Contents

List of Contributors xiii
Foreword xv
R. M. May

1 Challenges and opportunities in the measurement and assessment of biological diversity 1
Anne E. Magurran and Brian J. McGill

1.1 Introduction 1
1.2 State of the field 1
1.3 What is in this book 2
Acknowledgements 7

Part I Basic Measurement Issues

2 An overview of sampling issues in species diversity and abundance surveys 11
Scott A. Bonar, Jeffrey S. Fehmi, and Norman Mercado-Silva

2.1 Introduction 11
2.2 State of the field 11
2.2.1 Setting objectives 12
2.2.2 An important partner: the statistician 12
2.2.3 What species to sample 12
2.2.4 Where to sample 13
2.2.5 Bias, sampling error, and precision 14
2.2.6 How to sample 17
2.2.7 Quantifying the sample 19
2.2.8 When to sample 20
2.2.9 How many samples to collect 21
2.2.10 Comparing information from different surveys 23
2.2.11 Preparing for the field 23
2.3 Prospectus 24
2.4 Key points 24

3 Biodiversity monitoring: the relevance of detectability 25
Stephen T. Buckland, Angelika C. Studeny, Anne E. Magurran, and Stuart E. Newson

3.1 Introduction 25
3.2 State of the field: which biodiversity measure? 26

3.3 Detectability: are species counts relevant for monitoring biodiversity? 28
3.3.1 Individual detectability 28
3.3.2 Estimating individual detectability 28
3.3.3 Species detectability 29
3.4 Case study: the UK Breeding Bird Survey 32
3.5 Discussion 34
3.6 Prospectus 35
3.7 Key points 36
Acknowledgements 36

Part II Diversity

4 Estimating species richness 39
Nicholas J. Gotelli and Robert K. Colwell
4.1 Introduction 39
4.2 State of the field 39
4.2.1 Sampling models for biodiversity data 39
4.2.2 The species accumulation curve 42
4.2.3 Climbing the species accumulation curve 43
4.2.4 Species richness versus species density 43
4.2.5 Individual-based rarefaction 45
4.2.6 Sample-based rarefaction 46
4.2.7 Assumptions of rarefaction 47
4.2.8 Estimating asymptotic species richness 48
4.2.9 Comparing estimators of asymptotic species richness 52
4.2.10 Software for estimating species richness from sample data 53
4.3 Prospectus 53
4.4 Key points 53
Acknowledgements 54

5 Measurement of species diversity 55
Brian A. Maurer and Brian J. McGill
5.1 Introduction 55
5.2 State of the art 55
5.2.1 Species diversity as variance 59
5.2.2 Species diversity as information 60
5.2.3 Traditional measures of various types of diversity 61
5.2.4 Addressing the difference between the empirical and ecological samples: estimating species diversity components using empirical samples 62
5.2.5 Testing for heterogeneity among ecological samples 63
5.3 Prospectus 64
5.4 Key points 64

6 Compositional similarity and β (beta) diversity 66
Lou Jost, Anne Chao, and Robin L. Chazdon
6.1 Introduction 66

6.2 State of the field 66
6.2.1 Measures of relative compositional similarity and differentiation 68
6.2.2 Diversity and compositional similarity 77
6.2.3 Statistical estimation of assemblage differentiation and similarity 83
6.3 Prospectus 83
6.4 Key points 84

7 Measuring biological diversity in time (and space) 85
Anne E. Magurran

7.1 Introduction 85
7.2 State of the field: timescales of change and community boundaries 86
7.3 What is being measured? 87
7.4 Assessing change through time 89
7.4.1 Temporal turnover: species time curves 89
7.4.2 Temporal turnover: turnover indexes 89
7.4.3 Using species abundance distributions to evaluate change 90
7.4.4 Assessing change using biodiversity indexes 91
7.5 Measuring change in the rate of change 92
7.6 Using temporal change to shed light on community structure 93
7.7 Partitioning diversity in space and time 93
7.8 Prospectus 93
7.9 Key points 93

Part III Distribution

8 Commonness and rarity 97
Anne E. Magurran and Peter A. Henderson

8.1 Introduction 97
8.2 State of the field 97
8.3 Commonness and rarity: ecological context 98
8.4 Assessing commonness and rarity 102
8.5 Prospectus 103
8.6 Key points 103

9 Species abundance distributions 105
Brian J. McGill

9.1 Introduction 105
9.2 State of the field 106
9.2.1 Visual approaches to SADs 106
9.2.2 Parametric approaches to SADs 110
9.2.3 Non-parametric approaches to SADs 110
9.2.4 Multivariate approaches to SADs 113
9.3 Identifying a useful, parsimonious subset of SAD metrics 113
9.3.1 Efficiency and bias 114
9.3.2 Independence of measures 115

9.3.3 Overall assessment of useful, parsimonious metrics of SADs 121
9.4 Prospectus 121
9.5 Key points 122
Acknowledgements 122

10 Fitting and empirical evaluation of models for species abundance distributions 123
Sean R. Connolly and Maria Dornelas

10.1 Introduction 123
10.2 State of the field 124
10.2.1 Species abundance models 124
10.2.2 Obtaining predicted abundances 125
10.2.3 Choosing parameters 126
10.2.4 Goodness-of-fit testing 131
10.2.5 Model selection 134
10.3 Prospectus 137
10.3.1 Sampling theory for species abundance models 137
10.3.2 Parameter estimation 137
10.3.3 Goodness-of-fit testing 138
10.3.4 Model selection 139
10.3.5 Conclusions 139
10.4 Key points 140

11 Species occurrence and occupancy 141
Kevin J. Gaston and Fangliang He

11.1 Introduction 141
11.2 State of the field 143
11.2.1 Occupancy–area relationships 143
11.2.2 Occupancy–abundance relationships 145
11.2.3 Species occupancy distributions 147
11.3 Prospectus 149
11.4 Key points 150
Acknowledgements 151

12 Measuring the spatial structure of biodiversity 152
Brian J. McGill

12.1 Introduction 152
12.1.1 What spatial structure is of interest? 152
12.1.2 Number of variables recorded – pattern or association? 154
12.1.3 Types of data 155
12.2 State of the art 156
12.2.1 Estimating intensity (first-order effects) 157
12.2.2 Studying effects at a distance (second-order effects) 160
12.2.3 Associations between two variables 166
12.2.4 Software available 170
12.3 Prospectus 170

12.4 Key points 170
Acknowledgements 171

Part IV Alternative measures of diversity

13 A primer of trait and functional diversity 175
Evan Weiher

13.1 Introduction 175
13.1.1 General definitions 175
13.1.2 General importance 175
13.1.3 A brief history of trait and functional diversity 176
13.2 State of the field 178
13.2.1 Overview 178
13.2.2 Indices of trait and functional diversity 178
13.2.3 Partitioning the components of trait diversity 184
13.2.4 Methodological issues 185
13.2.5 Conceptual issues 188
13.3 Prospectus 191
13.3.1 Recommendations 191
13.3.2 Future directions 192
13.4 Key points 193
Acknowledgements 193

14 Measuring phylogenetic biodiversity 194
Mark Vellend, William K. Cornwell, Karen Magnuson-Ford, and Arne Ø. Mooers

14.1 Introduction 194
14.1.1 Overview 194
14.1.2 Approaching the study of phylogenetic diversity 195
14.2 State of the field 197
14.2.1 Null models 198
14.2.2 Simulation analyses 200
14.2.3 Simulation results 201
14.3 Prospectus 203
14.3.1 Phylogenetic diversity in conservation 203
14.3.2 Phylogenetic diversity in community ecology 205
14.3.3 Abundance vs presence–absence data 206
14.4 Key points 207

15 Genetic methods for biodiversity assessment 208
Melanie Culver, Robert Fitak, and Hans-Werner Herrmann

15.1 Introduction 208
15.2 Genetic methods in biodiversity assessment 209
15.2.1 Mitochondrial, chloroplast, and nuclear DNA 209
15.2.2 Genome technologies 209
15.3 Biodiversity assessments 209

15.3.1 Phylogenies for biodiversity assessment using mtDNA and nuclear DNA 209
15.3.2 Non-invasively monitoring for biodiversity 211
15.3.3 DNA barcoding for biodiversity assessment 212
15.3.4 Genome technologies for biodiversity assessment 216
15.4 Prospectus 217
15.5 Key points 217

Part V Applications

16 Microbial diversity and ecology 221
Lise Øvreås and Thomas P. Curtis

16.1 Introduction 221
16.2 The diversity concept 222
16.3 Phylogeny 223
16.4 rRNA as an evolutionary chronometer 223
16.5 Methods for assessing diversity 223
16.5.1 PCR-based methods 223
16.5.2 Pyrosequencing 225
16.5.3 Metagenomics 228
16.6 Sampling, scale, and thresholds 229
16.7 Mathematical tools for estimating diversity 231
16.7.1 Collectors curves 231
16.7.2 Chao's non-parametric estimators 231
16.7.3 Parametric estimators that assume a distribution 232
16.7.4 Estimating diversity by inferring a distribution from the data 233
16.8 Estimation of required sample size 234
16.9 In-depth metagenome analyses 234
16.10 Prospectus 234
16.11 Key points 236

17 Biodiversity and disturbance 237
Maria Dornelas, Candan U. Soykan, and Karl Inne Ugland

17.1 Introduction 237
17.2 What is a disturbance? 237
17.2.1 Source of the disturbance 238
17.2.2 Timescale 238
17.2.3 Spatial scale 238
17.2.4 Intensity 239
17.2.5 Specificity 239
17.2.6 Summary 239
17.3 State of the field: measuring the effects of disturbance on biodiversity 239
17.3.1 Univariate metrics 239
17.3.2 Species abundance distribution based metrics 243
17.3.3 Multivariate analysis 247
17.4 Prospectus 250

17.5 Key points 251
Acknowledgements 251

18 Measuring biodiversity in managed landscapes 252
Steven L. Chown and Melodie A. McGeoch

18.1 Introduction 252
18.2 State of the field 253
18.2.1 Variation in biodiversity measurement goals 253
18.2.2 Bioindicators and monitoring 255
18.2.3 Measuring biodiversity for management 258
18.2.4 Matrices for measurement 261
18.3 Prospectus 263
18.4 Key points 264
Acknowledgements 264

19 Estimating extinction with the fossil record 265
Peter J. Wagner and S. Kathleen Lyons

19.1 Introduction 265
19.2 State of the field 265
19.2.1 Basic metrics 265
19.2.2 Survivorship curves 267
19.2.3 The importance of sampling 267
19.2.4 Relevant studies 269
19.2.5 Occurrence-based diversity estimates 269
19.2.6 Gap analyses 271
19.3 Prospectus 274
19.4 Key points 275

20 Estimating species density 276
Michael L. Rosenzweig, John Donoghue II, Yue M. Li, and Chi Yuan

20.1 Introduction 276
20.1.1 The problem: what is the density of species? 276
20.1.2 Defining the density of species 276
20.1.3 Species density takes on new importance in an era of environmental concern 278
20.2 Data set 278
20.2.1 Data description 278
20.2.2 Data manipulation 280
20.2.3 *NP*: our surrogate for *A* 280
20.3 Density estimates 280
20.3.1 First density estimate 280
20.3.2 Density estimates for subsets with a uniform plot size 280
20.4 Curvature in SPARs 282
20.5 Reducing the bias 282
20.5.1 Extrapolation 283
20.5.2 Estimators based on the frequency of scarce species 284

20.6 Applying bias reduction 284
20.7 Checking our results on the scale of all of Virginia 285
20.8 Why species density? 286
20.8.1 Species density as an environmental indicator 286
20.8.2 Species density as a topic of study 287
20.9 Key points 287
Acknowledgements 287

Part VI Conclusions

21 Conclusions 291
Brian J. McGill and Anne E. Magurran

References 295
Index 337