Phylogenomic insights into biogeographic diversification and character evolution of the Sino-Japanese disjunctive *Diabelia* (Caprifoliaceae)

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Abstract: Disjunctive distribution patterns and drivers of the Sino-Japanese flora in East Asia have attracted much attention in the past decades, which is also served as an important glacial sanctuary during the quaternary glacial period. However, few studies have focused on the phylogeography, diversification and evolution of morphological character at the genus level with both nuclear and plastid data. *Diabelia* (Caprifoliaceae) is an East Asian genus, with a disjunctive distribution across China, Japan and Korea, serving as an ideal group to explore the mechanism of East Asian flora speciation and diversification. However, the phylogenetic relationships among *Diabelia* remain elusive and species delimitation within the genus (three species or four species) are still controversial. In this study, we reconstructed the phylogenetic relationships among *Diabelia* based on nuclear and cpDNA by using target enrichment and genome skimming approaches, respectively. We found that the main clades within *Diabelia* were discordant between nuclear and plastid genome trees. Both nuclear and plastid phylogenetic analyses supported five main clades: *D. serrata*, *D. tetrasepala*, *D. spathulata* var. *sanguinea*, *D. spathulata* var. *stenophylla* and *D. spathulata* var. *spathulat*a. *Diabelia tetrasepala* was inferred to be the result of a hybridization event from the species network analyses. The result of divergence time estimation and ancestral area reconstruction showed that *Diabelia* originated in Japan during the early Miocene, with subsequent gene flow between China, Japan and Korea. Overall, our results support the division of *Diabelia* into five main clades and this research provides new insights for the speciation process and taxonomy within *Diabelia*.

Keywords: *Diabelia;* Phylogenomic; Incongruence; Evolution; Hybridization

1 Introduction

Determining the abiotic and biotic process that influence the distribution of biological diversity is one of the main challenges in ecology and evolutionary biology (Jiang et al., 2016; Casebolt and Kowalewski, 2018; Martínez-Espinosa, 2021). In particular, understanding mechanisms of speciation and protecting unique biological habitats is of great significance to biodiversity hot spots to protect species richness and characterize high priority protection areas (Wang et al., 2018; Kaus et al., 2019; Sano et al., 2019). The Sino-Japanese flora (SJFR) of East Asia harbors the largest diversity of temperate plant species in the world and served as an important glacial sanctuary during the quaternary glacial period (Qiu et a1., 2009; 2011; Zhao et al., 2019). The SJFR is also an ideal environment to study the genetic effects of geographic isolation on speciation in the presence of a strong biogeographic barrier (Zhao et al., 2019). Therefore, studying the plant phylogeography in the SJFR is of significant importance to further infer the evolutionary mechanism of the flora in East Asia.

Diabelia Landrein (Caprifoliaceae) is an East Asian endemic genus with a disjunctive distribution in China, Korea and Japan (Hara, 1983), providing an ideal model to explore the mechanism of East Asian flora speciation with its unique morphological features and distribution pattern. *Diabelia* belongs to the subfamily Linnaeoideae (Landrein, 2010; Wang et al., 2015; Landrein and Farjon, 2020; Wang et al., 2021) and according to some studies include three species: *Diabelia serrata* with two sepals, *D. tetrasepala* with four big and one smaller sepal, and *D. spathulata* with five sepals (Fig. 1; Hara, 1983). Although there have been several previous studies on the discontinuous distribution between China and Japan (Lu et al., 2020; Haq et al., 2020; Takano et al., 2020), groups showing a higher distribution in Japan than China are rarely involved. Prior work on *Diabelia* focusing on the intermittent distribution in China and Japan is lacking. Overall, the number of sepals in *Diabelia* range from two to five, with the intermediate sepal form (number and size) observed in *D. tetrasepala* distributed in the overlap areas of *D. serrata* and *D. spathulata*, which may be the result of hybridization (Zhao et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2020). Therefore, *Diabelia* is a

good case to examine the migration and evolution of species between China and Japan.

This is especially true since the disjunctive distribution of *Diabelia* in China, Japan and

Korea dates back to the Middle Oligocene, covering the long geological history of the

formation of flora in China and Japan (Yang et al., 2011; Shin et al., 2012; Zhao et al.,

2019; Wang et al., 2020).

The species phylogeny of *Diabelia* is still unstable due to most previous studies

relying on only a few plastid markers (e.g. *trnL-F*) and very low taxonomic sampling

(Zhou et al., 2004; Landrein et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2015). Zhou et al. (2004) used

Amplified Fragment Length Polymorphism (AFLP) to explore the phylogenetic

relationship within *Diabelia* based on six samples but were not able to resolve the

relationships of *Diabelia* between China and Japan. Landrein et al. (2012) found a

close relationship between *D. serrata* and *D. spathulata* using the ribosomal internal

transcribed spacer (ITS) and plastid fragments (*rbcL, ndhF, matK, trnL* intron and

trnL-F intergenic spacer). Wang et al. (2015) constructed a phylogeny based on nine

plastid markers recovering only a close relationship between Chinese and Japanese *D.*

serrata. Zhao et al. (2019) conducted a comprehensive phylogenetic analysis based on

plastid fragments from 37 *Diabelia* individuals sampled from China, Japan and Korea;

however, this did not fully resolve the internal relationships of *Diabelia*. Wang et al.

(2020) conducted phylogenetic analysis of *Diabelia* based on 28 complete plastomes,

finding *Diabelia serrata* monophyletic while the relationship of the other three species

was not clear. Overall, the quantity of sampling and markers in the above studies was

insufficient to fully resolve the relationships of the species within *Diabelia*. Therefore,

expanding the systematic genomic sampling to fully elucidate phylogenetic

relationships and speciation processes within *Diabelia* is necessary.

Studies relying solely on plastid genomes and a few nuclear genes are insufficient

for exploring questions of biogeography and speciation, in large part because plastid

genomes are largely uniparentally inherited (Leducq et al., 2017), therefore lacking

genetic evidence of both parents. Additionally, organelle genes often exhibit

phylogenetic patterns significantly different from nuclear markers (Toews and

Brelsford, 2012; Ji et al., 2019; Yao et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2020). In the current

literature, target enrichment is emerging as the method of choice to obtain target

sequence for numerous nuclear orthologs of many taxa (Wanke et al., 2017; Buys et al.,

2019; Schneider et al., 2020; Granados Mendoza et al., 2020; Wang et al., 2021).

Target capture approaches are ideal for obtaining nuclear and plastid data to analyze

cyto-nuclear discordance, speciation, hybridization and polyploidy (e.g., Bogarin et al.,

2018; Morales-Briones et al., 2018; 2021).

    Here we used target enrichment to capture nuclear genes and genome skimming

to get complete plastomes to (1) explore robust phylogenetic relationships within

Diabelia, and (2) reconstruct the biogeography and evolution of this complex genus to

offer a comprehensive phylogenetic framework for future studies.

2.Materials and Methods

2.1 Sampling

    A data set of 47 accessions was analyzed including 42 *Diabelia* samples

(including all three species of *Diabelia* with *D. spathulata* containing three varieties)

and five outgroup samples representing Linnaeoideae (*Abelia macrotera* var. *parvifolia*,

Dipelta floribunda, *Kolkwitzia amabilis*, *Vesalea floribunda*, *Linnaea borealis*)

(Landrein et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2015; Zhao et al. 2019; Wang et al., 2020). Voucher

specimens have been deposited in the herbarium of the Institute of Tropical Agriculture

and Forestry of Hainan University (HUTB), Haikou, China. Detailed information on

the geographical distribution and voucher details for the 42 samples and the localities

of the populations sampled in this study are shown in Table S1.

2.2 DNA extraction and sequencing

    We used a modified CTAB method (Doyle and Doyle, 1987) to extract total

genomic DNA from silica gel-dried tissue or herbarium accessions. The concentration

of each extraction was checked with Qubit 2.0 Fluorometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific,

Waltham, MA, USA). A total of 400 ng of DNA was sonicated with a Covaris S2

(Covaris, Woburn, MA) to produce fragments ~150-350 bp in length prior to library

preparation. Libraries of genomic DNA were made following Weitemier et al. (2014).

To ensure that genomic DNA was sheared at approximately the selected fragment size,

all samples were evaluated on a 1.2% (w/v) agarose gel.

To obtain nuclear data we used a target enrichment approach (Weitemier et al.,

2014) and genome skimming for plastid data (Wang et al.; 2020). Baits designed across

Dipsacales (Wang et al., 2021) were used to target 428 putatively single-copy genes.

Hybridization, enrichment and sequencing followed Wang et al. (2021). Plastid

sequencing followed Wang et al. (2020).

2.3 Read processing and assembly

Trimmomatic v.0.36 (Bolger et al., 2014) was used to remove adaptor sequences

and low-quality bases from the raw reads (ILLUMINACLIP: TruSeq_ADAPTER:

2:30:10 SLIDINGWINDOW: 4:5 LEADING: 5 TRAILING: 5 MINLEN: 25). HybPiper

v.1.3.1 (Johnson et al., 2016) was employed to assemble nuclear loci. Exons were

assembled individually to avoid chimeric sequences in multi-exon genes produced by

potential paralogy (Morales-Briones et al., 2018), in which exons more than 150 bp

was set as a reference. Paralog detection was undertaken for all exons using the

'paralog_investigator' warning. The processing of all assembled loci (with and without

paralogs detected) followed Morales-Briones et al (2021).

For the plastome assemblies, clean reads were extracted from raw reads by using

SOAPfilter_v2.2 to remove adapter sequences and low-quality reads. The resulting

reads were the input to assemble plastomes using MITObim v1.8 (Hahn et al. 2013)

following Wang et al. (2020).

2.4 Phylogenetic analyses

Nuclear dataset. We used concatenation and coalescent-based methods to analyze

the nuclear data. For concatenation analyses, sequence alignments of individual

nuclear exons were performed with MAFFT v.7.407 (Katoh and Standley, 2013) and

aligned columns with more than 90% missing data were removed using Phyutility

(Smith and Dunn, 2008). A maximum likelihood tree from a concatenated matrix was

inferred with RAxML v.8.2.20 (Stamatakis, 2014) using a partition-by-locus scheme

and the GTRGAMMA substitution model for all partitions. We assessed clade support

with 100 rapid bootstrap replicates. In addition, Quartet Sampling (QS; Pease et al.,

2018) was used to distinguish strong conflict from weakly supported branches with

1000 replicates. For coalescent species tree estimation, ASTRAL-III v.5.7.1 (Zhang et

al., 2018) was used to estimate a species tree based on the individual exon trees

constructed using RAxML with a GTRGAMMA model. We used local posterior

probabilities (LPP) to calculate branch support (Sayyari and Mirarab, 2016).

Plastome dataset. Complete plastomes were aligned using MAFFT v.7.407 (Katoh

and Standley, 2013). A ML tree was inferred with IQ-TREE v.1.6.1 (Nguyen et al.,

2015) under the extended model and 200 non-parametric bootstrap replicates for

branch support. Additionally, branch support was evaluated using QS with 1000

replicates.

2.5 Species network analysis

We used PhyloNet (Wen et al., 2018) to infer a maximum likelihood species

network with the InferNetwork_MPL command (Yu and Nakhleh, 2015). Due to

computational restrictions and given that we are primarily concerned with the

underlying network between different species we reduced the 47-taxon data set to one

outgroup and 14 ingroup taxa to represent all major clades within *Diabelia*. Network

searches were undertaken using only nodes in the gene trees that had at least 50

percent bootstrap support, permitting up to five hybridization events and optimizing

the branch lengths and genetic probability of the returned species networks under the

full likelihood. The command 'CalGTProb' in PHYLONET was used to infer the

maximum likelihood of the concatenated RAxML, ASTRAL, and plastid DNA trees,

given the individual gene trees, to estimate the optimal number of hybridizations and

inspect whether the species network represent a better model than a purely bifurcating

tree. The bias-corrected Akaike information criterion (AICc; Sugiura, 1978), Akaike

information criterion (AIC; Akaike, 1973), and the Bayesian information criterion

(BIC; Schwarz, 1978) were used for model selection, and we chose as the

best-fit-species network the one with the lowest AICc, AIC and BIC scores.

2.6 Divergence time estimate

Divergence times were estimated with BEAST v.2.4.0 (Bouckaert et al., 2014).

Following Wang et al. (2021), we used the nuclear data for age estimates owing to the

potential problems of recombination and incomplete concerted evolution. The root age

was set to 50 Ma (lognormal prior distribution 32.66 - 57.81 Ma) following Wang et al.

(2021). Here, we selected the fruit fossil of *Diplodipelta* Manchester & Donoghue

(offset 36 Ma, lognormal prior distribution 34.07 - 37.20 Ma, Bell and Donoghue,

2005) that can confidently be placed in our tree as internal calibration points. Dating

analyses were carried out using an uncorrelated lognormal relaxed clock under the

GTR + G model for each marker partitioned separately and a Yule tree prior. The

MCMC chains were run for 500,000,000 generations and sampling every 5000

generations. Tracer v.1.7 (Drummond et al., 2012) was used to check convergence with

the first 10% of trees removed as burn-in and to assess that all effective sample size

(ESS) values were ≥ 200. The produced tree files were combined using LogCombiner

v1.8.2 and the maximum credibility tree was generated in TreeAnnotator v1.8.4

(Drummond et al., 2012) and visualized using FigTree 1.4.2.

2.7 Ancestral area reconstruction

The ancestral area were reconstructed using Statistical Dispersal-Vicariance

Analysis (S-DIVA) in RASP version 4.2 (Yu et al., 2015) based on Bayesian Binary

Method (BBM) with the nuclear concatenated dataset. To prevent biased inferences

towards wide or unlikely distributions for the crown node of the ingroup (only

Diabelia species) due to uncertainty in the root area of the outgroup, we pruned the

five outgroups for our ancestral state reconstructions. Three distributional areas were

defined to cover the present distributional ranges of *Diabelia* species: (A) Japan, (B) Korea and (C) China. Distribution areas of all populations in this study were defined according to the distribution of the field observations (Table S1). The BBM analyses ran for 500,000,000 generations generations using 10 MCMC chains.

2.8 Analysis of character evolution

Morphological character states of *Diabelia* were coded from previous studies, particularly from Hara (1983) and Landrein et al. (2020). In this study, four traits (the number of sepals, the number of flowers, corolla colour and corolla shape) were scored to infer the evolution of morphological characters. The number of sepals were scored with the following: (0) Two sepals; (1) Five unequal sepals; (2) Five subequal sepals. The number of flowers were scored with the following: (0) Single flower; (1) Flowers paired; (2) Clusters of four-seven flowers. Corolla colour was scored with the following: (0) Yellow; (1) Pale yellow; (2) Red; (3) White. Corolla shape were scored with the following: (1) Tubular; (2) Bilabiate; (3) Infundibuliform. Ancestral character state reconstruction was carried out based on the RAxML trees (nuclear and cpDNA data) using mapping options in Mesquite v.3.51 (Maddison and Maddison, 2018). We selected the one-parameter Markov k-state evolution model for the analysis of discrete unordered characters.

2.9 Data accessibility

Raw Illumina data from target capture is available at the Sequence Read Archive (SRA) under accession SUB9202627 (see Table S1 for individual sample SRA accession numbers). DNA alignments, phylogenetic trees and results from all analyses and datasets can be found in the Dryad data repository.

3. Results

3.1 Exon assembly

The number of assembled exons per species (with > 75% of the target length)

(except the outgroups) ranged from 587 (*D. serrata* E314) to 989 (*D. spathulata* var.

sanguinea E301), with an average of 889 exons per sample (Table 2; Fig. S1). The

number of exons with paralog warnings (except the outgroups) ranged from 34 in *D.*

serrata E314 to 619 in *D. spathulata* var. *sanguinea* E301 (Table 2). The concatenated

alignment had a length of 392,600 bp, including 18,057 parsimony-informative sites,

and a matrix occupancy of 86.7 % (Table 1). The cpDNA alignment resulted in a

matrix of 159,365 bp with 4,693 parsimony-informative sites and a matrix occupancy

of 98.2 % (Table 1).

3.2 Phylogenetic reconstruction

We performed phylogenetic analysis based on nuclear genes and plastomes (Figs.

2, 3, S2 and S3). All nuclear phylogenetic analysis recovered five main clades: *D.*

serrata, *D. tetrasepala*, *D. spathulata* var. *sanguinea*, *D. spathulata* var. *stenophylla*

and *D. spathulata* var. *spathulata*. However, the relationships of the five main groups

within *Diabelia* varied in different analyses.

With respect to the nuclear concatenated ML tree, the phylogeny was recovered

with high support values (BS > 70; except for the placement of *D. spathulata* var.

stenophylla, BS = 56) along the five main branches (Fig. 2). *Diabelia serrata* forms a

clade with *D. serrata* var. *buchwalddi*; *D. tetrasepala* was monophyletic and sister to *D.*

serrata; *D. spathulata* var. *sanguinea* (including one sample of *D. spathulata*), *D.*

spathulata var. *stenophylla* and *D. spathulata* var. *spathulata* formed respective clades.

Diabelia spathulata var. *spathulata* was *s*ister to the remainder of *Diabelia* (Fig. 2).

Within the QS analyses based on the nuclear ML tree, *Diabelia* was shown to have

strong QS support (1/ – /1; Fig. S2).

The coalescent species tree (Fig. 3) presented a largely congruent topology

compared to the nuclear ML tree with all five major clades recovered, each being

respectively monophyletic. The main clades were maximally supported (LPP ≥ 0.93)

except for the placement of *D. spathulata* var. *sanguinea* (LPP = 0.44). The conflict

analyses revealed full QS support within *Diabelia* (1/ – /1; Fig. 3). The clade of *D.*

serrata had strong QS support with signal for a possible alternative topology

(0.92/0.38/1). The sister relationship of the clade of *D. spathulata* var. *sanguinea* and

D. serrata had counter QS support with signal for a possible alternative topology

(-0.22/0.21/0.99). *Diabelia tetrasepala* was sister to the clade of *D. serrata* + *D.*

spathulata var. *sanguinea*. The clade of *D. spathulata* var. *stenophylla* between China

and Japan had strong QS support with signal for a possible alternative topology

(0.9/0.2/1)

   The phylogenetic relationships in the cpDNA ML tree (Fig. 2 and S3) were also

confirmed with strong QS support of *Diabelia* (1/ – /1). The clade of *D. spathulata* var.

sanguinea + *D. spathulata* var. *stenophylla* (Japan) was sister to the *D. serrata* + *D.*

tetrasepala clade, and the combined clade had strong BS support (98) and moderate

QS support (0.14/0.57/0.98). There were some observed differences between the

nuclear and cpDNA trees: *D. tetrasepala* was nested in *D. serrata* with strong BS

support (98); *D. spathulata* var. *sanguinea* was not monophyletic; *D. spathulata* var.

stenophylla from Zhejiang was *s*ister to the remainder of *Diabelia*, rather than *D.*

spathulata var. *spathulata*.

3.3 Species network analysis

   The species network analyses (15-taxa dataset) recovered topologies with one to

five reticulations events, which appears to be a better model than a strictly bifurcating

tree (Table 3; Fig. S4). Two reticulation events were inferred for the best network (Fig.

4). The best network showed that *D. tetrasepala* was product of a hybridization event

involving *D. serrata* and *D. spathulata* var. *spathulata*. Another reticulation event also

revealed that the clade of *D. spathulata* var. *spathulata* + *D. spathulata* var.

stenophylla had genetic contributions from the lineage leading to *D. spathulata* var.

sanguinea.

3.4 Divergence time estimation

   Our dating estimates based on the nuclear data suggested an early Miocene crown

age for *Diabelia* of 22.53 Ma (95% Highest Posterior Density (HPD): 17.89 - 27.73

Ma, node 1 in Fig. 5). The sister relationships of *D. serrata* and *D. tetrasepala*

diverged during the early Miocene 18.17 Ma (95% HPD: 14.07 - 22.41 Ma, node 4 in

Fig. 5). The crown age of *D. serrata* was dated to 14.88 Ma (95% HPD: 11.10 - 18.91

Ma, node 5 in Fig. 5). The split between *D. spathulata* and *D. spathulata* var.

sanguinea occurred between 3.90 and 9.41 Ma (node 7 in Fig. 5). The diversification

of *D. spathulata* var. *spathulata* between Korea and Japan was estimated as 4.78 Ma

(95% HPD: 3.02 - 6.84 Ma, node 8 in Fig. 5). The divergence time of *D. spathulata* var.

stenophylla between China and Japan was 6.30 Ma (95% HPD: 3.90 - 9.41 Ma, node 6

in Fig. 5).

3.5 Ancestral area reconstruction

The results of the reconstruction of ancestral distribution were presented in Fig. 6.

There were three dispersal events and three vicariance events identified within the

three defined biogeographic areas (Fig. 6). Our analyses revealed that the ancestor of

Diabelia was present throughout Japan (region A) in the early Miocene (Fig. 6),

followed by dispersal or vicariance events across Japan, Korea and China. Migration

events occurred primarily during the Neogene. *Diabelia spathulata* var. *spathulata*

from Korea was also suggested to have originated in Northeast Japan. However, one

vicariance and dispersal event was detected on the ancestral nodes of *D. spathulat*a var.

stenophylla from China, indicating gene flow from Japan.

3.6 Character evolution

Character evolution with likelihood inference based on the inferred nuclear tree

indicated that all four selected morphological characters (number of sepals, number of

flowers, corolla colour and corolla shape) showed some level of homoplasy in

Diabelia (Figs. 7 - 8). Sepal number showed little homoplasy with our results

suggesting that the ancestral character of sepal number was most likely five subequal

sepals, with two independent shifts to five unequal sepals (four big and one smaller

sepal) in *D. tetrasepala* and to two sepals in *D. serrata* (Fig. 7). Flower number was

similar to sepal number by having little homoplasy, with the inferred ancestral

character of paired flowers (Fig. 7). The ancestral corolla colour of *Diabelia* was most

likely white (Fig. 8). Corolla shape exhibited a high level of homoplasy, with the state

"infundibuliform" inferred to have originated twice, once in *D. spathulata* and the

other in the clade of *D. tetrasepala* (Fig. 8).

The results of character state evolution based on the cpDNA tree is shown in Figs.

S5 and S6. The inferred ancestral character of sepal number, flower number and

corolla colour from cpDNA tree is similar to that from nuclear gene tree, but the

ancestral corolla shape was most likely tubular (Figs. S5 - S6). The main difference of

character state evolution between cpDNA tree and nuclear gene tree is the position of

D. tetrasepala with its corresponding characters.

4. Discussion

4.1 Phylogenetic incongruence and hybridization

This study reconstructed well-supported phylogenetic relationships of the three

species (*D. serrata, D. tetrasepala, D. spathulata:* including *D. spathulata* var.

sanguinea, D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* and *D. spathulata* var. *spathulata*) of

Diabelia based on both nuclear and plastid data. Our phylogenetic analyses indicate

that the backbone relationships of *Diabelia* in the ML nuclear tree are congruent with

these of the ASTRAL tree, but the relationships among these clades are incongruent

between nuclear and plastid data (Figs. 2 and 3). For example, *D. serrata* and *D.*

tetrasepala were recovered as monophyletic in ML nuclear tree, while *D. tetrasepala*

was nested in *D. serrata* in the ML plastid tree (Fig. 2).

Comparing the tree topologies between the nuclear and plastid data, we find that

the topology formed by the nuclear gene data was more stable. The nuclear data

recovered five strongly supported clades (Figs. 2 and 3), with *D. serrata* forming a

stable monophyletic group that was consistent with previous studies supporting the

monophyletic nature of *D. serrata* (Wang et al., 2020). *Diabelia spathulata* var.

stenophylla and *D. spathulata* var. *spathulata* were also recovered as monophyletic

with the nuclear data. While in the plastid data *D. spathulata* var. *sanguinea* does not

from a monophyletic group (Fig. 2). We hypothesize that plastid capture (Liu et al.,

2017; Renoult et al., 2009) results in the non-monophyly of *D. spathulata* var.

sanguinea observed in the plastome data. Previous phylogenetic relationship of

Diabelia based on plastid data have also been unstable (Zhao et al.,2019; Wang et al.,

2020). Therefore, the nuclear data provides a more robust estimate of the species trees

compared to plastid data. However, there is only one *D. spathulata* sample, and the

internal relationships of the clade including *D. spathulata* need to be further resolved.

Hence, we need more samples to obtain a more accurate and robust inference of

relationships for future studies.

In the present study, we found extensive strong conflict between plastome and

nuclear data (Fig. 2). Several processes can lead to gene tree inconsistencies between

closely related groups, including hybridization, incomplete lineage sorting (ILS),

horizontal gene transfer, and gene replication and loss (Morales-Briones et al., 2018;

Bogarin et al., 2018; Carter et al., 2019; Gregory et al., 2020). Ancestral

polymorphisms may lead to incomplete genealogical classification, therefore

phylogenetic relationships between organelle markers may fail to capture the true

process of population differentiation, or inconsistencies in gene trees may reflect

interspecies hybridization and cytoplasmic infiltration (Julie et al., 2019; Ben and Jan,

2020; Natalia et al., 2020). Therefore, the analyses of the causes of inconsistencies in

gene trees can explain the relative influences of drift, gene flow and selection on the

maintenance of organelle variation within and between groups, which is helpful to

reveal the evolutionary process of inter-group relationships (Mao et al., 2020;

Christophe et al., 2020).

The previous study (Zhao et al., 2019) reported gene introgression events between

Diabelia species and hybridization was speculated based on sample observations with a

with a hypothesis that *D. tetrasepala* is a hybrid species. In this study, we conducted

network analyses for *Diabelia*, and the results showed that *D. tetrasepala* was inferred to

result from a hybridization event involving *D. serrata* and *D. spathulata* var. *spathulata*.

These results support our hypothesis: *D. tetrasepala* (four big and one small sepals) is a

hybrid of *D. serrata* (two sepals) and *D. spathulata* (five sepals). Samples of *D.*

tetrasepala are distributed in the overlapping areas of *D. serrata* and *D. spathulata*

(Table S1; Zhao et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2020; Landrein and Farjon, 2020). Therefore,

we confirm that these geographical conditions provide the possibility of interbreeding

between *D. serrata* and *D. spathulata.*

4.2 Molecular dating and demographic analyses

Based on our nuclear chronogram (Fig. 5), all *Diabelia* lineages differentiated

22.53-18.17 Ma (Fig. 5). Notably, this point estimate broadly coincides with the

isolation of the Japanese island (24-22 Ma) (Hotta, 1974; Iijima and Tada, 1990; Li et

al., 1996; Maekawa, 1998) and the estimated dates were earlier than previous estimates

based on chloroplast data (Wang et al., 2020). The East China Sea (ESC) land bridge

likely acted as a barrier or corridor to the dispersal of plant species during the LGM

and earlier cold periods, despite its repeated exposure during the Miocene (7.0-5.0 Ma)

and Quaternary (2.0-1.3 Ma, 0.2-0.015 Ma) (Harrison, 2001). During the last glacial

period, although the Japanese archipelago was not covered by a major ice sheet (Ono,

1984), the mean annual temperature was 5℃–9℃ cooler and the precipitation was

less than at present (Yasuda and Narita, 1981; Tsukada, 1988). In addition, as a result

of the lower sea levels (ca. 100 m below present), Shikoku and Kyushu were

continuous with Honshu, and the continental shelf, ca. 20–30 km from the present

coastline, emerged around the archipelago (Ohta and Yonekura, 1987). The distribution

data of *D. serrata* suggests that the group is widely distributed in Japan except for

Hokkaido. As the climate warmed, the species recovered and expanded northward or

towards higher altitudes (Tsukada, 1988; Takahara et al., 2000), therefore, forming the

current isolated distribution.

Diabelia species are relatively tolerant to cold and arid climates, which might

have facilitated gene exchange across the glacially exposed ECS land bridge up until

its latest submergence. All *Diabelia* species have fruits forming samaras, which

increase long-distance dispersal abilities (Landrein, 2010). Our molecular dating

indicates that *Diabelia* originated in the Japanese archipelago (Fig. 5) and the onset of

diversification of *D. spathulata* var. *stenophylla* from Japan and *D. spathulata* var.

stenophylla from China occurred during the early Pliocene. Our results suggest a

vicariance event and a dispersal event associated with *D. spathulata* var. *stenophylla*

from China (Fig. 5). Under a hypothesis of long-distance dispersal, the hypothesis

would be that the predicted lineage in one region should nest within a lineage from a

separate disjunctive region. In contrast, under vicariance, lineages from different

geographic regions would be monophyletic, with relatively comparable levels of

genetic diversity in each region of the distribution (Yoder & Nowak, 2006; Liao et al.,

2016; Thomas et al., 2017). The disjunction between *D. spathulata* var. *stenophylla* in

Japan and *D. spathulata* var. *stenophylla* from China may also have resulted from

migration across this land bridge followed by vicariance. However, since *Diabelia*

fruits are winged (Landrein, 2010) the hypothesis of direct long-distance dispersal

between Japan and China cannot be ruled out.

Our results show that *D. spathulata* var. *spathulata* is comprised of two phylogroups

with distinct geographic distributions, one in Japan and the other in Korea.

Furthermore, our results also confirm the population of *D. spathulata* var. *spathulata* in

Korea is likely due to more recent episodes of long-distance dispersal and ancient

vicariant events (Fig. 6). Our divergence time estimates suggest that species

differentiation in *D. spathulata* var. *spathulata* occurred during the late Miocene to the

early Pliocene (4.78 Ma, 95% HPD: 3.02−6.84 Ma), suggesting that extant populations

likely differentiated well before the LGM. The cooling and drying climate in late

Miocene drove the formation of some species groups. The changing climate in the late

Pliocene and Pleistocene are related to lineage differentiation, genetic diversity

formation, and population contraction and expansion such as observed in

Cercdiphyllum japonicum (Qi et al., 2012) and *Euptelea* (Cao et al., 2016). This study

adds another example of this well-documented pattern.

4.3. Evolution of morphological characters

Character state reconstruction performed based on the ML tree (Figs. 7 - 8 and S5

- S6) have the potential to exhibit hemiplasy and xenoplasy (Avise & Robinson, 2008;

Robinson et al., 2008; Copetti et al., 2017; Wang et al., 2020). Based on nuclear data

there are five distinct clades in both the ASTRAL and concatenation trees (Figs. 1 - 2),

but distinguishing taxonomic rank remains difficult. These relative lineages have

constrained biogeographic histories, which may also explain the high level of

morphological variation expressed in some clades.

Sepal number, flower number and corolla colour have been regularly used to

recognize *Diabelia* (Hara, 1983; Zhao et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2020; Landrein and

Farjon, 2020). The evolution pattern of sepal number reveals that five subequal sepals

is the primary state in ancestors of the *Diabelia*, while the five unequal sepals (four big

and one smaller sepal) observed in *D. tetrasepala* (Fig. 1 C) and two sepals in *D.*

serrata (Fig. 1 A) are derived characters that evolved independently. Robayo et al.

(2020) pointed out that the calyx of Loranthaceae degenerated in the evolutionary

history of the family. In addition, Nakagawa et al. (2020) demonstrated that the

dorsal-to-ventral inhibitions and the floral stem cell region (meristem) determine the

number and position of the sepals. Based on our previous hybridization analysis, we

hypothesize that hybridization events may cause sepals to decrease in number

throughout the process of evolution.

Paired flowers are an important character in the classification within *Diabelia*.

Landrein (2010) pointed out that the paired flowers appearing at the end of short shoots

of *Diabelia* differ from those of *Abelia*. Based on this important characteristic,

Diabelia was separated from *Abelia.* Our ancestral state reconstruction revealed paired

flowers as the inferred ancestral character of *Diabelia*, with the number of flowers

increasing to clusters of four to seven in *D. serrata*.

The evolution of corolla color within *Diabelia* is complicated, for which the white

corolla appears to be the ancestral condition. Based on our ancestral state

reconstructions, there does not appear to be any clear evolutionary patterns (Figs. 8 and

S5). There are some overlapping colour characters within *Diabelia*, for instance the

corolla of *D. serrata* is usually yellow (sometimes pale yellow, Fig. 1 A); *D.*

spathulata is usually white (Fig. 1 E) but sometimes pale yellow (Fig. 1 D);

D. tetrasepala is usually pale yellow but sometimes light pink. Selection driven by

biotic agents can generate variation in floral characters. Abiotic selection, however,

also drives the diversity of floral features, especially with respect to patterns of

pigmentation (Koski et al., 2016; Hong et al., 2019; Meng et al., 2021).

As a result, five subequal sepals, paired flowers and white corolla are inferred as

the likely ancestral states of this group. The clarification of the evolution patterns of

these characters is significant for the taxonomy of *Diabelia*, which contributes towards

a sound taxonomic treatment of the genus.

5. Conclusions

The robust phylogeny of *Diabelia* was reconstructed with nuclear and plastid data

based on target enrichment and genome skimming approaches. The inferred

phylogenies from both nuclear and plastome data indicate that *Diabelia* can be divided

into five main clades, which are further supported by morphological traits such as sepal

number. These indicate that *Diabelia* can be divided into five species or sub species.

The PhyloNet results further confirmed the existence of reticulation and natural

hybridization events in *Diabelia*, confirming *D. tetrasepala* is a natural hybrid of *D.*

serrata and *D. spathulata* var. *spathulata*. The divergent time and biogeography

analyses further support the differentiation and propagation of *Diabelia* with multiple

vicariances from the perspectives of time and space, further supporting the complex

natural hybridization and network evolution of the discontinuous flora of Japan and

China. Cladistic evolution and reticular evolution should be considered when

reconstructing phylogenetic relationships among closely related species. The

appropriate choice of datasets to construct phylogenetic trees is important in the era of

genomics data. More studies are needed to further clarify the origin, dispersal and

evolution of Sino-Japanese disjunct species with nuclear and plastid data at the

population level.

6. TAXONOMIC TREATMENT

Landrein (2010) separated *Diabelia* from *Abelia* by the paired inflorescences that

appear at the ends of short branches. Sepal number is commonly regarded to

distinguish the apparent characteristics of *Diabelia* species. Hara (1983) divided the

genus into three species, based on the properties of number and size of the sepals: *D.*

spathulata has five unequal sepals, *D. serrata* has 2-3 sepals, and *D. tetrasepala* has

four sepals and a variation of shorten sepals. Landrein (2010) and Landrein et al. (2020)

raised four species within *Diabelia* based on the number of sepals, position of nectar

pad and colour of corolla. In the light of the phylogenetic results and morphological

evidence in this study, we identified and accepted three species of *Diabelia* Landrein,

with *D. spathulata* containing three varieties.

6.1 *Diabelia serrata*（Siebold& Zucc.）Landrein

Basionym: *Abelia spathulata* Siebold & Zucc. (Siebold & Zuccarini 1838: 34);

Linnaea spathulata (Siebold &Zucc.) Graebn. (Graebner 1900: 142). Type: Japan,

Buerger, Herb. Siebold. 899.68-6 (lectotype L!).

Abelia spathulata var. *elliptica* Miq. (Miquel 1866: 269). Type: Shizuoka Pref.,

Simoda, 15 May 1855, C. Wrights.n. (K!).

Abelia spathulata f. pilosa Nakai (1921). Type: Japan, Honshu, Osaka Pref.,

Kawachi, Aug. 1899, T. Tadas.n. (lectotype TI!).

Abelia spathulata var. *micrantha* Nakai (in Nakai & Koidzumi 1927: 504). Type:

Japan, Shinano, H. Koidzumi s.n. (TI!).

Abelia serrata var. *integerrima* Nakai (in Nakai & Koidzumi 1927: 625); Abelia

integerrima (Nakai) Sugim. (Sugimoto 1936: 361). Type not located.

Abelia spathulata f. lucida Makino (1933: 255). Type: Japan, Honshu, Chiba Pref.,

Futtsu, Mt Nokogiri, 28 April 1952, M. Mizushima 1721 (A!, TI).

Description: sepals 2 often dissected into 2–4 lobes, flowers paired or more often

in clusters of 4–7 flowers, corolla 9–22 mm long, yellow, pale yellow or less

frequently pale pink or white.

Distribution: Zhejiang (China); Kagoshima; Shimane; Ehime; Shiga; Fukui;

Tokushima; Gifu; Okayama; Oita; Kochi; Hyogo; Nagasaki; Yamanashi; Yamaguchi

6.2 *Diabelia tetrasepala* (Koidz.) Landrein

Basionym: *Diabelia stenophylla* (Honda) Landrein var. *tetrasepala* (Koidz.)

Landrein comb. nov. KEW BULLETIN 74: 70 (Landrein & Farjion 2019);

Abelia spathulata Siebold & Zucc. var. *tetrasepala* Koidz., Bot. Mag. (Tokyo) 29

(348): 311(Koidzumi 1915);

Abelia tetrasepala (Koidz.) H. Hara & S. Kuros. (in Kurosawa & Hara 1955:

296); Diabelia tetrasepala (Koidz.) Landrein (2010: 37). Type: Japan, Honshu, Saitama

Pref. [Musashi, Chichibu], 23 April 1878, J. Matsumaras.n. (holotype TI!).

Abelia spathulata Siebold & Zucc. var. *subtetrasepala* Makino (1917: 18). Type:

Japan, Honshu, Kochi Pref., Nanokawa-mura, 22 April 1888, K. Watanabe s.n.

(holotype TI!).

Abelia spathulata Siebold & Zucc. var. *subtetrasepala* Makino f. flavescens

Honda (1935: 569). Type: Japan, Gunma Pref., Ikaho, 27 May 1934, T. Sakai

152 (holotype TI!).

Abelia spathulata Siebold & Zucc. var. *subtetrasepala* Makino f. rubescens

Sugim. (Sugimoto 1961: 456). Type and description not located.

Description: calyx-lobes 5, unequal, one lobe generally much smaller; 4 larger

lobes 8 - 15 mm long; corolla often larger, 30-45mm long; tube slender, gibbous at the

base; nectary-gland flat, adnate to the base of the corolla-tube; petioles and peduncles

very short; ovary subappressed pubescent; leaves especially on margin and petiole

hairy with long hairs up to 1.2 mm long.

Distribution: Tokushima; Shiga; Mie; Shiga; Fukushima; Ibaraki.

6.3 Diabelia spathulata (Siebold & Zucc.) Landrein

Description: sepals 5, all of similar size, corolla pink, white or yellowish-white,

campanulate in the upper part, 16–28 mm long, sepals acute at apex, nectary cushion

clavate and apically free from the corolla tube.

Distribution: Kochi; Niigata; Toyama; Shizuoka; Ehime; Kanagawa; Ibaraki;

Fukui; Aichi; Nara; Tokushima; Gifu; Fukushima; Yamanashi; Shiga;

Gyeongsangnam-do (Korea)

var. *sanguinea*   Corolla red, campanulate in the upper part, 11–22 mm long,

sepals obtuse at apex. Nectary cushion flat and fused to the corolla tube or shortly

clavate and apically free from the corolla tube.

Basionym: *Diabelia sanguinea* (Makino) Landrein comb. et stat. nov. KEW

BULLETIN 74: 70 (Landrein & Farjion 2019);

Abelia spathulata Siebold & Zucc. var. *sanguinea* Makino, Bot. Mag. (Tokyo) 18:

106 (1904); *Linnaea spathulata* (Siebold & Zucc.) Graebn. var. sanguinea (Makino)

Matsumura (1912: 598);

Abelia sanguinea (Makino) Makino (1917: 14). Type: Japan, Honshu, Tochigi,

Hosoomura, 11 June 1878, S. Okubo s.n. (lectotype TI!).

Abelia curviflora Nakai (in Nakai & Koidzumi 1927: 503). Type: Japan, Nagano,

Shinno, Asage mura, Shimoinagun, 18 July 1959, H. Koidzumi 8308 (holotype TI!).

Abelia sanguinea (Makino) Makino var. *purpurascens* Honda (1930: 409). Type:

Japan, Tochigi, Nasu, 8 June 1930, M. Honda s.n. (holotype TI!).

var. *stenophylla* Corolla yellowish white, rarely pinkish, 25-45 mm long; leaves

often larger, smooth; young branches, petioles, midrib of leaves beneath, and ovary

often with long (up to 1mm long) spreading hairs; bracts linear-lanceolate, 2-6mm

long.

Basionym: Diabelia stenophylla (Honda) Landrein comb. et stat. nov. KEW

BULLETIN 74: 70 (Landrein & Farjion 2019);

Abelia spathulata Siebold & Zucc. var. stenophylla Honda, Bot. Mag. (Tokyo) 50:

436 (1936). Type: Japan, Honshu, Akita, Higashidatemura, Kitaakita-gun, June 1931,

M. Matsuda 14b (holotype TI!).

Abelia spathulata Siebold & Zucc. var. macrophylla Honda (1941: 202). Type:

Japan, Honshu, Akita, Shimoshinzan, Oga., 25 Aug. 1929, T. Hida s.n. (holotype TI!).

Abelia ionostachya Nakai (1953: 23). Type: Honshu, Niigata, Kirinzan,

Tsugawa-machi, 26 May 1950, T. Nakai & N. Maruyama s.n. (holotype TNS).

var. *spathulata* Nectary-gland inside the base of the corolla-tube, short clavate or

globular, free or partly adnate; corolla 1.5-3cm long, white, yellowish, rarely rose-red;

leaves generally with impressed veins above, pilose generally with short hairs.

Basionym: *Abelia spathulata* Siebold & Zucc. (Siebold & Zuccarini 1838: 34);

Linnaea spathulata (Siebold & Zucc.) Graebn. (Graebner 1900: 142). Type: Japan,

Buerger, Herb. Siebold. 899.68-6 (lectotype L!).

Abelia spathulata var. elliptica Miq. (Miquel 1866: 269). Type: Shizuoka Pref.,

Simoda, 15 May 1855, C. Wrights.n. (K!).

Abelia spathulata f. pilosa Nakai (1921). Type: Japan, Honshu, Osaka Pref.,

Kawachi, Aug. 1899, T. Tada s.n. (lectotype TI!).

Abelia spathulata var. micrantha Nakai (in Nakai & Koidzumi 1927: 504). Type:

Japan, Shinano, H. Koidzumi s.n. (TI!).

Abelia serrata var. integerrima Nakai (in Nakai & Koidzumi 1927: 625); Abelia

integerrima (Nakai) Sugim. (Sugimoto 1936: 361). Type not located.

Abelia spathulata f. lucida Makino (1933: 255). Type: Japan, Honshu, Chiba Pref.,

Futtsu, Mt Nokogiri, 28 April 1952, M. Mizushima 1721 (A!, TI)

Acknowledgements

The work was funded by National Scientific Foundation of China (31660055). We

thank Gabriel Johnson for his help with the target enrichment experiment, and the

United States National Herbarium for permission to sample some collections. We

acknowledge the staff in the Laboratories of Analytical Biology at the National

Museum of Natural History, the Smithsonian Institution for support and

assistance.

Author contributions

H.F.W. and J.W. conceived the study. H.F.W. and D.F.M-B. performed the

research and analyzed the data. X.R.K., H.F.W., D.F.M-B., J.W. HXW, Q.H.S and

J.B.L wrote and revised the manuscript.

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Figure Legends

Figure 1. Floral diversity of *Diabelia*. (A) *Diabelia serrata*; (B) *D. serrata var. buchwaldii*; (C) *D. tetrasepala*; (D)- (E) *D. spathulata*; (F) *D. spathulata var. sanguinea*.

Figure 2. Tanglegram of the nuclear concatenated (left) and plastid (right phylogenies. Dotted lines connect taxa between the two phylogenies. Maximum likelihood bootstrap support values are shown above branches. The asterisks indicate maximum likelihood bootstrap support of 100%. Major taxonomic groups or main clades in the family as currently recognized are indicated by branch colors as a visual reference to relationships.

Figure 3. ASTRAL-III species tree; Clade support is depicted as: LPP/QC/QD/QI (local posterior probability/quartet concordance/quartet differential/quartet informativeness).

Figure 4. Best supported species networks inferred with Phylonet for the 15-taxa. Numbers next to the inferred hybrid branches indicate inheritance probabilities.

Figure 5. BEAST analysis of divergence times based on the nuclear data set. Calibration points are indicated by A, B. Numbers 1-8 represent major divergence events in *Diabelia*; mean divergence times and 95% highest posterior densities are provided for each.

Figure 6. Ancestral area reconstruction for *Daibelia*. Areas of endemism are as follows: (A) Japan, (B) Korea, (C) China. The numbered nodes represent crown nodes of important colonization events, as discussed in the text.

Figure 7. Likelihood inference of character evolution in *Diabelia* using Mesquite v.3.51 based on nuclear matrix. Left, The number of sepals; Right, The number of flowers.

Figure 8. Likelihood inference of character evolution in *Diabelia* using Mesquite v.3.51 based on nuclear matrix. Left, Corolla colour; Right, Corolla shape.

Table. 1 Dataset statistics, including the number of taxa, number of characters, number of PI characters, missing data.

Table. 2 HybPiper assembly statistics

Table. 3 Model selection of the different species networks and bifurcating trees.

Table. S1 List of species and vouchers used in this study.

Fig. S1 Heatmaps showing gene recovery efficiency for the nuclear gene in 45 species

of *Diabelia*. Columns represent genes, and each row is one sample. Shading

indicates the percentage of the reference locus length coverage.

Fig. S2 Nuclear RAxML tree; Clade support is depicted as: LPP/QC/QD/QI (local

posterior probability/quartet concordance/quartet differential/quartet

informativeness).

Fig. S3 cpDNA RAxML tree; Clade support is depicted as: LPP/QC/QD/QI (local

posterior probability/quartet concordance/quartet differential/quartet

informativeness).

Fig. S4 Best species networks of the selective nuclear dataset estimated with PhyloNet

for the 15-taxa. A: One hybridization event; B: Two hybridization events; C:

Three hybridization events; D: Four hybridization events; F: Five hybridization

events. Blue branches connect the hybrid nodes. Numbers next to blue branches

indicate inheritance probabilities.

Figure S5. Likelihood inference of character evolution in *Diabelia* using Mesquite

v.3.51 based on plastid matrix. Left, The number of sepals; Right, The number of

flowers.

Figure S6. Likelihood inference of character evolution in *Diabelia* using Mesquite

v.3.51 based on plastid matrix. Left, Corolla colour; Right, Corolla shape.

Table 1. Dataset statistics, including the number of taxa, number of characters, number of PI characters, missing data.

Alignment	No. of taxa	No. sites	Missing data (%)	No. of variable/Parsimony informative sites
Nuclear	47	392,600	13.2	43,250/18,057
cpDNA	47	159,365	1.8	8,243/4,693

Table 2. HybPiper assembly statistics.

Species	Number of reads	Number of reads on target	Percent reads on target	Number of exons with reads	Number of exons with contigs	Number of exons with sequences	Number of exons with sequences > 25% of the target length	Number of exons with sequences > 50% of the target length	Number of exons with sequences > 75% of the target length	Number of exons with sequences > 150% of the target length	Number of exons with paralog warnings
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E129	16390784	4958995	0.303	1114	1025	994	992	982	934	1	101
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E306	9313351	1888267	0.203	1119	1007	977	974	960	889	0	79
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E308	5571741	780542	0.14	1097	981	960	956	936	875	0	69
D. tetrasepala E142	14145605	1023090	0.072	1089	987	963	962	952	899	1	79
D. tetrasepala E143	4395804	228392	0.052	1050	900	878	878	851	783	0	54
D. tetrasepala E185	5533465	1430420	0.259	1114	1008	978	977	959	898	0	90
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E294	1071353	238126	0.222	1021	876	862	861	841	779	0	56
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E295	9507905	2627497	0.276	1138	1024	992	992	971	904	0	92
D. tetrasepala E311	12638082	3514670	0.278	1144	1030	995	994	982	937	2	98
D. tetrasepala E312	26768128	7923496	0.296	1130	1022	995	994	984	940	2	102
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E170	8333538	2519416	0.302	1127	1017	995	994	979	922	1	90

D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E171	8838954	2672116	0.302	1108	1017	987	985	972	923	1	96
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E172	6849894	2064638	0.301	1103	1008	983	981	962	908	1	92
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E201	10281957	3225974	0.314	1112	1015	988	987	973	922	1	86
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E202	7944302	2326039	0.293	1109	1012	986	985	968	915	1	86
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E203	8895646	3097609	0.348	1122	1022	996	995	980	924	1	85
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E204	6642696	2077347	0.313	1103	1006	983	982	962	908	1	76
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E205	9630997	2810192	0.292	1128	1020	995	993	972	920	1	80
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E130	4766791	879875	0.185	1065	981	958	956	942	887	0	79
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E240	8121657	922592	0.114	1098	988	963	961	933	838	0	66
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E301	12028399	2724711	0.227	1151	1062	1032	1032	1021	989	3	619
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E303	10970170	3075238	0.28	1134	1025	991	988	973	914	0	91
D. serrata var. *buchwaddi* E324	6665872	419228	0.063	1093	872	852	849	803	683	0	39
D. serrata E122	5880405	1892938	0.322	1064	999	978	977	962	895	0	85
D. serrata E123	21639680	7331755	0.339	1120	1033	998	996	980	933	1	136
D. serrata E124	22914349	9714647	0.424	1116	1031	1000	999	984	940	2	97
D. serrata E125	15011394	6415541	0.427	1105	1034	1003	1002	986	938	0	88
D. serrata E126	30652021	9145847	0.298	1124	1028	1002	1000	984	937	0	112
D. serrata E128	13934333	2581418	0.185	1091	999	975	974	959	909	1	102
D. serrata E137	4273733	735627	0.172	1060	974	952	950	933	871	0	79
D. serrata E138	14148609	3912863	0.277	1100	1020	993	992	979	924	1	83
D. serrata E139	10112962	2465780	0.244	1102	1002	983	982	968	910	0	96
D. serrata E314	5056940	378381	0.075	1050	877	850	839	746	587	1	36
D. serrata E321	13220295	4190116	0.317	1138	1037	1002	1000	986	934	0	93
D. spathulata E271	3089596	212920	0.069	992	827	809	806	762	661	0	39
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E131	13699360	3897086	0.284	1107	1018	991	990	979	930	1	87

D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E132	7051574	1749371	0.248	1081	1000	976	974	958	905	1	86
D. serrata E140	6481952	1399052	0.216	1081	992	967	966	949	888	0	88
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E141	6471860	1497704	0.231	1075	992	966	965	952	900	0	87
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E190	8953298	2806002	0.313	1124	1022	989	986	973	928	2	86
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E198	9267804	3459777	0.373	1130	1022	993	992	981	928	1	92
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E200	8307344	2742274	0.33	1118	1018	991	990	980	922	1	86
Abelia macrotera var. *parvifolia* E45	1833543	32422	0.018	825	436	424	417	355	253	0	6
Dipelta floribunda E55	4636783	105360	0.023	924	660	642	639	601	507	0	27
Kolkwitzia amabilis E9	9779050	2641147	0.27	1097	1005	984	983	967	916	0	75
Linnaea borealis E59	3831881	51899	0.014	867	536	516	507	443	333	0	11
Vesalea floribunda E112	3834861	805440	0.21	1061	970	947	946	915	856	0	52

997   Table 3. Model selection of the different species networks and bifurcating trees.

Topology	lnL	Parameters	Loci	Number of hybridizations	Information criteria		
					AIC	AICc	BIC
15 taxa							
nuclear ASTRAL	-6134.788576	27	241	N/A	12323.577153	12330.675744	12417.666670
nuclear RAxML	-6137.811629	27	241	N/A	12329.623259	12336.721850	12423.712776
cpDNA	-6427.555081	27	241	N/A	12909.110161	12916.208753	13003.199679
Network 1	-6079.839883	29	241	1	12217.679766	12225.926212	12318.738877
Network 2	**-6006.511111**	**31**	**241**	**2**	**12075.022221**	**12084.515044**	**12183.050926**
Network 3	-6079.836581	33	241	1	12225.673162	12236.513742	12340.671461
Network 4	-6038.368637	35	241	4	12146.737274	12159.029957	12268.705166
Network 5	-6088.526401	37	241	5	12251.052802	12264.905019	12379.990288

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Table. S1 **List of species and vouchers used in this study.**

Order	Ingroup/ Outgroup	Taxon	Coding	Locality	Voucher specimen number	SRA accession
1	Ingroup	*Diabelia serrata*	A	Ogawara plateau,Tokushima , Japan	HUTB, E314	
2	Ingroup	*Diabelia serrata* var. *buchwaddi*	A	Takanose-kyo gorge, Kito, Naka-cho, Kochi, Japan	HUTB, E324	
3	Ingroup	*Diabelia serrata*	A	Mt. Shiraga, Motoyama-cho, Kochi, Japan	HUTB, E137	
4	Ingroup	*Diabelia serrata*	A	Kochi, Japan	HUTB, E140	
5	Ingroup	*Diabelia serrata*	A	Kakiki-mura, Kanoashi-gun, Shimane, Japan	HUTB, E122	
6	Ingroup	*Diabelia serrata*	A	Anan, Tokushima, Japan	HUTB, E123	SRR13705758
7	Ingroup	*Diabelia serrata*	A	Mt. Shiraga, Motoyama-cho, Kochi, Japan	HUTB, E138	
8	Ingroup	*Diabelia serrata*	A	Mt. Shiraga, Motoyama-cho, Kochi, Japan	HUTB, E139	
9	Ingroup	*Diabelia serrata*	A	Takanose-kyo gorge, Kito, Naka-cho, Kochi, Japan	HUTB, E128	
10	Ingroup	*Diabelia serrata*	A	Takakuma, Kagoshima, Japan	HUTB, E321	SRR13890747
11	Ingroup	*Diabelia serrata*	A	Mt. Shozanji, Kamiyama, Tokushima, Japan	HUTB, E125	
12	Ingroup	*Diabelia serrata*	A	Ogawara plateau,Tokushima , Japan	HUTB, E126	
13	Ingroup	*Diabelia serrata*	A	Takaga, Seki city, Gifu, Japan	HUTB, E124	
14	Ingroup	*Diabelia tetrasepala*	A	Mt. Takamaru, Kamikatsu, Tokushima, Japan	HUTB, E142	
15	Ingroup	*Diabelia tetrasepala*	A	Mt. Takamaru, Kamikatsu, Tokushima, Japan	HUTB, E143	
16	Ingroup	*Diabelia tetrasepala*	A	Mt. Takamaru, Kamikatsu, Tokushima, Japan	HUTB, E185	
17	Ingroup	*Diabelia tetrasepala*	A	Mt. Takamaru, Kamikatsu, Tokushima, Japan	HUTB, E312	
18	Ingroup	*Diabelia tetrasepala*	A	Mt. Takamaru, Kamikatsu, Tokushima, Japan	HUTB, E311	
19	Ingroup	*Diabelia spathulata*	A	Tochigi, Japan	HUTB, E271	
20	Ingroup	*Diabelia spathulata* var. *sanguinea*	A	Yumoto, Nasu-cho, Nasu-gun, Tochigi, Japan	HUTB, E130	
21	Ingroup	*Diabelia spathulata* var. *sanguinea*	A	Mt. Takamaru, Kamikatsu, Tokushima, Japan	HUTB, E294	
22	Ingroup	*Diabelia spathulata* var. *sanguinea*	A	Zike, Toyama city, Toyama, Japan	HUTB, E131	

23	Ingroup	*Diabelia spathulata* var. *sanguinea*	A	Sendai, Miyagi, Japan	HUTB, E301	SRR13705755
24	Ingroup	*Diabelia spathulata* var. *sanguinea*	A	Mt. Kinkan, Numadzu city, Shizuoka, Japan	HUTB, E303	SRR13890746
25	Ingroup	*Diabelia spathulata* var. *sanguinea*	A	Tanyama, Nagano, Japan	HUTB, E308	
26	Ingroup	*Diabelia spathulata* var. *sanguinea*	A	Tanyama, Nagano, Japan	HUTB, E306	SRR13705756
27	Ingroup	*Diabelia spathulata* var. *spathulata*	B	Naewon temple forests,Yangsan-si, Gyeongsangnam-do, Korea	HUTB, E190	
28	Ingroup	*Diabelia spathulata* var. *spathulata*		Kowaki-cho, Higashiomi city, Shiga, Japan	HUTB, E200	
29	Ingroup	*Diabelia spathulata* var. *spathulata*	B	Naewon temple forests,Yangsan-si, Gyeongsangnam-do, Korea	HUTB, E141	
30	Ingroup	*Diabelia spathulata* var. *spathulata*	A	Kowaki-cho, Higashiomi city, Shiga, Japan	HUTB, E198	SRR13705757
31	Ingroup	*Diabelia spathulata* var. *spathulata*	A	Hatasawa, Obanasawa city, Yamagata, Japan	HUTB, E129	
32	Ingroup	*Diabelia spathulata* var. *stenophylla*	C	Wenzhou, Zhejiang, China	HUTB, E204	SRR13705754
33	Ingroup	*Diabelia spathulata* var. *stenophylla*	C	Wenzhou, Zhejiang, China	HUTB, E203	
34	Ingroup	*Diabelia spathulata* var. *stenophylla*	C	Wenzhou, Zhejiang, China	HUTB, E201	
35	Ingroup	*Diabelia spathulata* var. *stenophylla*	C	Wenzhou, Zhejiang, China	HUTB, E202	
36	Ingroup	*Diabelia spathulata* var. *stenophylla*	C	Wenzhou, Zhejiang, China	HUTB, E205	
37	Ingroup	*Diabelia spathulata* var. *stenophylla*	C	Wenzhou, Zhejiang, China	HUTB, E170	
38	Ingroup	*Diabelia spathulata* var. *stenophylla*	C	Wenzhou, Zhejiang, China	HUTB, E172	
39	Ingroup	*Diabelia spathulata* var. *stenophylla*	C	Wenzhou, Zhejiang, China	HUTB, E171	
40	Ingroup	*Diabelia spathulata* var. *stenophylla*	A	Saitama, Japan	HUTB, E240	
41	Ingroup	*Diabelia spathulata* var. *stenophylla*	A	Tabitomachi, Iwaki-shi, Fukushima Pref, Japan	HUTB, E295	
42	Ingroup	*Diabelia spathulata* var. *stenophylla*	A	Kami-sanbonmatsu, Honzyuku-cho, Okazaki city, Aichi, Japan	HUTB, E132	
43	Outgroup	*Abelia macrotera* var. *parvifolia*		Yichang, Hubei, China	HUTB, E45	SRR13890750
44	Outgroup	*Dipelta floribunda*		Cambridge, UK.	HUTB, E55	SRR13705794
45	Outgroup	*Kolkwitzia amabilis*		Weinan, Shanxi, China	HUTB, E9	SRR13705797

| 46 | Outgroup | *Vesalea floribunda* | Oaxaca, Mexico | HUTB, E112 | |
| 47 | Outgroup | *Linnaea borealis* | Yili, Xinjiang, China | HUTB, E59 | SRR13705788 |

1006

1007

1008

1009

Nuclear concatenated

D. serrata

Diabelia serrata E314
D. serrata var. *buchwalddi* E324
D. serrata E137
D. serrata E140
D. serrata E138
D. serrata E139
D. serrata E123
D. serrata E122
D. serrata E126
D. serrata E125
D. serrata E321
D. serrata E128
D. serrata E124

D. tetrasepala

D. tetrasepala E142
D. tetrasepala E143
D. tetrasepala E185
D. tetrasepala E312
D. tetrasepala E311

D. spathulata var. *sanguinea*

D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E294
D. spathulata E271
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E130
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E303
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E301
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E131
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E306
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E308

var. *stenophylla*

D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E204
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E202
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E201
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E203
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E205
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E171
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E172
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E170
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E132
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E295
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E240

var. *spathulata*

D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E198
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E190
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E200
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E141
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E129

Outgroups

Abelia macrotera var. *parvifolia* E45
Kolkwitzia amabilis E9
Dipelta floribunda E55
Linnaea borealis E59
Vesalea floribunda E112

Plastome

D. serrata

D. tetrasepala

D. spathulata var. *stenophylla*

var. *sanguinea*

var. *spathulata*

var. *stenophylla*

Outgroups

★ 50.0 MA

★ 36.0 MA

❶ 22.53 [17.89 - 27.73] MA
❷ 21.05 [16.72 - 25.96] MA
❸ 19.90 [15.74 - 24.52] MA
❹ 18.17 [14.07 - 22.41] MA
❺ 14.88 [11.10 - 18.91] MA
❻ 14.78 [10.79 - 19.11] MA
❼ 6.30 [3.90 - 9.41] MA
❽ 4.78 [3.02 - 6.84] MA

Diabelia serrata E314
D. serrata var. buchwalddi E324
D. serrata E137
D. serrata E140
D. serrata E138
D. serrata E139
D. serrata E122
D. serrata E321
D. serrata E128
D. serrata E126
D. serrata E125
D. serrata E124
D. serrata E123
D. tetrasepala E143
D. tetrasepala E142
D. tetrasepala E185
D. tetrasepala E312
D. tetrasepala E311
D. spathulata E271
D. spathulata var. sanguinea E294
D. spathulata var. sanguinea E131
D. spathulata var. sanguinea E130
D. spathulata var. sanguinea E303
D. spathulata var. sanguinea E301
D. spathulata var. sanguinea E308
D. spathulata var. sanguinea E306
D. spathulata var. spathulata E190
D. spathulata var. spathulata E200
D. spathulata var. spathulata E141
D. spathulata var. spathulata E198
D. spathulata var. spathulata E129
D. spathulata var. stenophylla E202
D. spathulata var. stenophylla E204
D. spathulata var. stenophylla E201
D. spathulata var. stenophylla E203
D. spathulata var. stenophylla E205
D. spathulata var. stenophylla E170
D. spathulata var. stenophylla E172
D. spathulata var. stenophylla E171
D. spathulata var. stenophylla E132
D. spathulata var. stenophylla E295
D. spathulata var. stenophylla E240
Abelia macrotera var. parvifolia E45
Kolkwitzia amabilis E9
Dipelta floribunda E55
Linnaea borealis E59
Vesalea floribunda E112

Eocene	Oligocene	Miocene	Pliocene	Ple.

50   33.9   23.0   5.3   1.8   0 Ma

6.0

(A) *Diabelia serrata* E314
(A) *D. serrata* var. *buchwalddi* E324
(A) *D. serrata* E137
(A) *D. serrata* E140
(A) *D. serrata* E138
(A) *D. serrata* E139
(A) *D. serrata* E122
(A) *D. serrata* E321
(A) *D. serrata* E128
(A) *D. serrata* E126
(A) *D. serrata* E125
(A) *D. serrata* E124
(A) *D. serrata* E123
(A) *D. tetrasepala* E143
(A) *D. tetrasepala* E142
(A) *D. tetrasepala* E185
(A) *D. tetrasepala* E312
(A) *D. tetrasepala* E311
(A) *D. spathulata* E271
(A) *D. spathulata* var. *sanguinea* E294
(A) *D. spathulata* var. *sanguinea* E131
(A) *D. spathulata* var. *sanguinea* E130
(A) *D. spathulata* var. *sanguinea* E303
(A) *D. spathulata* var. *sanguinea* E301
(A) *D. spathulata* var. *sanguinea* E308
(A) *D. spathulata* var. *sanguinea* E306
(B) *D. spathulata* var. *spathulata* E190
(A) *D. spathulata* var. *spathulata* E200
(B) *D. spathulata* var. *spathulata* E141
(A) *D. spathulata* var. *spathulata* E198
(A) *D. spathulata* var. *spathulata* E129
(C) *D. spathulata* var. *stenophylla* E202
(C) *D. spathulata* var. *stenophylla* E204
(C) *D. spathulata* var. *stenophylla* E201
(C) *D. spathulata* var. *stenophylla* E203
(C) *D. spathulata* var. *stenophylla* E205
(C) *D. spathulata* var. *stenophylla* E170
(C) *D. spathulata* var. *stenophylla* E172
(C) *D. spathulata* var. *stenophylla* E171
(A) *D. spathulata* var. *stenophylla* E132
(A) *D. spathulata* var. *stenophylla* E295
(A) *D. spathulata* var. *stenophylla* E240

21 20   16   12   8   4   0 Ma

LEGEND

* ▬ (black)

A ▬ (blue)

AB ▬ (dark red)

AC ▬ (teal)

B ▬ (purple)

C ▬ (tan)

◯ Vicariance

◯ Dispersal

Number of sepals
- 2
- 5(unequal)
- 5(subequal)

Flowers
- Sigle
- Paired
- Clusters of four-seven flowers

Diabelia serrata var. *buchwaldii* E324
D. serrata E314
D. serrata E137
D. serrata E140
D. serrata E138
D. serrata E139
D. serrata E123
D. serrata E122
D. serrata E126
D. serrata E125
D. serrata E128
D. serrata E321
D. serrata E124
D. tetrasepala E143
D. tetrasepala E142
D. tetrasepala E185
D. tetrasepala E312
D. tetrasepala E311
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E294
D. spathulata E271
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E130
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E303
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E301
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E131
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E308
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E306
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E204
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E202
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E201
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E203
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E205
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E171
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E170
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E172
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E132
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E295
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E240
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E190
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E200
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E141
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E198
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E129
Abelia macrotera var. *parvifolia* E45
Kolkwitzia amabilis E9
Dipelta floribunda E55
Linnaea borealis E59
Vesalea floribunda E112

Corolla colour
- Yellow
- Pale yellow
- Red
- White

Corolla shape
- Tubular
- Bilabiate
- Infundibuliform

Diabelia serrata var. *buchwaldii* E324
D. serrata E314
D. serrata E137
D. serrata E140
D. serrata E138
D. serrata E139
D. serrata E123
D. serrata E122
D. serrata E126
D. serrata E125
D. serrata E128
D. serrata E321
D. serrata E124
D. tetrasepala E143
D. tetrasepala E142
D. tetrasepala E185
D. tetrasepala E312
D. tetrasepala E311
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E294
D. spathulata E271
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E130
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E303
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E301
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E131
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E308
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E306
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E204
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E202
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E201
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E203
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E205
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E171
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E170
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E172
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E132
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E295
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E240
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E190
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E200
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E141
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E198
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E129
Abelia macrotera var. *parvifolia* E45
Kolkwitzia amabilis E9
Dipelta floribunda E55
Linnaea borealis E59
Vesalea floribunda E112

Diabelia tetrasepala E311
D. tetrasepala E312
D. tetrasepala E143
D. tetrasepala E142
D. tetrasepala E185
D. serrata E321
D. serrata E122
D. serrata E314
D. serrata E139
D. serrata E125
D. serrata E126
D. serrata var. *buchwalddi* E324
D. serrata E124
D. serrata E128
D. serrata E138
D. serrata E140
D. serrata E137
D. serrata E123
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E132
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E295
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E240
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E294
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E303
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E130
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E301
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E131
D. spathulata E271
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E306
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E308
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E141
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E200
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E190
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E198
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E129
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E201
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E205
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E204
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E171
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E172
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E202
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E203
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E170
Dipelta floribunda E55
Kolkwitzia amabilis E9
Abelia macrotera var. *parvifolia* E45
Linnaea borealis E59
Vesalea floribunda E112

D. tetrasepala

D. serrata

D. spathulata var. *stenophylla*

var. *sanguinea*

var. *spathulata*

var. *stenophylla*

Outgroups

1/1/-/1
1/1/-/1
1/1/-/1
1/1/-/1
0.98/-0.003/0/0.99
0.98/-0.24/0.27/0.99
0.97/-0.29/0.1/1
1/0.62/0.96/1
0.98/-0.34/0.05/1
0.97/0.49/0/1
1/0.89/0/1
0.72/-0.29/0.62/0.93
0.72/-0.05/0/0.93
0.74/-0.16/0.4/0.97
0.7/-0.52/0/0.99
1/1/-/1
1/1/-/1
0.81/0.08/0.76/1
1/1/-/1
0.6/-0.54/0/1
0.98/0.1/0/1
0.63/0.66/0.15/0.96
1/1/-/1
0.98/0.35/0.05/0.99
1/0.93/0/1
0.98/0.14/0.57/0.98
0.8/-0.06/0.58/0.97
0.37/0.36/0.07/1
0.98/0.18/0.74/0.98
1/1/-/1
0.95/0.34/0.04/0.99
1/1/-/1
0.99/0.77/0.4/1
1/1/-/1
0.66/0.71/0.51/1
0.81/0.73/0/1
1/1/-/1
0.99/0.45/0.45/0.99
1/1/-/0.98
1/1/-/1
1/0.56/0/1
0.81/-0.07/0.54/0.91
1/1/-/1
1/1/-/1

0.003

Number of sepals

- □ 2
- ■ (green) 5(unequal)
- ■ (black) 5(subequal)

Flowers

- □ Sigle
- ■ (green) Paired
- ■ (black) Clusters of four-seven flowers

Diabelia tetrasepala E311
D. tetrasepala E312
D. tetrasepala E143
D. tetrasepala E142
D. tetrasepala E185
D. serrata E321
D. serrata E122
D. serrata E314
D. serrata E139
D. serrata E125
D. serrata E126
D. serrata var. *buchwalddi* E324
D. serrata E124
D. serrata E128
D. serrata E138
D. serrata E140
D. serrata E137
D. serrata E123
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E132
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E295
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E240
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E294
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E303
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E130
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E301
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E131
D. spathulata E271
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E306
D. spathulata var. *sanguinea* E308
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E141
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E200
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E190
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E198
D. spathulata var. *spathulata* E129
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E201
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D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E203
D. spathulata var. *stenophylla* E170
Dipelta floribunda E55
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Abelia macrotera var. *parvifolia* E45
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Vesalea floribunda E112