Methods

Compiling database

We aimed to compile all studies from 1949 to present that included germination trials of fruit after ingestion by frugivores. This included both studies that collected scat samples and studies that used feeding trials to produce scat samples, as long as there was a control group of seeds included in the study. Furthermore, the studies must have been published in a peer reviewed journal. We employed several approaches to finding papers. Initially, we searched through all papers cited in Traveset’s 1998 paper, “Effect of Seed Passage through Vertebrate Frugivores' Guts on Germination: A Review”. Next, we searched all papers that cited Traveset’s 1998 paper on Google Scholar. Finally, we conducted a systematic search on Web of Science using combinations of the phrases “fruit”, “germination”, “ingestion”, and “frugivores”. The following were recorded for each study: the first author’s name, the title of the study, the journal in which the study was published, the year of publication, the frugivores tested, the plants tested, the study’s testing location, whether or not a feeding trial had taken place, and whether or not a germination trial had taken place. The location was then further classified as Old (N. and S.America) or New World (Asia, Africa, Europe, Oceania) and Temperate or Tropical. A second database was then created which recorded the plant species’ current scientific names from each study and a third database was created which recorded the same for the frugivore species. These last two databases were then compiled to find each individual interaction tested between a frugivore species and a plant species. For each interaction, significant germination percentage and rate effects were recorded as positive (pos), negative (neg), not significant, or not available (NA) for each interaction, as well as the control to which they compared results. The control groups were placed into one of four possible categories: whole fruit, mechanically cleaned fruit, other, or no comparison.

Analysis

Trying to use Metafor.