FIGURE 3.8. Soapberry bugs in Florida originally fed on the native balloon vine (A, lower), using their sharp beaks to penetrate the fruit. In the 1920s, the flat-podded golden rain tree (A, upper) was introduced from Asia. This has thinner-skinned fruit, and, correspondingly, soapberry bugs evolved shorter beaks after they switched to feed on this new host plant. (B) Each dot in the scatter plot shows the beak length of an individual bug taken from museum collections.


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