

Anura: Extinction Rates and Sudden Drops

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Abstract

Firstly, this paper aims to analyze extinction rates through powerful programming tools such as matplotlib, ggplots, paleobioDB, and pyrate. Secondly, this paper aims to identify any unusual extinction rates patterns, and provide further suggestions regarding possible identifications and causes of such alterations.

Introduction

The species *Anura* (commonly known as frogs and toads) constitutes the vast majority, about 88%, of living amphibian diversity and is considered to be among the most diverse groups of vertebrates [Zhang_2013]. *Anura* is the clade of living frogs and their close fossil relatives, and the name refers to the lack of a tail. In addition, compared with other amphibians, frogs have a wide distribution and occupy a diversity of habitats such as forests, grasslands, rivers, waterfalls, mudflats, mountaintops, and deserts [Zhang_2013]. Firstly, this paper aims to analyze extinction rates through programming tools such as matplotlib, ggplots, paleobioDB, and pyrate. Secondly, this paper aims to identify any unusual extinction rates patterns, and provide further suggestions for possible identifications to causes of such alterations.

Materials

There are several essential resources this paper utilized in order to obtain the desired data successfully. Firstly, the main occurrences data of the species *Anura* was extracted from the paleobio database at <https://paleobiodb.org>. Secondly, helpful programming tools such as matplotlib, ggplots, paleobioDB, and pyrate were used to summarize the occurrences data extracted from the paleobio database in means of visual plots and graphs. Thirdly, the website of the UCLA Ecology and Evolution 177 class at UCLA at <https://eeb177-w17.github.io/> was used as a foundation guidance for using the above mentioned programming tools efficiently. Finally, several credible published papers were used to gain and enrich this paper with solid background information about the species in general.

Methods

There are seven main sections which were performed in order to explore this dataset further and obtain the desired results and plot. These main sections include: a code to get started, a code to extract all desired data and save it onto a cleaned csv, function to extract extinct

species from dataset, using ggplot in R, using matplotlib in python, using package PaleobioDB in R, and running pyrate.

1) A Code For Getting Genus Row Ready:

After downloading the occurrences of the *Anura* species as a csv, firstly it must be cleaned out on the command terminal and saved onto a new saved csv. Next, a code must be formulated and run in python, in order to further clean out the species row in order to ensure that the occurrences data will be ready for further useage. This is an important starting point which will help import and modify the new csv of the chosen species even further, and ensure unity and the deletion of any altering of original names. An important note regarding the last part of this code is the usage of printing option for the capitalized words in the genus row. This option allows a person to only select the desired main name of an occurrence's genus and leave out any extra unnecessary data given along in the same row. Here is the code which one can easily run on python:

```
```python

import csv
import re

pattern = r'[A-Z][a-z]+' #get capitalized words !
with open("/home/eeb177-student/Desktop/eeb-177/final-project/formatted_frog_data.csv",
 reader = csv.reader(infh)

 for row in reader:
 if row[6] == "species":
 genus = row[5].split(" ")[0]
 ss = (row[5])
 searchObj = re.search(pattern, ss)
 if searchObj:
 print(searchObj.group(0))
 else:
 print("no match")
...
```
```

2) A code To Extract and Save All Desired Data:

After the genus row of the desired data has been further cleaned and the csv is now ready to use as desired, the next code performed can allow a person to obtain certain rows he thinks

he may need to further explore and extract those rows only further. In this case, this second code extracted the main components of the data such as the genus, species, minimum age, and maximum age of each occurrence. Here is the code which must be run in python as well in order to successfully obtain all the needed data:

```
```python

import csv
import re

with open("/home/eeb177-student/Desktop/eeb-177/final-project/formatted-week-9-frog-data") as infh:
 reader = csv.reader(infh)
 for row in reader:
 genus = row[0].split(" ")[0]
 print(genus + "," + row[1] + "," + row[2] + "," + row[3])
 #Note: in this case, 'genus' is row 0, species is row 1, min. age is row 2, and
 ...
```

### 3) Function To Extract Extinct Species From Dataset:

Once the desired data is ready to be used, it was best to begin exploring extinction rates of the *Anura* species. In order to explore this topic further, it is first best to attempt to understand the full picture by mainly analyzing a full list of the extinct species only. This next function can be done on python to obtain and extract a list of all extinct species from the full dataset list with a count as well, in order to have an idea of how large the quantity of the sub-list is:

```
```python
import csv

def extinct_frog(species):
    for row in reader:
        if row[2] > '0':    #Any extinct species only
            print(row[0])

with open("/home/eeb177-student/Desktop/eeb-177/final-project/formatted-week-9-frog-data") as infh:
    reader = csv.reader(infh)
    counter = 0            # setting a count as well to see quantity
    for row in reader:
        print(str(counter) + ") " + row[0] + " " + "is extinct")
        counter += 1
```

...

4) Using ggplots in R:

After obtaining all suitable lists of the above dataset and starting to explore the desired focus (extinction in this species), it was finally time to begin exploring ggplot in R and create an occurrence plot ! The codes provided below help one create a plot on R to obtain information about the first and last appearance for each unique species in the family Anura that is represented in the paleobioDB:

```
names(frogs) <- c("genus", "species", "minage", "maxage")
```

```
head(frogs)
```

```
##           genus    species minage maxage
## 1 Eodiscoglossus oxoniensis  164.7  167.7
## 2 Comobatrachus aenigmatis  145.0  157.3
## 3 Enneabatrachus   hechti   145.0  157.3
## 4   Eobatrachus    agilis   145.0  157.3
## 5  Rhadinosteus    parvus   152.1  157.3
## 6 Cordicephalus   gracilis  113.0  145.0
```

```
frogs_occ <- ggplot(frogs, aes( species, ymin = maxage, ymax=minage, colour = genus))

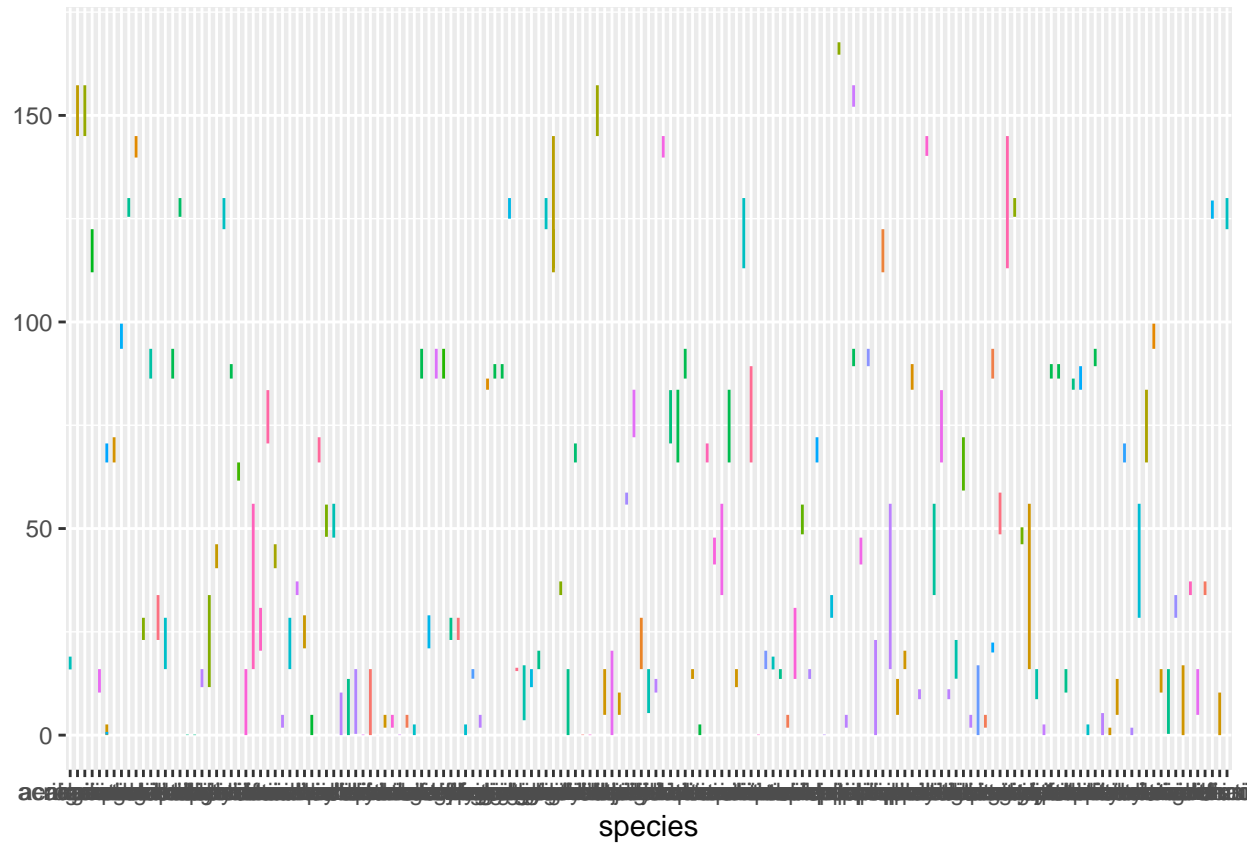
frogs_occ <- frogs_occ + geom_linerange()
frogs_occ
```

Genus	Lineobatrachius	Ninia	Paracacrobatrachius	Chromophryne
Albionbatrachus	Eobatrachus	Iberobatrachus	Paradiscoglossus	Singidella
Anchylorana	Eodiscoglossus	Indobatrachus	Paralatonina	Spea
Aralobatrachus	Eopelobates	Kizylkuma	Pelobates	Sunnybatra
Arariphrynus	Eophractus	Latonia	Pelophylax	Syrrhophus
Australobatrachus	Eorhinophrynus	Lechriodus	Proacris	Tephrodyte
Avitabatrachus	Eorubeta	Leiopelma	Procerobatrachus	Thaumasto
Aygroua	Eoxenopoides	Liaobatrachus	Prodiscoglossus	Theatoni
Bakonybatrachus	Estesiella	Limnodynastes	Prospea	Thoraciliac
Baurubatrachus	Estesina	Litoria	Pseudacris	Tyrrellbatra
Beelzebufo	Eurycephalella	Llankibatrachus	Rana	Uberabatra
Bufo	Gastrophryne	Macropelobates	Ranidella	Vulcanobatr
Calyptocephalella	Geocrinia	Miopelodytes	Rhadinosteus	Wawelia
Chelomophrynus	Gobiates	Montsechobatrachus	Rhinophrynus	Xenopus
Comobatrachus	Gobiatoidea	Neoprocoela	Saevesoederberghia	Zaphrissa
Cordicephalus	Gracilibatrachus	Neusibatrachus	Saltenia	
Cratia	Hatzegobatrachus	Odontophrynus	Scaphiopus	
Cretasalia	Hensonbatrachus	Oumtkoutia	Scotiophryne	
Elkobatrachus	Hungarobatrachus	Pachycentrata	Shelania	

- This can be used to remove the legend:

```
frogs_occ <- frogs_occ + theme(legend.position="none")
```

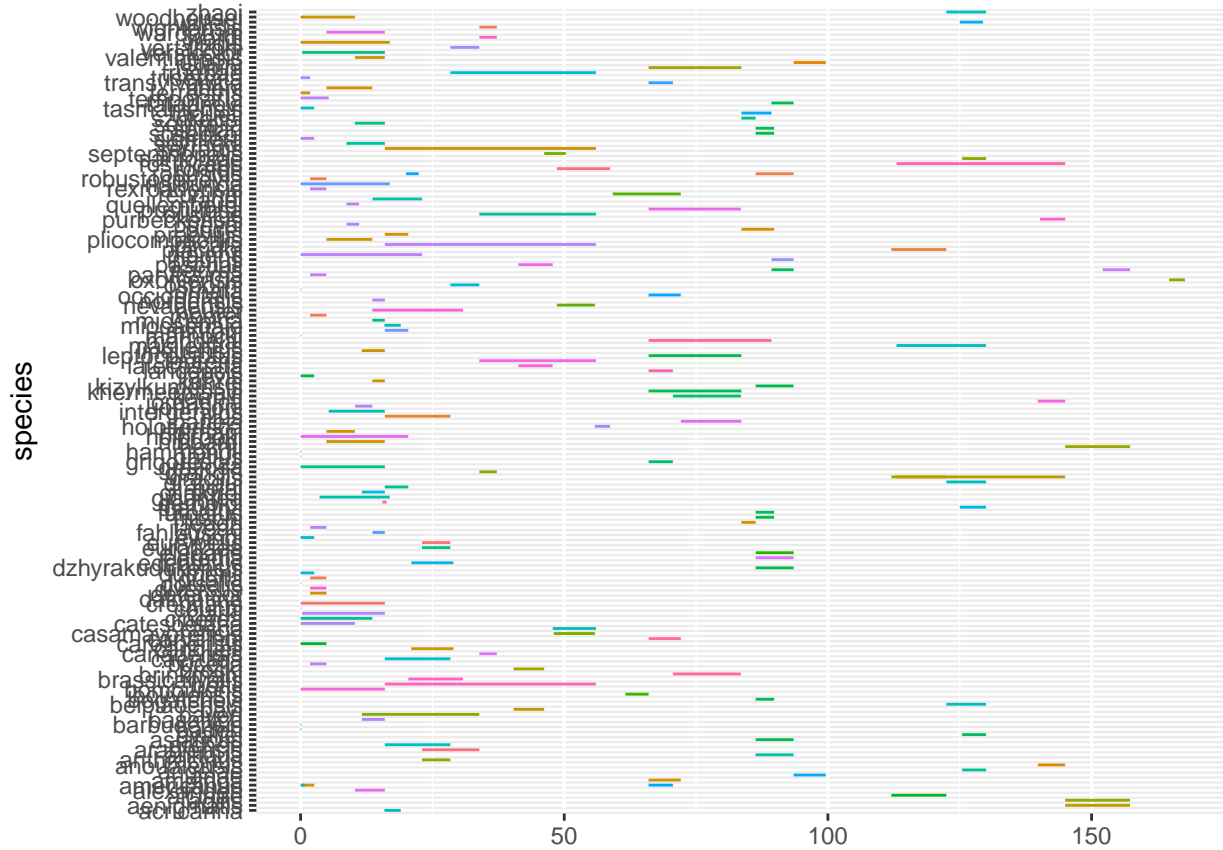
```
frogs_occ
```



- This can be used to flip the axis:

```
frogs_occ <- frogs_occ + coord_flip()
```

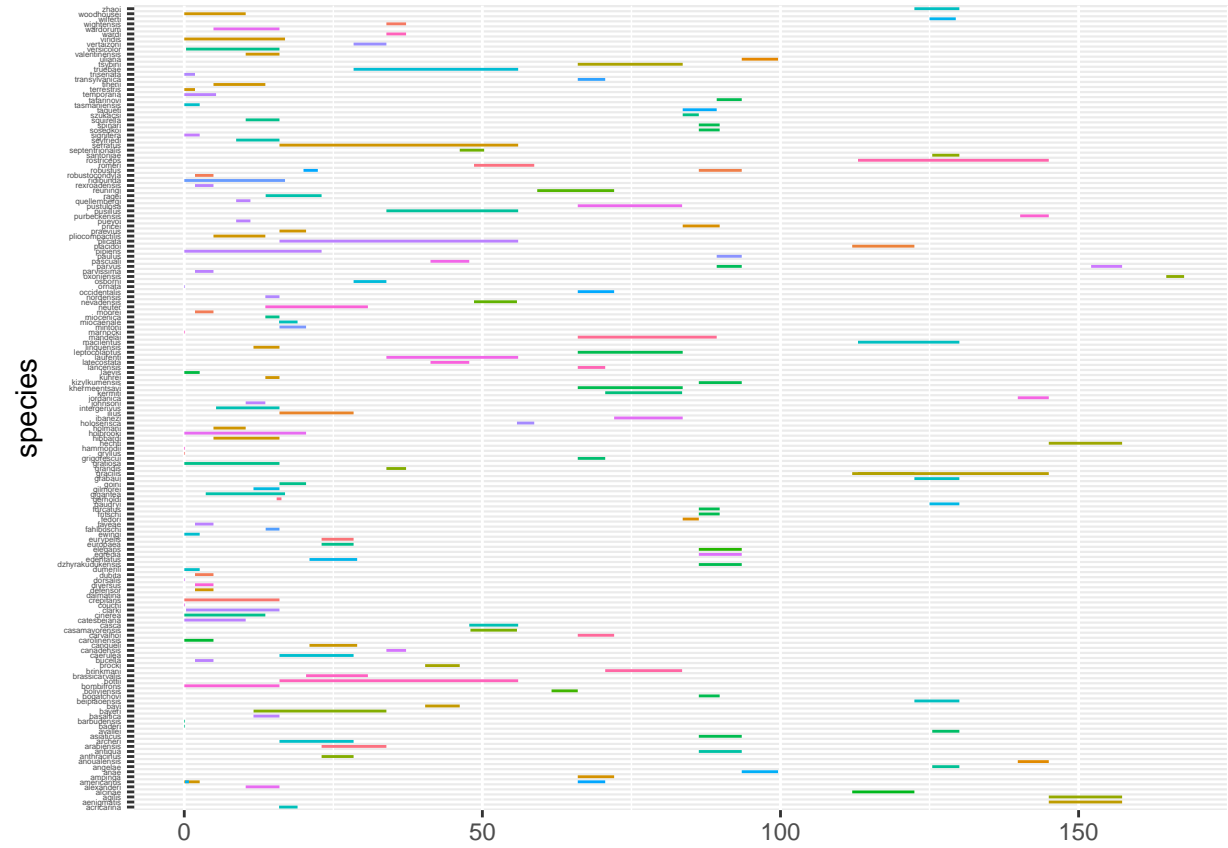
```
frogs_occ
```



- This can be used to make species a bit smaller and more readable:

```
frogs_occ <- frogs_occ + theme(axis.text.y = element_text(size=3))
```

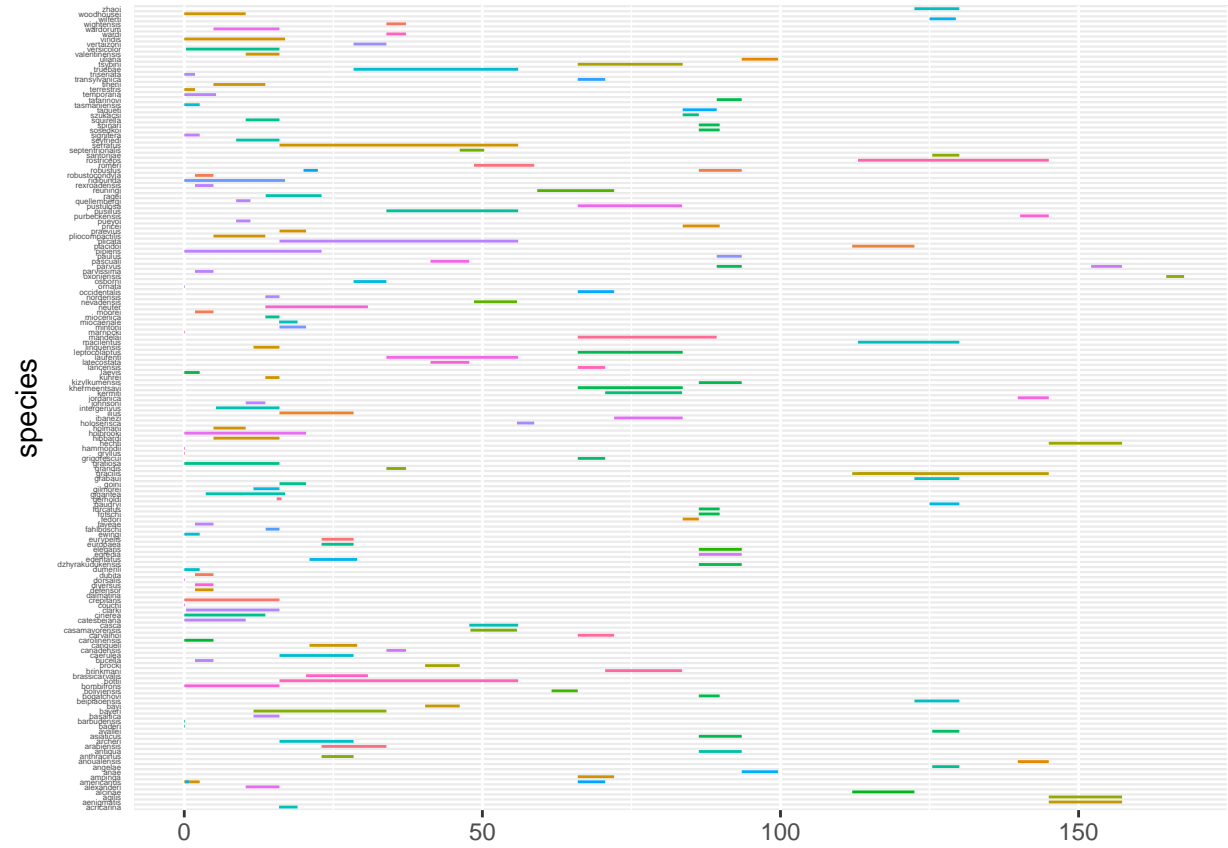
```
frogs_occ
```



- This can be used to get rid of the tick marks on the y-axis:

```
frogs_occ <- frogs_occ + theme(axis.ticks.y=element_blank())
```

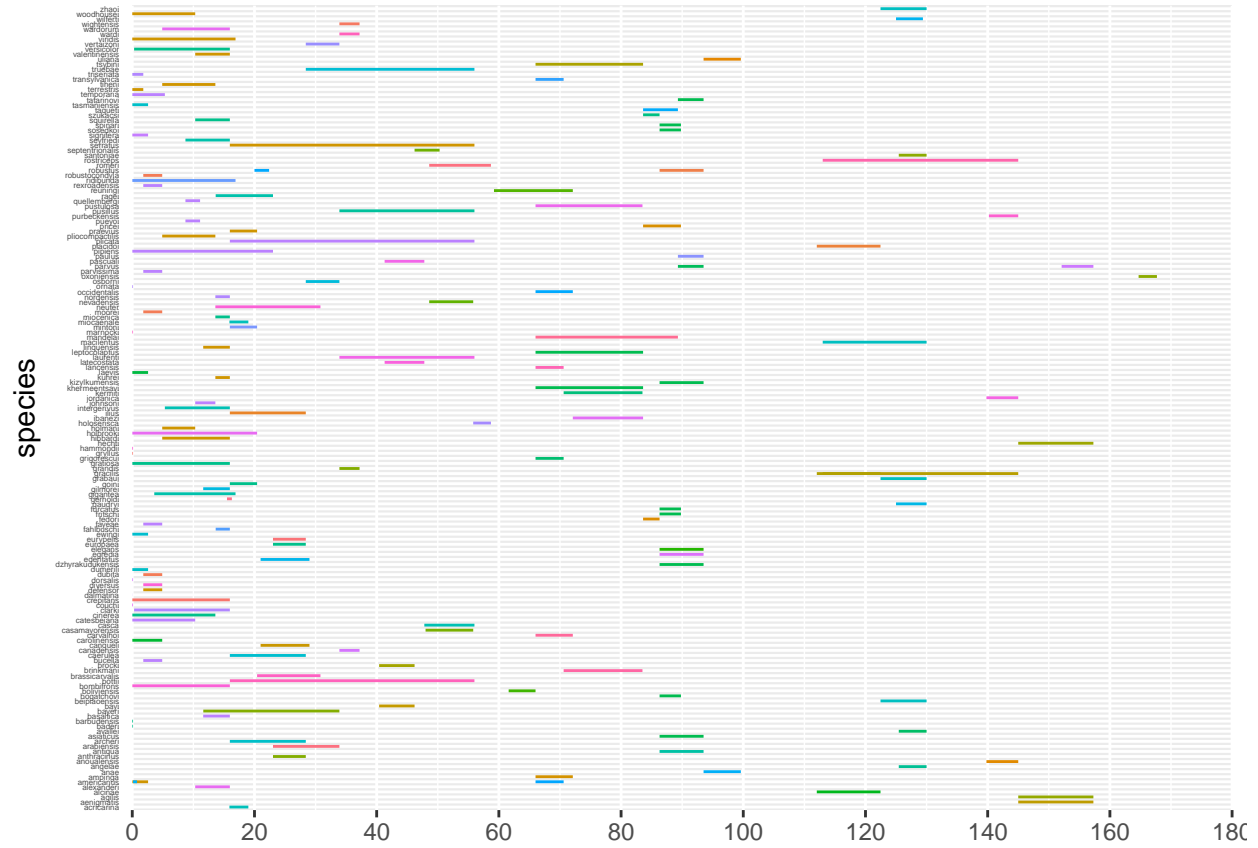
```
frogs_occ
```



- Working a bit with the x-axis:

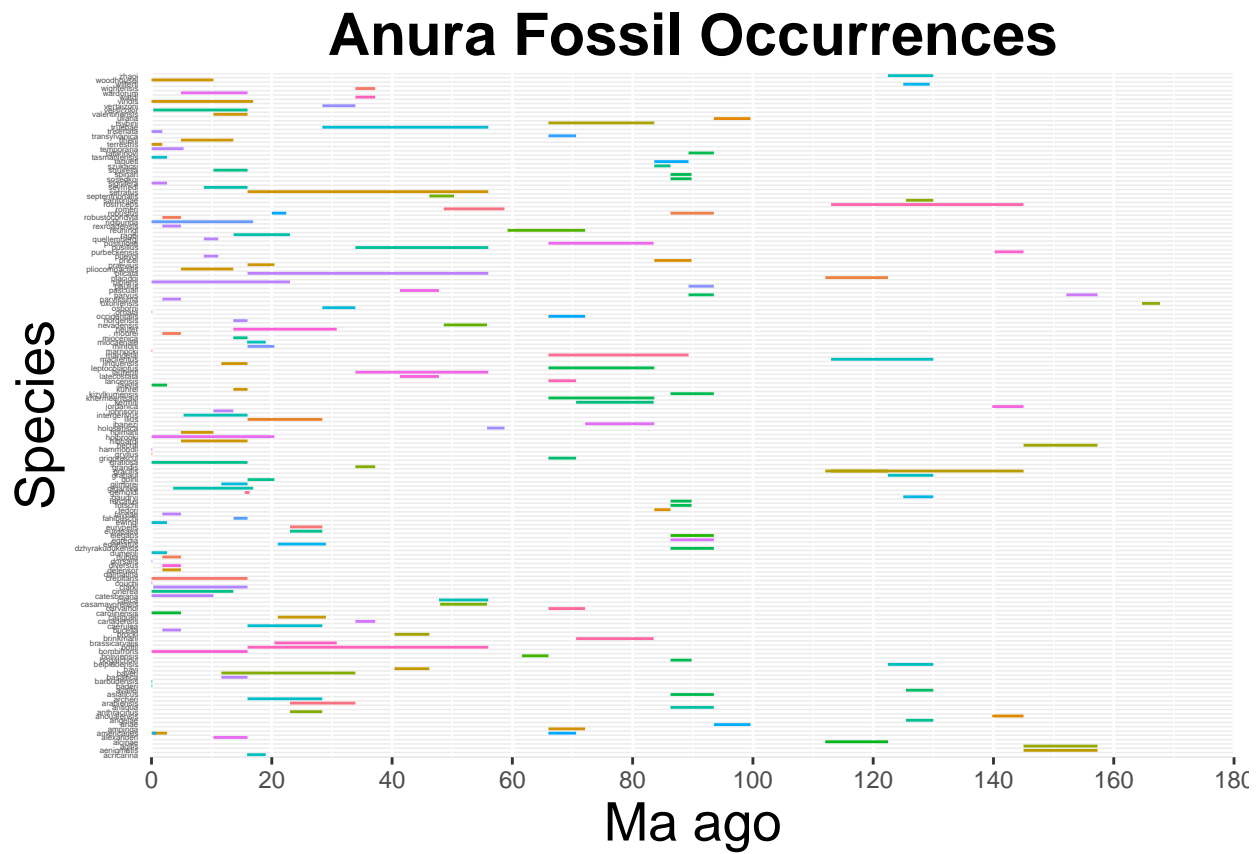
```
frogs_occ <- frogs_occ + scale_y_continuous(limits=c(0, 180), expand = c(0, 0), breaks=c
```

```
frogs_occ
```



- Finally, this was used to add titles:

```
frogs_occ <- frogs_occ + labs(title = "Anura Fossil Occurrences", x = "Species", y = "Ma ago")
frogs_occ
```



5) Using Matplotlib in Python:

Matplotlib is a Python 2-D plotting library which produces publication quality figures in a variety of hardcopy formats and interactive environments across platforms. Matplotlib can be used in Python scripts, the Python and IPython shell, the jupyter notebook, web application servers, and four graphical user interface toolkits. Next, matplotlib can be used in python to create a richness plot in order to see the frequency over time and analyze any species that is **NOT** “0”, or in other words, any species that is currently now extinct. First, a code with a populated dictionary must be made. Next, matplotlib can be utilized by plotting the desired 2-D plot. The codes shown below were inputted into python in order to obtain the plot shown below:

```
```python
in_file = open("/home/eeb177-student/Desktop/eeb-177/final-project/formatted-week-9-frog
in_file.readline()
set up empty dictionaries

species_richness = {}

iterate through every line in the file
for line in in_file:
 #print(line)

 # It's a tab delimited file, so we can split the contents up into
 # the component rows
 items = line.split(",")

 # Save some important pieces of information as variables
 species = items[1]
 min_age = float(items[2])

 # Use the variables to populate our three empty lists
 species_richness[species] = min_age

import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

Most plotting happens on lists, not dictionaries-
so, let's convert our data into a list
min_age = list(species_richness.values())

We're ready to make a histogram!
plt.hist(min_age)
```

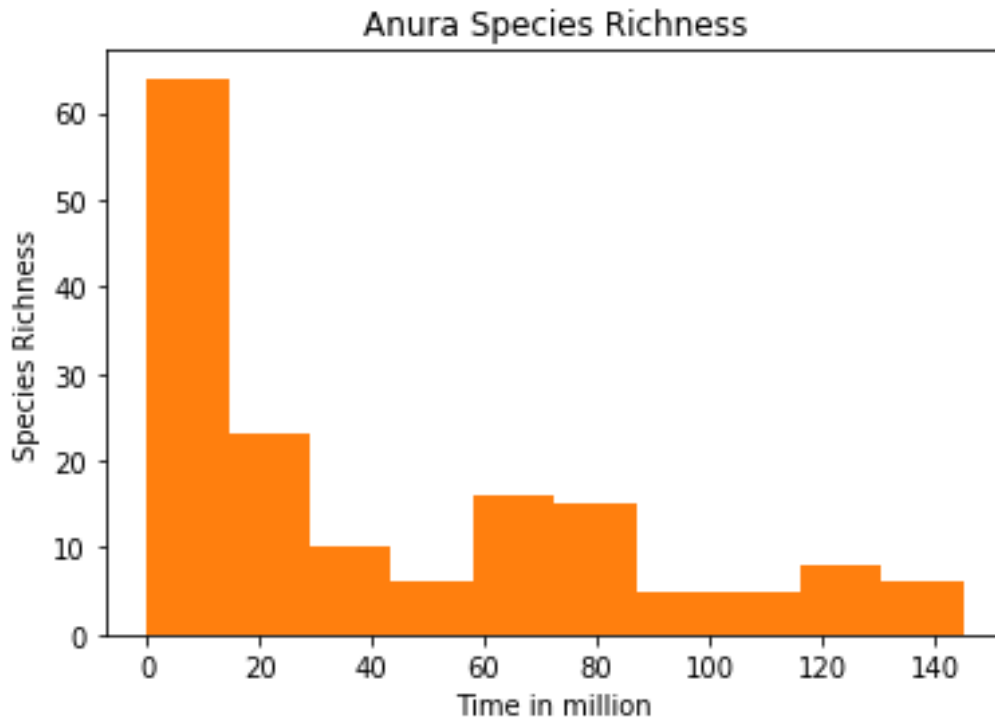


Figure 1: Anura Occurences Data on Matplotlib

```
plt.xlabel('Time in million')
a y-axis label
plt.ylabel('Species Richness')
A main title for the graph
plt.title("Anura Species Richness")
plt.show()
'''
```

## 6) Using Package PaleobioDB in R:

Package PaleobioDB is a package in R which includes 19 functions to wrap each endpoint of the PaleobioDB API, plus 8 functions to visualize and process the fossil data. Using package PaleobioDB in R can help create plots for visualization purposes and a clearer understanding of the data one is working with. These important graphs shown below were obtained successfully with the help of this package:

```
Loading required package: raster
Loading required package: sp
Loading required package: maps
```

- Defining “Anura”= frogs and a list of occurrences and names:

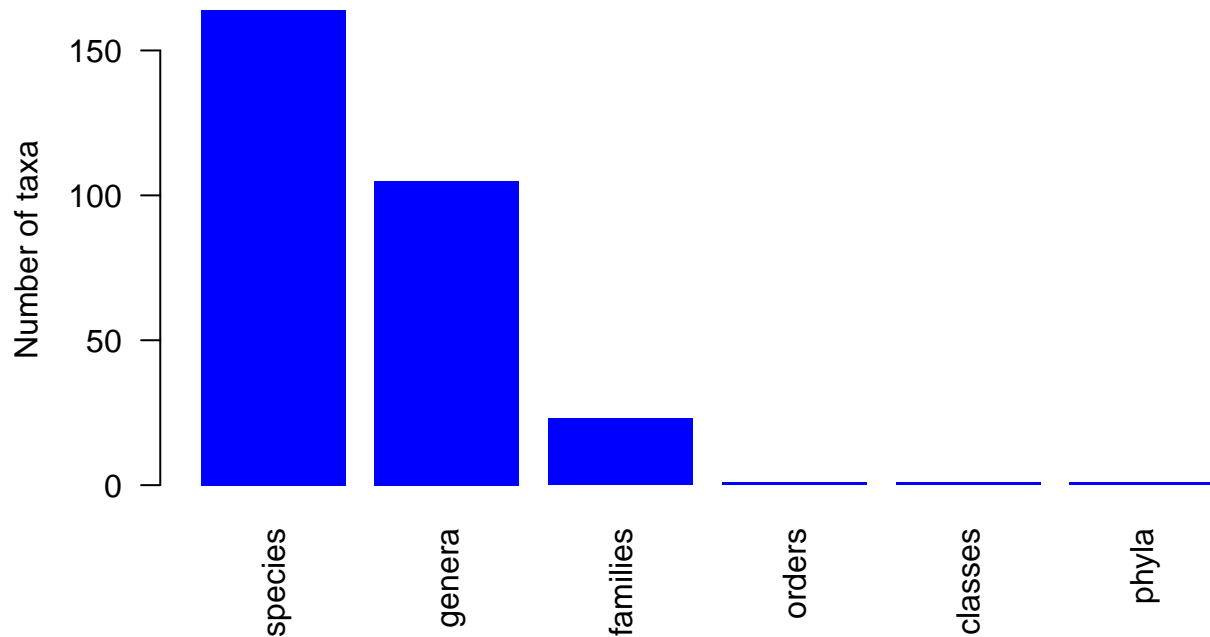
```
frogs <-pbdb_occurrences (limit="all", vocab= "pbdb", base_name="Anura", show=c("coords", "head(frogs)"))
```

```
occurrence_no record_type collection_no
1:1 137378 occurrence 11576
1:2 137379 occurrence 11576
1:3 137433 occurrence 11582
1:4 138862 occurrence 11806
1:5 138866 occurrence 22634
1:6 145954 occurrence 12816
##
taxon_name taxon_rank taxon_no
1:1 Cretasalia n. gen. tsybini n. sp. species 134552
1:2 Gobiates leptocolaptus species 58445
1:3 Gobiates n. gen. khermeentsavi n. sp. species 156388
1:4 Anura indet. order 37422
1:5 Pipidae indet. family 37435
1:6 Enneabatrachus n. gen. hechti n. sp. species 53192
##
matched_name matched_rank matched_no early_interval
1:1 Cretasalia tsybini species 134552 Campanian
1:2 Gobiates leptocolaptus species 58445 Campanian
1:3 Gobiates khermeentsavi species 156388 Campanian
1:4 Anura order 150288 Berriasian
1:5 Pipidae family 37435 Berriasian
1:6 Enneabatrachus hechti species 53192 Kimmeridgian
##
late_interval early_age late_age reference_no lng lat
1:1 Maastrichtian 83.6 66.0 4173;4173 99.60000 43.30000
1:2 Maastrichtian 83.6 66.0 4173;4173 99.60000 43.30000
1:3 Maastrichtian 83.6 66.0 30994;30994 99.60000 43.30000
1:4 Valanginian 145.0 132.9 4203;4203 35.20000 31.00000
1:5 Aptian 145.0 113.0 4203;4203 34.72666 30.53889
1:6 Tithonian 157.3 145.0 4280;4280 -106.00222 41.89305
##
genus genus_no family family_no order order_no
1:1 Cretasalia 86719 Gobiidae 86720 Anura 97112
1:2 Gobiates 37429 Gobiidae 86720 Anura 97112
1:3 Gobiates 37429 Gobiidae 86720 Anura 97112
1:4 <NA> NA <NA> NA Anura 97112
1:5 <NA> NA Pipidae 37435 Anura 97112
1:6 Enneabatrachus 53191 Discoglossidae 37426 Anura 97112
##
class class_no phylum phylum_no genus_name genus_reso
1:1 Amphibia 36319 Chordata 33815 Cretasalia n. gen.
1:2 Amphibia 36319 Chordata 33815 Gobiates <NA>
1:3 Amphibia 36319 Chordata 33815 Gobiates n. gen.
1:4 Amphibia 36319 Chordata 33815 Anura <NA>
1:5 Amphibia 36319 Chordata 33815 Pipidae <NA>
```

```
1:6 Amphibia 36319 Chordata 33815 Enneabatrachus n. gen.
species_name species_reso reid_no subgenus_name subgenus_reso
1:1 tsybini n. sp. NA <NA> <NA>
1:2 leptocolaptus <NA> NA <NA> <NA>
1:3 khermeentsavi n. sp. NA <NA> <NA>
1:4 indet. <NA> NA <NA> <NA>
1:5 indet. <NA> NA <NA> <NA>
1:6 hechti n. sp. NA <NA> <NA>
```

- This provides the number of species my dataset in total:

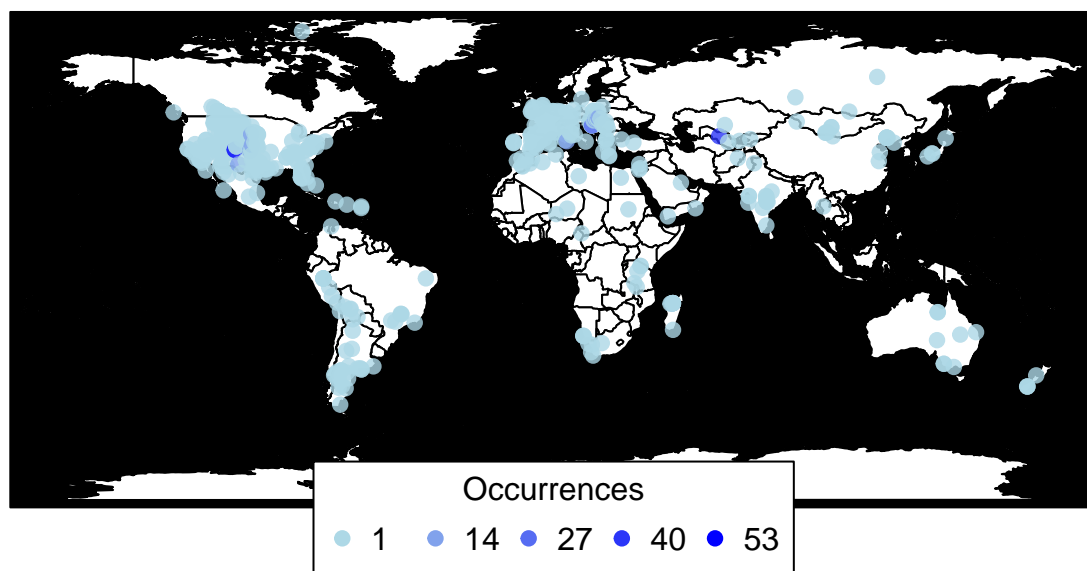
```
pbdb_subtaxa (frogs, do.plot=TRUE)
```



```
species genera families orders classes phyla
1 164 105 23 1 1 1
```

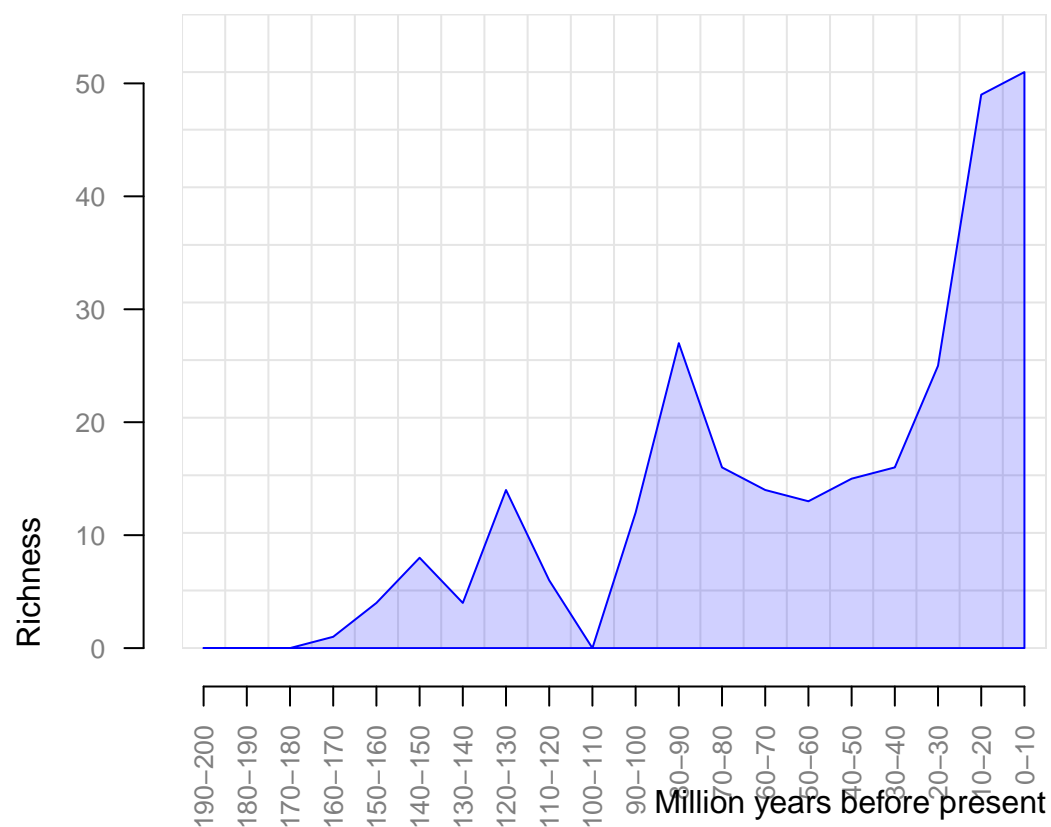
- Here is a map of occurrences which can be useful to identify an unusual extinction patterns by location:

```
pbdb_map(frogs)
```



- For general reference, here is a plot similar to the one created in ggplots for species richness with the number of species across time:

```
pbdb_richness (frogs, rank="species", temporal_extent=c(0,200), res=10)
```



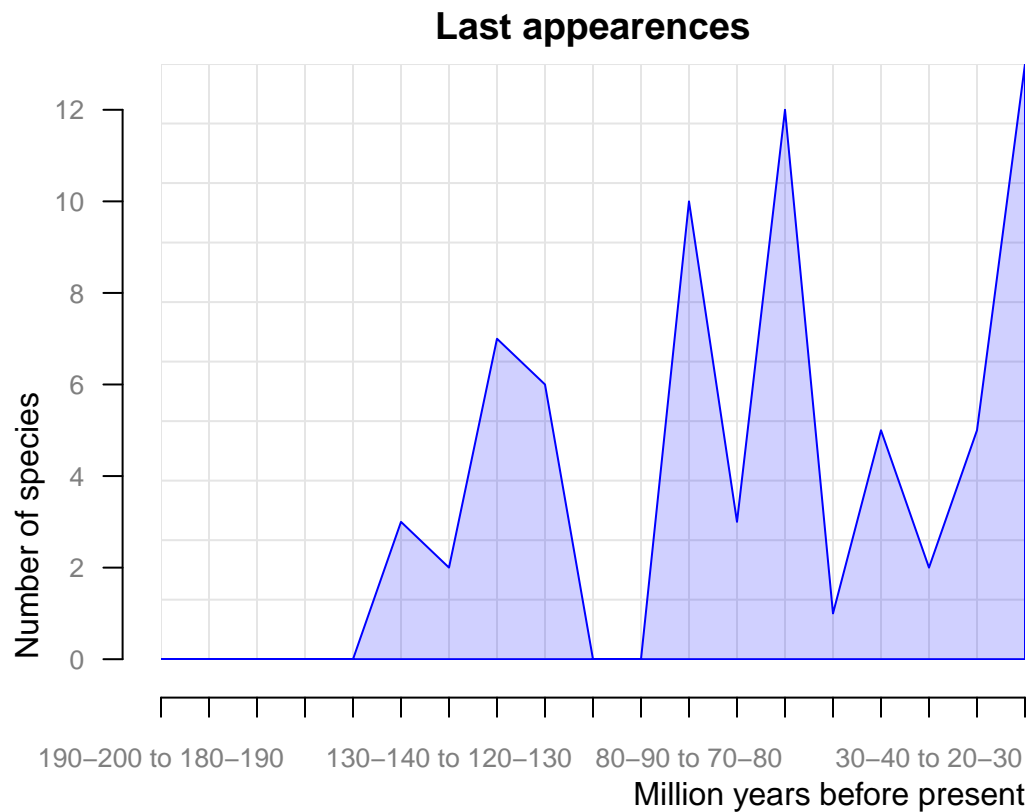
```
temporal_intervals richness
1 0-10 51
2 10-20 49
```



## 3	20-30	25
## 4	30-40	16
## 5	40-50	15
## 6	50-60	13
## 7	60-70	14
## 8	70-80	16
## 9	80-90	27
## 10	90-100	12
## 11	100-110	0
## 12	110-120	6
## 13	120-130	14
## 14	130-140	4
## 15	140-150	8
## 16	150-160	4
## 17	160-170	1
## 18	170-180	0
## 19	180-190	0
## 20	190-200	0

- Finally, here is the desired overall extinction plot with the number of last appearances of species query across the time:

```
extinction rates= orig_ext=2
pddb_orig_ext(frogs, rank="species", orig_ext=2, temporal_extent=c(0,200), res=10)
```



##		new	ext
##	10-20 to 0-10	4	13
##	20-30 to 10-20	20	5
##	30-40 to 20-30	10	2
##	40-50 to 30-40	6	5
##	50-60 to 40-50	0	1
##	60-70 to 50-60	11	12
##	70-80 to 60-70	0	3
##	80-90 to 70-80	8	10
##	90-100 to 80-90	8	0
##	100-110 to 90-100	10	0
##	110-120 to 100-110	0	6
##	120-130 to 110-120	0	7
##	130-140 to 120-130	3	2
##	140-150 to 130-140	8	3
##	150-160 to 140-150	4	0
##	160-170 to 150-160	3	0
##	170-180 to 160-170	0	0
##	180-190 to 170-180	0	0
##	190-200 to 180-190	0	0

## 7) Running Pyrate:

PyRate is a computer program to estimate speciation and extinction rates and their temporal dynamics from fossil occurrence data. The rates are inferred in a Bayesian framework and are comparable to those estimated from phylogenetic trees. Consequently, the final step was to run pyrate to have the ability of creating detailed extinction rates graphs. For the purposes of this paper, the dataset was run for 2,500,000 steps in order to ensure credibility. Here are the graphs obtained after running the program for about four and a half hours:

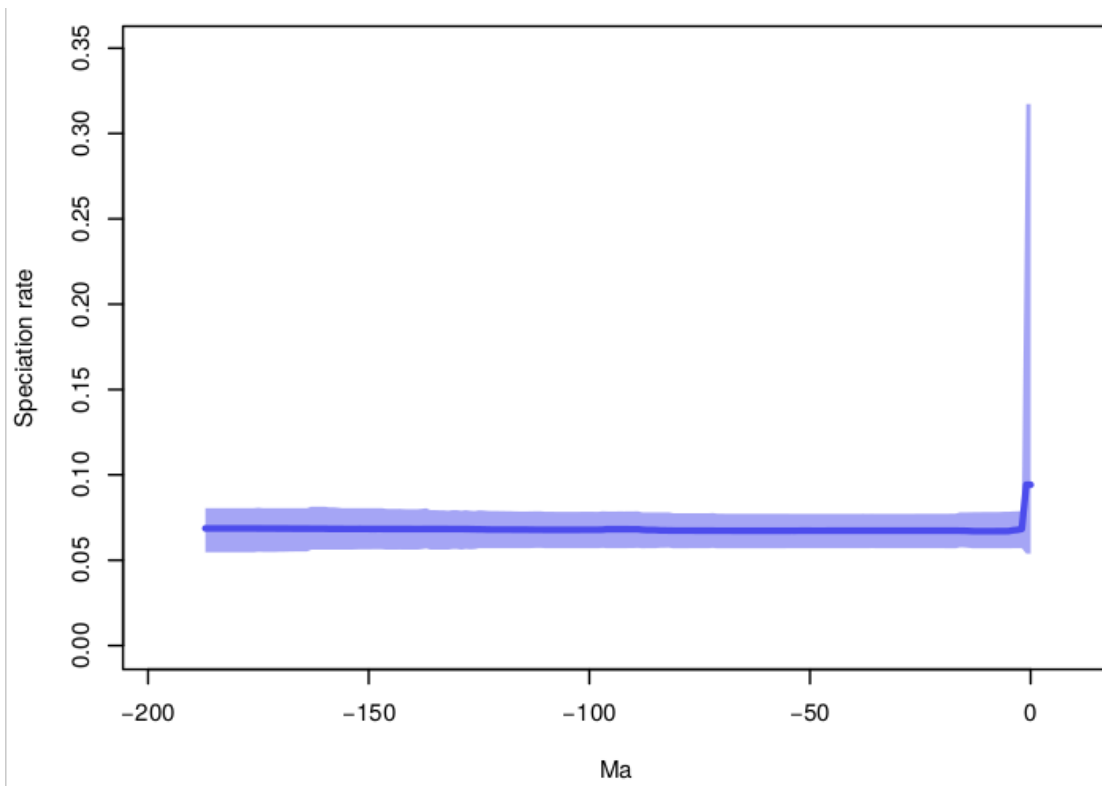


Figure 2: Anura Speciation Rate

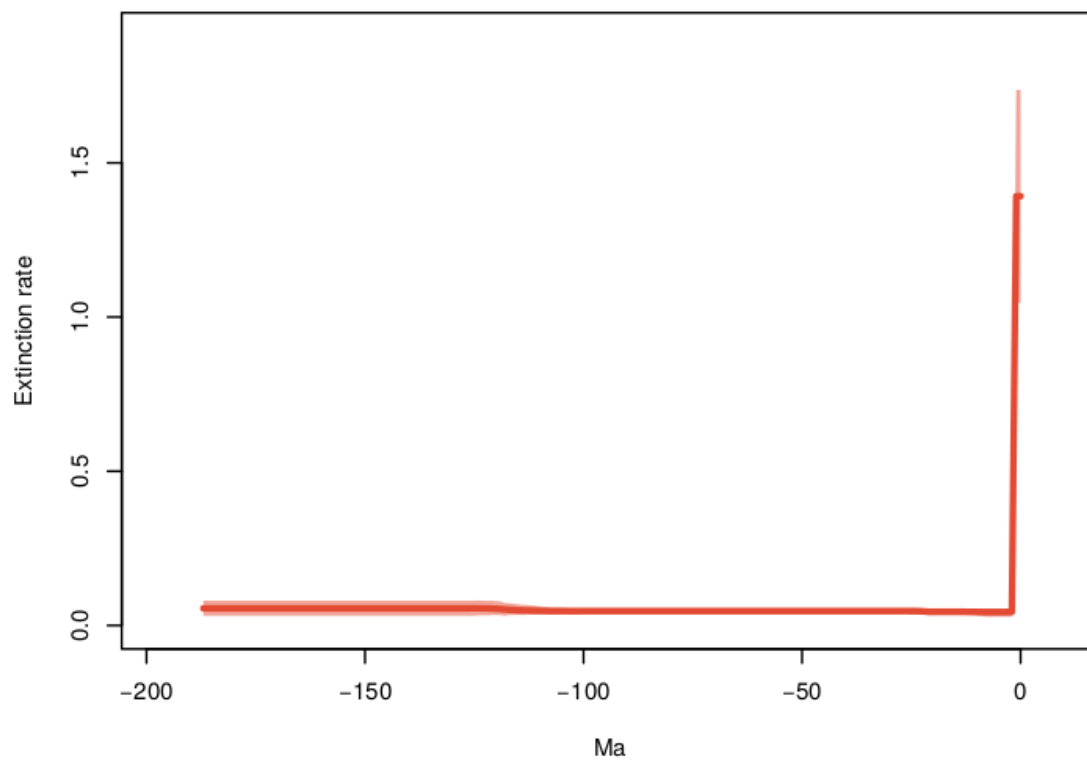


Figure 3: Anura Extinction Rate

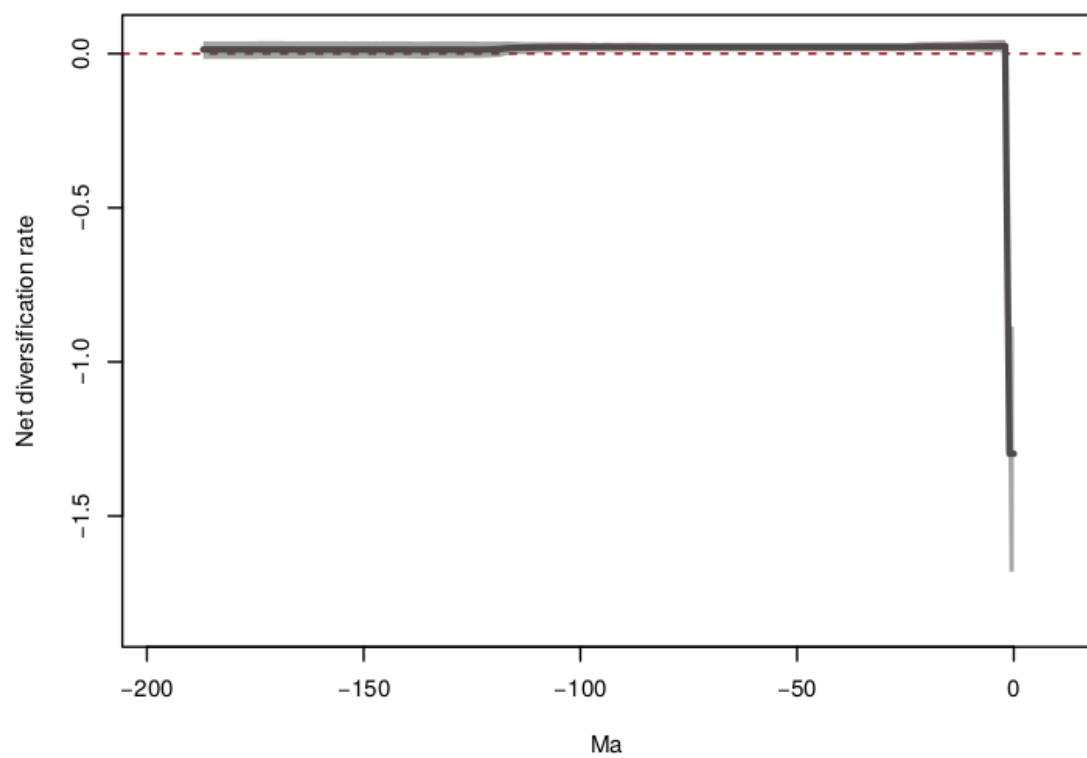


Figure 4: Anura Net Diversification Rate

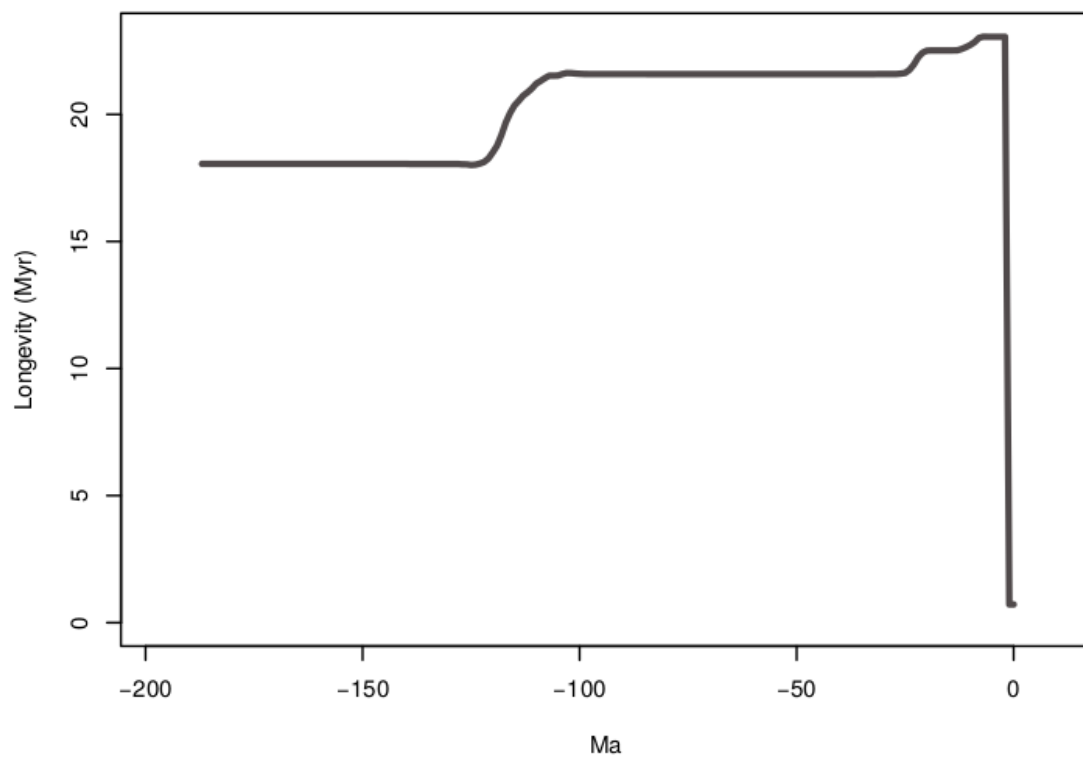


Figure 5: Anura Longevity Graph

## Results

The main focus of this paper was to explore this dataset's extinction patterns and rates. Some of the useful tools which assisted during this process included: a code to get started, a code to extract all desired data and save it onto a cleaned csv, function to extract extinct species from dataset, using ggplot in R, using matplotlib in python, using package PaleobioDB in R, and running pyrate. The results of the ggplot plot revealed an excellent variation of species through history. It also revealed a good amount of extant species currently still on earth today, which came as no surprise since the species *Anura* is very much known for its diversity today. A similar pattern was also shown in the matplotlib plot with a huge spike at 0 or present day. The matplotlib plot also showed smaller spikes in species richness at about 10-20, 60-80, and 120-140 million years. Next, after utilizing the paleobioDB package on R, a very unusual pattern emerged on the extinction rate plot. It revealed a consistent increase in extinction rates throughout the years as one gets closer to present day. Shockingly, there is a clear big gap around 80-90 million years ago, with a non-existent extinction rate. Consequently, this paper will next discuss further probable causes for this unusual pattern. Finally, after running pyrate, four graphs were created successfully: a speciation rate, an extinction rate, a net diversification rate, and a longevity graph. The speciation rate had a stable rate at about 0.065 rate, but a spike until around 0.1 appeared as present day (0) is approached. The extinction rate graph also reveals a stable and low rate until a huge spike of about 1.2 rate of extinction during present day, and a small drop around the same time that the unusual pattern on paleobioDB graph around 80-90 million years ago. The net diversification rate graph shows a stable net rate of almost 0 across time until present day where a big spike of about 1.2 can be seen. Also, the longevity graph from pyrate shows a stable rate of about 17 from 180-120 million, an increase to about 20 rate wise which becomes stabilized until about 20 million years ago. Finally, another increase can be seen which drops drastically until almost 0 by present day.

## Discussion

Since several of the graphs were consistent in showing an unusual pattern of a sudden drop in extinction rates around 80-90 million years ago, this opens a new focus which can be closely examined and explored more in an upcoming paper for future research. Another environmental factor seems to have a strong effect on the extinction rates during this time frame. After researching the topic further, the earliest phase of the Cretaceous generally experienced a warming trend that peaked about 100 million years ago, with a steady decline in mean temperature which ended in a rather abrupt drop in the last few million years [Novacek\_1980, Bossuyt\_2009]. Based on these credible papers, it can be assumed that the much warmer weather helped the species survive a lot better, which in return can be seen in a sudden decrease in extinction rates during this time frame in the graphs obtained. Perhaps, a future paper can explore different environmental conditions during that time period (80-90 million years ago), including the change of weather, to provide a much more evidence based approach to answering this question of sudden changes in extinction rates during that time.

## References

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