

Comparative Phylogenetics of *Papilio* Butterfly Wing Shape and Size Demonstrates Independent Hindwing and Forewing Evolution

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Abstract.—The complex forces that shape butterfly wings have long been a subject of experimental and comparative research. Butterflies use their wings for flight, camouflage, mate recognition, warning, and mimicry. However, general patterns and correlations among wing shape and size evolution are still poorly understood. We collected geometric morphometric measurements from over 1400 digitized museum specimens of *Papilio* swallowtails and combined them with phylogenetic data to test two hypotheses: 1) forewing shape and size evolve independently of hindwing shape and size and 2) wing size evolves more quickly than wing shape. We also determined the major axes of wing shape variation and discovered that most shape variability occurs in hindwing tails and adjacent areas. We conclude that forewing shape and size are functionally and biomechanically constrained, whereas hindwings are more labile, perhaps in response to disruptive selective pressure for Batesian mimicry or against predation. The development of a significant, re-usable, digitized data resource will enable further investigation on tradeoffs between flight performance and ecological selective pressures, along with the degree to which intraspecific, local-scale selection may explain macroevolutionary patterns. [Batesian mimicry; Lepidoptera; geometric morphometrics; museum specimens.]

“...[O]n these expanded membranes Nature writes, as on a tablet, the story of the modifications of species, so truly do all changes of the organization register themselves thereon.”—Henry Walter Bates on butterfly wings, 1863

For decades, researchers have examined butterfly wing diversity through lenses of functional adaptation, evolutionary history, and development. For nearly all Lepidoptera species, wings power flight to search for larval host plants, nectar sources, mates, and new territory (Scoble 1992). The physical requirements for powered flight are thought to exert natural selective pressure on lepidopteran wing size and shape; indeed, artificial selection experiments on wing and body size allometries have demonstrated significant fitness advantages for wild-type males compared those selectively bred for alternative allometries (Frankino et al. 2005). However, evidence suggests that forewings and hindwings unequally contribute to flight performance: in a study of 19 species of butterflies and 25 species of moths, all could fly with their hindwings removed, although at the cost of speed and maneuverability (Jantzen and Eisner 2008). Therefore, forewing shape and size may result from stabilizing selection imposed by the biomechanical requirements of flight, whereas hindwing shape and size may respond more readily to neutral or selective processes such as sexual selection (Chazot et al. 2016), and predation pressure (Sourakov 2013, Barber et al. 2015, Willmott et al. 2017, Rubin et al. 2018).

Still, experimental manipulations (e.g. Jantzen and Eisner 2008) cannot characterize processes at evolutionary time scales and across lineages. Comparative analysis of data from natural history collections may ameliorate this shortcoming by bridging the gap between experimental manipulation and observed macroevolutionary patterns. Strauss (1990) quantified variation in wing morphology in select heliconiine and ithomiine butterflies and found hindwings were much more variable than forewings, providing a tantalizing link between functional studies and the impact of aerodynamic constraints on wing shape evolution. In contrast, a recent study of *Morpho* butterflies found a strong correlation between forewing and hindwing sizes as well as shapes (Chazot et al. 2016). Such data sets can also be used to identify morphological “paths of least resistance,” axes along which diversification happens most quickly (Schluter 1996). Comparative studies of *Myotis* bat skulls (Dzeverin 2008) and whole *Pheidole* ants (Pie and Tschá 2013) found size evolved more quickly than shape, but size variation as an evolutionary path of least resistance remains untested in Lepidoptera.

We built on this groundwork to test two predictions via examination of swallowtail butterflies in one clade of the genus *Papilio* (subgenera *Agehana*, *Alexanoria*, *Chilasa*, *Heraclides*, and *Pterourus*, hereafter “swallowtails in the clade of interest”): 1) forewing shape and size evolve independently of hindwing shape and size and 2) wing size evolves more quickly than wing shape (Table 1). Our first prediction is based on the presumption that

TABLE 1. Hypotheses examined in this study, with predictions regarding phylogenetic signal and evolutionary rate.

Hypothesis	Predictions
Forewing shape is evolving independently of hindwing shape	Forewing $K_{\text{mult}} > \text{Hindwing } K_{\text{mult}}$ (Forewing $\sigma^2 / \text{Hindwing } \sigma^2) > 1$ Forewing and hindwing $r_{\text{PLS}} < 1$
Forewing size is evolving independently of hindwing size	Forewing $K_{\text{mult}} > \text{Hindwing } K_{\text{mult}}$ (Forewing $\sigma^2 / \text{Hindwing } \sigma^2) > 1$ Forewing and hindwing $R^2 < 1$
Shape is evolving more quickly than size	Forewing shape $\sigma^2 < \text{Forewing size } \sigma^2$ Hindwing shape $\sigma^2 < \text{Hindwing size } \sigma^2$

the forewing is functionally constrained whereas other selective pressures (e.g. predation, sexual selection) operate on hindwing shape. The second is based on the presumption that overall size change is an evolutionary path of least resistance. To test these hypotheses, we took morphometric measurements from digitized museum specimens and analyzed them in a comparative phylogenetic framework with a well-sampled and resolved species-level phylogeny (Owens et al. 2017).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Morphometrics

Standardized dorsal and ventral images of *Papilio* butterfly specimens with scale and color bars were obtained from four natural history museums (Supplementary Fig. S1 available on Dryad at <https://doi.org/10.5061/dryad.p2ngf1vmn>): the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), Field Museum (FMNH), Florida Museum of Natural History, McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity (MGCL), and the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History (NMNH; Supplementary Table S1 available on Dryad). Images were taken with a NIKON D300S with an AF Micro-Nikkor 60mm f/2.8D lens (AMNH), Canon EOS 70D with a Canon EF 50mm f/1.4 USM lens (FMNH), Canon EOS 70D with a Canon EF-S 60mm f/2.8 Macro USM lens (MGCL), or a Canon EOS 6D with a Canon EF 28-80mm f/3.5-5.6 lens (NMNH) mounted on either a copy stand or tripod and operated manually (AMNH) or tethered to a MacBook Air with the Canon EOS Utility (FMNH, MGCL, NMNH; Supplementary Fig. S2 available on Dryad). Photographs were centered with whitespace around images, where labels and color bar are located, to limit lens distortion. Specimen label data, collection date, location and sex of specimen (where available) were transcribed by volunteers via the Notes from Nature platform (Hill et al. 2012). All standardized images used in this study have been made publicly available (AMNH: Supplementary material available on Dryad; FMNH:

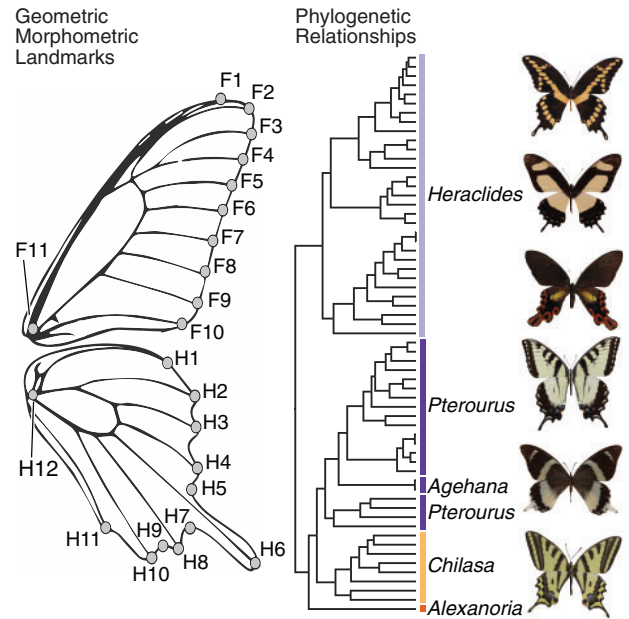


FIGURE 1. Geometric morphometric landmarks and phylogeny used for analysis. Phylogeny shows nonmonophyly of New World swallowtails (*Heraclides* + *Pterourus*) and subgenus *Pterourus*. Shape landmarks, indicated by dots, adapted from Lewis et al. (2015). Phylogenetic relationships from Owens et al. (2017) with bars indicating currently recognized subgenera; bar colors correspond with subsequent figure plots. Images depict species corresponding to each labeled clade.

<https://pj.fieldmuseum.org/event/626b0f98-98e7-49c8-903e-d67017fe2356>; MGCL: https://scan-bugs.org/portal/collections/list.php?taxa=Papilio&type=1&has_images=1&db=70;&page=1; NMNH: <https://collections.nmnh.si.edu/search/ento/>).

Landmarks for morphometric measurement were based on previous morphological work on *Heraclides* swallowtails (Lewis et al. 2015; Fig. 1). One forewing landmark (F1 in Fig. 1) was removed from final analysis due to particularly high rate of measurement error; this was largely due to curling of the anterior wing margin in many specimens. To allow full view of otherwise overlapping wing elements, we used 10 forewing landmarks from dorsal images and 12 hindwing landmarks from ventral images (Fig. 1). Landmark and 1-cm scale bar coordinates were collected in ImageJ 1.49 (<https://imagej.nih.gov/ij/>) using the PointPicker plugin (<http://bigwww.epfl.ch/thevenaz/pointpicker/>) and imported into Microsoft Excel for collation and post-processing. We collected 1449 dorsal and 1404 ventral landmark measurement sets representing 60 and 59 species, respectively (Supplementary Table S1 available on Dryad). Measurements were calibrated with scale bar coordinates, and final coordinate text files were prepared using TextWrangler 5.5.2 (<http://www.barebones.com/products/textwrangler/>). These data are available in Supplementary Appendix SA1 on Dryad. Forewing and hindwing

landmark data with scale information were superimposed using Procrustes alignment; species represented by fewer than 10 specimens and statistical outlier landmark sets were removed, and the final data sets were re-aligned. We tested for allometric effects in forewing and hindwing shape variation using the homogeneity of slopes test (grouping specimens by species) and a subsequent Procrustes ANOVA to determine the contribution of size in determining shape variation. Mean species shape was calculated, the resulting data set was re-aligned, gross outliers were removed, and allometric effects (grouping species into two subclades: *Agehana* + *Pterourus*, *Alexanoria*, *Chilasa*, and *Heraclides*, Fig. 1) were examined. Finally, mean intraspecific Procrustes distance from mean shape, morphospace volume occupied by each species (the product of the range of each principal component (PC) excluding values more than 1.5 times greater or less than the interquartile range), mean intraspecific centroid size, and intraspecific centroid variance were calculated from the specimen-level data set. These four shape summary statistics were each rescaled to values between 0 and 1 using min-max normalization to render them comparable for downstream analyses. All shape analyses were performed using the R package *geomorph* 3.1.2 (Adams et al. 2013), except for intraspecific Procrustes distance from mean shape, which was calculated using *Evomorph* 0.9 (Cabrera and Giri 2016; details can be found in Supplementary Appendix SA2 on Dryad).

Testing Independence of Forewing and Hindwing Shape Evolution

Using a recently published time-calibrated phylogeny for swallowtails in the clade of interest (Fig. 1; Supplementary Appendix SA1 on Dryad; Owens et al. 2017), we performed a suite of comparative phylogenetic analyses of forewing and hindwing morphology to test the independence of forewing and hindwing shape and size evolution. These analyses were all done in R 3.5.1 (R Core Team 2012; details of the analyses can be found in Supplementary Appendix SA2 on Dryad). We estimated phylogenetic signal of forewing and hindwing shapes using K_{mult} (Blomberg et al. 2003), a generalization of Blomberg's K implemented in the R package *geomorph* 3.1.2 (Adams et al. 2013). Just as with the traditional Blomberg's K statistic, the closer K_{mult} is to 1, the more variation in species' characters can be explained by their phylogenetic relationships under a Brownian motion (BM) model of evolution, and values of $K < 1$ indicate more variation than expected under BM (Blomberg et al. 2003). We then used *geomorph* to calculate the modular rate ratio (function: *compare.multi.evol.rates*) for the forewing and hindwing data sets (Denton and Adams 2015), and test whether forewing and hindwing shape evolution was correlated (also known as phylogenetic integration, function: *phylo.integration*; Adams and Felice 2014). Both tests were conducted under an assumption of

BM, as this is the only model currently available for such multidimensional data sets implemented in *geomorph* (Adams and Collyer 2018).

Testing Independence of Forewing and Hindwing Size Evolution

We also tested the independence of forewing and hindwing size evolution. First, we estimated the phylogenetic signal (univariate Blomberg's K), then estimated the evolutionary rates of forewing and hindwing shape based on the best-fit evolutionary model for each data set, and finally, tested for significant forewing and hindwing centroid size correlation. These analyses were done using the R packages *phytools* 0.6-60 (Revell 2012), *geiger* 2.0.6 (Harmon et al. 2008), and *phylolm* 2.6 (Tung Ho and Ané 2014); additional details can be found in Supplementary Appendix SA2 on Dryad. Correlations were assessed using a linear-time algorithm developed by Tung Ho and Ané (2014). For the correlation between forewing and hindwing centroid size, we fit a series of phylogenetic linear regressions with different evolutionary models—BM, Ornstein-Uhlenbeck (OU) with root ancestral state estimated from the data, and early burst (EB). We chose the best-fit model for the relationship between forewing and hindwing centroid size based on its minimum corrected Akaike Information Criterion (AICc) score as calculated using the R package *MuMIn* 1.42.1 (Bartoñ 2019) and examined the ratio of hindwing to forewing evolutionary rates (σ^2) under these best-fit models using *geomorph*. To get a clear picture of the degree to which forewing and hindwing centroid sizes were correlated, we calculated R^2_{pred} for hindwing size as explained by forewing size; this is an extension of the traditional R^2 that weighs the residuals by variance and covariance (Ives 2018). These calculations were done using the R package *rr2* 1.0.1 (Ives and Li 2018; Supplementary Appendix SA2 on Dryad).

Differences in Speed of Shape and Size Evolution

We made a final comparison of rates of forewing and hindwing shape and size evolution (σ^2) as obtained from the analyses described above to determine the relative evolutionary lability of these four characteristics. Supplementary Appendix SA2 on Dryad provides an R markdown script of all analyses performed.

RESULTS

Morphometrics

Forewing measurements for 1449 specimens representing 60 species and hindwing measurements for 1404 specimens representing 59 species were analyzed after specimen-level data sets were cleaned. When the data sets were reduced to species for which there were available measurements for at least 10 individuals, 49

species remained in the forewing data set and 47 in the hindwing data set. PC 1 of the forewing describes elongation of the wing from the apex to the base, explaining 45% of species' mean shape variation; PC 2 describes wing margin angularity, explaining 20% of species' mean shape variation (Fig. 2). PC 1 of the hindwing primarily describes tail length, explaining 67% of variation, whereas PC 2 describes scalloping of the outer margin, explaining 8% of variation (Fig. 2).

Shape does not covary with size consistently for all species in the specimen-level data set and for all subgenera in the mean species shape data set (homogeneity of slopes test, $P < 0.05$), which suggests interspecific allometric effects likely do not play a complicating role in the patterns we examined in this study. However, correlations between log size and shape are significant ($P < 0.05$), albeit small, for all data sets (forewing specimen-level: $R^2 = 0.02$; hindwing specimen-level: $R^2 = 0.15$; forewing mean shape: $R^2 = 0.15$; hindwing mean shape: $R^2 = 0.21$). Summary statistics quantifying intraspecific shape variation (mean Procrustes distance of individuals from mean shape, morphospace volume occupied by each species, mean centroid size, and centroid size variance) can be found in [Supplementary Table S2](#) on Dryad.

Independence of Forewing and Hindwing Shape

Comparative phylogenetic analyses of mean species wing shape indicate a stronger phylogenetic signal in forewing than hindwing shape data sets (Table 2, Fig. 2). The evolutionary rate of the hindwing shape

(under an assumption of BM) was also nine times faster (a statistically significant difference, $P < 0.05$) than that of the forewing (forewing $\sigma^2 = 6.6 \times 10^{-5}$; hindwing $\sigma^2 = 6.01 \times 10^{-4}$). However, despite this disparity in evolutionary rates, forewing and hindwing shapes at the species-level are strongly integrated ($r_{PLS} = 0.75$; $P < 0.05$).

Independence of Forewing and Hindwing Size

Comparative phylogenetic analyses of wing centroid size yielded similar patterns. Phylogenetic signal for both forewing and hindwing centroid size is low to moderate (Table 2, [Supplementary Fig. S3](#) on Dryad), but the statistical significance of these estimates is marginal for the forewing and not significant for the hindwing ($P = 0.04$, $P = 0.18$, respectively). The OU model fits the forewing data set best, whereas the white noise model fits the hindwing data set best. However, for forewing size, the white noise model was the next-best fit, whereas for hindwing size, the OU model was the next-best fit ([Supplementary Table S4](#) on Dryad). Therefore, we calculated evolutionary rate based on the OU model for both hindwing and forewing, as this was the best-fit model for both data sets from which evolutionary rate can be calculated (Harmon et al. 2008). Hindwing centroid size evolution is 90 times the forewing rate; this difference is statistically significant (forewing $\sigma^2 = 8.4 \times 10^{-8}$, hindwing $\sigma^2 = 1.1 \times 10^{-5}$, $P < 0.05$). Forewing and hindwing centroid size are mildly but positively and significantly ($P < 0.05$) correlated ($R^2 = 0.22$; $\beta = 3.58$).

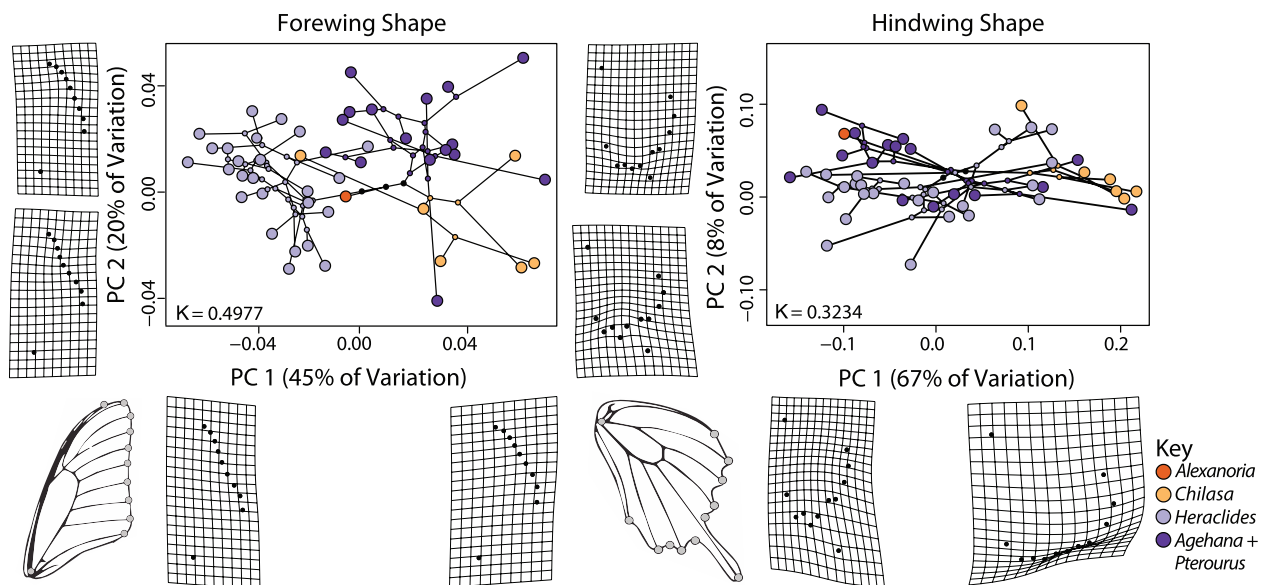


FIGURE 2. Forewing and hindwing phylomorphospace plots; species' forewing shapes tend to cluster phylogenetically, whereas hindwing shapes do not. PCs for each data set were calculated in *geomorph*; the phylogeny is plotted on top of these, along with inferred node states (under a BM model—no other models are yet available for this method; Revell 2012), which are color-coded by clade. Warp grid deformations show contributions of principal components 1 and 2 to overall shape. Plots include Blomberg's K and variance contributions for the first two principal axes of the forewing and hindwing; tips and nodes of phylogeny are color-coded by clade.

TABLE 2. Comparative phylogenetics statistics for species-level shape and size. Wing shape generally has more significant phylogenetic signal and evolves more quickly than centroid size; forewing size and shape generally shows stronger phylogenetic signal and evolves more slowly than hindwing size and shape. Full clade: *Agehana* + *Alexanoria* + *Chilasa* + *Heraclides* + *Pterourus*; Non – *Heraclides*: *Agehana* + *Alexanoria* + *Chilasa* + *Pterourus*. Statistically significant values ($P < 0.05$) are bolded.

		Full clade	<i>Heraclides</i>	Non- <i>Heraclides</i>
Shape	Forewing K_{mult}	0.4977	0.2870	0.5495
	Hindwing K_{mult}	0.3234	0.2448	0.5691
	Forewing σ^{2a}	6.59×10^{-5}	7.03×10^{-5}	5.88×10^{-5}
	Hindwing σ^{2a}	6.00×10^{-4}	7.09×10^{-4}	4.59×10^{-4}
	Evolutionary rate ratio	9.1106	10.0861	7.8094
	Forewing and hindwing correlation (r_{PLS})	0.7534	0.8182	0.7518
Centroid size	Forewing K	0.4511	0.1787	0.6636
	Hindwing K	0.2172	0.0960	0.2635
	Forewing σ^2	8.50×10^{-8}	5.70×10^{-8}	1.12×10^{-7}
	Hindwing σ^2	1.10×10^{-5}	8.60×10^{-6}	1.31×10^{-5}
	Evolutionary rate ratio	130.2796	151.2126	116.9315
	Forewing and hindwing correlation (R^2) ^a	0.2174	0.0147	0.1455

^aDoes not have a P value.

Differences in Speed of Shape and Size Evolution

Based on our σ^2 estimates, hindwing shape is evolving fastest ($\sigma^2 = 6.01 \times 10^{-4}$), followed by forewing shape ($\sigma^2 = 6.6 \times 10^{-5}$), hindwing size ($\sigma^2 = 1.1 \times 10^{-5}$), and forewing size ($\sigma^2 = 8.4 \times 10^{-8}$), in that order (Table 2). [Supplementary Appendix SA3](#) on Dryad is an R Markdown report of the corresponding results of analytical code supplied in [Supplementary Appendix SA2](#).

DISCUSSION

Our results demonstrate that fore- and hindwings are subject to different selective pressures and are evolving autonomously from each other, although there is also evidence of balancing constraint. Notably, phylogenetic signal is stronger in the forewing compared with the hindwing. This pattern is consistent with findings from an early comparative study that demonstrated much higher hindwing shape variation compared with forewings in ithomiine and heliconiine butterflies (Strauss 1990), as well as a more recent study on intraspecific wing shape variation in *Papilio dardanus* (Hegedus et al. 2019). Our findings also provide evidence that swallowtail forewing shape and size evolve more slowly than respective hindwing measures, perhaps due to stabilizing selection imposed by dependence on forewings for flight (Jantzen and Eisner 2008). If so, hindwings may be responding more readily to stochastic forces than forewings as the result of factors that can be geographically quite localized and variable (e.g. predation pressure; Barber et al. 2015; Rubin et al. 2018). However, further comparative scrutiny of this trend among butterflies with differing flight behaviors would be beneficial. A recent study in experimental wing reduction in *Pierella helvina*, a floor-gliding heteriine butterfly, demonstrated enlarged hindwings greatly improved flight performance (Stylman et al. 2020).

In contrast to previous studies on bats and ants that found size evolved more quickly than shape (Dzeverin 2008; Pie and Tschá 2013), for swallowtails in the clade of interest, shape has evolved at least an order of magnitude more quickly than size in both the hindwing and forewing (Table 2). Indeed, for the full clade of interest as well as both subclades, hindwing shape has the fastest rate of evolution, followed by forewing shape, hindwing size, and forewing size, in that order. This suggests that for butterflies, and in contrast to predictions (Table 1), hindwing shape is the path of least resistance to morphological diversification. This is not to say the evolution of shape and size in the clade is necessarily adaptive—indeed, the difference between hindwing and forewing evolutionary rate ratios for centroid size and wing shape, while dramatic, may also bear the signal of stochasticity in hindwing evolution. Our results should also be interpreted carefully due to a methodological limitation—evolutionary rates for the shape data sets could only be inferred under a BM model using existing methods (Adams and Collyer 2018). If the fit of an OU model could be assessed and was found to be a better fit than BM, it is likely that lower evolutionary rates would be inferred for shape than those found here, as the OU model constrains character evolution around a central location.

One of the most labile characteristics of hindwing shape is presence and size of tails, as can be seen examining our hindwing shape deformation grids in relation to PC1 (Fig. 2), which explains 77% of hindwing shape variation. Although it is tempting to think of tails as a presence–absence trait, there are a wide range of tail shapes and relative sizes compared with the rest of the wing (e.g. Fig. 1), ranging from highly prominent to entirely absent. Tail form lability, visible both in the wide range of tail shapes and sizes and in models of hindwing evolution that appear primarily stochastic, remains understudied. Longer tails have been argued to increase aerodynamic performance for lepidopterans

(Park et al. 2010) as well as improving the odds of escaping predators (Barber et al. 2015). However, the tradeoff between costs associated with producing tails versus their benefit requires closer examination, as it is likely dependent on complex interactions among flight behavior characteristics, biotic interactions, and microhabitat.

Mimicry may be especially critical as a driver of hindwing shape evolution and tail shape differences. Mimicry selection in *Papilio* butterflies, often for dramatically different models, appears to have had a profound effect across the clade. This is particularly true for hindwings in swallowtails in the clade of interest, and especially in relation to tail shape because most species with strongly reduced tails (e.g. those species with positive values along PC1) are also mimetic (Supplementary Fig. 4 on Dryad). Overall, 39 of the 60 taxa included in our study have at least one mimetic sex (Supplementary Table S5 and Fig. S4 on Dryad). Examples of putative Batesian mimic taxa include *P. (Pterourus) zagreus*, which mimics *Heliconius* and a number of genera in Danainae (Tyler et al. 1994); *P. (Chilasa) clytia*, which mimics *Euploea* (Kunte 2009), and *Heraclides* of the *anchisiades* group, which mimics *Parides* (Srygley and Chai 1990; Tyler et al. 1994). Additional mimetic taxa that were not well-sampled enough to incorporate into our final analyses or were removed because they were strong outliers, such as *P. (Chilasa) laglaizei*, a mimic of the uraniid moth *Alcidis agarthysrus* (Collins and Morris 1985), and *P. (Pterourus) euterpinus*, a mimic of heliconiine butterflies (Tyler et al. 1994).

Our results suggest that for swallowtails, selective pressure for mimicry is a much stronger driver of morphology than shared phylogenetic history. This highlights the importance of predation interactions for the evolution of these lineages. Kunte (2009) demonstrated *Papilio* butterflies do not appear to have co-evolved with their models, but instead may have adapted to existing models after colonizing new areas. This result is consistent with the findings of studies in other organisms, such as ant-mimic jumping spiders (Ceccarelli and Crozier 2007), coral-snake-mimic colubrid snakes (Rabosky et al. 2016), and army-ant-mimic rove beetles (Maruyama and Parker 2017). None of these groups appear to have co-evolved with their models, but instead may have taken advantage of already-established model patterns. This hypothesis deserves further study by reconstructing the evolution of shape in mimetic *Papilio* lineages (and outward into the family Papilionidae) and comparing the result to the inferred biogeographic history of these lineages and their putative models.

Owing to a preponderance of male and unsexed specimens in our study (and natural history collections in general), we were unable to fully explore differential patterns of wing shape evolution in the context of sexual dimorphism. A previous study of evolutionary processes related to sex-limited mimicry in *Papilio dardanus*, a widespread African species, showed extreme lability in mimetic female hindwing shape

(Hegedus et al. 2019). Other recent studies have focused on mimetic coloration (Kunte 2009) or examined evolution of key mimicry-relevant genes (Timmermans et al. 2017). A critical, unanswered question is how different drivers of shape dimorphism operate across the clade; we hope that this can be addressed in the future by leveraging our growing database of landmarked *Papilio* wings. Despite current sample limitations, we were able to examine two species (*Papilio androgeus* and *Papilio scamander*) for which we had data to make statistically relevant comparisons between male and female specimens. For those two species, we found no evidence of sexual dimorphism in shape or size in forewings or hindwings (script Supplementary Appendix SA3 on Dryad; R Markdown report Supplementary Appendix SA4 available on Dryad).

In conclusion, our study demonstrates how digitized museum specimens can bridge the gap between taxonomically- and temporally-limited experimental manipulations (e.g. Frankino et al. 2005; Jantzen and Eisner 2008) and broad-scale macroevolutionary hypotheses. We recovered evidence that *Papilio* forewings and hindwings are evolving independently, which is consistent with experimental observations that forewing and hindwings have different effects on butterfly flight dynamics. Furthermore, hindwing shape may be an evolutionary path of least resistance for morphological diversification in butterflies and may reflect strong disruptive selection for mimicry and/or for predation defense. Still, this study is a first glance at the evolutionary relationships between hindwing and forewing shape and size in insects, and future studies are needed to investigate these patterns more thoroughly within swallowtails and more generally across the insect tree of life. Such work will require detailed information on 'species' phylogenetic relationships and wing morphologies, as well as factors including mimetic systems, within-species geographic variation, and flight behavior. Fortunately, with the systematic digitization of museum specimens and the increasing capacity of researchers to manage large, complex data sets, the answers to these questions are closer to our reach than ever before.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Data available from the Dryad Digital Repository: <https://doi.org/10.5061/dryad.p2ngf1vmn>.

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