

ESCALATION OF PLANT DEFENSE: DO LATEX AND RESIN CANALS SPUR PLANT DIVERSIFICATION?

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Abstract.—Ehrlich and Raven's postulate that rapid diversification follows innovation in plant defense has often been invoked a posteriori for plant lineages of unusual diversity and chemical distinctiveness. The postulate can be more rigorously tested by defining a novel class of defense using chemical and/or anatomical criteria, independent of taxonomic lineage. If multiple plant lineages have evolved the new defense type, then according to the postulate they should be consistently more diverse than their sister groups (of equal age, by definition) when the latter retain the primitive defensive repertoire. Secretory canals are an independently defined, repeatedly evolved feature that functions to protect plants from herbivores and pathogens. The canals might therefore be expected to allow plant radiation in an adaptive zone of reduced herbivory and disease. We have quantified the evidence for this hypothesis by comparing the diversities of lineages that have independently evolved canal systems with their sister groups for as many plant lineages as current taxonomic evidence allows. A sign test showed that canal-bearing lineages have consistently higher diversities than their sister groups ($P = .0021$). Explanations for this result, other than selective advantage conferred by secretory canals, are examined and provisionally rejected.

The dependence of evolutionary rates on ecological opportunity is a major theme of the "modern synthesis" (Mayr 1942; Simpson 1944; Rensch 1959; Vermeij 1987). Ehrlich and Raven (1964) extended this concept to sets of interacting species, specifically species-rich plant taxa and their diverse insect herbivores. They hypothesized that plant lineages diversify at a greater rate when the lineages are temporarily freed from herbivores via the origin of a novel defense. In turn, eventual circumvention of this defense allows some herbivore lineages to radiate onto an underused resource. Thus, the major radiations of herbivorous insects and plants might reflect the historical sequence of adaptive zones that each has presented to the other.

While many species-rich plant taxa have distinctive (and presumably defensive) secondary chemistries, the hypothesis that these compounds foster diversification (Ehrlich and Raven 1964; Cronquist 1977) has scarcely been tested. The most rigorous attempt to specify and evaluate the predictions of Ehrlich and Raven's proposal, which we term the "escalation/diversification hypothesis" after Berenbaum and Feeny (1981) and Vermeij (1987), is Berenbaum's (1983) essay on coumarin evolution.

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Berenbaum proposed an evolutionary sequence among coumarin types, proceeding from simple forms found in the Umbelliferae and many other plant families to increasingly complex structures of ever-more restricted taxonomic distribution. Each step of the sequence, which was postulated to have occurred in multiple independent lineages, purportedly reduced attack by plant enemies, thereby facilitating plant diversification. In support of this scenario, Berenbaum documented that groups of umbellifer genera, characterized by coumarins of increasing advancement, showed increasing mean numbers of species per genus (Berenbaum 1983).

While it is intuitively appealing, Berenbaum's hypothesis has not yet been corroborated. There is no direct phylogenetic evidence for the postulated evolutionary sequence of coumarin profiles (Miller 1987), nor is there compelling evidence that herbivores adapted to the widespread, simple coumarin types are excluded from plants bearing more advanced coumarins (Thompson 1986).

Moreover, the proposition that coumarin advancements have driven umbellifer diversification contains a fundamental problem common to adaptive-zone hypotheses (Mitter et al. 1988). The umbellifer genera bearing similar coumarin profiles are probably related (e.g., the genera bearing angular furanocoumarins are classified in adjacent tribes; Nielsen 1971) and may thus represent single origins of each coumarin type. Whether the high diversity of these umbellifer genera can be attributed specifically to the protective properties of the furanocoumarins is therefore difficult to determine. Any one "successful" group is likely to have several distinguishing features in addition to a singular history of biogeography and extinction (Gould and Calloway 1980). The success of the early angiosperms, for example, has been ascribed as plausibly to their carpellate protection of the ovules as to their acquisition of isoquinoline alkaloids (Ehrlich and Raven 1964).

However, if an adaptation opening a new adaptive zone has evolved in multiple lineages, its effects on diversification can be tested repeatedly. The multiple independent origins control for confounding factors influencing the phylogeny of any single group (Mitter et al. 1988). To identify the lineages in which the "key innovation" has arisen, its distribution is mapped on cladograms (Farris 1970; Fitch 1971). Each lineage bearing the innovation is equal, by definition, in age to its sister group. Differences in diversity (measured here by number of species) between such lineages and their sister groups, therefore, reflect different rates of diversification (origination minus extinction; Stanley 1979). The adaptive-zone hypothesis can be taken to predict that lineages entering the new adaptive zone should be consistently more diverse than their sister groups when the latter remain in the ancestral adaptive zone. The practicality of this approach was demonstrated by Mitter et al. (1988), who showed that insect phytophagy, derived repeatedly from older habits such as saprophagy (Southwood 1973; Strong et al. 1984), has significantly accelerated insect diversification. (This finding is consistent with the hypothesis that insects and plants enhance each others' radiation [Ehrlich and Raven 1964; Zwölfer 1978], although it has noncoevolutionary explanations as well.)

While the multiple independent comparisons seem essential for rigorously testing diversification hypotheses, this requirement raises a dilemma of sample size.

It is hard to statistically demonstrate an effect on diversification when adaptations (such as angular furanocoumarins) have arisen only a few times at most. To apply the multiple-comparisons approach, it may first be necessary to combine such features in groups of structurally or functionally similar adaptations, in effect testing broader adaptive-zone hypotheses. For example, multiple comparisons would certainly be available (Berenbaum 1983) to test the hypothesis that "advances" in coumarin chemistry enhance diversification. In turn, if such relatively broad hypotheses could be corroborated, we could be more confident in ascribing the enhanced diversity of individual taxa to escalated defense, especially if experimental evidence documents a defensive function.

We have sought to evaluate the utility of a multiple-comparisons approach to the escalation/diversification hypothesis with a test case involving a broadly defined plant defense: secretory canals bearing latex or resin. The multiple origins of these canals permit a replicated statistical test of their effects on plant diversification. Given the evidence outlined below for a protective role for secretory canals, we predicted that canal-bearing clades would consistently be more diverse than their sister groups.

THE LATEX AND RESIN CANAL ADAPTIVE ZONE

Plants store a variety of fluids, including latexes, resins, gums, and mucilages, within secretory cells, cavities, and canals (Esau 1965; Fahn 1979; Metcalfe and Chalk 1983). We restrict our analysis to secretory canals containing latex or resin because direct evidence (summarized below) on their defensive properties is available for multiple plant lineages. We argue that these canals are so functionally similar that they can be considered to constitute a single defensive syndrome, despite differences in anatomy. Latex is typically contained within living cells (laticifers), while canal-borne resins are sequestered within intercellular spaces. Both structures often ramify extensively, forming a complex network of tubes throughout the plant (Esau 1965; Fahn 1979; Metcalfe and Chalk 1983). In most species, damage to the canals elicits an abrupt release of secretion. It is this response that we believe to be the critical feature of the latex and resin canal adaptive zone.

A variety of nondefensive functions have been proposed for latex or resin canals, including conduction and storage of food (Gaucher 1900; Haberlandt 1914; Maksymowych and Ledbetter 1987), regulation of water balance (Parkin 1900; Sen and Chawan 1972), and storage of nonfunctional by-products of cellular metabolism (Esau 1965; Olson et al. 1967; Biesboer and Mahlberg 1978). Yet, after a century of investigation and debate, compelling evidence for these functions is lacking (Esau 1965; Fahn 1979; Metcalfe and Chalk 1983; Rudall 1987).

In contrast, a defensive role for latex and resin canals is supported by many lines of evidence. Plants with canal systems artificially disrupted by drainage of canals or severance of leaf veins or stems suffer greater herbivory than plants with intact canals (Kniep 1905; Harris 1960; Stradling 1978; Dussourd and Eisner 1987). Similarly, plant varieties or individuals with reduced canal systems (or low titers of canal-borne chemicals) are more vulnerable to herbivore attack than are

plants with well-developed canals (Harris 1960; Joel 1980; Cates and Alexander 1982; Langenheim 1990). Tests with whole latex or resin have documented a direct role for the secretions in deterring feeding or reducing growth in diverse herbivores (Knip 1905; Jantz and Rudinsky 1965; Langenheim et al. 1980; Dussourd and Eisner 1987).

Canal-borne secretions are often viscous and frequently become sticky on exposure to air. Insects attempting to bite or bore into plants with intact canals may be immobilized by sticky latex (Stradling 1978; Dillon et al. 1983; D. E. Dussourd, unpublished data) or, in the case of bark beetles, "pitched out" of the plant or entombed in resin (Rudinsky 1966).

Besides adhesives, many latex and resin canals contain secondary metabolites known to be toxic or deterrent to animals. These include cardiac glycosides in *Asclepias* latex (Asclepiadaceae; Seiber et al. 1982; Nishio et al. 1983); diterpenes (Evans and Schmidt 1976; Noack et al. 1980) and nonprotein amino acids (Haupt 1976) in *Euphorbia* latex (Euphorbiaceae); morphine, berberine, and other alkaloids in *Papaver* and *Chelidonium* latex (Papaveraceae; Roberts 1987; Matile 1976); coumarins in *Heracleum* and *Ferula* resin (Apiaceae; Camm et al. 1976; Valle et al. 1987); catechols in *Rhus* resin (Anacardiaceae; Dawson 1954); sesquiterpene lactones in *Cichorium* latex (Asteraceae; Rees and Harborne 1985); and monoterpenes and resin acids in conifer resin (Coniferae; Farentino et al. 1981; Schuh and Benjamin 1984; Everaerts et al. 1988). The widespread use of latexes from several plant families as fish and arrow poisons attests to their frequent toxicity (Blohm 1962; Shaw et al. 1963; Rizk 1987). In some cases, canal-borne chemicals may deter herbivores not through direct toxic effects but by inhibiting symbiotic microorganisms involved in digestion (Longhurst et al. 1968).

Latexes and resins may also protect plants from pathogens by sanitizing and sealing wounds. Isolated whole resin or latex has been reported to inhibit viruses (Rafiq et al. 1985) and fungi (Cobb et al. 1968; Abdalla and Omer 1981; Arrhenius and Langenheim 1983; McDowell et al. 1988). Monoterpenes and alkanes in the resin of conifers are toxic to symbiotic fungi transmitted by bark beetles (Cobb et al. 1968) while a sesquiterpenoid, caryophyllene epoxide from legume resin has been shown to inhibit a leaf fungus (Arrhenius and Langenheim 1983) as well as fungi cultivated by leaf-cutting ants (Howard et al. 1988). Bacteriolytic and proteolytic enzymes (Smith et al. 1955; Shukla and Krishna Murti 1971), furanocoumarins (Camm et al. 1976), vanillic acid (Balansard et al. 1980), aliphatic ketones (McDowell et al. 1988), and resin acids (Hartman et al. 1981) in various latexes and resins may similarly confer protection against pathogens.

In addition to these protective roles, latex and resin canals may also benefit plants by isolating chemical defenses from sensitive tissues (McKey 1979). It is important to note, however, that canal systems not only store defensive chemicals (including both adhesives and toxins) but also augment that defense (Nelson et al. 1981; Dussourd 1986). In milkweeds, for example, latex is contained under pressure within a small number of cells (e.g., 16 in *Asclepias syriaca*; Chauveaud 1891) that elongate and branch throughout the plant (Blaser 1945; Wilson and Mahlberg 1980). The amount of latex at any location in the plant is small compared with the total volume within the entire canal system. When a laticifer is

ruptured, latex flows to the site of damage immediately upon injury. A herbivore biting into a milkweed leaf is thus quickly confronted with a high-concentration latex barrier to further feeding.

Further evidence for a defensive role for latex and resin canals and for the functional similarity of these canal systems is provided by the herbivores themselves. Leaf-feeding insects from 11 families in three orders exhibit convergent behavioral counteradaptations to the secretory canals of host plants, which include at least nine plant families (Dussourd and Eisner 1987 and references cited therein; Dussourd and Denno 1991). The insects disrupt canals either by severing veins or by cutting trenches, then feed distal to the cuts. In each case, the behaviors reduce the subsequent outflow of secretion during feeding. Sawflies on pine likewise damage resin canals in the needles before ovipositing beyond their punctures (M. Wagner, personal communication).

A different solution to canalicular defenses has arisen in the bark beetles. Bark beetles overwhelm resin ducts in conifers by attacking en masse and by inoculating trees with pathogenic fungi (Birch 1984; Rhoades 1985). The number of beetles boring into a host directly influences the success of an attack (Cates and Alexander 1982). Group feeding by other herbivorous insects on canal-bearing plants may similarly aid in overcoming secretory responses (Dussourd and Denno 1991).

The functional similarity of diverse secretory canals is further suggested by the host ranges of behaviorally adapted insects, some of which attack phylogenetically, morphologically, and chemically diverse plants united only by their possession of secretory canals. Related genera and some individual species in the sphingid tribe Dilophonotini, for example, feed on Apocynaceae/Asclepiadaceae, Caricaceae, Euphorbiaceae, and Moraceae, distantly related plant families with variable laticifer systems (Hodges 1971; Winder 1976). Similarly, butterflies in the genus *Lycoreia* (Danainae) feed on Asclepiadaceae, Caricaceae, and Moraceae (Ackery and Vane-Wright 1984), while phloem-feeding bark beetles specialize on diverse laticiferous and resinous plants (Wood 1982; Atkinson and Equihua 1986; Atkinson and Equihua-Martinez 1986).

In summary, we propose that latex and resin canals (morphological structures and associated secretions) constitute a repeatedly evolved defensive adaptive zone. Their effectiveness against enemies, achieved in similar fashion across unrelated plant groups, has been documented for many plant species. The canal systems thus provide the basis for a replicated test of the postulate that novel defenses promote plant diversification.

METHODS

Our test requires that we locate all plant lineages that have independently evolved latex or resin canals, identify their sister groups, and compare the diversities of the paired lineages. To locate plant groups with latex and resin canals, we surveyed botanical reviews by Metcalfe and Chalk (1983), Esau (1965), Fahn (1979), and Cronquist (1981), together with detailed studies of the systematic distribution of canals (e.g., French 1988) where available. In a few groups, delimitation of canal-bearing clades is difficult since canals intergrade with intermediate

TABLE 1

COMPARISON OF DIVERSITIES OF LINEAGES BEARING LATEX AND RESIN CANALS WITH SISTER GROUPS

Canal-bearing Taxon	No. of Species	Sister Group(s)	No. of Sister Group Species	Sign of Diversity Difference*	Age†
Peridophyta (Marsileaceae, <i>Regnellidium</i>) ¹	1	<i>Marsilea</i> or <i>Pilularia</i>	60 6	-	45
Gnetales (Gnetaceae, <i>Gnetum</i>) ¹	30	<i>Welwitschia</i>	1	+	160
Coniferae (Pinaceae [250] + Cupressaceae [130] + Taxodiaceae [16] + Araucariaceae [38] + Podocarpaceae [125]) ¹	559	Ginkgoaceae	1	+	180
Urticales (Urticaceae [700] + Moraceae [1,000] + Cannabaceae [3]) ²	1,703	Ulmaceae	150	+	93
Caryophyllales (Cactaceae, <i>Mammillaria</i> , sect. <i>Mammillaria</i> [110] + sect. <i>Subhydrochylus</i> [22]) ⁵	132	Ancistrocladaceae or Leptocladae	35 6	+	?
Theales (Dipterocarpaceae, Dipterocarpoidea) ¹	400	Monotoidea	35	+	60
Ebenales (Sapotaceae) ²	800	Ebenaceae	450	+	67
Celastrales (Hippocrateaceae, <i>Hippocratea</i>) ¹	100	Celastraceae (<i>Lophopetalum</i>)	4	+	?

Hippocrateaceae (<i>Salacia</i>)	200	Celastraceae (<i>Glyptopetalum</i> + <i>Crocoxylon</i> + <i>Elaeodendron</i> or part thereof)	27 17 2	+	?
Euphorbiales (Euphorbiaceae, Crotonoideae [2,000] + Euphorbioideae [2,500]) ⁴	4,500	Phyllanthoideae or Oldenfieldioideae	2,000 100	+	73
Gentianales (Apocynaceae [2,000] + Asclepiadaceae [2,000]) ²	4,000	Gentianaceae and/or Loganiaceae	900 600	+	60
Asterales (Asteraceae [20,000] + Campanulaceae [2,000]) ²	22,000	Calyceraceae	60	+	30
Arales (Araceae, Philodendroideae [961] + Colocasioideae [39] + Aroideae [351]) ³	1,350	Pothoideae in part	≤995	+	10
Alismatiflorae ³ (Alismataceae [90] + Limnocaritaceae [11]) ³	101 40	Butomaceae Alismatiflorae (– [Alismataceae + Limnocaritaceae])	1 61	+	10 10
Aponogetonaceae	42	Remaining Zingiberales	1,800	–	20
Zingiberales (Musaceae) ³					

SOURCE.—¹Willis (1973), ²Cronquist (1981), ³Dahlgren et al. (1985), ⁴Webster (1987), ⁵Hunt (1979).

NOTE.—Number of positive differences, 13; number of negative differences, 3; one-tailed sign test, $P = .0106$. Number of species in brackets.
* Canal-bearing lineage minus sister group.

† First fossil appearance of any taxon in comparison (in millions of years; Grayum 1984; Johnson 1984; Muller 1984).

structures with various degrees of morphological specialization (Esau 1965). To avoid bias, we have followed the literature in delimiting canal-bearing groups and also excluded groups (e.g., the resinous *Caesalpiniaceae*; see Appendix) in which previous authors have drawn no clear demarcation.

Our estimates of the sister groups of canal-bearing clades are based on our reading of the primary systematic literature and on consultation with specialists (see Acknowledgments). Recent cladistic studies received the greatest weight. Canal-bearing groups are included in our tally of comparisons (table 1) only if the literature provides (1) a clear argument for, and no strong evidence against, monophyly in the sense of Hennig (1966) (which does not necessarily require the author's treatment to have been explicitly cladistic), (2) evidence that canals arose in the group's common ancestor, and (3) evidence to identify either a definite sister group or a set of closely related possible sister groups.

A few of the comparisons meeting our criteria, while reflecting the existing evidence, are clearly provisional (e.g., the contrast of *Asteraceae* plus *Campanulaceae* to *Calyceraceae*; Bremer 1987). Deletion of such cases (see Appendix) would not change our finding. Plant phylogeny is the subject of intense current research, and all of the phylogeny estimates we accept should be regarded as possibly erroneous. We stress, however, that such taxonomic error should be random with respect to the escalation/diversification hypothesis, making a significant effect harder to detect. A review of all canal-bearing plant groups known to us, with a defense of their inclusion or exclusion from the final tally of diversity comparisons (table 1), is provided in the Appendix.

Several complexities arise in the application of the above criteria for identifying canal-bearing lineages and sister groups. In a few canalicular clades, secretory canals have been lost in some members (e.g., the *Cecropiaceae* in the *Urticales*). We have counted only the number of species bearing canals in such groups since these represent the degree of radiation in the secretory canal adaptive zone. The secondary loss of canals provides an alternative test for the effects of canals on diversification; however, at this point, the examples are too few and the taxonomic information insufficient for a statistical comparison.

A second problem arises when the sister group of a canalicular clade contains a derived canal-bearing component. The sister-group comparisons of the two canalicular lineages will not be statistically independent because the sister group of the younger lineage will be included in that of the older. For example, according to Dahlgren and Bremer (1985), the sister group of the primitively laticiferous *Aponogetonaceae* lies in the primitively noncanalicular higher *Alismatiflorae* (= *Alismatales* + *Najadales*; fig. 1). However, the *Alismatiflorae* itself contains the derived laticiferous group comprising the *Alismataceae* plus *Limnocharitaceae*. Our approach to such interdependent comparisons (Mitter et al. 1988) has been to determine whether exclusion of the sister group of the younger laticiferous clade (*Butomaceae* in the case of *Alismataceae* plus *Limnocharitaceae*) would affect the conclusion regarding the older laticiferous clade (*Aponogetonaceae*, in this example). If not (as in this and all other cases we encountered), then both comparisons can be safely used. If it did alter the result, then one might reasonably include either comparison, perhaps randomly chosen, but not both.

In other cases, the sister group of a canal-bearing clade has only been approxi-

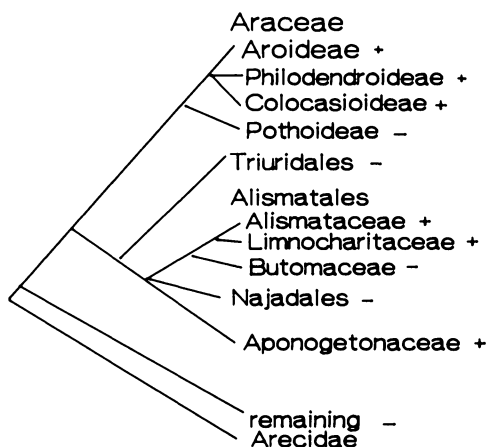


FIG. 1.—Relationships among laticiferous groups in the monocotyledonous subclass Arecidae (Stant 1967; Argue 1976; Grayum 1984; Dahlgren and Bremer 1985; Dahlgren et al. 1985). Presence (+) or absence (–) of laticifers is indicated for each taxon (Metcalf and Chalk 1983; Grayum 1984; French 1988). The three apparently independent origins of laticifers are in the Araceae, Aponogetonaceae, and Alismataceae/Limncharitaceae.

mately established (criterion 3 above). For example, the affinities of the laticiferous Aponogetonaceae clearly lie with the Najadales and Alismatales *sensu stricto* (fig. 1), but whether the exact sister group is one of these orders alone or both together is uncertain (Dahlgren and Bremer 1985). The answer does not matter to our test, however, since the Aponogetonaceae is less diverse than either order. We have included such comparisons in our tally (table 1) when all defensible resolutions of the phylogeny yield the same answer about relative diversification rates (as in this and all similar instances we have encountered).

RESULTS

In 13 of 16 sister-group comparisons extractable from our review of plant relationships, the lineage with secretory canals is more diverse than its presumed sister group, sometimes by two or more orders of magnitude (table 1; $P = .0106$, one-tailed sign test). These 16 canalicular clades include 11 groups bearing latex canals, two with resin canals, and three that produce both latex and resin canals. Several additional cases will, on further taxonomic resolution, almost surely support our result (e.g., Apiales, Anacardiaceae, Burseraceae, Detariaceae/Amherstiae, Primulales, *Allium*). One possible contrary example (*Cyclanthus*) was also encountered.

DISCUSSION

Canal systems containing latex or resin appear to have originated at least 40 times. Future work on plant phylogeny will therefore permit many more sister-group comparisons than the 16 identified here and will probably also modify some

of our current contrasts. Our results should therefore be viewed as provisional. Nevertheless, the consistently greater diversity of canal-bearing lineages in our sample appears to provide strong support for the escalation/diversification hypothesis and therefore requires consideration of alternative explanations.

We have previously argued that an association of the kind reported here is unlikely to represent either statistical artifact or an intrinsic asymmetry of phylogenies (Mitter et al. 1988). Two recent studies provide evidence that adaptive novelty or phylogenetic advancement is not inevitably associated with increased diversity. In an analysis similar in design and sample size to this one, insect lineages evolving parasitism *sensu stricto*, unlike insect phytophages (Mitter et al. 1988), showed no trend in diversity with respect to their sister groups (B. Wiegmann, C. Mitter, and B. Farrell, unpublished manuscript). Herrera (1989), using an approach similar in spirit though not based explicitly on sister groups, likewise found no relation between the development of biotic dispersal syndromes and diversification of angiosperm groups.

It might be argued that our present result is an artifact of geography: laticiferous and resinous plants are especially prevalent in the tropics, and most groups of organisms are more diverse in the tropics than elsewhere. However, in all of our contrasts involving tropical canal-bearing groups, the sister group is also substantially or entirely tropical. Furthermore, the canalicular clades that are primarily temperate are all more diverse than their respective sister groups, whether temperate or tropical.

Canal systems might promote diversification either directly, through genetic correlation with traits affecting the breeding structure and thus the probability of speciation, or indirectly, by conferring increased individual fitness. No evidence exists for the former correlations. In contrast, as we described previously, a large and growing body of experimental data indicates that canal systems confer protection from herbivores and pathogens.

While enhanced individual resistance to enemies thus seems the most plausible explanation for the increased diversification rates of canal-bearing groups, this hypothesis requires much additional corroboration. Improved adaptation itself is hard to document, and its effect on diversification is likely to be indirect and difficult to demonstrate rigorously (Vermeij 1987, 1988; Lidgard and Jackson 1989). There are several possible mechanisms by which increased individual adaptedness could affect diversification rate. Plants with lower rates of herbivory and disease might tend to attain larger ecological and geographic ranges, yielding increased opportunity for speciation (Vermeij 1987), or they might simply have higher population densities on average, which could lower the risk of extinction (Futuyma 1986).

A first step toward distinguishing among these alternatives is to determine whether there *are* any population- or species-level correlates of secretory canal possession (Jablonski 1987). Preliminary evidence for such correlates comes from data on the distribution and abundance of trees in four lowland habitats in Manu National Park, Peru, collected by the BIOLAT Program of the Smithsonian Institution (B. Farrell and C. Mitter, unpublished manuscript). Mean local abundances and habitat breadths were found to be consistently higher in species of seven canal-bearing plant taxa compared with their sympatric near relatives. Recent

inventories of other Amazonian forests also report high abundances of laticiferous and resinous trees, ranging from about 20% to 35% of the total number of individuals (Prance et al. 1976; Boom 1986; Farrell and Erwin 1988).

Attempts to correlate current population properties with long-term diversification rates rely on an important assumption: that fitness differentials, which were responsible for the origin of an adaptation and the initial proliferation of the lineage bearing it, continue to exist. A detailed fossil record preserving the demography of a predator-prey interaction, as exists for some marine bivalves and their drilling predators (Vermeij 1987), could allow direct study of past selection. Such evidence is essentially unobtainable for terrestrial plant/herbivore interactions. However, temporal trends in relative diversities could in principle provide an indirect test of changing selection pressures (Simpson 1944). Thus, if the fitness advantage of a canal-bearing clade with respect to its sister group eventually declines because of counteradaptation by enemies (Ehrlich and Raven 1964), the relative diversity of that clade should eventually decline also. If so, we might expect the oldest sister-group pairs in our tabulation to differ least in diversity. Conversely, if enemies adapted to earlier canal-bearing plant clades can easily shift to newly evolved ones, the canal "adaptive zone" may become "filled" over geological time, impeding the diversification of later-arising canal bearers (Simpson 1944; Ehrlich and Raven 1964). While the results of a detailed analysis will be presented elsewhere (B. Farrell and C. Mitter, unpublished manuscript), inspection of the diversities (table 1) of canal-bearing clades (alone or divided by the diversity of their respective sister group) shows no apparent trend with respect to age of origin, suggesting that the selective advantages of canals may persist through time.

In conclusion, we have argued that latex and resin canals are so functionally homogeneous as to constitute a recognizable syndrome. Despite the potential complexity of their defensive action, often involving chemical and mechanical components, both structures are similar in their delivery of sequestered substances to sites of injury. As such, they offer a test case for the general hypothesis that adaptive innovation, specifically plant defense, confers evolutionary success. Our analysis documents the greater diversity of canal-bearing clades across plant groups of diverse habitat, growth form, and chemistry. No explanation for our result seems plausible other than improved defense, although additional corroboration for this postulate, including illumination of the diversifying mechanism, will be essential. The clearest potential limitation of the multiple-comparison approach is that adaptations defined broadly enough to provide statistical replication risk artificiality. When a strong pattern emerges, however, as in our analysis, this objection is weak. In providing statistical support for a broad version of the escalation/diversification hypothesis, our result lends force to subsequent studies of more narrowly defined and less frequently evolved plant defenses.

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APPENDIX

RELATIONSHIPS OF PLANT GROUPS BEARING LATEX AND RESIN CANALS

The phylogeny and species diversity of plant groups with latex or resin canals are reviewed below, together with justification of the inclusion or exclusion of each group from our tally of diversity comparisons (table 1). Plant taxa are presented in approximate phylogenetic sequence after Cronquist (1981). However, we stress that *all* estimates of sister-group relationships used in our tally (table 1) are based on the primary literature with emphasis on the most recent cladistic studies and not on any of the more general angiosperm classifications (e.g., Thorne 1976; Taktajahn 1980; Cronquist 1981). These latter references typically provide insufficient resolution and character discussions for comparisons at low taxonomic levels. Furthermore, they often characterize families as "laticiferous" or "resinous," when (often more recent) evidence shows that only a subgroup has in fact evolved canals bearing latex or resin (e.g., Euphorbiaceae; see below). We evaluated canal-bearing taxa according to criteria outlined in Methods (see text). Below, we underline the names of the few taxa for which sufficient biological and phylogenetic information exists for inclusion in our tally. To keep the Appendix within a reasonable length, we have omitted details on the history of each group's taxonomic placement.

PTERIDOPHYTA

The aquatic, marsiliaceous genus Regnellidium is apparently the only fern bearing laticifers (Metcalf 1967). Recent cladistic study (Johnson 1984) indicates its sister group to be either *Marsilea* or *Pilularia*, both of which are more diverse than Regnellidium.

CONIFERAE

The six families constituting the Coniferae possess resin ducts containing mono-, di-, or sesquiterpenes. These structures apparently have been lost secondarily in the 20 species of Taxaceae (DeBary 1884; Young and Watson 1969; Bierhorst 1971), which we therefore exclude from our tally. In the secondary tissues of a few relatively derived genera (*Abies*, *Cedrus*, *Pseudolarix*, and *Tsuga*), resin "cysts" and sometimes canals are produced primarily in response to injury (Bannan 1936; Bierhorst 1971; Fahn et al. 1979; Ferrell 1983). However, canals are present in the primary tissues of these groups (Hanes 1927). Recent cladistic studies indicate that the sister group to the Coniferae (559 species) is the monotypic family Ginkgoaceae (Crane 1985; Doyle and Donoghue 1986), which possesses isolated resin cells (DeBary 1884; Bierhorst 1971; Doyle and Donoghue 1986).

GNETALES

The sister group of the laticiferous genus Gnetum (30 species) appears to be *Welwitschia* (1 or 2 species; Willis 1973; Behnke and Herrmann 1978; Doyle and Donoghue 1986).

MAGNOLIOPSIDA

Within the “primitive” subclass Magnoliidae, laticifers have possibly arisen twice: in the putative common ancestor of the nymphaealean families and in the Papaverales (Metcalf and Chalk 1983). We have excluded these groups because their phylogenetic positions are problematic, although the nymphaealean clade and the Papaverales may be sister groups (Dahlgren and Bremer 1985). The Eucommiaceae also bear laticifers, but their assignment even to subclass is unclear (Cronquist 1981).

The subclass Hamamelidae also contains several apparent origins of secretory canals. The subfamily Altingioideae of Hamamelidaceae contains two genera, *Liquidambar* and *Altingia*, that produce resin canals (Metcalf and Chalk 1983). However, relationships within the Hamamelidaceae are obscure (Cronquist 1981). The hamamelid order Urticales contains an apparent monophyletic group comprising the latex and resin canal-bearing families Moraceae, Urticaceae, Cannabaceae, and Cecropiaceae (totaling 1,979 species; Berg 1977). Their sister group appears to be the Ulmaceae (150 species; Bechtel 1921; Tippo 1938; Berg 1977). One should note, however, that concepts of relationships within the Hamamelidae are currently in flux (Humphries 1989); thus this comparison may need to be recalculated if taxonomic assignments change. Laticifers have been lost in the family Cecropiaceae, which is apparently derived from part of the Moraceae. In addition, some of the Ulmaceae possess canals containing mucilage. There is as yet no evidence that these canals serve a protective function. However, should mucilage prove to be defensive, this comparison and the comparison within the Dipterocarpaceae described below may need to be reexamined.

Among the Caryophyllidae, the cactus genus *Mammillaria* contains a laticiferous group comprising sections *Subhydrochylus* + *Mammillaria* (132 species; Hunt 1971, 1979; Wittler and Mauseth 1984) whose closest affinities appear to be with sections *Ancistrocladae* (35 species) or *Leptocladae* (6 species). The relationships of the other laticiferous genera of Cactaceae, *Coryphantha* and *Leuchtenbergia* (Metcalf and Chalk 1983), are unclear.

The subclass Dilleniidae contains several independent origins of latex and resin canals. In the Theales, the dipterocarp subfamily *Dipterocarpoideae* (400 species) possesses resin canals, which its apparent sister group *Monotoideae* (35 species) lacks (though *Monotoideae* have been reported to possess mucilage canals; Bancroft 1938; Metcalf and Chalk 1983). The relationships of the laticiferous *Clusiaceae* (which includes the *Hypericaceae*, totaling 1,200 species) are obscure. In the Violales, the affinities of the laticiferous family *Cariaceae* are enigmatic. The flacourtiaceous genus *Plagiopteron* is laticiferous but also of uncertain position. In the Ebenales, the laticiferous *Sapotaceae* (800 species) appears to be the sister group to the *Ebenaceae* (450 species; Lam 1939). The *Styracaceae* contains some species with resin canals, but relationships within this family are poorly known (Cronquist 1981). Latex or resin canals are probably primitive within the large order *Primulales* (2,000 species) and apparently lost in the most derived sections of the *Primulaceae* (Cronquist 1981). The relationships of this group have not been traced.

Within the extremely diverse *Rosidae*, the *Caesalpiniaceae* contains the monophyletic group comprising the resinous tribes *Detariae* and *Amherstiae* (726 species; Cowan and Polhill 1981a, 1981b), which together are the sister group to the *Sclerobium* group (62 species; Polhill and Vidal 1981). We have excluded this comparison from our tally because the distribution of canals *sensu stricto* within the *Detariae* and *Amherstiae* is not known. Some plants such as *Hymenaea* (the apparent source of Dominican amber) bear resin pockets, whereas others such as *Copaifera* (the source of African amber) sometimes produce both pockets and canals (Langenheim 1973). This case, which would corroborate our result if included, illustrates the difficulty in defining a defensive syndrome since resins in both canals and pockets undoubtedly function in defense (Langenheim et al. 1980, 1986; Arrhenius and Langenheim 1983). The pockets, like canals, are capable of emitting substantial quantities of resin when injured (Langenheim 1969). Laticifers have also been discovered in some species of *Mimosa* (Metcalf and Chalk 1983), but their sister group(s) is unknown.

Some members of the santalalean family Olacaceae bear resin canals and/or laticifers (Cronquist 1981; Metcalfe and Chalk 1983), but relationships within the family are obscure.

The Celastrales harbor several families with secretory canals. The Hippocrateaceae consists of two laticiferous genera, each apparently derived independently from different parts of the Celastraceae (Robson 1965). Robson presents evidence that the affinities of the genus *Hippocratea* (100 species) are with the celastracean genus *Lophopetalum* (4 species), while the hippocrateaceous genus *Salacia* (200 species) is derived from the celastracean group *Glyptopetalum* + *Crocoxylon* + *Elaeodendron* (46 species total) or some subset thereof. The large laticiferous family Icacinaceae, though allied to the other celastralean families, is of unknown position (Cronquist 1981). Also currently placed in the Celastrales but of uncertain affinities (even as to subclass) is the laticiferous genus *Peripterygium* in the Cardiopteridaceae (Metcalfe and Chalk 1983).

Within the Euphorbiaceae, recent cladistic study (Webster 1987) identifies an origin of laticifers in the clade comprised of the advanced subfamilies *Crotonoideae* + *Euphorbioideae* (total 4,500 species not including the species of *Acalyphoideae* in which the laticifers have apparently been secondarily lost). The sister group of this clade appears to lie within the cladistically basal, paraphyletic *Phyllanthoideae* or *Oldenfieldioideae* (Webster 1987).

The relationships of the resin canal-bearing Anacardiaceae (including the Julianaceae) to other Sapindales are obscure, although they may be related to the likewise resin canal-bearing (and also uncertainly placed) Burseraceae (Cronquist 1981). The Sapindales in turn might be paraphyletic with respect to the Apiales, which comprises two families with resin canals, the Apiaceae and Araliaceae. However, the Apiales have been alternatively grouped with the Cornales (Rodriguez 1971). Within the Cornales, an origin of laticifers has been reported in the family Alangiaceae, whose relationships have not been elucidated (Cronquist 1981).

Laticifers have arisen several times within the subclass Asteridae. The *Apocynaceae* + *Asclepiadaceae* (totaling 4,000 species) form a monophyletic laticiferous group (Woodson 1941) whose affinities are probably with the Loganiaceae (600 species), Gentianaceae (900 species), or some subset thereof (Moore 1947; Tournay and Lawalree 1952; Wanntorp 1988). The *Convolvulaceae* (1,500 species) forms a uniformly laticiferous group with the *Dichondraceae* and the monotypic Madagascan *Humbertiaceae* (Cronquist 1981). The affinities of this diverse clade are controversial and may lie with the *Solanaceae*, *Nolanaceae*, other *Polemoniales*, or *Gentianales* (D'Arcy 1979; Mesa 1986).

In the most comprehensive cladistic study to date of *Asterales*, the *Asteraceae* + *Campanulaceae* appears to form a monophyletic group (Bremer 1987; 22,000 species total) in which a primitive laticiferous condition has given rise one or more times to clades bearing resin canals. The sister group to this enormous assemblage is most likely the *Calyceraceae* (60 species; Bremer 1987). Other proposed sister groups (reviewed in Bremer 1987; see also Cronquist 1981) would yield the same conclusion concerning relative diversity.

LILIOPSIDA

The arecid order Cyclanthales contains an origin of laticifers. Some populations of *Cyclanthus bipartitus* have recently been reported to contain latex canals (Wilder and Harris 1982). Whether this represents a derived condition of (or within) this highly divergent species or the family Cyclanthaceae remains unclear (Hammel and Wilder 1989; Wilder 1989).

The *Araceae* (fig. 1) contains the canal-bearing (mostly laticifers, some resin canals) group comprising the subfamilies *Aroideae* + *Philodendroideae* + *Colocasioideae* (1,350 species; French 1987, 1988) whose nearest relatives apparently lie within the *Pothoideae* (totaling 995 species; Grayum 1984; however, see Grayum 1990 for a review suggestive of two possible origins of secretory canals in the *Araceae*). Recent cladistic studies reveal an independent origin of laticifers in the common ancestor of the families *Alismataceae* + *Limncharitaceae* (totaling 101 species; Stant 1967; Argue 1976; Dahlgren et al. 1985). The apparent sister group to this clade is the monotypic *Butomaceae* (1 species). The laticifer-

ous *Aponogetonaceae* (40 species) is probably the sister group of either the primitively nonlaticiferous *Alismatales* or *Najadales* or these together (Dahlgren and Bremer 1985). The sign of this comparison (see table 1) is the same under all three possibilities and is unaffected by subtraction of the laticiferous species from the *Alismatales* (leaving 61 species total; Dahlgren and Bremer 1985).

In the *Zingiberidae*, the laticiferous family *Musaceae* (42 species) appears to be the remaining *Zingiberales* (in 1,800 species; Kress 1990).

Within the *Liliidae*, the liliaceous genus *Allium* (450 species) contains latex canals. Intergeneric relationships within the *Liliaceae* are poorly known, although A. Cronquist (personal communication) suggests that *Nothoscordum* (35 species) might be sister group to *Allium*.

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