



**Soil Seed Bank Dynamics,  
Dispersal and Distribution  
*of Sclerocactus glaucus***

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# Funding and support

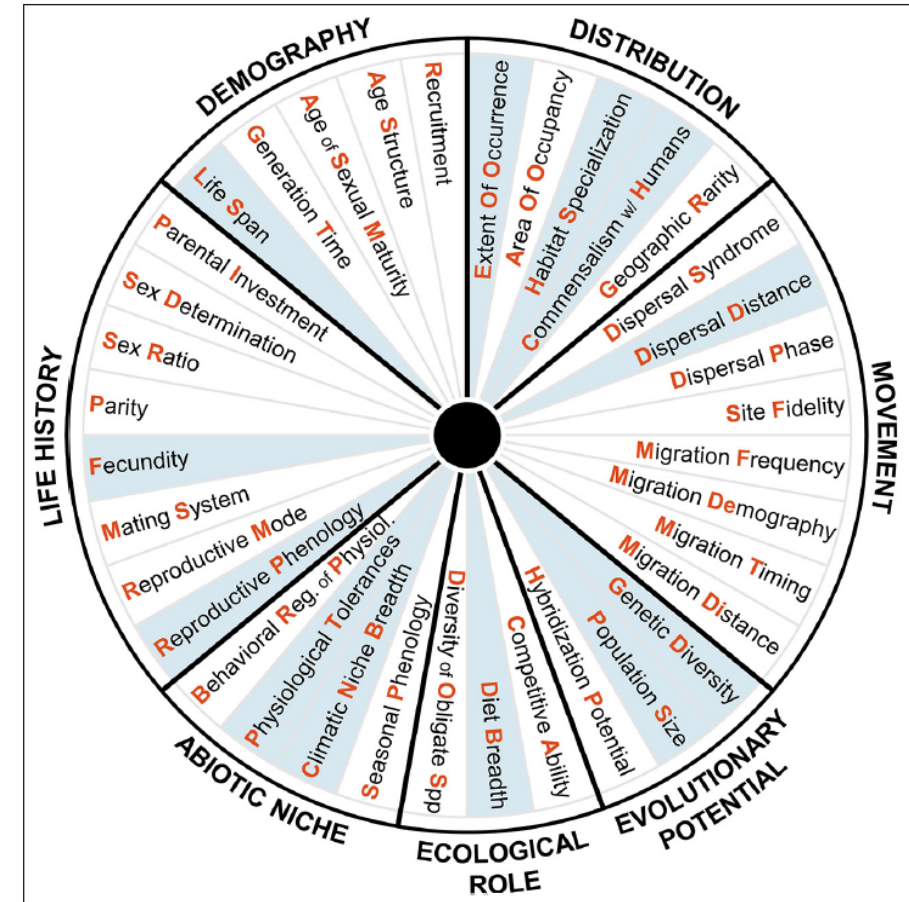
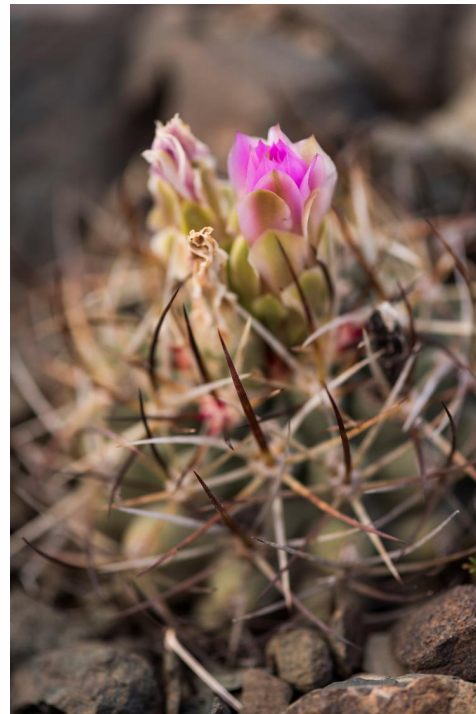
April LeBaron and Grace Gardner – Colorado Mesa University  
Alex Seglias and Beatrice Lincke – Denver Botanic Gardens  
Lee Cassin and Dave Tolen – Denver Botanic Gardens  
volunteers





# Study aims

- 1 Risk of extinction
- 2 Range and Population size



**Figure 1.** The adaptive capacity (AC) “wheel”, depicting 36 individual attributes organized by ecological complexes (or themes). Twelve core attributes, representing attributes of particular importance and for which data are widely available, are highlighted in light blue. Letters used in attribute abbreviations (which appear in Figures 4 and 5) are shown here in red font.



# Extinction Risk

- Population size

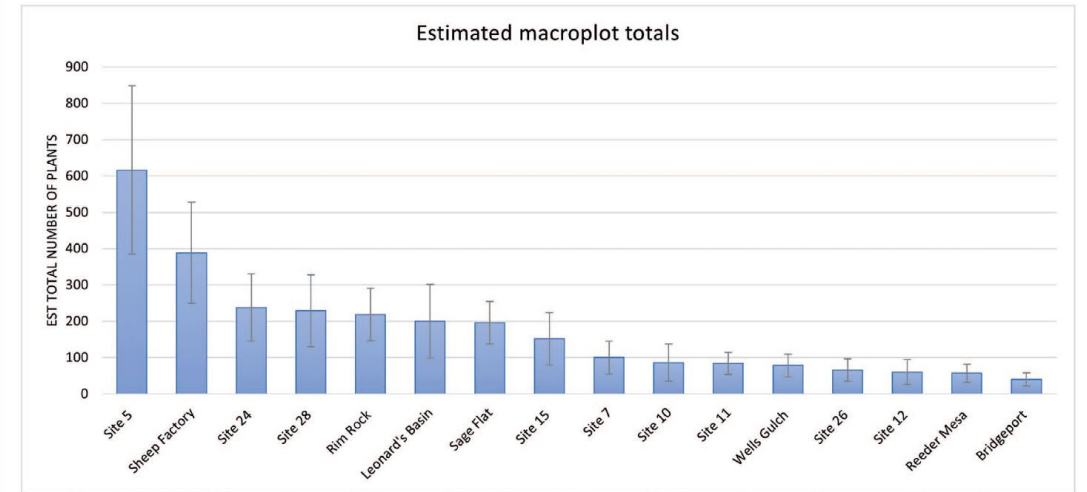
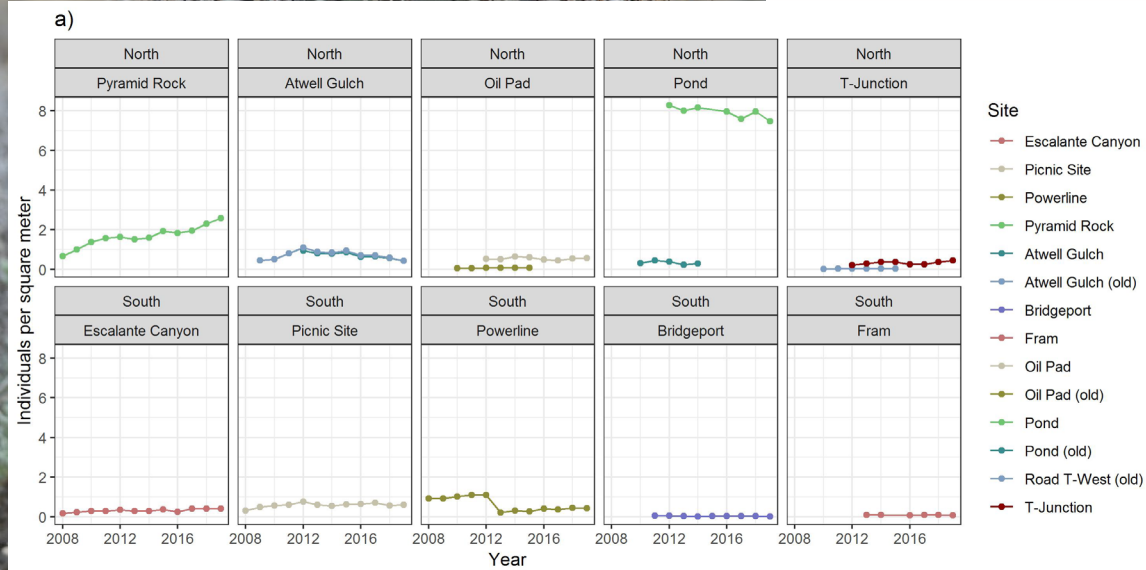
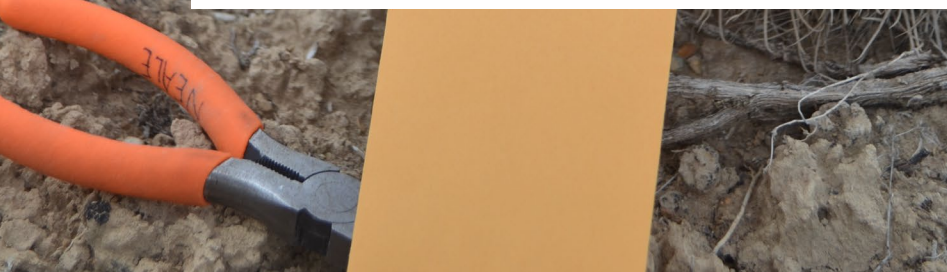


Figure 3.—Estimated macroplot totals for  $n = 16$  Colorado hookless cactus macroplots. Error bars are 90% confidence intervals. The values corresponding with the lower limit of the confidence intervals were used in the ratio estimation procedure.

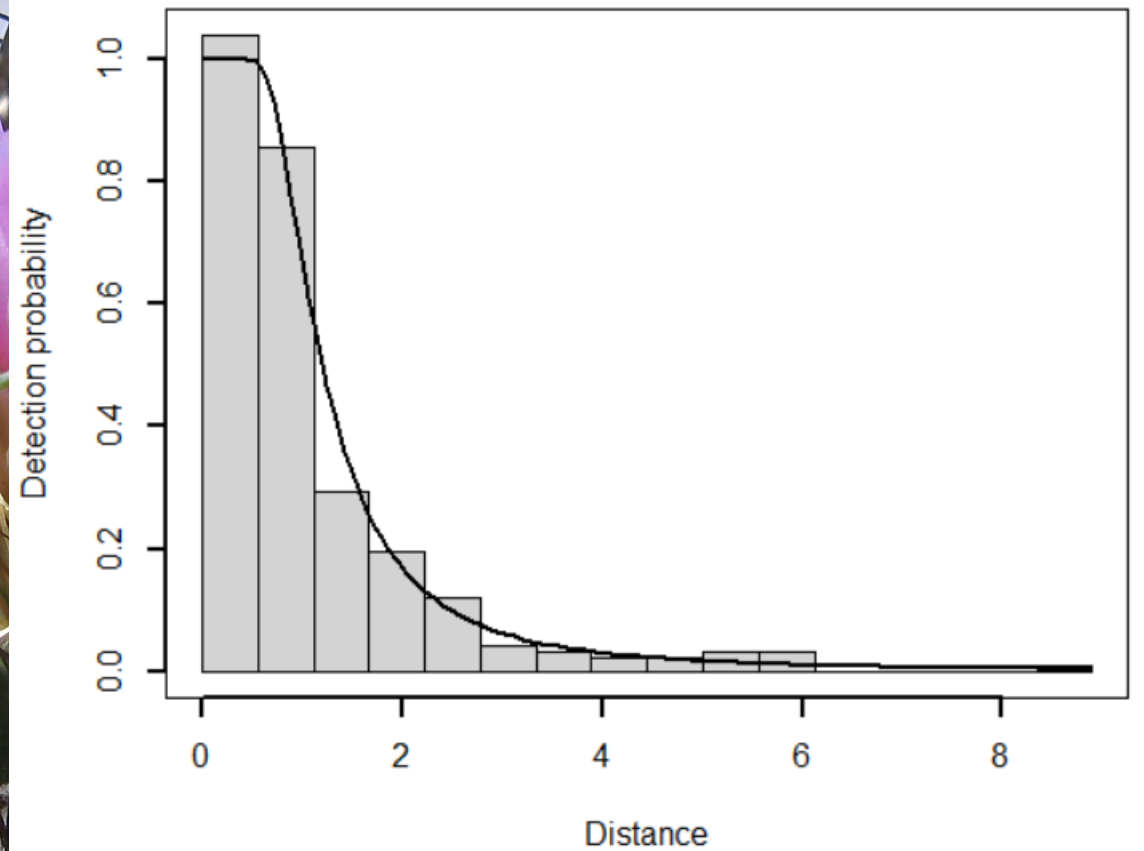
DePrenger-Levin 2019. Technical Report to Bureau of Land Management

Krening et al. 2021. *Natural Areas Journal* 41(1): 4-10.



# Distance sampling

N (in covered region):  
1,478 (SE 133) individuals



# Extinction risk

- Range size



Table 2. Environmental variable contribution to the final *Sclerocactus glaucus* model.

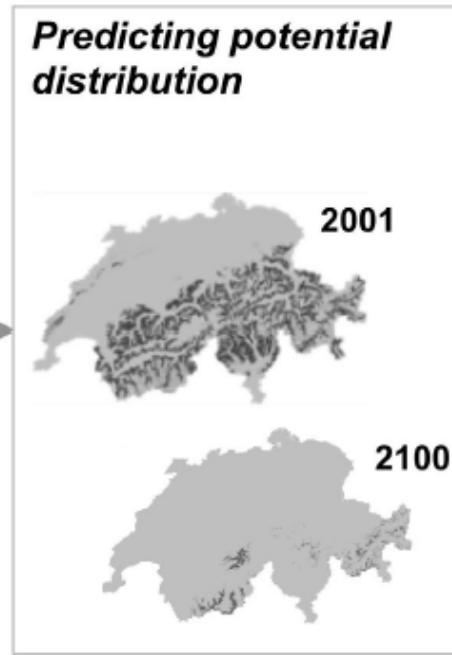
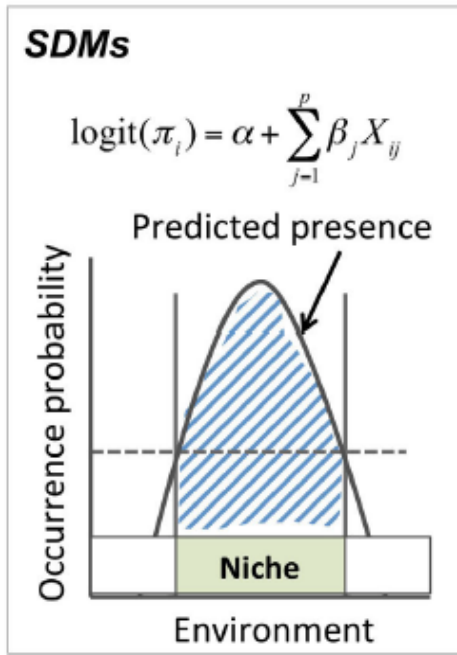
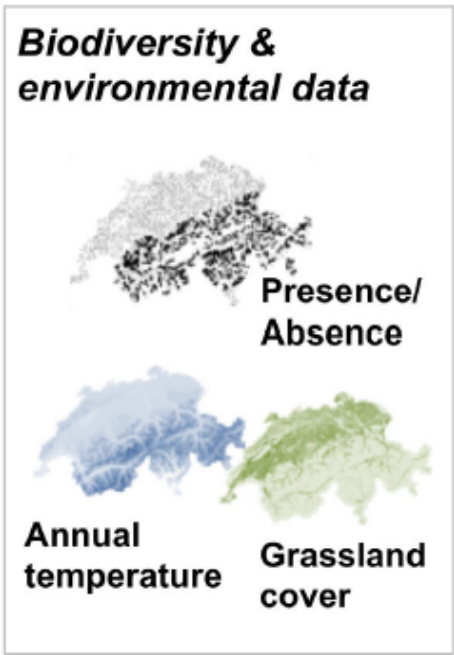
Variable	Percent Contribution
Summer precipitation (Jun-Jul-Aug)	29.1
Elevation	15.6
Average date of first frost in fall	13.1
Cold-desert shrub vegetation	11.0
Average date of last frost in spring	9.8
Average maximum temperature, summer	7.6
Slope	5.1
Surface geology	3.8

Decker, K. 2016.

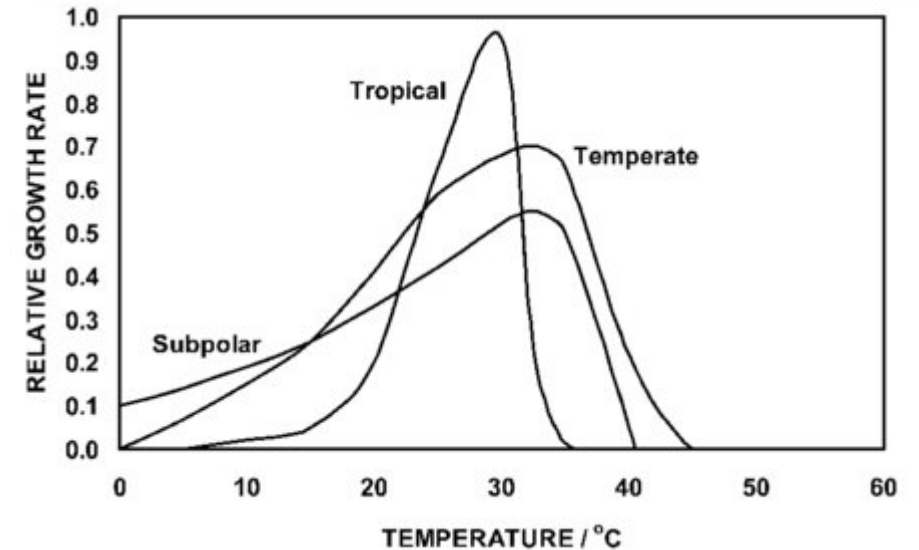


# Species distribution models

- Correlation based
- Process based



SDM in R: [Zurell](https://damarizurell.github.io/SDM-Intro/)



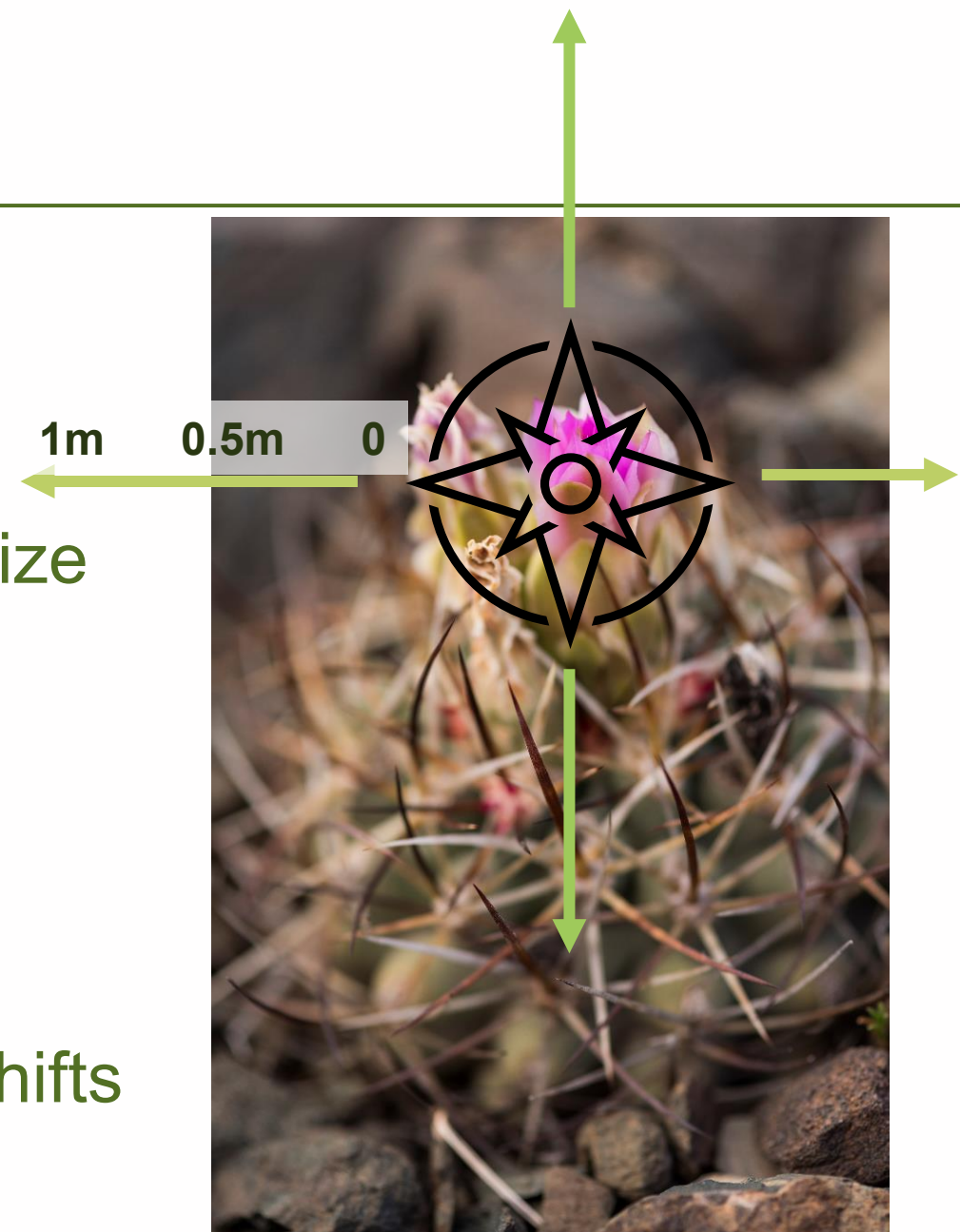
<https://damarizurell.github.io/SDM-Intro/>

Criddle et al 2009 "Thermodynamic law for adaptation of plants to environmental temperatures"



# Methods

- 1 Risk of extinction
- 2 Range and Population size
- 3 Dispersal
- 4 Soil seed bank
- 5 Vegetation community shifts

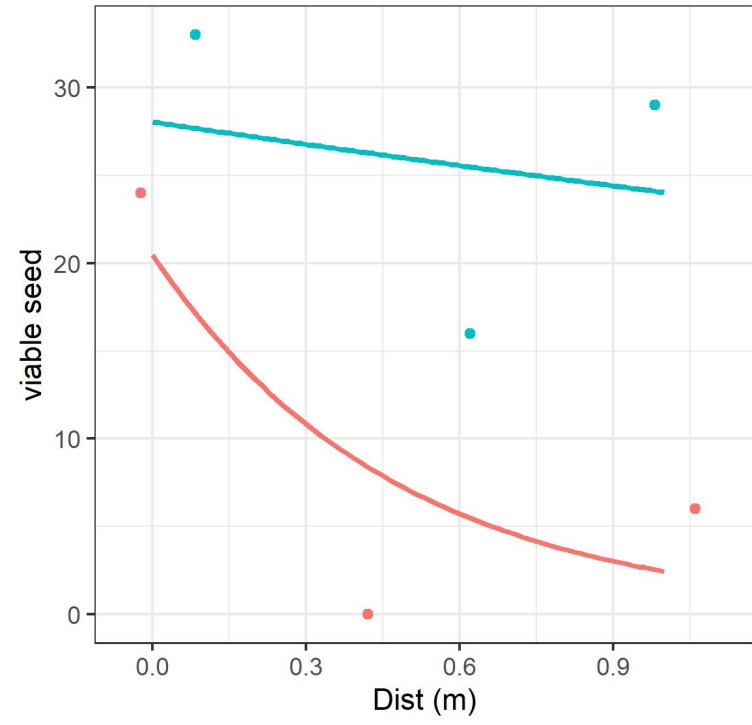
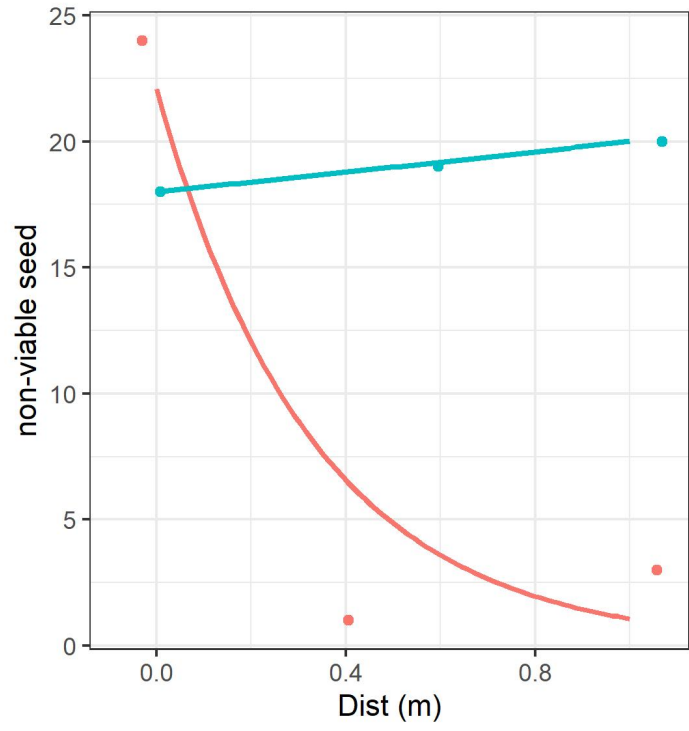




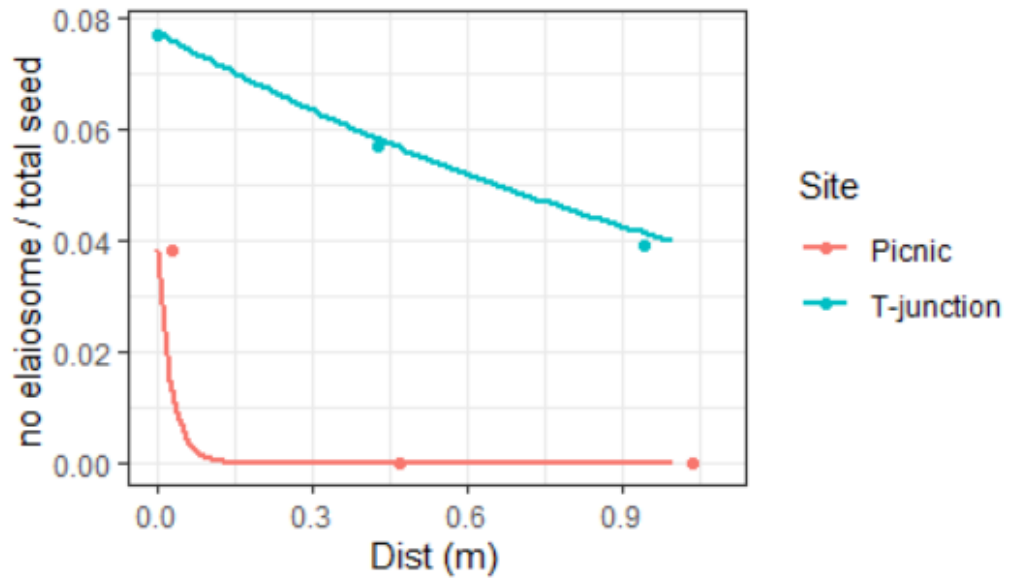
# Dispersal

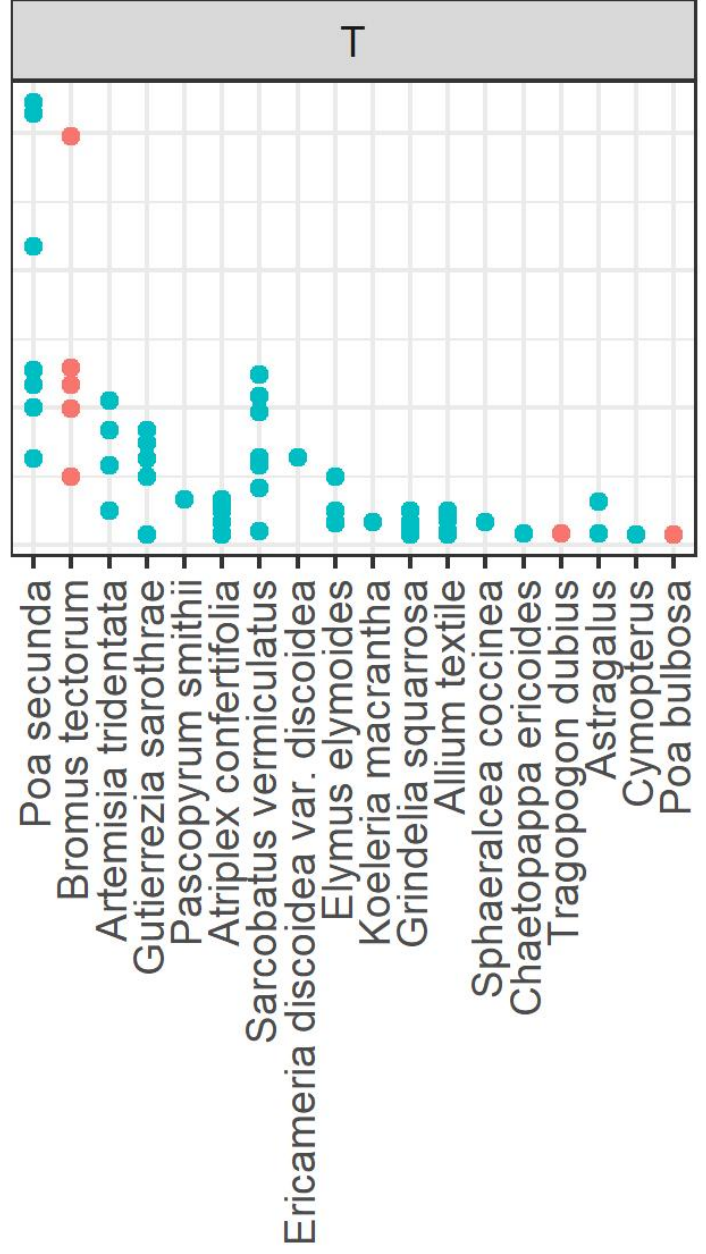
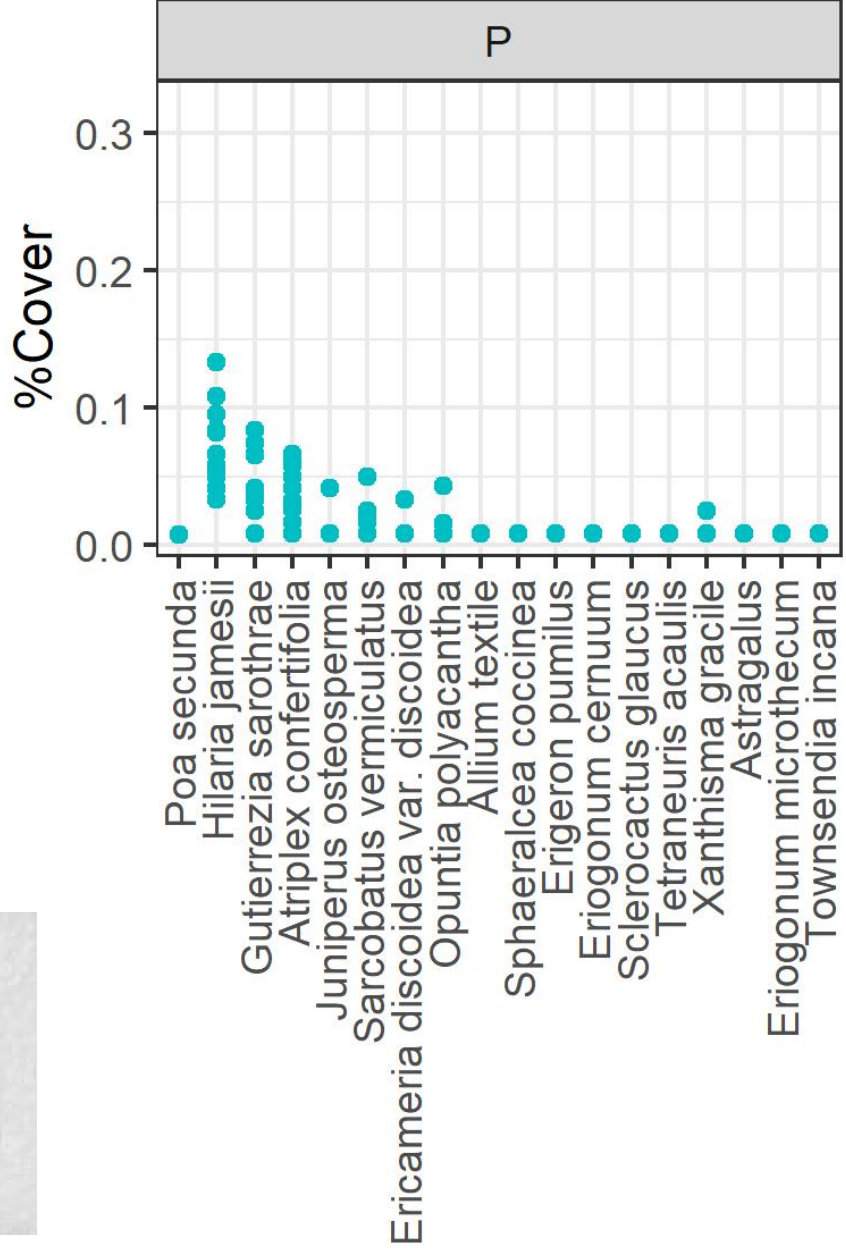
- Water and gravity
- Ants





Site  
—●— Picnic  
—●— T-junction





Native.Status

- Introduced
- Native

# Questions

deprengm@botanicgardens.org

Decker, K. 2016. Predictive habitat model for Colorado hookless cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*). Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Warner College of Natural Resources, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523.

Krening, P., Dawson, C., Holsinger, K., and Willoughby, J. 2021. A sampling-based approach to estimating the minimum population size of the federally threatened Colorado hookless cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*). *Natural Areas Journal* 41(1): 4-10.