## Chapter 30

# Plant Diversity II: The Evolution of Seed Plants

PowerPoint<sup>®</sup> Lecture Presentations for

# Biology

*Eighth Edition* Neil Campbell and Jane Reece

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### **Overview: Transforming the World**

- Seeds changed the course of plant evolution, enabling their bearers to become the dominant producers in most terrestrial ecosystems
- A seed consists of an embryo and nutrients surrounded by a protective coat



# **Concept 30.1: Seeds and pollen grains are key adaptations for life on land**

- In addition to seeds, the following are common to all seed plants
  - Reduced gametophytes
  - Heterospory
  - Ovules
  - Pollen

#### **Advantages of Reduced Gametophytes**

• The gametophytes of seed plants develop within the walls of spores that are retained within tissues of the parent sporophyte Fig. 30-2

	PLANT GROUP		
	Mosses and other nonvascular plants	Ferns and other seedless vascular plants	Seed plants (gymnosperms and angiosperms)
Gametophyte	Dominant	Reduced, independent (photosynthetic and free-living)	Reduced (usually microscopic), dependent on surrounding sporophyte tissue for nutrition
Sporophyte	Reduced, dependent on gametophyte for nutrition	Dominant	Dominant
Example	Sporophyte (2 <i>n</i> ) Gametophyte ( <i>n</i> )	Sporophyte (2n) (2n) (2n) (2n) (2n) (2n) (2n) (2n)	Gymnosperm Angiosperm   Microscopic female gametophytes (n) inside vulate cone Microscopic female gametophytes (n) inside these parts of flowers   Microscopic male gametophytes (n) inside pollen cone Microscopic (n) inside these parts of flowers   Sporophyte (2n) Sporophyte (2n)

	Mosses and other nonvascular plants	
Gametophyte	Dominant	
Sporophyte	Reduced, dependent on gametophyte for nutrition	
Example		

	Ferns and other seedless vascular plants
Gametophyte	Reduced, independent (photosynthetic and free-living)
Sporophyte	Dominant
Example	<image/>

#### Seed plants (gymnosperms and angiosperms) Reduced (usually microscopic), dependent on surrounding Gametophyte sporophyte tissue for nutrition Sporophyte Dominant Gymnosperm Angiosperm **Microscopic female** gametophytes (n) inside ovulate cone Microscopic female gametophytes Microscopic (*n*) inside these parts male of flowers gametophytes (n) inside Example these parts of flowers **Microscopic male** gametophytes (n) inside pollen cone Sporophyte (2n) Sporophyte (2n)

**Heterospory: The Rule Among Seed Plants** 

- The ancestors of seed plants were likely homosporous, while seed plants are heterosporous
- Megasporangia produce megaspores that give rise to female gametophytes
- Microsporangia produce microspores that give rise to male gametophytes

- An ovule consists of a megasporangium, megaspore, and one or more protective integuments
- Gymnosperm megaspores have one integument
- Angiosperm megaspores usually have two integuments



## **Pollen and Production of Sperm**

- Microspores develop into pollen grains, which contain the male gametophytes
- **Pollination** is the transfer of pollen to the part of a seed plant containing the ovules
- Pollen eliminates the need for a film of water and can be dispersed great distances by air or animals
- If a pollen grain germinates, it gives rise to a pollen tube that discharges two sperm into the female gametophyte within the ovule



## **The Evolutionary Advantage of Seeds**

- A seed develops from the whole ovule
- A seed is a sporophyte embryo, along with its food supply, packaged in a protective coat
- Seeds provide some evolutionary advantages over spores:
  - They may remain dormant for days to years, until conditions are favorable for germination
  - They may be transported long distances by wind or animals







**Concept 30.2: Gymnosperms bear "naked" seeds, typically on cones** 

- The gymnosperms have "naked" seeds not enclosed by ovaries and consist of four phyla:
  - Cycadophyta (cycads)
  - Gingkophyta (one living species: Ginkgo biloba)
  - Gnetophyta (three genera: Gnetum, Ephedra, Welwitschia)
  - Coniferophyta (conifers, such as pine, fir, and redwood)



 Fossil evidence reveals that by the late Devonian period some plants, called progymnosperms, had begun to acquire some adaptations that characterize seed plants



#### Archaeopteris, a progymnosperm

- Living seed plants can be divided into two clades: gymnosperms and angiosperms
- Gymnosperms appear early in the fossil record and dominated the Mesozoic terrestrial ecosystems
- Gymnosperms were better suited than nonvascular plants to drier conditions
- Today, cone-bearing gymnosperms called conifers dominate in the northern latitudes

#### Phylum Cycadophyta

- Individuals have large cones and palmlike leaves
- These thrived during the Mesozoic, but relatively few species exist today



#### Cycas revoluta

## Phylum Ginkgophyta

- This phylum consists of a single living species, Ginkgo biloba
- It has a high tolerance to air pollution and is a popular ornamental tree

Fig. 30-5b



# *Ginkgo biloba* pollen-producing tree

Fig. 30-5c



#### *Ginkgo biloba* leaves and fleshy seeds

## Phylum Gnetophyta

- This phylum comprises three genera
- Species vary in appearance, and some are tropical whereas others live in deserts

#### Fig. 30-5d







#### Ephedra



#### Welwitschia





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## Phylum Coniferophyta

- This phylum is by far the largest of the gymnosperm phyla
- Most conifers are evergreens and can carry out photosynthesis year round



#### **Douglas fir**

#### Fig. 30-5i



#### **European larch**



#### **Bristlecone pine**
Fig. 30-5k



### Sequoia

Fig. 30-5l



#### Wollemi pine



#### **Common juniper**

The Life Cycle of a Pine: A Closer Look

- Three key features of the gymnosperm life cycle are:
  - Dominance of the sporophyte generation
  - Development of seeds from fertilized ovules
  - The transfer of sperm to ovules by pollen
- The life cycle of a pine provides an example



- The pine tree is the sporophyte and produces sporangia in male and female cones
- Small cones produce microspores called pollen grains, each of which contains a male gametophyte
- The familiar larger cones contain ovules, which produce megaspores that develop into female gametophytes
- It takes nearly three years from cone production to mature seed









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# **Concept 30.3: The reproductive adaptations of angiosperms include flowers and fruits**

- Angiosperms are seed plants with reproductive structures called flowers and fruits
- They are the most widespread and diverse of all plants



- All angiosperms are classified in a single phylum, Anthophyta
- The name comes from the Greek *anthos,* flower

- The flower is an angiosperm structure specialized for sexual reproduction
- Many species are pollinated by insects or animals, while some species are windpollinated

- A flower is a specialized shoot with up to four types of modified leaves:
  - Sepals, which enclose the flower
  - Petals, which are brightly colored and attract pollinators
  - Stamens, which produce pollen on their terminal anthers
  - **Carpels**, which produce ovules



 A carpel consists of an ovary at the base and a style leading up to a stigma, where pollen is received



#### **Fruits**

- A **fruit** typically consists of a mature ovary but can also include other flower parts
- Fruits protect seeds and aid in their dispersal
- Mature fruits can be either fleshy or dry





- Various fruit adaptations help disperse seeds
- Seeds can be carried by wind, water, or animals to new locations



Wings



#### Seeds within berries



- The flower of the sporophyte is composed of both male and female structures
- Male gametophytes are contained within pollen grains produced by the microsporangia of anthers
- The female gametophyte, or embryo sac, develops within an ovule contained within an ovary at the base of a stigma
- Most flowers have mechanisms to ensure cross-pollination between flowers from different plants of the same species

- A pollen grain that has landed on a stigma germinates and the pollen tube of the male gametophyte grows down to the ovary
- The ovule is entered by a pore called the **micropyle**
- Double fertilization occurs when the pollen tube discharges two sperm into the female gametophyte within an ovule

- One sperm fertilizes the egg, while the other combines with two nuclei in the central cell of the female gametophyte and initiates development of food-storing endosperm
- The endosperm nourishes the developing embryo
- Within a seed, the embryo consists of a root and two seed leaves called cotyledons







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- Clarifying the origin and diversification of angiosperms poses fascinating challenges to evolutionary biologists
- Angiosperms originated at least 140 million years ago
- During the late Mesozoic, the major branches of the clade diverged from their common ancestor

- Primitive fossils of 125-million-year-old angiosperms display derived and primitive traits
- Archaefructus sinensis, for example, has anthers and seeds but lacks petals and sepals



(a) Archaefructus sinensis, a 125-million-year-old fossil

> (b) Artist's reconstruction of Archaefructus sinensis



- The ancestors of angiosperms and gymnosperms diverged about 305 million years ago
- Angiosperms may be closely related to Bennettitales, extinct seed plants with flowerlike structures
- Amborella and water lilies are likely descended from two of the most ancient angiosperm lineages



(a) A possible ancestor of the angiosperms?

#### (b) Angiosperm phylogeny



## (a) A possible ancestor of the angiosperms?



#### (b) Angiosperm phylogeny

**Developmental Patterns in Angiosperms** 

- Egg formation in the angiosperm Amborella resembles that of the gymnosperms
- Researchers are currently studying expression of flower development genes in gymnosperm and angiosperm species
- The two main groups of angiosperms are monocots (one cotyledon) and eudicots ("true" dicots)
- The clade eudicot includes some groups formerly assigned to the paraphyletic dicot (two cotyledons) group

- Basal angiosperms are less derived and include the flowering plants belonging to the oldest lineages
- Magnoliids share some traits with basal angiosperms but are more closely related to monocots and eudicots

# **Basal Angiosperms**

- Three small lineages constitute the basal angiosperms
- These include Amborella trichopoda, water lilies, and star anise



#### Amborella trichopoda



# Water lily

Fig. 30-13c



# Star anise

# Magnoliids

- Magnoliids include magnolias, laurels, and black pepper plants
- Magnoliids are more closely related to monocots and eudicots than basal angiosperms

Fig. 30-13d



## Southern magnolia

# Monocots

 More than one-quarter of angiosperm species are monocots Fig. 30-13e





# Pygmy date palm (Phoenix roebelenii)

Fig. 30-13f



# Lily

## Barley



# **Eudicots**

 More than two-thirds of angiosperm species are eudicots Fig. 30-13h



# California poppy





# Dog rose



# Snow pea

Fig. 30-13I



## Zucchini flowers



Fig. 30-13n



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**Evolutionary Links Between Angiosperms and Animals** 

- Pollination of flowers and transport of seeds by animals are two important relationships in terrestrial ecosystems
- Clades with bilaterally symmetrical flowers have more species than those with radially symmetrical flowers
- This is likely because bilateral symmetry affects the movement of pollinators and reduces gene flow in diverging populations

**PLAY** Video: Bee Pollinating

PLAY

Video: Bat Pollinating Agave Plant

#### EXPERIMENT



Fig. 30-14





# **Concept 30.4: Human welfare depends greatly on seed plants**

- No group of plants is more important to human survival than seed plants
- Plants are key sources of food, fuel, wood products, and medicine
- Our reliance on seed plants makes preservation of plant diversity critical

- Most of our food comes from angiosperms
- Six crops (wheat, rice, maize, potatoes, cassava, and sweet potatoes) yield 80% of the calories consumed by humans
- Modern crops are products of relatively recent genetic change resulting from artificial selection
- Many seed plants provide wood
- Secondary compounds of seed plants are used in medicines

#### Table 30.1 A Sampling of Medicines Derived from Seed Plants

Compound	Source	Example of Use
Atropine	Belladonna plant	Pupil dilator in eye exams
Digitalin	Foxglove	Heart medication
Menthol	Eucalyptus tree	Ingredient in cough medicines
Morphine	Opium poppy	Pain reliever
Quinine	Cinchona tree (see below)	Malaria preventive
Taxol	Pacific yew	Ovarian cancer drug
Tubocurarine	Curare tree	Muscle relaxant during surgery
Vinblastine	Periwinkle	Leukemia drug



Cinchona bark, source of quinine

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## Cinchona bark, source of quinine

- Destruction of habitat is causing extinction of many plant species
- Loss of plant habitat is often accompanied by loss of the animal species that plants support
- At the current rate of habitat loss, 50% of Earth's species will become extinct within the next 100–200 years

Fig. 30-UN3

Five Derived Traits of Seed Plants		
Reduced gametophytes	Microscopic male and female gametophytes ( <i>n</i> ) are nourished and protected by the sporophyte (2 <i>n</i> ) Male gametophyte Female gametophyte	
Heterospory	Microspore (gives rise to a male gametophyte) Megaspore (gives rise to a female gametophyte)	
Ovules	Ovule (gymnosperm) Megaspore (2 <i>n</i> ) Megasporangium (2 <i>n</i> )	
Pollen	Pollen grains make water unnecessary for fertilization	
Seeds	Seeds: survive better than unprotected spores, can be transported long distances	





- 1. Explain why pollen grains were an important adaptation for successful reproduction on land
- 2. List and distinguish among the four phyla of gymnosperms
- Describe the life history of a pine; indicate which structures are part of the gametophyte generation and which are part of the sporophyte generation

# You should now be able to:

- Identify and describe the function of the following floral structures: sepals, petals, stamens, carpels, filament, anther, stigma, style, ovary, and ovule
- 5. Explain how fruits may be adapted to disperse seeds
- 6. Diagram the generalized life cycle of an angiosperm; indicate which structures are part of the gametophyte generation and which are part of the sporophyte generation
- 7. Explain the significance of *Archaefructus* and *Amborella*
- 8. Describe the current threat to plant diversity caused by human population growth