**Information on proposed cover images (manuscript 2020-07-12188A)**

Illustration steppe mammoth:

The illustration represents a reconstruction of the steppe mammoths that preceded the woolly mammoth, based on the genetic knowledge we now have from the Adycha mammoth. Illustration: Beth Zaiken/Centre for Palaeogenetics

Mammoth\_tusk\_1:

A tusk from a woolly mammoth discovered in a creek bed on Wrangel Island in 2017 (photo by Love Dalén).

Mammoth\_tusk\_2:

Woolly mammoth tusk emerging from permafrost on central Wrangel Island, located in northeastern Siberia (photo by Love Dalén).

Mammoth\_trunk:

The trunk of the frozen juvenile mammoth named Yuka, discovered in 2014 in Yakutia, Siberia (photo by Love Dalén).

Study\_authors\_with\_tusk:

Love Dalén and co-lead author Patrícia Pečnerová with a mammoth tusk on Wrangel Island (photo by Gleb Danilov).

Mammoth\_field\_excavation\_movie:

A mammoth tusk being excavated by study authors Love Dalén and Patrícia Pečnerová, along with two Russian colleagues (movie by Patrícia Pečnerová).

Figure 2c from the paper:

The figure illustrates the evolutionary history of mammoths, based on the new knowledge gained in the study. The southern mammoth (*M. meridionalis*) seems to have diverged into two different lineages. One of these gave rise to the steppe mammoth (*M. trogontherii*) that subsequently evolved into the woolly mammoth (*M. primigenius*), whereas the second lineage is represented by the Krestovka mammoth. The Columbian mammoth (*M. columbi*) is the result of a hybdridisation between these two lineages some 420 thousand years ago. The mammoth samples that have been analyzed in the study are indicated as dark red dots. The two different time scales are calibrated using either paleontological age estimates for the specimens, or age estimated based on the molecular clock.