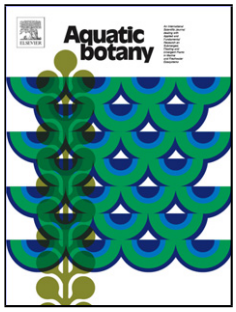

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Genomic variation of introduced *Salvinia minima* in southeastern United States

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Highlights

- We studied the invasive fern *Salvinia minima* in southeastern United States
- We examined genetic variation using single nucleotide polymorphisms
- Genetic structure varied from east to west
- We detected reduced heterozygosity in western populations of *S. minima*
- We find evidence of a single introduction with continued sexual reproduction

Abstract

Common salvinia, *Salvinia minima* Baker (Salviniaceae), is a small, floating aquatic fern native to Central and South America that has invaded fresh water bodies in southeastern United States since the 1930s. We examined genetic variation across much of the introduced range of this species in the United States using codominant RAD-seq markers. Data from over 600 variable loci showed a reduction in heterozygosity from east to west in addition to a corresponding trend in assignment of samples to one of two genetic groups. Our data are consistent with