**Ecological models for non-mathematicians and non-programmers**

Thanks for registering for this workshop – we hope you find it useful and that you are able to use it in your research.

*Please bring laptops to the workshop. If you don’t, we can pair you with someone who has a laptop, but you may not be able to work on your own models.*

**Before the workshop**

The only things we ask you to do before the workshop are:

(1) Download R and RStudio to your computer (instructions can be found here - <https://rstudio-education.github.io/hopr/starting.html>)

(2) Install the BBNet package. Once RStudio is open just type: install.packages("bbnet")in the R window. If you are new to R some help can be found here with respect to installing packages - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1r5XTqrCTQ> – if you are following this, type BBNet to find the package you need.

(3) Download [this folder](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/14Bc5ookMiybONN6QN_Cms29h4IGcfo0x?usp=sharing) which contains information for the workshop about a week before the event. We will continue to update material over the next few weeks, and downloading about a week away from the event will ensure you have everything.

If anyone struggles with the above, we can run through it prior to the workshop (if so, please try to arrive 15 minutes early). However, please do try to do this before the workshop – we’d suggest at least a week before. There could be issues with Wi-Fi, and organisation IT departments also like to block some downloads – you should be able to ask your IT department for help with installation of R and R Studio and the BBNet package if any of this is blocked by IT policies.

**Resources**

For pre- or post-workshop reading we suggest looking at this article (currently in pre-print form).

<https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2024.06.12.598033v1>

This details the BBNet package and the different functions it contains, and lots of useful advice to build models. The supplementary material also contains a lot of videos which can give a good overview of what is needed.

At least a week before the event we will also upload the PowerPoint presentation we will use in the workshop (it won’t be long), some example models both in diagram form and in spreadsheet form and various other resources.

**Longer term support**

We know that models and R can be a pain, and tiny errors can cause things not to run. We will set up a discussion community after the event where you can ask and answer questions, which we will also be part of.