Empirical and theoretical opportunities in host-symbiont community ecology

Max Joseph

University of Colorado, Boulder, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

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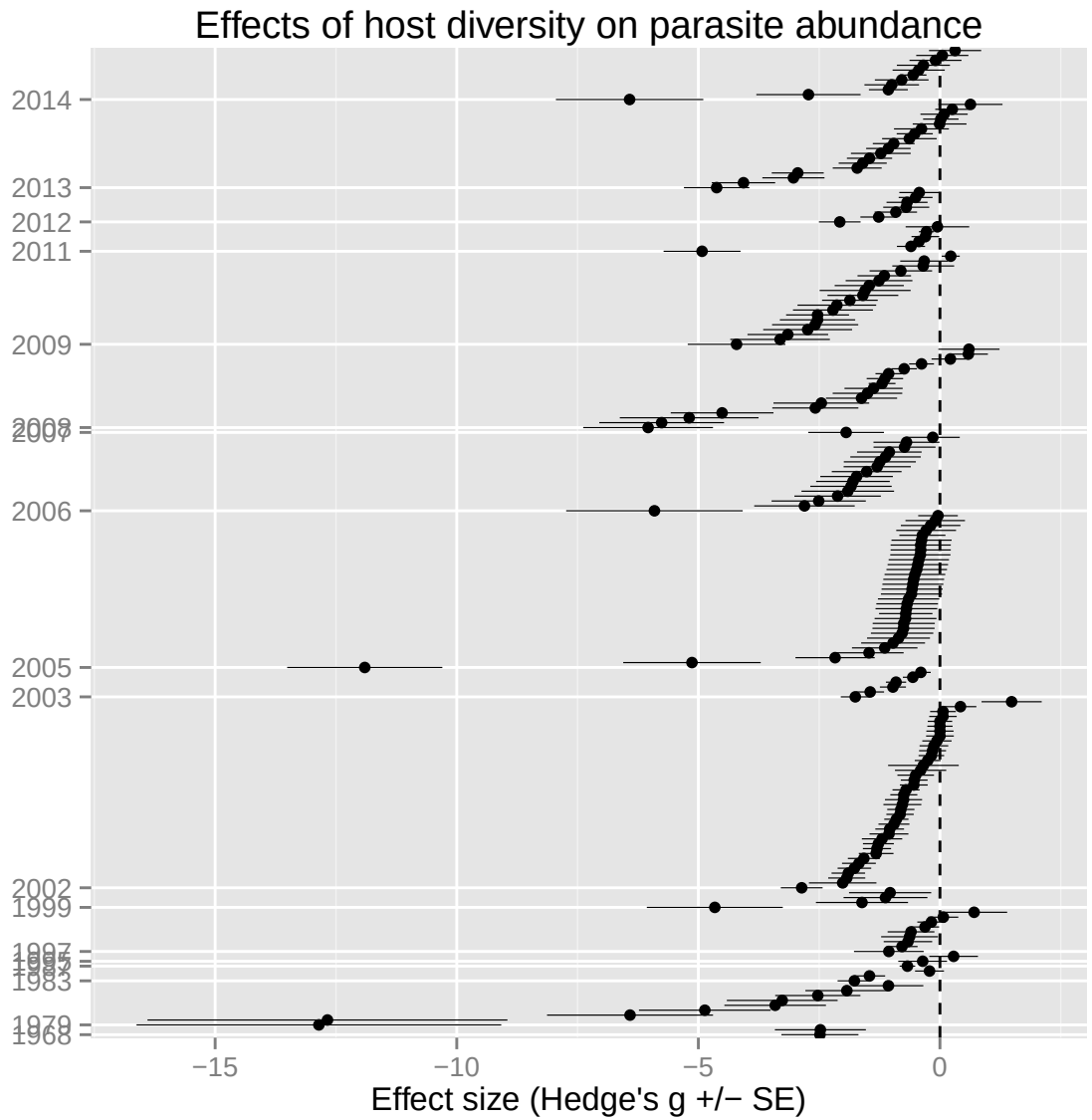
Dilution or amplification?

Contention

1. 'generality'

Civitello et al. 2015

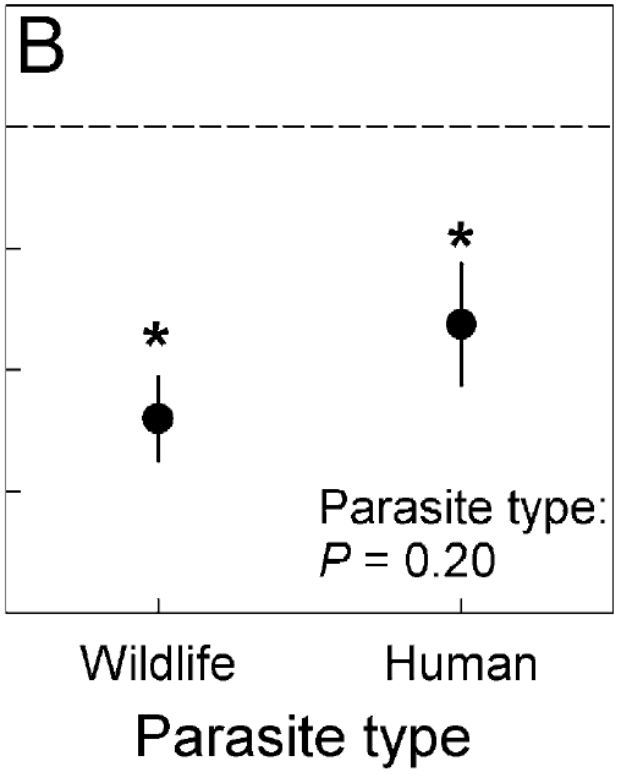


Dilution or amplification?

Contention

1. 'generality'
2. applicability to human disease

Applicability to human disease



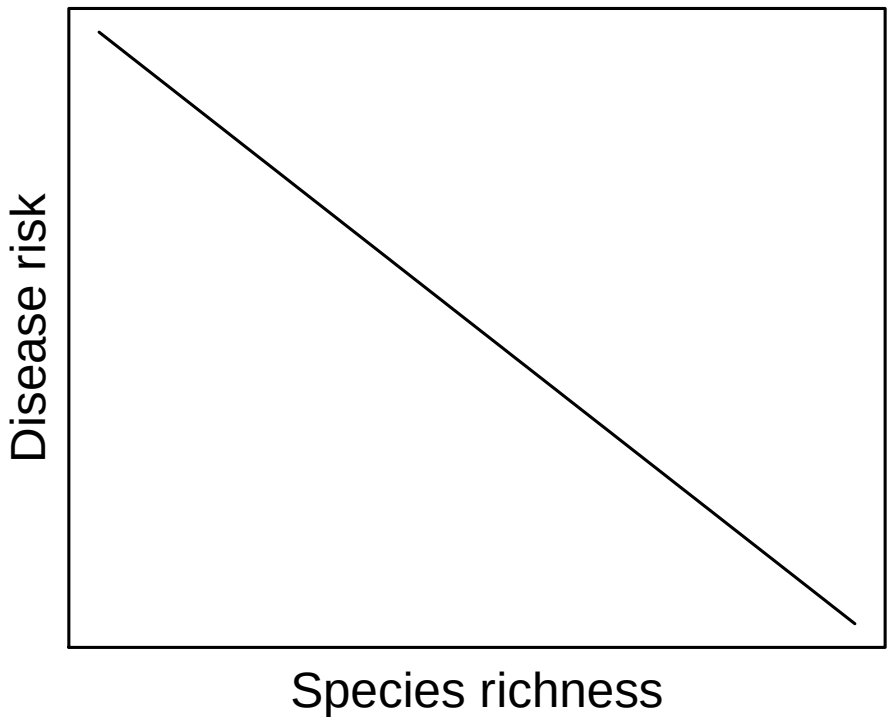
Dilution or amplification?

Contention

1. `generality'
2. applicability to human disease
3. justification for conservation

Thought experiment

Assume that we know $\mu_{\beta_{diversity}} < 0$

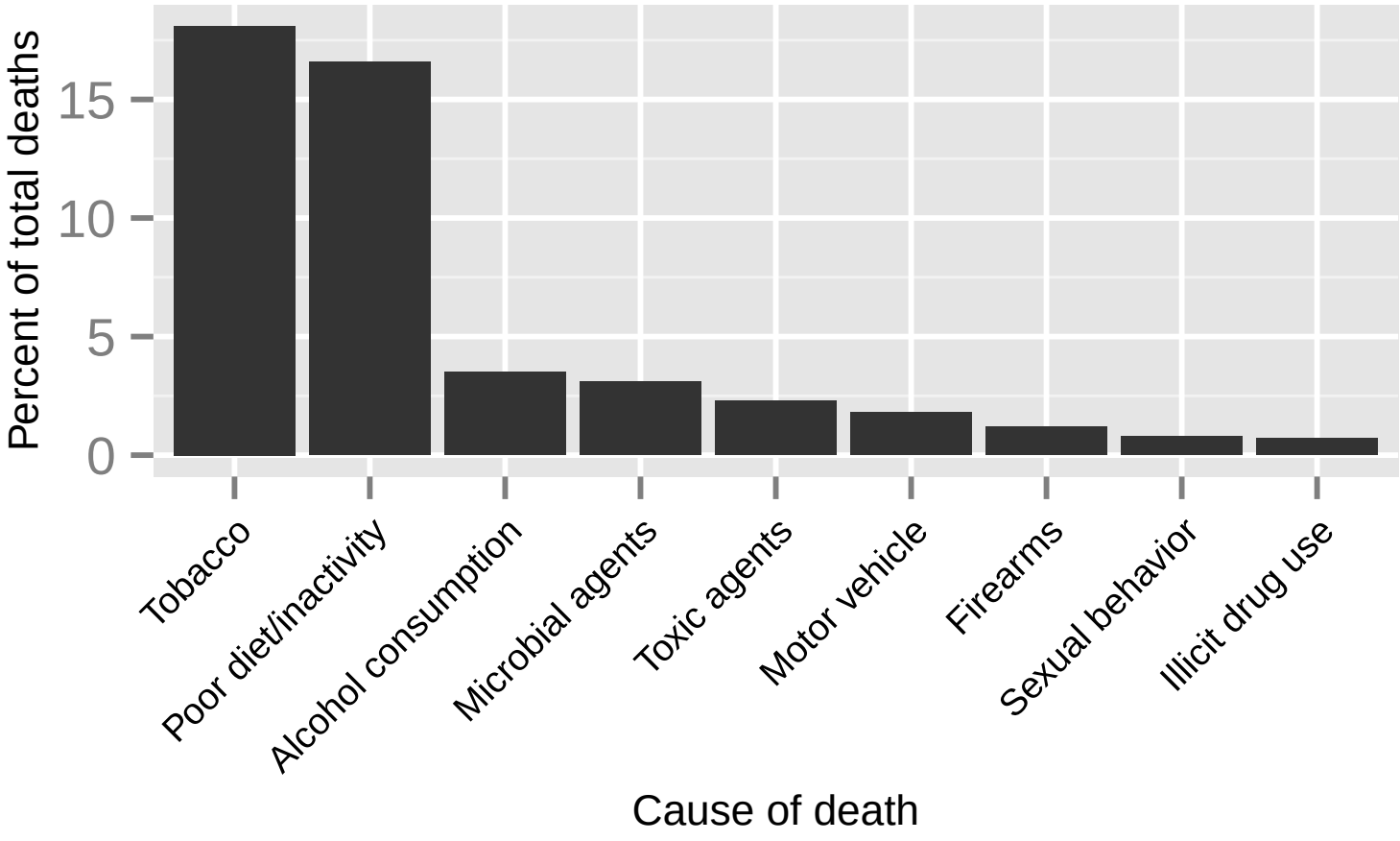


Thought experiment

Biodiversity on average is good for our health.

Would we conserve biodiversity?

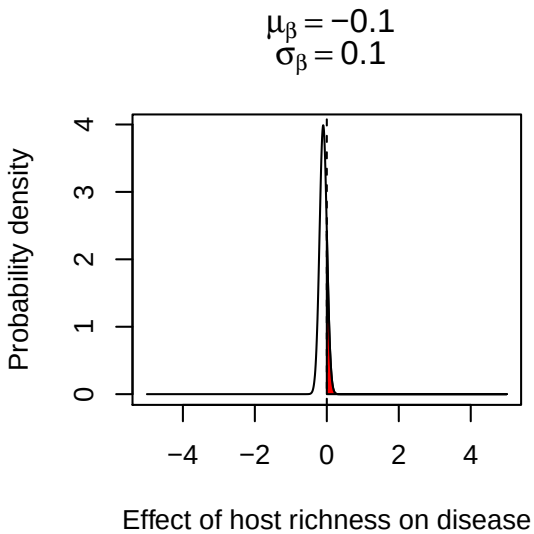
Would we conserve biodiversity?

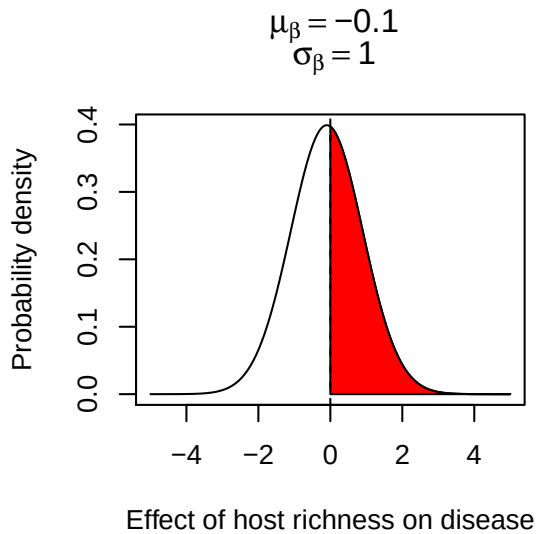


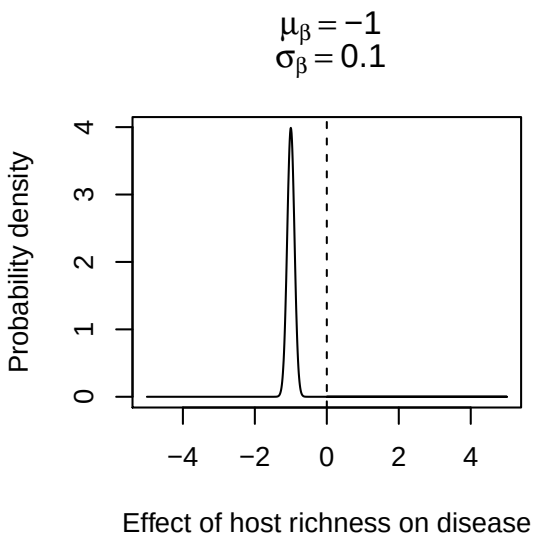
Mokdad et al. 2004. Actual causes of death in the U.S.

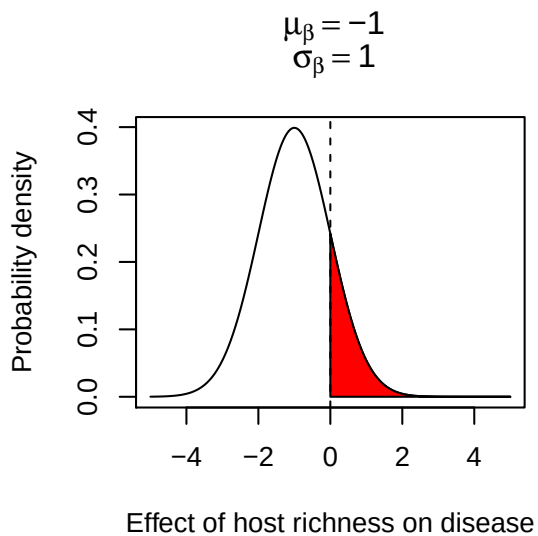
Not just the mean

Assuming biodiversity reduces disease on average:









Regardless of the mean

We all care about variation

1. **Thinking beyond the mean effect**

   - What explains the variance?

Challenges and opportunities

1. **Thinking beyond the mean effect**
   - What explains the variance?
2. **Transmission dynamics**

Density-dependent:

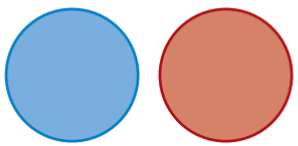
$$\beta SI$$

Frequency-dependent:

$$\beta SI/N$$

Contact rate independent from N

Tranmission dynamics, diversity, and disease

	Frequency-dependent transmission	Density-dependent transmission
Additive 	Less disease	More disease
Substitutive 	Less disease	Less disease

Other transmission functions

Constant risk:

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = \beta S$$

Power law:

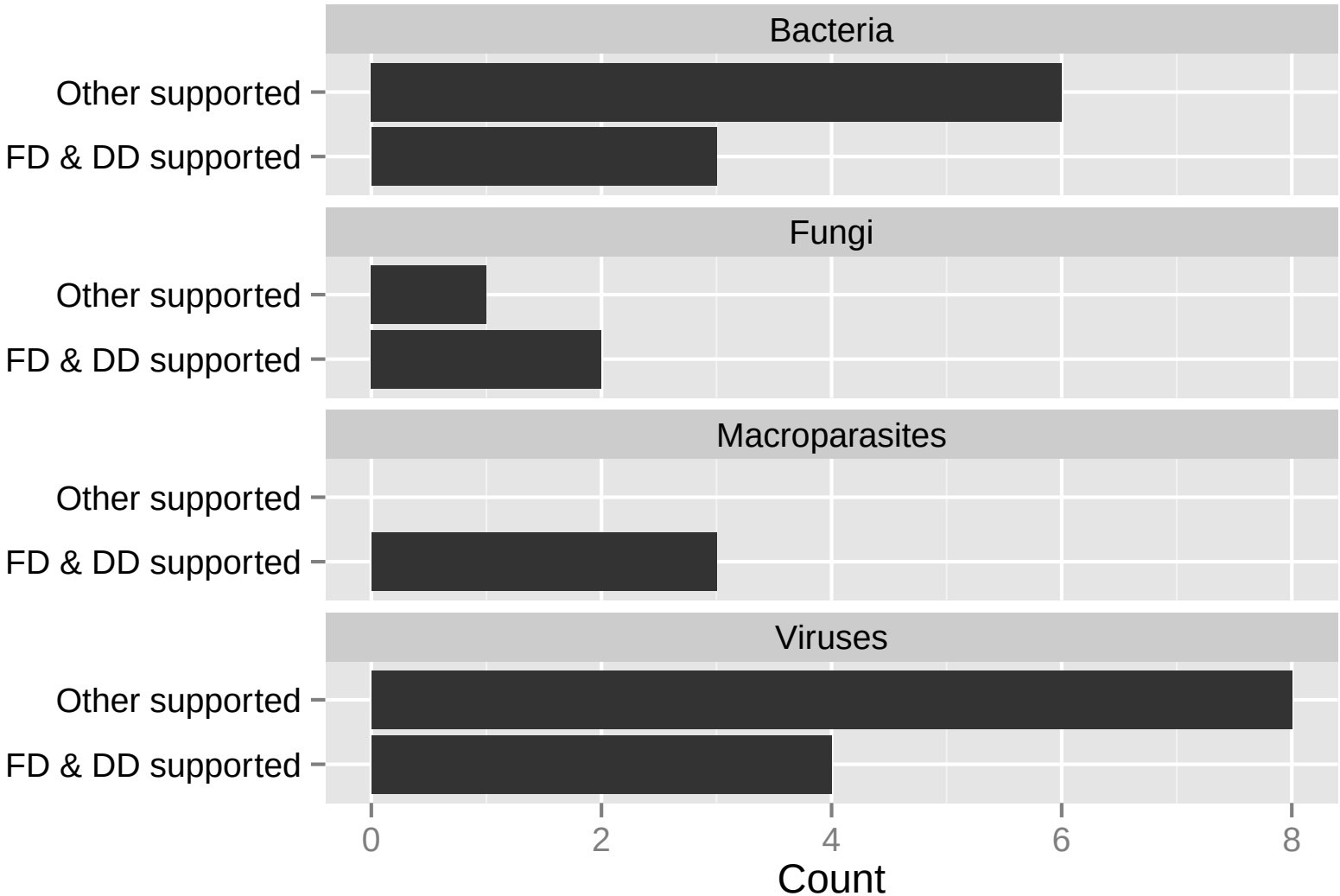
$$\frac{dI}{dt} = \beta S^p I^q$$

Negative binomial:

$$\frac{dI}{dt} = (kS) log(1 + \frac{\beta I}{k})$$

Support for other transmission functions

(Orlofske, Joseph, et al. *in prep*)

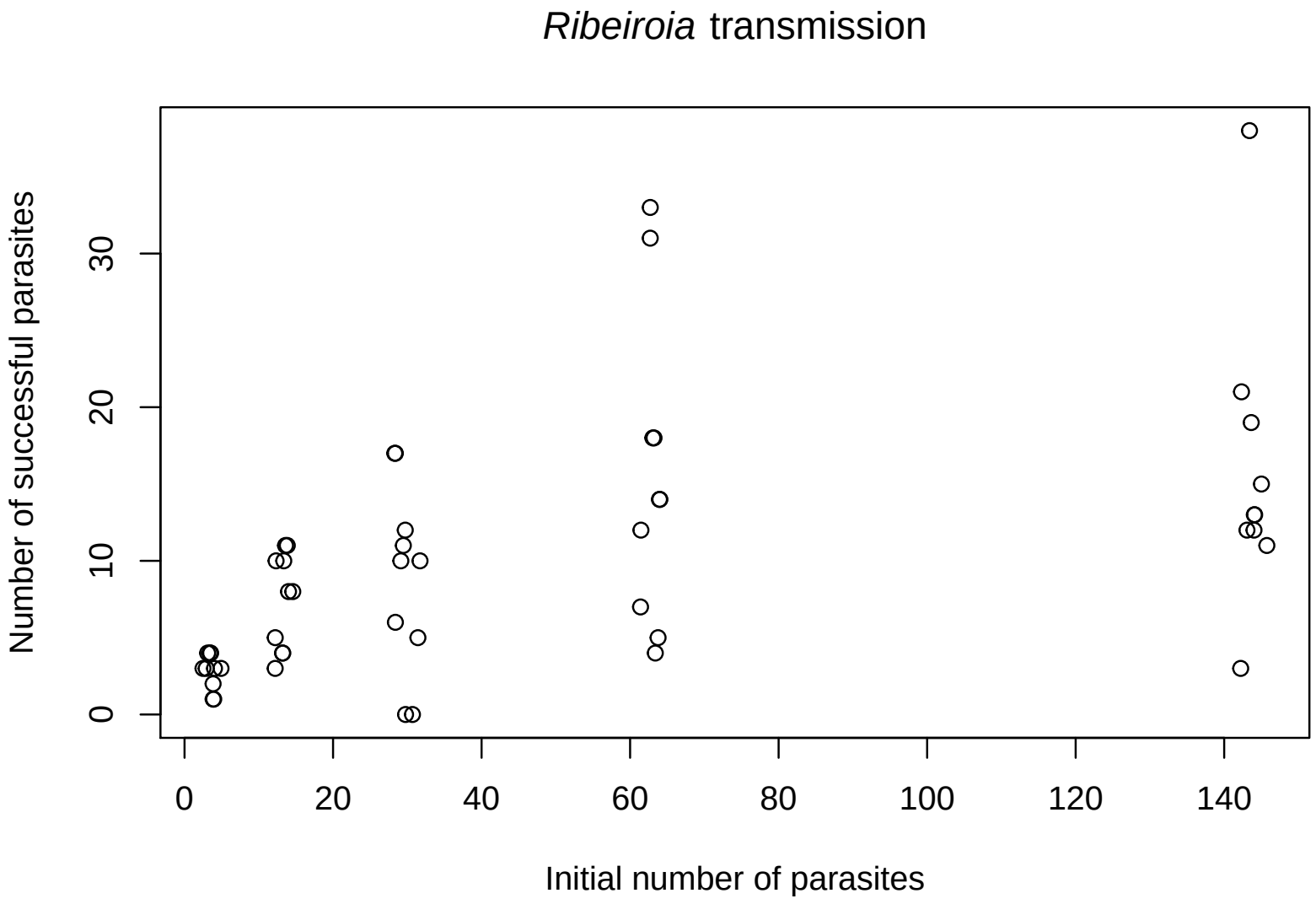


Evaluating support for different models

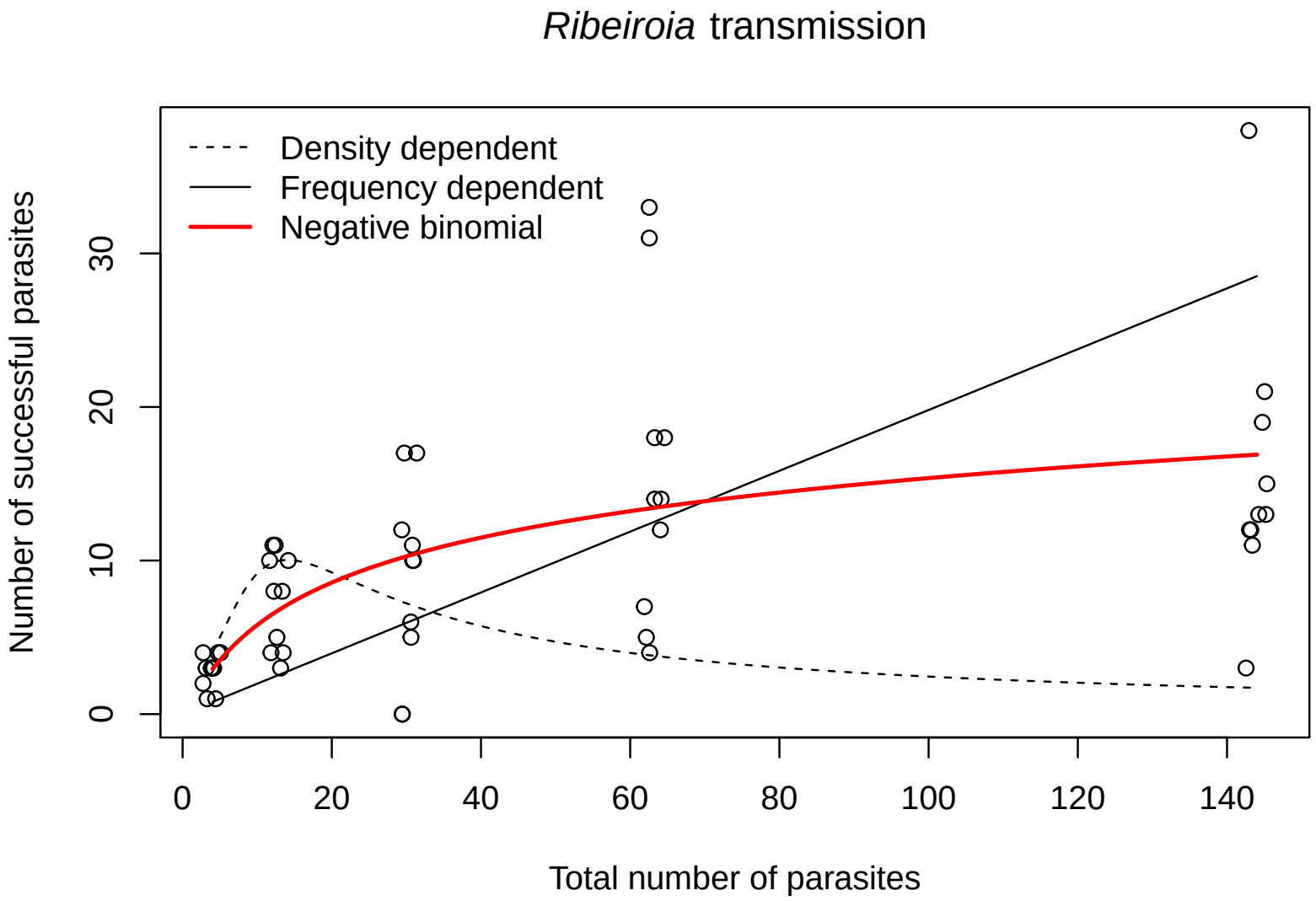
1. Build set of transmission functions (DD, FD, etc.)
2. Design experiments varying:

- P: number of parasites
- H: number of hosts
- t: exposure time
- $\frac{P}{v}$: parasite density

Evaluating support for different models



Evaluating support for different models



Summary of support

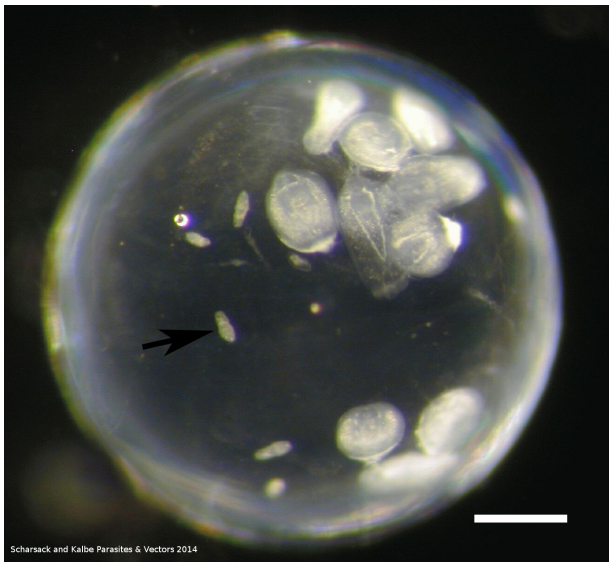
Ribeiroia:

- P: neg. binom.
- H: power law
- t: power law
- $\frac{P}{v}$: uninformative

Summary of support

Diplostomum spathaceum (Karvonen et al. 2003):

- $\frac{P}{v}$: neg. binom. and power law
- P: power law



Summary of support

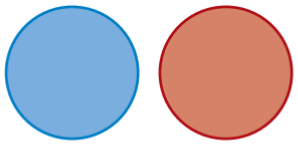
Centrocestus armatus experiments (Paller et al. 2007):

- $\frac{P}{v}$: neg. binom.
- P: neg. binom.

Modes of transmission, diversity, and disease

What else might we expect theoretically?

Where are we empirically?

	Frequency-dependent transmission	Density-dependent transmission
Additive 	Less disease	More disease
Substitutive 	Less disease	Less disease

Challenges and opportunities

1. **Thinking beyond the mean effect**

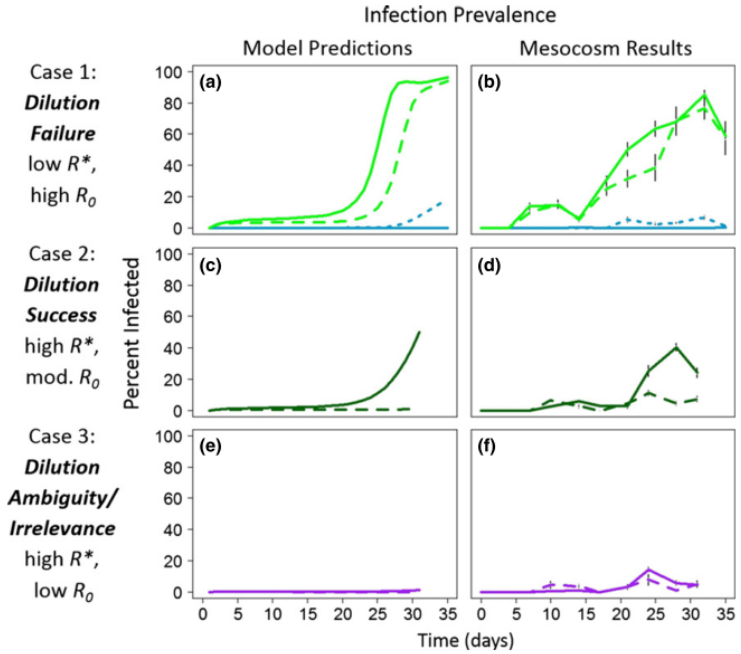
   - What explains the variance?

2. **Transmission dynamics**

   - What models have support?
   - How to our predictions change?

Among host competition

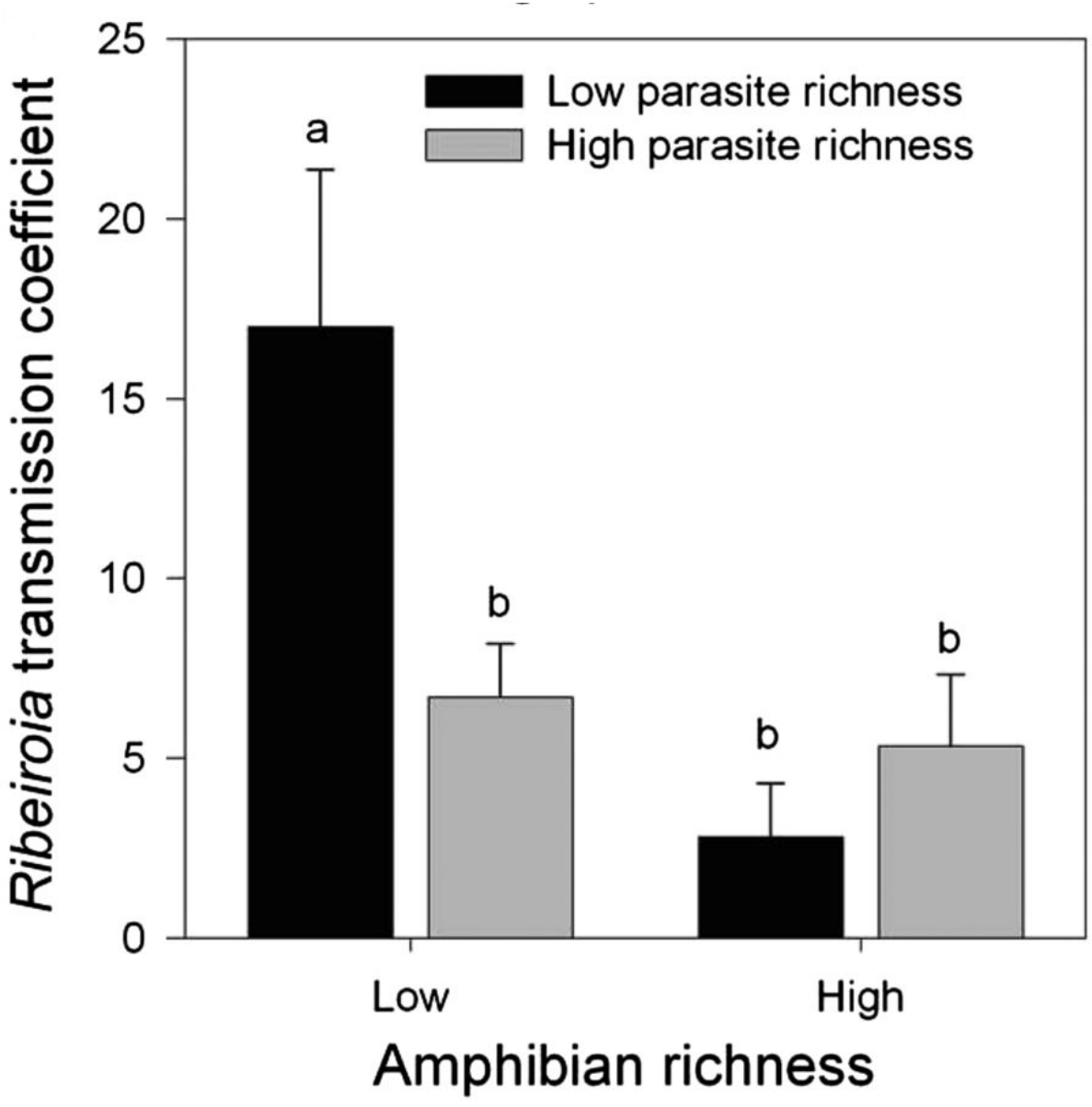
Effect of richness depends on **interaction** between competition and transmission



Strauss et al. 2015

watch for O'Reagan et al. *in press* AmNat

Among parasite competition



Theoretical gaps

Multi-host, multi-parasite systems:

- interaction between host and parasite diversity?
- role of competition?
- evolution and diversity?
- mathematical tractability?

Challenges and opportunities

1. **Linking existing theory and data**

   - Competence, extirpation risk, and life history
   - Modes of transmission
   - Competition

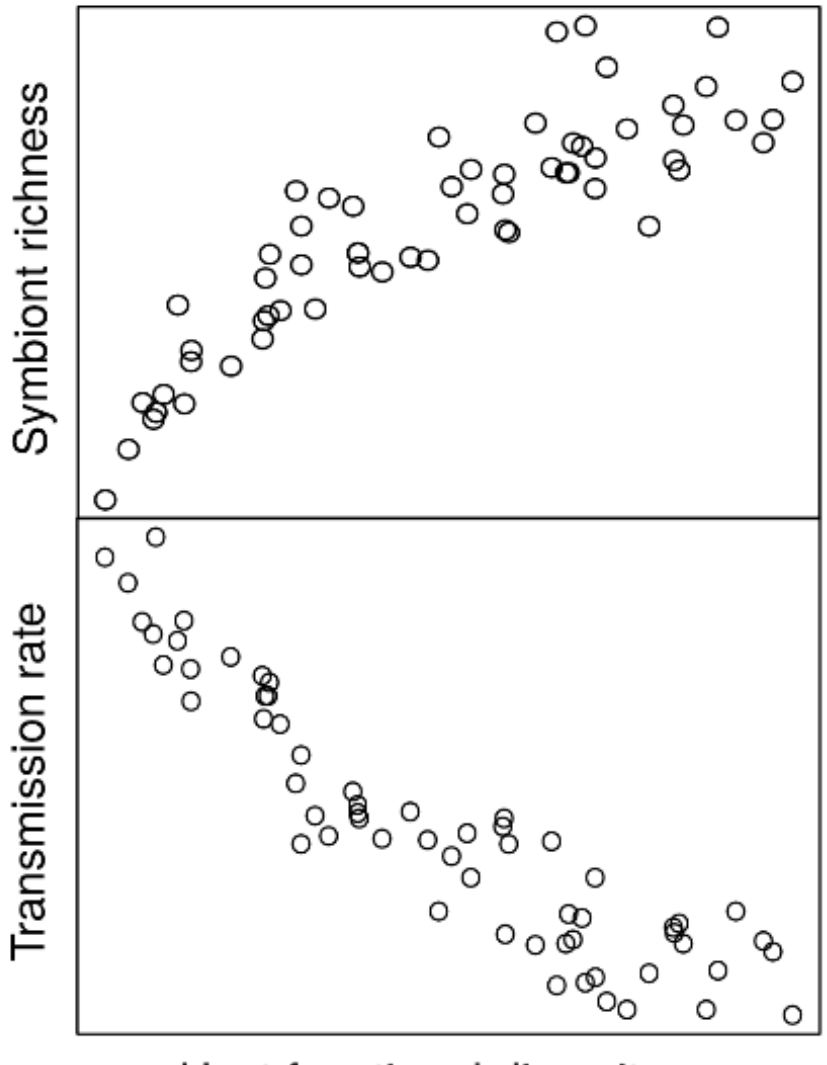
2. **Extending the framework**

   - *Biodiversity and symbionts*

Biodiversity and symbionts

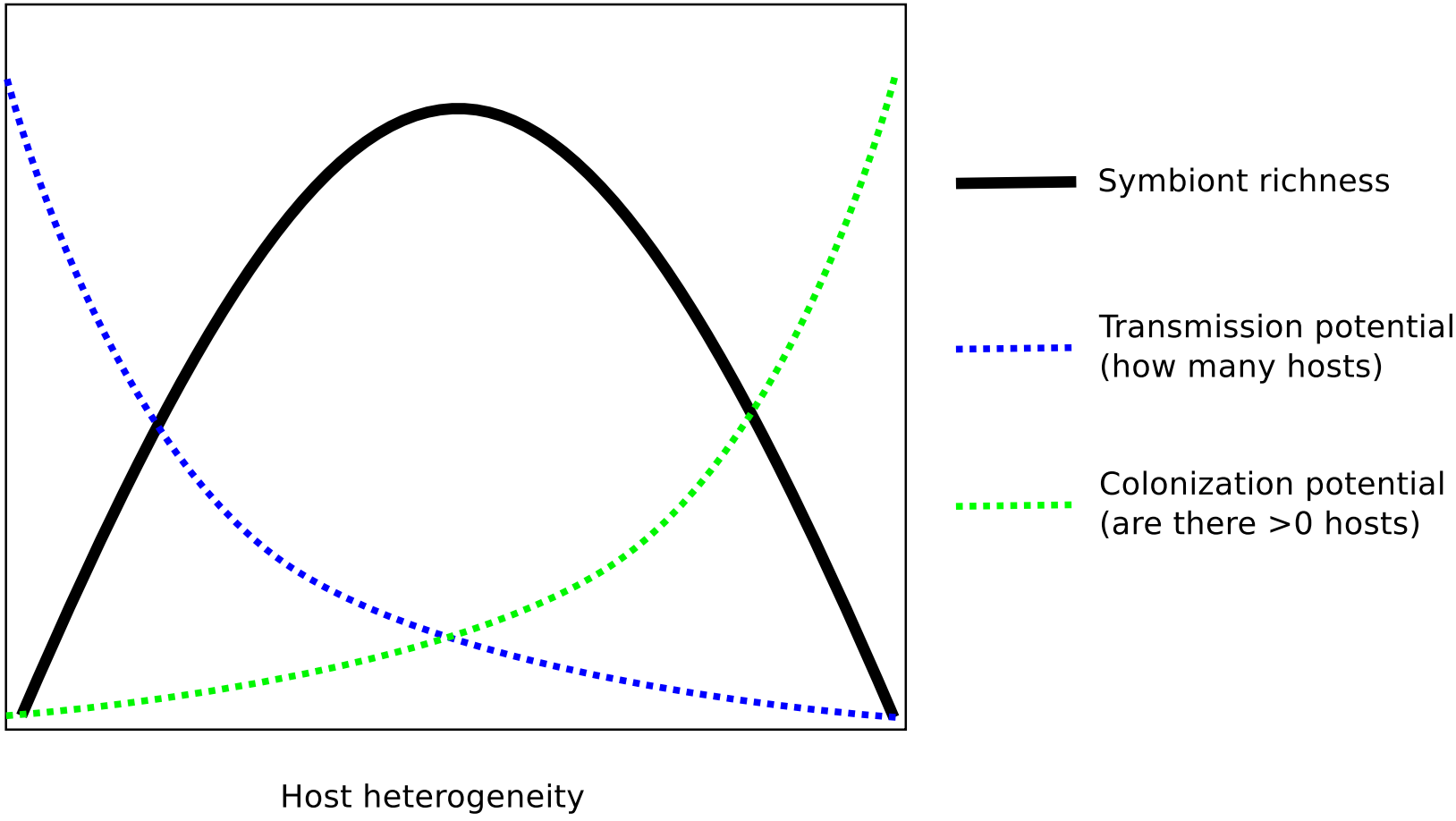
Most processes non-specific to parasites

- how does host diversity affect symbiont diversity?



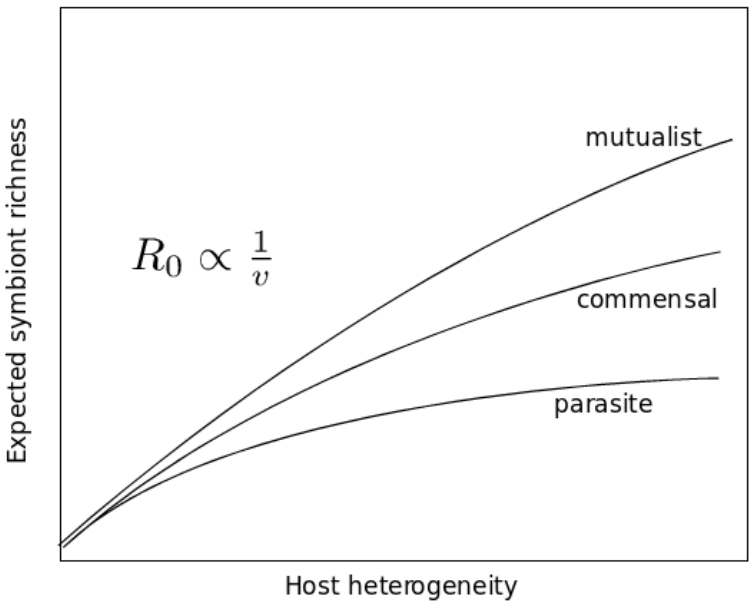
Biodiversity and symbionts

Similar to habitat area-heterogeneity trade-off in free living species

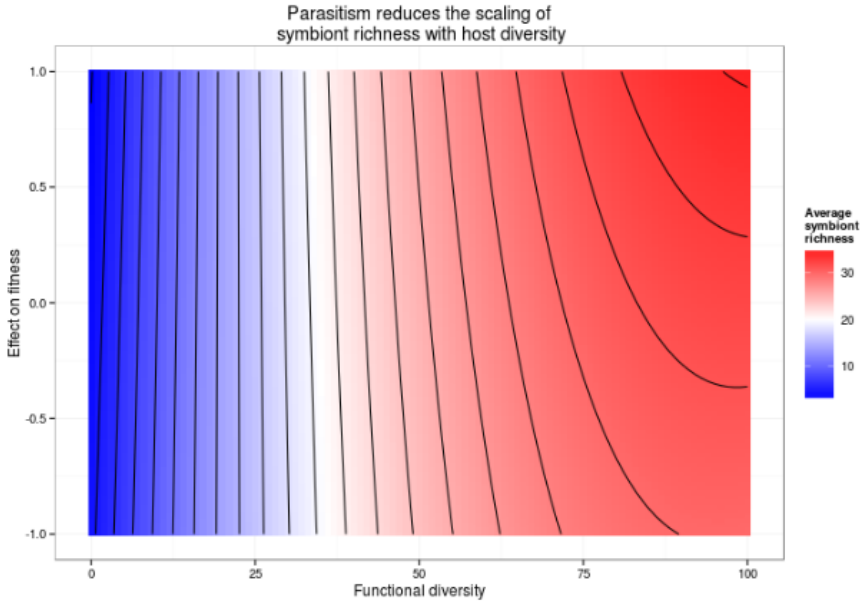


Role of parasitism vs. mutualism

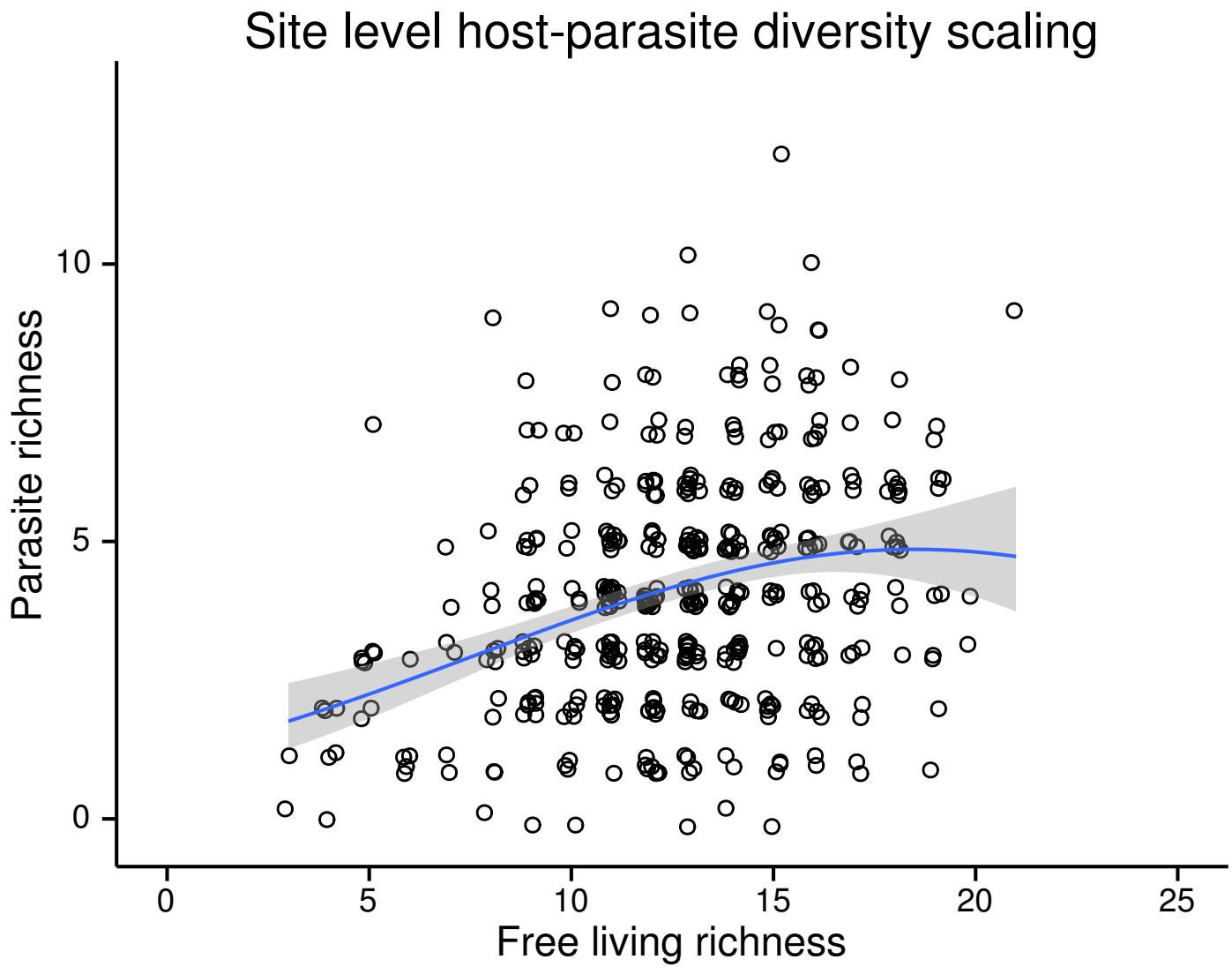
Expectation:



Results:



San Francisco Bay Area amphibian parasites



Why symbionts in general?

- More data
- Many parasites are facultative
- Broader class of species interactions

-/-	-/0	-/+
	0/0	0/+
		+/+

Challenges and opportunities

1. **Linking existing theory and data**

- Competence, extirpation risk, and life history
- Modes of transmission
- Competition

2. **Extending the framework**

- Biodiversity and symbionts
- *Scale transitions*

Local dynamics

Local dynamics $\rightarrow$ regional dynamics

Scale transitions: theoretical results

Local dynamics $\neq$ regional dynamics if

- local dynamics are non-linear
- densities vary spatially
- conditions vary spatially

(Chesson et al. 2005)

Temporal scale discrepancies

Most theory (but see Roche et al. 2012): short term

- instantaneous rates
- R_0
- force of infection

Most data: long-run

- prevalence
- seroprevalence
- density of infected hosts

Challenges and opportunities

1. **Linking existing theory and data**

   - Competence, extirpation risk, and life history
   - Modes of transmission
   - Competition

2. **Extending the framework**

   - Biodiversity and symbionts
   - Scale transitions

Closing thoughts

Acknowledgements