



# Within-Population Trait Variation in a Globally Invasive Plant Species Mayweed Chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*): Implications for Future Invasion and Management

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OPEN ACCESS

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#### Specialty section:

This article was submitted to Weed Management, a section of the journal Frontiers in Agronomy

Received: 10 December 2020 Accepted: 20 January 2021 Published: 10 February 2021

#### Citation:

Adhikari S, Burke IC, Revolinski SR, Piaskowski J and Eigenbrode SD (2021) Within-Population Trait Variation in a Globally Invasive Plant Species Mayweed Chamomile (Anthemis cotula): Implications for Future Invasion and Management. Front. Agron. 3:640208. doi: 10.3389/fagro.2021.640208 <sup>1</sup> Department of Entomology, Plant Pathology and Nematology, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID, United States, <sup>2</sup> Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Washington State University, Pullman, WA, United States, <sup>3</sup> Statistical Programs, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID, United States

Quantification of variation for phenotypic traits within and among weed populations facilitate understanding of invasion mechanisms and management tactics. In the Pacific Northwest (PNW), USA, in response to climate change and to improve sustainability, producers are increasingly adopting broadleaf crops and cover crops, but Mayweed chamomile (Anthemis cotula L.) is a significant barrier to diversifying cropping systems because of its abundance and lack of herbicide options for its control. To quantify within-population phenotypic trait variation and heritability, plants (n = 300) from six half-sib families (i.e., seed source plants or mother plants) from each of 10 A. cotula populations (infested farms or sites) in the PNW were grown from seed through the flowering stage in the greenhouse common garden experiment. We measured percent seedling emergence, the initial date of flowering, flowering duration, plant biomass, number of flower heads, floral scent profiles, and other traits on individual plants. Trait variation was high among half-sib families within each population. For example, in two of the populations, percent seedling emergence within 30 days of planting ranged from 5 to 41% and 3 to 53%, respectively. As another example, initial date of flowering in two other populations ranged from 61 to 93 days and 58 to 92 days, respectively. Differences among half-sib families were greatest for flowering period, which differed by a month in most populations, and floral scent profiles. Heritability estimates were higher than 1.0 for most phenotypic traits, indicating that the study plants were more closely related than half-sibs (i.e., included full-sibs or products of selfing). These patterns of phenotypic trait variation are potentially caused by local edaphoclimatic factors and within-field farm management practices, suggesting that management of A. cotula might be challenging and differ within and across farms.

Keywords: cropping system, floral scent volatile, half-sib family, heritability, phenotypic trait, selection pressure, weed management

## INTRODUCTION

Mayweed chamomile (Anthemis cotula L.; Asteraceae) is an annual, bushy, ill-scented, and globally invasive weed that originated in Eurasia to have a wide geographic range and long invasion history (Kay, 1971; Adhikari S. et al., 2020). It has been introduced worldwide, presumably as a contaminant of crop seed and other plant materials (CABI, 2018), and has become abundant especially in Mediterranean-like climates such as in the Pacific Northwest (PNW), USA. It can be aggressively weedy in croplands and pastures, significantly reducing crop yields and forage quality (Kay, 1971; Adhikari S. et al., 2020). Anthemis cotula has been present in the PNW for more than 143 years, but it has recently become much more problematic (Adhikari S. et al., 2020). Despite increases or stable crop production in recent decades, uncertainties caused by climate change and pest challenges have threatened low-input cereal-based cropping systems and, progressive farmers are responding by adopting climate-change-resilient practices including intercropping and cover crops, fall- and spring-seeded pulses and oilseed Brassica crops into cereal rotations (Eigenbrode et al., 2013; O'Leary et al., 2018). These new crops, however, are vulnerable to A. cotula because it can outcompete them and there is a lack of compatible herbicides for its management (Lyon et al., 2017). As a result, PNW growers indicate anecdotally that A. cotula is more severe in broadleaf cover crops than in cereal crops and presents a substantial barrier to diversifying their cropping systems. To help understand A. cotula and the management challenges it presents, there is a need to assess systematically the phenotypic traits that contribute to its invasiveness and weediness.

Invasive species like A. cotula have adapted and colonized habitats with diverse ecological conditions worldwide and are a threat to native biodiversity, a threat which is expected to be exacerbated by anthropogenic disturbance and global environmental change (Lee and Gelembiuk, 2008; Richardson and Pyšek, 2012; Downey and Richardson, 2016). Cropping systems are particularly vulnerable to plant invasion. Modern monoculture-based intensive farming practices fragment agricultural landscapes and disturb or displace native flora (Tilman et al., 2011; Chaudhary et al., 2016; Adhikari et al., 2019), enabling invasion by plant species that colonize and evolve rapidly (Williams et al., 2016). Under climate change, not only are the adverse effects of modern agriculture expected to intensify (Bradley et al., 2010; Giejsztowt et al., 2020) but widely distributed invasive weeds with long invasion histories are expanding their range and becoming more invasive (Adhikari A. et al., 2020; Sharma et al., 2020). These ecological challenges necessitate additional study to understand invasion drivers and avenues to improve weed management. Invasive species, usually with limited population sizes when initially colonizing novel environments, frequently adapt, accumulating phenotypic traits that facilitate their success in the new environment (Baker, 1974). For agricultural weeds, abiotic and biotic conditions created by edaphoclimatic variables and within-field management practices may exert localized selection pressure, causing adaptation to the site with implications for management practices (Gunton et al., 2011; Fried et al., 2012; Gaba et al., 2017; Yvoz et al., 2020). Traits such as seed germination, duration of flowering, and fecundity (i.e., abundant flowers or seeds) are known to contribute to invasiveness of plant populations (Pyšek and Richardson, 2008). Variation in traits such as seedling emergence rates within a weedy plant population could complicate management decisions (Sterling et al., 2004). Hence, identifying and quantifying variation in traits of adaptive significance could help improve management, reducing the potential long-term economic and environmental impacts of invasive weeds (Kueffer et al., 2013; Travlos, 2013).

Traits must be heritable for adaptation to occur, and heritability estimates help explain the phenotypic (i.e., underlying genetic) trait variation within a population. Heritability is a useful concept for evaluating and understanding invasive populations' evolutionary dynamics (Visscher et al., 2008; Zas and Sampedro, 2015). Heritability is the proportion of the total phenotypic variance due to genetic variance (Falconer and Mackay, 1989; Zhao et al., 2018) relative to the total phenotypic variance, so heritable traits are less controlled by the environment. Narrowsense heritability is the proportion of phenotypic variance due to additive genetic variance only.

Anthemis cotula is an important, model, globally-invasive annual agricultural weed that has yet to be assessed for its phenotypic variation in any part of its invaded range. We delineated phenotypic trait variation among half-sib families (i.e., pooled seed from individual mother plants) collected from 10 A. cotula PNW populations using a common garden greenhouse experiment. We compared the traits seedling emergence, number of branches, initial day of flowering, number of flower heads, biomass production, plant height, flowering duration, and floral scent volatile organic compound (VOC) profiles (abundance, richness, diversity, evenness) among half-sib families from each of the 10 A. cotula populations. The study objectives were: (1) To assess the extent of phenotypic trait variation within A. cotula populations and determine if half-sib families explain more variation in traits than populations; and (2) Evaluate the extent of genetic variation (as estimated by heritability) of phenotypic traits within populations. We expected to find within-population (i.e., among half-sib families) variation in phenotypic traits in all of the populations.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

# Seed Collection and Greenhouse Common Garden Experiment

In the summer of 2018, seeds were harvested from six different individual plants from each of 10 *A. cotula* infested farms (names are based on nearest towns or farm name: Genesee, Kambitsch, Palouse, Parker, Potlatch, Spillman, St. John, Tensed, Thornton, and Troy) across a precipitation gradient (see **Supplementary Table 1** for farm details) in the PNW. Seeds from each individual were kept separate, each constituting a halfsib family. *Anthemis cotula* is an obligate outcrossing species (Adhikari S. et al., 2020), and the seed from individual plants were assumed to be half-sibs for this analysis.

To measure phenotypic traits of individuals among half-sib families of 10 populations (i.e., sampling locations or farms), an experiment was conducted from February 27 to August 25, 2019. Anthemis cotula plants were grown in a common garden greenhouse under a 15-h photoperiod of sunlight and supplemental artificial light (high-pressure sodium lights of photosynthetic photon flux = 595  $\mu$ mol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>; model MVR1000/U, General Electric Company, Cleveland, OH) with an average temperature of 22.9  $\pm$  0.26 (mean  $\pm$  SE) °C and ambient humidity of 43.7  $\pm$  9.5% (mean  $\pm$  SE). Individual plants were grown in 2.3 L pots filled with a commercial greenhouse soil mix (PRO-MIX BX containing 75-80% Canadian sphagnum peat moss along with perlite and vermiculite; produced by Premier Tech Horticulture Ltd, Alberta, CA). From each of six families of the 10 populations (i.e., 60 seed source plants), 20 seeds were planted in each pot for a total of 300 pots, which were distributed on the greenhouse bench in a randomized complete block design with five replications. Pots were regularly watered as needed and not fertilized. Thirty days after seeding, seedlings were either thinned to a single plant per pot. If there was no emergence from any pot within a family, extra seedlings were transplanted into those pots to ensure within-family replication.

#### **Phenotypic Traits**

Data on 13 phenotypic traits were collected from plants in the study. The phenotypic traits assessed were percent seedling emergence in the first 30 days, days to first bud (time spent in vegetative growth), anthesis (days from the first bud to first opening or early flowering), the initial date of flowering (days to the first opening of bud), plant height (cm), number of branches, the final date of flowering (days to flower mature and wilting), flowering duration, the total number of flower heads, plant life (days from emergence to harvest), aboveground dry biomass (g) at harvest, and floral scent profiles. All traits were measured on every plant in the study except for floral scent characterization (see below).

#### **Floral Scent Analysis**

Four populations (Genesee, Kambitsch, Palouse Farm, and Thornton), that had at least three half-sib families each with three plants with five flowers blooming at the time of volatile collection, were selected for floral scent characterization among half-sibs of a subset of families. As an obligate out-crosser and a generalist species (Kay, 1971; Adhikari S. et al., 2020), A. cotula floral scents could be important to attract diverse pollinators and maximize seed production, contributing to invasiveness. When the plants were blooming abundantly, solid-phase microextraction ["SPME": field sampler with 100- $\mu$ m polydimethylsiloxane coated fiber; Supelco (Sigma-Aldrich) Bellefonte, PA, USA] was used to collect VOCs (volatile organic compounds) from eight or nine individual plants of each population. To collect VOCs, five live flowers, still attached to plants, were carefully inserted into a 90 mL (30 mm diameter) glass tube, and cotton was pushed in around the stems at the base of the tube to contain the airspace (Supplementary Figure 1). SPME fibers were then inserted through a 1 mm hole of a septum (PTFE silicon septum; 10 mm diameter) in the

top of the tube and exposed for an hour. After exposure, the fibers were retracted and sampler was held on ice for 5 min while samples were transported to the laboratory for gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS). An Agilent 7890A gas chromatograph/5973 Mass Selective Detector (Santa Clara, CA, USA) equipped with an EC-WAX polar column (30 m long,  $0.25 \,\mathrm{mm} \times 0.25 \,\mu\mathrm{m}$  film thickness: Grace, Deerfield, IL, USA) was used for analysis. Helium was used as the carrier gas at a constant flow rate of  $1 \text{ mL min}^{-1}$ , and the injector temperature was held at 250°C. While analyzing samples, starting oven temperature was 60°C with a 3-min holding period, which later reached to a maximum temperature of 260°C after ramping 10°C per minute for 20 min. Compounds were provisionally identified based on match (>80%) between their spectra and NIST-11 spectral library (National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD, USA) linked to Agilent Mass Hunter software. Compounds present in empty-tube controls were excluded as contaminants. Along with the abundance (total chromatogram m/z; mass-to-charge ratio) and richness (expressed as the number of compounds), Simpson's diversity (Simpson, 1949) and Pielou's evenness (Pielou, 1966) were calculated for VOCs.

#### **Statistical Analysis**

To assess phenotypic trait variation among half-sib families within each *A. cotula* population, linear mixed models were used for plant height and dry biomass:

$$y_{ijk} = \mu + \alpha(\eta)_{ik} + \eta_k + \beta_j + \epsilon_{ijk}$$
(1)  
Family within-population ~ N(0,  $\sigma^2_{\alpha(\eta)}$ )  
Population ~ N(0,  $\sigma^2_{\eta}$ )  
Block ~ N(0,  $\sigma^2_{\beta}$ )  
Error ~ N(0,  $\sigma^2_{\epsilon}$ )  
 $y_{ij} = \mu + \alpha_i + \beta_j + \epsilon_{ij}$ (2)  
Family ~ N(0,  $\sigma^2_{\alpha}$ )  
Block ~ N(0,  $\sigma^2_{\beta}$ )  
Error ~ N(0,  $\sigma^2_{\epsilon}$ )

Where  $y_{iik}$  and  $y_{ii}$  are the response variables,  $\mu$  is the mean,  $\alpha(\eta)_{ik}$  is the random effect for half-sib family within the population,  $\eta_k$  is the random effect for population,  $\alpha_i$  is a random effect due to half-sib family,  $\beta_i$  is a random effect of the block, and  $\epsilon_{ij}$  is the error term. The R package "lme4" was used for analysis (Bates et al., 2015). Residuals were examined for homogeneity of variance, and Q-Q-plots were used to check for normality. For traits quantified as count variables, a generalized linear mixed model with a Poisson distribution and log link function was used, following the model framework described above. The count variables were days to seedling emergence, days to first budding, days to anthesis, days to first and last flowering, flowering duration (days), number of branches, number of flower heads, and plant life (days). For generalized linear models, the residual plots were also examined for homogeneity of variance. For percent emergence data, mixed-model beta regression with

Phenotypic traits	Statistics	Genesee	Kambitsch	Parker	Palouse	Potlatch	Spillman Farm	St. John	Tensed	Thornton	Troy
Percent seedling emergence	DF	5, 24	5, 20	5, 24	5, 20	5, 20	5, 20	5, 20	5, 20	5, 24	5, 20
	F	2.08	9.01	21.47	19.51	9.40	3.97	16.02	2.43	21.58	12.09
	Р	0.10	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	0.01	<0.001	0.07	<0.001	<0.001
Plant height	DF	5, 24	5, 21	5, 20	5, 19	5, 19	5, 24	5, 21	5, 24	5, 23	5, 22
	F	3.23	2.75	5.73	0.72	4.95	1.26	9.96	2.65	2.41	0.71
	Ρ	0.03	0.05	0.002	0.62	0.006	0.32	<0.001	0.05	0.074	0.63
First budding date	DF	5, 24	5, 21	5, 20	5, 19	5, 19	5, 24	5, 21	5, 24	5, 23	5, 22
	F	14.35	3.64	15.65	3.52	3.32	9.96	5.53	2.31	6.95	3.1
	Р	<0.001	0.003	<0.001	0.004	0.006	<0.001	<0.001	0.045	<0.001	0.01
First flowering date	DF	5, 24	5, 21	5, 20	5, 19	5, 19	5, 24	5, 21	5, 24	5, 23	5, 22
	F	13.568	3.37	14.21	3.76	3.29	8.56	5.07	1.93	6.37	2.24
	Ρ	<0.001	0.006	<0.001	0.003	0.007	<0.001	<0.001	0.09	<0.001	0.05
Anthesis (budding to flowering)	DF	5, 24	5, 21	5, 20	5, 19	5, 19	5, 24	5, 21	5, 24	5, 23	5, 22
	F	0.75	1.11	0.28	0.74	0.44	0.41	0.23	0.21	0.27	0.31
	Ρ	0.59	0.36	0.92	0.59	0.82	0.84	0.95	0.96	0.93	0.91
Total number of	DF	5, 24	5, 21	5, 20	5, 19	5, 19	5, 24	5, 21	5, 24	5, 23	5, 22
branches	F	2.07	0.97	1.02	0.71	1.03	0.68	3.57	1.16	3.35	1.73
	Р	0.07	0.44	0.41	0.62	0.4	0.64	0.004	0.33	0.006	0.13
Flowering period	DF	5, 24	5, 21	5, 20	5, 19	5, 19	5, 24	5, 21	5, 24	5, 23	5, 22
	F	7.38	7.87	7.44	7.94	4.77	4.54	9.5	6.1	11.68	5.04
	Ρ	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
Total number of	DF	5, 24	5, 21	5, 20	5, 19	5, 19	5, 24	5, 21	5, 24	5, 23	5, 22
flower heads	F	3.08	3.93	20.67	3.79	0.95	15.6	3.97	12.48	22.29	6.75
	Р	0.01	0.002	<0.001	0.002	0.45	<0.001	0.002	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
Last day of flowering	DF	5, 24	5, 21	5, 20	5, 19	5, 19	5, 24	5, 21	5, 24	5, 23	5, 22
	F	6.04	5.54	1.97	2.59	1.62	2.83	5.75	7.64	2.97	2.78
	Р	<0.001	<0.001	0.08	0.026	0.16	0.02	<0.001	<0.001	0.01	0.02
Plant life (days of	DF	5, 24	5, 21	5, 20	5, 19	5, 19	5, 24	5, 21	5, 24	5, 23	5, 22
harvest from	_										

. . . . . . . .

 $^{a}$ P-values  $\leq 0.05$  are bolded. Numerator degrees of freedom were five for each population (n = 6 half-sib families for each population), but the DDF (Denominator degrees of freedom) varied across population as some plants of certain half-sib families of certain population did not germinate.

2.56

0.03

5, 19

2.78

0.06

1.86

0.1

5, 19

3.12

0.04

2.78

0.02

5.24

0.9

0.49

2.39

0.04

5,20

0.8

0.57

5.33

<0.001

5,21

1.27

0.32

function "glmmTMB (generalized linear mixed model using template model builder)" was used (Brooks et al., 2017). In addition to the univariate analysis, using populations and halfsib families in the models, we also performed the variance partitioning to estimate the percentage of variation explained by half-sib families within populations for each trait, and the significance of variation was tested by using a likelihood ratio test. For floral VOC diversity and evenness, simple linear models were used and for VOC abundance and richness generalized linear models with a Poisson distribution and log link function were used. All data analyses were performed using R 3v.5.1 (R Development Core Team, 2018).

4.41

<0.001

5,24

3.47

0.02

To assess if the overall composition of phenotypic traits were different among half-sib families in each population, we conducted a permutational multivariate analysis of variance (PERMANOVA) on a Bray-Curtis dissimilarity matrix (Bray and Curtis, 1957) of 10 phenotypic traits [plant height, the total number of branches, first budding date, first flowering date, anthesis, plant life, flowering period, last day of flowering, the total number of flower heads, and plant dry biomass (g)]. The results were visualized with Non-metric Multidimensional Scaling (NMDS) ordination. The package "vegan" was used for conducting PERMANOVA and NMDS (Oksanen, 2019).

1.15

0.33

5,21

1.85

0.15

3.99

0.002

5,24

0.38

0.86

0.65

0.66

5,23

0.58

0.72

1.28

0.27

5,22

2.75

0.05

F

Р

DF

F

Ρ

seeding)

Plant dry biomass (g)

#### Heritability

We calculated narrow-sense heritability  $(h^2)$  on each phenotypic trait of 10 populations using mixed-effect models [Equation (2); see details in *Statistical Analysis*], with half-sib family and block as random effects.

Heritability (h2) = 
$$\frac{Va \text{ (additive variance)}}{Vp \text{ (phenotypic variance)}}$$
  
=  $\frac{4 \text{ x V(half - sib family)}}{Vp \text{ (phenotypic variance)}}$  (3)

Because half-sibs are expected to share ¼ of their genetic information by descent, four times the intraclass correlation of half-sib families can be used as an estimate of narrow-sense heritability (Equation 3) although maternal half-sib families may have an upward bias due to maternal environmental effects (Falconer and Mackay, 1989). In plants, maternal environmental effects are especially prevalent in seed traits such as seed weight or germination rate (Hendrix, 1984).

## RESULTS

#### **Phenotypic Traits**

The first day of budding and flowering periods varied among and within half-sib families within each of the 10 A. cotula populations or sampling locations (Table 1, Supplementary Table 2). Phenotypic variation among half-sib families was observed in nine populations for first flowering day and total flower heads, eight populations for seedling emergence within 30 days of planting and last day of flowering, six populations for plant life, four populations for plant height, two populations for total branches and plant dry biomass, and zero populations for anthesis (Table 1, Supplementary Table 2). For example, percent seedling emergence within 30 days of planting among half-sib families ranged from 2 to 35% in Parker Farm, 5 to 41% in Thornton, and 3 to 53% in Troy populations. Similarly, the initial date of flowering among half-sib families ranged from 61 to 93 days in Genesee and 58 to 92 days in Parker populations. Also, half-sibs of some individual families in Kambitsch, Palouse, St. John, and Thornton populations flowered for more than 1 month longer than the half-sibs of other families within these populations. Variance partitioning calculations indicated that half-sib families explained a higher proportion of variance than the population for all traits, except for anthesis and plant dry biomass (Table 2).

PERMANOVA on a Bray-Curtis dissimilarity matrix of 10 phenotypic traits [plant height, the total number of branches, first budding day, first flowering date, anthesis, plant life, flowering period, last day of flowering, the total number of flower heads, and plant dry biomass (g)] indicated that overall composition of traits in half-sibs among six families was dissimilar in five (Genesee, Parker Farm, Spillman, St. John, and Thornton), marginally dissimilar in one (Kambitsch), and similar in four (Palouse, Potlatch, Tensed, and Troy) populations (**Figure 1, Table 3**).

There was intrapopulation variation in floral scent VOCs within the four tested *A. cotula* populations. Differences

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{TABLE 2}}\xspace$  ] Variation among half-sib families within population (i.e., variance partitioning) for each trait.

Phenotypic trait	Half-sib family	Population	Residuals	P-value
Plant height (cm)	0.234	0.007	0.758	0.000
Initial date of budding (d)	0.511	0.04	0.449	0.000
First flowering day (d)	0.487	0.054	0.459	0.000
Anthesis (d)	NA	NA	NA	1.000
Total number of branches	0.115	0.105	0.781	0.007
Flowering duration (d)	0.502	0.076	0.422	0.000
Total number of flower heads	0.593	0.075	0.332	0.000
Final day of flowering (d)	0.289	0.194	0.517	0.000
Plant life (d)	0.205	0.169	0.626	0.000
Plant dry biomass (g)	0.071	0.075	0.854	0.101

among half-sib families occurred in VOC abundance (total chromatogram m/z) for all four populations (**Figure 2**, **Table 4**). VOC richness differed among half-sib families in the Kambitsch and Thornton populations, was marginally different in Genesee, and was not significant for the Palouse population (**Figure 2**, **Table 4**). Both Simpon's diversity and Pielou's evenness of floral VOCs differed among half-sib families within the Kambitsch population, but not within the Genesee, Palouse, or Thornton populations (**Figure 2**, **Table 4**).

## Heritability

Considering the individual plants as half-sibs, heritability estimates for most phenotypic traits varied among populations and were high, occasionally reaching unusually high values greater than two (**Table 5**). Heritability estimates among tested populations ranged from 0.36 to 1.61 for seedling emergence, 0 to 2.44 for plant height, 0.52 to 2.56 for the initial date of budding, 0.39 to 2.53 for the initial date of flowering, 0 to 1.19 for total branches, 0 across all populations for anthesis, 0.67 to 2.37 for the flowering duration, 0.35 to 1.81 for the final date of flowering, 0 to 2.86 for total flower heads, 0 to 1.44 for plant life, and 0 to 1.23 for dry plant biomass (**Table 5**).

## DISCUSSION

Previous studies have reported phenotypic traits associated with the invasiveness of plant species (Bossdorf et al., 2005; Pyšek and Richardson, 2008; Murphy et al., 2016) but these traits have been measured at the species level, rarely among populations, and never among half-sib families within populations of invasive plants. In our common garden study, most of the individual traits and trait compositions of half-sibs differed among families across populations of *A. cotula*. For example, percent seedling emergence within 30 days of planting among half-sib families ranged from 2 to 35% in Parker Farm, 5 to 41% in Thornton, and 3 to 53% in Troy populations. Similarly, the initial date of flowering among half-sib families ranged from 61 to 93 days in Genesee and 58 to 92 days in Parker populations. Also, half-sibs of some individual families in Kambitsch, Palouse, St. John, and



**TABLE 3** | Permutational Multivariate Analysis of Variance (PERMANOVA)
 (1)

 statistics of half-sibs phenotypic traits among six mother plants across 10
 (2)

Anthemis cotula populations (see Figure 1 for the ordination plots)<sup>a</sup>.

Populations (Farms)	PERMANOVA statistics								
	Stress ( $k = 2$ )	DDF	Pseudo- F	Ρ	r <sup>2</sup>				
Genesee	4.29	24	2.24	0.01	0.32				
Kambitsch	13.88	21	1.59	0.08	0.28				
Parker Farm	9.51	20	2.51	0.01	0.39				
Palouse	11.91	19	0.94	0.54	0.20				
Potlatch	11.41	19	1.25	0.26	0.25				
Spillman Farm	7.41	24	1.70	0.05	0.26				
St. John	12.19	21	2.19	0.01	0.34				
Tensed	6.92	24	1.29	0.26	0.21				
Thornton	10.39	23	2.42	0.01	0.35				
Troy	10.70	22	1.17	0.29	0.21				

<sup>a</sup>Numerator degrees of freedom were five for each population (n = 6 half-sib families for each population), but the DDF (Denominator degrees of freedom) varied across population as some plants of certain half-sib families of certain population did not germinate. P-values  $\leq 0.05$  are bolded.

Thornton populations flowered for more than one month longer time than the half-sibs of other families within these populations.

The principal potential sources that contribute to intrapopulation trait variation in *A. cotula* populations are

(1) varying local selection pressures across space and time, (2) original genetic variation of the introduced populations, (3) genetic drift of initial small populations, and (4) humanmediated inadvertent introductions and reintroductions of unrelated germplasm to existing populations. Regarding the first of these sources, spatial and temporal variation in abiotic and biotic factors associated with soil and climate, and farm management practices could select for trait variation (Menalled et al., 2016; Bagavathiannan and Davis, 2018). Factors such as soil properties (Metcalfe et al., 2019; Pätzold et al., 2020), tillage, crop rotation, the movement patterns of farm equipment, herbicide regimes (Gao et al., 2018), and crop stand (Mhlanga et al., 2016; Kaur et al., 2018) can all come into play, with their spatial patterns (Blank et al., 2019) driving within-site variation in phenotypic traits [Cardina et al., 1997; Baucom and Mauricio, 2008; Vigueira et al., 2013; Hovick et al., 2018, also see Miller et al. (1994)]. Different traits respond differently to one or more of these factors (Prunier et al., 2012). The variation we detected indicates more studies are required to assess this variation to describe spatiotemporal variation in selection pressure on specific traits.

The three remaining sources of intrapopulation variation also could account for the trait variation we detected. The original variation of the introduced population or populations, genetic drift, and the number and frequency of past introduction events are unknown. The agricultural practices or variable climate that favor different traits in different years could have maintained TABLE 4 | Results from ANOVA for floral scent VOC abundance (*m/z*), richness, diversity, and evenness among half-sibs of three families across four *Anthemis cotula* populations<sup>a</sup>.

Population		Abundance (m	/z)	Richness			Diversity			Evenness		
	DDF	F	Р	DDF	F	Р	DDF	F	Р	DDF	F	Р
Genesee	5	181,587	<0.001	5	5.59	0.060	5	1.92	0.240	5	4.42	0.080
Kambitsch	5	4,493,757	<0.001	5	20.56	<0.001	5	156.2	<0.001	5	17.0	0.010
Palouse	6	2,415,809	<0.001	6	3.2	0.200	6	0.67	0.550	6	0.55	0.610
Thornton	6	8,304,177	<0.001	6	8.96	0.010	6	0.91	0.450	6	0.88	0.460

<sup>a</sup>Numerator degrees of freedom were two for each population across floral scent variables (n = 3 half-sib family for each population), but the DDF (Denominator degrees of freedom) varied across populations due to different number of individual plants sampled for VOCs collection. P-values  $\leq 0.05$  are bolded.



Anthemis cotula populations.

or amplified the genetic diversity associated with the initial introductions. Whatever the basis for the trait variation we have detected, its presence indicates a potential for continued adaptation in response to ongoing drivers (Menalled et al., 2016; Hovick et al., 2018) contributing to weed invasiveness (Pyšek and Richardson, 2008; Murphy et al., 2016).

Floral scent profiles also differed among the half-sib families across *A. cotula* populations. Our results are consistent with

previous studies (Delle-Vedove et al., 2017; Campbell et al., 2019; Friberg et al., 2019), which indicated that VOCs could differ environmentally within and between populations based on diel period and other environmental drivers, or reflect responses to selection by pollinators and natural enemies, with a genetic basis. Our common garden data indicate that the floral scent traits of *A. cotula* are heritable with the potential to continue evolving to improve fitness of local populations. For pollination of an

Population	Seedling emergence in	Plant height (cm)	Initial date of budding	Initial date of flowering	Total branches	Anthesis	Flowering duration (d)	Final date of flowering	Total flower heads	Plant life	Dry biomass (g)
	30 days (%)										
Genesee	0.74	0.83	2.15	2.16	0.53	0	1.97	1.81	0.50	1.44	1.13
Kambitsch	0.36	0.99	1.23	1.13	0	0	1.124	1.12	0.46	1.42	0.17
Parker Farm	1.16	2.16	2.56	2.53	0	0	1.39	0.38	2.22	0.65	0
Palouse	1.61	0	0.91	1.00	0	0	1.59	0.71	0.55	0.79	1.17
Potlatch	1.49	2.17	1.00	0.94	0	0	1.29	0.35	0	0.52	1.23
St. John	1.47	2.44	1.73	1.63	1.15	0	1.88	1.51	0.81	0	0.68
Spillman Farm	0.73	0.20	2.01	1.89	0	0	0.67	0.61	2.06	0.69	0
Tensed	0.44	0.89	0.52	0.39	0	0	1.41	1.75	1.62	1.06	0
Thornton	1.61	0.82	1.96	1.88	1.19	0	2.37	0.92	2.86	0	0
Troy	1.34	0	1.00	0.56	0.30	0	1.29	0.80	1.25	0.09	0.76

TABLE 5 | Heritability (h<sup>2</sup>) estimates of 11 phenotypic traits for half-sib families from 10 Anthemis cotula populations.

outcrossing invasive species such as *A. cotula*, floral scents could ensure immediate fitness of the plants, but also attract some floral visitors away from the native plants (Burkle and Runyon, 2017; Campbell et al., 2019). Variable timing and duration of flowering, flowering for extended periods, and producing floral scent diversity among individual plants within a population could contribute to greater visitation of local pollinators and contribute to success of invaders.

Heritability estimates differed for traits within populations with higher values for seedling emergence, plant height, first budding and flowering days, flowering duration, the final date of flowering, and total flower heads than those for other traits. Previous common garden and field studies have found that the heritability of traits in outcrossing species [reviewed in Geber and Griffen (2003)] and with larger range sizes (Hoffmann and Sgró, 2011; Zeng X. et al., 2017) tend to be higher than for species with some inbreeding or smaller range size. This seems consistent with our understanding of A. cotula ecology in the PNW. On the other hand, heritability estimates are generally higher or over-estimated in laboratory or greenhouse conditions (Conner et al., 2007), particularly for highly plastic traits such as seedling emergence, plant height, and phenological traits (e.g., first budding and flowering days; Dicenta et al., 1993; Geber and Griffen, 2003; Franks et al., 2007; Wright et al., 2020). Hence, high heritability in A. cotula could have occurred because the environmental variance component is reduced, and additive variance is increased in the controlled setting in the greenhouse common garden (Geber and Griffen, 2003; Conner et al., 2007).

High heritability estimates observed in many of the traits in our study indicate that the individuals were more related than expected for half-sibs, with perhaps some inbreeding (caused by selfing, producing full sibs) or maternal effects. Maternal effects are believed to influence phenotypes and the ability to adapt to the novel environmental conditions (Leiblein-Wild and Tackenberg, 2014; Albecker and McCoy, 2019). High narrowsense heritability estimates in our study may also suggest that many traits have the potential for adaptive evolution (Zeng X. et al., 2017) in *A. cotula*, an understudied yet globally invasive species. While *A. cotula* occurring predominantly in agricultural fields might be under selection pressure of within-field farm management practices interacting with edaphoclimatic factors, heritable traits respond to selection pressure (Christoffers, 1999). We currently lack data to support these possible explanations for the observed heritability. Future work to assess these will require a larger sample size grown for multiple generations.

Results from our A. cotula study have several implications for management. As A. cotula in the PNW mainly occurs in agricultural fields where its range is apparently expanding, genetically based phenotypic variation in the species will allow it to respond to local differences in farm management practices such as types of crop planted (Ogg et al., 1994), continuous cropping (Murphy and Lemerle, 2006), fertilizer (Lemke et al., 2015; Zeng M. et al., 2017), tillage (Ghersa and Martínez-Ghersa, 2000), mowing and herbicides (Lyon et al., 2017; Hovick et al., 2018). Herbicides impose robust directional selection on herbicide resistance traits per se (Powles and Yu, 2010; Neve et al., 2018) with pleiotropic effects on traits such as seed dormancy and germination (Délye et al., 2013). Adaptation in response to herbicide regimes can introduce requirements for robust weed management tactics (Menalled et al., 2016; Bagavathiannan and Davis, 2018). All these selection pressures are likely to shift as producers adopt cropping systems and management regimes in response to climate change. A. cotula, given its genetically based phenotypic variation, is poised to evolve in response, creating continuing difficulties for its management (Murphy and Lemerle, 2006; Vigueira et al., 2013; Hovick et al., 2018). Given this potential, integrated weed management employing "many little hammers" (Liebman and Gallandt, 1997) could minimize strong directional selection pressure.

The intrapopulation variation in traits and within a field could complicate management decisions (Sterling et al., 2004). For example, if some individuals in a field emerge and flower earlier a manager may choose to spray postemergence herbicide early. Later-emerging and flowering individuals from the same population will require additional treatment, or if not treated, lead to selection for later emergence increasing variability of that trait, exacerbating the problem. Understanding how phenotypic trait variation occurs within a field could allow targeted and more efficient herbicide treatments and reduce unnecessary applications (Cardina et al., 1997; Blank et al., 2019).

The degree of phenotypic trait variation in invading populations is thought to be determined by demographic history (Dlugosch and Parker, 2008; Hodgins and Rieseberg, 2011). The ongoing movement of *A. cotula* seeds among farms within or from outside in the PNW due to inadvertent yet common trade in crop seed, farming equipment and other inputs (Blanco-Moreno et al., 2004) should be a concern for farm managers, seed traders and others. These factors will contribute to maintaining genetic diversity of *A. cotula*, maintaining its potential to adapt to local environmental and management regimes. Hence, knowledge of anthropogenic *A. cotula* seed movement that could contribute to this diversity requires further study. Our study provides a baseline against which future assessments could be compared to assess ongoing changes in its phenotypic and genetic diversity.

## CONCLUSIONS

Our study is the first of which we are aware that reports phenotypic trait variation among half-sib families in a globally invasive annual agricultural weed. In A. cotula, we found that half-sib families explained a higher proportion of variance than the population for most traits. Knowledge of plant functional traits among half-sibs across locally adapted plant populations can inform site-specific invasive species management and forecast their distributions in the context of global environmental changes. Farm management regime and several local abiotic (e.g., soil type, precipitation, and temperature) and biotic (e.g., natural enemies, flower visitors, symbiotic organisms, and cooccurring plant species) factors in agroecosystems could impose selection pressures affecting the response of A. cotula traits. As intrapopulation trait variation could favor different maternal lines under competitive local abiotic and biotic conditions, it could overall improve the invasion success of A. cotula. The current extensive (global) and intensive (local) distribution suggests that the climate niche of A. cotula is wide and its variable traits could help further spread during global environmental change, though further studies are required to confirm our hypothesis. Also, with the adoption of new crops, especially broadleaf crops and cover crops that are vulnerable to A. cotula because they are less competitive than traditional cereal crops or lack compatible herbicides for weed management, A. cotula

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could be more challenging to manage. To confirm whether the trait variation among half-sib families of *A. cotula* populations resulted from the adaptive responses to local selection pressure, how it is affected by maternal effects, selfing, or other factors, and how the trait variation could complicate within-farm weed management plans, requires additional study.

## DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The raw data supporting the conclusions of this article will be made available by the authors, without undue reservation.

## **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

SA, ICB, and SDE designed the study. ICB and SDE acquired the funding and supervised the study. SA contributed to the seed collection, greenhouse experiment, data analysis, and manuscript preparation. SRR and JP contributed to data analysis. All authors contributed to the article, edited, and approved the submitted version.

## FUNDING

This research is part of the LIT (Landscapes in Transition) project, supported by award #2017-68002-26819 and Hatch project 1017286 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Publication of this article was funded by the University of Idaho - Open Access Publishing Fund.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank PNW growers for allowing us to collect *A. cotula* seeds from their farms. We thank Philip Anderson for greenhouse space and support; Grace Overlie for seed counting; and Vincent Oliveras for data collection assistance. We are thankful to the Editor and Reviewers for their helpful comments on an earlier version of the manuscript.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

The Supplementary Material for this article can be found online at: https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fagro. 2021.640208/full#supplementary-material

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**Conflict of Interest:** The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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