



# A look into the past, present and future potential distributions of *Talinopsis frutescens*, a North American endemic lineage closely related to Cactaceae

Mónica I MIGUEL-VÁZQUEZ<sup>1</sup>, Yasser S LÓPEZ DE OLMOS R<sup>2</sup>, Gilberto OCAMPO<sup>1\*</sup>

Abstract: Talinopsis frutescens (Anacampserotaceae, a family that is close related to Cactaceae) is a succulent species endemic to North America. The aim of this study was to explore, using Ecological Niche Modeling (ENM), changes in potential distribution ranges considering different climate scenarios: past conditions during the Last Inter Glacial (LIG) and the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM), the present and projections for 2070 (RCP 2.6 to 8.5). A pattern of contraction is observed during the LIG, which agrees with other studies focused in species from arid environments. This pattern was followed by a migration towards the south during the LGM and a possible recent expansion to the north as is observed in the present scenario. All future projections show the same contraction and fragmentation patterns, resulting in three discontinuous areas: the northern part of the Chihuahuan Desert, the southern-central part of the Mexican Plateau, and the smallest one in the Tehuacán-Cuicatlán Valley. Our projections for future scenarios agree with other studies and support that global climate change tends to alter the current distribution of arid environment species.

Keywords: Anacampserotaceae; Caryophyllales; ecological niche modeling; succulent plants; potential distribution

Citation: Mónica I MIGUEL-VÁZQUEZ, Yasser S LÓPEZ DE OLMOS R, Gilberto OCAMPO. 2020. A look into the past, present and future potential distributions of *Talinopsis frutescens*, a North American endemic lineage closely related to Cactaceae. Journal of Arid Land, 12(1): 104–114. https://doi.org/ 10.1007/s40333-019-0019-4

#### 1 Introduction

耀 nacampserotaceae is a lineage closely related to Cactaceae (Hernández-Ledesma et al., 2015; Walker et al., 2018). Within Anacampserotaceae, the succulent species *Talinopsis frutescens* A. Gray is the earliest divergent taxon (Ocampo and Columbus, 2010). *Talinopsis frutescens* is endemic to North America and it is distributed from southwestern USA to the central-southern part of Mexico (Ocampo, 2011). The current known distribution of the species corresponds to a discontinuous area from southern USA to the northern part of the Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt (TMVB), including the Chihuahuan Desert (CD) and the Mexican Plateau (MP); although most of the populations are found in the CD and the MP, a few of them are located on the southern side of

Department of Biology, Basic Sciences Center, Autonomous University of Aguascalientes, 940 University Avenue, Aguascalientes 20130, Mexico;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Biological and Health Sciences PhD Program, Department of Biology, Biological and Health Sciences Division, Autonomous Metropolitan University, Iztapalapa 09340, Mexico

<sup>\*</sup>Corresponding author: Gilberto OCAMPO (E-mail: gilberto.ocampo@edu.uaa.mx) Received 2018-10-08; revised 2019-04-04; accepted 2019-06-24

<sup>©</sup> Xinjiang Institute of Ecology and Geography, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Science Press and Springer-Verlag GmbH Germany, part of Springer Nature 2020

TMVB, in the Tehuacán-Cuicatlán Valley (TCV) (Fig. 1).

The CD is considered as the largest desert in North America and one of the arid regions of the world with higher species richness (Morafka, 1977; Hoyt, 2002). Along with the MP, the CD has been suggested as a center of origin of modern desert taxa and seems to have existed since the middle Miocene (Morafka, 1977). The TCV belongs to the Mexican xerophytic region (Rzedowski, 2005); it has been suggested that it is closely related to the CD, and together with the Actopan and Mesquital valleys is one of the isolated arid areas in the southern part of Mexico (Shreve, 1942). The TCV has a high plant diversity, which represents 10.0%-11.4% of the Mexican plant species (Valiente-Banuet et al., 2009); this percentage includes an elevated number of endemic taxa (Dávila et al., 2002). The TCV history seems to be closely related to TMVB, whose emergence separated the northern-central part (northern tectonic domain) from the southern region (southern tectonic domain) of Mexico (Ferrari et al., 1999; Cevallos et al., 2012), and promoted the differentiation of the CD and the southwestern semi-desert relicts (De-Nova et al., 2018). The complex history of the arid zones of North America (Wilson and Pitts, 2010; Hafner and Riddle, 2011) and the distribution pattern of T. frutescens, raise questions about the factors that shaped the disjunct distribution of the species and if this distribution has suffered changes through time.

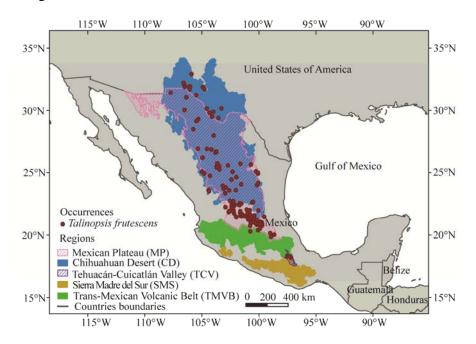


Fig. 1 Current known distribution of *Talinopsis frutescens*, including relevant biogeographic regions mentioned in the text

There is evidence that arid environments have experienced drastic climate changes during the last glacial period (Metcalfe, 2006), especially during the Last Inter Glacial (LIG; 1.2×10<sup>5</sup>–1.4×10<sup>5</sup> years ago) and the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM; about 2.2×10<sup>4</sup> years ago) periods. Some studies show that several native species from arid environments have had changes in their distribution range in response to past climatic fluctuations, as is the case of *Berberis trifoliolata* (Berberidaceae; Angulo et al., 2017), *Ephedra compacta* (Ephedraceae; Loera et al., 2017), *Larrea tridentata* (Zygophyllaceae; Hunter et al., 2001) and *Lindleya mespiloides* (Rosaceae; Vásquez-Cruz and Sosa, 2016). Because *T. frutescens* is mainly distributed in arid environments, it is likely that those climatic oscillations affected its distribution range. Therefore, the aim of this study was to estimate if climatic conditions during the LIG and the LGM periods affected the distribution range of *T. frutescens*. In addition, and as an exploratory approach,

changes in the distribution range of the species due to global warming caused by the increase of greenhouse gas emissions were explored.

#### 2 Materials and methods

#### 2.1 Study area

Talinopsis frutescens occurs in the CD, from the southern part of the USA to the TMVB, through the MP and to the TCV in the central part of Mexico (Fig. 1). The CD is the largest desert in North America with an area of 6.48×10<sup>5</sup> km<sup>2</sup> and is one of the most biologically diverse arid regions in the world (Morafka, 1977; Hoyt, 2002). The MP corresponds to the area located between the Sierra Madre Occidental and the Sierra Madre Oriental. The vegetation consists on grass steppes with Bouteloua and Aristida, spread between xeric scrubs, and forests in the plains and intermontane valleys (Morrone, 2005). The floristic province of the TCV is considered part of the Mexican xerophytic region (Rzedowski, 2005) and it is located in the southern part of the state of Puebla and northern Oaxaca. The valley covers an area of almost 1.00×10<sup>4</sup> km<sup>2</sup> and represents a complex physiographic mosaic with internal valleys, separated by numerous mountain chains. Plant diversity represents 10.0%–11.4% of the national diversity with a high number of endemisms (Dávila et al., 2002).

# 2.2 Talinopsis frutescens

Individuals of the species are small shrubs with tuberous roots, its succulent leaves are deciduous in the dry season, and the inflorescences have few yellow (e.g., Rzedowski, 2005; Ocampo, 2011) to pink (Kiger, 2003) flowers. The species mainly occurs in dry forest and xerophytic scrubs, although it has been found in crops, grasslands, and secondary vegetation derived from coniferous and pine-oak forests at elevations from 1000–1300 to 2300–2500 m a.s.l. (Ocampo, 2011).

Talinopsis frutescens has been poorly studied and biological aspects such as pollination, dispersion and interactions with other organisms are not clear. However, it has been observed in the field that seeds of *T. frutescens* usually germinate close or under other plants such as cacti, *Parthenium* sp. (Asteraceae), and *Larrea tridentata* (Zygophyllaceae). In addition, it is known that flowers bloom only once and only remain open for a few hours, suggesting that chances for cross-pollination are limited (Miguel-Vázquez and Ocampo, 2017).

## 2.3 Data and ecological niche modeling (ENM)

A total of 146 records of *T. frutescens* were obtained from biodiversity datasets, herbarium specimens, and our own collections (Table S1 of the Appendix). All records included in this study were at least 1 km away from each other. The 19 environmental variables provided by WorldClim 1.4 for present and future conditions (year 2070) were employed; for the latter scenario, 4 different Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs; 2.6, 4.5, 6.0 and 8.5) were considered (Hijmans et al., 2005). Past projections included the LIG and LGM data (Otto-Bliesner et al., 2006). All data sets have a 1 km×1 km spatial resolution except the LGM layers, which have a 5 km×5 km resolution.

We performed simulations with Maxent v3.4.0 (Phillips et al., 2017) using the Community Climate System Model (CCSM4; Gent et al., 2011) with a convergence threshold= $10^{-5}$ , the maximum iterations=1000, regularization multiplier=1, and the default values for the rest of the modeling parameters. To evaluate the quality of the model, we partitioned the data into training (75%) and testing (25%) data sets.

To confirm that the variables with the highest contribution percentages for each one of the seven models were not highly correlated (r>0.90), we carried out a Pearson's correlation analysis among the 19 variables using ENMTools (Warren et al., 2008). In addition, this program was employed to statistically compare the niche breadth (Nakazato et al., 2010) of the seven models obtained, using B1 and B2 metrics (Levins, 1968) to measure the uniformity of the distribution of the species among resources (Rolando, 1990).

#### 3 Results

The variable with the highest contribution to the ENM for the LIG and the present scenarios was temperature seasonality, with 24.7% and 22.4%, respectively. On the other hand, the variable with the highest contribution for the LGM and for the four future projections was isothermality (temperature mean diurnal range/precipitation of the driest quarter; 25.7%–33.5%), followed by the precipitation of the coldest quarter (18.9%–23.9%); both variables together contributed to the models in almost 50.0% (Table 1). None of the most important variables for each model had correlation values (r) higher than 0.90 (data not shown). For the niche breadth test, we used a standardized measure from the R package ENMTools, based on the B2 metric from Levins (1968). We report but do not discuss B1 values, because the author of the package notes that the current implementation in ENMTools is a standardized value that, in combination with the logarithmic equation of B1, can lead to incorrect interpretations of the metric that becomes dependent on sample size. B2 metric is a standardized measure of niche breadth that only has a meaning in the context of our resultant models; it works with the suitability values from the same models rather than with the proportion of the species found in a given space as originally described. B2 is reported as a general measure of how the suitability values are distributed in all non-null cells; the values range from 0 to 1, where zero is the most reduced breath and one represents the maximum breadth. The highest value was obtained for the LIG (B2=0.9231), while the lowest value was obtained for the LGM (B2=0.8875). The B2 value for the present was 0.9101 and the values obtained for the four future scenarios varied moderately with respect to the present scenario (Table 2).

**Table 1** Relative contributions of environmental variables to the Maxent model under different scenarios

Variable	Name of the variable	Contribution (%)						
code		LIG	LGM	Present	Future RCP 2.6	Future RCP 4.5	Future RCP 6.0	Future RCP 8.5
BIO 1	Annual mean temperature	3.8						
BIO 2	Mean diurnal range		4.8	8.6	1.4	3.0	5.4	7.7
BIO 3	Isothermality		32.9	9.2	33.5	27.8	29.2	25.7
BIO 4	Temperature seasonality	24.7	8.5	22.4	9.4	9.4	9.0	13.1
BIO 5	Maximum temperature of warmest month	1.3	2.0	1.1				
BIO 6	Minimim temperature of coldest month	7.5						
BIO 7	Temperature annual range			2.7	2.8	4.9	4.9	2.2
BIO 8	Mean temperature of wettest quarter						1.2	
BIO 9	Mean temperature of driest quarter		9.0	15.3	12.3	12.2	11.1	11.0
BIO 10	Mean temperature of warmest quarter	11.3	6.8		1.2			
BIO 11	Mean temperature of coldest quarter		1.9					
BIO 12	Annual precipitation		1.1	2.8				
BIO 13	Precipitation of wettest month	6.7	2.5			4.3	1.1	
BIO 14	Precipitation of driest month	10.5	2.8	1.8	5.4	6.9		2.8
BIO 15	Precipitation seasonality	9.3	1.5	13.4	5.9	8.5	6.9	6.4
BIO 16	Precipitation of wettest quarter		1.9	1.5	3.6	1.6		3.2
BIO 17	Precipitation of driest quarter	11.0	2.0				3.9	2.0
BIO 18	Precipitation of warmest quarter	9.2						
BIO 19	Precipitation of coldest quarter	1.2	18.7	18.9	21.4	19.4	23.9	23.0

Note: Only values higher than 1 are shown. Future scenarios correspond to year 2070. LIG, Last Inter Glacial; LGM, Last Glacial Maximum; RCP, Representative Concentration Pathways.

		•
Scenario	B1	B2
LIG	0.2200	0.9231
LGM	0.1893	0.8875
Present	0.1839	0.9101
Future RCP 2.6	0.2055	0.9154
Future RCP 4.5	0.2012	0.9136
Future RCP 6.0	0.2110	0.9163
Future RCP 8.5	0.2079	0.9156

**Table 2** Niche breadth metrics obtained for each one of the scenarios included in this study

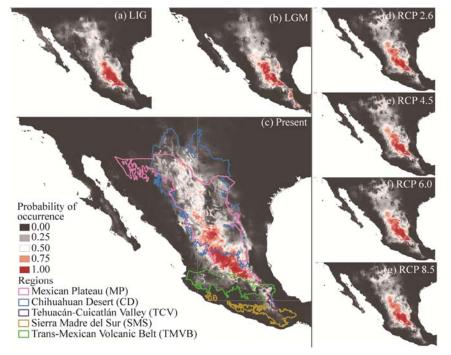
Note: The niche breadth test was performed in ENMTools.

The area with the highest probabilities of occurrence for the LIG model is concentrated in the southern-central part of the MP and a very small area in the northern part of the CD; the probability of occurrence for the TCV is very low (Fig. 2a).

The LGM model estimated a shift of the distribution range towards the southern part of Mexico, showing high probabilities of occurrence in three well defined regions: the southern part of the MP, the TCV and the southern part of the Sierra Madre del Sur (SMS; Fig. 2b).

The model for the present scenario properly predicted the known distribution range of *T. frutescens*, assigning high probabilities of occurrence mainly to the southern-central part of USA, the MP and the TCV, excluding the mountain region of the TMVB (Fig. 2c).

All future scenarios for the distribution of *T. frutescens* showed a general pattern of reduction and fragmentation of its distribution range when compared to the present (Figs. 2d–g). High probabilities of occurrence are concentrated in the central and meridional part of the MP, while a very reduced and isolated suitable area in the northern part of the CD was predicted for three RCP scenarios (4.5, 6.0 and 8.5; Figs. 2e–g). In addition, an important pattern of range reduction was also detected in the TCV, where areas with high probabilities of occurrence were almost absent.



**Fig. 2** Ecological niche modeling of *Talinopsis frutescens* under different scenarios. a and b, Past: (a) Last Interglacial; (b) Last Glacial Maximum. (c) Present. d–g, Future, year 2070: (d) RCP 2.6; (e) RCP 4.5; (f) RCP 6.0; (g) RCP 8.5. Probabilities of occurrence are presented in color ramp, where the highest values are represented in red, and the lowest value in black. The present scenario includes the biogeographic regions mentioned in the text.

#### 4 Discussion

The projection made for the LIG shows high probabilities of occurrence concentrated mainly in the central part of the MP, with small areas in the northern part of the CD. Although the niche breadth metric value for the LIG scenario was the highest, the area with high probabilities of occurrence of the species was concentrated only in the southern part of the MP; the probabilities of occurrence of the species in the TCV are very low, so a contraction event during the LIG period can be inferred when comparing this distribution range with the present scenario. This pattern agrees with estimations for some arid environmental taxa such as *Agave lechuguilla* (Scheinvar et al., 2017), *Berberis trifoliolata* (Angulo et al., 2017) and *Ephedra compacta* (Loera et al., 2017), where the present distribution is larger than the predicted for the LIG period. However, there are few examples where the distribution range predicted for the LIG and the present was very similar in both scenarios, like the pattern observed for *Lindleya mespiloides* (Vásquez-Cruz and Sosa, 2016).

The shift towards the southern part of Mexico predicted for the LGM period may have been propitiated by variations in the precipitation regime (amount and seasonality), temperature and sea level, which promoted migration of many arid environmental taxa to lower latitudes (Metcalfe, 2006). It is noteworthy that the three areas with predicted high occurrence probabilities during the LGM period were apparently isolated from each other. The formation of the TMVB, specifically its last volcanic episode (from the late Pliocene to the Holocene; Gómez-Truena et al., 2007) may be responsible for this pattern in the southern part of the distribution range of the species, where the populations were potentially isolated from those located in the MP; coupled with this pattern, the niche breadth metric obtained for the LGM was the lowest, suggesting a reduction in the area potentially occupied by the species in that period. In general, the models and the values obtained from the niche breadth test support the hypothesis that the distribution range of T. frutescens changed throughout the last interglacial and glacial periods. Studies on native species from arid environments have shown that their distribution range experienced contraction and fragmentation patterns during the LGM period. For instance, Larrea tridentata is one of the most common and important elements in the CD and currently has a broad distribution range in the MP; however, it is known that its distribution range experienced contractions and expansions and recently (Holocene) has expanded to the northern part of the CD (Duran et al., 2005). The fact that L. tridentata may act as a nurse plant of T. frutescens (Miguel-Vázquez and Ocampo, 2017) and that both species have a similar pattern of recent expansion to the northern part of the CD, could indicate a close relationship between these two taxa, suggesting a potential correlation in the distribution changes during the LIG and LGM periods. Similar nursing interactions of L. tridentata with other arid environmental plant species, especially cacti, have been documented (Samour-Nieva, 2012). Some implications of the effects of the Pleistocene glacial and interglacial periods have been exposed in other studies, such as gene flow limitation, decline or loss of genetic variation, isolation in refugia and recent expansions (Nason et al., 2002; Ruiz-Sánchez et al., 2012; Scheinvar et al., 2017).

The four future scenarios and the observed reduction and isolation events agree with the models estimated for other taxa, whose distribution ranges have been affected by climate change (Kelly and Goulden, 2008). Our study shows that isothermality (variable with the highest contribution to the model in all future scenarios, ranging from 25.7% to 33.5%) and precipitation in the coldest quarter (19.4%–23.9% contribution) could be factors that affect the distribution range of the species. These results may have strong implications, because climate change not only produces aridification, but also changes in the precipitation regime (IPCC, 2007). It is likely that these two processes will severely impact the distribution range of *T. frutescens* and its associated species; for instance, it is known that the distribution of *L. tridentata* has already been affected by temperature changes due to climate change (Ballesteros-Barrera, 2008). Another study that employed ENM tools focused in *Neobuxbaumia tetetzo* (Cactaceae), an endemic species from the

TCV, showed a pattern of contraction in the distribution range of the species in projections made to the future (Dávila et al., 2013). Recently, Sosa et al. (2018) proposed areas of interest with high number of endemism in Mexico, most of them occurring in places with some conservation status; however, it is worrying that the areas located in the CD are not considered under any legal protection condition. *Talinopsis frutescens* is found in two of the arid regions with the highest biodiversity in North America (CD and TCV), and establishes associations with plants that are emblematic for these areas (i.e., cacti and creosote bush (*L. tridentata*)). Therefore, the data obtained in this study may provide further information for conservation purposes, contributing to understand the evolution of the arid zones of North America, and supporting the creation of new natural protected areas within this important habitat.

#### 5 Conclusions

Our results show that the distribution range of *T. frutescens* may have suffered changes in the past and that it is potentially prone to range reduction and fragmentation due to the effects of climate change. The pattern observed for past scenarios agrees with the results reported for other species from arid environments. This could support the hypothesis of the Pleistocene refugia, where the organisms remained isolated during these periods. The present scenario shows a recent possible expansion in the northern part of the CD, which may have occurred after the LGM once that climatic conditions in the CD changed and the aridification of that region started. Finally, all future projections show a distribution range contraction and fragmentation, including a considerable reduction, or even local extinction, of the southernmost populations of *T. frutescens*, which are located in the TCV.

This is a preliminary study that shows information about the possible behavior of a North American endemic species during the glacial and interglacial periods and, at the same time, provides estimations of the possible effects of global warming on taxa from arid environments. Our results agree with other studies that show the negative effect of this factor on the distribution range of the species, which tends to modify it and may induce local extinctions in the worst scenario. It is expected that this information may help to attract more attention on the changes and effects of higher carbon emissions on deserts and other arid environments; these ecosystems are very important because of the occurrence of a high number of endemic plant and animal species and support a substantial fraction of the North American biota.

## Acknowledgements

This study was partially funded by the National Council of Science and Technology, Mexico (PhD scholarship 436041) and the Cactus and Succulent Society of America grant, both provided to the first author. The research was supported by the Educational Professional Development Program (#UAA-PTC-169) granted to the corresponding author by the Public Education Department and the Autonomous University of Aguascalientes, Mexico.

#### References

Angulo D F, Amarilla L D, Anton A M, et al. 2017. Colonization in North American arid lands: the journey of agarito (*Berberis trifoliolata*) revealed by multilocus molecular data and packrat midden fossil remains. PLoS ONE, 12(2): e0168933.

Ballesteros-Barrera C. 2008. Effect of global climate change on the distribution of Chihuahuan Desert species. PhD Dissertation. México: National Autonomous University of Mexico. (in Spanish)

Cevallos-Ferriz S R S, González-Torres E A, Calvillo-Canadell L. 2012. Paleobotanical and geological perspective of the biodiversity in Mexico. Acta Botanica Mexicana, 100: 317–350. (in Spanish)

Dávila P, del Coro Arizmendi M, Valiente-Banuet A, et al. 2002. Biological diversity in the Tehuacán-Cuicatlán Valley, Mexico. Biodiversity and Conservation, 11(3): 421–442.

Dávila, P, Téllez O, Lira R. 2013. Impact of climate change on the distribution of populations of an endemic Mexican columnar cactus in the Tehuacán-Cuicatlán Valley, Mexico. Plant Biosystems, 147(2): 376–386.

- De-Nova J A, Sánchez-Reyes L L, Eguiarte L E, et al. 2018. Recent radiation and dispersal of an ancient lineage: The case of *Fouquieria* (Fouquiericae, Ericales) in North American deserts. Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution, 126: 92–104.
- Duran K L, Lowrey T K, Parmenter R R, et al. 2005. Genetic diversity in Chihuahuan Desert populations of creosotebush (Zygophyllaceae: *Larrea tridentata*). American Journal of Botany, 92(4): 722–729.
- Ferrari L, López-Martínez M, Aguirre-Díaz G, et al. 1999. Space-time patterns of Cenozoic arc volcanism in central Mexico: from the Sierra Madre Occidental to the Mexican Volcanic Belt. Geology, 27(4): 303–306.
- Gent P R, Danabasoglu G, Donner L J, et al. 2011. The community climate system model version 4. Journal of Climate, 24(19): 4973–4991.
- Gómez-Tuena A, Orozco-Esquivel M T, Ferrari L. 2007. Igneous petrogenesis of the Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt. Geological Society of America, 422: 129–181.
- Hafner D J, Riddle B R. 2011. Boundaries and barriers of North American warm deserts: an evolutionary perspective. In: Upchurch P, McGowan A J, Slater C S C. Palaeogeography and Palaeobiogeography: Biodiversity in Space and Time. Boca Raton: Taylor and Francis Group, 74–101.
- Hernández-Ledesma P, Berendsohn W G, Borsch T, et al. 2015. A taxonomic backbone for the global synthesis of species diversity in the angiosperm order Caryophyllales. Willdenowia, 45(3): 281–383.
- Hijmans R J, Cameron S E, Parra J L, et al. 2005. Very high resolution interpolated climate surfaces for global land areas. International Journal of Climatology, 25(15): 1965–1978.
- Hoyt C. 2002. The Chihuahuan Desert: diversity at risk. Endangered Species Bulletin, 27(2): 16-17.
- Hunter K L, Betancourt J L, Riddle B R, et al. 2001. Ploidy race distributions since the Last Glacial Maximum in the North American desert shrub, *Larrea tridentata*. Global Ecology and Biogeography, 10(5): 521–533.
- IPCC. 2007. Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 996.
- Kelly A E, Goulden M L. 2008. Rapid shifts in plant distribution with recent climate change. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 105(33): 11823–11826.
- Kiger R W. 2003. *Talinopsis*. In: Flora of North America Editorial Committee, Flora of North America North of Mexico, Vol. 4. Magnoliophyta: Caryophyllidae, Pt. 1. New York: Oxford University Press, 501–502.
- Levins R. 1968. Evolution in Changing Environments. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 132.
- Loera I, Ickert-Bond S M, Sosa V. 2017. Pleistocene refugia in the Chihuahuan Desert: the phylogeographic and demographic history of the gymnosperm Ephedra compacta. Journal of Biogeography, 44(12): 2706–2716.
- Metcalfe S E. 2006. Late quaternary environments of the northern deserts and Central Transvolcanic Belt of Mexico. Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden, 93(2): 258–273.
- Miguel-Vázquez M I, Ocampo G. 2017. Knowing more about *Talinopsis frutescens* (arroyo fameflower) a North American endemic succulent species. Cactus and Succulent Journal, 89(2): 88–91.
- Morafka D J. 1977. A Biogeographical Analysis of the Chihuahuan Desert through its Herpetofauna. The Hague: Dr. W. Junk B.V., 321.
- Morrone J J. 2005. Toward a synthesis of Mexican biogeography. Mexican Journal of Biodiversity, 76(2): 207-252. (in Spanish)
- Nakazato T, Warren D L, Moyle L C. 2010. Ecological and geographic modes of species divergence in wild tomatoes. American Journal of Botany, 97(4): 680–693.
- Nason J D, Hamrick J L, Fleming T H. 2002. Historical vicariance and postglacial colonization effects on the evolution of genetic structure in *Lophocereus*, a Sonoran Desert columnar cactus. Evolution, 56(11): 2214–2226.
- Ocampo G, Columbus J T. 2010. Molecular phylogenetics of suborder Cactineae (Caryophyllales), including insights into photosynthetic diversification and historical biogeography. American Journal of Botany, 97(11): 1827–1847.
- Ocampo G. 2011. Anacampserotaceae. Flora del Valle de Tehuacán-Cuicatlán, 84: 1-12.
- Otto-Bliesner B L, Marshall S J, Overpeck J T, et al. 2006. Simulating Arctic climate warmth and icefield retreat in the last interglaciation. Science, 311(5768): 1751–1753.
- Phillips S J, Anderson R P, Dudík M, et al. 2017. Opening the black box: an open-source release of Maxent. Ecography, 40(7): 887–893.
- Rolando A. 1990. On niche breadth and related concepts. Italian Journal of Zoology, 57(2): 145-148.
- Ruiz-Sanchez E, Rodriguez-Gomez F, Sosa V. 2012. Refugia and geographic barriers of populations of the desert poppy, Hunnemannia fumariifolia (Papaveraceae). Organisms Diversity and Evolution, 12:133–143.
- Rzedowski G C. 2005. Talinopsis. In: Rzedowski G C, Rzedowski J. Phanerogamic Flora of the Valley of Mexico. Pátzcuaro: Institute of Ecology, A. C., National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity, 147. (in Spanish)
- Rzodowski J. 2006. Vegetation of Mexico (1st ed.). México: National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity,

- 504. (in Spanish)
- Samour-Nieva O R. 2012. Nurse effect of *Larrea tridentata* and its impact on the diversity of perennial plant species in the Potosino plateau region, Mexico. Msc Thesis. Mexico: Potosino Institute of Scientific and Technological Research, A.C. (in Spanish)
- Scheinvar E, Gámez N, Castellanos-Morales G, et al. 2017. Neogene and Pleistocene history of *Agave lechuguilla* in the Chihuahuan Desert. Journal of Biogeography, 44(2): 322–334.
- Shreve F. 1942. The desert vegetation of North America. The Botanical Review, 8: 195-246.
- Sosa V, De-Nova J A, Vásquez-Cruz M. 2018. Evolutionary history of the flora of Mexico: Dry forests cradles and museums of endemism. Journal of Systematics and Evolution, 56 (5): 523–536.
- Valiente-Banuet A, Solis-Rojas L, Dávila P, et al. 2009. Guide of the vegetation of the Tehuacán-Cuicatlán Valley (1st ed.). Mexico: National Autonomous University of Mexico, 208. (in Spanish)
- Vásquez-Cruz M, Sosa V. 2016. New insights on the origin of the woody flora of the Chihuahuan Desert: The case of *Lindleya*, American Journal of Botany, 103(9): 1694–1707.
- Walker J F, Yang Y, Feng T, et al. 2018. From cacti to carnivores: Improved phylotranscriptomic sampling and hierarchical homology inference provide further insight into the evolution of Caryophyllales. American Journal of Botany, 105(3): 446–462.
- Warren D L, Glor R E, Turelli M. 2008. Environmental niche equivalency versus conservatism: quantitative approaches to niche evolution. Evolution, 62(11): 2868–2883.
- Wilson J S, Pitts J P. 2010. Illuminating the lack of consensus among descriptions of earth history data in the North American deserts: A resource for biologists. Progress in Physical Geography: Earth and Environment, 34(4): 419–441.

# Appendix

 Table S1
 Data sources

Country	State	City/County	Record
United	New Mexico	Doña Ana	P. J. Alexander 941 (SP); F. R. Fosberg 53581 (RSA); R. D.
States of America		Otero	Worthington 14310. 17204. 17214 (SP). E. Ward and R. Soreng 81/545 (SP).
	Texas	Brewster	A. M. Powell and B. Turner 6457 (SP); Sherman et al. 123 (GBIF).
		Culberson	Y. Chauvin 07YC027-DS11 (SP); R. D. Worthington 23377 (SP).
		El Paso	R. D. Worthington 19892 (SP); R. D. Worthington 18335 (SP); R. D. Worthington 18345 (SP); R. D. Worthington 25171 (SP).
		Hudspeth	R. D. Worthington s.n. (SP).
		Presidio	W. R. Carr 31783 (SP); E. J. Lott et al. 4717 (SP); A. C. Sanders 416 (SP); R. D. Worthington 22592 (RSA).
Mexico	Aguascalientes	Aguascalientes	M. de la Cerda 1216 (HUAA); G. García 4516 (HUAA); G. Gonzále A. 310 (HUAA); G. Ocampo A. 1949 (HUAA).
		Asientos	G. García 5490a (HUAA).
		Calvillo	M. de la Cerda and G. García 1119 (HUAA); G. González A. 1073 (HUAA); M. C. Macías 311 (HUAA).
		Cosío	M. E. Siqueiros D. 2510 (HUAA).
		Jesús María	M. de la Cerda 6232 (HUAA); G. García 5453 (HUAA).
		Rincón de Romos	M. de la Cerda 1608 (HUAA); G. García 5526 (HUAA).
	CL I	San José de Gracia	M. de la Cerda and G. García 1058 (HUAA).
	Chihuahua	Ahumada Aldama	E. Lehto et al. L-21487 (S. P.).  M. Miguel V. et al. 771, 772 (HUAA); C. Yen and E. Estrada 8693
		Allanda	(ANSM). E. Aldrete M. s.n. (INEGI).
		Allende	` /
		Aquiles Serdán Ascención	<ul><li>E. Lehto et al. L-21555 (SP).</li><li>V. M. López S. V5.4 (INEGI).</li></ul>
		Camargo	R. Aguirre C. s.n. (INEGI).
		Jiménez	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
	Coahuila		J. Henrickson 5954b (MEXU); M. Miguel V. et al. 773 (HUAA).
	Соапина	Múzquiz	R. Morán 6264 (MEXU). J. A. Villarreal and M. A. Carranza 4526 (ANSM).
		Ramos Arizpe	
	Durango	Torreón Gómez Palacio	E. Estrada 20689 (ANSM).  H. S. Gentry and R. G. Engard 23096 (GBIF); M. Miguel V. et al. 77 (HUAA).
		Guadalupe Victoria	H. S. Gentry 8401 (RSA).
		Hidalgo	M. Miguel V. et al. 770 (HUAA); E. Morales 14 (CIIDIR).
		Lerdo	H. H. Iltis 101 (UNIBIO); M. C. Johnston et al. *258619 LL (REMIN J. A. Villarreal *258615 TEX (REMIN).
		Mezquital	M. C. González G. 652 (CIIDIR); Y. Herrera 137 (CIIDIR); M. Miguel V. et al. 768 (HUAA).
		Nuevo Ideal	N. Almaraz A. 39 (CIIDIR); M. Miguel V. et al. 769 (HUAA).
		Santiago Papasquiaro	R. Corral D. and R. D. Worthington 500 (GBIF).
		Tlahualilo	A. García A. 3009, 3048, 3255, 3340, 3737 (CIIDIR)
	Guanajuato	Comonfort	S. Zamudio 5663 (RSA).
		Dolores Hidalgo	M. Miguel V. et al. 756 (HUAA); R. Ocampo 51 (IEB); E. Ventura and E. López 6068 (IEB).
		Ocampo	E. Carranza and L. Torres R. 4107 (IEB); M. Miguel V. et al. 755 (HUAA); J. Rzedowski 52260 (IEB).
		San Diego de la Unión	J. Rzedowski 52110 (IEB).
		San Felipe	J. Rzedowski 38658, 43650 (IEB).
		San José Iturbide	J. Gutiérrez G. and A. Ramírez 152, 386 (IEB).
		San Luis de la Paz	J. N. Labat and E. Carranza G. 2525 (GBIF); M. Miguel V. et al. 75 (HUAA); E. Ventura 9372 (IEB); S. Zamudio R. et al. 11599 (IEB)
		San Miguel de Allende	G. Ocampo A. and N. Sandoval 1937 (HUAA).
		Tarimoro	J. Rzedowski 40538 (IEB).
		Victoria	M. Miguel V. et al. 758 (HUAA).

Continued

Country	State	City/County	Record
	Hidalgo	Ajacuba	M. Miguel V. et al. 762 (HUAA).
		Epazoyucan	J. Rzedowski s.n. (REMIB).
		Tizayuca	M. E. Castilla and D. Tejero s.n. (REMIB).
	Jalisco	Lagos de Moreno	R. McVaugh s.n. (REMIB); M. Miguel V. et al. 754 (HUAA).
		Ojuelos de Jalisco	P. Carrillo-Reyes et al. 465, 505 (IEB); G. López D. et al. 17 (IEB).
	Nuevo León	Aramberri	GSH s.n. (GBIF); M. Miguel V. et al. 775 (HUAA).
		Galeana	Hinton et al. 25675 (IEB); s.n. (REMIB).
		Rayones	Hinton et al. 20816 (GBIF).
		Santa Catarina	J. A. Villarreal and D. Jasso 9055 (GBIF).
	Puebla	San José Miahuatlán	F. Chiang C. F-2236 (MEXU); M. Miguel V. et al. 764 (HUAA); A. Salinas T. 4070 (MEXU).
		Zapotitlán	M. Miguel V. et al. 763 (HUAA).
	Querétaro	Cadereyta de Montes	M. Miguel V. et al. 760 (HUAA); O. Rubio G. 329 (IEB); S. Zamudio R. 3183 (IEB).
		Colón	J. Rzedowski 48818 (IEB); S. Zamudio R. 7383 (IEB).
		El Marqués	G. Ocampo and D. García 1003 (IEB).
		Peñamiller	M. Miguel V. et al. 759 (HUAA); G. Ocampo A. and E. Pérez C. 1024 (RSA); S. Zamudio R. 3689 (IEB).
		San Juan del Río	M. Miguel V. et al. 765 (HUAA).
		Tequisquiapan	M. Miguel V. et al. 761 (HUAA).
		Tolimán	G. Ocampo A. and E. Pérez C. 1218 (RSA); S. Zamudio R. 12200
	San Luis	Ciudad Fernández	F. Chiang et al. 8205 (GBIF).
	Potosí	Guadalcázar	McGill et al. P-13527 (SP); O. J. Soto A. s.n. (INEGI).
		Salinas de Hidalgo	G. Ocampo A. et al. 1943 (HUAA).
		Santa María del Río	V. W. Steinmann et al. 3777 (IEB).
		Villa de Reyes	J. A. Villarreal and J. Zavala B. 8449 (GBIF); J. García et al. 1277 (GBIF).
		Zaragoza	T. Reeves R-6274 (GBIF).
	Zacatecas	Cañitas de Felipe	J. J. Balleza and M. Adame G. 13557 (GBIF).
		Cuauhtémoc	M. Miguel V. et al. 766 (HUAA).
		Fresnillo	M. Miguel V. et al. 767 (HUAA); E. J. Rodríguez-Pérez 1610 (UAZ).
		Guadalupe	E. J. Rodríguez-Pérez 894 (UAZ).
		Loreto	J. J. Balleza and M. Adame G. 13944 (GBIF).
		Luis Moya	E. J. Rodríguez-Pérez 1603 (UAZ).
		Mazapil	F. Chiang C. et al. 7911 (GBIF); M. Miguel V. et al. 776 (HUAA); E.
		Melchor Ocampo	M. C. Johnson et al. 11536-B (GBIF).
		Ojocaliente	E. J. Rodríguez-Pérez 1604 (UAZ).
		Pinos	M. Miguel V. et al. 778 (HUAA).
		Río Grande	F. Chiang C. et al. 10422-A (GBIF); E. J. Rodríguez-Pérez 1606, 1607 (UAZ).
		Trancoso	G. Ocampo A. et al. 1948 (HUAA).
		Villa de Cos	McGill et al. P-13505 (SP).
		Villa García	J. J. Balleza and M. Adame G. 14051 (GBIF).
		Villa Hidalgo	E. J. Rodríguez-Pérez 1608, 1609 (UAZ).

Note: Biodiversity Datasets: GBIF, Global Biodiversity Information Facility (https://www.gbif.org); REMIB, Red Mundial de Información sobre Biodiversidad-Conabio (http://www.conabio.gob.mx/remib/doctos/remib\_esp.html); SP, Sernec Portal (http://sernecportal.org/portal/); UNIBIO, Unidad de Informática para la Biodiversidad, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (http://unibio.unam.mx). Herbaria: ANSM, Universidad Autónoma Agraria Antonio Narro, Mexico; CIIDIR, Instituto Politécnico Nacional, CIIDIR Unidad Durango, Mexico; HUAA, Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes, Mexico; IBB, Instituto de Ecología, A.C., Centro Regional del Bajío, Mexico; INEGI, Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografia, Mexico; MEXU, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico; RSA (Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, USA; UAZ, Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas, Mexico. Others: s.n., without number; \*, numbers preceded by an asterisk correspond to herbarium accession numbers.