Heterochronic Developmental Shifts Underlie Floral Diversity within *Jaltomata*

(Solanaceae)

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Abstract

Background: Heterochronic shifts during mid to late stages of organismal development have

been proposed as key mechanisms generating phenotypic diversity. To determine whether late

heterochronic shifts underlie derived floral morphologies within *Jaltomata* (Solanaceae) – a

genus whose species have extensive and recently evolved floral diversity – we compared floral

development of four diverse species (including an ambiguously ancestral or secondarily derived

rotate, two putatively independently evolved campanulate, and a tubular morph) to the ancestral

rotate floral form, as well as to an outgroup that shares this ancestral floral morphology.

Results: We determined that early floral development (<1 mm bud diameter, corresponding to

completion of organ whorl initiation) is very similar among all species, but that different mature

floral forms are distinguishable by mid-development (>1 mm diameters) due to differential

growth acceleration of corolla traits. Floral ontogeny among similar mature rotate forms remains

comparable until late stages, while somewhat different patterns of organ growth are found

between species with similar campanulate forms.

Conclusions: Our data suggest shared floral patterning during early-stage development, but that

different heterochronic shifts during mid- and late-stage development contributes to divergent

floral traits. Heterochrony thus appears to have been important in the rapid and repeated

diversification of *Jaltomata* flowers.

Keywords: Convergent Evolution, Flower development, Heterochrony, *Jaltomata*, Scanning

electron microscopy, Solanaceae.

Background

In The Origin of Species, Darwin stated "we can actually see in embryonic crustaceans and in

many other animals, and in flowers, that organs, which when mature become extremely different,

are at an early stage of growth exactly alike." [1]. This prescient statement both suggests the

importance of understanding diversity in a developmental and phylogenetic framework [2], and

raises the question about which mechanisms underlie these hypothesized mid to late stage shifts

in ontogeny. Heterochrony—a change in the relative timing or rate of a developmental process

between a derived lineage and its ancestor—is one potential mechanism contributing to such trait

variation [3-4]. Since being formally defined by Haeckel [5], the concept of heterochrony has

undergone significant changes in its usage and application [6-9; reviewed in 10-11]. Despite

these differences in the exact definition utilized, heterochrony is still broadly viewed as an

important framework in which to examine and understand morphological changes [3; 10],

especially in animal taxa. For instance, the classic example of axolotls that retain more

juvenilized features than their ancestors [12], the large variation in cranial morphology among

different dog breeds [13], and even the evolution of extremely complex traits such as

metamorphosis in insects [14], have largely been attributed to heterochronic shifts during

development.

The general concept of heterochrony, as well as the distinct processes that comprise this

mechanism of developmental change, can also be meaningfully applied to plant evolution [15-

16]. Heterochrony is most often identified in plants by examining individual organs or functional

units, such as flowers or individual leaves [4]. Broadly, heterochronic shifts include changes in

the relative timing of initiation (i.e. onset) or termination (i.e. offset) of a developmental process

– which together determine the duration of this developmental process. Additionally, changes

can occur in the rate at which a developmental process proceeds. Shorter developmental duration

or decreased growth rate (termed pedomorphosis) often results in the reduction or juvenilization

of a trait, while longer developmental duration or increased growth rate (termed peramorphosis)

often results in the elaboration of a trait. Both types of shifts – duration or rate, as well as their

combined effects – can conceivably contribute to observed variation in plant traits [3-4, 17].

Unlike plant architecture in general, flowers undergo determinate development, and thus

are particularly attractive subjects for studying the contribution of heterochrony to morphological

divergence. While most flowers conform to a shared ground plan, i.e. egg and pollen-producing

structures surrounded by a non-reproductive perianth (sepals and petals), many lineages exhibit

abundant inter- and intra-specific variation in the organization (phyllotaxy), number (merosity),

size and shape, degree of fusion, and specific identity of floral organs [18-19]. Numerous studies

have examined the potential role of heterochronic changes in floral trait evolution, including

those associated with mating system transitions. The shift from outcrossing to predominately

selfing is considered one of the most common evolutionary transitions among plants [20-21], and

is typically associated with reduction of flower size, petal size, and/or anther-stigma separation

(herkogamy) – collectively referred to as the 'selfing syndrome' [22-23]. Comparative work

examining closely related outcrossing and selfing species, as well as among intra-specific

populations [24], has generally revealed that reductions in floral size result from pedomorphic

changes, either from decreased growth rates (i.e. neoteny; e.g. [25]), or truncation of the growth

period [26]. However, some studies have also found that smaller flowers or those with reduced

herkogamy in selfing lineages result from an increased growth rate over either short [27] or long

[28] developmental periods, as well as different growth patterns between populations with high

selfing rates [24]. Similarly, comparative work examining the developmental basis of

cleistogamous flowers (where sexual maturation and self-fertilization occurs within closed buds)

also indicates a prominent role of heterochronic changes [29]. Such cleistogamous flowers have

been found to result from various combinations of heterochronic shifts, including decreased

organ growth rates and shortening of the duration of development (e.g. [30]), or decreased

growth rates of petals and stamens (e.g. [31]). In contrast however, Luo et al. [32] determined

that cleistogamous flowers in *Pseudostellaria heterophylla* result from induction of fewer organ

primordia (including complete loss of petal primordia initiation) than in chasmogamous (i.e.

open flowers) on the same individual. Thus, several distinct heterochronic (and in fewer reported

cases, non-heterochronic) processes can result in convergent floral phenotypes associated with

mating system transitions, such as selfing syndromes and cleistogamy.

Apart from developmental studies of mating system transitions, comparative ontogenetic

studies have examined floral trait variation likely related to pollinator shifts [33-35]. A classic

example is Guerrant's [33] examination of developmental differences between a pair of

Delphinium species – one bee-pollinated, the other hummingbird-pollinated. In that instance, the

derived hummingbird-pollinated flower results from an overall decreased growth rate

(pedomorphosis via neoteny), but also accelerated growth for an extended period (peramorphosis

via acceleration and hypermorphosis) specifically in the reward-providing nectariferous petals.

More recently, Armbruster et al. [35] described the evolution of buzz-pollinated flowers in

Dalechampia via neoteny, with sexual maturity of the anthers occurring at an earlier

developmental stage (i.e. similar to pre-anthesis ancestral buds) than in species with the post-

anthesis ancestral floral form (i.e. with opened and extended petals and sepals). Nonetheless,

despite this increasing attention to the role of heterochrony in plant development, several critical

questions remain, including how frequently heterochronic shifts underlie changes in floral form,

and whether convergent phenotypes may be the result of similar or divergent developmental

mechanisms.

Jaltomata (Solanaceae) includes approximately 60-80 species distributed from the

Southwestern United States to the Andean region of South America, with extensive and recently

evolved floral diversity [36-39]. Although the pollination biology of this genus has yet to be

formally evaluated, field observations (T. Mione and S. Leiva G., pers. comm.) reveal that

different species are visited by bees and hummingbirds. In addition, *Jaltomata* produce varying

amounts of floral nectar as a pollinator reward, unlike close relatives like *Solanum* [40-41].

Examination of corolla morphology variation within Solanaceae [41] reveals that the closest

lineages to *Jaltomata* (*Solanum*, *Capsicum*, and *Lycianthes*) all have predominately flattened

'rotate' corollas, suggesting that this rotate form is ancestral within *Jaltomata*. Indeed, ancestral

state reconstruction on a molecular phylogeny of 45 *Jaltomata* species [37] supports the rotate

corolla form as ancestral, and that both bell-shaped 'campanulate' and elongated 'tubular' flowers

are derived specifically within the genus (Fig. 1). It also suggests that several instances of the

independent evolution of either derived campanulate or tubular floral forms in different

Jaltomata species; in contrast, both campanulate and tubular forms generally appear to produce

more nectar than rotate forms ([42]; T. Mione, pers. comm.; J. L. Kostyun, unpublished).

Phylogenetic reconstruction with fewer species but additional loci [36, 38], as well as

phylogenomic reconstruction using whole transcriptomes (Wu, Kostyun, Moyle, unpublished),

also recover the major clades identified in [37] further supporting the inferences that rotate

corolla morphology is ancestral within the genus and that campanulate corollas in different

clades are likely convergent rather than homologous.

We hypothesized that both derived campanulate and tubular forms might represent

elaborated versions of the ancestral rotate form, specifically through variation in corolla (petal)

growth prior to flower anthesis (opening). We therefore assessed whether heterochronic changes

(specifically peramorphic changes such as longer duration of development and/or growth

acceleration, which often produce larger or more elaborated structures) underlie these transitions,

particularly during late stages of ontogeny [1-2, 4]. (Therefore, although heterochrony can also

refer to changes in the actual developmental events (i.e. sequence heterochrony; [11]), here we

are particularly interested in assessing changes in growth). In addition to evaluating the role of

heterochrony in the evolution of derived floral forms, we also expected that comparing floral

development between species with similar mature morphs--but unresolved phylogenetic

relatedness--would provide insight into their evolutionary origin [37] (Wu, Kostyun, Moyle,

unpublished). For instance, if similar mature forms result from similar developmental processes,

this could suggest re-use of similar pathways or a shared single origin. In contrast, if they result

from distinct developmental processes, this could indicate that these forms are independently

derived, or that these forms share a common evolutionary origin (i.e. are homologous) but

underwent developmental systems drift [43] during their divergence.

Given these considerations, our main goals in this study were to: 1) assess evidence for

heterochronic changes during floral development in species with derived campanulate and

tubular forms; 2) determine which type(s) of heterochronic changes are associated with specific

floral trait changes; and 3) assess whether putatively convergent forms might result from similar

or different developmental processes (i.e. are associated with the same or different types of

heterochronic shifts). To address these goals, we compared floral ontogeny of four *Jaltomata*

species with divergent corolla morphologies to a *Jaltomata* species with a rotate corolla that is

representative of the inferred ancestral state (i.e. plesiomorphic), as well as an outgroup species

that also has an inferred plesiomorphic rotate corolla form.

Our findings support the inference that a combination of parallel and convergent

allometric changes (i.e. shifts in the size of particular floral organs in relation to the entire

flower) have given rise to floral variation in this group, and show that heterochronic shifts

explain these changes. In particular, two types of peramorphic changes (extended duration of

floral development and accelerated growth) predominately explain changes in corolla traits.

Thus, peramorphism emerges as an important developmental mechanism controlling diversity of

Jaltomata corolla forms. Finally, species with similar mature campanulate corollas follow

similar but clearly not identical growth trajectories, consistent with phylogenetic inferences that

these campanulate floral morphs have independent origins [37]; (Wu, Kostyun, Moyle,

unpublished) (Fig. 1). In contrast, we found that species with similar mature rotate corollas

follow nearly identical developmental trajectories (specifically, that overall bud and organ

growth rates do not differ) until the very last stages of ontogeny, suggesting a single evolutionary

origin of the rotate form in this case.

Methods

Plant materials and growth conditions

Field-collected seeds of our five target *Jaltomata* species were provided by Dr. Thomas Mione

(Central Connecticut State University), and seed for one wild tomato outgroup (*Solanum*

pimpinellifolium, accession LA1589) was obtained from the Tomato Genetics Resource Center at

the University of California, Davis (Table S1). We selected this outgroup because *Solanum* is

considered the sister genus to *Jaltomata* [36, 38], this species has an ancestrally representative

rotate corolla [41], floral development in this species has previously been characterized [26, 44],

and--as a wild species--its floral development has not been influenced by domestication (i.e.

compared to domestic tomato, *S. lycopersicum*). Our focal *Jaltomata* species included the

Central American species *Jaltomata darcyana* that has an rotate corolla representative of the

inferred ancestral corolla morphology, and four species found as natives exclusively in South

America: *Jaltomata calliantha* and *Jaltomata dendroidea* with putatively independently derived

campanulate corollas, *Jaltomata umbellata* with a tubular corolla, and *Jaltomata sinuosa* with a

rotate corolla that is ambiguously ancestral or secondarily derived (Fig. 1). Plants were cultivated

in the Indiana University Research Greenhouse, under standardized temperature (15-20°C) and

light (16-hour days) conditions. All plants were watered to field capacity on automatic driplines,

and received weekly fertilizer treatment.

Floral development

To estimate the duration of floral development and overall absolute floral growth rate, young

inflorescences were first identified when the largest bud was approximately 1 mm in diameter,

and then evaluated every second day until first anthesis (petal opening). In particular, we

evaluated and measured bud diameter on the largest (oldest) bud from at least three

inflorescences on three individuals per species, except for *J. dendroidea* for which we could only

measure buds from two individuals (three and two inflorescences per individual, respectively).

To assess relative organ growth during development, buds up to 4 mm in diameter were

collected into 70% ethanol or formalin-acetic acid-alcohol (FAA), dissected as required,

dehydrated through an ethanol series at room temperature, and incubated in a 4°C fridge over-

night. Samples were critical point dried (using a Balzers CPD030), mounted on aluminum stubs,

and sputter-coated with gold-palladium (using a Polaron E5100). They were then imaged using a

JEOL 6060 or a JEOL 5800LV scanning electron microscope (SEM) at the University of

Vermont or Indiana University, respectively. Morphological traits were measured on the

resulting bud micrographs using ImageJ [45]. For buds greater than 4 mm in diameter,

morphological traits were measured by hand on freshly collected samples using digital calipers.

To ensure that we were comparing organ sizes at the same developmental stage across species,

we assigned measured buds to discrete developmental stages based on morphological markers,

following [44] for which floral developmental stages were determined in the same accession of

S. pimpinellifolium as used here. This resulted in six distinct 'early' developmental stages, one

'mid' stage, and three 'late' stages, based on these morphological markers (Table 1).

217   Given the potential role of trichomes in regulating corolla shape during bud development

[46], we also determined the developmental timing of trichome initiation and maturation. In

particular, we assessed whether divergent corolla morphologies are associated with differences in

trichome patterning during floral development. Because our focal species also vary in nectar

volume per flower, and derived campanulate and tubular forms are generally associated with

greater nectar volume across the genus (T. Mione, pers. comm.; J. L. Kostyun, unpublished), we

determined the onset of nectar secretion using a 20x hand-lens. Our primary goal was to

determine whether this observed difference in nectar volume between divergent corolla forms is

associated with changes in the developmental timing of nectar secretion.

Mature floral trait measurements

Mature floral traits were measured with hand-held digital calipers on three flowers each for at

least three individuals per species, and included calyx diameter, sepal length, corolla diameter,

corolla depth, corolla fusion (i.e. length of the corolla tube), petal length, lobe length, stamen

length, anther length, ovary diameter, and style length (Fig. S1). To account for potential size

differences among flowers within an inflorescence, floral traits were only measured on the oldest

flower within each examined inflorescence. For *Jaltomata* species only (the outgroup does not

produce nectar), we also measured nectar volume per flower to the nearest 1 μL with a pipette.

To reduce potential environmental effects on nectar production, nectar volume per flower was

always measured during the early afternoon following watering. Trichome type(s) present on

sepals and petals was also scored using a 20x hand lens.

Statistical analyses

We used analyses of variance (ANOVA), followed by Tukey's honest significant difference

(HSD) post-hoc tests, to assess differences among species in three comparisons: on mature floral

traits; log-transformed floral organ size at discrete stages during development (as specified in

Table 1); and duration (i.e. number of days) of floral development.

244   To compare relative floral organ growth rates during development, we used linear

regression on log-transformed bud measurements. Because buds grow at different rates among

species (Table 1), we regressed organ sizes on bud diameter to account for overall floral size;

thus, we assessed whether there were significant interaction effects between bud diameter and

species as a measure of differential growth rates. We performed these analyses in two ways.

First, we used data from the entire course of floral development. However, because we

determined that species differences in bud growth (specifically, bud diameter) only occur once

all floral organs are initiated (i.e. starting in stage G, Table 1), we also performed these

regressions separately for two discrete groups of developmental stage ("Early" versus "Mid" +

"Late", in Table 1). This enabled us to more directly examine organ growth in relation to overall

bud growth; we present the latter set of analyses in the main text, and the former (i.e. over total

floral development) within Table S3 for comparison. Because we are most interested in potential

heterochronic shifts within *Jaltomata*, we used *J. darcyana* as the baseline in these analyses to

assess differences between ancestral and derived floral forms. However, since *J. darcyana*

flowers could have somewhat derived developmental trajectories (and the actual ancestor of all

five *Jaltomata* species is no longer extant), we also performed these analyses using either *S.*

pimpinellifolium (as another representative of the inferred rotate ancestral state) or *S.*

pimpinellifolium + *J. darcyana* (as a 'composite' representation of the inferred rotate ancestral

state – specifically, we treated these species as a single group) as the baseline. These analyses

returned qualitatively consistent results as our comparisons using *J. darcyana* (see Results), and

are provided in Table S3 for comparison. We also compared organ growth rates between the two

derived campanulate forms (i.e. *J. calliantha* versus *J. dendroidea*). All analyses were performed

within the R statistical environment [47].

Results

Mature floral traits differ markedly across species

Mature, post-anthesis *Jaltomata* flowers differ substantially in multiple traits, including overall

size and relative sizes of individual organs, volume of nectar produced per flower, and trichome

type and density on sepals and petals (Table 2; Fig. 1). In terms of floral size, campanulate

Jaltomata calliantha and *J. dendroidea* have the largest flowers, while rotate *S. pimpinellifolium*

has the smallest; *Jaltomata* flowers also differ from *S. pimpinellifolium* in having free stamens

(compared to a fused anther cone, considered a derived trait in the wild tomatoes [41]), and in

producing nectar. Calyx diameter significantly differs across all species, while both corolla and

ovary diameter significantly differ between all species pairs, except tubular *J. umbellata* versus

S. pimpinellifolium (ANOVA $p < 0.00001$; Tukey HSD, $p < 0.0001$), which both have

comparatively small flowers. Although mature floral organ sizes vary substantially among

Jaltomata species, the ancestrally rotate form of *J. darcyana* flowers have the shortest petals

(ANOVA $p < 0.00001$; Tukey HSD, $p < 0.0001$), and the smallest amount of corolla fusion

(ANOVA $p < 0.00001$; Tukey HSD, $p < 0.00001$) (Table 2).

In addition to organ size and shape, our focal species also differ in the amount of nectar

produced per flower (ANOVA $p < 0.00001$; Tukey HSD, $p < 0.0001$) (Table 2), as well as

trichome type and density. In particular, the campanulate species *J. calliantha* and *J. dendroidea*

as well as tubular *J. umbellata* produce significantly more nectar than either rotate *J. darcyana* or

J. sinuosa. Finally, mature flowers differ in the types and density of trichomes on mature floral

tissues. From simple to complex: *J. darcyana* has sparse simple (uniseriate) trichomes on both

sepals and petals, *J. calliantha* dense simple trichomes on both sepals and petals, *J. umbellata*

dense simple and dendritic (i.e. branched) trichomes on sepals but only dense simple ones on

petals, *J. dendroidea* very dense dendritic trichomes on both sepals and petals, *J. sinuosa* very

dense simple, dendritic and viscous glandular trichomes on sepals and dense simple and viscous

glandular ones on petals, while *S. pimpinellifolium* has dense simple and non-viscous (i.e. non-

secreting) glandular trichomes on both sepals and petals.

The early sequence of floral development is similar across *Jaltomata* species

As expected based on their recent common origin (diverged <5 mya, [38]), the five focal species

of *Jaltomata* share a common floral ground plan with each other as well as with the *Solanum*

outgroup *S. pimpinellifolium* (from which they diverged ~15-20 mya, [38]). All six species have

very similar development throughout organ initiation, which corresponds to growth up to ~1 mm

bud diameter (stages A-F; Table 1). In all species, sepals are the first floral organs to emerge

from the ~0.15 mm diameter floral meristem, and do so in an asymmetric manner from the

abaxial, to adaxial, to lateral sides (Figs. 2a, 3a, 5a-b, 6a, 7a). Once sepals within the outer whorl

(within a flower) are qualitatively of similar size and trichome initiation is apparent, the former

elongate from the base to form a partially fused structure (Figs. 2b, 3b, 4a, 5c, 6b, 7a-b). By

~0.25-0.3 mm floral diameter, petals and stamens emerge almost simultaneously, but slightly

asymmetrically (Figs. 2c, 3c, 4b-c, 5d-e, 6c-d, 7b), followed by gynoecial initiation by ~0.5 mm

diameter (Figs. 2f, 7c). Similar to sepals, petals initially emerge as free strap-like primordia, but

begin to elongate from the congenitally fused region at the base (just above the stamen

attachment point) by 0.7-0.8 mm diameter in all species (Figs. 2e, 3d, 4e, 5f-g, 6g, 7d). Simple

(uniseriate) trichomes in *Jaltomata* species, and both simple and non-viscous glandular ones in *S.*

pimpinellifolium, are first apparent on petals by ~0.5 mm buds, followed by the emergence of

dendritic petal trichomes in *J. dendroidea* and viscous glandular ones in *J. sinuosa* by 1 mm buds

(Figs. 2e, 3d-e, 4d-e, 5g-h, 6f, 7e). Finally, the gynoecium is fused, and style elongation started,

by ~1 mm bud diameter in all species (Table 1; Figs. 2g, 3f, 4g-h, 5h-i, 6h-i). Because floral

organs initiate at the same developmental age across species, observed differences in mature

flowers are therefore not a result of differences in growth onset.

Differential bud growth among species is apparent following organ initiation

Following the completion of floral organ initiation in ~1 mm diameter buds, whole buds and

their constituent organs continue to grow (including from the congenitally fused base for sepals

and petals), anthers begin to mature with the appearance of two lobes or thecae, and trichomes

mature on sepals and petals ("stage G" in Table 1). However, also during this stage, conspicuous

differences in overall bud size as well as particular floral organs become apparent among

species. Indeed, bud diameter begins to significantly differ among species during this mid-stage

of floral development (ANOVA $p < 0.0001$), with *S. pimpinellifolium* buds remaining

significantly smaller than those of all *Jaltomata* species except *J. umbellata* (Tukey HSD, $p =$

0.26 against *J. umbellata*, and $p < 0.001$ for all others), and *J. umbellata* remaining significantly

smaller than all other *Jaltomata* species except *J. dendroidea* (Tukey HSD, $p = 0.45$ against *J.*

dendroidea, and $p < 0.05$ for all others; Table 1). Despite this, corolla traits (corolla depth,

corolla fusion, and petal length) do not significantly differ among species (ANOVA, all $p > 0.1$;

Table S2), suggesting that their growth rates may be elevated in relation to whole bud growth

within *S. pimpinellifolium* and *J. umbellata* (see below).

In addition to differences in bud and organ size among species, differences in petal

trichome distribution also begin to emerge during stage G. In particular, trichomes along petal

lobe edges (i.e. the portion of petals that are not part of the congenitally fused corolla tube)

become interlocked, within *Jaltomata* species. Such interlocking trichomes extend from the

region of congenitally fused corolla tube to petal tips, and appear to hold the edges of petal lobes

together. We refer to this as 'superficial -' or 'functional fusion', as it does not result from fused

petal tissue and petal lobes are easily separated once trichomes are pulled apart (Figs. 2h-k, 3f, h-

i, 4g, i, 5h, 6g-h). This 'superficial fusion' is most apparent in buds of rotate *J. darcyana* and *J.*

sinuosa, as well as campanulate *J. calliantha* and *J. dendroidea*, and only to a lesser extent

within tubular *J. umbellata*. In particular, in rotate corollas of *J. darcyana* and *J. sinuosa*, the

proportion of the congenitally fused corolla tube to region of 'superficial fusion' via interlocking

trichomes remains similar throughout mid-stages; while in campanulate corollas of *J. calliantha*

and *J. dendroidea* the congenitally fused region becomes proportionately larger during this time.

In contrast to *Jaltomata*, petals in *S. pimpinellifolium* remain only slightly congenitally fused at

the base, with no 'superficial fusion' via interlocking trichomes on lobe edges, during this stage

(Fig. 7h).

During late stages of floral development, fully differentiated organs (especially petals)

continue to grow and mature (stages H-I, Table 1) until petals open at anthesis (stage J, Table 1).

Differences in bud diameter are especially pronounced during these late stages, with all species

pairs significantly differing (ANOVA, $p < 0.0001$), except *J. umbellata* and S. *pimpinellifolium*

(Tukey HSD, $p = 0.99$) during stage H, and *J. calliantha* and *J. dendroidea* (Tukey HSD, $p =$

0.47) and *J. umbellata* and S. *pimpinellifolium* (Tukey HSD, $p = 0.99$) during stage I (Table 1).

At anthesis, trichomes providing 'superficial fusion' become unlocked, releasing petal lobes,

while congenitally fused regions of the corolla remained fused in mature flowers.

Nectar secretion within *Jaltomata* flowers also begins during stages H-I of floral

development, although there are some differences in timing among species. In *J. darcyana*,

minute amounts of nectar are apparent in mid-day -1 day buds (i.e. the afternoon of the day

before anthesis, during stage I); while for *J. calliantha*, *J. dendroidea*, and *J. sinuosa,* nectar is

first apparent during the morning in 0 day buds (i.e. the morning of the day the flower opens,

typically a few hours prior to full anthesis, during the very end of stage I); and in *J. umbellata*,

nectar secretion is not apparent until the evening of day 0 flowers (after anthesis has occurred,

during stage J), or until the morning of +1 day flowers (i.e. the day following anthesis, just prior

to anther dehiscence in this species).

Overall duration of floral development and absolute growth rates differ among species

We measured the duration of floral development in days to assess evidence that an extended

growth period underpinned species floral differences (i.e. whether larger flowers grow for a

longer period), as well as to calculate an average overall growth rate (bud diameter in mm per

day) to assess potential accelerated growth of whole flowers.

The duration of floral development from 1 mm diameter buds onwards, which

corresponds to completion of organ initiation in all species (i.e. starting in stage G, Table 1), was

significantly different among species (Table 3). Floral development duration ranged from 14

days in outgroup *S. pimpinellifolium* to an average of 32.40 days in *J. dendroidea*. Among

Jaltomata species, the ancestrally rotate flowers of *J. darcyana* (average 19.23 days) and derived

tubular flowers of *J. umbellata* (average 18.62 days) had the shortest development times

(ANOVA $p < 0.00001$; Tukey HSD against all other species, $p < 0.00001$; Tukey HSD against

each other, $p = 0.525$). Similarly, overall average bud growth rate (bud diameter in mm per day)

ranged from 0.185 mm/day in *J. umbellata* to 0.473 mm/day in campanulate *J. dendroidea*

(Table 3).

Because we also measured bud diameter while assessing duration of floral development,

we compared these data with our measures from destructively sampled buds at different sizes to

approximate how long (in days) each species remained at the different developmental stages

(comprising mid- and late stages, Table 1). While this provides an imperfect estimate of the

developmental time-course, it allowed us to assess whether there are evident qualitative

differences between species. Based on this comparison, all *Jaltomata* species remained in stage F

for approximately 2 days, but spent different amounts of time in mid- and each of the late stages

(stages G-I) (Table 1). Rotate *J. darcyana* and tubular *J. umbellata* both spent fewer days in

stage G than the other species. Interestingly, rotate *J. sinuosa* and campanulate *J. calliantha*

followed similar time-courses, while campanulate *J. dendroidea* likewise had a similar time-

course with the exception of a greatly extended duration of stage I.

Relative floral organ growth rates differ among species

Given observed allometric differences in organ sizes among species (Table 2), we also calculated

relative growth rates of individual floral organs. For instance, even if species do not differ in

their overall absolute growth rate (diameter per day; Table 3), differences in the relative growth

rates among floral organs (floral organ in mm per mm of bud diameter) could explain observed

differences in mature flowers. Because we determined that overall bud growth rates do not differ

among species until after completion of organ initiation (Table 1), we assessed relative organ

growth rates during early stages separately from mid- and late stages (as outlined in Table 1).

We detected several differences among species in relative growth rates for particular

floral organs, in both the early and the mid to late stage comparisons (Table 4, Fig. 8). First,

during early stages, growth rates of all organs except the ovary and style are significantly

elevated in rotate *S. pimpinellifolium* compared to rotate *J. darcyana* (all $p < 0.00001$, except $p =$

0.18 for ovary and $p = 0.75$ for style). Within *Jaltomata*, the growth rate for sepals is

significantly elevated in campanulate *J. calliantha*, corolla fusion is significantly decreased in

campanulate *J. dendroidea*, and as suggested by organ comparisons by stage (above), corolla

depth is significantly elevated in tubular *J. umbellata* (Table 4). Comparing growth rates

between campanulate *J. calliantha* and *J. dendroidea*, all corolla traits except fusion are

significantly decreased in *J. dendroidea* (Table 4). Against *S. pimpinellifolium*, most organ

growth rates are significantly decreased in *Jaltomata* species (indicative of general accelerated

growth in *S. pimpinellifolium* starting in early stages), while only corolla growth rates are

significantly decreased in *J. dendroidea* against both *J. darcyana* and *S. pimpinellifolium* (Table

S3).

Within mid- and late stages of floral development, we detected even more differences in

organ growth rates (Table 4, Fig. 8). Focusing on corolla growth within *Jaltomata*, corolla depth

continues to be significantly elevated in *J. umbellata*; corolla fusion and petal length are

significantly elevated in all other species; and lobe length is significantly decreased in *J.*

calliantha (Table 4). In general, growth rates for corolla depth, corolla fusion, and petal length

are highest in tubular *J. umbellata*. Growth rates for corolla fusion and petal length are similar

between campanulate species (*J. calliantha* and *J. dendroidea*) and rotate *J. sinuosa*, however

corolla depth and lobe growth rates are significantly elevated in *J. dendroidea* compared to *J.*

calliantha (Table 4). Comparing against *S. pimpinellifolium*, corolla fusion is elevated and lobe

length is decreased in rotate and campanulate *Jaltomata* species, and all corolla traits are

elevated in tubular *J. umbellata*; while against both *J. darcyana* and *S. pimpinellifolium* all

corolla traits are elevated in the other *Jaltomata* species, except lobe growth in *J. calliantha*

(Table S3).

Discussion

Heterochronic shifts during development are often considered a primary mechanism underlying

phenotypic evolution [6]. Indeed, heterochrony appears to be a common mechanism underlying

morphological diversification in numerous animal lineages [12], as well as in flowers, including

shifts in both duration of floral development and growth rates leading to phenotypic shifts in

descendent lineages [3-4, 17]. In this study, we examined floral ontogeny in five florally diverse

species of *Jaltomata*, as well as a closely related outgroup that shares the ancestral rotate corolla

form, to assess evidence for heterochrony contributing to observed variation in mature corolla

forms and other floral traits. Overall, we found that the sequence of developmental events is

consistent among examined species, but that differences in growth rate and duration of floral

development are associated with different corolla morphologies. In particular, we found that

early floral development (<1 mm bud diameter, corresponding to organ initiation) is very similar

among all examined species, that differences between *Jaltomata* and *Solanum* are apparent soon

after organ initiation (i.e. starting in stage G, Table 1), and that corolla trait differences

associated with divergent corolla shapes among *Jaltomata* species first arise during mid-

developmental stages. Elevated growth rates of corolla traits, combined with extended duration

of floral development, lead to observed differences in mature floral traits among species. In

particular, these developmental changes are heterochronic, with predominately accelerated

growth rates and extended development duration (that is, peramorphic changes) associated with

variation in mature corolla form.

Extended duration of floral development and accelerated growth rates underlie derived

tubular and campanulate mature corolla shapes in *Jaltomata*

One goal of this study was to assess whether derived tubular and campanulate corolla forms in

Jaltomata arise due to heterochronic developmental shifts. In particular, we hypothesized that

derived campanulate and tubular forms are elaborated versions of the ancestral rotate form, and

therefore might result from peramorphic changes (i.e. longer duration of floral development or

accelerated growth rates). Indeed, compared to ancestrally rotate flowers of *J. darcyana* (or

indeed, more generally to *S. pimpinellifolium* or a composite of these two species), all derived

Jaltomata species show peramorphic changes during floral development. First, all species except

J. umbellata have significantly longer development duration (Table 3). Because floral organs

initiated at the same developmental age across species, differences in the duration of floral

development in derived forms result from changes in the timing of offset (i.e. growth period is

extended). Second, growth rates for most of our measured floral traits are significantly elevated

in *J. umbellata* compared to *J. darcyana*, including petal length and extent of corolla fusion

(Table 4), even though *J. darcyana* and *J. umbellata* have similar development periods (19.23

days vs. 18.62 days, Table 3). Similarly, growth rates of most floral organs are significantly

elevated in both campanulate species – including rates of petal length and extent of corolla

fusion – in comparison to *J. darcyana* (Table 4), even though both also have longer development

periods and faster overall growth rates in terms of bud diameter (Table 2). Thus, derived

campanulate flowers in *J. calliantha* and *J. dendroidea* result from both accelerated organ

growth rates and an extended development period, while derived tubular flowers in *J. umbellata*

appear to result from accelerated growth rates of particular floral organs and organ components.

These findings are consistent with other comparative ontogenetic studies examining floral

morphology transitions associated with pollinator shifts, in which the derived floral form appears

to be an elaborated version of the ancestral (e.g. [33]). For instance, peramorphic growth was

found to underlie the elaborated nectariferous petal in the derived hummingbird pollinated

Delphinium [33]. In contrast, in cases where the derived form appears to be a more juvenilized

version, pedomorphic shifts predominantly explain these differences [4, 34-35].

In addition to changes associated with morphological differences between species, we

also determined that nectar secretion dynamics appear to have undergone a combination of

heterochronic shifts in more derived forms, including a delayed onset of the start of nectar

secretion, as well as increased rates of nectar production. However, these shifts were found in

rotate *J. sinuosa*, both campanulate *J. calliantha* and *J. dendroidea*, as well as tubular *J.*

umbellata, suggesting that variation in nectar production is genetically and/or developmentally

uncoupled from corolla morphology. Indeed, preliminary quantitative trait locus (QTL) mapping

in a hybrid population generated from *J. sinuosa* and *J. umbellata* (Kostyun et al., unpublished)

indicates that QTL for aspects of corolla morphology and nectar volume do not coincide. This is

in contrast to studies in several other systems (reviewed in [48]) in which overlapping QTL were

identified for floral shape and reward characters, although these cases as yet are unable to

distinguish closely linked, but distinct, loci for corolla morphology and nectar traits, from

actually pleiotropic loci.

Alike mature corolla forms result from similar heterochronic changes during mid-stage

ontogeny

Another goal of this study was to assess whether alike mature corolla shapes arise from shared or

divergent developmental trajectories. Overall, we found that floral development was very similar

during early and mid-stages within both species with rotate flowers, suggesting that these corolla

morphologies may share a single evolutionary origin (i.e. are homologous). In contrast, species

with campanulate flowers show several different types of changes, albeit in similar directions,

supporting our hypothesis that the campanulate corolla morphologies in these two species are

independently derived.

Floral ontogeny in general, and corolla development in particular, are very similar

between rotate flowers of *J. sinuosa* and ancestrally rotate flowers of *J. darcyana*, until late

stages when growth of petal length and corolla fusion become significantly elevated in *J. sinuosa*

(Table 4). These species also share a similar overall bud growth rate, although *J. sinuosa*

continues to grow for significantly longer (Table 3). These data indicate that the shared rotate

floral morphology in these two species arises through a very similar developmental process, but

peramorphic changes (both an extended development period and growth acceleration of

particular floral organs) during late floral development lead to an overall increased size of *J.*

sinuosa flowers, and a proportionately greater extent of corolla fusion (Table 2). These

observations again suggest that the rotate flowers in these species share a single evolutionary

origin.

In contrast, we determined that while both campanulate species have elevated corolla

fusion and petal growth starting in mid-stage ontogeny (Table 4), they also significantly differ in

perianth (sepal and petal) growth during early stages (Table 4), as well as in the duration of floral

development (Table 3) and estimated duration of different stages (Table 1). Additionally, *J.*

calliantha actually shows a significantly decreased growth rate (i.e. neoteny) for lobe length

compared to *J. darcyana* during mid- and late stages (Table 4), whereas the growth rate of lobe

length does not significantly differ between *J. dendroidea* and *J. darcyana*. These differences

suggest that campanulate corollas in these two species are independently derived. Alternatively,

these forms could share a single origin, but could have experienced subsequent developmental

changes without large changes in the mature phenotype (i.e. developmental systems drift) during

lineage divergence. In the absence of other data, we prefer the former hypothesis based on the

phylogenetic distribution of these two species [37]; (Wu, Kostyun, Moyle, unpublished) (Fig. 1).

Together, these observations agree with prior studies suggesting that different heterochronic

changes contributing to similar mature floral phenotypes may actually be quite common; for

instance, multiple distinct developmental shifts have been shown to produce flowers with the

'selfing syndrome' across lineages [3-4, 23] and among closely related populations and species

[24].

Heterochronic shifts as a first step to identifying specific mechanisms underlying floral

divergence and convergence in *Jaltomata*

Our data suggest an important role for several different heterochronic developmental shifts in

generating floral trait diversity among *Jaltomata* species, especially peramorphism (via growth

acceleration and extended growth period), in shaping corolla diversity. If these heterochronic

shifts are caused by relatively simple genetic changes, this could have contributed to the apparent

rapid floral trait diversification within the genus (<5 my; [38]). Future work identifying the

specific genetic and developmental mechanisms underlying these heterochronic shifts will

provide a better understanding of the pace of phenotypic change, as well as likely candidate

genes contributing to these developmental shifts. For instance, changes in the regulation of cell

proliferation and/or cell expansion can lead to variation in overall floral size or size of particular

floral organs, and several key candidate genes have been identified in *Arabidopsis* that function

during these processes [23, 49]. Given our observed patterns of developmental heterochrony (i.e.

extended floral development duration and accelerated growth), we anticipate that a combination

of molecular heterochrony (e.g. growth promoting factors are expressed for longer) and

heterometry (e.g. a higher amount of growth promoting gene products are produced) might

underlie these shifts.

In addition to intrinsic (genetic) regulation of cell growth within floral organs, external

signals or structures could also influence mature floral morphology [50-51]. For instance, the

involvement of trichomes in regulating flower shape was recently reported in cotton (*Gossypium*

hirsutum), in which the petal trichome gene *GhMYB-MIXTA-Like10* (*GhMYBML10*) is strongly

expressed at the point of petal overlap, resulting in trichome cross-linking that physically hold

petals in place [46]. We identified similar 'superficial corolla fusion' via interlocking trichomes

in both rotate and campanulate *Jaltomata* species examined here, although different growth

dynamics during mid- and late-stages was observed between these forms. Although trichome

cross-linking occurs in these species, it remains to be determined whether it is essential for

normal corolla development (as in [46]) and if this phenotype is regulated by a *MYBML10*

orthologue (including whether expression differs between rotate and campanulate vs. tubular

Jaltomata forms).

The identification of specific developmental mechanisms and candidate genes will also

clarify whether similar mature floral morphs result from shared evolutionary history or from

convergent or parallel changes at the molecular level. In the *Jaltomata* species that we examined

here, floral development (especially for corolla traits) in both rotate species was extremely

similar until late stages, while in the campanulate species, we identified heterochronic shifts in

the same direction but not in the same characters. Thus, it is likely that *J. darcyana* and *J.*

sinuosa share their rotate form from common ancestry, while *J. calliantha* and *J. dendroidea*

represent convergent or parallel evolution of the campanulate form. In this way, determining the

developmental mechanisms underlying these heterochronic shifts can be used both to pinpoint

how changes in existing floral development pathways lead to phenotypic variation, and to

differentiate alternative evolutionary histories (common ancestry versus convergence) for similar

mature floral forms. In particular, shared mutations would be more indicative of common

descent rather than parallel evolution.

Pollinator-mediated selection may have shaped *Jaltomata* floral diversification

Understanding how developmental trajectories differ between species with different mature

floral traits also broadly informs the ways in which these traits are most able to respond to

selection (e.g. whether developmental constraint restricts certain paths of trait evolution). Such

inferences are especially relevant to floral trait evolution across the *Jaltomata* genus, which

shows both high levels of floral trait divergence, as well as multiple putatively independent shifts

to similar floral forms, within a relatively short timescale (<5mya, [38]). From an evolutionary

perspective, such shifts are likely to have been shaped by pollinator behavior. Observations

indicate that some species are predominantly visited by distinct pollinator functional groups (e.g.

hymenopterans vs. hummingbirds, T. Mione, pers. comm.; J.L. Kostyun, unpublished), and these

species have floral trait suites consistent with different pollinator syndromes [52]. In particular,

hummingbirds have been observed visiting campanulate *J. calliantha* whose flowers have

copious amounts of dilute nectar [53] as well as and tubular *Jaltomata viridiflora*, while

hymenopterans have been observed visiting *J. sinuosa* and *Jaltomata repandidentata* (a close

relative to *J. darcyana*; [37]) that have rotate corollas with relatively small amounts of

concentrated nectar [54]. Because differential pollinator behavior often leads to reproductive

isolation between lineages [55], understanding the underlying developmental basis of floral trait

evolution can also reveal factors that could accelerate speciation in this rapidly-evolving and

florally diverse system.

Conclusions

As articulated by Darwin, vast diversity of form (including in flowers) can arise from changes in

late developmental stages despite early developmental similarities that are rooted in common

ancestry. One such type of developmental change is heterochrony, which is a shift in rate or

timing in a descendant compared to its ancestor. By comparing floral ontogeny among five

Jaltomata species and an outgroup, we determined that heterochronic shifts during mid- and late

stages of floral development distinguish divergent corolla forms. In particular, two types of

peramorphosis (differential growth acceleration and delayed offset leading to an extended

development period) predominately explain these changes. Our data therefore support Darwin's

insight that even highly divergent mature floral traits result from modifications to initially similar

structures. These relatively simple heterochronic shifts contribute to observed floral trait

variation among *Jaltomata* species and, as such, could act as a mechanism allowing rapid floral

trait diversification in this florally diverse system.

Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate

Not applicable.

Consent for publication

Not applicable.

Availability of data and material

Summaries of datasets used and/or analyzed during the current study are available within the

Supplementary Materials, while raw data is available on Dryad [DOI to be added upon

acceptance]. Seed material was obtained from Dr. Thomas Mione at Central Connecticut State

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applicable regulations in obtaining the material.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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Authors' contributions

All authors planned and designed the research, JLK performed the experiments, JLK and JCP

analyzed the data, and all wrote the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final

manuscript.

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Figure legends

Fig. 1. Simplified phylogenetic relationships in *Jaltomata* and the outgroup *Solanum*

pimpinellifolium based on [38, 41] and (Wu, Kostyun, Moyle, unpublished). Representative

mature flowers are depicted for the species examined here (in bold font). White scale bars = 1

cm. R, rotate; C, campanulate; T, tubular. Note: All five focal *Jaltomata* species are represented

in [37], but as this study was accepted prior to formal naming of *J. calliantha* [56], this species is

called "J. hummingbird".

Fig 2. *Jaltomata darcyana* rotate flower development. (a,b) Stages A-C: Sepals develop

asymmetrically from the abaxial side, and once of similar lengths, grow from a their base to form

a fused tube. (c) Stage C: Removal of sepals reveals development of petal and stamen primordia.

(d,e) Stage D: Petals grow freely but begin to develop trichomes. (f,g) Stages E-F: Carpels

become fused during gynoecial development. (h-k) Stages F-G: Petals are congenitally fused at

the base just above the stamen insertion point (h-i), but then become 'superficially fused' via

interlocking trichomes along their lengths by ~3 mm flower diameter (j-k). Scale bars = 100 um,

and bud diameter is provided in bottom right panel. s = sepal, p = petal, st = stamen, tri =

trichome, fus = corolla fusion, fil = anther filament, g = gynoecium, sty = style.

Fig 3. *Jaltomata sinuosa* rotate flower development. (a,b) Stages A-B: Sepals initiate in an

asymmetric fashion from the abaxial side, and quickly fuse at the base. (c) Stage C: Five free

petals develop around initiating stamen primordia. (d-e) Stage E: As stamens continue to mature,

petals remain mostly free, but are fused at the base. (f-g) Stages F-G: Removal of mostly free

petals reveals development of fused carpels. (h,i) Stage G: Opening of the corolla in 2.5-4 mm

wide flowers shows a fused petal base from just above the stamen attachment point to about

mid-way up the length of the corolla (i), and 'superficial fusion' of petals above the mid-point,

via interlocking trichomes. Scale bars = 100 um, and bud diameter provided in bottom right

corner. s = sepal, p = petal, st = stamen, tri = trichome, fus = corolla fusion, fil = anther filament,

g = gynoecium, sty = style.

Fig 4. *Jaltomata calliantha* campanulate flower development. (a) Stage A: Free sepals extend

through the growth of a basal primordium to form a lower fused tube. (b) Stage C: Opening of

partially fused sepals reveals initiation of petal, followed by stamen, primordia. (c) Stage C: Free

petals and stamens grow prior to initiation of the carpel primordia. (d-f) Stages D-E: Free petals

develop trichomes on the adaxial side, becoming slightly fused just above the stamen attachment

point during stamen thecae emergence. (g-h) Stages F-G: Fused carpel development. (i) Stage G:

Petals remain only slightly fused above the stamen filament in 3.5 mm wide flowers. Scale bars

= 100 um, and bud diameter is also provided in bottom right corner. s = sepal, p = petal, st =

stamen, tri = trichome, fus = corolla fusion, fil = anther filament, g = gynoecium, sty = style.

Fig 5. *Jaltomata dendroidea* campanulate flower development. (a,b) Stage A: Sepals develop

asymmetrically from the abaxial side. (c) Stage A: Once equal in size, sepals extend through

growth of the underlying meristem, giving rise to a fused tube. (d,e) Stage C: Partial removal of

sepals reveals development of petals and stamens. (f-h) Stages D-G: Petals are largely free from

early development to stamen thecae differentiation in 1.6 mm wide flowers, however, there is a

small zone of fusion about the stamen attachment point. (i) Stage F: Carpels are partially fused

above the developing ovary. Scale bars = 100 um, and bud diameter also provided in bottom

right corner. s = sepal, p = petal, st = stamen, tri = trichome, fus = corolla fusion, fil = anther

filament, g = gynoecium, sty = style.

Fig 6. *Jaltomata umbellata* tubular flower development. (a) Stage A: Sepal development occurs

asymmetrically, with the first sepal initiating on the abaxial side. (b) Stage B: Once all sepal

primordia have expanded, organs become fused at the base to form a tube. (c,d) Stages C:

Removal of partially fused sepals reveals the initiation of petal and stamen primordia in an

asymmetric progression. (e-f) Stages C-D: Separate petal primordia elongate without fusion. (g-

i) Stages E-H: As stamens continue to mature, petals of ~1-2.6 mm diameter flowers become

increasingly fused above the stamen attachment point to form a corolla tube. By stage H (i),

petals are longer than sepals. Scale bars = 100 um, and bud diameter also provided in bottom

right corner. s = sepal, p = petal, st = stamen, tri = trichome, fus = corolla fusion, fil = anther

filament, g = gynoecium, sty = style.

Fig. 7. *Solanum pimpinellifolium* rotate flower development. (a) Sepals develop asymmetrically

and fuse at their base to form a fused ring. (b,c) Removal of sepals reveals development of petals

and stamens, followed by carpel development (c). (d-h) Petals are fused at the base above the

stamen attachment point (visible in g) from early development (d), however, most of the petal

margin is free. (i) Late carpel development. (j) At the 2 mm flower diameter stage, when anther

thecae are well established, petals are mostly free, but remain partially fused at the base. Scale

bars = 100 um, and bud diameter also provided in bottom right corner. s = sepal, p = petal, st =

stamen, tri = trichome, fus = corolla fusion, fil = anther filament, g = gynoecium, sty = style.

Fig. 8. Growth trajectories for the focal floral organs and features. For all panels, the x-axis is

bud diameter (mm) and the y-axis is the focal organ (mm). Top: growth rates during early stages

(bud measurements during 'stages A-F'); and Bottom: growth rates during mid- and late stages

(bud measurements during 'stages G-I'). Data points as well as regression lines of best fit are

color coded by species. Slopes on log-transformed values are presented in Tables 4 and S3.

Additional files

Additional file 1: Tables S1-S3. Table S1. Accessions of the species used in the present study

and their collection locations. All *Jaltomata* seed material provided by Dr. Thomas Mione at

Central Connecticut State University (CCSU); *S. pimpinellifolium* seed provided by the Tomato

Genetics Resource Center at UC Davis. **Table S2**. Summaries of average floral organ size at

different stages of development across species. **Table S3**. Relative growth rates for floral organs

for the examined species, measured against bud diameter, for early stages only, mid+late stages

only, and overall development. Measurements were log-transformed prior to analysis. Significant

differences against baseline indicated by * (* $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.001$; *** $p < 0.0001$), with black

against J. darcyana, red against *S. pimpinellifolium* (alternate ancestral rotate), and blue against *J.*

darcyana + *S. pimpinellifolium* ('composite' ancestral rotate); significant differences between *J.*

calliantha and *J. dendroidea* (convergent campanulate) indicated by ^ (^ $p < 0.05$; ^^ $p < 0.001$;

^^^ $p < 0.0001$). Additional file 1 is in .xslx format.

Additional file 2: Figure S1. Measured morphological traits on mature flowers. Floral organs

were measured on three flowers per individual, for at least three individuals per species, using

hand-held digital calipers to the nearest 0.01 mm. Calyx diameter was measured as the widest

planar distance across the calyx (outer most whorl); sepal length from the tip of the sepal to the

center of the calyx; corolla diameter as the widest planar distance across the corolla (second

whorl); corolla depth as the vertical distance from the base of the corolla to its highest point,

petal length from the tip of the petal to the center of the corolla base; corolla fusion from the base

of the corolla to the highest point of congenitally fused corolla; petal lobe length from the lowest

point of non-fused petal edge to petal tip; stamen length from the base of the stamen (anther

filament) to the tip of the anther; ovary diameter as the widest planar distance across the base of

the ovary (inner most whorl); and style length from the base of the style to its tip (stigma).

Additional file 2 is in .pdf format.

Table 1. Bud development stages based on morphological markers, means (and ranges, in parentheses, for mid- and late stages) of bud

diameter for each stage across species, and estimates of duration (in days) spent in each stage.

			J. darcyana			*J. sinuosa*			*J. calliantha*		
			Dia Mean	S.D.	Days^	Dia Mean	S.D.	Days^	Dia Mean	S.D.	Days^
EARLY	A	Sepals initiated	0.20 [a]	0.03		0.17 [a]	0.03		0.17 [a]	ND	
	B	Petals initiated; sepal trichomes initiated	0.27 [a]	0.03		0.27 [a]	0.04		0.28 [a]	0.06	
	C	Stamens initiated	0.39 [a]	0.07		0.36 [a]	0.04		0.37 [a]	0.07	
	D	Gynoecium initiated; petal trichomes initiated	0.62 [a]	0.05		0.60 [a]	0.07		0.60 [a]	0.08	
	E	Stamen filament/anther distinguished; corolla tube apparent	0.72 [a]	0.08		0.69 [a]	0.09		0.83 [a]	0.07	
	F	Gynoecium fused; style elongation started	1.05 [a]	0.16	2	0.86 [a]	0.06	2	0.91 [a]	0.11	2
MID	G	Anther thecae distinguished; petal trichomes mature	2.93 [a] (1.3 - 4.0)	0.88	14	2.65 [a] (0.9 - 4.8)	1.40	20	2.98 [a] (1.0 - 5.5)	1.46	20
LATE	H	Petals outgrow sepals	4.50 [a] (4.0 - 4.8)	0.23	2	5.38 [b] (5.0 - 5.7)	0.22	4	7.97 [c] (5.5 - 10.0)	1.27	4
	I	Sepals open fully	5.10 [a] (4.8 - 5.4)	0.23	1	6.79 [b] (5.9 - 7.5)	0.53	3	11.22 [c] (10.0 - 12.0)	0.59	3
	J*	Petals open (anthesis); nectar secretion started in *Jaltomata*	5.00 [a]	0.32		7.16 [b]	0.45		12.13 [c]	0.36	

Significant differences among species are indicated by different letters ($p<0.001$ following Bonferri Correction, with ANOVA and Tukey's HSD). *Note: Bud

diameter data are from measurements on destructively sampled buds throughout development, except for stage J which were obtained from the separate

experiment measuring duration of floral development (i.e. Table 3). Average bud diameter at stage J are therefore provided here to represent fully mature buds

just prior to anthesis (i.e. the end of floral ontogeny as measured in this study). ^Note: Days refers to an estimate of how many days buds remain at each stage,

based on the experiment measuring duration of floral development starting at 1 mm buds.

Table 1 (continued).

J. dendroidea			*J. umbellata*			*S. pimpinellifolium*		
Dia Mean	**S.D.**	**Days^**	**Dia Mean**	**S.D.**	**Days^**	**Dia Mean**	**S.D.**	**Days^**
0.21 [a]	0.04		0.20 [a]	0.01		0.18 [a]	0.03	
0.29 [a]	ND		0.24 [a]	0.02		0.26 [a]	0.02	
0.42 [a]	0.08		0.42 [a]	0.07		0.39 [a]	0.08	
0.64 [a]	0.05		0.59 [a]	0.08		0.53 [a]	0.10	
0.81 [a]	0.11		0.86 [a]	0.24		0.69 [a]	0.07	
1.02 [a]	0.07	2	0.91 [a]	0.07	2	0.80 [a]	0.23	1
2.51 [ab] (1.0 - 5.5)	1.62	20	1.65 [bc] (1.0 - 2.3)	0.40	10	0.96 [c] (0.7 - 1.2)	0.17	4
6.29 [d] (5.5 - 7.0)	0.55	2	2.81 [e] (2.3 - 3.3)	0.27	2	2.77 [e] (2.4 - 3.0)	0.17	2
10.96 [c] (7.0 - 15.5)	2.69	8	3.18 [d] (3.1 - 3.6)	0.26	5	3.12 [d] (3.0 - 3.3)	0.10	4
15.30 [d]	0.27		3.44 [e]	0.11		2.75 [f]	0.19	

891 **Table 2**. Mature floral trait means for the five included *Jaltomata* species and *Solanum pimpinellifolium*.

	J. darcyana (n=7)		*J. sinuosa* (n=7)		*J. calliantha* (n=7)		*J. dendroidea* (n=3)		*J. umbellata* (n=5)		*S. pimpinellifolium* (n=3)	
	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.	Mean	S.D.
Calyx Diameter (mm)	11.88 [a]	0.37	15.49 [b]	0.40	33.88 [c]	1.21	19.69 [d]	1.74	8.14 [e]	1.63	5.77 [f]	0.43
Sepal Length (mm)	6.32 [a]	0.16	7.48 [b]	0.25	18.01 [c]	1.10	9.67 [d]	0.80	4.41 [e]	0.73	3.45 [f]	0.23
Corolla Diameter (mm)	20.48 [a]	2.18	29.82 [b]	2.27	27.48 [c]	3.48	35.35 [d]	3.27	15.32 [e]	2.52	15.58 [e]	0.58
Corolla Depth (mm)	0.77 [a]	0.09	1.38 [a]	0.27	15.57 [b]	1.84	12.72 [c]	0.88	10.25 [d]	2.27	0.45 [a]	0.07
Corolla Fusion (mm)	3.96 [a]	0.28	9.45 [b]	0.46	15.64 [c]	0.44	14.91 [c]	3.78	10.33 [b]	1.22	1.60 [d]	0.25
Corolla Fusion Proportion	0.42 [a]	0.07	0.64 [b]	0.05	0.86 [c]	0.08	0.65 [b]	0.10	0.72 [b]	0.08	0.21 [d]	0.03
Lobe Length (mm)	5.48 [a]	1.42	5.40 [a]	0.70	2.77 [b]	1.83	7.65 [c]	0.66	4.08 [a]	0.96	5.97 [a]	0.11
Petal Length (mm)	9.53 [a]	1.39	14.85 [b]	1.04	18.41 [c]	1.92	22.56 [d]	2.98	14.40 [b]	0.81	7.57 [e]	0.22
Stamen Length (mm)	4.76 [a]	0.38	10.80 [b]	0.60	10.48 [b]	1.00	10.94 [b]	0.35	10.45 [b]	0.57	6.15 [c]	0.09
Anther Length (mm)	1.43 [a]	0.10	1.59 [b]	0.10	3.27 [c]	0.19	1.86 [d]	0.05	1.34 [a]	0.15	5.75 [e]	0.12
Ovary Diameter (mm)	1.78 [a]	0.14	2.28 [b]	0.19	5.30 [c]	0.41	3.15 [d]	0.18	1.37 [e]	0.26	1.12 [e]	0.06
Style Length (mm)	4.79 [a]	0.53	7.90 [b]	0.73	8.38 [b]	0.66	12.74 [c]	0.86	14.64 [d]	1.47	5.45 [a]	0.21
Nectar Volume (ul)	2.19 [a]	0.48	6.86 [b]	1.31	50.62 [c]	3.76	32.89 [d]	7.03	17.80 [e]	3.84	0.00 [a]	0.00

892 Sample sizes refer to the number of individuals measured (at least 3 flowers per individual). Significant differences among species are indicated by different

893 letters (*p*<0.001 following Bonferri Correction, with ANOVA and Tukey's HSD). *Jaltomata* data from [42].

895 **Table 3**. Average length of development, size of 0 day buds (just prior to anthesis), and overall bud growth rates for the five *Jaltomata*

896 species and *S. pimpinellifolium*.

Species	Length (days)		0 Day Bud Diameter (mm)		Growth Rate (mm/day)	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
J. darcyana (n=13)	19.23 [a]	1.01	5.00 [a]	0.32	0.261 [a]	0.02
J. sinuosa (n=11)	28.55 [b]	0.93	7.16 [b]	0.45	0.251 [a]	0.02
J. calliantha (n=10)	28.80 [b]	1.03	12.13 [c]	0.36	0.422 [b]	0.02
J. dendroidea (n=5)	32.40 [c]	0.89	15.30 [d]	0.27	0.473 [c]	0.02
J. umbellata (n=13)	18.62 [a]	0.96	3.44 [e]	0.11	0.185 [d]	0.01
S. pimpinellifolium (n=8)	14.00 [d]	0.00	2.75 [f]	0.19	0.196 [d]	0.01

897 Bud diameter was measured every other day, from 1 mm buds to anthesis. Growth rate was determined by dividing bud diameter of day 0 buds by the length in

898 days. Significant differences among species are indicated by different letters (following ANOVA and Tukey's HSD).

906 **Table 4**. Relative growth rates for focal floral organs and features for the examined species, measured against bud diameter, for early

907 and mid + late stages.

	J. darcyana		*J. sinuosa*		*J. calliantha*		*J. dendroidea*		*J. umbellata*		*S. pimpinellifolium*	
	Early (n=48)	Mid + Late (n=41)	Early (n=35)	Mid + Late (n=41)	Early (n=21)	Mid + Late (n=44)	Early (n=33)	Mid + Late (n=49)	Early (n=35)	Mid + Late (n=58)	Early (n=50)	Mid + Late (n=56)
Sepal Length	0.857	0.788	1.039	0.923	1.281**	1.023*	0.973^	0.880^	1.024	1.329**	2.050***	0.377**
Corolla Depth	0.766	0.982	0.842	1.124	0.964	1.164	0.737^	1.339*^	1.043**	2.742***	1.597***	1.376**
Corolla Fusion	0.110	0.769	0.090	1.195*	0.105	1.330**	0.034*	1.274**	0.164	2.861***	0.437***	0.798
Petal Length	0.845	1.056	0.858	1.323*	0.951	1.262*	0.678^	1.360*	1.019	2.694***	1.696***	1.323*
Lobe Length	0.753	0.690	0.766	0.759	0.866	0.493*	0.601^	0.767^^^	0.892	0.843	1.365***	1.043**
Stamen Length	0.457	0.774	0.505	1.028*	0.521	1.044*	0.459	0.848^^	0.605	2.532***	1.259***	1.306**
Ovary Diameter	0.432	0.445	ND	0.459	0.460	0.728***	0.410	0.477^^^	0.362	0.487	ND	0.298*
Style Length	0.000	0.737	0.000	1.433*	0.000	1.189*	0.000	1.616**^^	0.000	3.440***	0.000	1.899**

908 Measurements were log-transformed prior to analysis. Significant differences against *J. darcyana* (ancestral rotate) indicated by * (* $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.001$; ***

909 $p < 0.0001$); significant differences between *J. calliantha* and *J. dendroidea* (convergent campanulate) indicated by ^ (^ $p < 0.05$; ^^ $p < 0.001$; ^^^ $p < 0.0001$).

910 ND, not determined, as sample sizes were too small.

J. grandibaccata C

J. dendroidea C

J. yungayensis R

J. umbellata T

J. sinuosa R

J. quipuscoae C

J. calliantha C

J. procumbens R

J. darcyana R

J. repandidentata R

Solanum pimpinellifolium R