1. PROJECT

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Title: The climatic space of European pollen taxa

Dates: 1/09/2018-31/02/2019

Funding organisation: ERC

Grant no.: ERC (Global Change 2.0: Unlocking the past for a clearer future (grant number 694481))

2. DATASET

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Title: The climatic space of European pollen taxa

Description: Pollen data are widely used to reconstruct past climate changes, using relationships between modern pollen abundance in surface samples and climate at the surface sample sites. Visualisation of these data in multi-dimensional climate space provides an important way to establish that pollen taxon abundances are well-behaved before using them in climate reconstructions, but visualisation can also be helpful for ecological interpretation of the pollen diagrams. Here we present data created using Generalized Additive Models (GAMs) on the distribution of 195 European pollen taxa in climate space defined by seasonal temperature, as defined by the mean temperature of the coldest month (MTCO) and growing degree days above a baseline of 0°C (GDD0), and an annual moisture index (MI) expressed as the ratio of annual precipitation to annual potential evapotranspiration. These models can be used to explore the realised climate niche of individual pollen taxa and to build statistical models for climate reconstruction.

Publication Year: 2019

Creator(s): D. Wei, S.P. Harrison, I.C. Prentice

Organisation(s): University of Reading, Imperial College London

Rights-holder(s): University of Reading, Imperial College London

References:

 Wei, D., González-Sampériz, P., Gil-Romera, G., Harrison, S.P., Prentice, I.C. Climate changes in interior semi-arid Spain from the last interglacial to the late Holocene. Climate of the Past Discussions <https://doi.org/10.5194/cp-2019-16>, 2019.

 Harrison, S.P. Modern Pollen Data for Climate Reconstructions, version 1 (SMPDS). University of Reading Dataset. <http://dx.doi.org/10.17864/1947.194>, 2019.

3. TERMS OF USE

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Quercus.evergreen.csv - reconstructions of the 3D climate space of Quercus.evergreen;

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Trollius.csv - reconstructions of the 3D climate space of Trollius;

Ulmus.csv - reconstructions of the 3D climate space of Ulmus;

Ulmus+Zelkova.csv - reconstructions of the 3D climate space of Ulmus+Zelkova;

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Vaccinium.csv - reconstructions of the 3D climate space of Vaccinium;

Valerianaceae.csv - reconstructions of the 3D climate space of Valerianaceae;

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Violaceae.csv - reconstructions of the 3D climate space of Violaceae;

Viscum.csv - reconstructions of the 3D climate space of Viscum;

Vitex.csv - reconstructions of the 3D climate space of Vitex;

Ziziphus.csv - reconstructions of the 3D climate space of Ziziphus;

Zygophyllaceae.csv - reconstructions of the 3D climate space of Zygophyllaceae.

5. METHOD and PROCESSING

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We constructed GAMs for 195 individual pollen taxa using modern relationships between pollen abundance and climate variables, specifically mean temperature of the coldest month (MTCO), a measure of growing season warmth as expressed by growing degree days above a of 0°C (GDD0) and an index of plant-available moisture (MI) expressed as the ratio of annual precipitation to annual potential evapotranspiration. The modern pollen dataset consists of records from 6458 terrestrial sites from Europe, the Middle East and Eurasia (Harrison, 2019). Climatological values (1961-1990) of mean monthly temperature, precipitation, and fractional sunshine hours were obtained from the CRU CL v2.0 gridded dataset (New et al., 2002). Geographically weighted regression in ArcGIS was used to correct for elevation differences between the CRU grids and the pollen sites, using a fixed bandwidth kernel of 1.06° (~140km). The climate of each pollen site was estimated based on its longitude, latitude, and elevation. MTCO was taken directly from the GWR regression; GDD0 was estimated from daily data using a mean-conserving interpolation of the monthly mean temperatures. MI was calculated for each pollen site using SPLASH v1.0 (Davis et al., 2017), based on daily values of precipitation, temperature and sunshine hours obtained using a mean-conserving interpolation of the monthly values of each. The GAMs were implemented with the mgcv R package (Wood, 2017). MI was square root transformed, since differences between MI values at the dry end have a bigger effect than differences at the wet end on vegetation. Logistic models were constructed. Interaction terms were not included, because we assume that each bioclimatic variable has an independent influence on taxa distribution. The fitted response surfaces show pollen taxon abundance in climate space. Convex hulls, implemented using the alphahull package in R (Pateiro-Lopez & Rodriguez-Casal, 2016), were used to delineate the area with samples and avoid representing parts of the fitted surface that are not closely constrained by data. We sample the resultant GAMs at regular intervals across the range spanned by each climate variable to derive estimates of taxon abundance, sampling each GAM at increments of 0.6°C for MTCO, 100 degree days for GDD0 and 0.03 for √MI (unitless). Full details of the methods are given in Wei et al. (2019).We provide a csv file for each individual pollen taxon. The file name specifies the taxon name (e.g. Abies.csv). Each file the value of the potential taxon abundance for a given combination of the three climate parameters: sqrt(MI) (column 1), MTCO (column 2) and GDD0 (column 3). sqrt(MI) is the square root result of Moisture index, a unitless number and ranges from 0 to 2.4. MTCO is given in °C (range: -43 to 14.6°C) and GDD0 in degree days (range: 300 to 8200 degree days). Potential taxon abundance (column 5) is expressed as a decimal probability.

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 Wood, S.: mgcv: Mixed GAM Computation Vehicle with Automatic Smoothness Estimation, CRAN, available at: https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=mgcv, 2017 (last access: 19 January 2019).

The individual fields are:

 # sqrt(MI) (unitless)

 # MTCO (°C)

 # GDD0 (degree days)

 # taxon abundance (decimal probability)