Patterns of speciation are similar across mountainous and lowland regions for

a Neotropical plant radiation (Costaceae: *Costus*)

Running Title: Speciation in Neotropical *Costus*

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https://bitbucket.org/oscarvargash/costus_speciation

Patterns of speciation are similar across mountainous and lowland regions for a Neotropical plant radiation (Costaceae: *Costus*)

Abstract

High species richness and endemism in tropical mountains are recognized as major contributors to the latitudinal diversity gradient. The processes underlying mountain speciation, however, are largely untested. The prevalence of steep ecogeographic gradients and the geographic isolation of populations by topographic features are predicted to promote speciation in mountains. We evaluate these processes in a species-rich Neotropical genus of understory herbs that range from the lowlands to montane forests and have higher species richness in topographically complex regions. We ask whether climatic niche divergence, geographic isolation, and pollination shifts differ between mountain-influenced and lowland Amazonian sister pairs inferred from a 756-gene phylogeny. Neotropical *Costus* ancestors diverged in Central America during a period of mountain formation in the last 3 My with later colonization of Amazonia. Although climatic divergence, geographic isolation, and pollination shifts are prevalent in general, these factors don't differ between mountain-influenced and Amazonian sister pairs. Despite higher climatic niche and species diversity in the mountains, speciation modes in *Costus* appear similar across regions. Thus, greater species richness in tropical mountains may reflect differences in colonization history, diversification rates, or the prevalence of rapidly evolving plant life forms, rather than differences in speciation mode.

Keywords: Ecological specialization, diversification, geographic isolation, Neotropics, pollination shifts, spiral gingers.

Introduction

Tropical mountains exhibit extreme species richness and endemism, contribute substantially to latitudinal diversity gradients, and are thought to be cradles of recent speciation (Rahbek et al. 2019a, Rahbek et al. 2019b). The Neotropics contain some of the world's most species-rich plant diversity hotspots (Barthlott 2005), which all contain substantial mountain ranges. Mountains are hypothesized to play two major roles in the process of speciation: the generation of steep environmental gradients over geographic space (ecogeographic gradients) sensu Gentry (1982) and the geographic isolation of populations by topographic features sensu Janzen (1967). Although studies have linked the timing of montane diversifications with mountain building (Luebert and Wigend 2014), mechanisms by which tropical mountains may promote speciation remain unclear, in part because well-resolved species-level phylogenies for tropical clades remain rare.

Steep montane gradients, in factors such as climate or biotic communities, could promote speciation by ecogeographic divergence without sustained allopatry (Gentry 1982; Angert and Schemske 2005; Hughes and Atchison 2015; Pyron et al. 2015). For example, a marginal population may adapt to novel climate conditions at a species' upper or lower elevation range limit, at the cost of adaptation to climatic conditions in the remainder of the species' range (Angert et al. 2008). Similarly, biotic communities (Dobzhansky 1950), such as pollinator assemblages, turnover rapidly in Neotropical mountains (Stiles 1981) and likely contribute to pollinator isolation in plants (Gentry 1982; Kay et al. 2005; Lagomarsino et al. 2016). Taken together, mountains provide large climatic and biotic niche space across short geographic distances, providing an arena for divergent selection and speciation.

Topographic features also can drive allopatric speciation by serving as dispersal barriers

regardless of ecogeographic divergence. For example, a species' range may be divided by a

newly formed topographic barrier or individuals may disperse across ridges or valleys to distant

areas of suitable habitat. If tropical organisms have narrower climatic tolerances than temperate

ones, as hypothesized, the effect of topographic features on isolation may be greatly magnified in

tropical mountains (Janzen 1967; Ghalambor et al. 2006; Cadena et al. 2012; Guarnizo and

Canatella 2013). Topographic dispersal barriers may lead to frequent progenitor-derivative, or

budding speciation, in mountain-influenced areas. This mode of speciation (hereafter, budding)

occurs when an initially small colonizing population becomes reproductively isolated from a

larger-ranged species (Mayr 1954), and is in contrast to vicariant speciation where a geographic

barrier bisects a species' range (Mayr 1982). Whereas budding speciation may be common in

mountains, it is likely less common in lowlands due to fewer steep climatic gradients and

topographic barriers.

These long-standing hypotheses about dispersal barriers and ecogeographic gradients in

tropical mountains predict unique signatures of speciation. Moreover, if mountains *per se* are

driving speciation, patterns of speciation in mountains should differ from lowland regions, which

have shallow climatic gradients and less turnover in biotic communities relative to mountains

(De Cáceres et al. 2012; Pomara et al. 2012; Fig. 1). First, if ecogeographic divergence is of

primary importance, sister species occurring in or around mountains (hereafter, mountain-

influenced) are predicted to show climatic niche differentiation (Fig. 1E), and this differentiation

should be greater on average than in lowland species pairs (Fig. 1A-B). Similarly, pollinator

shifts are predicted to be more frequent in mountain-influenced sister pairs than in the lowlands

because of ecogeographic gradients in pollinator assemblages. Second, if topographic dispersal

barriers are of primary importance, mountain-influenced sister pairs should frequently show

geographic isolation (Fig. 1D), and this isolation should be greater than in lowland species pairs

(Fig. 1A), for which geographic isolation may be more ephemeral. If topographic dispersal

barriers promote budding speciation, we further predict: 1) greater range size asymmetry

between mountain-influenced relative to lowland sister pairs, especially in younger pairs

(Barraclough and Vogler 2000; Fitzpatrick and Turelli 2006; Grossenbacher et al. 2014), and 2)

nested phylogenetic relationships between recently-diverged mountainous sister species,

indicating that small-ranged taxa are derived from widespread progenitors (e.g., Baldwin 2005).

Ecogeographic gradients and topographic dispersal barriers in mountains also predict

different patterns of range overlap with divergence time. If allopatric speciation is dominant,

then more recently-diverged species pairs should be completely allopatric, whereas older pairs

might show range overlap due to range shifts since speciation (Fitzpatrick and Turelli 2006).

Contrastingly, if parapatric speciation across ecogeographic gradients is dominant, younger sister

species pairs should show partial range overlap whereas older pairs should show a variety of

configurations (Fitzpatrick and Turelli 2006; Anacker and Strauss 2014). It is also possible that

geographic isolation and niche divergence commonly work together to promote speciation in

mountains, with geographically isolated populations adapting to new climate niches (Fig. 1F).

Here we examine speciation modes in the Neotropical spiral gingers (*Costus* L.), a genus

comprising approximately 59 species found from sea level to cloud forests throughout tropical

Central and South America. *Costus* is a pantropical genus of perennial monocot herbs with a

species-rich Neotropical clade nested within the relatively species-poor African taxa. The

Neotropical clade likely arose via long-distance dispersal from Africa (Kay et al. 2005, Salzman

et al. 2015). Neotropical *Costus* are widely interfertile (Kay and Schemske 2008) with stable

ploidy (Maas 1972; 1977). Prior studies have suggested a prominent role for prezygotic

reproductive barriers, including ecogeographic isolation (Chen and Schemske 2015), differences

in pollination syndrome (orchid bee v. hummingbird; Kay and Schemske 2003), and floral

divergence within a pollination syndrome (Kay 2006; Chen 2013). We begin by documenting

that *Costus* species richness is indeed higher in Neotropical areas with high topographical

complexity, consistent with mountains being strong drivers of speciation in *Costus* (assuming

similar extinction rates). We then infer a multi-locus phylogeny for *Costus* that we use to

reconstruct the biogeographic history, the timing of divergence, and the evolution of pollination

syndromes in the genus. Finally, we use sister species comparisons to test our predictions about

speciation modes in montane regions using climatic, geographic, and pollination data. We

discuss how our results shed light on speciation in the Neotropics.

FIGURE 1. Testing the role of mountains in speciation. Hypothetical ranges of sister species, as black and red filled circles, overlaid on a landscape where lighter grays indicate higher elevations. Sister species in Amazonia, a region with low topographic complexity and relatively homogeneous climate, are expected to be partially sympatric (A) or geographically isolated (B) by lowland geological features, fine-scale habitat divergence, or biotic interactions. Mountain-influenced sister species may also show these patterns (C), however, we predict that geographic isolation (D), climate niche divergence (E), or both (F) will be more common in mountains than in the lowlands (indicated by bolded boxes).

Material and Methods

OCCURRENCE DATA

We downloaded all known occurrence records for the species in our study from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF, http://www.gbif.org). We supplemented these with occurrences from our own field studies in 2018 and 2019, as well as additional herbarium (Cornell, MSU, and UC JEPS) and iNaturalist data (https://www.inaturalist.org). All occurrences were then filtered for quality by excluding records without decimal accuracy in latitude and longitude, and with coordinates failing to match the locality description. To avoid potential taxonomic misidentifications, we retained only occurrences where the identification was made by one of three taxonomic experts: Paul Maas, Dave Skinner, or KMK. We checked species' epithets against the most recently published taxonomies and corrected synonyms and spelling errors. The final filtered dataset included 4,834 unique occurrences for 61 taxa (mean per taxa=79, range=1-593, SD=121).

TOPOGRAPHIC COMPLEXITY AND SPECIES RICHNESS

To quantify topographic complexity across our study region, we used the terrain ruggedness index (TRI) function in ArcGIS (ESRI 2018). TRI is a measure of topographic heterogeneity that takes the sum in elevation change between a focal grid cell and all neighboring grid cells (Riley et al. 1999). To calculate TRI, we used raw elevation data at 1km resolution from earthenv.org/topography and projected it to 1600 and 6400 km² grids. The two

grid sizes allowed us to assess whether our results were sensitive to spatial scale. Species

richness per grid cell was recorded as the number of unique species occurrences in the filtered

occurrence data described above (Point Statistics function in ArcGIS). Richness, TRI values, and

X,Y coordinates for each grid cell were extracted across the two spatial scales and saved for

downstream analysis (Extract Multi Values to Point function in ArcGIS).

To determine whether species richness is predicted by the terrain ruggedness index (TRI),

we used both an ordinary least squares regression model and a spatial autoregressive lag model.

Ecological data is typically affected by spatial autocorrelation (SAC), with nearby localities

being more similar than expected when random (Kissling and Carl 2008). As a result of species

distributions being spatially constructed by nature, our data will likely have residual SAC,

breaking an assumption of linear regression. To check for residual SAC between TRI and species

richness we used Moran's I coefficient. A Moran's I coefficient near zero indicates no SAC,

while positive and negative values indicate positive or negative autocorrelation (Bhattarai et al.

2004). Spatial autoregressive models are commonly used to mitigate known SAC in the

residuals. Accordingly, we used a spatial autoregressive lag model to relate species richness and

TRI. Due to the ongoing debate of incorporating spatial autocorrelation into the analysis of

species distribution data, we chose to compare our model results to an ordinary least squares

regression model which ignores spatial autocorrelation (Dormann 2007). Model selection was

accomplished using the Akaike information criterion (AIC).

Because comparisons of species richness may be impacted by uneven sampling across

regions (Gotelli and Colwell, 2001), we performed a rarefaction analysis to ensure that our

results were not driven by greater sampling effort in mountains relative to lowlands. To do this,

we classified all occurrences as either mountainous (TRI>5, N=3477) or lowland (TRI<=5,

N=1140). We then randomly drew an equal number of occurrences from the two samples

(N=1000), determined richness, and repeated this 1000 times (for a similar approach, see Grytnes

and Beaman 2006). Richness in the rarefied samples was considered to significantly differ

between mountainous and lowland regions if the 95% confidence intervals were non-

overlapping.

PHYLOGENETIC ANALYSIS

To infer a well resolved phylogeny we employed targeted sequencing, capturing 853

genes in 113 samples representing 57 species, including outgroups (Table S1) and, when

possible, samples from different geographic locations for widespread species and putative

progenitor-derivative species pairs. We selected the genes based on six transcriptomes belonging

to neotropical *Costus*, five newly sequenced (Table S2) and one published (GenBank

BioSample: SAMN00991785). We extracted total RNA using the RNeasy Plant Mini Kit

(Qiagen, San Diego, California) from fresh tissue; Poly-A enriched libraries (with an insert size

of 300 bp) were prepared by the DNA Technologies Core at the University of California, Davis,

with subsequent paired-end 150 bp HiSeq4000 sequencing (Illumina Inc.). We employed

SeqyClean v.1.10.07 (Zhbannikov et al. 2017) to remove low quality reads and read tails using

default parameters and a cutoff Phred score of 20. Poly A/T tails were also trimmed. Assembly

of transcripts was performed with Trinity v2.8.4 (Grabherr et al. 2011). With the transcriptomic

dataset, we employed Captus (https://github.com/edgardomortiz/captus) to select the genes for

sequencing. Briefly, Captus first used VSearch V.2.10.3 (Edgar 2010) to deduplicate individual

transcriptomes (query_cov [overlap] = 0.99, id [similarity] = 0.995) and performed clustering

among the transcripts of all samples (query_cov = 0.75, id = 0.75) outputting a fasta file for

every cluster. Clusters were subsequently aligned with MAFFT v7.407 (Katoh and Standley

2013) using the "--auto" mode. Only genes for which a single copy was found in the alignments

were used for subsequent subselection, filtering out possible paralogs. Final gene selection for

sequencing in the phylogenetic analysis was based on transcript length (len = 720-2400),

transcript presence in a minimum of four species (spp= 4,6), transcript presence in a focal

species (*Costus pulverulentus*, foc = 1), percentage of gaps in the alignment not exceeding 50%

(gap = 50), an average pairwise percentage identity range of 75–99.6% (pid = 75-99.6), and

allowing a maximum of 15% of short introns per gene (< 120 bp) (psr = 0.15). Finally, allowing

for a G-C content of 30–70% and a tailing percentage overlap of 66.55, Captus designed 16,767

baits of 120bp in length for the 853 genes selected.

We extracted DNA from recently collected field and greenhouse samples using

NucleoSpin Plant Mini Kit II (Macherey-Nagel, Düren, Germany) according to the

manufacturer's protocol, adding 5 uL proteinase K (20 mg/mL) to the digestion step and

increasing the digestion incubation time to an hour. For herbarium specimens we used the

MagPure Plan DNA LQ kit (Angen Biotech, Guangdong, China). Library preparation and

sequencing for the 853 targeted genes was performed by Rapid Genomics (Gainesville, Florida).

We employed HybPiper v1.3.1 (Johnson et al. 2016) to assemble the targeted genes, and MAFFT

using the "linsi" exhaustive algorithm to align the matrices containing concatenated exons and

introns. Problematic sections in the alignments were trimmed with the "-automated1" option of

trimAl v1.4.rev22 (Capella-Gutiérrez et al. 2009). Rogue taxa were removed with the "-

resoverlap 0.75 -seqoverlap 75" arguments of trimAl.

To filter out tentative paralog genes unidentified by Captus, we excluded genes with

extreme variation in branch lengths based on the assumption that ingroup branches should not be

extremely long considering the recent diversification of Neotropical *Costus* (Kay et al. 2005). To

identify genes with extreme in-group branch length variation, we first inferred trees for each

alignment with IQ-Tree v1.6.12 (Nguyen et al. 2015) using a GTR+G model and 1000 ultrafast

bootstraps. Then, after removing outgroups with pxrmt (Brown et al. 2017) and outlier sequences

with TreeShrink "-q 0.10" (Mai and Mirabab 2018), we calculated the variation in branch lengths

using SortaDate (Smith et al. 2018), and then sorted genes accordingly. Visual examination of

genes with extreme variation in branch lengths revealed possibly paralogy. Therefore, to be

conservative we filtered out genes in the top 10% distribution of branch-length variation,

resulting in 756 genes for subsequent phylogenetic analysis. Visual examination of remaining

genes after filtering revealed no potential paralog issues.

We used concatenated- and coalescent-based approaches for the inference of species

trees. Before concatenation, gene alignments were filtered from outlier sequences flagged

previously by TreeShrink in our gene trees. A matrix containing sequences for 756 genes was

used to infer a concatenated-based species tree, using IQ-Tree with an independent GTR+G

model of sequence evolution for each gene partition and 1000 ultrafast bootstraps. We calculated

the number of gene trees supporting a given node in the concatenated topology by employing

phyparts (Smith et al. 2015), and results were plotted with phypartspiecharts.py (https://github.

com/mossmatters/MJPythonNotebooks). For the coalescent inference, we inferred a species tree

based on the 756 IQ-Tree-inferred topologies with ASTRAL v.5.6.3 (Zhang et al. 2017),

collapsing branches with less than 90 ultrafast-bootstrap support and removing from each input

tree the taxa flagged as having outlier branch lengths.

To determine whether *Costus* diversification coincided with substantial mountain uplift,

and to estimate divergence time for sister species, we calibrated our concatenated topology using

fossils and external non-*Costus* Zingiberales sequences (Table S3). The inclusion of non-*Costus*

sequences was necessary because of the absence of *Costus* fossils. First, we identified the top 50

most clock-like genes in our dataset using the metrics outputted by SortaDate, considering in

order of priority branch-length variance (low variance preferred), root-to-tip length (high length

preferred), and topological similarity with the concatenated topology (high similarity preferred).

Then, we mapped filtered transcriptomic reads from nine Zingiberales species and two outgroups

to the top 50 most clock-like genes using reads2sam2consensus_baits.py (Vargas et al. 2019),

which wraps sam2consensus.py (https://github.com/edgardomortiz/sam2consensus). The

resulting matrices with *Costus* and non-*Costus* sequences were filtered for those containing all

non-*Costus* taxa and reduced by leaving only one sample per monophyletic species. We aligned

the 27 resultant gene matrices with MAFFT using the "linsi" algorithm and filtered the

alignments for 95% column occupancy with the command "pxclsq" of Phyx (Brown et al. 2017).

The filtered 27 alignments were concatenated and analyzed with BEAST v.2.6.1 (Bouckaert et

al. 2014) with independent GTR+G models for each gene partition. As a prior, we used a

chronogram with relationships fixed based on a Zingiberales phylo-transcriptomic analysis

(Carlsen et al. 2018) and our concatenated tree. Branch lengths for the prior tree were calculated

with IQ-Tree and later parameterized with TreePL (Smith and O'Meara 2012). Calibrations

points were set as follows: 69 Mya (CI = 63–76) to the stem node of the Zingiberaceae based on

the fossil *Zingiberopsis magnifolia* (Hickey and Peterson, 1978), and 77 Mya (CI = 69–86) to the

crown clade of the Zingiberales based on *Spirematospermum chandlerae* (Friis 1988). Using a

birth-death model, BEAST was set to run for 100 m generations sampling every 1 k. We

calculated the chronogram after combining 6 sets of 2500 trees from independent runs with

LogCombiner v.2.6.1, inputting those in TreeAnnotator v.2.6.1 (Bouckaert et al. 2014) after

checking for chain convergence and a minimum effective sample size of 200 for all parameters

with Tracer 1.7.1 (Rambaut et al 2014). We used FigTree v1.4.4

(https://github.com/rambaut/figtree/releases) and ggtree to produce the tree figures (Yu et al.

2017).

BIOGEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

285   To test whether early ancestors of *Costus* originated in the mountains or lowlands, we

inferred the biogeographic history of the group. We first scored the absence and presence of

extant species in four bioregions, Central America + Choco (C), West Indies (W), Andean (A),

and Amazonian (M), based on our curated occurrence dataset. We then performed an ancestral

range reconstruction using the dispersal-extinction-cladogenesis model (DEC; Ree and Smith

2008), a likelihood version (DIVALIKE) of the dispersal-vicariance model (Ronquist 1997), and

a likelihood implementation (BAYAREALIKE) of the BAYAREA model (Landis 2013) as

implemented in BIOGEOBEARS (Matzke 2013). We abstained from using the founder J

parameter given its caveats (Ree and Sanmartín 2018). BIOGEOBEARS infers ancestral areas

using the aforementioned models and compares them based on likelihoods. Bioregions were

modified from a previous biogeographic study of the Neotropical region (Morrone 2014),

considering the distribution of *Costus*. Our input tree was the chronogram inferred after time

calibration analysis. The most likely reconstruction was selected based on the corrected Akaike

Information Criterion (AICc).

ESTIMATING CLIMATE NICHE

300   To estimate the climate niche of each species, we obtained four variables representing

aspects of temperature and precipitation (http://www.worldclim.org/): mean annual temperature,

mean annual precipitation, temperature seasonality, and precipitation seasonality. All data were

projected into a South America Albers Equal Area Conic projection and resampled to a 1 km x 1

km grid cell size. Realized niche position of each species was estimated by circumscribing each

species' occurrence-based niche relative to all occupied niche space across Neotropical *Costus*

using the "PCA-env" ordination technique implemented in the Ecospat package (Broennimann et

al. 2012; Broennimann et al. 2018). Here, the dimensions of the environmental space for *Costus*

were reduced to the first and second axes from a principal components analysis (PCA). The PCA

of the four climate variables was constructed using all curated Neotropical *Costus* occurrences,

subsampled to one occurrence per grid cell (N=2743 grid cells total). We then created a grid with

100 x 100 PCA unit grid cells and used the species' presence data to project the density of each

species into environmental space using a kernal density function (Broennimann et al. 2012).

Niche position for each species was estimated as the mean of PC1 and PC2.

To determine whether mountain-influenced taxa occupy a larger volume of climate niche

space overall, we tested whether the variation in species' mean niche values differ by region.

Species were categorized as either Amazonian (all occurrences contained in the Amazon and/or

West Indies bioregions) or mountain-influenced (occurrences fully or partially contained in the

Central America + Choco or Andean bioregions). We visualized the evolution of climate niches

by projecting the phylogeny on species' mean values for PC1 and PC2 using Phytools (Revell

2012), and we used Levene's tests on PC1 and PC2 separately to compare the variance in mean

niche values between regions (leveneTest function, car package in R, Fox and Weisberg 2019).

EVOLUTION OF POLLINATION SYNDROMES

We evaluated whether hummingbird pollination and/or shifts from orchid bee to

hummingbird pollination are more prevalent in mountain-influenced than Amazonian taxa.

Orchid bee- or hummingbird-pollination syndromes were assigned to taxa based on previous

studies in the genus (Maas 1972; Maas 1977; Kay and Schemske 2003; Kay et al. 2005) and

KMK expertise. Although only a subset of species has pollination data, pollination syndromes

accurately predict whether orchid bees v. hummingbirds are the primary pollinator (Kay and

Schemske 2003). Thus, pollination syndromes serve as a tractable proxy for an important biotic

interaction that could contribute to ecogeographic divergence. We first used a chi-squared test to

determine whether hummingbird pollination is more frequent among mountain-influenced

species than Amazonian species, regardless of their phylogenetic history. To account for

phylogenetic history, we used Pagel's (1994) test to determine whether there was correlated

evolution of pollination syndrome and geographic region (function fitPagel, phytools package,

Revell 2012; although see Maddison and FitzJohn 2015 for caveats regarding this method). We

then performed a character reconstruction of pollination syndromes on the phylogeny (function

make.simmap, phytools package; Revell 2012) and used another chi-squared test to determine

whether reconstructed shifts from bee to hummingbird pollination are more likely in mountain-

influenced vs. Amazonian ancestors. Ancestors were categorized based on the biogeographic and

pollination character state reconstructions.

IDENTIFYING SISTER TAXA

We identified sister taxa for comparisons of range overlap, climate niche divergence, and

pollination shifts in recent and phylogenetically independent speciation events. Sister taxa were

identified from the 1000 rapid bootstraps of the concatenated alignment by first pruning the trees

to the reduced taxon set used for the time-calibrated phylogeny and then counting the frequency

of all sister pairs across bootstrap replicates with a custom R script (R Core team 2020). This

frequency was used as a weighting factor in downstream analyses to account for uncertainty in

tree topology. Sister pairs were categorized as either mountain-influenced (one or both species

occurred in Central America, Choco, or the Andes) or as Amazonian (both species occurred in

the lowland Amazon, or one species in the Amazon and the other in the West Indies). We

flagged potential cases of budding speciation in the phylogeny when we observed a widespread

species having a taxon nested in it with a smaller range area; we arbitrarily chose a minimum

asymmetry ratio of 5 (large / small range) as a cut off.

ESTIMATING SISTER PAIR RANGE OVERLAP, RANGE ASYMMETRY, AND

CLIMATIC NICHE DIVERGENCE

356   For each sister pair, we used the filtered occurrence data to estimate the degree of range

overlap using a grid approach. We divided the Neotropics into a series of cells by grid lines that

follow degree longitude and latitude using the "raster" R package version 2.9-5 (Hijmans 2016).

We calculated range overlap as the summed area of grid cells occupied by both species, divided

by the summed area of occupied grid cells for the smaller ranged species. Thus, range overlap

could range between 0 (no range overlap) and 1 (the smaller-ranged species is found only within

the range of the larger-ranged species) (Barraclough and Vogler 2000; Fitzpatrick and Turelli,

2006). We calculated range size asymmetry as the summed area of grid cells occupied by the

larger ranged species divided by the summed area of grid cells for the smaller ranged species

(Fitzpatrick and Turrelli 2006). In order to assess whether the ensuing analyses were sensitive to

spatial scale, range overlap and size asymmetry were calculated at two cell sizes, 0.05 and 0.1

decimal degrees, representing grid cells of approximately 33 and 131 km^2 respectively (exact

value varies by latitude). Sister pairs lacking adequate geographic data (fewer than 4 known

occurrences for one or both species) and those taxonomically poorly understood were excluded

from all downstream analyses (Table S4).

COMPARING MOUNTAIN-INFLUENCED AND AMAZONIAN SISTER PAIRS

We performed a series of analyses to determine whether climate divergence or

geographic isolation differs between mountain-influenced and Amazonian sister pairs. We

predicted that mountain-influenced pairs would have greater niche divergence and/or greater

geographic isolation (less range overlap), and more frequent budding speciation than Amazonian

pairs. We also predicted that mountain-influenced pairs would have more frequent shifts to

hummingbird pollination than Amazonian pairs, but were unable to make this comparison with

only sister pairs because of the small number of shifts occurring at the tips of the phylogeny.

To compare climate niche divergence between regions, we compared the frequency of

climate niche equivalency and the degree of climate niche divergence for mountain-influenced v.

Amazonian sister pairs. To estimate climate niche equivalency, we determined whether each

sister pair occupies statistically equivalent niches, i.e., that the niche overlap between sister

species is equal to that of two species occupying random niches in the same range of

environmental conditions that are available to the species in question (Warren et al. 2008;

Broennimann et al. 2012). This was performed using the function ecospat.niche.equivalency.test

(ecospat package, Broennimann et al. 2018), whereby the observed overlap is compared to a null

distribution of simulated overlaps when randomly reallocating the occurrences of both species

among the joint distribution of occurrences. Only pairs where each member species occupied at

least 5 grid cells were used in this analysis (N=22 sister pairs). The frequency of climate niche

equivalency was compared between regions (mountain-influenced, Amazonian) with a weighted

chi-squared test, weighted by the number of bootstrapped trees containing a given sister pair

(function wtd.chisq, weights package, Pasek 2020). To compare the mean climate niche

divergence of sister pairs between regions, we calculated climate niche divergence for each pair

as the euclidean distance between mean PC1 and PC2 for each species and then used a two

sample T-test, weighted by the number of bootstrapped trees containing a given sister pair

(wtd.t.test function, weights package, Pasek 2020).

To compare geographic isolation between regions, we first quantified the current range

overlap for sister pairs between regions and then examined how range overlap varies with

divergence time. To compare the mean current range overlap, we used a two sample T-test,

weighted by the number of bootstrapped trees containing a given sister pair (wtd.t.test function,

weights package, Pasek 2020). We note that current overlap may differ from overlap at the time

of speciation due to post-speciation range expansions, contractions and shifts; however, by using

only sister species and comparing regions, we can infer differences in geographic isolation

between regions for the most recently diverged species pairs in *Costus*.

To determine whether allopatric speciation is more prevalent in the mountains, we tested

whether sister pair range overlap was predicted by divergence time, region, and their interaction

using a linear model (lm function, weighted by the number of bootstrapped trees containing a

given sister pair, R). If allopatric speciation is dominant, then more recently-diverged species

pairs should be allopatric, whereas older pairs might show range overlap due to range shifts since

speciation (Fitzpatrick and Turelli 2006). Contrastingly, if parapatric speciation is dominant,

younger sister species pairs should show range overlap whereas older pairs should show a variety

of configurations (Fitzpatrick and Turelli 2006; Anacker and Strauss 2014). A significant

interaction between divergence time and region would indicate that the predominant geographic

mode of speciation differs by region.

Finally, to determine whether budding speciation occurs and whether this phenomenon

varies by region, we examined the relationship between range asymmetry and divergence time,

and we also looked for evidence of nested phylogenetic relationships that would indicate a small-

ranged taxon was derived from within a widespread progenitor taxon. We first tested whether

sister pair range asymmetry was predicted by divergence time, region, and their interaction using

a generalized linear model with a natural log link function, gamma distribution suitable for left-

skewed response variables such as range size asymmetry (glm function, weighted by the number

of bootstrapped trees containing a given sister pair). If budding speciation is common, then range

size asymmetry is predicted to be greatest for the youngest sister pairs and to decrease on

average with time, as ranges undergo expansion or contraction following the initial budding

speciation event (Fitzpatrick and Turelli 2006; Grossenbacher et al. 2014). A significant

interaction between divergence time and region would indicate that the signature of budding

speciation differs by region. Significance of predictors was assessed by likelihood ratio chi-

squared tests (LR) using single term deletions. Our phylogenetic sampling also allowed us to

assess nested phylogenetic relationships indicative of budding speciation in four putative cases,

three mountain-influenced and one Amazonian (*C. scaber* in Central America – *C. ricus, C.*

pulverulentus – *C.* sp. nov. 18020/18049, *C. laevis* – *C. wilsonii*, and *C. scaber* in South America

– *C. spicatus,* respectively). We did not know in advance which, if any, species were produced

by budding speciation, but we attempted to sample across the known geographic distributions of

multiple widespread taxa.

Because we only have a modest set of sister pairs that are used repeatedly in the analyses

above, we present exact p-values and describe effect sizes, without using a strict $\alpha = 0.05$ to

determine significance.

Results

Topographic complexity and species richness

We find a positive association between topographic complexity and species richness in *Costus*, consistent with mountains playing a key role in diversification of this clade (Fig. 2). We recover a significant spatial autocorrelation between Terrain Ruggedness Index (TRI) and species richness (Fig. 2; Moran's I > 0.12, P < 0.001, across both spatial scales). Ordinary least squares regression shows a significant positive relationship between TRI and species richness (1600 km^2, F = $7.56_{1,973df}$, P = 0.006; 6400 km^2, F = $6.82_{1,597df}$, P = 0.009). Simultaneous Autoregressive (SAR) lag models also shows a positive relationship between TRI and species richness, however, significance varies by scale (1600 km^2, z=1.89, P = 0.138, pseudo-r squared = 0.227; 6400 km^2, z = 1.89, P = 0.049, pseudo-r squared=0.246). SAR lag models are favored over ordinary least squares regression using AIC (1600 km2, Likelihood Ratio = 1282.51, P < 0.001; 6400 km2, Likelihood Ratio = 170.55, P < 0.001). Overall, *Costus* shows a center of species richness in the Central America + Choco and the northern Andean floristic regions, moderate richness in the Guiana Shield and the eastern slope of the southern Andes, and relatively low richness in the Amazon basin. It is important to note that our sampling relied on collection efforts carried out by previous collectors and our team, which largely focused on sampling Central America, and therefore it is possible that Andean and Amazonian *Costus* diversity is underestimated. Finally, after accounting for uneven sampling between regions using rarefaction, we find that richness is significantly greater in mountainous than lowland regions (mean rarefied richness = 55.6 and 40.3 species respectively and 95% confidence intervals are non-overlapping, Fig. S1).

FIGURE 2. Species richness mapped onto a grid measuring topographic complexity using the Terrain Ruggedness Index. Warmer colors indicate higher topographic complexity, and circles are scaled to the number of reported species per grid.

Phylogenetic analysis

463  We infer a robust species-level phylogeny for *Costus*. Our concatenated matrix has

464 95.3% cell occupancy comprising 133 samples by 756 genes in 1,474,816 aligned columns

465 (Tables S5–6). Average length per gene, including partial introns, is 1,951 bp. Samples have an

466 average of 728 genes. We calculate two species trees, the first based on a concatenated alignment

467 and a second based on individual gene trees in a coalescent framework. Both species trees have

468 robust support and similar topologies (Figs. 3,S2). Because of the general low molecular

divergence found in the ingroup (average pairwise identity = 90.0%) and the low signal found in

individual genes (Fig. S3), we selected the concatenated topology as the best phylogenetic

hypothesis for the remainder of this study (Fig. 3). Our *Costus* phylogeny is robust with most

nodes presenting full or high support (>= 95 ultrafast bootstrap, >= 90 Shimodaira-Hasegawa

approximate likelihood ratio test) and generally agrees with previous phylogenetic studies in

Costus (Kay et al 2005, André et al 2016).

TIME-CALIBRATION OF THE PHYLOGENY

Our time-calibrated phylogeny dates the crown clade of Neotropical *Costus* to 3.0 Mya

with a 95% CI = 1.50–4.87 (Fig. 4). Our matrix for the calculation of the chronogram, which

included Zingiberales sequences for each one of its families and a reduced *Costus* sampling, is

composed of 69 taxa by 27 clock-like genes, comprising 22,237 aligned columns (Table S7). Our

time-estimation for the origin of *Costus* in the Neotropics is consistent with a previous dating of

1.1–5.4 Mya (Kay et al. 2005) but younger than another of ~7 Mya (André et al. 2016).

BIOGEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Ancestral range reconstruction suggests that the Central American region has dominated

the biogeographical history of the genus in the Neotropics (Fig. 4). Based on AICc, the model

that best fits the reconstruction is DIVALIKE (AIC = 185.5), followed by DEC (AIC = 188.2),

and BAYAREALIKE (AIC = 230.5). The DIVALIKE reconstruction shows that nearly half of

the ancestors in the phylogeny were distributed in Central America (25 out of 54 ancestors with a

> 0.90 probability) with the vast majority of the early ancestors estimated as Central American.

Colonization out of Central America is inferred to have happened around 1.5 Mya to the Andean

and the Amazon regions. Similar biogeographical patterns are also found in the reconstruction

inferred with the DEC but not BAYAREALIKE models (Figs. S4,S5).

FIGURE 3. Phylogram inferred from the concatenated matrix of 756 genes for *Costus*. Node numbers indicate ultrafast bootstrap (left) and a Shimodaira-Hasegawa approximate likelihood ratio test (right). nodes without values shown are fully supported at 100. Outgroup branch lengths are reduced to save space. Terminal clades are color coded according to the geographic region on the map. Stars indicate species with evidence for budding speciation.

FIGURE 4. Time calibrated phylogeny, DIVALIKE biogeographic historical inference, and ancestral pollination character reconstruction for Neotropical *Costus*. Pie charts represent percent probabilities of areas for the ranges of ancestors. C: Central America and/or Choco, W: West Indies, A: Andes, M: Amazon. Mixed colors indicate combined bioregions. Pollination syndromes are indicated for every tip taxon along with inferred transitions from bee to hummingbird pollination on internal branches. The most recent common ancestor is reconstructed as bee pollinated. Gray horizontal bars represent 95% confidence intervals for node ages.

CLIMATE NICHE OF MOUNTAIN-INFLUENCED AND AMAZONIA SPECIES

Principal component analysis reveals the first two climate niche axes explain 42 and 23%

of the variation among all *Costus* occurrences, respectively. PC1 primarily describes variation in

mean annual precipitation and seasonality: low values indicate greater precipitation and high

values indicate higher seasonality in both temperature and precipitation. PC2 primarily describes

variation in mean annual temperature: low values indicate cooler environments. Overall, we

found that the variance in species' mean niche values was greater among mountain-influenced

than among Amazonian species for PC2 (Fig. 5; PC2 $F = 10.05^{1,46df}$, $P = 0.003$), but not PC1

(Levene's test: PC1 F = $0.05^{1,46df}$, $P = 0.824$), indicating that, together, mountain influenced taxa

are occupying a larger temperature niche space.

FIGURE. 5. *Costus* phylogeny projected onto the first two principal components for climatic niche. Species are categorized into mountain-influenced (red) and Amazonian (blue). The variance in PC2, but not PC1, is significantly different between categories (see main text).

EVOLUTION OF POLLINATION SYNDROMES IN MOUNTAINS VERSUS THE AMAZON

The most likely scenario for the evolution of pollination syndromes in our phylogeny

involves 11 shifts from orchid bee- to hummingbird-pollination, with seven shifts happening in

recent divergence events and four along internal branches of the phylogeny. We find no

significant difference in the proportion of hummingbird-pollinated taxa between mountain-

influenced and Amazonian taxa (21 out of 39 taxa v. 5 out of 16 taxa; X^2 (1 , N = 55) = 1.51, $P =$

0.220; Fig. S6A). We find no evidence of correlated evolution of pollination syndrome and

geographic region (Pagel's test, LR = 0.38, P = 0.984). Similarly, we find no significant

difference in the frequency of shifts to hummingbird pollination in ancestors characterized as

mountain-influenced or Amazonian (8 shifts along 81 branches v. 3 shifts along 28 branches; X^2

(NA, N = 109) = 0.02, P = 1; Fig. S6B).

MOUNTAIN-INFLUENCED AND AMAZONIAN SISTER PAIR COMPARISON

Climate niche divergence does not differ between pair types. Thirty-one sister pairs were

inferred from the bootstrap replicates of the phylogenetic analysis, and 24 have enough

geographic and taxonomic information for comparative analyses (Table S4, Fig. S7). Of these,

15 pairs are identified as mountain-influenced and 9 pairs as Amazonian. We test for niche

equivalency for 22 out of our 24 pairs (2 taxa have less than 5 occurrences) rejecting niche

equivalency for 60% of sister pairs (Table S4, Fig. S8). We find no difference in the proportion

of mountain-influenced and Amazonian pairs with equivalent niches (X^2 (1 , N=22) = 14.29, P =

0.217). Climatic niche divergence is on average 46% greater for mountain influenced pairs

relative to Amazonian pairs; however, this difference is not significant (weighted t-test, t = -

$1.47^{20.2df}$, P = 0.157; Figs. 6, 7).

We find no support for the hypothesis that range overlap differs in the mountains versus

lowlands. Overall, there is generally little range overlap for sister pairs and no evidence that

range overlap varies by region. Average range overlap is 0.09 for mountain influenced and

Amazonian pairs at the fine spatial scale (weighted t-test, t = -0.56^{22df}, P = 0.584; Figs. 6, 7).

Range overlap is not predicted by divergence time, region, or their interaction (Fig. 6; linear

model: divergence time F = $0.50^{1,20df}$, P = 0.487; region F = $0.78^{1,20df}$, P = 0.386; divergence time

by region F = $0.006^{1,20df}$, P = 0.937). We note that there are two outlier data points with range

overlap >0.3 (*C. montanus – C. barbatus*, *C. ricus – C. scaber*), breaking model assumptions.

When those points are removed from the analysis, range overlap decreases with divergence time,

consistent with parapatric speciation, but is not predicted by region or their interaction

(divergence time F = 6.63^{1,18df}, P = 0.019; region F = 0.44^{1,18df}, P = 0.515; divergence time by

region F = 1.35^{1,18df}, P = 0.261). We urge caution interpreting this result, since there is no

biological justification for excluding the two outliers.

We find limited support for a budding model of speciation being more common in the

mountains than lowlands. Range size asymmetry is greater for younger relative to older

mountain-influenced pairs, while the opposite is observed for Amazonian pairs (Fig. 6; GLM:

divergence time X^2 = 0.039, P = 0.843; region X^2 = 1.747, P = 0.186; divergence time by region

X^2 = 4.34, P = 0.037). In light of multiple comparisons between sister pair types, we treat this

result with caution. Note that we present only range overlap and asymmetry results for the fine

spatial scale above (~33 km2). Results at the course spatial scale were qualitatively similar for all

tests (Fig. S9). Finally, we assess evidence for nested phylogenetic relationships between four

taxon pairs, three mountain-influenced and one Amazonian (*C. scaber* in Central America – *C.*

ricus, C. pulverulentus – *C.* sp. nov.18020/18049, *C. laevis* – *C. wilsonii*, and *C. scaber* in South

America – *C. spicatus*, respectively). The first two of those pairs show paraphyly consistent with

budding speciation, whereas the latter two are reciprocally monophyletic, although they all show

substantial range asymmetry (Fig. 2, Table S4).

FIGURE. 6. Mountain-influenced and Amazonian sister pair comparisons. A) Climate niche Euclidean distance by region. B) Range overlap v. divergence time (Mya) by region with marginal boxplots indicating differences in range overlap by region. C) Range size asymmetry v. divergence time (Mya) by region, with marginal boxplots indicating differences in range size asymmetry by region. Range overlap and asymmetry were calculated on a grid of 0.05 decimal degrees. In scatterplots, every pair is represented by one dot and its size is proportional to its bootstrap support. Regression lines based on predicted values are included for model effects with uncorrected P<0.05. See main text for statistical results.

Discussion

Mountains are associated with exceptionally high plant diversity in the Neotropics, with

tree species richness peaking in the forests nestled at the eastern base of the Northern Andes (ter

Steege et al. 2010) and some of the fastest known plant radiations on earth occur in high

elevation Neotropical habitats (Drummond et al. 2012; Madriñán et al. 2013, Uribe-Convers and

Tank 2015, Lagomarsino et al. 2016; Vargas et al. 2017, Contreras-Ortiz et al. 2018; Morales-

Briones et al. 2018). We see a similar pattern in Neotropical *Costus*, with species richness

positively correlated with topographic complexity across its geographic range in Central and

South America.

Despite the important contribution of tropical mountains to the latitudinal diversity

gradient, the mechanisms underlying this pattern remain unclear. Gentry (1982) hypothesized

that recent mountain uplift in the Andes and southern Central America promoted rapid

diversification of plants with short generation times (e.g., herbs, shrubs, vines and epiphytes) by

providing strong ecogeographic gradients in both climate and pollinators, especially

hummingbirds. In contrast, Janzen (1967; reviewed in Sheldon et al. 2018) proposed that the lack

of strong temperature seasonality in the tropics leads to narrow physiological tolerances and

greater potential for allopatric speciation due to topographic dispersal barriers in mountains. The

relative importance of these two mechanisms in driving species richness is unclear—

investigation requires understanding species-level relationships in clades that span both montane

and lowland environments, and until now we have generally been left comparing Amazonian

trees (e.g., Fine et al. 2005; Vargas and Dick 2020) to high elevation shrubs and herbs (e.g.,

Contreras-Ortiz et al. 2017; Vargas and Simpson 2019). *Costus* provides an opportunity to use a

species-level phylogeny to examine possible speciation mechanisms in a clade that spans

lowlands to cloud forests, albeit for a single herbaceous life form.

We first examine ecogeographic divergence caused by macroclimatic conditions and

adaptation to different functional groups of pollinators: orchid bees and hummingbirds. We find

that both mountain-influenced and Amazonian pairs experience climate niche divergence at

similar frequencies (Fig. 6. Table S4), with only a marginal trend of greater climatic niche

divergence in mountain-influenced pairs, a remarkable result given the steep gradients in climate

in tropical mountains. Nevertheless, montane species occupy a significantly greater amount of

climatic niche space overall, primarily due to expansion into cooler environments (Fig. 5). Taken

together, our results suggest that climatic divergence occurs in both mountain-influenced and

Amazonian pairs, and that mountain-influenced taxa occupy the greater temperature variation the

mountains offer (Rahbek et al. 2019a). Despite hummingbird pollination being common in

mountain-influenced species, it is not proportionally more common than in Amazonian species.

Moreover, we observe similar proportions of pollination shifts throughout the tree when

ancestors are categorized as mountain-influenced or Amazonian based on our biogeographic

reconstruction (Fig. 4,S6). Thus, while hummingbird pollination may be an important driver of

diversification in the mountain-influenced pairs, our results show that it is similarly important in

lowland Amazonian pairs.

If mountains serve as dispersal barriers and cause long-lasting allopatric separation, we

predicted that mountain-influenced pairs would have less range overlap than Amazonian pairs .

We find instead that there is generally little range overlap for sister species, regardless of

whether they are mountain-influenced or Amazonian (Fig. 6). Although slightly more mountain-

influenced than Amazonian pairs have complete allopatric separation (e.g., *C. amazonicus* – *C.*

malortieanus; Fig. 7, right panel), there is no significant difference between regions. This result

may simply reflect the importance of geographic isolation for most, if not all, speciation. Our

results contrast with a previous study in *Costus*, which used species distribution models to

predict co-occurrence across all nodes in the phylogeny and found extensive sympatry (André et

al. 2016). Species distribution models may lead to dramatic overestimates of actual co-

occurrence (Guisan and Rahbek 2011), particularly in topographically complex landscapes

where dispersal is likely limited. Furthermore, because geographic signatures of speciation erode

over time as ranges expand, contract, and shift (Fitzpatrick and Turelli 2006), the use of sister

species comparisons, rather than all nodes in the phylogeny is more likely to yield information

regarding speciation itself.

Additionally, we examined evidence for budding speciation, which may be common

when speciation is driven by topographic dispersal barriers (Anacker and Strauss 2014;

Grossenbacher et al. 2014). Indirect evidence of budding speciation could come from range size

asymmetry decreasing over time-since-divergence, since derivative species should start from

small marginal populations. We find a weak pattern of this being the case in mountain-

influenced, but not Amazonian pairs (Fig. 6C). Further evidence for budding speciation could

come from geographically intensive phylogenetic sampling of sister pairs showing that the

smaller-ranged species is nested within the widespread, paraphyletic progenitor (Baldwin 2005).

While we find support for this pattern in two mountain-influenced pairs, our phylogenetic

sampling was not extensive enough to make statistical comparisons with Amazonian taxa. Thus,

while budding speciation likely occurs in *Costus*, our results are not sufficient to draw robust

conclusions about the prevalence of budding speciation in the mountains or differences in the

frequency of budding speciation between regions. In that sense, our results contrast with the clear

patterns of budding speciation found in other plant and animal biodiversity hotspots (Anacker

and Strauss 2014; Grossenbacher et al. 2014; Gaboriau et al. 2018).

We see examples of how climatic niche divergence, range overlap and asymmetry, and

pollination shifts can occur in both mountain-influenced and Amazonian pairs (Fig. 7). *Costus*

laevis is a widespread bee-pollinated lowland species whose range abuts its restricted (but not

phylogenetically nested) montane hummingbird-pollinated sister, *C. wilsonii*, in southern Costa

Rica. In this case, speciation may be explained by upslope adaptation to a colder drier

environment accompanied by a shift to hummingbird pollination in *C. wilsonii*, perhaps the

quintessential ecological specialization model of divergence that Gentry (1982) envisioned for

Neotropical mountains (Fig. 1E; Fig. 7 center). In contrast, the lowland Amazonian pair *C.*

erythrophyllus – C. spiralis shows comparable levels of range overlap, range asymmetry and

climate niche divergence, in this case along PC1 (precipitation and seasonality) rather than PC2

(temperature), as well as a shift in pollination syndrome, but without the direct influence of

mountains (Fig. 7 left panel). These examples illustrate that multiple ecogeographic factors can

promote lineage splitting in both mountains and lowlands.

How can the similarity in patterns of speciation between mountain-influenced and

Amazonian pairs be reconciled with the pattern of increased species richness in mountainous

regions we see in *Costus*? This pattern could be driven by other factors contributing to higher

rates of diversification in mountainous regions, such as less extinction or more immigration, or to

differences in the amount of time *Costus* has spent in mountainous v. lowland regions. Our

biogeographic reconstructions suggest the latter—*Costus* likely first established ca. 3 Mya in

Central America when the Talamanca Cordillera started to uplift (Driese et al. 2007), and the

genus diversified in this region for close to 1.5 My before colonizing the already elevated Andes

cordillera (Gregory-Wodzicki 2000) and the Amazon lowlands (Fig. 4). Although we were

unable to directly compare diversification rates due to our sample size of species and transitions

between regions (Maddison and Fitzjohn 2015), we find that Amazonian sister pairs are

significantly younger than mountain-influenced pairs (Fig. S9A). This difference is consistent

with the Amazon basin as a region of recent and rapid diversification, and counters the

alternative hypothesis of higher rates of diversification in mountainous regions. In general,

Costus has had more time to diversify in Central America and northwestern South America than

in the Amazon basin, without the need for invoking different modes or rates of speciation.

To what extent are our results likely to apply to other Neotropical plant lineages? The

role of mountains in the diversification of *Costus*, which is restricted to < ca. 2000 m, may be

different from higher elevation tropical montane lineages. Studies of Andean paramo plant

groups, which occur on mountain tops above treeline, have found substantial allopatry

(*Espeletia*: Diazgranados and Barber 2017; *Linochilus*: Vargas and Simpson 2019) and

ecological divergence (Campanulaceae: Lagomarsino et al. 2016; *Lupinus*: Nevado et al. 2016,

Espeletia: Cortés et al. 2018). Alternatively, the relatively young geological age of Neotropical

mountains, including the Andes and Central American Cordillera, may spur rapid diversification

simply through the opening of new niche space (Weir and Schluter 2008) and without any

consistent difference in speciation modes. Much of the plant species richness and endemism in

Neotropical mountains comprises herbs and shrubs with short generation times that are able to

take advantage of open mountain niche space quickly (Gentry 1982). In contrast, Neotropical

trees typically have their center of diversity in the Amazon lowlands (Gentry 1982) and these

lineages can date back to the Paleocene (Dick and Pennington 2019). Finally, diversification

studies of plants in the Amazon have found a large role for edaphic ecological specialization

(*Protium*: Fine et al. 2014, Misiewicz and Fine 2014), other fine-scale habitat divergence

(Gesneriaceae: Roalson and Roberts 2016), and biotic interactions, (*Pitcairnia:* Palma-Silva et

al. 2011, *Ruellia*: Tripp and Tsai 2017). Both abiotic and biotic conditions vary across lowland

forests, and speciation may typically involve ecogeographic isolation even without the influence

of mountains.

Taken together, our study suggests that ecogeographic differentiation and geographic

isolation are drivers of speciation in mountainous tropical regions, and that they happen similarly

in mountains and tropical lowlands. Although mountains provide a larger overall climate niche

landscape (Rahbek et al. 2019a), we find no evidence that speciation modes are fundamentally

different. However, we caution that these results may not apply to tropical alpine clades that are

able to colonize geologically young and spatially disjunct ecosystems above treeline, and these

clades may contribute disproportionately to the species richness and endemism of tropical

mountains (Hughes and Atchinson 2015). Further studies with a similar framework to ours are

needed to determine whether our conclusions can be generalized across tropical organisms in

mountainous and lowland regions. Our study demonstrates the potential of combining species-

level phylogenomics with spatial and ecological data to test longstanding hypotheses about

diversification in tropical mountains.

FIGURE. 7. Range maps, climate niches, and inflorescence photos of representative sister species pairs. Left: an Amazonian pair. Center and right: mountain influenced pairs. Top row: occurrences in the map. Central row: comparisons between the climate niches of the sister species (PC axes correspond to Fig. 5). Photo credits from left to right: *Costus spiralis* and *C. erythrophyllus* by KMK, *C. laevis* by R. Maguiña, *C. wilsonii* by P. Juarez, *C. malortieanus* by DLG, and *C. amazonicus* by KMK.

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