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Gaël P.J. Denys, Théo Lauga, Giovanni B. Delamstro, Agnès Dettai. S7 characterization of Western European pikes *Esox* spp. (Actinopterygii, Esociformes). *Cybium : Revue Internationale d'Ichtyologie*, 2018, 42 (3), pp.221-228. 10.26028/cybium/2018-423-001 . mnhn-02310578

**HAL Id: mnhn-02310578**

**<https://mnhn.hal.science/mnhn-02310578>**

Submitted on 10 Oct 2019

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# S7 characterization of Western European pikes *Esox* spp. (Actinopterygii, Esociformes)

by

Gaël P.J. DENYS\* (1, 2), Théo LAUGA (2), Giovanni B. DELMASTRO (3) & Agnès DETTAI (4)



© SFI  
Received: 1 Feb. 2018  
Accepted: 30 Aug. 2018  
Editor: H. Persat

## Key words

Esocidae  
*Esox aquitanicus*  
*Esox cisalpinus*  
*Esox lucius*  
First intron of the S7  
ribosomal protein  
coding gene  
Indel diagnostic

**Abstract.** – The comparison of a 1635 bp fragment of the first intron of the S7 ribosomal protein coding gene, a commonly used phylogenetic marker, for specimens from the three European pike species *Esox aquitanicus*, *Esox cisalpinus* and *Esox lucius* highlights diagnostic sites and indels constituting molecular synapomorphies. Both the sequence alignment and the phylogenetic tree discriminate these three species, even with a short sequence fragment. Three *Esox lucius* haplogroups can be separated. These haplogroups might correspond to the evolutionary lineages highlighted by previous mitochondrial studies. Finally this study confirms hybridization between *Esox aquitanicus* and *Esox lucius*, but also the absence of geographical structure between *Esox lucius* haplogroups in France following restocking from East European piscicultures. The S7 marker is excellent for molecular identification, and could be used for environmental DNA.

**Résumé.** – Caractérisation du marqueur S7 des brochets *Esox* spp. (Actinopterygii, Esociformes) ouest-européens.

Cette étude compare un fragment de 1635 pb du premier intron du gène de la protéine codante ribosomale S7 d'individus des trois espèces de brochets européens *Esox aquitanicus*, *Esox cisalpinus* et *Esox lucius*. L'alignement des séquences et l'arbre phylogénétique obtenu permettent la discrimination des trois espèces par des sites et des indels diagnostiques constituant des synapomorphies moléculaires. Trois haplogroupes d'*Esox lucius* ont également été mis en évidence, qui pourraient correspondre aux des lignées évolutives déjà mises en évidence par des études mitochondriales précédentes. Enfin, cette étude a permis de confirmer l'hybridation entre *Esox aquitanicus* et *Esox lucius*, mais aussi l'absence de structuration géographique en France entre les haplogroupes d'*Esox lucius*, due aux repeuplements à partir de piscicultures d'Europe de l'Est. Ainsi le marqueur S7 est excellent pour l'identification moléculaire, y compris pour l'ADN environnemental.

Pikes *Esox* spp. (Actinopterygii, Esociformes) constitute an emblematic fish group in Western Europe because of its high socioeconomic interest for recreational and commercial fishing (Raat, 1988; Mann, 1996). It is also a valuable model in ecology and evolutionary biology (Forsman *et al.*, 2015). Scientists and fisheries managers considered European pikes well characterized with a single species, *Esox lucius* Linnaeus, 1758 (*e.g.* Raat, 1988). Its aquaculture was well developed (Billard, 1983), providing juveniles to restock waterbodies including in France (Keith *et al.*, 2011).

During the last decade, the description of two new pike species changed the taxonomy of this genus: *Esox cisalpinus* Bianco & Delmastro, 2011 (synonym *Esox flaviae* Lucentini *et al.*, 2011; see Bianco, 2014) from Northern and Central

Italy, and *Esox aquitanicus* Denys *et al.*, 2014 endemic from South-West of France (Bianco and Delmastro, 2011; Lucentini *et al.*, 2011; Denys *et al.*, 2014). These three morphologically diagnosable species are also well delimited with mitochondrial (Nicod *et al.*, 2004; Lucentini *et al.*, 2011; Denys *et al.*, 2014; Gandolfi *et al.*, 2016; 2017) and nuclear markers (Launey *et al.*, 2006; Lucentini *et al.*, 2006, 2010; Denys *et al.*, 2014; Gandolfi *et al.*, 2017). While mitochondrial data is divergent enough to provide discrimination on short sequences, they only reflect the maternal lineage; nuclear markers are often less variable. Moreover, *E. lucius* has already been introduced in the native areas of the two other species, and can hybridize with them (Lucentini *et al.*, 2011; Denys *et al.*, 2014; Gandolfi *et al.*, 2017). With this

- (1) UMS Patrimoine Naturel (PATRINAT), AFB, MNHN, CNRS, CP41, 36 rue Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 75005 Paris, France.
  - (2) Unité Biologie des Organismes et Ecosystèmes Aquatiques (BOREA), Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Sorbonne Université, Université de Caen Normandie, Université des Antilles, CNRS, IRD, 57 rue Cuvier CP26, 75005 Paris, France. [galo91@hotmail.fr]
  - (3) Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Laboratorio di Ittiologia, Via S. Francesco di Sales 188, 10022 Carmagnola TO, Italy. [gbdelmastro@gmail.com]
  - (4) Institut de Systématique, Évolution, Biodiversité, ISYEB – UMR 7205 – CNRS, MNHN, UPMC, EPHE, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Sorbonne Universités, 57 rue Cuvier CP26, 75005 Paris, France. [agnes.dettai@mnhn.fr]
- \* Corresponding author [gael.denys@mnhn.fr]

pressing conservation issue in mind, a nuclear marker variable enough to identify easily the three pike species and their hybrids is needed. Denys *et al.* (2014) used the nuclear Pleiomorphic adenoma gene-like 2 marker (Plagl2), with three diagnostic sites on 531 bp distinguishing *E. aquitanicus* from *E. lucius*. Other common nuclear markers like the rhodopsin retrogen (Rh) or the Recombination activating gene 1 (RAG1) are even less variable (Appendix 1, 2). Microsatellites and AFLP methods are often used, but not very practical for identification purposes (Launey *et al.*, 2006; Lucentini *et al.*, 2006, 2010; Gandolfi *et al.*, 2017).

The first intron of the S7 ribosomal protein coding gene (S7), and especially its deletions and insertion variability within and between species, is a very useful marker for species delineation in cyprinids (Mendel *et al.*, 2008; Zaccara *et al.*, 2014; Stierandová *et al.*, 2016), cottids (Marešová *et al.*, 2012) and mormyrids (Lavoué, 2016). This marker is therefore also valuable for detecting hybridizations (Marešová *et al.*, 2012; Zaccara *et al.*, 2014; Perea *et al.*, 2016). It had not

been often used in the past, as sequences for heterozygous specimens have different lengths because of the insertions and deletions (indels). These render Sanger chromatograms illegible after the length difference region. However, Next Generation Sequencing techniques (NGS) overcome this problem by assembling independently both alleles for heterozygous specimens (*e.g.* Medvedev *et al.*, 2009).

This study focuses on a sequence fragment of 1635 bp of the S7 intron for the three pike species of Western Europe to determine whether part of it can be an efficient short marker for molecular identification.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

Thirty specimens were included in this study. Twenty-six came from France (see sampling details and morphological

Table I. – Sampling with S7 haplotypes affiliation and GenBank Accession numbers (in progress). \*: identifications were made by Denys *et al.* (2014), §: specimens with the North American mitochondrial haplotype (see Denys *et al.*, 2014), \$: holotype of *Esox aquitanicus* Denys *et al.*, 2014 (MNHN 2013-1246).

| Country | Basin (Stream)           | Town                     | ID        | Taxa                                        | S7 Haplotype | GenBank Accession Number |
|---------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Canada  |                          |                          |           | <i>Esox lucius</i>                          | H4           | AZJR00000000             |
| France  | Charente (Antenne)       | Le Seure                 | EM17880   | <i>Esox lucius</i> *                        | H1/H4        | MH976775                 |
| France  | Charente                 | Saint-Saviol             | BRO25     | <i>Esox lucius</i> *§                       | H1/H4        | MH976772                 |
| France  | Charente (Lien)          | Condac                   | BRO505    | <i>Esox lucius</i> *                        | H2/H8        | MH976765                 |
| France  | Dordogne                 | Cénac-et-Saint-Julien    | BRO22     | <i>Esox cf. lucius</i> *                    | H1/H3        | MH976776                 |
| France  | Dordogne (Isle)          | Trélissac                | BRO24     | <i>Esox lucius</i> *                        | H4           | MH976791                 |
| France  | Dordogne (Isle)          | Saint-Médard-de-Guizière | BRO453    | <i>Esox lucius</i> *                        | H1/H3        | MH976778                 |
| France  | Dordogne (Isle)          | Saint-Médard-de-Guizière | BRO455    | <i>Esox lucius</i> *                        | H1           | MH976784                 |
| France  | Dordogne (Isle)          | Saint-Médard-de-Guizière | BRO457    | <i>Esox lucius</i> *                        | H1           | MH976783                 |
| France  | Loire (Sèvre Nantaise)   | Saint-Malo-du-Bois       | BRO1      | <i>Esox lucius</i> *§                       | H1/H4        | MH976768                 |
| France  | Meuse                    | Han-sur-Meuse            | BRO6      | <i>Esox lucius</i> *                        | H1/H4        | MH976770                 |
| France  | Rhône (Clauge)           | La Loye                  | BRO428    | <i>Esox lucius</i> *                        | H3/H4        | MH976793                 |
| France  | Rhône (Clauge)           | La Loye                  | BRO430    | <i>Esox lucius</i> *                        | H1/H3        | MH976777                 |
| France  | Seine (Blaise)           | Saint-Ange-et-Torçay     | BRO525    | <i>Esox lucius</i> *                        | H1/H4        | MH976774                 |
| France  | Seine                    | Serein                   | BRO464    | <i>Esox lucius</i> *                        | H4           | MH976792                 |
| France  | Seine                    | Serein                   | BRO466    | <i>Esox lucius</i> *                        | H2/H4        | MH976767                 |
| France  | Seine (Superbe)          | Pleurs                   | BRO10     | <i>Esox lucius</i> *                        | H1/H4        | MH976771                 |
| France  | Seine (Superbe)          | Pleurs                   | BRO9      | <i>Esox lucius</i> *                        | H4           | MH976790                 |
| France  | Somme (Canal de la Maye) | Favières                 | BRO2      | <i>Esox lucius</i> *                        | H1/H4        | MH976769                 |
| France  | Adour                    | Estirac                  | BRO462    | <i>Esox lucius</i> § x <i>aquitanicus</i> * | H1/H4        | MH976773                 |
| France  | Eyre                     | Mios                     | BRO23     | <i>Esox aquitanicus</i> x <i>lucius</i> *   | H8           | MH976785                 |
| France  | Adour (Estampon)         | Saint-Gor                | BRO531 \$ | <i>Esox aquitanicus</i> *                   | H8           | MH976787                 |
| France  | Adour (Geloux)           | Garein                   | BRO534    | <i>Esox aquitanicus</i> *                   | H8           | MH976788                 |
| France  | Charente (Lien)          | Condac                   | BRO509    | <i>Esox cf. aquitanicus</i> *               | H2/H8        | MH976766                 |
| France  | Eyre                     | Bélin-Béliet             | BRO443    | <i>Esox aquitanicus</i> *                   | H8           | MH976786                 |
| France  | Eyre                     | Bélin-Béliet             | BRO445    | <i>Esox aquitanicus</i> *                   | H1/H8        | MH976784                 |
| France  | Eyre                     | Bélin-Béliet             | BRO536    | <i>Esox aquitanicus</i> *                   | H8           | MH976789                 |
| Italy   | Po (Bealera Riana)       | Carmagnola               | Ecis1     | <i>Esox cisalpinus</i>                      | H7           | MH976779                 |
| Italy   | Po (Bealera Riana)       | Carmagnola               | Ecis2     | <i>Esox cisalpinus</i>                      | H5/H6        | MH976780                 |
| Italy   | Po (Bealera Bassa)       | Cercenasco               | Ecis3     | <i>Esox cisalpinus</i>                      | H6/H7        | MH976781                 |

identifications in Denys *et al.*, 2014). All were previously identified also with the cytochrome oxidase subunit 1 (COI) and the nuclear Plag12 markers (Denys *et al.*, 2014). Seventeen *E. lucius*, five *E. aquitanicus* and four hybrids (2 F1 and 2 Fn+1) are included in our sampling (Table 1), as well as three specimens of *Esox cisalpinus* from the Po basin in Italy. Finally, we included the S7 sequence from a Canadian specimen for whom the complete genome is available on GenBank AZJR00000000 (Rondeau *et al.*, 2014) (Tab. I). New primers were defined in Geneious v 9.0.5 (Kearse *et al.*, 2012) to flank a large fragment using this sequence as reference.

DNA extraction was as described in Denys *et al.* (2014). DNA amplification was performed by PCR in a final 20 µl volume containing 5% DMSO, 1 µl of BSA at 5 µg/ml (Bovine Serum Albumin), 1 µl of dNTP 6.6 mmol/L, 0.15 µl of Qiagen Taq DNA polymerase, using 2 µl of the buffer provided by the manufacturer, and 0.4 µl of each of the two primers at 10 pmol/L S7Fex1bro 5'-CCA CAT YTT CAA AGA TGG CTG CC-3' and S7R1710bro 5'-CAT GAG GCA GCC TAG ACA GAG T-3'; 1.5 µl of DNA extract was added. After denaturation for 2 min, the long PCR was run for 60 cycles of (30 s, 94°C; 50 s, 55°C; 3 min, 72°C) on an Eppendorf Mastercycler Eppgradient. NGS sequencing was performed using two-level multiplexing protocols following Hinsinger *et al.* (2015) on the Ion Torrent PGM of the MNHN SSM platform. The reads were assembled following Hahn *et al.* (2013) with Geneious v. 9.0.5 using the GenBank sequence as a reference. The quality control and coverage (from 21.6 to 662.5 in average) were checked. All new sequences with their voucher information were deposited into GenBank (Tab. I).

For heterozygous sequences of S7, reads from the contig generated by the Geneious software were first assembled through a *de novo* assembly. Then, the reads from each allele were separated and assembled in haplotypes. All assemblies were checked manually.

Alignments were performed using ClustalW (Thompson *et al.*, 1994) and rechecked by eye.

The best-fitting model for phylogenetic analysis was assessed using jModeltest 2 (Darriba *et al.*, 2012). The selected HKY model (Hasegawa *et al.*, 1985) was used for Bayesian inference (MrBayes 3.2, Ronquist *et al.*, 2012). Two analyses were run with 10 million generations and sampling every 200 generations; 10% of trees were eliminated as burnin after checking for convergence.

## RESULTS

Coverage for the thirty sequences ranged from 9 to 1275 (average: 146 to 447). There are 8 distinct haplotypes. 18 of the 30 sequences are heterozygous, and the separation in two

alleles yielded a total of 48 sequences. The 48 sequences and 8 haplotypes assembled in 5 haplogroups in the phylogenetic tree. These groups are supported in the alignment by shared nucleotides and indels (Fig. 1; Tab. II).

The first haplogroup (*Esox lucius* A) contains only one haplotype (H1) represented by 14 sequences including 11 from specimens identified as *Esox lucius* (Fig. 1) and caught from Adour, Charente, Dordogne, Eyre, Loire, Meuse, Rhone, Seine and Somme basins. It is supported by 6 diagnostic sites: C (vs. T) in positions 127 and 1595, T (vs. A) in position 433, G (vs. C) in position 1180 and A (vs. G) in positions 1289 and 1475 (Table II). The second haplogroup (*Esox lucius* B) contains a single haplotype (H2) represented here by 3 sequences including two specimens identified as *Esox lucius* and caught from Charente and Seine basins. It is supported by 4 diagnostic sites: A (vs. C) in position 131, A (vs. G) in position 700, G (vs. T) in position 1605, and an indel in position 1658 to 1674. The third haplogroup (*Esox lucius* C) includes two haplotypes H3 and H4. It is represented by 17 sequences, 15 of which are from specimens identified as *Esox lucius* and caught from Adour, Charente, Dordogne, Loire, Meuse, Rhone, Seine and Somme basins as well as Canada. It is supported by 4 diagnostic sites: T (vs. C) in position 421, an indel in position 707 to 721, and A (vs. T) in positions 970 and 1156. The fourth haplogroup corresponds to *Esox cisalpinus* specimens and includes the three haplotypes H5 to H7 (5 sequences from Italian *Esox cisalpinus* specimens). It is supported by 5 diagnostic sites: T (vs. C) in positions 293, 653 and 1256, A (vs. C) in position 372 and A (vs. C) in position 1367. The haplogroups *Esox lucius* C and *Esox cisalpinus* share an indel in position 882-883 and a T (vs. C) in position 884. Finally the fifth and last haplogroup corresponds to *Esox aquitanicus*. It includes a single haplotype H8 represented by 8 sequences, 5 corresponding to specimens identified as *Esox aquitanicus* and including the sequence of the holotype BRO531 (MNHN 2013-1246). These specimens came from Adour, Charente, and Eyre basins. H8 is supported by 2 diagnostic sites: an indel in position 815 to 842, and T (vs. C) in position 885.

The three pike species are well separated. Heterozygous specimens within *Esox lucius* have the haplotypes H1/H3 (3 specimens from Dordogne and Rhone basins), H1/H4 (8 specimens from Adour, Charente, Loire, Meuse, Seine and Somme basins), H2/H4 (1 specimen from the Seine catchment), and H3/H4 (1 specimen from the Rhone catchment) (Table I). Among *Esox cisalpinus*, 2 specimens are heterozygous sharing the haplotypes H5/H6 and H6/H7. Finally, three hybrids *Esox aquitanicus* x *Esox lucius* share respectively the haplotypes H1/H8 and H2/H8 (BRO445, BRO505 and BRO509), whereas BRO445 and BRO505 were not identified as hybrids by Denys *et al.* (2014).

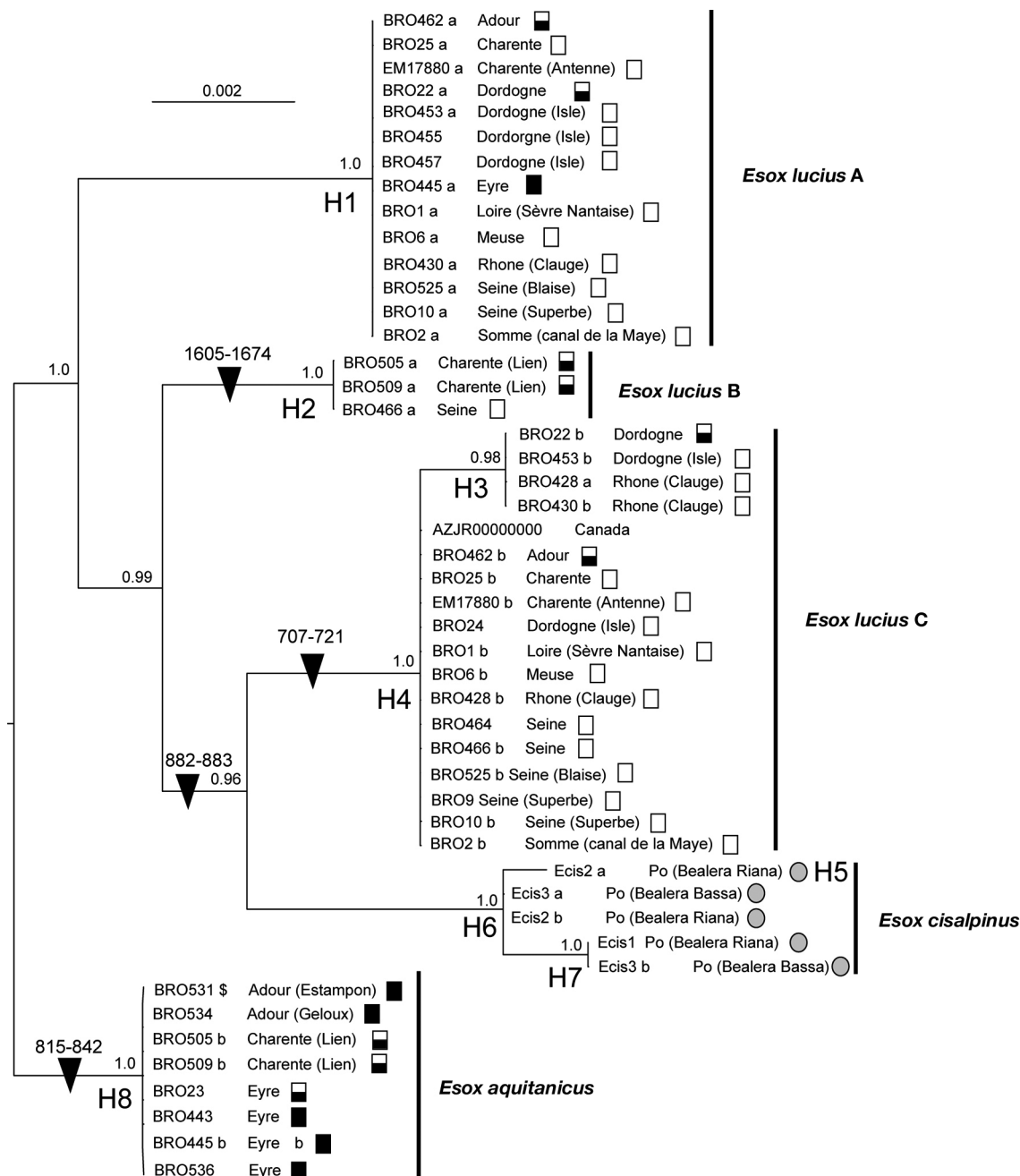


Figure 1. – Bayesian tree of the 1635 bp of the first intron of the S7 ribosomal protein coding gene (S7) for the 48 sequences separated by alleles of *Esox* spp. Numbers on the nodes represent posterior probabilities. Diagnostic indels and their location in the alignment are marked by a black triangle and position in the sequence above. Vouchers identifications are symbolized by black and white squares representing respectively *E. aquitanicus* and *E. lucius* (see Denys *et al.*, 2014), and gray dots designate *E. cisalpinus*. \$: indicates the holotype of *Esox aquitanicus* Denys *et al.*, 2014 (MNHN 2013-1246).

## DISCUSSION

The analysis of 1635 bp of the S7 intron discriminates clearly the three pike species *E. lucius*, *E. cisalpinus* and *E. aquitanicus*, with both diagnostic bases and indels (Fig. 1; Tab. II). It allows the identification of possible hybrids. Pre-

viously, the best nuclear markers for this identification were more complex approaches like microsatellites and AFLP methods (Launey *et al.*, 2006; Lucentini *et al.*, 2006, 2010; Gandolfi *et al.*, 2017). The S7 intron sequence is more variable, and provides more diagnostic sites than Plagl2, Rh and RAG1 (Denys *et al.*, 2014; Appendix 1, 2).



Table II. – Diagnostic sites highlighting mutations (in bold) and indels for the 8 haplotypes of *Esox* spp. on the S7 marker.

|           | 127 | 131 | 171 | 272 | 293 | 372 | 421 | 433 | 653 | 700 | 707-721     | 815-842     | 882-883    |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|-------------|------------|
| <b>H1</b> | C   | C   | C   | T   | C   | C   | C   | T   | C   | G   | –           | –           | –          |
| <b>H2</b> | T   | A   | .   | .   | .   | .   | .   | A   | .   | A   | –           | –           | –          |
| <b>H3</b> | T   | .   | .   | .   | .   | .   | T   | A   | .   | .   | 15 bp indel | –           | 2 bp indel |
| <b>H4</b> | T   | .   | .   | .   | .   | .   | T   | A   | .   | .   | 15 bp indel | –           | 2 bp indel |
| <b>H5</b> | T   | .   | .   | A   | T   | A   | .   | A   | T   | .   | –           | –           | 2 bp indel |
| <b>H6</b> | T   | .   | .   | .   | T   | A   | .   | A   | T   | .   | –           | –           | 2 bp indel |
| <b>H7</b> | T   | .   | .   | .   | T   | A   | .   | A   | T   | .   | –           | –           | 2 bp indel |
| <b>H8</b> | T   | .   | T   | .   | .   | .   | .   | A   | .   | .   | –           | 28 bp indel | –          |

|           | 884 | 885 | 970 | 1092 | 1099 | 1156 | 1180 | 1256 | 1289 | 1319 | 1367 | 1475 | 1595 | 1605 | 1658-1674   |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------|
| <b>H1</b> | C   | C   | T   | G    | C    | T    | G    | C    | A    | G    | G    | A    | C    | G    | –           |
| <b>H2</b> | .   | .   | .   | A    | .    | .    | C    | .    | G    | .    | .    | G    | T    | T    | 17 bp indel |
| <b>H3</b> | T   | .   | A   | A    | T    | A    | C    | .    | G    | .    | .    | G    | T    | .    | –           |
| <b>H4</b> | T   | .   | A   | A    | .    | A    | C    | .    | G    | .    | .    | G    | T    | .    | –           |
| <b>H5</b> | T   | .   | .   | A    | .    | .    | C    | T    | G    | .    | A    | G    | T    | .    | –           |
| <b>H6</b> | T   | .   | .   | A    | .    | .    | C    | T    | G    | .    | A    | G    | T    | .    | –           |
| <b>H7</b> | T   | .   | .   | A    | .    | .    | C    | T    | G    | A    | A    | G    | T    | .    | –           |
| <b>H8</b> | .   | T   | .   | .    | .    | .    | C    | .    | G    | .    | .    | G    | T    | .    | –           |

This nuclear marker also distinguishes clearly 3 haplogroups of *E. lucius* (Fig. 1; Tab. II). Biogeographic events during the Pleistocene structured the Northern pike in three lineages: a circumpolar lineage (Eastern Europe, Asia and North America), a southern lineage linked to the Danube drainage, and a northern lineage (Skog *et al.*, 2014). French waterbodies have been restocked several times, often from hatcheries of central Europe (Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary) (Grès, 1994; Launey *et al.*, 2006). Pike restocking from several origins led to introgression in native populations (Launey *et al.*, 2006) and a mosaic of genotypes in Western Europe (Maes *et al.*, 2003; Nicod *et al.*, 2004; Lucentini *et al.*, 2011; Denys *et al.*, 2014; Skog *et al.*, 2014; Gandolfi *et al.*, 2017).

Each haplogroup observed could correspond to a lineage defined by Skog *et al.* (2014). The haplogroups *Esox lucius* A and C are the most represented as they occur in the main drainages of our sampling. The presence of the Canadian homozygous sequence (H4) in the *Esox lucius* C haplogroup might indicate that this group corresponds to the circumpolar lineage. The haplogroup *Esox lucius* A might corresponds to the Northern lineage. According to the COI marker, three specimens (BRO1, BRO25 and BRO462) had the North American mitochondrial haplotype (Denys *et al.*, 2014), corresponding to the circumpolar lineage. However, they are all heterozygous H1/H4 for the S7 marker, despite distinct origin locations. More specimens from native populations in Eastern Europe to North America and Danube drainage are needed to confirm this.

While the relationship between haplotypes and *E. lucius* lineages needs a larger study, the S7 marker is an efficient tool to identify pike species. It might also discriminate some

of the *E. lucius* lineages. It allowed us to detect hybrids, including some which were not detected by Denys *et al.* (2014) with only mitochondrial and one nuclear markers (Plagl2). The use of several nuclear markers is important for hybrid detection, especially for non-first generation hybrids where not all loci are still heterozygous (*e.g.* Wang *et al.*, 2017). Moreover, we propose here some short fragments of the marker which flank parts of sequence including diagnostic sites and indels to identify *E. cisalpinus* (642 bp: S7F963 5' TTG TAG CCA TGG CAA CTG GT 3'; S7R1605 5' ATG GGT ATC GTT TTT AGC CCA 3') or *E. aquitanicus* (210 to 238 bp: S7F632 5' AAA AAT ACA GCG AGT CTC ACC 3' S7R891 5' AGG ATC CAC CAA TAG GAG AAC 3'). S7 could be also a good nuclear marker for environmental DNA (eDNA), as the use of a combination of mitochondrial and nuclear DNA markers increases the efficiency of species detection (*e.g.* Taberlet *et al.*, 2012), although the often-used ribosomal markers are not variable enough for this purpose. This new variable molecular marker is useful for the determination of pike species and provides conservation data to managers.

**Acknowledgements.** – This work was supported by the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (MNHN), the UMS PatriNat 2006, the UMR BOREA 7208, the UMR ISYEB 7205, the Agence Française pour la Biodiversité (AFB) and the Fédération Nationale pour la Pêche en France (FNPF). The collecting activities in Italy were carried out thanks to scientific permission by Servizio Caccia e Pesca della Città Metropolitana di Torino. We are particularly grateful to N. Poulet (AFB) and J. Guillouët (FNPF). This study was funded by the ATLASESOX project (n°737/2016). Laboratory access and assistance was provided by the “Service de systématique moléculaire” of the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (CNRS UMS 2700).

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Appendix 1. – Rhodopsin retrogen sequences (822 pb) of 16 French pikes *Esox* spp. with location, specimen identification, GenBank Accession numbers (in progress) and mutation sites. Identifications were made by Denys *et al.* (2014). PCR and sequencing protocols are given by Lautredou *et al.* (2012).

| Basin (Stream)           | Town               | ID     | GenBank Accession Number | Identification by Denys <i>et al.</i> (2014) | 425 | 734 |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Eyre                     | Bélin-Bélie        | BRO443 | MH976721                 | <i>Esox aquitanicus</i>                      | T   | C   |
| Eyre (Grande Leyre)      | Sabres             | BRO538 | MH976722                 | <i>Esox aquitanicus</i>                      | T   | C   |
| Eyre (Grande Leyre)      | Sabres             | BRO541 | MH976723                 | <i>Esox aquitanicus</i>                      | T   | C   |
| Adour                    | Estirac            | BRO462 | MH976724                 | <i>Esox lucius</i> x <i>Esox aquitanicus</i> | K   | C   |
| Eyre                     | Bélin-Bélie        | BRO536 | MH976725                 | <i>Esox aquitanicus</i>                      | K   | C   |
| Eyre                     | Bélin-Bélie        | BRO445 | MH976726                 | <i>Esox aquitanicus</i>                      | K   | M   |
| Charente (Sonsonnette)   | Saint-Front        | BRO433 | MH976727                 | <i>Esox aquitanicus</i>                      | G   | M   |
| Rhône                    | Massigneu-de-Rives | BRO529 | MH976728                 | <i>Esox lucius</i>                           | G   | A   |
| Garonne                  | Verdun-sur-Garonne | BRO20  | MH976729                 | <i>Esox lucius</i>                           | G   | C   |
| Rhône                    | Breignier          | BRO27  | MH976730                 | <i>Esox lucius</i>                           | G   | C   |
| Rhône                    | Breignier          | BRO28  | MH976731                 | <i>Esox lucius</i>                           | G   | C   |
| Rhône                    | Breignier          | BRO13  | MH976732                 | <i>Esox lucius</i>                           | G   | M   |
| Rhône (Clauge)           | La Loye            | BRO431 | MH976733                 | <i>Esox lucius</i>                           | G   | M   |
| Bourget Lake             |                    | BRO5   | MH976734                 | <i>Esox lucius</i>                           | G   | M   |
| Somme (Canal de la Maye) | Favières           | BRO2   | MH976735                 | <i>Esox lucius</i>                           | G   | M   |
| Meuse                    | Han-sur-Meuse      | BRO8   | MH976736                 | <i>Esox lucius</i>                           | G   | M   |



Appendix 2. – RAG1 sequences (1552 pb) of 28 pikes *Esox* spp. with location, specimen identification, GenBank Accession numbers and mutation sites. \*: identifications were made by Denys *et al.* (2014), \$: holotype of *Esox aquitanicus* Denys *et al.*, 2014 (MNHN 2013-1246). Amplification after Chen *et al.* (2003) and sequencing follows Hinsinger *et al.* (2015).

| Basin (Stream)           | Town                      | ID        | GenBank Accession Number | Identification               | 278 | 707 | 875 | 1424 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Adour (Estampon)         | Saint-Gor                 | BRO531 \$ | MH976737                 | <i>Esox aquitanicus</i>      | R   | G   | G   | A    |
| Adour (Geloux)           | Garein                    | BRO534    | MH976738                 | <i>Esox aquitanicus</i>      | A   | G   | G   | A    |
| Eyre (Grande Leyre)      | Sabres                    | BRO541    | MH976739                 | <i>Esox aquitanicus</i>      | A   | G   | G   | A    |
| Eyre                     | Bélin-Béliet              | BRO443    | MH976740                 | <i>Esox aquitanicus</i>      | A   | G   | G   | A    |
| Eyre                     | Bélin-Béliet              | BRO536    | MH976741                 | <i>Esox aquitanicus</i>      | A   | G   | G   | A    |
| Eyre (Grande Leyre)      | Sabres                    | BRO538    | MH976742                 | <i>Esox aquitanicus</i>      | A   | G   | G   | A    |
| Po (Bealera Riana)       | Carmagnola                | Ecis2     | MH976743                 | <i>Esox cisalpinus</i>       | G   | A   | G   | C    |
| Po (Bealera Bassa)       | Cercenasco                | Ecis3     | MH976744                 | <i>Esox cisalpinus</i>       | G   | A   | G   | C    |
| Provincial Fish hatchery | Carmagnola                | Ecis5     | MH976745                 | <i>Esox cisalpinus</i>       | G   | A   | G   | C    |
| Rhône                    | Breignier                 | BRO13     | MH976746                 | <i>Esox lucius</i>           | G   | G   | G   | C    |
| Charente (Sonsonnette)   | Saint-Front               | BRO433    | MH976747                 | <i>Esox aquitanicus</i>      | G   | G   | G   | C    |
| Charente (Antenne)       | Le Seure                  | EM17879   | MH976748                 | <i>Esox lucius</i>           | G   | G   | G   | C    |
| Somme (Canal de la Maye) | Favières                  | BRO2      | MH976749                 | <i>Esox lucius</i>           | G   | G   | G   | C    |
| Seine (Superbe)          | Pleurs                    | BRO9      | MH976750                 | <i>Esox lucius</i>           | G   | G   | G   | C    |
| Dordogne                 | Cénac-et-Saint-Julien     | BRO19     | MH976751                 | <i>Esox lucius</i>           | G   | G   | G   | C    |
| Charente (Lien)          | Condac                    | BRO509    | MH976752                 | <i>Esox cf. aquitanicus*</i> | G   | G   | G   | C    |
| Bourget Lake             |                           | BRO5      | MH976753                 | <i>Esox lucius</i>           | G   | G   | G   | C    |
| Rhône                    | Massigneu-de-Rives        | BRO529    | MH976754                 | <i>Esox lucius</i>           | G   | G   | G   | C    |
| Rhône (Clauge)           | La Loye                   | BRO430    | MH976755                 | <i>Esox lucius</i>           | G   | G   | G   | C    |
| Rhône (Clauge)           | La Loye                   | BRO428    | MH976756                 | <i>Esox lucius</i>           | G   | G   | G   | C    |
| Dordogne                 | Cénac-et-Saint-Julien     | BRO22     | MH976757                 | <i>Esox cf. lucius*</i>      | G   | G   | G   | C    |
| Dordogne (Isle)          | Saint-Médard-de-Guizières | BRO453    | MH976758                 | <i>Esox lucius*</i>          | G   | G   | G   | C    |
| Rhône (Clauge)           | La Loye                   | BRO427    | MH976759                 | <i>Esox lucius</i>           | G   | G   | G   | C    |
| Geneva Lake              |                           | BRO30     | MH976760                 | <i>Esox lucius</i>           | G   | G   | G   | C    |
| Seine (Blaise)           | Saint-Ange-et-Torçay      | BRO525    | MH976761                 | <i>Esox lucius*</i>          | G   | G   | G   | C    |
| Seine (Serein)           | Pontigny                  | BRO464    | MH976762                 | <i>Esox lucius*</i>          | G   | G   | G   | C    |
| Loire (Boivre)           | Béruges                   | BRO502    | MH976763                 | <i>Esox lucius*</i>          | G   | G   | G   | C    |
| Loire (Sèvre Nantaise)   | Saint-Malo-du-Bois        | BRO1      | MH976764                 | <i>Esox lucius*</i>          | G   | G   | R   | C    |