



A morphospace of planktonic marine diatoms. I. Two views of disparity through time

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1 **A morphospace of planktonic marine diatoms, part I: Two views of disparity through time**

2 Benjamin Kotrc and Andrew H. Knoll

3

4 RRH: DIATOM MORPHOSPACE PART I: DISPARITY

5 LRH: BENJAMIN KOTRC AND ANDREW H. KNOLL

6
7 *Abstract.*—Both molecular clocks and the first appearances of major groups in the fossil record
8 suggest that most of the range of diatom morphologies observed today had evolved by the end of
9 the Cretaceous Period. Despite this, a canonical reading of the Cenozoic fossil record suggests a
10 dramatic rise in taxonomic diversity that can be interpreted as an explosion of morphological
11 variety. We investigated this apparent discrepancy using a discrete-character-based, empirical
12 diatom morphospace, resolved by molecular phylogeny and by fossil occurrences through time.
13 The morphospace shows little correspondence to phylogeny and little Cenozoic change in
14 disparity as measured by mean pairwise distance. There is, however, an increase in the total
15 volume of morphospace occupied. Although the increase in occupied volume through time
16 ostensibly supports a conclusion of increasing morphological variety, sampling biases and other
17 data suggest an underlying stationary pattern more consistent with molecular clock data.

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Introduction

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Diatoms are a diverse and ecologically important part of the marine phytoplankton, responsible for a substantial proportion of Earth's total photosynthesis (ca. 10–20%, according to estimates of Raven 2003 and Nelson 1995). Beyond their significance at the base of the food web, diatoms are important to the global carbon cycle because they sink readily and thus export carbon from the surface ocean (Dugdale and Wilkerson 1998). This is due in part to their relatively large cell size and growth in chains and blooms, but also to the ballast provided by their silicified cell walls, or frustules.

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Diatom frustules are highly preservable and can accumulate in great numbers in marine sediments, endowing marine planktonic diatoms with an extensive fossil record that stretches back at least to the early Cretaceous Period. Their abundance and morphological diversity makes them useful as biostratigraphic markers, particularly in the Cenozoic Era, and thus extensive data exist about their occurrence through time. The *Neptune* database (Lazarus 1994; Spencer-Cervato 1999), for example, is a compilation of tens of thousands of records of diatom occurrences in sediment cores drilled by the Deep Sea and Ocean Drilling Programs (DSDP and ODP) that provides a rich and readily available data set for macroevolutionary studies representing the combined output of many decades of micropaleontological effort.

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Diatom fossils have been used to address a number of questions—including their diversity history (Spencer-Cervato 1999), biostratigraphy (Fenner 1985; Barron 1985), coevolution with cetaceans (Marx and Uhen 2010), and the Cenozoic silica cycle (Harper and Knoll 1975; Lazarus et al. 2009); however, a fundamental macroevolutionary question remains unresolved: the relationship between diatoms' taxonomic and morphological diversification.

47 Because fossil taxa are defined morphologically, the number of distinct taxa is, by
48 definition, a measure of morphological variety. But this variety can also be measured with more
49 nuance by quantifying aspects of shape directly and then summarizing these measurements by a
50 variety of disparity metrics (Erwin 2007). Both diversity and disparity have been used in
51 macroevolutionary studies of groups with extensive fossil records, including the biomineralizing
52 microplankton. The two measures provide different views of evolutionary change through time,
53 and do not necessarily co-vary.

54 On the contrary, many examples of decoupled changes in diversity and disparity have
55 been documented; clades commonly fill morphological space rapidly at low taxonomic diversity
56 early in their history (reviewed in Foote 1997: p. 137), a pattern referred to as “asymmetric
57 diversification” (Webster 2007). Perhaps the most famous large-scale example is the Cambrian
58 explosion, when the major animal body plans evolved early (high disparity), leaving the rest of
59 the Phanerozoic to play out in relative macromorphological stasis while taxonomic diversity
60 increased (e.g., Gould 1989; Erwin et al. 2011). In this study, we examine whether this pattern is
61 also common to the diatoms.

62 The history of diatom taxonomic diversity has conventionally been taken to support a
63 pattern of major morphological diversification late in the group’s history, associated with a steep
64 rise in ecological prominence through the Cenozoic Era. Other lines of evidence, however,
65 suggest that diatoms may have remained broadly morphologically unchanged over the past 65
66 million years: both molecular clocks (Kooistra and Medlin 1996; Sorhannus 2007) and fossil
67 discoveries (reviewed in Sims et al. 2006) suggest that all major morphological groups of
68 diatoms were present by the end of the Paleocene Epoch. The question of whether the suggested
69 Cenozoic evolutionary history of the diatoms is better described as stationary or diversifying has
70 become increasingly intriguing with recent work suggesting that the Cenozoic rise in taxonomic

71 diversity may largely be an artifact of sampling bias (Rabosky and Sorhannus 2009). This makes
72 clear the need for a different—morphological—window on the Cenozoic evolutionary history of
73 the diatoms. In this study, we review the evidence for unchanging diversity as well as for
74 increasing diversity, and use a morphospace to gain a more differentiated view of Cenozoic
75 diatom evolution.

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Diatom Diversity and Disparity

The Importance of Frustule Shape

78 The shape of the diatom frustule is ecologically and thus evolutionarily important because
79 the frustule performs a variety of functions. Indeed, the frustule has been implicated as a key
80 innovation allowing the diatoms to rise to their present-day ecological importance (Kooistra et al.
81 2007; Hamm and Smetacek 2007). While the diatom frustule has not been definitively shown to
82 perform any one single function to the exclusion of all others, a number of evolutionary
83 hypotheses have been presented, which can be summarized under two major headings: those
84 based on a top-down view of diatom evolution, driven by predation, and those based on a bottom-
85 up view, driven by resource competition.

86 The top-down view sees the frustule as a way to decrease mortality, providing defense
87 against the crushing mouthparts of grazers through mechanical strength and deterrent spines
88 (Smetacek 2001; Hamm et al. 2003) and a rigid barrier against pathogens or parasites (Smetacek
89 1999). The ballast provided by frustules may also facilitate the sinking of infected cells from
90 surface populations (Raven and Waite 2004). In contrast, the bottom-up view sees the frustule as
91 a key to the diatoms' ability to take up nutrients rapidly and store them over several generations
92 by providing ballast to counteract the buoyancy of the vacuole and rigidity against its turgor
93

94 pressure (Raven and Waite 2004), as well as allowing cells to sink out of depleted surface waters
95 to nutrient-enriched depths (Raven 1997; Raven and Waite 2004).

96

97 History of the Major Diatom Groups

98 *Mesozoic Origins.*—Diatoms have been divided into four major taxonomic groups
99 characterized by different gross morphological types: forms with round (1), multi-angled (2), or
100 bilaterally symmetrical (3) outlines, and slit-bearing (4) forms. The frustules of radial centric
101 diatoms (1) have a ring-shaped structural “pattern center” (an imperforate siliceous structure from
102 which the ribs giving rise to the rest of the frustule originate during morphogenesis). The two
103 valves making up the frustule are generally circular in plan view, i.e., they are radially
104 symmetrical. The bi- and multipolar centrics (2) share the same ring-shaped pattern center, but
105 have valves that are commonly elongated and distorted in plan view, often with well-delimited
106 areas of smaller pores that seem to be involved in mucilage secretion. The pennate diatoms (3)
107 are characterized by a linear pattern center and generally have a bilaterally symmetrical (pennate
108 meaning feather-shaped) valves. The raphid diatoms (4), a subgroup of the pennates, possess a
109 slit in the surface of the valve through which part of the protoplasm can be extruded for
110 locomotion.

111 Molecular phylogenies broadly agree on an order of divergence for these four major
112 groups (Medlin and Kaczmarek 2004; Damsté et al. 2004; Sorhannus 2004). The raphid
113 pennates appear to form a monophyletic group, and while the radial centrics form a clade in some
114 treatments, the bi- and multipolar centrics and the araphid pennates are generally considered to be
115 paraphyletic. While they differ in many details, published molecular phylogenies of diatoms all
116 show the radial centric diatoms as basal; bi- and multipolar centrics diverge from within or are
117 sister to the radial centrics. Pennate diatoms are nested within the bi- and multipolar centrics,

118 with raphid pennates forming a derived clade within the pennates. These relationships predict an
119 order of first appearances for these four groups that is confirmed by the fossil record (Sims et al.
120 2006).

121 Both molecular clocks and the fossil record indicate that the four major groups (and thus
122 highest-level taxa) of diatoms had evolved by the earliest Cenozoic Era. The most recent
123 molecular-clock estimates of divergence times (Sorhannus 2007) suggest that all four major
124 groups appeared in the Mesozoic Era, while actual first appearances based on fossils postdate
125 these estimates by 10–40 Myr. The oldest fossil diatom accepted by Sims et al. (2006) is a radial
126 centric from Liassic shales in Germany (Rothpletz, 1896), roughly the same age as that predicted
127 by Sorhannus' molecular clock. Molecular divergence times for bi- and multipolar centrics are
128 around 40 Myr before their Aptian-Albian first appearance (Gersonde and Harwood 1990), for
129 pennate diatoms, also some 40 Myr before their Campanian first appearance (Sims et al. 2006),
130 and for raphid pennates about 10 Myr before their first appearance in the Paleocene of Russia
131 (Pantocsek, 1886; Witt, 1886). The magnitude of these differences between the molecular and
132 fossil estimates of first appearance is comparable to other groups (Sperling et al. 2011, for
133 example, cite around 20 Myr for early brachiopods), particularly considering that open ocean
134 habitats may encourage longer gaps between speciation and first appearance in the fossil record
135 (Anderson et al. 2011).

136 Given the largely Mesozoic origin of the four major diatom taxa, and the gross
137 morphotypes they represent, we might expect a relatively stationary pattern of morphospace
138 occupation through Cenozoic time (though we do not necessarily expect this for characters not
139 describing gross morphology).

140 *Cenozoic Events.*—Following the Mesozoic establishment of the four major groups, the
141 molecular and fossil records show three major Cenozoic events in diatom evolution, according to

142 Sims et al. (2006) and Kooistra et al. (2007): (1) the invasion of fresh water, unlikely to have
143 influenced morphological diversity in the open ocean (in any case, fossil evidence suggests it
144 may have begun earlier than commonly thought; Chacón-Baca et al. 2002, Chang et al. 2003), (2)
145 the evolution of the Thalassiosirales (a subgroup of the bi- and multipolar centric diatoms with a
146 round outline that is ecologically important in modern oceans), and (3) the diversification of
147 raphid diatoms, the most important of these events because of the great diversity in that group.

148

149 Cenozoic Taxonomic Diversity

150 The unchanging Cenozoic planktonic diatom morphospace suggested by molecular clocks
151 stands in stark contrast to a canonical reading of the Cenozoic record of planktonic diatom
152 diversity. The record of diatom species diversity has long been interpreted as an almost
153 monotonic increase through the Cenozoic Era (Small 1946; Spencer-Cervato 1999), though this
154 view has been recently challenged by Rabosky and Sorhannus (2009). This canonical view has
155 been widely accepted and marshalled as evidence, for example, in explanations of Cenozoic
156 decline in marine silicic acid concentrations (Harper and Knoll 1975; Lazarus et al. 2009) and the
157 evolution of modern phytoplankton (Falkowski et al. 2004). Such explanations of Cenozoic
158 diatom evolution imply that their sharp rise in diversity is a proxy for dramatic environmental
159 expansion and success. In so far as ecology and morphology are linked, it would be reasonable to
160 expect that ecological diversification would go hand in hand with an increased diversity of form.
161 The canonical reading of the diatom diversity record, therefore, implies a major ecological
162 expansion of the diatoms in Cenozoic Era, and, if not directly requiring an expansion of
163 morphospace, certainly suggests it.

164 In this study we test the hypothesis that, in spite of apparently increasing taxonomic
165 diversity, disparity and morphospace occupancy of marine planktonic diatoms were stationary

166 through the Cenozoic Era. Prior morphospace studies on diatoms, including both theoretical
167 (Pappas 2005) and empirical (Du Buf and Bayer 2002) morphospaces, were limited either to
168 particular lineages or studies of valve outlines and pennate striations, ignoring the many other
169 features of frustules. Because of the diversity and complexity of structures comprising the diatom
170 frustule, we opt to describe diatom morphology using discrete characters (on the nominal scale of
171 Stevens 1946). We use the record of diatom occurrences provided by the *Neptune* database to
172 quantify occupancy of this morphospace through time. In order to cover the full breadth of
173 morphologies captured by this record, we work at the genus level and use the diatom genera
174 found in the *Neptune* database to construct a morphospace. We first discuss ways of visualizing
175 morphospace to depict more explicitly the morphological meaning of morphospace ordinations.
176 With this more intuitive sense, we interpret the history of Cenozoic diatom disparity.

177

178 **Materials and Methods**

179 The full range of morphologies a group of organisms can have is often described as a
180 morphospace: a vector space defined by axes representing an aspect or measurement of the
181 organism. Each point in these spaces represents a distinct morphology, which may or may not be
182 occupied by an organism. A distinction is commonly made between theoretical and empirical
183 morphospaces, with axes in the former representing parameters of a geometric model of organism
184 shape (e.g. Raup and Michelson 1965), while in the latter each axis represents a measurement of
185 some sort. Theoretical morphospaces have relatively few dimensions, while empirical
186 morphospaces tend to have many and thus require ordination to be visualized in two dimensions.
187 While there has been some debate about the relative merits of theoretical versus empirical
188 morphospaces (e.g., McGhee 1999), they can be considered as different manifolds within a “true”
189 phenotypic morphospace comprised of more dimensions than can either be modeled or measured.

190 Either a theoretical or an empirical morphospace may be the most relevant representation of a
191 range of morphologies, depending on the organisms and the research questions at hand.

192

193 The *Neptune* Database

194 Documenting the occupation of morphospace through time requires measures of a taxon's
195 morphology as well as stratigraphic range. In many morphospace studies published to date, the
196 latter has been achieved through range compilations, inferring a taxon's duration based on first
197 and last occurrences (e.g., Foote 1993 1995a; Smith and Bunje 1999; Eble 2000). Over the past
198 two decades, however, paleobiologists have begun to assemble and use large databases of fossil
199 occurrences so as to address secular differences in sampling. In this study we thus use an
200 occurrence-based database to populate a morphospace through time.

201 The *Neptune* database provides a record of Cenozoic planktonic diatom occurrences.
202 Sampling intensity in *Neptune* is not uniform through time: the number of samples decreases
203 substantially with age, in part because older seafloor is more likely to have been subducted.
204 Because more recent sediments are found almost everywhere on the ocean floor, any drilling
205 operation to older sediments will also penetrate younger sediments, inflating the number of
206 younger samples.

207 We constructed a morphospace using discrete characters, populating it through time using
208 the occurrence data from the *Neptune* database. We coded 123 discrete morphological characters
209 for 152 diatom genera using descriptions from the taxonomic literature. These genera represent
210 all the valid genera found in the *Neptune* database (Lazarus 1994; Spencer-Cervato 1999), plus
211 those found in the three published Cretaceous diatom assemblages recovered by the DSDP/ODP
212 program (Hajós 1976; Gersonde and Harwood 1990; Fourtanier 1991). Genera described as
213 resting stages, which represent a non-vegetative stage of the life cycle and sometimes radically

214 different morphologies, were excluded from the analysis. By linking these morphological data
215 with the fossil occurrence data in the *Neptune* database, we were able to reconstruct diatom
216 morphospace through time in the open ocean. Over 95% of the diatom occurrences in the
217 *Neptune* database are from cores drilled at water depths >1000 m (and 70% from depths
218 >2000 m); thus, the evolution of diatoms in coastal and terrestrial environments may have
219 followed quite different trajectories.

220

221 Choice of Characters

222 We compiled a list of morphological characters from general descriptions of frustule
223 morphology (Barber and Haworth 1981; Anonymous 1975) and taxonomic descriptions of the
224 chosen genera. To avoid introducing bias from the taxonomic structure inherent in commonly
225 used terminology, we formulated morphological characters as generally as possible.

226 For many aspects of diatom morphology, the same shape or structure is given different
227 names in the literature depending on taxonomic grouping. For example, some authors use almost
228 non-overlapping vocabularies in describing pores and their arrangement on the frustule in centric
229 and pennate diatoms, although the structures are obviously comparable (see, for example,
230 Anonymous 1975). Since coding separate characters for “areolation” (p. 348, *ibid.*) vs. “striation”
231 (p. 349, *ibid.*) would introduce an artificial separation between similar structures, we instead
232 created generally applicable characters for “pore arrangement”. This single set of characters can
233 represent the morphologies bearing different sets of names in the two groups. We applied a
234 similar, taxonomically agnostic approach to other cases where the terminology used in the
235 literature for similar structures differs among genera because the structures differ
236 developmentally, are not considered homologous, or simply occur in different taxa.

237 Characters chosen in this way were coded as binary or unordered multistate characters
238 (i.e., they are measurements on the nominal scale, Stevens 1946). Although all missing data were
239 treated equally in the analysis presented below, we distinguished among three different types in
240 the morphological data matrix: character states not observed because of missing information,
241 logically inapplicable character states, and character states varying within or between species of a
242 genus with no obviously predominant state. Rather than excluding all missing data, as we did, an
243 alternative approach is to include ‘logically inapplicable’ as a distinct character state in pairwise
244 comparisons (Deline 2009). This approach results in a greater effect in the analysis of
245 morphological features described by multiple subsidiary character states. While this can be
246 considered desirable, we chose our approach precisely to avoid giving greater weight to some
247 morphological features over others, because they may be better-described in the literature, and
248 thus have multiple subsidiary states, due to reasons other than ecological or evolutionary
249 importance (such as taxonomic convenience). A description of each character and the complete
250 morphological data matrix are provided in the online supplement.

251

252 Morphological Data

253 We coded the morphological character states for each genus based on descriptions from
254 the taxonomic literature. For 64 of the 152 genera investigated, we used descriptions provided in
255 the standard text by Round et al. (1990). For the remaining genera, we consulted the wider
256 literature, usually the original generic description as well as the most detailed or recent study
257 available, and sought SEM images wherever possible. A complete listing of the sources consulted
258 for each genus is provided in the online supplement.

259 Because of the sources of incomplete data mentioned above, some of the genera in the
260 data matrix had relatively few characters with valid states. Likewise, a number of the characters

261 had valid states for only a few genera. In order to avoid including relatively uninformative genera
262 and characters, we removed genera and characters with less than 80% observed entries. The
263 implications of setting data culling thresholds have been discussed by Ciampaglio et al. (2001)
264 and are investigated in detail in the companion paper in this issue. The culled data matrix consists
265 of 140 genera and 100 characters.

266

267 Occurrence Data

268 Diatom occurrence data, used in the analysis to determine how the morphospace became
269 occupied through time, were downloaded from the *Neptune* database via
270 <http://portal.chronos.org/> in May 2009 (subsequent changes to the database as a part of the
271 Neptune Sandbox project are not yet publically accessible, but have resulted in a data set “similar
272 in content to the Chronos Neptune database” according to Lazarus et al. 2014). We made a
273 substantial number of changes, including correcting misspelled genus names, eliminating
274 occurrences with an assigned age of zero (signifying missing age data, according to D. Lazarus,
275 pers. comm.), eliminating taxa incorrectly classified as diatoms, and eliminating taxa considered
276 to be resting stages rather than vegetative cells (according to Hargraves 1986; Harwood 1988;
277 Hendey and Simonsen 1972; Suto 2004 and 2005; Suto et al. 2009 and 2011). Because the
278 *Neptune* database only contains diatom occurrences from the Cenozoic Era, compound taxon lists
279 from the three described Cretaceous DSDP/ODP assemblages were added to the occurrence
280 dataset (Hajós and Stradner 1975; Gersonde and Harwood 1990; Fourtanier 1991).

281

282 Software

283 The analyses described below were carried out using the statistical programming
284 language R (R Development Core Team 2011). The code needed to run the analyses, as well as
285 the plotting software, are provided in the online supplement.

286

287

Analysis

288 Low-Dimensional Representation of the Morphospace

289 We used principal coordinates analysis (PCO) to plot the 100-dimensional, nominal-scale
290 morphospace (consisting of discrete, unordered characters) defined by the morphological data
291 matrix in two or three continuous dimensions. In the better-known principal components analysis
292 (PCA), an $m \times n$ data matrix is transformed directly (where m is the number of genera and n is the
293 number of characters). In contrast, the algorithm for PCO (Gower 1966) operates on an $m \times m$
294 matrix of pairwise dissimilarities between taxa; these dissimilarities can be Euclidean distances
295 (producing an equivalent result to PCA) or, as in the present case, a different metric of
296 dissimilarity. We used the sum of character state mismatches divided by the number of possible
297 matches (i.e., excluding comparisons with invalid character states) as the measure of
298 dissimilarity, also used, for example, by Foote (1999), Lupia (1999), and Boyce and Knoll
299 (2002). This dissimilarity metric has the advantage that it accounts for similarity where a valid
300 comparison can be made, but does not inflate dissimilarity by scoring mismatched states where
301 one taxon has invalid or inapplicable states.

302 *Variance Explained by PCO Axes.*—There are two basic approaches to calculating how
303 well the first two axes represent the full space: one can either compare the eigenvalues associated
304 with PCO axes or correlate distances in PCO-space with original distances. The methods give
305 slightly different results.

306 The first approach—comparing the eigenvalues associated with first two principal
307 coordinate axes to those associated with the higher axes (Fig. 1A)—provides a qualitative
308 assessment of the variance associated with each axis, showing that the eigenvalues drop rapidly,
309 although the higher axes are not negligible. One way to quantify this is to divide the sum of the
310 first two eigenvalues by the sum of all eigenvalues (as done by Boyce and Knoll 2002; Foote
311 1995a), giving an estimate that 26% of the total variance is explained by the first two principal
312 coordinate axes. However, only 63 of the 140 eigenvalues are positive (see Fig. 1A). This could
313 be due to several reasons: first, we should not expect more positive eigenvalues than characters;
314 second, there were missing data; and finally, because the dissimilarity metric chosen is non-
315 Euclidean, there may not be an arrangement in the (Euclidean) PCO-space that corresponds to the
316 calculated dissimilarities.

Comment [BK1]: Fig. 1 here

317 There are several ways to deal with these negative eigenvalues in estimating the
318 information from the original data matrix in the principal coordinate axes. The `cmdscale()`
319 function that carries out PCO in R, for example, calculates a “goodness of fit” statistic in two
320 ways that are both different from the above: either negative eigenvalues are ignored, which
321 results in the estimate of variance explained dropping to 18%, or the sum of the absolute values
322 of the eigenvalues is used instead, in which case the estimate drops even further to 14%.

323 An empirical alternative for estimating the information retained by the principal
324 coordinate axes is to calculate the correlation between pairwise distances among genera in the
325 original dissimilarity matrix and the pairwise distances of the same genera in PCO-space (Foote
326 1999). As expected, including progressively more principal coordinate axes increases the
327 correlation (Fig. 1B). This approach suggests that the first two principal coordinate axes explain
328 about 37% of the variance in the original dissimilarity matrix, a higher value than the estimates
329 based on comparing eigenvalues.

330 It is also useful to know which characters contribute most to each of the PCO axes. While
331 it not possible to plot "loadings" (the projection of the the original character axes into the lower-
332 dimensional space), as commonly done for PCA, because our characters are discrete, unordered,
333 and contain missing data, Foote (1995b; 1999) suggested an analogous approach to discover
334 which characters are associated with which PCO axis. The idea is to compare the character states
335 of taxa for each character with the PCO scores of taxa using a nonparametric measure of
336 correlation. One such measure is the Cramér coefficient, which can be used to measure the
337 degree of association between attributes which are measured in unordered categories (Siegel and
338 Castellan Jr. 1988, p. 225). We calculated this measure for each pairing of characters and PCO
339 axes. In order to discretize the PCO scores, we divided each axis into four arbitrary intervals of
340 equal length. We then constructed a $j \times 4$ contingency table, where j is the number of valid
341 character states for the character in question. Entries in the table are counts of the number of
342 genera, for example, with character state 0 and falling in the lowest quarter of the range of the
343 PCO axis. Measuring an association between score on the PCO axis and character state requires
344 at least two columns in this contingency table to have nonzero sums, which is why characters that
345 had fewer than two states with valid entries were culled from the dataset. From this table, we
346 calculated a Cramér coefficient and an associated p -value using the `assocstats()` function in the R
347 package `vcd` (Meyer et al. 2011). The results of the 6426 pairwise comparisons are summarized
348 in Figure 2.

349 While the associations between morphological characters and PCO axes are strongest in
350 the lower axes, there are also significant associations with higher axes. The largest and darkest
351 circles on Figure 2 mark the strongest and most significant associations between characters and
352 particular PCO axes. Broadly, there are more significant associations with the lower PCO axes,
353 corroborating the results described above. This can be seen in two ways, either by noting that

Comment [BK2]: Fig. 2 here

354 most of the dark circles are to the left of the plot, or by noting that both the height and darkness
355 of the bars plotted beneath the x-axis increase to the left.

356 Regardless of the method used, the estimates all suggest that there is significant
357 information contained in the PCO axes beyond the two or three dimensions that can be plotted
358 practically. Such plots will provide a general indication of the arrangement of genera in
359 morphospace rather than a comprehensive summary of the original data matrix. However, the
360 observation that there is information in higher PCO axes suggests there is important complexity
361 in the original data set (as opposed to a handful of powerfully explanatory characters), and this
362 suggests that a future effort to consider this information is warranted.

363 *Interpretation of PCO Axes.*—Perhaps the most common criticism of ordinated or
364 empirical morphospaces is that their axes are data-dependent (McGhee 1999; Wilson and Knoll
365 2010), but a related and more practical problem is that their axes are hard to interpret.
366 Comparisons between theoretical and empirical morphospaces usually point to the distinction
367 that the axes of the latter are unstable, with the dimensions changing upon addition or subtraction
368 of more taxa, but what is more seldom mentioned is a related consequence of ordinating a high-
369 dimensional space: the resulting axes represent a combination of many characters or parameters,
370 making it difficult to understand what morphologies different parts of the ordinated space
371 represent. In particular this restricts biologically meaningful interpretations of the morphospace,
372 be they ecological, functional, or physiological (Wilson and Knoll 2010).

373 One widely used approach to understanding PCO axes highlights selected taxa using
374 images (e.g., Swan and Saunders 1987, Fig. 1). Fig. 3 uses plot symbols generated from
375 morphological character states to enrich the visualization of taxon distributions in the diatom
376 morphospace. We used the states of three characters describing the gross shape of the frustule to
377 determine the form of the plot symbol (Fig. 3), showing a clear division between round and

Comment [BK3]: Fig. 3 here

378 equant forms in the upper left and elongate forms, including raphe-bearing genera, in the lower
379 right of the morphospace plot.

380 We can refine our interpretation of what PCO axes 1 and 2 represent by plotting the
381 different states of characters most closely associated with those axes (Fig. 4). To choose
382 characters for plotting, we used the results of the character–PCO axis association summarized in
383 Figure 2 above to identify which characters contribute most to the first two PCO axes used to
384 visualize the morphospace. Table 1 lists the characters with the strongest and most significant
385 associations with PCO axes 1 and 2. Some of these characters are expected, particularly the shape
386 of the structural pattern center of the primary silica ribs, because they are determinants both of
387 overall morphology and of high-level taxonomy, and they thus reflect significant morphological
388 variance. Other characters are more surprising, such as detailed features of the raphe or
389 specialized processes, which apply to only a small subset of the genera in the analysis. A deeper
390 statistical investigation would be needed to understand why characters we would expect a priori
391 to be rather minor show such strong association with the first two PCO axes (though this might
392 result from ‘hitchhiking’, associations between these traits and more significant traits found in the
393 same clades). However, it is plausible that characters with few states and many missing entries
394 are simply more likely to fall into concordant patterns on the PCO axes by chance alone, in a way
395 that is not adequately corrected for in the calculation of *p*-values.

396 The different states of some of these characters most closely associated with PCO axes 1
397 and 2 are shown in Figure 4. This exercise divides the plot area into clearly defined diagonal
398 quadrants (Figs. 4A–C). Figure 4A confirms the suggestion from Figure 3 that centric forms lie
399 in the upper left half, and pennate forms in the lower right half of the plot. Figures 4B–C, on the
400 other hand, show an orthogonal division into forms with straight, clearly defined mantles in the

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401 upper right and forms with convex mantles without clear distinction from the valve face in the
402 lower left.

403 The arrangement of character states in Figures 4D–G is less well defined, but still
404 contributes meaning to the space defined by the two PCO axes shown. Diatoms with uniformly
405 sized pores on the valve face occur all over the plot, while those with larger or smaller pores have
406 positive PC 2 scores (Fig. 4D). Similarly, diatoms with unornamented rims are found all over the
407 plot, while those with short marginal spinules mostly have positive PC 1 scores and those with
408 long marginal spines mostly have positive PC 2 scores (Fig. 4E). Most of the forms with valve
409 face pores in hexagonal arrangement have negative PC 1 scores, while those in square
410 arrangement or in rows tend to have positive PC 1 scores (Fig. 4F). Finally, the convexity of the
411 valve face seems to decrease with increasing PC 1 score (Fig. 4G). In summary, Figure 4 reveals
412 the following tendencies in the PCO space: (1) straight and clearly defined mantles toward the
413 upper right versus indistinct and convex mantles toward the lower left of the plot, and (2)
414 hexagonally-arranged pores and convex valve faces toward the left versus linearly-arranged pores
415 and flatter valve faces toward the right of the plot.

416 Armed with a visualization of the morphospace and a better understanding of its axes, we
417 can begin to investigate the diatoms' evolutionary history. There are two major records of
418 evolutionary history: the fossil record and the record reconstructed from genetic information.
419 While we focus on fossils in this paper, we begin by briefly exploring the morphospace from the
420 perspective of molecular phylogeny.

421

422 Morphospace and Molecular Data

423 What relationship between molecular phylogeny and morphospace would we expect to
424 see if the Cenozoic Era were characterized by the occupation of significant new morphospace; in

425 other words, if our expectation of an untrended Cenozoic were false? If adding diversity were to
426 add morphospace, we would see close relationships between the positions of genera on a tree and
427 their position in morphospace, with derived clades occupying new and distinct regions. More
428 specifically, having identified the evolution of raphids and the Thalassiosirales as key Cenozoic
429 events, we might expect these groups to occupy discrete regions of morphospace.

430 By comparing the distribution of genera on a phylogenetic tree with their distribution on a
431 morphospace plot, however, we can see that only the coarsest phylogenetic division is reflected
432 in morphospace (Fig. 5). The tree topology shown is a molecular phylogeny by Sorhannus
433 (2007), based on a maximum-likelihood analysis of SSU rRNA sequences. Other molecular
434 phylogenies give broadly similar results, though the detailed arrangement of genera varies (e.g.,
435 Medlin and Kaczmarska 2004; Kooistra et al. 2007; for a review see Williams 2007). With the
436 adjacent morphospace plots, the figure shows that pennates and centrics fall into different areas
437 of morphospace (the lower right and upper left, respectively, as seen previously in Figs. 3 and 4),
438 but groups at finer scales of phylogenetic resolution overlap. Within the pennates, for example,
439 raphids and araphids fall in the same region; radial and bi- and multipolar centrics also overlap. It
440 is important to note that of these four major groups highlighted in Fig. 5, only the raphids
441 correspond to a clade. Clades within these groups do not occupy distinct regions to the exclusion
442 of others; for example, the Thalassiosirales clade (Porosira through Cyclotella on the cladogram
443 in Fig. 5, in various hues of blue/purple) do not fall in a distinct area within the bi- and multipolar
444 centric group. This observation (which is not sensitive to the differences among phylogenies)
445 suggests that beyond the establishment of centrics and pennates, clades generally re-evolved the
446 same gross morphologies rather than explore new and distinct areas of morphospace. It also
447 suggests, in terms of gross morphology, that we cannot reject our stationary hypothesis for

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448 morphospace occupancy after the radiation of pennate diatoms, based on the interpretation of
449 molecular data.

450 The lack of distinction in morphospace between araphid and raphid diatoms makes sense
451 if we consider the function and ecological significance of the raphe. Because it allows for gliding
452 locomotion across surfaces, the raphid diatoms are highly successful in terrestrial habitats, and
453 the evolution of the raphe in diatoms has thus been compared to the evolution of flight in birds in
454 its significance (Sims et al. 2006). However, because *Neptune* is mainly a deep-sea record of
455 open-ocean plankton, the raphe may in fact be of limited significance in this environment,
456 regardless of its overall importance to the group. Thus we might actually expect raphid pennates
457 in the plankton to occupy the same functional and ecological niches as the araphid pennates,
458 and—if form and function are related—that they thus occupy the same regions of morphospace.

459 The lack of correspondence between phylogeny and morphospace in Figure 5 might also
460 be an artifact of the ordination of the morphospace. We have shown that much information is
461 contained in higher PCO axes (Figs. 1 and 2), so we exercise caution in interpreting projected
462 data directly. Fortunately, we can use the unordinated matrix of dissimilarities—i.e., the pairwise
463 distances among genera in the full-dimensional space—to make a direct comparison with the
464 phylogeny by calculating a comparable matrix of pairwise patristic distances (the sum of branch
465 lengths, i.e., state changes along the branches, between two taxa) on the tree.

466 A direct comparison of morphological to patristic distance is shown in Figure 6A; it
467 suggests very little correlation between the two. A simple linear regression of patristic distance
468 on morphological distance has a squared correlation coefficient (R^2) value of 0.036, suggesting
469 at most a very weak positive correlation. To test the significance of this correlation between
470 distance matrices (in which entries are dependent on one another) we performed a Mantel test

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471 (Sokal and Rohlf 1981: p. 813), a permutation test. With 1,000,000 iterations the test gives a 2-
472 sided p -value of 0.049, suggesting that there is a marginally significant relationship between
473 patristic molecular distance and morphological distance at the 95% confidence level; in any
474 event, the R^2 value suggests a weak correlation regardless of the p -value.

475 Rather than using patristic distances (Fig. 6A), we can compare morphological distances
476 to molecular distance directly, using the distance between aligned molecular sequences
477 (i.e., identity) in the absence of a phylogenetic hypothesis (Fig. 6B). Using molecular distance
478 directly removes the subjective choices necessary in selecting tree-building methods. The R^2 in
479 this case is only slightly higher, 0.057. The Mantel test for this comparison suggests that this
480 relationship is also more significant, with a p -value of 0.024. If we accept these results, and if we
481 assume that there is in fact an underlying positive relationship between morphology and
482 molecular sequences, the somewhat surprising implication would be that phylogenetic tree-
483 building actually masks that signal, weakening the correlation between the two sets of distances.

484 The qualitative sense provided by Figure 5 that the arrangement of taxa on the
485 phylogenetic tree is not necessarily correlated with their arrangement in morphospace is thus
486 confirmed quantitatively by a direct comparison of morphological distance to molecular distance.

487 In summary, plotting phylogenetic relationships in morphospace suggests a weak
488 relationship between morphology and descent. On the one hand, this is surprising, because
489 diatom phylogenies predating the molecular era, and thus based on morphology, broadly agree
490 with more recent molecular phylogenies. On the other hand, morphologically-based phylogenies
491 rely on shared, derived features (synapomorphies) to signify inclusion in groups, while the data
492 set underlying the morphospace consists of agnostically chosen, equally weighted (i.e., phenetic)
493 characters. As such, we might not expect changes in the sequences coding for the ribosome to be

494 correlated with frustule morphology, on which those sequences presumably have little direct
495 bearing. Expected or not, the results of comparing phylogeny and morphospace suggest that
496 different groups of diatoms, and subgroups within those groups, successively recolonized
497 already-occupied regions of morphospace. Since the four major groups were already present by
498 the earliest Cenozoic Era, the full extent of occupied morphospace should have been achieved
499 early, and show little subsequent change. These results support the hypothesis that, in terms of
500 disparity or morphological variety, the pattern across the Cenozoic Era was broadly stationary.

501

502 Morphospace Through Time

503 We now explore occupancy of the morphospace through the fossil record. When viewed
504 as Cenozoic epochs in PCO axes 1 and 2, the occupied morphospace area seems, to a first
505 approximation, to be relatively constant through time (colored polygons at the bottom of Fig. 7).

506 The area occupied appears to expand slightly to the lower right and upper left by the Miocene,
507 and the Oligocene area is expanded to the extreme upper right, but this is due to a single taxon
508 with an unusual morphology (see point between "O" and "I" of "Oligocene"). In addition to the
509 slight expansion of morphospace area, sparsely occupied areas appear to become "filled in" and
510 more densely occupied through time.

511 The Cretaceous time bins, particularly the Early Cretaceous, appear to occupy a much
512 smaller area of morphospace. However, rigorously interpreting the Cretaceous results is
513 challenging because so much less data was included for these intervals. Specifically, the Early
514 and Late Cretaceous time bins contain taxon lists from one and three ODP holes respectively,
515 while the Paleocene alone contains lists from 61 samples from six ODP holes. Furthermore,
516 several morphologically divergent taxa did not meet the applied culling threshold, due to
517 incomplete descriptions, and were excluded from the analysis. The Cretaceous samples may thus

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518 show less morphological variety than was actually present, although it was probably still lower
519 than the Cenozoic samples, particularly for the Early Cretaceous.

520 There are many ways to quantify disparity, or what has been called the “within-group
521 variance of form” (Erwin 2007), that go beyond the qualitative description of morphospace
522 occupancy provided by plots like Figure 7. These include counts of higher taxa, the sum of
523 univariate variances, total range, the number of unique pairwise character combinations,
524 participation ratio, various measures of PCO volume, and mean pairwise distance (for details, see
525 Thomas and Reif 1993; Foote 1995a; Ciampaglio et al. 2001; Erwin 2007). As explained below,
526 some of these metrics may describe different aspects of morphospace occupation; two major
527 facets are how far taxa are from each other, on average, and what volume of the space is
528 occupied. Next, we present metrics for those two aspects, using mean pairwise distance to
529 describe the former, and two measures of occupied PCO volume (convex hull and alpha shape
530 volume) to describe the latter.

531 Mean pairwise distance is a commonly used metric for disparity (for example, by Foote
532 1995a; Lupia 1999; Boyce and Knoll 2002), having the advantage that it can be calculated from
533 the morphological data directly without requiring ordination. Another advantage of this metric is
534 that it has been shown to be relatively insensitive to sampling bias (Foote 1995a; Ciampaglio
535 et al. 2001; Deline 2009). Mean pairwise distance suggests that disparity changed little over the
536 course of the Cenozoic Era (Fig. 8A). These results show that pairs of genera are, on average,
537 about 70–75% similar in applicable characters, with an apparent peak in the Oligocene and
538 declining gradually over the course of the Cenozoic Era. A disadvantage of this method is that it
539 says nothing about the total extent or shape of the occupied morphospace.

540 Calculating convex hull volume, another disparity metric, is a way of quantifying the
541 amount of space occupied by a set of points (Foote 1999). A convex hull is a shape that encloses

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542 a set of points using the smallest possible number of those points (in two dimensions, it is the
543 equivalent of spanning a rubber band around a set of pegs). The volume (or hypervolume) of this
544 shape for each time bin was calculated for increasing numbers of PCO axes, up to 10 (beyond
545 which computational limits are reached). In order to be comparable, the results have been
546 standardized to the largest value in the time series.

547 The convex hull volumes calculated are shown in Figure 8B. The plot shows an increase
548 in volume with time, regardless of the number of dimensions used to calculate it. There is a
549 decline in volume over the most recent 5 Myr or so; however, this may be related to the well-
550 known edge effect of the range-through taxon counting method (Raup 1972; Alroy 2010). The
551 largest volume is reached in the Oligocene, showing a particularly pronounced spike in the 29 Ma
552 time bin. However, by examining the Oligocene time slice plotted in Figure 7, it is clear that this
553 spike is due to a single outlier taxon present only at that time. This illustrates a shortcoming of
554 the convex hull method: due to outliers or widely separated clusters of points, it can include
555 substantial areas of unoccupied space.

556 Alpha shapes are a generalization of convex hulls that, when appropriate values of α are
557 chosen, address the empty-space problem of convex hulls. Alpha shapes (Edelsbrunner and
558 Mücke 1992) allow unoccupied space to be removed from the convex hull, akin to “scooping
559 out” space between points with an ice-cream scoop of a given radius, α . As the value of α
560 increases, the alpha shape converges on the convex hull; as the value approaches zero, the alpha
561 shape collapses to set of points itself (disconnected shapes where each shape is simply one of the
562 points of the point set). The method was first applied to morphospaces by Low (2006); detailed
563 treatments of the algorithm to calculate alpha shape volumes can be found in Edelsbrunner and
564 Mücke (1994) and Da and Yvinec (2000). We used the *alphashape3d* package in *R* (Lafarge and
565 Pateiro-Lopez 2012); it is limited to calculating volume in three dimensions. We visualized the

566 alpha shapes enclosing points in 3D space for each time bin and many values of α ; from this, we
567 selected by inspection the value of α that best enclosed the point clouds without either enclosing
568 too much unoccupied space or disjointing the alpha shape across all time bins. We thus broadly
569 followed the methodology of Low (2006), except that we chose a single value of α across all time
570 bins rather than selecting different values for each (providing, in our opinion, a more even-
571 handed comparison across time bins). From this exercise we find that the morphospace
572 occupation shows the same pattern of secular increase in volume as the convex hull volume, but
573 without the exaggerated peaks (Fig. 8C). Alpha shape volume roughly doubles over the Cenozoic
574 Era.

575 These different metrics of disparity—mean pairwise distance and the volume of
576 morphospace occupied—give very different results because they measure different aspects of
577 disparity. Mean pairwise distance declines slightly over the Cenozoic Era, in stark contrast to
578 occupied volume (as calculated either by convex hulls or by alpha shapes), which increases
579 substantially over time. These divergent results can be understood as measuring two different
580 aspects of morphospace occupation. The volume increases as the extent of morphospace
581 occupied increases. If the number of genera were to stay constant, we would also expect a
582 concomitant increase in average pairwise distance. However, the number of genera occupying
583 this space also increases through time, leaving genera packed more tightly into morphospace and
584 thus reducing the average distance between them. Disparity can thus both increase substantially
585 and decrease slightly over the Cenozoic Era—the former in the sense of the range of
586 morphological variety, and the latter in the sense of the average morphological distinctness of
587 taxa.

588 Another way to quantify the “packing” of morphospace suggested by the decline in mean
589 pairwise distance is to calculate the total volume occupied divided by the number of genera. This

590 result is shown in Figure 8D and it shows a similar trend to the mean pairwise distance results in
591 Figure 8A: the amount of PCO volume per genus decreases slightly through time, again
592 suggesting that the increase in the number of taxa filling morphospace outpaced the growth of the
593 volume occupied.

594 It is worth noting here that the observed phenomenon of taxa “packing” into
595 morphospace—while geometrically explained by differing rates of change in morphospace
596 volume and genus richness—need not necessarily imply an underlying evolutionary process or
597 causal mechanism constraining (i.e. “packing”, in a more loaded sense) taxa into a particular
598 morphospace volume. Several such mechanisms have been proposed to explain the discordance
599 between taxonomic and morphological diversification, for example, the entrenchment of
600 developmental systems (e.g. Erwin 1994) or the saturation of ecospace (e.g. Valentine 1969).
601 However, before attributing observed patterns to underlying processes, it is worth considering
602 what a “null” expectation for a diversifying clade might be in terms of morphospace occupation.
603 for example, the pattern that might result from random-walk-type processes. Several
604 mathematical models have been developed to explore such an expectation. Depending on both
605 the model and parameters chosen, these models can produce the oft-observed pattern of rapid
606 early morphological diversification (and its subsequent outpacing by taxonomic diversification)
607 as a result of speciation and extinction within the geometry of morphospace, “diffusive”
608 evolution, or branching random walks, without requiring special explanation (Foote 1996,
609 Gavrilets 1999, Pie and Weitz 2005).

610 It is also worth considering that the “packing” of morphospace, observed as a decrease in
611 the ratio of volume occupied to genus richness, could also result from sampling differences. If
612 genus richness were less sensitive to sampling bias than volume occupied, then a secular increase
613 in sampling could result in genus richness growing more quickly than volume—producing the

614 observed pattern as a result of sampling alone. We explore the effects of sampling on our results
615 in the companion paper in this volume.

616 Because the higher PCO axes contain substantial information (Figs. 1 and 2), we noted
617 that results based only on a few ordinated axes should be interpreted with caution. In order to
618 examine morphospace occupancy in a more direct way, we counted the number of realized
619 character states through time, considering the raw morphological data without ordination. This
620 metric is similar to the number of realized unique pairwise character combinations of Thomas
621 and Reif (1993) and Foote (1995a), and is of a lower dimensionality than the extremely sparsely
622 populated full morphospace. However, it considers only whether a character state is realized,
623 independent of other characters. In morphospace studies with relatively few characters, the
624 former approach is preferable because the 1-dimensional space of character states can quickly
625 become saturated (i.e., all character states are, more or less, always realized, but occur in
626 different combinations in different taxa). In the present study, however, the space of character
627 states only approaches saturation at the very end of the time series (Fig. 9A), and it therefore has
628 sufficient sensitivity to render pairwise comparisons unnecessary.

629 Figure 9A shows that the number of realized character states increases through time,
630 agreeing with the results from the PCO volume metrics, and confirming that the range of
631 occupied morphospace expands through the Cenozoic Era. However, as we have seen in Figure
632 8E, the number of genera also increases over that time. Figure 9B shows the number of realized
633 character states divided by the number of genera, a metric that decreases by more than a half over
634 the Cenozoic Era. We interpret this to mean that as new taxa evolved in the Cenozoic Era, they
635 increasingly showed new combinations of existing character states over newly evolved states,
636 even as new states continued to evolve. Another way to understand this result is to consider it as
637 a decrease in the amount of morphospace unique to each taxon. In both ways, this result mirrors

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638 the slight decline in the mean pairwise distance result shown in Figure 8A. The concordance of
639 these two sets of results from ordinated and unordinated morphospace data (PCO volume
640 occupied agreeing with number of realized states, and mean pairwise distance agreeing with per-
641 genus realized states) lends confidence to our interpretations from ordinated data.

642 A final aspect to consider concerns the increase in sampling intensity over the Cenozoic
643 Era, which casts doubt on the reliability of the observed increases in morphospace occupation
644 over that time period (Fig. 10). The roughly exponential increase in sampling raises the question
645 whether the observed increases in morphospace occupation (as seen in Figs. 8B-C and Fig. 9A)
646 are real or result from sampling biases. The importance of secular variation in sampling intensity
647 is well established in studies of taxonomic diversity through time (e.g., Alroy et al. 2001), where
648 sampling biases have been shown to (1) greatly attenuate patterns of diversity increase, and (2)
649 shift the timing of peaks, or even reverse patterns (reviewed by Alroy 2010). The *Neptune* record
650 has been widely cited as the canonical compilation for diatom diversity, but its uneven sampling
651 has been identified and attempts at correcting for it have been made by applying sampling
652 standardization methods (Rabosky and Sorhannus 2009). We tend to think morphospaces and
653 studies of morphological disparity constitute a window to evolutionary history that is independent
654 of taxonomic diversity, and this may, in part, explain why sampling biases have often not been
655 considered (see, however, Foote 1995a; Ciampaglio et al. 2001; Shen et al. 2008; Deline 2009).
656 While two data sets of taxonomic diversity and morphological disparity do indeed offer different
657 information, both are subject to the same underlying sampling biases. These biases are
658 considered in more detail in the companion paper in this issue.

659

660

Conclusions

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661 Diatom morphospace can be visually depicted using plot symbols whose shapes reflect
662 morphological characters of the taxa they represent. This alternative to plotting generic symbols,
663 like dots or crosses, or labeling selected points with images, goes some way towards correcting
664 the shortcoming of many empirical morphospaces that lack clear identification of what their axes
665 mean.

666 Plotting phylogenetic relationships onto diatom morphospace suggests very little
667 relationship between morphology and descent; this implies that the same regions of morphospace
668 were iteratively colonized by different clades. Thalassiosirales and raphid pennates—clades that
669 evolved in the Cenozoic Era—do not appear to occupy regions of morphospace distinct from the
670 clades within which they arose. From the phylogenetic perspective, then, most of the extent of
671 diatom morphospace seems to have been occupied early, suggesting that the Cenozoic Era was
672 untrended in terms of disparity, or morphological variety.

673 We examined changes in Cenozoic diatom morphospace occupation through time using
674 the *Neptune* database, based on the marine fossil record, and calculated disparity in each time
675 slice. Two sets of disparity metrics show different secular trends, which we argue is a
676 consequence of the fact that they measure different aspects of disparity.

677 The “packing” of morphospace, or how much morphospace on average separates taxa,
678 can be measured using mean pairwise distance, the per-genus alpha shape volume, or the per-
679 genus number of realized character states. The last shows a decreasing trend, while the first two
680 show only a slight decline through the Cenozoic Era, varying somewhat with the choice of the α
681 parameter.

682 The volume of morphospace occupied, delimited by convex hulls or alpha shapes (the
683 latter are less distorted by outliers) and the number of realized character states are proxies for the
684 total volume or amount of morphospace occupied. These metrics both show an increase through

685 the Cenozoic Era. Taken together, they show an increase in the total extent of occupied
686 morphospace, with an associated increase in the number of taxa keeping pace with the rate of
687 space expansion, which leads to stationary or even increasing “packing” of taxa through
688 Cenozoic time.

689 A number of lines of evidence, then, point to stationary disparity through the Cenozoic
690 Era: mean pairwise distance, alpha volume per genus, and the phylogenetic view of
691 morphospace. In contrast, measures of the total extent of occupied morphospace, when viewed
692 independently, suggest an increase through time. We suspect, however, that the latter are affected
693 by sampling bias, as suggested by a corresponding increase in the number of taxa in the
694 morphospace analysis and the number of taxonomic lists in the *Neptune* database.

695 Since mean pairwise distance has been shown to be relatively insensitive to sampling
696 bias, we believe that our results point toward unchanging Cenozoic morphospace occupation.
697 This conclusion can be further substantiated by applying sampling-standardization methods, such
698 as those developed for studies of taxonomic diversity, to diatom morphospace.

699

700

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924

Figure captions

925 Figure 1: [one-column, print B&W] Plots showing the distribution of variance among the
926 principal coordinate axes. A, the magnitude of eigenvalues associated with the PCO axes, which
927 is indicative of their relative information content. Although the higher eigenvalues account for
928 much of the total, suggesting that much of the information is contained in them, the first two
929 PCO axes do have much larger associated eigenvalues, and the inclusion of further axes shows
930 rapidly diminishing returns. B, the squared correlation (R^2) between squared pairwise
931 dissimilarities in the original ($m \times m$) matrix and squared Euclidean distances in a PCO-space (y-
932 axis) including increasing numbers of PCO axes (x-axis).

933

934 Figure 2: [full page, print B&W] The degree of association between PCO axes (x-axis) and
935 characters in the morphospace (y-axis). Circle diameter is proportional to the Cramér coefficient
936 (from zero to one, zero suggesting the PCO score is independent of character state). Circle color
937 indicates the associated p -value, darker meaning more significant. Comparisons with p -values
938 >0.05 were not plotted and were disregarded in marginal row and column sums.

939

940 Figure 3: [two-column, print B&W, color online] Morphospace plot of the first two PCO axes,
941 with plot symbols generated from gross shape character states. The shape of the plot symbol—
942 ellipse, rectangle, triangle, or oval—represents character 1 (the valve view outline shape
943 category). The aspect ratio of the plot symbol represents character 2 (the aspect ratio of the
944 diatom frustule in valve view). Character 90 (presence or absence of a raphe) is represented by a
945 vertical line drawn within the plot symbol.

946

947 Figure 4: [one-column, print B&W, color online] Morphospace plots of the first two PCO axes,
948 with plot symbols denoting character states for seven of the characters (A-G, character numbers
949 shown in parentheses, see online supplement for detailed description) most associated with those
950 axes (see Table 1 and Fig. 2).

951

952 Figure 5: [full page, print color] Left, topology of a molecular phylogeny of diatoms (Sorhannus
953 2007) based on a maximum likelihood analysis of nuclear-encoded SSU rRNA sequences,
954 trimmed to show only representative species from each of the 44 genera found both in the
955 phylogeny and this study. The four plots on the right show where the genera in each of the four
956 major groups fall in the morphospace (PCO axes 1 and 2, plot area as in Figs. 3, 4, & 5.) Within
957 each of the four groups, genera are color-coded by proximity on the tree, e.g., in the top panel,
958 the taxa colored red form a subclade within the raphids.

959

960 Figure 6: [one-column, print B&W, B&W online] A, Pairwise morphological distances (character
961 state mismatches divided by number of possible matches) plotted against patristic distance on the
962 tree shown in Figure 5. B, Pairwise morphological distances plotted against pairwise molecular
963 distance (identity between aligned sequences, calculated using the function *dist.alignment()* from
964 the R package *seqinr*).

965

966 Figure 7: [one- or two column, print color] Morphospace, as represented by the first two PCO
967 axes, resolved through time using range-through taxon counting of *Neptune* occurrences. The
968 colored polygons at the bottom of the plot are convex hulls enclosing the taxa present at each
969 time bin, labeled in the corresponding colors.

970

971 Figure 8: [two-column, print B&W, color online] Metrics of morphological disparity (A-D) and
972 diversity (E) through time, using *Neptune* occurrences under range-through taxon counting. A,
973 Mean pairwise dissimilarity between genera, as character state mismatches divided by number of
974 possible matches. B, Convex hull (hyper-)volume containing genera, normalized to largest value;
975 black line is volume calculated over the first three PCO axes, grey lines are volume over the first
976 four, five, etc. up to ten PCO axes. C, Alpha shape volume containing genera; black line is
977 volume for α -value chosen by inspection to best capture occupied volume across time bins, grey
978 lines are other α -values. $\alpha=10$ recovers the convex hull solution. D, Alpha shape volume (as in C)
979 divided by number of genera. E, Species-level diversity from *Neptune* database (includes genera
980 left out of morphospace analysis) in black; genus-level diversity in morphospace analysis in grey.
981 Error bars not shown; please see Figures 7–9 of the companion paper in this volume for analysis
982 and discussion of possible sources of error in these results.

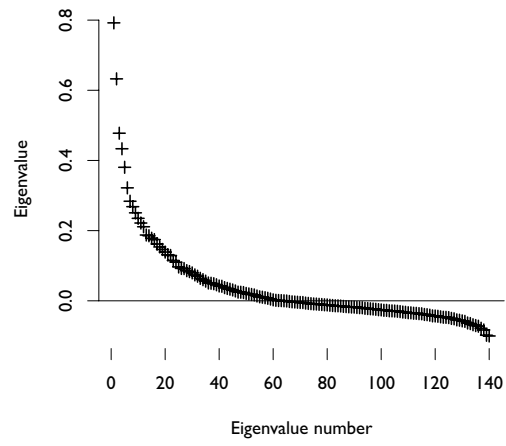
983

984 Figure 9: [two-column, print B&W, color online] Number of morphological character states
985 observed through time. A, Number of realized states (mean of 1,000 bootstrap replicates, error
986 bars show one standard error on either side of the mean). B, Number of states (as in A) divided
987 by the number of genera (as in Fig. 8E). The total number of states in the (culled) morphological
988 data matrix used in the analysis is 317.

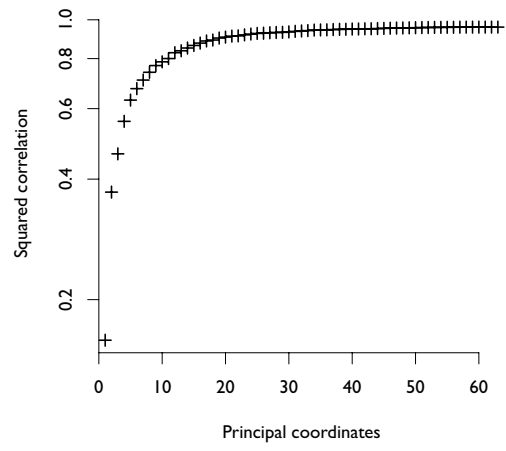
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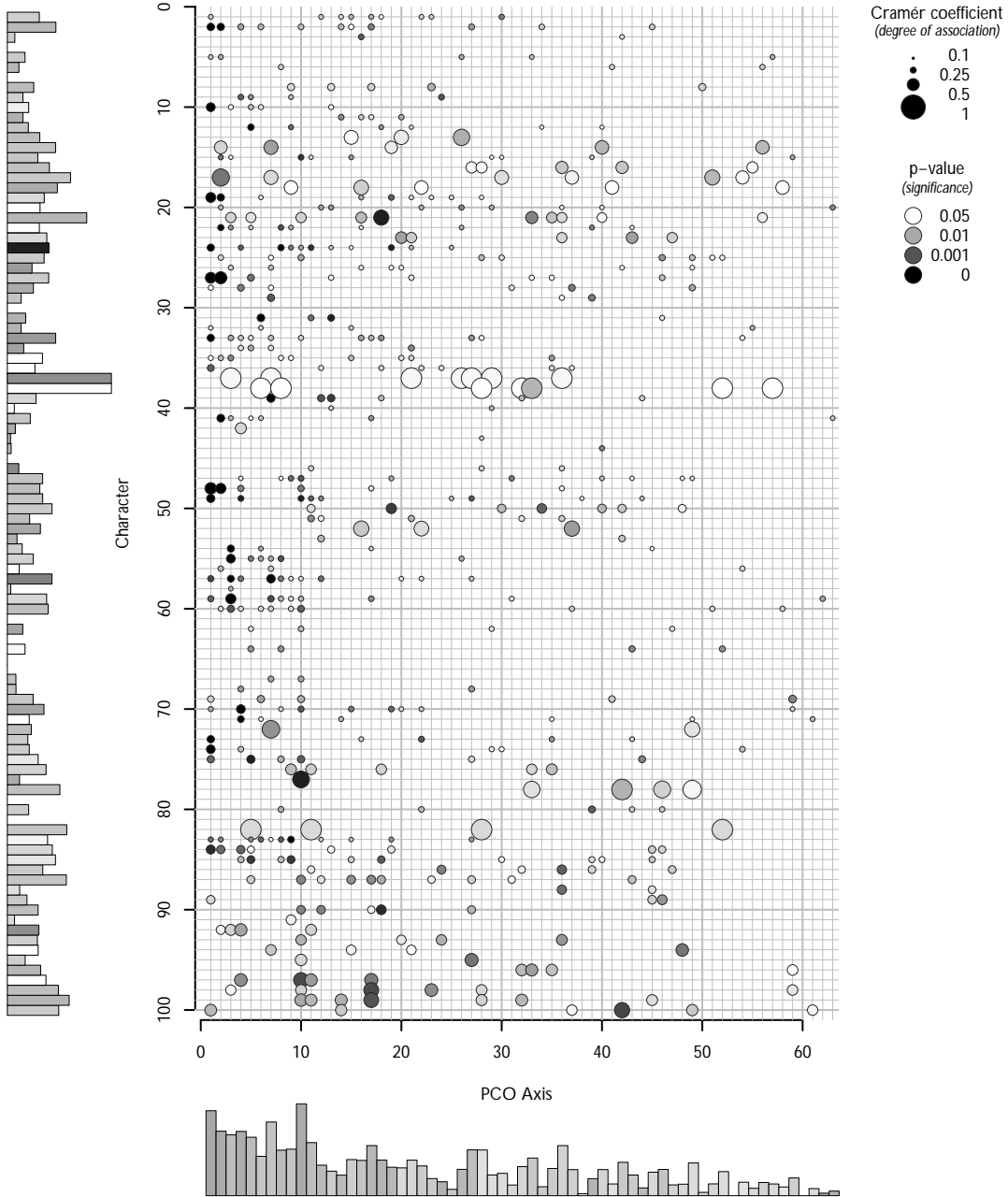
990 Figure 10: [one-column, print B&W, color online] Number of taxonomic lists (i.e., described
991 samples) per time bin in the *Neptune* database. Sampling increases approximately exponentially
992 with time.

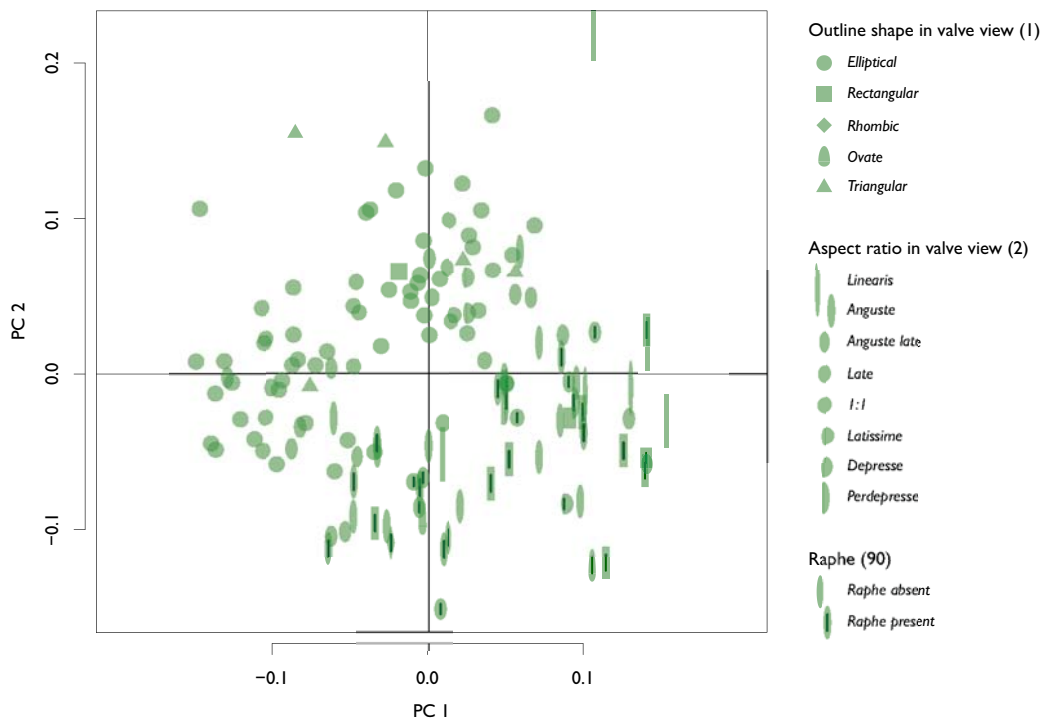
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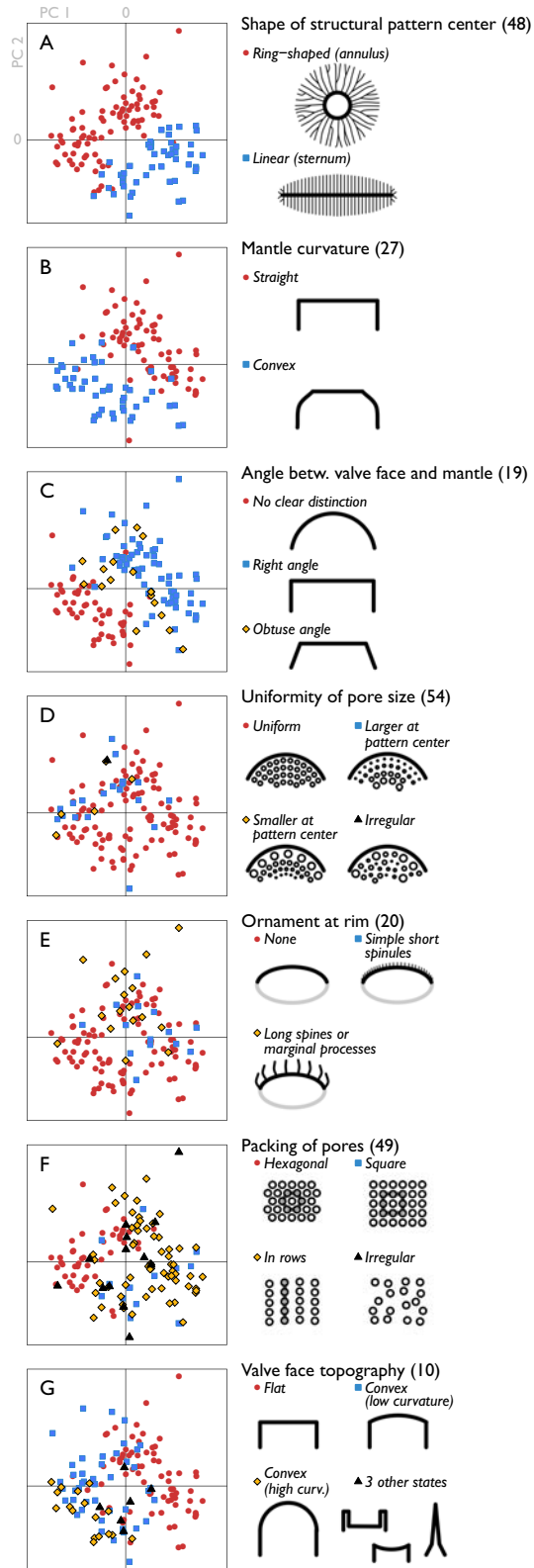


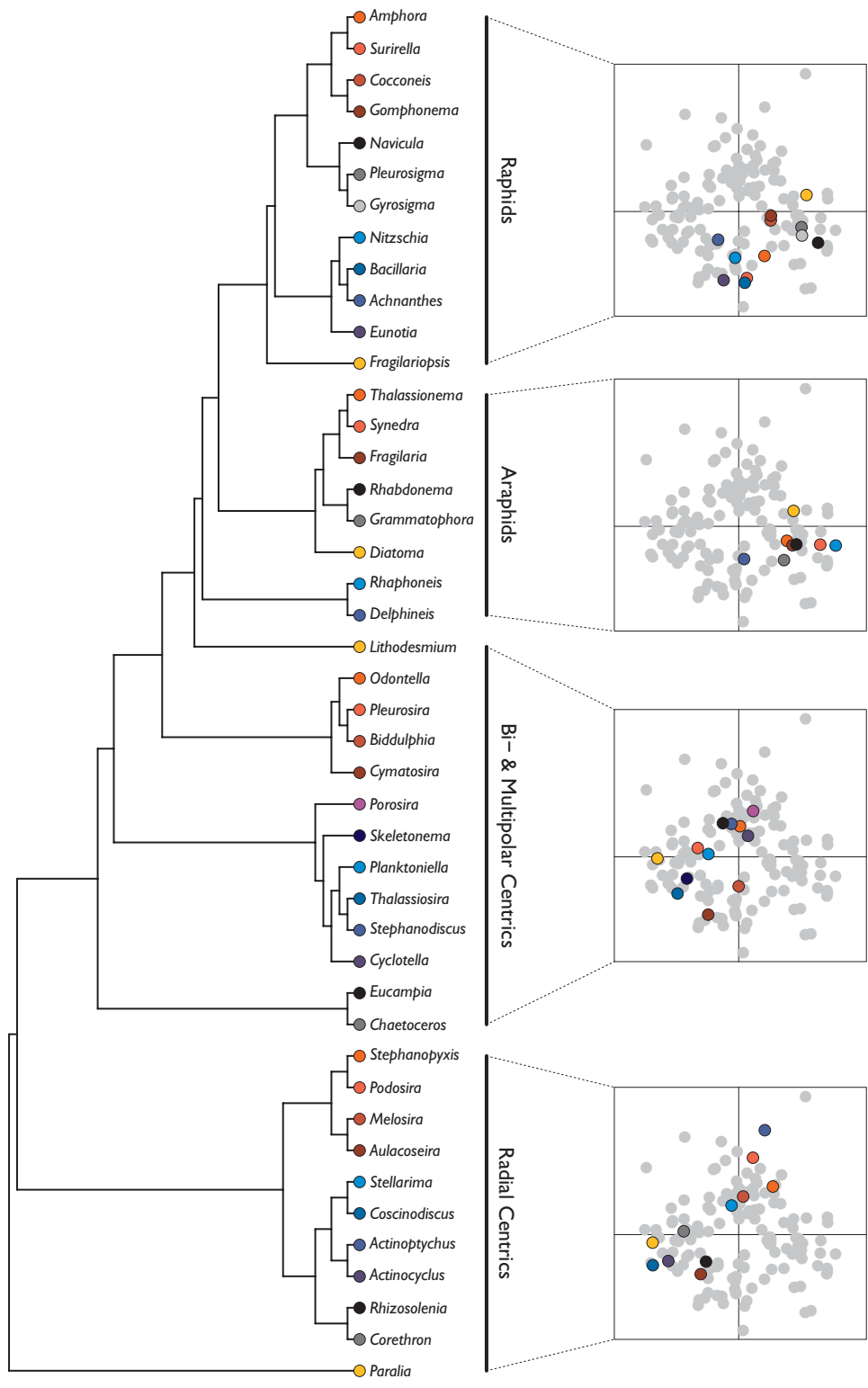
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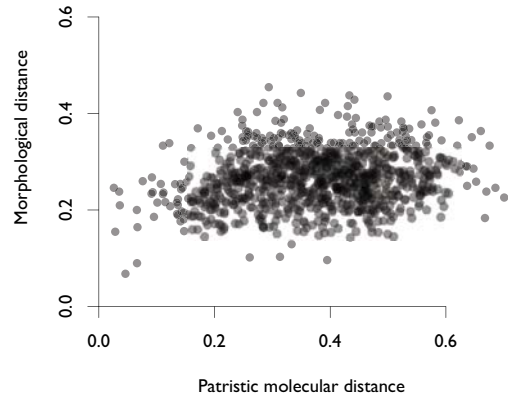




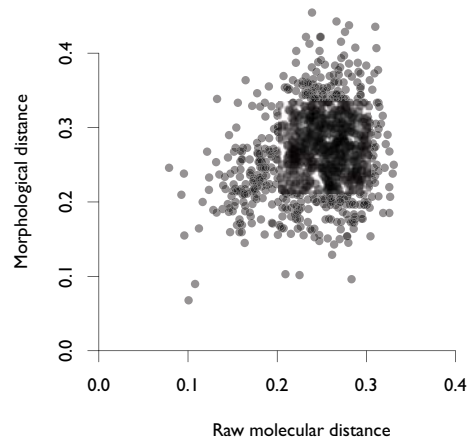


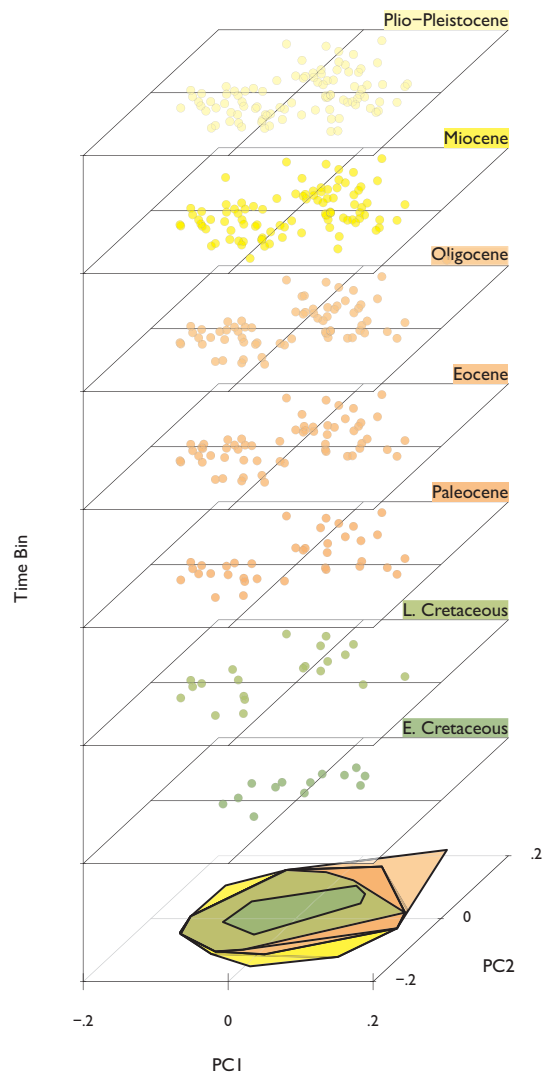


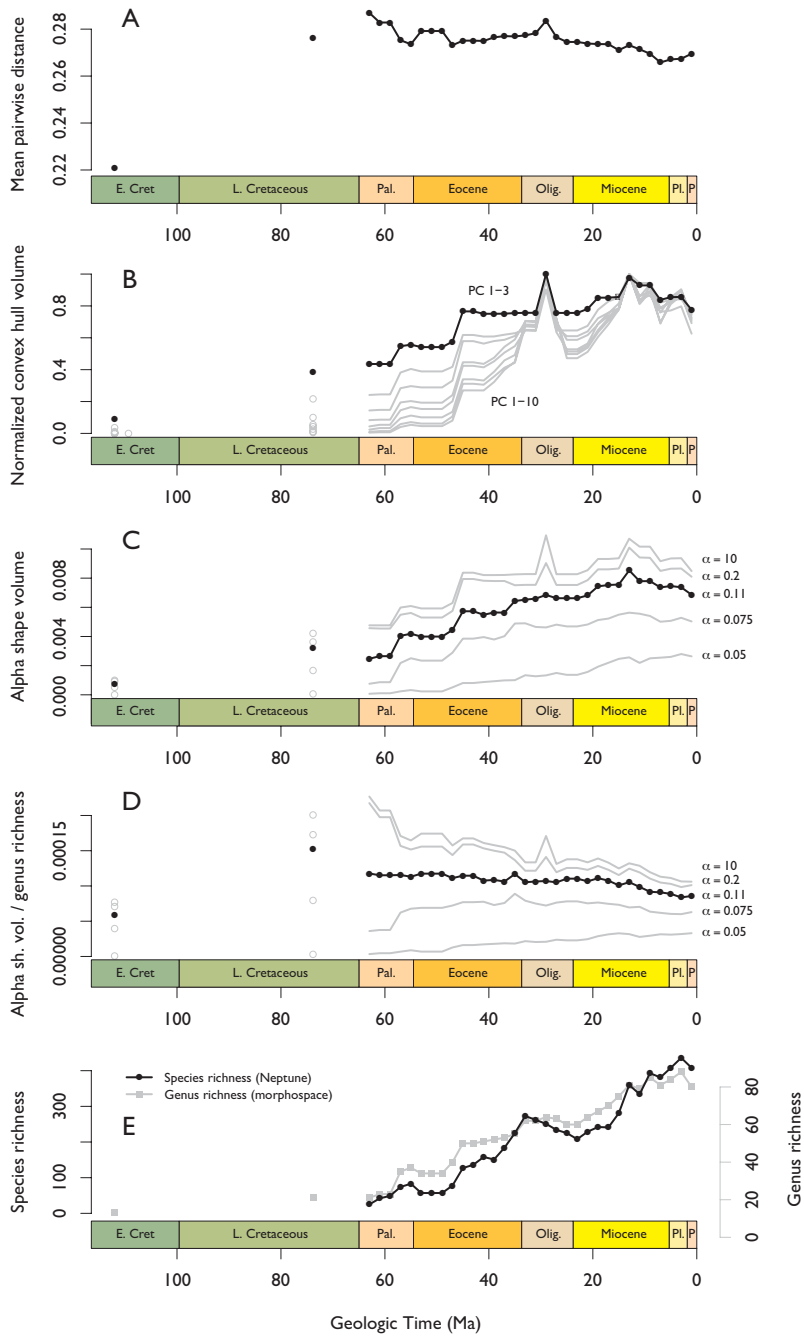
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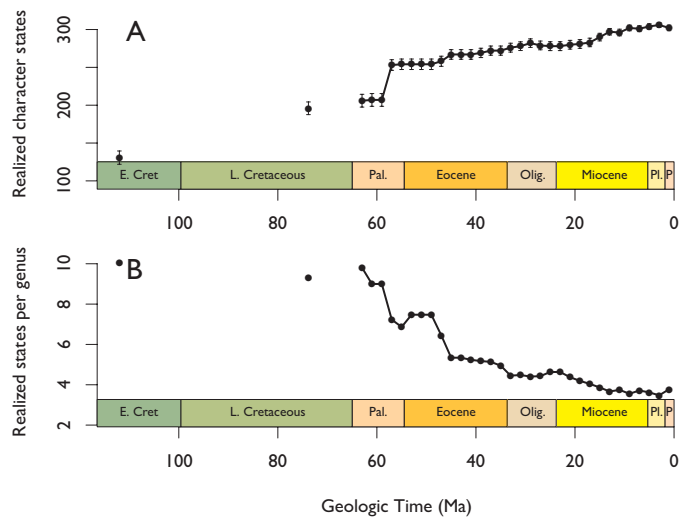


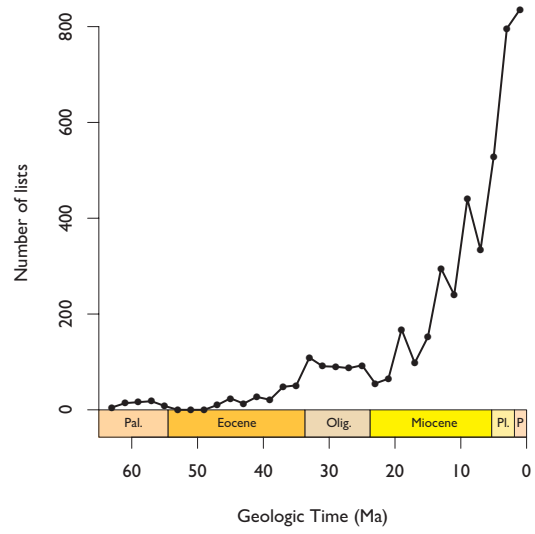
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1

Tables

2 Table 1: The characters with the five highest Cramér coefficients and the five lowest associated

3 *p*-values on the first two PCO axes.

Cramér coeff.	Axis	Char. #	Character description
0.84	PC 2	17	Central elevation shape
0.63	PC 2	14	Shape of apical elevation summit
0.59/0.53	PC 2/PC 1	27	Mantle shape in cross section
0.58	PC 1	100	Relative thickness of raphe sides
0.57/0.50	PC 1/PC 2	48	Shape of structural pattern center
0.49	PC 1	19	Angle between valve face and mantle
0.45	PC 2	92	Raphe extent
0.44	PC 1	84	Location of labiate process(es)

<i>p</i> -value	Axis	Char. #	Character description
≤ 0.00001	PC 1/PC 2	19	Angle between valve face and mantle
< 0.00001	PC 1	10	General topography of valve face
< 0.00001	PC 1	49	Packing/coordination of pores
< 0.00001	PC 1/PC 2	48	Shape of structural pattern center
< 0.00001	PC 1	24	Depth of mantle
< 0.00001	PC 2	27	Mantle shape in cross section
< 0.00001	PC 2	41	Distinct central area
0.00003	PC 2	22	Marginal ridge at rim

4