## S2 Appendix: Well-calibrated simulation studies

Every method presented and tested in this paper was validated with a well-calibrated simulation study using the same model and operator set that which was benchmarked. This is achieved using 100 simulated datasets (each with N=100 taxa and a L=5000 nt alignment). The 95 % highest posterior density (HPD) interval is calculated, and the 'true' parameter values are compared with their values estimated from the simulated data.

The validation results are presented as plots. The number in the bottom right corner of each plot is the coverage; that is the percentage of simulations where the 'true' parameter value is within the 95 % HPD interval. If all parameters have coverage close to 95 % coverage, then this suggests correctness of implementation.

The parameters presented in each plot are: the Yule model birth rate  $\lambda$ , rate heterogeneity gamma shape  $\Gamma$ , HKY substitution model parameter  $\kappa$ , log-normal clock standard deviation  $\sigma$ , the frequency of the A nucleotide  $f_A$ , and the rate of the first taxon  $r_1$ . The remaining 3 frequencies and 99 taxa rates are omitted from the figures.

## References

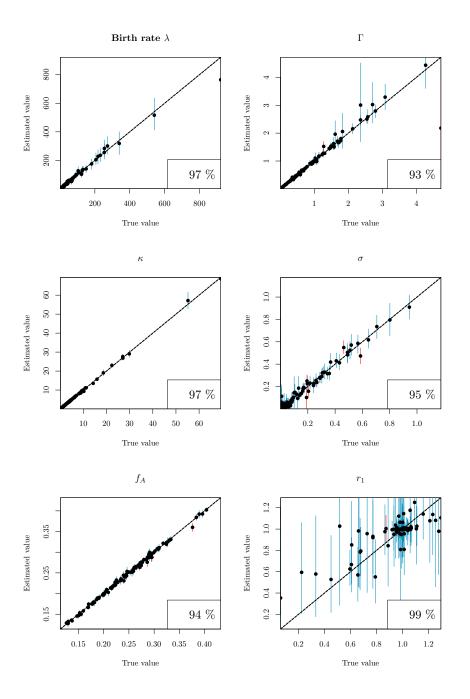


Figure 1: The cat parameterisation. Blue and red vertical lines are 95 % HPD intervals, where blue intervals contain the true value and red intervals do not.

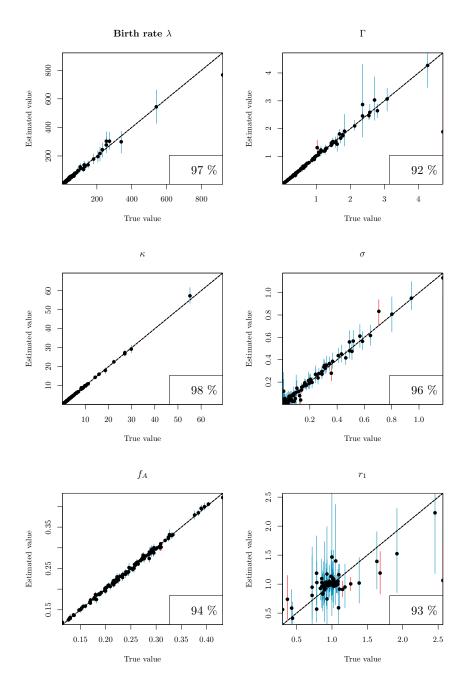


Figure 2: **The** *real* **parameterisation**, with the operators decribed by Zhang and Drummond 2020.

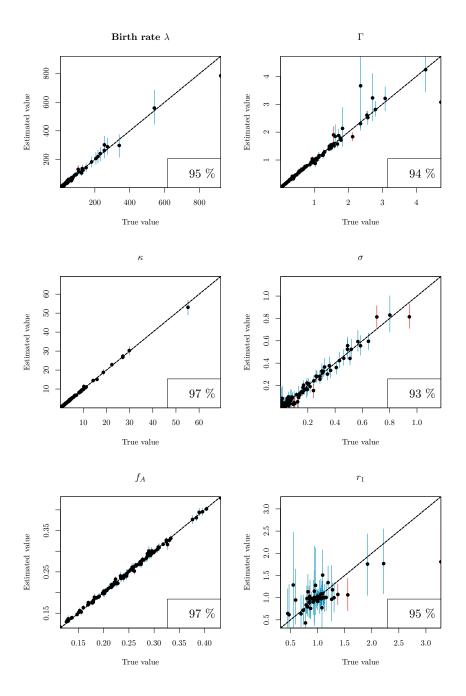


Figure 3: **The** *quant* **parameterisation**, with the operators described by Zhang and Drummond 2020, and adapted for *quant* as described in **S1 Appendix**.