# Relationships between floral characters, pollination mechanisms, life forms, and habitats in Araceae

MATHIEU CHOUTEAU<sup>1</sup>, MARC GIBERNAU<sup>2\*</sup> and DENIS BARABÉ<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institut de Recherche en Biologie Végétale, Université de Montréal, Jardin Botanique de Montréal, 4101 Rue Sherbrooke Est, Montréal, QC, Canada H1X 2B2 <sup>2</sup>Université Paul Sabatier, Laboratoire d'Evolution et Diversité Biologique (UMR 5174), Bâtiment 4R3-B2, 31062 Toulouse Cedex 9, France

Received 15 May 2006; accepted for publication 27 September 2007

The floral traits of the inflorescences of angiosperms have coevolved to ensure and maximize pollination success. Other factors believed to influence floral architecture are external (for example, ecological) to the inflorescence. In order to understand the relationships between such factors and floral characters, 12 floral traits were measured in 54 species of Araceae. An analysis was performed to determine how these traits are linked to the following: (1) self-pollination capacity; (2) life form (evergreen versus seasonally dormant); (3) climatic conditions; and (4) type of pollinator (i.e. flies, bees, or beetles). A significant difference was found between the pollen to ovule ratio of the species able to self-pollinate and those unable to self-pollinate. Evergreen and tropical aroids produced a larger number of gametes than did seasonally dormant and temperate taxa. Finally, several floral traits, such as pollen volume and number, number of female flowers, and flower sexual type (unisexual or bisexual), showed clear differences between the three pollinator types. Variations in floral traits between the different life forms and climatic conditions are discussed with respect to pollination efficiency and properties of the growing season. The pollen to ovule ratio cannot be considered as an accurate indicator of breeding systems in aroids because of the particular pollination ecology of the family. © 2008 The Linnean Society of London, *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*, 2008, **156**, 29–42.

ADDITIONAL KEYWORDS: bee – beetle – climatic conditions – fly pollination – life cycle – pollen to ovule ratio – pollination syndrome.

### INTRODUCTION

Angiosperms have evolved a complex reproductive structure (i.e. the flower) which functionally ensures their reproduction. Floral architecture is directly linked to pollination, and therefore presents characters which have coevolved in order to ensure and maximize pollen transfer right up to the ovule (reviewed in Cruden, 2000) and, thus, the probability of reproduction (Cruden, 2000; Fenster *et al.*, 2004). The relationship between floral characters and breeding system has been studied extensively (reviewed in Cruden, 2000), but other factors not physically linked to the inflorescence (i.e. external to the inflorescence)

\*Corresponding author. E-mail: gibernau@cict.fr

may also influence the floral architecture. Such external (for example, ecological) factors include, for example, pollinator types, life form, and habitats. However, contrary to the 'internal' relationships (i.e. within the inflorescence) between the floral characters, these external relationships have rarely been properly studied in angiosperms at the family level (Raven, 1979; Plitmann & Levin, 1990; Ramirez & Seres, 1994; Jürgens, Witt & Gottsberger, 2002; Chouteau, Barabé & Gibernau, 2006a).

After studying 80 different species, Cruden (1977) concluded that the pollen to ovule (P/O) ratio was related to the plant breeding system and pollination efficiency: 'The more efficient the transfer of pollen is, the lower the P/O should be' (Cruden, 1977). Some recent studies have more or less confirmed the

relationship between the P/O ratio, the breeding system, and pollination efficiency (Schoen, 1977; Lord, 1980; Wyatt, 1984; Campbell, Famous & Zuck, 1986; Philbrick & Anderson, 1987; Ritland & Ritland, 1989; Plitmann & Levin, 1990; Mione & Anderson, 1992; Lopez et al., 1999; Jürgens et al., 2002; Wang, Zhang & Chen, 2004; Wang et al., 2005), whereas others have not found any such relationship (Gallardo, Dominiguez & Munoz, 1994; Ramirez & Seres, 1994; Wyatt, Broyles & Lipow, 2000; Chouteau et al., 2006a; Chouteau, Barabé & Gibernau, 2006b). These studies also mentioned the existence of factors, such as habitat, pollen vectors, and pollination mechanisms, which could influence floral morphology and the P/O ratio, but such factors were never tested (Small, 1988; Cruden, 2000; Jürgens et al., 2002; Chouteau et al., 2006a). According to Cruden (2000), variations in floral traits reflect variations in pollinator efficiency in different habitats. Such variations in the P/O ratio and floral traits for a given pollinator have been documented (Plitmann & Levin, 1990; Ramirez & Seres, 1994). In addition, factors as diverse as arboreal or terrestrial habits and perennial or annual life cycles seem to be important for an understanding of the floral architecture and the ranges of the P/O ratio in relation to the breeding system (Raven, 1979; Plitmann & Levin, 1990; Ramirez & Seres, 1994; Jürgens et al., 2002; Chouteau et al., 2006a). In this study, such factors are investigated in the Araceae.

The Araceae comprises 107 genera and more than 3300 species (Mayo, Bogner & Boyce, 1997). Two main types of inflorescence can be found in this family: (1) those with only bisexual flowers, represented by the genus *Anthurium*; and (2) those with unisexual flowers, represented by the genus *Philodendron*.

For inflorescences of the Anthurium type, there is no spatial pattern as bisexual flowers are present all along the inflorescence. For inflorescences of the *Philodendron* type, the female flowers are located in the lower portion and the male flowers in the upper portion. An intermediate zone of sterile male flowers is present in certain genera (for example, Caladium, Philodendron), and, in others, a terminal appendix without flowers (for example, Arum) is present above the male flowers, which has diverse functions, such as odour and heat production (Vogel & Martens, 2000). Aroids are present on all continents between the latitudes 50°N and 35°S (Mayo et al., 1997). They can be epiphytic, hemi-epiphytic, terrestrial, geophytic, helophytic, or free-floating plants; they can be evergreen or seasonally dormant (Mayo et al., 1997). Pollination is mainly accomplished by insect vectors as diverse as beetles, bees, and flies (Gibernau, 2003).

To date, the relationships between breeding system and floral characters in aroids have been studied at the intragenus level only for *Anthurium* and *Philo*- dendron (Chouteau et al., 2006b). These studies did not show any relationship between the P/O ratio and breeding system, and it is believed that the P/O ratio is not an indicator of breeding system at this level for aroids (Chouteau et al., 2006b). The only study available at the family level (Chouteau et al., 2006a), conducted on a limited number of species (for example, nine French Guianese aroids), clearly showed a relationship between the P/O ratio and the breeding system opposite to the findings of Cruden (1977). In addition, in Araceae, it is thought that a link exists between the P/O ratio and the type of pollination mechanism, habitat, and growth mode. Terrestrial, helophytic, and geophytic species have higher P/O ratios than hemi-epiphytic species (Chouteau et al., 2006a).

In order to understand floral architecture in relation to certain ecological factors external to the inflorescence, the following questions were addressed: (1) are the P/O ratio and self-pollination linked in aroids at the family level?; (2) are floral traits influenced by life form?; (3) are floral traits influenced by climatic zone?; (4) do floral traits and the P/O ratio vary in relation to pollinator type (for example, pollination syndromes)?

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

This study was conducted on 54 species belonging to 32 genera of Araceae sampled from the living collections of the Montreal and Missouri Botanical Gardens and the Montreal Biodôme, as well as from the field in French Guiana (see Appendix). The species listed in Table 1 were sampled during their flowering period. Voucher specimens were deposited at the Marie-Victorin Herbarium (MT).

For species with unisexual flowers, inflorescences were collected during the first day of the flowering cycle, when the spathe is open but before the pollen is released. For each inflorescence, the total numbers of female, male, and bisexual flowers were counted; however, in some cases when the male flowers could not be isolated, the total number of male flowers was estimated. To estimate the number of male flowers, a 5 mm slice was cut in the middle of the male zone and the number of stamens over its entire surface was counted. The total number of stamens was obtained by multiplying the number of stamens on the slice by the total length of the male zone and dividing by five. The male zone was considered to be a cylinder and its height was measured with a digital calliper (±0.01 mm). The total number of male flowers was determined by dividing the total number of stamens on the inflorescence by the mean number of stamens per flower counted on 30 flowers from three separate

Table 1. Climatic region, life form, growth mode, pollinator, floral traits measured, and self-pollination capacity for 54 aroid species in 32 genera

	Climatic region	: Life form	Growth mode	Pollinator	Stigma area per flower $(mm^2)$ $N \ge 30$	Pollen grain volume $(im^3)$ $N \ge 30$	Male flower number per inflorescence $N \ge 3$	Female flower number per inflorescence $N \ge 3$	Pollen grain number per male flower $N \ge 27$	Pollen grain number per inflorescence $N \ge 3$	Ovule number per flower $N \ge 30$	Ovule number per inflorescence N ≥ 3	P/O ratio of inflorescence $N \ge 3$	Self- pollination capacity
Alocasia sp. Alocasia macrorhizos (L.)	Trop Trop	되되	БÐ	Fly Fly	$3.14 \pm 0.43$ $1.68 \pm 0.05$	22 449* 33 944 ± 1 973	$153 \pm 11$ $162 \pm 23$	$51 \pm 2$ 110 ± 15	$\begin{array}{c} 11 \\ 399 \\ \pm 3482 \\ 47 \\ 310 \\ \pm 5591 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 1 \ 739 \ 446 \ \pm \ 6 \ 599 \\ 7 \ 679 \ 920 \ \pm \ 1 \ 266 \ 074 \end{array}$	$9.3 \pm 0.9$ 11.8 $\pm 0.7$	$459 \pm 25$ 1 303 ± 201	$3\ 795 \pm 196$ $5\ 885 \pm 98$	No
G. Don Alocasia portei Schott Anaphyllopsis americana	Trop Trop	ы v	н	Fly	$1.93 \pm 0.49$ $0.29 \pm 0.01$	$\begin{array}{c} 45 \ 293 \pm 6 \ 595 \\ 14 \ 847 \pm 2 \ 405 \end{array}$	$491 \pm 33$ 129 $\pm 30$	$111 \pm 11$ $129 \pm 30$	$18 \ 910 \pm 4 \ 240 \\106 \ 324 \pm 34 \ 724$	$\begin{array}{c} 9 \ 257 \ 149 \ \pm \ 437 \ 165 \\ 17 \ 074 \ 965 \ \pm \ 53 \ 995 \ 780 \end{array}$	$6.3 \pm 0.6$ $1.0 \pm 0.0$	$\begin{array}{c} 707 \pm 44 \\ 129 \pm 30 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 13 \ 129 \pm 1 \ 129 \\ 106 \ 324 \pm 34 \ 724 \end{array}$	Yes No
(Engl.) A. Hay Anchomanes difformis	Trop	S	G		$0.50 \pm 0.11$	$26521^*$		$141 \pm 133$		$4\ 886\ 303 \pm 5\ 494\ 704$	$1.0 \pm 0.0$	$141 \pm 133$	$29\ 232 \pm 11\ 222$	
(Blume) Engl. Anthurium harrisii	$\operatorname{Trop}$	되	E	Bee	$1.08 \pm 0.17$	$3\ 172 \pm 794$	$369 \pm 55$	$369 \pm 55$	$35\ 488 \pm 6\ 683$	$13\ 106\ 904\pm 2\ 208\ 933$	$2.0 \pm 0.0$	$738 \pm 110$	$17\ 743 \pm 2\ 284$	No
(Grah.) G. Don Anthurium	$\operatorname{Trop}$	E	E	Bee	$0.57 \pm 0.07$	$2579 \pm 334$	$1742 \pm 326$	$1742 \pm 326$	$27\ 499 \pm 10\ 143$	$47\ 904\ 129\ \pm\ 13\ 316\ 890$	$2.0 \pm 0.0$	$3\ 484\ \pm\ 652$	$14\ 166 \pm 5\ 279$	Yes
longistamineum Engl. Anthurium	Trop	되	E	Bee	$0.33 \pm 0.05$	$6858 \pm 1233$	$2215 \pm 54$	$2215 \pm 54$	$36\ 882 \pm 3269$	$81\ 725\ 717 \pm 4\ 616\ 231$	$2.0 \pm 0.0$	4 430 ±E 108	$18\ 441 \pm 1\ 001$	Yes
schlechtendalii ssp. schlechtendalii Kunth Anubias barteri Schott Anubias heterophylla	Trop Trop	되고	нн	Beetle Beetle	$0.56 \pm 0.02$ $0.07 \pm 0.01$	7 238* 15 598*	$\begin{array}{c} 105 \pm 41 \\ 62 \pm 36 \end{array}$	$54 \pm 9$ $54 \pm 12$	55 782 ± 23 413 86 699 ± 23 685	$\begin{array}{c} 6 & 397 & 989 \\ 5 & 725 & 785 \\ 5 & 725 & 785 \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 4 & 326 \\ 564 \\ \end{array}$	$37.8 \pm 1.5$ $20.7 \pm 0.8$	$\begin{array}{c} 2 \ 060 \pm 347 \\ 1 \ 129 \pm 264 \end{array}$	$3\ 360 \pm 3\ 021$ $4\ 749 \pm 2\ 718$	No No
Engl. Arisaema dracontium	Temp	s	ŋ	Fly	$0.01 \pm 0.01$	5 575*	$27 \pm 9$	$185 \pm 37$	$47\ 832 \pm 12\ 065$	$1 \ 346 \ 202 \ \pm \ 674 \ 186$	$3.5 \pm 0.5$	$640 \pm 126$	$2\ 172 \pm 1\ 044$	
(L.) Schott Arisaema triphyllum (L.)	Temp	ŝ	Ċ	Fly	$0.62 \pm 0.01$	$8\ 768 \pm 929$	$41 \pm 7$	$68 \pm 6$	$34\ 299 \pm 6\ 207$	$1 385 094 \pm 2 910$	$5.3 \pm 0.4$	$365 \pm 38$	3793	No
Arum cylindraceum	$\operatorname{Temp}$	S	Ċ	Fly		$17\ 157^{*}$	$69 \pm 15$	$51 \pm 10$	$6\ 830 \pm 1\ 161$	$510\ 620\ \pm\ 95\ 040$	$3.8\pm0.4$	$199 \pm 39$	$2512 \pm 424$	No
Gasp. Arum italicum Mill. Arum maculatum L. Caladium bicolor (Aiton)	Temp Temp Trop	$\infty \propto \infty$	იიი	Fly Fly Beetle	<b>0.83</b> ± 0.06	17 157* 12 770* 35 494 ± 7 882	$144 \pm 26$ $106 \pm 31$ $152 \pm 43$	$52 \pm 12$ $31 \pm 11$ $194 \pm 16$	$\begin{array}{c} 7 \ 496 \pm 1 \ 109 \\ 5 \ 485 \pm 1 \ 198 \\ 7 \ 649 \pm 2 \ 577 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 1 \ 048 \ 468 \ \pm \ 260 \ 598 \\ 550 \ 345 \ \pm \ 257 \ 435 \\ 1 \ 136 \ 430 \ \pm \ 118 \ 013 \end{array}$	$5.8 \pm 1.6$ $4.8 \pm 1.4$ $8.0 \pm 0.0$	$\begin{array}{c} 311 \pm 138 \\ 161 \pm 108 \\ 1 \ 556 \pm 130 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 4 \ 221 \pm 1 \ 323 \\ 4 \ 596 \pm 1 \ 910 \\ 729 \pm 14 \end{array}$	No No No
vent. Cercestis stigmaticus NE D	$\operatorname{Trop}$	Э	HE	Beetle	$1.85 \pm 0.02$	$95\ 322\pm 3\ 824$	$221 \pm 78$	$46 \pm 10$	$11\ 087 \pm 2\ 931$	$2 409 590 \pm 632 299$	$1.0 \pm 0.0$	$46 \pm 10$	$51\ 610\pm 1\ 825$	No
Colocasia esculenta (L.) Schott	Trop	S	IJ.	Fly	$0.76 \pm 0.07$	$6\ 027 \pm 799$	$490 \pm 59$	$207 \pm 51$	$18\ 199 \pm 7\ 513$	$9\ 112\ 362 \pm 4\ 291\ 846$	$41.6\pm8.5$	$8\ 646 \pm 2\ 264$	$1\ 023 \pm 228$	No
Colocasia fallax Schott Culcasia saxatilis A.	Trop Trop	N EJ	ΩF	Fly Beetle	$0.01 \pm 0.01$ $0.48 \pm 0.04$	$27 198 \pm 4 761$ $17 157^{*}$	$165 \pm 7$ $114 \pm 17$	$\begin{array}{c} 123 \pm 9 \\ 22 \pm 4 \end{array}$	$36\ 615 \pm 3\ 974$ $13\ 932 \pm 1\ 384$	$\begin{array}{c} 6 \ 067 \ 225 \ \pm \ 753 \ 821 \\ 1 \ 599 \ 376 \ \pm \ 300 \ 207 \end{array}$	$1.0 \pm 0.0$	$3\ 782 \pm 441$ $22 \pm 4$	$1 626 \pm 389$ $72 735 \pm 381$	No No
Unev. Dieffenbachia oerstedii Schott	$\operatorname{Trop}$	Э	E	Beetle	$7.06 \pm 0.67$	$508~047^{*}$	$210 \pm 33$	$39 \pm 6$	$8\ 421 \pm 2\ 375$	$1\ 722\ 299\ \pm\ 357\ 475$	$1.0 \pm 0.0$	$39 \pm 6$	$45\ 577 \pm 14\ 878$	Yes
Dieffenbachia seguine	Trop	田	L	Beetle		$258 154^{*}$	$286 \pm 47$	$39 \pm 6$	$9\ 788 \pm 1\ 379$	$2\ 754\ 300\ \pm\ 205\ 628$	$2.2 \pm 0.1$	$85 \pm 18$	$33\ 276\pm 6\ 453$	Yes
Dracontium polyphyllum	$\operatorname{Trop}$	s	ŋ	Fly	$0.38 \pm 0.03$	$11 \ 312 \pm 4 \ 243$	$127 \pm 8$	$127 \pm 8$	$138\ 632\pm 60\ 282$	$21\ 111\ 163 \pm 3\ 360\ 695$	$3.0 \pm 0.0$	$381 \pm 25$	$55\ 238\pm 5\ 130$	No
Dracunculus vulgaris Schott	$\operatorname{Trop}$	$\infty$	Ċ	Fly	$0.63 \pm 0.12$	$47~712^{*}$		$211 \pm 110$		$3\ 546\ 327\ \pm\ 2\ 092\ 984$	$3.9 \pm 0.3$	$844 \pm 441$	$4\ 116 \pm 327$	
Gonatopus angustus NF B+	Trop	ß	G		$2.26 \pm 0.09$	$229~847^{*}$	49	40	$4\ 499 \pm 436$	220 451	$2.0 \pm 0.0$	80	2 756	No
Gonatopus boivinii	Trop	ß	G		$1.76 \pm 0.13$	$229~847^{*}$	$195 \pm 19$	$101 \pm 2$	$3\ 192 \pm 1\ 282$	$677\ 820\pm 20\ 858$	$2.0 \pm 0.0$	$202 \pm 5$	$3\ 345 \pm 96$	
(Decue.) mug. Homalomena rubescens	$\operatorname{Trop}$	囝	Т		$1.34 \pm 0.06$	$3\ 156 \pm 1\ 469$	$563 \pm 5$	$135 \pm 20$	$40\ 565 \pm 9\ 410$	$22 \ 855 \ 411 \pm 3 \ 732 \ 359$	$39.7 \pm 3.2$	$10\ 907 \pm 836$	$2\ 114 \pm 504$	No
мипи Homalomena philippinensis Engl.†	Trop	되	Т		$0.12 \pm 0.01$	3.053*	125	66	$1\;300\pm225$	162 557	$55.0 \pm 1.0$	3630	44	

© 2008 The Linnean Society of London, Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society, 2008, 156, 29-42

Table 1. Continued

	Climati region	c Life form	Growth mode	Pollinator	Stigma area per flower $(mm^2)$ $N \ge 30$	Pollen grain volume $(m^3)$ $N \ge 30$	Male flower number per inflorescence $N \ge 3$	Female flower number per inflorescence $N \ge 3$	Pollen grain number per male flower $N \ge 27$	Pollen grain number per inflorescence $N \ge 3$	Ovule number ( per flower p $N \ge 30$ /	yvule number er inflørescence I ≥ 3	P/O ratio of inflorescence $N \ge 3$	Self- sollination apacity
Monstera adansonii Schott Montrichardia arborescens (L.)	Trop Trop	되되	HE H	Bee Beetle	$0.57 \pm 0.05$ 11.16 $\pm 0.22$	$51\ 870 \pm 10\ 621 \\720\ 667 \pm 129\ 288$	230 ± 44 448 ± 118	230 ± 44 73 ± 12	$57 203 \pm 8 289 \\19 445 \pm 5 316$	12 985 938 ± 219 9319 8 727 761 ± 3 394 104	$4.0 \pm 0.0 = 5$ $1.0 \pm 0.0 = 7$	$22 \pm 179$ $3 \pm 12$	$14\ 300 \pm 2072 \\ 119\ 020 \pm 42\ 929$	Vo řes
Schott Montrichardia linifera (Arruda)	Trop	E	Н	Beetle		$434\ 892^{*}$	$649 \pm 36$	$122 \pm 22$	$17\ 251 \pm 8\ 292$	$11\ 397\ 606\pm 5\ 920\ 738$	$1.0 \pm 0.0$	$122 \pm 22$	92 355 ± 45 682	
Schott Peltandra virginica (L.) Schott Philodendron erubescens C. Koch	Temp Trop	ΩЫ	H HE	Fly Beetle	$0.57 \pm 0.02$ 1.04 $\pm 0.12$	$\begin{array}{c} 11 \ 494^{*} \\ 63 \ 218 \pm 11 \ 383 \end{array}$	$185 \pm 13$ $765 \pm 40$	$43 \pm 21$ 775 $\pm 129$	$\begin{array}{c} 19 \ 666 \pm 5 \ 630 \\ 7 \ 054 \pm 3 \ 471 \end{array}$	$3 \ 656 \ 094 \pm 491 \ 645$ $5 \ 331 \ 093 \pm 2 \ 265 \ 953$	$3.2 \pm 0.4$ $15.7 \pm 0.9$ 1	$142 \pm 74$ 2 234 ± 2806	$\begin{array}{c} 28 \ 744 \pm 11 \ 568 \\ 469 \pm 292 \end{array}$	40 VO
& Augustin Philodendron pedatum Kunth Philodendron squamiferum	Trop Trop	되되	HE HE	Beetle Beetle	$1.28 \pm 0.09$ $1.06 \pm 0.54$	$\begin{array}{c} 83 \ 061 \pm 39 \ 695 \\ 47 \ 680 \pm 26 \ 117 \end{array}$	$964 \pm 356$ 1258 $\pm 345$	$1060 \pm 76$ $641 \pm 36$	$\begin{array}{c} 17 \ 359 \pm 7 \ 656 \\ 14 \ 679 \pm 4 \ 450 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 17 \ 840 \ 873 \pm 1 \ 162 \ 0431 \\ 17 \ 768 \ 841 \pm 90 \ 404 \end{array}$	$34.1 \pm 2.0 = 32.4 = 1$	$6 148 \pm 3163 6 478 \pm 1231$	$484 \pm 297$ 1 081 ± 86	40 40
Pinellia tripartita (Blume) Schott Pistia stratiotes L.	Temp Trop	S E S	EF 2	Fly	$0.017 \pm 0.01$ $1.61 \pm 0.17$	12 770* 10 305*	$1 \pm 0$	$\begin{array}{c} 67 \pm 8 \\ 1 \pm 0 \end{array}$	$\frac{2}{2}$ 033 ± 1 464	$856\ 848 \pm 5\ 159$ $2\ 033 \pm 1464$	$1.0 \pm 0.0$ $22.3 \pm 1.5$	$67 \pm 8$ 22 ± 1	$6\ 443 \pm 777$ $90 \pm 66$	۲o
Pseudodracontum fallax Serebr. Rhaphidophora schottii Hook† Spathiphyllum friedrichsthalii	Trop Trop Trop	N EI EI	$_{ m T}^{ m G}$	Beetle Bee	$\begin{array}{c} 0.50 \pm 0.05 \\ 0.19 \pm 0.02 \\ 0.77 \pm 0.07 \end{array}$	$57\ 905^{*}$ 18 816 <sup>*</sup> 10 865 ± 929	$94 \pm 5$ 991 $171 \pm 32$	$\begin{array}{c} 95 \pm 33 \\ 991 \\ 171 \pm 32 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 17 \ 582 \pm 3 \ 049 \\ 98 \ 766 \pm 7 \ 750 \\ 25 \ 932 \pm 9 \ 602 \end{array}$	$1 671 158 \pm 251 408 \\97 877 106 \\4 545 879 \pm 1 851 630$	$1.0 \pm 0.0$ $1.0 \pm 0.0$ $9.0 \pm 0.0$	$94 \pm 33$ 991 $1539 \pm 296$	$18\ 642 \pm 3942 \\ 98\ 766 \\ 2\ 881 \pm 833 \\ 2\ 833$	Чо
Schott Spathiphyllum patinii (Mast.) M.P. D.	Trop	Э	Т	Bee	$0.64\pm0.06$	$18\ 470 \pm 1\ 266$	$118 \pm 12$	$118 \pm 12$	$21 \ 987 \pm 10 \ 934$	$2\ 598\ 082\pm1\ 292\ 262$	$9.0 \pm 0.0$	$1065 \pm 109$	$2467\pm1211$	Vo
N.E. Br. Spathiphyllum wallisii Regel Stenospermation longipetiolatum	Trop Trop	되되	ΕŢ	Bee	$\begin{array}{c} 0.56 \pm 0.11 \\ 0.77 \pm 0.05 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 12 \ 198 \pm 865 \\ 75 \ 123 \pm 11 \ 638 \end{array}$	$126 \pm 31$ $179 \pm 5$	$126 \pm 31$ $179 \pm 4$	$\begin{array}{c} 38 \ 455 \pm 7 \ 213 \\ 2 \ 599 \pm 433 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 4 \ 917 \ 462 \ \pm \ 1 \ 774 \ 087 \\ 465 \ 291 \ \pm \ 63 \ 295 \end{array}$	$9.0 \pm 0.0$ $5.4 \pm 0.5$	$1141 \pm 279$ $969 \pm 26$	$4\ 235 \pm 892$ $481 \pm 78$	Ko Ko
Engl. Stenospermation sessile Engl.† Synandrospadix vermitoxicus	Trop Trop	El N	E C		$0.50 \pm 0.03$ $0.19 \pm 0.04$	$38\ 792^*$ $61\ 600^*$	206 275	206 28	$9 \ 399 \pm 721$ 16 466 $\pm 2 \ 106$	$\begin{array}{c} 2 \ 609 \ 196 \\ 4 \ 528 \ 150 \end{array}$	$4.0 \pm 0.0$ $4.0 \pm 0.0$	824 112	3166 40 429	Ϋ́ο
(Gruseb.) Engl.7 Syngonium angustatum Schott Syngonium auritum (L.) Schott Syngonium ruizii Schott Syngonium schottianum H.	Trop Trop Trop Trop	되되되되	HE HE HE	Beetle Beetle Beetle Beetle	$\begin{array}{c} 0.53 \pm 0.01 \\ 6.22 \pm 0.77 \\ 0.78 \pm 0.11 \\ 10.06 \pm 1.32 \end{array}$	$76\ 335 \pm 5\ 819 \\ 27\ 012 \pm 4\ 052 \\ 47\ 712^* \\ 220\ 893^*$	$158 \pm 32 \\ 554 \pm 222 \\ 75 \pm 19 \\ 868$	$52 \pm 4$ $91 \pm 26$ $353 \pm 49$ 173	$\begin{array}{c} 12 \ 799 \pm 4 \ 823 \\ 70 \ 541 \pm 14 \ 704 \\ 8 \ 090 \pm 3 \ 175 \\ 17 \ 933 \pm 3 \ 564 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 2 \ 111 \ 784 \pm 1 \ 287 \ 717 \\ 39 \ 737 \ 310 \pm 18 \ 838 \ 639 \\ 594 \ 886 \pm 4729 \\ 15 \ 853 \ 152 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 2.0 \pm 0.0 \\ 1.0 \pm 0.0 \\ 4.0 \pm 0.0 \\ 2.0 \pm 0.0 \end{array}$	$104 \pm 8 \\91 \pm 26 \\1413 \pm 197 \\346$	$19 866 \pm 10 760 \\ 42 2107 \pm 85 191 \\ 428 \pm 70 \\ 45 818$	Vo Vo
Wendl. ex Schott† Typhonium trilobatum (L.) Schott Typhonium violifolium Gagnep. Xanthosoma conspurcatum	Trop Trop	$\infty \propto \infty$	იიი	Beetle Beetle Beetle	$\begin{array}{c} 0.12 \pm 0.01 \\ 0.19 \pm 0.03 \\ 0.78 \pm 0.08 \end{array}$	24 429* 17 157* 38 792*	103	$174 \pm 16$ $16 \pm 2$ 76	8 865 ± 737	$837\ 676 \pm 189\ 880$ $234\ 064 \pm 50\ 668$ $913\ 095$	$\begin{array}{c} 1.0 \pm 0.0 \\ 1.0 \pm 0.0 \\ 1.0 \pm 0.0 \\ 16.6 \pm 0.9 \end{array}$	$174 \pm 16$ $16 \pm 2$ 1261	$\begin{array}{c} 4 \ 783 \pm 624 \\ 15 \ 210 \pm 5 \ 293 \\ 723 \end{array}$	Чо
Schott† Zamioculcas zamiifolia (Lodd.) Educio	Trop	s	G		$2.59 \pm 0.24$	145 683 ± 43 782	$94 \pm 14$	$50 \pm 6$	$5 415 \pm 376$	$513\ 985\pm109\ 275$	$2.0 \pm 0.0$	$101 \pm 12$	$5\ 060 \pm 444$	Чо
Engl. Zomicarpella amazonica Bogner	Trop	E	Ċ		$0.07 \pm 0.01$	$3591^*$		8 ± 1		$273\ 891 \pm 19\ 952$	$3.5 \pm 0.5$	$28 \pm 1$	$9\ 607 \pm 466$	
Climatic region: Temp, helophyte; HE, hemi-ep *Obtained from Grayun †Smaller sampling: N ≤	tempe iphyte n's (19	rate; ; T, 92) ( ores	; Trop, terres: data o cences	, tropics trial. n poller s.	ıl. Life for diameter	m: E, evergre : (see 'Materi	en; S, sea al and me	asonally d	ormant. Gr	owth mode: E, epi	phyte; F	F, free-float	ing; G, geoph	yte; H,

© 2008 The Linnean Society of London, Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society, 2008, 156, 29-42

inflorescences. As merosity in unisexual flowers usually varies, the number of stamens per flower can also vary.

For species with bisexual flowers, inflorescences were collected on the first day of pollen release. In the case of *Monstera* and *Stenospermation*, which have a short flowering cycle of approximately 7 days (Chouteau *et al.*, 2006a), the inflorescences were collected just after the spathe had opened. For all these species, the total number of flowers was determined by counting all the flowers individually.

For both types of inflorescence, the number of ovules per flower was estimated by counting the number of locules on ten flowers and the number of ovules per locule for ten locules for each inflorescence collected. The ovule number per inflorescence was obtained by multiplying the mean number of ovules per flower by the mean number of flowers per inflorescence bearing ovules.

To estimate the number of pollen grains per inflorescence, three groups of five stamens were collected on inflorescences with flowers that could not be isolated and three groups of one flower on inflorescences with flowers that could be isolated. Each group of stamens or each flower was dissolved in 300  $\mu$ L of 95% sulphuric acid for 5 days at 24 °C. The solution was then homogenized, and 1  $\mu$ L was collected and carefully placed on a microscope slide. The number of pollen grains was counted for three independent replicates of 1  $\mu$ L.

When three groups of five stamens were used, the total number of pollen grains per flower was obtained by multiplying the mean of the triplicate count by 300, dividing the result by five, and multiplying that by the number of stamens per flower. When three groups of one flower were used, the number of pollen grains per flower was obtained by multiplying the mean of the triplicate by 300. A complete pollen count was performed in triplicate for each inflorescence  $(3 \times 5 \text{ stamens or } 3 \times 1 \text{ flower per inflorescence}).$ Standard deviations were calculated using the total number of pollen counts (generally N = 9) of the same species. The number of pollen grains per inflorescence was obtained by multiplying the mean number of pollen grains per flower by the mean number of flowers bearing pollen. In the same way, the pollen grain volume per inflorescence was obtained by multiplying the mean number of pollen grains per inflorescence by the mean pollen volume of the species concerned (see below). The size of the pollen grains was estimated by measuring the diameter of the polar and equatorial axes of the grains from dehisced anthers. Measurements were made with an ocular micrometer at  $\times 630$ . The volume of a single pollen grain was estimated using the formula  $\pi PE^2/6$ (Harder, 1998), where P is the polar axis diameter and *E* is the equatorial axis diameter. Generally, ten pollen grains per inflorescence were measured from three independent inflorescences (generally N = 30). In addition, for a few species listed in Table 1, the pollen grain volume was estimated using Grayum's (1992) data on pollen diameter and applying the formula  $(4/3)\pi(D/2)^3$ , where *D* is the diameter.

The P/O ratio was calculated for the inflorescence by dividing the mean number of pollen grains per inflorescence by the mean number of ovules per inflorescence. For the dioecious *Arisaema triphyllum*, the P/O ratio was calculated by dividing the mean number of pollen grains per inflorescence of plants with male flowers by the mean ovule number per inflorescence of plants with female flowers. For all species, standard deviations were calculated using all the inflorescences from the same species (generally N = 3).

For each inflorescence studied, the stigma area (estimated as a circle) of ten flowers was calculated using the diameter (0.01 mm resolution) of the stigmas measured at ×20 magnification under a dissecting microscope equipped with an ocular micrometer and the formula  $\pi D^2/4$ , where D is the measured diameter. To obtain the total stigmatic area of the inflorescences, the mean stigma area was multiplied by the mean number of flowers bearing stigmas for each species. When inflorescences bore fewer than ten female flowers, all the stigmas were measured.

A minimum of three inflorescences per species (Table 1) were bagged at the bud stage. After anthesis, if at least one inflorescence had set fruit, the species was considered to be potentially selfpollinating; if all the inflorescences withered without producing seeds, the species was considered to be unable to self-pollinate. These qualitative observations indicate only the potential for self-pollination rather than quantitative measurement.

The life form, growth mode, and climatic region were obtained using Mayo et al. (1997) and from personal observations. Species are considered to be seasonally dormant (seasonal) when they have a dormant stage each year associated with the loss of the aerial vegetative system, whereas evergreen species lose dormancy and the aerial vegetative system is present all year around. For the growth mode, species were categorized as epiphytic (nonparasitic plants growing on another plant and without having roots in contact with the ground at any moment during their life), hemi-epiphytic (plants growing on a host plant and having feeder roots in contact with the ground), terrestrial (plants which grow on the ground and lack subterranean stems), geophytic (plants having subterranean stems, implying a tuber or rhizome), helophytic (marsh or swamp plants growing in flooded ground with the foliage

above the water), or free-floating (aquatic plants floating above the water without any anchor roots). Finally, the species were divided into two climatic regions: temperate and tropical (including subtropical, tropical, and equatorial regions).

t-test analyses were used to determine differences between groups for the variable measured (selfpollination capacity, life form, climatic zone, and growth mode) for all the species studied (SPSS 11.0.0, 2001). Differences in floral traits between the different types of pollinator were tested using analysis of variance (ANOVA) (Systat 8.0, 1998). Prior to the analysis, the P/O ratios were logarithmically transformed and the numbers of ovules were square-root transformed. In order to study the relationships between certain measured floral traits and the type of pollinating insect, a stepwise backward discriminant analysis was performed (Systat 8.0, 1998). The analysis was conducted for three types of pollinating insect (grouping variable) - bee, beetle, and fly - according to the data available in the literature (for a review, see Gibernau, 2003). Twenty species were coded as beetle-pollinated, 13 as fly-pollinated, seven as beepollinated, and 14 as unknown (see Table 1). Species with unknown pollinator types were used as complementary data and, after analysis, were classified into one of the three defined groups. The 12 floral traits (variables) available for all species were selected in order to test any discrimination between the three pollinator groups: flower stigma area, stigma per inflorescence, mean volume of a pollen grain, pollen volume per inflorescence, pollen number per inflorescence, number of ovules per flower and per inflorescence, P/O ratio, number of female flowers, sexual type of the flower, growth mode, and life form.

#### RESULTS

Table 1 summarizes the floral traits, climatic region, life form, growth mode, pollinator type, and capacity for self-pollination for 54 species of aroids. Of the species studied, 41 had unisexually flowered inflorescences and 13 had bisexually flowered inflorescences. Thirty-two species were evergreen and all these were tropical or subtropical taxa with different growth modes (eight terrestrial, four helophytic, 13 hemiepiphytic, five epiphytic, one free-floating, and one geophytic). Of the 22 seasonally dormant species, all were geophytes; seven were from temperate regions with a wide range of temperature variation between summer and winter, and 15 were tropical.

#### P/O RATIO AND SELF-POLLINATION CAPACITY

Of the 39 species bagged for the self-pollination test, only six species set fruit and were therefore considered to be able to self-pollinate (Table 1). A significant difference (*t*-test:  $t_{37} = 2.182$ , P = 0.036) was found between the P/O ratio of the group potentially able to self-pollinate (mean log ± SD,  $9.89 \pm 0.55$ ) and that unable to do so (mean log ± SD,  $8.12 \pm 0.34$ ), with the latter group having a lower P/O ratio.

#### FLORAL TRAITS WITH RESPECT TO LIFE FORM

Evergreen taxa had a significantly higher volume of pollen grains per inflorescence (*t*-test:  $t_{31.49} = 2.872$ , P = 0.007) and ovule number per inflorescence ( $t_{46.37} = 2.183$ , P = 0.034) than seasonally dormant taxa (Fig. 1A, B). This was mainly a result of the higher male ( $t_{34.60} = 3.381$ , P = 0.002) and female ( $t_{32.25} = 2.699$ , P = 0.011) flower numbers per inflorescence in evergreen taxa. In addition, the stigmatic area of a single flower ( $t_{33.67} = 2.266$ , P = 0.030) and of the inflorescence ( $t_{29.68} = 3.792$ , P = 0.001) was larger in evergreen taxa compared with seasonally dormant ones (Fig. 1C). Finally, the P/O ratio was not significantly different between evergreen and seasonal taxa ( $t_{51.89} = 0.243$ , P = 0.809; Fig. 1D).

#### FLORAL TRAITS WITH RESPECT TO CLIMATIC ZONE

Because the evergreen taxa all came from tropical regions, no analysis was performed on this group. Floral trait comparisons were only performed between temperate and tropical seasonally dormant geophytic taxa (Fig. 2). Tropical geophytes (15 species) produced higher pollen volumes per grain (*t*-test:  $t_{14,19} = 2.721$ , P = 0.016) and per inflorescence  $(t_{15.09} = 4.338, P = 0.001;$  Fig. 2A), whereas the number of ovules per inflorescence was no different  $(t_{16.87} =$ 1.392, P = 0.182; Fig. 2B). They also showed a larger stigmatic area per inflorescence  $(t_{15,22} = -3.418,$ P = 0.004; Fig. 2C) than their related temperate geophytic taxa (seven species). No significant difference was found for the numbers of male  $(t_{15} = 1.396,$ P = 0.183) or female ( $t_{20} = 1.543$ , P = 0.138) flowers between tropical and temperate geophytes. Finally, the P/O ratio was not significantly different between tropical and temperate geophytes  $(t_{19.44} = -0.513)$ , P = 0.614; Fig. 2D).

No significant differences in any of the considered floral traits were found between the different growth modes in the aroid species studied, suggesting that there are no clear relationships between the measured floral traits and the different growth modes. It is noteworthy that the growth modes were not independent of climatic zones and life forms, as, in our sampling, epiphytes and hemi-epiphytes are evergreen and tropical taxa, and terrestrials and geophytes are mainly seasonally dormant and temperate



**Figure 1.** Differences in floral traits between evergreen and seasonally dormant taxa in the aroids studied. Means and 95% confidence intervals: A, pollen volume per inflorescence; B, ovule number per inflorescence; C, stigmatic area of inflorescence; D, pollen to ovule ratio.

taxa. More data are needed to study further the influence of this character on floral traits.

### FLORAL TRAITS WITH RESPECT TO POLLINATOR TYPE

The stepwise backward discriminant analysis held back five variables, although certain other variables showed significant differences between pollinator types (Table 2): pollen volume per inflorescence, pollen number per inflorescence, number of female flowers, sexual type of the flower, and life form. The jackknifed classification matrix resulted in a total of 80% of the data being correctly classified (75% for beetle pollination, 77% for fly pollination, and 100% for bee pollination). The eigenvalues for the two axes were 14.60 and 0.52, respectively, with the corresponding canonical correlations of 0.97 and 0.59. Wilks' lambda test was significant (Wilks' lambda = 0.042,  $P < 10^{-4}$ ). The standardized canonical discriminant functions for each variable are presented in Table 3. The three pollinator groups are very distinct with no overlap (see Fig. 3), but some species were misclassified (see below). The beepollinated group is characterized by species with bisexual flowers, an evergreen life form, and a large number of gynoecia (see Table 2). Beetle-pollinated species are characterized by a high pollen volume per inflorescence, a medium number of female flowers, and almost always bear unisexual flowers (see Table 2). Fly pollination is associated with species with low female flower numbers and a relatively small number of pollen grains per inflorescence (see Table 2).

Species classification is now considered according to pollinator type. Some species were misclassified: eight of 40. Four beetle-pollinated species were classified amongst fly-pollinated species, namely *Typhonium trilobatum*, *Typhonium violifolium*, *Caladium bicolor*, and *Xanthosoma conspurcatum* (see Fig. 3). Conversely, the three *Alocasia* fly-pollinated species were classified amongst beetle-pollinated species (see Fig. 3). The fly-pollinated *Dracontium polyphyllum* 



Figure 2. Differences in floral traits between the temperate and tropical seasonally dormant aroids studied. Means and 95% confidence intervals: A, pollen volume per inflorescence; B, ovule number per inflorescence; C, stigmatic area of inflorescence; D, pollen to ovule ratio.

was classified as bee-pollinated, close to Anaphyllopsis americana, an 'unknown taxon', but clearly stands in an intermediate position between fly- and beepollinated groups (see Fig. 3). The other species with unknown pollinators were tentatively classified as follows: the two Stenospermation species were considered to be bee-pollinated; the two Homalomena species, Pistia stratiotes and Zomicarpella amazonica, were classified as beetle-pollinated; and Synandrospadix vermitoxicus, Pseudodracontium fallax, the two Gonatopus species, and Zamioculcas zamiifolia were considered to be fly-pollinated (Fig. 3). The two Gonatopus species appear to be marginally separate (like Zamioculcas zamiifolia) from the other flypollinated species (Fig. 3). It should be noted that the classifications of the unknown species were not tested during the discriminant analysis, and thus must be considered as hypotheses to be validated in the field.

The P/O ratio was much higher in beetle-pollinated species (mean: 51 657) than in fly- (mean: 9807) and

bee-pollinated (mean: 10 605) species, but these differences were not significant (Table 2). Pollen grain volume in relation to pollinator class displayed the same type of difference, with the pollen volume of beetle-pollinated species being significantly larger (mean: 123 595  $\mu$ m<sup>3</sup>) than that of related fly- (mean: 19 973  $\mu$ m<sup>3</sup>) and bee-pollinated (mean: 15 145  $\mu$ m<sup>3</sup>) species (Table 2). In the same way, the flower stigma surface was significantly larger in beetle-pollinated species (mean: 3.06 mm<sup>2</sup>) than in fly- (mean: 0.85 mm<sup>2</sup>) or bee-pollinated (mean: 0.65 mm<sup>2</sup>) taxa (Table 2).

### DISCUSSION

#### P/O RATIO AND BREEDING SYSTEM

Aroids seem to be a family whose inflorescences are adapted for out-breeding. Of all the species studied, only six showed an ability to self-pollinate. This result

Floral character	Beetle pollination $(N = 20)$	Fly pollination $(N = 14)$	Bee pollination $(N = 7)$	Statistic values $F_{2,38}$
Flower stigma area	$3.06 \pm 0.87a$	$0.85 \pm 0.23b$	$0.65 \pm 0.09b$	3.44*
Stigma area per inflorescence	$431 \pm 115a$	$76.4 \pm 20.3b$	$453 \pm 137a$	3.84*
Mean pollen grain volume	123 595 ± 35 614a	$19\ 973 \pm 3674 b$	$15\ 144 \pm 6467b$	4.43*
Pollen volume per inflorescence	$10 \pm 3.24 \times 10^{11} a$	$1.04 \pm 0.34 \times 10^{11} b$	$2.22 \pm 1.03 \times 10^{11} \mathrm{b}$	$3.59^{*}$
Pollen number per inflorescence	$1.2\pm0.5 imes10^7$	$0.48 \pm 0.15  imes 10^7$	$2.39 \pm 1.12  imes 10^7$	2.13
Ovule number per flower	$8.89 \pm 2.67$	$9.59 \pm 3.14$	$5.28 \pm 1.34$	0.38
Ovule number per inflorescence	$3719 \pm 1962$	$1286 \pm 620$	$1903 \pm 548$	0.64
Pollen to ovule ratio	$51\ 657\ \pm\ 21\ 224$	$9807 \pm 3977$	$10\ 605\ \pm\ 2695$	1.93
Female flower number	$252 \pm 74a$	$103 \pm 16a$	$853 \pm 321b$	7.99**
Flower sexual type <sup>†</sup>	$1.95 \pm 0.05a$	$1.93 \pm 0.07a$	$1 \pm 0b$	$52.1^{***}$
Growth mode‡	$2.8 \pm 0.28a$	$1.5 \pm 0.23$ b	$4 \pm 0.38c$	$13.3^{***}$
Life form§	$1.2 \pm 0.09a$	$1.79\pm0.11\mathrm{b}$	$1 \pm 0a$	$13.5^{***}$

**Table 2.** Group means (±standard error) used in the discriminant analysis for the different floral characters according to type of pollinator

The level of significance of the analysis of variance (ANOVA) results is coded as follows: \*P < 0.05, \*\*P < 0.01, \*\*\*P < 0.001. Group means with different letters are significantly different (*post hoc* test P < 0.05). †The flower sexual type was coded: 1, bisexual; 2, unisexual.

The growth mode was coded: 1, geophyte; 2, helophyte; 3, ground; 4, hemi-epiphyte; 5, epiphyte.

§The life form was coded: 1, evergreen; 2, seasonally dormant.

 Table 3. Standardized canonical discriminant functions

 for each variable

	Avis 1	Axis 2
	11115 1	11115 2
Pollen volume per inflorescence	0.059	0.405
Pollen number per inflorescence	-1.643	0.217
Number of female flowers	0.831	0.077
Sexual type of flower	-1.555	0.164
Life form	-0.203	-0.770

is confirmed by the fact that aroid inflorescences are dichogamous, with stigmas receptive before pollen release (Mayo et al., 1997). Self-pollination in some aroids could be a mechanism for eventually ensuring fertilization when pollinator frequencies are limited. In addition, genera, such as Alocasia (Yafuso, 1993; Miyake & Yafuso, 2003; M. Chouteau, pers. observ.), Dieffenbachia (Young, 1986; Beath, 1999), and Montrichardia (Gibernau et al., 2003), which are able to self-pollinate to some degree, present distinctive traits, such as thermogenesis, odour production, nectar production, and even movements of the spathe during the flowering cycle to attract entomophilous pollinators and ensure pollination. Because selfpollination is most probably a secondary mechanism in the aroid family, the assumption that the P/O ratio reflects the breeding or the compatibility system is not found to be true in this family. As suggested by Chouteau et al. (2006a), in Araceae, a higher P/O ratio is most probably the result of a less efficient pollination mechanism, and therefore, to ensure seed production, the plant could have evolved selfpollination mechanisms.

## FLORAL TRAITS WITH RESPECT TO LIFE FORM

Little is known about floral traits with respect to life form. Jürgens *et al.* (2002) found significant differences between perennial and annual Caryophylloideae in terms of various floral traits. Perennial flowers had larger numbers of pollen grains and ovules, and greater P/O ratios, than annual flowers. In the aroids studied, there were significant differences between seasonally dormant (perennial) and evergreen taxa. Evergreen taxa may invest more resources in the male reproductive function by producing a larger number of male flowers and larger pollen volumes per inflorescence than seasonally dormant taxa (which are all geophytic). Ovule numbers per inflorescence were also higher in evergreen taxa.

Two non-exclusive main hypotheses could explain these differences between evergreen and seasonally dormant taxa.

- 1. Evergreen taxa are able to photosynthesize all year around, and therefore can acquire more resources to be invested in male and female functions than can seasonally dormant taxa.
- 2. As seasonally dormant taxa produce very few inflorescences per year (generally one per growing season), they should have more efficient pollen



**Figure 3.** Graph of the discriminant analysis with two point clouds detailed (bottom and top). Species from the same genera are grouped together. Genera names are coded by the first three to six letters of their name (see Table 1).

transfer mechanisms in order to achieve pollination, leading to a decrease in the number and/or size of flowers and/or gametes. The stigmatic area per flower and per inflorescence is much smaller in seasonally dormant taxa than in evergreen taxa, which may support the hypothesis of higher pollination efficiency (Cruden, 2000).

### FLORAL TRAITS WITH RESPECT TO CLIMATIC ZONE

Of the seasonally dormant species studied, the temperate taxa, which are true perennials, had fewer pollen grains (mostly because of smaller pollen volumes) than their related tropical taxa. The mean pollen grain number per flower of the temperate (perennial) group is consistent with data published for the Caryophylloideae (Jürgens *et al.*, 2002). However, lower ovule numbers per flower and thus a higher P/O ratio were found for Araceae than for Caryophylloideae, even though both perennial Araceae and Caryophylloideae are xenogamous (Jürgens *et al.*, 2002). In the same way, differences between evergreen and seasonally dormant taxa, with lower gamete production and smaller stigma area per inflorescence for temperate (perennial) than tropical taxa, could result from a greater efficiency in pollen transfer (Cruden, 1977, 2000), because of the harsh climatic conditions and the shortness of the flowering season in temperate latitudes. Amongst the seasonally dormant taxa, all temperate species are known to be pollinated by flies, whereas tropical species are pollinated by beetles and bees.

#### FLORAL TRAITS WITH RESPECT TO POLLINATOR TYPE

Eight of the 40 species were misclassified by the discriminant analysis, showing some mismatches between floral traits and pollinator types. In the case of *Xanthosoma conspurcatum*, a beetle-pollinated species classified amongst the fly-pollinated species, the pollen is shed in tetrads. This is very rare in the Araceae and only known from two genera: *Xantho*-

soma and Chlorospatha (Mayo et al., 1997). Consequently, if the tetrad is the functional pollen unit, the volume of Xanthosoma pollen (average of 38 798 µm<sup>3</sup>) must be multiplied by four (155 168 µm<sup>3</sup>), which is in accordance with the mean pollen volume (123 595 µm<sup>3</sup>) of beetle-pollinated species. However, in most cases, there is good correspondence between floral traits and pollinator type. The selective pressure of the different types of pollinator has led to pollination syndromes (reviewed in Fenster et al., 2004): correlation of floral traits resulting in different types of floral architecture adapted to particular groups of pollinators. A few studies dealing with the subject have focused on the P/O ratio to explain the difference in pollination efficiency of the different types of pollinator. It was found that, in a tropical cloud forest community, the P/O ratio was higher in beetle- and fly-pollinated species than in bee-, birdand bat-pollinated species (Ramirez & Seres, 1994). By contrast, no differences in P/O ratios were found amongst the species pollinated during the day (Lepidoptera, Hymenoptera, and Diptera) and nightpollinated (Lepidoptera) Caryophylloideae (Jürgens et al., 2002). Another floral trait that has been studied in relation to the pollinator is pollen grain size, which is believed to be optimal for collection and transportation by the pollinator without being lost (Wodehouse, 1935; Harder, 1998; Cruden, 2000). Our results show clearly that the P/O ratios of bee- and flypollinated species are similar, which is consistent with the literature (Cruden, 2000), suggesting that bees and flies have a similar pollination efficiency. The much higher P/O ratio of beetle-pollinated species, compared with other types of pollinator, lends credence to the hypothesis that beetles may be less effective pollinators. Pollen size was also much greater for beetle-pollinated species than the other classes of pollinator, which reinforces the hypothesis of pollen size being related to pollinator in order to maximize its transportation. The much higher P/O ratio and pollen grain volume of beetle-pollinated species suggest a much higher investment in pollen production by beetle-pollinated plants. Many beetles eat pollen, which is part of the plant's rewards for its pollinators (Bernhardt, 2000). Therefore, plants having pollen rewards would tend to show a higher pollen production to counterbalance the disadvantage of pollen loss by direct consumption in beetle pollinations. Although bees are known to harvest a pollen 'reward', the lower P/O ratio of this group could be explained by the bees being more efficient pollinators (Webb, 1984). In addition, the bee-pollinated aroids studied all provide other types of reward which could be favoured by the pollinator, such as stigmatic secretions and sweet scents that can be collected from Anthurium (Croat, 1980; Schwerdtfeger, Gerlach &

Kaiser, 2002) and *Spathiphyllum* (Lewis *et al.*, 1988; Gerlach & Schill, 1991; Yong, 1993), or resin known to be harvested for nest construction from *Monstera* (Ramirez & Gomez, 1978). Finally, the small pollen size of the bee-pollinated species renders harvesting by bees more difficult (Harder, 1998).

### CONCLUSION

Floral traits seem to be correlated with pollinator type (i.e. pollination syndromes; Fenster et al., 2004), life form, climatic conditions, and self-pollination capacity, whereas the growth mode has no apparent influence. The floral characters retained for the characterization of the pollinator type are pollen volume per inflorescence, pollen number per inflorescence, number of gyneocia, sexual type of the flower, and life form. The number of stamens of flowers could also be an important character, as suggested by the two male characters retained in the discriminant analysis: pollen number and volume. This aspect was not included in the analysis as it was not available for all the studied species. Further data are needed to verify this hypothesis. These results provide new insights into the understanding of specialized floral architecture in relation to pollinator type, and could help in identifying the pollination syndrome for a specific species. In addition, life form and climatic region are factors affecting investment in male and female functions in aroids. Temperate and seasonally dormant species show lower gamete production and smaller stigma areas, suggesting more efficient pollination mechanisms, in comparison with tropical and evergreen species. These differences could be attributed to the length and condition of the growing season, which would directly influence the energy pool of plants allocated to inflorescence production. The less energy plants have to invest in an inflorescence, the more efficient the pollination system. Finally, in aroids, the P/O ratio in relation to the breeding system behaves contrary to that found in other plant groups, suggesting that it may not be linked to the breeding system. It seems more likely that the P/O ratio is a measure of efficiency of pollen transfer.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to thank Andréa Dejean and Mrs Karen Grislis for their valuable comments on the manuscript. Dr Thomas Croat is especially acknowledged for having allowed us to collect samples in the aroid collection of the Missouri Botanical Garden. This research was supported by an individual operating grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada to Denis Barabé.

### REFERENCES

- **Beath DN. 1999.** Dynastine scarab beetle pollination in *Dief-fenbachia longispatha* (Araceae) on Barro Colorado Island (Panama) compared with La Selva biological station (Costa Rica). *Aroideana* **22:** 63–71.
- Bernhardt P. 2000. Convergent evolution and adaptive radiation of beetle-pollinated angiosperms. *Plant Systematics and Evolution* 222: 293–320.
- Campbell CS, Famous NC, Zuck MG. 1986. Pollination biology of *Primula laurentiana* (Primulaceae) in Maine. *Rhodora* 88: 253–260.
- Chouteau M, Barabé D, Gibernau M. 2006a. Pollen-ovule ratios in some Neotropical Araceae and their putative significance. *Plant Systematics and Evolution* 257: 147–157.
- Chouteau M, Barabé D, Gibernau M. 2006b. A comparative study of inflorescence characters and pollen-ovule ratios among the genera *Philodendron* and *Anthurium* (Araceae). *International Journal of Plant Sciences* 167: 817–829.
- Croat TB. 1980. Flowering behaviour of the neotropical genus Anthurium (Araceae). American Journal of Botany 67: 888–904.
- **Cruden RW. 1977.** Pollen-ovule ratios: a conservative indicator of breeding systems in flowering plants. *Evolution* **31**: 32–46.
- Cruden RW. 2000. Pollen grains: why so many? Plant Systematics and Evolution 222: 143–165.
- Fenster CB, Armbruster WS, Wilson P, Dudash MR, Thomson JD. 2004. Pollination syndromes and floral specialization. Annual Reviews of Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 35: 375–403.
- Gallardo R, Dominiguez E, Munoz JM. 1994. Pollen-ovule ratio, pollen size, and breeding system in *Astragalus* (Fabaceae) subgenus *Epiglottis*: a pollen and seed allocation approach. *American Journal of Botany* 81: 1611–1619.
- Gerlach G, Schill R. 1991. Composition of orchid scents attracting euglossine bees. *Botanica Acta* 104: 379–391.
- Gibernau M. 2003. Pollinators and visitors of aroid inflorescences. Aroideana 26: 66–83.
- Gibernau M, Barabé D, Labat D, Cerdan P, Dejean A. 2003. Reproductive biology of *Montrichardia arborescens* (Araceae) in French Guiana. *Journal of Tropical Ecology* 19: 103–107.
- Grayum MH. 1992. Comparative external pollen ultrastructure of the Araceae and putatively related taxa. Monographs in Systematic Botany from the Missouri Botanical Garden 43: 1–137.
- Harder LD. 1998. Pollen-size comparisons among animalpollinated angiosperms with different pollination characteristics. *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society* 64: 513–525.
- Jürgens A, Witt T, Gottsberger G. 2002. Pollen grain numbers, ovule numbers and pollen-ovule ratios in Caryophylloideae: correlation with breeding system, pollination, life form, style number, and sexual system. *Sexual Plant Reproduction* 14: 279–289.
- Lewis JA, Moore CJ, Fletcher MT, Drew RA, Kitching
   W. 1988. Volatile compounds from the flowers of Spathiphyllum cannaefolium. Phytochemistry 27: 2755–2757.

- Lopez J, Rodriguez-Riano T, Ortega-Olivencia A, Devesa JA, Ruiz T. 1999. Pollination mechanisms and pollen-ovule ratios in some Genisteae (Fabaceae) from Southwestern Europe. *Plant Systematics and Evolution* 216: 23–47.
- Lord EM. 1980. Intra-inflorescence variability in pollenovule ratios in the cleistogamous species Lamium amplexicaule (Labiateae). American Journal of Botany 67: 529–593.
- Mayo SJ, Bogner J, Boyce PC. 1997. *The genera of Araceae*. Kew: Royal Botanic Gardens, the Trustees.
- Mione T, Anderson GJ. 1992. Pollen-ovule ratios and breeding system evolution in *Solanum* section *Basarthrum* (Solanaceae). *American Journal of Botany* 79: 279–287.
- Miyake T, Yafuso M. 2003. Floral scents affect reproductive success in fly-pollinated Alocasia odora (Araceae). American Journal of Botany 90: 370–376.
- Philbrick CT, Anderson GJ. 1987. Implication of pollen/ ovule ratios and pollen size for the reproductive biology of *Potamogeton* and autogamy in aquatic angiosperms. Systematic Botany 12: 98–105.
- Plitmann U, Levin DA. 1990. Breeding system in the Polemoniaceae. Plant Systematics and Evolution 170: 205– 214.
- Ramirez WB, Gomez LPD. 1978. Production of nectar and gums by flowers of *Monstera deliciosa* (Araceae) and of some species of *Clusia* (Guttiferae) collected by New World *Trigona* bees. *Brenesia* 14–15: 407–412.
- Ramirez N, Seres A. 1994. Plant reproductive biology of herbaceous monocots in a Venezuelan tropical cloud forest. *Plant Systematics and Evolution* 190: 129–142.
- Raven PH. 1979. A survey of reproductive biology in Onagraceae. New Zealand Journal of Botany 17: 575–593.
- Ritland C, Ritland K. 1989. Variation of sex allocation among eight taxa of the *Mimulus guttatus* species complex (Scrophulariaceae). *American Journal of Botany* 76: 1731– 1739.
- Schoen DJ. 1977. Morphological, phenological and pollen-distribution evidence of autogamy and xenogamy in *Gilia achilleifolia* (Polemoniaceae). Systematic Botany 2: 280–286.
- Schwerdtfeger M, Gerlach G, Kaiser R. 2002. Antheology in the Neotropical genus Anthurium (Araceae): a preliminary report. Selbyana 23: 258–267.
- Small E. 1988. Pollen-ovule patterns in tribe Trifolieae (Leguminosae). *Plant Systematics and Evolution* 160: 195– 205.
- Vogel S, Martens J. 2000. A survey of the function of the lethal kettle traps in Arisaema (Araceae), with records of pollinating fungus gnat from Nepal. Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society 133: 61–100.
- Wang Y-Q, Zhang D-X, Chen Z-Y. 2004. Pollen histochemistry and pollen : ovule ratios in Zingiberaceae. Annals of Botany 94: 583–591.
- Wang Y-Q, Zhang D-X, Renner SS, Chen Z. 2005. Selfpollination by sliding pollen in *Caulokaempferia coenobialis* (Zingiberaceae). *International Journal of Plant Sciences* 166: 753–759.

- Webb CJ. 1984. Constraints on the evolution of plant breeding systems and their relevance to systematics. In: Grant WF, ed. *Plant biosystematics*. New York: Academic Press, 249-270.
- Wodehouse RP. 1935. Pollen grains. New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Wyatt R. 1984. Evolution of self-pollination in granite outcrop species of Arenaria (Caryophyllaceae). III. Reproductive effort and pollen-ovule ratios. Systematic Botany 9: 432– 440.

Wyatt R, Broyles SB, Lipow SR. 2000. Pollen-ovule ratios

in milkweeds (Asclepiadaceae): an exception that probes the rule. *Systematic Botany* **25:** 171–180.

- Yafuso M. 1993. Thermogenesis of *Alocasia odora* (Araceae) and the role of *Colocasiomyia* flies (Diptera: Drosophilidae) as cross-pollinators. *Environmental Entomology* 22: 601–606.
- Yong HS. 1993. Flowers of *Spathiphyllum cannaefolium* (Araceae): a male fruit-fly attractant of the methyl eugenol type. *Nature Malaysiana* 18: 61–63.
- Young HJ. 1986. Beetle pollination of Dieffenbachia longispatha (Araceae). American Journal of Botany 73: 931-944.

### APPENDIX

### LOCATION COLLECTION AND LIST OF VOUCHER SPECIMENS

Species	Location (identification number)	Voucher number (herbarium)
Alocasia sp.	Missouri Botanical Garden (No 90145)	Croat 90145 (UMO)
Alocasia macrorrhizos (L.) G. Don	Montreal Botanical Garden (No 1774-1956)	Chouteau 15 (MT)
Alocasia portei Schott	Montreal Botanical Garden	Chouteau 16 (MT)
Anaphyllopsis americana (Engl.) A. Hay	French Guiana	<i>Barabé 258</i> (MT)
Anchomanes difformis (Blume) Engl.	Missouri Botanical Garden (No Knecht.1)	Knecht 1 (UMO)
Anthurium harrisii (Grah.) G. Don	Montreal Botanical Garden (No 635-1942)	Barabé 253 (MT)
Anthurium longistamineum Engl.	Montreal Botanical Garden (No 1554-1958; No 3038-1959)	Barabé 233 (MT)
Anthurium schlechtendalii ssp. schlechtendalii Kunth	Montreal Botanical Garden (No 2463-1954)	Barabé 219 (MT)
Anubias barteri Schott	Montreal Botanical Garden (No 3548-1985)	Chouteau 17 (MT)
Anubias heterophylla Engl.	Montreal Botanical Garden (No 1941-1999; No 1909-1999)	Barabé 197 (MT)
Arisaema dracontium (L.) Schott	Missouri Botanical Garden (No 69905)	Croat 69905 (UMO)
Ariseama triphyllum (L.) Schott	Montreal Botanical Garden (No 1984-2000)	Barriault 25 (MT)
Arum cylindraceum Gasp.	Corsica	
Arum italicum Mill.	Corsica	Barabé 182 (MT)
Arum maculatum L.	Corsica	
Caladium bicolor (Aiton) Vent.	Montreal Botanical Garden (No 2364-1992; No 1590-1995)	Barabé 96 (MT)
Cercestis stigmaticus N.E. Br.	Montreal Biodôme (No 7078-1998)	Barabé 239 (MT)
Colocasia esculenta (L.) Schott	Montreal Botanical Garden (No 1412-1998; No 1143-1999)	Barabé 175 (MT)
Colocasia fallax Schott	Montreal Botanical Garden (No 1416-2002)	Chouteau 18 (MT)
Culcasia saxatilis A. Chev.	Montreal Botanical Garden (No 4094-1984)	Barabé 91 (MT)
Dieffenbachia oerstedii Schott	Montreal Botanical Garden (No 1834-1955)	Chouteau 19 (MT)
Dieffenbachia seguine (Jacq.) Schott	French Guiana	Chouteau & Lavallée 3 (MT)
Dracontium polyphyllum L.	Montreal Botanical Garden (No 484-1987; No 2464-1954)	Barabé 50 (MT)
Dracunculus vulgaris Schott	Missouri Botanical Garden (No 942193)	Croat 942193 (UMO)
Gonatopus angustus N.E. Br.	Montreal Botanical Garden (No 4106-1984)	Barabé 101 (MT)
Gonatopus boivinii (Decne.) Engl.	Missouri Botanical Garden (No 69740)	Croat 69740 (UMO)
Homalomena rubescens Kunth	Montreal Botanical Garden (No 1721-1955)	Barabé 108 (MT)
Homalomena philippinensis Engl.	Missouri Botanical Garden (No 52988)	Croat 52988 (UMO)

© 2008 The Linnean Society of London, Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society, 2008, 156, 29-42

#### Voucher number Species Location (identification number) (herbarium) French Guiana Monstera adansonii Schott Chouteau & Lavallée 5 (MT) Montrichardia arborescens (L.) Schott French Guiana Barabé 263 (MT) French Guiana Montrichardia linifera (Arruda) Schott Chouteau & Lavallée 4 (MT) Peltandra virginica (L.) Schott Missouri Botanical Garden (No 96738) Croat 96738 (UMO) Montreal Botanical Garden (No 2798-1950; Chouteau 12 (MT) Philodendron erubescens C. Koch & No 1892-1957) Augustin Philodendron pedatum Kunth French Guiana Barabé 259 (MT) Montreal Botanical Garden (No 2365-1992; Barabé 136 (MT) Philodendron squamiferum Poepp. & No 2201-1986) Endl. Croat 78128 (UMO) Pinellia tripartita (Blume) Schott Missouri Botanical Garden (No 78128) Montreal Botanical Garden (No 2627-1993) Chouteau 20 (MT) Pistia stratiotes L. Pseudodracontium fallax Serebr. Missouri Botanical Garden (No 79452) Croat 79452 (UMO) Missouri Botanical Garden (No Kew Kew 478-65-47801 Rhaphidophora schottii Hook 478-65-47801) (UMO) Spathiphyllum friedrichsthalii Schott Montreal Botanical Garden (No 2577-1954) Chouteau 21 (MT) Spathiphyllum patinii (Mast.) N.E. Br. Montreal Botanical Garden (No 1779-1949; Barabé 189 (MT) No 2229-1960) Barabé 105 (MT) Montreal Botanical Garden (No 2471-1954; Spathiphyllum wallisii Regel No 1231-1986) Stenospermation longipetiolatum Engl. Montreal Biodôme (No 7267-1992; No. Barabé 251 (MT) 7057-1998) Montreal Biodôme (No 7003-2000) Chouteau 22 (MT) Stenospermation sessile Engl. Missouri Botanical Garden (No 62836) Croat 62836 (UMO) Synandrospadix vermitoxicus (Griseb.) Engl. Syngonium angustatum Schott Montreal Botanical Garden (No 1891-1942) Barabé 217 (MT) Syngonium auritum (L.) Schott Montreal Biodôme (No 7342-1992) Barabé 216 (MT) Syngonium ruizii Schott Missouri Botanical Garden (No 85-1656 Atwood 85-1656 Atwood) (UMO) Syngonium schottianum H. Wendl. ex Montreal Biodôme (No 7013-1998) Barabé 212 (MT) Schott Typhonium trilobatum (L.) Schott Missouri Botanical Garden (No 53260) Croat 53260 (UMO) Typhonium violifolium Gagnep. Missouri Botanical Garden (No HAR194) HAR 194 (UMO) Montreal Botanical Garden (No 1510-2003) Xanthosoma conspurcatum Schott Barabé 84 (MT) Zamioculcas zamiifolia (Lodd.) Engl. Montreal Botanical Garden (No 7324-1939) Missouri Botanical Garden (No 71763) Croat 71763 (UMO) Zomicarpella amazonica Bogner

### APPENDIX Continued