SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

FIG. S1. Visual representation of the character states implemented by the gap weighting method of Thiele (1993) based on the 42 *Impatiens* species showing a wood cylinder at least at the base of their stems. Bars indicate the number of species within one character state. Based on this graph, a division of the habit character into four character states (herbaceous, 'woody' herbs, slightly woody, and truly woody) or two character states (herbaceous and woody) is possible.

Distribution of the MorphoCode character states after gap weighting (N = 26) for all the *Impatiens* species with at least a wood cylinder at the base of the stem
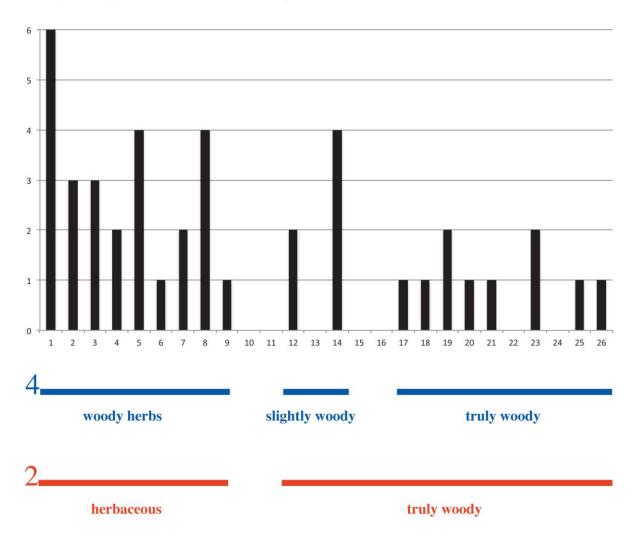
FIG. S2. Continuously decreasing or flat length-on-age curves for vessel elements of the woody *Impatiens flaccida*, *I. namchabarwensis* and *I. niamniamensis* based on maceration slides taken at each millimeter between pith and cambium. These curves are representative of secondarily woody species.