Incorporating collector behavior into large-scale range models for digital biodiversity data

Kelley D. Erickson, Stephen J. Murphy and Adam B. Smith

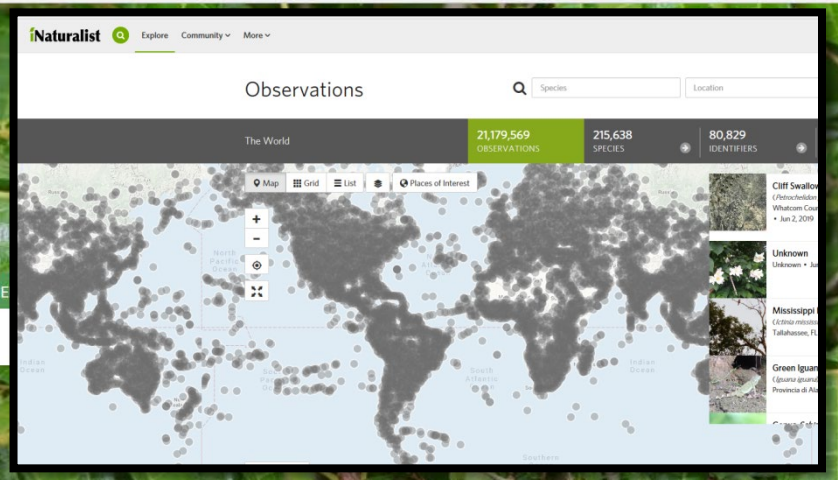
MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

INSTITUTE of Museum and Library SERVICES

Get data Share Tools Inside GBIF

GBIF | Global Biodiversity Information Facility

Rapidly expanding access to an enormous amount of digital biodiversity data



Occurrence records
1,304,475,217

Datasets
44,934

Publishing institutions
1,409

Peer-reviewed papers using data
3,697

Angola becomes the newest member of the GBIF network
20 May 2019

On the evolution of food customs
4 June 2019

2019 GBIF Ebbe Nielsen Challenge seeks open-data innovations for biodiversity
Deadline: 1 August 2019

Data mobilization and capacity building essential to address global biodiversity crisis
6 May 2019

Tropicos®

Home Names Specimens References Projects Images More Tools

Tropicos® was originally created for internal research but has since been r
available to the world's scientific community. All of the nomenclatural, bibl
and specimen data accumulated in MBG's electronic databases during the
years are publicly available here. This system has nearly 1.3 million scient
and over 4.4 million specimen records.

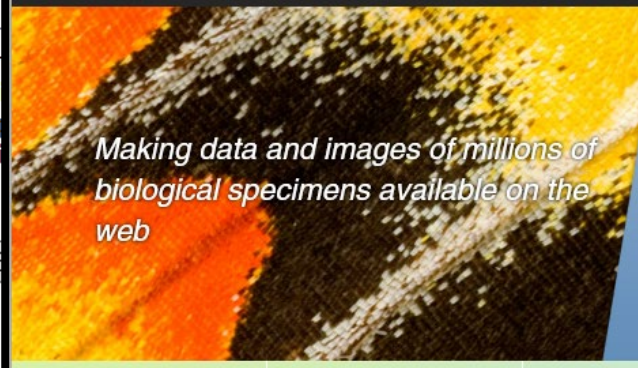
Quick Name Search | Search | Search E

Common Name

iDigBio
Integrated Digitized Biocollections

About iDigBio | Research

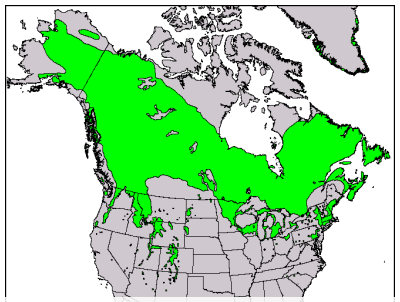
Google Cus



119,163,881
Specimen Records
30,380,997
Media Records
1,614
Recordsets

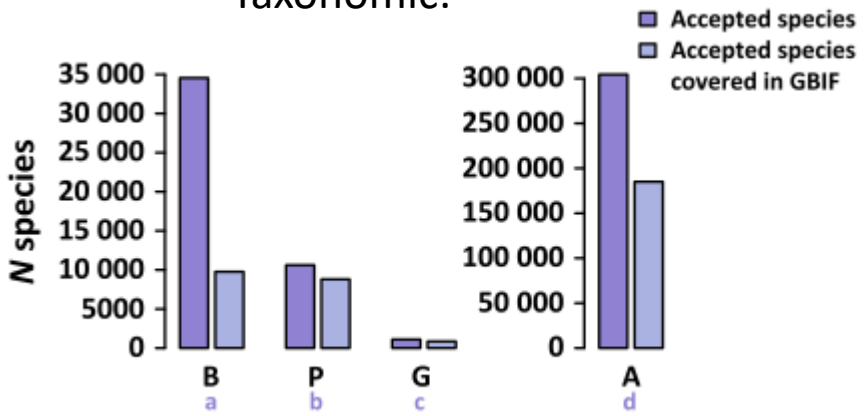
Search the Portal

Gaps and biases in occurrence data for species ranges

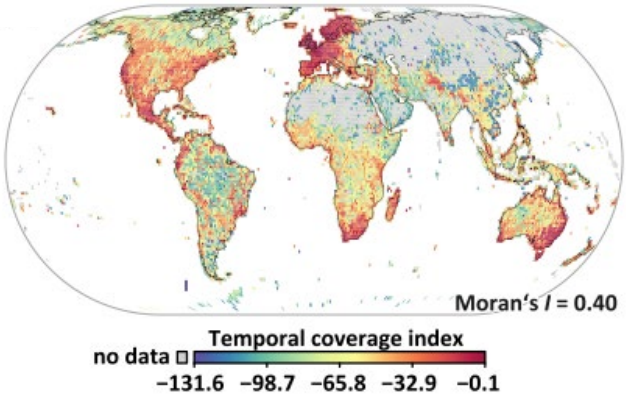


Thompson et al. USGS 1999

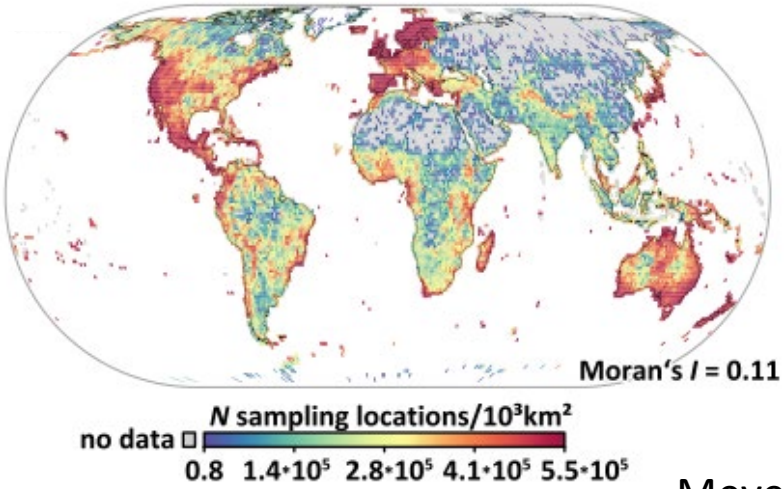
Taxonomic:



Temporal:



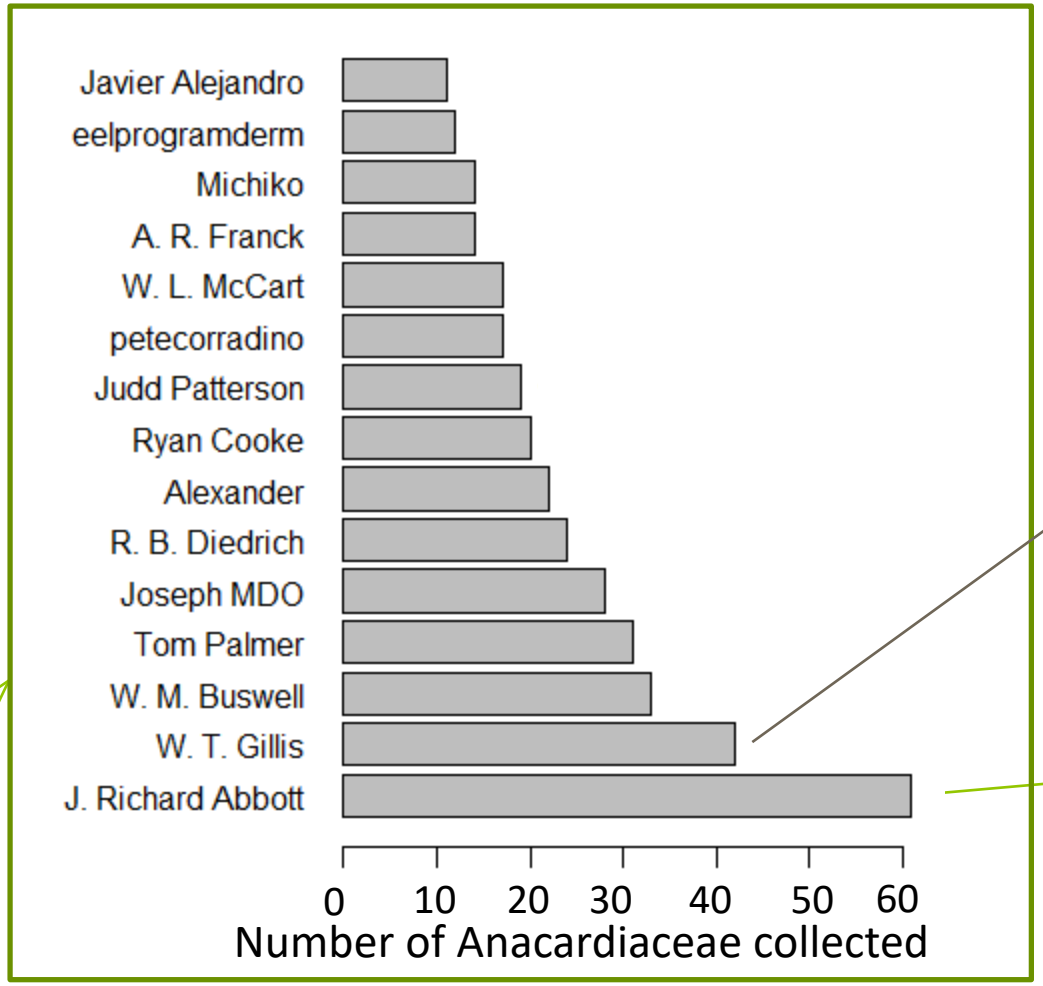
Geographical:



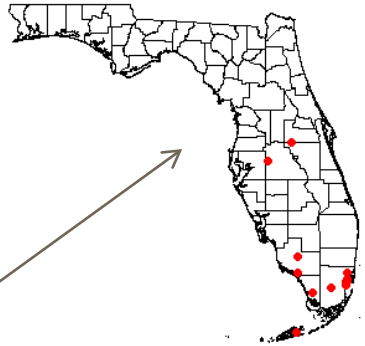
Meyer *et al. Ecology Letters* 2016

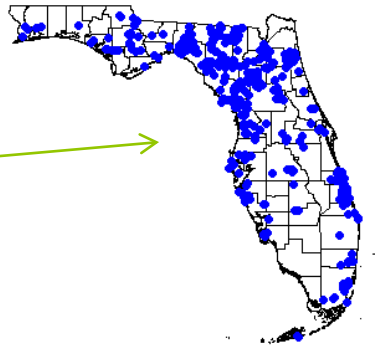
Most collectors collect only once

singletons



Even those that collect a lot don't collect everywhere:

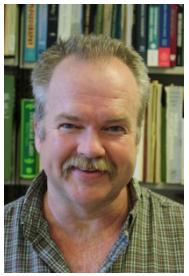




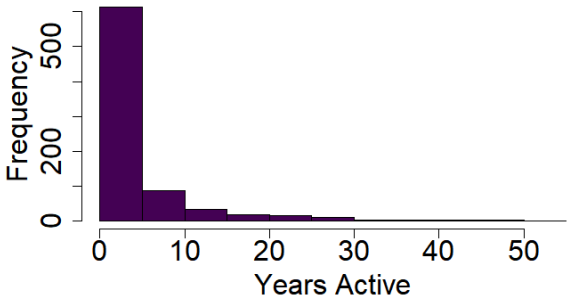
Taxonomic focus varies among collectors: Number of Records by Family

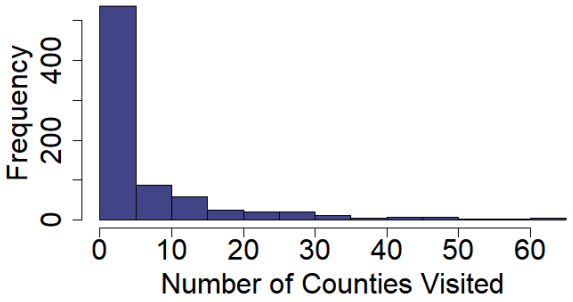
William T. Gillis, Jr.

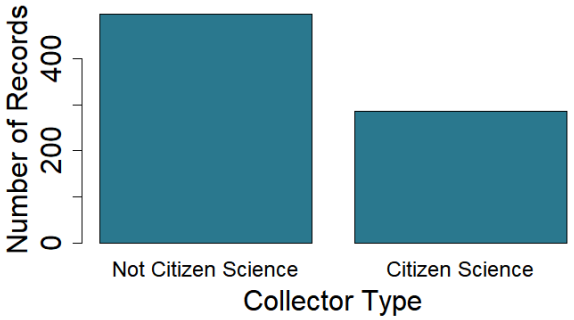
J. Richard Abbott

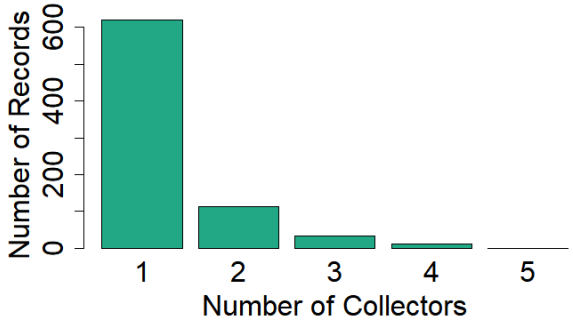


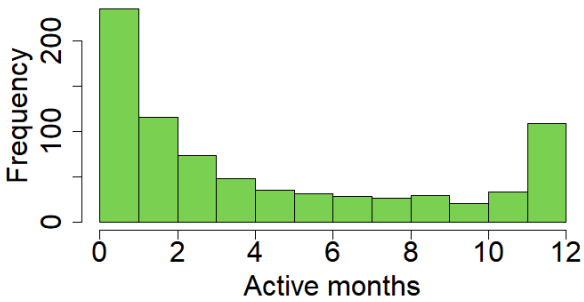
Other ways collectors differ from each other

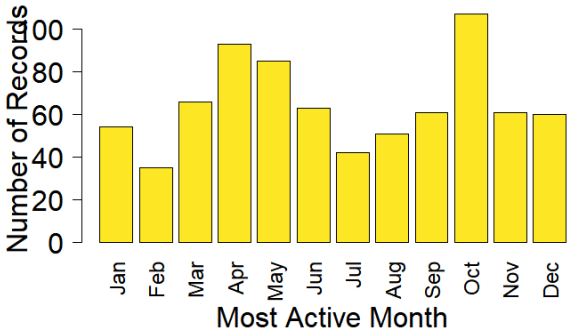




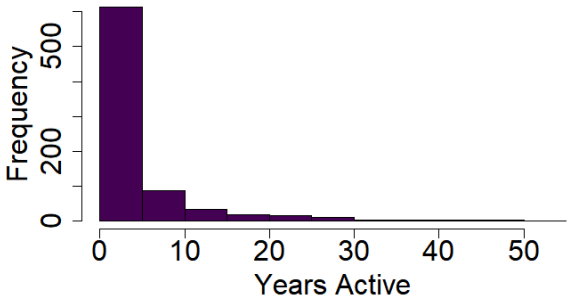


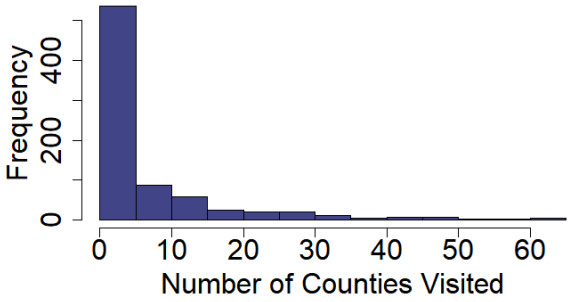


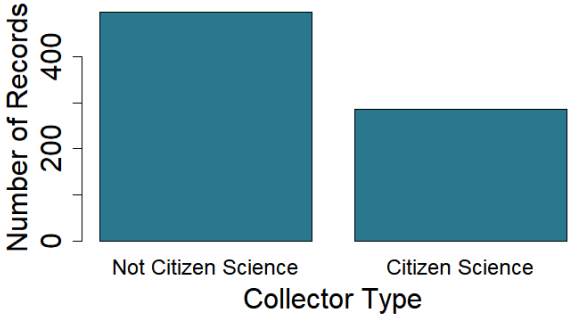


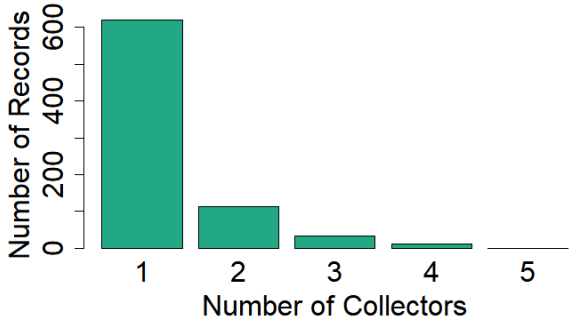


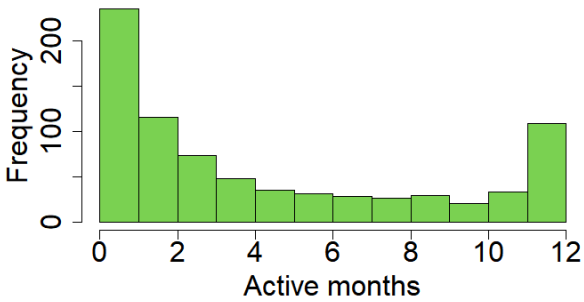
Other ways collectors differ from each other

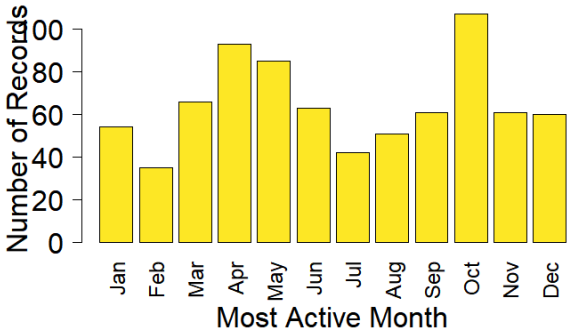






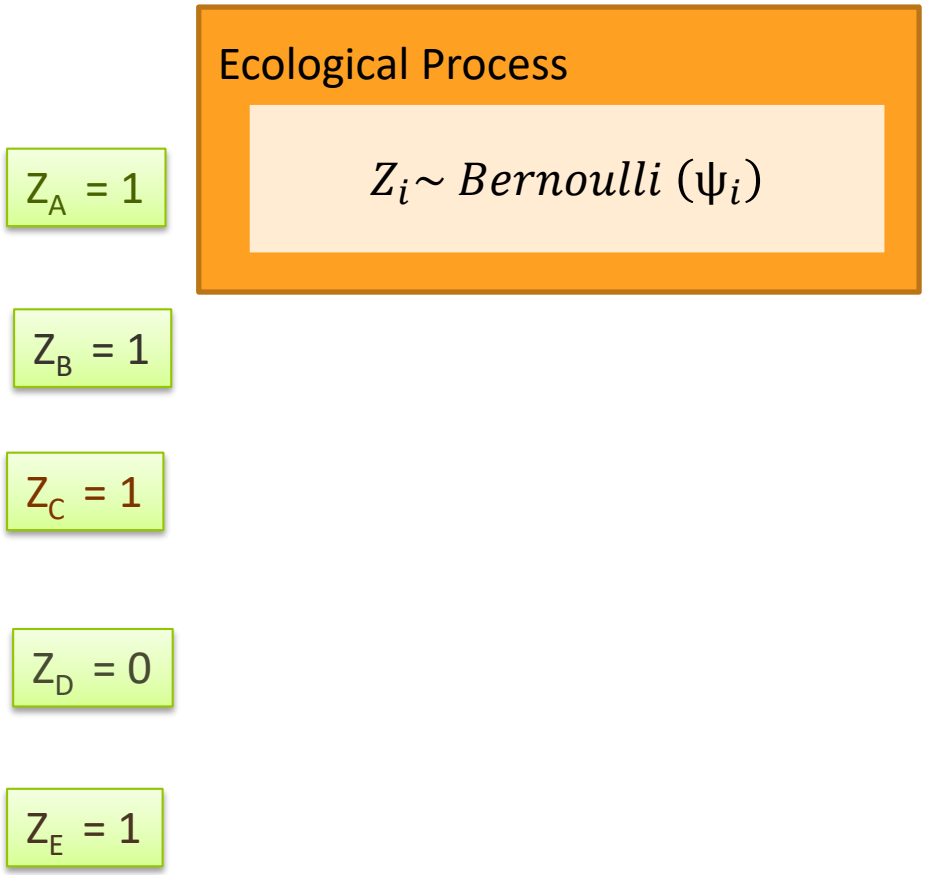






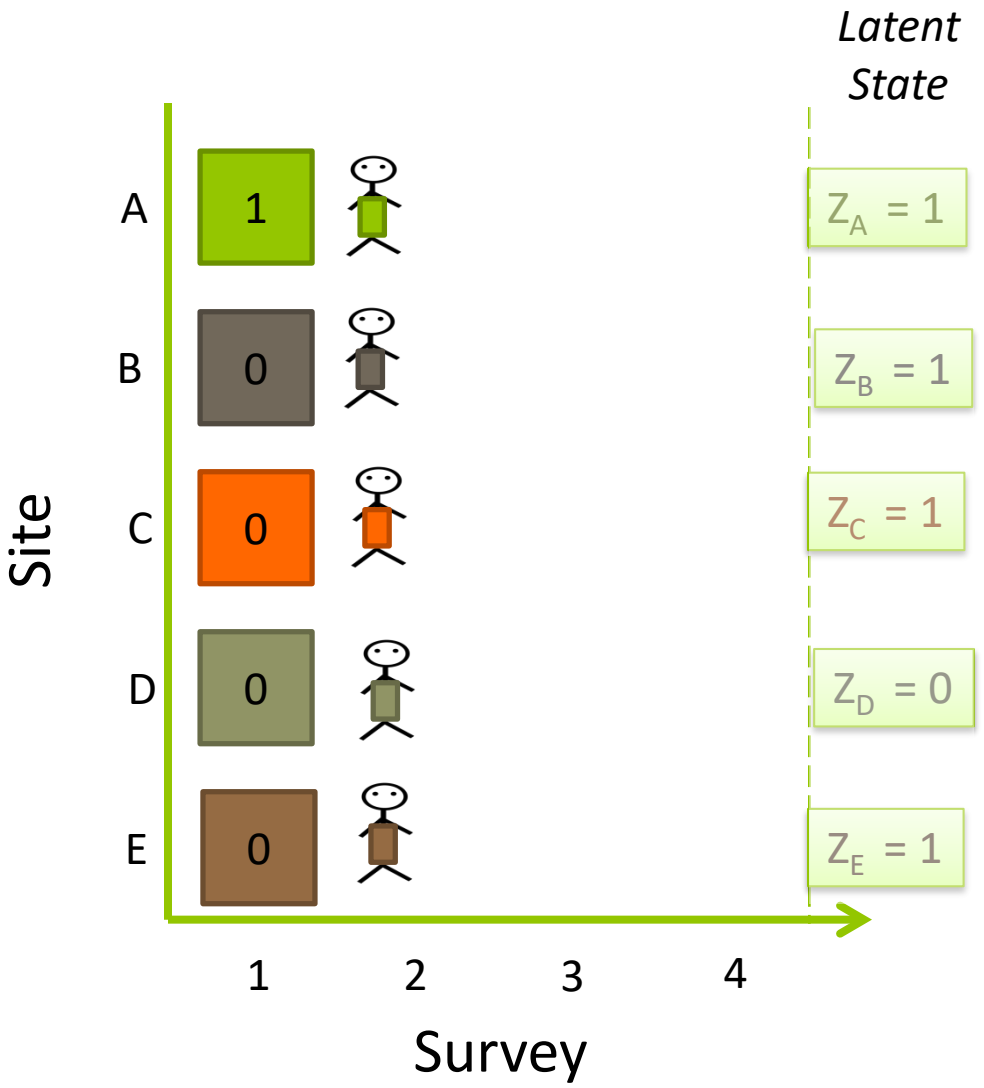
Differences among collectors give rise to observed biases in occurrence data

Occupancy-detection models



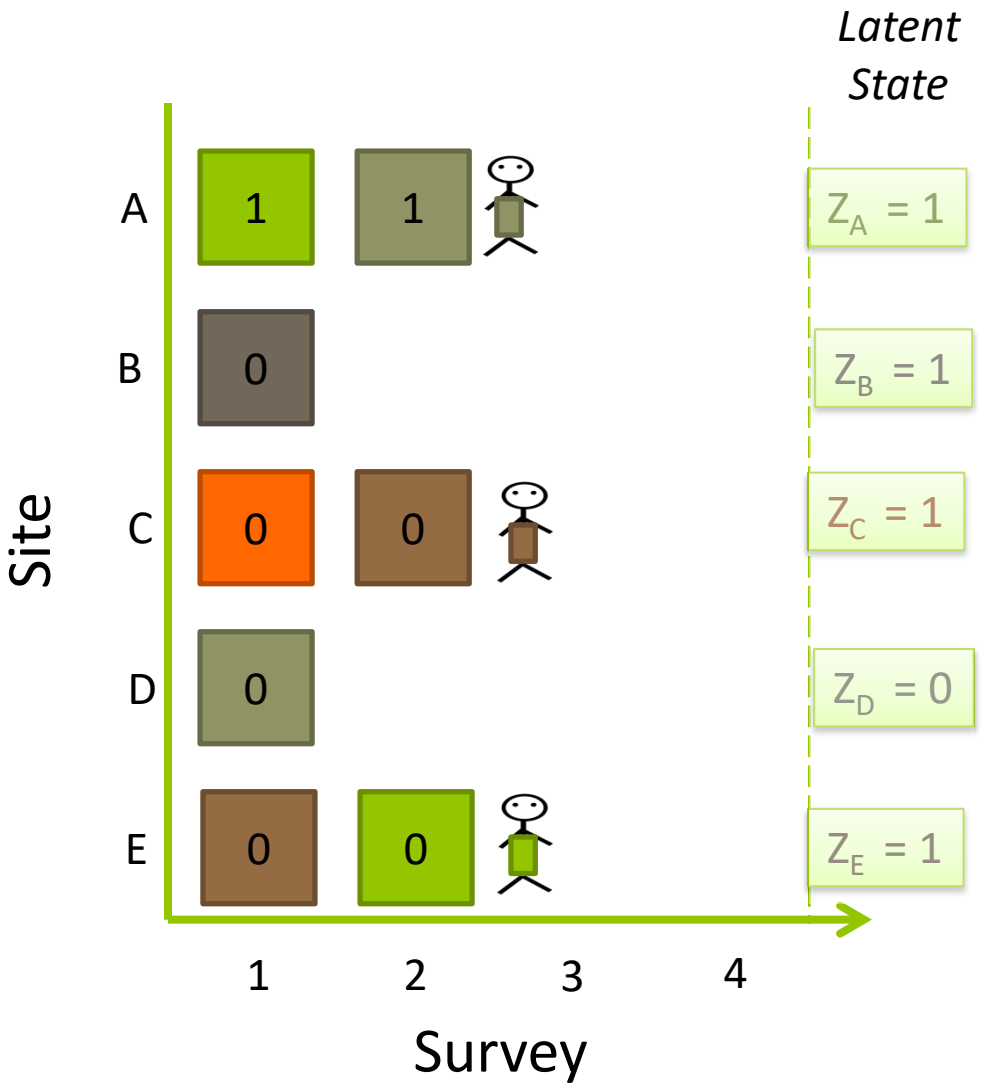
MacKenzie et al. *Ecology* 2002

Occupancy-detection models



MacKenzie et al. *Ecology* 2002

Occupancy-detection models

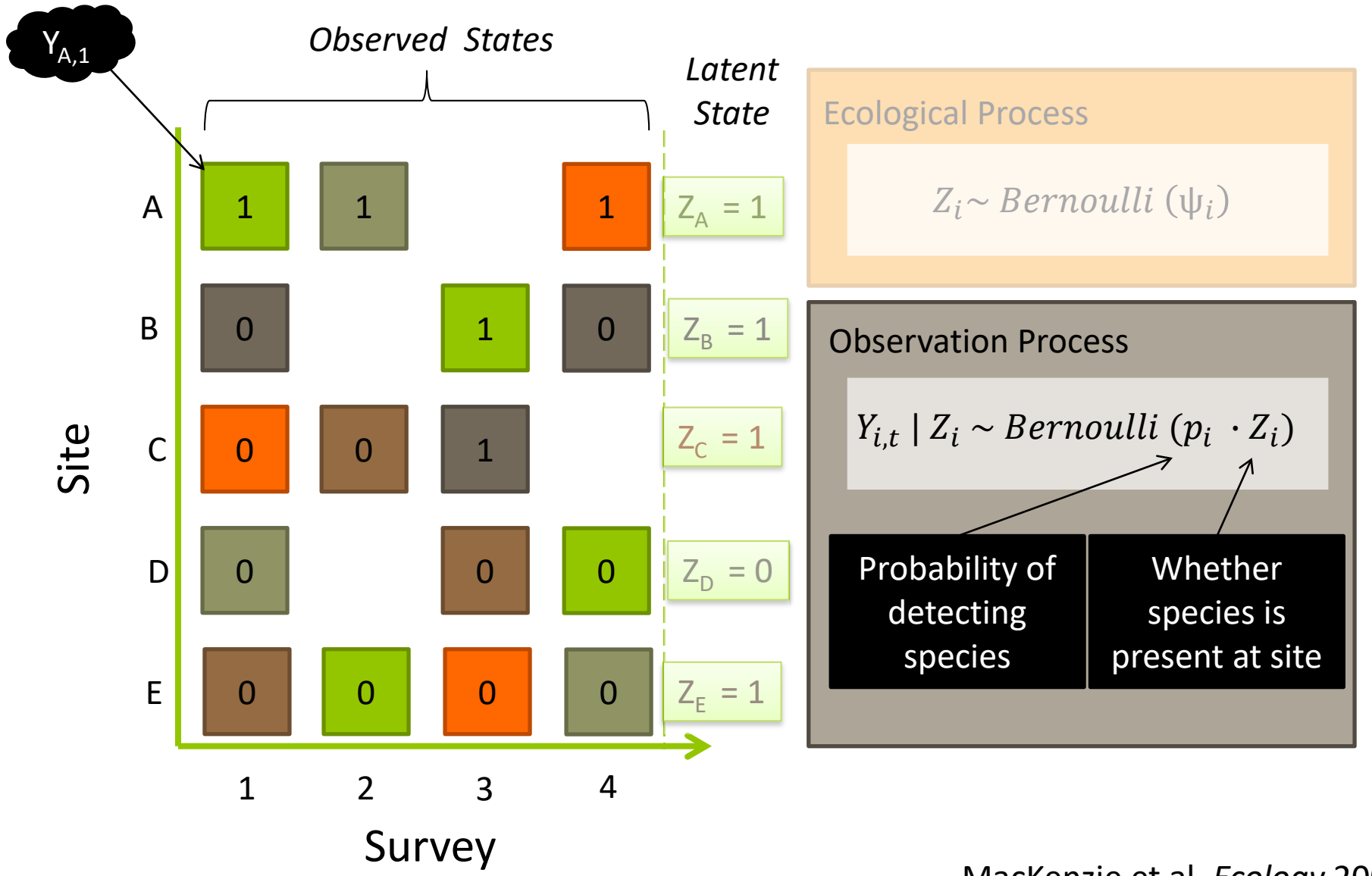


Ecological Process

$$Z_i \sim Bernoulli\ (\psi_i)$$

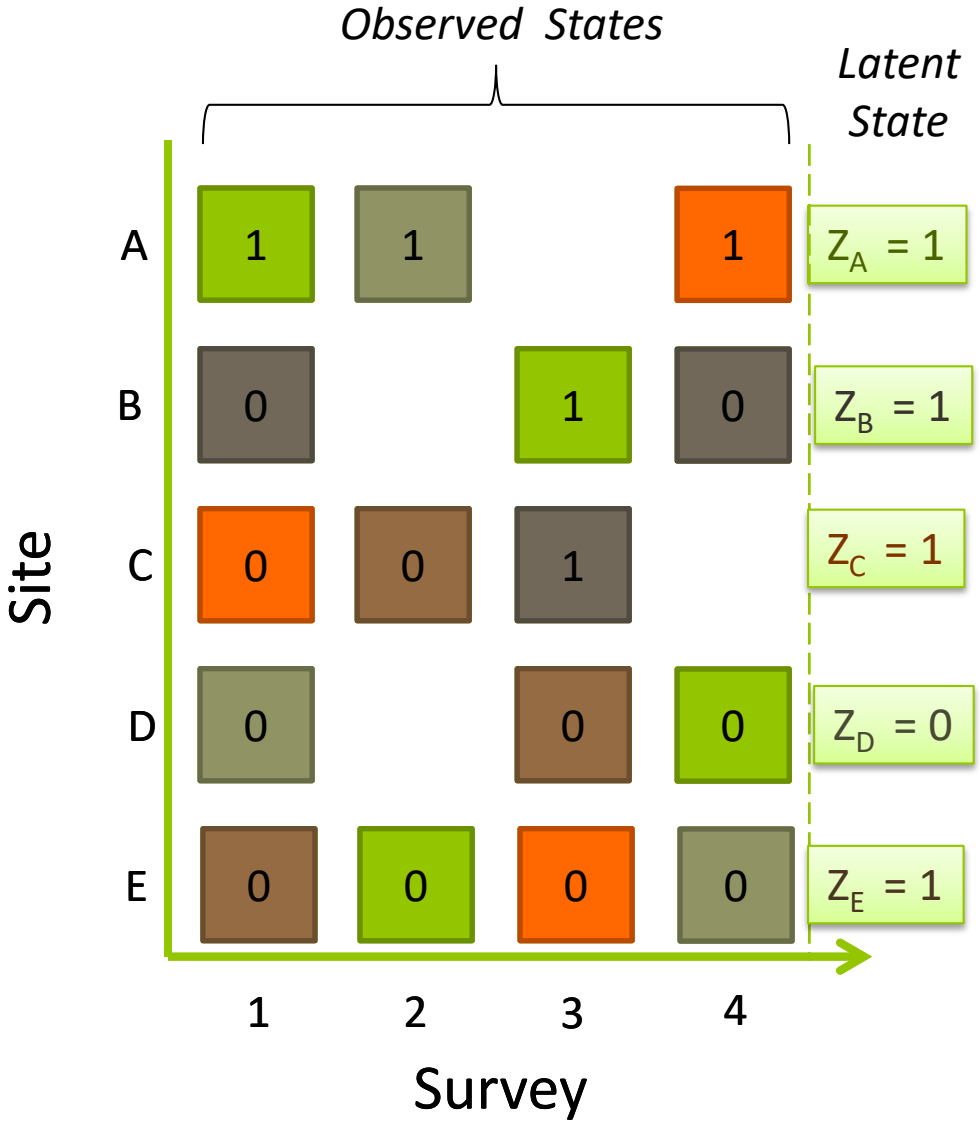
MacKenzie et al. *Ecology* 2002

Occupancy-detection models



MacKenzie et al. *Ecology* 2002

Occupancy-detection models



Ecological Process

$$Z_{i,t} \sim Bernoulli\ (\psi_i)$$

Observation Process

$$Y_{i,t} \mid Z_i \sim Bernoulli\ (p_i \cdot Z_i)$$

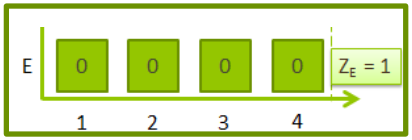
$$\text{logit}(p_i) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2$$

Detectability can depend on characteristics of collectors

MacKenzie et al. *Ecology* 2002

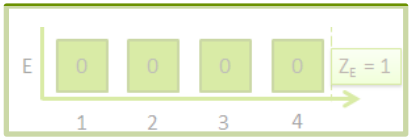
Translating occupancy-detection framework to collections data context

- How do we define a **site**?
  - a county or other defined locality
  - buffer around a given coordinate

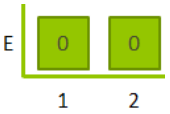


Translating occupancy-detection framework to collections data context

- How do we define a **site**?
  - a county or other defined locality
  - buffer around a given coordinate



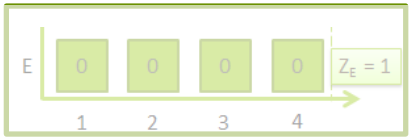
- What is the time scale of the **sampling period?**



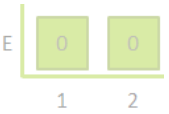
  - ***closure assumption:*** *occupancy status of site does not change between sampling periods*

Translating occupancy-detection framework to collections data context

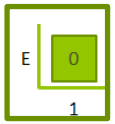
- How do we define a **site**?
  - a county or other defined locality
  - buffer around a given coordinate



- What is the time scale of the **sampling period?**
  - ***closure assumption:*** *occupancy status of site does not change between sampling periods*

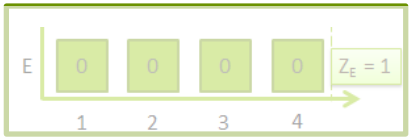


- What counts as a single **survey**?
  - all collections by a **single individual** (or collection group) within a **site** during a single **sampling period**



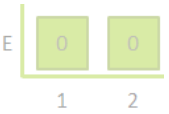
Translating occupancy-detection framework to collections data context

- How do we define a **site**?



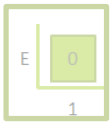
  - a county or other defined locality
  - buffer around a given coordinate

- What is the time scale of the **sampling period?**



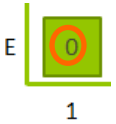
  - ***closure assumption:*** *occupancy status of site does not change between sampling periods*

- What counts as a single **survey**?



  - all collections by a **single individual** (or collection group) within a **site** during a single **sampling period**

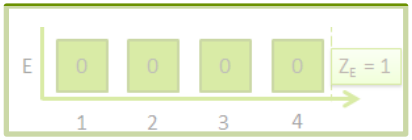
- What is a **non-detection event?**



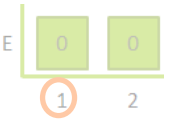
  - **Surveys** by collectors that do not include a single record of the focal species

Translating occupancy-detection framework to collections data context

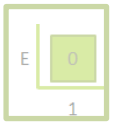
- How do we define a **site**?
  - a county or other defined locality
  - buffer around a given coordinate



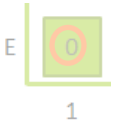
- What is the time scale of the **sampling period?**
  - ***closure assumption:*** *occupancy status of site does not change between sampling periods*



- What counts as a single **survey**?
  - all collections by a **single individual** (or collection group) within a **site** during a single **sampling period**



- What is a **non-detection event?**
  - **Surveys** by collectors that do not include a single record of the focal species



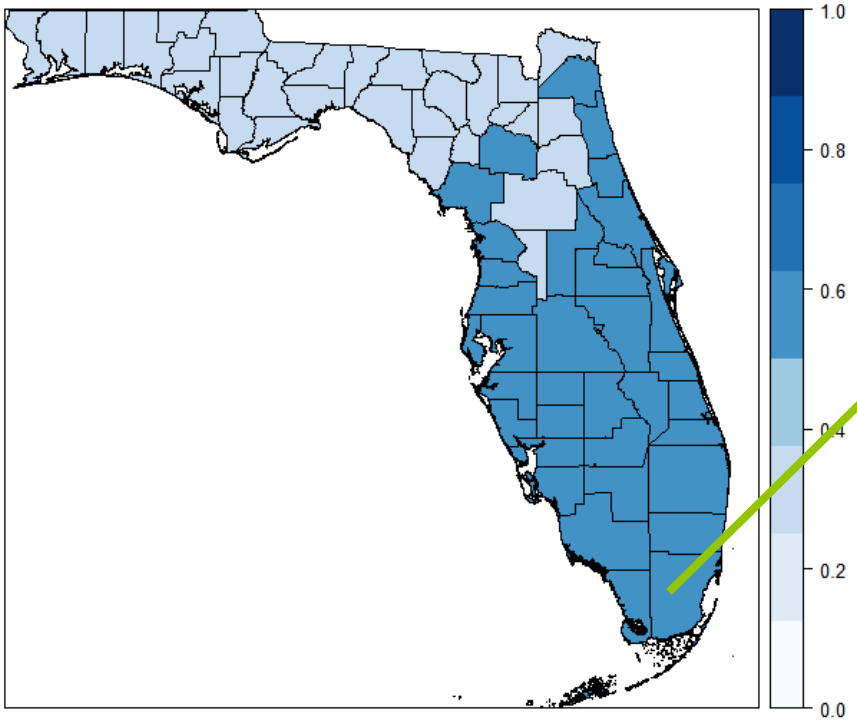
Answers to these questions are study specific!

Case study: Distribution of *Schinus terebinthifolia* in Florida

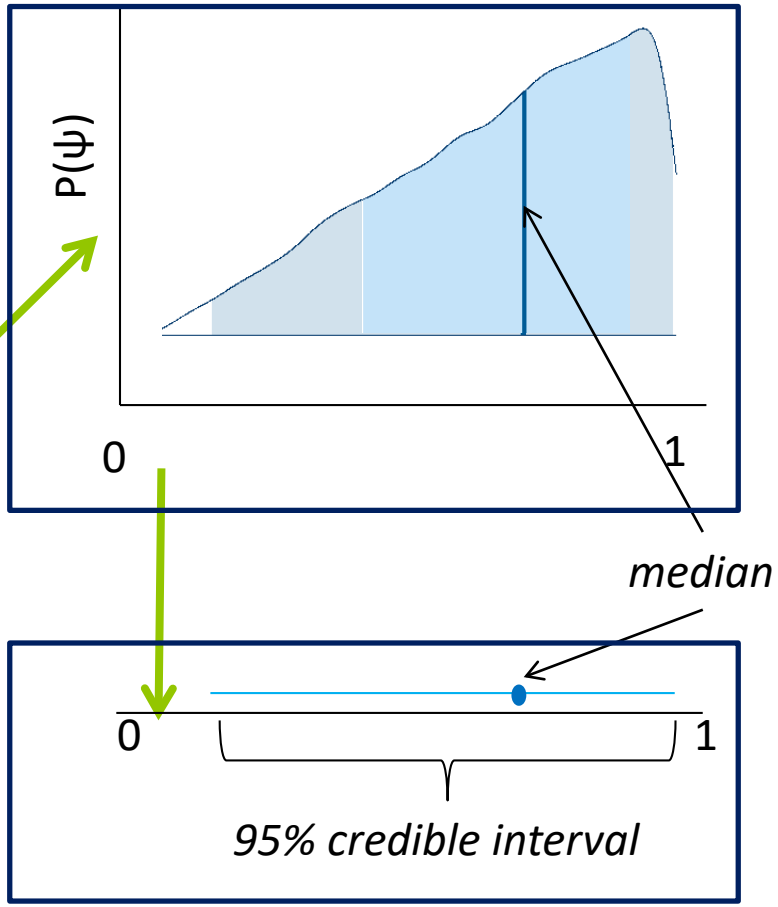
Simple occupancy-detection model: Occupancy

$$\text{logit}(p_i) = \varepsilon_i$$ ← random effect of county

Median of posterior distribution of ψ



Posterior Distribution of Occupancy for Miami-Dade County

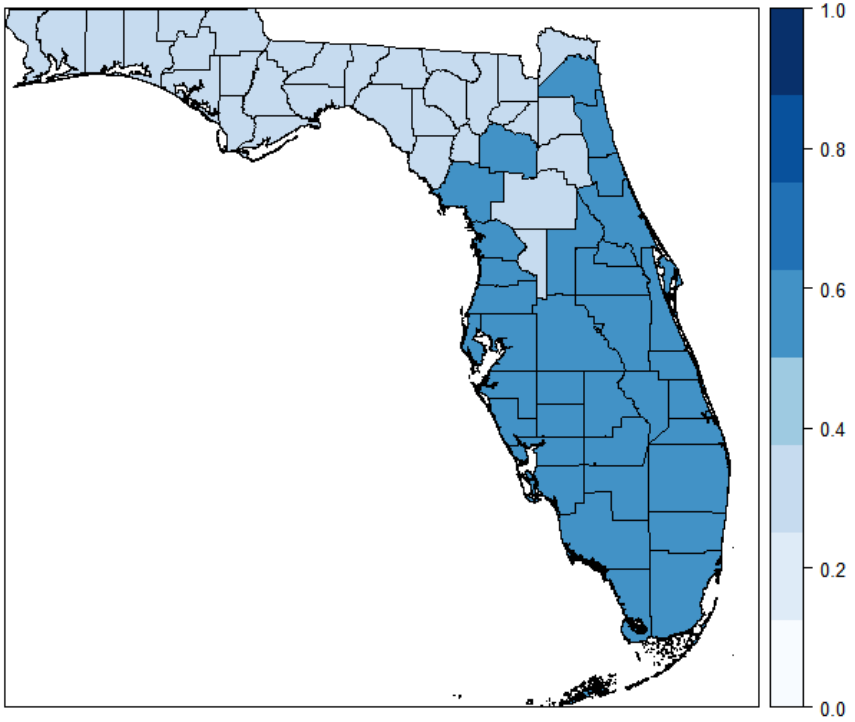


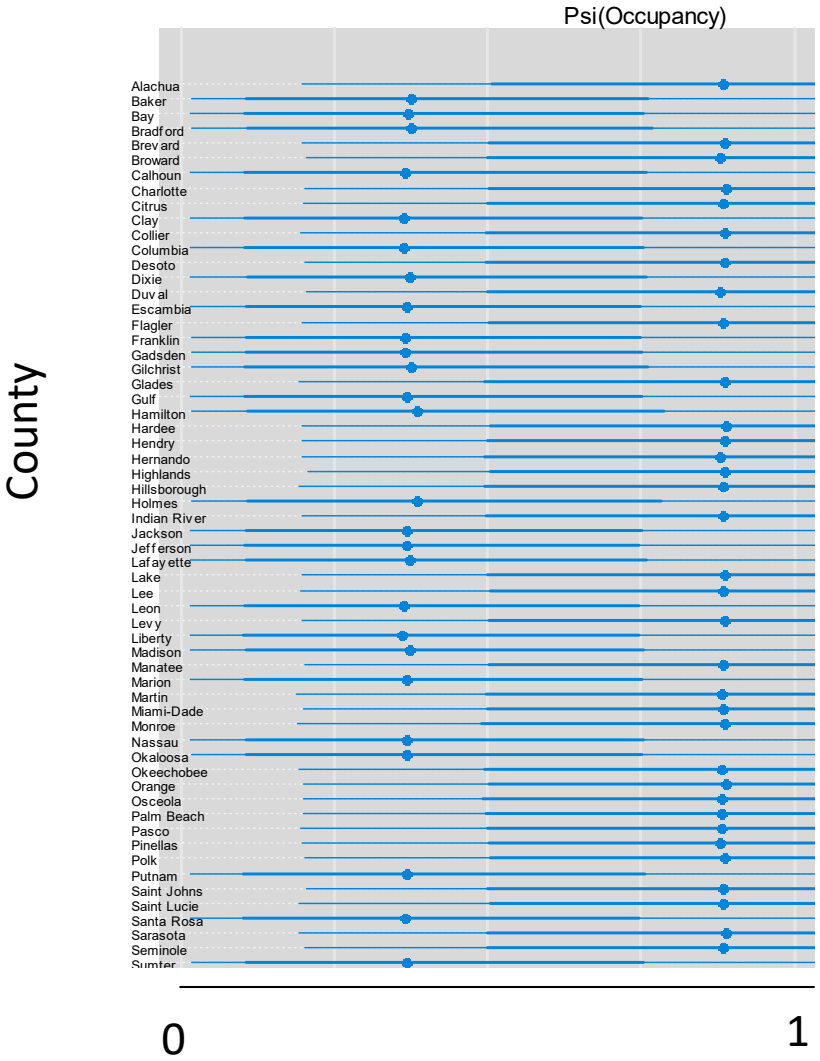
Large uncertainty in estimates of occupancy

Large uncertainty in estimates of occupancy

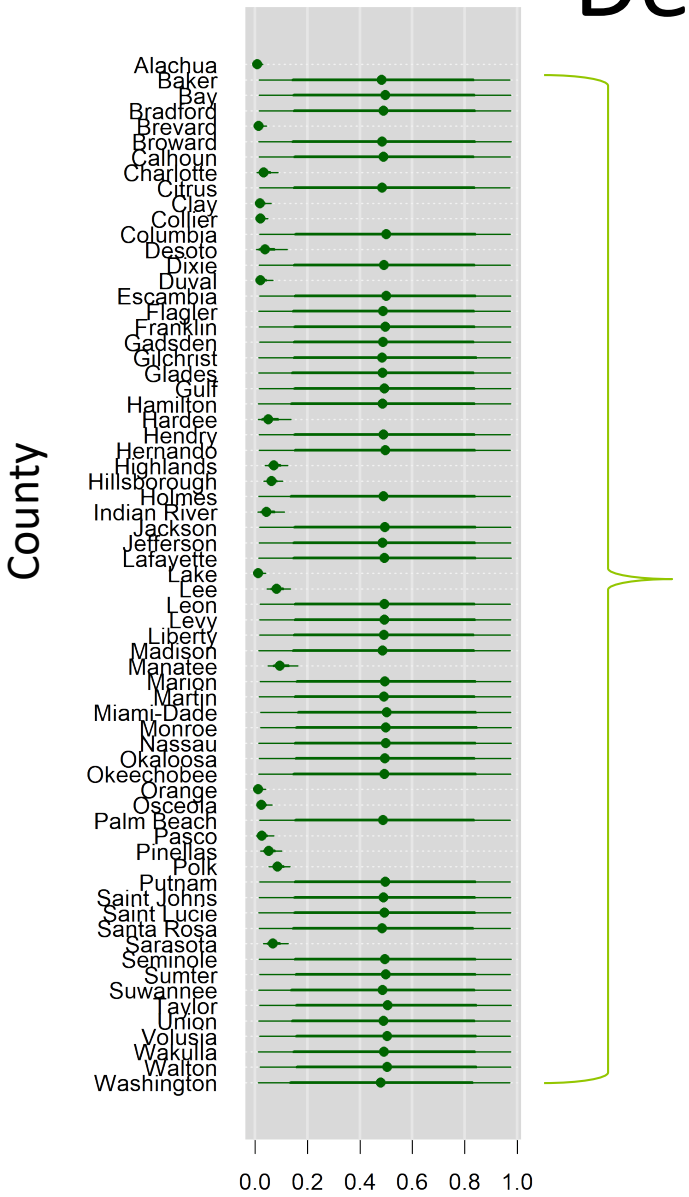
$$\text{logit}(p_i) = \varepsilon_i$$ ← random effect of county

Median of posterior distribution of ψ





Simple occupancy-detection model: Detectability



Large uncertainty in detectability when ignore collector behavior

Collector data is messy

Sisyrinchium xerophyllum Greene

Bruce F. Hansen
University of South Florida
Jan 2003

Herbarium of the University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida 32611 U.S.A.
PLANTS OF FLORIDA

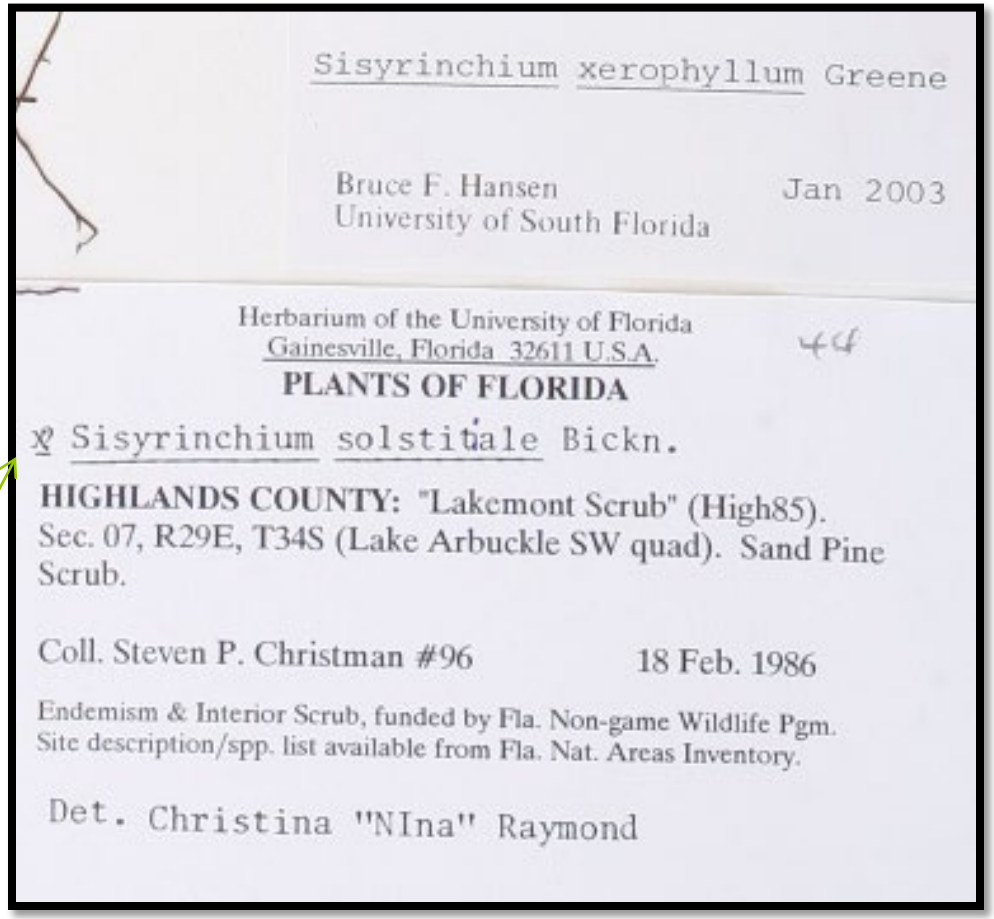
x Sisyrinchium solstitiale Bickn.

HIGHLANDS COUNTY: "Lakemont Scrub" (High85). Sec. 07, R29E, T34S (Lake Arbuckle SW quad). Sand Pine Scrub.

Coll. Steven P. Christman #96 18 Feb. 1986

Endemism & Interior Scrub, funded by Fla. Non-game Wildlife Pgm. Site description/spp. list available from Fla. Nat. Areas Inventory.

Det. Christina "NIna" Raymond


Sisyrinchium xerophyllum Greene

Bruce F. Hansen
University of South Florida
Jan 2003

Herbarium of the University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida 32611 U.S.A.
PLANTS OF FLORIDA

x Sisyrinchium solstitiale Bickn.

HIGHLANDS COUNTY: "Lakemont Scrub" (High85). Sec. 07, R29E, T34S (Lake Arbuckle SW quad). Sand Pine Scrub.

Coll. Steven P. Christman #96 18 Feb. 1986

Endemism & Interior Scrub, funded by Fla. Non-game Wildlife Pgm. Site description/spp. list available from Fla. Nat. Areas Inventory.

Det. Christina "NIna" Raymond

L. E. Arnold & Erdman West
Erdman West & Lillian Arnold
L. Arnold & Erdman West
L. E. Arnold, Erdman West
Arnold & West
L. E. Arnold; Erdman West
E. West, L. Arnold

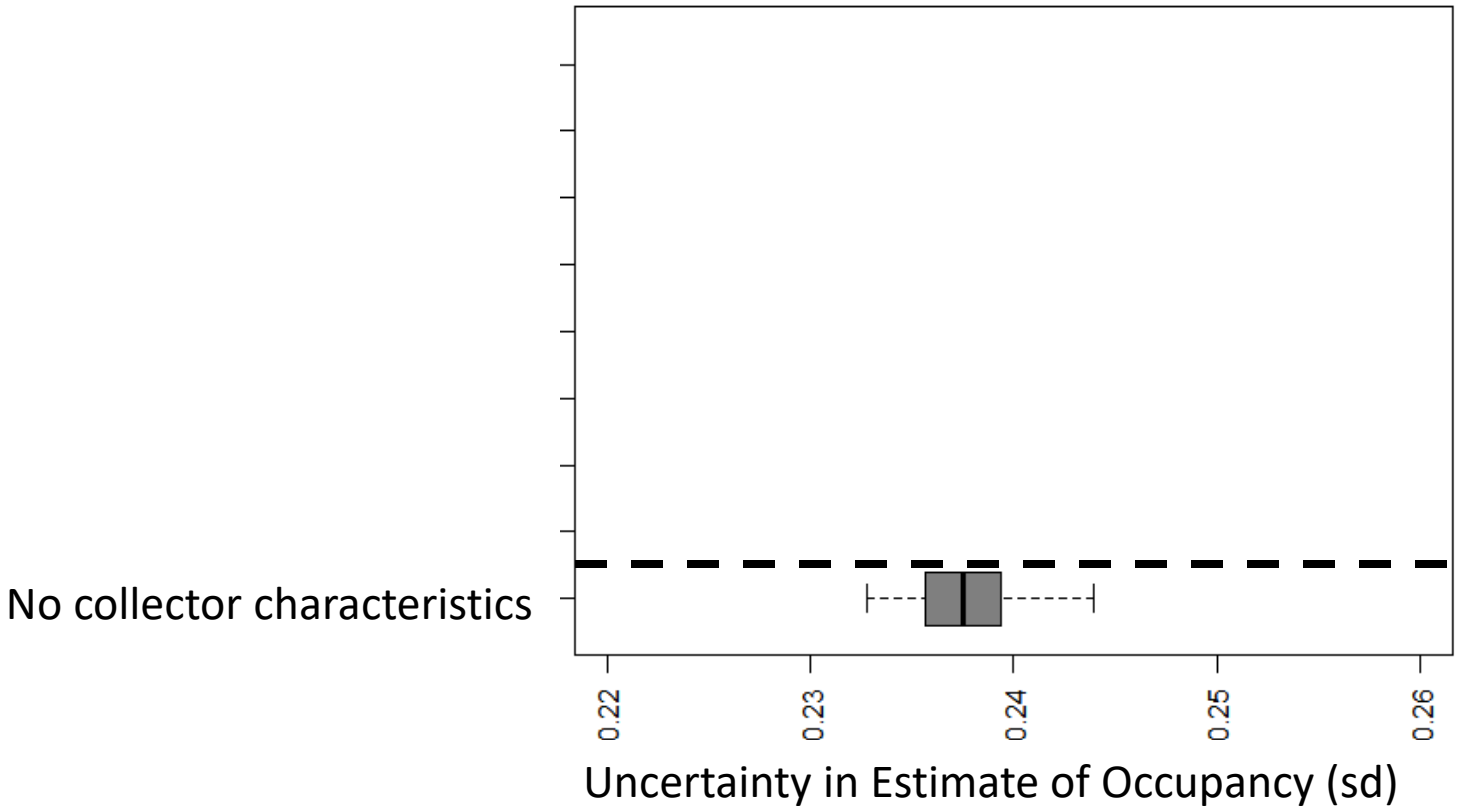
Collector data is messy

Constructing new R package collectR!

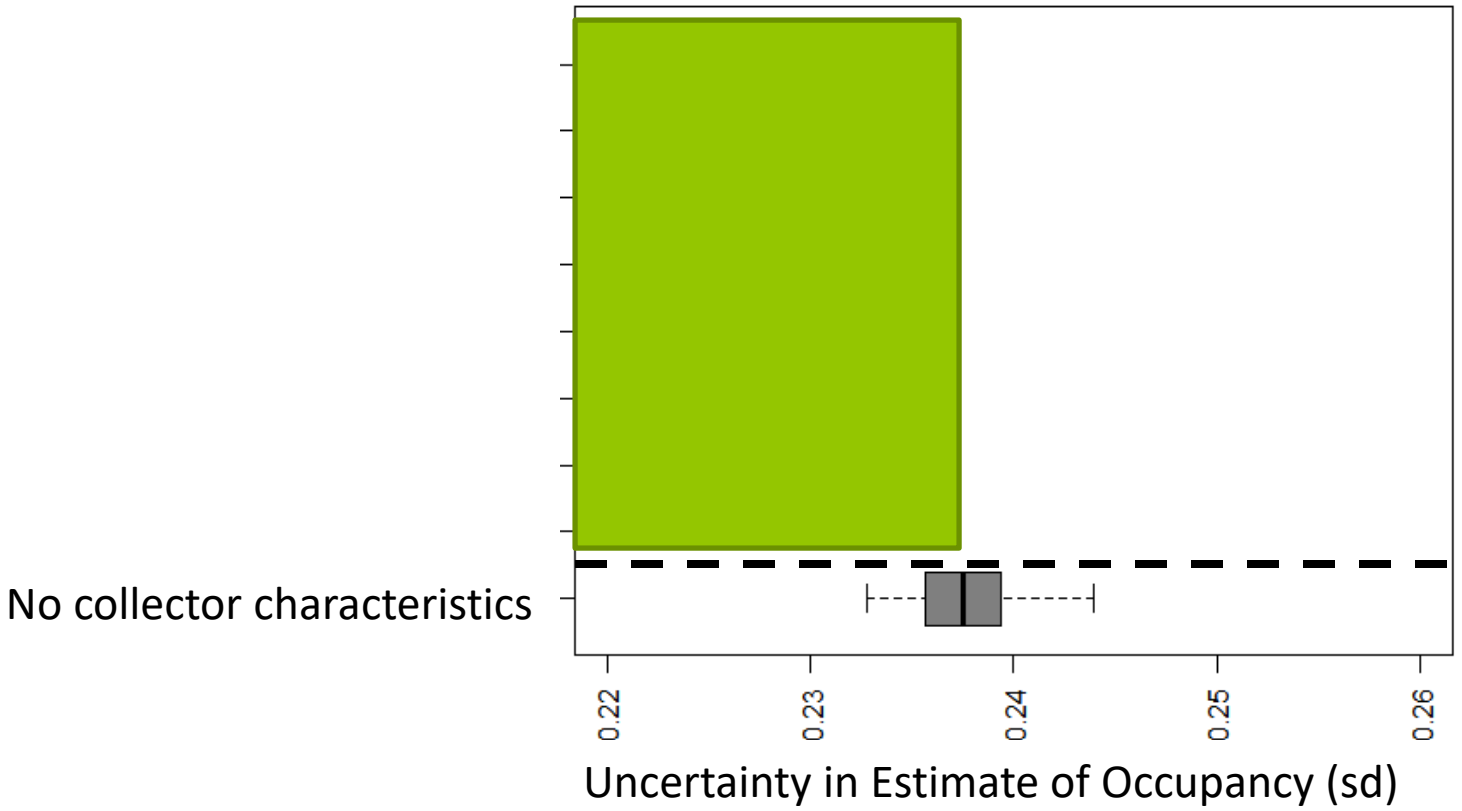
-automate cleaning of specimen data

L. E. Arnold & Erdman West
Erdman West & Lillian Arnold
L. Arnold & Erdman West
L. E. Arnold, Erdman West
Arnold & West
L. E. Arnold; Erdman West
E. West, L. Arnold

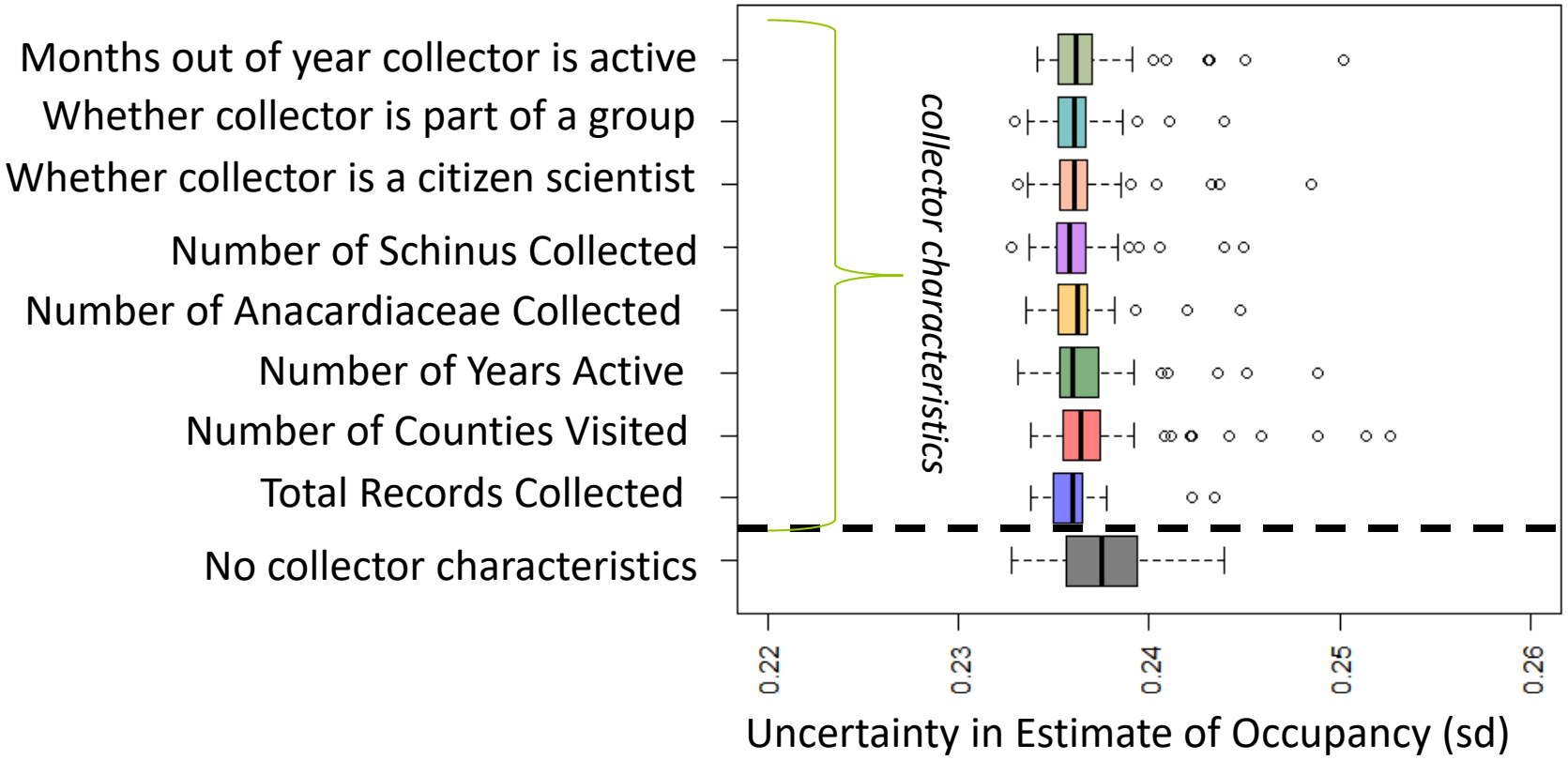
Uncertainty in estimate of occupancy for model without collector behavior



Goal: Shrink uncertainty

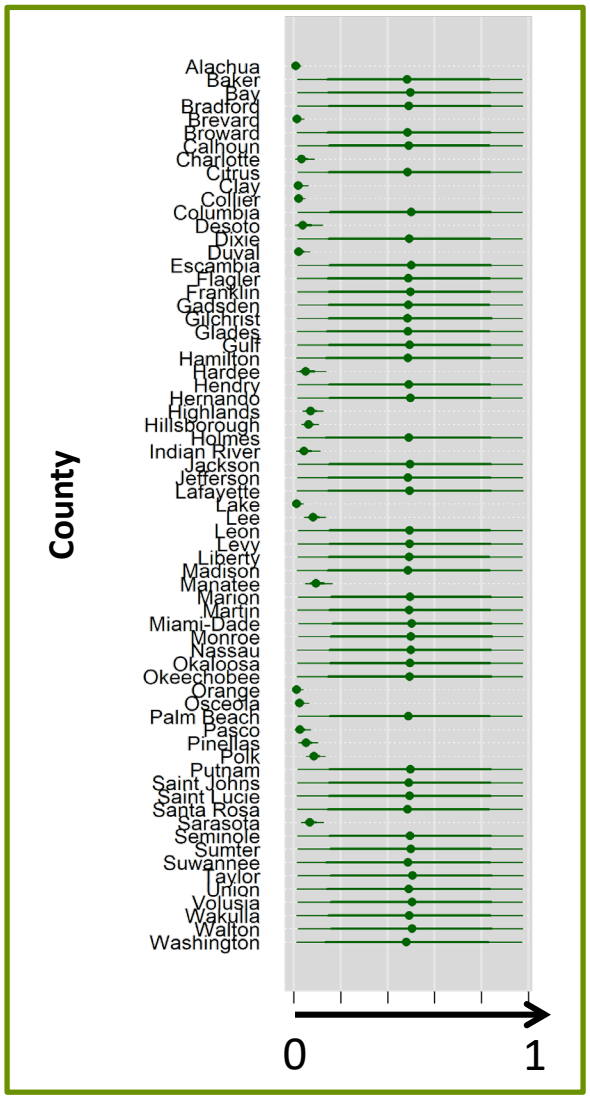


Models that incorporate collector covariates shrink uncertainty in posterior

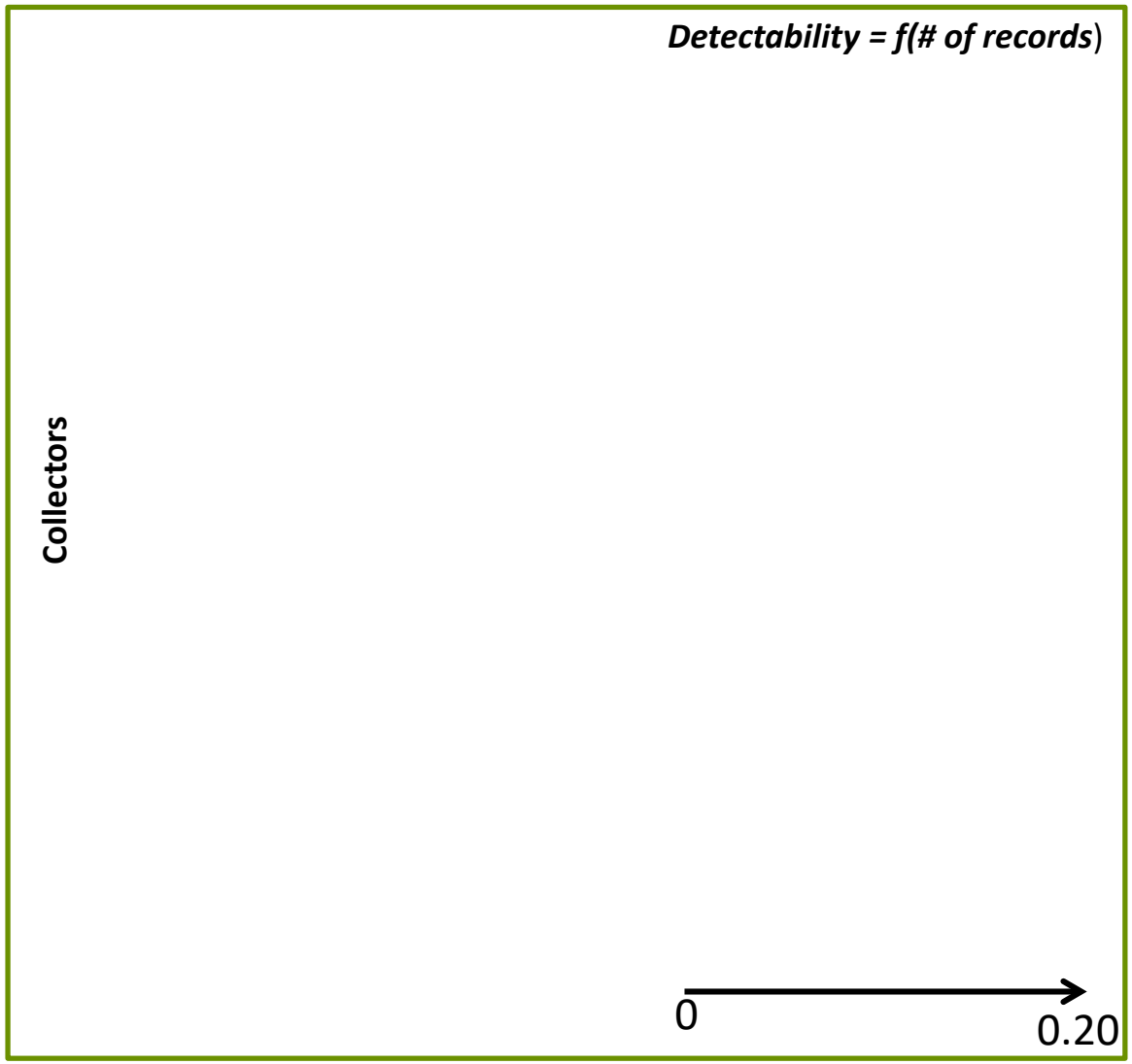


Including collector behavior decreases uncertainty

No collector behavior:



Including collector behavior:



Takeaway

- Accounting for collector behavior improves models
- Standardizing collector name entry important
- Developing new R package -> collectR

Broad-scale efforts to standardize and clean collector covariates are a worthy investment to improve the efficacy of digital biodiversity data for modeling species' ranges.