

Additional file 1

Table S1 Species, voucher information and GenBank accession numbers for the datasets of four markers.

Table S2 The parameters of the best-fit model for each DNA region.

Table S3 The crown group ages and ancestral habitat types of eleven representative plant groups in dryland floras across different continents.

Table S1

Species	Voucher	<i>rbcL</i>	<i>trnL</i>	<i>trnL-F</i>	ITS
<i>Zygophyllum album</i> L.f.	Thulin <i>et al.</i> 7977 (UPS)	AJ133861	AJ387963	AJ387963	
<i>Zygophyllum aff. maritimum</i> Dold	Dold 4654 (GRA)		EF656034	EF656034	
<i>Zygophyllum apiculata</i> F. Muell.	Greder 18664 (K)		AY233384		
<i>Zygophyllum applanatum</i> Van Zyl	Bellstedt 870 (STE)		EF656012	EF656012	
<i>Zygophyllum atriplicoides</i> Fisch. & Mey.	Astanova s.n. (K)		AY233385		
<i>Zygophyllum aurantiacum</i> (Lindl.) F. Muell.	Greder 20900 (K)		AY300775		
<i>Zygophyllum billardierei</i> DC.	R. 417 (Adelaide B.G.)	AJ133862	AJ387964	AJ387964	
<i>Zygophyllum botulifolium</i> Van Zyl	Marais 451 (STE)		EF656026	EF656026	
<i>Zygophyllum brachypterum</i> Kar. & Kir.	H65 (KUN) ¹ ; XJBIZLJ021 (XJBI) ²	JF944800 ¹	KR001987 ²	KR002014 ²	KR002024 ²
<i>Zygophyllum calcicola</i> Van Zyl	Dreyer s.n. (STE)		EF656030	EF656030	
<i>Zygophyllum chrysopterum</i> Retief	Marais 427 (STE)		EF656013	EF656013	
<i>Zygophyllum clavatum</i> Schltr. & Diels	Bellstedt 878 (STE)	EF655986	EF656010	EF656010	
<i>Zygophyllum coccineum</i> L.	Ryding 1347 (K)	AJ133863	AJ387965	AJ387965	
<i>Zygophyllum compressa</i> J. M. Black	Nicholls 809 (K)		AY300776		
<i>Zygophyllum cordifolium</i> L. f.	Marais 446 (STE)	EF655993	EF656022	EF656022	
<i>Zygophyllum cretaceum</i> Van Zyl	Bellstedt 856 (STE)		EF656028	EF656028	
<i>Zygophyllum cuneifolium</i> Eckl. & Zeyh.	Marais 455 (STE)		EF656024	EF656024	
<i>Zygophyllum cylindrifolium</i> Schinz	Craven 3800 (WIND)	AJ133864	AJ387966	AJ387966	
<i>Zygophyllum debile</i> Cham.	Bellstedt 796 (STE)		EF656041	EF656041	
<i>Zygophyllum decumbens</i> Delile	Thulin <i>et al.</i> 7981 (UPS)	AJ133865	AJ387967	AJ387967	
<i>Zygophyllum divaricatum</i> Eckl. & Zeyh.	Dold 4655 (GRA)		EF656031	EF656031	
<i>Zygophyllum eremaea</i> Diels	Beier s.n. (UPS)		AY300777		
<i>Zygophyllum fabago</i> L.	Chase 516 (K) ¹ ; XJBIZLJ025 (XJBI) ²	Y15030 ¹	KR001984 ²	KR002011 ²	KR002029 ²
<i>Zygophyllum flexuosum</i> Eckl. & Zeyh.	Bellstedt 794 (STE)	EF655995	EF656032	EF656032	
<i>Zygophyllum foetidum</i> Schrad. & J. C. Wendl.	Marais 423 (STE)		EF656039	EF656039	
<i>Zygophyllum fruticosum</i> DC.	Chase 2203 (K)	AJ133866	AJ387969	AJ387969	
<i>Zygophyllum fulvum</i> L.	Van Zyl 4605 (STE)		EF656044	EF656044	
<i>Zygophyllum fuscatum</i> Van Zyl	Bellstedt 892 (STE)		EF656045	EF656045	
<i>Zygophyllum fusiforme</i> Van Zyl	Bellstedt 857 (STE)		EF656023	EF656023	
<i>Zygophyllum giessii</i> Merxm. & A. Schreib.	Bellstedt 874 (STE)	EF655980	EF656000	EF656000	
<i>Zygophyllum glaucum</i> F. Muell.	Chase 2204 (K)	AJ133867	AJ387970	AJ387970	
<i>Zygophyllum gobicum</i> Maxim.	XJBIZLJ022 (XJBI)		KR001995	KR002008	KR002031
<i>Zygophyllum gontscharovii</i> Boriss.	Astanova s.n. (K)		AY300787		
<i>Zygophyllum hamiense</i> Schweinf.	Thulin <i>et al.</i> 9840 (UPS)		AY300783		
<i>Zygophyllum hildebrandtii</i> Engl.	Thulin <i>et al.</i> 9012 (UPS)	AJ133868	AJ387971	AJ387971	
<i>Zygophyllum hirticaule</i> Van Zyl	Van Zyl 3894 (STE)	AJ133869	AJ387973	AJ387973	
<i>Zygophyllum iliense</i> Popov	XJBIZLJ023 (XJBI)		KR001993	KR002006	KR002032
<i>Zygophyllum incrustatum</i> E. Mey. ex	Bellstedt 509 (STE)		EF656019	EF656019	

Sond.

<i>Zygophyllum inflatum</i> Van Zyl	HK 1490 (WIND)		EF656005	EF656005	
<i>Zygophyllum iodocarpum</i> F. Muell.	Symon 4607 (K)		AY300779		
<i>Zygophyllum jaxarticum</i> Popov	XJBIZLJ026 (XJBI)				KR002034
<i>Zygophyllum kansuense</i> Y. X. Liou	XJBIZLJ024 (XJBI)		KR001996	KR002010	KR002022
<i>Zygophyllum kaschgaricum</i> Boriss.	XJBIZLJ012 (XJBI)		KR001981	KR002000	KR002018
<i>Zygophyllum lehmannianum</i> Bunge	June s.n. 1972 (K)		AY300788		
<i>Zygophyllum leptopetalum</i> E. Mey. ex Sond.	Marais 422 (STE)		EF656040	EF656040	
<i>Zygophyllum leucocladum</i> Diels	Van Zyl 4479 (STE)		EF656029	EF656029	
<i>Zygophyllum lichtensteinianum</i> Cham.	Van Zyl 4594 (STE)		EF656020	EF656020	
<i>Zygophyllum loczyi</i> Kanitz	XJBIZLJ019 (XJBI)		KR001988	KR002015	KR002021
<i>Zygophyllum longicapsulare</i> Schinz	Bellstedt 879 (STE)	EF655981	EF656001	EF656001	
<i>Zygophyllum macropodium</i> Boriss.	D1508 (KUN) ¹ ; XJBIZLJ001 (XJBI) ²	JF944806 ¹			KR002030 ²
<i>Zygophyllum macropterum</i> C. A. Mey.	XJBIZLJ017 (XJBI)		KR001991	KR002003	KR002026
<i>Zygophyllum maculatum</i> Aiton	Marais 433 (STE)		EF656033	EF656033	
<i>Zygophyllum madagascariensis</i> (Baill.) Stauffer	Keating Miller 2236 (K)		AY300784		
<i>Zygophyllum madecassum</i> H. Perrier	Lorence s.n. (K)		AY300785		
<i>Zygophyllum maritimum</i> Eckl. & Zeyh.	Dold 4656 (GRA)		EF656035	EF656035	
<i>Zygophyllum microcarpum</i> E. Mey.	Van Zyl 4591 (STE)	EF655983	EF656002	EF656002	
<i>Zygophyllum migiurtinorum</i> Chiov.	Thulin <i>et al.</i> 9553 (UPS)		AY300786		
<i>Zygophyllum miniatum</i> Cham.	June s.n. 1965 (K)		AY300789		
<i>Zygophyllum morgsana</i> L.	Bellstedt 890 (STE)	EF655994	EF656021	EF656021	
<i>Zygophyllum mucronatum</i> Maxim.	XJBIZLJ030 (XJBI)		KR001997	KR002009	KR002023
<i>Zygophyllum namaquanum</i> Van Zyl	Marais 440 (STE)		EF656036	EF656036	
<i>Zygophyllum obliquum</i> Popov	H67 (KUN) ¹ ; XJBIZLJ028 (XJBI) ²	JF944808 ¹	KR001989 ²	KR002002 ²	KR002028 ²
<i>Zygophyllum orbiculatum</i> Welw. ex Oliv.	Craven 5096 (WIND)	EF655979	EF655999	EF655999	
<i>Zygophyllum ovatum</i> Ewart & J. White	Melville 451 (K)		AY300782		
<i>Zygophyllum oxycarpum</i> Popov	XJBIZLJ031 (XJBI)		KR001992	KR002007	KR002033
<i>Zygophyllum patenicaule</i> Van Zyl	Bellstedt 868 (STE)	EF655989	EF656008	EF656008	
<i>Zygophyllum porphyrocaule</i> Van Zyl	Bellstedt 800 (STE)	EF655992	EF656018	EF656018	
<i>Zygophyllum potaninii</i> Maxim.	XJBIZLJ020 (XJBI)		KR001986	KR002013	KR002020
<i>Zygophyllum prismatocarpum</i> Sond.	Bellstedt 860 (STE)	EF655990	EF656009	EF656009	
<i>Zygophyllum pterocarpum</i> Bunge	H64 (KUN) ¹ ; XJBIZLJ016 (XJBI) ²	JF944809 ¹	KR001985 ²	KR002012 ²	KR002025 ²
<i>Zygophyllum pterocaule</i> Van Zyl	Mucina 270806/25 (STE)		EF656007	EF656007	
<i>Zygophyllum pubescens</i> Schinz	Bellstedt 881 (STE)		EF656042	EF656042	
<i>Zygophyllum pygmaeum</i> Eckl. & Zeyh.	Marais 424 (STE)		EF656046	EF656046	
<i>Zygophyllum ramosissimum</i> Popov	Granitov s.n. (K)		AY300790		
<i>Zygophyllum retrofractum</i> Thunb.	Marais 430 (STE)		EF656014	EF656014	
<i>Zygophyllum rigidum</i> Schinz	Van Zyl 4590 (STE)	EF655982	EF656003	EF656003	
<i>Zygophyllum robecchii</i> Engl.	Chase 636 (K)	AJ133870	AJ387972	AJ387972	

<i>Zygophyllum rogersii</i> Compton	Marais 432 (STE)		EF656037	EF656037	
<i>Zygophyllum rosowii</i> Bunge	H62 (KUN) ¹ ; XJBIZLJ027 (XJBI) ²	JF944811 ¹	KR001994 ²	KR002005 ²	KR002035 ²
<i>Zygophyllum schreiberanum</i> Merxm. & Giess	Bellstedt 871 (STE)		EF656027	EF656027	
<i>Zygophyllum segmentatum</i> Van Zyl	Bellstedt 861 (STE)	EF655987	EF656015	EF656015	
<i>Zygophyllum sessilifolium</i> L.	Marais 434 (STE)	EF655997	EF656047	EF656047	
<i>Zygophyllum simplex</i> L.	Chase 806 (K)	Y15031	AJ387974	AJ387974	
<i>Zygophyllum spinosum</i> L.	Bellstedt 801 (STE)	AJ133871	EF656038	EF656038	
<i>Zygophyllum spitskopense</i> Van Zyl	Van Zyl 4606 (STE)		EF656048	EF656048	
<i>Zygophyllum spongiosum</i> Van Zyl	HK 1573 (WIND)	EF655985	EF656006	EF656006	
<i>Zygophyllum subtrijugum</i> C. A. Mey.	1955.07.30 s. leg. s.n. (K)		AY300792		
<i>Zygophyllum swartbergense</i> Van Zyl	Bellstedt 798 (STE)	EF655996	EF656043	EF656043	
<i>Zygophyllum tenue</i> R. Glover	Van Zyl 4593 (STE)		EF656017	EF656017	
<i>Zygophyllum teretifolium</i> Schltr.	Marais 447 (STE)		EF656025	EF656025	
<i>Zygophyllum turbinatum</i> Van Zyl	Bellstedt 799 (STE)		EF656016	EF656016	
<i>Zygophyllum xanthoxylum</i> (Bunge) Maxim.	Chase 1700 (K) ¹ ; XJBIZLJ013 (XJBI) ²	AJ133872 ¹	KR001982 ²	KR002001 ²	KR002019 ²
<i>Fagonia acerosa</i> Boiss.	Davis 56261 (E)		AY641579		AY641617
<i>Fagonia arabica</i> L.	Leonard 4887 (S)		AY641580		AY641618
<i>Fagonia bruguieri</i> DC.	Thulin <i>et al.</i> 9986 (UPS)		AY641582		AY641619
<i>Fagonia charoides</i> Chiov.	Thulin <i>et al.</i> 10587 (UPS)		AY641583		
<i>Fagonia chilensis</i> Hook. & Arn.	Penailillo s.n. (UTALCA)		AY641584		AY641622
<i>Fagonia cretica</i> L.	Chase 3432 (K) ¹	AJ133855 ¹	AJ387942 ¹	AJ387942 ¹	
<i>Fagonia densa</i> I. M. Johnst.	Rebman 3171 (SD)		AY641587		AY641625
<i>Fagonia glutinosa</i> Delile	Davis 49654 (K)		AY641588		AY641627
<i>Fagonia gypsophila</i> Beier & Thulin	Thulin <i>et al.</i> 9473 (UPS)		AY641589		AY641626
<i>Fagonia hadramautica</i> Beier & Thulin	Thulin <i>et al.</i> 9808 (UPS)		AY641590		AY641628
<i>Fagonia harpago</i> Emb. & Maire	Podlech 40630 (RSA)		AY641591		AY641629
<i>Fagonia indica</i> Burm. f.	Thulin <i>et al.</i> 9835 (UPS)	Y15018	AY300769	AJ387943	AY641630
<i>Fagonia laevis</i> Standl.	Beier 97 (UPS)		AY641595		AY641633
<i>Fagonia lahovarii</i> Volkens & Schweinf.	Thulin <i>et al.</i> 9522 (UPS)		AY641596		AY641635
<i>Fagonia latifolia</i> Delile	Scholz 174 (B)		AY641597		
<i>Fagonia latistipulata</i> Beier & Thulin	Thulin <i>et al.</i> 10833 (UPS)		AY641598		AY641636
<i>Fagonia longispina</i> Batt.	Podlech 53369 (M)		AY641599		AY641637
<i>Fagonia luntii</i> Baker	Thulin <i>et al.</i> 9881 (UPS)	AJ133856	AJ387944	AJ387944	AY641638
<i>Fagonia mahrana</i> Beier	Thulin <i>et al.</i> 9682 (UPS)		AY641600		AY641639
<i>Fagonia minutistipula</i> Engl.	Giess and Müller 13952 (K)		AY300771		AY641641
<i>Fagonia mollis</i> Delile	Townsend 86/12 (K)		AY641601		
<i>Fagonia olivieri</i> DC.	Samuelsson 4357 (S)		AY641602		AY641646
<i>Fagonia orientalis</i> C. Presl	Collenette 7516 (E)		AY641603		AY641648
<i>Fagonia pachyacantha</i> Rydb.	Beier 93 (UPS)		AY641604		AY641649
<i>Fagonia palmeri</i> Vasey & Rose	Hastings 75 (SD)		AY641605		AY641653
<i>Fagonia paulayana</i> J. Wagner & Vierh.	Thulin <i>et al.</i> 9515 (UPS)		AY641608		AY641654

<i>Fagonia rangei</i> Loes. ex Engl.	Leistner 3388 (K)	AY641609	AY641647
<i>Fagonia scabra</i> Forssk.	Davis 49662 (E)	AY300768	
<i>Fagonia scoparia</i> Brandegee	Johnston 9461 (SD)	AY300773	AY641644
<i>Fagonia subinermis</i> Boiss.	Grey-Wilson & Hewer 285 (W)	AY641610	AY641642
<i>Fagonia villosa</i> D. M. Porter	K. 5915 (RSA)	AY641611	AY641640
<i>Fagonia zilloides</i> Humbert	Davis 49047 (E)	AY641612	AY641655
<i>Augea capensis</i> Thunb.	Bellstedt 934 (STE)	EF655978	EF655998
<i>Tetraena mongolica</i> Maxim.	Sheahan 1994 (K) ¹ ; XJBIZLJ015 (XJBI) ²	Y15027 ¹	KR001983 ² KR001999 ² KR002017 ²
<i>Bulnesia arborea</i> (Jacq.) DC.	Chase 641 (K)	EU644676	AJ387947 AJ387947
<i>Guaiacum angustifolium</i> Engelm.	J. R. Dertien 534 (DEK)	EU253465	EU253465 JX486127
<i>Guaiacum coulteri</i> A. Gray	L. Lopez & M. Martinez 196 (DEK)	EU253466	EU253466 JX486715
<i>Guaiacum guatemalense</i> Planch. ex Rydb. & Vail	Chase 640 (K)	Y15019	AJ387948 AJ387948 JX486717
<i>Guaiacum officinale</i> L.	J.R. Dertien 505 (DEK)	EU253467	EU253467 JX901024
<i>Guaiacum sanctum</i> L.	L. Lopez & M. Martinez 204 (DEK)	JQ594515	EU253458 EU253461 JX486719
<i>Guaiacum unijugum</i> Brandegee	R. McCauley s.n. (DEK)	JX682629	JX682629 JX486721
<i>Porlieria chilensis</i> I.M. Johnst	Chase 643 (K)	Y15024	AJ387955 AJ387955 JX901026
<i>Larrea ameghinoi</i> Speg.	J.H.H.13246 (SI)	AF333329	AF334825
<i>Larrea cuneifolia</i> Cav.	CUNE	AF200471	JF267296
<i>Larrea divaricata</i> Cav.	J.H.H.9886 (SI)	AF200472	AF334821
<i>Larrea nitida</i> Cav.	J.H.H.13240 (SI)	AF200473	AF334823
<i>Larrea tridentata</i> (Sessé & Moc. ex DC.) Coville	Chase 636 (K) ¹ ; R. Laport 766242 (RSA) ²	AY935748	AJ387951 ¹ AJ387951 ¹ JF267306 ²
<i>Pintoa chilensis</i> Gay	Teillier 859 (NY)	AJ133858	AJ387954 AJ387954
<i>Plectrocarpa tetraacantha</i> Gillies ex Hook. & Arn.	J. H. Hunziker and V. Lia 13269	AF333330	
<i>Seetzenia lanata</i> (Willd.) Bullock	Herman 3964 (K)	Y15025	AJ387956 AJ387956
<i>Tribulopsis pentandra</i> R.Br.	Wilson 4719 (NSW)	AJ133860	AJ387960 AJ387960
<i>Tribulus cistoides</i> L.	J.R. Abbott 24857 (FLAS)	GU135188	
<i>Tribulus lanuginosus</i> L.	Sathishkumar <i>et al.</i> (2010, unpublished)		HM236860
<i>Tribulus macropterus</i> Boiss	Collenette 3/93 (K)	Y15028	AJ387961 AJ387961
<i>Tribulus subramanyamii</i> P. Singh, G.S. Giri & V. Singh	Sathishkumar <i>et al.</i> (2010, unpublished)		HM236858
<i>Tribulus terrestris</i> L.	XJBIZLJ014 (XJBI)	AM235167	KR001980 KR001998 KR002016
<i>Kallstroemia maxima</i> (L.) Hook. & Arn.	Magellanes 3806 (K)	Y15020	AJ387949 AJ387949
<i>Kelleronia revoilii</i>	Barbier s.n. (K)	Y15021	AJ387950 AJ387950
<i>Sisymbrium sparteum</i> E.Mey. ex Sond.	Chase 637 (K)	Y15026	AJ387958 AJ387958
<i>Neoluederitzia sericeocarpa</i> Schinz	Chase 642 (K)	Y15023	AJ387953 AJ387953
<i>Balanites maughamii</i> Sprague	Chase 635 (K)	JF265296	AJ387946 AJ387946
<i>Balanites pedicellaris</i> Mildbr. & Schltr.	OM901	JF265297	
<i>Morkillia mexicana</i> (DC.) Rose & Painter	Anderson 13526 (MICH, NY)	AJ133857	AJ387952 AJ387952
<i>Viscainoa geniculata</i> (Kellogg) Greene	Chase 634 (K)	Y15029	AJ387962 AJ387962

<i>Sericodes greggii</i> A. Gray	Rollins & Roby 76014 (NY, H)	AJ387962	AJ387957	AJ387957	
<i>Krameria lanceolata</i> Torr.	Simpson 88-05-1-1 (MICH)	Y15032			AY261080
<i>Krameria ixine</i> L.	Fernandez 22529	EU644679			AY260995
<i>Albizia procera</i> (Roxb.) Benth.	DS14502_JM1604	KC417044	EU440009		
<i>Geranium sibiricum</i> L.	Seonjoo and Woo 2040501	JX913498	DQ267175		
<i>Sterculia pruriens</i> (Aubl.) K. Schum.	NH200020	JQ625993	FJ039232		
<i>Punica granatum</i> L.	Hao 2000-0318 (SYS)	JQ730672	AY905483		
<i>Vitis aestivalis</i> Michx.	Wen 10428 (US)	L01960	HM223286		

Table S2

Dataset	Model	-lnL	AIC	A: C: G: T	P_inv	Shape
<i>rbcL</i>	GTR + I + Γ	6793.5049	13863.0098	0.2850: 0.1787: 0.2250: 0.3113	0.5900	0.9210
<i>trnL</i>	GTR + I + Γ	5361.7718	11347.5437	0.4338: 0.1174: 0.1321: 0.3167	0.1970	1.5150
<i>trnL-F</i>	GTR + I + Γ	3342.2175	7120.435	0.4642: 0.1291: 0.1133: 0.3934	0.0000	2.2380
ITS	GTR + Γ	7770.0399	15826.0797	0.2392: 0.2956: 0.2637: 0.2014	-	0.6150

The best-fit model was determined by the Akaike information criterion (AIC) in

jModelTest. “-” indicates inapplicable.

Table S3

Region	Taxon	Crown group age (95% HPD)	Ancestral habitat	Comment
Africa				
	<i>Vachellia</i> (Fabaceae)	16.6 (13.5–23.4)	dryland	African species of <i>Vachellia</i> is mainly distributed in dry woodlands except that three species inhabit in mesic forests [1]. Our inference of habitat evolution indicates that the most recent common ancestor (MRCA) of African <i>Vachellia</i> occurred in dryland habitat (Additional file 2: Figure S4a).
	Sect. <i>Euphorbia</i> (Euphorbiaceae)	14 (10.5–17.8)	dryland	Most of Sect. <i>Euphorbia</i> species are dominants of dryland floras throughout Africa (including Madagascar) except that a few of species inhabit in humid montane regions [2, 3]. Our inference of habitat evolution indicates that the MRCA of Sect. <i>Euphorbia</i> lived in dryland habitat (Additional file 2: Figure S4b).
Asia				
	<i>Caragana</i> (Fabaceae)	18.37 (12.11–25.87)	dryland (steppe)	Species of <i>Caragana</i> are primarily restricted to dryland floras, with a few outliers extending to non-dryland floras. Zhang et al. inferred evolution of habitats in the genus and found that its MRCA inhabited in Junggar steppe of Northwest dryland region of China [4].
	<i>Consolida</i> (Ranunculaceae)	16.9 (13.4–20.9)	dryland	Species of <i>Consolida</i> are mainly distributed in central Asian and Irano-Turanian dryland regions, with a few extending to the Mediterranean basin [5]. Our inference of habitat evolution indicates that the MRCA of <i>Consolida</i> occurred in dryland habitat (Additional file 2: Figure S4c).
Australia				
	<i>Austrostipa</i> (Poaceae)	14.55 (6.48–24.21)	dryland	Genus <i>Austrostipa</i> is a major component of dryland grasslands in Australia, with a few outliers extending to other habitats [6]. Our inference of habitat evolution indicates that the MRCA of <i>Consolida</i> occurred in dryland habitat (Additional file 2: Figure S4d).
	Triodiinae (Poaceae)	14.7 (11.4–18.3)	dryland (eremaeon)	Toon et al. reconstruct evolution of habitats in Triodiinae and identified eremaeon as the ancestral biome for the subtribe [7].
New World				
	Sect. <i>Cochranea</i> (Heliotropiaceae) ^a	14 (12–16)	dryland	Based on Luebert and Wen [8], Sect. <i>Cochranea</i> is entirely distributed in dryland regions.
	Carnosae + Giganteae (Oxalidaceae) ^a	13.29 (7.81–19.19)	dryland (desert)	Heibl and Renner inferred evolution of habitats of <i>Oxalis</i> and found that Carnosae and Giganteae of the genus diversified in desert [9].
	Cacteae (Cactaceae) ^b	11.94 (8.33–17.27)	dryland (desert)	Tribe Cacteae is mainly distributed in the southern Chihuahuan Desert [10].

<i>Ephedra</i> (Ephedraceae) ^b	15.31 (9.84–20.89)	dryland	Hernández-Hernández et al. performed the reconstruction of ancestral ranges in Cactaceae and indicated that the MRCA of the tribe occurred in the southern Chihuahuan Desert [11].
Subsect. <i>Hypericifoliae</i> (Euphorbiaceae) ^b	15.3 (10.5–20.2)	dryland	Based on Lorea et al. [12], western North American <i>Ephedra</i> plants are entirely restricted to in dryland regions. Subsect. <i>Hypericifoliae</i> is mainly distributed in dryland regions of North America, with a few species growing in the understory of mesic forests [3]. Our inference of habitat evolution indicates that the MRCA of the subsection occurred in dryland habitat (Additional file 2: Figure S4e).

HPD = highest posterior density. ^{a,b}Taxa are from tropical America and western North America, respectively.

Notes: Five plant groups, *Vachellia*, Sect. *Euphorbia*, *Consolida*, *Austrostipa*, and Subsect. *Hypericifoliae*, are primarily restricted to dryland habitats, with a few outliers extending to non-dryland habitats. In order to determine their ancestral habitats, we inferred evolutionary patterns of habitats using parsimony method as implemented in Mesquite v2.75 [13]. To simplify our analyses, habitat types were coded as dryland or non-dryland. Data are obtained from several sources (Electronic databases: www.efloras.org; personal observation in herbarium specimens; and GBIF website (<https://www.gbif.org/>)). The phylogenetic trees of these five groups are modified from the trees generated from previous studies: African *Vachellia* from Bouchenak-Khelladi et al. [1], Sect. *Euphorbia* and Subsect. *Hypericifoliae* from Horn et al. [3], *Consolida* from Jabbour and Renner [5], and *Austrostipa* from Syme [6]. Our inferring results are indicated in Additional file 2: Figure S4a-e. For *Caragana*, Triodiinae, and Cactaceae, which occur in dryland and non-dryland habitats, Zhang et al. [4], Toon et al. [7], and Hernández-Hernández et al. [11] have ascertained dryland habitats as their ancestral floras, respectively. Other three groups are entirely distributed in dryland floras: Sect. *Cochranea* [8], Carnosae + Giganteae [9], and North American *Ephedra* [12].

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