

Geographic and climatic drivers of reproductive assurance in
Clarkia pulchella

Megan Bontrager^{1,4}, Christopher D. Muir², and Amy L. Angert³

¹Department of Botany, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia V6T
1Z4, Canada

²Biodiversity Research Centre and Botany Department, University of British Columbia,
Vancouver, British Columbia V6T 1Z4, Canada

³Departments of Botany and Zoology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British
Columbia V6T 1Z4, Canada

⁴Author for correspondence (mgbontrager@gmail.com)

Declaration of authorship: MB and ALA designed the experiment. MB conducted field work and data collection. MB and CDM performed statistical analyses. MB drafted the manuscript in consultation with ALA, with feedback and assistance from CDM. All authors contributed to manuscript drafts and approved the final version of the manuscript.

1 Abstract

2 Climate can affect plant populations through direct effects on physiology and fitness, and through indirect
3 effects on their relationships with pollinating mutualists. We therefore expect that geographic variation in
4 climate might lead to variation in plant mating systems. Biogeographic processes, such as range expansion,
5 can also contribute to geographic patterns in mating system traits. We manipulated pollinator access to
6 plants in eight sites spanning the geographic range of *Clarkia pulchella* to investigate geographic and climatic
7 drivers of fruits production and seed set in the absence of pollinators (reproductive assurance). We examined
8 how reproductive assurance and fruit production varied with the position of sites within the range of the
9 species and with temperature and precipitation. We found that reproductive assurance in *C. pulchella* was
10 greatest in populations in the northern part of the species' range, and was not well-explained by any of
11 the climate variables that we considered. In the absence of pollinators, some populations of *C. pulchella*
12 have the capacity to increase fruit production, perhaps through resource reallocation, but this response is
13 climate-dependent. Pollinators are important for reproduction in this species, and recruitment is sensitive to
14 seed input. The degree of autonomous self-pollination that is possible in populations of this mixed-mating
15 species may be shaped by historic biogeographic processes or variation in plant and pollinator community
16 composition rather than variation in climate.

17 Keywords

18 *Clarkia*; geographic variation; pollinator exclusion; range limits; self-pollination

19 Introduction

20 Climate change can affect population dynamics directly by altering the survival and reproduction of individ-
21 uals (McGraw et al., 2015). In addition to these direct effects, climate change can indirectly affect species
22 by altering their interactions with mutualists, predators, or competitors (Miller-Struttman et al., 2015).
23 To make informed predictions about species' responses to climate change, we must understand both direct
24 and indirect effects. For plant species, pollinators are likely to be an important medium for these indirect
25 effects, as the reproductive success of primarily outcrossing taxa is often highly dependent on the actions
26 of these mutualists (Burd, 1994; Ashman et al., 2004). Changing environmental conditions can disrupt the
27 reliability of pollination (Kudo et al., 2004). For example, changes in phenological cues might lead to mis-
28 match between plants and pollinators (Kudo and Ida, 2013), pollinator populations may decline if they are
29 maladapted to changing conditions (Williams et al., 2007), and the presence of invasive species can reduce

30 visitation to native plants (Bjerknes et al., 2007; Bruckman and Campbell, 2016).

31 In the face of sustained mate or resource limitation, reliance on outcross pollen can limit seed pro-
32 duction, and selection might favour individuals with floral traits that facilitate reproductive assurance via
33 self-pollination (Bodbyl Roels and Kelly, 2011), including traits that allow for delayed self-pollination when
34 outcross pollen has not been delivered. Reproductive assurance is the ability to self-pollinate, either au-
35 tonomously or with the assistance of a pollinator, in order to offset deficits in pollen delivery. Limited
36 resources, including limited water availability, can increase the cost of producing and maintaining attractive
37 floral displays (Galen et al., 1999). This could lead to selection for individuals that can achieve high repro-
38 ductive success without incurring the costs of showy displays. Similarly, short flowering seasons may increase
39 the risks of waiting for pollinator service. Some habitat characteristics, such as limited numbers of suitable
40 growing sites, may lead to sparser or smaller populations and in turn, mate limitation. Mate limitation can
41 also occur even when conspecific individuals are abundant if pollinators are low in abundance or prefer to
42 visit co-occurring species (Knight et al., 2005). When temporal variability in environmental conditions is
43 high, selection might alternatively favour plasticity that allows for increased self-pollination in response to
44 environmental cues associated with pollen limitation (Kay and Picklum, 2013).

45 Mate and resource limitation can co-vary with climatic conditions. Therefore, patterns in mating system
46 traits may be correlated with the climatic gradients that underlie a species' geographic distribution. While
47 climatic conditions can exert selection on mating system and, as a result, indirectly affect demographic
48 (Lennartsson, 2002; Moeller and Geber, 2005) and genetic processes (Eckert et al., 2010; Kramer et al.,
49 2011), climate can also directly affect demographic components. Climatic gradients may shape variation
50 in life history or in the sensitivity of population growth rate to a specific demographic stage, leading to
51 measurable correlations between some fitness components and climate variables across space (Doak and
52 Morris, 2010). Inter-annual variability in climate may also be correlated with temporal variation in vital
53 rates within a single population (Coulson et al., 2001). Our understanding of how climate affects population
54 dynamics will benefit from examining the relationships of multiple variables (fitness components or strengths
55 of biotic interactions) to variation in climate.

56 Biogeographic processes can also shape mating system variation on the landscape. During range expan-
57 sions, individuals capable of reproduction in the absence of mates or pollinators may be more likely to found
58 new populations (Baker, 1955; Pannell et al., 2015), creating a geographic cline in mating system varia-
59 tion, with a greater degree of self-compatibility or capacity for self-pollination near expanding or recently
60 expanded range edges. Similar patterns might arise in regions where populations turn over frequently, where
61 the ability to reproduce autonomously may be an important trait for individuals that are colonizing empty
62 patches. Geographic variation in mating system may also be attributable to range overlap with pollinator

63 taxa or with plant taxa that share pollinators. In mixed-mating plants, parts of the range that overlap
64 with a reliable pollinator community might experience little selection for self-pollination. Overlap with a
65 competing plant species may reduce pollination success and lead to selection for self-pollination.

66 Empirical examinations of mating systems are infrequently carried out at the scale of geographic ranges
67 (with exceptions including Busch 2005; Herlihy and Eckert 2005; Moeller and Geber 2005; Dart et al. 2011;
68 Mimura and Aitken 2007) and investigations of geographic variation in vital rates rarely consider mating
69 system variation. The interplay of vital rates and mating systems across geographic and climatic space may
70 be relevant not only to population dynamics within the range, but also to the dynamics that limit geographic
71 distributions. Across environmental gradients, mating system variation might interact with other genetic
72 and demographic processes to influence population persistence and adaptive response. For example, while
73 highly selfing individuals might be expected to be good colonizers, they also might have limited genetic
74 variation for adaptation to novel environments beyond the range edge (Wright et al., 2013). Investigating
75 range-wide variation in reproduction may shed light on climate variables that limit range expansion.

76 In this study, we investigate the relationships among climate, pollinator exclusion, and reproductive
77 fitness components of a winter annual wildflower, *Clarkia pulchella*. In a previous study, we used herbarium
78 specimens to examine relationships between climate, mating system, and reproductive characteristics of this
79 species. We found that summer precipitation was positively correlated with reproductive output and that
80 warm temperatures were correlated with traits indicative of self-pollination (Bontrager and Angert, 2016).
81 Here, we employed field manipulations across the range of *C. pulchella* to examine whether reproductive
82 assurance co-varies with geographic range position and/or climate. We were specifically interested in the
83 autonomous component of reproductive assurance, that is, the ability to transfer self-pollen in the absence
84 of a pollinator (rather than the degree to which pollinators transfer self-pollen). *C. pulchella* grows in sites
85 that are very dry during the flowering season, particularly at the northern and southern range edges, so we
86 expected that plants in these regions might have greater capacity to self-pollinate as a means of ensuring
87 reproduction before drought-induced mortality. We therefore predicted that range edge populations would
88 have greater capacity to self-pollinate in the absence of pollinators, and that this geographic pattern would
89 be attributable to climate, in particular, drought stress during the flowering season (summer precipitation
90 and temperature). We also sought to determine whether short-term drought relief produced consistent
91 mating system responses across the range of *C. pulchella*. We hypothesized that drought would induce a
92 plastic increase in self-pollination, and that as a result we would see reduced reproductive assurance when
93 drought relief was combined with pollinator limitation. Finally, we examined how variation in pollinator
94 availability and climate affect different components of reproduction. We anticipated that drought relief would
95 have opposing effects on reproductive assurance and fruit production: while drought may prompt plastic

96 increases in reproductive assurance, higher water availability likely increases plant longevity and productivity
97 during the flowering season.

98 **Methods**

99 **Study system**

100 *Clarkia pulchella* Pursh (Onagraceae) is a mixed-mating winter annual that grows east of the Cascade
101 Mountains in the interior Pacific Northwest of North America (Figure 1). The species is found in populations
102 ranging in size from hundreds to thousands of individuals on dry, open slopes in coniferous forest and
103 sagebrush scrub. It is primarily outcrossed by solitary bees (Palladini and Maron, 2013) with a diverse array
104 of other pollinators (MacSwain et al., 1973), but selfing can be facilitated by spatial and temporal proximity
105 of fertile anthers and stigma within flowers. A large portion of the species' range is in the Okanagan Valley,
106 which is expected to experience warmer temperatures and redistributed rainfall in the coming decades
107 (Figure 2). Temperature increases are expected to be especially prominent in the summer months (Wang
108 et al., 2012; Meyer et al., 2014). Anticipated changes in precipitation are variable and uncertain across the
109 range of our focal species, with many sites expected to experience decreases in summer precipitation, but
110 central sites projected to experience slight increases in annual precipitation (Wang et al., 2012; Meyer et al.,
111 2014).

112 **Plot establishment and monitoring**

113 Experimental plots were established in eight populations on 4-9 June 2015. These sites were located in three
114 regions across the latitudinal range of *Clarkia pulchella*, with two at the species' northern edge in southern
115 British Columbia (Canada), three in the range center in southeastern Washington (USA), and three in the
116 southwest portion of the species range, in Oregon (USA; Figure 1, Table S1). Our original intention was to
117 treat the southern and western edges of the range separately and establish three sites at each edge. However,
118 due to difficulty finding populations of sufficient size in sites where we could also obtain permits, we used
119 just two populations in the west and one in the south. Because the climatic similarity among these sites
120 is nearly comparable to that among sites in other regions (Figure 2), we decided to treat them as a single
121 region, the southwest. At each site, 5-8 blocks containing four plots each were marked with 6-inch steel nails,
122 this resulted in a total of 50 blocks and 200 plots in the experiment. Each plot consisted of a 0.8 m² area.
123 Plots were intentionally placed with the goal of obtaining 5-20 individuals per plot, therefore the density
124 in plots was typically higher than the overall site density. Plots were placed closer to other plots in their

125 block than to those in other blocks (with exceptions in two circumstances where low plant density meant
126 very few suitable plot locations were available). Blocks were placed to capture variation in microhabitat
127 characteristics across the site, and their spacing varied depending on the population size and density. Each
128 plot was randomly assigned to one of four factorial treatment groups: control, water addition, pollinator
129 exclusion, or both water addition and pollinator exclusion. Plots receiving water additions were at least 0.5
130 m away from unwatered plots, except when they were downslope from unwatered plots, in which case they
131 were sometimes closer. Plots receiving pollinator exclusion treatments were tented in bridal-veil mesh with
132 bamboo stakes in each corner and nails tacking the mesh to the ground. Some pollinator exclusion plots had
133 their nets partially removed by wind or cows during the flowering season ($n = 13$ out of 100 total tented
134 plots), so all analyses were performed without these plots.

135 The majority of the summer precipitation in these sites falls in summer storms. Plots receiving supple-
136 mental water were watered 1-2 times during the summer (when plants were flowering) to simulate additional
137 rainfall events. During each watering event, 15 mm of water was added to each plot (9.6 L per plot). This
138 approximated the typical precipitation of a summer rainfall event based on data from Wang et al. (2012), and
139 in an average year, would have increased the total summer precipitation in these plots by 30-70%. However,
140 our experiment was conducted during a drought year (Figure 2), therefore, in the central sites, plots receiving
141 water additions still fell short of average summer precipitation levels. In southwestern and northern sites,
142 the water addition likely raised the summer precipitation amount slightly above the historic average. In all
143 sites, we consider the water additions to represent a drought relief treatment, because unwatered plots were
144 already experiencing natural drought. The first watering was performed when the experiment was set up.
145 The second watering was performed 22-25 June 2015, except at two sites (SW3, C1), which had completed
146 flowering and fruiting at that time. Efficacy of the water addition treatment was checked by measuring the
147 soil water content with a probe (Hydrosense, Campbell Scientific Inc.) before and after water additions.
148 Prior to water additions, there were no significant differences between plots receiving a water addition treat-
149 ment and those not receiving this treatment (linear mixed effects model with a random effect of site and
150 a fixed effect of water addition treatment; first watering: $P = 0.839$ (7 of 8 sites were measured); second
151 watering: $P = 0.277$ (5 of 8 sites were measured)). Shortly after watering (within one hour), plots receiving
152 a water addition treatment had higher soil moisture than those not receiving treatment (first watering: P
153 < 0.0001 , average soil moisture of unwatered plots = 11.0% , watered plots 22.2%; second watering: $P =$
154 0.0001 , average soil moisture of unwatered plots 3.7%, watered plots 11.5%).

155 When flowering and fruiting were complete, we counted the number of plants in each plot and the number
156 of fruits on each plant, and estimated the average number of seeds per fruit. The number of plants in each
157 plot ranged from 1-43 (mean = 7.9, median = 7). We counted the number of fruits per plant on every plant

158 in each plot, as a proxy for the number of flowers per plant (aborted fruits were rare overall). Plants that
159 had died before producing any flowers were not included in our analyses. Some plants ($n = 14$, 0.7% of all
160 plants counted) had experienced major damage prior to our final census making fruit counting impossible,
161 so they were assigned the average number of fruits per plant in that plot type at that site for estimation of
162 plot-level seed input, but we excluded them from analyses of fruit counts. Other plants ($n = 25$, 1.4% of
163 all plants counted) still had flowers at the time of the final census. It was assumed that these flowers would
164 ripen into fruits, so they were included in the fruit counts. When possible, up to four fruits per plot (average
165 number of fruits per plot = 3.67) were collected for seed counting. After counting, seeds were returned to
166 the plots that they were collected from by sprinkling them haphazardly over the plot from a 10 cm height.
167 In 3 of 200 plots, no intact fruits were available for seed counting (all had dehisced), so these plots were
168 excluded from analyses of seed set and plot-level seed input, but included in analyses of fruit counts. To
169 assess the subsequent effects of pollinator limitation on populations in the following year, we revisited plots
170 on 21-24 June and 29-31 July 2016 and counted the number of mature plants present in each. Some plot
171 markers were missing, but we were able to relocate 182 of our 200 plots.

172 **Climate variable selection**

173 We expect long-term climatic conditions, particularly those that might contribute to drought stress, to
174 influence selection for autonomous selfing. Concurrent work with *C. pulchella* (M. Bontrager, unpublished
175 data) has indicated that fall, winter, and spring growing conditions play a large role in overall plant growth
176 and reproductive output, therefore we considered not only flowering season (June-July) climate variables but
177 also annual temperature and precipitation for inclusion as predictors. We obtained 50-year climate normals
178 (1963-2012) from ClimateWNA (Wang et al., 2012) and climate data during the study from PRISM (PRISM
179 Climate Group, Oregon State University, prism.oregonstate.edu, downloaded 10 October 2016). Our selected
180 set of climatic variables included annual temperature normals (MAT), annual precipitation normals (MAP),
181 summer temperature during the experiment, and summer precipitation during the experiment. Among these,
182 MAT and precipitation during the experiment were correlated ($r = -0.84$). A full set of annual and seasonal
183 variable correlations is presented in Table S2.

184 **Statistical analyses**

185 We used generalized linear mixed effects models (GLMMs) to evaluate the effects of pollinator exclusion,
186 region, and each of the selected climate variables on reproductive assurance and fruits per plant. Initial
187 data exploration indicated that our watering treatment did not have a strong or consistent biological effect

188 (Figure S1, Figure S2), so we omitted this factor from our analyses to keep models simple and facilitate
189 interpretation of interactions between the other factors. For each predictor variable of interest (the four
190 climate variables and region), we built a model with a two-way interaction between this variable and pol-
191 linator exclusion on both seed counts and fruit counts. We used negative binomial GLMMs for both seeds
192 and fruits, and we included a zero-inflation parameter when modeling seed counts. In all models we included
193 random effects of blocks nested within sites. Because our data do not contain true zero fruit counts (i.e.,
194 we did not include plants that did not survive to produce fruits, so all plants in our dataset produced at
195 least one fruit), we subtracted one from all counts of fruits per plant prior to analysis in order to better
196 conform to the assumptions of the negative binomial model. All climate predictors were scaled prior to
197 analyses by subtracting their mean and dividing by their standard deviation. We evaluated the relationship
198 between total plot-level seed production in 2015 and the number of plants present in each plot in summer of
199 2016 using a GLMM with a negative binomial distribution and random effects of block nested within site.
200 All models were built in R (R Core Team, 2017) using the package glmmTMB (Brooks et al., 2017) and
201 predictions, averaged across random effects, were visualized using the package ggeffects (Lüdtke, 2018).

202 Results

203 Variation in response to pollinator limitation across the range

204 In all regions, *Clarkia pulchella* produced fewer seeds in the absence of pollinators (Table 1). Climatic or
205 geographic drivers of variation in reproductive assurance were indicated by our models of seeds per fruit
206 when there was a significant interaction between pollinator exclusion and region or pollinator exclusion and
207 a given climate variable. We found that reproductive assurance varied by region, with greater rates of
208 reproductive assurance in northern populations (Figure 3, Table 1). We did not find any strong effects of
209 climate on seed production or reproductive assurance (Table 1). However, there was a marginally significant
210 interaction between mean annual precipitation (MAP) and pollinator exclusion: populations in historically
211 wetter sites tended to be more negatively affected by pollinator exclusion (i.e., populations in drier sites
212 had slightly higher rates of reproductive assurance) (Table 1). This could be a causal relationship, or the
213 correlation could have been driven by the high degree of reproductive assurance in the northern part of the
214 range, which has low MAP. If low MAP was really a driver of reproductive assurance, we might expect to
215 have seen a greater degree of reproductive assurance in the southwestern sites, which also have low MAP.
216 However, this was not the case in our data.

217 **Response of patch density to seed production in the previous year**

218 Across sites, there was a positive relationship between the number of seeds produced in a plot in 2015 and
219 the number of adult plants present in 2016 ($P < 0.0001$, $\beta = 0.00044$, $SE = 0.000061$). This is not simply
220 a result of plots with large numbers of plants in 2015 being similarly dense in 2016, because seed input
221 was decoupled from plant density in 2015 by the pollinator exclusion treatments. The effect of seed input
222 remained significant ($P < 0.0001$) when the number of plants in 2015 was included in the model as a covariate
223 (results not shown).

224 **Variation in fruit production across the range**

225 Plants in the north produced more fruits (on average 4.0, compared to 1.5 and 1.7 in the center and southwest,
226 respectively; Table 2, Figure 4). This regional trend could be due to the relatively lower normal annual
227 temperatures in the northern sites (Figure 2), the effects of which are discussed below. Pollinator exclusion
228 tended to result in a slight increase in fruit production, possibly due to reallocation of resources within a plant
229 in order to produce more flowers when ovules are left unfertilized (Table 2). This effect was small—plants
230 in plots without pollinators produced an additional 0.4 fruits, on average.

231 We found that the effects of pollinator exclusion on fruit production depended upon the amount of summer
232 precipitation during the experiment (Table 2, Figure 5). Fruit production was higher in wetter sites, and
233 pollinator-excluded plants that were in the wettest sites showed a greater positive effect of pollinator exclusion
234 on fruit production (Table 2). However, it should be noted that while both the main effect of climate and
235 its interaction with pollinator exclusion were significant, the difference between plots with and without
236 pollinators in wetter sites did not appear to be particularly strong, and when visualized the confidence
237 intervals were largely overlapping (Figure 5A). We also found a main effect of mean annual temperature
238 (MAT) on fruit production (Table 2). Fruit production was higher in cooler sites (Figure 5B). Disentangling
239 these two climatic drivers of increased fruit production is not possible with this dataset, however, because
240 summer precipitation during the experiment was negatively correlated with normal MAT. Therefore, it could
241 have been either higher water resources during flowering or cooler temperatures over the growing season that
242 resulted in increased fruit production. It is worth noting, however, that summer temperature during the
243 experiment was not correlated with either of these variables, so if temperature was the driver of this pattern,
244 it was likely because of temperature effects on earlier life-history stages.

245 Discussion

246 Pollinator exclusion in eight populations of *Clarkia pulchella* revealed increased autonomous reproductive
247 assurance in populations in the northern part of the species' range, as compared to the center or southwest.
248 Plants in the northern part of the species' range also produced more fruits. Fruit production was higher
249 in sites that are cooler or that received higher amounts of precipitation during the experiment. Plants
250 also produced slightly more fruits in response to pollinator exclusion, however, this reallocation was not, in
251 general, large enough to offset the reduction in seed production caused by pollen limitation.

252 Reproductive assurance is driven by geography rather than climate

253 Pollinator limitation reduced reproduction across the range of *C. pulchella*. Contrary to our prediction,
254 we did not observe plastic responses of decreased reproductive assurance in response to our water addition
255 treatment, or in sites with high summer precipitation during the experiment. There is some indication that
256 plants in sites with lower average precipitation may have adapted to have greater reproductive assurance
257 (Table 1), perhaps due to shorter season lengths or because gradients in pollinator abundance may be
258 driven by water availability. However, increased reproductive assurance is only apparent at the northern
259 range edge (Figure 3) despite the fact that mean annual precipitation is lower at both the northern and
260 southwestern range edges. This trend persists even after accounting for regional differences in seed set in
261 control plots, i.e., when reproductive assurance is represented as a proportion of the average seed set in
262 control plots (data not shown). In light of this, we suggest that for this species, reproductive assurance is
263 better explained by the latitudinal position of populations relative to the range than by any single climate
264 variable. The locations of our northern populations were covered by the Cordilleran ice sheet during the
265 last glacial maximum; the patterns we see could be the result of a post-glacial range expansion, in which
266 the founders of these northern populations were individuals who had a greater capacity for autonomous
267 reproduction. It is possible that during colonization there is a low probability of pollinators foraging on a
268 novel plant species and moving conspecific pollen between sparse individuals. Reproductive assurance has
269 evolved in other species when populations have experienced historic bottlenecks (Busch, 2005), and contrasts
270 of species' range sizes indicate that species capable of autonomous self-pollination have a greater ability to
271 colonize new sites (Randle et al., 2009). While latitude is not a strong predictor of among-species variation
272 in mating system (Moeller et al., 2017), within-species variation may be more closely tied to postglacial
273 colonization routes.

274 An alternative possibility is that our northern sites are distinct because they differ in community com-
275 position from sites in other parts of the range. These community differences could be in the regional suite

276 of pollinators. A survey of *Clarkia* pollinators in western North America (MacSwain et al., 1973) notes
277 that visitors to *C. pulchella* differ from the characteristic groups that visit more southern members of the
278 genus, and it is possible that a similar gradient in pollinator communities exists within the geographic range
279 of *C. pulchella*. Similarly, co-occurring plant species can influence pollinator availability and deposition of
280 conspecific pollen on a focal species (Palladini and Maron, 2013), and it is possible that populations in the
281 northern portion of the range have adapted to a different pollination environment caused by overlap with
282 different plant species.

283 Across the range, adult plant density was positively correlated with seed production in the previous year.
284 Because our pollinator exclusion treatment led to plot-level seed input being decoupled from the number
285 of plants in 2015 (data not shown), we can attribute differences in 2016 plant density to seed input, rather
286 than to patch quality. Seed production is important enough to have an effect on subsequent density despite
287 differences between plots in the availability of germination sites or the probability of survival to flowering.
288 This, in combination with the consistent negative reproductive response to pollinator exclusion, indicates
289 that populations would likely be negatively impacted by disruption of pollinator service.

290 **Reallocation to flower and fruit production under pollen limitation**

291 Either cool temperatures during the growing season, high summer precipitation, or a combination of the two
292 increase overall fruit production. Germination of *C. pulchella* is inhibited under warm temperatures (Lewis,
293 1955), so plants in sites with cooler fall temperatures could have earlier germination timing and develop
294 larger root systems, giving them access to more resources during the flowering season. *Clarkia pulchella*
295 individuals appear to be capable of reallocating some resources to flower production when pollen is limited
296 (Table 2). Our finding of a modest amount of reallocation under pollinator exclusion contrasts with work in
297 another *Clarkia* species, *C. xantiana* ssp. *parviflora*, which found that individuals do not reallocate resources
298 based on the quantity of pollen received (Briscoe Runquist and Moeller, 2013). These contrasting results
299 can potentially be explained by two factors. First, the focal species of our study produces buds continuously
300 over the flowering season, while *C. xantiana* ssp. *parviflora* produces nearly all of its buds at the beginning
301 of the flowering season, leaving individuals little opportunity to respond to the pollination environment
302 (Briscoe Runquist and Moeller, 2013). Second, their study investigated differences between plants under
303 natural pollination conditions and plants receiving supplemental pollen, while we compared plants under
304 natural pollination and plants under strong pollen limitation. These differences in direction and magnitude
305 of the treatments imposed may affect the degree to which a plant reallocation response can be detected. An
306 alternative explanation for the apparent resource reallocation is that our pollinator exclusion tents protected

307 plants from herbivores that might have removed fruits in the control plots. While herbivory of individual
308 fruits (rather than entire plants) appears rare (M. Bontrager, personal observation), we can not rule out the
309 possibility of an herbivore effect.

310 **Implications for responses to climate change**

311 If we assume that the correlations we found between traits and climate across sites can be generally extrap-
312 olated to future climates and future responses, our results would suggest that the projected temperature
313 increases in coming decades (Figure 2) will have negative effects on reproduction via negative effects on fruit
314 set (Figure 5B). However, it is important to be cautious about inferring future responses from current spatial
315 patterns (Warren et al., 2014). Common garden experiments in the field and growth chamber (M. Bontrager,
316 unpublished data; Gamble et al., 2018) indicate that populations of *C. pulchella* are differentiated based on
317 climate of origin, therefore population responses to changes in climate are likely to be individualized and will
318 depend not only on a population's current climate optimum, but also its capacity for adaptive and plastic
319 responses.

320 **Conclusions and future directions**

321 Populations of *Clarkia pulchella* from across the species' range are reliant on pollinator service to maintain
322 high levels of seed production, which is likely an important demographic transition for this species. Our data
323 support the hypothesis that population in areas of the range that have undergone post-glacial expansion may
324 have elevated levels of reproductive assurance, but alternative drivers of this pattern remain plausible. Future
325 work should explore these drivers, and could begin by examining geographic variation in the phenology,
326 abundance, and composition of pollinator communities, as well as the responses of these communities to
327 changes in climatic conditions. In order to better understand how *C. pulchella* might respond to changes
328 in pollinator service, future work should measure the capacity of populations to evolve higher rates of self-
329 pollination in the absence of pollinators.

330 **Acknowledgements**

331 We would like to thank B. Harrower, R. Germain, and members of the Angert lab for their thoughtful
332 comments on this project. E. Fitz assisted with fieldwork. Permission to work in our field sites was granted
333 by British Columbia Parks, Umatilla National Forest, Ochoco National Forest, and the Vale District Bureau
334 of Land Management. MB was supported by a University of British Columbia Four-year Fellowship.

335 Data accessibility

336 Data and code are available on Github at <https://github.com/meganbontrager/clarkia-reproductive-assurance>.

337 Upon publication, all data and code will be archived on Dryad.

338 Conflict of interest

339 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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Table 1 Effects of pollinator exclusion, region, and climate on seed set per fruit. Estimates, standard errors, and *P*-values are from zero-inflated negative binomial GLMMs. Effects of being in the northern or southwestern region are expressed relative to central populations. Significant main effects and interactions are indicated with bold font.

Climate/region predictor		Climate/region			Pollinator exclusion			Climate/region x pollinator exclusion		
		β	SE	<i>P</i> -value	β	SE	<i>P</i> -value	β	SE	<i>P</i> -value
Region	North	0.219	0.155	0.157	-0.987	0.112	< 0.001	0.371	0.159	0.020
	Southwest	-0.217	0.139	0.119				0.098	0.153	0.523
Mean annual precipitation		0.046	0.098	0.635	-0.834	0.066	< 0.001	-0.111	0.064	0.086
Mean annual temperature		-0.084	0.090	0.348	-0.827	0.066	< 0.001	-0.038	0.062	0.541
Summer precipitation (2015)		0.031	0.096	0.747	-0.825	0.066	< 0.001	-0.019	0.063	0.763
Summer temperature (2015)		0.037	0.093	0.688	-0.840	0.067	< 0.001	0.105	0.065	0.105

Table 2 Effects of pollinator exclusion, region, and climate on fruit number. Estimates, standard errors, and *P*-values are from negative binomial GLMMs. Effects of being in the northern or southwestern region are expressed relative to central populations. Significant main effects and interactions are indicated with bold font.

Climate/region predictor		Climate/region			Pollinator exclusion			Climate/region x pollinator exclusion		
		β	SE	<i>P</i> -value	β	SE	<i>P</i> -value	β	SE	<i>P</i> -value
Region	North	1.156	0.442	0.009	0.302	0.096	0.002	-0.272	0.146	0.063
	Southwest	0.001	0.399	0.997				-0.153	0.151	0.309
Mean annual precipitation		-0.126	0.236	0.594	0.178	0.062	0.004	0.020	0.064	0.752
Mean annual temperature		-0.454	0.148	0.002	0.154	0.063	0.014	-0.118	0.066	0.072
Summer precipitation (2015)		0.281	0.206	0.172	0.148	0.062	0.017	0.211	0.068	0.002
Summer temperature (2015)		-0.253	0.201	0.209	0.174	0.062	0.005	-0.033	0.066	0.617

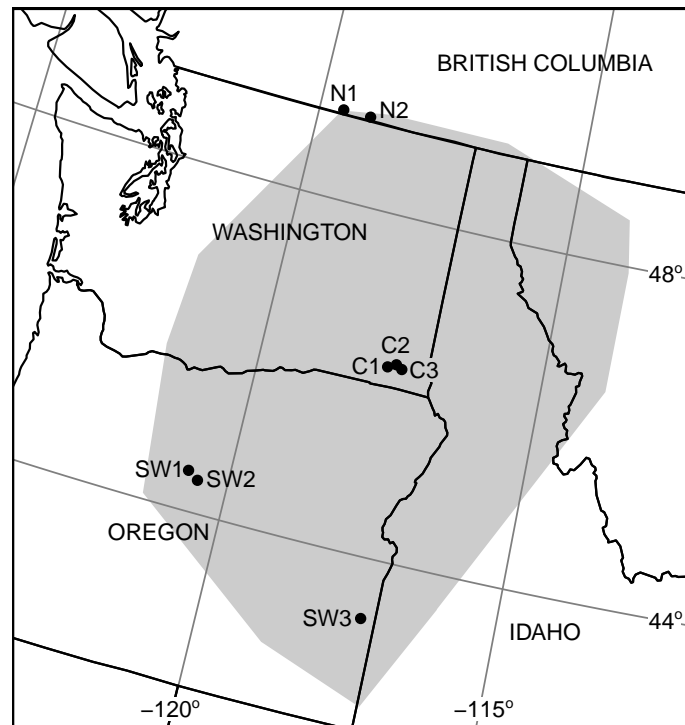


Fig. 1. Experimental sites relative to the geographic range of *Clarkia pulchella* (shaded area). N1 and N2 are northern sites; S1, S2, and S3 are southwestern sites, and C1, C2, and C3 are central sites. For geographic coordinates and elevations, see Table S1.

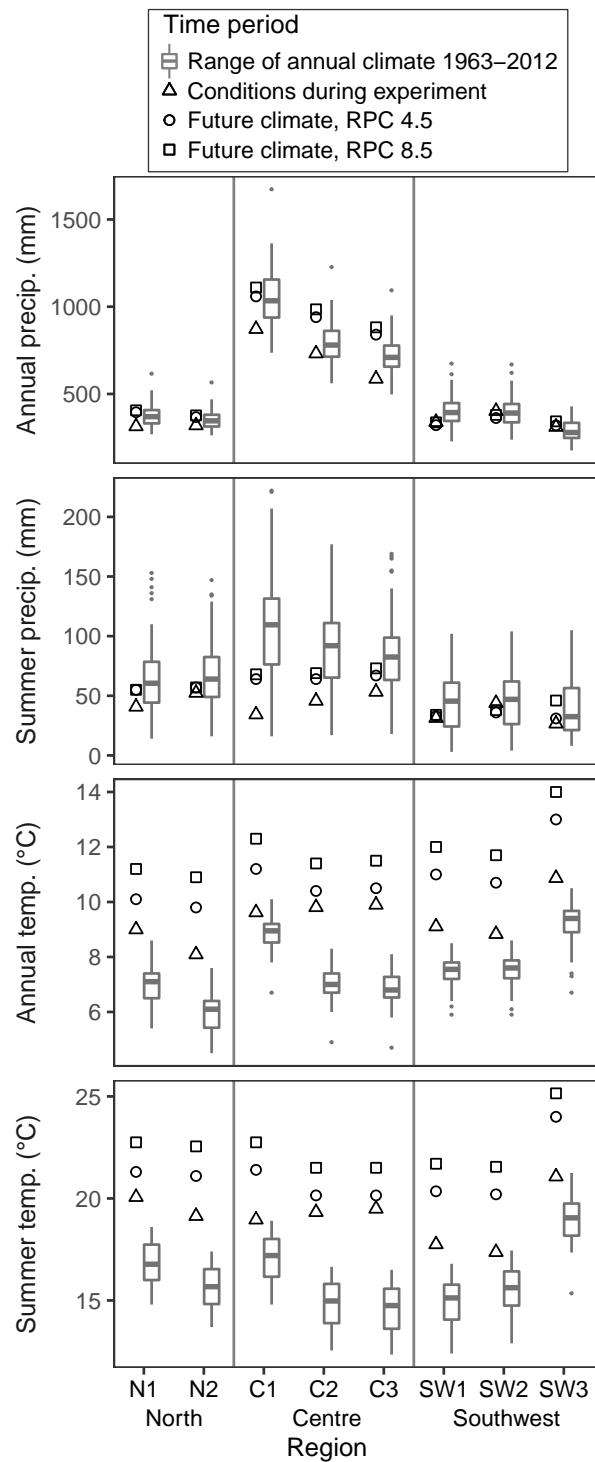


Fig. 2. Climate conditions in experimental sites in each region. Boxplots summarize annual values over a 50-year time window (1963–2012). Triangles represent conditions during the experiment. Also shown are climate projections for 2055 under two different emissions scenarios (circles: CanESM RCP 4.5; squares: CanESM RCP 8.5). Historic and future values extracted from ClimateWNA (Wang et al., 2012), weather during the experiment was downloaded from PRISM (PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University, prism.oregonstate.edu).

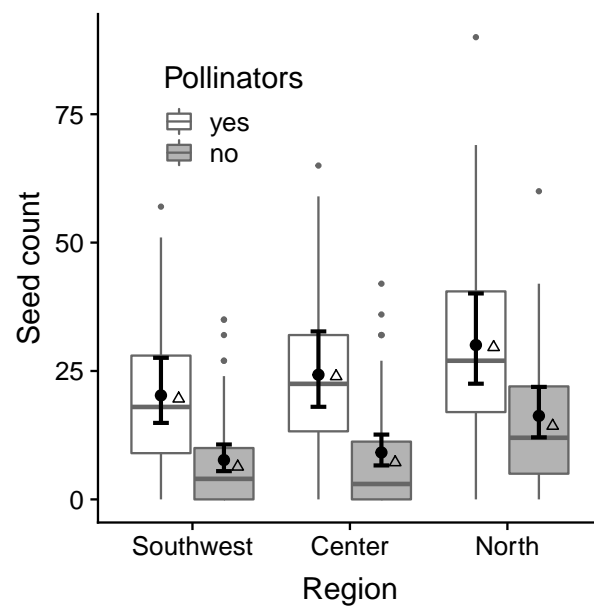


Fig. 3. Seeds per fruit in plots with and without pollinators in each of three geographic regions within the range of *Clarkia pulchella*. Boxplots show the median, first and third quartiles, and range of the raw data; black points and error bars show the model-fitted means and 95% confidence intervals; open triangles are raw means of the data.

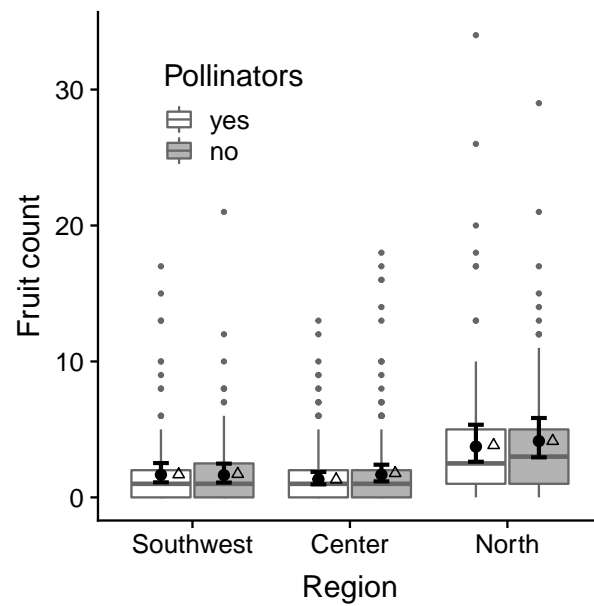


Fig. 4. Fruits per plant in plots with and without pollinators in each of three geographic regions within the range of *Clarkia pulchella*. Boxplots show the median, first and third quartiles, and range of the raw data; black points and error bars show the model-fitted means and 95% confidence intervals; open triangles are raw means of the data.

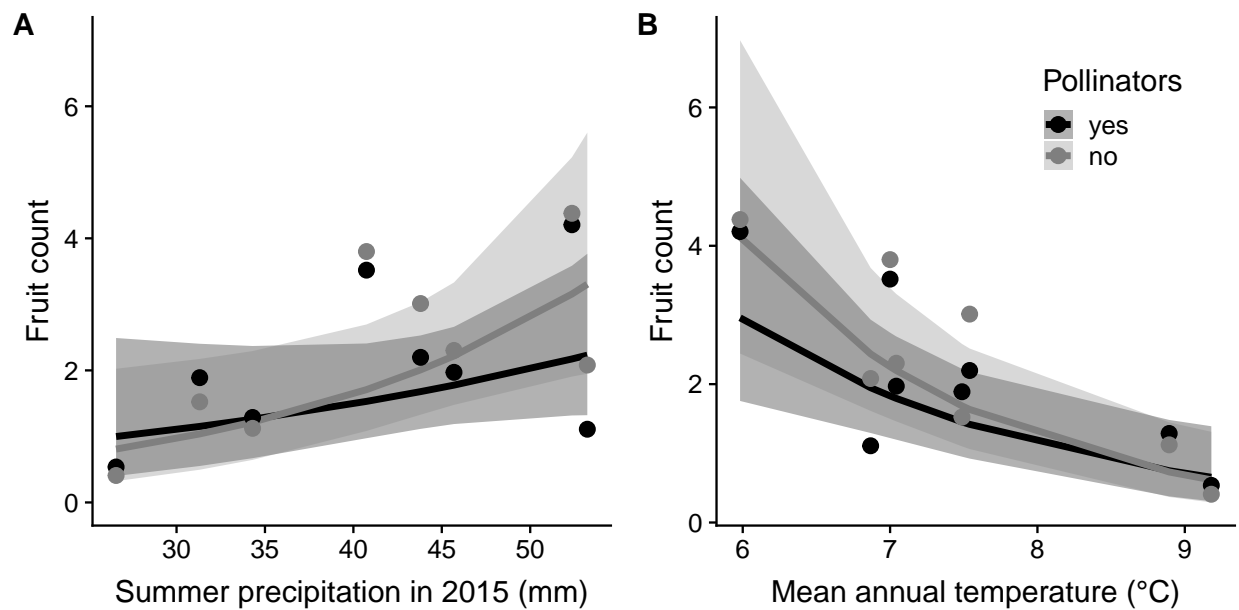


Fig. 5. (A) Effects of summer precipitation during the experiment (2015) and pollinator exclusion on per-plant fruit production. (B) Effects of mean annual temperature (1963-2012) and pollinator exclusion on per-plant fruit production. Average per-plant fruit counts in plots with and without pollinators are also plotted. Lines represent model predictions; shaded areas represent 95% confidence intervals. Each pair of stacked dots represent raw means of plants with (black) and without pollinators (grey) in a site.

Table S1 Geographic data for experimental sites. Coordinates are given in decimal degrees. Abbreviations match Figure 1.

Name	Abbreviation	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation (m)
Southwest 1	SW1	44.47	-120.71	1128
Southwest 2	SW2	44.38	-120.52	1134
Southwest 3	SW3	43.30	-117.27	1043
Center 1	C1	46.24	-117.74	1022
Center 2	C2	46.28	-117.60	1457
Center 3	C3	46.24	-117.49	1445
North 1	N1	49.05	-119.56	842
North 2	N2	49.04	-119.05	866

Table S2 Pearson correlation coefficients among precipitation and temperature variables associated with experimental sites. For **(A)** precipitation, **(B)** temperature, and **(C)** precipitation and temperature, correlations are shown between annual, fall (September-November), winter (December-February), spring (March-May), and summer (June-July, because all plants senesce before August). Normal values were calculated over 50 years (1963-2012), while 2014-2015 values are from the growing season of plants in the experiment. Normal climate data is from ClimateWNA (Wang et al., 2012) and 2014-2015 variables are from PRISM (PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University, prism.oregonstate.edu). Variables used in models and their correlations are indicated in bold text.

A. Temperature									
	MAT (normal)	Fall temp. (normal)	Winter temp. (normal)	Spring temp. (normal)	Summer temp. (normal)	MAT (2014-15)	Fall temp. (2014)	Winter temp. (2014-15)	Spring temp. (2015)
Fall temp. (normal)	0.97								
Winter temp. (normal)	0.69	0.83							
Spring temp. (normal)	0.86	0.73	0.23						
Summer temp. (normal)	0.72	0.54	0.01	0.94					
MAT (2014-2015)	0.71	0.68	0.62	0.44	0.48				
Fall temp. (2014)	0.70	0.75	0.82	0.30	0.26	0.95			
Winter temp. (2014-2015)	0.60	0.74	0.95	0.11	-0.04	0.71	0.90		
Spring temp. (2015)	0.28	0.05	-0.38	0.57	0.78	0.40	0.08	-0.35	
Summer temp. (2015)	0.25	0.05	-0.24	0.40	0.65	0.59	0.30	-0.14	0.93
B. Precipitation									
	MAP (normal)	Fall precip. (normal)	Winter precip. (normal)	Spring precip. (normal)	Summer precip. (normal)	MAP (2014-15)	Fall precip. (2014)	Winter precip. (2014-15)	Spring precip. (2015)
Fall precip. (normal)	1.00								
Winter precip. (normal)	1.00	1.00							
Spring precip. (normal)	0.99	0.99	0.98						
Summer precip. (normal)	0.92	0.88	0.88	0.89					
MAP (2014-2015)	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.88				
Fall precip. (2014)	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.87	0.98			
Winter precip. (2014-2015)	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.86	1.00	0.98		
Spring precip. (2015)	0.96	0.97	0.96	0.98	0.82	0.98	0.95	0.99	
Summer precip. (2015)	0.13	0.10	0.11	0.05	0.38	0.11	0.04	0.09	0.01

C. Precipitation and temperature

	MAT (normal)	Fall temp. (normal)	Winter temp. (normal)	Spring temp. (normal)	Summer temp. (normal)	MAT (2014-15)	Fall temp. (2014)	Winter temp. (2014-15)	Spring temp. (2015)	Summer temp. (2015)
MAP (normal)	0.20	0.30	0.47	-0.05	-0.19	0.23	0.31	0.37	-0.18	-0.08
Fall precip. (normal)	0.23	0.34	0.53	-0.05	-0.21	0.22	0.33	0.41	-0.24	-0.14
Winter precip. (normal)	0.22	0.33	0.53	-0.06	-0.22	0.22	0.33	0.42	-0.25	-0.15
Spring precip. (normal)	0.30	0.37	0.52	0.03	-0.10	0.34	0.41	0.42	-0.09	0.03
Summer precip. (normal)	-0.08	-0.04	0.09	-0.17	-0.21	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.09
MAP (2014-2015)	0.25	0.34	0.51	-0.02	-0.16	0.28	0.37	0.43	-0.19	-0.07
Fall precip. (2014)	0.28	0.37	0.50	0.04	-0.13	0.21	0.30	0.38	-0.18	-0.12
Winter precip. (2014-2015)	0.28	0.37	0.53	0.00	-0.14	0.31	0.40	0.46	-0.18	-0.06
Spring precip. (2015)	0.34	0.43	0.61	0.02	-0.12	0.40	0.49	0.53	-0.17	-0.02
Summer precip. (2015)	-0.84	-0.80	-0.51	-0.79	-0.67	-0.50	-0.48	-0.39	-0.28	-0.17

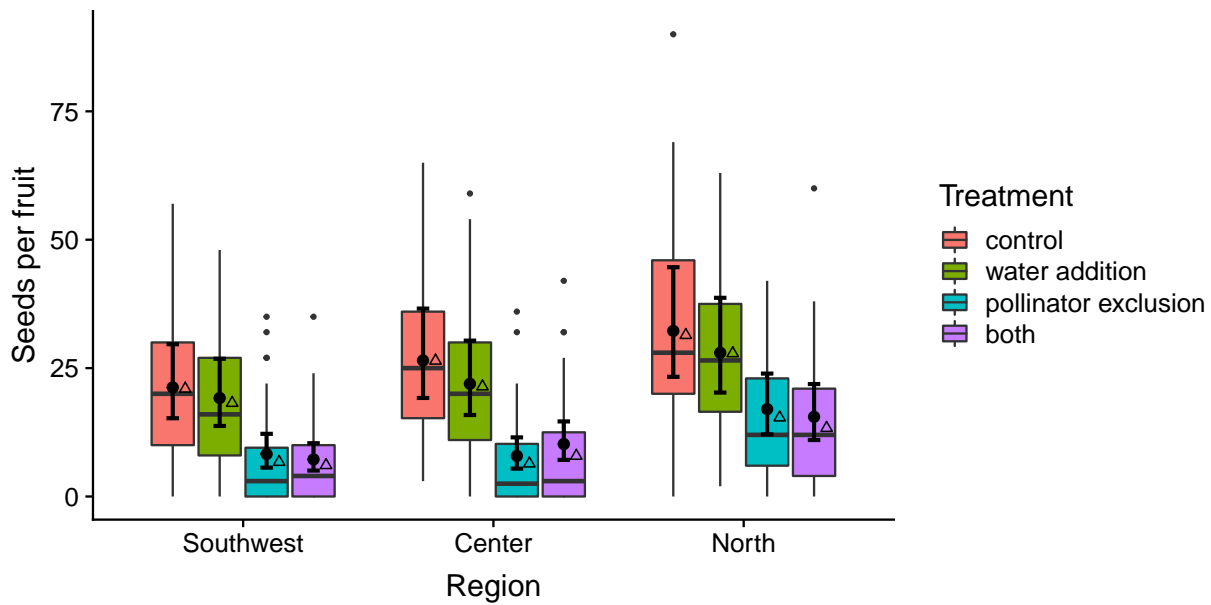


Fig. S1. Seeds per fruit in plots with factorial pollinator exclusion and water addition treatments in each of three geographic regions within the range of *Clarkia pulchella*. Boxplots show the median, first and third quartiles, and range of the raw data; black points and error bars show the model-fitted means and 95% confidence intervals; open triangles are raw means of the data. Despite a statistically significant interaction between pollinators and water addition (analyses not shown), the biological effect of watering on seed set appears negligible.

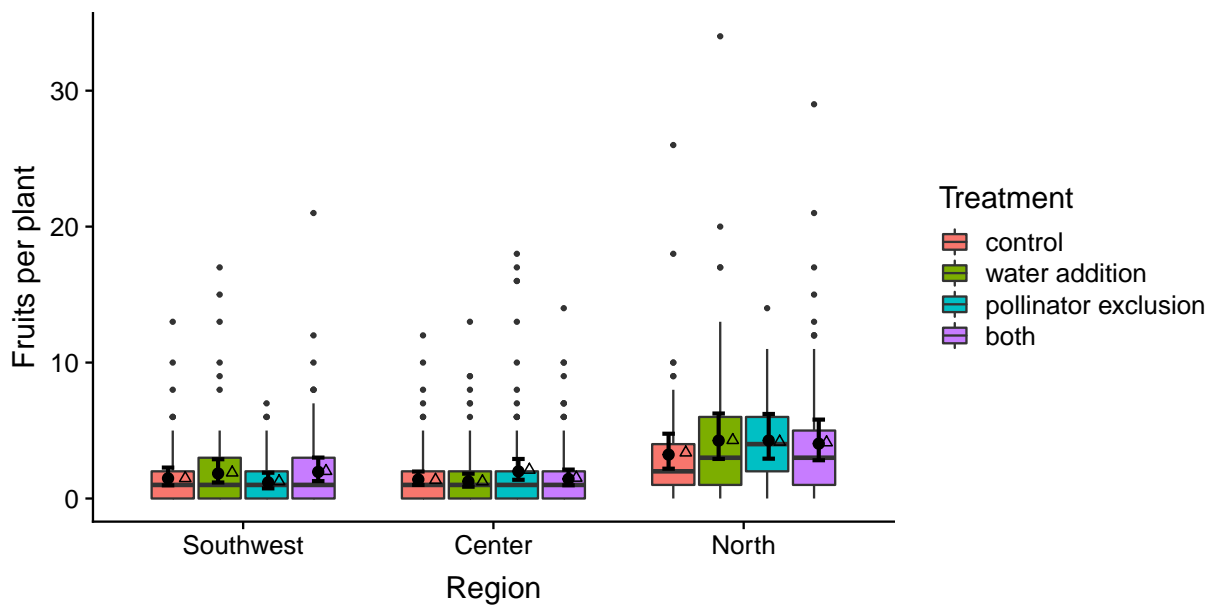


Fig. S2. Fruits per plant in plots with factorial pollinator exclusion and water addition treatments in each of three geographic regions within the range of *Clarkia pulchella*. Boxplots show the median, first and third quartiles, and range of the raw data; black points and error bars show the model-fitted means and 95% confidence intervals; open triangles are raw means of the data. Despite statistically significant interactions between pollinators and water addition, as well as between region and water addition (analyses not shown), the biological effect of watering on fruit number appears negligible.