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Species selection and the spatial distribution of diversity

Leonel Herrera Alsina

- 1) Larger colonization rate does not lead to increased range size. *Chapter 1*
- 2) If one is to find as many species as possible, it is better to visit a small area with high heterogeneity than vice versa. Birdwatchers already knew that. *Chapter 1 proves it.*
- 3) “Shoot all the bluejays you want, if you can hit them, but remember it is a sin to kill a mockingbird” is a case of species selection. *Harper Lee, To Kill a Mockingbird (1960)*
- 4) The change of a trait state can modify the pace of speciation while being unrelated to speciation. *Chapter 3*
- 5) Differences in species can cause species selection, but species selection does not necessarily entail differences in species. *This thesis*
- 6) Comparing contrasting hypotheses by fitting models to data is useful to describe empirical patterns but to explain and understand them, one can only rely on speculation. It had better be educated speculation. *This thesis*
- 7) The ecological importance of a trait does not necessarily determine its macro-evolutionary significance. *Synthesis*
- 8) One learns the most from nonsense. *This thesis*
- 9) A newborn comes with great potential regardless of the name given at baptism, which is meant to be remembered. The same is true for a new model. *Chapter 2*