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Direct and indirect fitness effects of competition limit evolution of allelopathy

in an invading plant

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Abstract

1. Upon introduction to new continents, invading species encounter novel communities of consumers, pathogens, and competitors. Both phenotypic plasticity and rapid evolution can facilitate adaptation across these heterogenous communities, facilitating further invasion. However, the rate and extent of adaptive evolution on contemporary timescales can be constrained by phenotypic plasticity and limits imposed by genetic co-variation for traits under selection.

2. We measured phenotypic plasticity and quantified genetic co-variation for growth, competition, and fitness among 23 naturally inbred seed families of *Alliaria petiolata* (garlic mustard) collected across its invasive range in eastern North America. After growing a self-pollinated generation in a uniform common garden to reduce maternal effects, we reared second-generation plants in a two-year greenhouse and field experiment with naïve soil from an uninvaded habitat. We measured selection gradients and lifetime fitness when reared alone, with an intraspecific competitor, and under interspecific competition with naïve *Acer saccharum* (sugar maple) saplings.

3. Total glucosinolate production was strongly correlated with the production of chlorophyll *a* (Chl *a*) ($R^2 = 0.45$) such that first principal component (PC1) accounted for 84% of variation in these two traits. Furthermore, PC1 exhibited high plasticity across growing environments ($p < 0.001$) with limited broad-sense heritability ($H^2 = 2.91$; $p = 0.08$). In contrast, investment in glucosinolate production relative to Chl *a* (PC2) was significantly heritable ($H^2 = 16.91$, $p < 0.001$) with minimal plasticity across treatments. Causal analysis revealed that plastic variation for higher Chl *a* + glucosinolate production (PC1) had an indirect positive effect on *A. petiolata* fitness via a direct, negative effect on *A.*

saccharum performance. In contrast, heritable variation for higher glucosinolate

investment (PC2) had a direct, positive effect on *A. saccharum* performance and an

indirect negative effect on *A. petiolata* fitness.

4. *Synthesis.* Applying causal inference, we find that evolution of allelopathy in *A. petiolata*

has been constrained by (i) a lack of genetic variation, (ii) selection against glucosinolate

investment under interspecific competition, and (iii) phenotypic plasticity. These factors

limit adaptive evolution but maintain fitness during population growth as plants switch

from interspecific to intraspecific competition during invasion.

Introduction

Adaptive evolution over geological timescales should produce populations that are well-adapted to their local environment. Yet, a variety of invasive taxa spread to new geographic regions where they displace native species, despite having much less time to adapt to the new biotic and abiotic challenges they face. This phenomenon is sometimes called the 'paradox of invasion' (Sax and Brown 2011), which can be resolved through phenotypic plasticity and rapid evolution, each of which can help invasive species to thrive in variable environments. For decades, biologists have speculated about the importance of plasticity and adaptation to the spread of invasive species but the relative contribution of each remains an area of active research (Baker and Stebbins 1965; Parker et al. 2003; Richards et al. 2006; Barrett 2016).

There is growing evidence that rapid evolution can facilitate invasion, possibly by relaxing evolutionary constraints in the introduced range (reviewed in Colautti and Lau [2015]). For example, life history evolution in expanding populations has been shown to increase rates of spread in greenhouse and growth chamber experiments (Williams et al. 2016; Ochocki and Miller 2017; Szücs et al. 2017). In North America, the invasive perennial herb *Lythrum salicaria* (purple loosestrife) rapidly evolved to adapt to differences in season length along a latitudinal gradient, increasing reproductive fitness by an order of magnitude (Colautti and Barrett 2013). In Australia, *Rhinella marina* (cane toads) evolved morphological changes that increase dispersal at the invasion front, increasing the rate of spread (Philips et al. 2006; Shine et al. 2021). These examples demonstrate how evolution can occur rapidly in invasive species along abiotic environments and density gradients. However, less is known about the evolutionary response of invasive species to novel biotic interactions arising during invasion.

Several hypotheses attribute invasions to ecological and genetic differences between native and

introduced regions, but experimental studies are often inconclusive. In particular, the loss of

specialist herbivores in invading plant populations could favour the evolution of more

competitive genotypes when costly defences are no longer needed (Blossey and Notzold 1995;

Keane and Crawley 2002; Müller-Schärer et al. 2004; Doorduin and Vrieling 2011). In addition

to defending against herbivory, some secondary metabolites can have allelopathic effects on

competitors (Inderjit et al. 2008; Gomes et al. 2017; Hierro and Callaway 2021; Inderjit et al.

2021). Natural selection may favour higher concentrations of these metabolites in the introduced

range where native competitors are relatively naïve, and thus more susceptible to their effects

(Callaway and Ridenour 2004; Lankau et al. 2009). Hypotheses invoking an escape from

specialist natural enemies or shifts in competitive interactions are not mutually exclusive; for

example, a reduction in herbivory might lead to an evolutionary shift in chemistry from

defensive to allelopathic (Uesugi and Kessler 2013). However, most of the experimental

evidence supporting these hypotheses involves average differences in phenotype between

continents (e.g., Europe and North America), yet biotic and abiotic factors are typically more

variable at the scale of local populations. Indeed, there is good evidence that spatial

autocorrelation and non-random sampling confound experimental comparisons of native and

introduced populations (Colautti et al. 2009; Colautti and Lau 2015). Geographic isolation also

reduces gene flow, facilitating post-introduction evolutionary divergence. As a result, both

neutral markers and heritable trait variation are often more variable among populations within

the introduced range than between ranges (Dlugosch and Parker 2008; Colautti and Lau 2015).

Despite growing evidence for rapid evolution within the introduced range, little is known about

the biotic drivers of divergence among introduced populations.

The 'Chicago School' of ecological genetics defines an experimental approach to study trait

evolution in natural populations by separately assessing natural selection and heritable genetic

variation (Endler 1986; Conner and Hartl 2004). Under this framework, the strength and

direction of natural selection is estimated by linear regression), and a multiple regression can

quantify both direct selection on a single trait and indirect selection via selection on correlated

traits (Lande and Arnold 1983. In addition to quantifying natural selection, genetic variation for

traits under selection can be estimated as the proportion of trait variation explained by genetic

relatedness among individuals. Both natural selection and heritable trait variation are necessary

for adaptive evolution to occur, yet both factors are assessed concurrently to study evolution

during invasion (Colautti and Lau 2015). For example, chlorophyll a (Chl a) and glucosinolate

production are often linked via pleiotropy (Chen et al. 2012) and chromosomal linkage (Qian et

al. 2016). Pleiotropy constrains short-term evolutionary changes such that evolution of

glucosinolate production could occur via direct selection on glucosinolates or as an indirect

response to direct selection on Chl a. Selection gradients and genetic variation jointly predict the

rate and direction of adaptive evolution, but both are contingent on the environmental context in

which they are measured.

Understanding evolution across continental to intercontinental scales requires careful

consideration of the context-dependency of selection at the local population scale (Colautti &

Lau 2015). For example, secondary metabolites in plants can have both direct effects on fitness

and indirect effects mediated through ecological interactions. These indirect ecological effects

are not easily assessed using the Lande-Arnold multiple regression framework (Scheiner et al.

2000). Instead, structural equation models, path analysis, and other forms of causal analysis test

hypotheses about natural selection acting through direct and indirect ecological mechanisms

(Kingsolver and Schemske 1991; Scheiner et al. 2000; Shipley 2016). Causal inference can be

particularly useful for investigating allelopathy and competition.

The biennial herb *Alliaria petiolata* (garlic mustard) is an emerging model system in ecological

genetics (Alabi et al. 2021) with relevance to broader questions about the role of ecological

interactions in the rapid evolution and spread of invasive species (Rodgers et al. 2022). A

member of the mustard family (Brassicaceae), *A. petiolata* is native to Eurasia and invading

forest understories of North America, where it can be an aggressive weed (Rodgers et al. 2008).

Members of the Brassicaceae family produce glucosinolates for a variety of ecological purposes

including defence against pathogens and herbivores, and tolerance to other environmental

stresses (Holst and Fenwick 2003; Hopkins and Hüner 2009). Glucosinolates produced by *A.*

petiolata enter the soil through shoot decomposition and root exudation (Barto and Cipollini

2009; Cantor et al. 2011), which can disrupt mycorrhizal communities and reduce mycorrhizal

colonization of host plants (Roberts and Anderson 2001; Stinson et al. 2006; Callaway et al.

2008; Wolfe et al. 2008; Cantor et al. 2011). However, these indirect allelopathic effects are

inconsistently observed, depending on experimental conditions and the presence of susceptible

neighbours and mycorrhizae (Burke 2008; Barto et al. 2011; Burke et al. 2019; Duchesneau et al.

2021; Roche et al. 2021). Understanding the context dependency of glucosinolate-soil

interactions remains an active area of research in this species.

Glucosinolate concentration in *A. petiolata* is a good candidate trait for investigating

environment-dependent, eco-evolutionary feedbacks involving allelopathic interactions because

invading populations shift from primarily interspecific competition to strong intraspecific

competition as populations grow (Lankau et al. 2009; Evans et al. 2016). Glucosinolate evolution

can be constrained by pleiotropy and chromosomal linkage with Chl *a* production and other

performance traits (Misyura et al. 2013; Qian et al. 2016), which would limit adaptive evolution.

Plasticity can also limit the evolutionary response to selection by masking heritable genetic

variation, and glucosinolates in *A. petiolata* is known to vary across competitive environments

(Cipollini 2002; Cipollini et al. 2005; Smith 2015). Understanding trait correlations, genetic

variation, and phenotypic plasticity across competitive environments is therefore crucial for

reconstructing the history of adaptive evolution during invasion and for predicting future

evolutionary trajectories.

Here, we test the hypothesis that introduced populations of *A. petiolata* evolved local differences

in glucosinolate investment as populations shifted from inter- to intra-specific competition

during invasion. Specifically, we address four main predictions. First, we ask how much genetic

variation exists for glucosinolate investment in *A. petiolata* genotypes sampled across eastern

North America. A lack of heritable genetic variation represents an evolutionary constraint.

Second, we assess plasticity in glucosinolate investment across competition treatments.

Phenotypic plasticity can simultaneously limit adaptive evolution while improving survival and

reproduction across heterogenous environments. Third, we ask whether natural selection reverses

from favouring higher glucosinolate investment under interspecific competition to favouring

lower investment under intraspecific competition and non-competition treatments, as this is a key

fitness trade-off required for eco-evolutionary dynamics of glucosinolate production. Finally, we

test whether glucosinolate investment increases fitness of *A. petiolata* indirectly via suppression

of an interspecific competitor. This is important because the evolution of allelopathy requires a

fitness benefit that is mediated indirectly through suppression of competition. To address these

questions, we combine causal analysis with methods from the Chicago School to estimate direct

and indirect selection, characterize genetic variation, and quantify phenotypic plasticity.

Materials and Methods

Study species

Alliaria petiolata (garlic mustard) is emerging as a model system for integrated studies in

invasion biology (Kueffer et al. 2013; Colautti et al. 2014; Alabi et al. 2021). Native to much of

Eurasia, it was first recorded in North America in 1868 in Long Island, New York (Rodgers

2008). Most densely populated along the East Coast of North America, *A. petiolata* is also found

in the Prairies and along the West Coast between Alaska and Oregon (Anderson 2012). As an

obligate biennial species, it emerges in early spring, overwinters as a rosette, and then forms a

flowering bolt in the following spring (Cavers et al. 1979; Anderson et al. 1996; Cruden et al.

1996). *Alliaria petiolata* reproduces sexually and it is pollinated by a variety syrphid flies,

midges and bees, yet over 80% of seeds are produced through self-fertilization and roughly 80%

of the genetic variation for neutral markers is partitioned among populations, consistent with

high selfing rates (Durka et al. 2005). Despite high selfing rates, the species does not tend to

suffer from inbreeding depression, (Mullarkey et al. 2013) possibly due to its hexaploid genome,

genetic purging, and periodic outcrossing.

Acer saccharum (sugar maple) is a shade tolerant tree that is native to over 25 different forest

types in North America; it typically grows in cool moist regions between the latitudes of

approximately 35° and 50° (Ralph 1998). Its seeds exhibit very high germination success (~95%)

and densities regularly exceed 37 saplings per m^2 in the forest understory (Godman et al. 1990).

The high sapling density and reliance on root mycorrhizal associations make *A. saccharum* a

primary competitor of *A. petiolata* and a good model for allelopathy studies (Stinson et al. 2006).

Early molecular work identified reduced root colonization by mycorrhizae where the two species

co-occur (Barto et al. 2011), though a detailed high-throughput sequencing study did not detect

an effect of *A. petiolata* on soil endomycorrhizal communities (Duchesneau et al. 2021).

Seed sources

Alliaria petiolata seeds were collected between 2009–2012 as part of the Global Garlic Mustard

Field Survey (Colautti et al. 2014) with methods detailed therein. Our experiment uses the

offspring of a single plant per population (i.e., "seed family") as a representative of the naturally

inbred parent population. Seed families are thought to adequately capture the genetic profile of

the parent population, because *A. petiolata* exhibits high inbreeding and populations harbor low

within-population genetic variation (Durka et al. 2005). To dilute maternal effects on growth and

fitness, seed families were first grown in an outdoor common garden at the Queen's University

Biological Station (QUBS; 44.5671° N, 76.3250° W) in 2017-2018. Four seed families were

additionally derived from the original field collection to increase the geographical scope of

samples (Figure 1; Table 1).

On May 8, 2019, we collected *Acer saccharum* saplings from a natural population located in a

forest understory adjacent to a gravel road near the common garden site at QUBS. This section

of the forest was not yet invaded, but it appeared to be suitable habitat as there was an expanding

A. petiolata population as near as 25 m. Blocks of soil, approximately 15cm deep with an

abundance of *A. saccharum* saplings, were transported back to the greenhouse where saplings

were placed into experimental pots. We retained soil around roots to avoid disrupting root hairs

and associated mycorrhizal connections. Additional field soil was collected from this area by

removing debris and other plant material from the surface of the soil, and then collecting the top

layer to a depth of ~ 12 cm. The soil was then thoroughly homogenized using shovels and rakes

prior to use in the glasshouse.

Experimental design

Alliaria petiolata seeds were stratified in the dark at 4°C in Parafilm™-sealed petri dishes

containing 2mL of deionized water and untreated field soil, to maintain characteristics and

microbiota of natural soil. We monitored germination from March 7–May 7, 2019. Seeds that did

not germinate by March 26, 2019, were forced to germinate using scarification and 2mL of

0.001M gibberellic acid, as per Sosnoskie and Cardina (2009).

Upon germination, we transferred seedlings into 2cm x 2cm plug trays filled with a 1:1 mixture

of sand and Sun Grow Sunshine® Mix #2 potting soil, which does not contain added nutrients.

Trays were watered as needed with deionized water to maintain soil saturation. To limit variation

in growth among seed families with different germination times, we maintained seedlings at a

constant 10°C (12h half daylight) in a growth chamber in the Queen's University Phytotron.

We transplanted all available seedlings on May 9–10, 2019, into 4-inch plastic pots (surface area

= 81cm^2; volume = 524.39 cm^3) containing a 1:1 mixture of field soil and Sun Grow Sunshine$^®$

Mix #2 potting soil. Pots were moved to a glasshouse room in the Queen's University Phytotron,

and we randomized the location of each pot across 5 tables. In the glasshouse, plants received

natural light, filtered with a shade cloth to simulate a forest overstory, and were broadcast

watered with a rubber hose once or twice per day as needed to maintain soil that was moist to the

touch.

To determine the competitor pairs to be used in the intraspecific treatment, we wrote a short

algorithm in R to randomly pair individuals from different seed families without repeating pair

combinations. To limit human error in labelling and data collection, we used the baRcodeR

package in R to generate a unique, scannable 2-dimensional barcode for each plant (Wu et al.

2020). The effective total sample size was 365 *A. petiolata* plants, with a median of 16 plants per

seed family. However, sample size varied across 23 families due to variation in germination,

survival, and sample loss associated with glucosinolate and Chl *a* processing (Table 1).

Starting with 23 genetically distinct *A. petiolata* accessions from the Global Garlic Mustard Field

Survey (Colautti et al. 2014), we grew at least 3 individuals from each accession in each of 3

different competitive environments: (i) alone, (ii) interspecific competition with *A. saccharum*,

and (iii) intraspecific competition with a different *A. petiolata* seed family (Table 1; Figure A1).

We also grew 31 *A. saccharum* seedlings alone (i.e., the "maple alone" treatment), as a control

for comparison with *A. saccharum* growth and survival in the interspecific treatment. In natural

conditions, *A. petiolata* density can be as many as 18 plants/dm^2 in April and dwindle to as little

as 0.6 plants/dm^2 by June (Anderson et al. 1996). In comparison, density in our experiment was

either 1.23 plants/dm^2 in the alone treatment or 2.46 plants/dm^2 in the intraspecific treatment.

In the first growing season, these plants grew in pots at the Queen's University Phytotron to limit

environmental influences on leaf chemistry traits, growth rate, and total leaf area. *Alliaria*

petiolata is a biennial herb that requires an overwinter vernalization period to promote flowering

(Cavers et al. 1979). Therefore, plants were transplanted from the glasshouse into a field site

(QUBS, 44.56 °N, 76.32 °W) at the end of the first growing season, to allow plants to

acclimatize to cold temperatures before winter. This not only promoted flowering of *A. petiolata*,

but additionally allowed us to assess overwinter survival and lifetime fecundity under natural

field conditions.

Field common garden

On October 5, 2019, we transported all surviving plants from the greenhouse into a field plot at

the QUBS field site, which included 2 m tall aluminum fencing to exclude vertebrate herbivores.

We allowed plants to acclimate to colder temperatures by transplanting all plants in the fall, on

October 5, 2019. To limit interactions with surrounding vegetation, we buried pots directly into

the field soil, arranged into 49 experimental blocks with dimensions 0.6 m × 1.2 m and 15 cm

deep, with pots spaced 10 cm apart.

281
282 **Figure 1.** Sampling locations of naturally inbred seed families used in the experiment (green

283 dots) excluding one family (EFCC2-4-80), which was sampled from northern Italy. The yellow

284 "X" indicates the location of the field common garden site at the Queen's University Biological

285 Station (QUBS), and where *Acer saccharum* seedlings were collected.

293   **Table 1.** Summary of seed sampling locations and number of surviving individuals from each

294   accession in each of three treatments: alone, intraspecific competition, and interspecific

295   competition.

Accession	Lat	Long	Alt (m)	N Alone	N Intra	N Inter
JBCHY1-1-50	38.95	-75.05	25.9	8	9	9
JBBLB2-1-20	38.91	-75.05	0	7	7	8
CRSOSO-3-40	44.9	-68.68	59	8	6	7
SMITH1-20	42.43	-76.39	326	4	9	8
CWRIC2-X2	37.54	-77.51	30	8	5	7
DVGM-20	40.88	-74.96	232	7	5	8
KVEDG1-1-80	39.44	-76.29	2	6	8	6
MHBUR1-4-20	41.97	-71.71	128	8	5	7
WSSWM3-1-0	39.91	-75.36	23	6	5	9
JWBOY-2-80	39.06	-78.07	250.9	7	6	5
MAVBEL2-1-20*	41.17	-95.9	358	5	6	6
VRCAN-1-40	42	-73.33	203	6	4	6
VRPET2-3-20	42.53	-72.19	329.1	8	4	4
BWPEM1-9-0	37.37	-80.52	1156	4	6	5
EFCC2-4-80	45.7	11.69	73	4	4	5
JARI1-1-80	41.48	-71.52	20.7	5	5	3
SMAKC1-B*	41.17	-81.64	307	4	4	5
VSGARO1-1-0	44.23	-69.78	62	5	3	5
MSMID1-1-20	41.6	-72.7	5	4	2	4
CBMCK1-1-0*	40.04	-105.23	1606.9	4	4	1
PDVRT1-20	40.22	-74.52	52	3	4	2
MHNAT1-2-0	41.96	-71.35	60	2	2	3
RULEB1-20*	40.33	-76.51	146.3	2	3	1
Total				**125**	**116**	**124**

*Seed families were derived from the original field collection

Greenhouse measurements (year 1)

To account for variation in time to germination and seedling size at transplant, we measured the

length of the largest leaf and the number of true leaves on *A. petiolata* on May 16 and 17, 2019.

To account for variation in *A. saccharum* size at transplant, we measured stem height, the

number of true leaves and the length of the largest leaf on *A. saccharum*. At the end of the first

growing period in the glasshouse (August 14 to 21, 2019), we estimated total leaf area (TLA) on

both plants as the leaf length multiplied by leaf width, summed across all leaves (hereafter

TLA_{AS} for *A. saccharum* and TLA_{AP} for *A. petiolata*).

Growth rates of *A. petiolata* were calculated from rosette growth in bi-weekly measurements.

Rosette size at each two-week census was measured by analyzing top and lateral images of each

plant. As detailed in Appendix A of the Supporting Information, we used a machine learning

algorithm in Python with packages OpenCV2 and PlantCV to identify pixels corresponding to

leaves, and then to count the number of leaf pixels as an relative measure of rosette size (Bradski

2000; Python Core Team 2015; Berry et al. 2018). These estimates were validated by hand-

measurements (see Supporting Information Appendix A). Plants were imaged every two weeks

over the course of two days, but most growth occurred between the first (May 27 and 28) and

second (June 11 and 12) censuses. We calculated relative growth rate between these two time

periods:

$$\text{Relative growth rate} = \frac{\ln(Rosette\ size_2) - \ln(Rosette\ size_1)}{t_2 - t_1} \qquad 1$$

where *t* denotes the time in seconds (Unix time), and subscripts indicate the census.

Leaf chemistry

To quantify glucosinolate and Chl *a* concentration in *A. petiolata*, we sampled leaf tissue at the

end of the first growing season (August 14 to 21, 2019). Two leaf punches of 8 mm diameter

from a single leaf were immediately placed in an Eppendorf® 1.5mL flip-cap tube and flash-

frozen in liquid N_2 prior to storing at -80 °C. Up to two leaves were sampled per plant, and the

two smallest leaves that were greater than 30 mm in length were chosen for sampling from each

plant. We excluded leaves with more than 50% senescence and/or pathogen damage. Leaf area

(length × width) was also recorded for each leaf sampled, hereafter referred to as leaf area of the

sampled leaf, to account for dilution effects associated with leaf cell expansion (Cipollini and

Gruner 2007).

Leaf tissue was kept frozen and pulverized using two cycles of 15 seconds using a Next Advance

Bullet Blender® at maximum speed (6 kHz). We submerged in liquid N_2 between cycles to limit

thawing of the plant tissue. After pulverization, we added 0.55 mL of 100 % methanol and

incubated in an Eppendorf Mixmate Vortex shaker for 1 hour at 25 °C and 300 rpm, followed by

centrifugation for 2 minutes at 2500 g (Eppendorf, 5427 R). Two 20 μL extracts of supernatant

were evaporated and resuspended in 50μL of 100% methanol. Then, Chl *a* concentration was

quantified with UV spectroscopy following Ritchie (2006):

$$\text{Chl } a \left(\frac{\mu g}{ml}\right) = -8.0962(A_{652} - A_{750}) + 16.5169(A_{665} - A_{750}) \qquad 2$$

where *A* is the absorbance and subscripts denote the wavelength in nanometers (nm).

From the remaining supernatant, 465 µL was rinsed with 650 µL of hexane to remove

hydrophobic pigments that overlap the target wavelength (Haribal and Renwick 2001; Callaway

et al. 2008). Samples were centrifuged at 2500 g for 10 minutes at 4 °C. Glucosinolate

concentration of the supernatant was quantified with UV spectroscopy following methods in

Ishida et al. (2011) and Ishida et al. (2012), which we modified by using 100 µL of 3.5 mM

sodium tetrachloropalladate (NaCl$_4$Pd) instead of 3 mL of 2 mM NaCl$_4$Pd, to enable assays in a

96-well plate (Mawlong et al. 2017). Known concentrations (0.0625, 0.1250, 0.2500, 0.5000, and

1.0000 mg/ml) of sinigrin were used as a standard as it is one of the most abundant

glucosinolates in *A. petiolata* and is suspected to have allelopathic effects (Vaughn and Berhow

1999). The assays were read at 425 nm before and after adding an equal volume of NaCl$_4$Pd.

This diluted the second sample by half; therefore, we divided the first reading by 2 and

subtracted from the second reading to estimate total glucosinolate concentration:

$$\text{Total glucosinolate (mg/ml)} = 0.69\left(A_2 - \frac{A_1}{2}\right) - 0.15 \qquad\qquad 3$$

Where A is the absorbance at 425 nm and subscripts denote before (A_1) and after NaCl$_4$Pd was

added (A_2). Glucosinolate concentration was estimated from a standard curve of sinigrin

(Supporting Information Figure A3).

As a more stringent quality control, we extracted glucosinolates from *A. petiolata* leaf material to

generate a standard sample to use as a control in every 96-well assay we performed. If the

glucosinolate concentration of the standard sample in any 96-well plate assays was more than 2.5

standard deviations from the mean glucosinolate concentration of the standard sample, the entire

96-well plate assay was discarded. Some samples were also lost due to cracking in the flip-cap

tube during processing, or were excluded from sampling because they had observable pathogen

damage or leaf senescence. Of the 506 plants in the experiment, 267 plants had samples from

two leaves, 98 plants had samples from one leaf, and 141 plants had no samples. Glucosinolate

and Chl *a* were averaged in plants with samples from two leaves for analyses.

Biotic interactions

By using non-sterile field soil, we exposed plants to naturally occurring pathogens and

germination of spores and small seeds present in the soil, which were primarily represented by

Sphagnum moss, which covered the soil surface, and ferns from the family Dryopteridaceae,

which colonized sporadically. On October 1, 2019, the number of ferns in each pot were counted

to a maximum of 15 individual plants to use as a covariate in our analysis. On *A. petiolata*

leaves, we observed thrips (order Thysanoptera), a powdery mildew fungus identified as

Erysiphe cruciferarum, and black rot (*Xanthomonas campestris*). These pathogens commonly

infect the Brassicaceae (Ciola and Cipollini 2011; Vicente and Holub 2013), and were identified

based on the characteristics of leaf lesions (see Supporting Information Figure A2 for examples).

Enemy abundance was evaluated by photographing the same leaves that were chosen for

glucosinolate and Chl *a* quantification. On each leaf, thrip damage and *X. campestris* lesions

were counted, and the presence of *E. cruciferarum* was recorded (Figure A2). *Acer saccharum*

also exhibited leaf damage, observable as leaf holes likely of thrip origin, which were small but

still visible to the naked eye. The presence of leaf damage on each leaf was recorded while

TLA$_{AS}$ was measured, and the proportion of damaged *A. saccharum* leaves on each plant was

used to indicate pathogen damage for that species.

Field measurements (year 2)

On May 13, 2020, we recorded overwinter survivorship. At the end of year 2 (July 8 to 9, 2020),

siliques from all remaining *A. petiolata* plants, and the shoots of all remaining *A. saccharum*

plants were harvested at the soil base. Plant material was then dried to constant weight before

measuring dry biomass. Additionally, we separately measured silique biomass as our estimate of

reproductive fitness in *A. petiolata*, whereas shoot biomass was our estimate of performance of

A. saccharum. As a biennial, lifetime fitness of *A. petiolata* was calculated as the joint

distribution of survival and silique biomass at the end of the experiment, including plants that did

not survive to reproduce (lifetime fitness = 0).

Principal components analysis

Multicollinearity in regression analysis can produce unreliable p-values and coefficients with

large standard errors (Crawley 2007). As noted in the introduction, Glucosinolates and Chl *a* are

often correlated due to chromosomal linkage and pleiotropy, which can compromise estimates of

natural selection. Therefore, we conducted a principal component analysis (PCA) to define

biologically meaningful axes of variation while avoiding the problem of multicollinearity,

following Colautti and Barrett (2011). We also quantified the extent of plasticity and genetic

variation along both principal component axes, as described in the next section.

In addition to the PCA on Chl *a* and total glucosinolates, we ran two other PCAs to summarize

the transplant size measurements of *A. saccharum* (TS_{AS}) and *A. petiolata* (TS_{AP}). The TS_{AS}

PCA included stem height, largest leaf length and number of leaves, all measured after

transplant, as well as stem height, number of leaves and TLA_{AS}, all measured at the end of year 1

(Supporting Information Table B1). The TS_{AP} PCA included initial largest leaf length and

number of true leaves, measured at transplant (Table B2). The first principal component of each

PCA were used in our statistical models, as described below.

Estimating genetic variance and plasticity

Statistical mixed models were used for each *A. petiolata* trait to estimate the proportion of total

phenotypic variation explained by genetic variation (G) among inbred seed families, plasticity

due to environmental (E) variation across competition treatments, and genetic variation for

plasticity (G × E) as the statistical interaction term. Each model took the form of a variance

partition analysis (Lynch and Walsh 1998; Crawley 2007) with each *A. petiolata* trait as a

dependent variable in a model with seed family and a family-by-treatment interaction as random

effects.

Mixed effects models were fit using the package glmmTMB in R (Brooks et al. 2017; R Core

Team 2020) and the significance of each effect was assessed using a likelihood ratio test (LRT).

Greenhouse bench and position within the field common garden were included only when

significant as determined by LRT, and we included leaf area as a covariate in models of leaf

chemistry traits. Reproducible R code for all statistical models is available through Dryad (doi:

XXX).

Multivariate selection analysis of *Alliaria petiolata*

We measured selection using standardized selection gradients, which are partial regression

coefficients estimating the change in mean fitness in response to units of standard deviation of a

trait (Lande and Arnold 1983; Matsumura et al. 2012). Therefore, we first standardized fitness by

dividing each individual fitness value by the mean, and we standardized traits for selection

analysis to a mean of zero and standard deviation of one.

Mixed effects models were fitted to four separate models with TLA_{AP}, survival, fecundity, and

lifetime fitness, each as a response variable. In each case, the full model included an interaction

term for PC1 (i.e., general glucosinolate and Chl *a* production) and treatment, and a second

interaction term between relative glucosinolate investment (PC2) and treatment. These two-way

interactions represent a statistical test of whether the slope of direct selection on PC1 and PC2

differ across competition treatments. Our statistical models also included the fixed effects of

bench, fern abundance, TS_{AP}, relative growth rate, thrip damage, *X. campestris* infection, and *E.*

cruciferarum presence. The random effect of seed family was also included in all maximum

models. Fitness measured in the field common garden also included TLA_{AP} as a fixed effect

(covariate) and the random effects of row and column describing the spatial location of each

individual. A model of best fit for each fitness measurement was determined by sequentially

performing likelihood ratio tests of hierarchical models derived from the full model outlined

above.

Fecundity, lifetime fitness, fern abundance, thrip damage, *X. campestris* infection, glucosinolate

concentration, and Chl *a* concentration were each log-transformed to meet assumptions of

normality. If PC1 or PC2 was a significant predictor, the model was reassessed after controlling

for leaf area of the sampled leaf, because plant metabolites are most concentrated in younger,

smaller leaves, making PC1 and PC2 potentially autocorrelated with performance and fitness

(Cipollini and Gruner 2007). When family was a significant predictor, a separate model

excluding family was used when we wanted to include effects of heritable genetic variation.

A generalized linear model with a binomial error distribution and a logit link was used for model

selection of survival rates. Minimum adequate models were then converted to standardized

selection gradients after all terms were assessed for significance. Standardized selection

gradients of survival data were obtained by dividing data by the mean survival rate and fitting the

model with a gaussian error distribution (Hajduk et al. 2020). We did this because the predicted

response to selection is proportional to the additive genetic covariance between a trait and

fitness.

Selection gradients measure direct selection on a trait while controlling for selection on

correlated traits. To predict the change in mean trait value from one generation to the next, we

measured selection differentials for PC1 and PC2 in each treatment by subtracting the

phenotypic mean of all individuals from the phenotypic mean of individuals that survived; this

estimated change in mean phenotype includes the effects of direct selection on the trait and

indirect selection on correlated traits.

Multivariate selection analysis of *Acer saccharum* performance

As with *A. petiolata*, we used model selection with likelihood ratio tests of nested models to

assess the significance of interspecific competition on TLA_{AS} in year 1 and on the log-

transformed *A. saccharum* shoot biomass in year two (to meet normality assumptions). To assess

the average effect of interspecific competition on *A. saccharum*, the fixed effects of TS_{AS}, fern

abundance, bench, leaf damage and treatment (i.e., *A. saccharum* alone vs interspecific

competition treatment) were included in our statistical models.

To test whether glucosinolate production or unmeasured *A. petiolata* traits might affect *A.*

saccharum performance, we again used model selection with likelihood ratio tests on *A.*

saccharum performance in year 1 and 2. Fixed effects included TS_{AS}, leaf damage and fern

abundance, as well as the *A. petiolata* traits: relative growth rate, TLA_{AP}, PC1, PC2, and seed

family. Random effects included greenhouse bench, as well as field row and column in the year 2

model.

Path analysis of indirect effects

As with selection gradients, path coefficients are analogous to partial regression coefficients but

the latter can measure selection on a trait through hypothesized causal relationships (Scheiner et

al. 2000). We used standardized path gradients to measure direct selection on glucosinolate

production (PC1 and PC2) resulting from the allelopathic effect of glucosinolates on *A.*

saccharum. Four hypothetical path scenarios were analyzed, one for each *A. petiolata*

performance/fitness measure as the response, namely TLA_{AP}, survival, fecundity, and lifetime

fitness. Each path scenario included the direct effects of PC1 and PC2 on *A. petiolata*

performance/fitness, and the indirect effects of PC1 and PC2 on *A. petiolata* performance/fitness

via impacts on *A. saccharum* performance in year 1. We also included the significant predictors

of *A. saccharum* and *A. petiolata* performance in each. Greenhouse bench, field row and column

were not included in path analyses, as path analysis cannot handle categorical variables.

We used the Lavaan package (Rosseel 2012) for each path analysis, using permutation tests with

10,000 iterations to test for model significance. Each permutation test involved resampling either

PC1, PC2 or *A. saccharum* performance, refitting the model with these data, extracting the test

statistic, z, and taking its absolute value to generate a sampling distribution of z. The proportion

of random z-values greater than the true z-value gave the p-value ($\alpha = 0.05$). Separate tests were

performed for the effect of *A. saccharum* performance on *A. petiolata* fitness, the direct effects of

PC1 and PC2 on *A. petiolata* fitness, and the indirect effects of PC1 and PC2 on *A. petiolata*

fitness through *A. saccharum* performance.

Results

Mortality in the greenhouse (year 1) was 2.29 % for *A. petiolata* and 1.53 % for *A. saccharum*

but increased under field conditions (year 2) to 69.66 % for *A. petiolata* and 6.25 % for *A.*

saccharum. Total leaf area of *A. petiolata* (TLA_{AP}), fecundity, and lifetime fitness were lowest in

the intraspecific treatment (Supporting Information Table B3). For example, mean fecundity was

3.13 g (95 % CI = ± 0.84 g) in the alone treatment, 1.78 g (95 % CI = ± 0.83 g) in the

interspecific treatment and 1.07 g (95 % CI = ± 0.38 g) in the intraspecific treatment. In contrast,

A. petiolata mortality was highest in the interspecific treatment (73.62 %) compared to 68.18 %

(120/176) in the intraspecific treatment, and 65.27 % (109/167) in the alone treatment (Table

B3).

Principal component analysis

Consistent with studies of other species, we found that glucosinolate and Chl *a* production were

strongly correlated (r^2 = 0.43, p < 0.001). In the PCA of glucosinolate and Chl *a* production, PC1

accounted for 84% of the variation in these two traits, whereas PC2 accounted for 16 % (Figure

2, Supporting Information Table B4). Higher PC1 values represent individuals with greater leaf

tissue concentrations of both glucosinolates and Chl *a*. We therefore refer to PC1 as total

metabolite production. In contrast, higher PC2 values represent individuals with a higher

production of glucosinolates relative to Chl *a*, which we refer to as relative glucosinolate

investment. Mean PC1 was greatest in the alone treatment (0.47; 95 % CI = ±0.19), followed by

the intraspecific treatment (–0.05; 95 % CI = ±0.26), and the interspecific treatment (–0.43; 95 %

CI = ±0.21), while PC2 was similar across treatments (Supporting Information Table B3).

Figure 2. Bivariate plot of glucosinolate and Chl *a* production with approximate principal

component eigenvectors PC1 (red) and PC2 (blue). The first principal component (PC1)

represents total metabolite production and accounts for 84 % of the total variation in these traits.

The second principal component (PC2) represents relative investment in glucosinolate

production and accounted for 16% of the total variation. Higher PC2 values reflect greater

production of glucosinolates relative to Chl *a*.

Plasticity and genetic variation

We found significant genetic variation amongst the 23 *A. petiolata* seed families for survival,

transplant size (TS$_{AP}$), lifetime fitness, glucosinolate production, and PC2 (Table 2). Seed family

explained 28.59 % of the variation in TS$_{AP}$, 17.96 % of the variation in survival and 7.38 % of

the variation in lifetime fitness (all $p < 0.001$). Notably, seed family only explained 7.47 % of

variation in glucosinolate production, and it was not a significant predictor of PC1 ($p = 0.08$) or

Chl *a* production ($p = 0.19$). In contrast, the effect of seed family on PC2 was highly significant

($P < 0.001$) and explained 16.91 % of the phenotypic variance. Of the traits with detectable

genetic variation, only glucosinolate production and lifetime fitness varied significantly among

treatments. Transplant size (TS_{AP}) was a significant predictor of relative growth rate, total leaf

area (TLA_{AP}) and fecundity, but had little effect on the magnitude of variance estimates

(Supporting Information Table B5). Genetic variation was not detectable in the remaining traits,

which all exhibited strong plastic responses to treatment. We did not detect significant genetic

variation for plasticity in any traits in the form of statistical interactions between seed family by

competition treatment (Table 2).

579   **Table 2.** Percent of total phenotypic variation explained by family (broad sense heritability

580   [H^2]), treatment (plasticity) and a family-by-treatment interaction (genetic variation in

581   plasticity/reaction norms).

Variables	Family (H^2)	Treatment	Family × Treatment
	% (χ^2, p)	% (χ^2, p)	% (χ^2, p)
Transplant size	**28.59 (107.5, < 0.001)**	0.13 (0.3, 0.56)	2.57 (1.4, 0.24)
Chl a*†	2.21 (1.7, 0.19)	**8.54 (27.1, < 0.001)**	< 0.1 (0, 1)
Glucosinolate*†	**7.47 (14.0, < 0.001)**	**8.78 (26.3, < 0.001)**	3.02 (0.6, 0.43)
Total metabolite production (PC1) †	2.91 (3.1, 0.08)	**10.95 (32.5, < 0.001)**	2.13 (0.3, 0.59)
Relative glucosinolate investment (PC2)	**16.91 (39.6, < 0.001)**	< 0.1 (0, 1)	<0.1 (0.1, 0.1)
Relative growth rate	1.89 (3.2, 0.07)	**11.19 (48.9, < 0.001)**	3.22 (1.3, 0.25)
TLA	0.17 (0.9, 0.35)	**27.40 (141.0, < 0.001)**	2.85 (1.8, 0.19)
Survival	**17.96 (22.3, < 0.001)**	0.26 (0.1, 0.79)	< 0.1 (0, 1)
Bolt size	<0.1 (0, 1)	**14.46 (17.1, < 0.001)**	< 0.1 (0, 1)
Fecundity*	< 0.1 (0, 1)	**11.52 (12.0, < 0.001)**	< 0.1 (0, 1)
Lifetime Fitness*	**7.38 (14.2, < 0.001)**	**3.51 (11.7, < 0.001)**	1.44 (0, 1)

Bold indicates $p < 0.05$

* Analyzed on log scale

† Leaf area of the sampled leaf included as a fixed effect.

Effect of *Alliaria petiolata* on *Acer saccharum* performance

When assessing treatment effects, TLA_{AS} in year 1 was best predicted by TS_{AS} ($\beta = +0.39$, $p <$

0.001), fern abundance ($\beta = -0.07$, $p < 0.05$), *A. saccharum* leaf damage ($\beta = -0.13$, $p < 0.001$)

and treatment ($\chi^2 = 17.5$, $p < 0.001$). Compared to the alone treatment, interspecific competition

reduced TLA_{AS} by -12.6% on average ($p < 0.001$). In the second year, *A. saccharum* shoot mass

was best explained by treatment ($\chi^2 = 17.6$, $p < 0.001$) and TS_{AS} only ($\beta = +0.12$, $p < 0.001$).

Interspecific competition reduced *A. saccharum* shoot mass in year 2 by -40.4% on average ($p <$

0.001).

When assessing which *A. petiolata* traits affected *A. saccharum*, TLA_{AS} was best explained by

TS_{AS} ($\beta = +0.40$, $p < 0.001$), *A. saccharum* leaf damage ($\beta = -0.11$, $p < 0.001$) and the two *A.*

petiolata traits, PC1 and PC2. While PC1 was negatively associated with TLA_{AS} ($\beta = -0.11$, $p <$

0.001), PC2 was positively associated with TLA_{AS} ($\beta = +0.07$, $p < 0.05$) (Figure 3). Shoot mass

in year two was best explained by TS_{AS} ($\beta = +0.18$, $p < 0.001$), field row ($\chi^2 = 5.5$, $p < 0.05$), and

the competitor trait, TLA_{AP} ($\beta = -0.13$, $p < 0.001$) (see Table B6 for all *A. saccharum* model

selection results).

Figure 3. Effect of PC1 and PC2 on *Acer saccharum* total leaf area at the end of year 1. The y-axis shows the mean-standardized total leaf area (unitless) after controlling for *A. saccharum* transplant size and leaf damage. The x-axes show competitor *A. petiolata* PC1, representing the production of both glucosinolates and Chl *a* (panel A)*;* and PC2, representing investment in glucosinolates relative to Chl *a* (panel B)*.* Both PC1 and PC2 were z-standardized to a mean of zero and unit standard deviation. The top left of each panel shows the regression coefficient (*ß*) and the broad sense heritability (H^2) of PC1 (panel A) and PC2 (panel B).

Selection on *Alliaria petiolata* traits across treatments

Alliaria petiolata performance in year 1 (TLA_{AP}) was best explained by TS_{AP} ($\beta = +0.06$, $p < 0.001$), treatment, PC1, *X. campestris* infection ($\beta = -0.09$, $p < 0.001$), fern abundance ($\beta = -0.05$, $p < 0.01$) and the random effect of greenhouse bench ($\chi^2 = 29.9$, $p < 0.001$). We found a significant interaction between PC1 and treatment ($\chi^2 = 11.9$, $p < 0.01$), indicating different slopes. Specifically, PC1 was positively associated with TLA_{AP} in the interspecific treatment ($\beta = +0.10$, $p < 0.001$), but was not associated with TLA_{AP} in any other treatment (Figure 4). The

interaction between PC1 and treatment remained significant after controlling for leaf area of the

sampled leaf (χ^2 = 12.6, p < 0.01). Compared to the alone treatment, interspecific competition

reduced TLA_{AP} by –15% (p < 0.01) while intraspecific competition reduced TLA_{AP} on average

by –54% (p < 0.001).

Alliaria petiolata survival was best explained by fern abundance (β = +0.35, p < 0.001) and the

random effects of family (χ^2 = 12.3, p < 0.001) and field row (χ^2 = 6.7, p < 0.05). The PC1 by

treatment interaction was significant (χ^2 = 6.6, p < 0.05), such that PC1 was positively associated

with survival in the intraspecific treatment only (β = +0.49, p < 0.05). However, after accounting

for leaf area of the sampled leaf, the effect was no longer significant (χ^2 = 5.3, p = 0.07). When

family was removed from the model, the effect of PC2 on survival was on the verge of

significance (β = –0.14, p = 0.059). Interspecific competition reduced *A. petiolata* survival by –

33% (χ^2 = 5.3, p < 0.05). In contrast intraspecific competition was associated with a –7%

reduction in *A. petiolata* survival, but was not significant (p = 0.67).

Selection differentials of survival were obtained by determining the mean change in trait value

between surviving individuals (after purging selection) and all individuals (before purging

selection). After selection, mean PC1 increased by +0.10 σ and +0.43 σ in the inter- and intra-

specific treatments, respectively, but remained relatively constant in the *A. petiolata* alone

treatment (–0.03 σ). In contrast, PC2 decreased by –0.22 σ and –0.32 σ in the inter- and intra-

specific treatments, respectively, and remained relatively constant in the *A. petiolata* alone

treatment (+0.01 σ).

Fecundity was best explained by TS_{AP} ($\beta = +0.24$, $p < 0.001$), PC1, and treatment ($\chi^2 = 9.4$, $p <$

0.01). Unlike in models of TLA_{AP} and survival, PC1 was positively associated with fecundity in

all treatments ($\beta = +0.14$, $p < 0.05$) (Figure 4). Compared to the alone treatment, interspecific

competition reduced fecundity by –50% ($p < 0.01$), while intraspecific competition reduced

fecundity by –120% ($p < 0.001$) on average. Lifetime fitness was best explained by treatment (χ^2

= 15.5, $p < 0.001$), family ($\chi^2 = 13.2$, $p < 0.001$) and field row ($\chi^2 = 9.0$, $p < 0.01$). Interspecific

competition reduced lifetime fitness by –106% ($p < 0.001$), while intraspecific competition

reduced lifetime fitness by –119% ($p < 0.001$; see Table B7 for all *A. petiolata* model selection

results).

PC1 (σ) — Total metabolite production

Figure 4. Selection gradients of PC1 (total metabolite production, denoting the production of Chl *a* and glucosinolates) for *A. petiolata* total leaf area (A) and fecundity (B). Green circles denote the alone treatment, orange triangles denote the interspecific treatment and blue squares denote the intraspecific treatment. The y-axis in panel A shows mean-standardized total leaf area (unitless), after controlling for *X. campestris* infection, fern abundance, greenhouse bench and *A. petiolata* transplant size. The y-axis in panel B shows mean-standardized fecundity after controlling for *A. petiolata* transplant size. Both x-axes show z-standardized *A. petiolata* PC1, representing the production of both glucosinolates and Chl *a*. Slopes of zero reflect non-significant selection gradients. Selection gradients are colored according to treatment.

Allelopathy-mediated selection on *A. petiolata* traits (path analysis)

PC1 and PC2 were significantly associated with TLA_{AS} in year 1, but not *A. saccharum* shoot mass in year 2. Therefore, TLA_{AS} was included in all path analyses as the intermediate step linking PC1 and PC2 to *A. petiolata* fitness. Significant predictors (as described in the results above) of *A. petiolata* TLA_{AP}, survival, fecundity and lifetime fitness were included as covariates

in path analyses of *A. petiolata* TLA_{AP}, survival, fecundity and lifetime fitness, respectively.

Significant predictors of *A. saccharum* TLA_{AS} were included in all path analyses.

In the TLA_{AP} path analysis, TLA_{AS} was negatively associated with TLA_{AP} ($\beta = -0.11$, $p < 0.05$).

The indirect effects of PC1 ($\beta = +0.02$) and PC2 ($\beta = -0.01$), through TLA_{AS}, on TLA_{AP} were

both significant (both $p < 0.01$); however, the direct effects of PC1 and PC2 on TLA_{AP} were not

($p = 0.08$ and 0.19, respectively; Figure B1). Likewise, in the survival path analysis, TLA_{AS} was

also negatively associated with *A. petiolata* survival ($\beta = -0.38$, $p < 0.05$) and the indirect effects

of PC1 ($\beta = +0.07$, $p < 0.05$) and PC2 ($\beta = -0.05$, $p < 0.01$), through TLA_{AS}, on survival were

significant (Figure 5). Like in the TLA_{AP} path analysis, the direct effect of both PC1 and PC2 on

survival were not significant ($p = 0.83$ and 0.30, respectively). Both path analyses suggest that

PC1 and PC2 had opposite effects on *A. petiolata* fitness and only impacted fitness through their

intermediate effects on *A. saccharum*.

In contrast, TLA_{AS} was not associated with fecundity ($p = 0.92$) and there were no significant

direct or indirect effects of PC1 or PC2 on fecundity (Figure B2). Similarly, TLA_{AS} was not a

significant predictor in the path analysis of lifetime fitness ($p = 0.28$), and there were no indirect

effects of PC1 or PC2 on *A. petiolata* lifetime fitness. There was a significant direct effect of

PC2 on lifetime fitness ($\beta = -0.50$, $p < 0.05$), but not of PC1 ($p = 0.08$; Figure 6).

Figure 5. Path analysis of *Alliaria petiolata* survival. Survival was mean-standardized while

other variables were z-standardized such that coefficients represent selection gradients. Arrows

denote the direction of the effect, with green arrows indicating a positive gradient and red arrows

indicate a negative gradient. Arrow thickness denotes the magnitude of the effect and darker

arrows indicate greater significance. The text next to each arrow shows the path coefficient and

its significance level ($p < 0.05^*$, $p < 0.01^{**}$, $p < 0.001^{***}$). Total metabolite production (PC1)

denotes the production of both glucosinolates and Chl *a*, while relative glucosinolate investment

(PC2) indicates the production of glucosinolates relative to Chl *a*. *Acer saccharum* TLA denotes

the total leaf area of *Acer saccharum* at the end of year 1. Solid arrows represent direct effects

while dashed arrows represent indirect effects.

Figure 6. Path analysis of *Alliaria petiolata* lifetime fitness. Total fitness was mean-standardized while other variables were z-standardized to give SD-standardized selection gradients. Arrows denote the direction of the effect, with green arrows indicating a positive gradient and red arrows indicating a negative gradient. Arrow thickness denotes the magnitude of the effect and darker arrows indicate greater significance. The text next to each arrow shows the path coefficient and its significance level ($p < 0.05$*, $p < 0.01$**, $p < 0.001$***). Total metabolite production (PC1) denotes the production of both glucosinolates and Chl *a*, while relative glucosinolate investment (PC2) indicates the production of glucosinolates relative to Chl *a*. *Acer saccharum* TLA denotes the total leaf area of *Acer saccharum* at the end of year 1. Solid arrows represent direct effects while dashed arrows represent indirect effects.

Discussion

Plants that invade and spread across large geographical areas will experience heterogeneous

environments with variable ecological interactions including competition, herbivory, pathogen

damage, and abiotic stress (van Kleunen et al. 2018). In the Brassicaceae family, glucosinolates

play important roles in plant responses to biotic and abiotic stress (Holst and Fenwick 2003). To

investigate glucosinolate evolution and the potential for eco-evolutionary dynamics in

glucosinolate production via allelopathy, we quantified plasticity, heritability, and natural

selection via direct and indirect ecological effects across three competition treatments. We found

a strong, positive correlation between glucosinolate production and Chl *a* (Figure 2). Applying a

principal component analysis resulted in two statistically independent axes representing plastic

variation in total metabolite production (PC1), and heritable variation in relative glucosinolate

investment (PC2). PC1 was highly plastic across competition treatments with low levels of

among-family genetic variation, even though our experiment included a genotype from the

native range in Europe and populations spanning of ~3,000 km across Canada and the United

States, from Colorado and Georgia to Maine. In contrast, PC2 was highly heritable and did not

differ significantly among treatments (Table 2). Below we discuss the implications of this

heritable and plastic variation in glucosinolate production for the evolution of allelopathy during

A. petiolata invasion, and more generally for understanding the role of allelopathy in biological

invasion.

Several studies have examined allelopathic effects of glucosinolates in *A. petiolata* (Roberts and

Anderson 2001; Stinson et al. 2006; Burke 2008; Callaway et al. 2008; Wolfe et al. 2008; Barto

and Cipollini 2009; Barto et al. 2011; Cantor et al. 2011; Burke et al. 2019; Duchesneau et al.

2021; Roche et al. 2021). However, conclusions about the ecological impacts of allelopathy have

been mixed. For example, while several studies have found evidence that glucosinolates can

suppress competitors by inhibiting mycorrhizal colonization (Stinson et al. 2006; Callaway et al.

2008; Lankau et al. 2009; Evans et al. 2016), others have found no allelopathic effect (Burke

2008; Duchesneau et al. 2021). Population growth of *A. petiolata* depends on a variety of

ecological factors including germination time, fecundity, self-fertilization rates, and herbivory

(Davis et al. 2014; Kalisz et al. 2014; Burke et al. 2019). One hypothesis proposes that *A.*

petiolata evolves higher concentrations of allelopathic glucosinolates early in invasion, but lower

concentrations later in invasion as genotypes in growing populations experience stronger

intraspecific competition relative to interspecific competition (Lankau et al. 2009; Evans et al.

2016). In our opinion, these predictions are best tested by measuring selection gradients,

quantifying genetic constraints, and comparing direct versus indirect selection. However, no

previous study to our knowledge has applied the Chicago School of ecological genetics with

causal analysis to test these hypotheses in detail.

The eco-evolutionary feedbacks hypothesis makes three testable predictions that we evaluated

with our data. First, glucosinolate production should be highly heritable. Contrary to this

prediction, we found that glucosinolate production was highly plastic across competition

treatments, with relatively low heritability. Relative glucosinolate investment (PC2) was

significantly heritable, but only explained 16% of the variation in glucosinolates and Chl *a*.

Second, natural selection should favour genotypes with higher investment into glucosinolate

production when genotypes experience interspecific competition. Instead, we found that growth

of naïve *A. saccharum* saplings was promoted by genotypes with higher glucosinolate

investment (Figure 3), which had negative indirect effects on *A. petiolata* size and survival

(Figures 5, B1). In other words, natural selection under interspecific competition favors

genotypes that invest less into relative glucosinolate production, resulting in evolution for

reduced glucosinolate investment under interspecific competition. Third, natural selection should

favour genotypes with lower relative investment into glucosinolates when grown alone or under

intraspecific competition. Instead, we found that natural selection favors lower relative

investment in PC2 in all treatments, but perhaps less so when grown alone. Specifically, higher

PC2 was correlated with reduced survival in all treatments, and PC2 decreased by -0.22 σ and -

0.32 σ in the inter- and intra-specific treatments, respectively. Thus, none of our key results

support the hypothesis that competition dynamics during invasion create eco-evolutionary

feedbacks that maintain genetic variation in glucosinolate production.

Although we do not find evidence to support eco-evolutionary feedbacks mediated through

competition, the high level of phenotypic plasticity observed in PC1 is relevant to reconstructing

and predicting adaptive evolution during invasion of *A. petiolata*. Specifically, the univariate

response to natural selection (R) is a product of the narrow-sense heritability (h^2) and the strength

of natural selection (s). We calculated heritability in the broad sense (H^2), which as an upward-

biased estimate of narrow-sense heritability, and yet we found that H^2 for PC1 was non-

significant and low ($H^2 = 2.9$) relative to PC2 ($H^2 = 16.9$). Any biologically significant genetic

variation for PC1 was masked by high plasticity in our experiment, and ecological conditions in

natural populations are likely more variable than our relatively controlled greenhouse and field

gardens, which would further decrease heritability. We therefore conclude that the evolutionary

potential of PC1 is weak. Instead, *A. petiolata* glucosinolate and Chl *a* production is primarily

environment-dependent, representing a highly plastic strategy that may contribute to its rapid

proliferation in North America.

The significant and high heritability we observed for PC2 is also relevant to reconstructing and

predicting evolution in *A. petiolata*. PC2 was negatively correlated with survival in all

treatments, consistent with an evolutionary cost to glucosinolate investment that is elevated

under interspecific competition. The cost that we observe would favor populations with lower

investment into glucosinolates. It is therefore unlikely that genetic variation across our

experimental populations has been maintained by selection for allelopathy. Instead, the

maintenance of genetic variation despite fitness costs suggests that glucosinolates play other

important ecological roles. For example, the evolution of increased competitive ability (EICA)

hypothesis predicts an evolutionary reallocation of resources from defense to growth and

competition in introduced populations that escape their natural enemies (Blossey and Notzold

1995). Indeed, *A petiolata* has relatively few natural enemies in North America compared to

Europe (Rodgers et al. 2008), and total glucosinolate production in North America was estimated

to be 36% lower than native European populations (Cipollini et al. 2005). This hypothesis does

not explain the significant level of heritability observed in relative glucosinolate investment

(PC2) across populations. Instead, it is possible that herbivory is heterogenous over space and

time within the introduced range, maintaining genetic variation in glucosinolate investment.

Glucosinolates also play a variety of other ecological roles including stress adaptation (Louda

and Mole 1991). Testing these hypotheses is beyond the scope of our experiment, but the same

seed families that we used are available from the Global Garlic Mustard Field Survey (Colautti et

al. 2014) to enable future studies.

Our study focused on total shoot glucosinolates as a high-throughput and non-destructive

measure of glucosinolate production, allowing us to also measure lifetime fitness for the same

individuals. While allelopathy may be mediated through root exudates, our approach is

consistent with previous studies demonstrating allelopathy in *A. petiolata* using either leaf or

whole plant extracts as glucosinolate concentrations are likely correlated among tissues of the

same plant (McCarthy and Hanson 1998; Roberts and Anderson 2001; Stinson et al. 2006;

Callaway et al. 2008). While sinigrin is secreted through roots and suspected to be the causal

agent of allelopathy in *A. petiolata* (Cantor et al. 2011; Evans et al. 2016), it is also the most

abundant glucosinolate in *A. petiolata* (Vaughn and Berhow 1999; Haribal and Renwick 2001)

and therefore should be correlated with our estimates of total glucosinolates.

In summary, we examined plasticity, heritability, and natural selection of glucosinolate

production in one native and 22 introduced populations of *A. petiolata*, reared in three

competition treatments in greenhouse and field common gardens. We found that most traits were

highly plastic, and selection consistently favored genotypes that invest less into glucosinolate

production relative to Chl *a* under interspecific competition. We conclude that eco-evolutionary

feedbacks involving competition have not likely played a significant role in the invasion of *A.*

petiolata across eastern North America. Instead, the successful spread of this species more likely

owes to preadapted traits and phenotypic plasticity. Although not involved in competition,

glucosinolates likely play other ecological roles during invasion that can be tested with seed

accessions available from the Global Garlic Mustard Field Survey. More generally, our results

demonstrate how evolution during biological invasion can be better understood through the

application of quantitative genetics and causal analysis.

Author Contributions

RH and RIC conceived and designed the experiment. RH and MM ran the experiment with

financial support and assistants provided by RIC. RH led the data analysis manuscript writing

with contributions from MM, and writing guidance from RIC.

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Data Availability

Our data are available through Dryad (LINK).

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Supporting Information for Honor, Marcellus and Colautti "Direct and

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invading plant"

27-June-2023

Appendix A (Methods)

Machine learning analysis of plant size

To measure rosette size in *Alliaria petiolata*, we trained a machine learning model of whole plant

images. The top and side of each *A. petiolata* rosette were photographed using two webcams

affixed to a custom image-capture stand (Figure A4). Cameras were oriented to image the top

and side of each rosette to capture leaf area in all three dimensions. We measured relative plant

size as the total pixel area of each plant, given that cameras were fixed at a constant distance

from each imaged plant, (Figure A5).

Image analysis was performed using a custom machine learning algorithm written in Python 3.8

using the packages OpenCV2 and PlantCV2 (Bradski 2000; Python Core Team 2015; Berry et

al. 2018). We first trained the computer to identify leaves based on the color spectrum of each

pixel captured by the camera, encoded on an rgb scale (0-255). In a subset of 100 training

images, we manually assigned 10 pixels in each image as leaves or background. From this

training set, a Naïve Bayesian classifier algorithm available in the PlantCV2 package could

assign a posterior probability of leaf vs background to all pixels in the remaining images.

A subset of 76 plants were used to verify the ML estimates. For these plants, total leaf area

(TLA) was estimated manually by estimating the area of each leaf (length times width) and

summing across all leaves for each plant. There was a strong correlation between rosette size

(measured as the total number of pixels in an image corresponding to plant) and TLA ($p < 0.001$,

$R^2=0.852$), which allowed us to automate measurements of all 5,659 photos. Each photo that was

analyzed produced an output image, outlining the parts identified as rosette (i.e., Figure A5).

Each of the 5,659 images were manually inspected to check for assignment errors in the machine

learning algorithm. We found that 29 plants were mis-identified. In these instances, we sampled

pixels directly from the mis-identified images and retrained the machine learning algorithm on

these pixels until all plants were correctly identified.

We wrote a program in Python 3.8 to automate image capture. This program displays webcam

images to assist with correct placement of each plant, allows the user to take a photo with each

camera, and displays the photos for manual quality inspection. If approved by the user, the

images are automatically stored and named with the appropriate identification (as read through a

barcode scanner) and the exact time that the photos were taken. We used Unix time, which is the

number of seconds since Jan 1st, 1970, providing a precise time of measurement with which we

could calculate growth rates with high accuracy.

Secondary compound processing and analysis

Two frozen leaf punches (8mm diameter) were pulverized in 1.5mL centrifuge tubes using a

Next Advance Bullet Blender®. Two cycles of 15s on the highest power (12) were performed

and samples were submerged in liquid N_2 before and after each cycle. Samples were kept frozen

to inhibit enzymatic degradation of target compounds. Leaf tissue was then extracted in 0.55mL

of 100% methanol, incubated for 1 hour at 25°C and 300rpm, and subsequently centrifuged for 2

minutes at 2500g (Eppendorf, 5427 R). Next, the pellet was discarded and 485µL of supernatant

was stored at –80°C until further processing. The concentration of total glucosinolates and Chl *a*

were determined using 96 well assays with spectrophotometric analysis. Two technical replicates

were measured for each composite sample of leaf tissue.

Chl *a* was measured by transferring 20µL of sample extract into the wells of a 96 well UV flat

bottom plate; the sample was then evaporated and resuspended in 50µL of 100% methanol

immediately prior to reading. Total glucosinolate concentration was evaluated by rinsing 465µL

of extract with 650µL of hexane to remove other pigments or secondary compounds that may

interfere with analysis. To rinse, samples were placed on an incubator at 30°C for 25 minutes at

600rpm. Samples were then chilled in an ice bath for 15 minutes and subsequently centrifuged at

2500g for 10 minutes at 4°C. We then transferred 100µL of the sample into the wells of a 96

well UV flat bottom plate, left samples to evaporate and resuspended them in 100µL of 100%

methanol immediately prior to reading. The assays were read at 425nm before and after adding

100µL of 3.5 mM sodium tetrachloropalladate ($NaCl_4Pd$) to wells.

Figure A1. *Alliaria petiolata* grown in the (A) alone treatment (B) intraspecific competition

treatment and (c) interspecific competition treatment.

Figure A2. Examples of leaf images used to measure pathogen data.

Figure A3. Standard curve of sinigrin concentration. $\mathbf{Sinigrin\ (mg/ml)} = \mathbf{0.69}\left(A_2 - \frac{A_1}{2}\right) -$

$\mathbf{0.15,}$ Where A is the absorbance at 425 nm and subscripts denote before (A_1) and after NaCl₄Pd was

added (A_2).

Figure A4. Example of greenhouse and photo apparatus used to capture images for growth rate

analysis.

Figure A5. Example of plant identification with machine learning used to determine growth rate.

Appendix B (Supporting Information)

Table B1. Principal component loadings of *Acer saccharum* transplant size.

Principal Component	Loadings						Proportion of variance
	Stem Height (initial)	Largest leaf length (initial)	Number of Leaves (initial)	Stem Height (year 1)	Number of Leaves (year 1)	Total leaf area (year 1)	
PC1 (Transplant size)	0.45	0.40	0.26	0.53	0.25	0.48	0.41
PC2	0.42	0.09	-0.02	0.32	-0.7	-0.47	0.23
PC3	-0.18	0.62	-0.68	-0.1	-0.23	0.26	0.17
PC4	0.37	-0.49	-0.69	0.26	0.31	-0.02	0.13
PC5	0.65	0.18	0.17	-0.72	0.14	-0.07	0.04
PC6	-0.11	0.43	-0.04	0.18	0.54	0.69	0.02

Table B2. Principal component loadings of *Alliaria petiolata* transplant size.

Principal Component	Loadings		Proportion of variance
	Largest Leaf Length	Number of Leaves	
PC1 (Transplant size)	0.71	0.71	0.74
PC2	0.71	−0.71	0.26

105 **Table B3.** Summary statistics of *Alliaria petiolata* characteristics for each of the three

106 competition treatments.

Characteristic	Alone	Interspecific	Intraspecific
Greenhouse mortality	1.76% (3/170)	1.20% (2/167)	3.74% (7/187)
Field mortality	65.27% (109/167)	73.62% (120/163)	68.18% (120/176)
Relative growth rate	$1.07 \times 10^{-6} \pm 0.06 \times 10^{-6}$	1.01 ± 0.07	0.70 ± 0.05
TLA (cm^2)	9563 ± 474	8547 ± 499	5120 ± 384
Fecundity (g)	3.13 ± 0.84	1.78 ± 0.83	1.07 ± 0.38
Glucosinolate (mg/mL)	0.22 ± 0.01	0.18 ± 0.01	0.20 ± 0.01
Chl *a* (μg/mL)	0.39 ± 0.02	0.30 ± 0.02	0.34 ± 0.03
PC1 (total metabolite production)	0.47 ± 0.19	-0.43 ± 0.21	-0.05 ± 0.26
PC2 (relative glucosinolate production)	0.01 ± 0.10	-0.01 ± 0.10	0.00 ± 0.11
Leaf area of sampled leaf (cm^2)	3235 ± 167	3194 ± 160	2141 ± 123
Xanthomonas campestris (N)	1.60 ± 0.55	1.08 ± 0.41	1.64 ± 0.66
Thysanoptera (N)	2.87 ± 0.61	2.82 ± 0.63	4.38 ± 1.49
Erysiphe cruciferarum	35.10% (53/151)	20.80% (31/149)	26.80% (41/153)
Fern(N)	0.56 ± 0.33	1.18 ± 0.51	0.65 ± 0.50
Lifetime fitness	1.03 ± 0.35	0.40 ± 0.21	0.32 ± 0.13

107 Data in brackets denote the fraction used to calculate the percent. Plus or minus (±) values

108 denote Wald's 95% confident interval (CI) around the mean in each treatment.

110 **Table B4.** Principal component loadings of *Alliaria petiolata* total metabolite production and

111 relative glucosinolate investment.

Principal Component	Loadings		Proportion of variance
	Chl *a*	Glucosinolate	
PC1 (Total metabolite production)	0.71	0.70	0.84
PC2 (Relative glucosinolate investment)	−0.70	0.71	0.16

115 **Table B5.** Percent of total trait variation in *Alliaria petiolata* predicted by family, treatment and

116 family-by-treatment interactions after controlling for transplant size. Table demonstrates the

117 effect of including transplant size as a covariate. Only variables where transplant size was a

118 significant covariate are shown.

Variables	Family	Treatment	Family × Treatment
	% (χ^2, p)	% (χ^2, p)	% (χ^2, p)
Relative growth rate	1.89 (3.2, 0.07)	**11.19 (48.9, < 0.001)**	3.22 (1.3, 0.25)
Relative growth rate†	1.16 (1.3, 026)	**13.74 (60.1, < 0.001)**	1.68 (0.4, 0.53)
TLA	0.17 (0.9, 0.35)	**27.40 (141.0, < 0.001)**	2.85 (1.8, 0.19)
TLA †	< 0.1 (0, 1)	**28.71 (149.0, < 0.001)**	2.15 (1.5, 0.22)
Fecundity*	< 0.1 (0, 1)	**11.52 (12.0, < 0.001)**	< 0.1 (0, 1)
Fecundity*†	1.08 (0.2, 0.66)	**13.20 (14.56, < 0.001)**	2.19 (0.1, 0.83)

119 Significant estimates (p < 0.05) are bolded.

120 * Measured on log scale

121 † Transplant size included

131   **Table B6.** Significance of traits on two performance metrics of *Acer saccharum* (total leaf area

132   in year 1 and shoot mass in year 2), based on likelihood ratio tests. Separate models are

133   performed for treatment effects (i.e. interspecific vs alone) or competitor effects (i.e. interspecific

134   vs treatment).

Trait	Total leaf area (Year 1) (χ^2, p)	Shoot mass (Year 2) (χ^2, p)	Data in model
Treatment	**(17.5, < 0.001)**	**(17.6, < 0.001)**	Interspecific and alone
Transplant size	**(150.9, < 0.001)**	**(52.3, < 0.001)**	``
Leaf damage	**(24.1, < 0.001)**	(0.1, 0.8)	``
Fern	**(6.2, < 0.05)**	(0.1, 0.73)	``
Greenhouse bench*	(0, 1)	(0, 1)	``
PC1†	**(11.5, < 0.001)**	(0.4, 0.51)	Interspecific only
PC2†	**(5.8, < 0.05)**	(0.7, 0.41)	``
Relative growth rate†	(0, 0.99)	(0, 1)	``
TLA†	(0, 0.89)	**(11.5, < 0.001)**	``
Family†	(20.3, 0.57)	(26.5, 0.23)	``
Transplant size	**(102, < 0.001)**	**(40.9, < 0.001)**	``
Leaf Damage	**(12.5, < 0.001)**	(0, 0.89)	``
Fern	(1.5, 0.22)	(0.3, 0.61)	``
Greenhouse bench*	(0.3, 0.57)	(0, 0.84)	``
Field Column*	NA	(0, 1)	``
Field Row*	NA	**(4.6, < 0.05)**	``

135   Significant estimates ($p < 0.05$) are in bold.

136   * Random effect

137   † Competitor trait

142 **Table B7.** Significance of the effects of *Alliaria petiolata* traits on four different performance

143 metrics (TLA$_{AP}$, survival, fecundity, and lifetime fitness), based on likelihood ratio tests.

Competitor/Pathogen trait	TLA	Survival	Fecundity	Lifetime fitness
	(χ^2, p)	(χ^2, p)	(χ^2, p)	(χ^2, p)
Treatment × PC1	**(11.3, < 0.01)**	**(7.2, < 0.05)**	(1.1, 0.57)	(4.4, 0.11)
Treatment × PC2	(1.1, 0.57)	(1.8, 0.4)	(2, 0.37)	(0.9, 0.65)
Treatment	NA	NA	**(28.5, < 0.001)**	**(17.9, < 0.001)**
PC1	NA	NA	**(4.9, < 0.05)**	(1.6, 0.2)
PC2	(0.4, 0.52)	(2.1, 0.15)	(0.9, 0.35)	(1.2, 0.27)
Transplant size	**(11.7, < 0.001)**	(0.4, 0.55)	**(11.8, < 0.001)**	(1, 0.31)
Relative growth rate	(0, 0.99)	(0, 1)	(0, 1)	(0, 1)
TLA	NA	(2.3, 0.13)	(0.6, 0.45)	(1.6, 0.21)
Bolt size	NA	NA	NA	NA
Fern	**(5.4, < 0.05)**	**(15.6, < 0.001)**	(0, 0.84)	**(6.7, < 0.01)**
Thrip damage	(0.8, 0.37)	(0.3, 0.62)	(0.9, 0.35)	(0.2, 0.66)
Xanthomonas campestris	**(20.6, < 0.001)**	(0, 0.95)	(0.2, 0.68)	(0.3, 0.57)
Erysiphe cruciferarum	(1.0, 0.31)	(0.1, 0.72)	(0.8, 0.36)	(0.7, 0.41)
Greenhouse bench*	**(38.8, < 0.001)**	(0, 0.89)	(0, 1)	(0, 1)
Field column*	NA	(0, 1)	(0, 1)	(0, 1)
Field row*	NA	**(7.8, < 0.01)**	(0.3, 0.56)	**(5.0, < 0.05)**
Family*	(0.2, 0.69)	**(13.3, < 0.001)**	(0.4, 0.54)	**(14.8, < 0.001)**

144 Significant estimates (p < 0.05) are in bold.

145 * Random effect

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149
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Figure B1. Path analysis of *Alliaria petiolata* total leaf area (TLA). TLA was mean-standardized

while other variables were z-standardized such that coefficients represent selection gradients.

Arrows denote the direction of the effect, with green arrows indicating a positive gradient and

red arrows indicate a negative gradient. Arrow thickness denotes the magnitude of the effect and

darker arrows indicate greater significance. The text next to each arrow shows the path

coefficient and its significance level ($p < 0.05$*, $p < 0.01$**, $p < 0.001$***). Total metabolite

production (PC1) denotes the production of both glucosinolates and Chl *a*, while relative

glucosinolate investment (PC2) indicates the production of glucosinolates relative to Chl *a*. *Acer*

saccharum TLA denotes the total leaf area of *Acer saccharum* at the end of year 1. Solid arrows

represent direct effects while dashed arrows represent indirect effects.

162
Figure B2. Path analysis of *Alliaria petiolata* fecundity. Fecundity was mean-standardized while

other variables were z-standardized such that coefficients represent selection gradients. Arrows

denote the direction of the effect, with green arrows indicating a positive gradient and red arrows

indicate a negative gradient. Arrow thickness denotes the magnitude of the effect and darker

arrows indicate greater significance. The text next to each arrow shows the path coefficient and

its significance level ($p < 0.05*$, $p < 0.01**$, $p < 0.001***$). Total metabolite production (PC1)

denotes the production of both glucosinolates and Chl *a*, while relative glucosinolate investment

(PC2) indicates the production of glucosinolates relative to Chl *a*. *Acer saccharum* TLA denotes

the total leaf area of *Acer saccharum* at the end of year 1. Solid arrows represent direct effects

while dashed arrows represent indirect effects.