A SEARCH FOR PHYLOGENETICALLY INFORMATIVE POLLEN CHARACTERS IN THE SUBTRIBE SALVIINAE (MENTHEAE: LAMIACEAE)

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The pollen morphology and ultrastructure of the subtribe Salviinae were investigated with light, scanning electron, and transmission electron microscopy. In addition, cladistic analyses of the obtained morphological data, supplemented with rbcL data from GenBank, were conducted in order to assess the phylogenetic signal of palynological characters. Salviinae pollen is small to large, oblate to prolate in shape, with a circular to slightly elliptic amb, and mostly hexacolpate. *Perovskia abrotanoides* appears to be distylos and shows a significant pollen dimorphism between pin and thrum flowers. The sexine ornamentation of the genera *Lepechinia* and *Chaenostoma* is perforate, while the ornamentation of other genera is bireticulate. *Perovskia* expresses a unique type of sexine ornamentation. The sexine ornamentation variation in *Salvia* has systematic importance but only partly corresponds with current phylogenetic hypotheses. Unbranched columellae and a continuous, granular endexine are hypothesized to be a symplesiomorphic condition in the tribe Mentheae. Our combined phylogenetic analyses show that the addition of palynological characters contributes to improved resolution and also increases bootstrap support values in comparison with molecular phylogenetic analyses.

Keywords: distyly, palynology, *Perovskia*, phylogeny, pollen dimorphism, Salviinae.

Introduction

Lamiaceae is a cosmopolitan family with more than 236 genera and ca. 7000 species (Thorne 1992). Mentheae is the largest and economically most important tribe of the subfamily Nepetoideae. The subfamily is characterized by hexacolpate pollen, exalbuminous seeds, and an investing embryo type (Cantino 1992). Mentheae includes many common culinary herbs such as balm (*Melissa*), bee balm (*Monarda*), catnip (*Nepeta*), mint (*Mentha*), oregano (*Origanum*), rosemary (*Rosmarinus*), sage (*Salvia*), savory (*Satureja*), and thyme (*Thymus*). Mentheae can be divided into three subtribes, Salviinae, Menthinae, and Nepetinae, and accommodates ca. 65 genera (Harley et al. 2004).

This study focuses on the morphological variation of pollen within the subtribe Salviinae, with special attention on the genus *Salvia*, and it plays an integral part in a detailed overview of pollen morphology in the tribe Mentheae. Although general palynological data proved to be systematically useful within the family at a high taxonomic level (Erdtman 1945), a thorough palynological study of the tribe Mentheae is lacking to date (Wagstaff 1992).

Subtribe Salviinae consists of eight genera, and these genera have been classified differently according to various authors (table 1; Harley et al. 2004). In spite of the complicated taxonomic history, Salviinae turns out to be a well-supported monophyletic subtribe within the tribe Mentheae, on the basis of recent molecular data (Walker and Sytsma 2007). However, the relationships among the genera of Mentheae are poorly understood (Harley et al. 2004). *Salvia* is by far the largest genus of the family and represents a cosmopolitan assemblage of ca. 1000 species, displaying a remarkable morphological variation. Bentham (1876) separated the genus *Salvia* into 12 sections based on stamen variation, which remains until now the most widely accepted treatment (Briquet 1897; Stibal 1934, 1935; Epling 1938, 1939; Pobeditinova 1954; Hruby 1962). The evolution of the stamen connective and unique lever mechanism has occurred parallel in the Old World and the New World (Claßen-Bockhoff et al. 2004; Walker and Sytsma 2007). The demonstration of the nonmonophyletic origin of *Salvia* based on molecular data (Walker et al. 2004; Walker and Sytsma 2007) has led to the reinvestigation of morphological characters in *Salvia* and closely related genera in the subtribe Salviinae.

Previous pollen morphological studies in *Salvia* and related taxa have mainly been based on light microscopic (LM) observations (Emboden 1964; Henderson et al. 1968; Varghese and Verma 1968; Vij and Kashyap 1975). Afzal-Rafii (1983) observed ca. 40 species of *Salvia* using LM and scanning electron microscopy (SEM). However, all of the species he studied were restricted to the Old World. Trudel and Morton (1992) and Wagstaff (1992) investigated the surface ornamentation of pollen of a few *Salvia* species and various other selected genera of the family by means of SEM. Transmission electron...
microscopic (TEM) observations are not available for the subtribe Salviinae.

The presence/absence of orbicules and their morphology can provide additional palynological characters that might have a phylogenetic significance (e.g., Raj and El-Ghazaly 1987; Huysmans et al. 1998; Vinckier and Smets 2002). Orbicules are small sporopollenin particles that can be produced in species with a secretory tapetum (Huysmans et al. 1998, 2000). Until now, the presence of orbicules has not been investigated systematically in Lamiaceae (Huysmans et al. 1998, 2000). Orbicules have been recorded only in Chloanthaceae (Raj and El-Ghazaly 1987; tribe Chloantheae of Lamiaceae sensu Harley et al. 2004). Orbicules may also occur in Lavandula dentate L., which possesses a secretory tapetum (Suarez-Cervera and Seoane-Camba 1986), although this has yet to be confirmed.

This study aims to document and illustrate the pollen morphology as well as the ultrastructure of the pollen wall and to trace the occurrence of orbicules in Salviinae sensu Harley et al. (2004) by using LM, SEM, and TEM. In order to check the phylogenetic significance of the obtained palynological data, we analyzed pollen characters cladistically in combination with rbcL data from GenBank. The results are discussed with a focus on the infrageneric relationships within *Salvia*.

### Material and Methods

#### Material

This study is based on herbarium material of 40 species (54 specimens) from seven genera of the subtribe Salviinae, collected from following herbaria: BR, GH, LV, and MO (acronyms follow Holmgren et al. 1990; for a complete list of specimens, see app. A). These species of *Salvia* were carefully chosen based on previously recognized infrageneric groups and geographic ranges (Walker et al. 2004).

#### Pollen Morphology

Pollen grains of all species investigated were acetolyzed according to Reitsma’s (1969) method and described on the basis of LM and SEM observations. The glycerin jelly slides (LM) were observed using a Leitz Dialux 20 microscope and were photographed with an Olympus DP 50 digital camera. In order to study the exine stratification and inner exine ornamentation on fractured pollen, we placed acetolyzed grains in an ultrasonic bath for up to 20 min. Acetolyzed pollen grains were suspended in ethanol, air dried on a stub, and coated with gold (SPI sputter-coater) before observation with a JEOL JSM-6360 scanning electron microscope at 20–25 kV. Measurements of the length of the polar axis (*P*), equatorial diameter (*E*), colpus length (*C*), and exine thickness were made with LM on 15–20 fully developed grains of each specimen.

#### Orbicule Morphology

For morphological observations of orbicules, dried flowers or buds were rehydrated for 1–2 h (Agepon wetting agent, 1 : 200). Anthers were separated from the flowers, and the tips were removed with a razor blade to facilitate rehydration. After dissection, the anthers remained for one more hour in the wetting agent. Following dehydration in a graded acetone series, the material was critical-point dried (CPD 030, Balzers). The dried anthers were mounted on stubs with double-adhesive tape. The locules were opened, and the pollen grains were carefully removed with a cactus needle. The removed pollen grains were collected on the same stub in order to observe critical-point-dried grains. The size measurements of acetolyzed and critical-point-dried pollen grains on SEM photographs were compared using Carnoy 2.0 (Schols et al. 2002).

#### Ultrastructure

For TEM, the anthers were rehydrated in 0.05 M sodium cacodylate buffer (pH 7.3) before fixation. The material was fixed in 2.5% glutaraldehyde and buffered with 0.05 M sodium cacodylate (pH 7.3), followed by postfixation with 2% OsO₄. Before embedding in LR-White Resin (Polysciences, Warrington, PA), the material was dehydrated in a graded ethanol series. Semithin sections (±1 µm) were cut with a microtome (Reichert Jung Ultracut E), stained with 0.1% thionin–0.1% methylene blue, and observed with a Leitz Dialux 20 microscope. The ultrathin sections on copper grids were stained with uranyl acetate and lead citrate in an ultrastainer (LKB 2168) and observed with a Zeiss EM 900 transmission electron microscope at 50 kV. Size differences of distylos species were statistically analyzed with a t-test using the SAS software package (release 8.00; SAS Institute, Cary, NC). Pollen terminology follows the online edition of the *Glossary of Pollen and Spore Terminology* (Punt et al. 1994; http://www.bio.uu.nl/~palaeo/glossary/glos-int.htm).

### Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genera of Subtribe Salviinae sensu Harley et al. (2004) and Their Previous Taxonomic Positions</th>
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<td>Harley et al. 2004</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Chaenostoma</em> Donn. Sm. (1/1)</td>
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<td><em>Salvia</em> L. (32/900)</td>
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<td><em>Zhumeria</em> Rech. f. &amp; Wendelbo (0/1)</td>
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</table>

Note. NI = not indicated. The first number in parentheses indicates the number of species studied in this article, and the second number represents the total number of species.
Selecting Characters and Coding Data

A total of 13 morphological characters were assembled and are presented in appendix B. The matrix is presented in appendix C. Continuous characters such as pollen size (characters 1–6) were coded using Thiele’s (1993) gap weighting method, as implemented by MorphoCode (Schols et al. 2004a). MorphoCode exports newly coded data to a NEXUS file (Maddison et al. 1997). The gap weighting method considers distribution of the mean values for a certain character and converts them to ordered multistate characters. The distance between the means is represented by the distance between the ordered character states in the matrix. The number of possible character states for the continuous characters was set to 10. Therefore, the continuous characters were given a weight of 0.1 and ordered, while all the other discrete characters have a weight of 1 and were unordered for the equivalent of all characters.

Cladistic Analysis

We selected 32 taxa for which both morphological and rbcL molecular data (1246 characters from GenBank; Walker et al. 2004) were available. Parsimony analyses were performed using PAUP*, version 4.0b10 (Swofford 2002). The morphological and molecular data sets were analyzed separately and combined.

We analyzed each matrix using a heuristic search with 1000 random input orders and tree-bisection-reconnection (TBR) branch swapping and holding five trees per step. Bootstrap values were calculated with 1000 replicates, employing a heuristic search with 100 replicates and TBR swapping and holding five trees per step (Felsenstein 1985). The strict consensus trees were compared to discern differences between the analysis of the rbcL data and the combined analysis.

MacClade, version 4.0 (Maddison and Maddison 2000), was used to optimize morphological characters on the most parsimonious tree topology from molecular data alone. This topology was preferred over one generated from the combined data set, which already included palynological characters.

Results

Palynological Characters of Salviinae

Pollen of Salviinae shows variation in size, shape, number of apertures, and sexine ornamentation. The main pollen characters are summarized in table 2. Representative pollen grains are illustrated in figures 1–5.

Palynological Characters of Salviinae: Size

The pollen grains are shed as monads, and their size ranges from small to large: $P = 20.5–69.4 \mu m$ and $E = 18.4–72.9 \mu m$ (table 2; fig. 1A–1F). The largest pollen grain is observed in *Salvia eremostachya* ($P = 69.4 \mu m$, $E = 72.9 \mu m$; fig. 1A), and the smallest grain is present in *S. polystachya* ($P = 20.5 \mu m$, $E = 18.4 \mu m$; fig. 1A). *Perovskia abrotanoides* is distylos and shows significant pollen dimorphism (table 2; fig. 2G, 2H). Pollen grains are significantly larger in thrum than in pin flowers ($E: p < 0.0001; P: p < 0.001$). It is important to note that the size of critical-point-dried pollen grains is 8%–40% smaller than acetolyzed pollen grains (both observed with SEM under the same conditions).

Palynological Characters of Salviinae: Shape

The polar outlines are slightly elliptic to circular; in equatorial view, the grains are oblate to prolate ($P/E = 0.73–1.43$; fig. 1). The oblate-spheroidal to subprolate shape occurs in the majority of the taxa studied. The length of the polar axis and the equatorial diameter of pollen grains have a positive correlation ($R^2 = 0.866$). Only pollen grains of *S. splendens* have an oblate shape. However, shape classes can vary considerably within taxa (table 2; fig. 1B–1F).

Palynological Characters of Salviinae: Apertures

All species examined are predominantly hexacolpate, but seven species possess tetra-, penta-, or octocolpate pollen grains (fig. 1G–1R). *Dorystaechas hastata* and *S. splendens* have ca. 5% tetracolpate pollen grains. *Salvia eremostachya*, *S. leucantha*, and *S. palaestina* have less than 1% tetracolpate pollen grains. In *S. eremostachya* and *S. splendens*, we observed a few pentacolpate pollen grains, and in *S. barrelieri*, *S. palaestina*, and *S. uliginosa*, one octocolpate pollen grain was observed. The colpi are distributed symmetrically and sometimes are secondarily bilateral at the equatorial plane. Sometimes the mesocolpia differ in size on one grain. If the amb is circular, three wider mesocolpia might alternate with three narrower ones (fig. 1K). While the amb is elliptic, there are four narrower mesocolpia and two wider ones each at opposite sides (fig. 1N). The range of colpi length in all taxa studied is 11.4–54.1 \mu m. Colpus length is strongly correlated with the length of the polar axis ($R^2 = 0.9565$). The polar apocolpium index is between 0.06 and 0.41 (table 2). Colpus ends are acute, and colpus membranes are beset with granules (figs. 1–5).

Palynological Characters of Salviinae: Sexine Ornamentation

Three distinct sexine ornamentation types are described, and in type III, four subtypes have been recognized on the basis of the ratio of the muri thickness and the shape and number of secondary lumen.
1. Pollen with bireticulum .................................. 2
2. Muri of primary reticulum thicker than secondary muri; lumen of primary reticulum contains fewer than five units of secondary lumen ........................................... Type II
3. Muri of primary reticulum thicker or similar than secondary muri; lumen of primary reticulum contains more than five units of secondary lumen. ........................... Type III

Sexine Ornamentation: Type I: Chaunostoma

and *Lepechinia* (Fig. 2A–2E)

The sexine ornamentation is perforate, although some perforations are elongated and subdivided into two or three smaller units by muri at a slightly lower level. The distance between the edges of adjacent perforations is greater than the diameter of perforations. Perforations at the poles are slightly smaller than those at the equator. Species observed: *Chaunostoma mecistandrum*, *Lepechinia calycina*, and *L. caulescens*. 

S. polystachya 

E

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### Table 2
Overview of Major Palynological Characters of All Species Studied within Salviineae

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>P (μm)</th>
<th>E (μm)</th>
<th>O</th>
<th>SO</th>
<th>OS</th>
<th>S</th>
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<th>P</th>
<th>Amb</th>
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**Note.** Size measurements are based on acetylated pollen grains. Values are minimum, mean, maximum except for AI values, which correspond to the mean diameter; C = colpus length; O = oblate; SO = suboblate; OS = oblate spheroidal; S = spheric; PS = prolate spheroidal; SP = subprolate; P = prolate; AI = apocolpium index; C = circular; E = elliptic; minus sign = absent; plus/minus sign = sometimes present; plus sign = present; two plus signs = dominant.
Sexine Ornamentation: Type II: *Perovskia* (Fig. 2G–2L)

The sexine is bireticulate. The primary muri are more than twice as thick as the secondary muri. Primary lumina are continuous, irregular to rounded, and slightly shallow. The secondary reticulum is microreticulate; the number of secondary lumina does not exceed five, on average, for each primary lumen. The perforation size and secondary lumen number decrease toward the poles and apertures. Species observed: *Perovskia abrotanoides* and *P. atriplicifolia*.

Sexine Ornamentation: Type III: *Dorystaechas, Meriandra, Rosmarinus*, and *Salvia* (Figs. 3, 4)

The sexine is obviously bireticulate. The primary muri are thicker than or of a width similar to that of the secondary muri.
Primary lumina are continuous and vary in shape from irregular ellipses to polygons. The primary lumen consists of more than five units of secondary lumina. We recognized four different subtypes to describe the observed variation in type III.

**Subtype IIIa.** The primary muri are twice as thick as the secondary muri, with rounded and irregular or sometimes discontinuous primary lumen shape. The number of secondary lumina is five to 10 per primary lumen (fig. 3A–3F). Species observed: *Dorystaechas hastata*, *Meriandra bengalensis*, *Rosmarinus officinalis*, *Salvia dorrii*, *S. eremostachya*, *S. glutinosa*, *S. hispanica*, and *S. verticillata*.

**Subtype IIIb.** The primary muri are thicker than the secondary muri; the shape of the primary lumina is rounded and continuous. The secondary lumina are regular; at the mesocolpia, more than 10 secondary lumina per primary lumen were counted; toward colpi and poles, the size of the primary lumina decreased (fig. 3G–3I). Species observed: *S. amarissima*, *S. ballotiflora*, *S. barrelieri*, *S. coccinea*, *S. elegans*, *S. farinacea*, *S. fruticosa*, *S. henryi*, *S. lavandulifolia*, *S. leucantha*, *S. microphylla*, *S. polystachya*, *S. reflexa*, *S. ringens*, *S. rypara*, *S. sylvestris*, *S. uliginosa*, and *S. verbenaca*.

**Subtype IIIc.** Similar to subtype IIIb but the secondary reticulum consists of one or several large lumina in the middle of the primary lumen (fig. 4A–4F). The number of secondary lumina exceeds 10 per primary lumen. Species observed: *S. aethiopis*, *S. canariensis*, *S. palaestina*, and *S. sclarea*.

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Subtype IIIId. Thickness of primary and secondary muri is rather similar. Lumina of primary reticulum are filled with large lumina of the secondary reticulum (fig. 4I–4L). Species observed: *S. lyrata*, *S. officinalis*, and *S. taraxacifolia*.

*Salvia barrelieri* and *S. eremostachya* show an unclear secondary reticulum, although pollen grains were taken from fully mature flowers and several specimens of *S. barrelieri* were studied (fig. 3F, 3J; see app. A). However, we can classify *S. barrelieri* into subtype IIIb and *S. eremostachya* into subtype IIIa, on the basis of primary muri thickness and lumen shape. *Salvia spathacea* has a remarkable heteromorphic sculpturing pattern with discontinuous primary muri. On the two lateral mesocolpia at the edges of the grains, primary lumina size was smaller than that on the four middle mesocolpia. At the poles, the size of the primary lumina was comparable to that at the middle of the mesocolpia (fig. 3K, 3L). *Salvia splendens* has a secondary reticulum with a large lumen in the middle and thin primary muri (fig. 4G, 4H).

**Palynological Characters of Salviinae: Pollen Wall Stratification and Ultrastructure**

On average, the exine is slightly thicker at the poles than at the equator, but there are no significant differences (table 2). Basically, all taxa studied show the same exine stratification. The tectum is somewhat thicker than the foot layer (fig. 2A–2D).
A–5H). The primary reticulum is always simplicolumellate. Columellae are densely spaced and unbranched, their length being nearly twice the thickness of the tectum. The foot layer is continuous, and the endexine is irregular and continuous and has a granular appearance (fig. 5A–5H). The intine is nearly as thick as the tectum, and two strata can be observed on the basis of differences in electron density (fig. 5E–5H). Pollenkitt is accumulated in the infratectum (fig. 5E–5G).

Palynological Characters of Salviinae: Orbicules

The possible presence of orbicules in the anthers was checked in 13 species belonging to seven genera (app. A). Orbicules were absent in all the species investigated. The inner locule wall displays a characteristic annular shape because of the underlying prominent endothecium thickenings. The tapetal membrane is completely smooth, without any sporopollenin deposition (fig. 5I–5K).

Phylogenetic Impact of Palynological Characters

We analyzed 62 parsimony-informative characters (10 morphological characters and 52 molecular characters) from a total of 1257 characters in 32 Salviinae taxa. The strict consensus tree based only on palynological data (apps. B, C) is completely unresolved (fig. 6; consistency index [CI] = 0.37, retention index [RI] = 0.71, rescaled consistency index [RC] = 0.26). The parsimony analysis of the rbcL data resulted in 474 equally

parsimonious trees (CI = 0.71, RI = 0.85, RC = 0.60). Two most parsimonious trees were found from combined data set, and the strict consensus tree is similar to the \textit{rbcL} topology (fig. 7B; CI = 0.61, RI = 0.78, RC = 0.48), with improved resolution across the entire tree and also higher bootstrap support values in clade III (fig. 7A).

The genus \textit{Salvia} appears to be polyphyletic, with representatives in two monophyletic clades (I, II) and a paraphyletic group that forms a clade with \textit{Dorystaechas} (clade III). \textit{Perovskia} is sister to \textit{Salvia} clade I and \textit{Rosmarinus}, although with only moderate bootstrap support (BS; BS = 84 vs. 79). Clade II is sister to clade I, \textit{Perovskia}, and \textit{Rosmarinus}, with moderate
support ($BS = 66$ vs. $69$). There is low $BS$ for the monophyly of clade II in the combined analysis ($BS = 54$), although it remains unresolved in the analysis of the $rbcL$ data set (fig. 7B). Clade III combines representatives of $Salvia$ subgenus $Calosphace$ with three species of section $Audibertia$ and forms a moderately supported clade with $Dorystaechas$ ($BS = 63$ vs. $60$). The subgenus $Calosphace$ has better $BS$ in the combined analysis, while it is only moderately supported in the $rbcL$ tree ($BS = 89$ vs. $80$).

### Discussion

**Pollen Morphological Variation of Subtribe Salviinae**

Salviinae species have small to large hexacolpate (sometimes tetra-, penta-, or octacolpate; fig. 1) pollen with an oblate to prolate shape and perforate or bireticulate sexine ornamentation (figs. 2–4). The colpus membranes are beset with granules, and orbicules are lacking (fig. 5I–5K).
All previous pollen studies in Salviinae are based on acetolized material, and the size measurements of acetolized pollen in this study generally agree with those of previous literature data. We showed that critical-point-dried pollen grains were always considerably smaller (8%–40%) than grains of the same specimens after acetolysis. Acetolysis is the standard method for pollen observation, but there are still questions about its possible side effects (Erdtman 1960). Specifically, the size effect of acetolysis was discussed by Reitsma (1969). He stated that the pollen grains increase in size during boiling in the acetolysis mixture, but he also mentioned that there were no significant size differences after acetolysis because the size decreased again during the cooling of the mixture in most cases. However, recent studies consistently show an increase of pollen size after acetolysis (Schols et al. 2004b; Lens et al. 2005), as does this study.

It is interesting to note that heterostyly (i.e., the coexistence of genetically controlled hermaphrodite floral types with different style lengths and usually with reciprocal anther positions in pins and thrums; Ganders 1979) is known only for subtribe Salviinae, while in Lamiaceae, gynodioecy (i.e., a mode of sex expression in which separate hermaphroditic and female plants coexist in the same populations; Owens and Ubera-Jiménez 1992) is a particularly common condition. Distyly is reported in Salvia brandegeei (Neisess 1984; Barrett et al. 2000), and it is also known for Perovskia atriplicifolia without any detailed studies (Bokhari and Hedge 1971). We reported P. abrotanoides to be distylos and examined pollen dimorphism (fig. 2G, 2H). The pollen size differences between the two morphs were highly significant ($E: p < 0.0001, P: p < 0.001$); the thrum type has much larger grains than the pin type (table 2). In general, pollen grains from thrum morphs are

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**Fig. 7** Strict consensus tree of 32 taxa in Salviinae. Bootstrap values (>50%) are indicated above the branches. A, Strict consensus of two most parsimonious trees generated by combined data set. B, Strict consensus of 474 most parsimonious trees resulting from *rbcL* data only.
larger than those from pin morphs (Dulberger 1992). Pollen size is positively correlated with style length in a wide variety of angiosperms (Lee 1978; Pittmann and Levin 1983), which is consistent with the hypothesis that there is a positive correlation between pollen size and length of the pollen tube necessary to achieve fertilization.

Hexacolpate pollen, together with octocolpate pollen, is known to be a synapomorphy for Nepetoideae (Cantino 1992). Octocolpate pollen grain has been reported in S. coccinea by Trudel and Morton (1992), but we found only hexacolpate pollen grains in this species. Tetra- and pentacolpate pollen grains have been observed in some taxa of subfamilies Viticoideae and Lamioideae but never in Nepetoideae (Cantino 1992; Abu-Asab and Cantino 1994). However, our results show that seven species from two genera, Dorystaechas and Salvia, have tetra- to octoclopal pollen grains (but not heptacolpate). Hexacolpate pollen grains, however, are always dominant in all taxa studied.

Sexine ornamentation in Salviinae can be divided into perforate and bireticulate types (figs. 3, 4) and offers systematically informative characters (figs. 6, 8). The genera Lepechinia and Chaunostoma possess perforate pollen (type I; fig. 2A–2F). These genera are sister to all the other genera in Salviinae on the basis of stamen features and molecular data (Epling 1948; Walker et al. 2004; Walker and Sytsma 2007). The close relationship between the two genera and their basal position in the subtribe are corroborated by the shared presence of perforated sexine (fig. 6).

Pollen grains of the genus Perovskia have a simple semitectate sexine ornamentation in the bireticulate group of Salvia (type II; fig. 2G–2L), while Dorystaechas, Meriandra, Rosmarinus, and four Salvia species possess a bireticulate sexine with thick primary muri (subtype IIIa). The most recent molecular phylogeny of Walker and Sytsma (2007) suggests that Perovskia and Rosmarinus are closely related and in a sister relationship with a clade containing Meriandra and Dorystaechas. Our molecular results show that the genera Meriandra, Dorystaechas, and Rosmarinus share type III, while Perovskia is clearly distinct in having type II sexine ornamentation.

The largest genus, Salvia, shows a considerable variation in aperture numbers and sexine ornamentation types (subtypes IIIa–IIIId; figs. 1, 3, 4). Henderson et al. (1968) distinguished nine pollen types on the basis of sexine ornamentation in the genera Salvia, Meriandra, Dorystaechas, and Perovskia, but because they used only LM observations, they were not able to define the fine structure of bireticulate patterns (Embedgen 1964; Henderson et al. 1968). Furthermore, our results show the occurrence of a heteromorphous sculpturing pattern in S. spathacea (fig. 3K, 3L). This pattern was previously reported only in S. apiana (Henderson et al. 1968), a species closely related to S. spathacea. Afzal-Rafii (1983) showed some evidence in relation to differences in sexine ornamentation types and polyploidy level within the same species. Probably, the occurrence of different sexine ornamentation types within the same pollen grain could also be related to the chromosome number (Afzal-Rafii 1983).

In Salvia, we defined four different sexine ornamentation types (IIIa–IIIId), but most taxa studied have subtype IIIb. Sexine ornamentation subtypes IIIc and IIIId can be considered derived features because of the more reduced tectum (Walker and Doyle 1975). It is interesting that these sexine ornamentation subtypes occur only in Old World Salvia taxa. However, we cannot detect any link between variation in sexine ornamentation and the proposed infrageneric delimitation of Salvia (Briquet 1897; Epling 1938, 1939; Hedge 1974).

Phylogenetics of Salviinae

Although the genus Salvia has been considered to be a morphologically well-supported group, mainly on the basis of its highly derived stamen structure, recent molecular data propose a possible polyphylectic origin of this large genus (Walker et al. 2004; Walker and Sytsma 2007). According to the strict consensus tree resulting from our combined analysis of both palynological data and rbcL sequence data (fig. 7), Salvia is divided into two major groups that correspond to distribution patterns. Although this is a preliminary hypothesis with only 32 taxa, Salvia clade I and II include all members of Bentham’s (1876) subgenera Scarea, Leonia, and Salvia, all distributed in the Old World. Salvia clade III is restricted exclusively to the New World and is composed of the subgenus Calosphae and the section Audibertiata (Epling 1938, 1939).

The strict consensus tree of the combined parsimony analysis (fig. 7A) suggested more or less the same topology as the rbcL sequence data analysis (fig. 7B). However, our results demonstrate that adding palynological characters to the data matrix resulted in higher BS values for clade III and a better resolution at the terminal nodes. Salvia clade I, for instance, was considerably better resolved in the combined analysis, compared to the polytomy resulting from the rbcL data only (fig. 7).

To evaluate the systematic importance of our palynological characters in Salviinae, selected characters were plotted on one of the most parsimonious trees from rbcL data using MacClade 4 (fig. 8). The genus Lepechinia was supported as sister to the rest of the genera in Salviinae by the number of layers in the sexine ornamentation (char. 8). Characters 9–11, which are related to sexine ornamentation types, have some interesting points for systematic understanding. For instance, thin primary muri (char. 9) and secondary reticulum, including large lumina (char. 11), are restricted to clade I. In addition, these characters could be more derived features based on reduced tectum surface from the palynological point of view (fig. 6; Walker and Doyle 1975). However, any conclusions regarding evolutionary trends in pollen characters in Salviinae need to be carefully considered preliminary, owing to our limited sampling of the ca. 1000 species in the genus.

The distylos species Perovskia abrotanoides shows pollen dimorphism with highly significant size differences correlating with style length. Hexacolpate pollen grains are always dominant in all studied taxa, although some taxa produce pollen with different aperture numbers. Salviinae is a stenopalynous group with hexacolpate pollen, perforate/bireticulate sexine ornamentation, and similar pollen wall stratification. The phylogeny resulting from analyses of both pollen data only and...
combined molecular and palynological data sets suggests that sexine ornamentation of pollen in Salviinae may have systematic importance, particularly pollen characters (chars. 8–11), which appear correlated with single lineages. Our phylogenetic analyses resulted in an improved resolution of the terminal nodes and increased BS values. However, the lack of resolution based on pollen characters alone and the variability we find in some pollen characters between closely related species suggest that some pollen characters may be under more ecological constraint than phylogenetic constraint. Further pollen studies of Salviinae with expanded taxa will be necessary to investigate potential correlations with ecological factors such as pollinator and habitat.

Fig. 8 Palynological characters mapped onto one randomly selected tree of 474 most parsimonious trees from the *rbcL* data analysis. Clades not present in the strict consensus tree are marked with an arrow on tree A. Character states that were not applicable are indicated by a disconnected line in the terminal node of each taxon (B, C). Appendixes B and C provide morphological character states and data matrix.
Acknowledgments

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Appendix A

Table A1

Voucher Specimens of the Subtribe Salviinae That Are Examined in This Study

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<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Subgenus: section</th>
<th>Voucher specimens</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chaunostoma mecistandrum Donn. Sm.</td>
<td>Mexico, Nov. 6, 1939: Matuda 3915 (GH)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dorystaechas hastata Boiss. &amp; Heldr. ex Benth.</td>
<td>Turkey, Nov. 5, 1998: Verlooue 3102 (BR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lepechinia calycina (Benth.) Epling ex Munz.</td>
<td>U.S.A., California, June 16, 1953: Sharismith 4229 (BR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lepechinia candescens (Orteg.) Epling</td>
<td>Mexico, Flor de Maria, Sept. 4, 1890: Pringle 3264 (BR)</td>
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<td>Meriandra bengalensis (Roxb.) Benth.</td>
<td>Yemen Arab Republic, Sept. 12, 1977: Lavranos &amp; Newton 15796 (MO)</td>
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<td>Peroeska abrotanoides Kar. (pin type)</td>
<td>India, Himalaya Mtns., July 11, 1976: Billiet &amp; Leonard 6888 (BR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>P. abrotanoides Kar. (thrum type)</td>
<td>India, Himalaya Mtns., July 4, 1976: Billiet &amp; Leonard 6805 (BR)</td>
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<td>Peroeska atriplicifolia Benth.</td>
<td>Pakistan, Oct. 17, 1975: Dar &amp; Hassan 60 (GH)</td>
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<td>Rosmarinus officinalis L.</td>
<td>Spain, Mallorca, Sept. 18, 1983: Cnops 83.56 (BR)</td>
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<td>Salvia aethiopis L.</td>
<td>France, July 1979: Sotaux s.n. (BR)</td>
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<td>S. amarissima Ort.</td>
<td>Guatemala, July 1906: Turckheim 6040 (BR); Mexico, Hidalgo, July 18, 1989: Pringle s.n. (BR)</td>
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<td>S. ballotiflora Benth.</td>
<td>U.S.A., Comanche Spring, TX, 1849–1851: Lindheimer 1087 (BR)</td>
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<td>S. canariensis L.</td>
<td>Portugal, Madeira, Apr. 4, 1900: Bornmüller 1074 (BR); U.S.A., Oswego, NY, without date: Wilbe 1879 (BR)</td>
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<td>S. dorrii (Kell.) Abrams</td>
<td>Mexico, Michoacan, Nov. 1891: Pringle 22 (BR)</td>
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<td>S. elegans Vahl</td>
<td>U.S.A., Riverside County, CA, May 18, 1958: Raven 13000 (BR)</td>
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<td>S. farinacea Benth.</td>
<td>Without locality, without date: Larnoliee I 52 (BR)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. fruticosa Miller</td>
<td>Cyprus, Larnaca, May 21, 1996: Boucharmon 26496 (BR)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. glutinosa L.</td>
<td>Without locality, without date: Larnoliee I 52 (BR)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. henryi Gray</td>
<td>U.S.A., Arizona, May 25, 1884: Pringle s.n. (BR)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>S. hispanica L.</td>
<td>Mexico, Bonilla, Oct. 23, 1991: Escobedo 2236 (BR); without locality, without date: Lov 1540 (BR)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>S. lavandulifolia Vahl</td>
<td>Spain, Valencia Province, July 17, 1988: Guemes 14411 (BR)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>S. leucantha Cav.</td>
<td>Without locality, without date: Lov 1540 (BR)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. lyrate L.</td>
<td>U.S.A., Norfolk, VA, May 3, 1984: Bray s.n. (BR)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. microphylla Kunth.</td>
<td>U.S.A., Brazos County, TX, Apr. 7, 1974: Fryxell 2364 (BR); without locality, May 25, 1979: Basseles s.n. (BR)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Uruguay, Estancia Rincón, Nov. 24, 1946: Gallina 5772 (BR)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Appendix B

Pollen Morphological Character States Used in the Cladistic Analysis Combined with rbcL Sequence Data from GenBank of Salvia and Related Taxa

1. Length of polar axis of pollen (P).
2. Equatorial diameter of pollen (E).
3. Pollen colpus length.
4. Exine thickness at the pole.
5. Exine thickness at the equator.
6. Pollen shape classes (P/E).
7. Number of pollen apertures: six (0); including heteromorphic aperture number (tetra- to octocolpate pollen, except heptacolpate pollen (1).
8. Pollen sculpturing: one layer (0); two layer (1).
9. Primary muri thickness: thicker than secondary muri (0); more or less same thickness as secondary muri (1).
10. Number of secondary lumina: <5 (0); 5–10 (1); >10 (2).
11. Secondary reticulum with large lumina in the middle: absent (0); present (1).
12. Structure of columellate stratum of exine: simple (0); branched (1).
13. Orbicules: absent (0); present (1).

The continuous character states 1–6 were coded using Thiele’s gap weighting method, as implemented by MorphoCode (see also table 2; Thiele 1993; Schols et al. 2004a). Characters 12 and 13 are constant and are excluded from the data matrix in appendix C.

Table A1 (Continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Subgenus: section</th>
<th>Voucher specimens</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>S. officinalis</em> L.</td>
<td><em>Salvia</em></td>
<td>Spain, Castille, Miranda de Ebro friches, 1915: Elias 2450 (LV); without locality, Cnops 77.8 (BR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>S. palaeastina</em> Benth.</td>
<td><em>Salvia: Stenarrhena</em></td>
<td>Palestine, Apr. 6, 1983: Liston &amp; Danin 7-8-49/1 (BR)</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>S. reflexa</em> Hormem.</td>
<td><em>Calosphae: Glareosae</em></td>
<td>France, Gironde, Bordeaux, Sept. 11, 1939: Bouchon s.n. (BR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>S. ringens</em> Sm.</td>
<td><em>Salvia</em></td>
<td>Greece, Kalavryta, Achaea, May 29, 1983: Bouharmont 16085 (BR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>S. scharei</em> L.</td>
<td><em>Salvia</em></td>
<td>France, July 24, 1953: Andre 11 (BR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>S. spathacea</em> Greene</td>
<td><em>NI: Audibertia</em></td>
<td>U.S.A., California, June 3, 1993: Evrard 11.835 (BR)ab</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>S. splendens</em> Sello ex Roem. et Schult.</td>
<td><em>Calosphae: Secundae</em></td>
<td>Brazil, Brasilia, 1920: Wibbe s.n. (BR)b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>S. sylvestris</em> L.</td>
<td><em>Salvia: Plethiosphaeae</em></td>
<td>Hungary, Pelomee, July 1971: Vanden s.n. (BR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>S. taraxacifolia</em> Hook. fil.</td>
<td><em>Salvia</em></td>
<td>Morocco, July 9, 1984: Lewalle 11087 (BR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>S. verbenaca</em> L.</td>
<td><em>Salvia: Plethiosphaeae</em></td>
<td>Without locality, 1973: Witte 17281 (LV); without locality, 1919: Sennen s.n. (LV); without locality, 1877: Alke 22 (BR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>S. verticillata</em> L.</td>
<td><em>Covola: Hemisphace</em></td>
<td>Poland, Karpates, Orientales, July 20, 1982: Lisowski 83719 (BR); France, Seine River, July 3, 1901: Anonymous s.n. (LV)a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note. Sections after Briquet (1897), Epling (1938, 1939), and Hedge (1974). NI = not indicated.
a Orbicule presence checked.
b Transmission electron microscopic observation.
Appendix C

Data Matrix of Morphological Characters of \textit{Salvia} and Related Taxa with GenBank Accession Number of \textit{rbcL} Sequences Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taxon</th>
<th>Character 1</th>
<th>Character 2</th>
<th>Character 3</th>
<th>Character 4</th>
<th>Character 5</th>
<th>GenBank accession no.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>Chaunostoma meciandrum Donn. Sm.</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dorystachyas hastata Boiss. &amp; Heldr. ex Benth.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lepechinia calycina (Benth.) Epling ex Munz.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lepechinia caulescens (Ort.) Epling</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meriandra bengalensis (Roxb.) Benth.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Peroisia atriplicifolia Benth.</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Salvia aethiopis</td>
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<tr>
<td>S. amarissima Ort.</td>
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<td>S. canariensis L.</td>
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<td>S. cocinea Juss. ex Murr.</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>S. spathacea Greene</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>S. taraxacifolia Hook. fil.</td>
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<td>S. verbenaca L.</td>
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</table>

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