

# The Outline

- Why database?
- I had a Question for myself?
- Phylogenetic and Ecological
- The present approach
- The genetic & genomic traits
- Results General Theory
- Databases Research & Policy



### First Bioinformatics Crisis!

7

"Taxonomy, the classification of living things, has its origins in ancient Greece and in its modern form dates back nearly 250 years, to when Linnaeus [1707 – 1778] introduced the binomial classification still used today. Linnaeus, of course, hugely underestimated the number of plants and animals on Earth. As subsequent workers began to describe more and more species, often in ignorance of each others' work, the resulting confusion and chaos threatened to destroy the whole enterprise while still in its infancy. In today's jargon, we might call this the first bioinformatics crisis."

H. Charles J. Godfray, 2002



#### **Second Bioinformatics Crisis!**

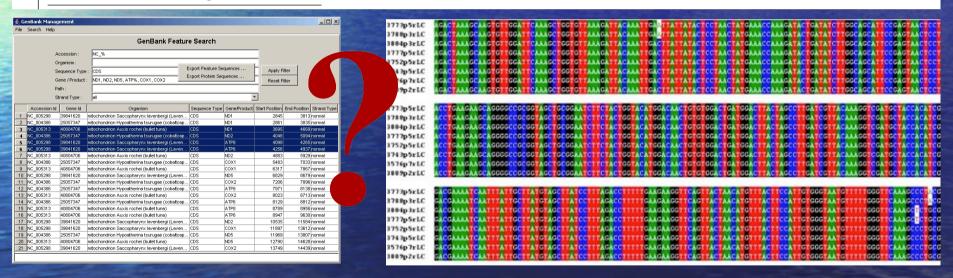
#### commentary

# Challenges for taxonomy

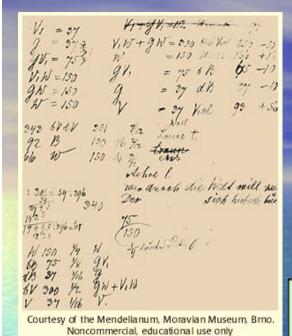
The discipline will have to reinvent itself if it is to survive and flourish.

H. Charles J. Godfray

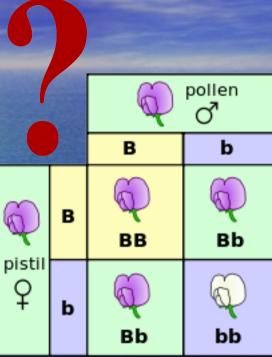
NATURE | VOL 417 | 2 MAY 2002 | www.nature.com



**A Game that Deserves Rules** 



# Mendel: Keeping Count!







#### **GREGOR MENDEL**

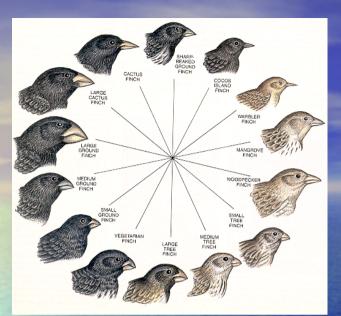
Genetics • Botany

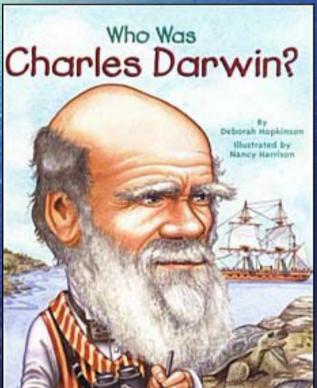
"The Father of genetics"

- Performed 28,000 tedious cross-breeding experiments with peas
- Discovered dominant and recessive genes
- Published his work in 1866, seven years after Darwin's, but ignored for 35 years

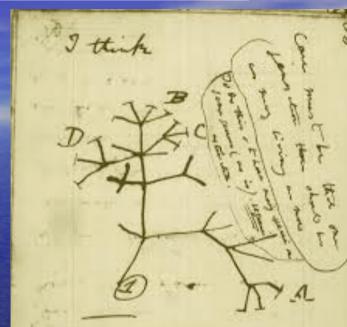


1822 - 1884





# Of Beaks & Finches



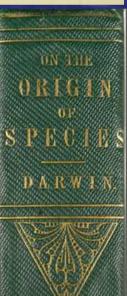
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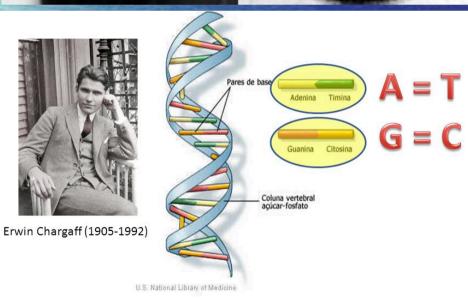
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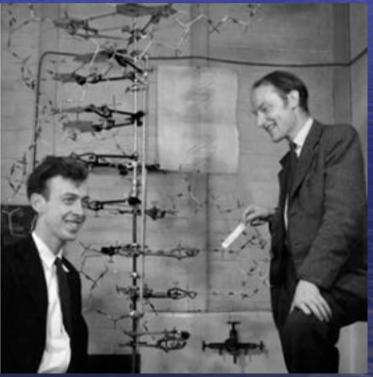


# Playing by the Rules











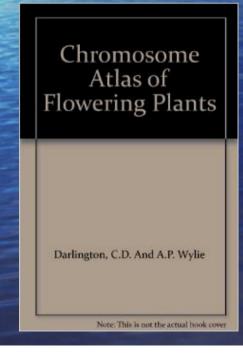
# Why are some species rare, while others are invasive?

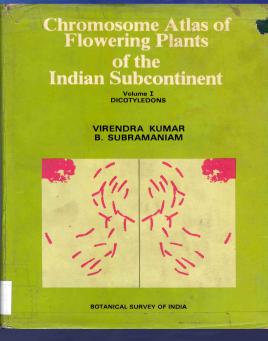
- The Phylogenetic Approach
- Ecological Approach [Invasiveness]
  - Allelopathy
  - Soil-microbe interactions
  - Enemy release
  - ECA
- A Different Approach
  - Intuitive Genetical

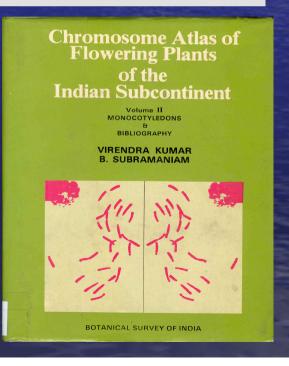
# Database 1: First Searches

- Begin with home
- Indian endangered/invasives

# Fedorov, A. A. (ed.) (1969) Chromosome Numbers of Flowering Plants







# Database 2: Rare & Invasives

AGAVACEAE 465 AGAVACEAE Endl 20/670; tropics and subtropics. 9/43; hotter parts of India, and Bangla Desh and Sri Lanka - many cultivated. Agave Linn. australis Hook. f. 38 Bowden, W.M. 1940a, 1945a 300 : Southern United States to tropical South America. 6; cultivated and naturali-120 Matsuura, H. & Sutô, T. 1935 terminalis (Linn.) Kunth c 152 Rattenbury I A 1957 20 Müller, C. 1912 60 MacKelvey, S.D. & Sax, K. 1933 Dracaena Vand, ex Linn, Matsuura, H. & Sutô, T. 1935 150; warm Old World. 9; chiefly distributed in Khasi Hills and Andaman Islands, and Bangla Desh - a few cultivated. Bhattacharyya, U.C. 1961c aneustifolia Roxh 40 Sarkar, A. K., Mallick, R. et al. 1977 38 Bowden, W.M. 1940a, 1945a 40 Borgen, L. 1969; Bramwell, D. et al. 125, 134) Sharma, A.K. & Bhattacharyya, U.C. 1962 120, 240 Satô, D. 1935b, 1938, 1942 90 Doughty, L.R. 1936 sisalana Perr. c 138 Donehty I R 1936 149 Granick, E.B. 1944 150 Inariyama, S. 1937; Vignoli, L. 49, 50, 52, 1937 ; Satô, D. 1938, 1942 56, 62, 63, 70, 77, 84 Datta, P.C. 1971a 60 Satô, D. 1935b, 1938, 1942; Mahabale, T.S. & Bhate, F.D. 1941; terniflora Roxb. 80 Sheriff, A. & Singh, B.K.S. 1973 Sharma, A.K. & Bhattacharyya, U.C.

20; tropical America. 6; cultivated, a

60 MacKelvey, S.D. & Sax, K. 1933

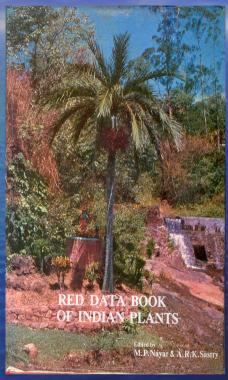
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15; tropics and warm temperate. 2; cultivated or occur as escapes in the Eastern

180 (52) Sharma, A.K. & Bhattacharyya, U.C.



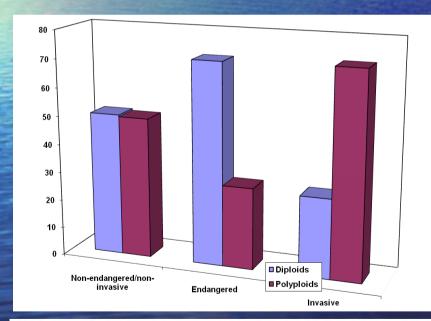
- Compared the preponderance of diploids and polyploids among the endangered species with those of the nonendangered species.
- Performed simple logistic regressions (logit model) of the probability of species endangerment and of species invasiveness as a function of chromosome number.
- Plant family was included to control for the effects of phylogenetic autocorrelation.

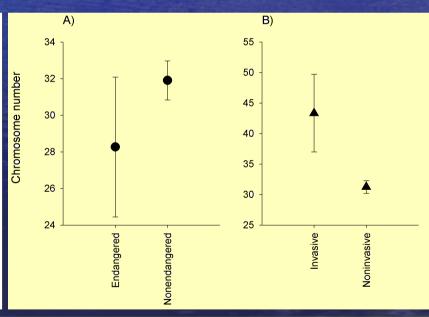
# First Results

Evolutionary Ecology Research, 2006, 8: 543-552

# Continuing the search for pattern among rare plants: are diploid species more likely to be rare?

M.K. Pandit\*





Mean chromosome number with error (95% confidence interval) bars (y-axis) for (A) endangered and non-endangered species (x-axis) and (B) invasive and non-invasive species.

### **How Robust Were the Numbers?**

Table 2. Summary of results of the test statistics carried out in this study

Type of test	Z	P-value
Representation of diploids and polyploids in non-endangered species Representation of diploids and polyploids in endangered versus non-endangered/non-invasive species	0.896 2.269	0.370 0.023*
Representation of diploids and polyploids in invasive versus non-endangered/non-invasive species	3.131	0.001**

<sup>\*</sup> P < 0.05; \*\* P < 0.01.

Pandit, 2006

### Sure it was Not Phylogenetic?

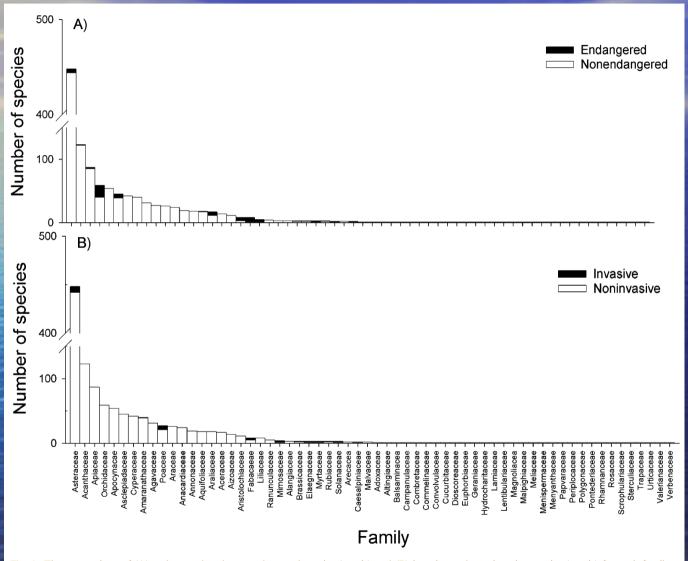
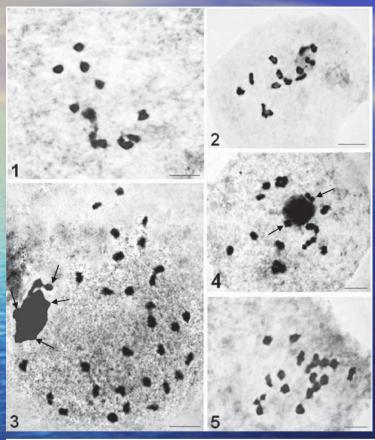


Fig. 1. The proportions of (A) endangered and non-endangered species (y-axis) and (B) invasive and non-invasive species (y-axis) for each family (x-axis).

Pandit, 2006

# Where is the Empirical Evidence?



Male meiosis in some invasive species of Singapore. Fig. 1. Asystasia gangetica ssp. micrantha; 2. Mimosa pigra; 3. Neptunia plena; 4. Panicum maximum; 5. Urochloa mutica

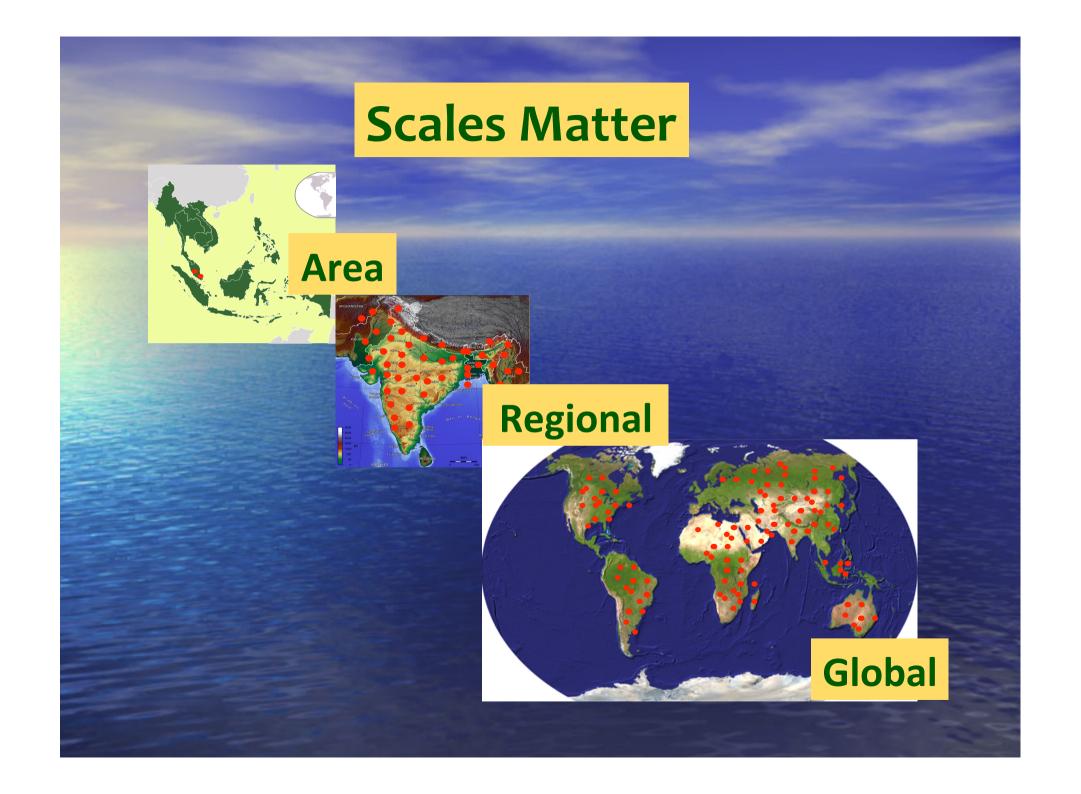
Scale bar =  $4 \mu m$ .

All the investigated species were polyploids - allopolyploids

Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society, 2006, 151, 395-403. With 5 figures

#### Polyploidy in invasive plant species of Singapore

M. K. PANDIT FLS<sup>1\*</sup>, H. T. W. TAN<sup>2</sup> and M. S. BISHT<sup>1</sup>



# Databases & Present Investigations

- Endangered Species
  - IUCN (IUCN 2007) www.iucnredlist.org
  - Germplasm Resource Information Network, USDA [GRIN]
  - Species listed by the Center for Plant Conservation, classed as Endangered /Threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or in Appendices I and II of the CITES.
- Invasive species
  - Species listed in the Global Invasive Species Database (http://www.issg.org/database).
- Chromosome numbers & DNA C-values
  - Fedorov (1969); Kumar & Subramaniam (1985)
  - Online sources such as:
    - IPCN (http://mobot.mobot.org/W3T/Search/ipcn.html)
    - Royal Botanic Gardens Kew Database http://data.kew.org/cvalues/CvalServlet).

### **GBIF & Present Research**

- Genome size and cytogenetic traits vary according to latitude, with a peak at temperate latitudes (Bennett, 1987; Knight et al., 2005).
- We, therefore, extracted information on the distribution of each species from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (accessed through GBIF Data Portal, data.gbif.org, 2013-02-04).
- We calculated the average latitude of the centres of one-degree latitude/longitude grid cells in which the species had been recorded.
- The extraction of these data from GBIF was automated with the Rgbif package (Chamberlain et al., 2012) in R 2.15.2 (R Development Core Team, 2012), with additional code written by us to gather data on all the synonyms of each taxon under consideration (as listed by GBIF).

**Thank You GBIF!!** 



## **Journal of Ecology**

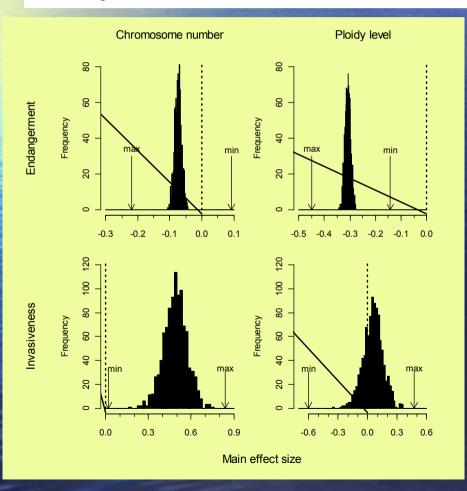


Journal of Ecology 2011, 99, 1108-1115

doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2745.2011.01838.x

#### Ploidy influences rarity and invasiveness in plants

Maharaj K. Pandit<sup>1\*</sup>, Michael J. O. Pocock<sup>2</sup> and William E. Kunin<sup>3</sup>



- Chromosome # = 640 endangd. spp.
   (worldwide) + 9005 congeners, and 81 invasives + their 2356 congeners.
- We related ploidy to endangerment & invasiveness. We also related chromosome # (absolute number and relative to the minimum recorded for the genus) to endangermt and invasiveness with randomization test, taking the variation of reported chromosome # into account.
- Our findings new hypotheses on plant rarity and invasiveness - influenced by genomic attributes; further our understanding of the role of ploidy in rarity and invasiveness in plants. Understanding the mechanistic basis of traits could aid conservation programs seeking to identify potentially endangered or invasive species.

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Published online 6 April 2011 | Nature | doi:10.1038/news.2011.213

#### News

**Ecologists find genomic clues to** invasive and endangered plants

Findings could be used in conservation and control efforts.

Natasha Gilbert

Ecologists have discovered strong links between how many sets of chromosomes a plant species has and whether it is in danger of becoming rare, or conversely, becoming invasive. The findings could help conservation scientists to predict whether species will need protecting or



Genomic data could help control invasive plants, like this kudzu in the south

#### Related stories

- · Sex change wipes out invasive species 26 July 2007
- · Invasive species: Shoot to kill 16 November 2005

#### Natureiobs

Faculty Search: Psychology Harvard University

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University of California - Davis

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#### Resources



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#### References

1. Pandit, M. K., Pocock, M. J. O. and Kunin, W. E. advance online publication doi:10.1111/j.1365-2745.2011.01838.x (2011).

### **Genome Size: General Results**

We tested the ability of genome size (DNA 1C-values) to explain invasiveness and compared it with cytogenetic traits (chromosome number and ploidy). We considered 890 species from 62 genera, from across the angiosperm phylogeny and distributed from tropical to boreal latitudes

We showed - invasiveness was negatively related to genome size & positively related to chromosome number (and ploidy level), yet there was a positive relationship between genome size and chromosome number; that is, our result was not caused by collinearity between the traits. Including both traits in explanatory models greatly increased the explanatory power of each.

This demonstrates the potential unifying role that genome size, chromosome number and ploidy have as species' traits, despite the diverse impacts they have on plant physiology. It provides support for the continued cataloguing of cytogenetic traits and genome size of the world's flora

## The Next Step: Genome Size

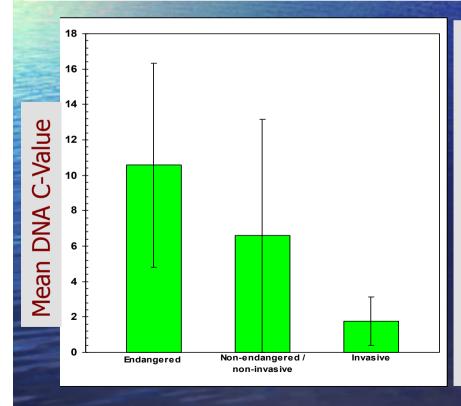


New Phytologist (2014) 203: 697-703

Research

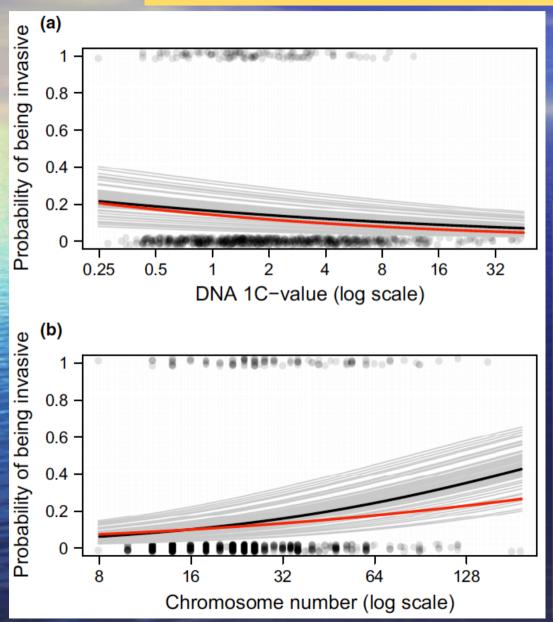
The contrasting effects of genome size, chromosome number and ploidy level on plant invasiveness: a global analysis

Maharaj K. Pandit<sup>1</sup>, Steven M. White<sup>2,3</sup> and Michael J. O. Pocock<sup>2</sup>



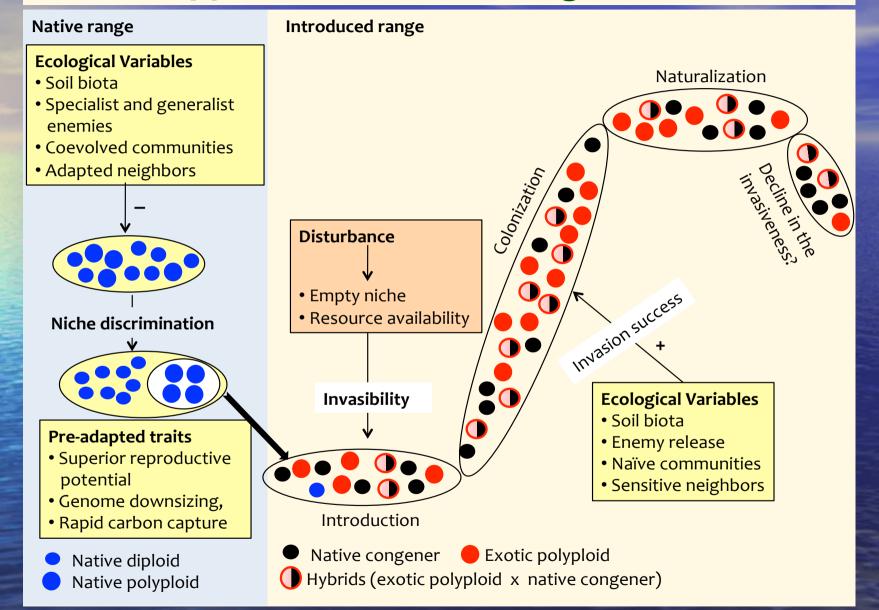
Comparison between the mean CDNA values of endangered, invasive and non-endangered/non-invasive plants (means  $\pm$  standard deviation). Endangered plants had a significantly higher mean DNA C-values compared to non-endangered/non-invasive plants (t = 11.67, p < 0.0001). In contrast, invasive plants had a significantly lower mean DNA C-value when compared to non-endangered/non-invasive controls (t = -22.71, p < 0.0001).

#### **Genome Size: Plant Invasion**



The relationship of probability that a species in our dataset is invasive with: (a) genome size (DNA 1C-value);(b)chromosome number; In (a) and (b) the results of fully phylogenetically informed analyses (phylogenetic logistic regression; PLR) are shown in red, while, from the generalized linear mixed model, the overall average effect is shown in black and effects for individual genera are shown in grey.

#### **Application Science - Ecogenomics**



#### **Databases & Invasion Research**

- Enable us to make general predictions on macro-ecological theory.
- Assist us in quick screening of problematic taxa – both in conservation & invasion biology: Management & Control.
- Ascertain invasion history herbarium record
- Help our decision-making process & allow us to make more informed policy choices?

## Databases, Invasion Research & Policy

- One such important political framework covers Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Article 8h specifies: "Each contracting party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate, prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species".
- COP 5 Decision V/8 of CBD concerning "Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species" in its Guiding Principle 2 provides for "a three-stage hierarchical approach: (i) Prevention, (ii) Eradication, and (iii) Long-term control measures should be considered".



