

## **Niche evolution of the Neotropical tree genus *Otoba* in the context of global biogeography of the nutmeg family, Myristicaceae**

*Running title:* Biogeography of *Otoba* and Myristicaceae

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### **Acknowledgements**

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## Abstract

**Aim** Plant distributions are influenced by the ability to colonize new areas via long-distance dispersal or adapt to new environments via niche evolution. We use *Otoba* (Myristicaceae), a tree genus that is ecologically dominant in low-to-mid elevation wet forests, as a system to understand these processes within the Neotropics, a region characterized by high species richness and a diversity of biomes.

**Location** Neotropics and global

**Taxon** *Otoba* and broader Myristicaceae

**Methods** We use a universal sequence capture probset to infer the first phylogeny of *Otoba* from herbarium specimens. We further place *Otoba* within the context of Myristicaceae by inferring the most densely sampled phylogeny of the family to date using publicly available sequence data. We subsequently use both phylogenies to infer biogeography of Myristicaceae and *Otoba*, and examine patterns of niche evolution within *Otoba*, using phylogenetic comparative methods.

**Results** Myristicaceae has an Old World origin, with a single dispersal event to the Neotropics that resulted in a strongly supported Neotropical clade with *Otoba* sister to the remaining genera. Divergence dates, fossil evidence, and a notable lack of long-distance dispersal events are consistent with a Boreotropical origin of Neotropical Myristicaceae. Mirroring the rarity of dispersal at the family level, *Otoba*'s biogeography is marked by relatively few dispersal events, but rapid niche evolution within wet tropical biomes.

**Main conclusions** Contrasting with previous studies, long-distance dispersal does not need to be invoked to explain the pantropical distribution of Myristicaceae. Mirroring limited dispersal within the family, *Otoba* is a recent, rapid radiation that only traversed the Andes a single time, likely a product of its relatively large seeds that rely on large-bodied vertebrates for dispersal. *Otoba*'s biogeographic history suggests that key aspects of the Neotropical landscape— namely the uplift of the Andean mountains and the formation of the Isthmus of Panama— structured relationships. These results have implications for assembly of the flora of the Neotropics more broadly, and highlight the role of niche evolution in wet tropical biomes.

## Keywords

Boreotropics; herbariomics; Magnoliales; museum-based research; natural history collections; Neotropics; phylogenomics; phylogenetic comparative methods

### **Significance statement**

The Neotropics house more plant species than any other region. Here, we document labile niche evolution in the ecologically important Neotropical genus *Otoba*, which includes species that are both hyperdominant in the Amazon and narrowly Andean endemics. The few biogeographic movements we infer in *Otoba* are tied to major geological events. This mirrors global biogeography of Myristicaceae in which long-distance dispersal is rare, and includes a single expansion into the Americas via a Boreotropical ancestor. This suggests a more important role of adaptation to new habitats in geographic proximity than dispersal to pre-adapted regions in this iconic Neotropical tree genus.

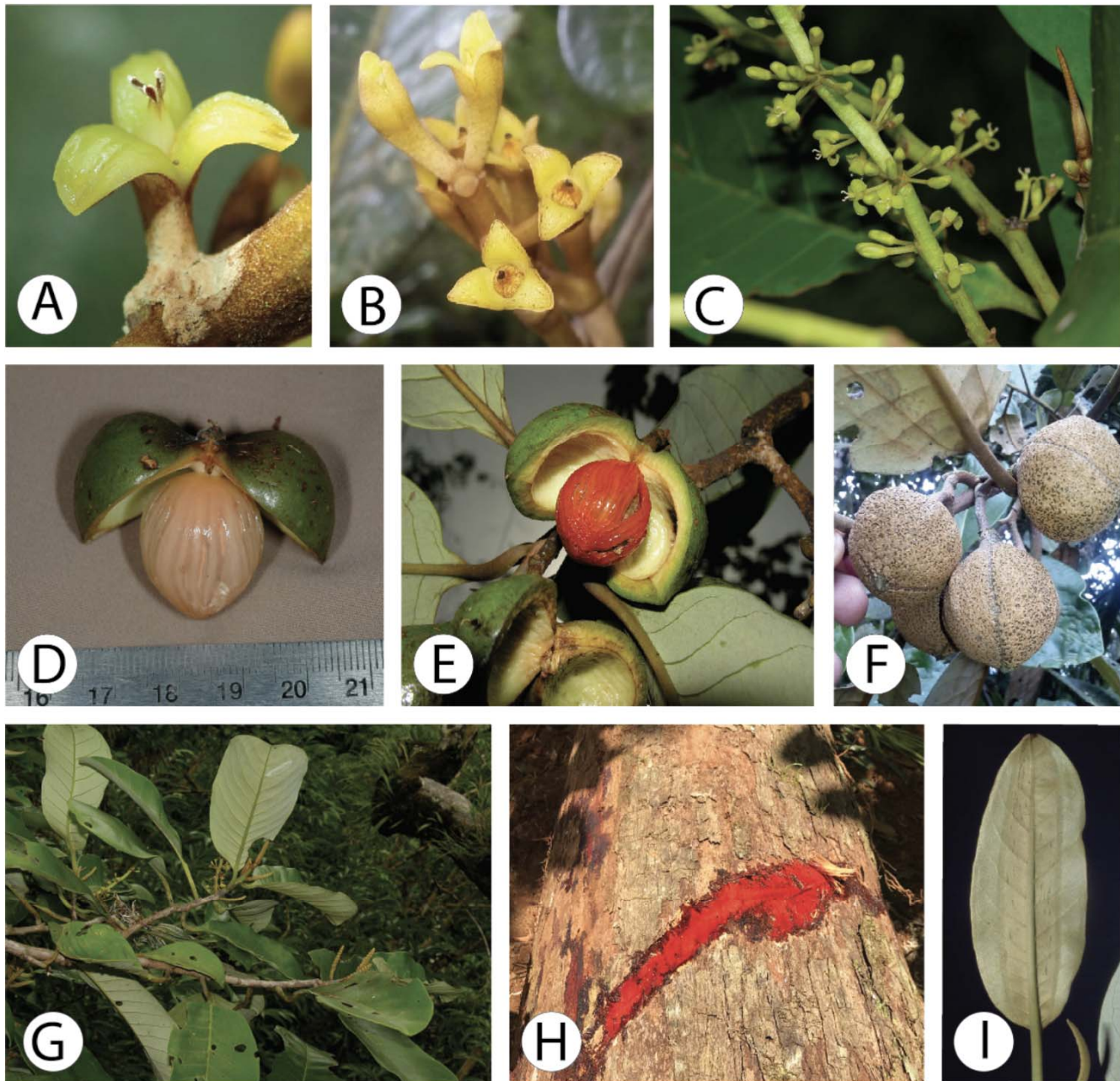
The distribution of plant clades is controlled by a combination of biogeographic movement, the pace of environmental adaptation, and macroevolutionary dynamics (Donoghue, 2008). Movement into new regions is determined by geographic proximity and intrinsic traits that govern dispersal ability (e.g., propagule type), while adaptation to a new habitat is a product of the degree of phylogenetic niche conservatism within the lineage (Edwards & Donoghue, 2013). Mounting evidence suggests that the degree to which plant groups disperse to new locations to which they are pre-adapted versus shift ecological tolerances to habitats in close geographic proximity is both clade and environment dependent. In some groups, like high Andean plant radiations derived from North American temperate clades (Hughes & Eastwood, 2006; Madriñán et al., 2013; Pouchon et al., 2018) and mangroves (Woodroffe & Grindrod, 1991), it is (to borrow a phrase from Donoghue 2008) “easier to move than evolve”. In other clades, including *Mimosa* and other legumes in the Brazilian cerrado (Simon et al., 2009) and Montiaceae in temperate latitudes (Ogburn & Edwards, 2015), major transitions in environmental tolerance are very common. In fact, a potentially large proportion of Amazonian biota have roots in distinct biomes (Antonelli et al., 2018). In the not distant past, both long-distance dispersal and niche evolution were thought to be rare in macroevolution (cite), empirical studies demonstrate an increasingly important role for these processes across many clade-focused studies (Donoghue & Edwards, 2014; Nathan, 2006).

The Neotropics has been an important region for understanding the joint roles of dispersal and niche evolution in plant biogeography due to its high species richness, extreme habitat heterogeneity, and complex geologic history. In particular, the Northern Neotropics has a dramatic recent geological history, punctuated by periods of rapid mountain uplift in the Andes (Hoorn et al., 2010) and the gradual closing of the Isthmus of Panama (Bacon et al., 2015; O’Dea et al., 2016). These play complementary roles in Neotropical plant biogeography (Antonelli et al., 2009; Gentry, 1982). The formation of the Isthmus of Panama represented a continually diminishing barrier to dispersal. Before its emergence, the marine region between Central and South America was difficult for dispersal-limited species, while its completion facilitated the Great American Biotic Interchange, a period marked by high rates of dispersal between continents across a large swathe of tropical rainforest (Bacon et al., 2015). Contrastingly, the uplift of the Andes represented an increasingly steep barrier to dispersal throughout their uplift history, with greater and greater elevation separating suitable habitats on either side of a given cordillera, further exaggerated by extreme habitat heterogeneity. These mountains began their rise in the Paleocene, but major bursts of mountain building occurred more recently, 4 to 12 My ago (Garzione et al., 2008). This uplift changed local topography, continental-scale climate patterns, and landscape configuration, paving the way for dispersal corridors connecting different regions of the Neotropics, which shifted through time (Hoorn et al., 2010). This influenced diversification and biogeography in Neotropical plants, whether in montane Andean habitats (Hoorn et al., 2019; Lagomarsino et al., 2016; Pennington et al.,

2010; Särkinen, Pennington, et al., 2012) or in extra-Andean habitats, including Amazon basin (Antonelli et al., 2009; Dick et al., 2012).

We aim to study the impact of Neotropical landscape change on lineage evolution in a nutmeg relative, *Otoba* (Myristicaceae). Its 10 species are distributed from Nicaragua to Brazil, with the highest species richness in low Andean montane forests and lowland rainforests, especially of the Chocó region and western Amazonia (Santamaría-Aguilar et al., 2019). *Otoba* occurs in many different habitat types in the northern Neotropics, and spans a broad elevational range that includes the highest elevation occurrence in Myristicaceae (Jaramillo-Vivanco & Balslev, 2020). Species can also be found in lowland rainforests, and *Otoba* is one of the ten most abundant genera in western Amazonia (Guevara Andino et al., 2017; ter Steege et al., 2006). Individual species can be some of the most common in many forests, including *O. parvifolia* in Madre de Dios, Peru (Pitman et al., 2017; Swamy, 2017) and Madidí, Bolivia (Macía, 2008), *O. glycyarpa* in Yasuní, Ecuador (Guevara Andino et al., 2017), and high várzea forest of the Amazonian floodplain in Brazil and Bolivia (Wittmann et al., 2006). This broad ecological tolerance and presence across both notable Neotropical geographic features makes *Otoba* a great system to understand the roles of dispersal and niche evolution in the establishment of a widespread, ecologically important group.

*Otoba* is distinct among Myristicaceae in many regards. Like other members of the nutmeg family, *Otoba* is characterized by a strong aromatic scent from essential oils, a pagoda-like growth form (i.e., “Myristicaceous growth”, or Massart’s model (Hallé et al., 1978)), dioeciousness with small, trimerous flowers (Armstrong & Tucker, 1986) (Fig. 1A-C), red, dilute latex (Fig. 1H), and a characteristic valvate capsule that opens to reveal a large, arillate seed (Fig. 1D-E). However, within Neotropical Myristicaceae, *Otoba* is notable for its low-montane distribution, conduplicate vernation (Fig. 1I), and seeds that most commonly have white arils, not the more typical bright red (e.g., mace). Its pollen has a unique set of characters that are more similar to African members of the family than other Neotropical genera (Sauquet & Le Thomas, 2003).



**Figure 1.** Morphological diversity of *Otoba*. A-C) Floral diversity. A) Staminate and B) pistillate flowers of *O. gordoniiifolia*; C) Inflorescence of Central American *O. novogranatensis*. D-F) Fruit diversity. D) Fruit from South American *O. novogranatensis* showing whitish aril and E) from Central American *O. novogranatensis* showing red aril. F) Unopened capsules of *O. gordoniiifolia*. G-I) Vegetative diversity. G) Branch and H) stem cut of Central American *O. novogranatensis*, the latter showing characteristic red exudate. I) Leaf of *O. parvifolia*, showing veneration lines. (Photo credits: A, B, and F by Rudy Gelis, downloaded from iNaturalist with permission; C, E, G, and H by Reinaldo Aguilar; D by Timothy Paine; and I by John Janovec.)

Across their full diversity (comprising 21 genera and ca. 500 species), Myristicaceae are notable for their importance in ethnobotany, including as food plants (e.g., nutmeg and mace, *Myristica fragrans*), timber species (e.g., *Virola surinamensis*), and hallucinogens (e.g., epená, *Virola* sp. (Alrashedy & Molina, 2016)). The large, arillate seeds are important food sources for large-bodied birds, primates, and bats, which, in turn, act as seed dispersers (Forget et al., 2000; Giraldo et al., 2007; Melo et al., 2009; Moreira et al., 2017; Russo, 2003). Though pollination is less studied, the small, usually imperfect flowers are visited by various small insects including beetles, flies, and thrips in *Myristica* (Armstrong & Irvine, 1989; Sharma & Armstrong, 2013) and *Virola* (Jardim & Mota, 2007), and generalist pollinators are likely common throughout the family. Further, their abundance in lowland forests (ter Steege et al., 2006) makes Neotropical Myristicaceae an important system for understanding ecological processes that allow species coexistence in hyperdiverse communities in the western Amazon (Queenborough et al., 2007a, 2007b)). While many studies support their sister relationship to the rest of Magnoliales (Massoni et al., 2014; Qiu et al., 2006; Soltis et al., 2007), this placement is not consistent across all analyses (Magallón et al., 2015). Evidence suggests that Myristicaceae has a younger crown age than other magnoliid families, with estimates ranging between the Oligocene in youngest estimates (Massoni et al., 2015) to a stem origin in the Late Cretaceous in the most recent date phylogeny of all angiosperms (Magallón et al., 2015). Fossil evidence, in the form of the seed *Myristicacarpum chandlerae* in the London Clay formation that displays characteristics of crown Myristicaceae suggests that the family has existed since at least the early Eocene (Doyle et al., 2008). Myristicaceae is split into three major extant clades: the malouchoids, pycnanthoids, and myristicoids (Doyle et al., 2004). While most Neotropical members of this family are included in the myristicoids, *Otoba* is currently as part of the otherwise African pycnanthoid clade. Phylogenetic relationships within Myristicaceae remain relatively poorly resolved, however, with past studies including very limited taxon sampling (Doyle et al., 2004; Massoni et al., 2015).

Despite their ecological importance, there is no species-level phylogeny of *Otoba* to date and the lack of a robust family-level phylogenetic framework impedes placing it into a broader macroevolutionary context. We first perform a biogeographic analysis along the most densely sampled phylogeny of Myristicaceae to date, inferred from publicly available sequence data, to document the family's movement into the New World. Subsequently, in one of the first phylogenomic analyses that relies exclusively on DNA from herbarium specimens collected in the wet tropics, we resolve relationships within *Otoba* using the Angiosperms353 universal probeset. We use this phylogeny to determine the joint roles of ecological niche evolution and dispersal ability in driving biogeography in this ecologically important group.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### ***Taxon Sampling***

Twenty accessions of *Otoba* representing nine (*O. acuminata*, *O. cyclobasis*, *O. glycyarpa*, *O. gordoniiifolia*, *O. gracilipes*, *O. latialata*, *O. novogranatensis*, *O. parvifolia*, and *O. vespertilio*) of the ten accepted species and two undescribed species (*Otoba* sp. nov.) were sampled. All accessions came from herbarium specimens; voucher information may be found in Appendix S1 (see Supporting Information). Herbarium acronyms follow Index Herbariorum (Thiers, constantly updated: <http://sweetgum.nybg.org/science/ih/>). To serve as outgroups, data from the following transcriptomes available on 1KP project (Carpenter et al., 2019; One Thousand Plant Transcriptomes Initiative, 2019); <<https://db.cngb.org/onekp/>> were gathered for Myristicaceae (*Myristica fragrans*), the broader Magnoniales (*Magnolia maudiae*, *Annona muricata*), and Laurales (*Cassytha filiformis*, *Sassafras albidum*, and *Persea borbonia*).

To put *Otoba* in a broader phylogenetic context, we also inferred a broader phylogeny of *Otoba* using publicly available DNA sequences. For this, we sampled plastid loci matK, rbcL, and ndhF from species of all species of Myristicaceae represented in GenBank, as well as outgroup Annonaceae, Magnoliaceae, Degeneriaceae, and Lauraceae (Appendix S2).

### **DNA extraction, library prep, target enrichment, and sequencing**

500 mg of leaf tissue from herbarium specimens was homogenized using an MP Biomedicals FastPrep-24TM 5G. DNA extraction followed a modified sorbitol extraction protocol (Štorchová et al., 2000). DNA concentration was quantified using an Invitrogen Qubit 4 Fluorometer, and fragment size was assessed on a 1% agarose gel. For samples with a high concentration of large fragments (>800 bp), the DNA was sheared using a Bioruptor Pico (Diagenode Inc., Denville, New Jersey, United States) to obtain an average fragment size of ~500 bp. Library preparation was carried out using KAPA Hyper Prep and HiFi HS Library Amplification kits (F. Hoffmann-La Roche AG, Basel, Switzerland) and with iTru i5 and i7 dual-indexing primers (BadDNA, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, United States). Library preparation with KAPA Hyper Prep followed the manufacturer's protocol (KR0961 – v8.20), except for the following modifications: reaction volumes were halved (i.e., 25 µL starting reaction), and bead-based clean-ups were performed at 3X volume rather than 1X volume to preserve more small fragments from degraded samples. Library amplification reactions were performed at 50 µL. Target enrichment was carried out using the MyBaits Angiosperms353 universal probe set (Däicel Arbor Biosciences, Ann Arbor, MI; (Johnson et al., 2019) following the protocol outlined in (Hale et al., 2020). Twenty nanograms of unenriched DNA library was added to the cleaned, target enriched pool to increase the amount of off-target, chloroplast fragments in the sequencing library. DNA libraries were sent to Novogene Corporation Inc., (Sacramento, California, United States) for sequencing on an Illumina HiSeq 3000 platform with 150 bp paired-end reads.

### **Sequence processing, assembly, and alignment**



Raw sequence reads were demultiplexed by Novogene. Adapter sequence removal and read trimming were performed using illumiprocessor v2.0.9 (Faircloth, 2016; Faircloth et al., 2012), a wrapper for trimmomatic v0.39 (Bolger et al., 2014). The default settings were used and reads with a minimum length of 40 bp kept.

HybPiper v. 1.3.1 (Johnson et al., 2016) was used to assemble and extract target regions. Read mapping, contig assembly and coding sequence extraction were performed running the reads\_first.py script. The intronrate.py script extracted introns and intergenic sequences flanking targeted exons. The retrieve\_sequences.py script was run first with the “dna” argument to extract coding regions and subsequently with the “supercontig” argument to extract both coding and non-coding regions as a single concatenated sequence for each target gene. Individual genes were aligned using MAFFT v. 7.310 (Kato & Standley, 2013). Alignments were visually inspected in AliView v. 1.18.1 (Larsson, 2014). Alignment errors were manually corrected and assembly errors, as well as areas that were difficult to align, were removed from individual alignments. Outgroup sequences were added to cleaned alignments and aligned using MUSCLE v.3.8.31 (Edgar, 2004) in AliView (Larsson, 2014). Summary statistics on gene alignments were obtained using AMAS (Borowiec, 2016), including length, missing data, and number of parsimony informative sites.

Off-target chloroplast reads were extracted using FastPlast v1.2.6 (<https://zenodo.org/record/973887>). For all samples there was insufficient data to produce a full plastome. The SPAdes-assembler built into FastPlast iteratively used k-mer lengths of 55, 87, and 121. Assembled contigs from the iteration using k-mer length 87 were mapped to a reference plastome obtained from GenBank (Clark et al., 2016): *Horsfieldia pandurifolia* (GenBank accession number NC\_042225.1). Once mapped, contigs were cleaned by eye to remove assembly errors before generating a consensus sequence. Consensus sequences for each sample were aligned visually against the *Horsfieldia* plastome. Sequences from plastomes of *Annona muricata* (MT742546.1), *Cassytha filiformis* (MF592986.1), *Magnolia audiae* (MN990580.1), and an unverified plastome for *Myristica yunnanensis* (MK285565.1) were added as additional outgroups.

Plastid sequences from Myristicaceae from GenBank for whole-family phylogenetic analysis were aligned using MUSCLE in AliView.

### **Phylogenetic analyses of *Otoba***

Alignments for each locus were processed with trimAl (Capella-Gutiérrez & Silla-Martínez, 2009), assigning a gap threshold of 15% or 20% to each column, depending on the number of taxa in the alignment. Thresholds were chosen to maintain columns with data for four or more individuals. A concatenated alignment of all nuclear and plastid data was analyzed in RAxML under the GTR model with optimization of substitution rates and site-specific evolutionary rates. RogueNaRok v.1.0 (Aberer et al., 2011) was subsequently used to identify individuals that

negatively impacted phylogenetic inference. Individuals identified by RogueNaRok and or those with little data (total bp <1% of aligned length) were excluded from final analysis.

Divergence times were estimated on the inferred topology using penalized likelihood in treepl (Smith & O'Meara, 2012). Crown ages from the literature (Magallón et al., 2015; Massoni et al., 2015) for Laurales + Magnoliales, Laurales, Magnoliales, and Myristicaceae were applied as secondary calibrations. Because (Massoni et al., 2015) presented five different calibration schemes, we used the average of their estimated ages as the mean age for our calibration. The youngest and oldest dates in the 95% confidence interval of any scheme across their different analyses were assigned as the minimum and maximum ages in our analysis. We performed an additional set of analyses that included a secondary calibration on the crown node of *Otoba* that corresponded to the 95% highest posterior density (HPD) of this node in the more densely sampled phylogeny of the entire Myristicaceae with calibrations derived from the same two sources (see below).

### ***Phylogenetic analysis of Myristicaceae***

We performed preliminary ML analyses on individual loci in RAxML. Sequences that systematically reduced support values were identified in RougeNaRok (i.e., RNR values >0.5) and subsequently removed. Updated alignments were then concatenated and used to jointly infer species relationships and divergence times in BEAST v2.3.6 (Bouckaert et al., 2019). We used PartitionFinder2 (Lanfear et al., 2017) to identify an appropriate partitioning scheme and model of molecular evolution for each partition. For each of two analyses, we assigned normally distributed priors nodes corresponding to the same calibration points used for dating in *Otoba*, with calibration points from both (Magallón et al., 2015) and (Massoni et al., 2015). For each analysis, we linked tree and clock models and set a lognormal clock prior. Eight runs each with four chains were allowed to progress for 10 million generations, sampling every 5,000 generations. Convergence was assessed using ESS values in Tracer v1.7.1 (Rambaut et al., 2018) with a cutoff value of 200. A maximum clade credibility tree was assembled in TreeAnnotator on the combined output from all runs after a 20% burnin was discarded..

### ***Biogeographic inference***

We modeled biogeographic movements using BioGeoBEARS (Massana et al., 2015; Matzke, 2014). For *Otoba*, movement both between Central and South America, as well as distribution on either side of the Andes were modeled along the Magallón et al. (2015) calibrated tree that included an additional calibration for the crown node of *Otoba*. Each species was coded for occurrence in (A) Central America, (B) South America, or (AB) both. Species were also coded for their distribution on (A) the western side of Andes, including the Darién gap and Central America or (B) the eastern side of the Andes including western Amazonia. Six biogeographic models were tested; the DIVA-like model was selected for both reconstruction of

continental movements and reconstruction of distribution around the Andes. A maximum of two ancestral areas was allowed for both analyses.

To put *Otoba* in a global context, we performed biogeographic analysis on the phylogeny of Myristicaceae calibrated with dates from Magallón et al. (2015). Outgroups, which had non-representative sampling, were removed. The range of each species was coded as Asia (As), Africa (Af), or the Neotropics (N). Analyses were performed as above, with the DIVA-like model selected as best-fit.

### **Environmental niche modeling and evolution**

Environmental niche models were generated for each of the species sampled. Occurrence data were gathered from GBIF ([gbif.org](http://gbif.org)). Using the R package raster (Hijmans et al., 2015), the standard WorldClim 2.0 30s Bioclimatic variable layers (Fick & Hijmans, 2017) and the WorldClim 2.1 30s elevation layer (<https://www.worldclim.org/data/worldclim21.html>) were stacked and clipped to the tropical latitudes of the Americas (extent = -120, -30, -23, 23). Variables were assessed for correlation in using R package ENMTools (Warren et al., 2019). Bioclimatic variables for diurnal range (BIO 2), isothermality (BIO 3), maximum temperature of warmest month (BIO 5), precipitation seasonality (BIO 15), precipitation of warmest quarter (BIO 18), and precipitation of coldest quarter (BIO 19) were chosen as minimally correlated variables for modeling. Generalized linear models were prepared for each species with ENMTools. Because phylogenetic results suggested that *O. novogranatensis* is not monophyletic, occurrences from Central America and South America were analyzed separately as *O. novogranatensis\_CA* and *O. novogranatensis\_SA*, respectively.

To quantify the multidimensional niche in *Otoba*, a phylogenetic principal components analysis of the average value of the 19 WorldClim bioclim variables using a correlation matrix was performed using the `phyl.pca()` command in phytools (Revell, 2012). Ancestral state reconstruction of the first three principal components was performed with the `contMap()` function in phytools (Revell, 2012). We then used Orstein-Uhlenbeck models in the `l1ou` R package (Khabbazian et al., 2016) to detect shifts to different climatic niches in the absence of an *a priori* hypothesis about their location or convergent regimes. We searched for shifts in the first three climate principal components on the concatenated *Otoba* topology, and assessed support for the shifts identified via a bootstrap analysis with 100 replicates.

## RESULTS

**Summary statistics of data assembly**—The number of input read pairs, surviving paired reads, surviving unpaired reads, and dropped reads from read trimming as well as the number of Angiosperm353 loci captured, average sequence length, number of ungapped basepairs of chloroplast DNA (cpDNA) for each sample, collection year at the collection locality are listed in Appendix S3. A heatmap of the percent of the reference protein length recovered for each sample at each locus can be found in Appendix S4. Due to large amounts of missing data in

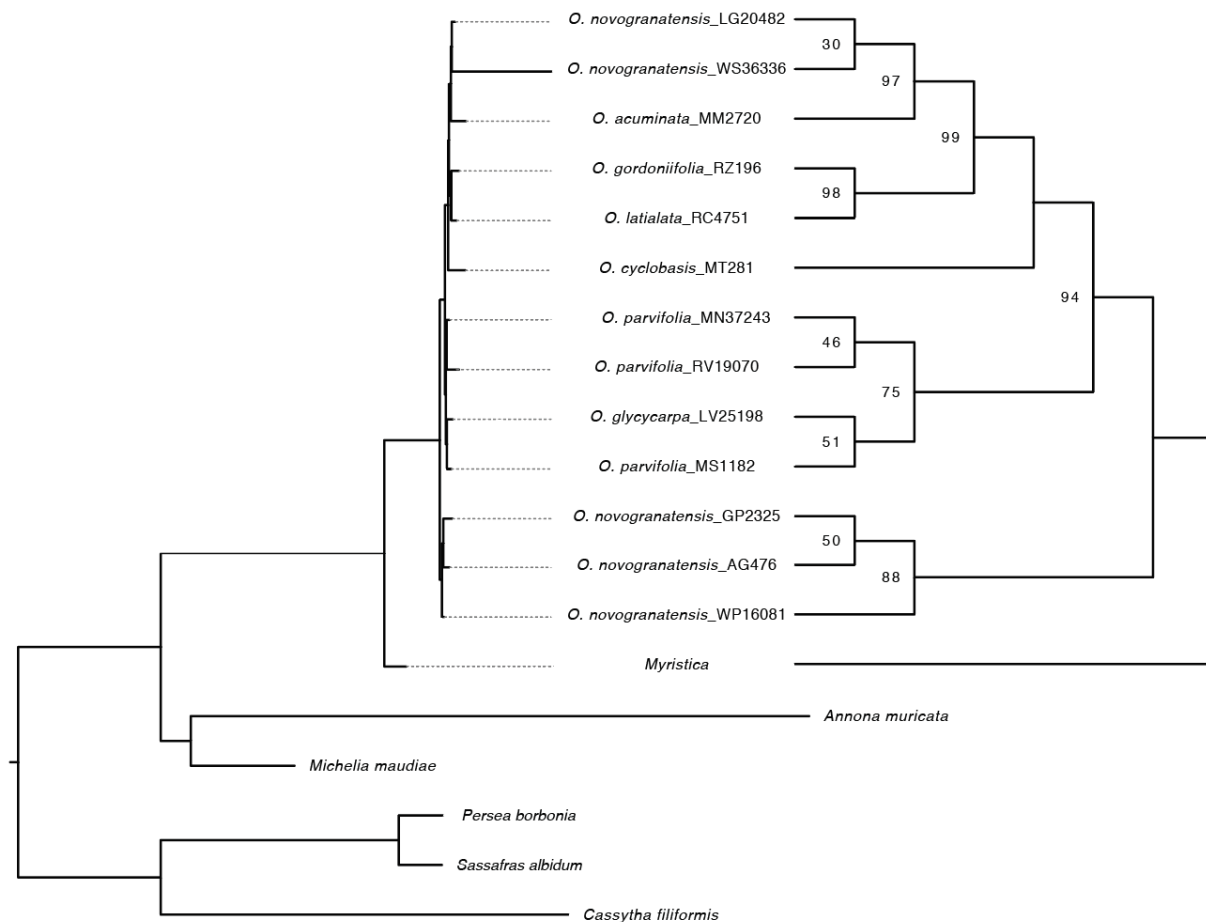
both nuclear and chloroplast regions, the following samples were excluded from all phylogenetic analyses: *O. gracilipes*\_DC884, *O. novogranatensis*\_EB500, *O. parvifolia*\_DN9151, *O. sp. nov.*\_RC5752, *O. sp. nov.*\_JP16902, and *O. vespertilio*. Overall, we were able to include 7 of the 10 described species of *Otoba* in phylogenetic analyses.

Hybrid enriched target sequence capture success was variable across samples. Half of the 20 samples submitted for sequencing recovered fewer than 10 Angiosperm353 loci; only 3 samples recovered more than 100 loci (Appendix S3). Success in gathering off-target plastid data did not necessarily correspond to success in capturing nuclear loci. For example, the sample with the most nuclear data— *O. novogranatensis*\_WS36336 with 217 of the 353 targeted loci— did not recover useful chloroplast data. On the other hand, nearly half of the chloroplast genome was obtained for *O. parvifolia*\_MS1182, despite recovering only 6 nuclear loci.

### **Phylogenetic analyses of *Otoba***

We found support for the monophyly of *Otoba* within Myristicaceae (Bootstrap support [BP]= 100; Fig. 2) and for three subclades of *Otoba* (Fig. 2). The first subclade (BP=100), corresponding to South American accessions of *O. novogranatensis*, is sister to the rest of *Otoba* (BP =100). The second subclade includes a paraphyletic *O. parvifolia* and a single accession of *O. glycyarpa* (BP= 75), while the third comprises *O. acuminata*, *O. cyclobasis*, *O. gordoniiifolia*, *O. latilata*, and *O. novogranatensis* from Central America (BP= 100). Within the third subclade, we find that *O. cyclobasis* is sister to the remaining species, with *O. gordoniiifolia* and *O. latilata* forming a sister pair and *O. acuminata* sister to Central American accessions of *O. novogranatensis*.

Divergence times in *Otoba* estimated from different calibrations schemes were similar between calibrations from Massoni et al. (2015) and Magallón et al. (2015), but differed if an additional calibration derived from our BEAST analyses of Myristicaceae were used (Appendix S5). All estimates support the radiation of *Otoba* in the Miocene (Appendix S5). The crown age for *Otoba* based only on calibrations from Magallón et al. (2015) is estimated to be 7.32 Ma and based only on (Massoni et al., 2015) are 8.23 Ma. These dates were pushed back when the additional calibration was added, to 12.48 Ma with the Magallón et al. (2015) calibrations and 13.74 Ma with those from Massoni et al. (2015).



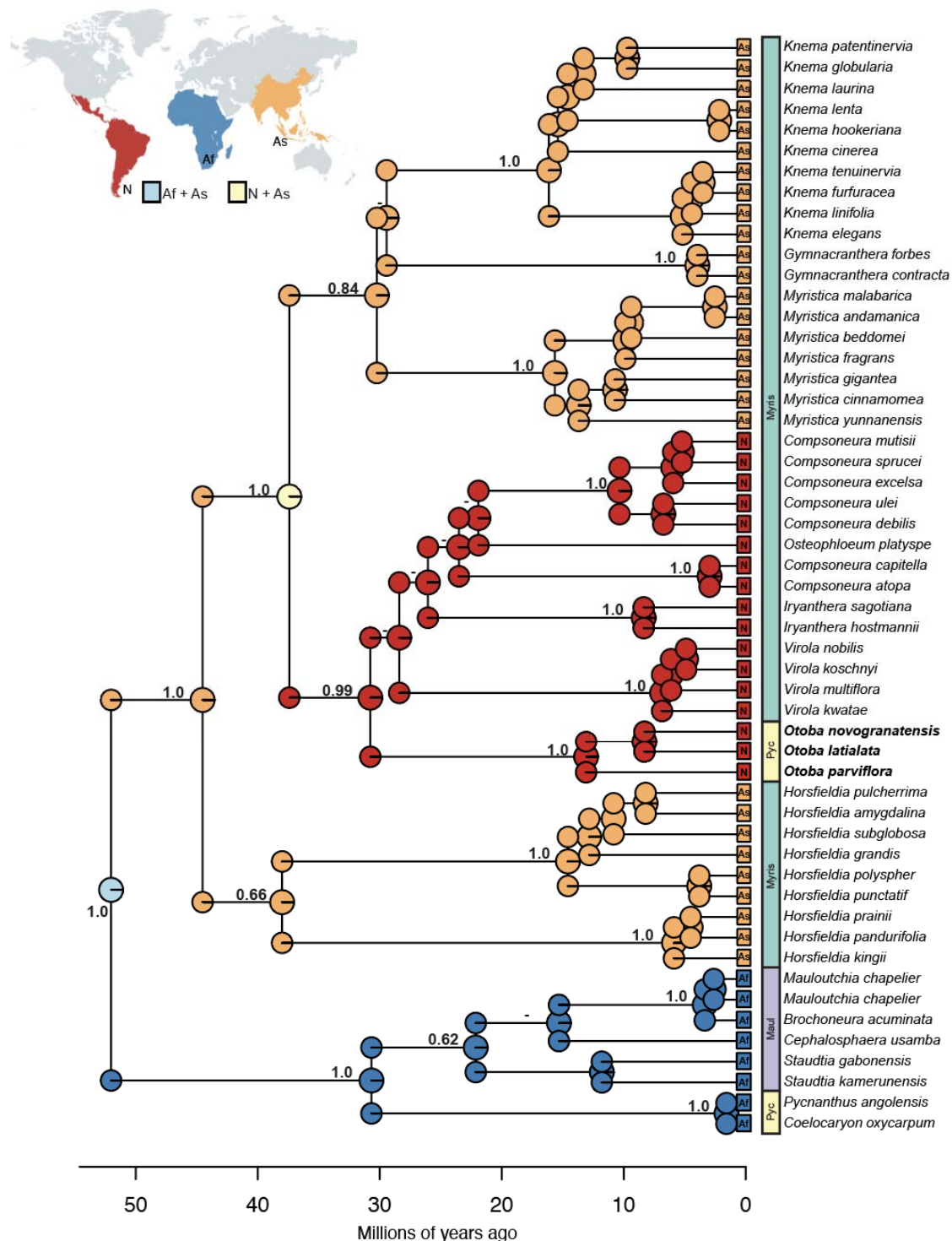
**Figure 2.** Results of ML analyses of concatenated chloroplast and nuclear data. The tree on the right shows branch lengths; the cladogram on the left shows the branching pattern for the ingroup + *Myristica* and support values at nodes with <100 bootstrap support (all outgroup relationships were fully supported).

### ***Phylogenetic analyses of Myristicaceae***

The monophyly of Myristicaceae is well-supported (PP=1.0 with Massoni calibrations/1.0 with Magallón calibrations), as is the monophyly of four major subclades that correspond to broad geographic regions (Fig. 3; Appendices S6-7). An African subclade (PP=1.0/1.0), comprising the genera *Pycnanthus*, *Coelocaryon*, *Staudia*, *Brochoneura*, *Maulotchia*, and *Cephalosphaera*, is sister to the rest of the family. The first of two Asian subclades (PP= 0.64/0.66) comprises the genus *Horsfieldia* and is sister to the second Asian subclade + the Neotropical subclade. The second Asian subclade (PP=0.84/0.84) includes three genera, each found to be monophyletic in

our sampling: *Knema* (PP=1.0/1.0), *Myristica* (PP=1.0/1.0), and *Gymnacantha* (PP=1.0/1.0). Finally, the Neotropical subclade (PP=0.99/0.99) includes all Neotropical genera. Within it, *Otoba* (PP=1.0/1.0) and *Virola* (PP=1.0/1.0) are subsequently sister to the remaining genera, with *Iryanthera* (PP=1.0/1.0) forming a clade sister to a poorly supported *Composoneura* + *Osteophloeum* (PP=0.47/0.45).

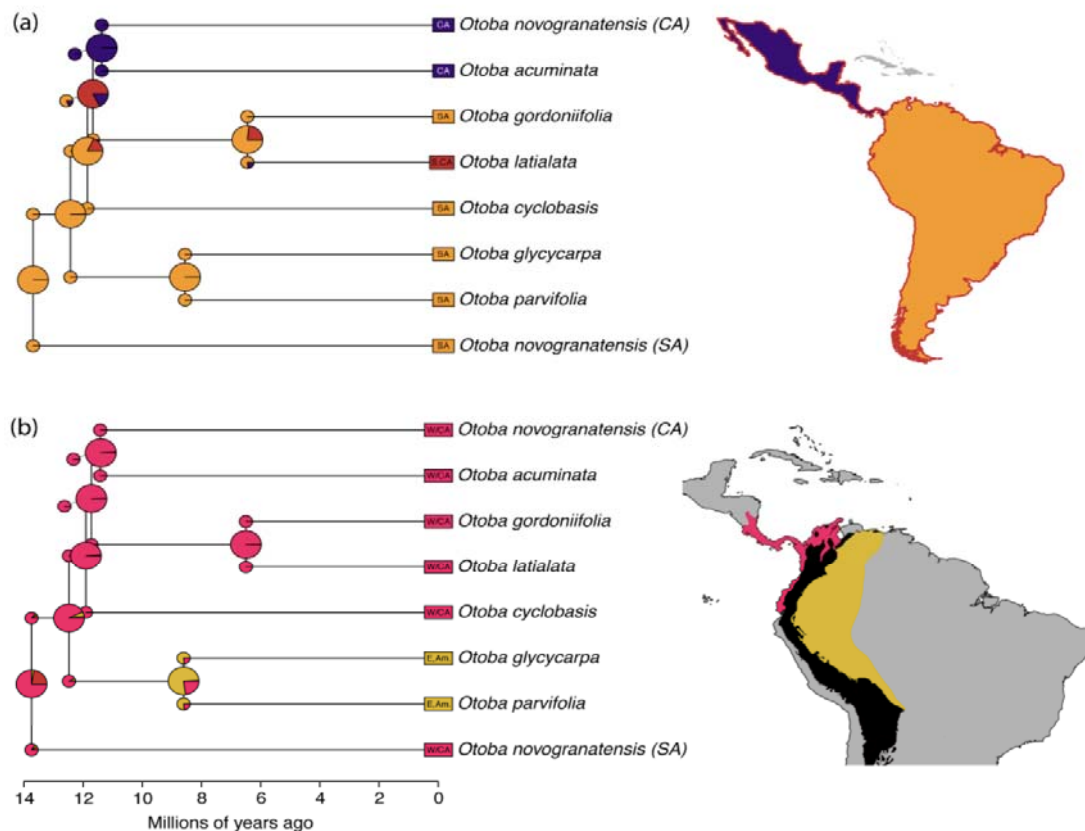
As within *Otoba*, we find that the Massoni et al. calibration scheme gives slightly younger ages (Appendices S6-7). Crown Myristicaceae is estimated to have originated in the Eocene in both analyses, at 40.77Ma [26.9–54.7] with the Massoni et al. calibrations and at 52.02Ma [26.25–78.91] with the Magallón et al. calibrations. The crown Neotropical subclade originated in the Paleocene in both analyses (26.45Ma [16.28–38.27] / 30.77Ma [16.77–49.07]). Ages inferred for *Otoba* in the Myristicaceae-wide dataset are older than in the *Otoba*-specific analyses (Appendix S5), but still within the Miocene (11.41 Ma [2.81–21.62] / 13.08 Ma [2.18–25.74]).



**Fig. 3.** Time-calibrated plastid phylogeny of Myristicaceae depicting global biogeography. The phylogeny represents the maximum clade credibility tree of a BEAST2 analysis using calibration points from Magallón et al (2015). Values at nodes represent posterior probabilities, with dashes representing <50 PP; support for relationships below genus level are not included except in instances of deep splits with a genus, but are available in Appendix S6, as are the 95% HPD for the date at each node. Ancestral area reconstructions as inferred by the best-fit DIVA-like model in BioGeoBEARS are depicted in pie charts at each node, with colors corresponding to the areas in the map at top left (dark blue= Africa; orange = Asia; red= Neotropics and Asia; light blue = both Africa and Asia). The previously understood major clades of Myristicaceae from Sauquet et al. (2003) are indicated by the colored bars at the right of the phylogeny (yellow = pycnanthoids; purple = mauloutchioids; green = myristicoids).

## Biogeographic Reconstruction

We find that Myristicaceae, as a whole, originated in the Old World tropics, with a broad range spanning both the Asian and African tropics. It expanded its range into the Neotropics once, between 37.41–30.77 Ma via an ancestor with a broad range that spanned the Americas and Asia (Fig. 3). This resulted in *in situ* diversification leading to five endemic extant Neotropical genera, including *Otoba*. The western side of the Andes is inferred to be the ancestral area for *Otoba* (Fig. 4). Dispersal to the eastern side of the Andes best explains the divergence of the *O. glycyarpa*-*O. parvifolia* clade (Fig. 4B). In the western-Andean clade including *O. acuminata* and *O. cyclobasis*, a South American ancestor is inferred with expansion into Central America via widespread ancestors (Fig. 4A).



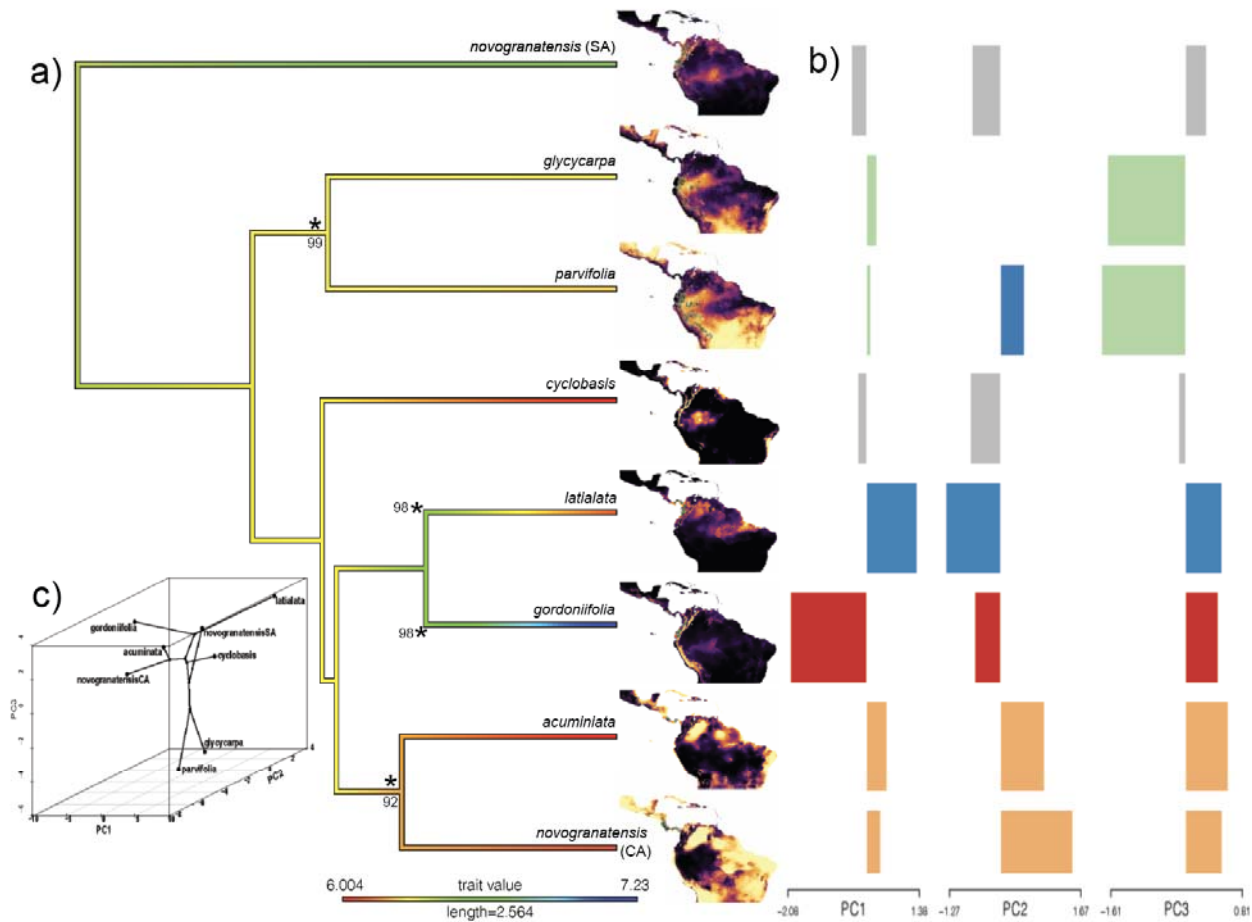
**Figure 4.** Ancestral area reconstructions in *Otoba* for (A) Central America versus South America and (B) western Andes and Central America versus eastern Andes and the Amazon. Pie charts at nodes display the probability that the ancestor occupied a given range. Maps to the left of each tree are color coded to correspond with the geographic areas coded on the tree. In (A), orange = South America, purple = Central America, and red = both Central and South America; the distribution of each species in Central and/or South America is additionally reflected in the color-coded boxes at the tips of the tree. In (B), pink = western Andes and Central America, and mustard = eastern Andes and the Amazon; the Andes are represented in black.

## Niche Modeling and Evolution



Visualizations of GLM models can be found in Fig. 5a and average values for each BIOCLIM variable and elevation in Appendix S8. The first three principal components from our phylogenetic PCA of BIOCLIM variables describe 91.7% of the variation in climatic preferences. The most important loadings for pPC1, which describes 57.9% of the variation, are mean temperature of the driest quarter (BIO9), mean temperature of the coldest quarter (BIO11), mean annual temperature (BIO1), minimum temperature of the coldest month (BIO6), and mean temperature of the warmest quarter (BIO10), making it a useful proxy for temperature regime (Appendix S9). The most important loadings for pPC2, which describes 21.3% of the variation, are temperature seasonality (BIO4) and isothermality (BIO3), making it a useful proxy for temperature stability (Appendix S9). Finally, the most important loadings for pPC3, which describes 12.5% of the variation, are mean diurnal temperature range (BIO2), annual temperature range (BIO7), and precipitation seasonality (Appendix S9). We observed a broad occupation of climate in phylomorphospace (Fig 5c). Of particular note, the sister species *O. latialata* (native to the Chocó region) and *O. gordoniiifolia* (an Andean montane species) are the two most distinct species, falling on extreme ends of pPC1 and also differing substantially in pPC2. Further, the western Amazonian sister pair *O. glycyarpa* and *O. parvifolia*, while relatively similar to each other, form a separate cluster in phylomorphospace, largely due to their extreme value of pPC3.

Orstein-Uhlenbeck models in I1ou identify four highly supported niche shifts in our analysis of pPC1-3 (Fig. 5b). These correspond to 1) *O. glycyarpa* + *O. parvifolia* (PP=99), which experienced a shift to increased temperature extremes and decreased precipitation seasonality in pPC3; 2) *O. latialata* (PP=98), which experienced a shift to warmer temperatures (pPC1) and increased temperature stability (pPC2); *O. gordoniiifolia* (PP=98), which experienced a shift towards cooler temperatures (pPC1); and *O. acuminata* + *O. novogranatensis* (PP=92), which experienced a minor increase in temperature (pPC1) and a larger shift towards decreased temperature stability (pPC2). These shifts mirror results from ancestral state reconstruction of individual pPCs (Appendix S10), and are often accompanied by shifts in biogeography (Fig. 4,5).



**Fig. 5.** Niche evolution in *Otoba* is dynamic. A) Ancestral state reconstruction of average elevation (m) in *Otoba* demonstrates the wide range of elevational preferences among species, ranging from 404m in *O. acuminata* to 1380m in *O. gordoniifolia*. At right, species distributions modeled in Maxent demonstrate the variation in potential niche suitability in the Neotropics. B) Orstein-Uhlenbeck models implemented in I1ou infer four shifts in climate space, denoted by asterisk at node with bootstrap value, corresponding to the western Amazonia clade; *O. latialata*; *O. gordoniifolia*; and a Central American clade comprising *O. acuminata* and *O. novogranatensis* (CA). C) Phylomorphospace of phylogenetic PCA of BIOCLIM variables.

## DISCUSSION

### *Phylogeny of Otoba and the broader Myristicaceae*

Our plastid phylogeny of Myristicaceae, which combined publicly available plastid sequences supplemented by the same loci from our target capture data, is the most densely sampled phylogeny of the family to date (Fig. 3). At the deepest temporal scale, our results are broadly similar to past studies (Doyle et al., 2004; Sauquet et al., 2003): we resolve an African (including Malagasy) subclade that includes the mauloutchoids and African pycnanthoids as sister to the Asian and American myristicoid clade. However, there are some key differences. Notably, we find that *Otoba* is part of a newly resolved Neotropical subclade of myristicoids, and not sister to the African pycnanthoid genera *Pycnanthus* and *Coelocaryon*, as in (Sauquet et al.,

2003). This result has important biogeographic implications, discussed below, and suggests that informal clade names previously applied to Myristicaceae are in need of redefinition. Further, resolution within the myristicoid clade is improved. We find support for three subclades: the Asian genus *Horsfieldia*, the remaining Asian genera, and all Neotropical genera, with *Horsfieldia* sister to the remaining two. This updated phylogeny provides a useful framework for subsequent macroevolutionary research in Myristicaceae.

While our family-wide analysis found that *Otoba* is sister to the remaining Neotropical genera, our phylogenomic analysis resolved relationships within the genus. This represents the first phylogeny of *Otoba* to date, and the first phylogenetic analysis to include more than a single species (Doyle et al., 2004; Massoni et al., 2015; Sauquet et al., 2003). Phylogenetic results within *Otoba* point to the need for future phylogeographic and taxonomic study. We find strong evidence for polyphyly of the widespread *O. novogranatensis* (Fig. 2). In this species, two distinct lineages correspond to South American and Central American accessions, highlighting a need for future taxonomic research. A preliminary revision of herbarium specimens of this well-collected species reveal that South American accessions differ from those from Central America in their thicker pericarp, pubescent ovaries, anthers that can be unfused to the base, and generally white arils (de Candolle, 1856; Jaramillo et al., 2004; Jaramillo-Vivanco & Balslev, 2020).

### **Challenges of herbarium phylogenomics from wet tropical specimens**

Our study is among the first exclusively herbariomic datasets generated via target sequence capture for a wet tropical genus. Even high efficiency target capture will fail when DNA is low quality, as is typical in herbarium specimens collected in these ecosystems (Brewer et al., 2019), especially when they are preserved in ethanol ahead of drying (Särkinen, Staats, et al., 2012)— a common scenario for *Otoba*, and likely universal in the herbarium specimens that we sampled. It is thus not surprising that not all of the samples that we attempted to include in our phylogeny generated useful sequences; we had to remove some completely due to poor quality reads and apparent contamination following visual inspection of alignments. In other cases, we were able to extract a handful of useful loci, but at a much lower quality than the majority of our included species.

Universal probesets result in different quality datasets depending on phylogenetic scale and distance from species used in their design (Hutter et al., 2019). While we were able to infer relationships in *Otoba* using Angiosperms353 loci, there was very limited variation across our dataset (i.e., the proportion of variable sites in concatenated target loci was 0.285). It is likely that a custom probe kit designed for *Otoba* and close relatives would have outperformed the Angiosperms353 loci, either alone or in combination (Jantzen et al., 2020), especially as only a single species of Myristicaceae was used in the development of Angiosperms353 loci (Johnson et al., 2019). However, developing such custom loci is predicated on the existence of genomic resources, either pre-existing or newly generated, which would have been difficult for *Otoba*.

While the number of angiosperms genomic resources is constantly growing (One Thousand Plant Transcriptomes Initiative, 2019), there are still no transcriptomes or nuclear genomes available for *Otoba* and data is limited for Myristicaceae overall: there is a single transcriptome available in the 1KP database (nutmeg, *Myristica fragrans*) and no other genomic resources. Because this scenario is common—especially in tropical plant groups, which tend to be understudied (Goodwin et al., 2015)—the universal utility and subsequent promise of assembling a standardized set of loci across analyses is desirable.

### ***Biogeography of Myristicaceae is marked by relatively few major movements***

As a whole, Myristicaceae have a surprisingly simple biogeographic history. At a continental scale, we infer fewer major biogeographical events than inferred than previously postulated (Doyle et al., 2004): one range expansion and two range contractions (Fig. 3). The relatively young age of Myristicaceae precludes a role of a Laurasian ancestor in the formation of its tropical disjunctions, contrasting with many of its relatives in Magnoliales, including Magnoliaceae (Azuma et al., 2001). Instead, we find that from a widespread common ancestor in the eastern hemisphere during the early Eocene, distinct lineages became restricted to Africa and Asia by the mid-Eocene. A subsequent lineage expansion to include the Neotropics occurred during the late Eocene-Oligocene, eventually giving rise to all extant Neotropical Myristicaceae, which are embedded within an otherwise Asian clade.

The Oligocene timing of Myristicaceae's amphi-Pacific disjunct is consistent with the boreotropics hypothesis (Wolfe, 1975). This is the scenario in which plant lineages with widespread distributions in the warm, wet conditions of the Northern Hemisphere in the Late Paleocene-Eocene were disrupted by climatic cooling in Oligocene, resulting in climate-driven vicariance (Lavin & Luckow, 1993). Fossil evidence is further consistent with a boreotropical distribution for Myristicaceae. This includes the occurrence of *Myristicacarpum chandlerae*, which shares morphological traits with both Old World and New World taxa, in the early Eocene of the London Clay flora (Doyle et al., 2008), as well as leaves in the middle to late Eocene of the Alaska Gulf (Wolfe, 1977). Support for a potential role of range expansion over a continental plates in close proximity is further bolstered by lack of long-distance dispersal events in the history of the family, as well as the presence of large seeds for which long-distance dispersal is improbable. However, it is impossible to rule out long-distance dispersal over water without additional fossil evidence. Similar intercontinental, amphi-Pacific tropical disjunctions with documented or likely occurrence in the Boreotropics are seen in Annonaceae (Thomas et al., 2017; Xue et al., 2018), Melastomataceae (Morley & Dick, 2003), Araliaceae (Valcárcel & Wen, 2019), and other groups.

Finally, *Otoba* is strongly supported as an *in situ* radiation within a larger Neotropical clade. Contrasting with previous studies with more limited taxon sampling (Doyle et al., 2004), our updated phylogenetic and biogeographic results demonstrate that intercontinental long-distance dispersal does not need to be invoked to explain the origin of *Otoba*.

### ***Landscape change, ecological niche evolution, and dispersal limitation interact to drive biogeography in Otoba***

The relatively stable global biogeography of Myristicaceae contrasts with the dynamic history of *Otoba* within the Neotropics. The complex geological history of the Neotropics, including the rapid uplift of the Andes and the closure of the Isthmus of Panama (Hoorn et al., 2010), is known to have had a dramatic impact on the evolution of its biota (Antonelli et al., 2009; Bacon et al., 2015; Hughes et al., 2006). We find evidence that both the uplift of the Andes and closure of the Isthmus of Panama have left signatures on the biogeographic history of *Otoba*.

At the time of origin of Neotropical Myristicaceae, a broad distribution across the northern Neotropics would have been facilitated by a more-or-less contiguous swathe of lowland rainforest and the low height of the Andes, including multiple low elevation gaps (Hoorn et al., 2010). However, by the time that crown *Otoba* originated in the late Miocene to early Pliocene, the genus was restricted to the western side of the Andes. (Fig. 4), an ancestral range shared with relatively few other Neotropical tree groups, including a clade of Annonaceae (Pirie et al., 2018). By this time, the northern Andes had gained approximately half their elevation (Garzzone et al. 2017) and analogs to modern montane cloud forests had formed (Hughes, 2016; Martínez et al., 2020). Thus, even though they had not yet reached their full height, the Andes would have represented a significant barrier to dispersal for low- to-mid-elevation groups like *Otoba* due to the lack of appropriate habitat at high elevation. We find evidence for the Andes structuring biogeography in *Otoba*, with species and subclades occurring on only one slope of the mountain chain. A movement to the eastern slope occurred only once in *Otoba* at ca. 9 Ma, resulting in an eastern Andean/Amazonian clade comprising the two widespread species *O. parvifolia* and *O. glycyarpa*. This movement could be explained by either a dispersal across the Andes or a vicariance scenario involving the final uplift of the Mérida cordillera in Venezuela.

Movement between Central and South America is more dynamic than across the Andes in *Otoba*. This is not surprising as the Isthmus of Panamá was either formed (Bacon et al., 2015; Montes et al., 2012) or in the process of forming (O’Dea et al., 2016) when the genus originated, providing a land connection of appropriate habitat type that could facilitate northward movement. From an ancestral range of South America, a range expansion to include Central America is inferred for the most recent common ancestor of *O. acuminata*, *O. novogranatensis* (CA), *O. gordoniiifolia*, and *O. latialata* in the late Miocene (Fig. 4). *Otoba acuminata* and Central American *O. novogranatensis* subsequently became restricted to Central America, while *O. latialata* has a widespread distribution in the Chocó-Darién moist forest from Colombia to Panama. It is possible that the common ancestor of this subclade may have inhabited a similar distribution to *O. latialata*. If this is the case, it may represent subset sympatry—when one daughter lineage inherits the ancestral range and the other daughter(s) inherit a portion of the ancestral range (Ree et al., 2005). An additional Central American species, *O. vespertilio*, was

not included in our phylogenetic analysis due to poor data quality (Table 1; Appendix S3), but morphological evidence suggests this species likely represents an independent colonization of Central America (Santamaría-Aguilar et al., 2019). These migrations occurred within the last 10 million years, a time-frame that supports the role of the closure of the Isthmus of Panama (Montes et al., 2012; Bacon et al., 2013).

The limited movement of *Otoba* is likely explained by poor dispersal ability— a pattern echoed across the phylogeny of Myristicaceae, in which long-distance dispersal played little to no role in its current distribution (Fig 3). *Otoba*'s relatively large seeds, which are dispersed by birds, primates, and bats (Giraldo et al., 2007; Melo et al., 2009; Nuñez-Iturri & Howe, 2007; Santamaría-Aguilar et al., 2019), make dispersal events over water barriers or large stretches of unsuitable terrestrial habitat uncommon compared to groups that are dispersed by wind (Pérez-Escobar et al., 2017) or migratory passerine birds (Nathan et al., 2008). It is further documented that dispersal ability in tropical trees is known to be negatively impacted by seed size (Muller-Landau et al., 2008). On a continental scale and over evolutionary time, this has resulted in remarkably few long distance biogeographic movements. *Otoba*'s migration into Central America was likely facilitated by the continuous land bridge of suitable habitat following the closure of the Isthmus of Panama, while cold high-elevation habitats likely prevented more frequent traversing of the Andes. Further supporting the role of low dispersal ability in the biogeography of *Otoba*, the genus does not occupy all of the suitable habitat it presumably could based on comparison of distributions of extant species ranges and species niche models (Fig. 5), including the Atlantic coast forest in Brazil and Caribbean islands. It may also explain why, unlike many of the most abundant taxa in lowland rainforests in the northern Neotropics (Bemmels et al., 2018), individual *Otoba* species are restricted to a single side of the Andes. At a local scale, dispersal limitation is observed in *Otoba parvifolia*, whose seeds are dispersed at low frequency, typically over short distances (Terborgh et al., 2011). However, high levels of seed-set, both in closed canopy forests and in treefall gaps, may make *Otoba* an effective colonizer of new habitats once they colonize a new region (Myster, 2020).

Despite relatively few major biogeographical movements, *Otoba* occurs in many habitat types, spanning a large temperature differential and including areas that are both completely aseasonal (e.g., *O. latialata*) and those with fairly well-defined seasons (e.g., Central American taxa) (Appendix S8). Labile niche evolution demonstrated by *Otoba* (Fig. 5) likely facilitates its establishment in new environments upon expansion or dispersal into new habitats— and, in fact, all biogeographic movements that we infer in *Otoba* also correspond with environmental niche shifts. This includes a shift towards broader temperature range and decreased precipitation seasonality tolerance following dispersal into the western Amazon and towards higher temperature fluctuations in the more seasonal environments of Central America upon expansion via the Isthmus of Panama. The greatest example of niche evolution in *Otoba* is the sister pair *O. gordoniiifolia*, which is restricted to mid-elevations of the Andes and adapted to the coolest temperature in the genus, and the Chocoan *O. latialata*, which is adapted to the

warmest temperatures in the genus (Fig. 5). These results suggest that *Otoba* is more constrained by movement into a new area than the ability to adapt to a new environment upon establishment. There are, however, obvious limits— *Otoba* is not found in high-elevation or very arid habitats, even when they are proximate to their current range. Like many other wet tropical trees (Esquivel-Muelbert et al., 2017), their absence in arid areas is likely due to physiological constraints in the face of drought, while freezing tolerance is an additional important constraint in high elevation grasslands (Koehler et al., 2012).

*Conclusion*— In *Otoba*, an ecologically dominant genus from a plant family in which long-distance dispersal is rare to non-existent, adaptation to new niches is much more common than major biogeographic movements into pre-adapted environments (Edwards & Donoghue, 2013). This adds to a growing body of literature demonstrating that dispersal-driven niche evolution following movement from geographically proximal regions is key to the assembly of the Neotropical biota: large portions of its characteristic biomes, including the Amazon (Antonelli et al., 2018) and cerrado (Simon et al., 2009), are composed of local migrants with ancestors from different environments in close geographic proximity. A notable exception are montane environments, including low- to mid-elevation environments where some species of *Otoba* occur (Linan et al., 2021), as well as high elevation grasslands where it and other Myristicaceae are absent (Hughes & Eastwood, 2006). This points towards an interaction of idiosyncratic clade-based traits interactions with steep environmental gradients driving patterns of plant distributions in the Neotropics.

### **Data Availability Statement**

Illumina reads will be submitted to the NCBI Sequence Read Archive (SRA) and all other data formats (tree files, alignments, character matrices, etc.) will be uploaded on the Dryad Digital Repository and made available upon publication.

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### **Biosketch**

The Lagomarsino Lab studies Neotropical plant evolution (more at <http://www.lauralago.net/>). L.F., D.A.S.A, and L.P.L. conceived the ideas; all authors collected data; L.F., D.S., and L.P.L analysed data; and L.F. and L.P.L led the writing.



## Figure Legends

**Fig. 1.** Morphological diversity of *Otoba*. A-C) Floral diversity. A) Staminate and B) pistillate flowers of *O. gordoniiifolia*; C) Inflorescence of Central American *O. novogranatensis*. D-F) Fruit diversity. D) Fruit from South American *O. novogranatensis* showing whitish aril and E) from Central American *O. novogranatensis* showing red aril. F) Unopened capsules of *O. gordoniiifolia*. G-I) Vegetative diversity. G) Branch and H) stem cut of Central American *O. novogranatensis*, the latter showing characteristic red exudate. I) Leaf of *O. parvifolia*, showing vernation lines. (Photo credits: A, B, and F by Rudy Gelis, downloaded from iNaturalist with permission; C, E, G, and H by Reinaldo Aguilar; D by Timothy Paine; and I by John Janovec.)

**Fig. 2.** Results of ML analyses of concatenated chloroplast and nuclear data. The tree on the right shows branch lengths; the cladogram on the left shows the branching pattern for the ingroup + Myristica and support values at nodes with <100 bootstrap support (all outgroup relationships were fully supported).

**Fig. 3.** Time-calibrated plastid phylogeny of Myristicaceae depicting global biogeography. The phylogeny represents the maximum clade credibility tree of a BEAST2 analysis using calibration points from Magallón et al (2015). Values at nodes represent posterior probabilities, with dashes representing <50 PP; support for relationships below genus level are not included except in instances of deep splits with a genus, but are available in Appendix S6, as are the 95% HPD for the date at each node. Ancestral area reconstructions as inferred by the best-fit DIVA-like model in BioGeoBEARS are depicted in pie charts at each node, with colors corresponding to the areas in the map at top left (dark blue= Africa; orange = Asia; red= Neotropics; yellow = both Neotropics and Asia; light blue = both Africa and Asia). The previously understood major clades of Myristicaceae from Sauquet et al. (2003) are indicated by the colored bars at the right of the phylogeny (yellow = pycnanthoids; purple = mauloutchioids; green = myristicoids).

**Fig. 4.** Ancestral area reconstructions in *Otoba* for (A) Central America versus South America and (B) western Andes and Central America versus eastern Andes and the Amazon. Pie charts at nodes display the probability that the ancestor occupied a given range. Maps to the left of each tree are color coded to correspond with the geographic areas coded on the tree. In (A), orange = South America, purple = Central America, and red = both Central and South America; the distribution of each species in Central and/or South America is additionally reflected in the color-coded boxes at the tips of the tree. In (B), pink = western Andes and Central America, and mustard = eastern Andes and the Amazon; the Andes are represented in black.

**Fig. 5.** Niche evolution in *Otoba* is dynamic. A) Ancestral state reconstruction of average elevation (m) in *Otoba* demonstrates the wide range of elevational preferences among species,

ranging from 404m in *O. acuminata* to 1380m in *O. gordoniiifolia*. At right, species distributions modeled in Maxent demonstrate the variation in potential niche suitability in the Neotropics. B) Orstein-Uhlenbeck models implemented in I1ou infer four shifts in climate space, denoted by asterisk at node with bootstrap value, corresponding to the western Amazonia clade; *O. latialata*; *O. gordoniiifolia*; and a Central American clade comprising *O. acuminata* and *O. novogranatensis* (CA). C) Phylomorphospace of phylogenetic PCA of BIOCLIM variables.