Guard cell size and pore aperture influence stomatal closure kinetics

Christopher D. Muir[1,2*]   Wei Shen Lim[1]

[1] School of Life Sciences, University of Hawai'i; Mānoa, Hawai'i, USA
[2] Department of Botany, University of Wisconsin, Madison; Wisconsin, USA

*Corresponding author: cdmuir@wisc.edu

ORCID: Christopher D. Muir — 0000-0003-2555-3878

Reminder: Halliwell et al. 2025 paper has useful info on multiresponse models. I might use Van de Pol and Wright (2009) method for within versus between slope estimation. This is in the phylogenetic comparative example in the brms vignette too. Actually, this is hard to implement because I would have to calculate individual residuals for each light treatment combination and then means of those, etc.

Westoby et al (2023) (10.1111/1365-2745.14150) is similar to Halliwell. Maybe another way to think about it using the mutliresponse approach.

Abstract

Guard cell size and stomatal density vary over X and X orders of magnitude among extant vascular land plants, yet the adaptive significance of much of this variation remains unclear. The evolution of guard cell size in particular is poorly understood and may even be constrained by nonadaptive features like genome size. One hypothesis is that natural selection may favor smaller guard cells to increase the rate at which stomatal conductance responds to fluctuating environmental conditions. A related hypothesis is that operational stomatal conductance (gop) is often $\approx 25\%$ of its theoretical maximum (gmax) because at this stomatal aperture, guard cell volume is poised to change rapidly with changes in turgor pressure. The support for both hypothesis is limited and mixed, in part because they have not been tested together, even though both guard cell size and the ratio of gop to gmax (gop:gmax) should influence stomatal kinetics. We measured stomatal closure kinetics in response to an abrupt increase in vapor pressure deficit (VPD) among 29 diverse wild tomato populations in the genus *Solanum*. Both smaller guard cell

size and lower gop:gmax were associated with faster stomatal closure kinetics, but at different levels of biological organization. Guard cell size explained X% of the variance in stomatal kinetics among populations, whereas gop:gmax explained X% of the variance among individuals within populations. [neither result would have been supported if analyzed in isolation - is this true?]. We conclude that guard cell size may respond to selection on stomatal kinetics over evolutionary time, but actual kinetics are modulated by a tradeoff between maximizing gop and minimizing the time required for stomatal closure. Putting these hypotheses together with stabilizing selection on gop may explain why stomatal size and density negatively covary among species.

Maybe add something like: we esimated time-constant and lag-time for 2000+ curves…

Introduction

NOTE: I need to develop a consistent terminology - stomatal response rate? speed? kinetics?

In nature, change is the only constant. One way that vascular plants (tracheophytes) cope with change is by adjusting stomatal pore aperture to optimize the trade-off between carbon gain and water loss. In the absence of physical limits and energetic tradeoffs, natural selection would favor plants that could instantaneously adjust stomatal conductance (g_{sw}) to perfectly track dynamic environmental conditions. In reality, stomatal responses take time, creating a lag between actual and optimal stomatal aperture. X ions must be pumped across … and active responses depend on multiple feedback loops involving gene expression/ABA synthesis?/etc (Buckley). [illustrative empirical example or real numbers illustrating the problem]. Changes in stomatal aperture could be faster if there were more channels (?) per area, but this would require more energy (ATP?) and space allocated to XX proteins in the guard cell membrane.

It might seem that natural selection should favor faster stomatal responses to get closer to the ideal of instantaneous optimization. Under this assumption, variation in stomatal kinetics would depend on how strong directional selection for faster responses is counterbalanced by costs of faster stomata. We discuss multiple, nonmutually exclusive costs below [WHERE?]. However, once models account for inevitable time lags, natural selection can favor slower responses when this prevents overreacting to unpredictable and shortlived changes in the environment. [Review some lit] It is therefore likely that the direction of selection on stomatal response rate varies depending on the predictability and duration of environmental fluctuations, as well as the energetic costs of stomatal movements.

What traits respond to selection on stomatal kinetics? We consider two interconnected hypotheses that have thus far been treated in isolation. The first hypothesis is that smaller guard cells open and close faster because of their intrinsically greater surface area to volume ration (1, 2). For approximately cylindrical cell geometries, like that found in guard cells (citation on guard cell shape?), surface area increases linearly with radius, whereas volume increases in proportion to the radius squared. Consequently, larger guard cells will require more time to pump enough ions (wc?) to achieve a given change in turgor pressure and, hence, stomatal pore aperture. A plant with large guard cells can partially compensate for this geometric constraint by increasing the density of transporters (wc?) in the guard cell membrane (3) (haworth et al 2023 have some cites about this). However, this may be limited by the available membrane area and/or energetic costs of maintaining high transporter densities. Empirical support for

the hypothesis that smaller guard cells are faster is mixed. Some studies have found negative correlations between guard cell size and stomatal response rate (1) (cites), whereas others have found no relationship (cites). (apparently hetherington and woodward 2003 mention size-speed relationship too - check that. Lawson and Blatt 2014 throw shade on size being deterministic)

One factor that might complicate the relationship between size and speed is aperture. Stomatal aperture can vary from near 0 when guard cell turgor pressure is low and asymptotically approach gmax as guard cell turgor pressure approaches ∞ (Figure 1X). The nonlinear relationship between guard cell turgor and pore aperture implies that if rate of change in turgor change is constant ($\frac{dP}{dt} = C$), the rate of change in aperture, and hence stomatal conductance, will vary depending on the initial aperture. When initial aperture is high, stomatal conductance will respond more slowly than when initial aperture is low. Since we generally do not observe individual stomatal aperture, extending this idea to macroscale phenomena requires scaling by stomatal density. We will use the term "fraction of anatomical maximum stomatal conductance", symbolized as f_{gmax}. This value should be proportional to the average aperture divided by its maximum aperture for any arbitrary stomatal density [could a figure show how this interacts with stomatal density?]. Leaves operating at fgmax closer to unity will, all else being equal, will be slower to respond than leaves operating with a f_{gmax} close to zero, independent of stomatal density. (4) hypothesized that selection on stomatal density would maintain typical operational stomatal conductance (gop) relative to gmax at a sufficiently low value that stomatal conductance would be sensitive to relatively small changes in guard cell turgor pressure. Consistent will this hypothesis, gop:gmax is often near 0.25 (5, 6), well below $f_{gmax} = 1$, and in a range where g_{sw} would be responsive to small changes in guard cell turgor pressure.

Putting these two hypotheses together, we predict that both guard cell size and fgmax will influence stomatal kinetics, but possibly at different scales of biological organization. Guard cell size tends to vary less than stomatal density or aperture at many biological scales. For example, on a mature leaf, guard cell size is essentially fixed other than small changes in volume caused by turgor pressure (cite). Compared to stomatal density, guard cell size is also less developmentally plastic varies less genetically within species (cites). If there is relatively little plastic or genetic variation among individuals within a species, then most of the variance in stomatal kinetics within species cannot be explained by variation in stomatal size. In contrast, f_{gmax} varies immensely within and among individuals because stomatal aperture responds dynamically over the day and in response to environmental variation. Within a single leaf, f_{gmax} will change over the course of a day in response to light signalling, change in VPD, and starch accumulation (or sink strength? cite). During the life a leaf, f_{gmax} will change in response to long-term stresses such as drought. Because guard cell size and aperture typically vary at different levels of biological organization, we predict that guard cell size likely explains more variation in stomatal kinetics among species, whereas f_{gmax} will explain more variation within species. Within species variation can arise from either genetic or environmental differences between individuals. Neither of these traits along will determine all or even most of the variance in stomatal kinetics, which is a complex response to many internal and external signals (cites).

Here we extend recent advances in phylogenetic comparative methods (7–9) to test these predictions using data on stomatal closure kinetics in response to an abrupt increase in VPD among 29 diverse wild tomato populations in the genus *Solanum*. We leveraged natural variation in guard cell size among

and within species to test whether leaves with smaller guard cells close faster. We induced variation in fgmax through a combination of growth and measurement light intensity. Growth light intensity caused developmental plasticity in stomatal density that, when crossed factorially with measurement light intensity, resulted in variation in fgmax. By measuring multiple individuals from multiple treatments across multiple species enabled us to estimate the effect of guard cell size and f_{gmax} on stomatal kinetics and partition their significance within and among species.

[not sure where this goes] many, large - slow because of large size, but fast because of low gop few, small - slow because of high gop, but fast because of small size some, moderate - best of both worlds? IDEA FOR FIGURE - use empirical estimates to predict tau (z-axis) for a given optimal gs as a function of

Is there a connection here to size-density scaling? It's an empirical regularity, not a law of nature that higher gmax is associated with smaller stomata. This is an observation that requires explanation, not a presumption of truth.

What's never been done before is to put these two ideas together. This means that weak relationships between size and speed might be because people have not controlled for aperture (gop:gmax ratio).

Factors cannot also manifest at different scales of biological organization. Here we focus on two levels: variation among species and variation among individuals within species. To consider it abstractly, if factors A and B influence trait C according to some mechanistic model, but factor A is typically fixed within species but varies among species, then B will explain much of the variation in C within species. But if A varies among species, then A will explain much of the variation in C among species. We hypothesize that stomatal size is relatively constant within species, but varies among species. In contrast, aperture (gop:gmax) varies because of mismatches between leaf anatomy and gopt.

And that smaller stomata are faster.

These are related because the benefit of small stomata goes away if gop is really high.

hooks:

Haworth et al (2018) paper arguing faster adaxial kinetics (I think). Check other cites in Woning and Horak

Stomatal kinetics are important for optimizing response to rapid fluctuations in light, leaf temperture, and VPD

curve shape does not match what you'd expect for constant alpha term

Anatomy possibly matters: shape and size

Adaxial stomata might close faster (why?)

What we did:
1. model stomatal close with hysteresis (can it explain overshoot and wrong-way response?

   2. compare tau in tomatoes to that in rice

3. test for effect of size
4. test if adaxial+abaxial is faster than abaxial alone

Phenomenologically, the following equation describes how stomatal conductance responds to step changes in light intensity across dozens of plant species (2):

$$g_{sw} = g_f + (g_i - g_f)e^{-\left(\frac{t}{\tau}\right)^{\lambda}}. \tag{1}$$

In this equation, g_{sw} is stomatal conductance at time t, g_i is the initial g_{sw} before the step change, g_f is the final g_{sw} after the step change, τ is a time constant that describes how quickly stomata respond to the step change, and λ is a shape parameter that describes how the response rate changes over time. When $\lambda = 1$, the response rate is constant over time and τ represents the time required for g_{sw} to reach 36.8% of the way between initial and final values. When $\lambda > 1$, the response rate increases over time, and when $\lambda < 1$, the response rate decreases over time. (2) refer to λ as a lag-time parameter because empirically $\lambda > 1$. We find the same pattern for responses to a step change in VPD (see results) and therefore adopt their terminology. We refer to stomatal kinetic parameters τ (time-constant) and λ (lag-time) henceforth.

Materials and Methods

Populations and phylogeny

We analyzed stomatal responses to changing humidity among 29 ecologically diverse populations of wild tomato, including representatives of all described species of *Solanum* sect. *Lycopersicon* and sect. *Lycopersicoides* (10) and the cultivated tomato *S. lycopersicum* var. *lycopersicum* (Table 1), as described in (11). These populations were selected because they encompass the breadth of climatic variation in the wild tomato clade (12). In one case, we substituted a congeneric population of the species (*S. galapagense*) because of difficulty growing the focal population and we also added a population of *S. pennellii*. Due to constraints on growth space and time, we spread out measurements over -Inf weeks from Inf to -Inf. Replicates within population were evenly spread out over this period to prevent confounding of temporal variation in growth conditions with variation among populations. To estimate phylogenetic effects, we used the RAxML whole-transcriptome concatenated phylogeny based on 2,745 100-kb genomic windows from (12). Two of our populations were not in this tree. We used accession LA1044 in place of LA3909, two populations of *S. galapagense*; LA0750 was added as sister to LA0716, two closely related populations of *S. pennellii*. The node separating LA0750 from LA0716 was placed half-way between the next deepest node.

Table 1: Accession information of *Solanum* populations used in this study. The species name, accession number, collection latitude, longitude, and elevation. TGRC: Tomato Genetics Resource Center.

Species	TGRC accession	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation (mas)
S. arcanum	LA2172	-6.008	-78.858	662
S. cheesmaniae	LA0429	-0.644	-90.329	800
S. cheesmaniae	LA3124	-0.804	-90.042	1
S. chilense	LA1782	-15.267	-74.633	1000
S. chilense	LA4117A	-22.907	-67.941	3540
S. chmielewskii	LA1028	-13.883	-73.017	3000
S. chmielewskii	LA1316	-13.400	-73.906	2920
S. corneliomulleri	LA0107	-13.117	-76.383	60
S. corneliomulleri	LA0444	-13.433	-76.133	100
S. galapagense	LA0436	-0.953	-90.978	40
S. galapagense	LA1044	-0.284	-90.548	0
S. habrochaites	LA0407	-2.181	-79.884	70
S. habrochaites	LA1777	-9.550	-77.700	3216
S. huaylasense	LA1358	-9.533	-77.967	750
S. huaylasense	LA1360	-9.546	-77.929	1490
S. huaylasense	LA1364	-10.133	-77.383	2920
S. lycopersicoides	LA2951	-19.317	-69.450	2200
S. lycopersicoides	LA4126	-19.287	-69.396	3120
S. neorickii	LA1322	-13.483	-72.442	2380
S. neorickii	LA2133	-3.400	-79.183	1980
S. pennellii	LA0716	-16.225	-73.617	50
S. pennellii	LA0750	-14.775	-75.034	550
S. pennellii	LA3778	-14.775	-75.034	616
S. peruvianum	LA2744	-18.550	-70.150	400
S. peruvianum	LA2964	-18.028	-70.835	75
S. pimpinellifolium	LA1269	-11.483	-77.075	400
S. pimpinellifolium	LA1589	-8.433	-78.817	30
S. pimpinellifolium	LA2933	-1.442	-80.562	375
S. sitiens	LA4116	-22.159	-68.782	2960

Plant growth conditions and light treatments

A thorough description of plant growth conditions can be found (11), therefore we summarize the most important information here. Seeds provided by the Tomato Genetics Resource Center germinated on

moist paper in plastic boxes after soaking for 30-60 minutes in a 50% (volume per volume) solution of household bleach and water, followed by a thorough rinse. We transferred seedlings to cell-pack flats containing Pro-Mix BX potting mix (Premier Tech, Rivière-du-Loup, Quebec, Canada) once cotyledons fully emerged, typically within 1-2 weeks of sowing. We grew seeds and seedlings for both sun and shade treatments under the same environmental conditions (12:12 h, 24.3:21.7 °C, 49.6:58.4 RH day:night cycle). LED light provided PPFD $= 267\,\mu\mathrm{mol\,m^{-2}\,s^{-1}}$ (Fluence RAZRx, Austin, Texas, USA) during the germination and seedling stages.

Immediately prior to starting growth light intensity treatments (sun and shade), we transplanted seedlings to 3.78 L plastic pots containing 60% Pro-Mix BX potting mix, 20% coral sand (Pro-Pak, Honolulu, Hawai'i, USA), and 20% cinders (Niu Nursery, Honolulu, Hawai'i, USA) withslow release NPK fertilizer following manufacturer instructions (Osmocote Smart-Release Plant Food Flower & Vegetable, The Scotts Company, Marysville, Ohio, USA). Percentage composition is on a volume basis. We watered to field capacity three times per week to prevent drought stress. Seedlings were randomly assigned in alternating order within population to the sun or shade treatment during transplanting. The average daytime PPFD was $761\,\mu\mathrm{mol\,m^{-2}\,s^{-1}}$ and $115\,\mu\mathrm{mol\,m^{-2}\,s^{-1}}$ for sun and shade treatments, respectively.

Humidity response curves

We selected a fully expanded, unshaded leaf at least six leaves above the cotyledons during early vegetative growth. This typically meant that plants had grown in light treatments for $\approx$ 4 weeks, ensuring they had time to sense and respond developmentally to the light intensity of the treatment rather than the seedling conditions (13). See (11) for further detail.

To measure stomatal responses to a step change in humidity, we first acclimated the focal leaf to high humidity, rapidly decreased the humidity, and logged g_{sw} through time. We refer to this as a humidity-response curve. We measured humidity-response curves using a portable infrared gas analyzer (LI-6800PF, LI-COR Biosciences, Lincoln, Nebraska, USA). Light-acclimated plants were placed under LEDs dimmed to match their light treatment during gas exchange measurements. We estimated g_{sw} at ambient CO_2 ($C_{\mathrm{a}} = 415\,\mu\mathrm{mol\,mol^{-1}}$) and $T_{\mathrm{leaf}} = 25.0\,°\mathrm{C}$.

We collected four humidity-response curves per leaf, an amphi (untreated) curve and a pseudohypo (treated) curve at high light-intensity (PPFD $= 2000\,\mu\mathrm{mol\,m^{-2}\,s^{-1}}$; 97.8:2.24 red:blue) and low light-intensity (PPFD $= 150\,\mu\mathrm{mol\,m^{-2}\,s^{-1}}$; 87.0:13.0 red:blue). We always measured high light-intensity curves first because photosynthetic downregulation is faster than upregulation in these species. Pseudohypostomatous leaves are the same as the amphistomatous leaves except gas exchange through the upper (adaxial) surface blocked by a neutral density plastic (propafilm). Comparing amphi and pseudohypo curves on the same leaf enables us to test whether stomatal kinetics are different for ab- and adaxial stomata on the same leaf. To compensate for reduced transmission, we increased incident PPFD for pseudohypo leaves by a factor 1/0.91, the inverse of the measured transmissivity of the propafilm. We also set the stomatal conductance ratio, for purposes of calculating boundary layer conductance, to 0 for pseudohypo leaves following manufacturer directions.

Table 2

| Growth light intensity | Measurement light intensity | | | | |
| | Low | | High | | |
	amphi	pseudohypo	amphi	pseudohypo	Total
shade	275	275	270	266	1,086
sun	245	245	275	275	1,040
Total	520	520	545	541	2,126

To control for order effects, we alternated between starting with amphi or pseudohypo leaf measurements. We made measurements over two days. On the first day, we measured high and low light-intensity curves for either amphi or pseudohypo leaves; on the second day, we measured high and low light-intensity curves on the other leaf type. The irradiance of the light source in the pseudohypo leaf was higher because the propafilm reduces transmission.

In all cases, we acclimated the focal leaf to high light (PPFD $= 2000\,\mu mol\,m^{-2}\,s^{-1}$) and high relative humidity (RH $= 70\%$) until g_{sw} reached its maximum. After that, we scrubbed water vapor from the incoming air using silica desiccant as quickly as possible, resulting in a water vapor concentration in the incoming air to be on average $0.36\,mmol\,mol^{-1}$. This treatment induced rapid stomatal closure, but it did not standardize chamber air humidity because water vapor was introduced by leaf transpiration. HOWEVER - NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FINAL GSW AND TAU (fill in details). This treatment was designed to elicit a rapid stomatal response and not necessarily mimic natural environmental variability. All other environmental conditions in the leaf chamber remained the same. We started logging data after the transient "wrong-way response" (citation) and continued logging data until g_{sw} reached its nadir. We then acclimated the leaf to low light (PPFD $= 150\,\mu mol\,m^{-2}\,s^{-1}$) and RH $= 70\%$ before inducing stomatal closure with low RH and logging data as described above.

Prior to analysis, we removed unreliable and unusable data points, removed points not at instrument steady state, removed hysteretic portion of each curves at low g_{sw}, removed outliers within each curve, removed replicates with no overlap between amphi and pseudohypo curves from the same leaf, and thinned redundant data points within each curve. The rationale and procedure for each cleaning step is described in (11). Additionally, we excluded stomatal kinetic parameter estimates from 4 curves where τ was estimated to be greater than 1097 s, greatly exceeding the typical estimates (see Results). After these steps, the total number of humidity response curves analyzed is given in Table 2. The median number of curves per population per treatment was 10 and the median number of points per curve was 26. We extracted the the posterior distribution for τ and λ from each fitted curve to calculate the parameter estimate (median) and uncertainty (standard deviation) for subsequent analyses.

Stomatal anatomy

size, density, gmax, fgmax

Hypothesis generation and testing

The primary aims and *a priori* hypotheses of this study were not to study stomatal kinetic parameters and are described in (11). The idea to use g_{sw} response curves generated during this study to test hypotheses about which traits influence stomatal kinetics came after the data had been collected, but not yet analyzed for this purpose. Before analyzing the data, we planned to test two hypotheses based on a recent metaanalysis of stomatal responses to light (2). We hypothesized that 1) guard cell size would influence τ and 2) that τ would be greater on the abaxial-only leaves. We planned to compare relationships within and among populations using phylogenetic comparative methods. We made the decision to test for an association between f_{gmax} and τ after exploratory analyses revealed a potential association. Adding hypotheses after some results have been analyzed, also known as "Hypothesizing After Results Known" (HARKing), can lead to reports of spurious associations that are not repeatable in later studies (14, 15). Therefore, our conclusions about the effect of f_{gmax} on stomatal kinetics should be interpreted with caution until they are replicated.

We estimated τ and λ for each response curve by fitting Equation 1 to a time-series of g_{sw} values using Bayesian nonlinear regression. All models were fit using a Bayesian HMC sampling in the probabilistic programming language *Stan* (16) using the *R* package **brms** version 2.23.0 (17). We used *CmdStan* version 2.38.0 and **cmdstanr** version 0.9.0 (18) to interface with *R* version 4.5.2 (19). We sampled 1000 post-warmup draws from the posterior distribution on a single chain. We adjusted the number sampling iterations and thinning interval for each curve so that the Gelman-Rubin convergence statistic ($\hat{R}$) (20) was less than 1.05 and the bulk effective sample size (ESS) was greater than 400 for all model parameters, and there were fewer than 10 divergent transitions. We assessed model fit using Bayesian R^2 (21) implemented in **brms**.

We next used estimates of τ from each curve in multiresponse Bayesian mixed effects models with phylogenetically structured random effects to answer the following core questions:

1. Are l_{gc} and f_{gmax} positively associated with τ?
2. At what biological levels of organization do l_{gc} and f_{gmax} influence τ?
3. Are abaxial-only stomatal responses slower than whole leaf stomatal responses?

We used a combination of model selection and parameter estimation to evaluate these hypotheses. All statistical models included fixed effects of manipulative treatments: growth light intensity (sun and shade); measurement light intensity (high and low); and curve type (amphistomatous and pseudohypos-tomatous). All models also included population as both a phylogenetically structured random effect and a non-phylogenetic random effect following (**halliwell_multi-response_2025?**). Prior to fitting, the phylogenetic (co)variance matrix was rescaled as a correlation matrix (22). For traits measured multiple times within the same leaf (f_{gmax}, λ, τ) we included a random effect of individual to account

for repeated measures. We accounted for uncertainty in τ and λ using the standard deviation of the posterior distribution of each estimate (see 'Humidity response curves' for details). We modeled residual (co)variance, a combination among-individual (co)variance and measurement error, as a multivariate Student t-distribution, which is more robust to extreme values than the multivariate normal distribution (**gelman_bayesian_2014?**). To account for heteroskedasticity, bounded measurements, and linearize relationships, l_{gc}, λ, and τ were log-transformed prior to analysis whereas f_{gmax} was logit-transformed. All models were fit with *Stan* following the same methods described above for fitting Equation 1 to the humidity response curves.

To answer questions 1 and 2 above, we analyzed three nonmutually exclusive paths through which f_{gmax} and l_{gc} could influence stomatal kinetic parameters λ and τ. First, we inferred phylogenetic effects by estimating the phylogenetic correlation among populations between anatomical (f_{gmax} and l_{gc}) and kinetic (λ and τ) variables. To test for possible causation, we used the inferred phylogenetic trait covariance matrix to estimate partial correlations between anatomical and kinetic variables (9). We interpret a significant partial correlation between variables as a plausible causal hypothesis. Second, we inferred individual-level effects of f_{gmax} and l_{gc} on kinetic parameters using linear multiple regression that simultaneously accounts for phylogenetic and treatment effects. We used the leave-one-out cross-validation information criterion (LOOIC) to compare the fit of models using the *R* package **loo** version 2.9.0 (23) to calculate LOOIC values. We compared models with all permutations of f_{gmax} and l_{gc} influencing λ and τ. We considered all models within two ΔLOOIC standard errors of the minimum LOOIC (Table 6) to be in the set of plausible models to generate posterior predictions for hypothesis testing. Within each plausible model, we assessed whether an effect was significantly different from zero based on the 95% confidence intervals.

THIRD: mediating treatment effects (plasticity)

Variance decomposition and heritability (somewhere)

We decomposed the variance in log-transformed response variables (λ, tau, f_{gmax}, l_{gc}) into phylogenetic, population, between-individual, and within-individual levels. The phylogenetic variance component quantifies trait evolution between populations congruent with the phylogenetic relationships, whereas the population component quantifies variance among populations independent of phylogenetic relationships (22, 24). The between- and within-individual variance components quantify variance among individuals within the same population and treatment. The within-individual component was estimated from repeated measures of the same leaf at different light intensities. It was not possible to estimate within-individual variance in guard cell length with our study design because we only measured average guard cell length once per leaf. We estimated the between-individual variance from the residual variance, which also includes measurement error. The phylogenetic heritability is equivalent to the phylogenetic variance component and is estimated following (24); (22) as:

$$h_{phy}^2 = \frac{\sigma_{phy}^2}{\sigma_{phy}^2 + \sigma_{pop}^2 + \sigma_{between}^2 + \sigma_{within}^2},$$

where σ^2_{phy}, σ^2_{pop}, $\sigma^2_{\text{between}}$, and σ^2_{within} are the phylogenetic, population, between-individual, and within-individual variance components, respectively.

Model comparison (somewhere)

add info

Results

The time-constant τ characterizes stomatal kinetics

Stomatal conductance (g_{sw}) decreased rapidly in response to a step change in humidity. The model in Equation 1 fit the data extremely well (Figure S1). The mean and minimum Bayesian R^2 across all curves was 0.9994 and 0.9802, respectively. Consider a typical leaf in the experiment characterized by the median time constant (τ) and lag time (λ) among wild tomato accessions in all treatments. After humidity decreased and the transient wrong way response elapsed, it took 121 s for g_{sw} to decrease half-way (t_{50}) from its initial (g_i) to final ((g_f) steady state value. In terms of the kinetic model parameters, most variation among leaves was due to difference in the time constant rather than the lag time. In the previous example, increasing λ from its median to its maximum estimated value among accessions increased the t_{50} by only 8.2 s. In contrast, increasing τ from its median to maximum value increased t_{50} by 129 s. Hence, we primarily focus on treatments and anatomical parameters affect τ.

Effects of light intensity treatments on guard cell length and aperture

On average, guard cell length increased by 12.1% [95% CI: 11.1 to 13.0%] in the sun treatment (Figure 1a; Table 5). The average l_{gc} of pseudohypo leaves was −5.9% [95% CI: −6.7 to −5.1%] greater than amphi leaves (Figure 1a; Table 5). This was not because of plasticity because we amphi and pseudohypo curves on the same leaf. Rather, this was a composition effect. Adaxial stomata tended to be slightly smaller than abaxial stomata, so the average l_{gc} in pseudohypo leaves was slightly higher than in amphi leaves because the former only included abaxial stomata. High measurement light intensity increased f_{gmax} by an average of 0.81 logit units [95% CI: 0.78 to 0.84] (Figure 1b; Table 5). For example, if $f_{\text{gmax}} = 0.1$ in low light, the typical f_{gmax} for the same leaf acclimated to high light was 0.20. Sun leaves had on average −0.27 logit units [95% CI: −0.34 to −0.20] lower f_{gmax} than shade-grown plants (Figure 1b; Table 5).

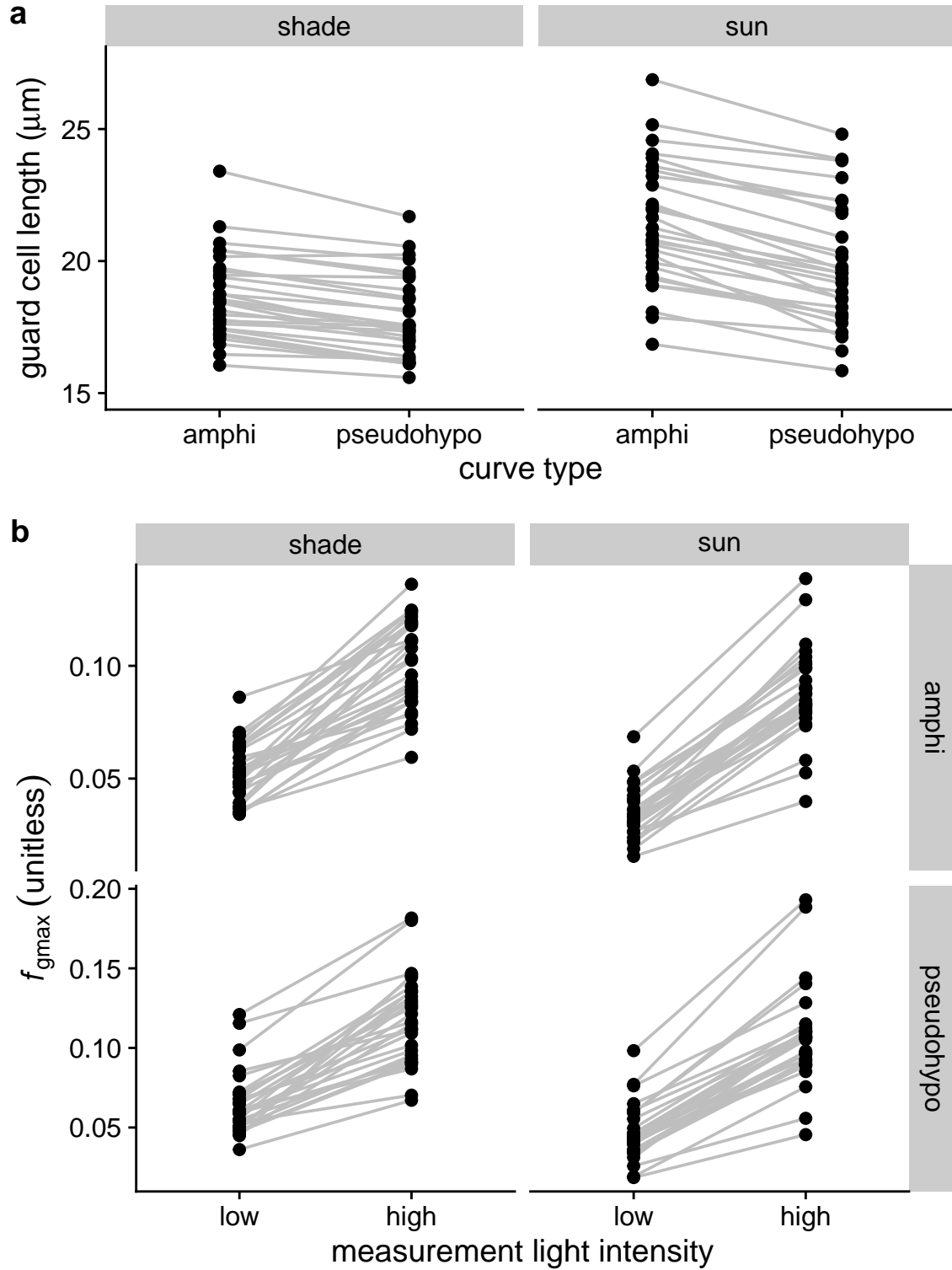STILL NEED TO ADD WHETHER FGMAX DIFFERED IN PSEUDO LEAVES ONCE MODEL IS UPDATED

Figure 1: **Guard cell length (l_{gc}) and stomatal conductance as a fraction a maximum conductance (f_{gmax}) vary among populations and treatments.** In both panels, black points are mean trait value per population within a particular treatment. Gray lines connect values within populations across treatments. (a) Most of the variation in l_{gc} is among populations, but developmental plasticity to growth light intensity tends to increase l_{gc} in sun (left facet) compared to shade (right facet) grown plants. There is no plasticity to curve type (amphi vs. pseudohypo), but the average l_{gc} is slightly high in pseudohypo leaves because abaxial stomata tended to be larger than adaxial stomata on the same leaf. (b) Measurement light intensity has the most direct effect on f_{gmax} because stomatal aperture increases under high light intensity. To a lesser extent, f_{gmax} varies among populations and is slightly lower in sun-grown plants. ADD

Effects of light intensity treatments on τ

Growth light intensity did not significantly affect τ Figure 2. In sun plants, τ was on average 5.69% [95% CI: 0.951 to 10.6%] lower than in shade plants after accounting for other explanatory variables. Within the same leaf, increasing the measurement light intensity prior to the humidity step change from $150\,\mu\mathrm{mol\,m^{-2}\,s^{-1}}$ to $2000\,\mu\mathrm{mol\,m^{-2}\,s^{-1}}$ significantly increased τ by 18% [95% CI: 11.7 to 24.6%] Figure 2. The time lag λ responded to growth, but not measurement light intensity after accounting for other explanatory variables Figure 2. In sun plants, τ was on average 12.2% [95% CI: 10.2 to 14.3%] greater than in shade plants. Higher measurement light decreased increased λ slightly by 1.15% [95% CI: -1.17 to 3.59%].

- table of model estimates for tau and lambda

Species	mean	sd
setosa	5.006	0.3524897
versicolor	5.936	0.5161711
virginica	6.588	0.6358796

Variance decomposition and phylogenetic heritability

Among the four traits in our model (f_{gmax}, l_{gc}, λ, and τ), the preponderance of the variance was typically within or between individuals after accounting for treatment effects Figure 3, Table 4. The exception to this pattern was l_{gc}, for which the phylogenetic component (aka phylogenetic heritability) was larger Figure 3. The population component independent of phylogeny explained little of the trait variation. The between-individual variance was usually high, but this component confounds true between-individual variance with measurement error, so should be interpreted with caution.

Table 4: Variance components of stomatal kinetic traits. The phylogenetic component is equivalent to the phylogenetic heritability. The population component is the non-phylogenetic variance among populations. Between- and within-individual variance components are among individuals within a population after accounting for treatment effect. Estimates and 95% confidence intervals (CI) are estimated as the median and quantile intervals of the posterior distribution. f_{gmax}: stomatal conductance as a fraction of anatomical maximum stomatal conductance; l_{gc}: guard cell length; λ: lag time; τ: time constant.

component	% variance	95% CI
$\log\!\left(l_{\mathrm{gc}}\right)$		
phylogenetic	64.7	[32.4, 81.1]
population	6.2	[0.7, 25.6]
between-individual	28.8	[16.9, 44.2]

(continued)

component	% variance	95% CI
logit(f_{gmax})		
phylogenetic	16.8	[3.6, 34.7]
population	6.7	[1.9, 16.7]
between-individual	29.1	[22.9, 33.9]
within-individual	46.4	[36.4, 53.6]
log(λ)		
phylogenetic	18.9	[5.2, 36.1]
population	2.3	[0.1, 9.1]
between-individual	53.6	[42.5, 61.6]
within-individual	24.4	[18.8, 29.8]
log(τ)		
phylogenetic	42.7	[23.3, 59.4]
population	0.9	[0.0, 8.3]
between-individual	29.4	[20.8, 38.0]
within-individual	26.1	[18.2, 34.1]

Guard cell size and f_{gmax} affected stomatal kinetics, but at different levels of biological organization. In the model with the lowest LOOIC (see Table 6 for model comparison results), the only significant partial correlation was between l_{gc} and τ ($\rho = 0.74$ [95% CI: -0.12 to 0.98\$) was a significant phylogenetic correlation between l_{gc} and τ (**fig?-**?). PARTIAL CORRELATION RESULT. Variation in l_{gc} within populations did not explain within-population variation in τ Table 5. NOTE THAT BEST MODEL RETAINED INDIVIDUAL LEVEL EFFECT OF GCL, BUT COEFFICIENT WAS NOT SIGNIFICANT. OTHER BEST MODELS DID NOT RETAIN THIS. DID GCL MEDIATE AFFECT OF TREATMENTS?

Need to show (this is a growing, incomplete list): - model comparison results table - figure of tau versus gcl per accession - phylogenetic partial correlation - partial correlation showing that gcl and tau are (only?) significant phylogenetic covariates

Table 5: Fixed effects (posterior mean, SE, and 95% confidence intervals).

Parameter	Estimate [95% CI]
log(λ)	
effect of logit(f_g) on log(λ)	0.11 [0.08, 0.13]
effect of high measurement light intensity on log(λ)	0.01 [-0.01, 0.04]
intercept (shade, low light)	0.44 [0.33, 0.55]
effect of pseudohypostomatous curve type on log(λ)	-0.04 [-0.06, -0.03]

Table 5: Fixed effects (posterior mean, SE, and 95% confidence intervals). *(continued)*

Parameter	Estimate [95% CI]
effect of sun growth treatment on $\log(\lambda)$	0.12 [0.10, 0.13]
$\log(\tau)$	
effect of $\text{logit}(f_g)$ on $\log(\tau)$	0.20 [0.13, 0.26]
effect of high measurement light intensity on $\log(\tau)$	0.17 [0.11, 0.22]
intercept (shade, low light)	5.59 [5.22, 5.95]
effect of pseudohypostomatous curve type on $\log(\tau)$	-0.03 [-0.05, -0.00]
effect of sun growth treatment on $\log(\tau)$	0.06 [0.01, 0.10]
$\log(l_{gc})$	
intercept (shade, low light)	2.96 [2.79, 3.13]
effect of pseudohypostomatous curve type on $\log(l_{gc})$	-0.06 [-0.07, -0.05]
effect of sun growth treatment on $\log(l_{gc})$	0.11 [0.11, 0.12]
$\text{logit}(f_g)$	
effect of high measurement light intensity on $\text{logit}(f_g)$	0.81 [0.78, 0.84]
intercept (shade, low light)	-2.89 [-3.17, -2.60]
effect of pseudohypostomatous curve type on $\text{logit}(f_g)$	0.20 [0.17, 0.23]
effect of sun growth treatment on $\text{logit}(f_g)$	-0.27 [-0.34, -0.20]

Discussion

effect of fgmax is not simply because high light intensity increased fgmax and tau. Causal inference dissects different causal paths and shows direct effect of fgmax on tau within populations and treatments

caveat: this treatment is a hammer than exposes maximum rate of stomatal closure. The factors which influence this may not explain variance in kinetics in more natural conditions.

References

1. P. L. Drake, R. H. Froend, P. J. Franks, Smaller, faster stomata: Scaling of stomatal size, rate of response, and stomatal conductance. *Journal of Experimental Botany* **64**, 495–505 (2013).

2. N. Woning, *et al.*, Revisiting the relationship between stomatal size and speed across species – a meta-analysis. *New Phytologist* (2026). https://doi.org/10.1111/nph.70842.

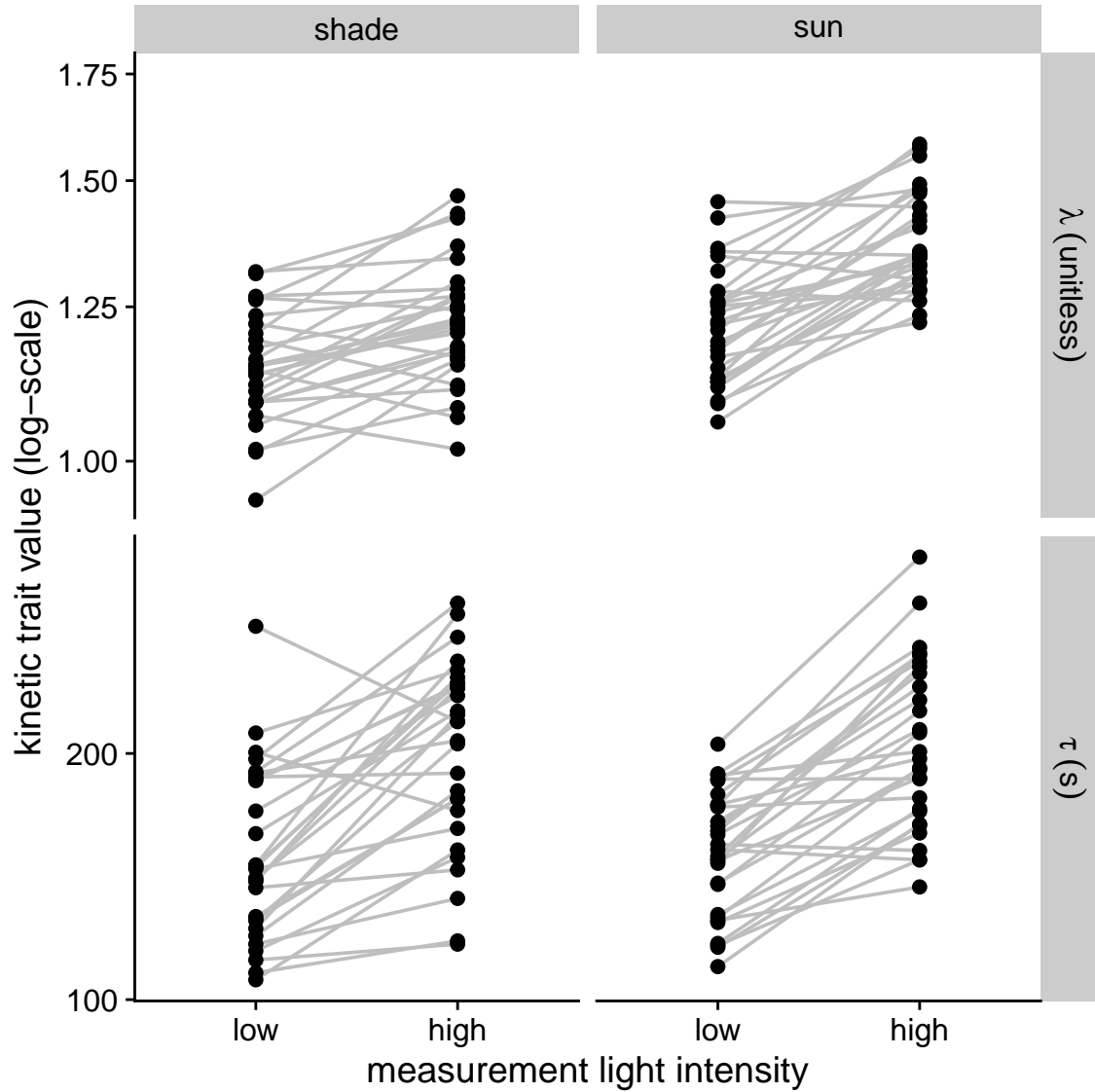3. J. A. Raven, Speedy small stomata? *Journal of Experimental Botany* **65**, 1415–1424 (2014).

Figure 2: **Stomatal kinetics parameters λ (lag time; top facets) and τ (time constant; lower facets) vary among wild tomato populations.** Stomatal conductance decreases faster (lower τ) in response to a step change in vapor pressure deficit (VPD) in leaves when measured under low light intensity. The pattern was consistent for both shade (left facets) and sun (right facets) grown plants. The pattern for λ$ was qualitatively similar to that for τ. Each point is the average parameter value for one accession in that treatment combination. The growth and measurement light intensity treatments are described in the Materials and Methods section.
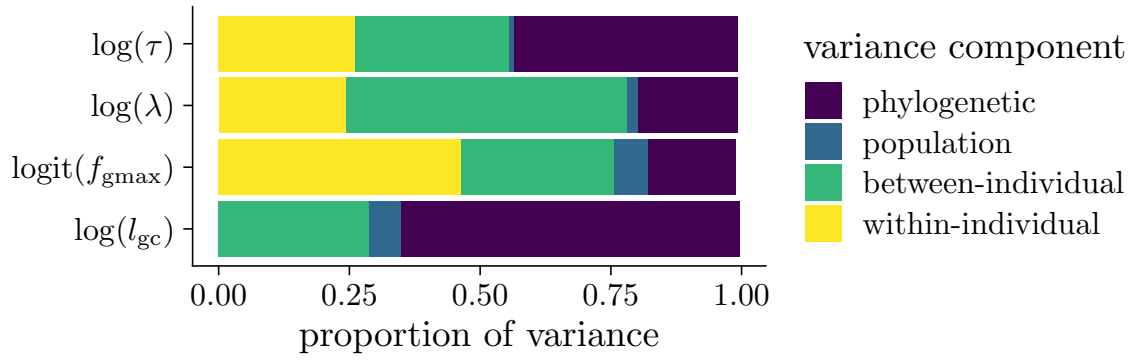
Figure 3: **foo** bar.

Table 6: Model comparison results. Models with a ΔLOOIC less than two standard errors (SE) from the minimum LOOIC are considered to have substantial support and are used for posterior predictions to test hypotheses about the effects of guard cell length (l_{gc}) and the stomatal conductance as a fraction of anatomical maximum stomatal conductance (f_{gmax}) on stomatal kinetic parameter λ (time lag) and τ (time constant). LOOIC stands for leave-one-out cross-validation information criterion.

ΔLOOIC	SE	λ		τ	
		f_{gmax}	l_{gc}	f_{gmax}	l_{gc}
0.00	0.00	✓		✓	
2.39	2.64	✓	✓	✓	✓
4.03	2.54	✓	✓	✓	
8.80	2.70	✓		✓	✓
17.69	10.71	✓	✓		✓
17.69	10.71	✓			
18.01	10.68	✓			✓
20.91	10.82	✓	✓		
40.70	14.07			✓	✓
42.34	14.02		✓	✓	
44.04	14.06			✓	
47.83	14.15		✓	✓	✓
65.68	18.07		✓		
66.34	18.11				
67.15	17.96		✓		✓
68.17	18.00				✓

4.   P. J. Franks, I. J. Leitch, E. M. Ruszala, A. M. Hetherington, D. J. Beerling, Physiological framework for adaptation of stomata to CO_2 from glacial to future concentrations. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* **367**, 537–546 (2012).

5.   J. C. McElwain, C. Yiotis, T. Lawson, Using modern plant trait relationships between observed and theoretical maximum stomatal conductance and vein density to examine patterns of plant macroevolution. *New Phytologist* **209**, 94–103 (2016).

6.   M. Murray, *et al.*, Consistent relationship between field-measured stomatal conductance and theoretical maximum stomatal conductance in C_3 woody angiosperms in four major biomes. *International Journal of Plant Sciences* **181**, 142–154 (2020).

7.   M. Westoby, L. Yates, B. Holland, B. Halliwell, Phylogenetically conservative trait correlation: Quantification and interpretation. *Journal of Ecology* **111**, 2105–2117 (2023).

8.   C. D. Muir, *et al.*, How important are functional and developmental constraints on phenotypic evolution? An empirical test with the stomatal anatomy of flowering plants. *The American Naturalist* **201**, 794–812 (2023).

9.   B. Halliwell, B. R. Holland, L. A. Yates, Multi☐response phylogenetic mixed models: Concepts and application. *Biological Reviews* **100**, 1294–1316 (2025).

10.   I. E. Peralta, D. M. Spooner, S. Knapp, Taxonomy of wild tomatoes and their relatives (*solanum* sect. *Lycopersicoides*, sect. *Juglandifolia*, sect. *Lycopersicon*; Solanaceae). **84** (2008).

11.   C. D. Muir, W. S. Lim, D. Wang, Plasticity and adaptation to high light intensity amplify the advantage of amphistomatous leaves. (2025).

12.   J. B. Pease, D. C. Haak, M. W. Hahn, L. C. Moyle, Phylogenomics reveals three sources of adaptive variation during a rapid radiation. *PLOS Biology* **14**, e1002379 (2016).

13.   P.-G. Schoch, C. Zinsou, M. Sibi, Dependence of the stomatal index on environmental factors during stomatal differentiation in leaves of *Vigna sinensis* L.: 1. Effect of light intensity. *Journal of Experimental Botany* **31**, 1211–1216 (1980).

14.   N. L. Kerr, HARKing: Hypothesizing After the Results are Known. *Personality and Social Psychology Review* **2**, 196–217 (1998).

15.   P. E. Smaldino, R. McElreath, The natural selection of bad science. *Royal Society Open Science* **3**, 160384 (2016).

16.   Stan Development Team, *Stan Modeling Language Users Guide and Reference Manual* (2026).

17. P.-C. Bürkner, **Brms** : An *r* Package for Bayesian Multilevel Models Using *stan*. *Journal of Statistical Software* **80** (2017).

18. J. Gabry, R. Češnovar, A. Johnson, S. Bronder, *Cmdstanr: R Interface to 'CmdStan'* (2025).

19. R Core Team, *R: A Language and Environment for Statistical Computing* (R Foundation for Statistical Computing, 2025).

20. A. Gelman, D. B. Rubin, Inference from iterative simulation using multiple sequences. *Statistical Science* **7**, 457–472 (1992).

21. A. Gelman, B. Goodrich, J. Gabry, A. Vehtari, R-squared for Bayesian Regression Models. *The American Statistician* **73**, 307–309 (2019).

22. P. De Villemereuil, S. Nakagawa, "General Quantitative Genetic Methods for Comparative Biology" in *Modern Phylogenetic Comparative Methods and Their Application in Evolutionary Biology*, L. Z. Garamszegi, Ed. (Springer Berlin Heidelberg, 2014), pp. 287–303.

23. A. Vehtari, A. Gelman, J. Gabry, Practical Bayesian model evaluation using leave-one-out cross-validation and WAIC. *Statistics and Computing* **27**, 1413–1432 (2017).

24. M. Lynch, Methods for the analysis of comparative data in evolutionary biology. *Evolution* **45**, 1065–1080 (1991).

Supplementary Materials

Supporting figures

Figure file:

Download from: https://github.com/cdmuir/solanum-kinetics/raw/refs/heads/main/figures/rh-curves.pdf

Figure S1: : Humidity-response curves and fitted lines. The title provides the Tomato Genetics Resource Center accession number, replicate letter, and species names. The subtitle indicates the growth light intensity (sun or shade), measurement light intensity (low or high), and curve type (amphi or pseudohypo). Points are raw data and lines are fitted curves. The Bayesian correlation coefficient, Bayes R^2, is shown to the right of each curve.

MANUSCRAPS

Note: this theory did not really pan out. It did not come up with models that really fit better than the CD Weibull model and they included an extra parameter. Therefore, I am tabling this for now and trying OnGuard3 instead.

Theory

Our goal here is derive equations that integrate the effects of guard cell size and aperture on stomatal kinetics. A fully mechanistic model is beyond the scope of our goals here. Instead, we use phenomenological equations that adequately capture empirical patterns. There are three main assumptions of our model. First, we assume linear relaxation kinetics for guard cell turgor pressure (P):

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = \frac{P^* - P}{\tau}.$$

In this differential equation, P^* is the equilibrium turgor pressure and τ is a time constant that determines the speed of relaxation. Solving this equation gives:

$$P(t) = P^* + [P(0) - P^*]e^{-t/\tau},$$

where $P(0)$ is the initial turgor pressure at time $t = 0$.

The rate of relaxation is determined by the surface area to volume ratio. Assume constant transport per surface area. Surface area determined by geometry.

What is eqn for this?