

Preface

No sooner, it seems, had our first book *Analysing Ecological Data* gone to print, than we embarked on the writing of the nearly 600 page text you are now holding. This proved to be a labour of love of sorts – we felt that there were certain issues sufficiently common in the analysis of ecological data that merited more detailed description and analysis. Thus the present book can be seen as a ‘sequel’ to *Analysing Ecological Data* but with much greater emphasis on these very issues so commonly encountered in the collection of, and analysis of, ecological data. In particular, we look at different ways of analysing nested data, heterogeneity of variance, spatial and temporal correlation, and zero-inflated data.

The original plan was to write a text of about 350 pages, but to do justice to the sheer range of problems and ideas we have well exceeded that original target (as you can see!). Such is the scope of applied statistics in ecology. In particular, partly on the back of reviewer’s comments, we have included a chapter on Bayesian Monte-Carlo Markov-Chain applications in generalized linear modelling. We hope this serves as an informative introduction (but no more than an introduction!) to this interesting and increasingly relevant area of statistics.

We received lots of positive feedback on the approach and style we used in *Analysing Ecological Data*, especially the combination of case studies and a theory section. We have therefore followed the same approach with this book. This time, however, we have provided the R code used for the analysis. Most of this R code is included in the text, but where the code was particularly long, it is only available from the book’s website at www.highstat.com. In the case studies, we also included advice on what to write in a paper.

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