# Supplementary Methods 1 for 'Uncertain competition coefficients undermine inferences about coexistence'

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# 1 Summary

This document is a knit .rmd file that works through the steps of the reanalysis of *Small rainfall changes drive substantial changes in plant coexistence* by Van Dyke et al 2022 (Nature), to support a 'Matters Arising' response. Original data from the authors is available at https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7083314

Section 4 details the methods used to conduct a model comparison analysis to examine the level of statistical support for the treatment impacting the key model parameters and subsequent key coexistence quantities.

Section 5 propagates forward the authors original full bootstrap through to the final assessment of whether the predicted coexistence outcome species pair differs between treatments.

# 2 Loading and looking at data

#### 2.1 How much data?

```
nrow(seed_data)
## [1] 1677
count(seed_data, background, focal, treat) %>% arrange(n) %>% head()
    background focal treat n
##
## 1
          FEMI URLI
## 2
          URLI SACO
                         W 10
## 3
          PLER HOMU
                         W 11
## 4
          URLI HOMU
                         D 11
## 5
          URLI PLER
                         W 11
## 6
          ACWR HOMU
                         D 12
```

## 2.2 How much uncertainty in types of parameters

```
### no lambda sd saved, so will need to reconstruct, following original code

spp_treat_boot_combos <-read.csv(paste0(Path_to_Orig, "output/final_output_nls_boot_1000.csv"))

#Data frame with medians and sds for parameters---

spp_list <- sort(na.omit( unique(seed_data$focal)))

treat_list <- sort( na.omit( unique(seed_data$Tr)))

spp_treat_combos <- expand.grid(species = spp_list, treatment = treat_list)

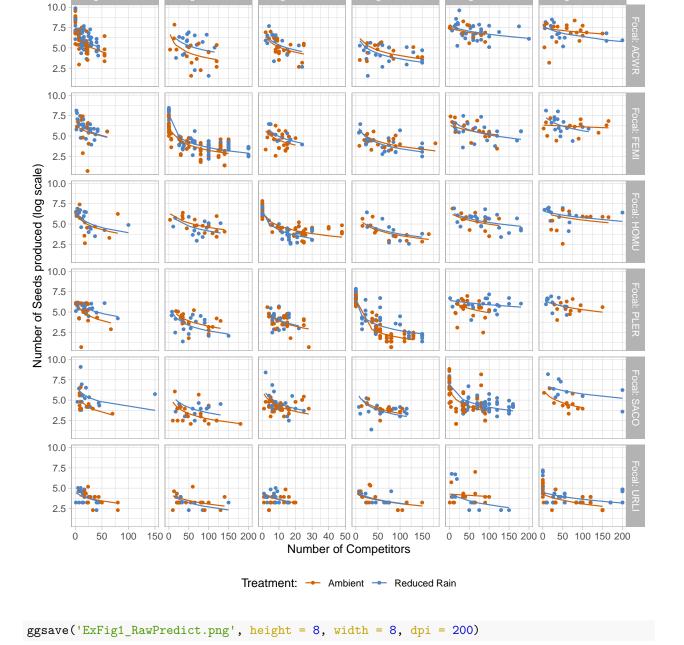
comp_labels <- sort( na.omit( unique(seed_data$background) ))</pre>
```

```
spp_treat_boot_combos$sp_pair <- paste(spp_treat_boot_combos$focal,</pre>
                                        spp_treat_boot_combos$competitor, sep = "_")
spp_treat_comp_combos <- expand.grid(focal = spp_list,</pre>
                                      competitor = comp_labels,
                                      treatment = treat_list)
boot NEW <- spp treat comp combos %>% mutate(alpha = 0, alpha sd = 0,
                                                lambda = 0, lambda sd = 0)
boot_NEW$sp_pair <- paste(boot_NEW$focal, boot_NEW$competitor, sep = "_")</pre>
for( i in 1:nrow(spp_treat_comp_combos)) {
  sp1 <- spp_treat_comp_combos[i, "focal"] %>% unlist
  sp2 <- spp_treat_comp_combos[i, "competitor"] %>% unlist
  treatt <- spp_treat_comp_combos[i , "treatment"] %>% unlist
  boot_NEW[i, "alpha"] <- median(with(spp_treat_boot_combos,</pre>
                                       alpha[treatment == treatt &
                                                focal == sp1 &
                                                competitor == sp2
                                       ]), na.rm=TRUE)
  boot_NEW[i, "alpha_sd"] <- sd(with(spp_treat_boot_combos,</pre>
                                      alpha[treatment == treatt &
                                               focal == sp1 &
                                               competitor == sp2
                                      ]), na.rm=TRUE)
  boot_NEW[i, "lambda"] <- median(with(spp_treat_boot_combos,</pre>
                                        lambda[focal == sp1 & competitor == sp2 &
                                                  treatment == treatt]), na.rm=TRUE)
  boot_NEW[i, "lambda_sd"] <- sd(with(spp_treat_boot_combos,</pre>
                                       lambda[focal == sp1 & competitor == sp2 &
                                                 treatment == treatt]), na.rm=TRUE)
}
boot_NEW %>%
  filter(focal==competitor ) %>%
  mutate(LamCV= lambda_sd/lambda) %>%
  summarise(mean(LamCV))
     mean(LamCV)
##
       0.3195691
## 1
boot_NEW %>%
  mutate(AlpCV= alpha_sd/alpha)%>%
  summarise(mean(AlpCV))
##
     mean(AlpCV)
```

## 1 0.7400443

# 3 Plotting raw data with model best-fit

```
spp_list <- sort(na.omit( unique(seed_data$focal)))</pre>
set.seed(3)
AddPreds<- function(focalsp){
  focal_data <- filter(seed_data, focal == focalsp)</pre>
 fit<- nls(log(num_seeds)~log(lambda[Tr]/(1+a_ACWR[Tr]*N_acwr+a_FEMI[Tr]*N_femi+
                                               a_HOMU[Tr]*N_homu+a_PLER[Tr]*N_pler+
                                               a_SACO[Tr]*N_saco+a_URLI[Tr]*N_urli)),
            data=focal_data,
            start=list('lambda'= c(100,100),
                        a_ACWR=c(0.1, 0.1), a_FEMI=c(0.1, 0.1),
                        a_HOMU=c(0.1, 0.1), a_PLER=c(0.1, 0.1),
                        a_SACO=c(0.1, 0.1),a_URLI=c(0.1, 0.1)),
            lower = c(1, 1, rep(.001, 12)),
            upper = c(10000, 10000, rep(2, 12)),
            control = list(maxiter = 100000),
            algorithm = 'port')
  focal_data$Prediction <- predict(fit)</pre>
  return(focal_data)
data_predict <- map_df( spp_list,AddPreds)</pre>
```



# 4 Fitting set of models with different levels of parameterisation

```
a_SACO[Tr]*N_saco+a_URLI[Tr]*N_urli)),
                data=focal_data,
                start=list('lambda'= c(100,100),
                           a_ACWR=c(0.1, 0.1), a_FEMI=c(0.1, 0.1),
                           a_{\text{HOMU}} = c(0.1, 0.1), a_{\text{PLER}} = c(0.1, 0.1),
                           a_SACO=c(0.1, 0.1),a_URLI=c(0.1, 0.1)),
               lower = c(1, 1, rep(.001, 12)),
                upper = c(10000, 10000, rep(2, 12)),
                control = list(maxiter = 100000),
                algorithm = 'port')
fit_test_nosplit<- nls(log(num_seeds)~log(lambda/(1+a_ACWR*N_acwr+a_FEMI*N_femi+
                                                       a_HOMU*N_homu+a_PLER*N_pler+
                                                       a_SACO*N_saco+a_URLI*N_urli)),
                        data=focal_data,
                        start=list('lambda'= c(100),
                                   a_ACWR=c(0.1), a_FEMI=c(0.1),
                                   a_HOMU=c(0.1), a_PLER=c(0.1),
                                   a_SACO = c(0.1), a_URLI = c(0.1)),
                        lower = c(1, rep(.001, 6)),
                        upper = c(10000, rep(2, 6)),
                        control = list(maxiter = 100000),
                        algorithm = 'port')
fit test justA<- nls(log(num seeds)~log(lambda/(1+a ACWR[Tr]*N acwr+a FEMI[Tr]*N femi+
                                                    a HOMU[Tr]*N homu+a PLER[Tr]*N pler+
                                                    a_SACO[Tr]*N_saco+a_URLI[Tr]*N_urli)),
                      data=focal data,
                      start=list('lambda'= c(100),a_ACWR=c(0.1, 0.1), a_FEMI=c(0.1, 0.1),
                                 a_{\text{HOMU}} = c(0.1, 0.1), a_{\text{PLER}} = c(0.1, 0.1),
                                 a_SACO=c(0.1, 0.1), a_URLI=c(0.1, 0.1)),
                      lower = c(1, rep(.001, 12)),
                      upper = c(10000, rep(2, 12)),
                      control = list(maxiter = 100000),
                      algorithm = 'port')
fit_test_justLam<- nls(log(num_seeds)~log(lambda[Tr]/(1+a_ACWR*N_acwr+a_FEMI*N_femi+
                                                       a HOMU*N homu+a PLER*N pler+
                                                       a_SACO*N_saco+a_URLI*N_urli)),
                        data=focal data,
                        start=list('lambda'= c(100,100),a_ACWR=c(0.1), a_FEMI=c(0.1),
                                   a_{\text{HOMU}}=c(0.1), a_{\text{PLER}}=c(0.1),
                                   a SACO = c(0.1), a URLI = c(0.1)),
                        lower = c(1,1, rep(.001, 6)),
                        upper = c(10000, 10000, rep(2, 6)),
                        control = list(maxiter = 100000),
                        algorithm = 'port')
XX <- data.frame(FocalSp = focalsp,
                 LogL_NoTre = logLik(fit_test_nosplit),
                  LogL_JustL = logLik(fit_test_justLam),
                 LogL_JustA = logLik(fit_test_justA),
                  LogL_Orig = logLik(fit_test)) %>%
```

## 4.1 Model Comparison Tables

```
AICTable<- map_df( spp_list, FindFourAICs) %>%
  left_join(count(seed_data, focal), c('FocalSp'='focal') )

AICTable %>%
  mutate(BIC_1NoTre = log(n)*k_NoTre - (2*LogL_NoTre),
        BIC_2JustL = log(n)*k_JustL - (2*LogL_JustL),
        BIC_3JustA = log(n)*k_JustA - (2*LogL_JustA),
        BIC_4Orig = log(n)*k_Orig - (2*LogL_Orig)) -> AICTable

knitr::kable(t(AICTable), digits = 1)
```

FocalSp	ACWR	FEMI	HOMU	PLER	SACO	URLI
LogL NoTre	-438.2903	-417.4120	-268.7606	-440.4331	-407.5359	-332.6062
LogL_JustL	-436.6224	-417.4120	-268.5777	-432.7851	-397.2313	-331.9808
~ —						
$LogL\_JustA$	-432.2594	-413.8134	-263.8901	-421.0175	-392.0230	-326.2338
$LogL\_Orig$	-432.0466	-407.1755	-263.6904	-420.9895	-391.1440	-325.8967
$k$ _NoTre	7	7	7	7	7	7
$k\_JustL$	8	8	8	8	8	8
$k\_JustA$	13	13	13	13	13	13
k_Orig	14	14	14	14	14	14
$aic_1NoTre$	890.5807	848.8241	551.5213	894.8662	829.0719	679.2124
$aic\_2JustL$	889.2448	843.2984	553.1553	881.5702	810.4626	679.9616
$aic\_3JustA$	890.5187	853.6269	553.7802	868.0349	810.0460	678.4675
aic_4Orig	892.0933	842.3510	555.3809	869.9789	810.2881	679.7933
n	293	305	214	325	274	266
$BIC_1NoTre$	916.3419	874.8663	575.0831	921.3529	854.3637	704.2969
$BIC_2JustL$	918.6861	873.0609	580.0831	911.8408	839.3676	708.6295
$BIC\_3JustA$	938.3610	901.9909	597.5379	917.2246	857.0167	725.0530
${\rm BIC\_4Orig}$	943.6157	894.4353	602.5045	922.9525	860.8719	729.9623

```
knitr::kable(select(AICTable,FocalSp , starts_with('aic')), digits = 1)
```

FocalSp	aic_1NoTre	aic_2JustL	aic_3JustA	aic_4Orig
ACWR	890.6	889.2	890.5	892.1
FEMI	848.8	843.3	853.6	842.4
HOMU	551.5	553.2	553.8	555.4
PLER	894.9	881.6	868.0	870.0
SACO	829.1	810.5	810.0	810.3
URLI	679.2	680.0	678.5	679.8

knitr::kable(select(AICTable,FocalSp , starts\_with('BIC')), digits = 1)

FocalSp	BIC_1NoTre	$BIC\_2JustL$	$\mathrm{BIC}\_3\mathrm{Just}\mathrm{A}$	BIC_4Orig
ACWR	916.3	918.7	938.4	943.6
FEMI	874.9	873.1	902.0	894.4
HOMU	575.1	580.1	597.5	602.5
PLER	921.4	911.8	917.2	923.0
SACO	854.4	839.4	857.0	860.9
URLI	704.3	708.6	725.1	730.0

## 5 Full Posteriors

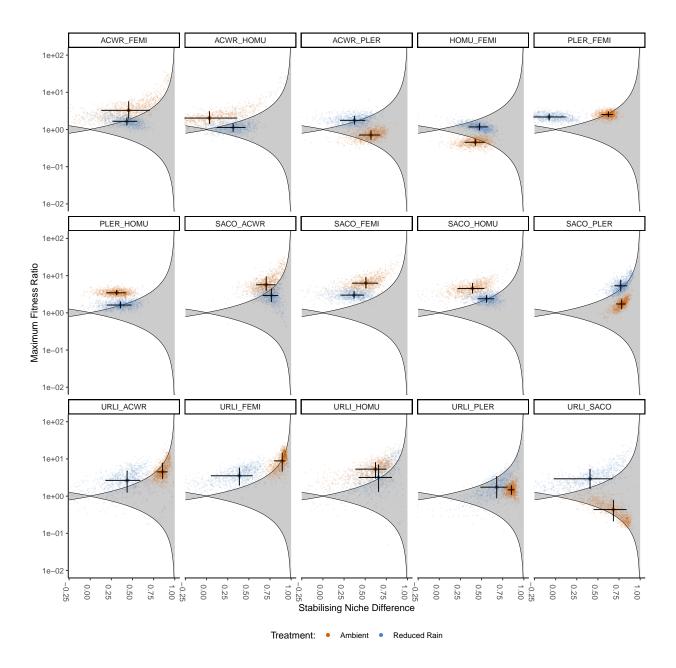
#### 5.0.1 Which pair-directions to plot?

#### 5.0.2 Data Preparation

```
final_output_nls_boot <-read.csv(paste0(Path_to_Orig,</pre>
                                           "output/final_output_nls_boot_1000.csv"))
spp_treat_boot_combos <- final_output_nls_boot</pre>
#Data frame with medians and sds for parameters----
spp_list <- sort(na.omit( unique(seed_data$focal)))</pre>
treat_list <- sort( na.omit( unique(seed_data$Tr)))</pre>
spp_treat_combos <- expand.grid(species = spp_list, treatment = treat_list)</pre>
comp_labels <- sort( na.omit( unique(seed_data$background) ))</pre>
spp_treat_boot_combos$sp_pair <- paste(spp_treat_boot_combos$focal,</pre>
                                         spp treat boot combos$competitor, sep = " ")
spp_treat_comp_combos <- expand.grid(focal = spp_list,</pre>
                                       competitor = comp_labels,
                                       treatment = treat list)
nls_boot_pairs$sp_pair <- paste(nls_boot_pairs$focal, nls_boot_pairs$competitor, sep = "_")</pre>
nls_boot_pairs %>%
  filter(sp_pair %in% PairsToPlot) %>%
  mutate( Treatment = ifelse(treatment ==1, 'WET', 'DRY')) -> OriginalErrorBarsForAdding
```

#### 5.0.3 Create coexistence area for plot - min/max fitness difference that permits coexistence

#### 5.1 Plotting



```
ggsave('ExFig2_CoexistPlots.png', height = 10, width = 8, dpi = 200)
```

## 5.2 Determining fraction of pairs that follow identified pattern

```
(1-1/nls_boot_pairs_unique$fd_superior)),
                                          1, 0)
##Stabilizing niche and fitness differences: (Table ED3)
pars_boot <- nls_boot_pairs_unique %>%
  select(focal,competitor,treatment,snd,
         fd,fd_superior,coexist, fd_sup_sp)
pars_boot$species <- paste0(substr(pars_boot$focal, 1, 2),</pre>
                             "-".
                             substr(pars_boot$competitor, 1, 2))
pars_boot$outcome <- ifelse(pars_boot$coexist == 1, "coexist",</pre>
                             ifelse(pars_boot$fd_sup_sp == 2,
                                    paste0(substr(pars_boot$species, 4, 5), " wins"),
                                    paste0(substr(pars_boot$species, 1, 2), " wins")))
pair_labels <- pars_boot %>%
  filter(treatment == 1 ) %>%
  filter(fd > 1)
pair_labels <- unique(pair_labels$species)</pre>
pars_boot <- pars_boot %>% filter(species %in% pair_labels)
pars_boot <- subset(pars_boot, select = -c(focal, competitor, coexist,</pre>
                                              fd sup sp, fd superior))
pars_boot_wide<-pivot_wider(data = pars_boot,</pre>
                             names_from = treatment,
                             values_from = c(snd, fd, outcome))%>%
  arrange(species)
```

#### 5.3 Repeating across the whole bootstrap sample

```
spp_treat_boot_combos %>%
 filter(sp_pair %in% PairsToPlot) %>%
 mutate(fd_superior <- ifelse(fd < 1, 1/fd,fd) ,</pre>
         fd sup sp \leftarrow ifelse(fd \leftarrow 1, 1, 2),
         coexist = ifelse((snd > (1-1/fd_superior)), 1, 0 ),
         outcome = ifelse(coexist == 1, "coexist",
                           ifelse(fd_sup_sp == 2,
                                  pasteO(focal , " wins"),
                                  pasteO(competitor , " wins")))) %>%
  group_by(treatment, sp_pair) %>%
  count(outcome) %>%
  pivot_wider(id_cols = c(treatment, sp_pair), names_from = outcome,
              values_from = n, values_fill = 0) -> PosteriorResults
## Just looking at change in 'coexist' result
PosteriorResults %>%
 mutate( Treatment = ifelse(treatment ==1, 'WET', 'DRY'))%>%
```

```
mutate(coexist_frac = coexist/1000) %>%
  ungroup() %>%
  select(Treatment, sp_pair, coexist_frac) %>%
  pivot_wider(id_cols = sp_pair, names_from = Treatment, values_from = coexist_frac) %>%
  mutate( AbsoluteChange = WET-DRY) %>%
  mutate(species = paste0(substr(sp_pair
                                             , 1, 2), ## For Joining with pars_boot_wide
                           substr(sp_pair
                                             , 6, 7))) %>%
 left_join(pars_boot_wide, by = "species") -> JoinResults
JoinResults$OriginalFindsChange <- JoinResults$outcome_1 != JoinResults$outcome_2</pre>
## probability of each draw showing switch from coexistence = prob(coexist1) *prob
## Assuming just two outcomes: coexist, or something else
# If change from victory -> coexist, probability observe change = 1-prob(coexist1) * prob(coexist)
# If change from coexist -> victory, probability observe change = prob(coexist1) * 1-prob(coexist)
JoinResults %>%
  filter(OriginalFindsChange) %>%
  mutate(LikelihoodObserveChange = ifelse(outcome_1 == 'coexist',
                                          WET *(1-DRY),
                                          (1-WET)*DRY)) %>%
  select(SpeciesPair =species,
        LikelihoodCoexist Wet= WET,
        LikelihoodCoexist_Dry = DRY,
         outcome_Wet=outcome_1, outcome_Dry=outcome_2,
        LikelihoodObserveChange )-> JoinResults2
knitr::kable(JoinResults2,digits =3)
```

SpeciesPair	$Likelihood Coexist\_We \textbf{L}ikelihood Coexist\_$	odCoexist_Dr	youtcome_	_Wetoutcome	DryLikelihoodObserveChange
AC-FE	0.554	0.069	coexist	FE wins	0.516
AC-HO	0.715	0.004	coexist	HO wins	0.712
AC-PL	0.361	0.855	PL wins	coexist	0.546
HO-FE	0.901	0.225	coexist	HO wins	0.698
PL- $FE$	0.005	0.551	FE wins	coexist	0.548
SA-AC	0.729	0.095	coexist	AC wins	0.660
SA-PL	0.285	0.998	PL wins	coexist	0.714
UR-AC	0.191	0.830	AC wins	coexist	0.671
UR-FE	0.032	0.521	FE wins	coexist	0.504
UR-SA	0.092	0.800	SA wins	coexist	0.726

JoinResults2\$LikelihoodObserveChange %>% mean

## [1] 0.6296292

## 6 Session Info

#### sessionInfo()

```
## R version 4.2.2 (2022-10-31 ucrt)
## Platform: x86_64-w64-mingw32/x64 (64-bit)
## Running under: Windows 10 x64 (build 19045)
## Matrix products: default
##
## locale:
## [1] LC_COLLATE=English_United Kingdom.utf8
## [2] LC_CTYPE=English_United Kingdom.utf8
## [3] LC_MONETARY=English_United Kingdom.utf8
## [4] LC NUMERIC=C
## [5] LC_TIME=English_United Kingdom.utf8
## attached base packages:
## [1] stats
                 graphics grDevices utils
                                                datasets methods
                                                                    base
##
## other attached packages:
## [1] forcats_0.5.2
                       stringr_1.5.0
                                        dplyr_1.0.10
                                                        purrr 0.3.5
## [5] readr_2.1.3
                       tidyr_1.2.1
                                        tibble_3.1.8
                                                        ggplot2_3.4.0
## [9] tidyverse_1.3.2
##
## loaded via a namespace (and not attached):
## [1] lubridate_1.9.0
                            assertthat_0.2.1
                                                 digest_0.6.30
## [4] utf8 1.2.2
                            R6 2.5.1
                                                 cellranger 1.1.0
                                                 evaluate_0.18
## [7] backports_1.4.1
                            reprex_2.0.2
## [10] httr_1.4.4
                            highr_0.9
                                                 pillar_1.8.1
## [13] rlang_1.0.6
                            googlesheets4_1.0.1 readxl_1.4.1
## [16] rstudioapi_0.14
                            rmarkdown_2.18
                                                 textshaping_0.3.6
                                                 munsell 0.5.0
## [19] labeling 0.4.2
                            googledrive 2.0.0
## [22] broom 1.0.1
                            compiler_4.2.2
                                                 modelr 0.1.10
## [25] xfun_0.35
                            pkgconfig_2.0.3
                                                 systemfonts_1.0.4
## [28] htmltools_0.5.3
                            tidyselect_1.2.0
                                                 fansi_1.0.3
## [31] crayon_1.5.2
                            tzdb_0.3.0
                                                 dbplyr_2.2.1
## [34] withr_2.5.0
                            grid_4.2.2
                                                 jsonlite_1.8.3
## [37] gtable_0.3.1
                            lifecycle_1.0.3
                                                 DBI_1.1.3
## [40] magrittr_2.0.3
                            scales_1.2.1
                                                 cli_3.4.1
## [43] stringi_1.7.8
                            farver_2.1.1
                                                 fs_1.5.2
## [46] xml2_1.3.3
                            ellipsis_0.3.2
                                                 ragg_1.2.4
## [49] generics_0.1.3
                            vctrs_0.5.1
                                                 tools_4.2.2
## [52] glue_1.6.2
                            hms_1.1.2
                                                 fastmap_1.1.0
## [55] yaml_2.3.6
                            timechange 0.1.1
                                                 colorspace_2.0-3
## [58] gargle_1.2.1
                            rvest_1.0.3
                                                 knitr_1.41
## [61] haven_2.5.1
```