Nuclear and plastid DNA phylogeny of tribe Cardueae (Compositae) with Hyb-Seq data: A new subtribal classification and a temporal diversification framework

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Abstract

Classification of tribe Cardueae in natural subtribes has always been a challenge due to the lack of support of some critical branches in previous phylogenies based on traditional Sanger markers. With the aim to propose a new subtribal delimitation, we applied a Hyb-Seq approach to a set of 76 Cardueae species representing all subtribes and informal groups defined in the tribe, targeting 1061 nuclear conserved orthology loci (COS) designed for Compositae and obtaining chloroplast coding regions as by-product of off-target reads. For the extraction of the target nuclear data, we used two strategies, PHYLUCE and HybPiper, and 776 and 1055 COS loci were recovered with each of them, respectively. Additionally, 87 chloroplast genes were assembled and annotated. With three datasets, phylogenetic relationships were reconstructed using both concatenation and coalescent approaches. Phylogenetic analyses of the nuclear datasets fully resolved virtually all nodes with very high support. Nuclear and plastid tree topologies are mostly congruent with a very limited number of incongruent nodes. Based on the well-solved phylogenies obtained, we propose a new taxonomic scheme of 12 monophyletic and morphologically consistent

subtribes: Carlininae, Cardopatiinae, Echinopsinae, Dipterocominae (new), Xeranthemeinae (new), Berardiinae (new), Staehelininae (new), Onopordinae (new), Carduinae (redelimited), Arctiinae (new), Saussureinae (new), and Centaureinae. In addition, we further updated the temporal framework for origin and diversification of these subtribes. Our results highlight the power of Hyb-Seq over Sanger sequencing of a few DNA markers in solving phylogenetic relationships of traditionally difficult groups.

Keywords

Asteraceae
COS targets
Subtribes
Systematics
Phylogenomics
Target enrichment

1. Introduction

Cardueae are one of the largest tribes of the 43 described in Compositae (Asteraceae; Funk et al., 2009), with almost 10% of the species of the whole family: 2400 species in 73 genera (Susanna and Garcia-Jacas, 2009). The tribe belongs to subfamily Carduoideae, which is composed of four tribes (Funk et al., 2009; Ortiz et al., 2009): Dicomeae (97 species), Tarchonantheae (13 species), Oldenburgieae (4 species), and Cardueae, the latter representing the 95% of subfamily's diversity (Susanna and Garcia-Jacas, 2009). Carduoideae are a very successful evolutionary lineage within Compositae, which was estimated by Panero and Crozier (2016) to have the second highest diversification rate in the family and a moderate rate of extinction. The number of species is not uniform across the genera of Cardueae. For example, six of them are highly diversified (ca. 200–600 species) and with a high endemism rate (*Carduus*, *Cirsium*, *Centaurea*, *Cousinia*, *Jurinea*, and *Saussurea*), while, on the other extreme, 22 (ca. 30%) are monotypic. Geographically, Cardueae are distributed mainly in the Mediterranean and the Irano-Turanian regions, but they are reported from all continents except the Antarctica. The ecosystems where Cardueae species inhabit are very variable, e.g. Mediterranean landscapes, steppes, semiarid areas, deserts, alpine meadows, or tropical savannahs (Susanna and Garcia-Jacas, 2009). Indeed, in many aspects Cardueae are an extremely heterogeneous group in terms of habit and life-form (perennial, biennial, monocarpic or annual herbs, shrubs, treelets, often spiny), karyology (high variability in chromosome numbers from $x = 6$ to $x = 18$, often with disploidy), or pollen structure (caveate or ecaveate, smooth, scabrate, or spiny). This complexity summed to its high diversity has greatly contributed to the turbulent taxonomic history of Cardueae at several ranks, e.g. tribal and subtribal (see Table 1 for a historical overview) or even misclassifications of some genera in different tribes or subtribes (see examples in Table 2).

A recapitulation of the troublesome history of the systematics of Cardueae was offered by Susanna and Garcia-Jacas (2009). In the first tribal classification of the family, Cassini (1819) divided the present Cardueae into three tribes: Echinopseae, Carlineae, and Cardueae, the latter comprising the subtribes Carduinae and Centaureinae. Years later, Bentham (1873) and Hoffmann (1894) proposed grouping the three former tribes in a single tribe Cardueae, with four subtribes: Carlininae, Echinopsinae ["Echinopinae"], Carduinae, and Centaureinae. This conservative approach was accepted for many years, until Wagenitz (1976) reinstated the tribe Echinopseae. Soon after, Dittrich (1977) returned to Cassini's earlier views, proposing the restoration of tribes Echinopseae, Carlineae, and Cardueae. Bremer (1994) favored the conservative classification of a single tribe Cardueae, which is now generally accepted (Susanna and Garcia-Jacas, 2007, 2009). The only exception is subtribe Cardopatiinae, originally described by Lessing (1832) and only recently recovered 174 years later (Susanna et al., 2006).

Not surprisingly, Carlininae and Echinopsinae have been considered at some time as independent tribes, mainly due to their clear diagnostic characters with respect to the rest of Cardueae assembly (Susanna and Garcia-Jacas, 2009). However, Cardueae are morphologically consistent as a whole entity at tribal level, sharing a unique synapomorphic morphological character within Compositae: style with a papillose-pilose thickening below the branches and the stigmatic areas confined to the inner surface (Susanna and Garcia-Jacas, 2009). Additionally, Cardueae as a tribe has also been broadly confirmed empirically as monophyletic, first by cladistic analyses based on morphology (Bremer, 1987, 1994; Karis et al., 1992), and later by molecular phylogenies (Jansen et al., 1990, 1991; Kim et al., 1992; Susanna et al., 1995, 2006; Garcia-Jacas et al., 2002; Barres et al., 2013).

In the most recent and accepted treatments (Susanna et al., 2006; Susanna and Garcia-Jacas, 2007, 2009), the authors pointed out that four subtribes are natural groups with clear limits (Cardopatiinae, Carlininae, Centaureinae, and Echinopsinae); however, subtribe Carduinae (with total 1700 species, near 70% of the whole tribe diversity) is an unnatural, artificial, and problematic group, which have represented a dumping ground of genera that do not fit morphologically in any of the other subtribes (Susanna and Garcia-Jacas, 2007). The fact that the group is a questionable and heterogeneous assemblage of genera was also reflected in several phylogenetic studies, which have reported the subtribe as paraphyletic because Centaureinae are nested on Carduinae (Susanna et al., 1995, 2006; Häffner and Hellwig, 1999; Garcia-Jacas et al., 2002; Barres et al., 2013). The alternate solution of combining subtribes Carduinae and Centaureinae in one enormous subtribe was discarded, owing to the impractical constitution of a huge subtribe encompassing 2300 species and 90% of the species of the whole tribe (Susanna and Garcia-Jacas, 2007).

With the intention of addressing the unresolved diversity within subtribe Carduinae, some informal morphological groups were described within it (Susanna and Garcia-Jacas, 2007), which could be considered subtribes for a more natural classification: "[the alternative is] splitting present Carduinae in at least seven new subtribes (many of them presently unsupported): Xerantheminae, Staehelininae, Berardininae, Onopordinae, Carduinae, Arctiinae, and Saussureinae […]" (Susanna and Garcia-Jacas, 2009). In view of the lack of support for the monophyly of all segregate subtribes, especially for the most important in terms of species number (core Carduinae, Arctiinae, and Saussureinae), no formal proposal has previously been performed. A well-resolved and supported phylogenetic hypothesis for the major

lineages within Carduinae is still lacking, and it would be very useful to confirm the morphological alliances or generic complexes proposed by Susanna and Garcia-Jacas (2009).

An additional taxonomic problem within Cardueae is that some genera or complex of genera have been classified within one subtribe or another depending on the classification followed (see some of the cases in Table 2). Moreover, in extreme cases, some genera have been independently classified in Cardueae or in other tribes of Compositae (e.g. *Berardia* in tribe Mutisiae, or *Dipterocome* in tribe Calenduleae). A great proportion of subtribal misplacements were reported for uncertain cases between subtribes Carduinae and Centaureinae, which could be attributed to the inconspicuous morphological differences between both subtribes (based on microcharacters of achene and pappus) that are sometimes lacking in herbarium specimens, or are immature structures during field collections (Susanna et al., 2006). Even though many cases have been successfully resolved with the aid of the molecular phylogenies obtained with Sanger sequencing (see references in Table 2), more changes in the adscription of genera could occur in a new subtribal framework for Cardueae.

To date, all previous molecular studies of Cardueae have been based on Sanger sequencing data (Susanna et al., 1995, 2006; Häffner and Hellwig, 1999; Garcia-Jacas et al., 2002; Barres et al., 2013), with the largest dataset constructed with four chloroplast regions (*trnL-trnF*, *matK*, *ndhF*, *rbcL*) and one nuclear ribosomal marker (ITS; Barres et al., 2013). Although subtribal clades of Carlininae, Echinopsinae, Cardopatiinae, and Centaureinae are well supported, Carduinae remains paraphyletic when Centaureinae are removed, and not all the informal groups have been recovered as monophyletic. Moreover, relationships among subtribes have not been resolved, and the backbone of the phylogenetic tree remains undefined without a supported dichotomous bifurcating pattern. Accordingly, the available divergence time estimation of Cardueae is based on a partially resolved phylogenetic tree resulting from the analysis of a combined dataset of chloroplast markers (Barres et al., 2013). This dating could be significantly improved in terms of the methodological approach and the sequence data used.

In the last decade, next generation sequencing (NGS) has emerged as an important methodological advance for solving phylogenetic problems (see the review of Harrison and Kidner, 2011). Plant phylogenies of historical taxonomically complex groups are becoming resolved at different taxonomic levels, e.g. order (Ranunculales, cf. Lane et al., 2018; or Zingiberales, cf. Carlsen et al., 2018), family (Goodeniaceae, cf. Gardner et al., 2016), tribe (Shoreeae, cf. Heckenhauer et al., 2018), or species complexes as *Claytonia* (Stoughton et al., 2018) or *Amaranthus* (Viljoen et al., 2018). For Compositae, Mandel et al. (2014) designed a probe set that hybridizes with 1061 nuclear conserved orthology loci (hereafter COS), which in combination with genome skimming allowed also to recover other parts of the genome such as chloroplast regions (defined as Hyb-Seq technique; Weitemier et al., 2014). This methodological workflow has proved successful in Compositae-wide studies (Mandel et al., 2015, 2017) and was tested in a recent research focused on highly radiated genera within Cardueae (Herrando-Moraira et al., 2018). However, the COS locus set has not been yet applied to taxonomic delimitation within the family.

In this study, we apply the Hyb-Seq method to a sample of 76 species representing all subtribes and informal suprageneric groups of Cardueae with the main goals to: (1) obtain a well-defined phylogeny of the high-level lineages in the tribe with nuclear and chloroplast data; (2) propose a new subtribal

classification, especially focused on testing the splitting of subtribe Carduinae into smaller and more practical natural subtribes; (3) examine previously unresolved phylogenetic relationships between subtribal lineages at the backbone of the tree; and (4) update the temporal framework of the tribe and subtribes origin and diversification.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Taxon sampling

To obtain a complete sampling of Cardueae, we included representatives of all described subtribes based on the taxonomic treatment of Susanna and Garcia-Jacas (2009): (1) Carlininae, 6 species; (2) Cardopatinae, 2 species; (3) Echinopsinae, 3 species; (4) Carduinae, 34 species; and (5) Centaureinae, 31 species. The sampling strategy was based on maximizing the number of species of unresolved informal groups, especially within Carduinae and Centaureinae, and was proportional to the total number of genera and species classified in each group. In total, 76 different species of Cardueae were included. We did not include all genera within the tribe because the adscription of many of those with taxonomic problems had already been confirmed in previous works (Table 2). In addition, we incorporated 5 species as representatives of subfamily Carduoideae outside of Cardueae; 5 species from other subfamilies within Compositae (2 from Mutisioideae, 2 from Barnadesioideae, 1 from Famatinanthoideae); and finally, *Nastanthus patagonicus* from Calyceraceae, which has been recognized as the sister family to Compositae (Mandel et al., 2017). Overall, 58 species were newly sequenced for this study, and the data of the remaining 29 were directly obtained from raw reads from Mandel et al. (2014, 2017) or Herrando-Moraira et al. (2018). See Supplementary Table S1 for details of each sampled species.

2.2. DNA extraction, library and capture preparation, and sequencing

Approximately 10–30 mg of dried plant material per sample was weighed and homogenized with a Mixer Mill MM 301 (Retsch®, Haan, Germany). The DNA was extracted with the DNeasy plant mini kit (Qiagen, Valencia, CA, USA) or the E.N.Z.A SP Plant DNA Mini Kit (Omega Bio-Tek Inc., Norcross, GA, USA) according to the manufacturer's protocol. The total genomic DNA quantity was measured with the Qubit™ 3.0 Fluorometer (Thermo Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA). The standardized DNA (1 µg in 70 µl) was sheared in the Genomics Unit of the Centre for Genomic Regulation (CRG, Barcelona, Spain) using a Covaris S2 System (Covaris, Woburn, MA, USA) in microTUBEs with a sample volume of 50 µl and a target peak set to 400 bp. Sequencing libraries and subsequent sequence capture were conducted as specified in Herrando-Moraira et al. (2018). Additionally, for the species newly sequenced for this study (see Supplementary Table S1), we conducted a library spiking with the following proportions: 40% of unenriched solution and 60% of enriched libraries. The final spiked library pools were sequenced (pair-end 100 bp) in the DNA Sequencing Core CGRC/ICBR of the University of Florida on one lane of an Illumina HiSeq 3000 (Illumina, USA).

2.3. Raw data processing

Demultiplexed raw sequence reads were checked with FastQC v.0.10.1 (https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/) in order to perform a first quality control step. Subsequently, raw reads were trimmed by a quality based assessment (sliding-window set to 5:20), and were also subjected to an adapter trimming using Trimmomatic v.0.36 (Bolger et al., 2014). In addition, the software was programmed to remove those cleaned reads that after trimming were less than 36 bp, and those with a missing forward or reverse pair.

2.4. Nuclear data extraction

Following the methodological workflow proposed in Herrando-Moraira et al. (2018), the 1061 target COS loci were extracted with two orthology-detection pipeline packages: PHYLUCE v.1.5 (Faircloth, 2015) and HybPiper v.1.1 (Johnson et al., 2016). We used both approaches to be sure that the distinct paralog processing strategy was not affecting phylogenetic reconstructions in terms of topology and branch support values (Herrando-Moraira et al., 2018).

For the PHYLUCE method, the trimmed reads were *de novo* assembled into contigs with the software SPAdes v.3.9.0 (Bankevich et al., 2012), specifying different predefined k-mer lengths (21, 33, 55, and 77). Then, the recovered contigs were mapped back to target references using LASTZ (Harris, 2007), and were extracted following the methodological specifications detailed in Herrando-Moraira et al. (2018). For the HybPiper method, the trimmed reads were firstly mapped to the targets using BWA (Li and Durbin, 2009), and secondly were assembled into contigs also using SPAdes.

The multi-fasta files obtained for each target locus both with PHYLUCE and HybPiper were aligned with MAFFT v.7.266 (Katoh and Standley, 2013) using the *auto* setting mode. The ambiguously aligned regions were removed with trimAl v.14 (Capella-Gutiérrez et al., 2009) applying the *automated1* flag. The loci extracted for less than three species were removed, in the case of PHYLUCE 126 from the total of 902 loci, and in HybPiper 1 locus from the total 1057 loci. One additional locus was removed from the HybPiper dataset due to its short length recovered after the alignment trimming (3 bp). Finally, for each target extraction method, two datasets were constructed in order to perform two different phylogenetic inference analyses. One consisted of the trimmed aligned sequences of each locus separately, and the other consisted of a supermatrix obtained by concatenating all trimmed aligned loci with FASconCAT-G v.1.02 (Kück and Longo, 2014). The summary statistics of the supermatrices were calculated with AMAS (Borowiec, 2016).

2.5. Chloroplast data extraction

For the reconstruction of the chloroplast genomes, we used the off-target reads also recovered with the Hyb-Seq approach. The chloroplast extraction was conducted using the pipeline package MITObim v.1.9 (Hahn et al., 2013) with the default conditions. The package has incorporated the module MIRA v.4.0.2 (Chevreux et al., 1999), which is used in mapping mode. In the first step, it identifies the more conserved

regions between the total readpool and a phylogenetically related reference genome (in this case, *Cirsium arvense* NCBI accession number NC_036965.1) by mapping the trimmed interleaved reads to this initial reference. Then, the mapped reads are assembled into contigs and a new reference sequence or bait is created. To extend the reference and close the gaps, two more steps are performed. The second consists of separating from the total read pool the reads that overlap with the reference, and the third recovers the reads separated to map them back to the bait, thus building a new more extended reference sequence through an assembly process of new mapped reads. These two last steps are iteratively repeated until a stationary stage of the mapped and assembled reads is reached (Hahn et al., 2013).

The chloroplast genomes recovered were annotated with the web tool application GeSeq (Tillich et al., 2017), which uses a customizable reference database to annotate the genomes using BLAT-driven best-match approach. As a database, we selected all the available annotations in NCBI of Cardueae representatives (*Carthamus tinctorius* NC_030783.1, *Centaurea diffusa* NC_024286.1, *Cirsium arvense* NC_036965.1, *Cirsium eriophorum* NC_036966.1, *Cirsium vulgare* NC_036967.1, *Cynara baetica* NC_028005.1, *Cynara cornigera* NC_028006.1, *Cynara humilis* NC_027113.1, *Saussurea chabyoungsanica* NC_036677.1, *Saussurea involucrata* NC_029465.1, *Saussurea polylephis* NC_036490.1, and *Silybum marianum* NC_028027.1). To extract the coding regions of genes (CDS) in separate files from the global multi-fasta matrix generated with GeSeq, we used the script "Phyluce_assembly_explode_get_fastas_file" of PHYLUCE package with slight modifications. The recovered CDS were individually aligned with the MACSE codon aligner (Ranwez et al., 2011). The alignments were visualized in SeaView v.4.7 (Gouy et al., 2009), and 10 species from the initial sampling were excluded due to the high presence of frameshifts and preceding codon stops. To remove the poorly aligned regions from the alignments, we used the program Gblocks v.0.91b (Castresana, 2000) with the option "codon" to trim entire codon sets. A total of 87 CDS regions were recovered. We concatenated all CDS in a single supermatrix (chloroplast dataset) with FASconCAT-G v.1.02, assuming that the chloroplast genome is considered to be haploid, nonrecombinant, generally uniparentally inherited, and "single copy" (Small et al., 1998, 2004).

2.6. Phylogenetic inference analyses

The phylogenetic reconstruction of Cardueae was performed under two different approaches for nuclear data: the concatenation approach (using the supermatrix dataset) and the coalescence approach (using the individual gene trees for inferring the species tree). For chloroplast data, the phylogenetic tree inference was only performed under the concatenation approach.

For the concatenation approach, Maximum Likelihood (ML) analyses were run using the software RAxML v.8.2.9 (Stamatakis, 2014), which were conducted on XSEDE in the CIPRES Science Gateway v.3.1 (Miller et al., 2010). We selected the algorithm of simultaneously searching the best ML tree (from 10 randomized maximum parsimony starting trees) and performing a rapid bootstrapping (1000 replicates). Branches were considered as statistically supported for bootstrap (BS) values > 70% (Hillis and Bull, 1993). In relation to the partition scheme, each locus (in the nuclear datasets) or gene (in the chloroplast dataset)

was considered a unit of partition, using the evolution model of GTRGAMMA following recommendations of Stamatakis (2006). Output trees were visualized and exported in FigTree v.1.4.3 (Rambaut, 2016).

For the coalescence approach, gene trees were inferred also using RAxML, under the same conditions as for the concatenation based analyses but with a bootstrap resampling of 200 replicates. Resulting unrooted gene trees were inputted into ASTRAL-III v.5.5.3 (Zhang et al., 2018) to infer the species tree. The support values were calculated using local posterior probabilities (LPP; Sayyari and Mirarab, 2016). Branches with LPP > 0.95 were considered as strongly supported.

2.7. Gene trees concordance analyses

Topological conflicts among gene trees and the species tree were explored using the software Phyparts (Smith et al., 2015) on the nuclear HybPyper dataset. This methodological approach consists of mapping, for each node or bipartition of interest, the level of concordance/discordance between the different individual gene trees on supporting the reference tree topology, in our case the ASTRAL species tree. First, gene and species trees were rooted with the online tool STRAW (Shaw et al., 2013). The outgroup selection was based on the species divergence rank recovered by the species ML tree inferred under concatenation. When the first preferred outgroup was missing, STRAW searches the next specified species. Then, Phyparts was run, considering only the branches of gene trees with more than 33% BS support. Finally, the script phypartspiecharts.py (https://github.com/mossmatters/MJPythonNotebooks) was used to summarize and map the Phyparts output on the ASTRAL species tree. Owing to computing limitations of Phyparts, we could not run the analysis for the entire set of 1055 nuclear gene trees of HybPiper dataset, therefore a subset of 750 random gene trees was selected.

2.8. Divergence time analysis

The divergence time analysis was performed on the phylogenetic tree obtained under concatenation from the nuclear HybPiper dataset. This tree was time-calibrated rescaling the branch lengths using the penalized likelihood method (Sanderson, 2002), implemented in the software treePL (Smith and O'Meara, 2012). This approach yields similar results than the software BEAST (e.g. Lagomarsino et al., 2016; Stubbs et al., 2018), but it runs faster on larger datasets. The dating procedure was divided into two main stages, which consisted on: (1) selection of the optimal model parameters; and (2) running the analysis with the optimal parameters selected and, additionally, accounting for the uncertainty in calibration points to obtain confidence intervals (95% CI) in the estimated node ages.

For both stages, five calibration points (CP) were used as node age constrains. One was a secondary dated node corresponding to the origin of Compositae family (69.56 Myr with a 95% CI 59.02–80.17; coded here as CP1) reported in Panero and Crozier (2016). The other four points were based on fossil records: (CP2) the capitulescence of *Raiguenrayun cura* that was dated at 47.5 Myr (Barreda et al., 2012), which was used to constrain the clade of subfamily Mutisioideae + subfamily Carduoideae as in the most recent interpretation by Panero and Crozier (2016), instead of placing it at the crown Compositae as in Barres et al. (2013); (CP3) the achenes identified as belonging to *Cirsium* with an age of 14 Myr (Mai,

1995), which were placed at the stem node of the *Carduus-Cirsium* clade following Barres et al. (2013); (CP4) the achenes assigned to *Arctium* (López-Vinyallonga et al., 2009) and dated at 8 Myr (Mai, 2001), which were placed at the stem node of *Arctium*, correcting the misplacement of this fossil in Barres et al. (2013), where it was used at the split of *A. minus* and *A. lappa*; and (CP5) the pollen of *Centaurea* type *Cyanus* dated at 6 Myr (Wagenitz, 1955; Ivanov et al., 2007), which was placed at the stem node of *Centaurea* subgenus *Cyanus*. This is a new, more precise and better resolved *Centaurea* fossil that the pollen and achene records of Mai (1995) and Popescu (2002) that were used in Barres et al. (2013), where they were placed at stem age of *Centaurea* due to their uncertain placement within the genus.

In the first dating stage, an initial "priming" run (prime command) was carried out to detect the optimal parameter settings (opt = 4, optad = 2, and optcvad = 2). Subsequently, the best smoothing rate was also evaluated through a random subsample and replicate cross-validation procedure (selecting thorough and randomcv commands), allowing varying it from 0.001 (cvstart) to 1000 (cvstop). The best smoothing value resulted in 0.1 after cross-validation analysis, which was selected from the lowest value of a Chi-Square test. The two runs of the first stage were run using the range of 95% CI value for the CP1 (minimum = 59.02 and maximum = 80.17) and the lower bound of fossil age estimations (minimum = fossil age) for CP2-CP5.

In the second stage, we used our own R (R Core Team, 2014) script (Appendix A) to obtain 10,000 random values for each CP in order to account for the uncertainty of the node age estimations. Specifically, the random values were generated under a normal distribution for CP1 (based on 95% CI estimations of Panero and Crozier, 2016; mean = 69.56 and SD = 3) and a lognormal distribution for CP2-CP5 (mean = fossil age and SD = 1.1). Once values were extracted, a new data frame was created in a spreadsheet (Appendix B), which was then used to randomly select 100 unique combinations of five numbers, i.e. one for each CP from the random pool of 10,000. Finally, 100 independent treePL analyses, each one with CP constrained to a single value (minimum = maximum), were ran using the same phylogenetic input tree and the optimized parameters found in the first stage. The resultant 100 dated tree files were modified to fit the format of TreeAnnotator v.1.7.5 (Drummond et al., 2012), and were introduced in this software to obtain a maximum clade credibility tree chronogram with median node heights and corresponding CIs.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Performance of Hyb-Seq at subtribal level within tribe Cardueae

The Hyb-Seq NGS technique designed for Compositae (Mandel et al., 2014) is confirmed here as a powerful tool to reconstruct highly resolved phylogenies at deep taxonomic levels, in line with previous studies more focused on the methods (Mandel et al., 2015, 2017; Herrando-Moraira et al., 2018). As far as we know, this is the first study in Compositae that uses the COS loci workflow to reach taxonomic conclusions, specifically aimed to clarify the entangled delimitation of subtribes within Cardueae. The transition from traditional Sanger datasets, up to 5 markers, to NGS datasets, with 1142 markers (Table 3),

has resulted in obtaining the most helpful dichotomous and confidently supported divergence pattern reported to date for Cardueae (Figs. 1, 2, and 3, Supplementary Figs. S1 and S2).

On average 5,420,504 reads (SD = ±3,461,361) were sequenced per species (Supplementary Table S2). From the total 1061 COS loci, 776 were finally recovered with PHYLUCE and 1055 with HybPiper, which resulted in matrices of trimmed aligned sequences of 492,549 bp (189,716 parsimony informative [PI] sites) and 332,260 bp (123,731 PI sites), respectively (Table 4). When parameters related to missing data were compared between PHYLUCE and HybPiper (see parameters 4 and 11 in Table 4), it was remarkable that PHYLUCE is less efficient than HybPiper in the sequence extraction process from on-target reads, as documented in Herrando-Moraira et al. (2018). However, phylogenetic trees did not differ in topology or branch supports between both extraction methods at subtribal level (Figs. 1 and 3, Supplementary Figs. S1 and S2), even though PHYLUCE uses a more restrictive procedure to remove potential paralogs than HybPiper (see Fig. 1 in Herrando-Moraira et al., 2018). As no differences were observed, results from HybPiper method were analyzed in deep to support taxonomic proposals. Interestingly, this lack of differences could be reflecting that paralogy incidence is relatively low in Cardueae. In agreement, the study of Jones et al. (in prep.), which tests the COS loci applicability for seven tribes of Compositae, found that Cardueae was the tribe with the lowest number of paralogs (average = 140, similar to the value found here, average = 130), in compared to others like Vernonieae (average = 256). Also in concordance, Huang et al. (2016) did not detect any recent whole genome duplication event in Cardueae, in contrast to other Compositae tribes, which could involve paralogy issues.

As other studies have shown, Hyb-Seq can provide nearly complete datasets of chloroplast genomes (e.g. Weitemier et al., 2014; Folk et al., 2015; Carlsen et al., 2018). Regarding the present study, we were able to retrieve 87 protein coding regions of the chloroplast genome from off-target reads, which after concatenation resulted in a matrix of 78,531 bp (4290 PI sites; Table 4). Indeed, the increase of phylogenetically informative characters is responsible of notably higher topological resolution and clade support in comparison with the previous results reported with Sanger sequencing data for Cardueae (Susanna et al., 1995, 2006; Häffner and Hellwig, 1999; Garcia-Jacas et al., 2002; Barres et al., 2013; Table 3). In a similar way, this effect has been already documented for other plant groups (e.g. *Pinus*, Parks et al., 2009; *Inga*, Nicholls et al., 2015), which have benefited tremendously from the advent of high-throughput sequencing techniques.

3.2. The new subtribal classification of tribe Cardueae

As it could be expected with our sampling, we recovered a monophyletic pattern for subfamily Carduoideae as currently defined (tribes Dicomeae, Oldenburgieae, Tarchonantheae, and Cardueae; cf. Funk et al., 2009). Tribe Cardueae results again a robust taxonomic unit, in agreement with former studies based on morphology and molecular data (Bremer, 1987, 1994; Jansen et al., 1990, 1991; Karis et al., 1992; Kim et al., 1992; Susanna et al., 1995, 2006; Garcia-Jacas et al., 2002; Barres et al., 2013). Specifically, the clade of Cardueae presented high support values in all the analyses (Figs. 1, 2, and 3). The alternative option of rising up some subtribes to a tribal rank (see Table 1) is once again discarded. As suggested by Susanna et al. (2006), it is unpractical to fragment a natural group that is strongly phylogenetically consistent and

397 can be easily recognized by macromorphological characters. In this way, the classification criteria for the
398 definition of Compositae tribes are also maintained homogeneously along the family (Funk et al., 2009).
399 At subtribal level, the high resolution of phylogenies provided by the Hyb-Seq data makes possible the
400 proposal of a new classification. Subtribal limits established here are based on the application of the
401 integrative taxonomy principles (Dayrat, 2005; Schlick-Steiner et al., 2010): firstly, considering the
402 morphological entities to be recognized (Susanna and Garcia-Jacas, 2007, 2009), and then verifying their
403 monophyly with molecular data. Following this model, a total of 12 subtribes are suggested. Five of them
404 had been already previously recognized and are also confirmed with our results (Carlininae, Echinopsinae,
405 Cardopatiinae, Carduinae, and Centaureinae; Susanna et al., 2006); seven new subtribes result from
406 partitioning the former wide and paraphyletic subtribe Carduinae into new monophyletic subtribes based
407 on informal morphological groups (Dipterocominae, Xerantheminae, Berardiinae, Staehelininae,
408 Onopordinae, Arctiinae, and Saussureinae) most of them outlined by Susanna and Garcia-Jacas (2009).
409 These new subtribes are highly heterogeneous in terms of species richness, encompassing from relict single
410 lineages to highly recently radiated groups. For instance, Dipterocominae and Berardiinae are defined as
411 monotypic subtribes, comprising only *Dipterocome pusilla* and *Berardia subacaulis*, respectively. On the
412 other hand, Arctiinae and Saussureinae harbor ca. 600 and 550 species, respectively (Susanna and Garcia-
413 Jacas, 2007). For a complete description of subtribes see below *Taxonomic proposal*. The new phylogenetic
414 reconstruction of high-level lineages presented here will be used as a classification basis for future studies
415 on the systematics of Cardueae.
416 Certainly, the historical overview of the tribe (Table 1) reveals that Carlininae, Echinopsinae, and
417 Centaureinae are the best morpho-molecular defined entities, which have been long recovered with
418 statistical support since the first phylogenetic studies (Table 3). In accordance, we obtained high clade
419 supports for these subtribes (BS = 100 and LPP = 1; Figs. 1, 2, and 3). Carlininae initially showed a
420 monophyletic pattern in Garcia-Jacas et al. (2002). However, the incorporation of *Tugarinovia mongolica*
421 broke the monophyly of the subtribe in Susanna et al. (2006). This was probably caused by the fact that it
422 is a dioecious species, a trait unique in the tribe (Susanna and Garcia-Jacas, 2009) and relatively uncommon
423 in angiosperms (6% of species; Renner and Ricklefs, 1995). It has been suggested that dioecy has the
424 negative impact of decreasing diversification rates (Heilbuth, 2000; Kay et al., 2006) with consequent
425 phylogenetic misplacements (Vamosi et al., 2003). In Barres et al. (2013) and in our present study, the
426 increase in the number of molecular markers aided to recover the monophyly of Carlininae, including
427 *Tugarinovia mongolica* within this subtribe as a sister lineage to the rest of members. Echinopsinae
428 presented a persistent monophyly across all molecular studies (Table 3), except for the chloroplast-based
429 phylogeny of Garcia-Jacas et al. (2002), in which the limited sequence variation found in chloroplast *mat*K
430 gene could have been the responsible for the low branch support of Echinopsinae. Similarly, the monophyly
431 of subtribe Centaureinae has been fully supported in former phylogenetic studies (Table 3), with the
432 exception of the chloroplast tree obtained with the *mat*K gene by Garcia-Jacas et al. (2002).
433 Although Cardopatiinae are a relatively newly recovered subtribe (Susanna et al., 2006), it has resulted
434 also in a strong-supported clade in recent phylogenies with both nuclear and chloroplast sequence data
435 (Table 3), besides its morphological singularity (Susanna and Garcia-Jacas, 2007, 2009). In agreement, we
436 can confirm here that the two species of Cardopatiinae (*Cardopatium corymbosum* and *Cousiniopsis*

atractyloides) constitute a well-defined evolutionary segregation (BS = 100 and LPP = 1; Figs. 1, 2, and 3), therefore its taxonomic rank as subtribe seems appropriate.

Conversely, the new seven subtribes have not always been well delineated in Sanger-based phylogenies, at least with enough confidence to propose a formal subtribal splitting (see Table 3). From the morphological informal groups of Carduinae described in Susanna and Garcia-Jacas (2009), the *Xeranthemum* group is one of the best supported of all datasets and analyses (BS = 100 and LPP = 1; Figs. 1, 2, and 3). Thus, its consideration as subtribe Xerantheminae can be corroborated. Our results are not surprising, because since the first phylogenies the Xerantheminae species were recovered as a monophyletic and statistically highly supported group, both with nuclear and chloroplast data (Table 3).

One unexpected finding was found in the former *Xeranthemum* group, which is the phylogenetic isolated position of *Dipterocome pusilla*. This species had not been classified in Cardueae until the study of Anderberg et al. (2007), confirmed by Barres et al. (2013), in which it was clustered with the rest of Xerantheminae members in the combined cpDNA (*mat*K, *ndh*F, *rbc*L, and *trn*L-*trn*F) tree, but without support in a phylogeny of the ITS nuclear region. However, in the present study we found that *Dipterocome* is placed in a different clade from Xerantheminae in four of the five reconstructed phylogenies (Figs. 2 and 3, Supplementary Figs. S1 and S2). Only in the tree reconstructed under concatenation with the nuclear HybPiper dataset *Dipterocome* was grouped with Xerantheminae (BS = 97; Fig. 1), in agreement with the results of Barres et al. (2013). This may be caused by the bias produced by concatenation analysis of NGS datasets with a large number of loci (Kubatko and Degnan, 2007; Edwards et al., 2016), which can result in long branch attraction artifacts (Liu et al., 2015). Morphologically, Susanna and Garcia-Jacas (2009) pointed out that floral characters of *Dipterocome* show close relationship with the *Xeranthemum* complex. Nevertheless, a histological analysis of the capitula structure of *Dipterocome* has shown that the purported "florets" of *Dipterocome* are actually one-flowered capitula (Susanna, unpubl. data) grouped in second-order synflorescences, an extremely infrequent structure in the tribe shared only by the genus *Echinops*. Overall, it seems that there is enough molecular and morphological evidence to classify *Dipterocome* in a separate monotypic subtribe.

Two other controversial genera considered to belong to the former Carduinae are *Berardia* and *Staehelina*. Although both genera do not present obvious morphological affinities (Susanna and Garcia-Jacas, 2009), some molecular phylogenies suggested that they could be evolutionary closely related. The genus *Staehelina* has long been reported as a genetically isolated group within the tribe, always showing a monophyletic pattern throughout all phylogenetic reconstructions (Table 3). Regarding its relationships with *Berardia*, the combined nuclear plus chloroplast tree in Susanna et al. (2006) grouped both genera in an unsupported clade; but only considering nuclear data (ITS), they appeared not directly linked but as adjacent lineages as detected in nuclear and chloroplast phylogenies of Barres et al. (2013). Here, we also identified the same two phylogenetic signals. Even though, only one of five phylogenetic analyses (chloroplast dataset analyzed under the concatenation approach) resulted in a moderately-high grouping of both genera (BS = 76; Fig. 2), and the rest separated *Berardia* and *Staehelina* (Figs. 1 and 3, Supplementary Figs. S1 and S2). As we hypothesized for the case of *Dipterocome*, *Berardia* could be misplaced in some chloroplast phylogenies by a long branch attraction effect in concatenated analyses due to its relict character

without any known alive direct congener. Conclusively, *Berardia* and *Staehelina* could be considered as separate new subtribes Berardiinae and Staehelininae based on the new molecular evidence presented.

The *Onopordum* group is another lineage of former Carduinae with a consistent morpho-genetic historical division (Susanna and Garcia-Jacas, 2009). Our genomic phylogenies provide evidence for the monophyly of the *Onopordum* group (BS = 100 and LPP = 1; Figs. 1, 2, and 3) as other previous studies (Table 3), except in Garcia-Jacas et al. (2002) in which the phylogenetic resolution power of the chloroplast *mat*K region seems limited as mentioned above for other groups. Hence, it seems reasonably to assign the subtribal rank as Onopordinae.

One of the largest and most difficult complexes to delimit in former Carduinae is the *Carduus-Cirsium* group (ca. 500 species; Susanna et al., 2006). Its complicate delimitation was mainly attributed by Susanna et al. (2006) to the fact that the group encompasses a remarkable variety of life strategies; annual or biennial species (e.g. *Carduus*, *Galactites*, *Picnomon*, *Silybum*, or *Tyrimnus*) or perennials (as many *Cirsium*, *Cynara*, *Lamyropsis*, or *Ptilostemon*). Certainly, different generation times that affect mutation rates may hinder a proper phylogenetic comparison among species as detected in some cases in Cardueae (see López-Vinyallonga et al., 2009 and references therein). The overview of previous phylogenetic studies reflects the difficulty of reconstructing the *Carduus* group as monophyletic, for which additional sampling is necessary to resolve generic delimitations among these genera. The monophyly of the *Carduus* group was only achieved in three from the total eight Sanger-based phylogenies (Table 3). In contrast, we found a strong phylogenetic signal with Hyb-Seq data (BS = 92–100 and LPP = 1; Figs. 1, 2, and 3). This supports the morphological hypothesis of Susanna et al. (2006) and subtribal delimitation of Carduinae. Susanna and Garcia-Jacas (2009) suggested a posterior division of the *Carduus* group into *Cynara* and *Carduus-Cirsium* complexes, but our phylogenies did not show a strictly bifurcating divergence pattern for these complexes (Figs. 1, 2, and 3). Thus, we would reject to formalize their segregation at subtribal rank.

The *Arctium-Cousinia* and *Jurinea-Saussurea* complexes are other classically entangled groups of former Carduinae. Although both conform well defined assemblies by morphology (Susanna and Garcia-Jacas, 2009), there has not been any Sanger-based phylogeny able to correctly recover the morphological pattern as monophyletic lineages (Table 3). Only two isolated molecular studies, Häffner and Hellwig (1999) and Susanna et al. (2006), reported *Arctium-Cousinia* and *Jurinea-Saussurea* as monophyletic, respectively. In recent times, the application of Hyb-Seq technique and the COS loci set of Mandel et al. (2014) for Compositae, aided to shed light on phylogenetic connections of these four genera. Phylogenomic trees performed in Herrando-Moraira et al. (2018) showed a clear sister relationship between *Arctium-Cousinia* and *Jurinea-Saussurea*, which also formed two highly supported clades. In agreement, on a wider taxonomic sampling of the tribe, we found the same monophyletic pattern for both complexes under concatenation and coalescence approaches with nuclear data (BS = 100 and LPP = 1; Fig. 1 and 3). However, the chloroplast phylogenies analyzed under concatenation recovered an unsupported clade of *Saussurea-Cousinia-Arctium* (Fig. 2) with *Jurinea* as a separate lineage, hence leaving the complex *Jurinea-Saussurea* as a paraphyletic assembly (Fig. 2). Similarly, a morphologically incongruent grouping pattern has been also recovered in the Sanger-based chloroplast phylogenies of Barres et al (2013), where the genera *Saussurea-Jurinea-Cousinia* were clustered together with support and *Arctium* was placed as a sister clade.

Overall, it seems that even with massive Hyb-Seq data, a clear cyto-nuclear discordance exists between evolutionary histories inferred for *Arctium-Cousinia* and *Jurinea-Saussurea* groups. Two factors could explain such pattern of incongruent genealogies (Morales-Briones et al., 2018), one more related with tree inference methods (phylogenetic error), and the other with the inherent evolutionary history of the genera (incomplete lineage sorting [ILS] or hybridization). Firstly, it is stated that using gene fragments with limited phylogenetic signal may derive in an increase of both stochastic and systematic errors in reconstructed phylogenies (Lemmon et al., 2009, Lemmon and Lemmon, 2013; Carlsen et al., 2018). Hence, if we compare our nuclear vs. chloroplast datasets, a large difference exists in terms of phylogenetic informativeness, for instance, in PI sites (ca. 38% vs. 5.5%; Table 4) or the average branch length of trees (0.04 vs. 0.004). Chloroplast data from protein coding regions, in comparison with hundreds of nuclear loci, could be providing limited phylogenetic information, which may explain the differences in the resulting tree topologies.

Secondly, ILS or reticulation events may explain conflicting topologies and gene tree incongruences (García et al., 2017). The short internal branches observed at the base of genera in chloroplast tree from concatenation analysis (Fig. 2B) could match the signals left by ILS, i.e. a scenario of a rapid diversification of genera in a short timeframe (rapid bifurcating cladogenesis) or a simultaneous polychotomous divergence (hard polytomy). Past hybridization events could also have taken place as suggested by the concatenation chloroplast tree topology (Fig. 2). The chloroplast genome of the ancestral *Saussurea* lineage could have been lost due to an organelle capture (Stegemann et al., 2012), thus, the currently observed topology is that retained from an ancestral hybridization with the *Arctium-Cousinia* lineage. Cyto-nuclear discordances due to introgressive hybridization have been suggested in other plant groups like *Ficus* through chloroplast NGS phylogenies (Bruun-Lund et al., 2017). However, more explicit methods to address these processes should be performed (e.g. Folk et al., 2017; García et al., 2017; Mitchell et al., 2017; Knowles et al., 2018; Morales-Briones et al., 2018), in addition to using a wider species sampling.

Taking into account all shortcomings of chloroplast data, it would be reasonable to give more weight to nuclear results, which were also in agreement with the morphological hypothesis, and accept two new subtribes: Arctiinae (comprising *Arctium-Cousinia*) and Saussureinae (*Saussurea-Jurinea*).

3.3. Phylogenetic relationships among subtribes

Undoubtedly, one of the major improvements that we obtained using Hyb-Seq data is the high phylogenetic resolution recovered along the backbone of the Cardueae tree (Fig. 4). Although in most recent Sanger-based phylogenies, 8 of the total 12 circumscribed subtribes were already monophyletic and well-defined (see Table 3; Barres et al., 2013), their interrelationships remained unresolved until now. In Barres et al. (2013), phylogenies inferred under maximum parsimony were completely undefined for the subtribal nodes. Similarly, under Bayesian inference most of the subtribe branches were anchored in polytomic structures, especially in the nuclear ITS phylogeny (Fig. 4A). In contrast, our phylogenetic reconstructions showed a significantly supported bifurcating pattern (Figs. 4C, D, and E).

Subtribes Carlininae, Cardopatiinae, and Echinopsinae were placed as the first diverging lineages within Cardueae near the root of the tribe. Unfortunately, we could not conclusively identify the sister

subtribe to the rest with confidence, due to a cyto-nuclear discordance. In the nuclear tree inferred under concatenation, Carlininae were sister to the rest of subtribes (Fig. 4C). However, individual gene trees show conflicting topologies at this part of the tree (Figs. 3 and 4E); and in the chloroplast tree the Cardopatiinae were sister to the rest of subtribes (Fig. 4D). Successive sister clades recovered with all reconstruction methods occur in the following order: Dipterocominae, Xerantheminae, Berardiinae, Staehelininae, and Onopordinae. Note that, as mentioned above, Dipterocominae appeared nested with Xerantheminae and Berardiinae with Staehelininae in the nuclear and chloroplast concatenated analyses, respectively. The grouping pattern of the rest of subtribes was slightly different on nuclear and plastid phylogenies. In nuclear trees, Carduinae was placed as sister to Arctiinae-Saussureinae-Centaureinae clade (BS = 100 and LPP = 0.99), which was subsequently bifurcated in Arctiinae-Saussureinae (BS = 100 and LPP = 1) and Centaureinae clade (Figs. 4C, E). In the chloroplast tree, Carduinae-Arctiinae-Saussureinae-Centaureinae were clustered in a supported clade (BS = 100) that internally formed an unsupported group of Carduinae-Arctiinae-Saussureinae (BS = 63) with Centaureinae as sister to the others (Fig. 4D).

Here, despite the finding that Hyb-Seq data offered bifurcating reconstructions, we detected that branch lengths recovered were relatively short (Figs. 1B, 2B). This fact may confirm the previous suspicion of a rapid subtribal lineage divergence, which would explain the traditional difficulty to resolve this part of the tree. The Phyparts analysis allowed us to go one step further and inspect the degree of gene tree discordance along nodes of the Cardueae tree. Results of Phyparts indicated that most of gene tree topologies are in conflict with the species tree in internal subtribal nodes (great red proportion; Fig. 3), in contrast to shallow nodes of genera or species relationships that showed more congruent gene tree histories (more proportion of blue; Fig. 3). We also detected that a considerable proportion of gene trees were poorly supported and uninformative (gray color in Fig. 3 for gene tree branches with BS < 30). Considering all results, possible sources of gene tree discordance at the backbone could derive from: (1) insufficient phylogenetic signal in sampled loci (e.g. short loci length, high missing positions or taxa as a result of capture failure, or poorly variable loci; Villaverde et al., 2018); (2) extinction of critical lineages; (3) rapid splitting of major subtribal clades; or (4) gene flow among ancestral lineages or ILS effect (Morales-Briones et al., 2018). It is important to note that although individual gene tree bipartitions were mainly in conflict at subtribal level, the coalescence species tree was, in general, not weakly supported (Fig. 3). Thus, this limitation is not necessary problematic to the aim of subtribal delimitation intended here.

3.4. Dating framework for tribe Cardueae

Figure 5 shows the divergence time estimates of Cardueae based on the nuclear tree obtained with HybPiper and the concatenation approach (1055 COS loci). Median age values and 95% CI are presented for each node in Supplementary Table S3. Our dating analysis revealed that tribe Cardueae could have originated between Late Eocene and Early Oligocene 34.12 Myr (29.97–40.04 95% CI). This time frame is in a middle range of the estimated age origin for the tribe in previous dated phylogenies that included several Cardueae members. On the one hand, the studies conducted by Kim et al. (2005) and Panero and Crozier (2016) reported a younger age of the tribe, 24–29 Myr and 22 Myr (10.61–33.35 95% CI), respectively. On the other hand, Barres et al. (2013) and Huang et al. (2016) found an older tribe median age with values of

40.15 Myr (35.80–44.26 95% CI) and ca. 42 Myr, respectively. Taxon sampling, calibration points, and molecular markers used could be responsible for dating differences between studies.

Notably, our estimation for the origin of tribe Cardueae matches particularly well the "Oi-1 Glaciation" that occurred at the transition between the Eocene and the Oligocene, when the Antarctic continental ice-shield was formed (Zachos et al., 2001). This event has been linked to a decline in atmospheric CO_2 over a period of 0.5 Myr (Pearson et al., 2009) and brought world-scale major climatic changes including cooler temperatures, increased seasonality, and aridity (Dupont-Nivet et al., 2007; Eldrett et al., 2009). Such global changes, in addition to produce large reorganization of paleo-biome distributions (e.g. Pound and Salzmann, 2017), would have acted as stimuli for plant evolution in other cold- or arid-adapted groups that also date from the Eocene/Oligocene boundary: tribe Gentianeae of Gentianaceae (crown node age = 34 Myr; Favre et al., 2016), tribes Aveneae, Poeae, Stipeae, and Triticeae of Poaceae (crown node ages = 32, 35, 37, and 33.8 Myr, respectively; Schubert et al., 2018), the entire family Brassicaceae (crown node age = 32.4 Myr; Hohmann et al., 2015), or genus *Hypericum* of Hypericaceae (Meseguer et al., 2015).

The subtribes originated in two different main time periods. Subtribes Carlininae, Cardopatiinae, Dipterocominae, Xerantheminae, and Berardiinae probably originated during the Oligocene (see Fig. 5 and Supplementary Table S3 for age of subtribes), whereas Echinopsinae, Staehelininae, Onopordinae, Carduinae, Arctiinae, Saussureinae, and Centaureinae originated during Middle-Late Miocene (Fig. 5 and Supplementary Table S3).

If we draw in parallel dating results obtained here and the ones obtained by Barres et al. (2013), which is the most comparable study in terms of taxon sampling, we can observe that tribe and subtribe age estimates were quite older in the latter than those we have found here (see Fig. 6). At tribal level, the different placement of the fossil *Raiguenrayun cura* (dated to 47.5 Myr, placed here to constrain subfamily Mutisioideae + subfamily Carduoideae; CP2 in Fig. 5) does not explain why we obtained a most recent tribal origin than Barres et al. (2013), who placed it in a more basal node as it is the crown node of Compositae family. Probably, the fact that we now have a more complete sampling at the basal part of the tree, including more representatives of subfamilies other than Carduoideae and more representatives of tribes within Carduoideae other than Cardueae, results in greater time distances between the origin of the family Compositae and tribe Cardueae. At subtribal level, the greatest differences between non-overlapping age ranges were detected for subtribes Onopordinae and Centaureinae, for which the median age differed among studies in 9.32 Myr and 15.38 Myr, respectively. The different number and nature of molecular markers used would be one of the main causes of the distinct dating results. We employed a set of 1055 biparentally inherited, low-copy nuclear loci that potentially provides more sequence variation, while Barres et al. (2013) used four chloroplast regions that are usually maternally inherited and have low mutation rates, which would explain the older age values reported in their estimations. In addition, it should be also noted that for those nodes constrained with minimum ages based on fossil calibration points, we obtained a better fitting between the minimum age assigned and the final dating result recovered in comparison with Barres et al. (2013); for instance, our CP5 constrained at 6 Myr resulted in 5.91 Myr (5.21–7.01 95% CI), and in Barres et al. (2013) the CP used at the stem node of *Centaurea* constrained at 5 Myr resulted in 15.54 Myr (12.10–19.96 95% CI).

In a general overview of the dated phylogenetic tree it is noteworthy that CI interval limits are wider and more overlapping among nodes at the base of the tree than those at the tips (Fig. 5). Accordingly, lower precision and resolution was obtained for estimated ages of non-Cardueae and early diverging lineages of Cardueae (e.g. Carlininae or Cardopatiinae). Certainly, the fact that the standard deviation of our most basal and secondary dated calibration point used (CP1) is higher than the other fossil-based CPs may cause larger uncertainty at the tree base. Moreover, the number of species included as Cardueae outgroups in our study is relatively poor, particularly compared with Panero and Crozier (2016) who used a wide representation of Compositae subfamilies but few representatives for each tribe. The different taxon sampling used could be the reason for differences in the chronograms obtained, resulting in a more uncertain dating of the poorly sampled nodes. As Linder et al. (2005) suggested, taxon sampling is one of the most influential factors in molecular clock dating analysis. For this reason, our node estimates at the tree base should be taken with caution, and undoubtedly, a wider sampling of other family members could improve lineages placement and dating resolution at the base of Cardueae.

3.5. Taxonomic proposal

Subtribe Carlininae Dumort., Fl. Belg.: 72. 1827. Type of the subtribe: *Carlina* L., Sp. Pl. 2: 828. 1753.
Perennial, spiny or spinescent herbs or shrubs, less often annual plants, monoecious or exceptionally dioecious (*Tugarinovia* Iljin). Leaves deeply pinnatisect, rarely entire. Capitula frequently subtended by pectinate leaf-like bracts, many-flowered, homogamous, rarely heterogamous with ligulate florets (Fig. 7A). Outer involucral bracts usually dissect; inner ones often showy, radiant and colored. Receptacle densely covered with large scales fused into a honeycombed structure, absent only in *Tugarinovia*. Corolla lobes very short, 1–3 mm. Anther filaments glabrous, appendages long and sericeous. Style very short. Achenes with parenchymatous pericarp, densely sericeous with twin hairs. Pappus of long, plumose bristles, often connate into stout scales, persistent or deciduous.
Genera included in the subtribe: *Atractylodes* DC., *Atractylis* L., *Carlina* L., *Thevenotia* DC., and *Tugarinovia* Iljin.
Geographic distribution (Fig. 8A): *Atractylis*, *Carlina*, and *Thevenotia* grow in Eurasia, North Africa, and the Irano-Turanian region; *Tugarinovia* is endemic to the deserts of Mongolia and NW China; *Atractylodes* is distributed in East Asia (China, Japan, and Korea).

Subtribe Cardopatiinae Less., Syn. Gen. Compos.: 14. 1832. Type of the subtribe: *Cardopatium* Juss., Ann. Mus. Natl. Hist. Nat. 6: 324. 1805.
Spiny perennial or annual herbs. Leaves dentate or pinnatisect. Capitula few-flowered, homogamous, densely (*Cardopatium*) or loosely (*Cousiniopsis* Nevski) clustered in corymbs (Fig. 7B). Involucral bracts with spiny pectinate-fimbriate appendages. Florets bright blue below, deep blue above; corolla lobes linear. Anther filaments glabrous. Style with very short lobes. Achenes with parenchymatous pericarp, densely sericeous. Pappus of two equal rows of short, lanceolate scales directly attached to the apical plate, persistent.
Genera included in the subtribe: *Cardopatium* Juss. and *Cousiniopsis* Nevski.

Geographic distribution (Fig. 8B): disjunct area; *Cardopatium* is endemic in the south of the Mediterranean Region, from Algeria to Greece and Turkey, and *Cousiniopsis* grows in the deserts of Middle Asia.

Subtribe Echinopsinae Cass. ex Dumort., Anal. Fam. Pl.: 1829. Type of the subtribe: *Echinops* L., Sp. Pl. 2: 814. 1753.

Perennial herbs, rarely annuals, usually very spiny. Leaves pinnatisect. Capitula one-flowered, aggregated in spherical (rarely hemispherical) secondary inflorescences (Fig. 7C). Bracts spiny. Corolla lobes often apically scarious, densely denticulate, blue or white. Anther filaments glabrous, basal appendages short, laciniate. Style with short lobes. Achenes with parenchymatous pericarp, densely sericeous. Pappus of broad, short scales directly attached to the apical plate, persistent.

This subtribe tribe includes only the genus *Echinops*.

Geographic distribution (Fig. 8C): the genus grows in the Mediterranean and the Irano-Turanian regions, with the main center of speciation in Iran. It is one of the genera that extends more to the south, reaching tropical Africa.

Subtribe Dipterocominae Garcia-Jacas & Susanna, **new subtribe**. Type of the subtribe: *Dipterocome* Fisch. & C. A. Mey., Index Seminum Horti Petropolitani 1: 26 1835.

Annual unarmed desert plants to 20 cm. Leaves entire, linear-spatulate. Capitula one-flowered and unisexual, clustered in second-order synflorescences in the axilles of leaf verticils. Bracts of the synflorescence in several rows, lanceolate, with a membranous, shortly ciliate margin. Female capitula 6–8 in the periphery of the synflorescence. Involucral bracts fused into a spiny-horned structure acrescent with the achene. Corollas shortly bilabiate. Style with very short lobes. Achenes enclosed in the spiny-horned bracts. Pappus of few, deciduous bristles attached inside the horns. Male capitula ca. 4 in the center of the synflorescence. Bracts of the involucre fused into a basal sheath. Corolla tubulose with very short, equal lobes. Anthers shortly caudate.

Comprises only the monotypic genus *Dipterocome* Fisch. & C. A. Mey.

Geographic distribution (Fig. 8D): Deserts in the East Mediterranean and Irano-Turanian regions: Middle East (Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria), Transcaucasia (Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia) and Iran.

We have interpreted the minute heads of *Dipterocome pusilla* as second-order inflorescences, formed by female and male one-flowered capitula (Fig. 7D). The bracts of the involucre of the female florets are fused into a spiny-horned structure, and the achenes are enclosed in the arcuated structure at maturity.

Subtribe Xeranthemineae Cass. ex Dumort., Anal. Fam. Pl.: 32. 1829. Type of the subtribe: *Xeranthemum* L., Sp. Pl. 2: 857. 1753

Unarmed plants, usually annual herbs (*Chardinia* Desf., *Siebera* J. Gay, *Xeranthemum* L.), rarely dwarf shrubs (*Amphoricarpos* Vis.), exceptionally rhizomatous perennials (*Shangwua* Yu J. Wang, Raab-Straube, Susanna & J. Quan Liu). Leaves always entire, velvety underneath. Capitula usually heterogamous (with the exception of *Shangwua*), central florets discoid, peripheral florets shortly bilabiate, fertile, bisexual or female. Involucral bracts usually unarmed, rarely spiny (*Siebera*). Receptacle with large scarious scales. Corolla lobes very short. Anther filaments glabrous, appendages short, laciniate. Achenes often dimorphic.

Pappus of 5–15 long tapering or subulate scales, rarely reduced to a corona in *Chardinia*, sparsely sericeous with twin hairs, persistent (Fig. 7E).

Comprises five genera: *Amphoricarpos*, *Chardinia*, *Shangwua*, *Siebera* and *Xeranthemum*.

Geographic distribution (Fig. 8E): extremely diverse and complicated. The genus *Xeranthemum* is a widespread in waste places in Eurasia, from Middle Asia to the Iberian Peninsula, more frequently in the Mediterranean region. Two other closely related genera, *Chardinia* and *Siebera*, occupy similar habitats in the Irano-Turanian region, from the Tian Shan to Turkey. *Amphoricarpos* shows a disjunct distribution in the mountains of the East Mediterranean: two species grow in the Balkans, two more in Anatolia, and one in the Caucasus. *Shangwua* is endemic to the mountains of Middle Asia and the Himalayas, from Tajikistan to China.

Subtribe Berardiinae Garcia-Jacas & Susanna, **new subtribe**. Type of the subtribe: *Berardia* Vill., Prosp. Hist. Pl. Dauphiné: 27. 1779.

Acaulescent, unarmed perennial herb (Fig. 7F). Leaves rounded, entire or denticulate, densely woolly with veins prominent beneath, green-white above. Capitula solitary, sessile, homogamous. Involucral bracts subulate, scarious, woolly, ending in a slender flattened point. Receptacle areolate. Florets yellowish or pinkish. Staminal connective very long, apiculate. Styles very long with short stigmas. Achenes oblong, glabrous, slightly sulcate. Pericarp straw-colored. Pappus of scabrid cylindric bristles retrorsely twisted, directly attached to the apical plate, persistent.

Comprises only the monotypic genus *Berardia*.

Geographic distribution (Fig. 8F): *Berardia* is a relict genus endemic to the southern Alps (SE France and NW Italy).

Subtribe Staehelininae Garcia-Jacas & Susanna, **new subtribe**. Type of the subtribe: *Staehelina* L., Sp. Pl. 2: 840. 1753.

Unarmed dwarf shrubs or subshrubs. Leaves entire or dentate-pinnatifid, linear to obovate, dark green above, white-woolly beneath. Capitula corymbose or rarely solitary, homogamous. Involucral bracts ovate to lanceolate, mucronate, sometimes minutely hirsute, unarmed. Receptacle with wide, basally connate scales. Florets whitish or pink-purple. Corolla lobes narrowly triangular, very long. Anther filaments glabrous; basal appendages very long, sericeous. Styles long, lobes straight. Achenes linear-oblong, glabrous or sericeous, with minute apical coronula. Pappus in one row of bristles basally connate into broader paleae, more or less divided apically into pinnulate fimbriae (into capillary hairs in *Staehelina dubia* L. and *S. baetica* DC.), always overtopping involucre, sometimes deciduous in a ring.

Comprises only the genus *Staehelina* (Fig. 7G).

Geographic distribution (Fig. 8G): Mediterranean region, from the Iberian Peninsula to the limits between Turkey and Iraq (*Staehelina kurdica* Merxm. & Rech. f.). Most diverse in the Eastern Mediterranean region (six species, in contrast with only two species in the Western Mediterranean).

Subtribe Onopordinae Garcia-Jacas & Susanna, **new subtribe**. Type of the subtribe: *Onopordum* L., Sp. Pl. 2: 827. 1753.

Robust biennial or perennial herbs, usually spiny-toothed, rarely weakly unarmed. Leaves lanceolate to oblong, variously dissected. Capitula cupuliform or broadly ovoid, homogamous, discoid, most often solitary or on long peduncles. Involucral bracts usually spiny, innermost sometimes scarious. Receptacle foveolate, margins of foveoles with short scales, rarely setose; receptacular bracts very often absent. Corolla lobes triangular. Anther filaments slightly papillose or glabrous. Styles very long with straight lobes. Achenes obovoid or fusiform, surface usually transversely rugulose, wrinkled or foveolate; apical plate without caruncle; insertion areole straight or lateral-abaxial. Pappus bristles in a few rows, differentiated or not, basally connate in a ring, always deciduous as a single piece (Fig. 7H).

Comprises seven genera: *Alfredia* Cass., *Ancathia* DC., *Synurus* Iljin, *Syreitschikovia* Pavlov, *Lamyropappus* Knorring & Tamamsch., *Olgaea* Iljin, *Onopordum*, and *Xanthopappus* C. Winkl.

Geographic distribution (Fig. 8H): the genus *Onopordum* is native in the Mediterranean and Irano-Turanian regions, from the Iberian Peninsula to Middle Asia, and it has been introduced as a weed in USA (California), Argentina, Chile, South Africa, and Australia. The remaining genera have narrow distributions in Middle Asia, the Tian Shan, and west China, with the exception of *Synurus*, endemic in east China, Japan, and Korea.

Subtribe Carduinae Dumort., Fl. Belg.: 73. 1827. Type of the subtribe: *Carduus* L., Sp. Pl. 2: 820. 1753.

Perennial, biennial or annual spiny herbs or subshrubs, rarely unarmed. Leaves mostly lanceolate to oblong, entire or variously dissected. Capitula globose or cupuliform, homogamous, discoid, very rarely peripheral florets sterile and radiant (*Galactites* Moench). Involucral bracts usually spiny, innermost exappendiculate or with rudimentary appendages. Receptacle densely setose. Anther filaments papillose, rarely glabrous. Styles very long with straight lobes. Achenes obovoid-fusiform, laterally compressed, with insertion areole straight, basal or lateral-abaxial; apical plate very often slanted, inclined adaxially, usually with caruncle, missing only in *Notobasis*. Pappus inserted on a parenchymatous ring in the apical plate, with bristles in many weakly differentiated or undifferentiated rows, deciduous as a single piece (Fig. 7I).

Comprises nine genera: *Carduus*, *Cirsium* Mill., *Cynara* L., *Galactites*, *Lamyropsis* (Kharadze) Dittrich, *Notobasis* Cass., *Ptilostemon* Cass., *Silybum* Vaill., and *Tyrimnus* Cass.

Geographic distribution (Fig. 8I): Widespread in all Eurasia, especially in the Mediterranean region, extending southwards to Tropical Africa, introduced elsewhere as very noxious weeds. One genus, *Cirsium*, native in America, from Canada to Guatemala.

Subtribe Saussureinae Garcia-Jacas & Susanna, **new subtribe**. Type of the subtribe: *Saussurea* DC., Ann. Mus. Natl. Hist. Nat. 16: 156. 1810.

Unarmed perennial herbs or subshrubs, very rarely annual herbs. Leaves entire or pinnatisect, often silver-white below and glabrous above, sometimes hirsute-scabrid. Capitula cylindrical or globose, often paniculate, homogamous, discoid. Involucral bracts with short appendages, unarmed. Receptacle densely setose. Anther filaments glabrous, rarely papillose. Styles long, with reflexed lobes. Achenes cylindrical, slightly obconical or obpyramidal, indistinctly ribbed to costate, surface smooth or transversally rugose, very rarely with spines or scales, with or without a crown; apical plate with a persisting style base, without caruncle. Pappus of very long (overtopping involucral bracts), showy, scabrid or plumose, strongly

795 differentiated bristles, the inner ones basally connate in a ring, persistent or detachable as a single piece,
796 outer bristles shorter and freely deciduous (Fig. 7J).
797 Comprises four genera: *Dolomiaea* DC., *Jurinea* Cass., Polytaxis C. Winkl., and *Saussurea* DC.
798 Geographic distribution (Fig. 8J): Native in Eurasia, *Jurinea* grows especially in the eastern Mediterranean
799 and West Asia with three species reaching the mountains of the Iberian Peninsula and Morocco; *Saussurea*
800 has its most important center of speciation in the Himalayas and the Hengduan mountains (more than 300
801 species); two species in Western Europe (Alps and Pyrenees), and six species in North America. *Dolomiaea*
802 is circumscribed to the Himalayas and adjacent mountains. *Polytaxis* is limited to the Tian Shan in Middle
803 Asia.
804
805 **Subtribe Arctiinae** Garcia-Jacas & Susanna, **new subtribe**. Type of the subtribe: *Arctium* L., Sp. Pl. 2:
806 816. 1753.
807 Biennial or perennial herbs, polycarpic or rarely monocarpic, exceptionally annuals, very spiny, less often
808 unarmed. Leaves entire, lyrate or pinnatisect, usually with arachnoid pubescence. Capitula homogamous,
809 cylindrical or globose, discoid. Outer and middle involucral bracts spiny or hooked, inner bracts ended in
810 a scarious, unarmed or spiny appendage. Receptacle with long, twisted fimbrillae. Anther filaments slightly
811 papillose or glabrous. Styles with short, straight lobes. Achenes cylindric to narrowly obovoid, usually
812 laterally compressed or 4-costate, rarely shortly winged, usually longitudinally inconspicuously ribbed and
813 stripped, apex glabrous or coronulate; apical plate truncate, without caruncle; insertion areole lateral-
814 adaxial. Pappus in three rows of freely deciduous undifferentiated bristles, rarely reduced (Fig. 7K).
815 Comprises two genera: *Arctium* L. and *Cousinia* Cass.
816 Geographic distribution (Fig. 8K): some species of *Arctium* are widespread in Eurasia, but most of the
817 species are endemic to the mountains of Middle Asia, especially the Tian Shan. *Cousinia* is confined to the
818 Irano-Turanian floristic region, where it has radiated explosively (600 species!).
819
820 **Subtribe Centaureinae** Dumort., Fl. Belg.: 72. 1827. Type of the subtribe: *Centaurea* L., Sp. Pl. 2: 909.
821 1753.
822 Perennial, biennial or annual unarmed herbs, shrubs or very rarely treelets, rarely spiny. Leaves oblong to
823 linear, entire or variously dissected. Capitula ovoid, cupuliform or cylindric, often heterogamous with
824 sterile radiant florets, less often homogamous, discoid. Involucral bracts usually ended in a diversely
825 scarious, fimbriate, pectinate, spiny or unarmed appendage; innermost bracts always with a scarious
826 appendage. Receptacle densely setose. Anther filaments papillose, rarely glabrous; basal appendages long,
827 laciniate. Style and stigma very variable. Achenes obovoid, laterally compressed, with sclerified pericarp,
828 usually glabrous and smooth, less often hirsute, rugose, pitted, or ridged; insertion areole concave, lateral-
829 adaxial, very rarely (*Crupina*) straight, often with an elaiosome; apical plate straight, without caruncle.
830 Pappus inserted on a parenchymatous ring in the apical plate, biseriate, outer series formed by several rows
831 of long, differently pinnulate bristles or rarely scales, basally connate in a ring or free, rarely deciduous as
832 a whole of separately, often persistent, inner series of some short or longer bristles, sometimes reduced;
833 rarely pappus single or missing by abortion (Fig. 7L).

Comprises 32 genera: *Amberboa* Vaill., *Callicephalus* C. A. Mey. *Carduncellus* Adans., *Carthamus* L., *Centaurea* L., *Centaurodendron* Johow, *Centaurothamnus* Wagenitz & Dittrich, *Cheirolophus* Cass., *Crocodilium* Vaill., *Crupina* (Pers.) DC., *Femeniasia* Susanna, *Goniocaulon* Cass., *Karvandarina* Rech. f., *Klasea* Cass., *Mantisalca* Cass., *Myopordon* Boiss., *Ochrocephala* Dittrich, *Oligochaeta* (DC.) K. Koch, *Phalacrachena* Iljin, *Phonus* Hill, *Plagiobasis* Schrenk, *Plectocephalus* D. Don, *Psephellus* Cass., *Rhaponticoides* Vaill., *Rhaponticum* Vaill., *Russowia* C. Winkl., *Schischkinia* Iljin, *Serratula* L., *Stizolophus* Cass., *Tricholepis* DC., *Volutaria* Cass., and *Zoegea* L.

Geographic distribution (Fig. 8L): mainly Mediterranean and Irano-Turanian regions, with some species of *Centaurea* extended widely in north Eurasia as far as Scotland, and the easternmost representatives reaching Middle Asia; exceptionally, *Tricholepis* has gone beyond the mountains of Middle Asia and reaches Burma (Myanmar); one species of *Rhaponticum* grows in Australia. In the south of the area, a few species grow in subtropical and tropical Africa, from Senegal to Somalia and southwards to Zimbabwe. *Plectocephalus* has a disjunct distribution in Ethiopia, U.S.A., and South America (Argentina, Brazil, and Chile). Some relict genera grow far away from the center of the distribution of the subtribe, namely *Centaurodendron* in the Juan Fernández archipelago (South Pacific Ocean), *Centaurothamnus* in Yemen, *Goniocaulon* in India, and *Ochrocephala* in Ethiopia and Sudan; all of them but *Centaurodendron* are monotypic. Some noxious weeds are widespread throughout the world, especially in regions with a Mediterranean-type climate (Australia, California, Chile, and South Africa): *Carthamus lanatus*, *Centaurea diffusa*, *C. solstitialis*, *C. stoebe*, *Rhaponticum repens*, and *Volutaria tubuliflora*.

Key to subtribes of tribe Cardueae

1. Heads always one-flowered, unisexual, clustered in the axilles of leaf verticils. Achenes enclosed in an arcuate, spiny-toothed diaspore — Dipterocominae

– Heads rarely one-flowered, always bisexual, not clustered in the axilles of leaf verticils Achenes free, not enclosed in a spiny-toothed diaspore — 2

2. Capitula one-flowered, clustered in second-order spherical or hemispherical compound synflorescences — Echinopsinae

– Capitula not one-flowered, sometimes clustered in flat-topped corymbs but never forming second-order heads — 3

3. Acaulescent perennials; achenes with the pappus bristles retrorsely twisted — Berardiinae

– Caulescent or acaulescent annuals or perennials; achenes with pappus of straight bristles — 4

4. Leaves always entire. Achenes with pappus of 5-15 subulate, dentate or plumose scales, rarely reduced to a short corona — Xeranthemeinae

– Leaves entire or divided. Achenes with pappus of more than 15 bristles — 5

5. Capitula usually subtended by pectinate-pinnatisect leaf-like bracts; corolla lobes usually 1–3 mm long; pappus of long, plumose bristles usually connate at the base into broader, robust scales		Carlininae
– Capitula subtended by entire or dentate bracts or on leafless pedicels; corolla lobes longer than 3 mm; pappus of free bristles or scales not connate at the base into broader scales		6
6. Capitula with 8–12 florets, rarely many-flowered; corollas bright blue below, deep blue above, with linear lobes; pappus of two equal rows of short lanceolate scales		Cardopatiinae
Capitula with more than 12 florets; corollas not bright blue below and deep blue above with lobes not linear; pappus of one or several rows of pinnulate or plumose long scales or bristles		7
7. Achenes rugulose, pitted or faintly velvety, never smooth, without apical caruncle or basal elaiosome		8
– Achenes usually smooth or rarely ridged, either with apical caruncle or basal elaiosome		9
8. Receptacle with long, twisted fimbrillae; achenes longitudinally stripped; pappus bristles individually deciduous		Arctiinae
– Receptacle usually naked and foveolate with short scales, rarely with straight bristles; achenes transversally rugulose; pappus bristles basally connate in a ring, detachable as a single piece		Onopordinae
9. Plants unarmed; leaves always white-woolly below; pappus very long, often overtopping involucral bracts at anthesis		10
– Plants unarmed or spiny; leaves woolly or glabrous below; pappus not overtopping involucral bracts		11
10. Shrubs or subshrubs. Corolla lobes very long, narrowly triangular; style very short, straight lobes; achenes linear-oblong, faintly sulcate; pappus in one row		Staehelininae
– Perennial herbs, rarely annuals; corolla lobes short, broadly triangular; style lobes long, reflexed; achenes cylindrical or slightly obconical or obpyramidal, smooth, echinate or rugulose; pappus in several rows		Saussureinae
11. Insertion areole of the achenes usually straight, basal or basal-abaxial. Apical plate of the achenes slanted, with caruncle (except. *Notobasis*); pappus undifferentiated, deciduous as a whole		Carduinae

– Insertion areole of the achenes usually concave, lateral-adaxial, often with an elaiosome; apical plate straight, without caruncle; pappus usually differentiated in two rows, persistent or rarely deciduous as a single piece, rarely absent by abortion — Centaureinae

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Supplementary material and Appendices

All alignments and tree files for each dataset and appendices of divergence time analyses are deposited in Mendeley Data repository (http://dx.doi.org/10.17632/bhvv6rmyt6.1). Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at https://doi.org/xxxxx

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