

T G T T T G T A

Eight letters – all that is needed to tell the tale

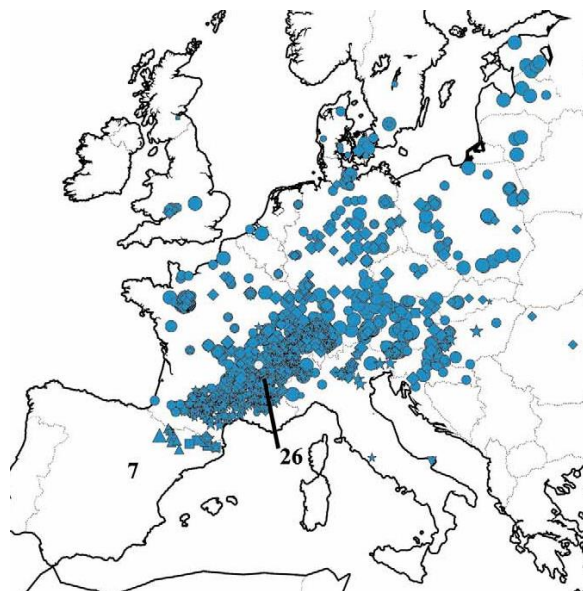
To prove the bed was not made from American white oak and therefore not a Victorian forgery, DNA tests were made.

As specialist in technology to counter illegal logging, DoubleHelix from Singapore, managed to extract DNA from the lion heads.

Short DNA reference markers that are found even in fragmented DNA was used as part of a unique extraction protocol developed by DoubleHelix to identify the species of oak in the samples.

Using a marker that is just 8 basepairs long, North American and Eurasian white oak can be differentiated. All samples from the Paradise bed had this marker 'CD5' present, showing that the oak used was not from North America as previously asserted.

Another marker 'QT3/4' was used in further testing to specify if the timber is from Europe or Asia. All samples clearly showed the pattern for European oak, proving conclusively that the origin of the oak used in the bed was harvested from Europe, most possibly from the continent instead of the British Isles.



Distribution of haplotype 7 across Europe suggests the wood most likely came from the continent.