

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

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39

40 **Abstract**

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

62

63 **Significance Statement**

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

74

75 **Introduction**

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

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

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

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

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

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

152

## 153 **Results**

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



157 species had both morphological and molecular data. Species were coded either as animal-  
158 feeding ( $n = 15$ ) or plant-visiting ( $n = 26$ ), based on published ecological metrics (Fig. S1;  $n =$   
159 30).

160

### 161 *Exceptional variation in gross turbinate morphology throughout Yangochiroptera*

162 To test whether plant-visiting bats had more olfactory epithelia relative to animal-feeding, we  
163 measured the surface area of the olfactory epithelium distributed in the nasal cavity from  $\mu$ CT-  
164 scans of iodine-stained specimens collected from 30 species with divergent diets (Fig. S1, Table  
165 S1). Despite extensive variation, plant-visiting bats consistently had qualitatively more well-  
166 developed olfactory epithelia (Fig. 2A), though this relationship is statistically complex as  
167 described below. Within Phyllostomidae, as well as most other previously studied-members of  
168 the suborder Yangochiroptera, there are normally five turbinate bones in which the main  
169 olfactory epithelium is distributed in the nasal cavity(24, 31, 32). From anterior to posterior  
170 with corresponding segmented colors (Fig. 2A), these include the frontoturbinal (pink),  
171 ethmoturbinal I (teal), interturbinal II (potentially homologous with ethmoturbinal I (pars  
172 posterior) (33); orange), ethmoturbinal II (green), and ethmoturbinal III (purple). Residual main  
173 olfactory epithelium (yellow) can also be observed on medial parts of the nasal septum and  
174 superior portions of the nasal cavity and olfactory recess. A concern for detecting true olfactory  
175 epithelial tissue versus respiratory epithelium is warranted in bats, as the two epithelia can  
176 coexist on some turbinals. However, while precise boundaries can only be determined with  
177 histology, the two can be distinguished in the diceCT scans (Fig. 2B), in which olfactory  
178 epithelium is thick, bright, and smooth while respiratory epithelium is more uneven with bright  
179 glandular globules distributed throughout. Most specimens possessed the five described  
180 olfactory turbinate bones (Fig. 1), though the structures of each turbinate were highly variable.  
181 A sixth turbinal was present in two species; in *Brachyphylla pumila*, a second interturbinal  
182 (described as interturbinal I in Yohe *et al.* (2018)) containing dense olfactory epithelia was  
183 present between the frontoturbinal and ethmoturbinal I; and in *Desmodus rotundus*, an extra  
184 anterior turbinate bone with olfactory epithelia was observed, which we name frontoturbinal  
185 0 to avoid confusion with the common notation of frontoturbinal for the standard most  
186 anterior turbinate bone. *Myotis albescens* and *Molossus rufus* were missing interturbinal I, but  
187 a small extra olfactory-epithelium-bearing turbinal was present in the posterior-most region  
188 of the olfactory recess. This extra turbinal was not present in the congeneric *Molossus*  
189 *molossus*.

190

### 191 *Robust evidence for allometry, weak evidence of selection in olfactory epithelium surface area*

192 To first control for body size and explore how it may relate to diversity in olfactory epithelium  
193 surface area, we explored several comparative methods to quantify this relationship.  
194 Evolutionary allometric models tend to assume a single intercept and slope explains the  
195 relationship of a given trait to log mass, but adaption yields different intercepts, and the

196 allometric slope may not be uniform across clades. We used body mass (g) measured directly  
197 from the live specimen in the field as the proxy for size. Analyses of directional evolution of  
198 surface area as a function of body mass identified a multi-optima, single slope model as the  
199 one with the highest marginal likelihood (-30.8) compared to others (<-45.8). Posterior  
200 parameter estimates summarized in Table S3, however, show weak support for multiple optima  
201 and estimates of the directional evolution parameter alpha were lower than the random walk  
202 parameter  $\sigma^2$ . Inspection of the posterior probabilities for change in optima in the phylogeny  
203 revealed a >0.50 probability in the ancestor of mormoopids (Fig. S2), four optima with a >0.25  
204 probability (Fig. 2C) and shifts in eleven branches with a posterior probability >0.1 (Fig. 2D). In  
205 the scenario with many optima (mean = 6; lower = 1, upper = 12) and corresponding shifts from  
206 one optimum to another, shifts are distributed across the tree and unrelated to plant-eating.  
207 There was no statistically significant separation by diet.

208  
209 When testing whether olfactory epithelial surface area was different in plant- and animal-  
210 feeding bats, analyses of allometric scaling using phylogenetic regressions found a model with  
211 different intercepts and slopes by plant-feeding to best fit the data (DIC: 52.6 versus DIC > 53  
212 for simpler models (i.e., single slope/intercept)), suggesting differences amongst the two  
213 groups. Without the mormoopids (Fig. 2E), posterior estimates of the allometric slope  
214 overlapped with those obtained using directional models (mean slope = 0.39, lower = 0.04,  
215 upper = 0.75). There was a trend toward higher slopes for plant-eating species (mean slope =  
216 0.094, lower = 0.089, upper = 0.47) compared to animal-eating ones (mean slope = -0.098, lower  
217 = -0.46, upper = -0.93; Fig. 2C). Including all taxa, results were similar, except posterior estimates  
218 of the allometric slope were higher (mean slope = 0.47, lower = 0.11, upper = 0.93; Fig. S3).

219  
220 *OR codon evolution explained by OR subfamily and nucleotide substitutions, not ecology*  
221 Plant-visiting bats may require a diverse or faster-evolving repertoire of olfactory repertoire  
222 since they rely on complex plant volatile bouquets for their food detection, and we tested this  
223 hypothesis by sequencing the transcriptomes of the main olfactory epithelium, identifying  
224 intact olfactory receptor genes, and comparing amongst plant- and animals-feeders. High-  
225 coverage RNA-seq data (Fig. S1; Table S4, S5) was obtained and intact olfactory receptors were  
226 identified and classified into their respective subfamilies. Of the 30 species, an average of 221  
227 ( $\pm 95$ ) ORs were detected, with large variation among species (Fig. S1; Table S6). *Mormoops*  
228 *blainvillei* had only one intact reading frame and, due to low detection, was removed from  
229 downstream analyses. There was a weak positive relationship (slope =  $0.004 \pm 0.002$ ;  $F_{(1, 28)} = 4.6$ ;  
230  $p = 0.041$ ) between number of ORs detected and RNA Integrity Number (RIN; Fig. S4). Because  
231 previous study found that transcriptomes of the main olfactory epithelium only recover 50-  
232 60% of total intact OR genes (34). Thus, in addition to high rates of duplication and low rates  
233 of homology among ORs, incomplete RNA-seq data may confound comparisons of numbers of  
234 receptors across species. Instead, we measured rates of evolution for each gene per species.

235

236 To measure differences in rates of evolution between animal-feeding and plant-visiting bats,  
237 we used cumulative root-to-tip branch lengths for several reasons. First, comparing codon and  
238 nucleotide rates from their corresponding trees is conceptually similar to measures of  
239 molecular selection such as ratios of rates of nonsynonymous substitutions ( $dN$ ) to rates of  
240 synonymous substitution ( $dS$ ) (11). Second, this method has the added advantage of  
241 incorporating both codon and different nucleotide substitution models into the best-fit  
242 models, incorporating additional information such as transition and transversion parameters  
243 when appropriate to the data set. In this case, codon models were used instead of amino acid  
244 substitution models, as the former were better fits for all olfactory receptor subfamilies. Third,  
245 and crucially, the branch length approach helps overcome the issue of determining true  
246 orthology versus paralogy, which is very challenging in large gene families. Resulting branch  
247 lengths in nucleotide substitutions per codon site for codon-based trees and nucleotide  
248 substitutions per site for nucleotide trees are directly comparable across the entire phylogeny.  
249 The best-fit model of codon lengths as a function of nucleotide lengths including mormoopids  
250 partitioned both intercepts and slopes by gene subfamily (DIC: -18085; Fig. 3). There was no  
251 support for partitioning intercepts or slopes by plant diet, diet categories, or species (DIC > -  
252 11433; Fig. 3A). With the best-fit model, we detected a higher slope in the codon rate for *OR*  
253 subfamily 52, and lower slope for subfamilies 11 and 2/13 (Figs. 3B and 3E). The resulting model  
254 captured important differences in rate scaling across gene subfamilies, as shown in  
255 comparisons between observed and predicted values (Fig. S5). The PCA found 96.1% of the  
256 variation was loaded in the first principal component, with most of the variation explained by  
257 the codon branch lengths. When visualizing clusters within the PCA axes, there was no  
258 clustering by diet (Fig. 2C) but clear clustering of different *OR* subfamilies.

259

#### 260 *Inverse relationship between OR evolution and olfactory epithelium surface area*

261 Finally, we tested whether there was a molecular-morphological relationship that may explain  
262 differences in diet. In multi-response models, both codon branch lengths and olfactory  
263 epithelium surface area are responses with their own modeled errors. Thus, the estimated  
264 coefficients must be interpreted in a multivariate framework. The best multi-response model  
265 including mormoopids (DIC: -37342) only had a weak trend for log body mass of plant-eating  
266 bats relating to codon rates (mean slope = -0.0038, lower = -0.0128, upper = 0.0042, Fig. 4; Fig.  
267 S6, including mormoopids). In contrast, when excluding mormoopids, the best multi-response  
268 model (DIC: -35451) found a strong inverse relationship between codon rates (mean slope: -  
269 0.034, lower = -0.042, -0.028; Fig. 4A) and olfactory epithelium surface area (slope: -1.36, lower  
270 = -1.62, upper = -1.12; Fig. 4B). After accounting for phylogeny, codon lengths, and body mass,  
271 the coefficients of body mass on olfactory epithelium surface area for both animal-feeding  
272 (mean = 0.38, lower = -0.012, upper = 0.79) and plant-visiting bats are positive, but substantially  
273 higher for plant-visiting bats (Fig. 4; mean = 0.68, lower = 0.23, upper 0.65).

274

## 275 **Discussion**

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

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

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

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

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

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



352 to omnivory may have set the stage for later shifts to highly specialized diets. In either case,  
353 an inverse relationship between morphology and protein-coding evolutionary rate emerged  
354 only after controlling for extensive sources of intrinsic variation within the system. This  
355 intriguing pattern warrants further investigation of the interplay among *OR* expression, the  
356 distribution of the tissue expressing these genes, and how evolution shapes both and their  
357 interaction.

358

## 359 **Methods**

360 *Sample Collection:* Specimens for both genetic and morphological analyses were collected over  
361 the course of five field expeditions: two to the Dominican Republic in 2014 and 2015 (collection  
362 permit VAPB-01436), one to Belize in 2014 (Belize Forestry Department Scientific Research and  
363 Collecting Permit CD/60/3/14), one to Peru in 2015 (collection permit 0002287), and one to Costa  
364 Rica in 2017 (collection permit R-041-2017-OT-CONAGEBIO). All genetic tissue and morphological  
365 specimens were exported in accordance with research permit and country guidelines. Samples  
366 were imported in accordance with U.S. Center for Disease Control and U.S. Fish & Wildlife  
367 guidelines. All specimens were collected, handled, and euthanized in accordance with Stony  
368 Brook University IACUC permit 614763-3 for Peru, and 448712-3 for Costa Rica, and Brown  
369 University IACUC 1205016 and 1504000134, University of Georgia IACUC AUP A2009-10003-0 and  
370 A2014 04-016-Y3-A5 for Belize.

371

372 We sampled sets of diverse species to obtain RNA-seq and morphological data. For tissue  
373 collection for RNA-seq, specimens we used published video dissection protocols to sample the  
374 olfactory epithelium(47, 48). In total, 30 species were collected for transcriptomic analyses,  
375 including one emballonurid, one molossid, two mormoopids, and 26 phyllostomids to represent  
376 a diversity of divergent diets (Fig. 1; Fig. S1; Table S1). For morphological sampling, specimens  
377 were collected on the same expeditions listed above, and many of the species replicate the  
378 samples taken for transcriptomic analyses (Table S2). Body mass was measured from living  
379 bats to serve as a proxy for body size. A total 30 species were sampled for morphology, and of  
380 these, 19 species had replicates for both genetic and morphological sampling. Both procedures  
381 are described in detail in the Supplementary Methods.

382

383 *Transcriptomics:* RNA extraction and RNA-seq protocols were the same as those described in a  
384 previously published study(34). Although there was variation in the cDNA library preparation  
385 and RNA sequencing over the course of the project, read lengths only varied from 90bp to  
386 150bp. This variation likely contributes to some differences in transcript assemblies across  
387 samples. While the Supplementary Methods describe the full details of RNA-seq, Table S3  
388 shows which sequencing platforms, sequencing company, and read lengths were performed  
389 for each sample.

390



391 *Transcriptome assembly.* Raw reads were trimmed, cleaned, and assembled in accordance with  
392 a previously published method (34). In summary, because of the duplicative nature of olfactory  
393 receptors, we implemented the Oyster River Protocol v. 2.1.0 (49), which uses three separate  
394 assembly programs, pools assembled reads across approaches, and removes duplicate contigs.  
395 The Oyster River Protocol also provides several quantifiable measures of assembly quality,  
396 including TransRate scores (50) that quantify coverage and segmentation of each transcript.

397  
398 *Olfactory receptor classification.* The assembled transcripts for each species were run through  
399 the published program Olfactory Receptor Assigner (ORA) v. 1.9.1(51). The ORA is a Bioperl v.  
400 1.006924 program that implements the HMMER v. 3.1b algorithm to characterize olfactory  
401 receptors into their respective subfamilies based on conserved binding motifs calculated by  
402 the trainer protein alignments. While some pseudogenes were present in the transcriptomes,  
403 we limited analyses to intact genes that had the potential to be under diversifying or positive  
404 selection.

405  
406 *Quantifying molecular evolution.* Cumulative root-to-tip branch lengths for each tip of the  
407 codon model and nucleotide model gene trees were performed by computing the variance  
408 covariance matrix of each tree and extracting the diagonals of this matrix using ape v. 5.4.1(52)  
409 in R.

410  
411  *$\mu$ CT-scanning and turbinate segmentation.* Formalin-fixed museum specimens were stained in  
412 10% Lugol's iodine solution, mounted in agarose, and scanned in the high-resolution Nikon  
413 H225 ST  $\mu$ CT-scanner. Scan parameters varied depending on specimen size and morphology,  
414 but resolution voxel size ranged from 0.01 to 0.02 mm per scan. Scan parameter details are  
415 available in Table S4. Raw  $\mu$ CT-scan data was reconstructed using in-house Nikon software to  
416 align the center of rotation and correct artifacts with beam hardening parameters.  
417 Reconstructed image stacks were imported into VGStudio v. 3.3(53). for image segmentation of  
418 the main olfactory epithelium. When visible, the olfactory epithelium was segmented using  
419 the "magic wand" tool in the right nasal cavity on each observed turbinal and surrounding  
420 structures. Each segmented object was smoothed through "closing" each surface by a value of  
421 1 and "eroded" by a value of -0.5. Surface areas were calculated within VGStudio after creating  
422 a region of interest of the segmented object and estimating its surface determination by  
423 setting the isovalue to completely include all segmented values (*i.e.*, the entire histogram).

424  
425 *Statistical analyses of evolutionary rates.* Molecular evolution, specimen collections, and  $\mu$ CT-  
426 scanning yielded three types of data, in order: codon and nucleotide branch lengths, body mass,  
427 and olfactory epithelium surface area. Our goal is to integrate molecular evolutionary rates  
428 with morphological variation, but first we had to evaluate each data set separately. We  
429 therefore implemented three sets of interrelated analyses: 1) regressions and principal

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

436  
437 For the first set of regressions, we modeled codon branch lengths as a function of nucleotide  
438 lengths. Although all models included nucleotide lengths as an independent variable, we  
439 tested for different intercepts and slopes partitioned by plant diet, multiple diet categories,  
440 gene subfamily, or species. Details on the error structure used for these groups are presented  
441 in the supplement. To evaluate any patterns of separation in the data not captured by the  
442 regression models, we also performed a principal components analysis of the codon and  
443 nucleotide branch lengths using the `prcomp` function in R.

444  
445 For the second set of models, we regressed the olfactory epithelium surface area against body  
446 mass, both in the log scale to determine the evolutionary allometry of the nose anatomy. First,  
447 we evaluated whether models with directional selection and distinct evolutionary optima were  
448 appropriate for these data, and then tested a series of phylogenetic regressions with identical  
449 or differing intercepts, slopes, or both by diet categories. While we used the marginal  
450 likelihood and parameter estimates to evaluate the directional models, we used the deviance  
451 information criterion (DIC), to assess the phylogenetic regressions. Details on both directional  
452 and non-directional allometric are presented in the supplement.

453  
454 In the third suite of models, we related *OR* evolution and olfactory epithelium surface area by  
455 implementing multivariate models, allowing both codon branch lengths and surface to be  
456 modeled with error. Nucleotide branch lengths and (log) body mass were both included as  
457 predictors in these phylogenetic models, with group specific effects outlined in the  
458 supplement. The DIC was used to select best-fit models. Finally, all MCMCglmm models ran  
459 with and without mormoopid taxa ( $n=3$ ), as their skull morphology is hypervariable and may  
460 confound underlying patterns within the data (28).

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596

## 597 **Figures**

598 **Figure 1.** Phylogeny of cumulative taxa used in this study. Iodine-stained  $\mu$ CT-scans were used  
599 to reconstruct olfactory epithelium of different turbinates. RNA-seq of the main olfactory  
600 epithelium was used to identify protein-coding sequences of expressed olfactory receptors.  
601 Animal-feeding taxa are highlighted in grey, as determined from the continuous values from  
602 Rojas *et al.*, (2018). Numbers on the phylogeny correspond to species illustrations on the right.  
603 Illustrations on the far right are medial sagittal sections of the nasal cavity of respective  
604 species with the turbinate olfactory epithelium illustrated in separate colors. Illustrations were  
605 done by Sara Scranton.

606

607 **Figure 2.** (A) Olfactory epithelium segmented from its distribution along the turbinate bones  
608 of two phyllostomid species. *Artibeus bogotensis* is an obligate frugivorous bat, while  
609 *Gardnerycteris crenulatum* is a specialized insectivore. (B) Differences between main olfactory  
610 epithelium and respiratory epithelium observed from the iodine-stained  $\mu$ CT-scans. This is  
611 example is a transverse section in *Sturnira oporaphilum*. Panel (A) shows how olfactory  
612 epithelium is present on the frontoturbinal and ethmoturbinal I, but more dorsal views of the  
613 transverse section (lower panel) show that these turbinates are now covered in respiratory  
614 epithelium. Skull image from Animal Diversity Web. Colors correspond to respective turbinate  
615 bone shown in Figure 1. (C-D) Output from bayou of theta estimates of olfactory epithelium  
616 surface area trait evolution in branches with regime shifts with greater than (C) 0.25 posterior  
617 probability and (D) 0.1 posterior probability. Colors correspond to branches from tree in figure  
618 1 in which notable rate shifts occur. (E) Parameter estimates of MCMCglmm, testing for a  
619 relationship of olfactory epithelium surface area and body mass, explained by diet. Open circles  
620 denote posterior estimates overlap with zero; grey circles denote 95% credible intervals  
621 overlap with zero; and black circles indicate the entire posterior distribution is above or below  
622 zero. Note that mormoopids were removed from the analyses in panel C. The only regime shift  
623 with greater than 0.5 posterior probability included only mormoopids, shown in Figure S6, S7.

624

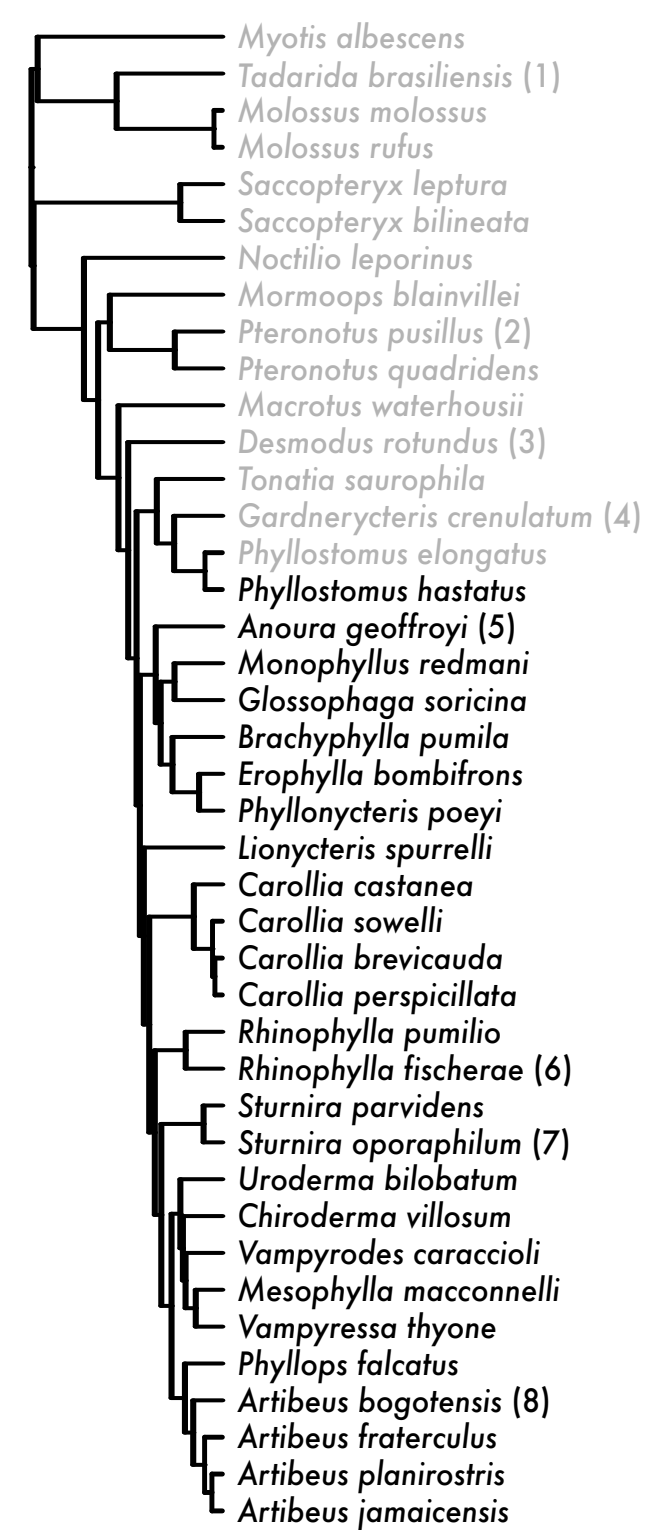
625 **Figure 3.** Branch length estimates of each *olfactory receptor (OR)* gene plotted as nucleotide  
626 rates versus codon model rates and colored by (A) diet and (B) *OR* subfamily. PCA axes of codon  
627 and nucleotide branch lengths colored by (C) diet and (D) *OR* subfamily. Posterior distribution  
628 parameter estimates (E) of hierarchical models testing for relationship of *OR* subfamily and  
629 nucleotide branch lengths with codon branch length. Open circles denote posterior estimates  
630 overlap with zero; grey circles denote 95% credible intervals overlap with zero; and black circles  
631 indicate the entire posterior distribution is above or below zero. Arrows in panels B and D  
632 correspond to higher or lower rates of evolution as shown in panel E.

633

634

635 **Figure 4.** Posterior distributions of parameter estimates of hierarchical models from analyses  
636 combining molecular and morphological data. (A) Estimated coefficients on codon branch  
637 lengths and (B) estimated coefficients of covariates on olfactory epithelium surface area. Open  
638 circles denote posterior estimates overlap with zero; grey circles denote 95% credible intervals  
639 overlap with zero; and black circles indicate the entire posterior distribution is above or below  
640 zero. To interpret these plots, when a coefficient posterior is above zero, there is a positive  
641 relationship with the response, and when it is below zero, there is a negative relationship with  
642 the response.

643



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