

A photograph showing a dense growth of bamboo plants in a forest. The foreground and middle ground are filled with tall, green culms (bamboo stems) and long, narrow leaves. Some leaves appear slightly yellowed or damaged. The background is darker, suggesting more of the forest canopy.

# Bamboo Evolution and Classification: Recent Advances

Lynn G. Clark  
Iowa State University  
U.S.A.



# Major Topics

- **Bamboos are grasses!**
- **Bamboo evolution and classification—updates**
- **Current directions**

A photograph of a dense field of tall grasses, likely bamboo, growing in a natural environment. The plants have long, slender leaves with distinct yellowish-green coloration along the veins. The background is filled with similar vegetation, creating a textured, green landscape.

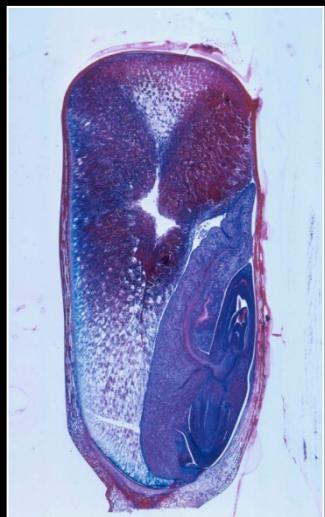
**Bamboos are grasses!**



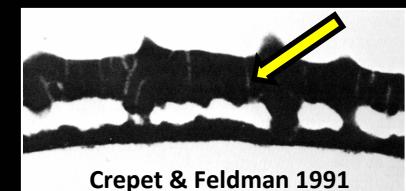
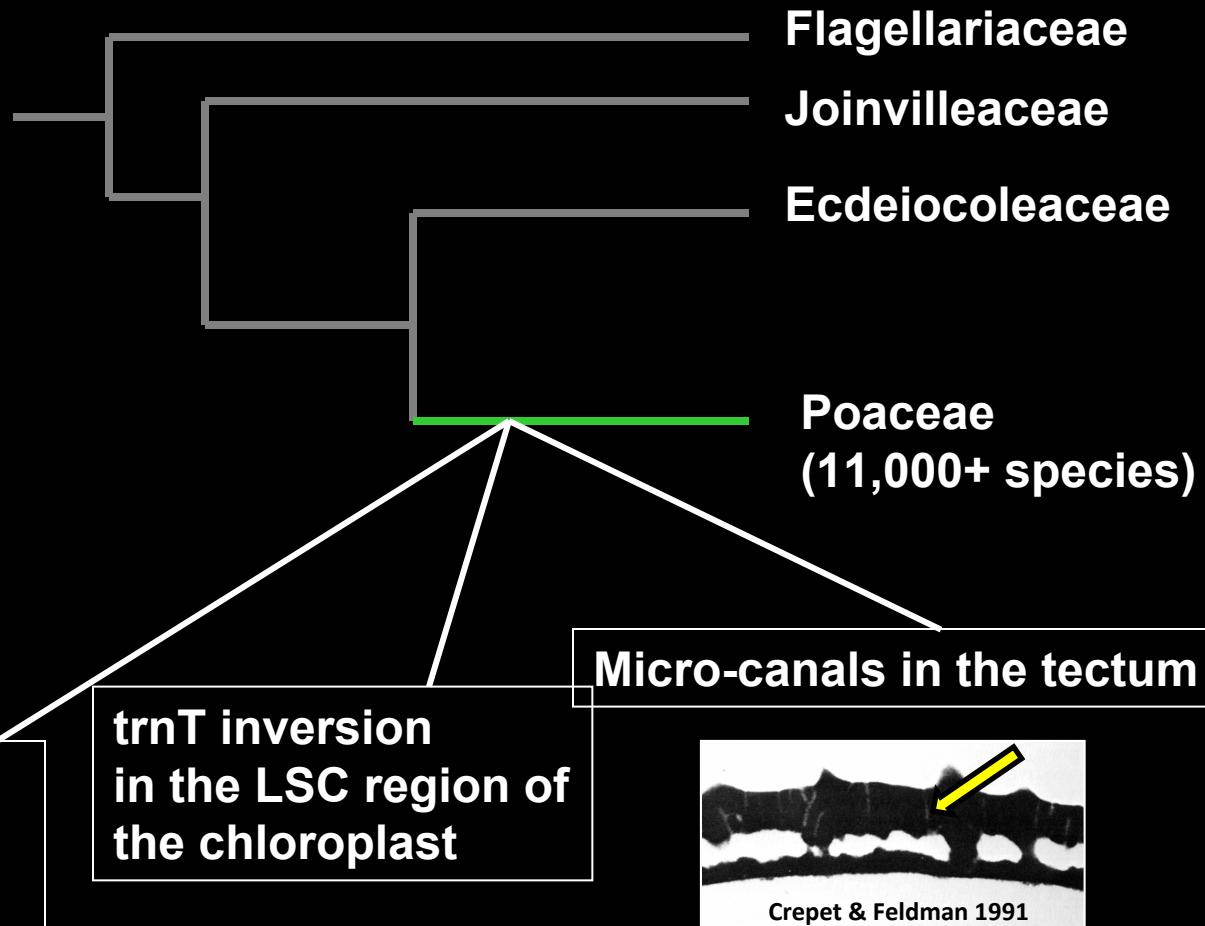
theclyde, Flickr



# What makes a grass a grass?



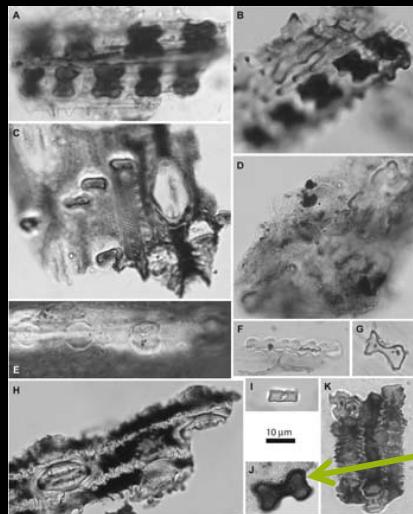
Grass-type embryo in lateral position and caryopsis fruit type



Crepet & Feldman 1991

Ancestral  
grasses

Origin of the  
grasses  
70-80 mya  
in forests  
of the S  
hemisphere

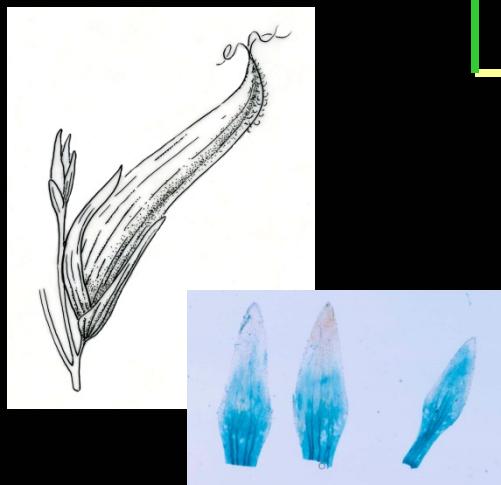


Silica bodies  
(phytoliths)

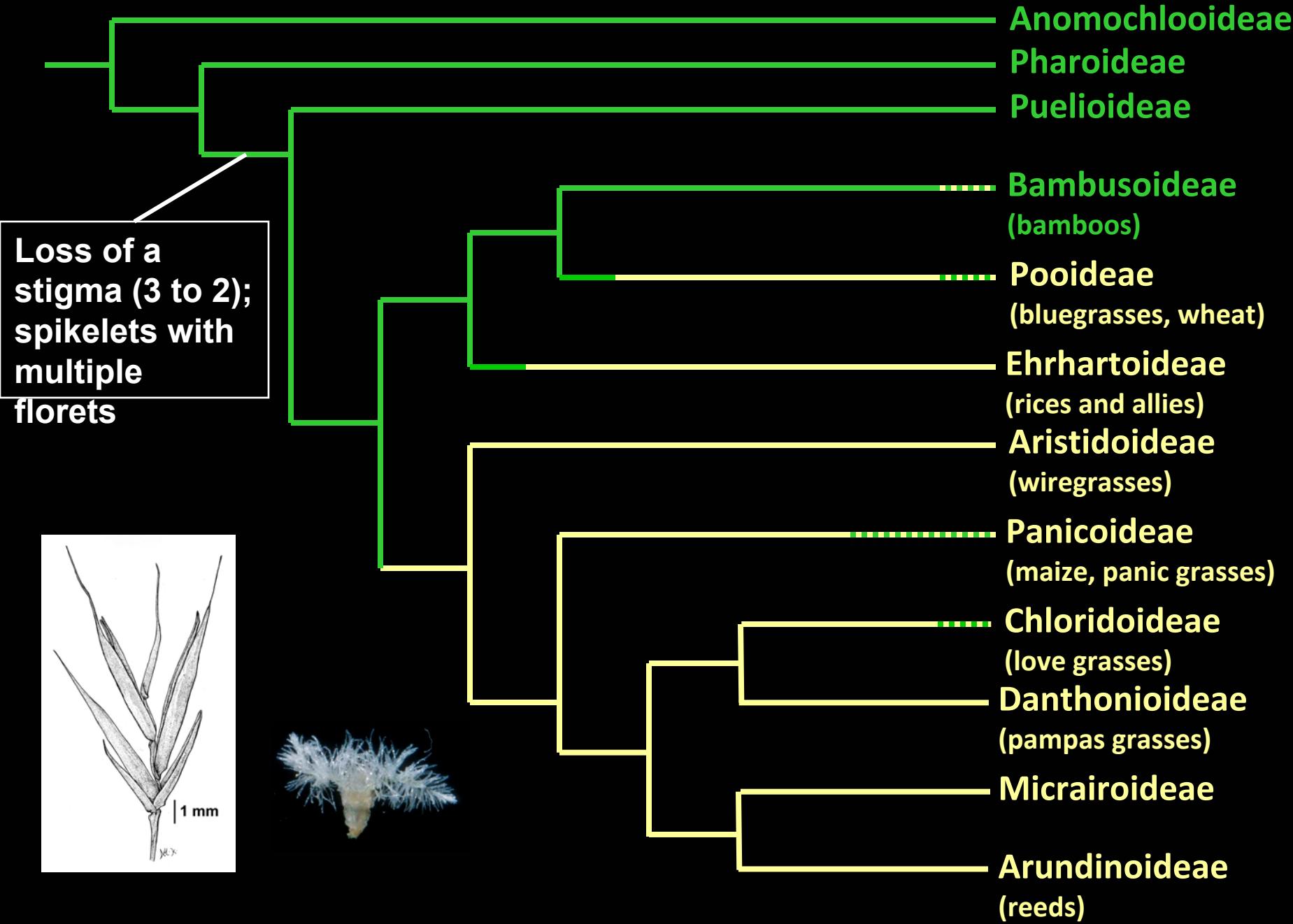
Prasad et al. 2005



**Origin of the  
grass-type  
spikelet  
and lodicules  
(petals)  
= Spikelet  
clade**

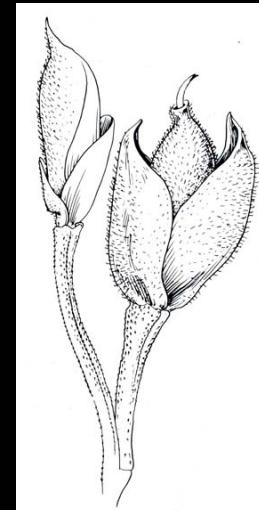


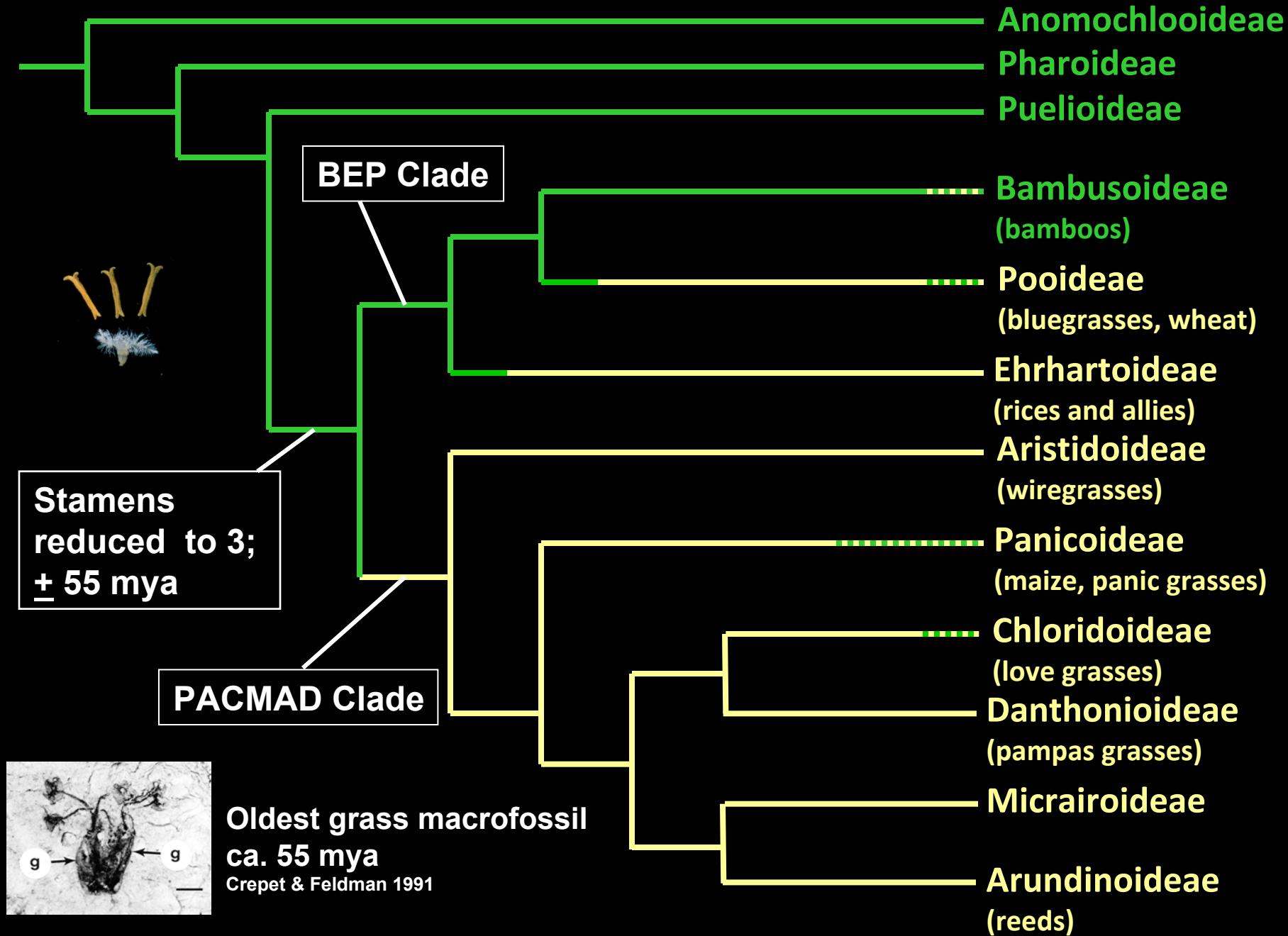
- Anomochlooideae
- Pharoideae
- Puelioideae
- Bambusoideae  
(bamboos)
- Pooideae  
(bluegrasses, wheat)
- Ehrhartoideae  
(rices and allies)
- Aristidoideae  
(wiregrasses)
- Panicoideae  
(maize, panic grasses)
- Chloridoideae  
(love grasses)
- Danthonioideae  
(pampas grasses)
- Micrairoideae
- Arundinoideae  
(reeds)

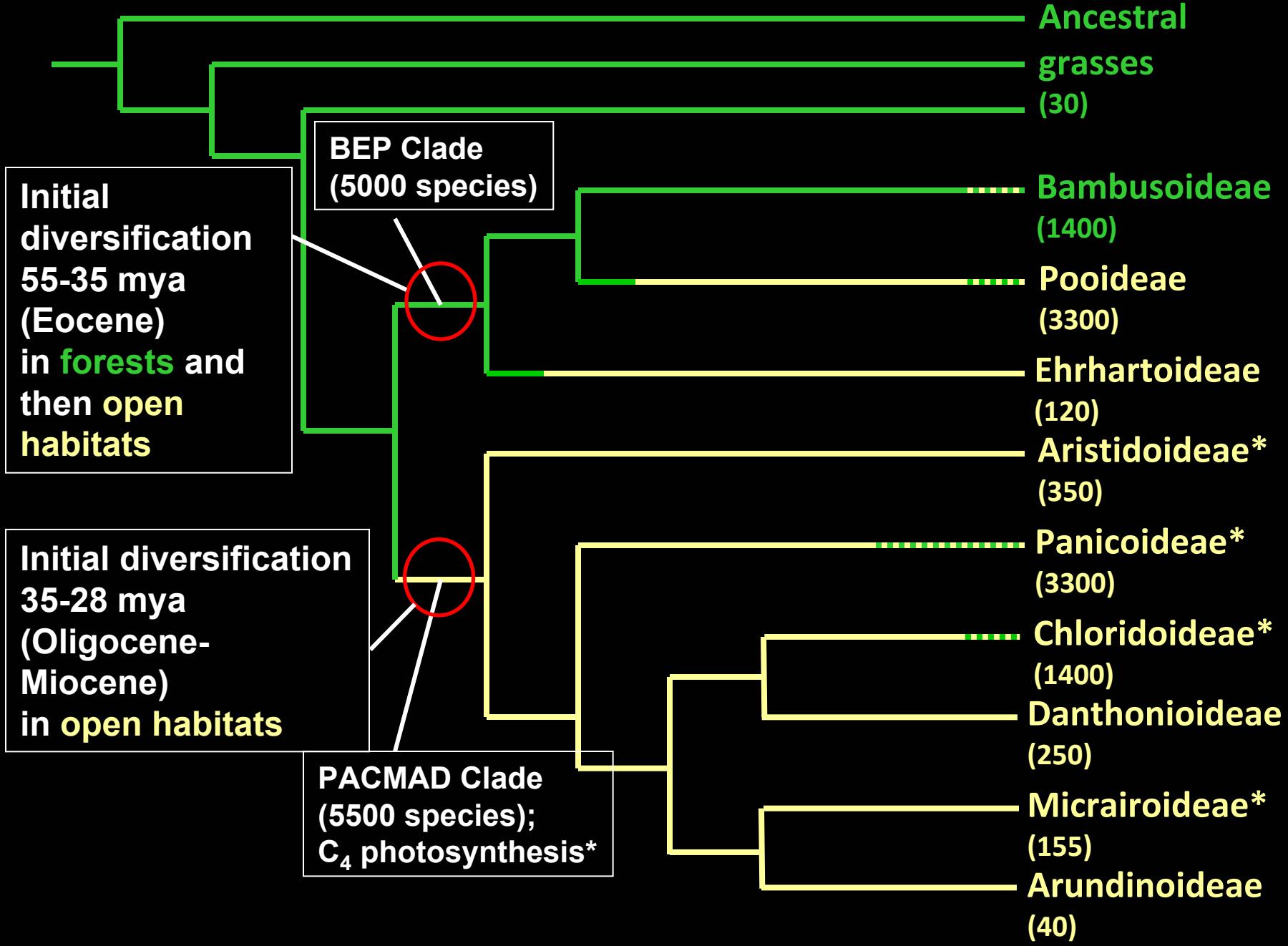


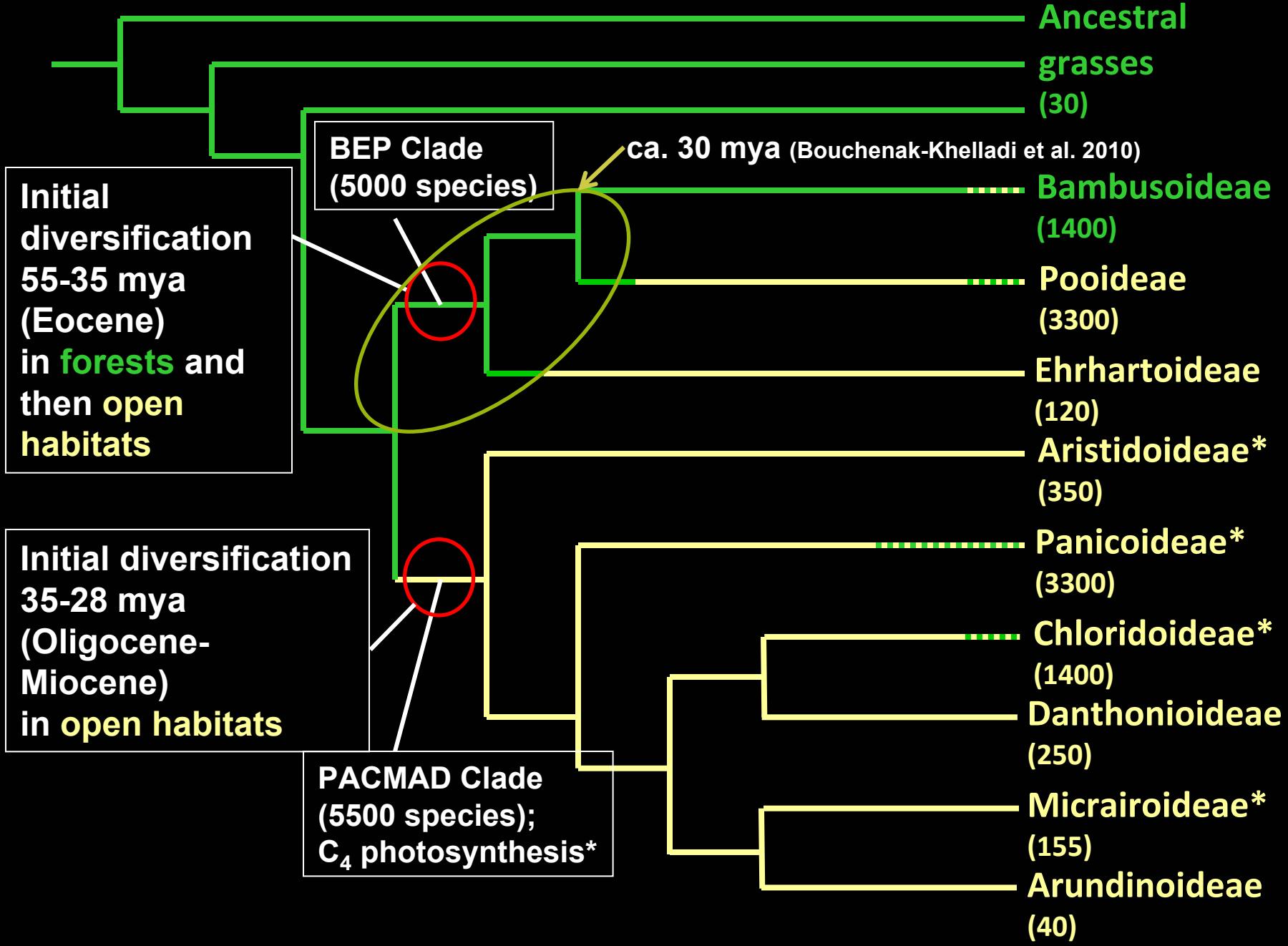
# Ancestral or early-diverging grasses

(Anomochlooideae, Pharoideae, Puelioideae)

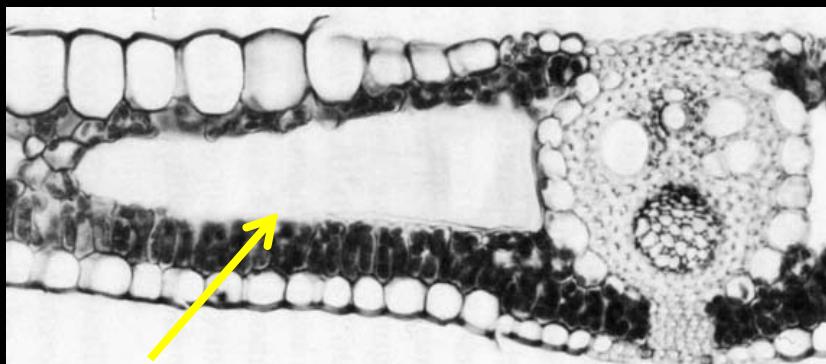




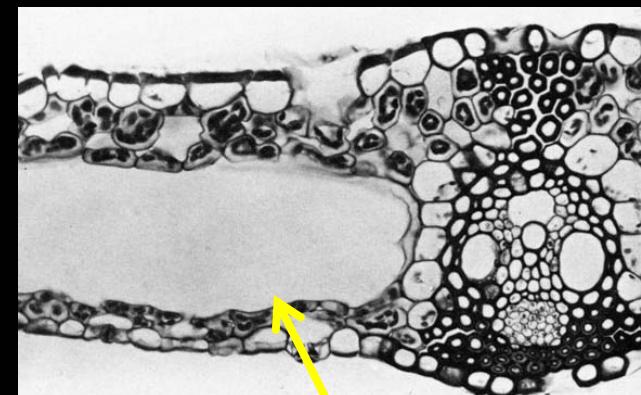




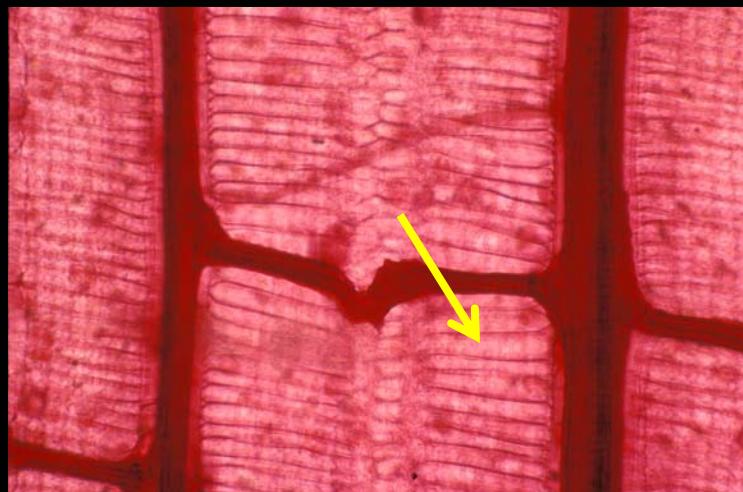
## Pharoideae



## Anomochlooideae



## Bambusoideae



fusoid cell





*Y. niitakayamensis*



*P. aurea*

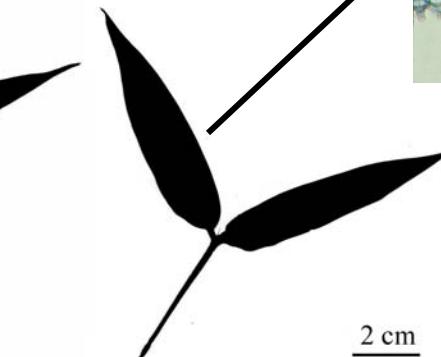
**SHADE**



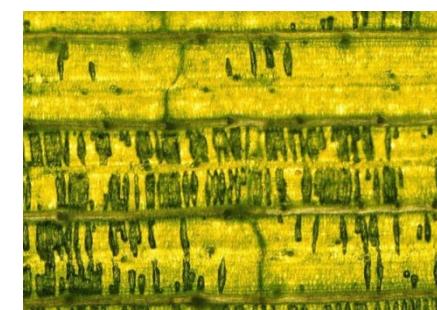
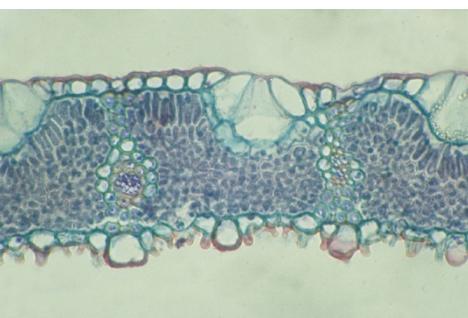
**SUN**



*C. culeou*



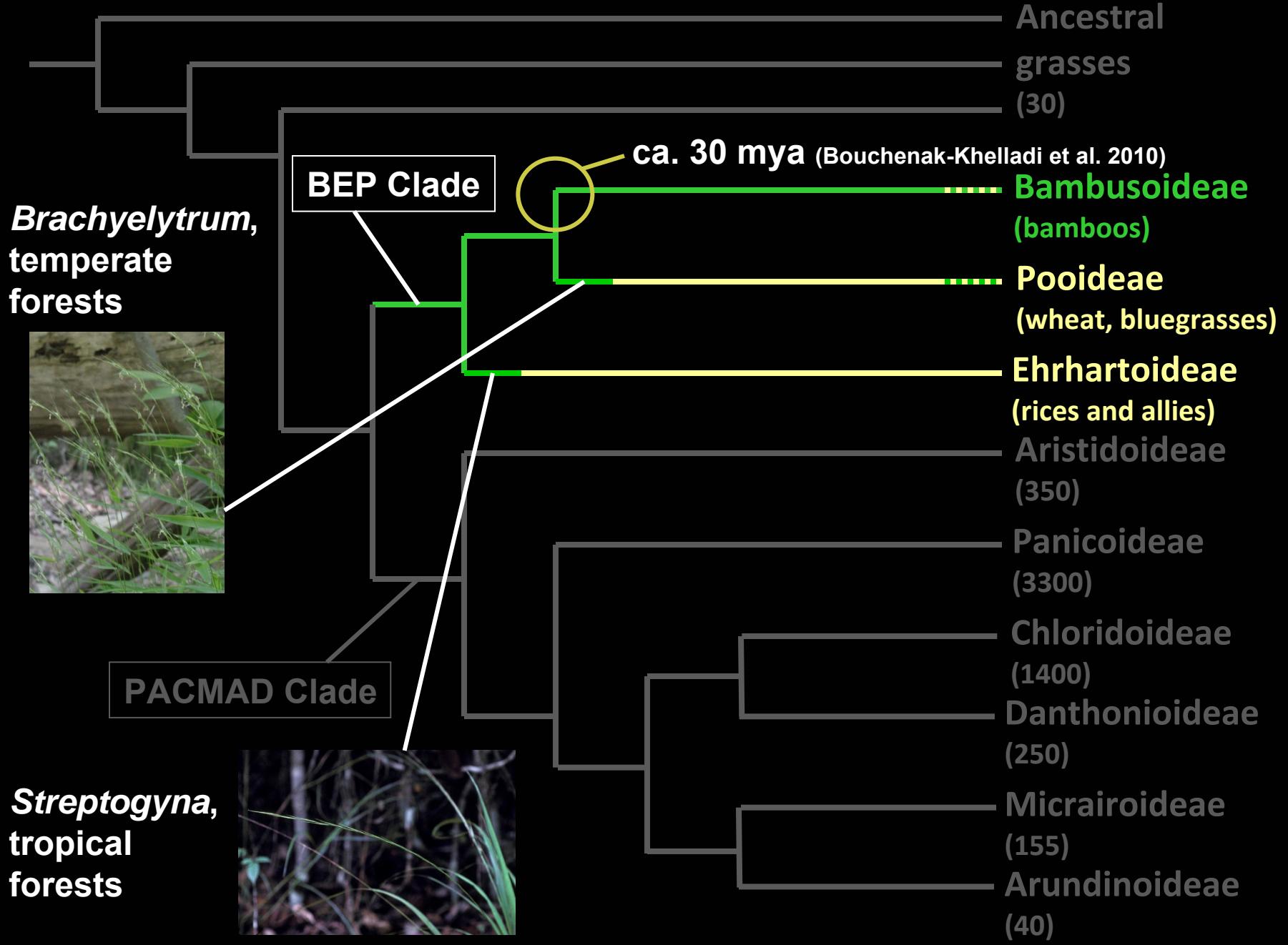
2 cm



March & Clark 2011



*Olyra ciliatifolia* in the forest understory

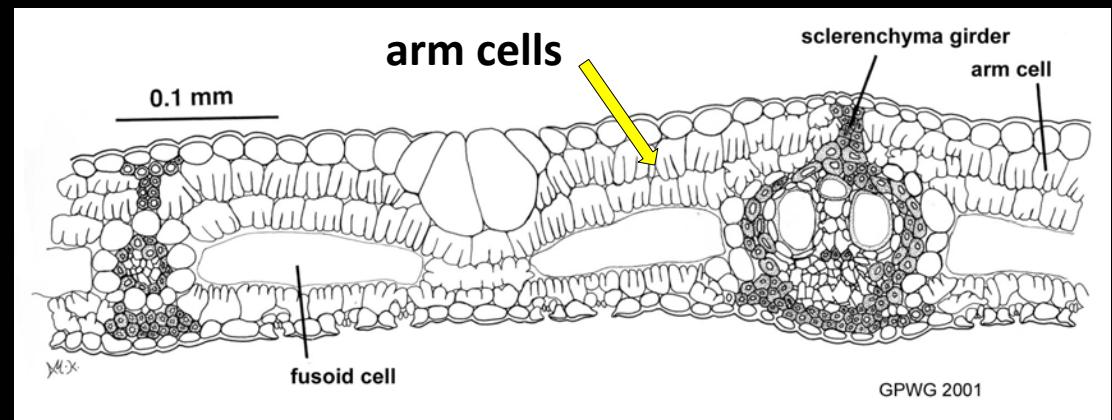


A photograph of a dense bamboo forest. The foreground is filled with tall, green bamboo culms and their long, narrow leaves. The background is shrouded in a thick, white mist, creating a sense of depth and mystery. The overall color palette is dominated by various shades of green and grey.

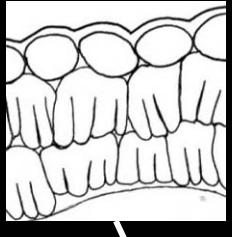
# Bamboo evolution and classification —updates

# Bamboos (subf. Bambusoideae)

(>1,400 species)



The only major grass lineage to diversify in forests



**Bambuseae**  
(tropical woody  
bamboos, 784)



**Olyreae**  
(herbaceous  
bamboos, 122)



**Arundinarieae**  
(temperate woody  
bamboos, 533)



**Three principal lineages of Bambusoideae**

# Olyreae—herbaceous bamboos



Patricia  
de Oliveira

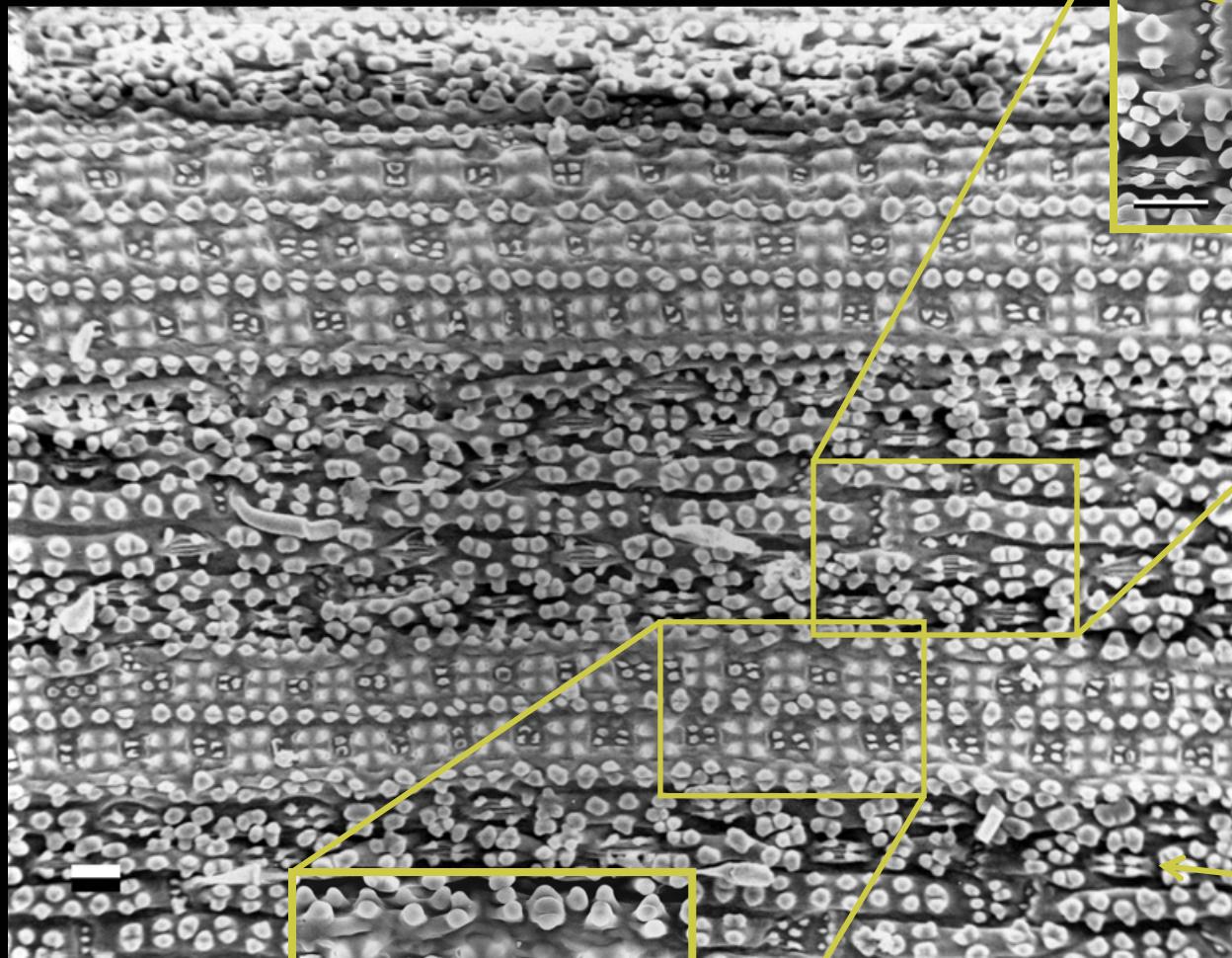


21 genera, ca. 122 described species,  
primarily Latin American

# Olyreae, lower leaf surface

crenate (olyroid)  
silica body

veins



cruciform  
silica body

stomate

# Olyreae have unisexual spikelets and unusual adaptations in some



gregarious monocarpy

*Raddiella vanessae*,  
smallest  
bamboo



underground spikelets

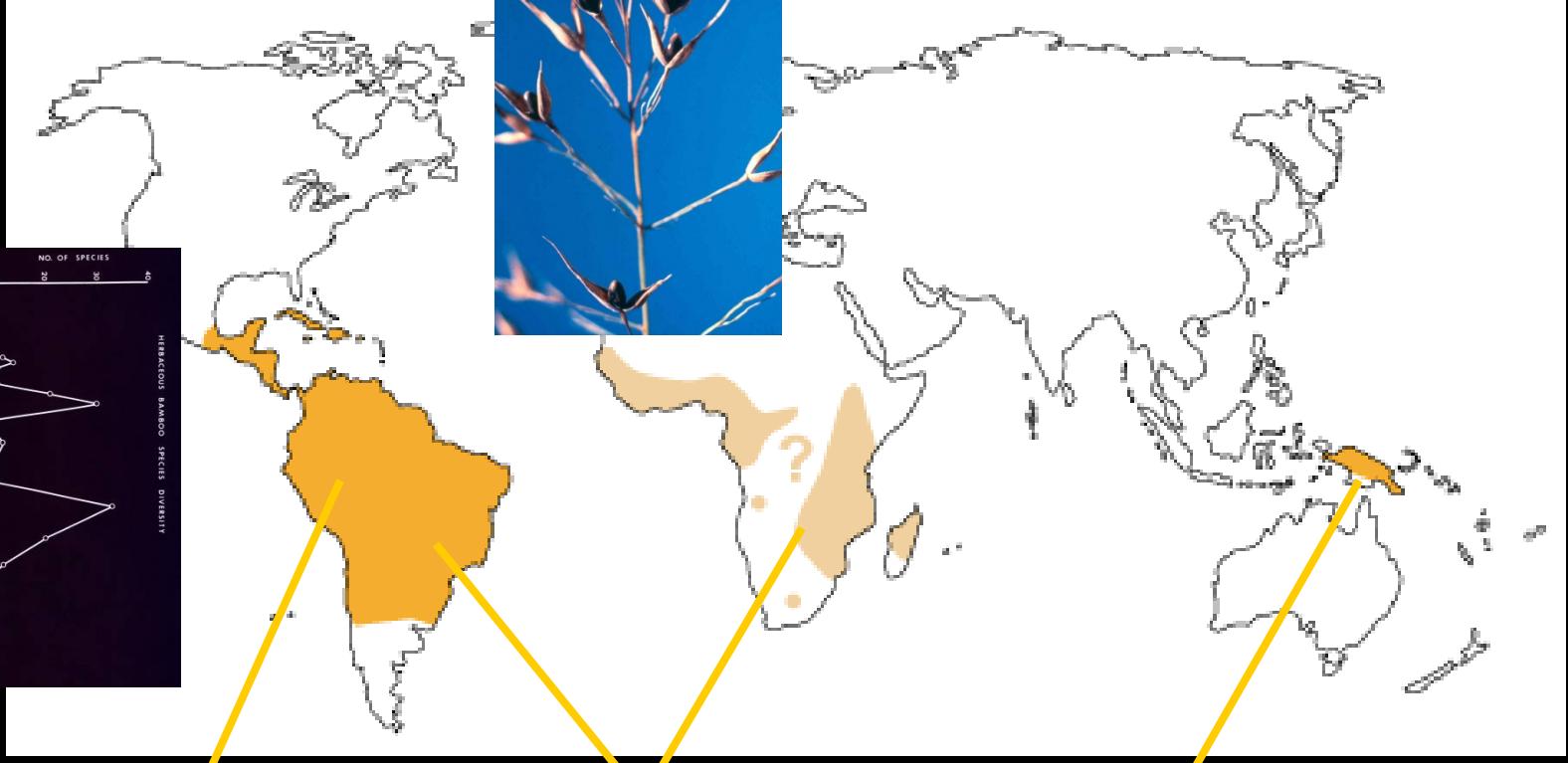
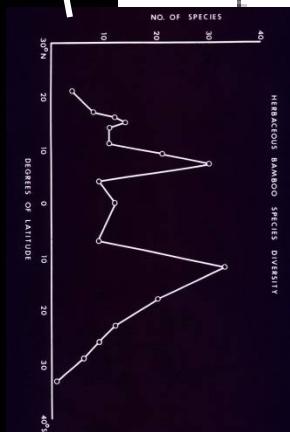


insect pollination?

“hidden”  
inflorescences

# Olyreae distribution

Latitudinal diversity



rest of tribe

*Olyra latifolia*

*Buergeriochloa* (1 species)

# **Arundinarieae**

## **(temperate woody bamboos)**



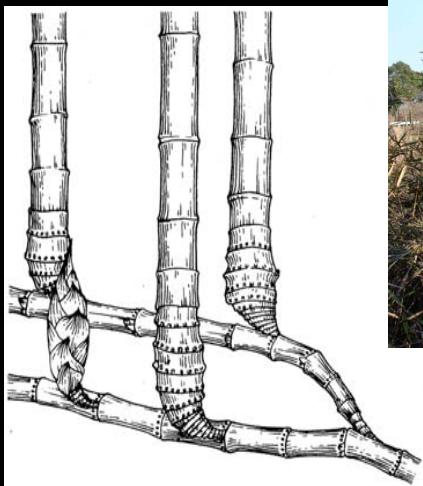
G Reiners

# Temperate woody bamboos:

## 28 genera, 533 species



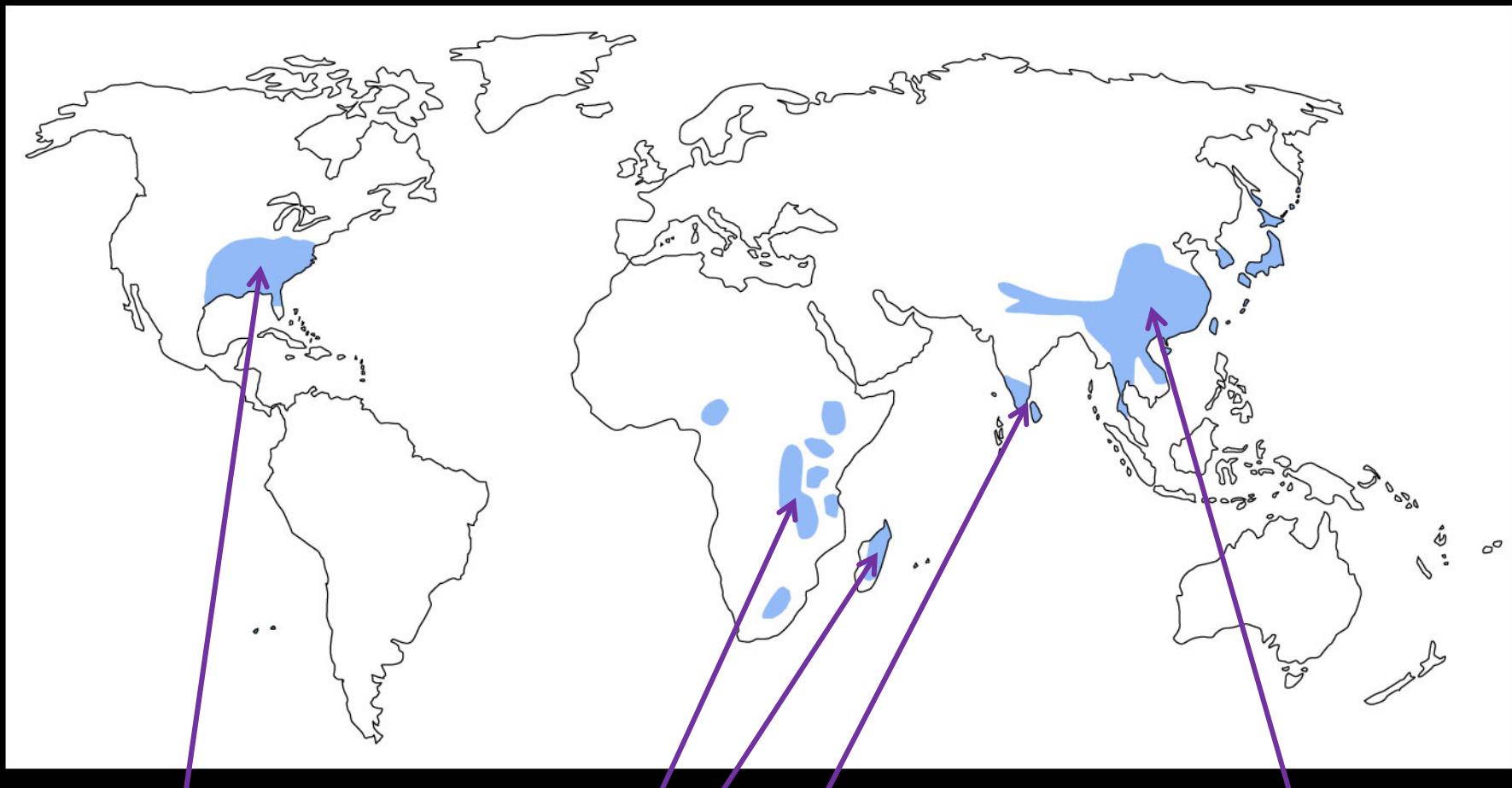
De-Zhu Li,  
Chris Stapleton



### Major defining characters:

- Leptomorph, monopodial rhizomes (but pachymorph in some)
- Tetraploidy ( $2n=48$ )
- Basipetal vegetative branch development
- Molecular evidence

# Temperate woody bamboos



**E North America**

**3 species**

**Afro-Indian montane**

**~20 species**

**E Asia**

**~510 species**

# Diversity within Arundinarieae



*Chimonocalamus*



*Pleioblastus*



*Indosasa*



*Phyllostachys*



*Arundinaria*



*A. densifolia*



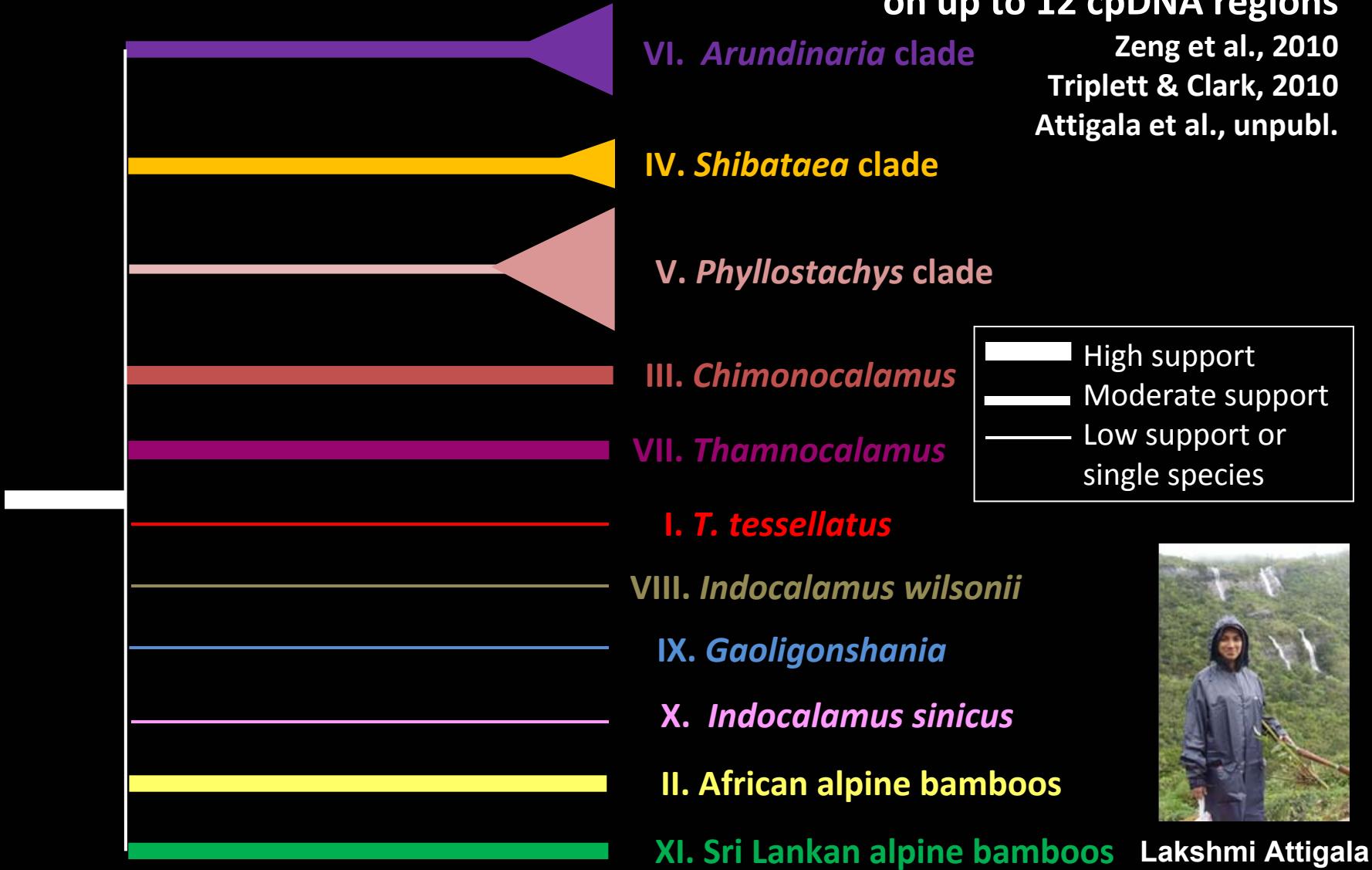
*Fargesia*



*Sarocalamus*

# Major lineages of the temperate clade

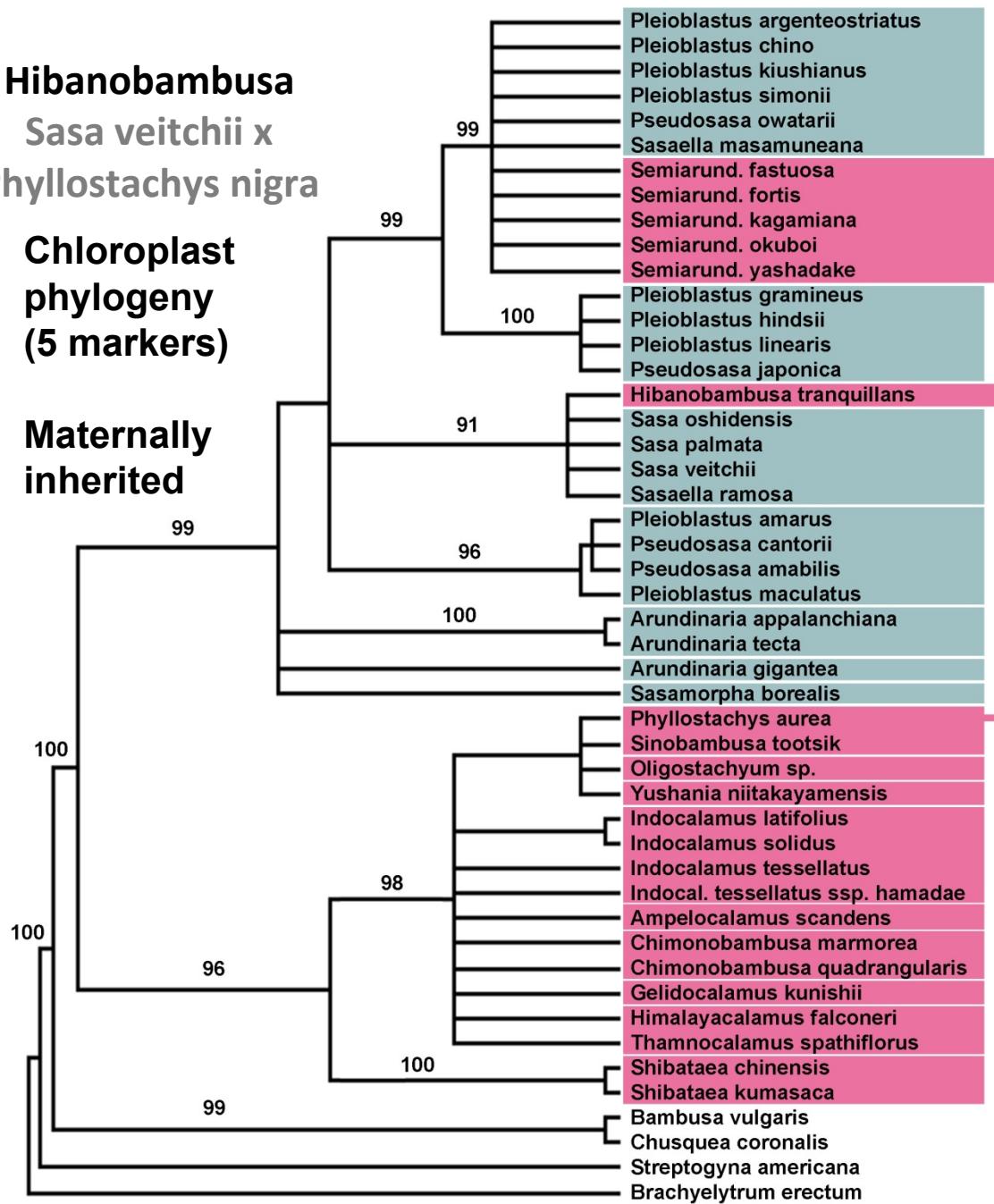
Summary phylogenetic tree based  
on up to 12 cpDNA regions



**Hibanobambusa**  
*Sasa veitchii* x  
*Phyllostachys nigra*

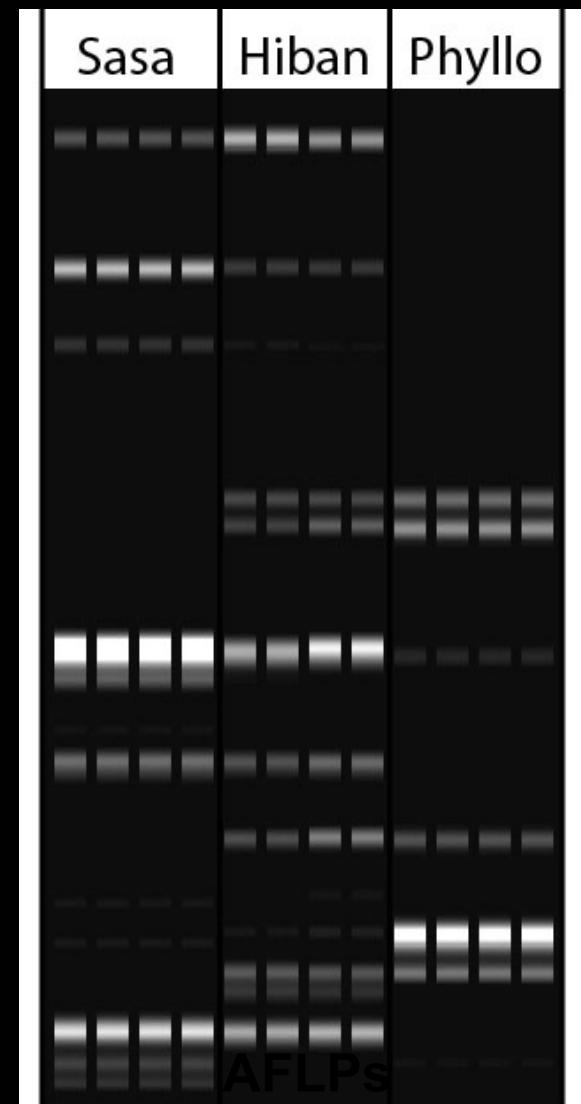
**Chloroplast phylogeny (5 markers)**

**Maternally inherited**



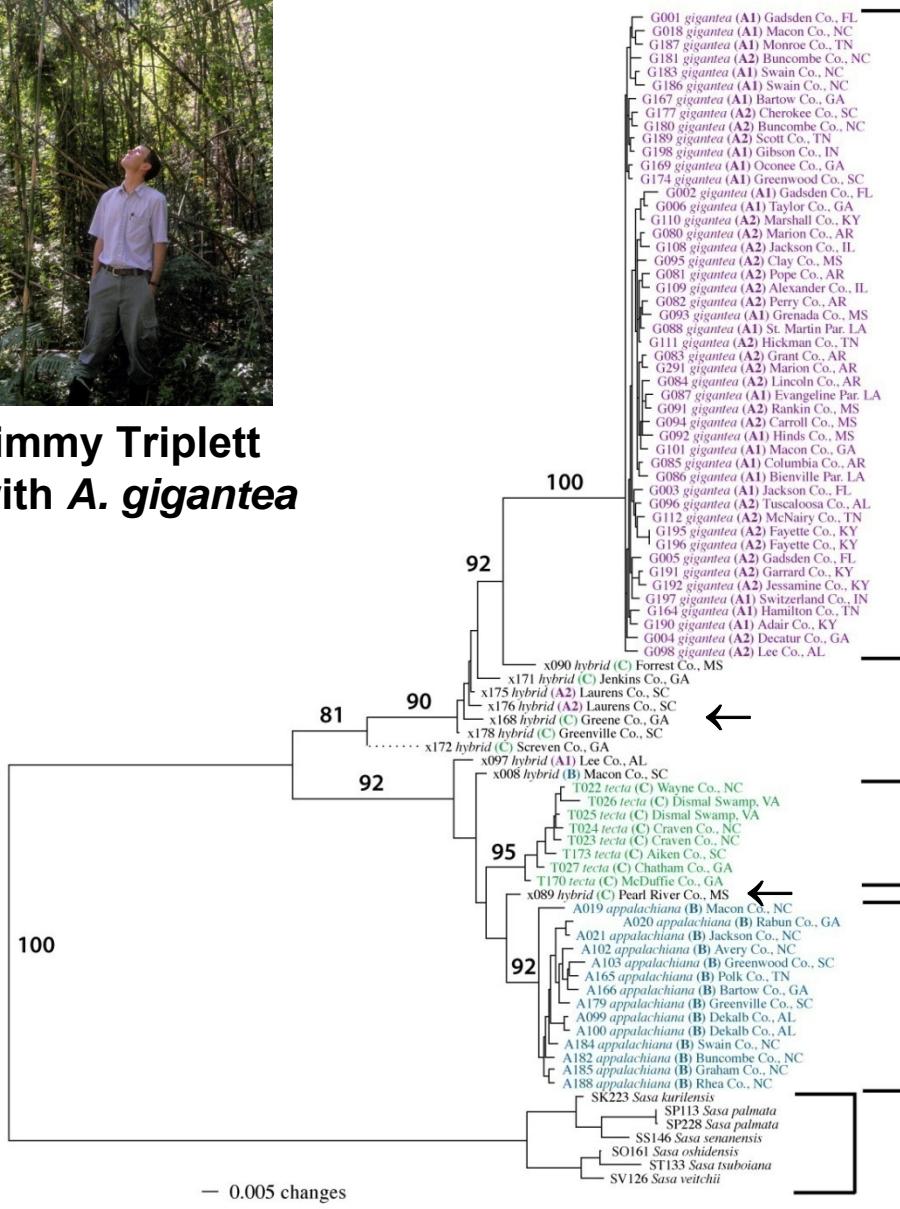
**Data from J. Triplett**

**AFLPs—from both parents**



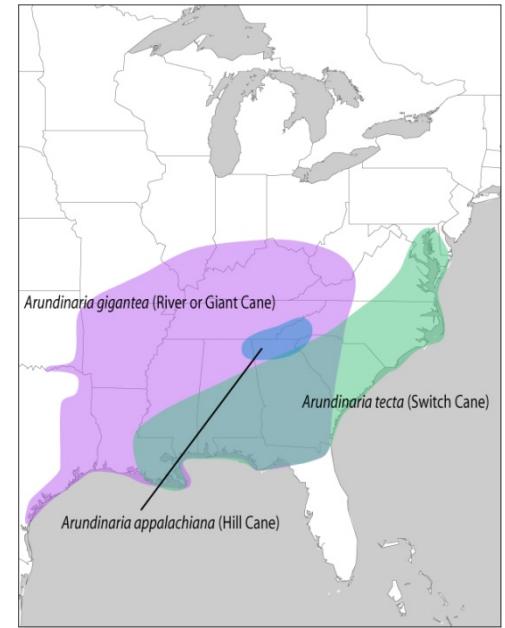


**Jimmy Triplett  
with *A. gigantea***



# Arundinaria AFLP analysis 4 primer pairs (data from J. Triplett)

*A. gigantea*  
(River cane)



*A. tecta*  
(Switch cane)

*A. appalachiana*  
(Hill cane)  
Outgroup (*Sasa*)

**Natural  
hybridization  
also occurs!**

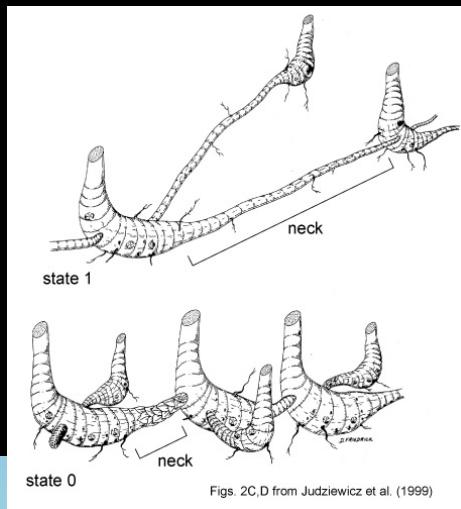
# Bambuseae (tropical woody bamboos)



# Tropical woody bamboos: 66 genera, 784 species



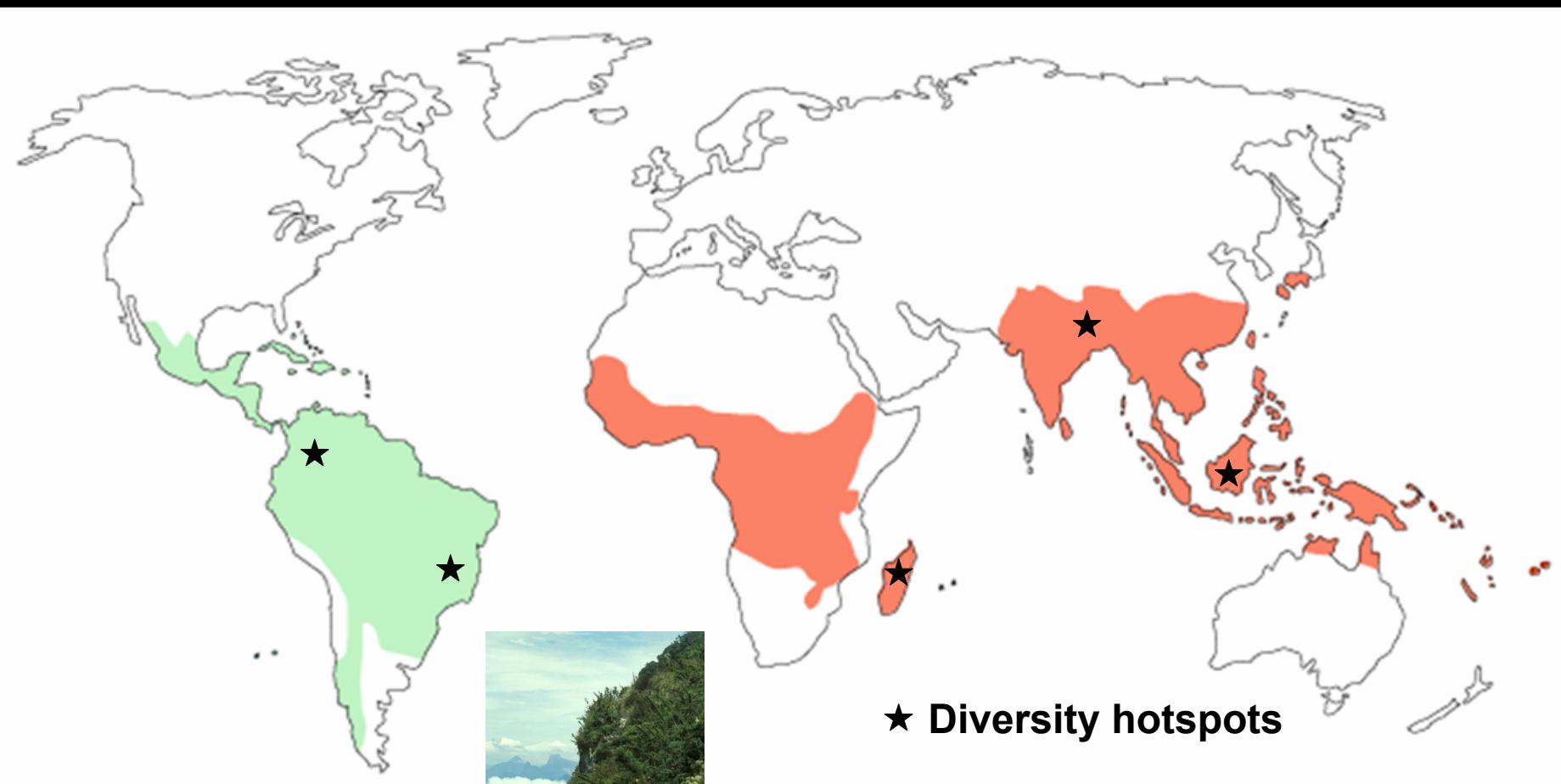
Ximena Londoño,  
Emmet Judziewicz



## Major defining characters:

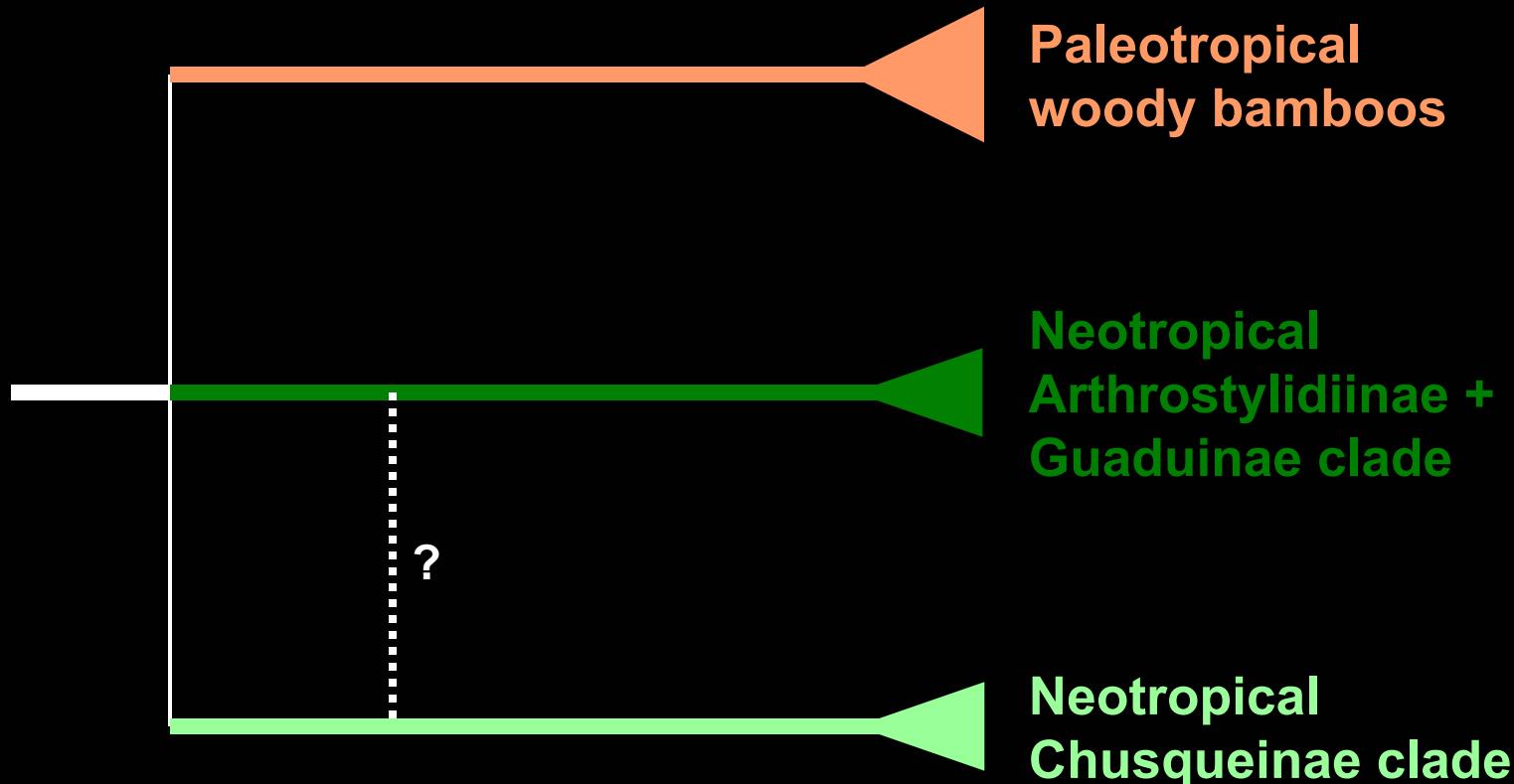
- Pachymorph rhizomes
- Tetraploidy or hexaploidy
- Acropetal or bidirectional vegetative branch development
- Molecular evidence

# Bambuseae distribution

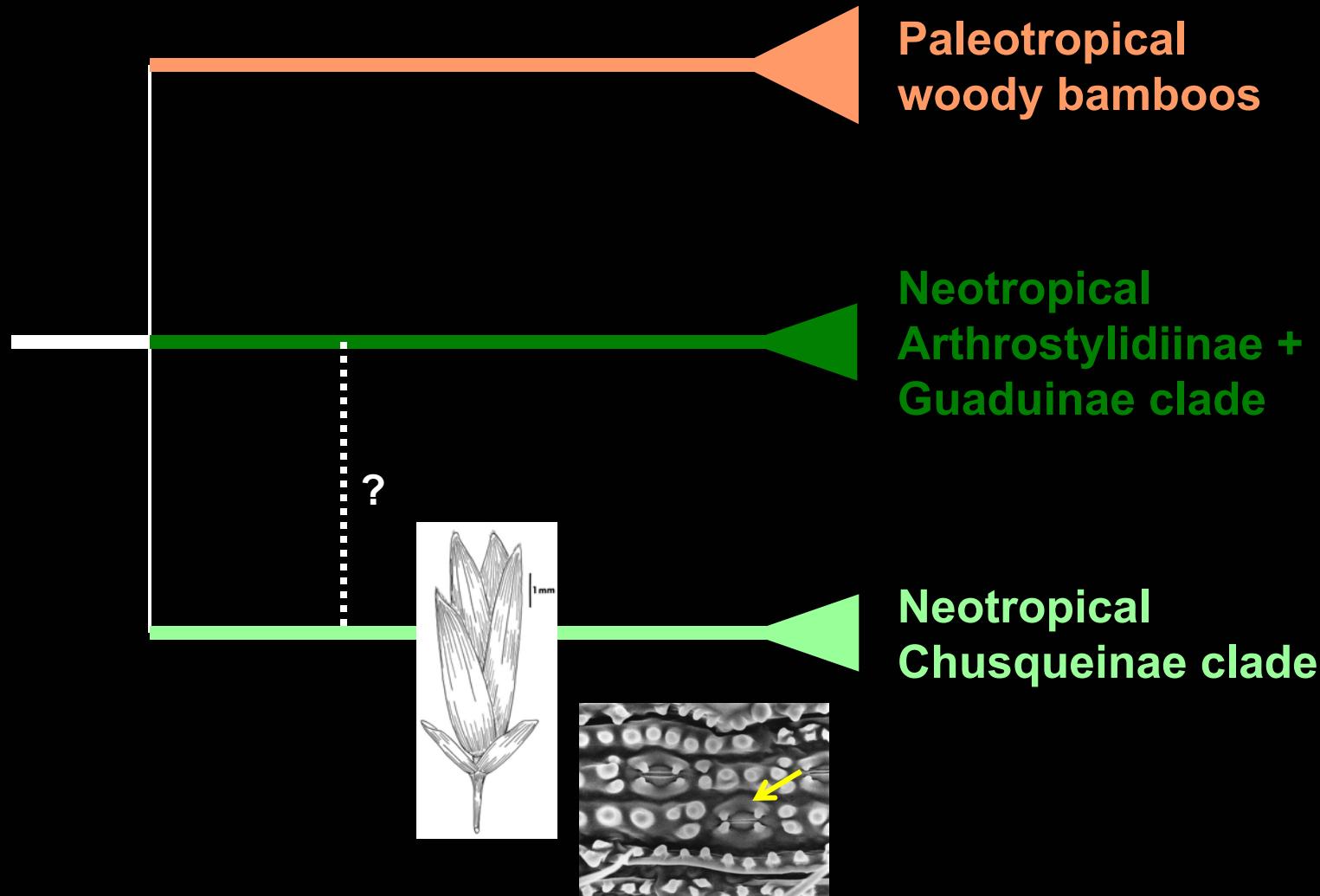


Woody bamboo diversity is  
strongly associated with mountains

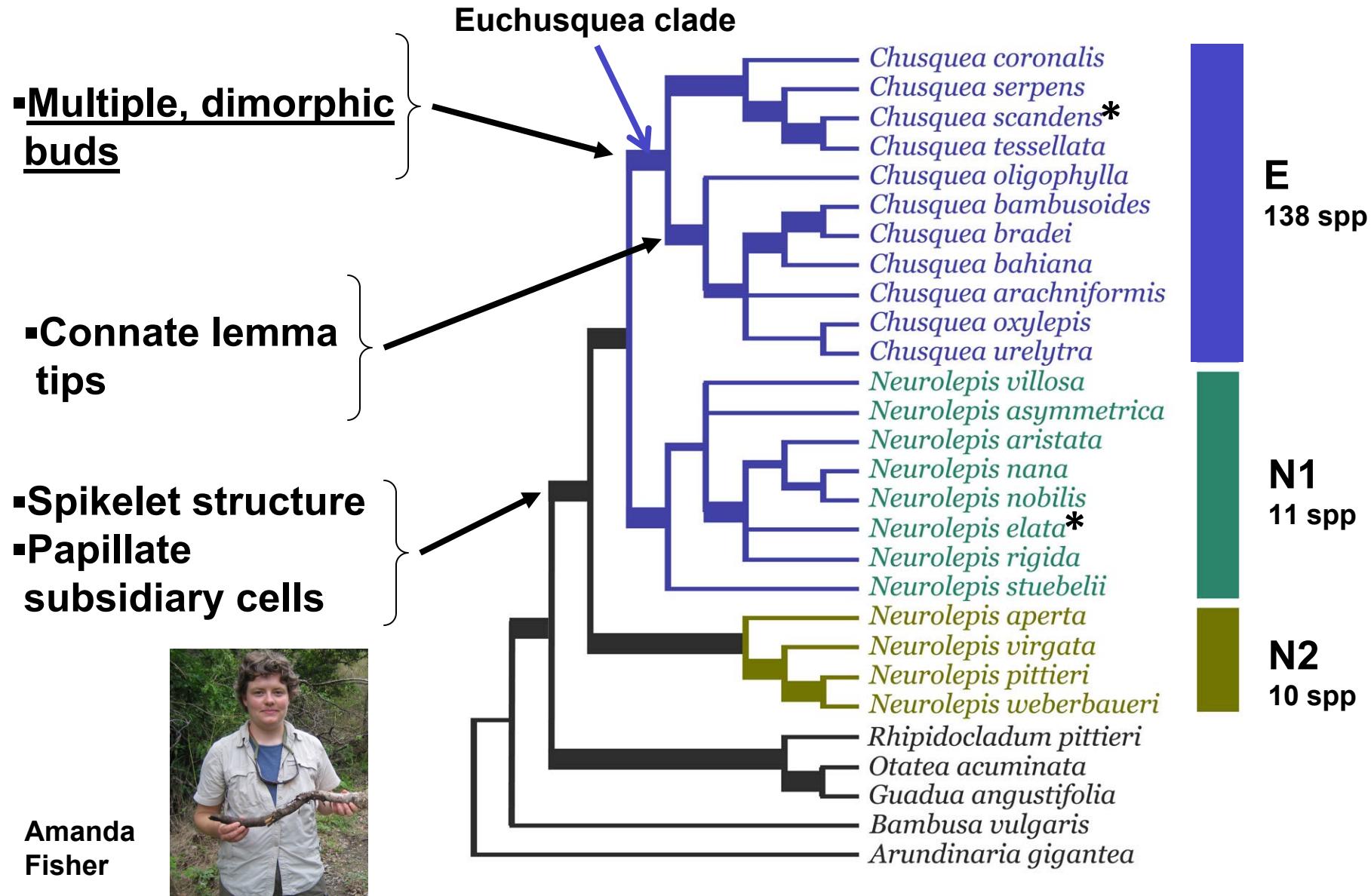
# Major lineages of the tropical woody bamboos



# Major lineages of the tropical woody bamboos



# Evolutionary relationships within Chusqueinae



# Key innovation in Chusqueinae?



J Triplett

**single bud  
in most bamboos  
giving rise to  
complex branching  
patterns**

**single buds but no**



**branch development  
in “*Neurolepis*” (21 spp)**



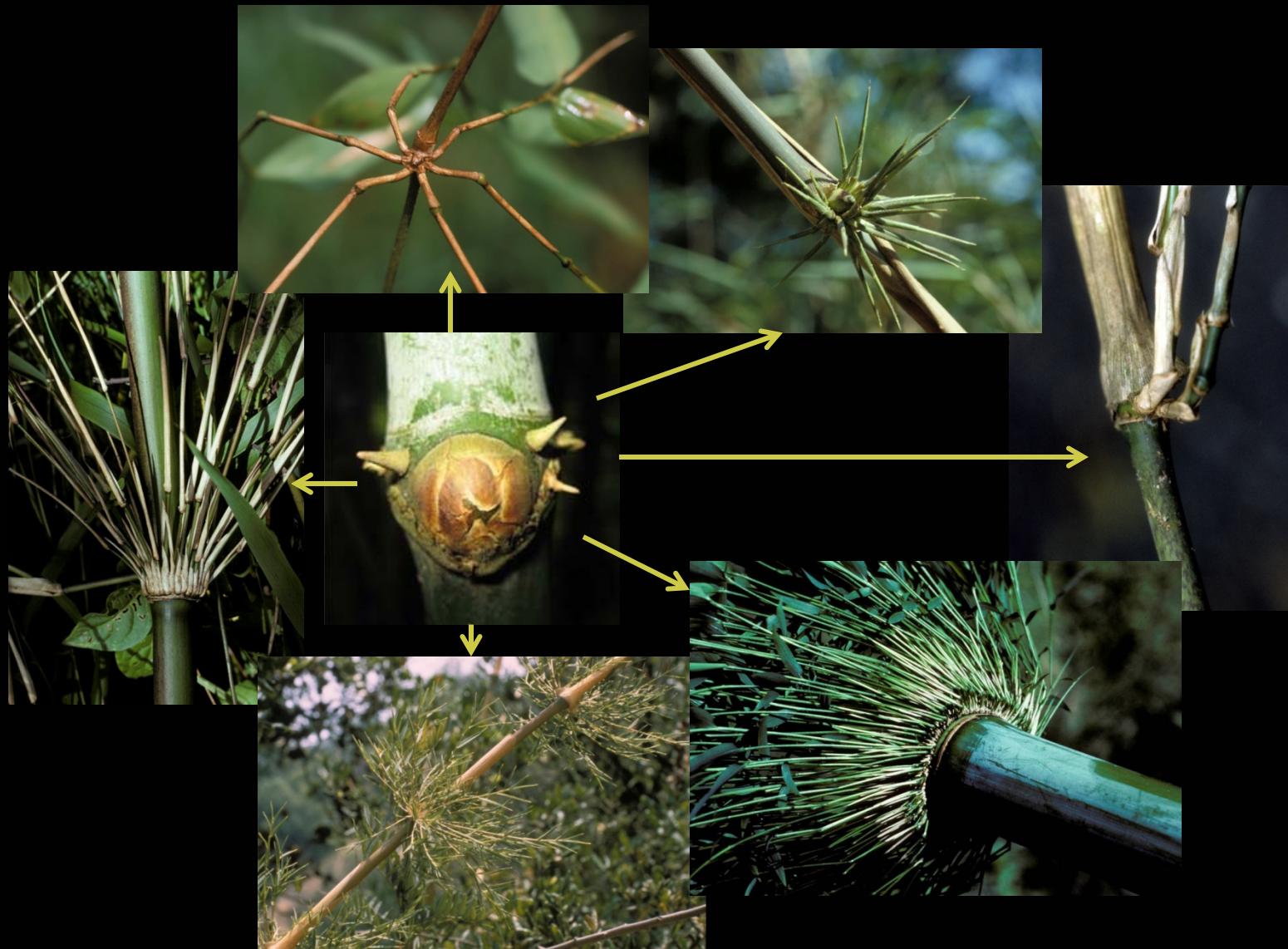
Toni  
Grieb



**multiple, dimorphic  
buds in the  
*Euchusquea* clade  
(138 spp)**



# Branching patterns in *Chusquea* (the Euchusquea clade)



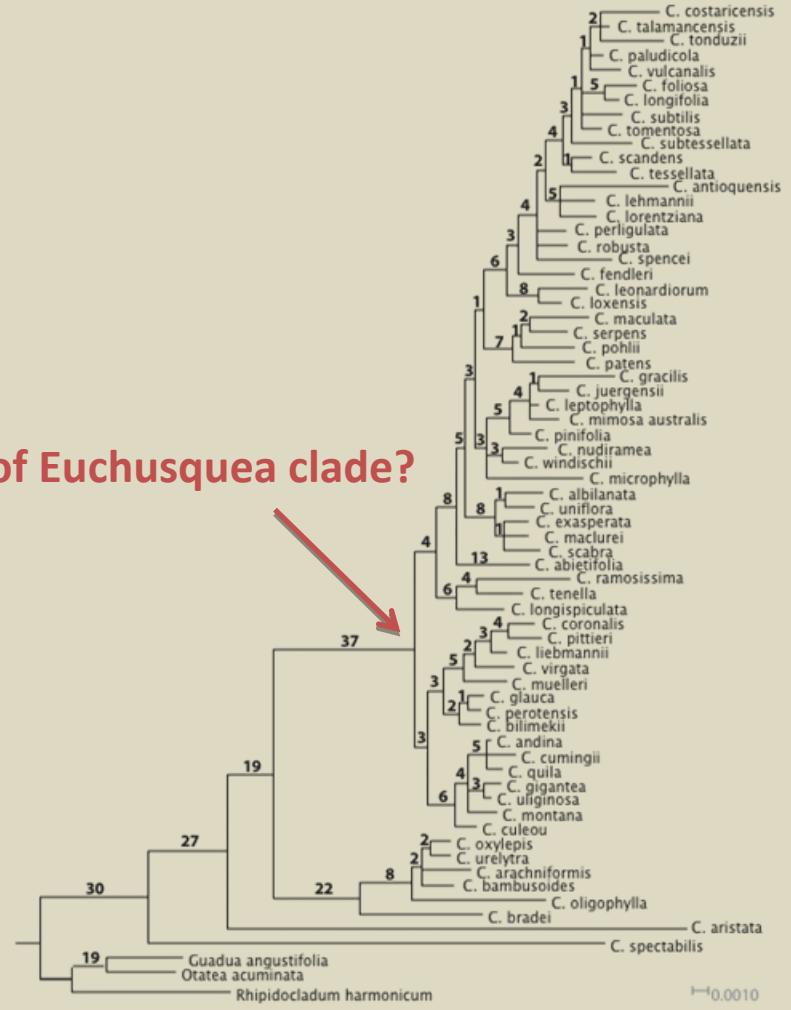


# The Euchusquea clade shows high species diversity yet low genetic variation

Low variation (>5K nucleotides, 260 PICs)

Recent origin of Euchusquea clade?

Data from  
A. Fisher





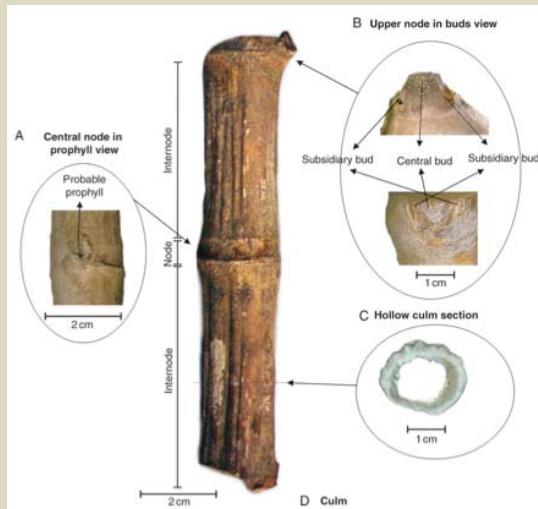
# BEAST software

## Bayesian framework

### chloroplast sequence data

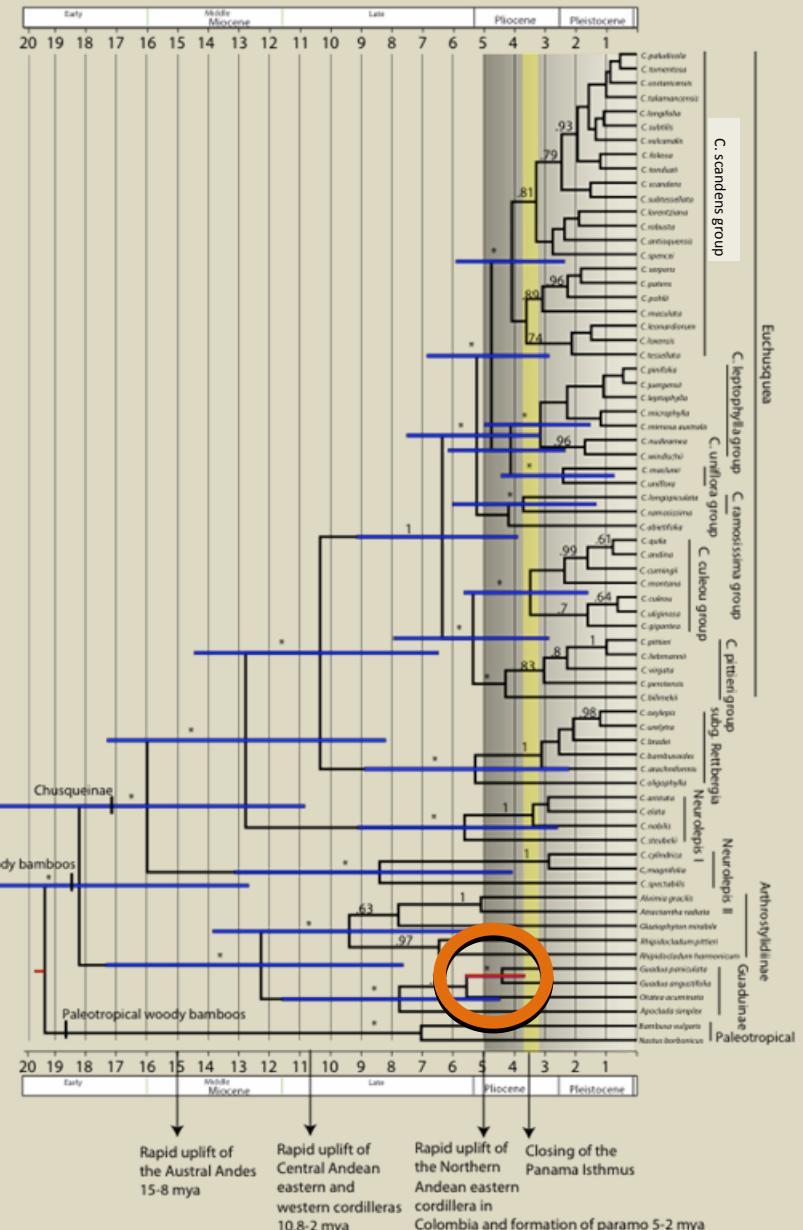
**1. Secondary calibration from a molecular dating analysis of Poaceae**  
**14 – 24.8 mya**  
**(Kelchner & Fisher unpublished)**

**2. Neotropical woody bamboo fossil**  
**3.6 – 11.8 mya**  
**(Brea & Zucol 2007)**



Data from  
A. Fisher

## Molecular dating analysis of *Chusquea*





# Molecular dating analysis of *Chusquea*

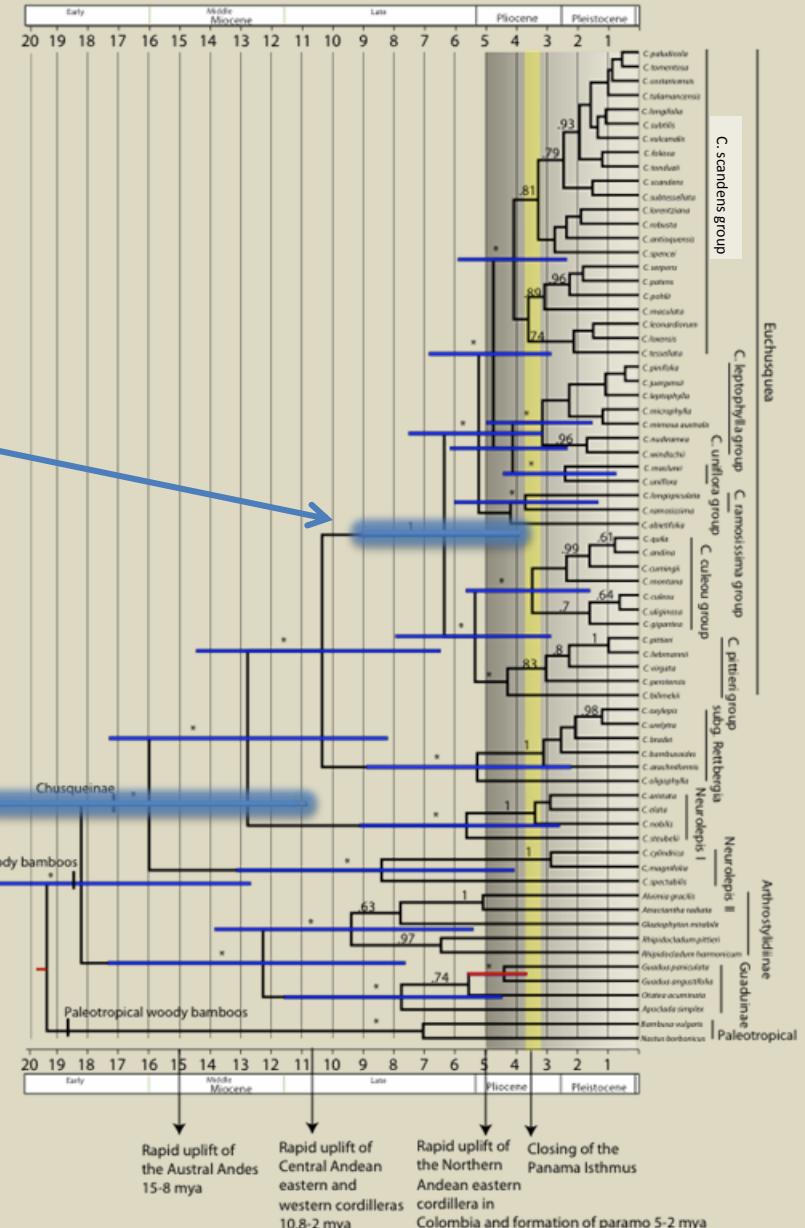


Estimated divergence of the Euchusquea clade in the late Miocene to Pliocene (3.9-9.16 mya)

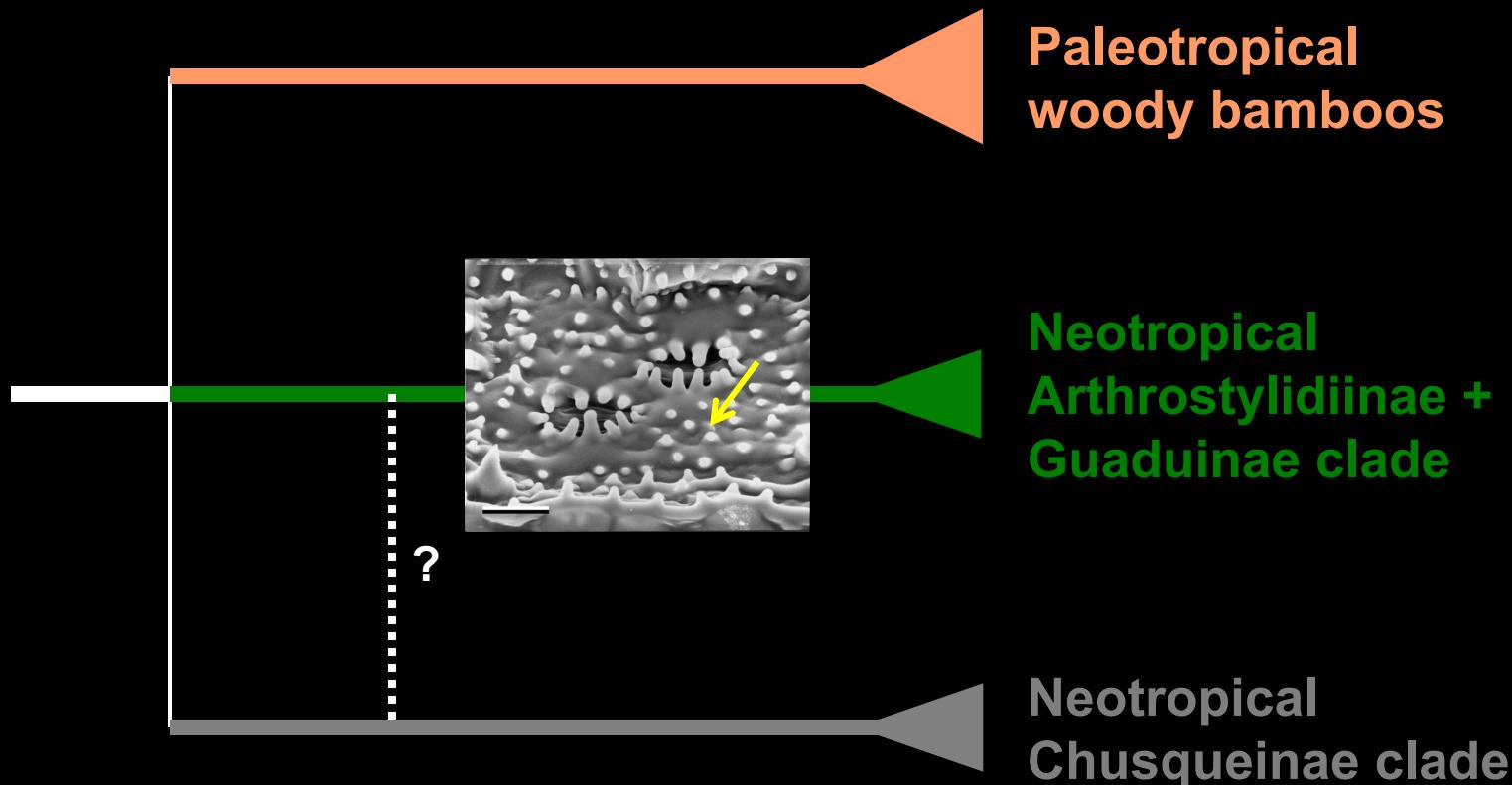
Estimated divergence of *Chusquea* In the Miocene (10.8-21 mya)



Data from  
A. Fisher



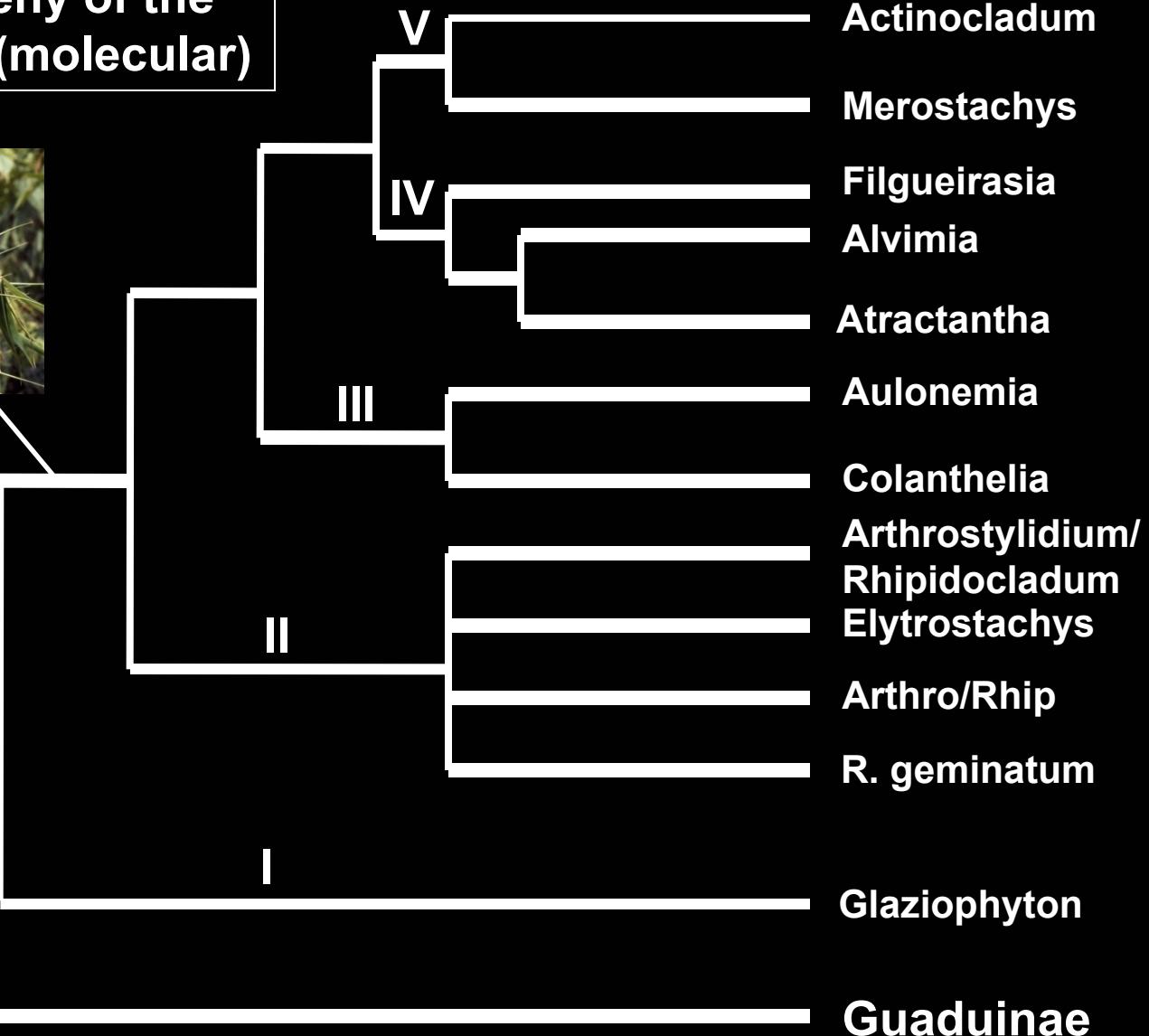
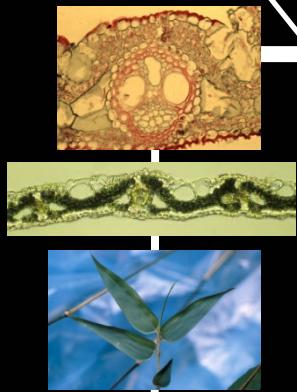
# Major lineages of the tropical woody bamboos



## Summary phylogeny of the Arthrostylidiinae (molecular)



Leaf anatomy/  
morphology



# What did the ancestor of Arthrostylidiinae look like and where in South America did the subtribe originate?

Glaziophyton



Tom  
Soderstrom

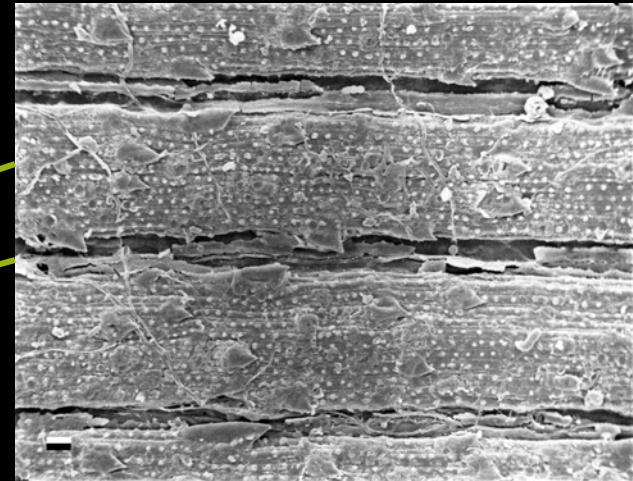


Other Arthrostylidiinae

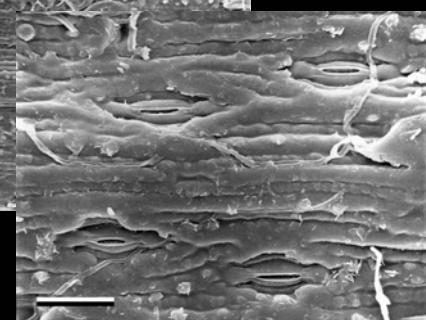
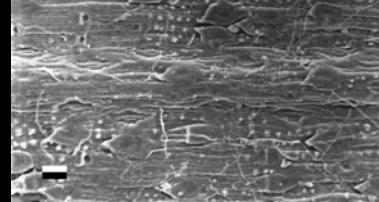
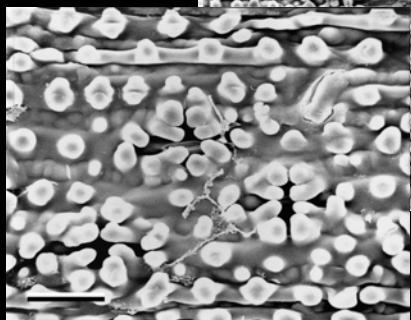
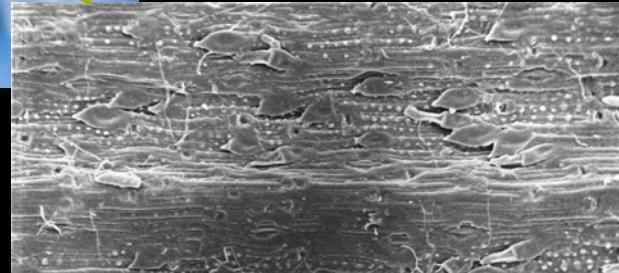
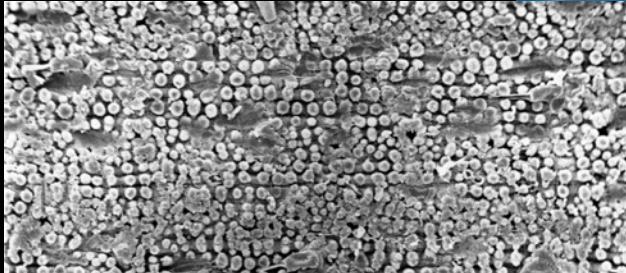


X Londoño

# Leaf anatomy and micromorphology in Arthrostylidiinae



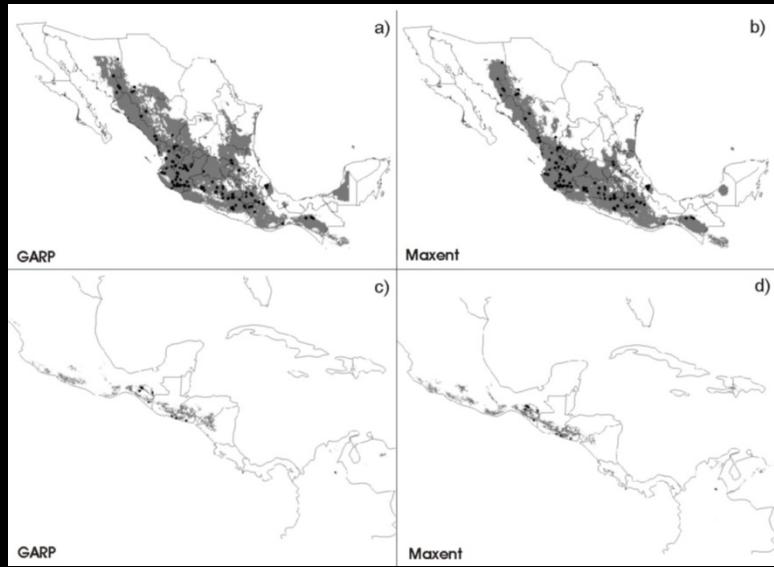
Ana Paula Santos-Gonçalves



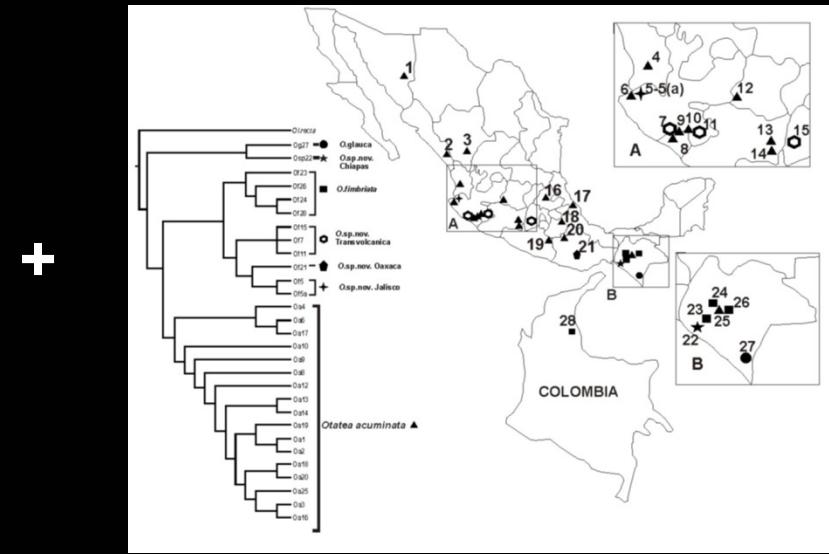
# Describing bamboo diversity

# **1999: 3 species of *Otatea* (Guaduinae)**

**(Judziewicz et al. 1999)**



## **Ecological niche modeling**



## Population genetic analysis

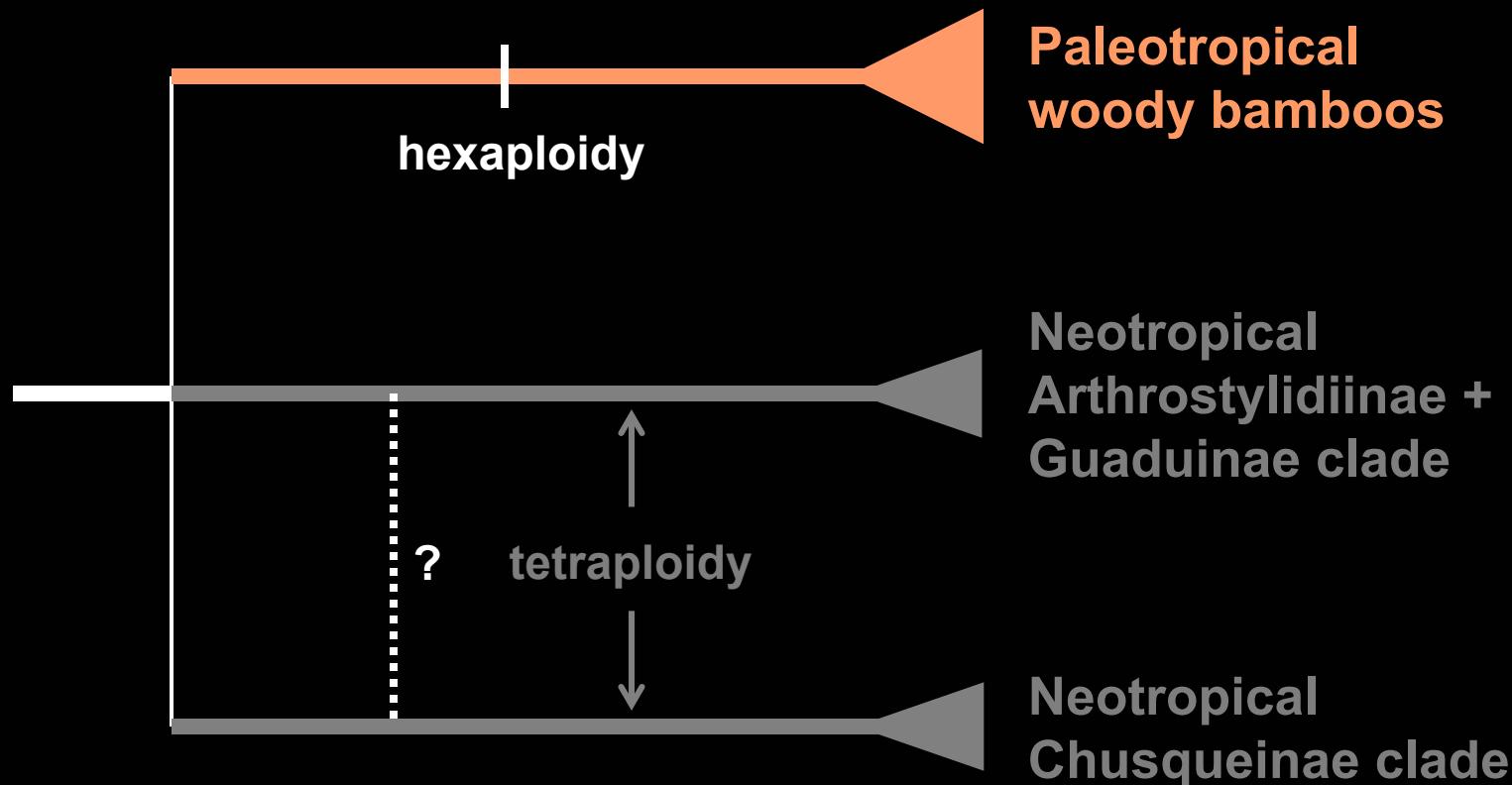


# **2011: 8 species of *Otatea* (Guaduinae)**

(Ruiz & Sosa 2010; Ruiz et al. 2011; Ruiz, in press)



# Major lineages of the tropical woody bamboos



# Paleotropical woody bamboos

## Racemobambosinae



Hickeliinae



Jatmi Dransfield



4 subtribes,  
47 genera,  
407 species



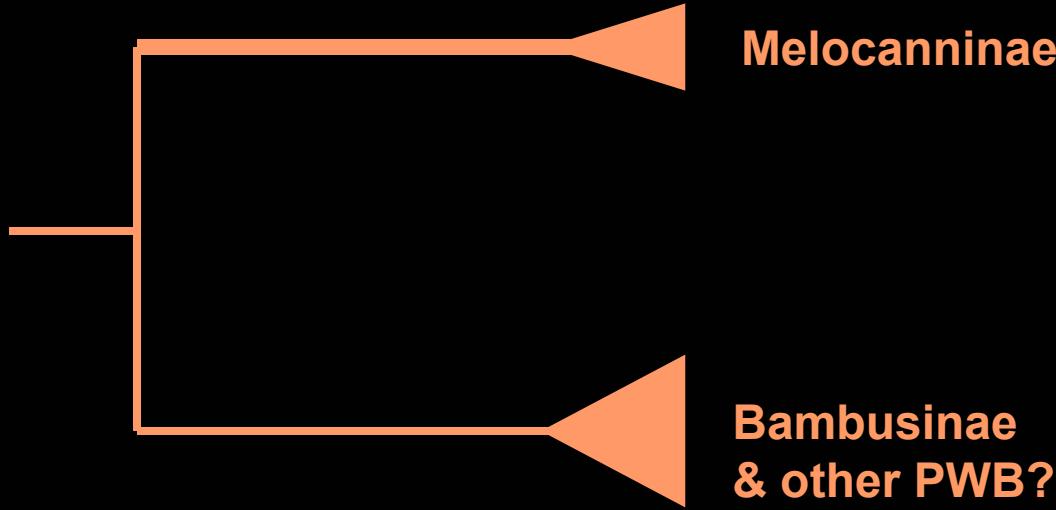
Melocanninae



Bambusinae



# Relationships within paleotropical woody bamboos



**Analyses with broader sampling are ongoing (by Chokthaweepanich et al.)...but natural hybridization is documented within Bambusinae (Goh et al., in press).**

# **Summary of most significant recent advances in bamboo evolution**



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- Estimated origin of the bamboos ca. 30 mya; 3 major lineages (herbaceous, temperate woody and tropical woody)

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- Hybridization (both between and within genera) common in each tribe
- Vegetative characters extremely important in understanding bamboo evolution

# **Summary of most important changes in bamboo classification**

A photograph of a dense forest of tall, thin bamboo stalks growing on a hillside. The bamboo is the dominant feature, with many vertical stalks reaching upwards. The forest floor is covered in green undergrowth and moss. In the background, more hills and mountains are visible under a clear sky.

A photograph of a lush, green bamboo forest covering a hillside. The bamboo stalks are tall and slender, with many leaves and culms visible. The forest extends to a distant, hazy mountain range under a clear sky.

# **Summary of most important changes in bamboo classification**

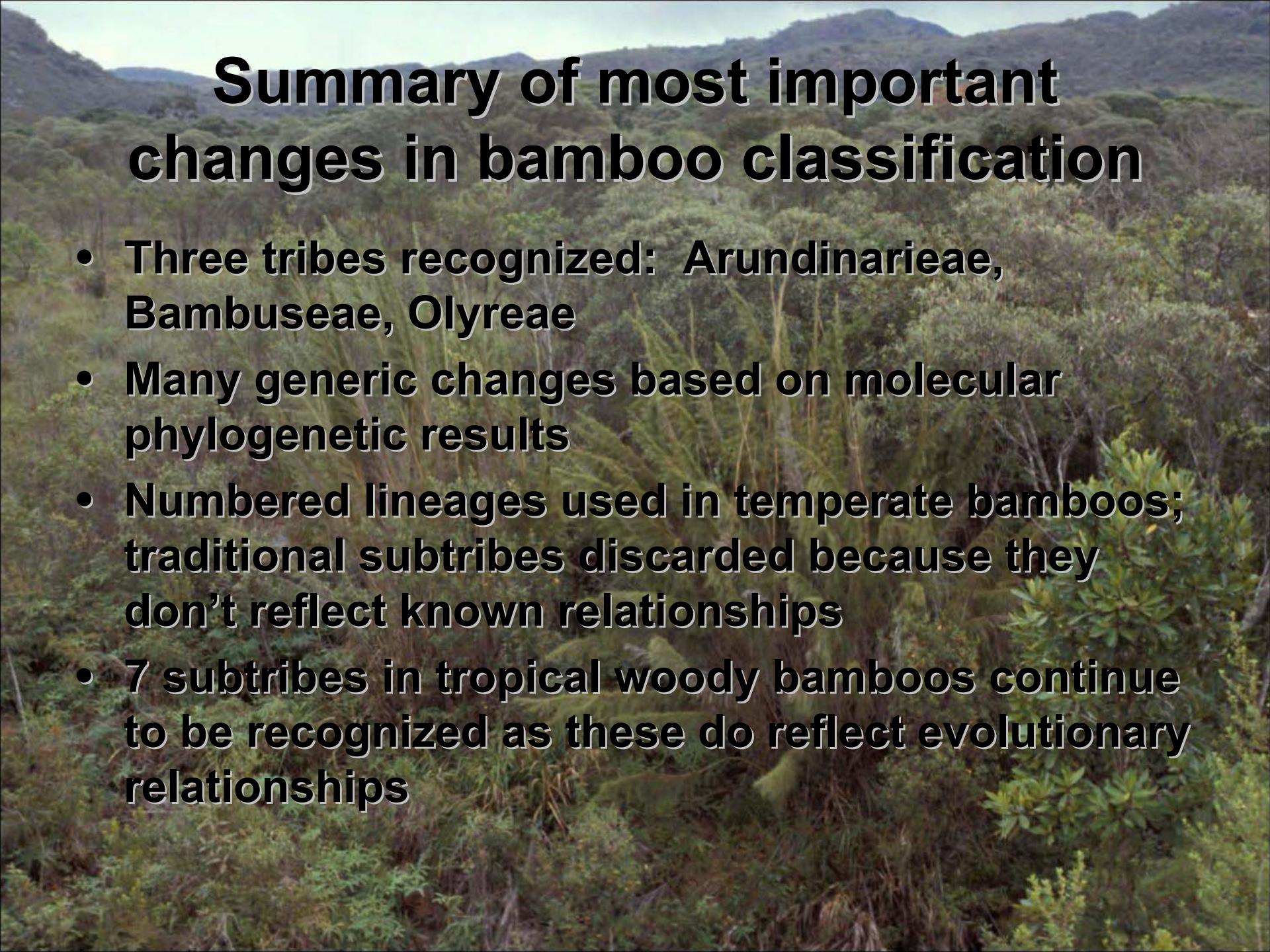
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- Numbered lineages used in temperate bamboos; traditional subtribes discarded because they don't reflect known relationships

A photograph of a lush green bamboo forest covering a hillside. The bamboo plants are tall and slender, with many culms visible. The background shows more hills under a clear sky.

# Summary of most important changes in bamboo classification

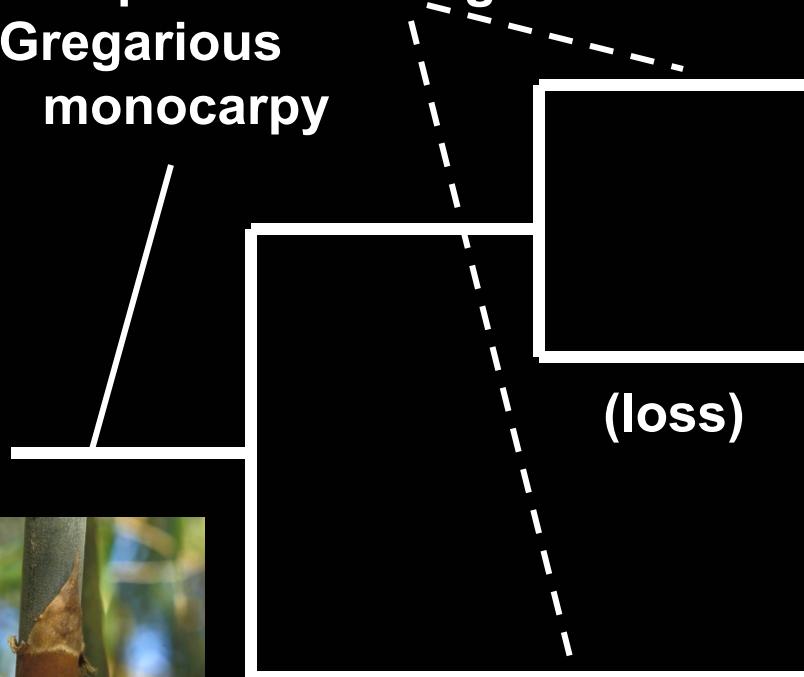
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- Many generic changes based on molecular phylogenetic results
- Numbered lineages used in temperate bamboos; traditional subtribes discarded because they don't reflect known relationships
- 7 subtribes in tropical woody bamboos continue to be recognized as these do reflect evolutionary relationships

A photograph of a natural landscape featuring a variety of vegetation. In the foreground, there are several clumps of tall, green grasses with long, narrow leaves. Interspersed among them are smaller, more delicate plants with smaller leaves and some yellowish or brownish tints. The overall scene suggests a wetland or coastal area where different plant communities are growing together.

# Current directions

# I. Resolving relationships

Woody habit  
& culm leaves  
Complex branching  
Gregarious  
monocarpy



Tropical  
woody bamboos



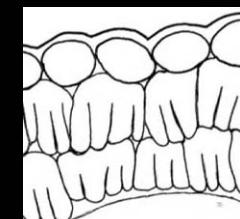
Olyreae



Temperate  
woody bamboos



+



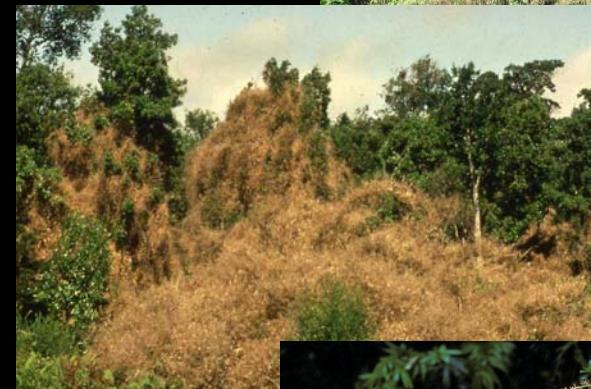
## **II. Flowering behavior in woody bamboos**

**Cycles vary from a few years to several decades to as much as 120 years.**

**How do the plants count?**

**What are the genetic mechanisms controlling flowering?**

**What selective pressures led to the evolution of gregarious monocarpy in bamboos?**



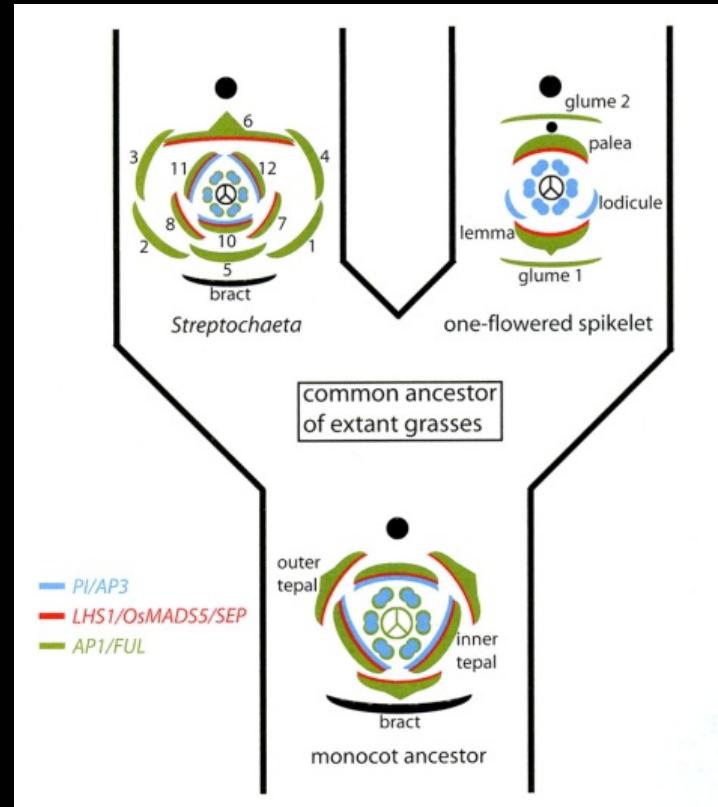
### III. Evolution of development



**Genes related to rhizome  
bud development in bamboos**  
(Wang et al. 2010)

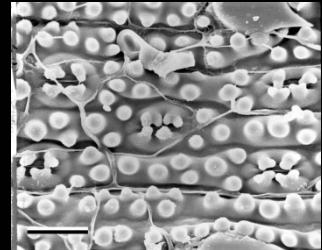


**Development of fusoid cells**

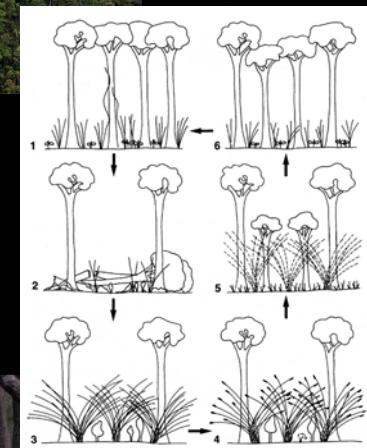


**Genes affecting floral  
development in grasses**  
(Preston et al. 2009)

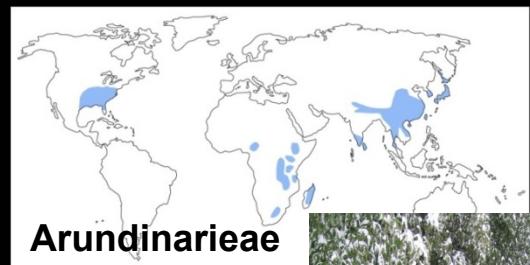
## IV. Bamboo ecology



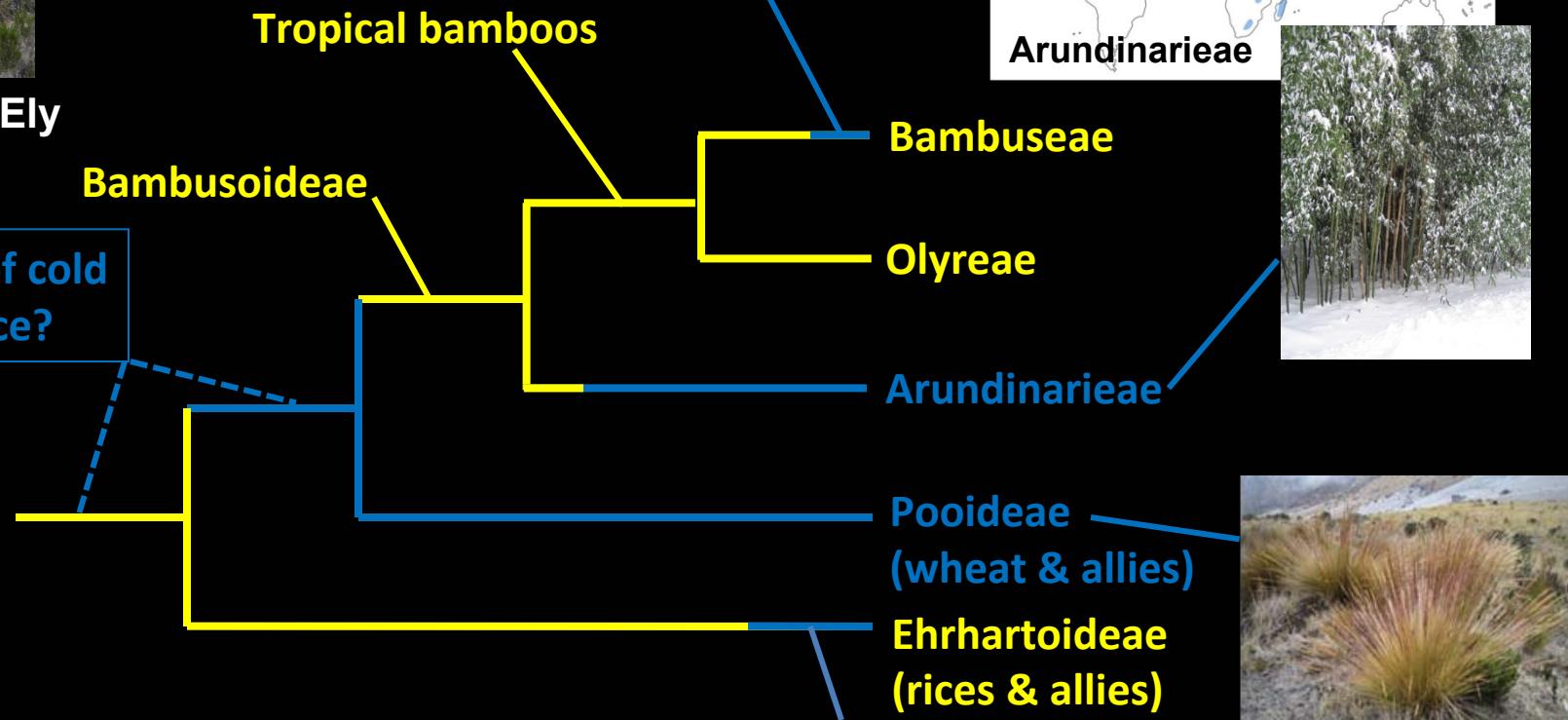
Bamboos &  
other organisms



# V. Bamboo ecology



Francisca Ely



Cold tolerance  
in the BEP Clade



100s of genes known  
to affect cold tolerance



**Split Responsibly**

**Funding:**  
**U.S. National Science Foundation**  
**National Geographic Society**  
**American Bamboo Society**  
**Iowa State University**  
**9<sup>th</sup> World Bamboo Congress**



*Thank You!*