

How predictable is extinction?

Forecasting species survival at million-year timescales

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Foundational assertion of conservation paleobiology

By studying the **past**,
we can better predict the **future**.

What are we predicting?

Extinction is **hard** to predict,
but is extremely **important** to conservation
decisions.

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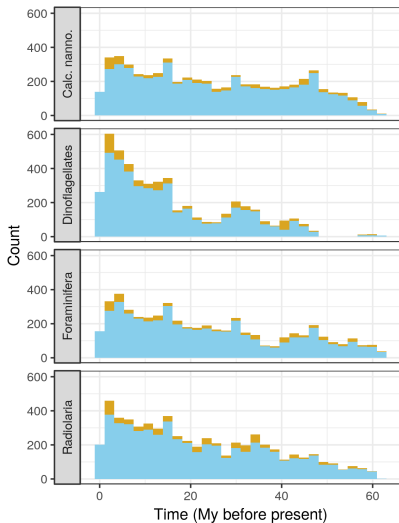
- ▶ A taxon with a **greater than average** global geographic range is likely to survive for longer than a taxon with **less than average** global geographic range.
- ▶ A taxon's global geographic range can change over time.
- ▶ What happens to extinction risk as a taxon changes geographic range? How is extinction risk impacted if that taxon's global geographic range has recently **increased** or **decreased**?

Encoding the past

- ▶ Change in geographic range between current observation and previous observation.
- ▶ Average global temperature at time of previous observation (Mg/Ca isotope).
- ▶ Age in millions of years at time of observation.

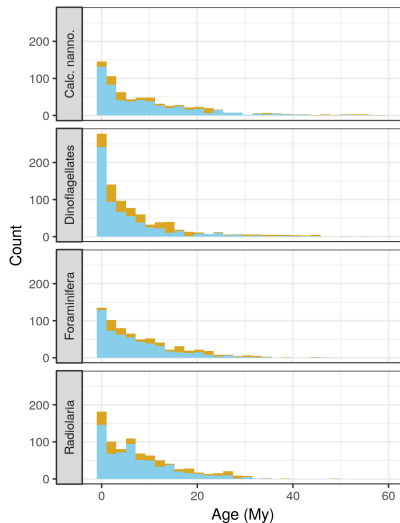
Data being analyzed

Occurrences



Occurrence type Last Standard

Age distribution



State Extant Extinct

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- ▶ Explore model adequacy using posterior predictive distribution.
- ▶ Estimate out-of-sample predictive performance using k -fold cross-validation.

A conceptual model for predicting extinction

A statistical model for predicting extinction

Comparing our models

Model	LOOIC	SE LOOIC	WAIC	SE WAIC
Past and vary	12790.39	178.83	12786.06	178.77
No past but vary	12818.43	178.76	12815.40	178.71
Past but no vary	12850.45	179.42	12848.12	179.38
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Cross-validation results

Tracking extinction risk over time

Overall covariate effects

Covariate effects over time

Effects of age on extinction risk

Summary

Conclusions

Acknowledgements