

# THE LEVEL OF POLLINATION SPECIALIZATION AFFECTS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SHAPE OF FLOWERS AND THE BILLS OF THEIR HUMMINGBIRD POLLINATORS IN ANTILLEAN GESNERIACEAE

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*Editor: Rodrigo Medel*

**Premise of research.** Pollinators are known to impose strong selection on floral shape. Particularly well studied is the relationship between the flowers of hummingbird-pollinated plant species and the bills of their pollinators. However, no studies to date have evaluated whether these relationships vary according to the level of pollination specialization. Here, we quantify the relationship between the corolla shape of Antillean Gesneriaceae and the bills of their hummingbird pollinators for species with a specialist (one functional group of pollinators: hummingbirds) and a generalist (more than one functional group of pollinators: hummingbirds, bats, and insects) pollination strategy.

**Methodology.** We used phylogenetic generalized least squares analyses on linear measurements and phylogenetic two blocks partial least squares on multivariate geometric morphometrics data to test whether and how the variation in the corolla shape of the Antillean Gesneriaceae is correlated to the shape of the bills of their hummingbird pollinators.

**Pivotal results.** We found that corolla shape is correlated with the bill shape of the hummingbird pollinators but that the nature of this relationship differed between pollination specialists and generalists. For example, corolla curvature was positively correlated with bill curvature for specialists but not for generalists.

**Conclusions.** Our study suggests that pollinators affect the evolution of flower shape but that the nature and strength of the selective pressures are affected by the pollinator guild of the pollinators in the Antillean Gesneriaceae.

**Keywords:** Gesneriaceae, pollination, specialization, geometric morphometrics, generalist pollination strategies.

**Online enhancements:** supplemental tables.

## Introduction

Flowering plants experience persistent selection on reproductive traits to ensure sexual reproduction (Cresswell 1998). For animal-pollinated species, selection on floral traits is often mediated by pollinators for traits related to pollinator attraction, pollen removal, and pollen deposition (Armbruster et al. 2014). Such selection pressures imposed by specific pollinators often lead to the evolution of similar traits in independent evolutionary lineages—that is, the concept of pollination syndromes (Faegri and Van Der Pijl 1979). Many such convergent floral

traits, such as red tubular flowers for hummingbird-pollinated plants or bell-shaped, light-colored, nocturnal flowers for bat-pollinated plants (Baker 1961), are well known (Fenster et al. 2004; Rosas-Guerrero et al. 2014).

The relationship between hummingbirds and hummingbird-pollinated plants has long fascinated botanists and evolutionary biologists (Darwin 1876), and the hummingbird pollination syndrome is one of the best-supported patterns of floral convergence (Rosas-Guerrero et al. 2014). Plant-hummingbird interactions are often asymmetric, and most hummingbirds are generalist pollinators that visit several plant species (Snow and Snow 1980; del Coro Arizmendi and Ornelas 1990; Ollerton et al. 2007; Dalsgaard et al. 2008; Abrahamczyk et al. 2015). Moreover, while hummingbirds commonly visit plant species with ornithophilous flowers, they can also visit plants that are

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Manuscript received February 2021; revised manuscript received November 2021; electronically published January 27, 2022.

primarily pollinated by insects or bats (Araujo and Sazima 2003; Abrahamczyk and Kessler 2010, 2015). Conversely, flowers that fit the hummingbird pollination syndrome may also be pollinated by other types of floral visitors (Castellanos et al. 2003; Muchhala and Thomson 2010; Etcheverry et al. 2012) or possess adaptations that deter other types of pollinators, such as the narrow corollas of some hummingbird-pollinated species (Pellmyr 2002; Castellanos et al. 2004; Clark et al. 2015). Interestingly, both theoretical and empirical studies have shown that even minor pollinators can affect the evolution of floral traits (Aigner 2001, 2006; Mayfield et al. 2001). As such, hummingbirds have the potential to influence the floral shape of the plant species they pollinate, even species for which they are a minor contributor to pollination success.

The association between floral shape and the mouthparts of their pollinators has been the focus of several studies (Temeles and Kress 2003; Agosta and Janzen 2005; Dalsgaard et al. 2009; Van der Niet et al. 2014; Sonne et al. 2020). This association is expected to be important for mechanical fit, proper pollen export, and pollen deposition. Several studies have shown a strong positive correlation between hummingbird bill length and the corolla tube length of the flowers they pollinate (del Coro Arizmendi and Ornelas 1990; Cotton 1998; Nattero and Cocucci 2007; Dalsgaard et al. 2009; Maglianesi et al. 2014); however, the relationship is generally not perfect (Cotton 1998; Maglianesi et al. 2014). As mentioned above, hummingbirds are usually generalists, and they often use plants with a broad range of corolla lengths (del Coro Arizmendi and Ornelas 1990; Araujo and Sazima 2003). In fact, controlled experiments have shown that hummingbirds tend to prefer feeding on short and straight (i.e., noncurved) corollas (Temeles et al. 2009; Maglianesi et al. 2015). The contrast between such findings obtained in controlled environments and the observed correlations between corolla length and bill length observed in nature (see Maglianesi et al. 2015 for a comparison of experimental and natural conditions) could be explained by niche partitioning, where competition for limited resources could lead to plant-pollinator coadaptation (Kodric-Brown et al. 1984; Temeles et al. 2013; Maglianesi et al. 2015). In addition, there is evidence of a correlation between corolla length and nectar volume (Kodric-Brown et al. 1984; del Coro Arizmendi and Ornelas 1990) and of reduced handling times by hummingbirds in flowers that better fit their bills (Maglianesi et al. 2014).

Beyond strict length comparisons, the fit between the shape of hummingbird bills and the corollas they pollinate has also attracted much interest (Stiles 1975; Temeles et al. 2000), although few studies have quantified this relationship in natural communities or within a comparative framework. One exception is a study by Maglianesi et al. (2014) that found significant correlations between bill curvature and corolla curvature, as well as between hummingbird body mass and the volume of corollas, in three ecological communities of Costa Rica. Several methods, such as geometric morphometrics or elliptical Fourier analysis, are now available for studying the overall shape of organisms, and they have been used recently to study bird bill shape evolution (Foster et al. 2008; Berns and Adams 2010; Navalón et al. 2019) and corolla shape evolution (e.g., Gómez et al. 2016; Joly et al. 2018; Smith and Kriebel 2018; Strelin et al. 2018). However, these methods have not yet been used to correlate flower and bill shapes.

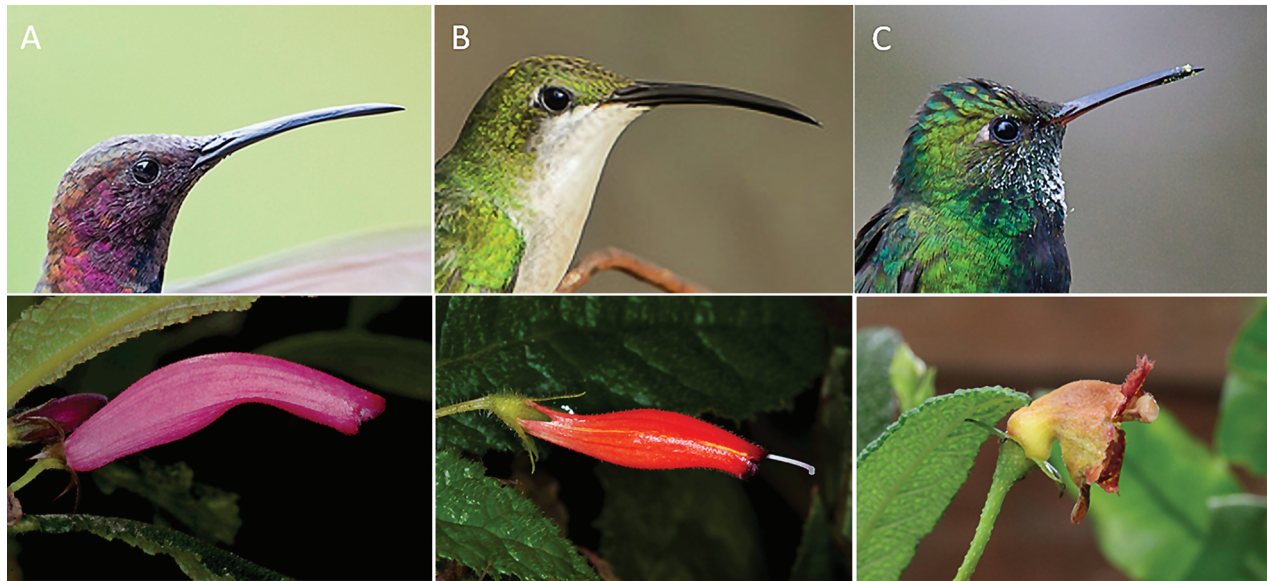
The subtribe Gesneriinae (Gesneriaceae) is a great clade for investigating the relationship between floral shape and the bill shape of hummingbird pollinators because it represents a monophyletic lineage of 94 species that diversified in the Caribbean and exhibits a broad range of corolla shapes (Martén-Rodríguez et al. 2010). Pollinator information for the group is supported by high-quality pollination data (Martén-Rodríguez and Fenster 2008; Martén-Rodríguez et al. 2009, 2010, 2015; Faure and Joly 2020). Most species are visited by hummingbirds (Martén-Rodríguez et al. 2009, 2015), but these species fall into two main pollination strategies. Some are specialists, pollinated exclusively or almost exclusively (>80%) by hummingbirds, while others have a mixed pollination strategy and are also pollinated by other functional types of pollinators (e.g., perching birds, bats, flies, or moths). For these functional generalist species, hummingbirds represent 20%–65% of all pollinator visits (Martén-Rodríguez et al. 2015). The presence of these syndromes and their repeated evolution (Martén-Rodríguez et al. 2010; Joly et al. 2018) allow us to quantify and compare the degree of fit between the bill shape of hummingbirds and the corolla shape of species with specialist and generalist strategies. One interesting aspect of this plant group is the variation observed in floral shapes within syndromes, which parallels the variation observed in the length and curvature of the bills of hummingbirds observed across the Greater Antilles (fig. 1). Moreover, floral length and curvature have been demonstrated to be under strong genetic control (Alexandre et al. 2015). In the most recent taxonomic treatment of *Gesneria*, Skog (1976) also suggested a correlation between the sizes and shapes of flowers and their putative hummingbird and bat pollinators, but the absence of pollinator data at that time did not allow him to formally test these hypotheses.

In this study, we used univariate measurements and geometric morphometric approaches to test whether the variation in the floral shape of Gesneriaceae species can be explained by the variation in the bill shape of their hummingbird pollinators and whether these relationships were affected by the degree of pollination specialization of the plant species. Given the variable and reduced importance of hummingbirds to the reproductive success of pollination generalists in contrast with specialists, we expect the correlation between corolla and bill shapes to be of lesser importance for the generalist pollination strategy.

## Methods

### *Antillean Gesneriaceae*

The subtribe Gesneriinae (Gesneriaceae) consists of 94 species: 65 species of *Gesneria*, 25 species of *Rhytidophyllum*, 2 species of *Pheidonocarpa*, and 2 species of *Bellonia* (Clark et al. 2020). All except five species occur in the Greater Antilles (Cuba, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and Hispaniola). Two species are found in the Lesser Antilles and two in northern South America. Most species can be classified into three main pollination syndromes: hummingbird pollination, bat pollination, and a mixed pollination syndrome in which species are pollinated by hummingbirds, bats, and insects (Martén-Rodríguez et al. 2009). The species pollinated by hummingbirds have tubular flowers, often red or yellow (fig. 1A, 1B); the species pollinated by bats have bell-shaped green or white flowers; and the mixed



**Fig. 1** Profile pictures of the bills of different species of hummingbirds of the Caribbean, showing the variations in bill shape among species, and profile views of the corollas of the Gesneriaceae they pollinate. A, *Anthracothorax mango* pollinates *Gesneria acaulis*. B, *Anthracothorax dominicus* pollinates *G. pedicellaris*. C, *Chlorostilbon swainsonii* pollinates *Rhytidophyllum vernicosum*. Photo credits: Hummingbirds: Rafy Rodriguez; Gesneriaceae: John J. Clark and Simon Joly.

pollination species, henceforth also called generalists, have subcampanulate flowers with a constriction at the base and may be of various colors, including spotted patterns (fig. 1C). Here, we studied 18 species pollinated by hummingbirds, nine specialists, and nine generalists for which we had morphometric data and pollination information from field observations (table 1).

#### *Hummingbirds of the Greater Antilles*

At least 40 species of hummingbirds (Trochilidae) can be found in the Caribbean, but we considered only the hummingbird species occurring in the Greater Antilles (table 2; information from <http://GBIF.org>), as no plant species from the Lesser Antilles were included in our study. Pollinator information was obtained from previous field studies (Martén-Rodríguez and Fenster 2008; Martén-Rodríguez et al. 2009, 2010, 2015). These studies showed that only seven species of hummingbirds were observed pollinating Gesneriaceae species and that in general only one or two hummingbird species pollinate any single plant species (tables 1, 2).

#### *Corolla Shape*

For each plant species, corolla shape was quantified using the raw geometric morphometric data from Joly et al. (2018). We had photographs in longitudinal view for 71 flowers at anthesis for the 18 species studied. Each flower was characterized by six landmarks (two at the base of the corolla, two at the tips of the petal lobes, and two at the base of the corolla tube opening) and 13 semilandmarks positioned at equal distances following the curve on each side of the corolla (fig. 2A). Each flower was landmarked twice to quantify the error associated with the positioning of landmarks.

The raw landmark data were transformed by generalized Procrustes analysis in R (R Core Team 2020) with the geomorph R package (Adams et al. 2016). The semilandmarks were superimposed by minimizing the Procrustes distance between the reference and the target species. To represent the floral morphospace, a principal component analysis (PCA) of the covariance matrix was performed using the `prcomp` function in R, and mean shapes per species were calculated from the intraspecific samples.

We considered floral length and curvature as univariate characters. Flower length was measured as the distance between the base of the corolla and the aperture of the adaxial side of the corolla (hereafter referred to as top corolla length). This measurement of flower length seems more relevant in a pollination context, as it correlates more closely with the placement of the reproductive organs in this group (anthers and stigma), but we also considered the length of the abaxial side of the corolla in our analyses (bottom corolla length). Corolla lengths were measured from photographs in longitudinal view obtained from herbarium specimens (NY) or taken in the field by exploratory research expeditions done by J. L. Clark, as well as from specimens of the Montreal Botanical Garden collections (table A1; tables A1–A4 are available online). Flower curvature was estimated from the landmarks using the angle formed between a line connecting the two landmarks at the base of the flower and another line that passes through the two landmarks at the corolla opening (Alexandre et al. 2015); a greater angle indicates greater curvature (fig. 2C).

#### *Hummingbird Bill Shape*

The bill shape of hummingbirds was quantified from pictures of all hummingbird species occurring on the four largest Antillean islands (i.e., Cuba, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and Hispaniola). The images of the hummingbird bills in longitudinal view were

**Table 1**  
**Species of Gesneriaceae Included in This Study, Pollination Mode, Floral Trait Measurements ( $\pm$ SD),**  
**Confirmed Hummingbird Pollinator(s), and Island(s) of Occurrence**

Species	Pollination mode	Mean top length (mm)	Sample size (for length)	Curvature	Hummingbird pollinator(s)	Island(s) of occurrence
<i>Gesneria acaulis</i>	Hummingbird	44 $\pm$ .52	2	53.82 $\pm$ 5.92	<i>Anthracothorax mango</i>	J
<i>G. citrina</i>	Hummingbird	18.7 $\pm$ 3.73	3	32.85 $\pm$ 11.13	<i>Anthracothorax viridis</i> , <i>Chlorostilbon maugaeus</i>	PR
<i>G. cubensis</i>	Hummingbird	24.1 $\pm$ 5.78	5	...	<i>Anthracothorax dominicus</i>	C, H
<i>G. cuneifolia</i>	Hummingbird	21.1 $\pm$ 1.32	6	20.29 $\pm$ 12.95	<i>C. maugaeus</i>	PR
<i>G. pedicellaris</i>	Hummingbird	28.9 $\pm$ .18	2	37.48 $\pm$ 22.93	<i>A. dominicus</i> , <i>Chlorostilbon swainsonii</i>	H
<i>G. pulverulenta</i>	Hummingbird	14.5 $\pm$ .42	3	26.45 $\pm$ 1.21	<i>C. swainsonii</i>	H
<i>G. purpurascens</i>	Hummingbird	34.1 $\pm$ 6.27	3	31.68 $\pm$ 19.76	<i>Chlorostilbon ricordii</i>	C
<i>G. quisqueyana</i>	Mixed pollination	19.9	1	39.12 $\pm$ 1.27	<i>C. swainsonii</i>	H
<i>G. reticulata</i>	Hummingbird	18.9 $\pm$ 2.42	3	23.78 $\pm$ 10.80	<i>C. maugaeus</i>	PR, C, H
<i>G. sintenisii</i>	Mixed pollination	22	1	95.66 $\pm$ 2.87	<i>C. maugaeus</i>	PR
<i>G. viridiflora</i>	Mixed pollination	19 $\pm$ 2.94	10	68.05 $\pm$ 12.39	<i>C. ricordii</i>	C
<i>Rhytidophyllum auriculatum</i>	Mixed pollination	17.7 $\pm$ 1.38	7	54.79 $\pm$ 8.04	<i>C. maugaeus</i>	PR, H
<i>R. berterioanum</i>	Hummingbird	15.4 $\pm$ 1.43	4	51.36 $\pm$ 13.13	<i>C. swainsonii</i>	H
<i>R. exsertum</i>	Mixed pollination	18.7 $\pm$ 1.66	14	43.94 $\pm$ 13.47	<i>C. ricordii</i>	C
<i>R. grandiflorum</i>	Mixed pollination	20.9	1	53.22 $\pm$ 5.23	<i>C. swainsonii</i>	H
<i>R. leucomallum</i>	Mixed pollination	19.1 $\pm$ 2.83	4	41.30 $\pm$ 13.95	<i>A. dominicus</i> , <i>C. swainsonii</i>	H
<i>R. minus</i>	Mixed pollination	14.8 $\pm$ 2.40	4	18.32 $\pm$ 1.78	<i>C. ricordii</i>	C
<i>R. vernicosum</i>	Mixed pollination	17.6 $\pm$ 3.68	2	75.95 $\pm$ 2.22	<i>C. swainsonii</i>	H

Note. J = Jamaica; PR = Puerto Rico; C = Cuba; H = Hispaniola.

obtained from several websites with the authorization of the photographers, and additional photographs were provided directly by the photographers (table A2). We retained only images for which the bill of the bird was in profile view and the photograph was taken perpendicular to the bill. In total, 103 images of 14 species were studied, and each species was represented by at least six images (table 2). The sex of the hummingbird was recorded for species that have a clear dimorphism. Not all species of Antillean hummingbirds studied are observed pollinators of gesneriads, but all species present in the Greater Antilles were included in the morphometric analysis to contrast the bill shapes of those species that actually visit and carry pollen from Gesneriinae flowers (pollinators) and those that were never observed visiting the study species.

The bill shape was quantified using a geometric morphometrics approach similar to the one used for the flowers and for previous studies of bill shape (Foster et al. 2008; Berns and Adams 2010). Each image was duplicated, and the landmarks were positioned on each duplicate to quantify the error involved in landmark positioning. For each picture, three landmarks and 20 semilandmarks were positioned with the software TpsDig (Rohlf 2004). Two landmarks were placed at the base of the bill (i.e., base of the top mandible and base of the bottom mandible) and one at the tip. Ten equidistant semilandmarks were then placed along the curve of the upper and bottom part of the bill, between the base and tip landmarks (fig. 2B). A Procrustes analysis was done to superimpose the different bill shapes. A PCA was done on the bills' landmark measurements for all the hummingbird species to illustrate the variation in bill shape among the species.

Bill curvature was measured using an approach similar to the one used for corolla curvature. We measured the angle formed between lines passing through the two landmarks at the base of the bill and the two semilandmarks adjacent to the landmark at the tip of the bill (fig. 2D).

For both flowers and bills, a scale was not available for all pictures, so we could not remove the effect of size in the morphometric data using regression. However, the effect of size was removed in the Procrustes analysis by scaling all specimens to the same centroid size.

#### Statistical Analyses

A Procrustes ANOVA was performed on the corolla shape data to partition the variability in corolla shape between species. Similarly, a Procrustes ANOVA was performed on bill shape data to test whether the bill shape of hummingbirds differs according to different factors: sex, species, and whether the species is a known pollinator. Procrustes ANOVA was also used to quantify the error involved in the positioning of the landmarks. The ANOVAs were performed using the function `procD.lm` of the package `geomorph` (Adams et al. 2016) in R (R Core Team 2020).

To test the hypothesis that floral shape could be explained by variation in hummingbird bill shape, we considered the following three components of flower and bill shapes: length, curvature, and global shape, as determined by the geometric morphometrics. Only hummingbird species that are known to pollinate gesneriads were included in bill-flower comparisons. The correlation between the flower and bill morphologies was tested

Table 2

Data for the Hummingbird Species Studied: Weight, Bill Length, Bill Curvature with Standard Deviation, Presence and Type of Sexual Dimorphism, Island(s) of Occurrence, Whether It is a Confirmed Pollinator of Gesneriaceae, and Number of Photographs Studied

Species (common name)	Scientific name	Weight (g)	Bill length (mm)	Curvature	Dimorphism	Island(s) of occurrence	Pollinator confirmed	No. photographs
Ruby-throated hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	3.19	17.96	14.13 ± 6.21	Plumage	PR, H, C	No	7
Bee hummingbird	<i>Mellisuga helenae</i>	2.60	10.76	23.76 ± 10.08	Plumage and size	C	No	6
Green mango	<i>Anthracothorax viridis</i>	6.60 ± .4	24.40 ± 1.17	23.10 ± 11.39	Bill, plumage, and size	PR	Yes	6
Jamaican mango	<i>Anthracothorax mango</i>	7.81 ± .67	26.03	26.24 ± 14.09	Bill, plumage, and size	J	Yes	10
Purple-throated carib	<i>Eulampis jugularis</i>	8.67 ± .56	23.59	51.17 ± 20.14	Bill, plumage, and size	LA, PR	No	6
Puerto Rico emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon maugaeus</i>	2.93 ± .2	13.62 ± .6	11.82 ± 8.67	Bill, plumage, and size	PR	Yes	8
Hispaniolan emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon swainsonii</i>	4.85	17.30	12.32 ± 12.34	Bill, plumage, and size	H	Yes	6
Red-billed streamertail	<i>Trochilus polytmus</i>	4.10	19.80	32.86 ± 15.51	Bill, plumage, and size	J	Yes	10
Green-throated carib	<i>Eulampis holosericeus</i>	5.60 ± .40	22.74 ± 2.20	46.09 ± 9.21	Bill, plumage, and size	LA, PR	No	8
Antillean crested hummingbird	<i>Orthorhyncus cristatus</i>	2.71 ± .18	10.72 ± 1.18	14.43 ± 8.53	Plumage and size	LA, PR	No	7
Cuban emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon ricordii</i>	4.23	17.20	26.03 ± 12.68	Bill, plumage, and size	C	No	9
Vervain hummingbird	<i>Mellisuga minima</i>	2.43 ± .10	10.45	20.04 ± 11.50	Size	H, J	Yes	7
Antillean mango	<i>Anthracothorax dominicus</i>	5.66 ± .41	24.13 ± .75	37.49 ± 14.09	Bill, plumage, and size	H, PR	Yes	7

Note. Bill sizes and weights of all the species come from Brown and Bowers (1985). PR = Puerto Rico; H = Hispaniola; C = Cuba; J = Jamaica; LA = Lesser Antilles.

using two approaches: one analysis for univariate measurements and one analysis for morphometric data. In both cases, the flowers pollinated by more than one hummingbird species were duplicated in the data set to have each combination represented. The species means were used in the analyses of the flower and bill measurements and shapes.

First, the effect of the length and curvature of the hummingbird bill on flower length and curvature was tested using phylogenetic generalized least squares (PGLS) using the plant phylogeny of Joly et al. (2018). The PGLS model was fitted using the gls func-

tion of the nlme R package (Pinheiro et al. 2020) and the Pagel (1999) phylogenetic correlation structure from the ape R package (Paradis and Schliep 2019). The use of the Pagel correlation structure allows the residuals of the model to be adjusted according to the adequate level of phylogenetic correlation, which is important for the analysis to be unbiased (Revell 2010). We tested the length or curvature of the bill with the pollination syndrome (specialist or generalist) and the interaction term. The  $\lambda$  parameter of the Pagel correlation structure was first obtained with the full model using restricted maximum likelihood (REML). The fixed effects

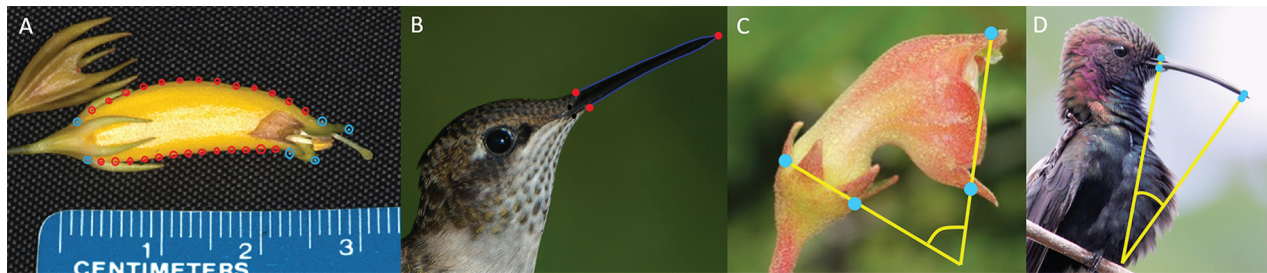


Fig. 2 A, Example of landmark (blue circles) and semilandmark (red circles) positioning for the geometric morphometric analysis of floral shape. B, Example of landmark (circles) and the curve for semilandmark (blue line) positioning for the geometric morphometric analysis of bill shape. C, Example of a measurement of corolla curvature with landmarks (base and opening of the corolla) of the geometric morphometric data (circles). D, Example of the measurement of bill curvature with landmarks (base of the bill) and semilandmarks (next to the tip of the bill; circles).

were then tested using the anova function between the models fitted by maximum likelihood with the  $\lambda$  parameters treated as fixed. The best model was finally refitted using REML, optimizing the  $\lambda$  parameter, to get the parameters of the model. Normality of normalized residuals was verified for all analyses.

Second, we directly compared the full shapes of the flowers with those of the bills of their pollinators using a phylogenetic two blocks partial least square (p2B-PLS) analysis (Rohlf and Corti 2000; Adams and Felice 2014) using the same plant phylogeny as above. This was performed separately for the specialists and the generalists because the analysis could not account for an interaction term and because some of the PGLS found the interaction term to be significant (see below). The p2B-PLS analysis was performed using the phylo.integration function of the geomorph R package. The data and script to perform the analyses are provided in the supplemental material (available online).

## Results

### Variation of the Corolla Shape

The corolla morphospace illustrates variation in corolla shape among the studied species and broadly differentiates hummingbird specialist flowers from generalist flowers (fig. 3). The first PC represents 65.8% of the total shape variance and shows variation from tubular shapes typical of hummingbird specialists to the right to subcampanulate (bell shaped with basal constriction) corolla shapes that are characteristic of generalist flowers to the left. The second PC explains 12.5% of the variance and is characterized by the corolla curvature. The third component explains 9.0% of the variation and represents the extent and spread of the petal lobes at the corolla aperture. The Procrustes ANOVA analysis showed a strong and significant difference in shape between the two pollination strategies ( $R^2 = 0.687$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ) and a negligible effect of error in the landmark pos-

iting (1.14% of the variation), and thus we used the mean of the two copies for the remaining analyses.

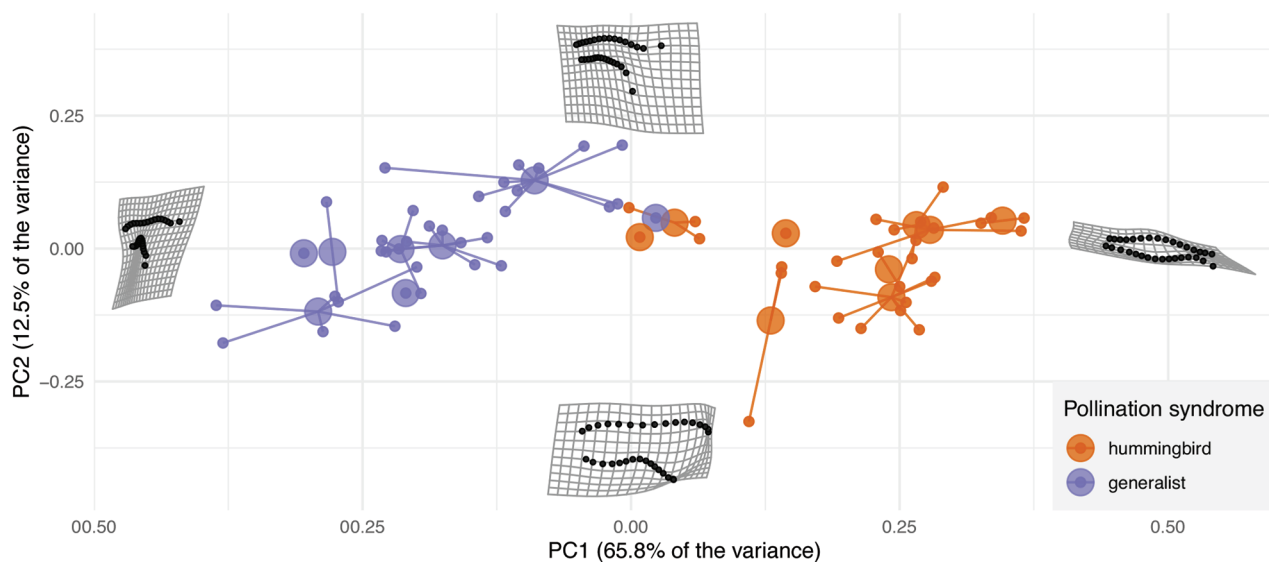
### Variation in Bill Shape

The PCA shows that species tend to have different bill shapes (Procrustes ANOVA:  $R^2 = 0.5787$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ; fig. 4). PC1 shows variation in bill curvature, with species with curved bills on the left (such as *Eulampis jugularis*) and species with straight bills to the right, explaining 47.9% of the variation. PC2 explains 27.3% of the variation and mainly shows variation in bill thickness (i.e., distance between semilandmarks at the top and bottom of the bill). PC3 explains 16.2% of the variation and represents variation in the position of the two landmarks at the base of the bill, which is where the bill connects to the head. We did not find a significant difference in bill shape between the species pollinating Gesneriaceae and the nonpollinator species (Procrustes ANOVA:  $P = 0.37$ ).

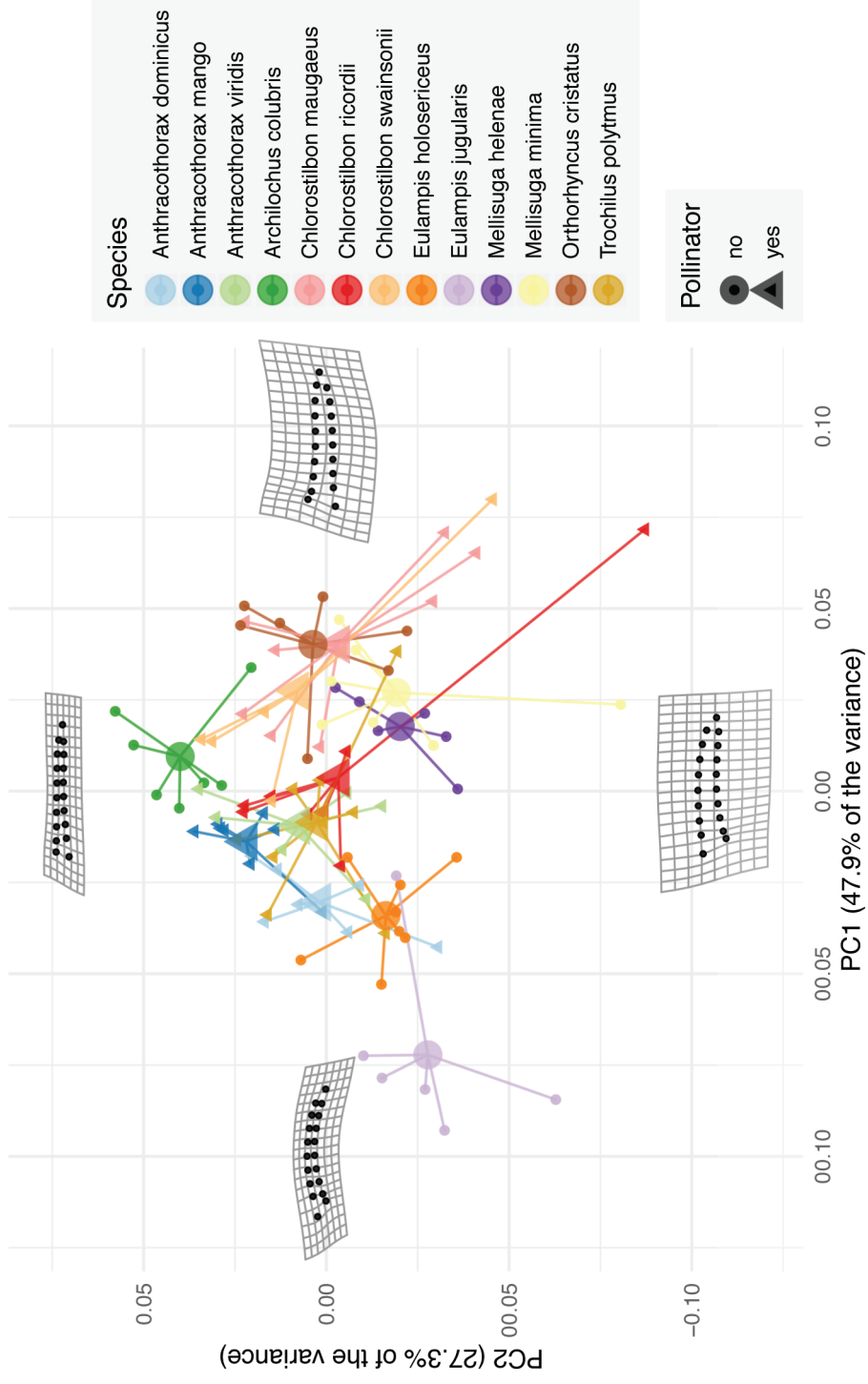
We also tested for differences in bill shape between sexes (dimorphism) by performing a Procrustes ANOVA with the sexes nested in species and found that the shape was significantly different between sexes ( $P < 0.001$ ), but this result did not hold when considering only pollinators of the Gesneriaceae ( $P = 0.249$ ). We therefore considered that each hummingbird species had only one bill shape in the remaining analyses and that hummingbird dimorphism was not a confounding variable in the present study. The error involved in landmark positioning was small (6.01%), and we used the mean of the two copies for the remaining analyses.

### Bill Corolla Correlations: Univariate Comparisons

We found significant associations between bill and flower characteristics for all comparisons, except for the regression of flower length on bill curvature (tables 3, A3; fig. 5). The interaction



**Fig. 3** Principal component (PC) analysis of floral traits that determine corolla shape. Large circles indicate the means for each species, and they are connected by lines to small circles, which indicate the floral shapes of the individuals belonging to each species. Thin-plate spline deformation grids show corolla shape variation among the PCs,  $\pm 2$  SDs from the mean shape.



**Fig. 4** Principal component (PC) analysis of the bill shape traits of hummingbirds from the Greater Antilles, with confirmed pollinators highlighted by a triangle shape. Species are differentiated by colors. Large circles indicate the means for each species, which are connected by lines to small circles, which indicate the bill shapes of the individuals belonging to each species. Thin-plate spline deformation grids show bill shape variation among the PCs,  $\pm 2$  SDs from the mean shape.

between the explanatory variable (bill trait) and the pollination strategy (specialist or generalist) of the plant species was found to be significant for the regressions of flower curvature on bill curvature and length (table 3; fig. 5C, 5D). In both cases, specialists had a positive slope, suggesting that an increase in bill length or bill curvature results in greater corolla curvature, whereas the trend was the opposite for generalists (table 4; fig. 5). The slope of the regression of corolla length on bill length was significant, with a slope of 0.46 (table 4), but the effect of pollination syndrome and the interaction between syndrome and bill length were not significant (table 3).

#### *Bill-Corolla Correlations: Global Shape Comparison*

To avoid singularity issues with the phylogeny due to the presence of the same plant species more than once in the data set for the species pollinated by more than one hummingbird species, we performed p2B-PLS analyses with all possible resampled data sets in which each plant species appeared only once (four data sets for specialists and two for generalists). The p2B-PLS analyses showed a significant level of phylogenetic covariation between corolla shape and the bill shape of their hummingbird pollinators for plant specialists (mean correlation [r-PLS] = 0.85, mean effect size = 1.98,  $P$  value range = 0.005–0.024; fig. 6). The inspection of the shapes associated with the extremes of the regression axis between the first axes of the bill and corolla PLS further shows that straight bills are associated with straight corollas (upper right of the ordination; fig. 6) and that curved bills are associated with curved corollas (bottom left of fig. 6). In contrast, the p2B-PLS was not significant for generalists (mean correlation [r-PLS] = 0.729, mean effect size = 0.9148,  $P$  value range = 0.160–0.989).

## Discussion

Several studies have investigated the association between bill shape and floral shape, especially looking at organ length in plant species with specialized pollination systems (Lunau 2004; Agosta and Janzen 2005; Temeles et al. 2009; Dohzono et al. 2011; Maglianesi et al. 2014; Van der Niet et al. 2014). Here, we investigated the relationship between the shapes of corollas and those of the bills of their hummingbird pollinators using length and curvature measurements but also more broadly by quantifying the covariation in shape between the corollas and the bills as characterized by geometric morphometrics.

On the basis of the comparison of the corolla shapes and measurements of 18 species of Antillean Gesneriaceae species and those of the bills of their hummingbird pollinators (seven species), we found that the shapes of the corollas and bills are correlated but that the relationship differed according to the level of pollination specialization of the plant species. For instance, the analysis of geometric morphometric data revealed that the global shape of the corollas was correlated with hummingbird bill shapes for hummingbird specialist species. Indeed, the p2B-PLS analysis suggested that curved flowers tend to be pollinated by hummingbird species that possess a curved bill and that straight flowers tend to be pollinated by hummingbirds with straight bills (fig. 6). In contrast, no significant global shape correlation was detected for generalist plant species. A similar trend was found by analyzing curvature, as the curvature of corollas and bills is positively correlated for plants specialized for hummingbird pollination but negatively so for generalist species (fig. 5). We found a significant relationship between corolla curvature and bill length, which differed according to the pollination strategy,

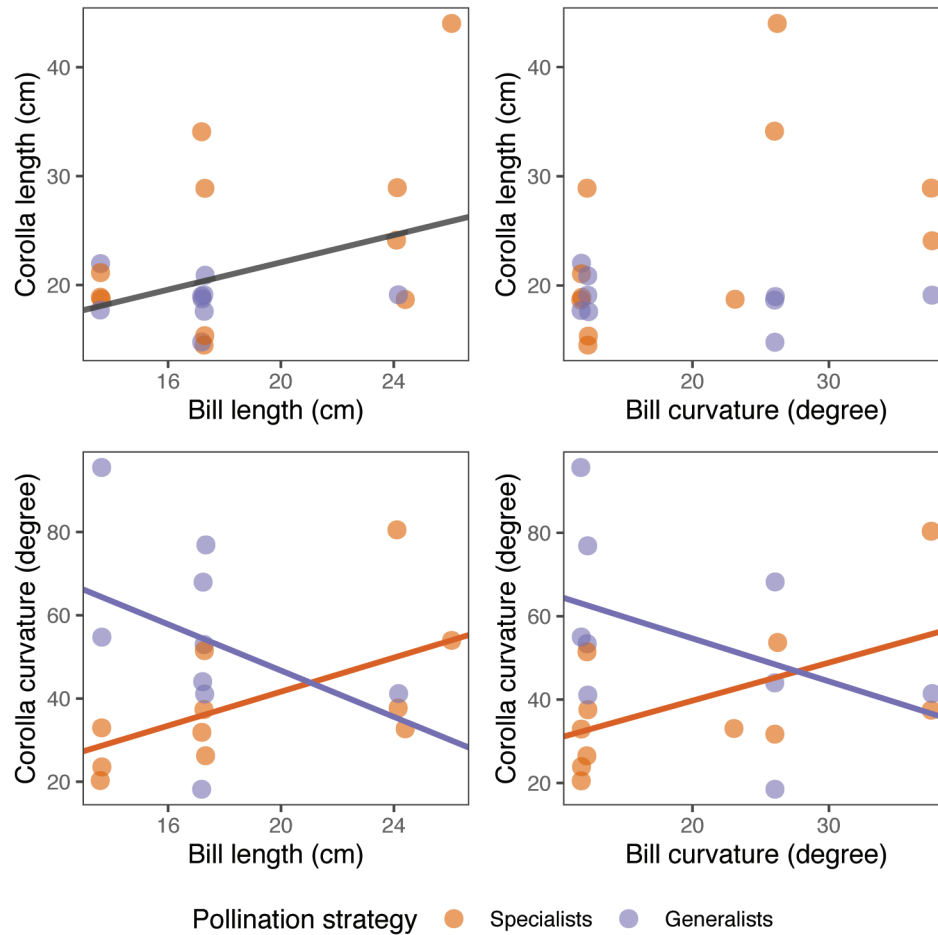
**Table 3**

**Model Comparison for Linear Regressions of Univariate Characters (Corolla Length, Corolla Curvature) of Antillean Gesneriaceae**

Response variable, correlation tested, model	df	lnL	AIC
Corolla length (top):			
Corolla length ~ bill length:			
Corolla length ~ 1	2	-63.222	132.434
<i>Corolla length ~ bill length</i>	3	-61.010	131.007
Corolla length ~ bill length + strategy	4	-60.960	133.903
Corolla length ~ bill length + strategy + bill length:strategy	5	-60.111	135.201
Corolla length ~ bill curvature:			
<i>Corolla length ~ 1</i>	2	-56.400	116.794
Corolla length ~ bill curvature	3	-56.385	118.771
Corolla length ~ bill curvature + strategy	4	-56.342	120.684
Corolla length ~ bill curvature + strategy + bill curvature:strategy	5	-56.327	122.654
Corolla curvature:			
Corolla curvature ~ bill length:			
Corolla curvature ~ 1	2	-88.450	180.899
Corolla curvature ~ bill length	3	-88.300	182.600
Corolla curvature ~ bill length + strategy	4	-86.880	181.761
<i>Corolla curvature ~ bill length + strategy + bill length:strategy</i>	5	-84.462	178.924
Corolla curvature ~ bill curvature:			
Corolla curvature ~ 1	2	-88.464	180.928
Corolla curvature ~ bill curvature	3	-88.422	182.844
Corolla curvature ~ bill curvature + strategy	4	-87.234	182.469
<i>Corolla curvature ~ bill curvature + strategy + bill curvature:strategy</i>	5	-84.088	178.176

Note. The best model for each correlation is indicated with italics (lowest Akaike information criterion [AIC]). Also see table A3 for the results for the bottom corolla length.





**Fig. 5** Plots showing the relationship between the top corolla length or the corolla curve and the length and the curvature of their hummingbird pollinators. Slopes are provided when found to be significant, either for the full data or independently for specialists and generalists when the interaction with the pollination strategy was significant (see tables 3, 4). Random noise was added to the points (jitter) to facilitate visualization.

although we note that this relationship may be confounded by the strong correlation between bill length and bill curvature ( $r = 0.742$ ): birds with long bills tend to have curved bills.

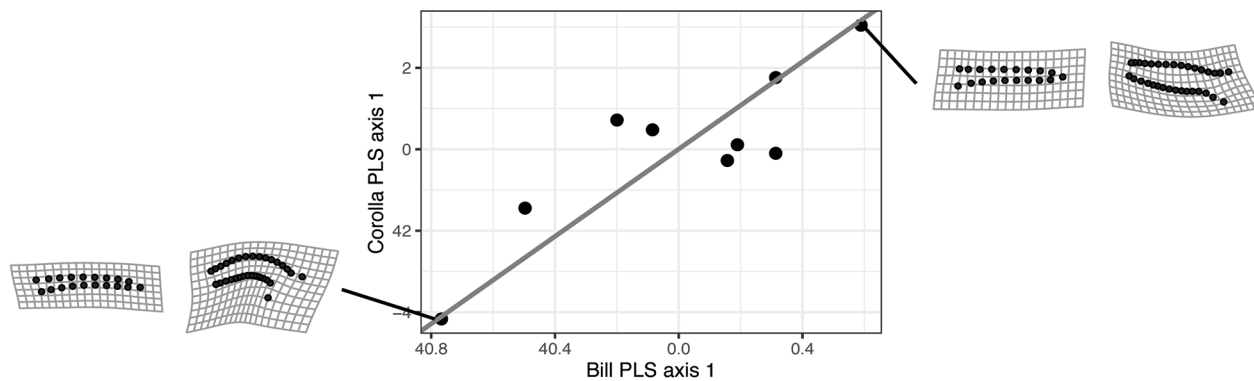
The observation that the nature of the correlation between the shape of corollas and that of their hummingbird pollinators differs according to the level of pollination specialization may not be surprising given that hummingbirds represent only one of the various functional types of pollinators of generalist spe-

cies. As such, the shape of generalist flowers could result from evolutionary trade-offs or particular selection pressures imposed by different pollinators (Aigner 2001). There have been few clear demonstrations of such trade-offs in flower traits in pollination generalists (but see Muchhala 2007; Sahli and Conner 2011), and while our results do not represent direct evidence, they are consistent with such a hypothesis, especially given that these pollination strategies have evolved repeatedly in the

**Table 4**

Parameters of the Best Models for the Univariate Floral Characters of Antillean Gesneriaceae						
Response variable	Independent variable	Intercept	Slope	Strategy	Interaction	$\lambda$
Corolla length	Bill length	$12.69 \pm 5.27$	$.46 \pm .22$	...	...	.84
Corolla length	Bill curvature	...	...	...	...	...
Corolla curvature	Bill length	$.76 \pm 22.58$	$2.04 \pm 1.12$	$101.5 \pm 41.17$	$-4.82 \pm 2.30$	.29
Corolla curvature	Bill curvature	$21.50 \pm 12.56$	$.91 \pm .51$	$53.75 \pm 18.25$	$-1.94 \pm .80$	.27

Note. The ellipses indicate that these parameters were not found to be significant in the model (see table 3 for the model comparisons). All models were fitted by restricted maximum likelihood, and standard errors around the estimates are provided where appropriate.



**Fig. 6** Ordination of the phylogenetic two blocks partial least squares (PLS) illustrating the phylogenetic morphological covariation between the shape of the corolla and the shape of the hummingbird pollinators as characterized by geometric morphometrics. This specific ordination includes the *Gesneria citrinalis*/*Anthracothorax viridis* and the *G. pedicellaris*/*Chlorostilbon swainsonii* comparisons (see “Methods”). The covariation in shape is illustrated using warp grids with deformation from the mean corolla and bill shapes at the extremes of the regression between the first PLS axes (see lines).

group (Martén-Rodríguez et al. 2010; Joly et al. 2018). However, trade-offs are not the only potential explanation; selection on specific floral traits by only particular pollinator species is also possible, as demonstrated in bee-pollinated *Medicago sativa* (Brunet et al. 2021). For instance, selection for corolla constriction in Antillean Gesneriaceae may be mainly exerted by hummingbirds to facilitate pollen removal and deposition since exclusively bat-pollinated flowers do not have corolla constrictions. Finally, the corolla constriction of generalist species may alternatively represent a specialized trait that allows efficient pollination by both hummingbirds and bats (Martén-Rodríguez et al. 2009; Joly et al. 2018).

We also found a significant positive correlation between the length of corollas and the bill length of their hummingbird pollinators. In this case, the pollination strategy did not significantly affect the relationship, although there might be an effect of small sample size, as a close inspection of the plot suggests that this trend is mostly observable for specialist species (fig. 5A). The slope of this relationship indicates that an increase of 1 cm in bill length is matched by an increase of 0.46 cm in corolla length (table 4). One reason why this relationship departs from a slope of 1 could be that most hummingbirds pollinate plants with both long and short corollas (fig. 5). For example, the Antillean mango (*Anthracothorax dominicus*), with an average bill length of 24 mm, pollinates flowers with corollas that range from 19 (*Rhytidophyllum leucomallon*) to 29 mm (*Gesneria pedicellaris*). Departure from a perfect fit in terms of length has also been observed in several previous studies (Snow and Snow 1980; Araujo and Sazima 2003; Maglianesi et al. 2014). But the fact that hummingbirds with long bills can pollinate flowers with longer corollas certainly contributes to a positive relationship between bill length and corolla length. Another source of variation is related to the capacity of hummingbirds to extend their tongues to reach deeper into corollas to access nectar (Stiles 1975; Temeles 1996). Indeed, according to our results, hummingbirds tend to visit Gesneriaceae flowers with corollas that are longer than their bills (fig. 5).

Hummingbirds have been shown to prefer small and wide flowers in some studies (Temeles et al. 2009; Maglianesi et al.

2015). Therefore, the linear relationship between corolla and bill length observed here and in previous studies (del Coro Arizmendi and Ornelas 1990; Cotton 1998; Nattero and Cocucci 2007; Dalsgaard et al. 2009; Maglianesi et al. 2014) may be due to competition between hummingbirds, which could lead to partitioning of the floral resources according to their feeding efficiency and their ability to keep away other hummingbird species (Kodric-Brown et al. 1984; Temeles et al. 2013; Maglianesi et al. 2015). Consequently, competition could result in long-billed hummingbirds visiting flowers with longer corollas despite the availability of other floral resources. Indeed, the presence of other hummingbird-pollinated plants and other hummingbirds at the same location as the study species has been shown to contribute to niche partitioning in some studies (Tinoco et al. 2017). In this study, the composition of hummingbird communities could be important in determining floral resources used in the Antillean islands with the greatest diversity of hummingbirds in terms of size and bill length (e.g., Hispaniola, Jamaica, and Puerto Rico). In contrast, the lower diversity of hummingbirds observed in Cuba (three species) is less likely to play an important role in niche partitioning. Finally, the frequent correlation reported between corolla length and nectar volume (Kodric-Brown et al. 1984; del Coro Arizmendi and Ornelas 1990) and the reduced handling times by hummingbirds in flowers that better fit their bills (Maglianesi et al. 2014) are probably important contributors to the positive association between the bill length of hummingbirds and the corolla length of the species they pollinate.

Previous studies that tested the relationship between the shape of corollas and that of the hummingbird bills have mostly used length measurements, although some have also investigated bill curvature and the volume of bills and corollas (Temeles et al. 2009; Maglianesi et al. 2014). We found that a morphometric approach provides substantial information on the nature of such morphological correlations in an evolutionary framework. We showed that corolla shape is correlated with the bill shape of the hummingbird pollinator but not in the same way for specialist and generalist Gesneriaceae species. More precisely, we found that the curvature of corollas was positively correlated with the curvature of the bills of their hummingbird pollinators, but only

for species specialized for hummingbird pollination and not for generalists. Such differences in correlation at a macroevolutionary scale according to the level of pollination specialization ask for detailed pollination studies of the generalized species to better explain the forces and potential trade-offs that might be responsible for the global patterns of floral variation observed in Caribbean Gesneriaceae.

### Acknowledgments

We thank Greg and Yvonne Dean, Ray Wilson Photography, Charles J. Sharp, N. and K. Snyder, and all other photographers for permission to use their pictures of Antillean hummingbirds. We also acknowledge the help of Hermine Alexandre in the anal-

ysis of morphometric data and the constructive comments of two reviewers of a previous version of this article. The data and scripts to reproduce the analyses presented in this study were deposited on FigShare: <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.16866799>. J. Faure and S. Joly designed the study. J. Faure, J. L. Clark, and S. Martén-Rodríguez collected the data. J. Faure and S. Joly analyzed the data. J. Faure wrote the initial version of the manuscript, and all authors contributed to the writing of the final version. This study was financially supported by a Discovery grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada to S. Joly (05027-2018), a Research and Exploration Grant from the National Geographic Society to J. L. Clark (9522-14), and a Programa de Apoyo a Proyectos de Investigación e Innovación Tecnológica (PAPIIT IN224920) from UNAM to S. Martén-Rodríguez.

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