The effect of polyploidy and hybridization on the evolution of floral colour in Nicotiana (Solanaceae)

Elizabeth W. McCarthy1–3,1, Sarah E. J. Arnold1,4, Lars Chittka1, Steven C. Le Comber1, Robert Verity1,5, Steven Dodsworth1,3, Sandra Knapp2, Laura J. Kelly1,3, Mark W. Chase3, Ian T. Baldwin4, Aleš Kovařík5, Corinne Mhiri6, Lin Taylor7 and Andrew R. Leitch1*

1School of Biological and Chemical Sciences, Queen Mary University of London, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS, UK, 2Natural History Museum, London SW7 5BD, UK, 3Jodrell Laboratory, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3DS, UK, 4Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology, Department of Molecular Ecology, Beutenberg Campus, Hans-Knöll-Strasse 8, 07745 Jena, Germany, 5Institute of Biophysics, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, CZ-61265 Brno, Czech Republic, 6Institut Jean-Pierre Bourgin, UMR1318 INRA-AgroParisTech, INRA-Versailles, 78026 Versailles cedex, France and 7Department of Plant Sciences, University of Cambridge, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EA, UK

* For correspondence. E-mail a.r.leitch@qmul.ac.uk
† Present address: Department of Botany and Plant Sciences, University of California, Riverside, 900 University Avenue, Riverside, CA 92521, USA
‡ Present address: Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4TB, UK
§ Present address: MRC Centre for Outbreak Analysis and Modelling, Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Imperial College London, London W2 1NY, UK

Received: 6 October 2014 Returned for revision: 15 January 2015 Accepted: 16 March 2015

Background and Aims Speciation in angiosperms can be accompanied by changes in floral colour that may influence pollinator preference and reproductive isolation. This study investigates whether changes in floral colour can accompany polyploid and homoploid hybridization, important processes in angiosperm evolution.

Methods Spectral reflectance of corolla tissue was examined for 60 Nicotiana (Solanaceae) accessions (41 taxa) based on spectral shape (corresponding to pigmentation) as well as bee and hummingbird colour perception in order to assess patterns of floral colour evolution. Polyploid and homoploid hybrid spectra were compared with those of their progenitors to evaluate whether hybridization has resulted in floral colour shifts.

Key Results Floral colour categories in Nicotiana seem to have arisen multiple times independently during the evolution of the genus. Most younger polyploids displayed an unexpected floral colour, considering those of their progenitors, in the colour perception of at least one pollinator type, whereas older polyploids tended to resemble one or both of their progenitors.

Conclusions Floral colour evolution in Nicotiana is weakly constrained by phylogeny, and colour shifts do occur in association with both polyploid and homoploid hybrid divergence. Transgressive floral colour in N. tabacum has arisen by inheritance of anthocyanin pigmentation from its paternal progenitor while having a plastid phenotype like its maternal progenitor. Potentially, floral colour evolution has been driven by, or resulted in, pollinator shifts. However, those polyploids that are not sympatric (on a regional scale) with their progenitor lineages are typically not divergent in floral colour from them, perhaps because of a lack of competition for pollinators.

Key words: Evolution, floral colour, hybridization, Nicotiana, flower pigmentation, pollinator shifts, polyploidy, Solanaceae, spectral reflectance, transgressive traits.

INTRODUCTION

Polyploidy, or whole-genome multiplication, has played an important role in the evolution of flowering plants (Soltis et al., 2009, 2014). Alloploidy, arising from interspecific hybridization and polyploidy, can cause ‘genomic shock’ (McClintock, 1984), which may trigger a suite of genetic changes, including (retro)transposition, differential gene expression, chromosome rearrangements and epigenetic changes (Leitch and Leitch, 2008). These events and novel cis–trans interactions between progenitor genomes may generate variation, including transgressive phenotypes, and facilitate rapid divergence of both homoploid and allopolyploid hybrids (Wittkopp et al., 2004; Chen, 2007; Gaeta et al., 2007; Anssour et al., 2009; Tirot et al., 2009; Clare et al., 2013).

Speciation in angiosperms can be accompanied by, or perhaps driven by, changes in floral colour that may influence pollinator preference and reproductive isolation. Many pollinators, such as bumblebees and hummingbirds, visit a range of flower colours (Waser et al., 1996). Several species of flower-naive bumblebees have an innate colour preference for violet and blue shades, although preferences in experienced foragers are largely determined by learned associations between colours and
rewards (Raine et al., 2006). Hummingbirds appear to have no innate preferences for particular colours, but are likewise good at forming associations between flower visual displays and rewards (Goldsmith and Goldsmith, 1979; Chittka and Waser, 1997). Hummingbirds have red receptors, whereas many insects do not. Consequently, red flowers are poorly detectable by bee pollinators, but conspicuous for hummingbirds. Therefore, hummingbird-visited flowers are often red, whereas those pollinated by bees typically have a range of other colours (Rodriguez-Girones and Santamaria, 2004; Shrestha et al., 2013). Flowers visited by nocturnal pollinators are more often white than those pollinated in full daylight, probably to maximize their detectability in dim light conditions (Kevan et al., 1996). Because of such differences in affinities of various pollinator classes to certain flower colours, differences in flower colour can contribute to restricting gene flow between phenotypes, although they will rarely result in complete reproductive isolation; for this, differences in multiple traits are typically essential. In *Aquilegia* (Ranunculaceae), blue-, red- and white/yellow-flowered species are primarily pollinated by bees, hummingbirds and hawkmoths, respectively (Grant, 1952; Whittall and Hodges, 2007). In *Petunia axillaris* (Solanaceae), hawkmoths prefer white flowers to pink flowers transformed to express ANTHOCYANIN2, whereas bumblebees prefer pink ANTHOCYANIN2 flowers to white flowers, demonstrating that expression of a single gene can cause differences in pollinator visitation (Hoballah et al., 2007). Similarly, manipulation of a single locus controlling carotenoid production in *Mimulus* flowers (Phrymaceae) results in a pollinator shift, reaffirming the importance of floral colour in determining pollinator behaviour (Bradshaw and Schemske, 2003).

To analyse floral colour in the context of pollination, it is necessary to consider both colour theory and pollinator visual systems. There are several important differences between the colour vision systems of humans and those of various pollinator types. Humans and many insects are trichromatic, having three discrete photoreceptor types; however, humans possess red- (with peak sensitivity ($\lambda_{\text{max}}$) near 560 nm), green- ($\lambda_{\text{max}}$ = 535 nm) and blue-sensitive ($\lambda_{\text{max}}$ = 420 nm) photoreceptors (Bowmaker and Dartnall, 1980), whereas many insects have ultraviolet- (UV-, $\lambda_{\text{max}}$ ~ 350 nm), blue- ($\lambda_{\text{max}}$ ~ 440 nm) and green-sensitive ($\lambda_{\text{max}}$ ~ 530 nm) receptors (Peitsch et al., 1992; Briscoe and Chittka, 2001; Kelber et al., 2003). Many birds (Bowmaker, 1998) and some butterflies (Kelber, 2001) have trichromatic colour vision. In birds, photoreceptors are sensitive to red, green, blue and either violet or UV wavelengths (Hart and Hunt, 2007). Hummingbirds have four single cone types with peak sensitivities in the UV ($\lambda_{\text{max}}$ = 370 nm), blue ($\lambda_{\text{max}}$ = 440 nm), blue–green ($\lambda_{\text{max}}$ = 508 nm) and yellow ($\lambda_{\text{max}}$ = 560 nm); the sensitivity of the last extends significantly into the red (Herrera et al., 2008). Hummingbirds can learn to distinguish near-UV light (370 nm) from darkness, confirming that they use their UV receptors for colour vision at a behavioural level (Goldsmith, 1980). We will take into account these differences in pollinator perception as we examine floral colour in the genus *Nicotiana* (Solanaceae).

We investigate the evolution of floral colour across *Nicotiana* (Solanaceae) in the context of polyploidy and hybridization. *Nicotiana* is an excellent group in which to study the effects of hybridization as nearly half of the 76 species are allotetraploids of different ages (Chase et al., 2003; Clarkson et al., 2004, 2005; Leitch et al., 2008; Kelly et al., 2013), and several putative homoploid (diploid) hybrids have also been detected (Clarkson et al., 2010; Kelly et al., 2010), which add to the reticulate nature of the genus. These phylogenetic studies have also been used to predict the closest living descendent species of the parents that formed the homoploid hybrid and allopolyploid species, hereafter called progenitor species, as shown in Fig. 1. Some synthetic polyploids made from these progenitor species are also available, providing insight into the immediate effects of polyploidy and hybridization. We compare floral colours of *Nicotiana* polyploid and homoploid hybrids with those of their diploid progenitors.

Because various animal groups have different sensitivities to colour, it is necessary to model colour perception of specific pollinator classes to understand the significance of floral colour signals. Here, we consider floral colours from a bee perspective (Chittka, 1992), which can also be used to represent other trichromatic insects, such as hawkmoths, due to similarities in photoreceptor sensitivities (Kelber et al., 2003), and a hummingbird perspective (Herrera et al., 2008; Restrepo, 2013). Hummingbirds and hawkmoths are known to visit *Nicotiana* species (Aigner and Scott, 2002; Kaczorowski et al., 2005; Kessler and Baldwin, 2006; Nattero and Cocucci, 2007).

Pigments typically determine floral colour; however, few studies have examined the specific pigments present in *Nicotiana* petals. Aharoni et al. (2001) confirm the presence of anthocyanin pigmentation in *N. tabacum*, which seems to be predominantly cyanidin derivatives. Spectral colour shifts can occur in anthocyanins due to hydroxylation and methylation, which result in different types of anthocyanins (Castaneda-Ovando et al., 2009; Andersen and Jordheim, 2010), and differences in pH as well as copigmentation with other pigments, including carotenoids and colourless flavonoids, or metal ions, can also cause spectral shifts in the same anthocyanin compound (Grotewold, 2006; Andersen and Jordheim, 2010). The yellow flower colour of *Nicotiana glauca* is due to carotenoid pigmentation (Zhu et al., 2007). Crossing experiments between diploid *Nicotiana* species suggest that the presence of chlorophyll in corolla tissue is dominant (Brieger, 1935), and similar results corroborate this in the carnation *Dianthus caryophyllus* (Caryophyllaceae; Ohmiya et al., 2014).

In this paper, we seek to determine what types of spectral reflectance are found within *Nicotiana*, and how they appear to bee and hummingbird pollinators. We focus on the consequences of polyploidy and interspecific hybridization on floral colour evolution. Specifically, we aimed to test the hypotheses that: (1) polyploid and homoploid hybrids will have floral colours that will resemble at least one of their progenitors in discrete spectral, bee and hummingbird floral colour categories obtained from cluster analyses; (2) polyploid and homoploid hybrids will be positive for chlorophyll pigmentation in corolla tissue if at least one progenitor has chlorophyll present in its petals (due to evidence of the dominance of chlorophyll pigmentation); (3) increased cell size potentially associated with polyploidy affects the concentration of pigments and, in turn, colour intensity; and (4) floral colour evolution is constrained by phylogeny.
Fig. 1. Floral colour, as perceived by humans, of polyploid and homoploid hybrid Nicotiana and their diploid progenitors. Polyploid ages were estimated using a molecular clock calibrated with the geological age of volcanic islands with endemic Nicotiana species (Clarkson et al., 2005). Absolute dates (millions of years, m.y.o.) estimated by the clock should be treated with caution; however, relative ages of different polyploid sections should reflect the true sequence of polyploidization events. (A) Natural and synthetic polyploids of N. tabacum. (B) Synthetic polyploid TH32. (C) Natural and synthetic N. rustica polyploids. Synthetic hybrids include a homoploid from a reciprocal cross and a polyploid series (F1 homoploid and S0 and S1 polyploids) of the same parentage as natural N. rustica. (D) Nicotiana arentsii. (E) Natural polyploids of section Noctiflorae–Petunioides. (F) Synthetic polyploid TH32. (G) Natural and synthetic N. rustica polyploids. Synthetic hybrids include a homoploid from a reciprocal cross and a polyploid series (F1 homoploid and S0 and S1 polyploids) of the same parentage as natural N. rustica. (D) Nicotiana arentsii. (E) Natural polyploids of section Noctiflorae–Petunioides. Synthetic N. × obtusifolia polyploid lines were made from a cross between the N. obtusifolia and N. attenuata accessions studied here. (F) Section Repandae. (G) Section Sylvestres–Petunioides contains 26 polyploid species (six included in this study). Biogeographical analyses suggest that section Sylvestres–Petunioides originated ∼15 million years ago (m.y.a.), before the aridification of Australia (Ladiges et al., 2011), and this seems to be relatively congruent with the molecular clock results, which place its origin at ∼10 m.y.a. (H) Homoploid hybrids N. glauca and N. linearis. (I) Homoploid hybrid N. glutinosa. Photographs are scaled to the same size.
MATERIALS AND METHODS

Petal cell area measurements

To assess whether an increase in ploidy results in larger petal cells, cell area was measured from a subset of polyploids and their progenitors. For \textit{Nicotiana} \textit{sylvestris} \textit{A}04750326, \textit{Nicotiana rustica} var. \textit{asiatica}, \textit{Nicotiana rustica} var. \textit{pavonii}, \textit{Nicotiana paniculata}, \textit{Nicotiana undulata} and \textit{Nicotiana nudicaulis}, mature flowers were taken from plants and the adaxial petal surface was imprinted in Elite HD vinylpolysiloxane impression material (dental wax, supplied by Zhermack, Harrogate, UK). The wax was left to set, and then used as a mould for making epoxy petal casts. Devcon high-strength epoxy was mixed according to the manufacturer’s instructions, poured into the mould and allowed to set for 12 h. The epoxy relief was removed and coated with gold using a Quorum K756X sputter coater. The samples were then imaged using a FEI Philips XL-30 FEGSEM scanning electron microscope. For \textit{Nicotiana obtusifolia} var. \textit{obtusifolia} TW143, \textit{Nicotiana repanda} and \textit{Nicotiana stocktonii}, only fixed material was available; whole mature flowers were fixed in formalin-acetic acid–alcohol (FAA) (60 % ethanol; 6 % formaldehyde; 5 % acetic acid) for 72 h before being transferred to a 70 % ethanol (EtOH) wash for 24 h. The samples were then dehydrated through an ethanol series of 2 h each in 70, 80 and 90 % and two washes in 100 % EtOH. The samples were dissected and then dried in an Autosamdri 815B critical point dryer. These samples were sputter-coated and imaged as described above. For all samples, images were taken mid-petal from an angle perpendicular to the surface, to minimize parallax error. Cell size measurements were carried out in ImageJ (http://image.nih.gov/j). The circumference of the cell base was drawn free-hand and area was calculated for \(~100–150\) cells until the cumulative mean stabilized. One-way ANOVA and Tukey’s honest significance tests were performed in RStudio version 100–150 cells. Spectra were submitted to the Floral Reflectance Database (FReD; www.reflectance.co.uk; Arnold et al., 2010).

Some spectra had a spike at \(~656\) nm, which corresponded to a narrow peak in the light source spectrum, suggesting that the spectra were saturated at \(~656\) nm; however, smoothing served to neutralize this spike. Several spectra (\textit{Nicotiana arenstii}, \textit{N. mutabilis}, \textit{Nicotiana suaveolens} and \textit{Nicotiana wigiandoiides}) included an anomalous reflectance minimum from 475 to \(500\) nm, which could not be explained by the light source spectrum. Remeasured spectra of \textit{N. arenstii}, \textit{N. suaveolens} and \textit{N. wigiandoiides} lacked this minimum, but further material of \textit{N. mutabilis} was unavailable, so these spectra were included despite the anomalies.

Calculation of colour loci in the bee colour hexagon

A reflectance spectrum can be represented as a single point in the bee colour hexagon space (a graphical representation of a bee’s colour visual experience) based on the relative excitation of UV-, blue- and green-sensitive photoreceptor types (Chittka, 1992). Vertices of this hexagon represent theoretical states where one or two photoreceptor types are at maximal excitation whereas at least one receptor type is at zero excitation (e.g. the top vertex of the hexagon corresponds to maximal blue receptor excitation and zero signal from UV and green receptors, whereas the top right vertex corresponds to maximal signal in both blue and green receptors, but no signal in the UV receptor, and so forth; see Supplementary Data Fig. S1). The centre or origin of the hexagon is achromatic. Hue corresponds to angular position around the origin, whereas spectral purity or saturation increases with distance from the origin.

Bee colour hexagon coordinates were calculated for all \textit{Nicotiana} spectra. Illumination was assumed to be sunlight (D65; Wyszecki and Stiles, 1982); the background was represented by an average leaf spectrum (Gumbert et al., 1999). Honeybee photoreceptor spectral sensitivity functions were used to determine bee colour hexagon coordinates; these are similar to bumblebee and hawkmoth photoreceptor sensitivity functions, so the bee colour hexagon can be used to approximate the colour vision of these insects as well (Menzel et al., 1986; Peitsch et al., 1992; Briscoe and Chittka, 2001; Kelber et al., 2003 and references therein; Skorupski et al., 2007). The equations used to determine colour hexagon coordinates are as follows, where \(E_G\), \(E_R\) and \(E_UV\) represent the excitation of the green, blue and UV bee photoreceptors, respectively, elicited by a spectrum (Chittka, 1992):

\[
x = \sqrt{3}/2(E_G - E_{UV})
\]

\[
y = E_R - 0.5(E_{UV} + E_G)
\]

Because the colour loci of \textit{Nicotiana} flowers were mostly close to the centre of the colour space, all colour hexagon displays presented are scaled so that only the central 40 % is

Spectral reflectance measurements

Spectral reflectance measurements were recorded for 60 \textit{Nicotiana} accessions (41 taxa; Supplementary Data Table S1); three flowers from different plants, where possible, were used for each accession. Reflectance spectra from three \textit{Nicotiana otophora} accessions were pooled because the spectra were similar.

Spectral reflectance of flowers at anthesis was measured from 300 to 700 nm using an Avantes AvaSpec-2048 spectrophotometer with an Avantes AvaLight-DHS light source and calibrated with a barium sulphate white standard from laboratory. \textit{Nicotiana mutabilis} was also measured later, as flowers change from white to pink when mature; pink flowers are less likely to have a nectar reward, but add to the attraction of the overall floral display, and therefore are still relevant to pollinators (R. Kaczorowski, University of Haifa, Israel, pers. comm.). Reflectance spectra express the proportion of light reflected by the flower at any given wavelength. Spectra were visualized and exported in increments of 1 nm using the program AvaSoft version 7.0.3 Full (Avantes BV, Eerbeek, The Netherlands) and imported into Excel.

Spectra for each accession or colour morph were averaged and then smoothed three times, using a rolling average over 9 nm. Spectra for all accessions were submitted to the Floral Reflectance Database (FReD; www.reflectance.co.uk; Arnold et al., 2010).

The circumference of the cell base was drawn free-hand and area was calculated for \(~100–150\) cells until the cumulative mean stabilized. One-way ANOVA and Tukey’s honest significance tests were performed in RStudio version 7.0.3 Full (Avantes BV, Eerbeek, The Netherlands) and imported into Excel.

Spectra for each accession or colour morph were averaged and then smoothed three times, using a rolling average over 9 nm. Spectra for all accessions were submitted to the Floral Reflectance Database (FReD; www.reflectance.co.uk; Arnold et al., 2010).

Some spectra had a spike at \(~656\) nm, which corresponded to a narrow peak in the light source spectrum, suggesting that the spectra were saturated at \(~656\) nm; however, smoothing served to neutralize this spike. Several spectra (\textit{Nicotiana arenstii}, \textit{N. mutabilis}, \textit{Nicotiana suaveolens} and \textit{Nicotiana wigiandoiides}) included an anomalous reflectance minimum from 475 to \(500\) nm, which could not be explained by the light source spectrum. Remeasured spectra of \textit{N. arenstii}, \textit{N. suaveolens} and \textit{N. wigiandoiides} lacked this minimum, but further material of \textit{N. mutabilis} was unavailable, so these spectra were included despite the anomalies.

Calculation of colour loci in the bee colour hexagon

A reflectance spectrum can be represented as a single point in the bee colour hexagon space (a graphical representation of a bee’s colour visual experience) based on the relative excitation of UV-, blue- and green-sensitive photoreceptor types (Chittka, 1992). Vertices of this hexagon represent theoretical states where one or two photoreceptor types are at maximal excitation whereas at least one receptor type is at zero excitation (e.g. the top vertex of the hexagon corresponds to maximal blue receptor excitation and zero signal from UV and green receptors, whereas the top right vertex corresponds to maximal signal in both blue and green receptors, but no signal in the UV receptor, and so forth; see Supplementary Data Fig. S1). The centre or origin of the hexagon is achromatic. Hue corresponds to angular position around the origin, whereas spectral purity or saturation increases with distance from the origin.

Bee colour hexagon coordinates were calculated for all \textit{Nicotiana} spectra. Illumination was assumed to be sunlight (D65; Wyszecki and Stiles, 1982); the background was represented by an average leaf spectrum (Gumbert et al., 1999). Honeybee photoreceptor spectral sensitivity functions were used to determine bee colour hexagon coordinates; these are similar to bumblebee and hawkmoth photoreceptor sensitivity functions, so the bee colour hexagon can be used to approximate the colour vision of these insects as well (Menzel et al., 1986; Peitsch et al., 1992; Briscoe and Chittka, 2001; Kelber et al., 2003 and references therein; Skorupski et al., 2007). The equations used to determine colour hexagon coordinates are as follows, where \(E_G\), \(E_R\) and \(E_UV\) represent the excitation of the green, blue and UV bee photoreceptors, respectively, elicited by a spectrum (Chittka, 1992):

\[
x = \sqrt{3}/2(E_G - E_{UV})
\]

\[
y = E_R - 0.5(E_{UV} + E_G)
\]
shown; the outline is therefore drawn as a dashed line. This results in a clearer spread of the colour loci to facilitate visual inspection. For a diagram explaining the colour hexagon, see Supplementary Data Fig. S1.

Calculation of colour loci in hummingbird colour space

For tetrachromatic hummingbirds, we chose to model flower colours in a 3-D colour opponent space because \( n - 1 \) colour opponent dimensions are necessary to code the information from \( n \) colour receptors (Chittka, 1996). The hummingbird colour space can be displayed as a rhombic dodecahedron with 14 vertices (Restrepo, 2013). Like the bee colour hexagon, vertices of the space represent states where one, two or three photoreceptor types are at maximal excitation and at least one receptor type is at zero excitation.

Hummingbird colour space coordinates were calculated for all *Nicotiana* spectra. Illumination was again assumed to be sunlight (D65; Wyszecki and Stiles, 1982) and the background an average leaf spectrum (Gumbert et al., 1999) as was used for the bee colour hexagon. Photoreceptor spectral sensitivity functions from the green-backed firecrest hummingbird (*Sephanoides sephanoides*; Herrera et al., 2008) were used to determine hummingbird colour space coordinates using the following equations (Restrepo, 2013), where ER, EG, EB and EUV represent excitation of red, green, blue and UV hummingbird photoreceptors, respectively, elicited by a spectrum:

\[
\begin{align*}
x &= \sqrt{3/4E_R} - \sqrt{1/12} \ (E_{UV} + E_G + E_R) \\
y &= \sqrt{2/3E_G} - \sqrt{1/6} \ (E_{UV} + E_R) \\
z &= \sqrt{1/2} \ (E_{UV} - E_R)
\end{align*}
\]

RStudio was used to make 3D plots of the hummingbird colour space, and ImageJ version 1.48 (http://imagej.nih.gov/ij) was used to create an animation of the *Nicotiana* flower loci in the hummingbird colour space. Again, *Nicotiana* flower colour loci are close to the origin in the hummingbird colour space, so the graphs presented display only the central portion (either 25 or 50 %) of the colour space for clarity. To further facilitate interpretation of these graphs, vertices representing individual excitation of the red, green, blue and UV photoreceptor types, as well as their excitation vectors from the origin, are shown in red, green, blue and black, respectively. Other vertices (representing excitation of two or three photoreceptor types) are shown in grey.

Cluster analyses

Cluster analyses were used to group spectra based on spectral shape (corresponding to pigmentation) and their position in both bee and hummingbird colour spaces. For spectral colour categories, spectra were normalized to the same integral under the curve in order to compare combinations of pigments, not the concentration of pigments. A distance matrix was calculated from the normalized spectral data in R version 3.0.2 (http://www.R-project.org/) using the dist() function. For the bee and hummingbird colour categories, the input data were the \((x, y)\) or \((x, y, z)\) coordinates of the spectra in the bee and hummingbird colour spaces, respectively.

Data were first imported into R. The function hclust() was used to perform agglomerative hierarchical clustering based on the average pairwise distances between groups. With this algorithm, the observed points, which are initially all deemed to be distinct, are iteratively assigned to groups until eventually all points belong to the same group. At each step, the average distance between all groups (i.e. the mean distance from all points in group A to all points in group B; if either one of these is a single point then no averaging is needed) is calculated, and the two groups with the smallest average distance are merged. The order in which groups are merged can be used to construct a dendrogram showing the spatial relationship between all data points. We can also look at the distribution of merge distances at each step in the algorithm and use this distribution to estimate how many groups are present in the data. Points at which there is a steep increase in the average between-group distance (‘elbow’ points) highlight the spatial scale(s) at which there is clustering present in the data. By using one of these elbow points as a cutoff in the algorithm, we can arrive at a distance grouping that captures the spatial clustering. It should be noted that the determination of where to draw the threshold in a cluster analysis is arbitrary, but the use of one of these elbow points does yield meaningful clusters. The determination of the specific point from the elbow region to be used to define clusters was further informed by visual inspection of reflectance spectra, as well as distributions of colour loci in the perceptual colour spaces. It should be noted that the dendrograms relate to similarities in spectral reflectance, as well as colour relationships perceived by bees and hummingbirds; they do not show phylogenetic relationships.

Ancestral state reconstruction

To examine the evolution of colour within a phylogenetic context, ancestral state reconstructions were performed on trees inferred from plastid sequence data. Only species for which floral character data are available were included in these analyses. Because polyploid and homoploid hybrids originate via reticulate evolutionary processes and therefore lack a history of tree-like evolution, ancestral characters were reconstructed using only non-hybrid diploid species. The states observed in hybrid species were then compared with the ancestral state reconstructions. Since sections *Repandae* and *Suaveolentes* have diversified to form several species following polyploidization, characters were reconstructed for these sections separately to examine colour evolution subsequent to their origin. For non-hybrid diploid species, individual gene trees yield some conflicting topologies; nevertheless, key nodes for the purposes of interpreting character evolution in hybrids are recovered in multiple gene trees and are supported by supernetwork analyses (Kelly et al., 2010). Therefore, plastid data from previously published studies are suitable for these analyses.

Previously published sequences (Clarkson et al., 2004) from four plastid regions (matK, ndhF, trnL-F and trnS-G) were
aligned separately using PRANK+F (Löytynoja and Goldman, 2008) and then concatenated to create a combined plastid data set before further optimization by eye in Mesquite version 2.74 (Maddison and Maddison, 2008). For *Nicotiana attenuata*, we used GenBank accessions AB040009 and AY098697 for the *matK* and *trnL-F* regions, respectively (due to likely misidentification of *N. attenuata* material used in Clarkson et al., 2004; see Clarkson et al., 2010); the other two regions were scored as missing data. Phylogenetic reconstruction by Bayesian inference was performed as described in Kelly et al. (2013) with the exception that BayesTrees v.1.3 (www.evolution.reading.ac.uk/BayesTrees.html) was used to construct 95 % majority rule consensus trees. For sections *Repandae* and *Suaveolentes*, sequences representing their putative maternal progenitors were included during Bayesian inference to allow rooting of trees but were pruned from the trees prior to ancestral state reconstruction.

Ancestral states for spectral reflectance colour categories and presence/absence of chlorophyll in petals (data in Supplementary Data Table S2) were reconstructed using the parsimony reconstruction method in Mesquite version 2.74, under the unordered states assumption. To account for topological uncertainty, character states were reconstructed over all 36 000 post-burn-in trees using the Trace Character Over Trees option and summarized on the 95 % majority rule consensus tree from the Bayesian analysis. Ancestral states were not calculated for bee or hummingbird colour categories because these are perceptual systems and the same colour category can result from different combinations of pigments (e.g. both human pink and human white flowers, which are positive and negative, respectively, for anthocyanin pigmentation, are both classified as bee blue–green); thus, a single colour category does not necessarily have a shared evolutionary history.

**Estimating expected polyploid and homoploid hybrid floral colour**

Polyploid and homoploid hybrid floral colours for each accession were compared with those of their diploid progenitors for the spectral, bee and hummingbird colour categories defined by cluster analyses. Floral colour was classified as ‘expected’ if it fell in the colour category of at least one progenitor, or ‘unexpected’ if it was different from both progenitors. Polyploid and homoploid hybrids were also compared with their diploid progenitors for the presence or absence of chlorophyll in corolla tissue. Chlorophyll absorbs at 675 nm *in vivo* (Haardt and Maske, 1987); therefore, the presence of chlorophyll can be inferred from reflectance spectra if there is a reflectance minimum at 675 nm. The presence of chlorophyll in petal tissue appears to be dominant (Brieger, 1935; Ohmiya et al., 2014). Thus, hybrids were classified as expected if they showed chlorophyll pigmentation and as unexpected if they did not because at least one progenitor possessed chlorophyll in all diploid progenitor combinations. For natural homoploid hybrids and polyploid section *Suaveolentes*, where progenitors can only be defined to *Nicotiana* section level, comparisons were made with reconstructed ancestral characters; thus only spectral corolla categories and the presence/absence of chlorophyll were examined.

**Phylogenetic signal in floral traits**

In order to statistically test for phylogenetic signal in the phenotypic trait data (spectral reflectance, bee and hummingbird colour perception), we used Mantel tests to examine the correlation between phylogenetic distance and each of the respective continuous multidimensional traits (e.g. Cubo et al., 2005; Muchhal, 2014). Analyses were restricted to diploid species, excluding homoploid and polyploid hybrids. Trees were edited in Newick format to include additional tips with zero branch lengths for taxa that are multiple in the trait datasets, either due to colour polymorphism (*N. otophora*) or multiple accessions (*N. sylvestris* and *N. obtusifolia* var. *obtusifolia*).

Statistical analyses were performed in R version 3.1.0. Phenotypic distance matrices were first calculated for the three trait datasets using Euclidean distance, and phylogenetic distance matrices were calculated (1) as genetic distance from the plastid alignment and (2) for each of 36 000 post-burn-in Bayesian trees using cophenetic.phylo(), part of the APE package version 3.1-2 (Paradis et al., 2004). The second Bayesian set of tests was performed in order to account for evolutionary processes such as saturation and to estimate how phylogenetic uncertainty affects the correlation. Mantel tests were performed using Pearson’s product-moment correlation coefficient, with 10 000 permutations of each distance matrix to test for significance; the mean *P* value and its standard deviation were calculated for each set of 36 000 Mantel tests from the Bayesian trees, along with the percentage of trees that gave significant correlations. The function mantel() from the vegan package was used (Oksanen et al., 2013).

**RESULTS**

**Petal cell area**

Petal cell area was measured to determine whether an increase in ploidy results in larger floral cells. Polyploid petal cell area was significantly larger than in both progenitors in *N. rustica* (ANOVA: *F* = 371, d.f. = 3, *P* < 2 × 10^-16) accessions, but was intermediate between progenitors in section *Repandae* polyploids (ANOVA: *F* = 249.2, d.f. = 4, *P* < 2 × 10^-16; Fig. 2). Accessions that were significantly different in cell area (within polyploid sections and their progenitors) are represented by different letters above the bars in Fig. 2; results from Tukey’s honest significance tests can be found in Supplementary Data Table S3.

**Cluster analyses**

*Nicotiana* reflectance spectra were grouped into categories based on spectral shape and position in the bee and hummingbird colour spaces using cluster analyses. Bees and hummingbirds have different photoreceptor sensitivities, and we expect our cluster analyses to reflect these differences in sensory equipment. The analysis based on spectral shape yielded eight colour categories, which roughly corresponded to flowers perceived by human observers as magenta, red, pink, UV–white, white, yellow, green and dark green (Fig. 3). *Nicotiana* spectra are displayed by spectral colour category in Fig. 4A, B, Supplementary Data Fig. S2. The bee colour hexagon clustering
Table S4, and the observed and expected floral colours of homoploid hybrids are found in Fig. 1 and Supplementary Data. Diploid progenitors and approximate age of polyploids and categories as well as in the presence/absence of chlorophyll. The progenitors in spectral, bee and hummingbird colour categories, but some fell into unexpected colour categories (Table 1, Fig. 5, Supplementary Data Fig. S4, Supplementary Data Fig. S5). Over half of the polyploids unexpectedly lacked chlorophyll (Table 1).

**Evolution of colour characters in a phylogenetic context**

Reconstructed character states are shown for spectral reflectance colour categories (Fig. 6) and the presence/absence of chlorophyll in petals (Supplementary Data Fig. S6). Bee and hummingbird colour categories are also shown for extant species on the plastid tree (Fig. 6). Although the deepest nodes were largely equivocal, evolution of spectral reflectance colour in *Nicotiana* seemed to be dynamic (Fig. 6). Green flowers likely have three independent origins: (1) in sections *Paniculatae* and *Undulatae*; (2) in *N. langsdorffii*; and (3) in the homoploid hybrid *N. glauca*. UV–white flowers also seem to have arisen three times independently; (1) in section *Trigonophyllae*; (2) in *N. pauciflora*; and (3) in the homoploid hybrid *N. linearis*. Most polyploid and homoploid hybrid species exhibit a floral colour present in at least one of their progenitors. However, *N. tabacum* 095-55 is red and *N. glauca* is yellow and green, unlike their progenitors. UV–white flowers seem to have evolved de novo in *N. linearis*. UV–white flowers are also found in one of its progenitor sections (in *N. pauciflora*), but ancestral reconstructions indicate that the floral colour was most likely white at the ancestral nodes within the section (Fig. 6). This suggests that the evolution of UV–white flowers in *N. pauciflora* has occurred subsequent to the formation of *N. linearis* and that the two events are likely independent. It is unclear whether UV–white flowers also evolved de novo in *N. nudicaulis* because the ancestral node of section *Repandae* is equivocal. The presence of chlorophyll, as inferred by light absorption at 675 nm (Haardt and Maske, 1987), in *Nicotiana* flowers is ancestral and has been lost three times in *N. sylvestris*, *N. noctiflora* and the most recent common ancestor of *N. acuminata* and *N. pauciflora* (Supplementary Data Fig. S6).

Results from Mantel tests of phylogenetic signal for *Nicotiana* floral traits, for both genetic distance and the 36,000 post-burn-in Bayesian trees, are shown in Table 2. All floral traits were significantly correlated with phylogenetic relationships for the Bayesian trees at a significance level of $P < 0.05$. Only spectral reflectance was significant for the genetic distance tests, whereas bee and hummingbird colour perception were just above the $P < 0.05$ threshold. For the Bayesian trees, 90.1, 66.2 and 93.2 % of trees were significantly correlated with the spectral reflectance, bee and hummingbird colour perception datasets, respectively. These results suggest that these floral traits are weakly constrained by phylogeny.

**DISCUSSION**

*Nicotiana* is remarkable in its range of spectral reflectance flower colours (white, UV–white, pink, magenta, red, yellow, green and dark green; Fig. 3) and in the variety of pollinators...
that visit the flowers (moth, bird, bee, bat; Knapp, 2010). The perception of these spectral colours also changes with visual system (bee or hummingbird). Here we describe a complex dynamic in the evolution of floral colour in Nicotiana. Spectral reflectance and bee and hummingbird colour perception are correlated with phylogeny, but multiple independent origins of various combinations of pigmentation suggest that the evolution of floral colour is not entirely phylogenetically constrained.

### Petal cell size evolution in polyploids

Cell size is expected to increase following polyploidization due to the increase in genome size (Beaulieu et al., 2008). The significantly larger petal cells of N. rustica (<0.2 million years old; m.y.o.) and the intermediate cell size of section Repandae (~4.5 m.y.o.) suggest that polyploids may revert to a diplloid-like cell size over time, similar to the genome downsizing observed in polyploids (Leitch and Bennett, 2004). However, petal cell size differences within section Repandae do not seem to be linked to genome size; N. nudicaulis and N. repanda share similar cell sizes, but have substantially different genome sizes (Leitch et al., 2008). The concentration of pigment in floral cells is controlled by both the amount of pigment present and the cell size. Nicotiana rustica has significantly larger petal cells than its progenitors (close to the sum; Fig. 2) and displays an intermediate brightness (the area under the reflectance curve, a proxy for pigment concentration) between its progenitors (Supplementary Data Fig. S4D). This is expected if the polyploid inherits the sum of both cell size and amount of pigment present from its progenitors.

### Polyploid divergence in floral colour

Many younger polyploids (<0.2 m.y.o.) display unexpected floral colours, considering those of their diploid progenitors. None of the natural and synthetic N. tabacum accessions possess chlorophyll, which is unexpected given its presence in at least one progenitor species. Nicotiana tabacum 095-55 also has unexpected spectral, bee and hummingbird colour, given the colour categories of the progenitor species. Similarly, synthetic N. tabacum QM has unexpected colours in bee and hummingbird perception. Because this accession is synthetic, the parents are known, and thus its unexpected phenotype can be classified as transgressive, or outside the range of its progenitors due solely to polyploidy and hybridization. Most N. rustica accessions have unexpected bee colour (four of these are synthetic, and are therefore also transgressive), and N. arenstii has unexpected hummingbird colour (Table 1, Fig. 6). Despite the divergence of floral spectra associated with polyploidy, behavioural studies are needed to determine whether the bee and hummingbird colour categories delineated here actually elicit different responses in pollinators.

Most older polyploids (1–10 m.y.o.) are similar in floral colour to at least one of their progenitors; N. clevelandii...
Fig. 4. (A, B) Nicotiana reflectance spectra from 300 to 700 nm, which roughly correspond to colours perceived by human observers as pink (A) and green (B). See Supplementary Data Fig. S2 for other spectral colour categories. Solid lines are used for diploid taxa, dashed lines for polyploid taxa, and dotted lines for homoploid taxa. Abbreviations: p, pink; syn, synthetic; g, green. (C) Colour hexagon displaying the distribution of Nicotiana colour loci in bee colour space. Type vertices (red, green, blue and UV) are coloured red, green, blue and black, respectively, and all other vertices are grey. Red, green, blue and black arrows represent the vectors of these photoreceptors from the origin of the hummingbird colour space. Nicotiana loci are coloured according to hummingbird colour categories (Supplementary Data Fig. S3B), but are labelled with the accession name if the category includes only one taxon. See Supplementary Data Video for an animation of this graph.
is the exception because it falls into an unexpected hummingbird colour category, given the progenitor species (Fig. 6). Section Repandae polyploids seem to have evolved to be either like their maternal (Nicotiana nesophila, N. repanda and N. stocktonii) or paternal (N. nudicaulis) progenitor (Fig. 6). The maternal progenitor, N. sylvestris, is no longer sympatric with any of the section Repandae polyploids; therefore, N. nesophila, N. repanda and N. stocktonii can occupy the same pollination niche as their maternal progenitor without competition. Similarly, section Suaveolentes is native to Australasia, except for one species in Namibia, Africa, and is not sympatric with its progenitor sections in South America (Goodspeed, 1954); these polyploids and their diploid progenitors display similar floral colours, except N. pauciflora, which evolved spectrally UV–white flowers after the formation of section Suaveolentes (Fig. 6). It is possible that there is less competition for pollinators and, therefore, reduced selective pressure towards floral colour diversification when polyploid species are not sympatric with their diploid progenitors, as is seen in Iochrominae (Solanaceae), which have a broader range of floral colours when species are sympatric (Muchhal et al., 2014). However, floral colour evolution can also be driven by genetic drift or selection on pleiotropic effects of floral genes (Chittka et al., 2001; Rausher, 2008). Furthermore, anthocyanins and flavonoids are important for UV protection, can defend against fungi, act as signal molecules and play a role in male fertility in some species in addition to their roles in signalling to pollinators (Shirley, 1996).

Over half of polyploids have an unexpected inheritance pattern for chlorophyll if it is assumed that the presence of chlorophyll is a dominant character. Those polyploids that deviate from expectation span an age range of synthetic to 10 m.y.o. and always lack chlorophyll in their petals, which is in line with the direction of the shifts observed in the divergence of diploid species (Supplementary Data Fig. S6). In carnation, the biosynthesis genes in white flowers; genes involved in

| Species                        | Spectral Bees | Expected Bees | Spectral Hummingbird | Expected Hummingbird | Chlorophyll |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| N. tabacum 095-55             | R             | W, P          | UV-B                 | B-G                  | sUV-P       | W, P        | N           |
| N. tabacum 51789              | P             | W, P          | B-G                  | B-G                  | P           | W, P        | N           |
| N. tabacum ‘Chulumanji’       | W             | B-G           | B-G                  | P                    | W, P        | N           |
| N. tabacum QM                 | P             | W, P          | B                   | LP                   | W, P        | N           |
| N. tabacum TH37               | P             | W, P          | B-G                  | B-G                  | P           | W, P        | N           |
| N. rustica var. asiatica      | G             | G             | LG                   | G, B-G               | G           | G, W        | C           |
| N. rustica var. javanae        | G             | G             | G                   | G, B-G               | G           | G, W        | C           |
| N. rustica var. javanae        | G             | G             | LG                   | G, B-G               | G           | G, W        | C           |
| N. areniiii                    | G             | G             | LG                   | G, B-G               | G           | G, W        | C           |
| N. clevelandii                | W             | UV-W, W       | B-G                  | UV, B-G              | P           | UV-W, W     | N           |
| N. quadrivalvis TW18           | W             | UV-W, W       | B-G                  | UV, B-G              | W           | UV-W, W     | C           |
| N. quadrivalvis TW907          | W             | UV-W, W       | B-G                  | UV, B-G              | W           | UV-W, W     | C           |
| N. x obusiata line 1          | W             | UV-W, W       | B-G                  | UV, B-G              | W           | UV-W, W     | C           |
| N. x obusiata line 2          | W             | UV-W, W       | B-G                  | UV, B-G              | W           | UV-W, W     | C           |
| N. x obusiata line 5          | W             | UV-W, W       | B-G                  | UV, B-G              | W           | UV-W, W     | C           |
| N. repanda                    | W             | UV-W, W       | B-G                  | UV, B-G              | W           | UV-W, W     | C           |
| N. nesophila                  | W             | UV-W, W       | B-G                  | UV, B-G              | W           | UV-W, W     | N           |
| N. stocktonii                 | W             | UV-W, W       | B-G                  | UV, B-G              | W           | UV-W, W     | C           |
| N. nudicaulis                 | UV-W          | UV-W, W       | UV                   | B-G, UV              | W           | UV-W, W     | C           |
| N. benthamiana                | W             | W             | –                    | –                    | –           | –           | N           |
| N. forsteri                   | W             | W             | –                    | –                    | –           | –           | C           |
| N. gossei                     | W             | W             | –                    | –                    | –           | –           | N           |
| N. megalosiphon               | W             | W             | –                    | –                    | –           | –           | N           |
| N. occidentalis               | W             | W             | –                    | –                    | –           | –           | N           |
| N. suaveolens                 | W             | W             | –                    | –                    | –           | –           | N           |
| N. glauca 51725               | Y             | W             | –                    | –                    | –           | –           | C           |
| N. glauca 51751               | Y.G           | W             | –                    | –                    | –           | –           | C           |
| N. linearis TW77              | UV-W          | W             | –                    | –                    | –           | –           | C           |
| N. linearis 9647              | UV-W          | W             | –                    | –                    | –           | –           | C           |
| N. glutinosa                  | P             | P, W, G       | –                    | –                    | –           | –           | C           |

The top block consists of polyploid accessions and the bottom block includes homoploid hybrids.

Italic denotes an unexpected phenotype given the colour categories of the progenitors.

Progenitor bee and hummingbird colour categories are unknown for section Suaveolentes and natural homoploid hybrids (see text).
**Fig. 5.** (A, D, G) Reflectance spectra for polyploid and homoploid sections and their progenitors: (A) *N. tabacum*; (D) section *Repandae*; and (G) *Noctiflorae–Petunioides* homoploid hybrids. Solid lines are used for diploid taxa, dashed lines for polyploid taxa and dotted lines for homoploid hybrid taxa. (B, E, H) Hummingbird colour space for polyploid and homoploid sections and their progenitors: (B) *N. tabacum*; (E) section *Repandae*; and (H) *Noctiflorae–Petunioides* homoploid hybrids. The vertices of the hummingbird colour space represent 25 % (B, E) or 50 % (H) excitation of the photoreceptors; single photoreceptor type vertices (red, green, blue and UV) are coloured red, green, blue and black, respectively, and all other vertices are grey. Red, green, blue and black arrows represent the vectors of these photoreceptors from the origin of the hummingbird colour space. (C, F, I) Bee colour hexagons for polyploid or homoploid sections and their progenitors: (C) *N. tabacum*; (F) section *Repandae*; and (I) *Noctiflorae–Petunioides* homoploid hybrids. Hexagons have been scaled so that vertices represent 40 % excitation of photoreceptors. UV, ultraviolet; UV-B, UV–blue; B, blue; B-G, blue–green; G, green; UV-G, UV–green. For information regarding how to interpret colour hexagons, see Supplementary Data Fig. S1. Female (♀) and male (♂) symbols mark maternal and paternal progenitors, respectively, in the hummingbird and bee colour spaces.
Table 2. Mantel test results

| Trait                        | Genetic distance | Bayesian distance | P value | Mean P value | % significant trees |
|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------|--------------|---------------------|
| Spectral reflectance         | 0.0229           | 0.0206 ± 0.0215   | 0.0229  | 0.0206 ± 0.0215 | 90.1               |
| Bee colour vision            | 0.0866           | 0.0410 ± 0.0321   | 0.0410  | 0.0410 ± 0.0321 | 66.2               |
| Hummingbird colour vision    | 0.0594           | 0.0198 ± 0.0187   | 0.0198  | 0.0198 ± 0.0187 | 93.2               |

Transgressive flower colour in N. tabacum and the synthetic polyploid TH32

Polyploids N. tabacum and synthetic TH32 are similar because they share a maternal progenitor, N. sylvestris, and their paternal progenitors, Nicotiana tomentosiformis and N. otophora, respectively, are both from section Tomentosae and have similar reflectance spectra (Supplementary Data Fig. S5G); the paternal progenitors possess anthocyanin pigmentation as well as chlorophyll, whereas the maternal progenitor lacks both of these.

Genetic crosses in Nicotiana suggest that both green flower colour and the ability to produce floral anthocyanins are dominant and each may be determined by a single (likely multigenic) locus (Brieger, 1935). Nicotiana tabacum accessions and TH32 possess anthocyanin pigmentation (two spectral peaks in the blue and red portions of the spectrum), but not chlorophyll (the lack of a reflectance minimum at 675 nm) as well as spectral reflectance curve shapes that are distinct from those of their progenitors (Fig. 5A, Supplementary Data Fig. S4A). Therefore, N. tabacum and TH32 inherit anthocyanin floral pigmentation from their paternal progenitors, but a plastid phenotype (chlorophyll is only found in plastids) like that of their maternal progenitor, which likely has colourless leucoplasts, as is seen in Arabidopsis (Pyke and Page, 1998). Intriguingly, both the N. tomentosiformis and N. sylvestris copies of the bHLH transcription factor involved in regulation of the anthocyanin biosynthetic pathway are expressed and functional in N. tabacum (Bai et al., 2011), suggesting that a maternal gene has been co-opted into producing a paternal-type phenotype.

Polyploids typically inherit plastids from their maternal progenitor; it may be unsurprising, therefore, that N. tabacum and TH32 plastids have the maternal phenotype. However, it is likely that the chloroplast-to-leucoplast transition in petal development is regulated by nuclear genes. A study in Arabidopsis indicated that petal homeotic genes APETALA3 and PISTILLATA downregulate BANQUO genes, which are involved in accumulation of chlorophyll, suggesting that the breakdown of chloroplasts in petal development is linked to repression of genes involved in chlorophyll biosynthesis by
nuclear-encoded petal identity genes (Mara et al., 2010). Crosses in carnation and Nicotiana provide evidence that maternal plastid phenotype does not determine that of its offspring (Brieger, 1935; Ohmiya et al., 2014), affirming that the plastid phenotype seen in N. tabacum and TH32 polyploids is unexpected.

Because this floral phenotype is unlike either progenitor and divergent from the expected phenotype (i.e. the presence of both chlorophyll and anthocyanin pigments from their paternal progenitor) and because the phenotype is seen in synthetic polyploids, it can be considered to be caused by polyploidy and hybridization, and is thus a transgressive phenotype. Because all three natural N. tabacum accessions examined show the same phenotype as the synthetic polyploids, we can infer that this unexpected floral phenotype is also transgressive in N. tabacum. The observation of this phenotype in at least four independent origins (three synthetic and the natural accessions) suggests that the interplay between the inheritance of plastid and vacuolar pigments yields a transgressive phenotype repeatedly in N. tabacum and TH32 polyploids.

Nicotiana tabacum varies in spectral shape and bee and hummingbird colour categories among the accessions examined here (Fig. 5A–C). Synthetic N. tabacum QM and N. tabacum 095–55 are unexpected in both bee and hummingbird colour categories, suggesting that these accessions will be distinguishable from their progenitors by both bee (and likely hawkmoth, due to similarities in photoreceptor sensitivities) and hummingbird pollinators. The differences seen among the N. tabacum spectra may be due to the presence of different cyanidin derivatives, but vacuolar pH and the formation of heterodimers of anthocyanin and flavonol pigments can also cause shifts in spectral reflectance (Grotewold, 2006; Andersen and Jordheim, 2010).

Novel floral colour in homoploid hybrids

Over half of the homoploid hybrids examined show unexpected phenotypes in spectral colour categories. Without reproductive isolation, homoploid hybrids often facilitate gene flow between their progenitors instead of becoming established as new species (Buerkle et al., 2000, 2003). In experimental field plots of Nicotiana alata and Nicotiana forgetiana, pollinator fidelity decreased significantly in the presence of F1 hybrids, increasing gene flow between the two progenitor species (Ippolito et al., 2004). Homoploid hybrid N. glauca displays a novel floral colour in spectral, bee and hummingbird colour categories (Fig. 6). Although it is the combination of the suite of floral traits displayed that will influence what a pollinator exhibits, this change in floral colour may have played at least some role in the establishment of reproductive isolation between N. glauca and its progenitors.

Species of progenitor sections Noctiflorae and Petunioides mostly have vespertine flowers and many have long corolla tubes (Goodspeed, 1954), which suggests pollination by nocturnal hawkmoths. The only studies examining pollination in any of these species have confirmed that N. attenuata is pollinated by nocturnal hawkmoths but is also visited by hummingbirds (Aigner and Scott, 2002; Kessler and Baldwin, 2006). Nicotiana glauca is pollinated by hummingbirds in its native range (Nattero and Cocucci, 2007). Selection can still occur in the presence of generalist pollination based on differences in pollinator assemblage (Gomez et al., 2009), so the floral colour shift in N. glauca, accompanied by a shift in the predominant pollinator, may have aided reproductive isolation and its establishment as a new species. Evolutionary shifts in characteristics known to affect pollinator preferences often occur together. A shift from insect to hummingbird pollination has occurred twice within Mimulus section Erythranthe (Phrymaceae), and red flowers, exerted stamens and pistils and reflexed upper petals (characters associated with hummingbird pollination) seem to have evolved at the same points on the phylogenetic tree as the shift in pollination (Beardsley et al., 2003). In addition to a shift to yellow flowers, N. glauca has a reduced floral limb, the part of the corolla that opens (associated with hummingbird pollination), compared with many species in its progenitor sections, suggesting the possibility of hummingbird-mediated selection on N. glauca floral traits.

Concluding remarks

Floral colour shifts in polyploid and homoploid hybrids may occur immediately after their formation, perhaps as a consequence of novel cis–trans interactions between progenitor genomes (Chen, 2007). Using genomic studies to examine plant–pollinator interactions will shed light on the complex interactions involved in successful pollination and pollinator-mediated evolution (Clare et al., 2013). Transgressive and unexpected floral colours may have aided hybrid speciation, but pollination studies of hybrids and their progenitors are needed to make these conclusions. Typically, synthetic and young polyploids (<0.2 m.y.o.) have floral colour that is unexpected considering the colour of their progenitors in the colour perception of at least one pollinator type. Older polyploids (1–10 m.y.o.) tend to have a floral colour similar to at least one progenitor, perhaps due to the fact that the polyploids are no longer sympatric with one or both progenitors and/or because other floral traits were more important in the divergence from their progenitors.

SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Supplementary data are available online at www.aob.oxfordjournals.org and consist of the following. Table S1: Nicotiana accessions used in the spectral reflectance dataset and in petal cell area measurements. Table S2: floral colour characters for all Nicotiana species examined. Table S3: Tukey’s honest significant test results for cell areas. Table S4: polyploid and homoploid hybrid origins. Figure S1: navigating the bee colour hexagon. Figure S2: Nicotiana reflectance spectra from 300 to 700 nm by spectral colour category. Figure S3: dendrograms based on distance cluster analyses for bee and hummingbird colour categories. Figure S4: reflectance spectra, bee colour hexagons and hummingbird colour space for TH32, N. rustica and N. arenstii. Figure S5: reflectance spectra, bee colour hexagons and hummingbird colour space for section Polydidciae, section Suaveolentes and N. glutinosa. Figure S6: ancestral state reconstruction of the presence/absence of chlorophyll in petals.
Video animation of Nicotiana spectra in 3-D hummingbird colour space.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Michael Chester for helpful comments on the manuscript. This work was supported by the Natural Environment Research Council (NE/C511964/1 to A.R.L. and M.W.C.); the Czech Science Foundation [P501/13/100575 to A.K.]; and the Overseas Research Students Awards Scheme to E.W.M.

LITERATURE CITED

Aharoni A, De Vos CHR, Wein M, et al. 2001. The strawberry FaMYB1 transcription factor suppresses anthocyanin and flavonol accumulation in transgenic tobacco. Plant Journal 28: 319–332.

Aigner PA, Scott PE. 2002. Use and pollination of a hawkmoth plant, Nicotiana attenuata, by migrant hummingbirds. Southwestern Naturalist 47: 1–11.

Andersen OM, Jordheim M. 2010. Chemistry of flavonoid-based colors in plants. In: L. Mander, H-W Liu. eds. Comprehensive natural products II: chemistry and biology. Oxford: Elsevier. 547–614.

Anssour S, Krugel T, Sharpe TF, Saluz HP, Bonaventure G, Baldwin IT. 2000. Phenotypic, genetic and genomic consequences of natural and synthetic polyploidization of Nicotiana attenuata and Nicotiana obtusifolia. Annals of Botany 103: 1207–1217.

Arnold SEJ, Farau S, Salvolainen V, McCown PW, Chittka L. 2010. FRed: the floral reflectance database – a webportal for analyses of flower colour. PloS One 5: e124287.

Bai Y, Pattanaik S, Patra B, Werkman JR, Xie CH, Yuan L. 2011. Optimal sets of colour receptors and opponent processes for colour vision. Journal of Comparative Physiology, A. Sensory, Neural, and Behavioral Physiology 197: 533–543.

Beaulieu JM, Leitch IJ, Patel S, Pendharkar A, Knight CA. 2008. The evolution of color vision in insects. Integrative and Comparative Biology 48: S7–S26.

Beardsley PM, Yen A, Olmstead RG. 2003. Visual pigments of rods and cones in a hu- man retina. Journal of Physiology 298: 501–511.

Bowmaker JK. 1998. Evolution of colour vision in vertebrates. Eye 12: 541–547.

Bowmaker JK, Dartnall HJA. 1980. Visual pigments of rods and cones in a hu- man retina. Journal of Physiology 298: 501–511.

Bradmaw HD, Schemske DW. 2003. Allele substitution at a flower colour loc- us produces a pollinator shift in monkeyflowers. Nature 426: 176–178.

Brier FG. 1935. Genetic analysis of the cross between the self-fertile Nicotiana langsdorffii and the self-sterile N. sanderae. Journal of Genetics 30: 79–100.

Briscoe AD, Chittka L. 2001. The evolution of color vision in insects. Annual Review of Entomology 46: 471–510.

Buerkle CA, Morris RJ, Assmussen MA, Rieseberg LH. 2000. The likelihood of homoplod hybrid speciation. Heredity 84: 441–451.

Buerkle CA, Wolf DE, Rieseberg LH. 2003. The origin and extinction of spe- cies through hybridization. In: CA Brigham, MW Schwartz. eds. Population viability in plants: conservation, management, and modeling of rare plants. New York: Springer. 117–141.

Castañeda-Ovando A, Pacheco-Hernandez ML, Paez-Hernandez ME, Rodriguez JA, Galan-Vidal CA. 2009. Chemical studies of anthocyanins: a review. Food Chemistry 113: 859–871.

Chase MW, Knapp S, Cox AV, et al. 2003. Molecular systematics, GISH and the origin of hybrid taxa in Nicotiana (Solanaceae). Annals of Botany 92: 107–127.

Chen ZJ. 1997. Genetic and epigenetic mechanisms for gene expression and phenotypic variation in plant polyploids. Annual Review of Plant Biology 58: 377–406.

Chittka L. 1992. The color hexagon: a chromaticity diagram based on photore- ceptor excitations as a generalized representation of color opponency. Journal of Comparative Physiology, A. Sensory, Neural, and Behavioral Physiology 170: 533–543.

Chittka L. 1996. Optimal sets of colour receptors and opponent processes for coding of natural objects in insect vision. Journal of Theoretical Biology 181: 179–196.

Chittka L, Waser NM. 1997. Why red flowers are not invisible for bees. Israel Journal of Plant Sciences 45: 169–183.

Chittka L, Spaeth J, Schmidt A, Hickelberger A. 2001. Adaptation, con- strain, and chance in the evolution of flower color and pollinator color vi- sion. In: L. Chittka, JD Thompson. eds. Cognitive ecology of pollination. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 106–126.

Clare EL, Schiestl FP, Leitch AR, Chittka L. 2013. The promise of genomics in the study of plant-pollinator interactions. Genome Biology 14: 207.

Clarkson JJ, Knapp S, Garcia VF, Olmstead RG, Leitch AR, Chase MW. 2004. Phylogenetic relationships in Nicotiana (Solanaceae) inferred from multiple plastid DNA regions. Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution 33: 75–90.

Clarkson JJ, Lim KY, Kovarik A, Chase MW, Knapp S, Leitch AR. 2005. Long-term genome diploidization in allopolyploid Nicotiana section Repandae (Solanaceae). New Phytologist 168: 241–252.

Clarkson JJ, Kelly LJ, Leitch AR, Knapp S, Chase MW. 2010. Nuclear gluta- mine synthetase evolution in Nicotiana: phylogenetics and the origins of al- lotetraploid and homoplod (diploid) hybrids. Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution 55: 90–112.

Cubo J, Ponton F, Laurin M, de Margerie E, Catanet J. 2005. Phylogenetic signal in bone microstructure of sauroptids. Systematic Biology 54: 562–574.

Gaeta RT, Pieris JC, Iniguez-Luy F, Leon E, Osborn TC. 2007. Genomic changes in resynthesized Brassica napus and their effect on gene expression and phenotype. Plant Cell 19: 3403–3417.

Goldsmith TH. 1980. Hummingbirds see near ultraviolet light. Science 207: 786–788.

Goldsmith TH, Goldsmith KM. 1979. Discrimination of colors by the black- chinned hummingbird, Archilochus alexandri. Journal of Comparative Physiology 130: 209–220.

Gomez JM, Perfectti F, Bosch J, Camacho JPM. 2009. A geographic selection mosaic in a generalized plant-pollinator-herbivore system. Ecological Monographs 79: 245–263.

Gottwald T. 2002. The genetics and biochemistry of floral pigments. Annual Review of Plant Biology 57: 761–780.

Gumbert A, Kunze J, Chittka L. 1999. Floral colour diversity in plant commu- nities, bee colour space and a null model. Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences 266: 1711–1716.

Haardt H, Maske H. 1987. Specific in vivo absorption-coefficient of chlorophyll a at 675 nm. Limnology and Oceanography 32: 608–619.

Hart NS, Hunt DM. 2007. Avian visual pigments: characteristics, spectral tun- ning, and evolution. American Naturalist 169: S7–S26.

Herrera G, Zagal JC, Diaz M, et al. 2008. Spectral sensitivities of photoreceptors and their role in colour discrimination in the green-backed firecrewn humming- bird (Sephanoides sepahanoides). Journal of Comparative Physiology, A. Neuroethology, Sensory, Neural, and Behavioral Physiology 194: 785–794.

Hoballah ME, Gubitiz T, Stuurnan J, et al. 2007. Single gene-mediated shift in pollinator attraction in Petunia Plant Cell 19: 779–790.

Ippolito A, Fernandes GW, Holtsford TP. 2004. Pollinator preferences for Nicotiana alata. N. forkingia, and their F1 hybrids. Evolution 58: 2634–2644.

Kaczorowski RL, Gardener MC, Holtsford TP. 2005. Nectar traits in Nicotiana section Solanacea (Solanaceae) in relation to floral traits, pollinators, and mating system. American Journal of Botany 92: 1270–1283.

Keller A. 2001. Receptor based models for spontaneous colour choices in flies and butterflies. Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata 99: 231–244.

Keller A, Balkenius A, Warrant EJ. 2003. Colour vision in diurnal and noctur- nal hawkmoths. Integrative and Comparative Biology 43: 571–579.

Kelley LJ, Leitch AR, Clarkson JJ, Hunter RB, Knapp S, Chase MW. 2010. Intergenic recombination events and evidence for hybrid speciation in Nicotiana (Solanaceae). Molecular Biology and Evolution 27: 781–799.

Kelley LJ, Leitch AR, Clarkson JJ, Knapp S, Chase MW. 2013. Reconstructing the complex origin of wild allopolyploid tobaccos (Nicotiana section Suaevolentes). Evolution 67: 80–94.

Kessler D, Baldwin IT. 2006. Making sense of nectar scents: the effects of nec- tar secondary metabolites on floral visitors of Nicotiana attenuata. Plant Journal 49: 840–854.

Kevan P, Giurfa M, Chittka L. 1996. Why are there so many and so few white flowers? Trends in Plant Science 1: 280–284.
Knapp S. 2010. On ‘various contrivances’: pollination, phylogeny and flower form in the Solanaceae. Philosphical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences 365: 449–460.

Ladiges PY, Marks CE, Nelson G. 2011. Biogeography of Nicotiana section Suaveolentes (Solanaceae) reveals geographical tracks in arid Australia. Journal of Biogeography 38: 2066–2077.

Leitch AR, Leitch IJ. 2008. Genomic plasticity and the diversity of polyploid plants. Science 320: 481–483.

Leitch IJ, Bennett MD. 2004. Genome downsizing in polyploid plants. Biological Journal of the Linnean Society 82: 651–663.

Leitch IJ, Hanson L, Lim KY, Ladiges PY, Marks CE, Nelson G. 2011. Biogeography of Nicotiana section Suaveolentes (Solanaceae). Annals of Botany 101: 805–814.

Lozyntoja A, Goldman N. 2008. Phylogeny-aware gap placement prevents errors in sequence alignment and evolutionary analysis. Science 320: 1632–1635.

Maddison WP, Maddison DR. 2008. Mesquite: a modular system for evolutionary analysis. Version 2.5. http://mesquiteproject.org. Last accessed: March 31, 2015.

Mara CD, Huang TB, Irish VF. 2010. The Arabidopsis floral homeotic proteins APETALA3 and PISTILLATA negatively regulate the BANQUO genes implicated in light signaling. Plant Cell 22: 690–702.

McClintock B. 1984. ‘various contrivances’: pollination, phylogeny and flower form in the Solanaceae. New Phytologist 101: 805–814.

McClintock B. 1984. The significance of responses of the genome to challenge. Science 226: 792–801.

Menzel R, Ventura DF, Hertel H, de Souza JM, Greggers U. 1986. Spectral sensitivity of photoreceptors in insect compound eyes: Comparison of species and methods. Journal of Comparative Physiology A 158: 165–177.

Muchhala N, Johnsen S, Smith SD. 2014. Competition for hummingbird pollination shapes flower color variation in Andean Solanaceae. Evolution 68: 2275–2286.

Nattero J, Coucci AA. 2007. Geographical variation in floral traits of the tree tobacco in relation to its hummingbird pollinator fauna. Biological Journal of the Linnean Society 90: 657–667.

Ohmiya A, Hirashima M, Yagi M, Tanase K, Yamamizo C. 2014. Identification of genes associated with chlorophyll accumulation in flower petals. PLOS One 9: e113738.

Oksanen J, Blanchet FG, Kindt R, et al. 2013. vegan: Community Ecology Package. 2.0-10 ed. http://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/vegan/index.html. Last accessed: March 31, 2015.

Paradis E, Claude J, Strimmer K. 2004. APE: analyses of phylogenetics and evolution in R language. Bioinformatics 20: 289–290.

Petitch D, Fietz A, Hertel H, Desouza J, Ventura DF, Menzel R. 1992. The spectral input systems of hymenopteran insects and their receptor-based colour vision. Journal of Comparative Physiology, A. Sensory, Neural, and Behavioral Physiology 170: 23–40.

Pyke KA, Page AM. 1998. Plastid ontogeny during petal development in Arabidopsis. Plant Physiology 116: 797–803.

Raine NE, Ings TC, Dornhaus A, Saleh N, Chittka L. 2006. Adaptation, genetic drift, pleiotropy, and history in the evolution of bee foraging behavior. Advances in the Study of Behavior 36: 305–354.

Rausher MD. 2008. Evolutionary transitions in floral color. International Journal of Plant Sciences 169: 7–21.

Restrepo A. 2013. Hue processing in tetrachromatic spaces. In: KO Egiazarian, SS Agaian, AP Gotchev. eds. Image processing: algorithms and systems XI, February 2013. Burlington, CA: SPIE. doi:10.1117/ 12.2003216.

Rodriguez-Girones MA, Santamaria L. 2004. Why are so many bird flowers red? PLoS Biology 2: e350.

Shirley BW. 1996. Flavonoid biosynthesis: ‘new’ functions for an ‘old’ pathway. Trends in Plant Science 1: 377–382.

Shrestha M, Dyer AG, Boyd-Gerny S, Wong BB, Burd M. 2013. Shades of red: bird-pollinated flowers target the specific colour discrimination abilities of avian vision. New Phytologist 198: 301–310.

Skorupski P, Doring TF, Chittka L. 2007. Photoreceptor spectral sensitivity in island and mainland populations of the bumblebee, Bombus terrestris. Journal of Comparative Physiology, A. Neuroethology, Sensory, Neural, and Behavioral Physiology 193: 485–494.

Soltis DE, Albert VA, Leebens-Mack J, et al. 2009. Polyploidy and angiosperm diversification. American Journal of Botany 96: 336–348.

Soltis DE, Segovia-Salcedo MC, Jordan-Thaden I, et al. 2014. Are polyploids really evolutionary dead-ends (again)? A critical reappraisal of Mayrose et al. (2011). New Phytologist 202: 1105–1117.

Tirosh I, Reikvah S, Levy AA, Barkai N. 2009. A yeast hybrid provides insight into the evolution of gene expression regulation. Science 324: 659–662.

Waser NM, Chittka L, Price MV, Williams NM, Ollerton J. 1996. Generalization in pollination systems, and why it matters. Ecology 77: 1043–1060.

Whittall JB, Hodges SA. 2007. Pollinator shifts drive increasingly long nectar spurrs in columbine flowers. Nature 447: 706–709.

Wittkopp PJ, Haerum BK, Clark AG. 2004. Evolutionary changes in cis and trans gene regulation. Nature 430: 85–88.

Wyszecki G, Stiles WS. 1982. Color science: concepts and methods, quantitative data and formulae. New York: Wiley.

Zhu G, Gerjets T, Sandmann G. 2007. Nicotiana glauca engineered for the production of ketocarotenoids in flowers and leaves by expressing the cyanobacterial crtO ketolase gene. Transgenic Research 16: 813–821.