Periods of Organogenesis in Mono- and Bicyclic Annual Shoots of Juglans regia L. (Juglandaceae)

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Received: 3 January 2003 Returned for revision: 3 April 2003 Accepted: 28 April 2003 Published electronically: 12 June 2003

The organogenetic cycle of shoots on main branches of 4-year-old *Juglans regia* trees was studied. Mono- and bicyclic floriferous and vegetative annual shoots were analysed. Five parent annual shoot types were sampled between October 1992 and August 1993. Organogenesis of summer growth units was monitored between 16 Jun. and 3 Aug. 1993. Variations over time in the number of nodes, cataphylls and embryonic green leaves of terminal buds were studied. The number of nodes of parent shoot buds was compared with the number of nodes of shoots derived from parent shoot buds. The spring growth units of mono- and bicyclic shoots consist exclusively of preformed leaves which were differentiated, respectively, during the spring flush of growth (mid-April until mid-May) or the summer flush of growth (mid-June until early August) in the previous growing season. Thus, winter buds may consist of flower and leaf primordia differentiated in two different periods during annual shoot extension. The summer growth units of bicyclic shoots consist of preformed leaves that were differentiated in spring buds during the spring flush of growth in the current growing season. Bud morphology is compared between spring and summer shoots.

Key words: Juglans regia L., Persian walnut tree, preformation, bud formation, leaf primordia, organogenesis.

INTRODUCTION

Shoot growth is the result of two complementary components known as organogenesis and extension (Champagnat et al., 1986a). These phases of shoot growth may be synchronous or may take place at different times and be separated by a period of apparent inactivity during which leaves in an embryonic stage are contained in a bud. The leaves of a shoot may thus be preformed in a bud prior to shoot extension or may be formed and simultaneously extended without bud formation (i.e. neoformed organs; Hallé et al., 1978; Caraglio and Barthélémy, 1997). Fully preformed shoots frequently occur in woody species from temperate regions (Moore, 1909; Gill, 1971; Kozlowski, 1971; Allen and Owens, 1972; Abbott, 1977; Owens et al., 1977; Payan, 1982; Macdonald and Mothersill, 1983; Macdonald et al., 1984; Cottignies, 1985; Roloff, 1985; Kremer et al., 1990; Remphrey and Davidson, 1994; Puntieri et al., 2000; Souza et al., 2000; Puntieri et al., 2002a). In some of these species, some shoots, depending on their location within the tree and tree age, may develop neoformed leaves following the extension of preformed leaves (Puntieri et al., 2002b).

The time of the year when leaf differentiation and extension occur is important for understanding the role of climatic factors in leaf and shoot growth (Puntieri *et al.*, 2002a) and in variation in morphology between two successive growth units of an annual shoot. In woody

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species, this type of knowledge can be used to explain the cause of inter-annual fluctuations of growth, which may be the result of an endogeneous regulation of plant development or of climatic events (Guédon *et al.*, 1999). Studies considering the periods of the year in which organogenesis takes place are rare, possibly due to the destructive techniques used for organogenesis assessment. Morphological categorization of individuals, axes and shoots of a species allows repeated sampling of homogeneous shoots, and thus is a precondition for the evaluation of organogenesis periods (Sabatier *et al.*, 2001*a*; Puntieri *et al.*, 2002*a*).

In Juglans regia L., growth is rhythmic and each axis is made up of a succession of annual shoots. Each annual shoot may consist of one or more growth units (i.e. a stem portion extended during an uninterrupted phase of extension; Hallé and Martin, 1968) and, on this basis, can be classified as a mono- or polycyclic shoot. Monocyclic annual shoots are built up during one spring flush, whereas bicyclic annual shoots are formed during two successive flushes of growth (spring and summer) separated by a resting phase (Sabatier et al., 1998). Previous studies have revealed that, in the latter case, the spring growth unit is preformed in the winter bud, whereas the summer growth unit is preformed in the spring bud (Sabatier et al., 1995). However, the time of the year when leaf differentiation occurs has not been reported for this species. In mature Juglans regia trees, female flowering is apical on spring shoots. After the development of a terminal female inflorescence, the flowering axis may continue to extend in the same growing season by the

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development of one to three relay axes which develop from the lateral buds located just below the terminal inflorescence.

Based on recent studies of the architecture and growth dynamics of *Juglans regia* (Barthélémy *et al.*, 1995; Sabatier *et al.*, 1998), the present study analyses (*a*) the periods of the year when preformed leaves of mono- and bicyclic shoots are differentiated in the bud and (*b*) variation in bud structure according to the time of bud formation and parent shoot type.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study site, plant material and shoot sampling

The study site was an orchard of 4-year-old Juglans regia 'Lara' at Lalanne nurseries, Gironde, south-west France (44°34'N, 0°15'W). Trees were obtained from grafts on plants of Juglans regia and were pruned in 'structured axis' (Charlot *et al.*, 1989). They thus consisted of a main stem with the lower part bearing a tier of three to four main branches. The buds and shoots selected for study were on these branches.

This study was centred on four types of previously identified annual shoots (Sabatier *et al.*, 1998). These were: (1) monocyclic floriferous shoots: axillary buds placed on the first and second nodes from the terminal inflorescence were observed (Fig. 1A); (2) bicyclic floriferous shoots with one relay axis formed on the first node counted from the terminal inflorescence: the apical bud of the summer growth unit was analysed (Fig. 1B); (3) bicyclic floriferous shoots with two relay axes localized on the first and second nodes from the terminal inflorescence: the apical bud of the summer growth unit of each relay axis was analysed (Fig. 1C); and (4) bicyclic vegetative shoots: the apical bud was observed (Fig. 1D).

The number of buds collected per shoot type at each sampling time is indicated in Tables 1 and 2.

Data collection and analysis

Buds were sampled destructively from each parent shoot type and used for the analysis of bud content. Five samples were collected at the different phenological stages of parent annual shoots (Sabatier *et al.*, 1998): at the end of the growing season (October 1992); at the winter-bud swelling (30 Mar. 1993); at the end of the spring growth flush (18 May); at the spring-bud swelling (16 Jun.); and at the end of the summer growth flush (26 Jul. and 3 Aug.).

FIG. 1. Diagrammatic representation of studied types of parent annual shoots at different sampling times. A, Monocyclic floriferous shoot: axillary buds located on the first and second nodes from the terminal inflorescence. B, Bicyclic floriferous shoot with one relay axis. C, Bicyclic foriferous shoot with two relay axes. D, Bicyclic vegetative shoot. Only the measured buds are indicated (open triangles). 1, October 1992 or March 1993; 2, 16 Jun. 1993; 3, 3 Aug. 1993; 4, 26 Jul. 1993. Open circles, Terminal female inflorescence; parallel lines, inter-annual

growth-unit limit; arrows, intra-annual growth-unit limit.

To study the variation in the number of embryonic green leaves of buds during the second flush of growth, weekly bud samples of bicyclic shoots were collected from 16 Jun. until 3 Aug.





		October 1992 End of growth season	30 Mar. 1993 Winter-bud break	18 May 1993 End of spring flush	16 Jun. 1993 Spring-bud break	26 Jul. 1993 End of summer flush
m.f.s.	Cat. scars	4.2 ± 2.0	n.m.	0	0	2.5 ± 2.2
p1	Cat.	3.9 ± 0.9	3.5 ± 0.8	n.m.	7.7 ± 1.1	5.8 ± 1.0
	Leaves	12.7 ± 1.8	13.5 ± 1.6	n.m.	8.4 ± 1.0	12.8 ± 1.7
	Total nodes	16.7 ± 1.7 (26)	$16.7 \pm 1.6 (53)$	13·1 ±1·4 (50)	$16.1 \pm 1.0 (25)$	$18.6 \pm 1.8 (24)$
m.f.s.	Cat. scars	1.1 ± 0.7	n.m.	0	0	0.5 ± 0.8
p2	Cat.	4.7 ± 0.7	3.9 ± 0.5	n.m.	7.3 ± 0.9	6.4 ± 1.0
	Leaves	10.3 ± 1.3	12.7 ± 1.3	n.m.	8.3 ± 1.0	11.9 ± 1.7
	Total nodes	14.9 ± 1.4 (26)	$16.6 \pm 1.3 (53)$	12·9 ±1·4 (50)	15·5 ± 1·4 (25)	$18.3 \pm 1.6 (24)$

TABLE 1. Mean (\pm s.e.; sample size in parenthesis) numbers of cataphyll scars (cat. scars), cataphylls (cat.), embryonic green leaves (leaves) and total nodes (cataphylls + embryonic green leaves) per bud of monocyclic floriferous shoots (m.f.s.) at different sampling dates

p1 and p2, Axillary buds localized on the first or second node below the terminal inflorescence; n.m., not measured.

TABLE 2. Mean (\pm s.e.; sample size in parenthesis) numbers of cataphylls (cat.), embryonic green leaves (leaves) and total nodes (cataphylls + embryonic green leaves) per bud of bicyclic shoots at different sampling dates

		October 1992 End of growth season	30 Mar. 1993 Winter-bud break	18 May 1993 End of spring flush	16 Jun. 1993 Spring-bud break	3 Aug. 1993 End of summer flush
b.f.s.1	Cat. Leaves Total podes	3.8 ± 0.7 11.5 ± 1.5 15.3 ± 1.5 (50)	2.9 ± 0.6 12.0 ± 1.0 14.9 ± 1.1 (40)	n.m. n.m. 13.5 ± 1.4 (49)	9.7 ± 1.7 9.4 ± 2.0 19.1 ± 2.0 (28)	4.8 ± 1.2 10.4 ± 1.0 15.3 ± 1.2 (49)
b.f.s.2 p1	Cat. Leaves Total nodes	$\begin{array}{c} 13.5 \pm 1.5 \ (50) \\ 4.2 \pm 0.6 \\ 11.6 \pm 1.2 \\ 15.8 \pm 1.4 \ (50) \end{array}$	n.m. n.m. n.m.	n.m. n.m. n.m.	10.3 ± 1.5 10.1 ± 1.4 20.3 ± 1.7 (25)	$\begin{array}{c} 13.5 \pm 1.2 \\ 4.9 \pm 1.2 \\ 10.1 \pm 0.7 \\ 14.8 \pm 1.5 \\ (21) \end{array}$
b.f.s.2 p2	Cat. Leaves Total nodes	3.9 ± 0.6 11.6 ± 1.5 15.6 ± 1.5 (50)	n.m. n.m. n.m.	n.m. n.m. n.m.	$9.1 \pm 1.3 \\ 9.8 \pm 1.0 \\ 18.9 \pm 1.2 (26)$	$\begin{array}{c} 4.9 \pm 1.0 \\ 10.1 \pm 1.0 \\ 15.2 \pm 0.9 \ (23) \end{array}$
b.v.s.	Cat. Leaves Total nodes	$3.7 \pm 0.7 12.6 \pm 1.5 16.3 \pm 1.6 (50)$	3.1 ± 0.4 12.7 ± 1.3 15.9 ± 1.3 (40)	n.m. n.m. n.m.	$6.9 \pm 0.9 \\ 10.4 \pm 1.4 \\ 17.3 \pm 1.4 (25)$	$ \begin{array}{c} 4 \pm 1.1 \\ 10.8 \pm 1 \\ 14.9 \pm 1 (25) \end{array} $

b.f.s.1, Bicyclic floriferous shoot with one relay summer shoot; b.f.s.2, bicyclic floriferous shoot with two relay summer shoots; p1 and p2, buds localized on the first and second node below the terminal inflorescence; b.v.s., bicyclic vegetative shoot; n.m., not measured.

The numbers of nodes (cataphylls and leaves included) and the length of each parent shoot were recorded at each sampling date. The numbers of cataphylls (scaly leaves) and embryonic green leaves of each bud were recorded after manual dissection under a stereomicroscope (\times 40). Embryonic green leaves were distinguished from cataphylls by the presence of well-differentiated leaflet and lamina primordia. In spring buds, undifferentiated organs surrounding the apical meristematic dome were considered as leaf primordia. The total number of nodes of a bud was obtained by adding the numbers of cataphylls, embryonic green leaves and leaf primordia. The number of cataphylls scars was noted.

Student's *t*-test for paired samples using a significance level of 0.01 (Saporta, 1990) was carried out to compare total numbers of nodes, cataphylls and embryonic leaves per bud between (*a*) bud positions on the shoot, (*b*) sampling dates, and (*c*) parent annual shoot types.

RESULTS

Number of nodes of first and second axillary buds of monocyclic floriferous shoots

External cataphylls of lateral winter buds were round and coriaceous. In March, winter buds contained a small axis bearing a series of cataphylls surrounding well-developed embryonic leaves (Fig. 2A) and terminated in a female inflorescence primordium. The axillary buds were visible in the bud. On 1 July, the new winter buds resembled those observed in March (Fig. 2B).

Differences in the mean numbers of total nodes, cataphylls and embryonic leaves per bud generally were not significant (P > 0.02) between the two most distal buds of the monocyclic floriferous shoots except in October (Table 1).

Buds sampled at the end of the spring flush consisted, on average, of 13 nodes. Between this and the last sample



FIG. 2. Morphology and content of lateral buds located on the first node from the terminal inflorescence of monocyclic shoots before winter-bud swelling on 30 Mar. (A) and after spring flush of growth on 1 Jul. (B). Magnification ×2. Insets show details of the corresponding embryonic shoot apex at magnification ×4. c.s., Cataphyll scar; p., peduncle; i.p.s., inflorescence peduncle scar; i.p., inflorescence peduncle; f.i.p., female inflorescence primordium.

(26 Jul.), as shoot extension finished, the mean number of nodes in these buds increased by about three (Table 1). The mean number of embryonic leaves of winter buds was not significantly different (P > 0.02) between 30 Mar. and 26 Jul. samples (Table 1). Differences in the number of cataphylls between buds at winter-bud break and in the following summer are linked to the early fall of the first cataphylls formed during the growth season (Table 1; see the number of cataphyll scars).

No significant differences ($P \ge 0.30$) were found between buds sampled in October 1992 and July 1993 with regard to the number of embryonic leaves of buds on the first distal node of monocyclic floriferous shoots (Table 1). In winter buds located on the second node from the terminal inflorescence, significant differences (P = 0.002) in the number of embryonic leaves were found between buds sampled in October and July. The difference in the number of embryonic leaves was not significant (P = 0.03) between buds sampled in March and July (Table 1).

Number of nodes of terminal buds of bicyclic shoots

Terminal winter buds of bicyclic shoots sampled in March consisted of a small axis with a series of distally incised and thick cataphylls followed by well-developed embryonic green leaves, and terminated in a female inflorescence primordium (Fig. 3A). At the end of the spring flush of growth, spring buds, which are located on the first or second node from the terminal inflorescence, showed a lengthened form. At spring-bud swelling (16 Jun.), buds contained a series of long, thin and green cataphylls (i.e. resembling embryonic green leaves without a lamina primordium) covering a series of embryonic green leaves, and terminated in one or two leaf primordia below the meristematic dome (Fig. 3B). Terminal buds of bicyclic shoots sampled during the summer growth flush consisted of embryonic leaves surrounded by some immature leaves (Fig. 3C). At the end of the summer growth flush (3 Aug.), buds contained the inflorescence primordium surrounded by a series of cataphylls with leaflet primordia, classified as distally incised cataphylls (Fig. 3D).

For each sampling time, the differences in numbers of nodes, cataphylls and embryonic green leaves were not significant (P > 0.02) between the terminal bud of bicyclic shoots with one relay axis and those of bicyclic shoots with two relay axes (Table 2). Terminal spring buds of vegetative bicyclic shoots contained fewer cataphylls than spring buds of floriferous bicyclic shoots (Table 2). This difference is explained by the presence of two prophylls at the proximal end of the summer growth flush of floriferous bicyclic shoots.

Terminal buds sampled at the end of the spring flush of growth had, on average, 13 nodes. Between the end of



FIG. 3. Morphology and content of the apical bud of bicyclic annual shoots on 30 Mar. before winter-bud swelling (A), on 16 Jun. before the summer flush of growth (B), on 8 Jul., during the summer flush of growth (C) and on 3 August at the end of the summer flush of growth (D). Magnification ×2. Insets show details of the corresponding embryonic shoot apex at magnification ×4. e.l., Embryonic leaf; p., leaf primordium; m.d., meristematic dome; f.i.p., female inflorescence primordium.

spring and summer flushes of growth, as shoot extension finished, the mean number of nodes increased by about six (Table 2). The additional leaves correspond to the end of the spring-bud development. Differences in the number of nodes between winter buds sampled in October, March and August were not significant (P > 0.02).

Between 16 and 24 Jun., as the number of unfolded leaves of summer shoots increased, the number of leaves of their

terminal buds decreased rapidly. The number of leaves of buds increased between 24 Jun. and 3 Aug., whereas the number of unfolded leaves remained relatively constant in that period (Fig. 4). Similar behaviour was found for the four types of summer growth units (Fig. 4).

The total number of nodes of winter buds of bicyclic floriferous shoots was similar between October 1992 and August 1993 (P > 0.02) (Table 2). Winter buds of October



FIG. 4. Mean (± s.e.) number of nodes of parent shoots (A) and winter buds (B) according to annual shoot type during the summer shoot extension. m.f.s., Monocyclic floriferous shoot; b.f.s.1, bicyclic floriferous shoot with one relay summer shoot; b.f.s.2, bicyclic floriferous shoot with two relay summer shoots; b.v.s., bicyclic vegetative shoot. Buds or shoots are located on the first (p1) or second (p2) node from the terminal inflorescence. Calendar dates and number of days from date of first observation (i.e. 16 Jun. 1993) are indicated.

1992 had, on average, one cataphyll less than winter buds of August 1993 (P < 0.001). The opposite was true for the number of embryonic green leaves (Table 2).

Comparisons of the number of nodes between winter and spring buds and between terminal and lateral buds

The numbers of nodes, cataphylls and embryonic green leaves were significantly different between spring buds sampled in June and winter buds sampled in March or August (Table 2). Spring buds, which give rise to summer shoots, had more than twice as many cataphylls as the winter buds, which give rise to next spring shoots (Table 2). The numbers of nodes and cataphylls in lateral winter buds of monocyclic shoots (Table 1) were significantly (P < 0.02) higher than those in terminal winter buds of bicyclic shoots (Table 2).

DISCUSSION

Leaf differentiation periods

The period of differentiation of spring shoots in winter buds of Juglans regia may be either mid-spring or early summer, depending on whether the parent shoot had, respectively, a monocyclic or a bicyclic growth pattern. Monocyclic shoots consist of leaves that were differentiated in the previous spring and that remained enclosed in a bud from summer up to early spring (Fig. 5A). Bicyclic shoots consist of leaves that were differentiated in the previous summer and extended in spring, and leaves that were differentiated in spring and extended in the summer of the same growing season (Fig. 5B). The bicyclic shoots of Juglans regia derive from two organogenesis periods separated by a resting period. In bicyclic shoots of oak, a single growth unit is also preformed in each terminal bud (Champagnat et al., 1986b; Fontaine et al., 1999). On the other hand, in some species of Pinaceae, two successive growth units may be preformed during an uninterrupted period (Lanner, 1970; Kozlowski, 1971). This may explain the fact that the expression of polycyclism appears to be more strongly linked to climatic conditions of the current year of growth in some species, e.g. Juglans regia, than in others, e.g. Pinus spp. In J. regia, the possibility of exhibiting several periods of leaf and female inflorescence preformation during one growing season may be regarded as a feature related to the tree's capacity to respond to environmental fluctuations.

The present results show that a large number of leaves of further shoots are differentiated at the inception of the current shoot extension. The organogenetic timing found here for J. regia resembles that found for apple trees (Abbott, 1977), Theobroma cacao L. (Greathouse et al., 1971) and some species of the Guyana forest (Comte, 1993), which show a high organogenetic activity at early stages of shoot extension. A different behaviour was found for several species of Pinaceae (Parker, 1959; Cannell et al., 1976; Owens et al., 1977; Pillai and Chacko, 1978; Hejnowicz and Obarska, 1995), some species of Taxaceae (Tomlinson and Zacharias, 2001), Callistemon viminalis (Gaertner) G. Don f. (Purohit and Nanda, 1968), Cephalotaxus drupacea Sieb. et Zucc. (Bompar, 1974), short shoots of Populus trichocarpa Torrey et A. Gray (Critchfield, 1960), Fraxinus americana L. (Gill, 1971), Fagus sylvatica L. (Fromard, 1982) and Nothofagus dombeyi (Mirb.) Oersted (Puntieri et al., 2002a), which present a high organogenetic activity at the end of shoot extension.

Winter and spring buds of Juglans regia

In *J. regia*, the lateral buds of monocyclic floriferous shoots possess round and undivided cataphylls without leaflet primordia (Fig. 5A), while the terminal bud of bicyclic shoots has cataphylls with distal incisions (Fig. 5B).



FIG. 5. Diagrammatic representation of bud structure and ontogenetic cycle for *Juglans regia* for a monocyclic floriferous shoot (A) and a bicyclic floriferous shoot (B). The rates of leaf differentiation and extension are indicated by curves with broken and unbroken lines, respectively. Open circles, Female terminal inflorescence.

This difference in form of bud protective leaves is in accordance with previous results on form variation between terminal and lateral buds of vegetative monocyclic shoots of *J. regia* (Sabatier and Barthélémy, 2001*a*).

In this species, winter buds, which give rise to spring growth units (Fig. 5A), and spring buds, from which summer growth units derive (Fig. 5B), differ in their composition. The cataphylls are longer, thinner and more numerous for spring buds than for winter buds. Spring buds are present during a short resting period of about 4 weeks between two flushes of growth in summer (Sabatier *et al.*, 1998), whereas winter buds remain dormant during several months in autumn and winter. Thus, winter and spring buds differ in the length of their resting periods and in the time of extension of the derived shoots. In Eurya japonica Thunb., an evergreen tree species of warm-temperate rain forests, two types of terminal buds were found for different seasons of the year, in association with variations in temperature conditions, day length and the length of resting periods (Nitta and Ohsawa, 1998). Differences in bud form between two successive flushes have also been observed in Quercus rubra L. (Collin et al., 1996). These results suggest that the

morphology of the protective leaves of buds may be a marker of the length of the period between two successive shoot-extension phases.

In Juglans regia, the capacity of a shoot to develop a summer growth unit is closely linked with tree ontogeny, the architectural position of the parent shoot within the tree (Sabatier and Barthélémy, 2001b), climatic conditions during the growing season and environmental conditions of growth (Barthélémy *et al.*, 1995). The specific morphology of spring and winter buds allows an early prediction (i.e. during the spring flush) of the time of bud development and of the type of annual shoot produced.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to J. G. Puntieri for helpful comments on previous versions of this paper.

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