

Estimating divergence times and ancestral breeding systems in *Ficus* and Moraceae

Qian Zhang^{1,*}, Renske E. Onstein^{1,2}, Stefan A. Little¹ and Hervé Sauquet^{1,3}

¹Laboratoire Ecologie Systématique Evolution, Univ. Paris-Sud, CNRS, AgroParisTech, Université Paris-Saclay, 91400, Orsay, France, ²German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv), Halle-Jena-Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany and ³National Herbarium of New South Wales (NSW), Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust, Sydney, Australia

*For correspondence. E-mail qian.zhang1@u-psud.fr

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- **Background and Aims** Although dioecy, which characterizes only 6 % of angiosperm species, has been considered an evolutionary dead end, recent studies have demonstrated that this is not necessarily the case. Moraceae (40 genera, 1100 spp., including *Ficus*, 750 spp.) are particularly diverse in breeding systems (including monoecy, gynodioecy, androdioecy and dioecy) and thus represent a model clade to study macroevolution of dioecy.
- **Methods** Ancestral breeding systems of *Ficus* and Moraceae were inferred. To do so, a new dated phylogenetic tree of *Ficus* and Moraceae was first reconstructed by combining a revised 12-fossil calibration set and a densely sampled molecular data set of eight markers and 320 species. Breeding system evolution was then reconstructed using both parsimony and model-based (maximum likelihood and Bayesian) approaches with this new time scale.
- **Key Results** The crown group ages of *Ficus* and Moraceae were estimated in the Eocene (40.6–55.9 Ma) and Late Cretaceous (73.2–84.7 Ma), respectively. Strong support was found for ancestral dioecy in Moraceae. Although the ancestral state of *Ficus* remained particularly sensitive to model selection, the results show that monoecy and gynodioecy evolved from dioecy in Moraceae, and suggest that gynodioecy probably evolved from monoecy in *Ficus*.
- **Conclusions** Dioecy was found not to be an evolutionary dead end in Moraceae. This study provides a new time scale for the phylogeny and a new framework of breeding system evolution in *Ficus* and Moraceae.

Key words: Breeding system evolution, dioecy, evolutionary dead end, molecular dating, ancestral state reconstruction, fossil calibration, *Ficus*, Moraceae.

INTRODUCTION

Flowers are the reproductive structures of angiosperms. The approx. 350 000 species of angiosperms are highly diverse in floral morphological traits, including breeding systems, ranging from bisexuality (hermaphroditism) to separate sex on distinct plants (dioecy) through several presumed intermediate states between these two ends (monoecy, andromonoecy, gynomoecy, androdioecy and gynodioecy) (Renner, 2014). Although a recent study demonstrated that bisexual flowers are ancestral in angiosperms and evolved many times independently to unisexual flowers (Sauquet *et al.*, 2017), the exact number and the context of these transitions remain to be characterized. Dioecy is rare in angiosperms (only approx. 6 %) (Renner, 2014) and has been suggested to be an evolutionary dead end (Bull and Charnov, 1985; Heilbut, 2000). Transitions from hermaphroditism to dioecy have been suggested to occur through three alternative pathways: the dimorphic pathway (through gynodioecy, androdioecy or polygamodioecy) (Dufay *et al.*, 2014); the monomorphic pathway (through monoecy, andromonoecy, gynomoecy or polygamomoecy) (Renner and Ricklefs, 1995); and the direct pathway (Barrett, 2002; Goldberg *et al.*, 2017). However, the view of dioecy as an evolutionary dead end has gradually changed over the last decade after it was found that transitions from dioecy to other breeding systems are

possible and that the flexibility of breeding system transitions may be caused by different selective pressures and constraints (Barrett, 2013; Goldberg *et al.*, 2017). Thus, it remains unclear why dioecy is in fact so rare in angiosperms (Käfer *et al.*, 2017).

The mulberry family (Moraceae) consists of approx. 40 genera and 1100 species, and represents a good model system to study dioecy transitions (Clement and Weiblen, 2009). Four breeding systems are observed in the family: monoecy, androdioecy, gynodioecy and dioecy (Datwyler and Weiblen, 2004). *Ficus*, the largest genus in Moraceae, contains almost 75 % of the species in the family (750 spp.). About half of the species of *Ficus* are monoecious, while the other half are gynodioecious (Cook and Rasplus, 2003). In monoecious species of *Ficus*, both functionally male and female flowers coexist in the same inflorescence (syconium); female flowers vary in style length. Fig wasp pollinators (Agaonidae) lay eggs in part of these female flowers and pollinate the others (Cook and Rasplus, 2003). Gynodioecious species of *Ficus* are characterized by two kinds of plants and inflorescences: female individuals bear syconia that contain only functionally female flowers (i.e. flowers that can develop seeds) and functionally male individuals bear syconia that contain both functionally male and gall flowers (female flowers that develop only wasps) (Cook and Rasplus, 2003). Therefore, structurally gynodioecious species of figs are functionally dioecious.

A previous study, based on parsimony reconstruction sampling 46 *Ficus* species (but no outgroup), suggested that monoecy is ancestral in *Ficus*, and that gynodioecy originated at least once or twice within the genus (Weiblen, 2000). A subsequent family-level parsimony study, sampling 83 *Moraceae* species (including 11 species of *Ficus*) suggested monoecy and dioecy to be ancestral in *Ficus* and *Moraceae*, respectively (Datwyler and Weiblen, 2004). However, the accuracy and precision of ancestral state reconstruction depend on the reliability of the phylogenetic tree and sampling density, and important progress has been made to reconstruct phylogenetic relationships in *Ficus* and *Moraceae* since these two studies were published (Zerega et al., 2005; Clement and Weiblen, 2009; Zerega et al., 2010; Cruaud et al., 2012; Williams et al., 2017). In addition, new probabilistic approaches for ancestral state reconstruction, taking into account phylogenetic uncertainty and divergence times, are now available (Pagel et al., 2004). Parsimony, maximum likelihood (ML) and Bayesian approaches today are the most commonly used methods for reconstructing ancestral states. The accuracy of branch length estimation may be important in model-based approaches (ML and Bayesian), which rely on them for computing the likelihood of evolutionary change along the phylogeny (Pagel and Meade, 2006). However, to date only a few attempts have been made to estimate divergence times in *Moraceae* (Datwyler and Weiblen, 2004; Zerega et al., 2005). Although more studies have addressed the time scale of *Ficus* evolution (Rønsted et al., 2005; Zerega et al., 2005; Cruaud et al., 2012), partly inconsistent results have been obtained, for instance with crown group age estimates for *Ficus* ranging from 40.1 to 101.9 million years ago (Mya). In addition to providing a framework to reconstruct ancestral states, estimating divergence times in *Ficus* and *Moraceae* is also important for other evolutionary questions, including the evaluation of the co-diversification and biogeographic history of the genus (Cruaud et al., 2012).

Here, we investigate two key questions. (1) What are the crown group ages of *Ficus* and *Moraceae*? (2) What are the ancestral breeding systems of *Ficus* and *Moraceae*, and how many times did monoecy and dioecy evolve in *Ficus* and *Moraceae*? To do so, we reconstruct a new phylogenetic tree for *Moraceae* using a densely sampled molecular data set, estimate divergence times using a relaxed molecular clock calibrated with a revised set of 12 fossil age constraints, and reconstruct ancestral breeding systems in *Ficus* and *Moraceae* with state-of-the-art model-based approaches. We estimate the age of the crown group of *Ficus* and *Moraceae* in the Eocene and Late Cretaceous, respectively. Our results suggest that dioecy is not an evolutionary dead end in *Moraceae* and the transitions from dioecy to the other breeding systems (androdioecy, gynodioecy and monoecy) occurred several times during the evolutionary history of the family. This study sheds light on the evolution of dioecy into other breeding systems and more generally improves our understanding of breeding system evolution in angiosperms.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Taxonomic sampling and molecular data set assembly

We selected GenBank sequences from 320 species belonging to 65 genera and eight families of *Rosales*, including 272

species and 36 genera (three-quarters of the approx. 40 genera) of *Moraceae* (Supplementary Data Table S1). Our efforts include a comprehensive sample of outgroups in order to estimate accurately divergence times in the family while taking advantage of the rich fossil record of the order (see below). We used eight markers from two genomes: three chloroplast genes (*matK*, *rbcL* and *ndhF*) and five nuclear markers including two non-coding regions [internal transcribed spacer (ITS) and external transcribed spacer (ETS)] and three genes (*G3pdh*, *npcGS* and the *waxy* region). This combination of coding and non-coding markers was selected to resolve both deep- and shallow-level relationships. *MatK* and *rbcL* have been proposed as standard barcoding regions for land plants (Hollingsworth et al., 2009) and *ndhF* proved to be very useful in previous phylogenetic studies of *Moraceae* (Datwyler and Weiblen, 2004; Zerega et al., 2005; Clement and Weiblen, 2009). ITS, ETS, *G3pdh*, *npcGS* and the *waxy* region were used in the latest and most densely sampled phylogenetic study of *Ficus* (Cruaud et al., 2012). Considering the comparatively fast molecular rates of ITS and ETS, these markers may be difficult to align and may introduce more noise than signal at the family level. Therefore, ITS and ETS sequences were here only used for species of *Ficus*. All sequences were aligned using Muscle v3.7 (Edgar, 2004) as implemented on CIPRES (Miller et al., 2010); alignments were then checked and adjusted by hand. In the ITS alignment, we deleted three short regions (approx. 10 bp) because of the uncertainty of gap length and position of base pairs in these regions. Combined multimarker alignments were assembled with Mesquite v3.04 (Maddison and Maddison, 2016).

Phylogenetic reconstruction

To identify and exclude problematic GenBank sequences (e.g. incorrectly identified), separate gene analyses were conducted first with RAxML v8.2.9 (Stamatakis, 2014) on CIPRES (Miller et al., 2010), using the GTRCAT model and 100 bootstrap replicates. We then compared single-marker phylogenetic trees with each other and with the latest published phylogenies of *Ficus* (Cruaud et al., 2012), *Moraceae* (Clement and Weiblen, 2009) and other families of *Rosales* (Wiegrefe et al., 1998; Potter et al., 2007; Zhang et al., 2011; Wu et al., 2013; Yang et al., 2013; Onstein et al., 2015; Hauenschild et al., 2016). A sequence was excluded when its position in one tree conflicted strongly (i.e. with high support) with those in other trees or published phylogenies. After excluding problematic sequences (*Celtis*: L12638, AY263941, AY263961, AY263925, AY263899; *Morus*: L01933) and confirming that no supported conflict remained among single-marker trees, combined phylogenetic analyses of chloroplast genes (*matK*, *rbcL* and *ndhF*), nuclear markers (ITS, ETS, *G3pdh*, *npcGS* the *waxy* region) and of all eight markers were conducted with ML and Bayesian approaches using RAxML and BEAST on CIPRES. For ML analyses, the data set was divided into eight partitions according to marker, each with the GTRCAT model and 1000 bootstrap replicates. All trees are presented rooted on the most external outgroup, *Rosaceae*, which have been shown to be the sister group of all remaining *Rosales* in all recent higher level phylogenetic analyses (e.g. Wang et al., 2009; Soltis et al.,

2011). The phylogenetic reconstruction by Bayesian approach was done simultaneously with divergence time estimation (see below).

Fossil calibration

The fossil record of *Moraceae* is comparatively poor and in need of critical revision (Collinson, 1989), whereas unambiguous fossils exist for other families of *Rosales* (Burge and Manchester, 2008; Benedict et al., 2011; Friis et al., 2011). When reliable fossils are absent or scarce for the ingroup, outgroup calibration may provide more accurate estimates than secondary calibration (Sauquet et al., 2012; Hipsley and Müller, 2014). Therefore, we specifically designed the taxon sample of this study to include sufficient outgroup nodes to take advantage of the fossil record of *Rosales*. Our set of fossil age constraints includes four in *Moraceae* and eight distributed among the remaining families of *Rosales* (Supplementary Data Table S2). To revise fossil calibrations in *Rosales*, we proceeded as follows (Parham et al., 2012; Sauquet et al., 2012): (1) we started from lists of calibrations used in previous molecular dating studies (Zerega et al., 2005; Cruaud et al., 2012; Magallón et al., 2015) and completed this list with specific reviews (Collinson, 1989; Friis et al., 2011) and recently published fossil taxa (Manchester, 1999; Calvilho-Canadell and Cevallos-Ferriz, 2007; Manos et al., 2007; Benedict et al., 2011; Friis et al., 2011); (2) for each fossil, we critically assessed the phylogenetic assignment based on original descriptions and subsequent reviews, and using the latest reference phylogeny for each family (Manchester, 1999; Calvilho-Canadell and Cevallos-Ferriz, 2007; Manos et al., 2007; Benedict et al., 2011; Friis et al., 2011; Jud et al., 2017); (3) for each fossil, we also critically revised the absolute age or age range of the fossil using the latest stratigraphy and geological time scale from the International Commission on Stratigraphy (Cohen et al., 2017). Because none of these fossil taxa has been included in total evidence phylogenetic analyses, our assignments here are at best ‘apomorphy based’ and therefore we have been particularly conservative in both selecting our final calibrations and assigning them to clades. This implies that some taxa previously used as calibrations are typically used here to constrain the age of a more inclusive node than in previous studies (e.g. the fossil achenes we used to calibrate the stem group of *Ficus* were used to calibrate the crown group of *Ficus* in previous studies; Datwyler and Weiblen, 2004; Rønsted et al., 2005; Zerega et al., 2005; Cruaud et al., 2012).

Molecular dating analyses

We used BEAST v1.8.0 (Drummond et al., 2012) implemented on CIPRES (Miller et al., 2010) to estimate divergence times and topology simultaneously. To reduce computational burden, we used empirical base frequencies and divided the data set into three partitions: chloroplast DNA (*matK*, *rbcL* and *ndhF*), non-coding nuclear markers (ITS and ETS) and coding nuclear genes (*G3pdh*, *nepGS* and the *waxy* region). The substitution model for each partition was selected using the Akaike information criterion (AIC) with jModelTest v2.1.6

(Darriba et al., 2012) as implemented on CIPRES. The best substitution model was TVM + I + G for the chloroplast (*matK*, *rbcL* and *ndhF*) and non-coding nuclear (ITS and ETS) partitions, and TPM3uf + I + G for the coding nuclear (*G3pdh*, *nepGS* and the *waxy* region) partition.

For each calibrated node, we chose the oldest reliable fossil as a minimum age constraint. Because most fossils typically provide only minimum ages for the clade to which they can be safely attributed, a uniform prior distribution was used for each fossil calibration, using the upper (younger) boundary of the fossil oldest stratigraphic age range as the minimum bound and the maximum constraint for the root (see below) as the maximum bound. Molecular dating analyses usually require at least one maximum age constraint (Ho and Phillips, 2009; Sauquet, 2013). Here, we chose to set the maximum age bound for the root (i.e. the crown group node of *Rosales*) to 107 million years (Ma) based on the crown group age estimate of *Rosales* (98.96–106.94 Ma) in the latest, large-scale molecular dating study of angiosperms (Magallón et al., 2015). Although the phylogenetic relationships among sampled members of *Rhamnaceae* are inconsistent with previous work (Onstein et al., 2015; Hauenschield et al., 2016; see the Discussion), they are unlikely to have affected divergence times because we chose conservative fossil assignments in *Rhamnaceae*. *Paliurus clarnensis* has been proposed to be more closely related to extant species of *Paliurus* than any other member of *Rhamnaceae* (Burge and Manchester, 2008), thus providing a minimum age for the stem node of *Paliurus*. Because of conflict in the position of the genus, we decided to calibrate the crown group node of *Rhamnaceae* instead. *Coahuilanthus belindae* has been proposed to be a member of *Rhamnaceae*, but its position in the phylogeny remains unclear (Calvilho-Canadell and Cevallos-Ferriz, 2007), therefore we used it as a minimum age constraint for the stem node of the family.

The tree prior in BEAST was set as a Birth–Death process. To produce a starting tree that conforms with the hard age constraints enforced in this analysis, we transformed the best-known RAXML tree into an ultrametric tree using the *bladj* function of *phylocom* v4.2 (Webb et al., 2008). Four separate runs were conducted, each with 100 million generations, sampling trees and parameters every 10 000 generations. Chain convergence was checked in *Tracer* v1.5 (Rambaut and Drummond, 2009), with the first 10 % of chain length excluded as burn-in. After confirming that chains of these four runs had converged, we combined them using *LogCombiner* v 1.8.0, resampling every 100 000 generations and discarding the first 10 % (i.e. 10 million) generations as burn-in. Tree statistics were summarized on the Maximum Clade Credibility (MCC) tree by *TreeAnnotator* v1.8.0, using median ages as node heights.

In addition to our main dating analysis, we also conducted a series of sensitivity experiments. First, we tested the impact of calibrations on the estimated topology by conducting another run keeping the maximum age constraint on the root but without internal age constraints (Sauquet et al., 2012). Secondly, we produced another run by excluding the age constraint on the stem node of *Ficus*, but maintaining all other 11 age constraints to test the influence of the former on the estimated crown group age of *Ficus*. Last, we tested the impact of our root maximum age constraint on divergence time estimates for the ingroup. Indeed, there remains considerable uncertainty on the crown

group age of angiosperms (Doyle, 2012; Magallón *et al.*, 2015; Herendeen *et al.*, 2017), and recent analyses that do not constrain this age consistently estimate it to be much older than the first accepted crown group fossils (Foster *et al.*, 2017). Therefore, we also re-ran our analysis using an older maximum age constraint on the root, set to 112 Ma, based on the crown group age of Rosales (87.82–111.78 Ma) estimated in the unconstrained analysis of Magallón *et al.* (2015), in which the crown group age of angiosperms was estimated to be 160–256 Ma rather than 136–140 Ma (S. Magallón, pers. comm.).

Ancestral state reconstruction

The breeding system state of each species was determined from the literature, and then recorded in the PROTEUS database (Sauquet, 2016). A list of all data records (each linked to an explicit reference) and the matrix are provided as [Supplementary Data Table S3](#). For the main analysis, we reconstructed the ancestral state with all 320 species in the data set (i.e. including all outgroups). To characterize a reliable evolutionary scenario supported by different classification methods of breeding systems (e.g. Anger *et al.*, 2017), we analysed six configurations of the same character and data, differing in the number of character states considered (Table 1; Fig. 1). Configuration A distinguishes among five breeding system states (as recorded and listed in [Supplementary Data Table S3](#)). Configuration B (four states) treats androdioecy as missing data. In our data set, there are only three androdioecious species, accounting for <1 % of all species sampled. Configuration C (three states) is similar to configuration B, but with gynodioecy and dioecy pooled as a single state (dioecy). In *Ficus*, gynodioecious species are functionally dioecious (Cook and Rasplus, 2003), and all gynodioecious species but one (*Dryas octopetala*) in this study belong to *Ficus*. Configuration D (three states) is similar to configuration B, but treats bisexual flowers as missing data. In Rosales, families Cannabaceae, Moraceae and Urticaceae all have unisexual flowers (Simpson, 2010); thus, maintaining the bisexual state is not essential to this study and could be detrimental by unnecessarily increasing the number of parameters to estimate. Configuration E (two states) combines the two transformations of configurations C and D: gynodioecy and dioecy pooled, bisexuality treated as missing. In configuration F (two states), we contrast gender monomorphic and gender dimorphic species. Gender monomorphic and gender dimorphic means that

in one population there are one or two functional classes of sex (Lloyd, 1980). Therefore, bisexuality and monoecy are gender monomorphic, and androdioecy, gynodioecy and dioecy are gender dimorphic.

For each configuration, we used and compared parsimony, ML and Bayesian approaches to reconstruct ancestral states (Sauquet *et al.*, 2015, 2017). Parsimony analyses were conducted in Mesquite v3.04 (Maddison and Maddison, 2016); ML and Bayesian analyses were conducted in BayesTraits V2 (Pagel and Meade, 2013). Parsimony and ML analyses were conducted with the MCC tree produced from the BEAST analysis, whereas Bayesian analyses were conducted with 3600 trees randomly sampled from the posterior of the BEAST analysis. To test the influence of topological uncertainty on ancestral state reconstruction, we also conducted additional Bayesian analyses with a fixed (MCC) tree.

Maximum likelihood analyses presented here explored two models for each configuration: an equal rates (ER, or Mk1) model, assuming equal transition rates among all character states (Lewis, 2001), and an all rates different (ARD) model, allowing distinct (asymmetric) transition rates among character states (Pagel, 1994). The best model (equal or unequal rate) for each configuration was selected according to the AIC. We calculated Δ AIC between two models for each configuration, using a Δ AIC of ≥ 2 as a criterion for positive support of the best-fit model (Posada and Buckley, 2004).

We also reconstructed ancestral breeding system states using both a ‘common’ (i.e. fixed-model) Bayesian approach and a reversible-jump Markov chain Monte Carlo (rjMCMC) strategy. While both allowed us to take parameter and phylogenetic (including molecular dating) uncertainty into account in ancestral state reconstruction (Pagel *et al.*, 2004), the rjMCMC approach allowed us to explore and visit multiple models of morphological evolution in proportion to their posterior probabilities (Pagel and Meade, 2006). Both the ER and ARD models were tested in the common Bayesian approach, and their relative fit was compared with the Bayes factor (Kass and Raftery, 1995) according to the criteria of Lodewyckx *et al.* (2011). Chain lengths were set to 10 million generations (or 2 million generations for fixed-tree analyses), and parameters and ancestral states were sampled every 1000 generations. Chain convergence was checked in Tracer v1.5 (Rambaut and Drummond, 2009), with the first 10 % of generations excluded as burn-in.

To investigate the impact of different taxonomic sampling strategies (with or without outgroups of *Ficus*) on ancestral

TABLE 1. Summary of the six character state configurations used to reconstruct ancestral breeding systems in *Moraceae*

Configuration	States	Justification
A	Bisexuality, gynodioecy, androdioecy, monoecy, dioecy	Original states recorded in species
B	Bisexuality, gynodioecy, monoecy, dioecy	Excluding state androdioecy for its low frequency in the data set of this study
C	Bisexuality, monoecy, dioecy + gynodioecy	Based on configuration B, gynodioecy combined with dioecy: all gynodioecious species (but one) in this study belong to <i>Ficus</i> , where they are functionally dioecious
D	Gynodioecy, monoecy, dioecy	Based on configuration B, excluding state bisexuality: only distant outgroups of <i>Moraceae</i> include species with bisexual flowers (e.g. Rosaceae, Elaeagnaceae and Rhamnaceae)
E	Monoecy, dioecy + gynodioecy	Based on configuration B, gynodioecy combined with dioecy (as in C) and bisexuality excluded (as in D)
F	Gender monomorphic, gender dimorphic	Recognition of bisexuality and monoecy as gender monomorphic, and gynodioecy, androdioecy and dioecy as gender dimorphic (Lloyd, 1980)

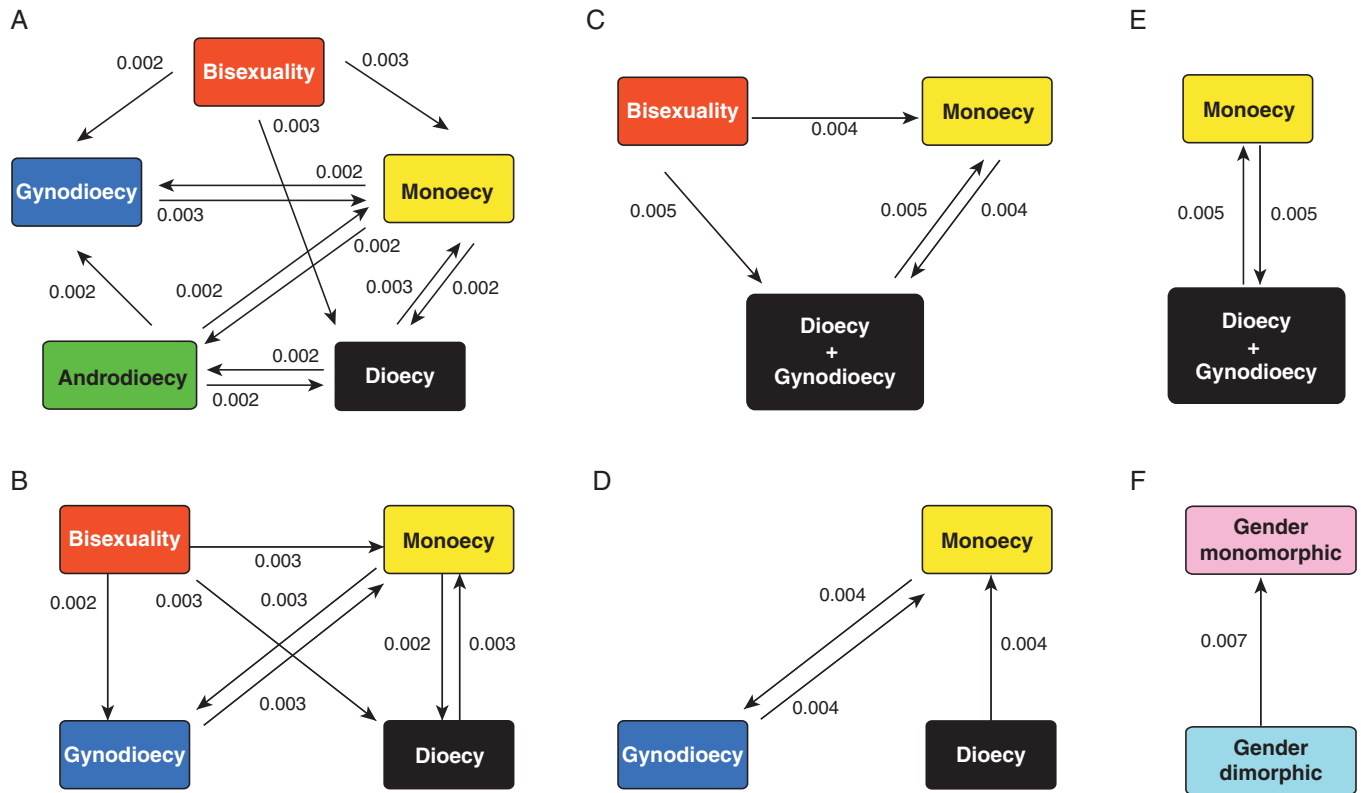


FIG. 1. Schematic representation of the six configurations for the breeding system character analysed in this study. The arrows denote transition rate parameters, as estimated in the reversible-jump Markov Chain Monte Carlo analyses, with mean rates reported. The absence of an arrow indicates a near-zero estimate for the corresponding parameter, suggesting that the model does not support direct transition between the two states.

state reconstruction of breeding systems in *Ficus*, we also conducted analyses with only *Ficus* species (same topology). Here, after excluding non-*Ficus* species in configuration A, we used Mesquite instead of BayesTraits for ML reconstructions because we wished to test the impact of different root states priors on ancestral state reconstruction. We applied both the equal rates (Mk1) and the asymmetric 2 rate (AsymmMk, equivalent to ARD for a binary character) models to reconstruct the ancestral state of *Ficus*. In addition, two different root states priors (equal and equilibrium frequencies) were applied for the asymmetric 2 rate (AsymmMk) model in Mesquite (whereas BayesTraits assumes an equal frequency root state prior for all states).

RESULTS

Phylogenetic reconstruction

Chloroplast markers were insufficient to resolve relationships within *Ficus*, as most internal nodes had low support (Supplementary Data Fig. S1A–D). We found three instances of conflict (*F. trigonata* clustered with *F. tinctoria*; *F. religiosa* clustered with *F. benghalensis*; *F. pumila* clustered with *F. hirta*, bootstrap probability 79, 80 and 57) between topologies reconstructed from nuclear and chloroplast sequences (Supplementary Data Fig. S1D, E). With the exception of these, we found no well-supported conflict between chloroplast and nuclear trees (Supplementary Data Fig. S1). We thus combined

the eight markers and focus here on the results from this combined analysis (Fig. 2; Supplementary Data Fig. S2). Hereafter we only discuss the trees reconstructed from the whole data set. The topologies reconstructed with ML and Bayesian approaches were consistent. Differences were only observed in some weakly supported nodes. All families, all tribes of Moraceae except Moreae, and all genera were supported as monophyletic. Tribe Moreae was reconstructed as polyphyletic because *Streblus smithii* clustered with Maclureae (the other two species of *Streblus* sampled were instead found to be nested in Moreae; Supplementary Data Fig. S2). In *Ficus*, subgenera *Phamacosycea*, *Urostigma* and *Ficus* were found to be paraphyletic, and subgenus *Synoecia* nested in subgenus *Ficus*. In addition, some deep nodes (e.g. the most recent common ancestor of *F. carica* and *Urostigma*) were poorly supported in the Bayesian analysis (Supplementary Data Fig. S2). With or without fossil age constraints, the topologies obtained with BEAST were identical and the posterior probability values of each nodes were similar as well (result not shown). Excluding the crown group calibration of *Ficus* or using an older maximum root age constraint did not influence the topology either (Supplementary Data Table S4).

Molecular dating

After combination of the four separate runs, the effective sample size (ESS) of each parameter was >100 , with most of them over 200. The crown group ages of *Ficus* and Moraceae

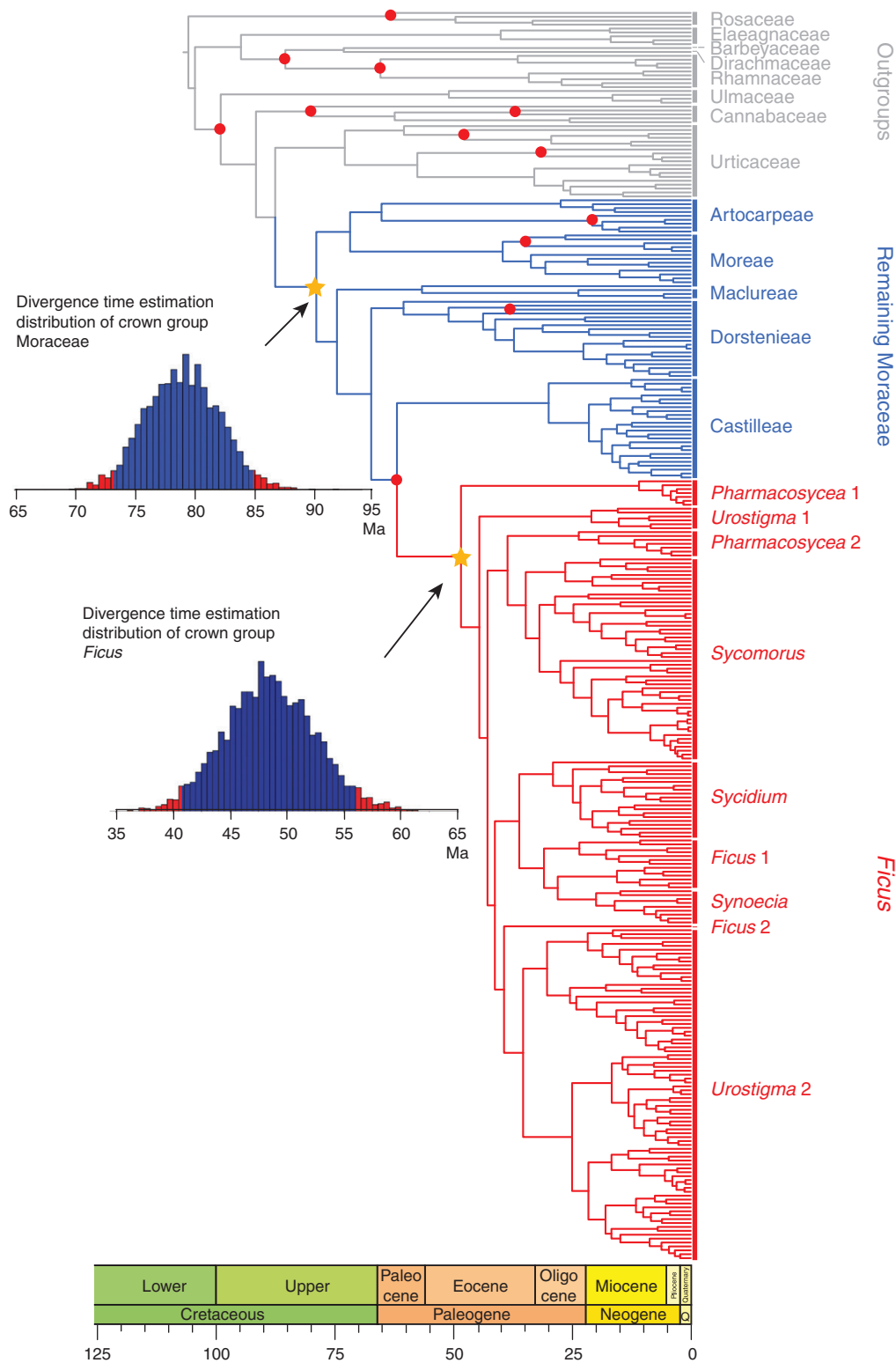


FIG. 2. Dated phylogenetic tree of 320 species with family names in Rosales, tribe names in Moraceae and section names in *Ficus*. This is the Maximum Clade Credibility (MCC) from the BEAST analysis of eight molecular markers (see text). Fossil-calibrated nodes are indicated in red. The posterior distribution of estimated ages is shown for crown group Moraceae and *Ficus* (marked with a yellow star). For full details of this tree, see Supplementary Data Fig. S2.

were estimated as Eocene (40.6–55.9 Ma) and Late Cretaceous (73.2–84.7 Ma), respectively (Table 2; Fig. 2). The oldest tribe was Artocarpeae (64.0–68.6 Ma), and Maclureae originated

most recently (8.9–41.1 Ma). In *Ficus*, subgenus *Sycomorus* was the oldest (28.0–41.1 Ma). Excluding the *Ficus* stem group calibration or using an older maximum root age

TABLE 2. Estimated divergence times for key nodes of *Moraceae*, following the tribal classification of Clement and Weiblen (2009), as shown in Fig. 1

Nodes	Breeding systems	Support values (BP/PP)*	Mean age (95 % HPD) [†] (Ma)
CG [‡] Rosales	Bisexuality, monoecy, androdioecy, gynodioecy, dioecy	–	105.5 (102.8–107.0)
SG [§] Moraceae	–	100/1.00	87.5 (81.7–93.3)
CG Moraceae	Monoecy, androdioecy, gynodioecy, dioecy	99/1.00	79.0 (73.2–84.7)
CG Artocarpeae	Monoecy, dioecy	99/1.00	65.6 (64.0–68.6)
CG Moreae [¶]	Monoecy, dioecy	91/1.00	40.3 (34.9–46.8)
CG Maclureae	Dioecy	98/1.00	24.7 (8.9–41.1)
CG Dorstenieae	Monoecy, dioecy	98/1.00	60.5 (51.4–70.2)
CG Castilleae	Monoecy, androdioecy, dioecy	100/1.00	31.2 (18.7–47.0)
SG Ficeae	–	98/1.00	62.2 (56.0–68.6)
CG Ficeae	Monoecy, gynodioecy	99/1.00	48.5 (40.6–55.9)
CG <i>Pharmacosyceae</i> 1	Monoecy	58/1.00	11.6 (5.5–19.4)
CG <i>Pharmacosyceae</i> 2	Monoecy	100/1.00	24.2 (13.2–36.7)
CG <i>Sycomorus</i>	Monoecy, gynodioecy	77/1.00	38.7 (28.0–41.1)
CG <i>Sycidium</i>	Gynodioecy	100/1.00	29.2 (22.6–36.4)
CG <i>Synoecia</i>	Gynodioecy	100/1.00	20.1 (13.7–26.8)
CG <i>Ficus</i>	Gynodioecy	82/1.00	31.0 (24.7–38.0)
CG <i>Urostigma</i> 1	Monoecy	100/1.00	21.5 (12.0–31.2)
CG <i>Urostigma</i> 2	Monoecy	99/1.00	35.5 (28.0–42.3)

*PP, posterior probability; BP, bootstrap probability.

[†]95 % HPD, 95 % highest posterior density.

[‡]CG, crown group.

[§]SG, stem group.

[¶]*Streblus smithii* was here excluded from crown group Moreae (see text for details).

constraint did not have strong impact on estimated ages (Supplementary Data Table S4).

Ancestral state reconstruction

Parsimony, ML and Bayesian analyses of the full data set (320 species) reconstruct dioecy as ancestral for *Moraceae* with strong support in all six character state configurations (Table 3; Fig. 3; Supplementary Data Figs S3 and S4). Furthermore, we find that dioecy has evolved into monoecy at least five times in *Moraceae*. However, several alternative scenarios are possible due to uncertainty in the most recent common ancestor of *Dorstenieae*, *Castilleae* and *Ficeae* (*Ficus*) (Fig. 3). In one possible scenario, monoecy evolved independently once in *Artocarpeae* (*Artocarpus*); once in *Moreae* (*Morus*); once in *Dorstenieae* (with at least two subsequent reversals); twice in *Castilleae* (*Perebea humilis*); and the clade of *Antiaris toxicaria* and *Mesogyne insignis*; and at least once in *Ficeae* (*Ficus*). In another possible scenario, monoecy evolved independently in *Artocarpeae* and *Moreae* (as above), but shares a common origin in the clade of *Dorstenieae*, *Castilleae* and *Ficus*, with at least two reversals (to dioecy) in *Dorstenieae*, and one in the ancestor of *Castilleae* (followed by two subsequent gains again in the tribe as above). Within *Ficus*, no matter whether gynodioecy (functional dioecy) is ancestral (and therefore intermediate) or not (see below), at least three transitions from gynodioecy to monoecy are reconstructed (within section *Sycomorus*).

Conversely, the ancestral breeding system of *Ficus* could not be reconstructed with confidence. First, parsimony reconstructions suggested either monoecy (configurations A, B and D) or an equivocal state (monoecy or the combination of

dioecy and gynodioecy; configurations C, E and F) as ancestral in *Ficus* (Supplementary Data Fig S4). Secondly, ML reconstructions with an equal rate model with all configurations supported monoecy (or gender monomorphic) as ancestral in *Ficus*, whereas the unequal rate model supported gynodioecy (or gynodioecy + dioecy or gender dimorphic) as ancestral in the genus (Table 3). The strength of support differed among different configurations, but the ancestral state did not change. In the ML approach, we compared the models in each configuration using the AIC. Only with configuration A was the equal rate model selected, whereas the unequal rate model better fit the data with configurations B–E. As a result, considering best-fit models only, gynodioecy (or gynodioecy + dioecy, or gender dimorphic) was found as ancestral in *Ficus* with five out of six configurations (Table 3). Thirdly, the Bayesian approach with rjMCMC weakly supported monoecy (or gender monomorphic) as ancestral in *Ficus*, but with a broad 95 % highest posterior density (HPD; 0–1.00), suggesting high uncertainty in the estimation (Table 4). Bayesian analyses with fixed model selected the unequal rate model in four out of six configurations (two with weak support), and monoecy as ancestral in *Ficus* in four out of six configurations.

Some of the transitions such as the direct transition between gynodioecy and dioecy in configurations A, B or D were estimated to be unlikely (i.e. transition rates were estimated to be zero) in the rjMCMC analyses (Fig 2). The 95 % HPD of transition rates in each configuration broadly overlapped. In the Bayesian analysis with the unequal rate model in configuration A (Supplementary Data Table S5), the chain did not converge. This remained true when fixing the tree (i.e. using the MCC tree) instead of using a sample of trees from the BEAST posterior. These results suggest that the unequal rate model

TABLE 3. Summary results of ancestral state reconstruction for the complete (320 species) data set by the maximum likelihood approach

CG Moraceae*	Prob [†]	CG <i>Ficus</i> [‡]	Prob	Lh [§]	No. of par [¶]	AIC
Equal rate						
A Dioecy	0.91	Monoecy	0.92	121.6	10	263.2
B Dioecy	0.90	Monoecy	0.91	102.7	6	217.4
C Gynodioecy + dioecy	0.95	Monoecy	0.87	91.5	3	189
D Dioecy	0.88	Monoecy	0.89	78.9	3	163.8
E Gynodioecy + dioecy	0.92	Monoecy	0.80	63.1	1	128.2
F Gender dimorphic	0.89	Gender monomorphic	0.76	76.1	1	154.2
Unequal rate						
A Androdioecy; dioecy; gynodioecy	Each approx. 0.33	Gynodioecy	0.95	124.7	20	289.4
B Dioecy	0.99	Gynodioecy	0.98	90.8	12	205.6
C Gynodioecy + dioecy	0.99	Gynodioecy + dioecy	0.84	76.9	6	165.8
D Dioecy	1.00	Gynodioecy	1.00	70.0	6	152
E Gynodioecy + dioecy	1.00	Gynodioecy + dioecy	0.83	61.6	2	127.2
F Gender dimorphic	1.00	Gender dimorphic	0.84	74.6	2	153.2

*CG Moraceae, breeding system state of crown group Moraceae.

[†]Prob, probability of support estimated by maximum likelihood.

[‡]CG *Ficus*, breeding system state of crown group *Ficus*.

[§]Lh, minus log likelihood.

[¶]No. of par, number of free parameters.

The best-fit model identified by AIC for each configuration is indicated in bold.

is overparameterized for this configuration with five character states. Indeed, 20 free parameters (transition rates) are estimated in this model. In contrast, a four-state unequal rate model requires 12 parameters, a three-state model requires six parameters and a binary model requires only two parameters. The potential overparameterization of configuration A was also suggested by the results of rjMCMC analyses. For each configuration, the number of free parameters in the model was estimated to be between one and three.

Reconstructions with only species of *Ficus* also showed an uncertain result with respect to the ancestral state of the genus (Supplementary Data Fig. S5). Both parsimony and ML with the equal rate model strongly supported monoecy to be ancestral in *Ficus*, whereas the ML approach with the unequal rate model supported gynodioecy as ancestral in the genus. The support for ancestral gynodioecy differed with root state prior: with the equal frequencies root state prior, gynodioecy was highly supported (0.99 out of 1) whereas with the equilibrium frequencies root state prior, the probability for gynodioecy decreased sharply to 0.56, suggesting high uncertainty.

DISCUSSION

Phylogenetic relationships in *Moraceae*

The general topology of phylogenetic trees reconstructed in this study (both ML and Bayesian approach) is consistent with previous studies in *Ficus* (Cruaud et al., 2012), *Moraceae* (Clement and Weiblen, 2009) and *Rosales* (Zhang et al., 2011), except for relationships within *Rhamnaceae*, for which our results partly differ from those of two recent phylogenetic studies (Onstein et al., 2015; Hauenschild et al., 2016). This conflict may be due to the use of different molecular markers and to our sampling of this outgroup family with low density. Here we used *matK*, *rbcL* and *ndhF*, while Hauenschild et al. (2016) used ITS and *trnL-F*, and Onstein et al. (2015) used eight molecular markers

(including all the markers we used and *trnL-F*, *psbA*, *psbA-trnH*, *rpl16* and ITS). However, these differences are unlikely to affect our ancestral state reconstructions, given the distant positions of *Rhamnaceae* and *Moraceae* in the phylogeny of *Rosales*, and the fact that the breeding system state of most of the species in *Rhamnaceae* has been scored as missing data in this study. In our phylogenetic reconstruction, outgroup relationships are consistent with previous work (Wang et al., 2009; Soltis et al., 2011; Zhang et al., 2011).

Within *Moraceae*, phylogenetic relationships among genera are consistent with recent studies (Zerega et al., 2005, 2010; Clement and Weiblen, 2009; Williams et al., 2017) except for *Moraceae* (Fig. 2; Supplementary Data Fig. S2). Tribe *Moraceae* was found to be paraphyletic due to the position of *Streblus smithii* as sister to *Maclureae*. This relationship is not strongly supported (posterior probability 0.76) and may be caused by too few informative sites for this species. In our data set, *S. smithii* is only represented by the *ndhF* sequence and our separate analysis of the *ndhF* data set, in which all three species of *Streblus* were sampled, supports the same result as our combined analysis (Supplementary Data Fig. S1C). In the original paper from where the sequence came (Datwyler and Weiblen, 2004), the species was found in an uncertain phylogenetic position. However, in a later reconstruction (Clement and Weiblen, 2009) where *ndhF*, 26S and morphological data were combined, *S. smithii* clustered with the other two species in the genus, possibly because the nuclear (26S) and morphological signal overcame a divergent *ndhF* sequence in their combined analysis.

Within *Ficus*, subgenera *Phamacosyceae*, *Urostigma* and *Ficus* were found to be paraphyletic, and subgenus *Synoecia* is nested within subgenus *Ficus* and some deep nodes remain poorly supported. These results are consistent with the most recent comprehensive phylogenetic study of the genus (Cruaud et al., 2012), while they are in conflict with a recent phylogenomic study of *Ficus* based on full chloroplast genomes, and this conflict could be caused by potential cyto-nuclear discordance (Bruun-Lund et al., 2017). Chloroplast markers performed

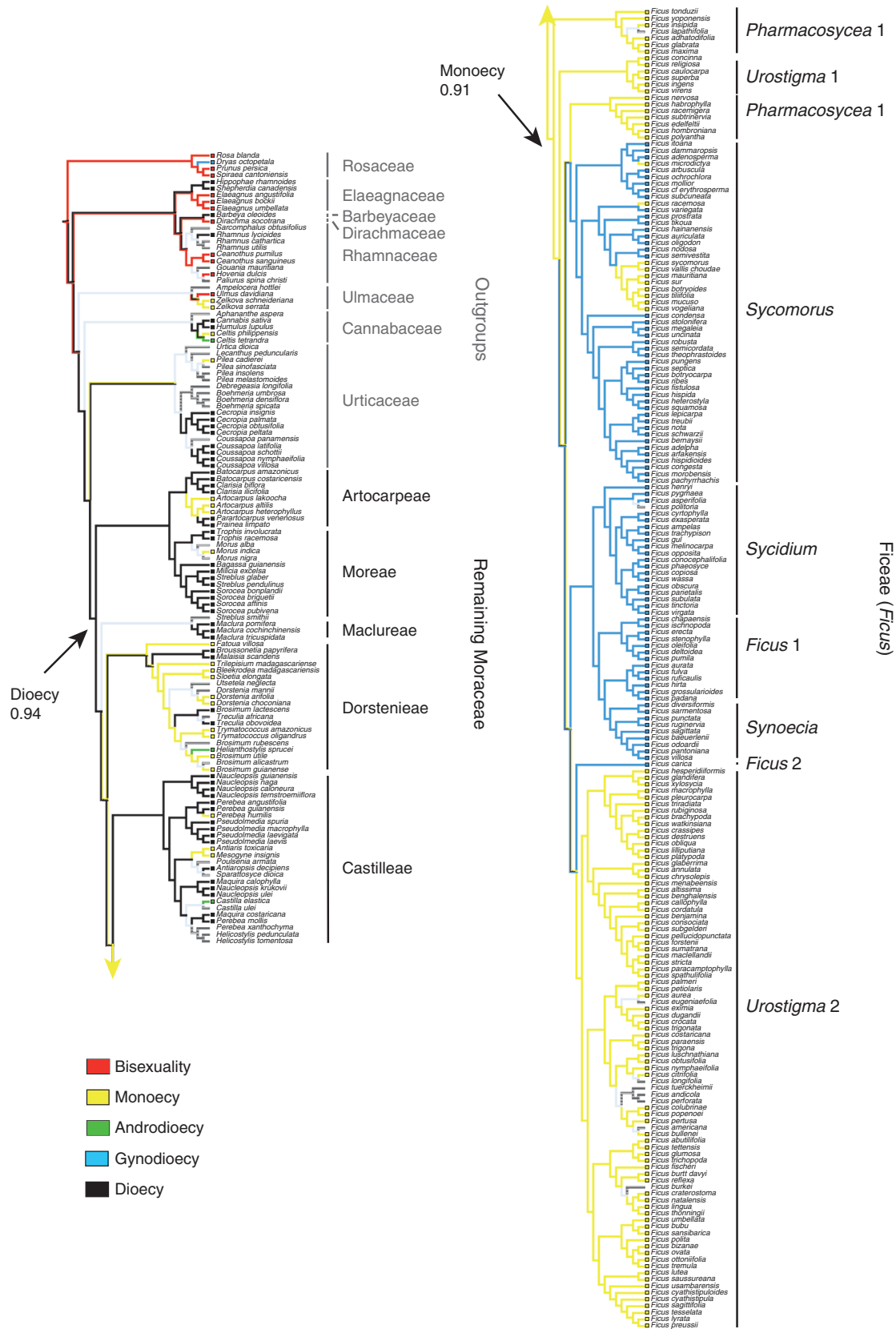


FIG. 3. Ancestral state reconstruction of breeding systems in Moraceae. Here we show results from the maximum likelihood analysis of configuration A (five character states) with the equal rate model (for other results, see Supplementary Data Figs S3–S5). Clade labels: family names in Rosales, tribe names in Moraceae and section names in *Ficus*.

TABLE 4. Summary results of ancestral state reconstruction for the complete (320 species) data set obtained with the Bayesian approach (reversible-jump MCMC)

Configuration	One MCC tree				3600 posterior trees			
	CG <i>Moraceae</i> *	95 % HPD [†]	CG <i>Ficus</i> [‡]	95 % HPD	CG <i>Moraceae</i>	95 % HPD	CG <i>Ficus</i>	95 % HPD
A	Dioecy	0.82–1.00	Monoecy	0.00–0.88	Dioecy	0.80–1.00	Monoecy	0–0.99
B	Dioecy	0.84–1.00	Monoecy	0.71–0.90	Dioecy	0.80–1.00	Monoecy	0.71–1.00
C	Gynodioecy + dioecy	0.86–1.00	Monoecy	0.00–0.84	Gynodioecy + dioecy	0.74–1.00	Monoecy	0.00–0.97
D	Dioecy	0.85–1.00	Monoecy	0.66–0.90	Dioecy	0.82–1.00	Monoecy	0.65–1.00
E	Gynodioecy + dioecy	0.87–1.00	Monoecy	0.00–0.85	Gynodioecy + dioecy	0.75–1.00	Monoecy	0.00–0.98
F	Gender dimorphic	0.85–1.00	Gender dimorphic	0.19–1.00	Gender dimorphic	0.76–1.00	Gender dimorphic	0.03–1.00

*CG *Moraceae*, breeding system state of crown group *Moraceae*.

[†]95 % HPD, 95 % highest posterior density.

[‡]CG *Ficus*, breeding system state of crown group *Ficus*.

poorly in *Ficus* as the informative sites they provide are too few (Cruaud et al., 2012). Almost no branch length can be observed in the chloroplast tree for the shallow nodes (Supplementary Data Fig. S1). In our analysis, *Ficus* species were represented not only by chloroplast markers but also by nuclear markers which were found informative enough in previous studies (Rønsted et al., 2008; Cruaud et al., 2012). In the Bayesian analyses, 3600 trees were taken into account, therefore the uncertainty of topology was considered.

A new time scale for *Moraceae* diversification

The new time scale presented here for *Moraceae* was estimated with 12 fossil calibrations (four ingroup and eight outgroup), more than in any previous study of the family so far. Here the crown group age of *Moraceae* was estimated as 73.3–84.9 Ma. This estimate is similar to that found by Zerega et al. (2005) (72.6–110.0 Ma), but with a narrower confidence interval. Our stem group age estimate for the family (81.7–93.3 Ma) is older than that reported by Magallón et al. (2015) (57.7–77.84 Ma), most probably because our increased sampling of the family and its outgroups allowed us to use more fossil calibrations in *Rosales*. The crown group age of *Ficus* was here estimated as 40.8–56.0 Ma, which is similar to the age reported by Zerega et al. (2005) (40.1–51.0 Ma), but younger than the age found by Rønsted et al. (2005) (51.4–78.0 Ma) and Cruaud et al. (2012) (60.0–101.9 Ma). These differences may be explained by different calibration strategies. When fossil species have morphological traits similar to extant species of a clade, these fossils are often used optimistically to calibrate the crown group of this clade. This practice is problematic because it rules out the possibility that such fossils are stem relatives of the clade (Ronquist et al., 2012; Sauquet, 2013). Here we used an apomorphy-based approach, using fossils as minimum age constraints modelled with uniform prior distributions to calibrate the stem node of the clade with which they share apomorphies (Sauquet, 2013) (Supplementary Data Table S2). For instance, the fossil achenes attributed to *Ficus* (Collinson, 1989) were here used to calibrate the stem node of *Ficus*, whereas Rønsted et al. (2005) and Cruaud et al. (2012) used the same fossils to calibrate the crown node of *Ficus*. We also used different prior distributions for fossil calibrations. Although some authors have suggested that priors such as lognormal or

exponential distributions may help to improve the accuracy of divergence time estimation (Yang and Rannala, 2005; Ho and Phillips, 2009), the prior setting of parameters such as mean or standard deviation for these distributions is often arbitrary and the shape of these distributions implicitly assumes that the fossil diverged close to the node calibrated. Our strategy here was instead to use uniform distribution with fossil ages as the minimum bound and maximum root age as the maximum bound. The crown group ages of tribes *Artocarpeae* and *Dorstenieae* were estimated as 64.0–68.6 and 51.4–70.2 Ma, respectively, both of which are younger than the ages reported by Williams et al. (2017) for *Artocarpeae* (61.4–78.5 Ma) and by Misiewicz and Zerega (2012) for *Dorstenia* (84.8–132.0 Ma).

The BEAST analyses without internal calibrations showed identical topology and similar posterior support compared with our reference analysis using all calibrations, suggesting that here calibration did not influence the topology. Here, we used the maximum age estimated for crown group *Rosales* by Magallón et al. (2015) as the maximum age constraint on the root in our analyses, but also tested the influence of older root constraints. Consistent with previous work (Sauquet et al., 2009; Massoni et al., 2014; Foster et al., 2017), we found that alternative maximum root constraints had very little impact on estimated divergence times. In addition, the crown group age of *Ficus* was similar with or without the stem group *Ficus* calibration (Supplementary Data Table S4). These results suggest that our estimates are not an artefact of the calibration points near the nodes of interest.

Breeding system transitions in *Moraceae* and *Ficus*

It was found that increased taxon sampling density can be helpful in ancestral state reconstruction (Salisbury and Kim, 2001). Ancestral states of breeding systems in *Moraceae* have been previously reconstructed with parsimony and a phylogenetic tree of 46 species (Weiblen, 2000), 83 species (Datwyler and Weiblen, 2004) and 73 species (Clement and Weiblen, 2009). In this study, we reconstructed ancestral states with a more densely sampled phylogenetic tree (including 200 species of *Ficus* and 271 species from other genera of *Moraceae*), compared different model-based approaches and took into account phylogenetic uncertainty in our Bayesian analyses. Here, we found similar results for two focal nodes (*Moraceae* and *Ficus*) whether using a single tree or thousands of trees sampled from

the posterior of BEAST analyses, suggesting that, in our analyses, topology did not affect the estimation. In all the approaches and models, dioecy was strongly supported to be ancestral for *Moraceae*, while the ancestral state for *Ficus* remains unclear.

Dioecy has been reported to correlate with several ecological traits, including abiotic pollination, fleshy fruits and woody growth form (Freeman *et al.*, 1979; Renner and Ricklefs, 1995; Vamosi *et al.*, 2003). During the history of *Moraceae*, dioecy evolved into monoecy at least six times (see above; Fig. 3; Supplementary Data Figs S3 and S4). Although a previous study suggested no strong statistical support for a relationship between breeding system and pollination syndrome in *Moraceae* (Clement and Weiblen, 2009), our results reinforce the general pattern that would be consistent with such a relationship: dioecious taxa tend to be wind pollinated, whereas monoecious taxa tend to be insect pollinated. For instance, we infer *Artocarpaeae* as ancestrally dioecious (Fig. 3; Supplementary Data Figs S3 and S4), and Datwyler and Weiblen (2004) reconstructed the clade as ancestrally anemophilous. In our reconstruction, dioecy has evolved to monoecy in *Artocarpus*, which is characterized by inflorescences with an insect pollination syndrome. This relationship may also apply to tribe *Dorstenieae* as a whole, most species of which are monoecious and were hypothesized to be insect pollinated according to their inflorescence structure (Berg and Hijman, 1999). However, the relationship becomes less clear in *Castilleae* and *Ficus* (Datwyler and Weiblen, 2004), partly because all species of *Ficus* are insect pollinated (Cook and Rasplus, 2003), yet only half of them are monoecious. Unfortunately, the current lack of sufficient data on actual pollination modes in *Moraceae* (outside *Ficus*) precludes us from further testing this potential correlation at the family level.

Although the ancestral state of *Ficus* proved to be particularly difficult to reconstruct in this study due to our exploration of various models and character state configurations, most of the evidence supports monoecy rather than gynodioecy as the ancestral state in the genus. As highlighted in recent studies of floral traits using the same methods (Sauquet *et al.*, 2015, 2017), our results suggest that great caution should be exercised when interpreting results from ML analyses exploring a limited set of models. Indeed, the models with highest posterior probability identified through our rjMCMC analyses corresponded to neither the equal rates nor the unequal rates models explored with ML. These best-fit models typically involved only one free parameter, but excluded some transitions (Fig. 1). In addition, Bayesian analyses present the advantage of taking into account phylogenetic and branch length uncertainty (Pagel *et al.*, 2004). All our Bayesian analyses that took into account phylogenetic and branch length uncertainty suggested monoecy as ancestral in *Ficus*, whether models were allowed to vary (Table 4) or were fixed (Supplementary Data Table S5), except for configuration F. In addition, the model-averaged rates from the rjMCMC analyses of the three configurations where dioecy and gynodioecy were treated as separate states (A, B and F) were estimated to be zero, suggesting that direct transitions between the two states do not occur in *Moraceae*. Therefore, we argue that it is more probable that monoecy is ancestral in *Ficus* and represents an intermediate state between dioecy and gynodioecy in the genus (Fig. 3). From a functional point of view, it also seems more likely that the highly specialized pollination association between *Ficus* and fig wasps started in monoecious figs.

Assuming that monoecy is ancestral in *Ficus*, the phylogenetic distribution of monoecy and gynodioecy in the genus and the uncertainty remaining in the ancestral states of several deep nodes allow for various scenarios (Fig. 3; Supplementary Data Figs S3–S5). It is possible that gynodioecy evolved only once (after divergence of the *Pharmacosyceae* 1 and *Urostigma* 1 lineages), followed by two main reversals to monoecy (*Pharmacosyceae* 2 and *Urostigma* 2). Alternatively, gynodioecy may have evolved twice independently (once in *Sycomorus* and once in the ancestral lineage of *Sycidium*, *Ficus* 1 and *Synoecia*). In all scenarios, gynodioecy reverted to monoecy at least three times within *Sycomorus* (Fig. 3). The biological reasons for these fluctuations between monoecy and gynodioecy in *Ficus* remain unclear, but several hypotheses have been proposed. Gynodioecy in *Ficus* may be linked with an adaptation to seasonality (Kjellberg *et al.*, 1987); reduction of non-pollinating wasps (Kerdelhué and Rasplus, 1996); persistence of pollinator populations when the host fig populations are small (Kameyama *et al.*, 1999); seed protection (Greeff and Compton, 2002); disperser selection; de-coupling of wasp and seed size; survival from predation; non-pollinators and predator satiation; and chronic pollinator shortages, crop asynchrony and inbreeding depression (Harrison and Yamamura, 2003). In addition, breeding system evolution in *Ficus* may have a relationship with biogeographic distribution. For instance, there appear to be no gynodioecious species of figs in South America (Cruaud *et al.*, 2012). Different climates and habitats in different continents may have accelerated breeding system evolution in *Ficus*. The genus has been inferred to have originated in Eurasia, then migrated and diversified in South America during the Miocene (Cruaud *et al.*, 2012). Migration to a new continent may have led to breeding system reversal from gynodioecy to monoecy in the clade *Urostigma* 2 (Fig. 3; Supplementary Data Figs S3 and S4) under the scenario where gynodioecy originated only once in *Ficus*.

Dioecy is not an evolutionary dead end in Moraceae

Our results provide additional strong support for dioecy to be ancestral in *Moraceae* as a whole, regardless of the approach or model used for reconstructing ancestral states (Fig. 3; Tables 3 and 4), consistent with previous work (Weiblen, 2000; Datwyler and Weiblen, 2004; Clement and Weiblen, 2009). Furthermore, our extensive sample of outgroups shows that dioecy in *Moraceae* is ancestral to a larger clade including at least *Cannabaceae*, *Urticaceae* and *Moraceae* (Fig. 3).

These results add to a growing number of studies that have challenged the notion that dioecy is an irreversible trait in flowering plants. Dioecy was once suggested to be an evolutionary dead end (Bull and Charnov, 1985). It is found in only approx. 6 % of angiosperms and distributed widely in around 43 % of families of flowering plants (Renner, 2014). However, an ‘evolutionary dead end’ has been used to describe different patterns of macroevolution (Bromham *et al.*, 2015), including: (1) irreversible evolution (Bull and Charnov, 1985; Glémin and Muyle, 2014); or (2) a state that presents more long-term disadvantages than advantages compared with other states, ultimately leading to probable extinction (Käfer *et al.*, 2014, 2017). Dioecy used to be thought of as irreversible (Bull and

Charnov, 1985), and high extinction rates were found on dioecious clades by a comparative approach (Heilbut, 2000). However, it has been known for a long time that although dioecious angiosperms are exposed to a higher risk of failure to find a sex partner, they are also advantageous in having obligate cross-fertilization (Darwin, 1876). Various studies have shown that dioecious species may include individuals with other breeding systems and that dioecy in general may be more labile than previously thought (Pannell, 1997; Korpelainen, 1998; Ainsworth, 2000; Käfer et al., 2017). These transitions could be linked to ecological processes including changing plant–pollinator relationships and environments (Case et al., 2008); long-distance dispersal (Schaefer and Renner, 2010); and hybridization and polyploidy (Obbard et al., 2006). In addition, various studies have documented clades where dioecy is the ancestral rather than the derived state, challenging the assumption of irreversibility of dioecy evolution. For instance, dioecy has been reconstructed as ancestral in Myristicaceae, with at least four subsequent shifts to monoecy in the family (Sauquet, 2003) and appears to be a transition state between monoecy and polygamy in Arecaceae (Nadot et al., 2016). A recent analysis of macroevolutionary dynamics of breeding systems in 40 angiosperm genera supported transitions away from dioecy in *Bursera* (Burseraceae) and *Dodonaea* (Sapindaceae; Goldberg et al., 2017). Furthermore, two recent angiosperm-wide analyses showed that dioecy does not have a negative relationship with diversity: dioecy was shown to correlate with an increased diversification rate (Käfer et al., 2014) or not to have a significant relationship with the latter (Sabath et al., 2016).

Conclusion

Here we reconstructed divergence times and ancestral breeding systems in *Moraceae*. With 12 fossil calibrations, the crown group ages of *Ficus* and *Moraceae* were estimated as 40.6–55.9 Ma (Eocene) and 73.2–84.7 Ma (Late Cretaceous). Dioecy was supported as the ancestral state of *Moraceae* and we showed that it evolved into monoecy at least five times in the family, and subsequently reversed in some clades (e.g. *Artocarpeae* and *Dorstenieae*). In *Ficus*, which represents 75 % of species in *Moraceae*, the ancestral state was estimated to be monoecy with moderate support, and at least one transition from monoecy to gynodioecy followed by at least three reversals were estimated. In future work, to investigate the exact breeding system evolutionary scenario of *Ficus*, it would be important to sample basal lineages of *Ficus* more densely and improve phylogenetic resolution of the backbone of the genus. The new time scale of *Moraceae* and *Ficus* we provide here will also be useful for future analyses of biogeography and co-diversification in the family. Finally, our results lend further support to the growing idea that dioecy does not always represent an evolutionary dead end, shedding light on the understanding of breeding system evolution in angiosperms more generally.

SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Supplementary data are available online at <https://academic.oup.com/aob> and consist of the following. Table S1: list of GenBank accession numbers for the sequences used in this

study. Table S2: detailed information for the fossil calibrations used in this study. Table S3: extraction of the PROTEUS database including a list of all data records and linked references, lists of characters and character states used in this study, and the matrix in ancestral state reconstruction analyses. Table S4: a list of divergence time estimates for tribes of *Moraceae*. Table S5: summary results of ancestral state reconstruction for the complete (320 species) data set by Bayesian approach with fixed model. Figure S1: phylogenetic trees reconstructed by maximum likelihood with different molecular marks or combinations in this study. Figure S2: detailed version of the dated phylogenetic tree of 320 species. Figure S3: ancestral state reconstruction with a 320-species data set by parsimony approach with tip names with all six configurations. Figure S4: ancestral state reconstruction with a 320-species data set by equal-rate maximum likelihood. Figure S5: ancestral state reconstruction with only *Ficus* species in the data set with tip names by different approaches.

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