Eocene “Chusquea” fossil from Patagonia is a conifer, not a bamboo

Peter Wilf

Department of Geosciences, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802, USA

Corresponding author: Peter Wilf (pwilf@psu.edu)

Academic editor: D. Stevenson | Received 22 November 2019 | Accepted 15 January 2020 | Published 3 February 2020

Citation: Wilf P (2020) Eocene “Chusquea” fossil from Patagonia is a conifer, not a bamboo. PhytoKeys 139: 77–89. https://doi.org/10.3897/phytokeys.139.48717

Abstract

Chusquea oxyphylla Freng. & Parodi, 1941, a fossilized leafy branch from the early Eocene (52 Ma), late-Gondwanan Laguna del Hunco biota of southern Argentina, is still cited as the oldest potential bamboo fossil and as evidence for a Gondwanan origin of bamboos. On recent examination, the holotype specimen was found to lack any typical bamboo characters such as nodes, sheaths, ligules, pseudopetioles, or parallel leaf venation. Instead, it has decurrent, clasping, univeined, heterofacially twisted leaves with thickened, central-longitudinal bands of presumed transfusion tissue. These and other features allow confident placement in the living Neotropical and West Pacific disjunct genus Retrophyllum (Podocarpaceae), which was recently described from the same fossil site based on abundant, well-preserved material. However, the 1941 fossil holds nomenclatural priority, requiring the new combination Retrophyllum oxyphyllum (Freng. & Parodi) Wilf, comb. nov. No reliable bamboo fossils remain from Gondwana, and the oldest South American bamboo fossils are Pliocene. Chusquea joins a growing list of living New World genera that are no longer included in Paleogene Patagonian floras, whose extant relatives are primarily concentrated in Australasia and Malesia via the ancient Gondwanan route through Antarctica.

Keywords

Gondwana, Laguna del Hunco, Poaceae, Podocarpaceae, Retrophyllum, South America

Introduction

In 1941, the legendary Argentine botanists Joaquín Frenguelli and Lorenzo R. Parodi of Museo de La Plata (Frenguelli and Parodi 1941; Burkart 1967; Riccardi 2017) described a compressed leafy-shoot fossil from northwest Chubut Province, Argentina.
under *Chusquea* Kunth, a diverse New World bamboo genus (Clark 1989, 1997a; Fisher et al. 2014; Wysocki et al. 2015). *Chusquea oxyphylla* Freng. & Parodi, 1941 (Fig. 1A–C) was one of the earliest taxonomic contributions to the extraordinarily diverse Laguna del Hunco biota (Berry 1925; Dolgopol de Sáez 1941). The assemblage, once thought to be Miocene in age, is now constrained to the early Eocene (ca. 52.2 Ma; Wilf et al. 2003, 2017a); it has remained a subject of intensive study for many decades (e.g., Romero and Hickey 1976; Fidalgo and Smith 1987; Romero et al. 1988), particularly over the past ca. 15 years (for summaries see, e.g., Wilf et al. 2009, 2013, 2019).

*Chusquea oxyphylla* retains significance today because, at 52 Ma, it is by far the oldest putative bamboo macrofossil and the only one still recognized (by some authors) from Gondwana. Otherwise, reliable South American bamboo fossils are no older than Pliocene (Brea and Zuco 2007; Olivier et al. 2009; Brea et al. 2013), making them much younger than Gondwana, whose final separation began ca. 50 Ma (e.g., Lawver et al. 2011), and contemporary with the closure of the Isthmus of Panama and direct biotic interchange with Central and North America (e.g., Simpson 1950; O’Dea et al. 2016). Worldwide, reliable bamboo macrofossils are no older than Oligocene (e.g., Worobiec and Worobiec 2005; Brea et al. 2013; L. Wang et al. 2013; Q. Wang et al. 2014; Srivastava et al. 2019). The oldest microfossil (phytolith) evidence for bamboos is from the middle Eocene of the Northern Hemisphere (Strömberg 2004, 2005, 2011). Thus, *C. oxyphylla* remains prominent, with variable confidence expressed regarding its affinities, in discussions about the age, paleoecology, biogeography, and possible Gondwanan origins of bamboos (Barreda and Palazzesi 2007; Brea and Zuco 2007; Iglesias et al. 2011; Ruiz-Sanchez 2011; L. Wang et al. 2013; Giussani et al. 2016; Srivastava et al. 2019). However, several authors have doubted that *C. oxyphylla* is a definite bamboo or even a grass (Thomasson 1980; Srivastava et al. 2019).

*Chusquea oxyphylla* has biogeographic significance for Laguna del Hunco and other Eocene Patagonian floras, which were once considered to be closely allied with extant South American floras from proximal areas such as Paraguay and northern Argentina, where *Chusquea* is a prominent element (Berry 1925; Frenguelli and Parodi 1941). In contrast, several putative New World elements from Laguna del Hunco have been revised recently to taxa whose living members primarily inhabit the Asia-Pacific region via Gondwanan connections (e.g., *Austrocedrus*-Libocedrus to *Papuancedrus*, * Fitzroya* to *Dacrycarpus*, *Zamia* to *Agathis*; Wilf et al. 2009, 2014; Wilf 2012). Moreover, numerous additional taxa have been described from the site that also have Asia-Pacific extant distributions (e.g., Romero and Hickey 1976; Zamaloa et al. 2006; Gandolfo et al. 2011; Carpenter et al. 2014; Gandolfo and Hermsen 2017; Andrucho-Colombo et al. 2019; Wilf et al. 2019). Also, monocots in the Laguna del Hunco flora are scarce in general, otherwise represented by a few leaves of *Ripogonum* (Ripogonaceae; Carpenter et al. 2014) and rare, undescribed palm fruits and leaf fragments (Wilf et al. 2005). The specimen referred to *Poacites* sp. Berry (1925; National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution [USNM], USNM 219072), on my examination, is too poorly preserved to assign confidently to any plant group, much less to the grasses. Despite the general significance of *C. oxyphylla*, until now
there have been no published re-examinations of the holotype (Fig. 1A–C), otherwise known only from a single photograph in the original publication (Frenguelli and Parodi 1941).

**Materials and methods**

I examined the holotype of *Chusquea oxyphylla* on 26 May 2019 in the paleobotanical collections of Museo de La Plata, Argentina (MLP), specimen MLP-4234 (Fig. 1A–C). Specimen tags indicate “Laguna del Hunco, El Mirador, Chubut” and “Mioceno,” which was formerly considered the age of the Laguna del Hunco fossil-lake beds (Berry 1925). The protologue (Frenguelli and Parodi 1941: 235–236) states that the specimen was collected in 1939 or 1940 and came from the “basal layers” (“capas basales”) of the lacustrine sequence now known as the Tufolitas Laguna del Hunco (Aragón and Mazzoni 1997). However, there was no general stratigraphic section and correlation of the lake beds available in the early 1940s, and Frenguelli and Parodi (1941) more likely were referring to a relative position within a local exposure rather than the full stratigraphic sequence as later understood (Petersen 1946; Aragón and Mazzoni 1997; Wilf et al. 2003). The lithology and preservation of the holotype closely resemble fossils from the horizon of what is now quarry LH4 (see Wilf et al. 2003 for coordinates), which appears to have been the site of most early collections (see Wilf et al. 2019). Quarry LH4 is well exposed at a comparatively accessible location, low on a local hill slope, where the underlying basal strata of the lake beds (subsection E of Wilf et al. 2003) are mostly lost to a local unconformity; thus, LH4 could have appeared to be near the base of the lake beds. However, LH4 actually lies in the middle of the full 170 m stratigraphic section of the Tufolitas Laguna del Hunco at Laguna del Hunco (Wilf et al. 2003) and is now confidently dated to ca. 52.2 Ma using several *40*Ar-*39*Ar dates and paleomagnetic data from strata intercalated with the fossil quarries; in particular, an *40*Ar-*39*Ar age on sanidine of 52.22 ± 0.22 Ma was analyzed from a tuff only 40 cm above quarry LH4 (Wilf et al. 2003, 2005, 2017a).

Photographs were taken at MLP using a Nikon D850 DSLR with an AF-S VR Micro-Nikkor 105 mm f2.8 G IF-ED lens and a Nikon circular polarizer and on a Leica M50 stereoscope with a mounted Canon Powershot S40 camera and Canon Remote Capture 2.2 software. I consulted standard botanical literature for *Chusquea* and other bamboos (McClure 1966, 1973; Clark 1989, 1997a; Stapleton 1997; Judziewicz et al. 1999; Clark et al. 2015) and for podocarp conifers (e.g., de Laubenfels 1969; Farjon 2010; Mill 2016; others cited in Wilf et al. 2017b); these references support the discussion below.

**Taxonomic treatment**

Podocarpaceae Endl., Synopsis Coniferarum: 203 (1847).

*Retrophyllum* C. N. Page, Notes of the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh 45: 379 (1989) [“1988”, see Mill 2016]).
Figure 1. *Retrophyllum oxyphyllum* (Freng. & Parodi) Wilf, comb. nov. from Laguna del Hunco. A–C Holotype, MLP-4234, arrows in A indicate detail panels in B, C. D MPEF–Pb 8915a (Museo Paleontológico Egidio Feruglio, Trelew, Argentina) from Laguna del Hunco quarry LH6 of Wilf et al. (2003), part of an extensive suite of fossil *Retrophyllum* material here synonymized (Wilf et al. 2017b; Wilf 2017).
Retrophyllum oxyphyllum (Freng. & Parodi) Wilf, comb. nov.

**Basionym.** Chusquea oxyphylla Freng. & Parodi, Notas del Museo de La Plata, Paleontología 6: 236 (1941: fig. 1).

**Synonym.** Retrophyllum spiralifolium Wilf, American Journal of Botany 104: 1350 (2017).

**Holotype.** Argentina. Chubut Province: Laguna del Hunco, Tufolitas Laguna del Hunco, Huitrera Formation, early Eocene. Museo de La Plata (MLP), MLP-4234. Collected by J. Frenguelli 1939 or 1940 (Frenguelli and Parodi 1941: 236), precise collection location unknown. The holotype is the only specimen of the basionym.

**Amended description.** The entire recent description of Retrophyllum spiralifolium Wilf, 2017 (Wilf et al. 2017b: 1350–1352), verbatim, is here denoted as the amended formal description of Retrophyllum oxyphyllum comb. nov. but is not reproduced here due to its length. The holotype fully conforms to the described foliage, in particular the distichous foliage form, of *R. spiralifolium*. The new combination incorporates all associated material described, illustrated, and justified previously under *R. spiralifolium* (Wilf et al. 2017b), including the distichous foliage form, helical foliage form, reduced foliage forms, and peduncle of pollen cones.

**Diagnostic characters.** In the absence of a diagnosis of the basionym (Frenguelli and Parodi 1941), a formal amended diagnosis cannot be provided. However, the characters listed in the specific diagnosis for *Retrophyllum spiralifolium* (Wilf et al. 2017b: 1350) all now apply to *Retrophyllum oxyphyllum* comb. nov. That diagnosis (Wilf et al. 2017b: 1350) is reproduced here for ease of use, with the characters preserved in the holotype (Fig. 1A–C) indicated in bold font:

"Foliage with conspicuous central longitudinal band of thickened tissue and obscure midvein not separating rows of stomata. Lateral resin canals present. Principal leaves decurrent and extensively clasping twig, free portions either distichous and pectinate, with full heterofacial flattening, or spirally deployed with negligible to slight basal twisting, frequently broken off to leave spirally arranged stubs of clasping por-"
tions. Leaf apices acuminate to markedly acuminate. Terminal bud protected by reduced, modified leaves. Reduced foliage also including ovoid and narrow forms on separate shoot segments and narrow miniature leaves abruptly or gradually interspersed with principal leaves along shoots. Pollen cones pedicellate, long-cylindrical, in axils of narrow reduced leaves, distichously grouped on a common peduncle."

Amended description of the holotype. The holotype of Retrophyllum oxyphyllum comb. nov. (Fig. 1A–C) is a leafy branch segment of axis length 6.4 cm with remains of ca. ten pairs of opposite, distichous (pectinate), decurrent and clasping, ovate-lanceolate, bifacially flattened leaves that are heterofacially twisted into a single plane at their departure from the twig. The clasping portions of the leaves entirely cloak the twig in an overlapping, zigzag pattern. It is not possible to determine whether the preserved view is abaxial or adaxial (see Wilf et al. 2017b). The bases of the leaves’ free portions are twisted counterclockwise if viewed laterally from leaf to twig, so that pairs of abaxial and adaxial leaf faces appear in the same plane on either side of the twig. Only ca. four leaves have their free portions well preserved; most leaves are broken off at or near twig departure, leaving behind their clasping leaf bases. Free leaf portion length is to 18.0 mm, width to 2.5 mm, apices acute but not completely preserved. Leaves have no venation visible but preserve a longitudinal, raised central band of thickened, coalified tissue whose width is ca. 25% of total leaf width; the central band presumably obscures the much smaller, true midvein running within. The remaining leaf surface has numerous parallel striations on both faces, continuous across the midvein, with slight relief but no evidence of vein tissue; there are no cross-lineations that could be interpreted as cross-veins.

Discussion

The holotype of Retrophyllum oxyphyllum comb. nov. (Fig. 1A–C) does not resemble Chusquea or any other bamboo, and all its previously noted similarities to bamboos and other grasses (Frenguelli and Parodi 1941), though reasonable at the time, are superficial. There is no evidence of bamboo-type nodes, sheaths, or ligules as initially described (Frenguelli and Parodi 1941); areas that may resemble those features consist only of the broken departure points of leaf bases diverging from the twig. The decurrent, extensively clasping leaves are quite unlike the characteristically pseudopetiolate leaves of bamboos, and the heterofacially twisted free-leaf bases do not occur, to my knowledge, in any bamboo or grass. In the grass subfamily Pharoideae, pseudopetioles characteristically twist 180° so that all leaf abaxial surfaces face adaxially (e.g., Judziewicz et al. 1999); however, this twisting is homofacial, unlike the fossil, and the leaf architecture of Pharoideae is also completely unlike that of the fossil. The lack of leaf venation in the fossil, other than a single presumed midvein obscured by thickened tissues, contrasts with bamboos, pharoids, and other grasses, which usually have one to several discrete orders of parallel veins connected by numerous, though sometimes obscure, cross-veins and no thickened or raised laminar tissues similar to those in the fossil.
On the other hand, the holotype is easily identifiable as the flip-leaved, podocarpaceous conifer genus *Retrophyllum*, it matches precisely the distichous fossil foliage form of *Retrophyllum spiralifolium*, which was described recently from a suite of 82 specimens collected from both Laguna del Hunco, including quarry LH4, and the early middle Eocene Río Pichileufú site in Río Negro Province (Wilf et al. 2017b). *Retrophyllum* is a genus of six living species of rainforest conifers that is disjunct between the Neotropics and the tropical West Pacific, as reviewed in Mill’s (2016) recent monograph. *Retrophyllum* is the only living genus that has heterofacially twisted (flip-leaved), distichous, elliptic to ovate-lanceolate free foliage precisely like that in the fossil, similarly emerging from extensively clasping, overlapping, zigzagging leaf bases below the twist point. *Retrophyllum* is univeined and amphistomatic, as the fossil is inferred to be; the stomata deploy in longitudinal rows that are distributed nearly evenly across the blade, separated by longitudinal striations (that superficially resemble veins) with no grouping into zones or interruption at the midvein (e.g., Mill 2016). Similarly, the evenly spaced longitudinal striations on both fossil leaf surfaces (e.g., Fig. 1C and similar material in Wilf et al. 2017b), once interpreted as veins (Frenguelli and Parodi 1941), mark the areas between the original stomatal rows and trend slightly obtuse to the course of the leaf margin as in living *Retrophyllum*. *Retrophyllum* leaves also have a thickened, raised central band, consisting of wings of transfusion tissue that is more or less prominent depending on species (Gray 1962; de Laubenfels 1969). In fossil *Retrophyllum* previously described from Laguna del Hunco (Wilf et al. 2017b) and the fossil studied here (Fig. 1A–C), the transfusion-tissue band is raised and coalified to a thick black stripe of one-fifth to one-third of total leaf width, entirely unlike the slender midveins of bamboos as previously interpreted (Frenguelli and Parodi 1941). Among the prior material here synonymized (Wilf et al. 2017b) is a spectacular, long, leafless branch segment terminating in several opposite, pectinate leafy shoots (Fig. 1D; also Wilf et al. 2017b: figs 10, 11 for complete view), each of these shoots very similar to the holotype (Fig. 1A); the exposed branch has opposite leaf scars typical of *Retrophyllum*, with no bamboo-type axis segmentation or associated features such as nodes, sheaths, sheath scars, buds, or branch complements that would be clearly visible if present. The associated peduncle of pollen cones, each with a subtending leaf having the same distinctive features as the sterile foliage such as twisted bases and thickened transfusion-tissue bands (Wilf et al. 2017b: figs 61–68), is entirely dissimilar to the reproductive organs of any grasses.

The evidence here gathered firmly supports combining *Chusquea oxyphylla* and *Retrophyllum spiralifolium* into *Retrophyllum oxyphyllum* comb. nov., thus preserving the priority of the older name. Additionally, the species description for the new combination is amended to accommodate additional foliage forms and a peduncle of pollen cones that, along with the distichous foliage form, are all considered to represent a single source species and placed in *R. spiralifolium* as justified by Wilf et al. (2017b) based on detailed comparisons of a sample of 82 specimens. These additional fossils and their characters provide a far more complete whole-plant understanding of the ancient species than does the lone holotype. The nomenclatural change does not affect the other two fossil *Retrophyllum* species from South America, *R. superstes* Wilf, 2017
from the terminal Cretaceous of the Lefipán Formation in Chubut, Argentina, and *R. araucoensis* (E.W. Berry) Wilf, 2017 from the Eocene Concepción–Arauco Coal Measures of Chile (Berry 1922; Florin 1940; Greenwood 1987; Wilf et al. 2017b).

**Concluding remarks**

This revision of a putative *Chusquea* fossil to the podocarp genus *Retrophyllum* removes the last fossil evidence still cited for bamboos in Gondwana (see Introduction). The remaining South American bamboo fossils (see Introduction) are post-Gondwanan and contemporary with the emergence of the Isthmus of Panama. However, phylo-geographic data still support a Gondwanan origin of grasses and, in some reports, bamboos in particular (see Clark et al. 1995; Clark 1997b; Bremer 2002; Bouchenak-Khelladi et al. 2010; Hodkinson et al. 2010; Soreng et al. 2017).

The deletion of a living New World genus (*Chusquea*) from the overall floral list for Eocene Patagonia further weakens the New World biogeographic signal of the late-Gondwanan vegetation of South America (see Introduction), which is currently understood to have much stronger links to the tropical West Pacific as discussed extensively elsewhere (e.g., Wilf et al. 2009, 2014, 2019; Gandolfo et al. 2011). Interestingly, when considering the full suite of specimens (Wilf et al. 2017b), *Retrophyllum oxyphyllum* preserves morphological evidence for affinity to both Old and New World living species of *Retrophyllum*. Several of its features are only found among the Old World species, such as wide bands of transfusion tissue and the presence of scale leaves and non-distichous foliage forms, whereas its lateral resin canals and acuminate leaf apices are only seen today in South American *Retrophyllum* species (see Wilf et al. 2017b).

The strongest New World signal remaining in Eocene Patagonia based on well-described macrofossils comes from fossil fruits of *Physalis* (Solanaceae), an entirely American genus (Wilf et al. 2017a). Other fossilized genera from Eocene Patagonia with New World living relatives are, like *Retrophyllum*, disjunct with the Old World today, including *Dicksonia* (Dicksoniaceae: Central and South America, Australasia, Malesia; Berry 1938; Carvalho et al. 2013), *Podocarpus* (Podocarpaceae: Africa, South and Central America, Australasia, East Asia; Berry 1938), *Orites* (Proteaceae: South America and Australia; Romero et al. 1988; González et al. 2007), and basal Asteraceae with closest living relatives in South America and Africa (Barreda et al. 2010, 2012).

**Acknowledgments**

I thank J. Bodnar and P. Knight for their kind assistance with the La Plata collections; L. Wang for drawing my attention to the need for a re-examination of “*Chusquea* oxyphylla”; M. Donovan, A. Iglesias, and R. Wilf for assistance and comments; and L. Clark and Editor D. Stevenson for helpful reviews.

Funding for this work came from NSF grants DEB-1556666 and EAR-1925755.
Eocene Patagonian “bamboo” is a conifer

References

Andrucho Colombo A, Wilf P, Escapa IH (2019) A South American fossil relative of Phyllocladus: Huncocladus laubenfelsii gen. et sp. nov. (Podocarpaceae), from the early Eocene of Laguna del Hunco, Patagonia, Argentina. Australian Systematic Botany 32(4): 290–309. https://doi.org/10.1071/SB18043

Aragón E, Mazzoni MM (1997) Geología y estratigrafía del complejo volcánico piroclástico del Río Chubut medio (Eoceno), Chubut, Argentina. Revista de la Asociación Geológica Argentina 52(3): 243–256.

Barreda V, Palazzesi L (2007) Patagonian vegetation turnovers during the Paleogene-early Neogene: Origin of arid-adapted floras. Botanical Review 73(1): 31–50. https://doi.org/10.1663/0006-8101(2007)73[31:PVTDTP]2.0.CO;2

Barreda VD, Palazzesi L, Tellería MC, Katinas L, Crisci JV, Bremer K, Passalia MG, Corsolini R, Rodríguez Brizuela R, Bechis F (2010) Eocene Patagonia fossils of the daisy family. Science 329(5999): 1621. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1193108

Barreda VD, Palazzesi L, Katinas L, Crisci JV, Tellería MC, Bremer K, Passalia MG, Bechis F, Corsolini R (2012) An extinct Eocene taxon of the daisy family (Asteraceae): Evolutionary, ecological, and biogeographical implications. Annals of Botany 109(1): 127–134. https://doi.org/10.1093/aob/mcr240

Berry EW (1922) The flora of the Concepción-Arauco coal measures of Chile. Johns Hopkins University Studies in Geology 4: 73–143. https://biodiversitylibrary.org/page/20195038

Berry EW (1925) A Miocene flora from Patagonia. Johns Hopkins University Studies in Geology 6: 183–251.

Berry EW (1938) Tertiary flora from the Río Pichileufú, Argentina. Geological Society of America. Special Paper 12: 1–149. https://doi.org/10.1130/SPE12

Bouchenak-Khelladi Y, Verboom GA, Savolainen V, Hodkinson TR (2010) Biogeography of the grasses (Poaceae): A phylogenetic approach to reveal evolutionary history in geographical space and geological time. Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society 162(4): 543–557. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1095-8399.2010.01041.x

Brea M, Zucol AF (2007) Guadua zuloagae sp. nov., the first petrified bamboo culm record from the Ituzaingo Formation (Pliocene), Paraná Basin, Argentina. Annals of Botany 100(4): 711–723. https://doi.org/10.1093/aob/mcm175

Brea M, Zucol AF, Franco MJ (2013) A new Bambusoideae (Poaceae: Bambusoideae: Bambuseae: Guaduinae) from the Ituzaingo Formation (Pliocene – Pleistocene), Entre Ríos, Argentina. Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology 192: 1–9. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.revpalbo.2012.12.006

Bremer K (2002) Gondwanan evolution of the grass alliance of families (Poales). Evolution 56(7): 1374–1387. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.0014-3820.2002.tb01451.x

Burkart A (1967) The Argentine botanist Lorenzo Raimundo Parodi (1895–1966). Taxon 16(6): 522–533. https://doi.org/10.1002/j.1996-8175.1967.tb02130.x

Carpenter RJ, Wilf P, Conran JG, Cúneo NR (2014) A Paleogene trans-Antarctic distribution for Ripogonum (Ripogonaceae: Liliales)? Palaeontologia Electronica 17(3): art. 17.13.39A. https://doi.org/10.26879/460
Carvalho MR, Wilf P, Hermsen EJ, Gandolfo MA, Cúneo NR, Johnson KR (2013) First record of *Todea* (Osmundaceae) in South America, from the early Eocene paleorainforests of Laguna del Hunco (Patagonia, Argentina). American Journal of Botany 100(9): 1831–1848. https://doi.org/10.3732/ajb.1200637

Clark LG (1989) Systematics of *Chusquea* Section *Swallenochloa*, Section *Verticillatae*, Section *Serpentes*, and Section *Longifoliae* (Poaceae – Bambusoideae). Systematic Botany Monographs 27: 1–127. https://doi.org/10.2307/25027724

Clark LG (1997a) Diversity, biogeography and evolution of *Chusquea*. In: Chapman GP (Ed.) The Bamboos. Academic Press, San Diego, 33–44.

Clark LG (1997b) Bamboos: the centerpiece of the grass family. In: Chapman GP (Ed.) The Bamboos. Academic Press, San Diego, 237–248.

Clark LG, Zhang W, Wendel JF (1995) A phylogeny of the grass family (Poaceae) based on *ndbF* sequence data. Systematic Botany 20(4): 436–460. https://doi.org/10.2307/2419803

Clark LG, Londoño X, Ruiz-Sanchez E (2015) Bamboo taxonomy and habitat. In: Liese W, Köhl M (Eds) Bamboo: the Plant and its Uses. Springer, Cham, Switzerland, 1–30. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-14133-6_1

de Laubenfels DJ (1969) A revision of the Malesian and Pacific rainforest conifers, I. Podocarpaceae, in part. Journal of the Arnold Arboretum 50(2–3): 274–369. https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.24691

Dolgopol de Sáez M (1941) Noticias sobre peces fósiles Argentinos. Siluroideos Terciarios de Chubut. Notas del Museo de La Plata. Paleontología 6: 451–457.

Endlicher S (1847) Synopsis Coniferarum. Scheitlin und Zollikofer, Sangalli (Sankt Gallen), Switzerland. https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.title.127447

Farjon A (2010) A Handbook of the World’s Conifers. Brill, Leiden, 967 pp. https://doi.org/10.1163/9789047430629

Fidalgo P, Smith DR (1987) A fossil Siricidae (Hymenoptera) from Argentina. Entomological News 98(2): 63–66. https://biodiversitylibrary.org/page/2737526

Fisher AE, Clark LG, Kelchner SA (2014) Molecular phylogeny estimation of the bamboo genus *Chusquea* (Poaceae: Bambusoideae: Bambuseae) and description of two new subgenera. Systematic Botany 39(3): 829–844. https://doi.org/10.1600/036364414X681554

Florin R (1940) The Tertiary fossil conifers of south Chile and their phytogeographical significance. Kungl. Svenska Vetenskapsakademiens Handlingar 19(2): 1–107. https://doi.org/10.1093/aob/mcw283

Frenguelli J, Parodi LR (1941) Una *Chusquea* fósil de El Mirador (Chubut). Notas del Museo de La Plata. Paleontología 6: 235–238.

Gandolfo MA, Hermsen EJ (2017) *Ceratopetalum* (Cunoniaceae) fruits of Australasian affinity from the early Eocene Laguna del Hunco flora, Patagonia, Argentina. Annals of Botany 119(4): 507–516. https://doi.org/10.1093/aob/mcw283

Gandolfo MA, Hermsen EJ, Zamaloa MC, Nixon KC, González CC, Wilf P, Cúneo NR, Johnson KR (2011) Oldest known *Eucalyptus* macrofossils are from South America. PLoS One 6(6): e21084. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0021084
Giussani LM, Gillespie LJ, Scataglini MA, Negritto MA, Anton AM, Soreng RJ (2016) Breeding system diversification and evolution in American Poa supersect. Homalopoa (Poaceae: Poeae: Poinae). Annals of Botany 118(2): 281–303. https://doi.org/10.1093/aob/mcw108

González CC, Gandolfo MA, Zamaloa MC, Cúneo NR, Wilf P, Johnson KR (2007) Revision of the Proteaceae macrofossil record from Patagonia, Argentina. Botanical Review 73(3): 235–266. https://doi.org/10.1663/0006-8101(2007)73[235:ROTPMR]2.0.CO;2

Gray NE (1962) A taxonomic revision of Podocarpus, XIII. Section Poly podiopsis in the South Pacific. Journal of the Arnold Arboretum 43: 67–79. https://www.jstor.org/stable/43781413

Greenwood DR (1987) Early Tertiary Podocarpaceae: Megafossils from the Eocene Anglesea locality, Victoria, Australia. Australian Journal of Botany 35(2): 111–133. https://doi.org/10.1071/BT9870111

Hodkinson TR, Ni Chonghaile G, Sungkaew S, Chase MW, Salamin N, Stapleton CMA (2010) Phylogenetic analyses of plastid and nuclear DNA sequences indicate a rapid late Miocene radiation of the temperate bamboo tribe Arundinariae (Poaceae, Bambusoideae). Plant Ecology & Diversity 3(2): 109–120. https://doi.org/10.1080/17550874.2010.521524

Iglesias A, Artabe AE, Morel EM (2011) The evolution of Patagonian climate and vegetation from the Mesozoic to the present. Biological Journal of the Linnean Society. Linnean Society of London 103(2): 409–422. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1095-8312.2011.01657.x

Judziewicz EJ, Clark LG, Londoño X, Stern MJ (1999) American Bamboos. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, 392 pp.

Lawver LA, Gahagan LM, Dalziel IWD (2011) A different look at gateways: Drake Passage and Australia/Antarctica. In: Anderson JB, Wellner JS (Eds) Tectonic, Climatic, and Cryospheric Evolution of the Antarctic Peninsula. American Geophysical Union, Washington, 5–33. https://doi.org/10.1029/2010SP001017

McClure FA (1966) The Bamboos. a Fresh Perspective. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 347 pp. https://doi.org/10.4159/harvard.9780674428713

McClure FA (1973) Genera of bamboos native to the New World (Gramineae: Bambusoideae). Smithsonian Contributions to Botany 9(9): 1–148. https://doi.org/10.5479/si.0081024X.9

Mill RR (2016) A monographic revision of Retrophyllum (Podocarpaceae). Edinburgh Journal of Botany 73(2): 171–261. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960428616000081

O’Dea A, Lessios HA, Coatés AG, Eytan RI, Restrepo-Moreno SA, Cione AL, Collins LS, de Queiroz A, Farris DW, Norris RD, Stallard RF, Woodburne MO, Aguilera O, Aubry M-P, Berggren WA, Budd AF, Cozzuol MA, Coppard SE, Duque-Caro H, Finnegan S, Gasparini GM, Grossman EL, Johnson KG, Keigwin LD, Knowlton N, Leigh EG, Leonard-Pingel JS, Marko PB, Pyenson ND, Rachello-Dolmen PG, Soibelzon E, Soibelzon L, Todd JA, Vermeij GJ, Jackson JBC (2016) Formation of the Isthmus of Panama. Science Advances 2(8): e1600883. https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.1600883

Olivier J, Otto T, Roddaz M, Antoine P-O, Londoño X, Clark LG (2009) First macrofossil evidence of a pre-Holocene thorny bamboo cf. Guadua (Poaceae: Bambusoideae: Bambuseae: Guaduinae) in south-western Amazonia (Madre de Dios – Peru). Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology 153(1–2): 1–7. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.revpalbo.2008.06.001
Page CN (1989) New and maintained genera in the conifer families Podocarpaceae and Pinaceae. Notes from the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh 45(2): 377–395.
Petersen CS (1946) Estudios geológicos en la región del Río Chubut medio. Dirección de Minas y Geología Boletín 59: 1–137.
Riccardi AC (2017) Life and geological studies of Joaquín Frenguelli. Geological Society of London, Special Publications 442(1): 239–251. https://doi.org/10.1144/SP442.6
Romero EJ, Hickey LJ (1976) A fossil leaf of Akaniaceae from Paleocene beds in Argentina. Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club 103(3): 126–131. https://doi.org/10.2307/2484888
Romero EJ, Dibbern MC, Gandolfo MA (1988) Revisión de Lomatia bivascularis (Berry) Frenguelli (Proteaceae) del yacimiento de la Laguna del Hunco (Paleoceno), Pcia. del Chubut. Actas del IV Congreso Argentino de Paleontología y Bioestratigrafía, Mendoza 3: 125–130.
Ruiz-Sanchez E (2011) Biogeography and divergence time estimates of woody bamboos: Insights in the evolution of Neotropical bamboos. Botanical Sciences 88: 67–75. https://doi.org/10.17129/botsci.312 [formerly Boletín de la Sociedad Botánica de México]
Simpson GG (1950) History of the fauna of Latin America. American Scientist 38(3): 361–389. https://www.jstor.org/stable/27826322
Soreng RJ, Peterson PM, Romaschenko K, Davidse G, Teisher JK, Clark LG, Barberá P, Gillespie LJ, Zuloaga FO (2017) A worldwide phylogenetic classification of the Poaceae (Gramineae) II: An update and a comparison of two 2015 classifications. Journal of Systematics and Evolution 55(4): 259–290. https://doi.org/10.1111/jse.12262
Srivastava G, Su T, Chandra Mehrotra R, Kumari P, Shankar U (2019) Bamboo fossils from Oligo–Pliocene sediments of northeast India with implications on their evolutionary ecology and biogeography in Asia. Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology 262: 17–27. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.revpalbo.2018.12.002
Stapleton CMA (1997) The morphology of woody bamboos. In: Chapman GP (Ed.) The Bamboos. Academic Press, San Diego, 251–267.
Strömberg CAE (2004) Using phytolith assemblages to reconstruct the origin and spread of grass-dominated habitats in the Great Plains of North America during the late Eocene to early Miocene. Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology 207(3): 239–275. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.palaeo.2003.09.028
Strömberg CAE (2005) Decoupled taxonomic radiation and ecological expansion of open-habitat grasses in the Cenozoic of North America. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America 102(34): 11980–11984. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.0505700102
Strömberg CAE (2011) Evolution of grasses and grassland ecosystems. Annual Review of Earth and Planetary Sciences 39(1): 517–544. https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-earth-040809-152402
Thomasson JR (1980) Paleoagrostology: A historical review. Iowa State Journal of Research 54(3): 301–317.
Wang L, Jacques FMB, Su T, Xing Y, Zhang S, Zhou Z (2013) The earliest fossil bamboos of China (middle Miocene, Yunnan) and their biogeographical importance. Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology 197: 253–265. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.revpalbo.2013.06.004
Wang Q, Ma F, Yang Y, Dong J, Wang H, Li R, Xu X, Sun B (2014) Bamboo leaf and pollen fossils from the late Miocene of eastern Zhejiang, China and their phytogeological significance. Acta Geologica Sinica 88(4): 1066–1083. https://doi.org/10.1111/1755-6724.12274

Wilf P (2012) Rainforest conifers of Eocene Patagonia: Attached cones and foliage of the extant Southeast Asian and Australasian genus Dacrycarpus (Podocarpaceae). American Journal of Botany 99(3): 562–584. https://doi.org/10.3732/ajb.1100367

Wilf P (2017) Image library: Retrophyllum spiralifolium Wilf, Retrophyllum superstes Wilf, and Retrophyllum araucoensis (Berry) Wilf. Figshare. https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.5305420.v1

Wilf P, Cúneo NR, Johnson KR, Hicks JF, Wing SL, Obradovich JD (2003) High plant diversity in Eocene South America: Evidence from Patagonia. Science 300(5616): 122–125. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1080475

Wilf P, Johnson KR, Cúneo NR, Smith ME, Singer BS, Gandolfo MA (2005) Eocene plant diversity at Laguna del Hunco and Río Pichileufú, Patagonia, Argentina. American Naturalist 165(6): 634–650. https://doi.org/10.1086/430055

Wilf P, Little SA, Iglesias A, Zamaloa MC, Gandolfo MA, Cúneo NR, Johnson KR (2009) Pappuacedrus (Cupressaceae) in Eocene Patagonia: A new fossil link to Australasian rainforests. American Journal of Botany 96(11): 2031–2047. https://doi.org/10.3732/ajb.0900085

Wilf P, Cúneo NR, Escapa IH, Pol D, Woodburne MO (2013) Splendid and seldom isolated: The paleobiogeography of Patagonia. Annual Review of Earth and Planetary Sciences 41(1): 561–603. https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-earth-050212-124217

Wilf P, Escapa IH, Cúneo NR, Kooymann RM, Johnson KR, Iglesias A (2014) First South American Agathis (Araucariaceae), Eocene of Patagonia. American Journal of Botany 101(1): 156–179. https://doi.org/10.3732/ajb.1300327

Wilf P, Carvalho MR, Gandolfo MA, Cúneo NR (2017a) Eocene lantern fruits from Gondwanan Patagonia and the early origins of Solanaceae. Science 355(6320): 71–75. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aag2737

Wilf P, Donovan MP, Cúneo NR, Gandolfo MA (2017b) The fossil flip-leaves (Retrophyllum, Podocarpaceae) of southern South America. American Journal of Botany 104(9): 1344–1369. https://doi.org/10.3732/ajb.1700158

Wilf P, Nixon KC, Gandolfo MA, Cúneo NR (2019) Eocene Fagaceae from Patagonia and Gondwanan legacy in Asian rainforests. Science 364(6444): eaaw5139. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aaw5139

Worobiec E, Worobiec G (2005) Leaves and pollen of bamboos from the Polish Neogene. Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology 133(1): 39–50. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.revpalbo.2004.08.004

Wysocki WP, Clark LG, Attagala L, Ruiz-Sanchez E, Duvall MR (2015) Evolution of the bamboos (Bambusoideae; Poaceae): A full plastome phylogenomic analysis. BMC Evolutionary Biology 15(1): 50. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12862-015-0321-5

Zamaloa MC, Gandolfo MA, González CC, Romero EJ, Cúneo NR, Wilf P (2006) Casuarinaceae from the Eocene of Patagonia, Argentina. International Journal of Plant Sciences 167(6): 1279–1289. https://doi.org/10.1086/507873