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Supplementary Material

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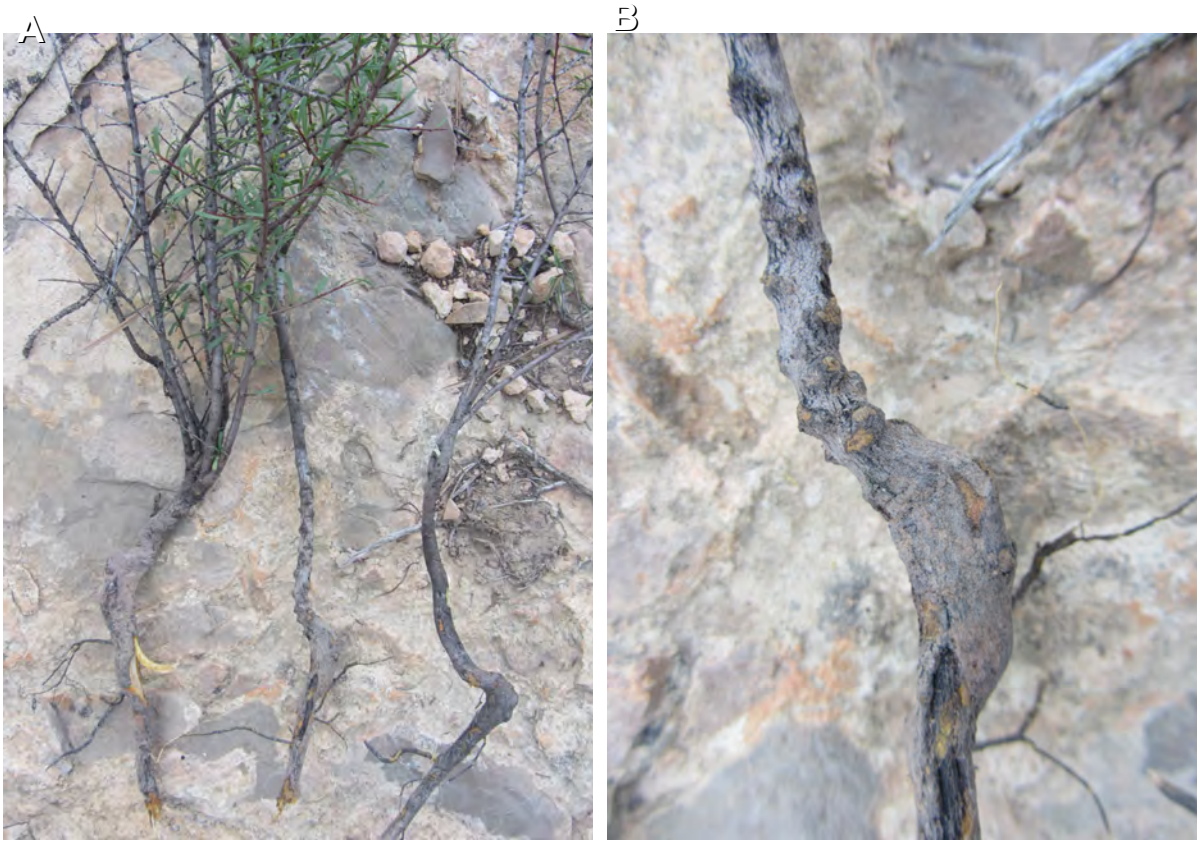

Fig. S1. Root-shoot transition zone of *Rhamnus lycioides* saplings (A). This region is contorted and slightly swollen. Above the swollen region there are cluster buds (B).

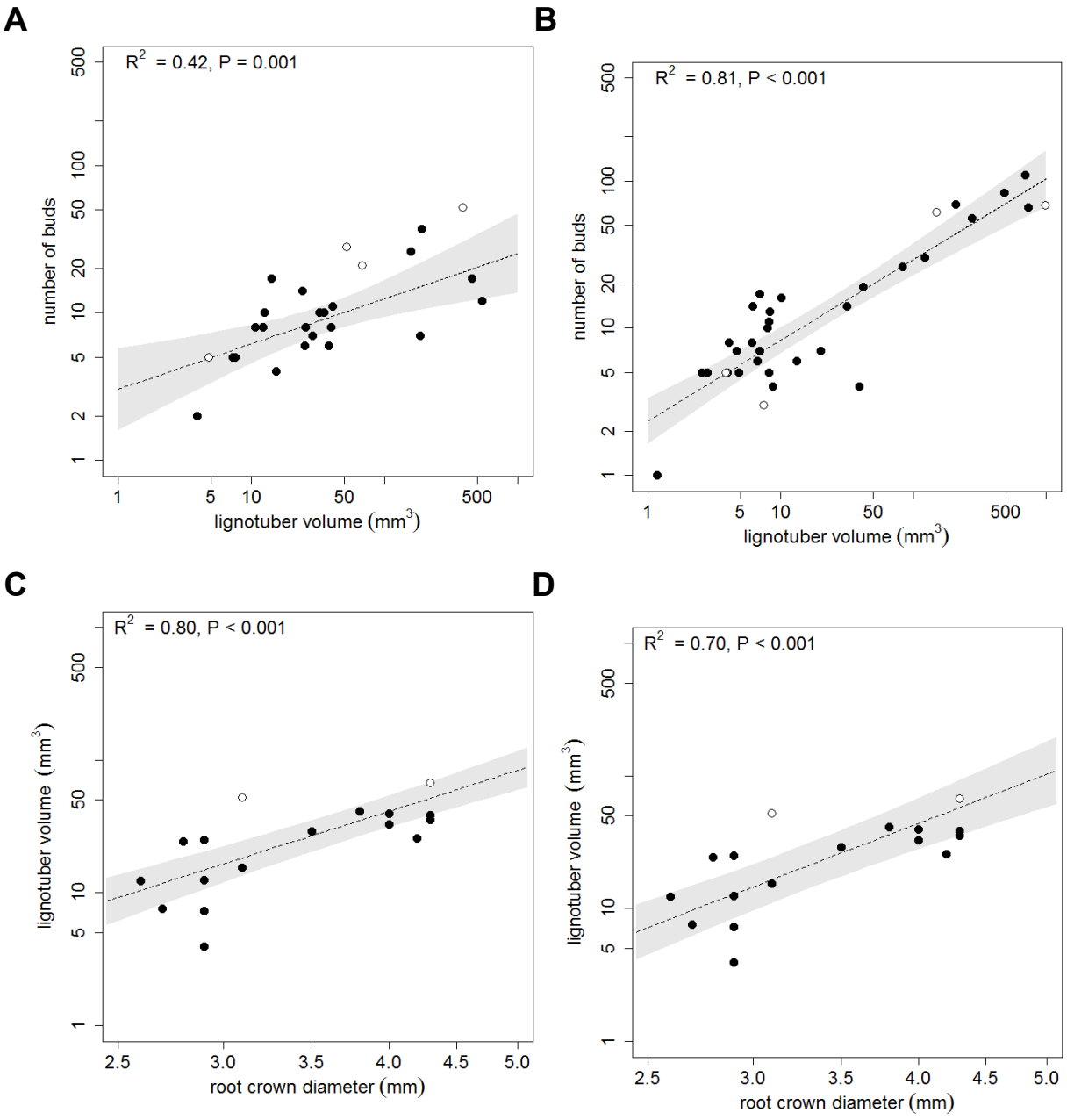

Fig. S2. The upper pannels show the relationship between the lignotuber size (estimated as lignotuber volume) and the number of buds. The lower pannels show the changes of the lignotuher volume with the plant size (estimated as the root crown diameter). A and C: *Arbutus unedo*; B and D: *Phillyrea angustifolia*. Closed symbols correspond to plants growth under controlled conditions, whereas open symbols correspond to plants from wild populations. Dashed lines are the significant log-log relationships for nursery saplings and the shaded area correspond to the 95% confidence interval.

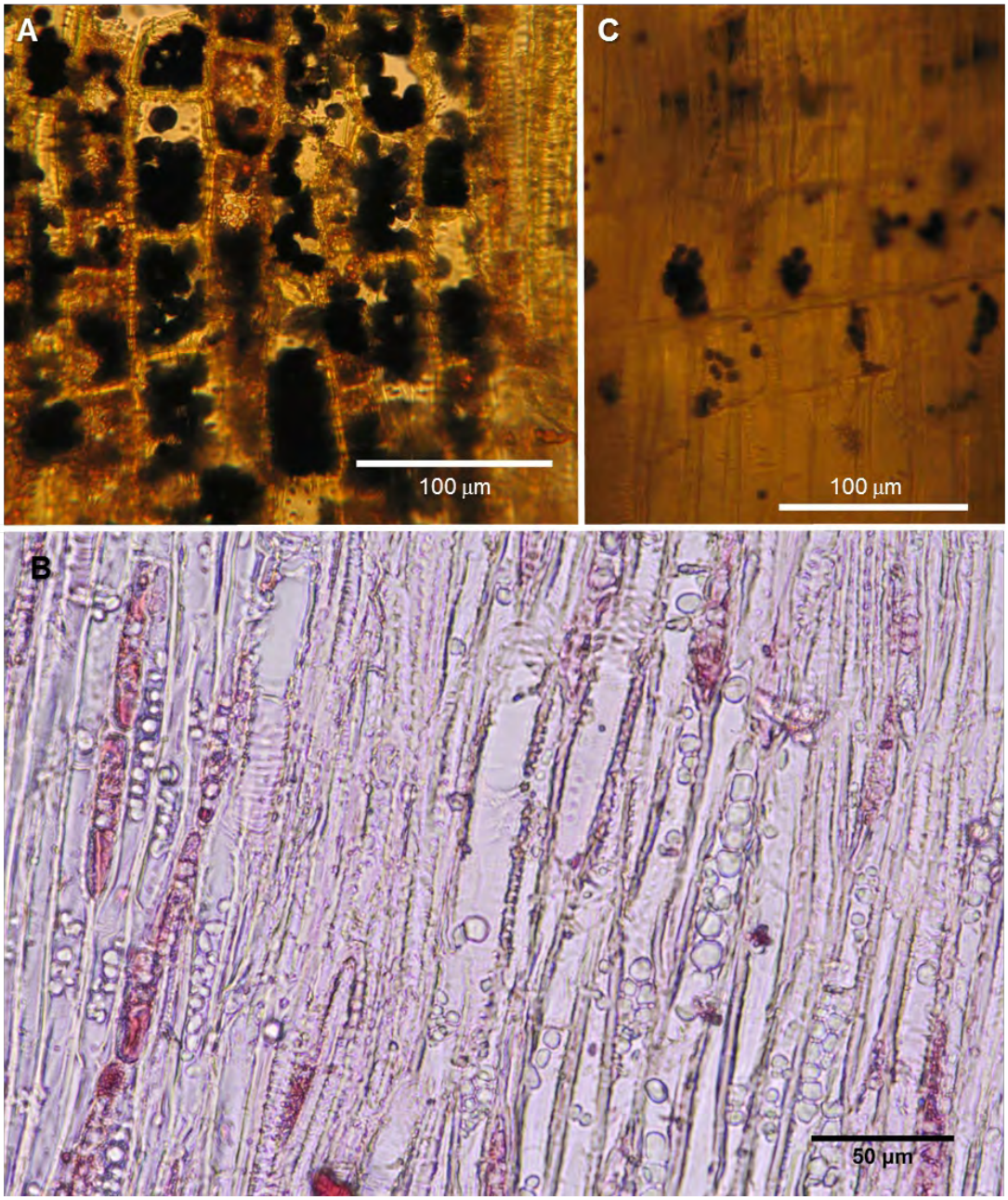

Fig. S3. Stem xylem (A) and lignotuber xylem (B) in *Arbutus unedo* and of the stem xylem in *Phillyrea angustifolia* (C). Sections in A were C were stained with iodine and thus starch grains are coloured in dark blue. Section in B was stained with safranin.