The geometry and ecology of curved flowers and their pollinators

####Acknowledgements

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#### Abstract

The curvature of flowers and pollinators (e.g. hummingbird bills) along the lateral plane is a widespread, convergent trait with important ecological and evolutionary implications. This review summarizes and discusses why pollination ecologists are concerned with flower-pollinator curvature and what we have learned from its study. We then review the methods historically used to measure curvature and suggest a clarification of its definition by referring to the differential geometry literature. We demonstrate the applicability of the revised definition as a field-portable methodology. Intuitively, curvature is the degree to which a line is not straight. In plane geometry, curvature is defined as the rate at which the unit derivative changes direction with respect to arc length. To apply this definition we suggest a protocol wherein a line is regressed against landmarks placed on a lateral image of an organism, then computing curvature at many points along the fitted line and taking the sum. The utility of this metric was tested by studying the development of nectar spur curvature in *Epimedium* (Berberidaceae). We found *Epimedium koreanum* to have an order of magnitude greater curvature than the closely related *E. grandiflorum* and *E. violaceum*. The suite of functions used to quantify floral curvature in this study are available as an open-source R package ‘kyokusen’. The major advantages of this method are 1) precision of measurement is increased without introducing expensive field equipment or computing power, 2) precision of terminology within pollination ecology is improved by adopting from the existing mathematical tools for studying line-curves, and 3) the opportunity is opened for investigating the genetic basis of (lateral plane) curvature measured at the cellular scale (not sure if this is worth commenting on.. cut if manuscript is too long?)

#### 1. The ecology of flower-pollinator curvature

“We are beginning to understand why some hummingbird bills are long, whereas others are short, and why some hummingbird flowers are wide, whereas others are narrow. Now, why are bills of some hummingbirds and the tubes of the flowers they visit curved?” – Temeles ([1996](#ref-temeles_1996)).

At the center of plant-pollinator diversification is a remarkable variety of floral form. The notion that plant communities are under selection to reduce interspecific mating (“floral isolation”, Grant, [1949](#ref-grant_1949)), points to the importance of floral diversity in initiating and reinforcing reproductive isolation (Armbruster and Muchhala, [2009](#ref-armbruster_2009)). For example, in the rapid radiation of Andean *Centropogon* (Campanulaceae), competition for pollination led to the divergence of floral traits associated with bat and hummingbird pollination (Lagomarsino and Muchhala, [2019](#ref-lagomarsino_2019)). Meanwhile, in South African *Lapeirousia* (Iridaceae), geographic variation in floral tube length has initiated reproductive isolation between morphs with short and long flower tubes, despite sharing the same fly pollinator (Minnaar et al., [2019](#ref-minnaar_2019)). ADD IN EXAMPLE OF POLLINATOR DIVERSIFICATION. Thus, floral morphology is a key phenotypic feature associated with the diversification of plants and pollinators (Kay and Sargent, [2009](#ref-kay_2009); Ollerton, [2017](#ref-ollerton_2017)).

Flower-pollinator curvature as viewed from the side (lateral plane), has been a trait of special interest since the post-Darwin era of pollination ecology. In making pollinator observations of the Cape flora, Scott-Elliott ([1890](#ref-scott-elliot_1890)) noticed that the flowers of *Leonotis ocymifolia* (Lamiaceae) visited by *Nectarinia* sunbirds were “curved with the same curvature as that of the bird’s beak.” (p. 272). Robertson ([1889](#ref-robertson_1889)) insightfully notes that the curved nectar spurs of *Viola* spp. (Violaceae) “serves to limit the insect visits much more than the mere length of the spur.” (p. 172). From these early observations curvature has been synonymous with specialization; we expect curvature to limit the range of functional taxa in a plant-pollinator mutualism and strengthen interactions between the existing participants. And these expectations have largely been supported: Stiles ([1975](#ref-stiles_1975)) first posited that neotropical *Heliconia* partition hummingbird visitation by flower-bill curvature, and that specialization by curve-billed hummingbirds allow co-existence within the species-rich *Heliconia* clade. Subsequent research supports this hypothesis (Maglianesi et al., [2014](#ref-maglianesi_2014)): along the slopes of the Central Cordillera (Costa Rica), the degree of flower-hummingbird bill curvature is proportional to plant-pollinator interaction strength (Dehling et al., [2014](#ref-dehling_2014)) and extent of specialization (*d’*, (Blüthgen et al., [2006](#ref-bluthgen_2006)). More recently the scope of plant-pollinator research has expanded to address the biogeography of curvature. As predicted by Stiles ([2004](#ref-stiles_2004)), Maglianesi (**???**) and Sonne ([2019](#ref-sonne_2019)) find curvature to be most prevalent in the lowland environments of the neotropics. Explanations for this pattern range from heightened competition at lower elevations to environmental filtering in the Andean highlands (Stiles, [2004](#ref-stiles_2004); Graham et al., [2009](#ref-graham_2009)). Because the neotropical subfamily Phaethornithinae comprises the majority of hummingbird species with curved bills, we might expect plant-hummingbird curvature to have a predictable global distribution. In the case of honeycreepers and honeyeaters and sunbirds ???

Pollinator specialization has major effects on macroevolutionary and biogeographic patterns (Kay and Sargent, [2009](#ref-kay_2009); Armbruster and Muchhala, [2009](#ref-armbruster_2009); Vamosi et al., [2018](#ref-vamosi_2018)), and curvature is a component, but widespread feature of specialist systems. Therefore, to synthesize our knowledge of curved plant-pollinator systems, curvature is a concept that needs an exact definition and method of measurement. In the following section we summarize the approaches to measuring curvature within the field of bird pollination, identify strengths and shortcomings, and offer a solution with the aim of improving the precision with which curvature is measured within the field of pollination ecology. Although this review is motivated by the problem of measuring curvature in plant-hummingbird systems, the solution is general to any biological form modelled as a line curve: this case is hopefully made in the demonstration to follow.

#### 2. Summary of the literature

We searched the scientific literature for studies focusing on or considering the curvature of flowers and their pollinators - a trait commonly measured as a proxy for specialization. We make the distinction between measuring curvature (e.g. of petals) in the lateral plane versus the curvature of surfaces. While lateral images are analysed for line-curvature, images of specimens in the transverse plane are used to analyse surface (Gaussian) curvature (Nath et al., [2003](#ref-nath_2003); Coen and Rebocho, [2016](#ref-coen_2016)). The methods used in the latter are relatively more complex, and perhaps because of this, comparitively well-defined. At present, surface curvature has yet to be considered in the context of pollination. However, because line and surface curvature are related mathematical concepts, it will benefit pollination research to clarify the simplest case (lines), with the goal of generating interest in related ideas including the curvature of surfaces.

The literature was sourced by querying Web of Science and Google Scholar for a topic search of (curv\*) AND (pollinat\*) AND (flower OR corolla OR \*bird OR \*bee OR moth OR \*fly). The initial search returned over 300 studies which were then screened for those that made some curvature measurement of flowers and/or animal mouthparts (e.g. bird bills, moth tongues). We sorted studies based on the criteria that 1) the study focused on pollination, including qualitative measures of curvature and 2) the study measured flower or pollinator (mouthpart) curvature for other reasons, but measurements must be quantitative. 41 pollination studies were found using some form of curvature metric (Table 1). An additional 11 publications of organisms studied outside of a pollination context (Table S1). There were numerous studies of plant-pollinator shape that did not address curvature - these were omitted.

The discussion of lateral curvature in plant-hummingbird interactions begins with Hainsworth ([1973](#ref-hainsworth_1973)) and is first empirically studied by Feinsinger ([1978](#ref-feinsinger_1978)), though methods for measuring curvature of bird bills outside of a pollination context can be found much earlier (Baldwin et al., [1931](#ref-baldwin_1931)). We identified six common approaches to measuring curvature. First, there are qualitative descriptions, e.g. “very curved”, “less curved”, but these are generally out of use. Second, the *arc:chord* method wherein curvature is a ratio of two lines: a straight line (chord) from tip to base (of the flower or bill) and a line that traverses a path along the arc of the flower/bill ([Figure 1](Figures/Figure_1.jpg)). Third, the *mandibular index* method which defines curvature as a ratio of two lines: a straight line from base to tip and a perpendicular line that measures the width of the flower/bill. This method is another form of the *arc:chord* method because for a given chord length, the length of the perpendicular line will be proportional to the arc length. Fourth, the *angle of deflection* method which considers curvature as the angle between the base of the flower/bill and its tip. This is another form of the *inverse radius* method which approximates the entire length of the flower/bill as a segment of a circle. These methods are interchangeable because the radius of a circle can be calculated from the length and angle of a line that passes through it (Bell, [1956](#ref-bell_1956); Temeles et al., [2009](#ref-temeles_2009)), see: [Figure S1](Figures/Figure_S1.jpg). Sixth, geometric morphometrics, which quantifies shape as a configuration of homologous points (landmarks) existing on a coordinate plane ([Figure 2](Figures/Figure_2.jpg)).

The strength of methods 2 and 3 are their portability and accessibility. These measurements can be taken in the field, or soon after from photographs. The methods are intuitive and in the simplest case, require only a ruler, string, and protractor. However, even if the measurements are made using imaging software these methods have some shortcomings (discussed in Berns and Adams, [2010](#ref-berns_2010)), principally that there are many shapes that could produce the same curvature value. For the *inverse radius* method, a curve is approximated with the segment of a circle. This method is insufficient for any flower and bill shapes that deviate from having constant curvature (*e.g.* nectar spurs of *Delphinium* ). Similarly, the *angle of deflection* is not sensitive to local features along the length of the flower/bill - only the start and end points are considered in the calculation.

An additional problem is that terminology is inconsistent between authors. This problem could be remedied by referring to the mathematical literature from which the methods were borrowed. For example, the *arc:chord* method is also called the *maxillary index*, while the *angle of deflection* method is sometimes refered to as the *angle of declension* method. In the application of the *mandibular index* one study adjusted for bill length while a subsequent study did not (Table 1). Many studies create their own terminology for the concept of arc length: the length of a curve between two points. Most studies define their own terms for measuring curvature without reference to previous studies that have done the same. This creates uncertainty about how to compare and convert metrics used between studies.

Starting in 2010, geometric morphometrics (GM) emerges in the pollination literature. GM comprises a set of protocols for quantifying and comparing shapes. This approach has steadily gained in popularity due to its mathematical rigour, reproducibility, and the appealing visual representations of shape comparisons (*e.g.* illustrations of geographic variation in flower shape Gómez et al. ([2009](#ref-gomez_2009))). We briefly outline the reasoning of a GM protocol to introduce relevant concepts, but recommend the concise and authoritative introduction by Webster and Sheets ([2010](#ref-webster_2010)). A GM protocol for a 2-D object begins by placing the specimens on an *xy* grid and assigning landmarks to locations on the specimen that are topologically or biologically homologous. A landmark is defined so that its location can be reproduced within and between samples. The set of landmarks representing the shape of an organism is a ‘landmark configuration’. In a comparative study, the samples are overlayed so that their shape information is isolated from their orientation, location, and size. This is done using a least-squares type protocol, most commonly the Generalized Procrustes Analysis (GPA). GPA-adjusted landmark configurations hereafter exist in a multidimensional shape space defined by the number of landmarks and spatial dimensions implemented. Each landmark configuration contains unique information about the specimen’s shape, and as such, occupies a unique position in the corresponding shape space. These configurations are then “projected” onto a simpler Euclidian space, similar to the reduction of a spherical Earth onto a two-dimensional map (Webster and Sheets, [2010](#ref-webster_2010)). From here, familiar statistical procedures (*e.g.* PCA) can be performed to quantify variation in landmark configurations (shape) between samples.

This is giant leap forward for morphological studies because GM is a complete protocol for measuring, quantifying, and comparing shapes with high precision, as well as the covariation of these shapes with ecological variables of interest. Because GM has a traceable mathematical lineage (Bookstein, [1997](#ref-bookstein_1997)), its vernacular is well-defined and used consistently between practitioners. The limitation of GM in quantifying curvature is that this method is concerned with analyzing configurations of landmarks, *i.e.* the entirety of a shape summarized as a set of *xy* coordinates. Once the specimen has been reduced to a landmark configuration, it exists as a point in shape space. Parsing segments of landmark configurations for separate analyses (*e.g.* for curvature) is not currently part of the geometric morphometrics toolkit. Therefore, studies that have used this technique to analyse biological forms are able to compare shapes in their entirety, but are ultimately limited to making descriptive statements about how segments of shapes appear to have different curvatures (*e.g.* Berns and Adams, [2013](#ref-berns_2013)).

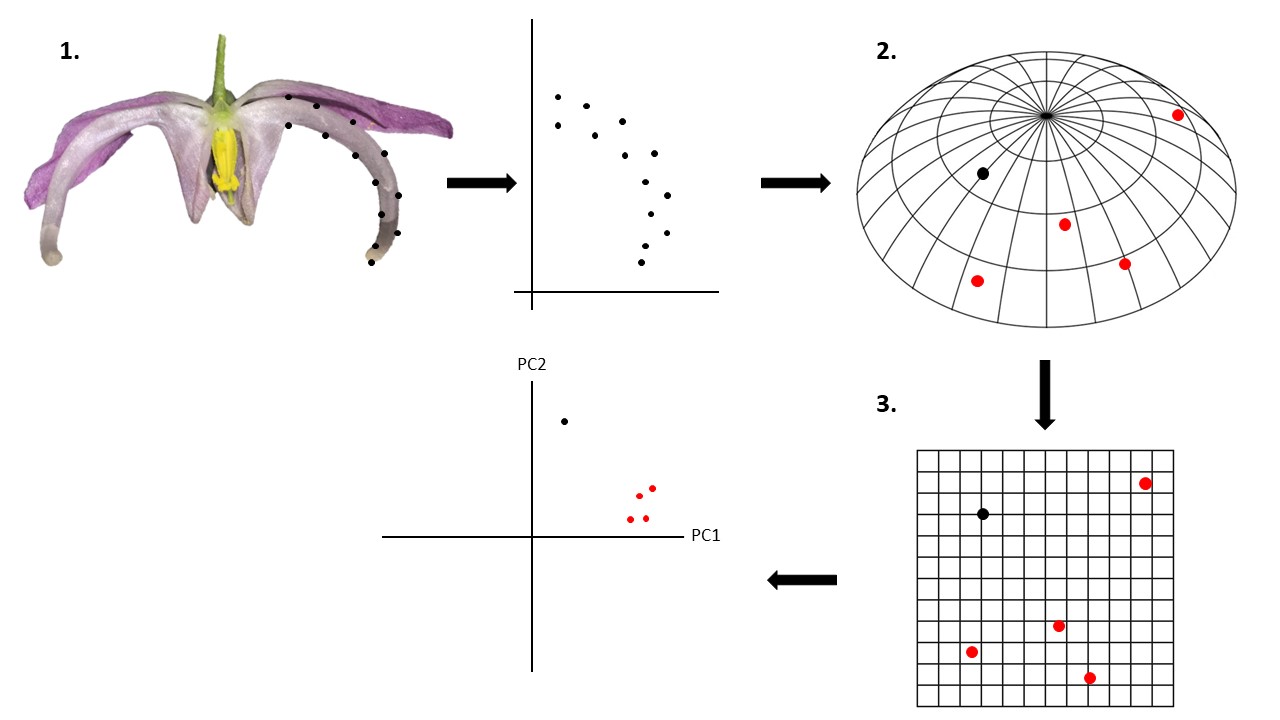


Figure 2. Overview of a geometric morphometrics protocol. 1. Landmarks and semi-landmarks are assigned to a specimen. Each landmark is assigned an *xy* coordinate. 2. For each specimen a configuration of landmarks exists as a single point in a non-Euclidian shape space (abstracted here as a sphere segment). Red points represent landmark configurations from other specimens. 3. Shape data is projected onto a Euclidian plane – a tangent space approximation. This allows statistical analyses of shape variation (e.g. principal components analysis).

#### 3. What is curvature?

Reviewing the literature leads us to ask, “what is curvature?”. Turning to the field of geometry, we find several related definitions, resulting from a history of independent mathematical derivations (reviewed in Coolidge, [1952](#ref-coolidge_1952); Bardini and Gianella, [2016](#ref-bardini_2016)). Here, we follow the conventions of Casey ([1996](#ref-casey_1996)) and Rutter ([2000](#ref-rutter_2000)), and present a definition relevant to the problem of analyzing biological shapes.

Intuitively, when a line deviates from being straight we say it is curved. Then, at any given point, the extent to which a line is not straight is its curvature. More technically, a line deviates from being straight when its first derivative - the tangent - changes direction. Therefore, curvature can be thought of as the rate at which the tangent is changing direction as we move across the curve [(Figure 3)](Figure_3.jpg). On a straight line, the tangent has the same direction everywhere and its rate of change (curvature) will be zero. On a curve, the tangent changes directions from point to point and will have some degree of curvature.

We can formalize the above concepts as follows:

An ordinary function of the form allows one value of at a single position. However, biological curves are better described by parametric fuctions that allow the curve to have multiple values at a single value of (*e.g.* spirals). Parametric functions use a ‘hidden’ variable that determines the values of and independently. For example, if we take the hidden parameter to be the arc length of a curve, will be determined by our position on the curve. We can express the relationship between arc length and position as a parametric equation:

Where indicates that our position on the curve is determined by the length of the segment . Although we could parameterize a curve by any arbitrary variable, arc length is a convienient parameter because it allows us to move along the curve at even increments of . This proves useful when taking repeated, equally-spaced measurements along a curve, such as curvature.

If we are interested in the derivative properties of our arc-length parameterized function, we can differentiate with respect to arc length as

The resultant tangent function is the first derivative of the parametric equation . The tangent contains information about the direction of the curve at position that we will use to calculate curvature.

At the beginning of this section we defined curvature () as the rate at which the tangent is changing direction. We can now formalize this by differentiating with respect to arc length:

When the tangent is placed into a cartesian plane its direction is related to the angle formed with the -axis. We can then re-state curvature at a single point as

This definition provides an intuitive unit of measurement for reporting curvature: degrees of rotation per unit arc length [(Figure 4)](Figure_4.jpg). For example, if arc length has been measured in millimeters, we would report its curvature as degrees per millimeter . Framed this way curvature is a measurement of rotation per distance. This notion of curvature differs from the concepts reviewed in the previous section. Here, curvature is a property of every point along a curve whereas in previous definitions, curvature is a single property of an entire shape. However, it is just as useful to summarize the *total curvature* (Milnor, [1954](#ref-milnor_1954)) of a specimen. To do this, we can sum the individual curvature measurements made across the curve. This is calculated as:

Units for *total curvature* are no longer expressed as because we are not measuring curvature at a single point. Instead we are summarizing tangent rotations across the curve, expressed simply as .

To account for size variation between specimens, we propose using *total adjusted curvature*, that is, total curvature divided by arc length

Units for are expressed as . *Total adjusted curvature* also represents mean curvature of the curve.

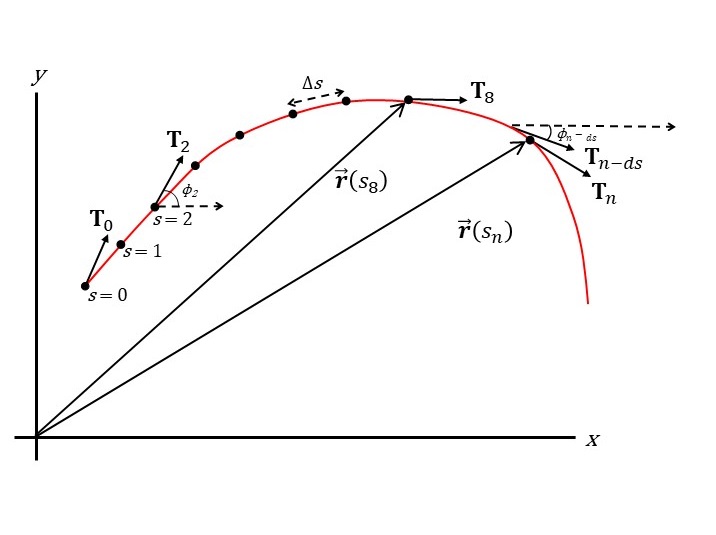


Figure 3. A curve parameterized by arc length (). and are the tangents () at and , respectively. Curvature at is .

#### 4. A proposed protocol for measuring curvature

As illustrated in the methodology review, our current protocols for measuring flower-pollinator curvature lack a conceptual unity. In each method, curvature takes on a new meaning. Therefore, there are two main advantages of the curvature definition described above. First, curvature becomes a local property of the tissue or organ under study. This means that shape information is gathered at every point along the curve and can be examined and compared to other points within or between specimens. This differs from previous methods that take curvature as a total property of the entire curve. In these measurements curvature cannot be parsed into smaller elements. Second, because the revised definition is explicitly adapted from the field of differential geometry, we benefit from citeable geometric concepts that allow us to be clear about what we mean by ‘curvature’.

In order to apply the above definition of curvature, a biological organ or tissue needs to be reduced to a continuous function. We propose a workflow as illustrated in [Figure 4](Figures/Figure_4.jpg). Cosgrove ([1990](#ref-cosgrove_1990)) uses an analogous approach to study the development of cucumber hypocotyls. By fitting cubic splines to hand-marked seedlings, curvature was computed using the same definition as above. However, since Cosgrove ([1990](#ref-cosgrove_1990)), the entire field of landmark-based geometric morphometrics has unfolded (reviewed in Adams et al., [2013](#ref-adams_2013)). This rigorous, reproducible toolkit has been used occasionally in pollination ecology, but has not yet been leveraged to calculate curvature ([Table 1](Tables/Table_1.csv)). Terral et al ([2004](#ref-terral_2004)) use these tools to digitally landmark olive stones and fit polynomials to the landmarks: synthesizing the concepts of Cosgrove ([1990](#ref-cosgrove_1990)) and Terral ([2004](#ref-terral_2004)) produces a modernized method for fitting curves and computing curvature from biological forms [(Figure 4)](Figures/Figure_4.jpg)



Figure 4: Proposed protocol for measuring curvature. 1. A petal of *Epimedium violaceum* is landmarked and rotated. 2. A polynomial curve is fitted to the landmarks. 3. Curvature is calculated as the rate of change of the tangent vector at every point along the curve. Total curvature can be calculated by the methods outlined in Section 3.

Comment on why using we’re using polynomials and not splines, fourier, etc.

#### 5. Proof of concept: A study of the development of curvature in *Epimedium*

We tested the utility of this curvature metric by studying floral development in *Epimedium grandiflorum* C.Morren, *Epimedium koreanum* Nakai, and *Epimedium violaceum* C.Morren. (Berberidaceae, Table 2 - sample sizes). The latter two ‘species’ are generally considered forms of *E. grandiflorum sensu lato* (Stearn, [2002](#ref-stearn_2002)), but we considered them separate for comparitive purposes.

Flower size was measured daily from April 9 to May 2, 2019 at the UBC Botanical Garden (Supp Mat 1). Size was defined as the length between the apex of the two outer sepals lying on the major axis of the flower - aestivation is imbricate. Length was measured to the nearest 0.1 mm using an SPI Polymid Dial Caliper. By correlating changes in flower size to developmental landmarks (Figure 5), we were able to define 3 discrete stages of flower development in *E. grandiflorum* and 4 stages in *E. koreanum* and *E. violaceum* (Table 3, & will include figure with photographs of the stages).

Flowering stage data was fragmented and staggered because of censoring, i.e. due to tracking flowers after their initial budding stage, or flowers that had succumb to herbivory or weather after several days of measurement. Therefore, stage data was aligned by using a multiple sequence alignment protocol (ClustalW implemented in msa v.3.9) with a neutral (identity) substitution matrix. Gap opening was prohibited. By aligning phenological data within species, a consensus stage sequence was calculated and used to estimate flower age where observations were censored. Once aligned, these data represent the ‘developmental dataset’.

To measure curvature, a separate set of flowers were sampled haphazardly and preserved in 70% ethanol. Preserved flowers were later transferred to a glass slide and imaged in the lateral view using a stereo microscope at 0.63x (Zeiss Stemi 508 with Axiocam 301). Specimens that did not fit within the field of view were imaged in halves and the images joined using the Stitching Plugin in the Fiji distribution of ImageJ2 (Preibisch et al., [2009](#ref-preibisch_2009); Rueden et al., [2017](#ref-rueden_2017)).

Photographed specimens were landmarked digitally using tpsDig (Rohlf, [2015](#ref-rohlf_2015)). We placed landmarks along the edge of dorsal petals (in lateral view) as an approximation of the flower’s total shape (see discussion of geometric morphometrics above). Landmarks used to measure the dorsal arc were 1) the farthest point on the apex of the spur before the inflection point where either the spur diminishes to a tip (*E. violaceum*) or widens into a saccate reservoir (*E. koreanum*), and 2) the inflection point at which the spur widens to become an attachment for the petal to the stem (anatomical name?). 13 semi-landmarks (defined in Webster and Sheets, [2010](#ref-webster_2010)) were placed between landmarks 1 and 2 (illustrated in Figure S2).

Landmark files (.tps) were imported into R using Momocs v.1.3.0 (Bonhomme et al., [2014](#ref-bonhomme_2014)). Polynomial functions were regressed to the landmark coordinates for each specimen using Momocs - we chose polynomials of the third degree based on the recommendations of Rolhf ([1990](#ref-rohlf_1990)). Arc length was calculated from bounded polynomial functions using pracma v.2.2.5 (Borchers, [2019](#ref-borchers_2019)). Curvature, as defined in the previous section, was computed using a custom function modified from the maxcurv() function of the soilphysics package v.3.1 (Silva and Lima, [2017](#ref-silva_2017)). All custom functions used in this analysis are available as an R package curvy hosted at github.com/mannfred/curvy. R scripts used in this analysis are hosted at github.com/mannfred/epidmedium. These data represent the ‘curvature dataset’.

Because the second set of flowers were sampled opportunistically after the developmental study, age was inferred by outer sepal size. First, the developmental data was used to model size and age as a logistic function using the `drc v.3.0.1 package in R (Ritz et al., [2015](#ref-ritz_2015)). Then, age was inferred for the curvature data by inputing size information into the logistic model.

Results:

In *E. grandiflorum* we identified three distinct stages of development (Tukey’s HSD: p<0.01). The first stage (“G”) is defined as the initiation and growth of the bud until the petals begin to separate (“T” stage). At the “T” stage nectar begins accumilating in the spurs. Anthesis takes place during the “A” stage at which point the flower opening may increase in size and anthers dehisce. In *E. koreanum* and *E. violaceum* we detected another distinct “C” stage in the early stage of bud development. At this stage the petals are shorter in length than the sepals that envelop them - the “G” stage begins when the petals overtake the surrounding sepals in length.

-insert Table 4 with mean +/- 95%CI of sizes (mm) for all three species.

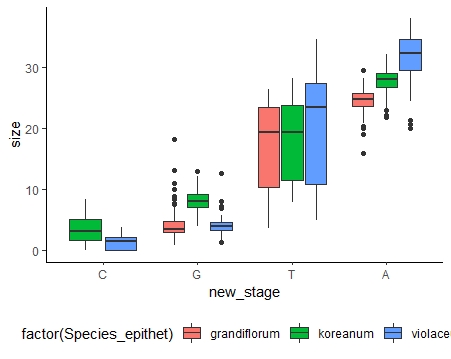


Figure 5: Comparison of developmental stages. Size is in mm. Tukey’s HSD: p<0.01 for all within-species comparisons

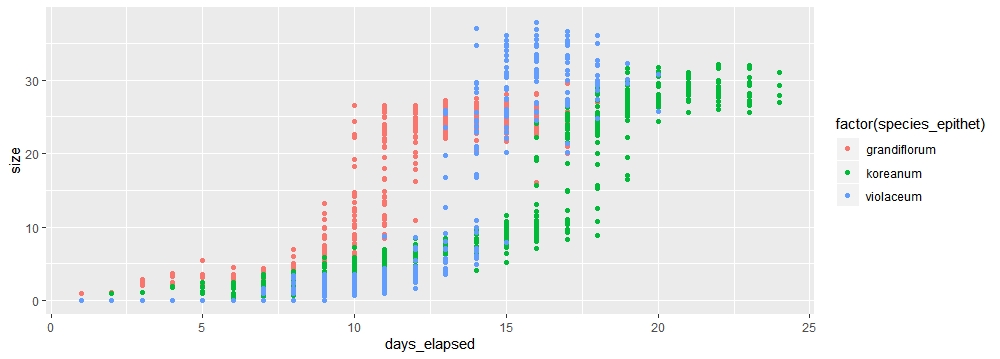


Figure 9: Logistic growth of Epimedium flowers

*E. koreanum* is more curved at initial stages of development:

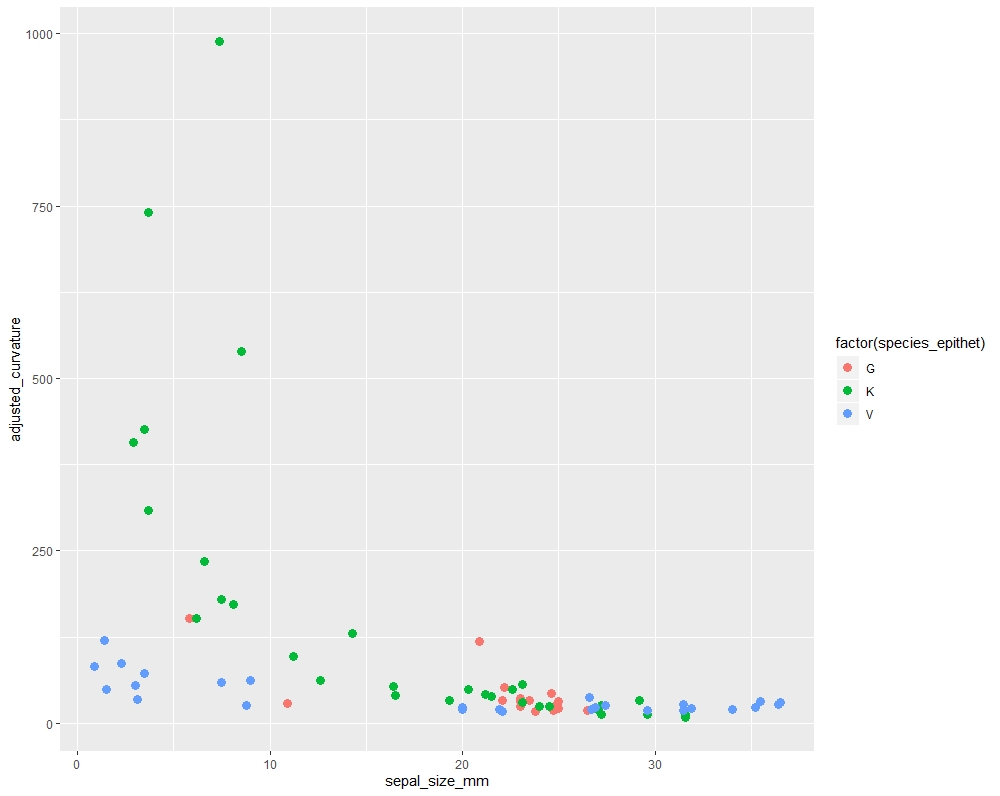


Figure 10: size vs curvature

*E. koreanum* is more curved at initial stages of development:

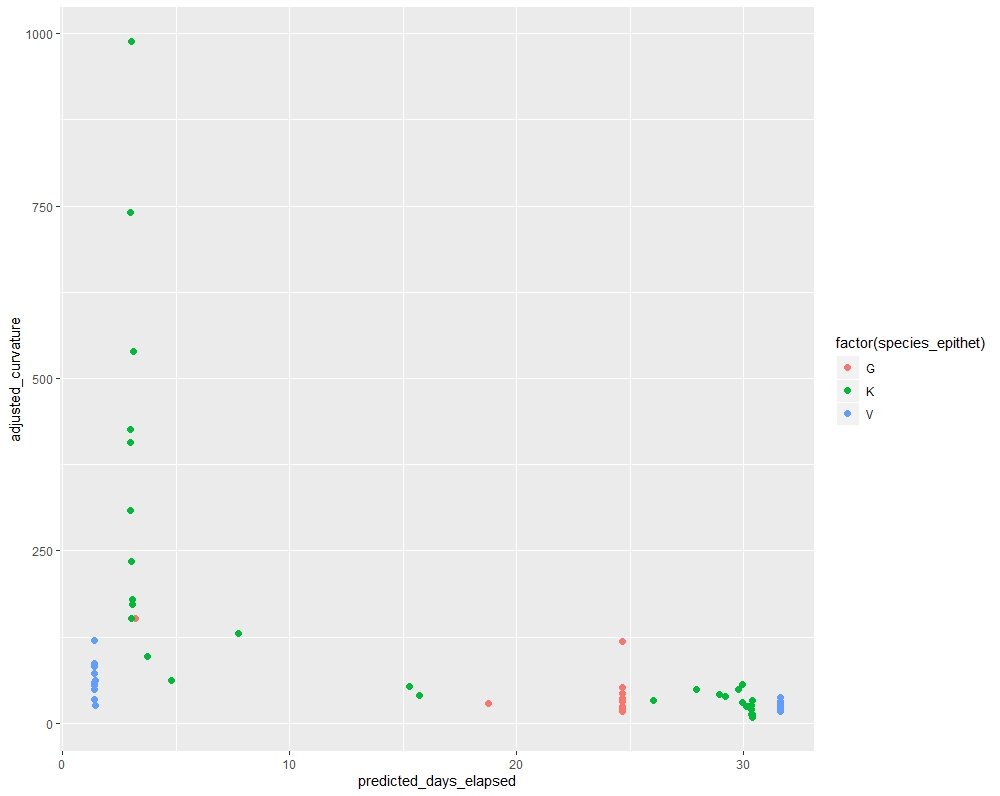


Figure 11: elapsed days vs curvature

Table 1: Summary of literature reviewed for the role of curvature in plant-pollinator systems.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Citation | System | Stated.Method..Inferred.Method. |
| feinsinger\_1978 | Community organization among neotropical nectar-feeding birds | arc:chord ratio |
| snow\_1972 | Feeding niches of hummingbirds in a Trinidad valley | qualitative |
| stiles\_1975 | Corolla morphology of Heliconia and bill morphology of nine hummingbird species at La Selva, Costa Rica. | Qualitative (e.g. ‘strongly curved, moderately curved, etc.). |
| buttrose\_1977 | Significance of curvature of style branches in Hibiscus trionum for pollination | Qualitative |
| gill\_1978 | Sunbird bill diversity and abilities to extract nectar from Kenyan Leonotis nepetifolia (Lamiaceae). | Not defined (Mandibular index): Curvature is “the ratio x/y, where x is the bill length measured from the anterior edge of the nostril and y is the maximum height above the longest chord of the bill.” |
| grant\_1983 | Hawkmoth pollination of Mirabilis longiflora (Nyctaginaceae) | qualitative |
| paton\_1989 | Correlates (Geography, Age, Sex, Tongue structure, foraging mode) of bill morphology on nectar extraction 198 hummers (and other birds). | Curvature index (Mandibular index): “Bill curvatures were defined as the maximum perpendicular height of the bottom edge of the culmen above the chord from the gape to the tip of the bill, divided by the length of this chord”. |
| muller\_1995 | curved bristles on the proboscis on European bees for the extraction of pollen. | qualitative |
| stiles\_1995 | Effects of bill morphology on insect foraging strategy by 11 species of hummingbirds at La Selva, Costa Rica. | Arc:chord ratio of exposed culmen – silhouette projected onto a screen. |
| mcintyre\_1996 | Phototropism in Helianthus and effects on cotyledon curvature | Protractor - further details not provided, presumably angle of deflection method. |
| manning\_1997 | Tangle-veined fly pollination of South African Iridaceace, Geraniaceae, Orchidaceae | qualitative |
| cotton\_1998 | Survey and description of 16 hummingbird species occurring at Amacayacu National Park, Colombia. | Qualitative |
| oritz\_2000 | Pollination and breeding system of Putoria calabrica (Rubiaceae), a Mediterranean dwarf shrub | qualitative |
| temeles\_2000 | Sexual dimorphism of bill shape in Purple-throated caribs (Eulampis jugularis), pollinatiors of Heliconia at Quilesse Reserve, Saint Lucia. | Not described, but presumably the same method as Temeles 2009, Temeles 2010. |
| borgella\_2001 | Effects of bill morphology (21 hummingbird spp.) on pollen loads (35 plant spp.) at Coto Brus, Costa Rica. | Not defined: “For species with decurved bills, we also used a ruler to measure a few bills along the curve to calculate a correction factor.” |
| temeles\_2003 | Floral curvature in Heliconia pollinated by Purple-throated caribs (Eulampis jugularis) | Not described, but presumably the same method as Temeles 2010, Temeles 2009. |
| travers\_2003 | Nectar spurs of Impatiens spp. and Ruby-throated hummingbird (Archilochus colubris) at Franklin County, Massachusetts. | “Angle at which the spur deviates from an arbitrary line drawn through the flower.” (Angle of deflection) |
| temeles\_2005 | Sexual dimorphism of bill shape in Purple-throated caribs (Eulampis jugularis), pollinatiors of Heliconia at Quilesse Reserve, Saint Lucia. | Not described, but presumably the same method as Temeles 2010, Temeles 2009. |
| collins\_2008 | Foraging efficiency from artificial and natural (15 spp.) flowers by 4 species of hummingbirds at Monteverde, Costa Rica | Paton and Collins 1989 |
| stiles\_2008 | Correlations of bill morphology to the elevational distributions of 150 spp. of hummingbirds in the Andes. | Arc:chord ratio of exposed culmen |
| young\_2008 | Selection on spur shape in Impatiens capensis | travers\_2003 |
| marten\_2009 | Testing the pollination syndrome hypothesis in Antillean Gesneriaceae. | Protractor aligned with the dorsal side of the corolla tube. (Angle of deflection) |
| temeles\_2009 | Effects of natural (Heliconia) and artificial flower morphologies on foraging performance of Purple-throated caribs (Eulampis jugularis) at Saint Lucia. | Inverse radius calculated from the angle of declension method. |
| luo\_2010 | Effects of light and low temperature on the reciprocal style curvature of Flexistylous Alpinia Species (Zingiberaceae) | angle of deflection |
| temeles\_2010 | Sexual dimorphism of bill shape in 21 species of Central and South American hummingbirds. | Inverse radius calculated from the angle of declension method. |
| berns\_2010 | Sexual dimorphism of bill shape in Black-chinned hummingbird (Archilochus alexandri) and Ruby-throated hummingbird (Archilochus colubris). | Comparison of 3 methods: Paton and Collins 1989 (maxilla), Stiles 1975 (mandible), Temeles 2009 (inverse radius). |
| berns\_2013 | Sexual dimorphism of bill shape in 219 hummingbird spp. | Geometric morphometrics (” Thin-plate spline deformation grids revealed that in these species, females have longer, more curved bills at both the tip and main body of the bill relative to the mean, while males have straighter and shorter bills and M. minima has the largest magnitude of sexual shape dimorphism” – used GeoMorphometrics but in the end resort to just saying that the deformations of the spline ‘look different’.) |
| wang\_2013 | Pollinators and nectar robbers cause directional selection for large spur circle in Impatiens oxyanthera (Balsaminaceae) | angle of deflection |
| maglianesi\_2014 | Trait matching and resource use in a plant-hummingbird network, La Selva, Costa Rica. | Angle of deflection |
| rico\_2014 | Bills as weapons in lekking Phaethornis longirostris at La Selva, Costa Rica. | Arc:chord ratio of exposed culmen. |
| alexandre\_2015 | QTL analysis comparing hummingbird pollinated and generalist Rhytidophyllum flowers (Gesneriaceae). | Angle between flower opening and flower base. |
| campos\_2015 | Generating 3D printed flowers to test efficacy of moth pollination | “Curvature parameter” |
| maglianesi\_2015\_a | Differential preferences of artificial and natural (65 spp.) flower populations visited by 3 species of hummingbird in Braulio Carrillo National Park, Costa Rica. | Angle of deflection |
| maglianesi\_2015\_b | Plant-pollinator specialization along an elevational gradient at Braulio Carrillo National Park, Costa Rica. 21 hummingbird spp. and 208 plant species examined. | Angle of deflection |
| rocha\_2015 | Auxin and physical constraint exerted by the perianth promote androgynophore bending in Passiflora mucronata L. (Passifloraceae) | Not defined, inferred to be arc:chord ratio from Methods |
| lagomarsino\_2017 | Evolution of pollination syndromes in Andean Campanulaceae. | Arc:chord ratio of corolla midline and base-to-opening line. |
| boehm\_2018 | Review of nectar robbing in Centropogon | qualitative |
| hadley\_2018 | Effects of forest fragmentation on hummingbird bill morphologies (19 spp.) representative of specialization. Coto Brus, Costa Rica. | Bill curvature was calculated as the angle between a horizontal line across the top of the bill and a line running the length of the bill. (Arc:chord ratio) |
| partida\_2018 | Spatio?temporal structure of the taxonomic and functional diversity of hummingbirds at the biosphere reserve El Triunfo, Chiapas, Mexico | Inverse radius method, cites temeles\_2009 |
| peng\_2019 | Morphospace exploration reveals divergent fitness optima between plants and pollinators | same as campos\_2015: note that the c parameter in our equation is not equivalent to the definition of curvature in mathematics |
| sonne\_2019 | Distribution of morphological specialization along an elevational gradientin Ecuador. | Arc:chord ratio of exposed culmen and corolla tubes |

Table 3: Elapsed days per stage for three Epimedium species.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Species | C.Stage | G.Stage | T.Stage | A.Stage |
| E. grandiflorum | NA | 7.01 +/- 0.45 days | 10.9 +/- 0.20 days | 14.7 +/- 0.20 days |
| E. koreanum | 8.31 +/- 0.40 days | 14.3 +/- 0.20 days | 17.1 +/- 0.20 days | 20.6 +/- 0.30 days |
| E. violaceum | 8.27 +/- 0.40 days | 12.0 +/- 0.20 days | 14.1 +/- 0.20 days | 16.7 +/- 0.30 days |

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