

Narrow Roads to Fern Land: reanalysing the paradox of sex

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Abstract. Following some major thought on the evolutionary maintenance of sex leads to a new hypothesis about the role of life cycles. Organisms with a heterogonic life cycle, like strawberries, propagate contrary to what would be adaptive under red-queen selection from micro-parasites. Their recombinant offspring disperses, but their clonal offspring stays close to the parent. In diplohaplontic organisms, like ferns, fertilisation and meiosis occur in different generations. Recombination is spread over the whole life cycle. Their zygotes grow on the spot of their maternal gametophyte and are recombinant through syngamy. The resulting sporophytes produce dispersing spores, which are recombinant through meiosis. This should better adapt ferns to red-queen selection than strawberry-kin species (*Potentilleae*).

Phylogenetic generalised least squares analyses show that the number of parasitic fungi recorded per species rises significantly with the number of citations per species both for *Potentilleae* and ferns. The slopes also differed significantly from each other and that for strawberry-kin was steeper. Organisms with a strawberry-like life cycle should do better with staying recombinant offspring and dispersing clonal offspring. This would amount to sexually producing runners, tubers, polyps and may well-nigh be impossible. Theoretically, life cycles with recombinant offspring that stay and clonal offspring that disperse should be best adapted against red-queen selection from micro-parasites. The rarity of this ‘red-queen life cycle’ among multicellular species remains perplexing.

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1. Introduction

25 1.1 Cost of sexual reproduction

John Maynard Smith provided an analysis of the cost of sexual reproduction as early as 1958.

It occurred within his popular science book *The Theory of Evolution*, a contribution to the Pelican Biology Series of paperbacks published by Penguin Books. Here, Maynard Smith clearly attributed the twofold cost of sex to males:

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‘If the rate of increase of an animal population were limited by the number of eggs which each female could lay, which in turn depended on how much food a female could eat and transform into eggs, then a population consisting entirely of parthenogenetic females would increase twice as fast as would a population of equal numbers of males and females. From the point of view of reproduction, males are a waste of living material. (This argument does not hold for hermaphroditic organisms, or for those animals in which both parents help to feed the young.’ (Maynard Smith 1958, 138)

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When George C. Williams reviewed a paper by Michael T. Ghiselin (1969), he informed Ghiselin about the cost of sex, referring to the second edition of Maynard Smith’s Penguin book. Williams already attributed the cost of sex to the genome reduction in meiosis.

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‘Williams, who reviewed the paper for the journal in which it appeared, responded by drawing attention to a point that both of them [Williams and Ghiselin] had overlooked, but that had come to his attention from a book by Maynard Smith (1966): that mictic females pass on half as many genes to the next generation as parthenogenetic females do.’ (Ghiselin 1988, 16; see also Williams 1996, xii)

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Maynard Smith saw the cost of sex as resources wasted on males (Maynard Smith 1971, 170-
50 2; 1978, 3), Williams as a genetic cost incurred through meiosis (Williams 1971, 13; Williams
and Mitton 1973; Williams 1975, 9; 1980, 373; 1988, 294). On the situations under which each
concept applies see Lively and Lloyd (1990).

1.2 Maintenance of sexual reproduction

55 Maynard Smith's point of departure were animal species with diploid body cells, haploid
gametes (anisogamous sperm and egg cells), and no brood care by fathers (Maynard Smith
1958, 138; 1971, 170; 1976; 1978, 3). In these species, here referred to as diplontic, a mutation
for asexual reproduction will genetically isolate the mutant.

Williams also started from diplontic species but assumed that asexual and sexual
60 reproduction coexisted in the life cycle. That means that the organisms are diploid but they can
also reproduce sexually as well as clonally. In this diplontic plus heterogonic life cycle, as it is
called (see fig. 1, diplontic with clonal side-cycle), the allocation of resources to the modes of
reproduction can gradually shift. Mutations for a bit more asexual reproduction will not isolate
the mutant from the population (Williams and Mitton 1973; Williams 1975). According to
65 Williams (1975, 10f), an immediate benefit must balance the cost of sexual reproduction in this
stable coexistence with asexual reproduction.

‘There is no escaping the conclusion that these life cycles must be close to evolutionary
equilibrium. The observed incidence of asexual and sexual reproduction must represent
70 for these forms the currently adaptive optimum maintained by selection. In these
populations there can be no net disadvantage to sexual reproduction.’ (Williams 1975,
11)

Williams (1975) considered a series of diplontic model life cycles that differed in their balance of asexual vs sexual reproduction. The Aphid-Rotifer model comprised species switching between modes of reproduction at certain times. The Strawberry-Coral model switched to sex when the offspring would disperse in space (not time). By the way, Bell (1982) has shown that the life cycles of coelenterates (including corals) are far more diverse than being heterogonic with recombinant propagules that disperse and clonal ones that stay.

‘In the diversity and mutability of their reproductive habits, the coelenterates have a claim to be the most protean of metazoans.’ (Bell 1982, 186)

Anyway, Williams (1975) arrived at diplontic organisms with no asexual reproduction. Here, the evolutionary trade-off seemed to lie at zero investment in asexual reproduction. The Elm-Oyster model comprised such species with a high fecundity. Their average adult females had more than a million offspring per lifetime (zygote-to-zygote-increase: $ZZI > 10^6$). Williams found arguments why high fecundity species should not invest in asexual reproduction (Williams and Mitton 1973; Williams 1975, ch. 4-6). Yet he failed to do so for low fecundity species ($ZZI < 10^3$) such as mammals, birds, and many insects:

‘Their present exclusive reliance on sexual reproduction must be ascribed to inheritance from a high-fecundity ancestor in which the complete replacement of asexual with sexual reproduction was the evolutionary equilibrium. If and when any form of asexual reproduction becomes feasible in higher vertebrates, it completely replaces sexual. So in these forms sexuality is a maladaptive feature, dating from a piscine or even protochordate ancestor, for which they lack the preadaptation for ridding themselves.’ (Williams 1975, 102f)

100 Maynard Smith (1976, 254) corroborated that the maintenance of sexual reproduction required
a high fecundity. Therefore, William D. Hamilton sought an immediate advantage to sex in low-
fecundity species.

‘Williams himself seems to have despaired of showing advantage for sexuality for low
105 fecundity organisms and concludes, in effect, that most practice sex because they
haven’t found suitable tricks for eliminating it yet (can he really believe this for so many
vertebrates?).’ (Hamilton 1996 [1975], 365)

‘My striving to find models that could cope with low fecundity as well as with twofold
cost is apparent in all my sex models’ (Hamilton 2001, 17)

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1.3 Red-queen selection by micro-parasites

Sexual recombination will only benefit individuals, when the heritability of fitness is negative.
This means that genotypes of high fitness in one generation will be of low fitness in the next.
Bell (1982, 106) called this selection ‘capricious’ in contrast to merely changeable or
115 unpredictable selection.

Hamilton’s models included capricious selection through pathogens and micro-parasites.
Due to their shorter life cycles, they should outpace their hosts in the evolutionary race. These
micro-parasites can overcome the defence mechanisms of hosts that clone themselves. They
reduce their fitness more than that of hosts reproducing sexually. Hamilton’s models showed
120 that micro-parasites could cause negative heritability of fitness. That is, they could favour
sexual reproduction in the short run (Hamilton, Axelrod, and Tanese 1990; Hamilton 2001).

These models have come to be called ‘parasite red queen’ models, after a statement by
the Red Queen in Lewis Carroll’s book ‘Through the Looking-Glass’:

125 “‘A slow sort of country!’” said the Queen. “Now, here, you see, it takes all the running
you can do, to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run
at least twice as fast as that!’”

Hamilton’s point of departure were organisms with low fecundity (e.g., mammals, birds, and
130 insects like scarabs). Williams’ failure to account for exclusively sexual reproduction in low-
fecundity species motivated Hamilton. Yet, he never modelled heterogonic life cycles (Williams’
point of departure). When expanding from one to many loci, Hamilton switched from diploid
to haploid hosts (Hamilton 1980, 286; Hamilton et al. 1990, 3567). [This implies haplontic
rather than diplontic life cycles (see fig. 1), with negligible selection in the unicellular stages.]
135 Hamilton took this decision for the ease of modelling (Hamilton 2001, 53), but also for avoiding
mere Mendelian allele-swapping as a cause for maintaining sex (Hamilton 2001, 611). A
majority of empirical studies supported this Parasite Red Queen hypothesis (e.g., Jokela,
Dybdahl, and Lively 2009; Lively and Morran 2014), but some also contradicted it (e.g., Ben-
ami and Heller 2005; Tobler and Schlupp 2008).

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1.4 A belated challenge of G.C. Williams to the late W.D. Hamilton

Hamilton died unexpectedly in March 2000. Williams could, unfortunately, only pose his last
challenge to his friend in a talk at a memorial session for Hamilton (Trivers 2015, 195). The
challenge got on record in an obituary made from that talk:

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‘I am not convinced that adaptation by local pathogens to parental genotypes need be
the major problem solved by sexuality. I think that the general unpredictability of
offspring environments is what provides the main advantage. This issue is most
appropriately settled not by modeling or data gathering but by consulting authorities.

150 For a reliable insight on the significance of sexuality there are many appropriate

authorities, but one that is especially clear is the strawberry plant (*Fragaria*). Offspring that develop immediately in the parents' environment, with pathogens adapted to those parents' genotypes, will not be sexually produced; whereas those that develop at variable times in the future, over a large range of habitats will be. The allocation of resources to sexual and asexual reproduction must be that which balances the two-fold cost of meiosis by the advantage of genetic diversity among widely dispersed seeds.' (Williams 2000)

The strawberry was Williams' model for a diplontic and heterogonic life cycle with clonal propagules that stay (Dagg 2017, 58f). That means that life cycle differences are crucial for arguments about the cost and maintenance of sex.

1.5 Increasing life-cycle complexity to decrease perplexity

Life cycles that separate the male function from meiosis and should be particularly instructive about the cost and maintenance of sex. Diplontic and haplontic life cycles (heterogonic or not) are not ideal for parsing the cost of meiosis from that of males, because meiosis and male functions are close to each other in development, if not in time. [Mammalian eggs do rest in the prophase of meiosis I for long times, but do not develop during this arrest.] Diplohaplontic life cycles alternate between generations (fig. 1). A diploid multicellular stage produces haploid spores through meiosis, and a haploid multicellular stage produces haploid gametes through mitosis. Male functions (and syngamy) occurs at a developmental antipode to meiosis.

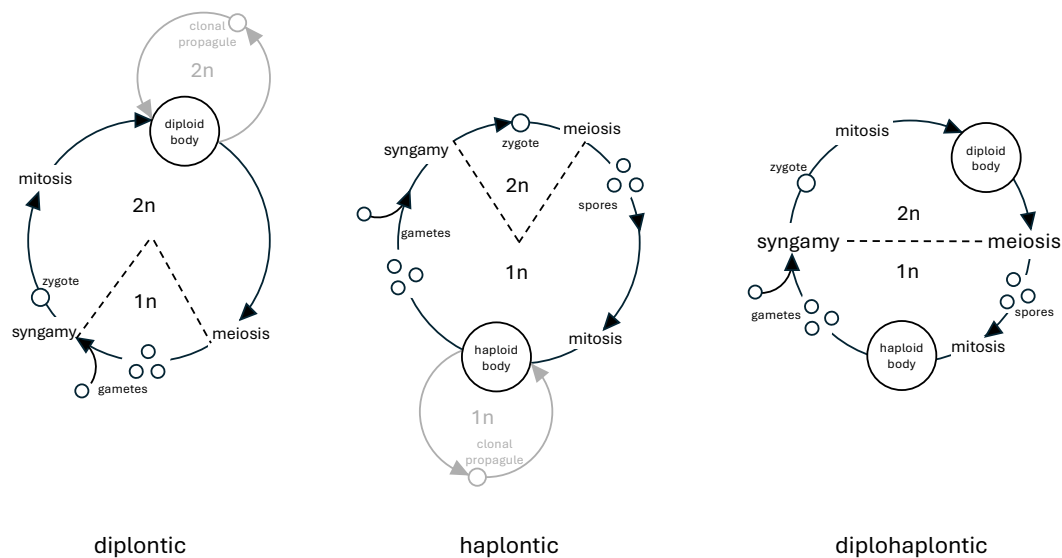


Figure 1: Life cycles.

- 175 **Diplontic:** The multicellular stage is diploid and produces haploid gametes that fuse directly to produce diploid zygotes. The heterogonic variant of this life cycle includes a peripheral cycle of diploid bodies producing clonal offspring (shown in grey). Maynard Smith started from the simple diplontic life cycle, where asexual mutants are genetically isolated by default. Williams started from heterogonic life cycles, where mutations that increased or decreased the amount of asexual reproduction were alleles of the same population.
- 180 **Haplontic:** The multicellular stage is haploid and produces gametes that fuse to produce zygotes. They undergo meiosis directly to produce haploid spores. The heterogonic variant of a haplontic life cycle includes a peripheral cycle of haploid bodies producing clonal offspring (shown in grey).
- Diplohaplontic:** Multicellular diploid and haploid generations occur. The diploid generation (sporophyte) produces recombinant spores through meiosis. These grow into the haploid generation (gametophyte) producing gametes through mitosis. The latter fuse to produce recombinant zygotes through syngamy. Syngamy (fertilisation) and meiosis form developmental antipodes. Heterogonic variants (not shown) could include peripheral cycles as shown in the diplontic and haplontic cycles. The diploid side-cycle does, however, lead into ploidy series in ferns, because the resulting gametophytes produce diploid gametes that fuse etc. [An asexual main cycle exists in ferns, with diploid gametophytes reproducing vegetatively (through gemmae) and diploid sporophytes producing diploid spores through premeiotic endomitosis or first division restitution (see below). That main cycle is not heterogamic
- 185
- 190 however but obligate. That is, it is genetically isolated from the sexual cycle shown.]

Strictly speaking, flowering plants are diplohaplontic (Coelho et al. 2007). The haploid stage is reduced, however, to a few cells in the pollen grain or embryo sac. This reduction of

195 the haploid phase puts meiosis close to syngamy. Therefore, higher plants are lumped with
diplontic organisms, despite the existence of a reduced haploid phase (Richerd et al. 1993).

The haploid multicellular stage is called gametophyte, because it produces gametes
through mitosis. Gametes are clonal to their parent gametophytes, but the zygotes are
recombinant through syngamy. The diploid, multicellular stage is called the sporophyte, because
200 it produces spores through meiosis. This leads to haploid spores that are recombinant through
the independent assortment of non-homologous chromosomes and crossing-over between
homologous chromosomes. The cost of sex is spread out over both phases of the life cycle
(Richerd et al. 1993) and so is recombination.

A comparison with strawberries requires organisms with this life cycle to be
205 terrestrial, perennial, and herbaceous. Such organisms with almost independent generations of
sporophytes and gametophytes are the ferns. Pathogens are rare in ferns (Berkeley 1862; Page
2002, 13). This is surprising since their ecology should promote infections, especially by
fungi: dense stands of a single ferns species often occur in shaded and humid areas.

Williams' last challenge to Hamilton (see section 1.4) can give a clue, here. The
210 sporophytes grow on the spot of their parent gametophytes, and they are recombinant. [So are
the dispersing haploid spores.] If recombination benefits staying offspring against parental
micro-parasites, ferns should be less parasitised than strawberries. Three studies are noteworthy
in this respect. The first suggests fern extinction is due to physical (not biological) perturbations
(Lehtonen et al. 2017). The other two studies suggest that ferns harbour fewer fungal pathogens
215 than forbs (Helfer 2006; Antonovics 2020). The following tests the hypothesis that ferns are
less parasitised than strawberries.

2. Materials and methods

I tested the hypothesis that ferns are parasitised less than strawberries. The number of parasitic fungi recorded for a plant species should increase with the effort of studying that host. The number of citations of a plant species (the binomial species name put into quotation marks) in ‘Google Scholar’ estimated the effort in studying that species. The records of parasitic fungal species for a plant species come from the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The ARS utilises primary research literature (their sources) to accumulate data on host plants and their fungal diseases into an online searchable database (‘USDA Fungal Databases’ 2025). A host species that is not mentioned in their sources will not be in their database. Searching the database for such a host species will return: “no results found.” However, searching for a host species that is in the fungal database can also return “no results found” at times. Therefore, the reply “no results found” can mean two different things: Either the host species was mentioned in the database’s sources, but no fungal parasite was recorded (true negative). Or the host species was not mentioned in its sources, but fungal parasites may be on record in primary literature not (yet) utilized by the USDA Fungal Database (false negative). I excluded host species returning the reply “no results found” from my samples. That is, the samples contain no host species with zero fungal parasites.

An issue with fungal synonyms could arise within the fungal records for one host species. For example, *Marssonina potentillae* could be recorded along with *Marssonina sp.* or *Marssonina potentillae var. tormentillae* for the same host species. These cases were counted as only one record. Hybrids and subspecies were also discounted. When a variety or a ‘Genus sp.’ entry of a taxon was the only record for a fungal genus (no binomial species name of the same genus on record), it was counted as a datapoint. Multiple records of the same fungus found on the same host but in different countries were counted as only one datapoint.

Testing ferns against strawberries demands a phylogenetic comparative approach, here, phylogenetic generalized least squares (PGLS). This requires phylogenetic trees for the compared taxa. ‘TimeTree of Life’ project synthesizes published studies on molecular sequences and species divergence times (Kumar et al. 2022). Its online knowledge base provides phylogenies for species listed in a text-file, given that the listed species were part of a study synthesized by TimeTree. And it can store the resultant trees in the Newick format.

The species in these phylogenetic trees need to match the species with the fungal records. However, the TimeTree knowledge base cannot place all species from the USDA Fungal Database in a phylogenetic tree. For some species it simply has no data, for others its data do not suffice to properly place them. I excluded these species from my samples. Sometimes the Fungal database used species names known to TimeTree only by a synonym. Some primary sources of the Fungal database are old (e.g., Wiehe 1948). It is no wonder, then, that the taxonomic status of some of the species’ names in the Fungal database has changed. I therefore checked for synonyms, when TimeTree could not identify a species name from the Fungal database. Synonyms were matched using the ‘NCBI Taxonomy Browser’ (Schoch et al. 2020) and the online tool of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (Plants of the World Online 2025).

Because this matching of Fungal with TimeTree records left only 7 strawberry species, the larger taxon *Potentilleae* was chosen. It includes cinquefoils and other genera that all have the strawberry life cycle but drier fruits. This yielded 85 strawberry-kin species. *Polypodiales* were chosen as the appropriate fern taxon (‘Lifemap’ 2025). Excluding species with no USDA fungal record and those that could not be matched with TimeTree left 322 *Polipodiales* species.

PGLS analyses utilized the R package (R Core Team, 2018). The models accorded to:

$gls(lgC \sim lgF, data = TaxFun, correlation = corBrownian(1, TaxTree))$

Here lgC is the decimal logarithm of the number of citations per species, lgF the decimal logarithm of the number of fungi per species, TaxFun the data-frame for the taxon in question (*Potentilleae* or *Polypodiales* respectively) and TaxTree the covariance matrix derived from the phylogenies in question. A two-sample Welch's t-test (two-tailed) was used to check whether the slopes of the two PGLS analyses were significantly different from each other.

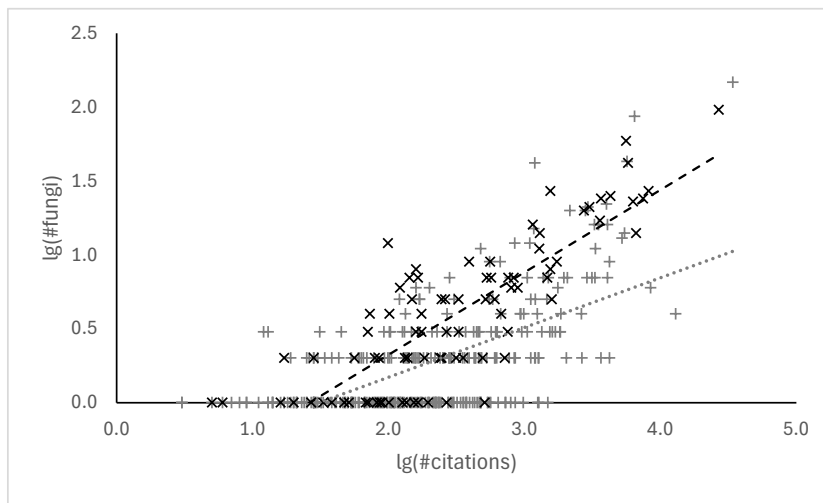
Two plots are purely illustrative. First, the number of citations (lgC) per host species was plotted against the number of fungi (lgF) recorded per host for both samples with their trend lines. These trend lines do not show phylogenetically independent regressions. Second, a logistic model was used to compare the probability of fungal records for host plants. The number of fungi recorded on plant species was transformed into a binary variable. Since “no results found” in the USDA Fungal Database excluded hosts as potential false negatives, hosts with one fungal record received the binary value 0 and hosts with more than one record received the binary value 1. The number of citations (lgC) was the explanatory variable. A linear logistic regression predicted the probability of finding more than one fungus for each species. These predictions were compared with observed probabilities calculated for number of citations grouped into classes of 0-0.5 etc. on a lg-scale. The number of species with more than one record in each class was divided by the sum of species in that class. This ratio was taken as the observed probability for that class. Again, the resulting probability plot does not show phylogenetically independent data-points.

3. Results

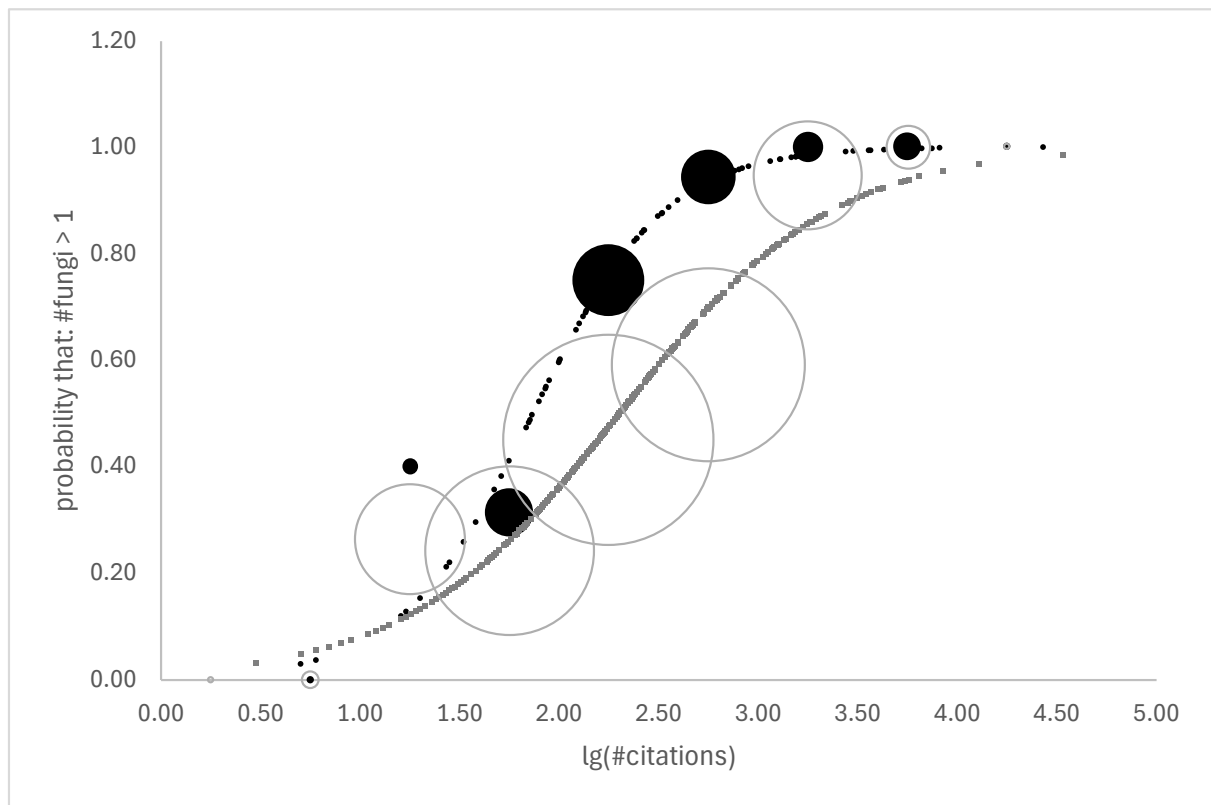
For both samples (strawberry-kin and ferns) the PGLS analysis yields a slope that differs significantly from zero (table 1). The Welch's t-test shows that these two slopes also differ significantly from each other (t-statistic = 2.9070, p-value = 0.0059).

Coefficients	Value	Std.Error	t-value	p-value
<i>Potentilleae</i> (strawberry-kin)				
(Intercept)	1.7039	0.5073	3.3589	0.0012
lgF	1.4545	0.0661	22.0125	0.0000
<i>Polypodiales</i> (ferns)				
(Intercept)	2.3172	1.5913	1.4562	0.1463
lgF	0.8460	0.0697	12.1315	0.0000

Table 1: Generalized least squares fit by REML, Model: $\lg C \sim \lg F$, Correlation Structure: corBrownian (with covariance matrix derived from phylogeny of *Potentilleae* and *Polypodiales* respectively)



300 **Figure 2:** Fungal records in relation to study effort of fern species (grey symbols: +) and strawberry-kin species (black symbols: ×). The trend lines are purely illustrative, as the data-points are not phylogenetically independent.



305 **Figure 3:** Probability of detecting more than one fungus with respect to the number of citations to the host. The points are predicted from the logistic regression model (see text). The lower series (grey squares) are ferns. Open circles show observed probabilities for ferns and closed circles show observed probabilities for strawberry-kin species. Diameters of the circles are proportional to the number of species in each of the classes.

4. Discussion

4.1 From the paradox of sex to Fern Land

310 Section 1 revisited the pioneers of what has become known as the evolutionary paradox of sexual reproduction. Their theoretical arguments lead to W. D. Hamilton's parasite red-queen model and George C. Williams' last challenge to it. Unfortunately, Hamilton had died unexpectedly, and Williams could only present it in a memorial talk (Trivers 2015, 195) and an obituary notice made from it (Williams 2000). This challenge has hitherto been ignored, except
315 for a history-of-science article (Dagg 2017, 58). Williams raised the widespread diplontic and heterogonic life cycle (fig. 1) of organisms like strawberries as a contradiction to expectations from red-queen theory. They propagate contrary to what would be adaptive under red-queen selection. Their recombinant offspring disperses, and their clonal offspring stays close to the parent. This means that life cycle differences are important for the cost and maintenance of
320 sexual reproduction. A life cycle spreading recombination over all its stages seemed preferable over the strawberry life cycle. Hence, the diplohaplontic life cycle became the point of departure into a quantitative analysis, and ferns became the best candidates for comparison with strawberry-like plants as both are terrestrial, perennial, and herbaceous.

325 4.2 Testing strawberries against ferns

The haploid spores of ferns are recombinant through meiosis and disperse before growing into haploid gametophytes. They produce haploid gametes that fuse to produce diploid zygotes. These are recombinant through syngamy. That is, recombination is spread out over the whole life cycle. The zygote grows into a sporophyte, in situ, on the maternal gametophyte. Staying
330 offspring that is recombinant should do better under red-queen selection than the clonal offspring of strawberries. That ferns indeed have few microbial parasites turned out to be an aged lore among botanists (Berkeley 1862; Page 2002, 13) with some quantitative support from Helfer (2006) and Antonovics (2020).

We tested the relationship between the number of parasitic fungi recorded per species
335 and the number of citations per species in strawberry-kin species (*Potentilleae*) and
Polypodiales ferns respectively (see table 1). Fern species should have fewer fungi, because
their life cycle is better adapted to red-queen selection by micro-parasites. Phylogenetic
Generalised Least Squares analyses showed for both taxa that the slopes differed significantly
from zero. A Welch's two-sample t-test showed that the slopes also differed significantly from
340 each other (see results). And that for the strawberry-kin was steeper than that for the ferns. This
suggests that heterogonic life cycles with clonal staying offspring are not optimal vis-à-vis
micro-parasites.

4.3 Conclusion

345 If a heterogonic organisms (diplontic or haplontic) under red-queen selection could choose, its
staying offspring should be recombinant and its dispersing offspring clonal. Let us call this the
'red-queen life cycle'. Alas, the 'strawberry life cycle' has the opposite combinations of modes
of dispersal and reproduction. The 'fern life cycle' is a third kind, as it is diplohaplontic, not
heterogonic, and recombination is spread over all its stages.

350 Ferns show that a life cycle exists that is better adapted to micro-parasites than the
strawberry life cycle. Having a better heterogonic life cycle, a red-queen life cycle, would
amount to sexually producing rhizomes, stolons, tubers etc. for most plants. This may well-nigh
be an evolutionary impossibility. Organisms with a strawberry life cycle do not produce staying
offspring asexually because that is optimal vis-à-vis microbial parasites, but because their life
355 cycle did not offer a way to produce them sexually. The strawberry life cycle constrains
organisms from an optimal adaptation against micro-parasites.

A surprising question remains: Why do red-queen life cycles (with dispersing clonal
propagules and staying recombinant ones) not dominate multicellular life? Micro-parasites
were a selective force throughout the evolution of multicellularity. If dispersal meant escape

360 from parental parasites, saving the cost of sex on dispersing propagules but incurring it for staying ones should be the optimal strategy against micro-parasites. A red-queen life cycle should be even better than a diplohaplontic one, spreading recombination (meiosis and syngamy) over the whole cycle. Yet, most multicellular species have different life cycles.

A systematic search for organisms with red-queen life cycles hardly retrieved any. A rare
365 one exists in haplontic *Peritricha* (Ciliophora) of the genus *Zoothamnium*. Sexual reproduction has not been observed in the largest and best studied species of the genus, *Z. niveum* (Fauré-Frémiet 1930, 47; Rinke et al. 2007; Bright et al. 2014), whose colonies live for seven days on average and up to 11 days (Ott et al. 2004; Rinke et al. 2007). Sexual reproduction does occur, however, in *Z. alternans* and *Z. arbuscula* (Furssenko 1929; Summers 1938, 126; Herron et al.
370 2013, 11). A haploid colony produces haploid (clonal) swarmers and microgamonts that both disperse. The swarmer grows into a new haploid colony elsewhere, the microgamont fuses with a macrogamont of another colony. The resulting diploid part is recombinant through syngamy. It undergoes meiosis producing haploid parts of the colony that are recombinant through syngamy & meiosis. These recombinant parts all stay in the colony. That is, the recombinant
375 offspring stays in situ, while the clonal offspring grows expatriate. Most colonies produce only two macrogamonts that can fuse with microgamonts (Furssenko 1929; Summers 1938). This and the short lifespan of colonies limit the extent to which they can become genetic mosaics.

Anyway, red-queen life cycles hardly form a considerable part of multicellular life. This wants
380 an explanation!

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505 **Appendix**

1. Fern species

1.1 *Polypodiales* data

CSV format: species, number of citations, number of fungi recorded; semicolons replace line breaks. * mark species names recognized by TimeTree, for which the USDA Fungal Database
510 used synonyms. These synonyms are given in the note at the end of the list.

Acrostichum_aureum,4200,2; Adiantum_aleuticum,318,1; Adiantum_capillus-veneris,8480,6;
Adiantum_cristatum,28,2; Adiantum_jordanii,199,1; Adiantum_latifolium,476,11;
Adiantum_pedatum,3320,11; Adiantum_petiolatum,105,2; *Adiantum_philippense,1595,3;
515 *Adiantum_raddianum,851,1; Adiantum_reniforme,287,1; Adiantum_silvaticum,14,1;
Adiantum_subcordatum,14,1; Adiantum_tetraphyllum,159,6; Adiantum_venustum,615,3;
Aleuritopteris_farinosa,126,1; Aleuritopteris_kuhnii,13,1; *Amauropelta_atrovirens,16,1;
*Amauropelta_oligocarpa,54,1; *Amauropelta_rudis,78,2; *Amblovenatum_opulentum,90,1;
*Anchistea_virginica,1338,3; *Anisocampium_niponicum,562,1; *Arachniodes_amabilis,65,2;
520 *Arachniodes_aristata,290,2; *Arachniodes_miqueliana,41,1; *Arachniodes_simplicior,48,1;
*Arachniodes_standishii,174,1; Arthropteris_beckleri,36,1; *Ascogrammitis_anfractuosa,13,1;
Asplenium_adiantum-nigrum,1480,1; Asplenium_aethiopicum,470,1; Asplenium_antiquum,173,1;
Asplenium_bulbiferum,786,7; Asplenium_cristatum,134,2; *Asplenium_dareoides,90,1;
Asplenium_flaccidum,435,2; Asplenium_incisum,375,1; Asplenium_monanthes,475,1;
525 Asplenium_nidus,3270,16; Asplenium_oblongifolium,278,2; Asplenium_onopteris,462,1;
Asplenium_polyodon,371,1; Asplenium_radicans,80,1; Asplenium_ruta-muraria,1820,3;
Asplenium_rutifolium,79,1; Asplenium_scolopendrium,1270,1; Asplenium_septentrionale,938,4;
Asplenium_trichomanes,3660,2; *Athyrium_asplenioides,456,3; Athyrium_clivicola,19,1;
*Athyrium_distentifolium,1169,15; *Athyrium_filix-femina,6426,87; Athyrium_iseanum,69,2;
530 Athyrium_melanolepis,26,2; Athyrium_otophorum,69,1; Athyrium_spinulosum,50,1;
*Athyrium_subrigescens,9,1; Athyrium_vidalii,105,1; Athyrium_yokoscense,857,2;

*Austroblechnum_fernandezianum,129,2; Blechnopsis_orientalis,1458,5;
 Blechnum_occidentale,662,9; Blechnum_polypodioides,147,1; Blechnum_punctulatum,61,1;
 Blotiella_pubescens,17,1; *Bosmania_membranacea,130,2; *Calciophilopteris_ludens,97,1;
 535 *Campyloneurum_phyllitidis,304,5; Ceratopteris_thalictroides,2030,2; Cheilanthes_chusana,32,1;
 *Cheilanthes_mollis,221,1; *Cheilanthes_nitidula,48,1; Cheilanthes_viridis,445,3;
 *Christella_acuminata,209,3; *Christella_dentata,1258,2; *Christella_hispidula,224,1;
 Christella_parasitica,469,2; Coniogramme_fraxinea,141,2; Coniogramme_intermedia,169,5;
 Coniogramme_japonica,168,5; Coniogramme_suprapilosa,3,1; Cryptogramma_acrostichoides,361,2;
 540 Cryptogramma_brunoniana,53,1; Cryptogramma_crispa,791,1; Cryptogramma_stelleri,458,2;
 *Ctenitis_subglandulosa,53,2; Cyclopeltis_semicordata,126,3; Cyrtomium_falcatum,1090,12;
 Cyrtomium_fortunei,567,3; Cystopteris_alpina,117,1; Cystopteris_bulbifera,982,4;
 Cystopteris_fragilis,4060,16; *Cystopteris_moupinensis,45,3; Cystopteris_sudetica,82,1;
 *Davallia_solida,621,2; Davallia_trichomanoides,200,6; *Dennstaedtia_cicutaria,147,3;
 545 Dennstaedtia_hirsuta,197,1; *Dennstaedtia_obtusifolia,67,1; Dennstaedtia_punctilobula,1830,3;
 Dennstaedtia_scabra,144,1; *Deparia_acrostichoides,667,4; *Deparia_confluens,25,1;
 Deparia_japonica,170,1; Deparia_longipes,6,1; Deparia_orientalis,21,1; *Deparia_pterorachis,60,2;
 Deparia_pycnosora,152,2; Deparia_tenuifolia,9,1; *Diplazium_bantamense,122,1;
 Diplazium_esculentum,2640,2; Diplazium_hians,28,1; Diplazium_kawakamii,29,1;
 550 Diplazium_lindbergii,25,1; Diplazium_maximum,164,2; Diplazium_mettenianum,57,1;
 Diplazium_squamigerum,63,2; Diplazium_wichurae,66,1; Doodia_media,213,1;
 Doryopteris_pedata,120,5; *Dryopteris_affinis,1050,3; Dryopteris_amurensis,38,2;
 *Dryopteris_apiciflora,44,1; Dryopteris_arguta,368,3; Dryopteris_austriaca,584,5;
 Dryopteris_azorica,46,1; Dryopteris_bissetiana,226,3; Dryopteris_borreri,303,2;
 555 *Dryopteris_carthusiana,4010,22; *Dryopteris_championii,116,1; Dryopteris_chinensis,294,1;
 Dryopteris_clarkei,12,3; Dryopteris_crassirhizoma,1950,7; Dryopteris_cristata,1250,1;
 Dryopteris_dilatata,2150,20; Dryopteris_erythrosora,839,2; Dryopteris_felix-mas,5690,43;
 Dryopteris_gymnophylla,40,1; Dryopteris_inaequalis,109,1; Dryopteris_intermedia,1110,2;
 Dryopteris_lacera,251,2; Dryopteris_marginalis,1240,4; *Dryopteris_maximowicziana,21,1;

560 *Dryopteris_monticola*,119,1; **Dryopteris_pallida*,162,1; *Dryopteris_sabae*,3,1;
Dryopteris_sacrosancta,110,1; *Dryopteris_saxifraga*,107,1; *Dryopteris_sparsa*,223,1;
**Dryopteris_varia*,270,3; *Elaphoglossum_cuspidatum*,23,1; **Elaphoglossum_gayanum*,47,1;
Elaphoglossum_latifolium,97,1; **Goniophlebium_amoenum*,99,2; *Goniophlebium_percussum*,54,1;
**Goniopteris_abrupta*,28,1; **Goniopteris_poiteana*,61,2; **Goniopteris_tetragona*,93,2;

565 **Grammitis_pseudaustralis*,20,1; **Gymnocarpium_disjunctum*,205,2;
**Gymnocarpium_dryopteris*,2883,7; *Gymnocarpium_jessoense*,85,1;
Gymnocarpium_robertianum,480,2; **Haplopteris_flexuosa*,156,1; *Hemionitis_arifolia*,395,1;
Histiopteris_incisa,1200,2; **Hymenasplenium_unilaterale*,357,1; *Hypolepis_punctata*,350,2;
Hypolepis_repens,159,2; *Hypolepis_sparsisora*,76,1; **Icarus_filiformis*,238,2;

570 *Lastreopsis_hispida*,122,1; **Lepidomicrosorium_buergerianum*,29,1;
**Lepidomicrosorium_superficiale*,30,1; *Leptogramma_mollissima*,28,1; *Leptogramma_totta*,30,2;
Lindsaea_lancea,166,3; *Lindsaea_trichomanoides*,109,1; *Lindsaea_ulei*,13,3;
**Lomaria_discolor*,551,5; **Lomariocycas_schomburgkii*,21,1; *Lomariopsis_japurensis*,83,1;
**Lomariopsis_vestita*,53,1; **Lorinseria_areolata*,1186,2; *Macrothelypteris_torresiana*,606,2;

575 **Matteuccia_struthiopteris*,2932,21; **Meniscium_serratum*,127,1; *Metathelypteris_laxa*,19,2;
**Microgramma_lycopodioides*,230,1; **Microgramma_megalophylla*,34,2;
Microgramma_squamulosa,191,2; *Microlepia_marginata*,151,1; *Microlepia_speluncae*,477,1;
Microlepia_strigosa,416,1; *Microlepia_trichocarpa*,18,1; **Microsorium_punctatum*,555,9;
**Myriopteris_myriophylla*,72,1; **Myriopteris_pringlei*,60,1; *Nephrolepis_auriculata*,426,2;

580 *Nephrolepis_biserrata*,1760,6; *Nephrolepis_cordifolia*,1850,4; *Nephrolepis_exaltata*,2800,20;
Nephrolepis_falcata,186,1; *Nephrolepis_hirsutula*,483,2; *Nephrolepis_obliterata*,77,1;
Nephrolepis_pendula,92,3; *Nephrolepis_rivularis*,101,3; **Niphidium_crassifolium*,330,3;
**Notogrammitis_angustifolia*,92,1; **Notogrammitis_billardierei*,139,2; **Oceaniopteris_gibba*,103,1;
**Odontosoria_chinensis*,466,3; *Oleandra_articulata*,122,1; *Onoclea_sensibilis*,5220,13;

585 *Onychium_japonicum*,380,2; **Osmolindsaea_japonica*,14,1; **Parablechnum_capense*,339,1;
**Parablechnum_minus*,27,1; **Parablechnum_procerum*,251,2; **Pelazoneuron_abruptum*,33,1;
**Pelazoneuron_patens*,101,2; *Pellaea_andromedifolia*,257,2; *Pellaea_glabella*,536,1;

Pellaea_mucronata,216,1; Pellaea_pteroides,28,1; Pellaea_rotundifolia,281,7; Pellaea_ternifolia,300,1;
 *Pentagramma_triangularis,301,1; Phegopteris_connectilis,1110,5; Phegopteris_decursive-
 590 pinnata,138,2; *Physematium_oreganum,372,1; *Pityrogramma_calomelanos,2064,7;
 Pityrogramma_sulphurea,25,2; Pityrogramma_trifoliata,146,1; Platycerium_alcicorne,156,2;
 Platycerium_bifurcatum,847,12; Platycerium_grande,178,1; Platycerium_wallichii,98,1;
 Pleopeltis_astrolepis,105,1; *Pleopeltis_polypodioides,1529,3; Polybotrya_osmundacea,88,1;
 Polypodium_californicum,270,4; Polypodium_cambicum,428,1; *Polypodium_glycyrrhiza,627,3;
 595 Polypodium_hesperium,234,1; Polypodium_interjectum,284,2; Polypodium_plesiosorum,93,1;
 Polypodium_virginianum,1200,5; Polypodium_vulgare,5440,14; Polystichum_acrostichoides,2620,4;
 Polystichum_aculeatum,1370,7; Polystichum_braunii,770,2; Polystichum_craspedosorum,101,1;
 Polystichum_hancockii,24,1; Polystichum_igaense,5,1; Polystichum_lepidocaulon,67,1;
 Polystichum_lonchitis,1050,7; *Polystichum_luctuosum,131,1; Polystichum_munitum,3480,16;
 600 *Polystichum_polyblepharum,169,2; Polystichum_pseudomakinoi,8,1; Polystichum_pungens,50,1;
 Polystichum_setiferum,932,4; Polystichum_squarrosus,211,1; Polystichum_tripteris,421,3;
 Polystichum_vestitum,554,1; Polystichum_feei,43,2; Pseudophegopteris_aurita,38,1;
 Pteridium_aquilinum,33900,148; Pteridium_caudatum,392,2; *Pteridium_esculentum,4212,9;
 Pteridium_revolutum,273,1; Pteris_biaurita,624,3; Pteris_cretica,3280,7; Pteris_deflexa,103,3;
 605 Pteris_dispar,112,1; Pteris_ensiformis,1490,7; Pteris_excelsa,138,1; Pteris_fauriei,221,1;
 Pteris_longifolia,638,1; Pteris_multifida,1270,2; Pteris_natiensis,7,1; Pteris_orizabae,53,1;
 Pteris_podophylla,87,1; Pteris_quadriaurita,527,2; Pteris_semipinnata,481,1; Pteris_tremula,727,1;
 Pteris_vittata,12900,4; Pteris_wallichiana,239,1; Pyrrosia_adnascens,195,1; Pyrrosia_lingua,723,1;
 Pyrrosia_petioloidea,244,1; Pyrrosia_serpens,164,1; *Rhachidosorus_mesosorus,55,1;
 610 *Rumohra_adiantiformis,1192,42; *Saccoloma_domingense,28,1; Sadleria_cyatheidoides,277,1;
 *Salpichlaena_volubilis,180,2; *Selligera_malacodon,11,1; *Serpocaulon_adnatum,20,1;
 *Serpocaulon_triseriale,133,4; Stenochlaena_palustris,1690,3; Stenochlaena_tenuifolia,131,3;
 *Struthiopteris_amabilis,28,2; *Struthiopteris_spicant,3135,7; Tectaria_harlandii,17,1;
 Tectaria_heracleifolia,220,2; Tectaria_martinicensis,31,3; *Telmatoblechnum_indicum,279,2;
 615 *Telmatoblechnum_serrulatum,957,3; *Thelypteris_palustris,4085,7;

Triplophyllum_dicksonioides,32,1; Woodsia_glabella,431,2; Woodsia_obtusa,981,1;
 Woodsia_polystichoides,233,1; Woodsia_scopulina,447,1; Woodwardia_fimbriata,286,2;
 Woodwardia_japonica,533,1; Woodwardia_orientalis,148,2; Woodwardia_radicans,604,2;
 *Zealandia_pustulata,353,1

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*Note:

For the asterisk-marked species the USDA Fungal Database used the following synonyms:

- *Adiantum philippense syn. Adiantum lunulatum; *Adiantum raddianum syn. Adiantum decorum;
 *Amauropelta oligocarpa syn. Thelypteris oligocarpa; *Amauropelta rudis syn. Thelypteris rudis;
 625 *Amblovenatum opulentum syn. Thelypteris opulenta; *Anchistea virginica syn. Woodwardia virginica;
 *Anisocampium niponicum syn. Athyrium niponicum; *Arachniodes amabilis syn. Polystichum amabile;
 *Arachniodes aristata syn. Polystichum aristatum; *Arachniodes miqueliana syn. Dryopteris miqueliana;
 *Arachniodes simplicior syn. Rumohra simplicior; *Arachniodes standishii syn. Rumohra standishii;
 *Ascogrammitis anfractuosa syn. Polypodium induens; *Asplenium dareoides syn. Asplenium
 630 magellanicum; *Athyrium asplenioides syn. Athyrium angustum; *Athyrium distentifolium syn. Athyrium
 alpestre; *Athyrium filix-femina syn. Asplenium filix-femina; *Athyrium subrigescens syn. Athyrium
 elegans; *Austroblechnum fernandezianum syn. Blechnum blechnoides; *Bosmania membranacea syn.
 Microsorium membranaceum; *Calciphlopteris ludens syn. Doryopteris ludens; *Campyloneurum
 phyllitidis syn. Polypodium phyllitidis; *Cheilanthes mollis syn. Notholaena sinuata; *Cheilanthes nitidula
 635 syn. Mildella nitidula; *Christella acuminata syn. Cyclosorus acuminatus; *Christella dentata syn.
 Cyclosorus dentatus; *Christella hispidula syn. Thelypteris hispidula; *Ctenitis subglandulosa syn. Ctenitis
 subtripinnata; *Cystopteris moupinensis syn. Cystopteris sphaerocarpa; *Davallia solida syn. Davallia
 fejeensis; *Dennstaedtia cicutaria syn. Dennstaedtia rubiginosa; *Dennstaedtia obtusifolia syn.
 Dennstaedtia ordinata; *Deparia acrostichoides syn. Athyrium acrostichoides; *Deparia confluens syn.
 640 Diplazium grammitoides; *Deparia pterorachis syn. Athyrium pterorachis; *Diplazium bantamense syn.
 Asplenium alternifolium; *Dryopteris affinis syn. Dryopteris paleacea; *Dryopteris apiciflora syn. Ctenitis
 apiciflora; *Dryopteris carthusiana syn. Dryopteris spinulosa; *Dryopteris championii syn. Dryopteris
 championi; *Dryopteris maximowicziana syn. Ctenitis maximowicziana; *Dryopteris pallida syn.
 Dryopteris raddeana; *Dryopteris varia syn. Dryopteris yabei; *Elaphoglossum gayanum syn.

- 645 *Elaphoglossum leptophyllum*; **Goniophlebium amoenum* syn. *Polypodium amoenum*; **Goniopteris abrupta* syn. *Thelypteris abrupta*; **Goniopteris poiteana* syn. *Thelypteris poiteana*; **Goniopteris tetragona* syn. *Thelypteris tetragona*; **Grammitis pseudaustralis* syn. *Polypodium nanum*; **Gymnocarpium disjunctum* syn. *Dryopteris disjuncta*; **Gymnocarpium dryopteris* syn. *Phegopteris dryopteris*; **Haplopteris flexuosa* syn. *Vittaria flexuosa*; **Hymenasplenium unilaterale* syn. *Asplenium unilaterale*; **Icarus*
- 650 *filiformis* syn. *Blechnum filiforme*; **Lepidomicrosorium buergerianum* syn. *Microsorium buergerianum*; **Lepidomicrosorium superficiale* syn. *Polypodium superficiale*; **Lomaria discolor* syn. *Blechnum discolor*; **Lomariocycas schomburgkii* syn. *Lomaria imperialis*; **Lomariopsis vestita* syn. *Stenochlaena vestita*; **Lorinseria areolata* syn. *Woodwardia areolata*; **Matteuccia struthiopteris* syn. *Onoclea struthiopteris*; **Meniscium serratum* syn. *Thelypteris serrata*; **Microgramma lycopodioides* syn. *Polypodium*
- 655 *lycopodioides*; **Microgramma megalophylla* syn. *Polypodium schomburgkianum*; **Microsorium punctatum* syn. *Polypodium punctatum*; **Myriopteris myriophylla* syn. *Cheilanthes elegans*; **Myriopteris pringlei* syn. *Cheilanthes pringlei*; **Niphidium crassifolium* syn. *Polypodium crassifolium*; **Notogrammitis angustifolia* syn. *Grammitis magellanica*; **Notogrammitis billardieri* syn. *Grammitis billardieri*; **Oceaniopteris gibba* syn. *Blechnum gibbum*; **Odontosoria chinensis* syn. *Davallia tenuifolia*;
- 660 **Osmolindsaea japonica* syn. *Lindsaea japonica*; **Parablechnum capense* syn. *Blechnum capense*; **Parablechnum minus* syn. *Blechnum minor*; **Parablechnum procerum* syn. *Blechnum procerum*; **Pelazoneuron abruptum* syn. *Thelypteris grandis*; **Pelazoneuron patens* syn. *Thelypteris patens*; **Pentagramma triangularis* syn. *Pityrogramma triangularis*; **Physematium oreganum* syn. *Woodsia oregana*; **Pityrogramma calomelanos* syn. *Pityrogramma calomelaena*; **Pleopeltis polypodioides* syn.
- 665 *Polypodium polypodioides*; **Polypodium glycyrrhiza* syn. *Polypodium occidentale*; **Polystichum luctuosum* syn. *Polystichum tsus-simense*; **Polystichum polyblepharum* syn. *Polystichum japonicum*; **Pteridium esculentum* syn. *Pteridium arachnoideum*; **Rhachidosorus mesosorus* syn. *Athyrium mesosorus*; **Rumohra adiantiformis* syn. *Polystichum adiantiforme*; **Saccoloma domingense* syn. *Orthiopteris domingensis*; **Salpichlaena volubilis* syn. *Blechnum volubile*; **Selliguea malacodon* syn.
- 670 *Polypodium malacodon*; **Serpocaulon adnatum* syn. *Polypodium adnatum*; **Serpocaulon triseriale* syn. *Polypodium brasiliense*; **Struthiopteris amabilis* syn. *Spicantopsis amabilis*; **Struthiopteris spicant* syn. *Blechnum spicant*; **Telmatoblechnum indicum* syn. *Blechnum indicum*; **Telmatoblechnum serrulatum* syn. *Blechnum serrulatum*; **Thelypteris palustris* syn. *Thelypteris thelypteris*; **Zealandia pustulata* syn. *Microsorium pustulatum*

675 1.2 *Polypodiales* tree

Newick format:

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2. Strawberry-kin species

2.1 *Potentilleae* data

855 CSV format: species, number of citations, number of fungi recorded; semicolons replace line breaks. * mark species names recognized by TimeTree, for which the USDA Fungal Database used synonyms. These synonyms are given in the footnote at the end of the list.

**Alchemilla_acutiloba*,159,8; **Alchemilla_alpina*,1278,11; **Alchemilla_arvensis*,1587,5;
860 *Alchemilla_conjuncta*,70,3; **Alchemilla_cryptantha*,47,1; **Alchemilla_flabellata*,121,6;
**Alchemilla_glabra*,392,9; *Alchemilla_glaucescens*,175,4; **Alchemilla_gracilipes*,73,4;
Alchemilla_japonica,27,1; **Alchemilla_microcarpa*,313,2; **Alchemilla_mollis*,893,6;
Alchemilla_saxatilis,33,1; *Alchemilla_schizophylla*,6,1; **Alchemilla_vulcanica*,79,2;
Alchemilla_vulgaris,3588,17; **Alchemilla_xanthochlora*,569,7; *Chamaerhodos_erecta*,266,1;
865 **Comarum_palustre*,5750,42; *Comarum_salesovianum*,86,1; *Dasiphora_davurica*,16,1;
**Dasiphora_fruticosa*,6630,14; **Drymocallis_arguta*,165,7; **Drymocallis_glandulosa*,99,12;
Fragaria_chiloensis,5590,59; *Fragaria_moschata*,675,4; *Fragaria_nilgerrensis*,510,1;
Fragaria_nipponica,165,1; *Fragaria_orientalis*,605,5; *Fragaria_virginiana*,8141,27;
Fragaria_vesca,26900,96; *Horkelia_tridentata*,38,1; *Potentilla_alba*,753,3;
870 **Potentilla_ancistrifolia*,244,2; *Potentilla_anglica*,245,5; *Potentilla_anserina*,7420,24;
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Potentilla_biennis,82,1; *Potentilla_biflora*,137,2; *Potentilla_caulescens*,159,3;
**Potentilla_cinerea*,797,6; *Potentilla_concinna*,184,2; *Potentilla_crantzii*,829,7;
Potentilla_curviseta,20,1; *Potentilla_diversifolia*,519,5; **Potentilla_douglasii*,89,1;
875 **Potentilla_effusa*,174,3; *Potentilla_erecta*,6280,23; *Potentilla_eriocarpa*,68,1;
Potentilla_flabellifolia,142,7; *Potentilla_freyniana*,524,7; **Potentilla_gordonii*,148,5;
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Potentilla_newberryi,28,2; **Potentilla_niponica*,5,1; *Potentilla_norvegica*,1540,27;
880 *Potentilla_pensylvanica*,326,3; *Potentilla_pulcherrima*,267,3; *Potentilla_recta*,3000,21;

Potentilla_reptans,4270,25; Potentilla_rivalis,132,2; Potentilla_saundersiana,353,2;
 *Potentilla_sericoleuca,17,2; Potentilla_simplex,1540,8; Potentilla_speciosa,135,1;
 Potentilla_sterilis,560,9; Potentilla_stipularis,56,2; Potentilla_stolonifera,51,1;
 *Potentilla_supina,1149,16; Potentilla_tanacetifolia,493,2; Potentilla_thuringiaca,328,5;
 885 Potentilla_uniflora,126,1; Potentilla_vahlana,71,1; Sibbaldia_cuneata,194,1;
 Sibbaldia_parviflora,154,1; Sibbaldia_procumbens,1730,9; Sibbaldianthe_adpressa,85,2;
 *Sibbaldianthe_bifurca,1464,7

*Note:

890 For the asterisk-marked species the USDA Fungal Database used the following synonyms:
 *Alchemilla acutiloba syn. Alchemilla indivisa; *Alchemilla alpina syn. Alchemilla alpigena; *Alchemilla
 arvensis syn. Aphanes arvensis; *Alchemilla cryptantha syn. Alchemilla madagascariensis; *Alchemilla
 flabellata syn. Alchemilla pubescens; *Alchemilla glabra syn. Alchemilla alpestris; *Alchemilla gracilipes
 syn. Alchemilla pedata; *Alchemilla microcarpa syn. Aphanes microcarpa; *Alchemilla mollis syn.
 895 Alchemilla montana; *Alchemilla vulcanica syn. Alchemilla sericata; *Alchemilla xanthochlora syn.
 Alchemilla pratensis; *Comarum palustre syn. Potentilla palustris; *Dasiphora fruticosa syn. Potentilla
 fruticosa; *Drymocallis arguta syn. Potentilla arguta; *Drymocallis glandulosa syn. Potentilla glandulosa;
 *Potentilla ancistrifolia syn. Potentilla dickinsii; *Potentilla atosanguinea syn. Potentilla argyrophylla;
 *Potentilla cinerea syn. Potentilla arenaria; *Potentilla douglasii syn. Horkelia fusca; *Potentilla effusa syn.
 900 Potentilla collina; *Potentilla gordonii syn.s Horkelia gordonii, Ivesia gordonii; *Potentilla hirta syn.
 Potentilla astracana; *Potentilla indica syn. Duchesnea indica; *Potentilla neumaniana syn. Potentilla
 neumanniana; *Potentilla niponica syn. Potentilla nipponica; *Potentilla sericoleuca syn. Ivesia
 sericoleuca; *Potentilla supina syn. Potentilla paradoxa; *Sibbaldianthe bifurca syn. Potentilla bifurca

905 **2.2 *Potentilleae* tree**

Newick format:

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