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8 **Ecomorphological and phylogenetic controls on sympatry across extant bats**

9 Running title: Controls on sympatry across bats

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30 **Abstract**

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31 **Aim:** Macroecological patterns of sympatry can inform our understanding of how ecological and  
32 evolutionary processes govern species distributions. Following speciation, both intrinsic and  
33 extrinsic factors may determine how readily sympatry occurs. One possibility is that sympatry  
34 most readily occurs with ecological divergence, especially if broad-scale co-occurrence is  
35 mediated by niche differentiation. Time since divergence may also predict sympatry if  
36 hybridization and gene flow lead to the collapse of species boundaries between closely-related  
37 taxa. Here, we test for ecological and phylogenetic predictors of sympatry across the global  
38 radiation of extant bats.

39 **Location:** Global

40 **Taxon:** Bats (Order Chiroptera)

41 **Methods:** We used a combination of linear mixed modeling, simulations, and maximum-  
42 likelihood modeling to test whether phylogenetic and ecomorphological divergence between  
43 species predict sympatry. We further assess how these relationships vary based on biogeographic  
44 realm.

45 **Results:** We find that time since divergence does not predict sympatry in any biogeographic  
46 realm. Morphological divergence is negatively related to sympatry in the Neotropics, but shows  
47 no relationship with sympatry elsewhere.

48 **Main conclusions:** We find that bats in most biogeographic realms co-occur at broad spatial  
49 scales regardless of phylogenetic similarity. Neotropical bats, however, appear to co-occur most  
50 readily when morphologically similar. To the extent that pairwise phylogenetic and  
51 morphological divergence reflect ecological differentiation, our results suggest that abiotic and  
52 environmental factors may be more important than species interactions in determining patterns of  
53 sympatry across bats.

54 **Keywords:** sympatry; evolutionary ecology; ecomorphology; macroecology; macroevolution;  
55 Chiroptera

## 57 **Introduction**

58 Species' geographic distributions and their ranges reflect the interplay between ecological  
59 processes and evolutionary patterns (Ricklefs, 2007; Grossenbacher *et al.*, 2015). In many ways,  
60 geographic distributions are unifying units of macroecology and macroevolution, as they are  
61 determined by interactions with other species and the environment, and can govern both

62 speciation and extinction. The extent and spatial configuration of species ranges can be  
63 controlled by ecological factors, including species interactions (Sexton *et al.*, 2009; Louthan *et*  
64 *al.*, 2015), abiotic characteristics of the environment (Terribile *et al.*, 2009), and dispersal  
65 (Jønsson *et al.*, 2016). Teasing apart these factors is central to macroecological and  
66 macroevolutionary research, especially as researchers strive to understand how ecological  
67 processes like competition may change distributions and community compositions over  
68 macroevolutionary time (Pigot & Tobias, 2013; 2014).

69 The configuration of species ranges can reflect patterns of sympatry across species,  
70 where “sympatry” refers to broad-scale spatial overlap between species regardless of whether  
71 they co-occur in local syntopy. Sympatry at this scale can have multiple controlling factors. The  
72 probability of broad-scale sympatry could be dependent on competitive interactions that lead to  
73 character displacement and niche divergence (Brown & Wilson, 1956; Stuart & Losos, 2013;  
74 Cardillo & Warren, 2016), or even to local extinction due to competitive exclusion (Connell,  
75 1972; Bengtsson, 1989; Silvestro *et al.*, 2015). These general hypotheses invoke stabilizing  
76 mechanisms (*sensu* Chesson, 2000) as a link between divergence and sympatry. Broad-scale  
77 sympatry could also be unrelated to resource competition, and instead occurs only in the absence  
78 of hybridization, which collapses incipient species (Grant & Grant, 1997; Taylor *et al.*, 2006). If  
79 divergence and reproductive isolation generally increase with time, and if those factors are  
80 important controls on sympatry, then we should expect to find a positive correlation between  
81 phylogenetic divergence and the probability of sympatry (Barraclough & Vogler, 2000).

82 Other models also raise the possibility that greater ecological divergence does not predict  
83 extant sympatry. Instead, sympatry can reflect the sorting of regional species pools into  
84 communities based on habitat. Species may be more likely to co-occur at low levels of  
85 divergence if environmental filtering selects for species with phylogenetically-conserved traits  
86 (Webb, 2000; Graham & Fine, 2008; Cavender-Bares *et al.*, 2009) and are thus not structured by  
87 present-day competitive interactions (McPeck & Brown, 2000). Some traits may also reflect  
88 equalizing mechanisms that reduce fitness differences among organisms (Chesson, 2000; Adler  
89 *et al.*, 2006), and thus would promote sympatry among more similar taxa.

90 The relationships among sympatry and phylogenetic or phenotypic divergence are  
91 unknown across much of the tree of life. Sympatry and divergence are positively related in birds,  
92 suggesting a link between local species interactions and broad-scale distributions (Weir & Price,

93 2011; Pigot & Tobias, 2013). Many non-volant mammalian clades, however, exhibit no  
94 relationship between sympatry and phylogenetic divergence (Fitzpatrick & Turelli, 2006). Such a  
95 pattern could indicate that ecological divergence accumulates rapidly in these groups, or that in  
96 many cases, sympatric species are not syntopic and do not interact ecologically.

97 Extant bats (Order Chiroptera) are particularly tractable for exploring the influences of  
98 species interactions, phylogeny, and patterns of sympatry at a macroecological scale because of  
99 their cosmopolitan distribution and the breadth of their diversity (Jones *et al.*, 2005; Simmons,  
100 2005; Shi & Rabosky, 2015). Their potential for high dispersal via flight may mean that species  
101 interactions are more important than landscape or edaphic features for predicting spatial patterns.  
102 As regional dispersal can also erode any local signals of species interactions, bats may be a  
103 system where sorting patterns play a disproportionate role.

104 Bats feed on a wide variety of resources, including arthropods, vertebrates, fruits, and  
105 nectar (Nowak, 1994; Simmons & Conway, 2003). Competition for these resources structures  
106 many bat communities at local scales, such as within Neotropical savannahs (Aguirre *et al.*,  
107 2002; Estrada-Villegas *et al.*, 2012). There is also evidence that some bat communities are  
108 structured by echolocation frequency and trophic ecology (Findley & Black, 1983; Siemers &  
109 Schnitzler 2004; Moreno *et al.*, 2006). However, we do not know the extent to which  
110 competitive interactions for resources among bats are important controls on sympatry, or how  
111 these controls may vary across global bat diversity (Figure 1).

112 Bat ecology is tightly coupled with morphology; this is especially well-studied with  
113 trophic ecology and skull morphology. The shape and size of bat skulls reflect the link between  
114 physiological performance and the ability to capture and process foods with highly variable  
115 mechanical properties (Saunders & Barclay, 1992; Dumont, 2004; Nogueira *et al.*, 2009; Santana  
116 *et al.*, 2010; Santana & Cheung, 2016), and thus are often used as proxies for ecological metrics  
117 in the absence of observational and experimental data. In some families, skull morphology is also  
118 closely tied with echolocation ability, another dimension of trophic ecology (Santana & Lofgren,  
119 2013; Curtis & Simmons, 2017). While relative performance data among coexisting bat species  
120 are rare, morphological divergence is often considered to be at least one predictor of ecological  
121 divergence.

122 In this study, we test whether overall, broad patterns of sympatry can be predicted by  
123 phylogenetic and/or morphological divergence across extant bats. With range data and museum

124 specimens, we use phylogenetic linear mixed-modeling to test predictors of sympatry, and a  
125 maximum-likelihood framework to model the probability of sympatry as a function of age and  
126 morphological distance. We explore the influence of phylogenetic dependence on our range data,  
127 and propose a general framework for testing if sympatry can be related to various metrics of  
128 divergence.

129

## 130 **Materials and Methods**

### 131 *Overall framework and scope*

132 We explored how sympatry varies with two pairwise metrics of divergence: time to the  
133 most recent common ancestor, and ecomorphological divergence as represented by Euclidean  
134 distances between skulls in morphospace. We focused on the binary *presence* (0/1) of broad-  
135 scale sympatry, given a threshold of continuous *range overlap* (a percentage) in a species pair.  
136 Our framework involved three approaches: (1) pairwise linear mixed-models to test divergence  
137 predictors of sympatry, accounting for random effects of phylogeny and species identity; (2)  
138 maximum-likelihood modeling of how multiple parameters of sympatry may vary with pairwise  
139 divergence among sister taxa (*sensu* Pigot & Tobias, 2013); (3) randomizations that infer the null  
140 distributions of sympatry across species pairs given no relationship with divergence. For the  
141 pairwise linear mixed models (approach 1), we integrated data from all species pairs. In the  
142 maximum-likelihood models (approach 2), we focused on a subset of sister species, where we  
143 might expect species interactions to be strongest. All analyses used the species-level Chiroptera  
144 phylogeny of Shi & Rabosky (2015) (Appendix S2), which contains 812 of the roughly 1300  
145 extant species of bats.

146 All analyses were divided into biogeographic realms, representing regional pools of  
147 species that could reasonably co-occur in the absence of constraints on sympatry. We used  
148 World Wildlife Fund (WWF) realms (Olson *et al.*, 2001), though we combined the small  
149 Oceanic and Australasian realms and excluded bats endemic to Madagascar, Seychelles, and  
150 Comoros from the Afrotropics. We divided our analyses to infer how predictors of sympatry  
151 vary by region, to capture species pools that sort into communities (Lessard *et al.*, 2012), and to  
152 minimize one potential source of biogeographic bias. To illustrate this, consider the different  
153 species pools between the Indian Ocean islands and the mainland Afrotropics. Even if taxa in  
154 these two regions are rarely found in sympatry due to ancient vicariance, pairwise allopatry

155 states would be repeatedly counted in all comparisons between descendant species of the two  
156 regions, regardless of the time since divergence. This would artificially bias relationships  
157 between divergence and sympatry in a negative direction (*e.g.* greater divergence being  
158 correlated with lower probabilities of sympatry; see Appendix S3).

#### 159 160 *Morphological data*

161 We took 9 linear measurements (Appendix S4: Table S3) from bat skulls at the  
162 University of Michigan Museum of Zoology (UMMZ) and the American Museum of Natural  
163 History (AMNH). These measurements followed Dumont (2004) and Dumont *et al.* (2012), who  
164 linked ecomorphology and diversification in the family Pteropodidae and the superfamily  
165 Noctilionoidea. From species-level averaged measurements, we calculated pairwise Euclidean  
166 distances in 9-dimensional trait space between all pairs as our metric of pairwise  
167 ecomorphological divergence.

168 We targeted 241 species across fourteen of the twenty extant families of bats based on  
169 available specimens, representing roughly 30% of the phylogeny.

#### 170 171 *Spatial data and sympatry*

172 We used species ranges from the IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN, 2016),  
173 though with modifications to the superfamily Noctilionoidea (Appendix S5). We targeted  
174 available range polygons based on our phylogeny.

175 With these polygons, we used the *rgeos* and *maptools* R packages to code sympatry state  
176 for all pairs of extant bat species in the spatial dataset. We first calculated geographic range  
177 overlap with the Szymkiewicz-Simpson coefficient, or the sum area of overlap divided by the  
178 range size of the species with the smaller range, for each species pair. We then designated each  
179 pair of bat species as sympatric or allopatric based on a threshold of 20% range overlap (as in  
180 Pigot & Tobias, 2013), though we also report results from more conservative thresholds  
181 (Appendix S6). We decomposed our data into binary states, as opposed to continuous overlap, as  
182 the latter metric is more sensitive to assumptions of speciation mode (Phillimore *et al.*, 2008).

#### 183 184 *Phylogenetic linear mixed-modeling*

185 To test if overall pairwise sympatry within biogeographic realms is predicted by  
186 divergence, we used phylogenetic linear mixed-models (PLMMs). PLMMs are particularly  
187 flexible for their ease of interpretation and implementation in a standard mixed-modeling  
188 framework, and the ability to test for distinct fixed and random predictor(s) on response  
189 variable(s). Furthermore, they can easily incorporate paired, continuous, and categorical data.

190 We used Markov chain Monte Carlo to simulate posterior distributions of model  
191 parameters using the *MCMCglmm* R package (Hadfield, 2010). Our PLMMs took the general  
192 form:  $S_{i,j} = \beta X_{i,j} + Z_1 u_{i,j} + Z_{2,i} + Z_{2,j}$ . Our response variable  $S$  corresponded with the  
193 probability of sympatry for a given species pair  $i$  and  $j$  and was related to the observed data  
194 (sympatry/allopatry) using a probit (“threshold”) link function. We tested for a vector of fixed  
195 effects  $\beta$ , given a matrix  $X$  of divergence metric(s) between species  $i$  and  $j$ . We then incorporated  
196 two distinct classes of random effects  $Z$  into our PLMMs: the hierarchical effect of phylogenetic  
197 structure ( $Z_1$ ), and species identity ( $Z_2$ ) (Hadfield & Nakagawa, 2010; Tobias *et al.*, 2014).  $Z_1$   
198 accounted for the possibility that fixed effects depend on phylogenetic node structure ( $u_{i,j}$ ) and  
199 thus subclade identity, while  $Z_2$  accounted for the multiple times each unique species  $i$  and  $j$  was  
200 represented in our datasets. We ran all models with a standard inverse-gamma prior on the  
201 variance structure of our random effects (Hadfield, 2010). We checked all MCMC output for  
202 autocorrelation at different levels of sample thinning, while also confirming high (variance >  
203 1000) effective sample sizes.

204 As we did not have representative morphological data for every species, we ran two  
205 groups of PLMMs with varying  $\beta$  and  $X$  vectors. The first set of PLMMs only tested for  $\beta_1$ , the  
206 effect of phylogenetic divergence (in mya) on pairwise sympatry, with separate models for each  
207 realm. For each model, we simulated the posterior distributions of model parameters using 20  
208 million generations of MCMC simulation, sampling every 10,000 generations, with 10%  
209 discarded as a burnin.

210 The second set of PLMMs tested for three fixed effects: (1)  $\beta_1$ , (2)  $\beta_2$ : the effect of  
211 ecomorphological divergence, and (3)  $\beta_3$ : the interaction of both divergence metrics.  $\beta_3$   
212 accounted for the possibility that the strength of ecomorphological control depends on time since  
213 divergence. Given the limited sampling of our morphological data, this second set was divided  
214 into just the Nearctic and Neotropical realms, as well as the combined New World. We simulated  
215 this second set of posterior distributions of model parameters using 10 million generations of

216 MCMC simulation, sampled every 5,000 generations, with 10% discarded as burnin, as these  
217 were much smaller datasets.

218

### 219 *Modeling the probability of sympatry*

220 We further used a maximum-likelihood (ML) framework to compare models where  
221 multiple parameters that govern the relationship between sympatry and divergence can be  
222 estimated. We fit models in which the probability of sympatry explicitly varies with phylogenetic  
223 ( $t$ , time in mya) and/or morphological ( $d$ , pairwise Euclidean distance) divergence (Figure 2). We  
224 tested covariates independently, and also in interaction ( $td$ ), to account for scenarios where  
225 morphological divergence has the most dramatic effect in close relatives. We restricted these  
226 analyses to sister taxa represented in the tree, as we may expect to find the strongest signal of  
227 divergence among young pairs. Although these pairs may not be true sisters, this restriction  
228 accounted for phylogenetic nonindependence of data; this general approach was analogous to  
229 that of Pigot & Tobias (2013). We performed the following analyses for all measured sister  
230 species pairs, and for the subset composed of New World pairs, where the bulk of our  
231 morphological data are represented.

232 For these analyses, we treated the probability of sympatry as a binomially distributed  
233 random variable with a single parameter  $\theta$ . The likelihood  $L$  of observing any combination of  
234 allopatry (0) and sympatry (1) states across pairs of species  $i$  and  $j$ , in a set of  $n$  species  $Y$ , was  
235 thus denoted by  $L = \prod_{i,j=1}^n Pr(Y_{i,j} | \theta)$ , where  $Pr(Y_{i,j} | \theta) \sim binom(\theta)$ .  $\theta$ , in turn, was  
236 governed by three potential models of sympatry (Figure 2). For M1,  $\theta$  was treated as a constant.  
237 This model served as our null hypothesis: under this model, the ML estimate for the probability  
238 of sympatry is simply the percentage of sympatric pairs in a given set  $Y$ .

239 In M2,  $\theta$  varied as an exponential decay function with  $t$ ,  $d$ , or  $td$  as follows (written for  $t$   
240 alone):  $\theta = \alpha(1 - e^{-kt})$ . M2 reflected scenarios in which pairwise sympatry varied with  
241 divergence. Because  $\theta$  approaches an unfixed asymptote  $\alpha$ , which is a parameter estimated from  
242 the data, the model also accounted for the biological reality that some species pairs will simply  
243 never become sympatric due to geographic or historical constraints (Figure 2). The rate  
244 parameter  $k$ , which reflects how rapidly  $\theta$  approaches  $\alpha$ , was also estimated from the data, where  
245 M2 reduces to M1 as  $k$  approaches infinity.



246 In our final model (M3),  $\theta$  varied logistically with  $t$ ,  $d$ , or  $td$  as follows (written for  $t$   
247 alone):  $\theta = \frac{\alpha}{1 + e^{-k(t-w)}}$ . M3 represented a scenario analogous to one proposed by Pigot &  
248 Tobias (2013, 2014), where  $\theta$  is correlated with time and/or ecomorphology, but includes a lag or  
249 delay parameter ( $w$ ) before sympatry is readily attained (Figure 2). This  $w$  parameter may  
250 represent a minimum threshold of morphological divergence to avoid competition, or a minimum  
251 age threshold to avoid hybridization, among other possibilities. In this case,  $\alpha$ ,  $w$ , and the rate  
252 parameter  $k$  were all estimated from the data, where M3 will also reduce to M1 when  $w = 0$  and  $k$   
253 approaches infinity.

254 We fitted all seven potential models to sister species data using the *bbmle* R package. We  
255 tested overall model fit using the corrected Akaike Information Criterion (AICc). Our model  
256 setup also allowed us to explicitly test hypotheses using likelihood-ratio tests within the three  
257 groups of related models (one group for each metric of divergence  $t$ ,  $d$ , or  $td$ , where M1 was  
258 always the null hypothesis of no relationship between divergence and  $\theta$ ). Given our sample sizes  
259 of sister species pairs, we also explored false positive rates using randomly simulated datasets  
260 (Appendix S7).

261

#### 262 *PLMM and ML model validation*

263 We applied both our PLMM and ML model-fitting approaches to the phylogenetic,  
264 morphological, and spatial data of sister species pairs of Neotropical ovenbirds (Family  
265 Furnariidae) from Pigot & Tobias (2013), who concluded that ecomorphological and  
266 phylogenetic divergence affected the rate at which species pairs became sympatric (Appendix  
267 S9). By using the same data as Pigot & Tobias (2013), we tested whether our analytical  
268 framework could recover similar relationships between divergence and sympatry as reported in  
269 their study.

270

#### 271 *Sympatry-age relationships*

272 Finally, we inferred a null distribution of the relationship between pairwise sympatry  
273 state and time since divergence by using a set of randomizations (Figure 3). We randomly  
274 assigned species (and thus ages) to ranges, for each extant bat, and then fit a logistic model for  
275 sympatry as a function of age. This randomization process, representing a model where the  
276 pattern of sympatry across bats is random with respect to divergence time, was repeated 500

277 times. These randomizations established a distribution of randomized log-odds from logistic  
278 models, and we compared this to the empirical age-overlap relationship. We performed these  
279 randomization tests for each of the 6 WWF biogeographic realms.

280

## 281 **Results**

### 282 *Data summary*

283 Overall, we report results for 696 bats with spatial data that are included in our  
284 phylogenetic tree. We measured 1073 adult specimens at the UMMZ and combined these data  
285 with the previously published AMNH data of Dumont *et al.* (2012) (mean specimens/species =  
286 3.86, *sd* = 3.53).

287 Regional pairwise sympatry among bats is consistently high, given a 20% threshold of  
288 overlap (Table S1; weighted average: 42.2% of pairs are sympatric). This does not appear to be  
289 correlated with regional species diversity or realm size, as even the relatively low diversity but  
290 large Nearctic realm has over 50% of its species pairs in sympatry. In both New World realms  
291 (the Neotropics and the Nearctic), 50% or more of species pairs are sympatric, with average  
292 overlap percentages near 40%. We note that in all realms but the Palearctic, average overlap is  
293 above our base threshold for sympatry.

294

### 295 *PLMM results*

296 *MCMCglmm* returns pMCMC-values, which are two-tailed calculations of the proportion  
297 of simulations where fixed effects differ from zero. We use these to assess the significance of  
298 fixed effects in PLMMs, and find that time since divergence does not significantly predict  
299 sympatry in any realm (Table 1). We can also use highest posterior density intervals and  
300 credibility intervals to evaluate our posterior distribution, but in our analyses all these methods  
301 are concordant (see Supporting Information).

302 In the New World bats, when we incorporate ecomorphological divergence, we find that  
303 there are notable differences between Nearctic and Neotropical bats. There are no significant  
304 effects of divergence in the Nearctic. However, we recover significant evidence for a negative  
305 relationship between ecomorphological divergence and binary sympatry state in the Neotropics  
306 (Table 2; Figure 4). While there is some uncertainty in the specific relationship - particularly in a  
307 threshold of ecomorphological divergence that makes sympatry less likely - there is extremely

308 strong support for a negative signal in the data (Figure 4b). This negative relationship does not  
309 appear to be driven by divergent outliers, as we recover concordant results with an analysis on a  
310 smaller subset of our data (Figure 4c, Appendix S15). Across the entire New World (Nearctic +  
311 Neotropics), the interaction of phylogeny with ecomorphology has a negative effect on sympatry,  
312 though the two variables are not significant predictors independently (Table 2). These negative  
313 relationships imply that sympatry is actually less likely as divergence increases.

314 If we subsample by varying the threshold overlap percentage for sympatry, we generally  
315 recover concordant results in our PLMMs, implying that our main analyses are conservative in  
316 estimating predictors of sympatry (Appendix S6).

317

318 *ML models of the probability of sympatry*

319 We fit our ML models of sympatry to 67 sister species pairs, as well as 53 New World  
320 sister species pairs. A simple, null model where all species pairs share a common probability of  
321 sympatry, regardless of any type of divergence, was the best-fitting model (Appendix S7).

322

323 *PLMM and ML model validation*

324 We recover, as do Pigot & Tobias (2013), positive effects of both divergence time and  
325 ecomorphology on sympatry in furnariid sister species with both PLMMs and our ML models  
326 (Appendix S9). We specifically find strong evidence for models with a lagtime, further  
327 suggesting that species interactions mediate sympatry.

328

329 *Sympatry-age relationships*

330 In each WWF biogeographic realm, the null distributions of age-sympatry relationships  
331 (calculated from range randomizations as log-odds from logistic regressions between sympatry  
332 state and time since divergence, as described in Figure 3) are centered around 0, as expected. The  
333 empirical age-sympatry relationship does not appear to significantly deviate from the null  
334 distribution in any realm, though it skews slightly negative in the Afrotropics (Appendix S11).

335

## 336 **Discussion**

337 *Divergence time and sympatry*

338 We find no significant effects of age on pairwise patterns of sympatry (Table 1). We also  
339 find that there is no significant difference between a process-neutral null model and any ML  
340 model where the probability of sympatry varies with age (Appendix S7). Age is often intrinsic to  
341 any explanation for patterns of sympatry, especially given correlations of divergence with time.  
342 However, our finding is consistent across all biogeographic realms. Therefore, even though one  
343 explanation for this null pattern is that divergence and time are simply not well-correlated in  
344 bats, it is unlikely this is true across all families and realms (Appendix S16).

345

#### 346 *Ecomorphology and sympatry in the New World*

347 We find no evidence for ecomorphological controls on sympatry among the measured  
348 Nearctic bat species, but find that there is a negative relationship between ecomorphological  
349 divergence and sympatry among Neotropical bats (Figure 4b, c). We also find a negative  
350 interaction effect of age and ecomorphology on sympatry across New World bats as a whole in  
351 our PLMMs (Table 2). As noctilionoids are characterized by strong relationships between  
352 ecology and highly specialized morphology (Dumont *et al.*, 2012), we may have expected to see  
353 the strongest link between divergence and sympatry in this realm. Nevertheless, Neotropical  
354 species pairs are more likely co-occur when they are morphologically similar. Multiple  
355 hypotheses could explain this pattern, including community assembly via environmental  
356 filtering, or within-realm sorting that biases where similar species are most likely to be found  
357 (Webb 2000; Leibold & McPeck, 2006; Graham & Fine 2008; Cavender-Bares *et al.*, 2009).  
358 Within noctilionoids, there are numerous examples both of clades that are filtered by resource  
359 availability, leading to sympatry among the most similar pairs, and those that assemble into  
360 communities based on stabilizing mechanisms (Villalobos & Arita 2010). As our morphological  
361 data are partial proxies for ecological divergence, a deeper dataset that addresses feeding  
362 mechanics and performance may yield a fine-grained picture of how functional divergence  
363 relates to co-occurrence within communities.

364 Despite the significant negative effect of ecomorphology in our PLMMs, our best-fitting  
365 ML model is a simple one in which all pairs share a common probability of sympatry regardless  
366 of phylogenetic or morphological divergence (Appendix S7). This discrepancy likely reflects a  
367 fundamental difference between the two datasets. It is possible that the shorter timescales  
368 associated with sister taxa are insufficient for accumulating enough ecomorphological

369 divergence to influence the processes governing sympatry. Our sister species dataset is also  
370 relatively small, and it thus possible that statistical power was lower for these analyses.

371 The significant New World interaction effect of divergence metrics on sympatry in our  
372 PLMMs (Table 2) likely reflects scale and differences between Nearctic and Neotropical bats.  
373 Nearctic bats are predominantly insectivorous vespertilionoids, while the Neotropics are  
374 dominated by their high richness of noctilionoid bats, which span the full breadth of bat feeding  
375 diversity (Nowak, 1994; Simmons, 2005). We can interpret this significant effect as evidence  
376 that, at the scale of the entire New World, we are most likely to find morphologically similar and  
377 closely-related bats in sympatry. This is likely compounded by the fact that morphological  
378 divergence among many Neotropical species can be relatively large, and is recent compared with  
379 the relatively ancient (~50 mya) divergence of noctilionoids from Nearctic vespertilionoids (Shi  
380 & Rabosky, 2015).

381

### 382 *Sympatry-divergence relationships across extant bats and potential causes*

383 Multiple interactions beyond resource competition can drive patterns of sympatry.  
384 Mutualistic interactions with plants, or predation and parasitism (McIntire & Farjado, 2014;  
385 Spiesman & Inouye, 2014) can govern spatial patterns. Some bat communities, their  
386 distributions, and abundances are non-randomly structured with respect to other phenotypic  
387 traits, including flight ability and echolocation (Norberg & Rayner, 1987; Schoeman & Jacobs,  
388 2003; Siemers & Schnitzler, 2004; Santana & Lofgren, 2013; Corcoran *et al.*, 2014), as well as  
389 available foraging and roosting habitats (Schoeman & Jacobs, 2011; Voss *et al.*, 2016). These  
390 multiple pressures existing in conjunction could mask relationships between skull morphology  
391 and sympatry. The framework we develop here is flexible to the integration of other metrics of  
392 divergence, including measures of ecological performance that more directly test for  
393 competition.

394 Low competition for resources among bats may also decouple divergence from sympatry,  
395 especially if resources like aerial insects are ubiquitous and plentiful at night (Fenton & Thomas  
396 1980; Fleming, 1986). Studies that test for resource competition among bats are uncommon, and  
397 there is mixed evidence depending on guild, body size, and seasonality (Heithaus *et al.*, 1975;  
398 Swift & Racey, 1983; Kingston *et al.*, 2000). Divergence may also occur in situations when  
399 species historically co-occurred, but exist presently in allopatry, thereby masking the signature of

400 the sympatry-divergence relationship (Anacker & Strauss, 2014). Furthermore, we must also  
401 acknowledge that ranges themselves are inherited and non-independent properties of species.  
402 While we partially account for this in the random effects of our PLMMs, there is considerable  
403 room for the integration of models that simulate range heritability and evolution.

404 Divergence may also be unrelated to sympatry if abiotic filtering is the dominant process  
405 shaping species assemblages at the spatial scales considered here. For example, elevation and  
406 water availability (Henry *et al.*, 2004; McCain, 2007a; 2007b) control syntopy at local scales, but  
407 this fine-grained spatial structuring might not translate to regional range overlap. Bat diversity in  
408 the Afrotropics, for instance, appears to be highest in the wettest and most humid regions (Figure  
409 1); this pattern may underlie co-occurrence in sympatry. Bat distributions can also vary with  
410 temporal and seasonal variation in resource use (Kronfeld-Schor & Dayan, 2003; Adams &  
411 Thibault, 2006). Abiotic, environmental conditions can also mediate ecological interactions,  
412 eroding clear relationships between divergence and sympatry (Chesson, 1986; Dunson & Travis,  
413 1991). If traits actually underlie fitness differences as opposed to niche differences, then  
414 equalizing mechanisms may be the most important promoters of coexistence, which can also  
415 result in null or negative relationships between divergence and sympatry (Chesson, 2000; Adler  
416 *et al.*, 2006). This seems less likely in bats, where morphological differences are linked to major  
417 trophic categories, but is a possibility for other taxa characterized by generally low divergence.

418 It is also possible that there are trade-offs between mechanisms of divergence and habitat  
419 filtering that scale with community and range sizes (Kneitel & Chase, 2003). Local communities  
420 can be overdispersed without this pattern manifesting at the regional scale (*e.g.* Rabosky *et al.*,  
421 2011). Local and regional scales are also not consistent across organisms and biomes, given  
422 differences in dispersal ability (Warren *et al.*, 2014). Finally, processes that control the degree of  
423 overlap may be distinct from those that preclude co-occurrence altogether. Even given no  
424 relationship between divergence and the *presence* of sympatry, there may still be a relationship  
425 between divergence and the *degree* of overlap in a subset of sympatric pairs, indicating that once  
426 requirements for sympatry are met, range overlap is readily increased.

427 Our results indicating weak or null effects of phylogenetic distance on regional co-  
428 occurrence could also be evidence for alternative modes of speciation, including speciation in  
429 sympatry. While speciation in allopatry is often assumed to be the most prevalent mode,  
430 sympatric speciation could cloud any signals of divergence upon sympatry (Fitzpatrick &

431 Turelli, 2006), especially if extant ranges largely reflect the geography of speciation.  
432 Reproductive sorting by echolocation frequency has been suggested as a driver of sympatric  
433 speciation in some clades of bats (Kingston & Rossiter, 2004). Considering the generally coarse  
434 nature of available range data, allopatric pairs may even appear sympatric, as in cases where  
435 isolation depends on microhabitat availability like roosts (Voss *et al.*, 2016). Spatial patterns of  
436 bat diversity may also be unrelated to divergence if larger ranges are simply more likely to  
437 overlap when constrained by continental geography, analogous to the mid-domain explanation  
438 for the latitudinal diversity gradient (Colwell & Lees, 2000). This would also be evidence for  
439 dispersal ability as a driver of sympatry across bats, though testing would require higher-  
440 resolution data on range limits. Dispersal could even erode signals of local competitive  
441 exclusion, leading to the appearance of widespread sympatry.

442 One of the biggest limiting factors to macroecological studies is the quality and accuracy  
443 of data. Uncertainty in divergence time estimation can impede efforts to infer the effects of age  
444 on extant diversity. The presence of cryptic species may make identification of syntopic species  
445 difficult. Furthermore, all studies that use spatial data are sensitive to the accuracy of range  
446 maps, which have not been systematically reviewed across Chiroptera, to our knowledge.  
447 Ultimately, it is unlikely that ecological interactions scale to macroecological patterns and  
448 macroevolutionary dynamics equally across the tree of life. The negative relationship between  
449 divergence and co-occurrence across bats is potentially evidence that their diversity is  
450 unsaturated (Shi & Rabosky, 2015), and that they are continuing to radiate into a diversity of  
451 ecological niches and biomes.

452

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459

### 460 **Biosketch**

461 **Jeff J. Shi** performed this research as part of his Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary  
462 Biology at the University of Michigan. His dissertation evaluates how extant patterns of diversity  
463 reflect dynamic histories of diversification and species interactions; he focuses on extant bats as  
464 a model study system.

465 Author contributions: J.J.S. and D.L.R. designed this study and its methods and analyses,  
466 and led the writing of the manuscript. J.J.S., E.P.W., N.T.K., and E.R.D. contributed to data  
467 collection. E.P.W. and E.R.D. reviewed, added to, and commented on the manuscript throughout  
468 the writing process.

469

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650  
 651

652 **Table 1.** PLMM results for the effect of age ( $\beta_1$ ) alone on pairwise patterns of sympatry (at a  
 653 20% overlap threshold) for all pairs of bat species with spatial data, divided into WWF  
 654 biogeographic realms. Posterior means and pMCMC values (see Results) are included.

Realm (N)	$\beta_1$ posterior mean	$\beta_1$ pMCMC
Afrotropics (78 species)	-0.016	0.060
Indomalaya (175 species)	-0.008	0.083
Nearctic (40 species)	-0.018	0.182
Neotropics (235 species)	-0.012	0.336
Oceania & Australasia (82 species)	-0.008	0.481
Palaearctic (70 species)	-0.009	0.209

655  
 656 **Table 2.** PLMM results for the effects of age ( $\beta_1$ ), ecomorphological divergence ( $\beta_2$ ), and  
 657 combined age and ecomorphological divergence ( $\beta_3$ ) on pairwise patterns of sympatry (at a 20%  
 658 overlap threshold) for all pairs of bat species with both types of divergence data. These pairs are  
 659 divided according to realm. Posterior means and pMCMC values are included, and bolded when  
 660 pMCMC < 0.05. Note that some species are part of the species pools of both realms.

Realm ( <i>N</i> )	$\beta_1$ posterior mean	$\beta_1$ pMCMC	$\beta_2$ posterior mean	$\beta_2$ pMCMC	$\beta_3$ posterior mean	$\beta_3$ pMCMC
Nearctic (34 species)	-0.029	0.380	-0.015	0.958	-0.002	0.800
Neotropics (135 species)	-0.018	0.203	<b>-0.091</b>	<b>0.009*</b>	< 0.001	0.621
New World (161 species)	-0.026	0.330	-0.029	0.360	<b>-0.002</b>	<b>0.004*</b>

661

662

663 **Figure 1.** Global richness of extant bats, based on 696 range polygons used for this study.

664 Warmer colors represent higher species richness. Regional diversity of bats is highest in the  
665 tropics and peaks in the western Amazon basin and eastern slopes of the Andes.

666

667 **Figure 2.** Three models for how the probability of sympatry ( $\theta$ ) can vary as a function of either

668 phylogenetic or morphological divergence. From top to bottom: M1, a model where  $\theta$  is

669 independent of the evolutionary or morphological divergence between taxa; M2, where  $\theta$

670 approaches a limiting value  $\alpha$ ; M3, where  $\theta$  logistically varies with divergence and also

671 asymptotically approaches a limiting value  $\alpha$ .

672

673 **Figure 3.** A schematic of our range randomization approach used to test the relationship between

674 sympatry and the time since divergence. For each realm, we took the (a) phylogeny of all bat

675 species endemic to that realm, and (b) randomized species and range identity while holding the

676 tree constant. For each of these randomizations, we calculated (c) the logistic regression and

677 associated log-odds between divergence time and sympatry state. Repeating (b) and (c) 500

678 times created (d) a null distribution of relationships, shown here as the logarithm of the odds-

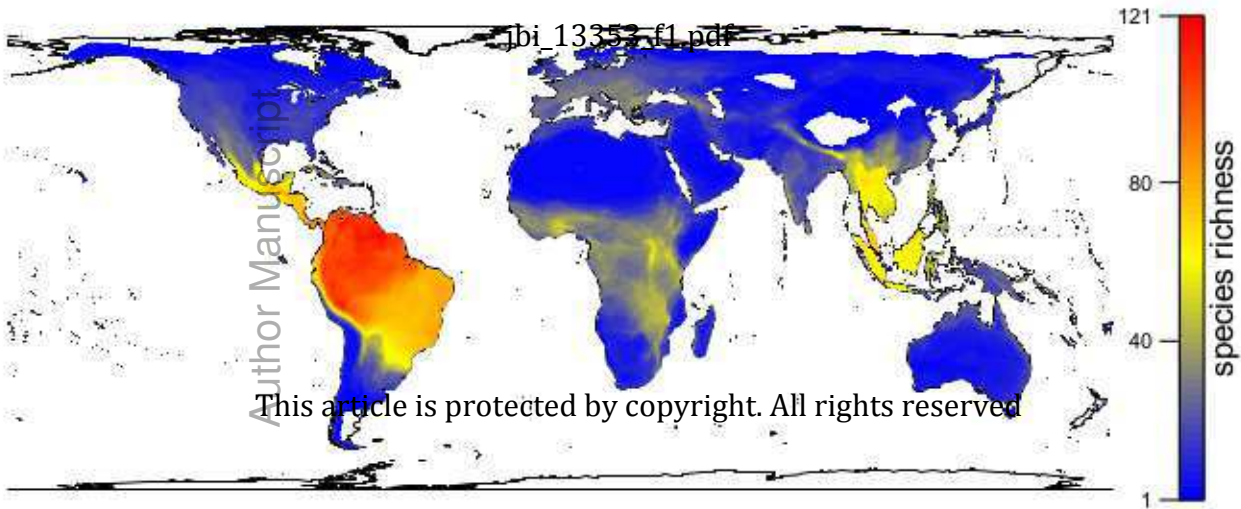
679 ratio between divergence time and sympatry state. This null distribution was then compared to

680 the empirical value for that realm, indicated by the dashed line.

681

682 **Figure 4.** (a) Pairwise Euclidean distances (ecomorphology) versus percentage range overlap for  
683 all pairs of Neotropical bat species considered in this study ( $N = 8967$  pairs). Pairs above the  
684 dotted threshold are considered sympatric for the main analyses of this study. (b) Points denote  
685 the same dataset, decomposed into binary sympatry or allopatry states. The curve is the posterior  
686 mean PLMM estimate of the relationship between pairwise ecomorphological distance and the  
687 probability of sympatry. Progressively darker polygons highlight the 90%, 75%, 50%, 25%, and  
688 10% credibility intervals around the mean. There is a significant negative relationship between  
689 the probability of sympatry and ecomorphological distance, although credible intervals are wide.  
690 (c) The same relationship as (b), but fitting the model only to species pairs with morphological  
691 distances less than 6.0, which accounts for 95.8% of all species pairs. This analysis was  
692 performed to ensure that the overall negative relationship was not driven by the small number of  
693 pairs with very high ecomorphological distance values.





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probability of sympathy

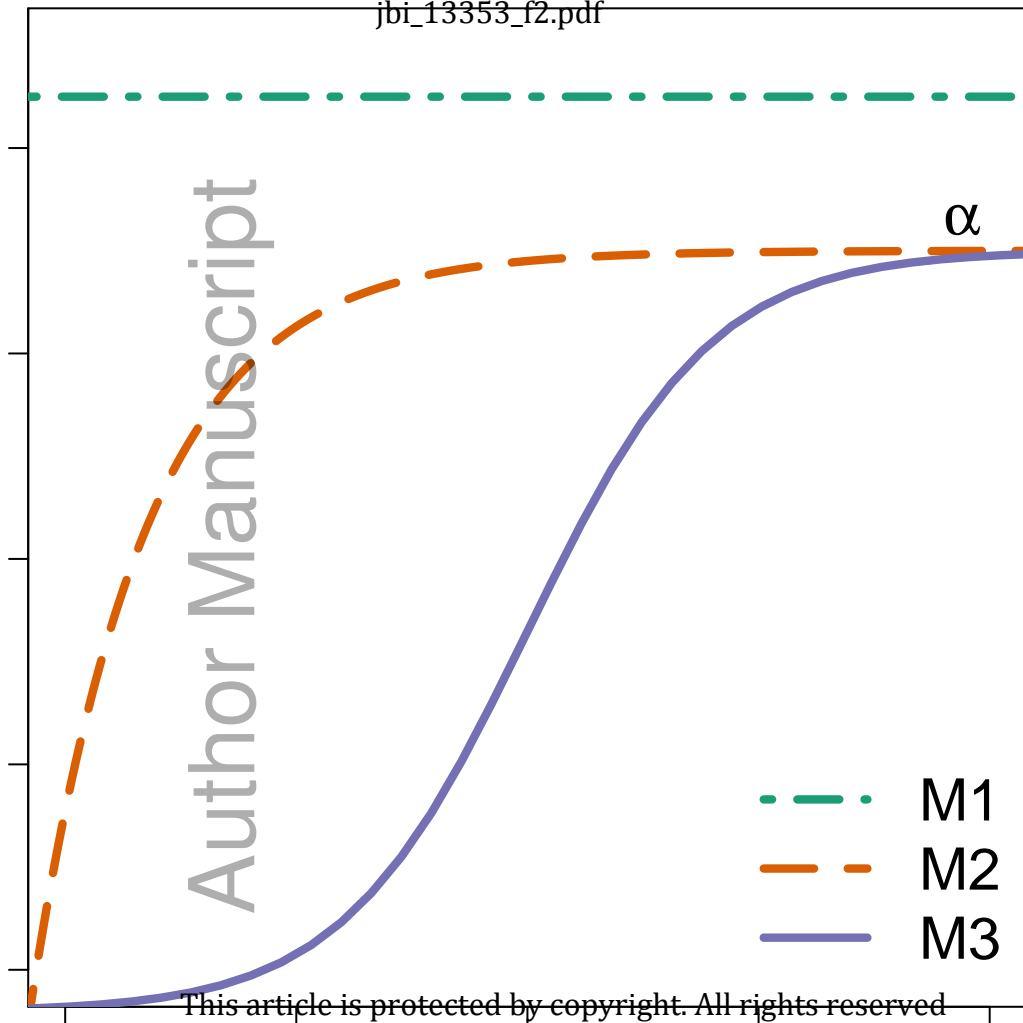
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 $\alpha$ 

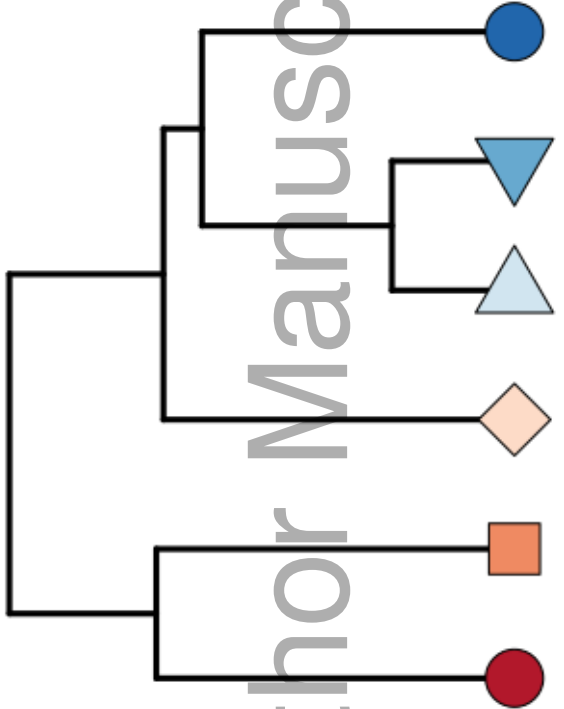
- M1
- - - M2
- M3

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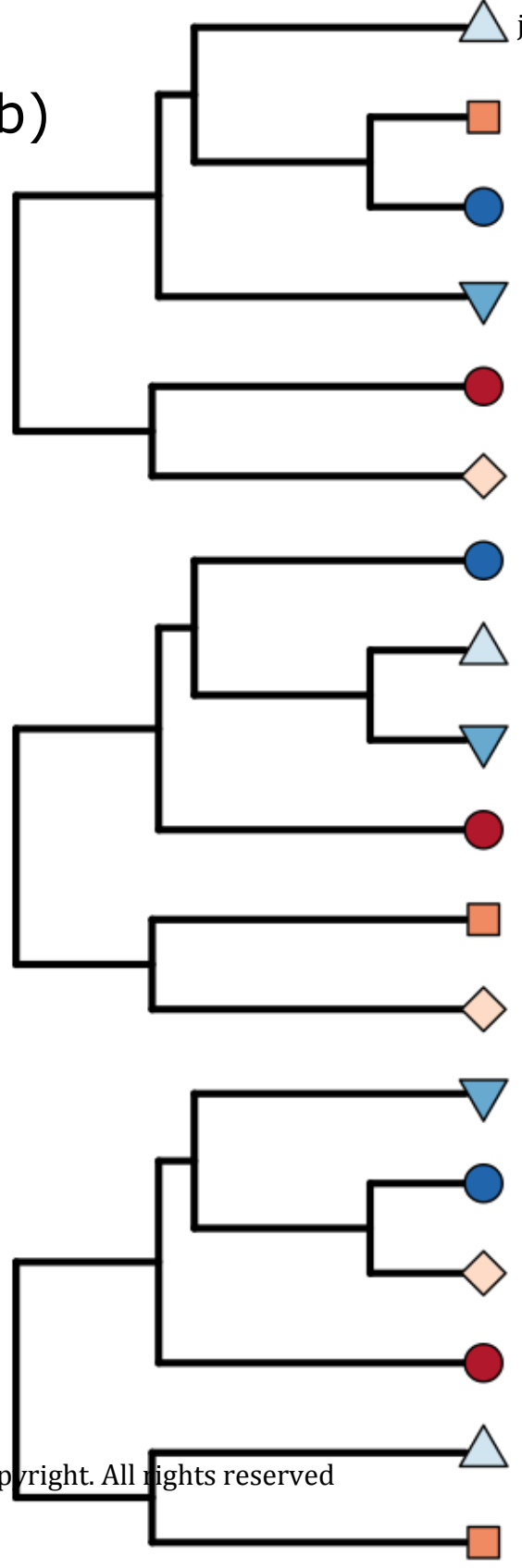
divergence



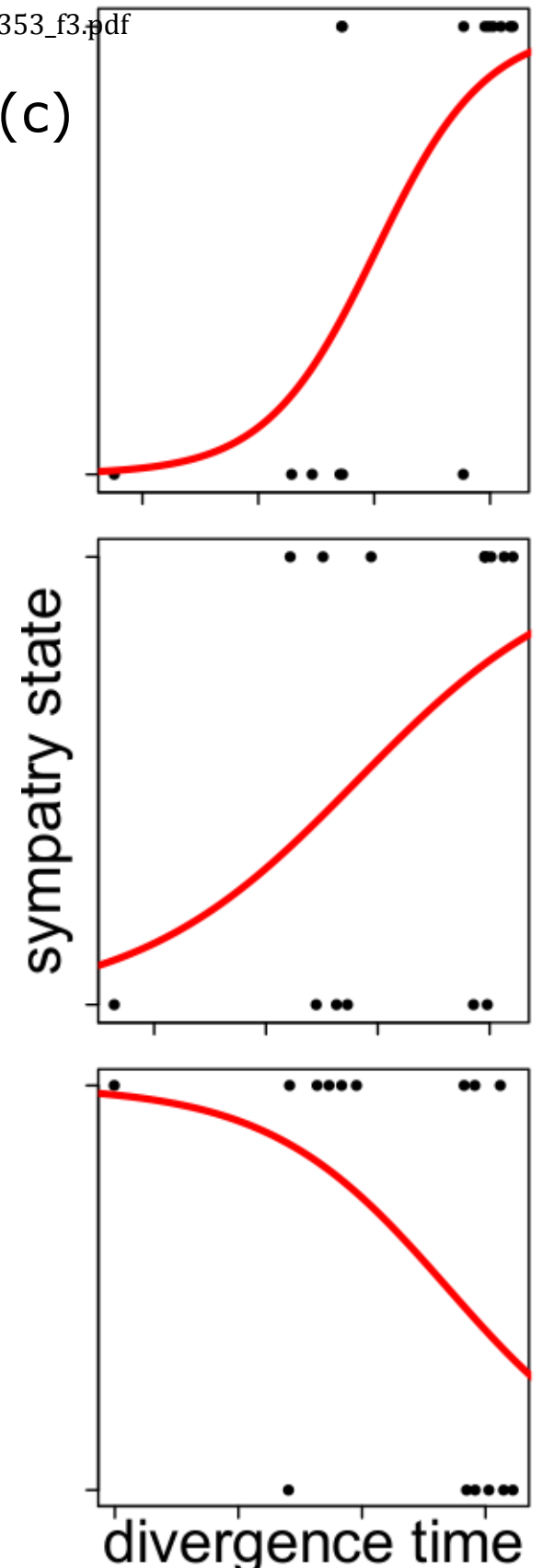
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

