

# Packing limits and developmental integration are not sufficient to explain stomatal anatomical evolution in flowering plants

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## Abstract

Functional and developmental constraints on phenotypic variation may cause traits  
3 to covary over millions of years and slow populations from reaching their adaptive  
optima. Alternatively, trait covariation may result from selective constraint if some  
trait combinations are generally maladaptive. Quantifying the relative contribution  
6 of functional, developmental, and selective constraints on phenotypic variation is a  
longstanding goal of macroevolution, but it is often difficult to distinguish different  
types of constraints. The stomatal anatomy of leaves with stomata on both surfaces  
9 (amphistomatous) present a unique opportunity to test the significance of functional  
and developmental constraints on phenotypic evolution at broad phylogenetic scales.  
The key insight is that stomata on each leaf surface encounter the same functional  
12 and developmental constraints, but potentially very different selective constraints. If  
stomatal traits on each surface evolve differently, this implies that independent evolution  
is possible and functional or developmental constraints alone likely do not explain  
15 trait covariance. Packing limits and cell-size-mediated developmental integration are  
hypothesized to constrain variation in stomatal anatomy. We tested this by synthesizing  
data on stomatal density and length from amphistomatous leaves of 638 terrestrial  
18 flowering plant taxa mostly from the literature. We estimated the covariance in divergence  
between stomatal traits from 236 phylogenetically independent contrasts using a robust  
Bayesian model. Contrary to packing limit and developmental integration hypotheses,  
21 stomatal anatomy on each surface diverged partially independently. To better understand  
the global variation in ecologically important traits like stomata will likely require  
adaptive explanations for what constrains phenotypic (co)variation.

## Introduction

The ability for traits to evolve independently of one another is a necessary prerequisite for adaptation to complex environments (Lewontin 1978). If traits can evolve independently and there is sufficient genetic variation, then selection should move populations toward their multivariate phenotypic optimum. Yet divergence in one trait often covaries with other traits and covariance can persist for millions of years (Schluter 1996). Covariance is “a rough local measure of the strength of constraint” (Maynard Smith et al. 1985) that can be broken down into functional, developmental, and selective constraints. Functional constraints are “limitations imposed by time, energy, or the laws of physics” (Arnold 1992). In other words, certain trait combinations are not physically or geometrically possible. A classic example is shell coiling among invertebrate lineages in which the morphospace of possible phenotypes is constrained by hard geometrical limits (Raup 1966; McGhee 1999). Within the space of possible phenotypes, developmental constraints can “bias... the production of variant phenotypes or [place] a limitation on phenotypic variability” (Maynard Smith et al. 1985). For example, Fibonacci phyllotaxis may arise from a packing constraint of primordia on the developing apex (Mitchison 1977; Reinhardt and Gola 2022; but see Niklas 1988 for an adaptive explanation). Natural selection constrains phenotypic variation by preventing maladaptive forms from evolving. Selection causes trait covariation because ‘missing’ trait combinations are maladaptive. Understanding phenotypic constraint is challenging, but a useful starting point is determining whether phenotypic covariation can be explained by functional or developmental constraints (McGhee 1999, 2007; Olson 2019). If phenotypic covariation is inconsistent with functional and developmental constraints, this provides a strong impetus to test for selective constraint.

48 In this study, we will address packing problems and developmental integration,  
specific forms of functional and developmental constraint relevant to our study system,  
stomatal anatomy. We introduce these concepts generally in this paragraph. Packing  
51 a number objects into a finite space is a common functional constraint on organisms.  
Regular geometries that appear in nature such as helices and hexagons (think DNA and  
honeycombs) are often optimal solutions to packing problems (Mackenzie 1999; Maritan  
54 et al. 2000). Notice that functional constraint does not preclude selection, but the presence  
of a packing limit changes the range of possible phenotypes. Developmental integration  
is a form of developmental constraint on multivariate phenotypic evolution and we use  
57 them interchangeably in this study. Developmentally integrated traits have a “disposition  
for covariation” (Armbruster et al. 2014), meaning that evolutionary divergence between  
lineages in one trait will be tightly associated with divergence in another trait. Allometry  
60 is a classic, albeit contested, example of developmental integration that may constrain  
phenotypic evolution (reviewed in Pélabon et al. 2014). Strong allometric covariation  
between traits within populations can constrain macroevolutionary divergence for long  
63 periods of time depending on the strength and direction of selection (Lande 1979).  
However, developmental integration does not necessarily hamper adaptation, and can  
even accelerate adaptive evolution when trait covariation is aligned with the direction of  
66 selection (Hansen 2003). For example, fusion of floral parts increases their developmental  
integration which may increase the rate and precision of multivariate adaptation to  
specialist pollinators (Berg’s rule, Berg 1959, 1960; Conner and Lande 2014; Armbruster  
69 et al. 1999).

Biologists have studied phenotypic constraints for decades, but progress is chal-  
lenging because many multivariate phenotypes are too complex or poorly understood  
72 to quantitatively distinguish functional, developmental, and selective constraints over

macroevolutionary timescales. Stomatal anatomy on the leaves of flowering plants provide an exceptional opportunity because 1) there are 1000s of species to compare and 2) the main packing constraints and developmental steps are analytically tractable. This means it is possible to derive quantitative predictions and test their generality using large comparative data sets representing millions of years of evolutionary history. For this purpose, a heretofore unappreciated fact about stomata is that many leaves have stomata on both lower and upper surfaces. The packing and developmental constraints are the same for stomata on each surface, but the selective constraints may differ. Therefore, if packing and developmental constraints dominate, stomatal anatomy on each surface should diverge in concert. Failure to do so implies that independent evolution is possible and that selective constraints most likely explain at least some of the covariance between traits. Phylogenetic comparisons of stomatal anatomy provide a statistically powerful, general, and elegant way to distinguish different phenotypic constraints that would be impossible in many other traits with as much ecological significance. The next sections provide background information on stomatal anatomy, how it varies, and why functional or developmental constraints might be important. Readers not interested in this background may skip ahead to hypotheses and predictions.

## *The adaptive significance and ecological distribution of variation in stomatal anatomy*

Stomata are microscopic pores formed by a pair of guard cells that regulate gas exchange (CO<sub>2</sub> gain and water vapor loss) on the leaf or other photosynthetic surfaces of most land plants. Stomata originated once in the history of land plants around 500 Ma, diversified rapidly in density and size, and have been maintained in most lineages except some

96 bryophytes and aquatic plants (recently reviewed in Clark et al. 2022). Stomata respond  
physiologically by opening and closing in response to light, humidity, temperature,  
circadian rhythm, and plant water status (Hetherington and Woodward 2003; Lawson  
99 and Matthews 2020). On this short time scale, the stomatal size, density, and distribution  
on a mature leaf do not change, so the maximum rate of is fixed. At somewhat longer  
timescales, the plant may respond to environmental cues such as light and CO<sub>2</sub> by  
102 altering stomatal anatomy in new leaves (Casson and Gray 2008). Physiological responses  
(aperture change) and plastic responses (new leaves with changed anatomy) may be  
alternative strategies for plants to acclimate to environmental change (Haworth, Elliott-  
105 Kingston, and McElwain 2013). Finally, stomatal anatomy can evolve due to inherited  
changes in stomatal development. Plastic and genetic changes in stomatal anatomy are  
both ecologically important, but most studies do not use a common garden design that  
108 would tease apart their relative contribution.

We focus on anatomical variation in the density, size, and patterning of stomata  
on a leaf because these factors set the maximum stomatal conductance to CO<sub>2</sub> diffusing  
111 into a leaf and the amount of water that transpires from it (Sack et al. 2003; Franks  
and Farquhar 2001; Galmés et al. 2013; Harrison et al. 2020). Plants typically operate  
below their anatomical maximum by dynamically regulating stomatal aperture. Even  
114 though operational stomatal conductance determines the realized photosynthetic rate  
and water-use efficiency, anatomical parameters are useful in that they set the range of  
stomatal function (de Boer et al. 2016) and are correlated with actual stomatal function  
117 under natural conditions (Murray et al. 2020). All else being equal, larger, more densely  
packed, but evenly spaced stomata increase gas exchange (Franks and Beerling 2009;  
Dow, Berry, and Bergmann 2014; Lehmann and Or 2015). Smaller stomata may also  
120 be able to respond more rapidly than larger stomata, proving the ability of leaves to

track short duration environmental change (Drake, Froend, and Franks 2013). Stomata are most often found only on the lower leaf surface (hypostomy), but occur on both surfaces (amphistomy) in some species (Metcalf and Chalk 1950; Parkhurst 1978; Mott, Gibson, and O'Leary 1982). Amphistomatous leaves have a second parallel pathway from the substomatal cavities through the leaf internal airspace to sites of carboxylation in the mesophyll (Parkhurst 1978; Gutschick 1984). Thus amphistomatous leaves have lower resistance to diffusion through the airspace which increases the photosynthetic rate (Parkhurst and Mott 1990). If total stomatal and other conductances to CO<sub>2</sub> supply could be held constant, then an amphistomatous leaf will have a greater conductance than an otherwise identical hypostomatous leaf. The magnitude of the advantage depends on upon the resistance to diffusion through the internal airspace, which is variable among species.

The adaptive significance and ecological distribution of leaves with different stomatal anatomies is complex and there is much yet to learn. Seed plants possess a wider range of stomatal anatomies than ferns and fern allies, which are restricted to having large stomata, at low density, only on the lower surface (de Boer et al. 2016). In general, trees and shrubs have greater stomatal density than herbs, but there is a lot of variation within growth forms depending on the ecological niche (Salisbury 1928; Kelly and Beerling 1995). A commonly observed trend is that leaves from higher light environments tend to have greater stomatal density (Salisbury 1928; Gibson 1996). This may explain why, perhaps counterintuitively, plants in dry environments tend to have more stomata. Drier habitats are more open, enabling plants with higher stomatal density to photosynthesize more when water is available, but close stomata during drought (Liu et al. 2018). Over recent human history, stomatal density has tended to decline within species as atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations have risen (Woodward 1987; Royer 2001). It is unclear whether most of

this change is plastic or genetic, but the overall direction is consistent with the hypothesis  
147 that plants decrease gas exchange as CO<sub>2</sub> availability increases.

The adaptive significance of variation in stomatal ratio is uncertain, but we have some  
clues based on the distribution of hypo- and amphistomatous leaves. Despite the fact that  
150 amphistomy can increase photosynthesis, most leaves are hypostomatous. Amphistomy  
should increase photosynthesis most under saturating-light conditions where CO<sub>2</sub> supply  
limits photosynthesis. This may explain why amphistomatous leaves are most common  
153 in high light habitats (Salisbury 1928; Mott, Gibson, and O'Leary 1982; Gibson 1996; W. K.  
Smith, Bell, and Shepherd 1998; Jordan, Carpenter, and Brodribb 2014; Muir 2015; Bucher  
et al. 2017), especially in herbs (Muir 2018). However, the light environment alone cannot  
156 explain why hypostomatous leaves predominate in shade plants (Muir 2019), suggesting  
that we need to understand the costs of upper stomata better. Upper stomata increase  
the susceptibility to rust pathogens in *Populus* (McKown et al. 2014, 2019; Fetter, Nelson,  
159 and Keller 2021). Amphistomy may also cause the palisade mesophyll to dry out under  
strong vapor pressure deficits (Buckley et al. 2015). Other hypotheses about the adaptive  
significance of stomatal ratio are discussed in Muir (2015) and Drake et al. (2019).

## 162 *Major features of stomatal anatomical macroevolution*

Two major features of stomatal anatomy have been recognized for decades but we do  
not yet understand the evolutionary forces that generate and maintain them. We denote  
165 these two features as “inverse size-density scaling” and “bimodal stomatal ratio” (Fig. 1).  
Inverse size-density scaling refers to the negative interspecific correlation between the size  
of the stomatal apparatus and the density of stomata (Weiss 1865; Franks and Beerling  
168 2009; de Boer et al. 2016; Sack and Buckley 2016; Liu et al. 2021). Across species, leaves



with smaller stomata tend to pack them more densely, but there is significant variation about this general trend (Fig. 1a). Stomatal size and density determine the maximum stomatal conductance to CO<sub>2</sub> and water vapor but also take up space on the epidermis, which could be costly for both construction and maintenance. Natural selection should favor leaves that have enough stomata of sufficient size to supply CO<sub>2</sub> for photosynthesis. Hence leaves with few, small stomata and high photosynthetic rates do not exist because they would not supply enough CO<sub>2</sub>. Conversely, excess stomata or extra large stomata beyond the optimum may result in stomatal interference where the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration gradient around one stomate merges with that of its neighbor (Zeiger, Farquhar, and Cowan 1987; Lehmann and Or 2015), incur metabolic costs (Deans et al. 2020), and/or risk hydraulic failure (Henry et al. 2019). The distribution of stomatal size and density may therefore represent the combinations that ensure enough, but not too much, stomatal conductance. Franks and Beerling (2009) further hypothesized that the evolution of small stomata in angiosperms enabled increased stomatal conductance while minimizing the epidermal area allocated to stomata.

A striking feature of the interspecific variation in stomatal ratio is that trait values are not uniformly distributed, but strongly bimodal (Fig. 1b). Bimodal stomatal ratio refers to the observation that the ratio of stomatal density on the adaxial (upper) surface to the density on the abaxial (lower) has distinct modes (Fig. 1b). Amphistomy occurs most often in herbaceous plants from open, high light habitats (Salisbury 1928; Mott, Gibson, and O'Leary 1982; Gibson 1996; W. K. Smith, Bell, and Shepherd 1998; Jordan, Carpenter, and Brodribb 2014; Muir 2015, 2018; Bucher et al. 2017). Muir (2015) described bimodal stomatal ratio formally but the pattern is apparent in earlier comparative studies of the British flora (*cf.* Peat and Fitter 1994, fig. 1).

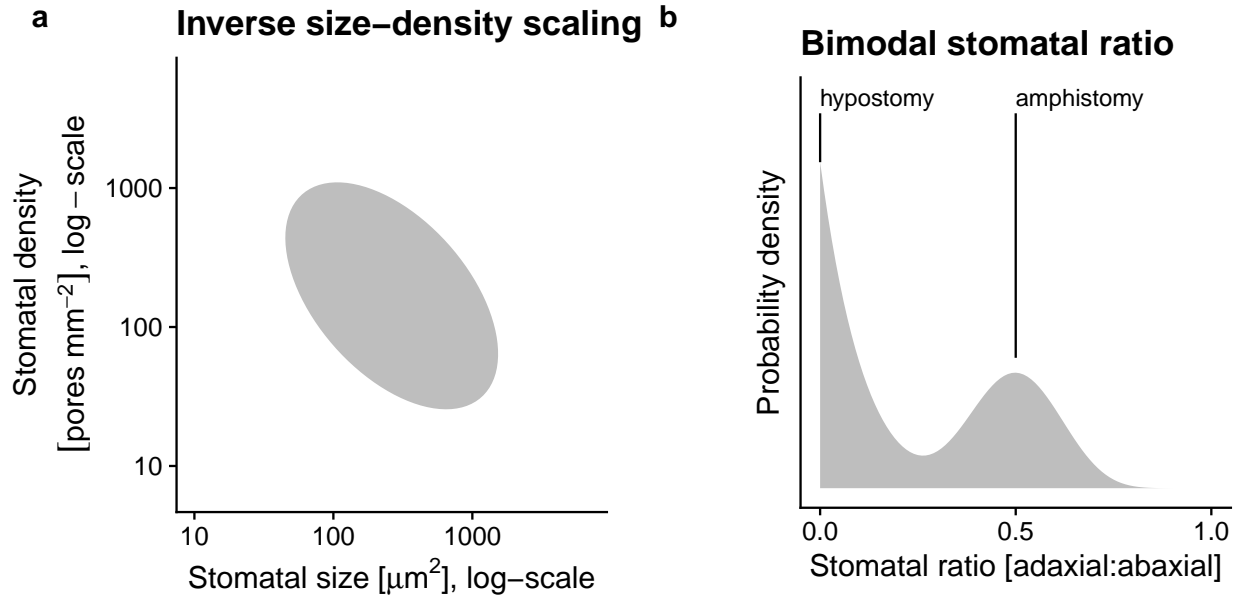


Figure 1: Two salient features of stomatal anatomy in flowering plants are the (a) inverse relationship between stomatal size and density and (b) the bimodal distribution of stomatal ratio. At broad phylogenetic scales, leaves with smaller stomata ( $x$ -axis, log-scale) tend to have greater stomatal density ( $y$ -axis, log-scale), but there is a lot of variation about the overall trend indicated by the grey ellipse. Hypostomatous leaves (stomatal ratio = 0) are more common than amphistomatous leaves, but within amphistomatous leaves, the density of stomata on each surface tends to be similar (stomatal ratio  $\approx 0.5$ ), which we refer to as bimodal stomatal ratio.

### *Packing limits, developmental integration, and stomatal anatomy*

Given the significance of stomata for plant function and global vegetation modeling (Berry, Beerling, and Franks 2010), we would like to understand what factors constrain their anatomical variation. Here we focus on interspecific variation in mean trait values rather than intraspecific variation. Packing constraints and developmental integration could explain inverse size-density scaling. The density and size of a stomata on a planar leaf surface can be viewed as a packing problem where the total area allocated to stomata cannot exceed the total leaf area. This is a functional, or geometric, constraint because certain combinations of large size and high density are not physically possible. This

functional constraint cannot explain why combinations of low density and small size are rare, but may explain why stomatal size must decrease when density increases as the leaf runs out of space. The packing limit of functional stomata is less than the entire leaf area, but the exact value is unclear. The realized upper limit is close to 1/3 or 1/2 (de Boer et al. 2016; Sack and Buckley 2016; Liu et al. 2021) for the species' mean, not an individual leaf.

Guard cell size and spacing between stomata (the inverse of density) are developmentally intertwined because guard cells and epidermal pavement cells between stomata develop from the same meristem. Before guard cell meristemoids form via asymmetric cell division (Dow and Bergmann 2014), the size of guard and epidermal cells are influenced by meristematic cell volume and expansion. Evolutionary shifts in meristematic cell volume or expansion rate could cause both increased stomatal size and lower density because epidermal cells between stomata are larger (Brodribb, Jordan, and Carpenter 2013). For example, larger genomes increase meristematic cell volume (Šímová and Herben 2012), setting a lower bound on final cell volume. Although different expansion rates in guard and epidermal pavement cells can reduce the correlation in their final size, the fact that species with larger genomes tend toward having larger stomata and lower density may indicate an effect of development integration on stomatal anatomy (Beaulieu et al. 2008; Simonin and Roddy 2018; Roddy et al. 2020). Developmental integration in this case would not necessarily hinder adaptive evolution if the main axes of selection were aligned with the developmental correlation. For example, if higher maximum stomatal conductance were achieved primarily by increasing stomatal density and decreasing stomatal size as proposed by Franks and Beerling (2009), then developmental integration might accelerate the response to selection compared to a case where stomatal size and density are completely independent.

Muir (2015) derived general conditions in which bimodality arises because adaptive optima are restricted to separate regimes, but this model has not been tested. An alternative hypothesis is that stomatal traits on the ab- and adaxial surfaces are developmentally integrated because stomatal development is regulated the same way on each surface. In hypostomatous leaves, stomatal development is turned off in the adaxial surface. In amphistomatous leaves, stomatal development proceeds on both surfaces, but evolutionary changes in stomatal development affect traits on both surfaces because they are tethered by a shared developmental program. This is a developmental constraint because the fact that stomatal development is the same on each surface constrains the type of variation available for selection. Developmental integration would lead to a bimodal trait distribution because leaves would either be hypostomatous (stomatal ratio equal to 0) or have similar densities on each surface (stomatal ratio approximately 0.5). To our knowledge, this hypothesis has not been put forward in the literature.

### *Hypotheses and predictions*

The overarching question is whether major features of stomatal anatomy in terrestrial angiosperms are consistent with packing constraints and/or developmental integration mediated by cell size. Since stomata on both surfaces of amphistomatous leaves are subject to the same functional and developmental constraints, if these constraints are most important we predict similar patterns of trait covariation on abaxial and adaxial surfaces. Conversely, if traits covary differently on each surface it would indicate that stomatal anatomical traits can evolve independently and selective constraints likely contribute to covariation. Analogously, variation in the genetic correlation and interspecific divergence of sexually dimorphic traits in dioecious species demonstrate that integration is not fixed and can be modified by selection (Barrett and Hough 2013). We framed specific

hypotheses and predictions around how functional or developmental constraints might  
252 explain either inverse size-density scaling or bimodal stomatal ratio.

### **Inverse size-density scaling**

Both packing limits and developmental integration could contribute to inverse size-  
255 density scaling. If limits on the fraction of epidermal area occupied by stomata constrains  
that combinations of stomatal size and density that are evolutionarily accessible, then  
we predict that evolutionary divergence in stomatal size and/or density will decrease as  
258 the fraction of epidermal area occupied by stomata increases. Furthermore, if divergence  
slows as epidermal area occupied by stomata because of a packing limit, it should slow  
down the same way for both ab- and adaxial surfaces.

261 The second hypothesis is the cell size mediates developmental integration between  
stomatal size and density. If developmental integration is the primary reason for inverse  
size-density scaling, then amphistomatous leaves will exhibit identical size-density scaling  
264 on each surface. If the stomatal size and density scale differently on each surface, this  
implies that they can evolve independently and that selective constraints likely explain  
some of their covariance. Furthermore, we predicted that divergence in genome size,  
267 which is strongly associated with meristematic cell volume (Šímová and Herben 2012),  
would covary with stomatal size and density similarly on each surface.

### **Bimodal stomatal ratio**

270 If the developmental integration hypothesis is correct, it also implies stomatal  
size and density will diverge in concert on each surface because the developmental  
function is fixed. Therefore we predict that divergence of stomatal traits on one surface  
273 will be isometric with divergence in stomatal traits on the other surface. This type of  
developmental integration limits the expression of variation and could give rise to a

bimodal stomatal ratio. Suppose that in hypostomatous leaves, stomatal development  
276 is completely suppressed. In amphistomatous leaves, stomatal development proceeds  
identically on each surface because the developmental function is identical. This would  
lead to a tendency for equal density on each surface.

279 We formalized these hypotheses into a mathematical framework to derive quantitative  
predictions that we tested in a phylogenetic comparative framework by compiling  
stomatal anatomy data from the literature for a broad range of flowering plants.

## 282 **Materials and Methods**

Unless otherwise mentioned, we performed all data wrangling and statistical analyses  
in R version 4.2.0 (R Core Team 2022). Source code is publicly available on GitHub  
285 (<https://github.com/cdmuir/stomata-independence>) and will be archived on Zenodo  
upon publication.

### *Theory: divergence with and without developmental constraint*

288 Developmental integration could shape patterns of phenotypic macroevolution, but a  
major hindrance to progress is that verbal models do not make precise, quantitative  
predictions that distinguish it from alternatives. An advantage of testing developmental  
291 integration in stomata is that their development is well studied (Bergmann and Sack  
2007; Dow and Bergmann 2014; Sack and Buckley 2016). We can leverage that knowledge  
to build a developmental function and derive equations for phenotypic (co)variance  
294 caused by developmental integration. If observed patterns of evolution are inconsistent  
with developmental integration, theory may also help identify which parameters lead to  
developmental disintegration. We combined and extended stomatal development models

to predict how stomatal density and length would diverge if stomatal development were constrained and how those predictions would change if stomatal development were unconstrained. We summarize our methods verbally here and direct readers interested in the mathematical details to Notes A1. A graphical summary is provided in Fig. A3. We imposed constraint by assuming the stomatal developmental function is constrained. The developmental function maps cell size prior to differentiation onto stomatal size and density using two parameters. The first parameter describes how cell volume is apportioned between epidermal cells and guard cell meristemoids during asymmetric cell division (Dow and Bergmann 2014). The second parameter is stomatal index (Salisbury 1928; Sack and Buckley 2016), which is determined by amplifying and spacing divisions after asymmetric cell division (Dow and Bergmann 2014). When these parameters are fixed, divergence in stomatal size and density is determined by divergence in meristematic cell volume and expansion prior to asymmetric division. We relaxed this constraint by treating parameters of the developmental function as random variables that can diverge between species. We used random variable algebra to derive predicted (co)variance in divergence between stomatal length and density (see Lynch and Walsh 1998 for key random variable algebra theorems).

## *Data synthesis*

We searched the literature for studies that measured stomatal density and stomatal size, either guard cell length or stomatal pore length, for both abaxial and adaxial leaf surfaces. In other words, we did not include studies unless they reported separate density and size values for each surface. We did not record leaf angle because it is typically not reported, but we presume that for the vast majority of taxa that the abaxial is the lower surface and the adaxial is the upper surface. This is reversed in resupinate leaves, but to the best of

our knowledge, our synthesis did not include resupinate leaves. None of the species with resupinate leaves listed by Chitwood et al. (2012) are in our data set. We refer to guard cell length as stomatal length and converted stomatal pore length to stomatal length assuming guard cell length is twice pore length (Sack and Buckley 2016). Table 1 lists focal traits and symbols.

Table 1: Stomatal anatomical traits with mathematical symbol, variable string used in source code, and scientific units.

Symbol	Variable string	Units
$D_{ab}$	abaxial_stomatal_density_mm2	pores $\text{mm}^{-2}$
$D_{ad}$	adaxial_stomatal_density_mm2	pores $\text{mm}^{-2}$
$L_{ab}$	abaxial_stomatal_length_um	$\mu\text{m}$
$L_{ad}$	adaxial_stomatal_length_um	$\mu\text{m}$

Data on stomatal anatomy are spread over a disparate literature and we have not attempted an exhaustive synthesis of amphistomatous leaf stomatal anatomy. We began our search by reviewing papers that cited key studies of amphistomy (Parkhurst 1978; Mott, Gibson, and O’Leary 1982; Muir 2015). We supplemented these by searching Clarivate *Web of Science* for “guard cell length” because most studies that report guard cell length also report stomatal density, whereas the reverse is not true. We identified additional studies by reviewing the literature cited of papers we found and through opportunistic discovery. The final data set contained 5104 observations of stomatal density and length from 1242 taxa and 38 primary studies (Table A5). However, many of these data were excluded if taxonomic name and phylogenetic placement could not be resolved (see



below). Finally, we included some unpublished data. Stomatal size data were collected on grass species described in Pathare, Koteyeva, and Cousins (2020). We also included unpublished data on 14 amphistomatous wild tomato species (*Solanum* sect. *Lycopersicum* and sect. *Lycopersicoides*) grown in pots under outdoor summer Mediterranean conditions as described in Muir, Galmés, and Conesa (2022). We took ab- and adaxial epidermal imprints using clear nail polish of the mid-portion of the lamina away from major veins on the terminal leaflet of the youngest, fully expanded leaf from 1-5 replicates per taxon. With a brightfield light microscope, we counted stomata in three 0.571 mm<sup>2</sup> fields of view and divided by the total area to estimate density. We measured the average guard cell length of 60 stomata, 20 per field of view, to estimate stomatal size. The data set is publicly available as an R package **ropenstomata** (<https://github.com/cdmuir/ropenstomata>). We collected data on genome size from the Angiosperm DNA C-values database (Leitch et al. 2019; Pellicer and Leitch 2020). When multiple ploidy levels were available for a taxon, we chose the lowest one for consistency. All data will be deposited on Dryad and archived on Zenodo upon publication.

### *Phylogenetically independent contrasts*

We generated an ultrametric, bifurcating phylogeny of 638 taxa by resolving and removing ambiguous taxonomic names, placing taxa on the GBOTB.extended mega-tree of seed plants (S. A. Smith and Brown 2018; Zanne et al. 2014), and resolving polytomies using published sequence data. The complete methodology is described in the online supplement (Notes A2).

From this phylogeny, we extracted 236 phylogenetically independent taxon pairs (Table A1). A fully resolved, bifurcating four-taxon phylogeny can have two basic

topologies:  $((A, B), (C, D))$  or  $((A, B), C), D)$ ). Taxon pairs include all comparisons of A with  
 360 B and C with D in each four-taxon clade. We extracted pairs using the `extract_sisters()`  
 function in R package **diverge** version 2.0.4 (Anderson and Weir 2021) and custom scripts  
 (see source code). Taxon pairs are the most closely related pairs in our data set, but  
 363 they are mostly not sister taxa in the sense of being the two most closely related taxa  
 in the tree of life. For each pair we calculated phylogenetically independent contrasts  
 (Felsenstein 1985) as the difference in the  $\log_{10}$ -transformed trait value (see Beaulieu et al.  
 366 2008 for a similar approach). Contrasts are denoted as  $\Delta\log(\text{trait})$ . We log-transformed  
 traits for normality because like many morphological and anatomical traits they are  
 strongly right-skewed. Log-transformation also helps compare density and length, which  
 369 are measured on different scales, because log-transformed values quantify proportional  
 rather than absolute divergence.

### *Parameter estimation*

372 All hypotheses make predictions about trait (co)variance matrices or parameters derived  
 from them (see Notes A1 and subsections below). Within and among species covariation  
 is a hallmark of developmental integration (Armbruster 1988), but other evolutionary pro-  
 375 cesses also lead to covariance. Distinguishing between them requires deriving predictions  
 and testing whether observed covariance is consistent with one hypothesis or another. We  
 estimated the  $4 \times 4$  covariance matrix of phylogenetically independent contrasts between  
 378 log-transformed values of  $\Delta\log(D_{ab})$ ,  $\Delta\log(D_{ad})$ ,  $\Delta\log(L_{ab})$ , and  $\Delta\log(L_{ad})$  using a dis-  
 tributional multiresponse robust Bayesian approach. See Table 1 for variable definitions.  
 We denote variances as  $\text{Var}[\Delta\log(\text{trait})]$  and covariances as  $\text{Cov}[\Delta\log(\text{trait}_1), \Delta\log(\text{trait}_2)]$ .  
 381 We used a multivariate  $t$ -distribution rather than a Normal distribution because estimates  
 using the former are more robust to exceptional trait values (Lange, Little, and Taylor

1989). We also estimated whether the variance in trait divergence increases with time. Under many trait evolution models (e.g. Brownian motion), interspecific variance increases through time. To account for this, we included time since taxon-pair divergence as an explanatory variable affecting the trait covariance matrix.

For the packing limit hypothesis, we tested whether the variance in stomatal trait divergence,  $\text{Var}[\Delta \log(\text{trait})]$ , decreases as stomatal allocation increases. The fraction of epidermal area allocated to stomata ( $f_S$ ) is the product of stomatal density and area occupied by a stomatal apparatus. Because guard cell shape is similar in most plant lineages except grasses, the area can be well approximated from guard cell length as  $A = jL^2$  where  $j = 0.5$  for most species with kidney-shaped guard cells and  $j = 0.125$  for grasses with dumbbell-shaped guard cells (Sack and Buckley 2016). For each contrast, we calculated the average  $f_S$  on each surface between those two taxa for use as our explanatory variable. The statistical model allowed the effect of  $f_S$  on  $\text{Var}[\Delta \log(\text{trait})]$  to vary between traits and leaf surfaces. We also included time since taxon-pair divergence as an explanatory variable and used a multivariate  $t$ -distribution as described above.

We fit all models in Stan 2.29 (Stan Development Team 2022) using the R packages **brms** version 2.17.0 (Bürkner 2017, 2018) with a **cmdstanr** version 0.5.2 backend (Gabry and Češnovar 2022). It ran on 2 parallel chains for 1000 warm-up iterations and 1000 sampling iterations. All parameters converged ( $\hat{R} \approx 1$ ) and the effective sample size from the posterior exceeded 1000 (Vehtari et al. 2021). We used the posterior median for point estimates and calculated uncertainty with the 95% highest posterior density (HPD) interval from the posterior distribution.

## *Hypothesis testing*

*Does divergence slow as epidermal space fills?*

We tested the packing limit hypothesis by estimating the effect of  $f_S$  on  $\text{Var}[\Delta \log(\text{trait})]$  for each trait and leaf surface. If there is an upper bound on  $f_S$ , we predict the effect of  $f_S$  on  $\text{Var}[\Delta \log(\text{trait})]$  will be  $< 0$ . Specifically, the 95% HPD intervals should not include 0. Further, the coefficient should be the same on each surface, so the 95% HPD intervals for difference should encompass 0.

*Is size-density scaling the same on both leaf surfaces?*

We tested whether the covariance between divergence in stomatal length and stomatal density on each leaf surface is the same. If size and density are developmentally integrated, we predict the covariance matrices will not be significantly different. Specifically, the 95% HPD intervals of the difference in covariance parameters should not include 0 if:

$$\text{Var}[\Delta \log(D_{ab})] \neq \text{Var}[\Delta \log(D_{ad})] \quad (1)$$

$$\text{Var}[\Delta \log(L_{ab})] \neq \text{Var}[\Delta \log(L_{ad})] \quad (2)$$

$$\text{Cov}[\Delta \log(L_{ab}), \Delta \log(D_{ab})] \neq \text{Cov}[\Delta \log(L_{ad}), \Delta \log(D_{ad})] \quad (3)$$

*Do abaxial and adaxial stomatal traits evolve isometrically?*

If stomatal traits on each surface are developmentally integrated then divergence in the trait on one surface should result in a 1:1 (isometric) change in the trait on the other surface. Furthermore, there should be relatively little variation away from a 1:1 relationship. Conversely, if traits can evolve independently then the change in the trait on

one surface should be uncorrelated with changes on the other. We tested for isometry  
423 by estimating the standardized major axis (SMA) slope of divergence in the abaxial trait  
against divergence in the adaxial trait for both stomatal length and stomatal density. If  
change on each surface is isometric, then the HPD intervals for the slope should include  
426 1. We used the coefficient of determination,  $r^2$ , to quantify the strength of integration,  
where a value of 1 is complete integration and a value of 0 is complete disintegration.

## Results

### *Theory: from developmental integration to disintegration*

We asked how divergence in stomatal length and density would covary if the developmen-  
tal function were constrained and compared it to their divergence when the developmental  
432 function can evolve. When the developmental function is constrained this means that  
allocation to guard cell meristemoids during asymmetric division and stomatal index are  
fixed (see Notes A1 for mathematical description). Under these assumptions, divergence  
435 in stomatal length and density is mediated entirely by divergence in meristematic cell  
volume and expansion prior to differentiation. Developmental integration is strong be-  
cause divergence in density is perfectly negatively correlated with divergence in size. In  
438 contrast, stomatal length and density can diverge independently when the developmental  
function is not fixed. Divergence in asymmetric cell division affects stomatal size inde-  
pendently of density; divergence in stomatal index affects stomatal density independently  
441 of size. Divergence in the developmental function causes developmental disintegration  
because stomatal density and size can diverge independently. Developmental integration  
is minimal when asymmetric cell division and/or stomatal index diverge more than  
444 meristematic cell volume and expansion. The three main conclusions are that 1) de-

developmental constraint leads to developmental integration; 2) different (co)variance in divergence of stomatal length and density on each surface implies the developmental function is not fixed; and 3) divergence in different components of the developmental function affect stomatal length and density differently. See Notes A1 and Table A4 for more a complete derivation and detailed predictions.

### *Divergence in stomatal traits slows as $f_S$ increases*

The variance in trait divergence decreases as the fraction of epidermal area allocated to stomata,  $f_S$ , increases (Figs. 2, A1). The effect of  $f_S$  was strongest for  $D_{ad}$  and 95% HPD intervals did not overlap 0 for 3 of 4 comparisons (Table A2). Variance in divergence for  $D_{ad}$  declined more rapidly with  $f_S$  than that for  $D_{ab}$  (difference and 95% HPD interval in slope, log-link scale: -10.7 [-17.2,-4.2]). Variance in length divergence declined similarly with  $f_S$  on both surfaces (difference and 95% HPD interval in slope, log-link scale: -2.8 [-9.6,4]).

### *Adaxial stomatal density is more variable, but size-density covariance is similar on both surfaces*

Stomatal length negatively covaries with stomatal density similarly on both surfaces, but on the adaxial surface there are many more taxa that have low stomatal density and small size compared to the abaxial surface (Fig. 3). In principle, this pattern could arise either because size-density covariance differs or the variance in adaxial stomatal density increases faster than that for abaxial stomatal density. The interspecific variance increases with time since divergence for all traits (Table A3). For consistency, we therefore report estimates conditional on time since divergence set to 0. Across

pairs, we estimate that the covariance between size and density is similar. The median  
 468 estimate is  $\text{Cov}[\Delta\log(L_{\text{ad}}), \Delta\log(D_{\text{ad}})] - \text{Cov}[\Delta\log(L_{\text{ab}}), \Delta\log(D_{\text{ab}})] = 3.18 \times 10^{-4}$ , but  
 0 is within the range of uncertainty (95% HPD interval  $[-3.85 \times 10^{-3}, 4.26 \times 10^{-3}]$ ).  
 However the variance in adaxial stomatal density is significantly greater than the abaxial  
 471 stomatal density [Fig. 4]). We estimate  $\text{Var}[\Delta\log(D_{\text{ad}})]$  is  $4.00 \times 10^{-2}$  (95% HPD interval  
 $[1.42 \times 10^{-2}, 7.07 \times 10^{-2}]$ ) greater than  $\text{Var}[\Delta\log(D_{\text{ab}})]$ . The variance in stomatal length  
 was similar for both surfaces, with an estimate of  $-4.54 \times 10^{-4}$  (95% HPD interval  
 474  $[-1.67 \times 10^{-3}, 7.45 \times 10^{-4}]$ ).

### *Genome size is associated with stomatal length on both surfaces*

We analyzed a smaller set of 79 contrasts with data on both genome size and stomatal  
 477 anatomy. Consistent with previous studies (Beaulieu et al. 2008; Jordan et al. 2015;  
 Simonin and Roddy 2018), increased genome size was associated with increased stomatal  
 length on both surfaces (Fig. A2). The association between genome size and stomatal  
 480 density was negative, as expected, but weaker. Only the slope for adaxial stomatal density  
 was significantly less than 0 (Fig. A2).

### *Stomatal density on each surface is less integrated than stomatal length*

The relationship between stomatal density on each leaf surface is visually more variable  
 than that for stomatal length (Fig. 5). This pattern occurs because the slope and strength  
 486 of integration for stomatal density on each surface is much weaker than that for stomatal  
 length. The SMA slope between  $\Delta\log(D_{\text{ad}})$  and  $\Delta\log(D_{\text{ab}})$  is less than 1 (estimated  
 slope = 0.742, 95% HPD interval  $[0.619, 0.883]$ ) and the strength of association is weakly

positive (estimated  $r^2 = 0.113$ , 95% HPD interval  $[0.0431, 0.205]$ ; Fig. 6). In contrast, the relationship between  $\Delta\log(L_{ad})$  and  $\Delta\log(L_{ab})$  is isometric (estimated slope = 1.03, 95% HPD interval  $[0.955, 1.12]$ ) and strongly positive (estimated  $r^2 = 0.762$ , 95% HPD interval  $[0.691, 0.82]$ ; Fig. 6).

## Discussion

Packing limits and developmental integration are potential constraints on stomatal anatomical evolution in flowering plants that may hinder adaptation by preventing traits from evolving independently towards a multivariate phenotypic optimum. Two major features of stomatal anatomical variation at the macroevolutionary scale, inverse size-density scaling and bimodal stomatal ratio, may be shaped by packing limits or developmental integration between epidermal pavement and guard cell size. In this study, we took advantage of the fact that amphistomatous leaves produce stomata on both abaxial (usually lower) and adaxial (usually upper) surfaces to test predictions of packing and developmental integration hypotheses using a global phylogenetic comparison of flowering plants. These constraints should result in similar (co)variance in divergence of stomatal traits on each surface (Notes A1), whereas differing selective constraints for each surface would different patterns of divergence.

Neither packing limits nor developmental integration were sufficient to explain the observed patterns of divergence in stomatal traits. Although evolutionary divergence slowed as the allocation to stomata  $f_S$  increased, the effect of  $f_S$  was different on each surface (Fig. 2 and A1; Table A2). The contrasting pattern of divergence on each surface is inconsistent with a common packing limit and suggests instead that selective constraints act differently on lower and upper stomata. Contrary to the developmental



integration hypotheses, the greater variance in stomatal density compared to length on  
513 the adaxial surface indicates that density is more labile on this surface, though traits on  
each surface are not completely decoupled (Fig. 4, 6; Table A3). Consistent with the  
developmental integration hypotheses, divergence in stomatal length on each surface  
516 evolves isometrically at the same rate, suggesting that guard cell dimensions may not  
be able to evolve independently on each surface (Fig. 6). The evolutionary lability  
of stomatal density, despite constraints on size, show that inverse size-density scaling  
519 and bimodal stomatal ratio cannot be attributed entirely to developmental integration.  
Combinations of small stomata and low density that are not found on the abaxial  
surface are found on the adaxial surface, indicating that these rare trait combinations  
522 are developmentally accessible. This is a critical starting point in determining which  
processes limit phenotypic variation over macroevolution (McGhee 1999; Olson 2019).  
Establishing that traits can evolve quasi-independently is necessary but not sufficient to  
525 show that selective constraints are the primary process shaping phenotypic evolution.  
Packing limits and developmental integration may bias phenotypic evolution, even if  
they do not preclude certain stomatal trait combinations. Therefore, future research will  
528 need to combine stomatal developmental (dis)integration with biophysical models of  
how stomatal anatomy would vary adaptively (Olson and Arroyo-Santos 2015). Although  
these questions and approaches apply to any phenotype, stomata will be a useful trait  
531 because of their ecological significance and broad application to most land plants.

*Do packing limits and developmental integration lead to inverse  
size-density scaling?*

Stomata cannot occupy more than the entire leaf surface, but realistically there is probably an upper packing limit below this hard bound. If this packing limit drives inverse size-density scaling, we should observe that divergence in stomatal size and density decrease as this limit is approached. Near the limit, large changes that reduce  $f_S$  are possible, but changes that increase  $f_S$  must be small so as not to exceed the limit. Furthermore, the same packing limit should apply to both ab- and adaxial leaf surfaces. Although we observe that divergence decreases with  $f_S$ , the relationship is not the same on both surfaces (Fig. 2 and A1; Table A2). This implies that other factors constrain stomatal size and density before they approach a packing limit.

If stomatal size and density are integrated by cell size (Brodribb, Jordan, and Carpenter 2013), then we predicted inverse size-density scaling would evolve with the same (co)variance for both ab- and adaxial leaf surfaces (Notes A1). Contrary to this prediction, there are many combinations of stomatal density and length found on adaxial leaf surfaces that are absent from abaxial leaf surfaces (Fig. 3). In principle, the different relationship between traits on each surface could be caused by different evolutionary variance in stomatal density ( $\text{Var}[\Delta\log(D_{ab})] \neq \text{Var}[\Delta\log(D_{ad})]$ ) and/or covariance ( $\text{Cov}[\Delta\log(L_{ab}), \Delta\log(D_{ab})] \neq \text{Cov}[\Delta\log(L_{ad}), \Delta\log(D_{ad})]$ ) on each surface. However, the covariance relationship between density and length is similar on each surface, whereas the evolutionary variance in adaxial stomatal density is significantly higher than that for abaxial density ( $\text{Var}[\Delta\log(D_{ab})] < \text{Var}[\Delta\log(D_{ad})]$ ; Fig. 4). Given that the average stomatal length is usually about the same on each surface (see below),

555 these results imply that plants can often evolve stomatal densities on each surface without  
a concomitant change in size. Based on our theoretical analysis, we interpret these results  
to mean that cell divisions affecting stomatal index are less evolutionarily constrained  
558 than the asymmetric cell division preceding the guard cell meristemoid (Fig. A3; Table  
A4)

The disintegration of stomatal size and density on adaxial leaf surfaces implies that  
561 the inverse size-density scaling on abaxial surfaces (Weiss 1865; Franks and Beerling  
2009; de Boer et al. 2016; Sack and Buckley 2016; Liu et al. 2021) is not a developmental  
*fait accompli*. The lability of  $D_{ad}$  may explain why there is so much putatively adaptive  
564 variation in the trait along light gradients (Muir 2018) and in coordination with other  
anatomical traits that vary among precipitation habitats (Pathare, Koteyeva, and Cousins  
2020). There is a tension between our results and recent findings that genome size, which  
567 is strongly correlated with meristematic cell volume (Šímová and Herben 2012), correlates  
strongly with mature guard cell size as well as the size and packing density of mesophyll  
cells (Roddy et al. 2020; Thérout-Rancourt et al. 2021). However, most plant species are  
570 far from their minimum cell size as determined by genome size [Roddy et al. (2020); Fig.  
3]. Genome size explains 31-54% of stomatal density across the major groups of terrestrial  
plants (Simonin and Roddy 2018) but there is huge variation in stomatal density and  
573 stomatal length in angiosperms with rather similar genome size (*c.f.* Fig. 2 in Simonin and  
Roddy 2018). Genome size, a proxy for meristematic cell volume, is more strongly related  
to stomatal size than density (Fig. A2). Yet the decoupling of size and density on the  
576 adaxial surface suggests that meristematic cell volume is probably not a strong constraint  
on the final size of epidermal pavement and guard cells because of different division and  
expansion rates after the asymmetric cell division stage. A possible resolution is that  
579 meristematic cell volume limits the range of variation in species with exceptionally large

genome, but most species can modify stomatal size and density independently of each other to optimize photosynthesis (e.g. Jordan et al. 2015).

### *Does developmental integration lead to bimodal stomatal ratio?*

We predicted that if abaxial and adaxial stomata are developmentally integrated then we should observe a strong, isometric relationship between trait divergence on each surface.

Consistent with this prediction, divergence in stomatal length on each surface is isometric (SMA slope = 1.03) and strongly associated ( $r^2 = 0.762$ ; Fig. 6). In contrast, divergence in stomatal density on each surface was not isometric (SMA slope = 0.742) and much less integrated ( $r^2 = 0.113$ ; Fig. 6). Since average stomatal density on each surface can evolve quasi-independently, a wide variety of stomatal ratios are developmentally possible. The stomatal developmental function is not constrained to be identical on each surface. Hence, the bimodal stomatal ratio pattern (Muir 2015) is unlikely to be the result of developmental integration alone.

### *Limitations and future research*

The ability of adaxial stomatal density to evolve independently of stomatal size and abaxial stomatal density is not consistent with packing limits or developmental integration as the primary cause leading to inverse size-density scaling or bimodal stomatal ratio. However, there are two major limitations of this study that should be addressed in future work. First, while  $D_{ab}$  can diverge independently of other stomatal traits globally, we cannot rule out that developmental integration is important in some lineages. Developmental constraints are often localized to particular clades but not universal (Maynard Smith et al. 1985). For example, Berg's rule observes that vegetative and floral traits are often developmentally

integrated, but integration can be broken when selection favors flowers for specialized  
 603 pollination (Berg 1959, 1960; Conner and Lande 2014). Other traits evince developmental  
 modularity, such as the independent evolution leaf and petal venation (Roddy et al. 2013).  
 Analogously, developmental integration between stomatal anatomical traits could evolve  
 606 in some lineages, due to selection or other evolutionary forces, but become less integrated  
 in other lineages. For example,  $D_{ab}$  and  $D_{ad}$  are positively genetically correlated in  
*Oryza* (Ishimaru et al. 2001; Rae et al. 2006), suggesting developmental integration may  
 609 contribute to low variation in stomatal ratio between species of this genus (Giuliani et  
 al. 2013). A second major limitation is that covariation in traits like stomatal length,  
 which appear to be developmentally integrated on each surface, could be caused by other  
 612 processes. For example, since stomatal size affects the speed and mechanics of stomatal  
 closure (Drake, Froend, and Franks 2013; Harrison et al. 2020), there may be strong  
 selection for similar stomatal size throughout the leaf to harmonize rates of stomatal  
 615 closure. Coordination between epidermal and mesophyll development may also constrain  
 how independently stomatal traits on each surface can evolve (Dow, Berry, and Bergmann  
 2017; Lundgren et al. 2019; Th  roux-Rancourt et al. 2021).

618 Future research should identify the mechanistic basis of developmental disintegration  
 between  $D_{ab}$  and  $D_{ad}$ . Multiple reviews of stomatal development conclude that stomatal  
 traits are independently controlled on each surface (Lake, Woodward, and Quick 2002;  
 621 Bergmann and Sack 2007), but we do not know much about linkage between ab-adaxial  
 polarity and stomatal development (Kidner and Timmermans 2010; Pillitteri and Torii  
 2012). Systems that have natural variation in stomatal ratio should allow us to study how  
 624 developmental disintegration evolves. Quantitative genetic studies in *Brassica oleracea*  
*L.*, *Oryza sativa* *L.*, *Populus trichocarpa* Torr. & A. Gray ex Hook., *Populus* interspecific  
 crosses, and *Solanum* interspecific crosses, typically find partial independence of  $D_{ab}$  and

627  $D_{ad}$ ; some loci affect both traits, but some loci only affect density on one surface and/or  
genetic correlations are weak (Ishimaru et al. 2001; Ferris et al. 2002; Hall et al. 2005;  
Rae et al. 2006; Laza et al. 2010; Chitwood et al. 2013; McKown et al. 2014; Muir, Pease,  
630 and Moyle 2014; Porth et al. 2015; Fetter, Nelson, and Keller 2021). For example, *Populus*  
*trichocarpa* populations have putatively adaptive genetic variation in  $D_{ad}$ . Populations are  
more amphistomatous at Northern latitudes with shorter growing seasons that may select  
633 for faster carbon assimilation (McKown et al. 2014; Kaluthota et al. 2015; Porth et al. 2015).  
Genetic variation in key stomatal development transcription factors is associated with  
latitudinal variation in  $D_{ad}$ , which should help reveal mechanistic basis of developmental  
636 disintegration between surfaces (McKown et al. 2019).

## Data availability

The final data set and phylogeny used in the analysis are included in the Online Appendix.  
639 The raw anatomical data and source code will be archived on Zenodo upon publication.

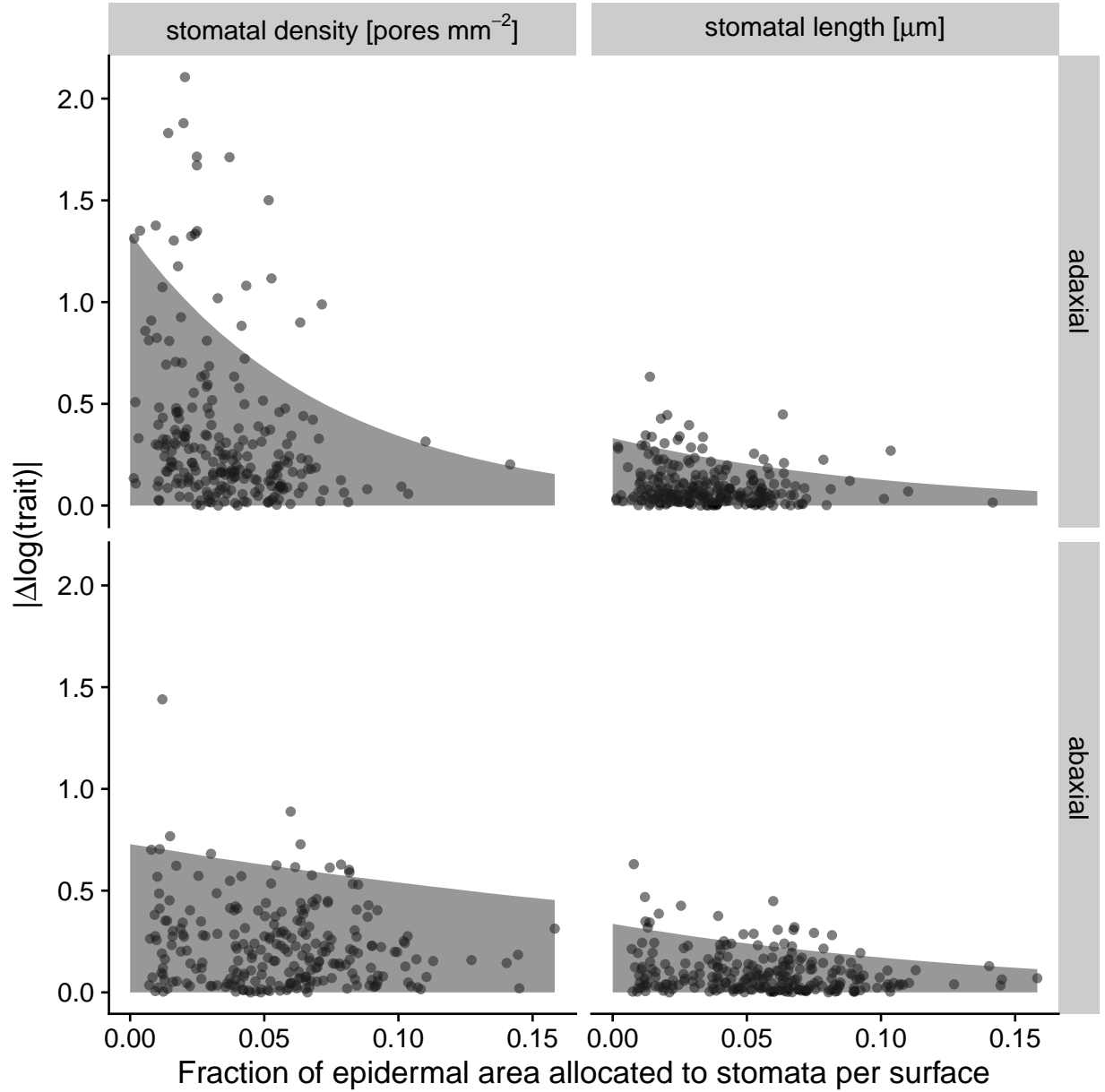


Figure 2: Evolutionary divergence slows down as epidermal space fills up. The shaded area in each facet indicates the estimate of where 95% of the 236 phylogenetically independent contrasts fall as a function of the fraction of epidermal area allocated to stomata per surface. Each point is the absolute value of  $\Delta \log(\text{trait})$  for stomatal density (left facets) or length (right facets) on the adaxial (upper facets) and abaxial (lower facets) surface. The fraction of epidermal area allocated to stomata is the average value per surface between the two taxa in each contrast. Divergence in anatomical traits is more variable when stomata occupy a smaller area, especially for adaxial stomatal density (upper left facet). See Table A2 for all parameter estimates and confidence intervals.

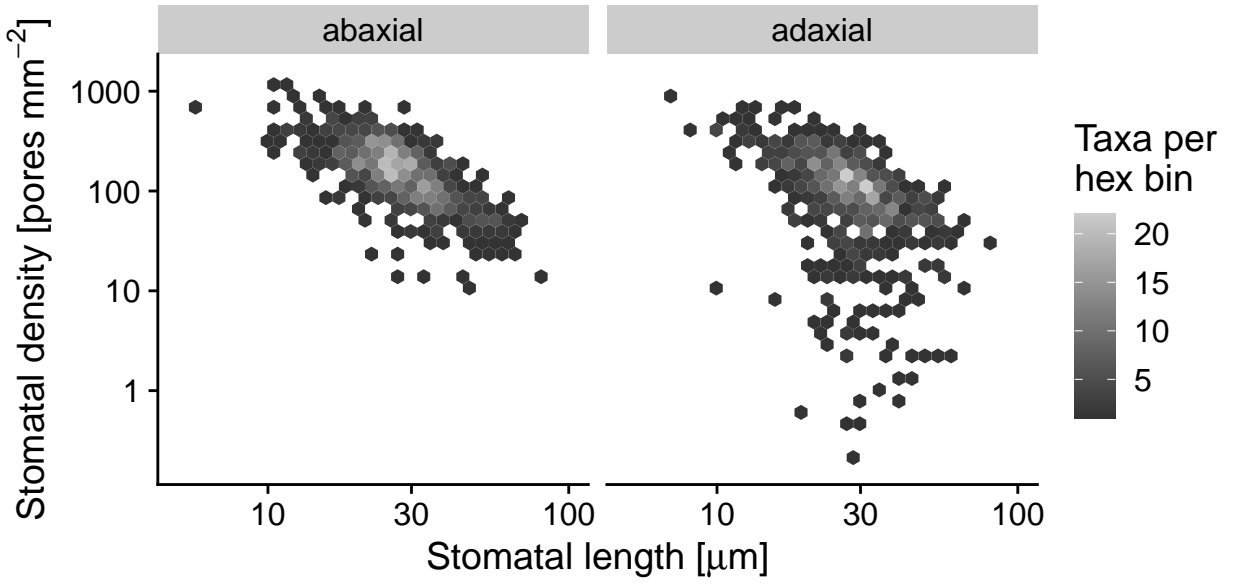


Figure 3: Inverse size-density scaling in a synthesis of amphistomatous leaf traits across 638 taxa. The panels show the relationship between stomatal length ( $x$ -axis) and stomatal density ( $y$ -axis) on a log-log scale for values measured on the abaxial leaf surface (left) and the adaxial leaf surface (right).



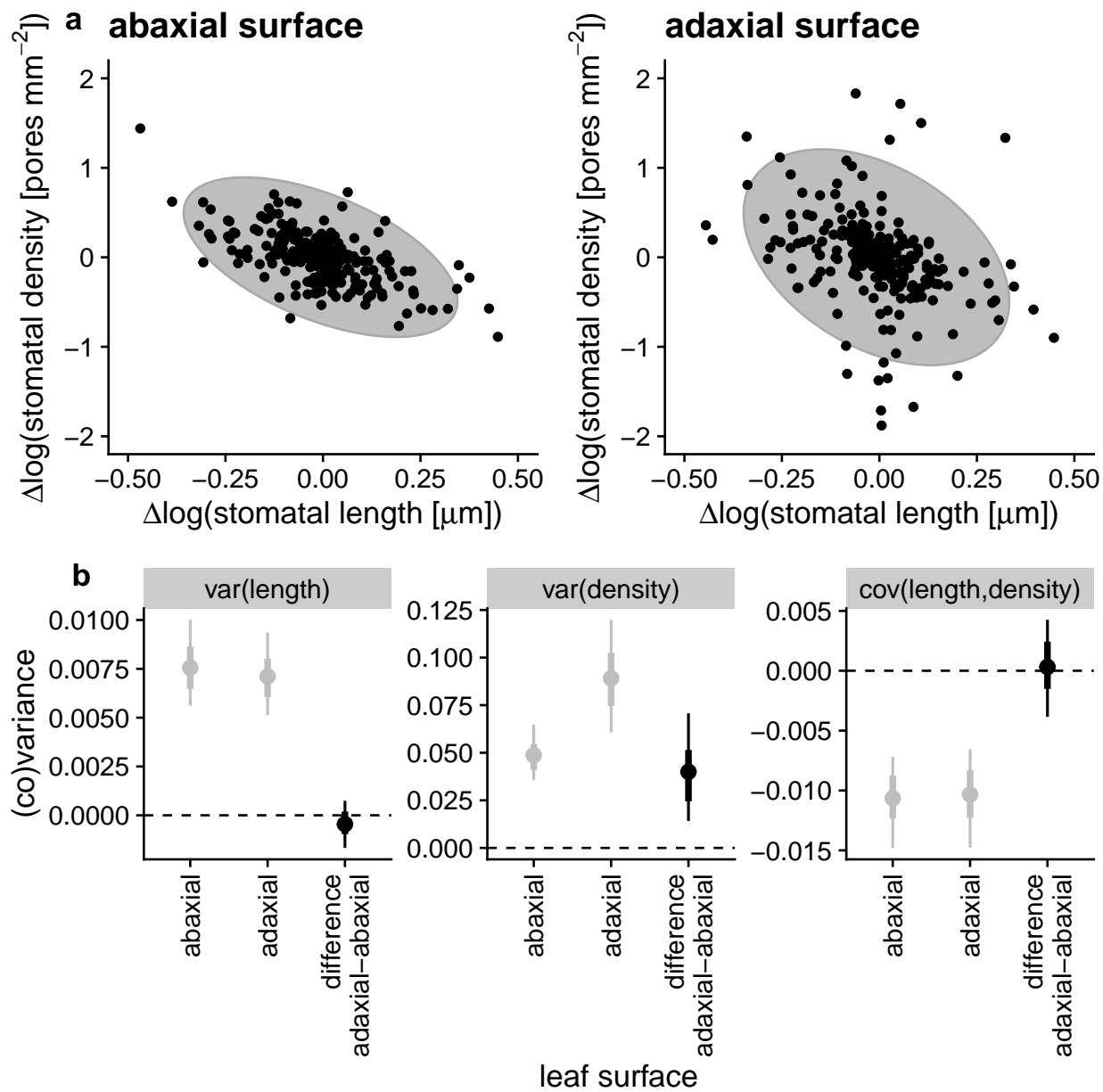


Figure 4: (Caption next page.)

Figure 4: (Previous page.) Evolutionary divergence in adaxial stomatal density is more variable, but covariance between density and length is similar on both surfaces. (a) Data from 236 phylogenetically independent contrasts of change in  $\log(\text{stomatal length})$  ( $x$ -axis) and  $\log(\text{stomatal density})$  ( $y$ -axis) for abaxial (left panel) and adaxial (right panel) leaf surfaces. Each contrast is shown by black points and every contrast appears on both panels. Grey ellipses are the model-estimated 95% covariance ellipses. The negative covariance is similar for both surfaces but the breadth in the  $y$ -direction is larger for adaxial traits, indicating greater evolutionary divergence in  $\log(\text{stomatal density})$ . (b) Parameter estimates (points), 66% (thick lines), and 95% HPD intervals for estimates of trait (co)variance. Grey points and lines represent ab- and adaxial values; black points and lines represent the estimated difference in (co)variance between surfaces. Only the variance for stomatal density (middle panel) is significantly greater for the adaxial surface (95% HPD interval does not overlap the dashed line at 0). Reported parameter estimates are conditioned on zero time since divergence between taxa (see Results).

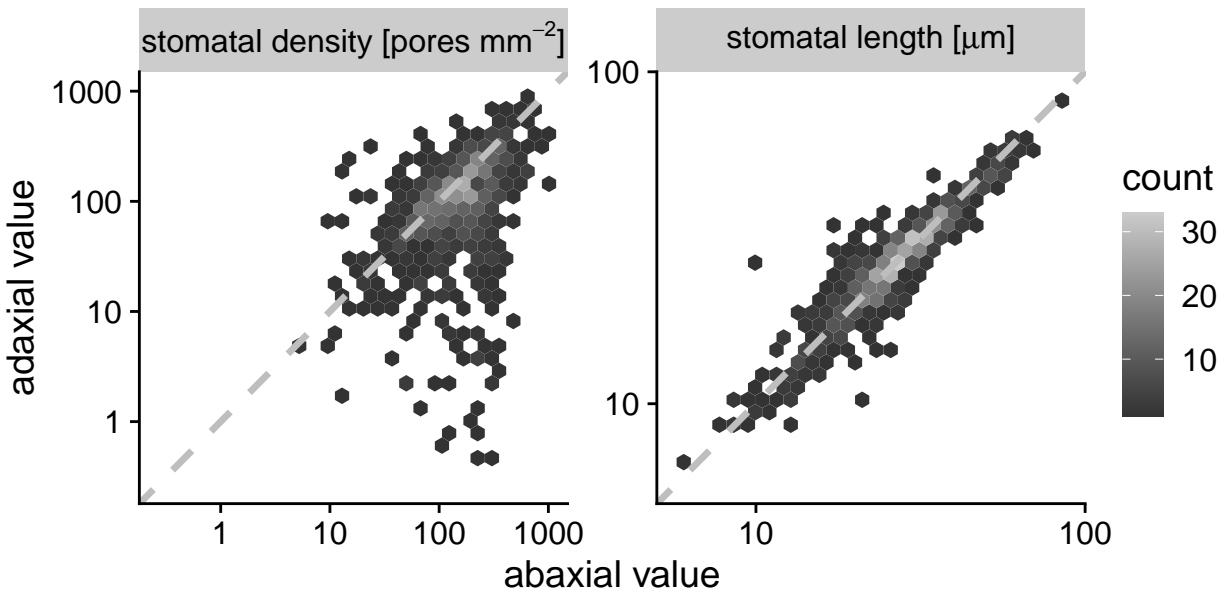


Figure 5: Relationship between stomatal density and length on each leaf surface in a synthesis of amphistomatous leaf traits across 638 taxa. The panels show the relationship between the abaxial trait value ( $x$ -axis) and the adaxial trait value ( $y$ -axis) on a log-log scale for stomatal density (left) and stomatal length (right). The dashed line in across the middle is the 1:1 line for reference.

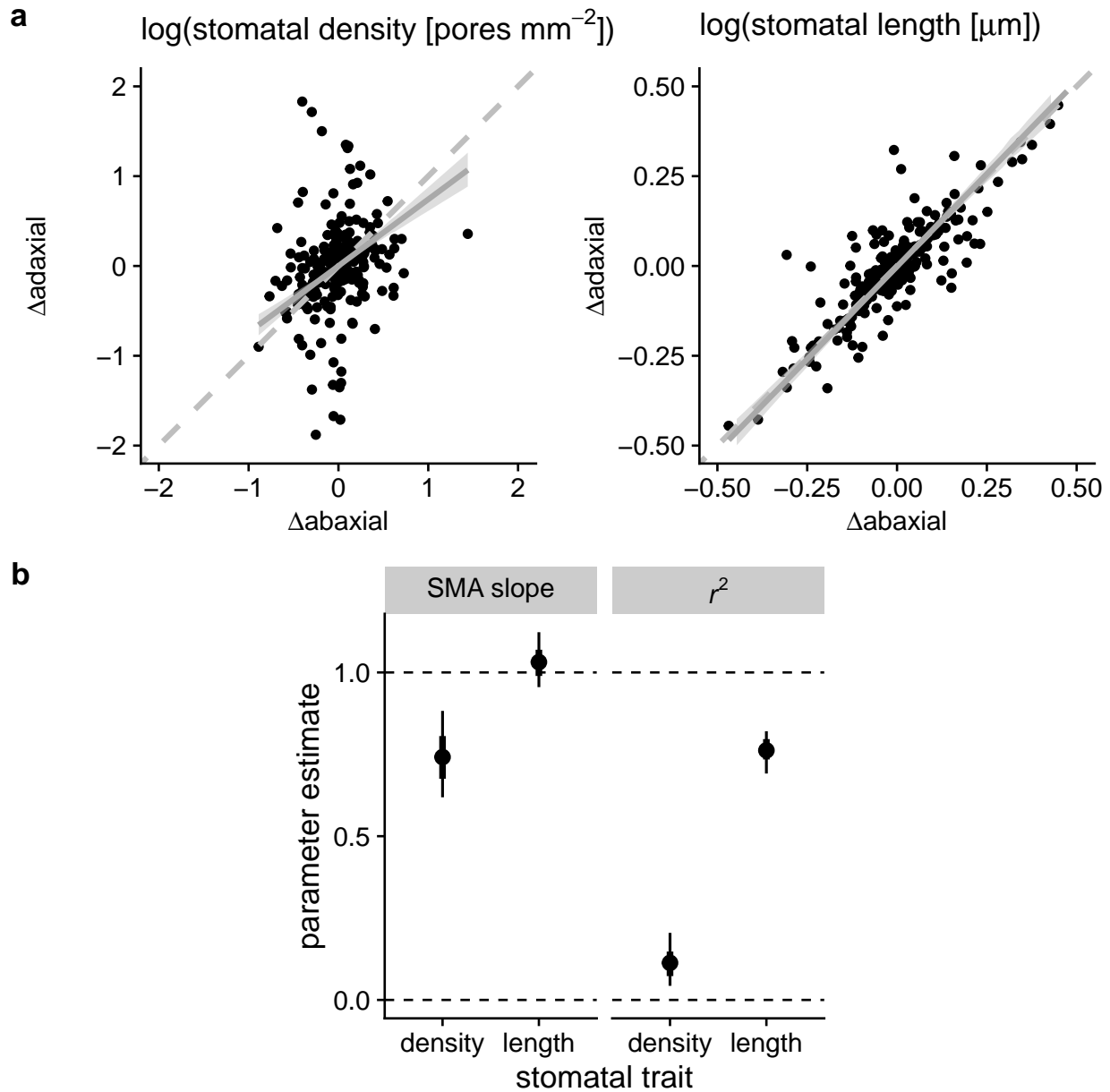


Figure 6: Developmental integration in stomatal length is much stronger than stomatal density between the surfaces of amphistomatous leaves (a) Data from 236 phylogenetically independent contrasts of change in the abaxial trait value ( $x$ -axis) against change in the adaxial trait value ( $y$ -axis) for log(stomatal density) (left panel) and log(stomatal length) (right panel). Each contrast is shown by black points and every contrast appears on both panels. Dashed grey lines are 1:1 lines for reference. Solid grey lines and ribbon the fitted SMA slope and 95% HPD interval. (b) The SMA slope (left panel) is significantly less than 1 (isometry, top dashed line) for density but very close to isometric for length. The coefficient of determination ( $r^2$ , right panel) is also much greater for length than density. The points are parameter estimates with 66% (thick lines) and 95% HPD intervals. Reported parameter estimates are conditioned on zero time since divergence between taxa (see Results).

## Online Appendix

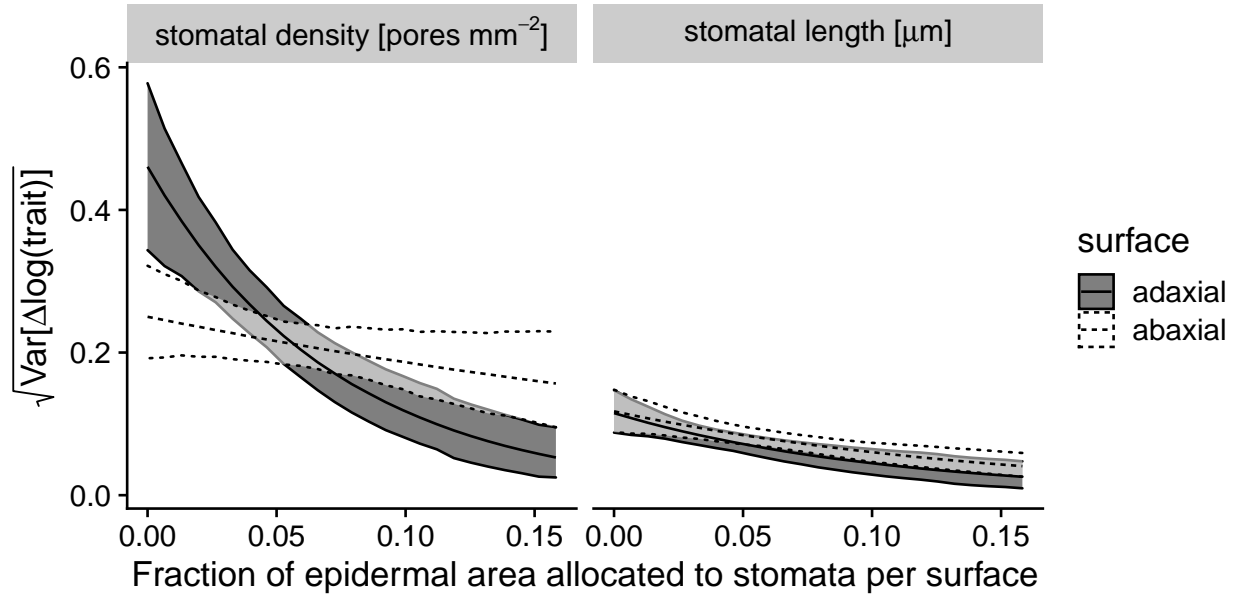


Figure A1: The variance in evolutionary divergence ( $y$ -axis,  $\text{Var}[\Delta\log(\text{trait})]$ ) declines the fraction of epidermal space allocated to stomata per surface ( $x$ -axis,  $f_s$ ) increases. Within each ribbon, the middle line is the median estimate and the outer lines are the 95% HPD intervals. The slope is significantly less than 0 for adaxial stomatal density and stomatal length of both surface (Table A2). Results for the standard deviation, which is the square-root of the variance, are shown.

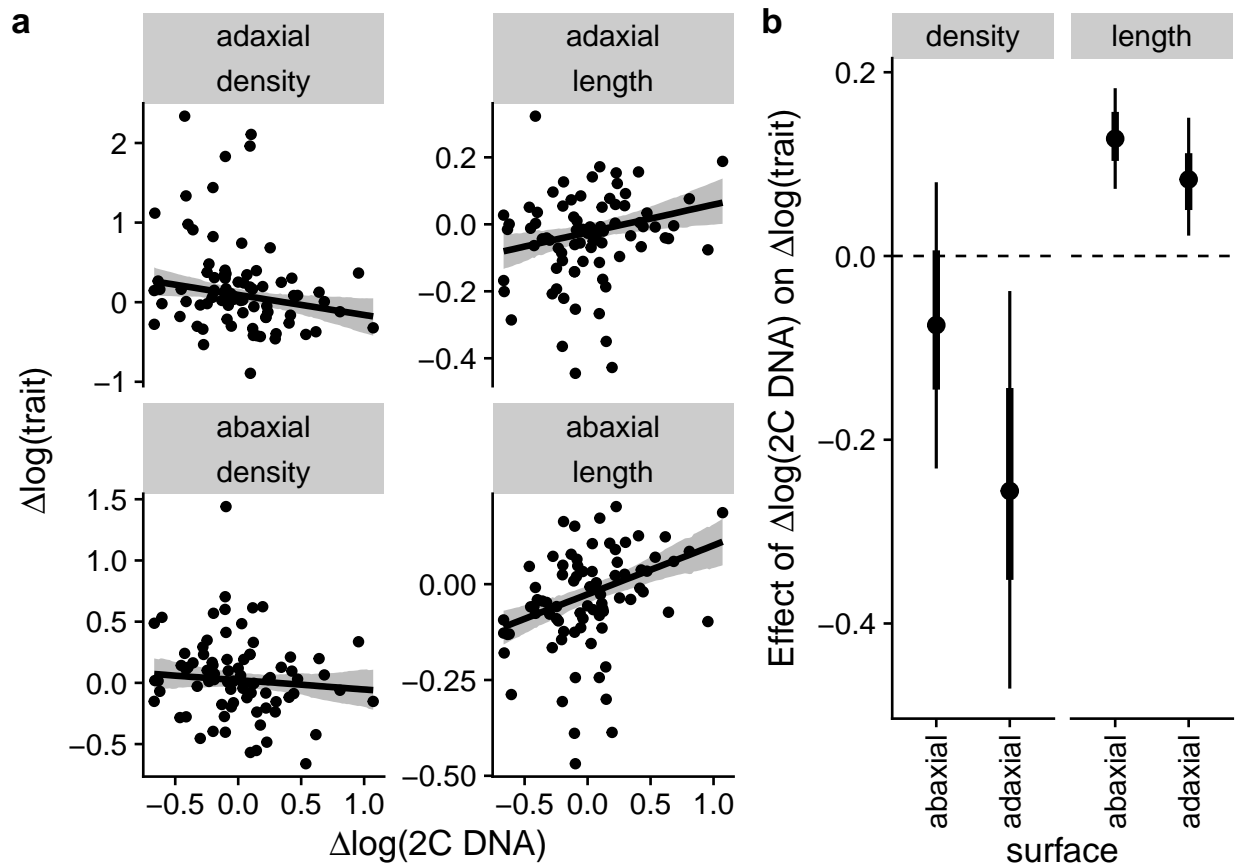


Figure A2: Evolutionary divergence in genome size (2C DNA content) is associated with guard cell length, but less so stomatal density. (a) Data from 79 phylogenetically independent contrasts of change in  $\log(2C \text{ DNA})$  ( $x$ -axis) and change in  $\log(\text{trait})$  ( $y$ -axis) for abaxial (lower panels) and adaxial (upper panels) leaf surfaces. Each contrast is shown by black points and every contrast appears on all panels. Black lines are the median predicted trait divergence and grey ribbons are the model-estimated 95% HPD confidence bands. (b) Parameter estimates (points), 66% (thick lines), and 95% HPD intervals for estimates of the effect of change in  $\log(2C \text{ DNA})$  on change in  $\log(\text{trait})$ . HPD intervals that do not overlap zero indicate that divergence in genome size is associated with divergence in stomatal anatomy. Reported parameter estimates are conditioned on zero time since divergence between taxa (see Results).

Table A1: Final data set of 236 taxon pairs for analysis. `tree_node` is the node of the common ancestor of the taxon pair `sp1` and `sp2` in the phylogeny (Notes A3). `pair_age` is the time in millions of years since taxa split. The remaining columns are the trait divergence (log-scale) between taxa ( $\Delta\log(\text{trait})$ ).

Table A1 is a csv file uploaded with this manuscript and will be included as an online supplement upon publication.

642

Table A2: Parameter estimates and 95% highest posterior density (HPD) intervals for the effect of  $f_S$  on trait divergence. For each trait ( $D_{ab}$ ,  $D_{ad}$ ,  $L_{ab}$ ,  $L_{ad}$ ) we estimated the coefficient of  $f_S$  on the standard deviation of  $\Delta\log(\text{trait})$  on a log-link scale. Other model parameter estimates and confidence intervals can be found in the saved model output located in the archived online repository (see Data availability).

Trait(s)	Estimate	95% HPD interval
Effect of $f_S$ on standard deviation of $\Delta\log(\text{trait})$ log-link scale		
$D_{ab}$	-3.2	$[-6.6, 0.75]$
$D_{ad}$	-12.0	$[-17, -6.9]$
$L_{ab}$	-6.7	$[-10, -2.9]$
$L_{ad}$	-9.8	$[-16, -4.1]$

Table A3: Parameter estimates and 95% highest posterior density (HPD) intervals for the (co)variance of trait divergence. For each trait ( $D_{ab}$ ,  $D_{ad}$ ,  $L_{ab}$ ,  $L_{ad}$ ) we estimated the average (median) divergence between taxon pairs, denoted  $\Delta\log(\text{trait})$ . See Table 1 for symbol definitions. The second section is the standard deviation of  $\Delta\log(\text{trait})$ . The third section is the estimated coefficient of pair age (millions of years) on the standard deviation on a log-link scale. The fourth section is the estimated correlation coefficient between  $\Delta\log(\text{trait})$  of all pairwise trait combinations. The final section is the estimated  $\nu$  family of the Student  $t$  distribution.

Trait(s)	Estimate	95% HPD interval
Average $\Delta\log(\text{trait})$		
$D_{ab}$	0.00180	$[-0.029, 0.035]$
$D_{ad}$	0.00069	$[-0.045, 0.047]$
$L_{ab}$	-0.00620	$[-0.019, 0.0079]$
$L_{ad}$	-0.00760	$[-0.021, 0.0055]$
Standard deviation of $\Delta\log(\text{trait})$		
$D_{ab}$	0.220	$[0.19, 0.26]$
$D_{ad}$	0.300	$[0.25, 0.35]$
$L_{ab}$	0.087	$[0.075, 0.1]$
$L_{ad}$	0.084	$[0.073, 0.098]$
Effect of pair age on standard deviation of $\Delta\log(\text{trait})$ log-link scale		
$D_{ab}$	0.004	$[-0.0034, 0.013]$
$D_{ad}$	0.013	$[0.0047, 0.022]$
$L_{ab}$	0.012	$[0.0057, 0.02]$
$L_{ad}$	0.013	$[0.0064, 0.019]$
Correlation between $\Delta\log(\text{trait})$		
$D_{ab} - D_{ad}$	0.34	$[0.21, 0.45]$
$D_{ab} - L_{ab}$	-0.56	$[-0.65, -0.45]$
$D_{ab} - L_{ad}$	-0.46	$[-0.57, -0.35]$
$D_{ad} - L_{ab}$	-0.37	$[-0.48, -0.25]$
$D_{ad} - L_{ad}$	-0.41	$[-0.52, -0.31]$
$L_{ab} - L_{ad}$	0.87	$[0.83, 0.91]$
Student $t$ family parameter $\nu$		
—	3.4	$[2.5, 4.4]$

## *Notes A1: Theory connecting developmental function, constraint, and integration*

Below we provide a conceptual background to motivate the derivation of a stomatal developmental function. We then derive predictions for how stomatal size and density should diverge with or without developmental constraint. We then explain why comparing evolutionary divergence of lower and upper stomatal anatomy provides an important additional line of evidence on the contribution of developmental integration to phenotypic macroevolution. Fig. A3 is a graphical summary of our analysis.

### *Conceptual background*

Developmental integration in stomatal anatomy is plausible because epidermal pavement cells and stomata share an early developmental history, originating from the same leaf meristem tissue. If all other factors are held constant, meristematic cell volume, which is largely determined by genome size (Šímová and Herben 2012), and early expansion rate increase both epidermal cell and stomatal area proportionally. This mechanically decreases stomatal density because the same number of stomata per epidermal cell (stomatal index) are spread farther apart by larger epidermal cells. Developmental integration between stomatal size and density arises naturally if meristematic cell volume and/or expansion rate evolve, but the remaining steps of stomatal development are fixed. As described in detail below, we mathematically formalize these later steps in stomatal development into a ‘developmental function’ inspired by Wagner (1989). Wagner’s used a developmental function to map genetic variance onto phenotypic variance. The developmental function can cause a disposition for phenotypic covariance, depending on the amount of pleiotropy. For example, genetic changes in a growth factor could be highly pleiotropic, simulta-



neously altering the size of many tissues. Wagner used the developmental function to model microevolution, but if we suppose that the developmental function is fixed over long time periods, it can be used to predict macroevolutionary divergence under developmental constraint. If the developmental function is fixed or highly constrained, species may never possess the genetic variation to access regions of phenotypic space. If the developmental function itself can evolve readily, then traits should be able to evolve independently given sufficient time for mutation, selection, and divergence. Finding that the developmental function is malleable would lend less credence to the importance of developmental constraint and lend more credence to selective hypotheses.

The stomatal developmental function is probably not fixed, potentially allowing for independent evolution of stomatal size and density. The conceptual model of stomatal development by Dow and Bergmann (2014) identifies three key cell division types that could shape stomatal density and size. First, asymmetric division of undifferentiated epidermal cells forms the guard cell meristemoid. Larger allocation to and/or greater expansion of the meristemoid as it matures to a guard mother cell increases stomatal size without affecting density. Second, spacing divisions in developing epidermal cells increase stomatal density and index while maintaining spacing. Third, amplifying divisions generate more epidermal cells without further differentiation of stomata, decreasing stomatal density and index. Changing the probability of spacing and amplifying divisions affects stomatal density without changing size.

Below we formalize these models of developmental (dis)integration to address the following two questions:

1. How would stomatal size and density (co)diverge if the developmental function is fixed? We refer to this as the ‘developmental integration’ hypothesis.

2. How would stomatal size and density (co)diverge if the developmental function is not fixed? We refer to this as the ‘developmental disintegration’ hypothesis.

## Theory

*A developmental function for stomatal size and density.* In this section we derive a stomatal developmental function by extending the model of Sack and Buckley (2016) in two ways. First, we provide an explicit, albeit simple, map from meristematic cell volume to stomatal size and density. Second, we use random variable algebra (Lynch and Walsh 1998) to derive expectations for the variance in stomatal anatomy among species. Sack and Buckley (2016) consider three anatomical properties of a leaf surface, the projected epidermal cell area  $E$ , the area of the stomatal apparatus  $S$ , and the stomatal index  $I$ :

$$I = \frac{n_S}{n_S + n_E}$$

$n_S$  and  $n_E$  are the number of stomatal and other epidermal cells, respectively, on the leaf surface. Throughout this we appendix we focus on stomatal size ( $S$ ) rather than guard cell length ( $L$ ) because it is mathematically simpler. For comparison with our data on  $L$ , we derive predictions using the fact that  $S = jL^2$  where  $j = 0.5$  for non-grasses and 0.125 for grasses (Sack and Buckley 2016).

Next, we assume that the area of epidermal cells and stomata are proportional to the meristematic cell volume  $M$ :

$$E = AM \tag{A1}$$

$$S = BE = ABM \tag{A2}$$

The coefficient  $A$  is determined by the early cell expansion and division rates, which we do not model explicitly.  $B$  is determined by the placement of the asymmetric cell division generating the guard mother cell (Bergmann and Sack 2007) and subsequent expansion of the guard cell meristemoid. For example, in *Arabidopsis thaliana*, the cell volume of shoot meristematic cells is approximately  $200 \mu\text{m}^3$  (Price, Sparrow, and Nauman 1973) and the epidermal and stomatal sizes are roughly  $1000$  and  $250 \mu\text{m}^2$  (Dow, Bergmann, and Berry 2014). Therefore  $A = \frac{1000 \mu\text{m}^3}{200 \mu\text{m}^2} = 5 \frac{\mu\text{m}^3}{\mu\text{m}^2}$  and  $B = \frac{250 \mu\text{m}^3}{1000 \mu\text{m}^2} = 0.25$ .

Following Sack and Buckley (2016) the stomatal density as a function of  $E$ ,  $S$ , and  $I$  is:

$$D = \frac{I}{IS + (1 - I)E}$$

For analytical tractability, we use the first-order Taylor series approximation around  $I = 0$  because  $I$  is typically much closer to 0 than 1:

$$D \approx \frac{I}{E}$$

Below we show that this approximation accurately models the correlation in divergence between stomatal size and density by comparing it to random simulations (Fig. @reg{fig:check-approximation}).

Substituting Eqn. A2 into the above expression we obtain

$$D \approx \frac{I}{AM}$$

Now we can derive a developmental function to map from  $M$  to  $S$  and  $D$ . We  
723 assume that  $M$  is determined by genome size (Šímová and Herben 2012) and, possibly,  
other genetic and environmental factors that we do not track explicitly in our model.  
As with our empirical analysis, we work with the log-transformed values of  $S$  and  $D$   
726 to linearize the developmental function. For brevity, let the lowercase variables be the  
log-transformed values of their uppercase counterparts (e.g.  $d = \log(D)$ ). With these  
assumptions, we obtain:

$$d = i - a - m \tag{A3}$$

$$s = a + b + m \tag{A4}$$

## 729 *Hypotheses*

To address the two overarching questions posed above, we will use the theory in the  
previous section to derive predictions for two hypotheses. The developmental integration  
732 hypothesis can be thought of as a null hypothesis for how stomatal size and density  
diverge when the developmental function is fixed. The second hypothesis relaxes this  
constraint.

- 735 1. Developmental integration hypothesis: the stomatal developmental function is fixed;  
divergence in stomatal size and density is caused only by divergence in meristematic

cell volume and early expansion rate.

- 738 2. Developmental disintegration hypothesis: the stomatal developmental function is not fixed; divergence in stomatal size and density is caused by the combined divergence in meristematic cell volume, early expansion, and later cell divisions, the  
741 asymmetric, spacing, amplifying divisions discussed in the Conceptual background.

*Developmental integration hypothesis.* Under this hypothesis, meristematic cell volume and expansion rate integrate stomatal size and density because the developmental function is  
744 constrained. We know that meristematic cell volume can evolve as a product of genome size, so a natural null hypothesis is that  $m$  varies but the developmental parameters  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $i$  in Eqn. A4 are constant or vary little relative to  $m$ . Let the divergence between taxa  
747  $i$  and  $j$  be:

$$\Delta d = d_j - d_i = (i_j - a_j - m_j) - (i_i - a_i - m_i) \quad (\text{A5})$$

$$= \Delta i - \Delta a - \Delta m \quad (\text{A6})$$

$$\Delta s = s_j - s_i = (a_j + b_j + m_j) - (a_i + b_i + m_i) \quad (\text{A7})$$

$$= \Delta a + \Delta b + \Delta m \quad (\text{A8})$$

When developmental parameters are fixed  $\Delta a = \Delta b = \Delta i = 0$ . This leads to integration between  $s$  and  $d$  mediated by  $m$  because  $\Delta s = \Delta m$ ,  $\Delta d = -\Delta m$ , and  
750  $\text{Cov}[\Delta s, \Delta d] = -\text{Var}[\Delta m]$ . Strong developmental integration would also persist if  $\Delta b = \Delta i = 0$  but  $\Delta a \neq 0$ . In that case,  $\Delta s = \Delta a + \Delta m$ ,  $\Delta d = -(\Delta a + \Delta m)$ , and  $\text{Cov}[\Delta s, \Delta d] = -\text{Var}[\Delta a + \Delta m]$ . In either case, the correlation between between  $\Delta d$  and  $\Delta s$  is  $-1$  because  
753  $-\text{Cov}[\Delta s, \Delta d] = \text{Var}[\Delta d] = \text{Var}[\Delta s]$ :

$$\text{Corr}[\Delta d, \Delta s] = \frac{\text{Cov}[\Delta s, \Delta d]}{\sqrt{\text{Var}[\Delta d]} \sqrt{\text{Var}[\Delta s]}} = -1 \quad (\text{A9})$$

In summary, developmental constraint on stomatal index and allocation to guard mother cells during asymmetric cell division leads to developmental integration between stomatal size and density. Developmental integration can be mediated by either meristematic cell volume and/or epidermal cell expansion since they are colinear.

*Developmental disintegration hypothesis.* Here we show that developmental disintegration is mediated by divergence in stomatal index and asymmetric cell division. In conceptual models of stomatal development (Dow and Bergmann 2014), asymmetric division forms the meristemoid to the guard mother cell. After asymmetric division, spacing divisions increase stomatal density and index whereas amplifying divisions decrease both quantities. Above we assumed these processes were constrained; here we relax that assumption. First, we assume that  $\Delta b = 0$  and  $\Delta i \neq 0$ . Further, we assume for simplicity that there is no covariance in divergence between  $m$  and  $i$  ( $\text{Cov}[\Delta i, \Delta m] = 0$ ). Using random variable algebra, the (co)variance and correlation between divergence in stomatal density and size are:

$$\text{Var}[\Delta d] = \text{Var}[\Delta i] + \text{Var}[\Delta m] \quad (\text{A10})$$

$$\text{Var}[\Delta s] = \text{Var}[\Delta m] \quad (\text{A11})$$

$$\text{Cov}[\Delta d, \Delta s] = -\text{Var}[\Delta m] \quad (\text{A12})$$

$$\text{Corr}[\Delta d, \Delta s] = -\frac{\text{Var}[\Delta m]}{\sqrt{\text{Var}[\Delta i] + \text{Var}[\Delta m]} \sqrt{\text{Var}[\Delta m]}} \quad (\text{A13})$$

768 Compared to the developmental integration hypothesis, variation in stomatal index  
leads to greater variation in stomatal density and disintegration (lower correlation)  
between density and size. The approximation in Eqn. A13 matches simulated values well  
771 for realistic values of stomatal index (Fig. A4).

Next, we switch our assumptions such that  $\Delta b \neq 0$  and  $\Delta i = 0$ . We again make  
the simplifying assumption that there is no covariance in divergence between  $m$  and  $b$   
774 ( $\text{Cov}[\Delta b, \Delta m] = 0$ ). The (co)variance and correlation between stomatal density and size  
are:

$$\text{Var}[\Delta d] = \text{Var}[\Delta b] + \text{Var}[\Delta m] \quad (\text{A14})$$

$$\text{Var}[\Delta s] = \text{Var}[\Delta m] \quad (\text{A15})$$

$$\text{Cov}[\Delta d, \Delta s] = -\text{Var}[\Delta m] \quad (\text{A16})$$

$$\text{Corr}[\Delta d, \Delta s] = -\frac{\text{Var}[\Delta m]}{\sqrt{\text{Var}[\Delta m]} \sqrt{\text{Var}[\Delta b] + \text{Var}[\Delta m]}} \quad (\text{A17})$$

As with stomatal index, variation in asymmetric cell division also causes devel-  
777 opmental disintegration. The key difference is that disintegration is driven by greater  
variation in stomatal size rather than density.

### *Predictions*

780 In this section, we summarize the predictions for each hypothesis (Table A4) and show  
they can be difficult to distinguish under certain parameter combinations. Comparing  
the divergence of stomatal density and size on each surface provides additional evidence  
783 that can help resolve competing hypotheses. We can convert predictions from stomatal

size to length using the relationship from Sack and Buckley (2016):  $S = jL^2$  or  $s = \log(j) + 2l$  on the log-transformed scale. It follows that  $\Delta s = 2\Delta l$ ,  $\text{Var}[\Delta s] = 4\text{Var}[\Delta l]$ ,

786 and  $\text{Corr}[\Delta d, \Delta s] = \text{Corr}[\Delta d, \Delta l]$ .

Table A4: Key predictions about the (co)variance and correlation in divergence of log(stomatal density) ( $\Delta d$ ) and log(stomatal size) ( $\Delta s$ ) under the developmental integration and disintegration hypotheses. "Single surface" predictions apply to divergence in stomatal traits on either surface; "Both surfaces" predictions compare the divergence of traits on surface to that of the other. We further contrast two variants of the disintegration hypothesis, where either stomatal index ( $\text{Var}[\Delta i] \neq 0$ ) or asymmetric cell division ( $\text{Var}[\Delta b] \neq 0$ ) diverges.

Hypothesis	Predictions	
	Single surface	Both surfaces
Developmental integration	$\text{Var}[\Delta d] = \text{Var}[\Delta s]$ $\text{Corr}[\Delta d, \Delta s] = -1$	$\text{Var}[\Delta d_{ab}] = \text{Var}[\Delta d_{ad}]$ $\text{Var}[\Delta s_{ad}] = \text{Var}[\Delta s_{ad}]$ $\text{Cov}[\Delta d_{ab}, \Delta s_{ab}] = \text{Cov}[\Delta d_{ad}, \Delta s_{ad}]$
Developmental disintegration $\text{Var}[\Delta i] \neq 0$	$\text{Var}[\Delta d] > \text{Var}[\Delta s]$ $0 < \text{Corr}[\Delta d, \Delta s] < -1$	$\text{Var}[\Delta d_{ab}] \neq \text{Var}[\Delta d_{ad}]$ $\text{Var}[\Delta s_{ad}] = \text{Var}[\Delta s_{ad}]$ $\text{Cov}[\Delta d_{ab}, \Delta s_{ab}] \neq \text{Cov}[\Delta d_{ad}, \Delta s_{ad}]$
Developmental disintegration $\text{Var}[\Delta i] \neq 0$	$\text{Var}[\Delta d] < \text{Var}[\Delta s]$ $0 < \text{Corr}[\Delta d, \Delta s] < -1$	$\text{Var}[\Delta d_{ab}] = \text{Var}[\Delta d_{ad}]$ $\text{Var}[\Delta s_{ad}] \neq \text{Var}[\Delta s_{ad}]$ $\text{Cov}[\Delta d_{ab}, \Delta s_{ab}] \neq \text{Cov}[\Delta d_{ad}, \Delta s_{ad}]$

The sections above clarify that it is possible to use the (co)divergence in stomatal density and size to test whether developmental integration contributes to phenotypic macroevolution. The problem is that there are parameter combinations where the (co)divergence in stomatal density and size appear consistent with strong developmental integration even when there is no constraint on the developmental function.

789

For illustration, consider an extreme example where there is no divergence in  $m$  or  $a$  ( $\text{Var}[\Delta m] = \text{Var}[\Delta a] = 0$ ) and the (co)variance in  $\Delta b$  and  $\Delta i$  are aligned such that  $\text{Var}[\Delta b] = \text{Var}[\Delta i] = -\text{Cov}[\Delta b, \Delta i]$ . This leads to the same predictions as the maximally

792

constrained model, even though there is no constraint:

795



$$\text{Var}[\Delta s] = \text{Var}[\Delta b] \quad (\text{A18})$$

$$\text{Var}[\Delta d] = \text{Var}[\Delta i] \quad (\text{A19})$$

$$\text{Cov}[\Delta d, \Delta s] = \text{Cov}[\Delta b, \Delta i] \quad (\text{A20})$$

$$\text{Corr}[\Delta d, \Delta s] = -1 \quad (\text{A21})$$

Ideally, we would measure  $\Delta b$  and  $\Delta i$  to test whether they contribute significantly to divergence in stomatal density and size. This is challenging because comparative data on  $b$  and  $i$  is scarcer than that for  $d$  and  $s$ . As a result, we can test whether  $\Delta b$  and  $\Delta i$  contribute in certain lineages but cannot directly quantify their relative importance for angiosperm macroevolution in general, as we attempt in this study.

We therefore take an alternative approach, leveraging the fact that stomatal trait evolution on each surface provides an additional line of evidence. If the stomatal developmental function is constrained then stomatal size and density on each surface should diverge in concert. Conversely, if the stomatal size and density on each surface diverge independently, this provides strong evidence that the developmental function is not fixed. If the developmental function differs between leaf surfaces with identical genomes then it seems implausible that it could not diverge over macroevolutionary time if there were selection. In that case we should give less credence to any hypothesis which posits that the developmental function *cannot* evolve.

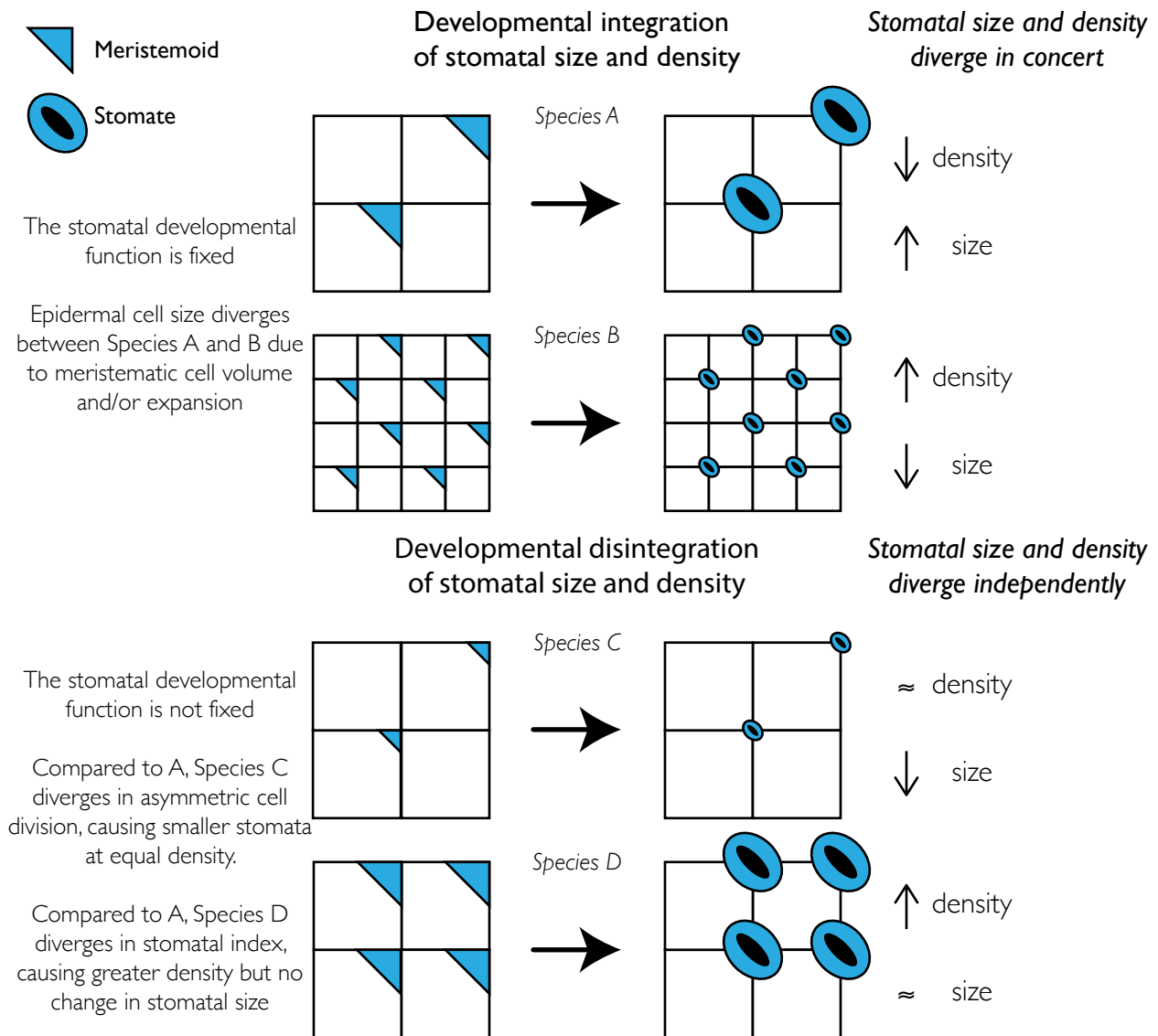


Figure A3: Graphical summary describing contrasting predictions of developmental integration and disintegration hypotheses. Meristematic cell volume and expansion determine the epidermal (white squares) and guard meristemoid (blue triangles) cell sizes before final differentiation into stomata. Because the developmental function is fixed, larger meristematic cell volume and greater expansion result in larger stomata at lower density (Species A); smaller meristematic cell volume and less expansion result in smaller stomata at higher density (Species B). Stomatal size and density can evolve independently if the developmental function is not fixed. Species C diverges in size but not density by allocating less volume to the guard meristemoid during asymmetric cell division. Species D diverges in density but not size by increasing stomatal index.

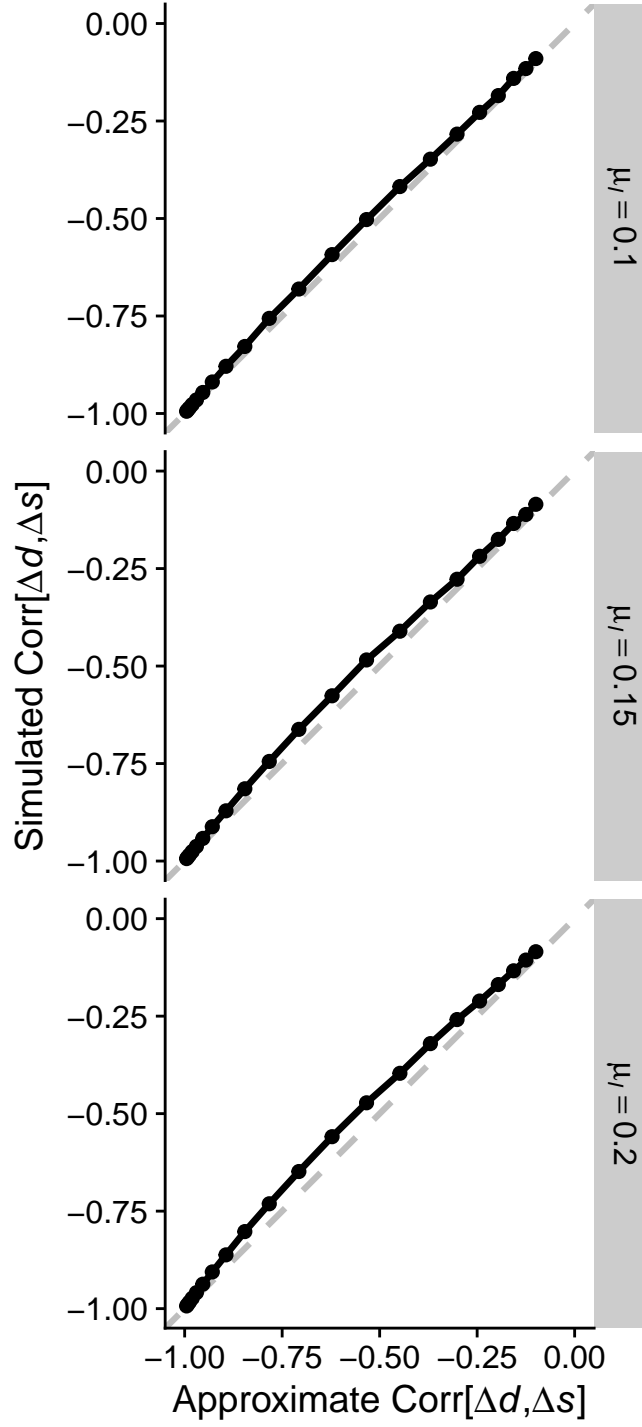


Figure A4: (Caption next page.)

Figure A4: (Previous page.) The approximation used to derive the correlation between log-transformed divergence in stomatal density and size ( $\text{Corr}[\Delta d, \Delta s]$  in Eqn. A13 matches simulated values. Each panel shows the relationship between approximate ( $x$ -axis) and calculated correlation values from  $10^5$  random simulations per point ( $y$ -axis). The approximation is more accurate when the average stomatal index is low ( $\mu_I = 0.1$ ) and less accurate when stomatal index is greater. Parameter values for simulations were  $A = 5$ ,  $B = 0.25$ ,  $\mu_m = \log[200 \mu\text{m}^3]$ ,  $\sigma_{\Delta i} = 0.1$ . The value of these parameters did not affect the results. The correlation changed based  $\sigma_{\Delta m}$ , which varied between  $0.1$  and  $10 \times \sigma_{\Delta i}$ ).

## Notes A2: Phylogeny

We resolved taxonomic names using the R package **taxize** version 0.9.100 (Chamberlain and Szöcs 2013). We queried taxonomic names supplied by the original study authors on 2022-03-16 from the following sources: GRIN Taxonomy for Plants (United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service 2020), Open Tree of Life Reference Taxonomy (Rees and Cranston 2017), The International Plant Names Index (The Royal Botanic Gardens et al. 2020), Tropicos - Missouri Botanical Garden (Missouri Botanical Garden 2020). We retained the maximum scoring matched name with taxize score  $\geq 0.75$  (a score of 1 is a perfect match). In 5 ambiguous cases we manually curated names. Taxonomic name resolution reduced the data set from 1120 to 1080 taxa. Most taxa are different species, but some recognized subspecies and varieties are also included. All algorithms and choices are documented in the associated source code.

We used the R packages **taxonlookup** version 1.1.5 (Pennell, FitzJohn, and Cornwell 2016) and **V.phylomaker** version 0.1.0 (Jin and Qian 2019) to maximize overlap between our data set and the GBOTB.extended mega-tree of seed plants (S. A. Smith and Brown 2018; Zanne et al. 2014). We further resolved large ( $\geq 4$  taxa) polytomies in 29 clades with sufficient sequence data using **PyPHLAWD** version 1.0 (S. A. Smith and Walker 2019) in Python 3.8.9 (Python Software Foundation, <https://www.python.org/>). We used sequence data from the most recent GenBank Plant and Fungal sequences database division (Ouellette and Boguski 1997). We inferred subtree phylogenies using RAxML version 8.2.12 (Stamatakis 2014) and conducted molecular dating using the `chronos()` function in the R package **ape** version 5.6.2 (Paradis and Schliep 2019) to obtain ultrametric trees. We grafted resolved, ultrametric subtrees onto the mega-tree at the polytomy nodes and rescaled to keep the mega-tree ultrametric. In some cases, resolving polytomies was

834 not possible because there was little or no overlap between taxa in the data set and taxa  
with sequence data available for **PyPHLAWD**. In these cases, we randomly selected two  
taxa as a phylogenetically independent pair and dropped the rest. Remaining polytomies  
837 of three taxa were resolved randomly using the `multi2di()` function in **ape**. The final  
data set for which we had both trait and phylogenetic information contained 638 taxa  
(Notes A3).

Table A5: Primary sources of stomatal anatomical data  
and the taxa covered by each source.

Source	Taxa
Arambarri et al. (2005)	lotus
Avita and Inamdar (1980)	ranunculaceae,paeoniaceae
Bucher et al. (2017)	many
Caldera et al. (2017)	arabidopsis thaliana
Chandra (1967)	solanum
Conesa et al. (2019)	limonium
Eckerson (1908)	many
Gindel (1969)	many
Giuliani et al. (2013)	oryza
Hanafy et al. (2019)	mentha
Huang (2019)	trees
Juhász (1966)	solanum
Juhász (1968)	solanum
Kannabiran and Ramassamy (1988)	apocynaceae
Kawamitsu et al. (1996)	grasses
Khan et al. (2019)	gymnosperms
Kim (1987)	silverswords
McKown, Akamine, and Sack (2016)	scaevola
Muir, Galmés, and Conesa (2022)	solanum
Pallardy and Kozlowski (1979)	populus
Pandey and Nagar (2003)	many

Source	Taxa
Pathare, Koteyeva, and Cousins (2020)	grasses
Rivera, Villaseñor, and Terrazas (2017)	asteraceae
Rodriguez (2021)	eucalyptus
Scalon et al. (2016)	passovia
Siddiqi, Ahmad, and Rehman (1991)	euphorbiaceae
Sporck (2011)	euphorbia
Stenglein et al. (2003a)	lotus
Stenglein et al. (2003b)	lotus
Sundberg (1986)	many
Szymura and Wolski (2011)	solidago
Xiong and Flexas (2020)	many
Yang et al. (2014)	many
Zarinkamar (2006)	monocots
Zarinkamar (2007)	eudicots
Zhao et al. (2020)	monocots
Zlatković et al. (2017)	sedum
Zoric et al. (2009)	trifolium



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