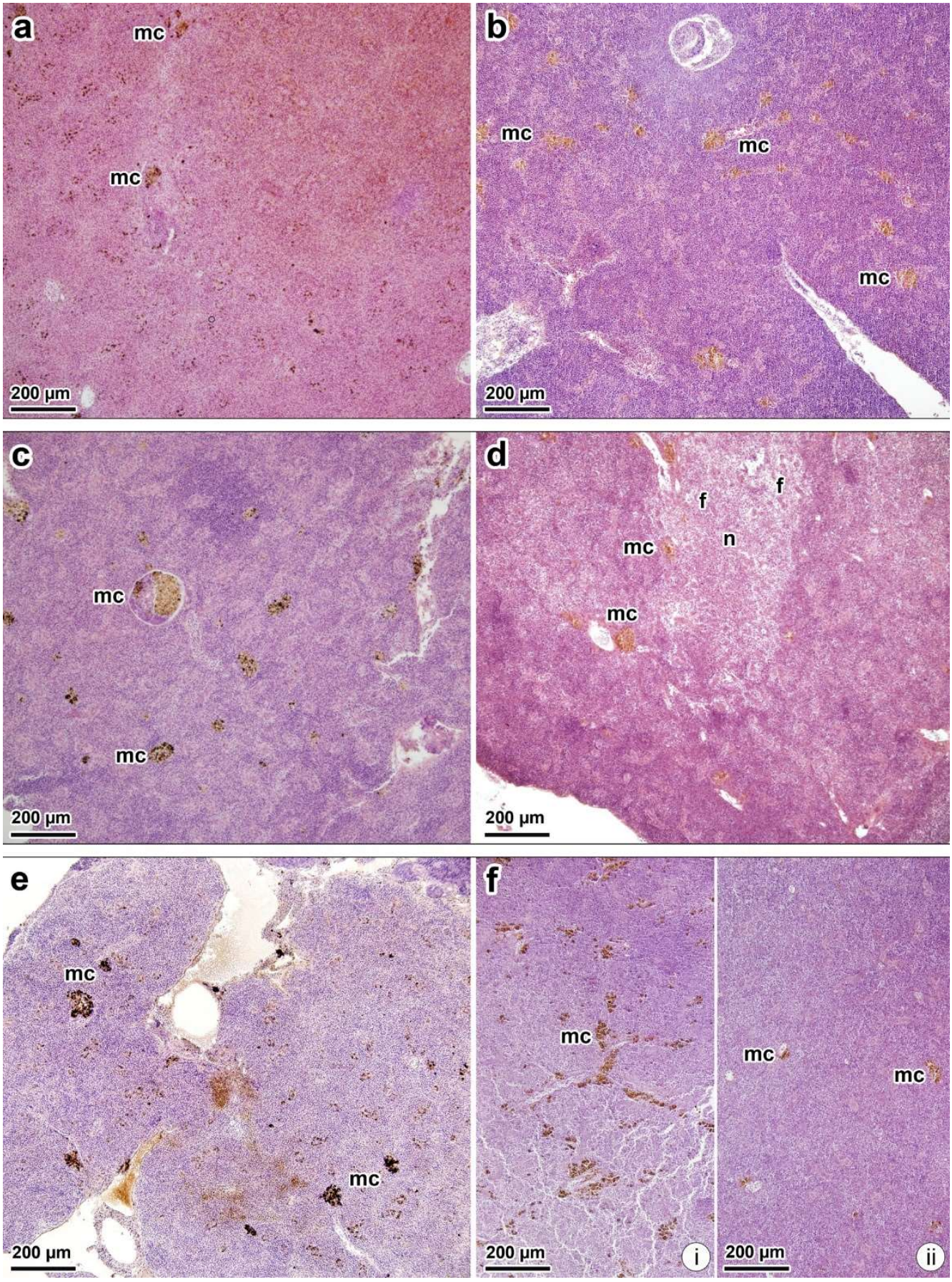


Fig. S1. Comparison of splenic melanomacrophage centres in experimental and wild control fish. (a-b) Pure *Cyprinus carpio* (a) General view of the splenic parenchyma of experimental fish with few MMCs containing the brown pigment, compared to (b) the spleen of wild common carp exhibiting the abundant and much larger light-pigmented MMCs. (c-d) Pure *Carassius gibelio* (c) General view of the splenic pachynema of experimental fish with numerous MMCs compared to (d) the spleen of wild gibel carp with less frequent MMCs containing lighter pigment. (e-f) F1 *C. gibelio* × *C. carpio* (e) General view of the splenic parenchyma of experimental fish with abundant MMCs varying in size and containing the dark brown pigment, compared to (f) the spleen of wild F1 hybrids showing significantly higher variability in the number and size of MMCs. While one individual showed frequent and variously sized MMCs with dark brown pigment (i), another had only a few medium-sized MMCs with lighter pigment (ii). (a-c): paraffine sections stained with haematoxylin-eosin, BF-LM. f – fibrosis; mc – melanomacrophage centres; n – necrosis.