

# Genotypic variation in a foundation tree alters ecological network structure of an associated community

Matthew K. Lau<sup>a,b,1</sup>, Louis J. Lamit<sup>b</sup>, Rikke R. Naesbourg<sup>c</sup>, Stuart R. Borrett<sup>d</sup>, Matthew A. Bowker<sup>e</sup>, and Thomas G. Whitham<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Biological Sciences and Merriam-Powell Center for Environmental Research, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ 86011, USA; <sup>b</sup>Harvard Forest, Harvard University, 324 N Main St, Petersham, MA 01366, USA; <sup>c</sup>Department of Biology, Syracuse University, 107 College Place Syracuse, NY 13244, USA; <sup>e</sup>University of California Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, USA; <sup>f</sup>Department of Biology and Marine Biology, University of North Carolina Wilmington, 601 South College Road, Wilmington, NC, 28403, USA; <sup>g</sup>School of Forestry, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ 86011, USA

This manuscript was compiled on May 5, 2020

1 Biological evolution occurs in the context of complex networks of  
2 interacting species in which natural selection defines the structure  
3 of ecological networks. Fundamental to this evolutionary process  
4 is the discovery of a genetic basis to ecological network structure.  
5 Although previous work has demonstrated that tree genotype con-  
6 tributes to interaction network structure at the scale of forest stands,  
7 the contribution of tree genetics to localized interaction networks  
8 at the scale of individual trees has not yet been explored. To test  
9 the degree to which tree genetics can contribute to network struc-  
10 ture we conducted quantitative modeling of interaction networks. We  
11 constructed networks of epiphytic lichen associated with individual  
12 trees that were a part of a long-term experimental common garden  
13 of genotypes of (*Populus angustifolia*), a foundation species. We  
14 found three main results. First, tree genotype significantly predicted  
15 lichen network similarity, i.e. trees of the same genotype had more  
16 similar lichen networks. Second, bark roughness and condensed  
17 tannin concentration were both predicted by tree genotype and cor-  
18 related with lichen network similarity. Third, the network metrics, the  
19 number of links and centrality, were both correlated with several tree  
20 traits, including bark roughness and condensed tannin concentra-  
21 tion. We conclude that tree genotype influences lichen interaction  
22 network structure with two potential pathways through bark rough-  
23 ness and condensed tannin concentration. These results provide  
24 evidence that variation in ecological networks can result from genet-  
25 ically based variation in foundation species.

networks | heritability | community | genetics | lichen | cottonwood |  
Populus | common garden

- 1 • Evolution occurs in complex ecosystems
- 2 • Community genetics studies have demonstrated  
3 the importance of genetics and evolutionary dy-  
4 namics in structuring communities and ecosys-  
5 tems
- 6 • Community composition, ecosystem processes  
7 have been shown to vary in response to the  
8 genetic variation of foundation species
- 9 • Previous studies have examined aspects of net-  
10 works but to date, no studies have examined the  
11 genetic basis of networks of interacting species
- 12 • Here we examine the genetic basis of network  
13 structure on a community of sessile lignicolous

(i.e. bark) lichen on cottonwood trees. This  
14 system is ideal for examining for this kind of  
15 study because it:

- 16 1. Lichen do not move among trees, although  
17 asexual propagules could move to other  
18 trees in the garden
- 19 2. Is not unapproachably complex
- 20 3. Is comprised of distinct individuals that  
21 are small enough for an entire community  
22 to occur on a single tree but not too small  
23 to be quantified easily

## Significance Statement

Evolution occurs in the context of ecosystems com-  
prised of complex ecological networks. Research  
at the interface of ecology and evolution has primar-  
ily focused on pairwise interactions among species  
and have rarely included a genetic component to  
analyses. Here, we use a long-term common gar-  
den experiment to reveal the effect that genotypic  
variation can have on networks of lichens that occur  
on the bark of a foundation tree species. We found  
that lichen interaction network structure is genet-  
ically based and is correlated with heritable bark  
traits, including roughness and condensed tannins.  
These findings demonstrate the importance of ge-  
netic variation and evolutionary dynamics in shaping  
ecological networks as evolved traits.

M.L. and L.L. conceived the study, M.L. and L.L. conducted the field work, R.N. assisted in lichen identifications, M.L. wrote the first draft of the manuscript, S.B. and T.W. contributed substantively to the conceptual development, T.W. established the common garden. All authors contributed to revisions of the manuscript.

The authors have no conflicts of interest.

<sup>1</sup>Dr. Matthew K. Lau. E-mail: matthewklau@fas.harvard.edu

- 25 • We hypothesize that trees will vary in some  
26 phenotypic traits, such that trees of the same  
27 genotype will tend to have similar traits produc-  
28 ing similarities in lichen network structure. To  
29 test this hypothesis, we use a common garden  
30 of cottonwood trees with lichen communities.

31 **E**volution occurs in the context of complex eco-  
32 logical networks. Initially, evolution in a com-  
33 munity context was focused on examples of highly  
34 co-evolved pairs of species (e.g. Darwin's famous  
35 prediction of the Sphinx Moth and Christmas  
36 Orchid) citeWade2007. However, studies of dif-  
37 fuse co-evolution (*sensu* citeJanzen1980) citeStinch-  
38 combe2002, Strauss2007, Dicke2010, geographic mo-  
39 saics of co-evolution citeThompson2005 and com-  
40 munity genetics citeWhitham2006 have provided an  
41 in-road for ecological network approaches citeFor-  
42 tuna2009, Keith2017, Lau2016 to illuminate a more  
43 complex perspective of the interface between eco-  
44 logical and evolutionary dynamics. There is now  
45 evidence to support that selection tends to occur  
46 among groups of species citeWade2007, Pieterse2007,  
47 Dicke2010 favoring the development of small webs  
48 citeNuismer2006, Guimaraes2007, Gomez2009 and  
49 that genetic variation and phylogenetic relatedness  
50 contributes to variation in community assembly (1)  
51 and species interactions citeWhitham2006a, Bai-  
52 ley2009, Moya-Larano2011, which shapes the eco-  
53 logical interaction networks (2).

54 Community genetics studies (3) have shown that  
55 genetic variation in foundation species (4) plays a  
56 significant role in defining distinct communities of in-  
57 teracting organisms: such as, endophytes, pathogens,  
58 lichens, arthropods, and soil microbes. Multiple stud-  
59 ies have now demonstrated that genetic variation  
60 influences numerous functional traits (e.g., phyto-  
61 chemical, phenological, morphological) produces a  
62 multivariate phenotype (5) that contributes to varia-  
63 tion in associated communities (6). The importance  
64 of genetic variation in structuring ecological systems  
65 was recently reviewed by Des Roches et al. (2018).

66 Additional work has provided support for the hy-  
67 pothesis that not only does composition vary among  
68 genetically distinct genotypes of foundation species,  
69 it also impacts the structure of the network of species  
70 interactions in these communities. Two studies have  
71 demonstrated conceptually (7) and empirically (8).  
72 However, studies in the network ecology literature  
73 generally do not include a genetic component (see

74 review by Borrett et al. 2014) and community genet-  
75 ics papers do not have data on network structure of  
76 associated communities. Currently, we are aware of  
77 only one paper that empirically examines the genetic  
78 basis of network structure of a community citeBar-  
79 bour2019.

80 Here, we investigate how genetic variation in a  
81 foundation tree species determines the structure of a  
82 network of interactions among a community of tree  
83 associated lichen species. Using a long-term (20+  
84 years), common garden experiment with replicated  
85 individuals of known genetic identity and a naturally  
86 established stand of *Populus angustifolia*. We focused  
87 on a model community of 9 epiphytic lichen species,  
88 as previous research has demonstrated significant  
89 compositional responses of epiphytes to genotypic  
90 variation (9, 10). In addition, the life-history char-  
91 acteristics of lichens, having highly localized, direct  
92 contact interactions and slow population turnover  
93 rates, allowed us to assess interactions among lichen  
94 species on individual trees. We hypothesize that in  
95 natural systems evolution occurs in a community  
96 context involving interactions of complex networks  
97 of interacting species (7, 8, 11, 12). If correct, we  
98 expect to find that network structure is genetically  
99 based in which different plant genotypes support  
100 different interaction networks and that these interac-  
101 tions networks can function as indicators of ecologi-  
102 cal dynamics important for conserving biodiveristy.  
103 Applying a probability-theory based network mod-  
104 eling approach, we constructed a set of interaction  
105 network models for the lichens associated with indi-  
106 vidual trees. Using these models, we then examined  
107 the genetic basis of the structure of these ecological  
108 networks.

## Materials and Methods

109 The study was conducted along the Weber River, UT  
110 (USA), which is a cottonwood (*Populus* spp.) dominated  
111 riparian ecosystem. Although two native species, *Populus*  
112 *angustifolia* (James) and *Populus fremontii* (S. Watson),  
113 occur here and are known to hybridize, only pure or  
114 advanced generation backcrosses of *P. angustifolia* were  
115 sampled. Bark lichens have been extensively studied  
116 in this system and provide an ideal system in which to  
117 observe and model lichen interaction networks, as their  
118 sessile nature permits accurate identification of individuals  
119 (13).

120 A long-term, common garden experiment was used  
121

123 to isolate the effect of tree genotype from the effect of  
124 the localized microenvironment associated with each individual  
125 and spatial autocorrelation. Established in 1992,  
126 asexually propagated clones of genotyped *P. angustifolia*  
127 individuals were obtained from wild collections and  
128 planted in fully randomized design at the Ogden Nature  
129 Center, Ogden, UT. From the population of established  
130 individuals in the common garden, we chose a total of  
131 thirteen genotypes, replicated between 3 and 8 times each,  
132 for sampling.

133 **Bark Lichen Observations.** On each tree, presence or absence  
134 of each lichen species was assessed in 50 total 1 cm<sup>2</sup>  
135 cells arrayed in a checkerboard pattern. Given the small  
136 size and sessile nature of lichens, we were able to rapidly  
137 assess lichen interactions by quantifying thalli in close  
138 contact. Sampling was restricted to the northern aspect  
139 of the trunk to maximize the abundance of lichen and  
140 control for the effect of trunk aspect. Two adjacent 10  
141 cm<sup>2</sup> quadrats centered at 50 cm and 85 cm from ground  
142 level were sampled (Fig 1 A and B). The observed lichen  
143 community included (abbreviations are given for species  
144 present in study): Xg = *Xanthomendoza galericulata*, Xm  
145 = *X. montana*, Ch = *Caloplaca holocarpa*, Cs = *Candeliella subdeflexa*, Rg = *Rinodina glauca*, Lh = *Lecanora hagenii*, Pm = *Phyciella melanchra*, Pa = *Physcia adscendens*, Pu = *Physcia undulata*. Several other species were  
149 not observed in the present study but are known to occur  
150 in this region: *Phaeophyscia orbicularis*, *Phaeophyscia ciliata*, *Melanelia sublivacea*, *Meanelia elegantula*.

152 The cell size and checkerboard sampling pattern was  
153 chosen to isolate the individuals in each cell. In a previous  
154 survey of lichen thallus size in this common garden, we  
155 had observed a median thallus size of 0.12 ± 0.001 cm<sup>2</sup> (1  
156 S.E.) (see Supporting Information). Based on the median  
157 thallus size, we expected thalli observed in each cell to  
158 generally be spatially independent of thalli present in  
159 other cells but exposed to similar micro-environmental  
160 conditions created by the bark and the location of the  
161 sampling area on an individual tree. Therefore, we were  
162 confident in treating the cell-wise observations in quadrats  
163 as independent with respect to lichen-lichen interactions.

164 We also measured several bark traits for each tree:  
165 including, bark roughness and chemistry. **INSERT  
166 FROM LAMIT.**

167 **Lichen Network Modeling and Analysis.** For each tree,  
168 repeated observations of lichen were made in order to construct  
169 replicated interaction networks for each genotype.  
170 We quantified the presence of lichen in the 1 cm<sup>2</sup> cells on  
171 individual trees of *P. angustifolia*. Unipartite networks  
172 were generated using the conditional probabilities of each  
173 species pair, i.e. the probability of observing one species  
174 given an observation of another species  $P(S_i|S_j)$ , based on  
175 the method developed by (14). To calculate conditional  
176 probabilities, we quantified the individual probabilities

177 of species occurrences  $P(S_i)$  and the joint probability  
178 of co-occurrences  $P(S_i, S_j)$  using the frequencies of each  
179 species and their co-occurrences. We were then able to  
180 calculate the conditional probabilities of each species pair  
181 as  $P(S_i|S_j) = \frac{P(S_i, S_j)}{P(S_j)}$ , based on the axioms of probability.  
182 This yielded a matrix that could possibly be asymmetric, i.e.  
183  $P(S_i|S_j)$  does not have to be equal to  $P(S_j|S_i)$ . Another  
184 important property of this matrix is that the diagonal  
185 ( $S_{ii}$ ) was equal to one for all species present and zero for  
186 species that were not observed in any cell.

187 We then applied an analytical procedure to remove  
188 non-significant links between species. This procedure  
189 determines if the joint probability of a species pair  
190 (i.e.  $P(S_i, S_j)$ ) is different from zero (Fig. 2). Here, a  
191 confidence interval  $CI_{95\%}$  is calculated as  $CI_{95\%} =$   
192  $E[S_i S_j] * Z_{95\%} * \sqrt{V(S_i S_j)}$ , where the expected  
193 frequency of co-occurrences  $E(S_i S_j)$  is the total number  
194 of cells surveyed ( $N$ ) times the independent probabilities  
195 of each species  $P(S_i) * P(S_j)$ ,  $Z_{95\%}$  is the Z-score  
196 for 95% from a Z-distribution and the expected variance  
197 of  $E(S_i S_j)$  is the total number of cells times the  
198 expected probability of  $S_i S_j$  and its compliment (i.e.  
199  $V(S_i S_j) = N * E[P(S_i, S_j)] * (1 - E[P(S_i, S_j)])$ ). If the  
200 observed number of co-occurrence falls outside of the  
201 confidence interval, the joint probability  $P(S_i, S_j)$  is de-  
202 termined to be equal to the product of the individual  
203 probabilities (i.e.  $P(S_i)P(S_j)$ ), and the conditional prob-  
204 ability reduces to the individual probability of that species  
205  $P(S_i)$ . Therefore, unless the co-occurrence of a species  
206 pair falls outside the confidence interval, the probabil-  
207 ity that the observation of one species given the other  
208 is no different than simply observing that species alone.  
209 This enables us to remove links from a given network by  
210 re-scaling the resulting conditional probabilities by sub-  
211 tracting the individual probabilities from the conditional  
212 probabilities (i.e. how different the conditional probability  
213 is from the independent probability), which makes any  
214 species with a non-significant conditional probability zero.  
215 The resulting matrix ( $\mathbf{D} = D_{ij}$ ) can be interpreted as  
216 how one species impacts another with zero being no effect  
217 and values less than or greater than zero interpreted as  
218 negative and positive effects, respectively. Here, we will  
219 refer to this matrix ( $\mathbf{D}$ ) as an interaction matrix with  
220 the properties that it can be asymmetric (i.e.  $P_{ij}$  does not  
221 necessarily equal  $P_{ji}$ ), and the diagonal ( $P_{ii}$ ) is zero (i.e.  
222 a species does not influence its own probability of being  
223 observed).

224 **Statistical Analyses, Software and Data.** We used a com-  
225 bination of parametric and non-parametric, permutation  
226 based frequentist statistical analyses to test for the effects  
227 of genetic variation on lichen communities and their inter-  
228 action networks. To assess the effect of genotype on uni-  
229 partite responses, we used additive, random effects models  
230 with Restricted Maximum Likelihood (REML). We used  
231 a combination of Least Squares Regression, Analysis of



**Fig. 1.** The communities of bark lichens were observed in a common garden of replicated genotypes of narrowleaf cottonwood trees (*P. angustifolia*) at the Ogden Nature Center (Ogden, UT). Lichens were sampled within a fixed area ( $10 \text{ cm}^2$ ) on individual trees at two heights, 40cm and 80cm from the ground (A and B, respectively). (C) a photo of a typical community of bark lichen species interacting on the trunk of a cottonwood tree, including one of the more abundant species, *Xanthomendoza galericulata*, in the center. (D-K) shows the other lichen species observed, respectively: *X. montana*, *Candelariella subdeflexa*, *Rinodina* sp., *Caloplaca holocarpa*, *Physcia adscendens*, *Phyciella melanchra*, *Physcia undulata* and *Lecanora hagenii*. Photo Credits: L.J. Lamit (A-C) and R.R. Naesbørg (D-K).

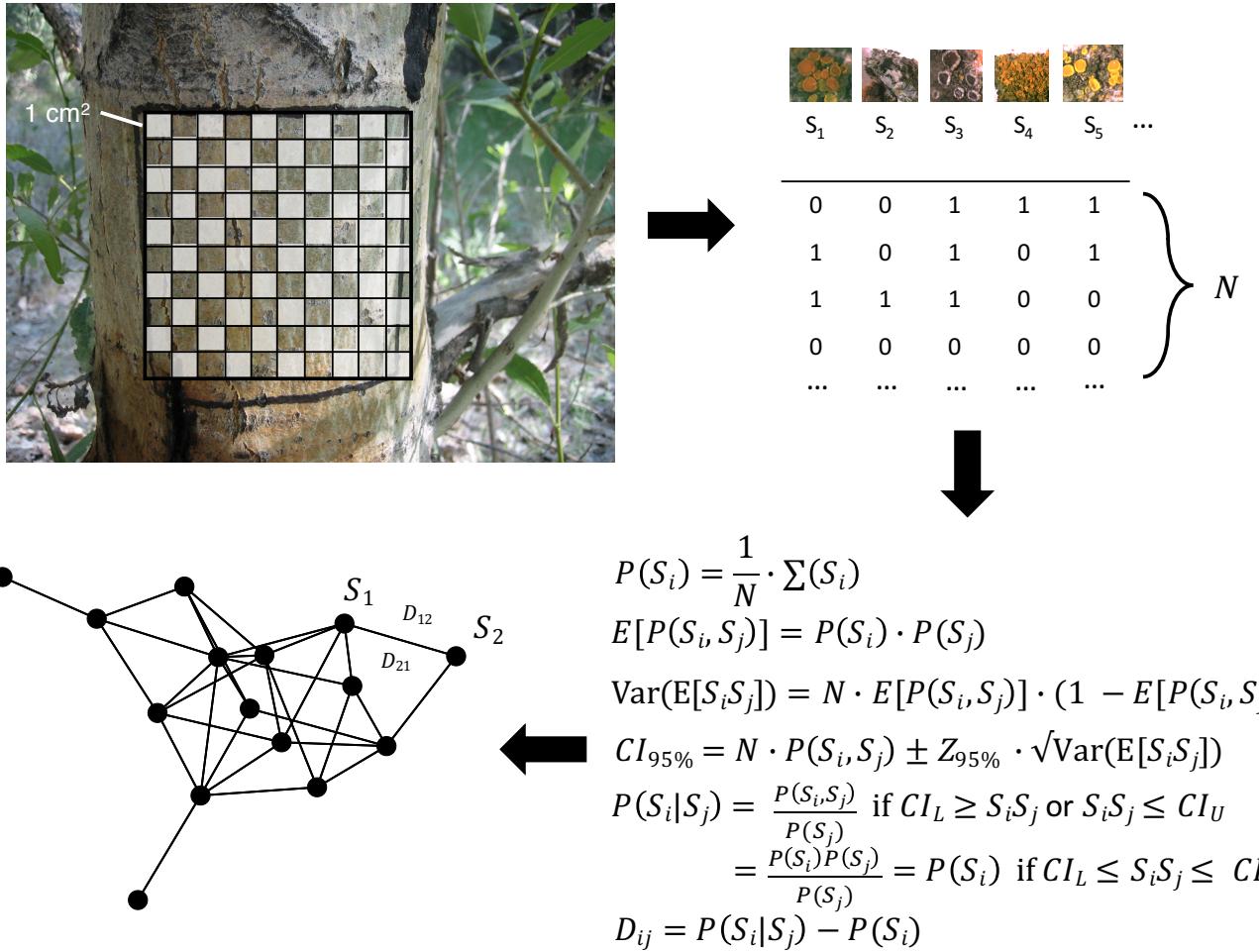
232 Variance (ANOVA) and correlation tests to quantify and  
 233 test for the relationship among other variables. Bark  
 234 roughness, lichen cover and species richness were square-  
 235 root transformed to meet the assumptions of homogeneity  
 236 of variance and normality for these tests.

237 For multivariate response variables, such as lichen com-  
 238 munity composition and network structure, we used dis-  
 239 tance based multivariate statistical approaches, including  
 240 Permutational Analysis of Variance (PERMANOVA) and  
 241 Mantel tests. For some analyses, community composition  
 242 was relativized by species maxima to reduce the effect  
 243 of the highly abundant *X. galericulata*. For community  
 244 composition we used Bray-Curtis dissimilarity, which has  
 245 optimal performance with count data citepMinchen1998.  
 246 To quantify the similarity of lichen networks among indi-  
 247 vidual trees, we calculated the pairwise Euclidean distance  
 248 of the **D** interaction matrices among all pairs of trees.

249 For visualization of multivariate patterns, we used Non-  
 250 metric Multi-Dimensional Scaling (NMDS) citeecodist  
 251 to produce dimensionally reduced ordinations of these  
 252 multi-variate responses and fitted vectors for continuous  
 253 predictor variables to the ordinated values citevegan. Us-  
 254 ing random initial configurations with a maximum of 500

iterations and a change in stress threshold of less than  
 $10^{-12}$ . Final configurations has the lowest stress with at  
 most a stress level of 0.10.

255 For each network, we also calculated metrics that mea-  
 256 sure different structural aspects. Although there are many  
 257 other metrics, for the sake of simplicity we focus on a sub-  
 258 set that represent several interesting features of network  
 259 structure (see (15)). We calculated the number of interac-  
 260 tions or “links” in each network, which provides a measure  
 261 of the size of the network citepLau2015, Borrett2014. We  
 262 also calculated the centralization of each network, which  
 263 measures the evenness of the distribution of interactions  
 264 among the species in the network citeButts2005. In a net-  
 265 work with a low level of centralization species have similar  
 266 amount of interaction in the network, while a network  
 267 with a high level of centralization tends to have one or  
 268 small number of species that interact with other species.  
 269 We used a related function to calculate the centrality of  
 270 each species (i.e. node level centrality) in each network  
 271 as well. The modularity of each network was also quanti-  
 272 fied using a weighted algorithm citeBeckett2016, which  
 273 measures the degree to which a given network is divided  
 274 into groups of species more connected to each other than  
 275



**Fig. 2.** Lichen interaction networks were constructed by conducting field observations in  $1 \text{ cm}^2$  cells within a  $10 \text{ cm}^2$  grid on each tree using a checkerboard pattern (grey cells). Thus, a set of  $N$  total cell observations were recorded for each tree with the presence or absence of each species recorded for each cell. Applying the probability-based network modeling method adapted from (14), we calculated the conditional probabilities,  $P(S_i|S_j)$ , for all species pairs and removed (i.e. set equal to zero) species pairs whose joint probabilities,  $P(S_i, S_j)$ , were not significant using a confidence interval based comparison of their observed co-occurrence frequency,  $S_iS_j$ , to that expected due to chance alone,  $E[P(S_i, S_j)] = P(S_i)P(S_j)$ , and  $P(S_i|S_j)$  reduces to  $P(S_i)$ , the observed individual probability of species  $S_i$ .

other species. As with the other response variables, the number of links was log-transformed and both modularity and centralization scores were fourth-root transformed to meet variance and normality assumptions.

All code and data for the project are openly available online. Code and data are available at [github.com/ecgen/comgen](https://github.com/ecgen/comgen). The project is also archived via Zenodo at [zenodo.com/doi/XXXXXX](https://zenodo.com/doi/XXXXXX). All analyses were conducted using the programming language R version 3.6.1 (R Development Core Team 2019).

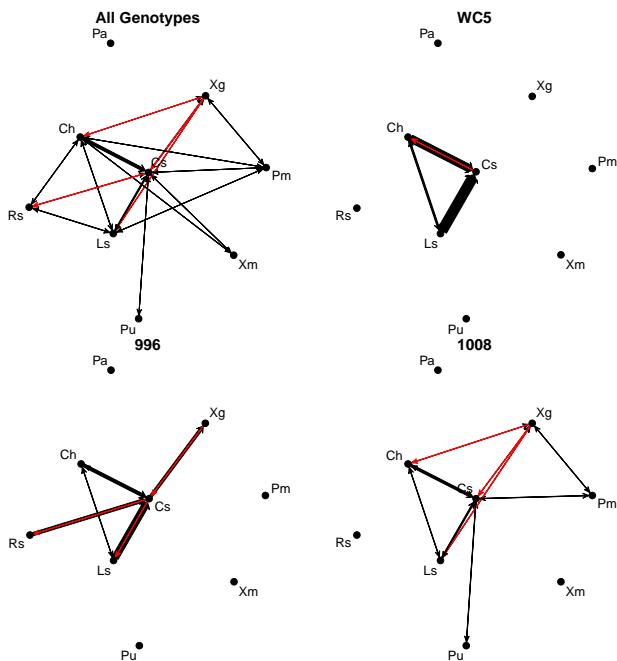
## Results

1. Network structure responded to genotype
  - number of links responded
  - centrality responded
  - average mutual information responded

- Figure: chplot network metrics

### 2. Genotype indirectly influenced networks through bark roughness

- genotype predicted bark roughness (reml)
- bark roughness predicted network metrics (L, Cen, AMI)
- Bark roughness was negatively correlated with L, Cen and AMI
- genotype did not predict any residual variation in lichen networks from bark roughness' effect
- Genotype didn't predict any other measured traits



**Fig. 3.** Lichen networks varied in structure among tree genotypes. Network diagrams of the mean lichen interaction matrices averaged for all trees and for several individual genotypes showing a range of interaction network structure. Directionality (arrowheads) and sign (red = negative, black = positive) of interactions are shown as edges between species (abbreviated by the first letter of the genus and specific epithet), which are scaled by their magnitude. The sign of the interaction is indicative of greater (positive) or lesser (negative) paired occurrences than expected relative to the overall frequency of occurrence of each species. Ecologically, the links in the network are likely the product of multiple types of interactions (e.g. mutualism, parasitism, competition, facilitation) that could vary over both space and time.

predictor of network similarity ( $H^2 = 0.16$ , *p-value* ≤ 0.001). Bark roughness ( $H^2 = 0.38$ , *p-value* ≤ 0.001) and condensed tannin concentration ( $H^2 = 0.28$ , *p-value* = 0.014) also showed a signature of tree genotype (Fig. 4); however, this was not the case for other tree traits, bark pH and carbon to nitrogen ratio. Also, none of the lichen network metrics were significantly predicted by tree genotype, either at the scale of the entire network (Table 1) or for individual species (see Supporting Information). Although both showed a response to tree genotype, bark roughness and condensed tannins were not correlated (Pearson's  $r = 0.084$ , *p-value* = 0.556).

Response	H2	p-value
Lichen Network Similarity	0.413	0.0537
Average Mutual Information	0.3101	0.0274
Network Centrality	0.3305	0.0196
Number of Network Links	0.3156	0.0269
Percent Lichen Cover	0	1
Lichen Species Diversity	0	0.4558
Lichen Species Richness	0	0.458
Lichen Species Evenness	0	1
Percent Rough Bark	0.3221	0.0128
pH	0	1
Carbon-Nitrogen (CN) Ratio	0	1
Condensed Tannins (CT)	0.0041	0.4513
BR-L Residuals	0	1
BR-Cen Residuals	0.0113	0.4357
BR-AMI Residuals	0	1

**Table 1. Genotypic effects on the associated lichen community.**

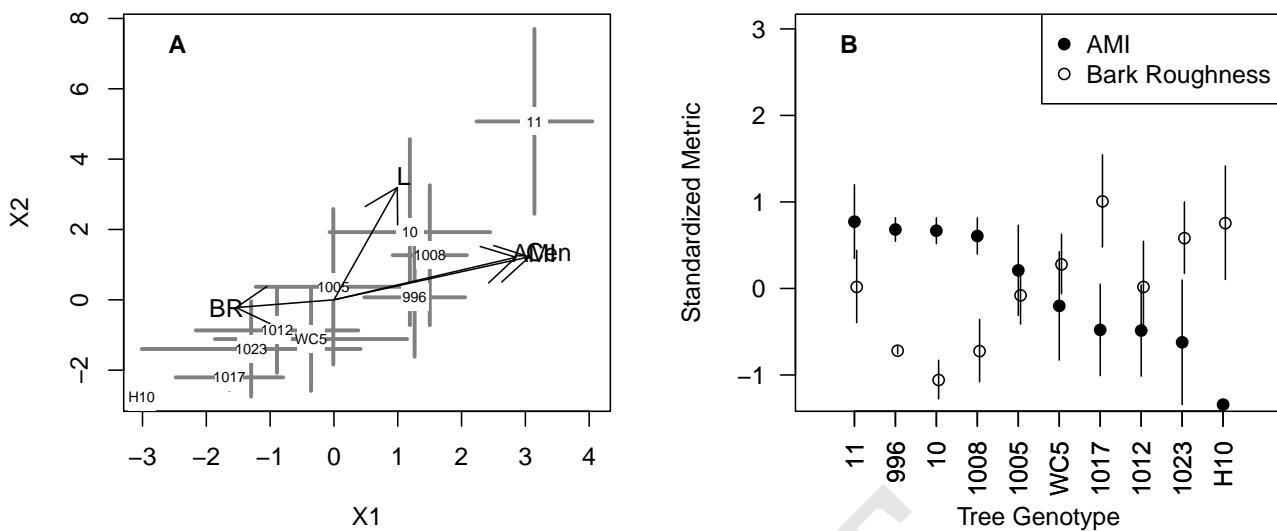
Tree traits and lichen community metrics were correlated with lichen networks. The genetically based traits, bark roughness and condensed tannins were both significant predictors of network similarity (Table 2). Bark C:N ratio was also a significant predictor of network similarity, but, as shown previously (see Table 1), there is not sufficient evidence support a genetic basis for it. Bark pH was not a significant predictor of lichen network similarity (Table 2). The abundance, richness, evenness and diversity of the bark lichen community, although also not predicted by tree genotype, were all significantly correlated with lichen network structure (Table 2). Lichen community composition was not correlated with lichen network similarity, either when species abundances were relativized (Mantel R = -0.09, *p-value* = 0.139) or not (Mantel R = -0.03, *p-value* = 0.573).

## Discussion

- We found:

- No other bark traits predicted network metrics
3. Centrality was a collective response
- centrality varied among species
  - individual species centrality did not respond to genotype
  - mantel?
  - Figure: barplot + post-hoc
4. The lichen networks also responded to non-genetically based variation in the community
- Bark roughness not correlated with lichen PC, SR, SE, SD
  - PC negatively correlated with Cen
  - SR positively correlated with L
  - SE positively correlated with L
  - SD positively correlated with L, Cen

Network similarity and several tree traits were genetically based. Tree genotype was a significant



**Fig. 4.** Tree genotype affected lichen networks and several bark traits. A. The plot shows genotype centroids of NMDS ordinated ( $R^2 = 0.999$ , stress = 0.008) lichen networks ( $\pm 1$  S.E.). Centroids that are closer are more similar in the structure of their lichen networks. B. Plot showing the standardized ( $\frac{x - \bar{x}}{\sigma}$ ) means ( $\pm 1$  S.E.) for the two genetically based tree traits: tree bark roughness and condensed tannin concentration.

	df	SS	R2	F	p-value
geno	9.0000	44078.1327	0.5442	3.5821	0.0537
Residual	27.0000	36915.4605	0.4558		
Total	36.0000	80993.5932	1.0000		

**Table 2. PERMANOVA Pseudo-F Table of lichen network similarity to genotype.**

- 356 – Lichen networks genetically based
- 357 – Bark roughness was the primary genetically
- 358 based trait driving network structure
- 359 – Lichn networks also varied with cover, rich-
- 360 ness and diversity of the lichen communi-
- 361 ty, which were not correlated with rough-
- 362 ness and primarily driven by one dominant
- 363 species
- 364 • What mechanisms could be at play?
- 365 • Habitat filtering of communities (richness, com-
- 366 position) vs environmental influence on inter-
- 367 actions. Likely a combination of both of these
- 368 factors.
- 369 – Lichen network structure correlated with
- 370 species richness, evenness and diversity
- 371 – Lichen community composition not corre-
- 372 lated with network structure

- 373 – None of these were genetically based
- 374 • An important consequence for diversity is that
- 375 genotypes could be supporting unique communi-
- 376 ties, even if the composition of the communities
- 377 is the same among individuals and genotypes.
- 378 • Genetic diversity could be influencing the stabili-
- 379 ty of communities through the effects on inter-
- 380 actions. Some network structures are likely to
- 381 be more stable, either in response to disturbance
- 382 or via self-organized dynamics. Although, none
- 383 of the metrics examined, such as the number of
- 384 links, modularity or centrality, showed a genetic
- 385 signature.
- 386 • Important factors to consider in studies of other
- 387 ecological networks:
- 388 – Relative body size
- 389 – Mobility
- 390 – Reproductive isolation
- 391 • Future work should consider the potential influ-
- 392 ence on evolutionary dynamics of communities
- 393 – Network structure influences network sta-
- 394 bility

395 – Are the communities nested subsets?

links or the centrality of lichen networks, suggesting  
441 that bark roughness has some other effect on the  
442 structure of the lichen networks. Taken together,  
443 these findings support the hypothesis that genotypic  
444 variation in a foundation species contributes to the  
445 structure of a network of interacting species.  
446

447 **LJL: I wonder if you need to have so much**  
448 **on richness here. Overall, I think you want to**  
449 **focus on the network responses and patterns**  
450 **among genotype first, and then go into mech-**  
451 **anism later. I think we don't quite have a**  
452 **good mechanism yet so I don't think it needs**  
453 **to come up in the first paragrpah of the dis-**  
454 **cussion.**

455 These findings point to the importance of under-  
456 standing the community level effects of genetic vari-  
457 ation in plant functional traits and highlights the  
458 potential for indirect effects of genetic variation to  
459 propagate through networks of interacting species  
460 and trophic levels.

461 This work corroborates previous findings of the  
462 importance of plant genetics in shaping community  
463 structure and ecosystem processes. citepBangert2008

464 Altering the structure of interaction networks  
465 presents a means for genetic effects to be magnified  
466 within the system of interacting species. For  
467 example, (8) showed that the genetics based interac-  
468 tions of aphid resistant and aphid susceptible trees  
469 resulted in different interaction networks of their  
470 associated arthropod communities composed of 139  
471 species. At the scale of ecosystems, trophic net-  
472 works or food webs direct and control the rates of  
473 energy and nutrient flux (16). Furthermore, in a  
474 predator-prey-plant study, Smith (17), showed that  
475 the interactions among species across trophic levels  
476 depended on plant genotype.

477 Also, work by (18–20) observed consistent pat-  
478 terns of centralized interactions of species modules  
479 focused around hubs of plant-fungal interactions. In  
480 other words, a small number of plant and fungal  
481 symbionts tended to have disproportionate numbers  
482 of interactions with other species and likely are the  
483 drivers in determining community assembly, struc-  
484 ture and dynamics.

485 More on the importance of ecological networks  
486 (21, 22).

487 From Thompson2014

- 488 • Pairwise interactions are usually influenced by  
489 other species

- 490 • Selection favors the development of small webs  
491 • Evolution of new lifestyles leads to changes in  
492 selection on large and small webs

493 Specific hypothesis from Thompson2014

494 **LJL:** If I recall, the Elamo paper just looks  
495 at genetic correlations between pairwise individual abundances. I would suggest maybe it  
496 doesn't deserve to be in this 1st paragraph.  
497 Perhaps it actually should be in the 2nd or  
498 3rd paragraph, just as a reference that points  
499 to the potential for genotype to influence networks. Definately our 2015 JOE paper goes  
500 much further, too, since it has whole communities being correlationed. But, again, I  
501 woudl put both of these as citation in the community genetics paragraphs (2 of 3) instead  
502 of the first paragrphah, which focuses on the general network lit.

503 **LJL:** It could be useful to point out that  
504 our findings are not related to trophic interactions, which is pretty cool. Also,we talk  
505 about interaction networks but it is not clear  
506 to me if the interactions tend to be positive  
507 or negative. Can we get at that with the approach used?

508 **TGW:** Is there any adaptive component to  
509 the tree in having certain lichen communities? e.g., can they feed back to affect tree  
510 performance in some way or is this a passive outcome of a trait that affects bark for  
511 other adaptive reasons and lichens are passive players that tag along for the ride? I  
512 could envision that lichens covering the bark  
513 of a tree act as a barrier between insects and  
514 pathogens, much like ectomycorrhizae cover  
515 fine roots as a first line of defense by invading  
516 microorganisms. Uptake of N that gets  
517 passed to the tree??

518 **LJL:** I agree that there is a general overar-  
519 ching theme that evolution occurs in a com-  
520 munity network context, but I'm not sure  
521 that we should state that as our main hypoth-  
522 esis. It seems more that this is a fundamen-  
523 tal foundation for our work. The hypoth-  
524 esis is more what we are testing directly, but  
525 we don't test this directly. I guess I don't  
526 want to give the impresison that our com-  
527 munities are necessarily the result of each

528 species evolving into its place in the commu-  
529 nity on these tree genotypes (although I do  
530 understand this as Shuster et al 2006's funda-  
531 mental explanation for why we see different  
532 communities on different genotypes; I don't  
533 necessarily agree that this is the only rea-  
534 son we woudl see different communities on  
535 dif genotypes). Most of these are pretty gen-  
536 eralist lichens, which could be found on other  
537 deciduous trees in the surrounding city or nat-  
538 ual areas. I would look at it more like an  
539 assembling of lichen species into unique con-  
540 figurations on genetically different substrates.  
541 There may be some selection for different  
542 genotype of lichen during the community as-  
543 sembly process but we can't really tell that  
544 just by differences in species abundances or  
545 coocurneces. I guess to me the evolutionary  
546 context that is more direclty related to this  
547 work is that the tree genotype is a central  
548 controller (indeed a sort of hub species in the  
549 network) of network structure. By anchor-  
550 ing the lichen network to tree genotype (and  
551 variation among networks to variation among  
552 tree genotypes) , our study highlights the pos-  
553 sibility that natural selection acting on the  
554 trees may have an extended consequence for  
555 the network structure of organisms living on  
556 the trees...the extra thing we add to the field  
557 is that we show interaction networks are sen-  
558 sitive to genotype. I doubt the lichens have  
559 a direct effect on tree fitness, but favorabil-  
560 ity of some tree genotypes over others during  
561 natural selection will then go on to favor and  
562 disfavor certain lichen communities of differ-  
563 ent network structures. By being sensitive  
564 to tree genotype, the lichen community net-  
565 works are passive riders on the waves of evolu-  
566 tionary dynamics that occur within the tree  
567 species they inhabit.

568 **MKL:** In response to Lamit's comment  
569 above, I agree that it is not requred that  
570 there is co-evolution. Another, perhaps sim-  
571 pler, explanation is that there is variation in  
572 environmental filtering of lichen individuals  
573 created in part by genetic variation in tree  
574 individuals.

575 **TGW:** might be good to cite papers on  
576 competition in lichens or other organizing fac-

587 tors to back up the least expected statement.  
588 as epiphytes we might not expect them to  
589 care.

590 **TGW:** I think we need to emphasize the  
591 long-term nature of our common garden  
592 study as very few common garden studies of  
593 lichens likely exist. Any refs on this? If true  
594 might want to mention this up front in intro.

595 **MKL:** Environmental filtering is evidenced  
596 by species richness, but also possibly species  
597 interaction varying based on environment as  
598 networks varied in terms of sign and magni-  
599 tude as well.

600 **MKL:** The effect of bark roughness on  
601 network similarity was primarily genetically  
602 based, and there are likely other factors at  
603 play.

#### 604 Discussion of network implications for sta- 605 bility with genetics.

606 Bark roughness had previously been shown to be  
607 an important tree trait influencing bark lichens (13)  
608 that is under strong genetic control (23).

609 Although our study was conducted with a commu-  
610 nity of lichens, these results should be generalized  
611 to other groups of diverse organisms around the  
612 world that also exhibit significant genetic signals at  
613 the community level (24, 25). In the face of the  
614 high degree of complexity and potential context de-  
615 pendence of ecological processes, the current study  
616 points to the utility of considering the spatial and  
617 temporal scales of interactions, as discussed to some  
618 in previous studies (26–28). In the present study,  
619 we found that community assembly processes, such  
620 as environmental filtering and species interactions,  
621 are genetically based. This is likely due, in part,  
622 to the large difference in the differences in size and  
623 longevity of the lichen and cottonwood individuals  
624 with the trees determining the environment in which  
625 the lichen occur. We suggest that future work would  
626 be aided by determining these modules within the  
627 biotic community that include species with similar  
628 differences in body-size and time-scales. As heritable  
629 variation is the raw material for natural selection  
630 to act upon, a genetic basis for interaction network  
631 structure indicates evolutionary dynamics should be  
632 considered at the community level and that con-  
633 serving genetic variation is important to consider in  
634 efforts to restore or preserve complex species interac-  
635 tions and their associated ecosystem functions (29).

With such findings, it appears that we are closer to  
understanding the evolutionary drivers of Darwin's  
entangled bank and the interconnectedness of species  
in complex communities.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.** This work was supported by  
the National Science Foundation grant (DEB-0425908)  
and Integrative Graduate Research Traineeship (IGERT)  
fellowships for M.L. and L.L. The Ogden Nature Center  
staff helped to maintain the common gardens. Lichen  
sampling was supported by Todd Wojtowicz, Luke Evans  
and David Solance Smith.

1. Crutsinger GM (2016) A community genetics perspective: Opportunities for the coming decade. *New Phytol.* 647
2. Rezende EL, Lavabre JE, Guimarães PR, Jordano P, Bascompte J (2007) Non-random co-extinctions in phylogenetically structured mutualistic networks. *Nature* 448(7156):925–8. 648
3. Lamit LJ, et al. (2015) Genotype variation in bark texture drives lichen community assembly across multiple environments. *Ecology* 96(4):960–971. 649
4. Ellison AM, et al. (2005) Loss of foundation species: consequences for the structure and dynamics of forested ecosystems. *Front. Ecol. Environ.* 3(9):479–486. 650
5. Holeski LM, Hillstrom ML, Whitham TG, Lindroth RL (2012) Relative importance of genetic, ontogenetic, induction, and seasonal variation in producing a multivariate defense phenotype in a foundation tree species. *Oecologia* 170:695–707. 651
6. Bailey JK, et al. (2009) From genes to ecosystems: a synthesis of the effects of plant genetic factors across levels of organization. *Philos. Trans. R. Soc. Lond. B. Biol. Sci.* 364(1523):1607–16. 652
7. Lau MK, Keith AR, Borrett SR, Shuster SM, Whitham TG (2015) Genotypic variation in foundation species generates network structure that may drive community dynamics and evolution. *Ecology* 97(3):15–0600.1. 653
8. Keith AR, Bailey JK, Lau MK, Whitham TG (2017) Genetics-based interactions of foundation species affect community diversity, stability and network structure. *Proc. R. Soc. B Biol. Sci.* 284(1854):20162703. 654
9. Winfree R, Gross BJ, Kremen C (2011) Valuing pollination services to agriculture. *Ecol. Econ.* 71:80–88. 655
10. Zytnyska SE, Fay MF, Penney D, Preziosi RF (2011) Genetic variation in a tropical tree species influences the associated epiphytic plant and invertebrate communities in a complex forest ecosystem. *Philos. Trans. R. Soc. Lond. B. Biol. Sci.* 366:1329–1336. 656
11. Thompson JN (2013) *Relentless Evolution*. (University of Chicago Press), p. 499. 657
12. Bascompte J, Jordano P, Olesen JM (2006) Asymmetric Coevolutionary Networks Facilitate Biodiversity Maintenance 10.1126/science.1123412. *Science* (80- ). 312:431–433. 658
13. Lamit L, et al. (2011) Genetically-based trait variation within a foundation tree species influences a dominant bark lichen. *Fungal Ecol.* 4(1):103–109. 659
14. Araújo MB, Rozenfeld A, Rahbek C, Marquet PA (2011) Using species co-occurrence networks to assess the impacts of climate change. *Ecography (Cop.)*. 34:897–908. 660
15. Lau MK, Borrett SR, Baiser B, Gotelli NJ, Ellison AM (2017) Ecological network metrics: opportunities for synthesis. *Ecosphere* 8(8):e01900. 661
16. Borgatti SP, Everett MG (2006) A Graph-theoretic perspective on centrality. *Soc. Networks* 28:466–484. 662
17. Smith DS, Bailey JK, Shuster SM, Whitham TG (2011) A geographic mosaic of trophic interactions and selection: trees, aphids and birds. *J. Evol. Biol.* 24(2):422–9. 663
18. Toju H, et al. (2017) Species-rich networks and eco-evolutionary synthesis at the metacommunity level. 664
19. Toju H, Yamamoto S, Tanabe AS, Hayakawa T, Ishii HS (2016) Network modules and hubs in plant-root fungal biomes. *J. R. Soc. Interface*. 665
20. Toju H, Guimarães PR, Olesen JM, Thompson JN (2014) Assembly of complex plant-fungus networks. *Nat. Commun.* 666
21. Guimarães PR, Jordano P, Thompson JN (2011) Evolution and coevolution in mutualistic networks. *Ecol. Lett.* 14(9):877–85. 667
22. Thompson JN, Schwind C, Guimarães PR, Friberg M (2013) Diversification through multiltrait evolution in a coevolving interaction. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 668
23. Bdeir R, et al. (2017) Quantitative trait locus mapping of *Populus* bark features and stem diameter. *BMC Plant Biol.* 669
24. Rountree JK, Shuker DM, Preziosi RF (2011) Forward from the crossroads of ecology and evolution. *Philos. Trans. R. Soc. Lond. B. Biol. Sci.* 366(1569):1322–8. 670
25. Whitham TG, et al. (2012) Community specificity: Life and afterlife effects of genes. 671
26. Bangert RK, et al. (2006) A genetic similarity rule determines arthropod community structure. *Mol. Ecol.* 15:1379–1391. 672
27. Zook AE, Eklof A, Jacob U, Allesina S (2010) Food webs: Ordering species according to body size yields high degree of intervality. *J. Theor. Biol.* 271(1):106–113. 673
28. Zytnyska SE, Khudr MS, Harris E, Preziosi RF (2012) No Title. *Oecologia* 170(2). 674
29. Evans DM, Pocock MJO, Memmott J (2013) The robustness of a network of ecological networks to habitat loss. *Ecol. Lett.* 16:844–52. 675

707 **Assessment and Results**

- 708 • Network similarity not genetically based
- 709 • Genetically based number of links and centrality but  
710 not modularity
- 711 • Lichen cover, richness, evenness, diversity and com-  
712 position not genetically based
- 713 • Roughness genetically based but not bark condensed  
714 tannins, CN or pH
- 715 • Bark roughness correlation with number of links  
716 (yes) and centrality (yes)? <- TODO add figure A  
717 = mdc.plot(L, Cen), B = (ch.plot(L,Cen,geno), BR  
718 vector))
- 719 • Centrality values for species <- censpp.pdf
- 720 • Redo haritability calculations
- 721 • Jamie double check genotype network permanova in  
722 PRIMER
- 723 • Jamie double check reml's in R

724 **Tables.**

Response	H2	p-value
Lichen Network Similarity	0.413	0.0537
Average Mutual Information	0.3101	0.0274
Network Centrality	0.3305	0.0196
Number of Network Links	0.3156	0.0269
Percent Lichen Cover	0	1
Lichen Species Diversity	0	0.4558
Lichen Species Richness	0	0.458
Lichen Species Evenness	0	1
Percent Rough Bark	0.3221	0.0128
pH	0	1
Carbon-Nitrogen (CN) Ratio	0	1
Condensed Tannins (CT)	0.0041	0.4513
BR-L Residuals	0	1
BR-Cen Residuals	0.0113	0.4357
BR-AMI Residuals	0	1

**Table 1. Genotypic effects on the associated lichen community.**

	R2	p-value
br_L	0.210	0.005
br_Cen	0.190	0.006
br_AMI	0.170	0.012
ct_L	0.020	0.359
ct_Cen	0.010	0.641
ct_AMI	0.000	0.831
ph_L	0.000	0.948
ph_Cen	0.000	0.746
ph_AMI	0.000	0.825
cn_L	0.020	0.432
cn_Cen	0.030	0.345
cn_AMI	0.020	0.435

	df	SS	R2	F	p-value
geno	9.0000	44078.1327	0.5442	3.5821	0.0537
Residual	27.0000	36915.4605	0.4558		
Total	36.0000	80993.5932	1.0000		

**Table 2. PERMANOVA Pseudo-F Table of lichen network similarity to genotype.**

	Df	SumOfSqs	R2	F	Pr(>F)
BR	1.0000	21021.8765	0.2595	13.0299	0.0096
CT	1.0000	2349.3142	0.0290	1.4562	0.2016
pH	1.0000	2098.8999	0.0259	1.3010	0.2899
CN	1.0000	3896.1757	0.0481	2.4150	0.1890
Residual	32.0000	51627.3270	0.6374		
Total	36.0000	80993.5932	1.0000		

**Table 3. PERMANOVA Pseudo-F Table of lichen network similarity response to bark traits.**

	L	Cen	AMI
PC	0.00	-0.46	0.00
SR	0.47	0.00	0.00
SE	0.45	0.00	0.00
SD	0.59	0.33	0.00

725 **Figures.**

	Df	SumOfSqs	R2	F	Pr(>F)
geno	9.0000	1.5049	0.2001	0.7507	0.8878
Residual	27.0000	6.0143	0.7999		
Total	36.0000	7.5193	1.0000		

**Table 4. Pseudo-F Table of lichen community similarity PERMANOVA.**

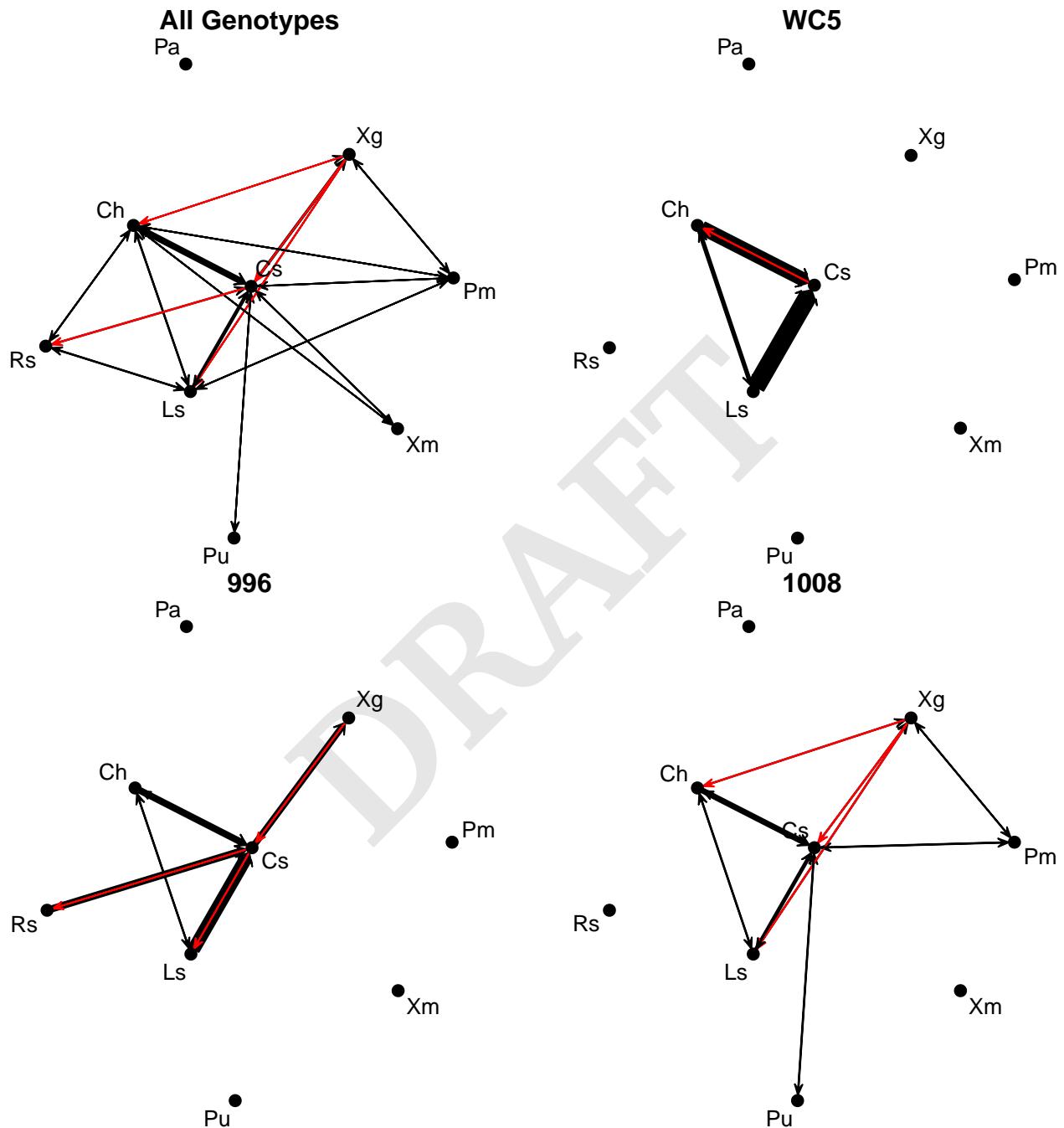
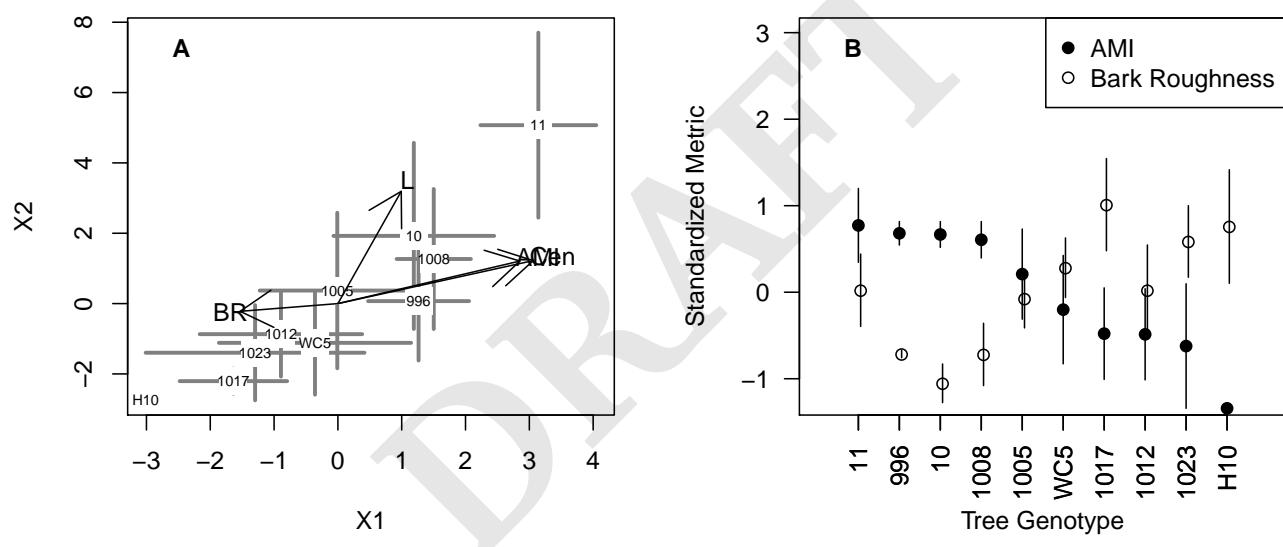


Fig. 1



**Fig. 2**

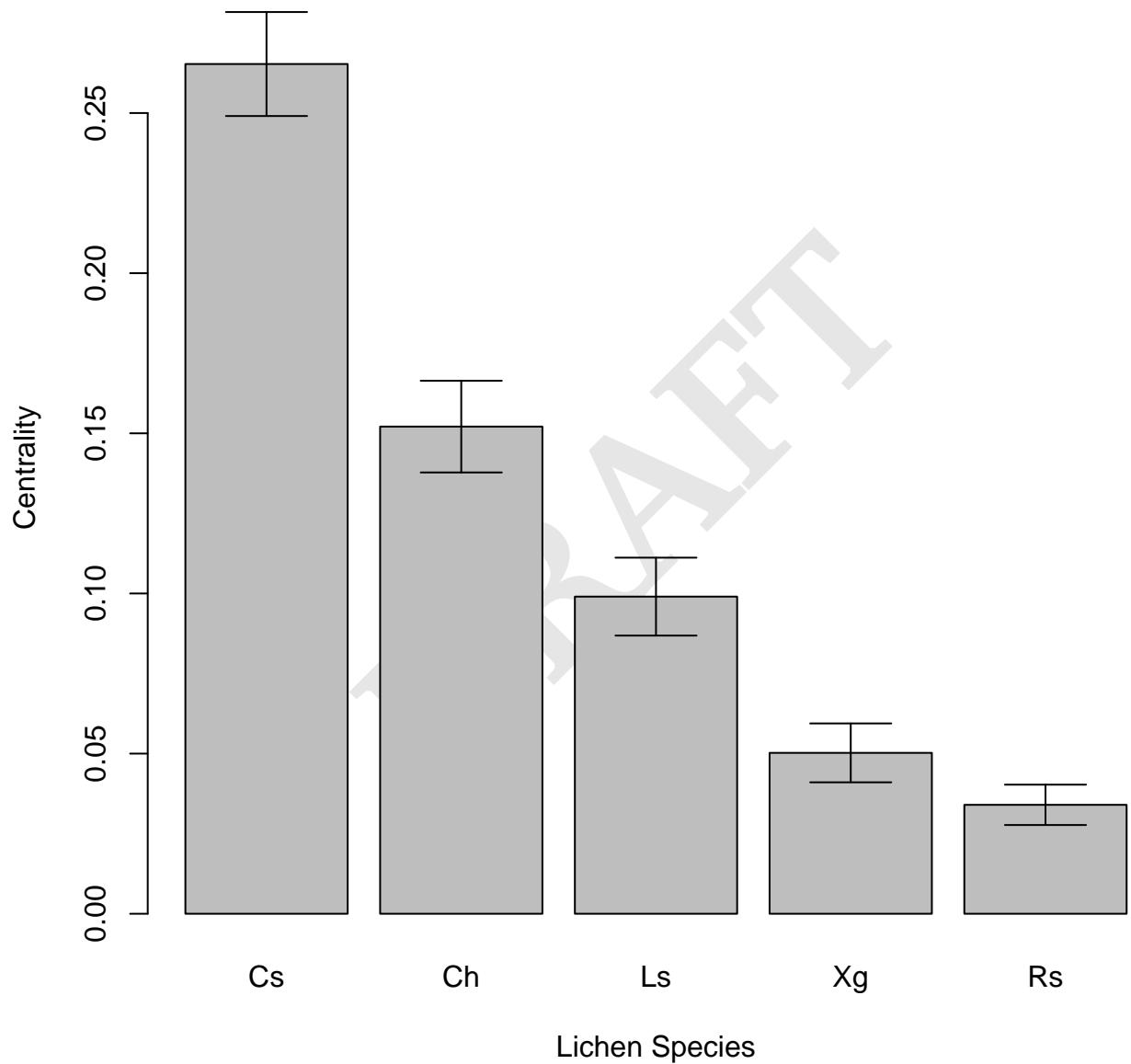


Fig. 3

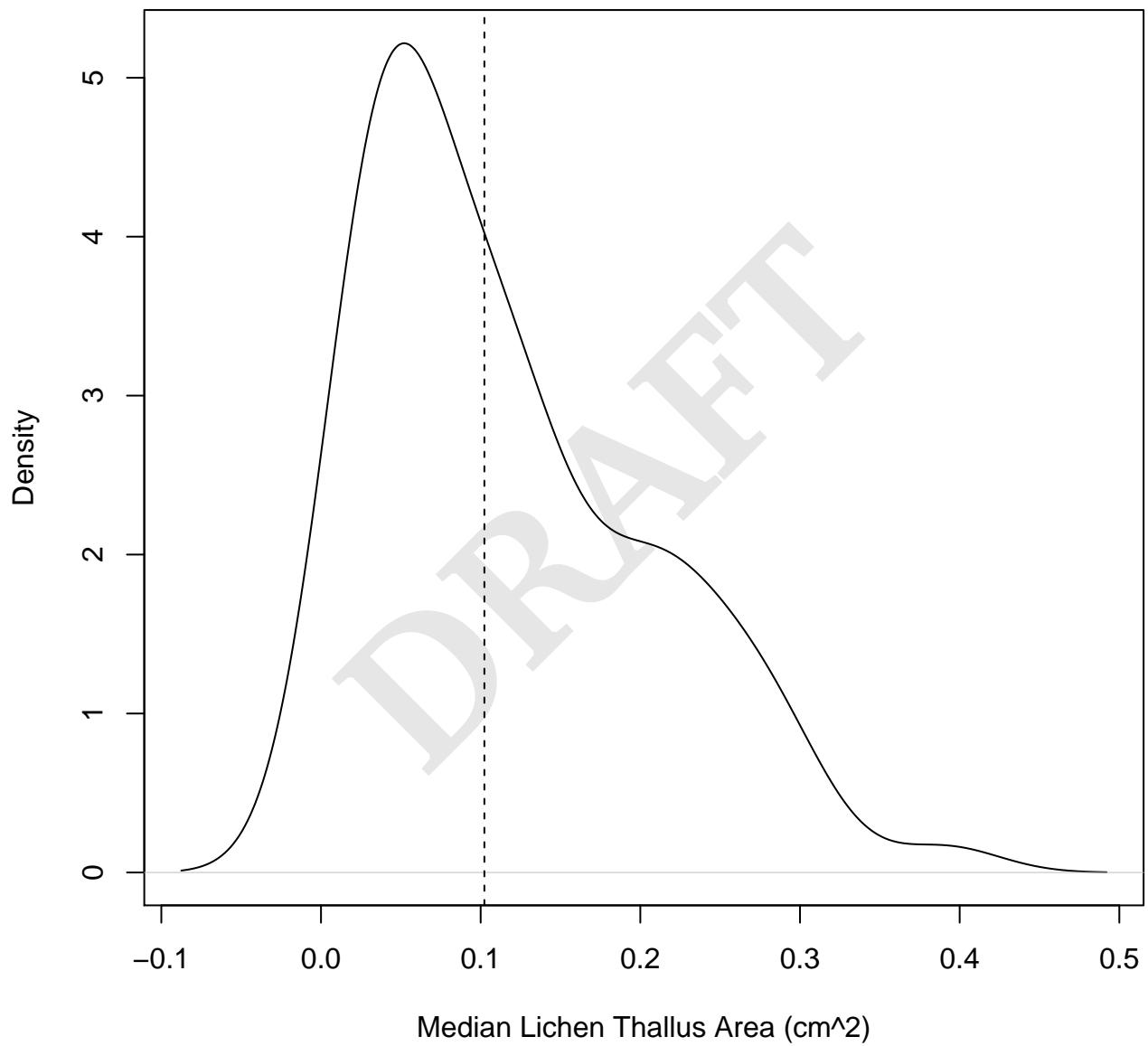


Fig. 4