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Leaves as composites of latent developmental

and evolutionary shapes

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Abstract

Across plants, leaves exhibit profound diversity in shape. As a single leaf expands, its

shape is in constant flux. Additionally, plants may also produce leaves with different

shapes at successive nodes. Because leaf shape can vary in many different ways,

theoretically the effects of distinct processes are separable, even within the shape of

a single leaf. Here, we measure the shapes of >3,200 leaves representing >270 vines

from wild relatives of domesticated grape. We isolate latent shapes embedded

within the overall shape of leaves that can predict developmental stages

independent from species identity and vice versa. Shapes predictive of development

are then used to stage leaves from 1,200 varieties of domesticated grape, revealing

that changes in timing underlie leaf shape diversity. Our results indicate distinct

latent shapes combine to produce a composite morphology in leaves, and that

developmental and evolutionary contributions to shape vary independently from

each other.

Significance Statement

The factors influencing leaf shape are multifaceted, including differences between species, different shapes of leaves a single plant produces during its lifetime, and the constant changes in shape that occur as an individual leaf expands. Here, we show that these processes affect distinct shape features of leaves independently from each other, allowing leaf development to be predicted separately from species identity. Our results have implications for taxonomy and assessments of biodiversity, isolating specifically those features most defining species from conserved, developmental shapes that evolve more slowly. Specific shape features can define outputs from distinct molecular pathways that change leaf morphology over evolutionary versus developmental timescales. Within a single leaf are distinct components of shape that are affected by distinct processes.

Leaf morphology represents a beautiful and tangible example of the infinite

phenotypic possibilities in nature. Venation networks form an endless range of

topologies and the contours of a leaf are defined by a boundless set of continuous

points. Leaf shape varies not only across evolutionary timescales, but during

development as well. Two distinct temporal processes regulate leaf shape during

development. 1) The shape of individual leaves is in constant flux as local regions

within the leaf expand at different rates. This phenomenon, allometric expansion,

was explored as early as Hales' *Vegetable Staticks* (1727) (1). Using a grid of pins,

regularly spaced puncture points in fig leaves were tracked to determine if their

relative spacing changed during development. The same experiment can be

microscopically studied using fluorescent particles today (2, 3). 2) The leaves that

emerge at successive nodes differ in their shape, as the shoot apical meristem from

which they derive transitions from a juvenile to adult stage of development. This

process, heteroblasty, can affect other features of leaves besides shape, such as

cuticle and trichome patterning (4-8).

The developmental stage of a leaf and the position of the node from which it arises

(leaf number) are distinct temporal factors affecting leaf shape. Genetic changes in

the timing of either process (e.g., protracted development of individual leaves or

precociously adult leaf morphology in early nodes) between species can lead to

evolutionary differences in leaf shape, a process known as heterochrony. The timing

of these processes can be changed non-genetically as well, through responses to

environmental changes during the lifetime of a plant, known as plasticity (9, 10).

Distinguishing effects of developmental stage from leaf number provides

mechanistic insights into how genetic changes during evolution or plastic changes in

response to the environment are achieved (11, 12). For example, recent work has

linked molecular pathways regulating the timing of shape changes throughout the

shoot (miR156/172 and their targets) with leaf morphology (CUC-induced

serrations) through a mediator (TCPs) (13).

If distinct molecular pathways affect different traits within the infinite features

defining the architecture of a leaf, then the outline and venation topology of leaves

should theoretically be decomposable into latent shapes (14). For example, shape

differences defining species, regardless of developmental context, may vary

distinctly from those features that define developmental context, regardless of

species. These shapes are latent because they globally affect leaf shape in different

ways, and each of the features comprising the latent shapes alone do not necessarily

discriminate the effects of genetics or development. From this perspective, the

shape of a given leaf—from any species, from any time point during development or

any position in the plant—would result from the confluence of latent shapes

regulated by these processes. The single organ that we call a leaf would actually be a

composite of latent features that vary by genetic versus developmental effects,

independently from each other.

Grapevine (*Vitis* spp.) leaves exhibit a breathtaking range of variation in leaf shape,

making this genus ideally suited to explore evolutionary and developmental

influences on form (**Fig. 1**). Variation in leaf lobing and leaf margins have been used

by taxonomists to delimit the nearly 60 species in the genus (15, 16). Leaf shape is

also important in assessing intraspecific variation in the European grapevine (*Vitis*

vinifera ssp. *vinifera*), which is grown around the world for wine-making and table

grapes. Unique among crops, variation in grape leaf shape (together with other vine

features) was once, and is still today, used by viticulturists to quantitatively classify

grape varieties, a field known as ampelography (αμπελος, "vine" and γραφος,

'writing') (17). Grape leaves have several homologous points amenable to

landmark-based analyses (18, 19), increasing the biological interpretation of

morphometric data compared to species with stochastic venation topologies or

limited homology (such as *Arabidopsis*, tomato, *Antirrhinum*, etc.). Like Hales' grid of

pins (1), naturally homologous points in grape leaves allow developmental stage

and leaf number effects to be quantitatively tracked, potentially revealing separable

latent processes contributing to the composite morphology known as a leaf.

Results

Developmental stage versus leaf number

To determine the effects of developmental stage, leaf number, and evolutionary

lineage (taxonomic identity) on leaf shape we scanned >3,200 leaves from wild

relatives of domesticated grape held by the USDA germplasm repository in Geneva,

NY. Like many living collections of perennial crops, the Geneva repository houses

multiple genotypes of different *Vitis* species in common conditions. In addition to an

extensive collection of assorted *V. vinifera* hybrids, the repository includes wild-

collected accessions of at least 19 North American and Asian *Vitis* species. From this

collection we sampled >270 vines representing 12 *Vitis* species, 4 *V. vinifera* hybrids,

and 3 species from the related genus *Ampelopsis.* Each sampled vine represents a

unique genetic accession. The number of vines sampled for each species varied

widely (**Fig. S1**), but in this study we focus on 10 species for which ≥5 accessions

were sampled: *Vitis riparia* (71 vines), *V. labrusca* (40 vines), *V. cinerea* (37 vines), *V.*

rupestris (28 vines), *V. acerifolia* (16 vines), *V. amurensis* (16 vines), *V. vulpina* (13

vines), *V. aestivalis* (8 vines), *V. coignetiae* (5 vines), and *Vitis palmata* (5 vines). All

Vitis leaves possess a midvein, distal and proximal veins, a petiolar vein, as well as

proximal and distal lobes and sinuses, and wide variation in the width of the petiolar

sinus (**Fig. 1A**). We leverage these points and others to measure 17 homologous

landmarks in all leaves (**Dataset S1**). Later, we compare the leaves from the wild

relatives of grape described above to previously published data on 1,200 varieties of

domesticated grape (19), which we describe in subsequent sections.

For each vine accession, a representative shoot was selected and the shoot position

of each leaf recorded (**Fig. 1B-C**). Developmental stage is measured by counting

from the youngest, first measureable leaf at the shoot tip. The time between

successively initiated leaves is a plastochron, and the youngest initiated leaf

primordium at the shoot apical meristem is denoted plastochron 1, P1 to indicate

this. But because we begin not with P1 (which is microns in size) but with the first

measureable leaf (~1 cm in size), we use S1 (for "stage") to denote the youngest

measured leaf at the shoot tip counting numerically upwards (S2 . . . Sn) in a

basipetal direction towards the shoot base. Contrastingly, leaf number begins with

the first initiated leaf (L1) found at the shoot base and counts numerically upward

(L2 . . . Ln) in an acropetal direction towards the shoot tip (**Fig. 1C**). These two

metrics are used to differentiate the effects of developmental stage (Sn) from leaf

number (Ln) (**Fig. 1C**).

The effects of developmental stage are expected to be strongest in young leaves at

the shoot tip (with low S numbers and high L numbers; **Fig. 1C**), as their shape is in

flux during their expansion. Older leaves at the shoot base (with low L numbers and

high S numbers) are more influenced by leaf number (i.e., their node position),

because they reflect changes in mature leaf shape at successive nodes. The vast

majority of the vines we sampled possess leaves corresponding to S1-S10 and L1-

L10 (86% represent developmental stages up to P10 and 88% represent leaf

numbers up to L10, **Fig. S1**) and we restrict our analyses to these positions (**Fig. 1C**).

Morphospace of leaves in the genus Vitis

Landmarks are aligned (accounting for translation, rotation, and scaling) using a

Generalized Procrustes Analysis (GPA). A Principal Component Analysis (PCA) is

then performed to visualize the major sources of shape variance among leaves. The

first four PCs explain 73.2% of shape variance among leaves from *Vitis* species,

developmental stages, and leaf numbers (**Fig. 2A**). More than half of the shape

variance, represented by PC1 and PC2, is influenced by lobing and the width of the

petiolar sinus. Low PC1 and high PC2 values readily distinguish highly dissected

Vitis species and some members of the related genus *Ampelopsis* (**Fig. 2B**).

In order to examine the variability of developmental stage and leaf number in

morphospace, we visualize each PC as a locally weighted scatterplot smoothing

(LOWESS) curve plotted against stage and leaf number. Developmental stage and

leaf number vary less by PC1 than by PC2 and PC3 (i.e., PC1 values are relatively

developmentally-invariant compared to PC2 and PC3 values) (**Fig. 2C-D**). PC2 and

PC3 values are largely indistinguishable between species across developmental

stages (**Fig. 2C**) and leaf number (**Fig. 2D**), suggesting strongly conserved

morphological features in developing leaves across species for these shape

attributes, particularly for early developmental stages (**Fig. 2C**). Because PCs are

orthogonal (i.e., uncorrelated), the fact that species, developmental stage, and leaf

number correlate differentially with PCs is suggestive that each might be

represented by independent shape attributes present within leaves. Re-visualizing

the morphospace by developmental stage (**Fig. 2E**) and leaf number (**Fig. 2F**)

demonstrates these factors mostly vary by PC2 and PC3, whereas species shape

differences traverse along morphospace paths defined by PC1, PC2, and PC3 (**Fig.**

2B).

To help qualitatively understand the different ways grape leaves differ among

species and developmental contexts, we compared average shapes (**Fig. 3**). One

trend among species is that related members of Moore's Series Ripariae (*V.*

acerifolia, *V. riparia*, and *V. rupestris*) (15, 20) are defined by a shallow petiolar sinus,

especially *V. rupestris* (**Fig. 3A**). Outside of the Ripariae, *V. vulpina* and *V. cinerea*

also exhibit shallow petiolar sinuses but to a lesser extent, while the petiolar sinus

of the remaining species (*V. aestivalis, V. labrusca, V. palmata, V. coignetiae, V.*

amurensis) is more acute. *Vitis palmata* exhibits especially deep distal lobing relative

to other species. Each species' leaves also vary by developmental stage (**Fig. 3B**) and

leaf number (**Fig. 3C**), usually by the length of the leaf tip and the shallowness of the

petiolar sinus. In the next section, we determine the extent that shape attributes

varying by species, developmental stage, and leaf number are separable from each

other.

Latent shapes independently predict species, developmental stage, and leaf number

We used a Linear Discriminant Analysis (LDA) to maximize the separation of leaf

attributes (whether species, developmental stage, or leaf number) from each other

using all measured shape information. The resulting linear discriminants can be

used to predict the apparent class of a leaf and are useful for comparing actual

versus apparent leaf identities as confusion matrices (**Fig. 4**).

Linear discriminants separating species, without regard to developmental stage or

leaf number, can be used to predict species identity (**Fig. 4A-C**). For most taxa, the

largest proportion of predicted leaves corresponds to the taxonomic identity

assigned to that species (**Fig. 4B**, the diagonal indicates the proportion of correctly

assigned leaves). Incorrectly assigned leaves are most often confused for other

species that are phylogenetically related to the assigned species. For example, a

majority of *V. acerifolia* leaves are confused for its close relative *V. riparia*; similarly,

the largest group of *V. aestivalis* leaves are confused for its relative *V. labrusca*. In

contrast, the Asian *V. coigenetiae* leaves are confused for more distant relatives

native to North America, including *V. labrusca* and *V. cinerea* and sometimes even *V.*

riparia, perhaps indicating convergent evolution, germplasm misidentification, or

segregating leaf shape differences among these accessions. Interestingly, *Vitis x*

andersonii, described as a hybrid of *V. coignetiae* and either *V. vulpina* or *V. riparia*, is

strongly mistaken for *V. riparia*, providing circumstantial evidence of parentage. As

has been suggested by ampelographers and taxonomists (15, 17), our results

demonstrate that leaf shape is often sufficient to identify species, even in the

absence of developmental information. Instances where leaves of one species are

assigned to another offer a valuable opportunity to develop hypotheses about

phylogenetic history and convergent evolution that can be tested with additional

evolutionary and ecological analyses.

Reciprocally, we wondered whether developmental stage and leaf number,

regardless of species identity, might be similarly informative about developmental

context. Indeed, linear discriminants trained on developmental stage or leaf number

can predict the developmental context of a leaf for either measure (**Fig. 4D-4I**).

Developmental stage can be predicted with a Spearman's correlation coefficient of

rho = 0.70 (**Fig. 4D**), and leaf number with rho = 0.61 (**Fig. 4G**). Prediction of both

developmental stage and leaf number is more accurate at the beginning of their

respective series, where the effects of each are anticipated to be the strongest (**Fig.**

1C). Based on these observations we conclude that developmental context,

measured by either developmental stage or leaf number, can be predicted

independently of genotypic information. These results suggest that the effects of

development on leaf shape are conserved across genotypes and species, and have

implications for isolating distinct molecular pathways that affect leaf shape over

evolutionary versus developmental time scales.

The ability to predict developmental context separate from species identity provides

a method to quantify differences between species attributable to changes in

developmental timing, also known as heterochrony. For each leaf, we calculate

relative developmental stage and relative leaf number as the apparent value minus

the actual value (e.g., an S5 leaf predicted to be S7 would have a relative stage value

of +S2, and an L4 leaf predicted to be L2 would have a relative value of -2L). Relative

values indicate, for a given leaf, how many nodes ahead or behind (developmentally

speaking) that leaf appears to be. Averaging the relative developmental stage and

leaf number values for each vine, we can detect species that are precociously ahead

or lagging behind from expected developmental stage (**Fig. 4E**) and leaf number

values (**Fig. 4H**). For example, the mean relative developmental stage of *V. rupestris*

vines is about +1S ahead of their actual developmental stage (**Fig. 4E**) and about -2L

behind actual leaf number (**Fig. 4H**). This accelerated development (Sn) and

protracted display of juvenile leaf types typically found at the base of the shoot (Ln)

contributes towards the unique shape of *V. rupestris* leaves compared to other *Vitis*

spp. (**Fig. 3**). *Vitis rupestris* leaves (**Fig. 3A**), older leaves (high Sn values, **Fig. 3B**),

and juvenile leaves (low Ln values, **Fig. 3C**) all share a characteristic wideness

conferred by a diminished leaf tip.

Within *Vitis*, the identity of inflorescences, which appear opposite leaves, transform

from clusters at the shoot base to tendrils at the shoot tip (21-24) (**Fig. 1C**). Both

changes in leaf shape at successive nodes and the transformation of inflorescence

identity indicate temporal changes in the development of the shoot apical meristem,

known as heteroblasty. The cluster-to-tendril transformation serves as a discrete,

binary indication of the heteroblastic transition. If heteroblasty regulates both the

latent shapes predicting leaf number and the cluster-to-tendril transition, we would

assume they would be correlated. Indeed, there is a significant negative correlation

between relative leaf number and the first node a tendril is observed: that is, in

vines with precocious, adult leaves (i.e., higher relative leaf numbers, typical of

leaves found more towards the shoot tip), tendrils appear at earlier nodes closer to

the base of the shoot, linking two different measures of premature heteroblastic

change (**Fig. 4I**). Moreover, this correlation is not observed for relative

developmental stage (**Fig. 4F**). Taken together, these results indicate that latent

shapes predictive of developmental stage and leaf number are functionally distinct,

reflecting the developmental progression of leaves (Sn) and their heteroblastic

transitions across successive nodes of the shoot (Ln) separately.

Average leaf shapes indicate that developmental stage and leaf number vary by the

prominence of the leaf tip and the shallowness of the petiolar sinus (**Fig. 4J-L**). The

shape changes for these two factors are inversely related, but obviously

distinguishable from each other, given their differential correlation with tendril

position (**Fig. 4F**, **4I**). Upon closer inspection, the distal lobe tips and the branch

point of the petiolar vein distinguish shape changes attributable to developmental

stage and leaf number (**Fig. 4L**), isolating the shape attributes unique to these

functionally distinct processes.

Morphological differences between domesticated grape and wild relatives

Previously, we measured >9,500 leaves from *V. vinifera* subsp. *vinifera*

(domesticated grape) and its wild progenitor *V. vinifera* subsp. *sylvestris*. These

leaves, collected from the USDA germplasm repository in Winters, CA, represent

over 2,300 vines and 1,200 varieties (19). These leaves were sampled to measure

purely genetic effects and minimize the influence of development by collecting four

successive leaves from the midpoint of the shoot. That species identity can be

predicted independently from developmental context in wild *Vitis* spp. (**Fig. 4A-C**)

with disparate leaf shapes lends credence to the assumption that developmental

context can be ignored, which is almost always invoked when mapping traits for

quantitative genetic purposes or taxonomically defining species.

We wanted to compare leaves from domesticated grape and its wild progenitor to

the other *Vitis* species described above. To do so, we restricted our analysis *in silico*

to leaves at the same shoot positions we had originally collected in domesticated

grape (the four leaves closest to the midpoint of the shoot). In the combined

morphospace, PC1 and PC2 describe nearly 60% of shape variance (**Fig. 5A**). Similar

to the wild *Vitis* species-only morphospace (**Fig. 2A**), lobing and the petiolar sinus

define the first PCs. Petiolar veins in domesticated grape varieties can be so angled

they cross each other, and because of this the closure of the petiolar sinus

represented by high PC1 values is particularly strong (**Fig. 5A**). Leaf dissection

defined by high PC1 and high PC2 values clearly delineates less lobed wild *Vitis*

species from more acutely lobed domesticated grape varieties (**Fig. 5B**). Highly

dissected species such as *Ampelopsis acontifolia*, *V. piasezkii*, *V. thunbergii*, and *V.*

vinifera var. Ciotat form a distinct morphological grouping.

While there are clear patterns in leaf shape related to development and species

identity, correspondence between the morphospace of wild and domesticated *Vitis*

species and evolutionary relationships among *Vitis* species is complex. Some, but

not all, well-known phylogenetic relationships are reflected in leaf morphology.

(**Fig. 5C**) (20, 25). Notably, clustering averaged shapes from different genotypes

reveals that *V. vinifera* subsp. *vinifera* is morphologically sister to *V. vinifera* subsp.

sylvestris, well-known to be the wild progenitor of the domesticated grape (**Fig. 5C**,

Group II) (25, 26). Also within Group II are two Asian species, *V. amurensis* and *V.*

coignetiae, which together with *V. vinifera* subsp. *vinifera* and *V. vinifera* subsp.

sylvestris represent members of a Eurasian clade. Within Group III are found

members of Series Ripariae (*V. acerifolia*, *V. riparia*, *V. rupestris*). Leaf shapes of *Vitis*

hybrids cluster based on parental lineages, with *V. x champinii* and *V. x doaniana*

clustering in Group III presumably because of their *V. rupestris* and *V. acerifolia*

heritages (respectively) and *V. x andersonii* and *V. x novae-angliae* clustering closer

with their *V. coignetiae* and *V. labrusca* parents (respectively). These observations

suggest similarities in leaf shape may reflect recent evolutionary events,

domestication, or contemporary interspecific gene flow.

At broader levels of phylogenetic scale, however, patterns of leaf shape similarity

do not appear to correspond with known evolutionary relationships. For example,

together with *V. vinifera* subsp. *vinifera*, *V. vinifera* subsp. *sylvestris*, and two Asian

species found Group II (discussed above) are other North American species (*V.*

labrusca, V. palmata), several hybrids, and *Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*, taxa that

are not known to be closely related to one another. A previously identified clade

based on molecular data (*V. aestivalis*, *V. cinerea*, *V. labrusca*, and *V. vulpina)* here is

divided between Groups II and III. Although *Vitis* is well known to be a monophyletic

genus (27, 28), based on leaf shape three species of *Ampelopsis* cluster in three

different groups, together with *Vitis* species. These data suggest that while leaf

shape may bear signatures of recent evolutionary events, leaf shape does not appear

to track with phylogeny at larger scales; distantly related species, even from distinct

genera, resemble each other in leaf shape through evolutionary convergence.

Changes in developmental timing underlie morphological diversity in domesticated

grape leaves

Even though leaves from equivalent positions in the shoot clearly separate species

and varieties by genetic effects (**Fig. 5**), such effects may still be developmental in

nature, an example of heterochrony. If changes in the relative timing of

developmental stage (Sn) or leaf number (Ln) have occurred, they would contribute

to morphological differences between species, as described above for wild *Vitis* spp.

(**Fig. 4E, 4H**). The conserved latent shapes defining developmental stage and leaf

number in morphologically disparate *Vitis* species can be used predictively to detect

such changes in timing.

We used wild species leaves, from S1-S10 and L1-L10 (where developmental stage

and leaf number effects are the strongest, respectively) as a training set, to predict

the stage (Sn) and leaf number (Ln) values of domesticated grape leaves (**Fig. 6**).

When comparing leaf averages across predicted developmental stages (**Fig. 6A**) and

leaf numbers (**Fig. 6B**), it is apparent that variation in petiolar sinus depth is the

major predictor of developmental timing in domesticated grape leaves (**Fig. 6C**).

Variation in the petiolar sinus is a recurrent theme in morphology associated with

both developmental stage and leaf number (**Figs. 3B-C; 4J-L**). Indeed, the predicted

developmental stages and leaf numbers of domesticated grape leaves are

significantly correlated with PC1 and PC2 (**Fig. 6D-E, 6G-H**; **Dataset S2**), which

together explain near 60% of total shape variance for measured *Vitis* genotypes (**Fig.**

5A). From this, we conclude that latent shape attributes modulating developmental

stage and leaf number explain large amounts of shape variance in domesticated

grape, indicating changes in developmental timing (heterochrony) underlie the

morphological evolution of grape varieties.

The relationship of leaf shape and timing to other traits in domesticated grape

Previously, numerous other traits, from timing of bud burst and flowering to berry

ripening and titratable acids and sugar content, had been measured on the

domesticated grapevines described above (19). We were curious about the

correlational context of overall leaf shape (represented by PCs) and developmental

timing (predicted developmental stage and leaf number) to these other traits. One

trait, "PETSINMALF 2009", is a qualitative, 0-8 rating of petiolar sinus depth, and is

tightly correlated to PC1, PC2, and predicted developmental stage and leaf number,

confirming that our quantitative measures reflect intuitive perceptions of leaf shape.

(**Fig. 6F, 6I-J**; **Dataset S2**). Leaf morphology traits, including predicted

developmental timing, are largely separate from bud burst and bloom dates

("BUDBURST DATE", "BLOOMDATE", "LEAFDATE"), indicating that these timing

features are separate from the overall transition to reproductive development in

grapevine (**Fig. 6J**). Further, leaf shape is distinct from overall size of leaves ("LEAF

SIZE"), demonstrating that grape leaf shape is not merely a developmental

constraint correlated with overall size (i.e., allometry) (**Fig. 6J**). One group of traits

significantly correlated and clustering with leaf shape is hirsuteness, both in leaves

and the shoot ("LEAF HAIR", "SHOOT HAIR"), which we had observed previously in

domesticated grape (19). Leaf hirsuteness varies by both developmental stage, as

trichomes become less dense as the leaf expands, and also by leaf number. It is

interesting to think about how thermoregulation, disease resistance, or other

trichome mediated functionality may vary as a developmental constraint as

developmental timing changed over the evolution and domestication of grapevines.

Discussion

Many descriptions of complex traits, from faces to voices, and even the evolution of

cultural products, such as violins (29-32) potentially stand to benefit from isolating

features uniquely regulated by distinct pathways. Like a face, leaf shape is

modulated in complicated ways by genetics, development, and the environment.

The latent shapes we describe here, describing developmental stage and leaf

number, embedded within the overall shape of a leaf, and conserved across the

genus *Vitis,* fit the definition of a "cryptotype". Recently, we had suggested the use of

this term in biology, which we borrowed from linguistics, which uses both

"phenotype" and "cryptotype" parallel to the biological definitions (14, 33).

In linguistics, overtly marked categories are called phenotypes. An example of an

overt category is English plurals, denoted in the vast majority of cases by a suffix "-s"

or a vowel change. Contrastingly, covert categories are called cryptotypes, and are

defined by latent combinations of words used more frequently than others. For

example, whereas most people would say "small, yellow house," few would use the

equivalent phrase "yellow, small house." The adjective-noun pairs "strong coffee"

and "powerful computer" are another example of cryptotype: although "powerful

coffee" and "strong computer" might technically be synonymous to the previously

mentioned pairs, they are rarely used, and convey their meaning much weaker than

their favored counterparts (33). Similar to a linguistic cryptotype, different factors

(genotype, developmental stage, and leaf number) act on the multivariate features

of a leaf (in this study, 17 homologous landmarks) combinatorially, enhancing their

effects on shape, not unlike favored combinations of words. These combinative

shapes are latent (a covert category) only because they are not immediately

recognizable when each of their component landmarks is considered alone; the

effects of genetics and development affect the entirety of the leaf. The multivariate

cryptotypes of genotype, developmental stage, and leaf number stand in contrast to

traditional univariate phenotypes, such as height or biomass.

Defining such combinative, latent shapes is critical to understand the mechanisms

by which morphological diversity manifests in plants. The unequal expansion of

leaves (allometry) and the different types of leaves displayed at nodes (resulting

from heteroblasty) have been studied for centuries (1, 4, 34-35), but the inability to

distinguish the effects at a morphological level, within the shared morphology of

single leaves where these processes act, has led to confusion. Early hypotheses that

shade prolongs juvenility through a heteroblastic mechanism were later refuted by

carefully studying the morphology of leaf primordia (12). And similarly, the degree

that changes in the development of leaves or the heteroblastic series influences

evolutionary changes—and plasticity—remains an open question.

Recent studies have uncovered a transcriptomic basis underlying heteroblasty (36),

and similarly dramatic transitions to reproductive fates (37), within meristems. An

understanding of molecular clocks, regulating phase change through small RNAs

(38-39), and their signals, such as sugar (40-41), has come into focus. Of the many

gene regulatory networks regulating leaf shape, specific pathways have been

identified mediating heteroblastic shape changes (13). Similar molecular

descriptions of leaf development exist (42), and the crosstalk between these two

processes is large. Strangely, even though molecular correlates of leaf development

and heteroblasty have been uncovered, a phenotypic basis for the morphological

effects of temporal patterning remains obscure, except in a qualitative sense.

Decomposing complex morphologies into latent morphs regulated by distinct

pathways is required to precisely describe the mechanisms that, together, produce

the composite shape of a single leaf.

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leaves.

Materials and Methods

Germplasm, sample collection, and scanning. Over 270 vines in the USDA *Vitis*

germplasm collection in Geneva, NY were sampled in June, 2013. Using an automatic

label maker, vine identification number and the identity of organs (or lack thereof)

at each node, beginning with the first sampled leaf at the tip, was recorded in the

field. Leaves, beginning with the first leaf at the tip that could be flattened and

scanned (~1 cm in length), were collected in order, shoot tip to base, as a stack and

placed into a Ziploc bag to which the label was affixed. A single shoot was collected

per vine, and bags were placed into a cooler until scanning. A description of the

number of vines (genotypes) collected for each species and hybrid, as well as the

number of leaves representing different developmental stages (Sn) and leaf

numbers (Ln) can be found in supplemental information (**Fig. S1**).

Leaves were arranged on a scanner (Mustek A3 1200S), in the collected order from

the shoot, and next to each leaf was placed a small label indicating nodes (as

measured by developmental stage) and organ identity opposite the node ("C",

cluster; "T", tendril; "N", no organ). The abaxial side of leaves was imaged. The file

name of the image indicates the vine ID, and the appended letter indicates which

image in the series the file represents for each vine. The raw scans are publically

available at the following link: http://thedata.harvard.edu/dvn/dv/vitis_leaves/

Landmarking. For both wild *Vitis* species and reanalyzed *V. vinifera* data, 17

landmarks were placed, in order, for each leaf using the ImageJ (43) point tool.

Landmarks and their order were as follows: 1) petiolar junction, 2) midvein tip, 3)

left distal sinus, 4) right distal sinus, 5) left distal lobe tip, 6) right distal lobe tip, 7)

left proximal sinus, 8) right proximal sinus, 9) left proximal lobe tip, 10) right

proximal lobe tip, 11) left terminus petiolar vein, 12) right terminus petiolar vein,

13) branch point midvein, 14) branch point left distal vein, 15) branch point right

distal vein, 16) branch point left proximal vein, 17) branch point right proximal vein.

Using ggplot2 (44) in R (45), graphs for landmarks from each image were visually

checked for errors. If errors were detected, the landmarking was redone for those

particular samples.

Morphometric analysis and visualization. Once a quality landmarked dataset was

created, a Generalized Procrustes Analysis (GPA) was undertaken using the R

package shapes (46). For 17 landmarks in two dimensions (x,y coordinates) for

3,292 leaves of wild *Vitis* species and 9,548 *V. vinifera* leaves, GPA was performed

using the procGPA function, reflect=TRUE. Separate Procrustes analyses were

performed for 1) all wild *Vitis* species leaves at all shoot positions and 2) *V. vinifera*

subsp. *vinifera* and subsp. *sylvestris* leaves and wild *Vitis* species leaves selected for

the corresponding shoot position as the domesticated grape dataset. Eigenleaves

were visualized using the shapepca function and PC scores, percent variance

explained by each PC, and Procrustes-adjusted coordinates were obtained from

procGPA object values. To test for correlation between PCs and developmental stage

or leaf number, Spearman's rho was calculated, whereas for variability of PC values

across species a Kruskal-Wallis test was used.

Linear Discriminant Analysis (LDA) on Procrustes-adjusted coordinates was

performed using the lda function from the MASS package (47). Species,

developmental stage, and leaf number were all analyzed independent of each other.

The predict function (stats package) and table function (base package) were used

(dependent on MASS) to reallocate leaves (whether by species, developmental stage,

or leaf number) using the linear discriminants. For the case of predicting *V. vinifera*

subsp. *vinifera* developmental stage and leaf number, the wild *Vitis* species data was

used as a training set to predict values for domesticated grape leaves. For the wild

Vitis species data, for each leaf there is actual versus apparent species,

developmental stage, and leaf number identities. Relative developmental stage and

relative leaf number are calculated as apparent value – actual value. Mean relative

developmental stage and relative leaf number values for each vine were used to

determine significant deviation of species relative values from zero using a one

sample, two tailed t-test. Correlation between relative values and first tendril node

was analyzed using Spearman's rho.

As previously described (19), Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN)

trait values, averaged on a per accession basis, for *V. vinifera* vines were correlated

with each other and morphometric and predicted temporal data using the rcorr

function from Hmisc (48) using Spearman's rho and false-discovery rate controlled

using the Benjami-Hochberg procedure (49). Hierarchical clustering for *V. vinifera*

subsp. *vinifera* traits, and for averaged Procrustes-adjusted coordinates for species

throughout the genus *Vitis*, was carried out using the hclust function on a distance

matrix calculated from correlation performed on complete, pairwise observations

and visualized using the as.phylo function from the package ape (50).

Visualization was performed in ggplot2 (44) using geom_bar, geom_boxplot,

geom_point, geom_segment, geom_tile, and stat_smooth functions, among others,

and color schemes derived from colorbrewer2.org.

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Figure Legends

Fig. 1: Morphological features defining the temporal development of *Vitis*

leaves. (*A*) All *Vitis* leaves possess distal (yellow), proximal (orange), and petiolar

(red) veins, as well as distal and proximal lobes and sinuses and a petiolar sinus. 17

homologous landmarks (black circles) were used in this study. Morphologically

diverse species are shown. (*B*) Leaf series, scaled by the length between distal lobe

tips, showing developmental stage and leaf number shape variance. (*C*) Unscaled *V.*

riparia leaves showing changes in size at the shoot tip and base. Developmental

stage (Sn) is measured starting from the shoot tip and leaf number is measured

from the shoot base (Ln). Inflorescences, opposite leaves, skipping every third node,

transform from clusters into tendrils from the shoot base to tip.

Fig. 2: Morphospace of leaves in the genus *Vitis*. (*A*) "Eigenleaves" showing leaf

morphs represented by Principal Components (PCs) at -/+ 3 standard deviations

(s.d.) and shape variance explained by each. (*B*) Select species (indicated by color)

representing morphological diversity in the dataset projected onto the

morphospace. 95% confidence ellipses are drawn. (*C* and *D*) Locally Weighted

Scatterplot Smoothing (LOWESS) showing the relationship between PCs 1-3 and (*C*)

developmental stage and (*D*) leaf number. Phylogenetic relationships between

species are indicated by color. (*E*) Developmental stage and (*F)* leaf number

projected onto the morphospace.

Fig. 3: Shapes represented among *Vitis* species, developmental stage, and leaf

number. (*A*) Outlines representing the average shape of each pairwise comparison

of species, indicated by magenta and green. Phylogenetic relationships are indicated.

(*B* and *C*) Comparison of average shapes across (*B*) developmental stages and (*C*)

leaf number for each species indicated by color.

Fig. 4: Species, developmental stage, and leaf number can be predicted

independently of each other. (*A*) Confusion matrix resulting from prediction of

species identity using a Linear Discriminant Analysis (LDA). The panel should be

read left to right: for each species indicated on the left, leaves appeared to be

derived from which apparent species (indicated on bottom)? Developmental stage

and leaf number were not considered in the prediction. (*B*) Same as (*A*), except the

apparent species assigned to each actual species have been converted into a

proportion. Proportion totals equal one adding left to right. (*C*) The proportion of

correctly assigned leaves for each species. (*D*) Similar to (*A*), actual developmental

stage (left) and apparent developmental stage (bottom), predicted without species

or leaf number information. (*E*) Relative developmental stage values (apparent –

actual developmental stage) averaged for vines from each species. Significant

deviations from 0 indicated by * (p<0.05), ** (p<0.01), and *** (p<0.001). (*F*)

Correlation between mean relative developmental stage of vines and first tendril

node. Fitted linear model is drawn. (*G-I*) same as (*D-F*) but for leaf number. Note the

significant correlation between first tendril node and relative leaf number (*I*) not

seen for developmental stage (*F*). (*J* and *K*) Latent shape attributes defining

developmental stage (*J*) and leaf number (*K*) indicated with average leaf shapes. (*L*)

Comparison of changes in latent shape attributes across developmental stage

(orange, outline S1; purple, arrow to S10) and leaf number (grey, outline L1; black,

arrow to L10). Note non-inverse relationship between developmental stage and leaf

number changes in the distal lobe tips and petiolar vein branch points (indicated).

Fig. 5: Morphospace of wild *Vitis* species and domesticated grape. (*A*)

"Eigenleaves" showing leaf morphs represented by PCs at -/+ 3 s.d. and shape

variance explained by each. Lobing and petiolar sinus variation indicated. (*B*)

Comparison of wild *Vitis* species leaf shape (red, black) with *V. vinifera* subsp.

vinifera and *V. vinifera* subsp. *sylvestris* (green, dark green, respectively), and highly-

lobed species (blue). Strong shape variation in lobing and petiolar sinus depth

indicated. (*C*) Hierarchical clustering based on morphology. Phylogenetic groupings

indicated in light gray. Groups mentioned in text indicated with Roman numerals.

Fig. 6: Evolution in developmental timing underlies leaf shape diversity in

domesticated grape. (*A* and *B*) Latent shape attributes defining developmental

stage (*A*) and leaf number (*B*) in domesticated grape indicated with average leaf

shapes. (*C*) Comparison of changes in latent shape attributes across predicted

developmental stage (orange, outline S1; purple, arrow to S10) and predicted leaf

number (grey, outline L1; black, arrow to L10). (*D* and *E*) Predicted developmental

stage (*D*) and predicted leaf number (*E*) projected onto the *V. vinifera* subsp. *vinifera*

morphospace demonstrates changes in developmental timing (heterochrony)

underlie leaf shape diversity in domesticated grape. (*G – I*) Correlation between PC1

and PC2 with predicted developmental stage (*G*), predicted leaf number (*H*), and a

qualitative measure of petiolar sinus depth, PETSINMALF 2009 (*I*). (*J*) Hierarchical

clustering of measured traits in grape. Morphological and predicted temporal traits

(yellow), hirsuteness (green), reproductive transitions (blue), and overall leaf size

(grey) indicated.

Supporting Information

Dataset S1: Procrustes-aligned coordinates. Wild *Vitis* species Procrustes-aligned

coordinates can be found under the tab "wild_vitis." "id" indicates vine identification

information, "species" the species, "file" the file from which the coordinate

information was extracted, "image" which file in the series the image from which the

leaf was extracted represents, "stage" the developmental stage of the leaf,

"leaf_number" the position in the heteroblastic series of the leaf, "total_nodes" the

total number of nodes found on the shoot from which the leaf was derived, "organ"

the organ opposite the leaf at that particular node, and "x1" and "y1" through "x17"

and "y17" indicate Procrustes-aligned coordinates for each leaf. Procrustes-aligned

coordinates for *V. vinifera* subsp. *vinifera* data can be found under the tab

"vitis_vinifera." "id" indicates vine identification information, "genotype" the

genotype, and "x1" and "y1" through "x17" and "y17" indicate Procrustes-aligned

coordinates for each leaf.

Dataset S2: Correlation between traits. P values ("p_values"), Benjamini-

Hochberg adjusted p values ("BH"), and Spearman's rho ("rho") provided for the

correlation between each pair of traits ("Trait1" and "Trait2").

Figure S1: Numbers of species, vines, leaves, and shoot positions sampled. (*A*)

Leaves per species, arranged in descending order. (*B*) Vines sampled per species.

For some analyses in the paper, only those *Vitis* species with ≥5 vines were analyzed

(indicated by red line). (*C*) The average number of leaves sampled per vine for each

species. (*D*) Number of leaves represented at each developmental stage. For some

analyses, only developmental stage ≤ S10 were analyzed (indicated by red line). (*E*)

Number of leaves represented at each leaf number position. For some analyses, only

leaf numbers ≤ L10 were analyzed (indicated by red line).

Fig. 1: Morphological features defining the temporal development of Vitis leaves. (A) All Vitis leaves possess distal (yellow), proximal (orange), and petiolar (red) veins, as well as distal and proximal lobes and sinuses and a petiolar sinus. 17 homologous landmarks (black circles) were used in this study. Morphologically diverse species are shown. (B) Leaf series, scaled by the length between distal lobe tips, showing developmental stage and leaf number shape variance. (C) Unscaled V. riparia leaves showing changes in size at the shoot tip and base. Developmental stage (Sn) is measured starting from the shoot tip and leaf number is measured from the shoot base (Ln). Inflorescences, opposite leaves, skipping every third node, transform from clusters into tendrils from the shoot base to tip.

Fig. 2: Morphospace of leaves in the genus Vitis. (A) "Eigenleaves" showing leaf morphs represented by Principal Components (PCs) at -/+ 3 standard deviations (s.d.) and shape variance explained by each. (B) Select species (indicated by color) representing morphological diversity in the dataset projected onto the morphospace. 95% confidence ellipses are drawn. (C and D) Locally Weighted Scatterplot Smoothing (LOWESS) showing the relationship between PCs 1-3 and (C) developmental stage and (D) leaf number. Phylogenetic relationships between species are indicated by color. (E) Developmental stage and (F) leaf number projected onto the morphospace.

Fig. 3: Shapes represented among Vitis species, developmental stage, and leaf number.
(A) Outlines representing the average shape of each pairwise comparison of species, indicated by magenta and green. Phylogenetic relationships are indicated. (B and C) Comparison of average shapes across (B) developmental stages and (C) leaf number for each species indicated by color.

Fig. 4: Species, developmental stage, and leaf number can be predicted independently of each other. (A) Confusion matrix resulting from prediction of species identity using a Linear Discriminant Analysis (LDA). The panel should be read left to right: for each species indicated on the left, leaves appeared to be derived from which apparent species (indicated on bottom)? Developmental stage and leaf number were not considered in the prediction. (B) Same as (A), except the apparent species assigned to each actual species have been converted into a proportion. Proportion totals equal one adding left to right. (C) The proportion of correctly assigned leaves for each species. (D) Similar to (A), actual developmental stage (left) and apparent developmental stage (bottom), predicted without species or leaf number information. (E) Relative developmental stage values (apparent – actual developmental stage) averaged for vines from each species. Significant deviations from 0 indicated by * (p<0.05), ** (p<0.01), and *** (p<0.001). (F) Correlation between mean relative developmental stage of vines and first tendril node. Fitted linear model is drawn. (G-I) same as (D-F) but for leaf number. Note the significant correlation between first tendril node and relative leaf number (I) not seen for developmental stage (F). (J and K) Latent shape attributes defining developmental stage (J) and leaf number (K) indicated with average leaf shapes. (L) Comparison of changes in latent shape attributes across developmental stage (orange, outline S1; purple, arrow to S10) and leaf number (grey, outline L1; black, arrow to L10). Note non-inverse relationship between developmental stage and leaf number changes in the distal lobe tips and petiolar vein branch points (indicated).

Fig. 5: Morphospace of wild Vitis species and domesticated grape. (A) "Eigenleaves" showing leaf morphs represented by PCs at -/+ 3 s.d. and shape variance explained by each. Lobing and petiolar sinus variation indicated. (B) Comparison of wild Vitis species leaf shape (red, black) with V. vinifera subsp. vinifera and V. vinifera subsp. sylvestris (green, dark green, respectively), and highly-lobed species (blue). Strong shape variation in lobing and petiolar sinus depth indicated. (C) Hierarchical clustering based on morphology. Phylogenetic groupings indicated in light gray. Groups mentioned in text indicated with Roman numerals.

Fig. 6: Evolution in developmental timing underlies leaf shape diversity in domesticated grape. (A and B) Latent shape attributes defining developmental stage (A) and leaf number (B) in domesticated grape indicated with average leaf shapes. (C) Comparison of changes in latent shape attributes across predicted developmental stage (orange, outline S1; purple, arrow to S10) and predicted leaf number (grey, outline L1; black, arrow to L10). (D and E) Predicted developmental stage (D) and predicted leaf number (E) projected onto the V. vinifera subsp. vinifera morphospace demonstrates changes in developmental timing (heterochrony) underlie leaf shape diversity in domesticated grape. (G – I) Correlation between PC1 and PC2 with predicted developmental stage (G), predicted leaf number (H), and a qualitative measure of petiolar sinus depth, PETSINMALF 2009 (I). (J) Hierarchical clustering of measured traits in grape. Morphological and predicted temporal traits (yellow), hirsuteness (green), reproductive transitions (blue), and overall leaf size (grey) indicated.