

Abstract

This diploma thesis aims to answer three different questions. First aim of this thesis was to analyze measures of alpha and gamma diversity based on Hill numbers and find out, if these measures fulfill the weak principle of taxonomic invariance. In other words, my aim was to prove, independently of used order of diversity, alpha and gamma diversity will be always lower for higher taxonomic groups (eg. genus), than for lower taxonomic groups (eg. species). For this purpose, I used direct mathematical proof, and I showed, that equations for alpha and gamma diversity are both taxonomic invariant. Moreover, I analyzed one specific measure of beta diversity as well. I showed, that beta diversity of order zero may increase or decrease in taxonomic switch.

Second aim of this thesis was to examine influence of abundances on visualising of preferences of species for different environmental factors. For this purpose I designed new methodology based on well-known RANK plots. This methodology should filter the influence of irregular data collectioning. In other words, this methodology should consider the case, that values of environmental factors in data are not uniform, which may result into apparent preferences of species. Moreover, this methodology is designed to take into considerations abundances of species as well. These abundances may be weighed, similar to case of weighed diversity measures. I tested this methodology on malacological data from west Europe and north Africa transect. I consulted my results with malacologist doc. Lucie Juříčková. My results show, that my methodology is still too young and yet inappropriate as a biological tool.

Last aim of this thesis is to examine the influence of diversity order on macroecological patterns, specifically on latitudinal gradient of diversity and productivity diversity relationship. My results suggest, that order of diversity may affect the significance of macroecological patterns.

Key words : Diversity, Hill numbers, RANK plots, latitude, productivity

