

de Biodiversitat i Biologia Evolutiva





Hot topics in Species Distribution Modelling

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Modelling the spatial distribution of species' occurrences as a function of ecogeographical variables is termed as Species Distribution Modelling (SDM). Although the study of the determinants of geographic ranges has a long tradition, the recent developments in computational sciences and geographic information systems technology, and the increased availability of biodiversity data, have caused SDM to undergo an explosive development in the last two decades. However, much debate exists as regards methodological and central conceptual questions, thus highlighting the lack of a unified theoretical basis. In this talk I will review some topics that are, in my opinion, the weakest points of the SDM field and that deserve much more attention from the researchers: the meaning of the suitability values, the importance of the geographic extent of analysis, the selection of the predictors, and the evaluation of the models.

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