Title: Ecological constraints on highly evolvable olfactory receptor genes and morphology

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Abstract

While evolvability of genes and traits may promote specialization during species diversification, how ecology subsequently restricts such variation remains unclear. Chemosensation requires animals to decipher a complex chemical background to locate fitness-related resources, and thus the underlying genomic architecture and morphology must cope with constant exposure to a changing odorant landscape; detecting adaptation amidst extensive chemosensory diversity is an open challenge. Phyllostomid bats, an ecologically diverse clade that evolved plant-visiting from an insectivorous ancestor, suggest the evolution of novel food detection mechanisms is a key innovation: phyllostomids behaviorally rely strongly on olfaction, while echolocation is supplemental. If this is true, exceptional variation in underlying olfactory genes and phenotypes may have preceded dietary diversification. We compared *olfactory receptor* (*OR*) genes sequenced from olfactory epithelium transcriptomes and olfactory epithelium surface area of bats with differing diets. Surprisingly, although *OR* evolution rates were quite variable and generally high, they are largely independent of diet. Olfactory epithelial surface area, however, is relatively larger in plant-visiting bats and there is an inverse relationship between *OR* evolution rates and surface area. Relatively larger surface areas suggest greater reliance on olfactory detection and stronger constraint on maintaining an already diverse *OR* repertoire. Instead of the typical case in which specialization and elaboration is coupled with rapid diversification of associated genes, here the relevant genes are already evolving so quickly that increased reliance on smell has led to stabilizing selection, presumably to maintain the ability to consistently discriminate among specific odorants — a potential ecological constraint on sensory evolution.

Significance Statement

The evolutionary relationship between genes and morphology is complex to decipher, and macroevolutionary trends are often measured independently; this is especially challenging to quantify in unstable genomic regions or hypervariable traits. Odorant cues are detected by proteins encoded by the largest and fasted-evolving gene family in the mammalian genome and expressed in epithelia distributed on elaborate bony structures in the nose, posing a challenge to quantification. Yet, the direct interaction of the olfactory system with environmental signals strongly suggest that selection shapes its immense diversity. In neotropical bats, where reliance on plant-visiting evolved from an insectivorous ancestor, we discovered clear dietary differences amongst species, but only after considering morphological and molecular data simultaneously, emphasizing the power of a coupled analysis.

Introduction

Many cellular pathways are under strong constraint to maintain function: the fixation of potentially lethal mutations can disrupt core functions, and thus natural selection more frequently removes than favors novel mutations. However, systems that are more exploratory

in nature in that they must interact with an ever-changing environmental space (*e.g.* adaptive
immunity, host-detection avoidance (1, 2)) may possess a greater capacity to evolve, *i.e.*
increased evolvability. With increased variation, there is more opportunity to generate
phenotypic diversity and interact with new stimuli, facilitating the occupation of novel
adaptive zones (3, 4). At the same time, rampant diversification is expected to come under
constraint from ecological limits (5). New variation may enable exploration of novel niche
space, but once a shift has occurred into a new adaptive zone, selection may fine-tune genes
and phenotypes to optimize performance within that environment. As a result, specialization
will occur, and novel constraints will maintain that specialized system in the new zone. While
previous work has demonstrated how increased heritable variation may promote evolvability
(1), the evidence for how ecology restricts this disparity is less well understood.

The mammalian olfactory system offers an excellent framework for evaluating the
genomic and phenotypic evolvability with respect to ecological diversity. Here, the genetic and
morphological components of scent detection are both highly variable and interactive,
resulting in a complex environmental chemical space directly relevant to fitness (6). In contrast
to host-pathogen immunity and infection dynamics, in which there is an evolutionary drive to
either infect or avoid infection, the fitness consequences of the vast functional repertoire of
the olfactory system may be less dire on average. *Olfactory receptor* genes (*OR*s) encode G-
protein-coupled receptor proteins that combinatorially respond to chemical bouquets, that
relay signals critical to finding food, avoiding predators, attracting mates, avoiding noxious
chemicals, identifying conspecifics, and caring for offspring (7, 8). The *OR* multigene family is
both the largest and among the fastest-evolving protein-coding gene families in the
mammalian genome (9, 10). The highly evolvable nature in this family extends throughout
tetrapods (11). The patterns observed in the *OR* multigene family are generated via a birth-
death evolutionary process of tandem gene duplication, leading to highly clustered unstable
genomic regions (12). Gene duplication generates new substrates for selectable variation: so
long as negative dosage effects are minimal, new gene copies are released from selective
constraints and can accumulate novel mutations through which the gene can diversify or lose
function (13).

At the phenotypic level, *OR* genes are expressed in a monoallelic manner, such that a
single copy of each *OR* gene is expressed per single olfactory sensory neuron (14–16). These
neurons are embedded in olfactory epithelial tissue and distributed throughout the
posterodorsal region of the nasal cavity, along with glandular supporting cells that facilitate
odorant deposition (17). Receptors bind to chemical ligands in a combinatorial fashion (18),
depolarize the cell, and send converging signals to be interpreted in the olfactory bulb (19).
The olfactory epithelium covers turbinal bones (turbinates), delicate, scroll-like arrangements
of approximately five bones, whose shapes can change the surface area for potential odorant
deposition. Olfactory turbinals are highly convoluted and variable in shape (20–23), but micro-
computed tomography (µCT) scanning and image analysis now makes large-scale comparative

analyses of these complex structures are now tractable (24). Evidence for selection shaping
the size, shape, and relative orientations of turbinates is emerging, including convergent
expansion of turbinates in worm-feeding rodents (25) and convergent signatures of tradeoffs
of olfactory and respiratory turbinates in amphibious rodents (26). The extensive variation of
olfactory turbinates may be in some way coupled with the variation within the *OR* gene family.
Though such a connection has never been explicitly tested, expansion of olfactory turbinates
may expand OR expression. The established connection of olfactory turbinates and divergent
ecologies (25, 26) offers the opportunity to explore a relationship among evolvability of *OR*
genes, olfactory morphology, and ecological constraints.

We investigate evolutionary patterns in *OR* genes and turbinates in > 30 bat species
(Fig. 1; Fig. S1; Table S1, S2) representing the ecologically diverse clade of neotropical leaf-nosed
bats (Phyllostomidae) and their close relatives within the superfamily Noctilionoidea.
Noctilionoid bats show exceptional diversity in food resource consumption, occupying perhaps
the widest arrange of dietary niches of any clade of mammals (27). While most echolocating
bats are insectivorous, noctilionoids have diversified to specialize on arthropods, small
vertebrates (*e.g.*, fishes, frogs, birds), blood, fruit, pollen, and nectar. A suite of morphological
and sensory traits is associated with divergent dietary consumption (27, 28). In concert with
these changes, bats that feed on anything other than arthropods must evolve novel sensory
mechanisms for finding new foods (29). The unstable and duplicative nature of *OR* genes as
well as the highly variable features of olfactory turbinates may provide a pool of selectable
variation to enable a shift into novel niches. If adaptive selection and/or novel morphologies
occurred in the olfactory system prior to the evolution of consuming plant resources, then
rates of evolution in *OR*s should be higher, *OR*s should have greater allelic diversity to
potentially detect novel plant compounds, and/or divergent phenotypic optima should be
observed in plant-visiting versus animal-feeding bats. Alternatively, though not mutually
exclusive, the extensive variation may be constrained by novel dietary niches to optimize or
fine-tune specific detection. We explore two scenarios: [1] the molecular and morphological
basis of olfaction facilitated the ecological breakthrough of plant consumption, or [2] the
constraints of finding specific plants restricted the diversity of the hypervariable olfactory
system. We compared sequence variation from expressed *OR*s from olfactory epithelium
transcriptomes to the surface area of olfactory epithelia from high-resolution soft tissue μCT-
scans of over 30 species with divergent diets. This is among the first datasets of its kind,
enabling us to test how ecological variation in diets might shape the evolutionary dynamics
of olfactory evolvability

Results
To study the variation of the olfactory system at both the morphological and molecular levels,
we compared surface area of the main olfactory epithelium ($n = 30$) and used RNA-seq ($n = 30$)
of the main olfactory epithelium to sequence *OR*s in species with divergent diets, of which 18

species had both morphological and molecular data. Species were coded either as animal-
feeding (*n* = 15) or plant-visiting (*n* = 26), based on published ecological metrics (Fig. S1; *n* =
30).
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Exceptional variation in gross turbinate morphology throughout Yangochiroptera
To test whether plant-visiting bats had more olfactory epithelia relative to animal-feeding, we
measured the surface area of the olfactory epithelium distributed in the nasal cavity from µCT-
scans of iodine-stained specimens collected from 30 species with divergent diets (Fig. S1, Table
S1). Despite extensive variation, plant-visiting bats consistently had qualitatively more well-
developed olfactory epithelia (Fig. 2A), though this relationship is statistically complex as
described below. Within Phyllostomidae, as well as most other previously studied-members of
the suborder Yangochiroptera, there are normally five turbinate bones in which the main
olfactory epithelium is distributed in the nasal cavity(24, 31, 32). From anterior to posterior
with corresponding segmented colors (Fig. 2A), these include the frontoturbinal (pink),
ethmoturbinal I (teal), interturbinal II (potentially homologous with ethmoturbinal I (pars
posterior) (33; orange), ethmoturbinal II (green), and ethmoturbinal III (purple). Residual main
olfactory epithelium (yellow) can also be observed on medial parts of the nasal septum and
superior portions of the nasal cavity and olfactory recess. A concern for detecting true olfactory
epithelial tissue versus respiratory epithelium is warranted in bats, as the two epithelia can
coexist on some turbinals. However, while precise boundaries can only be determined with
histology, the two can be distinguished in the diceCT scans (Fig. 2B), in which olfactory
epithelium is thick, bright, and smooth while respiratory epithelium is more uneven with bright
glandular globules distributed throughout. Most specimens possessed the five described
olfactory turbinate bones (Fig. 1), though the structures of each turbinate were highly variable.
A sixth turbinal was present in two species; in *Brachyphylla pumila*, a second interturbinal
(described as interturbinal I in Yohe *et al.* (2018)) containing dense olfactory epithelia was
present between the frontoturbinal and ethmoturbinal I; and in *Desmodus rotundus*, an extra
anterior turbinate bone with olfactory epithelia was observed, which we name frontoturbinal
0 to avoid confusion with the common notation of frontoturbinal for the standard most
anterior turbinate bone. *Myotis albescens* and *Molossus rufus* were missing interturbinal I, but
a small extra olfactory-epithelium-bearing turbinal was present in the posterior-most region
of the olfactory recess. This extra turbinal was not present in the congeneric *Molossus*
molossus.
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Robust evidence for allometry, weak evidence of selection in olfactory epithelium surface area
To first control for body size and explore how it may relate to diversity in olfactory epithelium
surface area, we explored several comparative methods to quantify this relationship.
Evolutionary allometric models tend to assume a single intercept and slope explains the
relationship of a given trait to log mass, but adaption yields different intercepts, and the

allometric slope may not be uniform across clades. We used body mass (g) measured directly
from the live specimen in the field as the proxy for size. Analyses of directional evolution of
surface area as a function of body mass identified a multi-optima, single slope model as the
one with the highest marginal likelihood (-30.8) compared to others (<-45.8). Posterior
parameter estimates summarized in Table S3, however, show weak support for multiple optima
and estimates of the directional evolution parameter alpha were lower than the random walk
parameter σ^2. Inspection of the posterior probabilities for change in optima in the phylogeny
revealed a >0.50 probability in the ancestor of mormoopids (Fig. S2), four optima with a >0.25
probability (Fig. 2C) and shifts in eleven branches with a posterior probability >0.1 (Fig. 2D). In
the scenario with many optima (mean = 6; lower = 1, upper = 12) and corresponding shifts from
one optimum to another, shifts are distributed across the tree and unrelated to plant-eating.
There was no statistically significant separation by diet.
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When testing whether olfactory epithelial surface area was different in plant- and animal-
feeding bats, analyses of allometric scaling using phylogenetic regressions found a model with
different intercepts and slopes by plant-feeding to best fit the data (DIC: 52.6 versus DIC > 53
for simpler models (i.e., single slope/intercept)), suggesting differences amongst the two
groups. Without the mormoopids (Fig. 2E), posterior estimates of the allometric slope
overlapped with those obtained using directional models (mean slope = 0.39, lower = 0.04,
upper = 0.75). There was a trend toward higher slopes for plant-eating species (mean slope =
0.094, lower = 0.089, upper = 0.47) compared to animal-eating ones (mean slope = -0.098, lower
= -0.46, upper= -0.93; Fig. 2C). Including all taxa, results were similar, except posterior estimates
of the allometric slope were higher (mean slope = 0.47, lower = 0.11, upper = 0.93; Fig. S3).
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OR *codon evolution explained by* OR *subfamily and nucleotide substitutions, not ecology*
Plant-visiting bats may require a diverse or faster-evolving repertoire of olfactory repertoire
since they rely on complex plant volatile bouquets for their food detection, and we tested this
hypothesis by sequencing the transcriptomes of the main olfactory epithelium, identifying
intact olfactory receptor genes, and comparing amongst plant- and animals-feeders. High-
coverage RNA-seq data (Fig. S1; Table S4, S5) was obtained and intact olfactory receptors were
identified and classified into their respective subfamilies. Of the 30 species, an average of 221
(±95) *OR*s were detected, with large variation among species (Fig. S1; Table S6). *Mormoops*
blainvillei had only one intact reading frame and, due to low detection, was removed from
downstream analyses. There was a weak positive relationship (slope = 0.004±0.002; $F_{(1, 28)}$ = 4.6;
p = 0.041) between number of *OR*s detected and RNA Integrity Number (RIN; Fig. S4). Because
previous study found that transcriptomes of the main olfactory epithelium only recover 50-
60% of total intact *OR* genes (34). Thus, in addition to high rates of duplication and low rates
of homology among *OR*s, incomplete RNA-seq data may confound comparisons of numbers of
receptors across species. Instead, we measured rates of evolution for each gene per species.

To measure differences in rates of evolution between animal-feeding and plant-visiting bats,
we used cumulative root-to-tip branch lengths for several reasons. First, comparing codon and
nucleotide rates from their corresponding trees is conceptually similar to measures of
molecular selection such as ratios of rates of nonsynonymous substitutions (dN) to rates of
synonymous substitution (dS) (11). Second, this method has the added advantage of
incorporating both codon and different nucleotide substitution models into the best-fit
models, incorporating additional information such as transition and transversion parameters
when appropriate to the data set. In this case, codon models were used instead of amino acid
substitution models, as the former were better fits for all olfactory receptor subfamilies. Third,
and crucially, the branch length approach helps overcome the issue of determining true
orthology versus paralogy, which is very challenging in large gene families. Resulting branch
lengths in nucleotide substitutions per codon site for codon-based trees and nucleotide
substitutions per site for nucleotide trees are directly comparable across the entire phylogeny.
The best-fit model of codon lengths as a function of nucleotide lengths including mormoopids
partitioned both intercepts and slopes by gene subfamily (DIC: -18085; Fig. 3). There was no
support for partitioning intercepts or slopes by plant diet, diet categories, or species (DIC > -
11433; Fig. 3A). With the best-fit model, we detected a higher slope in the codon rate for OR
subfamily 52, and lower slope for subfamilies 11 and 2/13 (Figs. 3B and 3E). The resulting model
captured important differences in rate scaling across gene subfamilies, as shown in
comparisons between observed and predicted values (Fig. S5). The PCA found 96.1% of the
variation was loaded in the first principal component, with most of the variation explained by
the codon branch lengths. When visualizing clusters within the PCA axes, there was no
clustering by diet (Fig. 2C) but clear clustering of different OR subfamilies.

Inverse relationship between OR *evolution and olfactory epithelium surface area*
Finally, we tested whether there was a molecular-morphological relationship that may explain
differences in diet. In multi-response models, both codon branch lengths and olfactory
epithelium surface area are responses with their own modeled errors. Thus, the estimated
coefficients must be interpreted in a multivariate framework. The best multi-response model
including mormoopids (DIC: -37342) only had a weak trend for log body mass of plant-eating
bats relating to codon rates (mean slope = -0.0038, lower = -0.0128, upper = 0.0042, Fig. 4; Fig.
S6, including mormoopids). In contrast, when excluding mormoopids, the best multi-response
model (DIC: -35451) found a strong inverse relationship between codon rates (mean slope: -
0.034, lower = -0.042, -0.028; Fig. 4A) and olfactory epithelium surface area (slope: -1.36, lower
= -1.62, upper = -1.12; Fig. 4B). After accounting for phylogeny, codon lengths, and body mass,
the coefficients of body mass on olfactory epithelium surface area for both animal-feeding
(mean = 0.38, lower = -0.012, upper = 0.79) and plant-visiting bats are positive, but substantially
higher for plant-visiting bats (Fig. 4; mean = 0.68, lower = 0.23, upper 0.65).

Discussion

Highly evolvable genes and phenotypes are often associated with exploratory systems, for which variation does not come at the same potential fitness cost as they do for central core processes (5). Yet, when novel variable mutants are favored in a given niche, environmental conditions may subsequently constrain that variation to maintain those variants(5). While previous emphasis has been on the unstable genomic architecture (i.e., arrangement of functional elements(35)) underlying highly evolvable genes and traits, the operation of environmental constraints on this variation is less understood. Using the highly evolvable olfactory system in a clade of bats with divergent dietary ecologies, we have discovered that, although there is exceptional variation in both olfactory morphology (Fig. 2) and *OR* genes (Fig. 3), bats that use plant resources show an inverse relationship between rates of molecular and morphological evolution (Fig. 4). Having hypothesized a single expansion or shift to facilitate plant-visiting, we expected strong association of molecular rates and morphological differences with plant-visiting (*i.e.*, Fig. 2C, 2D would show clear shifts with plant association; Fig. 3A, 3C would have ecological signatures;). Instead, we found shorter *OR* molecular branch lengths in bats with larger epithelial surface area, despite ubiquitous elevated rates of molecular and morphological evolution. We propose that once bats evolved plant-visiting, the exploratory background of a rapidly evolving olfactory system was suddenly exposed to strong selection for maintenance of the ability to detect specific plant odorants any may even enabled convergent plant-visiting to evolve within *Phyllostomus*. This "slowdown" could be important for fine-tuning associations with plants to optimize for detecting fruit ripeness, floral blooms, and/or avoiding toxicity.

Without considering morphology, a strong association between evolutionary codon-to-nucleotide rate with *OR* subfamily (Fig. 3B, 3D, 3E) suggests most of the variation in *OR*s is endogenous, instead of ecological (Fig. 3A, 3C); some subfamilies (*e.g.*, OR52, OR4) are evolving at faster rates than others. Within genomes, loci within *OR* subfamilies tend to be highly clustered, and in bats, many times the entire *OR* subfamily was detected within a single scaffold(34). This highly-clustered nature is caused by rampant tandem duplication (36), which contributes to the unstable genomic architecture of the system. We hypothesize this instability is the genetic mechanism that generates exceptional variation in chemosensory genes, and that *OR* genes (and likely other chemosensory receptor genes) are not as constrained as most protein-coding genes (37). Most OR proteins are highly specific and are not involved in core cellular pathways (*i.e.*, they have minimal pleiotropy) (37). Their main function is to initiate G-protein coupled receptor pathway responses and to "survey" and respond to environmental chemical cues (*i.e.*, they are, as pathogen-detection, proteins exploratory proteins). Thus, we predict that duplication of *OR* genes does not have strong dosage effects. Instead, duplication might increase the probability of expression for a given receptor or increase the genomic substrate for new mutations to arise. Indeed, it is the standing variation within these

contingency loci that contributes to the "adaptability" of chemosensory receptor genes in
divergent *Drosophila* populations (37).

The genetic controls of olfactory turbinate morphogenesis are unrelated to *OR* genes
(but rather more so the olfactory bulb) (38), but the expansion of olfactory epithelium surface
area directly increases the neural epithelial space in which olfactory receptor neurons can
express *OR* genes. While the expression of *OR* genes is monoallelic and stochastic per sensory
neuron (14–16), there is zonal organization of expression within the turbinates associated with
different *OR* subfamilies. This zonation is complex in 3D space. *OR* gene subfamilies are not
distributed on specific turbinates, but instead spatially distributed across turbinates in
space(39). The more outward parts of the turbinates express similar receptor families
compared to zones closer to the olfactory bulb(40). Although further research both establishing
the boundaries of these zones and the functional differences among *OR* subfamilies regarding
odorant molecule binding is necessary to properly interpret differences in relation to
evolutionary niche divergence, our study identifies a key relationship between morphology and
OR gene repertoire. Modeling errors in both morphology and genes simultaneously (while also
accounting for allometry, and phylogeny) in a Bayesian hierarchical framework revealed strong
and inverse relationships between protein coding evolutionary rates and surface area among
both plant-visiting and animal-feeding bats, with a stronger body mass allometry in the former
(Fig. 4). This corroborates our hypothesis that chemosensory system evolution is confounded
by high variation that must be accounted for when deciphering evolutionary patterns.

It has been previously hypothesized that olfactory key innovations enabled (and
continue to enable) the detection of new plant compounds(41). Based on our results, we now
hypothesize that standing variation in highly evolvable *OR* genes and morphology is fine-tuned
in plant-visiting phyllostomid bats. Complex interplay of hypervariable morphology (Fig. 2) and
receptor repertoire (Fig. 3) may have been ideal for exploring novel niches. However, once shifts
into more specialized adaptive zones occurred, selection prevented further extensive change
of *OR*s perhaps to maintain a repertoire that can recognize a diverse but consistent mix of
odorant cues. Expanded olfactory epithelial surface area may enable more expression of these
conserved, more slowly evolving receptors (Fig. 4).

Within the phyllostomid radiation and its close relatives, patterns beyond olfaction
support this hypothesis. For morphology, the shift from an insectivorous ancestor to a derived
plant specialist is supported by transitional fossils (*i.e.*, omnivorous ancestors) (42), even early
within the superfamily radiation (e.g., †*Vulcanops jennyworthyae*, an omnivorous burrower
(43)). Most craniofacial variation occurs late in development, suggesting the palate and nasal
cavity regions have fewer constraints and could facilitate morphological evolvability (44).
Major transitions in sensory traits occurred early in the radiation, while mechanical feeding
shifts were more recent (29). At the molecular level, positive selection in vision and diet related
genes occurred mostly at the origins of Phyllostomidae and their relatives, instead of at nodes
of dietary shifts towards plant-visiting (45, 46). Thus, a "backbone" of extensive variation linked

to omnivory may have set the stage for later shifts to highly specialized diets. In either case,
an inverse relationship between morphology and protein-coding evolutionary rate emerged
only after controlling for extensive sources of intrinsic variation within the system. This
intriguing pattern warrants further investigation of the interplay among *OR* expression, the
distribution of the tissue expressing these genes, and how evolution shapes both and their
interaction.
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Methods
Sample Collection: Specimens for both genetic and morphological analyses were collected over
the course of five field expeditions: two to the Dominican Republic in 2014 and 2015 (collection
permit VAPB-01436), one to Belize in 2014 (Belize Forestry Department Scientific Research and
Collecting Permit CD/60/3/14), one to Peru in 2015 (collection permit 0002287), and one to Costa
Rica in 2017 (collection permit R-041-2017-OT-CONAGEBIO). All genetic tissue and morphological
specimens were exported in accordance with research permit and country guidelines. Samples
were imported in accordance with U.S. Center for Disease Control and U.S. Fish & Wildlife
guidelines. All specimens were collected, handled, and euthanized in accordance with Stony
Brook University IACUC permit 614763-3 for Peru, and 448712-3 for Costa Rica, and Brown
University IACUC 1205016 and 1504000134, University of Georgia IACUC AUP A2009-10003-0 and
A2014 04-016-Y3-A5 for Belize.
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We sampled sets of diverse species to obtain RNA-seq and morphological data. For tissue
collection for RNA-seq, specimens we used published video dissection protocols to sample the
olfactory epithelium(47, 48). In total, 30 species were collected for transcriptomic analyses,
including one emballonurid, one molossid, two mormoopids, and 26 phyllostomids to represent
a diversity of divergent diets (Fig. 1; Fig. S1; Table S1). For morphological sampling, specimens
were collected on the same expeditions listed above, and many of the species replicate the
samples taken for transcriptomic analyses (Table S2). Body mass was measured from living
bats to serve as a proxy for body size. A total 30 species were sampled for morphology, and of
these, 19 species had replicates for both genetic and morphological sampling. Both procedures
are described in detail in the Supplementary Methods.
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Transcriptomics: RNA extraction and RNA-seq protocols were the same as those described in a
previously published study(34). Although there was variation in the cDNA library preparation
and RNA sequencing over the course of the project, read lengths only varied from 90bp to
150bp. This variation likely contributes to some differences in transcript assemblies across
samples. While the Supplementary Methods describe the full details of RNA-seq, Table S3
shows which sequencing platforms, sequencing company, and read lengths were performed
for each sample.
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Transcriptome assembly: Raw reads were trimmed, cleaned, and assembled in accordance with
a previously published method (34). In summary, because of the duplicative nature of olfactory
receptors, we implemented the Oyster River Protocol v. 2.1.0 (49), which uses three separate
assembly programs, pools assembled reads across approaches, and removes duplicate contigs.
The Oyster River Protocol also provides several quantifiable measures of assembly quality,
including TransRate scores (50) that quantify coverage and segmentation of each transcript.

Olfactory receptor classification: The assembled transcripts for each species were run through
the published program Olfactory Receptor Assigner (ORA) v. 1.9.1(51). The ORA is a Bioperl v.
1.006924 program that implements the HMMR v. 3.1b algorithm to characterize olfactory
receptors into their respective subfamilies based on conserved binding motifs calculated by
the trainer protein alignments. While some pseudogenes were present in the transcriptomes,
we limited analyses to intact genes that had the potential to be under diversifying or positive
selection.

Quantifying molecular evolution: Cumulative root-to-tip branch lengths for each tip of the
codon model and nucleotide model gene trees were performed by computing the variance
covariance matrix of each tree and extracting the diagonals of this matrix using ape v. 5.4.1(52)
in R.

μCT-scanning and turbinate segmentation: Formalin-fixed museum specimesn were stained in
10% Lugol's iodine solution, mounted in agarose, and scanned in the high-resolution Nikon
H225 ST μCT-scanner. Scan parameters varied depending on specimen size and morphology,
but resolution voxel size ranged from 0.01 to 0.02 mm per scan. Scan parameter details are
available in Table S4. Raw μCT-scan data was reconstructed using in-house Nikon software to
align the center of rotation and correct artifacts with beam hardening parameters.
Reconstructed image stacks were imported into VGStudio v. 3.3(53). for image segmentation of
the main olfactory epithelium. When visible, the olfactory epithelium was segmented using
the "magic wand" tool in the right nasal cavity on each observed turbinal and surrounding
structures. Each segmented object was smoothed through "closing" each surface by a value of
1 and "eroded" by a value of -0.5. Surface areas were calculated within VGStudio after creating
a region of interest of the segmented object and estimating its surface determination by
setting the isovalue to completely include all segmented values (*i.e.*, the entire histogram).

Statistical analyses of evolutionary rates: Molecular evolution, specimen collections, and μCT-
scanning yielded three types of data, in order: codon and nucleotide branch lengths, body mass,
and olfactory epithelium surface area. Our goal is to integrate molecular evolutionary rates
with morphological variation, but first we had to evaluate each data set separately. We
therefore implemented three sets of interrelated analyses: 1) regressions and principal

components analyses of codon rates as a function of nucleotide rates for each gene, 2) phylogenetic regressions of the allometry between olfactory epithelium surface area and body mass both with and without accounting for directional selection and varying adaptive peaks, and 3) after determining which of the two model types was better supported for anatomical data, multivariate analyses of codon and nucleotide branch lengths together with olfactory epithelium surface area, with mass as an independent variable.

For the first set of regressions, we modeled codon branch lengths as a function of nucleotide lengths. Although all models included nucleotide lengths as an independent variable, we tested for different intercepts and slopes partitioned by plant diet, multiple diet categories, gene subfamily, or species. Details on the error structure used for these groups are presented in the supplement. To evaluate any patterns of separation in the data not captured by the regression models, we also performed a principal components analysis of the codon and nucleotide branch lengths using the prcomp function in R.

For the second set of models, we regressed the olfactory epithelium surface area against body mass, both in the log scale to determine the evolutionary allometry of the nose anatomy. First, we evaluated whether models with directional selection and distinct evolutionary optima were appropriate for these data, and then tested a series of phylogenetic regressions with identical or differing intercepts, slopes, or both by diet categories. While we used the marginal likelihood and parameter estimates to evaluate the directional models, we used the deviance information criterion (DIC), to assess the phylogenetic regressions. Details on both directional and non-directional allometric are presented in the supplement.

In the third suite of models, we related *OR* evolution and olfactory epithelium surface area by implementing multivariate models, allowing both codon branch lengths and surface to be modeled with error. Nucleotide branch lengths and (log) body mass were both included as predictors in these phylogenetic models, with group specific effects outlined in the supplement. The DIC was used to select best-fit models. Finally, all MCMCglmm models ran with and without mormoopid taxa (n=3), as their skull morphology is hypervariable and may confound underlying patterns within the data (28).

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Figures

Figure 1. Phylogeny of cumulative taxa used in this study. Iodine-stained µCT-scans were used

to reconstruct olfactory epithelium of different turbinates. RNA-seq of the main olfactory

epithelium was used to identify protein-coding sequences of expressed olfactory receptors.

Animal-feeding taxa are highlighted in grey, as determined from the continuous values from

Rojas *et al.*, (2018). Numbers on the phylogeny correspond to species illustrations on the right.

Illustrations on the far right are medial sagittal sections of the nasal cavity of respective

species with the turbinate olfactory epithelium illustrated in separate colors. Illustrations were

done by Sara Scranton.

Figure 2. (A) Olfactory epithelium segmented from its distribution along the turbinate bones

of two phyllostomid species. *Artibeus bogotensis* is an obligate frugivorous bat, while

Gardnerycteris crenulatum is a specialized insectivore. (B) Differences between main olfactory

epithelium and respiratory epithelium observed from the iodine-stained µCT-scans. This is

example is a transverse section in *Sturnira oporaphilum*. Panel (A) shows how olfactory

epithelium is present on the frontoturbinal and ethmoturbinal I, but more dorsal views of the

transverse section (lower panel) show that these turbinates are now covered in respiratory

epithelium. Skull image from Animal Diversity Web. Colors correspond to respective turbinate

bone shown in Figure 1. (C-D) Output from bayou of theta estimates of olfactory epithelium

surface area trait evolution in branches with regime shifts with greater than (C) 0.25 posterior

probability and (D) 0.1 posterior probability. Colors correspond to branches from tree in figure

1 in which notable rate shifts occur. (E) Parameter estimates of MCMCglmm, testing for a

relationship of olfactory epithelium surface area and body mass, explained by diet. Open circles

denote posterior estimates overlap with zero; grey circles denote 95% credible intervals

overlap with zero; and black circles indicate the entire posterior distribution is above or below

zero. Note that mormoopids were removed from the analyses in panel C. The only regime shift

with greater than 0.5 posterior probability included only mormoopids, shown in Figure S6, S7.

Figure 3. Branch length estimates of each *olfactory receptor* (*OR*) gene plotted as nucleotide

rates versus codon model rates and colored by (A) diet and (B) *OR* subfamily. PCA axes of codon

and nucleotide branch lengths colored by (C) diet and (D) *OR* subfamily. Posterior distribution

parameter estimates (E) of hierarchical models testing for relationship of *OR* subfamily and

nucleotide branch lengths with codon branch length. Open circles denote posterior estimates

overlap with zero; grey circles denote 95% credible intervals overlap with zero; and black circles

indicate the entire posterior distribution is above or below zero. Arrows in panels B and D

correspond to higher or lower rates of evolution as shown in panel E.

Figure 4. Posterior distributions of parameter estimates of hierarchical models from analyses

combining molecular and morphological data. (A) Estimated coefficients on codon branch

lengths and (B) estimated coefficients of covariates on olfactory epithelium surface area. Open

circles denote posterior estimates overlap with zero; grey circles denote 95% credible intervals

overlap with zero; and black circles indicate the entire posterior distribution is above or below

zero. To interpret these plots, when a coefficient posterior is above zero, there is a positive

relationship with the response, and when it is below zero, there is a negative relationship with

the response.

Myotis albescens
Tadarida brasiliensis (1)
Molossus molossus
Molossus rufus
Saccopteryx leptura
Saccopteryx bilineata
Noctilio leporinus
Mormoops blainvillei
Pteronotus pusillus (2)
Pteronotus quadridens
Macrotus waterhousii
Desmodus rotundus (3)
Tonatia saurophila
Gardnerycteris crenulatum (4)
Phyllostomus elongatus
Phyllostomus hastatus
Anoura geoffroyi (5)
Monophyllus redmani
Glossophaga soricina
Brachyphylla pumila
Erophylla bombifrons
Phyllonycteris poeyi
Lionycteris spurrelli
Carollia castanea
Carollia sowelli
Carollia brevicauda
Carollia perspicillata
Rhinophylla pumilio
Rhinophylla fischerae (6)
Sturnira parvidens
Sturnira oporaphilum (7)
Uroderma bilobatum
Chiroderma villosum
Vampyrodes caraccioli
Mesophylla macconnelli
Vampyressa thyone
Phyllops falcatus
Artibeus bogotensis (8)
Artibeus fraterculus
Artibeus planirostris
Artibeus jamaicensis

60 40 20
Ma

(1)
(2)
(3)
(4)
(5)
(6)
(7)
(8)

residual olfactory epithelium
ethmoturbinal I
ethmoturbinal II
ethmoturbinal III
interturbinal
frontoturbinal
interturbinal II

ethmoturbinal I
ethmoturbinal II
ethmoturbinal III
interturbinal II
frontoturbinal