

## What do alligators eat on golf courses?

E. R. Beal and A. E. Rosenblatt  
University of North Florida

### Intro:

- Urbanization is an ever-increasing threat to wildlife and their habitats
- no previous study has been performed investigating crocodylians in a mainly urban setting

### Methods:

- captured alligators on Jekyll Island, GA golf courses
- used the hose-Heimlich technique to collect gut content samples
- compared golf course diets to alligators sampled on lesser developed Sapelo Island, GA
  - % index of relative importance (%IRI)
  - analysis of similarity (ANOSIM)
  - non-metric multidimensional scaling (NMDS)
  - simplified Morisita index (CH)

### Results:

- Collected stomach contents from 25 alligators on Jekyll Island (compared to 93 Sapelo alligators)
- %IRI values show possible diet shifts (Figure 1)
- no statistical difference found ( $p=0.15$ ;  $C_H = 0.71$ )



Alligators in human dominated areas appear to shift their prey consumption patterns relative to less disturbed habitats, but further study is needed to confirm our findings

## Supplementary Figures

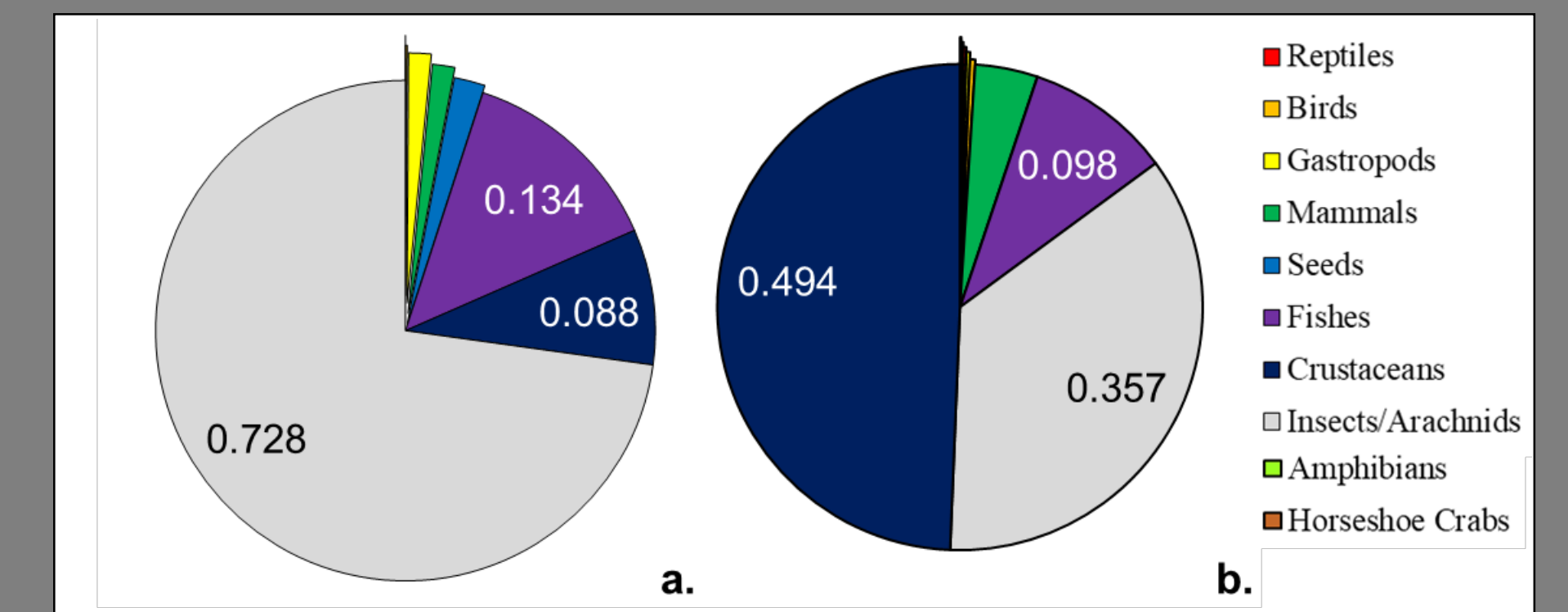


Figure 1: %IRI values for prey item categories found in Jekyll Island golf course alligators (a) and Sapelo Island alligators (b). ANOSIM, NMDS, and simplified Morisita index values reveal no statistical differences

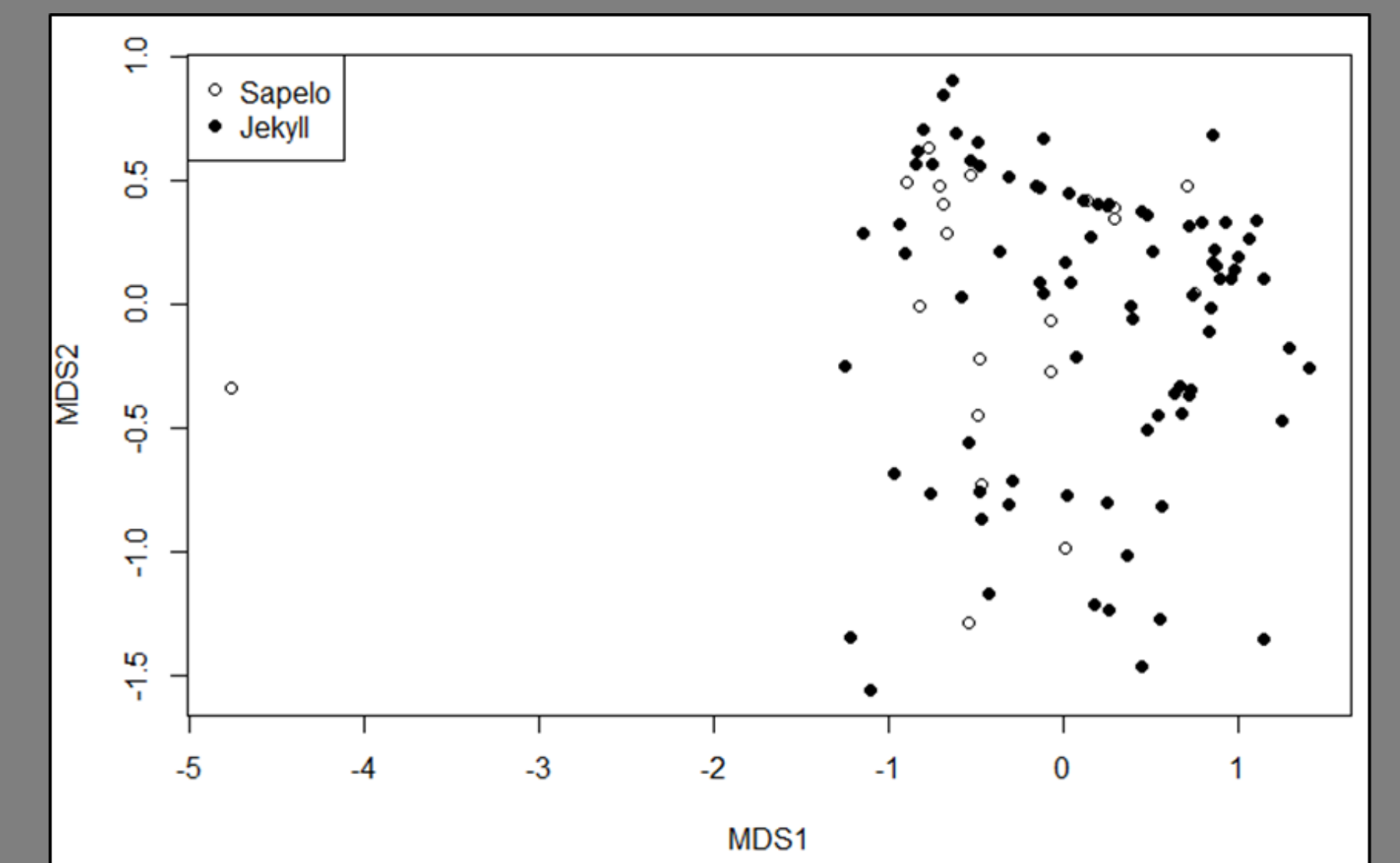


Figure 2: NMDS plot visualizing high overlap in prey category %IRI values for all prey groups found in Jekyll Island golf course alligators and Sapelo Island alligators.

