

# Building a better metaweb: predicting spatially and temporally explicit alpine plant-pollinator interaction networks

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**Purpose:** This template provides a series of scripts to render a markdown document into an interactive website and a series of PDFs.

**Motivation:** It makes collaborating on text with GitHub easier, and means that we never need to think about the output.

**Internals:** GitHub actions and a series of python scripts. The markdown is handled with pandoc.

## 1 Abstract

2 Using a data set of [DESCRIBE EACH DATASET IN A NICE WAY], we predict a spatiotemporally explicit  
3 metaweb of interactions between bumblebees (*Bombus*) and wildflowers (within *find clade*). We integrate  
4 this data with crowdsourced occurrence data and climate data to [best paint the picture of the Colorado  
5 bumblebee-plant metaweb]. Using temporal climate data, we forecast how the spatiotemporal overlap of  
6 interacting species will change under proposed climate scenarios. We use this to estimate what  
7 interactions between bees and plants need the most attention to prevent the spatiotemporal decoupling of  
8 an interactions from threatening ecosystem functioning or the persistence of a species.

## 9 Introduction

10 Species interactions are important. It is ultimately interactions between individuals of different species  
11 that drive the structure, dynamics, and persistence of ecosystems, and the abundance and diversity of the  
12 species within them. Plant-pollinator interactions specifically drive the function and persistence of  
13 “architecture of biodiversity” (Bascompte & Jordano 2007). However, we are far from a robust  
14 understanding of plant-pollinator networks. This is because sampling interactions is costly. Interactions  
15 vary in space and time (Poisot *et al.* 2015)—particularly relevant in this system [Paul phenology cite].  
16 This is why there is interest in using models to predict interactions from sparse data (**Strydom2021?**). In  
17 this paper, we combine several datasets, each spanning several years, to produce spatially and temporally  
18 explicit predictions of the bumblebee (genus *Bombus*) and wildflower pollination network across the state  
19 of Colorado.

20 We do this in two parts: (1) metaweb prediction and (2) conditioning our metaweb prediction on  
21 co-occurrence probability. First, we build a model to predict the metaweb—the network of *all*  
22 interactions, aggregated across all times and spatial locations—of *Bombus* and wildflower species across  
23 Colorado. (Why do this? The metaweb is more predictable than local interactions.) We do this using  
24 network embedding (**cite?**). Network embedding takes each node in the network (either a bumblebee or a  
25 wildflower) and represents it in a latent  $n$  dimensional space. Combination of running models on  
26 Temporal niche (T), Phylogenetic niche (P), Environmental niche (E), and relative abundance in  
27 community (RA).

28 Second, we then use this metaweb to predict the structure of networks at specific locations and times of  
29 year (Gravel *et al.* 2019). Finally we suggest a map of sampling priority, which suggests the locations to  
30 sample that will best improve our understanding of the Colorado *Bombus* pollination metaweb.

31 Why is this good for science, what does this contribute to our understanding of plant-pollinator ints,  
32 networks, *Bombus*, predictive models, etc., and how can these results be useful.

## 33 **Data**

34 We use three separate field datasets to estimate the Colorado *Bombus* metaweb.

## 35 **Methods**

### 36 *Concept Fig*

## 37 **Metaweb Model**

### 38 **Phylogeny Construction**

### 39 **Feature Embedding**

### 40 **Relative Abundance**

### 41 **Phylogenetic features**

### 42 **Environmental niche features**

### 43 **Temporal niche features**

## 44 **Metaweb Model Fitting and Validation**

45 [Figure 1 about here.]

## 46 **Spatiotemporally Explicit Networks**

47 Now that we have a metaweb.....

48 *Figure 3: Maps over time figure and Prob(Connectance) vs. Month figure*

## 49 **Sampling Prioritization**

50 *Figure 4: Uncertainty and sampling priority map*

## 51 **Discussion**

52 Bascompte, J. & Jordano, P. (2007). Plant-Animal Mutualistic Networks: The Architecture of Biodiversity.  
53 *Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics*, 38, 567–593.

54 Gravel, D., Baiser, B., Dunne, J.A., Kopelke, J.-P., Martinez, N.D., Nyman, T., *et al.* (2019). Bringing Elton  
55 and Grinnell together: A quantitative framework to represent the biogeography of ecological  
56 interaction networks. *Ecography*, 42, 401–415.

57 Poisot, T., Stouffer, D.B. & Gravel, D. (2015). Beyond species: Why ecological interaction networks vary  
58 through space and time. *Oikos*, 124, 243–251.

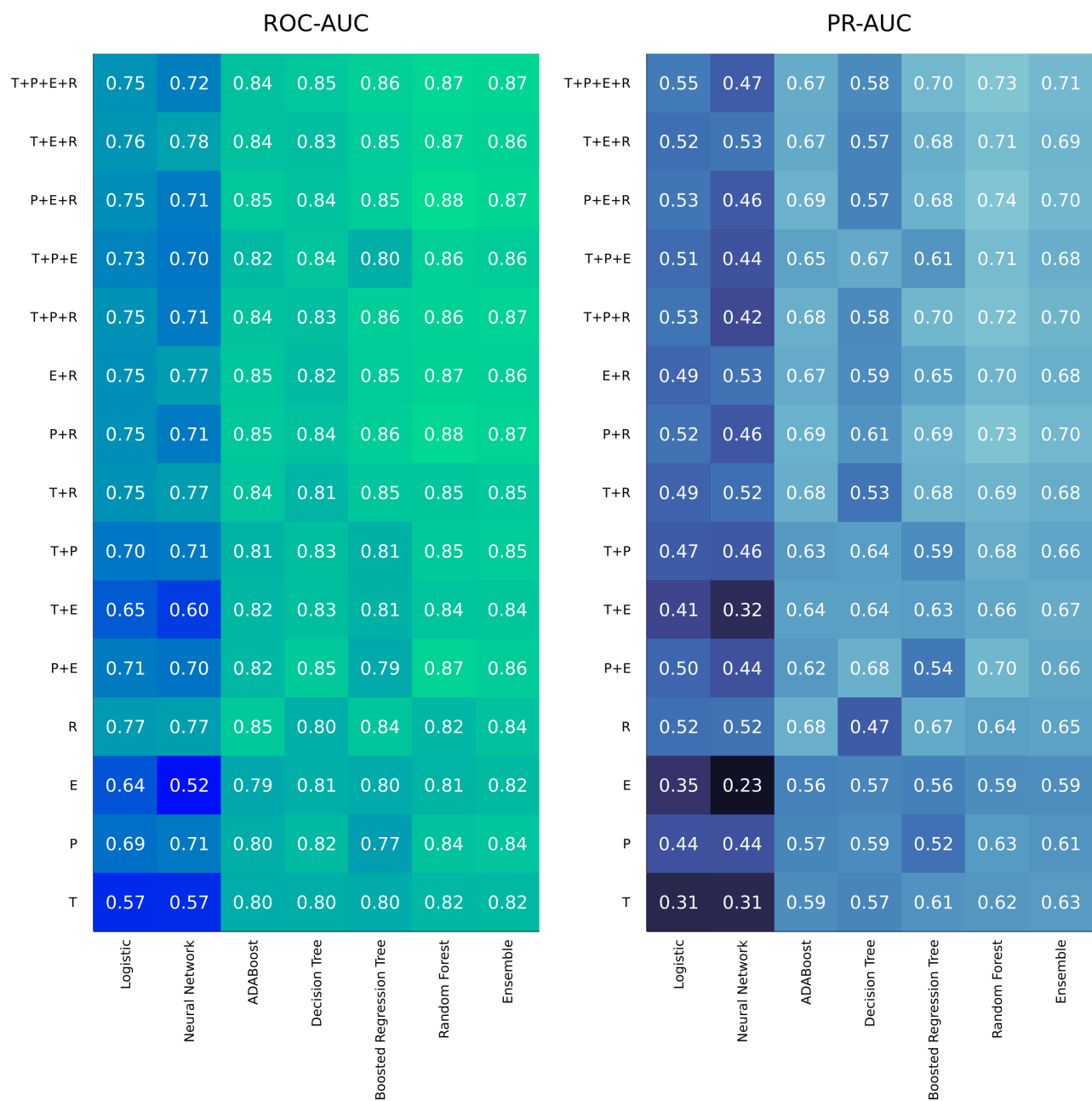


Figure 1: todo