

Concept paper outline: Green is the color of spring (cite Shwartz nature 1998 Green-wave Phenology), but any keen observer walking the Eastern deciduous forests early in the season would readily notice that it is often the subtle reds and yellows of emerging tree flowers that are the first harbingers of the season. Why do some tree species seasonally flower before leafing out? This trait, known as hysteranthly, is a feature common to deciduous forests that has long been noted by botanists (cite old papers from 1900s), but there has been little empirical investigation into the origins or significance of this phenological pattern. In this paper we aim to:

- Present and evaluate the current hypotheses relating to the origins and significance of hysteranthly
- Develop an empirical framework for identifying hysteranthous species
- Characterize the prevalence of hysteranthly in Eastern woody species. Identify other plant traits associated with hysteranthly
- Discuss the role of hysteranthly for forest demography in a changing climate.

## Hysteranthous hypotheses

### 0.1 functional hysteranthly

- Wind pollination hypothesis. Evidence: Modeling (cite Whitehead, Niklas), Pollen entrapment by leaves (cite: Lake study).
- Insect visibility hypothesis. (Cite Janzen). Hysteranthly is also prevalent in the dry deciduous tropics. As far as we know, there is no empirical study testing this.
- Efficiency investment trade off. Hysteranthous flowers require less investment in attraction. (cite Arboretum Dogwood study)
- Early flowering. There are good reasons to flower early (cite Bolmgren). Hysteranthous patterns are incidentally created because flowers are "less consequential" compared to leaves over the lifetime of a tree so they can adopt a riskier strategy vis a vis phenologizing in the frosty time of year when compared to their leaves. Both Jessica Savage and Peter Del Tredici mentioned this, but I can't find it anywhere in the literature.

### 0.2 physiological hysteranthly

- genetic architecture require flowering to go first.

- water constraint. Big flowered species can't get enough water to flowers and leaves at the same time. (Jess Savage told me this but I don't think she's published anything on it yet)

With this hypothesis in mind, we will now discuss some of the challenges for classifying species as hysteranthous.

## Challenges for identifying hysteranthous species

### Hysteranthous literature

- Hysteranthous has been described in the literature for over a century but the terms used have varied and may produce unnecessary confusion. Hysteranthous and proteranthous are synonyms that should be antonyms. Though there may be subtle differences (cite paper from Kanchi). Precocious flowering is a synonym but it also means early ontogenetic flowering which makes literature searches difficult. Many sources that discuss this floral-leaf pattern are descriptive with no terminology, which is not conducive for literature searches.
- We propose using the term hysteranthous. It cannot be confused with a different phenomenon (precocious) and is more general than proteranthous so as to include things like Hamamelis or desert geophytes (cite Dafni and all those other Israeli authors who research geophytes) which flower after leaf drop in the fall. We use synanthous to describe flowers that open as leaves are expanding, and seranthous to describe flowers that open after leaves are fully grown. Note: Should/can we define a new term for these floral-leaf patterns in general? (some ideas: folianthous, foliflos-series or just use floral-leaf sequence)

### Hysteranthous data

- Budburst-flowering and leafing phenology are rarely observed together in empirical data sets (cite Lizzie and Ailene). The best sources we have to characterize hysteranthous species are verbal descriptions from guide books and species monographs. These kinds of verbal descriptors, "flowering begins before leaves develop in spring" or "flowers before or with leaves", or incompatible with our current observations standards like bbch scale (cite Finn et al 2007). Does flowering before leaves mean "flower budburst before leaf budburst" (bbch 55 before 09? Does it mean one flower open before one leaf out observed (bbch 60 before 15). Does it mean peak flowering before full canopy closure? (bbch 65 before 19)? These criteria would create very different categorizations. For example, using phenological observations from Harvard Forest (cite O'Keefe) we see that if we use flower budburst before leaf budburst, only two species in the community are hysteranthous, while if we use flower open vs. leaves 75 percent filled,

most of the species are (see figure 1). We do not know what criteria authors of verbal descriptions were using, but they are clearly imprecise, which may explain differences between sources. But differences between sources could also be a product of population or seasonal variation in the degree of hysteranthly which could be significant. For example, compare seasonal variation of Harvard Forest and Arnold arboretum (treespotter) for Sugar maple or other highly observed tree spotter trees in a figure).

## Traits associated with hysteranthly

- See data paper draft. Maybe since it's a concept paper I can just use MTSV since it's a better dataset?
- Also, demonstrate that how we define hysteranthly matters (the problem we encountered above) to our hypothesis testing. Demonstrate how the effect sizes change when we code hysteranthous as before only before before/with, before before/with with. (This code is done, just would need to be output to the figure)

## Towards an empirical definition of Hysteranthly

Most of the the hypothesizes are functional and related to pollination (1-3 definitely and also kind of 4) so we feel it makes more sense to use a functional definition of hysteranthly. What does that mean? We must have open flowers. We imagine tiny developing leaf primordia won't significantly interfere with wind or insect attraction but as the canopy closes this effect increases. This should definitely be tested. In the meantime, We suggest (60 or 65) should come before (15 or 17) to be considered hysteranthous. This framework will allow for a more detailed characterization of hysteranthous species, help us understand the reaction norms in the patterns based on varying climate conditions.

## Hysteranthly in a changing climate space

It has been shown that interactions between temperature and day length are cue of both floral and foliar phenology in trees (cite lots of people), and that seasonal temperatures are projected to change dramatically as a result of human industrial activity (cite any reasonable climate science). We have already seen shifts in phenology. (cite a lot of people). Will hysteranthly be affected? If foliar and floral phenologies are differential sensitive to changing environmental cues we could see alterations to species floral-foliate sequences in a era of global climate change. If hysteranthly is an adaptive reproductive trait as the hypothesizes suggest, alterations to hysteranthous window might have negative demographic consequences for hysteranthous species. (side bar: is there any data set we could look at to lightly connect masting to hysteranthly?). For example, if the mean leaf free flowering time has been 2 week and leafout accelerates faster than flowering with global warming

and the window of leaf free flowering becomes 1 week, plants might experience pollen or dispersal limitation, increased competition for pollinators etc which could ultimate reduce their fitness. (Here, rather than a hypothetical example I could also show the result of Dan Flynn's data for the 3 shrubs, but I am wary of this since I am currently basically reproducing this study.) We must aim our scientific inquiry to better understand:

- The variability of hysternanthy on temporal and spatial scales.
- The degree of hysternanthy's contribution to pollen limitation, pollen dispersal limits, and seed set.
- The degree to which flowering and leafing are constrained by each other or independent of each other under changing environmental conditions.

## Figures

- Harvard forest functional vs. physiological hysternanthy plots (already made)
- Tree spotter hysternanthy interannual variation (Cat made something similar) compared to Harvard forest interannual variation of the same species in the same year.
- effect size plots for MTSV model.(1 made). Could make 2 more to compare result for other kinds of hysternanthy (ie physiological)
- either conceptual figure of loss of hysternanthy or figure from Dan F's shrubs (alreadt made for CSEE)

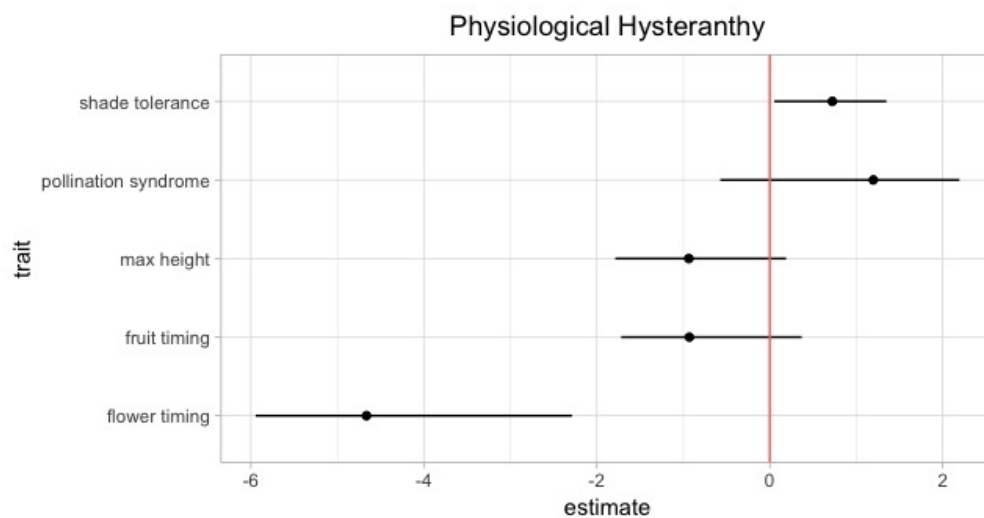


Figure 1: some effect sizes

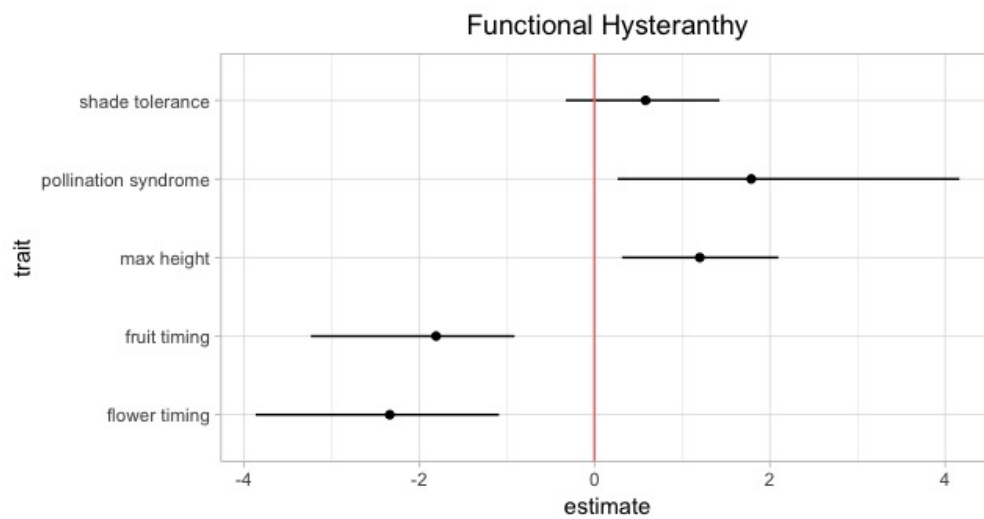


Figure 2: others