by Volf, M., Segar, S.T., Miller, S.E., Isua, B., Sisol, M., Aubona, G., Šimek, P., Moos, M., Laitila, J., Kim, J., Zima Jr, J., Rota, J., Weiblen, G.D., Wossa, S., Salminen, J., Basset, Y. and Novotny, V.

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.1111/ele.12875



Volf, M., Segar, S.T., Miller, S.E., Isua, B., Sisol, M., Aubona, G., Šimek, P., Moos, M., Laitila, J., Kim, J., Zima Jr, J., Rota, J., Weiblen, G.D., Wossa, S., Salminen, J., Basset, Y. and Novotny, V. 2018. Community structure of insect herbivores is driven by conservatism, escalation and divergence of defensive traits in Ficus. *Ecology letters*, *21*(1), pp.83-92.

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24 Statement of authorship: MV and STS conceived the study, MV and STS performed the statistical 25 analyses and wrote the first draft of the manuscript, MV collected the new sequence and microsatellite data and built the phylogenetic tree, STS, MS and BI collected the leaf tissue, SEM led the barcoding 26 27 and species delimitation of Lepidoptera, GA and SW collected the cysteine data, PS and MM collected 28 the triterpene data and conducted metabolite identification, JPS, JL and JK collected the polyphenol and alkaloid data and conducted metabolite identification, JZ optimized the PCR conditions for 29 microsatellite analysis and conducted the genotyping of the microsatellite data, JR led the taxonomic 30 31 revision of Choreutidae, GDW collected most of the plant sequence data and contributed to phylogeny estimation, YB and VN collected the insect data and VN helped conceive the study and led many 32 33 aspects of the field work. All authors commented on a first draft of the manuscript and contributed 34 substantially to the text.

Data accessibility statement: The data supporting the results are available in the supplementary materials (Tables S1, S2, S3, and S4). The sequences used for reconstructing the *Ficus* phylogeny were submitted to EMBL and their accession numbers are included at the end of the article.

Key words: alkaloids, Choreutidae, coevolution, cysteine protease, herbivore, Lepidoptera, New
 Guinea, polyphenols, Pyraloidea, trichomes

- 40 Type of article: Letters
- 41 Number or words in the abstract: 150
- 42 Number of words in the main text: 4754
- 43 Number of references: 50
- 44 Number of figures: 3
- 45 Number of tables: 3
- 46 Abstract

47	Escalation (macroevolutionary increase) or divergence (disparity between relatives) in trait
48	values are two frequent outcomes of the plant-herbivore arms race. We studied the defenses
49	and caterpillars associated with 21 sympatric New Guinean figs. Herbivore generalists were
50	concentrated on hosts with low protease and oxidative activity. The distribution of specialists
51	correlated to phylogeny, protease and trichomes. Additionally, highly specialized Asota
52	moths used alkaloid rich plants. The evolution of proteases was conserved, alkaloid diversity
53	has escalated across the studied species, oxidative activity has escalated within one clade, and
54	trichomes have diverged across the phylogeny. Herbivore specificity correlated with their
55	response to host defenses: escalating traits largely affected generalists and divergent traits
56	specialists; but the effect of escalating traits on extreme specialists was positive. In turn, the
57	evolution of defenses in Ficus can be driven towards both escalation and divergence in
58	individual traits, in combination providing protection against a broad spectrum of herbivores.
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69 Introduction

Insect-plant arms races have been suggested to support diversification and escalation of plant defenses (Ehrlich & Raven 1964), resulting in a directional trend for increased anti-herbivore traits during the macroevolution of a lineage (Agrawal *et al.* 2008). In turn, traits should escalate across plant clades (more derived lineages should have more potent defenses), with trait values positively correlating to phylogenetic distance from the root, and/or phylogenetic dissimilarity between species. Such an escalation of host-plant defenses has been found in several plant genera (Agrawal *et al.* 2008; Becerra *et al.* 2009; Pearse & Hipp 2012).

77 However, a range of alternative trends exist (e. g. Kursar et al. 2009; Pearse & Hipp 2012; 78 Cacho et al. 2015; Salazar et al. 2016). For example, a decrease in chemical complexity occurs 79 in milkweed cardenolides, which are probably now ineffective against specialized herbivores 80 (Agrawal et al. 2008). Divergent defenses (traits more dissimilar between close relatives than 81 expected under a conserved model of evolution) have been found in sympatric communities 82 of closely related hosts. It has been suggested that insect herbivores impose divergent 83 selection, resulting in increased chemical disparity (Becerra 2007; Kursar et al. 2009; Salazar 84 et al. 2016). Such an increase in trait disparity between sympatric congeners should facilitate 85 escape from shared herbivores with conservative host-use (Becerra 2007; Kursar et al. 2009; 86 Salazar et al. 2016; Sedio et al. 2017).

The macroevolution of a given trait is likely to depend both on the ability of the trait to deter herbivores and its metabolic flexibility (Wink 2003). Consistently effective traits may be conserved, or even escalate over time, such that they have a large effect on non-adapted herbivores, while divergent traits are harder for specialists to circumvent. Generalist herbivores can consume multiple hosts, at the cost of being maladapted to potent defenses (Bernays & Chapman 2007), while specialists often track host phylogeny and adapt to such defenses. The composition of insect communities attacking the host is therefore key –
assemblages of specialists should select mainly for divergent traits (e.g. Becerra 2007),
whereas assemblages of generalists, sensitive to specialized defenses, should impose selection
for escalating traits.

97 In response to the variability of herbivore pressure between guilds and across the 98 specialization continuum, plant defensive syndromes consist of suites of complementary 99 traits, as found in Asclepias (Agrawal & Fishbein 2006). In Asclepias these syndromes are shaped by both shared evolutionary ancestry and herbivore driven adaptive convergence. 100 101 Mixing and matching defenses over evolutionary time can allow plants to evade the current 102 community of herbivores (Agrawal & Fishbein 2006; Janz 2011). Such evolutionary processes should result in an oscillating equilibrium between diverging and escalating 103 104 defenses.

105 Rainforest assemblages of *Ficus* represent an excellent model system for exploring such 106 evolutionary processes. This pantropical genus is extraordinarily speciose (over 800 species). 107 The paleotropics are particularly diverse, with over 150 species found in Papua New Guinea (PNG), the global center of Ficus diversity (Berg & Corner 2005; Cruaud et al. 2012). Ficus 108 can comprise ~15% of all stems with DBH \geq 5 cm, in both primary and secondary lowland 109 110 forests in PNG (Whitfeld et al. 2012). The genus Ficus also supports diverse insect 111 communities, including many herbivores which are lineage specialists (Basset & Novotny 112 1999; Novotny et al. 2010).

Over the course of ~75 MY (Cruaud et al., 2012) *Ficus* has acquired a broad range of chemical and physical defenses. These include 'universal' traits, such as polyphenols, terpenoids, and trichomes. Most *Ficus* species also produce latex that serves as a physical defense, as well as vessel for more taxonomically restricted chemical defenses. These specialized defenses

include phenanthroindolizidine alkaloids (Damu *et al.* 2005) and cysteine proteases (Konno *et al.* 2004). Among these defenses, cysteine proteases likely play a prominent role, as they
interfere with insect digestion and increase larval mortality (Konno *et al.* 2004). These traits
show considerable interspecific variation, making *Ficus* a promising model for testing
evolutionary trends in host plant defenses.

122 Here, we focus on 21 sympatric New Guinean rainforest Ficus species. This community 123 approach allows us to relate Ficus traits to local insect communities. First, we identify the 124 *Ficus* defenses which correlate with communities of leaf-chewing larvae, and analyze whether 125 these correlations hold consistently across herbivores with a range of host specificity. Second, we analyze the evolutionary patterns in these defenses and test whether they are conserved, 126 127 escalate over evolutionary time, or are divergent among closely related species. We predict 128 that: I) defenses in this speciose system will show a range of evolutionary histories in response 129 to different selective pressures; II) generalist insect community structure will correlate mainly 130 with escalating defenses, while the structure of specialist insect communities will relate to diverging defenses; and III) traits with different anti-herbivore roles will be independent or 131 positively correlated, and form distinctive defensive syndromes, combining various 132 evolutionary histories (Agrawal & Fishbein 2006). 133

We suggest that insect ecology is a key element when interpreting the evolution of host-plant 134 defenses, as escalating and diverging defenses likely have different correlations with 135 136 specialist and generalist herbivores. Here we relate communities of generalist and specialist 137 insects to defensive traits. We expect the evolution of plant defensive traits to be varied, with few trade-offs and a range of macroevolutionary dynamics. It is important to recognize that 138 139 insect-herbivore interactions are reciprocal, and while 'bottom up' effects can determine host-140 use by insect herbivores, insects themselves are a key selective pressure (Marquis *et al.* 2016). 141 In summary, we do not expect that the defenses of plants and their herbivorous assemblages

142 could be explained by a single evolutionary mechanism in speciose systems, such as tropical143 rainforests.

144

145 Methods

146 *Ficus traits*

147 We measured both specialized and generalized chemical and physical defenses in Ficus: cysteine protease activity, alkaloid content, alkaloid diversity, polyphenol content, 148 polyphenol diversity, polyphenol oxidative activity, polyphenol protein precipitation 149 capacity, triterpene content, triterpene diversity, trichome density, and trichome length. We 150 151 also measured resource acquisition traits correlating with leaf quality: specific leaf area (SLA) 152 and C:N (Fig. 1). The sampling was carried out within a matrix of primary and secondary 153 forest in a 10 x 20 km area around Madang in Ohu and Baitabag villages (PNG), sampled also 154 for insect herbivores by Novotny et al. (2010). We sampled the 19 Ficus species surveyed by 155 Novotny et al. (2010) for insect herbivores, along with two additional species lacking detailed insect data (Table S1). We avoided trees with high rates of herbivory, signs of pathogen 156 infection or physical damage and maintained >10 m distance between trees, avoiding 157 158 obviously clonal individuals. We sampled up to five individuals per species for all traits. The 159 sampling included the subgenus Sycomorus, which has radiated in PNG and represents a large 160 component of local Ficus diversity. The study also includes species from its sister sections, 161 and more distant relatives, representing most sections of *Ficus* occurring in the Australasian 162 region.

For the analysis of protease activity, we sampled latex by cutting the main vein of each leaf and letting latex flow into a 2 ml collection tube for 30 seconds. Protease activity was analyzed using a modified version of the methods of Konno *et al.* (2004). Alkaloids and polyphenols 166 were extracted using acetone and aqueous acetone from ca 0.5g of the Ficus leaf tissue. 167 Alkaloid quantification (area of peak/mg) was obtained with non-targeted UPLC-DAD-Orbitrap-MS analysis (Table S2). The main polyphenol sub-groups were quantified (as mg/g) 168 169 with UPLC-QqQ-MS/MS as detailed in Engström et al. (Engström et al. 2014; 2015). Furthermore, we measured polyphenol oxidative activity, following Salminen & Karonen 170 171 (2011), and protein precipitation capacity, following Hagerman's RDA method (Hagerman 172 & Butler 1978), as the two major functions of polyphenols in anti-herbivore protection. Low polarity terpenoids were extracted from ca 0.5g of the Ficus leaf tissue using methanol. 173 Terpenoid quantification (area of peak/mg) was obtained with HPLC-Orbitrap Q-Exactive 174 175 HRMS equipped with atmospheric chemical ionization (APCI) (Table S3). Chemical 176 diversity was quantified by Shannon diversity indexes for alkaloids, polyphenols, and 177 triterpenes. Triterpene diversity was based on the content of individual compounds. Alkaloid 178 and polyphenol diversities, for which more detailed structural data were available, were 179 calculated based on the content of major structural groups to account for structural diversity, 180 rather than for the number of compounds in a sample (see Table S4 for more details).

The total number of trichomes per 10 mm² and their average length was measured on five leaf discs per individual, avoiding the central vein. Values for dorsal and ventral sides of the discs were averaged. SLA was measured as the area per mass using twenty dried leaf discs which were cut avoiding the central vein. Total carbon and nitrogen content were determined by dry combustion using ca 0.45 g of homogenized dry leaf material.

186 See Appendix S1 for more details on the trait measurements and chemical analyses.

187

188 Insect data

189 The insect data were taken from Novotny et al. (2010) (Table S1). The data include only reared individuals, with host associations confirmed by feeding trials, sampled from $1,500 \text{ m}^2$ 190 of leaf area per plant species. We focused on leaf-chewing larvae (including 122 Lepidoptera 191 192 and two Coleoptera species) as a guild that is well represented on our focal Ficus species, and which inflicts a large amount of damage. We conducted additional analyses to compare the 193 194 two dominant microlepidopteran taxa, which represented the majority of caterpillars in the 195 focal communities: Pyraloidea (31% of all caterpillar individuals), a relatively polyphagous 196 group feeding on several plant taxa, and Choreutidae (45% of all caterpillar individuals), which are mostly specialists of Moraceae in our community (Novotny et al. 2002). We 197 198 included recent taxonomic revisions for Choreutidae (Table S1). Singleton species were removed from all statistical analyses. The residual insect community comprised several 199 200 (super)families, with Noctuoidea (11%) and Tortricidae (10%) being the most abundant. We 201 note that 84% of all noctuid individuals are in the brightly colored genus Asota (largely 202 restricted to Ficus), a specialist genus potentially capable of alkaloid sequestration (Sourakov 203 & Emmel 2001). We separated Asota in a subset of our analyses.

204 Ficus phylogeny reconstruction

205 The host-plant phylogeny was estimated using four loci: ITS, ETS, G3PD, and GBSSI. We 206 used sequences from Cruaud et al. (2012) when available. We obtained the sequences of 207 missing species using dried leaf tissue following Cruaud et al. (2012). The host-plant 208 phylogeny was reconstructed using Bayesian inference as implemented in BEAST v2.1.3 209 (Drummond et al. 2012), with section level constraints taken from Cruaud et al. (2012). Furthermore, for section Sycocarpus we used constraints based on microsatellite data using 210 211 Nei's distance neighbor joining trees, based on nine microsatellite loci previously published for the genus Ficus (Moe & Weiblen 2011; Garcia et al. 2012). See Appendix S1 for details. 212

213 Ficus traits and insect communities

214 To test the hypothesis that *Ficus* species form distinct groups with respect to their defensive traits, we clustered them using Ward's method with Euclidean distances as implemented in 215 the 'pvclust 2.0' R package (Suzuki & Shimodaira 2015). The optimal number of clusters was 216 217 selected using BIC. The key traits for defining these clusters were identified using a 218 classification tree analysis in the R package 'rpart' (Therneau et al. 2017). All secondary 219 metabolite contents were log transformed. The data were centered and standardized and the 220 results were visualized using PCA in CANOCO 5 (Ter Braak & Smilauer 2012). Additionally, 221 we analyzed correlations between traits in a phylogenetic context using PGLS in the R 222 package 'caper' (Orme et al. 2013). PGLS analysis allowed us to identify whether there are 223 any indications of trade-offs between the traits significantly correlated to insect community 224 structure.

225 To test the hypothesis that defensive and resource acquisition traits correlated with insect 226 community structure, we analyzed the relationships of *Ficus* traits and phylogeny with larval 227 leaf-chewer communities using canonical correspondence analysis (CCA). We used species means of traits as explanatory variables, and identified those with a significant correlation 228 229 with insect communities by forward selection. Phylogenetic similarity is often an integrator 230 for trait similarity. We therefore assessed the explanatory power of both phylogeny and its 231 covariance with traits to explain the residual variance not captured by our traits. Specifically, 232 we ran variance partitioning analysis with the selected Ficus traits and significant 233 phylogenetic axes, derived from the ultrametric tree using principal coordinate analysis (PCoA), to identify the proportion of variability in insect data explained by traits, phylogeny, 234 235 and their covariation. All insect data were log-transformed. We down weighted rare species 236 and used adjusted explained variability (Ter Braak & Smilauer 2012). To test our hypothesis 237 that host specialization may determine which traits had explanatory power, we ran separate

analyses for the whole larval leaf-chewer community, generalist Pyraloidea, and *Ficus*specialized Choreutidae.

240 The ability of methods relying on a limited number of eigenvectors to include complex phylogenetic structure and model trait evolution has been criticized (Freckleton et al. 2011). 241 242 We therefore used two additional approaches to test whether traits affected insect diversity 243 (i.e. presence of species) and abundance. First, we used both standard binomial Generalized 244 Linear Mixed Models (GLMM) and binomial Phylogenetic Linear Mixed Models (PGLMM) 245 (Ives & Helmus 2011) to correlate insect presence (response variable) with defensive traits 246 (fixed explanatory variable), while including insect and Ficus species identities as random effects. We included phylogenetic covariation as an additional random effect in the 247 248 PGLMM's. We used R package 'pez' (Pearse et al. 2015) to construct PGLMM's (models 249 were fitted using restricted maximum likelihood). We excluded all species with less than ten 250 individuals from our binomial mixed effect models to limit the effect of rare species on the 251 analysis, and restricted this analysis to the whole leaf-chewer community.

252 Second, the relationships between plant traits and caterpillar abundance were tested using Phylogenetic Least Squares Regression (PGLS). We controlled for phylogenetic non-253 254 independence of *Ficus* species, but note that a trait's value in defending against herbivores is 255 not diminished by it being phylogenetically conserved (Agrawal 2007). Because traits evolve 256 in different ways we fitted the most appropriate branch length transformation. In cases where 257 traits followed Brownian motion, we used the 'corBrownian' correlation structure in GLS 258 models. In cases where more complicated branch length transformations were required, we 259 selected the parameter value of the transformation using maximum likelihood as implemented 260 in the R package 'caper' (Orme et al. 2013), using the transformation as selected by AICc. 261 For traits where a non-phylogenetic white noise model fitted best, we used GLS models 262 without any correlation structure. We had a strong *a priori* reason to expect a correlation between alkaloid diversity and *Asota* abundance, and conducted an additional PGLS analysis
to test this hypothesis. All insect data were log-transformed.

265 *Evolution of Ficus traits*

Initially, we tested for phylogenetic signal in our traits using Blomberg's K (a widely used metric) and a randomization test based on Phylogenetic Independent Contrasts in the R package 'Phylosignal' (Keck *et al.* 2016). Phylogenetic signal is widely used in studies of trait distribution, and therefore provides connectivity, but it lacks the power to detect and distinguish between certain evolutionary processes. As such we test directly for divergence, trait conservatism, and finally escalation.

272 Herbivore pressure can be a key selective agent, and we tested the hypothesis that it has led to overall divergence in trait values in our community. While conserved traits i) generally 273 274 follow a model of Brownian motion and ii) have a more or less constant rate of change across 275 the phylogeny, divergent traits exhibit a dramatic increase in trait disparity at the tip. We 276 therefore tested if individual traits followed a set of standard macroevolutionary models, by selecting and fitting models of evolution for each trait across the phylogeny. We fitted the 277 278 following models: Brownian motion (the correlation structure among trait values is proportional to the extent of shared ancestry between species), white noise - a non-279 phylogenetic null model (the data come from a normal distribution with no covariance 280 structure among species), and Pagel's lambda – allowing a more complex model of evolution 281 282 with strong (lambda=1) to weak (lambda=0) phylogenetic covariation. The models were 283 implemented using the 'fitContinous' function in the R package 'Geiger' (Harmon et al. 284 2008). We used the default bounds for each model, and compared the models using their AICc 285 weights. To further examine the evolution of individual traits through time (e.g. if they 286 diverged at the tips or followed Brownian motion), we plotted the values of trait disparity

through time (DTT) from the root to tips using the function 'dtt' in the R package 'Geiger'
(Harmon *et al.* 2008). The advantage of DTT analyses is that they not only detect significant
deviations from Brownian motion, but reveal the depth in the tree at which divergence occurs.
We used the average square distance metric to calculate trait disparity, and created a null
distribution of DTT with 95% confidence intervals using 999 simulations under Brownian
motion.

293 To test the hypothesis that herbivores may drive some traits to increase in value across the 294 Ficus phylogeny, we tested for escalation in trait values across the whole phylogeny and 295 within subclades. We tested for correlation between phylogenetic distance among plant 296 species and trait values using linear models. First, we used Permutational Multivariate 297 Analysis of Variance (PERMANOVA) and a patristic distance matrix derived from the host 298 phylogeny, as implemented in the function 'adonis' in the R package 'vegan' (Oksanen et al. 299 2017). We included the distance matrix as the response variable and the trait values as the 300 explanatory variables, used 999 permutations and selected significant variables using forward 301 selection. An increase in explanatory power with phylogenetic distance between species suggests overall escalation. Increases in explanatory power are detectable through increased 302 303 sum of squares contributions at the species level, detecting local escalation within clades. 304 Second, we used linear models to test for general directional changes in trait values from the root of the tree, by correlating Abouheif's distance (distance from the root) with trait values, 305 306 as calculated in the R package 'adephylo' (Jombart et al. 2010).

307 **Results**

308 Ficus traits and insect communities

Most *Ficus* traits showed high interspecific variability (Fig. 1, Table S4). Cluster analysis
revealed three major clusters based on their traits: i) high polyphenol content and polyphenol

activities, ii) high protease activity, and iii) mixed defenses with low polyphenols (Fig. 2, Fig. S1). These clusters were mirrored by insect communities, with species from clusters i) and ii) harboring distinct assemblages (Fig. 2). Individual defenses were generally independent once phylogenetic non-independence was controlled for by PGLS, and the only significant correlation between traits relevant to insect community structure was a negative correlation between alkaloid diversity and trichome length ($t_{19,1}$ =-2.56, p=0.019).

317 Multivariate analyses revealed that protease activity in latex, polyphenol oxidative activity, trichome length, and alkaloid diversity significantly correlated with overall community 318 319 structure (Table 1, Fig. 2). Protease activity in latex and trichome density correlated with 320 choreutid community structure, and protease activity in latex and polyphenol oxidative 321 activity correlated with pyraloid community structure. Variance partitioning revealed that traits explained a significant amount of the variance in community structure for all 322 323 comparisons apart from choreutids, while phylogeny was a consistently significant 324 explanatory variable in all cases (Table 1, Fig. S2).

325 The results using binary occurrence of insect species were in broad agreement with the multivariate analyses (Table 2), with the strong negative correlation between protease latex 326 327 and herbivore occurrence remaining once phylogenetic non-independence had been filtered out. Non-phylogenetic analyses also revealed a negative correlation between oxidative 328 329 activity and herbivore occurrence that was not detected in PGLMM's. In contrast to our 330 multivariate analyses, mixed effect models uncovered a positive relationship between both 331 triterpene and polyphenol diversity and insect occurrence, with the latter correlation remaining in phylogenetically controlled analyses. 332

PGLS analyses for the whole larval leaf-chewer community showed that only protease activity had a significant negative relationship with larval leaf-chewer abundance ($t_{17,1}$ =-2.86, p=0.011). However, there was a strong positive correlation between the abundance of *Asota* individuals and alkaloid diversity ($t_{17,1}$ =3.90, p=0.001).

337 *Evolution of Ficus traits*

338 The chemical traits having a significant correlation with insect communities, including 339 protease activity, alkaloid diversity, and polyphenol oxidative activity showed phylogenetic 340 signal when analyzed using Blomberg's K and PICs (Table 3). They followed Brownian motion or Lambda models of evolution, and showed limited disparity among closely related 341 342 Ficus species in DTT plots (Fig. 3). On the other hand, trichome density and length followed 343 a white noise model of evolution and showed high disparity among closely related species of Ficus (Fig. 3, Table 3). The non-significant traits (according to CCA) followed various 344 345 models of evolution (Fig. S3).

346 Among the traits that correlated with insect community structure, we found significant trait 347 escalation in the case of alkaloid diversity (F=21.43, p<0.001, R²=0.49) and polyphenol oxidative activity (F=4.43, p=0.034, R^2 =0.10) in the PERMANOVA analyses. Alkaloid 348 diversity escalated from the root towards the terminal clade of section Sycocarpus. 349 350 Polyphenol oxidative activity escalated slightly within section Sycidium and significantly in Adenosperma (see Table S5 for details). None of the other traits showed local or general 351 escalation. Tests of escalation using Abouheif's distance from root to terminal clades 352 confirmed a strong positive correlation between alkaloid diversity and distance from the root 353 $(F_{19,1}=14.10, p=0.001, R^2=0.32)$ while more limited escalation of oxidative activity (restricted 354 to two clades) was non-significant in a general context (F_{19,1}=0.001, p=0.969, R²<0.01; Fig. 355 S4). There was no significant correlation with distance from the root for any of the other traits. 356

357

358 **Discussion**

359 Previous studies have suggested macroevolutionary escalation (Agrawal et al. 2008; Becerra 360 et al. 2009; Pearse & Hipp 2012) or divergence (Becerra 2007; Kursar et al. 2009; Salazar et 361 al. 2016) of defensive traits. Here we propose (Hypothesis I) that defensive traits in large 362 plant genera show a range of evolutionary histories, which are strongly dependent on the selective pressures exerted by the insects attacking them. In the case of the focal Ficus species, 363 364 some traits were phylogenetically conserved, others escalated globally or within clades and 365 others diverged between close relatives. Such variability in the evolutionary history of 366 individual defenses is expected in species-rich communities, reflecting the myriad selective pressures imposed by diverse communities of insect herbivores (Agrawal & Fishbein 2006). 367 368 It is likely that any individual defense is only effective against a subset of the herbivores in a 369 given system (Koricheva et al. 2004; Volf et al. 2015). Our results show that the structure of 370 generalist and specialist insect communities correlates with traits that have evolved in 371 different ways.

372 We predicted (Hypothesis II) that generalist insect community structure would correlate mainly with escalating defenses, while the structure of specialist insect communities would 373 374 relate to divergent defenses. Escalation not only results in trait dissimilarity increasing with phylogenetic distance, thus restricting generalists from shifting between unrelated hosts, but 375 376 also increases toxicity for non-specialized herbivores. This is the case in some plant genera, such as Asclepias or Bursera (Agrawal et al. 2008; Becerra et al. 2009), which harbor almost 377 378 exclusively specialist herbivores. Here we observed that generalist pyraloids (spread across 379 many plant families) (Novotny et al. 2002; Novotny et al. 2010) have distinct and often 380 depauperate communities on hosts with high oxidative activity. These hosts are often derived 381 species in clades with otherwise low oxidative activity, demonstrating the power of local escalation. The local escalation of traits is reminiscent of 'co-evolutionary hotspots' 382 383 (Thompson 1994), and may demonstrate an early stage of the escape and radiate model of evolution proposed by Ehrlich & Raven (1964). Escalation in oxidative activity may 'free'
these *Ficus* lineages from pyraloid herbivores, opening up a new adaptive zone.

However, specialized insects can adapt to host defenses over evolutionary time, and in turn 386 387 use host secondary metabolites to their own advantage (Agrawal & Fishbein 2008), for example as a protection against predators. In our study, alkaloid diversity escalated across the 388 389 entire phylogeny and alkaloid rich plants hosted distinct insect communities. Alkaloid 390 diversity was highly and positively correlated with the abundance of the specialist moth genus 391 Asota, with alkaloid rich F. pachyrhachis, F. septica and F. hispidoides being the main hosts. 392 The bright, presumably aposematic, coloration of Asota moth larvae and adults is suggestive 393 of chemical sequestration (Sourakov & Emmel 2001). This mirrors the larval ecology of the 394 specialist monarch butterflies (Nymphalidae) associated with Asclepias. Overall, our results 395 confirm the importance of escalating host-plant defensive traits by empirically demonstrating their correlation with insect community structure as we illustrate both their generally negative 396 397 correlation with generalist communities (polyphenols), as well as a positive correlation of specialists with alkaloids. 398

In contrast, the community structure of the Ficus specialist Choreutidae correlated with 399 400 trichome density, a trait that showed high disparity among closely related Ficus species. As 401 suggested above, any defensive strategy will decrease in efficiency as specialized herbivores 402 accumulate with time (Janz 2011). This trend is likely to be especially pronounced when 403 defenses show phylogenetic predictability, such as in the case of cardenolides in milkweeds 404 (Agrawal et al. 2008). In such a situation, the ability to mix and match between a pool of conserved and divergent defensive traits, which are harder to overcome for specialized 405 406 herbivores, may be beneficial (Janz 2011). This might be the case for Choreutidae that are 407 Ficus specialists, with 63% of local species and 81% of individuals feeding exclusively on Ficus. Choreutidae radiated ~70 million years ago, shortly after the divergence of Ficus 408

409 (Cruaud *et al.* 2012; Rota *et al.* 2016), which could lead to sequential coevolution between
410 the two. Indeed, choreutid community structure was highly dependent on host *Ficus*411 phylogeny, and most correlations to defensive traits resulted from covariation between traits
412 and phylogeny. Divergent defenses may be beneficial to overcome the phylogenetic
413 conservatism of specialized herbivores, such as Choreutidae here, *Eois* on *Piper*, or
414 *Blepharida* on *Bursera* (e.g. Becerra 2007; Salazar *et al.* 2016). Likewise, divergent volatile
415 profiles reduced herbivory in *Piper* (Massad *et al.* 2017).

Interestingly, phylogenetically conserved protease activity was the only trait with a direct negative correlation to larval leaf-chewer abundance. Experimental evidence suggests that protease activity is very efficient at protecting leaves from a broad suite of insects, deterring them from feeding and reducing their growth rates, probably without synergy with other traits (Konno *et al.* 2004). Our data from natural communities suggest that cysteine proteases are an important form of defense for the studied *Ficus* species, which may explain their conserved evolution.

423 We observed three main defensive syndromes in Ficus, each of them supporting different insect communities. In line with our expectations (Hypothesis III), there were only a few 424 negative correlations between defense traits, suggesting that trade-offs in anti-herbivore 425 426 defense are uncommon (Agrawal & Fishbein 2006). Defensive syndromes comprising a combination of traits with different effects on herbivores are likely to maintain efficient 427 428 protection against insects (Koricheva et al. 2004; Agrawal & Fishbein 2006; Volf et al. 2015). 429 For example, synergy between latex production and other physical defenses may promote anti-herbivore protection in milkweeds (Agrawal & Fishbein 2006). Our results suggest that 430 431 defensive syndromes can consist of traits following different evolutionary trajectories, possibly making adaptation even harder for herbivores. This would shape the evolution of 432 433 plant defensive traits into a dynamic system, with traits undergoing periods of diversification,

divergence and sometimes decline (Agrawal *et al.* 2008; Janz 2011). This cyclical process
and the multiple selective pressures involved likely act to erode phylogenetic signal in
defensive traits in some systems (e. g. Kursar *et al.* 2009; Pearse & Hipp 2012; Cacho *et al.*2015; Salazar *et al.* 2016).

438 The diversification of host plant defenses due to herbivore pressure is, in turn, likely to 439 promote the diversity of insect herbivores themselves, resulting in reciprocal diversification 440 of plant defenses and herbivores (Ehrlich & Raven 1964). It has been shown that chemical diversity may be both driven by insect diversity and be one of the mechanisms promoting it, 441 442 as chemical diversity prevents the dominance of any one insect group in the herbivore 443 community (Richards et al. 2015; Salazar et al. 2016). This is also illustrated by the positive 444 relationship between polyphenol and triterpene diversity and diversity of insects found here. 445 Plants that possess diverse defensive traits, such as *Ficus*, are likely to harbor herbivores with various life histories, promoting overall diversity in local communities. 446

Here we have taken a community approach that has allowed us to demonstrate that escalating 447 448 traits primarily affect generalist herbivores, whereas diverging defenses affect specialists; this 449 difference influences the overall community structure of insect herbivores across different 450 Ficus species. This means that insect-plant food webs are assembled at least partly through 451 coevolutionary dynamics, contributing to changes in regional species pools and interactions 452 (Lewinsohn et al. 2005). Species rich pantropical plant genera, such as Ficus, Piper, or Psychotria, possessing a diverse array of anti-herbivore defenses, often with different 453 454 phylogenetic dynamics, are ideal models for studying the assembly of rich insect-plant food webs (Lewinsohn et al. 2005). Focusing on these systems may allow us to further improve 455 456 our understanding of the role of different evolutionary processes in generating the astonishing diversity of herbivorous insects on plants. 457

458

459 Acknowledgements

460 We thank the staff of the New Guinea Binatang Research Centre in Papua New Guinea. STS 461 acknowledges funding from a USB Postdoc project reg.no. CZ.1.07/2.3.00/30.0006 (funded 462 by the European Social Fund and the Czech State Budget) and Grant Agency of the Czech 463 Republic 15-24571S. MV acknowledges funding from the Grant Agency of the University of South Bohemia GAJU 156/2013/P and GAJU 103-016/2015/P. VN acknowledges the ESF 464 grant 669609, Darwin Initiative project no. 22-002, and Grant Agency of the Czech Republic 465 466 14-36098G. We acknowledge US National Science Foundation DEB 9407297. JPS acknowledges funding from the Academy of Finland (grant no 258992), and the help of Saku 467 468 Valkamaa, Atte Tuominen and Anne Koivuniemi in the chemical analyses. We thank the 469 Papua New Guinea Forest Research Institute, in particular Kipiro Damas, for assistance 470 granting export permits. We also thank again those acknowledged in Novotny et al. (2010), 471 especially colleagues at the Natural History Museum, London, for taxonomic assistance. We 472 than Petr Klimeš and Philip T. Butterill for a constructive criticism of the manuscript. Access to computing and storage facilities owned by parties and projects contributing to the National 473 474 Grid Infrastructure MetaCentrum provided under the programme "Projects of Large Research, 475 Development, and Innovations Infrastructures" (CESNET LM2015042), is greatly 476 appreciated. In addition, we thank the editors and anonymous reviewers for their valuable 477 comments, which improved the manuscript.

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661 Data Accessibility

The insect, chemical, and trait data supporting the results are available in the supplementary
materials (Tables S1, S2, S3, and S4). The sequences used for reconstructing the *Ficus*phylogeny are available in EMBL database: http://www.ebi.ac.uk/ena/data/view/LT907940-LT907943

667 Supporting Information

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686 Tables

Table 1. Results of the CCA analyses for whole larval leaf-chewer community, Choreutidae, and Pyraloidea. The table shows effects of individual traits selected by forward selection as well as the statistics (including percentage of explained variability in the community data) for the overall model including these traits. Traits marked with "-" were not included in the respective models. The values below the horizontal line give results of variance partitioning analysis showing the significance and percentage of variability in the community explained by Ficus traits and phylogeny, including the percentage of the variance in the community structure explained by covariation between the two.

Response Variable	Whole Community	Choreutidae	Pyraloidea
Protease Latex	pseudo-F=2.0, p=0.006	pseudo-F=2.7, p<0.001	pseudo-F=2.6, p=0.001
Polyphenol oxidative activity	pseudo-F=1.5, p=0.034	-	pseudo-F=1.8, p=0.029
Trichome length	pseudo-F=1.6, p=0.027	-	-
Trichome density	-	pseudo-F=1.7, p=0.022	-
Alkaloid diversity	pseudo-F=1.8, p=0.010	-	-
Whole Model, % Variance	pseudo-F=1.8, p<0.001, 15.9%	pseudo-F=2.3, p<0.001, 12.3%	pseudo-F=2.2, p<0.001, 12.1%
Variance Traits	10.3%, p=0.004	1.4%, p=0.310	7.2%, p=0.001
Variance Phylogeny	10.0%, p=0.005	8.4%, p=0.006	16.2%, p<0.001
Covariation	5.6%	10.9%	4 2%

- Table 2. The results of GLMM and PGLMM analyses giving model coefficients and
 significance with fixed effects listed, and random effects being *Ficus* species and herbivore
 species for GLMMs. For PGLMMs the additional random effect of phylogenetic covariance
- 710 was included. Only significant results are shown.

Fixed Effect	Estimate	Standard Error	z-value	p-value
Protease Latex	-3.927	1.919	-2.046	0.041
Triterpene Diversity	0.526	0.268	1.965	0.049
Polyphenol Diversity	1.902	0.827	2.301	0.021
Oxidative Activity	-0.109	0.051	-2.152	0.031
Fixed Effect	Estimate	Standard Error	z-value	p-value
Protease Latex	-5.956	2.723	-2.187	0.029
Polyphenol Diversity	1.783	0.813	2.192	0.028
	1.783	0.813	2.192	0.028

Table 3. Selected models of evolution (Brownian motion, Lambda, and white noise) and
phylogenetic signal for individual *Ficus* traits measured by Blomberg's K and PIC. Traits
showing significant phylogenetic signal are in bold and marked with *. Lambda values are
given for the traits following the Lambda model of evolution.

	Model		PIC	PIC	PIC
	(Alcc)	К	observed mean	randomized mean	р
Protease in latex	BM	0.703	0.2	0.4	0.017*
Alkaloid content	White	0.312	5081.1	5528.4	0.471
Alkaloid diversity	Lambda (0.66)	0.779	9.1	23.2	0.014*
Polyphenol content	BM	0.632	17.0	38.0	0.013*
Polyphenol diversity	White	0.387	2.4	3.2	0.299
Oxidative activity	BM	0.725	237.8	602.1	0.066
Protein precipitation	White	0.456	896.1	1472.3	0.092
Triterpene content	BM	0.673	31.9	76.4	0.009*
Triterpene diversity	Lambda (0.47)	0.543	12.6	23.7	0.028*
Trichome density	White	0.251	590757.6	504354.1	0.730
Trichome length	White	0.508	152279.6	262148.8	0.193
SLA	White	0.309	130152.3	144310.7	0.465
C:N	BM	0.819	245.4	630.4	0.027*

Ficus trachypison (TRA) Ficus gul (GUL) Ficus wassa (WAS) Ficus copiosa (COP) Ficus phaeosyce (PHA) Ficus conocepholia (CON) Ficus subtrinervia (PAS) Ficus rubrivestimenta (ERY) Ficus mollior (MOL) Ficus dammaropsis (DAM) Ficus variegata (VAR) Ficus nodosa (NOD) Ficus septica (SEP) Ficus botryocarpa (BOT) Ficus pachyrrhachis (PAR) Ficus congesta (COG) Ficus hispidioides (HIS) Ficus hahliana (BER) Ficus aurantiacafolia (TER) Ficus pungens (PUN) Ficus virens (VIR) 00 10 0 2 400 04 08 0 4 8 04 8 14 0 10 20 00 15 0 100 250 Alkaloid Polyphenol Polyphenol Oxidative Protein Triterpene Triterpene Trichome diversity content diversity activity precipitation content diversity density Alkaloid content 10 20 C:N Trichome length SLA Protease activity

742 Figure 1. Distribution of *Ficus* defenses across the phylogeny. Traits following Brownian 743 motion (dark grey), Lambda model of evolution (light grey), and white noise (white) are differentiated by background color. *Ficus* traits include protease activity in latex ($\Delta A280$), 744 745 alkaloid content (ln(peak area/mg)), alkaloid diversity (Shannon), polyphenol content (mg/g), polyphenol diversity (Shannon), polyphenol oxidative activity (mg/g), protein precipitation 746 747 capacity (mg/g), triterpene content (ln(peak area/mg)), triterpene diversity (Shannon), trichome density (number of trichomes per 10 mm²), trichome length (mm), C:N, and SLA 748 $(cm^{2}/g).$ 749

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756 Figure 2. Correlation between Ficus traits (A) and response of the whole larval leaf-chewer community (B), Choreutidae (C), and Pyraloidea (D) to host-plant traits. The correlation 757 758 between *Ficus* traits was visualized by a PCA biplot showing *Ficus* defenses and individual 759 Ficus species. First two PCA axes explained 47.9% of variability. The clusters of Ficus species with distinctive defenses recovered using Ward's method with Euclidean distances 760 761 are color coded -i) high polyphenol content and polyphenol activities (dark blue), ii) high 762 protease activity (light blue), and iii) mixed defenses with low polyphenols (orange). The response of insect communities to the host-plant traits was analyzed using CCA and 763 visualized by biplots showing Ficus defenses and communities associated with Ficus species 764 (first two constrained axes are shown). The traits shown explained 15.9% of adjusted 765 766 variability in case of whole leaf-chewer communities (p<0.001, pseudo-F=1.8), 12.3% in case of choreutids (p<0.001, pseudo-F=2.3), and 12.1% in case of pyraloids (p<0.001, pseudo-767 F=2.2). All singletons were removed from the analyses. See Figure 1 for the Ficus species 768 769 codes.



Figure 3. Mean disparity through time (DTT) for traits with significant effects on insect communities (solid line). Plots show disparity in protease activity (A), alkaloid diversity (B), oxidative activity (C), trichome length (D), and trichome density (E). The dashed line indicates the median DTT based on 999 simulations of character evolution on the phylogeny of studied *Ficus* species under Brownian motion. The grey shaded area indicates the 95% confidence interval for the simulated data.

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- 6

7 Appendix S1

8 Chemical Analysis

For the analysis of protease activity, we sampled latex by cutting the main stem of each leaf and 9 letting latex flow into a 2 ml collection tube for 30 seconds. All latex samples were stored on ice 10 in the field and were not allowed to exceed a temperature of 2 °C before being stored at -20 °C 11 prior to their analysis. Protease activity was analyzed using the methods of Konno et al. (2004) and 12 Agrawal et al. (2008) by measuring post-reaction absorption at 280 nm. We modified the methods 13 to deal with solidified latex by adding 50 ul of sodium phosphate buffer to the crude latex and 14 centrifuging for 3000 rpm for 10 minutes at 4°C, the supernatants were centrifuged again at 3500 15 rpm for 30 minutes at 4 °C. The gums were discarded and 20 µl of latex supernatant was used for 16 the reaction and another 20 µl were used for the control (terminated immediately with 17 trichloroacetic acid as described in Konno et al., 2004). 18

For the analysis of alkaloids, polyphenols, triterpenes, C:N, and physical traits, we collected two 4.5 cm² leaf discs per leaf from 20 young, but fully expanded leaves for each individual, avoiding the central vein (1 g of dry weight in total on average). Half of these leaf discs (0.5 g) were used

for the analysis of polyphenols and alkaloids, while the other half (0.5 g) was used for analysis of other traits

23 other traits.

Leaf discs for alkaloid and polyphenol analysis were stored in 40 mL HLPC grade acetone. The 24 storage acetone was transferred to an empty 50 ml Falcon tube and evaporated under N_2 . Leaf 25 material was transferred into a new IKA Ultra Turrax Dispenser tube and homogenized and 26 extracted in 50 ml of acetone/water (80:20, v/v). The extract was combined with the evaporated 27 storage acetone extract and the volume of the combined extract was reduced to under 50 ml with 28 29 N₂. The extract was transferred to a 50 ml flask and volume adjusted to 50 ml by acetone. This extract, containing alkaloids and phenolics was split, with 10 ml being taken for polyphenol 30 analysis and the remaining 40 ml being freeze-dried and used for alkaloid analysis. For the analysis 31 of alkaloids the dried extract was dissolved in 10 ml of 5% HCl, vortexed and transferred into a 15 32 ml Falcon tube and centrifuged (9000 rpm, 10 min) before being transferred to a 10 ml clear vial, 33 8 ml of the sample was taken and pH adjusted to 10 with 25% NH₃. The alkaline solution was 34 35 extracted in a 50 ml extraction funnel with an equal volume of CHCl₃. The chloroform solution was dried under nitrogen and dissolved into ethanol, filtered with a 0.2 um PTFE filter and analyzed 36 37 by UPLC-DAD-Orbitrap MS at the positive ion mode. Acetone was evaporated from the polyphenol extract under N₂, freeze-dried, dissolved in water and filtered with a 0.2 um PTFE filter 38 39 and analyzed by UPLC-DAD-QqQ-MS/MS.

Corporation), and photodiode array detector (Acquity UPLC[®], Waters Corporation, Milford, MA, 42 USA) coupled to a hybrid quadrupole-Orbitrap mass spectrometer (Q Exactive[™], Thermo Fisher 43 Scientific GmbH, Bremen, Germany). The detected alkaloids were assigned to their structural sub-44 groups by comparing their UV spectral data and MS² fragmentation patterns with literature data 45 (Bruneton et al. 1983; Baumgartner et al. 1990; Xiang et al. 2002; Cui et al. 2004) and by 46 constructing their molecular formulas from the exact masses obtained with the high-resolution 47 Orbitrap mass spectrometer. The substitution pattern was deduced from the molecular formula 48 (Table S2). Alkaloid quantification (as area of peaks/mg) was obtained with non-targeted Orbitrap 49 50 analysis. To control for the possible fluctuations in the MS performance, a *Ficus septica* extract was analysed every ten samples and the relative area of ficuseptine was monitored with an extracted 51 ion chromatogram with Orbitrap-MS. Liquid chromatography was performed using a flow rate of 52 650 μ L/min, injection volume of 5 μ L, and a gradient mixture of 0.1% (v/v) formic acid in water 53 (solvent A), and acetonitrile (solvent B). The gradient conditions: 0 min, 97% A + 3% B; 0.1 min, 54 97% A + 3% B; 3.0 min, 55% A + 45% B; 5.0 min, 10% A + 90% B; 7.0 min, 10% A + 90% B; 55 7.1 min, 97% A + 3% B; 7.2 min, 97% A + 3% B; total analysis time, 7.2 min. MS experiments 56 were carried out on a Q Exactive using a heated ESI source (H-ESI II, Thermo Fisher Scientific 57 GmbH) operated in positive ion mode. For full mass scan the resolving power was at 70,000; 58 automatic gain control (AGC) target was at 3×10^6 ions; maximum injection time (IT) was at 200 59 ms; the scan range was from 150 to 1200 m/z. Ion source condition: spray voltage +4.0 kV; capillary 60 temperature 380°C; Sheath gas (N₂) at 60 (arbitrary units), Aux gas at 20, Spare gas at 0; S-Lens 61 RF level at 60. The data were processed with the Thermo Xcalibur Qual Browser software (Version 62 3.0.63, Thermo Fisher Scientific). Pierce[®] LTQ Velos ESI Positive Ion Calibration Solution 63 (Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., Waltham, MA, USA) was used for the calibration of the detector. 64

The main polyphenol sub-groups were quantified (as mg/g) by UPLC-DAD-QqQ-MS/MS with the methods of Engström *et al.* (Engström *et al.* 2014; 2015) as described e.g. in Malisch et al. (2016). Furthermore, we measured polyphenol oxidative activity, following Salminen & Karonen (2011), and protein precipitation capacity, following Hagerman's RDA method (Hagerman & Butler 1978). These two activity assays quantify two major functions of polyphenols in anti-herbivore protection.

The leaf discs for measuring other traits were air dried and first used for measuring trichomes and 71 SLA. Then they were homogenized and 50 mg of the powder was used for the analysis of 72 73 triterpenes while the rest (0.45 g) was used for C:N analysis. To analyze low polar terpenes, 74 approximately 50 mg of dried powdered sample was ground with 1 ml of methanol in a TissueLyser LT (Dynex Technologies, Bustehrad, Czech Republic) at 30 Hz for 2 min. After centrifugation 75 (10,000 rpm) at 8 °C for 10 min, a 100 µl of the supernatant's aliquot was mixed with 200 µl of 76 methanol containing 0.1% formic acid. Terpenoids were measured on a Dionex Ultimate 3000 LC 77 system coupled to a hybrid quadrupole-Orbitrap mass spectrometer Q Exactive Plus (Thermo 78 Fisher Scientific, San Jose, CA, USA). A reversed phase Kinetex C18 100A HPLC column, 79 80 150mm × 2.1 mm i.d., 2.6µm (Phenomenex, Torrance, CA, USA) at 35°C was used for chromatographic separation. Liquid chromatography was performed using flow rate 200 µL/min, 81 autosampler temperature 15 °C and injection volume of 5 μ L; using gradient mixture of 0.1% (v/v) 82 83 formic acid in 2-propanol (solvent A), 0.1% (v/v) formic acid in mixture 2-propanol and methanol (99:1, v/v) (solvent B) and 0.1% (v/v) formic acid in water (solvent C). The gradient conditions 84 used were: 0 min, 0% A + 85% B + 15% C; 12.0 min, 29% A + 70% B + 1% C; 18.5 min, 29% A 85

86 + 70% B + 1% C; 19.0 min, 0 % A + 85% B + 18% C; 25.0 min, 0% A + 85% B + 15%; total
87 analysis time, 30 min.

The non-targeted HPLC-HRMS experiments of terpenoids were carried out in a positive 88 atmospheric pressure chemical ionization mode (APCI) and using a full mass scan (m/z 250 – 625) 89 combined with a data dependent MS² scanning. The Orbitrap settings were: a full mass scan with 90 the resolving power at 70,000; automatic gain control (AGC) target at 3×10^6 ions; maximum ion 91 injection time (IT) was at 100 ms. The data dependent MS² scanning conditions: resolving power 92 at 17 500; automatic gain control (AGC) target at 2×10^5 ions; maximum ion injection time (IT), 93 100 ms; the isolation window width, 3 Da and the normalized collision energy, 32, TopN 1. The 94 ion source conditions: spray voltage 3.0 kV; capillary temperature 250 °C; sheath gas, 25; auxiliary 95 gas, 5; spare gas, 1; an auxiliary gas heater temperature, 250 °C; S-lense level, 60 (arbitrary units 96 by vendor); external lock mass. Hexakis(2,2-difluoroethoxy)phosphazene (621.0211 Da) was used 97 as post column enrichment of the mobile phase (flow, 1µL/min; concentration at 25 µmol/L). The 98 acquired raw HRMS data were processed by the in-house Metabolite Mapper software after initial 99 characterization of terpenoids on the basis of their exact masses and their comparison with literature 100 (Kitajima et al. 1999; Kuo & Chaiang 1999; Kuo & Lin 2004; Feleke & Brehane 2005; Chiang et 101 102 al. 2005; Poumale et al. 2008; Rathee et al. 2015), (Table S3). The proportion of each detected 103 analyte in the sample set was evaluated as area of peaks/mg. For statistical analysis, the annotated 104 metabolite data matrix was reduced by processing only those metabolites which were detected at least in 50% of the samples employed in the study. 105

We calculated the Shannon diversity index for alkaloids, polyphenols, and triterpenes. In the case of triterpenes, the diversity was calculated based on the content of individual compounds. In the case of alkaloids and polyphenols, where more detailed structural data were available, the diversity was calculated based on the content of major structural groups to account for structural diversity rather than for the number of compounds in a sample.

111 Analysis of trichomes, SLA, and C:N

The total number of trichomes per 10 mm^2 and their average length was measured on five leaf discs 112 per individual using ImageJ (ver.1.48) and avoiding the central vein. Values for dorsal and ventral 113 sides of the discs were averaged. In addition we measured two resource acquisition traits 114 correlating with leaf quality which are known to affect insect herbivores – specific leaf area (SLA) 115 116 and C:N. SLA was measured for each individual using twenty 4.5 cm² dried leaf discs which were cut avoiding the central vein. SLA was calculated as the area per mass of these discs. Total carbon 117 and nitrogen content was determined by dry combustion with a CHNS Elemental Analyzer vario 118 119 MICRO cube (Elementar Analysensysteme GmbH, Germany) using dried and homogenized leaf 120 material.

121 Ficus Phylogeny Reconstruction

Host-plant phylogeny was reconstructed using four loci: ITS, ETS, G3PD, and GBSSI. We used sequences from Cruaud *et al.* (2012) when available. For species not included in the analysis of Cruaud *et al.* (2012), silica gel dried leaf discs were used to obtain host-plant DNA. We used published procedures, reaction conditions and primer sequences for DNA extraction and PCR amplification (Mason-Gamer *et al.* 1998; Cronn *et al.* 2002; Ronsted *et al.* 2008). Sequences were

assembled and edited using Geneious 5.4 (Drummond et al. 2011). The host-plant phylogeny was 127 reconstructed using Bayesian inference as implemented in BEAST v2.1.3 (Drummond et al. 2012). 128 The following substitution models were used for individual loci: ITS: GTR+I+G, ETS: HKY+I+G, 129 G3PD: GTR+I+G, GBSSI: HKY+I+G and were selected according to BIC using jModelTest 2 130 (Darriba et al. 2012). We used section level constraints as detailed by Cruaud et al. (2012). 131 Sampling was carried out every 10^3 generations for 10^7 generations, the first 10% of all generations 132 were discarded as 'burnin' and the results were summarized with a maximum clade credibility tree. 133 Furthermore, for section Sycocarpus we used constraints based on microsatellite data, as this 134 135 section has undergone a rapid radiation in PNG. We selected nine microsatellite loci previously published for the genus Ficus (Moe & Weiblen 2011; Garcia et al. 2012), which were amplified in 136 three multiplex sets. The phylogenetic relationships between the species in section Sycocarpus 137 were visualized by plotting neighbor joining trees using Nei's distance as implemented in BAPS 138 v5.4 (Corander et al. 2004). We used the 'clustering of groups of individuals' method, assigning 139 the five individuals from each species to a group and setting k to 20 to derive the distance matrix. 140

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Supplementary Figures (Fig. S1, Fig. S2, Fig. S3, Fig. S4)



Distance: euclidean Cluster method: ward.D

Figure S1. The similarity of *Ficus* species based on their defenses as analyzed by cluster analysis using Ward's method with Euclidean distances. The optimal number of clusters was selected based on BIC. Clusters are color coded - i) high polyphenols (dark blue), ii) high protease (light blue), and iii) mixed defenses (orange). The numbers show bootstrap support.



Figure S2. The variability in composition of insect communities explained by *Ficus* traits, phylogeny, and their covariation. The significance of effects of traits / phylogeny is marked above the columns -p>0.05 n.s., $p<0.05^*$, $p<0.001^{***}$.



Figure S3. Mean disparity through time (DTT) for traits with no significant effects on insect community structure (solid line). Plots show disparity in alkaloid content (A), polyphenol content (B), polyphenol diversity (C), polyphenol protein precipitation capacity (D), triterpene content (E), triterpene diversity (F), C:N (G), and SLA (H). The dashed line indicates the median DTT based on 999 simulations of character evolution on the phylogeny of studied *Ficus* species under Brownian motion. The grey shaded area indicates the 95% confidence interval for the simulated data.



Figure S4. Scatter plots showing the directional increase in polyphenol oxidative activity (A) and alkaloid diversity (B) with distance from the root (Abouheif's distance). Oxidative activity increased only in more ancestral clades (F= $0.001_{19,1}$, p=0.969, R²<0.01) while alkaloid diversity (Shannon group diversity) increased across the whole phylogeny (F= $14.101_{19,1}$, p=0.001, R²=0.32).

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Table S1. Insect data used in the analyses. The data were take from Novotny *et al.* (2010). Choreutid data were refined using barcode data, which became avaiable after 2010. The table shows number of individuals sampled on individual *Ficus* species (see Fig. 1 for species abbreviations).

Order	Family	Genus	Species	Sp. Code	BER	вот	CON	СОР	DAM	ERY	GUL	HIS	MOL	NOD	PAR	PAS	PHA	PUN	SEP	TER	TRA	VAR	WAS	Total
Col.	Chrysomelidae	Cadmus	acalyphae	CHRY218	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27
Col.	Chrysomelidae	Cadmus	sp. nr. acalyphae	CHRY219	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	91
Lep.	Arctiidae	Darantasia	caerulescens	ARCT002	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Lep.	Bombycidae	Elachyophthalma	cf. kebeae	DREP008	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Lep.	Crambidae	Authaeretis	eridora	CRAM028	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Lep.	Crambidae	Cotachena	histricalis	CRAM014	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	10
Lep.	Crambidae	Cydalima	marginalis	PYRA005	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lep.	Crambidae	Dracaenura	albonigralis	CRAM025	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Lep.	Crambidae	Glyphodes	caesalis	CRAM030	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Lep.	Crambidae	Glyphodes	doleschalii	CRAM016	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Lep.	Crambidae	Glyphodes	eurygania	CRAM017	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30
Lep.	Crambidae	Glyphodes	margaritaria	CRAM003	5	12	16	4	0	7	13	0	5	18	0	4	7	2	27	11	4	33	7	175
Lep.	Crambidae	Glyphodes	sp. cf. stolalis	CRAM008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	29	3	40
Lep.	Crambidae	Haritalodes	adjunctalis	CRAM012	21	13	25	3	11	0	0	4	0	23	0	0	12	5	8	1	13	23	17	179
Lep.	Crambidae	Herpetogramma	platycapna	CRAM029	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4
Lep.	Crambidae	Herpetogramma	sp. in bipunctalis complex	CRAM018	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	5	0	0	0	0	12
Lep.	Crambidae	Herpetogramma (s.l.)		PYRA016	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lep.	Crambidae	Hyalobathra	miniosalis	PYRA020	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lep.	Crambidae	Meekiaria		CRAM044	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Lep.	Crambidae	Meroctena	staintonii	CRAM033	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Lep.	Crambidae	Notarcha	sp. nr. quaternalis	CRAM026	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	5
Lep.	Crambidae	Parotis	hilaralis	CRAM050	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lep.	Crambidae	Parotis	sp. nr. marginata	GEOM001	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	14
Lep.	Crambidae	Pleuroptya	sabinusalis	CRAM011	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	8
Lep.	Crambidae	Pycnarmon	argenticincta	CRAM034	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	5
Lep.	Crambidae	Pycnarmon	jaguaralis	CRAM023	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
Lep.	Crambidae	Pycnarmon	sp. nr. dryocentra	CRAM010	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	8

Order	Family	Genus	Species	Sp. Code	BER	вот	CON	COP	DAM	ERY	GUL	HIS	MOL	NOD	PAR	PAS	PHA	PUN	SEP	TER	TRA	VAR	WAS	Total
Lep.	Crambidae	Syntomodera	sp. nr. thoasalis	CRAM020	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Lep.	Crambidae	Tabidia	insanalis	PYRA022	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Lep.	Crambidae	Talanga	nr. sexpunctalis	CRAM006	3	2	3	17	4	0	12	2	0	3	0	1	9	1	2	0	3	5	14	81
Lep.	Crambidae	Talanga	deliciosa	CRAM005	5	0	8	3	3	0	101	1	5	5	0	2	24	6	2	0	16	5	1	187
Lep.	Crambidae	Talanga	excelsalis	CRAM002	3	2	3	83	2	1	0	0	0	3	0	2	4	2	4	0	37	3	21	170
Lep.	Crambidae	Talanga	polyzonalis	CRAM009	1	1	9	12	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	9	39
Lep.	Crambidae			CRAM075	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lep.	Erebidae	Asota	carica	NOCT010	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	101
Lep.	Erebidae	Asota	eusemioides	NOCT004	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	26	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38
Lep.	Erebidae	Asota	heliconia	NOCT002	0	9	2	0	1	0	0	34	0	0	2	0	0	3	30	0	0	4	1	86
Lep.	Erebidae	Asota	orbona	NOCT003	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Lep.	Erebidae	Asota	plana	NOCT009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35
Lep.	Erebidae	Homodes	iomolybda	THYR009	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Lep.	Erebidae	Mecistoptera		XXXX092	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lep.	Erebidae	Mocis	trifasciata	NOCT079	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lep.	Erebidae	Ophyx	bilinea	NOCT076	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Lep.	Erebidae	Ophyx	crinipes	NOCT099	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lep.	Erebidae	Rusicada	revocans	NOCT011	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lep.	Gelechiidae			TORT055	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Lep.	Geometridae	Ectropis	bhurmitra	GEOM015	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lep.	Geometridae	Gymnoscelis	lavella	TORT056	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Lep.	Geometridae	Scopula	amala	GEOM051	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Lep.	Choreutidae	Brenthia		JR34	0	0	14	11	0	10	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	12	0	0	1	51
Lep.	Choreutidae	Brenthia		JR34a	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Lep.	Choreutidae	Brenthia		JR34b	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Lep.	Choreutidae	Brenthia		JR34c	0	0	0	5	0	3	2	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	17
Lep.	Choreutidae	Brenthia		JR37	0	0	0	0	32	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34
Lep.	Choreutidae	Brenthia		JR54	8	5	4	0	2	0	1	18	7	1	8	0	0	20	0	0	0	5	0	79
Lep.	Choreutidae	Brenthia		JR55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
Lep.	Choreutidae	Brenthia		JR62	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Lep.	Choreutidae	Brenthia		JR66	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	2	0	0	0	9
Lep.	Choreutidae	Brenthia		JR67	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Lep.	Choreutidae	Brenthia		CHOR003	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2

Order	Family	Genus	Species	Sp. Code	BER	вот	CON	COP	DAM	ERY	GUL	HIS	MOL	NOD	PAR	PAS	PHA	PUN	SEP	TER	TRA	VAR	WAS	Total
Lep.	Choreutidae	Brenthia		CHOR016	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Lep.	Choreutidae	Brenthia		Bren.sp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Lep.	Choreutidae	Choreutis	argoxantha	Chor.arg.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Lep.	Choreutidae	Choreutis	basalis	TORT012	3	6	4	0	2	1	0	5	1	2	6	0	1	1	37	0	0	0	1	70
Lep.	Choreutidae	Choreutis	cf. anthorma	TORT005	56	36	188	22	29	1	1	22	2	17	4	2	129	29	16	11	35	42	9	651
Lep.	Choreutidae	Choreutis	cf. limonias	Chor.lim.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Lep.	Choreutidae	Choreutis	chi	TORT013	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	12	15
Lep.	Choreutidae	Choreutis		JR05	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Lep.	Choreutidae	Choreutis	lutescens	TORT006	3	4	4	28	2	0	0	3	0	7	0	0	6	1	1	0	2	8	16	85
Lep.	Choreutidae	Choreutis		TORT018	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Lep.	Choreutidae	Choreutis		CHOR011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5
Lep.	Choreutidae	Choreutis		JR11	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lep.	Choreutidae	Niveas	kone	TORT015	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	43	1	62
Lep.	Choreutidae	Saphta	sp. cf exanthista & divitiosa	TORT009	0	6	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	8	1	0	0	0	21
Lep.	Choreutidae	Saptha		JR1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
Lep.	Choreutidae	Saptha	libanota	TORT016	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Lep.	Immidae	Moca	congrualis	TORT071	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5
Lep.	Limacodidae			LIMA002	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lep.	Limacodidae			LIMA008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Lep.	Limacodidae			LIMA001	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Lep.	Lycaenidae	Philiris	moira	LYCA001	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	21	4	1	10	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	46
Lep.	Lycaenidae	Philiris	ziska	LYCA005	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Lep.	Lymantriidae	Euproctis		LYMA003	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	9
Lep.	Lymantriidae	Arctornis	sp. nr. intacta	LYMA007	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3
Lep.	Lymantriidae	Artaxa		LYMA054	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Lep.	Lymantriidae	Lymantria	novaguineensis	LYMA070	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lep.	Lymantriidae	Nygmiini		LYMA038	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Lep.	Lymantriidae	Olene	nr. mendosa	LYMA039	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Lep.	Lymantriidae	Orgyia		LYMA010	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Lep.	Lymantriidae	Orgyia sp.		LYMA050	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Lep.	Lymantriidae	Orvasca		LYMA051	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Lep.	Lymantriidae	Orvasca		LYMA002	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	7
Lep.	Lymantriidae	Orvasca		LYMA004	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3

Order	Family	Genus	Species	Sp. Code	BER	вот	CON	СОР	DAM	ERY	GUL	HIS	MOL	NOD	PAR	PAS	PHA	PUN	SEP	TER	TRA	VAR	WAS	Total
Lep.	Lymantriidae	Somena	alba	LYMA060	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lep.	Lymantriidae	Teia	nr. but not dewara	LYMA001	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	6
Lep.	Lymantriidae			LYMA009	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Lep.	Nymphalidae	Cyrestis	acilia	NYMP002	2	2	3	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	0	7	1	3	5	23	60
Lep.	Nymphalidae	Euploea	algea	NYMP006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Lep.	Nymphalidae	Euploea	leucostictos	NYMP001	2	1	3	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	32	48
Lep.	Peleopodidae	Acria	sciogramma	TORT120	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Lep.	Psychidae	Eumeta	variegata	PSYC001	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Lep.	Psychidae	Hyalarcta	sp. nr. nigrescens	PSYC004	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lep.	Psychidae			PSYC002	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Lep.	Pyralidae	Pseudocera	trissosticha	TORT041	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	0	2	10
Lep.	Pyralidae			PYRA036	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lep.	Sphingidae			SPHI002	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Lep.	Sphingidae			SPHI003	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Lep.	Sphingidae			SPHI001	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	4
Lep.	Thyrididae	Mellea	ordinaria	THYR001	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Lep.	Thyrididae	Striglina	asinina	NOCT048	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lep.	Tortricidae	Adoxophyes	fasciculana	TORT034	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	5	2	12
Lep.	Tortricidae	Adoxophyes		TORT044	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	13
Lep.	Tortricidae	Adoxophyes		TORT066	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	4
Lep.	Tortricidae	Adoxophyes	templana complex	TORT008	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	5	5	24
Lep.	Tortricidae	Adoxophyes	thoracica	TORT022	0	5	2	3	2	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	5	0	1	0	0	4	3	30
Lep.	Tortricidae	Adoxophyes	tripselia	TORT037	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lep.	Tortricidae	Ancylophyes		XXXX114	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Lep.	Tortricidae	Dudua	n. sp. nr. aprobola	TORT143	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Lep.	Tortricidae	Homona	aestivana	TORT085	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Lep.	Tortricidae	Homona	mermerodes	TORT040	1	4	0	6	1	0	0	2	0	9	0	0	4	4	2	0	0	6	2	41
Lep.	Tortricidae	Homona	trachyptera	TORT067	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Lep.	Tortricidae	Isotenes	sp. nr. but not miserana	TORT061	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lep.	Tortricidae	Sorolopha	epichares	TORT026	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lep.	Tortricidae	Xenothictis	gnetivora	TORT039	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3

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Table S2. Alkaloid metabolites screened in the study.

Number	Compound type	Molecular formula	Substitution pattern	Exact mass (Da)	Reference	Reference species	Structure of the carbon skeleton
1	Trimethoxy-phenantroindolizidine	C23H25NO3	3×OCH ₃	363,1834	Baumgartner et al. (1990)	F. septica	
2	Hydroxy-trimethoxy-phenantroindolizidine	C23H25NO4	$3 \times OCH_3 + OH$	379,1784	Xiang et al. (2002)	T. atrofolliculata	
3	Tetramethoxy-phenantroindolizidine	C24H27NO4	4×OCH ₃	393,194	Ueda et al. (2009)	F. septica	\langle
4	Dihydroxy-dimethoxy-phenantroindolizidine	C22H23NO4	$2 \times OCH_3 + 2 \times OH$	365,1627	Xiang et al. (2002)	T. atrofolliculata	
5	Hydroxy-tetramethoxy-phenantroindolizidine	C24H27NO5	$4 \times OCH_3 + OH$	409,1889	Damu et al. (2005)	F. septica	
6	Pentamethoxy-phenantroindolizidine	C25H29NO5	5×OCH ₃	423,2046	Damu et al. (2009)	F. septica	N
7	Dihydroxy-trimethoxy-phenantroindolizidine	C23H25NO5	$3 \times OCH_3 + 2 \times OH$	395,1733	Cui et al. (2004)	T. atrofolliculata	
8	Trihydroxy-dimethoxy-phenantroindolizidine	C22H23NO5	$2 \times OCH_3 + 3 OH$	381,1576	Xiang et al. (2002)	T. atrofolliculata	
9	Hydroxy-methoxy-seco-phenantroindolizidine	$C_{21}H_{23}NO_2$	$OCH_3 + OH$	321,1729			
10	Dimethoxy-seco-phenantroindolizidine	$C_{22}H_{25}NO_2$	2×OCH ₃	335,1885			
11	Hydroxy-dimethoxy-seco-phenantroindolizidine	C22H25NO3	$2 \times OCH_3 + OH$	351,1834	Staerk et al. (2002)	C. vincetoxicum	
12	Trimethoxy-seco-phenantroindolizidine	C23H27NO3	3×OCH ₃	365,1991	Staerk et al. (2002)	C. vincetoxicum	Ń.
13	Hydroxy-trimethoxy-seco-phenantroindolizidine	C23H27NO4	$3 \times OCH_3 + OH$	381,1940	Lee et al. (2011)	T. ovata	
14	Tetramethoxy-seco-phenantroindolizidine	$C_{24}H_{29}NO_4$	4×OCH ₃	395,2097	Lee et al. (2011)	T. ovata	~
15	Hydroxy-methoxy-dehydro-seco-phenantroindolizidine	$C_{21}H_{20}NO_2{}^+$	$OCH_3 + OH$	318,1494			^
16	Dimethoxy-dehydro-seco-phenantroindolizidine	$C_{22}H_{22}NO_2{}^+$	2×OCH ₃	332,1645	Baumgartner et al. (1990)	F. septica	
17	Hydroxy-dimethoxy-dehydro-seco-phenantroindolizidine	$C_{22}H_{22}NO_{3}^{+}$	$2 \times OCH_3 + OH$	348,1594			
18	Trimethoxy-dehydro-seco-phenantroindolizidine	$C_{23}H_{24}NO_{3}^{+}$	3×OCH ₃	362,1751			
19	Hydroxy-trimethoxy-dehydro-seco-phenantroindolizidine	$C_{23}H_{24}NO_4{}^+$	$3 \times OCH_3 + OH$	378,1700			
20	Tetramethoxy-dehydro-seco-phenantroindolizidine	$C_{24}H_{26}NO_4{}^+$	4×OCH ₃	392,1856	Ueda et al. (2009)	F. septica	t t
21	Dihydroxy-dimethoxy-dehydro-seco-phenantroindolizidine	$C_{22}H_{22}NO_4^+$	$2 \times OCH_3 + 2 \times OH$	364,1549			~
22	Hydroxy-dimethoxy-N-methyl-tetrahydrobenzylisoquinoline	C ₁₉ H ₂₃ NO ₃	$2 \times OCH_3 + OH + Me$	313,1678	Jeong et al. (2012)	C. ternata	

23	Dihydroxy-methoxy-N-methyl-tetrahydrobenzylisoquinoline	C19H23NO4	$2 \times OCH_3 + 2 \times OH + Me$	329,1627	Khan et al. (1993)	F. pachyrrachis	
24	Hydroxy-trimethoxy-N-methyl-tetrahydrobenzylisoquinoline	C20H25NO4	$3 \times OCH_3 + OH + Me$	343,1784	Jeong et al. (2012)	C. ternata	
25	Dihydroxy-trimethoxy-N-methyl-tetrahydrobenzylisoquinoline	C ₂₀ H ₂₅ NO ₅	$3 \times OCH_3 + 2 \times OH + Me$	359,1733			ĺ
26	Hydroxy-tetramethoxy-N-methyl-tetrahydrobenzylisoquinoline	C21H27NO5	$4{\times}OCH_3+OH+Me$	373,1889			NH
27	Pentamethoxy-N-methyl-tetrahydrobenzylisoquinoline	C22H29NO5	$5 \times OCH_3 + Me$	387,2046			
28	Trihydroxy-tetramethoxy-tetrahydrobenzylisoquinoline	C21H27NO7	4 OCH ₃ + 3 OH	405,1788			
29	Ficuseptamine A or B	C15H23NO3	-	265,1678	Ueda et al. (2009)	F. septica	

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Table S3. Terpenoid metabolites screened in the study.

Compound name	Compound type	Molecular formula	MW	MM	$[M+H]^+$	$\begin{matrix} [M-\\ H_2O{+}H]^+ \end{matrix}$	Absorption Data	Stuructural Data	Reference	Reference species
Stigmasterol	Pentacyclic Triterpene	C ₂₉ H ₄₈ 0	412,69	412,3705	413,3778	395,3672		Yes	Rathee et al. (2011)	F. religiosa
Lupeol	Pentacyclic Triterpene	C ₃₀ H ₅₀ O	426,72	426,3862	427,3935	409,3829		Yes	Rathee et al. (2011)	F. religiosa
8,26-cyclo-urs-21-en-3β,20β-diol (ursane type)	Pentacyclic Triterpene	$C_{30}H_{49}O_2$	441,37	441,3733	442,3806	424,3700	Yes		Poumale et al. (2008)	F. cordata
3β -acetoxy-8,26-cyclo-ursan-20β -ol	Pentacyclic Triterpene	$C_{32}H_{52}O_3$	484,00	484,3916	485,3989	467,3883	Yes		Poumale et al. (2008)	F. cordata
3-friedelanone	Pentacyclic Triterpene	C ₃₀ H ₅₀ O	426,72	426,3862	427,3935	409,3829		Yes	Poumale et al. (2008)	F. cordata
oleanolic acid	Pentacyclic Triterpene	$C_{30}H_{48}O_3$	456,70	456,3603	457,3676	439,3570		Yes	Poumale et al. (2008)	F. cordata
betulinic acid	Pentacyclic Triterpene	$C_{30}H_{48}O_3$	456,70	456,3603	457,3676	439,3570		Yes	Poumale et al. (2008)	F. cordata
lupeol acetate	Pentacyclic Triterpene	$C_{32}H_{52}O_2$	468,75	468,3967	469,4040	451,3934			Poumale et al. (2008)	F. cordata
$\alpha\text{-}$ and β -amyrine	Pentacyclic Triterpene	C ₃₀ H ₅₀ O	426,72	426,3862	427,3935	409,3829			Poumale et al. (2008)	F. cordata
3,5,7,4-tetrahydroxyflavane		$C_{15}H_{14}O_5$	274,00	274,0841	275,0914	257,0808			Poumale et al. (2008)	F. cordata
3,5,7,3,4-pentahydroxyflavane		$C_{15}H_{14}O_{6}$	290,27	290,0790	291,0863	273,0757			Poumale et al. (2008)	F. cordata
27-nor-3b -hydroxy-25-oxocycloartane	Cyclopropyl Triterpene	C29H48O2	428,69	428,3654	429,3727	411,3621	Yes	Yes	Chiang et al. (2001)	F. microcarpa
(22E)-25,26,27-trinor-3b -hydroxycycloart-22-en-24-al	Cyclopropyl Triterpene	C27H42O2	398,62	398,3185	399,3258	381,3152	Yes	Yes	Chiang et al. (2001)	F. microcarpa
3b -acetoxy-15a-hydroxy-13,27-cyclours-11-ene	Cyclopropyl Triterpene	$C_{32}H_{50}O_{3}$	482,74	482,3760	483,3833	465,3727	Yes	Yes	Chiang et al. (2001)	F. microcarpa
3b-acetoxy-12a-formyloxy-13,27-cycloursan-11a-ol	Cyclopropyl Triterpene	C33H52O5	528,76	528,3815	529,3888	511,3782	Yes	Yes	Chiang et al. (2001)	F. microcarpa
3b-acetoxy-12,19-dioxo-13(18)-oleanene		$C_{32}H_{48}O_4$	496,36	496,3553	497,3626	479,3520	Yes	Yes	Chiang et al. (2005)	F. microcarpa
3b-acetoxy-19(29)-taraxasten-20a-ol		C32H52O3	484,39	484,3916	485,3989	467,3883	Yes	Yes	Chiang et al. (2005)	F. microcarpa
3b-acetoxy-21a,22a-epoxytaraxastan-20a-ol		C32H52O4	500,38	500,3866	501,3939	483,3833	Yes	Yes	Chiang et al. (2005)	F. microcarpa
3,22-dioxo-20-taraxastene		$C_{30}H_{46}O_2$	438,35	438,3498	439,3571	421,3465	Yes	Yes	Chiang et al. (2005)	F. microcarpa
3b-acetoxy-11a,12a-epoxy-16-oxo-14-taraxerene		C32H48O4	496,35	496,3553	497,3626	479,3520	Yes	Yes	Chiang et al. (2005)	F. microcarpa
3b-acetoxy-25-methoxylanosta-8,23-diene		C33H54O3	498,41	498,4073	499,4146	481,4040			Chiang et al. (2005)	F. microcarpa
oleanolic acid	Pentacyclic Triterpene	$C_{30}H_{48}O_3$	456,70	456,3603	457,3676	439,3570		Yes	Chiang et al. (2005)	F. cordata
acetylbetulinic acid		C32H50O4	498,74	498,3709	499,3782	481,3676		Yes	Chiang et al. (2005)	F. microcarpa

Compound name	Compound type	Composition	MW	MM	[M+H] ⁺	[M- H ₂ O+H] ⁺	Absorption Data	Stuructural Data	Reference	Source
betulonic acid		C ₃₀ H ₄₆ O ₃	454,68	544,3447	545,3520	527,3414		Yes	Chiang et al. (2005)	F. microcarpa
acetylursolic acid		C32H50O4	498,74	498,3709	499,3782	481,3676		Yes	Chiang et al. (2005)	F. microcarpa
ursonic acid		$C_{30}H_{46}O_3$	454,68	454,3447	455,3520	437,3414		Yes	Chiang et al. (2005)	F. microcarpa
ursolic acid		$C_{30}H_{48}O_3$	456,70	456,3603	457,3676	439,3570		Yes	Chiang et al. (2005)	F. microcarpa
3-oxofriedelan-28-oic acid		$C_{30}H_{48}O_3$	456,70	456,3603	457,3676	439,3570		Yes	Chiang et al. (2005)	F. microcarpa
acetate-a-amyrin		$C_{32}H_{52}O_2$	468,00	468,3967	469,4040	451,3934			Feleke and Brehane (2005)	F. sur
acetate-b-amyrin		$C_{32}H_{52}O_2$	468,00	468,3967	469,4040	451,3934			Feleke and Brehane (2005)	F. sur
3b -acetoxy-22,23,24,25,26,27-hexanordammaran-20-one	Dammarane Type Acetylated Triterp.	$C_{26}H_{42}O_3$	402,00	402,3134	403,3207	385,3101		Yes	Kitajima et al. (1999)	F. pumilla
3b -acetoxy-20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27-octanordammaran-17b -ol	Dammarane Type Acetylated Triterp.	$C_{24}H_{40}O_3$	376,00	376,2977	377,3050	359,2944		Yes	Kitajima et al. (1999)	F. pumilla
3b -acetoxy-(20R,22E,24RS)-20,24-dimethoxydammaran-22-en- 25-ol	Dammarane Type Acetylated Triterp.	C ₃₄ H ₅₈ O ₅	546,82	546,4284	547,4357	529,4251		Yes	Kitajima et al. (1999)	F. pumilla
3b -acetoxy-(20S,22E,24RS)-20,24-dimethoxydammaran-22-en- 25-ol	Dammarane Type Acetylated Triterp.	C ₃₄ H ₅₈ O ₅	546,82	546,4284	547,4357	529,4251		Yes	Kitajima et al. (1999)	F. pumilla
29(20-19)abeolupane-3,20-dione	Lupane Type Triterpene	$C_{30}H_{48}O_2$	440,70	440,3654	441,3727	423,3621			Kuo and Lin (2004)	F. microcarpa
19,20-secoursane-3,19,20-trione	Ursane Type Triterpene	$C_{30}H_{48}O_3$	456,70	456,3603	457,3676	439,3570			Kuo and Lin (2004)	F. microcarpa
lupenone		C ₃₀ H ₄₈ O	424,70	424,3705	425,3778	407,3672			Kuo and Lin (2004)	F. microcarpa
a-amyrone		C ₃₀ H ₄₈ O	424,70	424,3705	425,3778	407,3672			Kuo and Lin (2004)	F. microcarpa
20(30)-taraxastene-3b ,21a-diol	Taraxastane Type Triterpenes	$C_{30}H_{50}O_2$	442,72	442,3811	443,3884	425,3778	Yes	Yes	Kuo and Chiang (1999)	F. microcarpa
20a,21a-epoxytaraxastan-3b -ol	Taraxastane Type Triterpenes	C30H50O2	442,00	442,3811	443,3884	425,3778	Yes	Yes	Kuo and Chiang (1999)	F. microcarpa
20-taraxastene-3b ,22b -diol	Taraxastane Type Triterpenes	C30H50O2	442,72	442,3811	443,3884	425,3778	Yes	Yes	Kuo and Chiang (1999)	F. microcarpa
and 3b -acetoxy-20-taraxasten-22-	Taraxastane Type Triterpenes	C32H50O3	482,74	482,3760	483,3833	465,3727	Yes	Yes	Kuo and Chiang (1999)	F. microcarpa
20-taraxasten-3b -ol (pseudo-Taraxasterol)		C30H50O	426,72	426,3862	427,3935	409,3829			Kuo and Chiang (1999)	F. microcarpa
3b -acetoxy-11a-methoxy-12-ursene	Ursane Type Triterpene	C33H54O3	498,78	498,4073	499,4146	481,4040	Yes		Kuo and Chiang (2000)	F. microcarpa
3b -acetoxy-11a-ethoxy-12-ursene	Ursane Type Triterpene	C34H56O3	512,81	512,4229	513,4302	495,4196	Yes		Kuo and Chiang (2000)	F. microcarpa
3b -acetoxy-11a-hydroperoxy-12-ursene	Ursane Type Triterpene	C32H52O4	500,75	500,3866	501,3939	483,3833	Yes		Kuo and Chiang (2000)	F. microcarpa
3b -hydroxy-11a-hydroperoxy-12-ursene	Ursane Type Triterpene	C ₃₀ H ₅₀ O ₃	458,72	458,3760	459,3833	441,3727	Yes		Kuo and Chiang (2000)	F. microcarpa
3b -acetoxy-11a-ethoxy-12-oleanene	Oleanane Type Triterpene	C34H56O3	512,81	512,4229	513,4302	495,4196	Yes		Kuo and Chiang (2000)	F. microcarpa
3b -acetoxy-11a-hydroperoxy-12-oleanene	Oleanane Type Triterpene	C32H52O4	500,75	500,3860	501,3933	483,3827	Yes		Kuo and Chiang (2000)	F. microcarpa

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Table S4. Species traits – protease activity (Δ A280), alkaloid content (ln(peak area/mg)), alkaloid diversity (Shannon), polyphenol content (mg/g), polyphenol diversity (Shannon), polyphenol oxidative activity (mg/g), protein precipitation capacity (mg/g), triterpene content (ln(peak area/mg)), triterpene diversity (Shannon), trichome density (number of trichomes per 10 mm²), trichome length (mm), C:N, SLA (cm²/g). Polyphenol diversity was based on the content galloyl derivatives, hexahydroxydiphenoyl derivatives, procyanidins, prodelphinidins, quinic acid derivatives, quercetin derivatives, kaempferol derivatives, and myricetin derivatives. Alkaloid diversity was based on the content of phenanthroindolizidines, *seco*-phenanthroindolizidines, dehydro-*seco*-phenanthroindolizidines, tetrahydrobenzylisoquinolines, and ficuseptamines.

Species	Protease activity	Alkaloid content	Alkaloid diversity	Polyphenol content	Polyphenol diversity	Oxidative activity	Protein prec.	Triterpene content	Triterpene diversity	Trichome density	Trichome length	C:N	SLA
F. aurantiacafolia	0.161±0.113	31.09±0.43	1.10±0.00	49.91±0.20	0.62±0.50	1.90±1.36	4.28±8.57	20.22±0.30	0.73±0.16	3.56±4.75	0.21±0.14	18.5±0.7	235.1±26.7
F. botryocarpa	0.127±0.108	32.57±0.44	1.18±0.30	13.15±1.94	0.35±0.36	0	3.22±7.20	18.58±0.25	2.04±0.21	123.92±17.33	0.22±0.11	16.7±2.1	173.3±42.6
F. congesta	0.100±0.176	26.70±1.28	1.27±0.16	44.6±0.54	0.48±0.28	1.40±1.15	14.28±10.39	20.27±0.44	1.18±0.26	76.23±80.53	0.30±0.18	18.6±1.1	156.1±25.0
F. conocepholia	0.057±0.050	20.29±9.99	0.23±0.36	21.87±3.22	0.65±0.47	0.97±1.20	7.13±11.18	18.36±0.18	2.29±0.28	11.24±6.18	0.27±0.35	15.1±1.5	174.8±29.5
F. copiosa	0.051±0.038	23.07±1.97	0.14±0.31	3.76±0.11	0.74±0.51	0	0	18.51±1.72	2.46±0.80	0.44±0.30	0.22±0.12	17.6±2.1	126.6±28.2
F. dammaropsis	0.048±0.054	16.85±11.26	0	21.20±0.51	0.78±0.28	1.15±1.34	1.75±2.61	18.95±0.33	1.91±0.31	2.20±2.89	0.17±0.16	19.3±0.4	120.4±46.2
F. gul	0.067±0.074	13.69±12.52	0	12.60±1.59	0.35±0.43	2.10±0.92	1.54±3.43	18.18±0.85	1.84±0.83	108.75±41.69	0.46±0.28	17.8±2.2	174.6±41.3
F. hahliana	0.067±0.057	9.74±13.34	0.14±0.31	14.33±3.31	0.62±0.39	0.78±1.10	1.34±2.99	20.12±0.24	1.07±0.20	21.12±11.41	0.51±0.31	19.4±1.6	137.8±26.5
F. hispidioides	0.138±0.175	28.11±0.85	1.21±0.16	35.97±0.58	0.75±0.60	3.56±1.44	11.49±13.06	19.47±0.39	1.33±0.12	276.68±80.07	0.32±0.16	19.3±2.8	101.2±13.4
F. mollior	0.215±0.167	25.39±1.87	0.14±0.31	41.52±5.55	0.55±0.53	7.98±14.99	6.45±9.17	18.69±0.10	2.57±0.11	194.48±33.81	0.33±0.19	17.5±0.5	193.2±16.3
F. nodosa	0.023±0.014	16.58±11.39	0.20±0.34	37.86±0.16	0.59±0.43	3.89±2.13	7.14±5.27	18.98±0.82	1.62±0.38	73.97±36.68	0.08±0.05	19.1±2.1	195.4±67.1
F. pachyrrhachis	0.093±0.040	28.61±1.36	1.31±0.14	34.87±0.43	0.63±0.48	4.20±2.62	10.05±6.72	20.12±0.26	1.48±0.21	130.60±44.18	0.37±0.24	17.7±1.0	120.3±30.4
F. phaeosyce	0.057±0.037	0	0	16.46±1.25	0.65±0.57	0	3.09±2.76	19.84±0.61	1.80±0.28	15.50±10.98	0.42±0.38	19.6±1.1	172.0±9.6
F. pungens	0.044±0.025	23.25±1.49	0.69±0.57	32.12±0.21	0.69±0.21	0.78±0.90	7.30±5.39	18.88±0.86	1.55±0.16	156.40±73.43	0.29±0.22	16.8±2.9	126.3±32.5
F. rubrivestimenta	0.152±0.119	15.50±13.43	0	67.03±0.02	0.10±0.15	11.27±0.99	5.18±0.04	20.17±1.69	1.07±0.91	7.12±4.22	0.25±0.19	23.9±3.1	207.9±40.8
F. septica	0.042±0.040	31.26±0.00	1.61±0.00	20.12±4.16	0.87±0.28	0.90±1.27	4.97±7.02	17.75±0.81	1.98±0.30	1.70±2.88	0.06±0.09	16.6±2.8	104.1±5.1
F. subtrinervia	0.302±0.355	9.54±13.07	0	39.45±2.39	0.67±0.33	1.42±1.97	13.02±8.95	21.10±0.21	1.08±0.07	0.07±0.16	0.31±0.31	27.8±4.2	171.8±30.7
F. trachypison	0.028±0.020	29.20±0.51	0.14±0.31	14.03±0.72	0.54±0.26	0.36±0.80	0	17.61±0.66	2.50±0.39	176.4±47.54	0.15±0.12	17.1±1.1	142.4±43.1
F. variegata	0.015±0.011	24.93±2.52	0.50±0.48	19.91±2.29	0.67±0.20	1.50±1.37	2.79±5.92	19.05±0.69	1.65±0.47	86.24±115.67	0.11±0.09	17.4±1.6	274.9±82.6
F. virens	0.145±0.099	23.75±1.56	0.35±0.49	4.10±1.03	0.09±0.13	0	0	17.79±1.09	2.37±0.68	9.40±7.78	0.88±0.62	23.1±2.5	149.3±25.2
F. wassa	0.009±0.005	19.04±10.82	0.14±0.31	12.07±3.10	0.74±0.45	0.98±2.19	0	17.92±0.46	2.53±0.32	0.48±0.40	0.22±0.08	17.8±2.1	158.9±40.2

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Table S5. Escalation of alkaloid diversity (Shannon) and oxidatively active phenolics (mg/g) as analysed by Adonis function. Table shows details on sums of squares (SSq) and p-values for individual *Ficus* species. Significant values are in bold. Species are ordered from the tip (*F. aurantiacafolia*) the root (*F. virens*) of the tree.

			Oxidatively active					
	Alkaloid d	liversity	p	henolics				
Species	SSq	р	SSq	р				
F. aurantiacafolia	0.01902	<0.001	0.00006	0.854				
F. hahliana	0.01774	<0.001	0.00004	0.874				
F. hispidioides	0.02032	<0.001	0.00011	0.806				
F. congesta	0.02062	<0.001	0.00009	0.828				
F. pachyrrhachis	0.02065	<0.001	0.00012	0.801				
F. botryocarpa	0.01579	<0.001	0.00004	0.855				
F. septica	0.01663	<0.001	0.00002	0.886				
F. pungens	0.00228	0.043	0	0.932				
F. nodosa	0.00018	0.579	0.00063	0.297				
F. variegata	0.00051	0.35	0.00012	0.649				
F. dammaropsis	0.00008	0.723	0.0014	0.128				
F. mollior	0.00019	0.634	0.01107	<0.001				
F. rubrivestimenta	0.00023	0.601	0.01243	<0.001				
F. conocepholia	0.00057	0.329	0.00033	0.457				
F. copiosa	0.00463	0.053	0.00253	0.163				
F. wassa	0.00463	0.053	0.00233	0.181				
F. phaeosyce	0.00478	0.047	0.00249	0.162				
F. gul	0.00483	0.049	0.00187	0.236				
F. trachypison	0.00473	0.052	0.00202	0.217				
F. subtrinervia	0.00056	0.33	0.00005	0.766				
F. virens	0.00004	0.791	0.00035	0.449				