Gradients in species richness are often explained by variation in energy availability. Positive relationship between energy and number of species may be caused by many mechanisms. One of them is the ‘more individuals’ hypothesis (MIH). According to it greater energy availability enable more individuals to coexist and more individuals can be divided into more species with viable populations. However, authors do vary in exact formulation of the MIH and so they vary in predictions that they test. Review of literature has also revealed that studies are fundamentally different in the approach to testing MIH. Some studies examine whether mechanism of MIH can operate in real assemblages and they often give a positive answer. Other studies ask whether MIH is able to explain spatial patterns of species richness. The answer is mostly negative. Number of species is often closely related to energy without the mediating effect of the number of individuals. There is also the question whether the number of individuals really determines number of species, and not vice versa. However, these two variables are certainly linked. Therefore, regardless of the causality, the relationship between the number of individuals and number of species is worth exploring.