

---

## *Supplementary Material*

Root respiration-trait relationships are influenced by leaf habit in tropical plants

Danting Deng, Yanfei Sun \*, Meiqiu Yang

\* Corresponding author: Yanfei Sun

Tel: +86 0898-66263571

E-mail: [sunyanfei@hainanu.edu.cn](mailto:sunyanfei@hainanu.edu.cn)

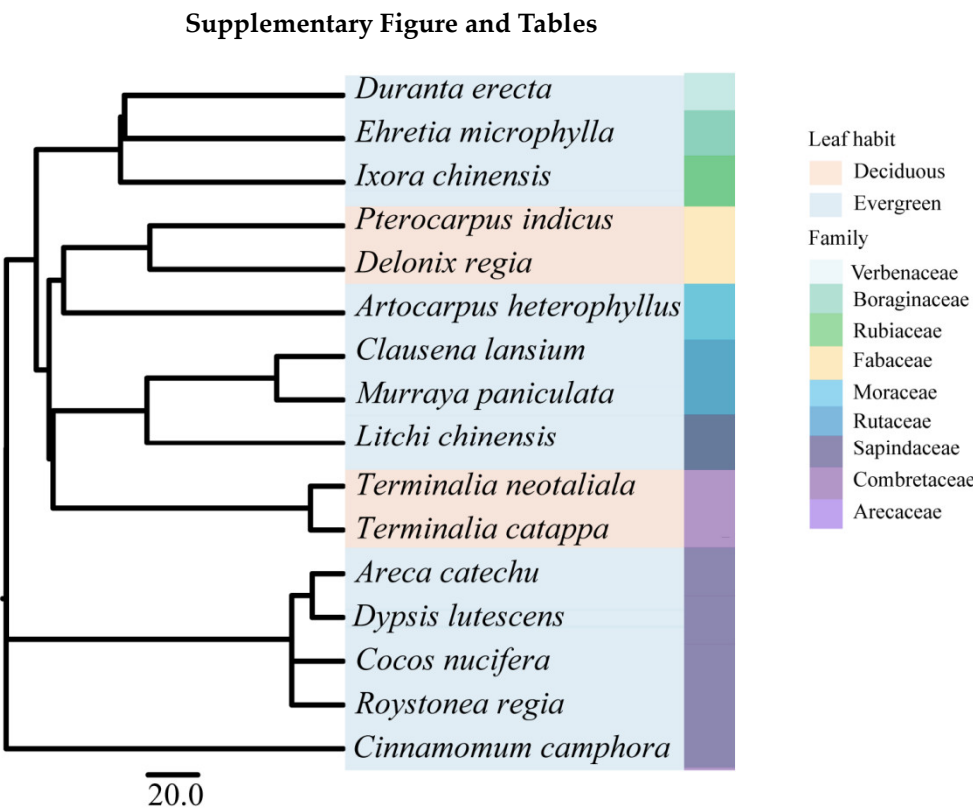
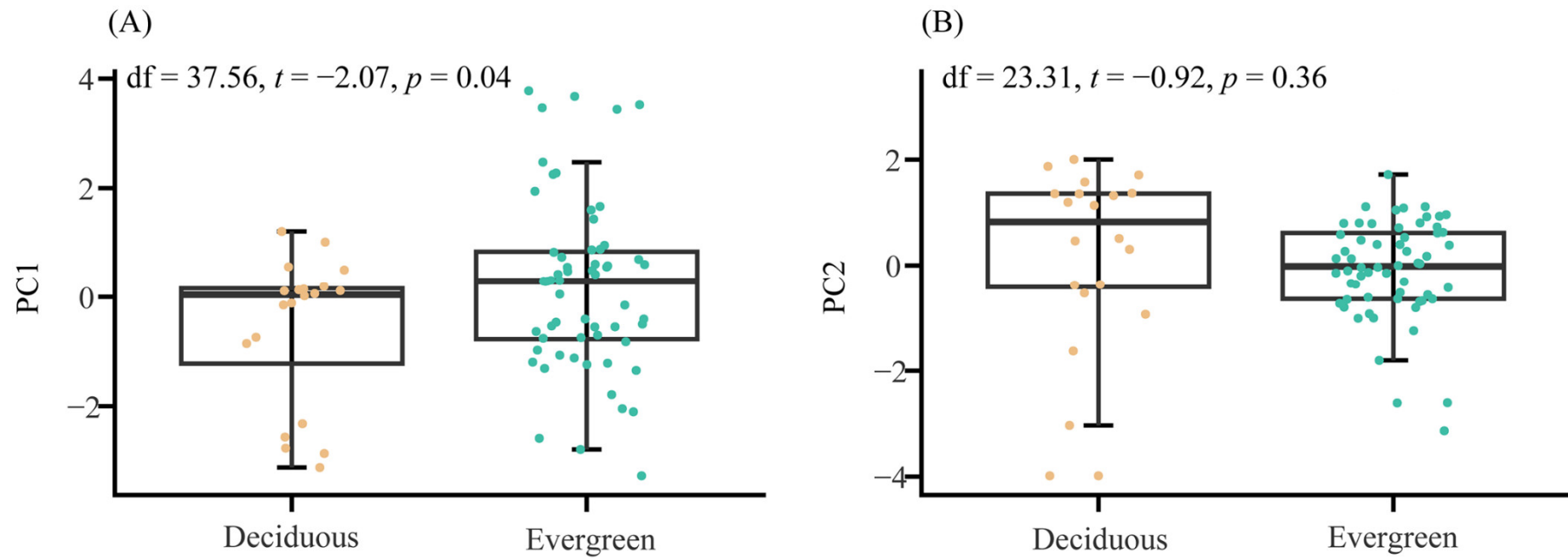


Figure S1. Phylogeny trees mapped onto each of the 16 species in this study.



**Figure S2.** Results of independent-samples t-test for elucidating the differences between deciduous and evergreen species along PC1 and PC2. Box-plots illustrate the inter-quartile range (25%–75%).

**Table S1.** The test of the phylogenetic signal of the root traits, including Blomberg's K and Pagel's  $\lambda$ .

Root traits	Blomberg's K test		Pagel's $\lambda$	
	K	p	$\lambda$	p
SRL (m g <sup>-1</sup> )	0.35	0.56	0.02	0.94
RD (mm)	0.57	0.12	0.44	0.17
RTD (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	0.28	0.77	0.00	1
RCC (mg g <sup>-1</sup> )	0.62	0.08	0.61	0.38
RNC (mg g <sup>-1</sup> )	0.52	0.23	0.3	0.43
C/N	0.55	0.16	0.35	0.35
RR (nmol CO <sub>2</sub> g <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	0.33	0.58	0.00	1

SRL, specific root length; RD, root diameter; RTD, root tissue density; RCC, root carbon concentration; RNC, root nitrogen concentration; C/N, root carbon-to-nitrogen ratio; RR, root respiration rate.

**Table S2.** Results of the PCA on root morphological traits (*e.g.*, SRL, RD, and RTD), chemical traits, and respiration rate for the 16 study species and deciduous with evergreen.

Traits	All species		Deciduous		Evergreen	
	PC1	PC2	PC1	PC2	PC1	PC2
RR (nmol CO <sub>2</sub> g <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	-0.46	-0.36	-0.20	-0.57	-0.44	-0.36
RNC (mg g <sup>-1</sup> )	-0.27	-0.22	-0.52	-0.05	-0.41	0.41
RD (mm)	0.50	-0.44	-0.50	0.31	0.47	-0.21
RTD (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	0.26	0.57	0.30	0.47	0.27	0.54
RCC (mg g <sup>-1</sup> )	0.19	-0.53	-0.46	-0.18	0.19	-0.59
SRL (m g <sup>-1</sup> )	-0.59	0.09	0.37	-0.56	-0.55	0.13
Proportion Var (%)	40.8	22.3	50.5	29.2	48.2	20.2
Cumulative Var (%)	40.8	63.1	50.5	79.7	48.2	68.4

The table depicts loading scores on each axis and shows the proportion of variation explained. RR, root respiration rate; RNC, root nitrogen concentration; RD, root diameter; RTD, root tissue density; RCC, root carbon concentration; SRL, specific root length. PC represented the axis of the PCA.

**Table S3.** The relationships between root respiration and the co-variation in root traits (PC1 and PC2).

Traits	ALL		Deciduous		Evergreen	
	PC1	PC2	PC1	PC2	PC1	PC2
RR	-0.48 ***	0.34 **	-0.21	-0.54 *	-0.58 ***	-0.27 *

RR, root respiration rate; PC represented the axis of the PCA. \*  $p < 0.05$ ; \*\*  $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ .