

Geology and tree species distributions

Beta-diversity in tropical forests of Panama

Richard Condit ¹

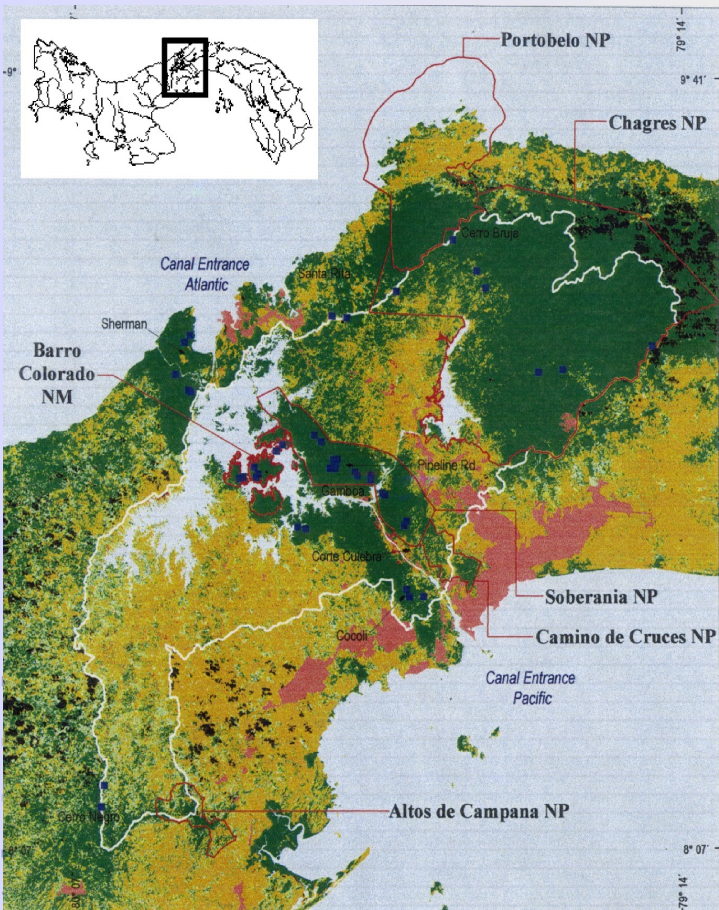
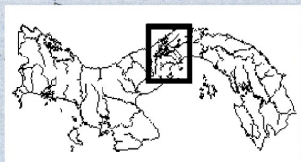
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
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Robin Foster







Forest Composition in Tropics of Panama

- 1 Climate (dry season)
- 2 Geology
- 3 Soil Chemistry
- 4 Tree Response to Phosphorus and Moisture

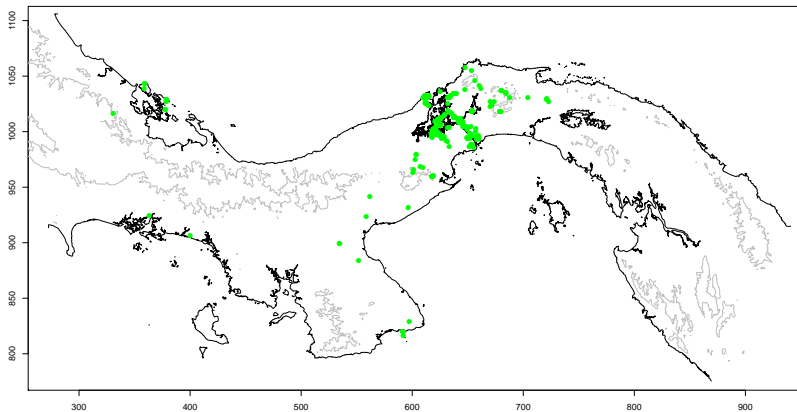




Surveys of Tree Species

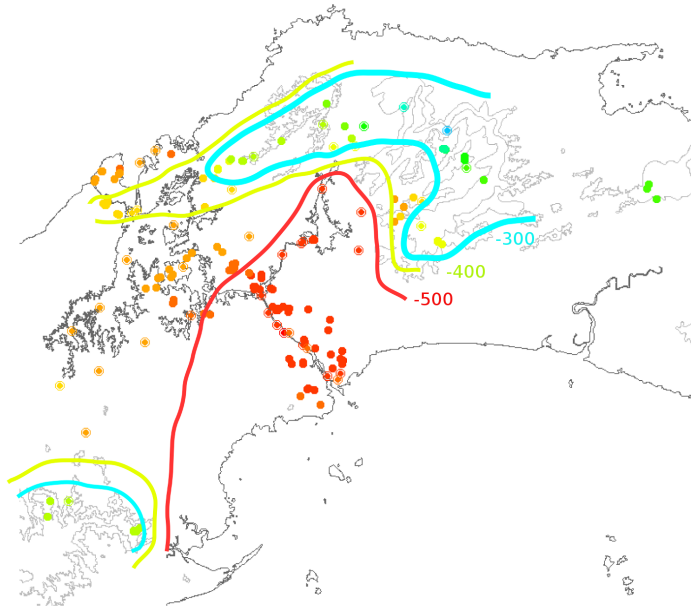
183 sites in Panama:

61 plots (full tree census) & 122 inventories (presence-absence)



Tree inventories

Estimated dry season intensity at each

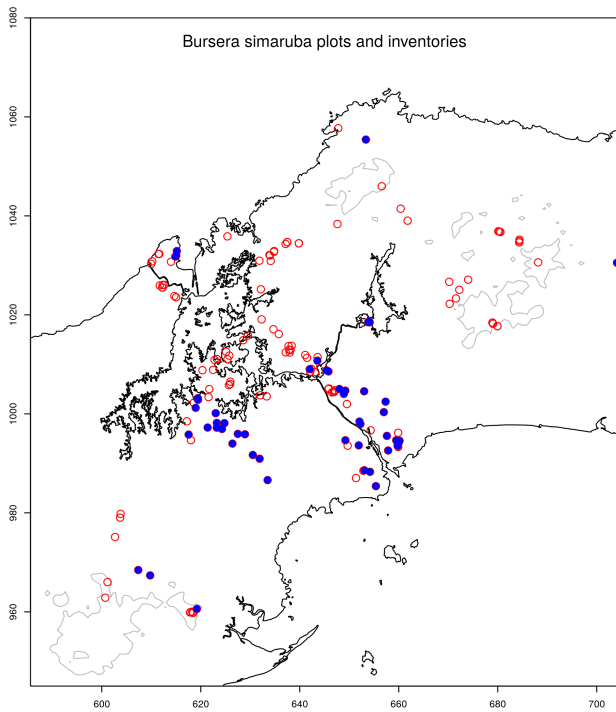


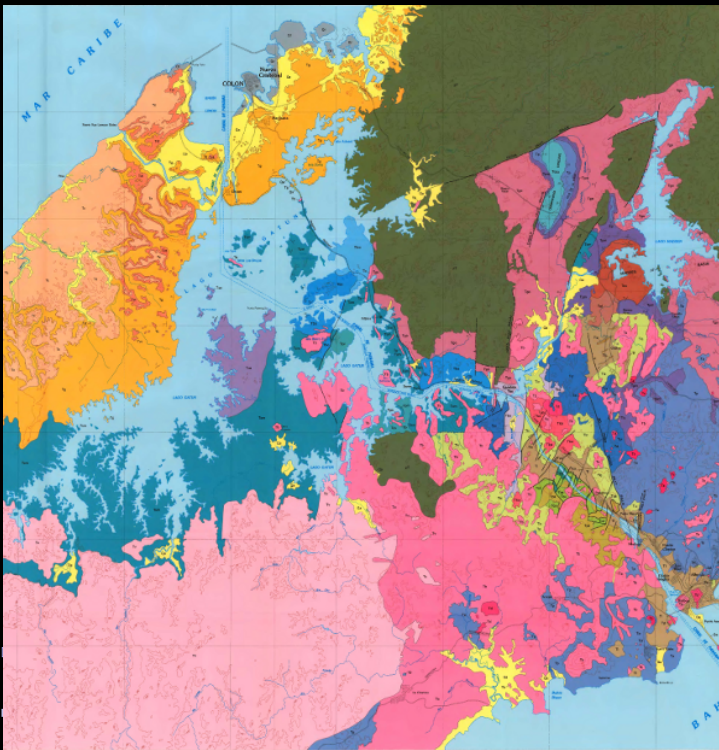




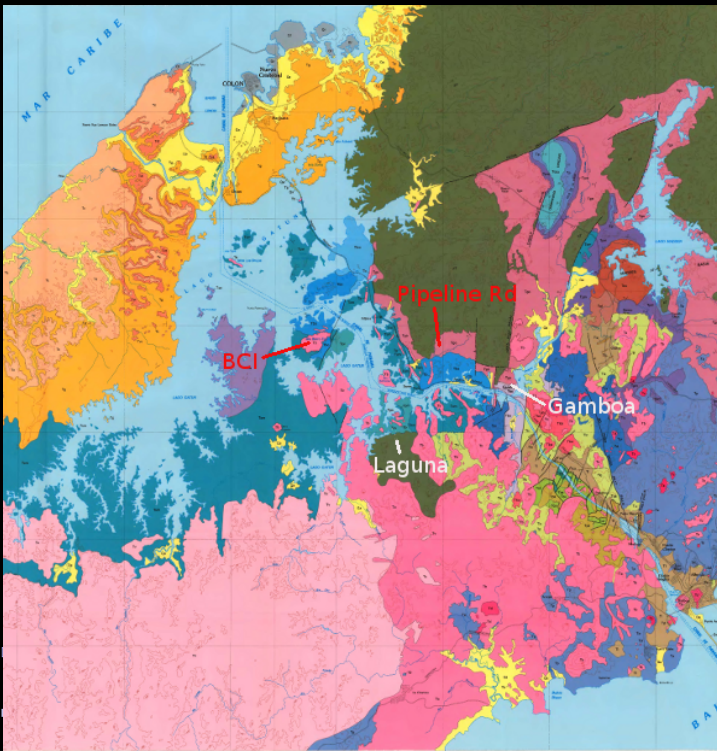


Deciduous species and limestone

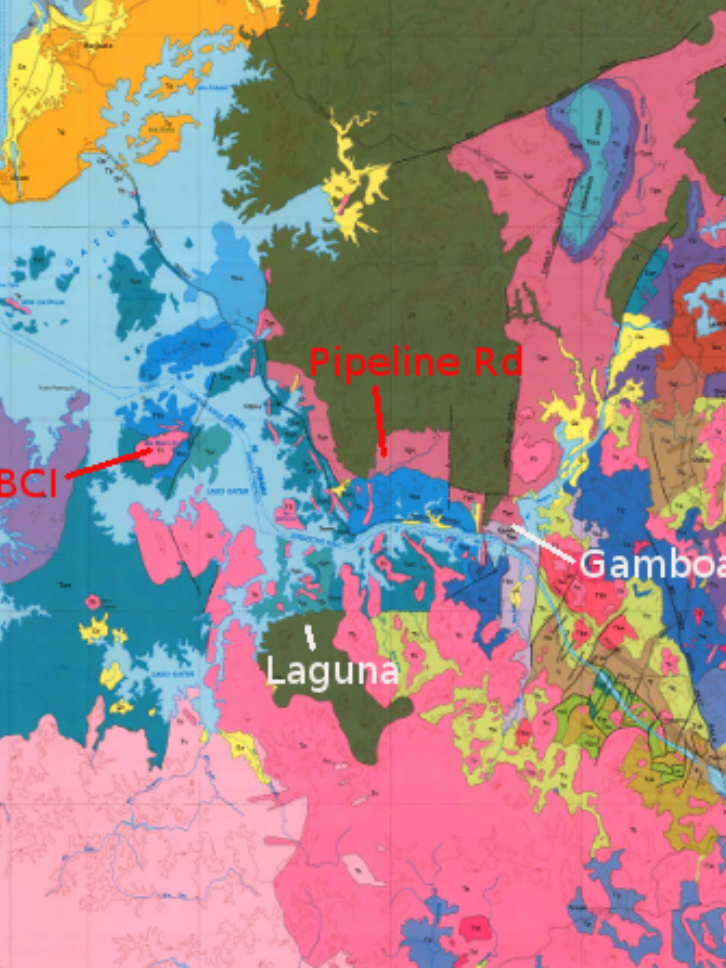




Woodring geology map (1982)



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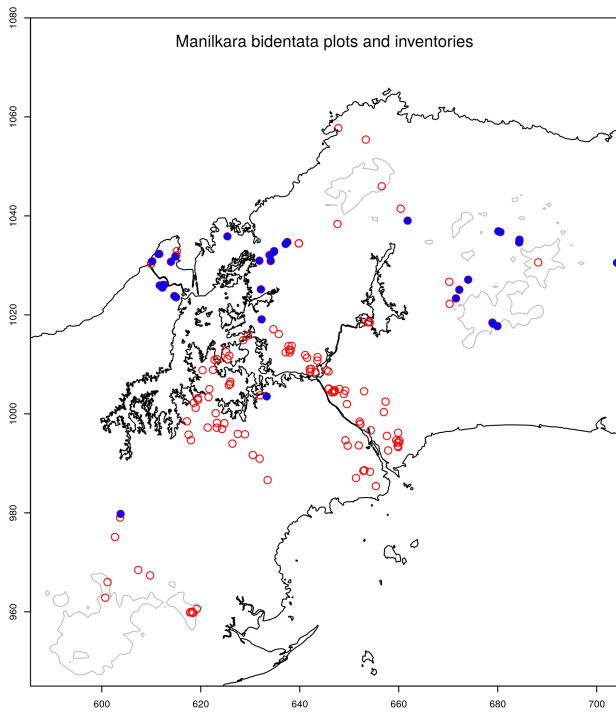


Pipeline Rd

BCI

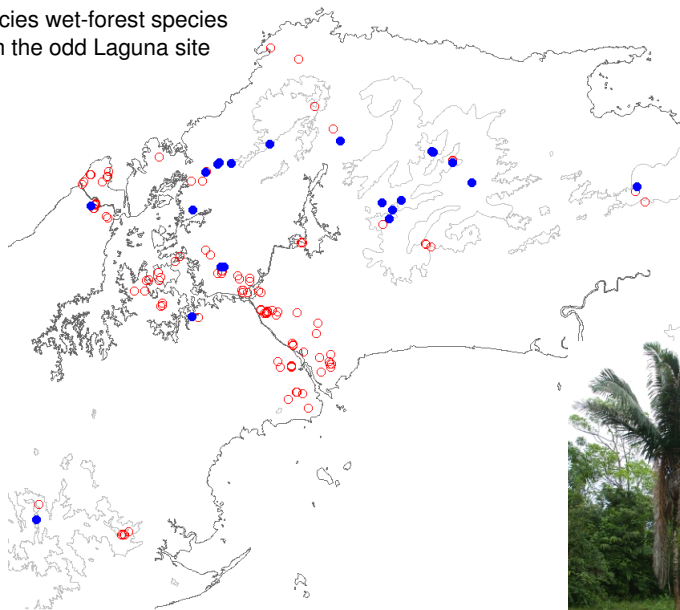
Gamboa

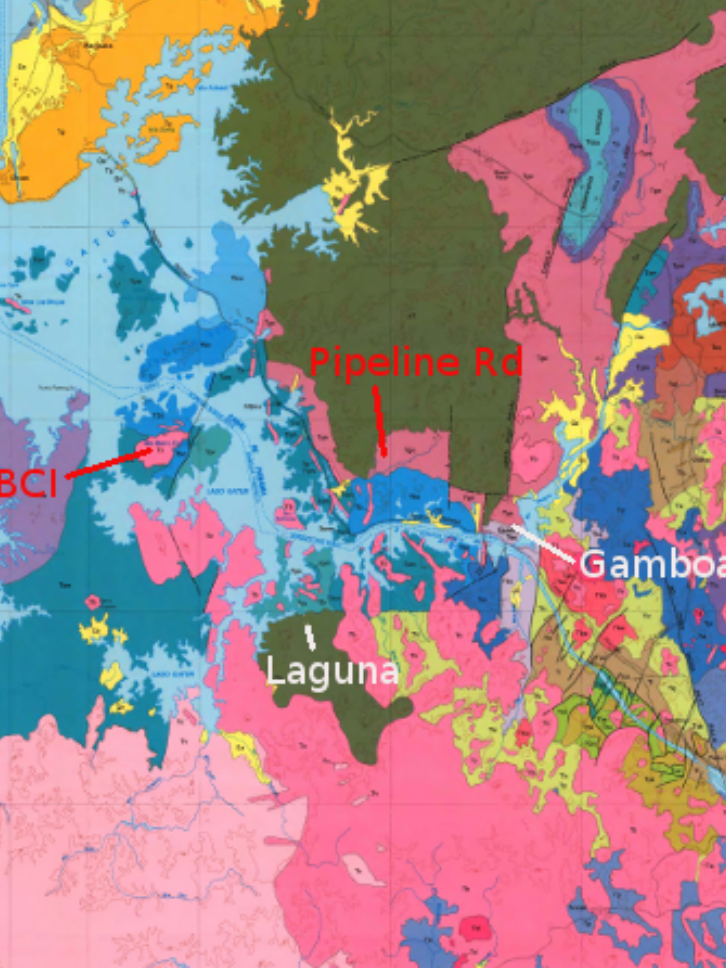
Laguna



Welfia regia plots and inventories

32 species wet-forest species
reach the odd Laguna site





Pipeline Rd

BCI

Gamboa

Laguna



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Oxisols (Typic Eutrudox)



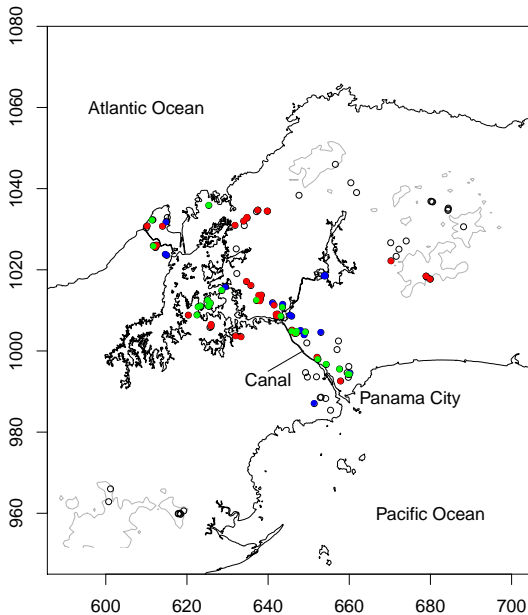
Alfisols and Ultisols (Oxyaquic Vertic Hapludalf)



Mollisols (?)



Phosphorus Map



Low phosphorus

Medium phosphorus

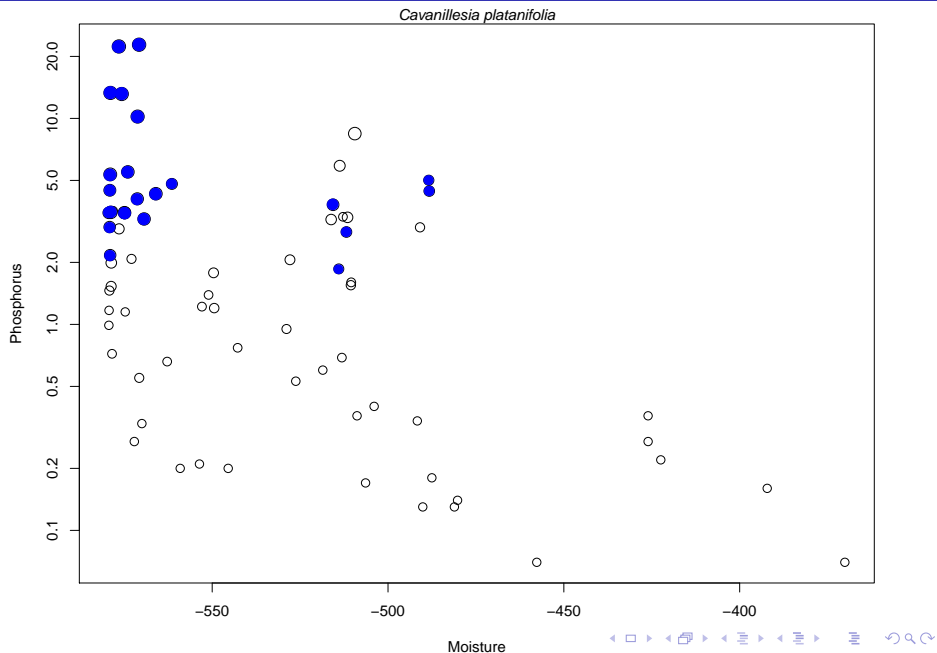
High phosphorus

Soil nutrient comparison

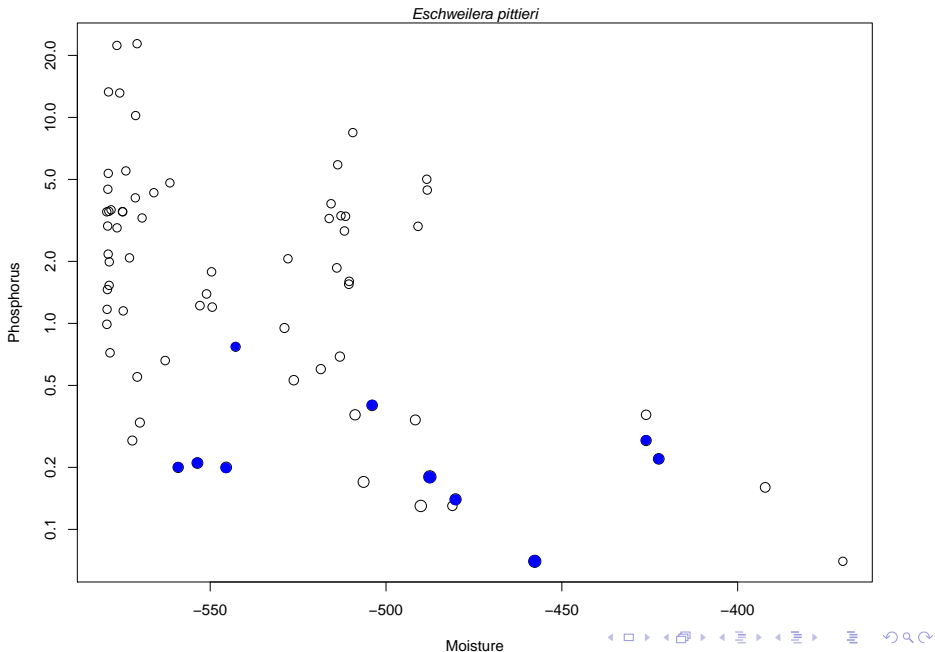
	Panama		Amazon*	
	Min	Max	Min	Max
Ca	25.00	9738.60	2.90	3402.00
K	12.30	351.90	3.80	197.00
P(resin)	0.07	22.80	1.00	21.80
TotalP	72.20	1552.80	25.00	968.00

* Phillips *et al.* 2003, Quesada *et al.* 2011

Phosphorus-Moisture Relation



Phosphorus-Moisture Relation

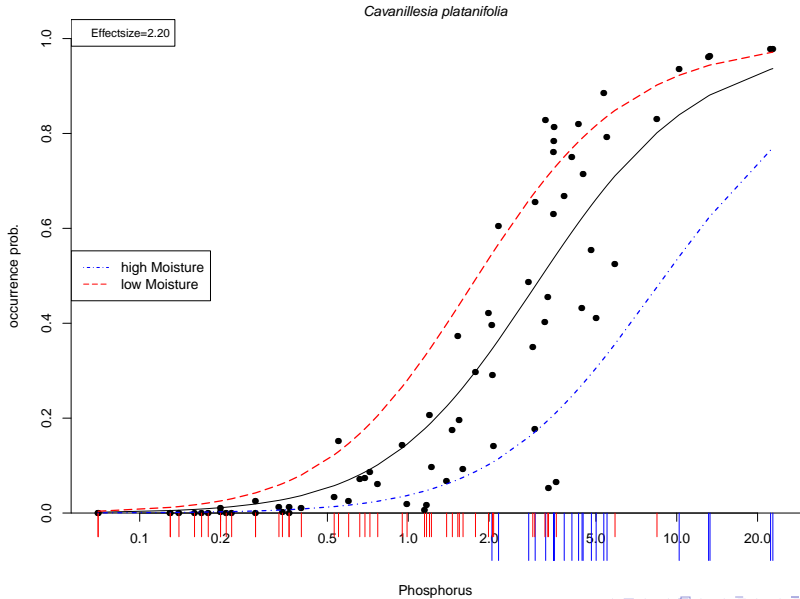


Habitat response model

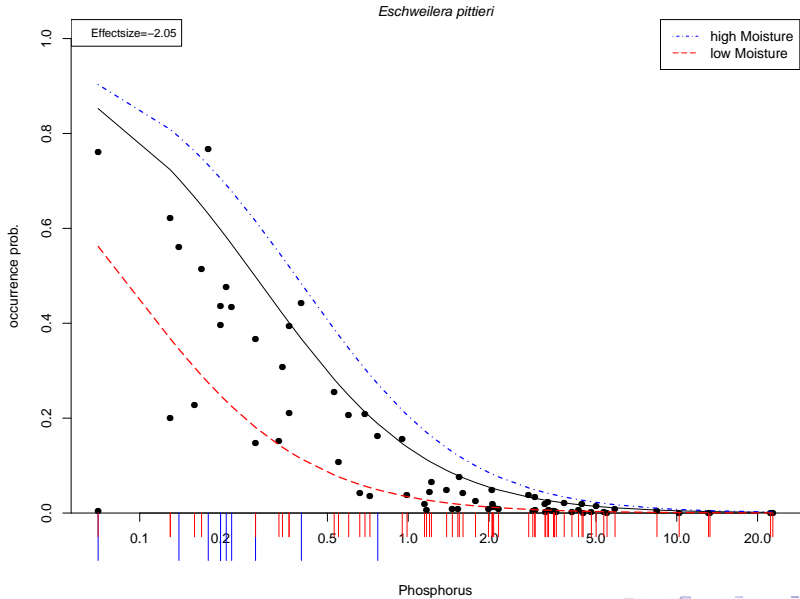
Multiple logistic regression Hierarchical component for species

- Multiple logistic regression
 - standard for occurrence modeling against many resources
- OccurrenceProb \sim InverseLogit(Climate + Soil + Climate² + Soil²)
- Eight predictors in model:
 - Dry season moisture
 - Al
 - Ca
 - Fe
 - K
 - P (plant available)
 - Zn
 - N (inorganic)

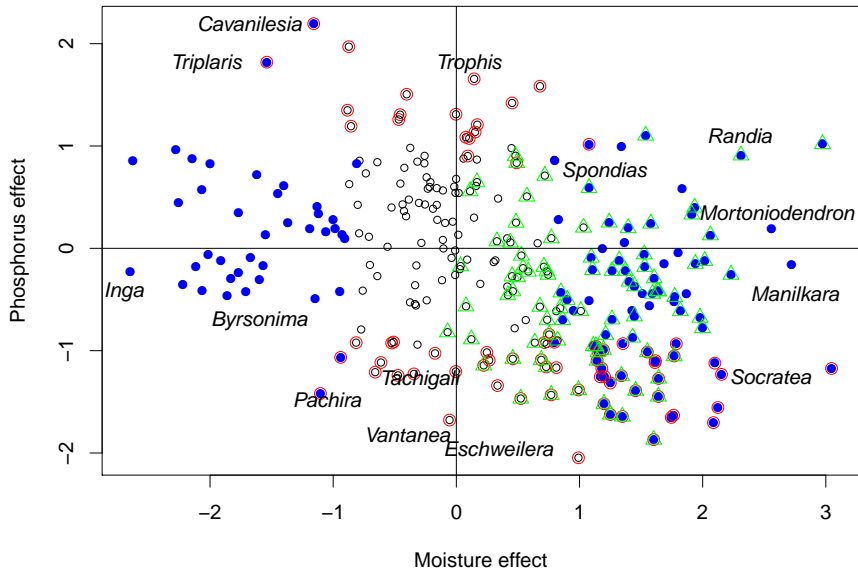
Habitat response model



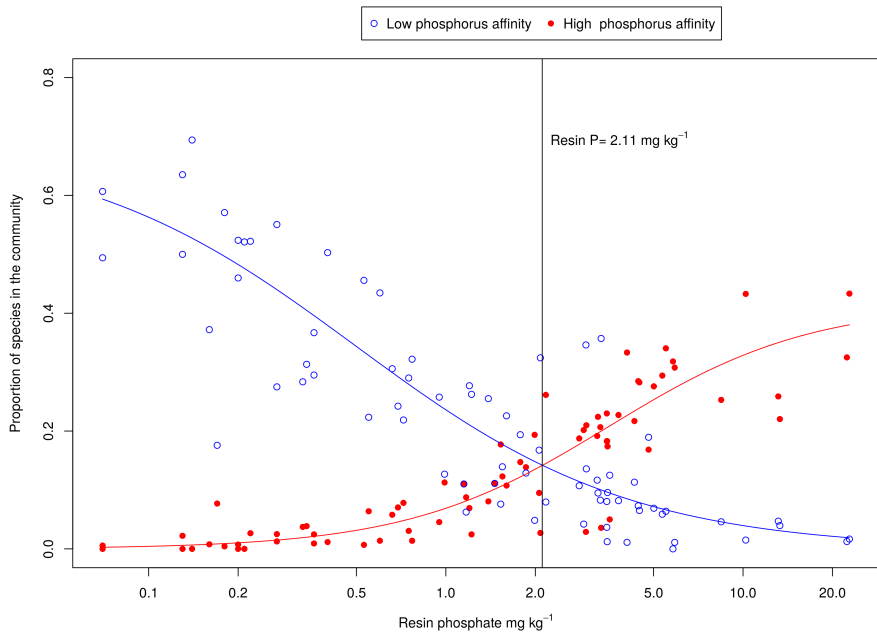
Habitat response model



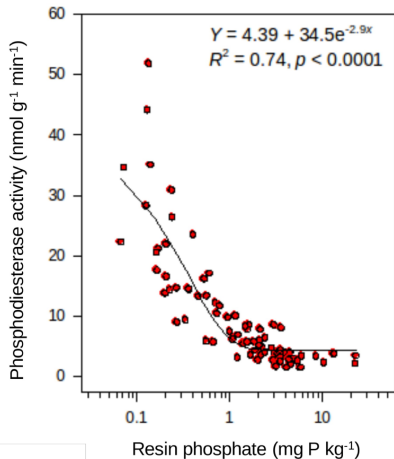
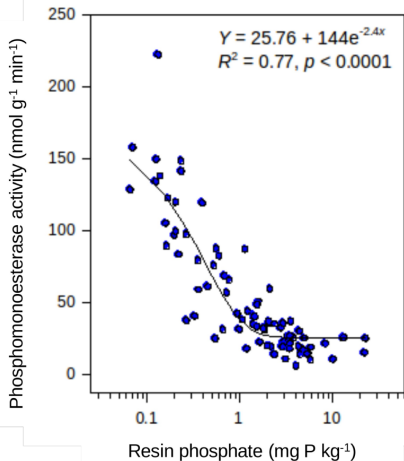
Bivariate Responses, Moisture and P



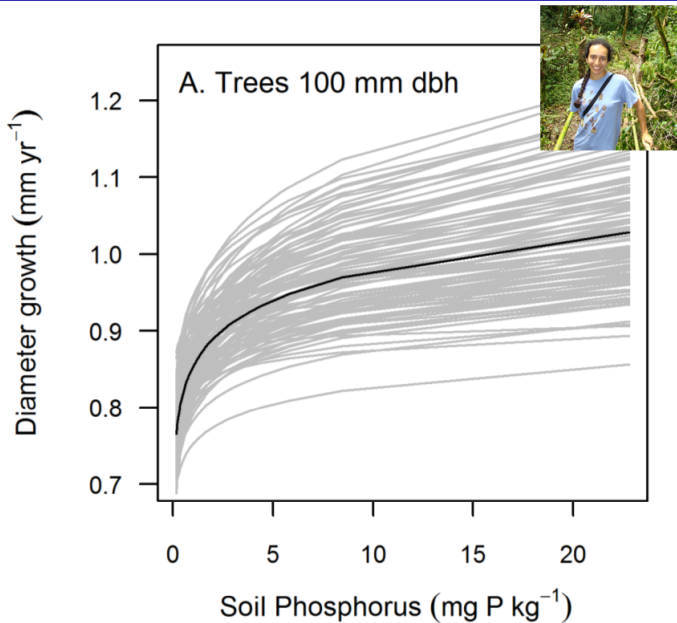
Turnover of Specialists



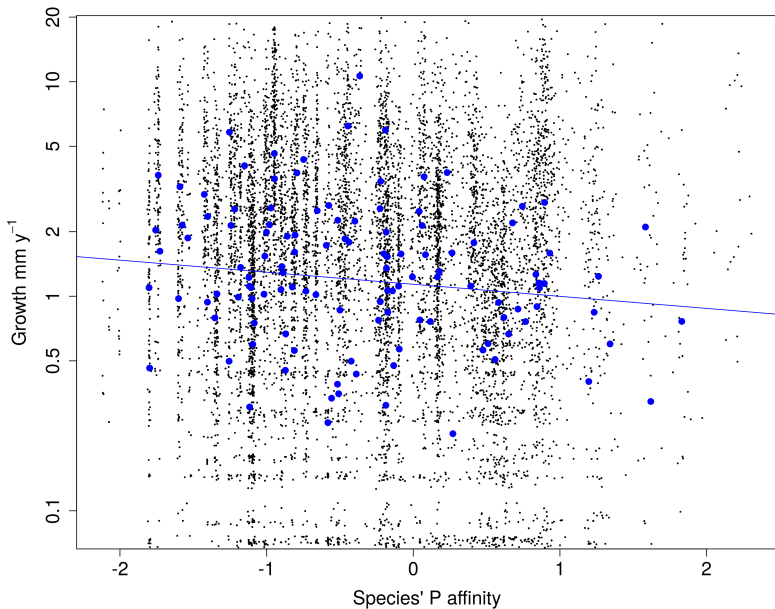
Microbial Response to Phosphorus



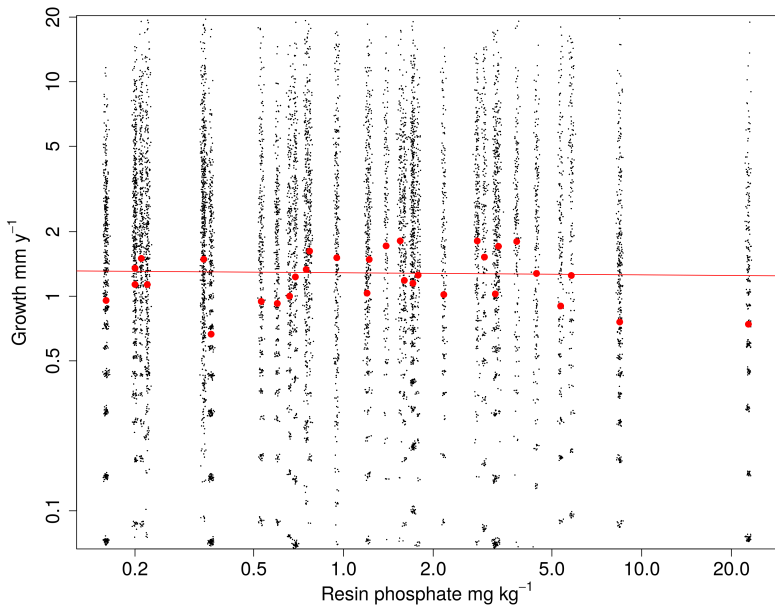
Species' Growth Response to Phosphorus



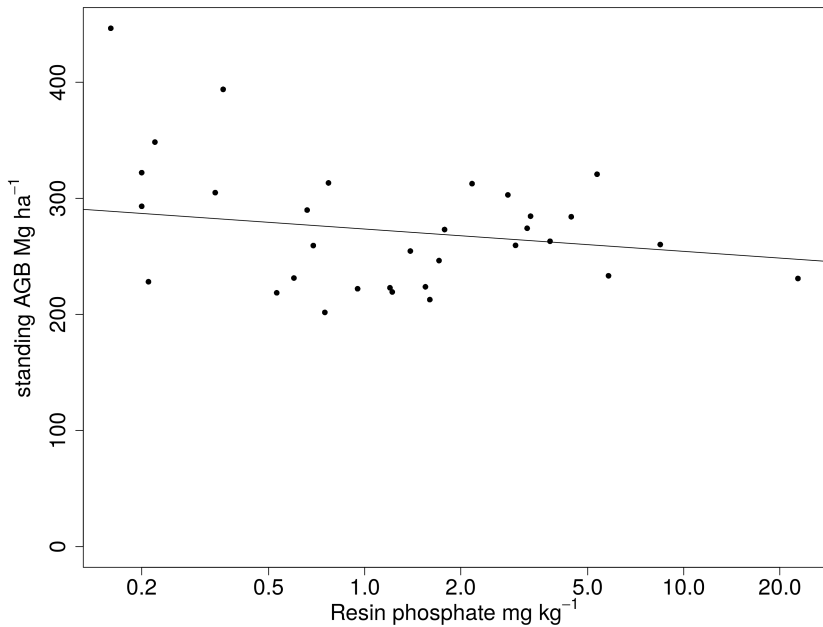
Mean Species Growth and Phosphorus Affinity



Mean Forest Growth and Phosphorus



Forest Biomass and Phosphorus



My understanding of Panama's forests:

Environmental variation and species composition

Climate and forest

- Species composition varies greatly with dry season variation
- But there is far more variation than wet vs. moist of Holdridge
- And there are no distinct forest types

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Geology and forest

- Parent rocks can alter forest beyond the climate
- Many species limited by phosphorus: avoiders and demanders
- Forest community is not limited by phosphorus

