



Land use change reduces the taxonomic and phylogenetic diversity of bees

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Complete List of Authors:	<p>Tsang, Pak Nok Toby; University of Toronto Scarborough, Department of Biological Sciences; The University of Hong Kong, Department of Biological Sciences</p> <p>Amado De Santis, A. A.; Universidad Nacional de Jujuy - CONICET</p> <p>Armas-Quiñonez, Gabriela; Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala</p> <p>Ascher, John; National University of Singapore</p> <p>Ávila-Gómez, Eva; Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo</p> <p>Báldi, András; Centre for Ecological Research, Lendület Ecosystem Services Research Group</p> <p>Ballare, Kimberly; The University of Texas at Austin</p> <p>Balzan, Mario; Malta College of Arts Science and Technology</p> <p>Banaszak-Cibicka, Weronika; Poznań University of Life Sciences</p> <p>Bänsch, Svenja; University of Goettingen</p> <p>Basset, Yves; Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute</p> <p>Bates, Adam; Nottingham Trent University</p> <p>Baumann, Jessica; The University of Melbourne</p> <p>Beal-Neves, Mariana; Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul</p> <p>Benett, Ashley; Michigan State University</p> <p>Bezerra, Anthony; Universidade Federal do Ceará</p> <p>Bommarco, Riccardo; Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Ecology</p> <p>Brosi, Berry; University of Washington</p> <p>Burkle, Laura; Montana State University, Ecology</p> <p>Carvalho, Luisa; Universidade Federal de Goiás</p> <p>Castellanos, Ignacio; Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo</p> <p>Cely-Santos, Marcela; University of California Santa Cruz</p> <p>Cohen, Hamutahl; University of California System,</p> <p>Coulibaly, Drissa; University Peleforo GON COULIBALY of Korhogo</p> <p>Cunningham, Saul; Australian National University</p> <p>Cusser, Sarah; The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden</p> <p>Dajoz, Isabelle; Université Paris Cité</p> <p>Delaney, Debbie; University of Delaware</p> <p>del-Val, Ek; UNAM</p> <p>Egerer, Monika; Technical University of Munich, TUM School of Life Sciences</p> <p>Eichhorn, Markus; University College Cork</p> <p>Enríquez, Eunice; Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala</p> <p>Entling, Martin; RPTU Kaiserslautern-Landau Institute of Materials</p>

	<p>Science and Engineering, Institute for Environmental Sciences Escobedo-Kenefic, Natalia; Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala Fitch, Gordon; York University Forrest, Jessica; University of Ottawa, Biology; Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, Fournier, Valérie; Université Laval, Centre de recherche en innovation sur les végétaux Fowler, Robert; University of Sussex Freitas, Breno; Universidade Federal do Ceará, Departamento de Zootecnia Gaines-Day, Hannah; University of Wisconsin Madison, Department of Entomology Geslin, Benoît; 1, IMBE Ghazoul, Jaboury; ETH Zurich, Department of Environmental Sciences Glaum, Paul; University of California Davis; University of Michigan González-Chaves, Adrian; Universidade de São Paulo Gonzalez Andujar, Jose ; Institute for Sustainable Agriculture Grab, Heather; Cornell University Gratton, Claudio; University of Wisconsin, DOE Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center Ponizio, Lauren; University of Oregon Bonebrake, Timothy; The University of Hong Kong, School of Biological Sciences</p>
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Abstract:	<p>Land use change threatens global biodiversity and compromises ecosystem functions, including pollination and food production. However, we have a limited understanding of how land use affects diversity metrics other than taxonomic α-diversity. In particular, phylogenetic α-diversity considers the amount of evolutionary history within assemblages, while replacement reflects dissimilarities between assemblages contributed by distinct species in each assemblage. As diversity metrics can exhibit differential responses to environmental changes, here we analyzed how land use affects taxonomic and phylogenetic α-diversity and the replacement of an important pollinator taxon - bees. Using a multi-continental dataset of >3,100 bee assemblages from 154 studies, we found that taxonomic α-diversity was reduced by ~16% in both agricultural and urban habitats relative to natural habitats. Phylogenetic α-diversity decreased by ~12% in agricultural and ~10% in urban habitats. Furthermore, in agricultural habitats, taxonomic and phylogenetic replacement between communities was reduced by ~19% and ~29% relative to natural habitats. We also detected a strong correlation between all phylogenetic and taxonomic diversity metrics, and the effects of land use change on phylogenetic α-diversity and replacement were weak controlling for taxonomic α-diversity and replacement within assemblages. Our results demonstrate that declines in bee taxonomic diversity driven by land use change led to reduced phylogenetic diversity. Reduced taxonomic and phylogenetic diversity in agricultural habitats also suggests that loss in species diversity and evolutionary history at large spatial scales should be higher than α-diversity estimates otherwise indicate, highlighting the threat of agricultural expansion to bee global diversity through biotic homogenization.</p>

4th October 2024

Dear Editor,

We are resubmitting the manuscript “Land use change consistently reduces α but not β and γ diversity of bees” for your consideration. We thank the referees for their comments on the manuscript. Detailed responses to each comment are provided below. The major changes to the manuscript include: 1) revising the β diversity analyses using diversity partitioning, 2) adding γ diversity analyses, 3) pivoting the manuscript to how diversity loss varies across spatial scales, and 4) modifying the introduction and discussion accordingly.

Thank you for considering our manuscript.

Best,
Authors

For Review Only

Editor's Comments to the Author:

Subject Editor: 1

Comments to Author :

Both reviewers (one of which was a reviewer for the initial submission) see major value in this manuscript. They both, however, raise a number of issues that must be addressed before we consider the article further. I am, atypically, going to provide such an opportunity but hasten to add that this will be the final opportunity to deal with the reviewer comments. Please respond to all reviewer comments.

Response: We have responded to all reviewer comments, as detailed below. Responses to major comments are 1) including α - β - γ diversity partitioning analyses and 2) discussing why land use effects may vary between alpha, beta, and gamma diversity.

Reviewer(s)' Comments to Author:

Reviewer: 3

Comments to the Author

This paper investigates the effects of land use change on bee diversity at the global scale. Beside taxonomic alpha diversity, the authors focus on beta diversity and phylogenetic diversity as understudied biodiversity facets. They found a decreased taxonomic and phylogenetic alpha diversity in both urban and agricultural habitats in comparison to natural habitats. However, a similar decrease in beta diversity was only observed in agricultural habitats and not in urban habitats. The study concludes with a discussion of the various effect of land use change on the studied diversity facets.

I overall enjoyed reading this manuscript. The manuscript is well-written although sometimes difficult to follow. The topic and extent of the study fits within the scope of the journal. Overall, the work and methods meet the expected scientific standards although several points need to be improved and/or clarified (see below). The compiled dataset is of good quality and satisfactory given the journal standards. Illustrations and tables are of good quality. The cited literature is appropriate.

Although the topic of the impact of land use on biodiversity has already been extensively studied, the authors were able to identify research gaps and present new and interesting results that are of global significance. For this reason, I think that the paper can be interesting for a broad audience in ecology and beyond. However, to gain visibility amid the many land use studies out there, the narrative of this study needs to be streamlined. I did not identify major issues or flaws in this study. However, I think that several aspects need to be clarified and/or improved before publication. I also make several suggestions for minor improvements. See my

comments below for further details.

General comments:

The text is rather complex and difficult to read which tends to dilute the main message. Several sections such as the Intro and Methods would greatly benefit from a more synthetic writing. Generally, I encourage the authors to shorten the text, simplify the main message, and move some of the intricacies to the SupMat. In addition, it is not easy to keep track of the different variables and models used in this study. To address that, I encourage the authors to add tables summarizing and briefly explaining the different variables used in the models and relating them to the main hypotheses.

Response: After incorporating other reviewer comments, the manuscript now focuses on assessing α , β , and γ diversity change across land uses, as well as testing how agricultural and urban land use enhance phylogenetic habitat filtering. These changes have shortened the introduction and simplified the manuscript. We added Table 1 to summarize different variables used in the models for different objectives.

We moved the formulas to Table S4. We also moved details on selecting genera for the abundance analyses to Text S4 to improve readability.

We removed the analyses on the scaling relationship between taxonomic diversity and phylogenetic diversity. We also removed the turnover and nestedness analyses as these are not as directly relevant to biodiversity loss across spatial scales, the key message of the manuscript.

Reviewer: Beta diversity is a central element of this study. However, we don't know how much gamma diversity is accounted for by beta? Are we speaking of 5% or 95% of the total gamma diversity? How much beta is within- VS among-studies? The answer to these questions could change the interpretation and implications of the results. Furthermore, it would provide a more quantitative understanding of how and to what extent "loss of diversity at large geographic scales may be greater than estimates of α -diversity". Here, an ABG (alpha-beta-gamma) decomposition of diversity would be useful. The authors could also express the relative importance of turnover and nestedness as a function of total gamma diversity. The fact that the author focus on within-study beta diversity means that an additional study-specific ABG decomposition should be done. The question then becomes how does the relative contribution of beta to gamma vary among studies and does that influence the results of the models.

Response: We replaced our pairwise β diversity analyses with the multiplicative β diversity analyses. We also explained multiplicative β diversity analyses are more suitable to understand diversity loss across spatial scales relative to pairwise β diversity analyses (L467-469): "This

method is especially suitable to understand the spatial scaling of diversity loss, as it represents the scaling factor relating α and γ diversity (Baselga, 2013; Socolar et al., 2016)."

We added γ diversity analyses in the manuscript; thus, the manuscript now compares α , β , γ diversity across land uses. As γ diversity always pools data across samples, comparing α and γ diversity patterns can effectively assess diversity loss at increasing spatial scales. See sections " α and γ diversity estimates" and " β diversity estimates" for the quantification of these metrics. See sections "Objective 1a: α diversity", "Objective 1b: β diversity", and "Objective 1c: γ diversity" for the results.

The contribution of β diversity has been provided in the results: "The average taxonomic β -diversity was 1.75 (95% CI = 1.66, 1.83), making up 42.7% of the taxonomic γ diversity" (L678-679)... "Across datasets, phylogenetic β diversity averaged at 1.20 (95% CI = 1.17, 1.22), equivalent to 16.7% contribution of phylogenetic γ diversity." (L686-687).

We note that multiplicative β diversity can be directly converted into the contribution to γ diversity, (L469-470): "The metric also reflects the contribution of β diversity to γ diversity (Contribution of $\beta = (1 - \alpha/\gamma) * 100\% = (1 - 1/\beta) * 100\%$)."

We also extensively revised our intro and discussion to accommodate such changes by 1) highlighting the importance of studying β and γ diversity patterns (L294-303), 2) the potential mechanisms by which impacts on β and γ diversity vary across land uses (L745-759), and 3) the implications for modelling studies and conservation assessments (L806-821).

Reviewer: Several important factors are not considered in this study. The authors used a study-level random factors to account for them. The approach is valid and has the merit of keeping the conceptual frame of the study simple. However, it also put a black box on several important processes that can potentially impact beta diversity patterns. Examples of such processes include the influence of the landscape context, plot area – species richness relationship, within study environmental variability, and within-study land use-environment correlations. To me, this black box makes it difficult to understand what is going on with the model which decreases my confidence in the results. I strongly encourage the authors to include those aspects in the analyses (e.g. add an estimation of plot area to the model, add an objective quantification of landscape composition around each study sites), or, at least, to discuss more thoroughly how these aspects could impact the results and conclusion.

Response: We agree that investigating the individual processes contributing to the observed relationships would be interesting. We have added a paragraph discussing the potential processes that could be contributing to the observed changes (lines 518-527) and clarified throughout the manuscript that we are examining the general trend of how different diversity metrics are

affected by land use change. We put this in Methods as this is primarily explaining why we are using random effect models to account for these potentially important factors.

“Study-level variation can lead to varying estimates of land use effects. For example, the effects may be stronger in warmer landscapes with fewer natural habitats in the surrounding environments (Ganuza et al., 2022; Kennedy et al., 2013). Methodological factors such as sampling area (Azaele et al., 2015) and methods (Lee & Guénard, 2019) can also alter estimates of land use effects. Here, we focused on the general trend across studies rather than examining how within-site land use interacts with other environmental or methodological variables. Therefore, apart from a few climatic and methodological covariates, we used study identity as a random effect to control for such study-level variations.”

While evaluating individual processes is valuable (e.g., how landscape context and plot size affect land use effects, etc.), we are concerned that this will be too much for a single study (particularly after adding the suggested diversity partitioning analyses) and at odds with the other comments indicating the main message was too complicated. We also don't expect that examining these individual processes will change the main conclusions of this study, as we have already used the random effect to account for these. As the reviewer correctly points out, using the random effect is intended to simplify the analyses and, therefore, the main message. Nevertheless, we have still added some methodological variables (e.g., number of assemblages, sampling effort variations) in the β diversity model to reinforce our results further.

Reviewer: Is the whole story about the scaling between TD and PD really useful and necessary? In any case, it is poorly integrated into the whole story line. How PD scale to TD is a fundamental question in ecology that is out of the scope of this study. However, if the authors can draw a clear and strong link between the shape of the scaling function and the effect of land use on PD, this approach might bring interesting results. I would look into the differences in the scaling function among land use type and relate these differences to clear hypotheses (e.g. higher phylogenetic habitat filtering in non-natural leads to less steep scaling functions). An alternative would be to simply drop the TD-PD scaling entirely (or move it to SupMat). To me, that wouldn't change the results and their interpretation but it would considerably simplify the story.

Response: We removed the story about scaling relationships between taxonomic and phylogenetic diversity.

Specific comments:

Abstract:

Reviewer: Nicely written until line 275. After that, the flow of ideas becomes more difficult to follow and the link between sentences weaker. I suggest removing the section about the scaling

of TD and PD between lines 275 and 279. That would simplify and streamline the story without losing any important message.

Response: We removed the section on the scaling of taxonomic and phylogenetic diversity.

The last sentence giving the main conclusion focuses on agricultural habitats which is not in line with the first objective of the study (compare diversity metrics among land use types). Please, consider reformulating.

Response: Our last sentence now highlights different land use drivers can affect biodiversity differently.

“In addition, while both urbanization and agriculture lead to consistent declines in α diversity, their impacts on β or γ diversity vary, highlighting the need to study the effects of land use change at multiple scales.” (L278-280)

Introduction:

Reviewer: Overall, good but too long, and sometimes the logic of the arguments is hard to follow. This section would benefit from being shortened and written more synthetically.

Response: We reduced the word count from 1211 to 794 words. We removed the section about the relationship between taxonomic and phylogenetic diversity. We also simplified the explanation of the importance of phylogenetic diversity.

Material and methods:

Reviewer: The section provides all the required information but is sometime quite difficult to read and generally too long, especially the section about modelling. I encourage the authors to shorten and simplify the text, add tables to present the information in a synthetic way (list of variables used in the models, model formula...), and move some of the text to the SupMat.

Response: The formulas have been moved to SI. We created Table 1 to summarize each predictor and their relevance to different objectives. We also moved details of the abundance analyses into the SI, since it is not the primary aim of the study.

Reviewer: The general modelling strategy is fine to me (but see my comment about the black box above).

The methodological approach and underlying logic regarding spatial autocorrelation are sound to me. However, the whole story is a bit cryptic and I encourage the author to show more transparently how the addition of spatial covariate improved the model and got rid of spatial autocorrelation in the residuals (e.g. show a Mantel correlogram of the response variable compared to model residuals with and without spatial covariates).

Responses:

We added a comparison of conditional AIC changes between models with and without the spatial autocorrelation terms (L562-564): “ We compared models with and without spatial random effects and found that the model including spatial autocorrelation had a significantly improved model fit, as indicated by a reduction of >490 in the conditional AIC.”

We note that the spatial autocorrelation analyses do not remove signals from the residuals. The developer of the R package DHARMA, which is often used for model diagnostics, has pointed this out (<https://github.com/florianhartig/DHARMA/issues/141>). In fact, instead of “removing signals,” the model directly considers the expected spatial autocorrelation effect when estimating the effects of different variables.

Reviewer: The spatial scale varies from study to study (from single traps to 10 ha plots). It is therefore unclear to me at what scale land use was determined and how this was considered in the analysis.

Responses: The land use classification is always relative to the sampling area unless the maximum length of the sampling area is smaller than 10 m (for which we used the surrounding 100 m² environment). We did not use a fixed scale because of the varying methodologies. Rather, the varying scale across studies would ensure the land use classification best reflects the environment of the assemblage data. This is also the approach used in many large-scale diversity analyses of land uses (e.g., Newbold et al. 2015, Nature). We have explained this in L401-403: “Because the sampling area varied strongly across studies (Table S1), we did not use a consistent spatial scale in classifying within-site land uses, similar to other global databases (Hudson et al., 2014). Rather, we determined land uses based on the predominant environment within the sampling area. However, for small sampling areas with a length < 10 m (e.g., single malaise trap, transect < 10 m), we classified the site based on the surrounding 100 m² environment (Hudson et al., 2014). For plots, the maximum length was determined by the diagonal of the whole plot (Hudson et al., 2014).”.

We also provided a simple description of spatial scales in our dataset (L660-664): “Sampling methods in our datasets range from point-based sampling (e.g., single vane trap) to aggregating samples within an area as large as 10 ha. In general, most studies were conducted along transects <100m or within plots < 1ha (Table S1).”

We used the study-level random effect to address the potential effect of sampling areas (as well as other environmental variables):

“Methodological factors such as sampling area (Azaele et al., 2015) and methods (Lee & Guénard, 2019) can also alter estimates of land use effects....we used study identity as a random effect to control for such study-level variations.” (lines 518-527)

Results:

Ok

Reviewer: I miss the basic information about general model performances. The authors directly start by discussing model output but, as a reader, I don't know if those models are any good. While model performance (R^2) are clearly presented in Table SX, I encourage the authors to add a short sentence in the main text stating that, overall, model performances were good (e.g. R^2 between X and Y...).

The marginal R^2 seems to vary more among diversity metrics than the conditional R^2 . Is that meaningful? Why?

Responses: We added a summary of the conditional R^2 of all diversity models (Obj 1-2) (L665):
“All diversity models had high conditional R^2 (0.63 – 0.91).”

It's difficult to pinpoint why marginal R^2 (explained variance by fixed effects) varies more than conditional R^2 (explained variance by fixed and random effects). It is possible that the fixed effect predictors (e.g., land use, climate) have varying explanatory power across diversity metrics. However, this can also be methodological, as the number of fixed effects included in models varied across diversity metrics. In the α diversity model, only land use, climate, and sampling methods have been included. In the β and γ diversity models, we also have other covariates, such as the number of assemblages (see Table 1). Sample size is also reduced in the model for β and γ diversity models.

Given the difficulty of pinpointing the exact reasons, we only added a sentence in the results reporting the range of conditional R^2 across models without discussing the details.

Discussion

Reviewer: The discussion is generally well-written, but, to me, it is a bit underwhelming when it comes to the caveats and limitations of the study as well as the perspectives. I encourage the authors to add a full paragraph addressing these issues.

Response: We acknowledged many limitations in our methods, particularly limitations in data distribution. The relevant lines:

“As temporal approaches are rare in the literature (Davison, Rahbek, & Morueta-Holme, 2021), all collected datasets reflected spatial rather than temporal changes across land uses. While the focus on spatial approaches can underestimate impacts of land use changes (Christie et al., 2019), it minimizes spatial biases and maximizes generality. Despite our best efforts, regions known as bee diversity hotspots (Orr et al., 2021) or essential for global food security (Aizen et al., 2019), such as South and Central Asia (Fig. 1a), are still underrepresented.” (L360-365)

“As our land use classification pooled different environments within the same land use category, the results should not be interpreted as estimates for a specific kind of urban, agricultural, or natural habitats. Our study broadly evaluates how bee diversity was affected by agriculturalization and urbanization, processes that can create different environments and degrade natural environments in various ways. Therefore, our classification system was designed to provide and compare average estimates across different environments within the same land uses.” (L422-428).

We also acknowledge that the use of genus-level phylogeny can affect the results, although previous studies have used the same phylogeny and detected meaningful patterns (L440-443):

“While use of a genus level phylogeny might not fully capture phylogenetic patterns of assemblages, previous bee studies have used the same phylogeny and detected phylogenetic diversity changes and phylogenetic habitat filtering (De Palma et al., 2017; Harrison, Gibbs, & Winfree, 2018; Hendrix, Forbes, & MacDougall, 2018).”

For the abundance analyses, we discussed how to interpret our results despite the limitations in the discussion (L778-787): “Our analyses' low number of genera (≤ 51) can reduce the statistical power (Münkemüller et al., 2012), while genus-level analyses can underestimate phylogenetic signals (Rabosky, 2015). Species-level analyses, including rare species, are needed to determine the true extent of phylogeny in governing bees' responses to the two land uses. Nevertheless, the stronger phylogenetic signals in agricultural habitats suggest higher importance of evolutionarily conserved traits, such as nesting biology and lecty (Odanaka & Rehan, 2019), in determining species abundance in these environments (Grab et al., 2019). Alternatively, species responses to urban habitats may be more driven by stochasticity (Sattler et al., 2010) or evolutionarily labile traits, such as thermal tolerances (Hamblin, Youngsteadt, López-Urbe, & Frank, 2017).”

Figures:

Reviewer: Figure 1. The map looks nice but it is difficult to assess if there are different biases in the latitudinal distribution of sampling locations among natural, urban, and agricultural habitats. Consider adding ridge lines on the side to show the density distribution of sampling locations along the latitudinal gradient. While some biases are (unfortunately) to be expected in such global studies, different latitudinal distribution of sampling locations among land use types could influence the results and the main conclusion of this study.

Response: We added a density plot to the map. We've designed the model to account for the uneven distribution across latitude (e.g., adding climatic covariates) with the methods available (but we also acknowledge the limitation).

Reviewer: Figure 4 provides all the necessary information but the tree structure makes it difficult to compare the trends between agricultural and urban land use. I suggest to use barplots showing the percentage change between natural and non-natural ecosystems where genera are sorted by

their abundance in natural ecosystems. That should provide a clearer and easier to read picture of the winners and losers of land use change.

Response: We have added the suggested figure to the supplement (Fig. S2). We sorted the genera alphabetically so that readers can easily identify the genera of interest.

Reviewer: Table S8: How were the p-values adjusted exactly?

Response: We specify that it is based on false discovery rate correction in the main text (L638-639): “We further adjusted pairwise comparison p-values using False Discovery Rate corrections”.

Reviewer: Data and code availability:

I encourage the authors to provide the minimum data and code to replicated the analyses.

Responses: The code and >97% of the data will be released (see data accessibility statement). Three percent of the authors did not consent to publishing their data.

Reviewer: Overall, this is a very nice work and I hope that my comments will help to improve it further.

Response: Thank you, and we appreciate your thoughtful comments!

Reviewer: 2

Comments to the Author

Congratulations on a hugely improved manuscript! Thank you for the clarity you have added regarding the analysis methods, which has largely resolved my previous methodological concerns. My remaining concerns are listed below, again separated into larger and smaller issues.

Larger comments:

Reviewer: 1.) Lines 410-417. I have several concerns about the low stringency of the inclusion criteria: Can you please justify the threshold of only ten individuals? I recognize that these thresholds are ultimately arbitrary, but ten individuals seems very low, given that the bee fauna of many regions includes hundreds of possible species. I wouldn't expect estimates of sampling completeness to be reliable at such low sample sizes. Were any of the datasets actually that small? It would be good to include sample sizes in table S3. If only a few datasets are so small, I think you should omit them and state a higher threshold.

Responses: We used ten individuals because this is consistent with recent high-profile insect diversity analyses (Blowes et al., 2022, Ecology; van Klink et al., 2024, Nature). It is possible to include assemblages with many individuals only, but that also creates a bias due to the exclusion of highly impoverished assemblages. We clarify this in L374-377: “We did not use a threshold higher than ten individuals because this might bias the analyses against impoverished

assemblages. The threshold is also consistent with or even higher than that used in previous studies based on rarefaction (Blowes et al., 2022; van Klink et al., 2024).”

The mean number of individuals across analyzed assemblages is reported in Table S1. Overall, the mean and median abundance across the 3,117 assemblages analyzed are 140 and 56 individuals, respectively. The number of assemblages would be reduced to 2,564 and 1,667 if we increase the threshold to 20 and 50 individuals, respectively.

We also note that our analysis focuses on Shannon index (i.e., when Hill number = 1), not species richness. Thus, while some regions can contain hundreds of species, Shannon diversity considers relative abundance of species. Therefore, missing rare species will have lower impacts on the analyses (L452-455): “To estimate taxonomic and phylogenetic α and γ diversity, we estimated both metrics with the Hill number equal to 1, as it considers the relative abundance of species within assemblages and is less prone to undersampling than lower Hill numbers (Roswell, Dushoff, & Winfree, 2021)”

Reviewer: Also, shouldn't each assemblage meet these thresholds in order to be included in the analysis? For example, why would an assemblage with 30% completeness be acceptable just because another assemblage in the same dataset had >50% completeness? I don't see a problem with including some assemblages from a dataset but excluding others because they don't meet necessary criteria for reliable diversity estimates. I appreciate the use of weighted regression based on sampling completeness, but it still seems important that each assemblage meets some threshold of sampling completeness in order to provide a reliable diversity estimate.

Responses: We clarified that we only included assemblages with $\geq 50\%$ completeness in those studies. In other words, assemblages $< 50\%$ completeness were always excluded. But as long as the dataset has at least one assemblage $> 50\%$, we will include the assemblages (but not those $< 50\%$).

We have clarified our explanation: “5) At least one assemblage had sampling completeness of $\geq 50\%$ to ensure the reliability of diversity estimates. Sampling completeness was calculated using the R package iNEXT.3D (Chao et al., 2021). ” (L377-379)... “We did not set a minimum number of assemblages to include in a dataset in our study. We included any assemblage in analyses if the sampling completeness and taxonomic resolution thresholds were met.” (L379-383).

Reviewer: 2.) Lines 541-548. The supplemental explanation and simulation were very helpful for clarifying how this approach permits datasets with only one land use type. I think it would be good to incorporate one or two of the key points into the main text here. The following sentence was particularly helpful for alleviating my confusion: “We emphasize here that mixed models do not estimate study-level land use effects (or in general v_i) through modelling its relationship in each study individually. Rather, the calculations involve calculating the fixed effects and the

variance-covariance matrix, which uses data from all studies (Raudenbush & Bryk, 2002).”

Responses: Added (L536-537).

Reviewer: 3.) Lines 801-802. You could perhaps speculate briefly on the heterogeneity of the urban habitats where the datasets you used were collected and how you might expect that heterogeneity to contribute to turnover. You mention the variety of the urban habitats in lines 446-450. Do you think these might vary in the floral and nesting resources they provide to bees? A lot of your discussion points are very general, so some concrete examples would be nice.

Responses: The turnover analyses have been removed as we included the alpha-beta-gamma diversity analyses (as suggested by reviewer 3) and we streamlined the manuscript. However, we provide examples of why urban habitats have higher heterogeneity, such as different planting preferences and mowing frequency of individual owners. This can lead to different bee assemblages (L746-750): “At these scales, different management practices within cities, such as varying ornamental plants or mowing frequencies due to owner preferences (Aronson et al., 2017; Lerman, Contosta, Milam, & Bang, 2018; Prendergast, Dixon, & Bateman, 2022), can increase environmental heterogeneity and, therefore, result in higher β diversity than natural habitats (Alberti, 2016).”

Reviewer: 4.) Lines 831-834. This statement is a bit vague, and I don’t see how it follows from your results. Certainly, both richness and unique species should be considered in conservation strategies, but how do your results show that they are complementary? Again, concrete examples are helpful.

Responses: We shifted the focus of the manuscript to α , β , and γ diversity changes across land uses (see major comments by reviewer 3). To streamline the manuscript, we removed the nestedness and turnover analyses, and therefore this statement has been removed.

Smaller comments/typo corrections:

1.) Lines 279-281. I believe what you mean to say here is that the reduced taxonomic and phylogenetic β -diversity indicates greater diversity loss over large spatial scales that would be estimated from α -diversity alone. Just need to add the β to make this sentence make sense.

Response: Corrected

2.) Line 548. Missing the word “a” in “for a single land use”.

Response: Corrected

3.) Line 657. Change “reduced” to “changed” or “increased or decreased” because some genera had higher abundance in agricultural or urban habitats.

Response: Corrected

4.) Lines 736-737. This is an incomplete sentence. Add “we detected” after “In contrast,”.

Response: Corrected

5.) Line 740. “However” would be a better word than “alternatively” here.

Response: Corrected

6.) Line 762. Change subheading to match that on line 626.

Response: Corrected

7.) Lines 775, Fig. 4, Table S8. I’m not a taxonomist, but hasn’t *Peponapis* been lumped into *Eucera*? Why are they treated separately here?

Response: We have updated the figure with the latest classification that *Peponapis* is a subgenus of *Xenoglossa* (Frietas et al. 2023).

Freitas, F. V., Branstetter, M. G., Franceschini-Santos, V. H., Dorchin, A., Wright, K. W., López-Urbe, M. M., ... & Almeida, E. A. (2023). UCE phylogenomics, biogeography, and classification of long-horned bees (Hymenoptera: Apidae: Eucerini), with insights on using specimens with extremely degraded DNA. *Insect Systematics and Diversity*, 7(4), 3.

8.) Line 780. Add the word “both” before “urban and agricultural”.

Response: Corrected

9.) Line 818. Confusing sentence. Would read better as “...the contribution of turnover to both phylogenetic and taxonomic β -diversity was ~8% lower...”

Response: This has been deleted, as the nestedness and turnover analyses have been removed to streamline the manuscript.

10.) Lines 825, 828. I would replace “can” with “may” in these sentences.

Response: Corrected.

11.) Lines 872-873. I believe you mean to say “...the effectiveness of conservation measures for enhancing...”

Response: Fixed.

12.) Line 891. Change “to” to “for” (“...consequences of agricultural expansion for species diversity...”)

Response: This has been deleted, as the last paragraph has been rewritten to accommodate the γ diversity results.

13.) SI lines 597, 637. Correct “insignificant” to “non-significant”.

Response: Fixed.

1 Land use change consistently reduces α but not β and γ diversity of bees

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3 Toby P. N. Tsang^{1,2}, A. A. Amado De Santis^{3,4}, Gabriela Armas-Quíñonez⁵, John S. Ascher⁶,
 4 Eva Samanta Ávila-Gómez⁷, András Báldi⁸, Kimberly M. Ballare^{9,10}, Mario V. Balzan¹¹,
 5 Weronika Banaszak-Cibicka¹², Svenja Bänisch¹³, Yves Basset¹⁴, Adam J. Bates¹⁵, Jessica M.
 6 Baumann¹⁶, Mariana Beal-Neves¹⁷, Ashley Bennett¹⁸, Antonio Diego M. Bezerra¹⁹, Betina
 7 Blochtein¹⁷, Riccardo Bommarco²⁰, Berry Brosi²¹, Laura A. Burkle²², Luísa G. Carvalheiro²³,
 8 Ignacio Castellanos²⁴, Marcela Cely-Santos²⁵, Hamutahl Cohen²⁶, Drissa Coulibaly²⁷, Saul A.
 9 Cunningham²⁸, Sarah Cusser²⁹, Isabelle Dajoz³⁰, Deborah A. Delaney³¹, Ek Del-Val³², Monika
 10 Egerer³³, Markus P. Eichhorn^{34,35}, Eunice Enríquez⁵, Martin H. Entling³⁶, Natalia Escobedo-
 11 Kenefic⁵, Pedro Maria Abreu Ferreira¹⁷, Gordon Fitch³⁷, Jessica R. K. Forrest³⁸, Valérie
 12 Fournier³⁹, Robert Fowler⁴⁰, Breno M. Freitas⁴¹, Hannah R. Gaines-Day⁴², Benoît Geslin^{43,44},
 13 Jaboury Ghazoul⁴⁵, Paul Glaum^{46,47}, Jose L. Gonzalez-Andujar⁴⁸, Adrian González-Chaves⁴⁹,
 14 Heather Grab⁵⁰, Claudio Gratton⁵¹, Solène Guenat⁵², Catalina Gutiérrez-Chacón⁵³, Mark A.
 15 Hall⁵⁴, Mick E. Hanley⁵⁵, Annika Hass¹³, Ernest Ireneusz Hennig⁵⁶, Martin Hermy⁵⁷, Juliana
 16 Hipólito^{58,59}, Andrea Holzschuh⁶⁰, Sebastian Hopfenmüller⁶¹, Keng-Lou James Hung⁶²,
 17 Kristoffer Hylander⁶³, Jordi Izquierdo⁶⁴, Mary A. Jamieson⁶⁵, Birgit Jauker⁶⁶, Steve Javorek⁶⁷,
 18 Shalene Jha⁶⁸, Björn Klatt^{69,70,71}, David Kleijn⁷², Alexandra-Maria Klein⁷³, Anikó Kovács-
 19 Hostyánszki⁸, Jochen Krauss⁷⁴, Michael Kuhlmann⁷⁵, Patricia Landaverde-González^{5,76}, Tanya
 20 Latty⁷⁷, Misha Leong⁷⁸, Susannah B. Lerman⁷⁹, Yunhui Liu⁸⁰, Ana Carolina Pereira Machado⁸¹,
 21 Anson Main^{82,83}, Rachel Mallinger⁸⁴, Yael Mandelik⁸⁵, Bruno Ferreira Marques⁸⁶, Kevin
 22 Matteson⁸⁷, Frédéric McCune³⁹, Ling-Zeng Meng⁸⁸, Jean Paul Metzger⁸⁹, Paula María Montoya-
 23 Pfeiffer⁹⁰, Carolina Morales⁹¹, Lora Morandin⁹², Jane Morrison^{64,93}, Sonja Mudri-Stojnić⁹⁴,

24 Pakorn Nalinrachatakan⁹⁵, Olivia Norfolk⁹⁶, Mark Otieno⁹⁷, Mia G. Park⁹⁸, Stacy M. Philpott⁹⁹,
25 Gideon Pisanty^{85,100}, Montserrat Plascencia¹⁰¹, Simon G. Potts¹⁰², Eileen F. Power¹⁰³, Kit
26 Prendergast^{104,105}, Robyn D. Quistberg⁹⁹, Davi de Lacerda Ramos¹⁰⁶, André Rodrigo Rech¹⁰⁷,
27 Victoria Reynolds¹⁰⁸, Miriam H. Richards¹⁰⁹, Stuart P. M. Roberts^{102,110}, Malena Sabatino¹¹¹,
28 Ulrika Samnegård¹¹², Hillary Sardinias¹¹³, Karina Sánchez-Echeverría¹¹⁴, Fernanda Teixeira
29 Saturni¹¹⁵, Jeroen Scheper⁷², Amber R. Sciligo¹¹⁶, C. Sheena Sidhu¹¹⁷, Brian J. Spiesman¹¹⁸,
30 Tuanjit Sritongchuay¹¹⁹, Ingolf Steffan-Dewenter¹²⁰, Katharina Stein¹²¹, Alyssa B. Stewart¹²²,
31 Jane C. Stout¹⁰³, Hisatomo Taki¹²³, Pornpimon Tangtorwongsakul¹²⁴, Caragh G. Threlfall¹²⁵,
32 Carla Tinoco¹²⁶, Teja Tscharntke¹²⁷, Katherine J. Turo^{128,129}, Chatura Vaidya¹³⁰, Rémy
33 Vandame¹³¹, Carlos H. Vergara¹³², Blandina F. Viana⁵⁸, Eric Vides-Borrell¹³¹, Natapot Warrit⁹⁵,
34 Elisabeth Webb¹³³, Catrin Westphal¹³, Jennifer B. Wickens¹⁰², Neal M. Williams¹³⁴, Nicholas S.
35 G. Williams¹⁶, Caleb J. Wilson^{65,135}, Panlong Wu^{80,136}, Elsa Youngsteadt¹³⁷, Yi Zou¹³⁸, Lauren C.
36 Ponisio¹³⁹, Timothy C. Bonebrake¹

37

38 ¹School of Biological Sciences, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong,
39 Hong Kong SAR, China

40 ²Department of Biological Sciences, University of Toronto-Scarborough, Toronto, Ontario,
41 Canada

42 ³Centro de Estudios Territoriales Ambientales y Sociales (CETAS-UNJu), Jujuy, Argentina

43 ⁴Instituto de Ecorregiones Andinas (INECOA), Universidad Nacional de Jujuy - CONICET,
44 Facultad de Ciencias Agrarias, S. S. de Jujuy, Argentina

- 45 ⁵Centro de Estudios Conservacionistas, Facultad de Ciencias Químicas y Farmacia, Universidad
46 de San Carlos de Guatemala
- 47 ⁶Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore, 16 Science Drive 4 S3
48 Level 4, Singapore 117558
- 49 ⁷Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas, Instituto de Ciencias Básicas e Ingeniería, Universidad
50 Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo, Carretera Pachuca-Tulancingo km 4.5, C. P. 42184, Mineral
51 de la Reforma, Hidalgo, México
- 52 ⁸Lendület Ecosystem Services Research Group, Institute of Ecology and Botany, HUN-REN
53 Centre for Ecological Research, Hungary
- 54 ⁹Department of Integrative Biology, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78739, USA
- 55 ¹⁰USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Bozeman, MT 59717, USA
- 56 ¹¹Institute of Applied Sciences, Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology, Paola,
57 PLA9032, Malta
- 58 ¹²Department of Zoology, Poznań University of Life Sciences, Wojska Polskiego 71C, 60-625
59 Poznań, Poland
- 60 ¹³Functional Agrobiodiversity, University of Göttingen, 37077, Göttingen, Germany
- 61 ¹⁴Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama City, Republic of Panama
- 62 ¹⁵School of Animal, Rural & Environmental Sciences, Nottingham Trent University,
63 Nottingham, UK

- 64 ¹⁶School of Ecosystem and Forest Science, The University of Melbourne, Australia
- 65 ¹⁷Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ecologia e Evolução da Biodiversidade, Pontifícia
- 66 Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul, PUCRS, Av. Ipiranga 6681, prédio 12, bloco C,
- 67 sala 111, Porto Alegre, RS 90619-900, Brazil
- 68 ¹⁸Department of Entomology, Michigan State University, 578 Wilson Road, East Lansing, MI
- 69 48824, United States
- 70 ¹⁹Departamento de Zootecnia, Centro de Ciências Agrárias, Universidade Federal do Ceará,
- 71 Fortaleza, CE, Brazil
- 72 ²⁰Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Ecology, 75007 Uppsala, Sweden
- 73 ²¹Department of Biology, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA
- 74 ²²Montana State University, Department of Ecology, Bozeman, MT USA 59717
- 75 ²³Departamento de Ecologia, Instituto de Ciências Biológicas, Universidade Federal de Goiás,
- 76 Goiânia, Brazil
- 77 ²⁴Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo, Mineral
- 78 de la Reforma, Hidalgo, Mexico
- 79 ²⁵Department of Environmental Studies, University of California- Santa Cruz
- 80 ²⁶University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, UC Cooperative
- 81 Extension Ventura County. Ventura, CA
- 82 ²⁷University Peleforo GON COULIBALY of Korhogo, Cote d'Ivoire

- 83 ²⁸Fenner School of Environment & Society, The Australian National University, Canberra,
84 Australia, 2601
- 85 ²⁹Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, 1212 Mission Canyon Rd, Santa Barbara, CA 93111, USA
- 86 ³⁰Université Paris-Cité, UMR CNRS 7618, Paris, France
- 87 ³¹Department of Entomology & Wildlife Biology, University of Delaware, Newark, DE, United
88 States
- 89 ³²Instituto de Investigaciones en Ecosistemas y Sustentabilidad, UNAM
- 90 ³³Department of Life Science Systems, TUM School of Life Sciences, Technical University of
91 Munich, Hans Carl-von-Carlowitz-Platz 2, 85354 Freising, Germany
- 92 ³⁴School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University College Cork, Cork,
93 Ireland
- 94 ³⁵Environmental Research Institute, University College Cork, Cork, Ireland
- 95 ³⁶37iES Landau, Institute for Environmental Sciences, University of Kaiserslautern-Landau
96 (RPTU), Germany
- 97 ³⁷Department of Biology, York University, Toronto, ON, Canada
- 98 ³⁸Department of Biology, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON, Canada
- 99 ³⁹Centre de recherche et d'innovation sur les végétaux, Université Laval, Québec City, QC,
100 Canada
- 101 ⁴⁰University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, United Kingdom

- 102 ⁴¹Departamento de Zootecnia, Centro de Ciências Agrárias, Universidade Federal do Ceará,
103 Fortaleza, CE, Brazil
- 104 ⁴²Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Madison, WI, USA
- 105 ⁴³IMBE, Aix Marseille Univ., Avignon Univ., CNRS, IRD, Marseille, France
- 106 ⁴⁴Université de Rennes (UNIR), UMR 6553 ECOBIO, CNRS, Rennes, France
- 107 ⁴⁵Ecosystem Management, Department of Environmental Systems Science, ETH Zurich, Zurich,
108 Switzerland
- 109 ⁴⁶Department of Environmental Science and Policy, University of California-Davis, Davis, CA,
110 95616, USA
- 111 ⁴⁷Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI,
112 48109, USA
- 113 ⁴⁸Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (IAS), Spanish National Research Council (CSIC),
114 Cordoba, Spain
- 115 ⁴⁹Laboratório de Ecologia da Paisagem e Conservação, Instituto de Biociências, Universidade de
116 São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
- 117 ⁵⁰School of Integrative Plant Sciences, Cornell University, Ithaca NY 14853 USA
- 118 ⁵¹Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1630 Linden Dr. Madison,
119 Madison, WI, 53706, USA
- 120 ⁵²Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL, Switzerland

- 121 ⁵³Wildlife Conservation Society –Colombia Program, Av 5N # 22N-11, Cali, Colombia
- 122 ⁵⁴Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, Western Sydney University, Richmond, Australia
- 123 ⁵⁵School of Biological and Marine Sciences, University of Plymouth, Plymouth, PL4 8AA. UK.
- 124 ⁵⁶Federal Statistical Office, Division Territory and Environment, Section Geoinformation
- 125 ⁵⁷KU Leuven, University of Leuven (KU Leuven), dept Earth & Environmental Sciences,
- 126 Celestijnenlaan 200E, 3001 Heverlee
- 127 ⁵⁸Instituto de Biologia, Universidade Federal da Bahia, Salvador, BA, Brazil
- 128 ⁵⁹Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia, Manaus, AM, Brazil
- 129 ⁶⁰Department of Animal Ecology and Tropical Biology, Biocenter, University of Würzburg, Am
- 130 Hubland, 97074 Würzburg, Germany
- 131 ⁶¹Evolutionary Ecology and Conservation Genomics, Ulm University, Germany
- 132 ⁶²Oklahoma Biological Survey, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, USA
- 133 ⁶³Department of Ecology, Environment and Plant Sciences, Stockholm University, SE-106 91
- 134 Stockholm, Sweden
- 135 ⁶⁴Department of Agri-Food Engineering and Biotechnology, Universitat Politècnica de
- 136 Catalunya - Campus del Baix Llobregat, 08860 Castelldefels, Spain
- 137 ⁶⁵Department of Biological Sciences, Oakland University, Rochester, MI, United States
- 138 ⁶⁶Department of Animal Ecology, Justus Liebig University Giessen, Giessen, Germany

- 139 ⁶⁷Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Kentville Research and Development Centre, Kentville,
140 Nova Scotia, Canada
- 141 ⁶⁸Department of Integrative Biology & Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, University of
142 Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78739, USA
- 143 ⁶⁹Agroecology, Department of Crop Sciences, Göttingen University, Germany
- 144 ⁷⁰Biodiversity, Department of Biology, Lund University, Sweden
- 145 ⁷¹Halmstad University, School of Business, Innovation and Sustainability, Biology &
146 Environmental Sciences, P.O. Box 823, 30118 Halmstad, Sweden
- 147 ⁷²Plant Ecology and Nature Conservation Group, Wageningen University & Research, 6700 AA
148 Wageningen, The Netherlands
- 149 ⁷³Nature Conservation and Landscape Ecology, University of Freiburg, Germany
- 150 ⁷⁴Department of Animal Ecology and Tropical Biology, Biocenter, University of Würzburg, Am
151 Hubland, 97074 Würzburg, Germany
- 152 ⁷⁵Zoological Museum, University of Kiel, Germany, Hegewischstr. 3, D-24105 Kiel
- 153 ⁷⁶General Zoology, Institute for Biology, Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Hoher
154 Weg 8, 06120 Halle (Saale), Germany
- 155 ⁷⁷School of Life and Environmental Sciences & Sydney Institute of Agriculture, University of
156 Sydney, Sydney, NSW, Australia
- 157 ⁷⁸California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, CA, USA

- 158 ⁷⁹USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station, Amherst, MA, USA
- 159 ⁸⁰College of Resources and Environmental Sciences, China Agricultural University, Beijing
160 100193, China
- 161 ⁸¹Programas de Pós-Graduação em Ciência Florestal e Biologia Animal, Universidade Federal
162 dos Vales do Jequitinhonha e Mucuri, Campus JK, Diamantina, MG, Brazil
- 163 ⁸²School of Natural Resources, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO, USA
- 164 ⁸³California Department of Pesticide Regulation, Sacramento, CA, 95812, USA
- 165 ⁸⁴Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA
- 166 ⁸⁵Department of Entomology, The Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and
167 Environment, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Rehovot 7610001, Israel
- 168 ⁸⁶Programa de Pós Graduação em Ecologia e Evolução - Universidade Federal de Goiás,
169 Goiânia, Brasil
- 170 ⁸⁷Project Dragonfly/Department of Biology, Miami University, 111 Upham Hall, Oxford, OH
171 45056, USA
- 172 ⁸⁸College of Biological & Agricultural Sciences, Honghe University, Mengzi, Yunnan 661199,
173 China
- 174 ⁸⁹Department of Ecology, Institute of Biosciences, Institute of Advanced Studies, University of
175 São Paulo, SP, Brazil

- 176 ⁹⁰Laboratório de Abelhas, Departamento de Ecologia, Instituto de Biociências, Universidade de
177 São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
- 178 ⁹¹Instituto de Investigaciones en Biodiversidad y Medio Ambiente (INIBIOMA), Universidad
179 Nacional del Comahue, Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas
180 (CONICET), Bariloche (8400), Argentina
- 181 ⁹²Pollinator Partnership, San Francisco, CA
- 182 ⁹³Department of Environment, Agriculture and Geography, Bishop's University, 2600 College
183 St., Sherbrooke, QC, J1M 1Z7, Canada
- 184 ⁹⁴University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Sciences, Department of Biology and Ecology, Trg Dositeja
185 Obradovića 2, 21000 Novi Sad, Serbia
- 186 ⁹⁵Center of Excellence in Entomology and Department of Biology, Faculty of Science,
187 Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok 10330, Thailand
- 188 ⁹⁶Deceased
- 189 ⁹⁷Water and Agricultural Resource Management, University of Embu, Embu, Kenya
- 190 ⁹⁸Department of Entomology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA
- 191 ⁹⁹Environmental Studies Department, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064, USA
- 192 ¹⁰⁰The Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel
- 193 ¹⁰¹Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Santa Cruz, Santa
194 Cruz, CA 95064, USA

- 195 ¹⁰²Centre for Agri-Environmental Research, School of Agriculture, Policy and Development,
196 Reading University, RG6 6EU, UK
- 197 ¹⁰³Botany, School of Natural Sciences, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland
- 198 ¹⁰⁴University of Sunshine Coast
- 199 ¹⁰⁵School of Molecular and Life Sciences, Curtin University, Kent Street, Bentley, WA, 6102,
200 Australia
- 201 ¹⁰⁶University of Brasília, Institute of Biological Sciences, Graduate Program in Ecology –
202 Campus Darcy Ribeiro, Asa Norte, Brasília-DF 70910-900, Brazil
- 203 ¹⁰⁷Centre of Advanced Studies on the Functioning of Ecological Systems and Interactions
204 (CAFESIN - MULTIFLOR), Federal University of Jequitinhonha and Mucuri Valleys. CEP
205 39100-000, Diamantina, Minas Gerais, Brazil
- 206 ¹⁰⁸University of Queensland, School of Biological Sciences, Brisbane, Australia
- 207 ¹⁰⁹Department of Biological Sciences, Brock University, 1812 Sir Isaac Brock Way, St.
208 Catharines, ON, L2T 1X6, Canada
- 209 ¹¹⁰Université Libre de Bruxelles, Faculté des Sciences, Campus de la Plaine - CP 264/02,
210 Boulevard du Triomphe, ACC.2 ,1050 Bruxelles
- 211 ¹¹¹Centro de Investigaciones en Abejas Sociales (CIAS), IIPROSAM. CONICET – UNMDP
- 212 ¹¹²Department of Biology, Lund University, 223 62 Lund, Sweden

- 213 ¹¹³Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management, University of California,
214 Berkeley
- 215 ¹¹⁴Laboratorio de Ecología de Interacciones Bióticas. Facultad de Biología. Universidad
216 Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo. Morelia, Michoacán, México
- 217 ¹¹⁵Departamento de Ecologia, Instituto de Biociências, Universidade de São Paulo, Rua do
218 Matão, 321, Travessa 14, 05508-900 São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 219 ¹¹⁶The Organic Center, Washington D.C., USA
- 220 ¹¹⁷Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Stanford University
- 221 ¹¹⁸Department of Entomology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506
- 222 ¹¹⁹UFZ-Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Department of Computational Landscape
223 Ecology, Permoserstr. 15, 04318 Leipzig, Germany
- 224 ¹²⁰Department of Animal Ecology and Tropical Biology, Biocenter, University of Würzburg, Am
225 Hubland, 97074 Würzburg, Germany
- 226 ¹²¹University of Potsdam, Working group Biodiversity/Systematic Botany, Maulbeerallee 1,
227 14469 Potsdam, Germany
- 228 ¹²²Department of Plant Science, Faculty of Science, Mahidol University, Bangkok, 10400
229 Thailand
- 230 ¹²³Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute, 1 Matsunosato, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, 305-8687,
231 Japan

- 232 ¹²⁴Conservation Ecology Program, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi,
233 Bangkok 10150, Thailand
- 234 ¹²⁵School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Science, The University of Sydney,
235 Camperdown, Australia
- 236 ¹²⁶Department of Ecology, Universidade Federal de Goiás, 74001-970 Goiânia, Brazil
- 237 ¹²⁷Department of Agroecology, University of Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany
- 238 ¹²⁸Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources, Rutgers University, New
239 Brunswick, New Jersey, USA
- 240 ¹²⁹Department of Entomology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, USA
- 241 ¹³⁰Department of Integrative Biology, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78712, USA
- 242 ¹³¹El Colegio de la Frontera Sur, Departamento Agricultura Sociedad y Ambiente, San Cristóbal
243 de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico
- 244 ¹³²Departamento de Ciencias Químico-Biológicas, Universidad de las Américas Puebla, Cholula,
245 Puebla, México
- 246 ¹³³U.S. Geological Survey, Missouri Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, University of
247 Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211, USA
- 248 ¹³⁴Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of California, One Shields Ave.,
249 Davis, CA 95616, USA
- 250 ¹³⁵Department of Entomology, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA

251 ¹³⁶School of Ecology and Environment, Inner Mongolia University, Hohhot 010021, China

252 ¹³⁷Department of Applied Ecology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA

253 ¹³⁸Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University,

254 Suzhou, China

255 ¹³⁹Institute for Ecology and Evolution, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, USA

256

257 Corresponding: Toby, P. N. Tsang, Lauren C. Ponisio, Timothy C. Bonebrake

258 **Email:** paknok.tsang@utoronto.ca, lponisio@uoregon.edu, tbone@hku.hk

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260 Running title: Land use change reduces bee diversity

Abstract

Land use change threatens global biodiversity and compromises ecosystem functions, including pollination and food production. Reduced taxonomic α diversity is often reported under land use change, yet the impacts could be different at larger spatial scales (i.e., γ diversity), either due to reduced β diversity amplifying diversity loss or increased β diversity dampening diversity loss. Additionally, studies often focus on taxonomic diversity, while other important biodiversity components, including phylogenetic diversity, can exhibit differential responses. Here, we evaluated how agricultural and urban land use alter the taxonomic and phylogenetic α , β , γ diversity of an important pollinator taxon – bees. Using a multi-continental dataset of 3,117 bee assemblages from 157 studies, we found that taxonomic α -diversity was reduced by 16-18% in both agricultural and urban habitats relative to natural habitats. Phylogenetic α diversity decreased by 11-12% in agricultural and urban habitats. Compared with natural habitats, taxonomic and phylogenetic β diversity increased by 11% and 6% in urban habitats respectively but exhibited no systematic change in agricultural habitats. We detected a 22% decline in taxonomic γ diversity and a 17% decline in phylogenetic γ diversity in agricultural habitats, but γ diversity of urban habitats was not significantly different from natural habitats. These findings highlight the threat of agricultural expansions to large-scale bee diversity due to systematic γ diversity decline. In addition, while both urbanization and agriculture lead to consistent declines in α diversity, their impacts on β or γ diversity vary, highlighting the need to study the effects of land use change at multiple scales.

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Keywords: Land uses, bees, pollinators, biodiversity decline, agriculture, urban

Introduction

Human activities have transformed global terrestrial environments for anthropogenic land uses, mainly agriculture and urban developments (Ellis, Klein Goldewijk, Siebert, Lightman, & Ramankutty, 2010). These processes reduce biodiversity by creating environments with unsuitable biotic and abiotic conditions and enhancing competitive exclusion (Mayfield et al., 2010), ultimately threatening ecosystem functions (van der Plas, 2019). A common approach in evaluating the ecological impacts of land use change is to compare the number of taxa within assemblages (taxonomic α -diversity) between natural habitats and man-made habitats (Purvis & Hector, 2000). Previous studies have found that taxonomic α -diversity in different taxa can be reduced by 19%-40% in agricultural habitats and 4%-50% in urban habitats on average (Newbold et al., 2015).

However, taxonomic α diversity analyses could fail to capture the potential effects of land use change on homogenizing assemblages, thus underestimating γ diversity loss (i.e., diversity at larger spatial scales) (Socolar, Gilroy, Kunin, & Edwards, 2016). Taxonomic β diversity, relatively understudied compared with taxonomic α diversity, captures compositional variations between assemblages and can determine how α diversity loss upscales to γ diversity (Mori, Isbell, & Seidl, 2018; Socolar et al., 2016). Specifically, reduced and increased β diversity can result in higher and lower γ diversity loss relative to what would be expected based on α diversity losses alone (Socolar et al., 2016). While land use change is expected to homogenize assemblages and reduce β diversity, empirical studies have shown mixed results (Newbold et al., 2016).

Regardless of the spatial scale at which it is measured, a limitation of taxonomic diversity is its inability to effectively reflect ecological differences between species, such as morphology,

physiology, and phenology (Purvis & Hector, 2000; Tucker et al., 2017). Recent studies have increasingly emphasized analyzing phylogenetic diversity alongside taxonomic diversity (Cadotte & Tucker, 2018; Tucker et al., 2017). As evolution shapes species traits, phylogenetic approaches can efficiently capture high-dimensional ecological differences, reducing the risks of omitting important traits (Tucker et al., 2017; Tucker, Davies, Cadotte, & Pearse, 2018). Additionally, phylogenetic diversity has exhibited similar or even better performance than taxonomic diversity in explaining ecosystem functions or services across sites (Tucker et al., 2019; van der Plas, 2019).

While not always the case, responses of phylogenetic diversity to land use change should largely follow taxonomic diversity change (Tucker & Cadotte, 2013). However, land use could also lead to more phylogenetic diversity loss than would be expected based on the taxonomic diversity loss. This is because land use change can strengthen phylogenetic habitat filtering (Grab et al., 2019; Nowakowski, Frishkoff, Thompson, Smith, & Todd, 2018), causing only a subset of phylogenetically similar species to persist under anthropogenic land uses due to conserved traits (Duarte, 2011). Interestingly, the filtering effects on α - and β -diversity can vary, again demonstrating the importance of analyzing both α and β diversity to better understand net impacts at larger spatial scales (i.e., γ diversity) (Nowakowski et al., 2018).

To understand how land use change affects taxonomic and phylogenetic diversity, we focused on a well-studied and ecologically important taxon, bees. Pollination services by bees can be greater in sites with high bee taxonomic and phylogenetic α diversity and landscapes with high taxonomic β diversity between sites (Grab et al., 2019; Weekers et al., 2022; Winfree et al., 2018), compared to lower-diversity sites and landscapes. Ongoing global land use change is known to reduce bee diversity generally (Cariveau & Winfree, 2015; De Palma et al., 2016;

Winfree, Bartomeus, & Cariveau, 2011). However, the exact effects can vary with land use types, with some studies reporting increased bee diversity under land use change (Cariveau & Winfree, 2015; Prendergast, Dixon, & Bateman, 2022; Winfree et al., 2011). Furthermore, the impacts of anthropogenic land uses are often evaluated using taxonomic α diversity, even though other biodiversity metrics could exhibit different patterns (De Palma et al., 2017; Harrison, Gibbs, & Winfree, 2018). Importantly, some bee lineages are especially sensitive to land use change, which could lead to a more substantial decline in phylogenetic diversity relative to taxonomic diversity (Grab et al., 2019; Harrison et al., 2018).

We examined the ecological impacts of global land use on bee diversity using bee assemblage data from agricultural, urban, and natural habitats across all continents except Antarctica, where bees are absent. Our objectives were to 1) compare taxonomic and phylogenetic α , β and γ diversity between natural, agricultural and urban habitats, 2) investigate whether land use change leads to stronger phylogenetic habitat filtering, and 3) identify the genera particularly affected by the agricultural and urban habitats. For objective 1, we expected that natural habitats would contain greater taxonomic and phylogenetic α , β , and γ diversity. For objective 2, we predicted declines in phylogenetic diversity in urban and agricultural habitats, even after controlling for taxonomic diversity, due to increased phylogenetic habitat filtering.

Materials and Methods

Data collection

We first collected bee datasets from the PREDICTS database (Hudson et al., 2014) and from a previous global study examining the effects of agricultural habitats on bee communities (Kennedy et al., 2013). We then conducted a search on Google Scholar using different

combinations of keywords, including but not limited to “bee”, “land use”, “fragment”, “agriculture”, “urban”, “garden”, “park”, “green space”, “cropland”, “pasture”, and “plantation”. After the broad search, we assessed the spatial distribution of datasets collected and identified understudied regions in our data. We added these spatial descriptors as keywords (e.g., “tropical”, “Asia”, “Africa”, and “South America”) in subsequent searches to minimize spatial biases. We also collected datasets from understudied regions by examining references of studies and recommendations from bee experts to further minimize spatial biases in the dataset. We contacted the authors for raw data if they were not published.

As temporal approaches are rare in the literature (Davison, Rahbek, & Morueta-Holme, 2021), all collected datasets reflected spatial rather than temporal changes across land uses. While spatial approaches can underestimate the impacts of land use changes (Christie et al., 2019), it minimizes spatial biases and maximizes generality. Despite our best efforts, regions known as bee diversity hotspots (Orr et al., 2021) or essential for global food security (Aizen et al., 2019), such as South and Central Asia (Figure 1a), are still underrepresented.

After data cleaning (see section *Data cleaning*) and before data analyses, we excluded *Apis mellifera* (because they were often from managed colonies) from all sites, and aggregated data from different sampling dates before checking whether the following criteria had been met: 1) We only obtained datasets with a broad taxonomic focus. Therefore, datasets that included only certain groups of bees (e.g., *Bombus* spp., solitary bees) were excluded. However, datasets that did not capture *Apis mellifera* were included. 2) Spatial coordinates were recorded, which were used to control for spatial autocorrelation in the analyses. 3) The number of individuals observed was recorded. 4) At least ten individuals were identified to at least the genus level to ensure reliable rarefaction results (see below). We did not use a threshold higher than ten individuals

because this might bias the analyses against impoverished assemblages. The threshold is also consistent with or higher than that used in previous studies based on rarefaction (Blowes et al., 2022; van Klink et al., 2024). 5) At least one assemblage had sampling completeness of $\geq 50\%$ to ensure the reliability of diversity estimates. Sampling completeness was calculated using the R package iNEXT.3D (Chao et al., 2021). 6) At least one assemblage had at least 95% of observed individuals identified to at least the genus level to ensure reliable estimations of phylogenetic diversity. We did not set a minimum number of assemblages to include in a dataset in our study. We included any assemblage in analyses if the sampling completeness and taxonomic resolution thresholds were met.

Datasets were divided into different studies according to their sampling strategies, which were broadly classified as: (1) “flower visitors”, if the study sampled flower-visiting bees within an area, (2) “targeted plants” if the study sampled flower-visiting bees of targeted plant species, and (3) “all bees” for any other method, such as pan traps, hand-netting, and vane traps. Thus, if a dataset provided bee data based on different sampling strategies, such as pan traps and hand netting bees from targeted plant species, the data would be separated into different studies.

Data cleaning

Before analyses, we corrected species synonyms using a bee species guide and world checklist (Ascher & Pickering, 2022). Missing taxa were further reviewed by a taxonomist co-author (John S. Ascher). For 1% of 2,247 species-level identifications, no matches were found; these were treated as morphospecies instead of species. For morphospecies or genus-level data,

we checked the validity of the genus in the checklist and corrected them when necessary. Tip names on the phylogenetic tree were also corrected using the same approaches.

Definitions of land uses

Our classification was primarily based on conditions within the sampling area rather than the surrounding landscapes. Because the sampling area varied strongly across studies (Table S1), we did not use a consistent spatial scale in classifying within-site land uses, similar to other global databases (Hudson et al., 2014). Rather, we determined land uses based on the predominant environment within the sampling area. However, for small sampling areas with a maximum length < 10 m (e.g., single malaise trap, transect < 10 m), we classified the site based on the surrounding 100 m² environment (Hudson et al., 2014). For plots, the maximum length was determined by the diagonal of the whole plot (Hudson et al., 2014).

Natural habitats were defined as areas primarily covered by vegetation resulting from natural succession or restoration (i.e., active attempts to bring the site to a more natural state). Natural habitats also included sites within disturbed landscapes, such as forest or grassland fragments within urban or agricultural landscapes. Agricultural habitats were defined as sites managed for growing resources, including food, animal products, and other resources (e.g., cotton, rubber). This included croplands, orchards, plantations, field margins (including those enhanced with hedgerows or wildflower strips), and pastures. Urban habitats included green spaces covered by planted vegetation (not natural succession) managed for amenity or recreation. Examples included lawns, golf courses, green roofs, and gardens. Crop gardens were classified as urban habitats since their local conditions and management are more similar to other urban green

spaces than the agricultural habitats defined above. Land uses of different sites were classified by data contributors, or based on site descriptions provided in publications. We also used historical images from Google Earth Pro to validate land uses when necessary. Sites that could not be reliably classified were excluded from analyses.

As our land use classification pooled different environments within the same land use category, the results should not be interpreted as estimates for specific kinds of urban, agricultural, or natural habitats. Our study broadly evaluates how bee diversity is affected by agriculturalization and urbanization, processes that can create different environments and degrade natural environments in various ways. Therefore, our classification system was designed to provide and compare average estimates across different environments within the same land uses.

Phylogeny

We used a global genus-level phylogeny to quantify the phylogenetic diversity of each assemblage (Hedtke, Patiny, & Danforth, 2013). We first converted the tree to ultrametric using a non-negative least square (Turley, Biddinger, Joshi, & López-Urbe, 2022). The strong cophenetic correlation (Pearson's $r = 0.93$) indicated that the tree's structure was largely conserved. Our data contained taxa from 355 genera, of which 32 were missing from the tree and were added to the closest sister genus available (Table S2). We randomly selected one species in the tree from each genus, then attached all species from each study as polytomies at the mid-point of its corresponding genus branch, as this approach has been demonstrated to capture phylogenetic diversity well when a species-level phylogeny is unavailable (Qian & Jin, 2021).

While use of a genus level phylogeny might not fully capture phylogenetic patterns of assemblages, previous bee studies have used the same phylogeny and detected phylogenetic diversity changes and phylogenetic habitat filtering (De Palma et al., 2017; Harrison et al., 2018; Hendrix, Forbes, & MacDougall, 2018). We quantified the phylogenetic α -diversity of each assemblage by generating ten phylogenetic trees and found that the values of phylogenetic α -diversity were highly correlated (Pearson's $r > 0.99$). Thus, we only used the first phylogenetic tree for subsequent analyses.

α and γ diversity estimates

In our analyses, α and γ diversity always represent within- and across-sample diversity within the same habitat and, therefore, an increase in spatial scale (Chase et al., 2019; Socolar et al., 2016). Thus, comparing α and γ diversity across habitats allows for assessing whether diversity loss is exacerbated at larger spatial scales by land use change. To estimate taxonomic and phylogenetic α and γ diversity, we estimated both metrics with the Hill number equal to 1, as it considers the relative abundance of species within assemblages and is less prone to undersampling than lower Hill numbers (Roswell, Dushoff, & Winfree, 2021).

We estimated α diversity for all assemblages, while γ diversity was estimated only for studies with at least five assemblages from at least one land use. Additionally, γ diversity was only estimated for studies that indicated sampling effort for each assemblage. We pooled species abundance data across assemblages of the same land uses within each study before conducting rarefaction analyses. To control for differences in sampling completeness between assemblages across studies, we extrapolated all α and γ diversities to their asymptotes (i.e., when sampling

completeness equals 1). Each assemblage's taxonomic and phylogenetic diversity was estimated using iNEXT.3D (Chao et al., 2021).

β diversity estimates

For each land use in each study, we used multiplicative partitioning ($\beta = \gamma / \text{mean } \alpha$) to obtain their β diversity (Jost, 2007). This method is especially suitable to understand the spatial scaling of diversity loss, as it represents the scaling factor relating α and γ diversity (Baselga, 2013; Socolar et al., 2016). The metric also reflects the contribution of β diversity to γ diversity (Contribution of $\beta = (1 - \alpha/\gamma) * 100\% = (1 - 1/\beta) * 100\%$).

The corresponding γ and α diversities were taken from rarefaction analyses. As more abundant assemblages should more heavily influence γ diversity estimates, mean α diversity was weighted according to the total abundance of each assemblage (Crist, Veech, Gering, & Summerville, 2003). Consistent with the γ diversity analyses, our analyses included only studies with at least five assemblages in at least one land use.

Climatic and methodological variables

We collected a variety of climatic and methodological variables to control for their effects on bee diversity and to better quantify any effect of land use change (Table 1). Mean annual temperature and annual precipitation, as well as the seasonality of each assemblage from 1979-2013, were obtained from the public database CHELSA v1.2 (Karger et al., 2017). Annual precipitation was square root transformed to reduce the effects of outliers. All data were at 30

arc-second (~ 1 km) resolution. Since these values are correlated, we used robust PCA to reduce the dimensionality of the variables. We included PC1 and PC2 for subsequent analyses, which captured $>76\%$ of the climatic variation within the dataset (Table S3). Increasing PC1 scores primarily reflect colder and drier sites with high seasonality in both temperature and precipitation, while increasing PC2 scores reflect colder and wetter sites with higher temperature seasonality and lower precipitation seasonality. Robust PCA was conducted using R-package `rrcov` (Todorov & Filzmoser, 2009).

For the β and γ diversity models, we additionally included methodological variables in the models that might affect both diversity metrics, namely 1) study extent, 2) variations in sampling efforts, 3) number of sites, 4) variations in sampling completeness, and 5) mean sampling completeness.

We quantified the study extent as the maximum linear distance between assemblages of the same land uses. Pooling assemblages with unstandardized sampling effort can distort abundance distribution, and the effect cannot be removed by rarefaction alone (see Chao & Jost (2012) for the theory of rarefaction based on sampling coverage). Thus, we included variation in sampling effort across habitats in the analyses. We quantified the sampling effort of each assemblage based on the most countable units (e.g. traps, transects, plots, sampling hours) in each study. Assemblages with the highest sampling effort would be one, while other assemblages would have a sampling effort lower than one. Therefore, the metric quantifies within-study sampling effort variations. Standard deviations of sampling effort were calculated across assemblages to represent its variation within each study.

We also calculated the number of assemblages for each land use, which tends to increase β and γ diversity (Crist & Veech, 2006; Jost, 2007; Marion, Fordyce, & Fitzpatrick, 2017).

Sampling completeness can also vary across assemblages and affect β and γ diversity (Beck, Holloway, & Schwanghart, 2013). Thus, before pooling assemblage data to estimate β and γ diversity, we calculated the mean and standard deviation of sampling completeness for all assemblages of the same land use within a study. Mean sampling completeness was log-transformed because of its non-linear effect on diversity metrics (Beck et al., 2013; Chao & Jost, 2012). The mean and standard deviations of sampling completeness across assemblages were highly correlated, so we further used a robust PCA and extracted the PCA1 score to represent them, as it captured 93.1% variations within the dataset. A higher sampling effort PCA1 score indicates lower mean sampling completeness with higher variation across assemblages (Table S3).

General modeling strategy

We used mixed models to identify the effects of land use while controlling for methodological and climatic covariates, as well as other unaccounted-for study differences using random effects. Study-level variation can lead to varying estimates of land use effects. For example, the effects may be stronger in warmer landscapes with fewer natural habitats in the surrounding environments (Ganuza et al., 2022; Kennedy et al., 2013). Methodological factors such as sampling area (Azaele et al., 2015) and methods (Lee & Guénard, 2019) can also alter estimates of land use effects. Here, we focused on the general trend across studies rather than examining how land use change interacts with other environmental or methodological variables. Therefore, apart from a few climatic and methodological covariates, we used study identity as a random effect to control for such study-level variations.

This statistical framework has been used in previous quantitative syntheses assessing land use effects on diversity or abundance by comparing data from studies conducted in different regions based on different methods. It also allows for studies with data on one land use only (De Palma et al., 2016; Millard et al., 2021; Newbold et al., 2015). A summary of how mixed models work is provided in Text S1. Additionally, we provide a simple simulation (Text S2) to justify our approach of including study-level land use effects, despite some studies only providing bee data for a single land use. We emphasize here that mixed models do not estimate study-level land use effects (or in general any random slope) through modelling its relationship in each study individually. Rather, the calculations involve calculating the fixed effects and the variance-covariance matrix, which uses data from all studies (Raudenbush & Bryk, 2002). Below we provided a brief description of the models. For mathematical expressions please refer to Table S4.

Objective 1a: α diversity

To examine how taxonomic and phylogenetic α -diversity varied across land uses, we built linear mixed models with Gaussian distributions using log-transformed α -diversity. We specified log-transformed α -diversity as the response to improve normality. For predictors, we included sampling method (three levels: All bees/ Flower visitors/ Targeted plants) and land use (three levels: Natural/Agricultural/Urban) of each site. Climatic PC1 and PC2 scores were also added as predictors to control for the effects of regional climate on bee α -diversity. Our analyses include nominal variables, so we set the intercepts as natural habitats sampled with methods targeting all bees. We further used sampling completeness as a weight in the regression, such

that poorly sampled sites (and, therefore, those with higher uncertainty in diversity estimates) had lower weights in the analyses (Carvalho et al., 2013).

For random effects, study identity was added as a random intercept, with land use effects added as random slopes, so the estimates of land use effects could vary across studies. The random slopes were never correlated with random intercepts to facilitate model convergence (Matuschek, Kliegl, Vasishth, Baayen, & Bates, 2017).

Additionally, to control for spatial autocorrelation, we added an assemblage-level random intercept based on the spatial coordinates of each site. The Matérn correlation model was used to construct the correlation matrix and estimate the spatial random effect. All spatial random effects were study-specific, indicating that spatial autocorrelations were modelled within but not across studies, as they had very different methodologies. Indeed, we detected substantial spatial autocorrelation between sites within the same study but not between sites across different studies (Text S3). We compared models with and without spatial random effects and found that the model including spatial autocorrelation had a significantly improved model fit, as indicated by a reduction of >490 in the conditional AIC.

We built the linear mixed model using R package spaMM, which allows including spatial random effects (Rousset & Ferdy, 2014). We then conducted an omnibus test for differences across land uses based on F tests using R package lmerTest (Kuznetsova, Brockhoff, & Christensen, 2017). If the effect of land use was significant, we further conducted pairwise comparisons across the three land uses, with the p-value adjusted by False Discovery Rate corrections.

Objective 1b & 1c: β and γ diversity

The β and γ diversity analyses were conducted at the study level (i.e., each land use from a study contributes one data point). In the models, log-transformed multiplicative β diversity (to improve normality) and untransformed γ diversity were the responses. Land uses, sampling methods, climatic PC1 and PC2 scores, number of sampling sites, standard deviations of sampling efforts, PC1 scores based on sampling completeness, and study extent were added as predictors. Climatic PC1 and PC2 scores were averaged across assemblages of the same land use in each study. Study extent and number of sampling sites were log-transformed, as their effects tend to be non-linear (Beck et al., 2013; Marcon, Zhang, & Hérault, 2014; Marion et al., 2017; Soininen, McDonald, & Hillebrand, 2007). We added sampling completeness of γ diversity as weights in the models to account for some pooled assemblages being more unreliable in diversity estimations due to low completeness. Study identity was added as a random intercept.

We started with a model that included the interaction between land use and study extent due to potential differences in distance-decay relationship across land uses. However, the interaction term was non-significant. Therefore, we included no interaction term in the final model. Again, an omnibus test was conducted for the effect of land use, and if significant, pairwise comparisons were conducted across land use. Linear mixed models were built with R package lme4 (Bates, Mächler, Bolker, & Walker, 2015) and p-values were obtained from lmerTest (Kuznetsova et al., 2017). Pairwise comparisons were conducted in emmeans (Lenth, 2024), with the p-values adjusted by False Discovery Rate corrections.

Objective 2: Phylogenetic habitat filtering in natural, agricultural, and urban habitats

If agricultural and urban land uses increase phylogenetic habitat filtering, their negative effect on phylogenetic diversity should still be significant after adding taxonomic diversity as a

covariate. Previous studies have used this approach to assess whether environments have less phylogenetic diversity than expected based on taxonomic diversity (Barreto, Graham, & Rangel, 2019; Sol, Bartomeus, González-Lagos, & Pavoine, 2017). We did not use null model analyses because some of the studies in our meta-data set included studies with a single land use, which did not capture species that fail to persist in different land uses (Lessard, Belmaker, Myers, Chase, & Rahbek, 2012).

We added taxonomic diversity as an additional predictor to the phylogenetic diversity models described in Objective 1a-c. For α and γ diversity, the relationship between phylogenetic and taxonomic diversity is a decelerating relationship, but for β diversity, it is largely linear (Figure S1). Thus, we added log-transformed taxonomic diversity into each model. Note that for α and β diversity models, the responses were also log-transformed. This effectively models a power law relationship, which can range from linear to non-linear. We only conducted pairwise comparisons between land uses if the omnibus test revealed a significant effect.

Objective 3: Genus abundance across land uses

To facilitate interpretations of diversity patterns, we further identified genera that have reduced abundance in agricultural and urban habitats relative to natural habitats. We conducted the analyses at the genus- rather than species-level, as the latter would lead to strong temperate region biases, given that more tropical studies relied on morphospecies or genus-level identifications. We selected 51 genera for this objective, as they are frequently detected across studies, and thus, the effects of land use can be reliably quantified (see Text S4 for details).

Our analyses included genera with different geographical distributions, such as the cosmopolitan genus *Megachile* and the Neotropical genus *Partamona* (Michener, 2007). Thus, different trends across genera could be driven by their varying sensitivity to land use changes and regional differences in the extent of environmental changes and management intensity. Quantifying the contributions of each mechanism would require additional life-history and environmental data. Nevertheless, our results can identify the genera more systematically affected by different land use drivers regardless of the underlying mechanisms

We built a model for each genus with their abundance in each assemblage as the response and land use, sampling method, and climatic PC1 and PC2 scores as predictors. Random effects were identical with the α -diversity models (Objective 1a), with study identity as a random intercept and land use as a random slope to control for between-study differences. Again, a spatial term based on Matérn correlation nested within studies was added to control for spatial autocorrelation. We used negative binomial mixed models to analyze abundance changes across land uses (Warton, 2005). An offset capturing log-transformed sampling effort of each assemblage was also added.

For one genus (*Dasypoda*), abundance data based on sampling flower visitors of all or targeted plant species were not available. Thus, we dropped sampling method from the model. For 31 genera, the effects of land use were only compared between agricultural and natural habitats, as there was a lack of urban studies containing abundance data of these genera. When three land uses were analyzed, we conducted pairwise comparisons if a significant result was obtained from the omnibus test. As we analyzed multiple genera, results might be affected by multiple comparisons. We further adjusted pairwise comparison p-values using False Discovery Rate corrections.

We extracted the predicted abundance for each model at each land use while holding climatic PC1 and PC2 at their mean values. We predicted abundance based on sampling that targets all bees. We then calculated the ratio of predicted abundance between agricultural (or urban) and natural habitats (Agricultural or Urban/Natural). We further log-transformed these ratios to convert them into arithmetic scales (Agresti, 2007). We then used the package *phytools* (Revell, 2012) to assess if there were phylogenetic signals in the log-transformed ratio based on Pagel's λ .

Briefly, Pagel's λ assesses whether any biological characteristics follow Brownian motion, a standard evolutionary model that assumes the differences in the characteristics accumulate through a random walk over evolutionary time scales (Pagel, 1999). λ equals one when the characteristics are consistent with Brownian motion expectations. Alternatively, λ can be as low as zero when the characteristics deviate from the evolutionary model. While other metrics to measure evolutionary signals exist, Pagel's λ is known to be the most robust metric according to simulation studies (Münkemüller et al., 2012).

Results

Our analyses included bee assemblage data from 3,117 assemblages and 437,091 individuals of 4,002 taxonomic units from 157 studies. The majority of the data (2,574 assemblages from 120 studies) were in temperate regions (i.e., absolute latitude $> 23.4^\circ$), mainly North America and Europe, while 543 assemblages from 37 studies were in the tropics (Figure 1a). All studies identified specimens to species-level or morphospecies-level whenever possible, except two studies, which identified specimens to genus-level. Sampling methods in our datasets range from

point-based sampling (e.g., single vane trap) to aggregating samples within an area as large as 10 ha. In general, most studies were conducted along transects <100m or within plots < 1ha (Table S1). Forty-two studies (27%) provided data on bee assemblages in more than one land use. All diversity models had high conditional R^2 (0.63 – 0.91, Table S5-S8).

Objective 1a: α diversity

Taxonomic α -diversity declined by an average of 15.8% in agricultural ($P = 0.006$; 95% CI: 1.9%, 27.6%) and 19.6% in urban habitats ($P = 0.006$; 95% CI: 3.1%, 33.2%) compared with natural habitats after controlling for climatic and sampling differences (linear mixed models; Figure 1b, Table S5). Using the genus-level phylogeny of bees (Hedtke *et al.*, 2013), we found that phylogenetic α -diversity declined by an average of 11.0% in agricultural habitats ($P = 0.005$; 95% CI: 2.7%, 18.7%) and 11.6% ($P = 0.017$; 95% CI: 1.0%, 21.1%) in urban habitats relative to natural habitats (Figure 1c, Table S5). Pairwise comparisons between agricultural and urban habitats were non-significant for both diversity metrics.

Objective 1b: β diversity

The average taxonomic β -diversity was 1.75 (95% CI = 1.66, 1.83), making up 42.7% of the taxonomic γ diversity. Using linear mixed models, we observed a 6.4% decline in taxonomic β -diversity in agricultural habitats relative to natural habitats, although the results were marginally non-significant ($p = 0.06$; 95% CI = 1.1%, 11.4%; Figure 1c, Table S6). Pairwise comparisons also revealed marginally non-significant differences between urban and natural habitats, with 8.8% higher taxonomic β -diversity in urban habitats ($p = 0.06$; 95% CI = -0.4%, 18.7%; Figure

1c, Table S6). However, we detected 16.2% higher taxonomic β -diversity in urban compared to agricultural habitats ($p = 0.004$; 95% CI = 6.5%, 26.8%).

Across datasets, phylogenetic β diversity averaged at 1.20 (95% CI = 1.17, 1.22), equivalent to 16.7% contribution of phylogenetic γ diversity. Phylogenetic β -diversity was highest in urban habitats—6.4% higher than natural habitats ($p = 0.004$; 95% CI = 2.2%, 10.7%; Figure 1c, Table S5) and 8.8% higher than agricultural habitats ($p < 0.001$; 95% CI: 4.5%, 13.3%). However, we found minimal evidence of differences between agricultural and natural habitats.

Objective 1c: γ diversity

Taxonomic γ diversity was, on average, 25.2% lower in agricultural than in natural habitats ($p = 0.008$; 95% CI: 10.5%, 39.9%; Figure 1d, Table S7). A 15.6% decline was also observed in urban habitats relative to natural habitats, but the difference was not statistically significant. Differences between urban and agricultural habitats were also non-significant.

Similarly, we found that phylogenetic γ diversity declined by 17.8% ($p = 0.006$; 95% CI: 8.7%, 26.7%) in agricultural habitats relative to natural habitats (Figure 1d, Table S7). The pairwise comparison between natural and urban habitats, as well as between agricultural and urban habitats, was non-significant.

Objective 2: Increasing phylogenetic filters in agricultural and urban habitats

After controlling for their taxonomic counterparts using linear mixed models, phylogenetic α and γ diversity metrics exhibited minimal differences across land uses (Figure 2a, 2c, Table S8).

However, we found that phylogenetic β diversity was highest in urban habitats, while agricultural and natural habitats exhibited similar values (Figure 2b, Table S8). Specifically, phylogenetic β diversity in urban habitats was 3.9% higher than in natural habitats ($p = 0.03$; 95% CI: 0.44%, 7.5%) and 4.5% higher than in agricultural habitats ($p = 0.03$; 95% CI: 0.84%, 7.97%).

Objective 3: Genus abundance across land uses

Compared with their average abundance in natural habitats, 73% and 61% of common genera exhibited reduced average abundance in agricultural and urban habitats, respectively, echoing the results of diversity analyses (Table S9, Figure S2). Nine genera showed significantly lower abundance in agricultural habitats, four belonging to the family Megachilidae (*Osmia*, *Hoplitis*, *Megachile*, *Anthidium*). Only *Protandrena* (mining bees, ground nesters) had increased abundance in agricultural habitats relative to natural habitats. For urban habitats, only *Osmia* (mason bees, primarily cavity nesters) exhibited a significant response to land use, with reduced abundance in urban relative to natural habitats. We detected some phylogenetic signal in the responses to agricultural (Pagel's $\lambda = 0.40$, $P = 0.06$) and minimal signals in the responses to urban habitats (Pagel's $\lambda < 0.001$, $P = 1$) (Figure 3). After controlling phylogeny, responses of bee genera to urban and agricultural habitats were weakly correlated (Pearson's $r = 0.02$) (Figure S2).

Discussion

Biodiversity loss observed at local scales (α diversity) can be dampened or amplified at larger spatial scales (γ diversity), depending on changes in the scaling factor (β diversity)

(Socolar et al., 2016). We synthesized the trends in how two major land use drivers, namely agriculturalization and urbanization, affect bee taxonomic and phylogenetic α , β , and γ diversity. We found that the trends in α , β , and γ diversity are largely consistent between taxonomic and phylogenetic metrics when responding to the same land use driver. The α diversity declines under the different anthropogenic land uses are consistent with our expectations and previous studies based on other taxa (Millard et al., 2021; Newbold et al., 2015). The responses of β diversity to land uses are more variable, as urban habitats exhibited higher β diversity than natural habitats. At the same time, we found some support for agricultural habitats having reduced taxonomic β but not phylogenetic β diversity. These ultimately lead to reduced taxonomic and phylogenetic γ diversity in agricultural habitats, but not urban habitats, where we failed to detect significant γ diversity loss compared to natural habitats. For bees, these results provide additional evidence of the threats of agricultural and urban expansion (Dicks et al., 2021) by demonstrating their negative impacts on phylogenetic α diversity in addition to taxonomic α diversity. The findings also highlight the threat of agricultural expansions to large-scale bee diversity due to systematic γ diversity decline. Broadly, our results provide empirical evidence showing that, although α diversity responses may be similar across land use drivers, β diversity responses vary, resulting in different γ diversity consequences.

In our study, most datasets compared assemblages within a single city or landscape, with the mean and 95% percentile of the study extent being 38 km and 478 km, respectively. At these scales, different management practices within cities, such as varying ornamental plants or mowing frequencies due to owner preferences (Aronson et al., 2017; Lerman, Contosta, Milam, & Bang, 2018; Prendergast et al., 2022), can increase environmental heterogeneity and, therefore, result in higher β diversity than natural habitats (Alberti, 2016). Conversely, β

diversity exhibited varying trends or marginal declines in agricultural habitats across studies. While agricultural activities reduce environmental heterogeneity, particularly in monocultural croplands (Leong, Ponisio, Kremen, Thorp, & Roderick, 2016), the effects can be more variable in subsistence agriculture systems (Landaverde-González et al., 2017), potentially explaining the marginal results. This ultimately led to detectable declines of γ diversity in agricultural habitats but not urban habitats. Thus, our results indicate that while land use impacts are usually reported to affect α diversity negatively across terrestrial taxa, these conclusions do not necessarily extend to γ diversity, particularly with urbanization (Fenoglio, Rossetti, & Videla, 2020; Liang, He, Theodorou, & Yang, 2023; Newbold et al., 2015; Sol et al., 2017).

We found no evidence that land use change systematically strengthens phylogenetic habitat filtering, and in fact, we found relaxed filtering in urban habitats for β diversity of bees. Previous bee studies have found variable phylogenetic habitat filtering effects across different types of agricultural and urban environments (Bartomeus, Cariveau, Harrison, & Winfree, 2018; Odanaka & Rehan, 2019; Ramírez, Hernández, Link, & López-Urbe, 2015; Villalta, Bouget, Lopez-Vaamonde, & Baude, 2022), potentially leading to no generalizable patterns when coarse land use classification is used. Studies of phylogenetic habitat filtering for β diversity are rare. The weakly relaxed phylogenetic habitat filtering in urban habitats detected can again be explained by increased environmental heterogeneity in cities compared with natural and agricultural habitats (Alberti, 2016; Aronson et al., 2017). For example, given the strong co-evolutionary history between bees and plants (Brown & Cunningham, 2022), different planting preferences across urban green spaces can attract varying bee lineages, leading to higher phylogenetic β diversity than expected based on taxonomic β diversity. Nevertheless, the weakly relaxed phylogenetic filtering for phylogenetic β diversity did not propagate to γ diversity of bees in

urban habitats, as phylogenetic β diversity only contributed to 16.7% of γ diversity across studies.

Apart from their varying impacts on bee diversity, another difference between the two land uses is that the genus-level abundance changes exhibited an intermediate phylogenetic signal in agricultural habitats but minimal signal in urban habitats. Our analyses' low number of genera (≤ 51) limited our statistical power (Münkemüller et al., 2012), while genus-level analyses can underestimate phylogenetic signals (Rabosky, 2015). Species-level analyses, including rare species, are needed to determine the true extent of phylogeny in governing bees' responses to the two land uses. Nevertheless, the stronger phylogenetic signals in agricultural habitats suggest a higher importance of evolutionarily conserved traits, such as nesting biology and lecty (Odanaka & Rehan, 2019), in determining species abundance in these environments (Grab et al., 2019). Alternatively, species responses to urban habitats may be more driven by stochasticity (Sattler et al., 2010) or evolutionarily labile traits, such as thermal tolerances (Hamblin, Youngsteadt, López-Urbe, & Frank, 2017).

As phylogenetic and taxonomic diversity respond similarly to agricultural and urban land uses, conservation measures that increase taxonomic diversity in agricultural and urban habitats are expected to increase their phylogenetic counterparts. These findings can facilitate decision-making in management targeting multiple diversity metrics, as the responses of phylogenetic diversity to different environmental drivers are less understood than those of taxonomic diversity (Cadotte & Tucker, 2018). For α diversity, measures such as organic farming, crop diversification, establishing flower strips, and planting gardens have been found to increase pollinator taxonomic α -diversity in meta-analyses or quantitative syntheses (Kennedy et al., 2013; Lichtenberg et al., 2017; Majewska & Altizer, 2020; Scheper et al., 2013). Studies have

also evaluated the effectiveness of conservation measures in enhancing taxonomic β diversity (Ponisio, M'Gonigle, & Kremen, 2016), although they are relatively rare compared with studies focusing on taxonomic α diversity. The same environmental drivers could increase taxonomic α diversity but reduce taxonomic β diversity in bees (Steinert, Sydenham, Eldegard, & Moe, 2020), meaning that associated conservation measures can simultaneously mitigate and exacerbate the impacts of land use change, leading to unclear net effects on γ diversity. Thus, we emphasize the importance of conducting additional taxonomic β and γ diversity assessments on the effectiveness of conservation measures to better understand their contributions to mitigating land use impacts.

Many large-scale conservation assessments focusing on the impacts of land uses are based on projecting α diversity models to different land use scenarios (Chaudhary, Verones, de Baan, & Hellweg, 2015; De Palma et al., 2017; Newbold et al., 2015). While α diversity patterns are helpful for conservation planning, they might not apply to biodiversity at larger spatial scales (e.g., national, regional, or landscape-level biodiversity), which might have exacerbated/weakened diversity loss depending on β diversity changes (Socolar et al., 2016). Our findings demonstrate that qualitative conclusions about land use impacts can differ between α and γ diversity analyses. Based on our results, while taxonomic and phylogenetic α diversity of bees might exhibit similar changes in agriculturalization and urbanization hotspots, the consequences for γ diversity can be very different, with more substantial impacts at larger scales expected in agriculturalization hotspots such as West Africa and Southeast Asia (Williams et al., 2021). Given the need to conserve biodiversity and its associated ecosystem functions at multiple scales (Socolar et al., 2016; Winfree et al., 2018), our study confirms the threat of agricultural expansions to global bee diversity. It also highlights the need to understand processes

determining β and γ diversity changes and integrate the two-diversity metrics into conservation assessments.

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Data availability: R-scripts and 97% (152 of 157 analyzed studies) diversity and genus abundance data will be uploaded to Zenodo (DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.10659631) and GitHub (https://github.com/tpaknok/Bee_and_land_use). For the remaining 3% of studies with restricted access, please contact the co-authors listed in Table S1 directly.

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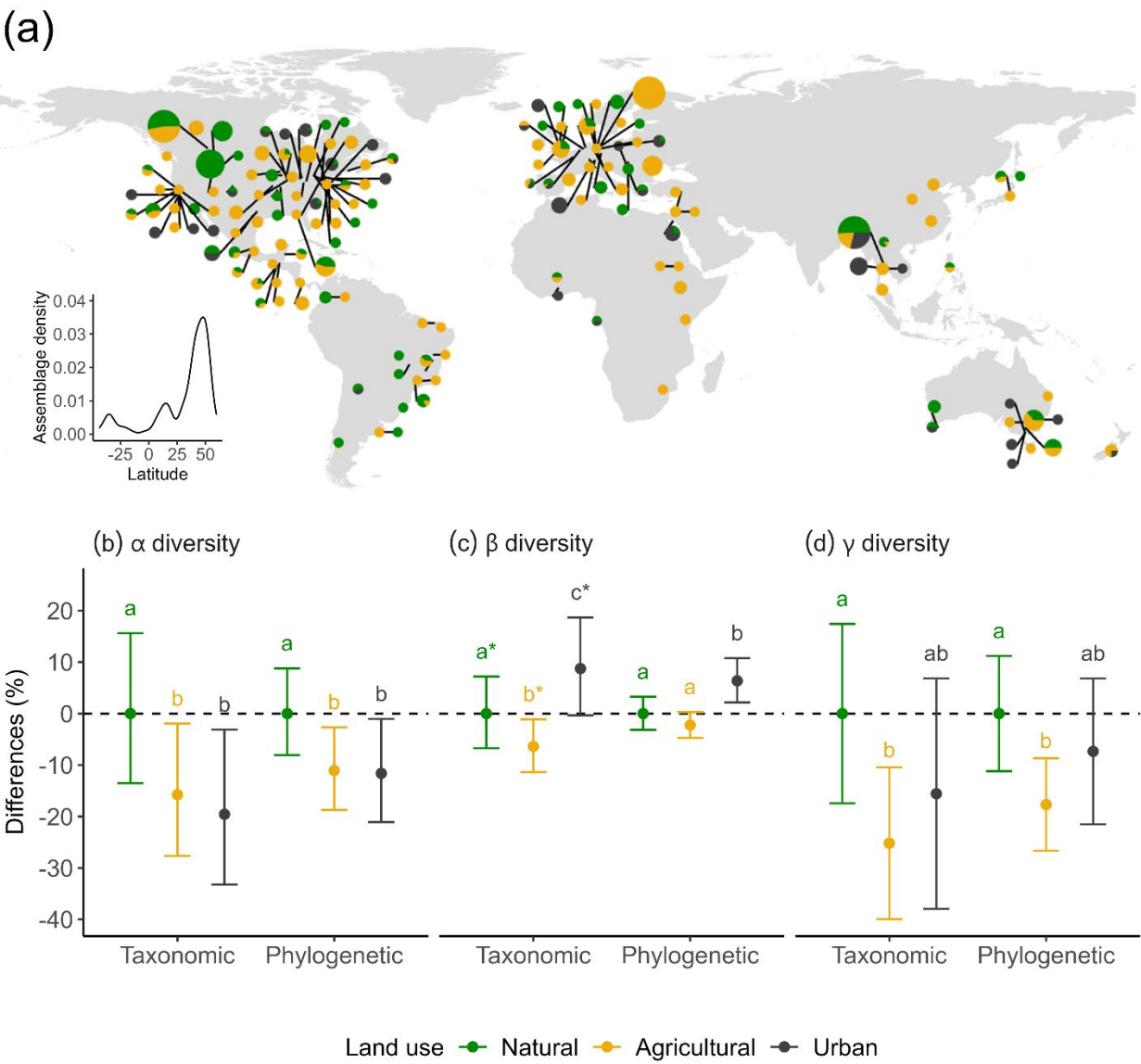
Table 1. Predictors for the models related to each objective. Objectives 1a, 1b, and 1c are to compare α , β , γ , diversity across three land uses, respectively. Objectives 2a, 2b, and 2c are to assess whether agricultural and urban habitats exhibited stronger phylogenetic habitat filtering in α , β , γ diversity, respectively. Objective 3 is to identify genera with altered abundance in agricultural and urban habitats relative to natural habitats. The rationales including different variables and their transformations have been described in the main text.

Variable name	Description	Objectives
Land use	A factor with three levels: Natural / Agricultural / Urban	1-3
Sampling method	A factor with three levels: All bees / Floral visitor only / Floral visitor of targeted plants	1-3
Climate PCA1	PCA1 score based on mean annual temperature, annual precipitation, as well as temperature and precipitation seasonality of each assemblage.	1-3
Climate PCA2	PCA2 score based on the aforementioned climatic variables.	1-3
log(Number of assemblages)	Number of assemblages of each land use within a study.	1b-1c, 2b-2c
Sampling effort S.D.	Standard deviation of sampling efforts between assemblages of the same land use within a study.	1b-1c, 2b-2c
Sampling completeness PCA1	PCA1 score based on mean and standard deviation of sampling completeness between assemblages of the same land use within a study.	1b-1c, 2b-2c
log(Sampling extent)	Maximum distance between assemblages of the same land use within a study.	1b-1c, 2b-2c
log(Taxonomic diversity)	The taxonomic counterpart of phylogenetic α , β , and γ diversity.	2
Study identity	Added as random effects to account for other differences between studies.	1-3
Spatial autocorrelation term	Controlling for spatial autocorrelation within each study based on latitude and longitude of each assemblage.	1a, 2a, 3a

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1250 **Figure**



1251

1252 **Figure 1.** (a) Map showing locations of 157 studies included, and the proportion of natural,

1253 agricultural, and urban habitats sampled within the study. Pie size is proportional to the number

1254 of sampled sites in each study, ranging from 1 to 368. The density plot indicates the distribution

1255 of the studied assemblages (n = 3,117) along the latitudinal gradient. (b-d) Diversity changes

1256 relative to values of natural habitats, with each panel showing responses of one diversity metric:

(b) α , (c) β , and (d) γ diversity. Point estimates represent model predictions of each land use based on fixed effects only, while error bars are 95% confidence intervals. The estimations of α diversity were obtained by holding other covariates at the mean or mode values. For β and γ diversity, the estimation reflects a standardized sampling study with all assemblages having 100% sampling completeness, and other covariates at the mean or mode values. Small letters above error bars indicate results from pairwise comparisons, with different letters representing different groups. *indicates that the pairwise comparisons included marginally non-significant results ($p = 0.06$).

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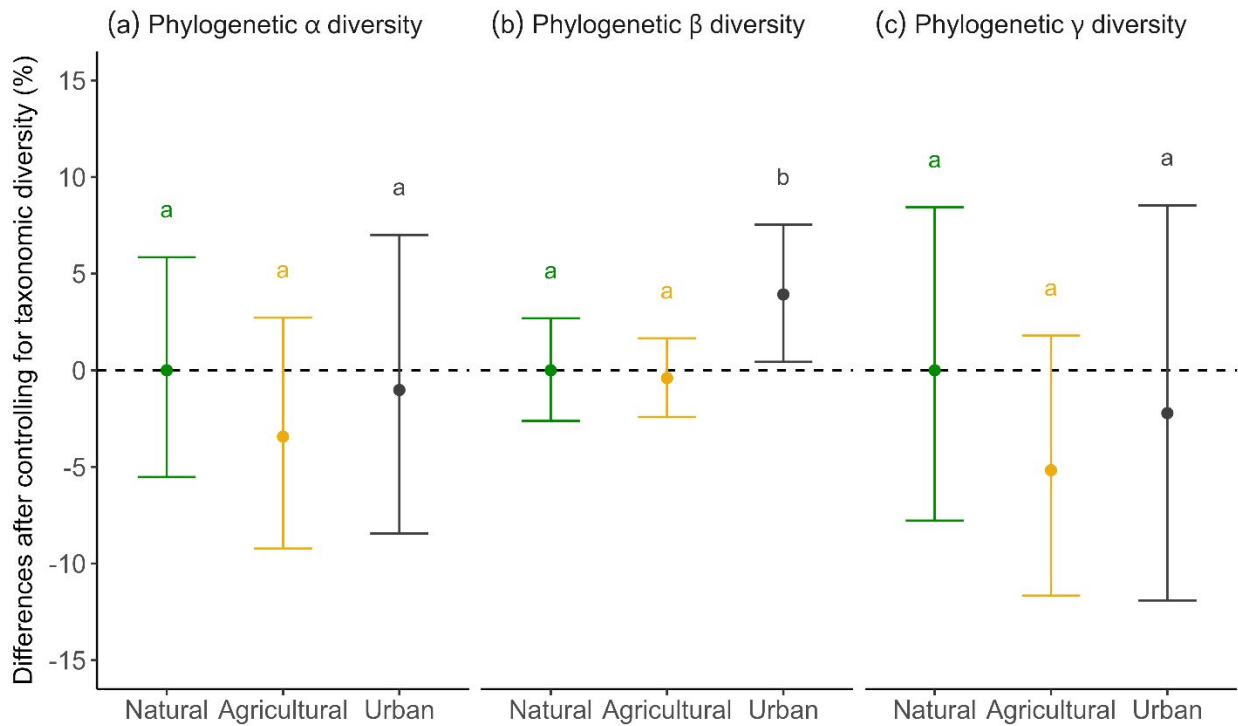
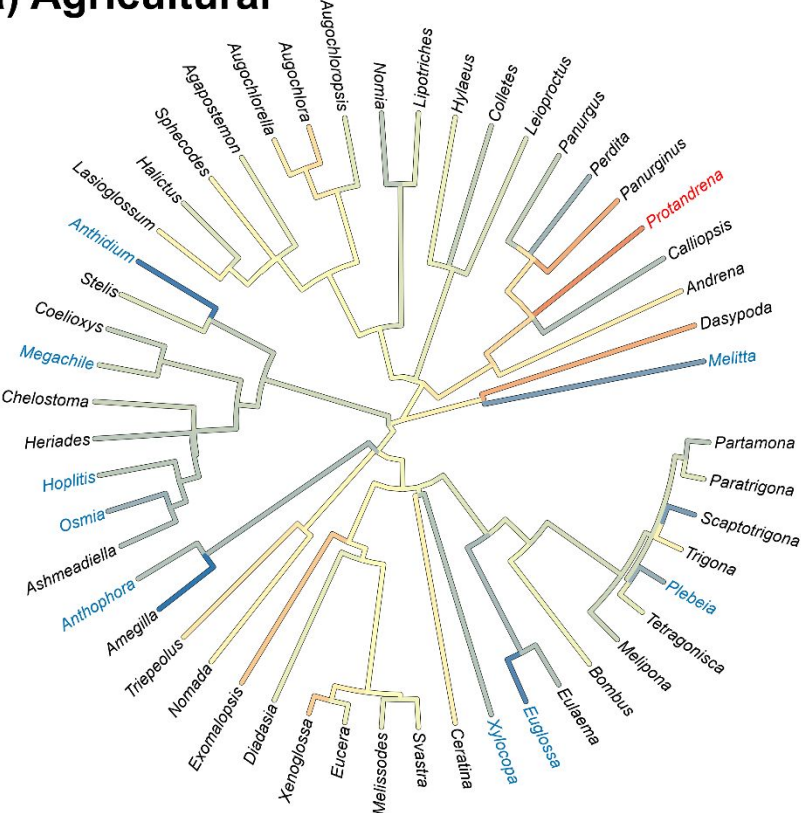
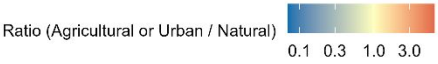
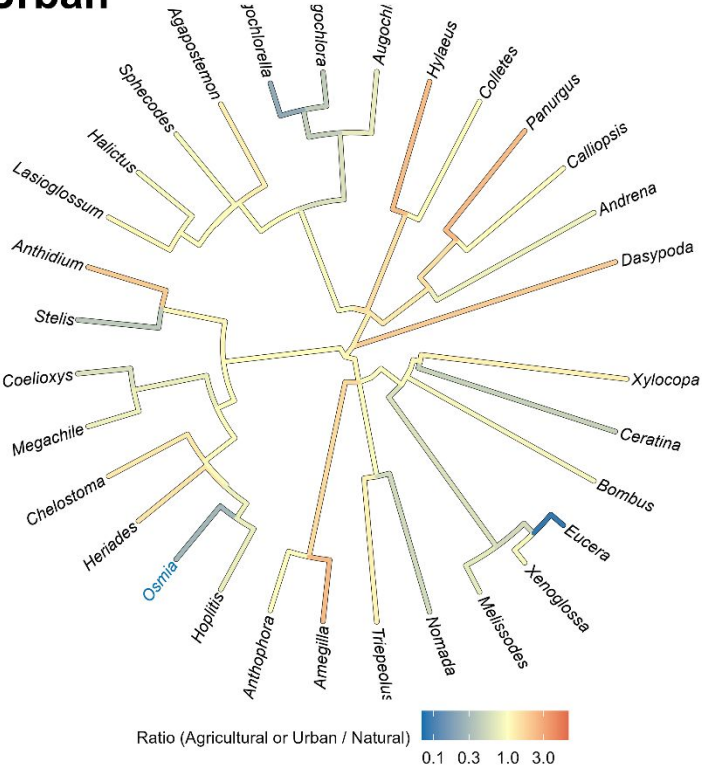


Figure 2. Percent differences in phylogenetic (a) α , (b) β , and (c) γ diversity metrics after controlling for their taxonomic counterparts, using natural habitats as the baseline. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals, while point estimates present model predictions based on fixed effects only. The estimated α diversity was based on holding all other covariates at the mean or mode values. The estimated β and γ diversity were based on assuming studies with standardized sampling and all assemblages with 100% sampling completeness, while other covariates were at the mean or mode values. Small letters above error groups indicate different grouping based on pairwise comparisons.

(a) Agricultural



(b) Urban



1278 **Figure 3.** Phylogenetic relationships of all genera examined and their responses to agricultural
1279 (a) and urban land uses (b) in terms of abundance. When the ratio equals 1, genus abundance in
1280 agricultural or urban habitats is the same as in natural habitats. Genera in red and blue are
1281 significantly more and less abundant in anthropogenic land uses, respectively.

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