

November 13, 2014

To the Editors of *Global Ecology & Biogeography*,

Please find enclosed our manuscript “Community Assembly On Isolated Islands: Macroecology Meets Evolution”. This is a resubmission of the manuscript submitted last June (2014) in response to an invitation from Guida Santos, Bob Ricklefs, and Richard Field, to write an article in the special issue “New Directions in Island Biogeography.” As before, the goal of this paper is to provide a framework in the use of islands to understand how complex communities emerge from ecological (population dynamics, dispersal, trophic interactions) and evolutionary (genetic structuring, adaptation, speciation, extinction) processes. We synthesize data, mostly published, some new, through a holistic approach and show that assembly by immigration gives way to evolutionary processes, though at rates that differ according to the trophic level of the organisms. Using ecological theory as a lens through which to identify biologically interesting outliers, the results play into our understanding of how changing community characteristics should dictate metrics of species interaction networks. Moreover, they provide insights into the evolution of the networks they form.

Comments on the June submission were tremendously helpful in allowing us to clarify, restructure, and streamline the manuscript. We have reworked the entire manuscript to highlight the primary message of the paper—which is to show how the Hawaiian Island chronosequence in combination with novel ecological theory can be used to understand both how communities develop over ecological–evolutionary time, and the dynamic feedbacks involved in the assembly. We do this by (1) providing a framework highlighting the value of this approach and the data and theory that are needed; and (2) using the preliminary data that we have available as a demonstration of the potential of the framework.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Gillespie Corresponding author