

Articulating citizen science, semi-automatic identification and free web services for long-term acoustic monitoring:

examples from France and UK



Vigie-Chiro
Suivi des chauves-souris



SON
Suivi des orthoptères nocturnes



Yves Bas, Stuart Newson, Kevin Barré, Jean-François Julien, Didier Bas and Christian Kerbiriou

VIGIENATURE

Un réseau de citoyens qui fait avancer la science

Bat acoustic monitoring: principles

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- Standardized recordings (=repeatable measurement)
 - Same locations
 - Same periods
 - Same detectability
 - Trigger sensitivity
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Walk transects



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Car transects

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Walk transects



Car transects

Whole-night recordings



Why using automatic id?

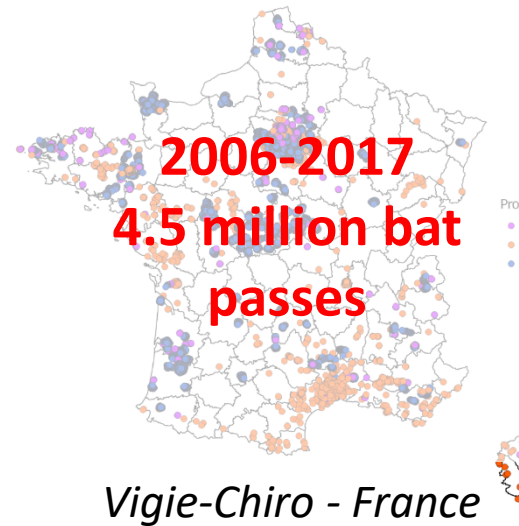
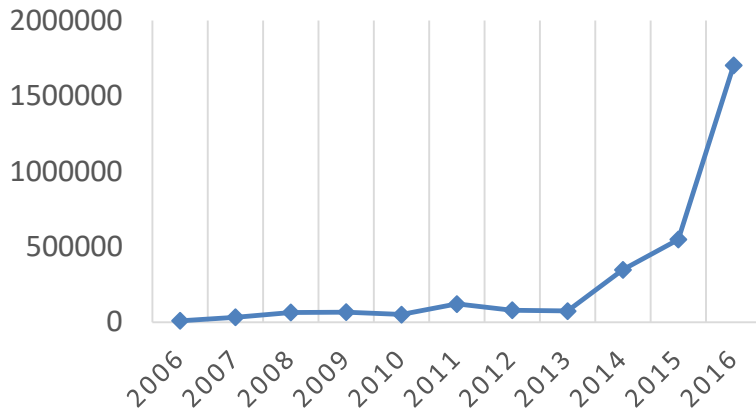
Why using automatic id?

- Reduced costs => exponential data increase

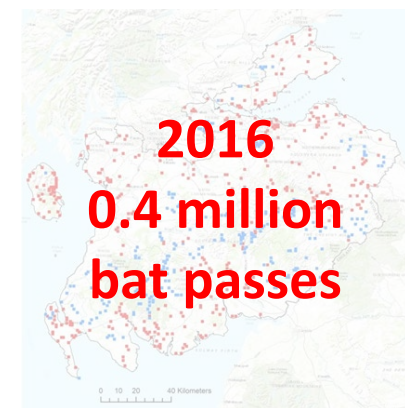
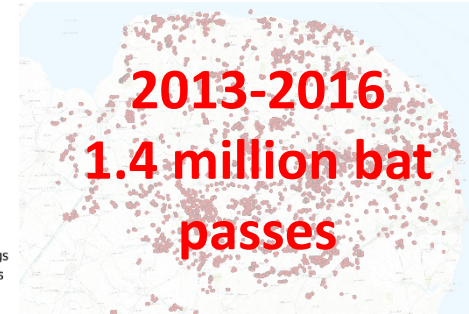
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BAT PASSES RECORDED / YEAR (FRANCE)



Norfolk BS (UK)

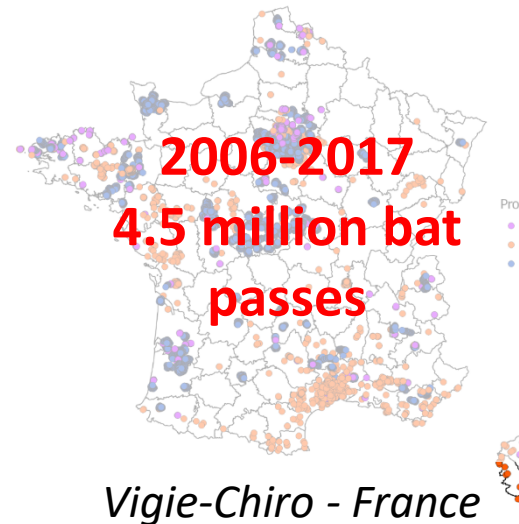
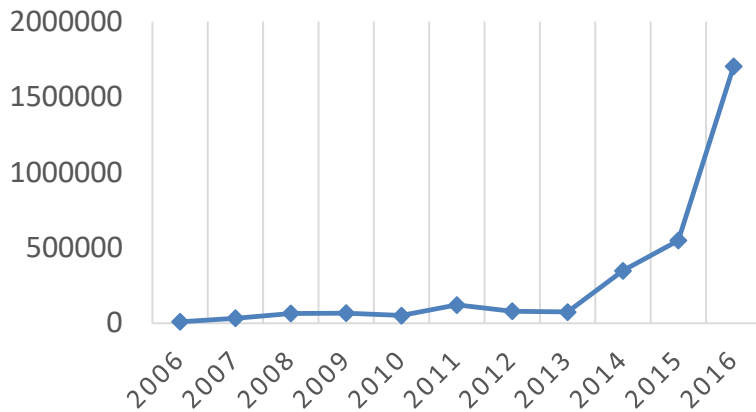


South Scotland BS (UK)

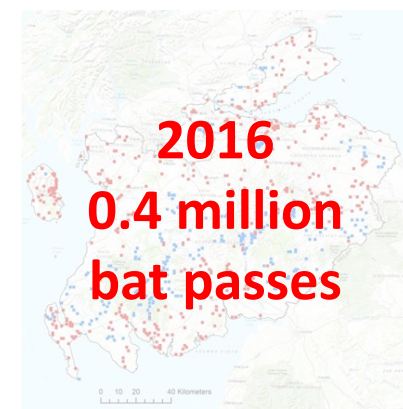
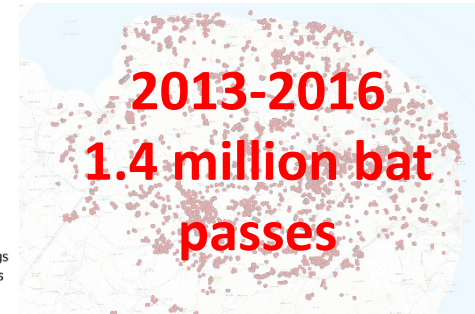
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BAT PASSES RECORDED / YEAR (FRANCE)



Norfolk BS (UK)



South Scotland BS (UK)

- Complete manual checking impossible...

There is just no other way than auto id!

Why using automatic id?

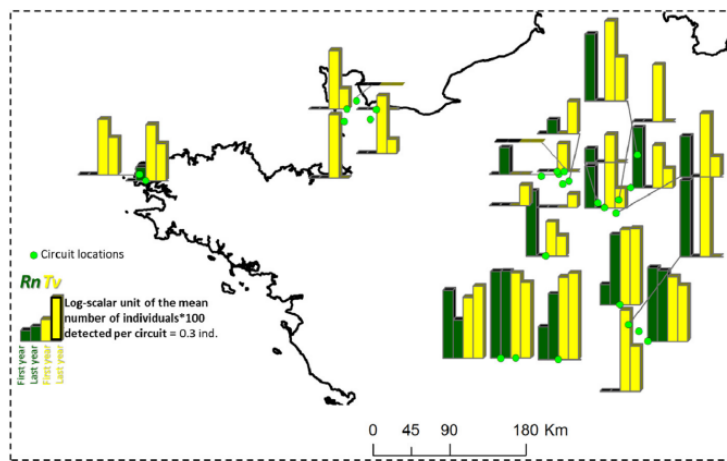
- Other less known good reasons:

Why using automatic id?

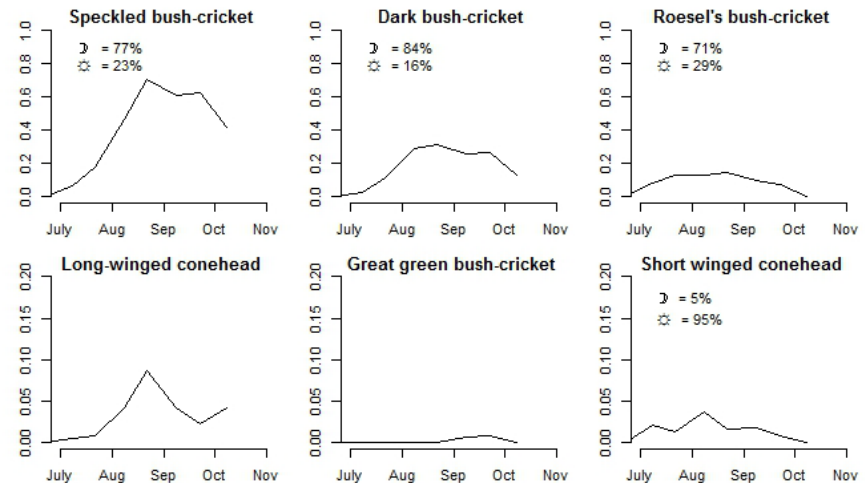
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Why using automatic id?

- Other less known good reasons:
 - 1) Manual checking error rate is decreasing over time! but biasing trends estimates... Solution: machines can easily re-analyse historic data and control observer bias
 - 2) You can get very good data on non-targeted taxa such as bush-cricket: spatial and temporal patterns, trends!!



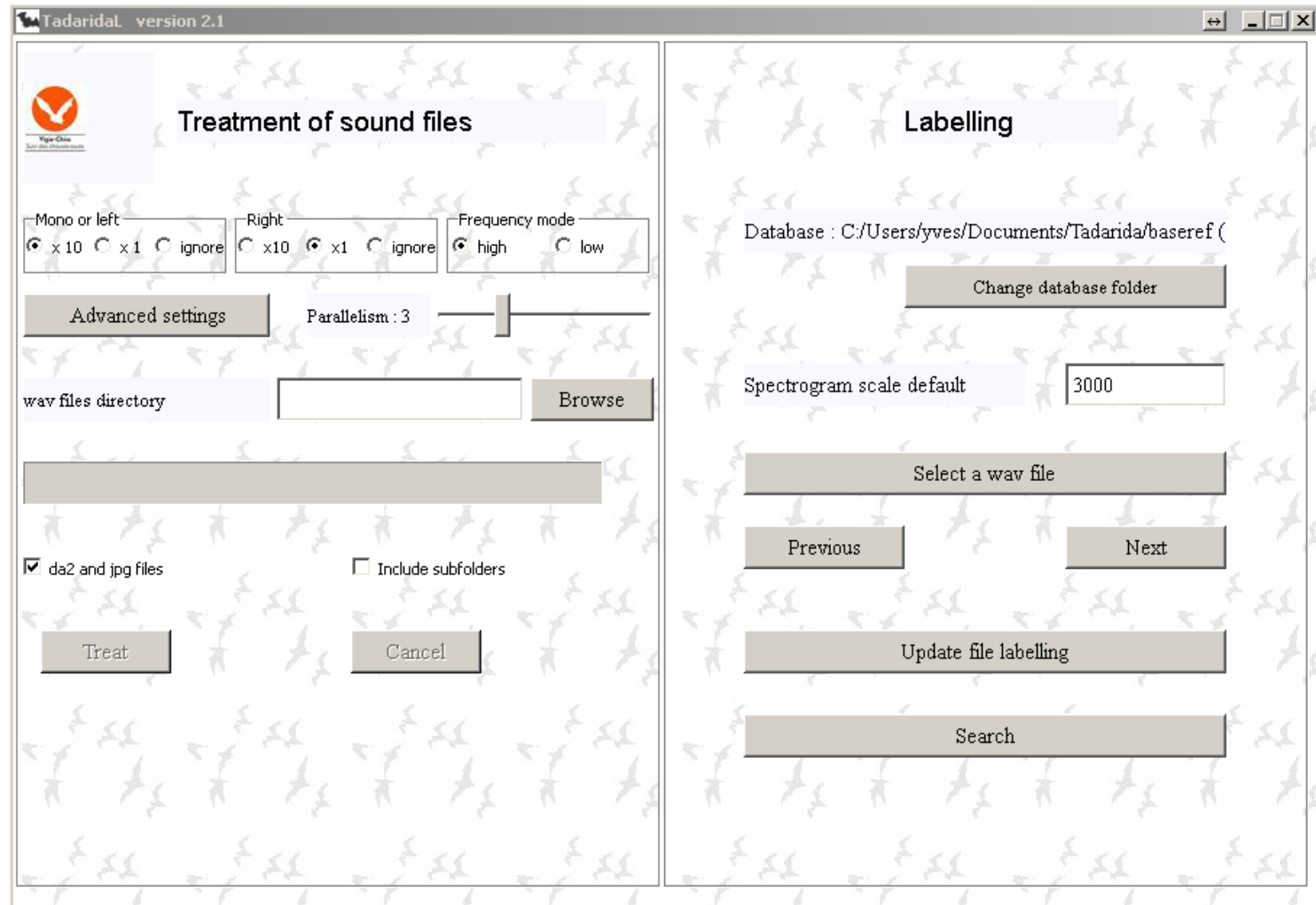
Jeliaskov et al. (2016) GECCO



Newson et al. (2017) MEE

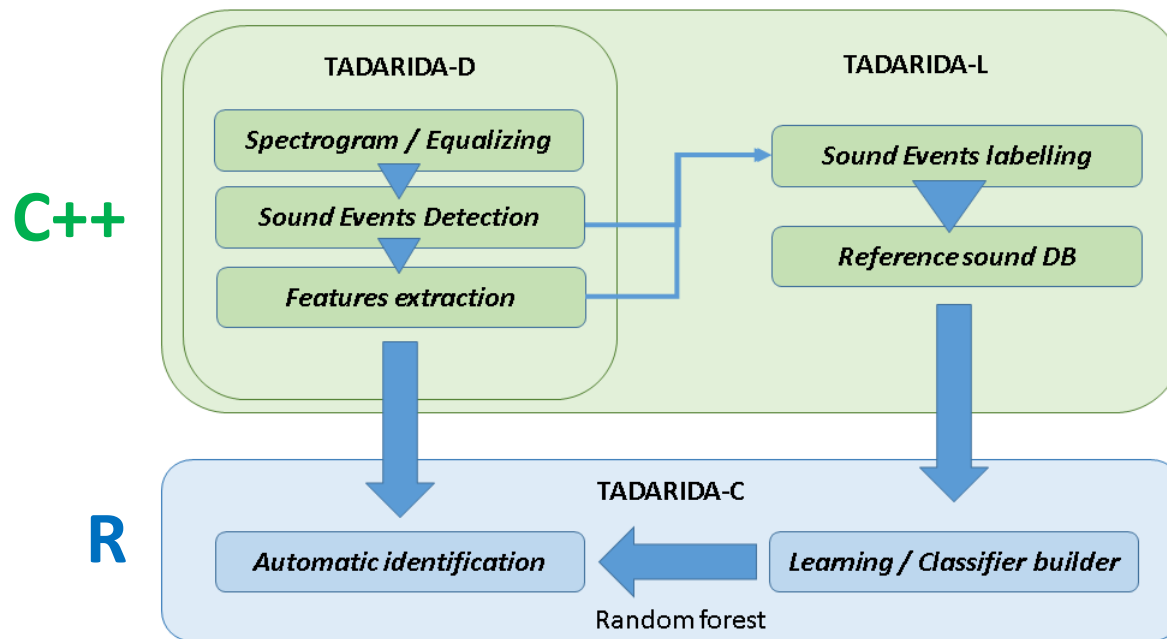
How using auto id?

- The example of Tadarida open software



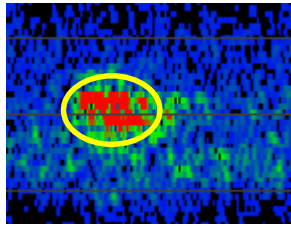
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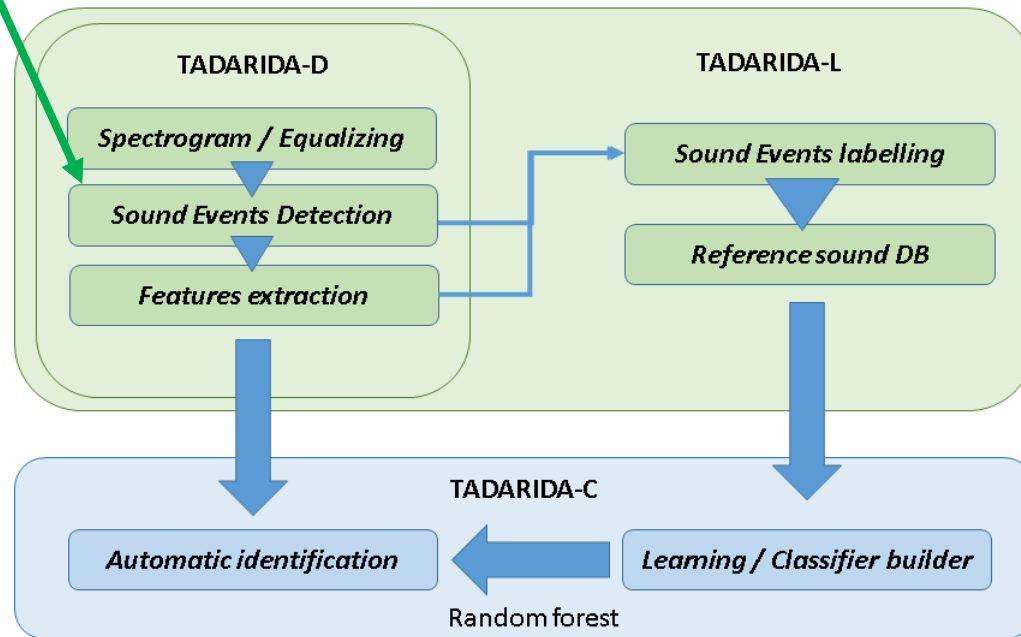
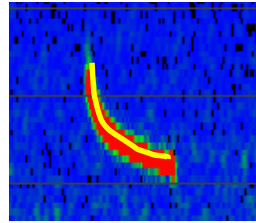


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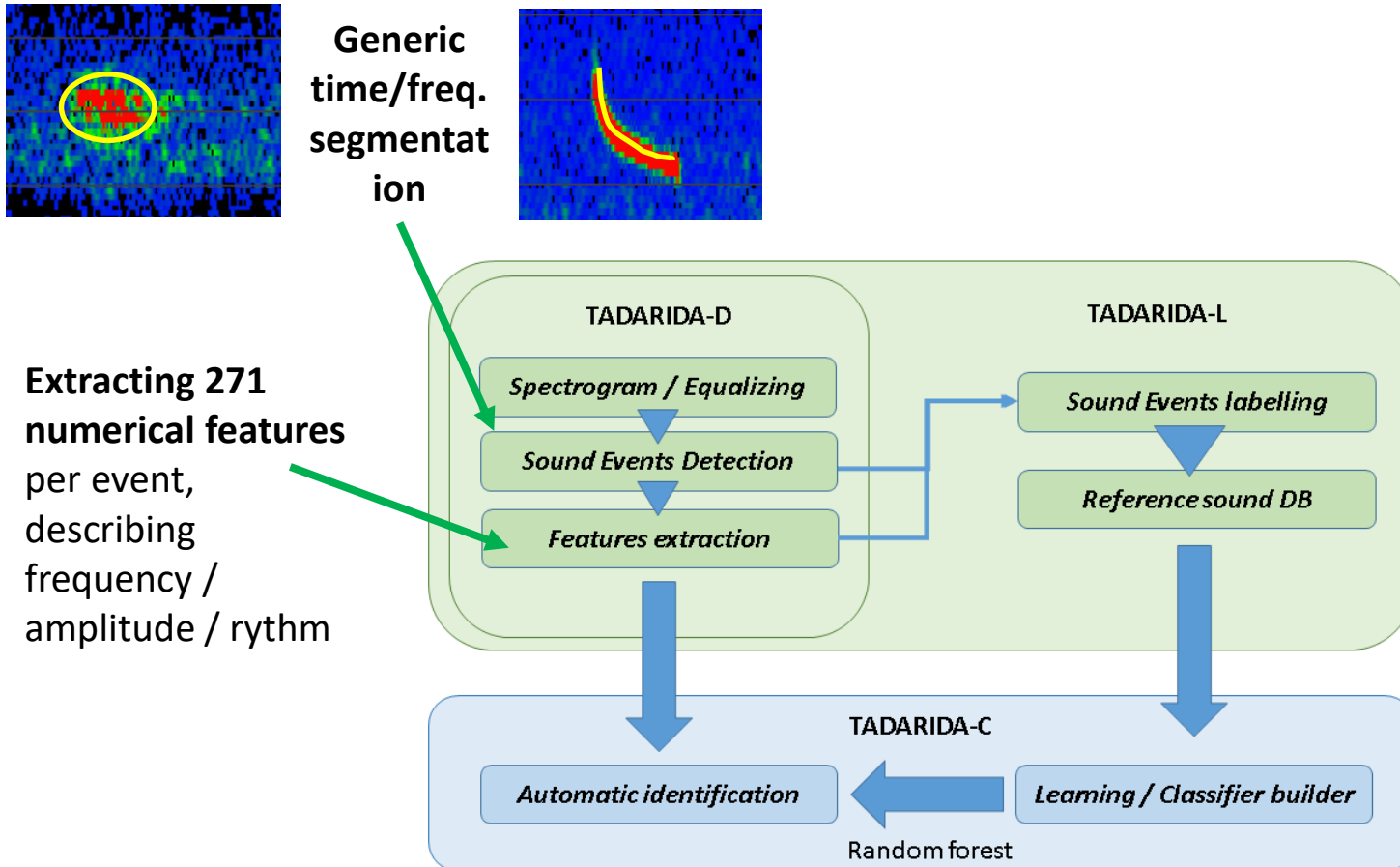


Generic
time/freq.
segmentation



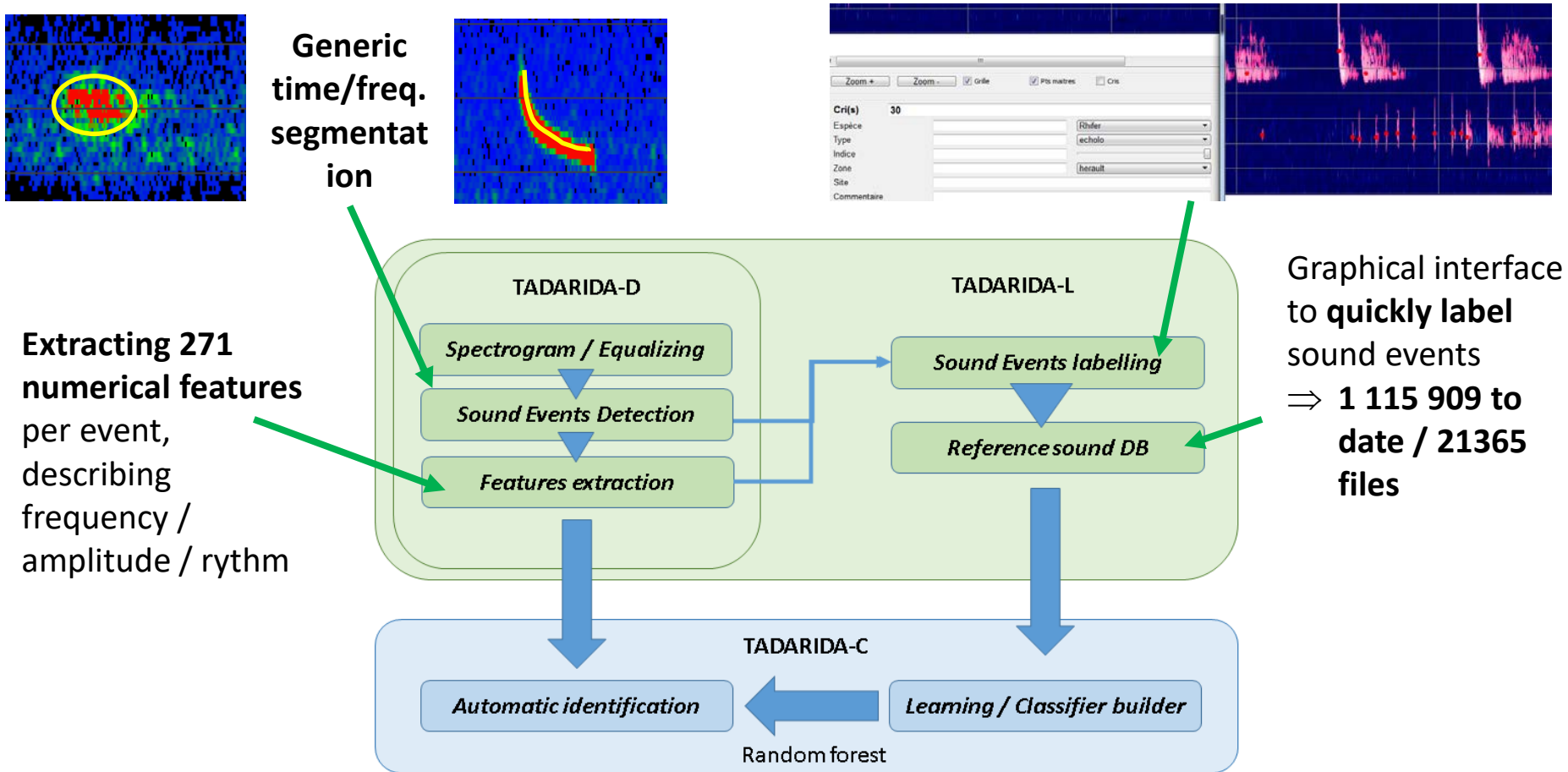
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Tadarida - Labelling
Car170517-2014-Pass1-C1-OB-1_20140702_224038_761.eti

100 kHz
80 kHz
60 kHz
40 kHz
20 kHz

1 sec 2 sec 3 sec

Zoom + Zoom - Grid Master pts Lines r=10.08 -51 ms 117.00 khz

File : Car170517-2014-Pass1-C1-OB-1_20140702_224038_761.eti Folder : C:/Users/yves/Documents/Tadarida/test/eti
41 Sound events 19 labels Pippip

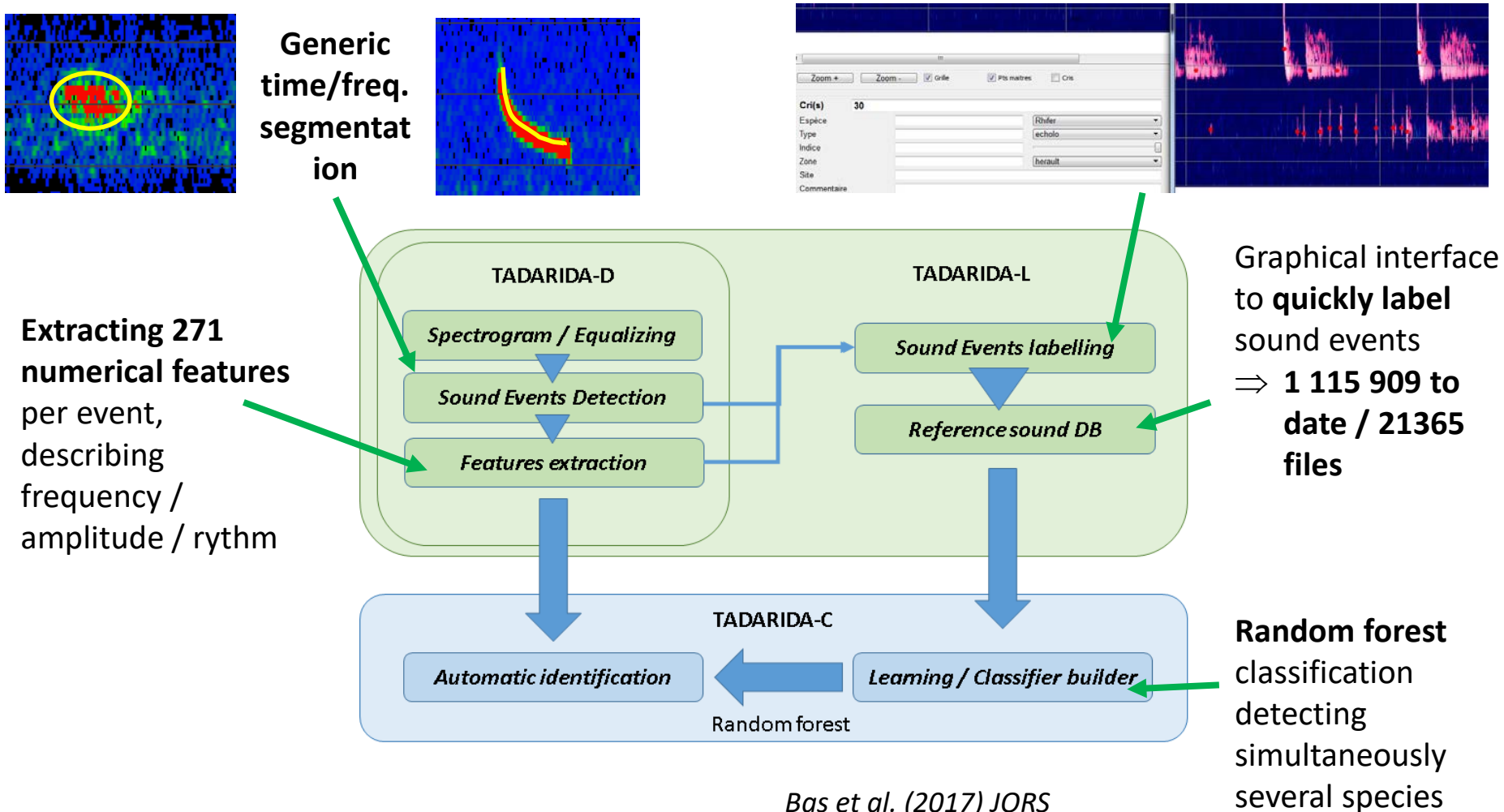
Sound event(s) 3,4,5,7,10,12,14,15,19,21,24,26,27,29,30,33,35,36,37

Species Barbar Pippip Recorder SM2BAT+ SM2BAT+
Type echolo echolo Confidential
Confidence 3 Date
Region Charente-Maritime Charente-Maritime Author Laurene Trebuca Laurene Trebuca
Site Tonnay-Charente Labeller Yves Bas Yves Bas
Comment

Validate the label(s) Save the labels file Close

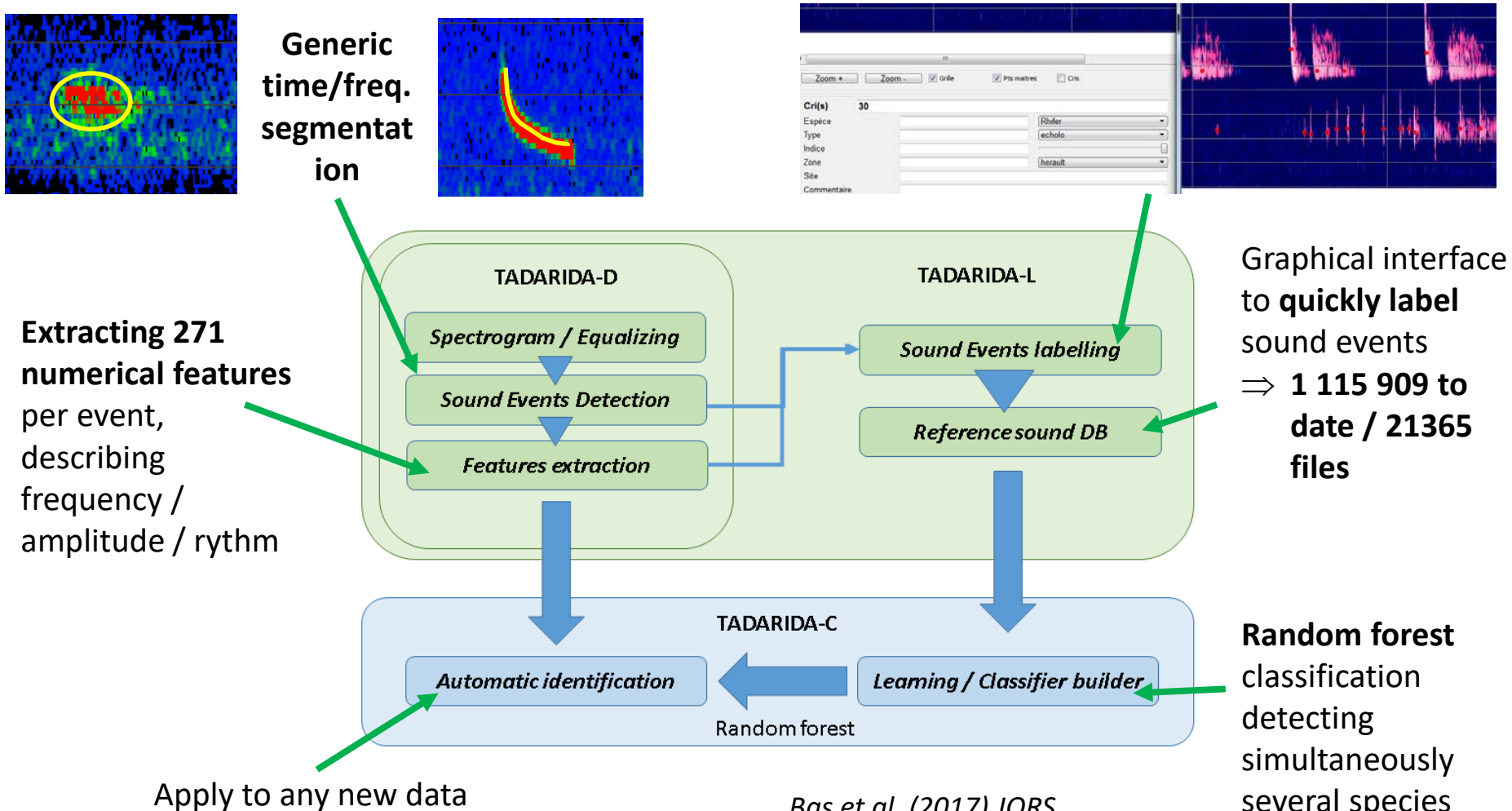
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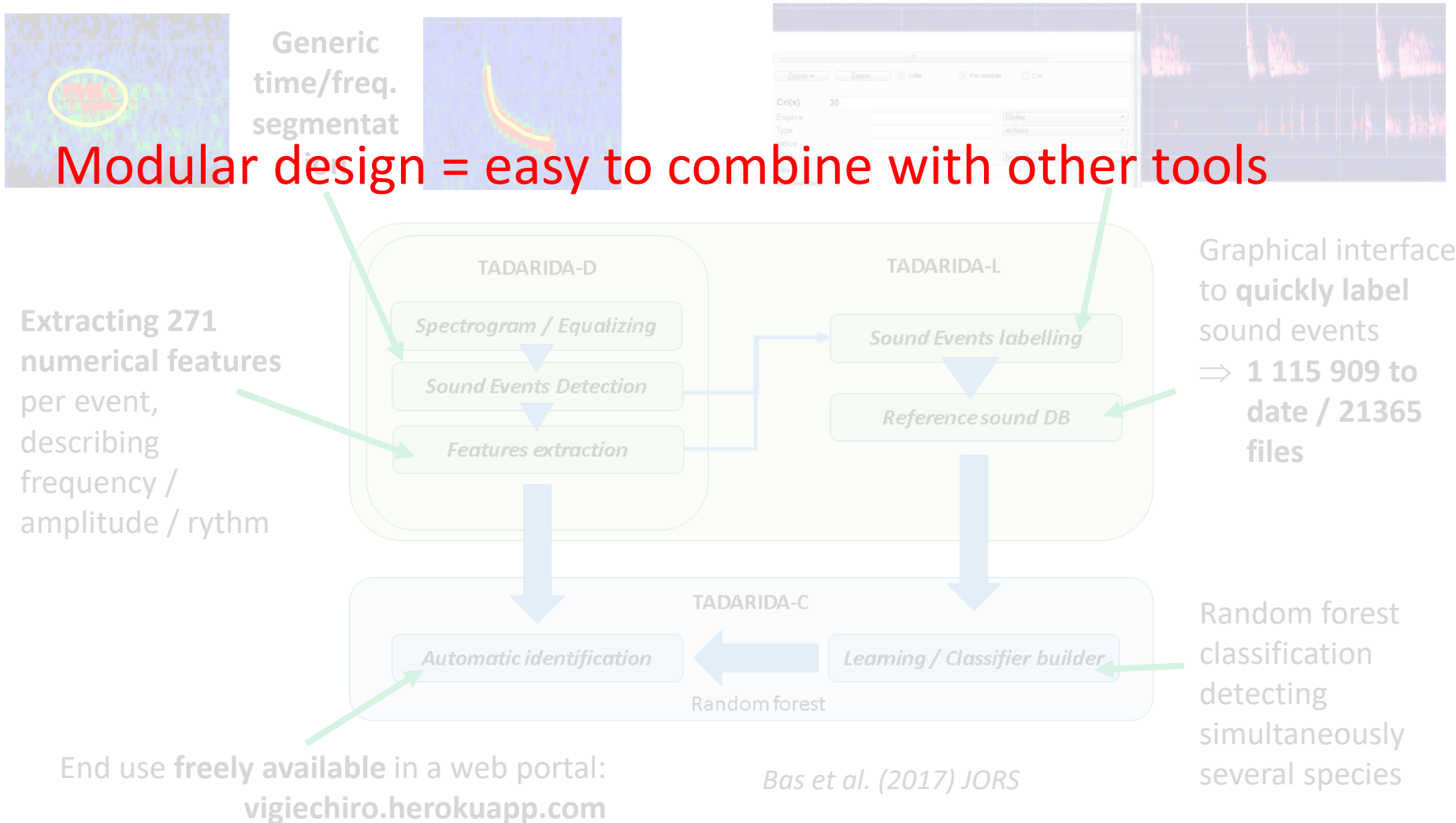
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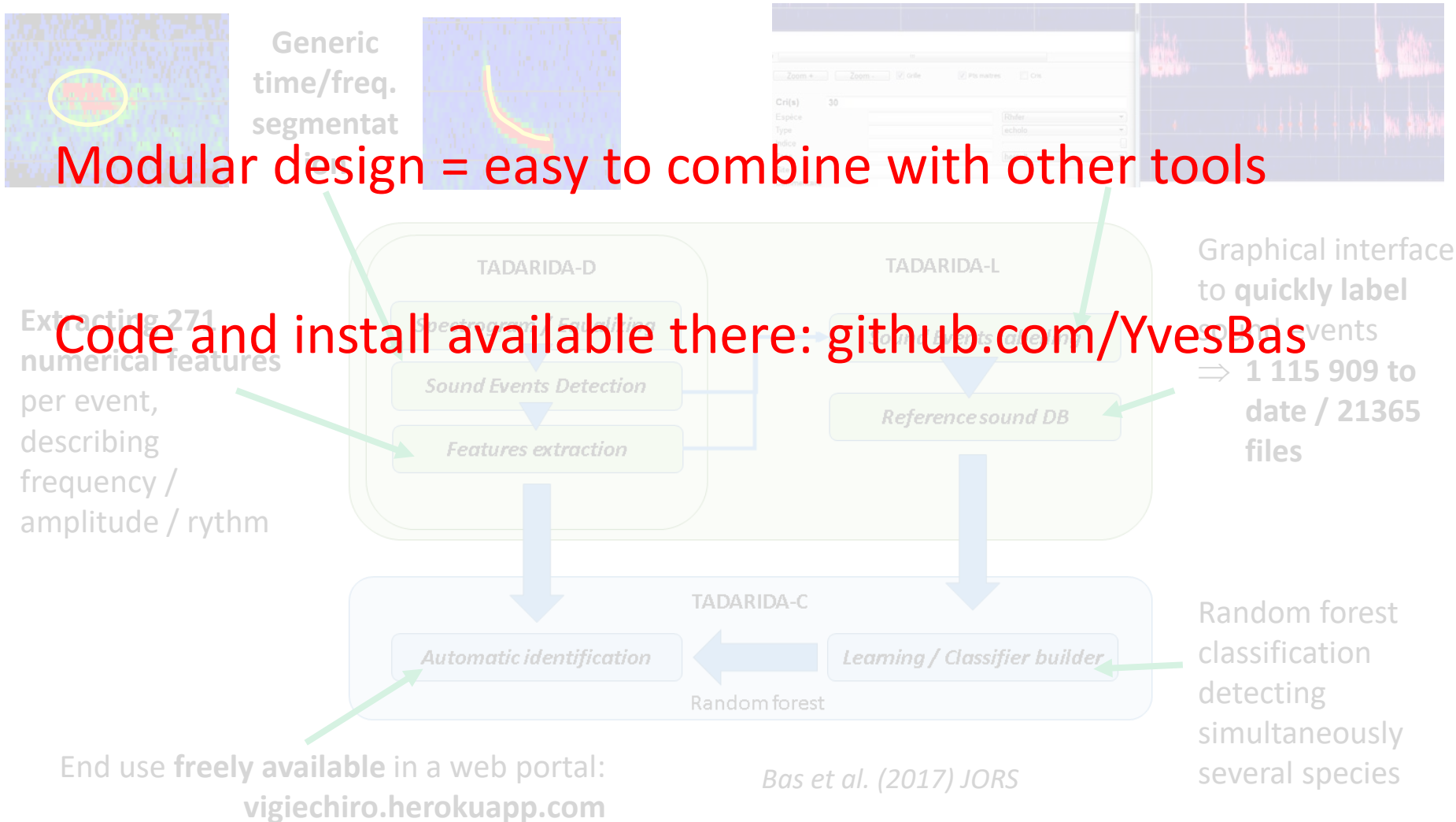
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End use available through a web portal: vigiechiro.herokuapp.com



<https://github.com/Scille/vigiechiro-front>

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Data collection



Cliquez ici

Fichiers : 3053 219,19/221,00 MB 167,9 ko/s

Le fichier kmata.csv n'a pas pu être ajouté à la liste. Format incorrect.
Le fichier log.txt n'a pas pu être ajouté à la liste. Format incorrect.
Le fichier settings.ai n'a pas pu être ajouté à la liste. Format incorrect.

Dossiers uploadés pour: aePoussanCT

jac340995-2015-Plass1-C1-9388_0_20150701_221619_848.wav	0,200,20 MB	Annuler
jac340995-2015-Plass1-C1-9388_0_20150701_221610_003.wav	0,300,53 MB	Annuler

Passer Tout annuler Effacer les erreurs

Online data transfer



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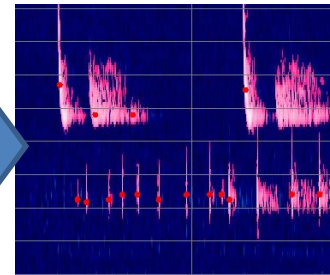
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Online data transfer



Automatic secure storage
(iRODS - IN2P3)



Data processing
(Tadarida)



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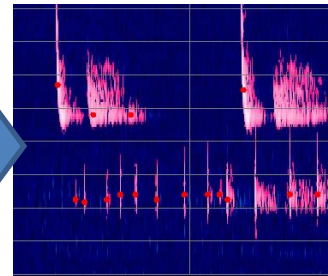
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Data processing (Tadarida)



Bilan de la participation

#	Taxon parent	Nom	Nb contact min	Nb de contact
1	Chiroptères	Oreillard gris (<i>Plecotus austriacus</i>)	0	13
2	Chiroptères	Minioptère de Schreibers (<i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i>)	1	2
3	Chiroptères	Pipistrelle soprane (<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>)	3252	3334
4	Chiroptères	Noctule de Leisler (<i>Myotis leisleri</i>)	43	110
5	Chiroptères	Murin de Daubenton (<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>)	0	11
6	Chiroptères	Murin à oreilles échancrées (<i>Myotis emarginatus</i>)	0	1
7	Chiroptères	Pipistrelle de Kuhl (<i>Pipistrellus kuhlii</i>)	642	702
8	Chiroptères	Sérotine commune (<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>)	0	28
9	Chiroptères	Murin de Capaccini (<i>Myotis capaccini</i>)	0	1
10	Chiroptères	Pipistrelle de Nathusius (<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>)	3	5

Automatic feedback



<https://github.com/Scille/vigiechiro-front>

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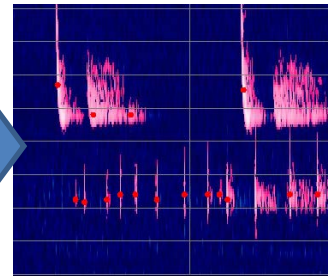
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Automatic feedback



Car34627-2015-Pass1-C1-9388_0_20150701_012004_460

Taxon	Probabilité	Taxon observateur	Confiance observateur	Taxon validateur	Confiance validateur	FreqM	TDnb	TFI
Pipistrelle soprane (<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>)	0.991	Pipistrelle soprane (<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>)	OK	OK	OK	54	0	3.4
Pipistrelle commune (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)	0.995	Pipistrelle commune (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)	OK	OK	OK	43	0	2.6
Observ sp. (<i>level sp.</i>)	0.85	bruit	OK	OK	OK	8	0	0.3

Online manual checking



<https://github.com/Scille/vigiechiro-front>

<https://github.com/Scille/vigiechiro-api>

How's automatic acoustic monitoring doing?

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- Norfolk Bat Survey

Table 2
Results showing the process involved in analysing and validating acoustic bat data collected through this project, and the number of recordings

Identity	Step 1. Initial analysis	Step 2. Secondary recoding		Step 3. Manual analysis of recordings: re	
	Initially assigned to species	Recordings removed (confidence index < 3 and/or < 3 calls)	Confidence index at end of Step 2 (median, range)	Recordings manually checked	% unchanged
Mdau	5403	3635	3 (3–6)	1768	90%
Mmys/Mbra	3471	1950	3 (3–6)	1521	28%
Mnat	1793	491	4 (3–10)	1302	85%
Nnoc	8032	785	8 (3–10)	7247	88%
Nlei	673	357	5 (3–10)	316	87%
Eser	4053	1623	4 (3–9)	2430	99%
Ppip	338,260	8969	10 (3–10)	1000 (sample)	99%
Ppyg	179,482	6826	10 (3–10)	1000 (sample)	99%
Pnat	1740	733	5 (3–10)	1007	91%
Paur	4224	2264	5 (3–10)	1960	99%
Bbar	2732	744	8 (3–10)	1988	100%

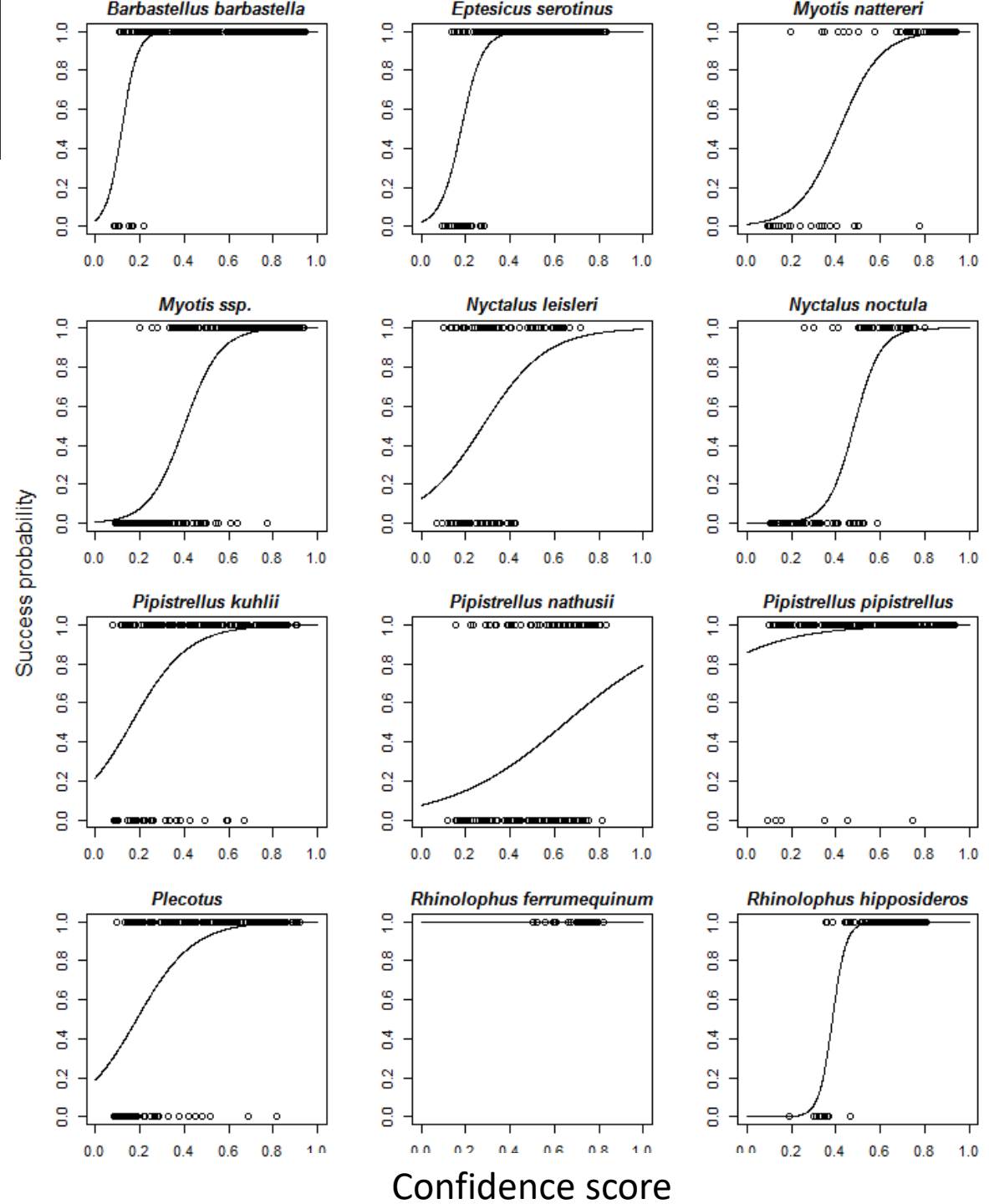
Low error rate for many species

Auto id: Score reliability

- Correlate error risk / confidence score
 - identify selection thresholds

Confirmed id ~ software confidence

Barré et al. (in prep)



Confidence score

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- Are errors biased / ecological patterns?

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Error type	False negative rate	False positive rate

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Causes		

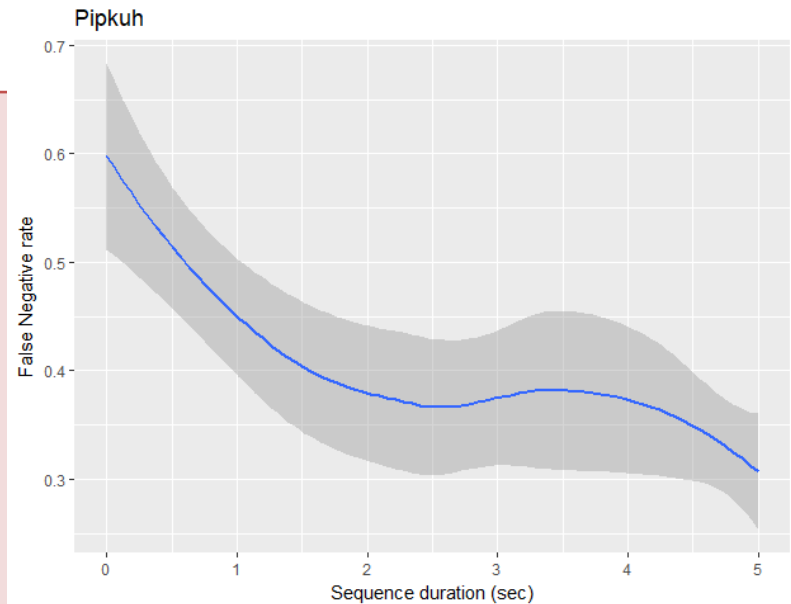
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Error type False negative rate

Causes

Mostly influenced by **sound quality**
⇒ Distance to receiver
⇒ Alteration by vegetation density
(=> habitat-dependent)



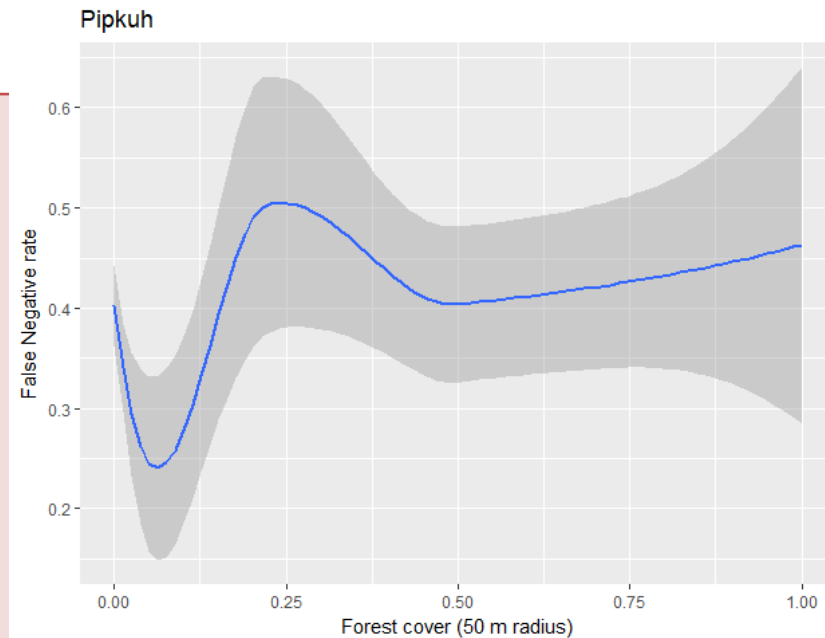
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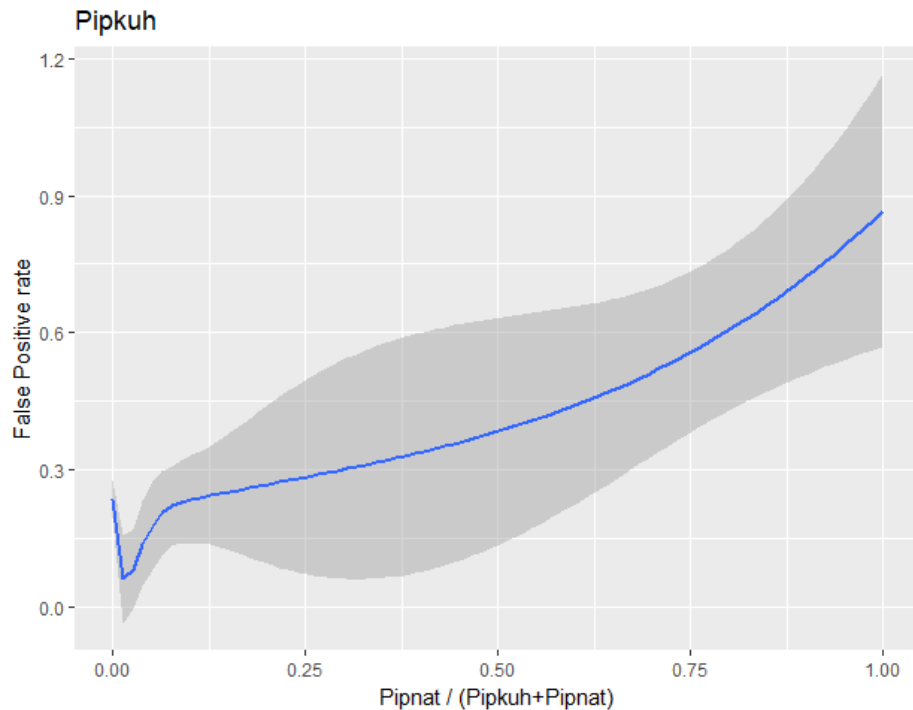
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Error type	False negative rate	False positive rate
Causes	Mostly influenced by sound quality ⇒ Distance to receiver ⇒ Alteration by vegetation density (=> habitat-dependent)	Mostly influenced by species relative abundance

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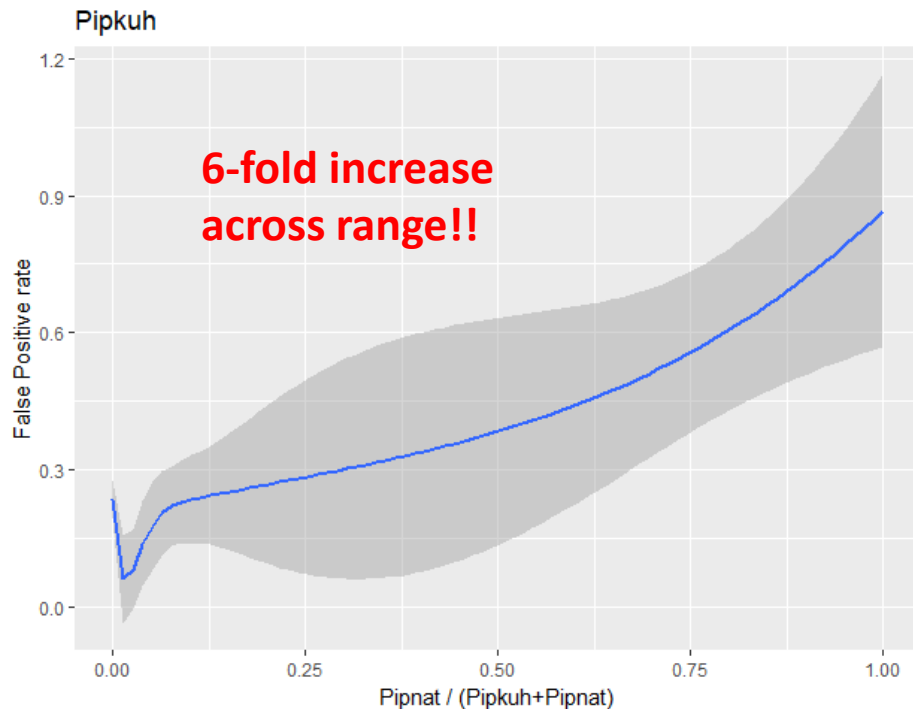


False positive rate

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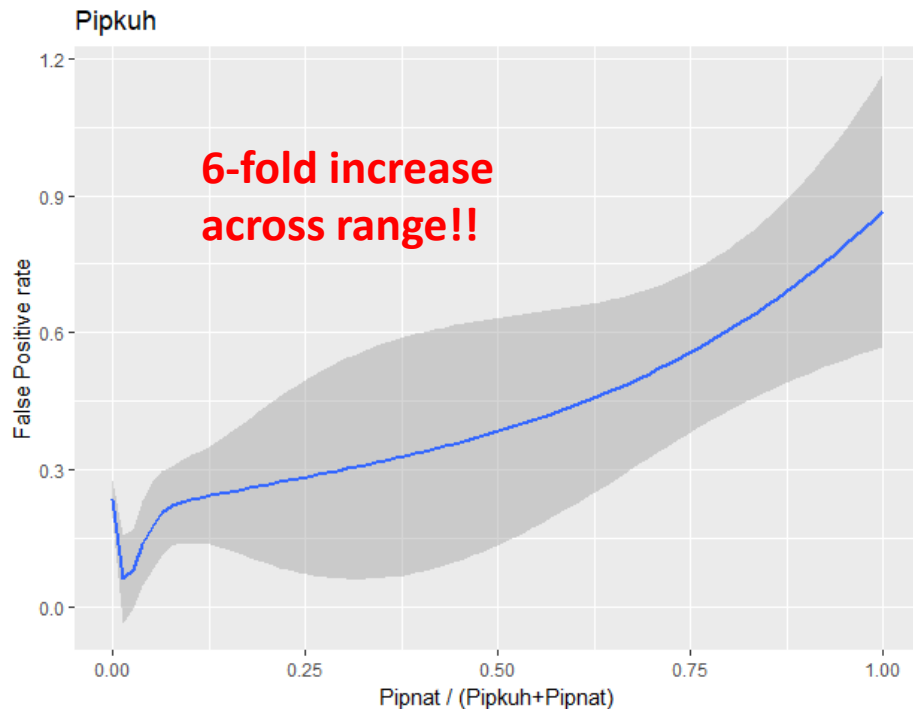


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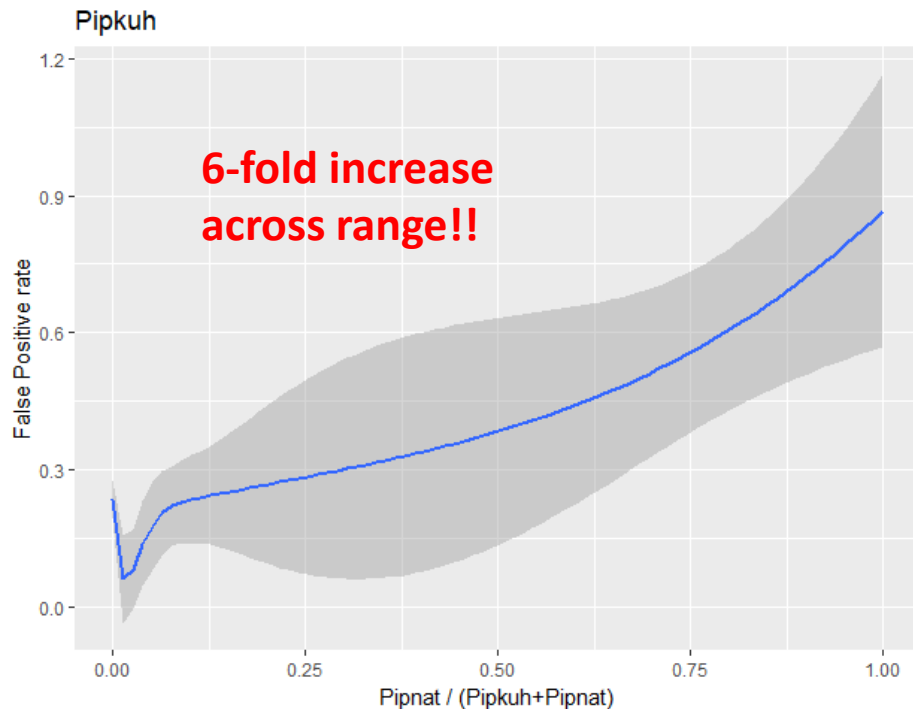
False positive rate

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⇒ Strongly spatially structured

How's automatic acoustic monitoring doing?

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False positive rate

Mostly influenced by species relative abundance

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⇒ Pretty bad for rare species...

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Biased?

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Biased?	may be a little	

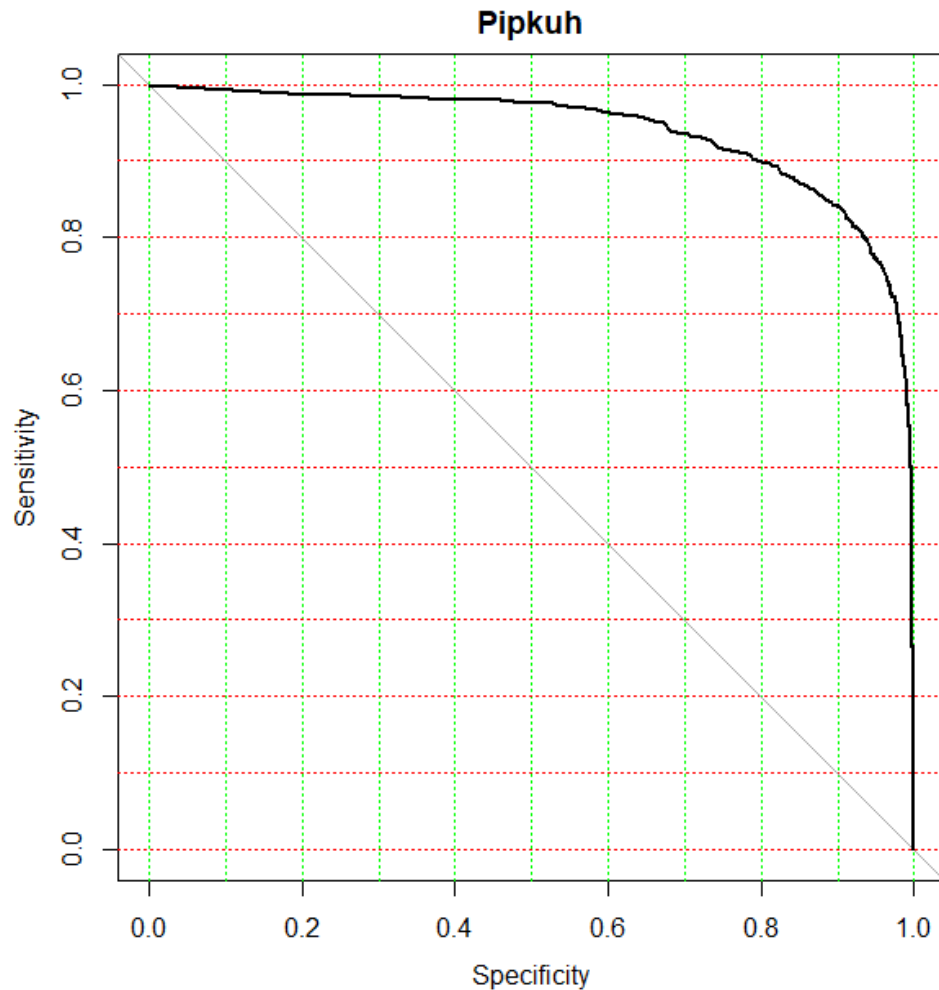
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Biased?	may be a little	Often heavily!

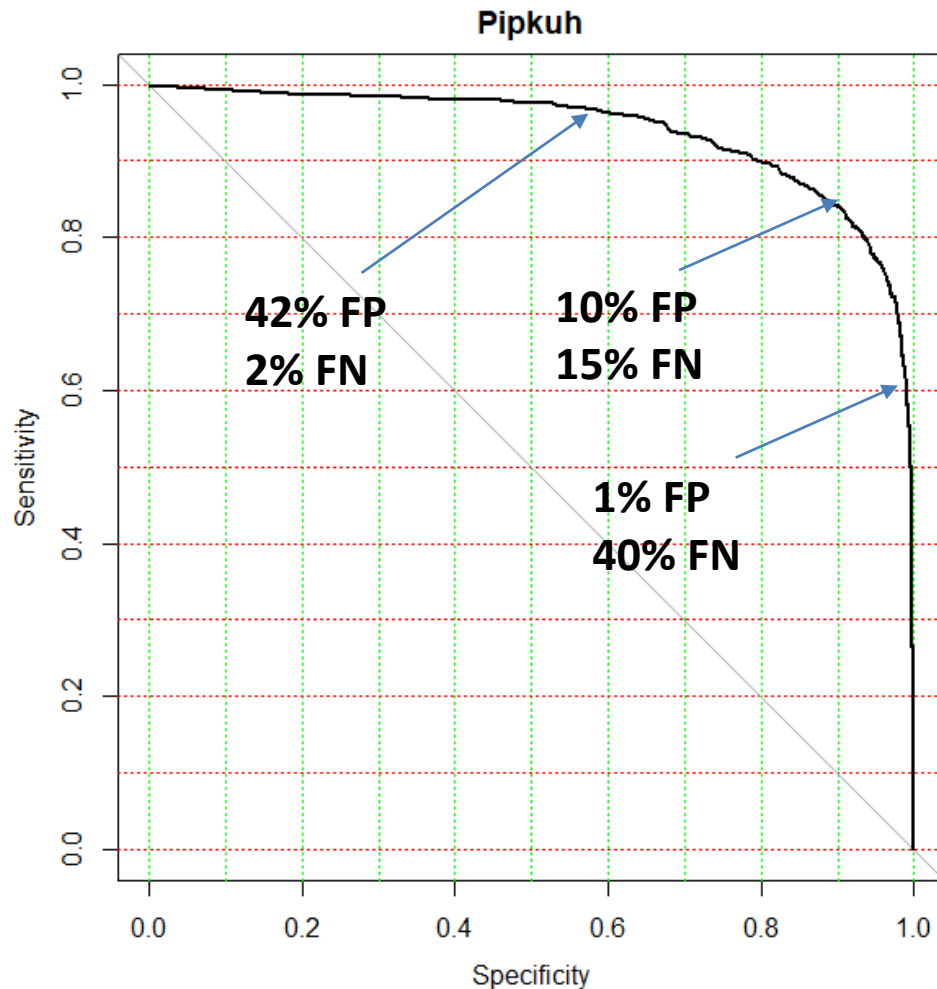
How's automatic acoustic monitoring doing?

- A threshold to minimise bias?



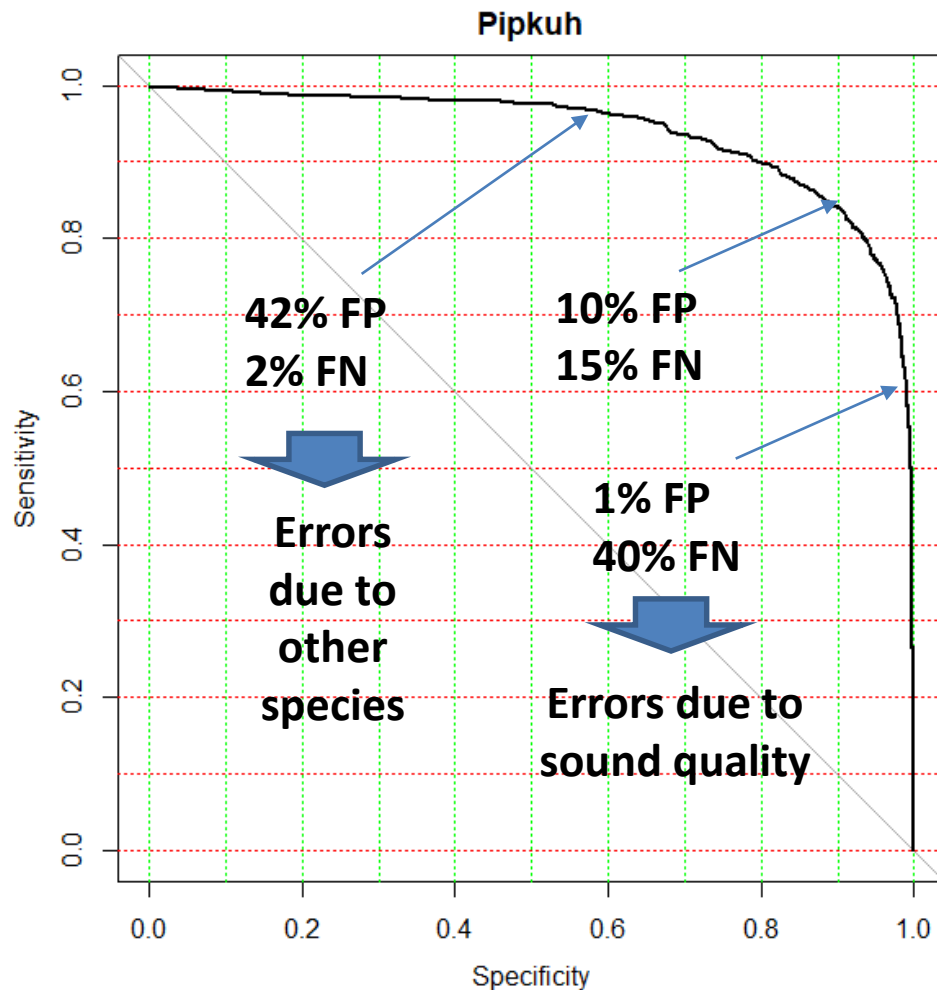
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How's automatic acoustic monitoring doing?

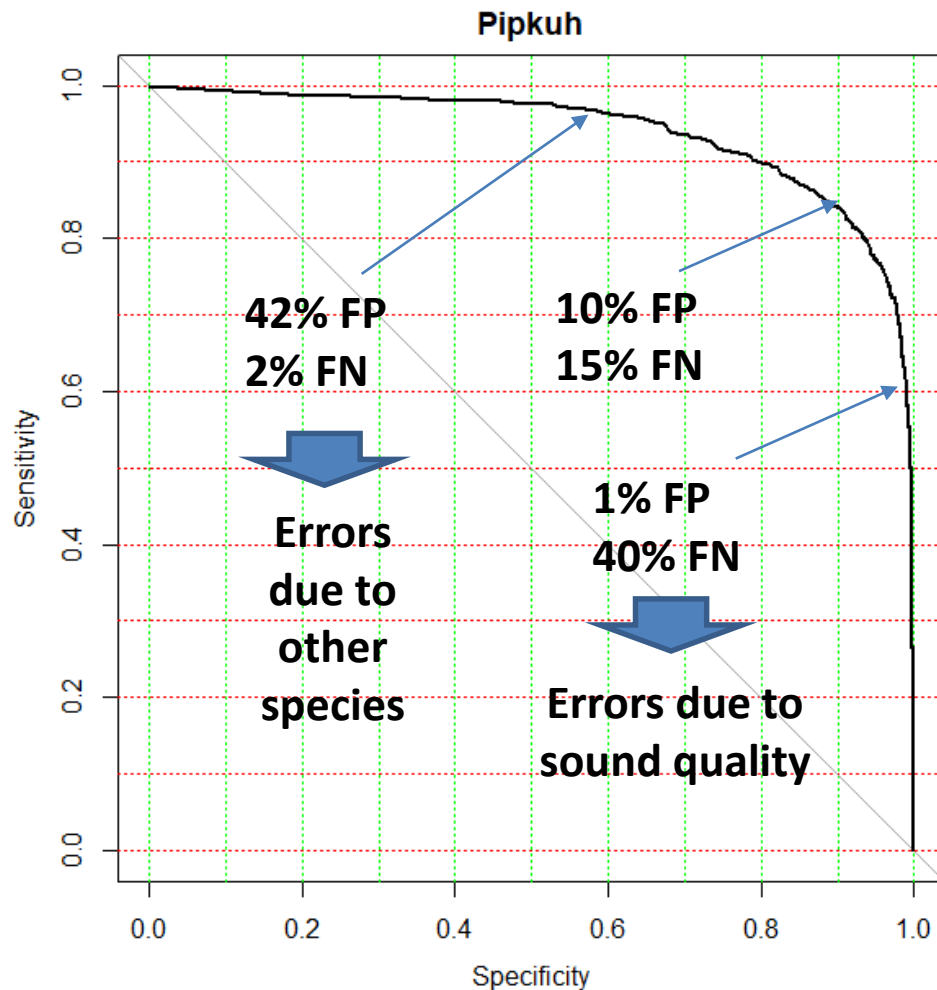
- A threshold to minimise bias?



All thresholds will lead to potentially biased measures but sources of bias differ

How's automatic acoustic monitoring doing?

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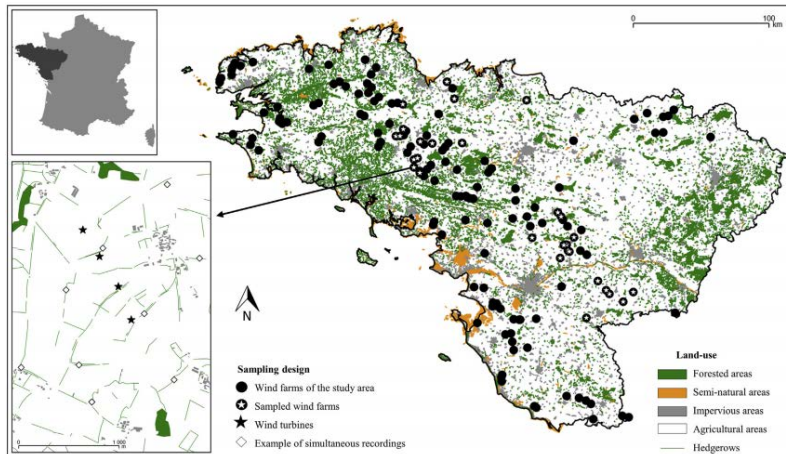


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Solution: checking consistency of ecological inference with varying thresholds (FP/FN rates)

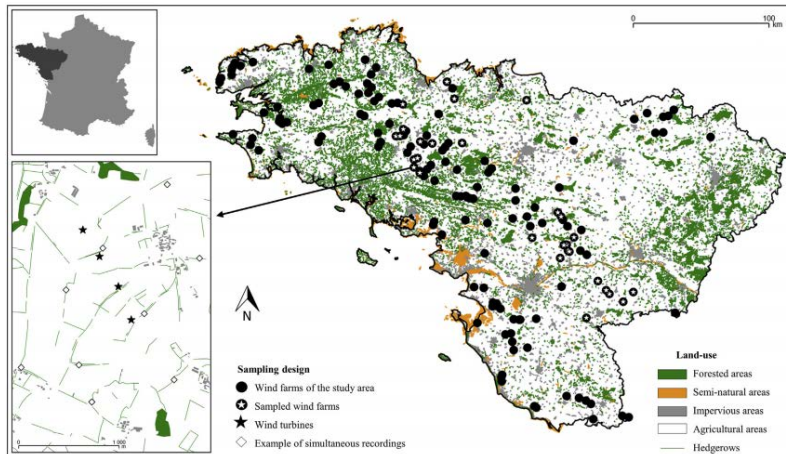
Varying thresholds

- A study of the effect of distance to wind turbine on bats (*Barré et al. 2018 Biol Cons*)



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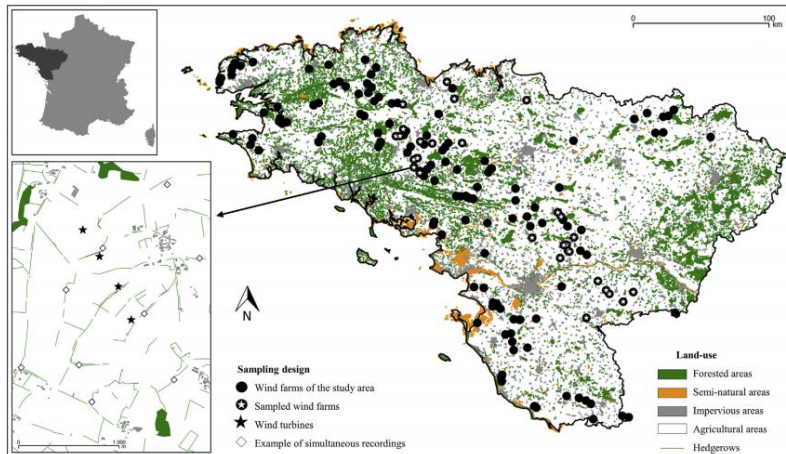


- Estimates vary little!

Species	Threshold type	
	FP = FN	FP << FN
<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	0.237 ± 0.107	0.237 ± 0.107
<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	0.132 ± 0.169	0.141 ± 0.179
<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	0.132 ± 0.106	0.038 ± 0.044
<i>Myotis spp.</i>	0.260 ± 0.091	0.245 ± 0.096
<i>Pipistrellus kuhlii</i>	-0.004 ± 0.100	-0.005 ± 0.103
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	0.413 ± 0.100	0.413 ± 0.100
<i>Plecotus spp.</i>	0.309 ± 0.096	0.233 ± 0.102

Varying thresholds

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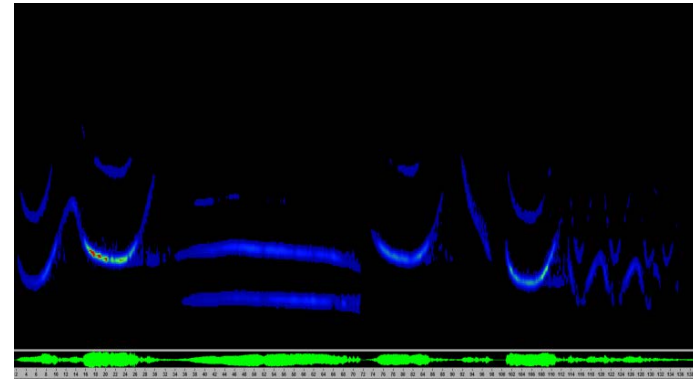
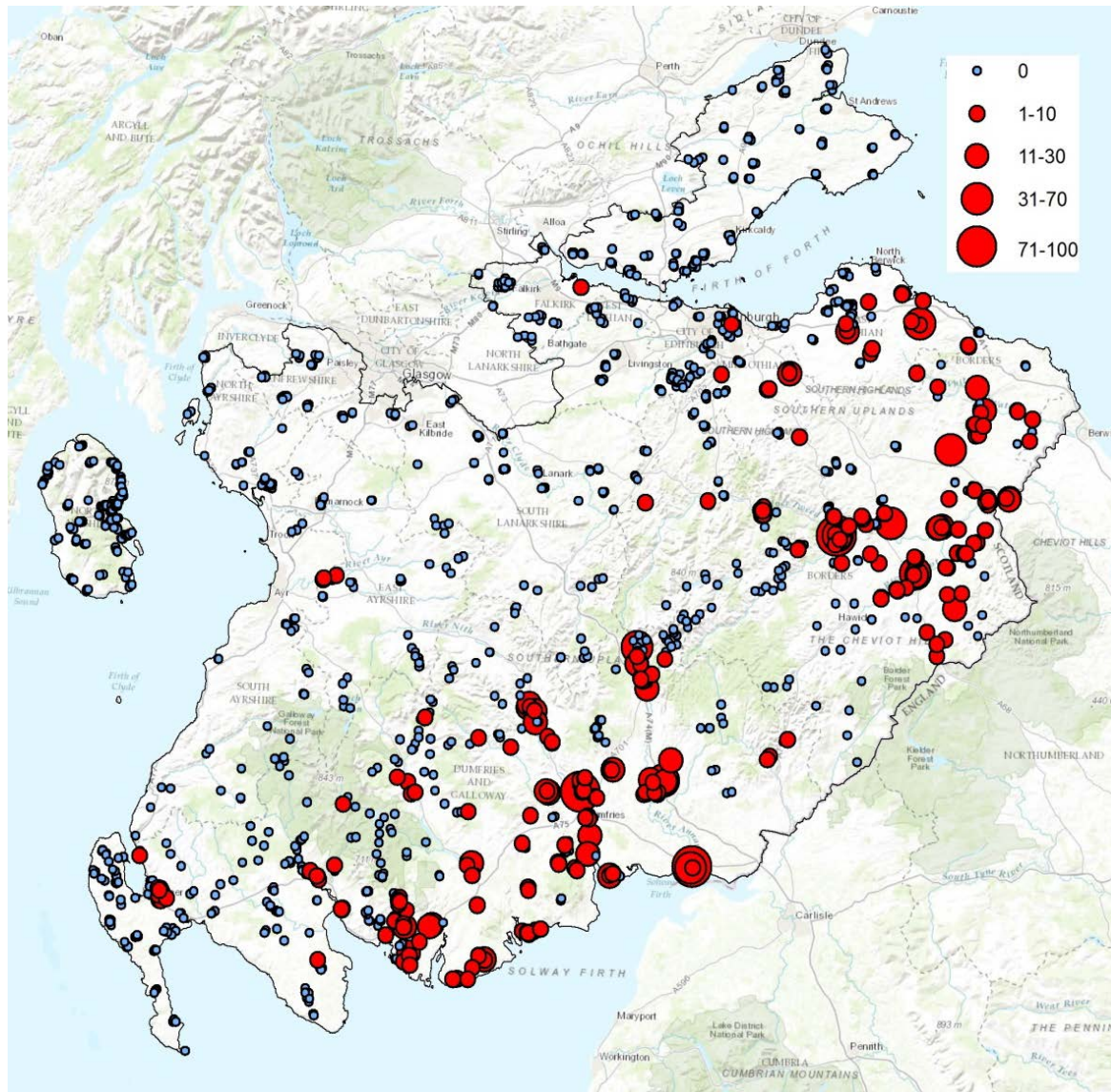


- Estimates vary little!
⇒ Inferences are robust against id errors!

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<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	0.237 ± 0.107	0.237 ± 0.107
<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	0.132 ± 0.169	0.141 ± 0.179
<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	0.132 ± 0.106	0.038 ± 0.044
<i>Myotis spp.</i>	0.260 ± 0.091	0.245 ± 0.096
<i>Pipistrellus kuhlii</i>	-0.004 ± 0.100	-0.005 ± 0.103
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	0.413 ± 0.100	0.413 ± 0.100
<i>Plecotus spp.</i>	0.309 ± 0.096	0.233 ± 0.102

Method replicated for artificial light (*Pauwels et al. in review*), motorways (*Claireau et al. in review*), etc

Accurate data: spatial

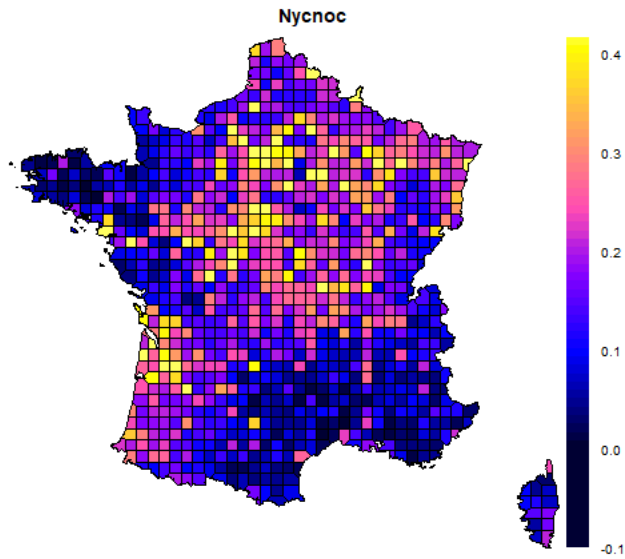


© Jan Svetlik

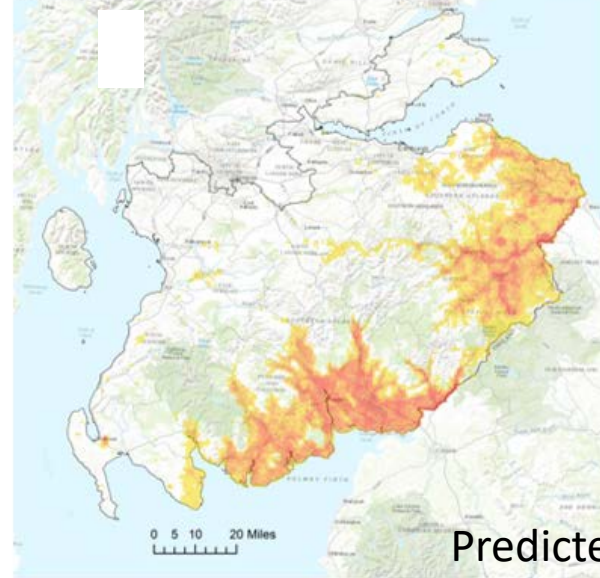
Raw data
Nyctalus noctula

Southern Scotland Bat Survey

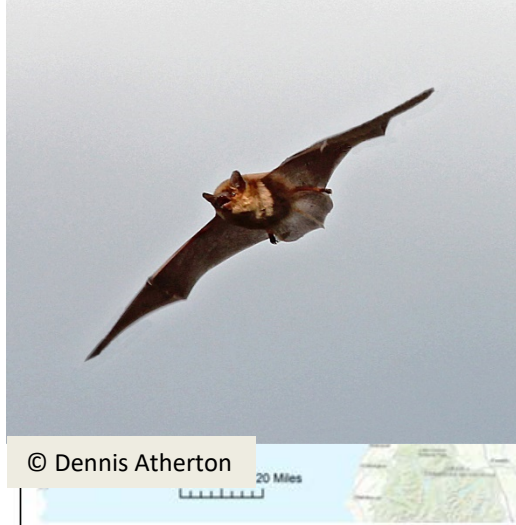
Accurate data: spatial



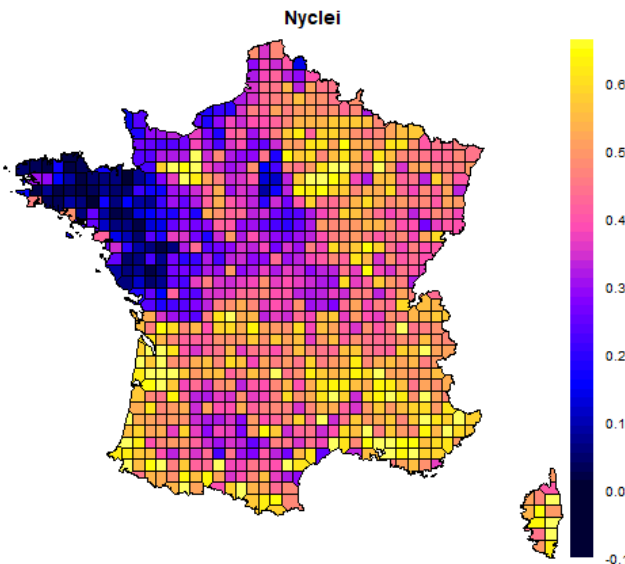
Noctule, *Nyctalus noctula*



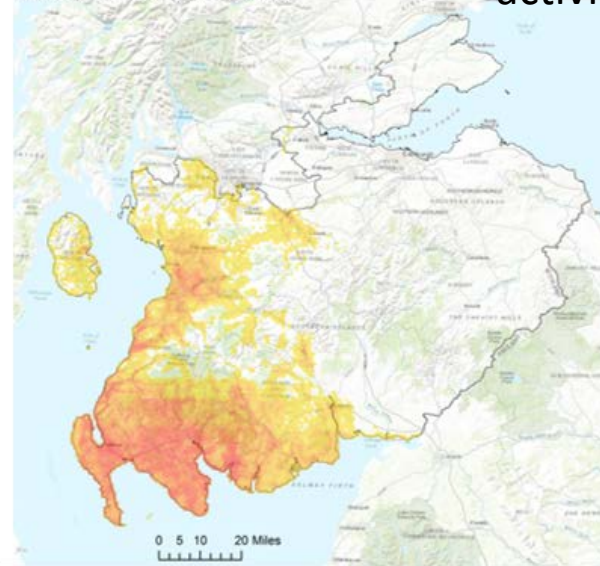
Newson et al. 2017
Biological Conservation



© Dennis Atherton



Leisler's, *Nyctalus leisleri*



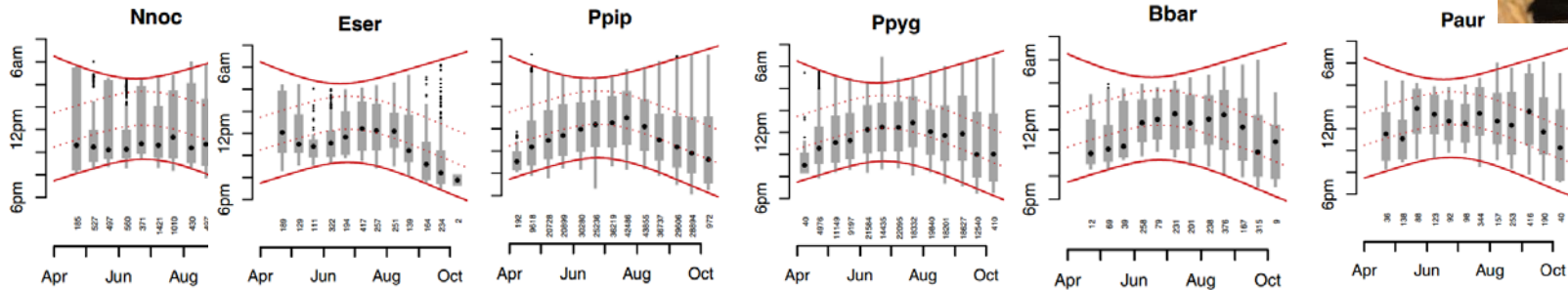
Predicted
activity



© Mark Carmody

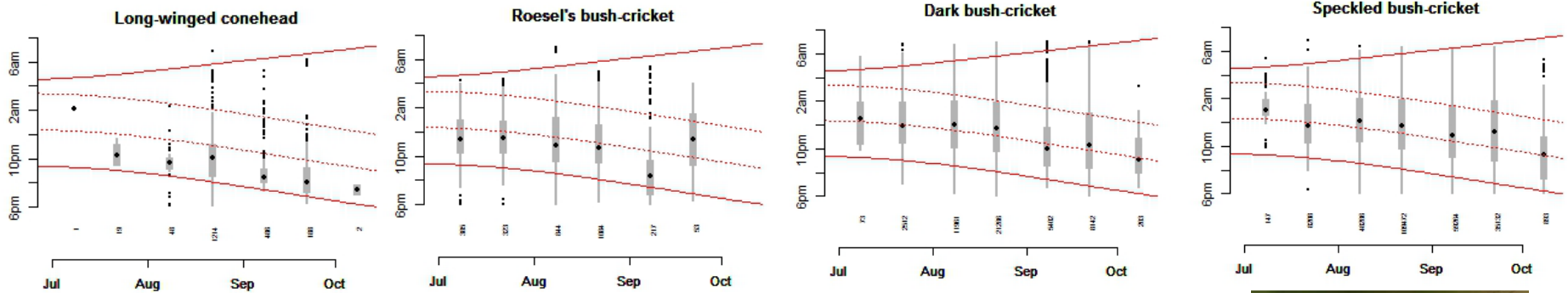
Accurate data: phenology

Newson et al. (2015)
Biological Conservation



← Crepuscular activity

→ Whole-night activity



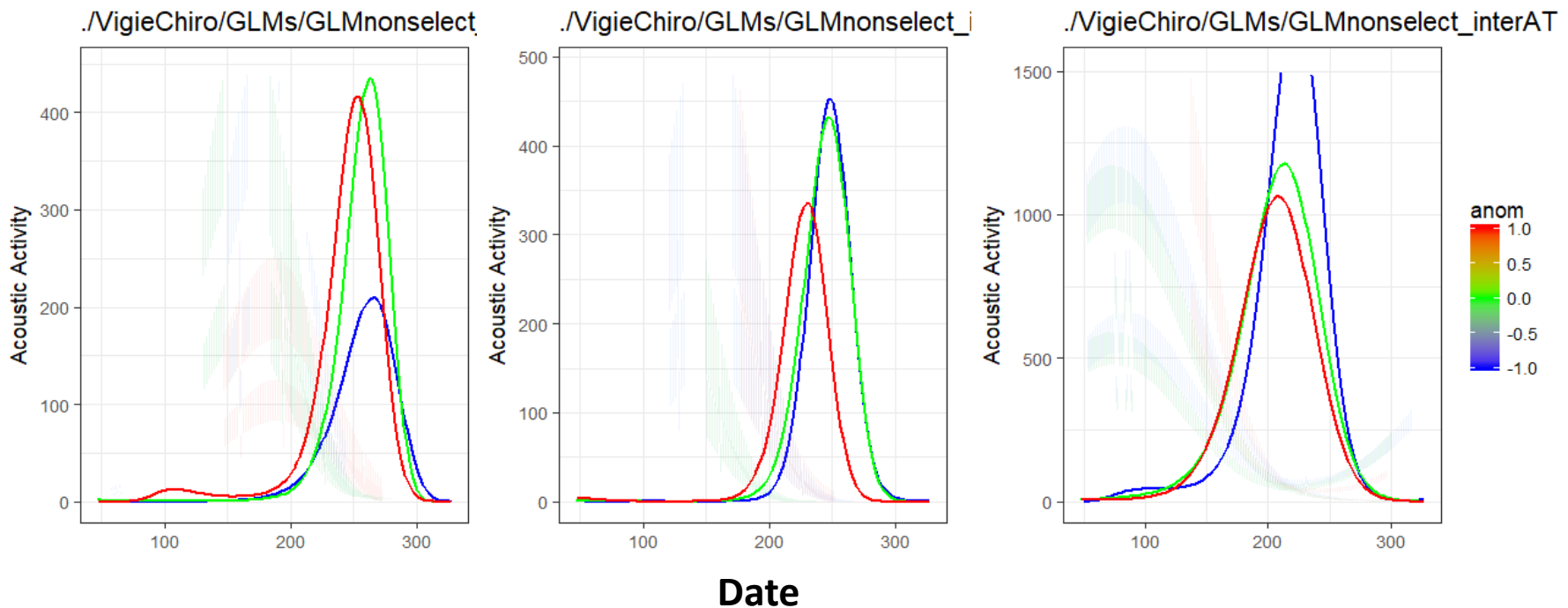
Newson et al. (2017) *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*



Accurate data: phenology

Bas et al. (in prep)

- Detecting seasonal phenological shifts



And already some species trends

Strongly declining in France



© Dennis Atherton



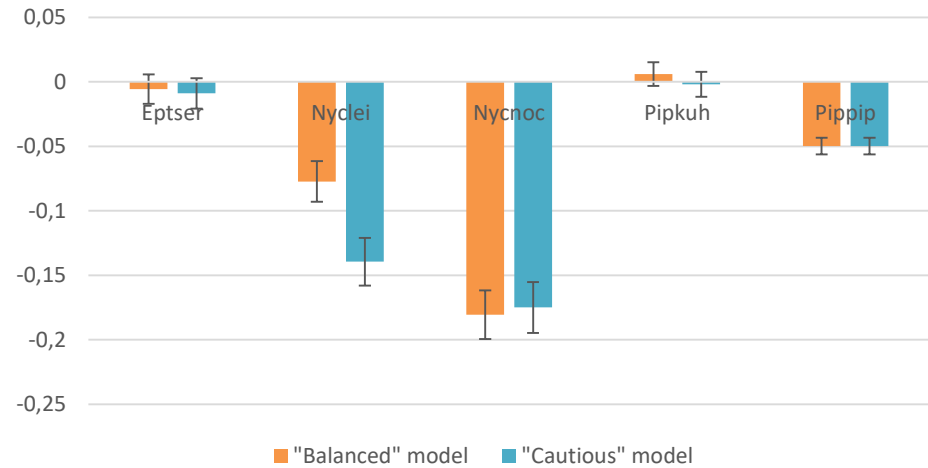
© Mark Carmody



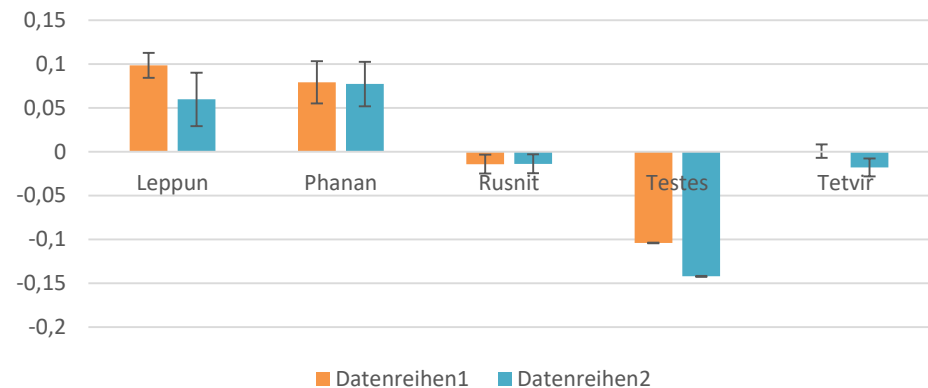
© B. Requierech

...declines not previously suspected...

Estimated trends (2006-2016)



Estimated trends (2006-2016)



Conclusion

- 1) Large-scale ecoacoustic monitoring works!

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Thank you for your attention! And many thanks to participants of Vigie-Chiro, Norfolk Bat Survey and South Scotland Bat Survey!!

But, is it dangerous??

But, is it dangerous??



Ecological Indicators

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ecolind

The use of automated identification of bat echolocation calls in acoustic monitoring: A cautionary note for a sound analysis

Danilo Russo^{a,b,*}, Christian C. Voigt^{c,d}

^a Wildlife Research Unit, Laboratorio di Ecologia Applicata, Sezione di Biologia e Protezione dei Sistemi
Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, Via Università 100, I-80055 Portici, Napoli, Italy

^b School of Biological Sciences, Life Sciences Building, University of Bristol, 24 Tyndall Avenue, Bristol I

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Testing the performances of automated identification of bat echolocation calls: A request for prudence

Jens Rydell^{a,*}, Stefan Nyman^b, Johan Eklöf^c, Gareth Jones^d, Danilo Russo^{d,e}

^a Biology Department, Lund University, SE-223 62 Lund, Sweden

^b Skarpskyttevägen 30D, SE-226 42 Lund, Sweden

^c Krokalsvägen 88, SE-51734 Ballebygd, Sweden

^d School of Biological Sciences, Life Sciences Building, University of Bristol, 24 Tyndall Avenue, Bristol BS8 1TQ, UK

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- Well, it's obviously not perfect, so you cannot neglect error rates!

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=> That's what we call « semi-automatic id »

Auto id:

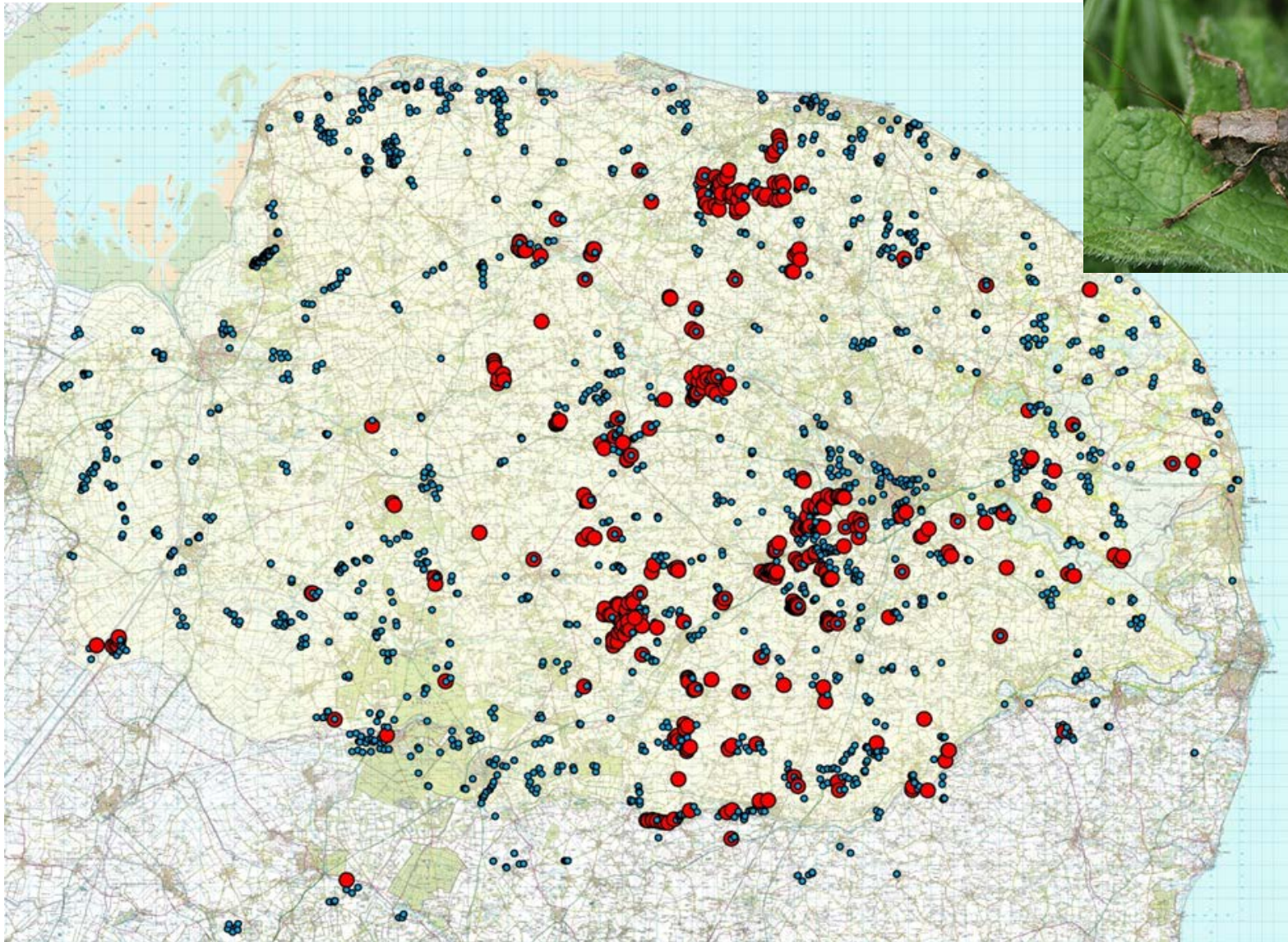
Score reliability

Auto id:

Score reliability

- Correlate error risk / confidence score

Also works for bush-crickets: Dark Bush-cricket (42,132 recordings)



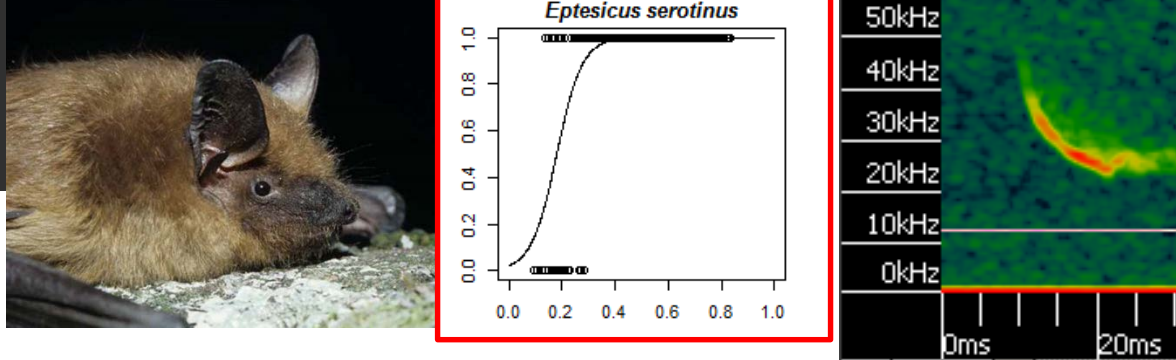
Norfolk Bat Survey

Auto id: Score reliability

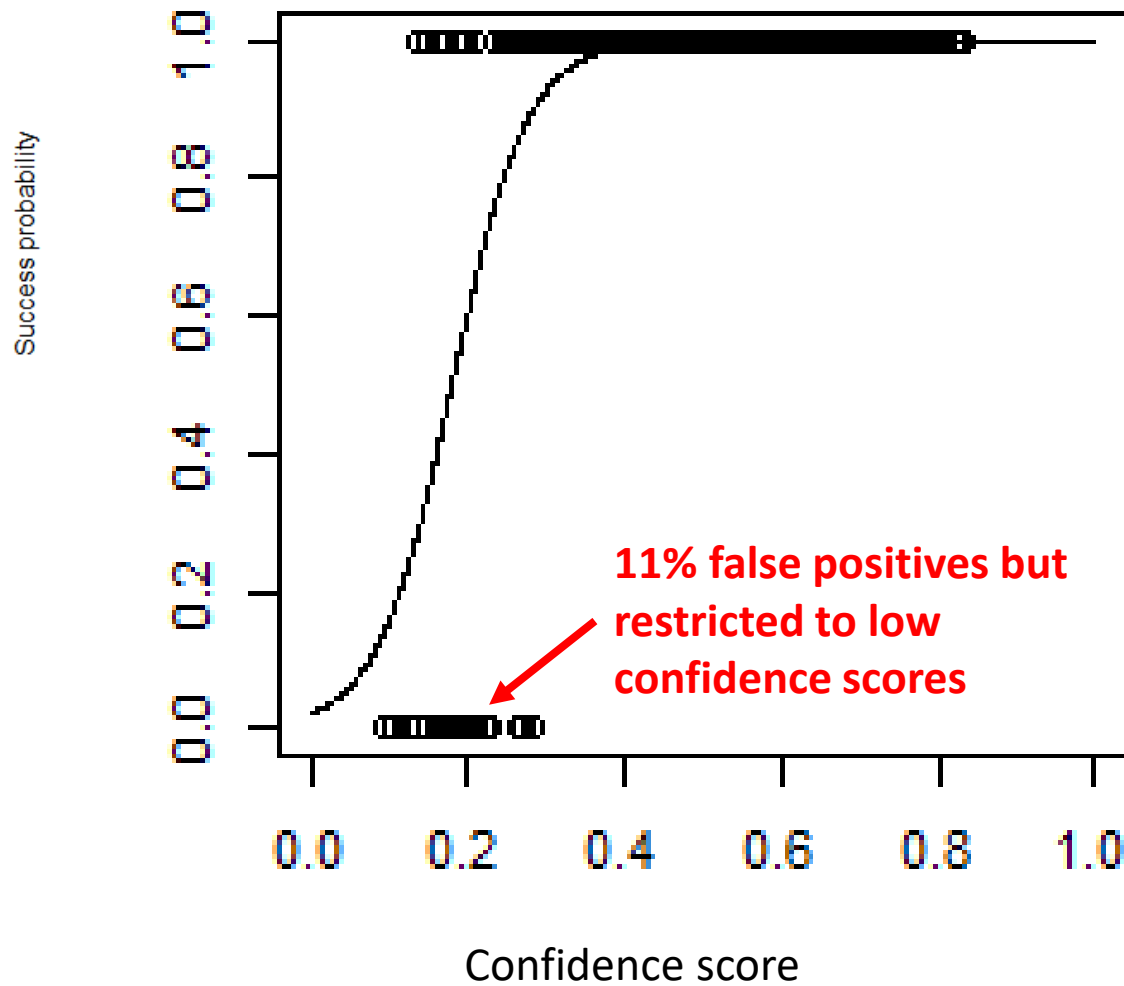
- Correlate error risk / confidence score
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Confirmed id ~ software confidence

Barré et al. (in prep)



Eptesicus serotinus

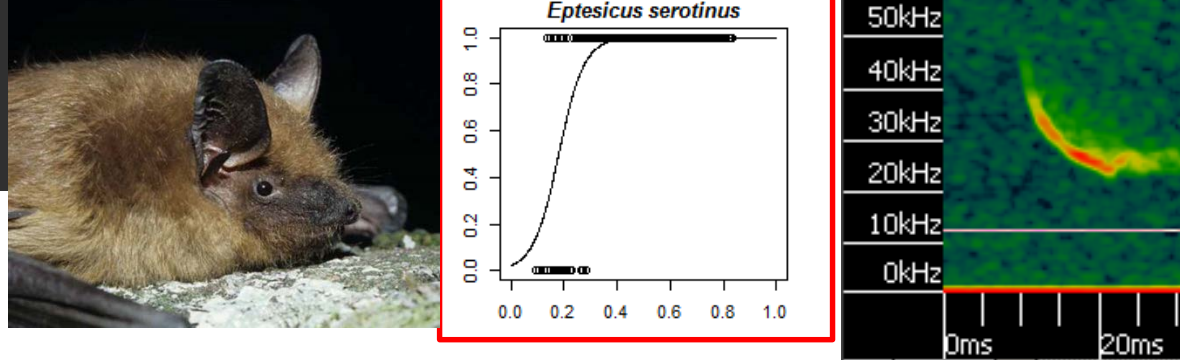


Auto id: Score reliability

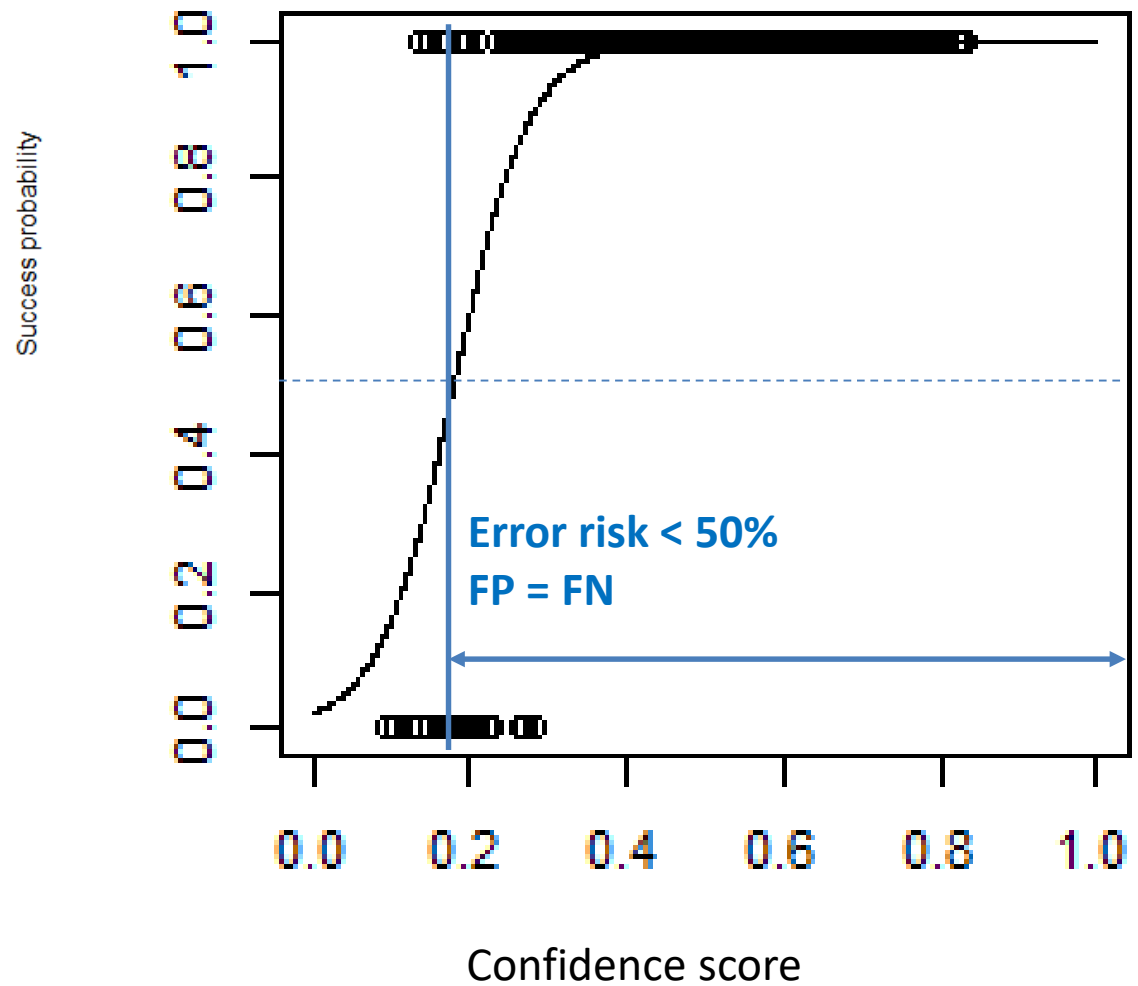
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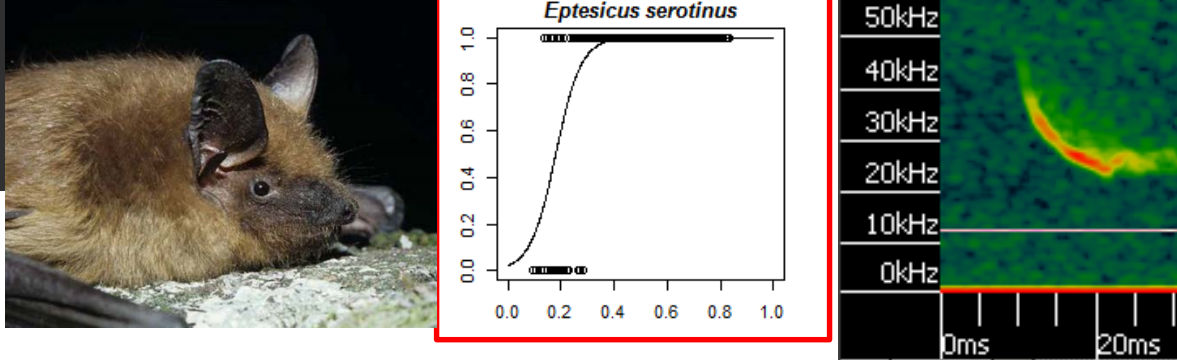
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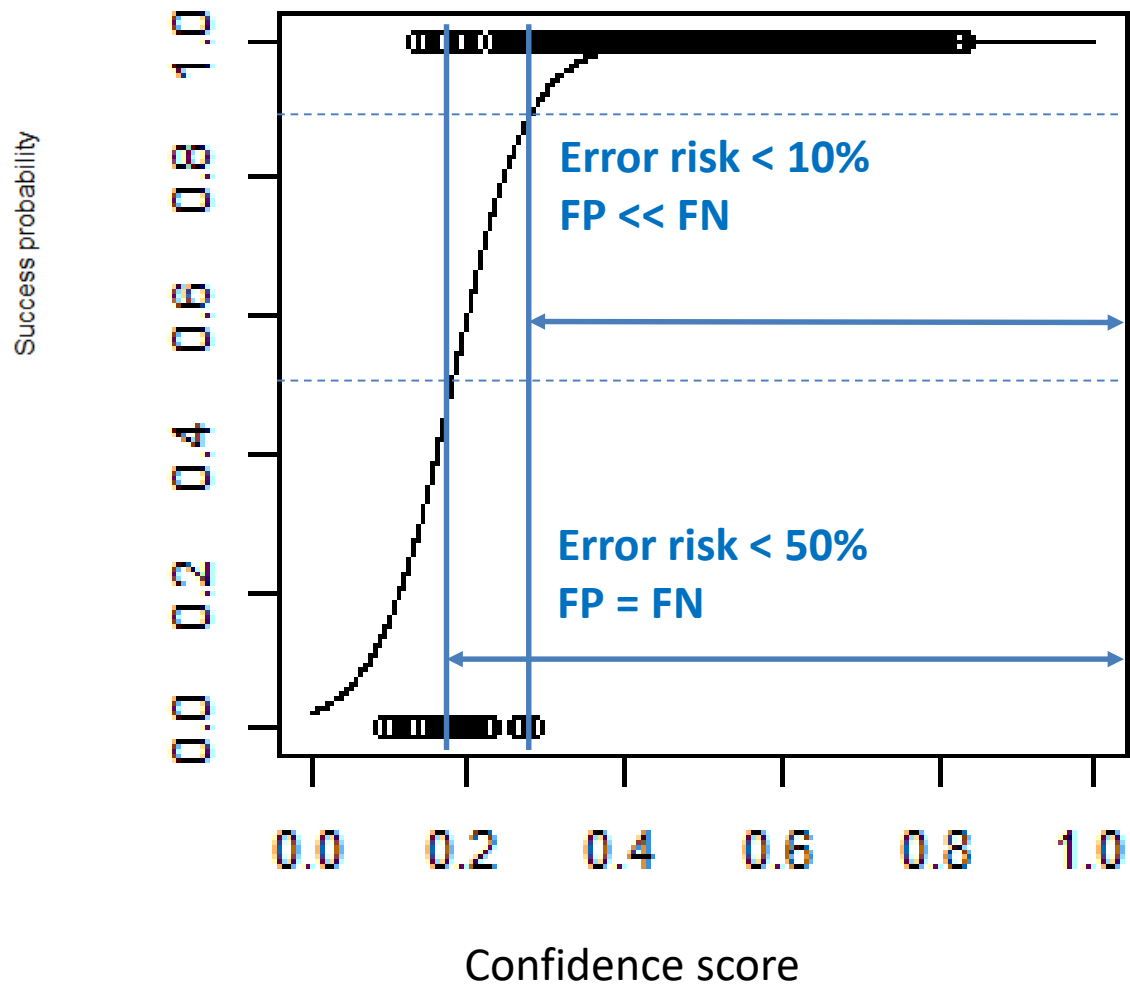


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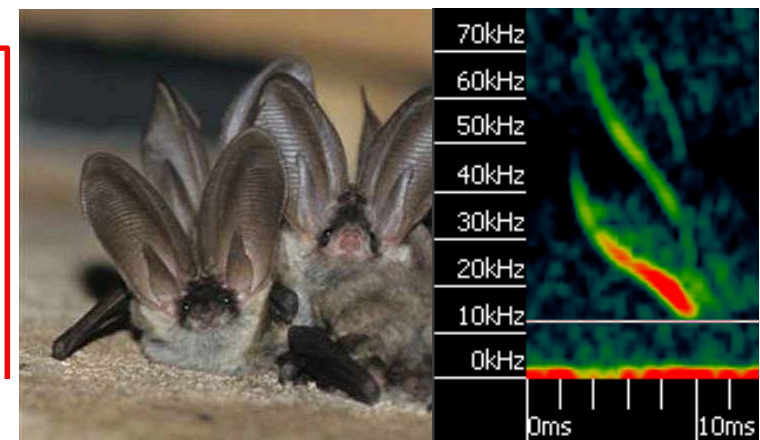
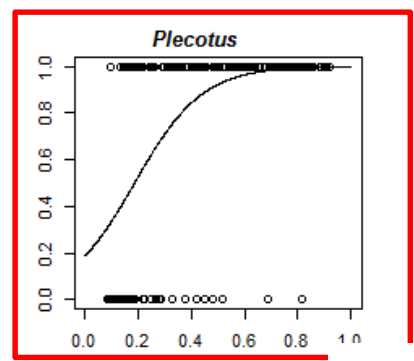
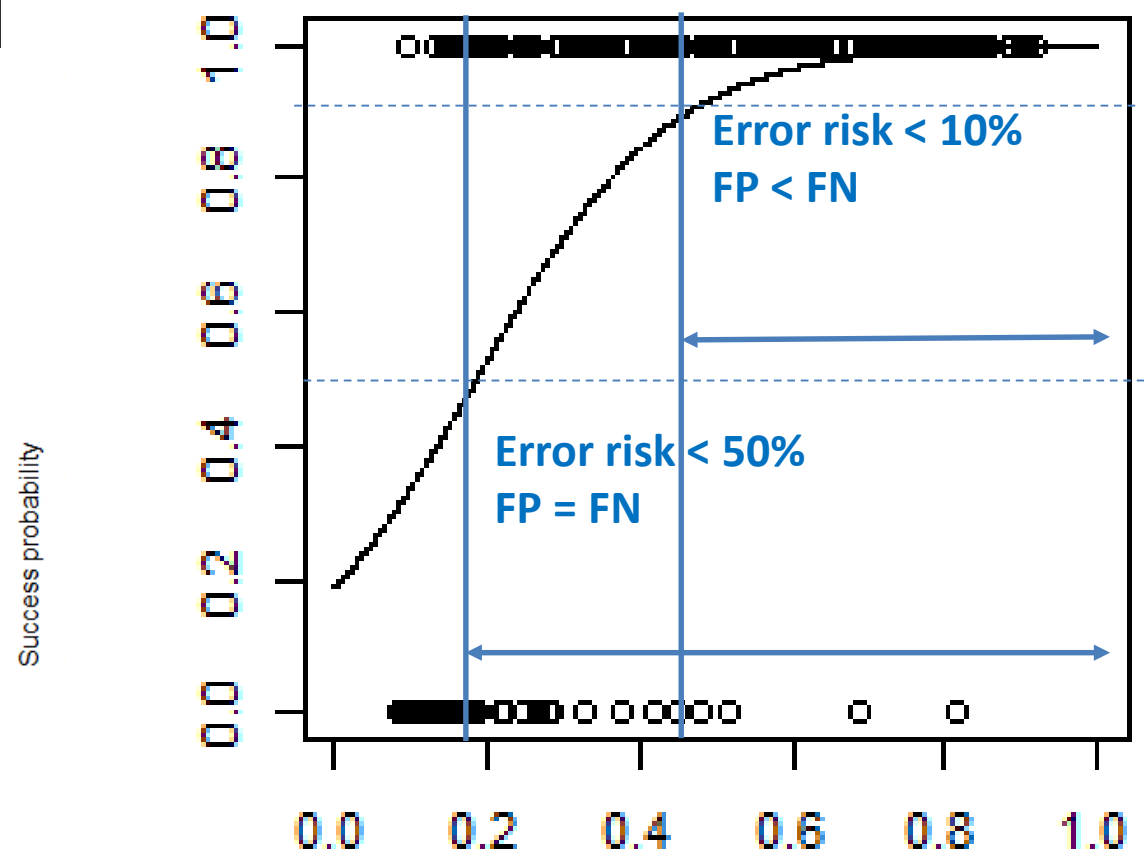
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Barré et al. (in prep)

Plecotus

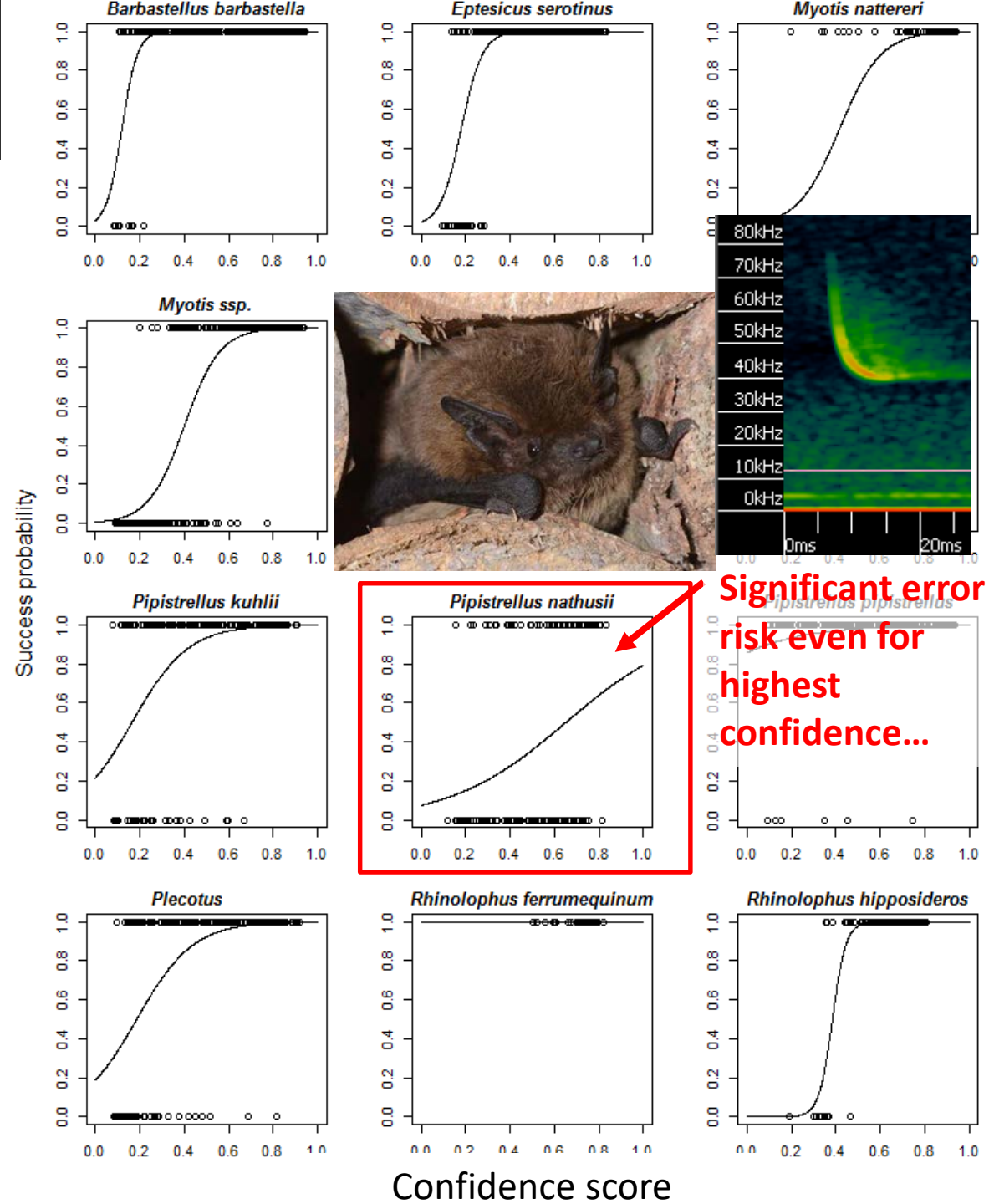


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Barré et al. (in prep)

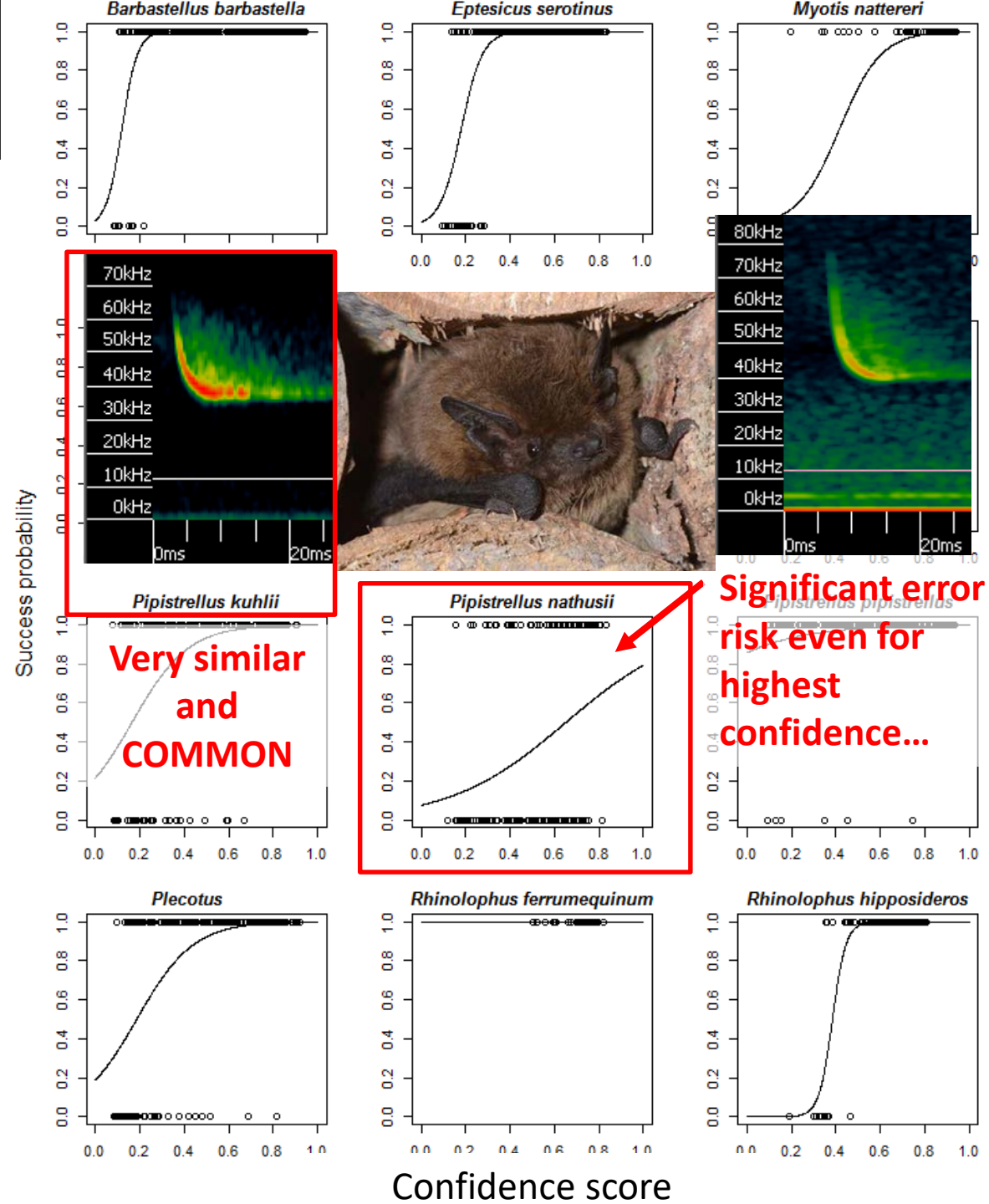


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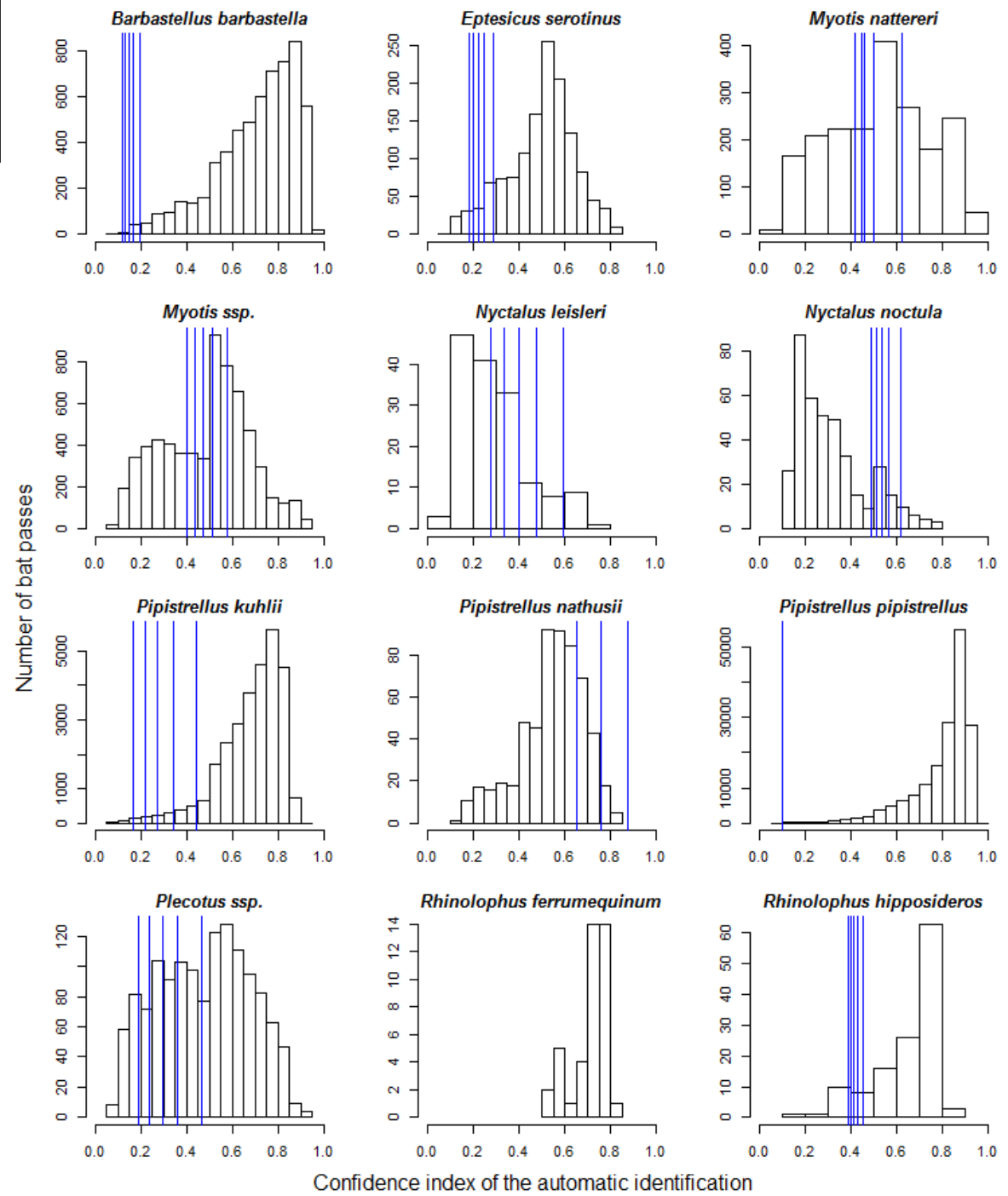
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Barré et al. (in prep)

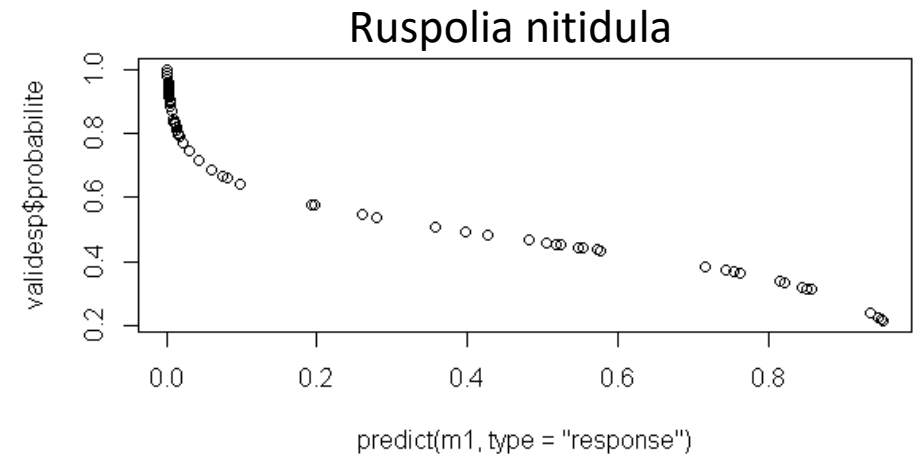
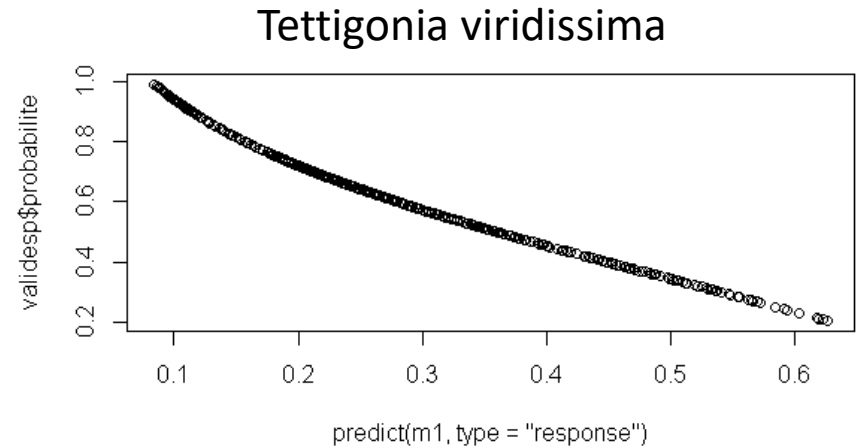


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software
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Barré et al. (in prep)



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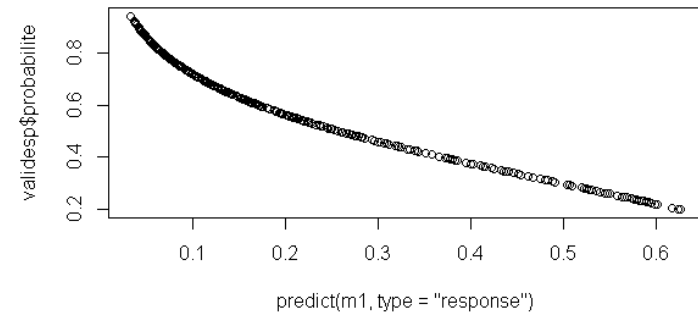
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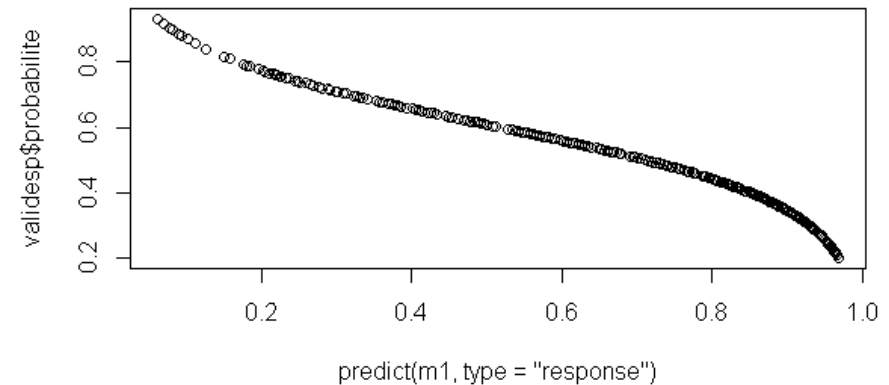
Barré et al. (in prep)



Leptophyes punctatissima



Pholidoptera griseoptera



Auto id: Score reliability

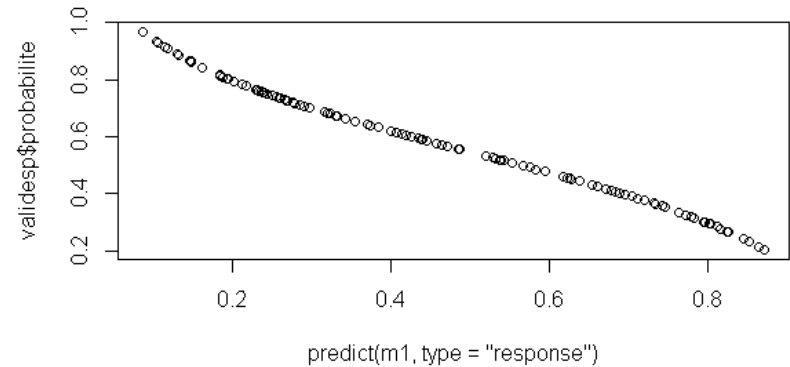
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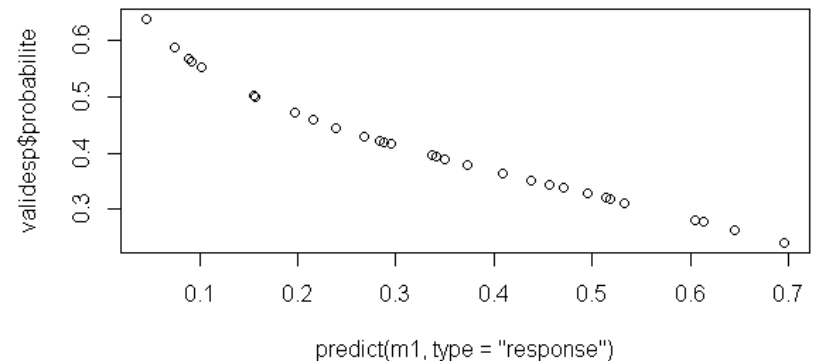
Barré et al. (in prep)



Tessellana tessellata



Platycleis albopunctata



Auto id: Score reliability

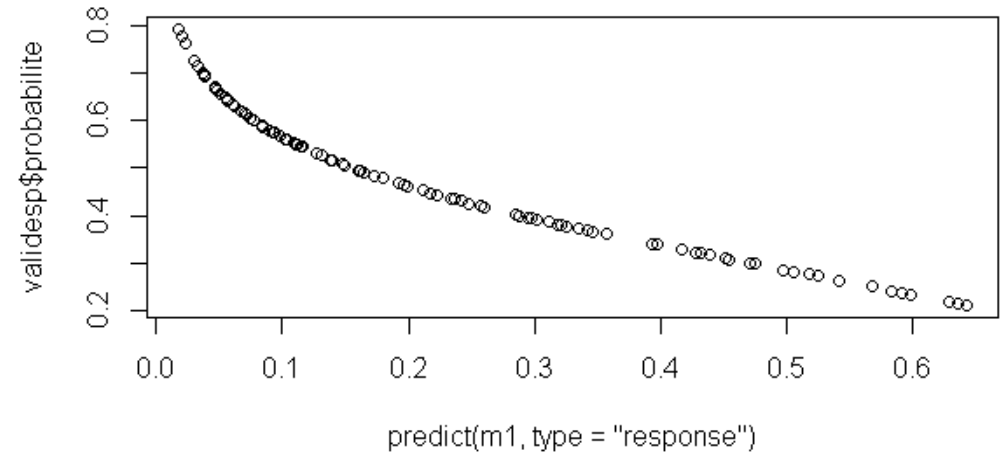
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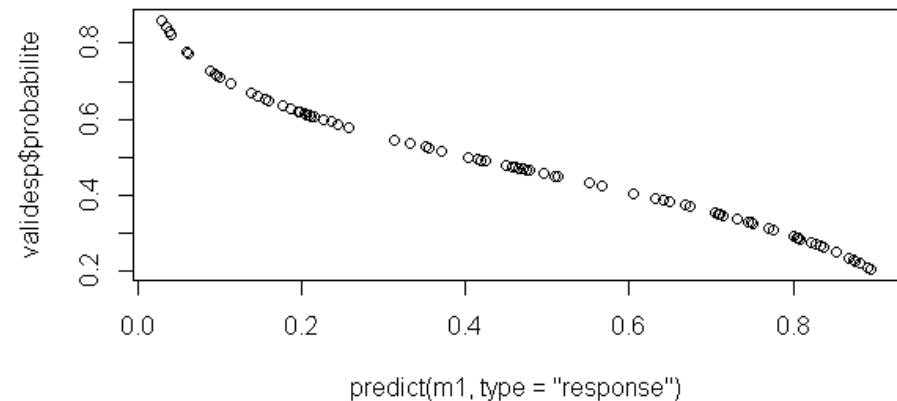
Barré et al. (in prep)



Phaneroptera nana



Ephippiger ephippiger



Varying thresholds

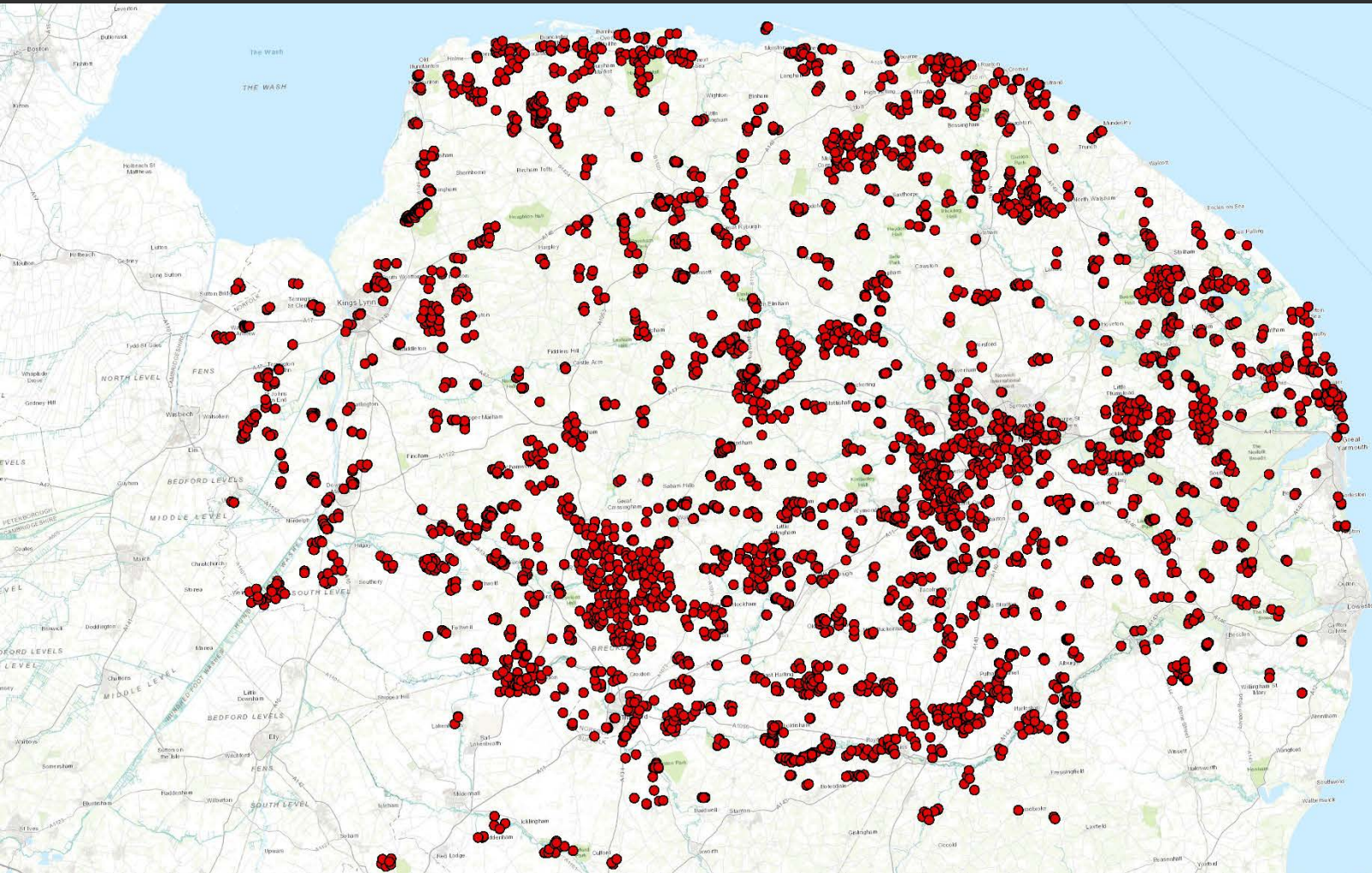
- Hedgerow effect (Barré et al. In prep)

⇒ Estimates vary little!

⇒ Inferences are robust against id errors!

Species	Environmental variables	Error risk tolerance	
		0.5	0.1
Barbastellus barbastella	Open vs. edge habitat	-2.91±0.23 ***	-2.94±0.24 ***
Eptesicus serotinus	Open vs. edge habitat	-0.60±0.40	-0.52±0.42
Myotis nattereri	Open vs. edge habitat	-1.20±0.25 ***	-1.08±0.33 ***
Myotis ssp.	Open vs. edge habitat	-1.64±0.20 ***	-1.87±0.27 ***
Nyctalus leislerii	Open vs. edge habitat	-0.41±0.29	0.92±0.66
Nyctalus noctula	Open vs. edge habitat	1.27±0.28 ***	1.27±0.50 *
Pipistrellus kuhlii	Open vs. edge habitat	-2.08±0.26 ***	-2.17±0.27 ***
Pipistrellus nathusii	Open vs. edge habitat	0.68±0.32 *	/
Pipistrellus pipistrellus	Open vs. edge habitat	-2.93±0.19 ***	-2.93±0.19 ***
Plecotus ssp.	Open vs. edge habitat	-0.89±0.19 ***	-0.81±0.20 ***
Rhinolophus ferrumequinum	Open vs. edge habitat	0.23±0.99	0.23±0.99
Rhinolophus hipposideros	Open vs. edge habitat	-3.01±0.72 ***	-2.98±0.73 ***

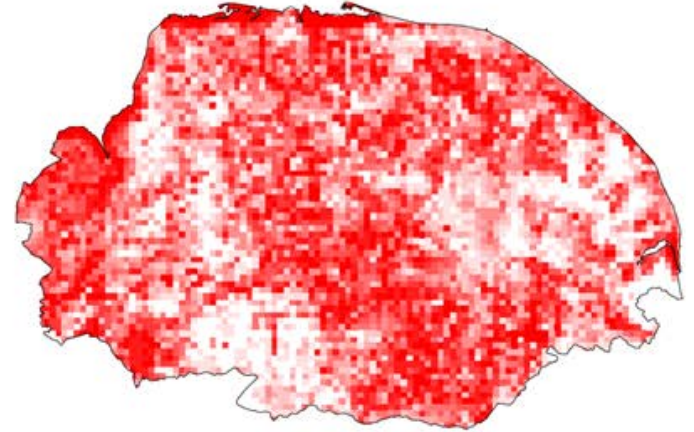
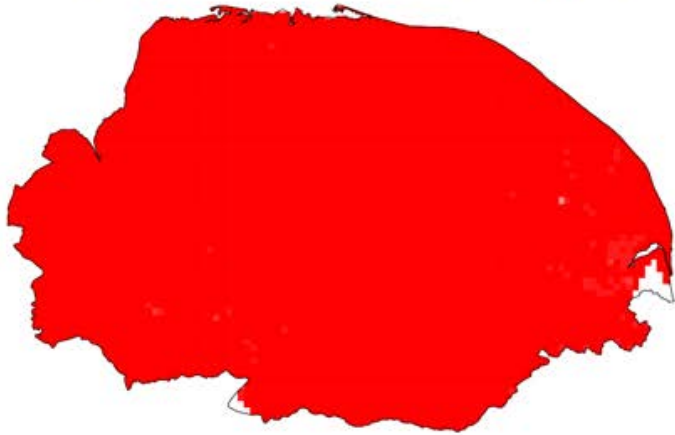
Survey coverage



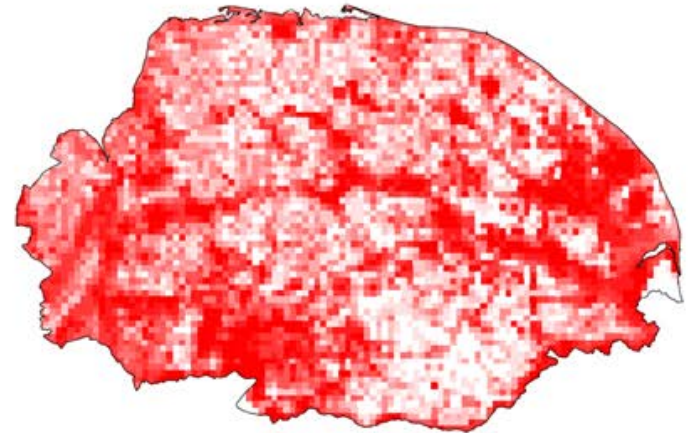
- 1,445 1-km squares surveyed (27% of Norfolk) 2013-2016
- 6,246 complete nights of recording
- > 1.4 million bat recordings

Predicted occurrence (left) and activity (right)

Common pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*

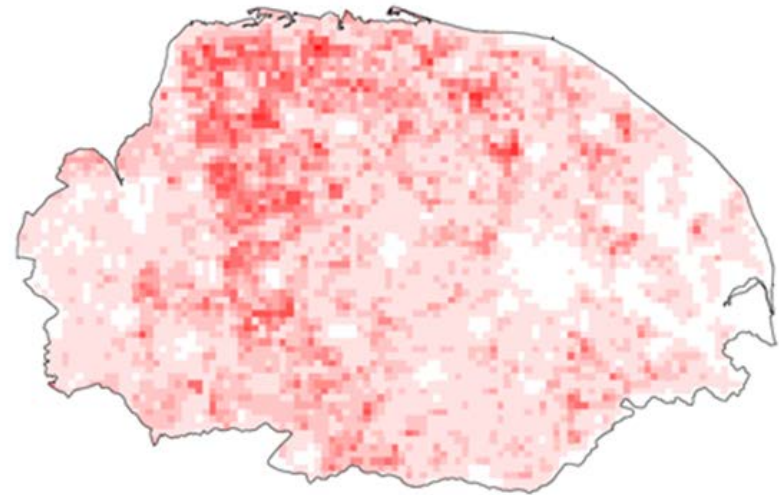
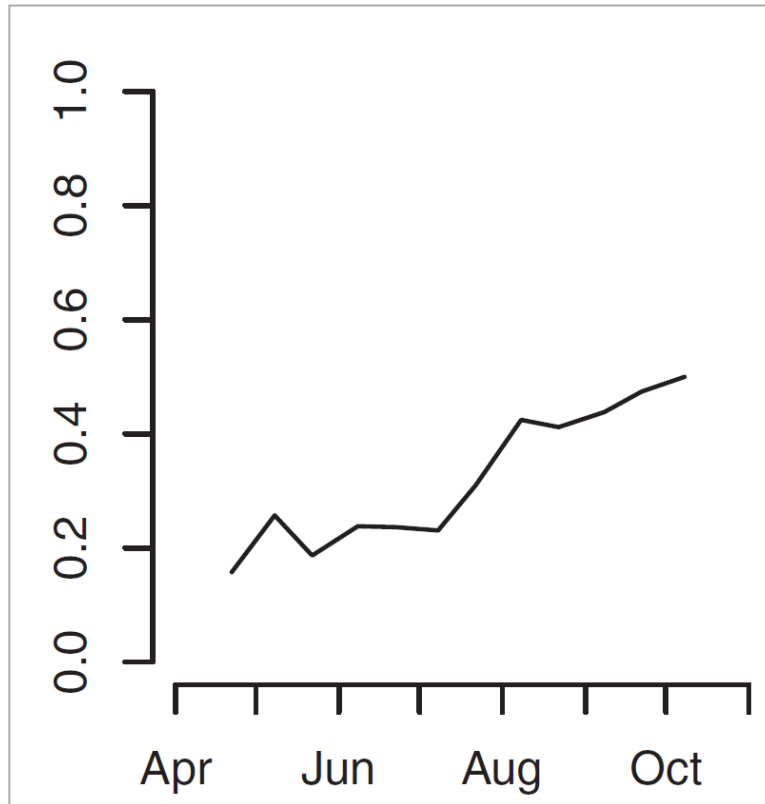


Soprano pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*



Insight into seasonal movements

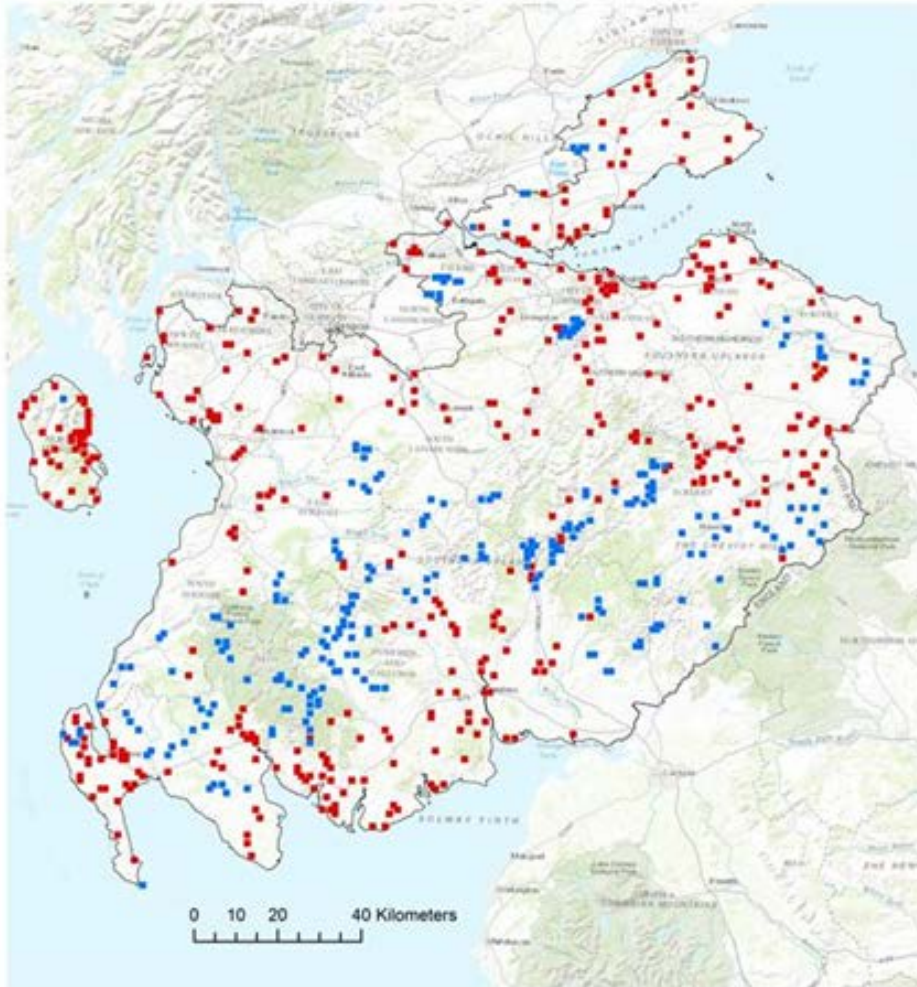
Barbastelle - *Barbastella barbastellus*



Survey coverage

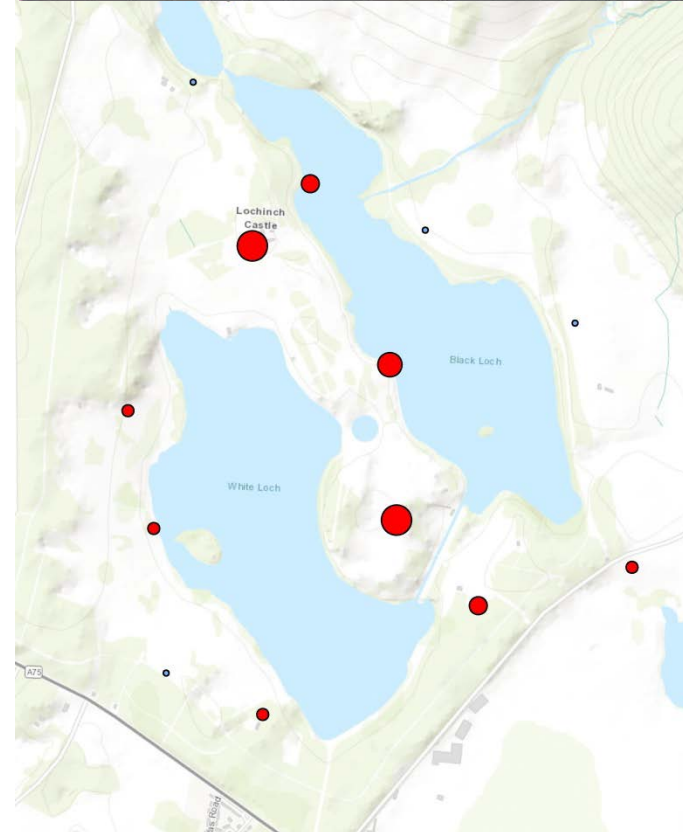
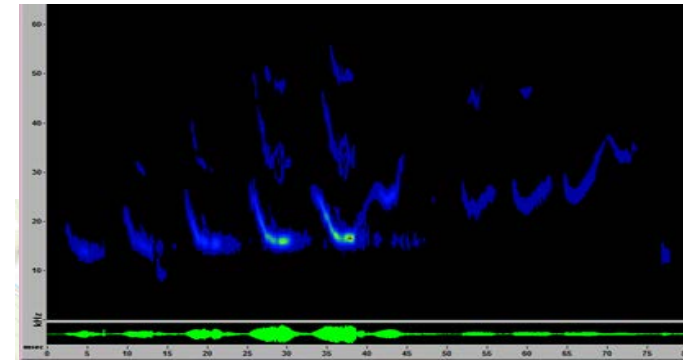
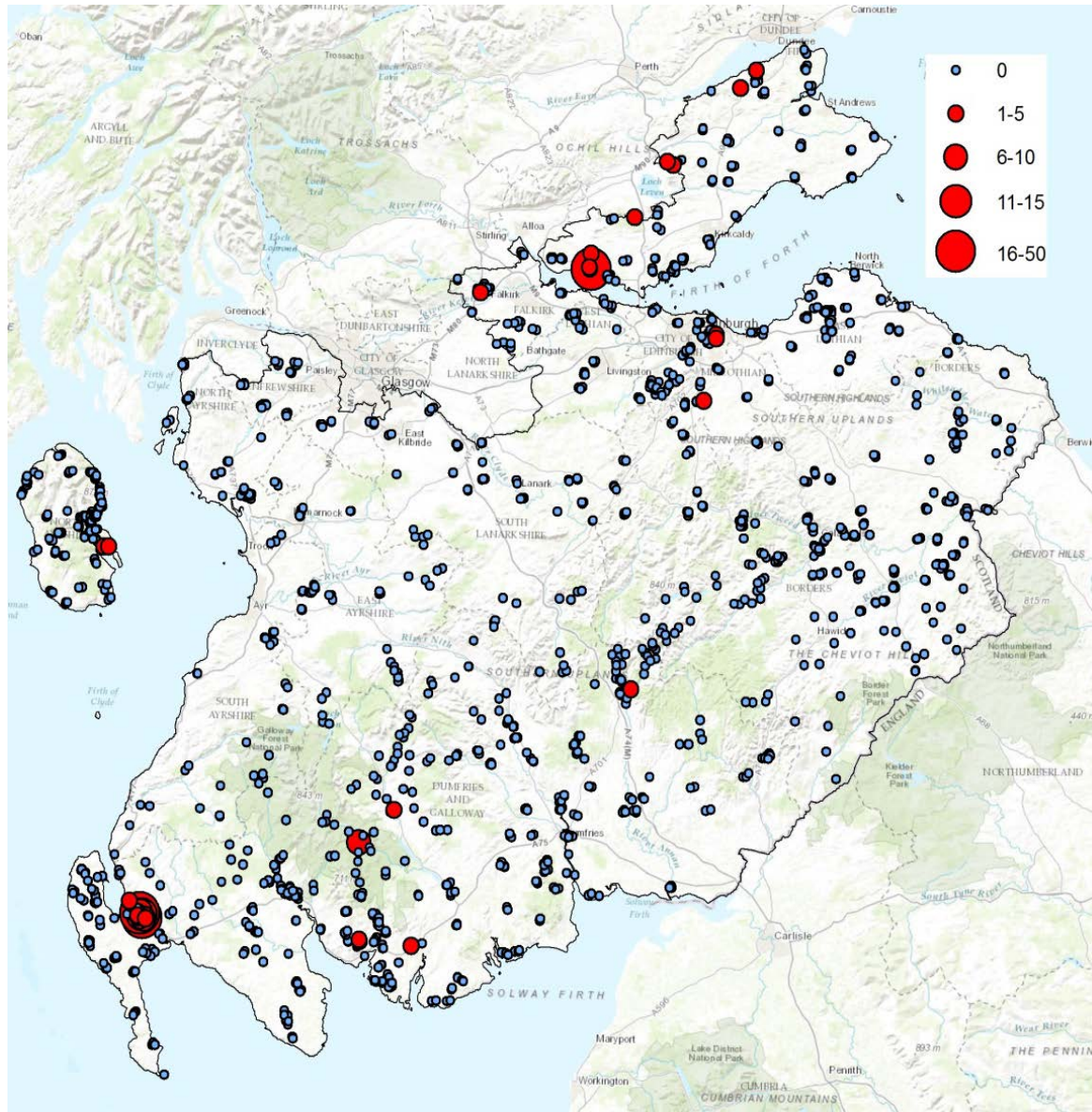
Red = Volunteers

Blue = BTO fieldworkers



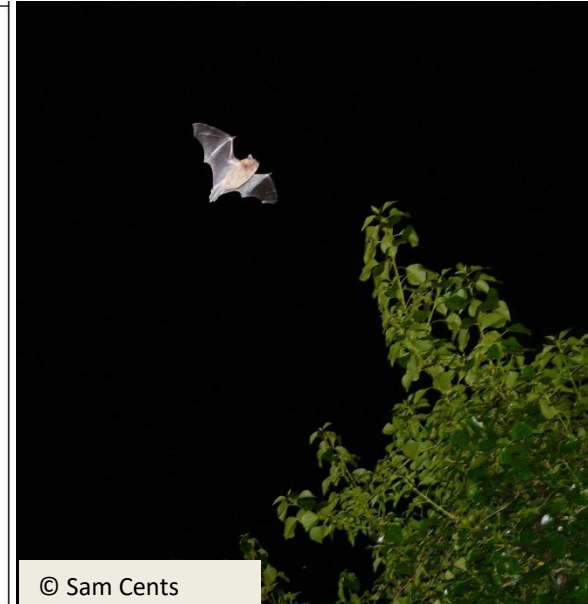
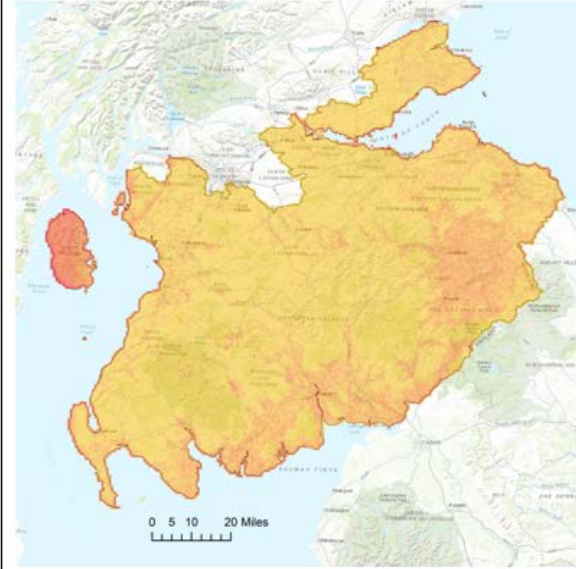
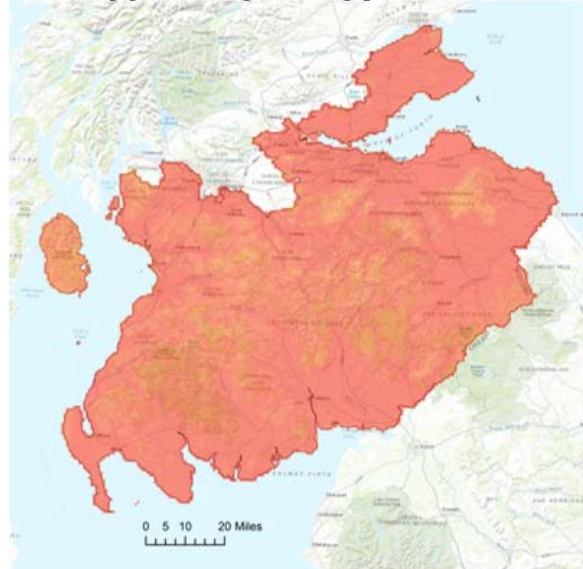
- 715 1-km's
- 1,537 nights of recording
- 399,242 bat recordings
- 275 volunteers - 375 squares
- Two BTO fieldworkers - 339 squares

Nathusius' pipistrelle (0.05% of recordings)

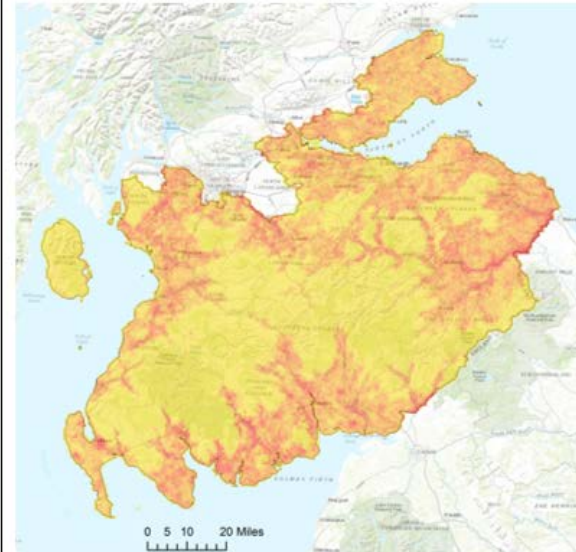
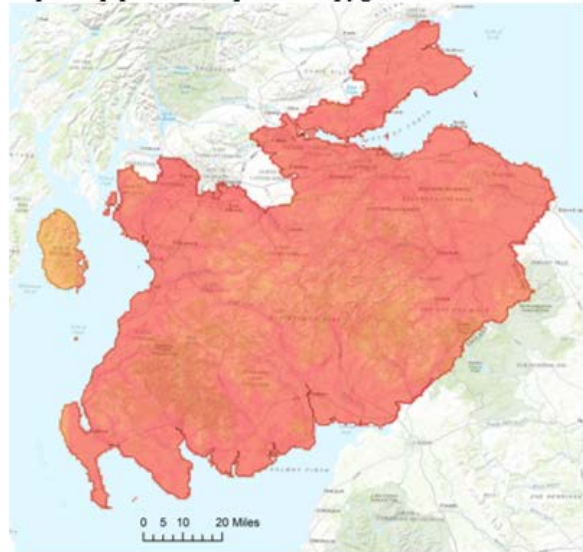


Predicted occurrence (left) and activity (right)

Common pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*

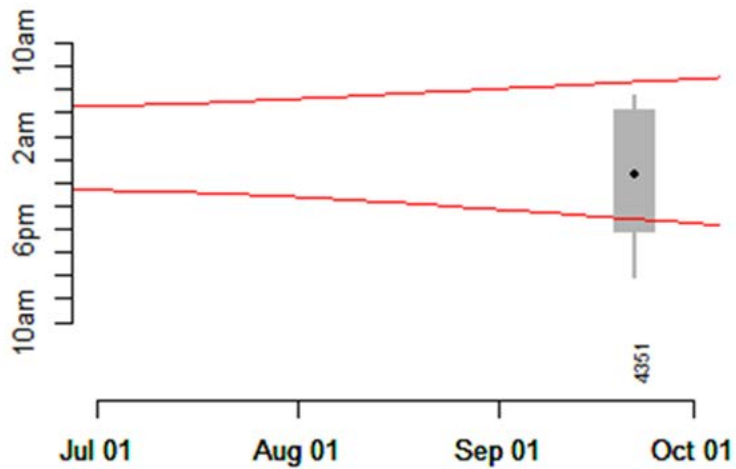


Soprano pipistrelle, *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*

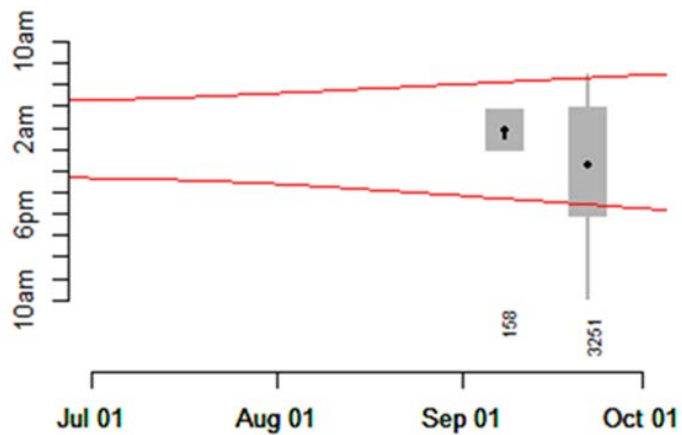


Detectors recording over the day and night

Dark bush-cricket

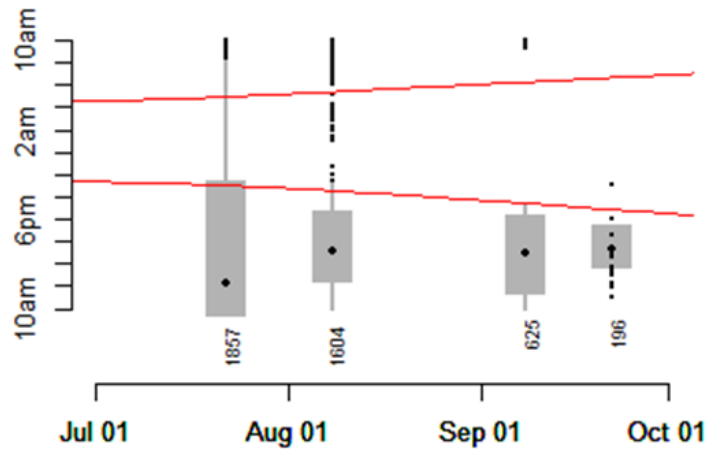


Speckled bush-cricket

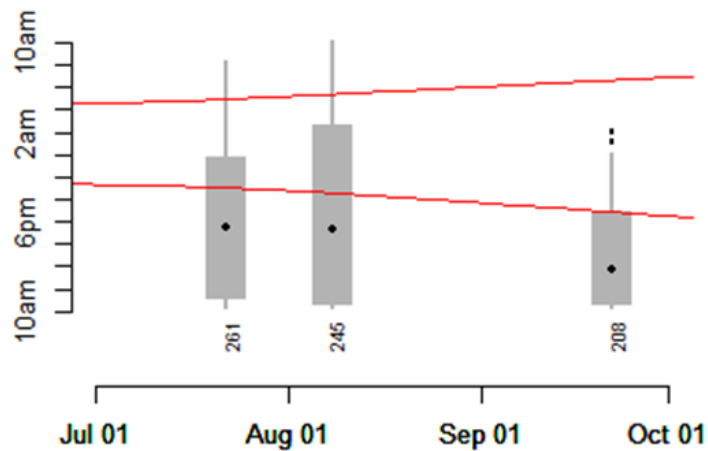


Detectors recording over the day and night

Short-winged Conehead



Roesel's bush-cricket

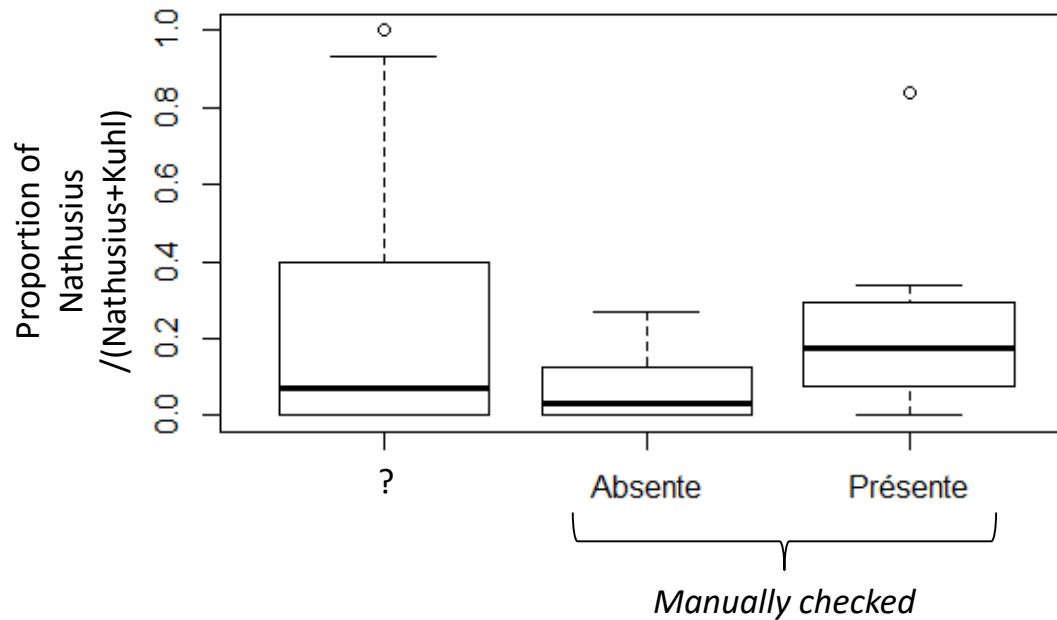


Limits of the "auto id"

- Solution: looking at other « auto id » results on the same location

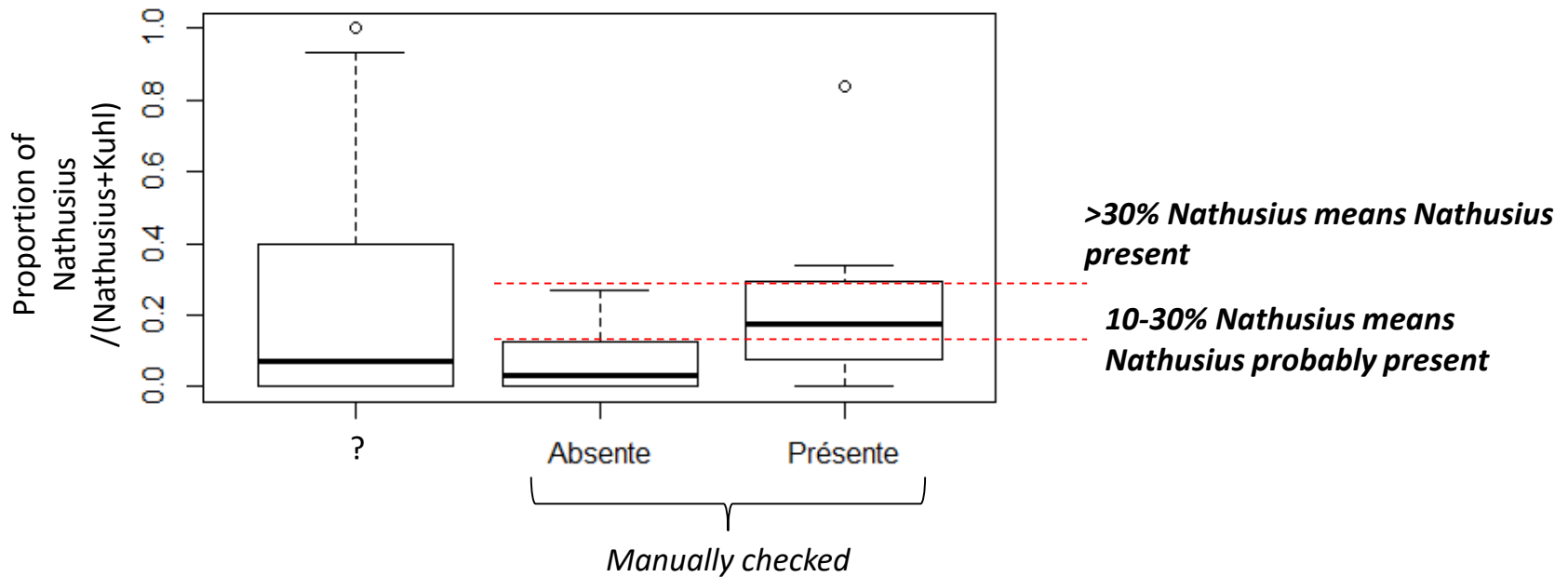
Limits of the "auto id"

- Solution: looking at other « auto id » results on the same location
 - 1) Rate of Nathusius' positive id among « Kuhl's + Nathusius' »



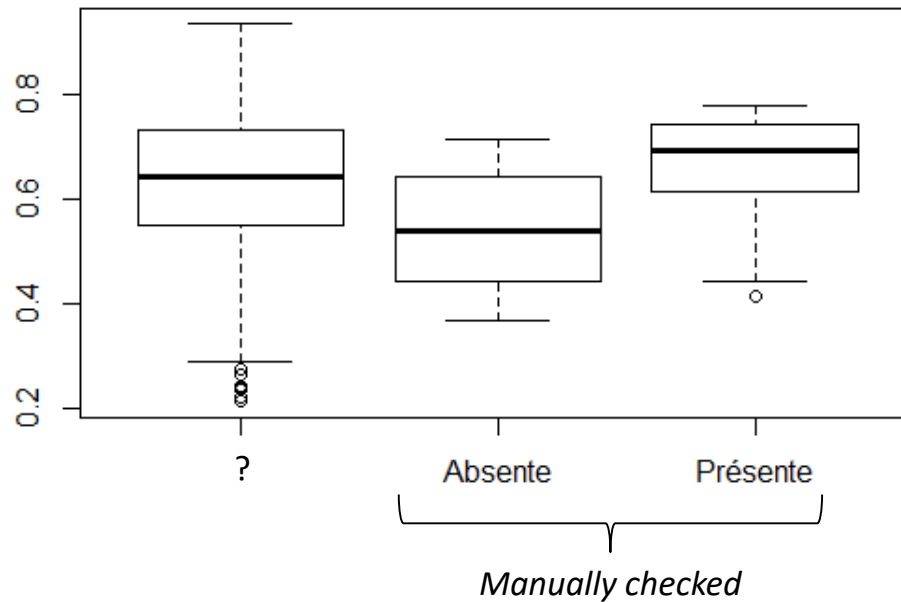
Limits of the "auto id"

- Solution: looking at other « auto id » results on the same location
 - 1) Rate of Nathusius' positive id among « Kuhl's + Nathusius' »



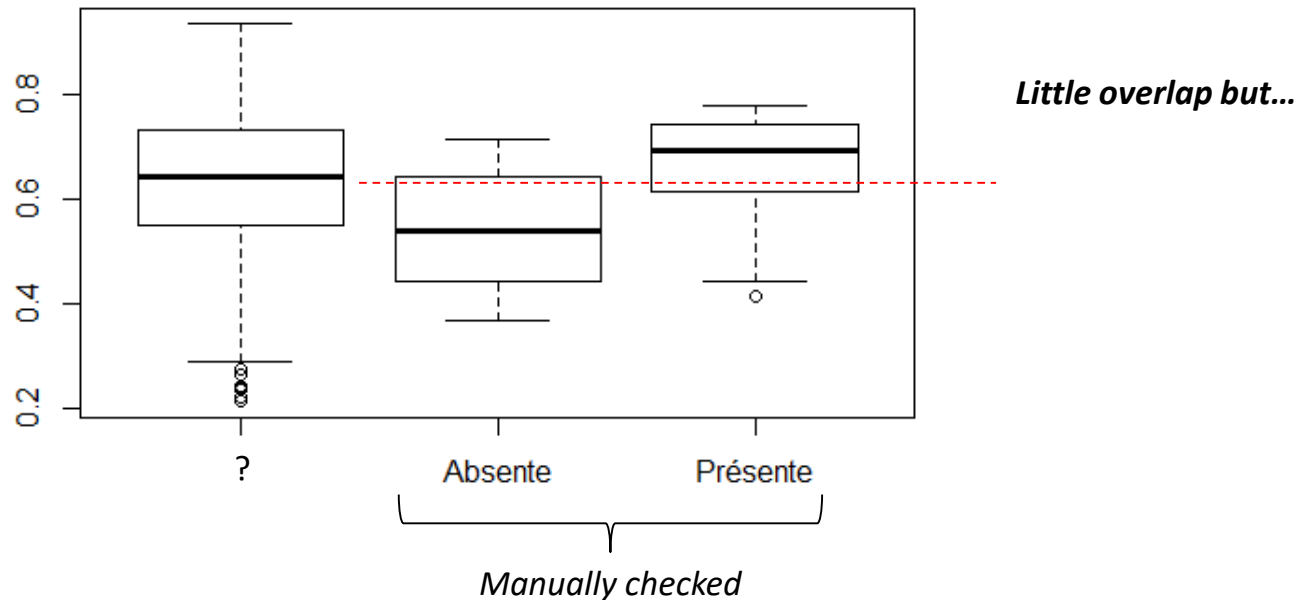
Limits of the "auto id"

- Solution: looking at other « auto id » results on the same location
2) **Maximum random forest score among Nathusius' positive id**



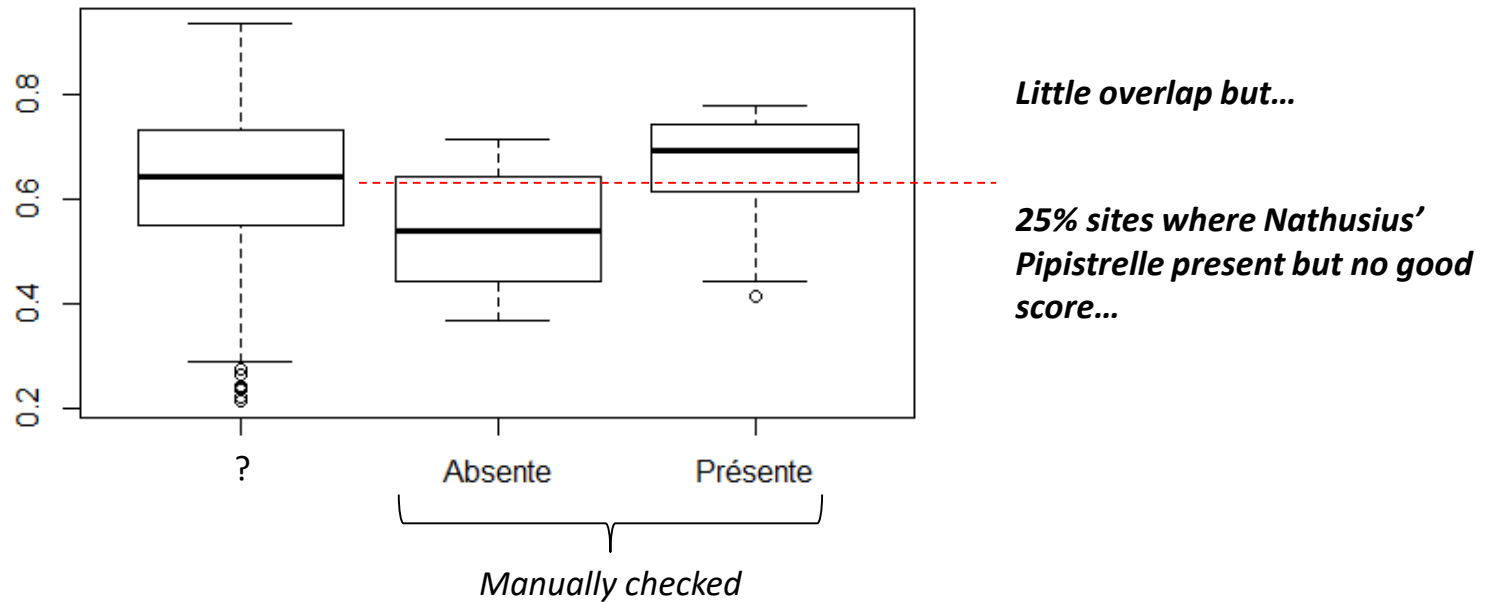
Limits of the "auto id"

- Solution: looking at other « auto id » results on the same location
2) **Maximum random forest score among Nathusius' positive id**



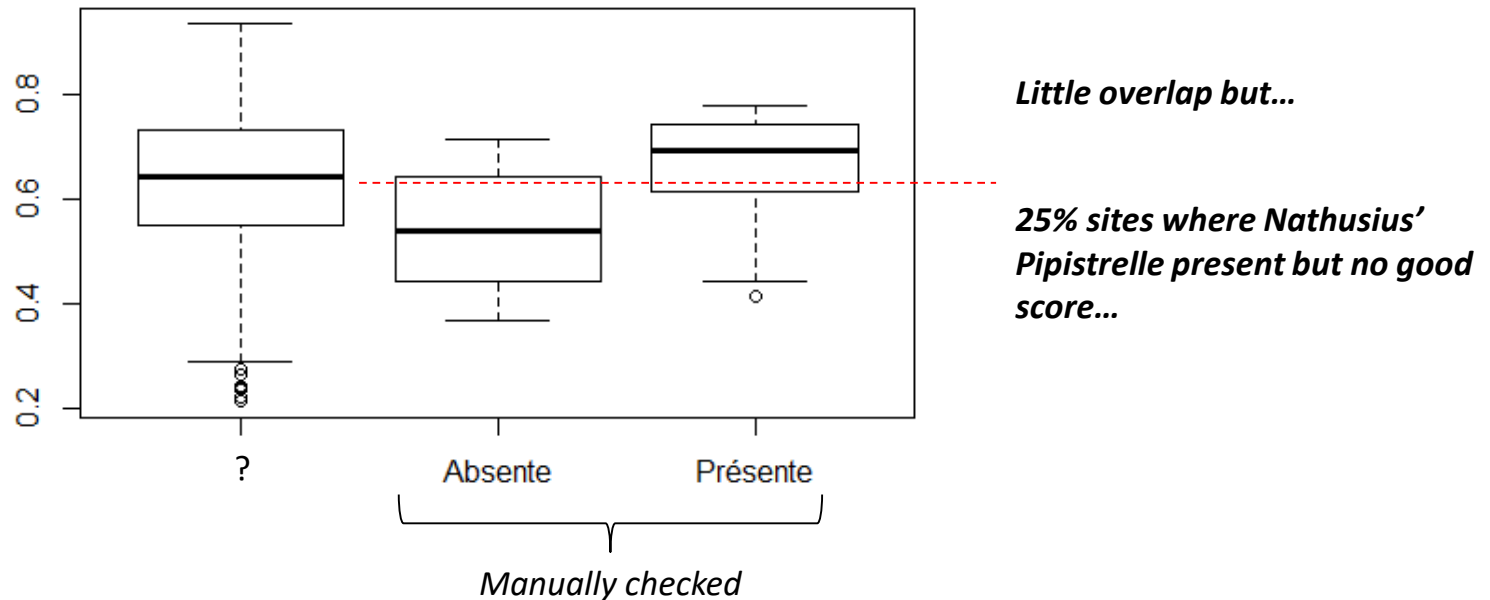
Limits of the "auto id"

- Solution: looking at other « auto id » results on the same location
- 2) Maximum random forest score among Nathusius' positive id



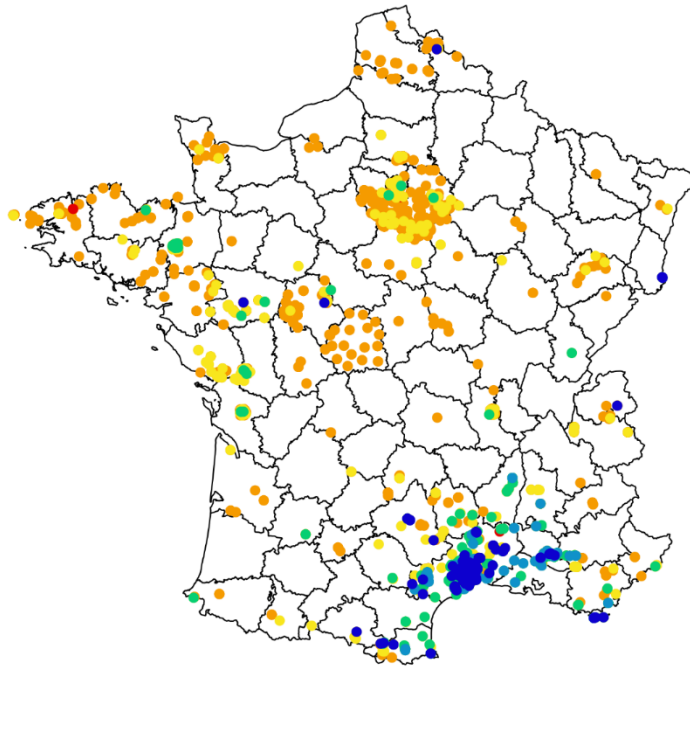
Limits of the "auto id"

- Solution: looking at other « auto id » results on the same location
2) Maximum random forest score among Nathusius' positive id



More complex modelling in progress: integrating features measured at several temporal scale (call sequence, minute, hour, night, etc) = 2nd layer of classification

Pipistrelle soprane : présence-absence

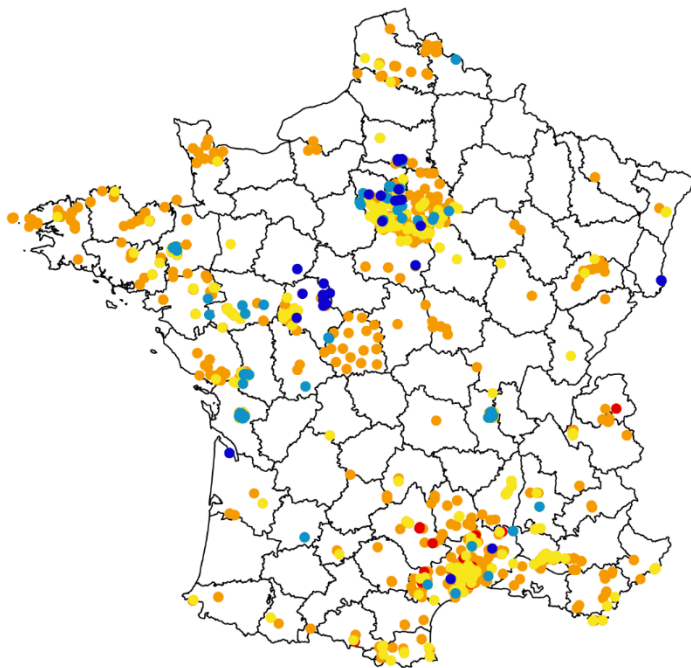


**Nombreux faux positifs dans le Nord,
mais la plupart peuvent être
discriminés par un score faible**

Légende

- Présence vérifiée manuellement
- Présence très probable ($p > 0.97$)
- Présence probable ($p > 0.9$)
- Présence à vérifier ($0.55 < p < 0.8$)
- Absence probable (non détectée ou $p < 0.55$)
- Absence vérifiée manuellement

Noctule commune : présence-absence



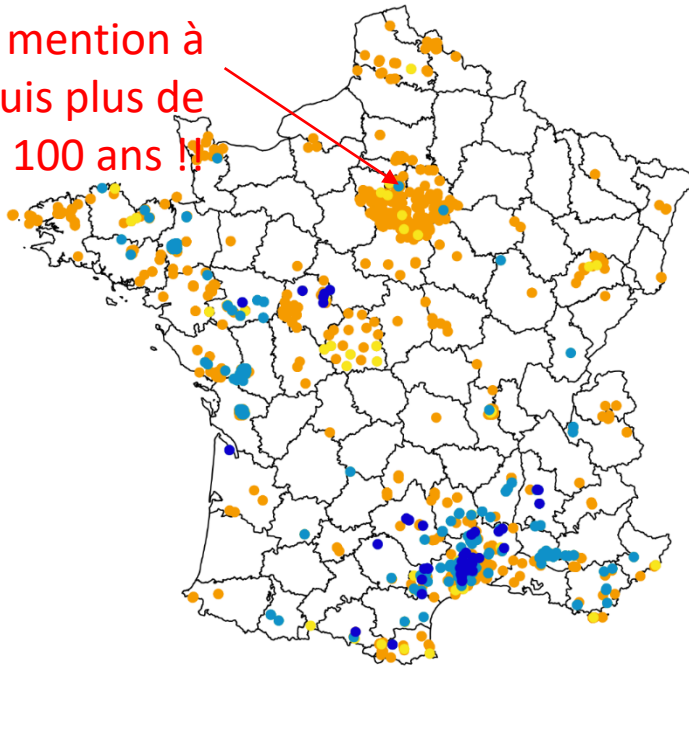
La plupart des faux positifs peuvent être discriminés par un score faible

Légende

- Présence vérifiée manuellement
- Présence très probable ($p > 0.75$)
- Présence à vérifier ($0.4 < p < 0.75$)
- Absence probable (non détectée ou $p < 0.4$)
- Absence vérifiée manuellement

Petit Rhinolophe : présence-absence

1ere mention à
Paris depuis plus de
100 ans !!



La plupart des faux positifs peuvent être discriminés par un score faible

Légende

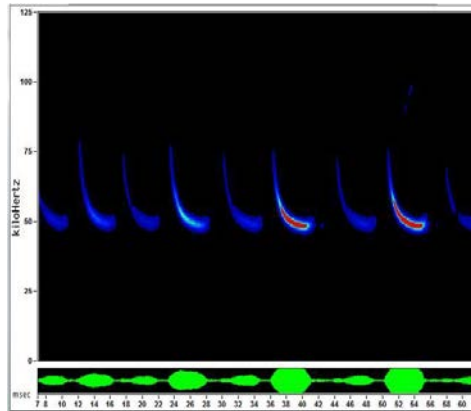
- Présence vérifiée manuellement
- Présence très probable ($p > 0.5$)
- Présence à vérifier ($p < 0.5$)
- Absence probable (non détectée)
- Absence vérifiée manuellement

Data collection, analysis, feedback pipeline



Data collection

Data transfer



Data processing



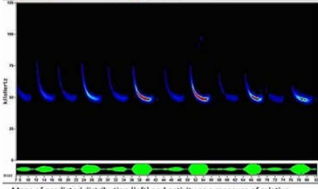
Data storage



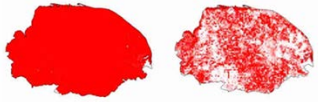
Common pipistrelle—peak frequency about 45 kHz

The Common Pipistrelle is the most common and widespread of British bat species. They appear fast and jerky in flight as they dodge about pursuing small insects which the bats catch and eat on the wing. A single Common Pipistrelle can consume up to 3,000 insects in a night.

Photo credit: Arno Lauen



Maps of predicted distribution (left) and activity as a measure of relative abundance (right)

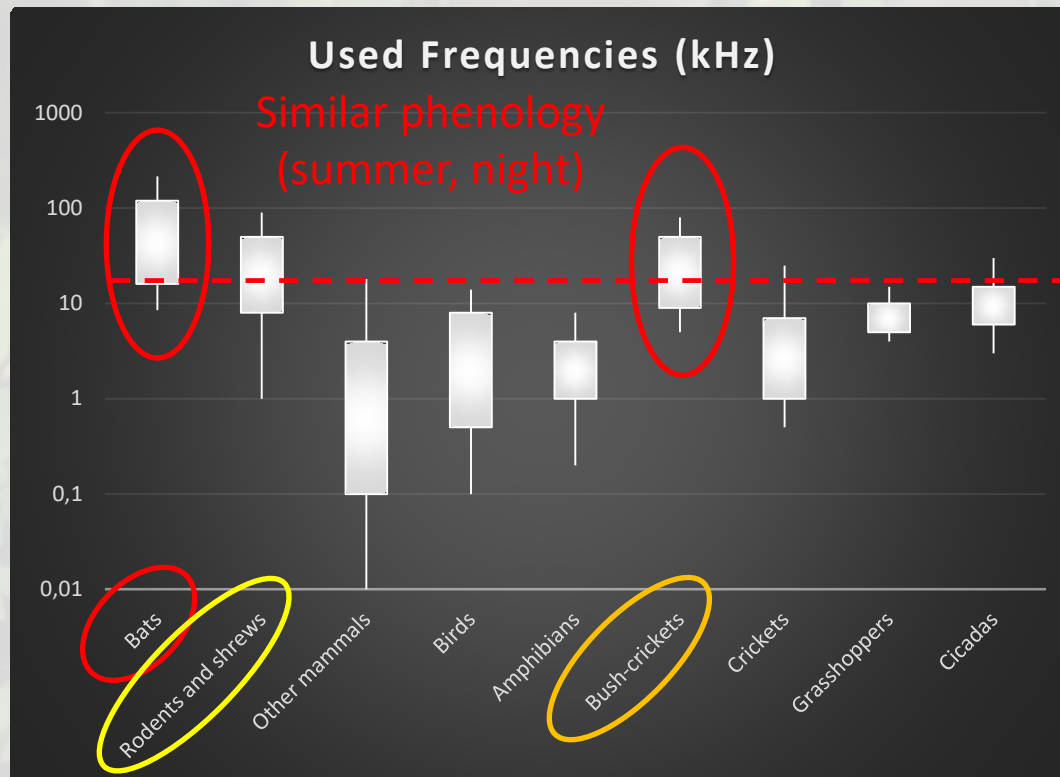


Taken from Neason et al. (2015) and derived from data collected by volunteers through the Norfolk Bat Survey (www.batsurveys.org)

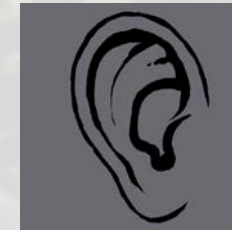
Feedback

Auto Id: for what purpose?

Main acoustically active groups (long range)



Inaudible



or

