# **Multiple Processes Generate Productivity-Diversity**

# **2 Relationships in Experimental Wood-Fall**

### 3 Communities

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### **Abstract**

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2 Energy availability has long been recognized as a predictor of community structure, and 3 changes in both terrestrial and marine productivity under climate change necessitate a deeper 4 understanding of this relationship. The productivity-diversity relationship (PDR) is well explored 5 in both empirical and theoretical work in ecology, but numerous questions remain. Here, we test 6 four different theories for PDRs (More-Individuals Hypothesis, Resource-Ratio Theory, More 7 Specialization Theory, and the Connectivity-Diversity Hypothesis) with experimental deep-sea 8 wood falls. We manipulated productivity by altering wood-fall sizes and measured responses 9 after 5 and 7 years. In November 2006, 36 Acacia sp. logs were deployed at 3203m in the 10 Northeast Pacific Ocean (Station Deadwood: 36.154098° N, 122.40852° W). Overall, we found a 11 significant increase in diversity with increased wood-fall size for these communities. Increases 12 in diversity with wood-fall size occurred because of the addition of rare species and increases of 13 overall abundance, although individual species responses varied. We also found that limited 14 dispersal helped maintain the positive PDR relationship. Our experiment suggests that multiple 15 interacting mechanisms influence PDRs.

**Keywords:** diversity, productivity, energy, deep sea, resource availability, connectivity

### Introduction

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2 Energy availability is historically recognized as a predictor of community structure 3 (Wallace 1878) and changes in terrestrial and marine productivity under climate change 4 necessitate a deeper understanding of this relationship. Recent research indicates that oceanic 5 production, as indexed by phytoplankton standing stock, declined at a rate of 1% of the global 6 median per year (Boyce et al. 2010). Regional-scale changes were more heterogeneous, with the 7 equatorial Pacific productivity declining by 50% over the last decade and polar regions 8 increasing by a comparable magnitude (Behrenfeld et al. 2006). Clearly, a more complete 9 understanding of energetics will enable greater understanding and predictive power for the 10 consequences of current and forthcoming climate change. 11 How productivity determines biological diversity in an area, the productivity-diversity 12 relationship (PDR), is well explored in ecology (Rosenzweig and Abramsky 1993, Chase and 13 Ryberg 2004) but numerous questions remain including the relationships very existence, shape, 14 and scale dependence (Waide et al. 1999, Mittelbach et al. 2001, Chase and Leibold 2002, 15 Cusens et al. 2012). Ecologists have proposed a variety of hypotheses to explain PDRs. These 16 individual hypotheses predict positive, negative (or at least the negative part of the concave 17 down unimodal PDR), and unimodal PDRs (Rosenzweig and Abramsky 1993, Waide et al. 18 1999). Here we examine four major mechanisms for PDRs 1) More-Individuals Hypothesis, 2) 19 Resource-Ratio Hypothesis, 3) Niche Position Hypothesis, and 4) Connectivity Hypothesis 20 (Table 1), while recognizing that other potential mechanisms may exist requiring further 21 examination, e.g. the one more trophic level hypothesis (Post 2002) and the competitive 22 exclusion model to predict negative PDRs (Rosenzweig and Abramsky 1993).

Wright (1983) and Wright et al. (1993) proposed that a positive linear PDR emerges
because productivity influences population size (the More-Individuals Hypothesis of (Srivastava and Lawton 1998)). Low productivity reduces population sizes and increases risk of stochastic extinction (Wright et al. 1993, Srivastava and Lawton 1998). As productivity and population sizes increase, Allee effects are reduced and local coexistence increases (Wright et al. 1993, Srivastava and Lawton 1998). This theory predicts a monotonically increasing PDR and a positive relationship between energy and abundance as well as between abundance and diversity.

Tilman (1982) proposed the Resource Ratio Theory to predict the concave down, unimodal PDR. With high levels of one resource (e.g. productivity) another resource will be limiting. No single species can be competitively dominant at all resource ratios, i.e. species have trade-offs in the capture or utilization efficiency for different resources. When resources are balanced, e.g. intermediate productivities, species adapted to both ends of the spectrum, can coexist because neither is competitively superior.

The More Specialization Theory (Schoener 1976, DeAngelis 1994) or Niche Position Hypothesis (Evans et al. 1999, Evans et al. 2005) predicts a positive linear PDR. A minimum amount of resource is needed to support specialist species. At low productivity some resources are too rare to support these species. At high productivities, specialization is allowable and prevents competitive exclusion (Schoener 1976, DeAngelis 1994). Increased energy may also increase the amount of preferred resource, and species may decrease their consumption of less optimal resources. This would reduce niche breadth in high energy areas and allow for greater coexistence, e.g. Niche Width Hypothesis (Evans et al. 1999).

1 Lastly, Chase and Ryberg (2004), based on work in freshwater ponds, proposed PDRs are

2 scale dependent and reliant upon connectivity among sites. When connectivity is weak, positive

linear PDRs emerge with strong compositional differences among sites. As connectivity

strengthens, low productivity-low diversity sites acquire species from high productivity-high

diversity sites. This effect minimizes compositional differences and weakens the PDR

relationship.

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Empirical research offers mixed support for each of these theories. Linear positive relationships for some taxa across natural energy gradients support the Species-Energy Theory (Kaspari et al. 2000, Hurlbert 2004, Evans et al. 2006, Mönkkönen et al. 2006). Yet, tests for More Individuals Hypothesis in experimental systems are mixed (Srivastava and Lawton 1998, Hurlbert 2006, Yee and Juliano 2007, McGlynn et al. 2010). The relationship between density and species richness is mostly supported (Kaspari et al. 2000, Hurlbert 2004, Evans et al. 2006, Hurlbert 2006, Mönkkönen et al. 2006, McGlynn et al. 2010) but often more complex than the simple mechanism of the More-Individuals Hypothesis and influence by factors such as disturbance, variability in productivity, and area (Hurlbert 2004, Evans et al. 2006, Mönkkönen et al. 2006, Yee and Juliano 2007, McGlynn et al. 2010). The Resource-Ratio Theory is met with support in terrestrial plants, marine phytoplankton, and aquatic phytoplankton (Tilman and Wedin 1991, McKane et al. 2002, Venterink et al. 2008). In contrast, experimental nutrient enrichment of microbial fungal assemblages lead to increases not decreases of diversity, even while species composition changed (Kerekes et al. 2013). Many studies on animal communities also report concave down, unimodal PDRs but it remains unclear if these patterns are attributable to species tradeoffs with resource limitation or alternative mechanisms (Abramsky and

- 1 Rosenzweig 1984). Tests of the Niche Position Hypothesis are rare but provide support. In ants
- and lake fish, specialist species only occur at higher productivity levels (Kaspari 2001, Mason et
- al. 2008). In contrast, British breeding avifauna, despite exhibiting a positive species-energy
- 4 relationship, show no evidence of increased numbers of specialists at higher energy levels (Evans
- 5 et al. 2005). Yet at global scales, increased richness is associated with increased specialization
- 6 for birds (Belmaker et al. 2012).

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Studying the effects of energy on community structure is often difficult because determinants of available energy in natural systems are diverse and often unidentifiable (Arim et al. 2007). However, microcosm experiments conducted for terrestrial and freshwater systems (Srivastava and Lawton 1998, Hurlbert 2006, Chase 2010) have yielded substantial insights into energetic community assembly. Here, we examine productivity-diversity relationships in experimental deep-sea wood falls. Wood is transported to the oceans via rivers, and after drifting and becoming saturated with water, eventually sinks to the ocean floor. On the deep-sea floor, wood falls develop largely endemic and highly diverse communities consisting of wood and sulfide obligates, and predators upon them (Voight 2007, McClain and Barry 2014). Wood-fall communities in the deep sea are an ideal system for testing hypotheses about community assembly and energetic theory for four reasons. With deep-sea wood falls we can precisely control the total amount of energy available to the community, i.e. the size of the wood fall. Second, deep-sea wood falls host an almost completely endemic and diverse fauna covering a broad taxonomic composition, e.g. bivalves, gastropods, polyplacophorans, polychaetes, tanaids, limnorid isopods, amphipods, galatheids, ophiuroids, asteroids. The endemicity of wood falls reflects an energetic link to wood falls because specific nutritional requirement for wood

1 (xylophagy), a requirement for sulfur produced at the wood fall, or predator specificity for a 2 wood-fall endemic species. Species located on wood falls are not typically hard substrate 3 specialists found on rocky habitats nearby (McClain et al. 2009, McClain et al. 2010). Third, 4 wood falls provide discrete habitat boundaries for the community that allow for the easy 5 quantification of abundance and diversity. This discrete community is also easily collected, 6 allowing the entire community to be sampled and quantified (Voight 2007, McClain and Barry 7 2014). In addition, wood falls in the deep sea, especially at the depths investigated here, are also 8 energetically isolated from the surrounding deep sea. Wood falls represent orders of magnitude 9 greater carbon delivery than that of the surrounding sediment. These wood-endemic species 10 receive little to no nutrition from the rain of organic debris upon which other deep-sea benthic 11 animals rely. Prior work has shown that wood falls exhibit varying communities over time 12 (McClain and Barry 2014). Moreover, at initial stages recruitment may primarily occur from a 13 regional pool. As wood-fall communities become mature with self-sustaining populations, 14 connectivity between nearby experimental wood falls may increase allowing specifically for

Ecological experiments are rare in the deep ocean due to the logistical and financial constraints of repeated sampling and manipulation kilometers below the ocean surface. Despite these difficulties, deep-sea experimental ecology has significantly increased our understanding of this environment and contributed overall to our understanding of ecological processes at energetic extremes (Snelgrove et al. 1992, Voight 2007). Using experimental deep-sea wood falls, we specifically test four hypotheses about mechanisms underlying PDRs (Table 1) relating differences in energy availability to diversity and community assembly. We quantified wood-

testing for the Connectivity Hypothesis (Chase and Ryberg 2004).

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- fall communities at two time intervals, 5 years and 7 years, to examine how productivity-
- 2 diversity relationships change with time.

### Methods

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4 Sampling and collection

5 In November 2006, 36 Acacia sp. logs were deployed at 3203 m in the Northeast Pacific 6 Ocean (Station Deadwood: 36.154098° N, 122.40852° W). The Acacia logs ranged in size from 7 0.6 to 20.6 kg and correspond to different level of energy available to the invertebrate 8 communities assembling on wood falls. Each log was sewn into a synthetic fiber mesh bag (5 9 mm mesh, large mesh size ensured larval settlement was not hindered). Mesh bags allowed for collection at the end of the experiment of highly degraded wood falls (Voight 2007). Wood falls 10 were dispersed over a ~160m<sup>2</sup> area with ~5 meters between wood falls in 4 rows 10 m apart from 11 12 one another. Eighteen Acacia logs were collected in October 2011 (Set 1, 5 years). The

additional 18 Acacia logs were collected in October 2013 (Set 2, 7 years).

Logs were deployed and collected with the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute's Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) *Doc Ricketts* aboard the RV *Western Flyer*. Logs were placed into 300 µm mesh bags with sealable closing lids during ROV retrieval, ensuring no loss of individuals and/or cross contamination among different samples. All specimens were picked from wood, preserved in either 95% ethanol or formalin. All of the taxa were identified to the species level except *Actinaria* spp. Species names were assigned to all taxa were possible. For each wood fall, we recorded the initial weight (kg), location, and surface area (m²). Additionally,

- 1 the experimental site was observed annually and HD video taken of each wood fall. Species and
- 2 wood-fall data are available at <a href="https://datadryad.org/">https://datadryad.org/</a>

#### Analyses

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- Complete R scripts for the analyses are available at https://datadryad.org/. Linear fit
- 5 models were conducted with the R Package (2011) using the *lm* function. Multivariate analyses
- 6 were conducted in the R utilizing the *vegan* package (Oksanen et al. 2013).

#### Diversity

- 8 Linear relationships between log<sub>10</sub> wood-fall size (kg) and species richness, Shannon's
- 9 Diversity Index H', Simpson's Index, number of singletons, and the number of species with
- abundance less than 5 (a proxy for rarity) were examined. Model fits were conducted for the two
- sets separately and combined with the factor Set and the interaction term  $Set*log_{10}$  wood-fall
- 12 *size*.

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#### Abundance

- For each wood fall, log<sub>10</sub> abundance was quantified. Model fits were conducted for the
- 15 two sets separately and combined with the factor Set and the interaction term  $Set*log_{10}$  wood-
- 16 fall size. Additionally, the relationship between richness and log<sub>10</sub> abundance and wood-fall size
- was quantified.

#### Random Assembly

- 19 Simulations were also conducted in R. Random draws of individuals were taken from the
- total regional pool without replacement, i.e. combined abundances of species across all wood

- 1 falls. Empirical species richness values for wood falls were compared to the mean species
- 2 richness across permutations of this model.

#### Composition and Community Structure

Composition and community structural changes were examined through multivariate methods. As the data were proportional abundances, Bray-Curtis similarities were computed on the data. An MDS was conducted to visualize differences in community structure. A Constrained Analysis of Principal Coordinates (CAP) analysis, related to a Redundancy Analysis but allowing for non-Euclidean distances like Bray-Curtis, was used to analyze the effect of wood weight and set number.

We also decomposed  $\beta$ -diversity over the wood falls into two distinct components; species turnover and species loss leading to nestedness. The latter pattern being when smaller communities form ordered subsets of the species composition of larger communities (Baselga 2010, Brault et al. 2013). Specifically, we used the *betapart* package (Baselga et al. 2013) in R to decompose Sørensen's dissimilarity index  $\beta_{SØR}$  into dissimilarity due to turnover measured as Simpson's index  $\beta_{SIM}$  and a new index of dissimilarity due to species loss leading to nestedness  $\beta_{NES}$ . We computed dissimilarity between pairs of sites against the difference in depth for each pair (Baselga 2010). We used a Mantel test with 1,000 replicates (Pearson correlation) to assess whether the components of  $\beta$ -diversity changed among sites along the gradient of wood-fall sizes. Additionally we implemented the BINMATNEST in the *bipartite* package (Dorman et al. 2008) in R to test for nestedness among wood falls and the rank order of nestedness with wood-fall size.

# Results

2	A total of 13,024 individuals were assigned to 48 species. Species richness significantly
3	increased with increasing wood-fall size but only for Set 1 (Fig. 1A, Table 2). Set 2 also
4	contained significantly more species than Set 1 for a given wood-fall size particularly at smaller
5	wood-fall sizes (Fig. 1A, Tables 2, 3). Diversity, as measured as H' also increased with
6	increasing wood-fall size, but again only in Set 1 (Fig 1b, Tables 2, 3). Simpson's evenness
7	increased with increasing wood-fall size but was only significant in Set 1 (Fig. 1C, Tables 2, 3).
8	Larger wood falls also yielded more individuals equally on the two wood fall sets (Fig. 1D,
9	Tables 2, 3), though for the same wood-fall size more individuals were found on the older wood
10	fall Set 2.
11	No overall relationship existed among singletons and wood-fall size; however,
12	individually the two sets possessed contrasting relationships (Fig. 1E, Tables 2, 3). Set 1
13	exhibited no relationship while Set 2 exhibited a negative slope. Yet, for rare species, species
14	represented by less than five individuals on a wood fall (below the 50% percentile for
15	abundance), both sets exhibited increases in rare species with increasing wood-fall size (Fig. 1F,
16	Tables 2, 3). For a given size, Set 2 wood falls exhibited more rare species than Set 1.
17	Overall, richness increased with increasing abundance on individual wood falls (p=3.3e <sup>-</sup>
18	<sup>07</sup> , adjusted R <sup>2</sup> =0.65, Fig. 2). Although Set 2 wood falls showed slightly more species for a given
19	level of abundance, the relationship did not differ significantly between the different sets
20	(interaction p=0.92, set p=0.69). In a full model incorporating wood-fall size and abundance,
21	wood-fall size is not significant. AIC values were lower for the model with abundance only

1 (169.64) versus models with abundance and wood-fall size (171.03), or wood-fall size only (195.87).

- Compared to the expected number of species predicted from a random draw from the regional pool, both sets exhibited less species than predicted (Fig. 3A). The empirical slopes were also shallower than the 1:1 line indicating increasing larger wood falls gained species slower than expected from random sampling. Deviations from expected were greater in smaller wood falls. In Set 1, small wood falls contained less species than predicted, and in Set 2 more than predicted (Fig. 3B). Individual species did show varying changes in abundance with increasing wood-fall size between the two sets (Fig. 4).
- Considerable compositional and community structure differences were seen with changes in wood-fall size and among sets. A CAP analysis revealed that wood-fall size was a significant predictor of changes in both species presence/absence (p=0.0011) and abundances (p=0.0013) of species (Fig. 5). Several gastropod species, e.g. *Xyloskenea* sp. nov., *Provanna pacifica*, and *Provanna* sp. 1, reached peak abundances only on large wood falls (Fig. 6). The gastropod *Hyalogyra* sp. 1, the amphipod *Seba* sp., and numerous polychaetes, e.g. Opheliidae sp. A, also only occur on larger wood falls. Likewise, the presence/absence and proportional abundances of species differed among wood fall sets (p=0.0051 and 0.0046 respectively). Several species only occur on Set 2 such as the bivalves *Yoldiella* sp. 1, *Adontorhina lynnae*, and *Bathyarca frielei*. In some cases, species are ubiquitous on Set 2 but rare in Set 1 (e.g. Opheliidae sp. A and *Seba* sp.).

Set 1 exhibited significant patterns in  $\beta$ -diversity across wood-fall size (Fig. 7). Most of the pattern of  $\beta$ -diversity as measured by  $\beta_{SOR}$  (Mantel: r=0.3021, p=0.0050) was related to a significant pattern in  $\beta_{NES}$  (r=0.3546, p=0.0010) and not  $\beta_{SIM}$  (r=0.0193, p=0.3885). None of the

- 1 patterns of β-diversity with wood-fall size were significant for Set 2 (p=0.0939-0.4448). The
- 2 BINMATNEST yielded probabilities of p<0.0001 that Set 1 and 2 matrices were similar to null
- 3 random matrices suggesting considerable nestedness in each set. The nestedness pack order in
- 4 both sets was significantly related to wood-fall size (Fig. 7G, H).

## **Discussion**

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- Our experiment suggests that multiple interacting mechanisms influence the PDRs. We
- 7 find partial support for all four of hypotheses, More-Individuals Hypothesis, Resource-Ratio
- 8 Theory, More Specialization Theory, and the Connectivity-Diversity Hypothesis. In Set 1,
- 9 species richness, H', and Simpson's Index increased linearly with increased wood-fall size, and a
- presumed increased in energy availability (Fig. 1A). In many local scale studies (less than <20
- km), PDRs are often not present (Waide et al. 1999, Mittelbach et al. 2001). However, our
- finding of a linear positive PDR is in agreement with the fraction of local scale studies that
- exhibit significant PDRs (Waide et al. 1999, Mittelbach et al. 2001) and the prevalent pattern of
- positive PDRs in plant and animal studies (Gillman and Wright 2006, Cusens et al. 2012).
- However, our findings do contrast with aquatic invertebrate patterns that are concave down
- unimodal (Mittelbach et al. 2001).

### More-Individuals Hypothesis

- A variety of the observed patterns are consistent with More-Individuals Hypothesis
- 19 (Wright et al. 1993, Srivastava and Lawton 1998). First, small wood fall communities are nested
- within larger wood fall communities. At extreme low productivity, communities are often

1 impoverished subsets of larger communities (Brault et al. 2013). One hypothesis for this is low 2 productivity areas represent sink populations experiencing frequent Allee events (Wright et al. 3 1993, Srivastava and Lawton 1998, Rex et al. 2005) and should exhibit little endemism and 4 represent attenuations of higher productivity communities (Rex et al. 2005, Brault et al. 2013). 5 Second, consistent with the More-Individuals Hypothesis, abundance increases with increasing 6 wood-fall size (Fig. 1D) and is correlated with increases in diversity (Fig. 2). After accounting 7 for changes in abundance, wood-fall size is no longer a significant predictor of diversity. Third, 8 increases in abundance with time on Set 2 also result in increases in diversity (Figs. 1, 2). This 9 occurs despite an overall breakdown in the relationship between diversity and wood-fall size on 10 Set 2. Fourth, the number of singletons on small wood falls in Set 1 is exceptionally high, 11 indicating that many species may not be sustainable populations. Fifth, rare species should 12 exhibit stronger PDRs because they frequently experience localized extinctions at low levels of 13 productivity (Fig. 1F). More abundant species, buffered against localized extinction, should 14 exhibit weaker PDRs. However, the More-Individuals Hypothesis predicts that all species should 15 have positive slopes between abundance and productivity, a prediction not supported among 16 wood falls (Fig. 4). 17 The relationship between species-area and species-energy relationships has received 18

attention in the literature (Storch et al. 2005, Hurlbert 2006, Hurlbert and Jetz 2010). In the experiments here increasing wood fall size increases both energy availability and area. Increases in species richness with increasing area are posited to potentially reflect three different mechanisms: sampling effort; increases in habitat diversity; dynamic equilibrium between speciation, extinction, and extinction (Hurlbert 2006). Increases in habitat diversity with

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- 1 increasing wood fall size are difficult to envision given the spatial scale of individual treatments
- 2 in the experiment. Likewise, the short temporal timespan of minimize the long-term
- 3 evolutionary dynamics of speciation and extinction.

Larger areas inherently contain larger number of individuals. However, increases in abundance must require increases in local food supply, as each new individual into the community has a metabolic demand. Indeed, Wright (1983) notes that species energy is a special case of more general species-energy relationship. More recently experiments have confirmed that abundance and species richness depends on the total quantity of resource available, regardless of whether the resources are spread over small or large areas (Hurlbert 2006). "These results support the view that energetic constraints are of fundamental importance in structuring ecological communities, and that such constraints may even help explain ecological patterns such as the species—area relationship" (Hurlbert 2006).

The relationships between abundance and wood fall size may simply reflect a sampling effect, i.e. larger wood falls may provide more area and receive a greater number of larval recruits from the regional pool (Evans et al. 2008). Our randomizations drawing individuals at random from the regional pool, however, exhibit a fundamentally different relationship from the empirical patterns. Specifically, randomizations always overpredict the number of species that should occur on any woodfall. The rate of increase in richness with increasing wood-fall was also less than predicted. This overestimation of species richness arises because the model assumes homogenous spatial distributions (Evans et al. 2008). The species in the study show much more aggregated distributions and do not occur across all wood falls with equal

1 probability. This suggests the species here possess specific habitat requirements, e.g. wood fall

2 size.

#### Resource-Ratio Theory

We find that species turnover over the productivity gradient is not related strictly to compositional shifts but rather due to species loss, i.e. nestedness (Figs. 7). Smaller wood falls often possess mere subsets of the richer communities on larger wood falls. Indeed the nestedness packing order strongly correlates with wood-fall size (Fig. 7G). In part this may support the Resource Ratio Hypothesis (Tilman 1982, Tilman 2004). When resources are balanced at intermediate productivities, species adapted to both ends of the spectrum can coexist because neither is competitively superior. This would suggest that communities at high and low productivities would be a nested subset of intermediate productivity communities. If our largest wood falls represent only an intermediate productivity, then our findings support this hypothesis. However, it is clear that the largest wood falls have reached asymptotic richness (Fig. 3). Further increases in wood-fall size would likely not yield substantially more species, suggesting we have captured the full productivity gradient.

### More Specialization Theory

Additional energy may elevate the amount of rare resources, allowing rare or absent niche-specialists to become abundant and raise overall community diversity, e.g. Niche Position Hypothesis (Evans et al. 1999, Evans et al. 2005). At high productivities, greater specialization is allowable and prevents competitive exclusion (Schoener 1976, DeAngelis 1994). Interestingly, the number of rare species increases with wood-fall size (Fig. 1F). Much of the increases of

- diversity with wood-fall size seem to stem from the addition of these species (Fig. 1). If rare
- 2 species are assumed to be more specialized this would support this hypothesis. However, this
- 3 results of increasing rare species with wood-fall size also corresponds, as note above, to the
- 4 More-Individuals Hypothesis. Abundance responses across wood-fall sizes are also not
- 5 equivalent among species (Fig. 4). This suggests processes beyond a basic More-Individuals
- 6 Hypothesis where strict positive increases in abundance might be expected among all species.

#### Connectivity-Diversity Hypothesis

Chase and Ryberg (2004) reported that positive linear relationships were greater when connectivity between sites was low, resulting in strong compositional differences between sites. This may explain the different patterns observed here between the two experimental sets. In Set 1, colonization of wood falls occurs mainly from the regional larval pool with little recruitment among the wood falls in the experiment itself. This low connectivity generates a strong positive, linear PDR, and as predicted, differences in species composition do exist among wood falls (Figs. 5,7). With increased time, the wood falls begin to generate reproducing populations that in turn seed nearby wood falls. This increased connectivity leads to a lack of compositional differences among wood falls (Figs. 5,7) in Set 2 and the loss of a significant PDR (Fig. 1B).

Major changes are seen in β-diversity across the gradient of wood-fall sizes (Fig. 7) similar to other studies (Chase and Ryberg 2004, Harrison et al. 2006, McClain et al. 2012). However, the patterns are absent or reduced in Set 2. Three possible mechanisms are proposed to account for compositional differences with productivity (Chase and Leibold 2002). One, environmental heterogeneity among sites increases with mean productivity (but see Harrison et al. 2006). Second, at higher levels of productivity more possible alternative stable states are

- 1 allowable. However, among our experimental wood falls, compositional differences appear to
- 2 be greater among small wood falls as opposed to large wood falls (Fig. 5,7) suggesting that there
- 3 is more heterogeneity at the lower end of the productivity gradient. Third, compositional
- 4 turnover rates may be higher at higher levels of productivity. Anecdotally, larger wood falls did
- 5 appear to transition through successional states more quickly (McClain and Barry 2014). Larger
- 6 wood falls also hit peak richness more quickly, i.e. maximum richness did not vary between Sets
- 7 1 and 2 at larger wood-fall sizes (Fig. 1A, B). In contrast, smaller wood falls differed
- 8 significantly in richness between Sets 1 and 2 suggesting turnover rates were indeed higher on
- 9 larger wood falls.

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### **Conclusions**

- Here, we test the underlying mechanisms for PDRs (Table 1) finding that multiple processes may lead increases in productivity causing increasing in diversity. A breakdown in this relationship with time may reflect increased connectivity between wood-fall communities (Connectivity Hypothesis). Major changes occurred in beta-diversity across the gradient of wood-fall sizes; in part this may be related to higher compositional turnover rates among larger wood falls. Compositionally, smaller wood falls were attenuations of larger wood falls (Resource-Ratio Theory). Diversity increases were concordant with increases in abundance with increasing wood-fall size. After accounting for changes in abundance, wood-fall size was no longer a significant predictor of diversity (More-Individuals Hypothesis). The number of singletons on smaller wood falls also was higher suggesting nonsustainable populations.
- However, the number of rare species seems to increase with wood-fall size and account the

- 1 increases in diversity (Niche Position Hypothesis). Overall, we find that increases of diversity
- with increasing productivity are a complex interplay of dispersal, population growth, and niche
- 3 dynamics. Future work will need to examine PDR hypotheses in unison and focus on the
- 4 interactions among them.

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- **Table 1:** Theories of productivity-diversity relationships, their predictions, and support for them
- 2 from this study.

Theory	Reference	Hypothesis/Prediction	Predictions	Results from this study	Figures
More-	Wright	Low productivity reduces	Positive	Abundance	Fig.
Individuals	(1983),	population sizes and	relationship	increases with	1A,
Hypothesis	Typothesis Wright et increases risk of stochastic		between energy and	wood fall size.	1D, 1F
	al. (1993),	extinction. As productivity	abundance, positive	Abundance and	2
	Srivastava	and population levels	relationship	diversity related	
	and	increase, Allee effects are	between abundance	across wood falls.	
	Lawton	reduced and local	and species	Number of	
	(1998)	coexistence increases	richness. Number	singletons on small	
			of singletons	wood falls higher.	
			increases at lower	After accounting	
			productivities	for changes in	
			suggesting	abundance, no	
			nonsustainable	effect of wood-fall	
			populations. Rarer	size on diversity.	
			species will exhibit		
			stronger species-		
			energy		
			relationships		
Resource	Tilman	With high levels of one	Concave down	Linear PDR	Fig.
Ratio Theory	(1982)	resource (e.g. productivity)	unimodal	observed.	5,7

	ı	T	Г	T	
		another resource will be	productivity-	Communities on	
		limiting. No single species	diversity	smaller wood falls	
		can be competitively	relationship.	(lower	
		dominant at all resource	Communities at	productivity)	
		ratios, i.e. species have trade-	ends of	represent nested	
		offs in the capture or	productivity	subsets of larger	
		utilization efficiency for	gradient represent	wood falls (higher	
		different resources. When	nested subsets of	productivities).	
		resources are balanced, e.g.	communities at		
		intermediate productivities,	intermediate		
		species adapted to both ends	productivities		
		of the spectrum, can coexist			
		because neither is			
		competitively superior.			
More	Schoener	A minimum amount of	Number of rare	Number of rare	Fig.
Specialization	(1976),	resource is needed to support	species increases	species increases	1F, 4, 7
Theory/Niche	DeAngelis	specialist species. At low	with increasing	with increased in	
Position	(1994),	productivity some resources	productivity.	wood-fall size.	
Hypothesis	Evane et al.	are too rare to support these	Abundance	Increases in	
	(1999,	species. At high	increases with	diversity with	
	2005)	productivities, greater	increasing	increasing wood-	
		specialization is allowable	productivity not	fall size correspond	
		and prevents competitive	equivalent among	to the addition of	
		exclusion	species.	these rare species.	
				Abundance	
				responses across	

				wood-fall sizes are not equivalent among species.	
Connectivity	Chase and	Scale-dependence in	Positive PDRs are	Increased	Fig.
Hypothesis	Ryberg	productivity-diversity	stronger when	connectivity in Set	1b, 5, 7
	(2004)	relationships depend on the	connectivity	2 corresponds with	
		degree of connectivity	between sites is	loss of PDR and	
		among localities within	low, resulting in	lack of	
		regions	strong	compositional	
			compositional	differences among	
			differences	wood falls.	

- **Table 2:** Model coefficients, p-values, and adjusted R<sup>2</sup> for wood-fall size (log<sub>10</sub> weight in
- 2 kilograms) and various dependent variables for experimental deep-sea wood falls. Significance
- 3 for coefficient: \*\*\* 0.001, \*\*, 0.01, and \* 0.05

Dependent	Intercept	Coefficient	Coefficient	Coefficient	Adjusted	p-value
		Log10 Weight	Set2	Interaction	$\mathbb{R}^2$	
Richness	5.2**	8.26***	10.24***	-7.00*	0.53	2.23E-05
Н'	1.11***	0.60*	0.57*	-0.58	0.18	3.67E-02
Simpsons	0.55***	0.20*	0.13	-0.16	0.11	9.92E-02
Abundance	1.56***	0.67**	0.89***	-0.41	0.48	7.26E-05
Singletons	1.78*	0.42	0.001**	0.02*	0.32	3.32E-03
Rare Species	0.95	5.73***	4.37*	-2.04	0.49	6.57E-05
Rarefaction	-3.94***	2.54*	245*	0.94***	0.70	3.77E-08
Residuals						

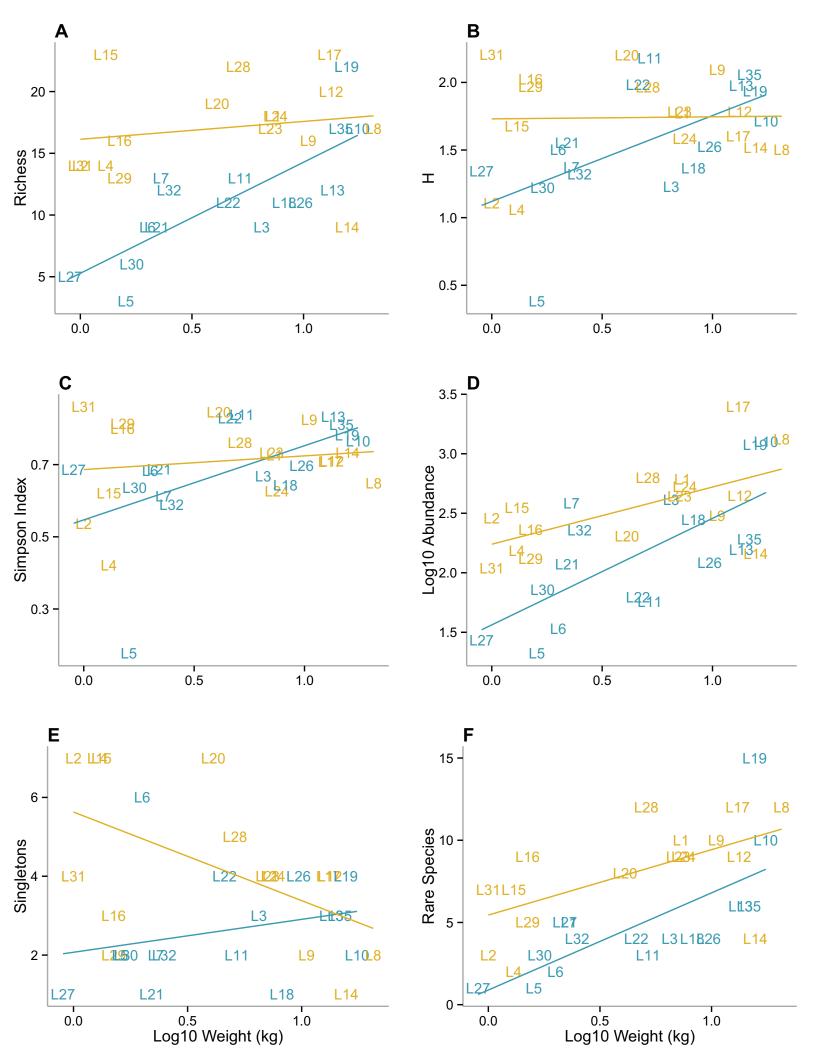
- **Table 3:** Model coefficients, p-values, and adjusted R<sup>2</sup> for wood-fall size (log<sub>10</sub> weight in
- 2 kilograms) and various dependent variables for Set 1 and Set 2 individually.

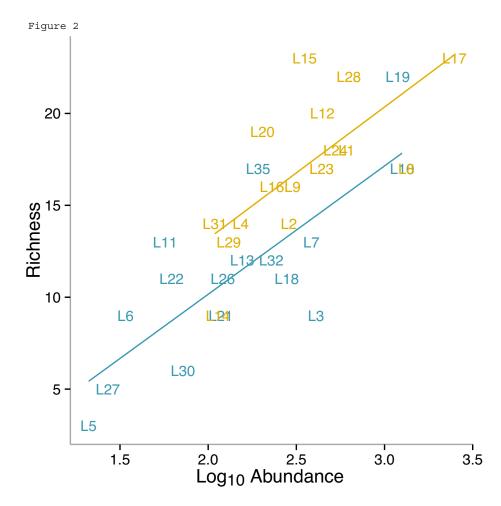
Dependent	Set	Intercept	Coefficient	Adjusted	p-value
•		•	Log10 Weight	$\mathbb{R}^2$	
Richness	1	5.20	8.26	0.55	0.0006
	2	15.44	1.20	-0.04	0.5430
Н'	1	1.12	0.60	0.29	0.0186
	2	1.69	0.02	-0.07	0.9133
Simpsons	1	0.55	0.20	0.23	0.0338
	2	0.68	0.04	-0.05	0.5724
Abundance	1	1.56	0.89	0.44	0.0031
	2	2.23	0.48	0.33	0.0112
Singletons	1	1.78	0.81	-0.01	0.3874
	2	5.53	-2.49	0.29	0.0183
Rare Species	1	0.95	5.73	0.43	0.0033
	2	5.32	3.69	0.33	0.0121
Rarefaction Residuals	1	-6.03	5.70	0.39	0.0054
	2	1.19	1.65	-0.03	0.4543

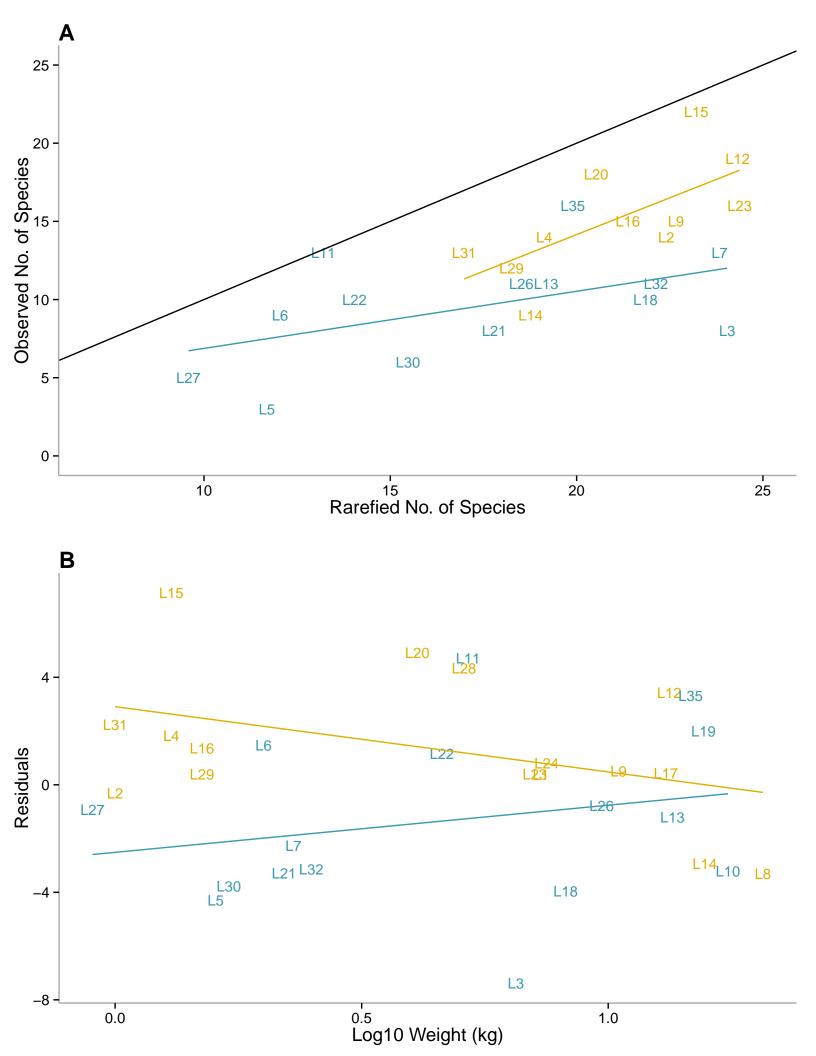
# Figure Legends

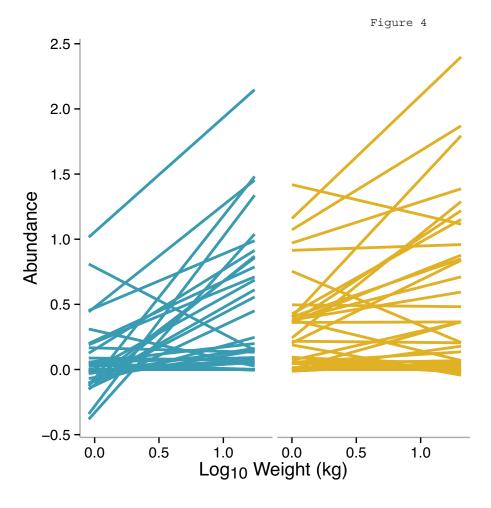
- Figure 1: Relationship between wood-fall size ( $log_{10}$  weight in kilograms) and species richness
- 3 (A), Shannon's Diversity Index H' (B), Simpson's Index (C), log<sub>10</sub> abundance (D), number of
- 4 singletons (E), and number of rare species (abundance less than five corresponding to a
- 5 percentile of 50%) (F). Numbers refer to wood fall identification number, e.g. L29. Blue refers to
- 6 Set 1 collected in October 2011 (5 years) and orange to Set 2 collected in October 2013 (7
- 7 years). Significant regression lines are also shown.
- 8 **Figure 2:** Relationship between log<sub>10</sub> abundance and species richness per wood fall. Blue refers
- 9 to Set 1 collected in October 2011 (5 years) and orange to Set 2 collected in October 2013 (7
- 10 years). Significant regression lines are also shown.
- 11 **Figure 3: A.** The number of species predicted from random draws from the regional pool versus
- the observed number of species per wood fall. Black line is y=x. **B.** Residuals of relationship of
- 13 A verses wood-fall size (log<sub>10</sub> weight in kilograms). Blue refers to Set 1 collected in October
- 14 2011 (5 years) and orange to Set 2 collected in October 2013 (7 years). Significant regression
- lines are also shown.
- Figure 4: Regression lines for abundance and wood-fall size ( $log_{10}$  weight in kilograms) for each
- individual species. Blue refers to Set 1 collected in October 2011 (5 years) and orange to Set 2
- 18 collected in October 2013 (7 years).
- 19 **Figure 5: A.** Non-metric multidimensional scaling plot based on arcsine-transformed
- abundances for wood fall communities. **B.** Non-metric multidimensional scaling plot based on
- 21 presence-absence for wood fall communities. Circles denote individual wood falls. Dashed lines

- 1 indicate direction of change in wood-fall size. Wood falls are linked together base on Sets. Blue
- 2 refers to Set 1 collected in October 2011 (5 years) and orange to Set 2 collected in October 2013
- 3 (7 years).
- 4 **Figure 6:** Violin plots for each species showing changes in abundance and presence/absence
- 5 changes with wood-fall size (log<sub>10</sub> weight in kilograms). Blue refers to Set 1 collected in October
- 6 2011 (5 years) and orange to Set 2 collected in October 2013 (7 years).
- 7 **Figure 7: A. and B.** Simpson's index  $\beta_{SIM}$  of dissimilarity due to turnover versus difference in
- 8 wood-fall size. **C. and D.** Dissimilarity due to species loss leading to nestedness  $\beta_{NES}$  verses
- 9 difference in wood-fall size. **E. and F.** Sørensen's dissimilarity index  $\beta_{SØR}$  versus difference in
- wood-fall size. **G. and H.** wood-fall size ( $\log_{10}$  weight in kilograms) versus nestedness pack
- order. Blue refers to Set 1 collected in October 2011 (5 years) and orange to Set 2 collected in
- October 2013 (7 years). Significant regression lines are also shown.









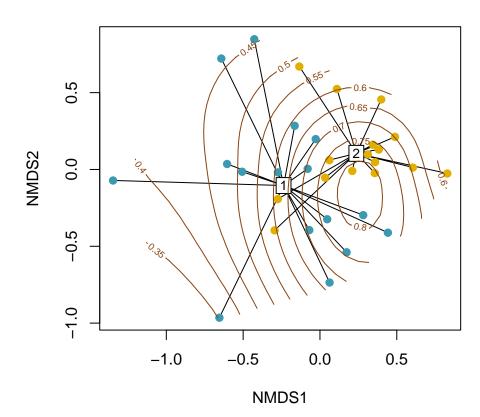


Figure 5b

