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Biogeographic ranges do not support niche theory in radiating Canary Island plant clades

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1 2	Biogeographic ranges do not support niche theory in radiating Canary Island plant clades
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23 Abstract

Aim: Ecological niche concepts, in combination with biogeographic history, underlie our understanding of biogeographic ranges. Two pillars of this understanding are competitive displacement and niche conservatism. The competitive displacement hypothesis holds that very similar (e.g. closely related) co-occurring species should diverge, forced apart by competition. In contrast, closely related species should have similar niches according to the niche conservatism hypothesis. If these are fundamental structuring forces, they should be detectable when comparing the climatic niches of endemic species in radiating clades in oceanic archipelagos, where closely related species exist in both sympatry and allopatry and the species' entire ranges are known. We took advantage of this natural experimental system to test whether the climatic niche relationships predicted by the two hypotheses are found.

Location: Canary Islands.

Methods: For the plant clades *Aeonium, Argyranthemum, Descurainia, Echium, Lotus* and 36 *Sonchus*, separately, we tested relationships between phylogenetic distance and climatic 37 niche differentiation (in temperature, precipitation and their combination), using a high-38 resolution dataset. We also tested for niche conservatism using Blomberg's *K* and Pagel's λ . 39 We compared climatic niche differentiation between pairs of species existing in sympatry with 40 that for pairs of species in allopatry. For each comparison, we focused on the climatic niche 41 space available to both species.

Results: The relationships between phylogenetic distance and climatic niche differentiation 43 were mostly non-significant; some weak but significant positive relationships were found, 44 mainly for *Aeonium* and *Sonchus*. Where differences between sympatry and allopatry were 45 found, niche differentiation tended to be greater in allopatry.

46 Main conclusions: The expectations from niche conservatism were frequently not met;
47 instead our results suggest considerable climatic niche lability. All significant differences in
48 climatic niche differentiation were opposite to the predictions from competitive displacement.

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 These forces may be less important in structuring biogeographic ranges than is commonlythought, at least on islands.

Keywords: competition, niche conservatism, ecological character displacement, adaptive
radiation, climate, endemic plants, sister clades, speciation, divergence, ghost of competition
past.

, pk

55 Introduction

Understanding the environmental factors that influence the local occurrence and persistence of species is one of the most fundamental tasks in ecology. Similarly, understanding what determines species' ranges is fundamental to biogeography. Prominent in both are concepts of species' niches, which relate to both environmental conditions (Grinnell, 1917) and biotic interactions (Elton 1927). The Hutchinsonian niche concept, which views the niche as n-dimensional hypervolume defined by environmentally related niche axes (Hutchinson, 1957) is the fundament of current assessments of species' niches (Blonder et al., 2014), including species distribution modelling (Pearson & Dawson, 2003; Duputié et al., 2014). The niches of species are thus critical to both biogeography and ecology, and the evolution of climatic niches is an area of particular current interest (e.g. Kozak & Wiens, 2006; Algar et al., 2013; Algar & Mahler, 2015).

Niche theory originated in ecology, but the concepts have been applied to biogeography, based on the assumption that what happens to individuals within communities should scale up to populations and species' ranges. Species distribution modelling can work well for interpolation, but is not designed to delineate the boundaries of a fundamental environmental niche (Blonder et al., 2014). Such models risk calculating unbounded niches if species' occurrence is modelled as increasing (unchecked) with environmental variables whose global range is not captured by the dataset being used. Further, studies with invading plant species have often not found a tight fit between native and alien niches (e.g. Broennimann et al., 2007; Early & Sax, 2014), perhaps because of enemy release, suggesting that the relationship between fundamental and realized niches may be weak. Neutral theories, such as Hubbell's (2001), demonstrate that biogeographic patterns can be modelled remarkably well without ecological differentiation between species. More generally, attempts to scale to biogeographic patterns from ecological mechanisms, determined using reductionist approaches at very local level, have met with mixed success at best.

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Niche conservatism and competitive displacement are two fundamental concepts related to niche evolution (Kozak & Wiens, 2006). The two may operate simultaneously (and independently), but differ in their hypothesized influence on the evolution of environmental niches of closely related species (Ackerly 2009). Niche conservatism is put forward as a hypothesis to explain major biogeographic patterns such as the increase in species richness towards the tropics (latitudinal diversity gradient; Wiens & Donoghue, 2004) or the tendency of major plant clades to be restricted to one or few biomes (Prinzing et al., 2001; Donoghue, 2008). It is reasoned that closely related species should share similar environmental niche conditions (Wiens & Graham, 2005; Wiens et al., 2010). Because niche lability is inevitable to a certain degree with time (under perfect niche conservatism there would be no evolution), niche conservatism predicts an increase in climatic niche difference (decrease in climatic niche similarity) between species with increasing phylogenetic distance.

In contrast, the idea that competition is a key structuring force in ecological communities has led to the notion of competitive displacement, the textbook argument being that ecologically similar species should rapidly diverge if they coexist in the same area (Abrams 1983, Begon et al., 2006). This could involve mechanisms of niche partitioning that allow coexistence within the same locations ('ecological character displacement'; Brown & Wilson, 1956). It could also involve geographical divergence; in an island context, the taxon cycle (Wilson 1961; Ricklefs & Bermingham, 2002), for example, suggests that competition causes species to evolve into different environments within the same island. Given that species' traits form the interface between species and their environment, and that environment (including resource distributions and climate) tends to be spatially autocorrelated, trait shifts resulting from competition between two species should be reflected in differences in their climatic niches. Thus, competitive displacement should result in a tendency for recently diverged species living on the same island to differ in their climatic niches, opposing the expectation from niche conservatism. There should be less such tendency when the species live on different islands. Similarly, within islands, niche

differentiation is usually required for genetic isolation and speciation, whereas the barrier provided in archipelagos by the sea may be all that is required for speciation to happen between islands. Thus, in an oceanic archipelago setting, the theoretical expectation from these competitive divergence mechanisms is for climatic niches of recently diverged, closely related species to be more different for species of sympatric origin than for species of allopatric origin.

Oceanic archipelagos such as the Canary Islands offer an opportunity to identify links between ecological processes and emergent biogeographic patterns because they provide a natural experimental setup. This is important and required because biogeographic patterns are not amenable to manipulative experimentation. Each radiation in such archipelagos contains replicate populations (on the different islands), from replicate evolutionary episodes (speciations) that are phylogenetically controlled (same relatively small clade) and represent the entire native range of almost all the species' populations, within approximately the same geographic setting as that in which they evolved. All of this is replicated by the different radiations. While in continental settings many species' distributions may be influenced by dispersal lags from ice age refugia, and thus in disequilibrium with their climatic niche (Normand et al., 2011), the large elevational gradient and thus low climate change velocity removes this effect for islands. Utilizing these advantages offered by the Canary Islands enables us to test for signatures of key ecological and evolutionary processes, by combining island biogeographic patterns and a macroecological approach across all species of radiating clades.

This approach differs fundamentally from previous studies that were based on the different 'natural experimental' approach of comparing pairs of species in allopatry versus sympatry to test for character displacement. Classically, the possibility of divergence driven by competition has been studied by seeking pairs of species that are more divergent in sympatry than in allopatry and then trying to determine whether that difference can be attributed to competition (e.g. Brown & Wilson, 1956; Schluter & McPhail, 1992). In other

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words: seeking cases that seem to fit the predicted pattern and then trying to infer whether the process or mechanism applies. Here, we change the perspective. We start with the mechanisms, specifying biogeographic patterns they predict, and use a large set of comparisons between closely related species to test whether the predicted patterns are found more often than expected by chance. We then repeat this process for five other, separate sets of comparisons (six radiations in total). To our knowledge, this is the first attempt at such an analysis, probably because it is rare to have a large set of closely related species with sufficient, systematic information on the species' climatic niches, distributions and phylogenetic relatedness, coupled with an appropriate natural experimental setup.

On island archipelagos such as the Canary Islands, the two fundamental hypotheses (niche conservatism and competitive displacement) predict testable patterns of climatic niche differentiation among species of the same clade (where theoretically each clade results from a single colonization), in relation to the evolutionary histories and biogeographic settings of the species. For any comparison of two species, both species may exist on different islands. or on the same island(s), or there may be a mixture of co-occurrence and separate occurrence on islands across the archipelago. The mechanism of speciation (especially sympatric vs. allopatric) is likely to be reflected in occurrence patterns in most within-radiation comparisons, though we cannot test for the driving mechanisms with available genetic data.

As depicted in Figure 1, divergence hypotheses predict that two sympatric species (or sympatric populations of two species) within a clade should differ in their climatic niches more than allopatric ones. Not all niche divergence will be reflected in the climatic niche, but as argued above, a signal of it should be detectable in the climatic niches if competitive displacement is a key structuring force. Thus we may expect greater climatic niche differentiation in sympatry than in allopatry, controlling for phylogenetic distance (Figure 1a). If competition between the closest relatives (or most-similar species) is strongest, then this difference should be greatest for short phylogenetic distances. Sympatric-allopatric

differences should modify an overall trend, predicted by the niche conservatism hypothesis,
for closely related species to be more similar in their climatic niches (Figure 1a) than more
distantly related species – a trend that should be apparent for allopatric species or
populations, regardless of any competitive displacement. Thus we may also expect niche
difference to increase with phylogenetic distance.

Here we test these predictions using fine-resolution occurrence data for species in radiating plant lineages in the Canary Islands. Almost all these species (123 of 126) are endemic to the archipelago, and therefore our data cover their entire global range; the exceptions are species that have dispersed from the archipelago (e.g. to Madeira). The climatic niche of a species represents those climatic conditions in which a species can survive, grow and/or reproduce (depending on the definition). In most niche estimations, and niche modelling techniques, these climatic conditions are estimated from the occurrence records of species, an approach particularly suitable for non-mobile organisms (like plants).

We focus mainly on the response variable climatic niche differentiation (hereafter 'niche differentiation'). Metapopulations that develop into independent species are expected to (gradually with time) differentiate in their climatic niche. Once reproductive isolation has been effective (speciation takes place), this process of niche differentiation continues. Niche differentiation measures the degree to which the (climatic) niches of two related species have diverged during the time since splitting from a common ancestor.

182 Methods

183 Data for species and environmental variables

We selected six clades (alliances approximating genera) in the Canary Island's flora with well-resolved phylogenetic relationships: *Aeonium* (41 species), *Argyranthemum* (15 species), *Descurainia* (7 species), *Echium* (22 species), *Lotus* (14 species) and *Sonchus* (27

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187 species). Within each clade, we statistically related phylogenetic distance to niche188 differentiation, as outlined in the 'Analyses' section below.

Phylogenies were calculated from plastid and nuclear DNA sequence alignments, based on the sequences produced by García-Maroto et al. (2009) for Echium, Lee et al. (2005) for Sonchus, Mort et al. (2002) for Aeonium and relatives, Goodson et al. (2006) for Descurainia, and Ojeda et al. (2011) for Lotus. We downloaded these sequences from the GenBank database (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genbank; see Table S1.1 for details of DNA regions used). The nuclear and plastid DNA regions were first analysed separately, and in the absence of significant topological conflict (indicated by topological differences with bootstrap values > 70) the plastid and nuclear datasets were analysed in combination. We reconstructed time-calibrated phylogenies in Beast v. 1.8.0 (Drummond et al., 2012) using a Bayesian relaxed clock approach with lognormal distribution. We used the GTR+G substitution model and the four Monte Carlo Markov chains were run for 50 million generations, with sampling every 1000 generations. Calibration of the clock relied on island ages and/or secondary calibration using previously published age estimates (see Table S1.1 for details). Convergence of the chains was checked by ensuring that effective sampling sizes had all exceeded 200 using the program TRACER 1.5 (Rambaut & Drummond, 2010). TreeAnnotator v. 1.8.2, part of the BEAST package (Drummond et al., 2012), was then used to remove the first 10 % of the sampled trees and to compute a maximum clade credibility tree from the remaining trees, with the mean divergence ages shown at the nodes. We finally determined phylogenetic distances using the branch lengths of the resulting chronograms. Our phylogenetic distance measure thus represents the best estimate of the time since two extant species shared a common ancestor. The phylogeny for Argyranthemum was directly extracted from Francisco-Ortega et al. (1996) and is of lower guality, with phylogenetic distance not time-calibrated. Non-monophyletic taxa and those that we could not match to occurrence data were removed from the analysis (the numbers of species per clade reported in the previous paragraph exclude these removed taxa).

Species' occurrence data were taken from 500m x 500m grid cells that span the entire Canary Islands (Atlantis 3.1) and represent a long-term governmental initiative to assemble and complete all known distribution records of species on the Canary Islands. Quality of the Atlantis data is variable but is particularly good for endemic-rich clades like the ones investigated here (see supporting information S6 for further information on data quality. including validation with independent data). For the species used in this study, the mean number of occupied grid cells per species was 976 (median 578; see Table S2.1; Figure S6.1 shows the distribution maps), which is more than sufficient for determining climatic envelopes. Lotus initially had 17 species, but we removed three because of their very small natural range (L. eremiticus, L. maculatus, L. pyranthus). Lotus eremiticus, for instance, is known to have only one natural occurrence record, which probably comprises ramets of a single genet, making the species unsuitable for niche calculations. The range in numbers of cells occupied by the remaining species was large (17-5126), with 14 of the 126 species having fewer than 100 records, including seven with fewer than 50. These species with few occurrence points are all known to have small ranges, and our experience of the islands suggests that our data represent good matches for the species' actual ranges (Figure S6.1)

We guantified climatic niches using monthly temperature and precipitation data, which were interpolated from climate station data (provided by Agencia Estatal de Meteorología) using spatial regression kriging (see Irl et al., 2015). Given that mean grid-cell elevation is strongly co-linear with mean annual temperature (r = -0.95), and was used in the interpolation of the temperature values from climate station data, we did not additionally include elevation in our analyses. We used six climatic variables: mean annual temperature, mean annual precipitation, mean temperature of the warmest and coldest months (August and January, respectively) and mean precipitation of the wettest and driest months (December and July, respectively). These represent both mean and extreme conditions, and perform better in accounting for species' distributions than other variables (e.g. spring. summer, autumn and winter temperature and precipitation; data not shown).

242 Calculation of climatic niches and indices comparing climatic niches

We calculated species' climatic niches using grid-cell-mean temperature and precipitation values. For each climatic variable, we measured the niche as ranging from the 5% to the 95% quantiles of all grid cells where the species was recorded as present (Figure 1). This was to reduce bias caused by errors that would artificially inflate the estimates of niche breadth, in particular: (a) from any false presences of a species outside of its actual range; and (b) from true presences at the edges of cells with large ranges of the climatic variable. An example of (b) would be when a species restricted to relatively low elevations is recorded in a cell that has a large topographic range: its presence is at the lowest elevations but the average elevation of the cell would be well above the elevational range of the species, so the resulting value for temperature (the average for the cell) would be incorrect for the species. Other quantile thresholds (lower: 0-25%; higher: 100-75%) were also implemented and produced gualitatively similar results. Additionally to these one-dimensional niche range estimations, we applied multidimensional niche range estimates using the R package hypervolume version 1.3 (Blonder et al., 2014; bandwidth fixed at 0.05), using four variables: warmest-month and coldest-month temperature, wettest-month and driest-month precipitation. Because multidimensional niche estimations are very sensitive to the choice of units and transformations (Petchey & Gaston, 2006), we rescaled untransformed environmental axes to range between 0 and 1.

Niche differentiation between two species was quantified as the percentage of the climatic niche space (niche space was measured in units of climate, e.g. °C or mm) of the smaller-niched species that does not overlap the larger one (Figure 2). This converts an approach successfully applied for geographic range overlap (Barraclough & Vogler 2000; Anacker & Strauss, 2014) to climatic niche space. Niche differentiation was calculated for all occurrence records of the two species ('unconstrained'), and separately by restricting the analyses to the climatic space that is shared between the two sets of islands occupied by the two species ('constrained'). The results we present in the paper are for the constrained analyses; results from the unconstrained analyses are documented in the Supplementary material.

In addition, we calculated 'niche fill' (measuring the degree to which each species occupies all the climatic space available on its island, or islands, within the archipelago) and 'overlap/potential overlap' of climatic niches between two species. For example, for temperature, niche fill is the range of temperatures occupied by a given species as a percentage of the range of temperatures that exist on the islands on which it occurs; 'overlap/potential overlap' is the range of temperatures shared by two species, as a percentage of the range of temperatures shared by the two sets of islands they occupy. These indices were calculated for each climatic variable separately, and for the four-dimensional niche estimation. Figure 2 illustrates these indices and gives the formulae for their calculation.

282 Analyses

To test for a signal of niche conservatism, we compared all species of a clade with each other (not just sister taxa), in a pairwise manner, and correlated the phylogenetic distance between them with their niche differentiation (Figure 1a). In all cases, we related niche differentiation to phylogenetic distance using linear models with three different transformations: $y \sim x$, $y \sim \ln(x)$ and $y \sim \operatorname{sgrt}(x)$. These transformations were compared using diagnostic plots of model residuals; in all cases, this demonstrated little meaningful difference between the transformations and the adjusted R² values were very similar. In order to ensure comparability between analyses, we only report results for y~x.

291 To compare rates of niche differentiation between sympatric and allopatric species 292 pairs, we fitted separate regression lines for the two categories. Additionally, we directly 293 compared niche divergence between allopatric and sympatric species pairs using

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294 permutation-based t-tests (R package *perm* version 1.0), to reduce the problem of
295 pseudoreplication inherent to analyses of pairwise differences.

As a second analysis of niche conservatism, we calculated niche fill for each species (see previous paragraph). In a third analysis, we tested for phylogenetic signal in each niche variable using Blomberg's *K* and Pagel's λ . These were calculated for all phylogenies using the function *phylosig* in the R package *phytools* version 0.3-72. This analysis characterizes the niche as the mean value of the climatic variable across all occurrence points of the focal species.

To test for a signal of competitive displacement, we first classified each comparison of two species within a clade (a 'species pair'). Each species pair was classified as 'allopatric sensu stricto', where the species only occur on separate islands, or as 'sympatric sensu stricto', where the two species occur on the same set of islands and share at least one grid cell on each of those islands (because within-island allopatric speciation can cause species to co-occur on an island without ever co-existing). We excluded the few cases of species pairs co-occurring on an island but not sharing any grid cells. Our definition of allopatric and sympatric species pairs is therefore based on their current occurrence patterns, and it is possible that in some cases this does not reflect their mode of speciation. For example, some sympatric pairs may result from allopatric speciation followed by secondary dispersal (Lynch, 1989; Kozak & Wiens, 2006), while an apparently allopatric pair may result from sympatric speciation followed by migration to other islands or from extinction of a sympatric sister-species. We suspect such instances are few, but in the absence of sufficiently well-resolved phylogenies, we do not know for sure.

In a second analysis of competitive displacement, we extended our definition of sympatry to all cases where species co-occur (sharing at least one grid cell) on any islands (no matter whether they also occur alone on other islands), and that of allopatry to all cases where species occur on different islands (no matter whether they also co-occur on others). We label these 'sympatric *sensu lato*' and 'allopatric *sensu lato*', respectively.

Results

Niche conservatism predicts positive relationships between phylogenetic distance and climatic niche differentiation. For our data, while none of the relationships were significantly negative, most were non-significant, and significant ones were typically weak (Figures 3-4 and Supplements S3-S4). Significant positive relationships were found for allopatric populations of both Sonchus and Aeonium for most climatic variables and the fourdimensional niche, and for allopatric populations of Argyranthemum with respect to maximum and annual precipitation (Figures 3-4). For sympatric populations, significant positive relationships were found for Sonchus (only for sympatric sensu stricto) with respect to all climatic niche variables except driest-month precipitation, and in only two out of the 56 tests across the other species (less than the 5% error rate). Note that the sample size tended to be larger for allopatric species pairs than sympatric. Slopes were very rarely steeper for sympatric cases than for allopatric ones.

Niche conservatism also predicts characteristic ranges of values for Blomberg's K and Pagel's λ . Values of 1 indicate approximate accordance to Brownian motion, and represent a minimum requirement for niche conservatism. However, some definitions require values greater than 1; Losos (2008: 996) defined phylogenetic niche conservatism as when closely related species are more ecologically similar than might be expected solely as a Brownian motion evolution'. We found most values to be less than 1, and none were significantly greater than 1 (Table 1). Most were not significantly greater than 0: of 72 tests done, only 11 were significantly greater than 0 at the 5% level, and only one at the 1% level (Table 1). Values for Argyranthemum and Descurainia are consistent with Brownian motion-level niche conservatism for temperature, while values for the other clades across all climatic variables are more consistent with lower levels of climatic niche similarity than expected under Brownian motion evolution (Diniz-Filho et al., 2012).

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Another prediction of niche conservatism is that species will not fill the whole range of climates available on an island. Our measure of niche fill suggests that about 40% of the available range of temperature or precipitation is occupied by the investigated species, except for driest-month precipitation and the four-dimensional niche, with niche fills averaging approximately 25% and 30% across the clades, respectively (Table 2). Values of climatic niche overlap between species pairs, expressed as a percentage of the potential overlap (Table S5.1), were typically a little lower than for niche fill, but the trends in the values of the two measures were similar across climatic variables and clades.

Contrary to the prediction from the competitive displacement hypothesis, where significant differences in climatic niche differentiation between sympatry and allopatry were found in our main analyses, niche differentiation was always stronger in allopatry than in sympatry (Table 3; also compare Fig. 1a with Figs 3-4). These differences tended to be for precipitation in wetter periods (which correlates strongly with mean annual precipitation), and not for temperature variables or driest-month precipitation (Table 3), and were only manifest for the clades with the largest sample sizes (Aeonium, Echium and Sonchus). Using unconstrained niches produced similar but stronger results (Table S4.1; Figs S4.2-S4.3).

Discussion

Divergence of the climatic niches of closely related species was either greater in allopatry than in sympatry or not significantly different. This is in contrast to predictions based on the competitive displacement hypothesis. We never found greater niche divergence in sympatry, despite conducting 42 tests (Table 3; this is also true for the equivalent 42 tests with unconstrained niches, Table S4.1). The same applied to all the near-significant differences (P < 0.10 or 0.20; Tables 3 and S4.1).

371 There are various possible reasons for not finding the difference predicted by 372 competitive displacement, which may help account for the fact that the majority of

comparisons reported in Table 3 were not significant. The 'General Dynamic Model' of oceanic island biogeography (Whittaker et al., 2008) posits that, because of the geological and geomorphological dynamics of oceanic islands, environmental niche space may increase for millions of years. This would give multiple opportunities for niche differentiation and speciation without competitive displacement. Even so, classic cases of competitive displacement have been reported from oceanic archipelagos (e.g. Grant & Grant, 2006), and the flora of the Canary Islands evolved in the absence of mammalian herbivores (characteristic for oceanic islands), which is likely to promote competition between plants, and thus competitive displacement. However, because of their isolation, oceanic islands are also characterized by low species richness, given their size and environmental setting (Whittaker & Fernández-Palacios, 2007). Further, species that colonize such islands tend to be good dispersers, but are often not good competitors (competitive ability-dispersal capacity trade-off; Yu and Wilson, 2001).

While we found no evidence consistent with competitive displacement as a key process structuring biogeographic ranges, according to niche theory the divergence only needs to be in one niche dimension, which need not affect the climatic niche. However, given that trait changes underlie niche changes, and traits are the interface between species and their geographic ranges, even niche changes in non-climatic niche dimensions will tend to be reflected in changes in realized climatic niches when averaged across radiations - in the absence of strong climatic niche conservatism. And we did not find strong climatic niche conservatism; climatic niches of even the most closely related species were remarkably different, as discussed below.

In fact, there was a consistent trend in the opposite direction of that predicted by the competitive displacement hypothesis: for significant cases, niche differentiation was always greater in allopatry than in sympatry (Table 3). The consistency of these significant (and near-significant) results is striking. Given that our analyses constrained the climatic niche space to what was available to both species in each comparison, this trend is explained

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neither by the relevant niche dimension being unrelated to the climatic niche, nor by low levels of competition. While it is possible that the spatial regression kriging used in deriving the climate data may contribute to this finding (by making some geographically close locations artificially similar in climate), we suggest that the most parsimonious explanation starts by assuming that the climatic niches are very labile with respect to phylogeny. The numerous high niche differentiation values (Figs 3-4) suggest this. Climatic niches may thus respond to the climatic opportunities on their islands (see Algar & Mahler, 2015), while the species remain range-restricted within their islands for other reasons (e.g. dispersal limitation). If so, the climatic niches of species occurring on different islands may differ more than those on the same island simply because different islands are different in many respects (e.g. age, evolutionaly legacy, soils, biotic interactions).

Importantly, climatic settings may differ between islands; thus a species living in dry, warm environments on one island might occur in warm but wetter places on another island if 'warm' is its key environmental niche condition. In such a case, populations on different islands will show greater niche differentiation in irrelevant variables (precipitation in this hypothetical example). Thus, with no phylogenetic signal we would expect allopatric cases to be most differentiated with respect to climatic variables that are less important for the species' distributions. Indeed, it seems reasonable to suppose that precipitation in wetter periods (for which we find the strongest differentiation in allopatry) is less limiting than temperature or driest-month precipitation.

With respect to niche conservatism, most of the relationships between phylogenetic distance and climatic niche differentiation were not significant. Though weak at best, some relationships were significantly positive in our data, consistent with niche conservatism, and notably, none were significantly negative. In most cases the positive relationships largely reflected a lack of points in the top-left corners of the graphs (Figures 3–4 and Supplements S3–4), which may indicate little more than the trivial fact that sister species have typically split recently.

Some degree of niche conservatism may be reflected in the fact that species on average filled no more than half of the climatic range available to them (Table 2). However, range restriction by dispersal limitation or other factors (e.g. human agency) could also account for such levels of niche fill. Indeed, most of the species' ranges are small (Fig. S6.1). Further, values of Blomberg's K and Pagel's λ (Table 1) suggested typically less phylogenetic niche conservatism than expected from Brownian motion evolution. Although this does not definitively rule out phylogenetic niche conservatism (Wiens et al., 2010), it suggests, in combination with our other findings, that niche conservatism is not a key structuring force for biogeographic ranges in these species.

Levels of climatic niche differentiation are also informative about the role of niche conservatism. These varied widely between closely related species (Figures 3-4 and S3.1). Typically, the climatic niches of the most closely related species (phylogenetic distance near 0) were around 0-25% different. In some cases, however, the climatic niche differences of sister species were much higher, even 100% different (e.g. Echium for driest-month precipitation; Figure 3). These findings suggest that climatic niches can be very labile. The possibility of rapid changes in species' niches (and thus the absence of prominent niche conservatism) is supported by the great diversity of climatic niches in the *in situ*-evolved species in this study. These demonstrate that, within a few million years, single colonizing species speciate into widely contrasting environmental settings, from harsh, high-elevation ecosystems to dry lowland ecosystems. A prominent example is the genus Echium, which now fills the entire temperature and precipitation range of the Canary Islands (see also Stoecklin, 2011). Our results also mirror the rapid changes in trait variability with phylogenetic distance found by Ackerly (2009) and support scepticism towards assuming omnipresence of niche conservatism (Losos, 2008).

451 The absence of a strong signal of climatic niche conservatism and the large amount 452 of climatic niche lability therefore challenge the generality of niche conservatism as a 453 fundamental structuring force – especially given that our results for competitive displacement

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are consistent with low levels of competition (strong competition would tend to separate realised niches within the same fundamental niche). These findings have potentially broad implications. For example, absent or weak influence of niche conservatism on biogeographic ranges questions prominent explanations for ecological phenomena like the latitudinal diversity gradient. The argument that higher tropical diversity results from the predominance of tropical-like climates during the Eocene (e.g. Wiens & Donoghue, 2004), for example, relies on climatic niche conservatism over longer time-periods than those represented in our study.

Studies from continental systems (often mountains) have yielded mixed results, with some studies finding evidence consistent with niche conservatism in phylogenetically related species, and others not (Peterson et al., 1999; Graham et al., 2004; Kozak & Wiens 2006). However, oceanic islands differ in several respects from continental systems, for which niche conservatism is mainly reported (e.g. Prinzing et al., 2001). First, oceanic islands have lower levels of biotic stress (e.g. from between-species competition, herbivory, predation and parasitism). For elevational gradients on continents, upward movement of species may typically be restricted by physiological tolerance (mainly the climatic niche), while downward range expansion is limited mainly by interspecific competition (Ghalambor et al., 2006). It is possible that climatic niche conservatism mainly applies to cold (and dry) conditions. Many species face their physiological tolerance limits under drier and colder conditions (Currie et al. 2004) and the diversifying clades of the Canary Islands tend to originate from non-tropical ancestors. Therefore, on oceanic islands, species may be able to evolve into a larger set of environmental conditions than in continental systems where this is hindered by the presence of more competitive species.

477 Our results are based on 500x500m grid cells spanning the entire archipelago, with 478 its broad environmental ranges and phylogenetic timescales that range back to millions of 479 years. The spatial resolution is finer than mostly used by species distribution models in 480 macroecological analyses, but coarser than many ecological studies. Theoretically, niche

differentiation at one spatial scale could be associated with niche conservatism at another, the effects cancelling each other out. For instance, populations of a species could become genetically isolated at very fine scales (e.g. by differentiating habitat preference into open and forest habitats with differing pollinators) but could retain their environmental niche on a much larger scale. However, while this would explain the absence of niche differentiation in our results, it would be associated with a strong signal in niche conservatism – far from what we found.

We conclude that competitive displacement and niche conservatism may both be less important (at least for oceanic islands) in structuring biogeographic ranges than is usually considered. Given that our study is, to our knowledge, the first analysis of its type, we suggest that this is a fertile line of research, as fine-resolution datasets with more precise environmental information become available.

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633	competition-colonization trade-off. The American Naturalist, 158, 49–63.
634	
635	Biosketches & author contributions
636	Manuel Steinbauer wants to understand biogeographic patterns and is particularly interested
637	in scaling issues, dynamic communities, theoretical ecology and isolated systems like islands
638	or mountains.
639	Richard Field's main interests are in biodiversity patterns, conservation biogeography
640	(particularly with reference to tropical rainforests) and island biogeography.
641	Author contributions: MS and RF conceived the research, developed the methodology and
642	wrote the manuscript. MS analysed the data. HS calculated the phylogenies. All authors
643	contributed to the research design and commented on the results and the manuscript.
644	
645	Supplementary material
646	S1 – Supplemental material on phylogenetic data
647	S2 – Summary statistics per species
648	S3 – Niche differentiation–phylogenetic distance relationships for all species pairs
649	S4 – Results using unconstrained niches
650	S5 – Niche fill and overlap/potential overlap for four-dimensional niche space
	26

1 2		
3 4	651	S6 –Data quality and species distribution maps
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 23 14 5 16 7 8 9 10 11 23 14 5 16 7 8 9 0 12 23 24 5 26 7 8 9 0 31 23 34 5 6 7 8 9 0 12 23 24 5 26 7 8 9 0 31 23 34 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 22 34 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 22 34 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 22 34 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 22 34 5 6 7 8 9 0 12 23 24 5 6 7 8 9 0 12 23 24 5 6 7 8 9 0 12 23 24 5 6 7 8 9 0 31 23 34 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 22 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 22 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 22 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 22 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 22 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 22 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 23 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 23 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 12 23 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 11 23 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	652	



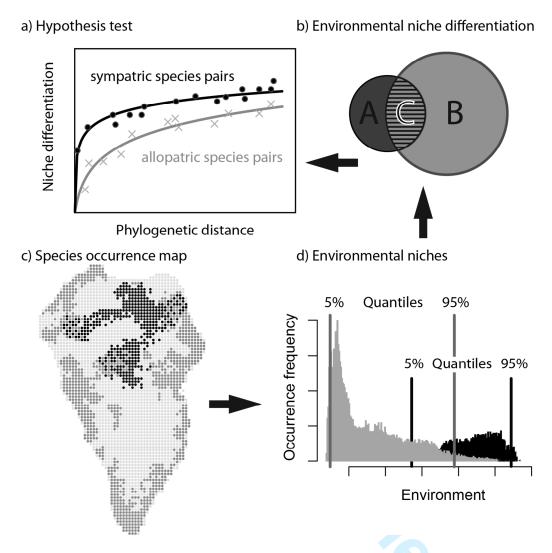
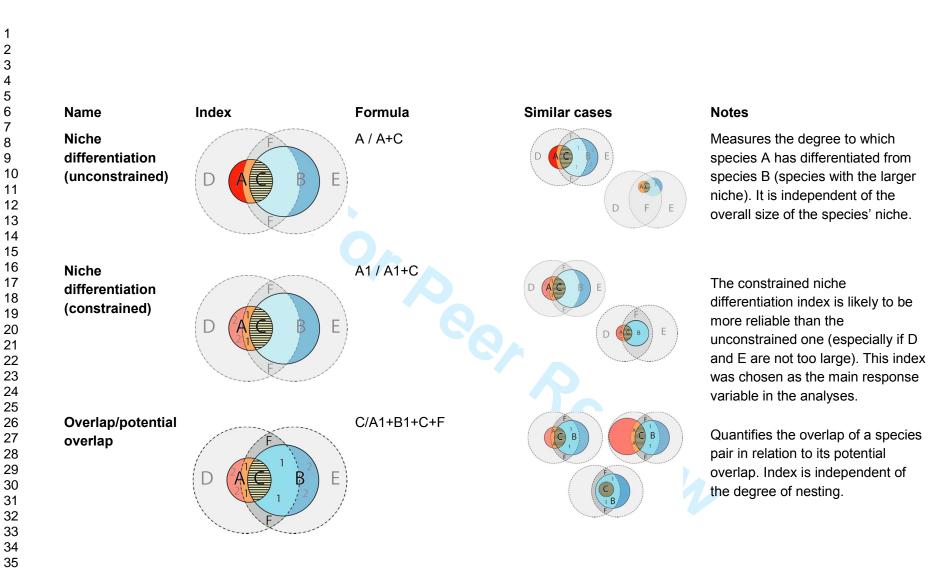
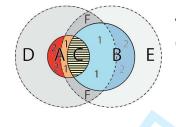


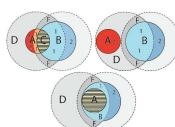
Figure 1: Predictions of the niche conservatism (NC) and competitive displacement (CD) hypotheses for climatic niche differentiation in radiating plant clades in the Canary Islands. NC predicts a positive relationship between phylogenetic distance and climatic niche differentiation, while CD predicts that pairwise climatic niche differentiation between species should be greater for sympatric species than allopatric ones, particularly for the most closely related species. Panel (a) illustrates these predicted patterns. To produce plots like (a), we used species' occurrence data from 500m x 500m grid cells across the Canary Islands, illustrated in panel (c) for a pair of species in La Palma, to calculate climatic niche differentiation (b) for each pair of species, using the 5% and 95% quantiles (d, see Methods), and plotted that against their phylogenetic distance, calculated from our phylogenies. The two hypothetical species are distinguished in (b) and (d) using grey and black; in the map (c) the lightest grey dots indicate 500m x 500m cells in which neither species occurs, the mid-grey dots are the cells occupied by the grey species and the black dots represent both the cells occupied by the black species and those occupied by both species.



Niche fill

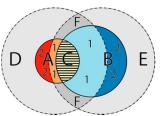


A+C/A+C+B1+F+D (or B+C/B+C+A1+F+E)



Measures the degree to which a species fills the potential environmental opportunities available on its island(s).

Figure 2: The indices used in this study. The solid circles represent the occupied climatic niche spaces of species A and B (here shown in two dimensions, and only for cases of allopatric species pairs, for ease of visualization). The hatched area is the climatic space shared by the two species. The dashed circles represent the climatic space available on each island. The grey parts (D,E, F; see overview graph on the right) show the climatic space of the islands not occupied by either species. Species A is always the species with the smaller occupied niche space. Each index is shown both graphically and via its formula, and some notes are given about what each index measures. The column 'Similar cases' shows different scenarios for which the index gives the same value. Some calculations are constrained to the niche space shared between islands; for these, we distinguish between the part of a species' niche that lies in the environmental space shared by the islands where both species occur (A1 or B1) and the part that lies in the unshared space (A2 or B2).



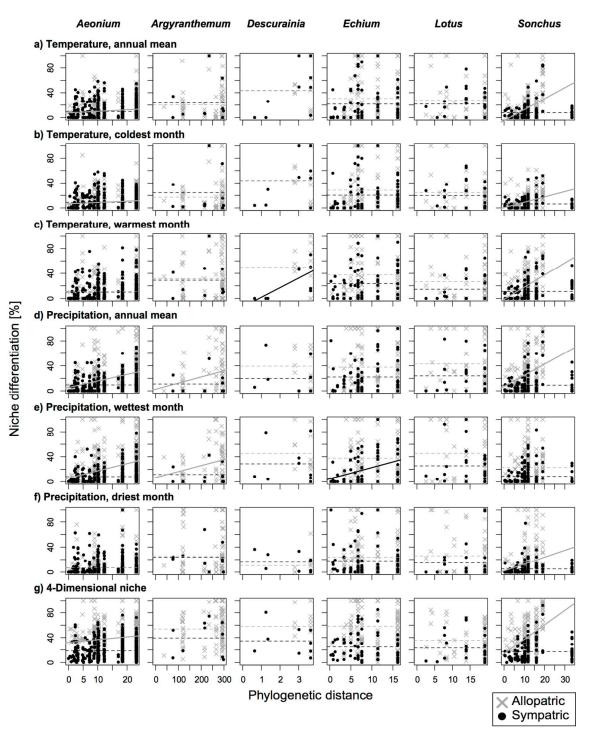


Figure 3: Niche differentiation vs. phylogenetic distance for all pairwise comparisions of species within each clade, for each climatic variable. Allopatric (grey crosses, grey lines) species pairs are distinguished from sympatric (black circles, black lines) species pairs, *sensu lato* (see Methods). Solid regression lines indicate significant relationships between niche differentiation and phylogenetic distance (P < 0.05); dashed lines are flat and show non-significant relationships as the mean niche differentiation value.

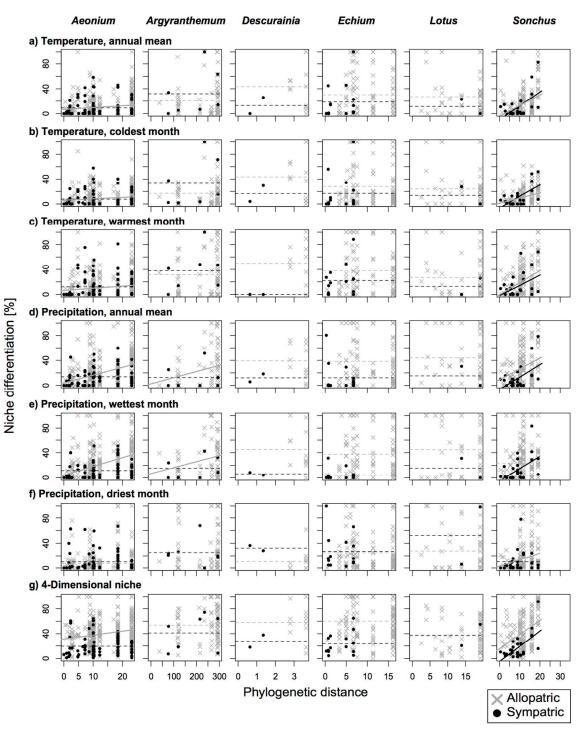


Figure 4: Niche differentiation vs. phylogenetic distance for all pairwise comparisions of species within each clade, for each climatic variable. Allopatric (grey crosses, grey lines) species pairs are distinguished from sympatric (black circles, black lines) species pairs, *sensu stricto* (see Methods). Solid regression lines indicate significant relationships between niche differentiation and phylogenetic distance (P < 0.05); dashed lines are flat and show non-significant relationships as the mean niche differentiation value (note: regressions not run for sympatric comparisons for *Descurainia* and *Lotus* because sample size = 2).

Tables

Table 1: Blomberg's *K* and Pagel's λ for the six clades, rounded to two decimal places, for each of the six climatic variables. Values significantly greater than 0 are indicated with asterisks (*0.01 < *P* < 0.05; **0.001 < *P* < 0.01); none of the values is significantly greater than 1.

Temperat			Precipita		
Annual	Coldest	Warmest	Annual	Wettest	Dries
					0.20
					0.62
					0.50
					0.14
					0.36
0.23	0.21	0.29 *	0.41 *	0.37 *	0.14
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1.00	1.00 *	1.00	0.59	1.00	0.15
1.19 *	1.14	1.09	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.85	0.79	0.82 *	0.69	0.73	0.00
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.51	0.56	0.76	0.87	0.83	0.00
	Annual 0.22 0.99 * 1.29 0.45 * 0.39 0.23 0.23 0.00 1.00 1.19 * 0.85 0.00	Annual Coldest 0.22 0.21 0.99 * 1.05 * 1.29 1.15 0.45 * 0.39 0.39 0.43 0.23 0.21 0.00 1.00 * 1.19 * 1.14 0.85 0.79 0.00 0.00	Annual Coldest Warmest 0.22 0.21 0.27 * 0.99 * 1.05 * 0.84 * 1.29 1.15 1.33 0.45 * 0.39 0.38 * 0.39 0.43 0.27 0.23 0.21 0.29 * 0.00 1.00 * 1.00 1.19 * 1.14 1.09 0.85 0.79 0.82 * 0.00 0.00 0.00	AnnualColdestWarmestAnnual 0.22 0.21 0.27 * 0.23 0.99 * 1.05 * 0.84 * 0.78 1.29 1.15 1.33 0.65 0.45 * 0.39 0.38 * 0.35 0.39 0.43 0.27 0.39 0.23 0.21 0.29 * 0.41 * 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 1.00 1.00 * 1.00 0.59 1.19 * 1.14 1.09 0.00 0.85 0.79 0.82 * 0.69 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00	AnnualColdestWarmestAnnualWettest 0.22 0.21 $0.27 *$ 0.23 0.18 $0.99 *$ $1.05 *$ $0.84 *$ 0.78 0.79 1.29 1.15 1.33 0.65 0.68 $0.45 *$ 0.39 $0.38 *$ 0.35 $0.46 **$ 0.39 0.43 0.27 0.39 0.38 0.23 0.21 $0.29 *$ $0.41 *$ $0.37 *$ 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 $1.19 *$ 1.14 1.09 0.00 0.00 0.85 0.79 $0.82 *$ 0.69 0.73 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00

Table 2: Niche fill (see Figure 2 for definitions and formulae) for the six climatic variables and the 4-dimensional niche measure. There is one value per species, measuring niche fill across all the islands on which it occurs; the number of these datapoints is given after 'N='. Values shown are mean ± standard error of the mean (range).

Clade	Mean temp.	Mean precip.		4-D ni
Aeonium	41.6 ± 2.3	50.8 ± 1.9		39.8 ±
N=41	(19-74)	(23-77)		(7-86)
<i>Argyranthemum</i>	44.7 ± 5.1	46.9 ± 5.3		29.2 ±
N=15	(13-74)	(26-92)		(3-65)
Descurainia	40.6 ± 5.0	41.2 ± 5.2		26.2 ±
N=7	(22-62)	(16-55)		(12-50)
Echium	40.2 ± 4.2	45.5 ± 4.3		33.6 ±
N=22	(14-81)	(13-80)		(2-79)
Lotus	36.8 ± 5.3	38.8 ± 5.2		26.7 ±
N=14	(6-71)	(2-63)		(2-83)
Sonchus	39.6 ± 2.4	49.6 ± 2.9		34.9 ±
N=27	(17-66)	(21-75)		(7-77)
	Warmest	Coldest	Wettest	Dries
Aeonium	40.7 ± 2.2	41.4 ± 2.5	47.5 ± 2.0	30.9 ± (3-63)
N=41	(18-79)	(17-76)	(25-69)	
Argyranthemum	36.7 ± 4.1	46.3 ± 5.4	46.1 ± 4.6	25.5 ±
N=15	(18-66)	(12-73)	(20-85)	(5-77)
Descurainia	38.1 ± 4.8	40.4 ± 5.0	43.1 ± 4.0	13.5 ±
N=7	(26-61)	(19-59)	(30-60)	(3-23)
Echium	38.7 ± 3.9	40.5 ± 4.3	44.4 ± 3.5	26.7 ±
N=22	(11-78)	(13-81)	(15-75)	(1-65)
Lotus	34.6 ± 5.3	36.5 ± 5.6	39.1 ± 5.1	22.0 ±
N=14	(8-78)	(4-70)	(10-70)	(3-60)
Sonchus	41.7 ± 2.6	40.1 ± 2.7	46.8 ± 2.8	34.0 ±
N=27	(15-70)	(16-66)	(26-72)	(3-76)

 Table 3: Whether sympatric or allopatric species pairs showed higher average niche differentiation within clades (column headed 'Constrained niches'), for the six climatic variables and the combined four-dimensional climatic niche. Where P < 0.10, as judged by two sample permutation test (function *permTs* in R-package *perm* version 1.0), the type of pair (sympatric or allopatric) with the greater average niche differentiation is shown, along with the *P*-value. Those significant at the 5% level are indicated with bold font; 'ns' indicates P > 0.10 (note: all ns were also P > 0.20). Note that most differences are not significant. Phylogenetic distance between pairs was not accounted for because it was largely uncorrelated with the niche differentiation indices (Figures 3–4). "N" indicates the number of sympatric/the number of allopatric species pairs. Results are for constrained analyses; see Table S4.1 for results of unconstrained analyses.

Variable	Clade	Constrained niches
Temperature, mean annual	Aeonium (N=41/800) Argyranthemum (N=15/95) Descurainia (N=7/21) Echium (N=22/206) Lotus (N=14/73) Sonchus (N=27/333)	ns ns ns ns ns ns
Temperature, coldest month	Aeonium (N=41/800) Argyranthemum (N=15/95) Descurainia (N=7/21) Echium (N=22/206) Lotus (N=14/73) Sonchus (N=27/333)	ns ns ns ns ns ns
Temperature, warmest month	Aeonium (N=41/800) Argyranthemum (N=15/95) Descurainia (N=7/21) Echium (N=22/206) Lotus (N=14/73) Sonchus (N=27/333)	ns ns ns ns Allopatric, <i>P</i> = 0.063
Precipitation, mean annual	Aeonium (N=41/800) Argyranthemum (N=15/95) Descurainia (N=7/21) Echium (N=22/206) Lotus (N=14/73) Sonchus (N=27/333)	Allopatric, <i>P</i> = 0.014 ns ns Allopatric, <i>P</i> = 0.017 ns Allopatric, <i>P</i> = 0.004
Precipitation, wettest month	Aeonium (N=41/800) Argyranthemum (N=15/95) Descurainia (N=7/21) Echium (N=22/206) Lotus (N=14/73) Sonchus (N=27/333)	Allopatric , <i>P</i> < 0.001 ns ns Allopatric , <i>P</i> = 0.002 ns Allopatric, <i>P</i> = 0.058
Precipitation, driest month	Aeonium (N=41/800) Argyranthemum (N=15/95) Descurainia (N=7/21) Echium (N=22/206) Lotus (N=14/73) Sonchus (N=27/333)	ns ns ns ns ns ns
4-dimensional niche (wettest- & driest- month precipitation, warmest- & coldest- month temperature)	Aeonium (N=41/800) Argyranthemum (N=15/95) Descurainia (N=7/21) Echium (N=22/206) Lotus (N=14/73) Sonchus (N=27/333)	Allopatric, <i>P</i> < 0.001 ns ns Allopatric, <i>P</i> < 0.001 ns Allopatric, <i>P</i> < 0.001

Supplementary material

For Steinbauer *et al.*, Biogeographic ranges do not support niche theory in radiating Canary Island plant clades. *Global Ecology and Biogeography*

S1 – Details of phylogenetic methods

Table S1.1: Plastic and nuclear markers used for calculating phylogenetic distance, with details of calibration points

Clade	Nuclear DNA regions	Plastid DNA regions	Calibration points
Aeonium	ITS1-5.8S- ITS2 (Mort et al. 2002)	matK, trnL-trnF, trnH- psbA (Mort et al. 2002)	1) Aeonium alliance stem node (split from Umbilicus): 19 +/- 1 Mio years, normal prior distribution;
			 crown node of <i>Aeonium</i> alliance: +/- 2, normal prior distribution
Echium	delta-6 desaturase (García- Maroto et al. 2009)	- CO	Macaronesian <i>Echium</i> stem node: 20.6 +/1 Mio years, normal prior distribution
Descurainia	ITS1-5.8S- ITS2 (Goodson et al. 2006)	cytB, ndhC, ndhF- rpl32, psbC, rps16, trnC, trnD, trnE-trnT (Goodson et al. 2006)	stem node (split <i>Descurainia</i> - <i>Robeschia</i>): 14 +/- 1 Mio years, normal prior distribution
Lotus	ITS1-5.8S- ITS2 (Ojeda et al. 2011)	matK, trnH-psbA, rbcL, rpoB, RpoC1 (Ojeda et al. 2011)	1) Madeira/Azores <i>Lotus</i> crown node: 2.5 +/- 1 Mio years, normal prior distribution
			2) Macaronesian <i>Lotus</i> crown node: 12 +/- 1 Mio years, normal prior distribution
Sonchus	ITS1, ITS2 (Lee et al. 2005)	matK, trnH-psbA, trnT- trnL, trnL-trnF (Lee et al. 2005)	1) <i>Sonchus</i> s.l. stem node (split <i>Reichardia - Sonchus</i>): 25 +/- 2 Mio years, normal prior distribution

S2 – Summary statistics per species

Table S2.1: Number of occurrence records (presences in 500m x 500m grid cells) for each species ('N'). Also given are the mean and standard deviation ('SD') of mean annual temperature and precipitation for those grid cells in which each species occurs. Note: temperature and precipitation are not evenly distributed within islands; there are many more lowland (high temperature, low precipitation) than high-elevation cells. Therefore, mean values do not necessarily represent the centre of a species' environmental niche.

Name	Ν	Mean Temp.	SD Temp.	Mean Prec.	SD Prec.
Aeonium clade					
Aeonium balsamiferum	281	19,3	0,6	173	24
Aeonium canariense	5045	18,0	1,9	441	189
Aeonium castello-paivae	723	17,7	1,7	404	119
Aeonium ciliatum	1018	18,6	1,4	435	135
Aeonium cuneatum	356	18,0	1,3	507	150
Aeonium davidbramwellii	516	17,6	1,8	585	232
Aeonium decorum	905	18,6	1,7	318	104
Aeonium gomerense 🦳 🧖	62	16,8	0,9	478	64
Aeonium goochiae	822	17,0	1,8	668	240
Aeonium haworthii	984	18,3	1,6	419	144
Aeonium hierrense	621	18,3	1,9	459	190
Aeonium lancerottense	556	19,7	0,9	164	30
Aeonium lindleyi	1956	18,5	1,5	408	131
Aeonium nobile	639	17,3	2,3	549	192
Aeonium percarneum	2608	18,4	1,8	309	135
Aeonium pseudourbicum	305	17,2	1,4	325	87
Aeonium saundersii	290	17,6	1,6	393	131
Aeonium sedifolium	770	18,4	1,7	379	141
Aeonium simsii	1396	17,1	2,3	391	161
Aeonium smithii	1031	14,6	3,1	410	118
Aeonium spathulatum	3725	14,8	2,7	568	228
Aeonium tabulaeforme	1264	18,1	1,6	431	128
Aeonium undulatum	841	16,4	1,7	503	119
Aeonium urbicum	2790	18,1	1,6	366	136
Aeonium volkerii	136	20,0	1,1	312	67
Aichryson laxum	3452	17,0	1,8	509	183
Aichryson palmense	883	15,0	2,2	864	226
Aichryson parlatorei	1595	17,2	2,0	474	233
Aichryson porphyrogennetos	237	16,3	1,7	469	116
Aichryson punctatum	1894	17,1	2,0	517	191
Aichryson tortuosum	783	19,7	0,8	163	28
Greenovia aizoon	548	14,0	2,5	549	153
Greenovia aurea	2665	16,0	2,5	503	202
Greenovia diplocycla	2122	16,5	2,2	543	247
Greenovia dodrentalis	349	18,3	1,4	405	131
Monanthes anagensis	282	18,0	1,3	547	148

Monanthes brachycaulos	4076	17,4	2,6	397	164
Monanthes icterica	404	18,0	1,3	353	89
Monanthes laxiflora	1942	18,2	1,5	397	152
Monanthes minima	321	18,8	2,1	305	115
Monanthes polyphylla	1862	18,1	1,8	428	162
Argyranthemum clade					
Argyranthemum callichrysum	393	17,3	1,5	391	104
Argyranthemum					
coronopifolium	305	19,3	1,2	338	124
Argyranthemum escarrei	323	19,1	1,6	210	94
Argyranthemum filifolium	803	20,7	0,9	143	59
Argyranthemum					
foeniculaceum	861	16,7	2,5	433	180
Argyranthemum gracile	1251	19,2	1,6	224	78
Argyranthemum hierrense	353	18,8	1,6	359	107
Argyranthemum lemsii	53	19,7	0,9	321	74
Argyranthemum lidii	112	19,1	1,2	217	67
Argyranthemum maderense 📉	224	19,2	0,6	180	26
Argyranthemum sundingii	30	19,7	0,7	413	75
Argyranthemum sventenii	124	18,8	1,9	345	162
Argyranthemum tenerifae	1078	11,3	1,8	396	86
Argyranthemum webbii	589	14,8	2,6	879	266
Argyranthemum winteri	62	19,0	0,6	179	20
Descurainia clade					
Descurainia artemisioides	132	18,7	1,5	251	104
Descurainia bourgeauana	1254	11,3	1,8	412	117
Descurainia gilva	387	12,7	2,1	913	197
Descurainia gonzalesii	566	11,4	1,1	394	47
Descurainia lemsii	337	13,0	1,8	513	127
Descurainia millefolia	3041	17,4	2,0	433	180
Descurainia preauxiana	1322	18,0	1,8	304	108
Echium clade					
Echium acanthocarpum	115	16,3	1,2	522	102
Echium aculeatum	2406	18,3	1,9	349	140
Echium auberianum	272	9,8	1,4	335	86
Echium bethencourtii	33	18,1	0,6	556	68
Echium bonnetii	1342	20,0	1,3	179	74
Echium brevirame	1005	18,4	1,9	502	207
Echium callithyrsum	276	17,0	2,7	412	184
Echium decaisnei	3245	19,4	1,6	231	100
Echium gentianoides	171	10,9	1,3	993	94
Echium giganteum	946	17,4	2,2	457	134
Echium handiense	17	18,3	0,4	202	15
Echium hierrense	389	18,0	2,0	420	130

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1						
2	Echium lancerottense	936	19,9	0,8	148	37
3	Echium leucophaeum	488	18,8	1,3	428	125
4 5	Echium onosmifolium	1392	18,4	1,8	281	110
6	Echium simplex	417	18,7	1,3	457	152
7	Echium strictum	2960	18,4	1,6	381	161
8 9	Echium sventenii	19	18,3	1,1	215	37
9 10	Echium triste	477	20,5	, 1,1	153	54
11	Echium virescens	2056	16,6	2,4	409	158
12	Echium webbii	1008	14,7	2,5	802	240
13 14	Echium wildpretii	1386	11,9	1,8	555	263
15						
16	<i>Lotus</i> clade					
17 18	Lotus arinagensis	53	21,4	0,2	132	5
19	Lotus berthelotii	135	15,3	2,2	344	97
20	Lotus callis-viridis	54	19,3	0,8	153	30
21	Lotus campylocladus	2921	14,4	2,8	532	214
22 23	Lotus dumetorum	279	18,3	1,5	516	163
24	Lotus emeroides	531	18,3	1,3	358	91
25	Lotus glaucus	1702	19,7	1,4	278	140
26 27	Lotus holosericeus	334	18,2	1,9	295	98
28	Lotus kunkelii	28	20,3	0,8	214	45
29	Lotus lancerottensis	2178	20,2	0,9	140	35
30	Lotus mascaensis	66	17,9	1,2	350	78
31 32	Lotus sessilifolius	1138	19,5	1,6	283	123
33	Lotus spartioides	597	16,3	2,1	403	131
34	Lotus tenellus	217	20,4	0,9	200	72
35 36						
37	Sonchus clade					
38	Atalanthus arboreus	411	18,7	1,4	374	145
39	Atalanthus capillaris	377	18,5	2,1	335	183
40 41	Atalanthus microcarpus	338	19,2	1,8	262	80
42	Atalanthus pinnatus	5126	18,5	1,7	324	139
43	Atalanthus regis-jubae	161	18,3	0,8	378	90
44 45	Babcockia platylepis	1177	16,8	2,0	383	153
46	Chrysoprenanthes pendula	735	18,6	1,5	270	84
47	Lactucosonchus webbii	107	14,6	1,5	943	197
48 49	Sonchus acaulis	3875	17,5	2,0	411	164
49 50	Sonchus asper	1620	17,2	2,4	488	249
51	Sonchus bornmuelleri	149	18,7	1,1	518	113
52	Sonchus brachylobus	507	19,7	1,1	187	61
53 54	Sonchus canariensis	1137	16,9	2,4	357	157
55	Sonchus congestus	2366	17,7	1,7	457	147
56	Sonchus fauces-orci	197	17,9	1,3	299	89
57 58	Sonchus gandogeri	93	19,2	1,1	367	76
58 59	Sonchus gomerensis	690	18,0	1,6	375	119
60	Sonchus gummifer	1038	18,5	2,1	388	156
	Sonchus hierrensis	2137	17,2	1,8	511	211

د د د د د	Sonchus ortunoi Sonchus palmensis Sonchus pinnatifidus Sonchus radicatus Sonchus tectifolius Sonchus tuberifer Sonchus wildpretii Sventenia bupleuroides	261 772 366 683 134 170 29 45	17,5 16,5 19,6 18,6 19,0 17,8 16,7 17,2	1,5 2,1 0,8 1,4 1,4 1,4 0,9 1,3	407 773 169 395 425 353 488 345	122 255 31 128 134 82 66 108

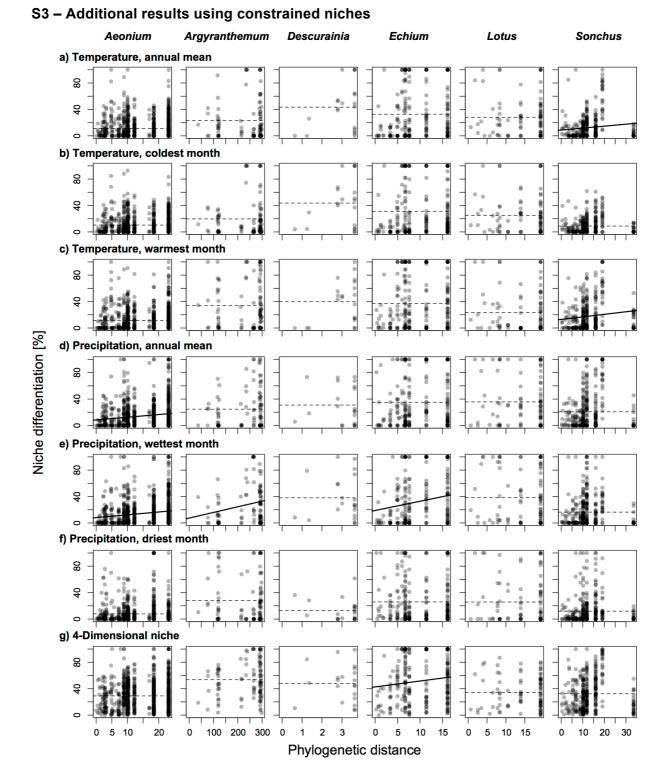


Figure S3.1: Niche differentiation vs. phylogenetic distance for each climatic variable, for all species pairs in each clade (constrained analysis, i.e. calculation of niche differentiation was restricted to the niche space shared between islands occupied by the two species being compared; see Figure 2). Points are all grey and semi-transparent, so darker shades indicate overlapping points. Solid regression lines indicate significant relationships between niche differentiation and phylogenetic distance (P < 0.05); dashed lines are flat and show non-significant relationships as the mean niche differentiation value.

S4 – Results using unconstrained niches

Table S4.1: Whether sympatric or allopatric species pairs showed higher average niche differentiation within clades (column headed 'Unconstrained niches'), for the six climatic variables and the combined four-dimensional climatic niche. Where P < 0.10, as judged by two sample permutation test (function *permTs* in R-package *perm* version 1.0), the type of pair (sympatric or allopatric) with the greater average niche differentiation is shown, along with the P-value. Those significant at the 5% level are indicated with bold font; 'ns' indicates P > 0.10 (note: all ns were also P > 0.20). Phylogenetic distance between pairs was not accounted for because it is largely uncorrelated with the niche differentiation indices. 'N' indicates the number of sympatric/the number of allopatric species pairs. This is the unconstrained equivalent of Table 3.

Variable	Clade	Unconstrained niches
Temperature, mean annual	Aeonium (N=41/800) Argyranthemum (N=15/95) Descurainia (N=7/21) Echium (N=22/206) Lotus (N=14/73) Sonchus (N=27/333)	Allopatric, P = 0.005 ns ns ns ns Allopatric, P = 0.095
Temperature, coldest month	Aeonium (N=41/800) Argyranthemum (N=15/95) Descurainia (N=7/21) Echium (N=22/206) Lotus (N=14/73) Sonchus (N=27/333)	Allopatric, P = 0.008 ns ns ns ns ns
Temperature, warmest month	Aeonium (N=41/800) Argyranthemum (N=15/95) Descurainia (N=7/21) Echium (N=22/206) Lotus (N=14/73) Sonchus (N=27/333)	ns ns Allopatric, P = 0.043 ns Allopatric, P=0.063
Precipitation, mean annual	Aeonium (N=41/800) Argyranthemum (N=15/95) Descurainia (N=7/21) Echium (N=22/206) Lotus (N=14/73) Sonchus (N=27/333)	Allopatric, P = 0.062 ns ns Allopatric, P = 0.01 ns Allopatric, P < 0.001
Precipitation, wettest month	Aeonium (N=41/800) Argyranthemum (N=15/95) Descurainia (N=7/21) Echium (N=22/206) Lotus (N=14/73) Sonchus (N=27/333)	Allopatric, P < 0.001 ns ns Allopatric, P = 0.002 ns Allopatric, P = 0.006
Precipitation, driest month	Aeonium (N=41/800) Argyranthemum (N=15/95) Descurainia (N=7/21) Echium (N=22/206) Lotus (N=14/73) Sonchus (N=27/333)	ns ns ns ns ns ns
4-dimensional niche (summer and winter precipitation and temperature)	Aeonium (N=41/800) Argyranthemum (N=15/95) Descurainia (N=7/21) Echium (N=22/206) Lotus (N=14/73) Sonchus (N=27/333)	Allopatric, P<0.001 Allopatric, P=0.094 ns Allopatric, P<0.001 ns Allopatric, P<0.001

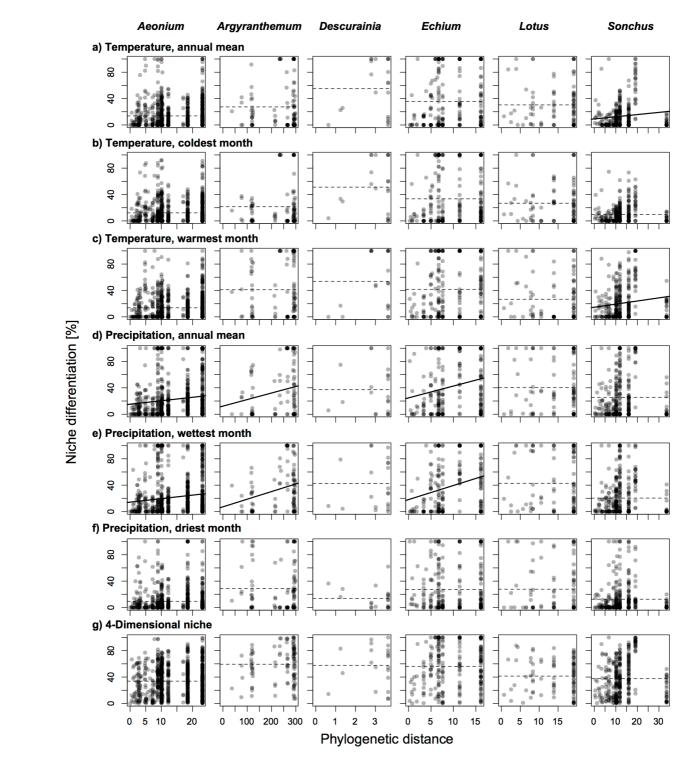


Figure S4.1: Niche differentiation vs. phylogenetic distance for each climatic variable, for all species pairs in each clade (unconstrained analysis, i.e. calculation of niche differentiation not restricted to the niche space shared between islands occupied by the two species being compared; see Figure 2). Points are all grey and semi-transparent, so darker shades indicate overlapping points. Solid regression lines indicate significant relationships between niche differentiation and phylogenetic distance (P < 0.05); dashed lines are flat and show non-significant relationships as the mean niche differentiation value. This is the unconstrained equivalent of Figure S3.1.

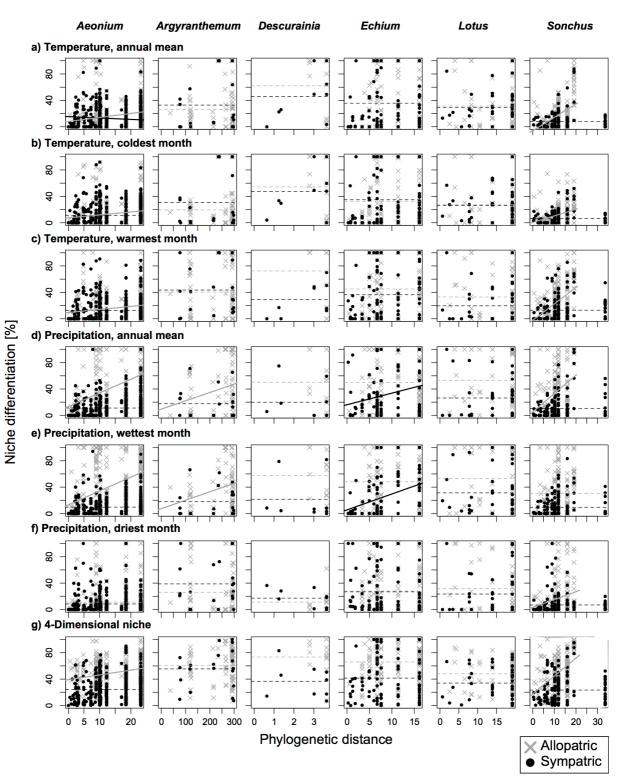


Figure S4.2: Niche differentiation vs. phylogenetic distance for all pairwise comparisions of species within each clade, for each climatic variable. Allopatric (grey crosses, grey lines) species pairs are distinguished from sympatric (black circles, black lines) species pairs, *sensu lato* (see Methods). Solid regression lines indicate significant relationships between niche differentiation and phylogenetic distance (P < 0.05); dashed lines are flat and show non-significant relationships as the mean niche differentiation value. This is the unconstrained equivalent of Figure 3.

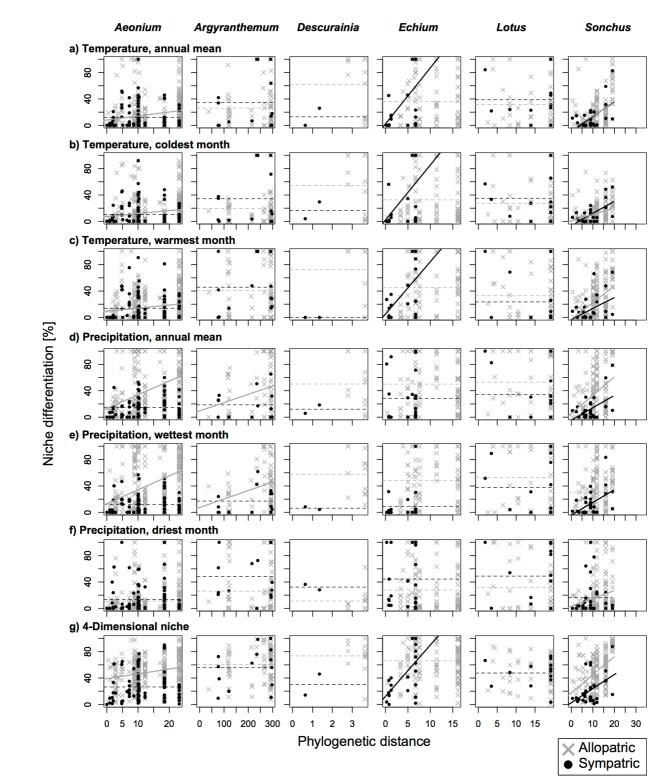


Figure S4.3: Niche differentiation vs. phylogenetic distance for all pairwise comparisions of species within each clade, for each climatic variable. Allopatric (grey crosses, grey lines) species pairs are distinguished from sympatric (black circles, black lines) species pairs, *sensu stricto* (see Methods). Solid regression lines indicate significant relationships between niche differentiation and phylogenetic distance (P < 0.05); dashed lines are flat and show non-significant relationships as the mean niche differentiation value (note: regressions not run for sympatric comparisons for *Descurainia* because sample size = 2). This is the unconstrained equivalent of Figure 4.

S5 – Niche overlap/potential overlap

Table S5.1: Niche overlap/potential overlap (see Figure 2 of the main paper for definitions and formulae) for the six climatic variables and the 4-dimensional niche measure. Each datapoint represents a pair of species within the clade; the number of these datapoints is given after 'N='. Values shown are mean ± standard error of the mean (range).

Clade	Mean temp.	Mean precip.		4-D niche
Aeonium	36.4 ± 0.5	41.2 ± 0.5		13.1 ± 0.3
N=861	(0-74)	(0-77)		(0-46)
Argyranthemum	33.2 ± 1.9	32.7 ± 1.9		5.4 ± 0.5
N=105	(0-69)	(0-85)		(0-21)
Descurainia	23.4 ± 3.5	25.2 ± 2.7		4.9 ± 0.7
N=21	(0-57)	(5-46)		(0-12)
Echium	25.9 ± 1.4	28.2 ± 1.4		7.1 ± 0.5
N=231	(0-80)	(0-79)		(0-35)
Lotus	26.5 ± 1.9	23.2 ± 1.9		6.1 ± 0.8
N=91	(0-66)	(0-62)		(0-36)
Sonchus	34.7 ± 0.7	36.8 ± 1		9.5 ± 0.4
N=351	(0-66)	(0-73)		(0-47)
	Warmest	Coldest	Wettest	Driest
<i>Aeonium</i>	34.7 ± 0.5	37.5 ± 0.6	37.0 ± 0.5	26.6 ± 0.6
N=861	(0-80)	(1-75)	(0-68)	(0-63)
Argyranthemum	24.1 ± 1.6	36.7 ± 2.0	30.2 ± 1.6	19.1 ± 1.7
N=105	(0-66)	(0-70)	(0-63)	(0-58)
Descurainia	22.1 ± 2.5	23.3 ± 3.6	27.0 ± 3.4	9.9 ± 1.3
N=21	(0-42)	(0-56)	(0-53)	(2-19)
Echium	22.7 ± 1.2	27.0 ± 1.4	27.8 ± 1.2	19.4 ± 1.1
N=231	(0-70)	(0-74)	(0-72)	(0-65)
Lotus	23.7 ± 1.7	27.4 ± 2.1	23.3 ± 2.0	14.1 ± 1.7
N=91	(0-68)	(0-70)	(0-69)	(0-60)
Sonchus	34.0 ± 0.8	37.5 ± 0.8	35.6 ± 0.7	27.7 ± 1.0
N=351	(0-76)	(11-66)	(0-68)	(0-66)

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S6 – Data quality and species distribution maps

The Canary Islands are among the world's botanically best-studied archipelagos, with European botanists surveying the islands frequently, and often intensively, since the beginning of the 18th century. The data used here originate from a long-term governmental initiative (BIOTAS/ATLANTIS). This initiative pulled together these sampling efforts over the centuries by gathering all available occurrence information for each species. More than 1,000,000 literature-based and herbarium records were digitized and geo-referenced on the Canary Islands, an area of less than 7500 km² (Hortal *et al.*, 2007). Following its success, the government initiative was extended to other Macaronesian archipelagos with the support of the EU project ATLANTICO – INTERREG III B (2000-2006).

The main initial aim of the BIOTAS/ATLANTIS project was supporting governmental decisions with empirical data; scientific interest arose later on. Despite the huge sampling effort, the database is not exhaustive enough to provide reliable presence–absence records for all species occurring on the Canary Islands. We thus agree with earlier publications that claim that the data provided are not suitable for direct analyses of spatial species richness patterns (Aranda & Lobo, 2011). Indeed, it is obvious that any richness map directly generated from the data reflects sampling intensity (Hortal *et al.*, 2007).

The occurrence information reflects true occurrence records of species, but does have problems, particularly that for some taxa occurrence information at coarser resolution may have been downscaled to fit the 500x500m resolution of the data base. By integrating across the data collections of botanists across several decades of sampling, however, the data base provides very reliable information on the particular species in which botanists have been most interested for centuries - species endemic to the Canary Islands. Hortal et al. (2007) showed that richness patterns in the data are very biased by sampling intensity, quantifying sampling intensity by the number of occurrence records. Endemic species have more than twice the number of occurrence records, compared with non-endemic native species (mean number of records per species = 1750 for Canarian endemics, vs. 840 for non-endemic natives), indicating that the data base is most appropriate for characterizing the distributions of endemic species. Sampling has been primarily focused on locations where the endemics occur. From our personal observations over decades on the islands, we similarly perceive sampling to have been most intensive in less disturbed natural environments (often protected areas), and the distributions of endemic species, as mapped from the ATLANTIS database, to be realistic. We thus believe that the data provide good approximations of the distributions of endemic species, while many non-endemic species (particularly small, unattractive ruderal plants) are clearly under-sampled.

One big advantage of the data provided in the ATLANTIS data base is that the information integrates historic occurrence information. This is of particular advantage for niche modelling as applied in this manuscript because it includes species' occurrence information from times when human population densities were much lower than today and some invasive ungulates that have had devastating effects on vegetation (*Ovis gmelini, Ammotragus lervia*) had not yet been introduced. In tandem with the stability of the climate of the Canary Islands over the last few centuries, this allows us to better quantify the climatic niche of species than if only using current distribution data. A nice example of the advantage of integrating historic data is provided by *Aeonium nobile*, one of the iconic endemics from La Palma. The occurrence pattern generated from ATLANTIS shows a distinct and large

occurrence area in the eastern part of La Palma, where it is virtually absent today. However, small fragments of this presumably once large population were still found four decades ago by Voggenreiter (1973), and it is known that this population was much larger in the past. It is likely that local extinction occurred as a result of the proximity to the island's capital, leaving no record that would be traceable by present-day botanical surveys (e.g. Irl *et al.*, 2015). Without the historical surveys, this would leave a gap in the measured climatic niche of the species, even though this species is actually adapted to east-coast climates of La Palma.

The integration of historic presences limits the possibility for comparisons between ATLANTIS and present day surveys, which are biased by land use-induced changes in vegetation patterns that have occurred within the last few decades. Despite this limitation, we have assessed data quality using one of the most intensive vegetation records available in the study area. Irl and colleagues sampled 1921 vegetation plots, each of *c*. 7850 m², covering the island of La Palma, with a particular focus on the endemic flora. This represents 2.7 plots (2.1 ha) per km²; 900 of those plots also contain information on overall richness and were used in Irl *et al.* 2015). Their data were not included in the ATLANTIS database and therefore represent an independent distribution dataset for the flora of La Palma. Despite La Palma only being 706 km² in size, this huge sampling effort was not enough to cover the distribution of some rare endemic species. The ATLANTIS database, despite covering the whole archipelago, provides almost six times more occurrence information for the species sampled in both datasets, and includes rare species that are missing in Irl *et al.* (2015).

The resolution of Irl et al. (2015) differs from the one provided in ATLANTIS (500m x 500m grid cells that span the entire Canary Islands). Still, niche ranges estimated from 5% and 95% quantiles (as done in the current manuscript) are highly correlated between the two data sets across all 22 endemic species that occur in sufficient numbers in Irl et al. 2015 (N>5; upper limit mean annual temperature correlation r = 0.92, lower limit mean annual temperature correlation r = 0.73, upper limit mean annual precipitation correlation r = 0.83, lower limit mean annual precipitation correlation r = 0.84) indicating that niche estimates based on both data sets are comparable. Notable differences do occur in some species, but can be explained by larger historic than present distributions (e.g. Aeonium nobile) or rare occurrences beyond the climatic ranges occupied by most individuals (e.g. Echium wildpretii). Echium wildpretii is mainly found in the summit scrub, but it occasionally (but repeatedly) occurs below 1000m meters within the Caldera de Taburiente, probably because winds blow seeds from the caldera rim into the lowlands, where they occasionally establish and persist for some decades of favourable climate. This distribution is reflected in ATLANTIS but absent in Irl et al. (2015). It was thus reasonably common for us to find that the ranges of climates represented by the Irl et al. occurrence records of the endemics in the six radiations were nested within the climatic ranges represented by the ATLANTIS occurrence records of the same species on La Palma. On the other hand it was very rare to find that the Irl et al. records extended the climatic ranges beyond those represented by the ATLANTIS records (this only happened for Descurainia millefolia, Aichryson punctatum [both temperature only] and Echium bethencourtii [temperature and precipitation]). These findings give us confidence that the ATLANTIS data are fit for the purpose for which we use them in this paper.

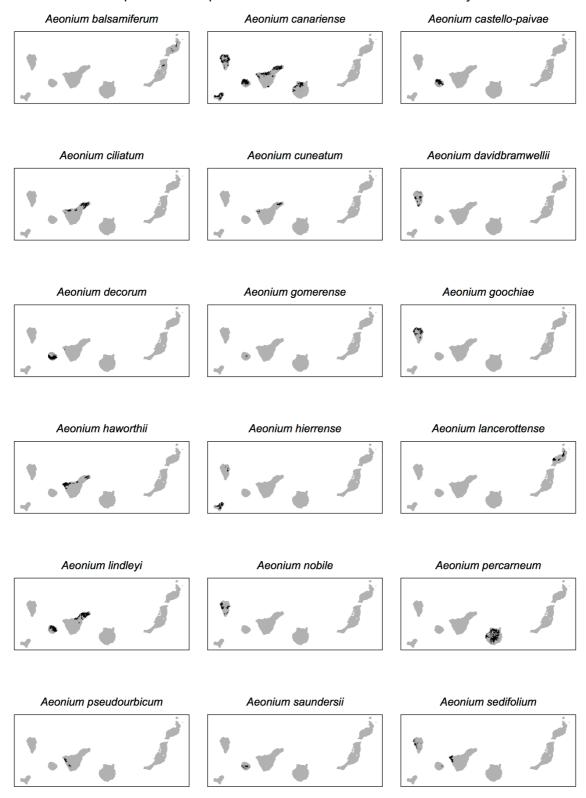
Our study focuses on well-studied endemic species: 123 out of our 126 species are archipelago endemics and 86 are single island endemics. The ATLANTIS data provide

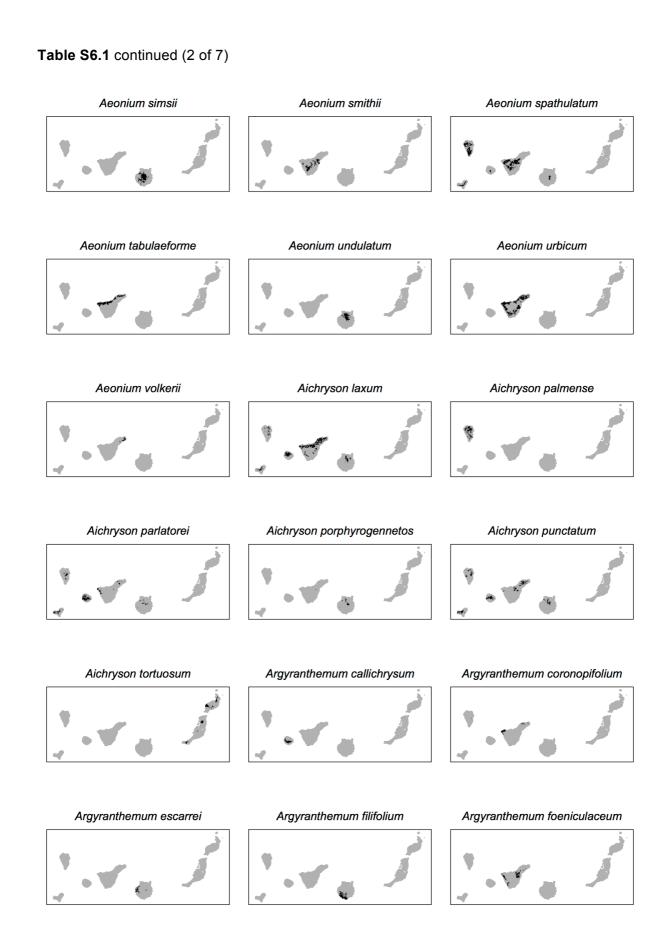
reliable long-term presence-only occurrence information for Canarian endemic species generally, and the species analyzed in this paper in particular. As described above, the climatic niche estimates derived from these data compare well with the best available vegetation data for La Palma. In addition, the ATLANTIS data produce distributions for endemics that match well with known distributions on El Hierro, as derived from the sampling by Christian Stierstorfer and Markus von Gaisberg (Otto *et al.*, 2015). In sum, ATLANTIS provides remarkable sampling density, far exceeding that of almost all other studies using species distribution modelling or niche estimation, and producing good estimates of the distributions of Canarian endemic species (see Figure S6.1, which starts on the next page).

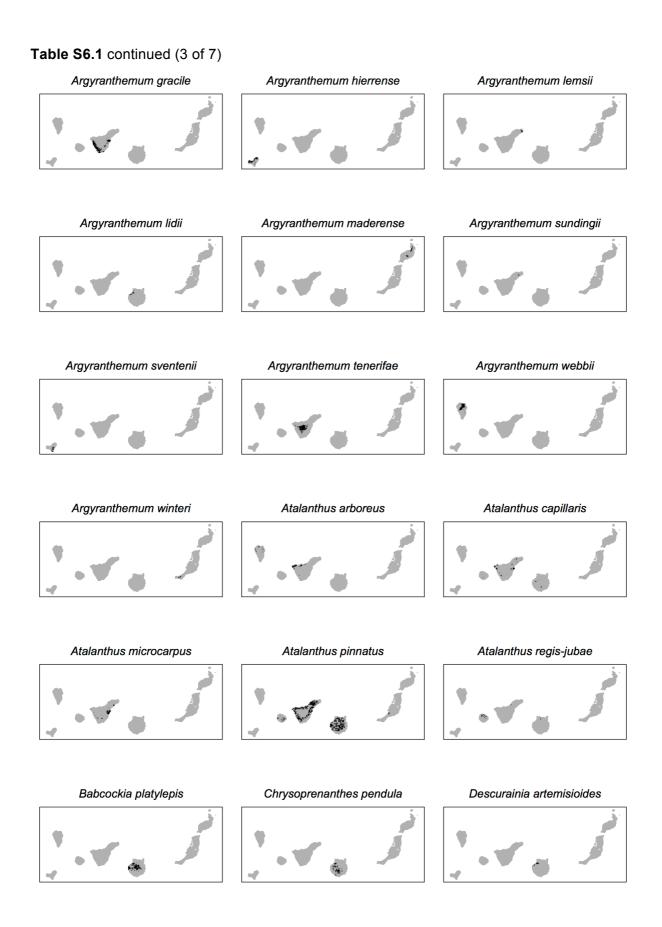
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Figure S6.1: Distribution maps for all species used in this study. Black grid cells (500x500m) indicate presence records, grey grid cells absence records. The maps represent presence-only data from the ATLANTIS database. Incorrect absences, which may occasionally occur, are not problematic for environmental niche calculations as long as the presence records represent the species' environmental niches reasonably well.







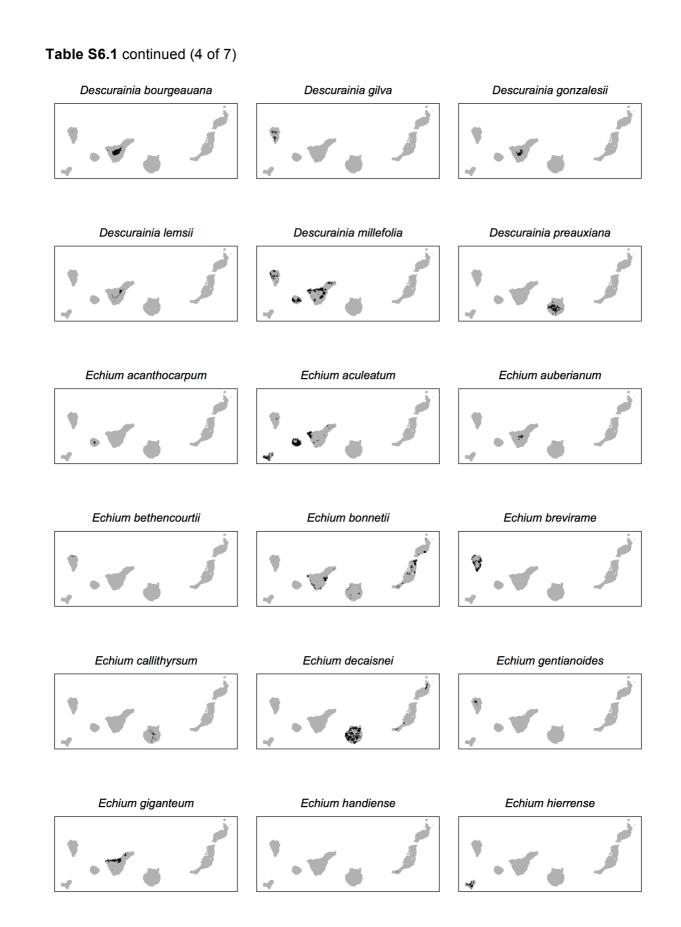


Table S6.1 continued (5 of 7)

