

# FAMILY- AND POPULATION-LEVEL RESPONSES TO ATMOSPHERIC CO<sub>2</sub> CONCENTRATION: GAS EXCHANGE AND THE ALLOCATION OF C, N, AND BIOMASS IN *PLANTAGO LANCEOLATA* (PLANTAGINACEAE)<sup>1</sup>

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To ascertain the inheritance of responses to changing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> content, we partitioned response to elevated CO<sub>2</sub> in *Plantago lanceolata* between families and populations in 18 families in two populations. Plants were grown in 35 Pa and 71 Pa partial pressure of CO<sub>2</sub> (pCO<sub>2</sub>) in open-top chambers. We measured above- and belowground mass, carbon (C), nitrogen (N), hexose sugar, and gas exchange properties in both CO<sub>2</sub> treatments. Families within populations differed in mass, mass allocation, root : shoot ratios, aboveground percentage N, C : N ratio, and gas exchange properties. The CO<sub>2</sub> × family interaction is the main indicator of potential evolutionary responses to changing CO<sub>2</sub>. Significant CO<sub>2</sub> × family interactions were observed for N content, C : N ratio, and photosynthetic rate (*A*: instantaneous light-saturated carbon assimilation capacity), intercellular CO<sub>2</sub> concentration, transpiration rate (*E*), and water use efficiency (WUE = *A/E*), but not for stomatal conductance. Families differed significantly in acclimation across time. The ratio of *A* in elevated vs. ambient growth CO<sub>2</sub>, when measured at a common internal CO<sub>2</sub> partial pressure was 0.79, indicating down-regulation of *A* under CO<sub>2</sub> enrichment. Mass, C : N ratio, percentage, C (%C), and soluble sugar all increased significantly but overall %N did not change. Increases in %C and sugar were significant and were coincident with redistribution of N aboveground. The observed variation among populations and families in response to CO<sub>2</sub> is evidence of genetic variation in response and therefore of the potential for novel evolutionary trajectories with rising atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>.

**Key words:** biomass allocation; elevated CO<sub>2</sub>; gas exchange; genetic variation; nitrogen assimilation; photosynthesis; *Plantago lanceolata*; Plantaginaceae.

Many studies have shown that whole-plant mass in C<sub>3</sub> species typically increases in response to elevated CO<sub>2</sub> (reviewed by Poorter, 1993; Curtis and Wang, 1998). However, as the variety of species studied and the length of experiments have increased, considerable interspecific variation in the magnitude and duration of this “typical” response to elevated atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> has been documented (Bazzaz, Coleman, and Morse, 1990; Garbutt, Williams, and Bazzaz, 1990; Hunt et al., 1995). Substantial interspecific variation has also been observed in the physiological responses to elevated CO<sub>2</sub>, in changes in nitrogen acquisition, and in the partitioning of overall mass, carbon, and nitrogen among plant parts and functions (Sage, 1994; Curtis and Wang, 1998).

While interspecific differences in responses to elevated CO<sub>2</sub> can have important implications for ecological interactions,

they also indicate that genetic variation in responses exists, at least at a macroevolutionary level. Intraspecific differences arise and are translated into interspecific variation through the actions of drift and divergent selection. The extent of intraspecific variation indicates, at least in a qualitative way, the potential for rapid adaptation to elevated CO<sub>2</sub>. Thus while extant interspecific differences in response to elevated CO<sub>2</sub> demonstrate that evolution in CO<sub>2</sub> responses can occur on a geologic time scale, the extent of intraspecific variation indicates the likelihood of near-term genetic adaptation to shifting atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> composition on something closer to ecological time scales. Yet the presence and nature of that intraspecific variation is largely unexplored.

To understand the potential evolutionary consequences of increasing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, we need to examine the extent of genetic variation in relevant traits both at the level of populations and at that of families. In some species, genetic variation is distributed mainly among rather than within populations, largely as a function of dispersal and mating system effects (Loveless and Hamrick, 1984). When genetic variation is distributed mainly among populations, and the within-population heritabilities are low, the movement of genes between populations can be as important a source of genetic variance as mutation and recombination, especially in small populations (Weber, 1990, 1992). Variation at the family level within populations in contrast is the classic quantitative genetic measure of genetic variation, among-sibling variance being the basis of commonly used heritability estimates (Hallauer and Miranda, 1981). It is therefore important to assess genetic variation both within and among populations.

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In the small number of studies that have examined intraspecific variation in the context of elevated CO<sub>2</sub> atmospheres, both growth (Wulff and Alexander, 1985; Poorter, Pot, and Lambers, 1988; Curtis et al., 1996) and reproductive output (Cure and Acock, 1986; Curtis, Snow, and Miller, 1994; Curtis et al., 1994) exhibit genetic variation. For example, Curtis, Snow, and Miller (1994) showed genotype-specific effects of elevated CO<sub>2</sub> on fecundity, and Curtis et al. (1996) demonstrated that both *Raphanus raphanistrum* and *Plantago lanceolata* varied physiologically among sibships in 71 Pa CO<sub>2</sub>. However, none of these studies determined if families or genotypes *respond differently* when grown in a high CO<sub>2</sub> environment than they do when grown in a conventional CO<sub>2</sub> environment. This is important for understanding the evolutionary implications of the observed variation. If families or genotypes respond similarly, i.e., maintain the same relative ranks across environments, then directional selection will favor the same genotypes in both environments. Thus any resultant evolution is not CO<sub>2</sub>-environment specific, but is a general evolutionary response to characteristics that are common to both CO<sub>2</sub> environments.

To demonstrate inherited differences *in response to elevated CO<sub>2</sub>*, one must show a change in the rank order among genotypes across CO<sub>2</sub> environments. When the phenotypic ranks of a set of genotypes (or families, or populations) change across environments, then selection for high phenotypic value will select on different genotypes in the two environments. Thus any response to selection will be through increase in the frequencies of different genotypes in the two environments.

In this study we tested for genetic variation in the response to elevated CO<sub>2</sub> in the short-lived perennial herb *Plantago lanceolata*, using maternal families from two natural populations. *Plantago lanceolata* has been used extensively in physiological, ecological, and genetic studies (Teramura and Strain, 1979; Tonsor, 1985, 1989; Kuiper and Bos, 1992; Tonsor and Goodnight, 1997). Populations of *P. lanceolata* grow in a variety of habitats and have been found to exhibit both local adaptation (Teramura and Strain, 1979; Teramura, 1983; Tonsor, 1985, 1990) and phenotypic plasticity (Teramura and Strain, 1979; Antonovics and Primack, 1982; van Tienderen, 1990). The species is known to be genetically variable for a broad variety of physiological, morphological, and life history traits (Teramura and Strain, 1979; Teramura, 1983; Wolff and Van Delden, 1987; Tonsor and Goodnight, 1997) and is capable of undergoing rapid evolutionary change (Wu and Antonovics, 1976; Wolff and Van Delden, 1989). Studies of *P. lanceolata* grown in elevated CO<sub>2</sub> have revealed genetic variation in allelochemical content (Fajer, Bowers, and Bazzaz, 1992) and early growth parameters (Wulff and Alexander, 1985). However, these studies did not address genetic differences in genotype or family ranks between CO<sub>2</sub> environments.

The goal of the study was to determine the extent to which there is a change in rank using the genotype  $\times$  CO<sub>2</sub> interaction in mass gain and in a number of morphological and physiological traits that are known to change in mean value in response to elevated CO<sub>2</sub>. We measured a hierarchy of traits including total plant mass, mass allocation, tissue sugar, carbon (C) and nitrogen (N) content. Changes in mass allocation patterns provide a measure of the extent to which plants alter their investment in roots or shoots under CO<sub>2</sub> enrichment. Changes in sugar content can indicate the extent to which a plant is able to down-regulate its carbon assimilation machinery sufficiently to keep N and C in balance in the plant tissue

(Sage, Sharkey, and Seemann, 1988). Since N is often the most limiting resource in terrestrial ecosystems, shifts in tissue-specific nitrogen content can be a critical factor in optimizing N economy and fitness in an elevated CO<sub>2</sub> environment.

This study measured the extent to which variation in responses to an elevated CO<sub>2</sub> environment can be partitioned among families and populations. Inherited variation is the basis for adaptive evolutionary responses to selection, and this study establishes whether inherited variation exists in traits known to exhibit plastic responses atmospheric carbon content. However, predicting the extent of a future adaptive responses also requires careful field estimation of selection on these traits, which was beyond the scope of this study.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

We studied two populations of *P. lanceolata*. The Ely Lake (EL) population (Allegan County, Michigan, USA) grows on exposed sandy soil on a sunny lakeshore, experiencing high irradiance at midday (and midday water stress), but partial shade from the surrounding oak-pine forest early and late in the day. The Kellogg Field (KF) population (Kalamazoo County, Michigan, USA) grows in a sandy loam in the partial shade, intermixed in a canopy of tall herbaceous vegetation, on the edge of a mown field. Seeds from 25–30 maternal plants (families) in each population were collected in the fall of 1991. Ten families from KF and eight families from EL were selected randomly for use in the experiment.

In early June 1992 all of the seeds from each of the eighteen families were planted in flats and placed in an open-top chamber at the CO<sub>2</sub> level in which they were to be grown (either ambient or twice-ambient CO<sub>2</sub>). After germination, seedlings were transplanted into 10 cm diameter  $\times$  30 cm high pots with mesh screen bottoms, one seedling per pot. Pots were filled with 2.45 L of 50 : 50 mixture of native field soil (Kalamazoo loam) and sand. Low seed numbers for some families resulted in an average within-family sample size of 8.5 seedlings. All seedlings were assigned randomly to one of eight 0.5-m<sup>3</sup> outdoor open-top chambers (Curtis and Teeri, 1992). The chambers were placed adjacent to the Terrestrial Field Laboratory at the Kellogg Biological Station (Kalamazoo County, Michigan, USA). The plants were watered as needed, usually twice daily. There was no fertilizer supplementation.

Pure CO<sub>2</sub> was dispensed via manual flow meters into input blowers and then into the four elevated CO<sub>2</sub> chambers to increase CO<sub>2</sub> concentration. The four ambient chambers received no additional CO<sub>2</sub>. Chamber CO<sub>2</sub> levels were monitored continuously with an infra-red gas analyzer (LI-6251, LI-COR, Lincoln, Nebraska, USA) (see Curtis and Teeri, 1992). Quantum sensors and thermocouples within each chamber were used to record irradiance levels and temperature. During daytime (0700–1900) CO<sub>2</sub> was  $72.1 \pm 5.8$  Pa (mean  $\pm$  1 SD) inside the elevated chambers, and  $36.4 \pm 2.6$  Pa inside the ambient chambers. Elevated chamber CO<sub>2</sub> was allowed to follow diurnal fluctuations, so that both nighttime and daytime CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations were appropriately elevated. Daytime temperatures were  $1.70 \pm 0.6^\circ\text{C}$  higher inside the chambers than outside, with no significant difference in temperature between ambient and elevated chambers. After 3 wk of growth, plants exhibited symptoms of light stress (prostrate growth and red pigmentation of the leaf bases) and all chambers were covered with shade cloth. The shade cloth reduced incident light 68%, and plants recovered their normal phenotype. Since both populations experienced partial shade in their native habitats (although with different variances), this seemed an appropriate amendment to the treatment.

Instantaneous carbon assimilation capacity (A), transpiration (E), stomatal conductance (g<sub>s</sub>), and leaf internal CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (C<sub>i</sub>) measurements were made twice on all plants, from 9 to 13 August and from 4 to 10 September 1992. Each plant was measured at both CO<sub>2</sub> growth treatment concentrations at saturating light levels (1300  $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$  photosynthetically active radiation [PAR]). Measurements were made on the youngest fully expanded leaf. We used two infra-red gas analyzers (Model LCA3, Analytical Development Corp., Hoddeson, UK) for these measurements. The CO<sub>2</sub> source (35 Pa or 71

Pa CO<sub>2</sub>) was rotated to a different instrument each day to allow us to estimate instrument effects.

Plants were harvested after 127 d growth, above- and belowground parts separated, dried at 60°C, and weighed. No plants flowered during this experiment. To determine the extent to which tissue quality was affected by the CO<sub>2</sub> treatments, three families were arbitrarily selected for biochemical analysis. The available funds for CHN analysis limited the total sample size for this analysis to  $N = 36$ : (6 plants per family)  $\times$  (3 families)  $\times$  (2 CO<sub>2</sub> treatments). Shoot and root tissue of each plant was analyzed separately for percentage C (%C) and percentage N (%N) with a CHN analyzer (Carlo Erba, Paramus, New Jersey, USA). Soluble carbohydrate concentration was determined enzymatically (see Hurry et al. 1995). Tissue was ground and the supernatant was centrifuged prior to being divided into two samples. In the first sample, hexokinase was added to convert glucose to glucose-6-phosphate (G-6-P). Phosphoglucose isomerase was then used to drive the conversion of fructose-6-phosphate to G-6-P. Glucose-6-Phosphate was oxidized to 6-phosphogluconate using glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase, and the concentration of the NADPH formed in the process was measured spectrophotometrically at A<sub>340</sub>.

**Statistical analysis**—In evolutionary genetic studies, changes in genotypic rank across environments are typically assessed through tests for heterogeneity of slopes in a regression of genotypic responses across environments or by a test for an interaction between genotype and environment in an analysis of variance (ANOVA) or multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA). We used ANOVAs and MANOVAs, because our environmental treatments consisted of two discrete CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations.

**Physiological variables**—The effects of block, instrument, and date of measurement were removed from the four gas exchange variables by subtracting their respective deviations from the grand mean summed over block, instrument, and measurement dates (Tonsor and Goodnight, 1997). Because the four gas exchange variables were expected to be correlated with each other (Tonsor and Goodnight, 1997), they were initially analyzed using a multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA), to determine overall, main, and interaction effects. The MANOVA was followed by univariate mixed model ANOVAs for the four primary physiological variables plus water use efficiency (WUE), defined as A/E. The overall mixed models for the analysis of the physiological variables included four fixed effects: the CO<sub>2</sub> treatment at which plants were grown (growth CO<sub>2</sub>), month of measurement, the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration at which gas exchange was measured (measurement CO<sub>2</sub>), and population of origin. The models also included one random effect (family nested within population) and two-way interactions for all main effects. Interaction terms containing the random effect were also treated as random effects.

Significance levels in the multivariate analysis were interpreted using Roy's Greatest Root because of its statistical power and suitability for post hoc statistical comparisons (Scheiner, 1993). Sample size for each family in each CO<sub>2</sub> treatment ranged from 3 to 6 individuals. All variables in the analysis were normally distributed except *E*, which was log<sub>10</sub> transformed, and *g<sub>s</sub>*, which was square-root transformed.

Since each plant was measured at two CO<sub>2</sub> levels in each of 2 mo, we performed two separate repeated-measures analyses: one to test the response of the physiological variables to measurement CO<sub>2</sub> and another to test how these responses differed between August and September. The physiological variables were initially tested together in multivariate repeated measures ANOVAs and then were considered separately for their contributions to the multivariate results. The model was identical to the one used in the MANOVA described above.

**Mass and tissue biochemistry**—Mass data from the main experiment and tissue biochemistry data from the subset of three families were statistically analyzed using ANOVA. The model for the analysis of the main experiment was:  $y_{ijkl} = y_{...}\alpha_i + \beta_j + \delta_k + \gamma_{l(k)} + \beta\delta_{jk} + \beta\gamma_{jk} + \epsilon_{ijkl}$ , where  $y_{ijkl}$  is them measurement for the  $ijkl$ th individual,  $y_{...}$  = grand mean,  $\alpha_i$  = mean effect of block  $i$ ,  $\beta_j$  = mean effect of CO<sub>2</sub> level  $j$ ,  $\delta_k$  = the mean effect of population  $k$ ,  $\gamma_l$  = mean effect of the  $l$ th family within population  $k$ , and the paired,

TABLE 1. Multivariate analysis of variance for the main effects of growth CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (GCO<sub>2</sub>), population (POP), measurement CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (MCO<sub>2</sub>), month of measurement (MONTH), and family nested within population (FAM), and their two-day interactions. The three-way interaction was not significant.

Source	Roy's greatest			<i>P</i> > <i>F</i>
	df	root	<i>F</i>	
GCO <sub>2</sub>	4,618	0.15	23.6	0.0001
POP	4,618	0.02	3.4	0.009
MCO <sub>2</sub>	4,618	47.52	7342.8	0.0001
MONTH	4,618	0.09	14.0	0.0001
FAM	16,621	0.12	4.7	0.0001
GCO <sub>2</sub> $\times$ POP	4,618	0.02	2.4	0.048
GCO <sub>2</sub> $\times$ CO <sub>2</sub>	4,618	0.09	13.2	0.0001
GCO <sub>2</sub> $\times$ MONTH	4,618	0.03	5.0	0.0006
GCO <sub>2</sub> $\times$ FAM	16,621	0.08	3.1	0.0001
POP $\times$ MCO <sub>2</sub>	4,618	0.002	0.2	0.9
POP $\times$ MONTH	4,618	0.003	0.4	0.8
MCO <sub>2</sub> $\times$ MONTH	4,618	0.01	2.2	0.07
MCO <sub>2</sub> $\times$ FAM	16,621	0.02	0.9	0.5
MONTH $\times$ FAM	16,621	0.06	2.3	0.002

doubly subscripted terms are the two-way interactions. The three-way interactions and the block interactions were never significant, and so they were omitted from the final analyses. The SAS MODEL statement read: *variable* = BLOCK CO<sub>2</sub> POPULATION FAMILY(POP) (CO<sub>2</sub>  $\times$  POPULATION) (CO<sub>2</sub>  $\times$  FAMILY) (SAS, 1989). Target sample size for each family in each CO<sub>2</sub> environment was  $n = 6$ , although this target was not always met, due to a paucity of seeds. Of the 24 families used in the main experiment, six families were excluded from analysis because two or fewer individuals were present in one or both CO<sub>2</sub> growth environments.

The model for the analysis of tissue content in the three families was:  $y_{ij} = y_{..}\alpha_i + \beta_j + \alpha\beta_{ij} + \epsilon_{ij}$ , where  $y_{ij}$  is them measurement for the  $ij$ th individual,  $y_{..}$  = grand mean,  $\alpha_i$  = mean effect of CO<sub>2</sub> treatment  $i$ ,  $\beta_j$  = mean effect of family  $j$ , and  $\alpha\beta_{ij}$  = the CO<sub>2</sub>  $\times$  family interactions. In SAS language (SAS, 1989), the model statement was: *variable* = CO<sub>2</sub> FAMILY (CO<sub>2</sub>  $\times$  FAMILY). Since only one family from the EL population was included, a population effect could not be included. All variables were normally distributed except root : shoot ratio. A log transformation of root : shoot ratio to achieve normality did not change significance levels and the untransformed data were used in the overall ANOVA.

Since a comparison of family means was intended initially, all main effects and interactions in the model were considered to be fixed (Gill, 1978). A statistically significant POPULATION or FAMILY mean square demonstrates that these populations or families differ genetically from each other. A statistically significant interaction term ((POPULATION  $\times$  CO<sub>2</sub>) or (FAMILY  $\times$  CO<sub>2</sub>)) indicates that the populations or families respond differentially to the CO<sub>2</sub> growth environment.

## RESULTS

**Physiology—Population-level effects**—The MANOVA showed that populations were significantly different overall (Table 1), but in the ANOVAs, no single physiological variable showed significant variation between the two populations (Table 2). There was also a significant overall population by growth CO<sub>2</sub> interaction detected in the MANOVA, although none of the individual physiological factors had significant population by growth CO<sub>2</sub> interactions in the ANOVAs.

**Family-level effects**—Families showed significant overall physiological variation (Table 1); however, no single physiological trait showed significant family-level variation (Table 2). The family  $\times$  growth CO<sub>2</sub> interaction was significant in the MANOVA, and for *A*, *E*, *C<sub>i</sub>* and WUE but not for *g<sub>s</sub>* in

TABLE 2. Summary of probabilities from univariate mixed-model ANOVAs, with growth CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (GCO<sub>2</sub>), population (POP), measurement CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (MCO<sub>2</sub>), month of measurement (MONTH), and family nested within population (FAM), and their two-way interactions. The three-way interaction was not significant.

Source	df	A	g <sub>s</sub>	E	WUE	C <sub>i</sub>
GCO <sub>2</sub>	1	0.002	0.23	0.11	0.0001	0.0001
POP	1	0.17	0.54	0.64	0.09	0.17
MCO <sub>2</sub>	1	0.0001	0.0001	0.007	0.0001	0.0001
MONTH	1	0.006	0.13	0.74	0.0001	0.0001
FAM	16	0.38	0.45	0.27	0.28	0.13
GCO <sub>2</sub> × POP	1	0.51	0.65	0.31	0.104	0.42
GCO <sub>2</sub> × MCO <sub>2</sub>	1	0.003	0.01	0.09	0.0001	0.0001
GCO <sub>2</sub> × MONTH	1	0.003	0.03	0.88	0.0001	0.15
GCO <sub>2</sub> × FAM	16	0.005	0.44	0.04	0.02	0.05
POP × MCO <sub>2</sub>	1	0.90	0.66	0.18	0.58	0.45
POP × MONTH	1	0.76	0.87	0.81	0.87	0.44
MCO <sub>2</sub> × MONTH	1	0.01	0.96	0.45	0.03	0.97
MCO <sub>2</sub> × FAM	16	0.92	0.99	0.99	0.42	0.80
MONTH × FAM	16	0.03	0.02	0.003	0.44	0.33

the ANOVAs. These interactions were not due simply to increased spread among families in elevated CO<sub>2</sub>, but result from changes in rank. As an example, this family × growth CO<sub>2</sub> interaction is illustrated for A in the style typical in reports of genotype × environment interactions (Fig. 1). The other significant interactions are similar in the extent to which the norms of reaction for families or populations cross each other between environments. Families did not respond differently to measurement CO<sub>2</sub>. There was a significant MANOVA family × month interaction, and this was reflected in significant ANOVA family × month interactions for A, E, and g<sub>s</sub>. Leaf internal CO<sub>2</sub> concentration and WUE did not show significant ANOVA family level interactions.

*The effects of CO<sub>2</sub>*—The overall treatment effects for plants grown and measured in both ambient and elevated CO<sub>2</sub> at two dates in the growing season are presented in Table 3. The MANOVA of physiological variables (Table 1) detected a highly significant effect of growth CO<sub>2</sub> on the combined set of physiological variables. The univariate ANOVAs (Table 2) showed significant overall growth CO<sub>2</sub> effects on A, WUE, and C<sub>i</sub> but not on g<sub>s</sub> or E (Table 1). The CO<sub>2</sub> concentration of the growth environment (growth CO<sub>2</sub>) affected only E and WUE in August. However, by September substantial differ-

ences between plants grown at the two atmospheres had developed and were manifested as between growth-environment differences in A and WUE manifested in both measurement atmospheres. September differences in g<sub>s</sub> due to the growth CO<sub>2</sub> environment were only observed in the 71 Pa measure-

TABLE 3. Effects of CO<sub>2</sub> treatments on net CO<sub>2</sub> assimilation (A) stomatal conductance (g<sub>s</sub>), transpiration rate (E), water use efficiency (WUE), and internal CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (C<sub>i</sub>) in *Plantago lanceolata* in August and September, mean (SE), N = 89–99 for each variable. CO<sub>2</sub> treatment means were compared using univariate one-way ANOVAs. Different superscript letters indicate significant differences between means across treatments. Lowercase a's and b's indicate differences between growth CO<sub>2</sub> means, both measured at 35 Pa CO<sub>2</sub>. Uppercase A's and B's indicate differences between growth CO<sub>2</sub> means, both growth treatments measured at 71 Pa CO<sub>2</sub>. Uppercase X's and Y's indicate differences between growth environment means when measured in their respective growth CO<sub>2</sub> environments (e.g., 35 Pa-grown measured at 35 Pa, vs. 71 Pa-grown, 71 Pa measured). Differences were considered to be significant at the P < 0.025 level (Bonferroni correction for multiple comparisons of means).

Variable	Measurement CO <sub>2</sub> (Pa)	Growth CO <sub>2</sub> (Pa)	
		35	71
<b>AUGUST</b>			
A (μmol·m <sup>-2</sup> ·s <sup>-1</sup> )	35	12.86 (0.37) <sup>a,X</sup>	13.27 (0.33) <sup>a</sup>
	71	26.17 (0.52) <sup>A</sup>	24.48 (0.58) <sup>A,Y</sup>
g <sub>s</sub> (mmol·m <sup>-2</sup> ·s <sup>-1</sup> )	35	1.23 (0.07) <sup>a</sup>	1.09 (0.06) <sup>a</sup>
	71	0.87 (0.06) <sup>A</sup>	1.05 (0.05) <sup>A</sup>
E (mmol·m <sup>-2</sup> ·s <sup>-1</sup> )	35	7.37 (0.17) <sup>a</sup>	7.56 (0.20) <sup>a</sup>
	71	6.94 (0.15) <sup>A</sup>	7.31 (0.17) <sup>A</sup>
WUE	35	1.76 (0.04) <sup>a,X</sup>	1.84 (0.04) <sup>a</sup>
	71	3.81 (0.06) <sup>A</sup>	3.33 (0.07) <sup>B,Y</sup>
C <sub>i</sub>	35	251.16 (1.74) <sup>a,X</sup>	247.01 (1.85) <sup>a</sup>
	71	523.10 (4.38) <sup>A</sup>	552.82 (4.09) <sup>B,Y</sup>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>			
A (μmol·m <sup>-2</sup> ·s <sup>-1</sup> )	35	13.00 (0.50) <sup>a,X</sup>	11.39 (0.47) <sup>b</sup>
	71	24.8 (0.71) <sup>A</sup>	19.59 (0.80) <sup>B,Y</sup>
g <sub>s</sub> (mmol·m <sup>-2</sup> ·s <sup>-1</sup> )	35	1.14 (0.07) <sup>a,X</sup>	1.02 (0.07) <sup>a</sup>
	71	0.91 (0.06) <sup>A</sup>	0.85 (0.05) <sup>B,Y</sup>
E (mmol·m <sup>-2</sup> ·s <sup>-1</sup> )	35	7.29 (0.22) <sup>a</sup>	7.28 (0.24) <sup>a</sup>
	71	6.84 (0.20) <sup>A</sup>	7.16 (0.27) <sup>A</sup>
WUE	35	1.78 (0.05) <sup>a,X</sup>	1.51 (0.04) <sup>b</sup>
	71	3.68 (0.07) <sup>A</sup>	2.76 (0.10) <sup>B,Y</sup>
C <sub>i</sub>	35	259.65 (2.41) <sup>a,X</sup>	264.92 (2.35) <sup>a</sup>
	71	529.35 (4.39) <sup>B</sup>	568.51 (8.42) <sup>A,Y</sup>

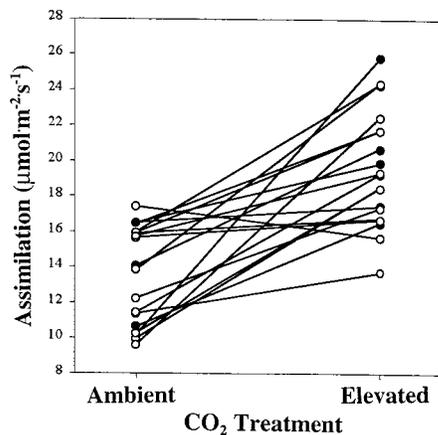


Fig. 1. Norms of reaction for carbon assimilation rates across 18 families measured in September. Open symbols are KF population; closed symbols are EL population.

TABLE 4. Analysis of variance for components of mass. The components are: aboveground mass ( $M_A$ ), belowground mass ( $M_B$ ), total mass ( $M_T$ ), and the ratio of root mass to shoot mass (R : S). For each mass variable, the mean square (MS),  $F$  ratio ( $F$ ), and probability of a larger  $F$  ( $P$ ) from the ANOVAs are displayed. Significance levels: \*  $P < 0.05$ , \*\*  $P < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $P < 0.001$ .

Source	df	$M_A$		$M_B$		$M_T$		R : S	
		MS	F	MS	F	MS	F	MS	F
Growth CO <sub>2</sub> concentration	1	62.6	2.5	86.6	15.0***	296.5	6.1*	0.3	13.0***
Population	1	333.6	13.4***	68.3	11.8***	703.8	14.5***	0.0005	0.03
Block	3	64.5	2.6	1.9	0.3	61.7	1.3	0.1	5.3**
Family (Population)	16	56.6	2.3*	15.2	2.6*	119.9	2.5**	0.05	2.4**
CO <sub>2</sub> × Population	1	6.3	0.3	2.6	0.5	17.1	0.4	0.0006	0.03
CO <sub>2</sub> × Family (Population)	16	19.9	0.8	4.7	0.8	39.1	0.8	0.01	0.7
Error	152	24.8		5.8		48.6		0.02	

ment atmosphere, while September differences in  $E C_i$  were only observed at 35 Pa (Table 3).

Measurement CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (MCO<sub>2</sub>) had a highly significant effect overall (Table 1), and all physiological variables showed significant responses to measurement CO<sub>2</sub> (Table 2). Water use efficiency increased when measured at 71 Pa CO<sub>2</sub>. Stomatal conductance declined at the higher measurement CO<sub>2</sub>, indicating that reduced stomatal aperture is the cause for the decline in  $E$  and increase in WUE. Leaf internal CO<sub>2</sub> concentration approximately doubled from ~25 Pa at 71 Pa CO<sub>2</sub> to ~54 Pa at 35 Pa CO<sub>2</sub>, with smaller effects of growth CO<sub>2</sub> or month of measurement.

**Mass allocation—Population- and family-level effects—**There were significant differences between populations for all mass variables except root : shoot ratio (Table 4). Population KF always had significantly larger mass measures than population EL, and there were no significant growth CO<sub>2</sub> × population interaction terms (Table 4). There were significant effects of family in all four mass variables (Table 4), but no growth CO<sub>2</sub> × family interactions were detected for the mass variables.

**Growth-CO<sub>2</sub> effects—**There were significant CO<sub>2</sub> effects on belowground mass, total mass, and root : shoot ratio (Table 4), with elevated-grown means significantly greater than ambient-grown means (Table 5). Total mass increased in elevated-grown plants by 15% and root : shoot ratio by 19%. Although early CO<sub>2</sub> effects on aboveground size (leaf number) were detected, (data not shown) these differences disappeared by the end of the experiment. Final aboveground mass did not show a significant growth-CO<sub>2</sub> response.

**Tissue biochemistry—Family-level effects—**The three fam-

TABLE 5. Mass means by treatment and population, with standard errors in parentheses. Asterisks indicate significance levels in tests for differences in means between growth CO<sub>2</sub> environments, within populations. Significance levels: \*  $P < 0.05$ , \*\*  $P < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $P < 0.001$ .

Population	Growth CO <sub>2</sub> (Pa)	Aboveground mass (g)	Belowground mass (g)	Root : shoot ratio
EL	35	10.8 (0.7)	5.5 (0.2)	0.51 (0.02)
	71	11.5 (0.7)	6.6 (0.3)*	0.59 (0.03)**
KF	35	13.2 (0.8)	6.3 (0.4)	0.49 (0.03)
	71	14.7 (0.9)	7.9 (0.4)***	0.59 (0.02)***
Overall	35	12.1 (0.6)	5.9 (0.2)	0.49 (0.02)
	71	13.1 (0.6)	7.4 (0.3)***	0.59 (0.02)***

ilies varied significantly for four of the eight tissue content traits; aboveground %N, aboveground and belowground C : N, and belowground soluble sugar. There were significant growth CO<sub>2</sub> × family interactions detected for two tissue content traits: aboveground C : N and aboveground %N (Table 6).

**The effects of growth CO<sub>2</sub>—**There were significant differences overall between CO<sub>2</sub> treatments for all but belowground %C and soluble sugar (Table 6). Whole-plant %C was slightly higher in the elevated than in the ambient CO<sub>2</sub> treatment (Table 7). Whole-plant soluble sugar was 15% higher in elevated compared to ambient-CO<sub>2</sub> grown plants (Table 7).

Whole plant %N did not respond significantly to growth CO<sub>2</sub> (Table 7), but N distribution shifted to aboveground tissues and away from belowground tissues. Aboveground C : N is lower in the elevated CO<sub>2</sub> environment than in the ambient (Table 7), while belowground the C : N is higher in the elevated CO<sub>2</sub> environment than the ambient CO<sub>2</sub> environment (Table 7). Since whole plant %C content differs only slightly between the two CO<sub>2</sub> environments (data not shown), the shift in C : N ratios must result from the shifts in N allocation between CO<sub>2</sub> growth environments (Table 7).

## DISCUSSION

The organization of inherited variation is a critical factor in determining the tempo and mode of evolution. The partitioning of variation among families and populations plays a critical role in determining the magnitudes of responses to selection. The environmental dependency of genetic effects on the phenotype is also critical, although much less well understood. To a large extent, genotype–environment interactions have been treated by quantitative geneticists as noise that obscures the predictive ability of standard quantitative genetic approaches to predicting responses to selection (Roff, 1997). In the context of changing environmental conditions, understanding genotype–environment interactions is critical to understanding the probable evolutionary responses to the new environmental regime. When genotypes produce qualitatively different phenotypes in new environments (e.g., shifted genotypic ranks), simply measuring variation in the conventional environment may not adequately describe the nature of the inherited variation which natural selection will “see” in the new environment. In this study, we were therefore interested in both the structuring of variation at the population and family levels and in the way in which that variation changed in its expression across CO<sub>2</sub> environments. In keeping with the conventional biometric approaches to the partitioning of phenotypic variation across levels of population structure and environments, we first discuss

TABLE 6. ANOVA for tissue composition components for three families (EL 15, KF 32, KF 35), analyzed separately for aboveground and belowground tissues. Probabilities < 0.05 are shown in bold type.

Source	df	Soluble sugar		Percentage carbon		C : N ratio		Percentage nitrogen	
		F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P
<b>Aboveground</b>									
CO <sub>2</sub>	1	7.0	<b>0.0135</b>	9.8	<b>0.0039</b>	6.5	<b>0.0160</b>	4.4	<b>0.0438</b>
Family	2	1.5	0.25	1.7	0.20	12.5	<b>0.0001</b>	11.1	<b>0.0003</b>
CO <sub>2</sub> × Family	2	1.9	0.17	0.7	0.52	6.0	<b>0.0065</b>	4.8	<b>0.0156</b>
Error	30								
<b>Belowground</b>									
CO <sub>2</sub>	1	3.3	<b>0.0792</b>	0.3	0.59	6.0	<b>0.0203</b>	11.7	<b>0.0019</b>
Family	2	5.7	<b>0.0078</b>	1.8	0.18	2.1	0.14	5.1	<b>0.0122</b>
CO <sub>2</sub> × Family	2	0.4	0.70	0.1	0.88	0.0	0.98	0.4	0.70
Error	30								

the main effects of family- and population-level variation, then consider the population × CO<sub>2</sub> and family × CO<sub>2</sub> interactions, the true focus of this study.

*Plantago lanceolata* has been shown to exhibit variation among populations or among families or genotypes in a wide variety of traits. For example, Wu and Antonovics (1976) and Tonsor (1990) documented the existence of variation in lead tolerance along roadsides that received input from car exhaust when leaded gasoline was used for fuel. Wolff and Van Delden (1987, 1989) found significant broadsense heritabilities for 18 morphological and developmental traits (significant in some populations and not in others). Wulff and Alexander (1985) observed genetic variation in early life history stages in *P. lanceolata*. Tonsor and Goodnight (1997) detected narrow-sense heritable variation in A, E, and a set of morphological traits.

Similarly, at either the population or the family level or both, this study detected variation in many of the traits measured (4 out of 10 at the population level, 9 of 18 at the family level). In some traits, particularly those associated with mass, the same population, and the same families within populations, had highest trait values regardless of the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere of growth. Thus, population KF had greater aboveground mass, belowground mass, and total mass than population EL, and both populations responded to CO<sub>2</sub> enrichment by increasing mass. While population-level variation was not examined for tissue biochemistry, four of the eight biochemical traits evidenced significant family-level variation that was maintained across CO<sub>2</sub> environments. For physiological variables, the MANOVA indicated both population- and family-level variation, although no single physiological trait had significant variation at either the population or family level

when examined in separate ANOVAs. It is not uncommon for a MANOVA to indicate overall significance for a suite of attributes with partially shared causes, such as the physiologically integrated traits measured here, without corresponding significance for the individual traits in univariate ANOVAs (Manly, 1986).

Thus, in about half of the traits examined, families within populations differ significantly in their average trait values, regardless of the CO<sub>2</sub> environment in which they are examined. There would therefore appear to be the potential for evolutionary change in the average values of these traits. This inference is further supported by the discovery of significant differences between populations in four of the ten traits for which population-level variation was examined; these two populations have evolved different mean trait values for mass and its partitioning as well as in their overall physiological properties as measured in the MANOVA.

The family ranks in mass and its partitioning did not change across CO<sub>2</sub> environments. The lack of family × CO<sub>2</sub> interaction provides no variation on which evolutionary responses to high-CO<sub>2</sub> environments could be based. Root : shoot ratio responses are highly dependent on pot size in elevated CO<sub>2</sub> (Sage, 1994) and should therefore be interpreted with caution.

However, this study found significant family × CO<sub>2</sub> interactions in belowground C : N ratio and belowground soluble sugar. Thus, there is potential for a within-population, between-family evolutionary response to CO<sub>2</sub> through selection on family variation in responses of %N and aboveground C : N ratio.

This study did not incorporate measures of fitness, which would have required a second season of growth. However, %N and C : N ratio are closely related to N-use efficiency. When

TABLE 7. Mean (SE) from the analysis of tissue biochemistry. Soluble sugar = soluble sugar concentration. CO<sub>2</sub> = growth, CO<sub>2</sub> partial pressure. Significance levels for means compared across growth CO<sub>2</sub> environments: † P < 0.10, \* P < 0.05, \*\* P < 0.01, \*\*\* P < 0.001.

Family	CO <sub>2</sub> (Pa)	Aboveground				Belowground			
		Soluble sugar (mg/g)	N (%)	C (%)	C : N	Soluble sugar (mg/g)	N (%)	C (%)	C : N
EL15	35.5	44.9 (5.8)	2.02 (0.10)	38.9 (1.2)	19.5 (1.6)	47.4 (3.0)	1.30 (0.05)	34.8 (1.4)	26.6 (1.0)
	71	62.7 (5.3)†	1.83 (0.09)	40.2 (0.8)	22.4 (1.4)	50.0 (3.0)	1.10 (0.04)	35.4 (1.0)	30.7 (1.9)†
KF 32	35.5	60.4 (5.8)	1.21 (0.10)	40.1 (0.3)	38.0 (4.7)	54.4 (2.6)	1.30 (0.04)	36.0 (1.0)	30.6 (1.4)
	71	60.4 (5.4)	1.72 (0.11)**	42.0 (0.7)*	25.9 (1.1)**	62.2 (4.8)	1.20 (0.10)	37.1 (0.8)	35.4 (1.4)*
KF 35	35.5	47.1 (0.9)	1.62 (0.10)	38.9 (0.7)	24.6 (2.1)	56.1 (4.3)	1.20 (0.10)	37.2 (1.5)	29.3 (1.6)
	71	60.4 (3.2)**	2.03 (0.10)†	41.5 (0.7)*	21.1 (1.0)	61.7 (3.1)	1.10 (0.05)	37.4 (0.5)	32.0 (1.1)
Overall	35.5	51.1 (4.1)	1.61 (0.10)	39.0 (0.5)	27.1 (2.8)	53.0 (1.8)	1.30 (0.10)	36.3 (0.7)	28.9 (0.7)
	71	61.3 (3.3)**	1.82 (0.10)*	41.1 (0.5)*	23.0 (0.7)*	57.8 (2.6)†	1.20 (0.05)*	36.7 (0.5)	32.8 (0.9)**

C limitations are removed by increased atmospheric carbon content, it is quite likely that N will be the limiting factor in many ecosystems. In addition, N uptake and N-use efficiency may drive competitive interactions and therefore structure plant communities in many N-limited ecosystems (Tilman, 1993). Therefore, differences in N-use efficiency are likely to have fitness consequences, although this remains to be demonstrated in the context of elevated CO<sub>2</sub> in *P. lanceolata*.

Both population × CO<sub>2</sub> and family × CO<sub>2</sub> variation was detected in the MANOVA. In the univariate ANOVAs, only WUE showed a near-significant population × CO<sub>2</sub> interaction. At the family level, all traits except *g*<sub>s</sub> showed significant CO<sub>2</sub> interactions. It is clear therefore that the necessary inherited variation exists for within-population, between-families evolutionary response to elevated CO<sub>2</sub>.

Although this study made no attempt to assess the fitness functions associated with the measured traits, Tonsor and Goodnight (unpublished data) found that there was a strong positive effect of *A* on fitness in *P. lanceolata* (1 SD increase in *A* predicted 0.18 SD increase in reproductive dry mass), while *E* had a negative effect on fitness (1 SD increase in *E* predicted 0.11 SD decrease in reproductive dry mass), when measured in present-day atmospheres. Since plants were only grown for one season in the present study, they did not reproduce. However, if there are equally strong fitness effects in elevated CO<sub>2</sub> as in ambient CO<sub>2</sub> environments, we might expect the family × CO<sub>2</sub> interactions to lead to selection favoring differing genotypes in an elevated CO<sub>2</sub> world. This type of response has been found in other species. In *Arabidopsis thaliana*, Tonsor and Vandermeulen (1998) found that *G* × *E*s similar to those found in the present study do not affect vegetative mass, but have significant effects on reproductive mass. For this reason, although we have first-season mass data, we are hesitant to use mass as a surrogate for fitness.

The growth responses to elevated CO<sub>2</sub> we found are in accord with the general pattern of response often reported in other studies (e.g., Bazzaz, 1990; Stitt, 1991). Despite a near-doubling of *A* for much of the growing season, mass only increased by ~15% overall. Despite the observed down-regulation of *A*, tissue sugar content remained 15% higher in 71-Pa-grown plants compared to those grown at 35 Pa. This is consistent with the idea that down-regulation is not always sufficient to maintain homeostasis in nonstructural carbohydrates (Sage, Sharkey, and Seemann, 1988; Sage, 1994; Cheng, Moore, and Seemann, 1998).

Although leaf %N often declines in elevated CO<sub>2</sub> growth environments (Bassirad, 1997; Chu, Coleman, and Mooney, 1992), our plants maintained approximately constant whole-plant %N, and leaf %N content increased at 71 Pa. Therefore, C sink capacity was the likely cause of photosynthetic down-regulation. High hexose sugar content is known to be directly involved in down-regulation in some plants (Jang and Sheen, 1994; Jang et al., 1997).

Fajer, Bowers, and Bazzaz (1989), and Fajer (1989; see also Fajer, Bowers, and Bazzaz, 1989, 1992) observed decreases in leaf %N in *Plantago lanceolata* grown at 70 Pa CO<sub>2</sub>, in contrast to our observed increase at 71 Pa CO<sub>2</sub>. Overall, the mass accumulation in Fajer et al. (1992; mass not presented in the 1989 papers) was remarkably similar to our results (e.g., mean mass in the elevated treatment 20.9 and 19.6, in Fajer and this study, respectively), eliminating the possibility of size-dependent differences (see Coleman, McConnaughay, and Bazzaz, 1993). Neither light regime nor fertilizer treatment appears to

explain the difference, and a definitive cause for the differences in N response cannot be ascertained. The differences suggest that the relationship between growth CO<sub>2</sub> and N allocation may be very sensitive to growth conditions. The genotypes used in the two studies were of course different as well, and this may have also contributed to the observed differences in N uptake and partitioning.

Finally, the interaction term in an ANOVA or MANOVA may not adequately determine the presence of genetic variation that can lead to an adaptive response to elevated CO<sub>2</sub>, although it remains the best assessment method available. Analysis of responses to elevated CO<sub>2</sub> family by family indicated that a few families showed responses significantly differing from the "typical" or average family responses (Klus, 1995). The families exhibiting extreme responses (either very large or in a direction opposite of expectation) were more prevalent in the elevated CO<sub>2</sub> environment. These rare families may provide more information about the possible evolutionary consequences of elevated atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> than families that exhibit more "typical" responses. When exposed to a novel environment, the favored genotypes may be in low frequency initially. This can result in an insignificant *G* × *E* interaction in an analysis of variance, despite the fact that these rare genotypes can contribute to a response to selection when the population is placed in the new environment. This is illustrated by the rarity of metal-tolerant genotypes in normal pasture populations, yet rapid adaptation when metal is introduced to the environment (McNeilly, 1968; Tonsor, 1990). In the present study, it is possible that adaptation to elevated CO<sub>2</sub> could proceed even in those traits in which no family or population × CO<sub>2</sub> interaction was observed. Evolution would initially proceed very slowly in such traits, increasing in rate as the genes responsible for the rare interaction types increased in frequency in response to selection. This is because the favored genes contribute little to additive genetic variance when present in low frequency and increase in their contribution to the additive genetic variance and heritability as their frequency increases (see Falconer, 1981).

The extent to which ecological vs. evolutionary processes will determine the fate of individual species as atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> rises remains unclear. This study demonstrates that significant genetic variation exists in traits that may have causal links to the ecological responses of the plant to changing carbon availability and suggests that a better understanding of within-species genetic responses is necessary before a complete picture of community and ecosystem responses can be obtained.

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