

Supporting Information

Vignolini et al. 10.1073/pnas.1210105109

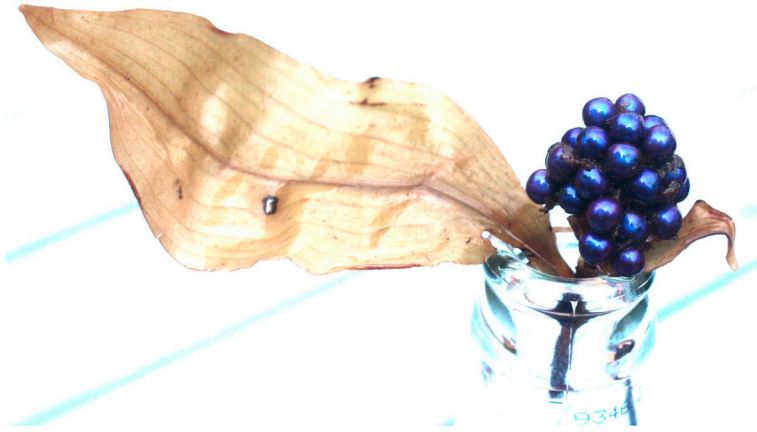


Fig. S1. Fruits of *Pollia condensata* conserved in the Herbarium collection at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, United Kingdom. (Left) Material collected in Ethiopia in 1974 and preserved in alcohol-based fixative. (Right) Dried specimen collected in Ghana in 1961. In both cases, the structural coloration of the fruit is well preserved, but the color of the leaves (formerly green) has been entirely lost.

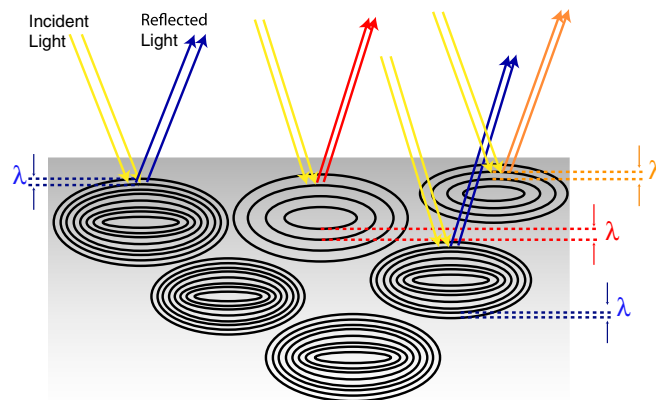


Fig. S2. Mechanism of color reflection from *Pollia condensata* fruit. The blue-iridescent coloration is the result of the superposition of the wavelength-selective reflectivity from the cell walls in the epicarp. Each cell has a multilayer envelope that behaves like a micro-Bragg reflector tuned to a specific wavelength. The pitch of the period defines the reflected color. The overall optical response consists of the reflection from many cells, each tuned to a slightly different wavelength, giving rise to a unique pixellated iridescence.