When conifers meet



Greg Jordan
Tim Brodribb



Podocarpaceae

Pinaceae

North versus South

Equator **Pinaceae** Equator

Species richness in equal area grid cells (2° latitude)

Podocarpaceae

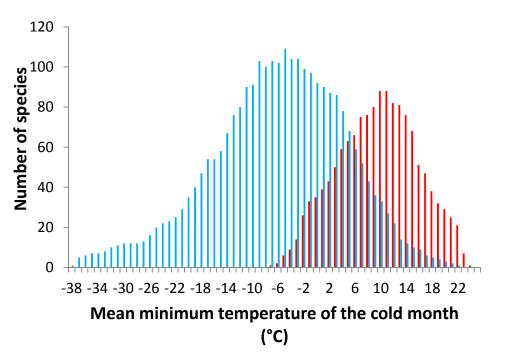
Dispersal limitation?

- evidence for "rapid" dispersal of some Podocarpaceae [at least]
 - long history at high southern latitudes [≥ 150 million years]
 - appeared in SE Asia ≤ 20 million years

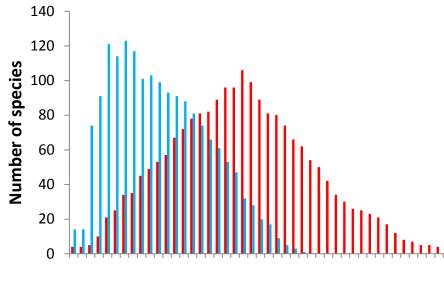
or niche constraints?

- Physiology
 - podocarps hate frost, dry climates & fire
 - pines hate closed forest
- is this true now?
- was it true in the past?

Pinaceae and Podocarpaceae occupy different climate spaces now



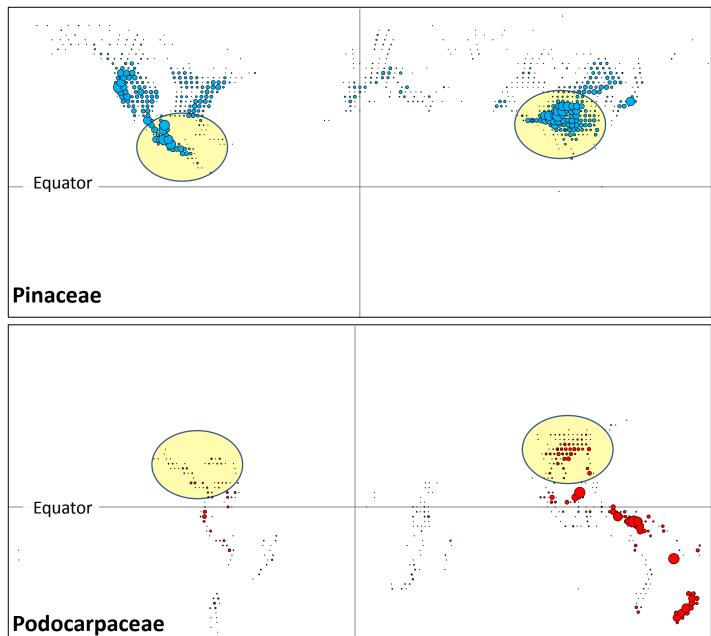
Podocarpaceae are absent from very frosty climates



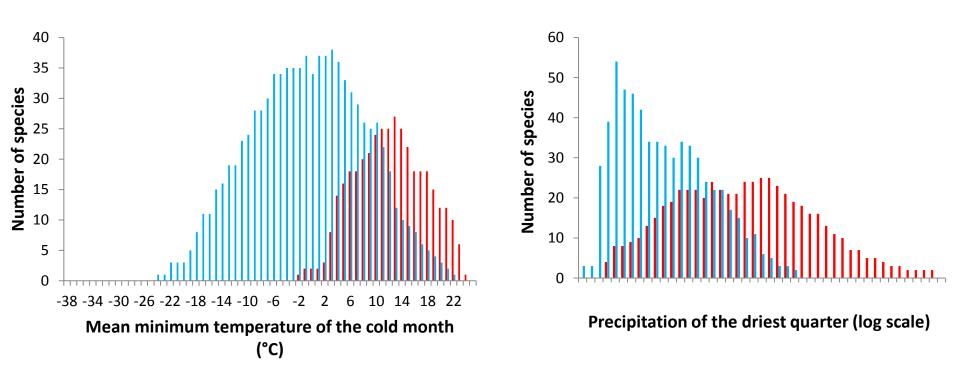
Precipitation of the driest quarter (log scale)

Podocarpaceae occupy wetter climates than Pinaceae

Two regions of overlap



Similar contrasts in the regions of overlap



The contrasting climates are not just because of the different climates in the SH & NH

Was this true in the past?

- Ancestral state reconstructions?
- Other ways?

extinction and directional selection in conifers poses problems for ancestral state reconstruction

- conifer phylogenies clades with very long stems
- extensive fossil evidence of climate driven extinction



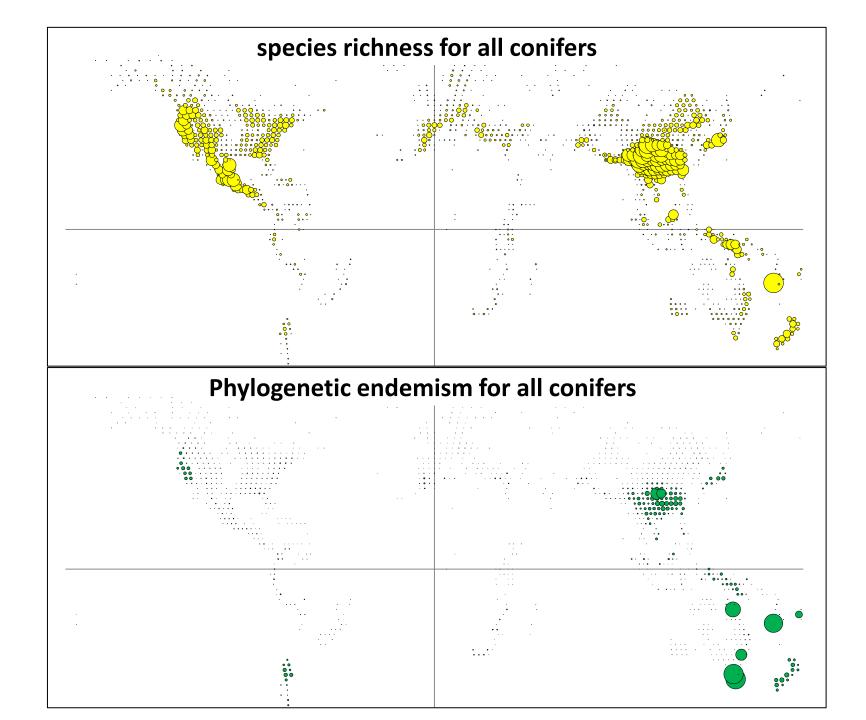


¹Crisp MD, Cook LG. 2011. Cenozoic extinctions account for the low diversity of extant gymnosperms compared with angiosperms. *New Phytologist* **192**: 997-1009.

² Nagalingum NS, Marshall CR, Quental TB, Rai HS, Little DP, Mathews S. 2011. Recent synchronous radiation of a living fossil. *Science* 334: 796-799.

Phylogenetic endemism

- weights diversity according to past selection
 - upweights rare old clades
 - i.e. ones that have been selected against...

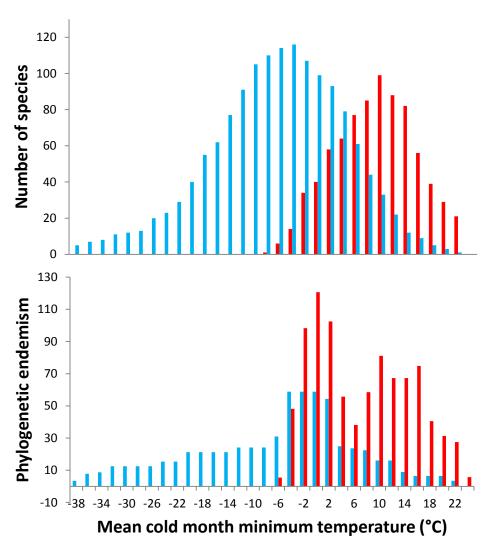


As a sign of past processes

- rare old clades are presumably rare because of past selection
- these clades tend to retain ancient, unfavoured physiology
- high phylogenetic endemism relative to species richness can indicate ancestral states

Phylogenetic endemism in climate space

(Pinaceae vs Podocarpaceae)



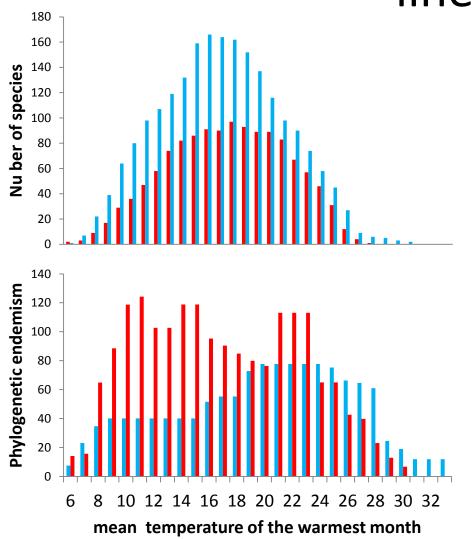
Both clades show a mode in phylogenetic endemism at a cold month minimum temperature of ~0°C

Divergent radiations:

Pinaceae into frosty places

Podocarpaceae into tropical
rainforest

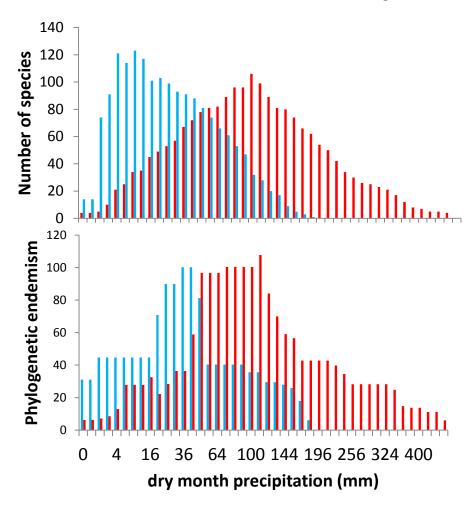
Summer temperature (proximity to tree line)



Podocarpaceae moved into warmer climates?

Pinaceae moved into colder climates

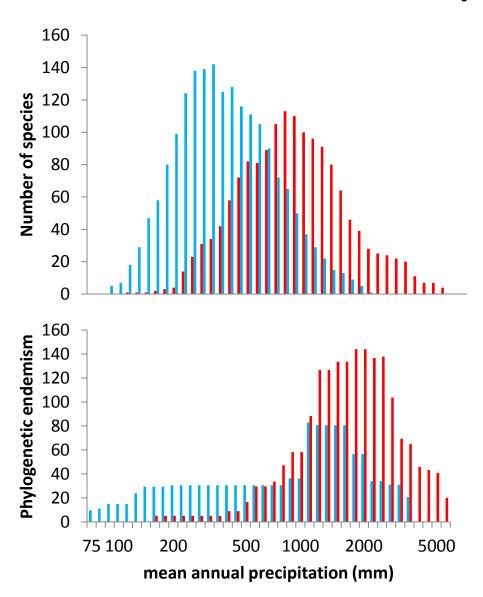
Dry climates



Podocarpaceae have not changed – always wet

Pinaceae were always drier than Podocarpaceae, but have radiated further into dry climates

Mean annual precipitation



Both clades have moved to drier climates, but especially Pinaceae

Overall

- Podocarpaceae and Pinaceae are strongly ecologically differentiated
- This appears to have always been the case
 - niche conservatism
 - especially for Podocarpaceae
- Pinaceae constrained by the Equator
- Phylogenetic endemism tells us about the past, not just the present