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# Differences in seed dormancy and germination in amphicarpic legumes: manifold bet-hedging in space and time

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1 **Original article**

2 **Running title: Bet-hedging in space and time**

3 **Differences in seed dormancy and germination in amphicarpic**  
4 **legumes: manifold bet-hedging in space and time**

5  
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# 1 **Abstract**

## 2 **Background and Aims**

3 Dispersal through space or time via dormancy is one of the primary processes whereby  
4 organisms can influence the environment they experience. In plants, strong evolutionary  
5 correlations are expected between the two kinds of dispersal because both are performed by  
6 the seeds. In this paper, we investigate these evolutionary correlations using amphicarpic  
7 plants, which produce simultaneously aerial seeds with high spatial dispersal propensity and  
8 subterranean seeds that do not disperse.

## 9 **Methods**

10 We investigated the variation in dormancy and germination in aerial and subterranean seeds  
11 of two amphicarpic legumes (*Vicia amphicarpa* and *Lathyrus amphicarpos*) and in two  
12 closely related homocarpic taxa (*V. sativa* and *L. cicera*).

## 13 **Key results**

14 Our results showed complex interactions between spatial and temporal dispersal. Right after  
15 dispersal, aerial seeds are more dormant than their subterranean counterparts, but this trend  
16 reverses with afterripening. Seeds of homocarpic plants germinate at higher percentages than  
17 any morph of their amphicarpic congeners and lose dormancy homogeneously with  
18 afterripening.

## 19 **Conclusions**

20 The varied dormancy strategies of amphicarpic seeds are expected to increase variation in  
21 emergence timing, providing multiple levels of diversifying bet-hedging. This strategy might  
22 be adaptive under highly unpredictable conditions by enabling plants to rely on historically  
23 favorable sites in good seasons without preventing spatial and temporal migration.

24

25 **Key Words:** Dormancy/colonization trade-off, Environmental heterogeneity, Geocarpy,  
26 Germination, Mediterranean environments, Physical dormancy, *Lathyrus amphicarpos* L.,  
27 *Lathyrus cicera* L., *Vicia amphicarpa* L., *Vicia sativa* L.

## 1 **1. Introduction**

2 Dispersal is one of the primary processes whereby organisms can influence the environment  
3 they experience. An individual's fitness depends on its capacity to reach an appropriate habitat  
4 for development and reproduction. Dispersal is usually regarded as the spatial displacement of  
5 the progeny from the parental breeding site. However, dispersal also has a temporal  
6 dimension, as progeny emerging at different times experience different conditions and  
7 different population compositions from their parents. Temporal dispersal is often mediated by  
8 dormancy of the seeds or the eggs (Levin 1992). The distribution of progeny across  
9 heterogeneous environments will ultimately be determined by the interaction between spatial  
10 and temporal dispersal, i.e., by when and where offspring emerge.

11 In plants, dispersal results from the interaction of environmental factors (including dispersal  
12 vectors) and a propagule (the fruit or seed) whose phenotype is largely determined by the  
13 maternal plant. These interactions can result in a variety of outcomes, both in terms of  
14 distance to the maternal plant and the relative quality of the progeny patch. Dispersal of plants  
15 in time is determined to a large extent by seed dormancy (Donohue *et al.* 2010). Dormant  
16 seeds do not germinate under conditions generally favorable for germination (Finch-Savage  
17 and Leubner-Metzger, 2006). This state is often innate (i.e., seeds become “primary dormant”  
18 before detachment from the maternal plant) and lost with time in a process called  
19 “afterripening”. However, seeds can also go through cycles oscillating between a germination  
20 ready state and one of “secondary” dormancy (Auge *et al.* 2015). For instance, physical  
21 dormancy or hardseededness (PY; prevention of germination by impermeable seed coats) is  
22 only attained under specific humidity and temperature conditions. In such instances, seeds  
23 might disperse in a non-dormant state and acquire PY if exposed to drought (Jaganathan  
24 2016). Consequently, whether a seed is dormant will ultimately depend on its endogenous  
25 characteristics as well as on the environment that it encounters.

26 In some cases, plants can produce different types of seeds (Figure 1) that differ drastically in  
27 terms of their spatial dispersal propensity and/or dormancy level. This type of strategy termed  
28 seed heteromorphism, or heterospermy (Imbert 2002) is generally regarded as a bet-hedging  
29 mechanism, as the different morphs can disperse to different sites or germinate under different  
30 conditions increasing the likelihood that at least some of the progeny will be recruited at any  
31 given time (Venable 1985). Amphicarpy constitutes one of the most striking cases of  
32 heterospermy. Amphicarpic plants produce both aerial and subterranean (geocarpic) flowers

1 and fruits (Darwin and Darwin 1880; Cheplick 1987). In amphicarpic species, a single plant  
2 simultaneously produces two sets of dispersal structures that differ in practically all their  
3 characteristics. Seeds produced by the aerial flowers disperse without difficulty, while the  
4 subterranean seeds are inevitably limited in their dispersal capacity (Cheplick, 1994; Zhang *et*  
5 *al.*, 2017). In addition, both types of seeds usually show differences in morphology as well as  
6 in dormancy (Baskin and Baskin 2014a). Generally, aerial parts produce a large number of  
7 seeds that are relatively small and dormant, while the subterranean fruits produce a smaller  
8 number of large, non-dormant seeds (Cheplick 1987; Kaul *et al.* 2000). Seed morph  
9 proportions are genetically controlled but also generally somewhat plastic and can vary  
10 depending on the maternal environment (Cheplick, 1994; Clavijo & Jiménez, 1998; Sadeh *et*  
11 *al.*, 2009).

12 Amphicarpy is assumed to derive from “homocarpy” (i.e., only aerial flowers and seeds) as a  
13 result of adaptation to highly unpredictable or frequently disturbed environments (Tardío  
14 2000; Lev-Yadun *et al.* 2000; Gutterman 2002). The existence of the two different morphs  
15 might ensure reproduction and the possibility of leaving descendants even under recurring  
16 unfavorable conditions such as predation or fire (Darwin and Darwin 1880; Kaul *et al.* 2000).  
17 While dormant subterranean seeds can ensure recruitment within the maternal site, aerial  
18 seeds can colonize new patches (Ruiz de Clavijo 1995). However, in spite of this potential  
19 adaptive value, it is a rather unusual reproductive strategy. There are very few amphicarpic  
20 species, spread across phylogenetically distant families, such as Poaceae (e.g., *Amphicarpum*),  
21 Cyperaceae (*Eleocharis*), Brassicaceae (*Cardamine*) or Fabaceae (*Amphicarpa*, *Macrotyloma*,  
22 *Lathyrus* or *Vicia*), where it seems to be particularly frequent (Barker 2005). The rarity of the  
23 strategy and the fact that evolutionarily distant genera include amphicarpic species can be  
24 posited as evidence for adaptive convergence under particular environmental conditions. It is  
25 commonly assumed that amphicarpy can only be favored in highly unpredictable  
26 environments (Sadeh *et al.*, 2009; Choo *et al.*, 2015). Theoretical models have shown that this  
27 strategy provides an extreme case of diversifying bet-hedging, compromising short-term  
28 success to ensure high geometric mean fitness (Hidalgo *et al.*, 2016). When conditions  
29 fluctuate drastically in both space and time, selection can favor simultaneously phenotypes  
30 that diversify risk through migration and those able to ensure the occupation of a previously  
31 favorable patch (Buoro and Carlson 2014; Rubio de Casas *et al.* 2015). In seeds, this can lead  
32 to the differentiation of two specialized morphs, a “High dispersal/High dormancy” seed  
33 (which migrates in space and time) and a “Low dispersal/Low dormancy” seed (which

1 ensures occupation of the parental patch; Arshad et al., 2018). Amphicarpic plants might  
2 conform to this model, as subterranean seeds are generally described as less dormant than  
3 aerial ones (Cheplick 1994). The former would disperse neither in space nor in time, and  
4 migration would be a function exclusively of the latter.

5 However, a trade-off between spatial and temporal dispersal is also commonly associated  
6 with heterospermy. In these cases, the morph that disperses more readily through space has  
7 limited dormancy (Imbert 2002; Baskin and Baskin 2014). For amphicarpic plants, this sort of  
8 evolutionary trade-off would have led to reduced dormancy in the aerial seeds (which would  
9 be specialized to disperse in space) relative to both their homocarpic ancestors and the  
10 subterranean morph. Simultaneously subterranean seeds should have developed relatively  
11 deep dormancy to provide dispersal through time. Therefore, comparing the behavior of  
12 homocarpic seeds (which have to ensure both spatial and temporal dispersal) to that of  
13 amphicarpic seeds might be useful to illustrate the potential existence of evolutionary trade-  
14 offs between seed functions and whether bet-hedging causes specialization to disperse  
15 simultaneously in space and time.

16 In the present paper, we investigate evolutionary correlations and trade-offs in seed dispersal  
17 and dormancy by estimating differences in dormancy between seed morphs of two  
18 amphicarpic legumes, and between these and those of close homocarpic relatives with almost  
19 identical ecology and phenology. We aimed to establish if amphicarpy entails the  
20 specialization of seeds either as migrant (High dispersal/High dormancy) vs. persistent (Low  
21 dispersal/low dormancy) or as spatial (High dispersal/Low dormancy) vs. time (Low  
22 dispersal/High dormancy) capsules. To test these different scenarios, we investigated:

- 23 1. Whether different seed morphs (aerial vs. subterranean) of the Mediterranean  
24 amphicarpic legumes *Lathyrus amphicarpos* and *Vicia amphicarpa* differ in their  
25 germination and dormancy.
- 26 2. If seed dormancy is constant in time, i.e., if fresh and afterripened seeds exhibit similar  
27 levels of dormancy and whether these potential temporal differences vary between  
28 seed morphs.
- 29 3. If seeds from amphicarpic species, particularly aerial ones, differ in dormancy and  
30 germination from those of their closest homocarpic species, *L. cicera* and *V. sativa*,  
31 which share similar ecology and geographical distribution.

1

## 2 **2. Materials and Methods**

### 3 **2.1 Plant species and dormancy classes**

4 We studied two amphicarpic species (*Lathyrus amphicarpos* and *Vicia amphicarpa*) and their  
5 closest non-amphicarpic relatives (*L. cicera* and *V. sativa*). All four of these annual species  
6 belong to the tribe Fabeae of the Fabaceae, and are common, often co-occurring, in  
7 Mediterranean herbaceous communities in Southern Iberia. Besides their ecological  
8 requirements, the plants share many morphological synapomorphies within genera. The only  
9 trait differentiating *V. amphicarpa* and *V. sativa* is the production of subterranean  
10 reproductive structures in the former. In the case of the two *Lathyrus*, besides the  
11 subterranean flowers and fruits, morphological differences are limited to the abaxial shape of  
12 the fruit pods and the ramification of the tendrils (Gallego 2009). These ecological and  
13 morphological similarities are probably a consequence of the close evolutionary relationships  
14 (in fact, *V. amphicarpa* is often considered as a subspecies of *V. sativa*; Kenicer *et al.* 2005).  
15 The aerial fruits of these homocarpic and amphicarpic legumes are also similar and disperse  
16 their seeds ballistically, shooting them violently when the valves dehydrate in early summer  
17 (dehiscence; Garrison, Miller, & Raspet, 2000), while subterranean fruits remain attached to  
18 the maternal plant.

19 Many legumes have seeds with hard and impermeable coats, which prevent water uptake (i.e.,  
20 physical dormancy, PY). Under natural conditions, this type of dormancy is usually lost when  
21 seeds undergo temperature fluctuations that open the coats, which in the laboratory can be  
22 replaced by a mechanical scarification (Baskin *et al.* 2000; Baskin and Baskin 2000; Zalamea  
23 *et al.* 2015). Also, the seeds of certain Fabaceae can exhibit another class of dormancy,  
24 known as physiological dormancy (PD), which is caused by conditions within the embryo that  
25 prevent germination until inhibiting chemicals are broken down or are no longer produced by  
26 the seed. In nature, this deactivation is often caused by periods of storage in the seed bank  
27 under dry conditions (i.e., afterripening) followed by specific temperature combinations that  
28 ensure that the seeds germinate at the optimum moment for the development of the seedlings.  
29 For Mediterranean annuals that disperse their seeds at the onset of the dry season in early  
30 summer, the optimal germination season occurs in autumn, once temperatures have cooled  
31 down and water availability for seedling establishment can be reliably expected (i.e., winter  
32 annual life cycle). Therefore, PD is usually lost following a period of several weeks or months

1 of dry afterripening and/or a short spell of cold temperatures (~4°C) under moist conditions  
2 (Finch-Savage and Leubner-Metzger 2006; Baskin and Baskin 2014). In the laboratory, this is  
3 usually mimicked by dry storage at room temperature for several months (aprox. four) and  
4 short cold stratification (Varela and Arana 2011). However, when using dry storage, it is  
5 essential to keep in mind that in non-dormant seeds, post-dispersal drying might induce  
6 secondary dormancy, and thus dry afterripening might cause dormancy rather than alleviate it,  
7 specially if temperatures right after dispersal are high (Finch-Savage and Leubner-Metzger  
8 2006). Furthermore, since PY is exogenous to the embryo and PD endogenous, the two  
9 dormancy classes might be present simultaneously in what is called combinational dormancy  
10 (PY +PD), which is relatively frequent in temperate legumes (Van Assche and Vandeloock  
11 2010).

## 12 **2.2 Experimental design**

13 Seeds were obtained from different populations across S. Spain, incorporating wide genetic  
14 variability (Figure S1). We collected three to twenty seeds from a total often to twelve  
15 individuals from 17 populations (three *L. amphicarpos*, four *L. cicera* and five of each of the  
16 *Vicia* species) and grew 10 random individuals from each of these populations under  
17 homogeneous conditions in a common greenhouse (IFAPA, Granada, Spain) allowing for  
18 open pollination within the greenhouse. After seed collection, some stock was saved so as to  
19 cultivate three descendants of each of the initial samples every year. Following the natural  
20 cycle of the plants, sowing took place at the beginning of October and mature seeds were  
21 collected in early June. This process was replicated several years and the seeds collected were  
22 used for the different germination experiments. Specifically, F1 seeds were used for  
23 experiment 1, F2 seeds for experiment 2 and F3 for experiment 3. F1 & F2 plants were  
24 cultivated in the IFAPA greenhouses, and F3 in the ‘Plateforme des Terrains d’Experience du  
25 LabExCeMEB’ (Montpellier, France). In all germination experiments, seeds were pooled at  
26 the population level. The seeds of each species and seed morph were assigned to the same  
27 “type”, i.e., amphicarpic plants had two seed types and homocarpic species had only one; as a  
28 result, all experiments included six seed types.

29 Experiment 1 was aimed at quantifying PY. In this experiment, we used seeds afterripened for  
30 eight months at room temperature to minimize potential PD effects on germination. Seeds  
31 underwent: an untreated control (treatment 0 hereafter) or mechanical scarification with nail  
32 pliers (treatment S hereafter). We used 10 replicates per treatment and seed type, each  
33 replicate consisting of 6 seeds in a Petri dish (5 cm diameter) filled with 0.5% agar solution (n



1 = 60 seeds/treatment x 6 types = 360 seeds). Once seeds were sowed, we sealed the dishes  
2 with parafilm, analyzing germination percentage after, one, two, five, 11 and 14 days.

3 In Experiment 2, we used seeds that had undergone just four months of afterripening and were  
4 therefore expected to retain some PD. This experiment was similar to Exp. 1 but we added  
5 two new treatments: a cold dark stratification (3°C for 3 days, treatment C) to check  
6 physiological dormancy and a combined treatment (C+S) to control for combinational  
7 dormancy (PY + PD).

8 To further clarify the effect of PD and estimate whether seeds at the time of dispersal lacked  
9 hardseededness and if secondary PY was a consequence of dry afterripening, a third  
10 experiment (Experiment 3) was carried out. For this experiment, seeds were harvested when  
11 plants had finished their cycle but were not yet fully dry (at least 75% of pods on each plant  
12 were yellow). They were then exposed to either control or cold stratification conditions (as  
13 described above).

14 In Experiments 1 & 2, seeds were disinfected in NaClO 5% for 30 seconds prior to being  
15 sowed and cleaned with distilled water. In Experiment 3, we did not use any disinfection  
16 treatment to avoid any accidental opening of a water gap that may facilitate imbibition, which  
17 also caused a decrease in the number of final viable seeds (many seeds had to be discarded  
18 because of the presence of fungi, particularly in the case of the subterranean morphs). To  
19 ensure imbibition, 10 $\mu$ L of water were added to each seed after plating. Germination  
20 conditions were set at 21°C constant temperature and 12h light cycles. Seeds were incubated  
21 under these conditions for 14 days in the first experiment and 11 days in the other two  
22 experiments. Germination, identified as a visible protrusion of the radicle, was checked every  
23 48h during incubation. At the end of each experiment, petri dishes were opened and seed  
24 viability assessed by firmness to touch, and non-viable seeds were discarded from all  
25 analyses.

## 26 **2.4 Data analysis**

27 Data was analyzed in R.3.3.1 (Team 2016) using generalized linear models with germination  
28 percentage as the response variable and seed type and treatment as fixed predictors. In every  
29 case, we selected the model with the best fit to the data based on AIC values. According to  
30 this criterion, linear models exhibited the best fit to the data of the two first experiments  
31 (Table S2. Supplementary materials) although our data did not conform to the assumptions of  
32 parametric models. We controlled for potential statistical artifacts by repeating all analyses

1 using the model with the second lowest AIC value (Tweedie log; Table S2. Supplementary  
2 materials). Since the results of both models were essentially identical, we kept the results of  
3 the linear models. For the results of Experiment 3, the model selected was a negative binomial  
4 generalized model. In all models, we used the aerial amphicarpic morph of each genus as the  
5 reference level. That way, we can quickly test if these differ from either the subterranean  
6 seeds of the same species or the homocarpic seeds of close congeners.

7

## 8 **3. Results**

### 9 **3.1 Dormancy and germination of afterripened seeds**

10

11 Experiments 1 & 2 demonstrated the presence of PY in all seed types except those of *Vicia*  
12 *sativa*, which did not appear to have a significant degree of dormancy (Table 1; Fig. 2).  
13 Physical dormancy was particularly notable in amphicarpic species, especially in the  
14 subterranean seeds. Conversely, physiological dormancy and combinational dormancy did not  
15 influence germination of these species (Fig. 2). Cold stratification had only a significant effect  
16 on *L. cicera* and the subterranean seeds of *L. amphicarpos*, and in both cases its effect was  
17 much smaller than that of physical scarification, while neither *V. amphicarpa* morph nor the  
18 aerial seeds of *L. amphicarpos* responded to PD alleviation by cold stratification (Table 1;  
19 Fig. 2). In the absence of any dormancy breaking treatment, homocarpic species germinated  
20 to higher percentages than any amphicarpic seeds, while aerial seeds germinated to higher  
21 percentages than subterranean ones, although this last difference was only significant in *V.*  
22 *amphicarpa* (Fig. 2, Table 1).

### 23 **3.2 Dormancy and germination of fresh seeds**

24 The results of Experiment 3 demonstrated the presence of relatively deep primary dormancy  
25 in amphicarpic species. In this experiment, homocarpic species germinated better than  
26 amphicarpic ones. Aerial seeds of both amphicarpic species appeared to be particularly  
27 dormant. This dormancy was probably physiological to some degree because although cold  
28 stratification did not alleviate it, it was much diminished in afterripened seeds (Expp. 1 & 2;  
29 Fig. 2). The seeds of *L. cicera* also seemed to have a relatively high level of dormancy, with  
30 %germination < 40% and a complete absence of response to cold stratification. The  
31 subterranean seeds of *L. amphicarpos* had a similar degree of dormancy, but in this case, it

1 was significantly reduced after cold stratification, which together with the results obtained  
2 with AR seeds can be taken as indication of the presence of PD in these seeds. The seeds of *V.*  
3 *sativa* also responded to cool stratification, although in this case, even control seeds had  
4 %germination > 60% (Table 1, Fig. 2).

5 Detailed model coefficients are available in supplementary material tables S3-S8.

## 6 **4. Discussion**

7 Our results showed that amphicarpic entails variability in dispersal in time as well as in space.  
8 When compared to homocarpic seeds, amphicarpic seeds have greater dormancy overall.  
9 However, the two seed morphs produced by amphicarpic taxa differ significantly in their  
10 dormancy. Moreover, spatio-temporal dispersal patterns appear to be more diverse than  
11 expected, and no straightforward correlation between temporal and spatial dispersal could be  
12 established. Seed dormancy also seemed to be determined by the degree of after-ripening, but  
13 this effect differed among morphs, and as a result the behavior of each morph varied through  
14 time independently. The combination of multiple dormancy and dispersal levels within the  
15 seeds of individual maternal plants indicate that amphicarpic is a multifarious bet-hedging  
16 strategy that enables plants to spread risk spatially and temporally.

### 17 **4.1 Dormancy in aerial and subterranean seeds of amphicarpic plants**

18 Our results did not support the existence of a clear dormancy/colonization trade-off in  
19 amphicarpic plants or the differentiation of “High dispersal/High dormancy” and “Low  
20 dispersal/Low dormancy” strategies (Rees 1996; Arshad et al., 2018), but rather indicated the  
21 selection of more complex dormancy and dispersal strategies. The seeds of amphicarpic  
22 species exhibited in every case greater dormancy than the seeds of their closest congeners.  
23 The relative gain in physical dormancy was particularly prominent. However, physiological  
24 and combinational dormancy might also be ecologically relevant, especially in the case of  
25 subterranean seeds: initially they present a superficial physiological dormancy similar to  
26 aerial seeds of the other species (Exp. 3), but when dehydrated they acquire physical  
27 dormancy (Exp. 1 & 2). This suggests that in these seeds, afterripening modifies dormancy in  
28 a sophisticated fashion, increasing PY while simultaneously decreasing PD (Finch-Savage *et*  
29 *al.* 2007; Van Assche and Vandeloock 2010; Baskin and Baskin 2014b).

30 Hardseededness appeared to be potentially deeper in subterranean seeds, which in both  
31 *Lathyrus* and *Vicia* had lower %germination and responded more dramatically to scarification

1 treatments than aerial seeds (Expp. 1 & 2). This difference among afterripened seeds of the  
2 two morphs appeared to be more significant in *V. amphicarpa* than in *L. amphicarpos*,  
3 although the trend was similar in both cases. However, these differences could be the result of  
4 secondary dormancy, likely induced by dehydration. Physical dormancy depends on the water  
5 content of the seed, the seed coat only becoming impermeable after partial dehydration (Van  
6 Assche *et al.* 2003; Jaganathan 2016). It would appear that the coats of subterranean seeds of  
7 amphicarpic species are initially water-permeable, as these seeds germinated better than fresh  
8 aerial seeds.

9 This shallow dormancy of subterranean seeds might allow them to germinate immediately  
10 after “dispersal”, i.e., as soon as the seeds are mature, if the appropriate environmental  
11 conditions are met. These legumes have the typical Mediterranean annual life cycle, and  
12 mature their seeds at the end of the spring or early summer, concurrent with the onset of the  
13 dry summer period. Therefore, it is unlikely that subterranean seeds will encounter conditions  
14 adequate for germination, although given the stochasticity of the Mediterranean climate  
15 (Blondel and Aronson 2004), this might occur in exceptionally wet and cold years. In such  
16 instances, subterranean seeds might enable the re-occupation of the maternal spot before the  
17 regular germination season in the fall. However, they will most commonly dry during the  
18 summer, persist in the soil bank, and emerge scattered through time within the maternal patch  
19 (Zeide 1978; Tardío 2000). Thus, under realistic ecological conditions, hardseededness in  
20 underground seeds ensures temporal dispersal, but it can also provide temporal bet-hedging,  
21 adding to the differentiation of banking strategies associated to amphicarpy.

## 22 **4.2 Differences in germination and dormancy between amphicarpic and** 23 **homocarpic relatives**

24 Our phylogenetically paired comparisons indicated that amphicarpy represents in every case  
25 an increase in seed dormancy. In both genera, amphicarpic seeds, either aerial or  
26 subterranean, displayed deeper dormancy than those of their homocarpic congeners.  
27 Dormancy was particularly shallow in the case of *V. sativa*, the seeds of which seemed to be  
28 almost entirely non-dormant. In homocarpic species, seeds appeared to be ready to germinate  
29 following four-months of dry afterripening. Under natural conditions, this would entail  
30 emergence in the fall of all the propagules dispersed earlier in the year and the absence of an  
31 inter-annual seedbank.

1 Given the morphological similarities in the aerial fruits within genera, there is no reason to  
2 expect drastic differences in the spatial dispersal between taxa. *Lathyrus* and *Vicia* disperse  
3 their aerial seeds ballistically. However, amphicarpic species appear to have increased their  
4 level of dormancy compared to their homocarpic relatives, which display a more evident  
5 colonizing behavior. At this point, it is unclear if that is because selection favors an overall  
6 increase in dormancy in all amphicarpic seeds or if the diversification of specialized  
7 dormancy types is somehow constrained in these species. Maybe the differentiation of a  
8 “dormant morph” limits the colonizing potential of the other morph, i.e., selection for  
9 increased dormancy might ultimately affect all of the seeds produced by a plant.  
10 Alternatively, it is possible that selection might have favored complex dormancy patterns in  
11 both seed types to ensure simultaneous seed banks in different locations. Such an outcome  
12 might be expected when environmental conditions are highly unpredictable in both space and  
13 time, which is the only scenario in which amphicarpy is expected to be adaptive (Hidalgo *et*  
14 *al.* 2016).

15 In summary, our results prove that the correlation between spatial and temporal seed dispersal  
16 can have in multiple different outcomes. There are no simple trade-offs between dispersal and  
17 dormancy and their joint evolution leads to the emergence of bet-hedging strategies that  
18 spread risk at multiple scales in both space and time.

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- 17





1

2 **Tables**

3 Table1.

<b>A. Lathyrus</b>						
Morph	Experiment 1		Experiment 2		Experiment 3	
Amphicarpic (Aerial - Control -)	S	<0.0001*	S	<0.0001*	C	1
	0	0.151	C	0.478		
Amphicarpic (Subterranean)	0	0.001*	S	<0.0001*	0	0.0057*
	S	0.001*	C	0.207	C	0.010
Homocarpic	0	0.0007*	S	0.024*	0	<0.0008*
	S	0.005*	C	0.027*	C	1
<b>B. Vicia</b>						
Morph	Experiment 1		Experiment 2		Experiment 3	
Amphicarpic (Aerial - Control-)	S	0.0015*	S	0.001*	C	0.999
	0	<0.0001*	C	0.799		
Amphicarpic (Subterranean)	0	<0.0001*	S	0.010*	0	0.027*
	S	<0.0001*	C	<0.0001*	C	0.994
Homocarpic	0	0.794	S	0.0001*	0	<0.0001*
	S	0.025*	C	0.499	C	0.040*

4

5

6 **Table 1.** Statistical summary of the three germination experiments. In every test,  
7 %germination of the aerial seeds of the amphicarpic species under the control (0) treatment  
8 was used as the reference level. For example, the values shown for Experiment 1 correspond  
9 to the difference between S and 0 aerial amphicarpic seeds, between subterranean  
10 amphicarpic seeds in both treatments (i.e., 0 and S) and aerial control seeds and between  
11 homocarpic seeds in both treatments and aerial control seeds. Treatment codes: 0 - control; C  
12 - cold dark stratification (3 days at 3°C-4°C); S - physical scarification; S+C: physical  
13 scarification followed by cold stratification. Only p-values are displayed, for other  
14 coefficients, please refer to Tables S3-S8. Values represent the significance of the comparison  
15 between each seed type and the reference for any given treatment. \*Significant at  $p < 0.05$

