

1 **Spatial congruence between taxonomic, phylogenetic and functional hotspots: true pattern or**
2 **methodological artefact?**

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10 **Running title:** Spatial congruence between diversity hotspots

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12 **(A) Abstract**

13 Aim – To assess the spatial congruence between hotspots based on taxonomic, phylogenetic and functional
14 diversity, after accounting for the correlation between diversity metrics, and the spatial scale and sampling
15 completeness of data.

16 Location – The Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park (Central Pyrenees, Spain), a species-rich area
17 subjected to intensive botanical sampling.

18 Methods – We selected hotspots using different diversity metrics and two different data sources (~49,000
19 occurrence records of 1379 vascular plants in 1x1 km grid cells, and 1218 inventories of plant communities
20 containing a total of 859 taxa), and compared their spatial congruence. The effect of sampling completeness
21 of data was explicitly assessed. Phylogenetic and functional diversity (measured with richness-dependent and
22 independent metrics) were based on a molecular phylogeny, and a functional dendrogram, respectively. The
23 effectiveness of different types of hotspots in representing other diversity components was tested with
24 permutation tests.

25 Results – We found that spurious correlations between diversity metrics explained the congruence between
26 taxonomic, phylogenetic and functional hotspots. When richness-independent metrics were used, diversity
27 hotspots were no longer congruent regardless of the source of data. Hotspots were biased towards intensively
28 sampled grid cells, and the amount of diversity they captured was exaggerated due to the coarse spatial scale
29 of species-occurrence data. The efficiency of hotspots in terms of integrating different diversity components
30 was lower at community scale, and not significantly higher than expected at random, regardless of the
31 sampling completeness.

32 Main conclusions – Our results stress that the arbitrary use of diversity metrics and the scale of analyses
33 along with the sampling bias in data can distort the true location of hotspots, and exaggerate their spatial
34 congruence. After accounting for such methodological issues, we found a clear mismatch between diversity
35 components that challenges the utility of hotspots as a conservation tool of multiple diversity components.

36

37 **Keywords** biodiversity database, functional traits, National Park, phylogeny, plant records, spatial bias

38 (A) Introduction

39 'Agony', 'crisis', and 'emergency' are terms repeatedly used in the scientific literature to depict the
40 current status of biodiversity. In the face of this alarming scenario and limited conservation resources,
41 priority is often given to hotspots, defined broadly as exceptionally rich areas containing a large number of
42 species within a relatively small area (Myers, 1988). However, hotspots of species richness (SR) do not
43 always capture other traditional conservation targets (e.g. threatened species or, endemisms) if the spatial
44 distribution of target species and SR is not congruent (Prendergast *et al.* 1993, Orme *et al.*, 2005; Ceballos &
45 Ehrlich, 2006). Yet, it is unclear whether SR hotspots also present large gaps in the representation of other
46 diversity components such as evolutionary or functional ones, whose relevance for biodiversity conservation
47 is increasingly recognized (Winter *et al.*, 2013). Several authors have shown that maintaining high levels of
48 phylogenetic diversity (i.e. the amount of evolutionary differences between species based on a phylogeny;
49 PD; Faith, 1992), is not only crucial for preserving the evolutionary potential of diversity (Mace *et al.*, 2003;
50 Forest *et al.*, 2007), but also for reducing the loss of evolutionary history, because extinction is
51 phylogenetically non-random (Purvis *et al.*, 2000). Other contributions have emphasized instead the
52 importance of functional diversity (FD), defined as trait complementarity between species (Tilman 2001), in
53 determining ecosystem functioning (Díaz & Cabido, 2001; Cadotte *et al.*, 2011). Although PD is a good
54 surrogate of FD when target traits have evolved under the pattern of the common ancestor (i.e. when species
55 retain their ancestral traits; e.g. Flynn *et al.*, 2011), this is not always so (e.g. Prinzing *et al.*, 2008; Pavoine *et al.*,
56 2013), and it is therefore advisable to measure FD directly from trait data (Cadotte *et al.*, 2013).

57 While several studies have evidenced spatial mismatches between SR, PD and FD in fish, birds,
58 mammals and plants (Forest *et al.*, 2007; Devictor *et al.*, 2010; Mouillot *et al.*, 2011), some others have not
59 (Rodrigues & Gaston, 2002; Sechrest *et al.*, 2002; López-Osorio & Miranda-Esquivel, 2010). The spatial
60 mismatch and congruence between diversity components is often attributed to ecological mechanisms and/or
61 historical events (Orme *et al.*, 2005; Davies & Buckley, 2011; Fritz & Rahbek, 2012). However, the causes
62 for divergent results may be multiple, including methodological ones. In fact, not all results from previous
63 PD and FD studies are comparable, because they are based on different phylogenetic and functional metrics

64 (Winter *et al.*, 2013). For instance, we may expect a spatial overlap between PD, FD and SR when
65 phylogenetic and functional metrics are richness-dependent (Pavoine *et al.*, 2013). Another methodological
66 issue affecting the degree of overlap between different diversity components is the spatial scale (i.e. the size
67 of units used in analysis; Reid 1988, Curnut *et al.*, 1994), because richness patterns are often scale-dependent
68 (e.g. Rahbek, 1995). Finally, the spatial congruence between diversity components may also be contingent
69 upon the quality and quantity of distributional data (Rodrigues *et al.*, 2011). Species richest areas inferred
70 from species-occurrence data tend to be biased towards well-sampled ones (Hortal *et al.*, 2007, Boakes *et al.*,
71 2010), but we do not know yet if other diversity components are also substantially biased. Therefore, it is
72 unclear to what extent sampling biases can underlie the spatial congruence and mismatch between diversity
73 congruence. Given the range of methodological issues that can potentially affect the outputs, it seems clear
74 that we still need to improve and standardize methods before generating hypothesis about the spatial
75 congruence and mismatch between diversity components.

76 In this study we assess the spatial congruence between taxonomic, phylogenetic and functional
77 diversity components in the Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park (OMPNP; Central Pyrenees), and its
78 implications for the utility of hotspots as a conservation tool of multiple diversity components. We examine
79 the potential correlation between diversity metrics, and the effect of the spatial scale and sampling
80 completeness on results by using two data sources: species-occurrence data in grid-cells of 1x1 km and a
81 dataset based on local inventories of plant communities. We used the OMPNP as a case study, because aside
82 from its extraordinary rich flora (nearly 20% of the Iberian Peninsula in only 0.07% of the territory), it has
83 been subjected to intensive botanical sampling. In addition, the spatial resolution of data available is similar
84 to that chosen for prioritization strategies, including hotspot-based ones, at small-scale elsewhere (Gjerde *et*
85 *al.*, 2004; Laguna *et al.*, 2004).

86 **(A) Methods**

87 *(B) Study site*

88 The Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park (42°N, 0°E) extends over a topographically complex

89 area of 35000 ha (including the buffer area) in the Central Pyrenees, with an elevational range between 700-
90 3354 m. The main bedrock type is limestone, but flysch and sandstone outcrops are relatively abundant all
91 across the National Park. Main habitats are, in order of decreasing abundance: grasslands, most of which
92 have traditionally been used for summer pasturing; rocky habitat, including rocky grasslands, screes and
93 cliffs; coniferous forests dominated by *Abies alba*, *Pinus sylvestris* or *P. uncinata*; deciduous forests,
94 including those dominated by *Fagus sylvatica*, and mixed ones; Mediterranean forests, mainly dominated by
95 *Quercus ilex*; and shrublands. Other habitats such as wetlands and anthropogenic habitat (vegetation
96 occurring along pathways) cover less than 1% of the OMPNP (see Appendix S1 in Supporting Information).

97 (B) Plant distribution data

98 All analyses were separately conducted on the basis of two information sources: species-occurrence
99 data in grid cells, and local inventories of plant communities. The former consists of ~49,000 records of
100 species and subspecies of vascular plants (ferns, gymnosperms and angiosperms) obtained from herbarium
101 collections and inventories and aggregated in sampling units of 1x1 km
102 (<http://proyectos.ipe.csic.es/floragon/index.php>). More than 95% of these records were gathered in the last
103 two decades. Although the OMPNP stands out in terms of density of plant records in the Iberian Peninsula
104 (Font *et al.* 2010), the knowledge about the spatial distribution of taxa (including species and subspecies) is
105 still incomplete and spatially biased due to uneven sampling effort (i.e. some grid cells have been subjected
106 to more intense sampling than others; Pardo *et al.*, 2013).

107 The second set of data was based on local inventories of plant communities collected following the
108 phytosociological method, which were compiled from the SIVIM website (<http://www.sivim.info/sivi/>). We
109 initially retrieved 1962 inventories, from which only 1218 were selected for analysis after filtering for
110 taxonomic accuracy and source reliability. Most of these inventories (80%) were relatively recent (collected
111 between 1990-2010), and their size ranged between 0.001-0.03 ha (median size was 0.004 ha). In the
112 phytosociological sampling the size of the inventory is associated to the density of species, e.g. it is, on
113 average, larger in forests than in grasslands. For subsequent analyses, plant inventories were grouped into

114 main habitat classes according to their syntaxonomy. Although inventories were performed in scattered
115 localities (Fig. 1), main habitats were proportionally represented regarding their area (see Appendix S2).

116 (B) Quantifying diversity components

117 Species richness (SR) was measured as the number of species and subspecies at each sampling unit
118 (i.e. grid cells and inventories), and endemism richness (ER) as the number of taxa whose distribution is
119 restricted to the Pyrenees. For PD estimation, we first generated a molecular phylogeny of the flora of the
120 OMPNP resolved to the genus level, following Roquet *et al.* (2013). DNA sequences for 10 regions were
121 downloaded from GenBank: three conserved regions (*matK*, *ndhF* and *rbcl*), plus seven regions less
122 conserved that were clustered to the family or order level for the alignment (*atpB*, *ITS*, *psbA-trnH*, *rpl16*,
123 *rps16*, *rps4-trnS* intergenic spacer, *trnL-F*). Alignment for each region was performed with three methods:
124 Kaling (Lassmann & Sonnhammer, 2005), MAFFT (Katoh *et al.*, 2005) and MUSCLE (Edgar, 2004). The
125 best alignment was determined with MUMSA (Lassmann & Sonnhammer, 2006), checked visually with
126 Seaview (Gouy *et al.*, 2010) and depurated later on with TRIMAL software (Capella-Gutiérrez *et al.*, 2009).
127 All regions were concatenated with FASconCAT (Kück & Meusemann, 2010). For phylogenetic inference,
128 we conducted a maximum likelihood (ML) by using RAxML (Stamatakis *et al.*, 2008) with the model
129 GTR+Gamma, applying a supertree constraint at the family-level on the basis of Davies *et al.* (2004) and
130 Moore *et al.* (2010), and setting one partition for each DNA region. Node support was estimated using
131 bootstrap values. Once the topology of the best ML tree was obtained, we dated the tree with penalized-
132 likelihood as implemented in r8s (Sanderson, 2003), and used a wide range of fossil data to calibrate the tree
133 (25 fossils extracted from Bell *et al.*, 2010; Smith *et al.*, 2010). Finally, we transformed polytomies at the
134 genus level into dichotomies of branches of length zero at random with the *multi2di* function in PICANTE
135 (Kembel *et al.*, 2010).

136 On the basis of this phylogeny, we calculated PD as the sum of the branch lengths of the co-
137 occurring taxa for each sampling unit (grid cells and inventories). Among existing metrics of PD, we
138 selected the one by Faith (1992) because it is widely used in similar studies (Sechrest *et al.*, 2002; Forest *et*

139 *al.*, 2007; Fritz & Rahbek, 2012), it provides a more robust basis for conservation than other metrics (Pio *et*
140 *al.*, 2011), and it is probably the most intuitive one for interpretation. All phylogenetic analyses were done in
141 R 3.3.0 (R Development Core Team, 2016) by using PICANTE (Kembel *et al.*, 2010), APE (Paradis *et al.*,
142 2004) and GEIGER (Harmon *et al.*, 2008) R-packages.

143 Functional diversity was estimated on the basis of eight traits related to life-history (Raunkiaer's life
144 form, life span), plant propagation, dispersal syndrome, pollination system, sexual expression, inflorescence
145 architecture and floral colour (Table 1), plus regional mean population size of adults (a few individuals; <25
146 individuals; <100 individuals; <1000 individuals; and >1000 individuals). Trait information was compiled
147 from the literature and online databases (Table 1). Taxa with no trait information (<10%) were excluded
148 from calculations of FD. Correlation of traits along the phylogeny (i.e. phylogenetic signal) was tested with
149 '*phylo.signal.disc*' function, a phylogenetic permutation test written in R by E. Rezende, which indicated that
150 all traits were significantly correlated ($p < 0.05$). Following Petchey and Gaston (2002), we calculated
151 functional distance based on Gower's metric (Gower 1971), and performed a hierarchical clustering analysis
152 to produce a functional dendrogram by using *daisy* (Maechler *et al.*, 2013) and *hclust* R-functions,
153 respectively. Next, we used *treedive* function in the VEGAN R-package (Oksanen *et al.*, 2013) to calculate
154 FD of sampling units as the sum of the total branch lengths connecting recorded along the dendrogram
155 (Petchey & Gaston, 2002).

156 These phylogenetic and functional metrics are not independent from SR (Pavoine *et al.*, 2013). To
157 measure richness-independent phylogenetic and functional diversity, we performed quadratic models
158 between SR and PD, and FD, respectively, and used residuals of these models (PD_R and FD_R ; Davies *et al.*,
159 2008; Devictor *et al.*, 2010; Fritz & Rahbek, 2012; see Appendix S3). Since model residuals were not
160 spatially correlated, we did not consider models with autocorrelation structures .

161 (B) Spatial congruence between hotspots and their utility for conservation

162 Hotspots were initially defined as the top 5% sampling units ($n=16$ grid cells, and $n=64$ inventories)
163 of each diversity component (SR, ER, PD, FD, PD_R and FD_R). The spatial congruence between different

164 types of hotspots was measured as

$$165 \quad \frac{A \cap B \cap C \cap D}{A+B+C+D} \quad [1]$$

166 where A, B, C and D are the set of hotspots of each diversity component. Dividend was substituted by
167 $(A \cap B \cap C)$, and $(A \cap B)$ to calculate the overlap between all possible combinations of three and two types of
168 hotspots, respectively.

169 We evaluated the utility of hotspots as a conservation tools in terms of their representation of
170 multiple diversity components, by comparing the percentage of each diversity component captured at each
171 type of hotspots with that found in the same number of sampling units selected at random. Differences
172 between observed diversity values in hotspots and those expected at random were contrasted at the 0.05
173 significance level with a permutation test (1000 iterations). To assess the consistency of results regarding the
174 percentage of sampling units selected as hotspots (hereafter hotspot definition criterion), all analyses were
175 repeated by gradually relaxing the criterion from 5% to 30% top sampling units.

176 *(B) The effect of sampling completeness*

177 We estimated the sampling completeness in grid cells following Pardo *et al.* (2013), as the first
178 derivative of a Generalized Additive Model fitted to randomized species accumulation curves at the end of
179 the curve. For the sake of interpretation, values obtained with this procedure were rescaled by subtracting
180 initial values from one, so that values close to one indicate almost complete sampling. The relationship
181 between estimates of sampling completeness and diversity was then tested by means of quantile regression
182 (Koenker & Bassett, 1978). This method was applied to parse out the strength of spatial biases in data across
183 quantiles of interest (Cade & Noon, 2003), which in the case of this study are the highest ones (0.8, 0.9,
184 0.95). Quantile regressions with bootstrapped standard errors were performed with *qr* function from
185 QUANTREG R-package (Koenker, 2013),

186 Inventories are virtually complete samples of plant communities, however, this source of

187 information was incomplete in the sense that not all communities and taxa of the OMPNP were included. To
188 assess whether our incomplete knowledge about plant diversity affected the consistence of our results, we
189 repeated analyses with three sub-datasets created by selecting 75%, 50% and 25% of total inventories at
190 random (see Appendix S4 for further details).

191 **(A) Results**

192 *(B) Species-occurrence data*

193 Seventy percent of the 321 grid cells included in the complex topography of the OMPNP contained
194 plant records. After filtering for synonyms, we listed 1379 taxa (3% ferns, 1% gymnosperms, 96%
195 angiosperms), of which 73 (5%) were endemic to the Pyrenees. Phylogenetic and functional trees were based
196 on 98% of these taxa (see Appendix S5). Values of SR, ER, PD and FD were highly correlated to each other
197 (Spearman coefficient > 0.77; Table 2), and their spatial distribution was similar (Appendix S1). Since SR
198 significantly explained the variation in PD and FD across grid cells ($r^2= 0.95$, p-value < 0.001; $r^2=0.98$, p-
199 value < 0.001, respectively; see Appendix S3), these metrics provided almost the same values of diversity,
200 and identical selection of hotspots. We therefore choose to present results based on PD and FD in Appendix
201 S6. Measures of PD_R and FD_R were instead uncorrelated with SR and ER (Table 2), and accordingly, and
202 their corresponding hotspots were no longer spatially congruent with each other (Fig. 2). This general
203 mismatch between diversity hotspots was relatively consistent even if the percentage of grid cells considered
204 as hotspots increased from 5% till 22% (i.e. 71 grid cells; Fig. 2).

205 The effect of sampling completeness on SR, ER and PD_R was significant (Fig.3), and increased
206 towards highest conditional quantiles, as indicated by increasing slopes of regression lines (Fig. 3; see
207 coefficient and statistics of regressions in Appendix S7). Accordingly, the set of hotspots of these metrics
208 were located in intensively sampled grid cells (sampling completeness above 0.95). In contrast, values of
209 FD_R were not statistically related to sampling completeness (Fig. 3), and hotspots of FD_R were found in both
210 poorly and excellently surveyed grid cells (sampling completeness values ranging from 0.75 to 1).

211 In spite of the spatial mismatch between hotspots, the amount of each diversity component captured
212 in SR hotspots was high (>74%) and, on average, 15% significantly higher than expected in hotspots selected
213 at random (Fig. 4). Other types of hotspots included diversity components in a lower proportion, and not
214 always significantly higher than expected at random (Fig. 4). For instance, hotspots of PD_R did not efficiently
215 capture any other diversity component, and FD_R and ER hotspots also failed in integrating endemism and
216 phylogenetic diversity, respectively (Fig. 4). Importantly, the efficiency of hotspots for diversity
217 representation was similar when the definition of hotspots was relaxed (Fig. 4).

218 (B) Plant inventories

219 Inventories selected for analyses included 859 plant species (62% of total pool), 40 (55%)
220 endemisms, and 79% of the PD and FD known in the OMPNP. Most missing taxa were locally rare
221 (occurring in less than 1% of the territory). As observed in grid cells, SR and PD and FD were correlated
222 (Table 1), although in this case the variance of PD explained by SR was lower ($r^2=0.71$, 1215 d.f., $p < 0.001$)
223 than that of FD ($r^2= 0.93$, 1215 d.f., p -value < 0.001). Consequently, PD complemented SR for hotspots
224 identification when using this data source, whereas FD did not (for the sake of coherence with results based
225 on species-occurrence data, results based on both PD and FD are shown in the Appendix S6).

226 Different types of hotspots were spatially non-congruent, except those based on PD_R and FD_R that
227 partially overlapped (Fig. 2). Although the overlap between hotspots with the number of grid cells used for
228 hotspot definition, by no means it was higher than the mismatch (Fig. 2). The spatial congruence was
229 particularly low between hotspots based on SR and ER, even if more than 80% of hotspots were located in
230 the same habitat, i.e. grasslands. Hotspots based on PD_R and FD_R were frequent in forest (87% and 67% of
231 hotspots, respectively), especially in deciduous ones, where their spatial overlap was moderate (Fig. 2).

232 When using inventories, the representation of multiple diversity components in hotspots was
233 between 25-42% lower than observed in hotspots in grid-cells, and none of the different types of hotspots
234 performed statistically better than expected at random (Fig. 4). Although the percentage of diversity
235 incidentally captured in hotspots increased with the number of inventories considered as hotspots, it was not

236 significantly different from that expected at random (Fig. 4). Very similar results were found regarding the
237 spatial congruence and diversity representation of hotspots when the spatial overlap was inferred from sub-
238 datasets, and hence results are not shown here (see Appendix S4).

239 **(A) Discussion**

240 Our study demonstrated that methodological aspects such as the choice of diversity metrics and
241 spatial bias in species-occurrence data can determine the spatial congruence between taxonomic,
242 phylogenetic and functional diversity hotspots. Analysing two sources of data of plant diversity in the
243 OMPNP, we found that the influence of SR overrode almost completely the contribution of the phylogeny
244 and functional variability to PD and FD (Pavoine *et al.*, 2013). In contrast, the congruence between different
245 types of hotspots in the OMPNP dissipated when richness-independent phylogenetic and functional metrics
246 were used, regardless of the data source used and the number of sampling units considered for hotspot
247 selection. Rodrigues and Gaston (2002) anticipated such redundancy between SR and PD metrics when
248 phylogenies are balanced (i.e. similar ramification across branches), and this may apply to FD too. However,
249 mathematical correlation should not be systematically discarded, unless it is explicitly tested. (Pavoine *et al.*,
250 2013). Indeed, such spurious correlation may be scale-dependent as in this study, which makes even harder
251 to anticipate when richness-dependent PD and FD are certainly more informative than SR for conservation.

252 Geographical differences in sampling completeness clearly affected and confounded the
253 identification of hotspots (except those based on FD_R) from species-occurrence data, even though the
254 OMPNP is one of the best prospected areas in the Iberian Peninsula (Font *et al.*, 2010). While such spatial
255 biases have already been demonstrated in priority areas defined according to SR (Freitag & Jaarsveld, 1998;
256 Guilhaumon *et al.*, 2008), and stressed elsewhere (Hortal *et al.*, 2015), this is the first empirical evidence
257 showing that important areas for PD conservation may be misidentified too. Several alternatives have been
258 suggested to cope with this kind of sampling bias, including the use of predictive models based on
259 environmental variables to bridge existing gap in the diversity distribution (Hortal *et al.*, 2007). However,
260 this approach might have been problematic, given that the difference regarding environmental variability

261 (including habitat) were scarce across 1x1km grid-cells of the OMPNP (Elith & Leathwick 2009). Another
262 recurrent alternative is to restrict analyses to well-sampled units (Hortal *et al.* 2015), although it is
263 meaningless in the context of this study, where we demonstrated that even small differences in botanical
264 sampling made the difference in terms of diversity between well-sampled grid cells.

265 A more certain assessment of hotspots was achieved instead by using data from plant inventories. In
266 this case, results were regardless of the completeness of the data, thus indicating that it was not necessary to
267 explore further alternatives to overcome spatial biases as in the species-occurrence data. Our results stress
268 the importance of grasslands and some types of forest in terms of multifaceted diversity in the OMPNP.
269 Hotspots of SR and ER were mostly found in phylogenetically poor grasslands, indicating a higher
270 abundance of recent and species-rich lineages in this habitat (Forest *et al.*, 2007; Davies & Buckley, 2011).
271 We suggest that this pattern may be related to historical events, such as the vicariance and allopatric
272 speciation associated to glacial-interglacial episodes throughout the Pleistocene in the Alpine arc (Tribusch,
273 2004). In turn, the concentration of hotspots of PD_R in forests, which were not particularly rich in terms of
274 species, pointed out the co-occurrence of ancient and modern lineages in these habitats. Since some Tertiary
275 taxa evolved under a more humid climate than today (Barrón *et al.*, 2010), it is plausible that they find more
276 suitable microsite conditions for persistence in certain forests than in more open habitats (De Frenne *et al.*,
277 2013). The partial congruence between PD_R and FD_R was probably due to the strong phylogenetic signal of
278 traits considered in this study. However, the concentration of FD_R in forests may still suggest that
279 environmental filtering in these habitats was less severe than at high-elevation grasslands, where harsh
280 environmental conditions and the long grazing history might have exerted a strong selection on life-history
281 traits and plant propagation strategies (de Bello *et al.*, 2013).

282 Beyond the ecological significance, the spatial mismatch between diversity components has
283 important practical implications for conservation. The utility of hotspots as a conservation tool has often
284 been evaluated according to the degree of overlap between diversity components (Prendergast *et al.*, 1993;
285 Brooks *et al.*, 2006). However, our results from species-occurrence data demonstrate that a spatial mismatch
286 between different hotspots does not necessarily translate into a poor representation of diversity components

287 (see also Rodrigues & Gaston, 2002). This may be the case when the scale of analyses (i.e. the size of the
288 sampling unit) is too coarse relative to the extent of the study area and involves a large topographic
289 complexity too, so that large amounts of diversity are captured. In this study, for example, more than 30% of
290 the taxa and between 40-55% of existing endemisms, PD and FD were found in just a single grid cell of 1x1
291 km (<1% of the study area). Under such scenario, prioritization efforts focused on diversity representation
292 (e.g. hotspots) may be trivial, as almost virtually any selection of sites may capture diversity extremely well.
293 In contrast, the amount of multiple diversity components captured by any type of hotspots inferred from
294 plant inventories was much lower, and not significantly higher than if we had selected priority areas at
295 random. We are aware that the use of hotspots as a conservation tool should consider other socio-economic
296 and ecological aspects (e.g. threats and/or land-use conflicts) neglected in this study (Margules & Pressey,
297 2000). However, under the strong protection regime of a National Park, the representation of biodiversity
298 often constitutes the ultimate goal (Schwartz, 1999 and references herein), and in this regard, the use of
299 hotspots based on a single diversity component might be of limited use.

300 In summary, our results highlight the importance of the right diversity metrics and assessing the
301 quality of distributional data for an accurate identification of hotspots of multiple diversity components.
302 Previous studies may need some critical revision regarding the potential effects of these methodological
303 aspects that may mask true diversity patterns, before making general predictions about the spatial mismatch
304 between diversity components. After accounting for the spurious correlation between metrics, and spatial
305 sampling bias in data, our results show that multiple diversity components might not be efficiently captured
306 in hotspots based on the richness of taxa or endemisms. Thus, small reserves designed to protect areas with
307 elevated number of taxa, or other target species (e.g. Gjerde *et al.*, 2004 see references herein; Laguna *et al.*,
308 2004) should be reviewed, and ideally complemented with outstanding areas of other diversity components
309 such as phylogenetic and functional ones. Otherwise, we would risk leaving out from protection meaningful
310 components of diversity.

311

312

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323 **(A) Biosketch**

324 **Iker Pardo** is an ecologist with primary interest in the spatial distribution and temporal dynamics of multiple
325 components of plant diversity, particularly in mountain areas. His research is based on biodiversity databases
326 and long-term data from communities, and applies to understanding the response of biodiversity to global
327 change. He is also interested in developing approaches to account for uncertainty in spatio-temporal analyses
328 of biodiversity data.

329 **Author contributions:** I.P. and M.B.G. conceived of the ideas and designed the study; I.P., M.B.G and D.G.
330 collected and prepared data; I.P., C.R. and S.L. analysed data; I.P., and M.B.G wrote the manuscript with the
331 help of all authors.

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512 we? *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*, **28**, 199–204.

513 **(A) Supporting Information**

514 Additional Supporting Information may be found in the online version of this article:

515 **Appendix S1** Vegetation and diversity maps of the Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park

516 **Appendix S2** Representation of habitats in plant inventories

517 **Appendix S3** A model based approach to estimate richness-independent measures of phylogenetic and
518 functional diversity

519 **Appendix S4** Results based on subdatasets of plant inventories

520 **Appendix S5** Phylogenetic tree and functional dendrogram

521 **Appendix S6** Results based on raw phylogenetic and functional diversity

522 **Appendix S7** Results of quantile regressions between sampling completeness and diversity

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525 typeset. Technical support issues arising from supporting information (other than missing files) should be
526 addressed to the authors.

527 Table 1. Description of biological and ecological traits used for the calculation of functional diversity.

| Trait | Description | Categories | Source |
|----------------------------|--|---|---------|
| Raunkier's life-form | Position of renewal buds during unfavourable seasons for growing | Terophyte; Geophyte; Hemicryptophyte; Chamaephyte; Phanerophyte | 1 |
| Life-span | | Annual; short lived (< 5 yr); long lived (\geq 5 yr) | 1 |
| Plant propagation | Main system of recruiting new individuals | Sexual; Vegetative; Mixed | 1, 2 |
| Dispersal syndrome | Seed dispersal agent according to morphological features | Autochory; Endochory; Exochory; Anemochory assumed due to small seed size (less than 1mm, and without special morphological characters); None | 1, 3, 4 |
| Pollination system | Flower shape was used as a proxy of insect accessibility | Insect and wind pollination; insect pollination (flowers can only be pollinated by specialized insects); No insect pollination | 1, 5 |
| Sexual expression | Spatial pattern of male and female organs | Complex; Dioecious; Hermaphroditic; Monoecious | 1, 5 |
| Inflorescence architecture | Abundance and arrangement of flower in the inflorescence | Dense; Specialized; Inconspicuous; Lax; Solitary | 1, 5 |
| Floral colour | | Colourless; White; Yellow; Blue; Pink; Red; Multiple colours | 1, 5 |

528 Source: 1) Knowledge of authors and online databases: <http://atlasflorapyrenaea.org/florapyrenaea/index.jsp>,

529 and <http://proyectos.ipe.csic.es/floragon/index.php>; 2) Klimeš *et al.* 1997; 3) Poschlod *et al.* 2003; 4) Kleyer *et*

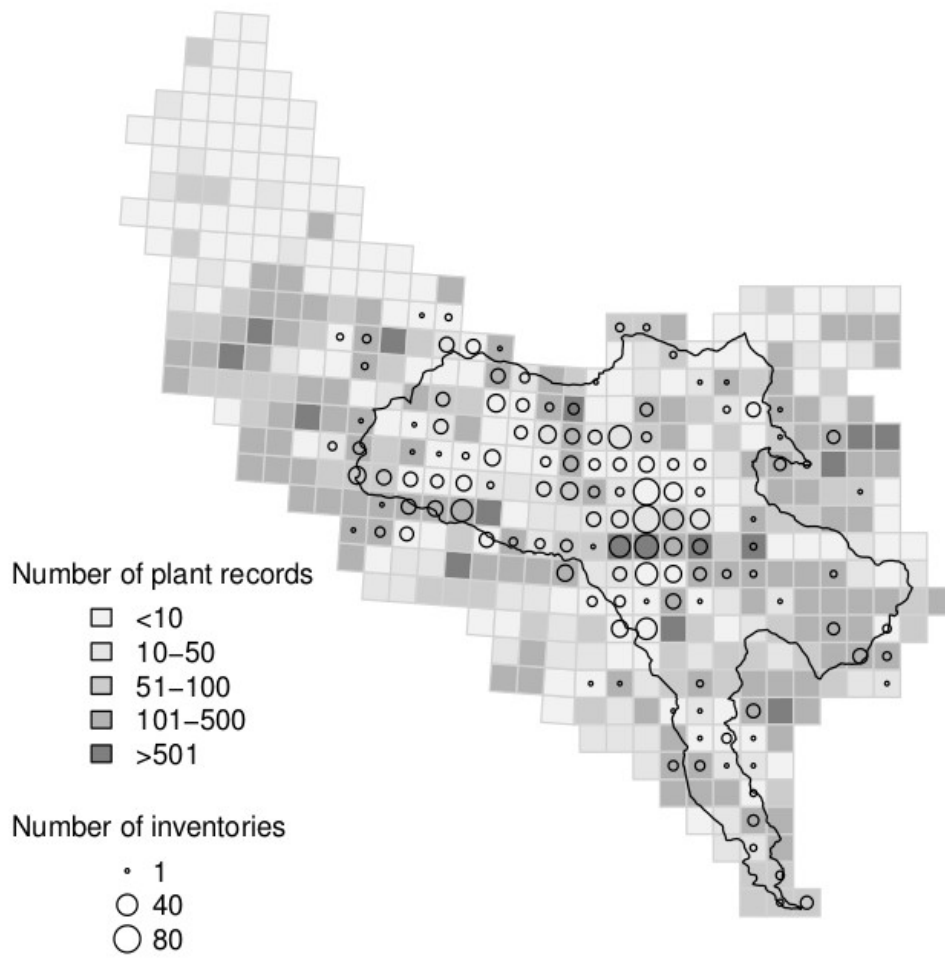
530 *al.* 2008; 5) Kuhn *et al.* 2004.

531 Table 2. Coefficients of Spearman correlation between species richness (SR), endemism richness (ER),
 532 phylogenetic diversity (PD), functional diversity (FD), richness-independent PD (PD_R) and richness-
 533 independent FD (FD_R) from two sources of data.

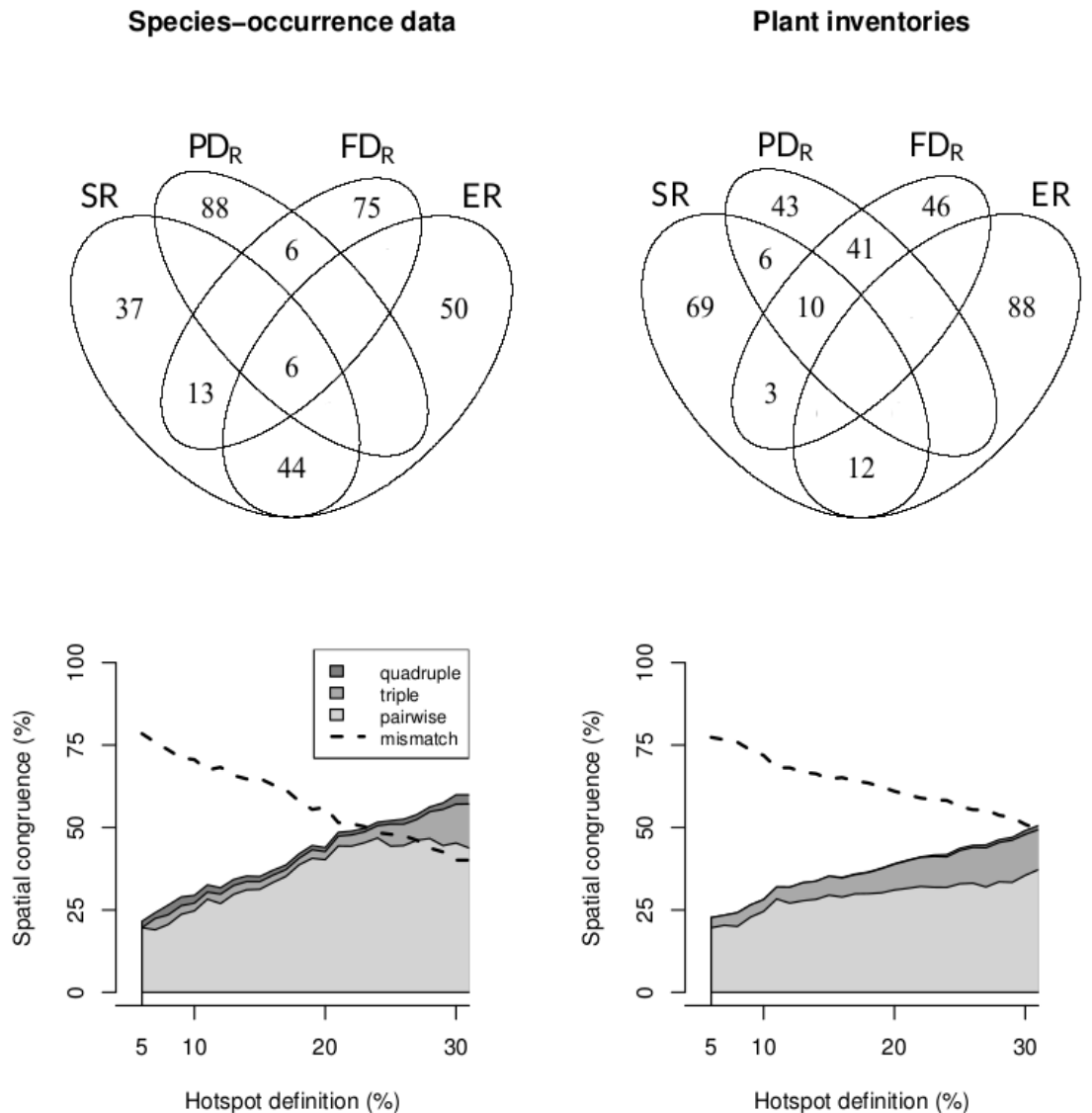
| Species-occurrence data | SR | ER | PD | PD _R | FD | FD _R | Plant inventories |
|-------------------------|------|-------|------|-----------------|------|-----------------|-------------------|
| SR | – | 0.15 | 0.87 | -0.12 | 0.96 | -0.05 | SR |
| ER | 0.81 | – | 0.07 | -0.11 | 0.07 | -0.29 | ER |
| PD | 0.98 | 0.77 | – | 0.34 | 0.91 | 0.19 | PD |
| PD _R | 0.13 | -0.05 | 0.30 | – | 0.18 | 0.48 | PD _R |
| FD | 0.99 | 0.78 | 0.99 | 0.13 | – | 0.22 | FD |
| FD _R | 0.13 | -0.11 | 0.25 | 0.77 | 0.23 | – | FD _R |

534

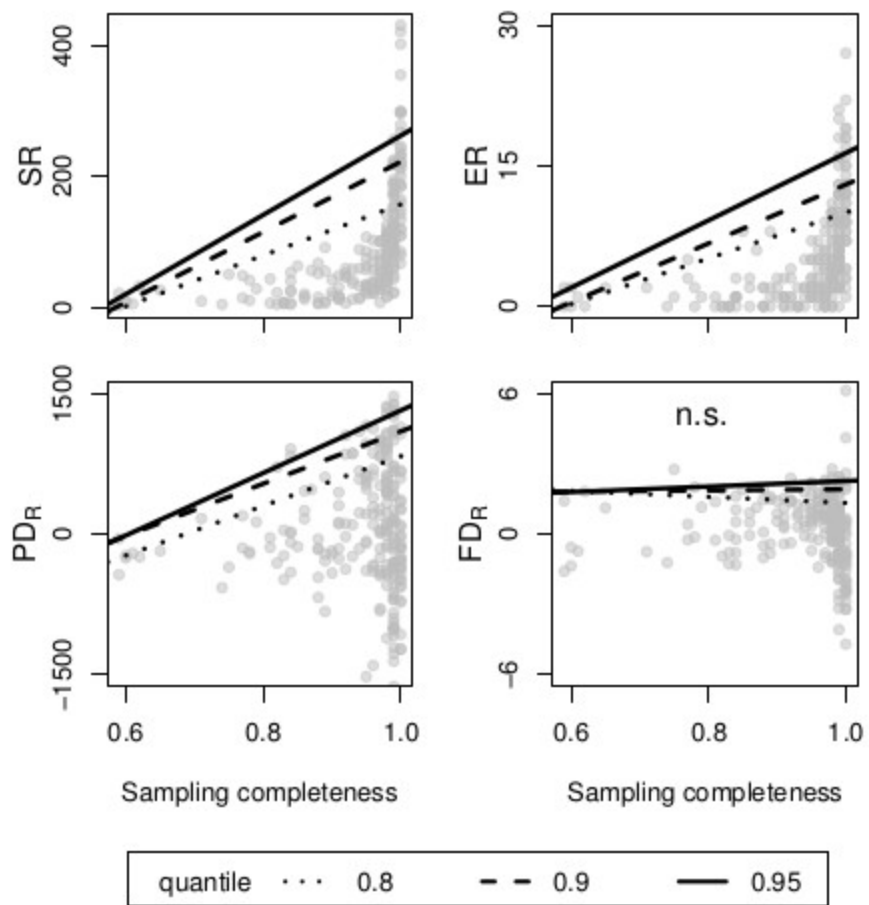
535



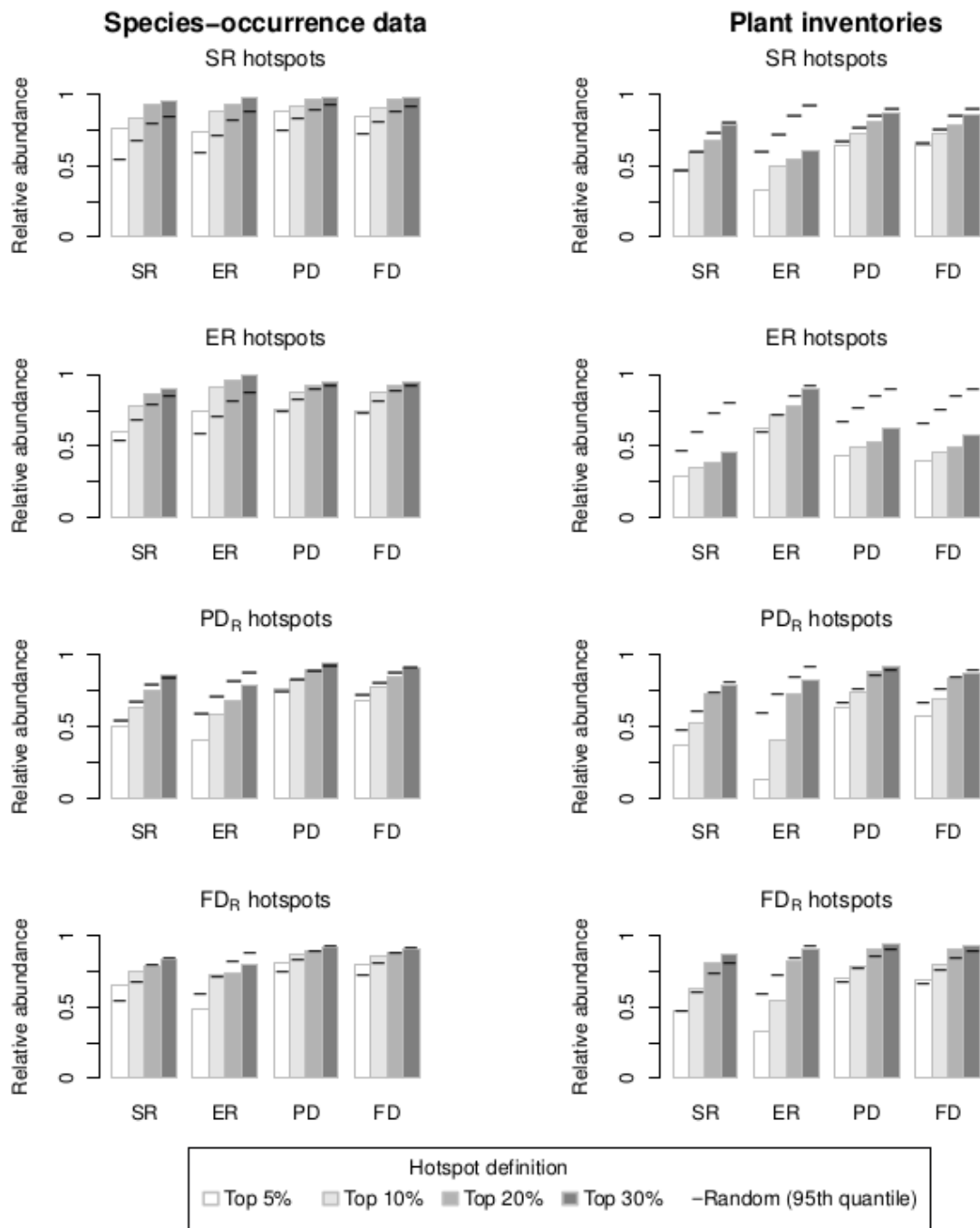
537 Fig. 1 Distribution of plant records and inventories of plant communities across 1x1 km grid cells in
 538 the Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park (core and buffer areas are separated by a black line).



540 Fig. 2 Spatial congruence between hotspots based on species richness (SR), endemism richness (ER),
 541 and richness-independent measures of phylogenetic and functional diversity (PDR and FDR,
 542 respectively) in the Ordesa and Monte Perdido National Park, according to two sources of
 543 information. Upper panel shows the spatial congruence between all possible combinations of hotspots
 544 defined as 5% top sampling units. Lower panel shows the percentage of overlap and mismatch
 545 between two, three and four types of hotspots by relaxing the definition criterion.



547 **Fig. 3** Quantile regression between values of sampling completeness and species richness (SR),
 548 endemism richness (ER), and richness-independent measures of phylogenetic and functional diversity
 549 (PD_R and FD_R , respectively). The effect of sampling completeness was significant ($p < 0.05$) across
 550 all diversity quantiles, except for FD_R . Gray dots show diversity records from species-occurrence
 551 data. See coefficients of regressions in Appendix S7.



552 Fig. 4 Percentage of each diversity component represented in hotspots based on based on species
 553 richness (SR), endemism richness (ER), and richness-independent measures of phylogenetic and
 554 functional diversity (PD_R and FD_R , respectively). Observed diversity values were contrasted with
 555 those expected at random with a permutation test ($n=1000$) at the 0.05 significance level, to assess the
 556 efficiency of each type of hotspot to include other diversity components.