

1 Long shared haplotypes identify the Southern Urals as a primary source for 2 the 10th century Hungarians

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53

54 **Abstract:**

55 During the Hungarian Conquest in the 10th century CE, the early medieval Magyars, a group
56 of mounted warriors from Eastern Europe, settled in the Carpathian Basin. They likely
57 introduced the Hungarian language to this new settlement area, during an event documented
58 by both written sources and archaeological evidence. Previous archaeogenetic research
59 identified the newcomers as migrants from the Eurasian steppe. However, genome-wide
60 ancient DNA from putative source populations has not been available to test alternative theories
61 of their precise source. We generated genome-wide ancient DNA data for 131 individuals from
62 candidate archaeological contexts in the Circum-Uralic region in present-day Russia. Our
63 results tightly link the Magyars to people of the Early Medieval Karayakupovo archaeological
64 horizon on both the European and Asian sides of the southern Urals. Our analyses show that
65 ancestors of the people of the Karayakupovo archaeological horizon were established in the
66 Southern Urals by the Iron Age and that their descendants persisted locally in the Volga-Kama
67 region until at least the 14th century.

68 **Main text:**

69 **Introduction**

70 The Hungarians are the only Uralic-speaking ethnicity in Central Europe, with an early history
71 that extends obscurely into the Early Medieval period, toward the east of the Carpathian Basin.
72 Their history became richly documented beginning with the Hungarian Conquest period (895-
73 1000 CE), which introduced striking innovations in burial rites and artifact assemblages to the
74 Carpathian Basin. These cultural transformations are commonly interpreted as signatures of
75 the arrival of a tribal alliance from the Eurasian Steppe, known as the early medieval Magyars
76 (EMM)(1-6). Chronicles and oral tradition trace the origin of these Magyars to an eastern
77 homeland(1,2) and a significant body of archaeological and linguistic research(1,4,7-11) points
78 to the Cis- or Trans-Uralic regions as their likely homeland. Over the past century, the
79 reconstruction of early Hungarian history has seen the emergence of diverse theories, as
80 comprehensively reviewed by Zimonyi(12), all of which recognize the significance of the
81 broader Volga-South Urals region in the ancestral formation process of the Magyars. However,
82 the details of the migration speed and routes remain contentious. The Magyars likely
83 encountered Turkic-speaking communities in both the Volga-Ural region and the North-Pontic
84 steppe, based on material culture connections between these regions and the Carpathian Basin.
85 The crossing of the Volga River by the Magyars in a westward direction has been estimated to
86 have occurred between 460–830 CE(1, 7, 13-17), while their occupation areas in the
87 northwestern Pontic region are inferred to have commenced between 670–860 CE(7, 16-22).
88 Since these time ranges are broad, it is hard to date the beginning of this migration and its
89 intermediate steps. Furthermore, it remains unclear where and how the language and
90 community structure of the early Magyars was formed, as well as the roles the Circum-Uralic
91 populations played in their ethnogenesis and confederation.

92

93 Based on parallels in material culture with the 10th-century Carpathian Basin, archaeologists
94 have attributed some burial sites located around the South Urals to Magyars(8). We hereafter
95 introduce the term ‘Karayakupovo Horizon’ (KH) to cover the diversity of the burial traditions
96 and artefactual assemblages of the Southern Urals, including Cis- and Trans-Urals, dated to
97 750-1000 CE and associated with putative early medieval Magyars(8,9). East of the Urals, a
98 reference cemetery of this horizon was excavated at Uyelgi, near Chelyabinsk(23). On the
99 European side of the Urals, Bolshie Tigany in Tatarstan was a key site, and in the last decades,
100 it was understood as a 9-10th century cemetery of Magyar groups that remained in the Volga-
101 Urals(3, 5, 8, 24-27). People attributed to the Karyakupovo Horizont lived in a multilingual
102 and ethnic context in the Circum-Uralic region, surrounded by Turkic, Finno-Permian, and
103 Ugric-speaking people(28). Further evidence supporting the theory that Magyars settled in the
104 Volga region during the Early Middle Ages are later reports of a Hungarian-speaking
105 population in the Middle Volga and Lower Kama regions. This information comes from
106 European travellers who visited an area known as *Magna Hungaria* in the 1230s (29), however,
107 the survival of such communities has never been tested using ancient DNA data, which is the
108 only direct way to verify population continuity and theories of ancestral origin.

109
110 Ancient DNA (aDNA) studies have generated large amounts of genetic data on ancient people
111 of northern Eurasia which we co-analyze in this study along with our newly reported data(30-
112 68). However, the Volga-Ural region from the Late Iron Age to Medieval times remained
113 unstudied on the genome-wide level. *Csáky et al. (2020)*(69) and *Szeifert et al. (2022)*(70)
114 provided insights into the connections between the 10th-11th century population of the
115 Carpathian Basin and the Volga-Ural populations at the uniparental DNA level, while *Maróti*
116 *et al. (2022)*(65) and *Gnecchi-Ruscone et al. (2022)*(61) generated genome-wide data for the
117 Early Medieval Carpathian Basin itself. *Maróti et al.*(65) reported data from the 5th-10th
118 centuries Carpathian Basin, showing that the Avars and Magyars represent distinct groups with
119 East Eurasian genetic affinities. Based on their analyses, they argued that several sources were
120 plausible for the immigrant 10th-century Magyars (named there as Conqueror Asia Core). This
121 included modern Ugric-speaking Mansi proxy used in their canonical ancestry modeling, as
122 well as groups descended from Huns/Xiongnu, and early and late Sarmatians. However, these
123 sources do not align with prevailing linguistic and archaeological interpretations, so it is
124 important to carry out tests with samples from the populations that are thought based on
125 archaeological evidence to be the most plausible proximate ancestral sources.

126
127 The goals of the present study are twofold. First, we aimed to leverage the first genome-wide
128 ancient DNA data from putative Volga-Ural source and adjacent populations of early medieval
129 Magyars to understand their relationships to the new arrivals in the Carpathian Basin. Second,
130 we attempted to model the deeper population history of those Volga-Uralic groups that showed
131 especially strong connections to 10th-century Carpathian Basin Magyars and to document the
132 extent of genetic continuity from the Iron Age to Medieval times in the Volga-Urals.

133 **Results**

134 We used in-solution enrichment for more than 1.2 million single nucleotide polymorphisms
135 (the “1240k” SNP capture panel(71)) to study the ancestry of 131 newly reported individuals
136 from 31 archaeological sites in the Circum-Uralic area (see descriptions of relevant geography
137 and sub-regions in the SI), dated from the Late Bronze Age (~1900-1300 BCE) to the Late
138 Medieval period starting ca. 1400 CE (see Figure 1, and Supplementary Text for detailed
139 archeological descriptions of the newly sampled burials). In addition, we present data for six

140 new individuals from the Carpathian Basin dated to the 10th century. For estimating genetic
141 diversity and, in some cases, for modeling genetic origin, we grouped individuals by
142 ecoregions/river basins and chronological periods(72); see Supplementary text, section II.A for
143 details. For brevity, these periods are labeled by prevailing cultural groups in the region, e.g.,
144 *Russia_Belaya_Chivalik* (Fig. 1), but cultural attribution did not play a role in the grouping
145 process with one exception (the Karayakupovo Horizon).

146

147 Recent methodological developments have made it possible to detect long shared autosomal
148 haplotypes between pairs of ancient genomes(73,74), often termed identical-by-descent (IBD)
149 segments(75). Previously, this method was only applicable to high-quality genomic data for
150 modern populations(76, 77). However, recent advancements allow its application to ancient
151 individuals as well even if they have moderate fractions of their genome without high sequence
152 coverage, leveraging the fact that human genetic variation is highly redundant so genotypes
153 can be statistically imputed with high confidence from nearly incomplete genetic data(74). The
154 IBD-sharing analysis is particularly useful for detecting distant relatives. We coupled this
155 analysis with archaeogenetic methods relying on correlations of allele frequencies: PCA(78),
156 *f*-statistics and derived methods(31, 78-82), as well as *ADMIXTURE*(83).

157

158 Our research protocol included several stages. First, we utilized PCA, supervised *ADMIXTURE*
159 analysis, and network graphs visualizing individuals linked by shared IBD segments (see
160 Methods for further details), to obtain a broad overview of the dataset. In the second stage, we
161 focused on IBD connections between the Volga-Ural region and the population of the 10-11th
162 century Carpathian Basin. In the third stage, we explored the genetic history of the Medieval
163 Volga-Uralic groups using *f*-statistic methods(31, 78, 81), which allow formal tests of simple
164 non-phylogenetic admixture models. To understand changes in population size and rates of
165 close-kin marriages in this period, we explored runs of homozygosity (*hapROH*)(84).

166 ***Genetic diversity in the Volga-Ural region***

167 The Eurasian PCA in Fig. 2B reveals extraordinary genetic heterogeneity in the Early Medieval
168 Volga-Ural region, with high variability in ancestry among individuals associated with certain
169 regional and chronological groups. In the PC1/PC3 space (Fig. 2B), we observe an east-west
170 genetic gradient from Northeast Asian (NEA) to Northwest Eurasian (NWE) genetic affinities.
171 Most ecoregions of interest display high genetic diversity, with individuals from each region
172 spread over large sections of the gradient (Fig. 2B). Notably, most of the newly sequenced
173 10th-century individuals from the Carpathian Basin are positioned along the NWE-NEA and
174 NWE-Eastern Asian (EA) clines, with only two of them demonstrating a Central European
175 genomic profile. We also conducted a supervised *ADMIXTURE* analysis (Fig. 2A), utilizing
176 eight Neolithic and Early Bronze Age populations as proxy ancestry sources for the clustering
177 algorithm. In our selection for the ancestral sources, we aimed to reflect the Neolithic/Bronze
178 Age variation of North Eurasia (Fig. S1). Our findings reveal a widespread yet varying
179 presence of Early Bronze Age Yamnaya-related ancestry across the region. This persistent
180 Yamnaya-related ancestry(30), contrasted with the fluctuating levels of other ancestries, such
181 as the Yakutia LNBA or Altai Neolithic(68), reflecting a patchwork of local genetic influences
182 in the region.

183

184 We applied genotype imputation(73), inferred IBD segments using the approach from(74), and
185 constructed a network graph connecting individuals with shared IBD segments on a total of
186 1,333 individuals, comprising published data for 1,239 individuals from Asia and Europe and

187 94 individuals presented in this study (Fig. 3A). The graph's edges were weighted based on the
188 length of the most substantial IBD segment shared by two individuals (nodes). To de-noise the
189 graph, we restricted the analysis to individuals connected by at least one 9 cM segment, were
190 not separated in time by more than 600 years, and focused on the largest interconnected sub-
191 graph. Details of the de-noising, visualization, and clustering approach are described in the
192 Methods, for non-filtered network see Fig. S2. Twelve newly reported Iron Age individuals
193 formed a cluster (with many previously published individuals) in the IBD network that we
194 labeled *Eurasian steppe IA* in Fig. 3A (clusters were inferred with the Leiden community
195 detection algorithm; we refer to them as “IBD-sharing communities” or simply “IBD clusters”).
196 A total of 116 Early Medieval individuals from both the Volga-Ural region and Carpathian
197 Basin formed another cluster (Fig. S3), labeled as *Urals-Carpathian EMA* in Fig. 3A. To
198 discern and quantify the underlying differences among the identified network clusters, we
199 analyzed network topology, similar to that described by Gneccchi-Ruscione et al. 2024(85),
200 focusing on metrics such as degree of centrality (number of links held by a given node) or
201 module strength measured based on summarized IBD-sharing between individuals (see
202 Methods). The *Urals-Carpathian EMA* cluster's average clustering coefficient reported by the
203 Leiden algorithm was close to the mean of the other clusters. At the same time, its relatively
204 high within-module (kw) and low between-module (kb) centrality exhibited distributions akin
205 to the most cohesive clusters (Fig. S4 and Fig. S5). The *Urals-Carpathian EMA* cluster was
206 loosely connected to the other IBD-sharing communities. Still, based on the low cluster
207 coefficient, this separation could reflect gaps in sampling in time or space rather than true
208 genetic isolation.

209

210 Within the *Urals-Carpathian EMA* cluster, the published 10-11th century Carpathian Basin
211 (CB) genomes(65) are grouped with our newly sequenced Volga-Ural Medieval samples. The
212 Karayakupovo Horizon (KH) groups exhibited the highest degree of centrality (k) compared
213 to other groups within the cluster (Fig. S6). In contrast, the early Medieval Carpathian Basin
214 group exhibited a more diverse pattern. The strength (based on the summarized IBD-sharing)
215 between and within the module links showed the high between-module connecting strength of
216 the KH groups (Fig. S7). These findings highlight the 'bridging' role of the KH groups, linking
217 the Volga-Uralic Medieval populations with the early Medieval Carpathian Basin individuals.
218 However, some 10th-century Carpathian Basin individuals fall into the *East-Asia/Carpathian*
219 *IA-EMA* cluster, reflecting a genetically diverse migration into the region. We have observed
220 that PCA (and also the other allele-frequency-based methods) and the IBD network highlight
221 different and complementary aspects of population structure: the former is more sensitive to
222 East-West and North-South Eurasian genetic gradients, while the latter connects distant or
223 close relatives who may have very different positions on these gradients (Fig. 3A, C; Fig S8).

224 ***Early Medieval Magyars Fall within the Genetic Diversity of the Volga-Ural Region***

225 We examined closely the genetic links between the Volga-Uralic groups and the 10th-century
226 Carpathian Basin population forming the *Urals-Carpathian EMA* IBD cluster. The analysis
227 showed that 10th-century Magyars in the Carpathian Basin exhibit significant genetic variation
228 along PC1 (Fig. 2B), indicative of admixture during their migration westward or within the
229 Carpathian Basin. As observed earlier, ancestries tracing back to the Baikal Neolithic and the
230 Yakutia Late-Neolithic/Bronze Age varied across the EMM individuals. We mapped the
231 proportions of these proxy ancestry sources onto our PCA (Fig. S9A). Consistent with the
232 previously identified NWE-NEA and NWE-EA gradients, the EMMs demonstrate ancestry
233 from two different East Eurasian sources. Specifically, those aligned with the NWE-NEA

234 gradient exhibited a pronounced Yakutian Late-Neolithic/Bronze-Age ancestry, whereas those
235 on the NWE-EA cline displayed higher levels of Baikal Neolithic ancestry. We note that these
236 ancestry components do not reflect gene flows specifically from Yakutia or the Baikal region;
237 rather, the proxy sources are reference groups for broad geographical regions and chronological
238 periods. Males with distinct Y-chromosomal lineages from the Volga-Ural region showed a
239 gradient along PC2 (Fig. S10) and the N1a~ derived haplogroups seemed to be present at high
240 frequency in the region in all periods explored (for mitochondrial DNA haplogroup
241 frequencies, see Fig. S11). N1a-bearing EMM males were prevalent (Table S1), which also
242 suggests their connection to the region. All of these results suggest that substantially different
243 genetic sources on the Siberian genetic landscape could have contributed to the *Urals-*
244 *Carpathian EMA* cluster of distant relatives in the 10th-century Carpathian Basin.

245
246 Next, we focused on specific cases of strong IBD links between early medieval Magyars and
247 the population of the Volga-Ural region, providing case examples of long-distance migration
248 within a few generations. We identified 28 pairs of individuals sharing more than two 12 cM
249 or longer segments of their genomes (Table S1); of these, 11 pairs with the longest IBD
250 segments are presented in Table 1 (for their ancestry proportions estimated with *ADMIXTURE*
251 see Fig. S12). It is most likely that the degree of kinship for these pairs of individuals varied
252 between the 6-8th degrees(74) (Fig. S13).

253
254 Archaeological and radiocarbon dating show that most IBD segments link individuals within a
255 couple of hundred years of each other. Due to the wide ranges in radiocarbon dates, the
256 connection between pairs of 6th- to 8th-degree relatives may stem from either a shared common
257 ancestor or from ancestor-descendant relationships. The majority of the strong connections (>2
258 segments above 12 cM) of the EMM individuals are detected with the KH individuals (25
259 individuals) from various ecoregions. To better understand the connection between the two
260 regions, we also conducted a qpWave analysis-based cladality test(82) (see Methods for
261 details). This test evaluates whether the populations of interest (referred to as *left* populations)
262 form a clade with respect to the *right* populations. We employed KH groups (Trans-Urals, Cis-
263 Urals, and Low-Kama regions) and one joint group with European ancestry from the 10th to
264 11th centuries in the Carpathian Basin(65) ('European cline') as references. We used each
265 group individually and tested whether they formed a clade with the *Urals-Carpathian EMA*
266 cluster individuals from the Carpathian Basin. As *right* populations, we included early
267 medieval contemporaneous groups spanning across the Volga-Ural region (Mid-Volga EVB,
268 MidKama Lomovatovo, and Mid-Irtysh Potschevash), along with a group from Migration
269 Period Buryatia, serving as a Central-Siberian reference point. Where a feasible model was
270 lacking, we jointly tested with one KH and the European group. Our results showed feasible
271 cladal structures for 17 individuals from the 10th to 11th century Carpathian Basin, and with
272 the KH groups from the region (Table S2). We found that individuals sharing the highest levels
273 of genomic segments shared identity by descent (IBD) with KH groups from both the Trans
274 and Cis-Ural regions primarily showed feasible models with the Cis-Uralian KH group.
275 Interestingly, Carpathian Basin individuals with lower levels of IBD sharing exhibited cladal
276 structures linked to the Low-Kama KH group. Our cladality test provides a second and
277 independent line of evidence, in addition to the IBD links for the connection between the two
278 regions.

279 ***Iron Age genetic continuity in the Medieval Volga-Ural region***

280 To provide deeper insights into the genetic landscape of the Volga-Ural region, we applied f_4 -
281 statistics, aiming to test if there was a significant genetic shift in this region since the Bronze
282 Age. For this purpose, we compared allele sharing between the newly sequenced individuals
283 and selected Bronze Age reference individuals from the Southern Urals (attributed to the
284 Sintashta culture) and South-Central Siberia (attributed to the Okunevo culture, from the
285 Minusinsk Basin), as shown in Fig. 4A. Our analysis revealed that during the late phase of the
286 Early Iron Age, the level of the allele sharing was similar with both distant reference
287 populations. However, as time progressed, an increasing number of individuals exhibited
288 higher genetic affinity to one of these reference groups, suggesting that populations in the
289 Circum-Uralic region experienced gene flows from nearby populations. These findings raise
290 the hypothesis of shared ancestry for the Cis- and Trans-Ural individuals dated to the Early
291 Iron Age (culturally from the Pyany Bor and Sargatka contexts), a conclusion further supported
292 by our supervised *ADMIXTURE* analysis. A notable observation was the pronounced affinity
293 of all of the Karayakupovo Horizon individuals to the South-Central Siberian BA reference
294 group. This was also detectable in the case of the Low-Kama KH group. The significant allele
295 sharing that prevailed in Low-Kama groups dates to the Medieval Period and is driven by
296 individuals from the Chiyalik culture. These results highlight various population interactions
297 during the Medieval period.

298
299 To test the Iron Age/Migration Period (for a detailed description of the archeological
300 chronology in the region, see SII.A) individuals for evidence of continuity with early Medieval
301 KH individuals, we used two complementary f_4 -statistics. Initially, we tested allele sharing
302 between our focal (KH), and both EIA Southern Uralic (associated with Sarmatian culture
303 context) and Western Siberian groups (Sargatka horizon), which revealed reduced allele
304 sharing with the former group (Fig S14). Furthermore, allele-sharing analyses among Western
305 Siberian groups revealed significant affinity between the Cis and Trans-Urals KH groups and
306 EIA groups in the Irtysh River region. In the second stage, we analyzed early Migration Period
307 reference populations from the wider Volga-Ural region and allele sharing among KH groups
308 (Fig 4B). This included the Low-Kama Mazunino group and groups from the Tobol and Mid-
309 Irtysh regions from the late Sargatka horizon and the Nizhneobskaya culture. The latter is
310 distinct both archaeologically and genetically from the local continuum. Compared to the other
311 references, we observed significant allele sharing with the Mid-Irtysh and Tobol groups from
312 the late Sargatka horizon. These findings indicate genetic continuity in the KH groups from the
313 Early Iron Age, rooting their ancestry in the Irtysh and Tobol River regions.

314
315 To model possible admixture scenarios and quantify the proportion of the Migration Period
316 ancestral sources (for KHs and EMMs with direct connections to KH individuals [Table 1]) we
317 employed *qpAdm* analysis (Fig. 4C) (for the detailed settings, see Material and Methods). We
318 purposely avoided rotating modeling approaches exploring large sets of alternative proxy
319 sources(88). Instead, we utilized a two-way modeling strategy with proxy sources on both sides
320 of the Urals in the Migration Period: the Sargatka cultural group in the Irtysh/Tobol basins, and
321 Mazunino in the Low Kama basin. Their archeological importance in the late phase of the Iron
322 Age in the Ural region and also their separation in the spaces of f_4 -statistics and outgroup f_3 -
323 statistics (Fig. S15 and S16) justified the use of these sources for *qpAdm* analysis.
324 Archaeological context also supports the significance of these groups as they potentially
325 influenced the Kushnarenkovo and later Karayakupovo archeological cultures(8). In the case
326 of the Mazunino group, we used the Low-Kama sub-group, which has sufficient coverage in

327 our data. Out of the 26 analyzed individuals, the two-way model was a fit (p -value > 0.05) in
328 22 cases (for the list of outgroups see Material and Methods). The Tobol Late Sargatka ancestry
329 was notably prevalent among the Trans-Ural KH, Cis-Ural KH, and early Medieval Magyar
330 individuals, at least ~70% (for detailed results, see Supplementary Dataset 6). While all EMM
331 and KH groups likely share the same Trans-Uralic ancestry, some (Low-Kama KH, see Fig.
332 4C) mixed extensively with local groups to the west of the Urals.
333 A time-ordered IBD graph in Fig. S18 illustrates biological continuity, especially between the
334 Early Medieval KH groups and those from the Late Medieval Chiyalik cultural contexts in the
335 Belaya and especially Low-Kama regions. The similarity in *ADMIXTURE* profiles (Fig. 2A)
336 further supports the continuity of the KH-type ancestry into the later Medieval period. In
337 contrast, the Belaya region in the Late Medieval period is more diverse genetically, with several
338 individuals having European and East Asian genetic profiles (supported by IBD connections
339 outside the *Urals-Carpathian EMA* cluster).

340
341 To explore the demographic history of the Volga-Ural groups from a different perspective, we
342 utilized the *hapROH* method to identify long runs of homozygosity (ROH), as shown in Figs.
343 S18 and S19(84). This analysis revealed that KH individuals probably had a low effective
344 population size (N_e), evidenced by the ROH segments in their genome (Fig. S19). The number
345 of ROH segments per group correlated negatively with other estimates of genetic diversity used
346 in this study. Our N_e analysis further indicated that both Early Medieval Low-Kama KH and
347 Late Medieval Low-Kama Chiyalik groups had consistently smaller population sizes than
348 neighboring groups across different periods.

349 350 **Discussion**

351 In this study, we report genome-wide data for 131 ancient human genomes from 1900 BCE to
352 1400 CE in the Circum-Ural region and the Carpathian Basin. The genetic gradients displayed
353 on the PCA by the Volga-Ural region groups (Fig. 2B) align with the modern genetic variation
354 found in Eurasia's forest and forest-steppe zones (the northern one) and the steppe zone (the
355 southern one), respectively(68). The Asian end of the northern gradient is linked to the
356 Yakutian LNBA population, which is a genetic „tracer dye” for Uralic speakers in North
357 Eurasia(68). The analysis of identity-by-descent (IBD) chromosome segments revealed distant
358 relatedness between Early Medieval Circum-Uralic individuals from the Karayakupovo
359 Horizon sites and the EMM 10th-11th centuries population from the Carpathian Basin. We
360 termed the IBD cluster of distant relatives as “*Urals-Carpathian EMA*” (Fig S5), which showed
361 a genetic gradient stretching from Europe to Northeast Asia on PCA, and distinct from the
362 *Eurasian steppe Iron Age* and *East Asia/Carpathian IA-EMA* clusters (Fig. 3B-C, Fig S3).

363
364 Our findings demonstrate that Cis- and Trans-Uralic Karayakupovo Horizon sites are linked to
365 10th-11th-century Carpathian Basin individuals via IBD. These IBD connections are supported
366 by similarity in *ADMIXTURE* profiles and *qpWave* based cladality tests. Notably, individuals
367 from the Hungarian Szakony-Kavicsbánya site displayed the highest similarities to the Volga-
368 Uralic population in *ADMIXTURE* clustering and IBD sharing. Archaeological artifacts from
369 this site and burial customs show direct parallels in Uralic cultural contexts(89). These
370 combined findings provide the first compelling genetic evidence for a Uralic origin for an
371 important part of the ancestry of 10th-century Magyars in the Carpathian Basin. EMMs from
372 the Carpathian Basin mostly demonstrate Yakutian LNBA-type ancestry associated with the
373 northern (forest and forest-steppe) Eurasian gradient. Still, some also demonstrate Baikal
374 Neolithic-related ancestry associated with the southern (steppe) Eurasian gradient (Fig. S7).

375 These results imply that they (or their ancestors) have at least two genetic sources outside the
376 Carpathian Basin, and we confirmed the Circum-Uralic one. Considering the archeological,
377 historical, and genetic results, our findings are consistent with a scenario in which the initial
378 area of the EMM migration to the Carpathian Basin was located in the Volga and Ural regions,
379 where traces of admixture are not observable with Central/East-Eurasian ancestry bearing
380 groups (such as people usually attributed to the Turkic speakers(38, 50). The results presented
381 in our paper align with the Uralic (Ugric) basis of the Hungarian language, which has its first
382 written documents only as late as 11th century Hungary(90). Among the possible Early
383 Medieval influxes to the Carpathian Basin, the Hungarian language was most probably brought
384 from the Southern Ural region (by descendants of the members of the Karayakupovo
385 archaeological horizon), among others by those Magyars who shared the *Urals-Carpathian*
386 *EMA cluster*. However, it is important to emphasize that the Magyars as steppe nomadic
387 societies, had diverse cultural backgrounds and functioned as multiethnic/multilingual
388 communities(16, 91, 92). The most recent reconstructions of the Magyar migration based on
389 material culture evidence date the subsequent population movement from the Volga to the
390 Pontic Steppe as late as the early 9th century CE, and from there to the Carpathian Basin by
391 the end of that century(3, 6). The tight connectedness of the Urals-Carpathian EMA cluster and
392 the genetic characteristics of a part of the EMM indicate a rapid migration from the Volga-Ural
393 to the Carpathian Basin and a rather short stop in the North-Pontic area. This later area could
394 have been the site for the integration and alliance with further Turkic-speaking tribes(3).

395
396 The first emergence of Karayakupovo-type genetic ancestry west of the Urals was detected by
397 550 CE. This ancestry did not extend as far west as the Volga-Kama confluence or the Volga's
398 west bank by the Samara Bend, as it is absent in the group with Novinki-type burial practices.
399 Furthermore, our findings indicate that individuals from the Early Volga Bulghar Mullova
400 and Tankeevka cemeteries either show no genetic links to the Karayakupovo Horizon sites.
401 Our analyses indicate little or no IBD connection between the EMMs and proto-Ob-Ugric
402 groups in Western Siberia, despite their close geographical proximity for 1500–2000 years
403 after their split estimated by linguistic models and chronology(70).

404
405 As the KH groups demonstrated notably strong IBD connectivity despite considerable
406 geographical distances (Low-Kama, Cis-Urals, Trans-Urals), we investigated the extent of
407 their shared population history. Using multiple f_4 -statistics, we demonstrated that the KH
408 groups shared the most alleles with groups from the Irtysh and Tobol regions throughout the
409 Iron Age and Migration Period. This evidence supports the hypothesis of a Trans-Uralian origin
410 for the late Karayakupovo-type ancestry. Our proximal $qpAdm$ analysis showed that the Low-
411 Kama KH group could be modeled as a combination of Pyany-Bor/Mazunino and Tobol Late
412 Sargatka-related ancestries, resulting in a distinct local KH variant. In contrast, the other KH
413 groups have much lower Pyany-Bor/Mazunino ancestry. We demonstrate that the proxy
414 ancestry sources we used in our $qpAdm$ analyses (Pyany-Bor/Mazunino to the west of the Urals
415 and Tobol Late Sargatka to the east of the Urals) are much closer to the actual sources than
416 those used in the Maróti et al. $qpAdm$ approach, which suggested using modern Mansis,
417 early/late Sarmatians, and Xiongnu as proxies for modeling the ancestors of the EMMs. Based
418 on the connections with the KH individuals, we show that an important stratum of the EMMs
419 (named by Maróti et al. as ‘Conqueror Asia Core’) can be traced to the Early Medieval Circum-
420 Uralic region. Also, with $qpAdm$ modeling, we detected local biological continuity from the
421 Iron Age to the Early Medieval times in these regions. However, we avoided extensive $qpAdm$
422 screenings across multiple ancestry sources closely timed to target groups, similar to the

423 approach used in Maróti et al. 2022(65), due to the high risk of false-discovery rates (FDR), as
424 demonstrated by Yüncü et al. 2023(88). Additionally, archaeologists have determined that in
425 the early Middle Ages, the area east of the Ural Mountains, extending to the Ob River in the
426 present-day Omsk region, had an extremely low population density. The total number of
427 excavated graves from the 6th to the 10th centuries AD does not exceed 300(93). We have
428 detected extended genetic signals indicating small population sizes both east of the Urals and
429 in the Cis-Urals KH group. These findings provide significant evidence of sparse and low
430 population sizes in these regions during this period.

431
432 The Late Medieval Low-Kama Chiyalik group shows strong continuity within the *Ural-*
433 *Carpathian EMA IBD* cluster. This is indicated by a high level of connectivity within the IBD-
434 sharing community and limited IBD sharing beyond it. Moreover, they are similar to the KH
435 groups on an allele frequency level. In contrast, individuals linked with the Chiyalik culture
436 from the Belaya Region are more diverse genetically and fall outside the *Urals-Carpathian*
437 *EMA* cluster. These findings suggest the potential influx of newcomers during the Golden
438 Horde period, who likely introduced different East Eurasian genetic ancestries. Considering
439 the late 14th-century radiocarbon dates for the Chiyalik individuals, it is reasonable to assume
440 the presence of remaining Magyars, archaeologically represented by a local variety of the
441 Chiyalik culture, mainly in the Lower Kama River Valley(94, 95). By analyzing the effective
442 population size, we estimate that the Low-Kama Chiyalik group comprised at least a few
443 thousand individuals during the Late Medieval times. These results suggest that descendants
444 of the *Uralic-Carpathian EMA* IBD-sharing community survived in Late Medieval times in
445 considerable numbers in the Kama region. We assume that the Low Kama region near the
446 Belaya-Kama confluence was the area that was called Magna Hungaria by Friar Julian in the
447 13th century(29). In addition to this historically documented data, the regional toponymy
448 suggests the presence of Hungarian-speaking groups there until the 16th century, when, after
449 the collapse of the Golden Horde imperial space, they were absorbed into the Late Medieval
450 populations of modern-day Bashkortostan, Tatarstan, and Udmurtia(6, 96, 97).

451

452 **Material and methods**

453 Sampling and sample selection: Based on years of collaborations with local archaeological
454 experts governed by bilateral collaboration agreements, we selected the most relevant samples,
455 which were verified by radiocarbon dating. We aimed to collect graves for this research with
456 grave materials characteristic of local cultures. In the **Trans-Urals**, our sampling involves
457 individuals buried in the Sargatka cultural context from the Middle Irtysh (300 BCE - 200 CE)
458 and the Tobol (100-350 CE) river basins. The later Trans-Uralic population groups are
459 represented by burials attributed to the Nizhneobskaya, Potchevash, and Ust'-Ishim cultures,
460 and the Uyelgi cemetery attributed to the Karayakupovo Horizon. In the **Cis-Urals**, we
461 undertook a dense sampling from sites attributed to the Maklasheevka Late Bronze Age (1100-
462 900 BCE), Post-Maklasheevka Ananyino Early Iron Age (900-250 BCE), Pyany Bor Early
463 Iron Age (250 BCE-150 CE), Mazunino (150-450 CE), and Nevolino (400-850 CE)
464 archaeological entities. The Migration-period population archaeologically related to the Trans-
465 Uralic groups is represented by one individual from the Kushnarenkovo cultural context (550-
466 700 CE). The sampling of the Medieval individuals of the Volga-Ural region involves the
467 peripheral regions of the Volga Bulgaria, to the east of main cities and densely populated areas.
468 The cultural context of our Medieval samples can be mainly described as the “Muslim burials
469 with pagan elements in burial rites”, and it is usually attributed to the Chiyalik culture. The
470 sites of the **Karayakupovo Horizon** to the west of the Urals are represented by Bolshiye

471 Tigany from the Lower Kama region (800-900 CE). We also included some sites
472 contemporaneous with the Karayakupovo Horizon, but archaeologically attributed to other
473 groups: the Novinki-type sites (700-850 CE) and the Tankeevka cemetery (850-1000 CE), a
474 local group of the Khazar-Khaganate nomads and the Early Volga Bulgars (EVB) respectively
475 (see further details in the SI). Two individuals from the Polom cultural context and one from
476 Lomovatovo represent the Mid-Kama population groups that are contemporaneous with the
477 people of the Karayakupovo Horizon sites.

478 Ancient DNA data generation: 117 samples were cleaned and powdered in the Budapest
479 Laboratory of Archaeogenetics (Institute of Archaeology RCH) as described in Szeifert et al.
480 2022 and shipped to Harvard Medical School. Three samples were prepared in Vienna, and
481 seven samples were prepared in Ostrava and shipped to the Harvard laboratory. In dedicated
482 clean rooms, we extracted DNA manually with spin columns(98, 99) or automated using silica
483 magnetic beads and Qiagen PB buffer on the Agilent Bravo NGS workstation(100) and
484 converted it into barcoded double-stranded partial Uracil-treated libraries(101), which we
485 enriched in solution for sequences overlapping 1.24 million SNPs [1240k: Fu et al. 2013(33),
486 Twist: Rohland et al. 2022(102)] as well as the mitochondrial genome. For each library, we
487 sequenced approximately 30 million reads pairs (median of 29.747M reads) of the enriched
488 library using Illumina instruments [NextSeq500, HiSeq X]; we also sequenced several hundred
489 thousand sequences of the unenriched library.

490 Bioinformatic analysis: Samples were sequenced to generate raw paired-end reads; these were
491 prepared for analysis by performing the following steps: preprocessing/alignment, and post-
492 alignment filtering to enable variant calling. Raw reads were demultiplexed by using
493 identifying barcodes and indices to assign each read to a particular sample, prior to stripping
494 these identifying tags. Paired-end reads were merged into a single molecule using the base
495 overlaps as a guide, Single-ended reads were aligned to the hg19 human reference genome
496 (<https://www.internationalgenome.org/category/grch37/>) and the basal Reconstructed Sapiens
497 Reference Sequence (RSRS)(103) mitochondrial genome using the samse aligner of bwa(104).
498 Duplicate molecules were marked based on barcoding bin, start/stop positions and orientation.
499 The computational pipelines with specific parameters are publicly available on github at:
500 <https://github.com/dReichLab/ADNA-Tools> and [https://github.com/dReichLab/adna-](https://github.com/dReichLab/adna-workflow)
501 [workflow](https://github.com/dReichLab/adna-workflow). For calling variants, a pseudo-haploid approach is used at targeted SNPs, where a
502 single base is randomly selected from a pool of possible bases at that position filtering by a
503 minimum mapping quality of 10 and base quality 20, after trimming reads by 2 base pairs at
504 both 5' and 3' ends to remove damage artifacts.

505 Principal component analysis(PCA): PCA analysis was carried out with EIGENSOFT
506 software(105) (version 5.0) with lsqproject: YES and shrink mode: YES settings. For
507 projection, we used modern-day Eurasians from the Affymetrix Human Origin array and after
508 merging our dataset with the array we restricted our analysis to 597573 SNPs.

509 ADMIXTURE analysis: Before running ADMIXTURE(83) we pruned our dataset with plink
510 (version 3)(106). We have used the -geno 0.95 option to ensure that we included sites where
511 most individuals were covered at least once. After that we used -indep -pairwise 200 24 0.4
512 parameters for linkage disequilibrium (LD) pruning. We also removed individuals who were
513 closely related (up to 3rd degree). We performed supervised ADMIXTURE clustering with
514 K=8. We used Neolithic/Early Bronze Age populations as sources to reflect the overall
515 distribution of different ancestries through Eurasia. We tried to involve well-represented
516 groups (> 4 individuals) with high-coverage data. We intentionally aimed to reconstruct a
517 similar ADMIXTURE reference set presented in Zeng et. al 2023(68). We have found this set

518 useful in understanding the pre-historical genetic composition of our newly published
519 individuals.

520 Genotype imputation: For imputation, we applied the GLIMPSE (v.1.1.1)(73) software with
521 the 1000 Genome Project as the reference panel on VCF files to estimate genotype posterior at
522 bi-allelic SNP sites. For IBD analysis, we restricted to SNPs in the 1240k capture, which are
523 informative for ancient DNA studies. These VCF files were generated using bcftools mpileup
524 (v1.10.2)(107) applied on sequence data in aligned BAM format. A full description of the
525 imputation pipeline is provided in Supplementary Note 3 and Figure 1b of Ringbauer et al.,
526 2024(74).

527 IBD-sharing analysis: We utilized the method described in Ringbauer et al.(74) to detect
528 identity-by-descent segments. In the downstream analysis, we included samples that had
529 sufficient coverage on the 1240k SNP positions and that matched our research criteria, focusing
530 on geographical location (North Eurasia) and timeframe (~1000 BCE to modern times).

531 IBD-sharing network: All the IBD networks were built with Gephi (v.0.10.1) software(108).
532 The graph's edges were weighted based on the length of the most substantial shared IBD
533 segment between two individuals, referred to as nodes. We removed IBD segments below a
534 threshold of 9 cM and connections that spanned over 600 years for clarity and precision.
535 Additionally, we maintained nodes connected by at least two edges and focused on the largest
536 interconnected segment of the graph. Visualization was achieved using the MultiGravity
537 ForceAtlas 2, a force-directed layout algorithm(86). In the processed graph, clusters were
538 discerned using the Leiden algorithm(87), maintaining algorithmic independence. For further
539 analysis of the clusters defined by the Leiden algorithm, we explored several key metrics:
540 degree centrality (k), which measures the number of connections a node has; within-module
541 centrality (k_w), quantifying the connections within each defined cluster; and between-module
542 centrality (k_b), which assess the connections between different clusters. To calculate the
543 strength (based on the summarized IBD-sharing) of within and between module links, we
544 utilized the Python NetworkX package(109), considering our predefined groups as modules.

545 f -statistics: We computed f_3 and f_4 -statistics with the ADMIXTOOLS software package(78)
546 with the qp3pop (allsnsp:YES) and qpDstat (f4Mode: YES; printsd: YES) packages. For the
547 f_3 -statistics we used an outgroup approach as follows (Test1, Test2; Mbuti). For f_4 -statistics
548 we used (Mbuti, Target; Test1, Test2) to check the genetic affinities between two possible
549 ancestral populations. For the pairwise cladality test, we used the 'qpWave pairs' test from the
550 R software package *Admixtools 2* with default settings(82). We designated 10th to 11th-century
551 Carpathian Basin individuals as *targets* and the KH groups as *left* populations. The right
552 populations included Mid-Volga EVB, Mid-Kama Lomovatovo, Mid-Irtysh Potschevash, and
553 the Buryatia Xiongnu group(54). For models that were unfeasible, we incorporated Early
554 Medieval individuals with no Eastern Eurasian ancestry as *left* populations (Maróti et al.,
555 2022)(65). We chose the one with the highest p-value when multiple feasible models were
556 available.

557 QpAdm analysis: For the qpAdm analysis, we used the *Admixtools 2* R package(82), with the
558 following carefully selected(81) outgroups: Mbuti.DG, Ami.DG, Italy_North_Villabruna_HG,
559 Turkey_N.SG, Russia_Ekven_IA.SG, Russia_DevilsCave_N.SG, Russia_Sidelkino_HG.SG,
560 Russia_Caucasus_Eneolithic, Tarim_EMBA1. We avoided using the rotating approach as in
561 complex demographic histories the direction of the geneflows cannot be defined
562 accurately(88).

563 Consanguinity test (ROHs): Detecting runs of homozygous blocks with hapROH(84) software
564 can provide signals of consanguinity, whereas small homozygous runs are indicative of a small
565 recent effective population size. The program was used with default parameters for pseudo-

566 haploid genotypes with at least 400k SNP covered. The *Ne* module of this program was also
567 used to estimate effective population sizes with CI, considering 4-20cM ROHs.
568 Radiocarbon dating: Radiocarbon dating of 10 DNA samples was performed in the Penn State's
569 Radiocarbon Laboratory (PSUAMS codes). The BP values were calibrated in the Oxcal
570 program 4.4 with a calibration curve IntCal 20 (110, 111)

571

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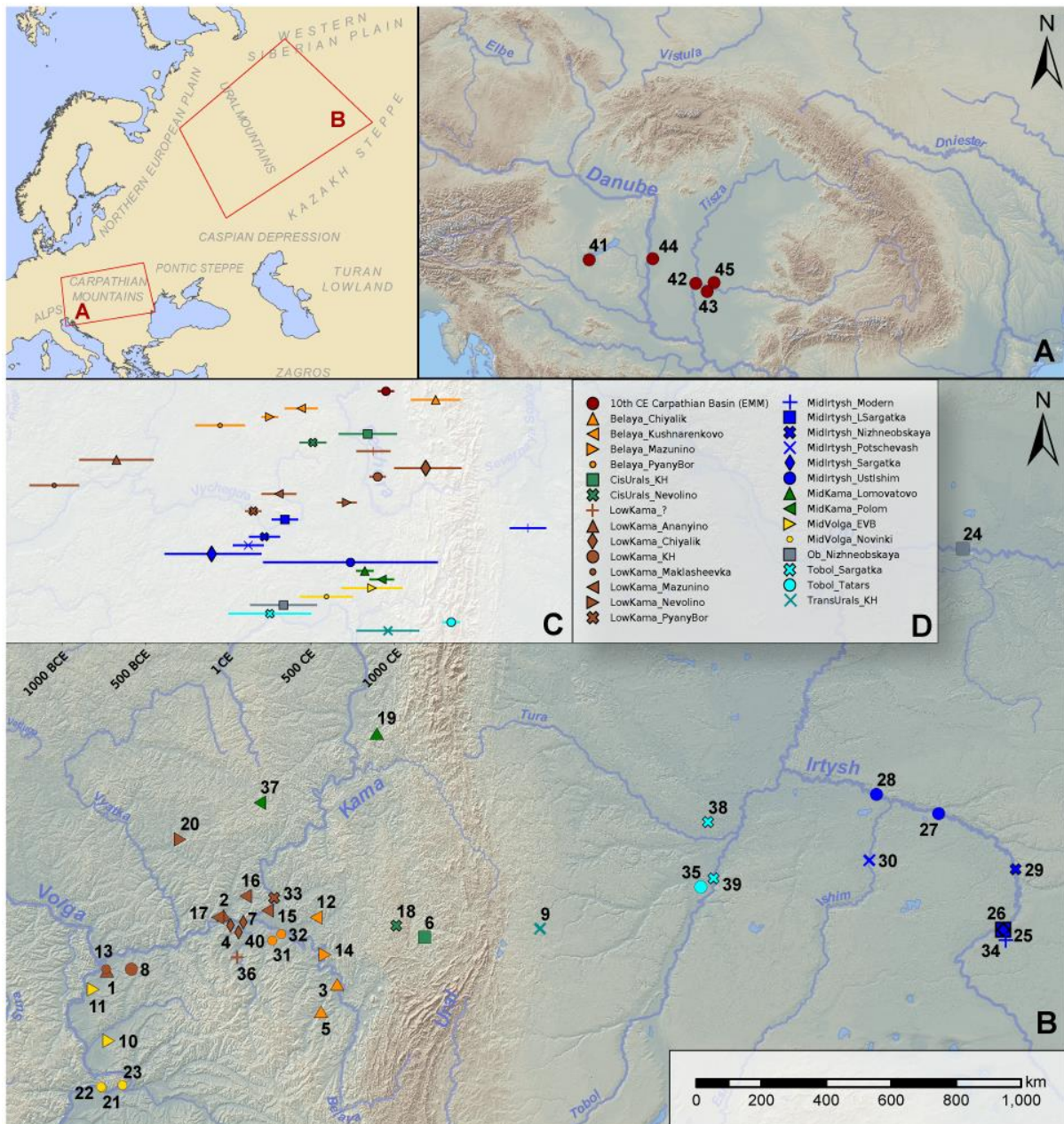
865 **Author contribution:**

866 Designed the study: B.Gy., L.V., A.T., P.F., D.R., A.Sz.-N.
867 Collected/provided archaeological material: L.V., A.T., P.L., D.S., A.S., N.M., A.Z., S.B., I.G.,
868 M.G.B., I.C., R.P., O.C., O.P., R.R., E.V., M.R., A.Ko., A.C., A.Kh., I.G., S.Z., F.S.
869 Laboratory analysis: B.Sz., N.R.
870 Performed bioinformatics processing of the data: H.R., A.A., S.M.
871 Performed analysis: B.Gy., L.V., A.Sz.-N.
872 Wrote the paper: B.Gy., L.V., P.F., B.Sz., V.Cs.
873 Wrote archaeological supplement: L.V., D.S., A.Z., S.B., I.G., O.K., D.B., A.Kr., O.P.
874 Supervised the manuscript: A.T., D.R., A.Sz.-N.

875 **Competing interests:** The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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879 **Fig. 1. Locations and chronology of the studied burials.** Archaeological sites in the Carpathian Basin (A) and

880 in the Volga-Ural region (B) involved in this study, colored according to ecoregions: 1: Izmeri-7; 2: Rysovo-1; 3:

881 Gornovo; 4: Gulyukovo; 5: Novo-Khozyatovo; 6: Karanayevo; 7: Zuyevy-Klyuchi; 8: Bolshie-Tigany; 9: Uyelgi;

882 10: Mullovka; 11: Tankeyevka; 12: Bustanaevo; 13: Devichiy-Gorodok-4; 14: Birska-2; 15: Boyarsky-Aray; 16:

883 Dubrovsky; 17: Turaevo-1; 18: Bartym; 19: Bayanovo; 20: Sukhoy-Log; 21: Brusyany; 22: Malaya-Ryazan'; 23:

884 Novinki-1; 24: Barsov-Gorodok; 25: Borovyanka-17; 26: Borovyanka-18; 27: Ivanov-Mys-1; 28: Panovo; 29:

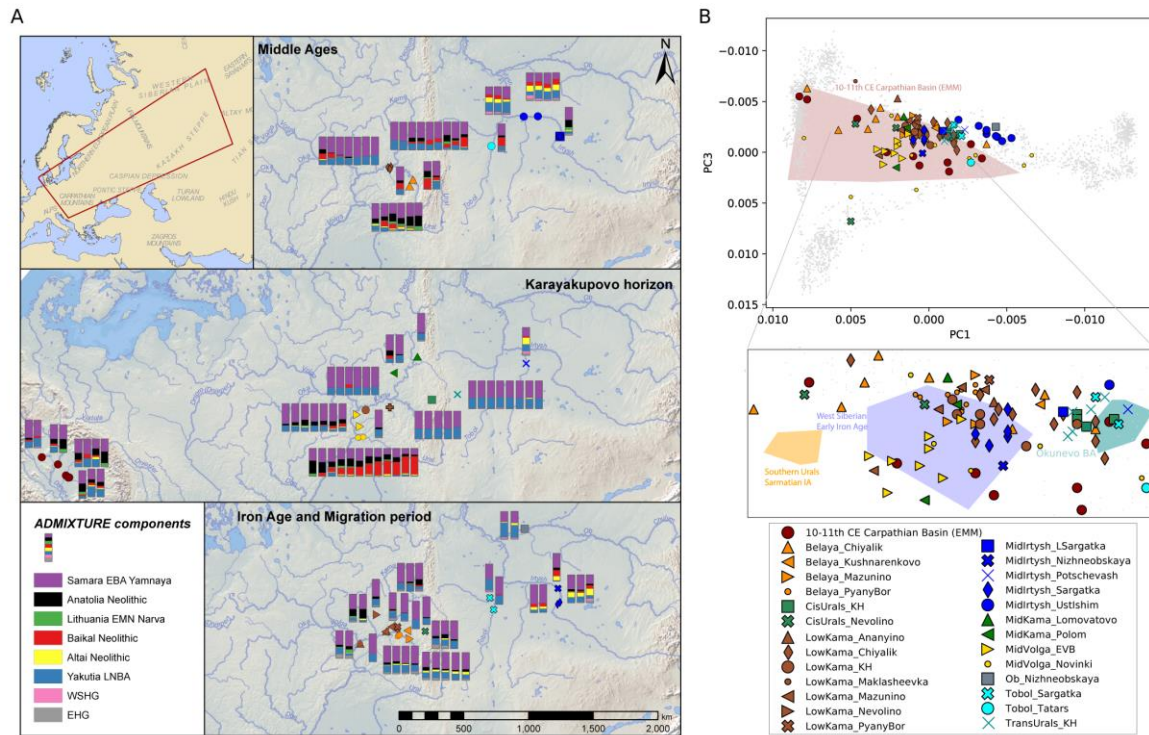
885 Ust-Tarsk; 30: Vikulovo; 31: Kipchakovo; 32: Starokirgizovo; 33: Tarasovo; 34: Bogdanovo-2; 35: Putilovo; 36:

886 Mellyatamak-3; 37: Varni; 38: Ipkul; 39: Starolybaevo-4; 40: Ust-Menzel'skoye; 41: Balatonújlak; 42: Szeged-

887 Öthalom; 43: Kiszombor; 44: Harta-Freifelt; 45: Makó-Igási dűlő Groups defined in this study are listed in panel

888 D and their chronology is given in C.

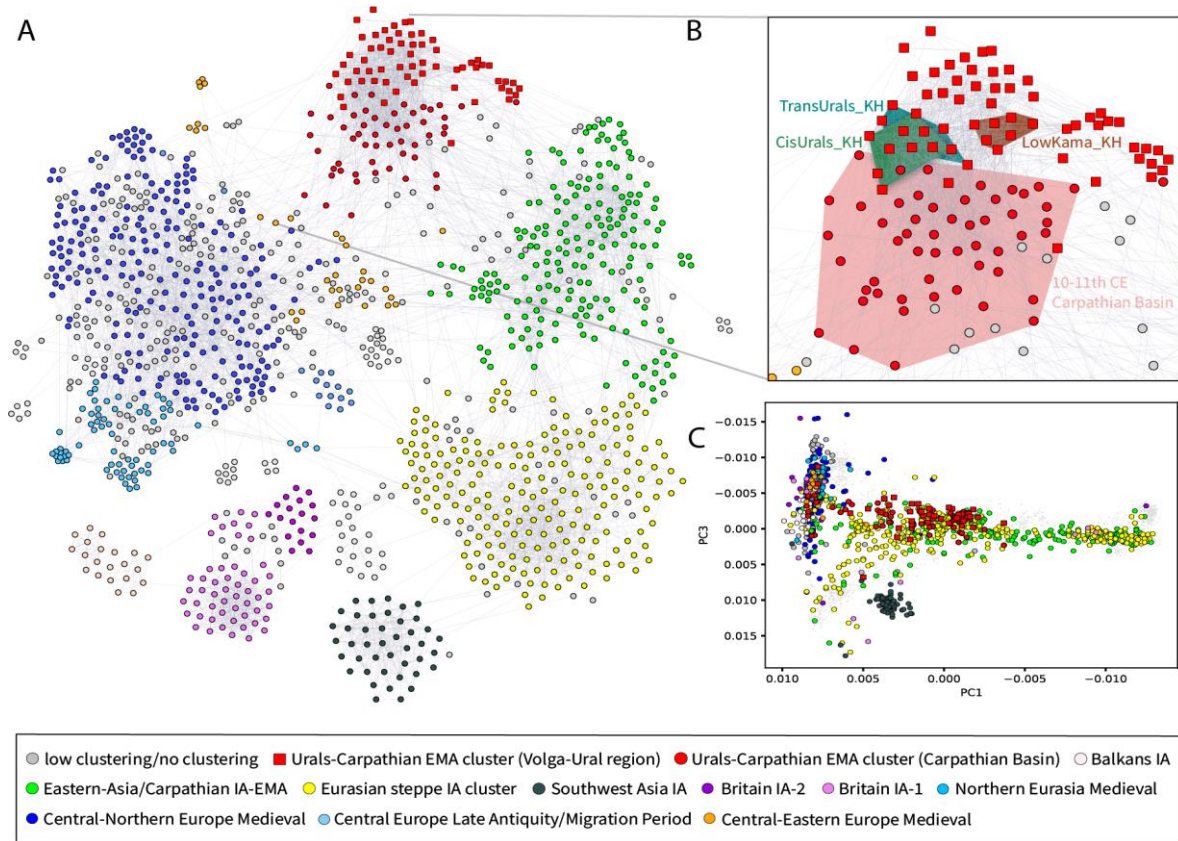
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Fig. 2. Principal component analysis and supervised *ADMIXTURE* analyses of the newly sequenced genomes. **A:** Supervised *ADMIXTURE* analysis ($K=8$) of the newly presented individuals, plotted on the map which shows their origin approximately. **B:** Eurasian-scale principal component analysis (PCA), with a projection of the newly sequenced individuals on modern genetic variation after Jeong et al. 2019(50). The PC1 and PC3 dimensions are depicted with the newly presented genomes and in polygonal representations with genomes from Early Medieval Magyars from the Carpathian Basin (*red*(65)), Early Iron Age Southern Urals (*yellow*(49)), Iron Age Western-Siberia (*blue*(56)), and Bronze Age South Central Siberian (*green*(38)).

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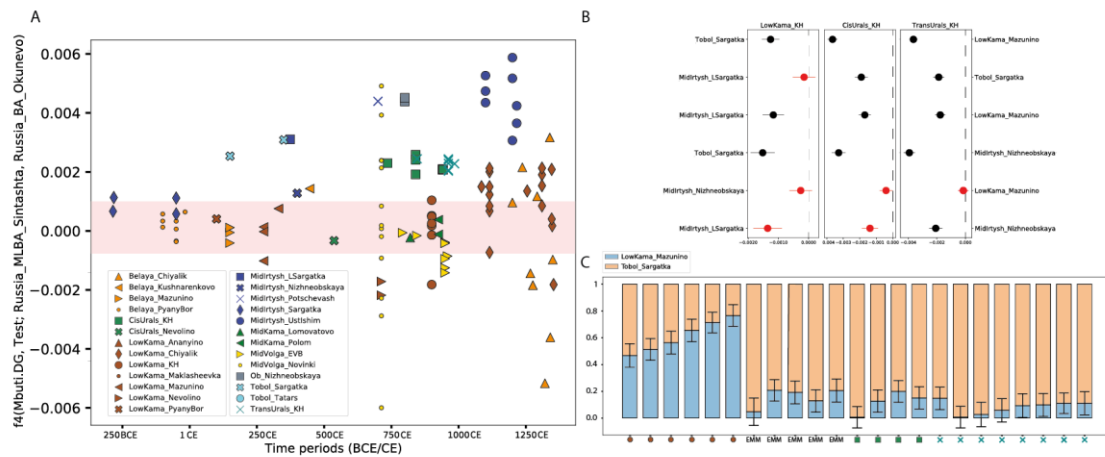
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Fig. 3. IBD network and visualization of the IBD clusters on PCA. **A:** A network graph of IBD sharing visualizing clusters of distant relatives for 1,333 ancient Eurasian individuals from the Iron Age to the Medieval Period (MultiGravity ForceAtlas 2, a force-directed layout algorithm(86) was used, and the Leiden algorithm(87) was used for clustering); **B:** Zoom in on the Urals-Carpathian EMA cluster within the network, highlighting the KH and 10-11th century Carpathian Basin individuals in the cluster; **C:** Individuals of the IBD-sharing network presented in PC1/PC3 spaces, projected on modern Eurasian individuals(50). The IBD clusters inferred with the Leiden algorithm are color-coded in all panels according to the legend in panel A.

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912 **Fig. 4. f_4 -statistics and admixture models illustrating allele-sharing and genetic affinities among newly**
913 **sequenced individuals and Bronze/Iron Age reference groups. A:** f_4 -statistics for the newly sequenced
914 individuals, excluding those from the Maklashevka and Ananyino cultural contexts. The Y-axis represents the
915 allele-sharing values with two Bronze Age reference groups (red band indicates $|Z\text{-score}| < 3$). The X-axis shows
916 the timeline. **B:** f_4 -statistics comparing allele sharing between KH groups and Migration Period Volga-Uralian
917 reference groups (Mbuti.DG, KH_test_group; MigrationPeriod_reference_group1,
918 MigrationPeriod_reference_group2). Markers indicate affinities with left and right reference groups. Red markers
919 denote $|Z\text{-score}| < 3$. **C:** A two-way admixture model ($qpAdm$) for the Karayakupovo Horizon and early medieval
920 Magyar individuals (with feasible $qpAdm$ models) from the 10-11th century Carpathian Basin (from Table 1) that
921 exhibited strong IBD sharing (>42 cM in IBD segments longer than 12 cM; see Table S1 for additional details).
922 For additional EMMs modeled with this two-way $qpAdm$ setup see Supplementary Dataset 6.
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<i>10-11th century Early Medieval Magyar in Carpathian Basin</i>	<i>Date1</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Y/mtDNA</i>	<i>Volga-Ural individual</i>	<i>Ind2</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Y/mtDNA</i>	<i>Date2</i>	<i>total length of shared IBD segments >2 x 12 cM</i>
SEO-4	900-1000 CE	male	G2a/T2g1a	Mid-Volga EVB	I25526	male	Q/B5b4	850-1050 CE	144
SZAK-1	900-1000 CE	male	N1a/T2d1b1	Trans-Urals KH	I19117	male	N1a/N1a	771-937 calCE	92
K2-61	900-950 CE	male	R1/U4d2	Cis-Urals KH	I25538	male	N1a/U5a1g1	664-1016 CE*	67
SZAK-7	900-1000 CE	female	-/D5a1	Trans-Urals KH	I19118	male	G2a/A+152	772-1152 CE*	42
SZAK-7	900-1000 CE	female	-/D5a1	Cis-Urals KH	I25538	male	N1a/U5a1g1	664-1016 CE*	63
SZAK-4	900-1000 CE	female	-/HV4a2a	Cis-Urals KH	I25537	male	N1a/H6a1b	664-1016 CE*	43
SZA-154	900-1000 CE	female	-/B5b4	Trans-Urals KH	I19120	male	N1a/A12a	772-1152 CE*	42
SZAK-6	900-1000 CE	female	-/A16	Low-Kama KH	I19105	female	-/A12a	850-950 CE	45
SZAK-1	900-1000 CE	male	N1a/T2d1b1	Trans-Urals KH	I19121	male	N1a/U5a1a1	879-1150 calCE	46
K3-6	900-1000 CE	female	-/B4d1	Cis-Urals KH	I25536	male	N1a/C4a2	664-827 calCE	46

925 **Table 1:** IBD connections between Medieval Volga-Uralic and Carpathian Basin individuals with ca.
 926 6th to 8th degrees of kinship. Radiocarbon dates (calibrated, 95% confidence interval) are highlighted
 927 in bold. In other cases, the dating is based on the archaeological chronology of material culture.
 928 *summed probability densities, based on samples dated by radiocarbon data from the same site.