna vulgaris* cover. Cover  
411 steadily increases within the same grid cells and by 2700-3200 BP, cover has increased in northern and eastern Europe e.g.  
412 Norway, Estonia, with values up to 20% cover. The highest cover of *Calluna vulgaris* is recorded in the last two millennia.  
413 Although some grid cells in southeast Europe record low cover values, these have high SE.

### 414 **3.2.4 Deciduous *Quercus* type (t.)**

415 Deciduous *Quercus t.* (Fig. D2) is recorded in central and western Europe at 9700-10200 BP at low levels (<10%), while in  
416 southern Europe (Italy) several grid cells recording >20% cover. By 7700-8200 BP, cover in central and western Europe is  
417 between 1-10% while in northern and eastern Europe grid cells it is <2% with high SEs. During the mid-Holocene (5700-6200  
418 BP) most of Europe, with the exception of some grid cells at the northern and southeast extremes, record deciduous *Quercus*  
419 *t.* cover values between 2-15%. By 2700-3200 BP, % cover in the same grid cells has decreased to values between 2-10%.  
420 Thereafter, the number of grid cells recording deciduous *Quercus t.* cover remains similar; however, the percentage cover  
421 slowly decreases and at 350-100 BP, the number of grid cells with deciduous *Quercus t.* cover above 5% is very low.

### 422 **3.2.5 Evergreen *Quercus* type (t.)**

423 The spatial distribution of evergreen *Quercus t.* (Fig. D3) remains the same throughout the Holocene. Cover of >30% is  
424 restricted to only a few grid cells and time windows. At the start of the Holocene, evergreen *Quercus t.* is recorded with values  
425 <15% in southern Europe (Spain, Italy, Greece and Turkey) with high SEs. Cover of evergreen *Quercus t.* does not exceed  
426 15% until 6700-7200 BP (not shown), in grid cells located in Turkey, Greece and Italy. From 6700-7200 BP there is an increase  
427 in the number of grid cells recording evergreen *Quercus t.* in southern Europe but most show low cover values (<15%), and  
428 have high SEs.



## 429 4 Discussion

430 The results presented here are the first full-Holocene grid-based REVEALS estimates of land-cover change for Europe  
431 spanning the Mediterranean, temperate and boreal biomes, which highlight the spatial and temporal dynamics of 31 plant taxa,  
432 12 PFTs and 3 LCTs across Europe over the last 11700 years. Previous studies have demonstrated major differences between  
433 REVEALS results and pollen percentages (Marquer et al., 2014; Trondman et al., 2015), and the differences between  
434 REVEALS results and other methods used to transform pollen data, including pseudobiomisation, and MAT (Roberts et al.  
435 2018). It is not the scope of this paper to evaluate the results in that context. This discussion focuses on the reliability and  
436 potential of this “second generation” of REVEALS land cover reconstruction for Europe for use by the wider science  
437 community.

### 438 4.1 Data reliability

439 The REVEALS results are reliant on the quality of the input datasets, namely pollen count data, chronological control for  
440 sequences, and the number and reliability of RPP estimates used (see discussion on RPPs under 4.2). The standard errors (SEs)  
441 can be considered a measure of the precision of the REVEALS results, and of reliability/quality (Trondman et al., 2015).  
442 Where SEs are equal or greater than the REVEALS estimates (represented in the maps of Fig. 2-6 and D1-D3 as a circle that  
443 fills the grid), caution should be applied in the use of the REVEALS estimates, as it implies that they are not different from  
444 zero when taking the SEs into account. Whilst this is possible within an algorithmic approach that includes estimates of  
445 uncertainty, it is conceptually impossible to have negative vegetation cover. If  $SEs \geq \text{mean REVEALS value}$  it is therefore  
446 uncertain whether the plant taxon has cover within the grid cell. Cover may either be very low or the taxon may be absent  
447 within the region (grid cell in this case).

448 The size of pollen counts impacts on the size of REVEALS SEs (Sugita, 2007a); larger counts result in smaller SEs.  
449 Aggregation of samples from pollen records to longer time windows results in larger count sizes and thus lower SEs (see  
450 sections 2.2 above and 4.2 below). Our input dataset includes more than 59 million individual pollen identifications, organised  
451 here into 16711 samples from 1128 sites, where a sample is an aggregated pollen count for RPP taxa for a time window at a  
452 site. Seventy-seven percent of samples have count sizes in excess of 1000 which is deemed most appropriate for REVEALS  
453 reconstructions (Sugita, 2007a). The mean count size across all samples is 3550. Samples with count sizes lower than 1000  
454 are still used, but result in higher SEs. More than half of the pollen records used in the study were sourced from databases (see  
455 section 2.2). Note that the EMBSecBIO taxonomy has been pre-standardised, and the data compilers have removed *Cerealia-*  
456 *type (t.)*. This means that for grid cells within the Eastern Mediterranean-Black Sea-Caspian-Corridor, caution is advised in  
457 the interpretation of *Cerealia-type*. Nevertheless, pollen from ruderals that are often related to agriculture, for example,  
458 *Artemisia*, Amaranthaceae/Chenopodiaceae, and *Rumex acetosa* type are included in the land-cover type open land (OL);  
459 therefore, changes in OL cover in the Eastern Mediterranean-Black Sea-Caspian-Corridor may be related to changes in  
460 agricultural land (see also discussion below, re agricultural, section 4.3).

461 Aggregation of pollen counts to time windows depends on age-depth models. We have used the best age-depth models  
462 available to us, based on the chronologies presented in Giesecke et al. (2014) for EPD sites, and through liaison with data  
463 contributors. Nevertheless, future REVEALS runs may draw on improvements to age-depth modelling, which may result in  
464 some original pollen count data being assigned to different time windows.

465 The REVEALS results presented here are provided for  $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$  grid cells across Europe. The size and number of suitable pollen  
466 records is an important factor in the quality of the REVEALS estimates for each grid cell. The REVEALS model was developed  
467 for use with “large lakes” ( $\geq 50$  ha; Sugita, 2007a) that represent regional vegetation. Grid cells with multiple large lakes will  
468 thus provide results with the highest level of certainty and reflect the regional vegetation most accurately. These grid cell  
469 results comprised of one or more large lakes, or several small sites (lake or bog) or a mix of large site(s) and small sites, are  
470 considered “high quality” (dark grey grids in figure 1B). It has been shown both theoretically (Sugita, 2007a) and empirically  
471 (Fyfe et al., 2013; Trondman et al., 2016) that pollen records from multiple smaller ( $<50$  ha) lakes will also provide REVEALS  
472 estimates that reflect regional vegetation. However, SEs may be larger if there is high variability in pollen composition between  
473 records. We therefore also consider grid cells with multiple sites “high quality”. Application of REVEALS to pollen records  
474 from large bogs violates assumptions of the model (see section 2.1 above). Therefore, REVEALS estimates for grid cells  
475 including large bogs or single small sites (lake or bog) may not be representative of regional vegetation, particularly in areas  
476 characterised by heterogeneous vegetation. We consider such estimates as “lower quality” (light grey grids in figure 1B),  
477 although they may still provide first-order indications of vegetation cover, and represent an improvement on pollen percentage  
478 data (Marquer et al., 2014). Our results provide REVEALS estimates for a maximum of 420 grid cells per time window. The  
479 number and type of pollen records in a grid cell can change between time windows: not all pollen records cover the entire  
480 Holocene. To assess the reliability of individual results it is important to consider not just the number and type of pollen records  
481 in the total dataset, but how these changes between the time windows. Results for a maximum of 143 grid cells are based on  
482 three or more sites, 65 on two sites, and a minimum of 212 grid cells on a single site. The results of a maximum of 67 grid  
483 cells are based on single small bogs ( $<400$  m radius), 68 on single small lakes ( $<400$  m radius), and 82 on single large bogs.

#### 484 **4.2 Role of RPPs and FSP in REVEALS results**

485 A key assumption of the REVEALS model is that RPP values are constant within the region of interest, and through time  
486 (Sugita, 2007a). Nevertheless, it has been suggested that RPPs may vary between regions, with the variation caused by  
487 environmental variability (climate, land use), vegetation structure, or methodological design differences (Broström et al., 2008;  
488 Hellman et al., 2008a; Mazier et al., 2012; Li et al., 2020; Wiczorek and Herzschuh, 2020). Wiczorek and Herzschuh (2020)  
489 have shown that inter-taxon variability in RPP values is generally lower than intra-taxon variability, lending support to  
490 application of the approach we used in the new synthesis of RPPs for Europe (Appendix A-C), i.e. calculation of mean RPPs  
491 using all available RPP values that can be considered as reliable. Nevertheless, some RPP taxa still present a challenge, for  
492 example, Ericaceae, where Mediterranean tree forms have a greater number of inflorescences and hence may have a higher  
493 RPP than low-growth form Ericaceae in central and northern Europe. As we have only unique RPP values for Ericaceae in

494 both boreal-temperate Europe and Mediterranean Europe, and therefore the large difference in RPP between the two biomes  
495 remains to be confirmed with more RPP studies.

496 Currently there is higher confidence in the boreal and temperate RPP values that are based on a wider set of studies increasing  
497 the spread of values and hence reliability of the mean RPP values used (Mazier et al., 2012; Wiczorek and Herschuh, 2020),  
498 whilst RPP values for Mediterranean taxa are based on fewer empirical RPP studies. The new RPP datasets for Europe  
499 produced for this study (Appendix A-C) can be used in different ways. The RPPs provided in Table A1 can be used for the  
500 entire European region, including or excluding entomophilous taxa, and including all values from the Mediterranean area or  
501 only the values for the strictly sub-Mediterranean and/or Mediterranean taxa. If one uses all RPPs from the Mediterranean  
502 area, there will be taxa for which there is both a RPP value obtained in boreal/temperate Europe and a RPP value obtained in  
503 Mediterranean Europe. Application of both RPP values in a single REVEALS reconstruction is not straightforward to achieve,  
504 because the border between the two regions has shifted over the Holocene. In the REVEALS reconstruction presented in this  
505 paper, we chose to use the RPPs from Mediterranean Europe only for the sub-Mediterranean and/or Mediterranean taxa  
506 (including Ericaceae) (Table 1 and A1), and for all other taxa we used the RPPs from boreal/ temperate Europe. The major  
507 issue with this choice is the RPP value of Ericaceae. Using only the large value from Mediterranean Europe may lead to an  
508 under-representation of Ericaceae (*Calluna* excluded), in particular in boreal Europe, but perhaps also in temperate Europe.  
509 Using only the small value from boreal/temperate Europe may lead to an over-representation of Ericaceae in Mediterranean  
510 Europe.

511 Until we have more RPP values for each taxon, it is not possible to disentangle the effect of all factors influencing the  
512 estimation of RPPs and to separate the effect of methodological factors from those of factors such as vegetation type, climate  
513 and land use. The only way to evaluate the reliability of RPP datasets is to test them with modern or historical pollen  
514 assemblages and related plant cover (Hellman et al., 2008a, 2008b). We argue that RPP values of certain taxa may not vary  
515 substantially within some plant families or genera, while they might be variable within others, depending on the characteristics  
516 of flowers and inflorescences that may be either very different or relatively constant within families or genera (see discussion  
517 in Li et al. (2018)). Therefore, we advise to use compilations of RPPs at continental or sub-continental scales rather than  
518 compilations at multi-continental scales as the northern Hemisphere dataset proposed by Wiczorek and Herzschuh (2020).  
519 We consider the RPP selection used within this work as the most suitable for Europe to date, but expect revised and improved  
520 RPP values as more RPP empirical studies are published. Moreover, experimentation in REVEALS applications will allow  
521 future studies to evaluate the effects of using different RPP datasets on land-cover reconstructions (e.g. Mazier et al., 2012).  
522 The role of FSP values in the pollen dispersal and deposition function ( $g_i(z)$  in equation (1) of the REVEALS model, section  
523 2.1) has been discussed by Theuerkauf et al. (2013). In this application of REVEALS we used the Gaussian Plume Model  
524 (GPM) of dispersion and deposition as most existing RPP values have been estimated using this model. The GPM approximates  
525 dispersal as a fast-declining curve with distance from the source plant, which implies short distances of transport for pollen  
526 grain with high FSP compared to other models of dispersion and deposition (Theuerkauf et al., 2012). We have used the FSP  
527 values obtained for deciduous *Quercus type (t.)* (0.035 m/s) and boreal-temperate Ericaceae (0.037 m/s) for evergreen *Quercus*

528 *t.* and Mediterranean Ericaceae, respectively, although the FSP values of those two taxa were estimated to 0.015 and 0.051 in  
529 the Mediterranean study (Table 1 and A1). Whether using a lower FSP for evergreen *Quercus t.* (0.015 m/s) and a higher FSP  
530 for Mediterranean Ericaceae (0.051 m/s) will have an effect on the REVEALS results is not known and requires further testing.

### 531 **4.3 Use of the REVEALS land cover reconstructions results**

532 This second generation dataset of pollen-based REVEALS land cover in Europe over the Holocene is currently used in two  
533 major research projects: LandClim, and PAGES LandCover6k. LandClim is a Swedish Research Council project studying the  
534 difference in the biogeophysical effect of land-cover change on climate at 6000, 2500 and 200 BP (Fyfe et al., 2022; Githumbi  
535 et al., 2019; Strandberg et al., 2014; Trondman et al., 2015). PAGES LandCover6k focuses on providing datasets on past land-  
536 cover/land-use for climate modelling studies (Dawson et al., 2018; Gaillard et al., 2018; Harrison et al., 2020). The first  
537 generation REVEALS land-cover reconstruction (Marquer et al., 2014, 2017; Trondman et al., 2015) were used to evaluate  
538 other pollen-based reconstructions of Holocene tree-cover changes in Europe (Roberts et al., 2018) and scenarios of  
539 anthropogenic land-cover changes (ALCCs) (Kaplan et al., 2017) (see also section 1). The Trondman et al. (2015)  
540 reconstructions were used to create continuous spatial datasets of past land cover using spatial statistical modelling  
541 (Pirzamanbein et al., 2014, 2018, 2020).

542 Spatially explicit datasets/maps based on these second generation of REVEALS reconstructions are currently being produced  
543 within PAGES LandCover6k and used to evaluate and revise the HYDE (Klein Goldewijk et al., 2017) and KK10 (Kaplan et  
544 al., 2009) ALCC scenarios. Moreover, LandCover6k archaeology-based reconstructions of past land-use change (Morrison et  
545 al., 2021) will be integrated with the datasets of REVEALS land-cover. Besides the uses listed above, the second generation  
546 of REVEALS reconstruction for Europe offers great potential for use in a large range of studies on past European regional  
547 vegetation dynamics and changes in biodiversity over the Holocene ( Marquer et al., 2014, 2017) and the relationship between  
548 regional plant cover, land use, and climate over millennial and centennial time scales. Since the reconstructions are of regional  
549 plant cover they will have value in archaeological research when impacts are expected at the regional level (e.g. the impact of  
550 early mining (Schauer et al., 2019)). Archaeological questions and research programmes that require information on local  
551 vegetation cover will require the full application of the LRA (REVEALS and LOVE; Sugita, 2007a, b), such as the local  
552 vegetation estimates presented from Norway focussing on cultural landscape development (Mehl et al., 2015). The same  
553 approach of using the REVEALS results within the LOVE model is necessary for ecological questions that require local  
554 vegetation estimates (Cui et al., 2013, 2014; Sugita et al., 2010).

555 Several papers have discussed in depth the issues that need to be taken into account when interpreting REVEALS  
556 reconstructions of past plant cover, in particular Trondman et al. (2015) and Marquer et al. (2017). The interpretation in terms  
557 of human-induced vegetation change is one of the major challenges. The cover of open land (OL) may be used to assess  
558 landscape openness, but is not a precise measure of human disturbance. OL will include plant taxa characterizing both  
559 naturally-open land and agricultural land that has been created by humans through the course of the Holocene with the  
560 domestication of plants and livestock. Natural openness can occur in arctic and alpine areas, in wet regions, in river deltas and

561 around large lakes, as well as in eastern steppe areas. It is a particular challenge in the Mediterranean region where natural  
562 vegetation openness represents a larger fraction of the land cover than in temperate or boreal Europe (Roberts et al., 2019).  
563 Agricultural Land (AL; Trondman et al., 2015 is the only PFT that includes cultivars; nevertheless, it is restricted to cereal  
564 cropping, and many other cultivated crop types that can be identified through pollen analysis do not yet have RPP values (e.g.  
565 *Linum usitatissimum* (common flax), *Cannabis* (hemp), *Fagopyrum* (buckwheat), beans, etc.). Moreover, the *Cerealia-t.* pollen  
566 morphological type includes pollen from wild species of Poaceae, especially when identification relies essentially on  
567 measurements of the pollen grain and its pore and does not consider exine structure and sculpture (Beug, 2004; Dickson, 1988).  
568 The maps presented and described in section 3 as an illustration of the results show similar changes in spatial distributions and  
569 quantitative cover of plant taxa and land-cover types through time, between 6000 BP and present, as the results published in  
570 Trondman et al., (2015). The much greater potential of the new REVEALS reconstruction resides in its larger spatial extent,  
571 covering not only boreal and temperate Europe but also southern and eastern Europe, and its contiguous time windows across  
572 the entire Holocene, from 11700 BP to present. The quality of results is also higher in a number of grid cells in comparison to  
573 Trondman et al (2015), where new pollen records have been included, which may in several cases decrease the standard error  
574 on the REVEALS estimates.

## 575 **5. Data availability**

576 All data files reported in this work, which were used for calculations, and figure production are available for public download  
577 at <https://doi.pangaea.de/10.1594/PANGAEA.937075> (Fyfe et al., 2022). The data available in Pangaea includes: 1)  
578 REVEALS reconstructions and their associated SE for the 25 time windows; 2) Metadata of the 1128 pollen records used; 3)  
579 LandClimII contributors listing the data contributors\collectors\databases. 4) The list of FSP and RPP values used for the  
580 reconstructions and 5) Grid cell quality information (in terms of available pollen data, which influences the result quality:  
581 mean REVEALS estimate of plant cover) for all grid cells. Pollen data were extracted from ALPADABA  
582 (<https://www.neotomadb.org/>), EMBSEC BIO (<https://research.reading.ac.uk/palaeoclimate/embsecbio/>), EPD  
583 (<http://www.europeanpollendatabase.net/index.php>), LandClimI, PALYCZ (<https://botany.natur.cuni.cz/palycz/>) and  
584 PALEOPYR (<http://paleopyr.univ-tlse2.fr/>).

585

## 586 **6. Code availability**

587 REVEALS was implemented using the REVEALS function within the LRA R-package (Abraham et al., 2014), available at  
588 <https://github.com/petrkunes/LRA>.

589 Example code for data preparation and implementation of REVEALS, using two grid cells from SW Britain, is available at  
590 <https://github.com/rmfyfe/landclimII>.

## 591 **7. Conclusions**

592 The application of the REVEALS model to 1128 pollen records distributed across Europe has produced the first full-Holocene  
593 estimates of vegetation cover for 31 plant taxa in  $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$  grid cells. These data are made available for use by the wider science  
594 community, including aggregation of results to PFTs and LCTs. The REVEALS model assumptions are clearly stated to allow  
595 interpretation and assessment of our results and several of the assumptions have been tested and validated. We can therefore  
596 use the land-cover reconstructions to test the role of climate and humans on Holocene plant cover at regional scales. The  
597 overview of land-cover change across Europe over the Holocene can be used to track the timing and rate of vegetation shifts.  
598 We can also determine the effect of human-induced changes in regional vegetation cover on climate, i.e. study land use as a  
599 climate forcing (Gaillard et al., 2010a, 2018; Harrison et al., 2020; Strandberg et al., 2014). Local reconstructions (LOVE) can  
600 be a complementary approach to archaeological surveys as fine-scale human use of the landscape cannot be distinguished  
601 using REVEALS (regional estimates). The LOVE model requires that regional plant cover is known: the REVEALS  
602 reconstructions are therefore needed for this purpose as well, and gridded reconstructions may be a way to perform LOVE  
603 reconstructions, although other strategies can be chosen (Cui et al., 2013; Mazier et al., 2015). Questions aiming to understand  
604 the degree of vegetation openness through the Holocene in Europe, or regarding changes in the relationship between summer-  
605 green and evergreen tree cover through time can now and in the future be answered and validated with fossil pollen data via  
606 the REVEALS approach. We expect that, in the future, improved REVEALS estimates, as more pollen records are  
607 incorporated, and work on RPPs develops.

## 608 Appendices

### 609 Appendix A - New RPP dataset for Europe

#### 610 A.1 New RPP synthesis for Europe

611 The most common method to estimate RPPs involves the application of the Extended R-Value (ERV) model on datasets of  
612 modern pollen assemblages and related vegetation cover. A summary of the ERV model and its assumptions, and an extensive  
613 description of standardised field methods for the purpose of RPP studies are found in Bunting et al. (2013b). Estimation of  
614 RPPs in Europe started with the studies by Sugita et al. (1999) and Broström et al. (2004) in southern Sweden, and Nielsen et  
615 al. (2004) in Denmark. The first tests of the RPP in pollen-based reconstructions of plant cover using the LRA's REVEALS  
616 (Regional Estimates of VEgetation Abundance from Large Sites) model (Sugita, 2007a) were published by Soepboer et al.  
617 (2007) in Switzerland and Hellman et al. (2008a and b) in southern Sweden. Over the last 15 years, a large number of RPP  
618 studies have been undertaken in Europe North of the Alps, but it is only recently that RPP studies were initiated in the  
619 Mediterranean area (Grindean et al., 2019; Mazier et al., unpublished). Two earlier syntheses of RPPs in Europe were published  
620 by Broström et al. (2008) and Mazier et al. (2012). From 2012 onwards, these RPP values have been used in numerous  
621 applications of the LRA's two models REVEALS and LOVE (Local Vegetation Estimates) (Sugita, 2007a and b) to  
622 reconstruct regional and local plant cover in Europe (Cui et al., 2013; Fyfe et al., 2013; Marquer et al., 2020; Mazier et al.,  
623 2015; Nielsen et al., 2012; Nielsen and Odgaard, 2010; Trondman et al., 2015). Wieczorek and Herzschuh (2020) published a  
624 synthesis of the RPPs available for the northern Hemisphere; it includes new mean RPP values for Europe that were produced  
625 independently from the synthesis we present here.

626 Table A1 is the result of the new synthesis of RPPs available in Europe that we have performed for the REVEALS  
627 reconstruction presented in the paper. It includes RPPs for 39 plant taxa from studies in boreal and temperate Europe of which  
628 22 (Poaceae included) are herbs or low shrubs, and for 22 plant taxa from studies in the Mediterranean area. The two regions  
629 have RPP values for 7 plant taxa in common. These RPPs are compared to those from two syntheses published earlier, Mazier  
630 et al. (2012) and Wieczorek and Herzschuh (2020). The number of selected RPP values ( $n$ ) for Poaceae is larger than the total  
631 number of RPP ( $tn$ ), i.e.  $n = tn + 1$ . This is due to the fact that the study of Bunting et al. 2005 does not include a value for  
632 Poaceae and the RPP values are related to *Quercus* (Bunting et al., 2005); therefore, RPPs related to Poaceae were calculated  
633 by assuming the RPP value for *Quercus* (related to Poaceae;  $Quercus_{(Poaceae)}$ ) was the same in this study region than the mean  
634 of  $Quercus_{(Poaceae)}$  RPPs from all other available studies.

635 The ranking of RPPs (relative to Poaceae, RPP=1) for 23 tree taxa (M: Mediterranean taxa), from the largest (13.56) to the  
636 smallest (0.240), is as follows (Poaceae included for comparison): *Alnus*> evergreen *Quercus t.*(M)> *Abies alba*> *Pinus*>  
637 *Fagus sylvatica*> *Picea abies*> Ericaceae (M)> *Betula*> deciduous *Quercus t.*> *Carpinus betulus*> *Populus*> *Juniperus*>  
638 *Corylus avellana*> *Castanea sativa*> *Sambucus nigra-t.*> *Ulmus*> *Tilia*> *Salix*> *Fraxinus*> Poaceae (=1)> *Acer*> *Pistacia* (M)>  
639 *Phillyrea* (M)> *Carpinus orientalis* (M). All tree taxa have mean RPPs larger than 1 except *Acer* (0.8), *Pistacia* (0.755),  
640 *Phillyrea* (0.512) and *Carpinus orientalis* (0.240). The ranking of RPPs for 24 herb and low shrub taxa, from the largest (10.52)

641 to the smallest (0.10), is as follows: *Urtica*> Chenopodiaceae> *Secale*> *Artemisia*> Rubiaceae> *Rumex acetosa*-t.>  
642 *Filipendula*> *Plantago lanceolata*> *Trollius*> Ranunculaceae (M)> *Ranunculus acris*-t.> *Cerealia*-t.> *Potentilla*-t.> *Plantago*  
643 *media*> *Calluna vulgaris*> Poaceae (=1)> Cyperaceae> *Plantago montana*> Fabaceae (M)> Rosaceae (M)> Apiaceae>  
644 Compositae SF. Cichorioideae> *Empetrum*> *Leucanthemum (Anthemis)*-t.. Of the taxa with RPPs larger than 3, only six taxa  
645 are herbs while twelve are trees.

646 The two studies in the Mediterranean area provide single RPP values for 16 taxa, five herb taxa (Poaceae included) and 11 tree  
647 taxa of which six are sub-Mediterranean and/or Mediterranean, and three include both temperate and Mediterranean taxa  
648 (Cupressaceae, Ericaceae, *Fraxinus*) (Table B2). The RPP of herb taxa are significantly different between the study of  
649 Grindean et al. (2019) from the forest-steppe zone and our synthesis, except for *Artemisia* (5.89 and 3, 94, respectively). The  
650 RPP of *Corylus avellana* from the study of Mazier et al. (unpublished) (3.44) is double the mean RPP in our synthesis (1.71),  
651 and the mean RPP of deciduous *Quercus t.* in our synthesis (4.54) is four times larger than the RPP from the study of Grindean  
652 et al. (2019) (1.10).

653 **Table A1: New synthesis of European RPPs: mean RPPs with their SDs in brackets, and mean RPPs from the syntheses by Mazier**  
654 **et al. (2012) (St2 values) and Wieczorek and Herzsuh (2020), for comparison. This synthesis: values in bold are new mean RPPs**  
655 **compared to Mazier et al. (2012). The RPP values from studies in the Mediterranean area are indicated with “M” in the second**  
656 **column. The values in cells emphasized by a thick rectangle are the mean RPPs used in the new REVEALS reconstruction for**  
657 **Europe (this paper), values in bold are new values, values not in bold are the same values as in Mazier et al. (2012). The values of**  
658 **fall speed of pollen (FSP) are from Mazier et al. (2012) except those in italic, i.e. FSPs for Amaranthaceae/Chenopodiaceae, *Urtica***  
659 **and *Sambucus nigra*-t. (Abraham and Kozáková, 2012), and *Populus* (Wieczorek and Herzsuh, 2020) and the new FSPs for**  
660 **Mediterranean taxa. For the three syntheses, the number of selected RPP values (n) included in the calculation of the mean RPP**  
661 **estimate is indicated with the total number of available RPP values (tn) in brackets. The reason why the number of selected RPP**  
662 **values (n) for Poaceae is larger than the total number of RPP (tn) is provided in section A.1. Abbreviations: Comp. Compositae**  
663 **(=Asteraceae), Dec. deciduous, *Filipend Filipendula*, *Pot Potentilla*, SF. Subfamily, t. type, Symbols: \* Separate mean RPP values for**  
664 ***Calluna vulgaris*, *Empetrum*, and Ericaceae (*Calluna* and *Empetrum* excluded) in this synthesis, a single mean RPP values for all**  
665 **Ericales in Wieczorek and Herzsuh (2020), \*\* Separate mean RPP values for Cerealia type (*Secale* excluded) and *Secale* in this**  
666 **synthesis, a single mean RPP for all cereals in Wieczorek and Herzsuh (2020), \*\*\* Separate mean RPP values for Compositae SF**  
667 **Cichorioideae and *Leucanthemum (Anthemis)* type in this synthesis, a single mean RPP for all Asteraceae in Wieczorek and**  
668 **Herzsuh (2020). Note that there are no RPP for Asteraceae (Compositae SF Cichorioideae and *Leucanthemum (Anthemis)* type**  
669 **excluded) in our synthesis, ^ Separate mean RPP values for *Filipendula* and *Potentilla* type in this synthesis, a single mean RPP for**  
670 **all Rosaceae in Wieczorek and Herzsuh (2020); note that there are no RPP for Rosaceae (*Filipendula* and *Potentilla*-t. excluded)**  
671 **in our synthesis; moreover *Filipendula* and *Potentilla*-t. are classified as herbs, while Rosaceae is classified as tree in Wieczorek and**  
672 **Herzsuh (2020), ^^ Separate mean RPP values for *Plantago lanceolata*, *P. media* and *P. montana* in this synthesis, a single mean**  
673 **RPP for all Plantaginaceae in Wieczorek and Herzsuh (2020); note that there are no RPP for Plantaginaceae (*Plantago lanceolata*,**  
674 ***P. media* and *P. montana* excluded) in our synthesis, ^^ Separate mean RPP values for *Ranunculus acris* type and *Trollius* in this**  
675 **synthesis, a single mean RPP for all Ranunculaceae in Wieczorek and Herzsuh (2020); note that there are no RPP for**  
676 **Ranunculaceae (*Ranunculus acris*-t and *Trollius* excluded) in our synthesis.**



Study n (tn), FSP, RPP	This paper, synthesis			Mazier et al. 2012 St 3		Wieczorek & Herzsuh 2020 Europe version 2		
	n (tn)	FSP	RPP (SE)	n (tn)	RPP (SE)	n(tn)	RPP (SE)	Notes
<b>HERB TAXA</b>								
<b>Poaceae (Reference taxon)</b>	16(15)	0.035	<b>1.00 (0.00)</b>	9(8)	1.00 (0.00)	14(12)	1.00 (0.00)	
<b>Herb taxa</b>								
Amaranthaceae/Chenopodiaceae	1(1)	<b>0.019</b>	<b>4.280 (0.270)</b>	none	none	1(1)	<u>4.28 (0.27)</u>	Same value as in this synthesis
Apiaceae	1(1)	0.042	0.260 (0.010)	1(1)	0.26 (0.01)	3(3)	2.13 (0.41)	
Apiaceae	<b>M</b> 1(1)	0.042	5.910 (1.230)					
<i>Artemisia</i>	3(3)	0.025	<b>3.937 (0.146)</b>	1(1)	3.48 (0.20)	2(2)	4.33 (1.59)	
<i>Artemisia</i>	<b>M</b> 1(1)	0.014	5.890 (3.160)					
Comp. <i>Leucanth. (Anthemis)t.</i> ***	1(1)	0.029	0.100 (0.010)	1(1)	0.10 (0.01)			see Asteraceae all***
Comp. SF. Cichorioideae***	3(3)	0.051	0.160 (0.020)	3(3)	0.16 (0.02)	8(10)	0.22 (0.02)	<b>Asteraceae all***</b>
Comp. SF. Cichorioideae	<b>M</b> 1(1)	0.061	1.162 (0.075)					
Comp. (Asteroideae + Cichorioideae)	<b>M</b> 1(1)	0.029	0.160 (0.100)					
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i> *	2(4)	0.038	1.085 (0.029)	2(4)	1.09 (0.03)			see Ericales all*
Cerealia t.**	3(7)	0.060	<b>1.850 (0.380)</b>	2(4)	1.18 (0.04)	4(6)	2.36 (0.42)	<b>Cereals all**</b>
Cerealia t. ( <i>Triticum</i> ., <i>Secale</i> , <i>Zea</i> )	<b>M</b> 1(1)	0.060	0.220 (0.120)					
Cyperaceae	4(6)	0.035	<b>0.962 (0.050)</b>	4(6)	0.83 (0.04)	6(8)	0.56 (0.02)	
<i>Empetrum</i> *	1(2)	0.038	0.110 (0.030)	1(2)	0.11 (0.03)			see Ericales all*
Ericaceae*	1(1)	0.038	0.070 (0.040)	1(1)	0.07 (0.04)	7(9)	0.44 (0.02)	<b>Ericales all*</b>
Fabaceae	<b>M</b> 1(1)	0.021	0.400 (0.070)					
<i>Filipendula</i> ^	3(3)	0.006	<b>3.000 (0.285)</b>	2(3)	2.81 (0.43)	4(6)	0.97 (0.11)	<b>Rosaceae all ^</b>
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> ^^	4(6)	0.029	<b>2.330 (0.201)</b>	3(4)	1.04 (0.09)	8(10)	2.49 (0.11)	<b>Plantaginaceae all^^</b>
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	<b>M</b> 1(1)	0.029	0.580 (0.320)					
<i>Plantago media</i> ^^	1(1)	0.024	1.270 (0.180)	1(1)	1.27 (0.18)			see Plantaginaceae all^^
<i>Plantago montana</i> ^^	1(1)	0.030	0.740 (0.130)	1(1)	0.74 (0.13)			see Plantaginaceae all^^
<i>Potentilla</i> t.^	2(3)	0.018	1.720 (0.200)	2(3)	1.72 (0.20)			see Rosaceae all^
Ranunculaceae	<b>M</b> 1(1)	0.020	2.038 (0.335)					
<i>Ranunculus acrist.</i> ^^^	2(2)	0.014	1.960 (0.360)	2(2)	1.96 (0.36)	3(5)	0.99 (0.12)	<b>Ranunculaceae all^^^</b>

Rosaceae ( <i>Filipend.</i> , <i>Pot. t.</i> , <i>Sanguisorba</i> )	<b>M</b>	1(1)	0.018	0.290 (0.120)		3.71			
Rubiaceae		2(3)	0.019	3.710 (0.340)	2(3)	(0.34)	3(5)	1.56 (012)	
Rubiaceae	<b>M</b>	1(1)	0.019	0.400 (0.070)					
<i>Rumex acetosat.</i>		3(4)	0.018	<b>3.020 (0.278)</b>	3(3)	0.85 (0.05)	3(4)	0.58 (0.03)	
<i>Secale**</i>		3(3)	0.060	<b>3.990 (0.320)</b>	1(1)	3.02 (0.05)			see Cereals all**
<i>Trollius^^^</i>		1(1)	0.013	2.290 (0.360)	1(1)	2.29 (0.36)			see Ranunculaceae all^^^
<i>Urtica</i>		1(1)	<b>0.007</b>	<b>10.520 (0.310)</b>	none	none	1(1)	<u>10.52 (0.31)</u>	Same value as in this synthesis
<b>TREE TAXA</b>									
<i>Abies alba</i>		2(2)	0.120	<u>6.875 (1.442)</u>	2(2)	6.88 (1.44)	2(2)	<u>6.88 (1.44)</u>	Same value as in this synthesis
<i>Acer</i>		2(2)	0.056	0.800 (0.230)	2(2)	0.80 (0.23)	3(3)	0.23 (0.04)	
<i>Acer</i>	<b>M</b>	1(1)	0.056	<b>0.300 (0.090)</b>					
<i>Alnus</i>		5(7)	0.021	<b>13.562 (0.293)</b>	3(3)	9.07 (0.10)	4(6)	8.49 (0.22)	
<i>Betula</i> (mainly <i>B. pubescens</i> , <i>B. pendula</i> )		7(9)	0.024	<b>5.106 (0.303)</b>	6(6)	3.99 (0.17)	6(8)	4.94 (0.44)	
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	<b>M</b>	1(1)	<b>0.032</b>	<b>1.890 (0.068)</b>					
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>		2(4)	0.042	<b>4.520 (0.425)</b>	2(2)	3.55 (0.43)	3(5)	3.09 (0.28)	
<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>	<b>M</b>	1(1)	0.042	<b>0.240 (0.070)</b>					
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	<b>M</b>	1(1)	<b>0.010</b>	<b>3.258 (0.059)</b>					
<i>Corylus avellana</i>		4(4)	0.025	<b>1.710 (0.100)</b>	3(3)	1.99 (0.20)	3(4)	1.05 (0.33)	
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	<b>M</b>	1(1)	0.025	<b>3.440 (0.890)</b>					
Cupressaceae ( <i>Juniperus</i> 3 species)	<b>M</b>	1(1)	<b>0.020</b>	<b>1.618 (0.161)</b>					See <i>Juniperus</i>
Ericaceae ( <i>Arbutus unedo</i> , <i>Erica</i> 3 species)	<b>M</b>	1(1)	<b>0.051</b>	<b>4.265 (0.094)</b>					
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>		3(6)	0.057	<b>5.863 (0.176)</b>	4(4)	3.43 (0.09)	3(3)	2.35 (0.11)	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>		5(6)	0.022	<b>1.044 (0.048)</b>	3(3)	1.03 (0.11)	5(5)	2.97 (0.25)	
<i>Fraxinus</i> ( <i>F. excelsior</i> , <i>F. ornus</i> )	<b>M</b>	1(1)	0.022	<b>2.990 (0.880)</b>					
<i>Juniperus communis</i>		1(2)	0.016	2.070 (0.040)	1(2)	2.07 (0.04)	1(1)	7.94 (1.28)	
<i>Phillyrea</i>	<b>M</b>	1(1)	<b>0.015</b>	<b>0.512 (0.076)</b>					
<i>Pistacia</i>	<b>M</b>	1(1)	<b>0.030</b>	<b>0.755 (0.201)</b>					
<i>Picea abies</i>		4(8)	0.056	<b>5.437 (0.097)</b>	4(6)	2.62 (0.12)	4(6)	1.65 (0.15)	
<i>Pinus</i> (mainly <i>P. sylvestris</i> )		6(9)	0.031	<b>6.058 (0.237)</b>	3(5)	6.38 (0.45)	4(6)	10.86 (0.80)	
<i>Populus</i>		1(1)	<b>0.025</b>	<b>2.660 (1.250)</b>	none	none	1(1)	3.42 (1.60)	

Dec. <i>Quercust.</i> (mainly <i>Q. robur</i> , <i>Q. petraea</i> )		6(8)	0.035	<b>4.537 (0.086)</b>	4(4)	5.83 (0.15)	5(7)	2.42 (0.10)	
Dec. <i>Quercust.</i> (mainly <i>Q. peduncularis</i> )	<b>M</b>	1(1)	<b>0.035</b>	<b>1.100 (0.350)</b>					
Evegreen <i>Quercust.</i> ( <i>Q. ilex</i> , <i>Q. coccifera</i> )	<b>M</b>	1(1)	<b>0.015</b>	<b>11.043 (0.261)</b>					
<i>Salix</i>		5(5)	0.022	<b>1.182 (0.077)</b>	3(4)	1.79 (0.16)	3(4)	0.39 (0.06)	
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> t.		1(1)	<b>0.013</b>	<b>1.300 (0.120)</b>	none	none	1(1)	<u>1.30 (0.12)</u>	Same value as in this synthesis
<i>Tilia</i>		4(5)	0.032	<b>1.210 (0.116)</b>	1(1)	0.80 (0.03)	3(4)	0.93 (0.09)	
<i>Ulmus</i>		1(2)	0.032	1.270 (0.050)	1(1)	1.27 (0.05)	none		

678

## 679 A.2 Comparison of the current synthesis with two previous syntheses (Table A1)

680 Of the 39 plant taxa for which we have a mean RPP in our new synthesis (New), 21 have a new mean RPP value compared to  
681 the earlier synthesis of Mazier et al. (2012) (Maz), 18 taxa have the same mean RPPs in both syntheses. There are three new  
682 taxa for which there were no RPP in Maz, i.e. Amaranthaceae/Chenopodiaceae, *Sambucus nigra*-t. and *Urtica*. The mean RPPs  
683 are comparable between the two syntheses New and Maz, except for *Plantago lanceolata* (2.33 in New/1.04 in Maz), *Alnus*  
684 (13.56/9.07), *Betula* (5.11/3.09), *Carpinus betulus* (4.52/3.55), *Fagus* (5.86/3.43), *Picea* (5.44/2.62) and *Quercus* (4.54/5.83).  
685 *Abies alba* has the same RPP in all three syntheses. Amaranthaceae/Chenopodiaceae, *Sambucus nigra*-t. and *Urtica* have the  
686 same single RPP values in the synthesis of Wiczorek and Herzsuh (2020) (W&H) and New. New and W&H also have  
687 comparable mean RPP values for *Artemisia*, Cereals (Cereals, *Secale* excluded in New, all Cereals in W&H), Compositae (SF  
688 Cichorioideae in N, all Compositae (=Asteraceae) in W&H), Cyperaceae, *Plantago* (*P. lanceolata* in New, all Plantaginaceae  
689 in W&H), *Betula*, *Corylus*, *Populus* and *Tilia*. There are relatively large differences in mean RPPs in W&H and New for 16  
690 plant taxa, although the ranking of the plant taxa in terms of their mean RPPs is almost the same. Mean RPP is larger in W&H  
691 than in New for Apiaceae (2.13/0.26), Ericales (0.44 in W&H) – *Empetrum* (0.11) and Ericaceae (0.07) in New, *Fraxinus*  
692 (2.97/1.04), *Juniperus* (7.94/2.07), *Pinus* (10.86/6.06). Mean RPP is smaller in W&H than in New for *Filipendula* (0.97/3.00),  
693 Rubiaceae (1.56/3.71), *Rumex acetosa* (0.58/2.02), *Acer* (0.23/0.80), *Alnus* (8.49/13.56), *Carpinus* (3.09/4.52), *Fagus*  
694 (2.35/5.86)), *Picea* (1.65/5.44), *Quercus* (2.42/4.54) and *Salix* (0.39/1.18).

695 The larger differences between the mean RPPs in New and W&H than between New and Maz have not been examined in  
696 detail. It is due to a slightly different selection of studies, i.e. the study of Theuerkauf et al. (2013) is not included in W &H  
697 and we did not include in New (boreal and temperate Europe, Mediterranean area excluded) the studies of Bunting et al.  
698 (2013a), Kuneš et al. (2019) and Grindean et al. (2019). Another important influencing factor is the selection of RPP values  
699 for calculation of the mean RPP. Although the rules used to select RPP values are very similar between the syntheses, there  
700 are obvious differences between New and W&H that are sometimes very significant (e.g. *Juniperus*).

### 701 **A.3 Comparison of the new synthesis with three additional individual studies (Table A2)**

702 The RPPs from Twiddle et al. (2012) (Twi) for *Pinus*, *Betula* and *Calluna* are considerably larger than the mean RPPs in our  
703 synthesis (New). This is probably due to the assumption made on the RPP of *Picea* related to Poaceae. The RPP of *Picea*  
704 varies greatly between the selected studies in New, from 0.57 to 8.43 (eight values available). If we assumed that the RPP of  
705 *Picea* related to Poaceae in the study region of Twi was the mean RPP of the five smallest RPPs, i.e. 1.57, the RPP of the three  
706 taxa would be 4.8 for *Pinus*, 3.4 for *Betula*, and 3.3 for *Calluna*, which is more comparable to the mean RPPs in New.

707 Three taxa in Bunting et al. (2013a) (Bun) have a RPP comparable to the mean RPP in New, i.e. for Cyperaceae, *Ranunculus*  
708 *acris*-t., and *Rumex acetosa*-t. (*R. acetosa* in Bun). The other taxa have a RPP in Bun smaller than the mean RPP in New,  
709 except *Plantago maritima* that has a larger RPP (5.8) in Bun than the mean RPP for *P. lanceolata* in New.

710 Of nine taxa, three have a RPP in Kuneš et al. (2019) (Kun) that is comparable to the mean RPP in New, i.e. for *Plantago*  
711 *lanceolata*, *Ranunculus acris*-t. and *Rumex acetosa*-t.. The other six taxa have a RPP larger than the mean RPP in New  
712 (Compositae SF Cichorioideae, Cyperaceae and *Leucanthemum (Anthemis)*-t., or smaller (Amaranthaceae/Chenopodiaceae,  
713 Rubiaceae) to considerably smaller (*Urtica*). Of the 14 tree taxa, only four have a RPP in Kun comparable to the mean RPP in  
714 New, i.e. for *Corylus*, *Fraxinus*, *Salix*, and *Ulmus*. For the other 10 tree taxa, the RPP in K is much smaller than the mean RPP  
715 in N for *Abies alba*, *Alnus*, *Carpinus*, *Fagus*, *Picea*, *Pinus*, smaller for *Quercus*, and larger for *Acer* and *Tilia*.

716 Most of the RPP values of the three studies Twi, Bun and Kun are in the range of the values selected from the studies included  
717 in our synthesis (New) except for *Urtica*, *Abies alba*, *Carpinus*, and *Pinus* in Kun. The Lagrangian Stochastic Model is used  
718 in Kun instead of the Gaussian Plume Model in New, which may be one of the factors behind the lower RPPs in Kun, in  
719 particular (but not only) for taxa with heavy pollen grains.

720

721 Table A2: Comparison of the mean RPPs in this synthesis with the RPP estimates from Britain (Twiddle et al., 2012), Greenland  
722 (Bunting et al., 2013a) and Czech Republic (Kuneš et al., 2019). Explanations for symbols in the taxa list, see caption Table A1. The  
723 values in cells emphasized by a thick rectangle are the mean RPPs used in the new REVEALS reconstruction for Europe (this paper),  
724 values in bold are new values, values not in bold are the same values as in Mazier et al. (2012). Underlined values are values from  
725 the three published studies that are close to the values of the synthesis in this paper. Other symbols: + The original paper does not  
726 provide a RPP for Poaceae and values of standard deviations (SDs) for the RPPs. We extracted the RPP values related to *Picea* from  
727 Table 5 in Twiddle et al. (2012). RPPs related to Poaceae (1.00+) were then calculated by assuming that the RPP of *Picea* was equal  
728 to the mean RPP of *Picea* in Europe (this synthesis) (in bold). ++ The RPPs and their SDs are not listed in the original paper, we  
729 therefore extracted the values from Figure 4 in Bunting et al. (2013a) and the decimals are approximate. +++ Kuneš et al. (2019):  
730 we chose the RPP values that were considered best by the authors, i.e. using the lake dataset (pollen from lake sediment), ERV sub-  
731 model 1 and the Lagrangian Stochastic Model (for details, see Discussion section, this paper). # value for *Plantago maritima* and ##  
732 two values for *Rumex acetosa* and *Rumex acetosella*, respectively (Bunting et al., 2013a), for comparison with *Plantago* spp. and  
733 *Rumex acetosa-t.* (this paper). Underlined RPPs are close to mean RPPs (this synthesis).

734

Study	This paper synthesis RPP (SE)	Twiddle et al. (2012)+ RPP - ERV3 random GPM	Bunting et al. (2013)++ RPP (SE) - ERV1 GPM	Kunes et al (2019)+++ RPP (SE) - R ERV1 LSM
<b>Information on analysis</b>				
<b>HERB TAXA</b>				
<b>Poaceae (Reference taxon)</b>	1.000 (0.000)	1.00+	1.00 (0.00)	1.00 (0.00)
<b>Herb taxa</b>				
Amaranthaceae/Chenopodiaceae	<b>4.280 (0.270)</b>			1.58 (0.74)
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i> *	1.085 (0.029)	11.42		
Comp. <i>Leucanthemum</i> ( <i>Anthemis</i> )t.***	0.10 (0.01)			0.94 (0.43)
Comp. SF. Cichorioideae***	0.160 (0.020)			1.04 (0.64)
Cyperaceae	<b>0.962 (0.050)</b>		0.95 (0.05)	2.10 (0.88)
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> ^^	<b>2.330 (0.201)</b>		5.8 (0.3)#	2.24 (0.71)
<i>Potentilla</i> t.^	1.720 (0.200)		0.4 (0.03)	
<i>Ranunculus acrist.</i> ^^^	1.960 (0.360)		2.0 (0.1)	1.38 (1.13)
Rubiaceae	3.710 (0.340)			1.03 (0.74)
<i>Rumex acetosat.</i>	<b>3.020 (0.278)</b>		3.5 (0.3)/2.0 (0.1)##	1.94 (1.35)
<i>Urtica</i>	<b>10.520 (0.310)</b>			1.16 (0.52)
<b>TREE TAXA</b>				
<i>Abies alba</i>	6.875 (1.442)			1.08 (0.99)
<i>Acer</i>	0.800 (0.230)			1.25 (0.75)
<i>Alnus</i>	<b>13.562 (0.293)</b>			2.44 (0.73)
<i>Betula</i> (mainly <i>B. pubescens</i> , <i>B. pendula</i> )	<b>5.106 (0.303)</b>	13.16	3.75 (0.4)	2.53 (0.91)
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	<b>4.520 (0.425)</b>			1.36 (0.36)
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	<b>1.710 (0.100)</b>			2.31 (1.13)
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	<b>5.863 (0.176)</b>			0.88 (0.25)
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	<b>1.044 (0.048)</b>			0.79 (0.37)
<i>Picea abies</i>	<b>5.437 (0.097)</b>	5.44		2.39 (0.93)
<i>Pinus</i> (mainly <i>P. sylvestris</i> )	<b>6.058 (0.237)</b>	16.32		1.55 (0.44)
Dec. <i>Quercust.</i> (mainly <i>Q. robur</i> , <i>Q. petraea</i> )	<b>4.537 (0.086)</b>			2.08 (0.46)
<i>Salix</i>	<b>1.182 (0.077)</b>		0.7 (0.03)	1.43 (0.62)
<i>Tilia</i>	<b>1.210 (0.116)</b>			2.30 (1.24)
<i>Ulmus</i>	1.270 (0.050)			0.96 (0.77)

## 737 Appendix B - Selection of RPP values and calculation of the mean RPPs and their SDs

### 738 B.1 Methods

739 Tables B1 (Boreal and Temperate Europe) and B2 (Mediterranean Europe) list the RPP values from the 16 selected studies  
740 according to the information on models used provided in Appendix C (Table C1) with further explanations on selection of  
741 RPP studies. We followed similar procedures and rules as Mazier et al. (2012) and Li et al. (2018) to produce a new standard  
742 RPP dataset for Europe. We consider that there are still too few RPP values per taxon to disentangle variability in the RPP  
743 values for a particular taxon due to methodological issues, landscape characteristics, land use, or climate. We therefore use the  
744 mean of selected RPP values for each taxon in the new standard RPP dataset, following Broström et al. (2008) and Mazier et  
745 al. (2012). In boreal and temperate Europe, the number of RPP values per taxon varies between one and nine (*Betula*) (Table  
746 B1), and in Mediterranean Europe, there is only one value per taxon (Table B2). In general, all three sub-models of the ERV  
747 model were used in the RPP studies. We selected the RPP values obtained with the ERV sub-model considered by the authors  
748 to have provided the best results (following the approach of Li et al., 2018). This is usually evaluated from the shape of the  
749 curve of likelihood function scores (LFS), or log likelihood (LL) (Twiddle et al., 2012) and the LFS and LL values themselves.  
750 All RPPs selected for this synthesis are expressed relative to Poaceae (RPP=1). In studies that used another reference taxon  
751 and calculated a RPP for Poaceae, the RPPs were recalculated relative to Poaceae. In studies that did not include a RPP value  
752 for Poaceae, it was assumed that the reference taxon had a RPP related to Poaceae equal to the mean of the RPP values for that  
753 taxon in the other studies (Mazier et al., 2012). For simplicity, we used the value of *Quercus* (5.83) calculated by Mazier et al.  
754 (2012) for the study by Bunting et al. (2005) (*Quercus* as reference taxon, no RPP value for Poaceae). We could also have  
755 used the new mean RPP for *Quercus* (4.54) using our selected RPPs (five values, instead of three in Mazier et al. (2012)). The  
756 latter would not have changed our results significantly; the mean RPP for *Quercus* would have been 4.28 instead of 4.54 (Table  
757 A4). For the study by Baker et al. (2016), we used the RPP values obtained with Poaceae as the reference taxon, given that the  
758 RPPs relative to *Quercus* or *Pinus* were almost identical when ERV submodel 3 was used. The selection of RPP values in  
759 boreal and temperate Europe for the calculation of the mean RPP values of each taxon (values in bold and emphasized by a  
760 thick rectangle in Table B1, (A) and (B)) is based on the following rules:

- 761 1. We excluded the RPP values that were not significantly different from zero considering the lower bound of its SE,  
762 and values that were considered as uncertain by the authors of the original publications (e.g., *Vaccinium* for Finland  
763 (Räsänen et al., 2007), *Pinus* for Central Sweden (von Stedingk et al., 2008)). Moreover, some RPP values were  
764 excluded as they were assumed to be outliers or unreliable based on experts' knowledge on the plants involved, the  
765 pollen-vegetation dataset, and the field characteristics of the related studies. For example, the RPPs for Cyperaceae,  
766 *Potentilla-t* and Rubiaceae obtained in SW Norway (Hjelle, 1998) and those for *Salix* and *Calluna vulgaris* from  
767 Central Sweden (von Stedingk et al., 2008) were assumed to be too low compared to the values obtained in other  
768 study areas (Mazier et al., 2012).

769 2. (i) when five or more RPP estimates of pollen productivity ( $N \geq 5$ ) were available for a pollen type, the largest and the  
770 smallest RPP values (generally outlier values) were excluded, and the mean was calculated using the remaining three  
771 or more RPP estimates; (ii) when  $N=4$ , the most deviating value was excluded, and the mean calculated using the  
772 other three RPP values; (iii) when  $N=3$ , the mean was based on all values available except if one value was strongly  
773 deviating from the other two; and (iv) when  $N=2$ , the mean was based on the two values available; an exception is  
774 *Ulmus* for which we excluded the value from Germany (Theuerkauf et al. 2013) given that several of the RPPs in this  
775 study are considerably higher than most values in the other available studies, i.e. for *Betula* (18.7), *Quercus* (17.85)  
776 and *Tilia* (12.38). The latter values were also excluded from the mean RPP, as well as the unusually high values found  
777 by Baker et al. (2016) for *Betula* (13.94), *Pinus* (23.12) and *Quercus* (18.47). Baker et al. (2016) argue that the high  
778 RPP values might be characteristic of temperate deciduous forests that were little impacted by human activities. More  
779 studies in this type of wooded environments would be needed to confirm this assumption. In the absence of such  
780 studies we consider these values as outliers.

781 The SDs for the mean RPP values were calculated using the delta method (Stuart. and Ord., 1994), a mathematical solution to  
782 the problem of calculating the mean of individual SDs (see Li et al. 2020 for more details).



783 Table B1: Europe (Mediterranean area excluded): RPP estimates and their SDs (in brackets) with the total number of taxa per study  
784 indicated and in brackets the number of taxa with selected RPP estimates. (A) Studies using moss pollsters as pollen samples. (B)  
785 Studies using surface lake sediments as pollen samples. Values in bold emphasized by thick rectangle: selected RPP estimates to be  
786 included in the mean RPP values. Values in bold emphasized by thin rectangle: RPP estimates excluded because of a too large  
787 difference with the other available estimates and their mean (less than half or more than double the mean RPP). Values not  
788 emphasized by a rectangle: RPP estimates excluded due to its extreme high value compared to the other available estimates (much  
789 over double the mean of the other RPPs), i.e. from the study at Bialowice forest (Poland, Baker et al., 2016) for *Betula*, *Pinus* and  
790 *Quercus*, Central Sweden (von Stedingk et al., 2008) for *Pinus*, and Germany\*\*\*\* (Theuerkauf et al., 2013) for *Betula*, *Quercus*,  
791 *Tilia*, and *Ulmus*. Values in italic: RPP estimates excluded because  $SE \geq RPP$ . Abbreviations: t. type, C central, Comp. Compositae  
792 (= Asteraceae), ERV Extended R-Value model, Medit Mediterranean region, Rep Republic, S southern, SF. Subfamily. Symbols: #  
793 RPPs for herbs from Broström et al. (2004); RPPs for trees from Sugita et al. (1999) (reference taxon *Juniperus*), converted to  
794 Poaceae as reference taxon by Broström et al. (2004). ## Bunting et al. (2005), reference taxon *Quercus* and no RPP for Poaceae;  
795 RPPs relative to Poaceae calculated by Mazier et al. (2012) assuming that the RPP of *Quercus* relative to Poaceae is the same as the  
796 mean RPP of *Quercus* from three other studies in NW Europe. \* New RPPs from the Czech Republic (Abraham and Kozáková,  
797 2012). \*\* New RPPs from Poland. Poaceae as reference taxa (see text for more details). \*\*\* New RPPs from Germany (Matthias et  
798 al., 2012), reference taxon *Pinus*. RPPs converted to Poaceae as reference taxon. We selected the RPP estimates obtained with the  
799 dataset of vegetation cover including only the trees that had reached their flowering age (allFIDage) (for more information, see  
800 Matthias et al., 2012). \*\*\*\* New RPPs from Germany (Theuerkauf et al., 2013); in the original publication, the ERV analysis was  
801 performed with the Lagrangian Stochastic Model (LSM) for dispersal of pollen and with *Pinus* as reference taxon. For this synthesis,  
802 Martin Theuerkauf redid the analysis with the Gaussian Plume Model for dispersal of pollen (Parsons and Prentice, 1981; Prentice  
803 and Parsons, 1983) and with Poaceae as reference taxon.

804

Type of pollen sample	Moss polsters							
	Finland	C	S	Norway	England	Swiss	Czech Rep*	Poland*
	ERV 3	Sweden	Sweden#	ERV 1	##	Jura	ERV 1	*
<b>HERB TAXA</b>								
<b>Poaceae (Reference taxon)</b>	1.00 (0.00)	1.00 (0.00)	1.00 (0.00)	1.00 (0.00)	1.00 (0.00)	1.00 (0.00)	1.00 (0.00)	1.00 (0.00)
Amaranthaceae/Chenopodiaceae							<b>4.28 (0.27)</b>	
Apiaceae				<b>0.26 (0.009)</b>				
<i>Artemisia</i>							<b>2.77 (0.39)</b>	
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>		<b>0.30 (0.03)</b>	<b>4.70 (0.69)</b>	<b>1.07 (0.03)</b>				
Cereal t.			<b>3.20 (1.14)</b>				<b>0.0462 (0.0018)</b>	
Comp.				<b>0.10 (0.008)</b>				
<i>Leucanthemum(Anthemis) t.</i>			<b>0.24 (0.06)</b>	<b>0.06 (0.004)</b>				
Comp. SF. Cichorioideae								
Cyperaceae	<b>0.002 (0.0022)</b>	<b>0.89 (0.03)</b>	<b>1.00 (0.16)</b>	0.29 (0.01)			<b>0.73 (0.08)</b>	
<i>Empetrum</i>	<b>0.07 (0.06)</b>	<b>0.11 (0.03)</b>						
Ericaceae		<b>0.07 (0.04)</b>						
<i>Filipendula</i>			<b>2.48 (0.82)</b>	<b>3.39 (0.00)</b>				
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>			12.76 (1.83)	<b>1.99 (0.04)</b>			<b>3.70 (0.77)</b>	
<i>Plantago media</i>							<b>1.27 (0.18)</b>	
<i>Plantago montana</i>							<b>0.74 (0.13)</b>	
<i>Potentillat.</i>			<b>2.47 (0.38)</b>	0.14 (0.005)			<b>0.96 (0.13)</b>	
<i>Ranunculus acrist.</i>			<b>3.85 (0.72)</b>	<b>0.07 (0.004)</b>				
Rubiaceae			<b>3.95 (0.59)</b>	0.42 (0.01)			<b>3.47 (0.35)</b>	
<i>Rumex acetosat.</i>			<b>4.74 (0.83)</b>	0.13 (0.004)				
<i>Secale</i>			<b>3.02 (0.05)</b>					
<i>Trollius</i>							<b>2.29 (0.36)</b>	
<i>Urtica</i>							<b>10.52 (0.31)</b>	
<i>Vaccinium</i>	<b>0.01 (0.01)</b>							

<b>TREE TAXA</b>								
<i>Abies</i>						<b>3.83</b> <b>(0.37)</b>		
<i>Acer</i>			<b>1.27</b> <b>(0.45)</b>			<b>0.32</b> <b>(0.10)</b>		
<i>Alnus</i>			<b>4.20</b> <b>(0.14)</b>		<b>8.74 (0.35)</b>		<b>2.56</b> <b>(0.32)</b>	<b>15.95</b> <b>(0.6622)</b>
<i>Betula</i>	<b>4.6 (0.70)</b>	<b>2.24 (0.20)</b>	<b>8.87</b> <b>(0.13)</b>		6.18 (0.35)			13.94 (0.2293)
<i>Carpinus</i>			<b>2.53</b> <b>(0.07)</b>					<b>4.48 (0.0301)</b>
<i>Corylus</i>			<b>1.40</b> <b>(0.04)</b>		<b>1.51 (0.06)</b>			<b>1.35 (0.0512)</b>
<i>Fagus</i>			<b>6.67</b> <b>(0.17)</b>			1.20 (0.16)		
<i>Fraxinus</i>			<b>0.67</b> <b>(0.03)</b>		<b>0.70 (0.06)</b>		<b>1.11</b> <b>(0.09)</b>	
<i>Juniperus</i>		0.11 (0.45)	<b>2.07</b> <b>(0.04)</b>					
<i>Picea</i>		<b>2.78 (0.21)</b>	<b>1.76</b> <b>(0.00)</b>			<b>8.43</b> <b>(0.30)</b>		
<i>Pinus</i>	<b>8.40</b> <b>(1.34)</b>	21.58 (2.87)	<b>5.66</b> <b>(0.00)</b>				<b>6.17</b> <b>(0.41)</b>	23.12 (0.2388)
Deciduous <i>Quercust.</i>			<b>7.53</b> <b>(0.08)</b>		<b>5.83</b> <b>(0.00)##</b>		<b>1.76</b> <b>(0.20)</b>	18.47 (0.1032)
<i>Salix</i>		<b>0.09 (0.03)</b>	<b>1.27</b> <b>(0.31)</b>		<b>1.05 (0.17)</b>		<b>1.19</b> <b>(0.12)</b>	
<i>Sambucus nigrat.</i>							<b>1.30</b> <b>(0.12)</b>	
<i>Tilia</i>			<b>0.80</b> <b>(0.03)</b>				<b>1.36</b> <b>(0.26)</b>	<b>0.98 (0.0263)</b>
<i>Ulmus</i>			<b>1.27</b> <b>(0.05)</b>					
Total number of taxa 39 (38)	6 (4)	10 (7)	26 (25)	12 (8)	7 (7)	11(10)	13(12)	8 (5)

807

Type of pollen sample Region ERV submodel	lake surface sediment				
	Estonia	Denmark	Swiss Plateau	Germany** *	Germany ****
	ERV 3	ERV 1		ERV 3	
<b>HERB TAXA</b>					
<b>Poaceae (Reference taxon)</b>	1.00 (0.00)	1.00 (0.00)	1.00 (0.00)	1.00 (0.00)	1.00 (0.00)
<i>Artemisia</i>	<b>3.48 (0.20)</b>				<b>5.56 (0.020)</b>
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>		<b>1.10 (0.05)</b>	0.00076 (0.0019)		
Cerealia t.	<b>1.60 (0.07)</b>	<b>0.75 (0.04)</b>	<b>0.17 (0.03)</b>	9.00 (1.92)	0.08 (0.001)
Compositae <i>Leucanthemum</i> ( <i>Anthemis</i> ) t.			0.24 (0.15)		
Cyperaceae	<b>1.23 (0.09)</b>				
<i>Filipendula</i>	<b>3.13 (0.24)</b>				
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>		<b>0.90 (0.23)</b>			<b>2.73 (0.043)</b>
<i>Rumex acetosa</i> t.		<b>1.56 (0.09)</b>			<b>2.76 (0.022)</b>
<i>Secale</i>				<b>4.08 (0.96)</b>	<b>4.87 (0.006)</b>
<b>TREE TAXA</b>					
			<b>9.92 (2.86)</b>		
<i>Alnus</i>	<b>13.93 (0.15)</b>		<b>2.42 (0.39)</b>	<b>15.51 (1.25)</b>	<b>13.68 (0.049)</b>
<i>Betula</i>	<b>1.81 (0.02)</b>		<b>4.56 (0.85)</b>	<b>9.62 (1.92)</b>	19.70 (0.117)
<i>Carpinus</i>			<b>2.58 (0.39)</b>	9.45 (0.51)	
<i>Corylus</i>			0.76 (0.17)		
<i>Fagus</i>		<b>5.09 (0.22)</b>	<b>1.39 (0.21)</b>	<b>5.83 (0.45)</b>	<b>9.63 (0.008)</b>
<i>Fraxinus</i>				6.74 (0.68)	<b>1.35 (0.012)</b>
<i>Juniperus</i>			<b>0.57 (0.16)</b>		
<i>Picea</i>	<b>4.73 (0.13)</b>	<b>1.19 (0.42)</b>	1.35 (0.45)	<b>1.58 (0.28)</b>	<b>5.81 (0.007)</b>
<i>Pinus</i>	<b>5.07 (0.06)</b>			<b>5.66 (0.00)</b>	<b>5.39 (0.222)</b>
<i>Populus</i>			<b>2.56 (0.39)</b>	<b>2.66 (1.25)</b>	
Deciduous <i>Quercust.</i>	<b>7.39 (0.20)</b>			<b>2.15 (0.17)</b>	17.85 (0.049)
<i>Salix</i>	<b>2.31 (0.08)</b>				
<i>Tilia</i>				<b>1.47 (0.23)</b>	12.38 (0.101)
<i>Ulmus</i>					11.51 (0.101)
Total number of taxa (selected values) 23 (22)	11 (11)	7 (7)	13 (9)	13 (10)	15 (11)

810 **Table B2: Mediterranean area: RPP estimates and their SDs from two available studies, and mean RPPs for northern and temperate**  
811 **Europe (Table A1, Appendix A), for comparison. RPPs and FSPs emphasized in bold are those used in the REVEALS reconstruction**  
812 **for Europe (this paper), single RPP values from the Mediterranean region within thick rectangles, and mean RPPs from Europe**  
813 **(Mediterranean region excluded) within thin rectangles. The plant taxa emphasized in bold are sub-Mediterranean and/or**  
814 **Mediterranean plant species and genera. FSP values: from Mazier et al. (2012) except (‘) new values from Mazier et al. (unpubl.),**  
815 **(‘’) value from Abraham and Kózáková (2012), (‘’’) value from (Commerford et al., 2013). \*, \*\*FSP from Mazier et al. (2012) used**  
816 **in the REVEALS reconstruction (this study) for Ericaceae (Medit)\* and evergreen *Quercus* t. \*\* instead of the new FSP values from**  
817 **Mazier et al. (unpubl.); for more explanations, see Discussion section, this paper. Abbreviations: Comp. Compositae (= Asteraceae),**  
818 **ERV Extended R-Value model, Medit Mediterranean region, SF. Subfamily.**

819

Region	France Medit. (ERV3)			Romania (ERV3)			Europe, Medit. excluded		
Study reference	Mazier et al. (unpubl.)			Grindean et al. (2019)			This paper (Tables A1)		
	RPP	SD	FSP	RPP	SD	FSP	RPP	SD	FSP
<b>HERB TAXA</b>									
<b>Poaceae (reference taxon)</b>	1.000	0.000	0.035	1.00	0.00	0.035	1.00	0.00	0.035
Apiaceae				5.91	1.23	0.042	0.26	0.01	0.042
<i>Artemisia</i>				5.89	3.16	0.014"	<b>3.937</b>	<b>0.146</b>	<b>0.014"</b>
Compositae (Asteroideae + Cichorioideae)				0.16	0.10	0.029			
Comp. SF. Asteroideae ( <i>Anthemis</i> t., <i>Leucanthemum</i> )							0.10	0.01	0.029
Comp. SF. Cichorioideae	1.162	0.675	0.061'				0.16	0.02	0.05
Cerealia (Cerealia t. + <i>Triticum</i> t. + <i>Secale</i> + <i>Zea</i> )				0.22	0.12	0.060			
Cerealia t. (Cerealia t., <i>Secale</i> excluded)							<b>1.85</b>	<b>0.38</b>	<b>0.060</b>
Cerealia - <i>Secale cereale</i>							<b>3.99</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>0.060</b>
Fabaceae				0.40	0.07	0.021'''			
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>				0.58	0.32	0.029	<b>2.33</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>0.029</b>
Ranunculaceae	2.038	0.335	0.020'						
Ranunculaceae - <i>Ranunculus acris</i> t.							1.96	0.36	0.014
Ranunculaceae - <i>Trollius</i>							2.29	0.36	0.013
Rosaceae ( <i>Filipendula</i> , <i>Potentilla</i> t., <i>Sanguisorba</i> )				0.29	0.12	0.018			
Rosaceae - <i>Filipendula</i>							3.00	0.28	0.006
Rosaceae - <i>Potentilla</i> t.							1.72	0.20	0.018
Rubiaceae				0.40	0.07	0.019	3.71	0.34	0.019
<b>TREE/SHRUB TAXA</b>									
<i>Acer</i>				0.30	0.09	0.056	0.80	0.23	0.056
<b><i>Buxus sempervirens</i></b>	<b>1.890</b>	<b>0.068</b>	<b>0.032'</b>						
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>							<b>4.52</b>	<b>0.43</b>	<b>0.042</b>
<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>				<b>0.24</b>	<b>0.07</b>	<b>0.042</b>			
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	<b>3.258</b>	<b>0.059</b>	<b>0.010'</b>						
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	3.440	0.890	0.025				<b>1.71</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>0.025</b>
Cupressaceae ( <i>Juniperus communis</i> , <i>J. phoenicea</i> , <i>J. oxycedrus</i> )	1.618	0.161	0.020'						
Cupressaceae - <i>Juniperus communis</i>							<b>2.07</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.016</b>
Ericaceae ( <i>Arbutus unedo</i> , <i>Erica arborea</i> , <i>E. cinerea</i> , <i>E. multiflora</i> )	<b>4.265</b>	<b>0.094</b>	<b>0.051'</b>						

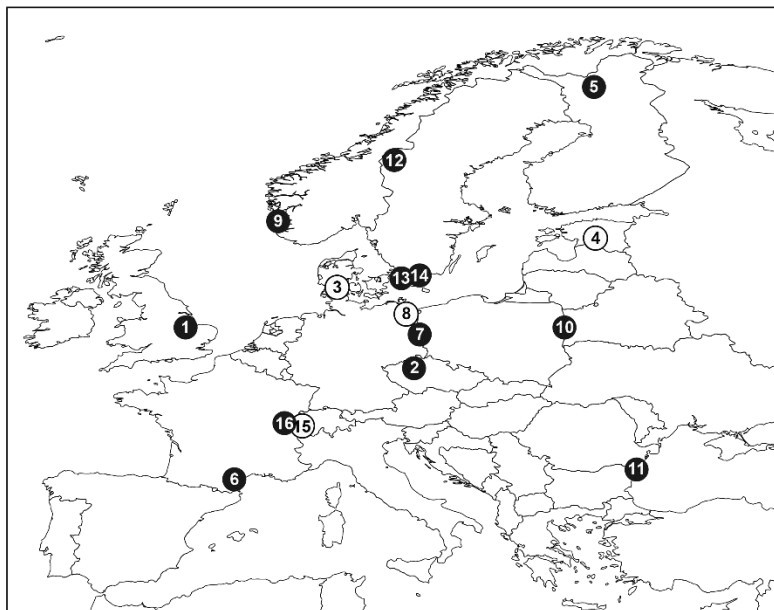
Ericaceae ( <i>Vaccinium</i> dominant, <i>Calluna</i> excluded)					0.07	0.04	<b>0.038*</b>
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>					<b>1.04</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>0.022</b>
<i>Fraxinus</i> ( <i>F. excelsior</i> , <i>F. ornus</i> )		2.99	0.88	0.022			
<i>Phillyrea</i>	<b>0.512</b>	<b>0.076</b>	<b>0.015'</b>				
<i>Pistacia</i>	<b>0.755</b>	<b>0.201</b>	<b>0.030'</b>				
Evergreen <i>Quercus</i> t. ( <i>Q. ilex</i> , <i>Q. coccifera</i> )	<b>11.04</b>						
Deciduous <i>Quercus</i> t. ( <i>Q.</i> spp, <i>Q. peduncularis</i> dominant)	<b>3</b>	<b>0.261</b>	0.015'				
Deciduous <i>Quercus</i> t. ( <i>Q. petraea</i> + <i>Q. rubra</i> )				1.10	0.35	0.035	
					<b>4.54</b>	<b>0.09</b>	<b>0.035**</b>
Total number of taxa	11			13			

820

## 821 Appendix C - Selection of RPP studies

822 The synthesis of mean RPPs presented here was produced in 2018 and applied in REVEALS reconstructions 2018-2020. Of  
823 nineteen RPP studies available (in July 2021), we selected fifteen published between 1998 and 2018 and one unpublished  
824 study in 2018 (Grindean et al., 2019). The sixteen study regions are distributed in twelve European countries (Figure C1) and  
825 detailed in Table C1. Three studies are not included in our synthesis: Britain (Twiddle et al., 2012) because of the absence of  
826 Poaceae in the calculated RPPs, curves of likelihood function scores exhibiting departures from theoretically correct curves,  
827 and doubts expressed by the authors on the reliability of the values; Greenland (Bunting et al., 2013a) because this land area  
828 was not included in the REVEALS reconstruction of Holocene plant cover in Europe presented in this paper; and Czech  
829 Republic (Kuneš et al., 2019) because the study was not ready when we finalized our synthesis. However, we compare the  
830 RPP values from these three studies with the mean RPP values in this synthesis (Appendix A, Table A2).

831 All studies used the ERV model to calculate RPPs, and all but one study used modern pollen assemblages and vegetation; only  
832 Nielsen et al. (2004; Denmark) used historical pollen and vegetation data. Eleven studies used pollen assemblages from moss  
833 pollsters, five studies from lake sediments. Grindean et al. (2019; Romania) also used some pollen assemblages from surface



834

835 **Figure C1: Location of the selected studies of relative pollen productivities (RPP) in Europe. 1. Britain, (Bunting et al., 2005); 2.**  
836 **Czech Republic, (Abraham and Kozáková, 2012); 3. Denmark, (Nielsen, 2004); 4. Estonia, (Poska et al., 2011); 5. Finland, (Räsänen**  
837 **et al., 2007); 6. France, Mazier et al. unpublished; 7. Germany, (Matthias et al., 2012); 8. Germany, (Theuerkauf et al., 2013); 9.**  
838 **Norway, (Hjelle, 1998); 10. Poland, (Baker et al., 2016); 11. Romania, (Grindean et al., 2019); 12. Sweden, (von Stedingk et al., 2008);**  
839 **13. Sweden, (Sugita et al., 1999); 14. Sweden, (Broström et al., 2004); 15. Switzerland, (Soepboer et al., 2007); 16. Switzerland,**  
840 **(Mazier et al., 2008).**



841 soil samples. All studies used distance-weighted vegetation except two, Hjelle et al. (1998; SW Norway) and Sugita et al.  
842 (1999; S Sweden). The Gaussian Plume Model (GPM) was used for pollen dispersal and deposition to distance-weight  
843 vegetation, i.e. the Prentice bog model (Parsons and Prentice, 1981; Prentice and Parsons, 1983) in studies using pollen from  
844 moss pollsters, and the Sugita's lake model (Sugita, 1993) in studies using pollen from lake sediments (see also caption of  
845 Table C1). In the case of the study by Theuerkauf et al. (2013), the published RPP values were calculated using the Lagrangian  
846 Stochastic Model. For the purpose of this synthesis, Theuerkauf recalculated the RPPs using the GPM bog model in the  
847 application of the ERV model. The distribution of sites for collection of pollen samples and vegetation data within the study  
848 regions is random or random stratified in seven of the eleven studies using moss pollsters; the five remaining studies used  
849 selected sites (or systematic distribution). Studies using lake sediments normally result in a systematic site distribution. Earlier  
850 studies (Broström et al., 2005; Twiddle et al., 2012) showed that random distribution of sites provided better estimates of  
851 "relevant source area of pollen" (RSAP; *sensu* Sugita, 1994) and thus of RPPs, given that the reliable RPPs are those obtained  
852 at the RSAP distance and beyond. Both studies indicated that systematic distribution of sites have the tendency to result in  
853 curves of likelihood function scores that do not follow the theoretical behaviour, i.e. an increase of the scores with distance  
854 until the values reach an asymptote. However, the difference in RPPs between systematic and random sampling is generally  
855 not very large. Nonetheless, systematic sampling may lead to uncertainty in terms of reliability of RPPs and random  
856 distribution of sites is recommended and has generally been used in studies using moss pollsters or soil samples published  
857 from 2008 and onwards.

858 **Table C1: Selection of studies for the synthesis of relative pollen productivity (RPP) estimates. Emphasized in bold: additional, new**  
859 **studies compared to the studies included in the synthesis of Mazier et al. (2012). Symbols: <sup>1</sup>L=lakes; M=moss pollsters; S=surface**  
860 **soil; <sup>2</sup>Other distance-weighting models were used in most studies, including the Gaussian Plume Model (GPM), 1/d, 1/d<sup>2</sup> (d=distance)**  
861 **and the Lagrangian Stochastic Model (LSM). The GPM is used in both the model developed for bogs (Parsons and Prentice, 1981;**  
862 **Prentice and Parsons, 1983) and lakes (Sugita, 1993). For this RPP synthesis, we chose the results from the analyses using GPM**  
863 **rather than 1/d or 1/d<sup>2</sup>. Note: In the study of Theuerkauf et al. (2013) the LSM was used. For this synthesis, Theuerkauf recalculated**  
864 **his RPPs using the lake model developed by Sugita (1993); <sup>3</sup>Number of plant taxa for which RPP was estimated, including the**  
865 **reference taxon. Note: In the study by Theuerkauf et al. (2013) RPPs were estimated for 17 taxa using LSM. The RPPs were**  
866 **recalculated using the lake model (Sugita, 1993) for 15 taxa (see note under <sup>2</sup> above) for this synthesis. In the study of Sugita et al.**  
867 **(1999) RPPs were calculated for 14 trees and 3 herbs. We used only the values for the 14 trees in this synthesis, following the syntheses**  
868 **by Broström et al. (2008) and Mazier et al. (2012); <sup>^</sup> Britain: the study includes two areas (a and b) in which RPP estimates were**  
869 **calculated for different sets of taxa and the two areas have different numbers of sites: a. Calthorpe (34), 5 taxa; b. Wheatfen (17),**  
870 **same 5 taxa and *Corylus* (6 taxa in total); <sup>^^</sup> random distribution restricted to areas of the study region with existing vegetation**  
871 **maps (therefore no sites outside these areas); i.e. study region including separate areas (Mazier et al., 2008). <sup>+</sup> Vegetation data from**  
872 **historical maps around 1800 CE; <sup>++</sup> lake sediments dated to ca. 1800; <sup>\*</sup> The reference taxon used in the original study is different**  
873 **from Poaceae. For this synthesis the RPPs were converted to values relative to Poaceae; <sup>\*\*</sup> The study of Bunting et al. (2005) does**  
874 **not include a RPP for Poaceae. In order to calculate the RPPs relative to Poaceae, it was assumed that the RPP of *Quercus* was equal**  
875 **to the mean of RPPs from three other studies in Europe (see Mazier et al., 2012 for details). Although we have included new RPP**  
876 **values for *Quercus* in this synthesis, we did not recalculate the RPPs from Bunting et al. (2005) with a new mean value for *Quercus*,**  
877 **but used the same values as in Mazier et al. (2012). For comparison, the mean value for *Quercus* using the RPPs of the additional**  
878 **studies included in this synthesis is 4.28 (instead of 5.83 in Mazier et al., 2012). This would imply slightly lower RPPs in Britain also**  
879 **for *Alnus*, *Betula*, *Corylus*, *Fraxinus* and *Salix*. # no distance weighting used for vegetation data because there was no information**  
880 **about vegetation with increasing distance from the pollen sample (Hjelle et al., 1998; Sugita et al., 1999). In the Swedish study,**  
881 **vegetation data within a 10<sup>2</sup> m<sup>2</sup> (herb taxa) and 10<sup>3</sup> m<sup>2</sup> quadrat (tree taxa) centred on the pollen sample was used (Sugita et al., 1999).**  
882

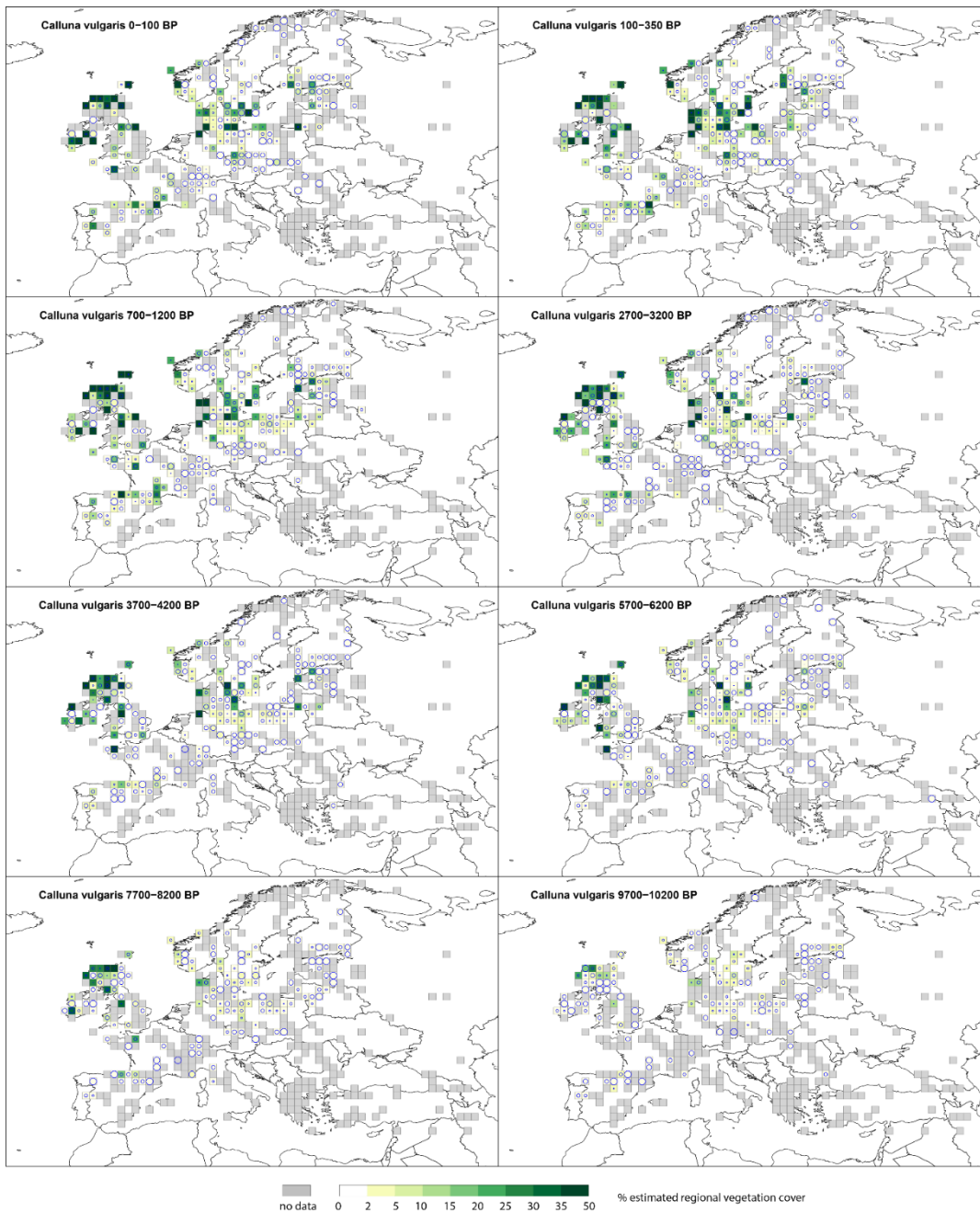
883

Country	Region	No sites	Site distrib.	Pollen sample <sup>1</sup>	ERV sub-model	Distance weighting model <sup>2</sup>	Reference taxon	No taxa <sup>3</sup>	Reference
Britain	East Anglian: Norfolk woodlands	(34 + 19) <sup>^</sup>	selected	M	1	GPM Prentice's bog	<i>Quercus</i> Poaceae**	6	Bunting et al. 2005
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<b>Central Bohemia: agricultural landscape</b>	54	stratified random	M	1	GPM Prentice's bog	Poaceae	13	<b>Abraham &amp; Kózková 2012</b>
Denmark	Ancient agricultural landscape <sup>+</sup>	30	selected	L <sup>++</sup>	1	GPM Sugita's lake	Poaceae	7	Nielsen et al. 2004
Estonia	Hemiboreal forest zone: mixed woodland - agricultural landscape	40	selected	L	3	GPM Sugita's lake	Poaceae	10	Poska et al. 2011
Finland	N Finland	24	stratified random	M	3	GPM Prentice's bog	Poaceae	6	Räsänen et al. 2007
<b>France</b>	<b>Mediterranean region</b>	23	random	M	3	GPM Prentice's bog	Poaceae	11	<b>Mazier et al. unpubl.</b>
<b>Germany</b>	<b>Eastern Germany: Brandenburg, agricultural landscape</b>	49	selected	L	3	GPM Sugita's lake	<i>Pinus</i> Poaceae*	16	<b>Matthias et al. 2012</b>
	<b>NE Germany: agricultural landscape</b>	27	selected	L	3	LSM GPM Sugita's Lake <sup>2</sup>	<i>Pinus</i> Poaceae*	11 (15) <sup>3</sup>	<b>Theuerkauf et al. 2013</b>
Norway	SW Norway: Hordaland and Sogn og Fjordane, mown or grazed grass-land and heath	39	selected	M	1	None <sup>#</sup>	Poaceae	17	Hjelle 1998
<b>Poland</b>	<b>NE Poland: Bialowieza Forest</b>	18	stratified random	M	3	GPM Prentice's bog	Poaceae	8	<b>Baker et al. 2016</b>
<b>Romania</b>	<b>SE Romania: Forest-steppe region</b>	26	random	M & S	3	GPM Prentice's bog	Poaceae	13	<b>Grindean et al. 2019</b>
Sweden	West- Central Sweden: Forest-tundra ecotone	30	random	M	3	GPM Prentice's bog	Poaceae	10	von Stedingk et al. 2008
	S Sweden: ancient cultural landscapes	114	selected	M	3	None <sup>#</sup>	<i>Juniperus</i> Poaceae*	14 (17) <sup>3</sup>	Sugita et al. 1999
	S Sweden: unfertilized mown or grazed grasslands	42	selected	M	3	GPM Prentice's bog	Poaceae	11	Broström et al. 2004

Switzerland	Lowland: agricultural landscape	20	selected	L	3	GPM Prentice's bog	Poaceae	13	Soepboer et al. 2007
	Jura Mountain: pasture woodlands	20	(stratified) random^^	M	1	GPM Prentice's bog	Poaceae	11	Mazier et al. 2008

884

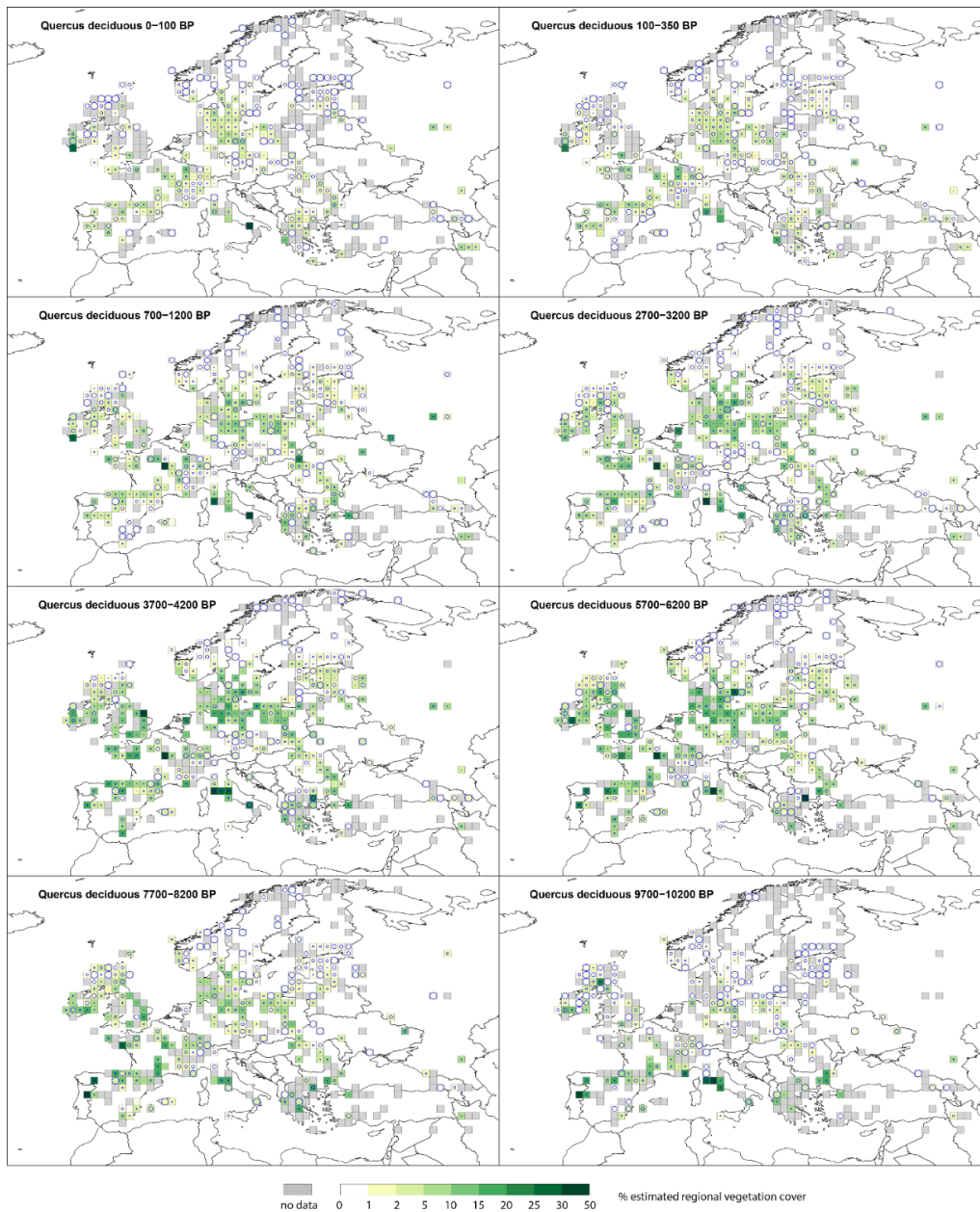
885 **Appendix D Maps of REVEALS cover for three plant taxa (*Calluna vulgaris*, deciduous *Quercus type (t.)* and evergreen**  
886 ***Quercus t.*)**



887

888 **Figure D1. Grid-based REVEALS estimates of *Calluna vulgaris* cover for eight Holocene time windows. Percentage cover in 2%**  
 889 **interval between 0 and 2%, 3% interval between 2 and 5%, 5% intervals between 5 – 35% and 15% interval between 35 and 50%.**  
 890 **Intervals represented by increasingly darker shades of green from 5-10%. Grey grid cells have no data (pollen) for *Calluna vulgaris***  
 891 **in the mapped time window. The circles represent the coefficient of variation (CV; the standard error divided by the REVEALS**  
 892 **estimate). When SE ≥ REVEALS estimate, the circle fills the entire grid cell and the REVEALS estimate is not different from zero.**  
 893 **This occurs mainly where REVEALS estimates are low.**

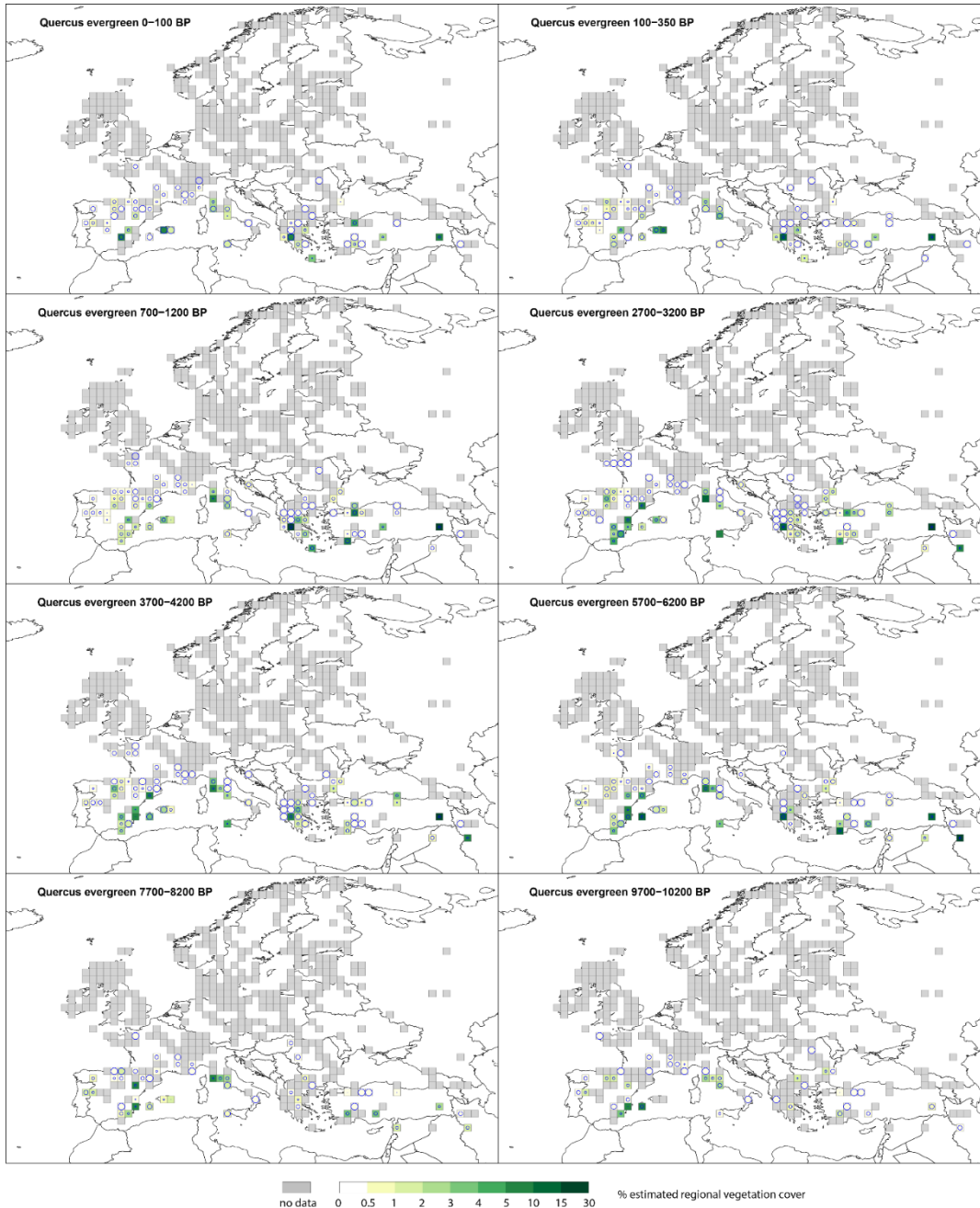
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896

897

898 **Figure D2. Grid-based REVEALS estimates of deciduous *Quercus* cover in eight Holocene time windows. Percentage**  
 899 **cover in 1% interval between 0 and 2%, 3% interval between 2 and 5%, 5% intervals between 5 and 30% and 20%**  
 900 **interval between 30 and 50%. Intervals represented by increasingly darker shades of green from 2-5%. Grey grid**  
 901 **cells have no data (pollen) for *Calluna vulgaris* in the mapped time window. The circles represent the coefficient of**  
 902 **variation (CV; the standard error divided by the REVEALS estimate). When  $SE \geq$  REVEALS estimate, the circle**  
 903 **fills the entire grid cell and the REVEALS estimate is not different from zero. This occurs mainly where REVEALS**  
 904 **estimates are low.**



906

907 **Figure D3. Grid-based REVEALS estimates of evergreen *Quercus* cover for eight Holocene time windows. Percentage**  
 908 **cover in 0.5% intervals between 0 and 1%, 1% intervals between 1 and 5%, 5% intervals between 5 and 15% and 15%**  
 909 **interval between 15 and 30%. See caption of Figure A1 for more explanations. Intervals represented by increasingly**  
 910 **darker shades of green from 1-2%. Grey grid cells have no data (pollen) for *Calluna vulgaris* in the mapped time**  
 911 **window. The circles represent the coefficient of variation (CV; the standard error divided by the REVEALS**  
 912 **estimate). When  $SE \geq REVEALS$  estimate, the circle fills the entire grid cell and the REVEALS estimate is not**  
 913 **different from zero. This occurs mainly where REVEALS estimates are low.**

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#### 974 **Author Contribution**

975 MJG coordinated the study as part of LandClim II and PAGES LandCover6k, two research projects for which she is the overall  
976 coordinator and administrator. MJG, AKT, EG, FM, RF, ABN, AP and SS conceptualised the study and methodology. SS  
977 developed the REVEALS model and helped with all issues related to the application of the model and interpretation of results.



978 EG, AKT, RF, FM, ABN, and AP collected new pollen records from individual authors. JW provided part of the pollen records  
979 from the Mediterranean area (collected earlier for a separate project). LS, MS and ST provided unpublished pollen records.  
980 EG and AKT had the major responsibility of handling the pollen data files and collecting all related metadata. AKT collected  
981 new values of relative pollen productivity estimates (RPPs) in Europe. FM provided unpublished RPP values for the  
982 Mediterranean area. FM, JA, VL, LM, and NNC were all involved in the unpublished RPP study in southern France, and AF,  
983 RG, ABN and IT performed the RPP study in Romania. MJG performed the selection of RPP values for the new RPP synthesis  
984 used in this paper, EG made the calculations of mean RPPs, and MJG wrote Appendices A, B, and C, and prepared the Figures  
985 and Tables therein. RF performed the REVEALS model runs and created Figure 1 and the maps of REVEALS-based plant  
986 cover (Figures 2-6 and D1-D3). EG, RF and MJG designed the manuscript, EG prepared the first draft of the manuscript and  
987 all Tables, and the final manuscript for submission, RF and MJG wrote parts of the text and edited the full manuscript. All the  
988 co-authors, including the data contributors in the Team List (LandClim II data contributors), were involved in commenting  
989 and revising the manuscript.

#### 990 **Competing interests**

991 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

992 **Figures entirely compiled by the manuscript authors:** Since such figures are part of the manuscript, they will receive the  
993 same distribution licence as the entire manuscript, namely a CC BY License. No citation is needed and no reproduction rights  
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