Playing with abundance and speciation

Birth-death-immigration model with speciation

We simulate a birth-death-immigration model (BDI) with speciation (BDIS) in a metapopulation setting. This is the set-up

- There are np number of local populations in the metapopulation
- There is a global source pool

Here are the biological process steps:

- 1. Birth, death, immigration, and speciation all happen indipendently and are determined by respective rates (see params below)
- 2. Speciation has 2 steps:
 - i. incipient speciation happens by turning one local population into an incipient new species
 - ii. if the incipient species lasts long enough it becomes a new species
- 3. Immigration between local communities and from the global source pool slows the progress toward speciation (technically if an incipient species has to wait τ time (in the absence of immigration) until it's a full species, each immigration event adds an increment to τ of ξ/n_i where ξ is a parameter we can set and n_i is the population size of the incipient species)
- 4. Once full speciation occurs the simulation is stopped; if the simulation reaches the maximum designated number of iterations (nstep) without full speciation, then the simulation stops anyway

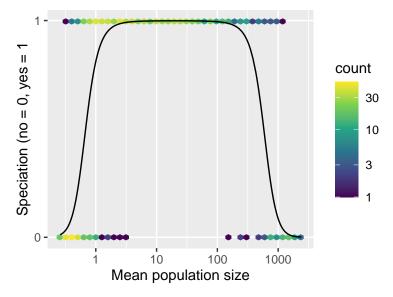
Here are the parameters:

- λ (la): birth rate
- μ (mu): death rate
- γ (g): immigration rate from global source pool
- m_p (m_prop): proportional immigration rate between local populations; immigration rate $m=\gamma\times m_p$

- ν (nu): incipient speciation rate
- τ (tau): wait time to full speciation in the absence of immigration
- ξ (xi): amount each immigrant sets back the progression toward speciation
- (np): number of local populations
- (nstep): number of iterations to run simulation for

And we can now actually run this thing and see what happens

Now we can plot the results and find out how abundance relates to speciation in this model



So we see there is a sweet spot of intermediate abundance where speciation is most likely to take place!