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# Phenotypic variation in *Lupinus polyphyllus* (Fabaceae)

Emma Bergh<sup>1,2</sup>, Claudia Ciotir<sup>1,3</sup>, Allison Miller<sup>1,3,4</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Missouri Botanical Garden

<sup>2</sup> Oberlin College

<sup>3</sup> The Land Institute

<sup>4</sup> Saint Louis University

# Developing Perennial Agriculture

- Sustainable agriculture system: **perennial polycultures**
  - Mimics a natural system
  - Less soil loss than annual monocultures
  - More efficient at using resources
- Herbaceous perennial grain crops rarely domesticated
- The Land Institute in Salina, KS is working to domesticate such perennial species
- 3 families: Asteraceae, Fabaceae, Poaceae



# De novo domestication

- Breeding crops requires variation in morphological traits
  - Variation must have a genetic basis
  - First step: understand the range of natural phenotypes
- Ongoing work focuses on **legumes**, which are important food sources and also contributors of nitrogen to the soil.

Several legume species of domestication interest



*Glycine latrobeana*



*Senna spp.*



*Desmanthus illinoensis*



*Lupinus perennis*



*Phaseolus polystachios*

# *Lupinus* (Fabaceae)

- Both perennial and annual species
- Some annuals already domesticated
- Nitrogen-fixing
- However: toxic seeds (can be processed out)

## *Lupinus polyphyllus* Lindl.

- Perennial, native to western North America, have been introduced elsewhere.
- Variable morphologically
  - Distinctive large leaves with many leaflets
- Efforts to domesticate already underway in Scandinavia and Russia (Kurlovich 2002)
  - Toxicity can be bred out, sweet mutants developed



# *Lupinus polyphyllus* main questions

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1. What is the extent of morphological variation in *L. polyphyllus*?
2. Does morphological variation differ based on co-occurrence with other *Lupinus*?
3. How does morphological variation correlate with climatic variation?
4. Is there any evidence for trade-offs between reproductive and vegetative traits?



# Herbarium data collection

Reproductive traits	Vegetative traits	Specimen information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seeds per pod (5)</li> <li>Pod length / width (5)</li> <li>Inflorescence length</li> <li>Internode length (5)</li> <li>Pedicle length (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stem width</li> <li>Leaflets per leaf (5)</li> <li>Leaflet length / width (5)</li> <li>Leaflet shape</li> <li>Leaf pubescence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MOBOT Accession number</li> <li>Date collected</li> <li>Location collected</li> <li>Elevation</li> <li>Most updated label classification</li> </ul>

Examined at *L. polyphyllus* (77 specimens total) plus several other *Lupinus* species (9-20 specimens each).



SHEET 2 OF 3

PLANTS OF WISCONSIN

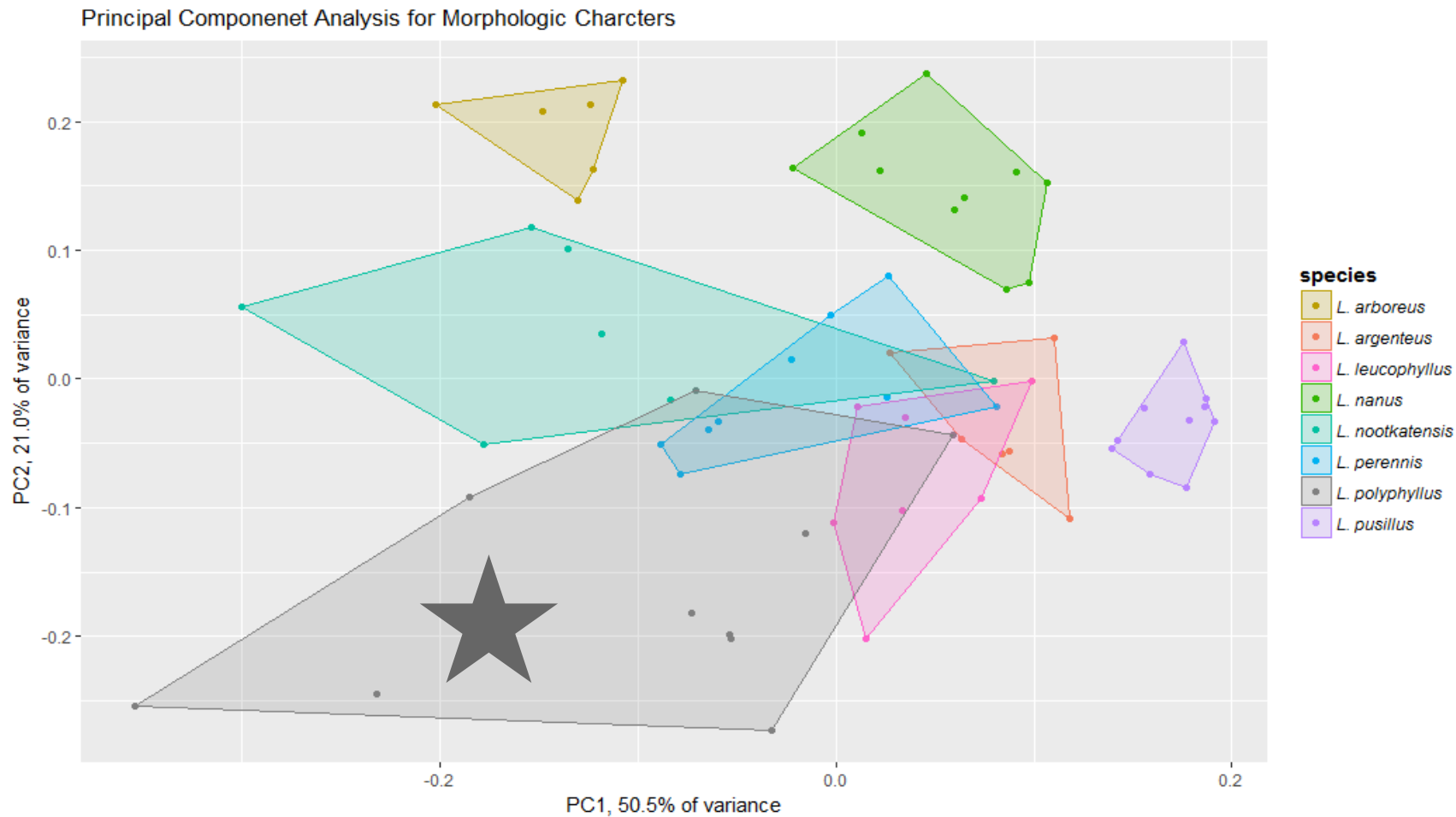
Fabaceae  
*Lupinus polyphyllus* Ludley

IRON COUNTY: Hurley, N of US 51 at junction with 5th Avenue N. Elev. ca 445 m. Ruderal roadside and wooded slope above streambank (Montreal River), with *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Picea glauca*, *Salix*, *Populus*, *Ulmus*, *Prunus*, *Crataegus*, *Lonicera*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Phalaris*, *Solidago*, *Hypericum punctatum*, *Equisetum arvense*, *Athyrium filix-femina*, *Tanacetum*, *Achillea*, *Ambrosia*, *Rhennus cathartica*, *Carex retrofracta*, *Juncus brevicaudatus*, *Panicum acris*, *Citrus maculata*, *Oncoclea sensibilis*, *Scirpus microscopus*, *Spergularia rubra*. Erect herb from woody caudex, leafy portion 0.5-0.8 m tall, with flowers or fruits 1-1.3 m tall; flowers bluish-purple; fruits maturing grayish; one large loose colony with 50+ stems.

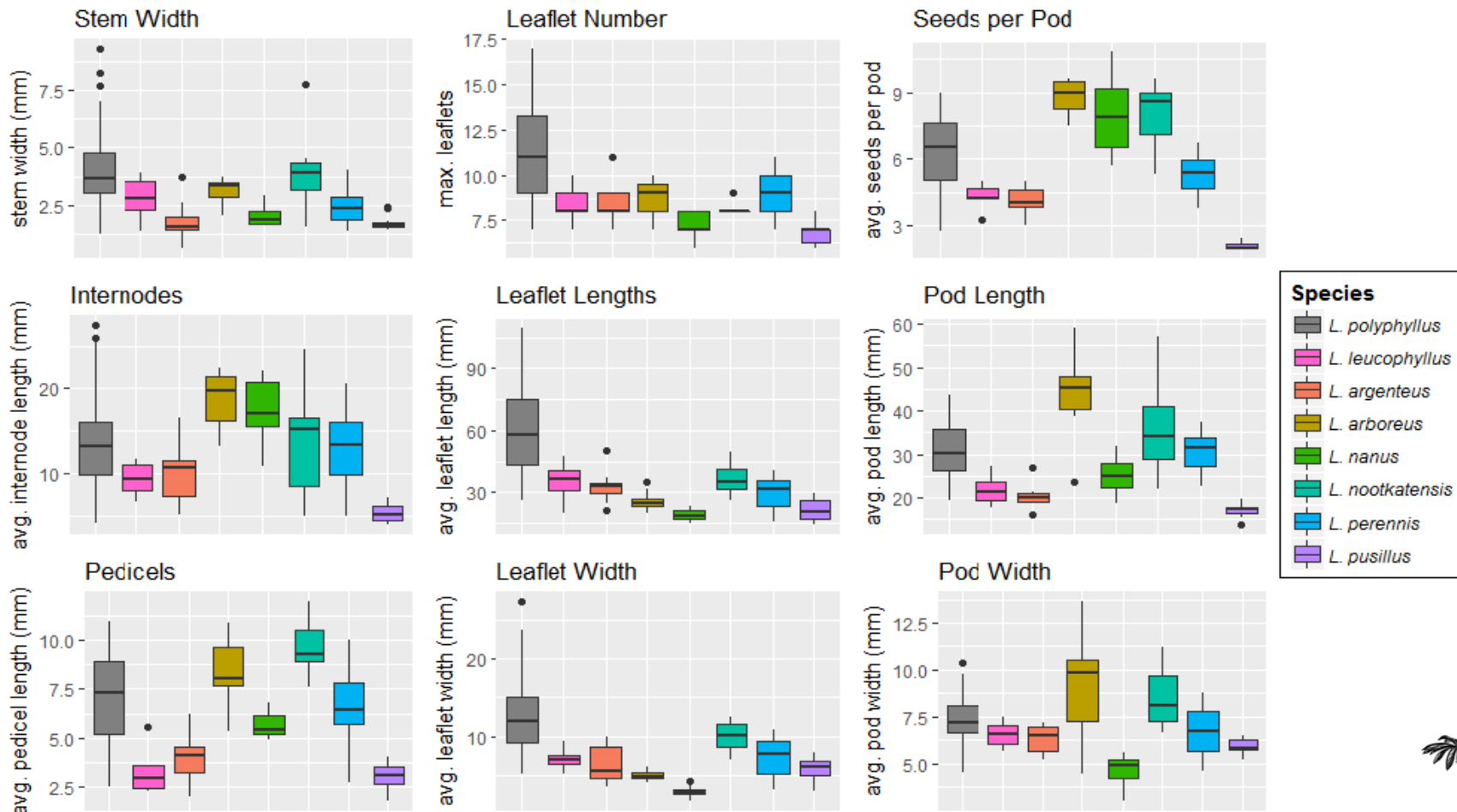
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coll. J. Richard Abbott # 26743 6 Aug 2014  
Voucher for DNA studies

University of Florida Herbarium (FLAS), Gainesville, Florida, USA  
Missouri Botanical Garden Herbarium (MO), St. Louis, Missouri, USA

# 1. What is the extent of morphological variation in *L. polyphyllus*?



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# *Lupinus polyphyllus* main questions

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4. Is there any evidence for trade-offs between reproductive and vegetative traits?



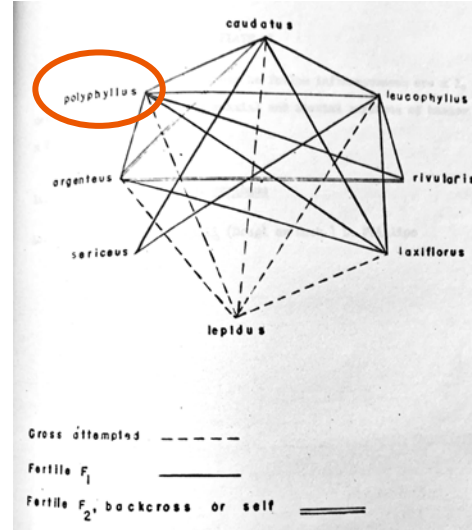
**Hypothesis:** In areas of sympatry, vegetative and reproductive traits will be intermediate to both parental phenotypes whereas in allopatric areas, traits will be distinct.



## 2. Does morphological variation differ based on co-occurrence with other *Lupinus*?

### Possible explanations:

- Hybridization
- Convergent evolution
- Phenotypic plasticity



Phillips 1954:  
attempted  
crosses as part of  
a genus revision

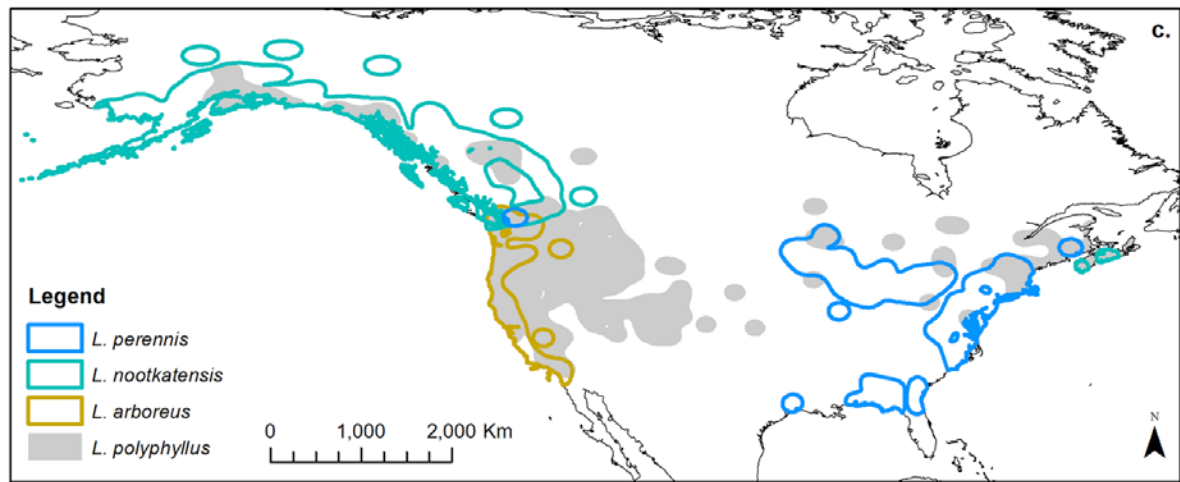
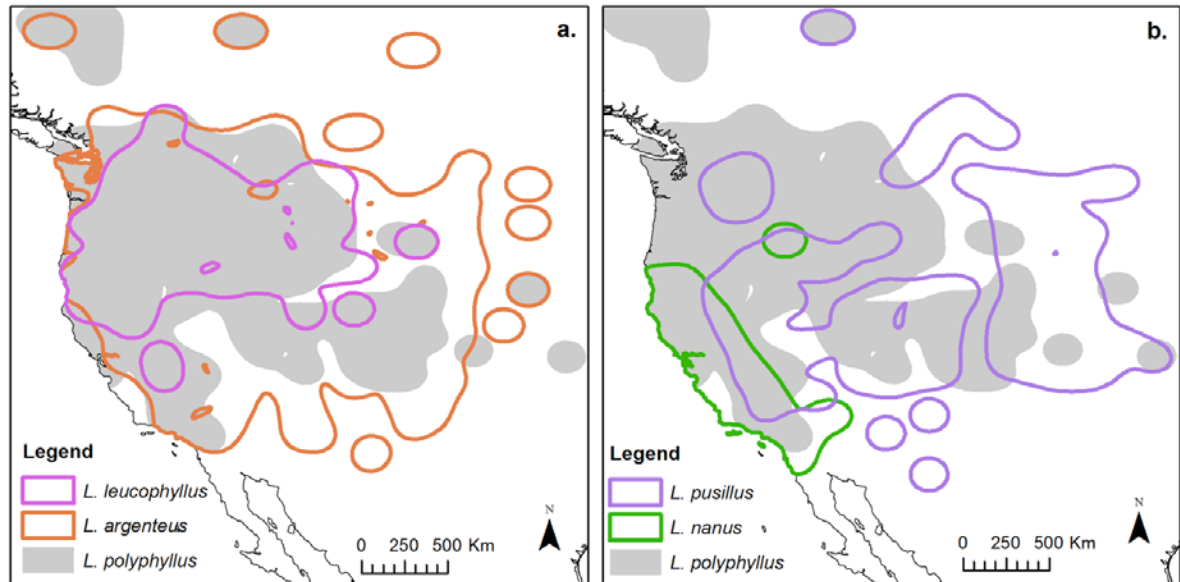
Ornamental Russell  
lupin, developed in  
1920s, thought to be a  
cross between *L.*  
*polyphyllus*, *L. arboreus*  
and *L. nootkatensis*.



## 2. Does morphological variation differ based on co-occurrence with other *Lupinus*?

There are 100+ species of North American *Lupinus*

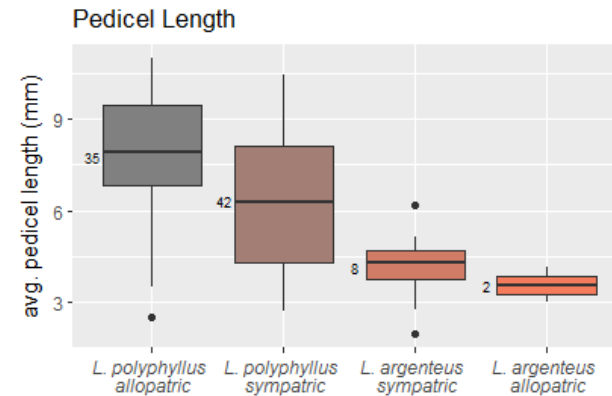
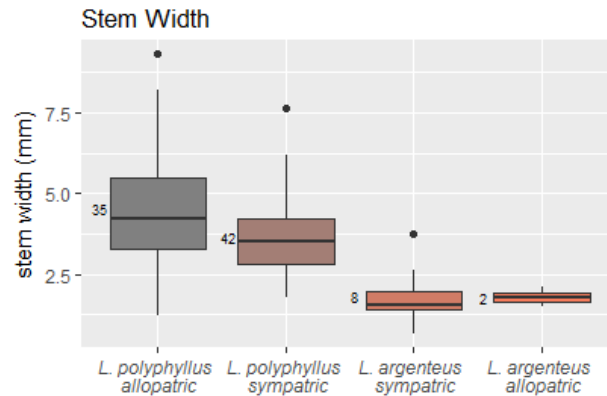
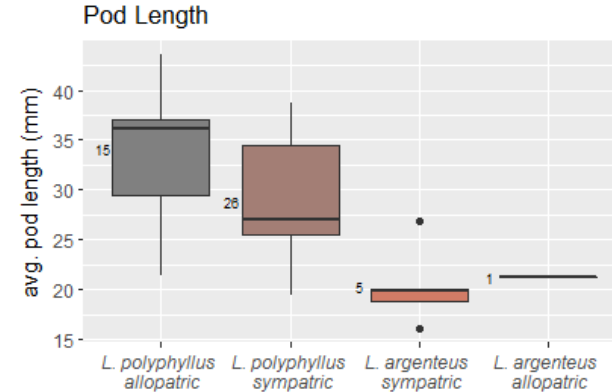
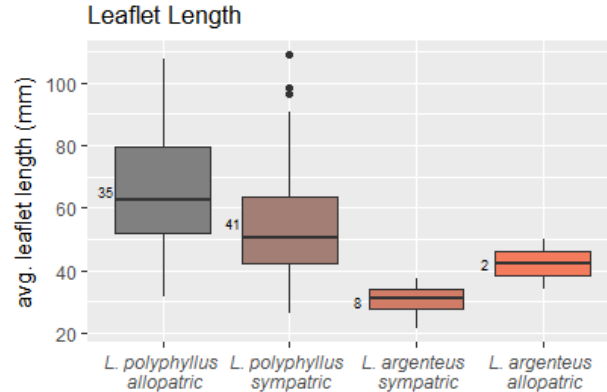
- Criteria for selection:
  - Co-occurring with *L. polyphyllus*
  - Previous record of interspecific hybridization with *L. polyphyllus*
- Taxa selected:
  - Perennial taxa (5)
  - Annual taxa (2)
  - Phylogenetic distances range from ~1.0 mya to ~9.0 mya (Drummond et al. 2012)



# Some traits of *L. polyphyllus* appear intermediate in areas of sympatry with *L. argenteus*



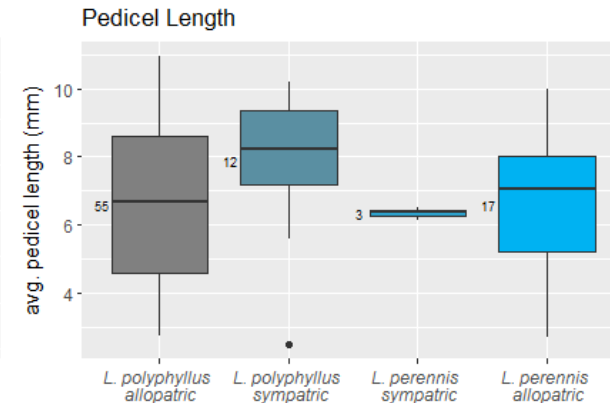
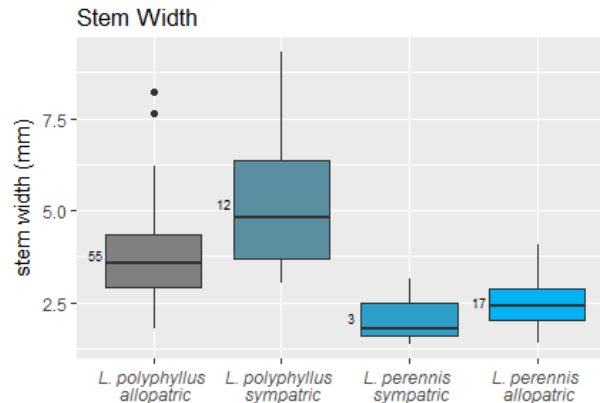
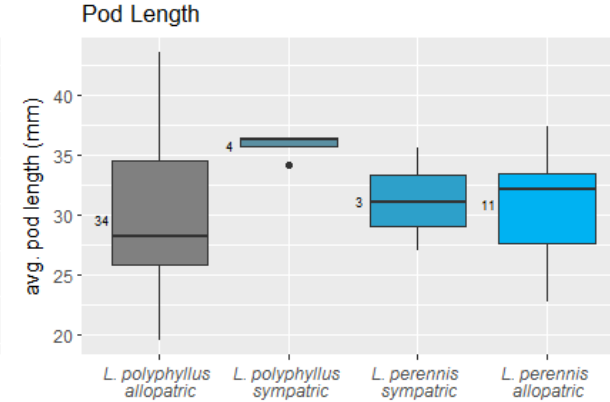
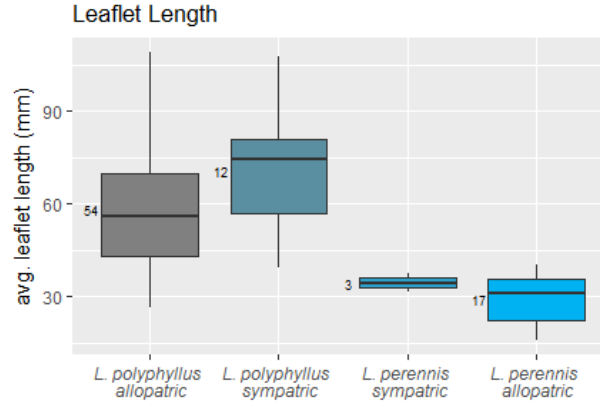
- Could be due to hybridization, convergent evolution or phenotypic plasticity.
- Need genetic data to know more.
- Elevation possibly skewing results. *L. arboreus* only lives at high elevations.



# Some traits of *L. polyphyllus* appear divergent in areas of sympatry with *L. perennis*



- Could be due to **character displacement**
- All these traits display an increase in values, so could be due to better growth in invasive regions.



<b>Results:</b>	<b>Life history</b> (Drummond et al. 2012)	<b>Aprx. date divergence from <i>L. polyphyllus</i></b> (Drummond et al. 2012)	<b><i>Lupinus polyphyllus</i> is more similar to taxon in sympatry</b>	<b><i>Lupinus polyphyllus</i> is less similar to taxon in sympatry</b>
<i>L. arboreus</i>	perennial	~ 2.5 mya	X	X
<i>L. argenteus</i>	perennial	~ 1.4 mya	X	
<i>L. leucophyllus</i>	perennial	~ 1.0 mya		
<i>L. nanus</i>	annual	~ 3.9 mya		X
<i>L. nootkatensis</i>	perennial	~ 4.2 mya	X	
<i>L. perennis</i>	perennial	~ 4.2 mya		X
<i>L. pusillus</i>	annual	~ 9.0 mya	X	X

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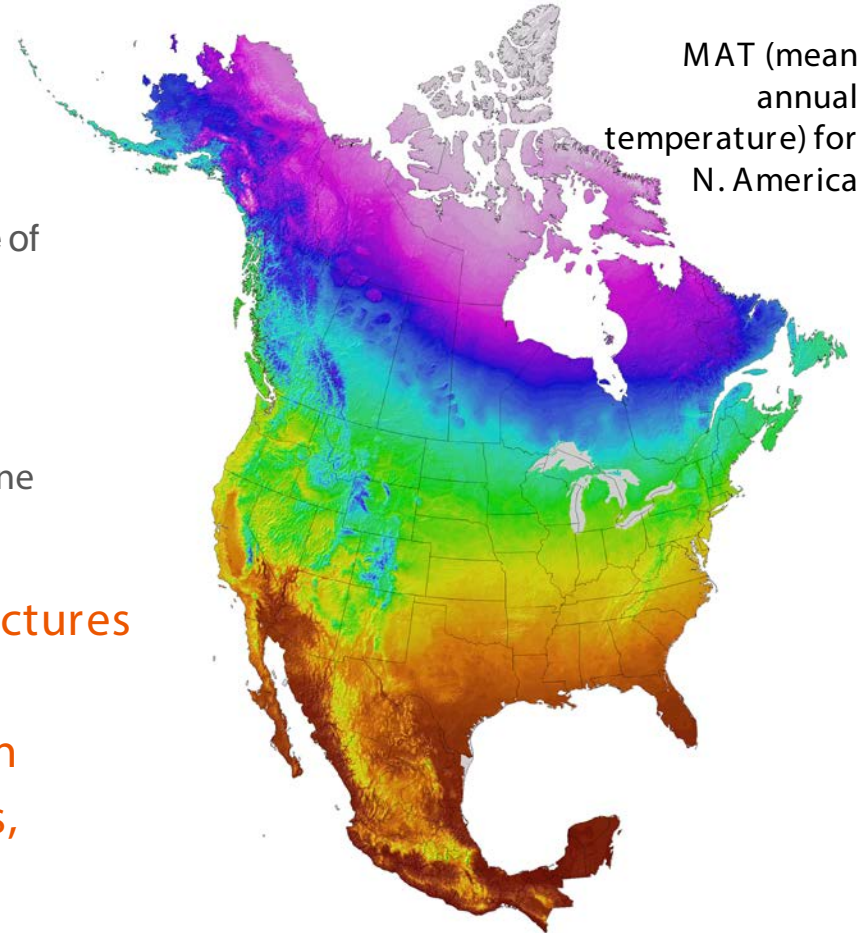


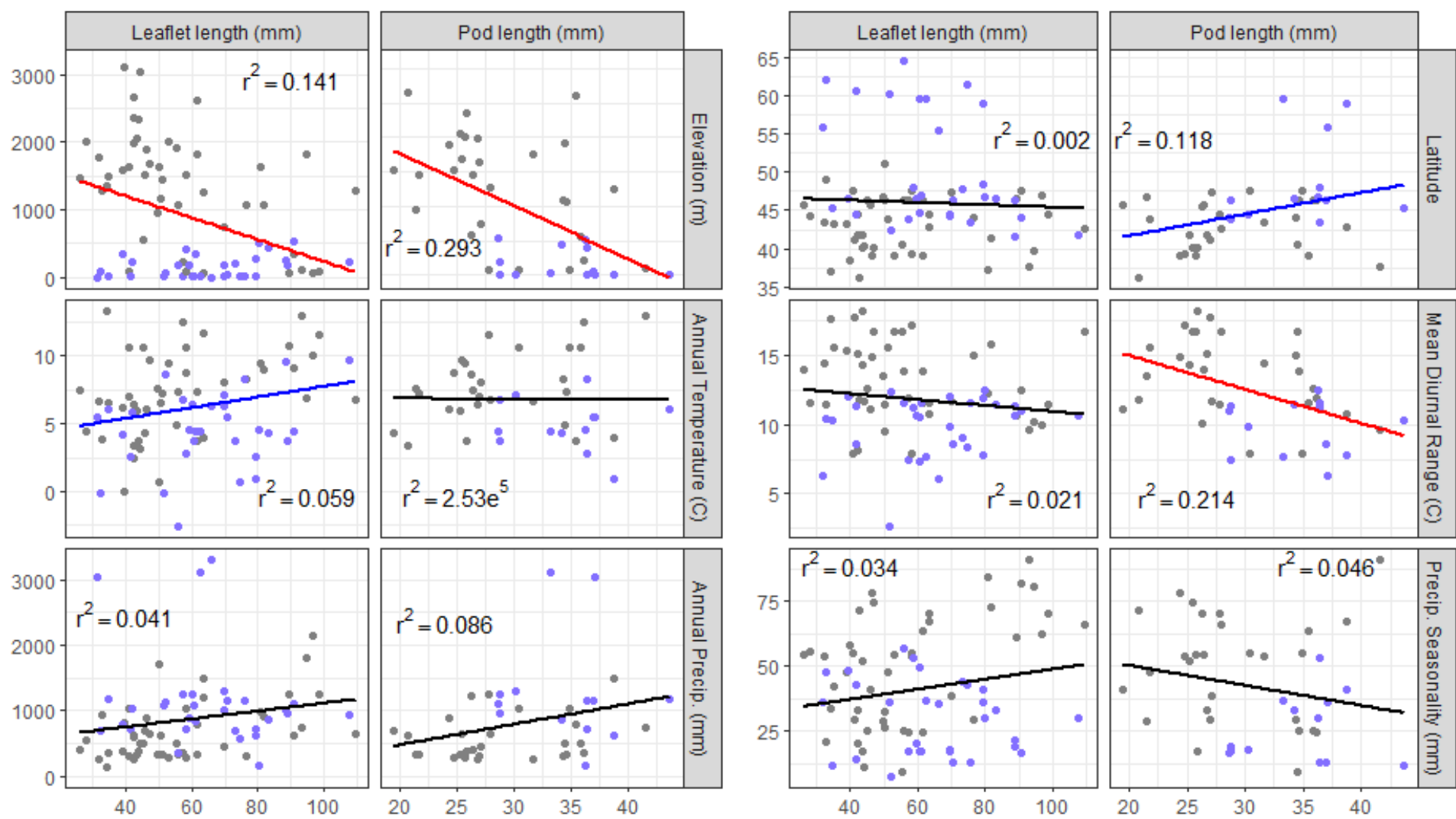


# Climate and morphology

- *Lupinus polyphyllus* grows successfully in a wide range of conditions.
- For each *L. polyphyllus* specimen, BioClim data for the coordinate was downloaded.
- Correlations were looked at for one vegetative and one reproductive trait

**Hypothesis:** Vegetative and reproductive structures in *L. polyphyllus* are correlated with climatic conditions. I predict that sizes will be smaller in stressful environments such as high elevations, temperature extremes and little rainfall.

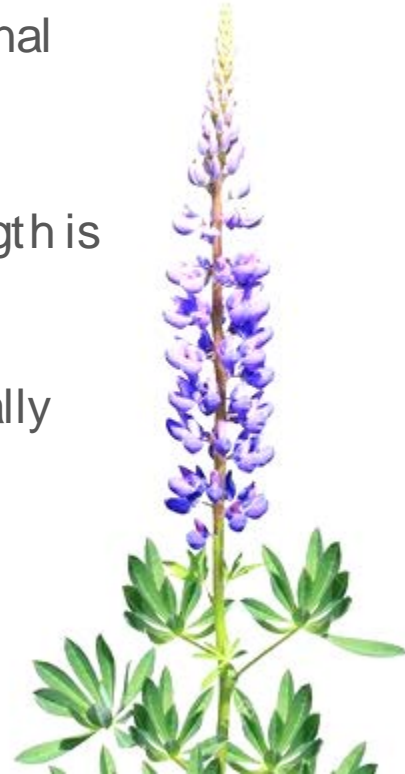




# Climate results

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- Pod length is negatively correlated with elevation and mean diurnal range. Pod length is positively correlated with latitude.
  - Diurnal range = range of temperatures in a day
- Leaflet length is negatively correlated with elevation. Leaflet length is positively correlated with mean annual temperature.
- Further work investigating these significant correlations, especially **common garden experiments** to determine if changes are due to phenotypic plasticity or fixed genetic changes.



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# Trade-offs?

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One theory as to why perennial herbaceous crops have not yet been developed is that there are significant trade-offs between reproductive output and vegetative growth, so breeders cannot select for both long lifespans and high yield (Van Tassel et al. 2010).

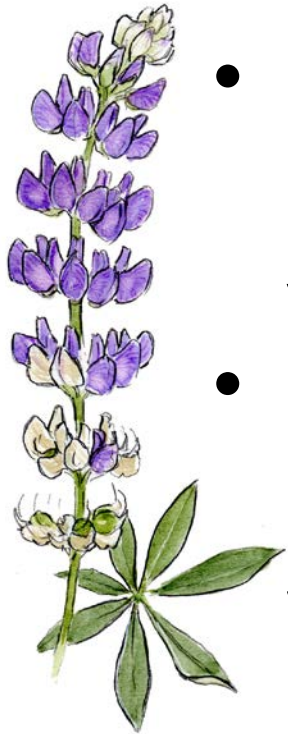
**Hypothesis:** *Lupinus polyphyllus* will exhibit trade-offs (negative correlations) between vegetative and reproductive traits and these relationships will be similar in other perennial *Lupinus* species.



VS.

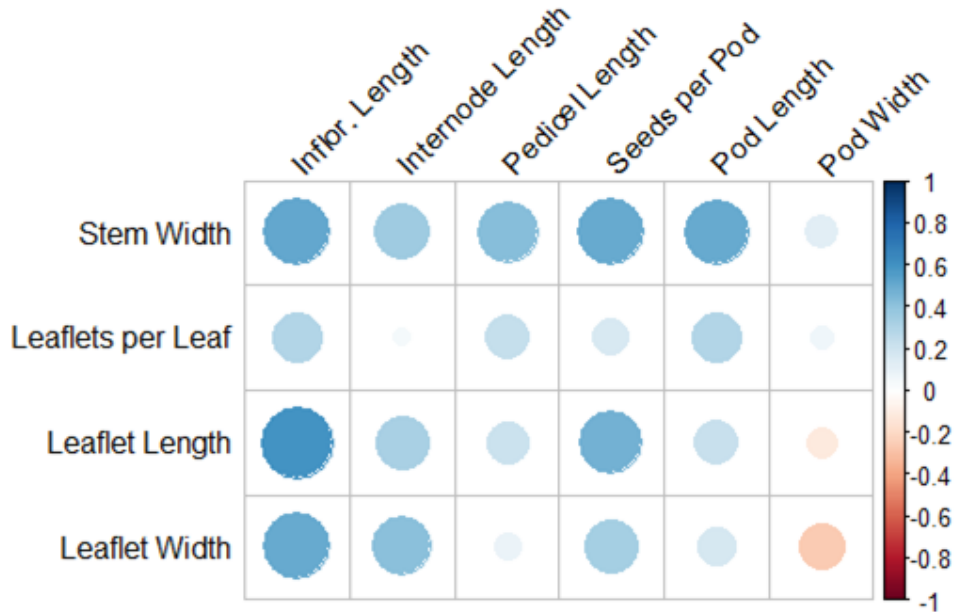


# Trade-offs in *Lupinus polyphyllus*: not found



- Positive correlations between most reproductive traits and vegetative traits
- Pod width shows a weak negative relationship to leaflet length and leaflet width.

Correlation plot of *Lupinus polyphyllus* tradeoffs, n=77

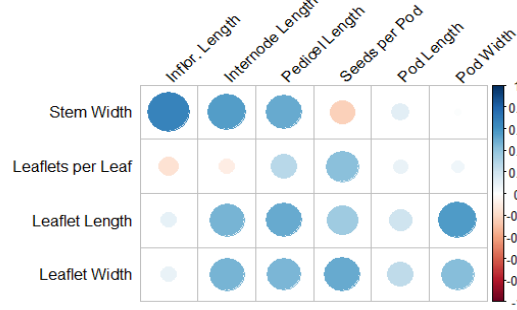


# Trade-offs in other perennial *Lupinus*

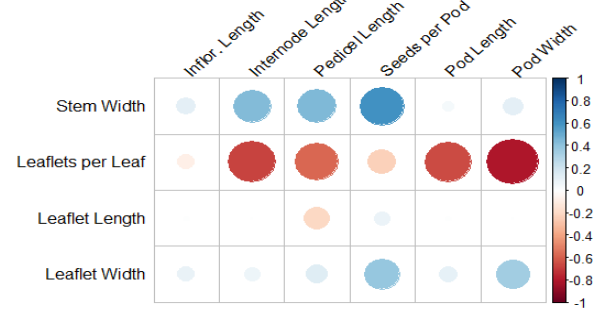
- Positive correlation between stem width and reproductive traits
- But otherwise: different trade-offs in each species

*Lupinus polyphyllus* may be an outlier. Why are there no tradeoffs between leaf size and reproductive output in this species?

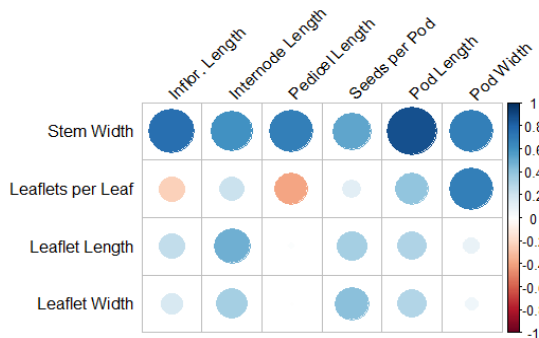
*L. perennis* correlation plot (n=20)



*L. arboreus* correlation plot (n=11)



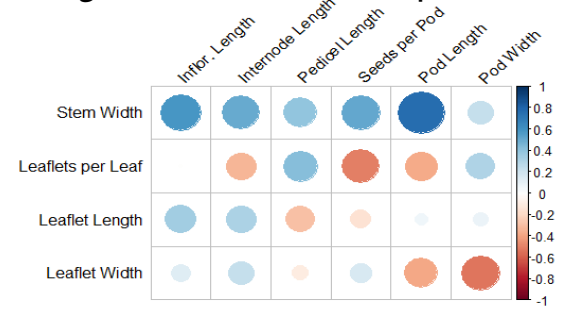
*L. nootkatensis* correlation plot (n=10)



*L. leucophyllus* correlation plot (n=9)

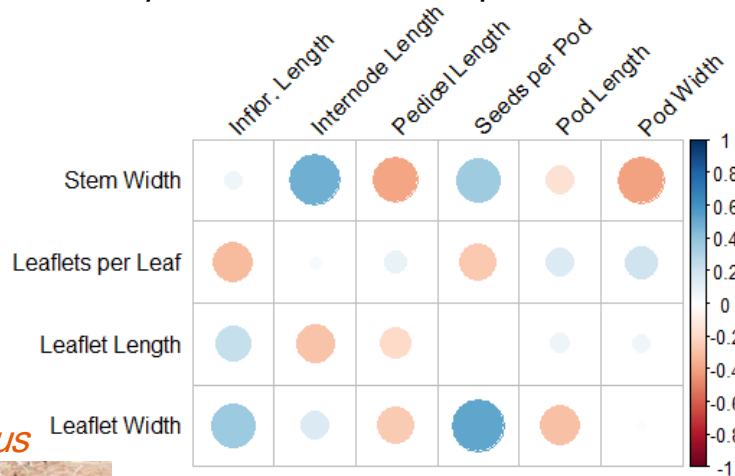


*L. argenteus* correlation plot (n=10)

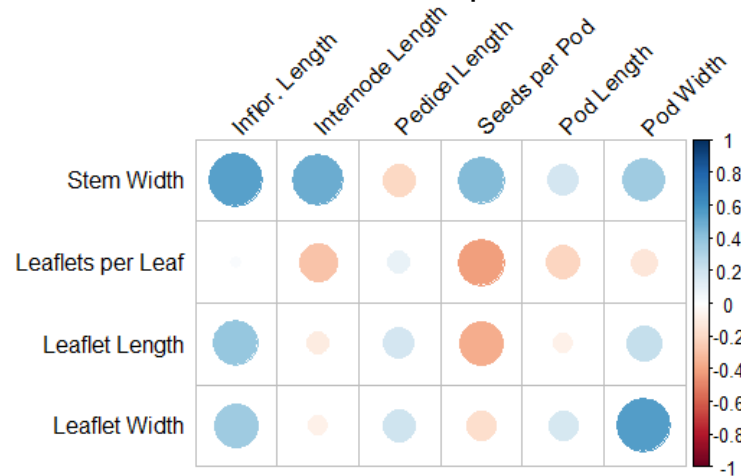


# Trade-offs in annual *Lupinus*

*L. pusillus* correlation plot (n=10)



*L. nanus* correlation plot (n=10)



*L. pusillus*



- Multiple tradeoffs, but no clear trends
- Issues with sample size? (10 per species)



# *Lupinus polyphyllus* main questions

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1. What is the extent of morphological variation in *L. polyphyllus*?  
Wide range of phenotypes, especially in its large and highly variable leaves.
2. Does morphological variation differ based on co-occurrence with other *Lupinus*?  
Yes. Traits displayed significant shifts both towards and away from the means of co-occurring species.
3. How does morphological variation correlate with climatic variation?  
Significant correlations for elevation, mean annual temperature, latitude and mean diurnal range.
4. Is there any evidence for trade-offs between reproductive and vegetative traits?  
Only slightly between pod width & leaflet size.



# Thank you!

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## Acknowledgements:

Miller Lab: Laura Klein, Sterling Herron, Summer Sherrod  
NSF REU program & Missouri Botanical Garden

## Literature cited:

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Lupinus drawings / clip art:

<https://johnmuirlaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/Lupinus-polyphyllus.jpg>

[https://etc.usf.edu/clipart/82500/82524/82524\\_lupinus\\_3\\_lg.gif](https://etc.usf.edu/clipart/82500/82524/82524_lupinus_3_lg.gif)

[http://www.fotor.com/fotor.test/75e875efaa514d52a6ec6927aa2abd52/75e875efaa514d52a6ec6927aa2abd52\\_p\\_400.png](http://www.fotor.com/fotor.test/75e875efaa514d52a6ec6927aa2abd52/75e875efaa514d52a6ec6927aa2abd52_p_400.png)

<https://openclipart.org/detail/230044/sabines-lupine>