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2 Nuisance species in lake constance revealed through eDNA

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7 Abstract Biological invasions are a global threat to 8 biodiversity especially for aquatic resources. The 9 distribution of alien species is associated with human 10 activities; therefore, exotic species tend to accumulate 11 near big urban areas through different invasion vectors 12 such as ballast water, hull fouling, aquarium and pet 13 releases. The Rhine River region is one of the most 14 economically important in Europe. Around 60 million 15 people live in the river basin that is connected with 16 other large European rivers via the Rhine-Main-17 Danube shipping canal. The Alpine Rhine flows to 18 Lake Constance, which is the second largest subalpine 19 lake in Europe.

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Here, eDNA metabarcoding was employed to 20 inventory aquatic species from water samples in six 21 riverine and four lake localities within Lake Constance 22 region. A 313 bp fragment within cytochrome c 23 oxidase subunit I gene was PCR amplified using 24 25 generalist primers for metazoan and sequenced with MiSeq High-Throughput Sequencing platform. Seven 26 invertebrate invasive species and the invasive fish 27 Oncorhynchus mykiss were detected from eDNA. 28 29 Species-specific primers were employed to confirm metabarcoded species. Most of the invasive species 30 detected in this study correspond to samples from 31 areas around lake ports, followed by other lake and 32 degraded downstream river areas. Samples taken 33 upstream of Lake Constance were free of invertebrate 34 aliens. To establish common regulation and manage-35 ment actions regarding aquatic invasions in the three 36 countries that share Lake Constance is recommended. AQ137

Keywords	Metabarcoding · High-throughput	38
sequencing	· Specific-primers · Rhine river · Non-	39
indigenous s	species	40

Introduction

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Biological invasions are a global threat to biodiversity42especially for aquatic resources (Chown et al. 2015).43Most translocations of aquatic organisms are derived44from human activities (Leprieur et al. 2008), and the45

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Article No. : 2462	□ LE	□ TYPESET
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46 factor that best explains the number of biological 47 invasions in a region is often the density of the human 48 population nearby (e.g. Pyšek et al. 2010; Spear et al. 49 2013). Alien species have been introduced into rivers worldwide for recreational fishing, aquaculture or 50 51 derived from aquarium trade (Havel et al. 2015; 52 Duggan et al. 2010). Concomitantly, global transport 53 is facilitating the spread of many species out of their 54 native distribution through fouling and ballast water 55 (Alonso and Castro-Díez 2008; Molnar et al. 2008; 56 Thomaz et al. 2014). In addition, the increase of 57 temperature due to climate change may benefit the 58 dispersion of some invasive species in northern 59 regions; examples are the spread of Ponto-caspian 60 zebra mussel (Dreissena polymorpha) in the Baltic Sea (Holopainen et al. 2016), or the expansion of the 61 62 Asiatic clam Corbicula fluminea in northern areas 63 (Gollasch and Nehring 2006; Crespo et al. 2015).

In Europe, UK, France, and Germany are donors of 64 65 alien species to northern countries and are among the 66 main gateways of alien species introduction in fresh-67 water ecosystems (Hulme et al. 2008). At least 13 68 species from North America were introduced to 69 Germany and distributed to the Netherlands, Den-70 mark, Hungary and Poland. Most of the exotic species 71 established in Germany are causing adverse ecological 72 effects (García-Berthou et al. 2005). The distribution 73 of alien species is highly associated with human 74 AQ2 activities (Wolter and Röhr 2010; Spear et al. 2013).

The Rhine River is the most important river in 75 76 Germany from the economic point of view. From its 77 1250 km length, 825 km of the river are navigable 78 from the port of Rotterdam on the North Sea coast to 79 Basel in Switzerland. Around 60 million of people live 80 in the river basin and the river supplies drinking water 81 for more than 30 million people (Plum and Schulte-82 Wülwer-Leidig 2014). Moreover, it is connected with 83 nearly all large rivers in southern, central and Eastern Europe. Together with the Danube, Rhine River is the 84 85 most invaded river in Europe (Leuven et al. 2009). The 86 fact that both rivers are connected via the Rhine-87 Main-Danube shipping canal since 1992, might 88 facilitate the entrance of aquatic alien species. At 89 least 26 alien species reported in German waters can 90 be directly related with this canal, for example, the 91 arrival of the amphipod Dikerogammarus villosus in 92 the Rhine basin (Gollasch and Nehring 2006). This 93 pathway is the main vector for recent invaders in 94 Germany and Austria, especially species from Ponto-



Journal : Medium 10530	Dispatch : 16-2-2021	Pages : 18
Article No. : 2462	□ LE	□ TYPESET
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Caspian region (Rabitsch et al. 2013). The number of
non-indigenous macroinvertebrate species in the
Rhine River increased over the period from 1800 to
2005, from one to more than 13 species per decade.96
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The rapid dispersion of exotic species is highly
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facilitated by shipping activities and the interconnec-
tion of river basins (Leuven et al. 2009).101

In addition, the Rhine river has several hydrological 102 power plants along its way from Lake Constance to 103 Basel (e.g. in the upper part of the river, High Rhine). 104 There are twelve in-stream barriers due to hydropower 105 plants (N'Guyen et al. 2016), which altered the river 106 flow and whose cooling waters can become suit-107 able habitat for invasive species, as has happened with 108 the gobies in this region (Kalchhauser et al. 2013) or 109 with the invasive mussel Mytilopsis leucophaeata in 110 southern Bothnian Sea, Sweden (Florin et al. 2013). 111 The reservoirs have been associated with a higher 112 number of exotic species introductions (Clavero et al. 113 2004; Johnson et al. 2005). Havel et al. (2015) 114 suggested that once an exotic species is established 115 in a lake, it could easily colonize nearby lakes and 116 rivers. aq3 17

In the Rhine basin, Lake Constance is the second 118 largest subalpine lake in Europe. It is situated at the 119 northern fringe of the European Alps and is shared 120 among Germany, Switzerland and Austria. It is the 121 main reservoir of Rhine River. The lake itself is an 122 important drinking water source for southwestern 123 Germany and economically important for recreational 124 and commercial fisheries and for tourism (N'Guyen 125 et al. 2016). Twenty-nine fish species occur in the lake 126 of which only a few are commercially exploited: two 127 lake whitefish (Coregonus clupeiformis and C. lavare-128 tus); perch (Perca fluviatilis); European eel (Anguilla 129 anguilla); brown trout (Salmo trutta); pike (Esox 130 lucius); Arctic charr (Salvelinus alpinus) and pike 131 perch (Sander lucioperca) (Eckmann and Rosch 132 1998). The Lake Constance population of Salmo 133 trutta was almost extirpated in the 1950s due to dam 134 construction in the alpine Rhine, but thanks to 135 protective measures, they have made a significant 136 return (Ruhlé 1996). The lake was the home of the 137 considered extinct species of trout Salvelinus profun-138 dus, as well as of the Lake Constance whitefish 139 (Coregonus gutturosus) (Freyhof and Kottelat 2008). 140 Among other factors, the extinction of the former fish 141 species in the lake might be associated with the 142 introduction of exotic species, because exotic invasive 143

species are often a cause of animal extinctions(Clavero and García-Berthou 2005).

146 Since the Rhine basin and Lake Constance could 147 serve as a reservoir and point of entry of invasive species that could rapidly spread all over Europe, 148 149 prevention and early detection of new alien species is 150 highly recommended. However, the management of 151 aquatic biota in this region does not seem to be 152 efficient because there are decentralized political 153 structures in the surrounding countries Austria, Ger-154 many and Switzerland (Essl et al. 2011). This situation 155 is far from ideal especially when the river acts as 156 border between Germany and Switzerland in the High 157 Rhine region. In the current European regulation EU No 1143/2014 of 22 October 2014 on Invasive Alien 158 (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ 159 Species 160 invasivealien/index_en.htm) the list of invasive alien 161 species includes 26 animals, amongst them ten species that inhabit freshwater ecosystems: the crab Eriocheir 162 163 sinesis; the bullfrog Lithobates catesbeianus; the 164 crayfishes Orconectes limosus, O. virilis, Pacifastacus 165 leniusculus, Procambarus clarkii and P. fallax f. vir-166 ginalis; the fishes Perccottus glenii and Pseudorasb-167 ora parva; the slider Trachemys scripta. There is not a 168 common list of invasive species for Switzerland, 169 Austria and Germany (Wittenberg et al. 2005; Gol-170 lasch and Nehring 2006; Nehring et al. 2010). When 171 searching the three countries in EASIN database 172 (European Alien Species Information Network, 173 https://easin.jrc.ec.europa.eu/), the list of invasive 174 species in each region/country is different with only a 175 few species in common.

176 Prevention and early detection of new invasions are recommended to control dispersion of invasive alien 177 178 species (Thomaz et al. 2014). In the last few years, the 179 development of environmental DNA (eDNA) tech-180 niques has become a promising tool to early detect and 181 survey alien species in aquatic ecosystems (Goldberg 182 et al. 2015). There are numerous examples of the use 183 of eDNA to successfully detect invasive species (e.g. 184 Ficetola et al. 2008; Ardura et al. 2015; Clusa et al. 185 2016). In this study we applied eDNA Metabarcoding 186 for the detection of nuisance species in the Rhine 187 basin. This technique is based on high throughput sequencing of DNA barcodes on eDNA coupled with 188 189 bioinformatics analysis of the sequences to compare 190 them with databases and identify the species present in 191 the sample. It has been employed for species inven-192 tories in ports (e.g. Borrell et al. 2017), rivers (e.g. Deiner et al. 2016; Fernandez et al. 2018) and lakes 193 (e.g. Bista et al. 2017). 194

The main objective of the present study was to195assess, by applying metabarcoding and species-speci-196fic primers on eDNA from water samples, the presence197of alien species in the Rhine region. The results will be198employed to inferring hotspots of nuisance and non-199indigenous species (NIS) in the basin so informing for200future management actions.201

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Materials and methods

Study area

The Rhine River is divided in six sections: the Alpine 204 Rhine and the Lake Constance; the high Rhine from 205 Lower Lake Constance (LLC) to Basel, where many 206 barriers are, including a 23 m waterfall situated 30 km 207 downstream the lake (Rheinfall) and many hydrolog-208 ical power plant dams; the Upper Rhine that extends 209 from Basel to Bingen; the Middle Rhine; the Lower 210 Rhine from Bonn to Lobith and the Delta Rhine in the 211 Netherlands (Leuven et al. 2009). The alpine part of 212 the Rhine River flows into the lake in the southeast 213 (near Bregenz) and flows out near Stein am Rhein in 214 the LLC. The Rhine River is the primary artery of one 215 of the most important economic regions of Europe. It 216 has a total length of about 1250 km, a drainage area of 217 circa 185,260 km² and an average discharge of about 218 2300 $\text{m}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$ (Rabitsch et al. 2013). Lake Constance is 219 63 km long, and at its widest point expands nearly 220 14 km. It covers approximately 571 km² and is 395 m 221 above sea level. The greatest depth is 252 m in the 222 middle of the eastern part. It consists of two basins: the 223 deep Upper Lake Constance (ULC) and Lower Lake 224 Constance (LLC), which is smaller (Jeppesen et al. 225 2012). Daily, car ferries link Romanshorn to Frie-226 drichshafen as well as Constance to Meersburg (Gergs 227 and Rothhaupt 2015) in the Upper Lake Constance. 228

Between October and November 2017, ten sam-229 230 pling points were visited in the region: from the Alpine 231 Rhine (R0) to the Upper Rhine downstream Basel (R5), including the main ports areas of Lake Con-232 stance (Table 1, Fig. 1). The following features of the 233 234 sampling sites were considered: degree of modification of the river bottom, since artificial substrates may 235 be preferred by some invasive species (e.g. Wasson 236 et al. 2005; Tyrrell and Byers 2007); and number of 237

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•	Journal : Medium 10530	Dispatch : 16-2-2021	Pages : 18
	Article No. : 2462	□ LE	□ TYPESET
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Table 1 Sampling points both from Rhine River and Lake Constance

Sample	Watershed	Country	Location	Human Inhabitants	Coordinates	Port	Appearance	Current
R0	Rhine River	Switzerland	Reichenau (Tamins), alpine Rhine River	3200	46.82453 N, 9.41161E	No	Sandy soil, few stones	+
R1	Rhine River	Austria	Alter Rhein	5890	47.45600 N, 9.64358E	No	Small stones and channeled	+
LPI	Constance Lake	Germany	Friedrichshafen port	42,470	47.650778 N, 9.483804E	Large port, ferry	Large blocks of concrete and stones, deep ($\sim 2 \text{ m}$)	I
LP2	Constance Lake	Germany	Constance port	84,440	47.68337 N, 9.21094E	Large port, ferry	Small stones with a lot of moss, Corbicula sp shells	I
L3	Constance Lake	Germany	Reichenau Insel	3300	47.68671 N, 9.06711E	Marina, sailing school	Small stones	I
L4	Constance Lake	Germany	Radolfzell am Bodensee	31,200	47.73523 N, 8.96839E	Marina, yatch club	Small stones	I
R2	Rhine River	Switzerland	Diessenhofen	3630	47.69024 N, 8.75222E	Small river port	Sandy soil, many small stones, bivalve shells	+
R3	Rhine River	Switzerland	Below Rheinfall	36,580	47.67615 N, 8.61020E	No	Sandy soil, many small stones, bivalve shells	+ +
R4	Rhine River	Germany	Stein	13,920	47.55143 N, 7.95023E	No	Large stones and algae, deep $(\sim 2 \text{ m})$	+ + +
R5	Rhine River	Germany	Breisach am Rhein	16,000	48.04345 N, 7.57271E	River port	Large stones and algae, deep $(\sim 2 \text{ m})$	+ + +

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•	Journal : Medium 10530	Dispatch : 16-2-2021	Pages : 18
	Article No. : 2462	□ LE	□ TYPESET
	MS Code : BINV-D-20-00075R2	🖌 СР	🖌 disk

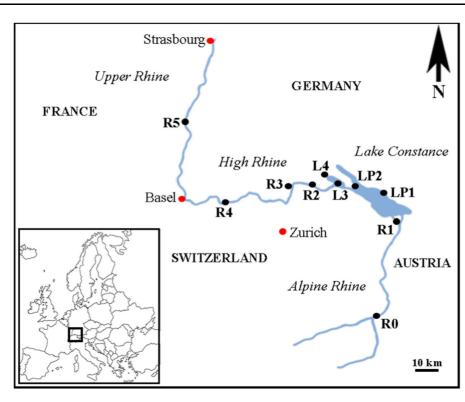


Fig. 1 Map showing the sampling points. The region is divided in four sections from downstream to upstream: Upper Rhine, High Rhine, Lake Constance, and Alpine Rhine. All sampling points are indicated with a black circle

human inhabitants in the 10 km nearby the sampling
point for the known relationship between biological
invasions and human population density (e.g. Spear
et al. 2013).

243 Three 1L water replicates per sampling point were 244 collected in sterile bottles. The samples collection was 245 done in different days and always from downstream to upstream. Additionally, water bottles were kept in the 246 247 cooler (blanks) and used as field controls. All the 248 personal equipment was cleaned with 50% bleach 249 between points and new gloves and sterile bottles were 250 used in each point, in order to avoid contamination 251 between sampling points. In every sampling point, 252 water was collected approximately 30 cm below the 253 surface, since recent DNA is located in the surface 254 whereas in the sediments old eDNA can be accumu-255 lated and preserved long time at low temperatures 256 even when the source of DNA has disappeared (Turner 257 et al. 2015; Goldberg et al. 2016).

All the samples were immediately transported to 258 the laboratory, stored at 4 °C and immediately filtrated 259 using an Acetate cellulose membrane (Fisher Scien-260 tific) of 0.22 µm pore size and a filter holder. Filtration 261 took place inside a laminar flow cabinet previously 262 treated with UV light to avoid any contamination. The 263 filter holder was dismantled, cleaned with 50% bleach, 264 rinsed with distilled water and treated with UV for 265 20 min before use and between samples. A negative 266 control consisting of 1L of milliQ water filtrated 267 between two real samples was included in all the 268 analysis. Filters were stored at -20 °C until 269 extraction. 270

All the collection, filtration, extraction and analysis271process were done following the recommendations272from Goldberg et al. (2016) to avoid any cross273contamination in the different steps.274

Environmental DNA (eDNA) extraction 275

DNA from 1L water samples was extracted with the276PowerWater® DNA Isolation Kit (Mobio laborato-
ries) following the manufacturer's protocol. Every277

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•	Journal : Medium 10530	Dispatch : 16-2-2021	Pages : 18
	Article No. : 2462	□ LE	□ TYPESET
	MS Code : BINV-D-20-00075R2	🗹 СР	🗹 DISK

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²⁴² Sample collection

279 replicate from each sampling point was extracted 280 separately in time, therefore, all the analysis and 281 extraction from the same water sample was done in 282 different weeks, minimizing the possibility of contamination. In addition, the whole extraction process 283 284 was done inside the laminar flow cabinet. Addition-285 ally, two negative controls were included in each 286 extraction and in all posterior PCRs amplifications; 287 consisting of a negative control for filtration (sterile 288 water) and a negative control for extraction which 289 consisted in a clean membrane. All the pre-PCR steps 290 were done inside the laminar flow cabinet after 20 min of UV light decontamination, and the post-PCR steps 291 292 were done in a separate laboratory unit.

293 Inhibitors test

294 The presence of PCR inhibitors in eDNA samples 295 might represent a serious problem due to the fact that it 296 could be wrongly identified as a false negative 297 (Thomsen and Willerslev 2015). Thus, to control for 298 the presence of inhibitors in the samples, DNA from 299 the fish species Gambusia holbrooki was spiked to one 300 replicate from each of the sampling sites at two 301 different concentrations similar to the experiment 302 done by Clusa et al. (2016). For the high concentration 303 test, 1 µl of Gambusia DNA from 10 ng/mL was 304 spiked to 5 µl of the eDNA; and for the low 305 concentration assay 1 µl of Gambusia DNA from 10 pg/mL, near the detection limit of the specific 306 primers, was added to 5 µl of eDNAHigh quality DNA 307 308 samples obtained from fish tissue were added outside 309 the cabinet, in the last minute when all the tubes with 310 eDNA samples were closed inside the PCR machine. 311 The amplification reaction was performed in a total 312 volume of 20 µl, including Green GoTaq®Buffer 1X, 313 1 mM MgCl₂, 0.25 mM dNTPs, 1 µM of each primer, 314 0.65 U of DNA Taq polymerase (Promega) and 5 µl of 315 template DNA. PCR conditions were the following: an 316 initial denaturation at 95 °C for 5 min followed by 35 317 cycles of denaturation at 94 °C for 1 min, annealing at 318 68 °C for 1 min, extension at 72 °C for 2 min and a 319 final extension step at 72° for 7 min. PCR products 320 were visualized in 2% agarose gels with 2.5 µL of SimplySafeTM. 321

In order to discard false negatives due to excessive
DNA degradation or other reasons, the cytochrome c
oxidase subunit I (COI) gene was amplified from

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eDNA with generalist primers (Geller et al. 2013) in 325 all the samples. 326

Metabarcoding library preparation

One replicate water sample was used in the HTS328analysis to obtain a global view of biodiversity in the
sample. The other two replicates were employed for
amplification of species-specific primers and checking
inhibition.330331

The target of the barcoding assay was a fragment of 333 313 bp from the COI gene, using the generalist 334 primers mlCOIlintF and jgHCO2198 for metazoan 335 described by Leray et al. (2013) and adapted to 336 Illumina platform. The protocol used was the one 337 described for Illumina platforms (Illumina), which 338 consisted in two sequential PCRs. The first PCR 339 amplification was performed using general primers 340 with a barcode and a tag and the second PCR using 341 primers with the tag and adapters for Illumina 342 (Table S1). After each sequential PCR, the amplified 343 product was purified with HighPrepTM PCR beads 344 (MagBio Genomics, Maryland). For the first PCR, we 345 used the 515F and 806R primers with a universal 5' 346 tail, for DNA amplification of a fragment of COI gene 347 (313 bp). Briefly, 2 ng of eDNA were used as template 348 for the first PCR (2 min at 98 °C, 10 amplification 349 cycles consisting of 15 s at 98 °C, 20 s at 55 °C and 350 20 s at 72 °C and a final elongation at 72 °C for 2 min) 351 and the purified PCR amplicons were the template for 352 the second PCR (2 min at 98 °C, 20 amplification 353 cycles consisting of 15 s at 98 °C, 20 s at 67 °C and 354 20 s at 72 °C followed by a final elongation at 72 °C 355 for 2 min) using primers including sequencing bar-356 codes as well as the Illumina adapter sequences 357 (Table S1). Both PCRs were performed in 25 µl 358 reaction volumes and amplifyed with the Q5 High-359 Fidelity polymerase (New England Biolabs, MA). 360 After purification, DNA concentrations were mea-361 sured and specificity of amplification was checked for 362 all samples using gel electrophoresis. Negative con-363 trols for filtration and extraction were used in the PCR, 364 where no quantifiable DNA was detected using a 365 Qubit v2.0 Fluorometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, 366 Massachusetts), so they were not processed further. 367

The quality of the pooled libraries was assessed368using a Bioanalyzer 2100 (Agilent Technologies,369Germany). The genomic libraries were pair-end370



Journal : Medium 10530	Dispatch : 16-2-2021	Pages : 18
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371 sequenced $(2 \times 250 \text{ bp})$ on MiSeq platform at 372 TUFTS genomic centre in USA.

373 Sequence processing

The Fastq files were split by barcodes, allowing
obtaining all the sequences from each sample. All
Fastq files were checked in the FastQC version 0.11.3
visor.

378 A small subset of 5000 reads was used to adjust the 379 pipeline settings to later analyze the rest of the 380 samples. Different merge (e.g. minimum overlapping: j:100, j:80 or j:115) and assignment (identity and 381 382 e-value: -i and -e parameters) settings were tested using QIIME (Quantitative Insights Into Microbial 383 Ecology) (Caporaso et al. 2010). At least five 384 385 sequences from all the species in the resulting OTU 386 table were manually checked to confirm the suit-387 able performance of the assignment (data not shown). 388 Merged pair-end files were obtained using the script 389 join_paired_ends (Aronesty 2011) included in QIIME 390 (Caporaso et al. 2010), with a minimum overlap of 391 100 bp (j = 100) and a maximum error of 15% 392 (p = 15), being the parameters selected based on the 393 consistency of the number of species recovered and on 394 previous experience with different datasets (e.g. 395 Fernández et al. 2019). After that, the sequences were 396 left- and right- trimmed using PrinSeq version 0.20.4 397 (Schmieder and Edwards 2011) to remove primer sequences. Sequences were filtered by length and 398 399 quality, allowing a maximum length of 340 bp and a 400 minimum of 230 bp and sequences with a mean 401 quality score lower than 25 were removed.

402 To create a reference taxonomic database, an exhaustive search for "mitochondrial COI gene" 403 404 sequences was performed in the NCBI website in 405 June 2017. All the cytochrome c oxidase subunit I 406 sequences available were downloaded with the script 407 entrez qiime.py (Baker 2016). After that, blast assign-408 ments were performed using the script assign taxon-409 omy from QIIME (Caporaso et al. 2010) using as 410 database the file generated with all the COI sequences 411 downloaded from GenBank. The assignment was done 412 using a 97% of identity and an e-value of 10^{-50} . Finally, the OTU table was obtained using the script 413 414 for python fromTaxassignment2Otutable. The pipe-415 line is similar to the one used by Galal-Khallaf et al. (2016). Singletons were eliminated from the OTU 416 417 table for further downstream analysis.

Validation using species-specific primers

419 One fish and two mollusc invasive species were chosen to double check the Metabarcoding results 420 from independent genetic markers and methodology. 421 Three-spine stickleback (Gasterosteus aculeatus) 422 DNA was detected using the specific primers designed 423 by Thomsen et al. (2012). This species is native to the 424 region and known to inhabit the Lake Constance and 425 the Rhine River. New Zealand mudsnail Potamopyr-426 gus antipodarum was detected using the primers 427 described in Clusa et al. (2016), and Corbicula 428 fluminea using Clusa et al. (2017) primers. Primer 429 sequences and PCR amplification conditions are 430 described in the Table S2. All PCR amplicons were 431 visualized in 2% agarose gel with DNA Stain clear G 432 (SERVA). The species-specific primers were used in 433 two out of the three samples taken from each site. To 434 consider a sample as positive or negative, the two 435 samples had to be positive or negative, respectively. 436 The third sample of each point was reserved for 437 running an extra PCR with specific primers to confirm 438 the presence of the species in case of doubtful results 439 (when only one of the samples was positive). Every 440 positive PCR band was purified with ZymocleanTM 441 Gel recovery kit and sequenced with ABI 3130 442 sequencer to confirm the species identity using 443 BLAST (https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi) 444 against NCBI GenBank Nucleotide database. 445

Estimations of environmental quality

Global diversity (Shannon index) was estimated from 447 the OTU table with the script alpha diversity from 448 QIIME (Caporaso et al. 2010), using the reads of all 449 the species after removing duplicated species and 450 sequences which assignments with BLAST corre-451 spond to entries catalogued as "Environmental sam-452 ples" in GenBank. However, since there is little 453 consensus on the extent to which proportions of reads 454 generated corresponds to the original proportions of 455 species in a community (Lamb et al. 2019), this index 456 should be considered only a rough proxy of real 457 diversity. A better diversity estimate was calculated 458 using the number of species, instead of the reads, of 459 each phylum as a variable. 460

Six variables were measured from HTS data and461used to take into consideration the environmental462status of the sampling sites. Due to the known463

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,	Journal : Medium 10530	Dispatch : 16-2-2021	Pages : 18
	Article No. : 2462	□ LE	□ TYPESET
•	MS Code : BINV-D-20-00075R2	🗹 СР	🖌 DISK

464 correlation between habitat degradation and invasive 465 species, which does not implying causality (Didham et al. 2005), the presence of two types of nuisance 466 467 species was used as proxies of bad ecological status: harmful algae (HABs) and exotic invasive species. 468 469 Therefore, the number and proportion of each type of 470 species were the variables. It is worth noting that the 471 mere presence of invasive species does not necessarily 472 indicates degraded habitat and other indicators would 473 be necessary for environmental quality assessment. 474 Variables associated with good ecological status were: 475 the number of native fish species as an ecosystem 476 service, and the number of EPT (Ephemeroptera, 477 Plecoptera and Trichoptera insects) species as world-478 wide indicators of good water quality (e.g. Lenat 1988; Masese and Raburu 2017; Ab Hamid and Md Rawi 479 480 2017). Two additional diversity estimates were the 481 number of other native invertebrate species, and the 482 number of other algae species (non-HABs).

483 The list of exotic species was taken from the 484 Invasive Species Compendium (CABI 2019, https:// 485 www.cabi.org/isc, accessed on September 2019); the 486 species contributing to Lake Constance fisheries from 487 Eckmann and Röchs (1998); the list of reference of HAB species was the IOC-UNESCO Taxonomic 488 489 Reference List of Harmful Micro Algae (http://www. 490 marinespecies.org/hab/, accessed in August 2019; 491 Moestrup et al. 2009 onwards). To calculate the pro-492 portion of invasive species in the samples, only sequences from aquatic metazoans were taken into 493 494 account, excluding sequences from human and avian 495 DNA, as well as fungi and protists.

496 Statistical analyses

497 Non-metric multidimensional scaling (nMDS) analy-498 sis was performed for visualizing the differences 499 among samples, using the following six variables: EPT, Native Fish, HABs, NIS, HABs, non-HABs and 500 501 other native invertebrates. The minimum spanning 502 tree among samples was calculated from Manhattan 503 pairwise similarity indices using 9999 bootstrapping 504 and visualized by Scatter plot.

Pairwise correlations between the biotic indicators
and proxies were performed using linear Pearson's r
after checking for normality using Jarque–Bera tests
and Monte Carlo simulations, using PAST software
version Past3.dmg (Hammer et al. 2001). False
discovery rate (FDR) adjustment for multiple

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Article No. : 2462	🗆 LE	□ TYPESET
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comparisons was carried out in R (R Core Team5112020) using "psych" library.512

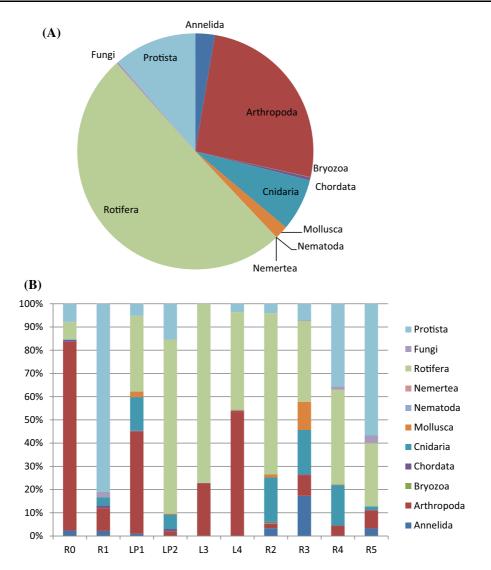
Results

The amplification of the COI gene with universal 514 primers confirmed the presence of good quality DNA 515 in all eDNA samples. The spike test to discard the 516 presence of inhibitors in the samples was successful, 517 obtaining positive PCR amplifications in all eDNA 518 samples with both high or low concentration of 519 Gambusia DNA, discarding the presence of inhibitors 520 in the samples. 521

From each sample a minimum of 500,000 raw reads 522 were obtained. After merging and filtration steps the 523 $76.80 \pm 11.1\%$ of sequences remained from the raw 524 dataset of reads. A 12.6 \pm 7.6% of the raw reads were 525 assigned to a reference barcode with the 97% of 526 identity. The sample with least sequences assigned 527 was R5 with only the 2.6% of raw reads, whereas the 528 sample with the highest number of sequences assigned 529 was L4 (29.1% of raw reads) (Table S3). 530

In number of sequences, the taxon most amplified 531 from the HTS analysis was Porifera (more than 50% of 532 the sequences) followed by Arthropods (25.85%), and 533 Protista (11.32%); only 1.87% correspond to molluscs 534 and 0.42% to chordate species (Fig. 2A). The taxo-535 nomic profile varied in the different samples, for 536 example in R0 81.3% of the sequences corresponded 537 to arthropods, in R1 the 81% corresponded to Protista 538 or in R3 12.2% were molluscs (Fig. 2B). Shannon's 539 diversity index, taking into account all the sequences 540 from all the taxa identified by HTS, showed that the 541 highest value was found in samples R1 (3.9), R5 (3.8), 542 and R4 (3.6) (Table S5).Considering the number of 543 species per metazoan phylum, the samples were also 544 clearly different (Fig. 3), although not as much as in 545 the number of sequences for which they differed 546 principally in Protista (Fig. 2B). River samples were 547 richer in arthropods while lake samples were richer, in 548 general, in mollusc species -absent from the river 549 samples taken upstream of Lake Constance. 550

From the assigned sequences eight NIS were 551 detected (Table 2A) including two arthropods, one 552 fish, one cnidarian and four molluscs: The killer 553 shrimp Dikerogammarus villosus, the Caspian slender 554 shrimp Limnomysis benedeni, the rainbow trout On-555 corhynchus mykiss, the freshwater jellyfish 556



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Fig. 2 Sequences from HTS analysis by taxon. a Percentage of sequences of each taxon obtained from the HTS analysis. b Percentage of sequences from each taxon in each sampling site

Craspedacusta sowerbyi, the zebra mussel Dreissena 557 558 polymorpha, the Asiatic clam Corbicula fluminea, the 559 New Zealand mudsnail Potamopyrgus antipodarum 560 and the freshwater pulmonate snail Physella acuta. On 561 the other hand, DNA of four species of Dinoflagellates 562 catalogued as harmful algae (HAB) represented by 563 more than one sequence was found in the dataset: 564 Alexandrium catenella, A. ostenfeldii, A. tamarense 565 and Karlodinium veneficum (Table 2B). All of them 566 occurred in the lake, principally in lake ports, while 567 only one sequence of A. tamarense was found in the 568 upstream river point closer to the lake (R1). It is worth

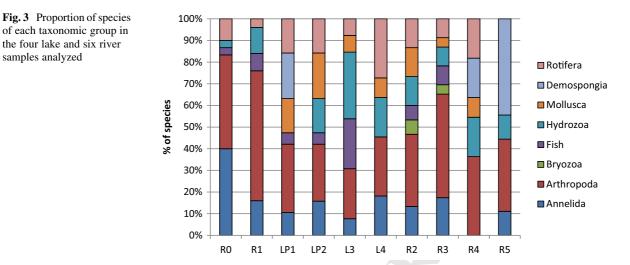
noting that the mere detection of harmful algae does 569 not implicate its bloom. 570

Three species were double-checked from species-571 specific primers on the eDNA samples where they 572 were found from Metabarcoding. All the positive 573 amplifications were sequenced and the species con-574 firmed by Blast in the NCBI webpage. All the 575 assignments are available in Table S4 The results were 576 totally coincident and confirmed the presence of DNA 577 of those species in the samples analyzed (Supplemen-578 tary Table S4. The native fish Gasterosteus aculeatus 579 was detected in the samples LP2 and L3, the invasive 580 Potamopyrgus antipodarum appeared in the lake and 581

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•	Journal : Medium 10530	Dispatch : 16-2-2021	Pages : 18
	Article No. : 2462	□ LE	□ TYPESET
	MS Code : BINV-D-20-00075R2	🗹 СР	🖌 DISK

Deringer



582 in the first river sample downstream, and Corbicula fluminea in the lake port where it was found from 583 metabarcoding. The fact that these species were 584 585 independently detected with species-specific primers 586 on the same water samples (eDNA), allowed to discard these species to be false positives in the metabarcod-587 588 ing, and confirmed the robustness of our metabarcod-589 ing results. For P. antipodarum the haplotype found in 590 eDNA samples was the European haplotype t de-591 scribed by Städler et al. (2005) also found by Clusa 592 et al. (2016) in Nora River in Northern Spain.

the four lake and six river samples analyzed

593 In general, lake samples contained more invasive species and HABs than the river samples analyzed in 594 595 this study (Table 3). In contrast, traces of EPT DNA 596 were not found from lake samples. The highest 597 number of native Metazoans was found upstream of 598 Lake Constance, while on the other hand the phylo-599 genetic diversity was lower in that upstream area than 600 in the lake and downstream (Table 3), due to the 601 absence of sponges, molluscs and bryozoans. Consid-602 ering all the species present, the samples obtained 603 within the lake and the first sample downstream were 604 the most diverse (for Metazoans). DNA from eight fish 605 species native to the region was found: Abramis 606 brama, Barbus barbus, Coregonus lavaretus, Cottus 607 gobio, Esox lucius, Gasterosteus aculeatus, Salmo trutta, and Squalius cephalus. Their distribution 608 609 suggested a clear basin zonation for the fish commu-610 nity. Cottus gobio and Salmo trutta were found upstream the lake, and Barbus barbus and Squalius 611 612 cephalus from river locations downstream. The other 613 four species were found only from lake samples.

The difference among sampling sites was evident in 614 the nMDS. The Shepard plot, with stress of 0.108 and 615 $r^2 = 0.855$ and 0.007 for axis 1 and axis 2, respectively 616 (Fig. S1), showed most points aligned along the 617 diagonal. The scatter plot showed the sites arranged by 618 basin sections: lake samples connected together in the 619 spanning tree, with the two ports very close to each 620 other (Fig. 4), next to the four downstream river 621 samples, and finally upstream river samples R0 and R1 622 located farther. R0 and LP1 as the least and most 623 disturbed samples respectively were located in oppo-624 site extremes of the minimum spanning tree. 625

From our results, the localities with a lower 626 environmental quality were the two larger lake ports 627 (LP1 and LP2), with six and eight nuisance species, 628 respectively, followed by the lake point L3 with five, 629 then the other sampling sites with two nuisance 630 species and the uppermost point R0 with none 631 (Table 3). Thus, the lake ports could be considered 632 hotspots of nuisance species. 633

Regarding the relationships between the biotic 634 indicators of environmental quality considered, only 635 one of them were significantly correlated after FDR 636 correction (Table 4): there was a negative correlation 637 between EPT and HABs (r = -0.769, 4 d.f., 638 P = 0.009). This correlation is expected since EPT is 639 considered a positive indicator of environmental 640 health and HAB is often correlated with habitat 641 degradation. On the other hand, the effect of substrate 642 artificiality was not clear-only two sites R1 and LP1 643 had artificial substrate. Noteworthy, a significant 644 correlation was found between the number of human 645

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Article No. : 2462	□ LE	□ TYPESET
MS Code : BINV-D-20-00075R2	🖌 СР	🗹 disk

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 Table 2
 Nuisance species found from eDNA in the Rhine basin around Lake Constance. A) Non-indigenous invasive metazoans; common name, geographical origin, most likely introduction pathway, link to references within the Invasive Species Compendium CABI (2019), accessed on September 2019. B) Algae species listed in IOC-UNESCO

 Taxonomic Reference List of Harmful Micro Algae (Moestrup et al. 2009), reported harmful effects elsewhere, link in the reference list (accessed on September 2019). The number of sampling points within each sector where the species was found is given: U, LP, L and D are upstream, large port in the lake, lake, and downstream, respectively

A

Species	Common name	Native range	Dist fron the s	Distribution from eDNA in the studied area	on IA in 1 are		Introduction pathway	y	Reference
			n	LP]	ΓI	D			
Dikerogammarus villosus	Killer shrimp	Ponto-Caspian	0	-	0 2	2 Interbasin	Interbasin transfers		https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/ 108309#tosummaryOfInvasiveness
Limnomysis benedeni	Danube mysid	Ponto-Caspian	0	-	1 (0 Interbasin	Interbasin transfers		https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/108853
Craspedacusta sowerbyi	Freshwater jellyfish	China	0		1	2 Transport	ed with aq	Transported with aquatic plants	https://www.cabi.org/isc/abstract/20153351153
Corbicula fluminea	Asiatic clam	S & E Asia	0	-	0 0		Ship, ballast water		https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/88200
Dreissena polymorpha	Zebra mussel	Ponto-Caspian	0	5)		l Artificial	Artificial waterways, shipping	, shipping	https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/85295
Potamopyrgus antipodarum	New Zealand mudsnail	New Zealand	0	5	0 1	l Recreational ve aquatic trade	nal vessels trade	Recreational vessels, ballast water, aquatic trade	ter, https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/43672
Physella acuta	Freshwater snail	North America	0	1	0	0 Shipping,	Shipping, aquarium trade	trade	https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/116316
Oncorhynchus mykiss	Rainbow trout	North America, North Asia	-	0) 0	0 Stocking,	Stocking, fish farming	gu	https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/71813
В									
Species	Harmful effects	S			Di Str	Distribution from eDNA in the studied area	im eDNA i	in the	Reference
					Ŋ	LP	Γ	D	
Alexandrium catenella		paralytic shellfish poisoning and fish mortality	nortal	lty	0	1	1	0	Sakamoto et al. (1992) Mar. Ecol. Prog. Ser. 89, 229-235 Mackenzie (2014). Harmful Algae. 39, 161-164
Alexandrium ostenfeldii		paralytic shellfish poisoning toxins and spirolides	d spire	olides	0	5	0	0	Hansen et al. (1992). J. Phycol. 28: 597–603 Salgado et al. (2015) Toxicon, 103, 85–98
Alexandrium tamarense	e paralytic shellfish poisoning	ish poisoning			-	2	1	0	Asakawa et al. (1995) Toxicon 33, 691-697
Karlodinium veneficum		broad-spectrum lytic effect on membranes	anes		0	1	2	0	Bachvaroff et al. (2008). Harmful Algae 7, 473-484

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	Upstream R0	Upstream R1	Port LP1	Port LP2	Lake L3	Lake L4	Downstream R2	Downstream R3	Downstream R4	Downstream R5
HABs	0	1	3	3	3	1	0	0	0	0
NIS	0	1	3	5	2	1	2	2	2	0
EPT	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	1
Native fish	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	2	0	0
Other native invertebrates	27	22	16	13	8	10	10	16	8	8
Other algae	7	6	2	4	2	0	3	3	4	2
Metazoan Shannon	1.186	1.185	1.667	1.709	1.631	1.547	1.802	1.567	1.516	1.215
Metazoan Simpson	0.64	0.592	0.792	0.809	0.781	0.777	0.809	0.715	0.76	0.667

Table 3 Values of HTS-based biotic variables obtained in the ten sampling sites within Rhine River basin

The diversity indices Shannon and Simpson (1-D) calculated based on the number of species per Metazoan phylum are presented. HABs, NIS and EPT are harmful algae, non-indigenous species and Ephemeroptera-Plecoptera-Trichoptera, respectively

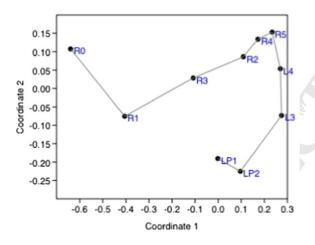


Fig. 4 Non-metric multidimensional scaling analysis of the biotic indicators and proxies. Scatter plot showing the minimum spanning tree constructed from Manhattan pairwise similarity indices is shown

646 inhabitants (population) and the number of NIS 647 (r = 0.784, 8 d.f., P = 0.007). The number of human 648 inhabitants was not significantly correlated with any of 649 the other community features considered (Table 4).

650 Discussion

The results of the present study have revealed hotspotsof nuisance species associated with large lake ports inLake Constance. The accumulation of NIS in lake

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Journal : Medium 10530	Dispatch : 16-2-2021	Pages : 18
Article No. : 2462	🗆 LE	□ TYPESET
MS Code : BINV-D-20-00075R2	🛃 СР	🗹 disk

ports can be explained by the fact that ships facilitate 654 the spread of exotic species, and the higher water 655 temperature due to sheltered conditions in ports, can 656 increase the survival of these exotics species (Strayer 657 2010; Gollasch and Nehring 2006). In our case study, 658 the daily ferries crossing the lake may contribute to 659 this transport (Gergs and Rothhaupt 2015). The HABs 660 were used here as proxies of bad water quality, and 661 were negatively correlated with the EPT-indicators 662 of good water quality-, and positively correlated with 663 NIS. All together, the results emphasize the role of 664 ports as disturbed areas and shelters of nuisance 665 species (Seebens et al. 2013). Moreover, we found a 666 significant correlation between the number of NIS and 667 the surrounding population density at a regional level. 668 The same pattern has been found at both large (Pyšek 669 et al. 2010) and regional (Spear et al. 2013) scales in 670 other studies. 671

From the technical side, this case study illustrates 672 the utility of eDNA to detect invasive aquatic species 673 using next generation sequencing methods, as found in 674 recent studies (Rius et al. 2015; Borrell et al. 2017). 675 Except in one sample (R5), where only the 2.6% of the 676 raw reads were taxonomically assigned with the strict 677 criteria employed here, the proportion of assigned 678 reads was around 12% for all the samples (Table S3). 679 These values are similar to other HTS studies (Deiner 680 et al. 2016), indicating that the overall molecular and 681 data treatment procedures were generally good. 682

	HABs	NIS	EPT	Native fish	Population
HABs	_	0.034	0.009	0.335	0.129
NIS	0.670	_	0.311	0.424	0.007
EPT	- 0.769	- 0.357	_	0.424	0.347
Native fish	0.341	0.286	0.286	-	0.964
Population	0.513	0.784	- 0.333	0.017	_

 Table 4
 Pairwise correlations between the main HTS-based high and low quality environmental proxies employed in this study and the human population size (see Table 1) near the sampling sites

Pearson's r and their *P*-value are shown below and above the diagonal, respectively. Significant values after False Discovery Rate (FDR) corrections are shown in bold italics

683 Focusing on the invasive species, our study builds 684 upon some of the invasions occurring in the Rhine 685 basin. Regarding the invasive clam Corbicula flu-686 minea, the first record of this clam in the Rhine River 687 was in 1985 in the lower Rhine region in Netherlands. 688 After that, it was recorded in Basel ten years later 689 (1995), and it was later found in Rheinfelden (22 km 690 upstream Basel) in 2003, but not any further. Thus, 691 there was no record of the presence of this clam 692 between Rheinfelden and Lake Constance (Schmidlin 693 and Baur 2007). The first detection of this species in 694 Lake Constance was in 2003 in a sandy shallow-water 695 near Bregenz (Werner and Mörtl 2004). Our study 696 locates the species in the Upper Lake Constance near 697 Constance port (LP2). Corbicula larvae and small individuals can travel attached to avian feet or feathers 698 699 and might be transported over large physical barriers 700 (Schmidlin and Baur 2007). The singular conditions found in the ports, relatively sheltered and stable water 701 702 level, might favor the survival of this species, since it 703 has been shown that low temperatures and water level 704 decreases produce massive mortality in C. fluminea 705 (Werner and Rothhaupt 2008). Moreover, it has been suggested that climate change may benefit warm-706 707 water invaders (Rahel and Olden 2008; Chown et al. 708 2015). In this region, the average water temperature 709 increased 0.22 °C per decade between 1965 and 2009 710 (Jeppesen et al. 2012); this change might explain the 711 expansion of C. fluminea in the lake from Bregenz in 712 2003 (Werner and Mörtl 2004) to the other side of the 713 lake (Constance) in 2017.

We also found the New Zealand mudsnail *Pota- mopyrgus antipodarum* in lake ports and downstream
localities. This organism is able to travel through
animal vectors (Alonso and Castro-Díez 2008), but

our results strongly suggest it is transported associated 718 with ships. In previous studies, Gergs and Rothhaupt 719 (2015) found only two P. antipodarum individuals in 720 2005, none in 2006 and three in 2007 in Lake 721 Constance. Therefore, our results suggest the species 722 has expanded in the last decade. Unlike C. fluminea, P. 723 antipodarum is able to survive winter conditions, since 724 it tolerates water temperatures from 0 to 28 °C and 725 even resists short times of desiccation (Moffitt and 726 James 2012; Alonso and Castro-Díez 2012). Further 727 surveillance together with rapid response would be 728 convenient in order to control its spread. 729

It is worth to mention that we found relatively few 730 fish species in our study: only eight native and one NIS 731 (O. mykiss). Using eDNA, species may remain unde-732 tected due to the sampling strategy (Comtet et al. 733 2015). Here, sampling was performed at the shore of 734 the river and the lake around 1-m depth. The sampling 735 strategy was the same as that used in Ebro River (Clusa 736 and Garcia-Vazquez 2018), which, like the Rhine 737 River, is a big river with high flow and rapid current 738 speed. Indeed, it is possible that the DNA of some 739 species, especially for those fish swimming far from 740 the shore, was at very low concentration and remained 741 undetected. For a more detailed species inventory 742 based on eDNA, samples should also be obtained from 743 many points inside the lake and the stream, and at 744 different depths, ensuring a good coverage of the 745 habitats surveyed, but this was beyond the scope of 746 this work. 747

The lack of detection of a species from HTS could748be also due to the primer bias; the primers used to build749HTS libraries might have different affinity for the
species present in the samples (Deagle et al. 2014).751The COI gene primers employed in our study752

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•	Journal : Medium 10530	Dispatch : 16-2-2021	Pages : 18
ĺ	Article No. : 2462	🗆 LE	□ TYPESET
	MS Code : BINV-D-20-00075R2	🗹 СР	🖌 disk

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753 amplified a high proportion of arthropods and Porifera 754 species, similar to the results of Leray et al. (2013) and 755 Deiner et al. (2016). Data processing may also produce 756 some false negatives (Thomsen and Willerslev 2015), and better reference databases are needed since the 757 758 scarcity of references from many taxonomic groups 759 has been pointed out as the main limitation to assign 760 HTS sequences (Comtet et al. 2015; Goldberg et al. 761 2016). False negatives can also result from failures in 762 the sequencing process (Kelly et al. 2014; Thomsen 763 and Willerslev 2015), in the PCR conditions (Ushio 764 et al. 2017; Pochon et al. 2013) or even in the amount 765 of DNA released by the different species of the 766 environment (Minamoto et al. 2017). The use of several samples to build HTS libraries and several 767 genes as metabarcodes is recommended to diminish 768 769 the errors mentioned (Kelly et al. 2014; Shaw et al. 770 2016). This is a limitation of our study, based only on 771 one sample per point and one metabarcode. However, 772 and despite this flaw, the results allowed to detect eight 773 NIS and to confirm the presence of *P. antipodarum* 774 and C. fluminea in Lake Constance. Surely more 775 replicates and metabarcodes will give a better global 776 vision of the real biodiversity of the Rhine basin.

The studied zones of the Rhine basin contain many 777 778 dams, and this feature may have implications on the 779 diversity patterns observed. Dams may prevent the arrival of exotic species as many authors have 780 781 described (Fausch et al. 2006; McLaughlin et al. 2007), for instance, Dana et al. (2011) stopped the 782 783 expansion of the invasive crayfish Procambarus 784 clarkii in a Mediterranean stream by constructing 785 small dams. Dams may also work as refuges for imperiled native species (Beatty et al. 2017). But, at 786 787 the same time, they block the migration route of 788 diadromous species and can cause the decrease of 789 diversity and abundance upstream (Nislow et al. 2011; 790 Limburg and Waldman 2009; Britton et al. 2011). 791 Despite the presence of barriers in the High Rhine 792 region (12 hydropower dams and a 23-m waterfall) 793 many species have colonized Lake Constance by 794 unknown routes (Eckmann et al. 2008). In our case 795 study, lake samples contained a higher proportion of 796 NIS than downstream samples, therefore, the role of 797 dams for preventing biological invasions is not clear 798 here. Conversely, the presence of dams altered water 799 temperatures and flow regimes in High Rhine and 800 generated a suitable environment for the invasive goby Neogobius melanostomus (Kalchhauser et al. 2013). In 801

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Article No. : 2462	□ LE	□ TYPESET
MS Code : BINV-D-20-00075R2	🗹 СР	🖌 disk

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the case of *Physella acuta* and *C. fluminea* in the lake, 802 their possible original introduction could be aquarium 803 releases (Schmidlin and Baur 2007). Moreover, 804 recreational activities can aid in the dispersion of 805 invasive species in this basin; for example, in the High 806 Rhine region the river and lake are crossed by 807 recreational boats that could work as a transport for 808 exotic species, such as round gobies (N'Guyen et al. 809 2016) as well as for exotic invertebrates attached to the 810 boat hull or in bilge water to other water bodies in the 811 region (Ricciardi 2015; De Ventura et al. 2016). 812

The upstream location R0 was the only sampling 813 point where the native brown trout (Salmo trutta) was 814 found, no NIS was detected, and the diversity index 815 was as low as in R1 (Table 3). It is becoming more 816 evident that invasive species tend to accumulate in 817 degraded areas near human populations (Havel et al. 818 2015; Johnson et al. 2008; Spear et al. 2013), 819 therefore, the absence of NIS in R0 -with low 820 population density nearby- could be explained from 821 a relatively lower anthropogenic influence. 822

Conclusions

The ports and sites near big urban areas were identified 824 as potential hotspots of NIS in the region, therefore, 825 better management measures should take into account 826 the surveillance of these areas to avoid the spread of 827 the invasive species already established in the region, 828 and also the surveillance of recreational boats would 829 be advisable. They could spread these NIS to other 830 water bodies nearby, especially in this region with 831 high number of tourists in summer who visit multiples 832 lakes over a short period of time. Prevention measures 833 have to be focused on human behaviour: educational 834 efforts should reduce intentional releases. Addition-835 ally, stricter regulations of ornamental species and 836 aquaculture would be desirable in order to reduce 837 contamination of stocks and pet releases. Any garden 838 pond or aquarium might represent a potential threat 839 especially when global warming is causing the 840 increase of winter water temperatures which would 841 promote the establishment of ornamental species. 842 Finally, it is highly advisable to establish a common 843 regulation and management actions by all the coun-844 tries implied in the region. 845

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855 Data availability The data that support the findings of this 856 study is provided as Supplementary Material.

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MS Code : BINV-D-20-00075R2	🖌 СР	🖌 disk

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MS Code : BINV-D-20-00075R2	🗹 СР	🖌 DISK

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Journal : Medium 10530	Dispatch : 16-2-2021	Pages : 18
Article No. : 2462	🗆 LE	□ TYPESET
MS Code : BINV-D-20-00075R2	🗹 СР	🗹 disk