1	Flower colour segregation and flower discrimination under the bee vision model in the
2	polymorphic Lysimachia arvensis
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14	Running head: Flower colour heritability in L. arvensis
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16

17 Abstract

18 Floral colour determines pollinator behaviour, strongly affecting plant-mating systems. 19 Lysimachia arvensis has blue- and red-flowered plants and colour inheritance remains largely 20 unknown. A control of floral colour based on one locus, with the red allele as dominant, has 21 been proposed. This proposal cannot explain the sporadic appearance of other floral colours in 22 wild populations. We studied floral colour segregation in L. arvensis and assessed the 23 possibility that pollinators can visually distinguish colour morphs by using Chittka's hexagon 24 model, sigmoidal model of bee discrimination and experimental studies on pollinator 25 attendance for two years. Hand crossing between morphs originated a homogeneous F1 with 26 salmon-coloured flowers. In the F2, blue, red, salmon morphs and other plants with 27 intermediate colours appeared, suggesting that more than one single locus are involved in 28 colour segregation. Results from the sigmoidal discrimination model suggest that blue, red 29 and salmon flowers can be discriminated by pollinators. In fact, pollinators showed strong 30 colour constancy and discriminated against the salmon morph. Our study shows that "Flower 31 colour" is a natural marker to assess the rate of crossing between morphs. The extreme rarity 32 of salmon flowers in wild populations and flower constancy of L. arvensis pollinators 33 indicates assortative mating.

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Key words: *Anagallis*, Chittka hexagon, floral evolution, flower colour discrimination,
pollinator preference

38 INTRODUCTION

39 Angiosperms exhibit a markedly high diversity of flower colours, with sister species usually differing in intensity, hue or colour pattern of the corolla (e.g. Rausher 2008; Smith and 40 41 Rausher 2011; Lagomarsino et al. 2017). This diversity implies that there have been 42 numerous evolutionary transitions in the colour of flowers (Weis 1995; Rausher 2008). 43 Flower colour is often correlated with other floral traits, resulting in the common recognition 44 of "pollination syndromes" (Fenster et al. 2004). Flower colour has an enormous importance 45 as a claim in the attraction of pollinators that may have preferences for some colours over 46 others (Chittka and Menzel 1992), so that transitions to different colours may represent 47 adaptation to different sets of pollinators (Faegri and van der Pijl 1966; Grant 1993; Fenster et 48 al. 2004; Rausher 2008). In general, the colour of the flowers is due to the presence of 49 pigments (Kay et al. 1981; Van der koi et al. 2016). There are four large groups of pigments: 50 chlorophylls, carotenoids, betalains and flavonoids. Among these, anthocyanins, a group of 51 flavonoids, are the most important floral pigments and are produced in a well-known and 52 conserved biosynthetic pathway in angiosperms (Rausher et al. 1999). 53 Flower colour polymorphism is the presence of more than one colour morph, genetically 54 determined, within the populations of a species (Huxley 1955). This phenomenon appears by 55 a spontaneous mutation in the biosynthetic route of the pigments that give colour to the 56 flowers. Once a coloured mutant appears in a population, this recent polymorphism can be 57 lost or maintained depending on biotic or abiotic selective factors and gene drift (Narbona et 58 al. 2018). Pollinator preferences play a fundamental role in the maintenance or loss of the 59 flower colour polymorphism. Pollinators can show innate preferences for some colours over 60 others (Shrestha et al. 2013, 2016; Van der Kooi et al. 2018) causing directional selection on a 61 determinate colour morph and leading to the loss of polymorphism (Waser and Price 1981). 62 However, balancing selection imposed by pollinators can result in the maintenance of

63 polymorphism. Thus, in the rewardless Dactylorhiza sambucina (L.) Soó, pollinators visit 64 different colour morphs in alternation as they switch to a different morph when they visit an empty flower, thus maintaining colour polymorphism (Gigord et al. 2001). Similarly, if 65 66 species are visited by a wide variety of pollinators, they can show preferences for different colour morphs thereby maintaining colour polymorphism (Schemske and Bradshaw 1999). 67 68 The behaviour of pollinators can induce changes in plant fertility, cross-pollination ratios, and 69 pollen flow among colour morphs (Malerba and Nattero 2012). These changes can lead to the 70 genetic differentiation of individuals with different flower colour, promoting ultimately the 71 speciation processes (Servedio et al. 2011). However, in order for pollinators to discriminate 72 between floral colours and act as selection agents, it is imperative they can differentiate them 73 visually. Therefore, a subjective evaluation of the floral colours according to the human 74 vision can lead to misleading interpretations in relation to the behaviour of pollinators, being 75 necessary an objective measurement of colours and their evaluation according to the visual 76 system of pollinators.

77 Lysimachia arvensis (L.) U. Manns & Anderb. is a tetraploid annual species, native to the 78 Mediterranean Basin and Europe that presents flower colour polymorphism. In natural 79 populations, there are plants with blue and red flowers, and these colours are due to the 80 presence of different types of anthocyanins. Malvidin is mainly responsible for the blue 81 colour and pelargonidin for the red colour (Wiering and de Vlaming in Harborne 1968; 82 Ishikura 1981). Selective abiotic factors influence a geographic distribution pattern of colour 83 morphs, with blue being much better represented in more xeric environments (Arista et al. 84 2013). In addition, in Mediterranean environments, pollinators show a higher preference for 85 the blue morph and the red morph has lower fitness; despite this, it remains in the populations 86 although in a low proportion (Ortiz et al. 2015).

87 The inheritance of flower colour in L. arvensis is unknown, and unravelling it could help to 88 understand the maintenance of the red morph in Mediterranean populations, despite being subject to negative selection (Arista et al. 2013). In a simple scenario, if a recessive allele 89 90 were responsible for the red colour, it would be protected in the heterozygotes that would 91 show the blue dominant phenotype. However, in an oral communication in a Congress in 92 1910, Weiss explained that in experimental crosses between plants with flowers of different 93 colour, the F1 obtained was all homogeneously red. Therefore, he concluded that the flower 94 colour in *L. arvensis* depended on a single gene with two alleles, being the red allele 95 dominant over the blue. The fact that flowers of intermediate colour do not usually appear in 96 natural populations would support this dominance-recessive relationship between the two 97 alleles. Later, Marsden-Jones & Weiss (1938) confirmed that result, although in some 98 populations they found some plants of L. arvensis with flowers of salmon colour and others of 99 pale blue colour. Salmon-flowered plants, although rare, had also been described previously 100 by other authors who had suggested a hybrid origin between blue and red morphs since they 101 only appeared when the two morphs, blue and red, coexist (Hoffmann 1879; Pax 1905). 102 However, Marsden-Jones & Weiss (1938) found these plants in monomorphic red 103 populations, and thus they attributed salmon plants to spontaneous mutations. In a recent 104 sampling, over 19 mixed populations of Lysimachia arvensis in Western Europe, salmon-105 flowered plants appeared in two of them (Jiménez-López et al., unpub results). Their scarce 106 representation in populations makes it difficult to know if they result from spontaneous 107 mutations or by crossing between the red and the blue morphs. In the latter case, only a low 108 frequency of crossing between morphs or a low success of the progeny of that crossing would 109 explain the almost absence of salmon-flowered individuals in mixed natural populations.

111	The objectives of the present work are: (1) to establish if the salmon morph results from the
112	crossing between the blue and the red morph in Lysimachia arvensis, (2) to know how the
113	flower colour is inherited, (3) to characterize quantitatively the flower colours that can appear
114	in this species by using the model of colour vision of Chittka (1992) and (4) to determine if
115	they can be differentiated by bees in two ways, by calculating their discrimination
116	probabilities from the sigmoidal-shaped model by Garcia et al. (2017), and by studying
117	pollinator attendance in experimental stands during two reproductive cycles.
118	

- 119 MATERIAL AND METHODS
- 120

121 Heritability of flower colour

122 To study the inheritance of colour in Lysimachia arvensis, hand pollinations were carried out 123 in the greenhouse. Flower colour segregation was first quantified in offspring based on human 124 vision. The plants used originally came from seeds obtained in natural populations of Hinojos 125 (Spain), Tanger (Morocco), Tabarka (Tunisia) and Corsica (France). These plants were grown 126 in a greenhouse, and by manual self-pollinations two successive generations were obtained to 127 select pure colour lines. These pure lines, blue (B) and red (R), were used as parental (P) in 128 this study. Crossings were carried out between parents of the same colour and different colour 129 in order to obtain the F1. Crosses between parents of different colours were carried out in 130 both directions, that is, the blue plants as pollen donors and the red plants as pollen receiver 131 (RxB, n = 84 crosses) and the red plants as pollen donors and the blue as receiver (BxR, n = 84 crosses)132 88). The F1 seeds obtained were put to germinate in Petri dishes in germination chambers 133 under 16h of light at 22°C and 8h of darkness at 15°C and seedlings were grown in the 134 greenhouse. In this F1, different types of pollinations were made to obtain the F2. Some F1 135 plants were self-pollinated (N=149 pollinations), others were crossed with each other (N = 43

136 crosses), others were backcrossed with blue parental (N = 34 crosses), and others with red

137 parental (N = 39 crosses). All seeds produced by this F1 were germinated and the resulting

138 seedlings were grown in greenhouses until flowering (2907 plants).

139

140 Flower colour characterization

141 To characterize quantitatively floral colours of *L. arvensis* plants obtained from the crossing 142 program previously described, the reflectance spectra of the petals of a subsample of plants 143 were measured. The reflectance was measured in 88 parental plants (44 B and 44 R), 38 F1 144 plants (S thereafter; 15 from BxR and 23 from RxB) and 41 F2 plants obtained from self-145 pollination of the F1. Reflectance was also measured in 53 plants from the F1 backcrosses 146 with both parents (19 from SxB, 5 from BxS, 14 from SxR and 15 from RxS). In each plant, 147 the reflectance of the adaxial surface of a petal was measured, discarding the basal part 148 corresponding to the centre of the flower (bull's-eye). To do that, a JAZ A1465 double-beam 149 spectrophotometer from Ocean Optics, equipped with a UV-visible light source and capable 150 of measuring reflectance between 190 and 890 nm was used. Reflectance spectra of the 151 measured flowers are deposited at the open repository of the Universidad de Sevilla 152 (https://idus.us.es/xmlui/).

153

154 Model of flower colour vision

To assess how petals are perceived by bees, the reflectance values between 300 and 700 nm obtained in each measurement were elaborated and represented in the colour hexagon model. This model was developed by Chittka (1992) integrating experimental data related to the reception of visual signals by bees and the translation of these signals in the bee brain. The colour hexagon is a two-dimensional representation in which each reflectance spectrum corresponds to a point defined by its Cartesian coordinates; a detailed description of how to 161 transfer the reflectance data to the colour hexagon can be seen in Chittka & Kevan (2005).

This model allows quantifying the contrast of a flower with the general green background as the Euclidean distance between the point generated by the flower spectrum and the centre of the hexagon; in addition, it allows the categorization in a conventional manner of the colours perceived by bees placing them in six colour categories (Chittka 1992).

166 The Chittka model also allows quantifying the colour contrast of colour between two flowers 167 perceived by the bees as the Euclidean distance in the hexagon between the points generated 168 by their colour spectra, 0.1 being the threshold value for colour discrimination. However, 169 recent behavioural studies modelled by particular bee species have reported that colour 170 discrimination depends on context (Dyer and Chittka 2004; Dyer 2006) and follow sigmoidal-171 shaped functions (Garcia et al. 2017, 2018). To assess the capacity of bees for discrimination 172 between both parental morphs (blue and red) and both F1-hybrid types (BxR and RxB), 173 Euclidean distances were calculated for all possible pairs of flowers between twelve flowers 174 of each of those four classes (blue, red, BxR and RxB). From those data, the discrimination 175 capacity by bees for those pairs of flowers were calculated by using the 3-parameter logistic 176 function described by Garcia et al. (2017). Given that the main pollinators of *L. arvensis* are 177 Apoideae species and its flowers have blue anthocyanins, we selected the models for blue 178 stimuli for both Apis mellifera L. and Bombus terrestris L. We used the median values of K, r 179 and Mo parameters for those models from S-4 supplementary material from Garcia et al. 180 (2017).

181

182 Pollinator preferences on colour morphs

183 To ascertain pollinator preferences on colour morphs, and so their discrimination capacity, we 184 recorded pollinator visitation to parental and F1 hybrid plants during two reproductive 185 seasons. We constructed artificial stands with a similar number of flowers of each of the three

colours that where intermingled. Each stand occupied an area of 0.5 m^2 and insect visitations 186 187 were recorded by observing each stand for 10-min periods. All observations were made 188 during sunny conditions between 9:00 and 15:00h to totalize 9 hours of censuses per year. In 189 each census the number of flowers of each morph visited and the transitions between colour 190 morphs made by pollinators were recorded. Differences in the number of visits per morph and 191 census were analysed by means of a GLM model with Poisson distribution of errors and log 192 link function with morph colour and year as main factors and considering their interaction. 193 Differences in the frequency of transitions made by pollinators among colour morphs each year were analysed by pooling together data from all the censuses and using chi-square tests 194 195 of frequencies.

196 **RESULTS**

197 Heritability of flower colour

198 All offspring obtained from crosses BxB and RxR was homogeneous and showed the same 199 colour as the parents (N = 350 individuals observed in each case), which confirms the purity 200 of the blue and red lines selected as parental. The crosses between plants of different colour, 201 BxR and RxB, also originated a homogeneous offspring salmon in colour (N = 1199202 individuals analysed, Fig. 1). In addition, these individuals presented a bull's-eye (ring of 203 colour at the base of the petals) similar in size to that of the blue morph but larger than that of 204 the red morph (Fig. 1). The self-pollination of the F1 originated 707 blue plants, 926 red and 205 452 salmon, but also appeared 51 individuals with intermediate colours between red and 206 salmon (Fig. 1). The backcrosses of the F1 with each of the parents also gave rise to these 207 four phenotypes, but in different proportions. When the backcross was performed with the 208 blue parent, offspring showed mainly blue flowers (n = 407 plants), whereas when it was 209 carried out with the red parent offspring was predominantly red (n = 496).

211 Flower colour characterization

The blue morph of *L. arvensis* reflected mainly in the ultraviolet, violet and blue, in the range
between 330-450 nm (Fig. 2A). In contrast, the red morph reflected in the spectrum for
yellow, orange and red (600-700 nm) with a reflectance peak in the ultraviolet (350 nm; Fig.
2A). In the hexagon model, the blue morph was found within the UV-Blue sector and the red
in the UV sector (Fig. 3A). Both colour morphs were clearly separated from the center of the
hexagon and from each other.

218 The F1 showed peaks of reflectance very similar to those of the red parent, although with 219 higher reflectance in the blue-violet wavelength (Fig. 2B). The spectra of all F1 individuals 220 were virtually identical regardless of the direction of the crossing (BxR or RxB). The F1 221 flowers were placed in the UV sector of the hexagon (Fig. 3B), very close and even 222 overlapped with the UV-Blue sector. The spectra of the F2 obtained by self-pollination of the 223 F1 with (N = 41) appeared separated into two large groups, one similar to the blue 224 morphotype (N = 8) and another similar to that of the red or salmon flowers (N = 33, Fig.)225 2G). When the F2 was represented in the colour hexagon, eight plants coincided with the blue 226 parent and the rest were placed in the area between red and the F1 salmon (Fig. 3E). Both 227 groups were clearly differentiated from the center and from each other. The backcross 228 between the F1 salmon and the blue parent resulted in two groups of plants according to their 229 reflectance spectra (Fig. 2 C, D), one was in the UV-Blue sector of the hexagon and the other 230 in the UV sector with a small part of the UV-Blue sector (Fig. 3C). These groups of plants 231 were separated from each other and with the center of the hexagon. The reflectance spectra of 232 the offspring from the backcross between the F1 salmon and the red morph, in either of the 233 two senses, was the same as those of the red and salmon flowers (Fig. 2E, F). When the red 234 morph acted as a pollen receiver a more heterogeneous range of spectra appeared in the F2 235 than when the red morph acted as pollen donor. All the offspring from the crosses were found

in the UV sector of the hexagon (Fig. 3D), although some of them were also located near theUV-Blue sector.

238 Distances between each colour morph and the center of the hexagon were larger than 0.1; the 239 blue flowers showed the largest distances (median 0.37) and the salmon F1 the shortest 240 (median 0.21). The largest Euclidean distances were found between the blue flowers and both 241 the red and the salmon flowers (Supplementary materials, Appendix 1). Median distances 242 between red and salmon flowers were lower, about 0.1 (Fig. 5). The discrimination 243 probabilities among morphs calculated by using the Apis mellifera parameters were 244 practically 100% (Fig. 4; Supplementary materials, Appendix 2). The discrimination 245 probabilities calculated with Bombus terrestris parameters were similar and thus, results are 246 not shown in the main text (but see Supplementary materials, Appendix 3). According to 247 those models, pollinators would even discriminate intramorph flowers with a high probability

248 (Fig. 4).

249

250 *Pollinator preferences*

251 Halictus bees were the sole floral visitors of L. arvensis flowers and showed significant 252 differences in attendance to colour morphs (chi-square= 24.586, 2 df, p<0.001). Blue flowers 253 received the highest number of visits each year, followed by red flowers and finally by the 254 salmon flowers. Differences between years were also significant (chi-square=8.647, 2 df, 255 p=0.003) as pollinator visits were less abundant in 2017. However, the colour morph-by-year 256 interaction was not significant (chi-square=2.917, 2 df, p=0.233), indicating the same trend in 257 pollinator attendance to each morph each year (Fig. 5A). Pollinators showed a strong and 258 significant floral colour constancy in both years, as once they visited a colour morph, most 259 transitions were made towards the same colour morph (Fig. 5B). When pollinators moved 260 between different colour morphs, the most frequent transition was towards the blue, then

towards the red and finally towards the salmon flowers (Fig. 5B). Transitions from blue or redflowers to salmon flowers were the less preferred by pollinators in both years.

263 **DISCUSSION**

264 The results obtained in this work clearly indicate that the plants with salmon flowers results 265 from the crossing between the pure red and blue morphotypes of L. arvensis. The F1 obtained 266 was 100% homogeneous and showed an intermediate colouration between those of their two 267 parents. This result indicates that there is no dominance-recessivity relationship between the 268 colour alleles of *L. arvensis*, as was previously described (Marsden-Jones & Weiss 1938), a 269 codominance situation being more likely. It is possible that in some lighting circumstances, 270 these salmon plants could be categorized as "red" in human vision, possibly leading to Weiss 271 (1910) and to Marsden-Jones & Weiss (1938) to assume that the red allele was dominant. In 272 fact, the quantitative measures of colour placed these salmon plants very close to the red ones, 273 although with a clearly different pattern.

274 The fact that F1 is homogeneous in colour suggests that the colour of the flowers in L. 275 arvensis follows a characteristic segregation of a monogenic character, as described for floral 276 colour in other species (Malerba and Nattero 2012). In fact, in the backcross between the blue 277 morphotype and the F1, the proportion of individuals with blue flowers was 0.33. Likewise, 278 in the F2 the proportion of individuals with blue flowers was 0.20, similar to that obtained in 279 the cross between heterozygotes (0.25) of a monogenic character. However, the remaining 280 individuals obtained in these crosses showed flowers which colours ranged from salmon to 281 red, and they were clearly differentiated in human vision. This variation could indicate that 282 there is more than one gene involved in the flower colour segregation in this species. 283 However, L. arvensis is a tetraploid and the colour segregation obtained could be adjusted to 284 the presence of two copies of the same gene (four alleles) in each individual. Thus, pure lines 285 used as parental would have four alleles for the blue or red colour and the F1 would have two

286 alleles of each colour, giving rise to a phenotype with an intermediate colour between blue 287 and red. The F2 obtained from self-pollination of the F1 would originate pure blue plants and 288 pure red plants at a frequency of 1/16 each, salmon plants at a frequency of 6/16, and plants 289 intermediate in colour at a frequency of 8/16. The proportions obtained experimentally do not 290 match with these frequencies, being blue and red plants much more frequent than expected 291 and intermediate plants much less frequent. In Lysimachia monelli (L.) U. Manns & Anderb., 292 a sister species of *L. arvensis* with the same colour polymorphism, manual crosses between 293 pure lines of blue and red flower plants give rise to an F1 similar to the red progenitor, but in 294 F2 a third morphotype with pink flowers that differ subtly from red ones appears (Freyre and 295 Griesbach 2004). The authors proposed a model of three genes to explain the inheritance of 296 floral colour in this species. In our case, the results obtained are not in accord with the three 297 gene model, but neither with any other segregation based on simple models of few genes, 298 with or without epistatic interactions between them. Thus, the number of genes responsible 299 for the flower colour in *L. arvensis* and the relationship between the genes remain unsolved. 300

301 Taking into account that anthocyanins are responsible for the colour of both the blue and the 302 red flowers of L. arvensis (Harbone 1968), colour differences could be due to mutations of 303 structural and/or regulatory genes of the biosynthetic pathway of these pigments. In flowers 304 with anthocyanins, transitions from blue to red are relatively frequent (Rausher 2008) and are 305 usually produced by the inactivation of one of two genes, F3'5'H or F3'H, of the anthocyanin 306 pathway (Zufall and Rausher 2004; Rausher 2008). In previously studied cases, such as 307 Penstemon (Wessinger and Rausher 2014), Antirrhinum (Ishiguro et al. 2012), Phlox 308 (Hopkins and Rausher 2011), Hibiscus (Gettys 2012) or Silene (Casimiro-Soriguer et al. 309 2016), the F3'5'H coding genes and their regulators are responsible for the colour change. In 310 these cases, a difference in the expression of a regulatory gene causes differences in the

311 concentration of the anthocyanins which results in variations in the flower colour intensity.

This kind of variation has appeared in the F2 offspring of *L. arvensis* and could indicate that some regulatory gene in the anthocyanin pathway could be involved in the expression of the floral colour, although this possibility would require a transcriptomic study of floral colour in *L. arvensis*.

316 Regarding the perception of the colours of the *L. arvensis* flowers by pollinators, blue flowers 317 were placed at UV-blue sector, and red flowers at UV sector clearly separated from the blue 318 flowers, as already reported by Ortiz et al. (2015). Blue flowers were also separated from 319 salmon flowers but in contrast, red and salmon flowers appeared along a continuum in the 320 colour hexagon. Despite the close position of red and salmon flowers in the Chittka hexagon 321 model, discrimination probabilities calculated from sigmoidal functions clearly suggest a high 322 capacity of pollinators for discrimination between them. In fact, pollinator visits recorded 323 experimentally during two years support the idea of between-morph discrimination; Halictus 324 bees showed colour constancy behaviour when visiting *L. arvensis* flowers, which indicates 325 that it is capable of discrimination among the three flower colours. The greater bull's-eye of 326 salmon flowers could also contribute to its differentiation from the red morph. 327 When the three different flower colours were exposed to Halictus bees, they always showed 328 the highest preference for the blue and the lowest for the salmon flowers. The consistent 329 preference of pollinators for blue flowers found in this study had been already recorded in 330 mixed populations of red and blue morphs (Ortiz et al. 2015). Increased colour contrast with 331 the background has been shown to increase the probability of correct target flower 332 identification by several bee species, which is determinant for a quick detection of the flowers 333 (Chittka et al. 2001). The blue morph showed the highest distance to the center of the 334 hexagon and so the greatest contrast with the background. Therefore, pollinators would be 335 able to detect more easily the blue flowers than red or salmon flowers.

336 The high floral colour constancy showed by *L. arvensis* pollinators indicates that most pollen 337 flow occurs within the same colour morph (assortative mating), although some intermorph 338 flow occurs. The fact that in the mixed natural populations individuals with salmon flowers 339 hardly appear indicates that the crossing between blue and red morphs rarely occurs and/or 340 other reproductive barriers could be also preventing the recruitment of salmon plants in 341 natural populations. Thus, the scarcity of hybrid plants in natural populations would indicate a 342 considerable degree of reproductive isolation between blue and red morphs of L. arvensis. 343 Our study shows that "Flower colour" could be used in L. arvensis as a natural marker to 344 determine both the rate of crossing between morphs and that of salmon individuals with their 345 parents.

346

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454 **Captions of figure**

455 Figure 1. Flowers of *Lysimachia arvensis*. A: blue (top left), red (top right) and salmon F1

456 (bottom) morphs. B: sample of individuals resulting from the self-pollination of F1 or from

457 the backcrosses of F1 with its parents.

458

459 Figure 2. Reflectance spectra of the flower color of *Lysimachia arvensis*. A: blue and red

460 morphs. B: F1 resulting from the cross between red and blue morphs (grey BxR, black RxB).

461 C, D: offspring resulting from the backcross between the F1 and the blue morph acting as

462 pollen receiver (C) or pollen donnor (D). E, F: offspring resulting from the backcross between

the F1 and the red morph acting as pollen receiver (E) or pollen donnor (F). G: F2 offspring

464 resulting from self-pollination of F1. Means and standard deviations are shown. In panels A,

465 C, D, E, F and G, grey lines correspond to reddish flowers under human vision and black lines466 to bluish flowers under human vision.

467

468 Figure 3. Representation of the flower colour of *Lysimachia arvensis* in the hexagon model

469 proposed by Chittka (1992) based on the perception of color by bees. A: Blue and red

470 morphs. B: F1 resulting from the cross between blue and red morphs. C: backcross between

471 F1 and the blue morph. D: backcross between the F1 and the red morph. E: F2 offspring

472 resulting from self-pollination of F1.

473

Figure 4. Euclidean distances and discrimination probabilities between pairs of flowers of *L*. *arvensis*. Median and range values are shown. Euclidean distances were calculated according
to hexagon model by Chittka (1992) and discrimination probabilities according to sigmoidal-

477 shaped functions by Garcia et al. (2017) (see text for details).

- 479 Figure 5. Pollinator preferences and transition between flowers in experimental stands during
- 480 two consecutive years. A: Mean number of pollinator visits per census at blue, red or salmon
- 481 flowers. B: Transition between flower colours made for pollinators each year. Each pie shows
- the transitions from blue, red or salmon flowers to blue, red or salmon flowers each year. In
- 483 each pie, different letters indicate significant differences.

Figure 1





Figure 2

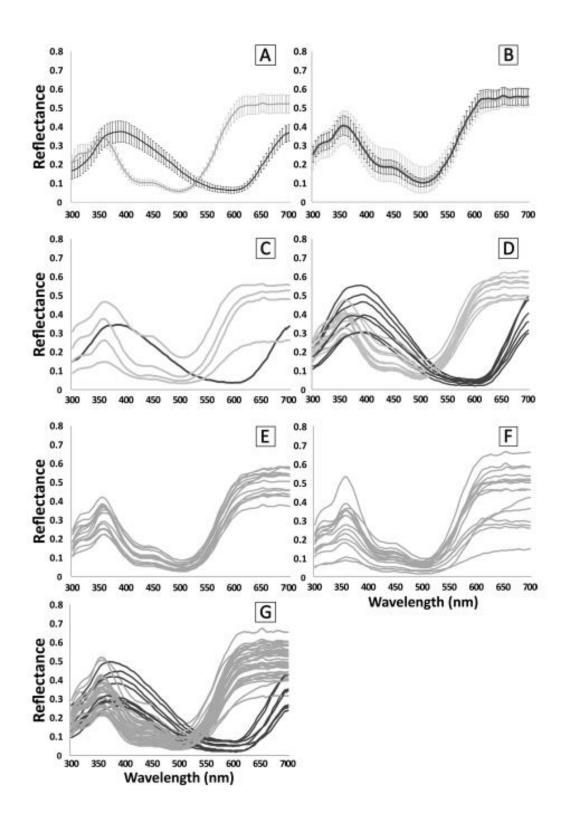
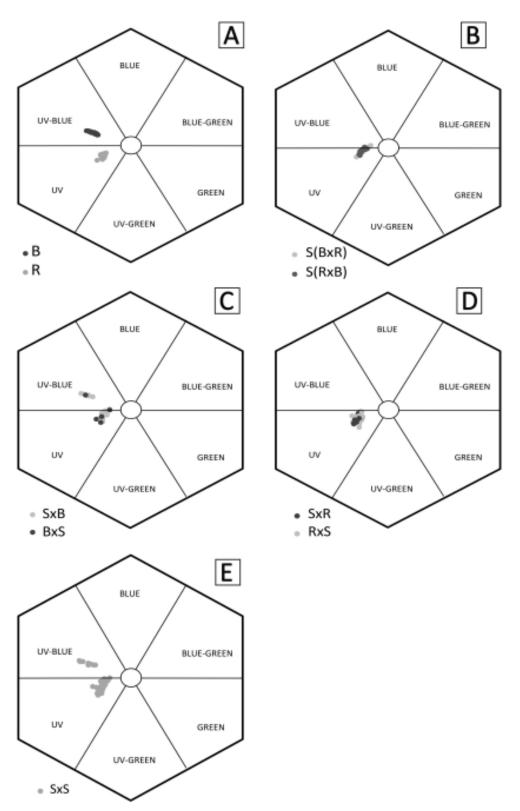
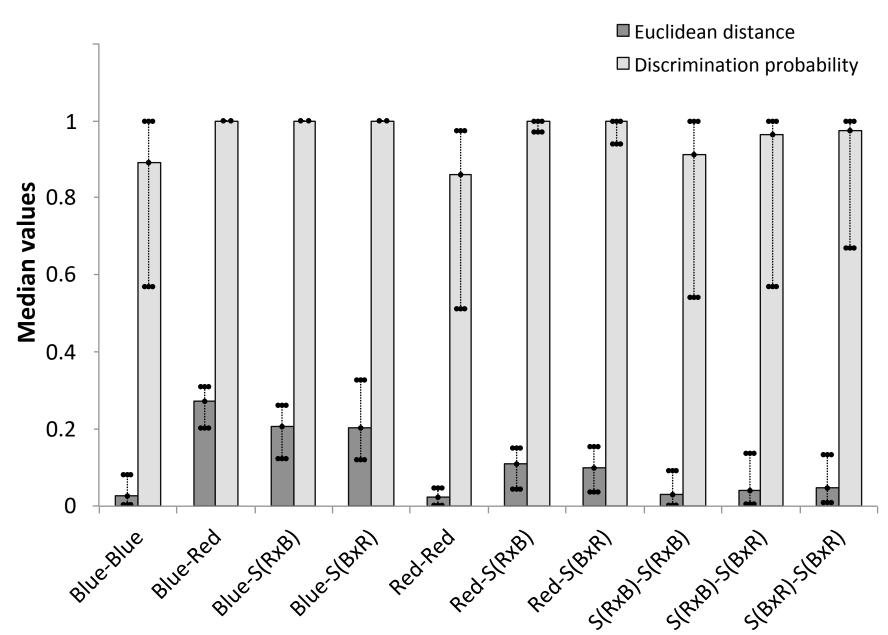
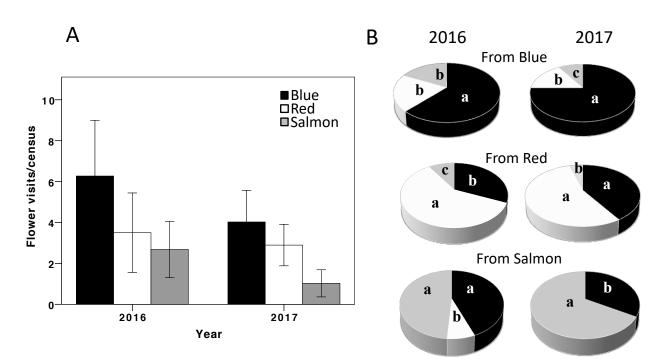


Figure 3





Pairs of flowers



∎to Blue 🗆 to Red 🔲 to Salmon