Using R tools for analysis of primary biodiversity data provided by SBDI

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Introduction

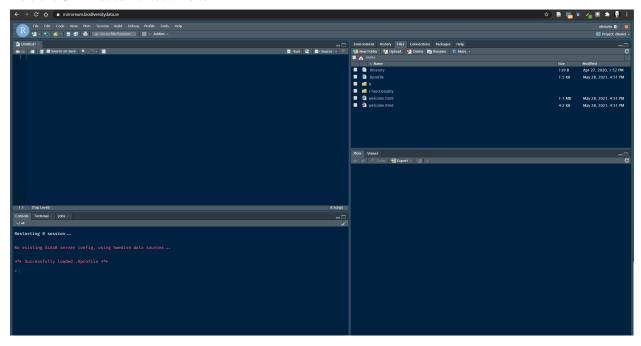
Biodiversity resources are increasingly international. The SBDI has made an effort to canalise biodiversity data and resources to help the research community access and analyse Swedish primary biodiversity data. Each research question draws its own challenges which are unique in themselves. Our aim here is to provide a few examples that prompt questions that may be asked at different stages of the process. The validity and appropriateness of a particular method depends on the individual researcher(s). For a comprehensive workflow on how to treat and analyse primary biodiversity data please refer to our tutorial on biodiversity analysis tools where we go through the complete workflow Data -> Cleaning -> Fitness evaluation -> Analysis

R and Mirroreum

The present tutorial is focused on the statistical programming language R. R is a free software environment for statistical computing and graphics that is widely used within the scientific community and where the complete analysis workflow can be documented in a fully reproducible way.

At SBDI we provide access for researchers and students to Mirroreum – an online web-based environment for Reproducible Open Research in the area of biodiversity analysis. Mirroreum is based on a Free and Open Source stack of software. Logging in, you immediately get access to a web-based version of R Studio with a large number of pre-installed packages such as all the packages offered from ROpenSci and more.

Compared to running R Studio on your own machine, Mirroreum offers more computational resources and a standardized environment where you can rely on all the relevant packages being installed and the configuration parameters being set appropriately. To know more about Mirroreum or to request an account please visit the SBDI documentation site



sbdi4r2 - a new R to search an access data

The sbdi4r2 package enables the R community to directly access data and resources hosted by SBDI. The goal is to enable observations of species to be queried and output in a range of standard formats. It includes some filter functions that allow you to filter prior to download. It also includes some simple summary functions, and some function for some simple data exploration. The examples included in this tutorial also show you how you can continue exploring and analyzing using other R package.

Please refer to the package documentation for details on how to install it. Once installed the sbdi4r2 package must be loaded for each new R session:

library(sbdi4r2)

Various aspects of the sbdi4r2 package can be customized.

E-mail address Each download request to SBDI servers is also accompanied by an "e-mail address" string that identifies the user making the request. You will need to provide an email address registered with the SBDI. You can create an account here. Once an email is registered with the SBDI, it should be stored in the config:

```
sbdi_config(email = "your.registered@emailaddress.com")
```

Else you can provide this e-mail address as a parameter directly to each call of the function occurrences().

Setting the download reason SBDI requires that you provide a reason when downloading occurrence data (via the sbdi4r2 atlas_occurrences() function). You can provide this as a parameter directly to each call of atlas_occurrences(), or you can set it once per session using:

```
sbdi_config(download_reason_id = "your_reason_id")
```

(See sbdi_reasons() for valid download reasons, e.g. * 3 for "education", * 7 for "ecological research", * 8 for "systematic research/taxonomy", * 10 for "testing")

Privacy *NO* other personal identification information is sent. You can see all configuration settings, including the the user-agent string that is being used, with the command:

```
sbdi_config()
```

Other packages needed

Some additional packages are needed for these examples. Install them if necessary with the following script:

Your collaboration is appreciated

Open Source also means that you can contribute. You don't need to know how to program but every input is appreciated. Did you find something that is not working? Have suggestions for examples or text? you can always

- 1. Reach to us via the support center
- 2. Submit and issue to the GitHub code repository see how
- 3. Or contribute with your code or documents modifications by "forking" the code and submitting a "pull request"

The repositories you can contribute to are:

- Mirroreum https://github.com/mskyttner/mirroreum
- sbdi4r2 https://github.com/biodiversitydata-se/sbdi4r2
- the general analysis workflows https://github.com/biodiversitydata-se/biodiversity-analysis-tools
- this R-tools tutorial https://github.com/biodiversitydata-se/r-tools-tutorial

1 Example with fish data from SERS

In this example we are interested in exploring data from a specific data resource – the Swedish Electrofishing Registry - SERS (Department of Aquatic Resources, SLU Aqua). This database has 2.8 M observations starting in the 1950's.

```
library(sbdi4r2)
library(sf)
library(dplyr)
library(lubridate)
```

SBDI is a collection of many biodiversity databases. We start by searching for the data resource we are interested in by using the function pick_filter(). This is an interactive query guiding you through the many resources available to filtering your query (data resources, spatial layers, and curated species lists).

```
fq_str <- pick_filter("resource")
# follow the instructions</pre>
```

Follow the instructions. Your choices here would have been "in3" :arrow_right: "dr10" (data resource 10 = SERS). Your variable fq_str will now contain a string "data_resource_uid:dr10".

Note: the function pick_filter() is temporarily disabled until it could be adapted to the new galah framework.

But we are not interested in the complete database, we only want to look at the data from the last 10 years. For this we add another filter string. Both filter strings (for data resource and for time period) will be treated as AND factors.

Using the function sbdi_call() we can now query for the observations fulfilling our filter.

1.1 Plotting data on a map

There are many other ways of producing spatial plots in R, for example you can quickly plot all the observations with plot():

```
data("swe_wgs84", package = "sbdi4r2", envir = environment())
plot(swe_wgs84[["Border"]]$geometry, col = "grey", border = NA)
    points(xf$decimalLongitude, xf$decimalLatitude, pch = ".", col = "black")
```



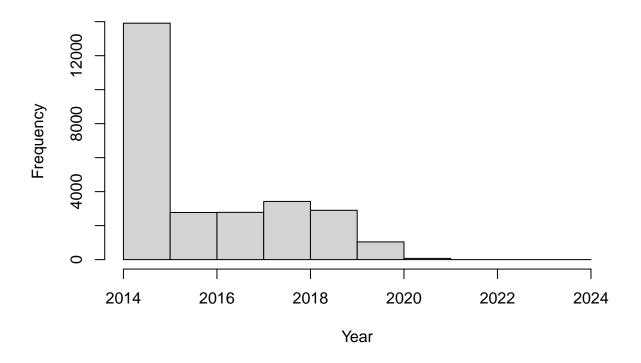
1.2 Temporal summary

A quick summary over the years reveals a drop in number of records over time.

```
xf$year <- year(xf$eventDate)
table(xf$year)

##
## 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021
## 10299 3613 2773 2781 3424 2903 1042 72

hist(xf$year,
    breaks = seq(2014, 2024),
    xlab = "Year",
    main = "")</pre>
```



1.3 Species summary

In the same way we can summarise the number of observations for each species.

```
sppTab <- table(xf$scientificName)
sppDF <- as.data.frame(sppTab)
colnames(sppDF)[1] <- "species"
head(sppDF)</pre>
```

```
##
                  species Freq
## 1
           Abramis brama
                              3
##
       Alburnus alburnus
                            103
## 3
                           285
       Anguilla anguilla
## 4
                Astacidae
                            23
## 5
                            73
         Astacus astacus
                            45
## 6 Barbatula barbatula
```

Perhaps, you want to send this table as a .CSV file to a colleague. Save the table:

```
write.csv(sppDF, "data/SERS_species_summary.csv")
# NOTE: again this will be saved on your working directory
```

1.4 Spatial biodiversity analysis

Let's now ask: How does the species richness vary across Sweden?

For this we want to summarise occurrences species-wise over a defined grid instead of plotting every observation point. First we need to overlay the observations with a grid. Here we are using the standard Swedish

grids with grid square size of 50, 25, 10 or 5 km provided as data in the sbdi4r2 package (with Coordinate Reference System = WGS84, EPSG:4326).

```
library(sf) # the function coordinates() and proj4string() are in sp
# load some shapes over Sweden's political borders
data("swe_wgs84", package = "sbdi4r2", envir = environment())
# a standard 50 km grid
data("Sweden_Grid_50km_Wgs84", package = "sbdi4r2", envir = environment())
grid <- Sweden_Grid_50km_Wgs84</pre>
# make the observations spatial
# NOTE: make sure there are no NAs in the columns defining the coordinates
# xf$data[!is.na(xf$data$longitude) | !is.na(xf$data$latitude),]
obs <- st_as_sf(as.data.frame(xf),</pre>
                coords = c("decimalLongitude", "decimalLatitude"),
                crs = st_crs(4326))
# overlay the occurrence data with the grid
ObsInGridListID <- st_intersects(grid, obs)</pre>
ObsInGridList <- lapply(ObsInGridListID, function(x) st_drop_geometry(obs[x,]))</pre>
wNonEmpty <- unname( which( unlist(lapply(ObsInGridList, nrow)) != 0) )
```

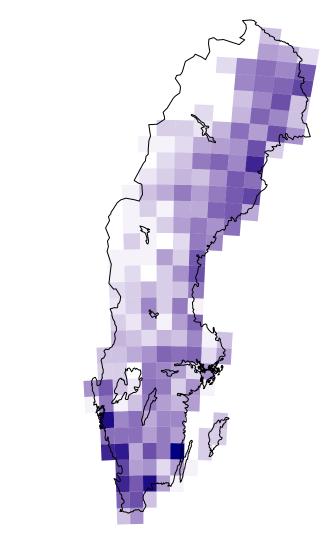
The result ObsInGridList is a list object with a subset of the data for each grid cell. Now summarise occurrences within grid cells:

```
# check n the total number of observations
sum(unlist(lapply(ObsInGridList, nrow)))
```

[1] 26907

```
# apply a summary over the grid cells
nCells <- length(ObsInGridList)</pre>
res <- data.frame("nObs" = as.numeric(rep(NA,nCells)),
                   "nYears" = as.numeric(rep(NA,nCells)),
                   "nSpp" = as.numeric(rep(NA,nCells)),
                   row.names = row.names(grid),
                   stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
cols2use <- c("scientificName", "year")</pre>
dataRes <- lapply(ObsInGridList[wNonEmpty],</pre>
                   function(x){
                     x <- x[,cols2use]</pre>
                     colnames(x) <- c("scientificName", "year")</pre>
                     return(c("nObs" = length(x[,"scientificName"]),
                               "nYears" = length(unique(x[,"year"])),
                               "nSpp" = length(unique(x[,"scientificName"]))
                             )
                     }
                   )
dataRes <- as.data.frame(dplyr::bind_rows(dataRes, .id = "gridID"))</pre>
res[wNonEmpty,] <- dataRes[,-1]</pre>
resSf <- st_as_sf(data.frame(res, st_geometry(grid)))</pre>
```

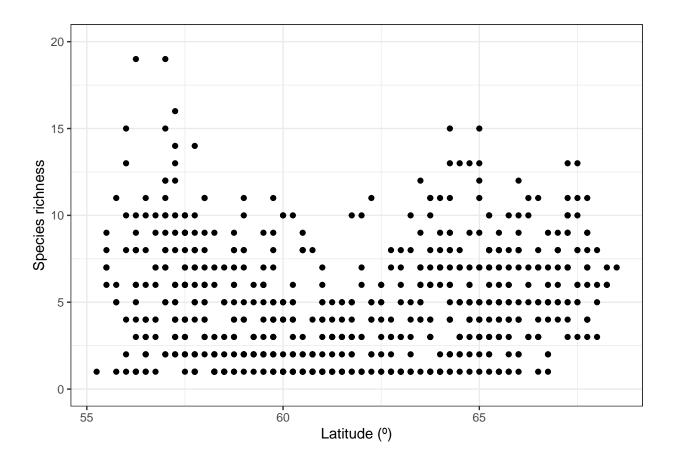
And finally plot the grid summary as a map:



We may now ask whether species richness varies across latitude. So we go further by arranging the observations by latitude:

```
library(dplyr)
library(tidyr)
xgridded <- xf |>
   mutate(longitude = round(decimalLongitude * 4)/4,
           latitude = round(decimalLatitude * 4)/4) |>
   group_by(longitude,latitude) |>
    ## subset to vars of interest
   select(longitude, latitude, scientificName) |>
   ## take one row per cell per species (presence)
   distinct() |>
   ## calculate species richness
   mutate(richness = n()) |>
   ## convert to wide format (sites by species)
   mutate(present = 1) |>
   do(tidyr::pivot_wider(data = .,
                          names_from = scientificName,
                          values_from = present,
                          values_fill = 0)) |>
   ungroup()
## where a species was not present, it will have NA: convert these to 0
sppcols <- setdiff(names(xgridded),</pre>
                   c("longitude", "latitude", "richness"))
xgridded <- xgridded |>
 mutate_at(sppcols, function(z) ifelse(is.na(z), 0, z))
```

And plot it accordingly:



2 Example with opportunistic data on Dragonflies

In this example we are interested in exploring opportunistically collected data from the Swedish citizen science species observation portal - Artportalen.

2.1 Name searching

To begin with, we want be sure there is an unequivocal way to find the species within the order Odonata (dragonflies) and nothing else, so let's search for "odonata":

```
sx <- sbdi_call() |>
    sbdi_identify("Odonata") |>
    group_by(species) |>
    atlas_counts()
```

Now we can download the taxonomic data (note that the search is case-sensitive):

```
tx <- sbdi_call() |>
    sbdi_identify("Odonata") |>
    atlas_species() |>
    select("taxon_concept_id", "species_name", "taxon_rank", "order", "family", "genus", "vernacular_name")
```

You can save the tx object as the complete species list for later use.

2.2 Filter the search to get the observations

We start by searching for the data resource we are interested in using the function pick_filter(). This is an interactive query guiding you through the many resources available to filtering your query (data resources, spatial layers, and curated species lists).

```
# follow the instructions
fq_str <- pick_filter("resource")</pre>
```

Follow the instructions. Your choices here would have been "in3" -> "dr5". Your variable fq_str will now contain a string "data_resource_uid:dr5".

NOTE: the function pick_filter() is temporarily disabled until it could be adapted to the new galah framework.

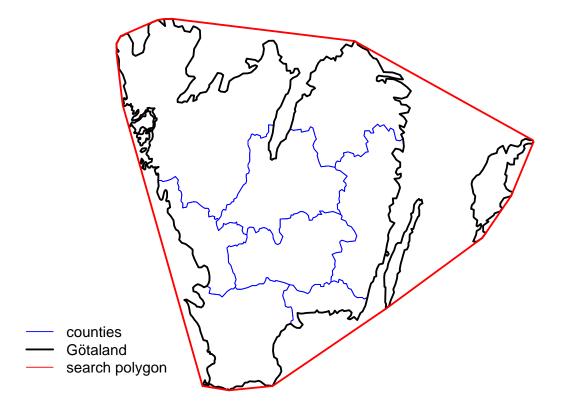
We also want to filter spatially for Southern Sweden (Götaland).

Vector spatial layers (eg. polygons) can be imported in a number of different ways. SBDI APIs take as search input polygons in the so-called WKT Well Known Text format. So the first step is to load a vector layer and transform it into a WKT string. You could instead use the data we provided in the sbdi4r2 package data("swe").

There are details about this polygon that we need to take care before. The WKT string should not be too long to be accepted by the API service. Also, the polygon we just got is projected in the coordinate system SWEREF99 TM, and the API service only accepts coordinates in a geodesic coordinate system WGS84. Let's construct the WKT string:

The WKT string then looks like this:

```
## [1] "POLYGON ((11.13145 59.01184, 11.13161 58.90942, 11.25342 58.35786, 11.25893 58.34821, 12.81633
```



Next, we download the observations using the command sbdi_call(), but this time using sbdi_geolocate() to pass the search area.

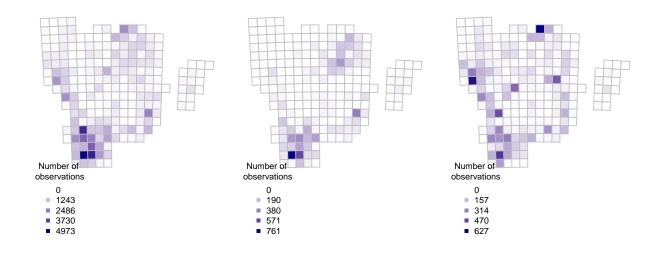
2.3 Quality and fit-for-use check

Before we can use the observation records we need to know if the observation effort (sampling effort) has varied over time and in space. We can approximate observation effort from the data by defining field visits i.e. occasions at which an observer has sampled observations. We reconstruct field visits (that is, assign each observation a visitUID) using using the package BIRDS. Additionally we want the data to be summarized over a grid of 25 km (provided through the sbdi4r2 package). The following functions will perform many different summaries at the same time. Please refer to the BIRDS package documentation for more detail.

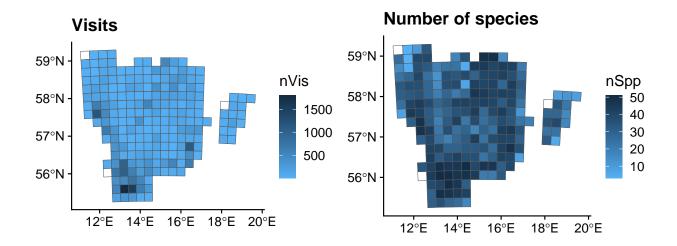
Once summarised, we can see over space and for a few selected years how the number of observations is distributed:

```
maxC <- max(SB$spatial$nObs, na.rm = TRUE)</pre>
palBW <- leaflet::colorNumeric(c("white", "navyblue"),</pre>
                                c(0, maxC),
                                na.color = "transparent")
oldpar <- par()</pre>
par(mar = c(1,1,1,1), mfrow=c(1,3))
plot(SB$spatial$geometry, col=palBW(SB$spatial$nObs),
     border = "grey", main="All years") ## with palette
legend("bottomleft", inset = c(0,0.05),
       legend = round(seq(0, maxC, length.out = 5)),
       col = palBW(seq(0, maxC, length.out = 5)),
       title = "Number of \nobservations", pch = 15, bty="n")
## or export other combinations, e.g. one map per observed year
yearlySp <- exportBirds(SB,</pre>
                         dimension = "spatial",
                         timeRes = "yearly",
                         variable = "nObs",
                         method = "sum")
maxC <- max(yearlySp$'2010', na.rm = TRUE)</pre>
palBW <- leaflet::colorNumeric(c("white", "navyblue"),</pre>
                                c(0, maxC),
                                na.color = "transparent")
plot(yearlySp$geometry, col = palBW(yearlySp$'2010'),
     border = "grey",main = "2010")
legend("bottomleft", inset = c(0,0.05),
       legend = round(seq(0, maxC, length.out = 5)),
       col = palBW(seq(0, maxC, length.out = 5)),
       border = "grey",
       title = "Number of \nobservations",
       pch = 15, bty = "n")
```

All years 2010 2020



We now want to use the number of field visits as the measure for sampling effort. :



2.3.0.1 Temporal check We see that SB contains an element called SB\$temporal that contains a daily time series with time-specific rows when there is information. xts also supports day time, but dating below day resolution is not yet implemented in the BIRDS package.

Sub-setting is convenient in xts as you can do it with its dates and with a / for a range of dates.

```
sb.xts["2010-09-07"] #a specific day

## n0bs nVis nSpp

## 2010-09-07 19 10 12

sb.xts["2010-09-01/2010-09-15"] #for a period
```

```
nObs nVis nSpp
## 2010-09-01
                       19
                 46
                            14
## 2010-09-02
                 28
                       14
                            12
                       10
                            10
## 2010-09-03
                 23
## 2010-09-04
                 56
                       18
                            18
## 2010-09-05
                 73
                       26
                            11
## 2010-09-06
                 16
                        4
                             9
## 2010-09-07
                 19
                       10
                            12
## 2010-09-08
                 13
                        6
                             8
## 2010-09-09
                 32
                       12
                            14
## 2010-09-10
                  2
                        2
                             1
## 2010-09-11
                        9
                 16
                             8
## 2010-09-12
                 20
                       10
                             8
                             9
## 2010-09-13
                        5
## 2010-09-15
                  3
                        3
                             2
sb.xts["2010-09"] #a specific month
##
               nObs nVis nSpp
```

```
## 2010-09-01
                  46
                       19
                             14
## 2010-09-02
                  28
                       14
                             12
## 2010-09-03
                  23
                       10
                             10
## 2010-09-04
                       18
                             18
                  56
                       26
## 2010-09-05
                  73
                             11
## 2010-09-06
                        4
                              9
                  16
## 2010-09-07
                  19
                       10
                             12
## 2010-09-08
                  13
                        6
                              8
## 2010-09-09
                  32
                       12
                             14
## 2010-09-10
                   2
                        2
                              1
## 2010-09-11
                  16
                        9
                              8
## 2010-09-12
                  20
                       10
                              8
## 2010-09-13
                        5
                              9
                  14
## 2010-09-15
                   3
                        3
                              2
## 2010-09-17
                   3
                        2
                              3
## 2010-09-18
                   9
                        5
                              5
## 2010-09-19
                        7
                  12
                              5
                        2
## 2010-09-21
                   3
                              3
## 2010-09-22
                              2
                   4
                        4
                        3
                              2
## 2010-09-23
                   3
## 2010-09-24
                        5
                              5
                  10
## 2010-09-25
                   7
                        4
                              6
## 2010-09-26
                   7
                        6
                              2
                        2
                              2
## 2010-09-28
                   2
## 2010-09-29
                   5
                        3
                              4
                   2
                        2
## 2010-09-30
```

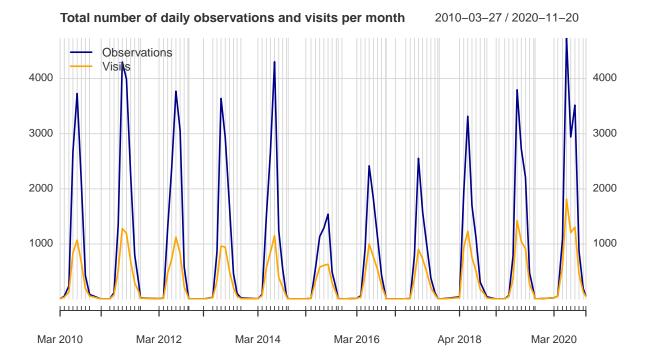
The package xts has several tools for converting to different time periods. Here we use apply.monthly to obtain the total number of observations and visits per month. The plot command for an object of calss xts provides a many features. This makes it fairly easy to customize your plots. Read more in ?plot.xts.

```
library(xts)
obs.m <- apply.monthly(sb.xts$nObs, "sum", na.rm = TRUE)
vis.m <- apply.monthly(sb.xts$nVis, "sum", na.rm = TRUE)

plot(obs.m,
    col = "darkblue",</pre>
```

```
grid.ticks.on = "month",
    major.ticks = "year",
    grid.col = "lightgrey",
    main = "Total number of daily observations and visits per month")

lines(vis.m, col = "orange", lwd = 2, on = 1)
```



2.4 Species trends

We can now look at some particular species and ask whether those have changed in occurrence over time:

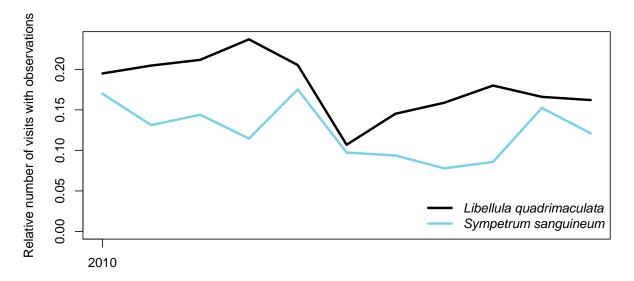
speciesSummary(SB)[,1:4]

##		species	nCells	n0bs	nVis
##	1	Aeshna affinis	11	166	154
##	2	Aeshna caerulea	11	31	30
##	3	Aeshna cyanea	186	3930	3804
##	4	Aeshna grandis	197	6001	5896
##	5	Aeshna isoceles	42	475	469
##	6	Aeshna juncea	156	1302	1261
##	7	Aeshna mixta	145	2693	2618
##	8	Aeshna serrata	19	135	126
##	9	Aeshna subarctica	63	329	318
##	10	Aeshna viridis	59	225	194
##	11	Anax ephippiger	6	15	15
##	12	Anax imperator	103	2612	2470
##	13	Anax parthenope	31	276	272
##	14	Brachytron pratense	158	1668	1619
##	15	Calopteryx splendens	145	2419	2279
##	16	Calopteryx virgo	164	3742	3577
##	17	Coenagrion armatum	54	235	216

```
## 18
           Coenagrion hastulatum
                                      166 2532 2458
## 19
                                       28
                                           136
           Coenagrion johanssoni
                                                 129
            Coenagrion lunulatum
## 20
                                           487
                                                 462
## 21
                Coenagrion puella
                                      179 3725 3567
## 22
           Coenagrion pulchellum
                                      177 3708 3586
## 23
          Cordulegaster boltonii
                                      113 1178 1164
## 24
                   Cordulia aenea
                                      178 3579 3516
## 25
           Crocothemis erythraea
                                        2
                                             13
                                                  13
##
  26
           Enallagma cyathigerum
                                      193 5498 5190
## 27
              Epitheca bimaculata
                                       56
                                            290
                                                 277
##
  28
                 Erythromma najas
                                      160 2438 2354
## 29
                                       37
                                            546
                                                 505
            Erythromma viridulum
##
   30
           Gomphus vulgatissimus
                                       99
                                           770
                                                 752
## 31
                 Ischnura elegans
                                      171 3586
                                                3456
## 32
                                       60
                                            399
                                                 364
                 Ischnura pumilio
## 33
                  Lestes barbarus
                                        3
                                             43
                                                  39
##
   34
                     Lestes dryas
                                       90
                                           614
                                                 584
##
   35
                    Lestes sponsa
                                      184 4699
                                                4457
##
  36
                    Lestes virens
                                       90
                                           683
                                                 651
## 37
          Leucorrhinia albifrons
                                      131
                                           747
                                                 712
## 38
           Leucorrhinia caudalis
                                      116
                                           464
                                                 444
## 39
              Leucorrhinia dubia
                                      129 1109 1078
## 40
         Leucorrhinia pectoralis
                                      140 1061 1035
## 41
          Leucorrhinia rubicunda
                                      153 1488 1442
## 42
              Libellula depressa
                                      174 2664 2574
  43
                  Libellula fulva
                                       24
                                            293
                                                 268
##
  44
        Libellula quadrimaculata
                                      198 6949 6837
##
   45
             Nehalennia speciosa
                                       11
                                            108
                                                 103
##
  46
                                      100
                                           937
                                                 919
        Onychogomphus forcipatus
##
  47
            Ophiogomphus cecilia
                                       11
                                             13
                                                  13
## 48
            Orthetrum cancellatum
                                      181 3806 3659
##
  49
          Orthetrum coerulescens
                                      113 1069 1020
## 50
            Platycnemis pennipes
                                      128 1460 1404
## 51
             Pyrrhosoma nymphula
                                      169 3146 3074
## 52
            Somatochlora arctica
                                           192
                                                 180
## 53 Somatochlora flavomaculata
                                      133 1065 1050
## 54
          Somatochlora metallica
                                      161 1718 1699
## 55
                   Sympecma fusca
                                      106
                                           860
                                                 839
## 56
                  Sympetrum danae
                                      182 2998 2895
## 57
             Sympetrum flaveolum
                                      146 1012
                                                 980
                                                 341
## 58
          Sympetrum fonscolombii
                                            359
                                       48
## 59
          Sympetrum pedemontanum
                                           143
                                                 127
                                        2
                                      189 4841 4644
##
  60
            Sympetrum sanguineum
## 61
            Sympetrum striolatum
                                      146 1468 1417
               Sympetrum vulgatum
                                      177 3431 3275
```

We pick two species and compare their trends in number of visits where the species where reported, relative to the total number of visits.

```
.groups = "drop") |>
    ungroup() |>
    group_by(year) |>
    summarise("focalCountLq" = sum(focalCountLq),
              "focalCountSd" = sum(focalCountSd),
              "nVis" = length(unique(visitUID)),
              "relCountLq" = focalCountLq / nVis,
              "relCountSd" = focalCountSd / nVis,
              .groups = NULL)
oldpar <- par(no.readonly = TRUE)</pre>
plot(sppCount$year, sppCount$relCountLq,
     type = "1", lwd = 3, xlab = "Year",
     ylab = "Relative number of visits with observations",
     ylim = c(0, max(sppCount$relCountLq)),
     xaxp = c(2000, 2010, 10))
lines(sppCount$year, sppCount$relCountSd, lwd = 3, col = "#78D2EB")
legend("bottomright",
       legend = c("Libellula quadrimaculata", "Sympetrum sanguineum"),
       text.font = 3, col = c("black", "#78D2EB"), lwd = 3, bty = "n")
```



Year

par(oldpar)