

# Package ‘mvtweedie’

January 7, 2026

**Type** Package

**Title** Estimate Diet Proportions Using Multivariate Tweedie Model

**Version** 1.2.0

**Date** 2025-12-19

**Description** Defines predict function that transforms output from a Tweedie Generalized Linear Mixed Model (using 'glmmTMB'), Generalized Additive Model (using 'mgcv'), or spatio-temporal Generalized Linear Mixed Model (using package 'tinyVAST'), and returns predicted proportions (and standard errors) across a grouping variable from an equivalent multivariate-logit Tweedie model. These predicted proportions can then be used for standard plotting and diagnostics. See Thorson et al. 2022 <[doi:10.1002/ecy.3637](https://doi.org/10.1002/ecy.3637)>.

**Imports** stats, tibble

**Suggests** mgcv, knitr, rmarkdown, ggplot2, glmmTMB, lattice, pdp, raster, sp, RANN, plotrix, tweedie, abind, rnaturalearth, rnaturalearthdata, sf, dplyr, viridisLite, tinyVAST

**Depends** R (>= 4.1.0)

**License** GPL-3

**Encoding** UTF-8

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.3

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**LazyData** true

**URL** <https://james-thorson-noaa.github.io/mvtweedie/>

**NeedsCompilation** no

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**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2026-01-07 08:50:02 UTC

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Middleton\_Island\_TUPU *Middleton Island tufted puffin diets*

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### Description

Data to demonstrate multivariate Tweedie GAM for time-series

### Usage

```
data(Middleton_Island_TUPU)
```

### Details

Data sufficient to demonstrate how to use a Tweedie Generalized Additive Model to provide inference about proportions e.g. in food habits analysis, where the model output is processed to represent a multivariate logit Tweedie model.

Specifically includes Tufted Puffin (*Fratercula cirrhata*) bill loads sampled at Middleton Island.

- Response Numeric prey biomass in bill load samples
- Year Numeric year
- group factor representing prey species or category
- SampleID factor with a level for every sampling occasion, e.g., for use in row normalization

### Value

A data long-form data frame

### Author(s)

Mayumi Arimitsu

### References

Hatch, S., and G. Sanger. 1992. Puffins as Samplers of Juvenile Pollock and Other Forage Fish in the Gulf of Alaska. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 80: 1-14.

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**mvtweedie***Multivariate Tweedie distribution for predicting diet proportions*

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## Description

Using regression methods to analyze diet proportions for a marked point process

## Details

Diet samples often measure a count or biomass for different prey categories. Rather than converting these data to a proportion and fitting these proportions as data, we can instead represent diet samples as an outcome from a thinnned and double-marked point process, where marks include prey category and size per encounter, and thinning represents variation in attack and capture rates and is conceptually similar to detectability/catchability in other point-count sampling analyses. Analyzing raw prey measurements (rather than proportions) allows a wide range of models (and associated off-the-shelf software), predictions can still be converted to proportions (with associated standard errors) after the model is fitted, and we can represent covariance in prey measurements within a sample using covariates that explain sample-specific attack/capture rates.

If the prey densities follow a Poisson point-process, and prey size per encounter follows a gamma distribution, then the resulting distribution for biomass of each prey follows a multivariate Tweedie distribution. We therefore interpret the multivariate Tweedie distribution as a "process-based" model for prey samples.

## References

Thorson, J. T., Arimitsu, M. L., Levi, T., & Roffler, G. H. (2022). Diet analysis using generalized linear models derived from foraging processes using R package mvtweedie. *Ecology*, 103(5), e3637. doi:10.1002/ecy.3637

## See Also

[predict.mvtweedie](#) for details

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**predict.mvtweedie***Predict proportions for new data*

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## Description

Predict proportions and associated standard errors using a standard S3 object interface

## Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'mvtweedie'  
predict(object, category_name = "group", newdata, se.fit = FALSE, ...)
```

## Arguments

<code>object</code>	output from <code>gam</code> or <code>glmmTMB</code> , but with <code>class(object)=c("mvtweedie", ...)</code> where <code>...</code> indicates the original values for <code>class(object)</code>
<code>category_name</code>	name of column that indicates grouping variable
<code>newdata</code>	An optional data frame in which to look for variables with which to predict. If omitted, the fitted values are used.
<code>se.fit</code>	Whether to approximate the standard errors for predicted proportions
<code>...</code>	Not used

## Details

After fitting Tweedie GLM using a log-link and multiple categories, we transform predicted densities to yield predicted proportions and associated SEs. This estimator for proportions arises naturally when analyzing a double-marked point process for diet samples, with marks for category and size.

`predict.mvtweedie` does this transformation for a model fitted using:

- A generalized additive model (GAM) using `gam`
- A generalized linear mixed model (GLMM) using `glmmTMB`
- A spatio-temporal generalized linear mixed model (GLMM) using `tinyVAST`

It then also calculates an approximation to the standard error for this proportion. Specifically, we calculate the proportion for each category as the density  $X$  for that category, and the sum of densities  $Y$  for all other categories:

$$p_X = \frac{X}{X + Y}$$

Assuming we have an estimator for the standard error  $s(X)$  and  $s(Y)$ , and assuming that those estimators are independent such that  $s(X+Y)^2 = s(X)^2 + s(Y)^2$ , we then apply the delta method to approximate the standard error for the proportion as:

$$s(p_X)^2 = \frac{X^2}{(X+Y)^2} \left( \frac{s(X)^2}{X^2} - 2 \frac{s(X)^2}{X(X+Y)} + \frac{s(X)^2 + s(Y)^2}{(X+Y)^2} \right)$$

Predictions  $X$  and  $Y$ , and standard errors  $s(X)$  and  $s(Y)$  are then supplied by the `predict` function that is native to the software used when fitting the model.

## Value

`predict.mvtweedie` produces a vector of predicted proportions or a list containing predicted proportions and standard errors.

## Examples

```
# Load packages
library(mvtweedie)
library(mgcv)

# load data set
data( Middleton_Island_TUPU, package="mvtweedie" )

# Run Tweedie GLM
gam0 = gam(
  formula = Response ~ 0 + group,
  data = Middleton_Island_TUPU,
  family = tw
)

# Inspect results
class(gam0) = c( "mvtweedie", class(gam0) )
predict(
  gam0,
  se.fit = TRUE
)
```

southeast\_alaska\_wolf *Wolf environmental DNA in southeast Alaska*

## Description

Data to demonstrate multivariate Tweedie GAM for spatial analysis

## Usage

```
data(southeast_alaska_wolf)
```

## Details

Data sufficient to demonstrate how to use a Tweedie GLM to provide inference about proportions e.g. in food habits analysis, where the model output is processed to represent a multivariate logit Tweedie model.

Specifically includes environmental DNA sampling of wolf scats obtained in Southeast Alaska.

- Latitude Latitude for scat sample
- Longitude Longitude for scat sample
- group prey groupings from eDNA smaples
- Response relative read abundance calculated as the mean proportion of DNA sequence reads from each species among samples from a given scat

**Value**

A data long-form data frame

**Author(s)**

Gretchen Roffler

**References**

Roffler, G. H., J. M. Allen, A. Massey, and T. Levi. 2021. Wolf Dietary Diversity in an Island Archipelago. Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America 102: 1-6. [doi:10.1002/bes2.1834](https://doi.org/10.1002/bes2.1834)

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