

1 **Characterizing grapevine 3D inflorescence architecture using X-ray imaging and advanced  
2 morphometrics: implications for understanding cluster density**

3

4 **Running Title:** Characterizing grapevine 3D inflorescence architecture

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31 **Highlight:** We employ X-ray tomography, geometric and topological measurements, and  
32 physical simulations to characterize 3D inflorescences architectures, using wild grapevine as  
33 example. We interpret the variation for breeding objectives for *Vitis*.

34

35 **Abstract**

36

37 Inflorescence architecture provides the scaffold on which flowers and fruits develop, and  
38 consequently is a primary trait under investigation in many crop systems. Yet the challenge  
39 remains to analyze these complex 3D branching structures with appropriate tools. High  
40 information content data sets are required to represent the actual structure and facilitate full  
41 analysis of both the geometric and topological features relevant to phenotypic variation in order  
42 to clarify evolutionary and developmental inflorescence patterns. We combined advanced  
43 imaging (X-ray tomography) and computational approaches (topological and geometric data  
44 analysis and structural simulations) to comprehensively characterize grapevine inflorescence  
45 architecture (the rachis and all branches without berries) among 10 wild *Vitis* species. Clustering  
46 and correlation analyses revealed unexpected relationships, for example pedicel branch angles  
47 were largely independent of other traits. We identified multivariate traits that typified species,  
48 which allowed us to classify species with 78.3% accuracy, versus 10% by chance. Twelve traits  
49 had strong signals across phylogenetic clades, providing insight into the evolution of  
50 inflorescence architecture. We provide an advanced framework to quantify 3D inflorescence and  
51 other branched plant structures that can be used to tease apart subtle, heritable features for a  
52 better understanding of genetic and environmental effects on plant phenotypes.

53

54 Key words: 3D architecture; inflorescence; morphology; persistent homology; phylogenetic  
55 analysis; topological data analysis; *Vitis* spp.; X-ray tomography

56 **Introduction**

57

58 Inflorescences are major adaptations of the angiosperm lineage whose architectural variation  
59 affects fertilization, fruit development, dispersal, and crop yield (Wyatt, 1982; Hake, 2008; de  
60 Ribou *et al.*, 2013; Kirchoff & Claßen-Bockhoff, 2013; Périlleux *et al.*, 2014; Chanderbali *et al.*,  
61 2016). These branched reproductive structures with multiple flowers reflect the extraordinary  
62 diversity across angiosperm species, from an ear of corn to palms with inflorescences measuring  
63 five meters long (Hodel *et al.*, 2015). Yet seemingly simple processes give rise to these vastly  
64 different shapes - during development reproductive meristems may either switch to floral identity  
65 or proliferate additional inflorescence meristems and branches (Prusinkiewicz *et al.*, 2007).  
66 Complex topologies reflect the evolution of this functional diversity, but have proven difficult to  
67 quantify with conventional tools.

68

69 Detailed descriptions of inflorescences by trained experts are often unique to specific research  
70 communities or groups of taxa, and are not always readily transferable, hindering meaningful  
71 comparative analysis (Endress, 2010). Inflorescences are sometimes described typologically:  
72 indeterminate or determinate, simple or compound, as a raceme, cyme, panicle or spike, etc.  
73 (Wyatt, 1982; Weberling, 1992). Other approaches describe qualitative attributes of  
74 inflorescences such as the presence or absence of certain structures (Weberling, 1992; Doebley *et*  
75 *al.*, 1997; Feng *et al.*, 2011; Hertweck & Pires, 2014). A third method for characterizing  
76 inflorescences is through quantification of component structures (e.g., branch length,  
77 inflorescence length and width, angular traits; Kuijt, 1981; Marguerit *et al.*, 2009; Landrein *et*  
78 *al.*, 2012; Le *et al.*, 2018). Although these classical quantitative approaches facilitate  
79 comparative statistical analyses, the three-dimensional (3D) complexity of inflorescences is  
80 largely undescribed. Furthermore, descriptions may be confounded by developmental stage at the  
81 time of measurement, and distinguishing between vegetative and reproductive branching  
82 structures can be difficult (Wyatt, 1982; Weberling, 1992; Guédon *et al.*, 2001). Thus, new  
83 technological and analytical approaches that can represent comprehensive, multi-dimensional  
84 information about inflorescence diversity are needed to normalize and enrich analysis of these  
85 structures.

86

87 One promising approach for capturing 3D shapes of inflorescences and other plant structures is  
88 X-ray tomography (XRT). XRT generates high quality reconstructions of the internal and  
89 external shapes of plants, preserving nearly complete geometric and topological information in  
90 3D. These 3D digital models then can be used to extract quantitative data (features) from plant  
91 structures. X-rays have been used to quantify wheat and rice seed and inflorescence traits from  
92 intact samples for non-destructive yield calculations (Hughes *et al.*, 2017; Jhala & Thaker,  
93 2015), internal anatomy of willow trees (Brereton *et al.*, 2015), stem morphology and anatomy in  
94 sorghum (Gomez *et al.*, 2018), root structure of barley seedlings (Pfeifer *et al.*, 2015), leaf  
95 anatomy in monocots and dicots (Mathers *et al.*, 2018) and dynamic starch accumulation in  
96 living grapevine stems (Earles *et al.*, 2018), among others. Most critically, whereas manual  
97 measurements can be laborious and destructive, non-destructive sampling for XRT analysis  
98 facilitates comprehensive quantification of complex morphological traits.

99

100 Quantifying complex shapes with XRT requires appropriate analytical approaches. Topological  
101 modeling, a mathematical field concerned with the connectedness of branching structures, can  
102 quantify inflorescence architecture by parsing geometric 3D structures into distinct, yet  
103 connected, components (Godin & Caraglio, 1998). Topological modeling has yielded important  
104 insights into inflorescence development, functional analysis, and crop improvement in a variety  
105 of plant species (e.g., *Arabidopsis thaliana*, *Capsicum annuum*, *Malus pumila*, and *Triticum*;  
106 Godin *et al.*, 1999; Letort *et al.*, 2006; Kang *et al.*, 2009). While powerful, these reductionist  
107 approaches rely on an a priori understanding of the mechanisms that contribute to complexity  
108 (e.g., branching patterns), and lose power when shapes vary drastically from one another (e.g.,  
109 comparing a corn tassel to a grape cluster). Approaches that capture emergent properties of  
110 complex structures without presupposing the importance of individual structural components are  
111 complementary to traditional topological models (Bucksch *et al.*, 2017).

112

113 An emerging mathematical approach to interpret topological models is persistent homology  
114 (PH). PH extracts morphological features from two- or three-dimensional representations and  
115 can be used to compare very different shapes. PH has been applied to explain a wide range of  
116 features including atomic structures, urban and forested areas, cancers, cell shapes, and jaw  
117 shape, among others (Edelsbrunner & Morozov, 2013). In plants, PH has been used to estimate

118 shapes that are otherwise difficult to measure including leaves, leaflet serration, spikelet shape,  
119 stomatal patterning, and root architecture (Li *et al.*, 2018a,b; Haus *et al.*, 2018; McAllister *et al.*,  
120 2019; Migicovsky *et al.* 2018). Previous work showed that PH could capture more quantitative  
121 variation than traditional plant morphological measures (described above) resulting in the  
122 identification of otherwise latent quantitative trait loci (Li *et al.*, 2018b). PH is especially well-  
123 suited for quantifying branching topology as it can quantitatively summarize complex variation  
124 with a single measure (Li *et al.*, 2017; Delory *et al.*, 2018). Rachis, pedicel, and branches include  
125 inherently topological features that can be especially well-analyzed with PH-based methods.

126

127 Grape clusters (or bunches) are branched structures supporting berries produced by grapevines  
128 (*Vitis* spp.) and are an ideal system in which to apply XRT and PH. Grape infructescences are  
129 historically, culturally, and economically important and vary extensively in nature and in  
130 cultivation (Iland *et al.*, 2011). Cluster architecture determines bunch density, and is defined as  
131 “arrangement of berries in a cluster and the distribution of free space” (Richter *et al.*, 2018). The  
132 density of berries in a cluster is an important breeding feature because it determines yield, wine  
133 character, and disease resistance (amount of air flow between berries is a primary determinant of  
134 pests and pathogens on the fruit). Cluster density is a characteristic identified by the  
135 Organization Internationale de la Vigne et du Vin, and varies from “berries clearly separated”  
136 (loose clusters) to “berries deformed by compression” (very dense clusters; OIV, 2001). As one  
137 of the primary determinants of yield, end-product characteristics, and disease resistance cluster  
138 architecture has been studied extensively in grapevine (reviewed in Tello & Ibáñez, 2018). These  
139 studies have shown that wine grape cultivars (*Vitis vinifera*) display distinct bunch densities  
140 (Shavrukov *et al.*, 2004). However, less is known about cluster architecture in wild *Vitis* species,  
141 an important source of natural variation used by breeders in the development of hybrid grapevine  
142 varieties.

143

144 Historically, researchers have focused on a suite of cluster traits such as cluster size, shape,  
145 weight, and density/compactness to characterize bunch density quantified in grapevines  
146 (Rovasenda, 1881; Pulliat, 1888; Bioletti, 1938; Galet, 1979; Bettiga, 2003). Measurements are  
147 made primarily using traditional tools including rulers, digital calipers, volume displacement,  
148 and/or through human judging panels. More recently, automated image-based approaches have

149 been implemented to capture aspects of cluster architecture in the lab and field (Ivorra *et al.*,  
150 2015; Aquino *et al.*, 2017, 2018; Rist *et al.*, 2018). However, these image-based methods cannot  
151 penetrate the internal inflorescence structure. Therefore resulting models are based only the  
152 visible surface and the underlying topology cannot be fully captured, limiting an understanding  
153 of how inflorescence architecture and berry features co-vary. XRT and PH applications offer an  
154 important opportunity to understand grapevine bunch density through detailed analyses of  
155 inflorescence architecture. This work will deepen our understanding of natural variation of  
156 inflorescence structure, identify priority targets for breeding, and permit connecting 3D structure  
157 to underlying processes and genetics of inflorescence development.

158

159 We use X-ray tomography, geometric measurements, persistent homology, and structural  
160 simulation to characterize wild grapevine inflorescence architecture. We target the branching  
161 architecture of the mature inflorescence: the rachis and all branches that remain following the  
162 removal of ripe berries (Fig. 1). Specifically, we aim to: 1) characterize variation in component  
163 traits of inflorescence architecture within and among *Vitis* species; 2) assess phylogenetic signals  
164 underlying inflorescence architecture traits; and 3) interpret inflorescence trait variation in the  
165 context of breeding objectives. This work represents an important advance for the  
166 characterization of 3D plant architecture using a powerful combined imaging and computational  
167 approach.

168

## 169 **Materials and methods**

170

### 171 **Plant Material**

172

173 In this study, we sampled grapevine bunches from 136 unique genotypes representing 10 wild  
174 *Vitis* species living in the USDA germplasm repository system (Geneva, NY; Table 1,  
175 Supplementary Fig. S1). Grapevines have a paniculate inflorescence that consists of a rachis with  
176 several primary and secondary branches, tapering towards the terminus of the organ (Illand *et al.*,  
177 2011). Wild grapevines are dioecious; consequently, unbalanced sample sizes for different  
178 species reflect numbers of female genotypes available in the germplasm collection. Each unique  
179 genotype is represented in the germplasm collection by two clonally replicated vines. For most

180 of the 136 genotypes, we collected a total of three clusters from the two clonal replicates  
181 combined, representing average cluster morphology. We avoided clusters that were visibly  
182 damaged or indirectly altered (e.g., tendril or trellis interference). For each vine, clusters were  
183 removed from separate canes at the point of peduncle attachment (Fig. 1A). In total, 392 clusters  
184 were collected in September 2016 when berries were soft, equivalent to EL38 developmental  
185 stage (Coombe, 1995; Fig. 1B). Berries were manually removed from clusters in the field, and  
186 the remaining inflorescence stalks (including rachis, branches, and pedicels; hereafter referred to  
187 as inflorescence or inflorescence architecture) were used to assess inflorescence architecture.

188

### 189 **X-ray tomography and data preprocessing**

190

191 Grapevine inflorescences were scanned at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center (St. Louis,  
192 MO) using a North Star Imaging X5000 X-ray tomography instrument (NSI; Rogers, MN)  
193 equipped with a 16-bit Varian flat panel detector (1536 x 1920 pixels with 127um pixel pitch)  
194 and 225kV microfocus reflection target X-ray source. Each inflorescence was held between two  
195 pieces of construction-grade expanded polystyrene, clamped in a panavise, and positioned on the  
196 X-ray turntable in one of two configurations (Fig. 1C): 725mm from the source, generating 1.26x  
197 magnification and 101um voxel resolution, or 766mm from the source, generating 1.19x  
198 magnification and 107um voxel resolution. Each scan used X-ray wattage set to 60kV and  
199 1200uA at 10 frames per second, collecting 1200 16-bit TIFF projections over 360 degrees of  
200 rotation during a 2min continuous standard scan. Projections for each scan (Fig. 1D) were  
201 combined into a single 3D volume using NSI efX-CT software, converted to a density-based  
202 surface rendering Polygon file (PLY), and exported for analysis (Fig. 1E). The full PLY data set  
203 for this work is 7.85GB, and can be downloaded from: <https://www.danforthcenter.org/scientists-research/principal-investigators/chris-topp/resources>.

205

206 We exported the surface mesh data (.ply files) into Meshlab (v1.3.3, (Cignoni *et al.*, 2008) and  
207 performed the following processing steps to remove topological noise: 1) deleted the vertices  
208 where branches touch using “Select Vertices” and “Delete Selected vertices” filters; 2) removed  
209 duplicates and isolated vertices and faces using the filters “Remove Duplicated Vertex,”

210 “Remove Duplicate Faces,” “Remove Isolated pieces (wrt Diameter),” and “Remove  
211 Unreferenced Vertex.”

212

## 213 **Geometric inflorescence architecture traits**

214

215 We extracted 15 geometric traits from scanned inflorescences (Fig. 2, Supplementary Fig. S2).  
216 Detailed trait descriptions and calculations are explained in Supplementary Table S1. Trait  
217 illustrations, including examples of low and high values for each trait, are available in Fig. 2 and  
218 Supplementary Fig. S2. Traits were organized in one of three trait groups: global-size features,  
219 local-branching features, and size-invariant features (Table 2). PedicelDiameter and  
220 PedicelBranchAngle were measured using the software DynamicRoots (Symonova et al. 2015)  
221 on a subset of detected pedicels from the raw 3D volume data. All other traits were derived from  
222 Matlab algorithms. Branch length traits (i.e., TotalBranchLength, RachisLength, PedicelLength,  
223 and AvgBranchLength) were derived from the persistence barcode (see next subsection).

224

## 225 **Quantifying branching topology using persistent homology, a topological data analysis 226 method**

227

228 Persistent homology measures shapes based on a tailored mathematical function, such as  
229 geodesic distance, which we used here to capture both curved length and topology of the  
230 branches (Fig. 3, Supplementary Video S1). The geodesic distance of a point is the length of the  
231 shortest curve connecting the point and the base (e.g. purple curves, Fig. 3A), where the tailored  
232 base can be set as the first node or ground level (the brown line in Fig. 3A). For each branch, the  
233 tip always has the largest geodesic distance from the base (Fig. 3B). A level represents the  
234 collection of points whose geodesic distances are the same (e.g. geodesic distance=90, pink  
235 curve in Fig. 3A). A superlevel set, for example, at 90, is all the points whose geodesic distances  
236 are greater than 90 (black branch tips, Fig. 3A). Changing the level value from largest to smallest  
237 (x axis, Fig. 3C), the sequence of nesting superlevel sets can be formed, which is named  
238 superlevel set filtration (top panel, Fig. 3C). During the change of the level value, bars record the  
239 connected components for each of the superlevel sets. When a new component arises, a new bar  
240 starts (e.g. at level 112, purple branch, Fig. 3C). When two components merge (e.g. at level 65,

241 orange branch merges into purple branch, Fig. 3C), the shorter bar stops (e.g. the orange bar  
242 stops at level 65, Fig. 3C). This bar graph, called the persistence barcode, summarizes  
243 topological information such as branching hierarchy, branch arrangement, and branch lengths. In  
244 our study, we set the base as the junction between peduncle and rachis (the lowermost node,  
245 indicated by a brown line in Fig. 1E, Fig. 3D, F) and use this base to compute the persistence  
246 barcode for the inflorescence architecture (Fig. 3E, G).

247

248 The persistence barcode can be used to compare topological similarity between any two  
249 inflorescences. To compute pairwise distance among persistence barcodes for the entire  
250 inflorescence population, we used the bottleneck distance (Cohen-Steiner *et al.*, 2007).  
251 Bottleneck distance is a robust metric that calculates the minimal cost to move bars from one  
252 persistence barcode to resemble another (Li *et al.*, 2017). We performed multidimensional  
253 scaling (MDS) on the pairwise bottleneck distance matrix and projected the data into lower  
254 dimensional Euclidean space by preserving the pairwise distance as well as possible. The Matlab  
255 (R2017a) MDS function cmdscale() projects the data so that MD1 acts as PC1 representing the  
256 most variation. The first three PCs (MDs) explained about 80% of the total variation and were  
257 included as traits: PersistentHomology\_PC1 (PH\_PC1, explained about 54% variation),  
258 PersistentHomology\_PC2 (PH\_PC2, explained about 20% variation), and  
259 PersistentHomology\_PC3 (PH\_PC3, explained about 6% variation). Those traits not only  
260 measure the topological structure, but also relate to geometric variation (e.g. global size) as the  
261 data were not normalized (Fig. 2, Supplementary Table S1).

262

263 Next, we normalized the persistence barcode by the TotalBranchLength (summation of the bar  
264 lengths) so that the TotalBranchLength was 1. By a similar procedure, we derived the first three  
265 PCs named PersistentHomologyNormalizedByTotalBranchLength\_PC1 (PHn\_PC1, explained  
266 about 45% variation), PersistentHomologyNormalizedByTotalBranchLength\_PC2, (PHn\_PC2,  
267 explained about 21% variation), and PersistentHomologyNormalizedByTotalBranchLength\_PC3  
268 (PHn\_PC3, explained about 7% variation) for the normalized inflorescence topological structure  
269 (Fig. 2, Supplementary Table S1).

270

271 **Berry potential, an approach to indirectly explore the space limited by inflorescence**  
272 **architecture**

273

274 An ongoing question in grapevine cluster architecture is the relationship between inflorescence  
275 architecture and berry number and size. Inflorescence architecture is one of several factors  
276 determining the number of berries that can form, due to the number of pedicels and the available  
277 space for berry development. In this study, berries were removed because of concerns about  
278 berry integrity during transport from New York to Missouri, and the time between harvest and  
279 scanning. Instead of looking directly at berries on the cluster, we used inflorescence architecture  
280 as a starting point to simulate potential space available for berry growth by evaluating expanding  
281 spheres attached to pedicels. The extent of sphere expansion allowed by each pedicel is referred  
282 to as “berry potential” (Fig. 4, Supplementary Video S2).

283

284 We first determined the growth direction for each berry potential based on the pedicel  
285 orientation. When spheres expand, the center moves along the pedicel direction (Fig. 4A). This  
286 step can be achieved by performing principal component analysis (PCA) on the near-berry  
287 segment of the pedicel. The first principal axis is the pedicel direction. We adjusted the arrow of  
288 the direction to make sure berry potential increases outward along the pedicel orientation. Then  
289 the berry potential increases until one of three situations is encountered (Fig. 4B): 1) if two berry  
290 potentials touch to each other, both berry potentials will stop increasing; 2) if a berry potential  
291 touches any part of the inflorescence, it will stop increasing; 3) if the diameter of the berry  
292 potential reaches the maximum size known for that species (Table 1), it will stop increasing. For  
293 each species, the maximum size is defined as the maximum berry diameter, a number estimated  
294 from known ranges of berry sizes for each species, based on values obtained from (Galet, 1988;  
295 Moore & Wen, 2016).

296

297 Berry potential does not reflect true berry growth; rather, berry potential is a derived attribute of  
298 inflorescence architecture, an indirect estimate of the space potentially available for berry  
299 growth. It also does not account for the possibility of branches bending or otherwise becoming  
300 re-oriented due to pressure from growing berries. Berry potential is based on the number of  
301 neighbor pedicels, neighbor pedicel lengths, and neighbor pedicel mutual angles. Larger values

302 for berry potential are associated with fewer neighbor pedicels, and/or longer pedicel lengths,  
303 and/or larger mutual angles. From the berry potential simulation, we calculated three features,  
304 TotalBerryPotentialVolume, AvgBerryPotentialDiameter, and BerryPotentialTouchingDensity,  
305 which is the berry potential touching number (i.e., touching either another berry potential or any  
306 part of the inflorescence) divided by the number of berry potential (Fig. 2, Supplementary Table  
307 S1).

308

### 309 **Phylogenetic analysis**

310

311 Phylogenetic analyses were conducted to understand evolutionary trends in inflorescence  
312 architecture in *Vitis*. Single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) markers were generated as part of a  
313 separate study of the USDA Grapevine Germplasm Reserve in Geneva, NY (Klein *et al.*, 2018).  
314 The original dataset consisted of 304 individuals representing 19 species that were sequenced  
315 using genotyping-by-sequencing (GBS; Elshire *et al.*, 2011). Briefly, Klein *et al.* (2018) filtered  
316 data to retain biallelic sites with a minimum allele frequency of 0.01, a minimum mean depth of  
317 coverage of 10x, and only sites with <20% missing data and individuals with <20% missing data.  
318 SNP data for 99 individuals from this study that were also genotyped in (Klein *et al.*, 2018);  
319 Table 1) were extracted using custom scripts. We performed phylogenetic analysis on the  
320 sequence data extracted for 99 individuals using SVDquartets (Chifman & Kubatko, 2014), a  
321 maximum likelihood approach designed to address ascertainment bias associated with reduced  
322 representation sequencing techniques like GBS. We analyzed all possible quartets and carried  
323 out 100 bootstrap support runs (Supplementary Fig. S1) using PAUP\* version 4.0a (Swofford,  
324 2003). The three main clades recovered in the tree were consistent with previous phylogenetic  
325 work in *Vitis*: 1) an Asian Clade (*V. amurensis* and *V. coignetiae*), 2) North American Clade I  
326 (*V. riparia*, *V. acerifolia*, and *V. rupestris*), and 3) North American Clade II (*V. vulpina*, *V.*  
327 *cinerea*, *V. aestivalis*, *V. labrusca*, and *V. palmata*) (Tröndle *et al.*, 2010; Zecca *et al.*, 2012;  
328 Miller *et al.*, 2013; Zhang *et al.*, 2015; Klein *et al.*, 2018).

329

330 To visualize trait distributions on a phylogenetic tree using branch lengths, we used Mega X  
331 (Kumar *et al.*, 2018) to generate a neighbor joining tree with 2000 bootstrap replicates. All  
332 measurements were averaged across the three replicates per genotype to produce an average

333 value for each trait for each genotype. We computed Pagel's lambda to estimate phylogenetic  
334 signal for each morphological trait and mapped each trait onto the phylogeny (Supplementary  
335 Fig. S3A-X) using the R package phytools (v. 0.6-44; Revell, 2012). We calculated variation of  
336 each morphological trait for each clade based on the mean value for each species (Supplementary  
337 Fig. S4).

338

### 339 **Statistical analysis**

340

341 PCA, MDS, and hierarchical cluster analysis generating a hierarchical tree were performed in  
342 Matlab using functions pca(), cmdscale(), and clustergram(). The R function cor.mtest() and  
343 package corrplot (Wei & Simko, 2017) were used for significance tests and correlation matrix  
344 visualization. The function lda() in R package MASS (Venables & Ripley, 2002) was used for  
345 the linear discriminant analysis (LDA) with a jackknifed 'leave one out' cross validation method.

346

### 347 **Code availability**

348

349 All Matlab functions used to calculate persistence barcodes, bottleneck distances, simulation for  
350 berry potential, other geometric features used in this study, and the script for extracting  
351 phylogenetic information can be found at the following GitHub repository:

352 <https://github.com/Topp-Roots-Lab/Grapevine-inflorescence-architecture>.

353

## 354 **Results**

355

### 356 **Inflorescence morphological variation and trait correlation within *Vitis* species**

357

358 We investigated 24 morphological traits (15 geometric traits, six PH traits, and three berry  
359 potential traits) of inflorescence architecture in 10 wild *Vitis* species (136 genotypes, 392  
360 samples) and detected wide variation in morphological features within and between species (Fig.  
361 2, Supplementary Fig. S2 and Table S2). In particular, of all the species examined, *V. aestivalis*  
362 has the largest variance for TotalBerryPotentialVolume. *V. labrusca* has the largest variance for  
363 ten traits (i.e., pedicel features, Sphericity, AvgBranchDiameter, AvgBerryPotentialDiameter,

364 and normalized topological traits). *V. cinerea* has the largest variance for six traits (i.e., most  
365 global-size features, PH\_PC2, and PH\_PC3). In comparison, *V. palmata* has smallest variance  
366 for eight traits (i.e. pedicel features, Sphericity, AvgBranchDiameter,  
367 TotalBerryPotentialVolume, PH\_PC3, and PHn\_PC3), as does *V. amurensis* (global-size  
368 features, RachisLength, PH\_PC1, and PH\_PC2).

369

370 All traits were hierarchically clustered based on the mean trait values for each species,  
371 classifying traits into two main categories: mostly size-invariant + local-branching features  
372 (PHn\_PC3 to PedicelLength), versus global-size features (AvgBranchLength to  
373 BerryPotentialTouchingDensity) (Fig. 5A). Hierarchical clustering (Fig. 5A) and pairwise  
374 correlation for morphological traits (Fig. 5B) show that global-size features  
375 (ConvexHullVolume, SurfaceArea, Volume, NumberOfPedicel, and TotalBranchLength),  
376 PH\_PC1, and RachisLength are all highly positively correlated. We refer to these seven traits as  
377 size-associated features. Size-associated features are negatively correlated with  
378 PedicelLength/RachisLength, Solidity, Sphericity, and PHn\_PC1. Some traits are relatively  
379 independent such as 2nd/LongestBranchLength, PedicelLength, PedicelBranchAngle, PH\_PC2,  
380 PHn\_PC2, and PHn\_PC3 (Fig. 5B). PH\_PC3 has some negative relation with size-invariant  
381 features. PHn\_PC1 positively correlates with Sphericity, Solidity, and  
382 AvgeBerryPotentialDiameter (Fig. 5B). Pairwise correlations of morphological features  
383 (allometric relationships) for each of the species vary widely (Fig. 5C; for all traits see  
384 Supplementary Fig. S5A-X). For example, more pedicels typically result in smaller berry  
385 potential diameters, except for *V. aestivalis*. Longer branches tend to be thinner, except for *V.*  
386 *coignetiae*, and correlate with larger inflorescences, except in *V. acerifolia*.

387

388 Hierarchical clustering of 10 *Vitis* species based on the 24 morphological traits resolved four  
389 groups: 1) *V. cinerea*, 2) *V. aestivalis*, 3) *V. coignetiae/ V. vulpina/ V. palmata/ V. acerifolia/ V.*  
390 *riparia/ V. rupestris*, and 4) *V. amurensis/ V. labrusca* (Fig. 5A). Among the 10 *Vitis* species  
391 examined in this study, the largest variance in mean trait values are seen in *V. cinerea* (Fig. 5A).  
392 *V. cinerea* samples are generally larger than those from the other species, as reflected in size-  
393 associated traits. Topology traits such as PHn\_PC3 and size-invariant traits like Sphericity and  
394 Solidity are lower in the mean trait value for *V. cinerea* than for other species. Similarly, mean

395 trait values are larger for size-associated traits in *V. aestivalis* (Fig. 5A). Compared to other  
396 species, topology and berry potential traits are larger in *V. aestivalis*. Mean trait values of the  
397 third group (*V. coignetiae*/ *V. vulpina*/ *V. palmata*/ *V. acerifolia*/ *V. riparia*/ *V. rupestris*, Fig. 5A)  
398 tend to be nearer to middle values compared to the other species. Within this group, *V.*  
399 *acerifolia*/ *V. riparia*/ *V. rupestris* typically are larger in the mean trait value for berry potential  
400 touching (i.e., denser berry potentials). These three species and *V. palmata* tend to have large,  
401 first primary branches (i.e., wings; Fig. 1E). *V. coignetiae* has thicker branches and *V. vulpina*  
402 has longer pedicels compared to other species in this group. The final group, *V. amurensis* and *V.*  
403 *labrusca*, have relatively smaller inflorescences with thicker branches compared to the other  
404 species sampled here. These general features are reflected in larger mean values for several size-  
405 invariant and local-branching features and smaller mean values for many branch length  
406 dependent and size-associated features, respectively (Fig. 5A).

407

#### 408 **Multivariate, discriminant analysis of *Vitis* species based on inflorescence architecture**

409

410 In order to understand how overall inflorescence architecture varies among *Vitis* species, we  
411 performed PCA using all 24 morphological features and all samples. PC1 explained 37.12% of  
412 the total variation in the measured architecture (Fig. 6A). The traits with the largest values for  
413 PC1 loadings, indicating that they contributed most to variation, are size-associated features,  
414 Solidity and Sphericity. PC2 explained 15.4% of the total variation in the measured inflorescence  
415 architecture, with variation primarily explained by local-branching features such as  
416 PedicalDiameter, PedicelLength, PedicelLength/RachisLength, AvgBranchLength,  
417 BranchDiameter, three berry potential traits, and PHn\_PC1 (Fig. 6A). Although inflorescences  
418 from each species occupy different regions of morphospace, these regions overlap considerably.

419

420 LDA performed on the first 18 PCs, explaining 99.5% of the variation, distinguished between  
421 species with a classification accuracy rate of 78.32%. A confusion matrix (Fig. 6B) shows the  
422 proportion of samples correctly predicted for each species. LD1 primarily separates *V. cinerea*,  
423 *V. labrusca*, and *V. amurensis* from the other species while LD2 primarily separates *V. vulpina*  
424 and *V. coignetiae*. The traits that are most important for distinguishing these species, as indicated  
425 by LD loadings, are TotalBerryPotentialVolume and PHn\_PC1 for LD1, and AvgBranchLength

426 and AvgBerryPotentialDiameter for LD2 (Fig. 6B). The most important predictors for correctly  
427 separating any two species are shown as the grey scaled boxes in Supplementary Fig. S6 and  
428 Table S3. For example, BranchDiameter and PedicelDiameter are key when contrasting *V.*  
429 *coignetiae* and *V. vulpina*, suggesting that different branch thickness easily distinguishes these  
430 two species. This method correctly determined species classifications with 100% accuracy when  
431 contrasting *V. aestivalis* and *V. cinerea*, *V. aestivalis* and *V. palmata*, *V. aestivalis* and *V. vulpina*,  
432 *V. amurensis* and *V. cinerea*, *V. amurensis* and *V. palmata*, *V. cinerea* and *V. coignetiae*. Other  
433 combinations of species are harder to distinguish on the basis of inflorescence characters. For  
434 example, the classification accuracy rate was only 80% when distinguishing between *V.*  
435 *amurensis* and *V. labrusca* and 82% for *V. aestivalis* and *V. coignetiae*.

436

#### 437 **Phylogenetic signal of inflorescence architecture within clades**

438

439 The phylogeny dataset (N=99) is generally well-supported at the species level and correlates well  
440 with current taxonomy. Using average trait values per individual, Pagel's lambda shows 12  
441 morphological traits (seven size-associated features along with PedicelDiameter,  
442 TotalBerryPotentialVolume, Sphericity, PH\_PC2, PHn\_PC1) have strong phylogenetic signal  
443 (lambda>0.8, Fig. 7, Supplementary Table S4). While most species sampled tend to have small  
444 values for the seven size-associated features, *V. aestivalis*, *V. cinerea*, and *V. vulpina* tend to  
445 have values that are either close to median, or larger. On average, *V. labrusca* has larger values  
446 for Sphericity and PHn\_PC1 compared to other species sampled, while *V. cinerea* generally has  
447 some of the smallest values for these traits. Only two morphological traits  
448 (2nd/LongBranchLength, lambda=0.06 and BerryPotentialTouchingDensity, lambda=0.25) lack  
449 phylogenetic signal (Fig.7, Supplementary Table S4).

450

451 We observe differences in *Vitis* inflorescence architecture among clades and between species.  
452 For North American (NA) clade I (*V. acerifolia*, *V. riparia*, *V. rupestris*), variation in the 24  
453 morphological traits measured have similarly small values among species, particularly for  
454 several size-associated traits, although there is relatively large variation for PH\_PC3 and  
455 BerryPotentialTouchingDensity (Fig. 7). Within NA Clade I, we observe differences among  
456 clade members for traits such as Sphericity and PHn\_PC1 (larger in *V. rupestris* compared to

457 other clade members) and PedicelDiameter and BranchDiameter (slightly larger in *V. acerifolia*  
458 compared to other clade members; Fig. 7). NA Clade II appears to be more variable among clade  
459 members. *V. cinerea* has larger values for size-associated traits compared to clade members *V.*  
460 *labrusca*, *V. palmata*, and *V. vulpina*. Meanwhile, *V. labrusca* typically has larger values for  
461 local features (e.g., Sphericity, PedicelDiameter, AvgBerryPotentialDiameter,  
462 PedicelBranchAngle) compared to the other clade members (Fig. 7).

463

464 We calculated the mean value for each species of each morphological trait to study variation  
465 within the three clades and detect subtle signatures (Fig. 7). We computed the variance for the  
466 multivariate trait (combining all the 24 traits), and each of these 24 traits for each clade  
467 (Supplementary Fig. S4, Supplementary Table S5). Overall, based on the samples used in this  
468 analysis, variance of the multivariate trait for the NA Clade I (variation=0.14) is much smaller  
469 than the NA Clade II (variation=0.64), while the variation for Asian Clade is 0.39. Some traits  
470 have almost no variance in Asian Clade such as PedicelDiameter, PHn\_PC2, PH\_PC3, and  
471 2nd/LongestBranchLength. However, North American species (8/~19 taxa) in this study are  
472 better represented than Asian species (2/~37 taxa), so we are cautious not to overinterpret this  
473 finding. Traits with the greatest variance in the Asian Clade included  
474 PedicelLength/RachisLength, RachisLength, and PH\_PC1, while NA Clade I has greatest  
475 variance in PHn\_PC2. All the other traits have greatest variance in the NA Clade II  
476 (Supplementary Fig. S4, Supplementary Table S5). Traits with the smallest variance in the Asian  
477 Clade included PHn\_PC3, PHn\_PC1, PedicelDiameter, BranchDiameter, NumberOfPedicel,  
478 2nd/LongestBranchLength, PH\_PC3, and BerryPotentialTouchingDensity. The other traits had  
479 small variance in NA Clades I (Supplementary Fig. S4, Supplementary Table S5). Our results  
480 highlight clade-specific variation in inflorescence architecture for previously undescribed traits.

481

## 482 Discussion

483

484 Inflorescence architecture provides the scaffold on which flowers and fruits develop, and  
485 consequently is a primary trait under investigation in many crop systems. Studies extend into  
486 interspecific variation, pollen dispersal, genetic architecture, evolution, regulation, and  
487 development of inflorescence structures (e.g., Bradley *et al.*, 1996; Friedman & Harder, 2004;

488 Kellogg, 2007; Morris *et al.*, 2013; Han *et al.*, 2014; Hodge & Kellogg, 2015; Whipple, 2017;  
489 Stitzer & Ross-Ibarra, 2018; Ta *et al.*, 2018; Richter *et al.*, 2018). Yet the challenge remains to  
490 analyze these complex 3D branching structures with appropriate tools. High resolution data sets  
491 are required to represent the actual structure and comprehensive analysis of both the geometric  
492 and topological features relevant to phenotypic variation and to clarify evolutionary and  
493 developmental inflorescence patterns.

494

495 Our results demonstrate the power and potential of X-ray imaging and advanced morphometric  
496 analysis for investigating complex 3D phenotypic features. We analyzed the phenotypic variation  
497 in inflorescence architecture of 10 wild *Vitis* species using computer vision and an emerging  
498 biological shape analysis method, persistent homology, which allowed comprehensive  
499 comparisons of shape. Although samples analyzed here represent only a subset of the known  
500 variation in *Vitis*, which includes an estimated 60 species, our analyses demonstrate significant  
501 variation within and among *Vitis* species and among clades. Correlation analysis (Fig. 5B)  
502 revealed some unexpected relationships, for example pedicel branch angles were largely  
503 independent of other traits. It also shows that PH is a complementary feature, as it is relatively  
504 independent from most geometric features. We were able to assign widely differing architectures  
505 to biological species with high accuracy (Fig. 6) from the 24 different morphometric traits  
506 surveyed in this study. PH provides an important contribution to this discriminatory power, as  
507 does berry potential (Fig. 6B). We observed that traits such as the rachis length, the sum of all  
508 branches, the space encompassing the inflorescence architecture (ConvexHullVolume), and PH  
509 can be indicative of species and clade (Fig. 7). Our results suggest meaningful, comprehensive  
510 information about the inflorescence structure was captured with a single measure (i.e., the  
511 persistence barcode) and that PH is a valuable method for quantifying and summarizing  
512 topological information.

513

514 Persistent homology analysis has led to a deeper understanding of trait genetic variation and  
515 architecture in plants. Li *et al.* (2018a) used PH to analyze two-dimensional (2D) leaf shape and  
516 predicted family identity with accuracy greater than expected by chance in over 140 plant  
517 families, outperforming other widely-used methods of digital shape analysis. Li *et al.* (2018b)  
518 showed that PH-based, topological data analysis distinguished between genotypes and identified

519 many new quantitative trait loci (QTL) with 2D tomato leaf shape and root architecture data.  
520 This work sets a precedent for measuring observable, yet previously undescribed, phenotypes. In  
521 grapevine, QTL analysis indicates a genetic basis to inflorescence architecture and berry  
522 compactness (Correa *et al.*, 2014; Richter *et al.*, 2018). Deploying PH-based, topological  
523 modeling to grapevine mapping populations could lead to the rapid identification of additional  
524 inflorescence trait QTL for breeding. For example, we observed total branch length (a proxy for  
525 bigger or smaller clusters) correlates with number of pedicels (a proxy for berry number; Fig. 5),  
526 an informative relationship to assess potential yield. However, selecting for total branch length  
527 might lead to a negative correlation with the average berry potential diameter (i.e., smaller  
528 berries). Although this correlation may be desirable for wine grapes, it is not for table grapes.  
529

530 Grapevine cluster architecture is a composite feature that reflects multiple subtraits including  
531 stalk traits (inflorescence architecture) and berry features (Richter *et al.*, 2018). OIV 204 uses  
532 “bunch: density” to describe variation in clusters, ranging from (1) berries clearly separated with  
533 many visible pedicels to (9) berries deformed by compression (OIV, 2001; Rombough, 2002).  
534 Other authors have deconstructed traits contributing to cluster architecture primarily through  
535 individual measurements taken by hand (e.g., Shavrukov *et al.*, 2004; Tello *et al.*, 2015; Zdunić  
536 *et al.*, 2015; Tello & Ibáñez, 2018) and more recently, with image-based technologies (Cubero *et*  
537 *al.*, 2014; Roscher *et al.*, 2014; Ivorra *et al.*, 2015; Aquino *et al.*, 2017, 2018; Rist *et al.*, 2018).  
538 Here, we are able to describe traits of interest that contribute greatly to the morphological  
539 features captured by the OIV scale (e.g., NumberOfPedicel, PedicelLength, PedicelBranchAngle,  
540 RachisLength, overall shape using PH; Fig. 2, Supplementary Fig. S2). This method could  
541 facilitate precision breeding for both whole inflorescence structure topology and specific  
542 desirable geometric traits.  
543

544 While several studies have quantified cluster structure in cultivated grapevines, similar studies of  
545 wild *Vitis* inflorescence architecture are lacking. Munson (1909) and Galet (1979) describe North  
546 American *Vitis* cluster structure qualitatively, commenting on compactness, size, shape, and the  
547 presence of large first primary branches (wings/shoulders). Taxonomic descriptions typically do  
548 not examine inflorescence architecture beyond categorical type, position on the vine, and the  
549 average number of berries per cluster (Comeaux *et al.*, 1987; Moore, 1991; Moore & Wen,

550 2016). Descriptions of the position of the inflorescence are useful for identification and are  
551 included in dichotomous keys; however, to our knowledge, other inflorescence architecture traits  
552 have not been rigorously quantified among wild *Vitis* species. Although qualitative descriptions  
553 are valuable and accessible, powerful phenotyping tools are required to associate complex  
554 phenotypes with evolutionary and developmental patterns.

555

556 Using 3D imaging and PH with a topological modeling approach, we identified attributes of  
557 inflorescence architecture that vary within and among *Vitis* species that, to our knowledge, have  
558 not been previously described. Differences in inflorescence architecture among clades mirror  
559 other phenotypic differences among members of North American *Vitis*. For example, members  
560 of NA Clade I (*V. acerifolia*, *V. riparia*, and *V. rupestris*) have small values for size-associated  
561 features (e.g., RachisLength, ConvexHullVolume, NumberOfPedicel, TotalBranchLength,  
562 SurfaceArea, Volume) and relatively large values for PH\_PC3 and  
563 BerryPotentialTouchingDensity (Fig. 7). These species share suites of other morphological  
564 characters (nodal diaphragm, branch, and leaf surface traits, and large stipules; Moore 1991,  
565 Moore and Wen 2016, Klein *et al.*, 2018). It is possible that among closely related species  
566 conserved pathways generate vegetative and reproductive similarities.

567

568 Sample size is low for the Asian Clade and most of NA Clade II, limiting our ability to assess  
569 variation in these species; however, members of NA Clade II do not have suites of shared  
570 inflorescence traits (*V. aestivalis*, *V. cinerea*, *V. labrusca*, *V. vulpina*; Klein *et al.*, 2018). Rather,  
571 *V. labrusca* has very small values for size-associated traits and larger values for local features  
572 compared to the other clade members, whereas *V. cinerea* has larger values for size-associated  
573 features and smaller values for local features (Fig. 7). This is consistent with the observation that  
574 aside from core phenotypic synapomorphies in the genus (tendril, bark, lenticel, and nodal  
575 diaphragm characters), members of NA Clade IIb (*V. aestivalis*, *V. cinerea*, *V. labrusca*, and *V.*  
576 *vulpina*) do not share morphological traits unique to the clade (Klein *et al.*, 2018). These species  
577 mostly co-occur across their distributions (Callen *et al.*, 2016) and additional sampling of *Vitis*  
578 taxa is necessary to further explore these complex evolutionary patterns. We observe *V.*  
579 *amurensis* grouping with *V. labrusca* and *V. coignetiae* grouping with North American species in  
580 hierarchical cluster analysis (Fig. 5A). The former two species have relatively smaller

581 inflorescence architectures with thicker branches compared to the other species sampled here.  
582 Taxonomic relationships among North American and Asian *Vitis* species have been historically  
583 challenging, with clades comprised of species with disjunct distributions (Mullins *et al.*, 1992).  
584 Since current taxonomy resolves separate Asian and North American clades (Klein *et al.*, 2018),  
585 morphological similarity between these species likely reflects convergent evolution.

586

## 587 Future Directions

588

589 Three-dimensional imaging through XRT and advanced mathematical approaches like persistent  
590 homology provide new ways to visualize and interpret complex biological structures including  
591 inflorescences, and to understand the genetic and environmental factors underlying variation in  
592 their architecture. In grapevines, cluster density is an important trait that is used to assess  
593 grapevine crop quality and to forecast yield, in part because of the association between bunch  
594 density and fungal infestations such as *Botrytis* (Hed *et al.*, 2009; Iland *et al.*, 2011; Molitor &  
595 Beyer, 2014; Molitor *et al.*, 2018). This study expands on previous work identifying variation in  
596 inflorescence architecture among cultivars (Shavrukov *et al.*, 2004), finding notable differences  
597 in cluster architecture among species. A logical next step may be to use 3D images and PH with  
598 topological modeling to trace the development of inflorescences across multiple growing seasons  
599 in a mapping population. Methods presented here are also amenable to scanning with berries,  
600 provided some noteworthy technical challenges are first addressed (e.g. minimizing berry  
601 damage and rotting during transportation, cluster stabilization during scanning, and segmentation  
602 of 3D volumes with features that vary widely in their X-ray absorbance). This work would  
603 provide a more complete representation of cluster structure, as well as inform our berry potential  
604 simulation with genotype-specific empirical data. We plan to develop predictive structural  
605 models of grapevine cluster development using these techniques.

606

607 Imaging and shape analysis approaches presented here can also be used to tease apart subtle  
608 environmental influences on inflorescence architecture, and the major agronomic trait of bunch  
609 density. Identifying environmental effects on phenotypic variation has important implications  
610 both for vineyard management and the assessment of intra-clone variation across geographic  
611 space. Cluster compactness can be manipulated through a variety of agronomic practices

612 [\(Molitor et al. 2012; Gil et al. 2013; Frioni et al. 2017; Gourieroux et al. 2017; Poni et al. 2018;](#)  
613 [Reeve et al. 2018\)](#). Techniques described here can be used to quantify influences of specific  
614 treatments on cluster architecture. In addition, because grapevines are clonally propagated,  
615 clusters from the same widespread clones can be collected from different geographic locations,  
616 scanned and analyzed for variation. High resolution assessment of inflorescence architecture  
617 offers important insights into natural variation in bunch density and the genetic and  
618 environmental factors that influence it. The capacity to capture 3D variation in this complex trait  
619 over space and time represents a promising advance for a valuable potential target of selection in  
620 one of the most economically important berry crops in the world.

621

## 622 **Supplementary data**

623

624 **Fig. S1** A maximum likelihood phylogenetic tree for ten *Vitis* species.

625 **Fig. S2** Summary of inflorescence geometric and topological traits and the distribution for ten  
626 *Vitis* species.

627 **Fig. S3** Morphological traits mapped on the phylogenetic tree.

628 **Fig. S4.** Variation for each clade.

629 **Fig. S5** Pairwise correlations of morphological traits (allometric relationships) showing linear  
630 regression lines for each species.

631 **Fig. S6** Pairwise species classification.

632 **Table S1.** Trait description and calculation.

633 **Table S2.** Trait variance for each species.

634 **Table S3.** Trait loadings for two species classification.

635 **Table S4.** Trait Pagel's lambda for phylogenetic analysis.

636 **Table S5.** Trait variation for each clade.

637 **Video S1** Illustration of quantifying branching topology using persistent homology.

638 **Video S2** Berry potential simulation

639

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641

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646

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649

#### 650 **Author contributions**

651

652 CNT, DHC and JL designed the research; JL collected the samples and consulted on the biology;  
653 KD generated the X-ray data; LLK and AJM provided phylogenetic data and consulted for the  
654 biology; NJ and ML extracted pedicel diameter and angle; ML developed and extracted all the  
655 traits and conducted all the analysis and figures; ML, LLK, KD, JL, AJM, and CNT wrote the  
656 manuscript.

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**Table 1.** Number of samples/individuals each species and berry information used in the study.

	Number (N)			Berry information (Galet (1988); Moore and Wen (2016))		
	Samples	Individuals	Individuals used in phylogenetic analysis	low diameter (mm)	High diameter (mm)	Berries per bunch
<i>V. acerifolia</i>	32	11	9	8	12	>25
<i>V. aestivalis</i>	5	2	1	8	20	>25
<i>V. amurensis</i>	13	5	2	8	15	NA
<i>V. cinerea</i>	45	15	13	4	8	>25
<i>V. coignetiae</i>	6	2	1	NA	8	NA
<i>V. labrusca</i>	62	22	12	12	23	<25
<i>V. palmata</i>	3	1	1	8	10	>25
<i>V. riparia</i>	158	53	48	8	12	>25
<i>V. rupestris</i>	41	16	10	8	12	<25
<i>V. vulpina</i>	27	9	2	8	12	>25
<b>Total</b>	392	136	99			

**Table 2.** Fifteen geometric traits were organized into three categories based on the type of shape information captured by the trait. See Table S1 for a more detailed description of each trait.

Global-size features	Local-branching features	Size-invariant features
Volume*	RachisLength*	Solidity
ConvexHullVolume*	PedicelLength	Sphericity
SurfaceArea*	AvgBranchLength	2nd/LongestBranchLength
TotalBranchLength*	BranchDiameter	PedicelLength/RachisLength
NumberOfPedicel*	PedicelDiameter	
	PedicelBranchAngle	
<hr/> <b>Size-associated features (traits with * +PH_PC1)</b> <hr/>		

## Figure Legends

**Fig. 1** Sample preparation and imaging. (A) The ten *Vitis* species sampled for this study display diverse grape bunch morphology. (B) Inflorescence architectures after berry removal. (C) Inside the X-ray tomography instrument; the inflorescence is clamped in a panavise between two pieces of polystyrene on the X-ray turntable. (D) Two dimensional radiogram of grape inflorescence; X-rays, absorbed or passing through the inflorescence, are detected to create a silhouette. (E) Three dimensional reconstruction and the structure of the same inflorescence shown in (D) by taking radiograms at successive different angles and then computationally combining the images.

**Fig. 2** Examples of inflorescence geometric and topological traits and their distribution for ten *Vitis* species. Each panel shows one of the three traits categories (geometric traits, topological traits, and berry potential traits). Geometric traits are organized as global size features, local branching features, and size-invariant features. Each trait is listed at the top of the column and two inflorescence examples demonstrating low and high trait values listed to the left. At the bottom of each column is a boxplot indicating the distribution and variance within the ten *Vitis* species, represented in different colors. On each box, each dot indicates an outlier if it is more than 1.5 interquartile ranges; the central vertical line indicates the median; the left and right edges of the box represent the 25th and 75th percentiles; and the whiskers extend to the most extreme nonoutlier data. The label for each species is listed in the boxplot y axis of the leftmost plot, with the number of individuals sampled for each species shown in parentheses. For a more complete example and detailed description of each trait, see Fig. S2 and Table S1.

**Fig. 3** Persistent homology with geodesic distance comprehensively quantifies branching structures. (A) A level (pink solid line) defined by the same geodesic distance (length of any of the purple curves, in this case, set to 90) to the base of the inflorescence. The super level set is the pixels (in black) having greater geodesic distance than the pink level. (B) Pixels on a branching structure are colored by their geodesic distance to the base. They are colored with red representing the most distant through to blue for the closest ones. (C) A persistence barcode for each branching structure records the connected components for each level set at each geodesic distance value. The “birth” and “death” values for each bar represent the level where each branch

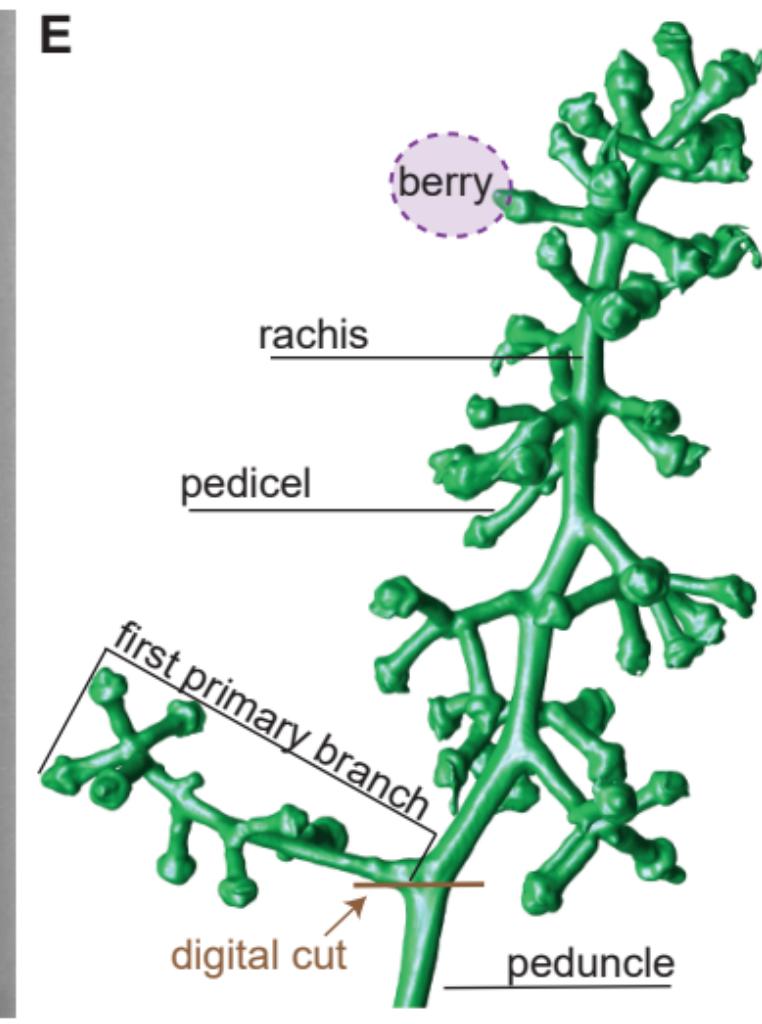
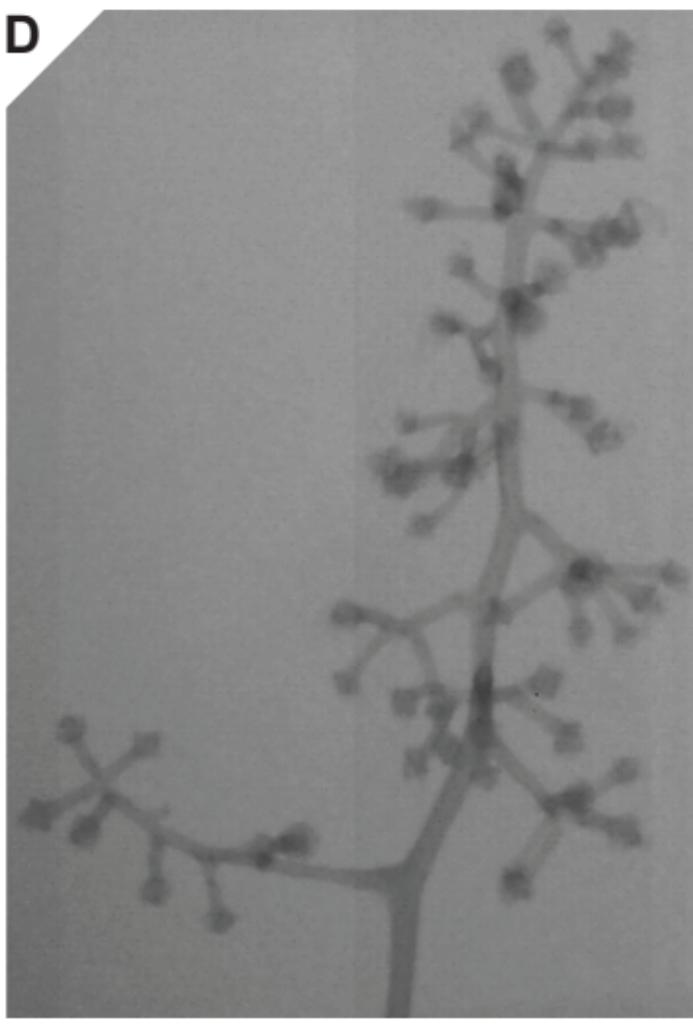
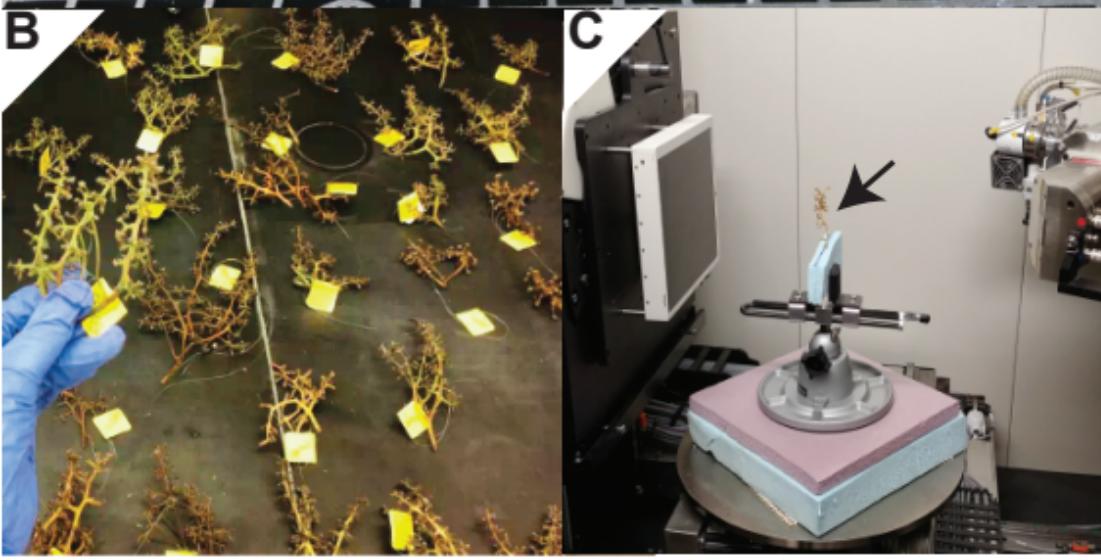
starts and gets merged. Colored bars correspond to colored branches. (D) Above: example inflorescence. The stem is digitally cut at the base (brown line) where it meets the first branch. Below: 3D surface on the example inflorescence as in (B). (E) Persistence barcode for the inflorescence in (D). (F) and (G), similar to (D) and (E), show a different inflorescence architecture.

**Fig. 4** Berry potential simulation to explore the space determined by inflorescence architecture. (A) Determine the growth direction for each berry potential. (B) Expand berry potential by increasing the size and moving the center along the growth direction until it meets any of these three cases: 1) two berry potentials touch each other; 2) a berry potential touches any part of the inflorescence; 3) the diameter of the berry potential reaches the maximum for the species..

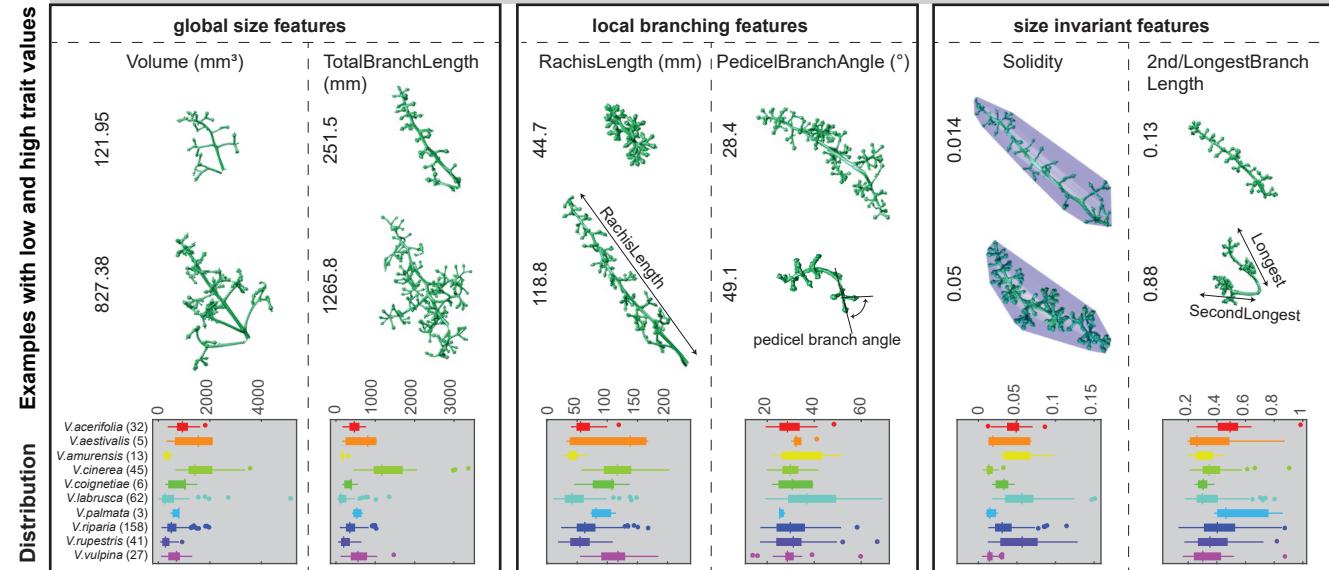
**Fig. 5** Hierarchical cluster analysis and correlation analysis. (A) Cluster analysis based the mean value for each trait of 10 *Vitis* species. The heatmap shows values above (red) or below (blue) the mean for each trait. The morphological traits (rows) are clustered hierarchically with the name shown on the right and hierarchical tree listed on the left. The species (columns) are also clustered hierarchically with the name and hierarchical tree shown at the top. (B) Correlation matrix plot shows pairwise positively stronger correlation (green and larger circle) or negatively stronger correlation (purple and larger circle). Non-significant correlations ( $p>0.05$ ) are crossed out. The traits are ordered in the same way as (A). (C) Selected pairs of traits showing linear regression lines for each species.

**Fig. 6** Classification for ten *Vitis* species based on inflorescence architecture. (A) Left: Principal component analysis (PCA) plot on 24 morphological traits. The percent variance for each PC explained is shown in parentheses. Species are shown in different colors. Right: The loadings for the traits that contribute to the variance are shown. (B) Left: Linear discriminant analysis (LDA) plot on the first 18 PCs (99.5% variance). Species are shown in different colors. The confusion matrix for predicted species is shown in the upper right corner. Right: The loadings for the traits that best distinguish species from each other are shown. Using a jackknifed ‘leave one out’ cross validation, we obtain a 78.32% classification accuracy rate.

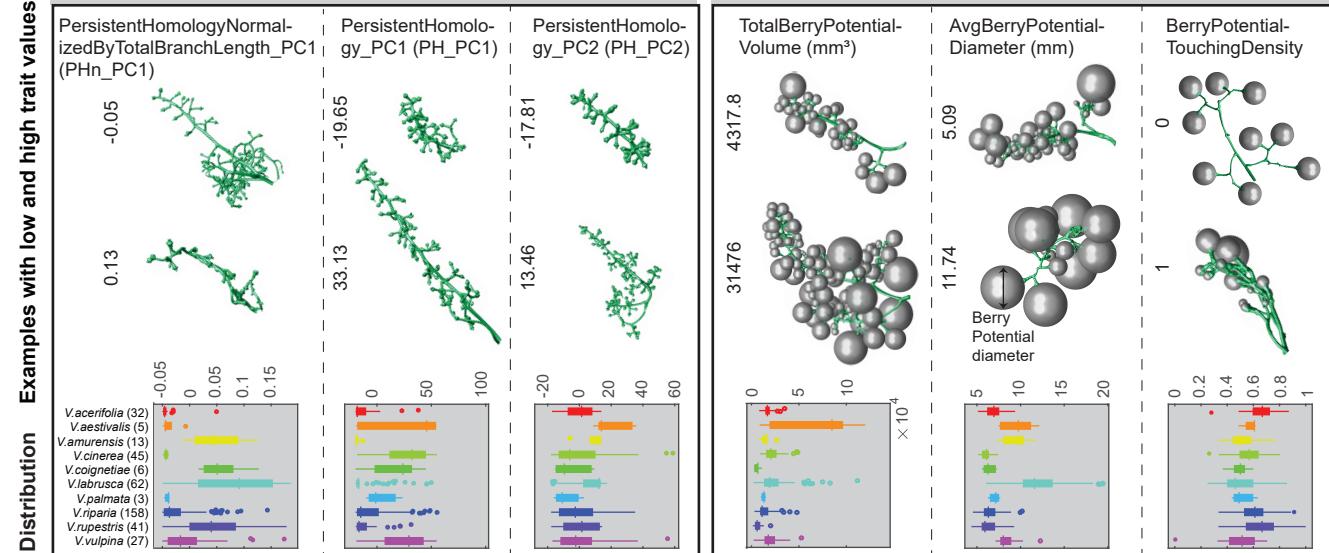
**Fig. 7** Phylogenetic analysis. A Neighbor Joining phylogenetic tree for a subset of the *Vitis* data set (n=99). Node values denote bootstrap support for values greater than or equal to 50. Ten *Vitis* species are highlighted in different colored backgrounds. Three clades (Asian Clade, NA Clade I, and NA Clade II) are labeled and marked by vertical bars. The barplot showing values of Pagel's lambda, an estimate of phylogenetic signal, overlaps with the trait name on the right top panel. Below each trait, a rainbow colormap shows the values for individuals (small values in red to large values in blue). Rectangles surround the trait value map for species with more than five individuals. One trait (PHn\_PC1) was randomly selected to be projected onto the phylogenetic tree branches, and indicates trait variation (red, lower values; blue, higher values) within individuals and among clades.

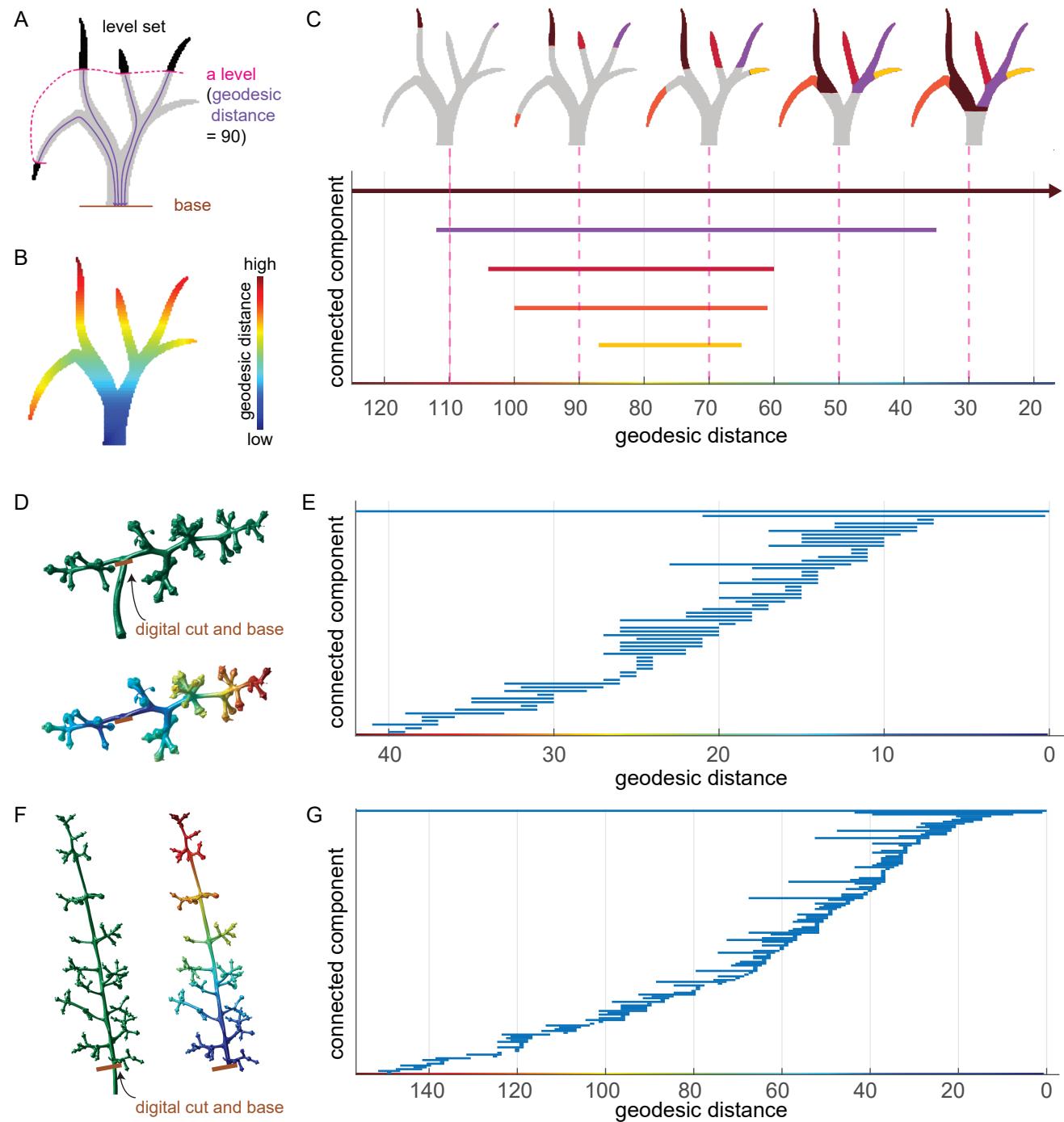


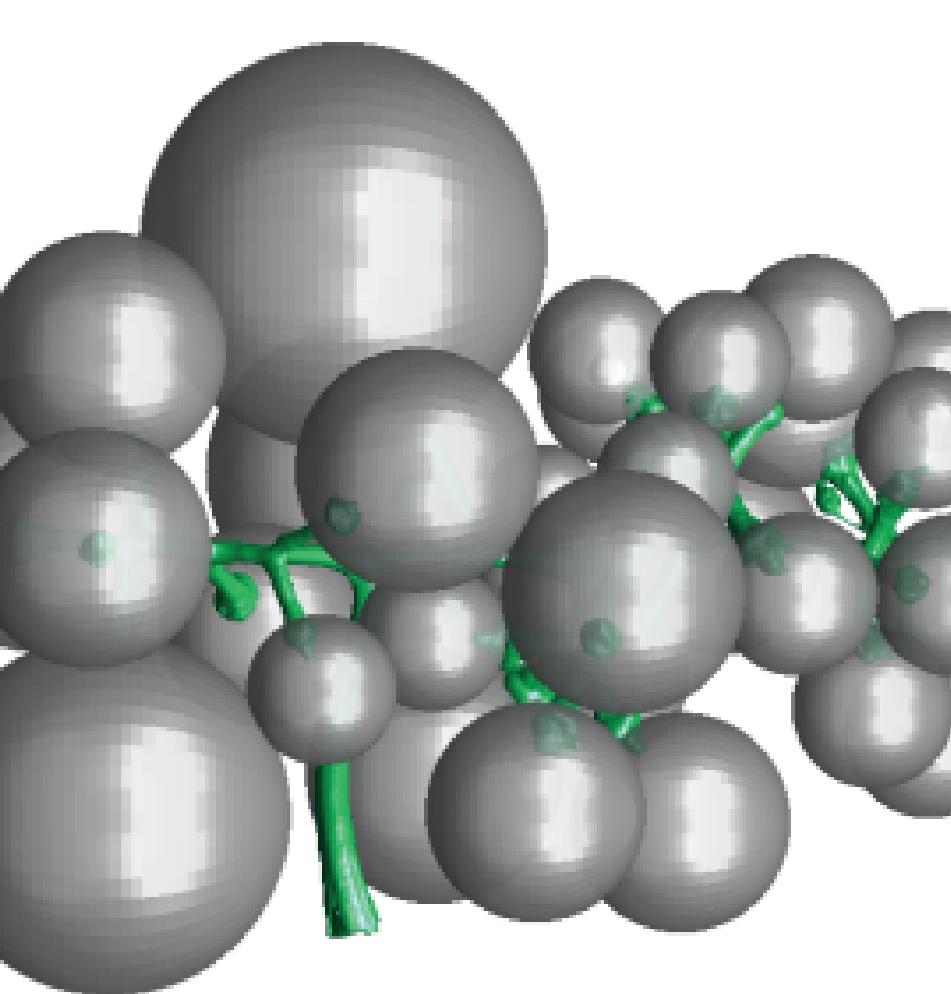
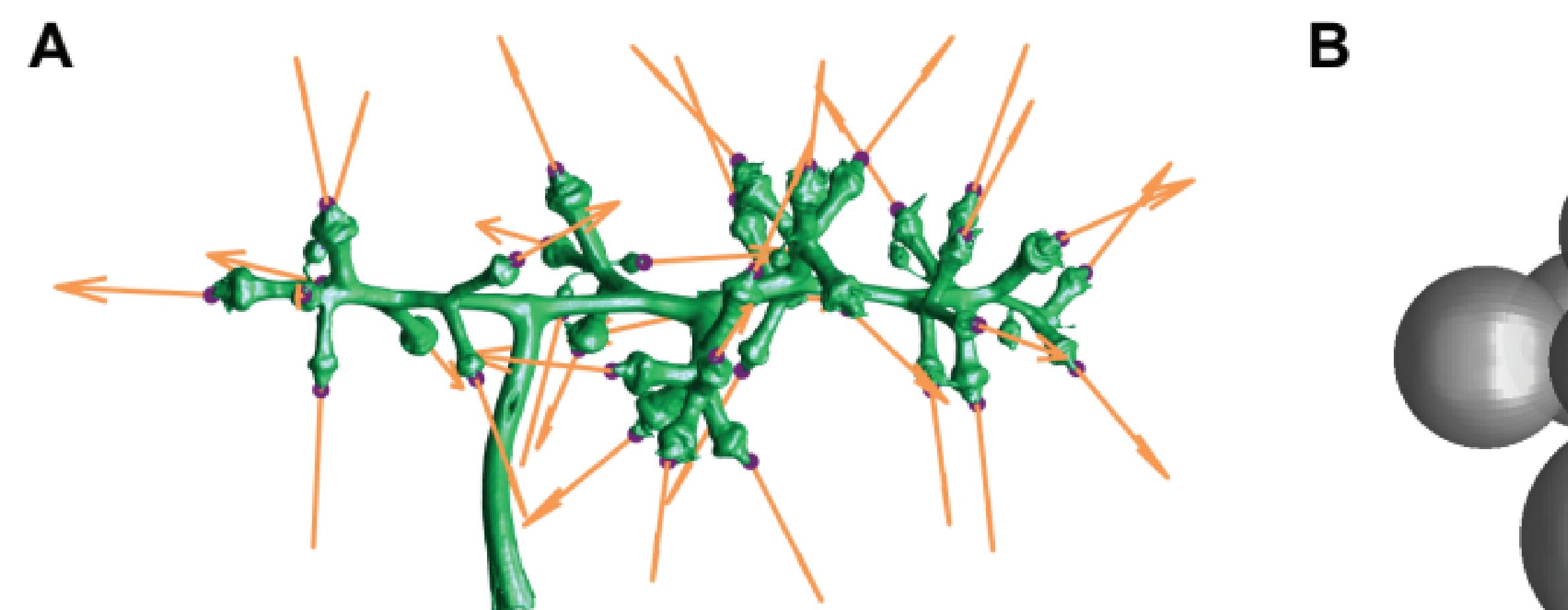
## Geometric traits



## Topological (persistent homology) traits

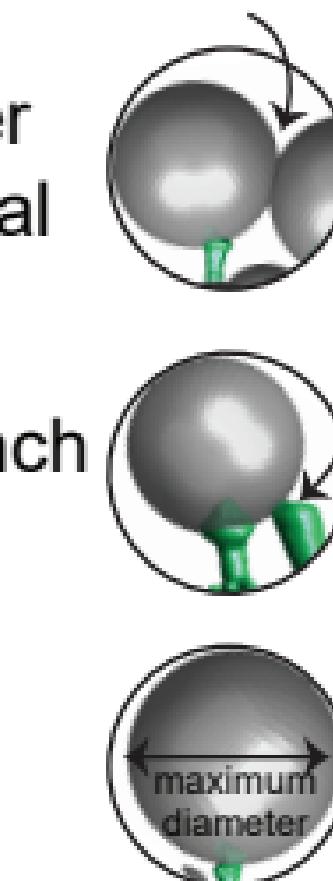


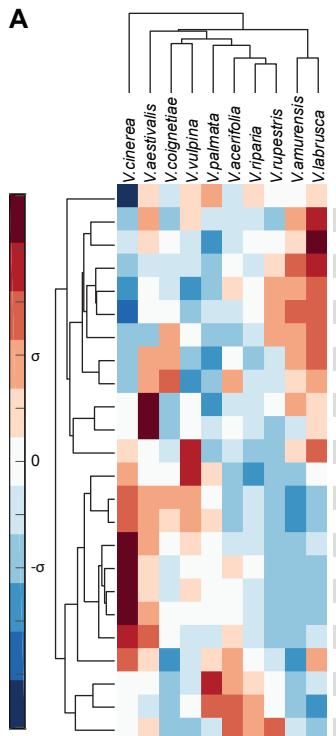
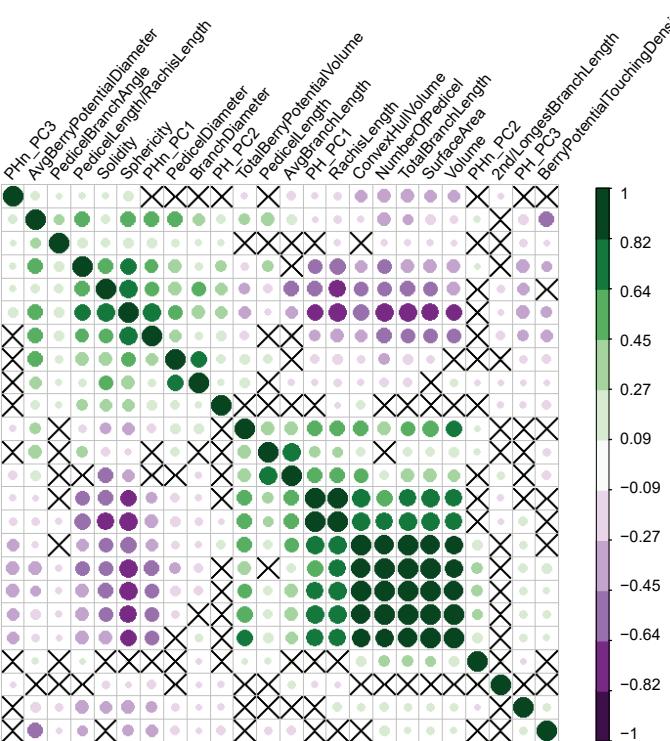
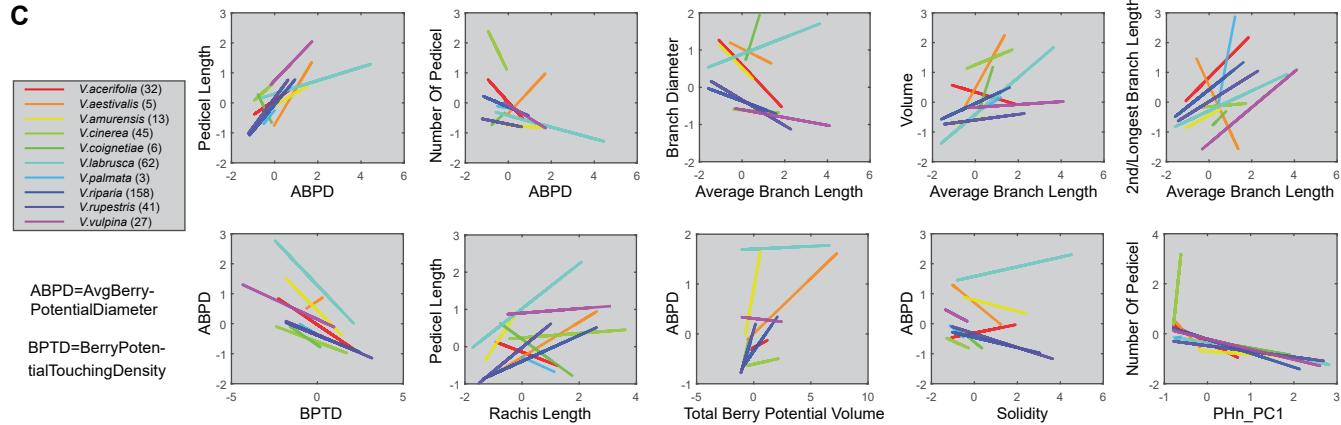


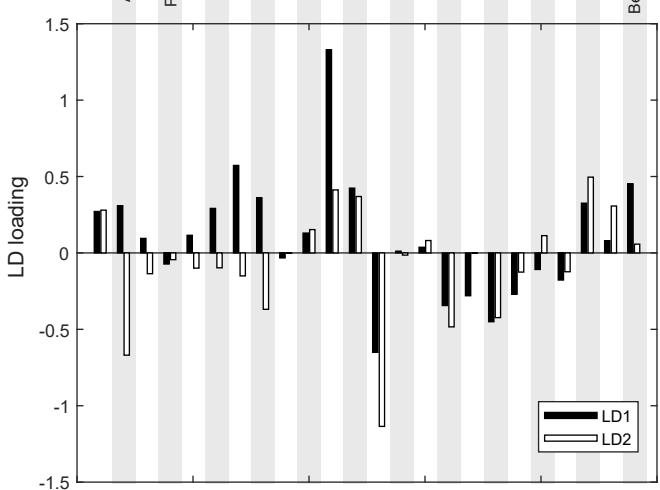
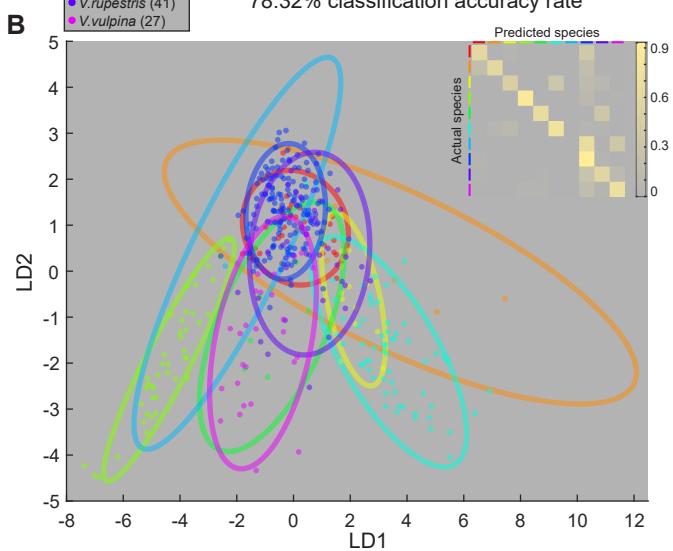
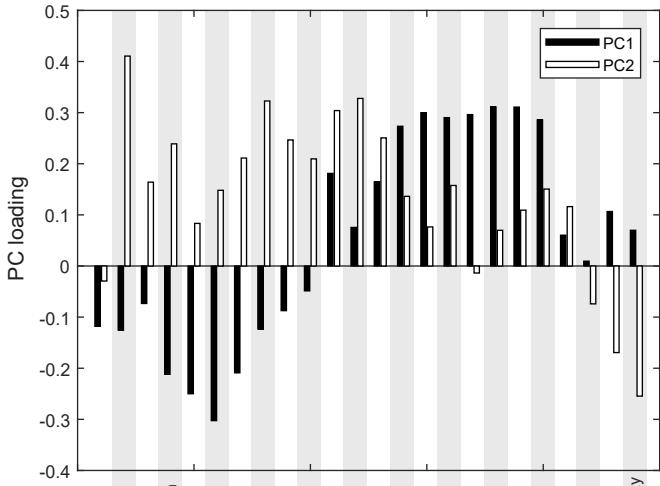
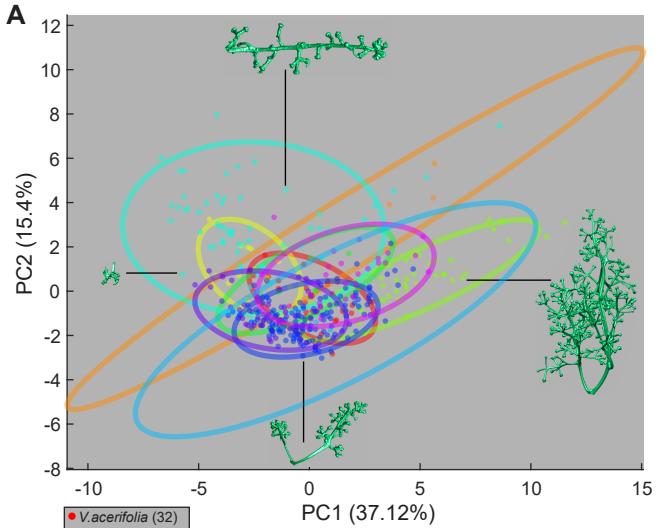


**STOP**

- touches other berry potential
- touches branch
- reaches the size



**A****B****C**



map each trait (e.g. PHn\_PC1) onto the phylogeny

