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# Molecular phylogenies of figs and their pollinator wasps

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**Abstract.** We collected and analysed nucleotide sequence and protein electrophoretic data in order to estimate phylogenies of figs and fig-pollinating wasps at several taxonomic scales. The relatively conserved chloroplast gene coding *rbCl* allowed the estimation of the taxonomic position of *Ficus* relative to other genera within the Moraceae. Further, in conjunction with chloroplast tRNA spacer genes, *rbcl* sequences allowed the partial resolution of the phylogenetic associations of fig species from different parts of the world with representatives from all the recognized subgenera of *Ficus*. The phylogeny of the corresponding wasp species that pollinate most of those taxa was estimated using mitochondrial COI–COII and 12S

ribosomal genes. At a fine scale, the phylogenies of species within two subgenera of figs growing in Panama (*Urostigma*, and *Pharmacosycea*) were estimated by using protein electrophoretic data. The phylogeny of the corresponding pollinator wasp species was estimated using COII sequence data. Although we need to extend the taxa sampled and augment the molecular database, the host and pollinator phylogenies show a high degree of congruence and the results support the predominance of strict-sense co-evolution between figs and their pollinator wasps at both global and fine scales.

**Key words.** Moraceae, *Ficus*, chloroplast DNA, co-evolution, mitochondrial DNA, mutualism.

## INTRODUCTION

Figs (*Ficus* spp., Moraceae) and the minute wasps that pollinate them (Agaoninae, Agaonidae, Chalcidoidea, Hymenoptera) (Bouček, 1988, 1993) collectively represent perhaps the most extremely co-specific pollination mutualism known (Corner, 1940; Ramirez, 1970a,b, 1974; Janzen, 1979; Wiebes, 1979; Berg, 1989a). The fig is completely dependent upon the wasp for the pollination of its flowers and, the resulting production of seeds and fruits. The wasp, for its part, is completely dependent upon the fig for the production of seeds which it uses as sites to complete its life cycle (Corner, 1940; Galil & Eisikowitch, 1968; Ramirez, 1969, 1970b; Herre, 1989, this issue; Bronstein, 1992; Compton, 1993). Furthermore, fig fruits constitute a large portion of the diet of a wide range of tropical vertebrate frugivores (e.g. many species of birds, monkeys and bats), and thus the population sizes of these animals also depend on the fig's pollination by the wasp (Janzen, 1979; Milton *et al.*, 1982; McKey, 1989; Windsor *et al.*, 1989; Kalko *et al.*, this issue).

Figs comprise one of the most diverse genera of flowering plants with over 700 described species currently divided among four recognized subgenera. These four subgenera

are further subdivided into sections and subsections, some of which show very interesting disjunctions in their geographical distributions (Corner, 1958, Berg, 1989a). The division into subgenera largely reflects the fact that some figs are monoecious while others are functionally dioecious (Corner, 1940, 1958, 1985; Wiebes, 1979; Berg, 1984, 1989a). In monoecious figs, individual fruit perform both female and male function, producing both viable seeds as well as pollen and the wasps that transport it to other trees (Janzen, 1979; Herre, 1989). In dioecious figs, individual trees produce fruits that are specialized to produce either viable seeds, or pollen plus wasps (Corner, 1940, 1958; Berg, 1984; Kjellberg *et al.*, 1987; Patel, Hossaert-McKey & McKey, 1993).

There are over twenty recognized genera of pollinator wasps (Wiebes, 1979, 1982). Generally, each fig species is thought to be pollinated by a fig-specific wasp species, and fig species belonging to any given subsection of the figs are pollinated by wasp species belonging to one or a few genera (Ramirez, 1970a, 1974; Wiebes, 1979; Berg, 1989a). Although different authors have slightly different ideas regarding the precise degree of congruence of wasp and fig phylogenies, the general correspondance of pollinators and hosts at higher taxonomic levels is widely accepted (Ramirez, 1974; Wiebes, 1979, 1982; Corner, 1985; Berg, 1989a). If generally true, this pattern would suggest evolutionary association by common descent and strict co-evolution of

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fig and wasp species. Indeed, many authors consider figs and fig wasps to represent one of the few good examples of strict-sense co-evolution between plants and animals (Ramirez, 1970a,b, 1974; Janzen, 1979; Mitter & Brooks, 1983; Brooks, 1988; but see Wiebes, 1979, 1982; Miller, 1987; Berg, 1989a; Schemske 1983).

There are, however, patterns of fig/wasp association which suggest that novel host fig species are sometimes colonized by wasp pollinators that subsequently displace the resident pollinator species. Thus, instead of strict co-evolution between all figs and their wasps, there is evidence for at least some level of evolutionary association through colonization. For example, given some existing phylogenetic reconstructions based on morphological characters, different subsections of Asian figs in the subgenus *Urostigma* do not show congruence with their wasp pollinators (Wiebes, 1979; Berg, 1989a). In this group, different fig species which are grouped together are nonetheless pollinated by species of wasps recognized to be in different genera. Similarly, different species of wasps that are recognized to be members of the same genus pollinate fig species placed in different *Urostigma* subsections. More generally, wasps that have been divided into two different subfamilies, the Agaoninae and the Blastophaginae, do not associate congruently with the fig subgenera, *Pharmacosycea* and *Urostigma* (Wiebes, 1979; Berg, 1989a).

In fact, events that might lead to such phylogenetic 'mismatches' have been observed. For example, there are cases in which two distinct wasp species are known to pollinate a single fig species (Ramirez 1970a,b, 1974; Wiebes, 1979, 1982; Berg, 1989a). Indeed, Compton (1990) reported that an isolated tree of *F. lutea* received wasps that were not even of the same genus as its "normal" pollinator. Further, M. Hossaert (pers. comm.) reports several cases in which the fruit of fig species that have been introduced into Florida have been colonized by the wrong species of fig wasp. These observations indicate that colonization events do happen. The unanswered questions are: under normal circumstances how frequently do wasps colonize novel hosts, and how important have these colonization events been in the historical association of figs and their pollinating wasps?

Existing phylogenies of both figs and fig wasps are based on morphological criteria (Ramirez, 1970a,b, 1974; Wiebes, 1979, 1982; Corner, 1985; Berg, 1989). However, many of the characters used to classify the figs and the wasps are also those that are intimately involved in the interactions between the two groups. For example, number of flowers, size of style, form of stigma, ostiolar characteristics and size of seed are all fig characters that are likely to influence or have been shown to influence the wasp's reproductive success in a profound manner (Janzen, 1979; Herre, 1989; Verkerke, 1989; Bronstein, 1992). By the same token the conformation of the wasp's head, the form of the mandibles, the presence or absence of corbiculae (structure where pollen is carried in some species) and the length of the ovipositor are all characters that appear to be influenced by the mechanics of the wasp's interaction with the fig (Janzen, 1979; Herre, 1989; Bronstein, 1992; Compton, 1993; van Noort, this issue; Kjellberg, this issue).

The fact that, overall, there is a good match of character

states across the fig and the wasp species is strongly suggestive, at the very least, of function. However, characters that are not affected by selection that is associated with the details of the interaction would provide a much more powerful and independent basis to establish the evolutionary relationships among the species. Certainly, the study of the evolutionary relationships of the characters that are themselves intimately involved in the fig and wasp interactions requires a phylogeny based on independent characters.

Nucleic acid sequences have been extensively and successfully used to estimate phylogenies from many organisms (Avice, 1986; Hillis, 1987; Miller, 1987; Moritz *et al.*, 1987; Kocher *et al.*, 1989; Golenberg *et al.*, 1990; Hafner & Nadler, 1990; Bermingham & Lessios, 1993; Page, 1993a,b), and almost certainly provide such useful characters for the case of the various fig and wasp species. Most molecular characters, particularly synonymous nucleic acid base substitutions, are independent of morphological characteristics. Other advantages of the use of molecular information include the possibility of rapidly obtaining phylogenetically informative characters, and of secure comparisons across homologous molecules. Although the metronomic quality of even taxon-specific molecular clocks is controversial (Bermingham & Lessios 1993), when evolutionary rate constancy can be demonstrated it permits even more precise examination of hypotheses of co-evolution and co-speciation (Page, 1993a,b).

The work presented here utilizes molecular data to reconstruct the phylogeny of species belonging to: (i) the major genera of Moraceae (including the figs), (ii) the different subgenera of the figs, (iii) some corresponding genera of pollinators and (iv) different species of neotropical figs and their respective pollinators. We used sequences from chloroplast DNA (*rbcl*, *tRNA* spacer) and protein electrophoretic data to infer relationships among the plant species. The relationships among the pollinating wasps were inferred using the cytochrome oxidase subunits I and II (*COI-COII*), and 12S rRNA coding regions of the mitochondrial genome.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Collections, plants

Material representing species from the major genera of Moraceae was obtained directly from the field or from botanical collections (see Table 1). The *Ficus* species were chosen in order to represent each of the recognized subgenera of figs, with particular attention given to sections in which there were reported to be apparent 'mismatches' with the pollinators (Wiebes, 1982; Berg, 1989; see Table 1). Material from the Panamanian fig species was collected on Barro Colorado Island (BCI).

Nucleotide sequences already published were utilized for the case of *Magnolia* (Golenberg *et al.*, 1990). The unpublished *rbcl* sequence from *Morus alba* was obtained directly from E. M. Golenberg (Wayne State University, U.S.A.). Fig material from different parts of the world was obtained with the cooperation of several researchers

TABLE 1. List of the species from which rbcL (all) and tRNA spacer (*Ficus*) sequences were collected. Sources and collection sites (when known) of non-Panamanian species are indicated. The classification scheme of *Ficus* subgenera and sections follows Berg (1989a).

Taxon	Source	Collection site
<b>Moraceae</b>		
<i>Artocarpus altisis</i>	Summit Garden, Panama	Asia
<i>Morus alba</i>	Golenberg, E.	
<i>Cecropia insignis</i>	Panama	
<i>Brosimum alicastrum</i>	Panama	
<i>Dorstenia contrajerva</i>	Panama	
<i>Dorstenia psilurus</i>	Utrecht Botanical Gardens	Africa
<i>Poulsenia armata</i>	Panama	
<b><i>Ficus</i></b>		
subgenus: <i>Ficus</i> , section: <i>Ficus</i>		
<i>F. carica</i>	Las Cascadas, Panama	Mediterranean
<i>F. deltoidea</i>	Utrecht Botanical Gardens	
<i>F. pumila</i>	Utrecht Botanical Gardens	
subgenus: <i>Ficus</i> , section: <i>Sycidium</i>		
<i>F. asperifolia</i>	Bergen Botanical Gardens	
subgenus: <i>Sycomor</i> , section: <i>Sycomor</i>		
<i>F. sycomorus</i>	USDA, Miami, Fl.	Africa
<i>F. racemosa</i>	Summit Garden	Australia
subgenus: <i>Urostigma</i> , section: <i>Americana</i>		
<i>F. trigonata</i>	Panama	
<i>F. pertusa</i>	Panama	
section: <i>Malvanthera</i>		
<i>F. macrophylla</i>	USDA, Miami, Fl.	Australia
section: <i>Galoglychia</i>		
<i>F. natalensis</i>	USDA, Miami, Fl.	South Africa
subgenus: <i>Pharmacosycea</i> , section <i>Pharmacosycea</i>		
<i>F. yoponensis</i>	Panama	Panama
<i>F. maxima</i>	Panama	
<i>F. insipida</i>	Panama	
Pharmacosycea, section: <i>Oreosycea</i> (Old World)		
<i>F. callosa</i>	USDA, Miami, Fl.	
<i>F. dicranostyla</i>	Bergen Botanical Garden, Norway	

(C. C. Berg, S. G. Compton, D. McKey) (see Table 1). Material from the Panamanian fig species was collected in Barro Colorado Island (BCI).

### Collections, wasps

Whenever possible, wasps were collected from the same individual fig trees ultimately used in our analyses of fig phylogenies. Many of the Old World specimens were obtained from ethanol preserved collections (J. Cook, L. Chou, S. G. Compton, F. Kjellberg, J. T. Wiebes). Panamanian wasps were collected in the vicinity of the Panama Canal from the same fig species that naturally occur there. Pollinator wasps were obtained from single foundress broods and single fruits in order to maximize the

probability of obtaining single mitochondrial lineages (see Machado *et al.*, this issue for a more detailed information). In the case of all Panamanian species, wasps were collected from at least two separate fruit or trees of the same species in order to provide a within-species cross check. Further, care was taken to select fruit in which there were no nematode or mite infections, in order to reduce the possibility of contamination of the DNA samples (see Poinar & Herre, 1991; Herre, 1993). Many of the Panamanian wasp species we included in this study are in the process of being described (Wiebes, 1995) and we will refer to them on the basis of its host fig.

We have included the following species of pollinators (subfamily Agaoninae, *sensu* Bouček, 1988, 1993) from six different genera: *Elisabethiella baijnatii* (ex. *F. burtt-davyii*), *E. stuckenbergi* (ex. *F. thoningii*), *Ceratosolen capensis* (ex. *F. sur*), *Blastophaga psenes* (ex. *F. carica*), *Pleistodontes froggattii* (ex. *F. macrophylla*), *Pegoscapus silvestrii* (ex. *F. pertusa*), *P. hoffmeyerii* (ex. *F. obtusifolia*), *P. gemellus* (ex. *F. popenoei*), *P. sp.* (ex. *F. trigonata*), *P. sp. lopesi* (ex. *F. near trigonata*), *Tetrapus ecuadoranus* (ex. *F. yoponensis*), *T. americanus* (ex. *F. maxima*) and *T. costaricanus* (ex. *F. insipida*).

### DNA extractions

Plant genomic DNA was extracted either from fresh or dried leaves using protocols described by Doyle & Doyle (1990). One complete leaf was used on each case. Fig wasp DNA was extracted from ethanol preserved specimens or from newborn individuals. Three to ten individual wasps were ground in 100 µl of 2 × CTAB extraction buffer. The ground insects were then diluted to 400 µl using 2 × CTAB to which 20 µl of proteinase K solution (20 mg/ml) was added. The reaction mix was incubated overnight at 55°C with constant agitation. The homogenate was extracted once with equal volumes of equilibrated phenol (pH 8.0), phenol-chloroform-isoamyl alcohol (25:24:1), and chloroform-isoamyl alcohol (24:1). The supernatant was removed and the DNA precipitated with two volumes of isopropyl alcohol. After 12 hours at minus 20°C, the solution was centrifuged at 14,000 r.p.m. for 30 min. The resulting pellet was washed once with 500 µl of 70% ethanol, centrifuged at 14,000 r.p.m. for 15 minutes and dried under vacuum. The dried DNA pellet was resuspended in 100 µl of TE buffer and stored at minus 20°C.

### DNA protocols, plants

Relationships among genera within the Moraceae were determined using a segment (approx. 800 bp) of the rbcL gene encoding the large subunit of ribulose-1,5-biphosphate carboxylase. For determining the relationships among the species representing the different subgenera of figs, the rbcL sequences were augmented with non-coding sequences from two regions of the chloroplast genome (Taberlet *et al.*, 1991): (i) the tRNA leucine (UAA) intron (approx. 600 bp) and (ii) the intergenic spacer between the tRNA leucine (UAA) 3' exon and tRNA phenylalanine (GAA) (approx. 400 bp). The sequences were amplified using the polymerase chain

reaction (Saiki *et al.*, 1988). Thirty-five cycles of amplification were performed with a temperature profile of 1 min at 94°C, 1 min at 37–45°C, and 2 min at 72°C. We used combinations of the following primers that were provided by G. Zurawski (DNAX Research Institute, Palo Alto, California):

Z-234

(5'CGTTACAAAGGACGATGCTACCACATCGA),

Z-674

(5'TTTATAAATCACAAGCCGAAACTGGTGAAATC),

Z-895

(5'GCAGTTATTGATAGACAGAAAAATCATGGT),

Z-895R

(5'ACCATGATTCTTCTGCCTATCAATAACTGC),

Z-1020R

(5'ATCATCGCGCAATAAATCAACAAAACCTAAAGT),

Z-1204R

(6'CCCTAAGGGTGTCTCTAAAGTTTCTCCACC).

Primers with an 'R' after the name indicate the antisense strand. Region (i) of the non-coding region was amplified using primers: c (5'CGAAATCGGTAGACGCTACG) and d (5'GGGATAGAGGGACTTGAAC). Region (ii) was amplified using primers: e (5'GGTTCAAGTCCCTCTATCCC) and f (5'ATTTGAACTGGTGACACGAG) (Taberlet *et al.*, 1991). Amplification conditions were similar to those mentioned above, but the annealing temperatures were raised to 55°C.

#### DNA protocols, wasps

For inferring relationships among species representing the six genera of pollinating wasps considered in this study we collected sequences from the III domain of the small ribosomal mitochondrial subunit (12S rRNA) (Simon *et al.*, 1989), known to evolve at relatively slow rates and hence useful for determining relationships at higher taxonomic levels. For studying relationships at the intrageneric level (e.g. within the Panamanian *Pegoscapus* and *Tetrapus*), we used sequences from the region spanning the last 250 bp of the cytochrome oxidase subunit I gene and the first 300 bp of the cytochrome oxidase subunit II gene (Beckenbach, Wei & Liu, 1993).

We amplified 350 bp of the 12S region using the primers 12Sa (5'TAGGATTAGATACCCTATTA) (Simon *et al.*, 1989) and 12Sb2 (5'AAGAGCGACGGGCGAT) (modified after Simon *et al.*, 1989). The COI–COII region was amplified using primers S2792 (5'ATACCTCGACGTTA-TTCAGA) and A3389 (5'TCATAAGTTCATTATCATTG) provided by R. Harrison (Cornell University). The PCR amplifications were initiated with a denaturing step of 3 min at 94°C followed by 30–35 cycles with a 94°C step for 45 seconds, and annealing step at 42–50°C for 1 min, and an extension step at 72°C for 2 minutes. Reamplification and sequencing protocols are described in more detail in Machado *et al.* (this issue).

#### Protein electrophoresis

Fourteen loci were assayed in order to determine the relationships among the seven Panamanian species of figs

considered in this part of the study (three from subgenus *Pharmacosycea* (section *Pharmacosycea*) and four from subgenus *Urostigma* (section *Americana*)). Detailed protocols are described in Nason *et al.* (this issue).

#### Phylogenetic analyses, nucleotide sequences

Where possible, sequences were read from both strands. This was not possible in the chloroplast spacer region in which sequencing was only successful in one direction (primers c and e). However, for the remainder of the sequences there was generally 50–90% of overlap. For inferring the relationships inside *Moraceae*, *rbcL* sequences were analysed. Previously published nucleotide sequences of *Magnolia macrophylla* (Golenberg *et al.*, 1990) were used as outgroup. Both fossil and morphological evidence supports this assumption. The *rbcL* sequence from *Morus alba* was obtained directly from E. Golenberg (Wayne State University). Given that the initial analysis of the *Moraceae* species put figs from the section *Pharmacosycea* outside from the rest of the other figs (this topology was also confirmed using *Poulsenia armata* as outgroup), we used sequences from *F. maxima* as outgroup for resolving the relationships inside the rest of the genus *Ficus*. For this, we combined *rbCl* and chloroplast *tRNA* spacer data.

For the phylogenetic analysis of the sequences of pollinating wasps, 12S and COI–COII sequences from non-pollinating (parasitic) wasps *Idarnes* (from *F. obtusifolia*) and *Critogaster* (from *F. glabrata*) were used as outgroups (see Machado *et al.*, this issue). Molecular and morphological analyses support this assumption (Machado *et al.*, this issue; Boucek, 1988, 1993). It was not possible to obtain complete sequences of the entire COI–COII region for all species included in this study. For that reason we only analysed the amino acid sequences coded for by the first 276 bp of the COII gene in addition to the 12S sequences to estimate the relationships among the different genera.

Initial alignments of the COI–COII sequences were performed by eye and the program MacVector (International Biotechnologies, Inc Version 4.1). 12S sequences of the pollinator wasps were aligned using CLUSTAL V (Higgins & Sharp, 1988). Final alignments were adjusted by eye. A maximum parsimony analysis of the aligned sequences was undertaken using the program PAUP (Version 3.1; Swofford, 1991). Only phylogenetically informative sites were considered in the analysis. 12S sequences were analysed considering gaps as missing data. The most parsimonious trees were determined using the exhaustive search option in PAUP when the total number of taxa was less than ten. The branch and bound algorithm was used when the number of taxa was greater than ten. The consistency index (CI) was calculated for each tree (Kluge & Ferris, 1969). The shortest tree was analysed using the program MacClade (Version 3.0; Maddison & Maddison, 1992) to examine unambiguous and transversal changes supporting each node. The reliability of each node was determined using bootstrap resampling procedures (Felsenstein, 1985). For the intergeneric comparisons, we obtained a strict consensus tree of the

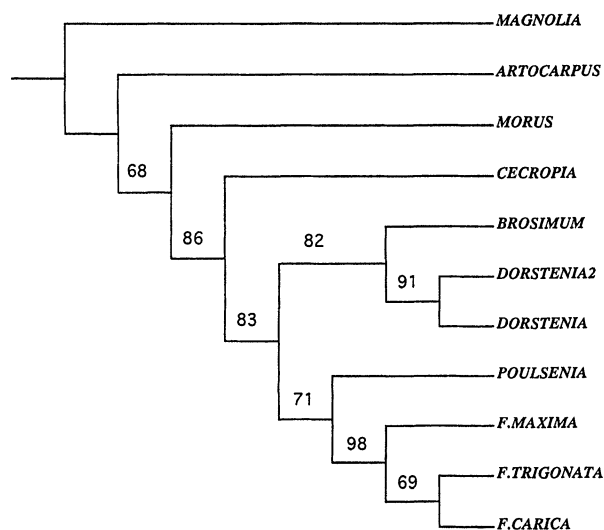


FIG. 1. The most parsimonious tree for the *rbcL* sequences from species of Moraceae generated by the Branch and Bound algorithm of PAUP. Seventy-six steps; CI=0.632. Numbers above the branches are bootstrap values from 500 replications.

most parsimonious COII and 12S trees using the program COMPONENT (Version 2.0; Page, 1993a,b).

### Isozyme data

Phylogenies were inferred for seven Panamanian *Ficus* species, three in the subgenus Pharmacosycea (freestanding figs) and four in the subgenus Urostigma, (hemiepiphytic or strangling figs) which occur on BCI (see Table 1). These species maintain substantial variation in gene frequency in a number of isozyme loci (see Nason *et al.*, this issue). This variation was assayed to obtain estimates of Nei's D (Nei, 1987) which were used in conjunction with the unweighted pair-group method with arithmetic mean (UPGMA) to infer evolutionary relationships within each subgenera. Estimates of Nei's D value and UPGMA analysis were carried out with the program BIOSYS-1 (Swofford & Selander, 1981).

## RESULTS

### The placement of *Ficus* within Moraceae

The results of the cladistic analyses for the *rbcL* data are shown in Fig. 1. Using *Magnolia magnophylla* as an outgroup, *Artocarpus* appears to be an outgroup to all of the rest of the Moraceae that were considered in this study. Interestingly, the results strongly support the placement of *Cecropia* within a monophyletic Moraceae. This result is not consistent with the family status given to the Cecropiaceae (Berg, 1978, 1989b; but see Humphries & Blackmore, 1989). These analyses also support *Poulsenia* as being the taxon most closely related to the figs (see Humphries & Blackmore, 1989; Berg, 1989b) (Fig. 1).

### The organization of fig subgenera and their associated genera of pollinators

#### Figs.

The *rbcL* region sequenced showed very few variable loci (fourteen) among the *Ficus* taxa that were surveyed. This lack of variability restricted our ability to clearly resolve many of the phylogenetic relationships within *Ficus*. Nonetheless, based on the analyses mentioned above, as well as analyses of the two non-coding chloroplast spacer regions, the New World Pharmacosycea (represented in this study by *F. maxima*, *F. yoponensis* and *F. insipida*) appear to be a clear outgroup to all of the rest of the figs (Table 1, Figs 1 and 2). Interestingly, based on several sets of morphological characters, the New World Pharmacosycea are considered to be the most primitive group of figs (Corner, 1985; Berg, 1989a). Further, previous phylogenetic reconstructions have united the Old World Oreosycea (represented by both *Ficus callosa* and *F. dicranostyla* (Table 1)) with the New World Pharmacosycea, as two sections within the subgenus Pharmacosycea (Corner, 1958, 1985; Berg, 1989a). Instead, these analyses suggest that the Oreosycea are much more closely related to the subgenus Urostigma (Table 1, Fig. 2).

The analyses also suggest that species of the subgenus Urostigma (including the species from the New World section, Americana) are not particularly closely related to the New World Pharmacosycea, as had been thought (Ramirez, 1974; Wiebes, 1982; Corner, 1985; Berg, 1989a). Instead, they are more closely related to the subgenera *Ficus* (represented by *F. carica*, *F. pumila* and *F. deltoidea*) and *Sycomorus* (represented in this study by *F. sycomorus* and *F. racemosa*) (Table 1, Fig. 2). Interestingly, unlike the pantropical Urostigma, the subgenus *Ficus* and the subgenus *Sycomorus* are both found only in the Old World (Berg, 1989a). Further, all members of Urostigma are monoecious, whereas all members of the subgenus *Ficus* and several members of the subgenus *Sycomorus* are dioecious (Wiebes, 1979; Berg, 1984, 1989a). Therefore, the simple monoecious/dioecious split that has been at the base of most classifications of figs does not seem to be supported. Incomplete sequence data from *F. asperifolia* (subgenus *Ficus*, section *Sycidium*) places it closest to the *Sycomorus* group (see Berg, 1984, 1989a).

#### Pollinators.

Using non-pollinator (parasitic) fig wasps (e.g. *Idarnes*, *Critogaster*) as an outgroup (see Bouček, 1988, 1993; Machado, *et al.*, this issue), analyses of 12S sequence data indicate that the pollinators form a clear monophyletic group. Using both COII and 12S nucleotide data to analyse relationships within the pollinators, the species from the genera of wasps *Pegoscapus*, *Elisabethiella*, *Pleistodontes* (all pollinators of host figs from the subgenus Urostigma) form a clear monophyletic group (Table 1, Fig. 2). Interestingly, these three genera had been assigned to different subfamilies owing to their very different morphologies (Wiebes, 1982). Moreover, members of the genus, *Pegoscapus*, are restricted to the New World, whereas the other two genera are only found in the Old World,

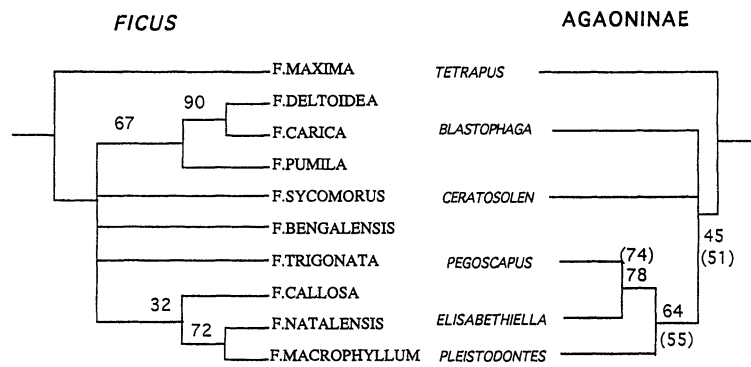


FIG. 2. Molecular phylogenies of *Ficus* and the Agaoninae. Names of fig hosts correspond to the names of their respective genera of pollinator. The *Ficus* phylogeny was reconstructed using *rbcL* and tRNA spacer sequences. Consensus of ten most parsimonious trees of fourteen steps, CI=0.632. Numbers on branches are bootstrap values from 500 replications. The phylogeny of the pollinating wasps is the strict consensus of the most parsimonious trees obtained from the analysis of the COII amino acid sequence (92 amino acids) and the 12S region (185 bp). COII: 111 steps, CI=0.775. 12S: 108 steps, CI=0.657. Bootstrap values for 12S and for COII (in parentheses) are shown for the best supported branches.

mirroring the distributions of their figs (Wiebes, 1982; Berg, 1989a). Unfortunately, we were not able to obtain sequence data from the samples of *Dolichoris* wasps, pollinators of the Oreosycea, for which *rbcL* data suggests are allied with the Urostigma (see above).

Despite an abundance of variable loci in the COII and 12S regions, the relationships among wasps of the remaining genera, *Tetrapus* (pollinators of the New World Pharmacosycea), *Ceratosolen* (pollinators of the subgenus *Sycomorus*) and *Blastophaga* (pollinators of the *Ficus* section of the subgenus *Ficus*), were less clear. Bootstrap values supporting the *Tetrapus* species as an outgroup to the rest (the pattern found in their host figs) are low for both genomic regions (45 and 51 for 12S and COII, respectively). However, a structural difference in the mitochondrial genome unites *Tetrapus* with the non-pollinators (e.g. *Idarnes*) and separates them both from the other pollinator wasps. Specifically, all species of pollinator wasps except for *Tetrapus* possess an A–T rich intergenic sequence of variable length between the COI and Leucine t-RNA (UUR) genes. *Tetrapus*, along with the parasitic fig wasps, lack this insertion. This is a significant observation given that the mitochondrial genomes of the majority of metazoans studied lack such non-coding sequences (Crozier & Crozier, 1993). These observations lead us to hypothesize that *Tetrapus* is the sister taxon to all other pollinating wasps. Indeed, if the phylogenetic position of *Tetrapus* suggested by the lack of this insertion is supported, the basal sister group relationships of figs and wasps would be congruent (Fig. 2).

#### Relationships of pollinators and host figs at a fine scale

Seven species of Panamanian figs (four belonging to *Urostigma* and three belonging to *Pharmacosycea*) were collected along with their pollinators. In addition to the *rbcL*, chloroplast tRNA spacer regions and protein data, ITS (internal transcribed spacer) sequences were obtained for all four *Urostigma* but only one species of the

*Pharmacosycea* (not shown). The split between the three fig species belonging to the *Pharmacosycea* and the four belonging to the *Urostigma* was supported by all datasets. The phylogenetic relationship of the seven species of Panamanian figs was estimated using protein electrophoretic patterns (Fig. 3). ITS was available for the whole group of *Urostigma*, where it gave consistent, although weak (few informative bases) support to the relationships suggested by the protein data. The phylogeny of the Panamanian pollinator wasps was estimated using the data from the COI–COII region (Fig. 3) and was found to be congruent with the phylogeny of the host figs estimated by using the protein data (Fig. 3). Here, wasps sampled from two or more fruit (usually from different individual trees) from the same host fig species showed identical sequences.

#### DISCUSSION

Despite the fact that *rbcL* is very conserved, the level of resolution reached with this molecular data was sufficient to determine the relationships among the genera comprising the Moraceae. The results of the cladistic analyses strongly suggest that the Moraceae (including *Morus*, *Ficus*, and *Cecropia*) constitute a monophyletic group (Fig. 1). This view is not consistent with some morphology-based cladograms of the Moraceae (Berg, 1978, 1989b). The molecular results presented here suggest that some of the morphological characters that have previously been used to propose relationships within the Moraceae could be homoplastic. Interestingly, the analyses identify *Artocarpus*, which has a fossil record tracing back to Cretaceous strata from Greenland, as an outgroup to the rest of the genera (see Berg, 1989b; Collinson, 1989; Humphries & Blackmore, 1989).

Additionally, the pattern of relationships among the figs that is suggested by the *rbcL* and spacer data is different from previous morphology-based phylogenies (Ramirez, 1970a,b, 1974; Corner, 1985; Berg, 1989a). For example, the Old World *Oreosycea* does not appear to be a sister group of *Pharmacosycea* as has been proposed. If the pattern

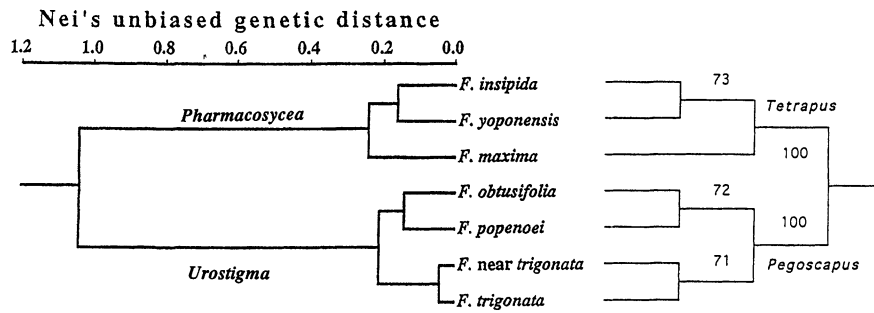


FIG. 3. Comparison of the phylogenies of seven species of Panamanian figs and their pollinator wasps. The phylogeny of the figs is a UPGMA tree based on estimates of Nei's genetic distance (D) between seven species representing the *Pharmacosycea* (freestanding figs) and *Urostigma* (strangling figs) subgenera. The cophenetic correlation for this tree is  $r=0.93$ . The phylogeny of the wasps is the most parsimonious tree that results from the analysis of 492 nucleotides from the COI-COII mitochondrial region. The tree has 313 steps, and  $CI=0.684$ . The tree was rooted using the sequences from one *Idarnes* and *Critogaster* wasps. Bootstrap values from 500 replications are shown over each branch.

suggested by the molecular information is correct, then it appears that the morphological characters that have been considered to unite the *Oreosyceae* and the *Pharmacosyceae* are likely to present a case of convergence. Indeed, at least some *Oreosyceae* species show morphological similarities to some *Urostigma* species (Berg, 1989a).

Further, there is no simple monoecious-dioecious split among the taxa (Ramirez, 1974; Corner, 1985; Berg, 1989a). The monoecious New World *Pharmacosyceae* appear to be very distinct genetically from all the other groups of figs, which include both monoecious (e.g. all *Urostigma*, all *Oreosyceae* and some *Sycomorus*) and dioecious (all *Ficus* and some *Sycomorus*) species. Partial *rbcL* sequence data place the dioecious *F. asperifolia* (section *Sycidium*, subgenus *Ficus*, *sensu* Berg, 1989a) with the subgenus *Sycomorus*. Interestingly, the same genus of pollinator wasp (*Ceratosolen*) is associated with at least some host fig species assigned to both groups. Overall, these analyses suggest that either dioecy has evolved twice (in the subgenus *Ficus*, as well as in the subgenus *Sycomorus* plus *Sycidium*) or been lost once (in the *Sycomorus* group) (see Berg, 1984, 1989a; Corner, 1985). Nevertheless, there were very few variable loci in the *rbcL* and chloroplast spacer regions. Beyond the clear separation of the monoecious New World *Pharmacosyceae* from all other groups of figs, and these data need to be augmented in order to clearly resolve the patterns of evolution of monoecy and dioecy among the rest (*Ficus*, *Sycomorus*, *Sycidium*, *Urostigma* and *Oreosyceae*).

These results also give some insights concerning the historical biogeography of the group. It is generally thought that many components of the tropical floras of South America and Africa share a common Gondwanaland origin and that the members of shared families have been separated since the Cretaceous (Coetsee, 1990; Gentry, 1990; Romero, 1990; but see Maisey, 1990). Nevertheless, the results here shown combined with observations of the fossil record of figs (Collinson, 1989) suggest that instead of a simple Cretaceous separation scenario, figs 'colonized' the New World twice. The analyses of the molecular data suggest an ancient separation in the lineages leading to the New World *Pharmacosyceae* and the rest of the figs, followed by a 'reinvansion' (or, perhaps, 'colonization') of the New World

by what became *Urostigma* (*Americana*). Interestingly, the *Americana* group has apparently undergone a tremendous amount of radiation and speciation (*ca.* 120 species) relative to the New World *Pharmacosyceae* (*ca.* twenty species). This is reflected in the much greater diversity in growth form and fruit shape, colour and size found in the *Urostigma Americana* (Herre, 1989, this issue; Berg, 1989a, pers. comm.).

As is the case with the figs, portions of the phylogenetic relationships among the wasp genera suggested by the molecular data are also not well resolved. Unlike the case with the *rbcL* and spacer regions from the fig chloroplast in which there are few variable loci, the sequences from the 12S and COII regions of the wasp mitochondria show an abundance of variable loci. Nonetheless, analyses of these regions do not clearly resolve the relationships among *Tetrapus* (pollinators of New World *Pharmacosyceae*), *Ceratosolen* (pollinators of *Sycomorus*) and *Blastophaga* (pollinators of *Ficus*). It is a structural change in the mitochondrial genome that suggests that *Tetrapus* is an outgroup to the others. Nonetheless, there is sufficient resolution to point out clear disagreements with previous phylogenetic reconstructions of the pollinators' wasp taxa. For example, in some phylogenetic reconstructions that were based on morphological similarities, *Tetrapus*, *Pleistodontes* and *Elisabethiella* have been joined, while *Pegoscapus* was placed in a separate subfamily (Wiebes, 1982). This view is not consistent with the pattern suggested by the molecular data. One possibility is that many of the morphological characters used in previous attempts at phylogenetic reconstruction of the wasps may be relatively evolutionarily flexible. In line with this possibility, van Noort (this issue) has shown that even very distantly related pollinator and parasite taxa may converge on very similar head morphologies.

Despite the problems of resolution in both the genera of wasps and subgenera of the figs, at a coarse (high) taxonomic level, the phylogenetic match of the fig and wasp groups suggests that strict sense co-evolution predominates (see Fig. 2). The *rbcL* data place the New World *Pharmacosyceae* clearly outside the rest of the figs, while *Tetrapus* (their pollinators) are placed outside the rest of the pollinators by



a rearrangement of the mitochondrial genome. The *rbcL* and chloroplast spacer data further join the different species within the subgenus and section *Ficus* and suggest the joining of most of the sections of the subgenus, *Urostigma*. Similarly, the 12S and COII data clearly join the corresponding pollinators of the *Urostigma* (*Pegoscapus*, *Elisabethiella* and *Pleistodontes*).

Unlike the other wasp genera in which active pollination behaviour has been reported, *Blastophaga* and *Tetrapus* both pollinate passively (Frank, 1984; Berg, 1989a; Kjellberg, this issue). It is tempting to speculate that the passive pollination behaviour that the wasps from these genera exhibit represents a primitive condition uniting a natural group from which the other wasp genera are derived. Such a relationship, combined with the hypothesis of strict-sense co-evolution, would predict that the members of the subgenus *Ficus* are most closely related to the New World *Pharmacosycea*. Ongoing studies are attempting to clarify the relationships of the subgenus *Ficus* with respect to the other groups of figs (e.g. *Sycomorus*). Similar work is ongoing with respect to the placement of their associated genera of pollinators (*Blastophaga*, *Kradibia*, *Ceratosolen*, etc.). However, if the separation of most of the lineages leading to presently recognized genera and subgenera of the wasps and the figs occurred roughly simultaneously, or over a relatively short period of time, phylogenetic structure at these levels would be very difficult to detect. Indeed, in the case of both the figs and the wasps, most variation appears in the branches of the phylogenetic reconstructions, consistent with a rapid separation of lineages followed by extended periods of isolation.

Nonetheless, the general pattern of co-evolution suggested at the level of subgenera, genera and sections also appears to hold at a fine level, among closely related species of host figs and pollinators within their respective genera (Fig. 3). Further, with few exceptions, this co-evolutionary pattern seems to predominate across at least four sets of ecologically associated taxa: host figs, pollinator wasps, parasitic wasps and wasp-parasitizing nematodes (Poinar & Herre, 1991; Herre, 1993; Machado *et al.*, this issue, Machado *et al.*, in prep., Herre *et al.*, in prep.). The mechanism underlying this pattern is almost certainly based on chemical attractants released by the fig. Indeed, it appears that both pollinator and parasitic wasps are attracted by the same chemicals (van Noort, Ware & Compton, 1989; Ware *et al.*, 1993; Hossaert-McKey, Gibernau & Frey, 1994).

All these findings raise the question of mechanisms of speciation in figs and their associated taxa. Figs are an ancient, speciose group, with high levels of electrophoretically detectable genetic variability (Berg, 1989a; Collinson, 1989; Nason *et al.*, this issue). Interestingly, despite relatively low adult densities, the number of individuals that constitutes a breeding population and the area that breeding populations of figs occupy is the largest for any species of plant known (see Nason *et al.*, this issue). Both direct and indirect evidence indicates that the minute wasps are very effective long-distance pollinators (Compton, 1990, 1993; Nason *et al.*, this issue). Effective long-distance gene flow would thus appear to make speciation more difficult. However, as mentioned above,

colonization events are known (e.g. Compton, 1990), and it is at least possible that they could lead to speciation in both the figs and the wasps involved.

In all cases, wasps that were sampled from two or more fruits (or from fruits collected from two or more individual trees) from a single host fig species showed identical, or nearly identical, sequences. This finding supports the proposition of pollinator specificity to host fig species. However, in order to estimate the nature frequency of 'mistakes', deeper within-species sampling is needed, preferably across several species. Ideally, wasps should be sampled from large numbers of fruit of a given tree, from several different trees in a population, and from trees representing a large number of distinct populations across the geographical range of the fig species (see Nason *et al.*, this issue, for estimates of the area occupied by a population). In conjunction with phylogenetic reconstructions, determining 'mistake rate' is essential for understanding the factors that influence speciation and radiation of both the figs and the pollinators, as well as all of the other associated taxa.

Colonization events (in evolutionary time) of novel host figs by different pollinator species could lead to the birth of new fig lineages which would, in the long or short term, attract (or breed) their own specific wasp pollinator. Importantly, when a colonization event occurs, then the resulting hybrid should inherit chloroplast DNA solely from the maternal lineage, whereas the nuclear DNA should be a mixture of both donors. Such a scenario would allow reticulate evolution to take place, and opens the possibility that genetic lineages may only partially reflect phylogenetic associations. Nonetheless, it should be possible to detect such events. Both for increasing the resolution of the existing phylogenetic relationships and for detecting possible colonization events during the evolution of the figs, identifying nuclear and chloroplast genes with appropriate levels of sequence variation is a very important task. Further work will clarify the relative importance of the strict-sense co-speciation that these preliminary findings suggest predominates, and of colonization events during the evolutionary history of the fig-wasp mutualism.

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Note added in proof:

Additional sequencing suggests a close affinity between the pollinator genera, *Ceratosolen* and *Kradibia*, consistent with the placement of their host sections (*Sycomorus* and *Sycidium*, respectively) together. Further, extensive sampling within the pollinator genus, *Ceratosolen*, has shown that the pollinator of *Ficus sycomorus* (*C. arabicus*) and its Cuckoo (*C. galili*) are not sister taxa and are in fact only distantly related within the genus.