Diversification slowdown in an evolutionary cul-de-sac

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Abstract (150 words):

Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) are widespread microfungi that provide mineral

nutrients to most land plants and form one of the oldest terrestrial symbioses. They have

often been referred to as an "evolutionary cul-de-sac" for their limited ecological and

species diversity. Here we use a global database of AMF to analyze their diversification

dynamics in the past 500 million years (Myr). We find that AMF have low diversification

rates. After a diversification peak around 150 Myr ago, they experienced an important

diversification slowdown in the last 100 Myr, likely related to a shrinking of their suitable

ecological niches. Our results clarify patterns and drivers of diversification in a group of

obligate symbionts of major ecological and evolutionary importance. They also highlight a

striking example of a diversification slowdown that, instead of reflecting an adaptive

radiation as typically assumed, results from a limited ability to colonize new niches in an

evolutionary cul-de-sac.

Introduction (500 words):

Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF - subphylum Glomeromycotina) are obligate symbionts often referred to as an "evolutionary cul-de-sac, albeit an enormously successful one" [1]. They have limited morphological and species diversities, yet live in the soil and in the roots of >80% of land plants, where they provide mineral resources in exchange for plant-assimilated carbon supply [2]. Present in all terrestrial ecosystems at most latitudes, AMF play key roles in plant protection, nutrient cycles, and ecosystem functions [3]. Fossil evidence and molecular phylogenies suggest that AMF contributed to the emergence of land plants [4–6] and coevolved with their plant partners for more than 400 million years (Myr) [7–9].

Despite the ecological ubiquity and evolutionary importance of AMF, large-scale patterns of their evolutionary history are poorly known. Studies on the diversification history of AMF have been hampered by the difficulty of delineating species, quantifying global scale species richness, and building a robust phylogenetic tree for this group. Indeed, AMF are microscopic soil- and root-dwelling fungi that are poorly differentiated morphologically. Although their classical taxonomy is mostly based on the characters of spores and root colonization [2,10], AMF species delineation has greatly benefited from molecular data [11]. Experts have defined "virtual taxa" (VT) based on 97% similarity of a small region of the 18S small subunit (SSU) rRNA gene and monophyly criteria [12,13]. These delineations are controversial though, and a general, consensual system of AMF classification is still lacking [14]. AMF are also poorly known genetically: the full SSU rRNA gene sequence is known in few species [15], other gene sequences in even fewer [8,16], and complete genomes in very few [17].

The drivers of AMF diversification are unclear. A previous dated phylogenetic tree of AMF VT found that most origination times occurred after the last major continental reconfiguration around 100 Myr ago [18], suggesting that AMF diversification is not linked to vicariant speciations during this geological event. Still, geographical speciation could play an important role in AMF diversification, as these organisms have spores that disperse

efficiently over long distances [19–21], which could result in frequent founder-event speciation [22]. Other abiotic factors include habitat: it has for example been suggested that tropical grasslands are diversification hotspots for AMF [23]. Besides abiotic factors, AMF are obligate symbionts and, although current AMF species are relatively generalist [3,24,25], their evolutionary history could be largely influenced by a diffuse coevolution with their host plants [8,26,27]. In the last 400 Myr, land plants have experienced massive radiations [27,28], adapted to various ecosystems [29,30], and evolved associations with different soil microorganisms [31,32]. All these factors could have influenced diversification dynamics in AMF.

Here, we used MaarjAM, the largest global database of AMF SSU rRNA gene sequences [12], to reconstruct several thoroughly sampled phylogenetic trees of AMF, considering uncertainty in species delineations and phylogenetic reconstructions. We combined this phylogenetic data with paleoenvironmental data and data of current AMF geographic distributions, ecological traits, interaction with host plants, and genetic diversity to investigate the global patterns and drivers of AMF diversification in the last 500 million years.

Results:

We began by considering several ways to delineate AMF species. In addition to the VT species proxy, we delineated AMF *de novo* into evolutionary units (EUs) from 36,411 sequences of the 520 base pair SSU rRNA gene assembled from MaarjAM [12], using a monophyly criterion and 5 different thresholds of sequence similarity ranging from 97 to 99% (see Methods; Fig. 1). The EU97.5 and EU98 delineations (obtained using a threshold of 97.5% and 98% respectively) provided a number of species comparable to the 384 currently recognized VT, while the EU97 delineation had much less (182). Conversely, the EU98.5 and EU99 delineations yielded a much larger number of species (1,190 and 2,647, respectively; Supplementary Tables 1 & 2) that was consistent with the number we obtained using coalescent-based species delineation techniques (see Methods, [33,34], Supplementary Tables 2 & 3). This confirms that the actual level of genetic variation within the SSU marker is sufficient to separate AMF species (GMYC LRT: $P<0.05$; [35]), but supports the idea that some VT might lump together several cryptic species that require finer delimitations [14] (Supplementary Note 1). Rarefaction curves as well as Bayesian and Chao2 estimates of diversity suggested that more than 90% of the total diversity of AMF is represented in our database regardless of the delineation threshold (Fig. 1b, Supplementary Tables 3, 4, & 5; Supplementary Note 2), which is consistent with the proportion of new species detected in recent studies [36].

We reconstructed several Bayesian phylogenetic trees of AMF based on VT and EU species delineations (Fig. 2, Supplementary Figs. 1 & 2). Finer delineations resulted in an expected increase in the number of nodes close to the present, but topologies and branching times of internal nodes across our various AMF trees were otherwise rather robust. The branching of the main AMF orders was not resolved, with node supports similar to those of previous studies ([15,18] but see [11]; Supplementary Note 3), confirming that additional genomic evidence is required to reach consensus. Our branching times were overall older than those of Davison *et al.* [18], likely because of a different branching process

prior (see Methods), and suggested that many originations occurred during the period of major continental reconfiguration more than 100 Myr ago. Lineage through time plots (LTTs) indicated a slowdown in the accumulation of new lineages close to the present, even with the finest species delineations (Supplementary Fig. 3).

We estimated lineage-specific speciation rates of AMF with ClaDS, a recently developed Bayesian diversification model accounting for small rate shifts (Maliet *et al.*, 2019). AMF speciation rates ranged from 0.005 to 0.03 events per lineage per million years (Fig. 2; Supplementary Fig. 4), and varied both within and among AMF orders, with Glomerales and Diversisporales having the highest present-day speciation rates (Supplementary Fig. 5). AMF experienced their most rapid diversification between 200 and 100 Myr ago according to estimates of diversification rates through time obtained with ClaDS (Fig. 2; Supplementary Fig. 6), and 150-50 Myr ago according to diversification models with piecewise constant rates (TreePar [38] and CoMET [39], Fig. 2; Supplementary Figs. 7 & 8). This peak of diversification is mainly due to a fast diversification in the Glomeraceae (Fig. 2), and is concomitant with the radiation of flowering plants [26]. It also corresponds to the major continental reconfiguration including the breakdown of Pangea and the formation of new heterogeneous landmasses, which suggests that geographical speciation might have played a more important role than previously supposed [18]. Finally, this period was characterized by a warm and constant climate potentially favorable to AMF diversification. Interestingly, a similar peak of diversification at this period was also found in the Agaricomycetes fungi forming ectomycorrhiza [40].

The fast diversification of AMF around 150 Myr ago was followed by a slowdown in the recent past (Fig. 2; Supplementary Fig. 6), as suggested by the plateauing of the LTTs (Supplementary Fig. 3). A global diminution of the speciation rates through time was supported by ClaDS (Supplementary Fig. 9), TreePar and CoMET analyses (Supplementary Figs. 7 & 8), as well as time-dependent models in RPANDA [41] (Supplementary Fig. 10). Signals of diversification slowdowns sometimes result from

methodological artifacts such as incorrect species delineations or under-sampling [42];

however the slowdown was robust to all species delineations (Supplementary Figs. 6, 7, 8,

& 10), the branching process prior (analyses not shown), phylogenetic uncertainty, and

sampling fractions down to 50%, except in the case of ClaDS analyses where the trend

disappeared in some EU99 phylogenies and for sampling fractions lower than 70%

(Supplementary Figs. 11, 12, & 13).

Slowdowns in diversification rates close to the present have repeatedly been

observed in phylogenetic trees and have often been interpreted as a progressive reduction

of the number of available niches as species diversify and accumulate [42,43]. In AMF, this

potential effect of the saturation of niche space could be exacerbated by a reduction of the

number of niches suitable for AMF, linked to both repetitive breakdowns of their symbiosis

with plants and climatic changes. Indeed, in the last 100 Myr, many plant lineages evolved

root symbioses with other fungal or bacterial groups or became non-symbiotic [30,31,44], to the

point that approximately 20% of the extant plants are not interacting with AMF anymore

[3]. Additionally, the cooling of the Earth during the Cenozoic resulted in a reduction of the

surface of tropical regions [45,46], which are a reservoir of ecological niches for AMF [18,30,47]. The

difficulty of reconstructing past symbiotic associations prevents direct testing of the

hypothesis that the emergence of new root symbioses in plants led to a diversification

slowdown in AMF. We were, however, able to test the hypothesis that global temperature

changes affected diversification rates by fitting various environment-dependent models of

diversification [48] (Fig. 3; Supplementary Fig. 14). We found high support for temperature-

dependent models compared to time-dependent models for all AMF delineations,

sampling fractions, and crown ages (Fig. 3; Supplementary Figs. 15, 16, 17, & 18), with only

the exception of some EU99 replicate trees with a sampling fraction of 50% (Supplementary

Fig. 18). The support for temperature-dependent models disappeared when the

temperature curve was smoothed (Supplementary Fig. 19) or when time-dependent

models were simulated (Supplementary Note 4; Supplementary Fig. 20), suggesting that

the signal of temperature dependency found in AMF is not artifactually due to a temporal

trend. In addition, simulations suggested that heterogeneities in diversification rates do

not generate an artifactual support for temperature-dependent models (Supplementary

Note 5; Supplementary Fig. 21). Evidence for temperature dependency, however,

decreased in some clades closer to the present (see Methods), as small trees tend to be best

fit by constant rather than environment-dependent models (Supplementary Fig. 22). Such

associations between temperature and diversification rates have been observed before in

eukaryotes and have several potential causes [49]. Two prevailing hypotheses are the

evolutionary speed hypothesis, stipulating that high temperatures entail high mutation

rates and fast speciation [50], and the productivity hypothesis, stating that resources and

associated ecological niches are more numerous in warm and productive environments,

especially when the tropics are large [51]. The latter hypothesis is particularly relevant in the

case of AMF, which have many host plant niches in the tropics and potentially less in

temperate regions [52], where a higher proportion of plant species are non-mycorrhizal [53] or

associated with ectomycorrhizal fungi [30,40]. Hence, the observed effect of past global

temperature could reflect the shrinkage of tropical areas and the associated diminution of

the relative proportion of plants relying on AMF.

Among other paleoenvironmental variables we tested (see Methods), few AMF sub-

trees in the last 400 or 200 Myr also present significant support for diversification models

with a positive dependency on CO_2 concentrations (Supplementary Fig. 22a-b), which

reinforces the idea that for the corresponding AMF, benefits retrieved from their

interactions with plants could have been amplified by high CO_2 concentrations and

fostered diversification [54,55]. Conversely, we only found a significant effect of land plant

fossil diversity in very few sub-trees (Supplementary Fig. 22). This indicates that variations

in the tempo of AMF diversification did not systematically follow those of land plants,

especially in the last 100 Myr when AMF diversification declined while flowering plants

radiated, perhaps due to the rise of AMF-free groups such as the species-rich Orchidaceae

(Supplementary Fig. 23 [28,56,57]).

We found little evidence for species extinction in AMF, including at mass extinction events such as the Cretaceous-Paleogene extinction, as the turnover rate (ratio between extinction and speciation rates) was generally estimated as close to zero with ClaDS (Supplementary Fig. 9b), and the models including extinctions were never selected in RPANDA (Supplementary Fig. 10). Similarly, the extinction rates estimated in piecewise-constant models were not significantly different from 0 (Supplementary Fig. 24). We recognize that these low extinction rate estimates could come from the difficulty of estimating extinction from molecular phylogenies [58], one of the limitations of phylogeny-based diversification analyses (see further discussions in Supplementary Note 6). However, AMF are relatively widespread and generalists, and low extinction rates have been predicted before based on their ecology [59].

To further investigate the potential factors driving AMF diversification, we assessed the relationship between lineage-specific estimates of present-day speciation rates and characteristics of each AMF species. First, we assessed the relationship between spore size and speciation rate for the few (32) VT that are morphologically characterized [60]. Spore size is often inversely related to dispersal capacity [61], which can either promote diversification by favoring founder speciation events, or limit diversification by increasing gene flow. We did not find a significant correlation (Supplementary Fig. 25), which may be explained either by a weak or absent effect of spore size on speciation or by small sample size. We found no correlation either between spore size and level of endemism (Supplementary Fig. 26), suggesting that even AMF with large spores can experience long-distance dispersal [60,62]. Large spores might limit dispersal at smaller (e.g. intra-continental) scales in AMF [20,63], but this does not seem to affect diversification.

Next, we assessed the relationship between speciation rate and geographic characteristics of AMF species. We found no effect of latitude, regardless of the AMF delineation or the minimum number of sequences per species (MCMCglmm: P>0.05), even though AMF are more frequent and diverse in the tropics (Supplementary Fig. 27, [18,23,52])

and their speciation rates are positively affected by global temperature. We did not find any effect of habitat or climatic zone either (Supplementary Fig. 28), nor therefore any evidence that tropical grasslands are diversification hotspots for AMF [23]. Further work, including a more thorough sampling of the distribution of AMF species across latitudes and habitats, would be required to confirm these patterns and to discern whether speciation events are indeed no more frequent in the tropics or, if they are, whether efficient dispersal quickly redistributes the new lineages at different latitudes [23].

Given our previous results suggesting that temporal changes in the availability of AMF niches influenced the diversification of the group, we tested whether AMF species with larger 'niche width' tend to present higher lineage-specific speciation rates. Macroorganisms often display such a positive relationship between (abiotic and/or biotic) niche width and species diversification [64,65]. We characterized AMF niche width using a set of 10 abiotic and biotic variables recorded for each AMF species and summarized with their two principal component axes (see Methods; Fig. 4; Supplementary Fig. 29): PC1 indicates the propensity of a given AMF species to be vastly distributed in various continents, ecosystems and/or associated with many plant species and lineages, and PC2 the propensity of a given AMF species to associate with few plant species on many continents (Supplementary Fig. 30). Hence, PC1 reflects AMF niche width, whereas PC2 discriminates the width of the abiotic in comparison to the biotic niche (Fig. 4a-b; Supplementary Fig. 31). We note that there are important nutritional and non-nutritional functional aspects of the niche with potential evolutionary significance that we do not (and cannot) account for in our characterization of AMF niche width: some AMF species mainly provide mineral nutrients extracted from the soil, whereas others are specialized in protecting plants from biotic or abiotic stresses, such as pathogens or droughts [66]. We found a positive correlation between PC1 and lineage-specific speciation rates in the majority of the VT and EU99 phylogenetic trees (Fig. 4c-d; Supplementary Fig. 32a). However, these results were no longer significant when controlling for phylogenetic non-independence between AMF species (Supplementary Fig. 32b), likely because a single *Glomeraceae* clade,

which included the abundant and widespread morphospecies *Rhizophagus irregularis* and

Glomus clarum, has both the highest speciation rates among AMF (Fig. 2a-b) and among the

largest niche widths (Supplementary Fig. 33).

Finally, as a first attempt at connecting AMF macroevolutionary diversification to

microevolutionary processes, we measured intraspecific genetic diversities across AMF

species. Genetic diversity measures the intraspecific variability on which selection can act,

potentially leading to species diversification. In AMF, intraspecific variability is an

important source of functional diversity [67,68]. We computed intraspecific genetic diversities

using Tajima's $\theta\pi$ estimator [69] for all species represented by at least 10, 15, or 20 sequences

(Supplementary Fig. 34). AMF genetic diversity was not correlated with spore size (PGLS:

$P>0.05$), latitude, habitat or climatic zone (MCMCglmm: $P>0.05$); it was however

significantly and positively correlated with niche width (PC1) for all AMF delineations and

minimal numbers of sequences per species considered, and in particular with abiotic

aspects of the niche (PC2) in many cases (Fig. 4e-h; Supplementary Fig. 32). Hence,

geographically widespread AMF species tend to be more genetically diverse, as previously

suggested by population genomics [68], but do not necessarily speciate faster. Along with a

decoupling between genetic diversity and lineage-specific speciation rate (Supplementary

Fig. 32), this suggests that the accumulation of genetic diversity among distant

subpopulations is not enough to spur AMF speciation.

Discussion (2 paragraphs)

Our findings that AMF have low speciation and extinction rates primarily constrained by the availability of suitable niches reinforce the vision of AMF as an "evolutionary cul-de-sac" [1]. We found speciation rates for AMF an order of magnitude lower than rates typically found for macro-eukaryotes [37,70], including plants [27], or other mycorrhizal fungi such as Agaricomycetes [40]. Low speciation rates in AMF may be linked to their (debated) asexual reproduction [71], to their strong dispersal capacity that homogenizes populations globally [68], or to the fact that they are non-specific obligate symbionts [72]. Regardless of the proximal cause, and contrary to Agaricomycetes for example, which present a large diversity of species, morphologies and ecologies, the niche space exploited by AMF in plant roots is rather restricted and has been conserved for more than 400 Myr.

Several of our results suggest a preponderant role of the global availability of AMF niches in modulating their diversification. We found a peak of diversification concomitant with several important factors, including continental reconfigurations, Angiosperms radiation, and warm climates, such that disentangling the role of these various factors is not an easy task. Continental reconfigurations may have played a role, yet the absence of correlation between speciation rates and spore size or geographic spread suggests that this role is limited. Geographic spread increases intraspecific genetic variability, but this does not result in speciation, potentially because long-distance dispersal in AMF counteracts the effect of continental separation on reducing gene flow. We found little support for the influence of plant fossil diversity on AMF diversification, particularly in the past 100 Myr. Still, the concordance of the peak of AMF diversification with the radiation of the Angiosperms is noteworthy, in particular in Glomeraceae that frequently interact with present-day Angiosperms [15]. The co-diversification with the plants might have been an important driver from the emergence of land plants until the Mesozoic [8,59], but less so after this period, as many plant lineages evolved different mycorrhizal interactions [31], blurring

global co-diversification patterns (Supplementary Fig. 23). Finally, we found substantial

support for an effect of climate, which we attribute to its effect on the size of tropical areas

and the associated relative proportion of plants relying on AMF. Hence, we hypothesize

that a conjunction of the emergence of plant lineages not associated with AMF, of the

reduction of tropical areas induced by climate cooling, and of the difficulty AMF have

colonizing new niches led to a diversification slowdown in the past 100 Myr.

Diversification slowdowns have often been interpreted as the signal of adaptive radiation

[42,73], that is clades that experienced a rapid accumulation of morphological, ecological, and

species diversity[74]. AMF provide a striking example of a clade with slow morphological,

ecological and species diversification that features a pattern of diversification slowdown.

In AMF, and potentially in many other species groups [49], the slowdown reflects a climate-

driven reduction of the global availability of niches.

Material & methods (no words limit):

Virtual taxa phylogenetic reconstruction:

We built a phylogenetic tree of the 384 virtual taxa (VT, defined based on at least 97% sequence similarity and a criterion of monophyly [12]) from the corresponding representative sequences available in the MaarjAM database [12] updated in June 2019. We used the full 18S SSU rRNA gene sequences from Rimington *et al.* [15] to better align the VT sequences using MAFFT [75] (--add option). The 18S SSU rRNA gene is generally preferred to the universal fungal barcode (the ITS region) for characterizing AMF diversity [76]; in addition, the ITS has a higher substitution rate which makes it more sensitive to potential saturation, which could be problematic for investigating AMF evolutionary history from phylogenetic data over the last 500 Myr. We selected the 520 base pair central barcode of the VT aligned sequences and used BEAST2 [77] for the phylogenetic reconstruction. We recognize that phylogenies constructed from single and short sequences are limited, and we hope that studies like ours will foster efforts to obtain better genetic data with the aim of reconstructing comprehensive phylogenies of better quality. In the current state of data acquisition, short metabarcoding sequences provide for most microbial groups, including AMF, the only current possibility to analyze their diversification dynamics [18,78,79].

Prior to phylogenetic analysis, we used ModelFinder [80] to select the best substitution model and performed nested sampling analyses (NS [81] in BEAST2) to select the most accurate models among strict, relaxed log-normal, or exponential molecular clocks and coalescent, pure-birth, or birth-death branching process priors. As a result, we generated an input file using BEAUti with the following parameters: a GTR model with 4 classes of rates and invariant sites, a pure birth prior, and relaxed log-normal clock (Supplementary Table 6). The selection of a pure birth prior over a birth death prior by the NS analyses suggested that there is low support for extinction, and this differed from the phylogenetic analyses of Davison *et al.* (2015) who selected a coalescent prior (which tends to push the nodes close to the present compared to a pure birth prior).

In order to efficiently explore tree space and reduce computation time we constrained the

monophyly of the orders Diversisporales, Glomerales, and Paraglomerales +

Archaeosporales, based on preliminary analyses (not shown) and previous phylogenetic

reconstructions of the Glomeromycotina subphylum [15,18]. We ran BEAST2 to generate a

posterior distribution of ultrametric trees sampled using Markov chain Monte Carlo

(MCMC) with 4 independent chains each composed of 200,000,000 steps sampled every

20,000 generations. The convergences of the 4 chains were checked using Tracer [82]. We used

LogCombiner to merge the results setting a 25% burn-in and TreeAnnotator to obtain the

maximum clade credibility tree with median branch lengths, hereafter referred to as the

VT consensus tree. We also selected 12 trees equally spaced in the 4 independent chains (3

trees per chain) to account for phylogenetic uncertainty in the subsequent diversification

analyses, hereafter referred to as the VT replicate trees. Phylogenetic trees were visualized

using FigTree (v1.5) and potential negative branch lengths in the consensus tree were set

equal to 0 using R [83].

Finally, we converted relative branch lengths to absolute time by setting the crown root

age at 505 Myr [18], which is coherent with fossil data and previous dated molecular

phylogenies [8,9].

Evolutionary units delineation and phylogenetic reconstruction:

We gathered 41,989 AMF sequences from the MaarjAM database accessed in June 2019,

from which we filtered 36,411 sequences corresponding to an approximately 520 base pair

barcode region of the 18S SSU rRNA gene, mostly amplified by the primer pair NS31 -

AML2 [84,85] (dataset 1, Supplementary Table 7). In MaarjAM, most of these fungal sequences

are assigned to a Glomeromycotina order (Diversisporales, Glomerales, Paraglomerales or

Archaeosporales), a Glomeromycotina family, and are mapped to one of the 384 VT. We

performed *de novo* automated delineations into evolutionary units (EUs); we used a

criterium of monophyly, as incorporating phylogeny into AMF molecular delineations seems to give more accurate units [35].

To do so, we first built the phylogenetic tree of all the sequences from dataset 1: we aligned the 36,411 sequences using MAFFT with the VT representative sequences as a backbone, filtered out gaps present in more than 50% of the sequences using TrimAl [86], removed sequences having more than 25% of gaps, and selected the 520 base pair barcode region. We obtained a total of 34,205 sequences reduced to 27,728 after removing identical sequences using the GetHaplo function from the R-package *sidier* [87]. We used FastTree [88] to build an uncalibrated tree of all AMF sequences constrained with the VT consensus tree (option *-constraints*), that we rooted using midpoint rooting in R.

Next, we wrote an R algorithm, *delineate_phylotypes* available in the R-package RPANDA [89], which traverses a tree from the root to the tips, at every node computes the average similarity of all sequences descending from the node, and collapses the sequences into a single EU if their sequence dissimilarity is lower than a given threshold [90]. To compute average pairwise similarity among sequences, we used the formula for estimating nucleotide diversity of Ferretti *et al.* (2012) [91] which has the advantage of accounting for gaps in the alignment (Supp. Material 1). We ran this algorithm on the tree of AMF sequences for 97, 97.5, 98, 98.5, and 99% average sequence similarity thresholds, resulting in the delineation of EUs denoted EU97, EU97.5, EU98, EU98.5, and EU99.

Finally, we performed Bayesian phylogenetic reconstructions of the EUs. We removed singletons (EUs represented by a unique sequence) as they mostly corresponded to sequences with many gaps and/or badly placed tips in the phylogenetic tree (Supplementary Figs. 35 & 36; Supplementary Note 2). We assigned to each EU a representative sequence corresponding to its longest available sequence. We performed the same BEAST2 Bayesian phylogenetic reconstructions as the one used to build the VT trees, resulting in a dated consensus tree and 12 replicate trees for each delineation threshold.

Coalescent-based species delineation analyses:

To compare the number of AMF species obtained using VT and EUs to an estimate that does not depend on an arbitrary similarity threshold, we used GMYC models [33,34]. GMYC estimates the time t in a reconstructed calibrated tree that separates species diversification (Yule process – before t) and intraspecific differentiation (coalescent process – after t). Because GMYC is too computationally intensive to be run on large clades (such as the family Glomeraceae), we separated the AMF sequences according to family and performed the analyses on smaller Glomeromycotina clades: (i) the family Claroideoglomeraceae, (ii) the order Diversisporales composed of the families Acaulosporaceae, Diversisporaceae, Pacisporaceae, and Gigasporaceae; and (iii) a "basal" clade composed of the families Ambisporaceae, Archaeosporaceae, Paraglomeraceae, and Geosiphonaceae. For each of these clades we aligned the sequences using MAFFT, filtered the alignment using TrimAl, and reconstructed calibrated trees using BEAST2, following the same procedure as above. Finally, we ran GMYC analyses (splits R-package [92]) on each of these trees, evaluated the support of the threshold models compared to null models (in which all tips are assumed to be different species) using likelihood ratio tests (LRT), and compared the number of GMYC-delineated species to the number of VT and EUs.

Estimating global AMF species diversity:

In order to evaluate how thoroughly sampled our species-level AMF phylogenetic trees are and to account for missing species in our diversification analyses, we estimated the total number of Glomeromycotina VT and EUs and the corresponding sampling fractions using two different approaches. First, we constructed rarefaction curves of the number of VT or EUs as a function of the number of sequences and estimated the total number of units using Chao2 (index *specpool* function, vegan R-package). Second, we used the Bayesian Diversity Estimation Software (BDES [93]), which estimates the total number of species by extrapolating sampled taxa abundance distributions. For every delineation, we generated global-scale taxa abundance distributions and assumed that they followed either a log-normal, log-Student, inverse Gaussian, or Sichel distribution [79]. For each tested distribution, we ran three independent MCMC chains. Each chain included 250,000 steps

including a burn-in period of 100,000 steps and was complemented by non-informative

prior distributions from trial MCMC runs. The estimated total number of units was given

by the median value of the last 150,000 steps in the three MCMC chains. We selected the

most likely distributions among the 4 tested according to the lowest deviance information

criterion (DIC = -2 log(likelihood) + the number of parameters).

Diversification analyses:

All diversification analyses were performed for each delineation (VT or EUs) on the

consensus tree and on the 12 independent replicate trees to account for phylogenetic

uncertainty. We accounted for missing species in all these diversification analyses by

imputing sampling fractions, computed as the number of VT or EUs represented in a given

phylogeny divided by the corresponding BDES estimates of global AMF diversity

estimated from Sichel distributions (see Results, Supplementary Table 4). As the analyses

can be highly dependent on diversity estimates, we checked the robustness of the results

by replicating all diversification analyses using lower sampling fractions of 50%, 60%, 70%,

and 80%.

We estimated lineage-specific diversification rates using ClaDS, a Bayesian diversification

model that accounts for rate heterogeneity by modeling small rate shifts at speciation

events [37]. At each speciation event, the two daughter lineages inherit new speciation rates

sampled from a log-normal distribution with an expected value equal to $\log[\alpha \times \lambda]$ (where

λ represents the parental speciation rate) and a standard deviation σ. We considered the

model with constant turnover ε (i.e. constant ratio between extinction rates and speciation

rates; *ClaDS2*) and ran a newly developed ClaDS algorithm based on data augmentation

techniques that is much more efficient computationally than the original MCMC algorithm

and which estimates mean rates through time (https://github.com/OdileMaliet/

ClaDS_Julia). We ran ClaDS2 with 3 independent chains, checked the convergence of the

chains using a Gelman-Rubin diagnostic criterion [94], and recorded lineage-specific

speciation rates. We also extracted from the chains the maximum *a posteriori* (MAP)

average speciation rate across all fungal lineages (including extinct and unsampled 'augmented' lineages) back in time every 5 Myr. We also looked at the estimated hyperparameters (α, σ, ε) and the value m = $\alpha \times \exp(\sigma^2/2)$, which represents the general trend of the rate through time [37].

In order to confirm the temporal variation in rates found using ClaDS, we applied TreePar [38], another diversification approach that does not consider rate variation across lineages, but models temporal shifts in diversification rates affecting all lineages simultaneously. We searched for up to ten shifts in diversification rates at every 2-million-year interval in each phylogenetic tree. We estimated the number of temporal shifts in AMF diversification rates using maximum likelihood inferences and likelihood ratio tests. We also used its equivalent piecewise-constant model in a Bayesian framework (CoMET [39]) using the R-package TESS [95]. We chose the Bayesian priors according to maximum likelihood estimates from TreePar, we disallowed mass extinction events, and we ran the MCMC chains until convergence (minimum effective sample size values of 500).

We also fitted a series of time-dependent and environment-dependent birth-death diversification models using RPANDA [89]. For the time-dependent models, we used the *fit_bd* function and considered models with constant or exponential variation of speciation rates through time and null or constant extinction rates. The models with constant rates correspond to the null hypothesis of clock-like speciation. The exponential variation was chosen here as a convenient functional form that ensures positive rates; it can also be viewed as an approximation of diversity dependence, a process that has often been invoked during the radiation of clades [96]. For the environment-dependent models, we used the *fit_env* function and considered an exponential dependency of the speciation rates with the environmental variable (env), i.e. speciation rate = b * exp(a * env), where a and b are two parameters estimated by maximum likelihood. The exponential variation was again chosen here as a convenient functional form that ensures positive rates, and corresponds to a simple linear regression of log-transformed rates. Environment curves were smoothed

using the function *smooth.spline* (R-package stats). We used the corrected Akaike

information criterion (AICc) to select the best-fit models, considering that a difference of 2

in AICc indicates that the model with the lowest AICc is better. We tested the influence of

temperature on the complete AMF phylogenetic trees, using estimates of past global

temperature relative to the average temperature of the period 1960-1990 from Royer *et al.*

(2004). As these temporal analyses can be sensitive to the root age calibration (fixed at 505

Myr [18]), we replicated them using the youngest (437 Myr) and oldest (530 Myr) crown age

estimates from Lutzoni *et al.* (2018). We checked that environment-dependent models are

not artifactually selected using simulated trees under the best-supported time-dependent

models (Supplementary Note 4) or simulated trees with heterogeneity in rates across

lineages (Supplementary Note 5). Following Clavel & Morlon [98] and Condamine *et al.* [49],

we tested whether the support for temperature-dependent models was due to a global

temporal trend or to details in the temperature curve by performing our model comparison

using increasingly smoothed temperature curves, using cubic splines with a range of

degrees of freedom (df) from 20 to 2. If support for temperature-dependent models

disappears when the temperature curve is smoothed, this means that support for

temperature dependency is not linked only to a global temporal trend.

Starting from 400 Myr ago, we also tested the influence of pCO_2 [99] and of land plant fossil

diversity, as these environmental data are not available for more ancient times. For these

analyses we sliced the phylogenies at 400 and 200 Myr ago, and applied the diversification

models to the sliced sub-trees larger than 50 tips. Estimates of land plant diversity were

obtained using all available Embryophyta fossils from the Paleobiology database

(https://paleobiodb.org) and using the shareholder quorum subsampling method [100]

implemented in the pipeline http://fossilworks.org [101] (Supplementary Note 7).

Estimating genetic diversity:

Among dataset 1, given that some interactions were characterized in disturbed ecosystems

(e.g. agricultural systems, urban areas, etc.) or sampled directly from soil, we only retained

the sequences of AMF that occurred in natural ecosystems and interacted with a plant identified at the species level [12] (dataset 2, Supplementary Table 7). This filtering led to 351 fungal VT interacting with a total of 490 plant species [24]. For each VT or EU "species" containing at least 10 sequences in dataset 2, we computed genetic diversity using Tajima's estimator ($\theta\pi$) [69], which corresponds to the mean pairwise differences between sequences, while accounting for the nucleotide gaps frequent in such metabarcoding datasets (Supplementary Materials 1) [91]. By using a minimal number of 10 sequences, the estimates of genetic diversity were either not significantly or only slightly correlated with the number of sampled sequences per species (Supplementary Fig. 34). This criterion considerably reduced the number of EU99 units represented in the analyses, as many EU99 had less than 10 sequences (Supplementary Table 8).

Correlation with biotic and abiotic niche width:

For each VT or EU species, we reported the number of continents where it has been sampled, as well as the number of ecosystems, climatic zones, realms, habitats, and biomes defined in MaarjAM [12]. We simultaneously reported the number of plant partners that have been recorded (degree of the AMF species) and computed, for each fungal species, (i) the phylogenetic diversity of these interacting partners (indicating whether a fungus is interacting with closely related plant species or not; R-package *picante* [102]) and (ii) its centrality in the plant-fungus bipartite network (we reported both the closeness and the betweenness centrality; R-package bipartite [103]). The measure of centrality in an interaction network indicates whether a given species is isolated and interacting with few specialist partners (reciprocal specialization – restricted niche) versus part of the interaction core (well-connected generalists interacting with generalists – large niche). For the plants, we used the Plant List (http://www.theplantlist.org) to update some taxonomic assignations following the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group (APG) III system. The land plant phylogenetic tree of the 490 species was obtained by pruning the synthesis phylogeny [27] using Phylomatic (http://phylodiversity.net/phylomatic/) and manually grafting the 37 missing taxa onto the Phylomatic tree as polytomies based on the current literature [24].

As most of these 10 scaled variables are highly correlated, we performed a principal

component analysis (PCA), reported the contributions of the different variables to the first

axes, and extracted the first two components for each fungal species that are represented

by at least 10 sequences (in dataset 2). We selected the first two axes based on parallel

analyses [104] using the function *parallel_analysis* from the R-package

GeometricMorphometricsMix [105]. PC1 and PC2 explained more than 75% of the variance of

the 10 variables (Supplementary Fig. 29). Log-transforming the count variables such as the

number of plant species associated with an AMF species did not significantly change the

PCA and the downstream analyses. We tested whether these PCA coordinates reflecting

the biotic and abiotic characteristics of fungal species were correlated with the genetic

diversities and the present-day speciation rates using both linear mixed-models (not

accounting for AMF phylogeny) or MCMCglmm models [106]. For each MCMCglmm, we

assumed a Gaussian residual distribution, included the fungal phylogenetic tree as a

random effect, and ran the MCMC chains for 1,300,000 iterations with a burn-in of 300,000

and a thinning interval of 500. We tested that these results were robust to the minimal

number of sequences per species used to compute the genetic diversity and the PCA, either

10, 15 or 20 sequences.

Testing the latitudinal effect:

To test the effect of latitude on speciation rates and genetic diversity, we associated each

species with its set of latitudes and used similar MCMCglmm with an additional random

effect corresponding to the fungal species. To consider the inhomogeneous sampling along

the latitudinal gradient, we re-ran the model on jackknifed datasets (we re-sampled 1,000

interactions per slice of latitude of twenty degrees). Similarly, we tested the effect of

climatic zone and ecosystems on the diversification rates.

Testing the effect of spore size:

As some VT containing sequences of morphologically characterized AMF isolates, we used

measures of their average spore length [60] to test whether spore size influenced AMF

speciation rates, by using a phylogenetic generalized least square regression (PGLS) to take

into account phylogenetic relatedness among VT. We carefully checked the normality of

the residuals of the models.

All statistical models were replicated on the different phylogenetic trees (consensus or

replicates) for a given delineation and we reported p-values (*P*) corresponding to two-

sided tests.

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Author contributions:

All the authors designed the study. MÖ gathered the data and BPL performed the analyses. OM and ACAS provided some codes. BPL and HM wrote the first version of the manuscript and all authors contributed substantially to the revisions.

Competing Interests statement:

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

Figures

 Figure 1: Molecular-based species delineations of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF)

 give consistent results and indicate a nearly complete sampling.

 We compared the *virtual taxa* (VT) delineation from [12] with newly-developed automatic

 delineations into *evolutionary units* (EUs) based on an average threshold of similarity and a

 criterion of monophyly.

 (a) The proportion of AMF units (VT or EUs) in each AMF family reveals constant

 proportions across delineations, although Glomeraceae tend to be relatively less numerous

 compared to the other AMF family in the VT delineation. The main AMF orders are

 indicated on the right of the charts: Paraglomerales + Archaeosporales, Diversisporales,

 and Glomerales (Glomeraceae + Claroideoglomeraceae).

 (b) Rarefaction curves indicating the number of AMF units as a function of the percentage

 of sampled AMF accession revealed that the AMF sampling in MaarjAM is close to

 saturation for all delineations (VT or EUs). Rarefactions were performed 100 times every 5

 percent and the median of the 100 replicates is represented here.

Figure 2: The diversification dynamic of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) varies significantly through time and between lineages.

(a-b): AMF consensus phylogenetic trees corresponding to the VT (a) and EU99 (b) species delineations. Branches are colored according to the lineage-specific speciation rates estimated by ClaDS using the BDES estimated sampling fraction: lineages with low and high speciation rates are represented in blue and red, respectively.

The main AMF clades are indicated with the following letters: *P* = Paraglomerales + Archaeosporales, *D* = Diversisporales, *C* = Claroideoglomeraceae, and *G* = Glomeraceae.

(c-d): Average speciation rates (MAPS) through time estimated by ClaDS, for the VT (c) and EU99 (d) delineations and using the BDES estimated sampling fraction. Orange and grey lines represent the 12 independent replicate trees and the consensus tree, respectively. Unlike most replicate trees, the EU99 consensus tree tends to present constant rates toward the present, which reinforces the idea that consensus trees can be a misleading representation [107].

(e-f): Net diversification rates (speciation rates minus extinction rates) through time estimated by TreePar, for the VT (c) and EU99 (d) delineations and using the BDES estimated sampling fraction. Orange and grey lines represent the 12 independent replicate trees and the consensus tree, respectively.

Figure 3: Temperature-dependent diversification models reveal that global temperature positively associates with the speciation rates of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) in the last 500 million years.

(a): Average global temperature in the last 500 million years (Myr) compared to the mean temperature between 1960 and 1990. The smoothed orange line represents cubic splines with 33 degrees of freedom used to fit temperature-dependent models of AMF diversification with RPANDA. This default smoothing was estimated using the R function *smooth.spline*.

(b): AICc difference between the best-supported time-dependent model and the temperature-dependent model in RPANDA, for the VT (left) and EU99 (right) delineations, using the BDES estimated sampling fraction. An AICc difference greater than 2 indicates that there is significant support for the temperature-dependent model.

(c): Parameter estimations of the temperature-dependent models (speciation rate ~ exp(parameter * temperature)). A positive parameter value indicates a positive effect of temperature on speciation rates.

For both delineations, the boxplots represent the results obtained for the consensus tree and the 12 independent replicate trees. Boxplots indicate the median surrounded by the first and third quartiles, and whiskers extend to the extreme values but no further than 1.5 of the inter-quartile range. The horizontal dotted lines highlighted the values estimated for the consensus trees. Compared to the replicate trees, the consensus trees tend to present extreme values (stronger support for temperature-dependent model), which reinforces the idea that consensus trees can be a misleading representation [107].

Figure 4: Abiotic and biotic drivers of the species diversification and differentiation of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF)

(a-b): Projection of 10 abiotic and biotic variables on the two principal coordinates according to the VT (a) or EU99 (b) delineations. Principal coordinate analysis (PCA) was performed for the AMF units represented by at least 10 sequences. Colors represent the contribution of the variable to the principal coordinates. The percentage for each principal coordinate (PC) indicates its amount of explained variance.

Tested variables were: the numbers of continents on which the AMF unit occurs (nb_continent), of realms (nb_realm), of ecosystems (nb_ecosystems), of habitats (nb_habitats), of biomes (nb_biomes), and climatic zones (nb_climatic) [12], as well as information about the associated plant species of each unit, such as the number of plant partners (nb_plants), the phylogenetic diversity of these plants (PD), and the betweenness and closeness measurement of each fungal unit in the plant-fungus interaction network (see Methods).

(c-d): Speciation rates as a function of the PC1 coordinates for each VT (c) or EU99 (d) unit. Only the AMF consensus tree is represented here (other replicate trees are presented in Supplementary Fig. 32).

(e-h): Genetic diversity (Tajima's $\theta\pi$ estimator) as a function of the PC1 (e-f) or PC2 (g-h) coordinates for each VT (e-g) or EU99 (f-h) unit. Only the AMF consensus tree is represented here (other replicate trees are presented in Supplementary Fig. 32). The grey lines indicate the statistically significant linear regression between the two variables inferred using MCMCglmm.