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Title: Differential impact of liana colonization on the leaf functional traits of co-occurring deciduous and evergreen trees in a tropical dry scrub forest

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Table S1 List of tree species selected for the study based on their leaf type and liana colonization status.

Species	Family	Leaf form	Leaf type
<i>Holigarna arnottiana</i> Hook. f.	Anacardiaceae	Simple	Evergreen
<i>Aporosa cardiosperma</i> (Gaertn.) Merr.	Phyllanthaceae	Simple	Evergreen
<i>Carallia brachiata</i> (Lour.)	Rhizophoraceae	Simple	Evergreen
<i>Olea dioica</i> Roxb	Oleaceae	Simple	Evergreen
<i>Careya arborea</i> Roxb.	Lecythidaceae	Simple	Deciduous
<i>Terminalia paniculata</i> Roth	Combretaceae	Simple	Deciduous
<i>Millettia pinnata</i> (L.) Panigr.	Fabaceae	Compound	Deciduous
<i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i> Lam.	Rhamnaceae	Simple	Deciduous

Table S2 List of leaf functional traits investigated, including abbreviations, units of measurement, and ecological significance.

Leaf trait	Abbreviation	Unit	Ecological relevance/significance
Specific Leaf Area	SLA	cm ² g ⁻¹	Scale positively with relative plant growth rate
Leaf Tissue Density	LTD	g cm ⁻³	Determines plant resource acquisition strategies. Negatively related to plant growth rate
Leaf Area	LA	cm ²	Reflects the ecological strategy of the plant in relation to its climate, geography, nutrient, disturbance and phylogenetic factors
Petiole length	PL	cm	Plays a critical role in the spatial positioning of the leaf in relation to the availability of light
Leaf Dry Matter Content	LDMC	mg g ⁻¹	LDMC has been shown to correlate negatively with potential RGR and positively with leaf lifespan
Leaf Thickness	LT	mm	Reflects the number and thickness of mesophyll layers and is driven largely by climatic variables (LT tend to be higher in sunnier environments)
Mass-based Leaf Nitrogen Concentration	N _{mass}	mg g ⁻¹	Positively related to light-saturated photosynthetic rate
Chlorophyll a	CHL _a	mg g ⁻¹	Reflects the quality and quantity of the light environment. Positively related to sunnier environment
Chlorophyll b	CHL _b	mg g ⁻¹	Reflects the quality and quantity of the light environment. Positively related to shaded environment
Total Chlorophyll	CHL _t	mg g ⁻¹	Reflects leaf photosynthetic capacity. Positively related to the leaf photosynthetic capacity
Chlorophyll a/b ratio	CHL _{a/b}	NA	Indicates the extent of shade tolerance in plants. A higher a/b ratio reflects greater shade tolerance

Table S3 Summary of the standardized major axis (SMA) regression between different trait-pairs using pooled data of L⁺ and L⁻ categories (evergreen and deciduous species) and only L⁻ category.

Trait-pair	<i>n</i>	<i>r</i> ²	<i>P</i>	Slope	Intercept
Pooled data (L ⁺ and L ⁻)					
SLA vs N _{mass}	16	0.665	0.0001	0.82970	-0.37994
LT vs SLA	16	0.666	0.0001	-1.00446	1.47081
LT vs N _{mass}	16	0.547	0.001	-0.83341	0.84040
LDMC vs N _{mass}	16	0.420	0.001	0.130	-27.790
LDMC vs SLA	16	0.302	0.027	-1.69828	6.47130
Only L ⁻					
SLA vs N _{mass}	8	0.897	0.0003	0.91576	0.81011
LT vs SLA	8	0.826	0.0017	-1.0328	1.43692
N _{mass} vs LT	8	0.727	0.007	-1.1272	0.68446
LDMC vs N _{mass}	8	0.549	0.035	1.4324	5.02740
LDMC vs SLA	8	0.459	0.064	-1.3118	5.41404

Abbreviations for leaf traits as in Online Resource 2