

How to add a tree prior to BEAST2?

This tutorial follows the same wording and structure as [BEAST2: how to write a BEAST2 package](#), but for a tree prior instead.

Empty Package Explorer

When starting Eclipse in a new workspace, the Package Explorer is still empty. In this example, my workspace is `~/GitHubs/Java`.

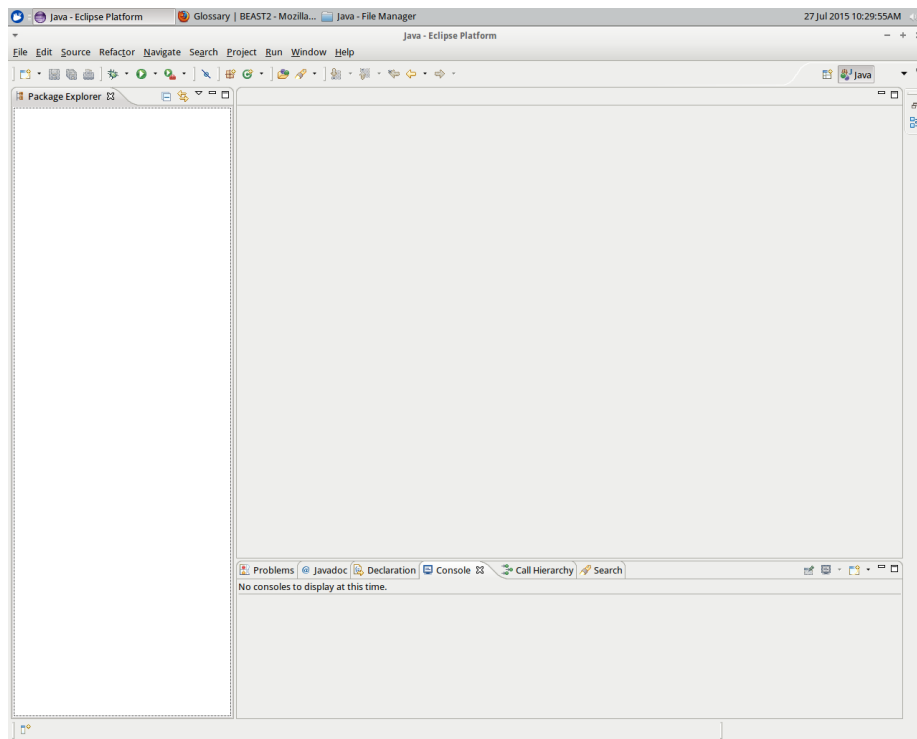


Figure 1: Eclipse with an empty package explorer

Adding BEAST2 to the Package Explorer

To add BEAST2 to the Package Explorer, it must first be downloaded, then put into a Java project.

Download BEAST2

In this example, I download BEAST2 from the SVN repository from within the '~/GitHubs/Java' folder:

```
cd ~/GitHubs/Java svn checkout http://beast2.googlecode.com/svn/trunk/
beast2 This will create a folder called beast2.
```

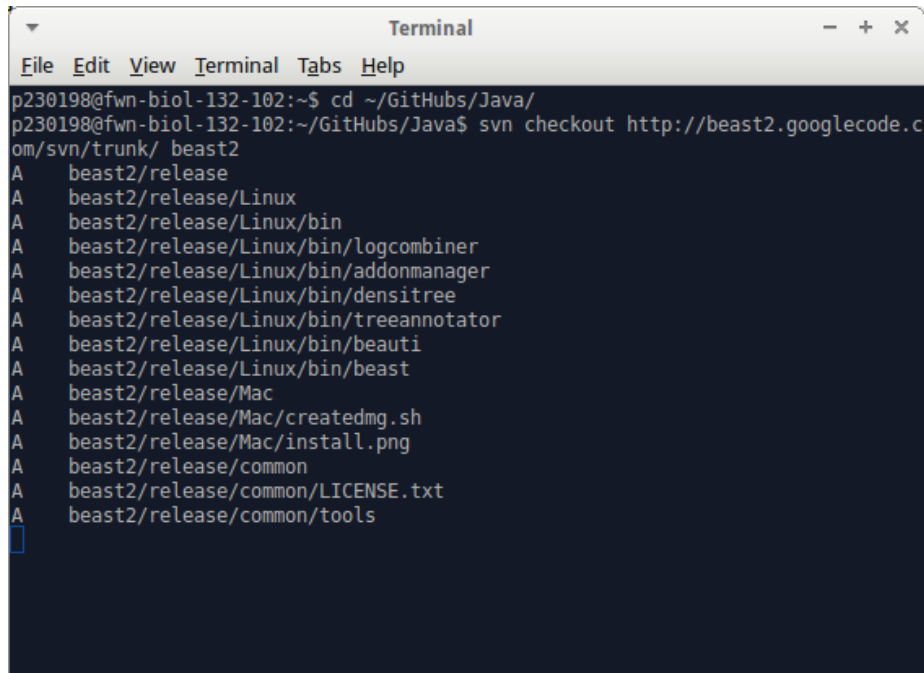
A screenshot of a terminal window titled "Terminal". The window has a menu bar with "File", "Edit", "View", "Terminal", "Tabs", and "Help". The terminal output shows a user at a prompt "p230198@fwn-biol-132-102:~\$" running the command "cd ~/GitHubs/Java/". The next prompt is "p230198@fwn-biol-132-102:~/GitHubs/Java\$" and the command "svn checkout http://beast2.googlecode.com/svn/trunk/ beast2" is entered. The output of the command is a list of files and directories being checked out, each preceded by an "A" (Added) status: "beast2/release", "beast2/release/Linux", "beast2/release/Linux/bin", "beast2/release/Linux/bin/logcombiner", "beast2/release/Linux/bin/addonmanager", "beast2/release/Linux/bin/densitree", "beast2/release/Linux/bin/treeannotator", "beast2/release/Linux/bin/beauti", "beast2/release/Linux/bin/beast", "beast2/release/Mac", "beast2/release/Mac/createdmg.sh", "beast2/release/Mac/install.png", "beast2/release/common", "beast2/release/common/LICENSE.txt", and "beast2/release/common/tools". The cursor is on the line following the last file.

Figure 2: Start downloading BEAST2

Put BEAST2 into a Java project

First, we will add **beast2** to the Package Explorer.

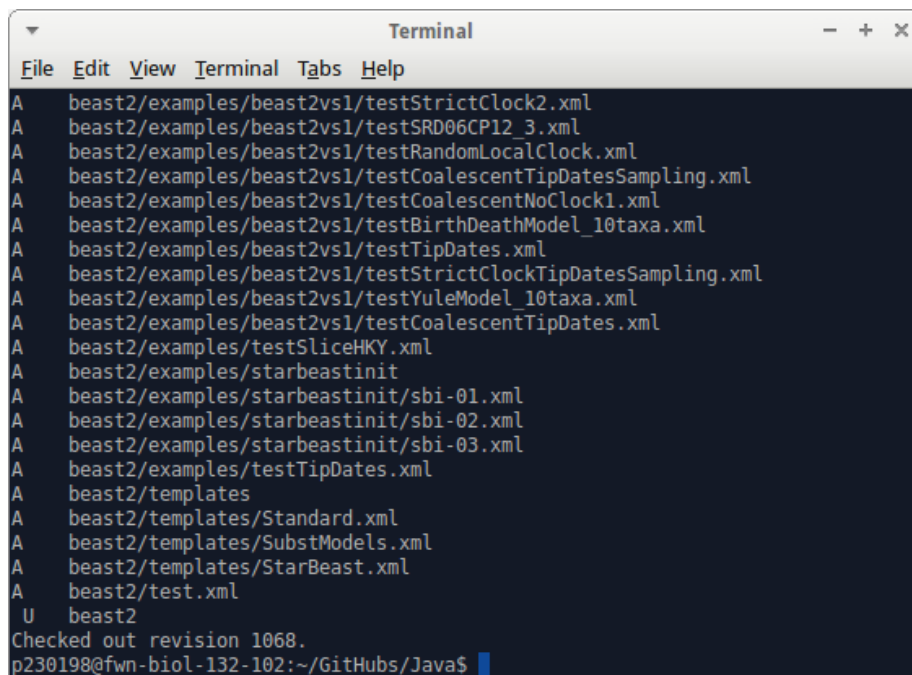
Select **File** | **New** | **Java Project**:

This is how the 'Create a Java Project dialog' looks like:

Just type in the word **beast**. It will detect there is a folder called **beast2** and the dialog will change:

Just press **Finish**.

Now, the Eclipse Package Explorer shows the project **beast2**. Well done!



```
Terminal
File Edit View Terminal Tabs Help
A beast2/examples/beast2vs1/testStrictClock2.xml
A beast2/examples/beast2vs1/testSRD06CP12_3.xml
A beast2/examples/beast2vs1/testRandomLocalClock.xml
A beast2/examples/beast2vs1/testCoalescentTipDatesSampling.xml
A beast2/examples/beast2vs1/testCoalescentNoClock1.xml
A beast2/examples/beast2vs1/testBirthDeathModel_10taxa.xml
A beast2/examples/beast2vs1/testTipDates.xml
A beast2/examples/beast2vs1/testStrictClockTipDatesSampling.xml
A beast2/examples/beast2vs1/testYuleModel_10taxa.xml
A beast2/examples/beast2vs1/testCoalescentTipDates.xml
A beast2/examples/testSliceHKY.xml
A beast2/examples/starbeastinit
A beast2/examples/starbeastinit/sbi-01.xml
A beast2/examples/starbeastinit/sbi-02.xml
A beast2/examples/starbeastinit/sbi-03.xml
A beast2/examples/testTipDates.xml
A beast2/templates
A beast2/templates/Standard.xml
A beast2/templates/SubstModels.xml
A beast2/templates/StarBeast.xml
A beast2/test.xml
U beast2
Checked out revision 1068.
p230198@fwn-biol-132-102:~/GitHubs/Java$
```

Figure 3: End of downloading BEAST2

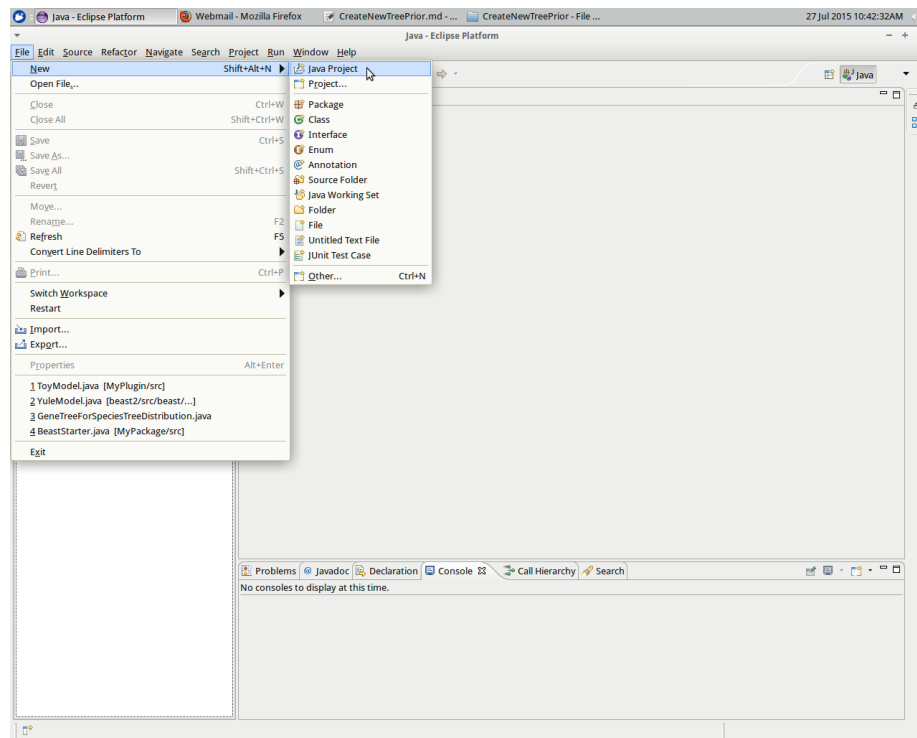


Figure 4: Start a new Java Project

New Java Project

Create a Java Project

Enter a project name.

Project name:

☒ Use default location

Location: [Browse...](#)

JRE

☒ Use an execution environment JRE:

☐ Use a project specific JRE:

☐ Use default JRE (currently 'java-8-oracle') [Configure JREs...](#)

Project layout

☐ Use project folder as root for sources and class files

☒ Create separate folders for sources and class files [Configure default...](#)

Working sets

☐ Add project to working sets

Working sets: [Select...](#)

[?](#) [< Back](#) [Next >](#) [Cancel](#) [Finish](#)

Figure 5: Create a Java Project

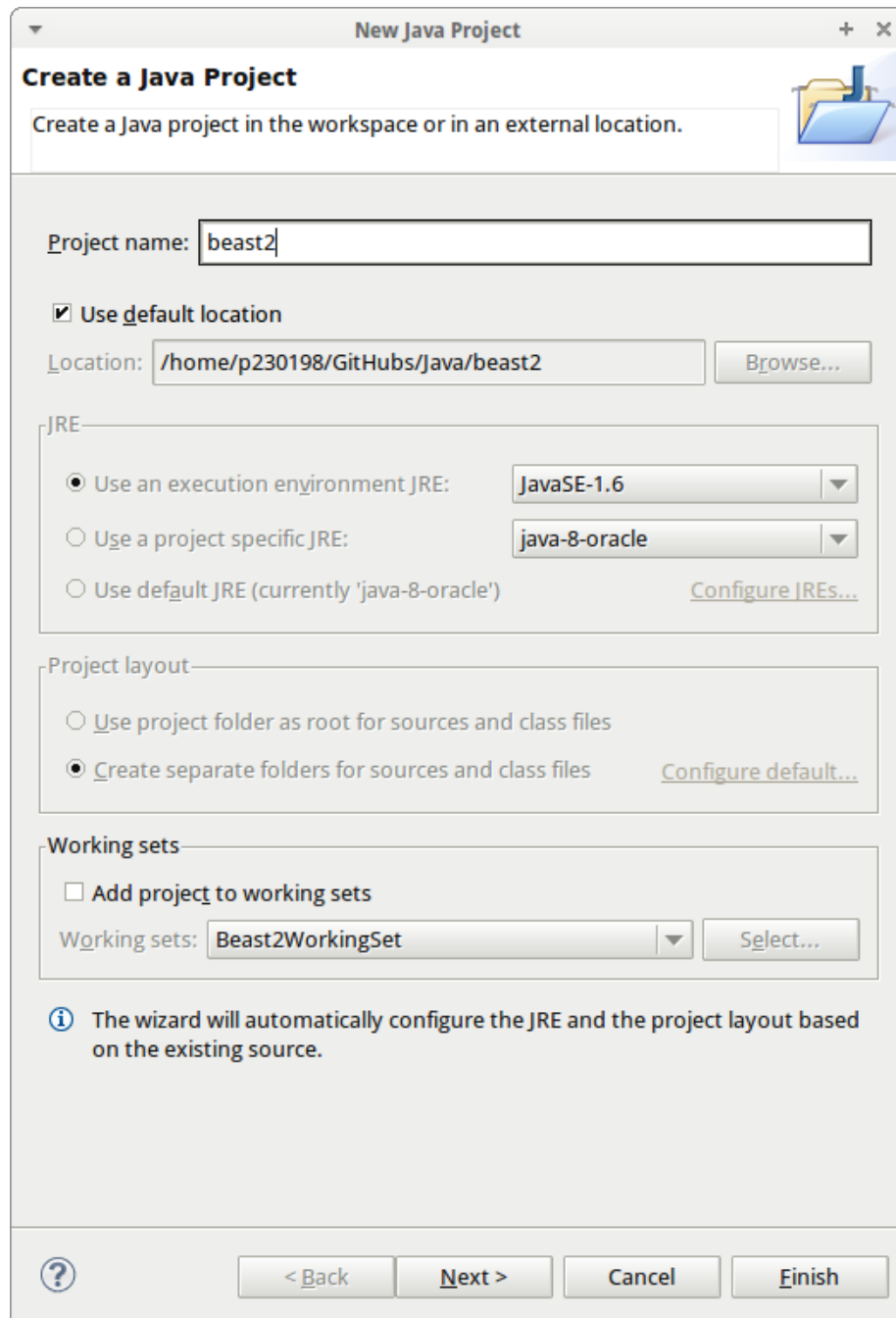


Figure 6: Create a BEAST2 Java Project

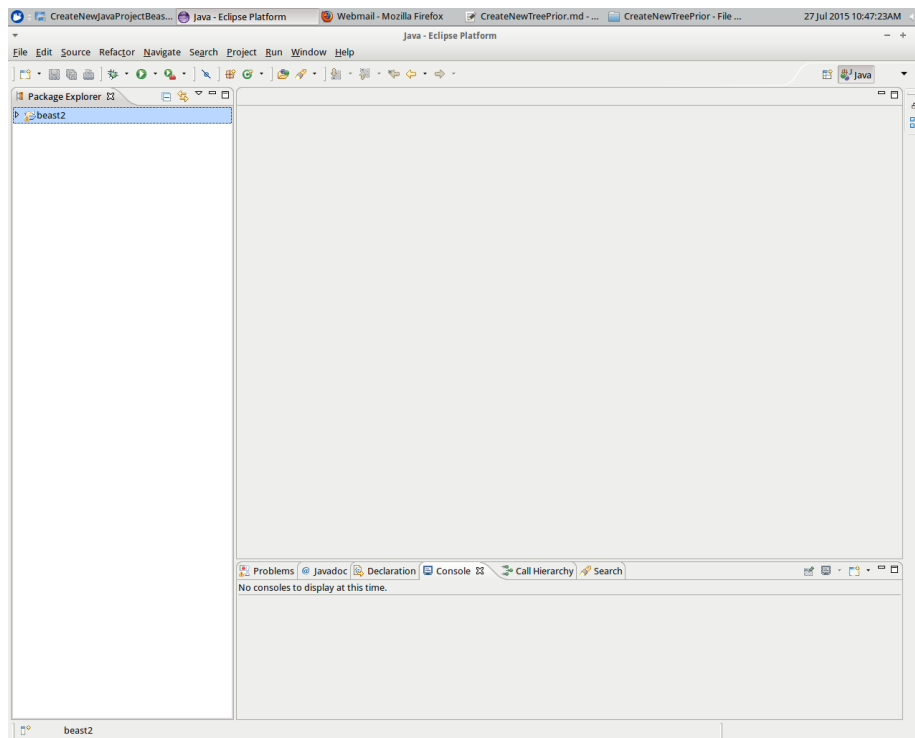


Figure 7: Eclipse with BEAST2 in the package explorer

Creating your own project

Now you need to create an Eclipse project for your package and make it depend on the **beast2** project.

Select **File | New | Java Project**:

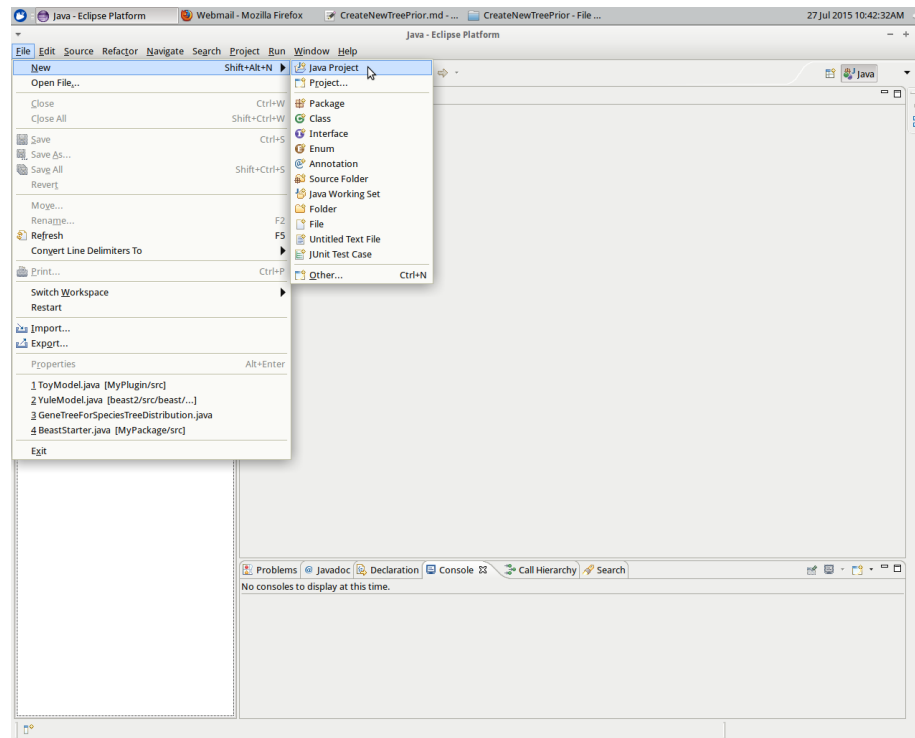


Figure 8: Start a new Java Project

In **Project name**, type in the name, for example **MyProject**. For the JRE, be sure **JavaSE-1.6** or something higher is checked. Click **Finish**.

Now you should see two projects in the Package Explorer pane: **beast2** and **MyProject**.

Add BEAST2 to your own project

Right-click **MyProject** and choose **Properties** from the pop-up menu that appears

Go to **Java build path | Projects** and click **Add**.

Add **beast2** to your project build path:

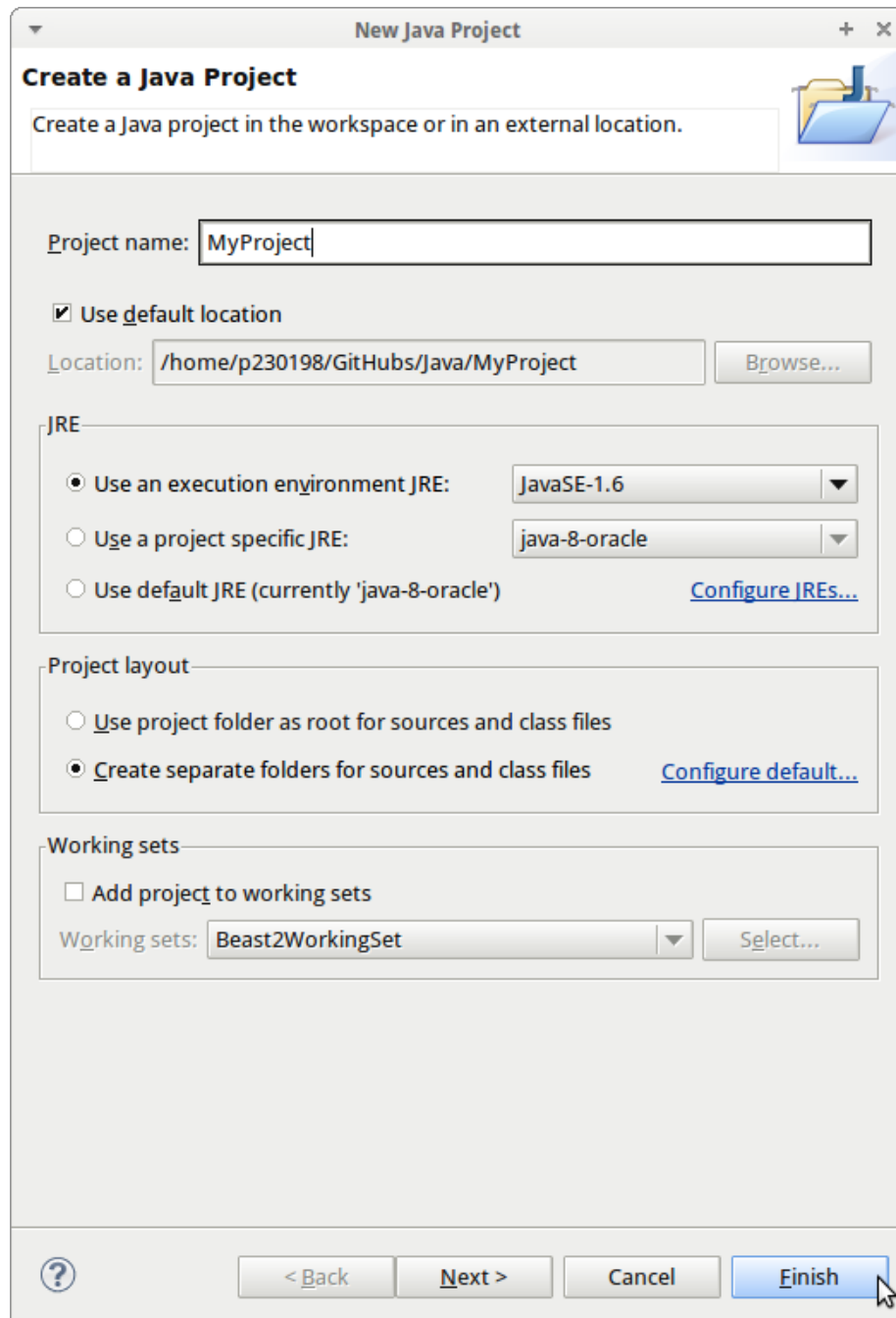


Figure 9: Create a Java project: MyProject

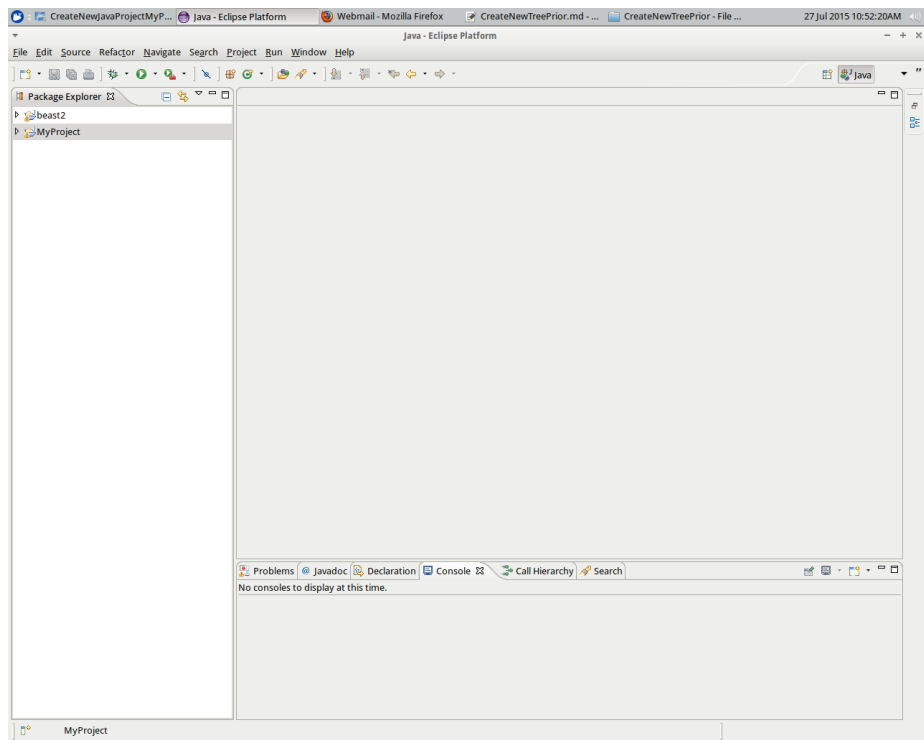


Figure 10: Package Explorer with BEAST2 and MyProject

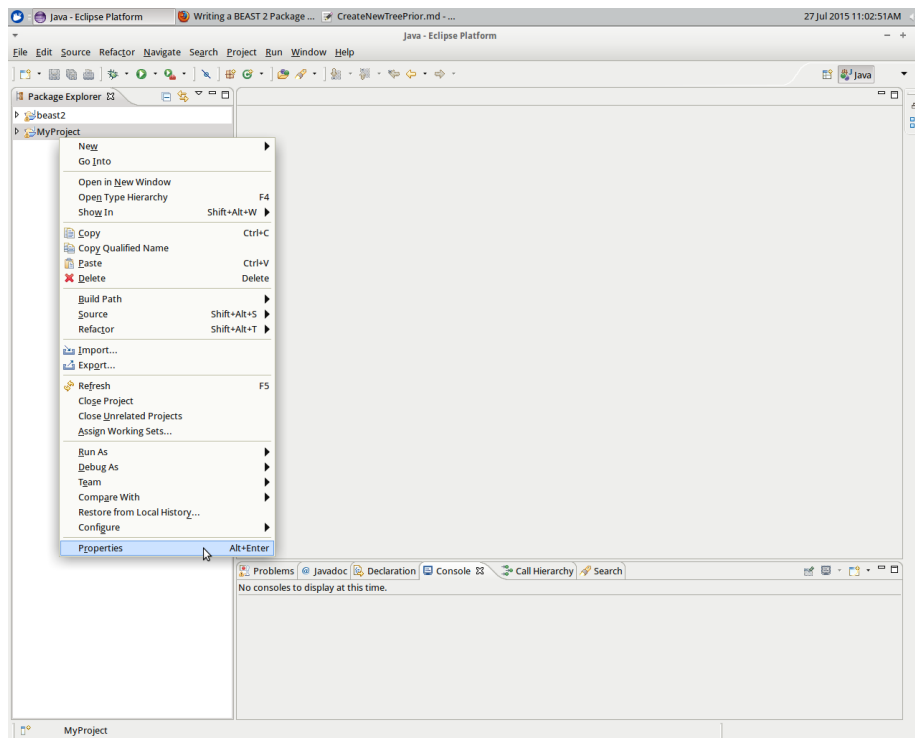


Figure 11: Modify the project properties

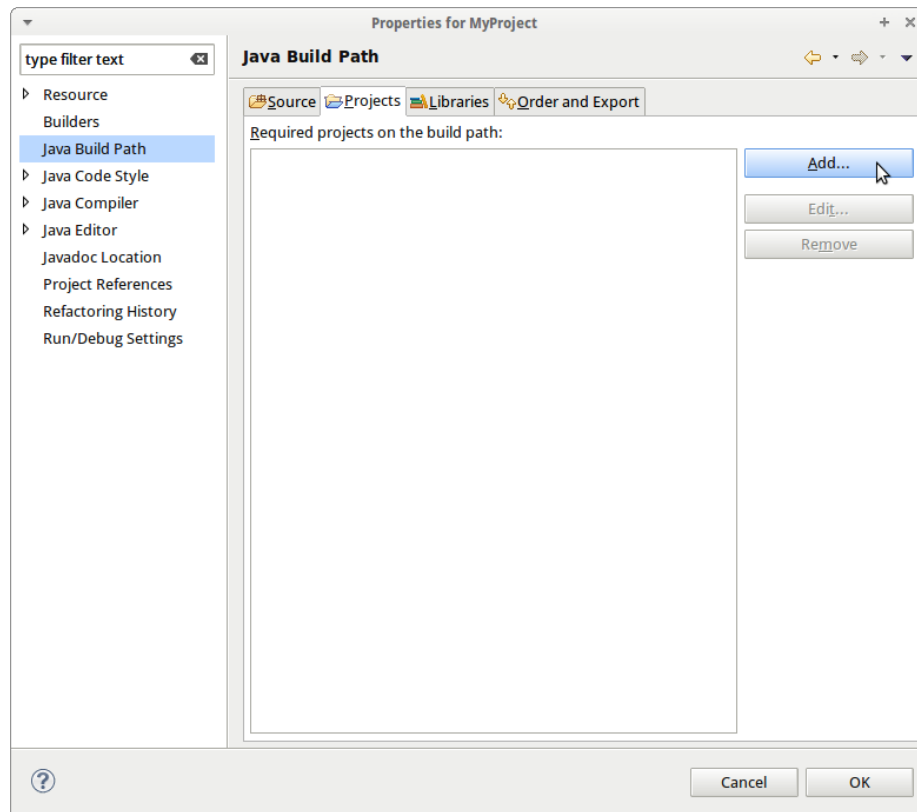


Figure 12: Adding a build path to MyProject

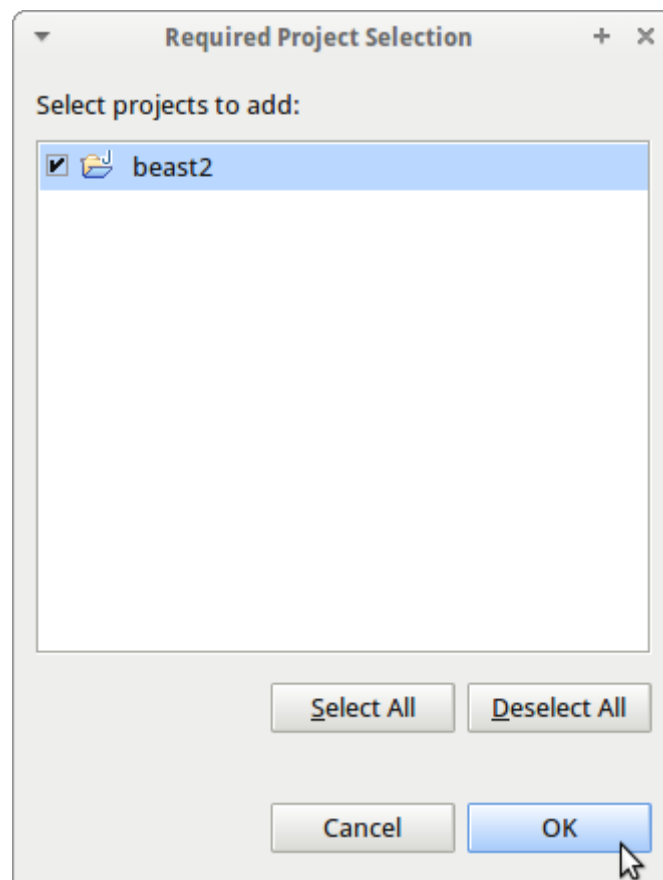


Figure 13: Adding BEAST2 to your project build path

Now BEAST2 is in your project build path, click OK.

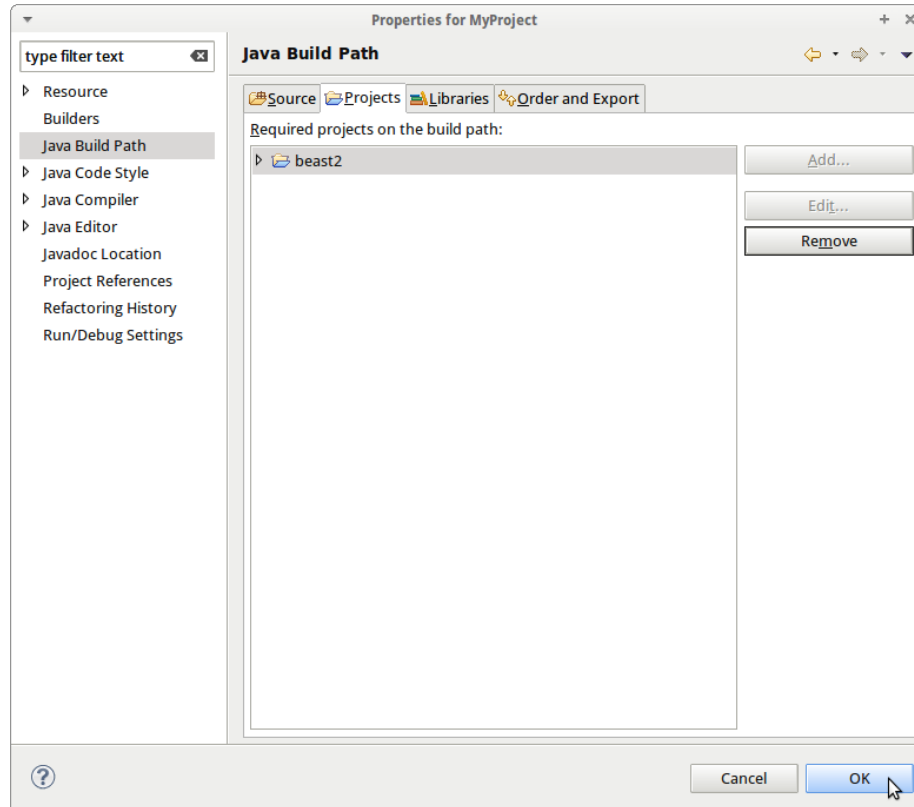


Figure 14: Added BEAST2 to your project build path

This takes you back to the Package Explorer pane.

Create a new tree prior

To create a new tree prior, I will use the Yule model already present in BEAST2.

Select **MyProject** in the Package Explorer, right-click and select 'New | Class'

Change the class name to **MyTreePrior**. Ignore all the warnings (as we won't use the generated code anyways) and click **Finish**.

Now you will see the initial code of **MyTreePrior**:

This initial code, however, will be replaced soon.

I will replace the initial code by the Yule tree prior. In the Package Explorer, find the Yule tree prior code. It is under **beast2 | src | beast.evolution.speciation**.

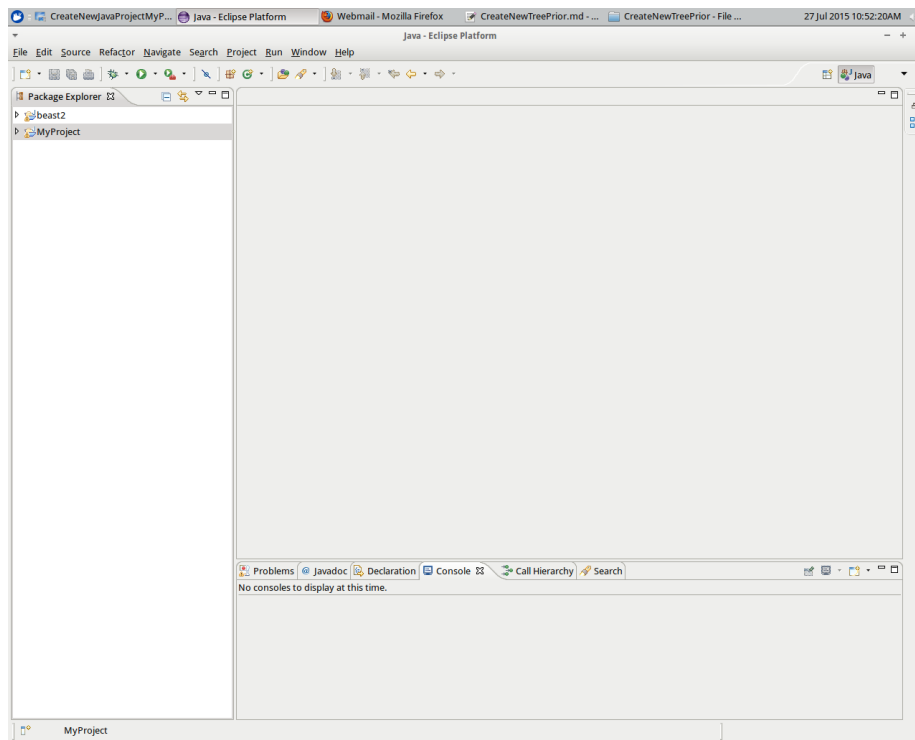


Figure 15: Package Explorer with BEAST2 and MyProject

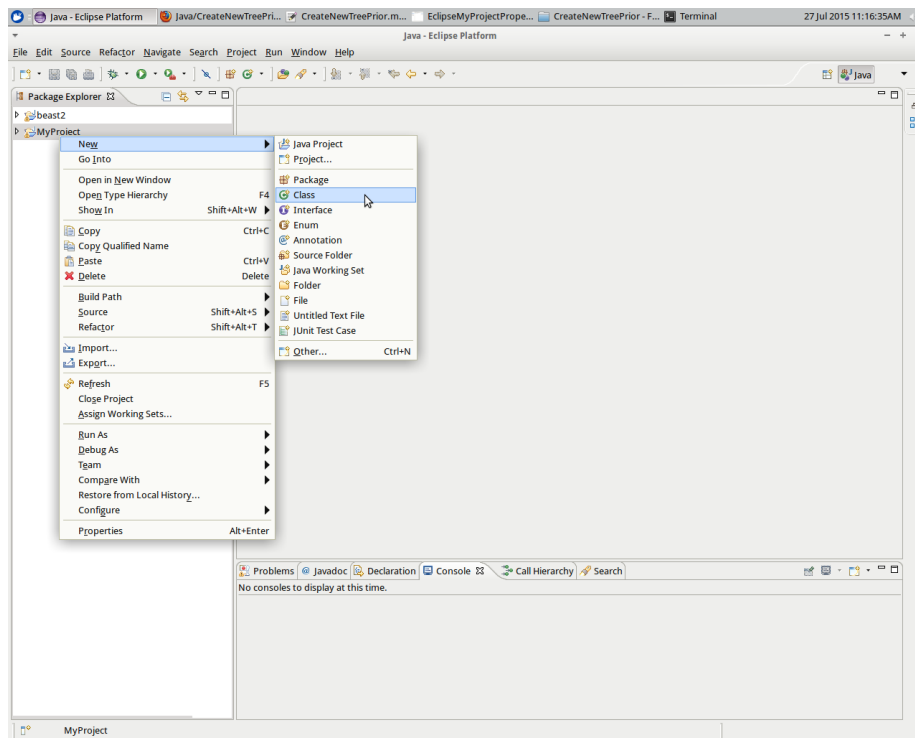


Figure 16: Create a new class

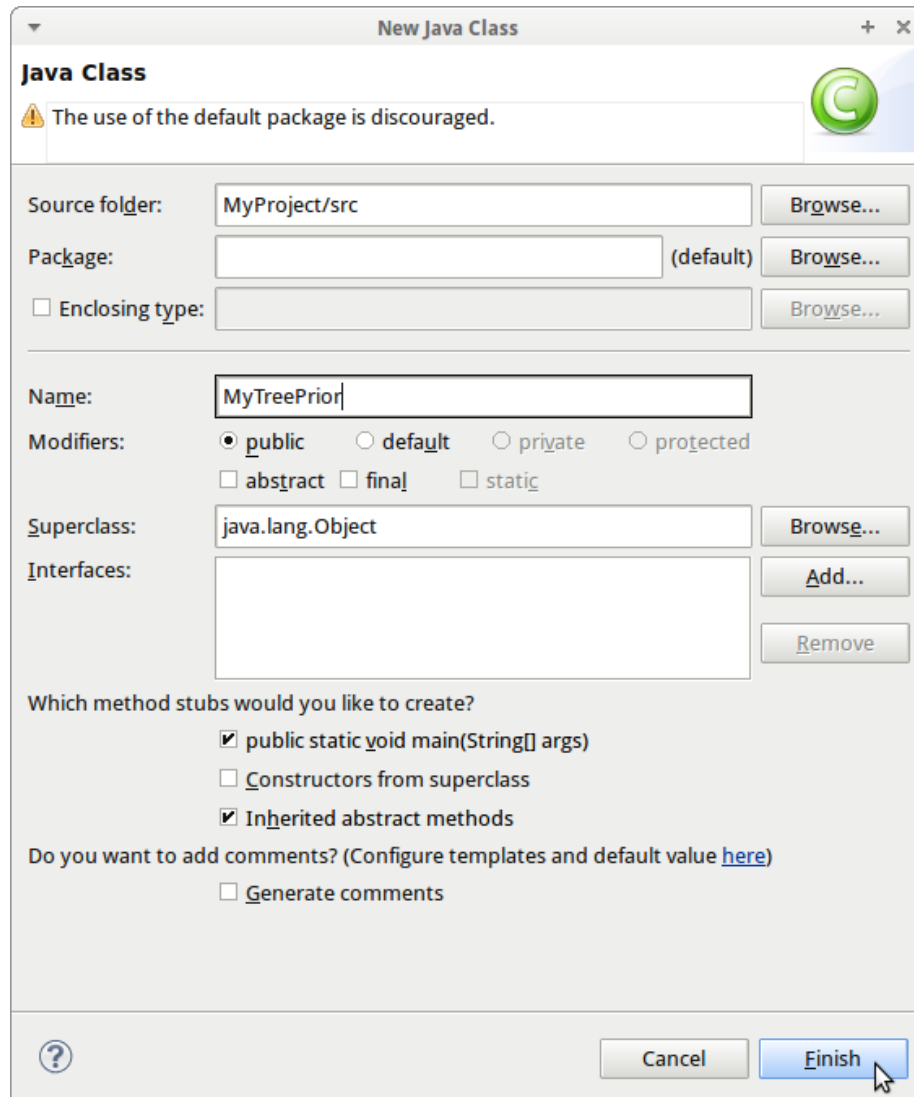


Figure 17: Create a new MyTreePrior class

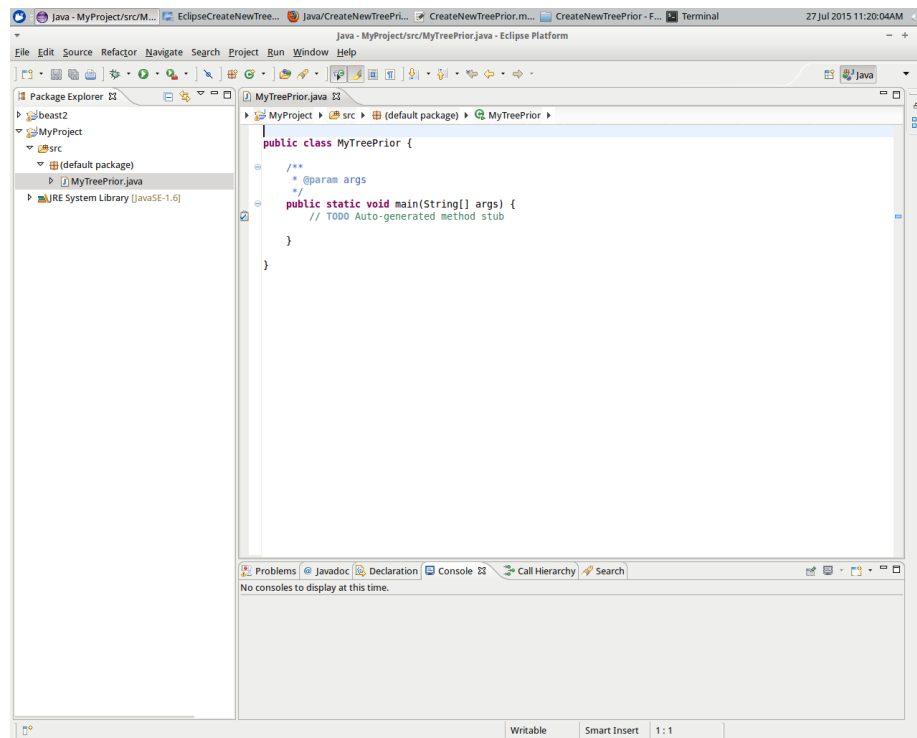


Figure 18: Initial code of MyTreePrior

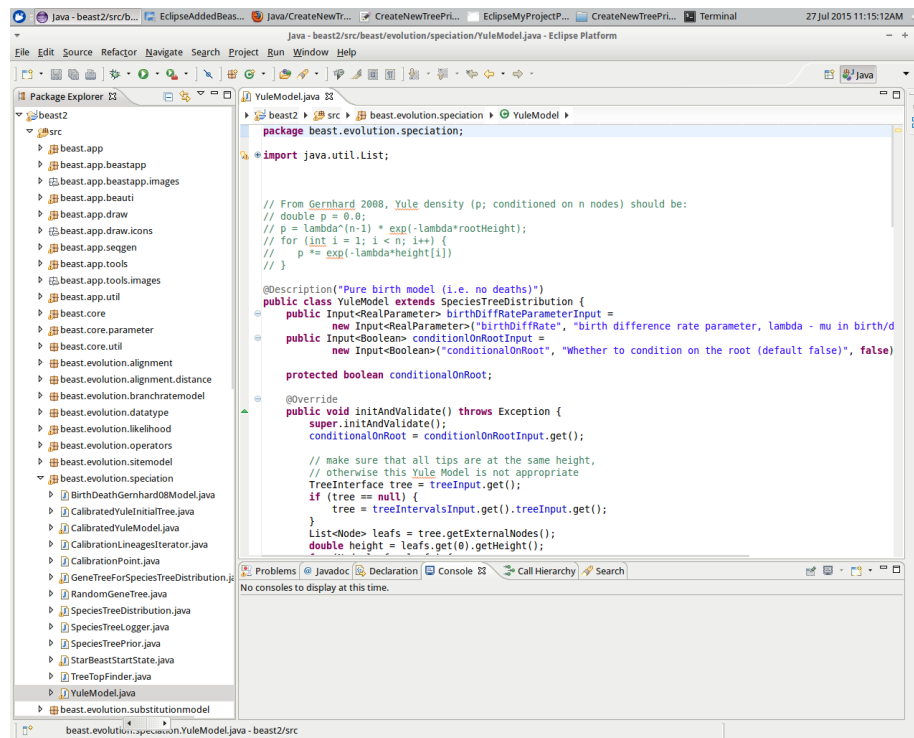


Figure 19: Yule model code

Copy-paste the source code into the `MyTreePrior` code. A lot of errors pop up that we'll fix now.

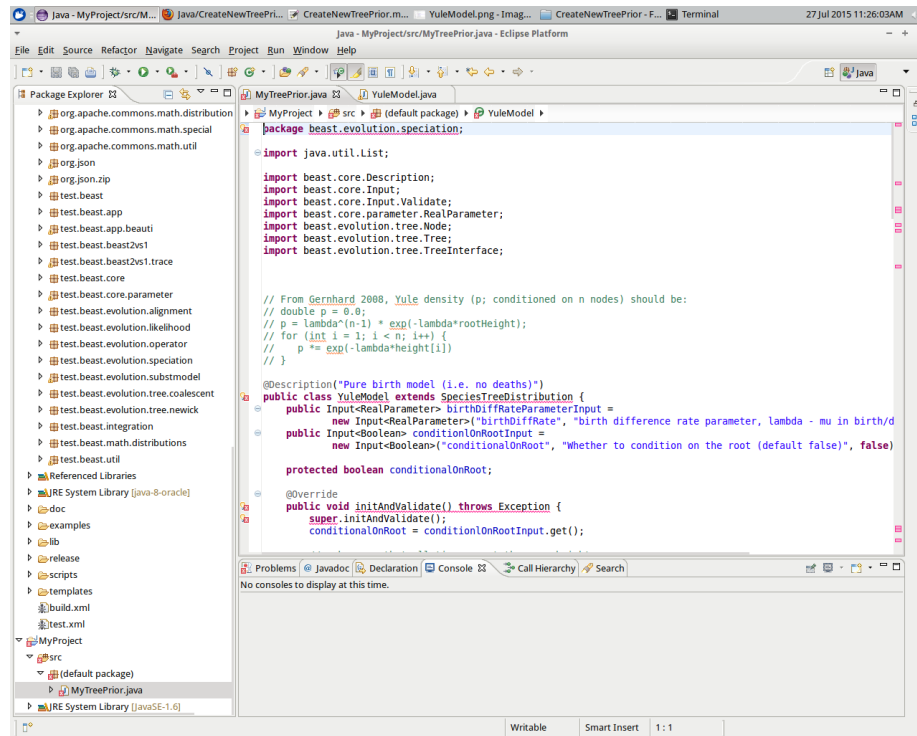


Figure 20: Copied Yule model code

The first error suggests to put the class in the appropriate package.

Double-click this fix.

The next error is that `YuleModel` is not the correct type and Eclipse suggest to rename it to `MyTreePrior` instead.

Double-click this fix. Our class now has the correct (new) class name.

Add the tree prior to BEAUti

To allow BEAUti to find the new tree prior, a template XML files needs to be created. Because `MyTreePrior` is a copy of `YuleModel`, we will use the XML code of that model as a starting point.

In the `MyProject` folder, you will need to create a `templates` folder. I just copied `~/GitHubs/Java/beast2/templates` to `~/GitHubs/Java/MyProject/templates`.

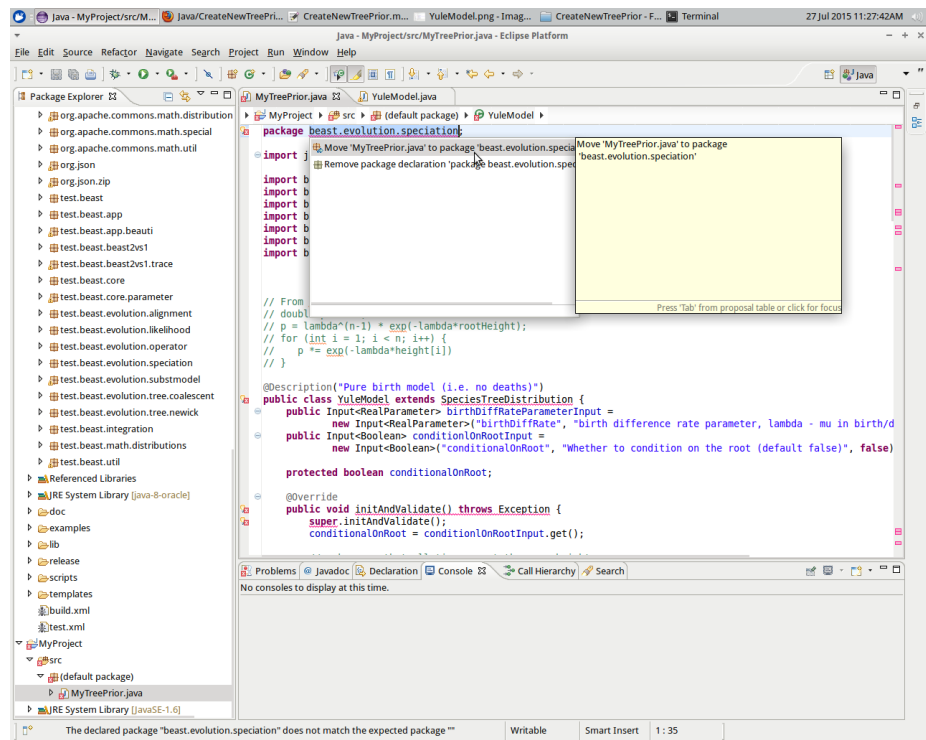


Figure 21: Suggest to move to package

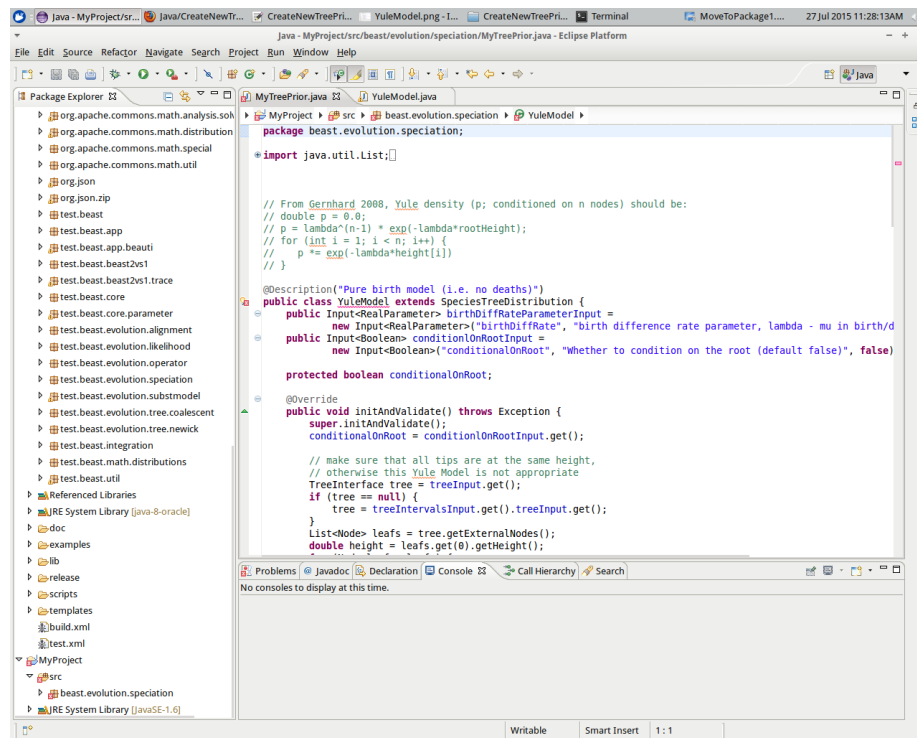


Figure 22: Yule model copy in correct package

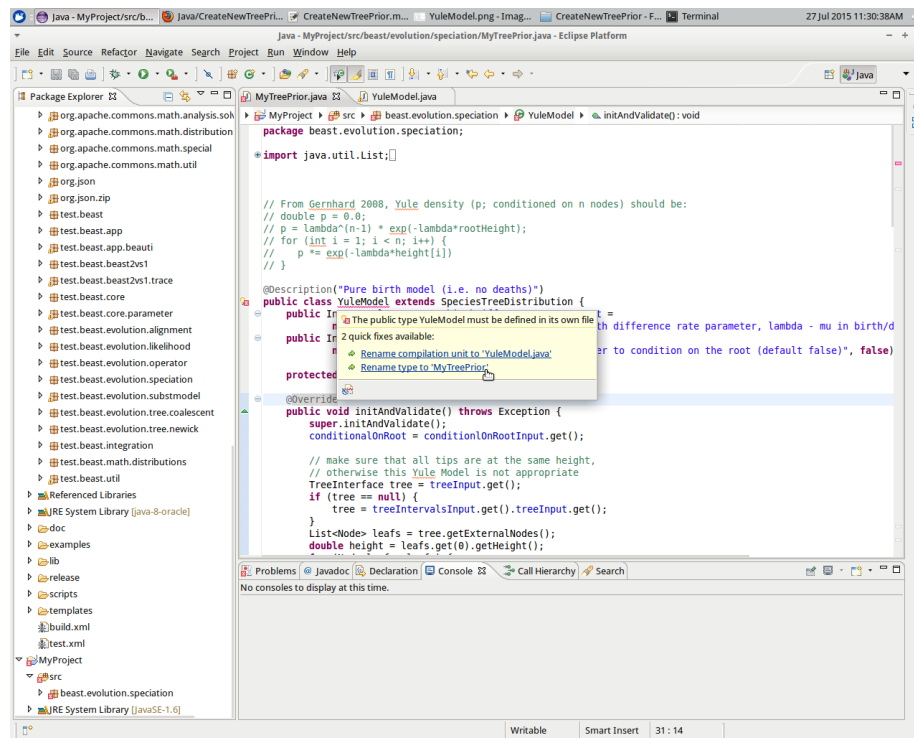


Figure 23: Eclipse suggests to rename the type

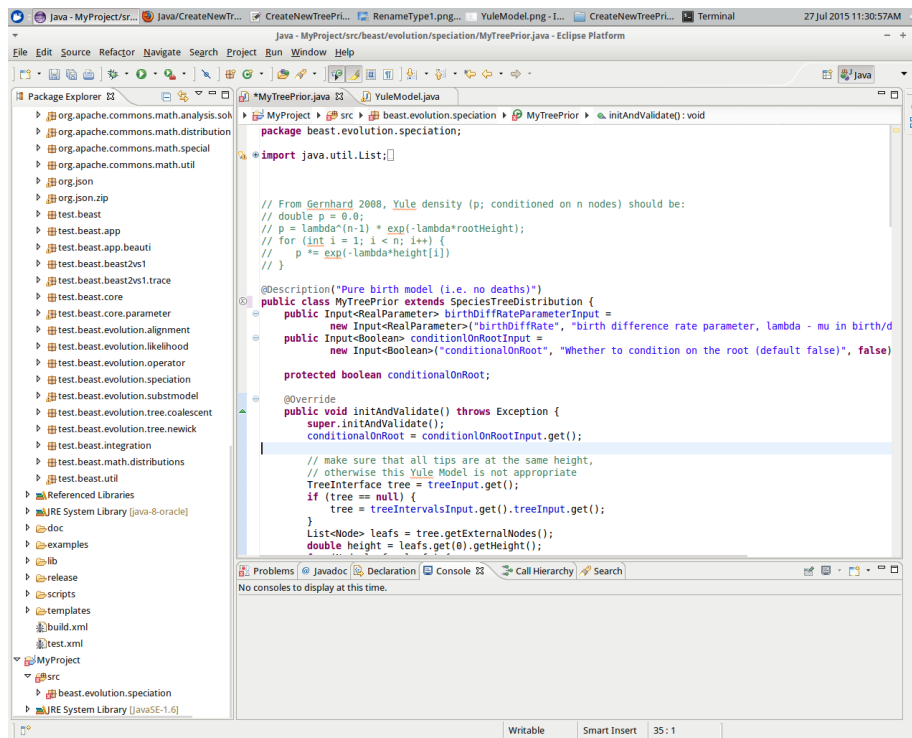


Figure 24: Eclipse renamed the type

In that folder, only keep `SubstModels.xml` and rename it to `MyTreePrior.xml`. Then edit `MyTreePrior.xml`. You can find `YuleModel` somewhere in that file. It will be the only one to keep.

```

582
583
584 <!-- tree priors -->
585 <mergewith point='treePriorTemplates'>
586 <!-- Yule -->
587 <subtemplate id='YuleModel' class='beast.evolution.speciation.YuleModel' mainid='YuleModel.t:$(n)'>
588 <![CDATA[
589 <plugin spec='YuleModel' id='YuleModel.t:$(n)' tree='@Tree.t:$(n)'>
590 <parameter name='birthDiffRate' id='birthRate.t:$(n)' value='1.0' />
591 </plugin>
592
593 <prior id='YuleBirthRatePrior.t:$(n)' x='@birthRate.t:$(n)'><distr spec='beast.math.distributions.U
594
595 <scale id='YuleBirthRateScaler.t:$(n)' spec='ScaleOperator' scaleFactor='0.75' weight='3' parameter='
596 ]]>
597 <connect srcID='YuleModel.t:$(n)' targetID='prior' inputName='distribution'
598 if='inposterior(YuleModel.t:$(n)) and inposterior(Tree.t:$(n)) and Tree.t:$(n)/estimate=tr
599 speciation prior on tree t:$(n)
600 </connect>
601 <connect srcID='birthRate.t:$(n)' targetID='state' inputName='stateNode'
602 if='inposterior(YuleModel.t:$(n)) and inposterior(Tree.t:$(n)) and inposterior(birthRate.t
603
604 <connect srcID='YuleBirthRatePrior.t:$(n)' targetID='prior' inputName='distribution'
605 if='inposterior(YuleModel.t:$(n)) and inposterior(Tree.t:$(n)) and birthRate.t:$(n)/estima
606 Yule speciation process birth rate of partition t:$(n)
607 </connect>
608 <connect srcID='YuleBirthRateScaler.t:$(n)' targetID='mcmc' inputName='operator'
609 if='inposterior(YuleModel.t:$(n)) and inposterior(Tree.t:$(n)) and birthRate.t:$(n)/estima
610 Scale birth rate of Yule prior of tree t:$(n)
611 </connect>
612
613 <connect srcID='YuleModel.t:$(n)' targetID='tracelog' inputName='log'
614 if='inposterior(YuleModel.t:$(n)) and inposterior(Tree.t:$(n)) and Tree.t:$(n)/estimate=tr
615 <connect srcID='birthRate.t:$(n)' targetID='tracelog' inputName='log'
616 if='inposterior(YuleModel.t:$(n)) and inposterior(Tree.t:$(n)) and birthRate.t:$(n)/estima
617 </subtemplate>
618
619 <!-- Calibrated Yule -->
620 <subtemplate id='CalibratedYuleModel' class='beast.evolution.speciation.CalibratedYuleModel'

```

Figure 25: `MyTreePrior.xml` before edit

Remove all other things, except for `YuleModel`. Be sure to keep the closing XML tags. Or just copy paste this code:

```

<beast version='2.0'
  namespace='beast.app.beauti:beast.core:beast.evolution.branchratemodel:beast.evolution

  <!-- tree priors -->
  <mergewith point='treePriorTemplates'>
    <!-- Yule -->
    <subtemplate id='YuleModel' class='beast.evolution.speciation.YuleModel' mainid='Yul
      <![CDATA[
        <plugin spec='YuleModel' id='YuleModel.t:$(n)' tree='@Tree.t:$(n)'>
          <parameter name='birthDiffRate' id='birthRate.t:$(n)' value='1.0' />
        </plugin>

        <prior id='YuleBirthRatePrior.t:$(n)' x='@birthRate.t:$(n)'><distr spec='beast.m

```

```

]]>
    <scale id='YuleBirthRateScaler.t:$(n)' spec='ScaleOperator' scaleFactor="0.75" v

    <connect srcID='YuleModel.t:$(n)' targetID='prior' inputName='distribution'
            if='inposterior(YuleModel.t:$(n)) and inposterior(Tree.t:$(n)) and Tree
            speciation prior on tree t:$(n)
    </connect>
    <connect srcID='birthRate.t:$(n)' targetID='state' inputName='stateNode'
            if='inposterior(YuleModel.t:$(n)) and inposterior(Tree.t:$(n)) and inpo

    <connect srcID='YuleBirthRatePrior.t:$(n)' targetID='prior' inputName='distribut
            if='inposterior(YuleModel.t:$(n)) and inposterior(Tree.t:$(n)) and birt
            Yule speciation process birth rate of partition t:$(n)
    </connect>
    <connect srcID='YuleBirthRateScaler.t:$(n)' targetID='mcmc' inputName='operator'
            if='inposterior(YuleModel.t:$(n)) and inposterior(Tree.t:$(n)) and birt
            Scale birth rate of Yule prior of tree t:$(n)
    </connect>

    <connect srcID='YuleModel.t:$(n)' targetID='tracelog' inputName='log'
            if='inposterior(YuleModel.t:$(n)) and inposterior(Tree.t:$(n)) and Tree
    <connect srcID='birthRate.t:$(n)' targetID='tracelog' inputName='log'
            if='inposterior(YuleModel.t:$(n)) and inposterior(Tree.t:$(n)) and birt
    </subtemplate>

    </mergewith>

</beast>

```

Some YuleModel occurrences must be replaced by MyTreePrior.

```

<beast version='2.0'
    namespace='beast.app.beauti:beast.core:beast.evolution.branchratemodel:beast.evolution

    <!-- tree priors -->
    <mergewith point='treePriorTemplates'>
        <!-- Yule -->
        <subtemplate id='MyTreePrior' class='beast.evolution.speciation.MyTreePrior' mainid=
            <![CDATA[
            <plugin spec='MyTreePrior' id="MyTreePrior.t:$(n)" tree="@Tree.t:$(n)">
                <parameter name='birthDiffRate' id="birthRate.t:$(n)" value='1.0' />
            </plugin>

            <prior id='YuleBirthRatePrior.t:$(n)' x="@birthRate.t:$(n)"><distr spec="beast.m

```

```

]]>
    <scale id='YuleBirthRateScaler.t:$(n)' spec='ScaleOperator' scaleFactor="0.75" v
    <connect srcID='MyTreePrior.t:$(n)' targetID='prior' inputName='distribution'
            if='inposterior(MyTreePrior.t:$(n)) and inposterior(Tree.t:$(n)) and Tr
    </connect>
    <connect srcID='birthRate.t:$(n)' targetID='state' inputName='stateNode'
            if='inposterior(MyTreePrior.t:$(n)) and inposterior(Tree.t:$(n)) and in

    <connect srcID='YuleBirthRatePrior.t:$(n)' targetID='prior' inputName='distribut
            if='inposterior(MyTreePrior.t:$(n)) and inposterior(Tree.t:$(n)) and b
            Yule speciation process birth rate of partition t:$(n)
    </connect>
    <connect srcID='YuleBirthRateScaler.t:$(n)' targetID='mcmc' inputName='operator'
            if='inposterior(MyTreePrior.t:$(n)) and inposterior(Tree.t:$(n)) and b
            Scale birth rate of Yule prior of tree t:$(n)
    </connect>

    <connect srcID='MyTreePrior.t:$(n)' targetID='tracelog' inputName='log'
            if='inposterior(MyTreePrior.t:$(n)) and inposterior(Tree.t:$(n)) and Tr
    <connect srcID='birthRate.t:$(n)' targetID='tracelog' inputName='log'
            if='inposterior(MyTreePrior.t:$(n)) and inposterior(Tree.t:$(n)) and b

</subtemplate>

</mergewith>

</beast>

```

Run BEAUti

To create a debug configuration that runs BEAUti, choose **Run | Debug Configurations**.

In the Debug Configurations dialog, select **Java Application**, right-click, then click **New**.

- In the **Name** field at the top of the dialog box, type **BEAUti**
- In the **Project** field of the **Main** tab, type **MyProject**
- For the **Main class**, type **beast.app.beauti.Beauti**

Click **Apply**.

Click **Debug** to start BEAUti.

Use **File | Import Alignment** or click the **+** button at the lower left, then navigate to the `~/GitHubs/Java/beast2/examples/nexus` folder and select the **anolis.nex** file. Note: you can avoid doing this step if you specify `-nex`

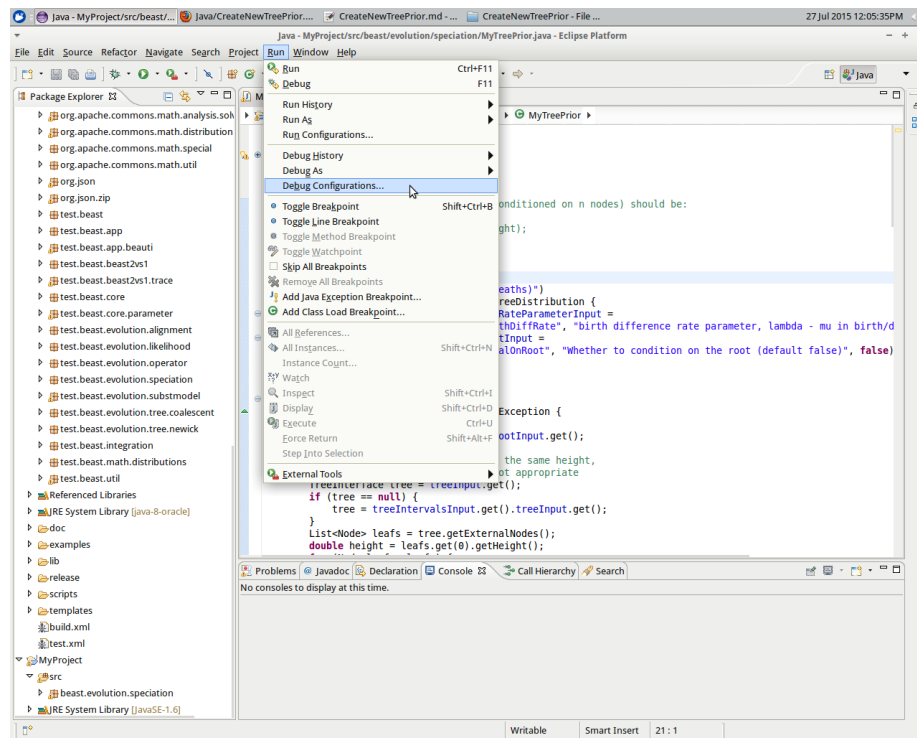


Figure 26: Debug configurations

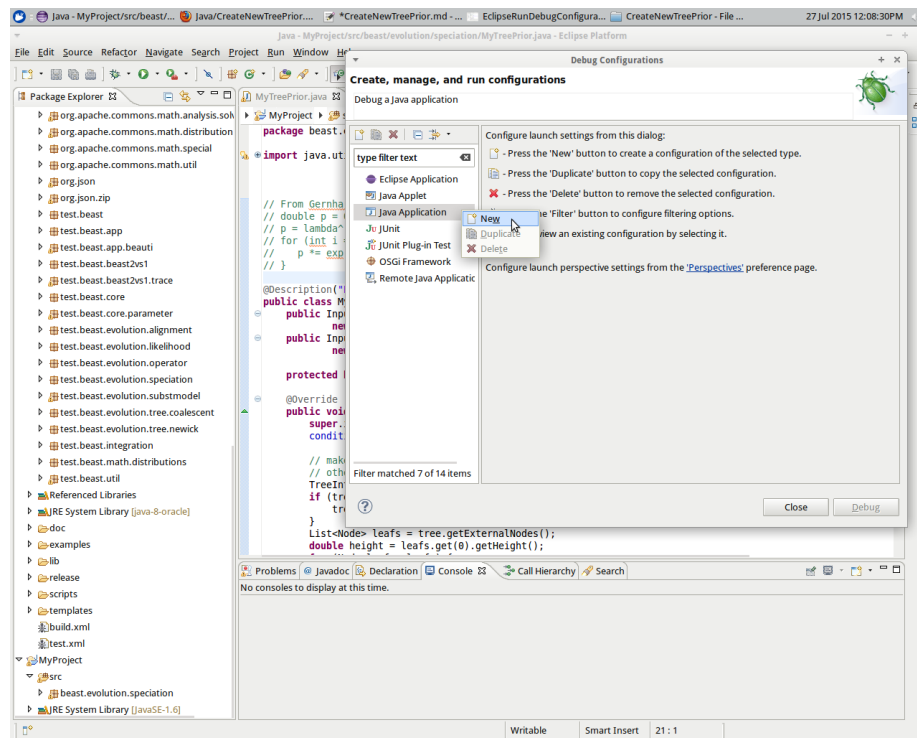


Figure 27: Debug configuration: add new java application

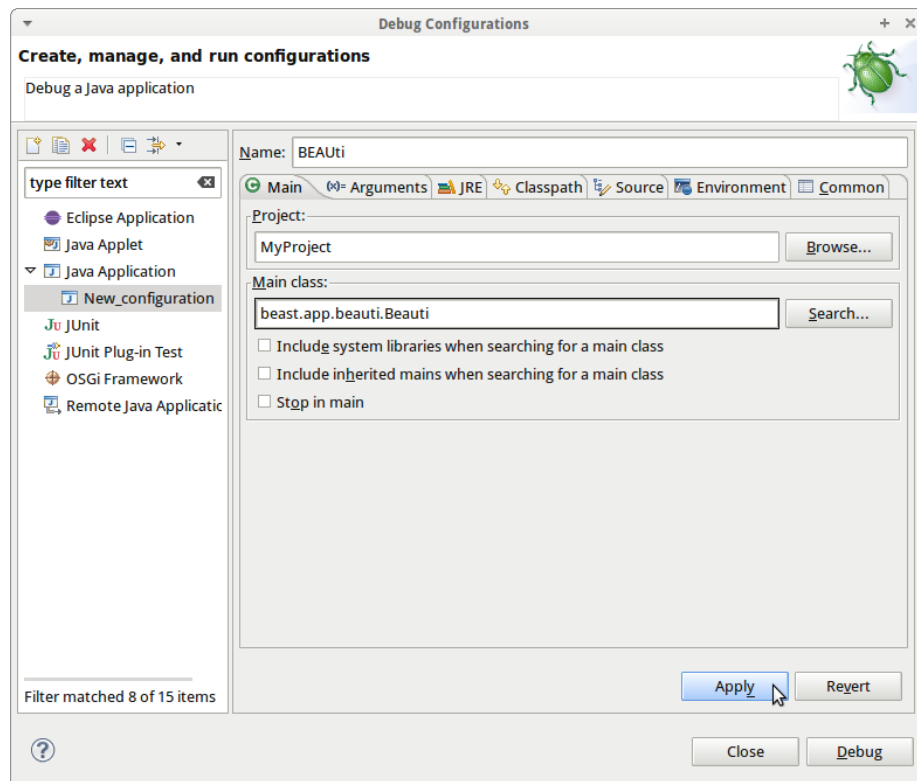


Figure 28: Debug configuration done

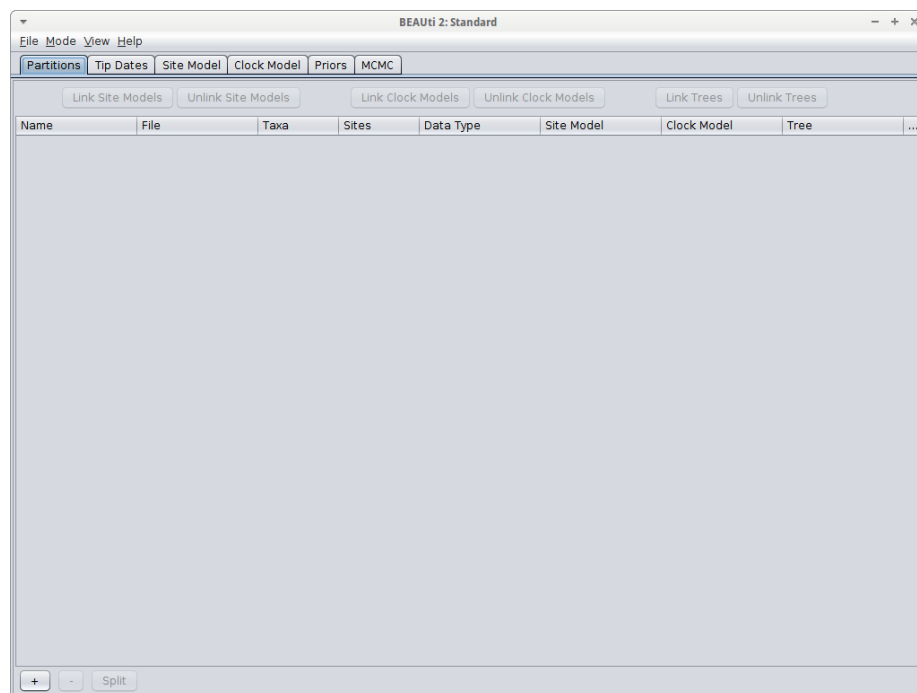


Figure 29: BEAUti2 still empty

`../beast2/examples/nexus/anolis.nex` in the **Program arguments** field of the **Arguments** tab in the BEAUti debug configuration.

Now the alignment is used in BEAUti.

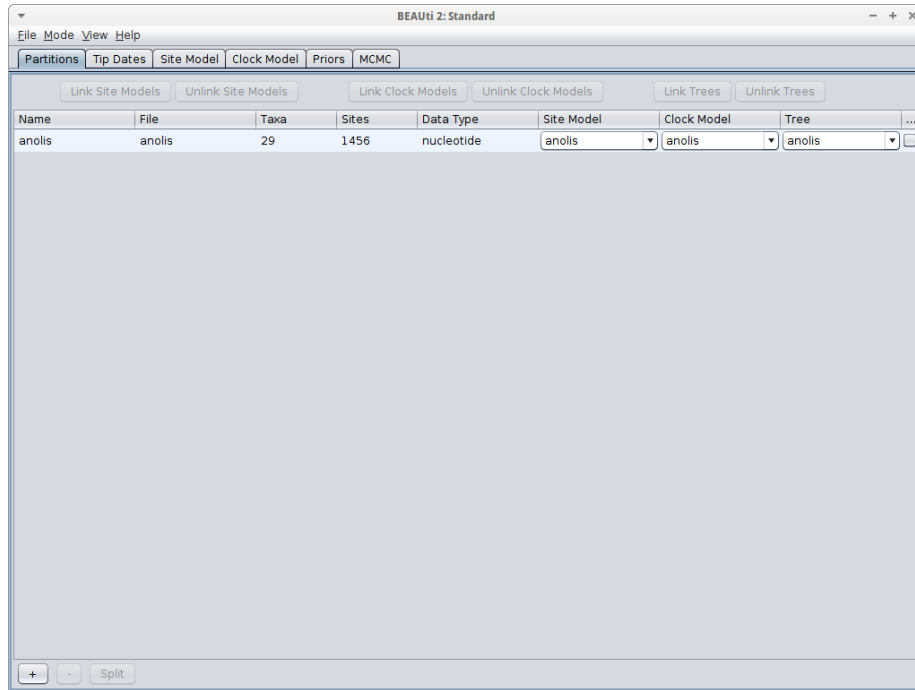


Figure 30: BEAUti2 Anolis

Under the tab **Priors** you can select the **My Tree Prior**.

And there it is!

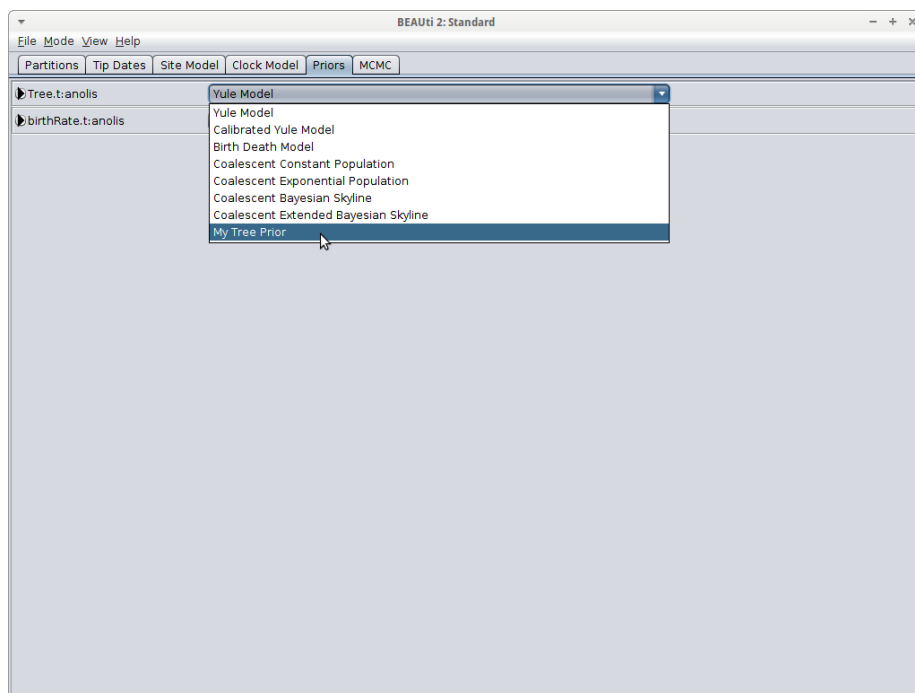


Figure 31: BEAUi2 Anolis and new tree prior is present

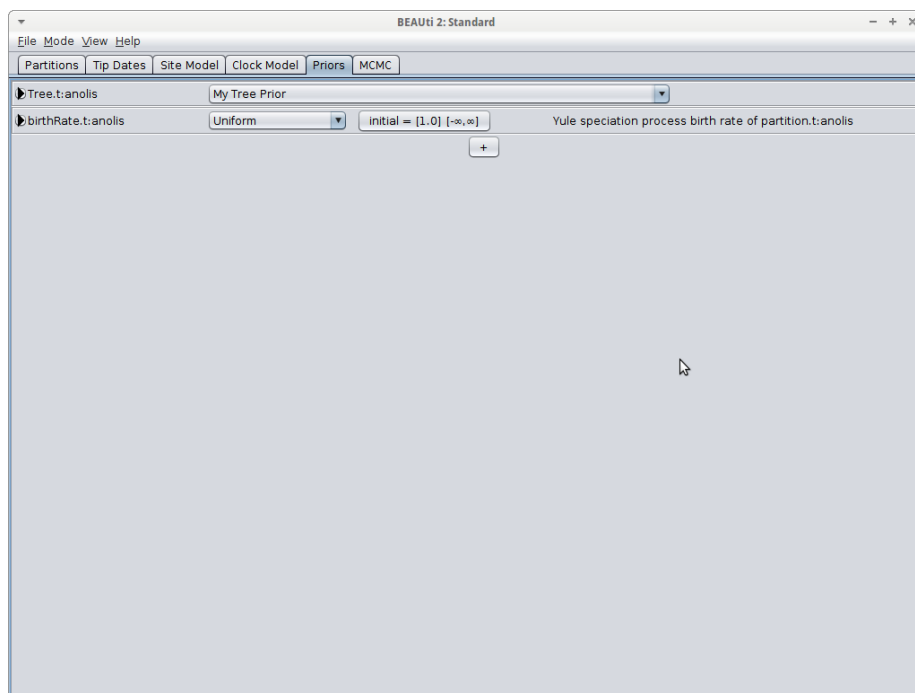


Figure 32: BEAUti2 Anolis and new tree prior is present